

STONE OBJECTS FROM THE TERRITORY OF ANCIENT CITY ORGAME / ARGAMUM. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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Abstract: The present paper presents and provides an interpretation of five classes of stone objects resulting from field research of the French-Romanian project "Orgamè/Argamum, nécropoles et territoire". The objects were discovered in sites placed around the Razim Lake, belonging to different historical periods. They are divided in two categories and fall under various types, starting with weapons and finishing with common household items. This diversity gives us the opportunity to observe the origin of stones and the techniques of their production. An important point is to understand for which purpose various stone objects were used in different periods of time, in a limited and well defined geographical area, so that we obtain new information about various aspects of the military and economic spheres.

Cuvinte-cheie: obiecte din piatră, proiectile, șlefuitor, pistile, cute, râșniță de mână, Orgame/Argamum

Rezumat: Prezentul articol analizează cinci tipuri de obiecte din piatră descoperite în timpul cercetărilor de teren din cadrul programului franco-român "Orgamè/Argamum, nécropole et territoire". Acestea au fost descoperite în situri arheologice din jurul lacului Razim, datate în epoci istorice diferite și se împart în două categorii cu mai multe tipuri, începând cu arme și încheind cu obiecte folosite în viața de zi cu zi. Această diversitate ne oferă posibilitatea de a identifica proveniența pietrei și tehnica folosită la producția acestora. Un aspect important este acela al încercării de a înțelege care este scopul folosirii obiectelor din piatră în diferite perioade de timp, într-un spațiu geografic bine definit, obținând astfel noi informații despre aspectele militare și economice.

CONTEXT OF THE FINDS¹

The study of stone objects found in different sites placed around the Razim Lake opens a new research direction in this area. The majority of the newly-identified objects come from Orgame/Argamum and from the other sites located in the area of this Greek and Roman city. Much of the reported stone material, either small or fragmentary, was recently discovered during the archaeological excavations and surveys undertaken within the French-Romanian program of interdisciplinary research at Orgame/Argamum and on its territory.

The main objective of the project, entitled "Orgamè/Argamum, nécropoles et territoire" – ANR Pont-Euxin 2010–2013 coordinated by Alexandre Baralis² and Vasilica Lungu was the application of new methods of analysis devoted to the study of spatial networks of occupation around Greek and Roman site of Orgame-Argamum, alongside classical archaeological excavations.

The research involved a multidisciplinary approach starting from archaeological excavation and followed by processing of all finds, by means of digital mapping, photo-interpretation of satellite and aerial photographs, paleo-environmental studies, surface surveys and archaeological excavations, ceramological and archaeometric analysis, anthropology, paleopathology, palynology, geomorphology, macrobiology, archaeozoology, architecture and so on. The researched area covers a surface of 20 km around the ancient city of Orgame/Argamum. Twelve scientific institutions from four countries were involved, including Romania with four institutions³ from Bucharest and Tulcea County.

THE STONE OBJECTS⁴

The total number of stone objects discovered is 55, and represent two categories: military equipment (weapons) and household tools. They are divided into five

¹ I would like to thank Vasilica Lungu (Institute of South-Eastern European Studies) for the information about the discovery context.

² Louvre Museum, Department of Greek, Roman and Etruscan Antiquities.

³ Centre Camille Jullian (UMR 7299), CNRS - Aix-Marseille Université; Institutul de Studii Sud Est Europene; Universitatea București; Institutul de Arheologie "Vasile Pârvan"; Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale "Gavrilă Simion" Tulcea; Université de Bordeaux 3; Cerege

(UMR 7330), CNRS - Aix-Marseille Université; Exeter University; Laboratoire d'archéométrie et d'archéologie (UMR 5138), CNRS-MOM, Lyon; Archéoloattes, CNRS (UMR 5140); Ecolab (UMR 5245); CNRS – Université Toulouse III; LA3M (UMR 7298), CNRS - Aix-Marseille Université and Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes.

⁴ I want to thank Albert Baltreș, from the Geological Institute of Romania, for the invaluable help and support.