

A NEW SUB-GROUP: THOUGHTS ON THE PHRYGIAN TYPE XII-9/ VARIANT A IV FIBULA FROM SEYİTÖMER HÖYÜK SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS

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Abstract: Twenty fibulae have been found so far during the Seyitömer Höyük salvage excavations. The majority of the samples are of the type defined as the Anatolian-Phrygian fibulae. There is a total of 18 fibulae in this type. One of the 18 Anatolian-Phrygian type fibulae is the subject of this study. The fibula is included in the group defined as Type XII-9 by Blinkenberg and later by Muscarella, and appears as Variant A IV in Caner's study, where a more comprehensive typological evaluation was made. The artefact presents a new image that differs from all fibulae found so far. In our example, the three metal bars that make up the main body are separated from each other by two channels. The fibula, which differs from the only similar example in many aspects, is different from all Anatolian-Phrygian type fibulae found in Anatolia, Western Anatolia, the Aegean Islands, Greece, and Italy, where Anatolian-Phrygian type fibulae were found and produced. Our study suggests that the Seyitömer Höyük fibula should be defined as a new sub-group under the term Variant A IV-3b, according to Caner's typology. In addition, the thought that the fibula in question pioneered some belt buckles that were created by emulating the Anatolian-Phrygian fibulae is also emphasized.

Cuvinte-cheie: epoca fierului, Seyitömer Höyük, fibule de tip anatoliano-frigian, variantă, cataramă

Rezumat: Cercetările arheologice de salvare de la Seyitömer Höyük au scos la lumină 20 de fibule. Majoritatea pieselor (18) se încadrează tipului anatoliano-frigian. Una dintre acestea, constituie obiectul studiului de față. Această fibulă a fost atribuită tipului XII-9 de Blinkenberg și mai apoi de Muscarella, iar Caner, în studiul său, o atribuie variantei A IV. La piesa noastră, cele trei bare de metal care formează corpul fibulei sunt separate una de alta prin două șanțuiri. Fibula este diferită de altele similare sub diverse aspecte: este diferită de cele de tip anatoliano-frigian din Anatolia, vestul Anatoliei, Insulele Egeene și Italia, unde erau produse și răspândite. Studiul nostru sugerează că fibula de la Seyitömer Höyük ar trebui definită ca un nou sub-grup denumit Varianta IV-3b (după tipologia lui Caner). Mai mult, credem că fibula a reprezentat punctul de plecare pentru anumite cataramă care emulau forma fibulelor anatoliano-frigiene.

INTRODUCTION

Examining the prehistoric and historical periods of Kütahya Province with the help of concrete finds based on research and excavations is extremely important in terms of revealing the integrity of the history of Central Western Anatolia in particular, and Anatolian history in general. The main criterion in revealing these results is the archaeological data. These archaeological data are largely based on the salvage excavations carried out by the Kütahya Museum throughout the province for many years¹. One of the most important of these salvage excavations is ongoing at Seyitömer Höyük.

Seyitömer Höyük salvage excavations were carried out in the context of both the prehistory and protohistory of the Kütahya. The site is located in the coal reserve area of Çelikler Seyitömer Elektrik Üretim AŞ, 26 km northwest of Kütahya city center, within the area where the old town of Seyitömer is located (Fig. 1). Seyitömer Höyük is approximately 150 × 140 m, and its original height was 23.5 m.

¹ For archaeological research ranging from the Ottoman period to the present in Kütahya, see: Ünân, Ünân 2018, p. 131.

RESEARCH HISTORY

In order to make usable the 12 million tons of coal reserves² in the affected area of the mound, salvage excavations were continued by the Eskişehir Museum in the first year from 1989 and by the Afyonkarahisar Museum between 1990 and 1995. After this date, the excavations were interrupted, and from 2006 onwards, Dumlupınar University Archaeology Department continued under the chairmanship of A. N. Bilgen until the end of 2014. The excavations, which were suspended for a while, were resumed in 2019 under the responsibility of the Kütahya Museum and are still ongoing.

STRATIGRAPHY

As a result of the 2008 excavations at Seyitömer Mound, the stratigraphy of the layers was rearranged. Accordingly, layer I (Roman Period), layer II (Hellenistic Period), layer III (Achaemenid Period, 500–334 BC),

² Değer 2019, p. 20.

layer IV (Middle Bronze Age, 18th century BC) and layer V (Early Bronze Age, 3000–2000 BC). The settlement of the 4th century BC, which is associated with layer III, was completely exposed, and removed. It was understood that there were structures dated to the 5th century BC under the buildings belonging to the 4th century BC³. Remains of MBA were found just below the layer. On the mound, the structures belonging to this layer IV were almost exposed. The EBA level was reached at approximately the middle elevations of the mound. It was understood that layer V, which started to be opened in very small areas, underwent an intense fire⁴. Based on the architecture and small finds from previous seasons, the stratification of the mound is as follows (Fig. 2):

