

## THE OLDEST CULTURAL HORIZON OF TRENCH XV AT DRENOVAC

UDC  
DOI  
Preliminary communication

Received: January 24, 2009  
Accepted: May 04, 2009

**Abstract:** Re-excavation of a Neolithic site at Slatina – Turska česma in Drenovac near Paraćin started in 2004. Trench XV, with an area of 36 sq. m., was explored between 2004 and 2006. The cultural layer in this trench ended at the depth of approx. 6m, where a pit was noted and defined as a dwelling structure. The back-fill of the pit and the layer immediately above were covered with alluvium, so that the archaeological finds below the alluvium can be considered a closed unit. The results of the preliminary analyses of the stratigraphy and small finds below the alluvium have revealed that the pit had been abandoned before the flooding and that, for a longer period, there was no dwelling structure in that place. The main features of the small finds from the pit itself indicate the earlier Neolithic origin, i.e. the earlier period of the Starčevo culture group.

**Key words:** Drenovac, Neolithic, settlement, pottery.

The Neolithic site of Slatina – Turska česma, better known in the literature as Drenovac, certainly belongs to the group of the most important Neolithic sites in Serbia. It is an area with remains of a Neolithic settlement, containing surface finds across 35 hectares and a massive cultural layer, whose depth exceeds 6m at some locations. The site is situated about nine kilometres from Paraćin and belongs to the group of the Neolithic settlements along the west bank of the Morava River, being 3.5 km away from the river bed. Today, the site extends to both sides of the Belgrade – Niš highway, although the major part lies east of the highway route. In somewhat broader geographic sense, Drenovac belongs to the middle Morava valley (Central Pomoravlje), which is a region with

over eighty recorded Neolithic sites.<sup>1</sup> The remains of a Neolithic site at Drenovac were discovered, like most Neolithic sites in this region, in early sixties of the twentieth century. At the time, the Regional Museum in Jagodina staged the first systematic archaeological field survey. The topic of the Neolithic in the middle Morava valley is closely linked to S. Vetnić, the curator of the Regional Museum in Jagodina for many years, who has recorded the biggest number of the Neolithic sites referred to above<sup>2</sup>.

The huge quantities of surface finds, from fragmented pottery, burnished and chopped stone artefacts,

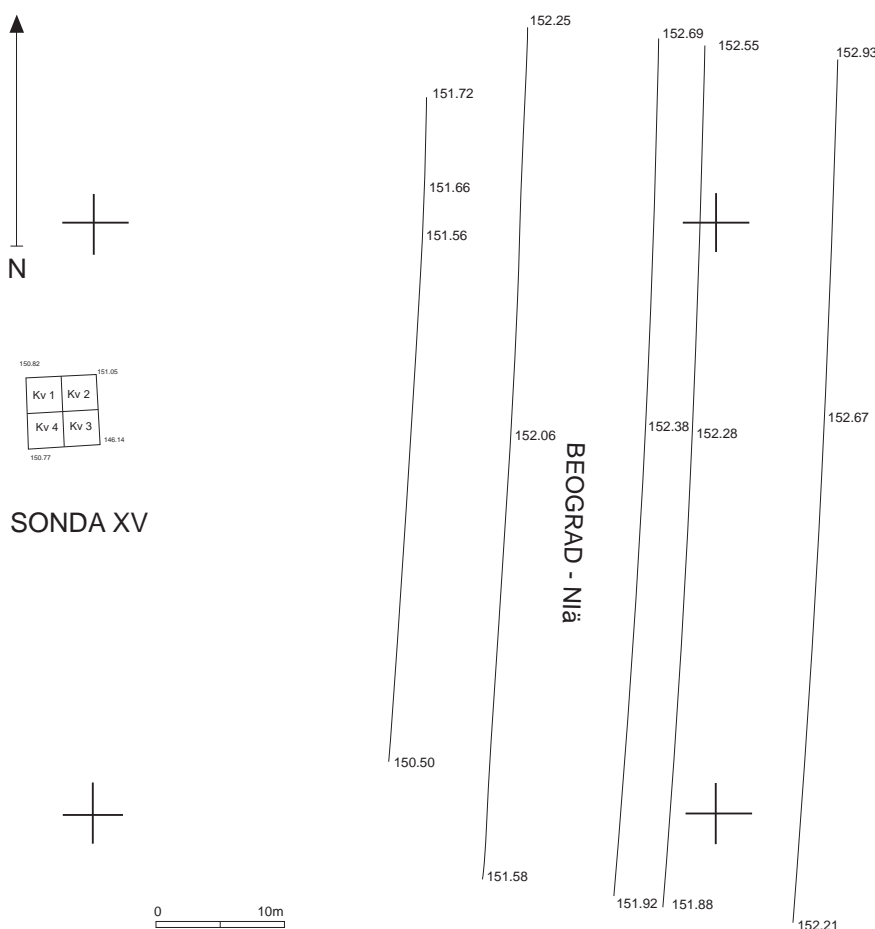
1 Perić 2004, 20, Map. No 2.

2 Vetnić, 1974, 123-163.

\* The article results from the project: *Lepenski Vir Culture: Cultural processes and transformations during 9. to 6. Millennium BC* (no 147009 D) funded by the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

*Fig. 1. Trench XV in relation to the Belgrade - Nis highway*

*Sl. 1. Sonda 15 u odnosu na auto put Beograd - Niš*



anthropomorphic figurines to lumps of daub, as well as the first excavation results, undoubtedly indicated remains of a Vinča settlement with a long and continuous duration. But the issue of the presence of the Starčevo culture group representatives was raised at the same time. Namely, there were some fairly convincing elements supporting the assumption of the existence of a Starčevo settlement, so that questions about the time when the Starčevo settlement may have been established and how long it may have lasted were also asked and answered.

We have already presented the history and results of the investigation of the Neolithic in the middle Morava valley in our previous works, in which we have also commented on some of the offered solutions. We have especially highlighted our doubts that it was possible, based on the material available then, to distinguish six horizons with phases Drenovac Ia-b, IIa-b and IIIa-b (which in fact would include the whole development period of the Starčevo group)<sup>3</sup> in the noted 0.30 to 0.60m thick Starčevo layer.

Being aware of the fact that subsequent interpretations were mostly based on the original conception, as well as that the results of the excavations from 1968

to 1971 remained mostly unknown to the public, the researchers working within the framework of the project “Permanent Archaeological Workshop – Central Pomoravlje in Neolithisation of South East Europe” renewed, along with sorting and processing of small finds, excavation work for the purpose of re-examination of the earlier stratigraphic observations. A trench, labelled as Trench XV, was opened at Drenovac. The trench lay opposite so called, according to S. Vetnić<sup>4</sup>, straight north cut II, i.e. about 20 meters west of the highway route (fig.1).

The exploration of Trench XV started in 2004, and stopped in 2006. The original dimensions were 5x5m, but in 2005, after an unauthorized change inflicted on the profile, the trench was enlarged to its final dimensions of 6x6m. The base of the trench was divided into four 2.50x2.50m quadrants, and later into 3x3m quadrants. The quadrants were marked with figures 1 to 4, starting from the northwest corner of the trench.

<sup>3</sup> Perić 2004, 15

<sup>4</sup> Vetnić 1974, 125.



Fig. 2. Bottom of excavation in quadrant 2 and 3 with layer of fire in eastern and northern profiles

Сл. 2. Дно ископа у квадрантима 2 и 3 са слојем пожара у источном и северном профилу

Fig. 3. Cross section of alluvium layer and layer of dark gray soil

Сл. 3. Пресек слојева најлавине и слоја тамносиве земље



Due to the massiveness of the cultural layer, which at this section of the site reached the depth of 6m, the oldest layer was not explored across the whole base of the trench, but in its southeast section only. In other words, the whole of quadrant 3 and a half of quadrant 2, i.e. 15 sq. m., were investigated. The deepest layer was excavated in two campaigns in 2005 and 2006.

Prior to getting to analyze the elements characterizing the deepest layers of this trench, we have to define what we imply by the term *the oldest cultural horizon*. Considering the common use of this term, mostly equated with the notion of cultural phase, as well as the stratigraphic situation in Trench XV, the term *cultural horizon*, as used in this paper, will refer to one, we could say, closed unit with a number of stratigraphic elements. The content of this unit should reflect a certain cultural expression with a clear relative chronological position.

