Second Report on the Neolithic Pottery from Teleor 003, S Romania

[TACB 2009 Report/SRAP]

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Contents

1. Introduction

Following up on the previous work on the pottery from Teleor 003, concentrating on Sondage 10 (Thissen 2008), TACB carried out a second season, this time focusing on the series of sondages north of S10, excavated in 2004.[1] Sondages 19–22 comprise four 6 x 6 m squares separated by baulks of 50 cm wide, forming a large square 12.5 x 12.5 m (Figure 1).

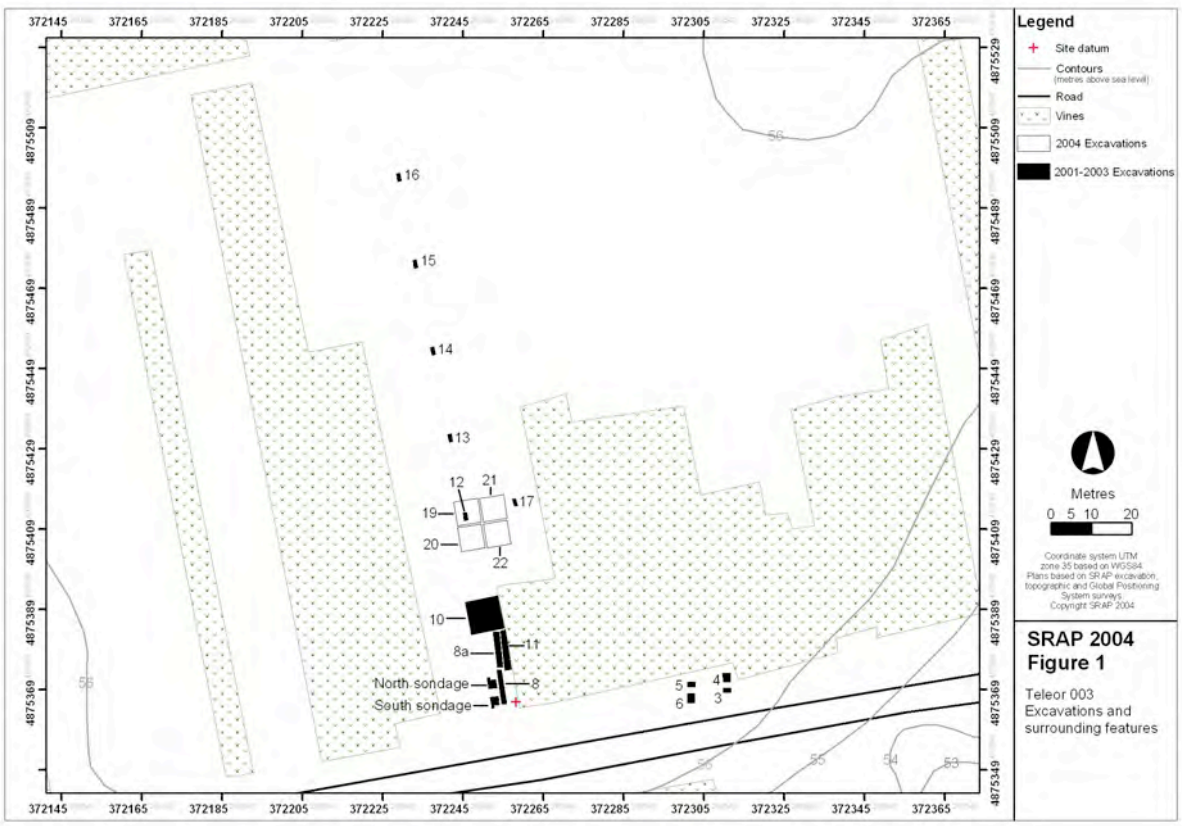


Figure 1. Teleor 003, location of study area, Sondages 19–22 (Plan courtesy SRAP Archive 2004).

In consultation with Bailey, Mills, and Mirea, and within the limits of the month scheduled for this work, it was decided to limit this study to the features themselves, leaving aside the ceramics retrieved from the areas in between (**Table 1**).

[1] Work was done from 28 Sept. – 29 Oct. 2008 in the Teleorman County Museum, Alexandria, Romania. I would like to thank Cardiff University, Douglass Bailey and Stephen Mills for enabling this research. Pavel (aka 'Cristi') Mirea's help again proved invaluable and is more appreciated then he probably realises. I politely bow to the director, Mme Ţânţăreanu, who kindly allowed me to work in the Ceramics Lab.

Table 1. Teleor 003, S19–22 features and their preliminary periodisation. The complexes analysed are marked.

Complex	Sondage	Period	Depth below surface
C21	S19	Vădastra	80–100 cm
C22	S20	Vădastra	90–170 cm
C23	S20	Historic	
C24	S22	Dudeşti	90–100 cm
C25	S19	Dudeşti	110–230 cm
C26	S22	Dudeşti	90–100 cm
C27	S21	Vădastra	90–200 cm
C28	S20, S22	Historic	
C29	S21	Vădastra	100–110 cm
C30/38	S19	Dudeşti	100/110–240 cm
C31	S22	Dudeşti	110–120 cm
C32	S20, S21	Vădastra	100–210 cm
C33	S20	Starčevo–Criş	120–140 cm
C34	S20	Dudeşti	90/100–130 cm
C35	S22	Starčevo–Criş	120–170 cm
C36	S19	Historic	
C37	S19	Dudeşti	100/110–250 cm

Of these complexes, those found to be of historic date (possibly the 4th C AD, Mirea, personal communication) are left out of the analysis, while C22 and C30/38 have already been treated (Thissen 2008). It was my aim to process the remaining complexes in full, but the 1-month schedule proved to be too tight. The consequence was, that, working in chronological order, I could make a start processing the large Vădastra pit C32 but not complete the analysis, and the material from the remaining Vădastra pits (C21, C27 and C29) was not dealt with either.

The total quantity of sherds studied from S19–22, then, amounts to 3,112 items, with a weight of 63,282 g (Table 2). Added to this are 12 complete vessels and profiles, or extended profiles (Table 3).

Table 2. Teleor 003, S19–22. Studied sample amount per feature (in brackets: weight in grams).

Feature	Total sherds/weight	Starčevo–Criş	Dudeşti	Vădastra	Late
C24	107 (1,129)	24	83	0	0
C26	230 (3,665)	54	176	0	0
C33	140 (4,991)	111	29	0	0
C34	625 (12,577)	37	588	0	0
C35	794 (20,251)	571	219	0	4
C37	1,216 (20,669)	55	1,151	10	0
Total	3,112 (63,282)	852	2,246	10	4

Table 3. Teleor 003, S19–22. Complete vessels and profiles, and their weight (g).

Vessel 2004/29 (1,106)	C37
Vessel 2004/34 (6,022)	C24
Vessel 2004/35 (nd*)	C31
Vessel 2004/36 (1,140)	C31
Vessel 2004/37 (1,415)	C31

Vessel 2004/38 (1,990)	C34
Vessel 2004/39 (395)	C34
Vessel 2004/40 (nd*)	C34
Vessel 2004/41 (302)	C37
Vessel 2004/42 (228)	C25
Vessel 2004/43 (1,240)	C25
Vessel 2004/44 (59)	C25

*Weight of C31-Vessel 2004/35 not determined since fragile and still wrapped in boxes; weight of C34-Vessel 2004/40 not given since restored prior to analysis.

The analysis as carried out enabled setting up a reliable sequence allowing to monitor patterns of continuity and change in pottery use stretching from the Early Neolithic Starčevo–Criş period to the end of the Middle Neolithic Vădastra stage, that is, from about the 58th C to the final 6th millennium cal BC. Five complexes will be argued to date to a slightly *later* Dudeşti stage than the 'Early Dudeşti' features C30/38 and C37.[2] This new chronological unit, if valid, clarifies technological developments observed in the 2008 report between the Early Dudeşti and Vădastra assemblages, specifically concerning cooking-pot use. No significant variation is yet deductable from the Early Neolithic assemblages currently studied and those from S10 dealt with in my previous study (notably features C10, C12, C13, and C13A). The S19–22 complexes suggest the following sequential ordering based on the ceramic evidence (Table 4).

Table 4. Teleor 003. Chronological sequence in S19–22.

Period	Features	Provisional dating cal BC (1σ)
Historic	C23, C28, C36	4th C AD
G a p		
Vădastra	C21, C22, C27, C29, C32	53rd – 52nd C
Later Dudeşti	C24, C25, C26, C31, C34	54th – 53rd C (?)
Early Dudeşti	C30/38, C37	55th – 54th C
G a p		
Starčevo-Criş	C33, C35	58th – 57th C

2. Site formation – attempts at a reconstruction

Formation processes will be discussed in detail per complex below, but, briefly, overall site built-up as represented by S19–22 may have happened as follows (cf. Figure 2). C33 corresponds to a discrete deposition of large, joinable parts of an RSW dish mixed with disjointed other sherds. The C33 refuse area correlates well with a similar discrete refuse area seeming to be *covering* pit C35. Here, large sherd fragments, some of which are joining, as well as large fragments of one or more hearths concentrate foremost in the upper reaches of the pit, and are partly located on the edge and outside of C35. The C35 refuse disposal area was, therefore, not contemporary with the original use of complex 35, actually postdating it. Put otherwise, in the history of S19–22, an 'empty' Starčevo–Criş pit came first, got into disuse, was filled mainly with allegedly perishable materials, and on a subsequent old surface two discrete refuse areas were created. Both C33 and C35 start at about 120 cm below the surface, where C35 reaches down for 50

[2] The Dudeşti period in Romania is, despite some 50 years of work, still difficult to define, and hardly any site has been published or well documented. Therefore, I use the terminology here with some reservations, and as a heuristic device. *'Later'* Dudeşti is simply meaning to say "later than what I think is Early Dudeşti".

cm, while C33 is only 20 cm in thickness. Given that the radiocarbon evidence from Teleor 003 suggests a gap of at least two centuries between Starčevo–Criş and Dudeşti periods, the present area – and perhaps all of Teleor 003 – was abandoned sometime during the Early Neolithic, only to be reused in the Middle Neolithic Dudeşti phase. At this stage, two pits were dug out in S19, viz. C30/38 and C37, the other areas not yielding any contemporary evidence. Oddly, whereas C30/38 starts at an elevation of 120 cm below surface, C37 was only recognised from 160 cm onwards, 40 cm below the start of the two Starčevo–Criş features C33 and C35. This discrepancy is hard to explain, unless we have to assume C37 actually starts at a much higher elevation. Indeed, the N-section drawing suggests that it might have begun as high up as 100–110 cm below surface. Also C30/38 was seen as having been dug in from this same general depth, contrary to observations made in the field (Thissen 2008:75). Confirming the similarity of the Early Dudeşti pits is that they both end at approximately the same depth of 240~250 cm below surface. We may, therefore, assume that they have been created during a single event, and we can regard the 100~110 cm level as the original ancient surface from which the action took place.

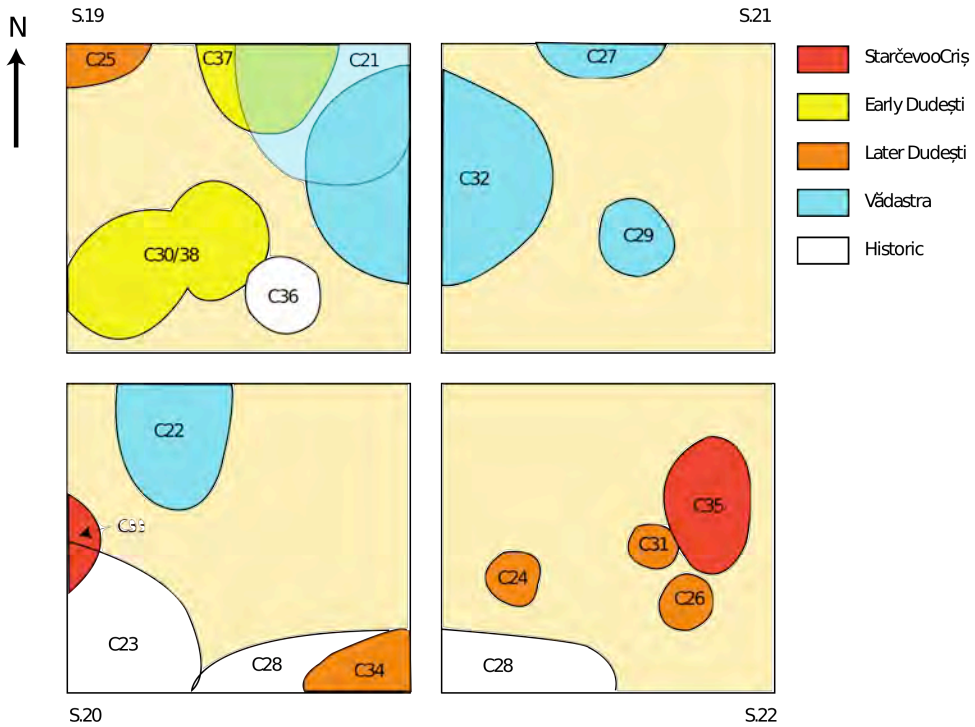


Figure 2. Teleor 003, S19–22. Schematised plan of S19–22 and periodisation of complexes.

The areas of S20 and 22, abandoned since Starčevo–Criş times were only used again in the later Dudeşti stage, when four discrete surface scatters in close proximity to each other in S20 and S22 signify an old surface at elevations 90~100 cm below surface (C24, C26, C31, and C34). The small concentration of finds in C31 suggests an *in-situ* deposition consisting of an arrangement of three vessels, while the discrete scatter of a storage vessel in C24 might represent an *in-situ* discard. Not entirely clear as to its phasing is an allegedly later Dudeşti feature in S19. C25 is a deep pit starting at 110 cm

below surface and may either be cutting adjacent complex C37 or dug simultaneously with it. The N-section drawing is slightly ambiguous here. In my view, the pottery is rather later Dudeşti than contemporary with C37 Early Dudeşti material (see discussion below). A large 'empty' zone between the north-western and south-eastern later Dudeşti features is subsequently used by Vădastra people, who created deep (C27, C32) as well as shallow (C21, C29) pit features, only in one case overlapping an older feature (C21 cutting C37). All Vădastra features start at about 90–100 cm below the surface, and only C21 begins higher up at 80 cm, overlapping C32. The relationship between C21 and C32 is not clear, C21 not being visible in the N- and E-section drawings of S19.
The sequence is quite compacted in a taphonomic sense, all complexes having been dug between 90 and 120 cm below the surface regardless of the period concerned. Interesting is that there are parallel, mutually exclusive activity zones running SW–NE for the later Dudeşti and Vădastra stages, while particularly the Starčevo–Criş features are more randomly spread. In the next section I will discuss the individual features in more detail, and focus on the deposition patterns of the pottery. The technological and typological aspects will then be treated in a further section.

3. S19–22 fragmentation and deposition

A study of the fragmentation of the ceramics from Sondage 19–22 proceeds by using a size-chart allowing sizing of the ceramics into four groups, *viz*. <2.5 cm, <5 cm, <7.5 cm and >7.5 cm. Weighing is done routinely per size group, and average sherd weights (ASW) allow for more precise statements than reached by using raw counts alone (Table 5 and Table 6 give count and weight resp. of all the pottery retrieved from this area).

Table 5. Teleor 003, S19–22. Pottery count for all complexes (except C25 and C31).

Complex	≤ 2.5 cm	≤ 5 cm	≤ 7.5 cm	> 7.5 cm	Total n	%
C24*	90	97	43	26	256	7.85
C26	85	95	40	10	230	7.05
C33	26	53	29	32	140	4.29
C34	233	259	89	44	625	19.17
C35	201	345	146	102	794	24.35
C37	481	497	164	74	1,216	37.29
Total	1,116	1,346	511	288	3,261	
%	34.22	41.28	15.67	8.83		

* Including counts for the large vessel.

As is usual for Teleor 003 complexes studied thus far, the majority of the pottery comes into sizes smaller than 5 cm, although still nearly 25 percent consists of the larger sizes. This is to be attributed mainly to the large fragments occurring in C33 and C35, and to the large-vessel parts from C24. Early Dudeşti pit C37 yields the largest amount of material, while also Starčevo–Criş pit C35 and Dudeşti deposition C34 are rich in finds.

Table 6. Teleor 003, S19–22. Pottery weight in grams for all complexes (except C25 and C31).

Complex	≤ 2.5 cm	≤ 5 cm	≤ 7.5 cm	> 7.5 cm	Total n	%	ASW (g)
C24*	330	1,294	1,701	3,400	6,725	9.76	26.27
C26	286	1,166	1,501	712	3,665	5.32	15.93
C33	114	669	950	3,258	4,991	7.25	35.65
C34	772	2,893	2,916	5,996	12,577	18.26	20.12
C35	666	4,030	4,874	10,681	20,251	29.4	25.51
C37	1,825	5,883	5,511	7,450	20,669	30.01	16.8
Total	3,993	15,935	17,453	31,497	68,878		
%	5.8	23.14	25.34	45.73			

* Including weight for the large vessel.

Weighing all units per feature clearly shows C24 is much heavier in ASW sherd weight than C26 despite that their absolute sherd counts are about equal. Complex C33, while having much less sherds than C26, has a higher ASW than the assemblage of that feature, indicating stronger fragmentation at play in C26. Of interest further is the contrast between C35 and C37, which are about equal in total sherd weight, but where C37 has 50 percent as much sherds as C35.

In graphical form these results can be refined. The relative proportions of the size groups within each complex as well as between different complexes become clearer when ordered along the first variable in rising order (Figure 3).

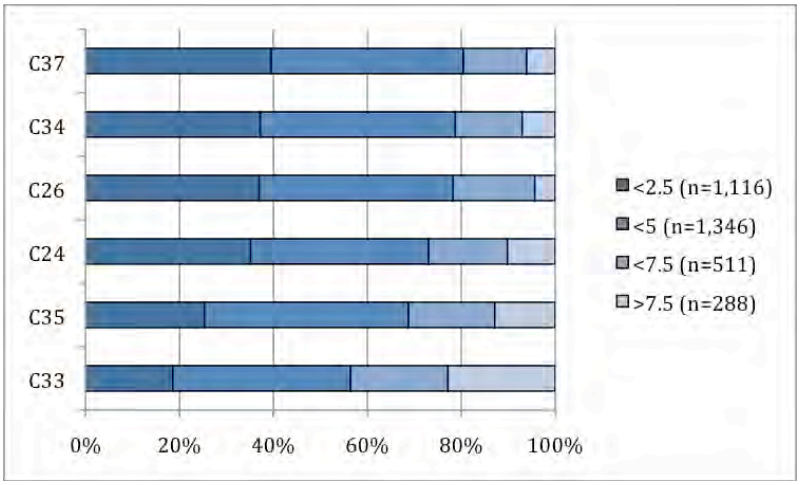


Figure 3. Teleor 003, S19–22. Fragmentation patterns showing relative frequency of total sherd size by count, sorted on the smallest size group (*n*=3,261).

Taking the 80% line as a benchmark, at which three complexes occur having that amount of sherds smaller than 5 cm, C24, C33 and C35 fall below that interval, where C33 shows least fragmentation. Most fragmented complexes C26, C34 and C37 are remarkably similar as to their fragmentation patterns, although the nature of their context and the depositional histories vary. Complexes C33 and C35 seem to represent discrete discards with less postdepositional fragmentation, while the C24 data are determined by the substantial amount of large fragments of one single vessel.

Another, perhaps more insightful way for recognizing general fragmentation states is by relying on the average sherd weight calculated per complex, thus combining count and weight in a single variable (Figure 4). Sorting the data in rising order confirms the

results gained from fragmentation by sherd count, where C33 yields the highest ASW, followed by C24 and C35. A separator point is visible between C26, C37 and C34 on the one hand and between C35, C24 and C33 on the other. Interestingly, C26 and C37 have similar ASW, although their contexts are varying (the one a surface scatter, the other a pit).

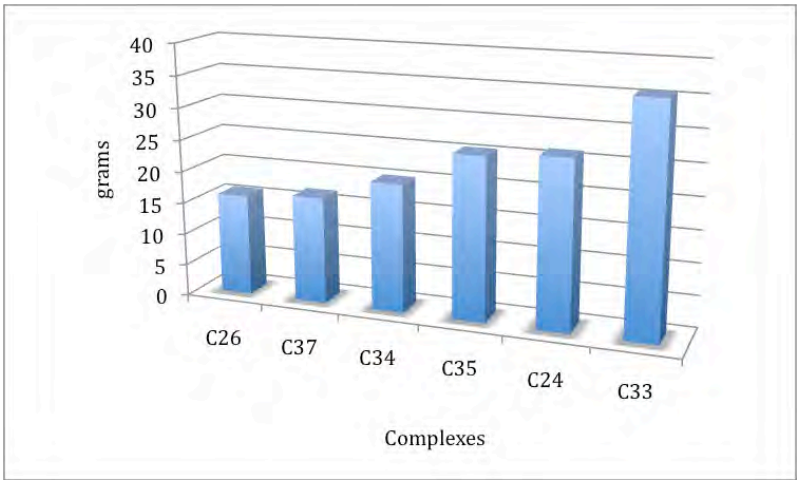


Figure 4. Teleor 003. S19–22. ASW per complex, minus C24, C25 and C31.

Overall fragmentation patterning is finally apparent from the measurement of the radius of the sherds (cf. Egloff 1973). Suitable sherds mostly concern rim- and base sherds, occasionally also body sherds in case their widest diameters are measurable (Table 7). The pattern generated conforms not surprisingly to the overall fragmentation based on the total sherd count. The 10% class roughly represents sherds smaller than 5 cm, the 20% and higher classes sherd sizes of <7.5 cm and >7.5 cm resp.

Table 7. Teleor 003, S19–22. Percentage factor distribution of radius measurements on diagnostic sherds.

Radius	Total	C33	C34	C35	C37
10%	316	21	52	92	151
Column %	*71.66*				
20%	75	2	12	27	34
	17.01				
30%	37	6	12	12	7
	8.39				
40%	6	1	0	3	2
	1.36				
50%	4	0	2	1	1
	0.91				
60%	1	0	1	0	0
	0.23				
70%	1	0	1	0	0
	0.23				
100%	1	0	1	0	0
	0.23				
	441	30	81	135	195

3.1. C24 (S22)

C24 represents a shallow depression, or more likely a simple surface spread-out, consisting of a discrete concentration of pottery, mixed with burnt lumps of building material (daub?) and animal bones, scattered over an area of about 120 x 80 cm (**Figure 5, Table 8**).

Table 8. Teleor 003, Sondage 22, C24 units.

Depth below surface	Units
90 cm	1190, 1209*
100 cm	1244, 1278, [1292*], [1302*], 1306, 1440, 1441, 1443

*Unit 1209 has not been seen, as it was not included in the box containing the C24 pottery. Units 1292 and 1302 do not include any large vessel fragments. Both units seem outside of the actual C24.

