

"TEOHARI ANTONESCU" COUNTY MUSEUM OF GIURGIU  
"VASILE PÂRVAN" INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

# TREASURE LOST, TREASURE REGAINED

PART I





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"TEOHARI ANTONESCU" COUNTY MUSEUM OF GIURGIU  
"VASILE PÂRVAN" INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY



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# TREASURE LOST, TREASURE REGAINED

by Bogdan Tănăsescu

In the spring of 2001, one announcement from the Giurgiu Customs Office created a rumour in the halls of the "Teohari Antonescu" County Museum: an impressive lot of archaeological objects had been discovered during a "Border Police" routine check on an incoming train from Bulgaria. Their immediate observation by the museographer Emil Păunescu led to the specification of the "capture": circ. 200 metal items, traceable back to the Early Iron Age (Hallstatt) and reaching into the Middle Ages, plus some 1.500 ancient and medieval coins. Before clarifying all the legal aspects in connection to this lot, its items were given in custody to the County Museum subsequently in its property.

The work on the items started by their cleaning and restoring, which took place in the Museum lab; sometimes it had doubtful results, though, owing to the lack of experience wielded by the participants in this process. The Museum specialist, Florin Grofu made precise, plus very "artistic", drawings of the individual items. For the next stages, a welcome attempt was made to apply for the first time a policy of activity externalization. It enabled us to entrust the photographing, modelling and digital processing of the resulting materials to a professional of the advertising industry, Dan Șerbănescu, which ensured a significant quality improvement in the publication.

We set out by asking ourselves the following question: are the items retrieved from the illegal antiquity trade of any value for the researcher? While research usually starts from the context of the findings - in this case, the challenge which faced the specialists of the "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, working under the aegis of the Romanian Academy, consisted in the need to integrate the items in the wider context where they were spread, namely, a geographical area to be considered very generous and, indeed, rather hard to cover. I feel justified in stating that the results obtained in some cases are outstanding.

In the Romanian archaeological milieu, we are currently receiving more and more news about capturing or retaining archaeological materials, further to the activity of the heritage conservation services. Some of this news is traceable, and even hyped in the media - as has been the case with the Geto-Dacian bracelets.

The present volume opens a new series of publications of our Museum: The Heritage Series, presenting only the first part of the Bulgarian lot, for the moment; the second part of the same will document the coins and ponds it also includes. At the same time, the already existing collections, such as the Fire Arms and Knuckles Collection and the Prehistorical Metal Items Collection will be published, alongside the new acquisitions or "thesauri" of this sort, which have now been brought to light for the benefit us all.





1. Socketed - axe; bronze; Late Bronze Age



I.



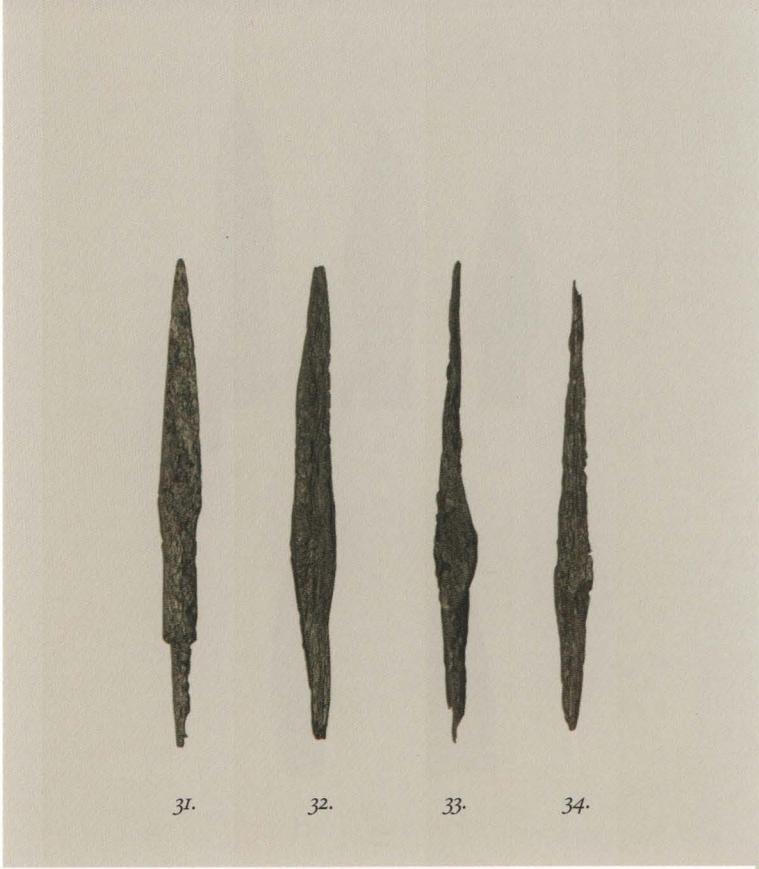
I.



I.

31-37. Arrowheads with a diamond-shaped  
cross-section and with a fixing thorn;  
iron;  
the Middle Ages (11th - 13th c. AD)



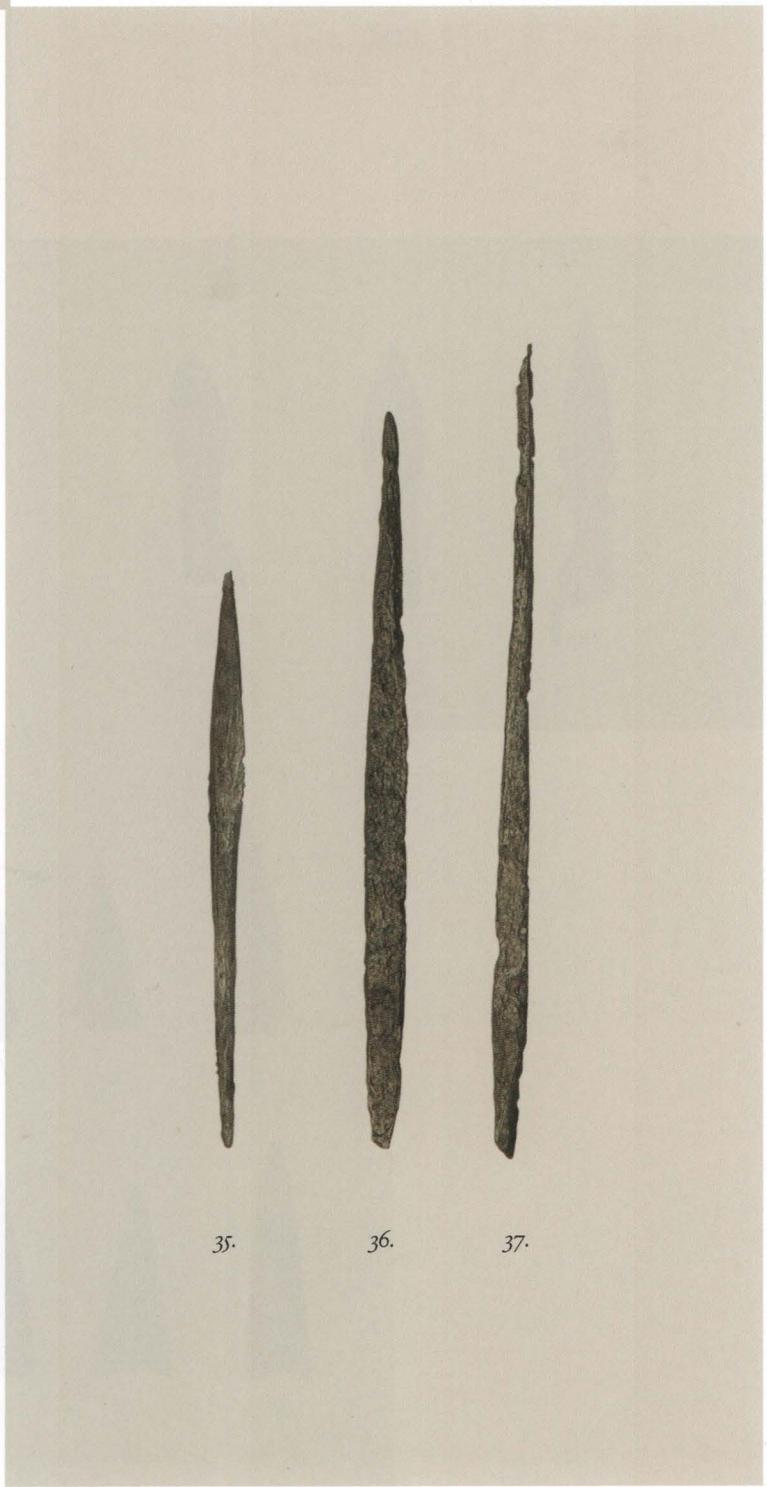


31.

32.

33.

34.



35.

36.

37.

38-40 Arrowheads with three winglets; iron; Iron Age  
(circ. 650-550 BC.)

41-42 Arrowheads with three winglets; iron; Iron Age  
(circ. 550-450 BC.)

43-45 Arrowheads with three winglets; iron; Iron Age  
(circ. 350-250 BC)

68-70. Arrowhead with two winglets; bronze; Iron Age  
(circ. 650-550 BC.)

46-60, 65 Arrowheads with three winglets; bronze; Iron  
Age (circ. 550-450 BC.)



38.

39.

40.



41.

42.



43.

44.

45.



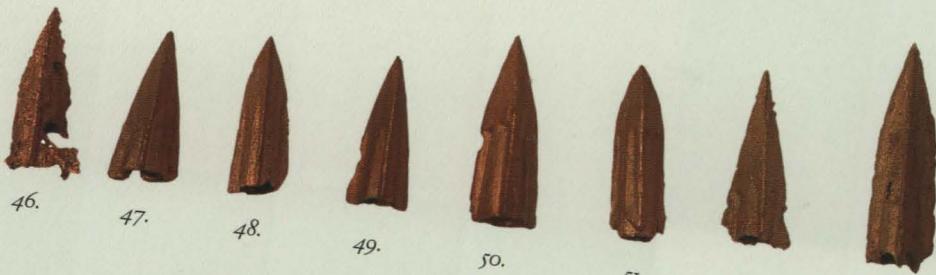
68.



69.



70.



46.

47.

48.

49.

50.

51.

52.

53.



54.

55.

56.

57.

58.

59.

60.

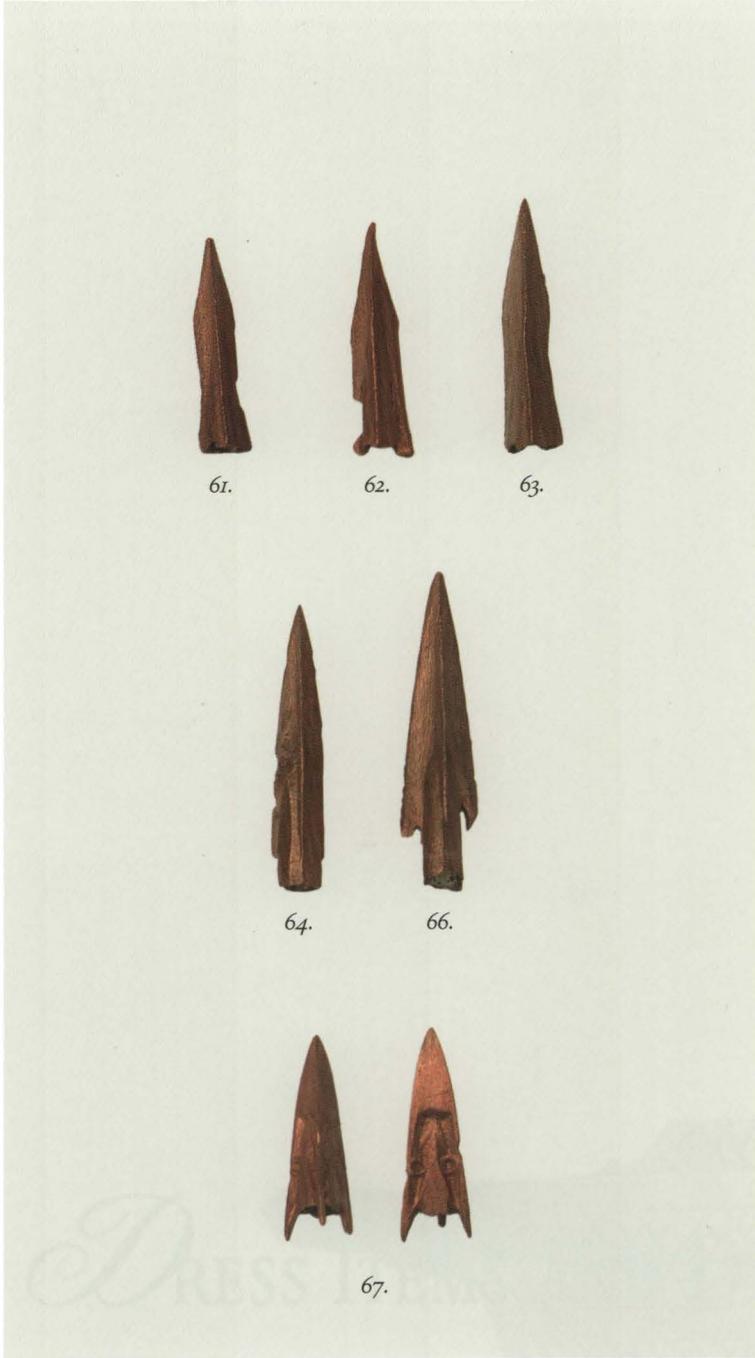
65.

61-63 Arrowheads with three winglets; bronze;  
Iron Age (circ. 450-350 BC.)

64, 66-67 Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze;  
Iron Age (circ. 350-250 BC.)

71-72 Arrowheads; bronze

147. Scythian applique, a crouching animal;  
bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550 BC.)







*D*RESS ITEMS AND DECORATIVE ACCESSORIES

**Bracelets:**

8-10. Bracelet; silver; Latene age



8.



9.



10.

11. Bracelet; glass

13. "Bangle" with birds; bronze;  
(2nd-1st c. BC)



11.



13.

3. Bandiform bracelet with widening ends; bronze;  
the Middle Ages (the 11th- 13th c. AD)

3A. Bandiform bracelet with peaked ends; bronze;  
the Middle Ages (12th to the 13th c. AD)



3. Bracelet made of a massive bar with beaded ends  
proven: the Middle Ages  
A Bandwidth bracelet; proven: the Middle Ages  
(c. 11th-13th AD)



3.



3A.

2. Bracelet made of a massive bar; with peaked ends;  
bronze; the Middle Ages

7. Bandiform bracelet; bronze; the Middle Ages  
(c. 11th -13th AD)

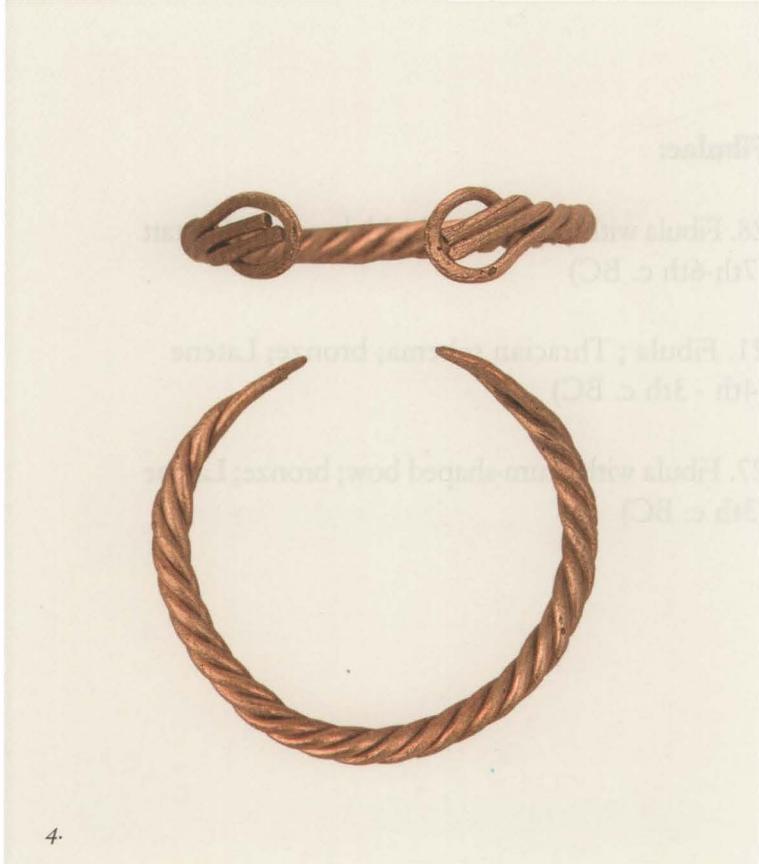


2.



7.

4-6. Twisted wiring bracelet, with loop-shaped ends;  
bronze; the Middle Ages (c. 11th - 12th AD)



4.



5.



