

# Weapons and Military Equipment Found in the German Settlement Area from Southern Transylvania (the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries). Some Aspects and Perspectives\*

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## Abstract

Based on the current state of research and through the study of materials resulted from excavations or coincidental discoveries, we have attempted to reconstruct daily life aspects of the German Hospites' communities from the South of Transylvania in the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries from the perspective of material culture<sup>1</sup>. In order to properly achieve such a complex task, in addition to a multidisciplinary approach<sup>2</sup>, it is necessary to perform a thorough and detailed analysis of the artefacts and the context of their discovery. The approach to this topic has encountered difficulties, especially due to the small number of systematic archaeological researches regarding the German colonization in southern Transylvania in the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>3</sup>. Most components included in the catalogue come more from fortuitous findings and are less the result of archaeological research.

The idea of „cultural homogeneity” has been generally accepted starting with the 12<sup>th</sup> century, a fact that has led to the archaeological material losing its ethnic

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<sup>1</sup> This survey continues the one published in 2005 regarding the material culture of Transylvanian Saxons (the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries): liturgical objects (see M. E. Crîngaci Țiplic 2005, p. 245-264.)

<sup>2</sup> We refer here to several interdisciplinary methods, such as metallographic, dendro-chronologic, botanical and pedagogical analyses, anthropological surveys etc.

<sup>3</sup> We should in fact mention that, unfortunately, the archaeology of settlements dating from the German colonization period was less brought to attention as compared to other periods or areas from Transylvania, for example, the settlements from the 12<sup>th</sup> century at Morești (K. Horedt 1984), Sighișoara – Dealul Viilor (R. Harhoiu, Gh. Baltag 2006-2007) and Bratei (A. Ioniță 2009). The only archaeological research on medieval Transylvanian Saxon villages were those in Androhel (a village near Alțâna, later disappeared), but there we dealt with a 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century settlement, which had long passed the first stages of colonization, and in *Alba Ecclesia (Weiskirch)*, a disappeared settlement north of Miercurea Sibiului; the results of these excavations performed more than three decades ago have never been published.