The ceramic material consists of 149 fragments of a large-sized vessel (Vessel 2004/34), mixed with 107 pieces of Starčevo–Criş and Dudeşti pottery. The large vessel is a thick-walled storage jar with a cordon appliqué around the neck, a burnished rim zone and a surface- roughened body typical for Dudeşti basic-level category VIII. Only parts of the rim, the neck zone, the base and several body sherds are preserved. Among the remains of the vessel a fire-cracked stone was found, undoubtedly originally located inside the vessel (Figure 5). Among the other Dudeşti sherds are a leg fragment, a bowl rim with *plissé* decoration, and an incised body sherd showing a hatched pattern. Most of the C24 material including the large vessel fragments is affected by fire, causing a partial refiring of the sherds. In addition, the majority of the pottery carries strong traces of abrasion, where many sherd edges are rounded, and slips and burnish traces have worn to the extent that subsurfaces of many sherds are exposed having a sandpapery feel due to the quartz nonplastics. Much of the cordon appliqué has broken off from the large vessel.

Figure 5. Teleor 003, S22, C24. Scatter of fragments from Vessel 2004/34 from the south. Heat-cracked 'cooking stone' indicated by arrow (photo courtesy SRAP Archive 2004).

Considering the large size and heavy weight of the original vessel, it may have been damaged, broken and fallen *in situ* (in which case its locus might have been outdoors),

and subsequently abandoned (cf. Schiffer 1987:89ff. about abandonment, although the option considered here is not equal to what he calls *de facto refuse*). The other sherds might have been dumped from elsewhere on the existing pile, gathering rubbish from different places, involving also the mixing of the earlier, Starčevo–Criș material. Both groups thus might signify different depositional events. Simultaneously, since both groups were affected by fire and underwent similar weathering processes, they may share a postdepositional firing event where possibly the original dump with added organic refuse was burned sometime during the life history of the Dudești occupation. The stone inside the large vessel was either cracked during that event or this was part of the original use of the stone.

In order to establish if the large vessel fragments and the other pottery are differentially deposited or not, fragmentation patterns can be of help. Only 17.75 percent of the non-large vessel sherds exceed the 5 cm size group (Figure 6), a clear proof of high fragmentation.

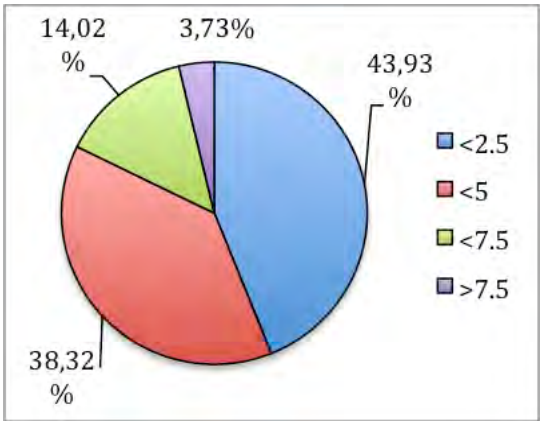


Figure 6. Teleor 003, S22, C24. Fragmentation of the non-large vessel sherds (*n*=107, ASW 10.65 g).

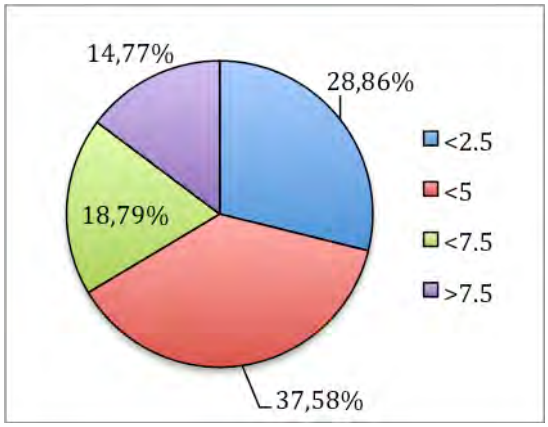


Figure 7. Teleor 003, S22, C24. Fragmentation of large vessel (*n*=149, ASW 40.42 g).

By contrast, size distribution for the large vessel is different, with over 33 percent belonging to sizes larger than 5 cm (Figure 7). While the relative frequency for sherds of smaller than 5 cm is nearly equal in both sherd groups, sherds smaller than 2.5 cm occur much less in the large-vessel group than among the other sherd group. This differential pattern of fragmentation would suggest that the discard histories of both groups were not related initially. In this particular case, however, the issue is not easily solvable since the thick walled large vessel has a naturally different breakage pattern, with less pieces fragmenting to the smallest size group due to their sturdiness, even when postdepositional activities (e.g., trampling, scavenging, child play, etc.) would have involved both groups.

3.2. C25 (S19)

According to the SRAP Sondages 19–22 plan only two units 1238 and 1290 belong to this pit, and it would be restricted to depths 110–120 cm below the surface. However, Mirea asserts this pit (size 170 x 170 cm) goes down for another 120 cm, and this is indeed the case judging from the S19 N-section drawing. Moreover, only the SE quadrant of the pit is present in S19, therefore units 1238 and 1290 would include non-pit material. Complex C25 was excavated by Mirea from spit 160 cm downward after SRAP left, but no unit numbers were assigned (Table 9). Due to these uncertainties, analysis of

C25 was not carried out, and I decided to study only the three complete profiles retrieved from this feature (Vessels 2004/42–44).

Table 9. Teleor 003, S19. C25 spits and unit numbers.

Depth below surface/spits	Units
110 cm	1238
120 cm	1290
120–130 cm	1361
130–140 cm	1420
140–150 cm	1566
150–160 cm	1599
160–170 cm	No unit nos.
170–180 cm	No unit nos.
180–190 cm	No unit nos.
190–230 cm	?

3.3. C26 (S22)

C26 is a small feature – not a pit but rather a small concentration of what according to the pictures is a discrete deposit of animal bones (Figure 8), spreading over an area of approximately 130 x 100 cm, with no vertical dispersion whatsoever (Figure 9). Occurring around depths 90–100 cm below surface, C26 is at exactly the same level as C24, and they must be contemporaneity, as the ceramic analysis will confirm. The two features suggest we have to do with an outdoor area in S22 during later Dudeşti times, in which discrete refuse middens were located and which might be added upon possibly as a result of maintenance of the area, i.e. the cleaning-up of activity areas (Schiffer 1987:59). In contrast to C24, the present complex did not yield secondary fired sherds.

Figure 8. Teleor 003, S22, C26, from the southwest (photo courtesy SRAP Archive 2004).

Figure 9. Teleor 003, S22, C26. North section of minibaulk, showing absence of vertical distribution of material in this feature (photo courtesy SRAP Archive 2004).

Four units were retrieved from C26 (Table 10).

Table 10. Teleor 003, Sondage 22, C26 units.

Depth below surface	Units
90 cm	1232 (whole SE quadrant of S22, not yet C26)
100 cm	1269, 1270, 1321, 1325

While over 23 percent of the sherds consist of Starčevo–Criş intrusions, fragmentation patterns demonstrate that there is not much difference between the Early Neolithic component (Figure 10) and the Dudeşti material (Figure 11).

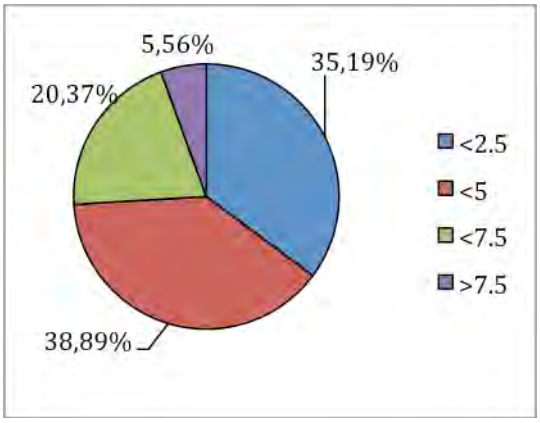


Figure 10. Teleor 003, S22, C26. Fragmentation of the Starčevo–Criş sherds (*n*=54, ASW 17.85 g).

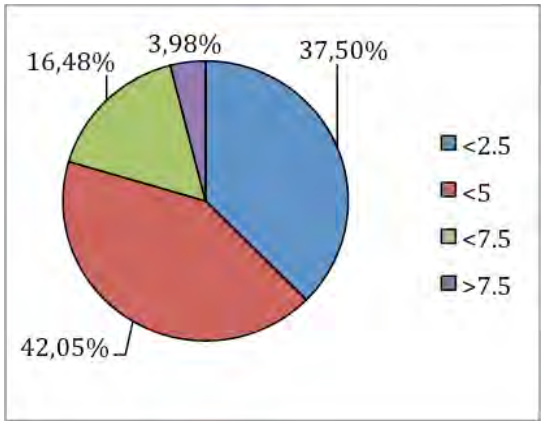


Figure 11. Teleor 003, S22, C26. Fragmentation of the Dudeşti sherds (*n*=176, ASW 15.35 g).

Larger sizes are slightly more represented in the earlier group (about 26 percent as against over 20 percent resp.), but with a general 80 percent group of sherds smaller than 5 cm both stages' breakage conforms to the pattern shown by the non-large vessel ceramics from C24. Similar to that feature, both C26 date groups show equally severe abrasion. Sherds are extremely abraded and weathered, and have rounded edges and sandpapery surfaces, suggesting exposure to weather and frost for a long time. Joins do not occur in either group. Such congruent deposition patterns do not give a clue as to the

origin of this concentration, but they do seem to suggest that they were originally moved together to the present location. In this way, C26 represents what I would call a *tertiary* deposition, *cq*. a re-deposition of refuse first discarded elsewhere. By contrast, the large amount of large-sized animal bones may represent slaughtering refuse dumped at the place of use, i.e. what Schiffer has called *primary* refuse (Schiffer 1987:58), possibly as an additional dump in an already existing rubbish area. There are only few diagnostics present, including some plain-burnished pedestal bases, plain-burnished body sherds with *plissé* décor, a thickened-rim dish in U.1270, a few *impresso* as well as barbotined pot fragments, and a small version of a cordon vessel in U.1270. Unit 1325 has a large surface-roughened horn-handle fragment linkable to the ordinate-level category of Amphorae.

3.4. C31 (S22)

Just north of C26, complex C31 represents an intriguing arrangement of three vessels allegedly deposited on virgin soil (Mirea, pers. comm., 6 Oct. 2008). Inside an *impresso* holemouth pot (Vessel 2004/35) put upside down, a nearly complete bowl with two handles and *plissé* decoration (Vessel 2004/36) had been placed. The bowl contained fish bones, two beads, a flint blade, and some flakes. Fragments from the widest diameter and lower body of the first vessel were found covering the bowl (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Teleor 003, S22, C31. Arrangement of three vessels. On the left Vessel 2004/36 inside Vessel 2004/35 parts of which are covering the first vessel. Vessel 2004/37 to the right (photo courtesy SRAP Archive 2004).

A third vessel, also an *impresso* pot (Vessel 2004/37), was located immediately northeast of the cluster. The upturned pot is very brittle, but seems mostly complete, apart from its base which is not preserved. Unfortunately, due to its fragile state the vessel it is not restorable. Surrounding and covering the three vessels making up U.1418 are two more units, consisting of animal bones and quite severely abraded pottery (Table 11).

Table 11. Teleor 003, S22, C31 units.

Depth below surface	Units
110 cm	1371, 1372
120 cm	1418

These sherds and bones seem, according to the photographic evidence, an integral part of the vessel deposit (Figure 13). A large, unabraded sherd from U.1371 joining to Vessel 2004/37 is possibly erroneously assigned to the upper lot.

Figure 13. Teleor 003, S22. C31 from the north, showing the spread-out of sherds and animal bones surrounding and covering the three-vessel deposit (photo courtesy SRAP Archive 2004).

This surrounding sherd material looks very much similar to that from C24 and C26 (as well as to the intrusions in C35, see below). Again, we encounter a mix of equally abraded and disjointed Starčevo-Criș and Dudești pottery, the latter having sandpapery surfaces and rounded edges due to weathering. The relation between C31 and C26 is not entirely clear. C26 is situated on a higher elevation (90–100 cm), whereas C31 starts at 110 cm. The ceramics point to contemporaneity, as a collared-bowl rim from C31 typical for the later Dudești period makes clear (Plate W.3; cf. a similar bowl from C24, Plate V.3). Concerning the arrangement of vessels, a purely functional interpretation might suggest we have to do with a cooking installation. Corroborating this hypothesis are the pockmarks on the inside of the bowl suggesting use-wear, the fish bones found inside, and the upturned vessel suggesting a fire protection ring, incidentally causing its brittleness.[3]

3.5. C33 (S20)

Feature C33 is a small concentration of pottery and animal bone situated at 110/120–140 cm below surface (Table 12).

Table 12. Teleor 003, Sondage 20, C33 units.

Depth below surface	Units
110-120 cm	1389, 1409
120-130 cm	1528, 1529
130-140 cm	1612*, 1613*

*Units 1612 and 1613 have erroneous labelling: 1613 bag has 1612 label inside, while 1612 bag is missing.

Although part of C33 disappears in the W-section of S20, most of it seems present in the excavation area. Recovered size amounts to c. 80 cm from north to south, and about 40 cm from east to west. The top units 1389 and 1409 were dug from a larger area (A.1, B.1.1, B.1.4, B.1.7) possibly at a stage when the feature became visible. It is not clear to what degree the sherds from these two units belong to the actual pit, but on the basis of the photographic documentation the red slipped fragments, several of which are joining, can be counted to this feature. Also some plain burnished sherds from U.1389 belonging to an inturned bowl must come from C33, since they are from the same vessel as the sherds from U.1528, though not joining (Plate A.6). Eight sherds from U.1389 join into large portions of a large everted rim dish (Plate C.2). Interestingly, the units underlying these top units yield much less sherds, are slightly more fragmented and did not produce joins to the large everted dish. Judging from the photographs, C33 may represent a single event discard of already broken pottery, already incomplete and/or disturbed in antiquity (Figure 14).

[3] A shoulder piece from the bowl has been submitted for chemical analysis.

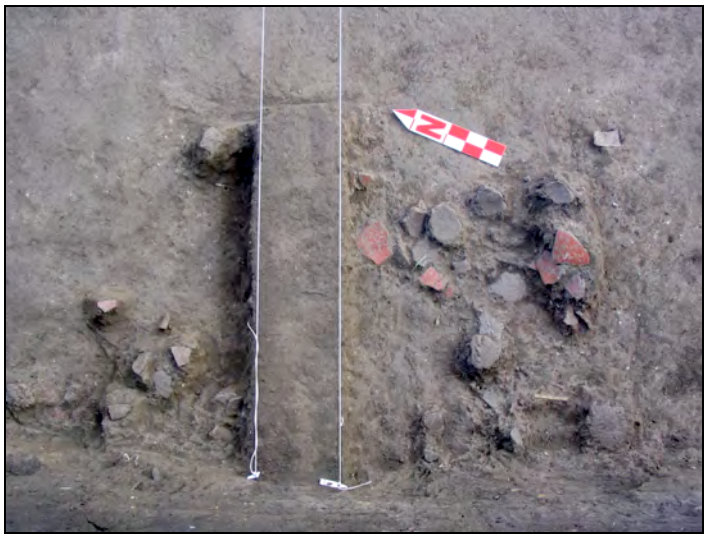


Figure 14. Teleor 003, S33, C33, view from west, showing red-slipped dish fragments (photo courtesy SRAP Archive 2004).

The largest concentration of pottery is in the SE area of the feature, clustering into a small pile of sherds. The overall size distribution in C33, with a high average sherd weight of 40.87 g/sherd corroborates the idea of a midden the sherds were not trampled to small sizes generally (Figure 15). Of interest is that the centre of the feature is almost devoid of finds, the sherds seemingly spreading around this. Among all the units later material is present, amounting to over 20 percent of the total sherd bulk, and both the Starčevo–Criş and the Dudeşti sherds are medium to heavily abraded. Overall, interpreting C33 is not so easy. Most likely we have to do here with a discrete, small midden dump, maybe even restricted to the pile including the red-slipped sherds. The Dudeşti material could derive from the general spread all over the area. If we discard the idea of a 'depression' or 'pit' for C33, the mixing of Dudeşti sherds with earlier stuff becomes more explainable. Things are additionally unclear since we do not know to what degree U.1389 stems from the small pile or from the entire SE quadrant of S20.

Fragmentation is very severe among the Dudeşti stuff, with over three-quarter represented by sherds smaller than 5 cm (Figure 16). In the Starčevo–Criş group this is only 50 percent, while over 25 percent are among the largest size group (>7.5 cm).

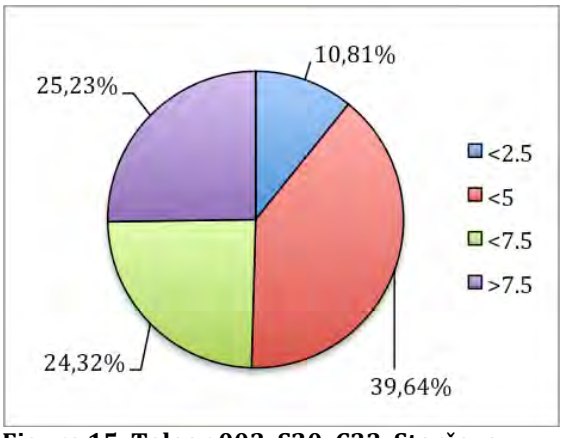


Figure 15. Teleor 003, S20, C33. Starčevo–Criş sizing (*n*=111, ASW 40.87 g).

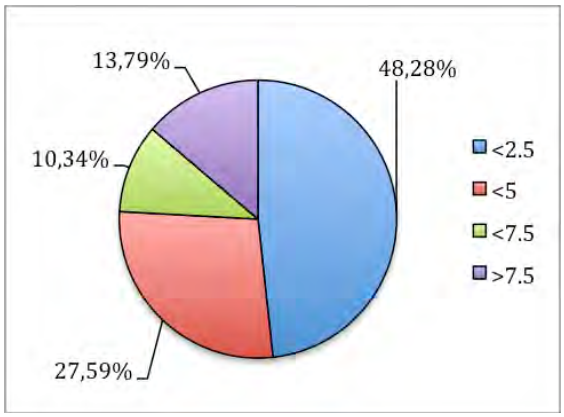


Figure 16. Teleor 003, S20, C33. Dudeşti sizing (*n*=29, ASW 17.87 g).

Although few diagnostics are present among the Dudești material, they again conform to the *later* Dudești stage, as also encountered in features C24, C26, and C31. A preliminary frequency distribution of the total sherd bulk from C33 shows a dominance of the red-slipped ware group (RSW) over Plain-burnished ware (PBW), and surface-roughened ware (SFRW), which is not usually the case (Figure 17).

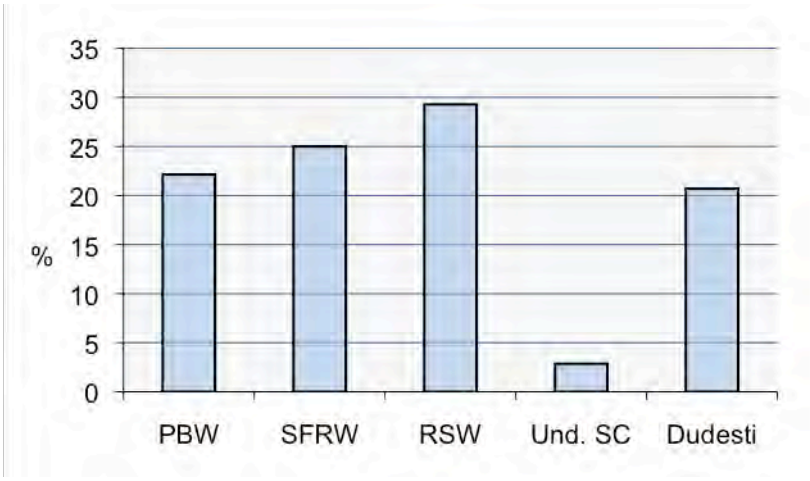


Figure 17. Teleor 003, Sondage 20, C33 ware groups (*n*=140).

3.6. C34 (S20)

C34 is labelled as a circular depression with a depth of about 30 cm, disturbed by subrecent feature C28, and situated at spits 90/100–130 cm below surface (**Table 13).**

Table 13. Teleor 003, S20, C34 Units.

Depth below surface/spits	Units
80–90 cm	1239
90–100 cm	1295, 1398, 1394
100–110 cm	1314, 1394, 1399, 1446
110–120 cm	1400, 1479*, 1480, 1481
120–130 cm	1526*, 1545

*U.1479 and U.1526 missing.

According to the East profile drawing, C28, being a vertical-sided large pit starting immediately below the plough zone at c. 20 cm below surface, seems to cut the top part of C34, suggesting C34 originally started higher up than is now the case. This late pit was lined with a tin plaster coating on the bottom. According to the same section, on the bottom of C28 an oven is located with part of its upright walling preserved, itself slightly cutting the northern extremity of C34. C28 and oven therefore belong together, and bear no relation with C34 (Figure 18). The earth underneath secondarily was fired locally.

Figure 18. Teleor 003, S20, C34. East- and south profile showing later oven from C28 on the left, and flat-lying sherds from Dudeşti feature C34 (photo courtesy SRAP 2004 Archive).

Complex C34 may stretched further to the north than suggested on the profile drawing since many Dudeşti sherds came from this burnt patch (U.1399, U.1398 and U.1400). C34 is well visible in the E- and S-sections, but, strangely, no trace of it is visible in the adjacent S22 W-profile, which does have C28. C34 therefore must have ended in the baulk separating S20/22.

From U.1480 come several large, joinable fragments of collared bowls, and holemouth pots. Several of the units were originally assigned to C28 (U.1239, U.1394, U.1295, and U.1446), but the analysis warrants their reassignment to C34 instead. U.1394 in fact contains a mix of highly abraded Starčevo–Criş and Dudeşti material and added to this are some pieces of subrecent wheelmade sherds. The general aspect of the Dudeşti sherds is comparable to that noted from C24, C26, C31, C33 and C35, viz., showing abraded, sandpapery and damaged surfaces and rounded edges. From U.1394 also come less abraded sherds, which must already belong to C34 proper. I have separated these and put them with the rest of C34 in a new bag labelled 'U.1394 – belonging to C34', since potential joins may be found with U.1480. There is little of subrecent intrusion in all these units. The largest, joining sherds are lying quite flat in a horizontal plane at about 110 cm below surface, suggesting simultaneous discard (Figure 19).

Figure 19. Sondage 20, C34 from the south (photo courtesy SRAP 2004 Archive).

Several units contain secondary fired sherds of a pinkish brown colour from both the Starčevo-Criş and Dudeşti periods (notably in U.1398 and U.1399, but also occurring among other units). The secondary firing was not original to the C34 deposit, as the deeper spits yielding the large, joining fragments are not burnt. The later burning must instead be caused by the oven in C28. We may suppose that people building the oven had *reused* Dudeşti sherds for the basal oven parts, collecting them while at work.

From U.1480, 120 cm below surface, come two complete profiles of holemouth pots with *impresso* decoration (Vessels 2004/38 and 2004/39). They are reconstructable on paper only since their individual sections are not joining (Plates S.3 and T.1). From the same unit derives a nearly complete, four-legged bowl with two horn handles, Vessel 2004/40 (Plate R). The individual parts of these vessels are lying flat on the surface in discrete, joining clusters, spread out as if crushed from a weight from above. The circumstances for deposition can only be speculated upon. The bowl has been heavily used and reused, it possibly being valuable (legs broken off, but stumps pared down to fit as low legs).