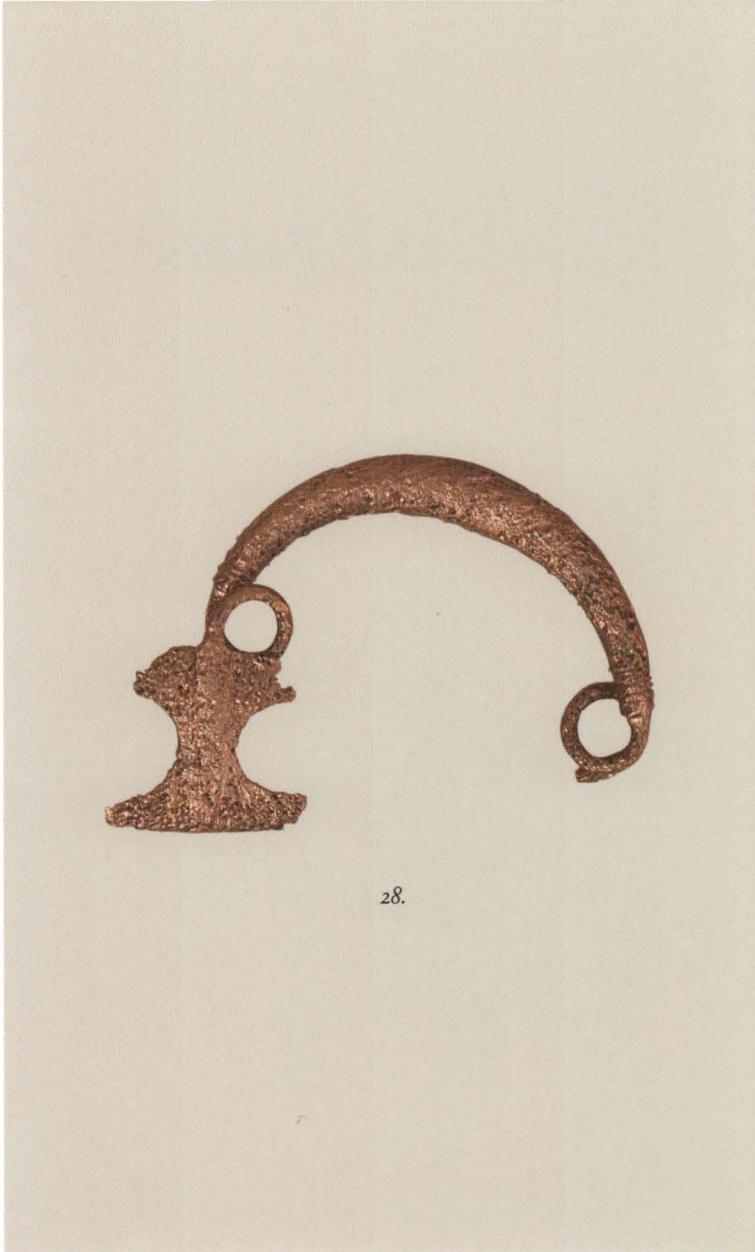
6.

**Fibulae:**

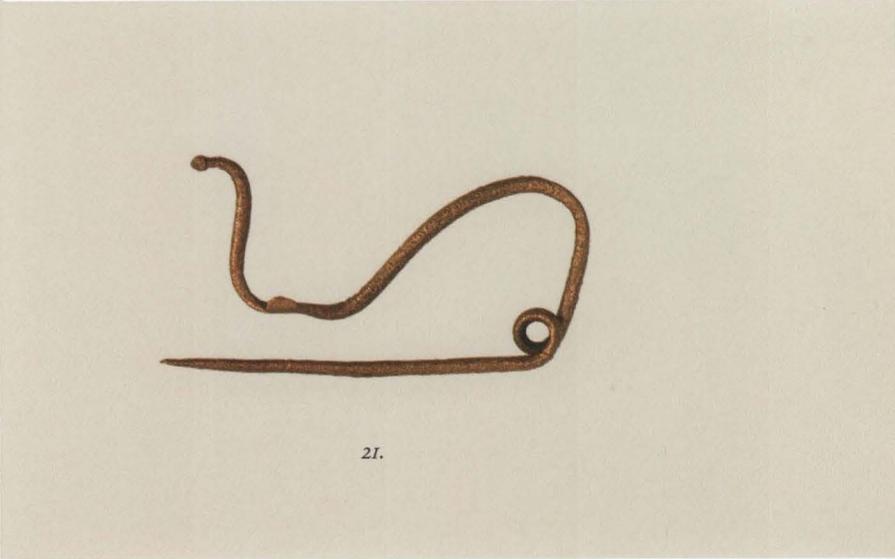
28. Fibula with Boeothian shield; bronze; Hallstatt  
(7th-6th c. BC)

21. Fibula ; Thracian schema; bronze; Latene  
(4th - 3th c. BC)

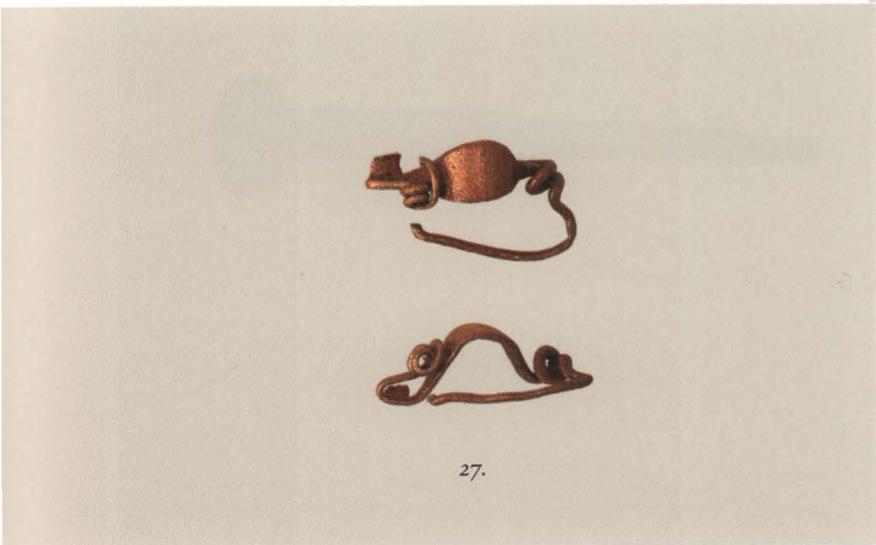
27. Fibula with drum-shaped bow; bronze; Latene  
(3th c. BC)



28.



21.



27.

14-15. Spoon-bow fibula; bronze;  
Latene (2 nd half of 1st c. BC - 1st half of 1st c. AD)

16-19. Fibulae; bronze; Roman age



14.



15.

16-19. Fibula; bronze; Roman age



16.

17.



18.

19.

20, 22-23, 26. Fibula; bronze; Roman age



20.



22.



23.



26.

29. Fibula; bronze; Roman age

24-25. Cast fibulae with bent stem (gegossene Bronzefibeln mit Scheinumwicklung des Bügels); bronze; early Byzantine age (1st half of 6th c. AD)

**Pins:**

156. Hairpin ending in the shape of a right-hand holding a fruit; bronze; Roman age; (1st -3rd c. AD)



29.



24.



25.



156.

### **Belt Accessories:**

136. Belt pin with anthropomorphic ornament - decorative belt pin for the belt buckles of the cingulum, bearing the portrait of Emperor Domitian (81-96); Roman age (1st c. AD)

137. Belt pin with anthropomorphic decoration - decorative belt pin for the belt buckles of the cingulum, bearing the portrait of an emperor, very schematically rendered; Roman age (1st c. AD)

166. Belt pin; bronze; Roman Age

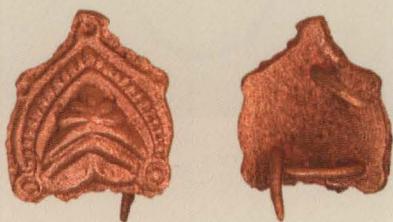
179-180. Strap end; Roman Age (3th c. AD)



136.



137.



166.



179.



180.

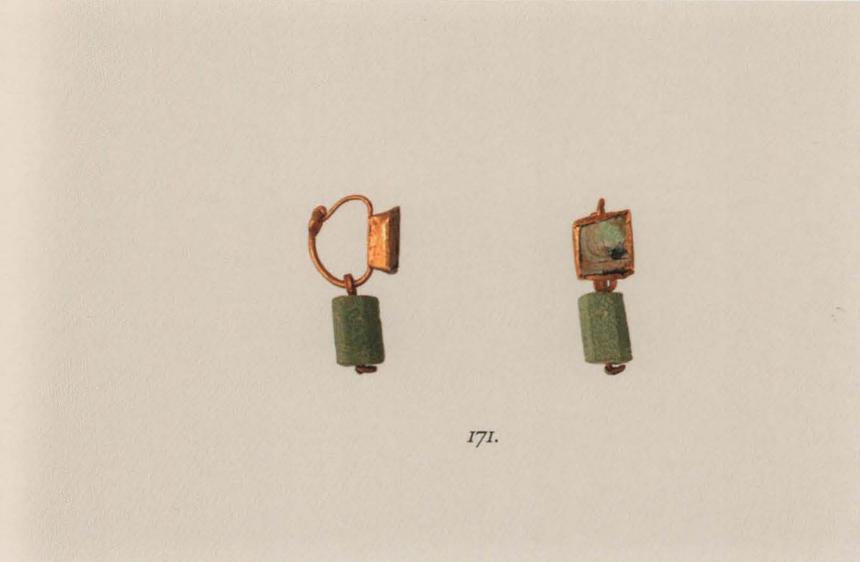
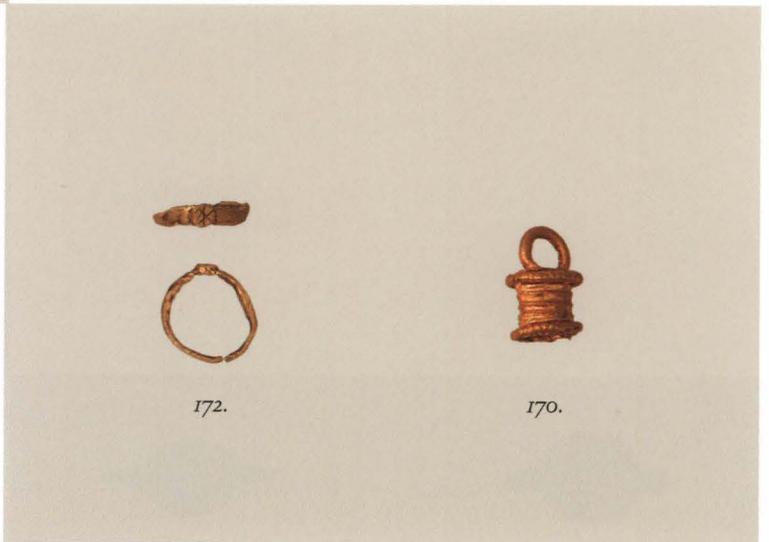
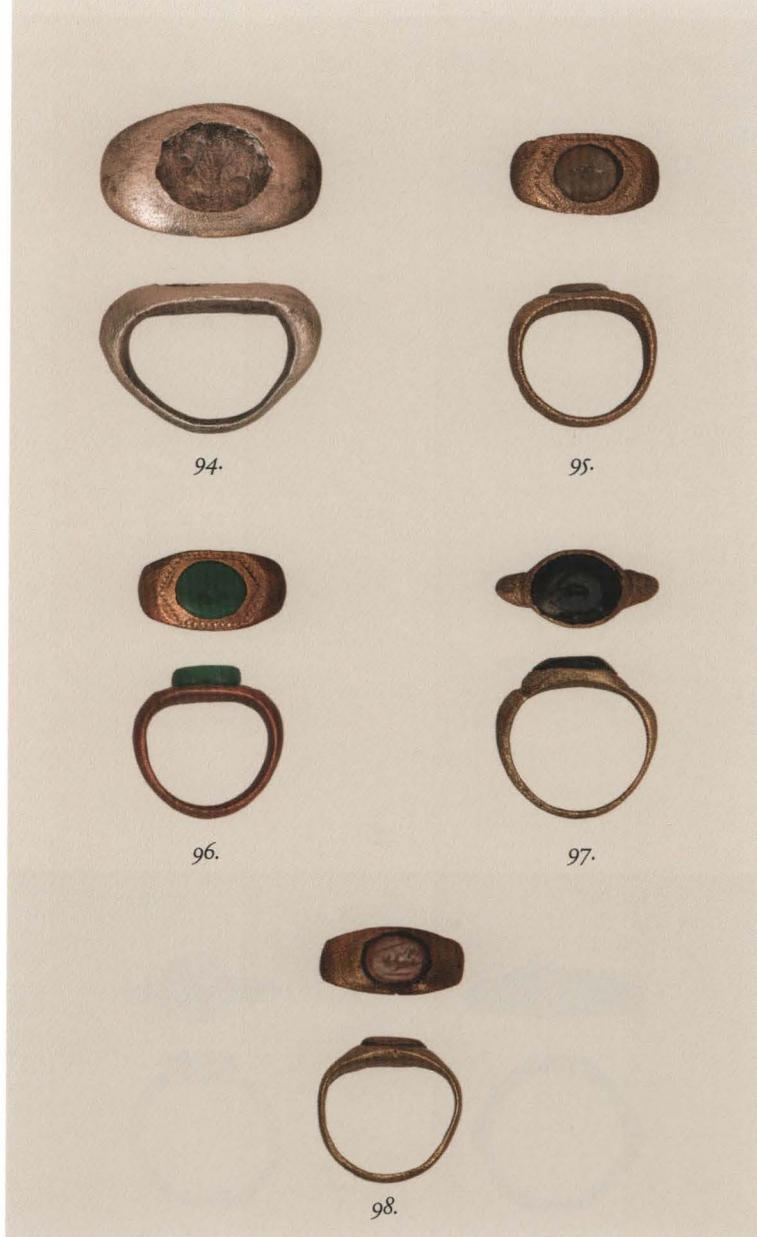
## **Rings**

94-98. Rings with a gem; silver; Roman Age

172. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop; gold; Roman Age (4th c. AD)

170. Pendant; gold; Roman Age

171. Ring with a stone in a case on the finger loop and a pendant; gold; Roman Age



12. Ring with five humps; bronze; (2nd-1st c. BC)

124. Celtic ring with 3 pearls on three rows, massive, cast metal; bronze; (1st c. BC- 1st c. AD)

89, 92, 90, 107, 109, 113. Rings with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop; Roman age (4th c. AD)



12.



124.



89.



90.



92.



107.



109.



113.



116-118, 121-122. Ring ; bronze; Roman Age



116.



117.



118.



122.



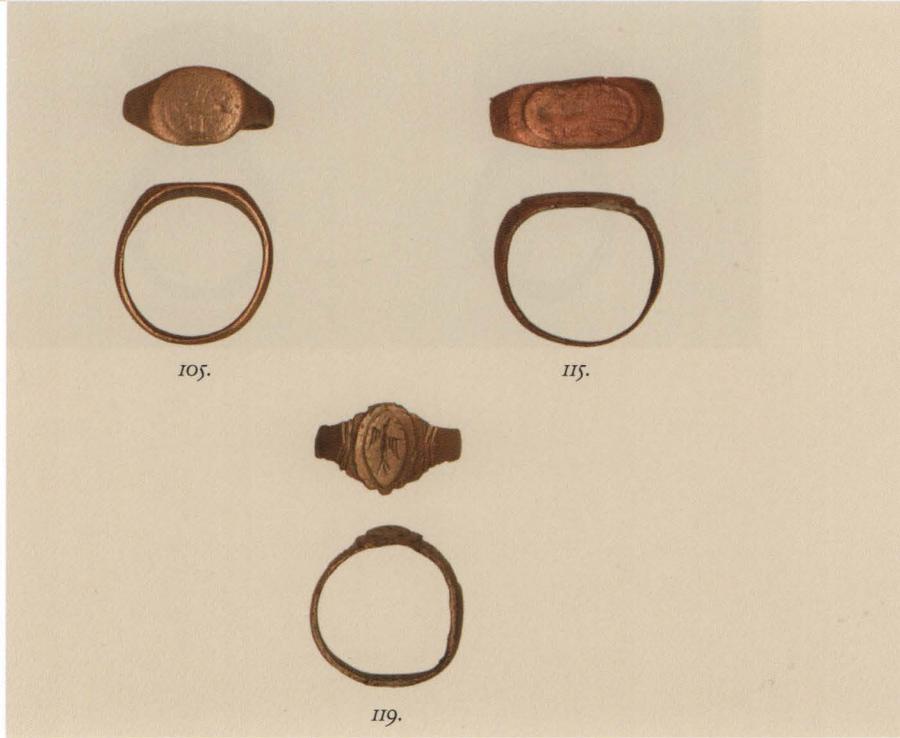
121.

