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THE BRONZE AXES HOARD OF FÂNTÂNELE-RUS (RUS COMMUNE, SĂLAJ COUNTY, ROMANI

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(Abstract)

The study concerns to an unpublished bronze hoard discovered fortuitous in the `70`s in a village (Fântânele –Rus) in north-eastern part of Sălaj county, on Someș valley. The hoard consist, at least in two bronze axes with disc and spike. They analyzed several aspects of the bronze hoarding phenomenon from the so-called „*Someș Corridor*." Unfortunately, the archaeological research of contemporary settlements of these hoards remain only a dream for the future.

Introduction

In 1978, the Zalău Museum collections has been enriched by the donation of a bronze piece, namely an „axe with disc and spike" (*Nackenscheibenaxt*) discovered on the Someș River Valley, the Fântânele-Rus locality in the commune of Rus, Sălaj County (pl. I/1)[1]. Soon after that, the piece was mentioned in a repertoire of archaeological discoveries from the Bronze Age and the First Iron Age on Sălaj territory. That paper only briefly presented the piece's dimensions and the ax being dated in Bronze D stage[2]. The inventory register of the museum specified in addition that the piece was discovered in 1978 on „*Valea Soceșului (?)*" by a citizen named Ceascai Silviu, being later donated to Zalău Museum by Rafolat Augustin of the village of Ileanda. The piece is registered in the museum register under inventory number C.C. 130/1978[3].

Maybe we would have not reverted to this piece unless, 25 years after its discovery, in the summer of 2003, we would have not the occasion to study another axe of this type in a private collection in Dej[4]. According to the axe owner, it was found many years ago by a citizen on „*Valea Soceşului*" from the same Fântânele-Rus locality, who allegedly also held another similar piece, discovered under the same circumstances. Based on the testimonies gathered at that time, it seemed we were talking about a total of two or even three pieces, all axes with disc and spike, discovered together on „*Valea Soceșului*". Due to various reasons, we were not able to reach the area before the spring of 2006. With the help of a colleague originating from the commune of Rus[5], we were able to contact the person who found the pieces in 1978 and to identify the discovery site. However, the person claimed that he found in the same location, in the summer of 1978 only two axes with disc and spike, of which one was donated to Zalău museum, while the second piece was given, years later, to Costin

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1 The Fântânele – Rus locality, (former Iapa) administratively belongs to the commune of Rus. The collection of MJIA Zalău exhibits a chisel of polished stone coming from the same locality: Lakó 1981, 54, no. 33. A deposit of bronze pieces was discovered in the area of Rus commune, at about 1864, among which a part reached the collection of Cluj museum, while a few other pieces in the collections of some museums abroad: Petrescu-Dîmboviţa 1977, 105, pl. 182/7–14; 1978, 126, no. 168, pl. 132 B. Another deposit of bronze pieces was found in Hăşmaş locality (Petrescu-Dîmboviţa 1977, 60–61, pl. 49/6–8; 1978, 102, no. 36, pl. 34 C), and another in Şimişna, both localities which belonged to Rus commune but the last one presently part of the Şimişna commune. The latter deposit contained six axes: Roska 1942, 244, no. 45; Petrescu-Dîmboviţa 1977, 70; 1978, 107, no. 76.

2 Lakó 1983, 75, no. 28.

3 Zalău Museum, *Register of collections, no*. III.

4 The piece was made available to study by the benevolence of Costin Nicolae, originating from Fântânele-Rus locality, who would have bought it from the discoverer.

5 We take advantage of this opportunity to express our thanks to our colleague Ioan Musca.

Nicolae. By matching all the available data, we concur in asserting that the discovery is a bronze pieces hoard, composed of at least two axes with disc and spike, discovered by chance in 1978 on "*Valea Soceşului*" in Fântânele-Rus locality, Rus Commune, Sălaj County.

1. Data about the place and circumstances of the discovery

"*Valea Soceşului*" is a seasonal torrent which flows in "*Valea Iepii*", a secondary tributary of the Someş River. The place where the pieces were found in 1978 is on the southern side of the hill the torrent is flowing down from, at about 100–150 m upstream its confluence with "*Valea Iepii*" (pl. I/2). It is hard to say if the axes were laid on the torrent bank or right on its bed where they were found after a heavy rain which swelled the stream. The discoverer claims that the axes were at the surface when the torrent flow came back to normal. He did not notice any accompanying ceramic fragments or other archaeological pieces. We think it is excluded that the relatively heavy pieces were brought upstream by the torrent. Because of the unfavorable weather, the verification of the area where the deposit was found, during the spring of 2006, was not conducted as we would have it[6]. However, no other clues were found in the discovery zone and its surroundings.

The deposition of bronze pieces on the bed of some water streams or on their banks has been a practice documented by numerous discoveries all over Europe during Bronze Age[7] and is ascertained also for the Transylvanian territory[8]. It is considered that within bronzes deposit in aquatic environment, arms stand for the largest category[9].

