

PRESERVING THE PAST: CUCUTENI CERAMICS ARTWORKS DISCOVERED AT SCÂNTEIA – IAȘI, ROMÂNIA

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For more than a millenium (4600 – 3500 B.C.), the culture of Cucuteni gave birth to a unique civilisation, which occupied a vast territory, including the S-E of Transylvania, almost the entire region of Moldavia, and a part of Ukraine.

In Romania, there are over 2000 Cucuteni sites, most of them being assigned to the first period of development, Cucuteni A, which was also the longest.

The archaeological material resulted from the diggings shows a vast range of ceramic typologies: household ceramics and cult ceramics, various antropomorph and zoomorph representations. The analysis of the decorative art of the Cucuteni ceramics betrays the existence of numerous kinds of ornamentation, starting with the deeply-cut bicoloured ornamentation, characteristic to the first phases of the period Cucuteni A, and ending with the tricoloured setting (white, red, black), specific to the Cucuteni culture. The setting is represented by geometrical forms (spirals, concentrical lines, criss-crosses, etc.)

The conservation – preservation of this heritage has been done extremely carefully, and supposed the collaboration of a great number of specialists from various fields (historians, archaeologists, chemists, physicists, biologists, etc.), first with regards to the investigation, as well as concerning the process of conservation – restoration itself. The work was done according to the five great principles accepted by the international community: the reversibility of the restorations, the visibility of the interventions, the respect for the ancient techniques, the faithfulness of the setting, the compatibility of the materials.

Our interventions resulted in a long-term optimum conservation. The process of restoration has contributed to the discovery of archaeological information of the object and to a better understanding of its cultural significance, while preserving its physical, historical and aesthetic integrity.