In that context, the layers under the clearly marked layers of charcoal with a lot of soot, visible along the whole eastern and northern profiles of the trench (fig.2), belong to the oldest cultural horizon of Trench XV. The oldest cultural horizon is seemingly a compact cultural layer of fat soil with the thickness varying from 0.30 m in the southern profile of quadrant 3 to 1.10 – 1.20 m in the northern profile of quadrant 2. This datum clearly shows that the top level of this layer was sharply falling along bearing North – South, or in other words the layer was getting visibly thinner from the northern profile to the southern profile. However, the fall of the top level of the layer cannot be followed in the whole length of the eastern profile of the trench, since it starts only towards the end of the eastern profile of quadrant 2 (fig.2). The oldest cultural layer is separated from the charcoal layer by layers of alluvium present in the form of a layer of light gray clay soil (silt) and a layer of yellow sand, which overlap to a certain extent, but do not match (fig. 3). They, in fact, separate the oldest cultural horizon from the oldest Vinča structures in this section of the settlement. The top and bottom levels of the alluvium follows the fall line of the top level of the oldest horizon, with the alluvial layers rising to the southern profile towards the inner section of the trench, but the lines along which they get inside the trench, i.e. quadrant 3, do not match. The layers of alluvium have been formed through natural process of sedimentation, so that the layer of yellow sand was the first to form, but it did not cover the whole flooded section. The fact that the yellow sand layer vanishes somewhere around

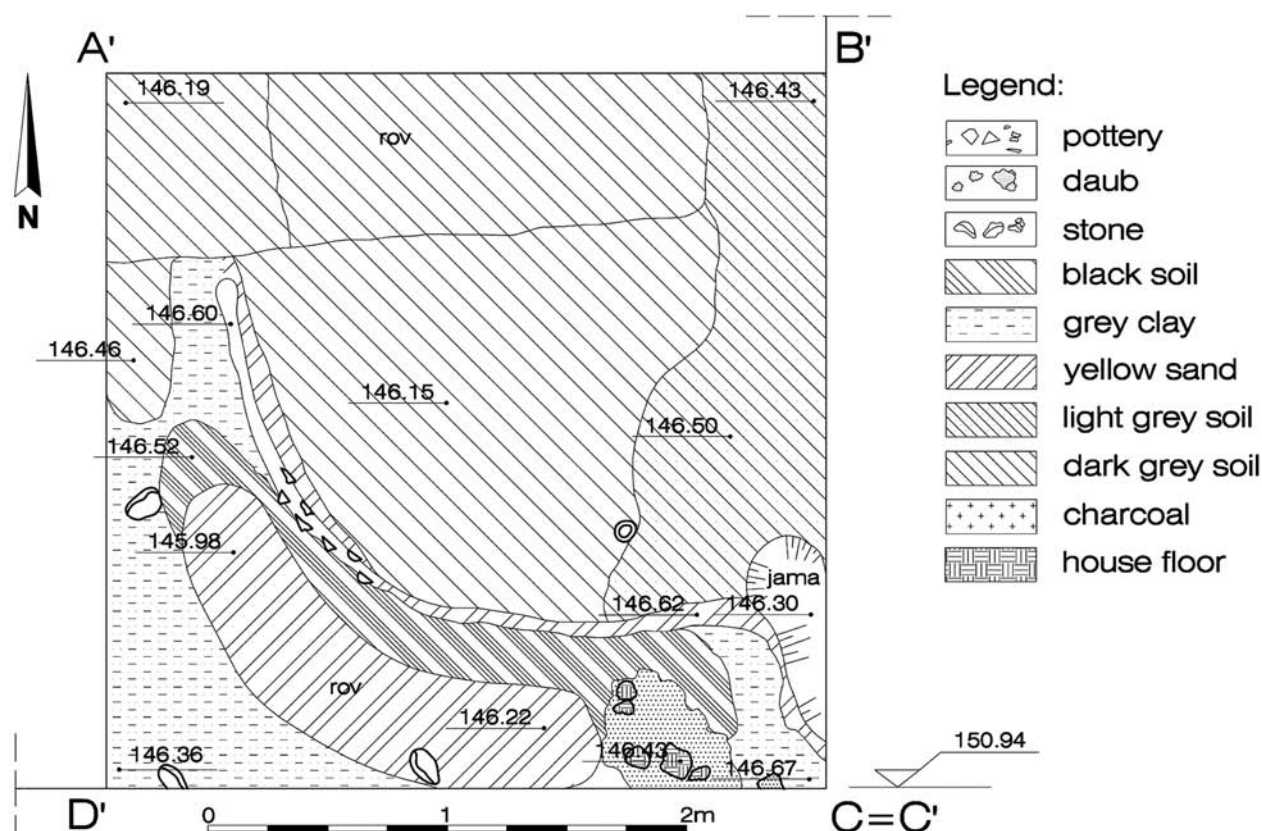


Fig. 4. Base of quadrant 3 with layer of yellow sand

Сл. 4. Основа квадранта 3 са слојем жутијој песка

the middle of the western profile, i.e. at the very beginning of the eastern profile of quadrant 3, provides evidence in this case. The north, or more precisely north-east, boundary line of the light yellow sand layer is not straight but roughly semi-circular (fig. 4). The layer of light grey clay soil spreads over the yellow sand layer. It was first interpreted as the subsoil layer, but having been penetrated at some places in the eastern section of quadrant 3, it eventually turned out to be a layer of silt, sediment left after flooding. This layer of a varying depth, stretching along the whole southern profile of quadrant 3, where it covers the yellow sand layer, extends to the inner side of the trench lying immediately on the already mentioned layer of the oldest cultural horizon. The silt layer here and there crosses the boundary between quadrants 2 and 3, with its northernmost points almost in line with the described beginning of the slope. The photographs taken in 2005 (fig. 5) show that the silt layer encompasses mostly the west half of quadrant 3, and that it can be followed

in the eastern section to the middle of the eastern profile of quadrant 3, which leads us to the same conclusion, like in the case of the sand layer, that the north, i.e. north-east, boundary line of the silt layer is not straight but roughly semi-circular, although with notably smaller diameter.

The fact that the boundary lines of the alluvium layers were not straight but semi-circular prompts the conclusion that that section of the Neolithic settlement was not flat at the moment of flooding, but there was a small elevation, like a knoll, there instead. Since the silt layer was not noted in the profiles of quadrant 2, it seems logical to assume that the highest point of the elevation could not have been flooded and that the alluvium layers must have encircled the elevation at certain heights.

As we can see, there are two kinds of layers between the charcoal layer and the subsoil: two natural layers resulting from flooding and one, only seemingly, compact cultural layer.

However, when the eastern and northern profiles of quadrant 3 are observed, a certain difference in colour within the layer between the alluvium and subsoil appears obvious. The lower level of this layer, sitting immediately on the subsoil, is darker and looser than the other part of the layer reaching the soot layer (fig. 6). The difference in colour and content is even more pronounced in the northern profile of quadrant 3 because a surface with red fired earth and thin layers of soot and ash are noted in the north-west corner of quadrant 3 (fig. 6). However, it is more important to emphasize the fact that the mentioned parts of the layer, which could be defined as two units, are different in content, in the quantity and quality of small finds. On one hand, there is a layer sitting immediately on the subsoil defined in the excavation journal as a layer of dark gray soil. Its thickness, at some points, reaches up to 0.70m. This layer contains far more and better preserved small finds, with prevailing pottery fragments, but also animal bones, burnished and chopped stone implements, parts of jewellery, and so-called amulets. On the other hand, small finds, mostly tiny fragments of pottery, rare stone artefacts and a few animal bones, appear in the layer above the dark gray soil only sporadically.

This difference in colour and content, and, accordingly, in the character of the lower level of the cultural layer below the alluvium layers becomes fairly logical in the light of the fact that the cultural layer in Trench XV ends with a pit of an irregular shape and varying depth. The trench encompasses the eastern and southern edge of the pit. Based on the available results of the investigation, the pit seems to have been of a prolonged oval shape. The investigated section of the pit was widest at 2.70m at the level from which it was dug, and 2.40m at the bottom, while it was longest at 5.50m at the level from which it was dug. The pit was cut from the level of so-called original humus, which is to say 0.10 to 0.20m above the subsoil. The pit had slightly slanted walls, and, most likely, a flat or slightly rounded bottom. Given the considerable number of finds of red fired earth with one flat surface, which were denoted as house floors, the walls and bottom of the pit must have been coated. The finds of a house floor were present in the 0.30 – 0.70m thick layer of dark gray soil, which was the backfill of the pit. The fragments of the house floor were commonly found in different levels of the layer, but some finds can be considered to have been found *in situ*. In the first place, those were the finds along the southern profile of the quadrant, closer to the south-east, i.e. C corner, immediately

beside the southern edge of the pit, where, in addition to the fragments of the house floor, pieces of daub, probably being parts of an above – ground structure along the edge of the pit, were noted (fig. 4). Another big fragment of the house floor was noted next to the western profile of quadrant 3 (fig. 7). North of this find of the house floor, in the very profile towards the north-west corner of the quadrant, some pieces of red fired earth were noted, along with thin layers of concentrated soot and ash, which indicates the possibility that remains of a certain structure are present there. Considering the very loose layer, the presence of soot and ash, and the reddish colour of the backfill, we may assume the existence of a small hearth structure which may have extended into the northern profile of quadrant 3. Since the layer with soot and ash gets under the fired earth in the western profile, the fired earth may have been the remnants of an above-ground structure, like in the section along the southern profile of quadrant 3. It is worth mentioning that, at the approximately same level of the house floor and the surface with red fired earth and soot, again closer to the western profile of quadrant 3 at the depths 5.22 – 5.25m, the most intensive presence of larger pottery fragments and a fragmented vessel were noted. All this leads us to the conclusion that the level of the pit floor may have been at the mentioned depths. Of course, below the level of the house floor and the light yellow clay subsoil, there was still a thin layer bearing, although not in a considerable number, tiny pottery fragments, a few flint artefacts and animal bones. This is the layer below the house floor which formed as the result of the occupation of the structure, and partly after the collapse of the structure and breaking of the house floor. Thus, the lower level of the layer between the layer of soot and the subsoil, which stands out because it is somewhat darker in colour than the upper levels, is, in fact, the backfill of the pit, i.e. the debris layer of the structure which was dug there.