87. Ring with a dome-shaped chaton welded on the finger loop, very high in profile; Middle Ages (17th - 18th c. AD)

104. Ring with a chaton with a schematically represented character in the middle, a saint (an arch-angel, with an aura and wings), with a cross to its right; bronze; the Middle Ages. (12th- 14th c. AD)

105, 115. Rings with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop; bronze; Middle Ages (11th-13th c. AD)

119. Ring with a chaton decorated with a stylized seabird and one pair of broken straight lines to either side of the chaton; bronze; the Middle Ages (11th- 13th c. AD)



99-100. Rings with a chaton welded to the finger loop, disk-shaped, ornamented with little notched circles; bronze; Middle Ages (12th- 14th c. AD)

101. Ring with a chaton welded to the finger loop; bronze; The Middle Ages (12th- 14th c. AD)

112, 120. Rings with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop,; bronze; Middle Ages (12th - 14th c. AD)

102, 110-111, 114, 103. Rings with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop; bronze; the Middle Ages (13th - 14th c. AD)



99.



100.



101.



112.



120.



102.



110.



111.



114.



103.



88. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high in profile, rectangular, decorated with a protruding geometrical motif; bronze

91. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, flattened, oval, erased decoration; bronze

93. Ring; bronze

106. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, flat, circular, decorated by the cutting of a diamond with a rectangle inscribed in it; bronze

108. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, shaped as a drop of liquid, decorated by cutting some lines all around it; bronze; the Middle Ages (14th - 15th AD)





88.



91.

UMENTS



93.



106.



108.





*I*NSTRUMENTS

### **Medical Instruments:**

155. "Steelyard"; bronze; Roman and Byzantine age (1st - 6th c. AD)

154. Medical instrument, flat spoon (cyathiscomele); bronze; Roman age (1st -3th c. AD)

160. Double medical instrument, flat spoon and hook (ligula); bronze; Roman age (1st-3th c. AD)

161-162. Medical instruments, flat spoon for the ear (specillum oricularium); bronze; Roman age (1st-3th c. AD)

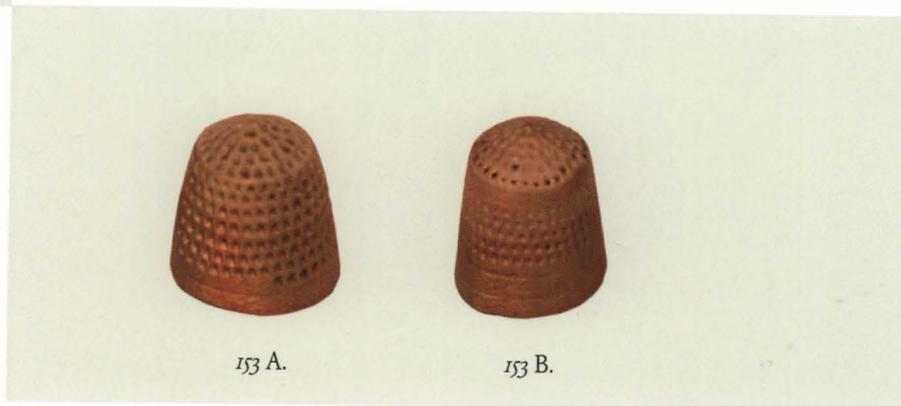
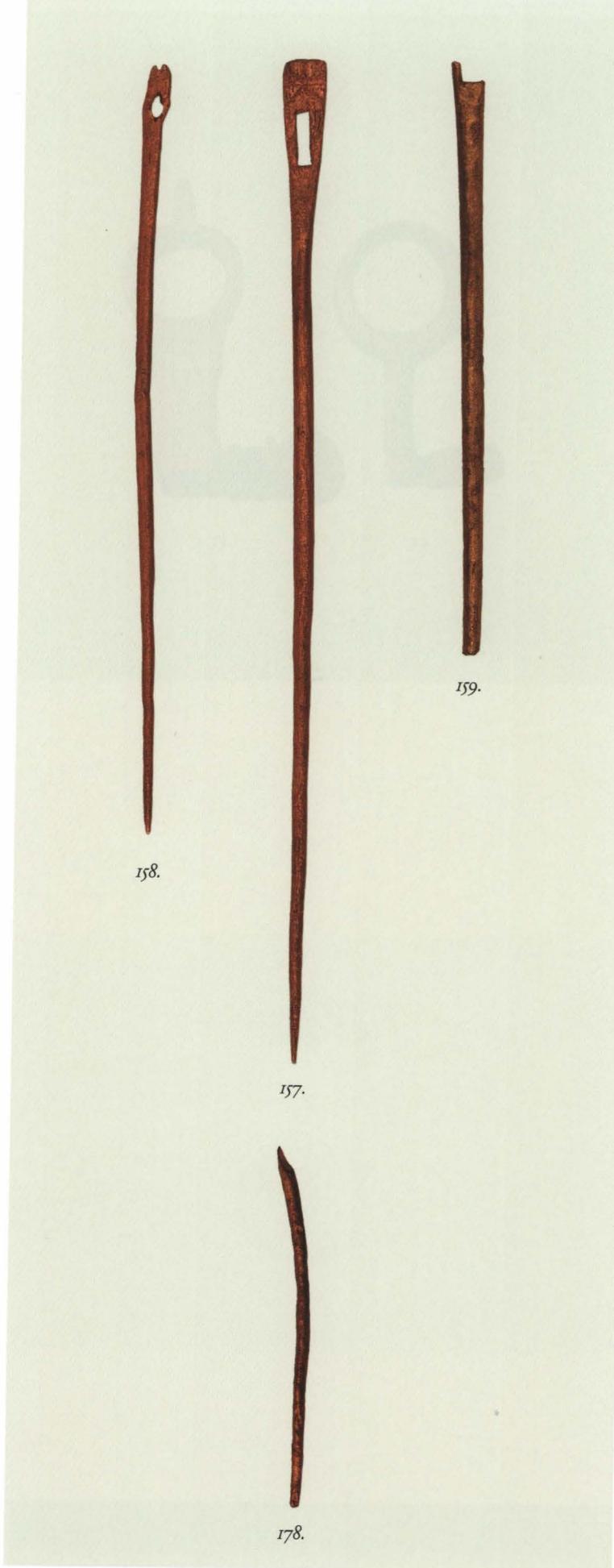


**Pins and Needles:**

158. Sewing needle with oblong ear; bronze;  
Roman age ( the first third of 2nd c. AD.)

157, 159, 178. Pins; bronze

153A-B. Thimbles; bronze



**Keys:**

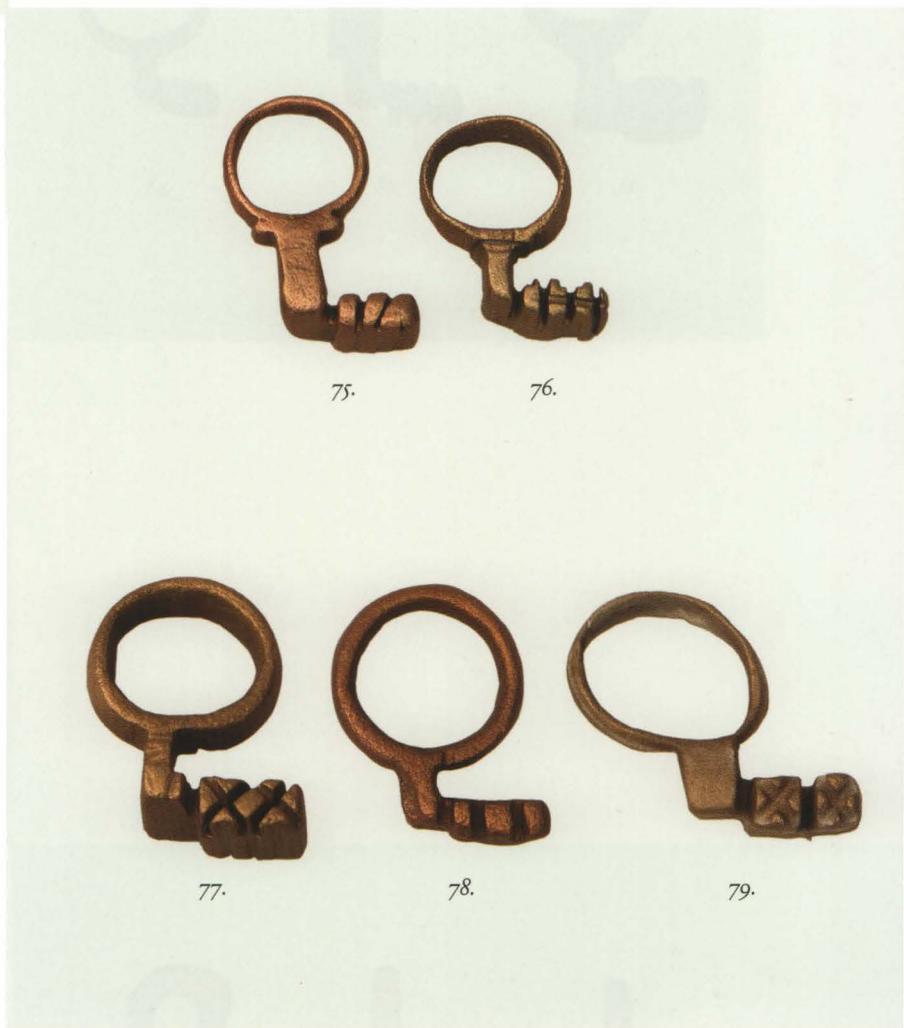
73, 74. Keys; bronze; Roman age

75-80, 82-83. Ring-keys; bronze; Roman Age  
(2nd-3th c. AD)



73.

74.



75.

76.

77.

78.

79.



80.

82.

83.

81, 84-86. Ring-key; bronze; Roman Age

123. Key for casket; bronze; Roman Age

134. Key shaped as a herme representing  
the god Hermes; bronze; Roman Age



81.



84.



85.



86.

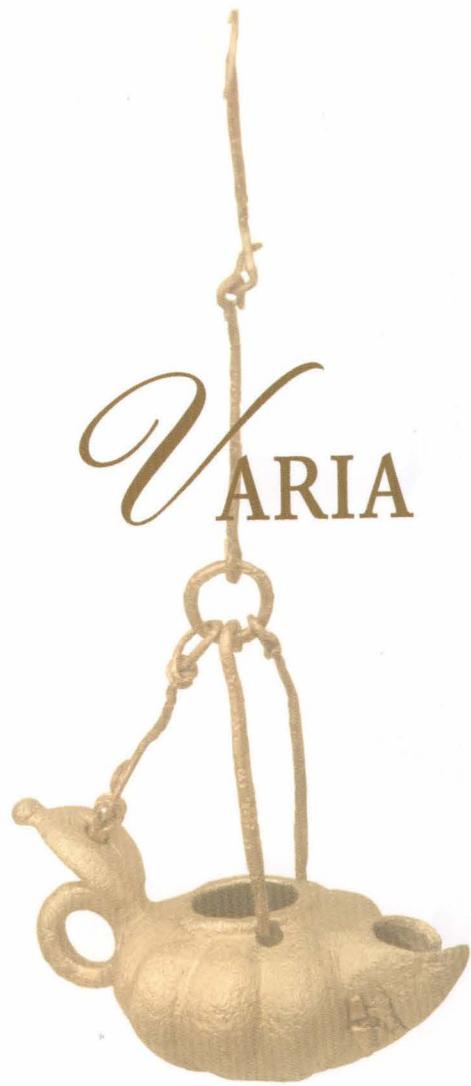


123.



134.





## Statuettes

125. Statuette "Venus pudica nuda" type; bronze, solid cast; Roman age (2nd-3th c. AD)

126. Horse rider; bronze, solid cast; Roman age (1st-3th c. AD)

127. Horse rider; bronze, solid cast; Roman age (1st - 2nd c. AD)

142. Forearm of a statuette; bronze, solid cast; Roman age



125.



126.

127.



142.

### Furniture ornaments and stands

128. Applique for a box/casket decorated with a relief figure, chubby face, with wavy hair style and middle parting bronze; Roman age

133. Furniture applique, representation of Mars; Roman age (2nd-3th c. AD)





128.



133.

138-139. Lion shaped applique, cart yoke or furniture decoration; bronze; Roman age

140. Furniture applique; bronze; Roman age

145. Fragment of the lower leg part in a tripod-support for a lucerna ending in the shape of a lion paw; bronze; Roman age

146. Leg of a chandelier or a metal vase, in the shape of a goose-web; bronze; Roman age

137. Small bronze lamp with  
solid cast (lamp); Roman  
AD



138.



139.



140.



145.



146.

173. Small bronze lamp with a secondary hanger; bronze, solid cast (lamp); Roman Age (1st c. AD)



173.



173.

129-132, 135. Anthropomorphic appliques; bronze;  
Roman age



129.



130.



131.



132.



135.

141. Seal-box with the lid with enamel decoration;  
bronze; Roman age (2nd-3th c. AD)

143. Pendant, shaped as an elephant head; bronze;  
Roman age

144. Applique representing a horse neck; bronze.

148. Rectangular applique; bronze

149. Circular applique with graffite insertions, bronze

150. Insignia from the Emperor Nero Age; bronze;  
Roman age (1st c. AD)



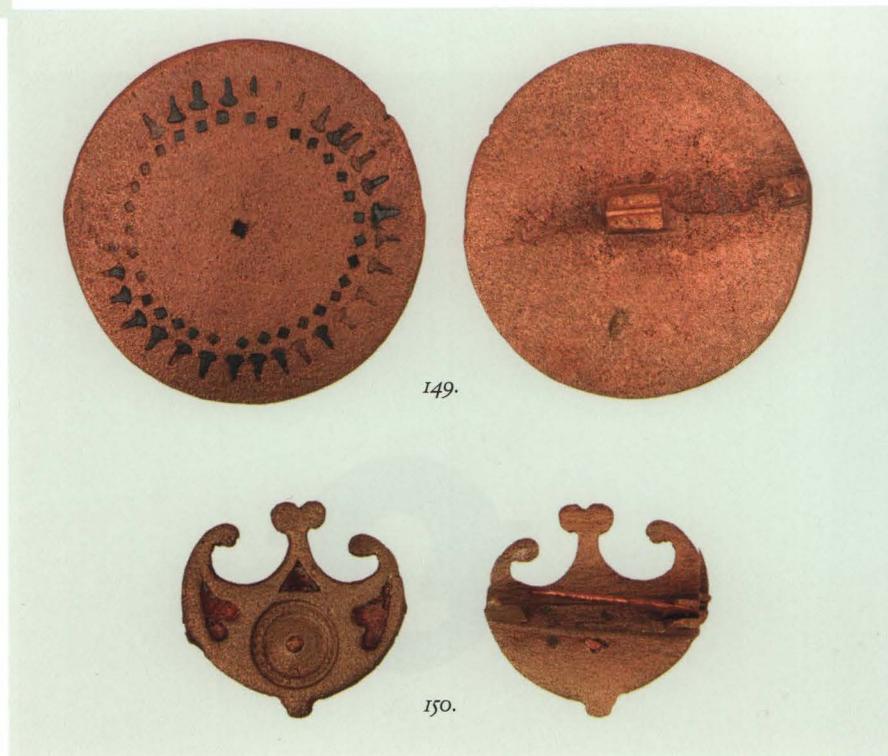
141.



143.

144.

148.



149.

150.

151-152. Buttons; bronze; Roman age

163-165. Circular applique; bronze

169. Locket; bronze



151.



152.



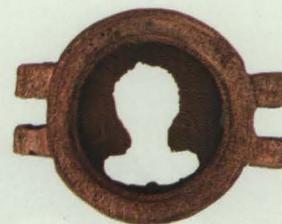
163.



164.



165.



169.