- I-Roman Period
- II-Hellenistic Period (A–B)
- III-Iron Age (A–B)⁵
- IV-Middle Bronze Age (A–B–C)
- V-Early Bronze Age III (A–B–C–D)
- VI-Early Bronze Age III–II (Transitional)
- VI-Early Bronze Age II (A)

FIBULAE IDENTIFIED AS ANATOLIAN-PHYRGIAN TYPE XII-9 OR VARIANT A IV

Blinkenberg, who has a pioneering and comprehensive study on fibulae, groups them in 16 different types⁶. Blinkenberg considers as *Types d'Asie Mineure* under the title of Type XII, which includes subgroups produced by the Phrygians. So much so that in the studies prepared in the period following Blinkenberg's publication, the fibulae in question began to be directly referred to as the Phrygian or Anatolian-Phrygian Type⁷. Muscarella, following Blinkenberg's terminology, in his comprehensive study on Type XII fibulae⁸, stated that this group was a Phrygian local production. In the process following Blinkenberg and Muscarella, within the scope of the

"*Prähistorische Bronzefunde*" project, region-based studies were undertaken in more detail by Sapouna-Sakellarakis⁹ and Caner¹⁰, and many sub-variants of the Type XII fibulae were documented typologically by both researchers.

The fibula making the subject of our study, is considered as Type XII-9 fibulae in the pioneering studies of Blinkenberg and Muscarella. It is among the fibula types that have been used for a long time in Gordion. The main characteristic that distinguishes Type XII-9 fibulae from other types is that they are formed by connecting hollow hemi-spherical studs to the arc by means of pins. In Caner's comprehensive study, these fibulae are discussed under the title of Variant A IV¹¹. In the related study, Caner diversifies this type of fibulae based on the typological differences they show in Variant A IV and examines them in four subgroups, coined as Variant A IV, 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Of these, Variant A IV-1 has a flat, wide, and rectangular cross-section. The arc is equipped with hollow hemispheres by means of pins. The pins are riveted to the body with a hammer, then filed and straightened. Hollow ornaments on the outer parts of the arc often appear in double or triple compositions that are fixed by bending rather than hammering. Late examples also show signs of studs fixed by solder or white paste. The general distribution of finds shows that the variant in question emerged at the beginning of the 8th century BC and has not been produced since the end of that very century¹².

Variant A IV-2 is represented by extremely rare examples. In this subgroup, unlike the previous variant, it is seen that the body end-points are connected by a "T" shaped, vertical and horizontal strip. Although these examples date to the end of the 8th century BC, they do not occur later, and interestingly, some examples also appear in Greece¹³.

Another subgroup, – Variant A IV-3 – is quite unique, as noted by Caner in 1983. In the aforementioned study, there is only one example from the findspot recorded as Kütahya-Tavşanlı, but the exact location is unknown¹⁴. What differentiates this subgroup is that the fibula - body consists of two parallel and possibly separately cast rectangular sections. By means of large studs, Caner dates the only example of this subgroup to the end of the 8th century BC and the beginning of the 7th century BC¹⁵.

In the context of Caner's typology created, the last known subgroup falling within the scope of this fibula type is Variant A IV-4. This subgroup is actually quite similar to Variant IV-1. On the other hand, the main difference that distinguishes both groups are that at this subgroup studs are smaller and cast in one piece without exception. This variant is the longest used subgroup within type XII-9

³ Bilgen *et alii* 2010, p. 341–349; Coşkun 2017; Dönmez, Saba 2018, p. 255–257.

⁴ Bilgen *et alii* 2010, p. 341–349.

⁵ In the studies carried out at Seyitömer Höyük by the Afyon Museum, a layer belonging to the Phrygian Period is mentioned; cf. İlaslı 1996, p. 3. The Phrygian settlement surrounded by walls is mentioned in the excavations carried out in 2006–2007 by Kütahya Dumlupınar University; cf. Bilgen 2008, p. 324. However, after 2008, the Phrygian layer is not mentioned, and the Achaemenid Period layer is included instead of Phrygian layer; cf. Bilgen *et alii* 2010, p. 342. Bowls belong the Achaemenid Period and Achaemenid bullae were found in this layer; cf. Coşkun 2015, p. 53, fig. 55; Dönmez, Saba 2018. However, considering the presence of Phrygian finds in the new excavations, the layer was dated as Iron Age, including the Phrygian and Achaemenid periods. Apart from these, there are traces of a Hellenistic Period settlement surrounded by walls and a Roman Period settlement, the boundaries of which have been tried to be determined since 2019.

⁶ Blinkenberg 1926.

⁷ Muscarella 1967; Caner 1983.

⁸ Muscarella 1967, p. 59.

⁹ Sapouna-Sakellarakis 1978.

¹⁰ Caner 1983.

¹¹ Caner 1983, p. 69–84.

¹² Caner 1983, p. 70–78.

¹³ Caner 1983, p. 78.