In order to determine the character of the pit, the following has to be considered: the noted architectural elements – daub fragments belonging to the above-ground structure, fragments of the house floor found *in situ* and those coming from the backfill layer, the finds indicating the existence of a hearth, the character of small finds – two large fragments of grindstones, pottery finds, fragments of a bracelet and so-called amulets. In addition, the fact that in the 2005 campaign a hole with a diameter of 7 to 8 cm, which can be justly understood to be the hole of a brace, or a support of the roof structure, was noted should also be taken into

*Fig. 5. Base of quadrant 3 with layer of gray clay*

*Сл. 5. Основа квадранта 3 са слојем сиве ђлине*



*Fig. 6. Northern profile of quadrant 3*

*Сл. 6. Северни профил квадранта 3*



account. Having considered all this, we can state that here we have the remains of a dwelling structure, partly dug into the subsoil and with a low above ground wattle-and-daub structure.

Given the character of the structure, a more subtle differentiation of layers within the backfill of the pit can be made. On one hand, we can see the differences along the horizontal lines - in the colour and character of the layer above the assumed level of the house floor,

with distinctively reddish colour of the backfill layer in the northern profile of quadrant 3 compared to the rest of the backfill, being dark gray in colour. On the other hand, there are differences in the content and character of the layer along the vertical lines, notably between the pit backfill, in the true meaning of the word, and the thin layer immediately below the house floor.

A somewhat lighter cultural layer of a varying depth was noted above the pit backfill. It reached the



*Fig. 7. Western profile of quadrant 3 with in situ house floor*

*Сл. 7. Западни профил квадранта 3 са погодноштом ин ситиу*



*Fig. 8. Western profile of quadrant 3*

*Сл. 8. Западни профил квадранта 3*

maximum thickness along the northern profile of the trench at between 1.00 and 1.10m, and the minimum thickness in the southern profile at between 0.10 and 0.20m. The layer was compact, consisting of fat and solid soil, with a shade of colour slightly lighter than the backfill. The content of this layer was almost uniform from the bottom to the top, with a very small quantity of small finds, mostly tiny pottery fragments, animal bones and stone artefacts.

As we can see, the oldest cultural horizon of Trench XV at Drenovac is made up of the two seemingly independent units: upper – later unit, made up of a compact layer of a varying thickness under the alluvium and above the pit backfill, and the earlier unit consisting of the pit and its backfill.

The Vinča pits, dug into the oldest cultural horizon of Trench XV and visible in the northern and western profiles of quadrant 3 (fig. 6, 8), cannot be

ascribed to this horizon. There are two levels of digging through alluvium layers into the upper half of the oldest horizon. The later digging started from the level above the layer of fire and it can be seen in the western profile of quadrant 3 (fig. 8). The earlier digging was under the level of fire and can be seen in the northern profile of quadrant 3 (fig. 6).

However, for any further cultural and chronological considerations, along with the already mentioned facts, the following facts have to be taken into account:

- There was no yellow sand inside the pit, i.e. no traces of flooding were noted.
- The closest the yellow sand layer got to the interior of the pit was from its southern side, i.e. it reached its southern edge at the spot where the remains of above-ground structure and *in situ* fragments of house floor were noted along the southern profile of quadrant 3.
- The yellow sand layer started rising northward exactly from this line.
- Several other thin layers of yellow sand, certainly being of the same origin, were noted above this layer in the southern profile of quadrant 3.
- There is a village road some fifty metres south of Trench XV. Its route probably follows the dried river bed of the Drenovački potok, which must have been very active in the Neolithic, often flooding this section of the settlement. Greenish deposits of calcined moss on the pottery fragments and stone pebbles in the cultural layer immediately below the yellow sand layer provide the hints in the same direction, which undoubtedly confirms that these finds remained in water or in a very humid environment for a longer period.

All this allows of the following conclusions: firstly, that at the time of floods water gushed from the south to the north; secondly, when this section of the Neolithic settlement was flooded, in other words at the time of alluvium layer formation, this structure was not used (its above ground structure had already collapsed and the pit had been filled); and thirdly, the debris layer of this structure was, in fact, the base on which, through the process of sedimentation, the knoll formed.

Small finds of these units are the best indicators of the cultural character and chronological position of the oldest horizon in Trench XV. On one hand, there is the structure itself and its debris layer, where the small finds were most numerous and culturally and

chronologically most sensitive. On the other hand, the top level of the layer above the backfill is almost sterile, with sporadic and highly fragmented pottery finds, a few animal bones and rare flint flakes. The bottom level of this layer, in the zone of contact with the backfill, is only slightly richer in small finds, but those finds cannot match the finds from the structure either in number or quality. At the same time, the compactness of this layer and its content undoubtedly indicate the conclusion that, from the collapse of the dwelling structure until the first Vinča structures, building activities were interrupted in this section of the settlement, or to put it more precisely, this location was temporarily abandoned. Since it is not a sterile layer, we can hardly claim that there was a discontinuity in life at the settlement, but nevertheless, it is evident, a bit unusual though, that there were no traces of building activities above the oldest dwelling structure in the layer whose thickness reaches up to 1.20m along the northern profile of the trench.

Therefore, the question justly arises as to how the layer above the pit backfill was formed, how long the process lasted, or in other words, what happened in this Neolithic settlement from the time when the structure from the deepest layer collapsed until the moment when the oldest Vinča structures were erected above it, and whether a cultural and chronological continuity of the settlement in that period can be established.

As for the presence of finds in the oldest dwelling structure in Trench XV, it should be noted that the material was basically concentrated at the bottom of the pit, along the western profile of quadrant 3, especially in shallow depressions, which were, most probably, subsequent deformations resulting from the pressure. Since these are preliminary observations, the most indicative finds for determining the closer cultural association of finds and the chronological position of the structure itself are the finds made of clay that can be classified into three groups: pottery vessels, finds designated as jewellery and so-called amulets.

The pottery finds from the dwelling structure, as well as from the layer above the backfill, even at the first glance give impression of cultural sameness and chronological propinquity, indicating the Starčevo origin by their features. On the other hand, the presence of other two groups of finds is also very indicative because so far they have only appeared in Starčevo settlements of the ascribed Early Neolithic origin.

We have already pointed out that all the pottery finds from the oldest dwelling structure display cultural propinquity and typological uniformity. In this



paper we shall focus on the basic and most indicative features of the pottery finds, while a detailed analysis and typological elaboration will be the topic of another paper. As in the case of the other contemporary Neolithic settlements, the pottery finds from this structure have been classified into three categories, based on the raw materials used for their production, or in other words, their fabric:

- The pottery of coarse fabric was made of clay characterized by the inevitable presence of organic admixtures and sand of varying particle sizes, so that grits are sometimes visible not only in the cross section of a broken piece, but also on the surface of the vessel (Plate IV, 3a-b, 9,11,14; Plate V, 2a-b). Given the thickness of walls of pottery fragments, coarse fabric may be regarded as a characteristic of larger vessels, although it sometimes occurs with vessels of smaller dimensions.
- The pottery with medial or medium quality fabric, which is the most frequent, was made of clay which regularly contained organic admixtures, but somewhat finer and better refined, as well as fine sand, which was usually part of the raw material. Almost all forms of vessels are represented in this class of pottery.
- The pottery with fine fabric is the second most frequent, and it also regularly contained organic admixtures without visible or recognizable ingredients. Finely refined clay was mostly used for production of vessels of smaller dimensions.

When broken, the pottery with coarse fabric is almost always unichrome – black or dark gray; the pottery with medium fabric is three-layered with the black or dark gray middle part and reddish external and internal parts of the wall; and the pottery with fine fabric is uniform in colour, often gray or red, rarely with the light gray middle part.

Treatment of internal and external surface of the vessel is, perhaps, the most indicative cultural and chronological characteristic of the pottery in this structure. Prior to the analysis of the modes of pottery vessels surface treatment, it should be noted that in this case, like at some other sites such as Blagotin and Lepenski Vir, the earlier view that the Starčevo pottery, from the earlier and middle Neolithic alike, is characterized by absolute prevalence of coarse pottery has to be rejected<sup>5</sup>. Namely, the mentioned analyses of the pottery of Blagotin and Lepenski Vir, like of the material from Trench XV at Drenovac, have shown that coarse pottery, in the true meaning of the word,

is the least frequent category at the Starčevo sites. The pottery with coarse fabric makes a very small percentage at the Starčevo sites, especially at those from the early period. Furthermore, this kind of pottery is almost always accompanied with well finished internal surface, sometimes even burnished. Depending on the purpose and dimensions, the external surface of the coarse pottery vessel occurs in several variants, but in rare cases only it could be considered to be coarse. Regardless of the quality of the external surface treatment, almost as a rule, it is covered with a fine red slip (Plate V, 1b, 2a-b). Meticulous examinations of pottery with magnifying glass has helped detect red spots, appearing as slip residues, on 95% of external surfaces called pseudo-barbotine or roughened surface. These spots could not be noticed by means of the ordinary method of Neolithic pottery examination.

Pottery from this structure can be sorted by the mode of vessel surface treatment into two groups or categories: the first group with different treatments of external and internal surfaces (Plate I, 3a-b; Plate IV, 5a-b; Plate V, 1a-b, 4a-b, 5a-b), and the second group with the same or almost the same mode of treatment of both surfaces (Plate IV, 8a-b, 12a-b; Plate VI, 6a-b; Plate VI, 12, 13a-b). Naturally, there are several variants within each group with regard to the quality of treatment, which depended on the purpose of the vessel and, consequently, the extent to which the basic raw material was refined.

The vessels of the first category display a higher degree of “burnishing” on the internal than on the external surface. This approach to surface treatment, as we have already said, was predetermined by the dimensions, i.e. purpose of the vessel. Namely, the external and internal surfaces were treated in a different way only in the case of larger vessels - that obviously served the purpose of safe handling of these vessels.