2. Pieces description

1. *Axe with disc and spike* (pl. II). The bar cross-section between the shaft-hole and the disc is rectangular. The blade section is also approximately rectangular, with the note that its edges are slightly bossy, which leaves the impression of concavity. The blade is slightly bent. The shaft-hole is short and its extremities are thickened. The diameter of the disc base is slightly longer than the length of the eye and the spike is conic and not very prominent. The color is brownish and the noble patina was probably destroyed by the discoverer. Otherwise, the piece, cast in a three-valve mold, is an example of good quality. The casting fins were carefully removed and the mould valves joining area shows small holes. Dimensions: axe length = 21 cm; disc diameter = 5.4 cm; shaft-hole length = 5.2 cm; shaft-hole diameter = 2.1 cm; maximum edge width = 3 cm; weight = 493 grams. MJIA Zalău Collection, inv. no. 130/1978.

The typological classification of the axe is not an easy one. It is a slim piece, with a slightly bent blade, a relatively short handle socket thickened at its extremities, and a less pronounced spike. All these distinctive elements place the described axe between the pieces of type B1 and those of type B3, Lăpuş variant. Axes with disc and spike similar to that of Fântânele-Rus are classified by A. Mozsolics into type C, variant "a" and "b", characterized by a slight tendency of elongating the shaft-hole, compared to the type B1 pieces. Based on association with other pieces in some deposits, the axes belonging to variant "a" are regarded as more recent than the horizon of Koszider-type hoards, but still older than the Forró-type hoards, while those belonging to variant "b" are assigned to the Forró-type[10] hoards. Also similar are two axes in Kvasovo II deposit (Transcarpathian Ukraine),[11] with some pieces assigned to type B 2, such as those from Gaura and Piliny[12], but also an axe discovered in Pecica which is presently part of the MNM collection in Budapest.[13] Kroeger-Michel includes the axe with disc and spike discovered in Fântânele in the category of transition axes and, together with the ax of Ajak (Hungary), he considers it opened a second group, of period D, in the evolution of

[6] Although we did not have the proper conditions for detailed observations, it was however clear that we cannot talk about a settlement in the area where the axes were discovered or in their immediate neighborhood. Therefore, we can exclude the deposit inclusion in the category of „settlement deposits".

[7] Bradley 1990, 202; Buck 1996, 284; Furmanek, Vladár 1996, 507–513; Soroceanu, Szabó 2001, 224; Niculică 2012, 237–238, 241–242. It seems that such a practice should not be necessarily matched to the characteristics of the geographical environment of a certain area. In this sense, the observation of J. Kobal is pertinent as he mentions that in Trans-Carpathian Ukraine area only 4.5% of the known deposits were laid in humid environment (3% in swamps and only 1.5% in rivers or creeks) although the respective zone was marshy during the prehistorical period: Kobal` 2000, 6. Different opinion for Hansen 1992, 372.

[8] Bader 1975, 29; Soroceanu 1995, 32–33; Kacsó 1995a, 9–10.

[9] Hansen 1997, 29–34; Schwenzer 1997, 63.

[10] Mozsolics 1973, 14–15. Similar pieces to that of Fântânele-Rus also came from Kiskunmajsa and Nyíregyháza-Bujtos (Hungary): Mozsolics 1973 pl. 5/1, 9/1.

[11] Kobal`2000, 36, pl. 14/8–9.

[12] David 2003, pl. 6/1–2.

[13] Mozsolics 1967, 155, pl. 35/4.

pieces of this type.[14] C. Kacsó classified the here-mentioned axe in the Lăpuş variant of type B3 disc-butted axes with pin[15].

2. *Axe with disc and spike* (pl. III). Both the bar section between the shaft-hole and the disc, and the blade section are rectangular. The shaft-hole is short with rounded edges. At one of the tube ends, the edge is incomplete due to a casting deficiency. The disc is in mushroom shape and the spike is small and a little embossed and placed not centrally, but towards the disc edge. It seems that the fastening of the third valve for disc casting was faulty. Therefore, the bar between the shaft-hole and the disc seems skewed. The blade is a little indented. Unlike the first piece, this axe was not very well finished, the casting fins not being fully removed. Presently the axe belongs to a private collection. Dimensions: length = 21.2 cm; disc diameter = 5.4 cm; shaft-hole length = 5.5 cm; shaft-hole diameter = 1.9 cm; maximum blade width = 3.4 cm; weight = 593, 45 grams. This piece belongs to type B 3, respectively to Lăpuş variant of disc-butted axes with pin[16].

3. Conclusions

The Upper Tisa zone (Northwestern Romania – Maramureş, Satu-Mare, western part of Sălaj, Northeastern Hungary, Southeastern Slovak Republic and Subcarpathian Ukraine) is the region where most of the discoveries of axes with disc and spike[17] came from. Most of them occur in the context of some hoards, including so-called "single – piece hoards", but also known are pieces discovered in funerary contexts[18]. On the way we move away from this zone, the frequency of pieces of this type is decreasing.