In the units studied, 37 sherds date to the Starčevo–Criş period, against 588 for the Dudeşti stage. The Early Neolithic sherds occur mostly in the A.2.3 unit, and although over 70 percent are small-sized, the amount of larger sizes would not suggest intrusion merely through animal perturbation. This is logical, since the C34 feature is of Dudeşti date and no earlier deposit is situated below it. The Starčevo–Criş intrusions must therefore have been brought in by human agency, possibly because of maintenance activities by Dudeşti people involving relocating debris from elsewhere. This is confirmed by the fact that the Starčevo–Criş material is generally heavily abraded, as such clearly differing from the often only lightly abraded Dudeşti ceramics. Additionally, more Starčevo–Criş sherds occur in the feature proper than in the marginal units, confirming that they have been deliberately included here. Fragmentation patterns for both periods give less breakage among the Early Neolithic material, contrary to what would have been expected (Figure 20).

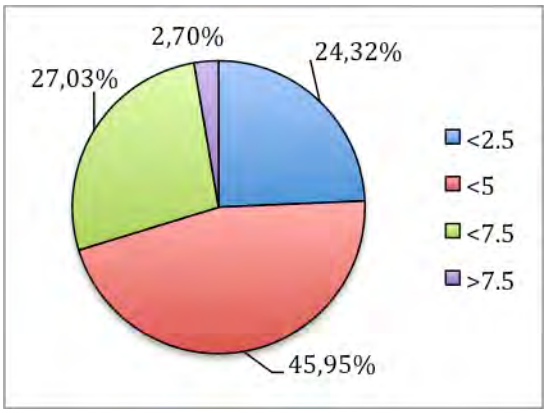


Figure 20. Teleor 003, S20, C34. Starčevo–Criş sizing (*n*=3, ASW nd).

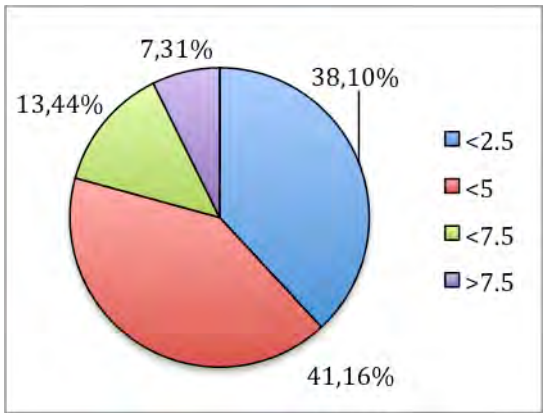


Figure 21. Teleor 003, S20, C34. Dudeşti sizing (*n*=588, ASW nd).

Overall, the Dudeşti component of C34 yields a more severe fragmentation picture, in spite of the presence of many joining sherds, two complete profiles and a nearly complete bowl (Figure 21). Possibly, the larger pieces represent an additional deposition of refuse, over an already existing dump consisting of the Early Neolithic and other Dudeşti material. Low ASW occur notably underneath the C28 oven in U.1400 and U.1481 (9.24 g and 10.06 g resp.), confirming their reuse serving as base for the oven.

3.7. C35 (S22)

This feature is labelled as a Starčevo-Criş pit, penetrating virgin soil, beginning at a depth of approximately 120 cm below surface, with its lowest depth at 170 cm below surface. Associated units are given in Table 14.

Table 14 Teleor 003, S22, C35 units.

Depth below surface	Units
[120 cm	*1418, 1437, 1507]*
[125 cm	*1534, 1539, 1564]*
130 cm	1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579
135 cm	1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608
140 cm	1671, 1672, 1673, 1675, 1676, 1678, 1679
150 cm	1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, [1725]
160 cm	1733, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738
170 cm	1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760

Units in red missing; U.1725: label inside bag has unit no. 1726 which is from S19; not included in analysis. Probably also belonging to C35 although not indicated on the Sondage Plan are U.1575, U.1604 and U.1671 (*carré* B2.4). U.1418 is labelled as from C31, but the material has the same aspect as C35 units and is therefore included here.

In contrast to the complexes discussed so far, C35 is a proper pit, of a regular, oval shape. On its northeastern extremity, at a depth of 107 cm, were the strongly fragmented remains of a hearth plate and parts of its superstructure (
Figure 22).

Figure 22. Teleor 003, Sondage 22, C35. Hearth fragments on NE edge of pit (photo courtesy SRAP 2004 Archive)

The top spit at 120 cm below surface contains material overlying the actual pit and consists of heavily abraded ceramics, highly fragmented and without any joins (Figure 23).

Figure 23. Sondage 22, C35 top, viewed from the south, with hearth fragments in the lower right (photo courtesy SRAP 2004 Archive).

These finds are excavated from a larger area than the feature itself, and mix up material from the surrounding area and C35 itself. The same is true for the underlying spit 125 cm. Probably, these two spits do not yet belong to C35, and I have kept them out of the analysis. Their ASW of 10.28 g and 8.73 g resp. contrast strongly with those for the underlying units, which vary between 15 and 40 g per sherd, and they conform, interestingly, to the ASW of the Dudești intrusions (see Figure 24).

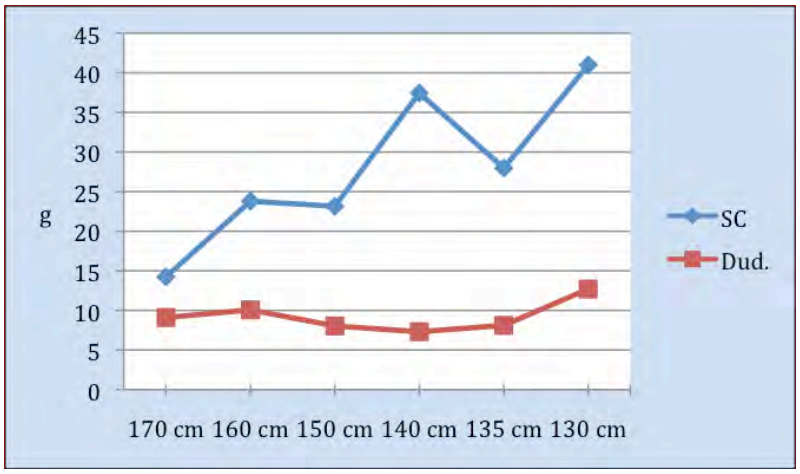


Figure 24. Teleor 003, S22, C35. Average sherd weight per period.

This graph also shows clearly that the ASW for the Starčevo–Criş period is highest at spits 130–140 cm at 35–40 g per sherd, to decrease considerably going further down, with only 15 g per sherd on average in the basal zone of the feature. These shifts are alternatively evident when considering the size distributions per spit, with largest sizes particularly present between 130–140 cm (Figure 25).

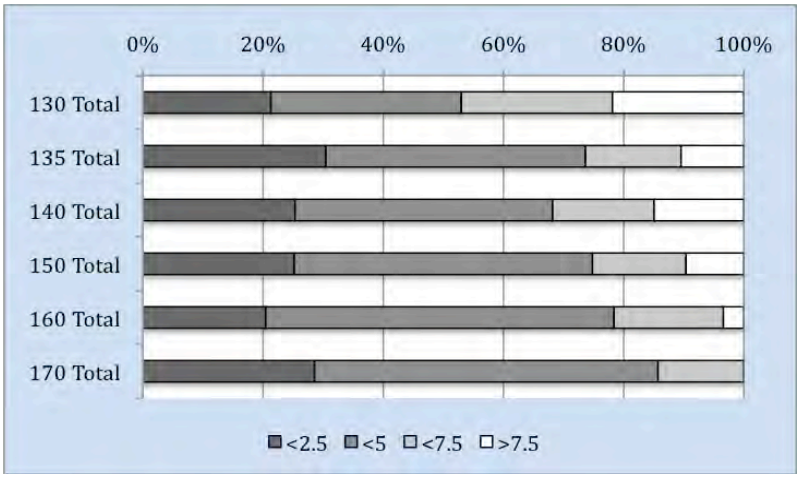


Figure 25. Teleor 003, S22, C35. Relative frequency of sherd size by count per spit (*n*=794).

The vertical patterning is confirmed by the cross-section of C35 showing that large sherds mainly occur in the upper portions of the pit (Figure 26). Deposition of the sherds is seemingly in slightly sloping layers, sherds lying flat following the slope of the pit.

Figure 26. Teleor 003, S22, C35. West section of minibaulk, intersecting the pit from N–S, units B2.2, A.2.8 (photo courtesy SRAP Archive 2004).

The Dudeşti intrusions occur in quantity throughout the entire depth of the pit (Figure 27), making up for more than 25 percent of the total sherd bulk (Figure 28).

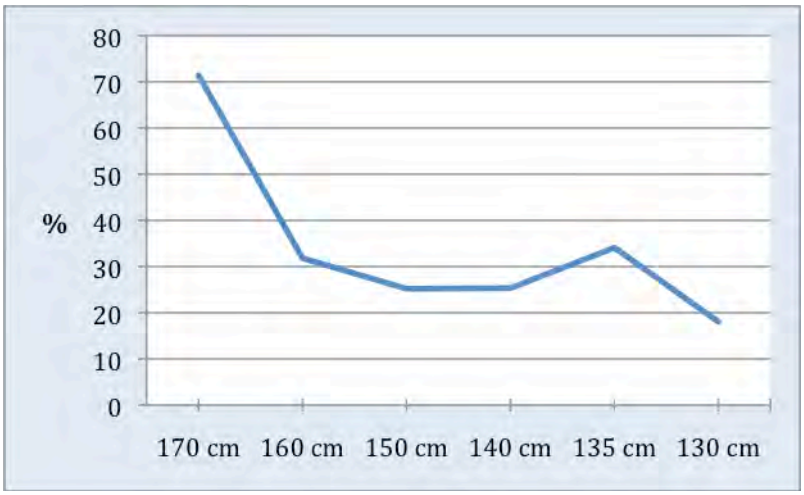


Figure 27. Teleor 003, S22, C35. Relative frequency of Dudeşti component per spit (170 cm spit biased due to several missing units).

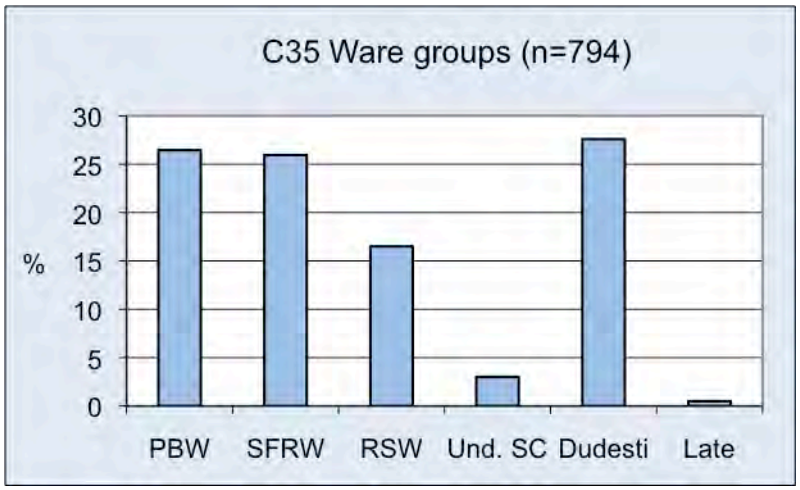


Figure 28. Teleor 003, S22, C35 distribution of ware groups (*n*=794), depths 130–170 cm.

Overall fragmentation is dominant in the two smaller size groups, amounting to nearly 70 percent of the total sherd bulk (Figure 29), though we may recall that this result is lower than the features discussed so far, where generally 80 percent or more was taken up by sherds smaller than 5 cm (see above, discussion of e.g. C24, C26, C31).

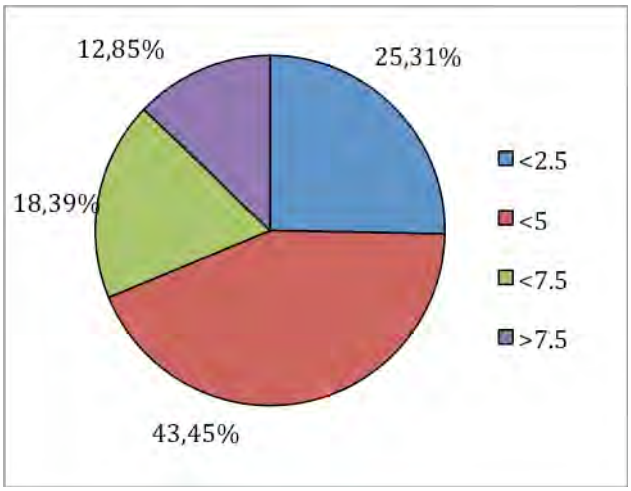


Figure 29. Teleor 003, Sondage 22, C35 overall size distribution (*n*=794, ASW 25.51 g).

Fragmentation for the Starčevo–Criş and the Dudeşti material is clearly different, with the two larger size groups hardly occurring in the Dudeşti component, apart from the top spit 130 cm (Figure 30).

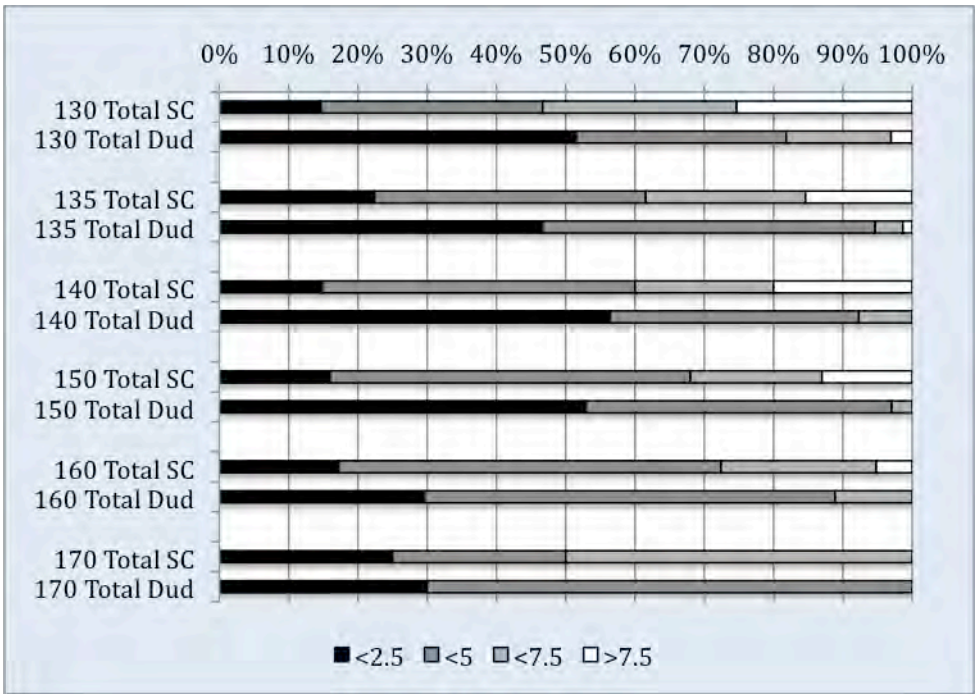


Figure 30. Teleor 003, Sondage 22, C35. Fragmentation of the Starčevo–Criş and Dudeşti components (SC *n*=570, Dud. *n*=218).

The intrusive material in C35 conforms to what I have called *later* Dudeşti as discussed also for the previous complexes. In line with abrasion patterns for the other features, also this material is rather worn, and <2.5 sizes are dominating. Dudeşti ASW are fluctuating between 7–10 g/sherd, with only the top spit reaching above this threshold with nearly 13 g/sherd (see above, Figure 24). The Starčevo–Criş occurs often in large fragments, and some joins occur, especially in U.1672 and U.1675. Abrasion is, however, often severe as well. The absence of strong fragmentation among the Starčevo–Criş pottery suggests that trampling was absent. Possibly we have to do with a midden context, a discrete area where pottery, animal bone and hearth fragments have been discarded. The difference in sizing between the two groups underlines a scenario where the Dudeşti material has been brought in by bioperturbation in an otherwise solid Starčevo–Criş midden context, rodent burrowing enabling particularly smaller sizes to be transported, as pointed out by Schiffer:

> "Sites that have been affected for substantial periods by subsurface foragers will exhibit severely disturbed deposits extending from the surface to a depth of 40 cm or more. […] In addition, as the tunnels of […] deep-burrowing animals fill in or collapse, some artifacts will move downward, below the original base of the cultural deposit" (Schiffer 1987:207f.)

Rodent burrowing must have indeed been extreme: the whole pit surface was pockmarked with animal burrows, and they must have caused severe vertical transportation of small sherds (Figure 31).

Figure 31. Teleor 003, S22, C35, view from the south, showing rodent burrows (photo courtesy SRAP 2004 Archive).

Summarising all the information concerning feature C35, we may conclude that C35 is indeed a pit. Both the creation of the pit and its subsequent infill must have occurred during the Starčevo–Criş period, with the largest ASW of Early Neolithic sherds concentrated in the upper spits of the feature suggesting a midden context. The Dudeşti pottery is seen as an intrusive aspect, and although severe was most likely caused by bioperturbation, more specifically by rodent activity. This is exemplified by the fact that between 80–100 percent of the Dudeşti sherds are smaller than 5 cm, and it should be noted that smallest sizes (less than 2.5 cm) dominate in the upper spits. Bioperturbation will also have caused the intrusion of a wheelmade sherd at 150 cm (U.1605).
The occurrence of similar, large, and occasionally joining Starčevo–Criş ceramic fragments outside the pit proper in the NW carré B.2.4 between 140–160cm (U.1575, U.1604, and U.1671) would confirm that deposition is not per se restricted to the pit; put otherwise, disposal was not directly aimed at filling the pit. Indeed, probably the pit was already (partly?) filled at the time the midden was created and the hearth discarded This particular carré B.2.4, incidentally, confirms the hypothesis of rodent activity as cause for the mix occurring in C35: apart from four Dudeşti sherds, the three units from B.2.4 *outside of the pit* are surprisingly clean of intrusion (units 1671, 1604, 1575). To stress finally is that the hearth fragments are not structurally linked to the pit by any means, nor is there a significant amount of secondary fired sherds among the pottery bulk from this feature.

3.8. C37 (S19)

Complex C37 represents large pit about 2 x 2 m of which perhaps half is present in S19, its north half disappearing in the section. First discovered at a depth of 160 cm, it goes down for 1 meter, before ending at about 250 cm below the surface (Figure 32). As already explained, C37 in fact starts as high up as 100–110 cm below surface according to the N-section drawing. As I was not aware of this at the time of my stay in Alexandria, I have not seen the ceramics from spits 100–150 cm material. At about spit 220 cm below surface, there is a kind of step inside the pit, reducing the pit area. Slightly above this spit, sherds are less fragmented than overlying spits, although quantities are decreasing (see discussion below).

Figure 32. Teleor 003, S19, C37 from the west, with the North profile on the left; clearly visible is the separate basal depression (spits 220–250 cm) (photo courtesy SRAP 2004 Archive).

C37 generally consists of highly fragmented, disjointed material with medium to severe abrasion, although the larger pieces are less or not abraded. Over 80 percent of the Early Dudeşti pottery belongs to the smallest size groups (sherds <5 cm) (Figure 33).

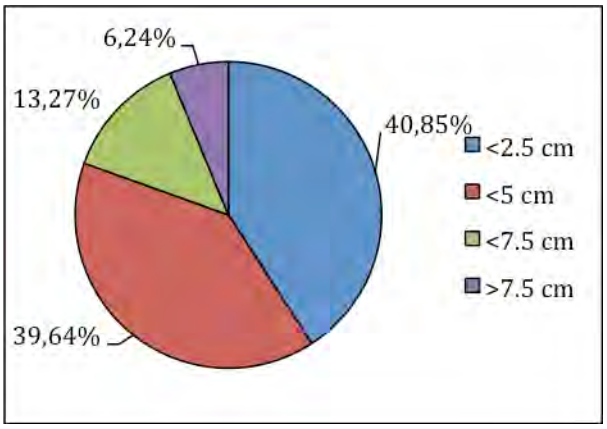


Figure 33. Teleor 003, S22, C37. Relative size distribution of the Early Dudeşti component (*n*=1,151, ASW 16,8 g).

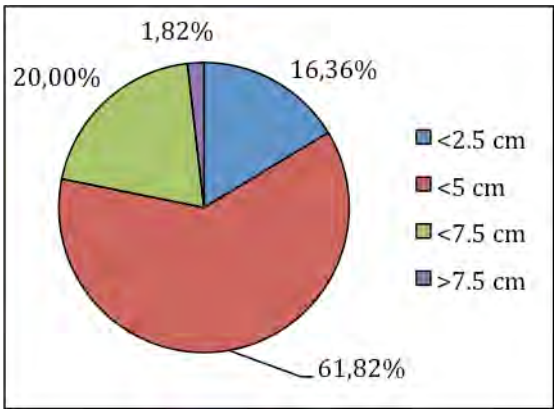


Figure 34. Teleor 003, S22, C37. Relative sizing of the Starčevo–Criş component (*n*=55).

The two pie charts show different fragmentation patterns for the two main periods represented in the C37 feature, and this would lead back to probably different deposition and/or post-depositional circumstances, although the small sample of the Early Neolithic group does not allow much additional interpretation. The majority of the pottery resembles much the 'Early Dudeşti' complexes C40 and C30/38, but also 10 Vădastra and 55 Starčevo-Criş intrusions were counted. The Vădastra sherds occur only between depths 170–190 cm, and only in the two smallest size groups (<5 cm). The Starčevo–Criş fragments occur between depths 160–230 cm, but most of them turned up between 160 and 190 cm. The fragment from depth 230 cm is possibly mislaid since it is

a large, unabraded fragment, while the attribution of the piece from depth 220 cm to the Early Neolithic is not without doubt, and it could be later. What is clear from this patterning is that the earlier (Starčevo–Criș) and later (Vădastra) intrusions do not penetrate down into the smaller basal pit section at 210–250 cm, at once confirming the Early Dudești date of the whole feature. Notable is the high amount of predominantly chaff tempered Dudești types, seemingly slightly different from the two Early Dudești pits mentioned, although unrecognised Vădastra elements might skew this analysis, the sherds often difficult to assess due to their fragmentation. The following units belong to C37.

Table 15. Teleor 003, Sondage 19, C37 units (units in red missing).

Depth below surface/spits	Units
160 cm	1631, 1643, 1655, 1657, 1687
170 cm	1745, 1764, 1767, 1773, 1774
180 cm	1781, 1789, 1795, 1799, 1862
190 cm	1806, 1817, 1819, 1820, 1875, 1876
200 cm	1827, 1835, 1837, 1877, 1878
210 cm	1839, 1842, 1879 (baulk), 1880 (baulk)
220 cm	1845, 1881 (baulk), 1882 (baulk)
230 cm	1847, 1883 (baulk)
240 cm	1848, 1884 (baulk)
250 cm	1885

Despite this general secondary refuse aspect of C37, two largely complete profiles turn up, viz. a category VIIa decorated jar with white-filled decoration, although missing its base and lower body parts (Vessel 2004/29, see Plate N.6), and an *impresso* pot consisting of only three fragments, most of it being absent (Vessel 2004/41, Plate J.3). Vessel 2004/29 spreads from 150 cm down to 230 cm, although none of the pieces seems to come from the additional deepening as visible on the photograph. Vessel 2004/41 derives from U.1847, obviously from the basal depression against the N-section. Very likely additional fragments of these two vessels are present in the unexcavated parts of C37.