It has been already pointed out that this practice of different treatment of the internal and external surface on some forms of the Starčevo pottery has recently been fiercely debated. Eventually, an almost unanimous view on the reason which led to the practice of leaving the uneven external surface has been taken. However, certain differences regarding the interpretation of the sequence of phases followed in the treatment of the vessel to achieve the final look of the external surface have remained, which has resulted in the adoption of different terms designating that particular look of the external surface of the vessel<sup>6</sup>.

5 Vuković 2004, 87 – 89; Perić, Nikolić 2004, 181 -182.

6 Vuković 2004, 89 – 91; Perić, Nikolić 2004, 183.

This mode of surface treatment is mostly limited to the conical bowls with the diameter of up to 0.40m. The explanation that the vessels of smaller dimensions were easy to move due to their small size, which diminished the need for a noticeable difference in the degree of “burnishing” between the external and internal surface, seems plausible.

The second category of surface treatment implied uniform or almost uniform treatment of both external and internal surface, and judging from the available finds, it was remarkably more frequent than the first category. Certainly, there are several levels of quality within the second category, but by the rule, the surface was minutely smoothed, and often covered with a thinner or thicker slip (Plate IV, 6; Plate V, 3, 6a). The quality of treatment depended directly on fabric. Since the vessels with coarse and medium fabric contained unrefined and insufficiently ground organic admixtures or sand with different particle sizes, in the process of smoothing their external and internal surfaces only a thin film formed. During firing of the vessel, due to combustion of organic admixtures, that film often burst creating an uneven spot in the form of the parts of a stalk negative (Plate V, 1a, 5b). On the other hand, the vessels with fine fabric had a better refined basic mass, due to the presence of well-ground organic admixtures, which allowed of better quality of the vessel surface treatment. With the slip on, the surface became not only even, but also smooth and often lustrous (Plate II, 2-3, 5-6, 11).

As for the represented forms, at this stage of material processing, taking into account the degree of fragmentation, we can clearly distinguish two basic forms of the vessels: bowls and pots. Among the bowls, we can recognize conical, slightly rounded, semi-globular and globular bowls, with rounded rims or rims thinned from the inner side, sometimes slightly inverted, and a flat bottom (Plate I-II 1-12; VI, 12-13). The bowls have different dimensions regardless of their profiles. On the other hand, pots predominantly have bigger dimensions and more developed profiles, with more or less emphasized rims and unemphasized or distinct necks with various profiles (Plate II, 13; Plate III). Due to their dimensions, pots regularly have flat, but reinforced bottoms.

The important feature of the pottery from this structure is a very small number of decorated fragments. Among ornamentation techniques *impresso*, executed by nail impressions or pinching, absolutely prevails, with the wheat grain motif surmised on some fragments, and single or double application or incised

lines found only sporadically (Plate III, 2; Plate IV, 1-2, 13; Plate V, 4a, 7). For the time being, no finds with painted or barbotine decoration have been found. Once again, it should be emphasized that the treatment resulting in uneven exterior surface, that many authors name pseudo-barbotine or proto-barbotine, should not be regarded as part of the Starčevo culture ornamentation system, because this mode of surface treatment resulted from practical needs, rather than aesthetic drives. However, the assumption that this practical need evolved into tradition should not be excluded. When certain technological and technical difficulties were overcome, for example with appearance of handles, the need for that particular way of surface treatment ceased to exist, but it was retained as a recognizable mode of decorating pottery vessels.

The second group of finds is made up of 21 fragments of ceramic “links” made of fine refined clay in light shades of brown colour. A fragment with the oval cross section and internal diameter of 1.9 cm and external diameter of 3.9 cm, perhaps stands out. Its dimensions make it similar to a ring (Plate VI, 4). The other 20 fragments, out of which two or three could be assumed to have belonged to the same object, are circular in cross section with the diameter from 0.5 cm to 0.9 cm. Their internal diameters range from 5.5 to 6.5 cm and all represent parts of links with roughly regular circular shape. Judging from their internal diameters, these fragments can be rightly assumed to represent fragments of bracelets (Plate VI, 1-3).

Finally, the third group is composed of partly damaged objects with a prolonged cylindrical or tongue-shaped body and two horned extensions at the upper part. Although its function has not been sufficiently explained yet, these objects are commonly defined as amulets (Plate VI, 5-11). In terms of basic shapes, three main types of finds can be distinguished among amulets:

- prolonged with a cylindrical body and rounded lower part, horizontal horned extensions and the length varying from 3.6 to 7.8 cm (Plate VI, 5-7);
- prolonged with a triangular cross section and pointed lower part, with a depression from the inner side of the horns base and the length of 4 cm (Plate VI, 8);
- short amulets with tongue-shaped bodies of different dimensions and differently profiled inner sides of the upper part of the amulets (Plate VI, 9-11).

The finds belonging to the second and third group were concentrated either immediately along the southern wall of the pit or in the northern half of the pit, but

all within the same backfill, at the depths corresponding to the level of the floor or immediately above that level, which means that they can certainly be assigned to the structure itself.

It should also be pointed that we are still waiting for the analyses of small finds to be completed and the results of C14 dating to come, so that we still cannot make detailed comparisons to the elements of the Early Neolithic finds coming from the settlements lying within the original Starčevo territory or settlements in the whole area of the Starčevo – Cris – Keres cultural complex. On the other hand, establishment of reliable analogies is further impeded by the fact that the results of the investigations at the Early Neolithic settlements on the territory of Serbia have been published mostly as preliminary reports with little illustrated finds. Taking for granted the wrong conclusions, those reports often point out that the main cultural and chronological features are absolute prevalence of coarse pottery and presence of barbotine as ornamentation technique. They also provide some data on the least frequent categories such as white painted pottery or amulets<sup>7</sup>, but they fail to pay the due attention to the most frequent categories of finds<sup>8</sup>. Furthermore, in the absence of the standardized criteria as to what can be considered “coarse pottery”, all finds with coarse fabric are commonly classified into this category, regardless of the mode of treatment of the vessel internal and external surface. For example, the vessels with uneven, so called roughened or pseudo-barbotine surfaces, found at Blagotin, Lepenski Vir and Drenovac later turned to have had a thin reddish slip, and almost always well-finished and burnished internal surface. Accepting common views without a direct research into material has often led to the wrong conclusions and, consequently, different, that is to say, incorrect cultural and chronological associations of the contemporary Neolithic sites<sup>9</sup>.

However, thanks to some recent works<sup>10</sup> which, with plenty of illustrated material, have shattered previous delusions regarding the main features of the pottery from the Early Neolithic settlements on the territory of Serbia, it is possible to draw reliable analogies between the stated groups of finds from the oldest cultural horizon of Trench XV at Drenovac and the finds from the Early Neolithic sites not only in Serbia, but also in Bulgaria and Romania.

In Serbia, those sites are grouped in several zones of the Starčevo culture, which are often considered to be the potential centres of the process of Neolithisation in the central Balkans. As one may expect, the closest analogy is found at the sites in the vicinity of

Drenovac, in the middle Morava valley, such as settlements at Dunjički šljivari in the village of Međureč<sup>11</sup> and at Bukovačka česma in the village of Bukovče<sup>12</sup> near Jagodina. The sites of Blagotin, Grivac and Divostin, which have been systematically explored, also belong to the Morava valley area, taken in a wider sense. The small finds from these sites, perhaps because of the scope of research, and probably due to the duration of life there, are more numerous and diverse than the finds from Drenovac, but, nevertheless, they doubtless display cultural and chronological propinquity<sup>13</sup>. Certain analogies, in the first place for the finds from our third group, can also be drawn with several settlements in the Morava valley zone, where small-scale excavations have been conducted<sup>14</sup>.

The Neolithic settlements in Djerdap region (Iron Gate gorge on the Danube River) make another group of sites: Lepenski Vir,<sup>15</sup> Knjepište,<sup>16</sup> Ušće Kameničkog potoka,<sup>17</sup> Ajmana<sup>18</sup> and Velesnica.<sup>19</sup> Unfortunately, except for a part of finds from Lepenski Vir, there is no publication with systematized materials. Thus, reliable analogies can only be established for the third group of finds, while the first and second groups, generally speaking, display more of cultural propinquity than of chronological concurrence. And finally, there are also two peripheral points with one or two sites – one in the south at the site of Rudnik<sup>20</sup>, and two in the north at the sites of Donja Branjevina<sup>21</sup> and Magareći mlin<sup>22</sup>, where the most reliable analogies can be established for the

7 Vetnić 1972, 14 -15; Vetnić 1972a, 16 – 17; Vetnić 1972b, 19; Madas 1969, 11.

8 Vetnić 1972, 14 -15; Vetnić 1972a, 16 – 17; Vetnić 1972b, 19; Madas 1969, 11.

9 Перић 1999, 25 -28.

10 Bogdanović 2004; Vuković 2004; Perić, Nikolić 2004.

11 The Neolithic site of Dunjički šljivari – Međureč was excavated in 2007 within the project of Permanent Archaeological Workshop – Central Pomoravlje in Neolithization of SE Europe. The results of excavations have shown that it was an Early Neolithic settlement, which offered recognizable pottery, zoomorphic and antropomorphic figurines and so-called amulets. The processing of material is still in progress so that the results have not been published yet.

12 The results of the excavation related to this Neolithic settlement have been only partially published (remark no. 7 ), but after re-examination of those results and systematic processing of pottery finds, done within the activities of the Permanent Archaeological Workshop, it turned out that some previous views had to be corrected or modified.

