FUNERARY ARCHITECTURE IN ALBURNUS MAIOR (ROȘIA MONTANĂ): RECTANGULAR MASONRY ENCLOSURES

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Abstract: Twelve rectangular wall enclosures were identified in the Alburnus Maior site, of which six can be reconstructed, being in a better state of preservation. Four precincts enclose small funerary areas covered by an earthen mound, each one designed for a single grave. Two of the larger enclosures describe funerary areas comprising the grave and the commemorative monument. This study analyses their architectural image and presents preliminary data on the built environment of three of the enclosures from the Hop-Găuri Necropolis.

Rezumat: În situl de la Alburnus Maior au fost identificate arheologic douăsprezece incinte rectangulare de zid, dintre care șase pot fi reconstituite, fiind mai bine conservate. Patru incinte delimitează zone funerare de mici dimensiuni pentru câte un singur mormânt acoperit de o movilă de pământ. Două dintre incinte, de mai mari dimensiuni, descriu spații funerare în interiorul cărora găsim mormântul și monumentul comemorativ. Studiul analizează imaginea arhitecturală a acestora și prezintă date preliminare referitoare la ambientul construit a trei dintre incinte localizate în Necropola Hop-Găuri.

The archaeological research carried out between 2000-2007 has substantially enriched the register of lithic materials attributed to funerary designs discovered in time[1] and has delimited *in situ* architectural layouts that describe the funerary built environment of which they were part of. A number of twelve rectangular enclosures were archeologically identified or researched in "five necropolises and two funerary areas"[2] of the Alburnus Maior site (Fig. 1): three enclosures in the Țarina Necropolis,[3] five in the Hop-Găuri Necropolis,[4] three in the Pârâul Porcului-Tăul Secilor Necropolis[5] and one in the Carpeni Area.[6] Of the twelve architectural-funerary works that have been researched or only identified, reconstruction was possible for six rectangular enclosures, due to the better state of preservation: two in the Țarina Necropolis (*Enclosures 1, 2)*, three in the Hop-Găuri Necropolis (*Enclosures 3, 4, 5)* and one in the Pârâul Porcului-Tăul Secilor Necropolis (*Enclosure 6)*.[7]

Four enclosures (*Enclosures 1, 3, 4/phase I, Enclosure 6/phase I*) delimit areas with slightly deformed square contours, of a smaller scale (4.48-5.43 m), and two enclosures (*Enclosures 2, 5*) are larger and of a rectangular plan (5.60-6.65/6.85-8.90 m). Initially all these enclosures comprised the funerary space of a single grave. Two of the six enclosures have been subsequently extended in order to include an enhanced number of graves. *Enclosure 6* is extended in a single direction (by 1.38 m) so as to contain a second grave,[8] and *Enclosure 4*, much larger as a result of being extended in two directions (2.03 m towards north and 3.36 m towards east) finally included another three graves.

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[1] Wollman 1996, pp. 221-225.

[2] Simion *et alii* 2007-2008, p. 124.

[3] CCA 2003, p. 266; CCA 2005, p. 298.

[4] Moga *et alii* 2003, p. 210. The authors identify four funerary enclosures built around four graves (M123, M60, M114, M163). Indeed, the walls or wall traces that delimit the funerary area for M60 and M123 represent the vestiges of rectangular enclosures, however it is more plausible that the stone alignments around graves M114 and M163 were instead only simple funerary works around the funerary pit. In the Găuri area of the Hop-Găuri Necropolis (CCA 2002, pp. 104-105) two rectangular masonry enclosures have been researched, and the third was identified at the end of the 2002 archaeological campaign.

[5] CCA 2006, pp. 296-297.

[6] "Building" C1 which superposes graves M2 and M3 (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2003, p. 406, fig. 10) was identified by some authors as being a funerary enclosure (Neagu, Bocan 2007-2008, p. 106).

[7] Six are only partially investigated or are dismantled (one in the Țarina Necropolis, two in the Hop-Găuri Necropolis, two in the Pârâul Porcului-Tăul Secilor Necropolis, one in the Carpeni funerary area).

[8] Three graves were identified within the enclosure (M268, M271, M270). The third grave (M270) was carved after the the second phase of the enclosure was built to surround graves M268 and M271 (Neagu, Bocan 2010, p. 105).