## Others

174-176. Phallic amulets; bronze; Roman Age

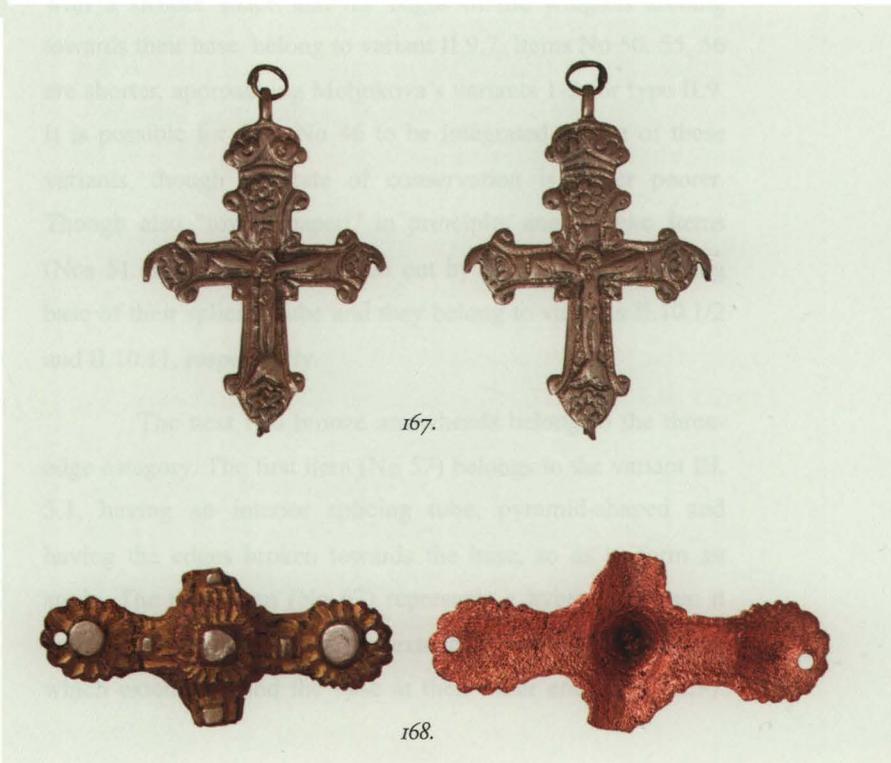
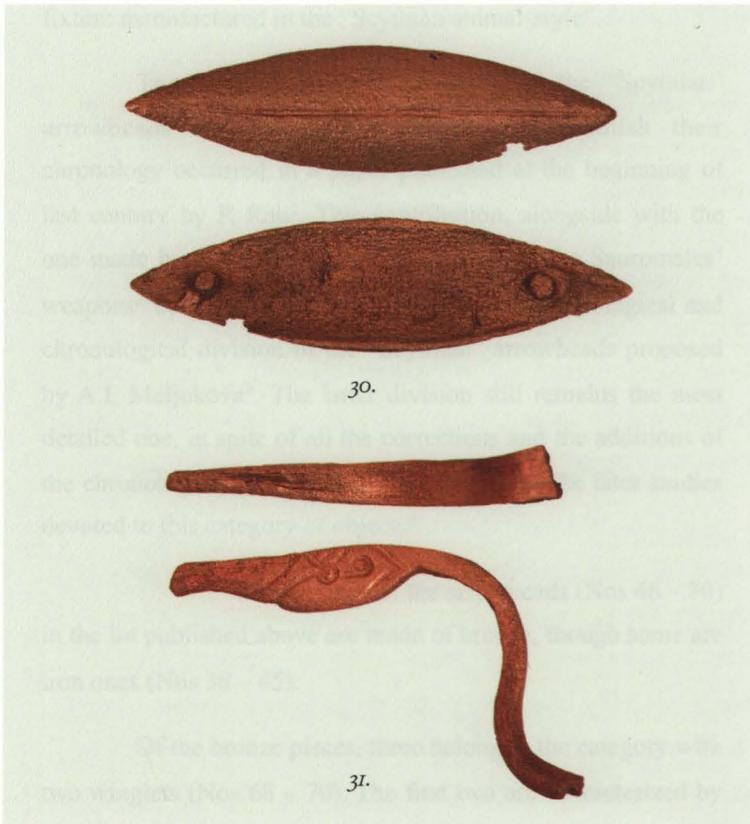
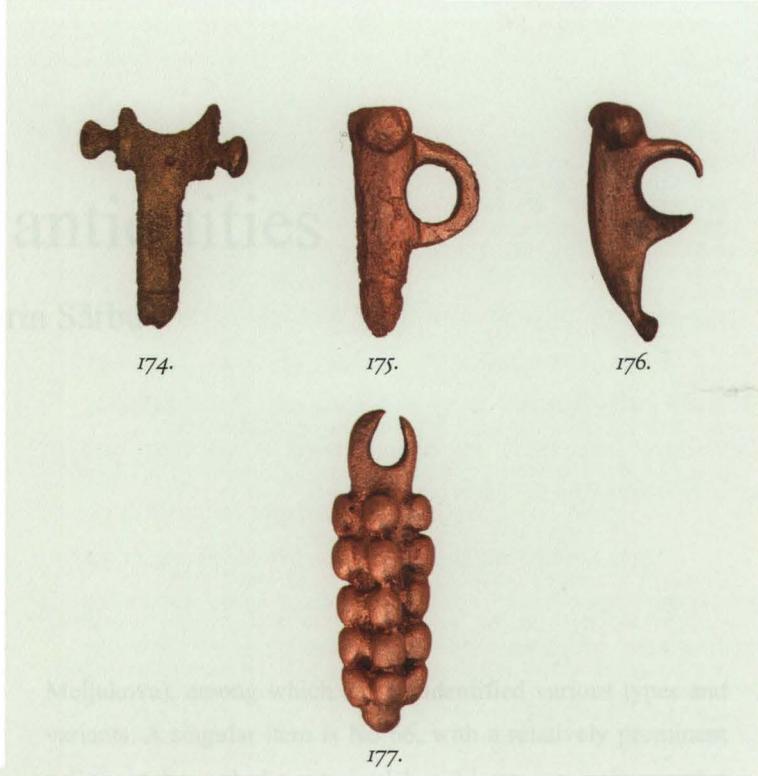
177. Pendant, shaped as a bunch of grapes; bronze;  
Roman Age

30. Oblong applique, leaf shaped

31. Fragment of a small vessel handle; the end is shaped  
as a stylized bird's head; bronze; Roman age  
(1st-3th c. AD)

167. Pectoral cross; silver; the Middle Ages (18th c. AD)

168. Pectoral cross; bronze, gilded, with silver rivets;  
the Middle Ages (18th c. AD)





# Scythian antiquities

by Dorin Sârbu

Thirty-three of the items in the present catalogue are arrowheads of the so-called Scythian kind, plus a zoomorphic fixture manufactured in the “Scythian animal-style”.

The oldest typological ordering of the “Scythian” arrowheads and the oldest attempts to establish their chronology occurred in a paper published at the beginning of last century by P. Rau<sup>1</sup>. This contribution, alongside with the one made by K.F. Smirnov on the subject of the Sauromates’ weapons<sup>2</sup> constituted the starting point for the typological and chronological division of the “Scythian” arrowheads proposed by A.I. Meljukova<sup>3</sup>. The latter division still remains the most detailed one, in spite of all the corrections and the additions of the chronological groups; it is used as such in the later studies devoted to this category of objects<sup>4</sup>.

The majority of the arrowheads (Nos 46 – 70) in the lot published above are made of bronze, though some are iron ones (Nos 38 – 45).

Of the bronze pieces, three belong to the category with two winglets (Nos 68 – 70). The first two are characterized by an approximately oval contour in the winglet and a very prominent splicing tube, extending to the point by a massive rib. According to

Meljukova, item No 69 can be attributed to category I, type 2, variant 1, while item No 68 belongs to variant 2 of the same type, owing to the presence of a thorn in the lower part of the splicing tube. The third item, with two winglets (No 70), is in a precarious state of conservation. However, judging by the profile of the winglets, shaped as pronounced oblong leaves towards their end, and slightly wider towards the base, and considering the presence of the thorn on the splicing tube, as well as in view of its generally oblong proportions, item 70 could belong to the variant Meljukova I.3.2.

There is a series of 20 bronze arrowheads belonging to the category with three winglets (category II, according to

Meljukova), among which can be identified various types and variants. A singular item is No 66, with a relatively prominent splicing tube and characterized by oblong proportions and a “dome”-shaped winglet contour, which makes it come close to the variants 4-6 of type II.4. Another singular item (No 64) represents the type with highly oblong proportions, a short splicing tube and the contour of the winglet shaped as a peaking dome (variant 2 of type II.8). On the other hand the majority of the items in the three-winglet series belong to the straight base types. Items No 47-49, 52, 54 and 60 are characterized by a triangular or slightly curved winglet shape and by a hidden splicing tube, approximately conical and they can be attributed to variant II.5.1. Items No 53, 59 and 65 are quite similar to the latter items, but they have slightly more oblong proportions (as variant II.5.2). A relatively densely represented group within the items of the same series are the bronze arrowheads with a straight base and with three winglets, whose edges get broken to form an angle towards their tips, also called “tower-shaped” winglets. Depending on their proportions, two variants can be identified. Items Nos 61-63, with a slender shape and the edges of the winglets arching towards their base, belong to variant II.9.7. Items No 50, 55, 56 are shorter, approaching Meljukova’s variants 1-2 for type II.9. It is possible for item No 46 to be integrated to one of these variants, though its state of conservation is rather poorer. Though also “tower-shaped” in principle, another two items (Nos 51 and 80) can be singled out by the slightly protruding base of their splicing tube and they belong to variants II.10.1/2 and II.10.11, respectively.

The next two bronze arrowheads belong to the three-edge category. The first item (No 57) belongs to the variant III.5.1, having an interior splicing tube, pyramid-shaped and having the edges broken towards the base, so as to form an angle. The third item (No 67) represents a hybrid solution: it has three edges towards the top, extending to form the winglets, which extend beyond the base at their other end (type III.9).

Another singular feature of this item is its protruding decorative pattern on one of the faces of the winglets. The pattern is angular, resembling a stylized arrowhead, framed by two circles.

Eight arrowheads are made of iron. Although generally rarely reported as a possible material for arrowheads, these eight arrowheads can be compared to the types and variants established for the bronze items.

There is only one item (item No 39) pertaining to the two-winglet arrowheads' category. It has a lesser protruding splicing tube, which extends as a massive rib to the tip of the arrowhead. The head has an approximately diamond shaped point, and there is a thorn at its lower part. The best analogies of this arrowhead are among the bronze items with a diamond-shaped head, with or without a thorn, which are also called Žabotin (type I.1 *apud* Meljukova)<sup>5</sup>.

The rest of the iron arrowheads pertain to the three-winglet category. One of the items in this series (No 38) has the winglets inscribable in an approximately oval contour, but they are obliquely cut at their lower part; their splicing tube is approximately equal to the length of the leaf, and there is a thorn at its lower part. Judging by the form of the winglets and its general proportions, it can be compared to variants 4-5 of type II.2, *apud* Meljukova. It is possible to attribute to the same type the items Nos 40 and 41, though, given the length of the splicing tube, they are comparable also to variants 1 and 7. Item No 42 belongs to the type with a straight basis and with winglets inscribable in an approximately triangular contour, which makes it resemble the bronze items of variant II.5.2, with an oblong shape generally. The last three iron arrowheads (Nos 43-45) have the following distinctive features: oblong winglets, conical and relatively short splicing tubes, being comparable to the bronze type II.4. Given the pyramid-shaped contour of the winglets, which are also pointed in their lower part, items Nos 43-44 can be included in variant 6, while item No 45, with its winglets whose lower part is cut in a straight line, comes closer to the items of variant 5 of the respective type.

Among the items published now there is a bronze application, showing an animal with bended legs and the head turned back (No 147). Representations of various bended leg animals are among the most widespread decorative motifs of the "Archaic Scythian Period" in Eastern Europe. For example, such objects are known in typical inventories from graves in the forest-steppe of the Dnieper<sup>6</sup>. Among these, the closest form-wise are applications from the barrows 2 and 524 near Žabotin, dated to the beginning of the "Archaic Scythian

Period".

The arrowheads published on this occasion, as well as the zoomorphic application come from the traffic of antiquities, which makes problematic their exact dating.

They belong to the inventory of the so-called "Scythian triad". This notion was introduced in the scientific circuit in the middle of the last century, initially to indicate the common elements of various cultures of the East of Europe (weapons, horse harnessing elements and their associated items of zoomorphic decoration)<sup>7</sup>. Various opinions about their purport and significance have been put forward since then. According to some specialists, together with other cultural phenomena such as the funerary customs, "the Scythian triad" would represent a genuine ethnical marker for the Scythians mentioned in various literary sources, irrespective of where the items were found<sup>8</sup>. According to others, however, there is no ethno-cultural significance to be attached to the „Scythian triad"; rather, the various zonal "triads" should be seen as the result of ordering the archaeological material on paper<sup>9</sup>. At any rate, a prudent attitude towards the ethnic expressivity of the "Scythian triad" is preferable, having in view the remarkable geographical spread of its various elements, from Central Europe and the Balkans as far as Trans-Caucasia, the Central Asian steppes and Mongolia.

The "Scythian" arrowheads can actually be dated by means of the associations available, each of the types or variants having its own, longer- or shorter-lived, evolution in time. Consequently, their dating cannot be separated from the issues generally confronting the chronological studies of the "Scythian period" to the north of the Black Sea. In addition, one cannot possibly ignore the possibility of explaining by referring to the distinct uses (or "specialties") the various types present in the same unit<sup>10</sup>. But we can not asses with any degree of certainty the unitary origin of the items now published; we must be content with the degree of improbability that our research permits.

Basing her conclusions on comparisons with Greek material gathered from closed features, Meljukova established four chronological groups for the "Scythian" arrowheads<sup>11</sup>. In general outlines, this division corresponds to the traditional periodization of the "Scythian culture" to the north of the Black Sea. Below is shown the traditional dating of the arrowheads published on this occasion – by comparison with the periodization of the "Scythian culture":

„Scythian culture” prioridization	EARLY OR “ARCHAIC” AGE (Žurovka I / Kelermes)	MIDDLE / “CLASSICAL” AGE	LATE AGE
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Chronologica l groups	I	II	III	IV
Variante	circ. 650 – circ. 550 BC	circ. 550 – circ. 450 BC	circ. 450 – 400/350 BC	400/350 – circ. 250 BC
I.1.1	Cat. No 39			
I.3.2	Cat. No 70			
I.2.1-2	Cat. No 68, 69			
II.2.1	Cat. No 40			
II.2.4-5	Cat. No 38			
II.2.7		Cat. No 41		
II.5.1		Cat. No 47, 48, 49, 52, 54, 60		
II.5.2		Cat. No 42, 53, 59, 65		
II.9.1-2		Cat. No 46, 50, 55, 56		
II.10.1-2		Cat. No 51		
III.5.1		Cat. No 57		
II.8.2			Cat. No 64	
II.9.7			Cat. No 61, 62, 63	
II.10.11			Cat. No 58	
II.4.4-6			Cat. No 43, 44, 45, 66	
III.9.4				Cat. No 67

At a certain moment, the placing around the year 650 BC of the boundary between “the pre-Scythian age” and the “Scythian archaic age”, or sometime in the course of the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. BC, at its earliest, seemed to be confirmed by the chronology elaborated for the “Cimmerian culture”<sup>12</sup>.

Quite early, however, there appeared critical reactions to it. First, G. Kossack argued in favour of an earlier dating of the stage immediately preceding the “Scythian age”, so-called Novočerkassk<sup>13</sup>. Subsequently, this served him as a starting point for dating back the “Scythian archaic” age between the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> c. and the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. BC, at its latest, especially as he was working towards reevaluating the chronological rapport of these findings with the ones of Caucasia and Asia Anterior<sup>14</sup>. In parallel, and judging by features with the Greek material found to the north of the Black Sea, S.V. Polin argued in favour of an earlier dating of the chronological groups I and II of Meljukova, by tracing back the half a century earlier dating to the intervals of circ. 600/575 and circ. 500 – 400 BC. But this author places around 650 BC the beginning of the earlier Žurovka / Kelermes age (which corresponds to the earlier arrowhead chronological groups); similarly, he traces to the 8<sup>th</sup> c and the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. BC the group of findings of the Novočerkassk – Žabotin type<sup>15</sup>. Later, I.N. Medvedeskaja pushed even further back the “Archaic Scythian” chronology, by proposing that it should be dated between 750 and 600 BC and admitting, in contradistinction to Kossack, at least, a partial synchronism between the Novočerkassk and Early Scythian discoveries<sup>16</sup>.

But it is quite true, however, that the arguments formulated by Medvedeskaja are to a great extent speculative, and they rest upon the chronology of the military events of Southern Caucasia in which both the Cimmerians and the Scythians were involved.

This tendency of pushing further back in time the “Scythian” chronology is indirectly supported by a series of radio-carbon data obtained from the area Saján-Altaj.