13 Nikolić, Vuković 2001, 4; Vuković 2004, Pl. I-II, V, X-XVI; Bogdanović 2004, 47-59, 129-130, 144; Богдановић 1968, 169-175; Богдановић 1987.

14 Bogdanović, 1988, 70-71; Katunar 1988, 110-11.

15 Srejić 1969, 163, 166-170.

16 Stanković 1986, 447-448, Fig. 3-4.

17 Stanković 1986a, Fig. 3-4.

18 Stalio 1986, 27-32, Fig. 7-26.

19 Vasić 1986, 264-270, Fig. 23; Vasić 2008, 227-242, Fig. 16-17.

20 Tasić 1998, 46-52, 426-433.

21 Кармански 1987, 101-105; Karmanski 2005.

22 Лековић 1988, 79-80.

finds of amulets. However, the repertoire of represented forms, and specially ornamentation techniques and represented ornamental motifs, at Drenovac is very modest in comparison to the repertoire at Donja Branjevina and Rudnik. In this case, like in the previous cases, the issue of relative chronological relations between the oldest cultural horizon at Drenovac and the mentioned Early Neolithic settlements or individual phases of multilayered settlements remains unresolved.

Outside the original area of the Starčevo culture, corresponding analogies can be drawn to Romanian sites in Transylvania Ocna Sibiului – “Triguri” and Gura Baciului, within the layers associated with the Precris culture<sup>23</sup>, and the sites in north-west Bulgaria with the similar material, especially Džuljanica – Smardeš and Hotnica – Pešterata.<sup>24</sup>

Based on this short review of analogies for the stated groups of finds from the oldest cultural horizon in Trench XV at Drenovac, two main conclusions can be drawn. The first concerns the first group of finds, i.e. pottery. The corresponding analogy of the most frequent forms, the modes of their treatment and ornamentation can be drawn between Drenovac and almost all settlements on the territory of Serbia associated with the Early Neolithic. However, the pottery from the systematically explored settlements compared to the pottery from Drenovac is richer and more diverse in ornamentation, which is especially true for Grivac, Divostin and Donja Branjevina, where the ornamentation system is marked by the presence of finds with white painted ornamental motifs. There are many reasons for that, but a reliable explanation of this issue may be postponed until more comprehensive excavation at Drenovac is conducted and the material from other sites in the middle Morava valley published.

The second conclusion resulting from the review of analogies has to do with the fact that the common feature of all the mentioned Early Neolithic sites both in the original Starčevo area and outside it is our third group, i.e. amulets. J. Vuković and N. Elenski<sup>25</sup> have provided more detailed insight into this intriguing group of finds. Their papers confirm that those objects appeared across a wide and culturally diverse area, for which we cannot comfortably assert that it was under the direct influence of the representatives of the Early Neolithic coming from the original Starčevo area or representatives of some other cultures, for example, in Thessaly.

The interpretations of the purpose and function of these objects, which were made of clay, but also of bone and stone, as the raw material, were based on the assumption that they had been used as decorative

objects – labrets, amulets, as paraphernalia for certain cult activities or objects used for counting foodstuffs<sup>26</sup>. Considering all the elements accompanying this type of finds, the assumption that those objects were used as cult paraphernalia and that they certainly should be assigned to the sphere of the spiritual culture seems most likely. It was a common phenomenon in all the cultures and cultural groups on a fairly large territory. These finds undoubtedly represent the integral part of an important novelty of living, that is to say economy of prehistoric inhabitants of those areas at the beginning of the Neolithic. It is absolutely certain that their appearance cannot be attributed to emergence of agriculture, because there were no amulets in the Middle or Late Neolithic, when agriculture reached the stage of full development. The finds with wheat grain motif actually correspond to the first phase of agricultural development. Thus, there is animal breeding as an option, actually the first phase in animal breeding development, which was the process of getting closer, creation of mutual trust that eventually led to domestication of certain animal species and their permanent living in the Neolithic people’s settlements. Two very important facts support this assumption. Firstly, at all sites with two or more finds different types of amulets were present, with quite uniform ways of modelling, form and dimensions of the certain type regardless of the culture within which they were found. This prompts the conclusion that amulets can be interpreted as schematic representation of heads of different horned animals whose domestication was under way. The second fact, which can support our assumption that amulets were used as paraphernalia of a cult in the process of domestication of wild animals, is clearly marked time limits to their occurrence, since they did not appear in the Middle Neolithic or later, which means that these objects were used in a relatively short period only. They were produced and used as long as the need for the cult being integral part of certain economic activities existed.

23 Vlassa 1972; Iuliu 1995, 28-67, T. V-VIII, XXVII, XXX 1-4; Lazarovići, Maxim, 1995, 374-384, Fig. 39-43; Ciuta 2002.

24 Elenski 2002, 28-29; Elenski 2003, 17-18. I have got the data on the cultural and chronological character of the whole material from these two sites from my colleague N. Elenski, who especially highlighted the propinquity of the pottery finds from the sites in north-west Bulgaria and Drenovac and Blagotin. I am very much obliged to him for this information.

25 Vuković 2005; Elenski 2004.

26 Станковић 1996; Vuković 2005, 34-36.

Accordingly, we can state that all three groups of finds, and especially first and third, are recognizable in terms of culture and chronology and that they, without reserve, can be associated with the Early Neolithic context, i.e. early period of the Starčevo culture development, or Proto-Starčevo, according to D Srežović. Since just a small area at Drenovac has been excavated, it could not provide all cultural elements characteristic of the time when that structure existed. Nevertheless, the finds we mentioned above offer enough elements for placing the oldest cultural horizon of Trench XV into the concrete cultural and chronological framework. Once the analyses in progress are completed, we shall be in a better position to give the precise answer regarding the relative and chronological position of this horizon in relation to the other Early Neolithic sites, mentioned above, or their particular phases, but is clear now that our material belongs to the Early Neolithic. Considering the characteristics of material at the site of Međureč, we assume that the finds from Drenovac must have been somewhat younger.

The second important fact that can be drawn from the given data has to do with the issue of continuity of life in the settlement at Drenovac. We said at the beginning of this paper that the materials from the structure and the layer above the backfill are cognate, although the layer above the structure offered scarce

small finds, and pottery fragments were so small in size that they were chronologically less sensitive. In any case, at this stage of material processing we can confirm that there is no distinctive difference between the materials, or in other words that within the oldest cultural horizon of Trench XV there are no elements based on which a precise cultural and chronological differentiation can be made, i.e. no basis for defining different development phases within the stated stratigraphic units can be established.

Some issues remain unresolved - as to how the layer above the debris layer of the oldest dwelling structure in this section of the settlement formed, and whether, before the first documented flooding of this section of the settlement, this layer was equally thick everywhere, even in the section of the settlement encompassed by the southern half of the trench, i.e. by quadrant 2, or in other words, whether its inclination southward is the result of erosion. However, it is almost certain that there is no continuity between our Starčevo structure and earliest Vinča structures, which also bear some specific elements of Starčevo tradition. This means that the question whether there is any link in this settlement that can connect the Early Neolithic Starčevo and Vinča horizons remains open. In any case, we can safely note that the oldest cultural horizon of Trench XV is a closed unit, fully reliable for the purpose of cultural and chronological considerations.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Богдановић 1968** - М. Богдановић, Неолитска насеља у Дивостину и протостарчевачка култура, *Гласник српској археолошкој друштва 3*, Београд 1968, 169 – 175.
- Богдановић 1968** – М. Bogdanović, Banja – Arandelovac, in *Neolithic of Serbia*, ed. D. Srejsović, Belgrade 1988, 70-71.
- Богдановић 1987** - М. Богдановић, Неолитическе поселения в Дивостине о протостарчевачка култура, *Цобетская археология 2, 1987*, Москва 1987, 5 – 17.
- Богдановић 2004** - М. Bogdanović, *Grivac: naselja protostarčevačke i vinčanske kulture*, Kragujevac 2004.
- Ciuta 2002** – М. Ciuta, *Cultura Precris in spațiu Intracarpatic*, Alba Iulia 2002 (doktorska disertacija).
- Еленски 2002** – Н. Еленски, Сондажни проучавања на раннеолитното селище с. Хотница – „Пещерата-Изток“, Великотърновско, през 2001 г., *Археологически открития и разкопки през 2001г.*, София 2002, 28-29.
- Еленски 2003** – Н. Еленски, Сондажни проучавања на раннеолитното селище с. Джулоница – „Смърдеш“, Великотърновско, през 2002 г., София 2003, 17-18..
- Elenski 2004** – N. Elenski, Frühneolitische zoomorphe Figurinen aus dem Zentralen Nordbulgarien, in *Von Domicia bis Drama: Gedenkschrift für Jan Lichardus*, ed. V. Nikolov and K. Bačvarov, Sofia 2004, 17-24.
- Iuliu 1995** – P. Iuliu, *Vorgeschichtliche Untersuchungen in siebenbürgen*, Alba Iulia 1995.
- Кармански 1987** – С. Кармански, Лабрете са локалитета Доња Брањевина у светлу нових археолошких и етнолошких података, *Гласник српској археолошкој друштва 4*, Београд 1987, 101-105.
- Karmanski 2005** – S. Karmanski, *Donja Branjevina: a Neolithic Settlement near Deronje in the Vojvodina (Serbia)*, Trieste 2005.
- Katunar 1988** – R. Katunar, Zmajevac – Smederevska Palanka, in *Neolithic of Serbia*, ed. D. Srejsović, Belgrade 1988, 110-111.
- Lazarovici 1995** – G. Lazarovici, Z. Maxim, *Gura Baciului*, Cluj-Napoca 1995.
- Leković 1988** – Magareći mlin – Apatin, in *Neolithic of Serbia*, ed. D. Srejsović, Belgrade 1988, 79-80.
- Madas 1969** - D. Madas, Banja, Arandelovac - naselje starčevačke kulture, *Arheološki pregled 11*, Beograd 1969, 11.
- Nikolić 2004** - D. Nikolić, statistički pristup u proučavanju keramike sa ranoneolitских локалитета на територији Србије, *Glasnik srpskog arheološkog društva 20*, Beograd 2004, 9 – 24.
- Nikolić, Vuković 2001** - D. Nikolić – J. Vuković, *Blagotin – Istraživanja 1989 – 1999*, Beograd 2001.
- Перић 1999** - С. Перић, Вишеслојна неолитска насеља и проблеми културне стратиграфије неолита на територији Србије, *Старинар XLIX/1998*, Beograd 1999, 11-33.
- Perić 2004** - S. Perić, Problem of Neolithization in Central Pomoravlje, in *The Neolithic in the Middle Morava Valley 1*, Belgrade 2004, 11–34.
- Perić, Nikolić 2004** - S. Perić – D. Nikolić, Statigraphic, Cultural and Chronological Characteristics of the Pottery from Lepenski Vir – 1965 Excavations, in *The Neolithic in the Middle Morava Valley 1*, Belgrade 2004, 157-217.
- Срејовић 1969** – Д. Срејовић, *Лејенски Вир*, Београд 1969.
- Stalio 1986** – B. Stalio, Le site préhistorique Ajmana à Mala Vrbica, *Бергајске свеске III*, Beograd 1986, 27-35.
- Stanković 1986** - Localité Knjepište – une station du groupe Starčevo, *Бергајске свеске III*, Beograd 1986, 447-452.
- Stanković 1986a** – Embouchure du ruisseau Kamenički Potok - site du groupe de Starčevo, *Бергајске свеске III*, Beograd 1986, 467-471.
- Станковић 1996** – С. Станковић, Камени амулети са Благодина, *Гласник српској археолошкој друштва II*, Београд 1996, 21-26.
- Tasić 1998** – N.N. Tasić, Starčevačka kultura, in *Arheološko blago Kosova i Metohije od neolita do ranog srednjeg veka*, ed. N. Tasić, Beograd 1998, 30-55.
- Vasić 1986** – Compte-rendu des fouilles du site préhistorique à Velesnica 1981-82, *Бергајске свеске III*, Beograd 1986, 264-272.
- Vasić 2008** – Velesnica and the Lepenski Vir culture, in *BAR International series 1893*, ed C. Bonsall, V. Boroneant, I. Radovanović, 2008, 227-242.
- Vetnić 1972** - S. Vetnić, Bukovačka česma, Bukovče, Svetozarevo – naselje starčevačke kulture, *Arheološki pregled 14*, Beograd 1972, 14 -15.