¹⁴ Caner 1983, Taf. 33–409.

¹⁵ Caner 1983, p. 79.

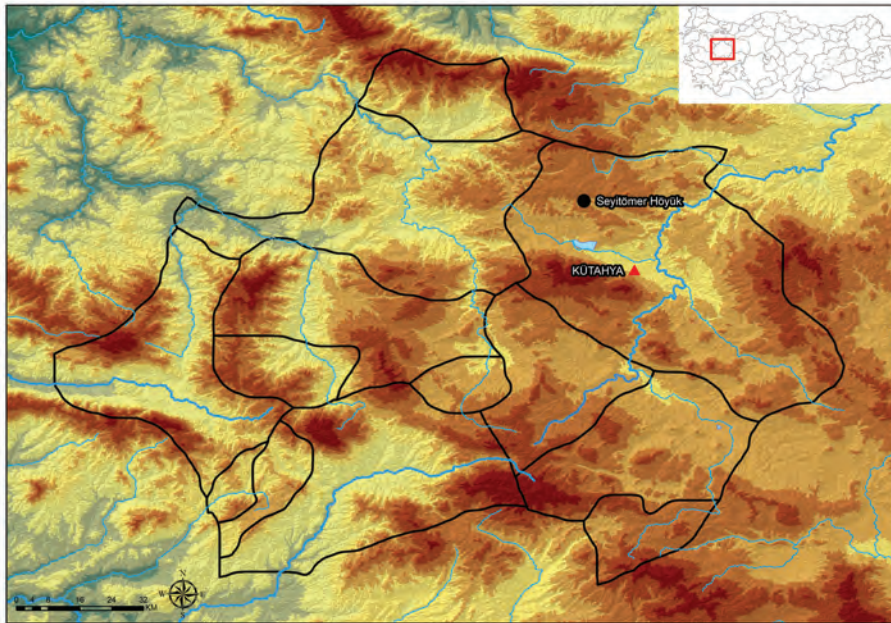


Figure 1. Map showing the location of Seyitömer Höyük.

