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LAVINIA GRUMEZA, VICTOR COJOCARU, ȘTEFAN HONCU, LUCIAN MUNTEANU, CORPUS DER RÖMISCHEN FUNDE IM EUROPÄISCHEN BARBARICUM. RUMÄNIEN BAND 2. KREIS VASLUI, MEGA VERLAG, CLUJ-NAPOCA, 2022, 255P. ISBN 978-606-020-499-2.....182

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LAVINIA GRUMEZA, VICTOR COJOCARU, CRISTINA I. TICA (EDS.), THE SARMATIANS AND THE OTHERS. NOMADIC AND SEDENTARY CULTURES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 1ST MILLENNIUM AD, PONTICA ET MEDITERRANEA, XI, MEGA PUBLISHING HOUSE, CLUJ-NAPOCA, 2024, 502P. ISBN 978-606-020-783-2.....184

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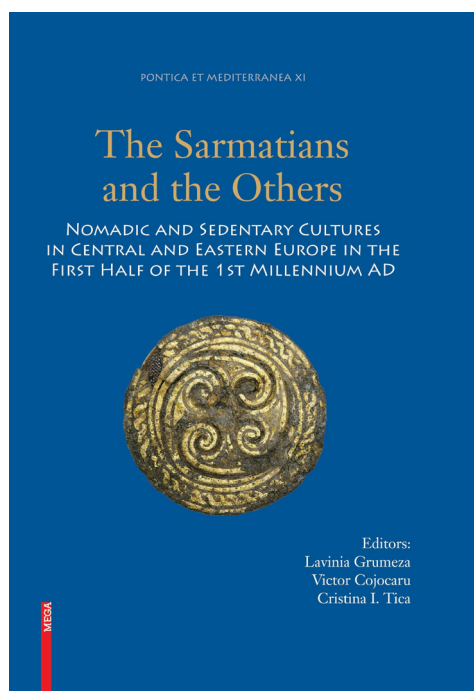
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**Lavinia Grumeza, Victor Cojocaru, Cristina I. Tica (eds.),**  
***The Sarmatians and the Others. Nomadic and Sedentary***  
***Cultures in Central and Eastern Europe in the First Half***  
***of the 1st Millennium AD, Pontica et Mediterranea, XI,***  
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This volume includes some of the works presented in the international conference *The Sarmatians and the Others: Nomadic and Sedentary Cultures in Central and Eastern Europe in the First Half of the 1st Millennium AD*, held by the National Museum of Banat and the Iași Institute of Archaeology during June, 29 – July the 2nd, 2022. The volume compiles a number of fifteen studies, which are a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach of the archaeological culture of the Sarmatae and addresses, from different views, the dynamic interactions between the nomad and sedentary cultures of Central and Eastern Europe during the first half of the 1st millennium AD. In order to systemise included studies the volume is structured in four sections, set up according to the topic and approach of research subjects.

The first section, *State of the Art and Prospective Research Directions*, comprises four studies that provide an overview of the contemporary research on various aspects of the Sarmatae archaeological culture. The first (p. 31–44) focuses on the cultural and historical processes occurring in the north-Pontic region, emphasizing the interactions between the Greeks and the “Barbarian” societies, like the Scythians and the Sarmatae. The investigation of princely graves evidences regional differences emerging among the local elites, thus criticising the historical paradigm of “Sarmatisation”, outlining the region’s lack of cultural homogeneity and need for caution in applying the generic label of “Sarmatae” to heterogeneous populaces. The second study (p. 45–85) discusses the Sarmatae finds from the Wallachia and Moldavia areas, namely the burial finds from the two regions and the contacts between the nomad populations who buried their dead there and the Roman authorities in the Muntenia area on one side, and their interactions with the Dacian populations in the Moldavia area, on the other. Despite historical differences, both regions share common specificities and trends, with different variations that mirror the diversity of the Sarmatae population. The third and fourth studies tackle the issue of the settlement of these populations in the Banat region. In the first case (p. 87–132), archaeological sources and hypotheses on the Sarmatae and *Limigantes* in the Banat Plain are discussed. The study analyses their settlements, pottery and cemeteries, questioning the label of “Sarmatian culture” and suggesting instead the term of “Limigante culture”. In the second case (p. 133–169), the more complex case of a horizon of overlapping ancient settlements from the Dolovo region (Serbian Banat),

spanning the 2nd – 5th century AD period is analysed. This study provides information on Late Antiquity settlements, their response to historical turmoil and the cultural connections with neighbouring areas.