First, there is a set of 11 data obtained from the funerary construction’s beams from Aržan (the area of the Saján mountains)<sup>17</sup>. Three of the samples come from a beam with 126 growth rings: 2770±40 BP (Le-1698, from the central rings 1-25), 2790±40 BP (Le-2452, from the rings 48-60) and 2670±25 BP (Le-5184, from the exterior rings 97-126). Another three samples came from a beam with 50 annual growth rings, more precisely, 2700±20 BP (Le-5195a, from the exterior rings 39-50), 2750±30 BP (Le-5195b, from the rings 21-38) and 2680±40 BP (Le-5195v from the central rings 1-20). Another two samples come from a beam with 80 rings, both samplings coming from the zone between the centre and the periphery of the beam: 2790±40 BP (Le-2444, rings 15-35) and 2740±40 BP (Le-2449, rings 36-60). As regards the last three samples taken into consideration, which are also the most recent ones, the growth rings are not specified: 2610±30 BP (GIN-8425), 2620±40 BP (GIN-8618) and 2600±40 BP (GIN-8619). Calibrated with 1σ and 2σ, they indicate the following intervals:

Sample symbol	68.2% probability	95.4% probability
Le-1698	980BC ( 9.0%) 950BC 940BC (31.7%) 890BC 880BC (27.4%) 830BC	1000BC (95.4%) 820BC
Le-2452	1000BC (68.2%) 890BC	1020BC (95.4%) 820BC
Le-5184	<b>830BC (68.2%) 804BC</b>	<b>900BC (11.0%) 875BC 860BC ( 2.2%) 850BC 840BC (82.2%) 795BC</b>
Le-5195a	<b>900BC (26.8%) 875BC 860BC ( 3.9%) 850BC 840BC (37.5%) 810BC</b>	<b>900BC (95.4%) 805BC</b>
Le-5195b	915BC (21.9%) 890BC 885BC (46.3%) 835BC	980BC ( 6.1%) 950BC 940BC (89.3%) 820BC
Le-5195v	900BC (17.1%) 875BC 860BC ( 1.3%) 850BC 840BC (49.8%) 800BC	910BC (95.4%) 790BC
Le-2444	1000BC (68.2%) 890BC	1020BC (95.4%) 820BC
Le-2449	<b>915BC (68.2%) 830BC</b>	<b>980BC (95.4%) 800BC</b>
GIN-8425	819BC (68.2%) 788BC	830BC (95.4%) 760BC
GIN-8618	828BC (68.2%) 788BC	900BC (91.5%) 760BC 690BC ( 2.5%) 660BC 620BC ( 1.4%) 590BC
GIN-8619	820BC (68.2%) 760BC	840BC (77.2%) 750BC 690BC ( 6.2%) 660BC 640BC (12.0%) 540BC

Atmospheric data from Stuiver et al. (1998); OxCal v3.9 Bronk Ramsey (2003); cub r:4 sd:12 prob usp[chron]

Le-2449 2740±40BP

Le-5195a 2700±20BP

Le-5184 2670±25BP

1600CalBC 1400CalBC 1200CalBC 1000CalBC 800CalBC 600CalBC  
Calibrated date

Atmospheric data from Stuiver et al. (1998); OxCal v3.9 Bronk Ramsey (2003); cub r:4 sd:12 prob usp[chron]

GIN-8425 2610±30BP

GIN-8618 2620±40BP

GIN-8619 2600±40BP

1200CalBC 1000CalBC 800CalBC 600CalBC 400CalBC  
Calibrated date

Atmospheric data from Stuiver et al. (1998); OxCal v3.9 Bronk Ramsey (2003); cub r:4 sd:12 prob usp[chron]

3200BP

**Ki-8425 : 2765±50BP**

Radiocarbon determination  
3000BP  
2800BP  
2600BP

68.2% probability  
980BC ( 7.5%) 950BC  
940BC (60.7%) 830BC  
95.4% probability  
1020BC (95.4%) 800BC

1400CalBC 1200CalBC 1000CalBC 800CalBC 600CalBC 400CalBC  
Calibrated date

Since there exist not very solid reason to doubt that the peripheral rings analysed are the final growth rings of the trees and since neither are there too solid reasons to assume that between the moments when the trees were felled and the moment when the funerary construction of Aržan was erected there elapsed a very long time, I believe that the samples Le-5195a and Le-5184 and Le-2449, as calibrated, offer a pretty faithful dating of the “royal tumulus” of Aržan to the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> c. or the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> c. BC, at the latest.

The calibrated data of the three samples about which it is not specified what part of the beam they come from are only slightly more recent.

Even if we introduced a correction, taking into account the last three samples, the most probable time interval for the erection and furnishing of the “royal tumulus” of Aržan cannot be any more recent than the 9<sup>th</sup> c. – the beginning or the first half of c. 8 BC. For such reasons, I consider unjustified the objections raised by N.L. Členova in response to the date when the tumulus 1 of Aržan was erected and furnished, which date she deems to be very much earlier<sup>18</sup>.

Among the archaeological material from barrow 1 near Aržan there are some bronze arrowheads<sup>19</sup>, which are similar to two-winged arrowheads published on this occasion (Nos 39, 68-69). One can object to extending data from Aržan 1 to the western area of the “Scythian triad”, because of the considerable distance between them. In a closer area is situated barrow near Gumarovo (Ural River Basin), where are known bronze two-winged arrowheads and gold zoomorphic applications, which are comparable with those published now<sup>20</sup>. From Gumarovo barrow are also known radiocarbon data, which do not exclude an earlier dating than traditional one for “Archaic Scythian Period”, in the first half of the 8<sup>th</sup> c. BC<sup>21</sup>. Among these analogies could be mentioned the two-winged arrowhead, discovered in the grave 5 from Balki – “*Vysokaja Mogila*” (Lower Dnieper)<sup>22</sup>. The radiocarbon date from the same grave indicates a period of time even before 800 BC<sup>23</sup>.

Thus, we can admit for Northern Black Sea Area a utilization of the earliest so-called “Scythian” arrowheads in the 9<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> c. BC yet. However, they are deposited in graves more frequently during the “Early Scythian Period”, whose beginning at the North of Black Sea and Caucasus is more recently placed in the second half of the 8<sup>th</sup> c. BC<sup>24</sup>. Some recent radiocarbon data from the same territories support the above-mentioned trend to an earlier dating. Such examples are data from barrow 15 near Steblev (which indicate a more probable time span between 830 and 750 BC), or data from

Kelermes, which situate barrow 31 between 810 and 750 BC<sup>25</sup>. On the other hand, data obtained by means of traditional contact chronology for the arrowheads from the later stages of the “Scythian Epoch” are still probable enough (Cf. Table 1 and Polin 1987 for more recent corrections).

Taking into account data mentioned above, the “Scythian” objects published on this occasion cannot date from a short period of time, which makes doubtful their discovery in the same archaeological feature.

<sup>1</sup> Rau 1929, 13-23

<sup>2</sup> Smirnov 1961, 37 – 70

<sup>3</sup> Meljukova 1964, 14-32

<sup>4</sup> The arrowheads of the features published after A.I. Meljukova issued her monograph in 1964 have basically been typologically attributed following the cited author; there exist small differences only as regards the chronological groups (see, for ex.: Kovpanenko 1981, 101-106 and fig. 64; Kovpanenko et al 1989, 61-64, 88, 114-118). A similar chronology to a Meljukova's is used by Hančar 1972, 4-11 and Tab. IV and by Eckhardt 1996. There appear, however, significant differences in respect to the chronology of the arrowheads in Polin 1987.

<sup>5</sup> Illins'ka 1973

<sup>6</sup> Kovpanenko et al. 1989, 71, 73, fig. 16/15-19

<sup>7</sup> Grakov and Meljukova 1954

<sup>8</sup> Vasiliev 1980; Skoryj 2003

<sup>9</sup> Ol'hovskij 1997; Romanchuk 2004

<sup>10</sup> Boroffka 2002, 235

<sup>11</sup> Meljukova 1964, 16-17 and Tables I-IV

<sup>12</sup> Terenožkin 1976, 187, fig. 97

<sup>13</sup> Kossack 1980

<sup>14</sup> Kossack 1983; 1987

<sup>15</sup> Polin 1987

<sup>16</sup> Medvedskaja 1992

<sup>17</sup> Zajceva et al. 1997, 40, 43, Tab.1

<sup>18</sup> Členova 1997, 6

<sup>19</sup> Grjaznov 1980, 21, fig. 11/8, 12

<sup>20</sup> Ismagilov 1988, 32, 35, fig. 4-5

<sup>21</sup> Alekseev et al. 2005, 123-124, fig. 3.33

<sup>22</sup> Bidzilja, Jakovenko 1974, 155, fig. 9/4

<sup>23</sup> Alekseev et al. 2005, 126

<sup>24</sup> Kossack 1987; Medvedskaja 1992

<sup>25</sup> Alekseev et al. 2005, 127-128, 147

# Two Thracian Fibulae

by Vlad V. Zirra

The presence of a Thracian fibulae (Cat.Nr.21), (rarely called “Thraco-Getian”), in a lot of composite pieces originating from the Bulgarian territory, is not at all surprising. Astonishing is its singularity, taking in account the fact that we are talking about a piece typical for the IV-III centuries BC, richly represented in the respective lot.

## Distribution area

There are numerous finds containing Thracian fibulae (over 600<sup>1</sup> pieces) in more than 120 sites. Basically, every year, as a result of archaeological excavations or stray finds, the number of this kind of pieces, and the sites of discovery are increasing.

As a general view regarding the spread of Thracian fibulae, a main area can be outlined, in which the density of findings and the number of pieces related to them is numerous. This area comprises the whole territory of Bulgaria, the extra Carpathian Romania (with Dobrugea), as for the peripheral area (extended over Northern Greece, Central and Southern ex Yugoslavia, intra Carpathian Romania and Bessarabia) both the number of finds and the number of Thracian fibulae are considerably reduced<sup>2</sup>. From this point of view, it is important to mention the fact that, according to the preserved archaeological contexts, the Thracian fibula appears in a zone of the peripheral area, and over the decades “fixates” and becomes a typical, main fossil of the specific area. The production time frame of these artifacts, including all types and subtypes, is, mainly, between the middle of the fourth and the middle of the third centuries BC<sup>3</sup>. Different authors consider earlier or later moments of Thracian fibulae production and circulation<sup>4</sup>, but, under any circumstances, the maximum frequency of these pieces, is situated between the limits of the hundred years mentioned.

## Construction, morphology, typological and chronological frames

The piece is made of a thin, bronze rod, which was heat processed until the desired shape was obtained. The handicraft skills necessary to obtain such a piece must not have

been too advanced. Pieces of this type were most likely cheap and at the same time less resistant. The piece at hand, although whole, could be a little deformed in the bow part, which originally could have been symmetrical. But there are pieces, maybe this one too (if it has maintained its original, antique shape), which have the bow abruptly erected towards the hinge. The characteristic elements of this piece are the narrow and almost uniform section at the bow, foot and pin, the high vaulting of the bow and the relative long passing distance between the arch and the foot, at the catch plate. These distinctive characteristics sustain its classification in the Zirra Ib<sub>1</sub><sup>5</sup> subcategory which chronologically appears in the second half or the end of the fourth century BC (fig. 1, map).

## “Hybrid” fibulae (Cat. Nr. 27) distribution area:

Finds containing the so called “hybrid” fibulae are relatively rare, never the less they cover a quite large area North and South of the Danube (fig. 2, map). Basically this area overlaps the territories inhabited by the populations of Thracian ethnicity, over which Celtic allogeneous populations settled temporarily or for a longer period of time. The end of the first quarter of the third century BC is considered to be the time frame when the Celtic populations penetrated the Thracian and Greek geographical space.

Unfortunately a large number of these pieces is a result of stray finds or contexts that don't allow an exact chronological classification. The same situation is valid for the piece in this collection, for which the finds' conditions remain unknown.

## Construction, morphology, typological and chronological frames

Initially the bronze, for the piece, was cast in a mould which had a thicker middle part, afterwards the hinge with the pin continuation was heat shaped, same for the hinge from the foot or the opposite side of the bow. These actions are very delicate, and they require experience and skills characteristic for the metallurgical work of the time.

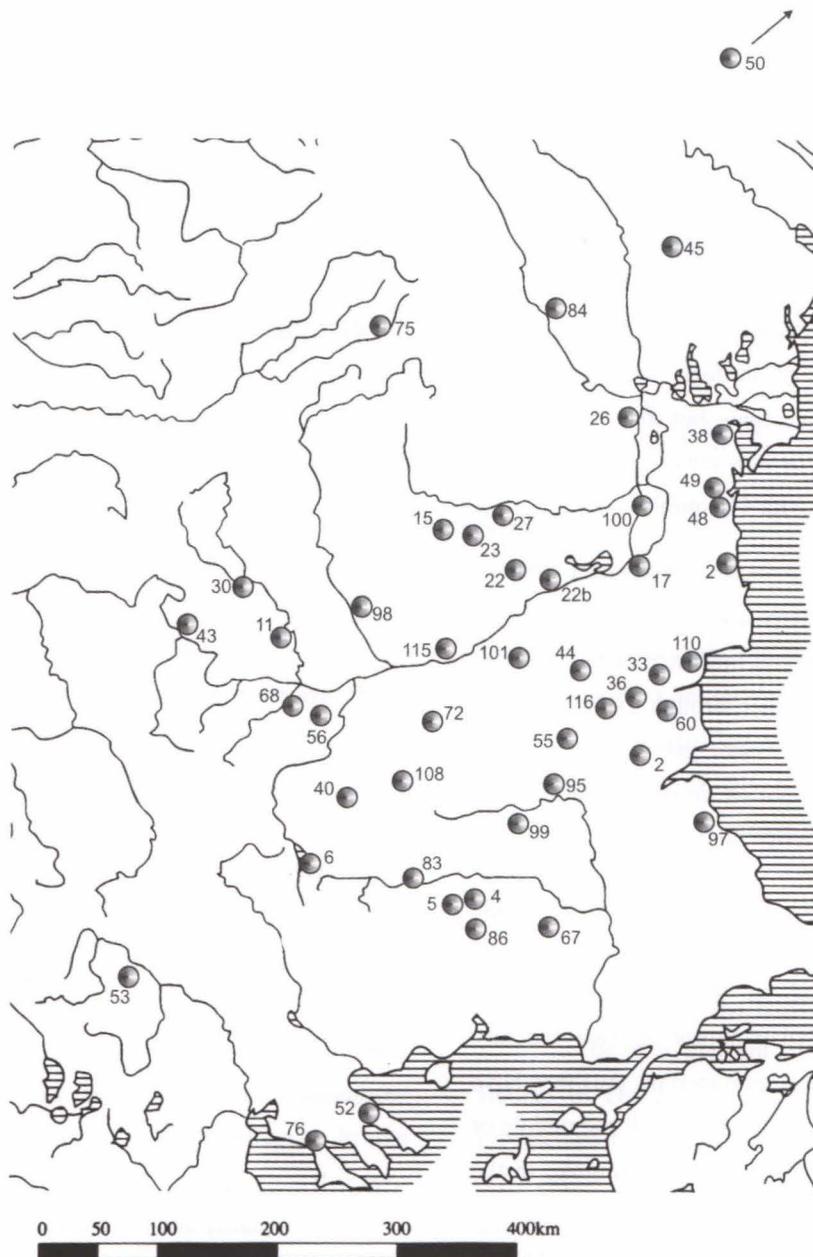


Fig. 1 - Distribution of the first group of Thracian scheme fibulae (4<sup>th</sup> century BC, according to V. V. Zirra 1996-1998, pg. 45, fig.9)

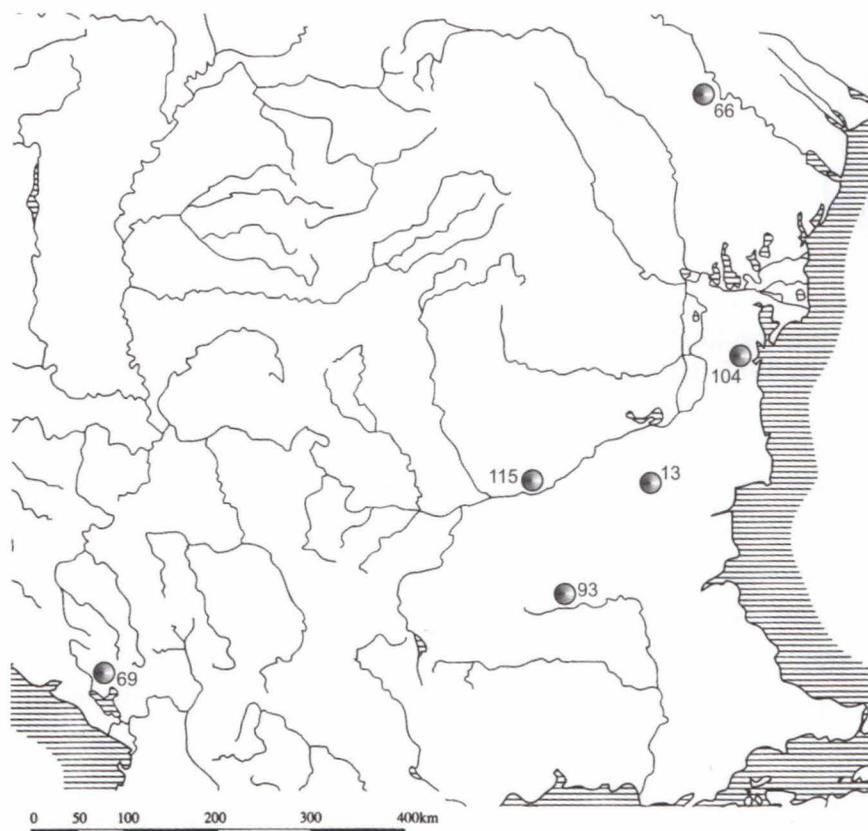


Fig. 2 - Distribution of the hybrid type fibulae, third century BC (according to V. V. Zirra 1996-1998, pg. 46, fig. 10)

The pieces as the one at hand, relatively few for the time, are known under the name „Paukenbügel” (a drum shaped bow) because of the thickness of the central part of the bow. Generally speaking, without the existence of the morphological identity, and consequently the typological one, these pieces resemble not only through the quite small dimensions and the shape of the bow, but also through the ending of the foot or the end of the bow towards the catch plate in the shape of a bilateral spring with 4-6 spirals<sup>6</sup>.

