

# RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PRE-ROMAN TUMULUS : “MOVILA CU PIETRE” IN POIANA

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**Keywords:** Late La Tène, Dacia, tumulus, *murrus gallicus*, strongly profiled fibula

**Abstract:** The tumulus „Movila cu pietre” („The Tell with Stones”) in Poiana (Nicorești municipality, Galați county, România) has been partially studied between 27-31<sup>st</sup> August 1928 by Ecaterina Vulpe. The central grave was robbed. Very few materials were discovered: a few fragments of local ceramics and a few fragments of amphorae, as well as a strongly profiled fibula. Ecaterina Vulpe’s detailed drawings allowed the graphical reconstruction of the tumulus. It is highly probable that the mass of stones identified in the southern and in the northern part of the section had formed a massive, circular wall sustained by wooden poles. This structure resembles the „Pfofenschlitzmauer” system (or the *murrus gallicus* type Kelheim) attested in the Celtic fortifications of the late La Tène period.

**Rezumat:** Tumulul “Movila cu pietre” de la Poiana (com. Nicorești, jud. Galați, România) a fost cercetat parțial în 27-31 august 1928 de către Ecaterina Vulpe. Mormântul central a fost furtuit. Au fost descoperite puține materiale: câteva fragmente ceramice locale, câteva fragmente de amfore și o fibulă puternic profilată. Desenele detaliate ale Ecaterinei Vulpe permit reconstituirea grafică a tumulului. Foarte probabil, aglomerările de bolovani identificate în sudul și nordul secțiunii cercetate au făcut parte dintr-un zid masiv întărit cu stâlpi de lemn. Această structură amintește de sistemul „Pfofenschlitzmauer” (sau *murrus gallicus* de tip Kelheim) atestat în cazul fortificațiilor celtice din perioada târzie a La Tène-ului.

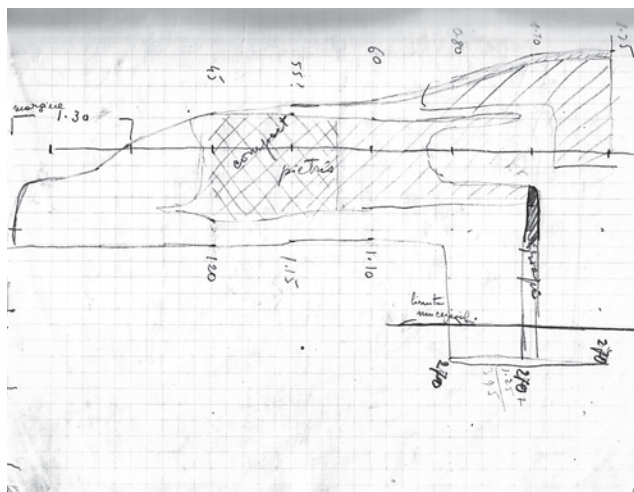


Fig. 1. Northern half of the eastern profile in the section dug in “Movila cu pietre”. Drawing made by Ecaterina Vulpe.

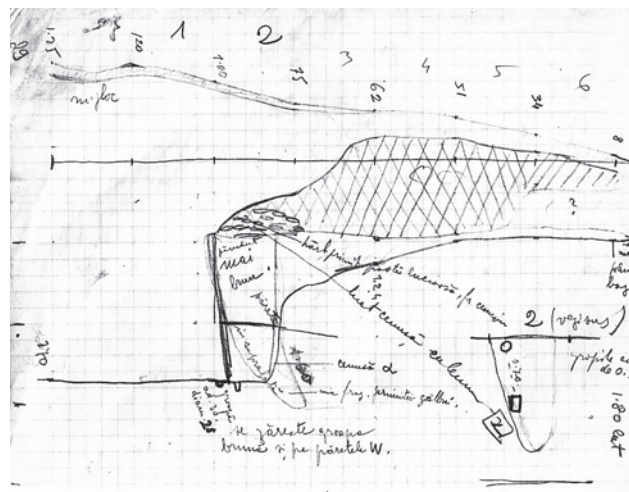


Fig. 2. Southern half of the eastern profile in the section dug in “Movila cu pietre”. Drawing made by Ecaterina Vulpe.

The tumulus “Movila cu pietre” (“The Tell with Stones”) in Poiana (Nicorești municipality, Galați county, România) has been partially studied between 27-31<sup>st</sup> of August 1928. The excavation journal has been recently acquired for the Archive of the Institute of Archeology in Bucharest.<sup>1</sup> Reexamining the notebook led to the conclusion that it belongs to Ecaterina Vulpe and not to Radu Vulpe, as it had been previously assumed.<sup>2</sup> The brief daily notes are accompanied by several drawings (for example Figs. 1-2), the processing and interpreting of which (Fig. 3) allow us to reconstruct (Figs. 4-5) an exceptional funeral pre-Roman monument in Southern Moldova.

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<sup>2</sup> Spânu 2012, pp. 166-167.