Early Dudești sherd quantities in C37 between spits 160–190 cm are almost equal with an average of 227 sherds/spit, to decline strongly starting with spit 200 cm (n=115), to drop to an average of 40 sherds/spit between 210–230 cm. Below that only 10 sherds were counted (Figure 35).

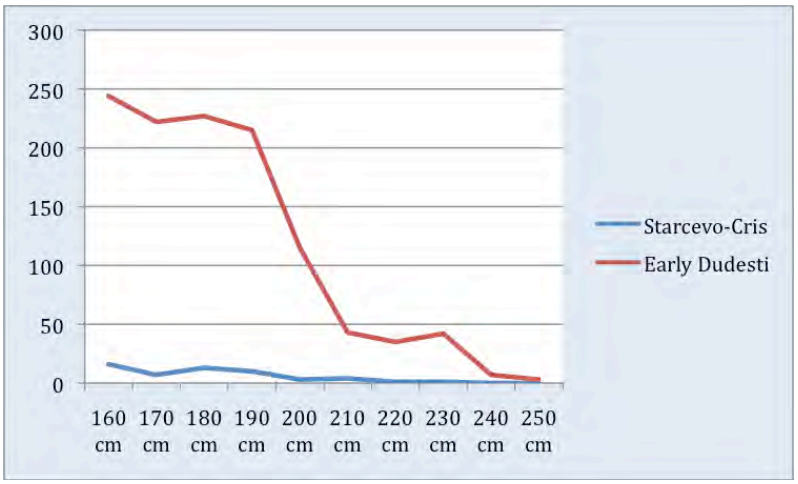


Figure 35. Teleor 003, S19, C37. Raw count of sherds per spit.

Concurring with a drop in sherd quantity, fragmentation changes from spit 210 cm downward, when the largest size group (>7.5 cm) is more in evidence (spits 210 and 230 cm) (Figure 36). Spit 230 cm in particular has the least fragmentation overall, with only about 60 percent made up of the two smallest size groups (sherds <5 cm), where higher up this remains at a constant rate of about 80 percent.

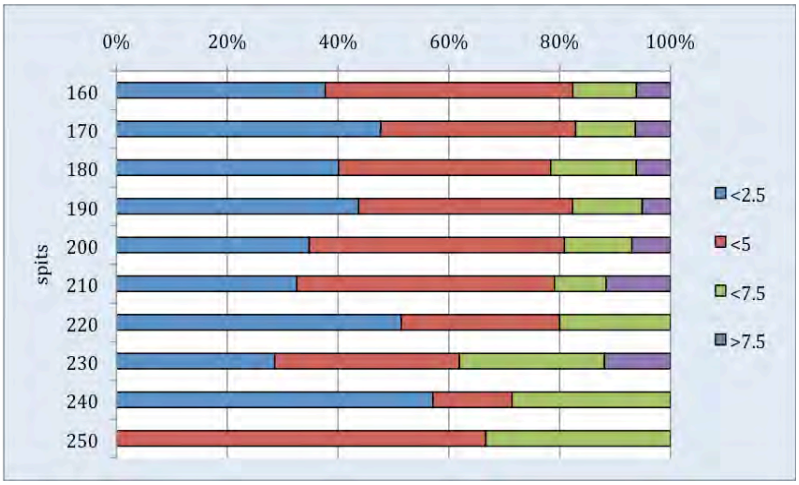


Figure 36. Teleor 003, S19, C37. Fragmentation of the Early Dudeşti pottery (*n*=1,151).

Summarising, pit C37 is interesting because of the smaller depression made at its base and the change in fragmentation occurring at about the point where this depression starts. The absence of Starčevo–Criş pottery in this basal area would suggest that it had a different deposition history than the overlying zones, where both the Early Neolithic and Vădastra intrusions are probably accounted for as due to a infill having occurred during the Dudeşti period, where the pit might have served as a refuse area.

4. The Starčevo–Criş ceramics

Ceramics processed from this stage derive from complexes C33 and C35, representing the earliest features in S19–22. Not taken into account in the analysis are the Starčevo–Criş intrusions occurring in other complexes. As I have elaborated in the 2008 report, Starčevo–Criş pottery at Teleor 003 is most usefully separated in three distinct *ware groups*, with which I mean groups differentiated along their surface treatments. Plain-burnished ware (PBW) includes PBW with incised or grooved decorations; surface-roughened ware (SFRW) stands for all surfaces roughened up or modified by tools or fingernails; red-slipped ware (RSW, including RSW with painted decorations, concerns vessels with an all-over slip firing to distinct red colours. In general, each group is tied to specific vessel categories, although cross cuttings occur, and I will discuss these further below.

Due to this basic linkage between surface and form, a raw count of the total sherd bulk per feature gives already some insights in the kind of vessels most represented (Figure 37). The distribution from C35 concurs more with patterns reached for the S10 features, with PBW and SFRW about equal in quantity, and dominating over RSW. The C33 distribution, by contrast, seems a-normal, given the dominance of the RSW. This is caused by the intentional discard of large portions of several RSW dishes here.

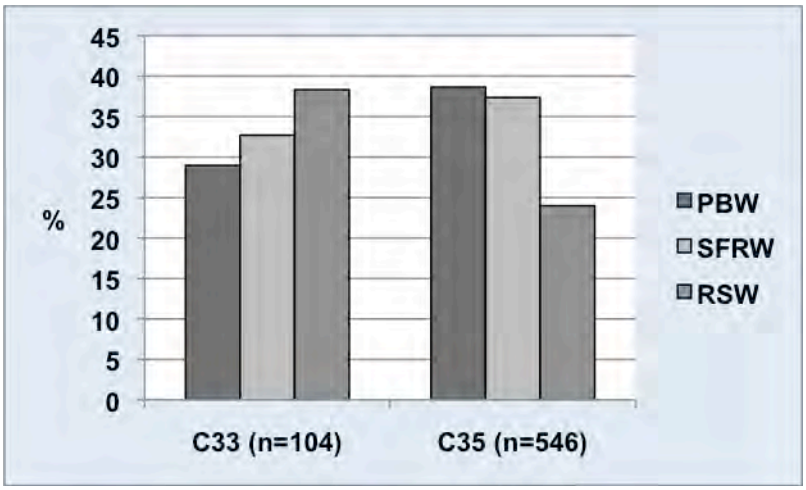


Figure 37. Teleor 003, C33 and C35. Relative frequency of Starčevo-Criş ware groups, based on a raw sherd count.

These raw counts are, for analytical purposes split up into first groupings, where rims, handles, and bases usually supply the best information concerning categorisation. Decorated body sherds are not always easily assignable to specific vessels, while plain body sherds are usually assignable to a ware group but mostly not to specific vessel categories (Table 16). In both features, the proportion of diagnostics versus non-diagnostics is about 27 percent of the total sherd bulk.

Table 16. TELEOR 003, C33 and C35. Raw count of Starčevo–Criş ceramics, split in diagnostic sherds and body sherds (the latter concern undecorated PBW, all over RSW, and SFRW). Diagnostics' proportion to total sherd bulk per feature in brackets.

	C33	C35	Total
Complete vessels	0	0	0
PBW rims	4	38	42
SFRW rims	5	22	27
RSW rims	7	35	42
PBW bases	5	15	20
SFRW bases	2	11	13
RSW bases	1	3	4
PBW handles	1	8	9
RSW handles	0	1	1
PBW grooves (diagn./bs)	0	7	7
RSW painted (diagn./bs)	5	8	13
Lids	0	1	1
Unidentified surf. tr.	0	7	7
Total diagnostics	30 (27.03%)	156 (27.32%)	186
Body sherds	81	415	496
Grand total	111	571	682

4.1. Technology

Building up a vessel in 6th millennium BC Teleorman Valley means beginning first with a mental image of what it is will be built – a 'bowl', 'cup', or 'pot' (and so on) – which also predetermines – often, but not always – the refinement of the clay, and next the surface treatment. Subsequently, invariably, building starts with the base, to which coils or modified coils are added. To paraphrase Glassie (1975:27): thinking the vessel defines it in space, and indeed, pot building may be comparable, even a metaphor?, of building a house. In the EN, base building varies considerably whether we have to do with S-shaped, PBW bowls, SFRW pots or RSW dishes. However, the thick-walled bases associated with the SFRW pots may be seen as conceptually equal to the neat disk bases of the bowls, and indeed, the disk bases used for the PBW pots link both the shape and surface treatment of the bowls with the proportions and (assumed) function of the SFRW pots. Thinking the vessel predetermines surface treatment, and the ultimate category. Thinking the vessel, and starting the base essentially mean the vessel desired is already complete. It is a matter of finishing it in reality.

The plasticity and strength of the clay used by the Starčevo–Criş potters (coming from the river beds being sedimentary, montmorillonite clays) must have been good as is demonstrated by the rather thin vessel walls of the bowls and jars, without vessel walls sagging or being uneven, or by the large dishes. I will discuss further below the specific technological details for each basic-level category separately, but the basic operational chain at work is relevant for all Starčevo–Criş pottery. The vessels, after having been left to dry, are processed further when the clay is in a leatherhard state. Most of the subsequent actions taken on the vessel in the making now follow the same sequence. It is in the leather hard state that vessels are given any kind of surface treatment. For example, *impresso*, whether by tool or fingernail, will be applied now, and likewise, slashes, incisions and grooves are created only now, ensuring that lines are tight. Also

clay appliqué in the form of bands, which are subsequently impressed, must be added when the vessel is in the leather hard state (Rye 1981:89ff.).

In the case of burnished surfaces, like all of the PBW group, as well as the insides of SFRW group, vessels were first smoothed with a wet hand. Subsequently, surfaces were routinely provided with diluted clay slips (in the case of the PBW group and the interiors of the SFRW group), or special slips intended to modify the outward appearance of vessels (in the case of the RSW group). Painted decorations were added now as well. All these actions took place *before* the burnishing process, but, importantly, while the vessel was still in the leather hard state. Conceived differently, when the vessels were in this state of drying, the potters had to move fast and decisions had to be made quickly. This in fact may be part of the reason why specific surface treatments are linked to specific vessels: the entire operational chain which we have seen determines the final vessel ensures that vessels are finished within the time available for carrying the various steps involved with each specific ware group and vessel category.

Burnishing has the effect of strengthening the vessel considerably, making it more resistant to breakage. Burnishing also will reduce permeability (cf. Wallace 1989). While this process may have been carried out with help of a cloth, pebbles or bone tools, two pottery burnishers, so-called loamers, made of reused sherds, were found among the C33 material, one of them made from a RSW large dish (Figure 38, Figure 39).

Figure 38. Teleor 003, Sondage 22, C35 (U.1735). Starčevo–Criș loamer from a reused body sherd.

Figure 39. Teleor 003, Sondage 22, C35 (U.1605:7). Starčevo–Criş loamer made from body sherd.

We will see below that Starčevo–Criş potters used a variety of primary forming techniques fro building their vessels, adapting to each vessel's 'prototypic' qualities. In itself, the existence of this technical diversity, the ability to choose from several options, makes this assemblage sophisticated, and its producers technologically versatile, and expert.

4.2. Categorization & quantification

The category structure for the Starčevo-Criş stage at Teleor 003 is described in the previous report. The S10 Early Neolithic assemblages and the present ones are largely similar, and any inconsistency between the two is probably sample bias only. In C33 and C35, for example, the basic-level category of Goblets has not been attested, neither are large holemouth pots (Vb), small collared SFRW pots (Vc), Angle-neck PBW pots (Vg), Sieves (IX) and Miniatures (X). By contrast, circumstantial evidence now suggests to me of more confidently inserting a new subordinate category of Tubular lug pots (Vh). Also, two thin-walled holemouth vessels with small-mouth diameters not readily classifiable in the existing framework were put as a new basic-level category XII of Holemouth beakers, subsumed under the covert category of Special Forms. Finally, the presence of one 'altar' leg in the present sample allows inserting this category under Special Forms as well. The category structure for the C33 and C35 assemblages is then modified as follows (Table 17).

Table 17. Category structure of TELEOR 003 ceramic assemblages, Starčevo–Criş stage, C33 and C35. Within the superordinate category of *POTTERY* the syntax is A. COVERT CATEGORY; I. Basic-level category; a. subordinate category. Non-occurring categories are put in brackets and italics, the added ones are put bold.

POTTERY

A. OPEN FORMS (3)

I. Goblets (1)

a. Pedestaled goblets

II. Bowls (3)

a. Small–medium-sized S-shaped bowls [H≤D]

b. Inturned carinated bowls

c. Hemispherical bowls

III. Dishes (4)

a. Small-sized dishes [D≤20 cm]

b. Medium-sized dishes [20<D<27]

c. Large-sized dishes [D>27]

d. Carinated dishes

IV. Basins (1)

B. CLOSED FORMS (3)
V. Pots (8)
a. Holemouth pots SFRW (small/medium size)
b. [Holemouth pots SFRW (large)]
c. [Collared pots SFRW (small) [D≤10]]
d. Collared pots SFRW (medium) [10<D≤20]
e. Collared pots SFRW (large) [D>20]
f. Spherical pots PBW [H=D]
g. [Angle-neck pots PBW]
h. Tubular-lug pots PBW
VI. Thick-walled, large sized vessels (1)
VII. Jars [D≤ 2H] (2)
a. Small-mouthed decorated jars
b. Plain-burnished jars
C. SPECIAL FORMS (5)
VIII. Lids (1)
[IX. Sieves] (1)
[X. Miniatures] (1)
XI. 'Altars' (1)
XII. Holemouth beakers (1)

How do the various categories distribute over the sample studied? To assess this question, we must rely on sherds yielding potential information concerning attribution on the category level. Most reliable in this respect are rim sherds, where base-, handle- and body sherds are less unambiguous. Relying on diagnostic rim sherds for assessing basic-level categories (Bowls, Dishes, Pots, and so on) involves reducing the total sherd bulk drastically (
Table 18). Out of 683 fragments, only 17.72 percent, or 121 diagnostic rim sherds remain serving as the basis on which to build our categorisation.

Table 18. TELEOR 003, C33 and C35. Raw count on Starčevo–Criș basic-level categories based on diagnostic rim sherds and the 'altar' fragment (in brackets total sherd bulk per pit).

	C33 (n=111)	C35 (n=572)	Total (n=683)
Goblets	0	2	2
column %		2.0	1.65
Bowls	4	25	29
	19.05	25.0	23.97
Dishes	10	29	39
	47.62	29.0	32.23
Basins	1	1	2
	4.76	1.0	1.65
Pots	5	31	36
	23.81	31.0	29.75
Large vessels	0	2	2
		2.0	1.65
Jars	1	6	7
	4.76	6.0	5.79
Lids	0	1	1
		1.0	0.83

'Altars'	0	1	1
		1.0	0.83
Holemouth beakers	0	2	2
		2.0	1.65
TOTAL	21	100	121

In graphical form, the dominance of the basic-level categories of Bowls, Dishes and Pots stands out, whereas all the other categories occur sporadically, with only the Jars category amounting to nearly 6 percent of the total diagnostic sherd bulk (Figure 40).

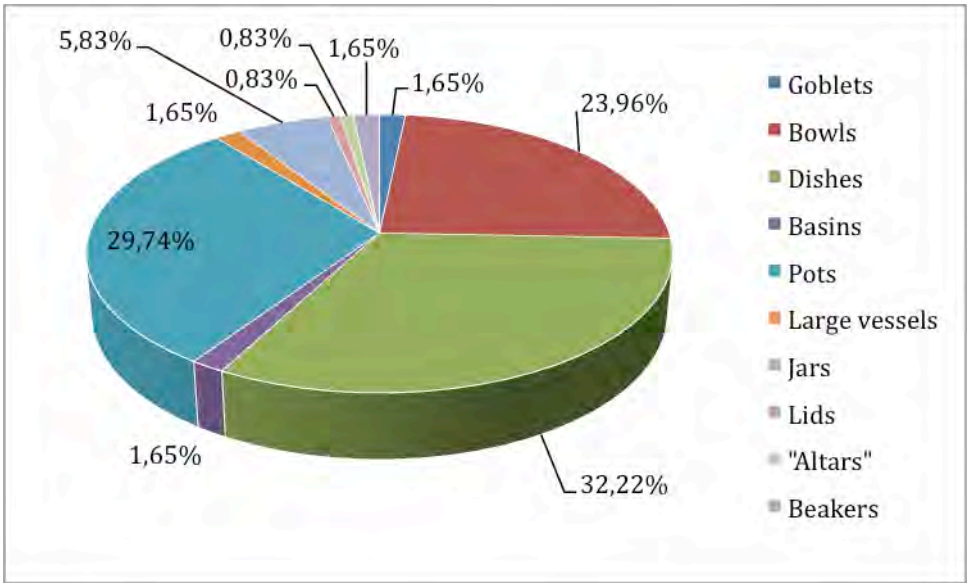


Figure 40. Teleor 003, C33 and C35. Relative distribution of Starčevo–Criş basic-level categories, based on diagnostic rim sherds and 'altar' fragment (*n*=121).

Of course, the above result, based as it is on a raw count of diagnostic rim sherds where each rim is taken to represent one individual vessel, is skewed since it does not take into account the possibility that more than one rim may represent one vessel. In order to redress this, I have calculated the rim *eves* per basic-level category, where each rim is seen as a vessel percentage within each category, by tabulating the radius percentages for each rim (Table 19, Figure 41).

Table 19. Teleor 003, C33 and C35. Starčevo–Criş vessel *eves* based on rim sherds and handle sets.

	Total	Total radius % (diagn. rims)		Total rim eves	Total handle eves
		C33	C35		
Goblets	2	0	20 (2)	0.2	
Bowls	29	60 (4)	290 (25)	3.5	
Dishes	39	130 (10)	300 (29)	4.3	
Basins	2	10 (1)	10 (1)	0.2	
Pots	35	40 (4)	390 (31)	4.3	
• Tub. lugs	6				1.5
Large vessels	2	0	20 (2)	0.2	
Jars	7	10 (1)	90 (6)	1.0	
Lids	1	(0)	Nm (1)		Nm
Holemouth beakers	2	0	30 (2)	0.3	
TOTALS	125	250% (20)	1,150% (99)	14.0	1.5

The tubular lugs are taken to have occurred four times on each pot, although this is no certainty, complete examples not being present. In comparison to the raw count, the basic-level category of Pots, including of the handle *eves*, is now dominant over that of Dishes (which, being large in diameter, tend to break more easily in many pieces therefore generating higher raw counts), while the category of Bowls is slightly less popular. The inclusion of the tubular lugs is not skewing the picture, since the one rim sherd associating with such handles is left out of this calculation (type Vh, *n*=1).

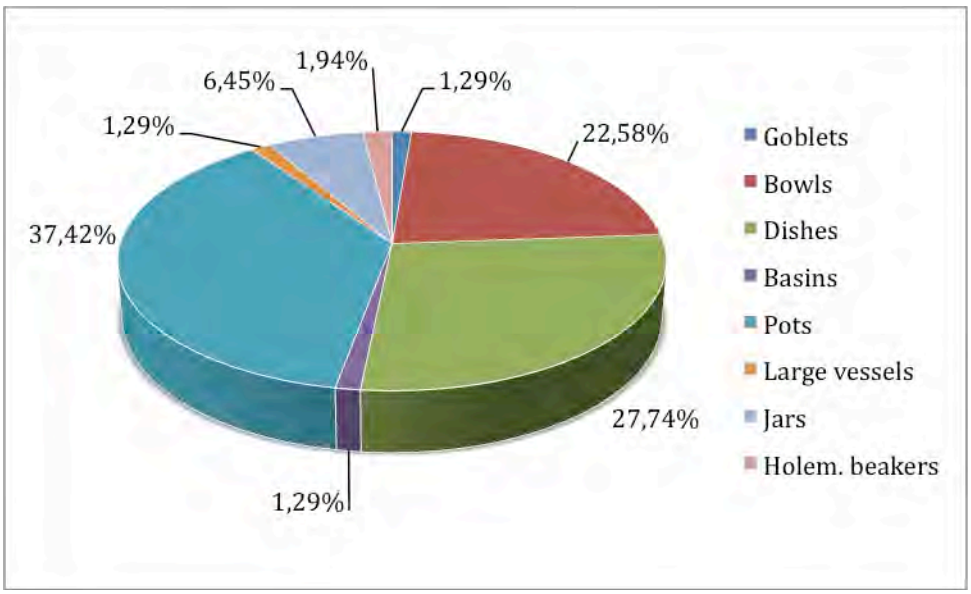


Figure 41. Teleor 003, C33 and C35. Relative distribution of Starčevo–Criş basic-level categories, based on rim and handle *eves* (*n*=125, total *eves* 15.5).

The Starčevo–Criş sample from C33 and C35, not only being limited in size, is also restricted as to reliable statements that can be made on the diagnostics themselves, foremost due to their fragmentation. Calculating the degree of brokenness[4] of the assemblages, as far as can be measured based on the rim *eves*, yields a high overall

[4] Brokenness is the proportion of the number of sherds to the *eves*.

fragmentation with mean values for both C33 and C35 towards 9 (Table 20), another way of expressing that the majority of rims are preserved for 10 percent of their radius only.

Table 20. TELEOR 003, C33 and C35. Degree of brokenness of the Starčevo–Criş assemblage along basic-level categories.

	C33 (*n*=21)	C35 (*n*=98)
Goblets	-	10
Bowls	6.67	8.62
Dishes	7.69	9.68
Basins	10	10
Pots	10	8
Large vessels	-	10
Jars	10	6.67
Holem. beakers	-	6.67
Mean	8.87	8.71

What this table tells, is that considering the quantitatively dominant basic-level categories, both Bowls and Dishes are much less broken in C33 than they are in C35, but that this is reversed for Pots. Brokenness being here established along the measurement of the radius, less brokenness suggests the presence of radii preserved above the 10 percent unit. In other words, in C33 bowls and dishes include several items with radii above 10 percent. In C35 foremost pots include several fragments with rims larger than 10 percent preserved. Interestingly, dishes are mostly fragmented to the 10 percent level in C35.

Measuring completeness yields similar results compared to the Starčevo–Criş material in Sondage 10, with mean rim completeness of 0.12 (as compared to 0.11 in Sondage 10), and mean base completeness nearly doubling that (Table 21).

Table 21. TELEOR 003, C33 and C35. Completeness index of Starčevo–Criş assemblage (in brackets total diagnostics/total radius percentage).

	Rims	Bases
C33	0.12 (21/260%)	0.19 (8/150%)
C35	0.12 (104/1210%)	0.24 (30/730%)
Mean	0.12	0.22

Given that bases are less easily fragmented into 10% radii due both to their flatness and their smaller overall diameter, C35 base completeness suggests more complete base parts are to be found in C35 rather than in C33. Combined with the above data on brokenness, the main distinction, then, between C33 and C35 is that the former seems to involve a small, single event deposition of a few broken vessels, *viz.* bowls and dishes, e.g. an *ad hoc* discard, including some 10% radii of the other categories possibly postdating that event. C35 with its more evenly distributed brokenness among the main categories (bowls, dishes and pots) would suggest a longer-term deposition enabling brokenness to mirror actual availability and discard of categories. The completeness

index of bases for C35 and the degree of brokenness of Pots go hand in hand and indicate that for some reason broken pots were slightly more present in C35 than dishes and bowls. An atypical radius distribution in C33 of high 10% and high 30% strengthens the inference on discrete deposition, whereas the breakdown in C35 follows a normal curve (Table 22).