This kind of pieces are looked upon as a mixture between the Thracian fibulae scheme and the La Tène scheme<sup>7</sup>, being a result of a reciprocal cultural influence of two areas of civilization, that penetrated each other through socio-economic relations and through military pressure given by the Celtic tribes (or unions of tribes) migration from Central Europe towards Southern and Eastern Europe, up to Anterior Asia.

Despite the unknown or less revealing findings contexts, there are two “hybrid” fibulae (with different construction schemes) found in Zimnicea necropolis (Teleorman county). These fibulae appear in two funerary contexts and are associated with other materials, thus they have a relatively clear dating which puts them towards the middle or the second half of the third century BC. For example, in the tomb 55<sup>8</sup> (M 55), besides ceramics and glass pearls, one Paukenfibel is associated with a fibula having “eight-shaped” like spirals on the bow (fig. 3).

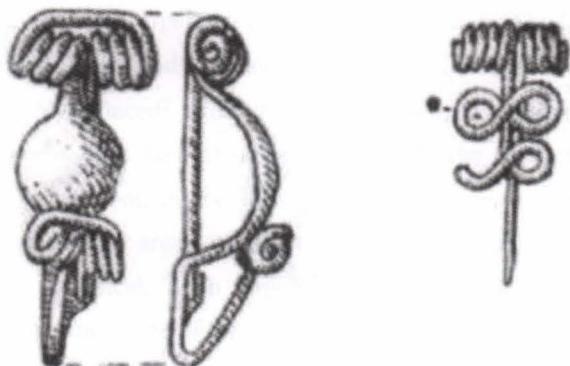


Fig. 3 - Zimnicea, fibulae in the tomb 55 (M 55), according to Alexandrescu 1980, pg. 27.

This kind of fibulae is known in the Celtic world<sup>9</sup> and is a characteristic of the C<sub>1</sub> Polenz – C<sub>1a</sub> Waldhauser phase, meaning the second half of the third century BC. On the other hand, in the tomb 97<sup>10</sup> (M 97), same necropolis, a hybrid fibula is part of the funerary inventory together with a thasian Hellenistic amphora and two Thracian bronze fibulae of the late series (fig. 4), the first half or the beginning of the second half of the third century BC.



Fig. 4 - Zimnicea, fibulae in the tomb 97 (M 97), according to Alexandrescu 1980, pg. 30.

<sup>1</sup> A large number of Thracian fibulae is already published, but still remains an unknown number of unpublished or waiting to be published pieces.

<sup>2</sup> V.V.Zirra 1996-1998, 33-34, fig. 7, 42-43.

<sup>3</sup> V.V.Zirra 1996-1998, 29-53.

<sup>4</sup> Măndescu 2000, 71-92; Domaradzki 2000, 203-224; Dzanev 2006, 386-423; Alexandrescu 1976, 131-142, etc.

<sup>5</sup> V.V. Zirra 1996-1998, 34-37, fig. 2; 32, fig. 14, 50. Because the ending of the fibula's foot is a little folded (fact that seems to be a result of being used or lying under earth), could suggest the piece being part of the IIIa<sub>1</sub> subcategory, *idem* 41-42, fig. 4, pg.36, fig. 11, pg. 48 and fig. 14, pg. 50. Even if we accept this suggestion, the time moment of the piece production stays the same, in the second half of the fourth century BC; the two subtypes are contemporary.

<sup>6</sup> Alexandrescu 1980, 27; Woźniak 1975, 180, pl. I/9-10.

<sup>7</sup> Zirra 1996-1998, 46-47, fig. 10; Măndescu 2007, 59-63.

<sup>8</sup> Alexandrescu 1980, 27.

<sup>9</sup> Zirra 1997, 117, 121, fig. 25 b.

<sup>10</sup> Alexandrescu 1980, 30.

# The Spoon-Bow Fibula Retrieved from the Giurgiu Customs. Observations on the Spoon-Bow Fibulae from the Lower Danube Area

by Dan Spânu

*Introduction.* Among the items retrieved by the customs officers at Giurgiu was the arc of a bronze fibula which pertains to the spoon-bow type of fibulae frequently encountered in the settlements and hoards, or less frequently in the tombs, of late Latène Dacia. Given the satisfactory scientific treatment that the late Latène material in Bulgaria has received, the discovery of a spoon-bow fibula here represents a novelty, but not a surprise, for at least two reasons. On the one hand, the spoon-bow fibulae belong to a similar family of types spread almost all over Europe at the end of the Latène period. On the other hand, the spatial distribution of the spoon-bow fibulae known so far in the central and moreover in the southern regions in pre-Roman Dacia (fig. 1) suggests that they may be missing from the discoveries in late Latène Bulgaria as a result of the current and temporary stage of the research.

## 1. *The Spoon-Bow Fibulae – a Regional Replica of a Potential Supra-Regional schema of Late Latène Fibulae*

The type of spoon-bow fibulae has been identified as a replica developed by the jewelers and bronze smiths of pre-Roman Dacia who took over as a model the supra-regional schema of fibulae to be found in the late Latène period from France to Poland and the Ukraine, from Lombardy to the Netherlands (fig. 3). The various forms of fibulae pertaining to this schema have received different denominations in the literature: in 1885 Otto Tischler already called them “fibulae with a cup-shaped end” (*Fibel mit schälchenförmigem Kopf*)<sup>1</sup>, whereas in the typologies by Beltz (1911) and Kostrewski (1919) they were indicated respectively by the “M” symbol and the “J” symbol. In the more recent decades, the literature comprises denominations sometimes determined by their main morphological particularity, i.e., the spring being protected in a top cover: *Schüsselfibel* (deep-dish fibulae)<sup>2</sup> / *spoon-bow fibulae* / *fibules à coquille* / *Feugère 7c-d* / *Ettlinger 2*. All these denominations have been applied to that category of fibulae having an arc resembling a band that narrows down

towards the area of the pin support and widens in the opposite part, following a design that turns the band into a kind of top-cover or whirl engulfing and containing the spring itself. The wide distribution of this fibula schema specific to the late Latène period, a distribution that we could term pan-European (fig. 2) – suggests the possibility of discovering, in regions where they had been entirely absent from the archaeological records, new objects pertaining to the same big morpho-typological family, either in isolation or not.

The main element which differentiates the spoon-bow fibulae in Dacia from the other Central-European ones is represented by the system connecting the spring to the arc. In the Central-European types, the needle and spring either grow from the arc, so that the entire piece is made of the same main processed metal, or they are fixed to the main processed metal by riveting (as is the case for the Birgitz type in the alpine region)<sup>3</sup>. By contrast, the spoon-bow fibulae consist of two distinct parts, united to each other by welding (the arc with the pin-bearing structure constituting one part, and the spring plus the needle constituting the other part); the pin which continues from the spring structure could even be made of a metal differing from the one used for the arc, as some of the spoon-bow pieces indicate, i.e., in those items whose welding has survived until today, and whose fragments of the spring can still be traced on the back of the top-cover.<sup>4</sup>

A directly similar system of connection via welding of the spring to the arc, a system which is common for the spoon-bow fibulae of pre-Roman Dacia, seems to have existed in the fibula retrieved from the Bulgarian antiques monger. It is a fact that on the back of the top-cover of this piece one can hardly note vague traces of welding – which represents a contingency we must put down to the way the Giurgiu Museum personnel has undertaken to clean the respective piece. On the other hand, the piece does not seem to show even an incipient tendency for the spring structure to grow straight from the top-cover of the fibula needle (as would be the case with a piece pertaining to the fibulae of the so-called deep-dish kind (the *Schüsselfibel*

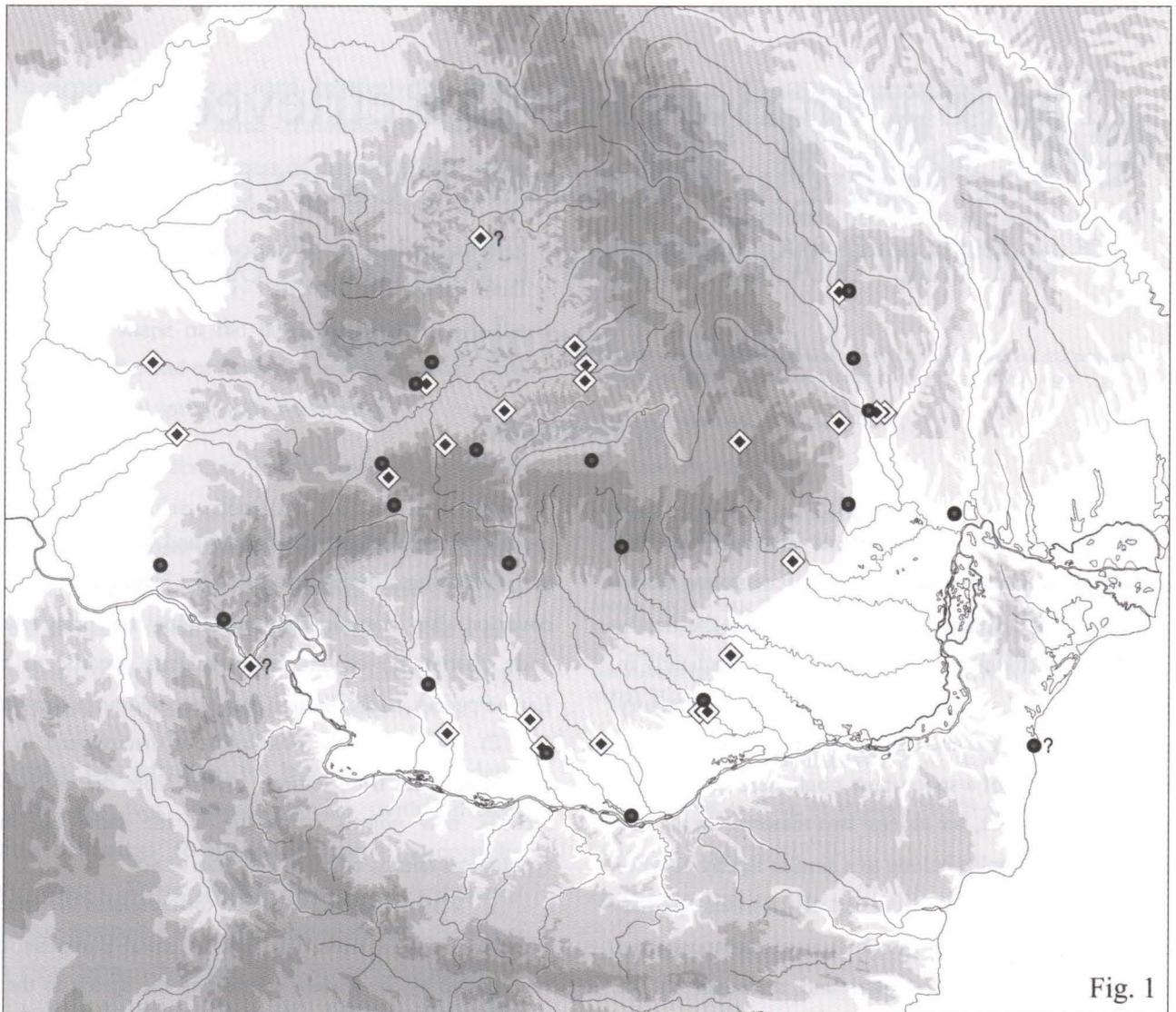


Fig. 1

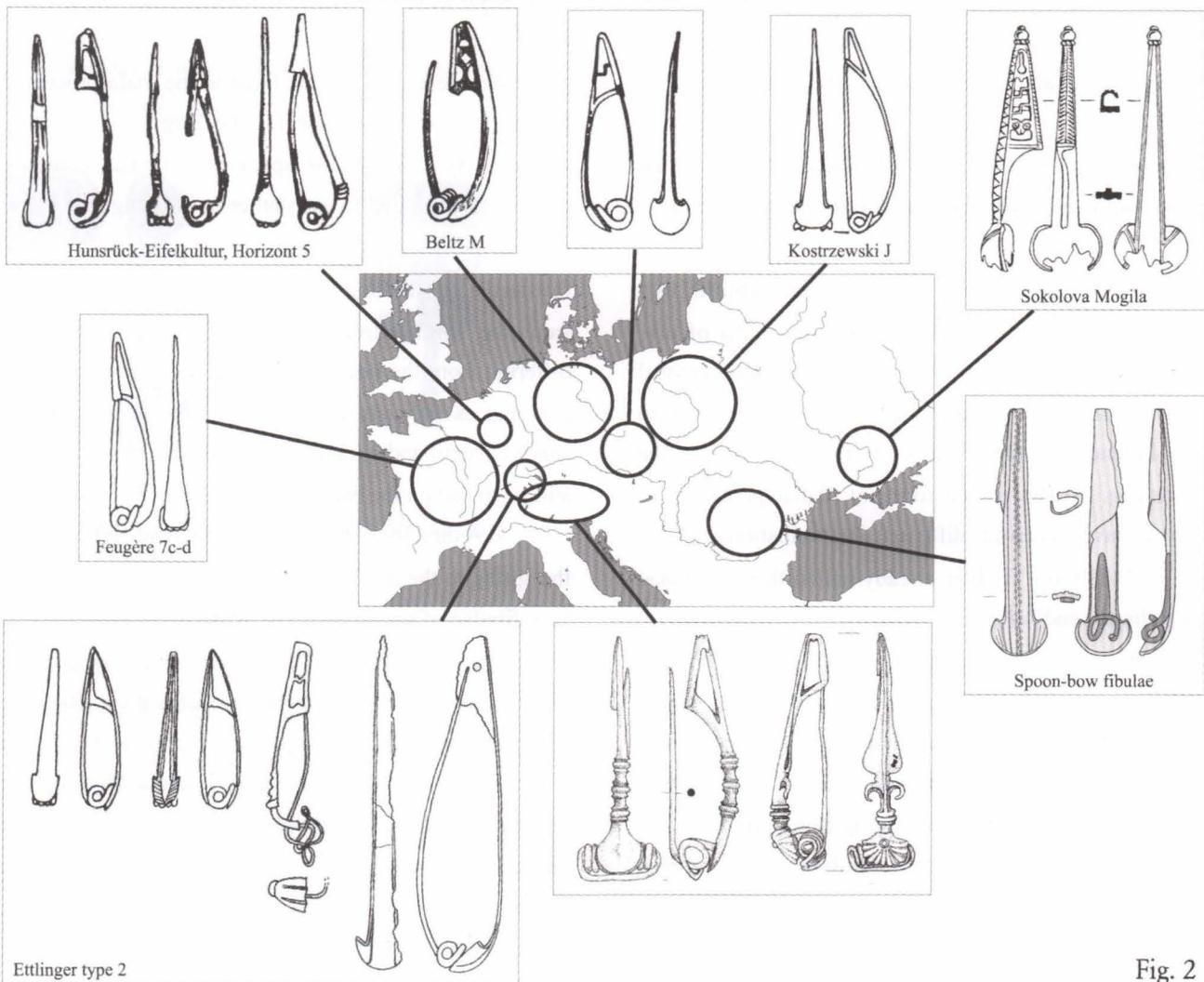


Fig. 2

pieces); and this makes us suspect that the spring had initially been welded to the back of the needle top-cover structure).

## 2. Remarks concerning the Morphology of the Spoon-Bow

Kurt Horedt was the first to isolate four variants of the spoon-bow fibulae, and now, more recently, it has been Aurel Rustoiu who has done the same. They take into account the different modalities of treating the pin support and the presence of studs on the spring. In short, it is the simple notched decoration type, or the rib-notching decoration, or again the absence in the pin support of notched decoration that determines the variants **a-c** to be distinguished in the two typologies, while the appliance of cabochons, filigree ornaments or even of tiny figurines represents the criterion for the variant **d**<sup>5</sup>. Unfortunately, the pin support of the fibula retrieved from the Giurgiu customs zone is missing, so that it cannot be specified if it were assimilable to any one of the variants **a, b** or **c**, of the Horedt-Rustoiu classifications.

But one needs to draw attention upon the inconsistency of the criteria for the morphological differentiation in the above-mentioned classification: for example, quite a big number of spoon-bow fibulae with cabochon decoration or tiny avimorphous figurines<sup>6</sup> applied on the arc (in the *Horedt-Rustoiu* variant **d**) have a fully beaded pin supports devoid of notched decorations – which is a characteristic trait for the *Horedt-Rustoiu* variant **c**. But it should be specified that the appliance of studs on the arc was also found on spoon-bow fibulae with notches that alternate with ribs (specific for the *Horedt-Rustoiu* variant **b**), as can be ascertained on an item, which has now disappeared, found Poiana<sup>7</sup>.