The deposit of Fântânele-Rus is yet another one of the numerous discoveries of this type from the so-called "*Someş Corridor*", recently analyzed by T. Bader[19], and, in the light of the latest discoveries (deposit of Brâglez), additional data was provided by the one author of this paper[20]. Among the bronze deposits in this sector of Someş River we also find some deposits composed only from axes with disc and spike or from axes with disc and spike alongside other pieces. However, almost all of them represent older, chance discoveries, which makes the information about them scarce and often contradictory. Not all the pieces were recovered from the discoverers. Many objects were lost or even melted down, such as in case of the deposit made of six axes of Şimişna. There are no mentions about the exact place and circumstances of the discoveries. However, at least in case of the deposit of Fântânele-Rus, we have some solid clues that the pieces were laid on the torrent bed or on its banks. This very aspect suggests a possible votive character of the deposit[21].

The available information shows that the deposit was made only of pieces of the same kind, axes with disc and spike, in our case. This kind of association would be an additional argument in favor of construing it as a cult type hoard[22], meaning private or communitarian deposit in Fântânele-Rus. The "*clean hoard / reine hort*", made only from axes with disc and spike are rather numerous in Upper Tisa zone[23], a region which should have hosted the production centers of these bronze pieces[24]. Most axes with disc and spike occur (laid in whole and more rarely in fragments) in the composition of the so-called "*clean hoards*", or in association with other bronzes in bronze assemblies assigned to Uriu-Ópályi[25] type. In exchange, in the Cincu-Suseni-type hoards this axes appear sporadic, including mainly fragments of such pieces, while the whole axes are rarely met[26]. At the same time,

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[14] Kroeger-Michel 1983, 56–57, 191, list Vb – CD 107. The published drawing is not of the best quality.

[15] Kacsó 1994, 14; Kacsó 2009, 66 .

[16] Vulpe 1970, 79–80.

[17] Vulpe 1970, 89; Kacsó 1977, 150–151; 2001, 233; Kobal` 2000, 36; David 2003, 132; Marinescu 2005, 267–268.

[18] For instance, the discoveries in the tumulus tombs of Lăpuş: Kacsó 2002, 16; Libotin: Kacso 1990, fig. 11/5; Nyírkarász – Gyulaháza: Kacso 1981, 91; etc.

[19] Bader 1999, 136–140.

[20] Bejinariu 2007, 64–68.

[21] Soroceanu 1995, 32. A more complex analysis was made for the bronze hoards discovered in the area of Lausitz culture. Out of the 104 deposits whose discovery places are known, 20 were discovered in water bodies, 12 on the water banks and 3 in springs: Buck 1996, 284; Hansen 1997, 30.

[22] Vulpe 1970, 96; Nistor, Vulpe 1969, 190; Kacsó, Bura 1974, 1–4; Kacsó 1995, 134; Chicideanu, Lichiardopol 1993, 33.

[23] Kacsó 1995, 136, list 1, mentions a number of 28 "*clean hoards*" made of axes with disc and spike. Other 8–9 deposits should be added: a deposit from Câmpulung to Tisa and another from Krajnikovo (Kacsó 1995a, 6), maybe the Peteritea I deposit (Kacsó 2002, 18) and other five deposits of Transcarpathian Ukraine: Beregovo I, Bodolov II, Klinovoe I – II, Zmeevka I (Kobal` 2000, 74–100) and the Fântânele-Rus deposit. Additional data in this sense is published by C. Kacsó in a study from 2009: Kacsó 2009, 70–75.

[24] Vulpe 1970, 89; Kacsó 1977, 150–151.

[25] Kacsó 1995a, 7; Kobal` 2000, 36–37; 2005, 253.

[26] Popeşti (a whole axe and a fragment) – Kacsó 1995B, 100–101; Sfăraş (a whole piece and a fragment), Uioara de Sus (a whole axe and 34 fragments), etc. – Petrescu-Dîmboviţa 1977, 92, 106, 114, 116, pl. 140/2, 185/4–5, 215/10, 252/9–15, 253/1–13, 254/1–8, Brâglez (3 fragments) – Bejinariu

it is assumed that many of the so-called "isolated discoveries" are actually deposits of a single piece[27].

Although the data regarding the total number of axes in a discovery are relatively uncertain, we stress that out of 47 discoveries[28] (hoards made only of axes with disc and spike) coming from the Upper Tisa zone and the neighboring zones, in 22 cases (about 47%) it seems there were 2 pieces deposited there, the same as in case of the deposits of Fântânele – Rus, and in at least ten other cases, the deposited pieces stand for multiples of number 2.