Table 22. TELEOR 003, C33 and C35. Percentage factor distribution of radius measurements on the Starčevo–Criș assemblage (in brackets total amount of diagnostics).

Radius	C33 (*n*=30)	C35 (*n*=135)
10%	67.74 (21)	56.08 (92)
20%	6.45 (2)	16.46 (27)
30%	19.35 (6)	7.32 (12)
40%	3.23 (1)	1.83 (3)
50%	-	0.61 (1)

Finally, I have attempted a breakdown into subordinate categories to see how these behave in a more detailed level (Table 23).

Table 23. Teleor 003, C33 and C35 *eves* on the subordinate level, based on rim sherds.

Subordinate category	Number of separate rims	Accumulated radius	eve	Brokenness	Completeness
Ia	2	20%	0.2	10	0.1
IIa	22	260%	2.6	8.46	0.12
IIb	2	20%	0.2	10	0.1
IIc	5	70%	0.7	7.14	0.14
IIIa	2	20%	0.2	10	0.1
IIIb	3	40%	0.4	7.5	0.13
IIIc	21	240%	2.4	8.75	0.11
IIId	2	20%	0.2	10	0.1
IV	2	20%	0.2	10	0.1
Va	3	30%	0.3	10	0.1
Vb	0	0			
Vc	1	10%	0.1	10	0.1
Vd	11	130%	1.3	8.46	0.12
Ve	9	150%	1.5	6	0.17
Vf	8	80%	0.8	10	0,1
Vg	0	0			
Vh	1	10%	0.1	10	0.1
VI	2	20%	0.2	10	0.1
VIIa	4	50%	0.5	8	0.13
VIIb	3	50%	0.5	6	0.17
VIII	0	0			
IX	0	0			
X	0	0			
XI	2	30%	0.3	6.67	0.15

Totals	105	1,270%	12.7

From this break-down into subordinate level categories, it follows that among the fragmented rim sherds, small–medium sized bowls (IIa), large-sized dishes (IIIc), medium–large collard holemouth pots (Vd–e) and PBW pots (Vf) are the most occurring. Sieves and miniatures are absent, as are large holemouth pots (Vb) and PBW angle-neck pots (Vg), when compared to the Sondage 10 results. Lids do not occur among the rims, but a body sherd is present. The one 'altar' fragment has not been included. Overall, this assemblage is well comparable to that of Sondage 10, C13, where the same vessel types characterize the spectrum.

4.2.1. Bowls

The manufacturing process of some of the bowls is not well visible, the slipping and burnishing of these vessels obliterating production methods. No clear traces of coils could be seen in the sections of the thinner walled S bowls, but thicker walled vessels do show clear coils. Given the good plasticity of the clay, I assume that the thinner walled specimens are made by what Arnold (1993:81) has called modified coiling – in this case meaning that a wide, flat coil is drawn up to form entirely the lower vessel walls. An alternative method would involve using small clay slabs to form the lower and upper bodies, and smoothen them out much like was done with coils. The sharply inflexed profiles suggest a process of two stages, below and above the inflexion point, where building was started with the base and lower body; after some drying to allow the this part to strengthen out, one would proceed with the next stage, involving adding the shoulders and modelling the rim zones (cf. Rye 1981:21).

With pointed or slightly rounded lips, profiles are S-shaped (Plate A.1–6) or rather inturning (Plate A.7), though still preserving an S-shaped concept. Bases are usually of a low disk shape (Plate A.6, 10), but one example of a concave base is present as well (Plate A.9). Proportions are often slightly squat, where upper and lower body segments are of equal height, mirrored around the inflexion point. Bowl sizes vary, with diameters spreading between 11 and 22 cm without that an average size can be said to be dominant, mainly due to the small sample retrieved (Figure 42). Wall thickness varies between 6–9 mm, but thicknesses of 7–8 mm are the most common. While usually plain burnished, five out of 22 rims are covered in and out with an all-over red slip (Plate A.4). Otherwise, bowls were originally covered inside and outside with a diluted clay slip that was medium burnished. Walling is even, and diameters, lips and base features are all well executed and regular. Only slightly different in form is a strongly inflected bowl of similar aspect (Plate A.6), which approaches the category of inturned carinated bowls (IIb). Better conforming to the IIb group, as defined also in the 2008 report is a bowl with a more pronounced carination (Plate A.7). It also differs from the S-shaped bowls in that it is decorated with shallow vertical zigzag grooves on the shoulder, suggesting that such bowls may indeed constitute an emically separate (subordinate) category. These grooves are burnished-in rather than deeply incised, and burnished together with the all-over surface finish. A single example of a hemispherical bowl (IIc) has a small knob just below the widest diameter, which may have occurred four times on the vessel. It conforms to the other bowls in general size and finish, and the form may be conceptualised with a similar concave- or disk base (Plate A.8).

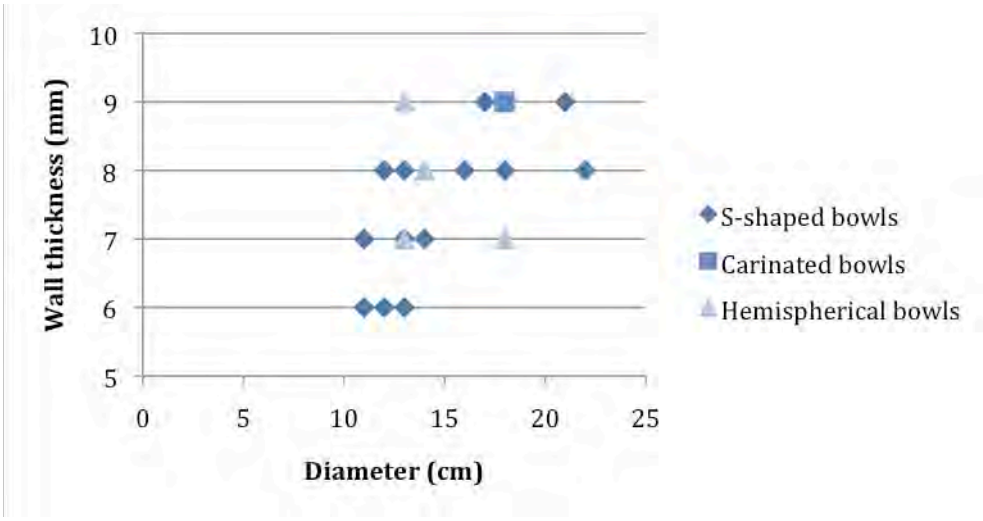


Figure 42. TELEOR 003. Rim diameter by wall thickness of Starčevo–Criş bowls from C33 and C35.

4.2.2. Dishes

Always provided with an all-over red slip coating, which is medium or highly burnished, this conspicuous basic-level category comes into three distinct subordinate-level categories. Small-sized dishes (IIIa) are rare in the current sample, and display convex sided, plain and pointed lips. Such small dishes may be conceptualised as having low pedestal bases, as indicated on Plate B.1. As with the larger pedestals, such small ones are hollowed out by scraping away the surplus clay. Dishes with larger diameters (IIIb) represent deep, vertically walled forms, not unlike the well known 'tulip beakers' from Bulgarian Thrace (Karanovo I–II). All examples have their outsides decorated with black painted motifs (Plate B.4), of which few traces remain, although one rim fragment has a net pattern inside a V suspended from the rim (Plate B.5). Lips of such vessels were accentuated with a continuous serrated zone, or small upturned arcs. The insides are slipped all-over without any trace of additional decoration. Although complete vessels are not preserved, I have attempted a reconstruction on paper by inserting a solid pedestal to one such vertical-sided dish, where the orientation of the pedestal wall suggests a rather restricted shape, opposed to the more everted forms of the other dish categories (Plate B.5). Such medium-sized dishes thus can take on substantial forms, with an estimated height of about 18 cm, where the mouth diameter is 15 cm.

A similar reconstruction has been carried out on one of the large-sized dishes (Plate C.2). Although the particular pedestal fragment used here represents a larger or thicker-walled vessel overall, the general large dish form obtained will approach the original concept without a doubt. Among dish-rim sherds, subordinate-level category IIIc (Large-sized dishes) is the most common. Diameters are often over 30 cm and in two measured cases are over 40 cm, and this may represent the normal size since the >30 cm items could not precisely be measured. Wall thicknesses start only with 9 mm, and maximum measured thickness is 14 mm (Figure 43).

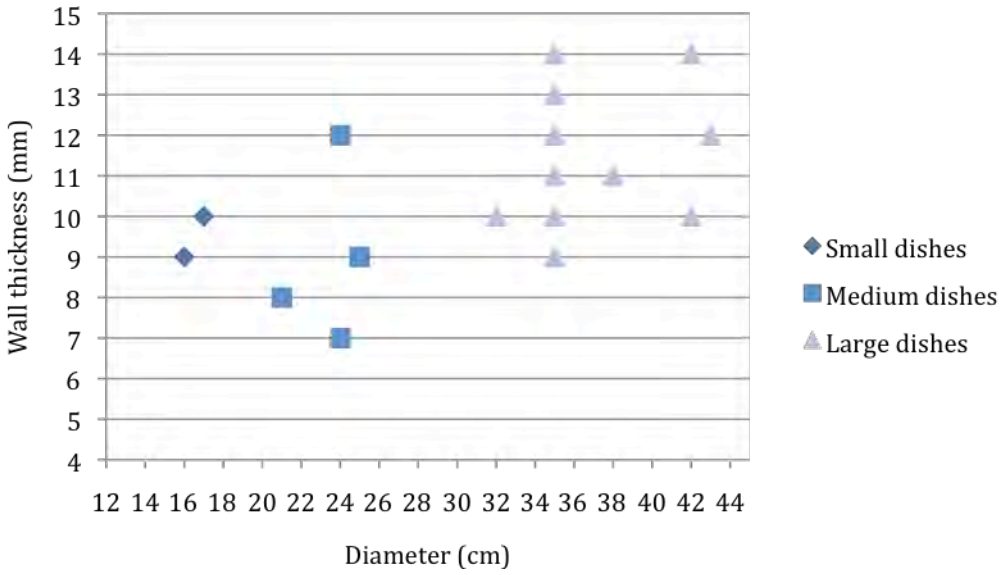


Figure 43. TELEOR 003. Rim diameter by wall thickness of Starčevo–Criş dishes from C33 and C35.

Pedestal manufacture started with a thick centre coil to which were added other thick coils forming the exterior sides. To this base further coils were added to form the dish proper. The method is well visible on a massive pedestal base belonging to medium-sized dish, and the inside of the base clearly shows crack marks along the coils (Figure 44, Figure 45; see also Plate C.3). I would suspect that for these large dishes use has been made of some sort of mould during the building process to prevent sagging of the heavy, everted walls. Occasionally, the pedestals were scraped hollow, and this may have been particularly the case with the larger dish sizes (Plate C.3–4).

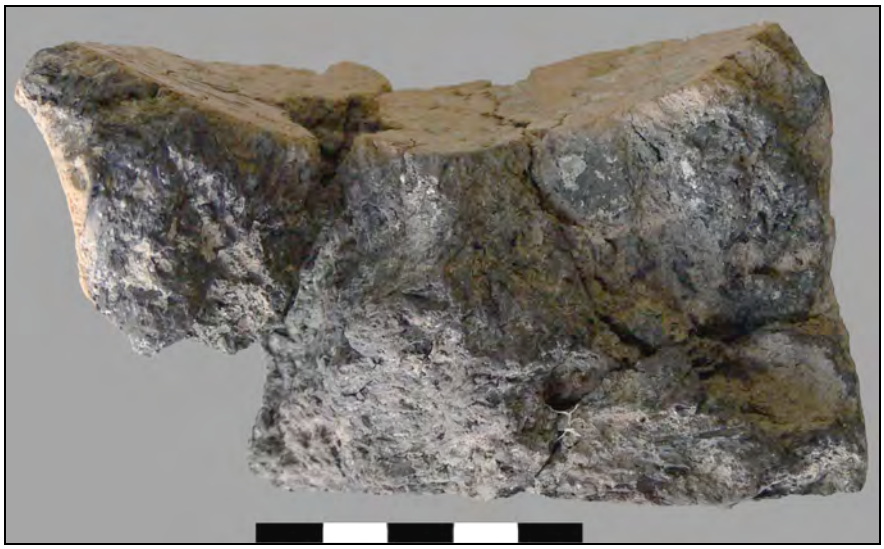


Figure 44. Teleor 003, C35 (U.1672:15). Pedestal base from a RSW medium-sized vertical dish; frontal view showing coil system (see Plate B.3 for profile drawing).

Figure 45. Inside area of same fragment, showing crack traces following coil system.

Interestingly, several pedestals are blackened on their bottom sides, probably because of the firing process, suggesting the dishes where standing upright, preventing oxygen to reach the bottom sides (Figure 46).

Figure 46. Teleor 003, C35 (U.1672:15). Same fragment, showing evidence of reduced firing on bottom side. Note also crack along coil.

Several large dish and pedestal fragments show blackened and/or attritioned zones and spots on their interior surfaces, suggesting involvement with heat (Figure 47, Figure 48). Also the large pedestal base from Plate C.4 has a blackened interior base zone.

Figure 47. Teleor 003, C35. Inside surface of a body sherd from a large-sized RSW dish showing soot traces on interior.

Figure 48. Teleor 003, Sondage 20, C33. Large-sized RSW dish with blackening traces on interior.

This same fragment, interestingly, bears no trace of a red slip. Since, however, several large-dish body sherds belonging to areas near the base zone have vague traces of red only, I suspect that occasionally the lower portions of such dishes remained unslipped or that the coating thinned out substantially towards the base area. Alternatively we would deal with plain burnished large dishes, of which, however, no evidence among the rim sherds has been forthcoming. The red-slipped pedestal base of Plate C.3, not being circular, would suggest a scalloped base. One such pedestal was retrieved from S10. A few instances of large dishes have a hole of approximately 1 cm in diameter, 2 cm below the rim, drilled from both sides after firing, or else drilled from inside to outside (U.1574, U.1672, U.1720). A large IIIc RSW dish rim shows repair before firing: a small vertical strip of clay is applied on the outside rim. Black paint is badly preserved usually, while one possible instance occurs carrying bichrome (white and black) paint (U.1576).

4.2.3. Pots

This basic-level category can be split up in two groups based on their surface treatment. Pots with some sort of surface roughening, including nail- or tool *impresso*, barbotine, linear incisions, or simple roughening without further workings constitute by far the most common group. Of a globular shape, rim zones are either simply restricted, but more often the rim is formed into a small collar, offset from the body (Plate D.4–5). Bases are mostly disk shaped, but a few simple flat bases are present as well (Plate D.6). True holemouths do not exist in the sample studied – even with those classified as such, rim zones are modelled so as to give it a slight vertical turn, or else they are rolled over outward (Plate D.2–3).

This blurring of categories is less at play in the subordinate category of large-sized collared holemouths (Plates E–F.1). Also these have distinct collars, and often they seem to carry appliqué strips running from the shoulder downward in a slightly oblique direction. Indeed, such appliquéd vessels might form a distinct emic group, possibly with a discrete function contrasting with the medium-sized pots, but with the evidence in hand this is difficult to substantiate. In addition, it is not clear to what degree rim top impressions belong to such appliquéd pots as well (Plate E.3–4). The S10 ceramics did suggest a correlation, but the present sample is ambiguous in this respect (compare Plate E.2 with E.4). The general shape of such larger SFRW pots could be reconstructed on paper with some confidence (Plate F.1–2). Although it is not entirely sure that the body sherd does belong to the rim, surface treatments of both pieces as well wall thickness are similar. The form will approach the general idea of Starčevo-Criș SFRW pots, and this particular instance comes with a rim diameter of 21 cm and an estimated height of 23 cm. This rule of proportion of about 1:1 might very well be applicable to the other pots.

Tabulating the surface roughening methods used on Starčevo–Criș pots indicates that simple surface roughening and nail-pinching are among the most common treatments, with only very few instances of real barbotine (Table 24).

Table 24. TELEOR 003, C33, C35. Starčevo–Criş distribution of surface roughened fragments (in brackets total amount of sherds per feature).

	C33 (n=111)	C35 (n=571)	Total
Simple surface roughening	6	57	63
Column %	*23.08*	*36.31*	*34.43*
Barbotine	1	2	3
	3.85	*1.27*	*1.64*
Incised/grooved/slashed	5	27	32
	19.23	*17.2*	*17.49*
Nail-pinched	10	22	32
	38.46	*14.01*	*17.49*
1 direction nail impresso	0	15	15
	0	*9.55*	*8.2*
Appliqué	3	23	26
	11.54	*14.65*	*14.21*
Implement	1	11	12
	3.85	*7.01*	*6.56*
TOTAL	26	157	183

Not included are SFRW unidentified sherds (*n*=56).

A graph shows more clearly the differences between C33 and C35 (Figure 49).

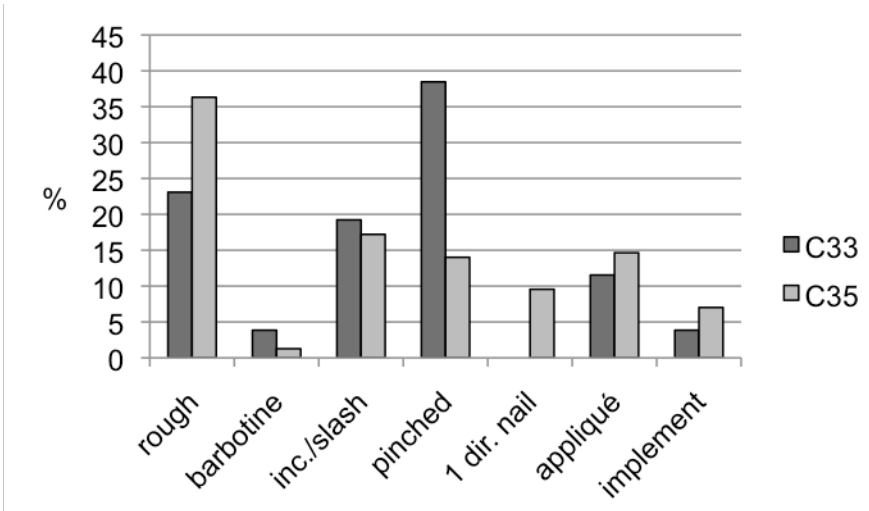


Figure 49. Relative frequency distribution of Starčevo–Criş surface-roughening methods, comparing features C33 (n=26) and C35 (n=157).

Since the SFRW sample of C33 is small, not too much can be said when comparing both pits. However, noticeable is the strong contrast in the pinched group, and the absence of 1-direction *impresso* in C33. This could mean a possible asynchronicity between both features, where pinching might suggest an earlier stage, and a move towards single nail imprint a later development, bearing in mind that pinching is almost non-existent in the Dudeşti stage. Simultaneously, both features are occurring at the same depth of 120 cm below surface, and a larger sample would be needed from C33 to confidentially differentiate the two events temporally.

Like we noticed concerning coil building methods used for the pedestal bases, the thick disk bases used preferably for SFRW vessels, are built up in the same way. Potters started with a centre coil, around which other coils are added, then proceeded to add upon this, working upward (Plates F.9, G.1). All SFRW pots, their exteriors roughened and scraped possibly with a flint tool or wiped with grass or straw, have very carefully treated insides. Interior walls are very even and smooth, always coated with a diluted clay slip, and medium burnished. The coating often runs up to the middle of the rim top, while also the exterior collars are medium burnished. Interestingly, exterior base zones are burnished cursorily as well. The many base fragments associated with SFRW pots still show this diluted clay slip and careful finish clearly, testifying that the entire inside surface was treated this way. Occasionally, SFRW pot-base fragments show signs of attrition and use: in a few instances inside base zones are crackled and paled in colour suggesting heat treatment of these pots, possibly connected with boiling (Figure 50) (cf. the replica tests carried out on such vessels, Van As *et al*. 2005). Another disk base fragment of which only the centre is preserved also displays crackle marks (C35, U.1577).

Figure 50. Teleor 003, C35 (U.1672:16). Body sherd near base zone of a SFRW collared holemouth pot (Ve) showing crackled and paled surface possibly because of water cooking (see Plate F.1–2 for profile).

Rather similar in shape to the SFRW collared pots is the second group of pots. These PBW vessels (subordinate category Vf) have similar proportions and possibly similar heavy disk bases as well (Plate F.3–5). A complete example is known from S10, C12 (2008 report). One rim carries a shallow grooved, crosshatched pattern, a decoration type also noted in the S10 sample. Circumstantial evidence related to these pots suggests they were also used in the cooking process. A rim has blackening traces on the interior shoulder (C35, U.1573), while also the base fragment on Plate F.5 has blackening traces. A thick PBW disk base has a crackled interior base zone and black smudge traces on the exterior body (Figure 51, Figure 52). The base itself is secondary fired, but not so the walling of the vessel. This appears to be clear proof that such vessels

were used in direct heating. Interestingly, these PBW pots do not show the careful finish, as do the SFRW pots. Although lightly or medium burnished, there is no diluted clay slip on the inside (although the exteriors are covered with such a coating) and occasionally surfaces are quite rough and lightly finished only. This aspect would suggest a differential primary use intended for these particular vessels. Indeed, the example mentioned above could indicate that these pots were used directly over the fire instead of the indirect heat treatment inferred for the SFRW pots.

Figure 51. Teleor 003, C35 (U.1606:7). Starčevo–Criş PBW disk base showing exterior base and base edge use-wear, and blackening of lower body (see Plate F.5 for profile drawing).

Figure 52. Same base, inside, showing crackled surface.

Hesitantly, an additional subordinate level category of Tubular lug pots (Vh) has been distinguished in the corpus (Plate F.6) although no direct evidence is present in the sample, it is inferred from the presence of a few restricted S-shaped body sherds with neck and globular body. These would concern rather small-mouthed vessels with globular bodies and similar sized disk bases (Plate F.7–9). Isolated fragments of tubular lugs occurring in the sample are tentatively linked to such necked, globular vessels. Given the presence of such types in contemporary SC assemblages (cf. e.g. Trestiana or Karanovo I–II), I have inferred the existence of this category along the same lines here. The lugs found are always tubular, and the wall thicknesses of the preserved samples vary between 6 and 14 mm. The insides of the vessel walls, when preserved, are scraped, lightly smoothed, or low burnished at best, where it was obviously physically impossible to reach the insides. Importantly, one such lug fragment has a sooted interior wall, suggesting vessels outfitted with such handles may have been involved in cooking. Handles will have been applied in the leather hard state since the pressure used to apply

them will then not cause breakage of the vessel (cf. Rye 1981:21), nor would shrinkage result as would be the case if wall and handle would be attached during different drying states.

Mouth diameters of pots from C33 and C35 tend to cluster between 15 and 25 cm, which means that, if we keep to the 1:1 rule of proportion as inferred *supra*, heights are about the same. Wall thicknesses are preferably between 8 and 10 mm (Figure 53).

