

# **THE SYMBOLIC MEANING OF SOME CERAMIC ITEMS OF ROUGH PASTE BELONGING TO THE THE PRECUCUTENI-CUCUTENI-ARIUȘD-TRIPOLIE ENEOLITHIC CULTURAL COMPLEX**

PhD Senica Turcanu

*Archaeologist, Chief of Moldavia's History Museum, "Moldova" National Museum Complex, Iasi, Romania*

The pottery belonging to Precucuteni-Cucuteni-Ariușd-Tripolie Eneolithic cultural complex generated numerous discussions in the specialized literature. Unfortunately, most of the above debates refer to the painted ceramics specific to this cultural complex.

Only few researches were focused on the items made of rough paste, the so-called domestic pots, with appreciations concerning the origin of this type of ceramic ware in relation to the painted ceramics.

We mainly consider the rough paste which includes chaff in its composition and shards and/or small stones that was used to create pots of various forms and sizes, especially items of big and average size (the so-called ewers or *phytoi*) but also some containers for keeping very valuable objects of those communities.

The poster points out another perspective on some containers more or less recently uncovered, made of rough paste and whose symbolical meaning may be more or less obvious. Having as a starting point the fact that such rough paste was used to create containers of items with a clearly symbolical meaning (such as the religious compound of Isaiia, Iași, Romania or the hoard of jewelry items of Brad, Bacău, Romania), the poster will present a ritual meaning of the "boxes" preserving the above mentioned valuable items but also some containers used as pots for storing food (which were either decorated with anthropomorphic representations in relief such as the items of Scânteia - Iași, Bârlălești - Vaslui, Dumești – Vaslui, or had the interior painted in red and also some parts of the exterior). In this latter case, the minimal ornamentation (the painting in red of some exterior areas) had not an aesthetic meaning, but a symbolical one, insufficiently pointed out so far in the specialized researches.