**Vetnić 1972 a** - Velika reka, Topola, Deonica, Svetozarevo - naselje starčevačke kulture, *Arheološki pregled 14*, Beograd 1972, 16 – 17.

**Vetnić 1972b** - Tranjina Bara, Crnče, Svetozarevo - naselje starčevačke kulture, *Arheološki pregled 14*, Beograd 1972, 19.

**Vetnić 1974** – S. Vetnić, Počeci rada na ispitivanju kulture prvih zemljoradnika u srednjem Pomoravlju, Materijali SADJ X, Beograd 1974, 123-163.

**Vlassa 1972** – V. N. Vlassa, Eine frühneolitische Kultur mit bemalten Keramik der Von-Starcevo-

Körös\_zeit in Cluj-Gura Baciului, Siebenbürgen, *Præhistorische Zeitschrift* 47,2, 174-197.

**Vuković 2004** - J. Vuković, Statistic and typological analyses of the Early Neolithic pottery excavated in the structure 03 at the site of Blagotin near Trstenik, in *The Neolithic in the Middle Morava Valley I*, Belgrade 2004, 83–155.

**Vuković 2005** - J. Vuković, The Blagotin Amulets and Their Place in the Early Neolithic of the Central Balkans, *Гласник српској археолошкој друштва* 21, Београд 2005, 27-42.

## Резиме

СЛАВИША ПЕРИЋ, Археолошки институт, Београд

## НАЈСТАРИЈИ КУЛТУРНИ ХОРИЗОНТ СОНДЕ XV У ДРЕНОВЦУ

Кључне речи: Дреновац, неолит, станиште, керамика.

Неолитско налазиште Слатина–Турска чесма, у литератури познатије као Дреновац, заузима површину од око 35 хектара са моћним културним слојем, који на појединим локацијама премашује 6 м дубине. Само налазиште удаљено је око 9 км од Параћина и припада групи неолитских насеља на десној обали реке Мораве, од чијег корита је удаљено око 3,5 км. Данас се налазиште протеже са обе стране аутопута Београд – Ниш, с напоменом да је већи део налазишта источно од трасе аутопута. Имајући у виду сва досадашња тумачења резултата истраживања у периоду од 1968. до 1971. године, у оквиру пројекта „Стална археолошка радионица – средње Поморавље у неолитизацији југоисточне Европе“, приступило се и ревизионим археолошким ископавањима, чији је циљ био провера ранијих стратиграфских запажања. У том смислу, у периоду 2004–2006. год. истраживана је сонда XV димензија 6 x 6 м. Због моћности културног слоја, који се на овом делу налазишта завршавао на дубинама од око 6 м, најстарији слој није истражен на целој основи сонде, већ само њен југоисточни део, површине 15 м<sup>2</sup>.

Најстарији културни хоризонт сонде XV представља једну затворену целину, која је од најстаријих винчанских објеката одвојена са два слоја наплавине – слојем жутог песка и слојем муљног талога у виду сиве глиновите земље. Чини га наизглед компактни културни слој масније земље неуједначене дебљине од 0,30 м у јужном профилу квадранта 3 до 1,10-1,20 м у северном профилу квадранта 2. Из овог податка јасно се види да је горњи ниво овог слоја био у израженом паду по правцу север–југ, односно да се слој видно стањује од северног ка јужном профилу. Доњи ниво најстаријег културног хоризонта у виду слоја тамносиве земље, у ствари је испуна неправилног овалног облика, која представља остатке једног стамбеног објекта делимично укопаног у здравицу. Изнад слоја испуне, односно рушевинског слоја стамбеног објекта, слој земље неуједначене дебљине знатно је светлији и покретним налазима сиромашнији.

О културном карактеру и хронолошком положају најстаријег хоризонта сонде XV најверљивије говоре покретни налази из наведених целина. С једне стране, имамо сам објекат и његов рушевински слој, где су покретни налази били и најбројнији и културно-хронолошки најосетљивији. С друге стране, у слоју изнад испуне имамо ситуацију да је горњи ниво овог слоја скоро стерилан, са спорадичним и уситњеним налазима керамике, малобројним животињским костима и ретким кременим одбицима.

Када је у питању присуство налаза у најстаријем стамбеном објекту сонде XV, треба истаћи да је материјал

углавном био концентрисан на дну јаме, уз западни профил квадранта 3, и то у плићим удубљењима, која највероватније представљају накнадне деформације услед притиска. Будући да се ради о прелиминарним запажањима, за одређивање ближе културне припадности налаза и хронолошког положаја самог објекта најиндикативнији су налази од печене земље који се могу сврстати у три групе: керамичко посуђе, налази опредељени као накит и тзв. амулети.

На основу резултата типолошких анализа покретних налаза може се констатовати да су све три групе налаза, а посебно прва и трећа, препознатљиве у културно-хронолошком смислу и да их без икакве резерве можемо одредити у старијенеолитске оквиру, тј. рани период развоја старчевачке културе, односно Прото-Старчево по Д. Срејовићу.

Други важан закључак који се може извући из анализе покретних налаза и стратиграфије односи се на питање континуитета живота у насељу у Дреновцу. Показало се, наиме, да је материјал из самог објекта и из слоја изнад испуне културно истородан, с тим што у слоју изнад објекта имамо веома мало покретних налаза и што су фрагменти керамике јако уситњени, па тако мање хронолошки осетљиви. У сваком случају, и на садашњем степену обрађености материјала може се констатовати да међу материјалом не постоји израженија разлика, односно да у оквиру најстаријег културног хоризонта сонде XV не постоје елементи на основу којих би се извршила прецизнија културно-хронолошка диференцијација, тј. нема основа за дефинисање различитих фаза развоја у оквиру наведених стратиграфских јединица.

Остаје отворено питање како је дошло до формирања слоја изнад рушевинског слоја најстаријег стамбеног објекта на том делу насеља и да ли је он, пре првог документованог плавлена тог дела насеља, био уједначене дебљине и на делу насеља захваћеном јужном половином сонде, тј. квадрантом 3, односно да ли је његов пад ка југу само последица ерозије. Међутим, сасвим је извесно да између нашег старчевачког и најранијих винчанских објеката, у којима такође имамо одређене елементе старчевачке традиције, ипак не постоји континуитет, а то значи да остаје отворено и питање да ли на овом насељу уопште постоји карика која повезује старијенеолитски старчевачки и винчански хоризонт. У сваком случају, може се констатовати да најстарији културни хоризонт сонде XV представља једну затворену и за културно-хронолошка разматрања потпуно поуздану целину.