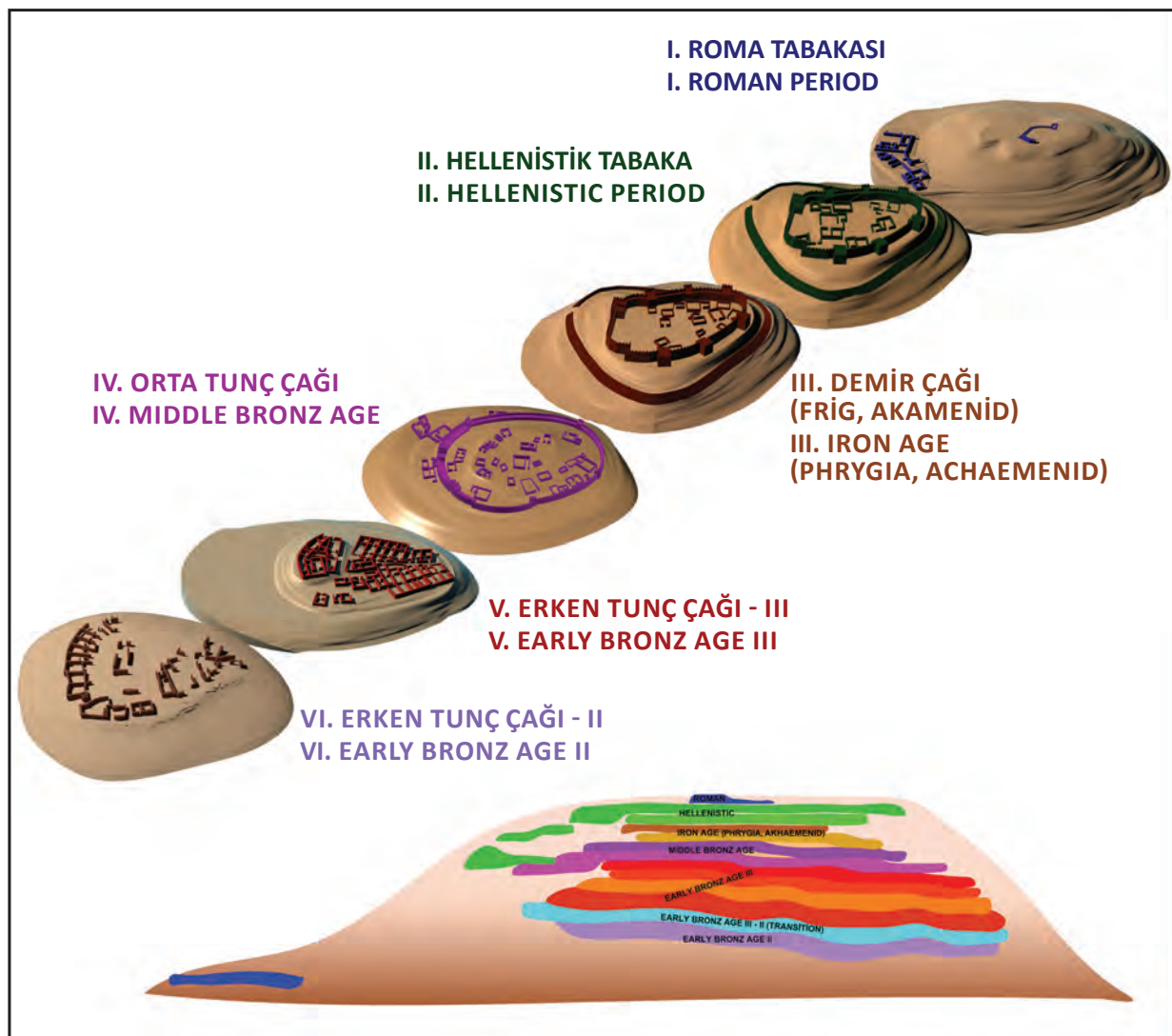


Figure 2. General stratification at Seyitömer Höyük.

fibulae. It is widespread over an area from Anatolia to Italy, from the 8th century BC to the end of the 7th century BC¹⁶.

THE NEW SUB-GROUP OF TYPE XII-9/VARIANT A IV FIBULAE FROM SEYİTÖMER HÖYÜK

The fibula¹⁷ which is the subject of the article, was found in the bottom filling of room 8 in grid G 14, located approximately at the centre of the mound (Fig. 3–5). It was found on the floor of the EBA II–III Transition layer, probably due to the possible destruction caused by the upper layers (Fig. 6). It was recovered in four pieces at the 1169.02 m level and was refitted during restoration. The bronze fibula with silver stud attachments is 7.7 cm wide, 7.1 cm high and 72.64 g in weight. The artefact draws attention by its rather large and heavy structure compared to its counterparts. EDX analyses were carried out alongside those on other bronze artefacts from the lower and upper layers, found together with the respective fibula. Accordingly, it was indicated that the fibula contains 69.91% copper and 10.04% tin, and less than 0.01% arsenic¹⁸ (Fig. 7).

The fibula is rectangular in cross-section, with a body formed by three metal bars bent in the shape of a horseshoe (Fig. 8). The arc plate was cut into two channels, possibly using the *ajouré* technique after casting, so that a total of three crescent-shaped curved metal bars that

expand downwards resulted. The narrowest of the three crescent-shaped metal rods forming the body is at the top. Between this narrow bar and the middle bar, there is one connection in the centre and one on the side. There is a flat rectangular platform at the end of both legs, a flatter and rectangular groove starting from the back underneath both of them, and a platform below. The fibula has a semi-spherical body and a circular cavity in the middle, whose under-spring is sliced at equal intervals on the arc. There is a 0.5 cm diameter hole where the needle would be fixed. The catch plate is hooked and horn-shaped. The horn-like catch plate, considered as an instrument of the aniconic goddess reflection in a previous study¹⁹, has the appearance of a volute consisting of intertwined spirals. The needle part was not found. In terms of the fibula's construction technique, it is indicated that the body part was produced in a single mould, and the mobile needle part was then added to the body.

There are stud sockets on the arc and all of the other parts that make up the fibula. On the metal bars, there are 12 studs on the uppermost one, 16 on the middle bar, and 17 on the lower bar forming the widest arc, respectively. Studs are also presents in other parts of the fibula. There is a total of 58 studs on the entire fibula, with three on the catch-plate, one each on the volutes, and four each on the terminals extending to the spring.



Figure 3. Aerial photograph showing the grid-square G-14 in Seyitömer Höyük (09.11.2020) where the fibula was found.

¹⁶ Caner 1983, p. 79–84.

¹⁷ Inventory number: SH-20-2407.

¹⁸ Analyses were made on 26.01.2021 at Kütahya Dumlupınar University, Advanced Technology Center (ITEM), with an EDX detector on the FEI brand Nova NanoSEM 650 device.

¹⁹ Erdan 2019a, *passim*.



Figure 4. Aerial photograph showing the grid-square G-14 in Seyitömer Höyük (09.11.2020) where the fibula was found.