Some of the spoon-bow fibulae of Căpâlna<sup>8</sup>, Cărlomănești<sup>9</sup>, Craiva<sup>10</sup>, Poiana-Movila Hârtop<sup>11</sup> sau Răcătău<sup>12</sup> (fig. 3 – to the left), and also the fibula recovered from the customs zone of Giurgiu – have a protruding meandering (or zig-zag) motif on the arc which suggests a filigree, but was made by point-beating/engraving of the sheet. Of these items, some have a notch-ornamented pin support, but others do not. Consequently, the relief zig-zag motif (with a pseudo-filigree) applied in length along the middle axis, on the obverse side of the arc in all these spoon-bow fibulae represents a particular ornamentation detail that cannot be traced back to the *Horedt-Rustoiu* classification.

Starting from such remarks as a premise, it can be considered that the ornamentation of the pin support does not constitute *the only* morphological variable relevant for distinguishing the spoon-bow fibulae, just as the different ornamentation style of the arc cannot in itself and exclusively

be invoked in order to secure an adequate classification. Rather, a judicious classification of the spoon-bow fibulae had better derive from regarding together the following variables: the general aspect of the pin support (which can be either full, like a bead, or decorated with rectangular notches, or again, ornamented with ribs); the aspect of the arc (i.e., with a double groove pattern, or with a pseudo-filigree meandering pattern, or by the application of cabochons and/or avimorphous figurines). Such an approach would generate, however, a big number of variants, as it is possible to identify six characteristic associations of motifs (ornamenting systems) for the spoon-bow fibulae. On the other hand, the variety of the ornamentation systems is the result of applying one or several decoration techniques, as the case may be. In other words, for the spoon-bow fibulae it is possible to consider that the ornamentation diversity is determined by the complexity of the decorative techniques, and very likely it is precisely this observation that might suggest to us a more coherent principle for the classification of this morphologic group of items.

The ornamentation of the spoon-bow fibulae

		The pin support:	
		full	Notch-decorated
The arc :	2 grooves	+	+
	meandering pseudo-filigree	+	+
	Cabochon and./or figurine studs	+	+

- Ornamenting techniques**
- a. point-beating engraving of the metal sheet
  - b. point-beating + notching
  - c. point-beating (± notching) + filigree / granulation / studs

It is quite sure that the deployment of any ornamentation techniques or the failure to deploy them constituted the expression of a deliberate choice on the part of the jewelers and bronze artisans, and we should ask ourselves if the complexity of the ornamentation techniques employed was not in effect meant to increase the intrinsic value of the metal used for making the respective piece, given the sophistication of the processing involved in the decoration, as well as the supplementary aesthetic contribution of the same. Strangely enough, the spoon-bow fibulae ornamented by the most complex techniques, with cabochon or figurine applications or with filigree motif decorations, are hardly ever made of silver and their size is always reduced.

Taking into account the complexity of the decorative techniques employed, it is possible to distinguish three technological and ornamental variants of the spoon-bow fibulae.

a. Spoon-bow fibulae exclusively decorated by point beaten grooves, engraved on the obverse part of the arc and sometimes also the application of some linear motifs on the exterior surface of the full (bead like) pin supports. Sometimes the arc decoration can be enhanced by point-beating engravings of the meandering pseudo-filigree motif, as is the case with some fibulae of Cărlomănești, Poiana - Movila Hârtop, Răcățâu. In the same group should be included, as a subvariant, some spoon-bow fibulae unearthed at Poiana and Ocnița, which are characterised by the point-beaten engraving on the foot of the front part of the front part of a human or animal figurine's body (possibly the protoma of a dog)<sup>13</sup>.

b. Spoon-bow fibulae for whose decoration the artisans resorted to the notch-decorating the pin support, in addition to the decoration by point-beaten engravings, thus opening either a rectangular space, or a space fragmented by ribs. In two cases (at Căpâlna and probably also at Craiva) the arc of such spoon-bow fibulae has a pseudo-filigree meandering motif.

c. Spoon-bow fibulae whose ornamentation also involved the welding or setting of some distinct elements, separately decorated (by filigree, granulation, cabochons or avimorphous figurines), but without abandoning the other two techniques ( engraving by point-beating or notching of the margins), as illustrated by the fibulae found at Mănăstioara-Fitionești<sup>14</sup>, Ocnița<sup>15</sup>, Poiana<sup>16</sup> or Răcățâu<sup>17</sup>.

*The Conclusions of the Morphological Considerations.* The reader may reproach us for proposing here a classification which does not actually modify substantially the typological classes proposed by Horedt-Rustoiu for the spoon-bows. I would like to stress, however, that the clear specification of the classification criteria which secures a desirable coherence are no less important than the results of a classification, and this is so in virtue of the need to bring arguments in favour of relating new items to the already existing typologies of archaeological research. As regards the formal classification of the spoon-bow fibulae, I consider decisive the ornamenting techniques used and not the presence or absence of some ornamental motifs.

It is for such reasons as the ones mentioned above that we can consider the difficulty of classifying the fibula recovered from the Giurgiu customs, a difficulty caused by the missing pin support, and consequently by the unavailability of specifications regarding the ornamentation technique(s) (or their complete absence), is not all that important, ultimately. The meandering pseudo-filigree ornament on the obverse of the arc is sufficient for specifying a number of analogies that permit classifying the fibula retrieved from the Giurgiu customs among the variants whose representatives were

decorated by simple ornamental techniques (i.e., by point-beaten engraving and, only potentially, by the notch-decoration of the pin support), though they have not been studded also. As is to be shown in what follows, this particularity of the fibula from the Giurgiu customs shows its importance also from the perspective of the chronology of the spoon-bows.

### 3. *Remarks on the Chronology of Spoon-Bow Fibulae. The Importance of the Funerary Inventory at Poiana – Movila Hârtop*

Both Horedt and Rustoiu<sup>18</sup> dated back the spoon-bow fibulae to the first century BC and to the beginning of the following century. In the relative and the absolute chronology of the Dacian thesauri, the spoon-bow fibulae make up one of the types specific for the late phase of these findings<sup>19</sup>, and this classification of the fibulae rests on their association with the denarii issued in the last decades of the Republic and found in the thesaurus of Șeica Mică<sup>20</sup>; they have also been classified in association with the Augusteic coins unearthed at Remetea Mare<sup>21</sup>. Even if we were to mistrust the dating based on these associations with denarii, seeing them as mere *termini post quem* determinations, we must still acknowledge the fact that it is precisely these associations which prevent us from classifying the spoon-bow fibulae as items traceable back to a later phase, of the beginning and middle of the first century BC, which is characterised by the association between the knotted fibulae and the drachmas of Apollonia and Dyrrhachium (found at Agârbiciu, Sacalasău, Drăgești, Cehei) or the Thassysian tetradrachmai (found at Clipicești)<sup>22</sup>. If it is a fact that in the current stage of research we are in possession of a sufficient number of indices for approximating the moment when the spoon-bow fibulae started to be used, namely the last third of first c. BC, as regards how long they may have remained in use we can only make plausible conjectures, but without any firm arguments.

Luckily, there is one discovery quite well-known in the literature, which has been known for a few decades now, though it has neither been illustrated, nor has it received an adequate description of the items recorded on the inventories; this discovery is meant to shed light upon the issue of the latest reference marks for dating the spoon-bow fibulae. Studied in 1936, mentioned for the first time in 1952<sup>23</sup> and presented more at length 24 years later<sup>24</sup>, the grave in the tumulus "Movila Hârtop" contains among others the association of a pair of silver spoon-bow fibulae with a provincial bronze fibula presenting a complex processed protuberance joining the arc and the foot <sup>25</sup> (fig. 3).

The chronological value of this association – unique so far – increases, given the fact that it is possible to recognize

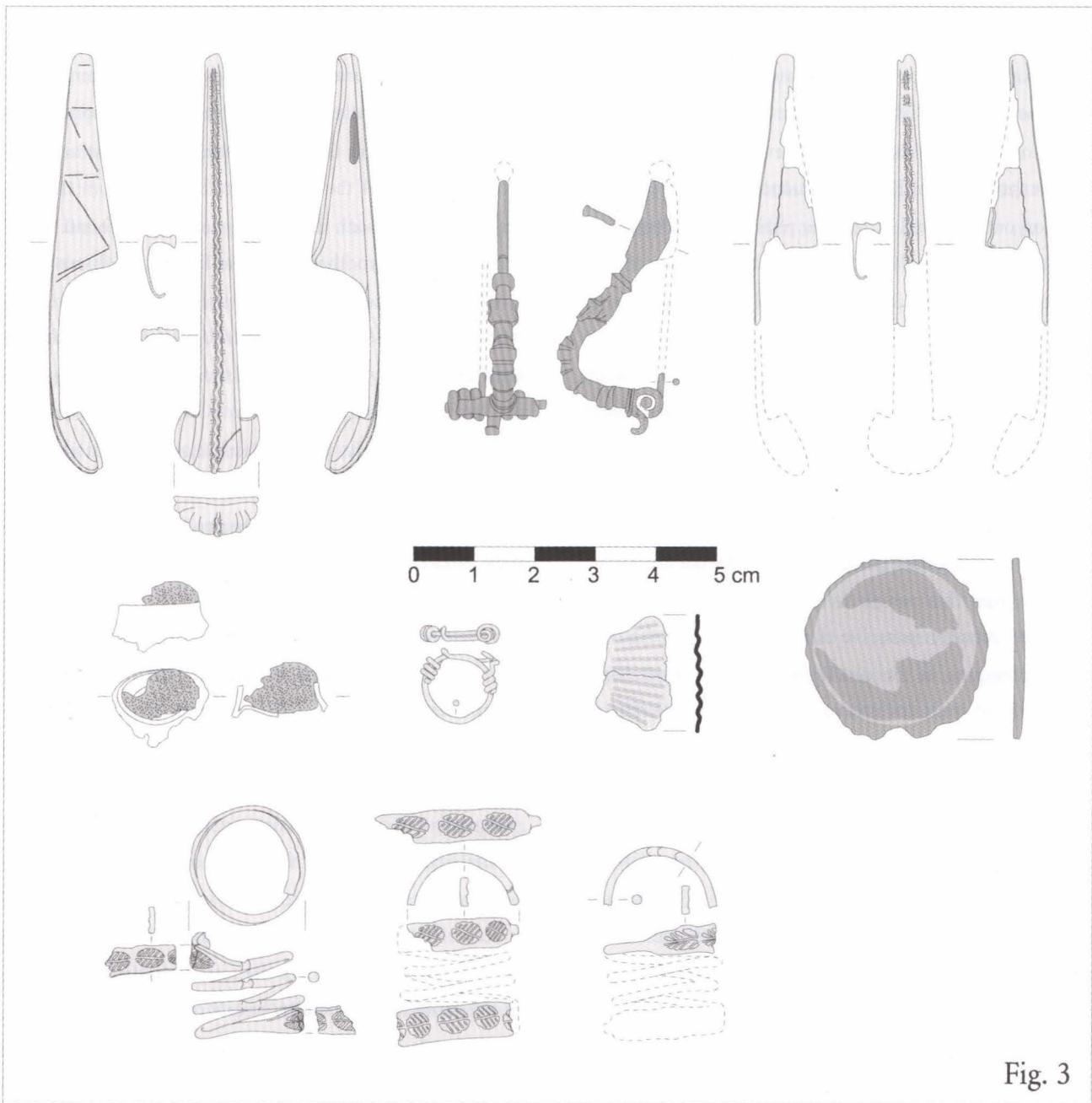


Fig. 3

the representation of the front part of a zoomorphous protome, probably a canine one, on the arc and foot of this Roman age fibula (Rustoiu – type 21). Such fibulae with a protome on the foot have been acknowledged as widespread in Pannonia and Noricum, the most numerous discoveries being recorded in the Emona region, and being datable back to the Augustus-Vespasian period<sup>26</sup>. Consequently, the bronze fibula whose needle, ornamented with a canine protome, found in the tomb at Poiana – Movila Hârtop represents, just as other items discovered in the Dacian settlement of the same area<sup>27</sup>, an early imperial Roman import. It could be conjectured that the appearance in Dacia of fibulae with a protome on the arc is to be associated with a phase later than the one when this type was constituted in the northern and east-alpine regions, probably during the reigns of Augustus and Tiberius, so much so that it is possible to trace to the 1st c. AD the reception and dating of the fibulae with a protome on the arc, as the ones unearthed at Poiana, in general, or as the fibula unearthed from the Movila Hârtop tomb, in particular. Consequently, the association of the two types of fibulae found in the Movila

Hârtop grave requires that the period when the spoon-bow fibulae were in use be extended at least until the middle of the 1st c. AD, if not, really, up to the end of the second third of the 1st c. AD.

In support of the same could also be invoked the placing of some zoomorphous protomei (probably canine ones) on the feet of some spoon-bow fibulae at Poiana or Ocnița; they were placed in the transition area between the arc and the foot and were oriented towards the pin support<sup>28</sup>. It is also worth asking whether the appearance of a protome on the body of some spoon-bow fibulae had not rather be attributed to the adaptation by the local jewelers of a motif borrowed from the ornamentation of the provincial fibulae to a traditional fibula schema of pre-Roman Dacia. At any rate, this plausible contamination suggests that the association between the spoon-bow fibulae and the protome fibula of the Movila Hârtop grave may not at all be a random phenomenon, in spite of its uniqueness.

On the other hand, it could be considered that the appearance of the filigree ornamentation in some spoon-bow

fibulae (for example the one at Mănăstioara), as well as the imitation of the filigree effect by point-beating the metal sheet, as illustrated in the case of the fibula retrieved from the Giurgiu customs, are expressions of Roman influences, or even possibly of Sarmathian ones exerted in the late phase of the Dacian art of jewelery (which is the phase the spoon-bow fibulae should primarily be ascribed to). This is precisely the direction to which very plausibly and eloquently points the inventory of the thesaurus at Vedeia; here, in addition to the fibulae with screen and spoon-bow there was also found a short chain whose extremities have been protected by protective structures ornamented with filigree and granular deposits. So far, this chain represents the only example of a part ornamented with filigree and deposits of metal grains in all the Dacian thesauri<sup>29</sup>. Judging things from this perspective, we can ask ourselves if we should not actually perceive this adoption of the two ornamental techniques in the pre-Roman Dacian workshops, and the imitation of their decorative effect by point-beating of the metal sheet, as a chronological indication and mark for their pertaining to the 1st half of the 1st century AD.

In the frame of the present research, the specification of the latter limit of the period when the spoon-bow fibulae were in use would not have been fully justified if the spoon-bow fibulae of Poiana – Movila Hârtop were not considered tokens of the same meandre shaped ornamentation with pseudo-filigree placed on the obverse of the arc plate as the ornamentation discovered on the fibula retrieved at the Giurgiu Customs zone. In spite of the qualified enthusiasm permissible when accepting the chronological value of some ornamentations motifs, this analogy can still be seen to positively plead for dating the fibula retrieved at the Giurgiu Customs to the end of the first half of the 1st c. AD.

#### **4. Considerations about the Place of Origin for the Fibula Retrieved from the Giurgiu Customs and about Other Origin-Related Elements concerning it**

We feel bound to acknowledge that there are enough doubts regarding the place of origin of the spoon-bow fibula, all the more so as the conditions for its discovery are unknown and as there are not any indications regarding what hands it may have come down to us from; also, there are no specialised records about the discovery of such a piece on the Bulgarian territory. The only certain circumstance is the fact that the antique-monger from whom the fibula was retrieved had Bulgarian citizenship, was leaving his own country of origin and was moving across Romania; but this aspect cannot be invoked as directly contributing to the discovery of the site where the fibula was found.

Given the archeological evidence accumulated so far, we can legitimately ask ourselves if the spoon-bow fibula retrieved from the Giurgiu Customs does not actually come from the north of the Danube, rather than from the Bulgarian territory, where such items have never been found. But even if we accept the hypothesis that the fibula was discovered on the Romanian territory, we can still imagine that it may have come from the region situated to the south of the Carpathians rather than from Transylvania, where the antiquity smuggling traffic is preferably oriented to the Central- or West-European countries. Similarly, if we do accept a Bulgarian place of origin for the fibula, it is nevertheless less than likely that it may come from the southern Thracian regions which lie so far from the area where the spoon-bow fibulae have always been found. Consequently, it can be conjectured that the fibula purchased at the Giurgiu Customs comes from a site situated in the Lower Danube basin (between the Meridional Carpathians and the Stara Planina Range). On the other hand, the scale of the archaeological smuggling in Bulgaria has been dealt with in a number of recent publications<sup>30</sup>, so that it is plausible, from this perspective at least, that some types may still be attested here, in the regions lying to the south of the Danube, where they have not been attested yet.

But it should be specified that the Bulgarian territory should not be mistaken for the totality of the territories situated to the south of the Danube. In one of the late Hellenistic graves discovered within the range of Constanța City, which means a territory lying to the south of the Danube (!), M. Bucovață signalled a bronze fibula, from which “the spoon-bow arc, corroded, could be retrieved”<sup>31</sup> ; this piece of information determined A. Rustoiu to include this item in the inventory of the spoon-bow fibulae<sup>32</sup>. Unfortunately, the research documentation for the Constanța fibula is not sufficiently adequate to offer the certainty that *it does not* belong to the deep-dish fibulae (the *Schüsselfibel*). Should this item prove to belong to the spoon-bow class of fibulae, it would constitute an exemplary case attesting the presence of this type to the south of the Danube, even though in association with a Greek citadel.