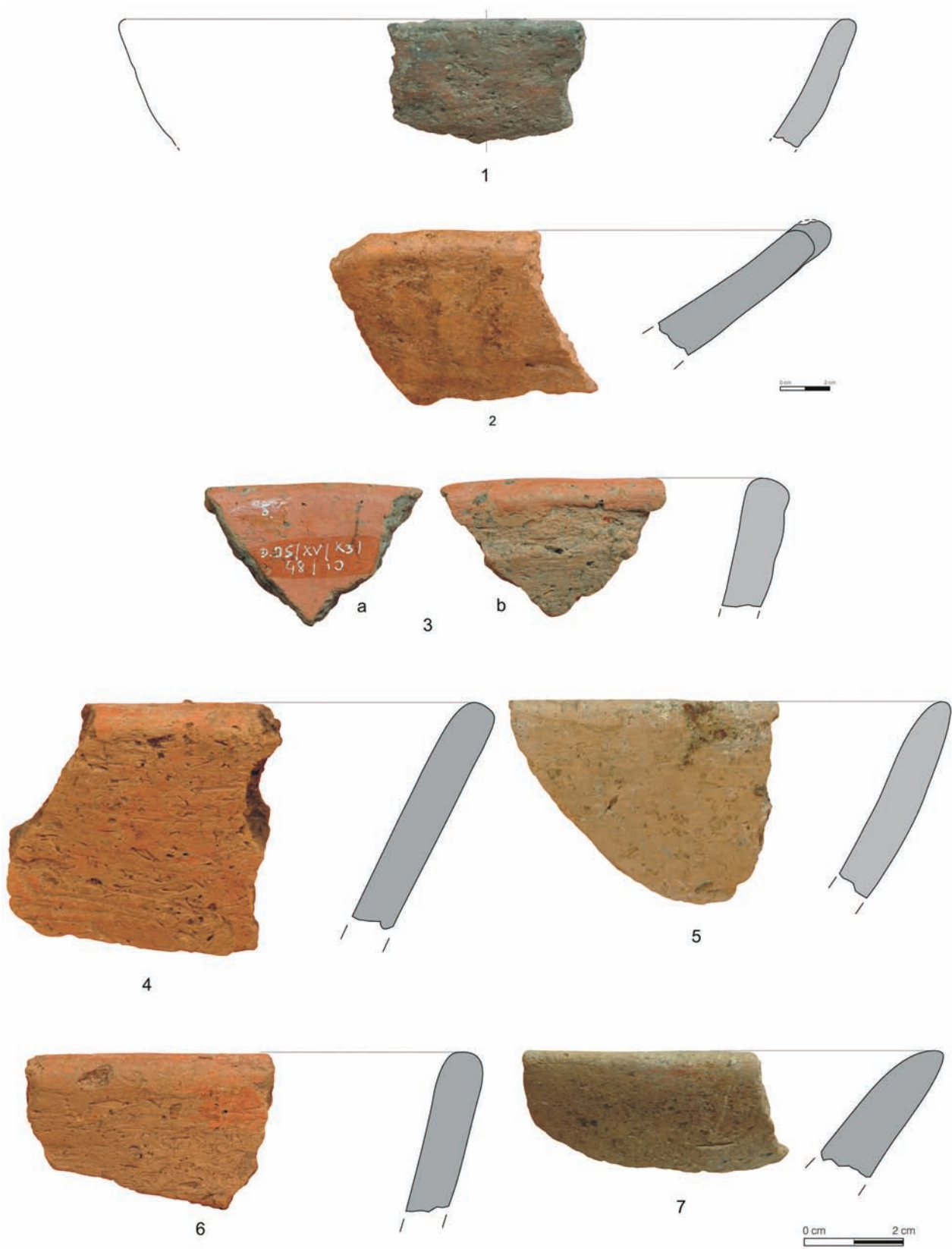


Plate I

Табла I

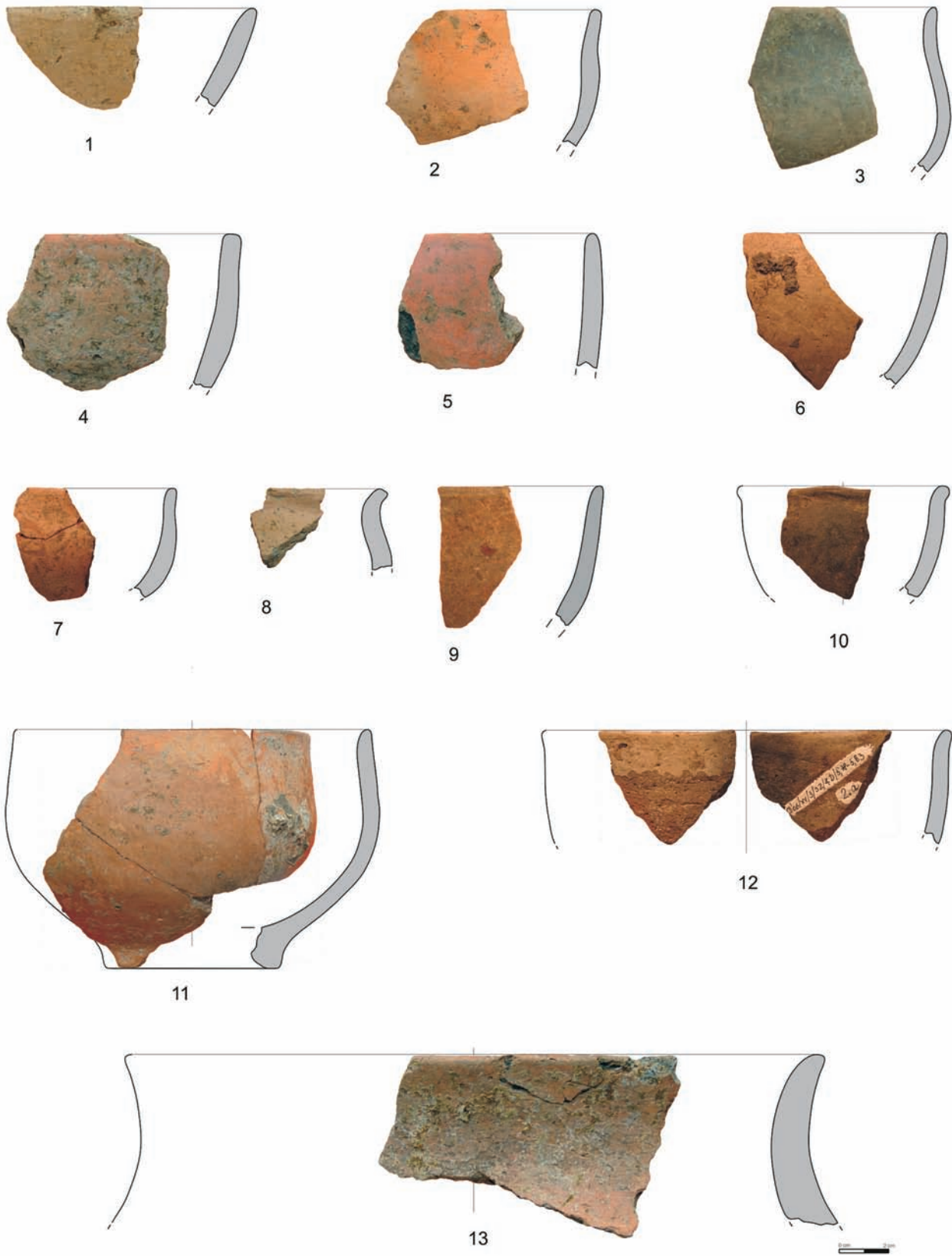


Plate II  
Табла II

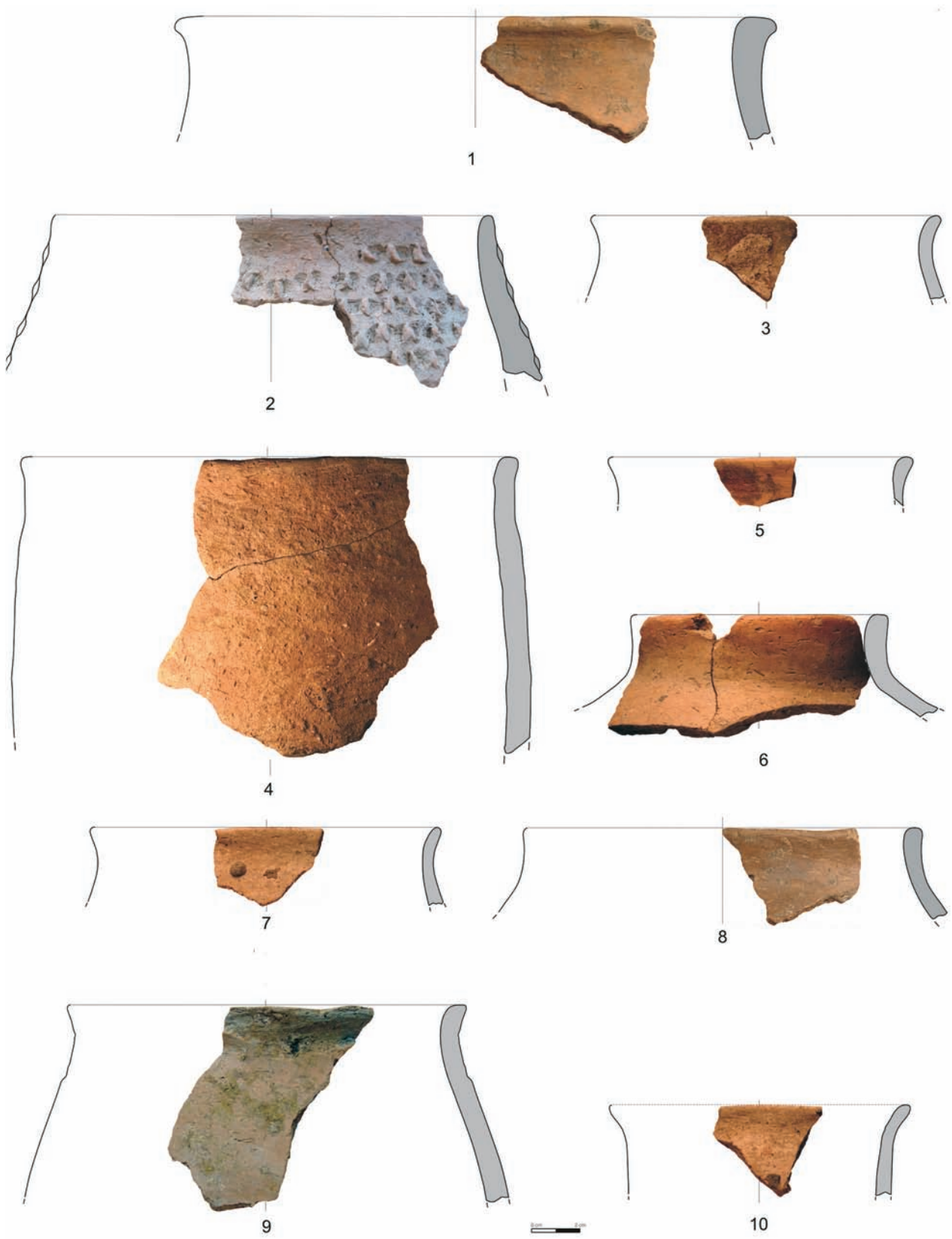