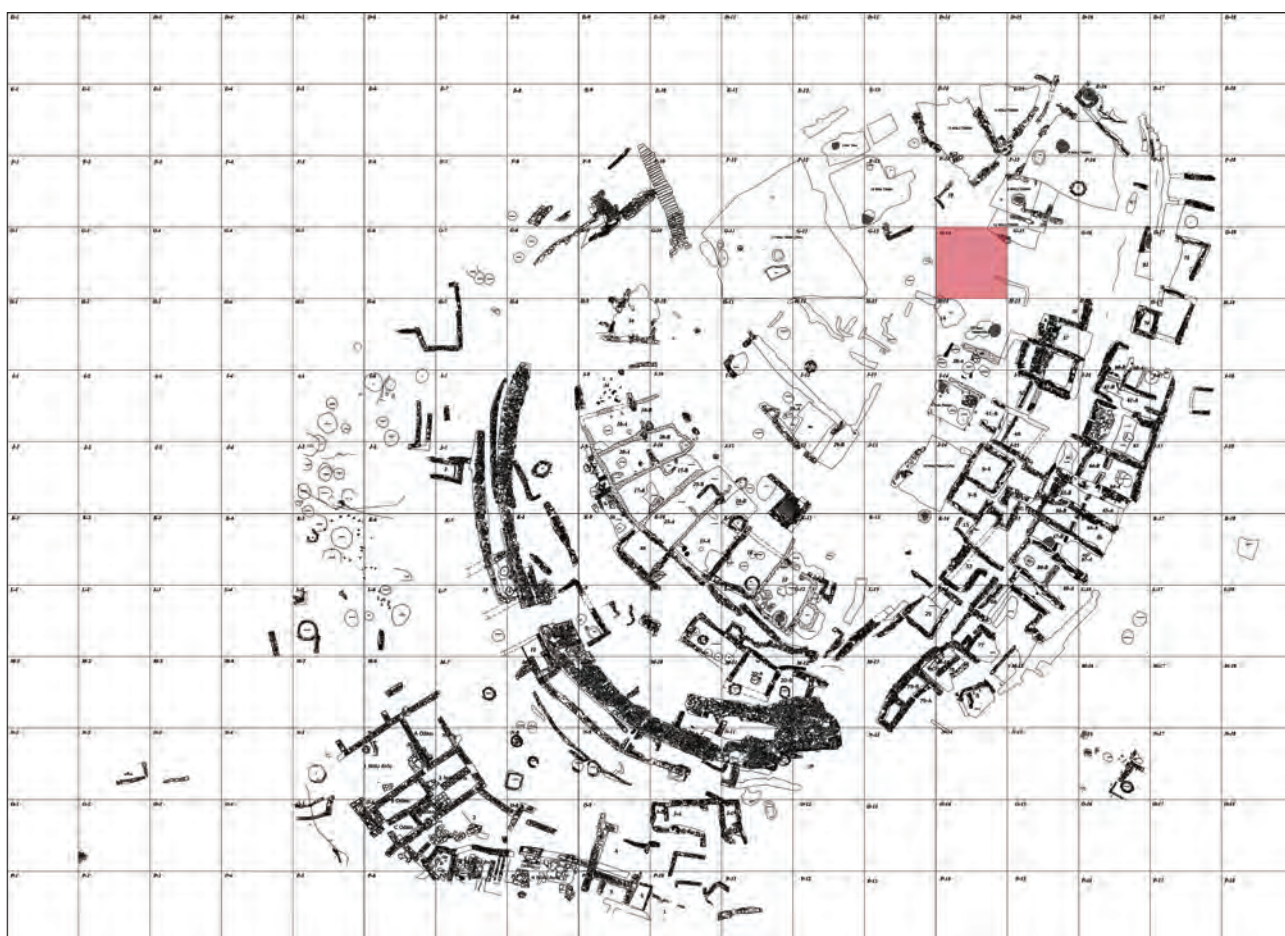


Figure 5. Grid-square of the Seyitömer Höyük and the location of G-14 trench.



Figure 6. In situ view of the fibula.

