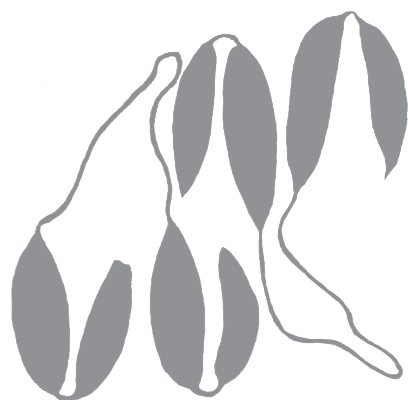


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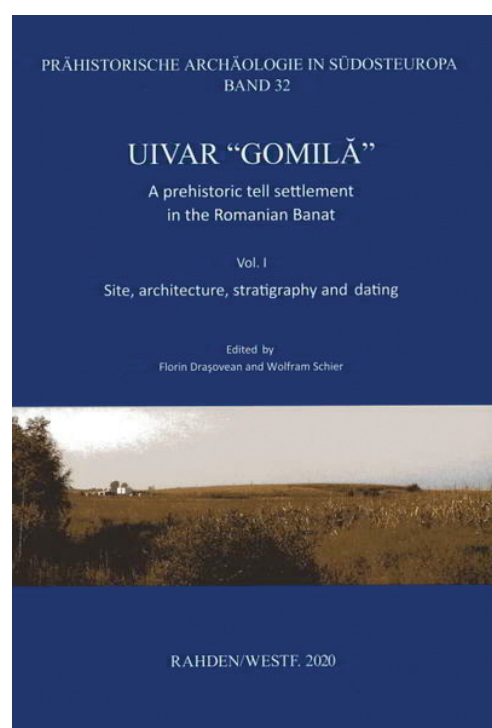
Florin Draşovean, Wolfram Schier (editors), in collaboration with Alex Bayliss, Helmut Becker, Barbara Dammers, Bisserka Gaydarska, Christoph Menzler, Silviane Scharl, Stefan Suhrbier, Petru Urdea, Alasdair Whittle, *Uivar “Gomilă”. A Prehistoric Settlement in the Romanian Banat Vol. I. Site, Architecture, Stratigraphy and Dating. Prähistorische Archäologie in Südosteuropa 32.* Verlag Marie Leidorf GmbH, Rahden/Westf. Leidorf 2020, (ISBN 978-3-8646-687-7), 585 pages.

The modern investigation of the Neolithic in the Romanian Banat started in the 1970s¹ and was subsequently continued by F. Draşovean. His excavations in 1980–1990 at Hodoni² or Foeni³ have contributed to a much more detailed knowledge of the Neolithic and Eneolithic realities of this region. However, a major step in the path of Romanian archaeology towards the connection with Western European research was the project dedicated to the study of the Neolithic tell Uivar-Gomilă.

The present work is the first volume of the monograph of the Neolithic tell of Uivar-Gomilă. The tell is located in the southern part of the Bega Veche Plain, i.e. in western Romania, in the immediate vicinity of the border with Serbia. Many other details of the environment are given in Chapter 1.3. The complex archaeological investigation of this archaeological site was started in the mid-1990s by a Romanian-German team coordinated by Florin Draşovean (Banat Museum Timisoara) and Wolfram Schier (Institut für Prähistorische Archäologie Berlin).

Given the high standards of investigation imposed by the joint Romanian-German team, the research began with a series of systematic field surveys, aerial photographs and detailed topographical surveys of the site. At the same time a series of surveys around the tell were carried out for pollen analysis. The results of these non-intrusive investigations can be found in Chapter 2.1. The geophysical surveys carried out during three campaigns, which consisted of the investigation of 18.5 ha, give an overview of the tell itself as well as of the anthropogenic traces surrounding the tell. These have been detailed throughout Chapter 2.2. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the geophysical survey results is the system of ditches surrounding the settlement. The picture given changes the researcher's perspective on the complexity and dynamics of habitation in a tell. The combination of the data obtained during the non-intrusive surveys is presented in Chapter 2.3.