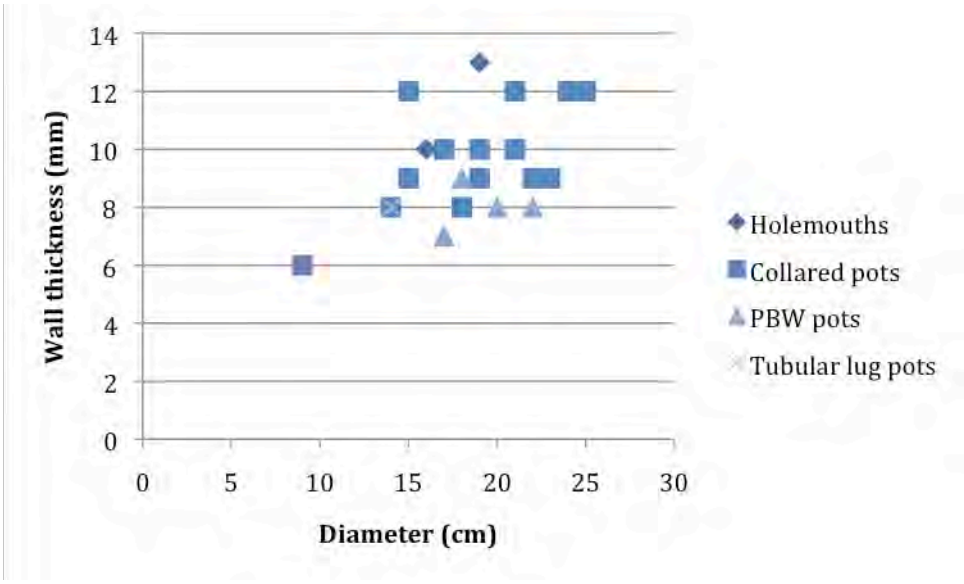


Figure 53. TELEOR 003. Rim diameter by wall thickness of Starčevo–Criş pots from C33 and C35.

4.2.4. Thick-walled, large-sized vessels

This basic-level category (VI) remains elusive, where only a large disk base with surface roughening, and a thick-walled body sherd with imitation-nail *impresso* suggest the presence of vessels exceeding the general size of the larger variants of the SFRW pots categories (Plate G.1–2). In contrast to these pots, inside surface are only lightly burnished, and a coating with a diluted clay slip could not be observed. If this category is valid, such large vessels must have been very few, and only a small number of sherds are attributable to them.

4.2.5. Jars

Occurring in low numbers, the existence of this category is based on restricted rim sherds with small diameters, and shoulders suggesting globular, closed vessels. Based on their surface treatment, I have separated jars into two subordinate categories. The S10 evidence proved the presence of well-made, red-slipped, small globular vessels with a funnel-necked rim, decorated with black paint (VIIa). Such a rim type is present in the current sample as well (Plate G.3). One example from S10 also had a small tubular lug, originally occurring four times on the vessel. Also in the present sample a small, eroded handle fragment is present (C35, U.1602) of the vertically pierced knob type, still carrying red slip on its exterior. The S10 evidence further suggests such jars were fitted out with small pedestal bases. Likely, interior surfaces of these vessels were lightly smoothed only, the narrowness of the mouth diameter preventing intensive treatment of the insides (evidence from two RSW body sherds, C35, U.1721, and U.1735).

The PBW jars (subordinate category VIIb) (Plate G.4) might have been provided with perforated lugs as well, and thus would form a variant on the supposed tubular lug pots discussed *supra*. Alternatively, it is possible to suppose these jars have small pierced knobs rather than the larger tubular lugs, and there are therefore grounds to distinguish between both categories. Inside rim zones are burnished as well, but no body sherds could be attributed to such jars, to see whether they were burnished as well. In contrast to the RSW jars, PBW jars will have been provided small disk bases, much along the line of S-shaped bowls (Plate G.5).

4.2.6. Lids
Only one lid fragment has been retrieved, being a body sherd in PBW, with probably four evenly distributed perforations on the top (Plate G.6). Its small diameter would suggest use as part of a jar type.

4.2.7. Holemouth beakers
Two rather thin walled holemouth rims suggest a hitherto unknown category of well-made beakers in the PBW group with diameters of 12 cm (Plate G.7–8). Since no PBW pedestal bases were found, such vessels could have been provided with small disk bases as also used for the S-shaped bowls.

4.2.8. 'Altars'
Only a single fragment has been found, of a type quite often encountered on contemporary sites (Plate G.9). This particular piece is possibly to be reconstructed as having four legs joining to a sort of platform supporting a shallow dish. The handle section is rather idiosyncratic and I know no parallels for it. Importantly, the inside of the leg has charring traces, suggesting exposure to heat. 'Altars' is the traditional label assigned to such vessels, although the charring traces in combination with a receptacle on top could suggest their use as lamps (against which would speak their rarity), or as devices to heat and liquefy some substance.

4.3. Evaluation

A straightforward, but not altogether limited assemblage, the Starčevo–Criş potters on Teleor 003 were masters, knowing to differentiate and simultaneously repeat forms belonging to different categories. Technical knowledge, ho to fire, how to get different results using different slips, how to achieve the form, is outstanding. No trials occur, no uneven rims and walls. Questions of balance were occasionally challenged (the pedestaled vessels), but always thought out and successful. Surfaces are always burnished apart from the SFRW, the PBW never high but medium, while the RSW is occasionally highly burnished on the outside, medium on the interior sides.

Manufacturing methods were differentiated and tailored to the specific category made. Bowls may have been made using a combination of coiling and slab techniques. Lower and upper body must have been made separately. Their outlook, as dark, well-burnished handheld vessels, was certainly intended. The large dishes were made differently, using coiling as well as possibly a mould to support the large expanse of walls. The pots were coiled and surface roughened. Connecting the entire assemblage is a oneness of concept and form of interlocking modalities recurring as separate elements, structuring the pottery corpus, making it cohesive. Surface treatments are largely structurally tied up to specific categories. The fact that PBW is used both for bowls and pots suggest an

interrelation between the two. Indeed, the spherical pots (Vf) closely resemble the S-shaped bowls, and may even share similar base shape (S10 evidence). Surface roughening is reserved for pots, large sized vessels, and basins. Pedestal bases are used to emphasize visually outstanding forms, including dishes, goblets and jars.

Functionally, discrete uses may be inferred from different categories involved in some kind of heat treatment. SFRW pots occasionally display crackled inside bases, as do the PBW spherical pots. The sooted interior side of a tubular lug suggests also these vessels may have been used in food preparation involving heat. A whole spectrum of possibly different cooking pots thus emerges, suggesting a sophisticated culinary knowledge, enabled, sustained and generated (in no particular causal order) by specific vessels.

5. Early Dudeşti

Early Dudeşti material from Sondage 19–22 is coming from complex C37 only. This deep pit is located very close to C30/38, which has also been identified as an Early Dudeşti feature – we may recall the latter had a human skull and bones deposited on its base. Like C30/38, the ceramic material in C37 is heavily fragmented, as shown above while discussing C37 deposition patterns (Figure 36). Both this aspect, and the fact that only a segment of the pit is present in S19 have evident repercussions on the analysis of the sample space, limiting the statistical validity of the calculations, e.g. relating to category distribution.

5.1. Technology

The Early Dudeşti assemblage can be split up into two basic ware groups, like I did with the Early Neolithic pottery, again defined along surface treatments. Based on a raw count of all Early Dudeşti sherds from C37, Plain-burnished ware and Surface-roughened ware are almost equally distributed (Figure 54). Plain-burnished ware (PBW) includes vessels with plain surfaces (nearly 40 percent in the total sherd bulk), but also those decorated with *plissé* (also called 'rippling', 'channelling', or 'cannelure' – involving shallow grooves applied with a burnishing tool creating a subtle, gently undulating surface) (over 7%), or with grooves and incisions that have been filled with a white paste (2.6%). Surface-roughened ware (SFRW) includes vessels where outside surfaces have been worked in different ways, involving modification by wiping, scraping or barbotine (24.4%), or various methods of *impresso* using tools and fingernails (nearly 15%). In contrast to the EN, no red-slipped or painted wares are yet identified in the ED from Teleor 003. Usually, ware groups are linked to specific categories – PBW is used for smaller 'table ware', including cups, dishes and bowls, but importantly, a specific class of dishes has surface roughening. SFRW is always used on the basic-level category of Pots – no pots occur in PBW. The blurring of wares occurs also in the SFRW: the basic-level categories of Amphorae and Storage vessels have plain-burnished collar zones and SFRW bodies.

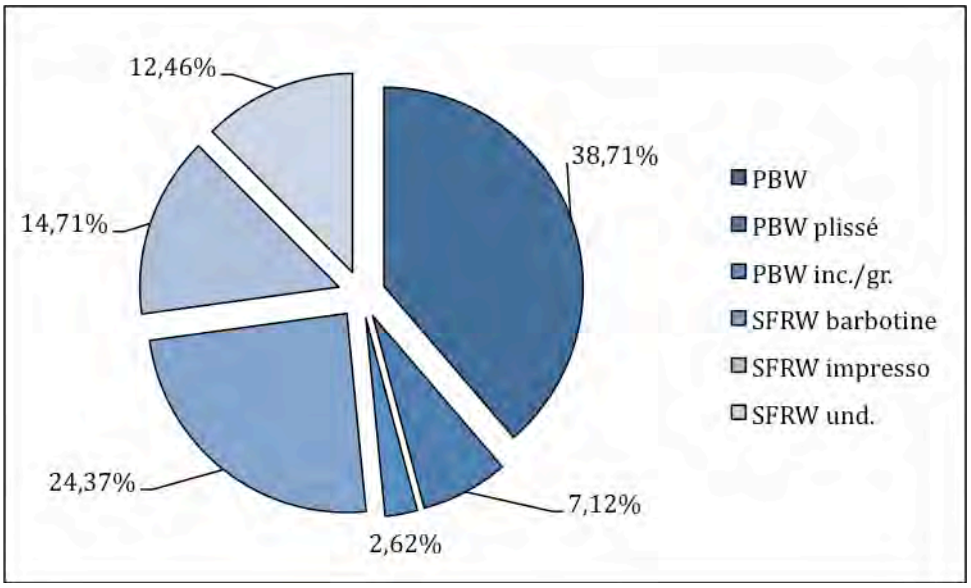


Figure 54. Teleor 003, C37. Early Dudeşti distribution of surface treatments (n=1,067).

The relative distribution of C37 surface treatments, incidentally, conforms well to that of adjacent pit C30/38, confirming the assumed contemporaneity of both features (Table 25).

Table 25. Teleor 003, Sondage 19. Comparing surface treatments of Early Dudeşti pits.

	C37 (*n*=1,067)	C30/38 (*n*=7,212)
PBW	38,71	45,23
PBW *plissé*	7,12	4,85
PBW incised/grooved	2,62	2,68
SFRW barbotine	24,37	30,09
SFRW *impresso*	14,71	15,2
SFRW und.	12,46	1,96

Plain-burnished ware, including the decorated subgroups, usually involves the coating of the exteriors with a diluted clay slip. Slip was added to the vessels when in a leather hard state, and when decoration was intended, *plissé* or grooving including the white filling, this was carried out subsequently, *before* the burnishing process. The burnishing itself was also carried out while the vessels had dried sufficiently, but when surfaces had still not hardened fully (cf. Rye 1981:92).[5] *Plissé* is mostly used for the decoration of the shoulders of bowls, but instances have been found where it must have covered the whole vessel, as is clear from three base fragments (Plates H.8, I.6). Pedestal bases also carried *plissé* decoration occasionally (Plate I.8), and a small leg, probably from a horn-handled beaker or bowl has *plissé* as well (U.1799). Indeed, a shoulder fragment from one such beaker/bowl also carries oblique *plissé* (U.1877). Intricate patterns combining grooved and incised motifs are clearly applied before burnishing, as surplus clay appears often as having been dragged over the groove edges (cf. Plate N.8), and also the sporadically preserved white filling shows traces of burnishing.

Similar operational chains are in evidence for the SFRW group. Exterior surfaces were roughened using flint, cloth, a bundle of grass, or some other device. In the case of

[5] Tools used for burnishing can be of many kinds, including bone tools, pebbles, and sherds. A so-called loamer is made from a rounded *impresso* body sherd (U.1687), but remains a single example in C37.

impresso, using fingernails, a spatula or some other tool, this was done when the vessel was still in the leather hard state. The inside surfaces of SFRW pots were given a coating of diluted clay slip, probably during the same process. Only subsequently, insides and outside rim zones were burnished. Also handles, legs, and cordons (in the case of the large storage vessels of basic-level category VIII) were applied during the leather hard state of the vessel, as explained for the Early Neolithic assemblage *supra* (cf. Rye 1981:21). Subsequent surface treatments (*plissé* decoration, finger impressing the cordons [cf. Plate V.1 for a later Dudeşti example from C34], and burnishing) were then carried out accordingly. When a pot was given a barbotine coating, also this must have been done while in the leather hard state, together with the inside treatments of slipping and burnishing. Manufacturing methods for both groups involve coil building. Vessels were started from a flattened base slab on which coils were added systematically. Potters may have paused when reaching the inflexion point – a characteristic feature underlying all Early Dudeşti vessels – leaving the vessel to harden a bit to prevent sagging, before continuing with the shoulder and rim parts. Interestingly, breaks often occurred along coils, and especially along these inflexion points, possibly partly because of this building method, and partly because at these points breaks occur easily. Pedestals are always scraped on the insides, and never worked subsequently. For temper, usually the standard, mineral only fabric F22 is used (see 2008 report for details), but especially the 'table ware' including the PBW jars are more often tempered with a fine chaff/grit fabric F21, while only the SFRW pots often display a coarser chaff/grit temper F23. Occasionally, PBW bases (possibly associated with table ware) have this coarser temper, suggesting that bases were tempered more heavily than the up going walls on purpose. PBW colours vary between shades of grey, dark grey over brown and grey brown to black. Orange brown and ochre colours are mostly the result of secondary firing, sherds of which are few in the sample. Real black diagnostics occur 31 out of 245 and crosscut all categories, and are not specifically tied to categories. SFRW pots are mostly greyish brown or brown coloured, while insides are usually a shade darker than the outsides. Secondary fired sherds colour also to orangey-ochre colours. In total, 14 diagnostics out of 245 are secondary fired.

5.2. Categorisation and quantification

Following up the reservations concerning the certainty of the Early Dudeşti category structure as gained from the C30/38 feature (see 2008 report), the C37 material unfortunately does not clarify the scheme too much, and we still need a more reliable, less fragmented sample to put the current material in perspective. In the following table, I have modified the category structure from C30/38 to indicate the categories that do not occur in the current sample. Shifts in occurrence I consider primarily as due to sample bias, and only secondarily as possible indicators of temporal change.

Preliminary to further analysis, the C37 pottery bulk was split up into first groupings, where rims, handles, and bases usually supply the best information concerning categorisation. Decorated body sherds are not always easily assignable to specific vessels. Body sherds with *plissé* decoration, for instance, may belong to any basic-level category of 'table ware', and are not with certainty identifiable on the subordinate level. Grooved/incised body sherds, by contrast, are usually relatable to the specific subordinate-level category of Decorated jars. But even here, assignment is not full proof in the case of small fragments that may belong to lids decorated in the same way. Body

sherds are usually assignable to a ware group, but not to specific vessel categories also (Table 26).

Table 26. TELEOR 003, Pit C37. Raw count of Early Dudeşti ceramics, split in diagnostic sherds and body sherds (the latter include undecorated PBW, *plissé*-decorated PBW, and SFRW). Diagnostics' proportion to total sherd bulk in brackets.

	C37
Complete profiles	2
PBW rims (incl. decorated rims)	88
SFRW rims	48
PBW bases (incl. fenestrated-base body sherds)	21
SFRW bases	29
PBW Handles (incl. decorated)	9
SFRW Handles	2
Legs	3
Grooved/incised body sherds	25
Triangular 'table' fragments	1
Total diagnostics	228 (19.76%)
Undetermined rims	8
Undetermined bases	11
Body sherds	907
Grand total	1,154

Thus out of a total of 1,154 sherds from C37, only about 20 percent, or 228 sherds, including two complete profiles, can be potentially used for assessing the categorisation structure and the relative distribution of categories (Table 27). This number will be further reduced when we realise that, for example, PBW bases cannot usually reliably be linked to specific basic-level categories, although SFRW bases usually can.

Table 27. Category structure of TELEOR 003 ceramic assemblages, Early Dudeşti stage. Within the superordinate category of *POTTERY* the syntax is A. COVERT CATEGORY; I. Basic-level category; a. subordinate category.

POTTERY

A. OPEN FORMS (4)

- I. Cups (D≤10 cm; H<D) (2)
  - a. Carinated cups
  - b. Everted cups
- II. Beakers (D≤12 cm; H≥D) (2)
  - a. Collared beakers
  - *b. [Inturned-rim beakers]*
- III. Dishes (H≤½D) (7)
  - *a. [Small-sized carinated dishes (D≤15 cm)]*
  - b. Medium-sized carinated dishes (D>15 cm)
  - *c. [Large-sized carinated dishes (D>24 cm)]*
  - d. Everted dishes
  - e. SFRW thick-walled dishes/Basins
  - f. Interior thickened lip dishes
  - *g. [Small straight-walled dishes]*
- IV. Bowls (H>½D; H≤D; D>10cm) (8)
  - *a. [Deep everted bowls]*

b. *[Thick-lipped holemouth bowl]*
c. *[Small-sized carinated bowls]*
d. Small, everted-rim bowls with horn handle
e. Holemouth bowls with horn handle
f. Hemispherical bowls
g. S-shaped bowls
h. Collared bowls

B. CLOSED FORMS (4)

V. SFRW Pots (4)
a. Small-sized holemouths (D≤15 cm)
b. Medium-sized holemouths (D>15≤25 cm)
c. Large-sized holemouths (D>25 cm)
d. [Collared holemouths]

VI. Amphorae (1)
a. S-shaped with large horn handle

VII. Jars (2)
a. Decorated jars with small mouth diameter
b. S-shaped jars

VIII. SFRW Storage vessels with cordon (1)
a. Large-sized, thick-walled, wide mouth S-shaped

C. SPECIAL FORMS (4)

IX. Lids (1)
X. [Sieves] (1)
XI. [Miniatures] (1)
XII. Triangular 'tables' (1)

In order to acquire a balanced picture of the proportions of these categories, it is most suitable to rely on diagnostic rim sherds. Although, for instance, SFRW bases can with some certainty be assigned to the basic-level category of pots, we can never be sure if pot rims and pot bases belong together or not. Including both in a quantitative assessment will certainly bias the picture in favour of the amount of pots present. The same limiting factor applies when we would try to use handle and body sherds: we can never know if they belong to rim fragments in the sample. Relying on diagnostic rim sherds for assessing basic-level categories (Bowls, Dishes, Pots, and so on) involves reducing the technically diagnostic body of sherds we previously reached of 228 items still more to only 111 remaining (Table 28).

Table 28. TELEOR 003, C37. Early Dudeşti – Minimum number of vessels on basic-level category level, using percentage factor of rim radius, including two complete/extended profiles and altar fragment.

	Rims	Accum. radius	*eve*
Cups	7	90%	0.9
Beakers	3	30%	0.3
Dishes	9	90%	0.9
Bowls	30	350%	3.5
Pots	46	500%	5
Amphorae	0	0	0

Jars	11	230%	2.3
Storage vessels	1	10%	0.1
Lids	2	20%	0.2
Miniatures	1	10%	0.1
Triangular 'tables'	1	n.a.	0.3*
Total	111		13.6

*Since only one leg of the three was preserved.

We have seen above, while discussing the Starčevo–Criş material, that category distribution within an assemblage is more reliably assessable when using *eves* than when we draw on the raw counts (the first column in the table) (Figure 55). The basic-level categories of Bowls, Pots, and Jars clearly stand out, while the other categories are much less present. Obviously, the three dominant categories had the highest use (therefore, tending to more frequent breakage) and replacement rate. Compared to the EN, the important shift resides in the low amount of dishes present, and a strong increase in jars. The frequency of pots and bowls stays roughly the same (cf. Figure 41).

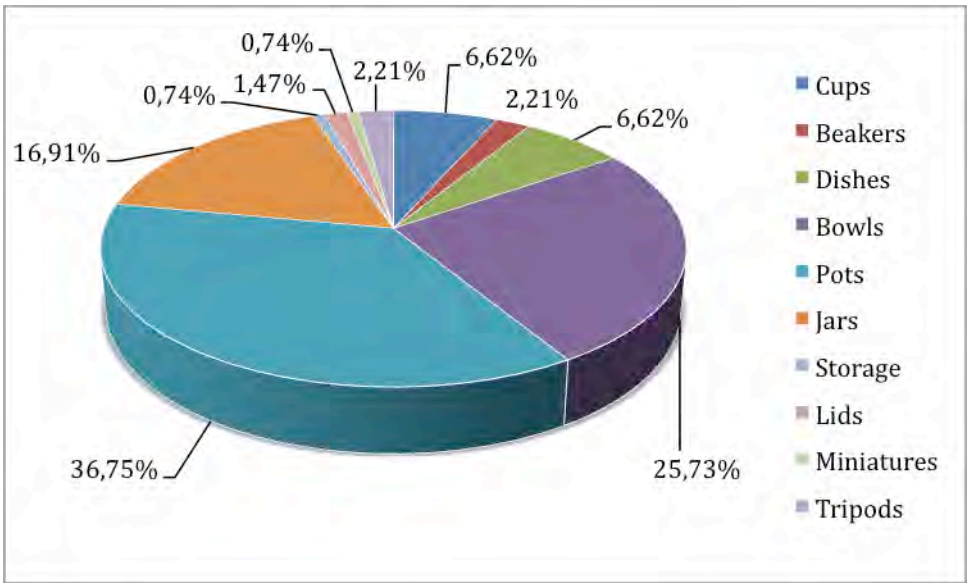


Figure 55. Teleor 003, C37. Relative distribution of Early Dudeşti basic-level categories, based on diagnostic rim sherds and tripod fragment (*n*=111, *eves* 13.6).

Also the assessment of the C37 diagnostic material is strongly hampered by its fragmentation state, as we have already seen from C37's deposition history and overall fragmentation patterns. Measuring the degree of brokenness based on the diagnostic rim *eves* obviously confirms this strong fragmentation, where the high values per category indicate most rims were not preserved for more than 10% of their radius (Table 29). The low value for the jars is mainly due to the extended profile of the decorated jar, having a rim preserved for 90 percent. Interestingly, the C37 mean value of brokenness conforms of 8.81 well with those reached for Starčevo–Criş features C33 and C35 (8.87, 8.71 resp.). The dissimilarity between C37, and C33 and C35 which we noted in overall fragmentation where the Early Neolithic appeared much less fragmented than the Early Dudeşti context, obviously does not translate on the diagnostic rim level, which can only be explained, to my view, when we assume C33 and C35 units were biased towards larger-sized body sherds compared to C37.

Table 29. Teleor 003, C37. Degree of brokenness of the Early Dudeşti material.

	C37 (*n*=111)
Cups	7.78
Beakers	10
Dishes	9
Bowls	8.57
Pots	9.2
Jars	4,78
Storage vessels	10
Lids	10
Miniatures	10
Mean	8.81

Measuring completeness on the diagnostic rim sherds from C37 confirms this ambivalent picture, where C37 rim completeness of 0.12 conforms to the values reached for the Early Neolithic features, while base completeness with 0.18 falls below the mean value of 0.22 in the Early Neolithic (Table 30).

Table 30. TELEOR 003, C37. Completeness index of Early Dudeşti assemblage (in brackets total diagnostics/total radius percentage).