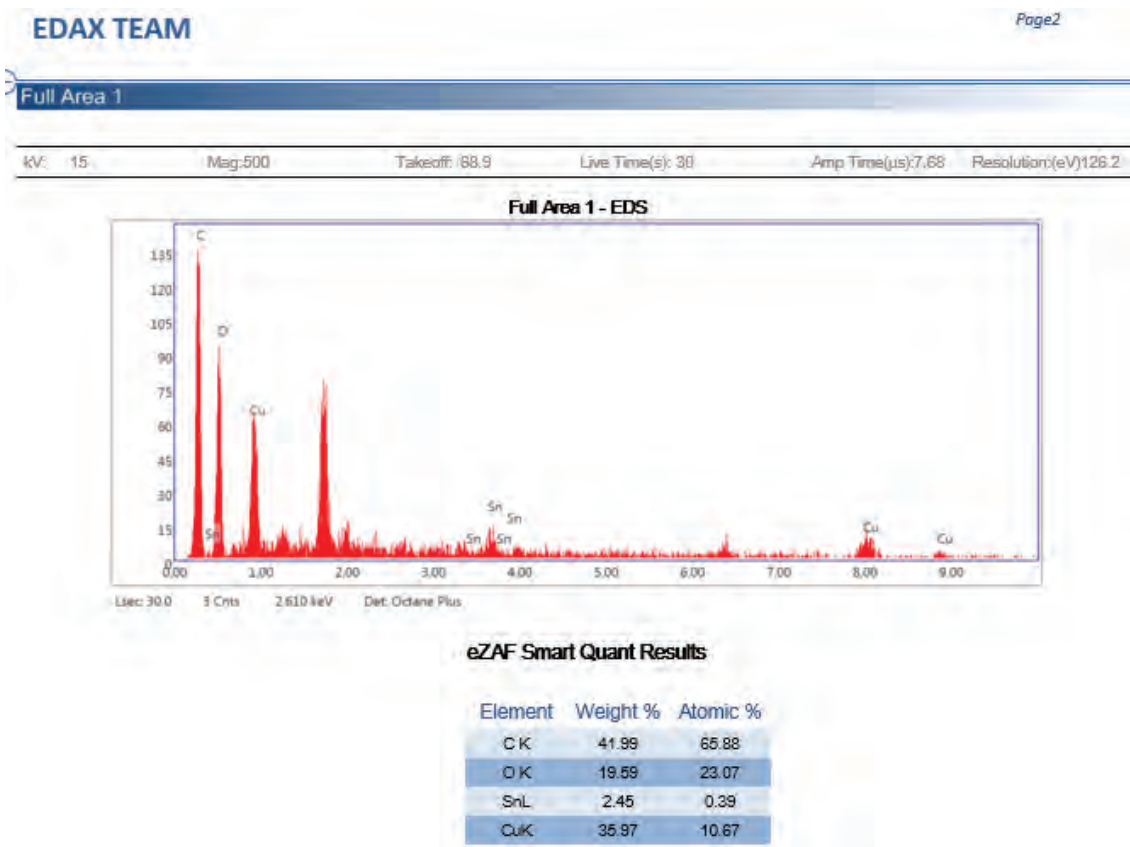


Figure 7. Energy Dispersive X-Ray Analysis of Fibula.



Figure 8. View of the Seyitömer Höyük fibula from different angles.

CONCLUSION

Reflecting the characteristic features of the Anatolian-Phrygian Type XII-9/Variant A IV fibulae, the Seyitömer Höyük fibula is completely different from the known examples with the cavities opened with the *ajouré* technique applied on the arc. A total of 20 fibulae were found in the excavations at Seyitömer Höyük until today²⁰. Their general distribution belongs to Type XII-2, 7, 9, 13 and 14 sub-groups in line with the typology of Muscarella. When all the fibulae in question are examined, it is understood that these examples have no typological similarities except for their general forms. The fibula is not only typologically unlike the fibulae found in Seyitömer Höyük, but also differs from the 62 Anatolian-Phrygian fibulae found in the inventory of the Kütahya Museum in terms of its features²¹. In this respect, the fibula, which we evaluated within the scope of the study, is seen as a unique example.

A single fibula, which Caner grouped under the title Variant A IV-3 in his work covering all Anatolian fibulae, bears similarities with the Seyitömer fibula²². The latter, which is in the Afyonkarahisar Museum today and labelled "Tavşanlı" find (Fig. 9/a), has an arc separated by a single channel, similar to the example we presented. The fibula in question, which has a total of 39 studs on it, was made of bronze, and Caner considered that the metal bars on the body were cast independently and then joined together.

The fibula in our study, differs from the Tavşanlı example in several respects. The main difference is the number of channels and metal bars in the body. While Tavşanlı Variant A IV-3 has a single channel and two metal bars in its arc, at the Seyitömer's example, two channels and three metal bar form the arc. Also, while there were 39 studs attached at the Tavşanlı example, there were 58 at the Seyitömer fibula, and that they were made from a different metal. Although EDX analyses did not indicate this, it is highly possible that the metal not identified in the spectrum is silver. As a matter of fact, there are remains of very small silver pins on the fibula visible to the naked eye. In addition to these, the spiral-shaped volutes present at the catch plate of the Seyitömer fibula also follow a distinctive feature from the Tavşanlı fibula. Interestingly, in terms of Seyitömer's location, a similar practice at the Anatolian-Phrygian fibulae is observed at the examples called "Simav (Kütahya)" region finds in the literature²³. In Caner's evaluation of the Tavşanlı find, there is an interpretation that the metal bars were produced separately and then joined together. At the Seyitömer example, however, there is no indication that the metal bars were subsequently brazed

or riveted to the mainspring and catch plate platforms in any way. However, traces of cutting tools can be seen in the channels between the metal bars, indicating that the body was initially cast in the form of a large arc in Seyitömer's example, and then the channels created by cutting. In view of all these differences, we think that it would be appropriate to refer to the sample obtained from Seyitömer Höyük as Variant A IV-3b within the scope of Caner's typological classification, and to consider the singular sample as Variant A IV-3a, which was previously considered only as Variant A IV-3.