In the second section, *New Discoveries and New Interpretations*, are presented and debated recent finds of the Sarmatae archaeology comprised in six studies. Emphasis is firstly placed on the material culture, like for instance the presence of Eggers 160 type strainers in the Sarmatae graves (p. 173–203) or the find in south Bessarabia of a sword hilt made of jade, specific to the Han culture in China (p. 205–217). Economic aspects of the Sarmatae world are discussed via a study on their agricultural practices in the Pannonian Plain (p. 219–232). Another significant contribution concerning the material culture of the Sarmatae is represented by a study that draws attention to the burial finds yielded by the site of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok (Hungary), particularly, belt buckles and fittings identified in three of the graves investigated in the area (p. 233–267). Recent finds in close connection with the economic life and crafting practices of the Sarmatae are discussed in another study. These include a series of pottery fragments duplicating luxury Roman wares discovered at Üllő, in Hungary (p. 269–299). Still in relation with pottery production is the last study of this section. It approaches the issue of handmade cups and low rim bowls, emphasizing their typological diversity (p. 301–327).

The third section, *Literary Sources and Epigraphy*, tackles the issue of literary and epigraphic sources concerning the history and identity of the Sarmatae. Both source types are analysed and widely discussed within two studies. The first (p. 331–351) analyses literary sources. Issues related to ethnogenesis, expansion and connection of the Alans with the Sarmatae according to the classical sources, especially Ammianus Marcellinus, and the reports on the *Yāncài* and *Ālán* in the Chinese official dynastic histories are addressed. Complementarily, the second study (p.353–399) proposes to critically re-assess the ancient tradition on the Sarmatae, which includes literary, epigraphic, numismatic, iconographic and onomastic sources. Moreover, a catalogue of epigraphic sources is drafted as well, comprising forty-six inscriptions translated into English and briefly commented, originating from the north-Pontic towns or outside the Black Sea area, yet referencing the north-Pontic Sarmatae (p. 360–390). The study aims, via these sources, to make a clearer presentation of the generic term of “Sarmatae” and of certain kindred ethnonyms, wishing to provide a more adequate comparison term for the archaeologists investigating the Sarmatae culture phenomenon.

Lastly, the fourth section (*Bio)anthropology and Genetics*, comprises three studies and proposes an interdisciplinary approach of the subject, combining archaeological data with those bioanthropological and genetic. The first (p. 403–430) is an exhaustive analysis of the artificial cranial deformation phenomenon found in nomad populations from today’s Moldavian area. Via interdisciplinary methods, mixing ethnographic and archaeological data with modern medicine knowledge, cranial alterations are historically and culturally examined, exploring the goal, social implications and potential effects on the health and cognitive abilities of those subjected to this practice. The second study (p.431–472)

discusses 430 skeletal remains originating from thirteen archaeological sites in the Pannonian Plain. These analyses aim to compare livelihood experiences of the individuals in the *Barbaricum* and the Roman *limes* area, focusing on health markers in order to provide new insights for this frontier area. The last study (p. 473–481) examines the genetic origins of the Sarmatae populations from the Carpathian Basin. Via samples taken from bone fragments identified in the Sarmatian graves of the area, forty-four complete human genome sequences are established. Through the use of statistical methods, obtained data are compared to previously published ancient human genomes in order to determine the relationship of the Sarmatae from the Carpathian Basin with well-defined ancient populations. Among most interesting results of this study counts identification of affinities with local populaces, which would be suggestive of a mixture between the migrating Sarmatians and the sedentary populations inhabiting the region.

Consequently, the volume succeeds to address a wide range of Sarmatian cultural aspects, combining the archaeological and historical research with modern scientific analysis methods. Via the interdisciplinary studies and re-assessment of classical sources, the volume sheds new light on less familiar areas of the Sarmatae *Barbaricum*. Overall, it successfully updates a significant part of the currently available information on the Sarmatae in the area, furthermore enriching it with new finds. It emphasizes the great variety and regional peculiarities of the populaces inhabiting the studied space during the 1st – 5th century AD, generically termed the “Sarmatian”. The volume is thus a key work for the study of the Sarmatae culture and archaeology, having also the merit of opening new research paths for future studies.