	Rims	Bases
C37	0.12 (144/1660%)	0.18 (51/940%)

This lower base completeness is likely a factor of the less sturdy bases used during the Dudeşti period, compared to the thick disk bases from the Early Neolithic, therefore more easily breakable to smaller, less complete, segments. Deposition, then, as measured on the diagnostic sherds, involved mostly evenly fragmented sherds broken to 10% segments, with the exception of the extended jar profile. This well-preserved vessel might well have been deposited in the pit separately from the remainder of the sherds, i.e. part of another event. As was inferred also from the C35 data, the evenly distributed brokenness index along the basic-level categories apart from the jars suggests longer-term deposition, or redeposition of material gathered from discard loci elsewhere – brokenness in both options reflecting natural rates of use and replacement of categories. The radius distribution in C37, apart from explicating the 10% threshold – striking among the rims, more gradual among the bases – follows an otherwise normal curve, and conforms to the picture gained (Table 31).

Table 31. TELEOR 003, C37. Early Dudeşti percentage factor distribution of radius measurements.

Radius	%	Total	*n* bases	*n* rims	*n* body sherds
10%	77.44	151	22	128	1
20%	17.44	34	19	14	1
30%	3.59	7	7	0	0
40%	1.03	2	2	0	0
50%	0.51	1	1	0	0
Total		195	51	142	2

5.3.1. Cups

Small, hand-held PBW vessels with diameters at about 10 cm occur rarely in the C37 corpus, and consist of carinated (subordinate-level category Ia) or simple everted-rim vessels, Ib (Plate H.1–3). The Plate H.3 piece might be confused with an undecorated lid, were it not that lids are usually scraped on the insides. Bases were probably flat.

5.3.2. Beakers

In C30/38 two subordinate categories of beakers were attested (IIa–b), the collared variant having horn handles and neat *plissé* decoration (see 2008 report). Such vessels remain elusive in C37, and only three small rim fragments are tentatively assigned to this category, one of them having oblique *plissé* on the rim zone (U.1631). Diameters are between 9 and 14 cm, while bases might be flat, or consisting of small legs on analogy of the C30/38 example.

5.3.3. Dishes

Three subordinate-level categories (IIIa–c) discerned among the C30/38 sherds are difficult to trace back in the present corpus. Small, *plissé*-decorated rim sherds with S- and slightly carinated profiles might belong here, but I have rather assigned them to the category of bowls, where I inferred them to be rather deep instead of shallow (cf. Plate H.2–4, for instance). The same goes for the large sizes. Only four instances remain of possible medium-sized dishes (IIIb) but consisting of small, rather undiagnostic fragments. Of simple everted-rim dishes (IIId) and basins with SFRW exterior (IIIe) only one instance each is present (Plate .4). Everted dishes with a thickened lip zone on the interior are interesting, since they belong to a type that was in fashion all-over SE Europe. Insides are coated with a clay slip and medium burnished, contrasting to roughened or barbotined outsides (Plate H.5). Rare in C37 (only three fragments), nice examples of the same type will be seen to occur in C34. All these variants will probably have been fitted out with flat bases.

5.3.4. Bowls

Of the 30 diagnostic rim sherds of bowls attributable on the subordinate level, rim diameters vary between 10 and 28 cm, but the majority seem s to occur between 10 and 19 cm (Figure 56). Wall thicknesses group between 4 and 10 mm, averaging between 6 and 8 mm. With certainty identifiable in the Early Dudeşti corpus are hemispherical bowls of subordinate-level category IVf, Plate H.1), S-shaped bowls (IVg, Plates H.2–4, I.1), and collared bowls (IVh, Plate H.5). Bases are usually flat (Plate H.6), but the pedestal bases are very likely to be associated with S-shaped or collared bowls, although no complete examples are present (Plate H.7–9). Occasionally, these pedestals are fenestrated and carry *plissé* decoration. Bowls come in a variety of sizes, all sharing strong inflexion points. Due to the fragmentary state, my reconstructions are tentative. However, Early Dudeşti form concepts seem to favour low shoulders and deep lower bodies, creating biconical shapes, much along the line of Early Dudeşti pots and decorated jars (see below). Lower bodies may be two times as large as shoulder proportions, while bases seem to be at about half the mouth diameter. Shoulders are usually highlighted by *plissé* decoration, almost invariably applied in an oblique direction. Horn-handled bowls are only inferred to be present in C37 from a few rather undiagnostic rims (Plate H.6–7), the horn handles themselves only occurring as isolated pieces, broken off from the vessel walls.

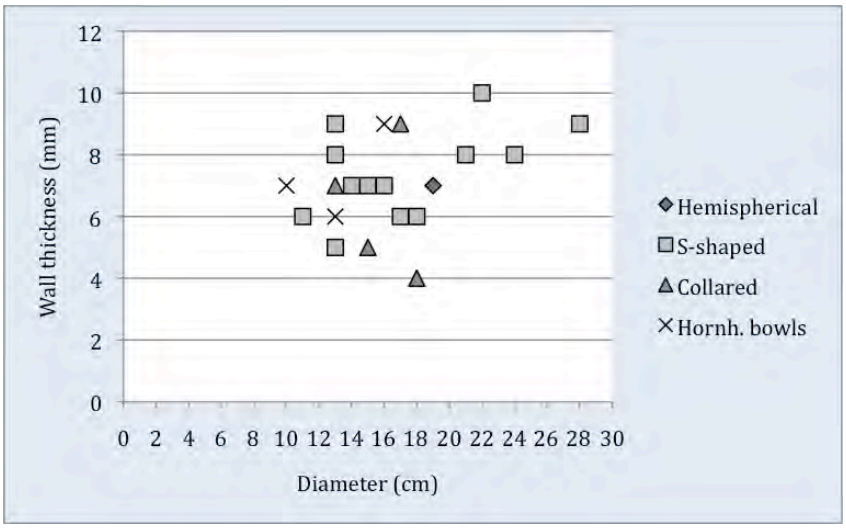


Figure 56. Teleor 003, C37. Rim diameters vs. wall thickness among Early Dudeşti bowls (n=30).

5.3.5. Pots

In strong contrast to Starčevo–Criş categorisation concepts and vessel use where pots were made both in PBW and SFRW, Early Dudeşti pots occur in SFRW only. Also, the typical Starčevo–Criş pots with small upright collars have no changed into pure holemouth forms. Lip zones are applied as a final coil and pushed outward, and these zones are often impressed with the fingertips (Plates L.2, M.2). Inflexion points are high up on the body, and as with the bowls, proportions tend to favour high-shouldered pots with deep lower bodies below the widest diameter. Base diameters tend to be about half of the mouth opening, thus creating quite typical conical forms, where height generally is equal or often slightly larger than the diameter of the mouth. Bases are always flat, and are made from a single clay slab, in contrast to Early Neolithic practices, favouring thick disk bases; they are of even thickness, not deviating from the up going walls. There is no sign among the C37 assemblage that such bases thin out towards the centre base, as will be common use in the later Dudeşti and in particular the Vădastra periods (see below). Early Dudeşti pots seem to come in at least three size groups, although the sample is not too large to confirm this division. Wall thicknesses vary between 6 and 19 mm, but seem to range mostly between 10 and 13 mm (Figure 57).

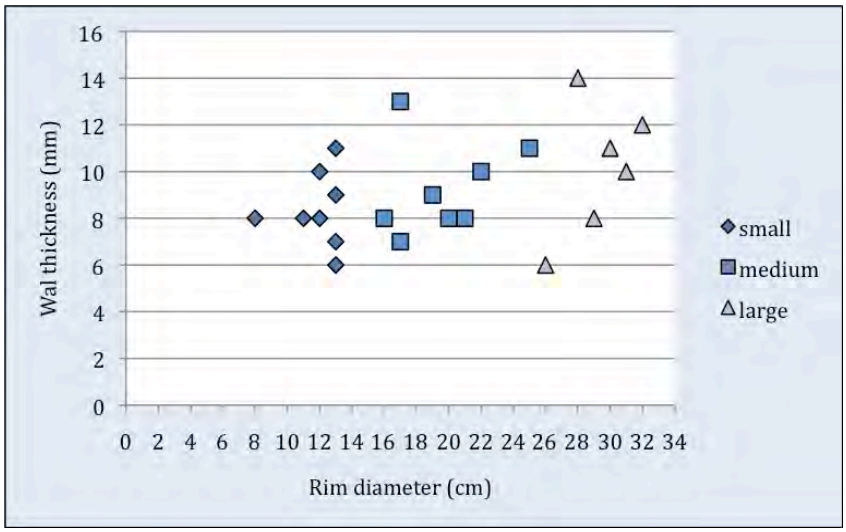


Figure 57. Teleor 003, C37. Rim diameters against wall thickness of Early Dudeşti SFRW pots (*n*=25).

The surface roughening is applied all-over the pot, from rim to base, and can occur as single-nail *impresso* (Plates J.1–2, K.1–2, L.1, M.2), or as a barbotine coating, which is usually streaked with the fingers, sometimes in a vertical wave pattern (Plates L.2, M.1). The careful treatment of the insides, as explained *supra*, seems to continue the technical know-how and attitudes towards cooking and/or storage from the previous Starčevo–Criş period). Lips are drawn up and slightly rolled over to the outside and burnish extends to the top of the lip zone, the burnishing process slightly flattening and rounding the lip.

5.3.6. Jars & Lids

The PBW jars with decoration (basic-level category VI) are standardized, always carrying decoration, having small mouths, and holes perforated through the neck zone (Plate N.4–6) or through neck-shoulder transition. Such jars are generally of a different temper, including fine chaff, lime or crushed shell particles, of a soft clay generating particular, soft erosion and a soapy feel. Insides are scraped to even walls but not burnished. Probably they were used for dry goods storage. Outsides are medium burnished, incised and white filled. Colours vary from grey to greyish brown. Bases are flat (Plate N.8). 27 fragments occur out of a total of 245 diagnostics. To this category belong lids with vertical or sloping sides, decorated in a similar fashion (Plate N.2–3).

5.3.7. Amphorae & Large-sized storage vessels

The basic-level category of Amphorae (VI) is identified as present among the C37 due to two large horn handles with surface-roughened finish (Plate N.1). From examples from C30/38 and C40 we know of the existence of this distinct category, which has similar proportions as the Decorated jars but have wider mouth diameters. Their lower bodies tend to be coated with a thin barbotine layer that is finger streaked, while the upper bodies and neck zones are burnished. The one complete example from C40 has a large horn handle. In the current sample, no rims could with certainty be assigned to this category. Similarly elusive are large storage vessels with a cordon round the neck–shoulder transition (VIII). A good example is known from the slightly later feature C34 (see below). I have tentatively assigned a large rim fragment, and thick base with a thick barbotine coating to this category (Plate N.9–10).

6. Later Dudeşti

The Dudeşti material from C34 (as well as that from C26 and the intrusions from C35) represents a slightly later development from the ED as known from C30/38 and C40. There are subtle shifts in the various methods used for surface roughening; SFRW pot bases are beginning to resemble Vădastra pot bases; pot forms are now less pronouncedly biconical, with less emphasis on a strong inflexion point; collared bowls are becoming the favoured bowls shape, and small horn handles are now seeming to be more associated with collared bowls than they were with restricted globular bowls as was the case in the C37 and C30/38 sample. While feature C34 yields the highest amount of pottery for this stage, the presence of one or more of the new elements in features C24, C25, C26, and C31 suggests that these belong to the same *later* Dudeşti period (see the general plan, Figure 2).

6.1. C34

Treatment of the C34 evidence will yield the best results to compare with the earlier Dudeşti stage. Taking into account the vessels from the smaller features will enhance this evidence. With technological aspects, such as operational chains, and surface treatments remaining similar to the earlier stage, albeit changing in relative occurrence, I will focus on shifts in appearance of vessels, and in shifts occurring in the Dudeşti category structure.

While the proportions of the PBW, including subgroups with *plissé* or grooved/incised decoration, to that of the general SFRW group is about equal, and in line with the distribution in C37, what is to be noted is that now only 4 percent of the SFRW consists of *impresso* pottery (Figure 58).

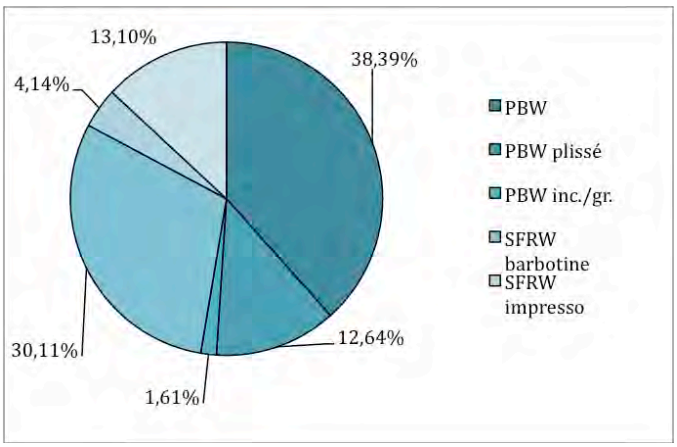


Figure 58. Teleor 003, C34. Relative proportions of later Dudeşti surface treatments (*n*=435).

Compared to the Early Dudeşti evidence, this is a dramatic decrease from 15 percent to 4 percent, while the amount of *plissé* decorated vessels has increased strongly in C34, compared to C37 and C30/38 (Figure 59). Both tendencies fit well in a trend that will result in the ensuing Vădastra period, where *impresso* surface roughening is virtually absent, while *plissé* décor is even more present (cf. 2008 report).

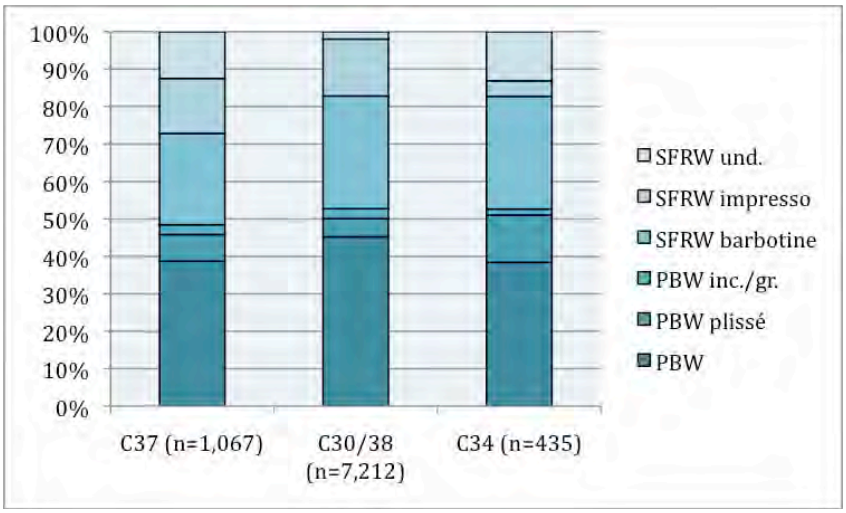


Figure 59. Teleor 003, Comparison of Early and later Dudeşti surface treatments.

6.2. Categorisation and quantification

The category structure established for the Early Dudeşti assemblage from C30/38 and C37 is changed only slightly during the later Dudeşti stage, bearing in mind that the total sample is small compared to the earlier features. In Table 32 I have indicated shifts where obsolete or non-occurring categories are put in brackets, while new categories are put bold. Two new subordinate-level categories, viz., IVi restricted collared bowls, and Ve PBW holemouth pots expand the structure.

Table 32. Category structure of TELEOR 003 ceramic assemblages, *later* Dudeşti stage. Within the superordinate category of *POTTERY* the syntax is A. COVERT CATEGORY; I. Basic-level category; a. subordinate category.

POTTERY

A. OPEN FORMS (4)

- I. Cups (D≤10 cm; H<D) (2)
  - a. Carinated cups
  - *b. [Everted cups]*
- *II. [Beakers (D≤12 cm; H≥D) (2)]*
  - *a. [Collared beakers]*
  - *b. [Inturned-rim beakers]*
- III. Dishes (H≤½D) (7)
  - *a. [Small-sized carinated dishes (D≤15 cm)]*
  - b. Medium-sized carinated dishes (D>15 cm)
  - *c. [Large-sized carinated dishes (D>24 cm)]*
  - *d. [Everted dishes]*
  - e. SFRW thick-walled dishes/Basins
  - f. Interior thickened lip dishes
  - g. Small straight-walled dishes
- IV. Bowls (H>½D; H≤D; D>10 cm) (9)
  - *a. [Deep everted bowls]*
  - *b. [Thick-lipped holemouth bowl]*
  - *c. [Small-sized carinated bowls]*
  - *d. [Small, everted-rim bowls with horn handle[*
  - *e. [Holemouth bowls with horn handle[*
  - *f. [Hemispherical bowls]*

g. S-shaped bowls
h. Collared bowls
i. Restricted collared bowls

B. CLOSED FORMS (4)

V. SFRW Pots (5)
a. Small-sized holemouths (D≤15 cm)
b. Medium-sized holemouths (D>15≤25 cm)
c. [Large-sized holemouths (D>25 cm)]
d. Collared holemouths
e. PBW holemouths

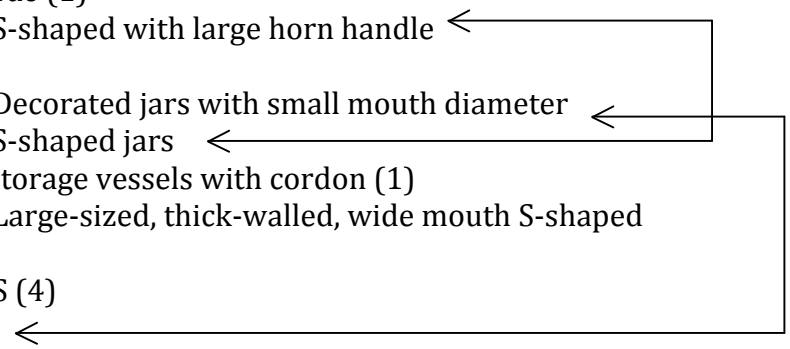
VI. Amphorae (1)
a. S-shaped with large horn handle

VII. Jars (2)
a. Decorated jars with small mouth diameter
b. S-shaped jars

VIII. SFRW Storage vessels with cordon (1)
a. Large-sized, thick-walled, wide mouth S-shaped

C. SPECIAL FORMS (4)

IX. [Lids]
X. [Sieves]
XI. [Miniatures]
XII. [Triangular 'tables']



Quantifying the relative frequency of these categories in C34, a first step is separating the total sherd bulk into diagnostic and non-diagnostic sherds, resulting in a reduction of the total 588 items to 97 diagnostics only (Table 33).

Table 33. TELEOR 003, C34. Raw count of *later* Dudeşti ceramics, split in diagnostic sherds and body sherds (the latter concern undecorated PBW and SFRW).

	C34
Complete vessels/profiles	3
PBW rims (incl. decorated rims)	33
SFRW rims	16
Undetermined rims	0
PBW bases (incl. fenestrated body sherds)	15
SFRW bases	5
Undetermined bases	8
PBW Handles (incl. decorated)	7
SFRW Handles	1
Legs	0
Decorated body sherds	9
Triangular table fragments	0
Total diagnostics	97
Body sherds	491
Grand total	588

As explained above, of these 97 items, only rim sherds are reliably assessable vis-à-vis categorisation, and this leads to an even more severe reduction, resulting in only 49 sherds and complete profiles for C34 (Table 34).

Table 34. TELEOR 003. Pit C34. Later Dudeşti – Minimum number of vessels on basic-level category level, using percentage factor of rim radius, including three complete/extended profiles.

	Rims	Accum. radius	*eve*	Brokenness
Cups	3	60%	0.6	5.0
Dishes	8	110%	1.1	7.27
Bowls	22	330%	3.3	6.39
• 1 complete	1	30%	0.3	
Pots	9	140%	1.4	6.11
• 2 complete	2	40%	0.4	
Amphorae	2	30%	0.3	6.67
Jars	2	20%	0.2	10
Total	49		7.6	Mean: 6.91

Brokenness of the C34 diagnostics having a mean value of 6.91 is significantly lower than the mean values reached for the Starčevo–Criş and Early Dudeşti features, and confirms the many joins occurring in the sample, as most clearly exemplified by the two complete pot profiles (Plate S–T), the partly complete bowl (Plate R), and by several other fragments joining into extended profiles (cf. Plates O.5, P.5–6, Q.1–3, 7). The completeness index for both rims and bases of C34 does not really reflect these joins, and suggests overall fragmentation in C34 is quite strong (Table 35), an aspect confirmed by tabulating the radius distributions calculated from rim and base segments (Table 36).

Table 35. TELEOR 003, C34. Completeness index of later Dudeşti assemblage (in brackets total diagnostics/total radius percentage).

	Rims	Bases
C34	0.14 (49/700%)	0.14 (25/340%)

Table 36. TELEOR 003, C34. Later Dudeşti, percentage factor distribution of radius measurements.

Radius	%	Total	*n* bases	*n* rims	*n* body sherds
10%	64,2	52	15	35	2
20%	14,81	12	2	9	1
30%	14,81	12	4	6	0
50%	2,47	2	2	0	0
60%	1,23	1	1	0	0
70%	1,23	1	1	0	0
100%	1,23	1	0	0	1
		81			

Using the *eves* as being the more reliable measure to calculate relative occurrence of the basic-level categories yields the following result (Figure 60).

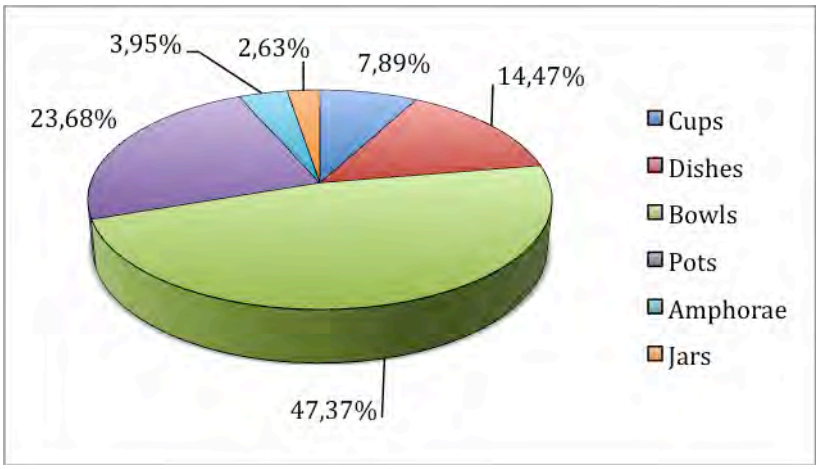


Figure 60. Teleor 003, C34. Relative distribution of *later* Dudeşti basic-level categories, based on diagnostic rim sherds (*n*=49, *eves* 7.6).

As is clear, Bowls are strongly represented with nearly 50 percent of the total. Rather than interpreting this as a true reflection of category use during the later Dudeşti stage, it seems feature C34 is biased favourably towards bowls. Put otherwise, preferably bowls have been discarded in this feature.

Characteristic categories of the later Dudeşti stage as represented by C24, C25, C26, C31, and C34 involve first the subordinate category of thickened-lip dishes (IIIf) (Plate O.5–7; (Figure 61). Of large sizes, rim diameters vary between 25 and 36 cm. They have thin coatings of barbotine on the exterior sides, while insides are carefully slipped and burnished as such continuing similar dishes noted in C37 (Plate H.5). Bases are probably flat.