What were these pieces used for? The answer to this question should also be looked for in the concrete archaeological context where these axes appeared. The great majority appear in hoards and more rarely in tombs. The assumption was postulated that these axes were used as weapons and in case of whole pieces, which were not finished after casting, it was even regarded as having a value function of the metal incorporated in the piece (a kind of bars or ingots). Not excluded was also the assumption that they were insignia of social distinction or parade pieces[29]. Each of these assumptions is plausible[30]. The ranging of the hoards of axes with disc and spike, respectively of the isolated discoveries of such type pieces of Bronze D period made by O. Bratu[31] show an almost perfect overlapping of the zone of maximum concentration of such pieces over the zones where salt extraction clues were found in Northern Transylvania and Maramureș. This finding made V. Cavruc hypothesize of a possible connection between the late Bronze communities involved in the extraction and trade of this resource and the axes with disc and spike as identity insignia[32].

At first sight, the axes with disc and spike are a powerful offensive weapon, perform to penetrate even the protection equipment of a potential enemy. In the Upper Tisa River area, such equipment is represented mainly by bronze helmets[33], but they mainly are found in deposits dated in a more recent chronological horizon, when the production of this kind of axes seemed to have ceased, or at least such pieces no longer appeared in deposits. A technical detail cannot be neglected and rises against the war destination of the pieces. It is the reduced diameter of the shaft-hole of the handle of such pieces which allows only some thin and therefore fragile and battle-inefficient handles to be fixed in the socket[34]. In this case, a much more plausible assertion would be that the finished and carefully crafted axes, sometimes even decorated, represent insignia meant to highlight the social position of their owner.

However, the fact that most axes with disc and spike appear in votive deposits, as most hoards are regarded, highlights the symbolical function of the piece, also strengthened by the discoveries (few, indeed) in funerary contexts[35].

It has been repeatedly underlined that the hoards often include unfinished pieces[36], even carelessly processed, which maybe induced the assumption that only the value aspect of the metal incorporated in those axes was envisaged. However, if we consider with priority the symbolic function of this kind of axes, we should accept that some pieces were *a priori* made for the purpose of being deposited[37]. Bronze deposits are, eventually an alienation of the metal, a drawing out of the natural circuit of an object of high value. When it is offered to the gods by an individual or collective entity, the deposited metal assures prestige over the ages, helps setting up / perpetuating a prominent position in the community[38].

As mentioned before, the frequency of hoards made up by axes whith disc and spike is significantly dropping in the Cincu-Suseni hoards type and the contemporary ones in Upper Tisa zone. Starting from the assumption that these pieces represent weapons, it was assumed that it was a change of the weapons type in the population of that region, respectively instead of axes with disc and spike, spears/lances[39] or swords[40] were imposed as offensive weapons. Still, we think it could also be the case of imposing new metal pieces with sym-

2007; Bicaz I–II – Kacsó 2004, 56–58 (the only deposits assigned to stage Ha A including several whole pieses but also fragments).

27 Kacsó 1995a, 9; 2004, 63.

28 Kacsó 1995b, 136; 2009, 66.

29 Vulpe 1970, 95–96; Kroeger-Michel 1983, 161–162; Kacsó 2009, 67.

30 Gori 2014, 279.

31 Bratu 2009, 409–413, hăr'ile 5, 8–9.

32 Cavruc 2010, 28.

33 To the extent the helmets were used as protection means during the conflicts and not only as parade equipment components.

34 This shortcoming is also signaled by S. Gerloff – *apud* Kacsó 2009, 68.

35 One of the pieces discovered in the necropola of Lăpuș is a miniature replica of an ax type B3: Kacsó 1981, 70, pl. 47/1.

36 Kacsó 1995a, 6.

37 Buck 1996, 282; Kacsó 1995a, 8–9.

38 Gori 2014, 282–283.

39 Kobal` 2000, 35: in the deposits of series Lazy I of Sub-Carpathian Ukraine assigned to stage Ha A1 the spearheads represent 45.3% of total weapons.

40 Kacsó, Mitrea 1976, 537–548.

bolic value or even the change of the old "customs" in building up a bronzes hoard.

The pieces of Lăpuş variant are regarded as the first link in the typological evolution of type B3 of axes with disc and spike[41]. The Fântânele-Rus hoard belongs to Uriu-Ópályi type of hoards and can be regarded as one of the early deposits of this type, dated in the late Bronze Age 2.

4. Data about the cultural context of bronze hoard of Fântânele – Rus

The „*Someş Corridor*" area is less known from an archaeological point of view. Most information is provided by random discoveries, such as in case of bronzes deposit of Fântânele-Rus and of most discoveries of this kind. There were also two research projects in the field which allowed the identification of some archaeological sites, including from the period of Bronze Age[42]. The archaeological excavations, systematic or preventive, are also few and focused on two sites both upstream the river confluence with the „*Someş Corridor*". We are talking about the preventive research conducted by the Dej Municipality, occasion on which settlement traces were discovered from Middle Bronze Age (Wietenberg culture)[43]. At the same time, in the context of systematic researched conducted in the Roman castrum of Căşeiu (Cluj County) vestiges were identified from the Late Bronze Age, overlapped by Roman deposits[44] .

