

GLASS VESSELS FROM THE DACIAN SETTLEMENT FROM MEREȘTI, DÂMBUL PIPAȘILOR

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Abstract: In the note are presented glass vessels from the 1st century AD discovered in Dacian settlement in Merești, Dâmbul Pipașilor, Harghita county. There are two ribbed bowls. One of the fragments comes from a ribbed bowl made of mosaic glass, matte purple with opaque white impressions, made by casting/pressing into the mould (forma Isings 3); the other one comes from a free-blowing ribbed bowl made of semi-transparent purple glass, over which white, opaque glass wires were applied (Isings 17). They are among the few imported items documented in the settlement.

Rezumat: În notă sunt prezentate vase de sticlă din secolul I p. Chr. descoperite în așezarea dacică de la Merești, Dâmbul Pipașilor, județul Harghita. Sunt două boluri cu coaste în relief, unul confecționat din sticlă mozaic, de culoare violet, mat cu impresiuni de culoare alb opac, realizat prin turnare/presare în tipar (forma Isings 3); celălalt obținut prin suflare liberă, din sticlă de culoare violet semi-transparentă, peste care au fost aplicate fire de sticlă de culoare albă, opacă (Isings 17). Ele sunt printre puținele piese de import documentate în așezare.

The Dacian settlement from Merești, Dâmbul Pipașilor, is located inside the Carpathian arch, in the Vârghișului Gorges, approximately 500 m from Urban Balasz Cave and 10 km from Merești locality, Harghita County. Its surface, of approximately 3 ha, includes a terraced hill, Dâmbul Pipașilor (“Pipasok dombja”, elevation 745 m) and a segment of the karst plateau known as “Câmpul Pietrei”.¹ Dâmbul Pipașilor has a conical shape with descending slopes, steeper towards Vârghiș and smoother towards “Câmpul Pietrei”. On the hill there were built a plateau and several terraces of various sizes (between 6-7 sqm and 48-600 sqm).² The land in front of the terraced hill was delimited from the rest of the plateau by a mound and a moat („Șanțul Tătarilor”), which stretches over a length of about 300 m between Dâmbul Pipașilor and Malul de Sus Mountain.³

The systematic archaeological excavations undertaken in 1986-2003 targeted, first of all, the fortified hill, the attention of the specialists being focused on the fifth terrace, the largest of the terraces, with an area of about 600 sqm, of which 190 sqm have been researched.⁴ Traces of habitation have been recorded from the Bronze Age (Wietenberg culture), the La Tène period and the Medieval Period (11th-13th centuries AD).

The materials from the Bronze Age were recorded mainly in a secondary position at all depths, but especially in the last layer, which shows that, for the arrangement of their settlement, the Dacians used a previously inhabited land.⁵ In some areas, immediately below the humus, materials (pottery fragments) from the 11th-13th centuries AD were recorded, without a precise stratigraphic delimitation, which suggests a temporary inhabitation during this period.⁶

From the stratigraphic point of view, two levels of compact dwelling were surprised in the Dacian settlement, interspersed with a uniform layer of ash and coal due, most likely, to a strong fire.⁷

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¹ Crișan, Ferenczi 1994, pp. 377-432.

² *Ibidem*, pp. 377-378.

³ *Ibidem*, p. 383.

⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 378; Crișan *et alii* 2001, p. 204.

⁵ Crișan, Ferenczi 1994, p. 379.

⁶ *Ibidem*, loc. cit..

⁷ Crișan, Ferenczi 1994, pp. 378-379.