Figure 61. Teleor 003, C34. Exterior and interior sides of non-joining pieces of a thickened-lip dish (IIIf).

The new subordinate-level category of restricted collared bowls (IVi) connects many of the later Dudeşti features, and is my main argument for their contemporaneity. One fragment was found together with large storage vessel from C24 (Vessel 2004/34) (cf. Figure 5, and Plate V.3), another similar piece was found with the complete vessels from C31 (Plate W.3), and several occur in C34 (Plate P.5–9). Such bowls are well made, covered with diluted clay slips, and oblique *plissé* decoration on the shoulders. Having distinct low collars, mouth and base diameters are approximately of the same dimensions, while strong inflexion points occur about midway on the body, which may carry small knobs (Plate P.5). A complete example, having two small strap handles placed opposite each other, was found in the special deposition of feature C31 (Vessel 2004/36, Plate X).

These typical features of surface finish, decoration and proportion recur in the subordinate group of normal collared bowls (Vh) (Plates Q–R). It is with these specific bowls that small horn handles are associated, set opposite each other. The complete bowl (Vessel 2004/40) (Plate R) additionally has four sturdy legs and two tiny knobs. Although such bowls were noted already in Early Dudeşti assemblages (cf. C37, Plate I.5), they clearly represent a later development, certainly so when seen in conjunction with their restricted counterparts of category Vi.

Also deviating from the Early Dudeşti assemblage is the basic-level category of pots. The strongly biconical shapes with high shoulders and deep conical bodies of that period have now developed into more rounded profiles, often with midpoints about halfway on the body (Plate S.1–3, from C34, Plate W.3 from C31, Plate Y, from C31). Importantly, occasional bases tend to be thinned along their outer zone, thickening again in the centre (a good example on Plate Y.1). This same feature was noted specifically on the Vădastra SFRW pots, and again suggests the later, or perhaps *intermediary* stage of this later Dudeşti assemblage, situated between the Early Dudeşti and Vădastra timeframes. Importantly, lip treatments on later Dudeşti SFRW pots is still in the earlier tradition: they consist of an additional coil, which is rolled out, pressed outward on the body, and subsequently impressed with the fingers or a tool (cf. Plates S.1–2, T.1–2, W.1, and Y.2 in particular).

Decorated jars (subordinate-level category VIIa), which were so characteristic for the Early Dudeşti period – Plate N.6, 8) seem to remain part of the later Dudeşti stage as well, as is exemplified by several decorated body sherds (Plate U.3–5, and possible lid fragment Plate U.6). Motifs seem to consist of rectilinear, crosshatched meanders alternating with plain zones. Traces of white fill still preserved confirm linkage of these fragments with their earlier counterparts. These pieces also exhibit the same manufacturing details as the Early Dudeşti examples, having scraped interiors and well-burnished outsides.

The SFRW storage vessel with cordon, recovered in C24 (Plate V.1–2), provides another link to the Early Dudeşti period. Fragments of similar cordoned vessels turned up in C30/38 (cf. 2008 report), and this one is particularly illustrative of this category, although large parts of its body are not preserved, preventing a reliable reconstruction of its original shape.

Comparing basic-level categories among the three Dudeşti features in Sondage 19–22 demonstrates the rather similar distribution for the two Early Dudeşti features C330/38 and C37 (Figure 62). Later Dudeşti C34 distribution seems deviating, due to the very large amount of bowls to the expense of pots. As mentioned, however, there could have been bias at play in the C34 sample, where especially bowls seem to have been deposited. We would need a larger sample of this stage to have this pattern confirmed

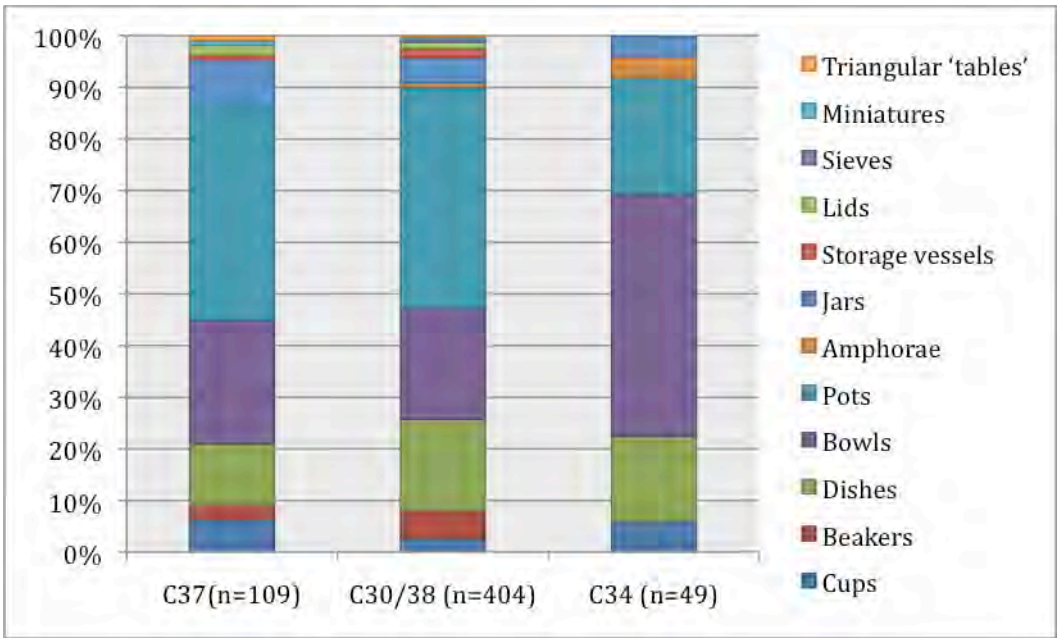


Figure 62. Teleor 003, Sondage 19. Comparison of basic-level categories in C37, C30/38 and C34, Dudeşti period.

7. Conclusions

The Starčevo–Criș time period and the Dudești time continuum are to be conceived as separate entities. This is becoming clear when studying their potteries. Although superficially, things may seem similar, structurally – in terms of building vessels – they are not. This is clear from where vessel building begins – from the base. As said, the base determines the vessel. And the way the base is made determines the culture, the society of collected potters. Both time periods have their own specific dynamics, and these are expressed in the ceramic products. And as we have seen, each period exhibits, within the subset of ceramic material culture, its own structural homogeneity. I have tried to show the structural interrelations existing n the various categories, vessel forms and technologies. On every point of these specifics, Starčevo–Criș and Dudești time continuums are different. Each share their own information continuum. The Starčevo–Criș ceramic dynamics created a reality for Starčevo–Criș culture, but during the Dudești period, this Starčevo–Criș information continuum appears blocked and forgotten. It looks as if people started anew, reinvented things, created a new form language, dialectically linked to the technology: technological expertise generating form, form generating technology. During the Dudești time period, there was no restructuralist concept, no regeneration, adoption or adaptation *vis-à-vis* the earlier information continuum generated and maintained during the Early Neolithic. We cannot put the Starčevo–Criș and the Dudești periods on a unilinear evolutionary scale. There was no evolution, in the sense of modification, of taking the best out of the Early Neolithic ceramic technology. Pottery was, maybe not reinvented in the Lower Danube, but it appears recreated. The solutions found for cooking food in the Dudești–Vădastra time continuum were radically different from the Early Neolithic. We can see this in base manufacture, and it implies different uses of fire and heat, of manipulating objects used in the cooking process. All the obvious similarities between the Early and Middle Neolithic in the Lower Danube area, as expressed in ceramics, are superficial, and therefore are not similarities. The perspective is wrong, the similarities stand for impressionistic perusal of matter-of-fact convergences, easily grabbed by archaeologists not ready to deal with the counting and weighing of thousands of sherds. The (*un*)similarities must move us away from a simplistic explanatory vocabulary, and they force us to grab the essence of the Dudești–Vădastra–Boian–Gumelnița information continuum from within. To fathom the homogeneity and cohesiveness as expressed and contained in the ceramic objects. The essence resides in gestures, motor-habit patterns, mental conceptions and restructured information chains linking knowledge to matter. It is these underlying structures that will generate an understanding of Neolithic culture and Neolithic materiality. The objects, hand made, thought about, spent time upon, used, repaired and perhaps discarded ultimately, do not stop to contain – and to yield information – when studied diligently, with patience and respect. Archaeology is a sherd, or it's nothing.

This report is a matter-of-fact statement about sherd study. I have only touched, or glimpsed at, the potential of the materials, fragmentary as it is. The pottery from the Lower Danube Neolithic needs rethinking, the Neolithic of the Lower Danube needs a rethinking.

Appendix: catalogue of complete vessels & extended profiles

Vessel 20 04/29 (Plate N.6)

Teleor 003, C37 (S19)
Fragments: two clusters non joinable (15 and 4 resp.), plus four non-joining pieces. Strangely, two fragments stem from ED pit C30/38 to the south of C37, while one piece comes from depth 150 cm, where pit C37 was not yet recognised.

Spit	Unit nos.
150	1592
160	None
170	1773, 1774
180	1799 + 1780 (C30/38!)
190	1819 (3x), 1876
200	1827, 1837, 1877, 1878
210	1839, 1879 (baulk), 1880 (baulk)
220	1881 (baulk)
230	1883 (baulk) (5x)

Total weight: 1,160 g
Mouth diameter: 10 cm, radius 90%
Preserved height: 22 cm
Abrasion: very diverse: joining sherds may be secondary fired or not, very abraded or not; five sherds are secondary fired to a pale orangey brown. In general, surfaces are slightly worn.
Preservation: rim and neck almost fully preserved, from shoulders only one large connecting piece, as also from carination–lower body, not joining. Total: ca. 30%
Fabric: soapy feel, mostly fine sand and moderate–abundant chaff and sparse lime particles. Calcareous paste. Fracture: grey brown–black–grey brown.
Surface treatment E: diluted clay slip, smooth–medium burnish including rim top. Operational chain: first slip added, then decoration applied, white filled; then E burnished (burnish 'overhangs' the grooves, proving the grooves were applied first). Two holes opposite each other on mid neck, made after firing
Surface treatment I: heavily scraped in random directions, starting immediately on the I neck.
Colour E: 10 YR 6/1~6/2 (light greyish brown)
Colour I: 10 YR 5/2 (greyish brown)
Shape: decorated jar VIIa. Decoration is in three juxtaposed panels starting from neck/shoulder; each panel consists of three incised, hatched zones in vertical direction, alternating with two grooved, vertical zones, either curvilinear or rectilinear running meanders. All décor is white-filled. Especially the thin incised zones seem to have been executed quickly given the sketchy nature of them, with the hatchings not very tight nor equally distributed. The central hatched zone is terminated halfway by three horizontal grooves, coinciding with the vessels inflexion point, the other zones stretching beyond the widest diameter downward.

Vessel 2004/34 (Plate V.1–2)

Teleor 003, C24 (S22)
Number of fragments: 149
Total weight: 6,022 g
Mouth diameter: 31 cm
Base diameter: 30 cm
Radius rim: two joining fragments: 20%
Radius base: two joining fragments: 30%
Abrasion: heavy, notably on the surfaces and sherd edges.
Surface treatment E+I: E rim low–medium burnished; below rim/cordon: finger-streaked barbotine in a roughly parallel way, oblique direction. I possibly originally burnished on rim, but not visible anymore due to weathering. I below rim probably smoothed only.
Colour: pinkish-orange throughout. Secondary fired.
Fabric: very dense quartz of angular/subangular shape, F22
Shape: storage vessel, category VIIIa
Preservation: only five larger rim fragments, four of which join in two separate clusters of two each. Base is preserved in two separate parts, not complete. There are several parts from the neck with cordon appliqué. Most of the body between neck and base are not preserved.
NB. Several sherds show blackening or smudging traces on the E, but none have been found carrying them on the insides. On one sherd such blackening penetrates into the fracture, although not onto the inside surface. The association of the 'cooking stone' with this vessel remains unclear – the vessel appearing far too heavy to have functioned as an ordinary cooking vessel. Moreover, the *porous* interior would make it unfit for such a purpose. The link between 'cooking stone' and its location inside the vessel is not straightforward.
The weathering traces (perhaps due to frost in part.), the fragmentation and absence of many sherds and the E blackening argue against an *in situ* context of vessel 2004/34.

Fragmentation of Vessel 2004/34, C24.

Unit	N	g
1190	59	2,315
1244	2	302
1278	9	625
1306	49	1,880
1440	14	473
1441	15	369
1443	1	58

Vessel 2004/35 (Plate W.1)

Teleor 003, C31 (S22)
Fragments: due to very brittle state, the total number of pieces could not be counted and weighed since they are wrapped in friable parcels. Only a few sherds have been cleaned by PM, in order to draw and measure them.
Diameter mouth: 22 cm, radius probably 100%
Wall thickness: 12 mm
Abrasion: I very damaged, surface off possibly due to use, starting 3-4 cm below I rim. Fractures are very brittle.

Preservation: Not known. According to PM about only the upper half is preserved, possibly including parts of the widest diameter. It should be noted that the vessel put inside this pot could only be placed there when the pot was already in half (the bowl not fitting through the mouth!). It may thus be supposed actually the preserved part is all there is!
Fabric: very dense F.22
Surface treatment E: scraped horizontally and obliquely
Surface treatment I: medium burnished, top rim medium burnished as well, rim folded over
Decoration E: panels alternating, upturned V-grooves, deep, with fingertip impresso. Lip zone has row of impresso done with same tool.
Colour E+I: black
Type: holemouth pot type 701

Vessel 2004/36 (Plate X.1)

Teleor 003, C31 (S22)
Fragments: ca. 42 pieces size <5~>7.5 cm, all from U. 1418
Weight: 1,140 g
Diameter mouth: 16~17 cm, radius 70%
Diameter base: 9 cm, radius 100%
Height: 15 cm
Abrasion: E surface quite worn: burnish lustre gone, especially on rim and shoulder. I shows pockmarks on one side of the base and lower body (NB. fish bones were found inside)
Preservation: 90%. 30% of rim missing, two larger pieces gone; lower body complete
Fabric: F.22
Surface treatment E: rim and upper body (shoulder) has clay slip, originally highly burnished; lower body medium burnished in horizontal strokes
Surface treatment I: I rim medium burnished, I shoulder low burnished; lower area smoothed only.
Colour E: 10 YR 4/1~3/1~10 YR 4/2 (grey brown)
Colour I: 10 YR 4/1 (dark grey)
Shape: collared bowl with two opposing small strap handles, rounded lip, vertical/oblique plissé; heavy use-wear flat base
N.B. One shoulder fragment has been submitted for residue analysis.

Vessel 2004/37 (Plate W.2)

Teleor 003, C31 (S22)
Fragments: 20 pieces mostly large size, all from U.1418, except one body sherd from U.1371.
Weight: 1,415 g
Diameter mouth: 17 cm, radius 40%
Diameter base: 12 cm, radius 90%
Height: 16 cm
Abrasion: some use-wear on I near base area (a few surface chips off), roughened E base due to use.
Preservation: ca. 50% more than half of body not preserved. Rim present for a total of 40%. Base nearly complete.

Surface treatment E: thin barbotine coating, lightly scraped/wiped in a horizontal direction at places. Impresso seems made by a tool rather than with fingernail: deep 'cuneiform' slits from rim to base. However, below carination large 'pseudo-nail' impresso is used. Rim has characteristic finish (I rounded, medium burnished, with sharp edge on E top).
Fabric: F.22
Colour E: 10 YR 5/1~5/2 (grey brownish)
Colour I: black (dark grey near base)
Shape: holemouth pot type 701, base 801 flat. Breaks along coils. Base very thin towards outside (3 mm), though not in centre.
N.B. Around E base and lower body a ring of ca. 4 cm is blackened, clearly indicating use on a fire.

Vessel 2004/38 (Plate T.1)

Teleor 003, C34 (S20), U.1480
Fragments: two non-joining clusters of seven and eight pieces each; several more non-joinable clusters, total amount: 45 sherds. Reconstructable on paper, profile is a combination of two non-joining clusters.
Weight: 1,990 g
Diameter mouth: 22 cm, radius 30%
Diameter base: 16 cm, radius 30%
Height: 29 cm
Wall thickness: 9 mm
Abrasion: E none, I lower body flaking off, E base roughened through use
Preservation: no data
Surface treatment E: scraped all over in random horizontal and oblique, overlapping strokes, top lip coil applied from the inside, folded over and burnished. E lip demarcated from body with a tool and then quickly impressed or slashed in oblique parallel strokes.
Surface treatment I: medium burnished in individual strokes. I+E walling quite regular, but occasionally the I burnish strokes did not cover the entire surface, leaving it matte.
Coil made, clear coil visible along widest diameter, perhaps suggesting two building stages. Base made of a clay slab on which the coiling for the lower body started.
Fabric: F.22
Colour E: dark grey
Colour I: dark grey black
NB. Rim/lip finish like ED method: rounded I lip, hanging over ridge on the E burnished.

Vessel 2004/39 (Plate S.3)

Teleor 003, C34 (S20)
Fragments: two non-joining clusters of six (U.1480, 1481, 1446) and three (U.1480+1394) pieces. Reconstructable on paper, profile is a combination of two non-joining clusters.
Weight: 395 g
Diameter mouth: 13 cm, radius 10%
Diameter base: 12 cm, radius 30%
Height: 20 cm
Wall thickness: 6 mm
Abrasion: none
Preservation: no data (ASK CRISTI!!)

Surface treatment E: top half scraped smoothly/wiped plus nail-impresso; lower half starting on carination: scraped in horizontal and oblique, overlapping strokes; E base roughened by use. E lip made in same way as described for Vessel 2004/38. E lip has obliquely slashed, parallel grooves. Coiling manufacture very clear by horizontal fractures along carination.
Surface treatment I: medium to high burnished.
Fabric: F.22
Colour E: grey-brown
Colour I: dark grey ~ black

Vessel 2004/40 (Plate R.1)

Teleor 003, C34 (S20), U.1480
Mus. Inv.: 26226
Preservation: restored vessel, gap filled, ca. 75% complete, most of rim missing
Weight: no data
Diameter mouth: 23 cm
Diameter base: not applicable.
Height: 15 cm
Abrasion: quite severely at places. The legs have been cut off and their bases smoothed.
Fabric: F.22, dense quartz temper
Surface treatment E: slip, medium-high burnished, plissé decoration in oblique direction, two opposing small knobs, and two opposing horn handles.
Surface treatment I: diluted clay slip or even a wash, not burnished, only smoothed. On the I, shallow depressions indicate the pressure used to attach the legs. These are attached separately as short vertical coils which were stabilised to the vessel using an additional clay coating (see picture base view)
Colour E and I: greyish brown

Vessel 2004/41 (Plate J.3)

Teleor 003, C37 (S19)
Fragments: three pieces all from U.1847 (spit 230 cm)
Weight: 302 g
Diameter mouth: 16 cm, radius 10%
Diameter base: 10 cm, radius 10%
Height: 15 cm
Abrasion: slight damage/erosion around base area, rim damaged but might be through use.
Preservation: ca. 20%: very small portion of rim (1 cm) and base present. Reconstruction based on widest diameter and height.
Fabric: F.22
Surface treatment E: smoothed, scraped and pared down lightly with wet hand. Neat nail impressions in regular horizontal rows in upper half, slightly less so on lower body.
Surface treatment I: diluted clay slip, evenly but low burnished.
Colour E: 10 YR 6/4 (light yellow brown) ~ 7.5 YR 6/4 (light brown)
Colour I: very dark grey ~ black
Shape: holemouth pot type 701, base 801

Vessel 2004/42 (Plate Y.2)

Teleor 003, C25 (S19)

Fragments: two >7.5 cm pieces only, both from U.1599
Weight: 228 g
Wall thickness: 9 mm
Diameter mouth: 18 cm, radius: 20%
Diameter base: 15 cm, radius 20%
Height: 16,5 cm
Abrasion: not abraded, a few small cracks on the rim and on a sherd might be due to use.
Preservation: ca. 20%
Fabric: dense quartz with sparse elongated chaff inclusions (F.23)
Surface treatment E: smoothed, possibly with a wet hand, slightly pared down with spatula, and slightly scraped. Subsequently, impresso with fingernail in roughly regular rows. E base has use wear traces. Impresso rim.
Surface treatment I: a thin clay slip has been smoothed with a wet hand, evenly but lightly burnished only.
Colour E: 7.5 YR 6/4 (light brown) – 7.5 YR 6/2 (pinkish grey) – 5/2 (brown.
Colour I: fire clouded: black – 7.5 YR 5/4~4/6 (brown-strong brown).
Shape: simple holemouth pot type 701, flat 801 base. The rim/lip finished in the typical Dudeşti way: rounded on the I with a sharp, overhanging edge on the E , below which is the surface roughening and the rim impresso starting.
NB. Lower E body close to base is grey-black, contrasting to rest of vessel colours. This may be due to the cooking process.

Vessel 2004/43 (Plate Y.1)

Teleor 003, C25 (S19)
Fragments: 22 pieces from <5 – >7.5 cm size, mostly from U.1238, but two from U.1290
Weight: 1,240 g
Wall thickness: 10 mm, but base 4–5 cm towards centre
Diameter mouth: 16 cm, radius 60%
Diameter base: 15 cm, radius 60%
Height: 17–17.5 cm
Abrasion: slight abrasion on I and on edges of very thin base, also on I below rim abrasion in horizontal direction (use wear?)
Preservation: 75%
Fabric: F22
Surface treatment E: covered by barbotine layer and brushed in a horizontal direction from top to bottom, creating horizontal pattern. This coating has subsequently been finger-streaked vertically, leaving equally broad zones in between, creating a nice alternating pattern of horizontal and vertical wipings. The barbotine is thicker near the base zone due to the accumulating effect of surplus clay of working from top to bottom. E base use wear.
Surface treatment I: pared down in broad horizontal strokes, and lightly smoothed and burnished.
Colour E: 5 YR 5/4 (reddish brown)
Colour I: 7.5 YR 3/1 (very dark grey), but lower zone (below widest diameter) is lighter in shade, 'paled' possibly due to (water?) cooking.
Shape: holemouth pot type 701, flat base 801. Base thinning towards centre, like in the later Vădastra pots. NB. Even here, though lip is not profiled, there is the idea of rounding the lip on the inside, and of burnishing the top and extreme top outside edge of the lip (cf. Vessel 2004/42).

NB. Maybe such vessels were used for water cooking (note the 'fluid' aspect of decoration), while the impresso pots were used for other foodstuffs. The thinness of the base would make sense in this case, enabling faster boiling. Also the absence of an I diluted clay slip is substantiating this idea.

Vessel 2004/44

Teleor 003, C25 (S19)
Fragments: one piece, U.1566
Weight: 59 g
Wall thickness: 7 mm
Diameter mouth: 10 cm, radius 30%
Diameter base: 6 cm, radius 20%
Height: 5 cm
Abrasion: lightly abraded, rim chipped off at places
Preservation: 30%
Fabric: F13 (typical Starčevo-Criş fabric)
Surface treatment E/I: medium burnished E, slightly less so on I; walling slightly irregular on E, I much smoother; E base use wear.
Colour E/I: grey-black with reddish brown spots on rim top.
Shape: pedestaled cup.
NB. Starčevo-Criş intrusion.

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