All these data allow only a rather vague outlining of the human presence dynamics related to Bronze Age on this segment of the Someş Valley. No settlement traces are know from the early Bronze Age[45]. Human settlements seems to have been rather scarce also during the Middle Bronze Age (Wietenberg culture) and, in general, it was documented in the hills area[46], not very close to the river valley. Conversely, during the late Bronze Age, the situation is radically changed. The field research conducted by I. Bajusz and D. Tamba in the summer of 1987, between the localities of Căpîlna and Jibou related to the river meadow and the first terraces on both banks of Someş River. On that occasion, at least 13 sites were identified, Late Bronze Age ceramic material being collected, connected by the research authors to the presence of some Suciu de Sus-type communities.[47] Other discoveries from the Late Bronze Age consisting of ceramic with excised decoration and striations came from Jibou[48].

By publishing the pieces of the bronze deposit from Băbeni (Sălaj County) assigned to the Reinecke Bronze D, C. Kacsó connected this deposit and other previously discovered in the area to the Suciu de Sus-type communities[49]. A similar opinion is also expressed by T. Bader, at least for the deposits of stage Uriu/Ópályi discovered on the „*Someş Corridor*"[50]. Additional data about the bronze discoveries in that area are published by C. Kacsó in 2007. These are older discoveries (deposits and isolated pieces), less known of which some were not resumed or were completely ignored since their first publication, which took place in the first decade of the 20th century[51]. The data supplied by the Baia Mare archeologist shows that the number of hoards and isolated pieces discoveries coming from that zone of Someş valley is larger. Analyzing the primary data used by C. Kacsó, it seems that in some cases, the hoards or the isolated pieces discovered in different places within a locality were later artificially put together in a single discovery. Such would have been the case for some discoveries of Dobrocina where it seems two hoards were discovered, plus a separate piece which was added later[52]. According to the same sources, we have two hoards[53] from Fodora locality, and a similar case is found out with the bronze discoveries (two deposits + one isolated discovery) of Bogata de Jos (Cluj County)[54].

41 Vulpe 1970, 89; Kacsó 2002, 16.

42 Ferenczi 1976, 37–50; Bajusz, Tamba 1988, 91–120.

43 Gogâltan 2008, 26–48.

44 Gogâltan, Isac 1995, 5–26; Gogâltan 2001, 191–195.

45 Hypothetically, the Fajsz-type axe of Saşa, Ileanda Commune can be assigned to that period: Bejinariu, Kadar 2003, 48–50.

46 Ferenczi 1976, 41–42, 44; Boroffka 1994, 89, nr. 496; Bejinariu 2001, 103–107.

47 Bajusz – Tamba 1988, 92–95. Among them there are also two-coloured fragments (brick-red inside, black on the outside). This is also the case of some ceramic fragments from Rogna (inv. no. C.C. 5, 13/1998), of some gathered from the station between Cliț and Lozna, across Cuciulat train station (inv. No. 17/1988) or from the Rus settlement (inv. No. C.C.2/1988), etc. The fluted, two-coloured ceramics often appears in stations of Late Bronze Age from Northern Romania associated with excised-incised decoration. It seems that, for a while, the two categories coexisted, while the fluted ceramics imposed itself definitely on a later period: Kacsó 2008, 60–61; 2012, 163. This finding cannot be verified in the absence of diggings in the sites identified on this segment of Someş Valley.

48 Not-edited material in the collection MJIAZ, Inv. No. C.C. 852/1994.

49 Kacsó 1980, 423.

50 Bader 1999,139.

51 Kacsó 2007, 82–97.

52 Kacsó 2007, 85.

53 Kacsó 2007.

54 Kacsó 2007, 83.

Although it is certain that the deposit of Fântânele-Rus was not laid in a settlement, but we do not have enough information about the other deposits from" *Someş Corridor"* to make possible correlations to the cultural environment they appeared in. The exception is represented by a small deposit discovered in the settlement of Căşeiu „*Cetăţele*"[55], which F. Gogâltan assigned to the Lăpuş group and dated in the late Bronze Age II of Central and Northern Transylvania, from the same period as the Uriu – Ópályi type hoards.[56] The majority of axes with disc and spike appearing in the composition of deposits in the „*Someş Corridor*" belong to type B3 (Surduc[57], Lozna[58], Dobrocina II[59], Căşei[60], Glod[61], Şimişna[62], Fântânele-Rus, etc.). The "*clean hoards*", made only of B3-type axes are regarded as being older than those exclusively made of type B4 axes [63], but in case of the "mixed" ones, the dating is provided by the chronology of various pieces associate to them[64]. So far, all the data suggests that the majority of bronze hoards within this Someş River sector belong to the Uriu – Ópályi type and, theoretically, they can be connected to the Suciu de Sus – Lăpuş – type communities identified only by superficial researches.

