

Observații privind cronologia ceramicii secolelor XI-XIII din Transilvania

Author **István Botár**

Ciuc Szekler Museum , botaristvan@yahoo.com

Abstract:

As the most common archaeological material found in excavations, ceramics are a vital source of historical information. However, their value for interpretation tends to be underestimated in comparison with those of coins and metal artefacts. Although there have been several attempts to date the Arpadian period ceramics in Transylvania, vague denominations such as '11th-13th-century ceramics' appear frequently in such works. Such broad spans are of little assistance in determining the history and importance of a site and/or monument. Given the political changes and changes in settlement patterns in the eleventh to thirteenth centuries, it is significant whether a village or region was inhabited in the eleventh to twelfth centuries or only in the thirteenth. In recent decades, a significant number of finds from central and eastern Transylvania have been discovered during archaeological excavations, including pottery that appears surprisingly early for this era from the perspective of classical historiography, which assumed a gradual eastward expansion of the Hungarian Kingdom. This article focuses on the chronology of the ceramic decorations, with the hope that, with the help of superpositions, analogies, and new dating methods, we can sketch useful landmarks for a better internal chronology of eleventh- to thirteenth-century pottery.

Keywords: *Arpadian age, Eastern Transylvania, archaeological excavations, ceramic decorations, chronology*