The Seyitömer Höyük example enables us to make new interpretations in terms of some unique examples of Ionian belt buckles, which are very similar to the Anatolian-Phrygian fibulae. It is known that belt buckles, which are known from the Phrygian and Ionian cites have been imitated and modelled after Anatolian-Phrygian Type fibulae, especially in Ionia²⁴. In Western Anatolia, the Aegean Islands and Greece they were reshaped by adding some new and local features. One of the belt buckles, represented by only two examples so far, is in Emporio²⁵ (Fig. 9/b) and the other is at the British Museum²⁶ (Fig. 9/c). These examples of belt buckles produced in almost the same style as the Anatolian-Phrygian fibulae, shows that the body parts were arranged and sliced too. In particular, the Emporio example exhibits a remarkable similarity in this regard and can be considered as a simple imitation of the Seyitömer's fibula with its triple metal bar and two-channel structure. As a matter of fact, we also have information that Anatolian-Phrygian fibulae were imported and even produced in centres over a wide area from the end of the 8th century BC to the 6th century BC, especially in Western Anatolia²⁷, the Aegean Islands²⁸,

²⁴ Vassileva 2012, p. 324–326.

²⁵ Boardman 1955, p. 37, fig. 4.

²⁶ Boardman 1966, pl. LXIV.

²⁷ Smyrna (Boardman 1961, fig. 21/b), Ephesos (Hogarth 1908, pl. 19/1–2; Klebinder-Gauß 2007, p. 93–103), Sardis (Waldbaum 1983, p. 112–115, pl. 43/671–675), Troy (Dörpfeld 1902, p. 414; Caner 1983, p. 105, no. 608), Larisa (Boehlaue, Schefold 1942, Taf. 10.25), Tisna (Erdan 2019b, p. 45–46), Thymbra (Caner 1983, p. 115, no. 676, 714, 753, 967, 975, 998–999, 1017, 1030), Nif (Baykan 2012, p. 235, Res. 7; Baykan 2017, p. 126, Res. 10), Neandria (Caner 1983, p. 148, no. 1023–1024, 1031–1033), Klaros (Şahin *et alii* 2003, p. 83), Klazomenai (Hürmüzlü 2003, p. 451), Didyma (Naumann, Tuchelt 1963–1964, p. 47–48; Filges 2004, p. 148), Miletus (Donder 2002, p. 8, Abb. 5; von Graeve 2007, p. 636), Büyük Saray (Dönmez 2017a, p. 66; Dönmez 2017b, p. 110, fig. 28), Assos (Arslan *et alii* 2009, p. 106; Wescoat 2012, p. 202–203).

²⁸ Cyclades (Mazarakis Ainian 2005, p. 98; Koukoulidou *et alii* 2017, p. 202–204), Aigina (Blinkenberg 1926, p. 230; Sapouna-Sakellarakis 1978, p. 121), Chios (Lamb 1935, p. 149), Delos (Deonna 1938, p. 289), Paros (Rubensohn 1962, p. 69, no. 18), Siphnos (Brock, Mackworth-Young 1949, p. 26, no. 4–5), Thera (Dragendorff 1903, p. 299), Lesbos (Lamb 1931, p. 45, 62, 64), Rhodes (Blinkenberg 1931, p. 88, pl. 8/111), Samos (Birmingham 1961, p. 186–189; Muscarella 1967, Appendix C; Waldbaum 1983, p. 10), Samothrake (Dusenbery 1959, p. 166), Thassos (Sapouna-Sakellarakis 1978, p. 128, no. 1678).

²⁰ Some of these fibulae have been published see: Özcan 2018; a study on the entire fibulae assemblage will be published soon.

²¹ Özcan 2018.

²² Caner 1983, Taf. 33–409.

²³ Caner 1983, Taf. 16/211–212, 214.