The number of bronze hoards which can be assigned to the next period of Late Bronze Age (Late Bronze Age III) of the „*Someş Corridor*" area is much lower compared to the previous period. Some of them, such as the one of Bogata de Jos[65] (Cluj County), respectively the one of Rus[66] outstand by the presence of some harness pieces (cheek-pieces, bite) associated to other bronze objects. The most recent hoard discovered in Brâglez is mostly made of fragmented pieces and raw material[67]. Another hoard assigned to this stage of late Bronze Age is that of Frâncenii de Piatră (Sălaj County)[68]. To them, we can add other few isolated discoveries, such as that of Dobrocina (bronze plate coming from a vessel or a belt)[69]. Maybe during this stage, within the communities on this Someş River sector, it started to be decisively imposed the fashion of double colored, ornamented ceramics with grooves, as suggested by some of the materials discovered during the above mentioned field researches.

The whole analysis proves once more the inefficiency of the data required to remake the evolution of human communities during the Late Bronze Age in this sector of Someş River. An important number of bronze hoards discovered do not offer much information. This category is most often an "opaque" one[70], especially when we deal with random discoveries, which took place a long time ago, such as in case of most deposits or bronzes singularly discovered on this Someş zone. In the absence of an actual archaeological research of some of the known settlements, the cultural historical evolution of this zone, in the Northeastern Sălaj, proves to be difficult to reconstruct.

55 Gogâltan, Isac 1995, 11–12, fig. 11/3–5.
56 Gogâltan 2001, 197.
57 Bader 1999, 133–134.
58 Vulpe 1970, 81.
59 Kacsó 2009, 71.
60 Vulpe 1979, 83.
61 Vulpe 1979, 85.
62 Roska 1942, 244, no. 45; Petrescu-Dîmboviţa 1977, 70; 1978, 107, no. 76; Kacsó 2009, 75.
63 Kacsó 1990, 248.
64 Kacsó 1980, 422.
65 Kacsó 2007, 83.
66 Roska 1942, 214, nr. 67; Petrescu-Dîmboviţa 1977, 105, pl. 182/7–13; 1978, 126, nr. 168, pl. 132 B; Kacsó 2007, 83.
67 Bejinariu 2007.
68 Petrescu-Dîmboviţa 1977, 94, pl. 143/1–21.
69 Kacsó 2007, 85.
70 Hansen 1992, 371.

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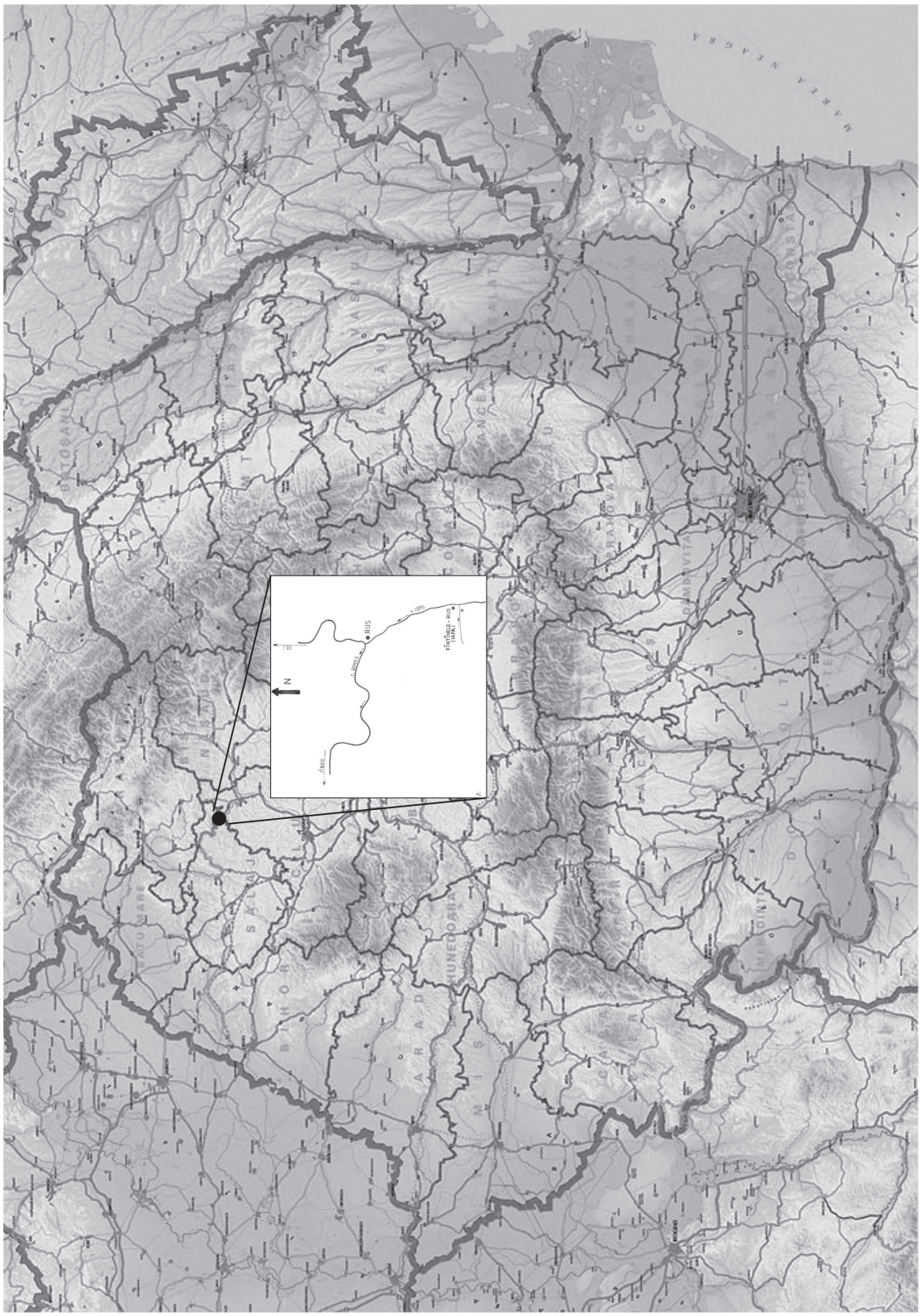