Plate III

Табла III

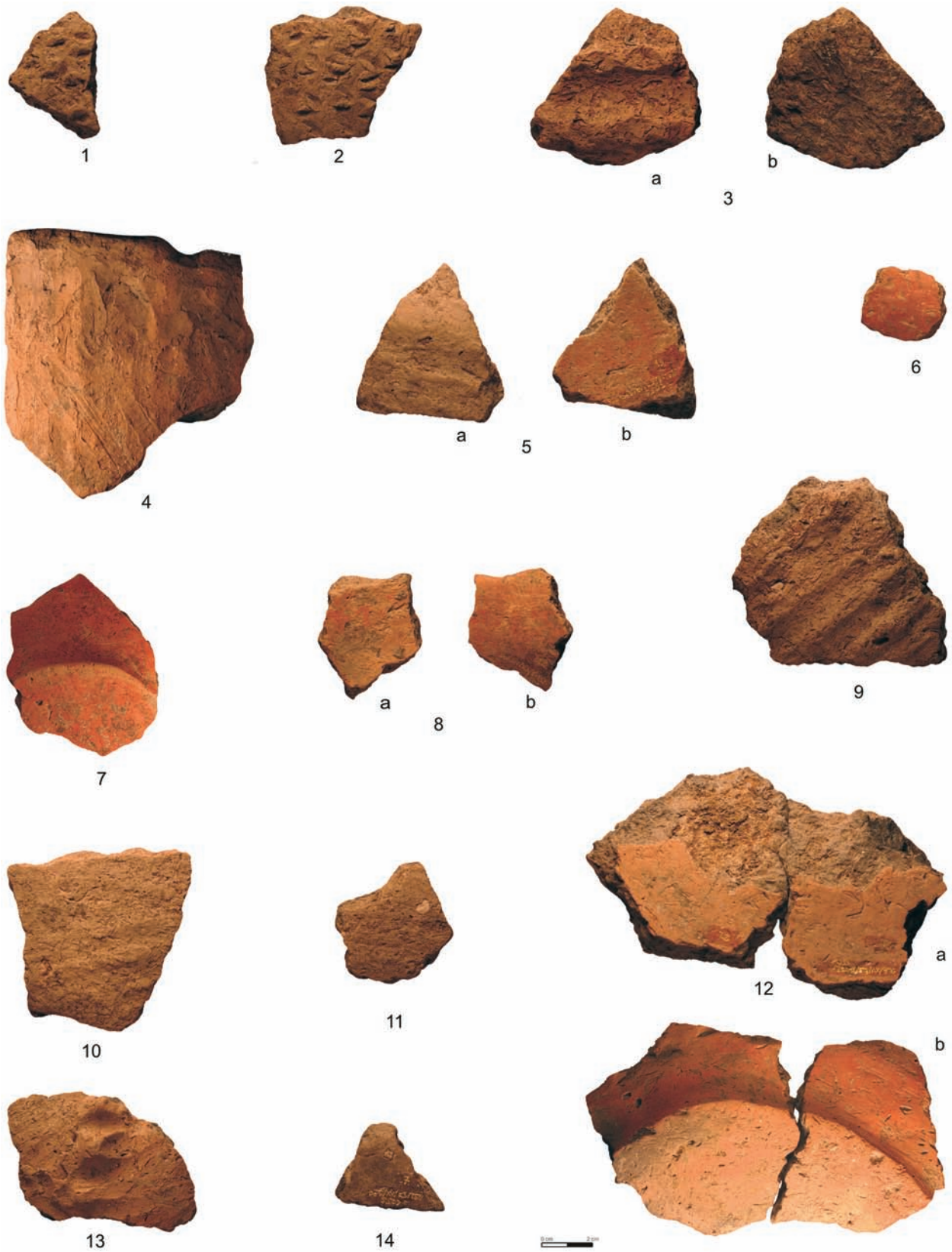


Plate IV  
Табла IV

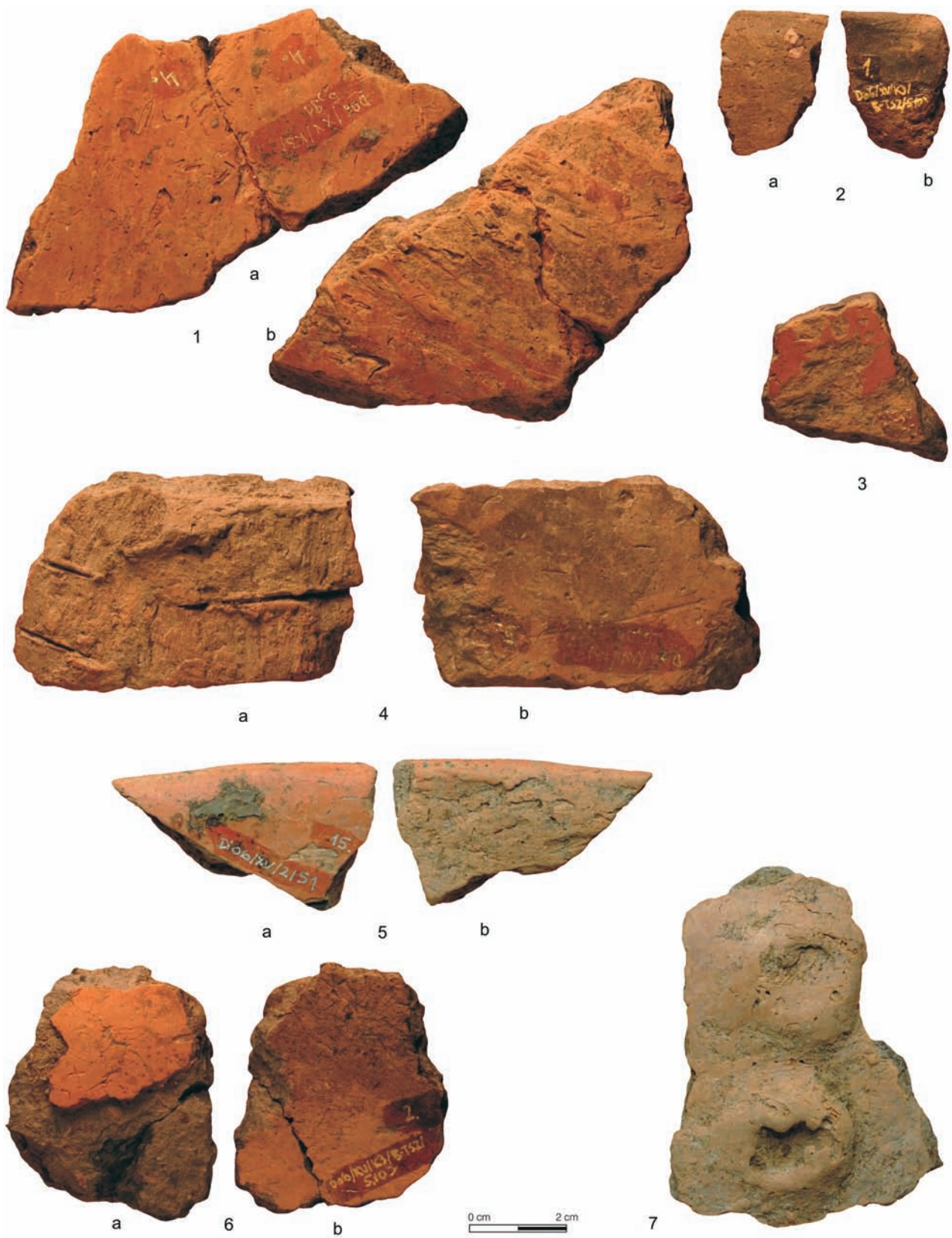


Plate V

Табла V



Plate VI

Табла VI