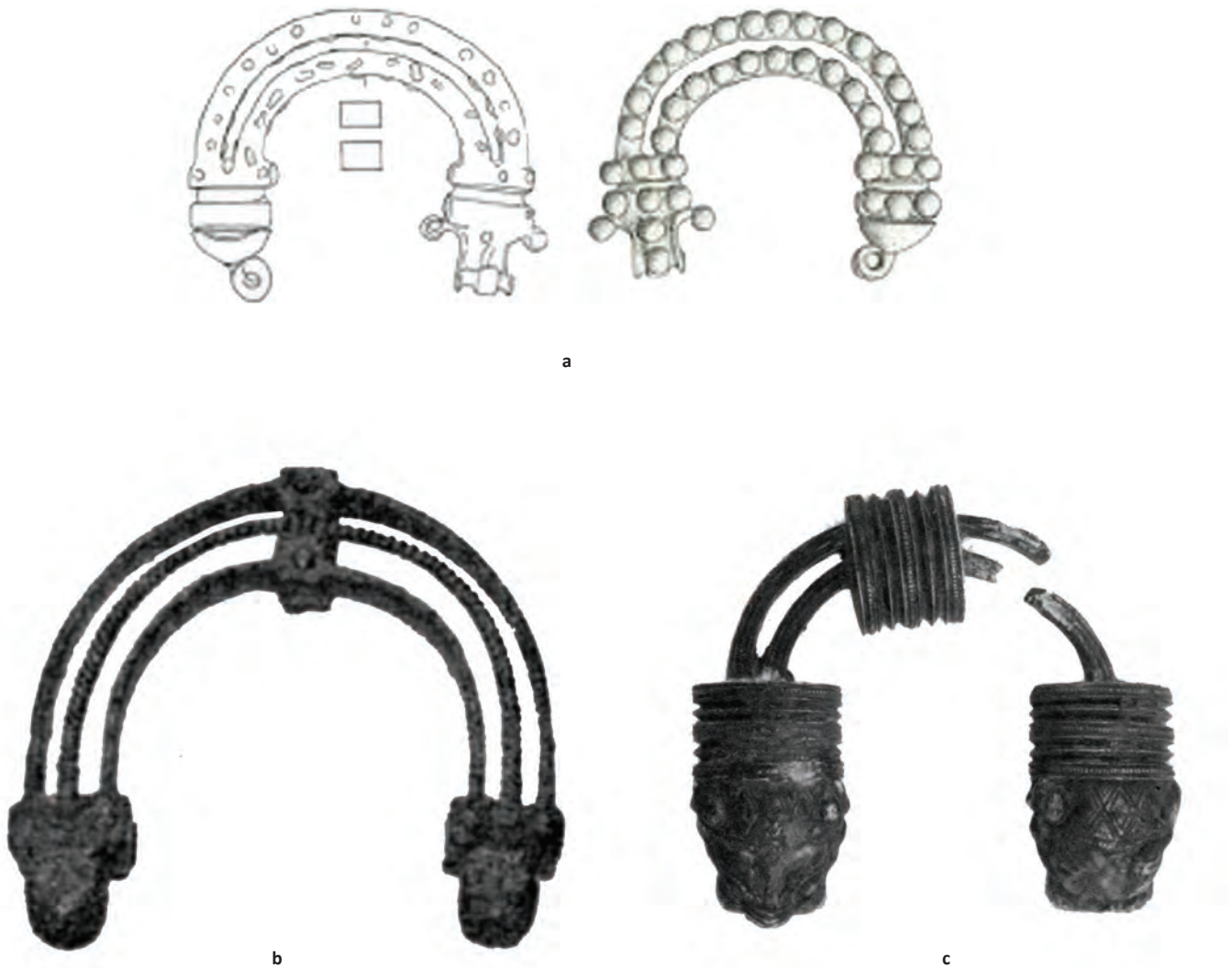


Figure 9. a) Fibula from Tavşanlı (Caner 1983, Taf. 33–409); b) belt buckle from Emporio (Boardman 1955, p. 37, fig. 4); c) belt buckle from British Museum (Boardman 1966, pl. LXIV).

Greece²⁹, and Italy³⁰. Anatolian-Phrygian type fibula moulds found at Smyrna³¹, Sardis³², Miletus³³, Elmalı³⁴ and waste materials found at Nif³⁵ which reflect the local production there, are the main proofs that these fibulae were produced over a wide area, especially in Western Anatolia, during the Iron Age.

²⁹ Pherai (Kilian 1975, p. 151–154), Chaeronea (Myres 1930, p. 420), Delphi (Perdrizet 1908, p. 112, fig. 396), Stymphalos (Young 2014, p. 135, 244), Isthmia (Raubitschek 1998, p. 50–51), Ithaca (Heurtley, Robertson 1948, p. 118, pl. 50/E17, E20), Perachora (Payne 1940, p. 171), Olympia (Jantzen 1972, p. 49–53; Philipp 1981, p. 311–312), Tegea (Voyatzis 1990, p. 213–214), Argos (Waldstein 1905, p. 244–246), Sparta (Dawkins 1929, p. 198–199).

³⁰ Bitalemi (Tarditi 2015, p. 46), Latium (Gierow 1964, p. 209; Kilian 1975, p. 153), Ischia (Stoop 1955, fig. 15; Muscarella 1967, pl. XI/59–60).

³¹ Muscarella 1967, p. 49.

³² Waldbaum 1983, no. 950.

³³ Treister 1995, fig. 5–6; Bilgi *et alii* 2004, p. 31.

³⁴ Demirel 2005, p. 38, fig. 31.

³⁵ Baykan 2012, p. 235; Baykan 2017, p. 126, Res. 10.

The similarities of these examples, dated to the 7th and 6th centuries BC by Boardman, with Seyitömer's fibula, are striking. In this case, it can be thought that the new sub-group of Anatolian-Phrygian Type fibulae, making the subject of our study, may have been produced at a date just before the belt buckles mentioned as a pioneering example. Both the Tavşanlı and the Seyitömer fibulae mentioned in the study suggest that Variant A IV is a special sub-group produced at a place near Kütahya. In the light of Caner's typology and dating³⁶, the example from Seyitömer Höyük should be coined as Variant A IV-3b as a new sub-group of this variant and dated to the end of the 8th century BC and the beginning of the 7th century BC.

³⁶ Caner 1983, p. 79.

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