Plate I. 1. Position of Fântânele-Rus locality on Sălaj County map. **2.** Discovery site (X) of the bronze hoard of Fântânele-Rus.

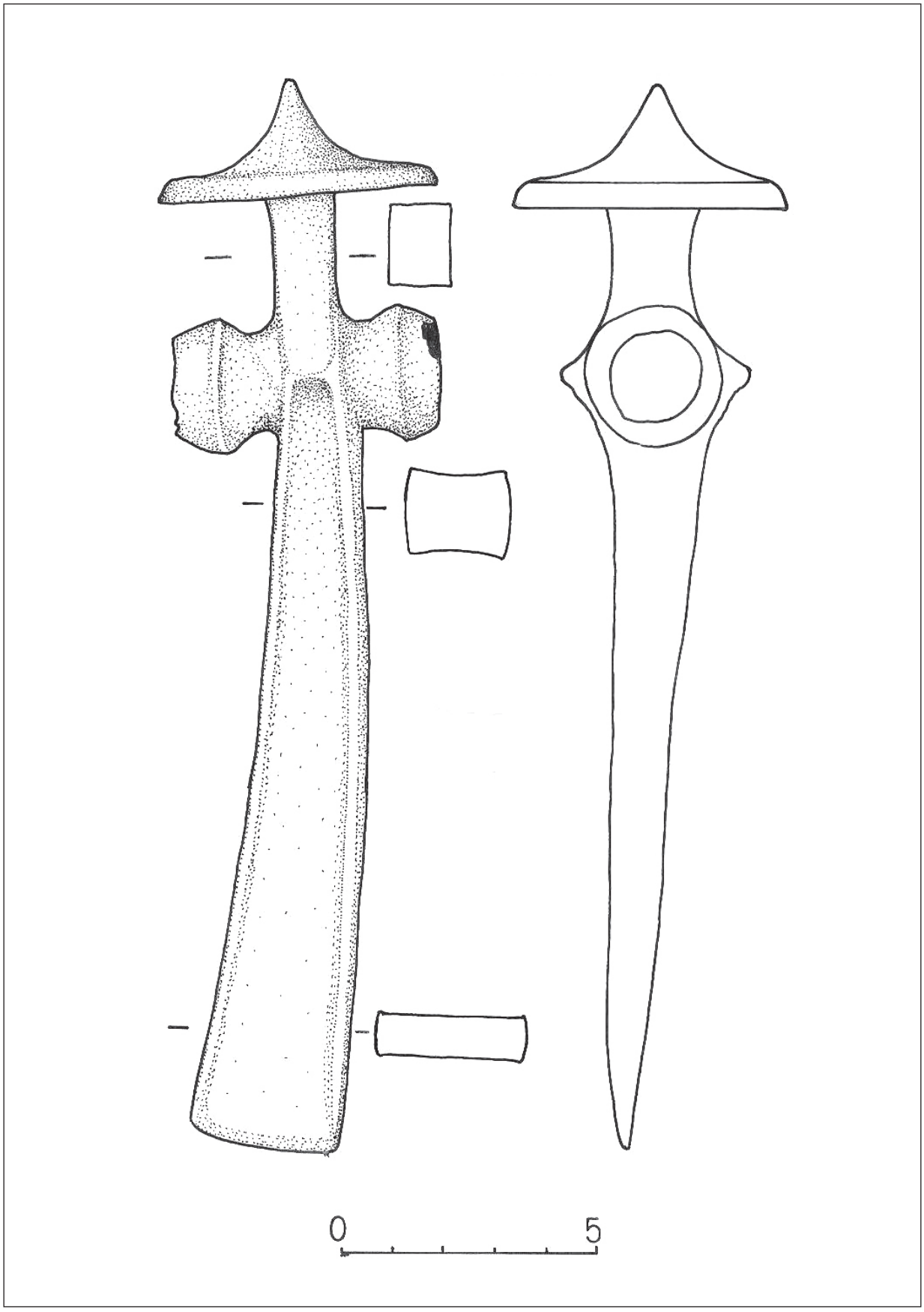

Plate II. Bronze axe of Fântânele-Rus hoard.

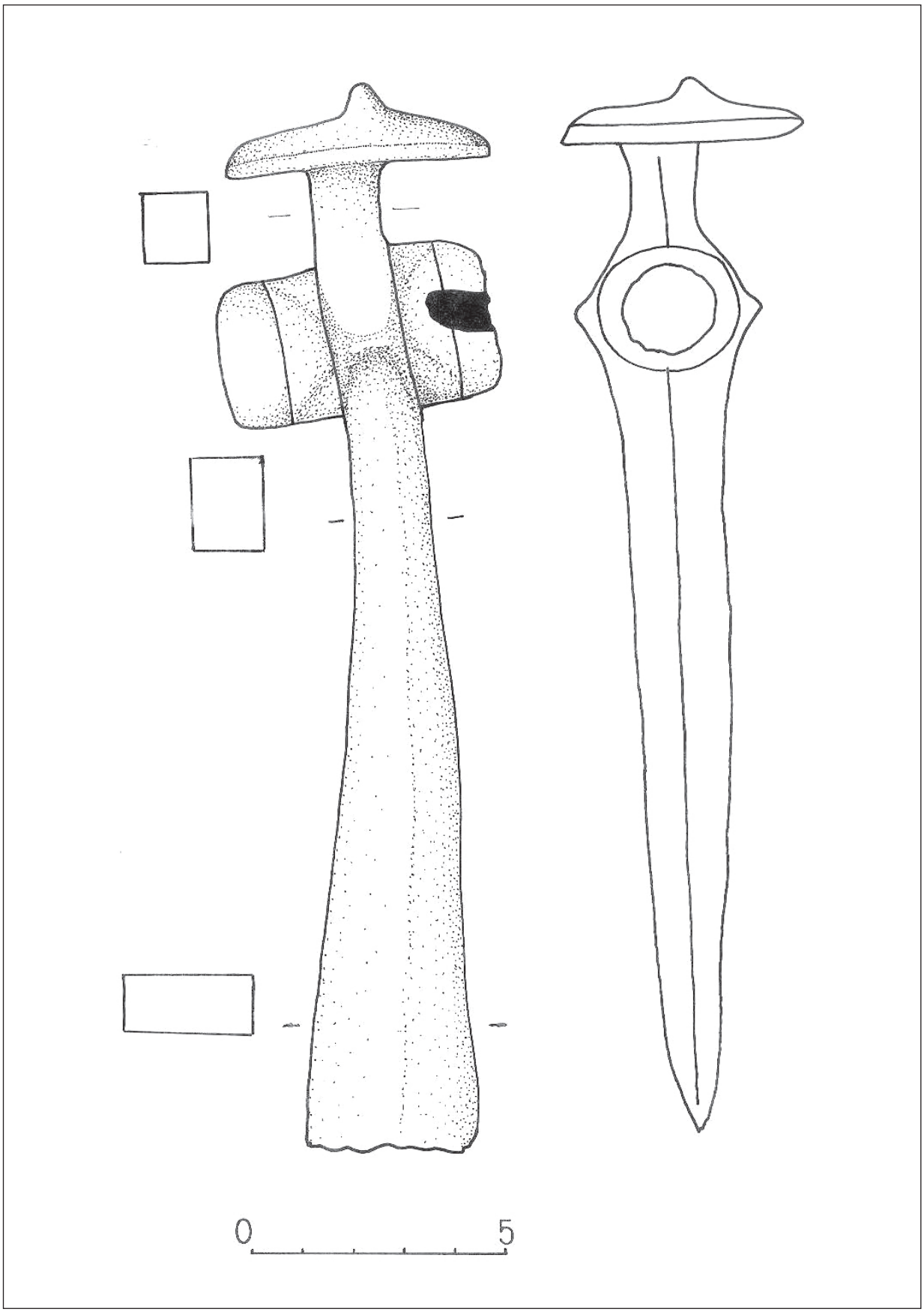

Plate III. Bronze axe of Fântânele-Rus hoard.