In the economy of an archaeological project, strategy, methodology and organisation of the excavation are priority elements. All these aspects have been explained and detailed in Chapter 3. These data provide the reader with a necessary element in understanding the planning and documentation of an archaeological excavation. One of the most unexpected parts of the monograph, but which assures the reader of the honesty of the authors and the research, is the critical analysis of the documentation of the contexts and finds (Chapter 3.4). I consider the presence of such a chapter in a scholarly work more than appropriate, as it primarily provides the team with a lucid view of their own research. But



¹ Vezi spre exemplu Lazarovici 1977; Lazarovici 1979; Lazarovici *et al.* 2001.

² Draşovean *et al.* 1996.

³ Draşovean 1994; Draşovean 1997; Draşovean 1999.

perhaps this chapter and the one called 3.5 Grabungsverlauf/The excavations are far more useful to those considering starting such large-scale projects.

The most consistent part of the book, as expected, is Chapter 4 devoted to the site, architecture and stratigraphy. This chapter begins with a welcome section on terminology and methodology (Chapter 4.1), detailing the authors' views on the subject. Here we see very clearly the combination of the theoretical perspective with the experience offered by archaeological excavation in a tell. The 15 areas excavated over more than a decade aimed to verify the main elements of the actual tell, the settlement that developed around it, as well as the numerous ditches. Each of the areas surveyed is covered in this chapter. Their stratigraphy is discussed in great detail. The profiles considered have been documented by multiple methods: classical photography, photogrammetry, classical profile drawing, superimposition of drawing over photogrammetry. The association of vertical stratigraphy and the primer is provided by illustrating numerous photographs and drawings. In order to better understand the archaeological realities, the editors have taken care to discuss the architecture in detail, accompanied by numerous photographic details. Where possible, some archaeological realities have been reconstructed virtually, such as the burnt house Hb4-1 in Area I, Layer 4.2, or the one called H2b-1 discovered in Area I, Layer 2.

The data presented in the previous chapters are completed by associating stratigraphic data with archaeological material. It should be noted that all categories of artefacts have been arranged quantitatively according to the stratigraphic unit from which they came. This kind of analysis, which amounts to a huge amount of work, helps the reader in the concrete evaluation of the quantity and quality of artefacts found in a context, or phases of habitation. The analysis also reflects the intensity of habitation according to the criteria of interrogation. All this can be found in Chapter 5.

The absolute chronology of the tell is approached from the perspective of the 182 radiocarbon measurements available up to the publication of the volume. It is understandable that the very large number of ¹⁴C measurements made is one of the highlights of the work. Chapter 6, dedicated to this issue, is completed by a regional perspective on the absolute chronology of the Middle and Late Neolithic in Banat (Chapter 6.1).

Archaeological research carried out at Uivar over more than a decade has brought to light the biography of a very interesting Neolithic tell (see Chapter 7). The results of the project presented in this first volume considerably alter the perspective on the dynamics of habitation in a Neolithic tell. At the same time, the multitude of analyses carried out, the excavation and documentation technique, and the chosen way of presenting the results represent a benchmark for prehistoric archaeology in Romania.

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| Lazarovici 1979 | G. Lazarovici, <i>Neoliticul Banatului</i> . Cluj-Napoca, 1979. |
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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.
SlovArch	Slovenská archeológia, Nitra.
SP	Studii de Preistorie, București.
St.Cerc.Antropol.	Studii și Cercetări de Antropologie, București.
StudUBB-G	Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai. Seria Geologia, Cluj-Napoca.
ZborníkSlovNMA	Zborník Slovenského Národného Múzea. Archeológia, Bratislava.
ZSA	Ziridava. Studia Archaeologica, Arad.
ИАИ	Известия на Археологическия Институт при БАН, София.