The discovery, to the south of the Danube River, of some spoon-bow fibulae is also indirectly suggested by two items which have been present in the Belgrade National Museum since before the Second World War (if not, really, since before the First World War)<sup>33</sup> . Unfortunately we do not know if these two fibulae come from sites situated in the area of the Serbian segment of the Danube, more specifically, and also more likely, from the region of Djerdap (i.e., the Serbian counterpart of the Poziș de Fier region). But, in this region are attested several findings of objects with a morphology specific for the jewelery of the Dacian late Latène, for example the

grave of Dubova<sup>34</sup>, the thesaurus of Izvorul Frumos<sup>35</sup>, or the two *mastos* type cups found at Turnu Severin<sup>36</sup>, if we are to mention just these examples pertaining to the Romanian bank of the Danube.

If the circumstances in which the two spoon-bow fibulae of the Belgrade Museum were found are still only uncertain, it should not be overlooked that on the south bank of the Serbian segment of the Danube, at Mala Vrbica, there was found a spiral bracelet terminated with ornamental strips shaped as palmettes and zoomorphous protomes<sup>37</sup>. If the random discoveries made on the left bank of the Danube's cleft (namely the two cups of Turnu Severin and the Izvorul Frumos thesaurus) came to be acquired by Romanian archaeological institutions and galleries, it so happens that the bracelet of Mala Vrbica was integrated to the collections of the National Museum in Belgrade, which also houses the already mentioned spoon-bow fibulae with uncertain origins. Although it can no longer be confirmed, the possibility for the two fibulae preserved in the Belgrade Museum to have been found on the right bank of the Danube should not be waived aside from the start; on the contrary, it appears as quite plausible. Consequently, the two items in the Belgrade National Museum offer an imprecise, yet suggestive, indication that it might still be possible to discover spoon-bow fibulae in regions situated to the south of the Danube.

The bracelet of Mala Vrbica is morphologically similar to the one in the thesaurus unearthed on the opposite bank of the Danube, at Izvorul Frumos; it also resembles other items discovered in Wallachia (at Bălănești, Rociu, Coada Malului), in Transilvania (at Orăștie, Hetiur, Peteni, Ghelița, Senereuș) or even in Crișana (at Oradea); they actually form one of the most spectacular kinds of jewels pertaining to the Dacian late Latène. For the current research, the significant element is the association of some of the spiral bracelet fashioned with terminal strips ornamentated with palmettes and protomes with spoon-bow fibulae in the thesauri of Hetiur, Peteni and Senereuș plus, especially, the discovery of such spiral bracelets in Bulgaria, at Malāk Porovec (okr. Ispereh)<sup>38</sup>. The spread of this spiral bracelet type in the region between the Danube and the Stara Planina Range as well as the association of such bracelets with spoon-bow fibulae consistently plead in favour of the possibility to discover such fibulae also to the south of the Danube river. In this connection, we can also invoke the association of some spoon-bow fibulae found at Vedeia or Remetea Mare with fibulae of the shield type, another of the types showing analogies with the objects found south of the Danube, for example at Akčar or in another locality in Bulgaria, which has remained unknown<sup>39</sup>. In other words, the spoon-bow fibulae are relatively contemporaneous with a

number of pieces specific for the jewelry in Dacia, having opposite numbers to the south of the Danube. Consequently, the rather irresponsible affirmation made by Aurel Rustoiu : “the absence of these fibulae on the right-hand bank of the Danube (in the Porțile de Fier area and in Bulgaria) may constitute a reference for their chronology”<sup>40</sup>, proves its lack of solidity, precisely given the identification south of the Danube of some jewelry pieces otherwise *associated*, as a rule, with spoon-bow fibulae. Unfortunately, we have not been shown the arguments in support of the above mentioned quote, but it can be guessed that the author who stated those words presupposed that there were absolutely no cultural contacts between the two banks of the Danube, once the Roman authority had extended to the right bank of the river. The identification as a spoon-bow fibula of the fibula found in a late Hellenistic grave at Constanța<sup>41</sup>, accepted and supported by A. Rustoiu, would rather suggest the contrary. In so far as such an interpretation of the fibula at Tomis receives confirmation, we will feel pressed to accept the possibility that such fibulae appeared in completely different contexts.

To conclude, if we leave aside all cultural considerations as the ones made above, it is worth remembering that although we do not have any undisputable proofs that any spoon-bow fibulae contexts were found in the area lying to the south of the Danube, there exist, however, a number of suggestive combinations of factors pleading in favour of the possibility to consider that some spoon-bow fibulae may have been worn also in the regions between the Haemus and the Dniestr, at the end of the 1st century BC and in the first half of the following century.

##### ***5. The Cultural and Historical Frame which Could Account for the Presence South of the Danube of a Spoon-Bow Fibula***

Historically, the phase in which the spoon-bow fibulae were used in the last two or three decades before Christ and in the first half of the next century is ulterior to the moment when the rule of king Burebista was ending, and it could be synchronised approximately with the period in which the territory between the initially unoccupied Haemus and the Dniestr came to be subordinated first to the authority of the Thracian kings, who were clients of Rome; and this happened at the initiative, and with the support of the Roman power. The content of the Movila Hârtop inventory suggests, however, that the use of the spoon-bow fibulae was actually extended up to the second third of the first century *peri* Christ, namely it was extended to the period when Roman power became thoroughly established all along the course of the Lower Danube. From the point of view of the current research it is of less import to establish whether

the appropriation of the Thracian bank of the Danube (including Dobrudja) so as to include it into the Moesia Province occurred in 46 AD, or whether this extension was effected later, during the reign of Vespasian<sup>42</sup>. But one thing which remains significant is that in the first half of the first century *peri* Christ the potential reception of a product specific for the Dacian metallurgy was not yet conditioned by the establishment of the Roman *limes* or by a customs post.

On the other hand, we can suspect that the integration in the Empire of the southern Danube communities did not necessarily involve the abandonment of all the traditional dress elements. Also, the use of some local jewelry forms and of some dress accessories could very well have continued, without being conditioned by the political annexation of the southern Danube territories<sup>43</sup>.

One cannot overlook the fact that before the organization of the *limes*, the Danube had never constituted an impenetrable political or cultural border or an ethnical delimitation principle<sup>44</sup>; rather, it can be considered that the area corresponding to the lower course of the Danube represented a space where intercultural contacts were the rule<sup>45</sup>. In the proto-historical ages, the circulation of the denizens on the Danube from one bank to the other seems to have been more intense even than in earlier periods when the spoon-bow fibulae came to be used, as some literary sources indicate, for example Arian, *Anabasis* I.4.4. The crossing of the Danube by Burebista (Strabo VII.3.11, IGB I<sup>2</sup> 13), the population displacements attributed to the initiatives of Sextus Aelius Catus (Strabo VII.3.10), or later those of Tiberius Plautius Silvanus Aelianus, at a time when the Roman authorities already controlled firmly the lower Danube stream (CIL XIV 3608 = ILS 986, r. 7-13), the incursions of the Getes and Sarmathians in the vicinity of Tomis (Ovidiu, *Tristia* II. 191-192, IV.10.109-110) a.s.o. – all of these are complexes of circumstances which go beyond the historical particularist significance, and can consequently be interpreted in a cultural-anthropological perspective rather, as expressions of the human communities' mobility on the two banks of the Danube at the interstice of the ages. Under the circumstances and in the cultural *cum* historical context, it is more than plausible for a series of items to have been transmissible from one to the other bank of the Danube, via mechanisms that are harder to unravel, or maybe even independent from the political events of that epoch.

In the neighbouring regions of the lower Danube course, now situated on the territory of Bulgaria, there were recorded several archaeological findings in the course of the previous century, bringing to light not only jewelry pieces but also some forms of ceramic which, as a rule, have been

considered in the Romanian specialised literature to constitute elements specific to the late Latène. But it is rather debatable that this kind of items may really represent ethno-cultural identity indices.

Apart from the above mentioned examples (the spiral bracelets of Mala Vrbica și Malăk Porovec or the Akčar fibula) there are a few more examples worth evoking, which prove the diffusion to the south of the Danube of some types of findings specific for the discoveries of pre-Roman Dacia. One such example is the silver fibula with granular appliances discovered in a grave at Gorni Dăbnik<sup>46</sup>; it is an item which belongs to a type specific for the inventories of the thesauri in the intra-Carpathian territory<sup>47</sup>. But please note that in spite of the predominant intra-Carpathian concentration of the fibulae with granular appliances, one representative of this type, evincing a rich ornamentation of the foot, comparable only to the one of the items in the Lupu thesaurus, illustrates a very good example of the integration of a specific Transylvanian jewelry form in a grave unearthed near the lower Danube area. In so far as it can be interpreted as a token of social status, the Gorni Dăbnik item illustrates a potential contact between the elites of the two regions.

Also from the perspective of some close formal analogies of items dated back to the late Latène and discovered north and south of the Danube, we can invoke the case of the buckle belt discovered in a grave near Altimir<sup>48</sup>. If the buckle itself may be assimilated by analogy to the findings in sites attributed to the Dacian culture (Popești, Cârломănești, Sighișoara–Wietenberg a.s.o.)<sup>49</sup>, it is worth noting that the belt itself, which is attached to the buckle by means of a plate whose extremities have been folded on the reverse side, and which is formed of circular meshes united to each other by groups of twisted mailing, can be likened to belts that come from north of Danube findings (at Clipicești, Fântânele, Tilișca)<sup>50</sup>, in view of the way they were fashioned. Such correspondences between items whose make-up presupposed a high degree of technological complexity suggest that there existed close contacts at least among the jewelers and bronze craftsmen activating north and south of the Danube on the eve of the Roman conquest.

The analogies between the late Latène findings sited on either side of the Danube are not restricted to the metal items, but are illustrated also by some ceramic categories, such as the locally manufactured cups with protruding decorations. Oddly enough, the Bulgarian research literature signals remarkably few findings of cups with protruding relief decorations, although such items are very frequent on the Wallachian sites like the ones at Popești, Zimnicea, Cârломănești, Crășani sau Ocnia<sup>51</sup> a.s.o.. So far only one such

cup has been adequately published, the cup at Zgalevo, while other similar items, found at Nikopol or Batin were only signalled in a paper signed by two Romanian authors<sup>52</sup>. The scarcity in northern Bulgaria of the locally manufactured cups with protruding decorations is all the more suspect as the sources of ornamental inspiration and the technology for manufacturing cups within moulds originate in the milieu of the late Hellenistic workshops.

Could it be that the Hellenistic influence was only felt north of the Danube, without contaminating the craftsmen's milieus situated between the Dniestr and the Haemus, or is it rather that we are witnessing a quite distinct phenomenon, to wit, the lack of interest manifested by the Bulgarian researchers for publishing some categories of ceramic materials datable back to the late Latène period? Just as A. Vulpe and M. Gheorghiu have signalled the finding at Nikopol thanks to a verbal account offered by M. Čičikova, I would venture myself to reproduce here the information according to which in the deposits of the Museums in our neighbouring country there are numberless unpublished ceramic materials awaiting their turn; these materials have close analogies with the sites of pre-Roman Dacia, and they include numerous locally manufactured cups with protruding decorations, which are either complete or fragmentary<sup>53</sup>. This is why it is just to say that the current situation of the edited information referring to the late Latène ceramic material offered by the research in the northern regions of Bulgaria is, to say the least, precarious and misleading, and it does not permit adequately correlating the results of the archaeological research on either side of the Danube. On the other hand, the few indications we have so far should not be overlooked, since they might very well guide us in further phases of research.

It would be entirely mistaken to consider that, culturally, the regions between the Danube and the Balkans constituted a hinterland of the Dacian cultural space. On the contrary, in the regions to the north, and the north-west especially, of the Stara Zagora range, more precisely in the Vraca<sup>54</sup> region, archaeological findings have revealed the intense practising here of some strongly individualized funerary rituals<sup>55</sup>, which oblige us to recognize the manifestation here of a distinct cultural and ritual identity in the period at the beginning of late Latène; it differed from the intra-Carpathian identity which was seldom expressed by funerary practices, but it quite often involved constituting and burying thesauri, as well as erecting fortified centres on high and peaking land. Over three decades ago, Woźniak joined the funerary findings of the Lower Danube, the data from the end of the middle Latène and from the late Latène period under the group denomination "Padea - Panagjurski-Kolonii"<sup>56</sup>, and more

recently Theodossiev has, perhaps too little subtly, attributed such manifestations exclusively to the tribals<sup>57</sup>. On the other hand, it should be noted that a series of frequent types of objects specific to the funerary inventories belonging to the Padea - Panagjurski-Kolonii group have also been identified in some pre-Roman Dacian sites (for example the horse harness mouthpieces of the Werner XVI type<sup>58</sup> or the *sica*<sup>59</sup> type daggers a.s.o.); similarly there is a series of specific Dacian thesauri items and locally manufactured cups with a protruding decoration which can be encountered in findings to the south of the Danube.

Consequently, these analogies and correspondences illustrate a reciprocal relationship between two distinct cultural groups of the late Latène period; one extends in the lower Danube segment (more concentrated in the Vraca region), another one covers the intra-Carpathian regions<sup>60</sup>. If such a thesis were validated, accepting that there actually existed a bipolar relationship between groups which were both regionally and ritually individualised, then it would become possible to explain the potential presence of a spoon-bow fibula in the south Danube area. If the fibula retrieved from the Giurgiu Customs does indeed come from Bulgaria, then it could constitute the desirable indication by which spoon-bow fibulae could in their turn be circumscribed to those forms of dress accessories and jewelry involved in the intercultural relations among the south- and north-Danube communities on the eve of the Moesia Province extension as far as the Pontic seaboard.

<sup>1</sup> Tischler O. 1885, 23.

<sup>2</sup> Filip J. 1956, fig. 44/11-12, pl. CXXVI/24. Krämer W. 1971, fig. 2/4.

<sup>3</sup> Gleirscher P. 1987, 67-68.

<sup>4</sup> One of the most eloquent examples in this respect is the one of one silver spoon-bow fibula from Răcătău which retains a bronze spring welded on the reverse (The Bacău Museum, inv. 7810; for the bibliography see *infra* n. 13). There is quite a big number of further examples catalogued and studied by Rustoiu A. 1997, 207-211, fig. 51/8, 52/2-4, 6, 8, 10-13, 53/11-12, fig. 54/8, 55/11.

<sup>5</sup> Horedt K. 1973, 136, fig. 2, the A4 type, variants a-d; Rustoiu A. 1997, 48-50, type 16, variants a-d. In fact Rustoiu does nothing beside taking over the classification (while changing its symbols of course) that Horedt proposed earlier, for the silver spoon-bow fibulae, extending it to the bronze items, of course.

<sup>6</sup> Such examples are offered by the items discovered at Răcătău, Ocnița, Poiana, Mănăstioara: Rustoiu A. 1997, 209, fig. 53/10, 12, 14-15 and 211, fig. 55/10.

<sup>7</sup> Between the wars, the silver fibula was part of the m. Dimitriu collection of Tecuci and it was later illustrated by an explicit photograph in Vulpe R., Dunăranu-Vulpe E. 1933, 344, fig. 127.

<sup>8</sup> Glodariu I., Moga V. 1989, 110, 209, fig. 96/4.

<sup>9</sup> An unknown item I have been kindly informed of by Prof Dr. M. Babeș.

<sup>10</sup> Moga V. 1979, 514, pl. I, 4

<sup>11</sup> V. *infra*, n. 25-26.

- <sup>12</sup> Căpitanu V., Ursachi V. 1969, 96, 128-129, fig. 34 (to the lower left side), fig. 35 (to the left); Căpitanu V. 1976, 64, fig. 41/1; as regards the context of the discovery, Căpitanu V. 1984, 64, nr. 1, 74, fig. 1/4 laconically specifies only that the fibula "was discovered in a closed unit". In what concerns a similar item, unearthed at Răcătău, itself ornamented with an incipient pattern consisting of meandering notches, Căpitanu V. 1984, 65, no 16, fig. 2/6 shows that it is made of "white metal, and it has a bronze skeleton". This remark offers a convenient analogy for the item retrieved from the customs zone of Giurgiu, whose bronze body seems to have been covered in an ash-grey white tin foil (also possibly silver plated?).
- <sup>13</sup> The items found at Poiana: Teodor S., Țau S. 1997, 98, no 138, 78, fig. 12/8; Vulpe R., Teodor S. 2003, 215, no 138, 581, fig. 102/8; items found at Ocnița: Berciu D. 1981, 88, fig. 20/1 = pl. 48/7, pl. 36/5. We should not, however, exclude the possibility for the general form of the canine protome to have been obtained already during the fibula casting and forging phase, while the supplementary details may have been left for finalizing by ulterior point-beaten engraving.
- <sup>14</sup> Bobi V. 1981, 507-509, fig. 1.
- <sup>15</sup> Berciu D. 1981, 88, fig. 20/3 și 222, pl. 48/8.
- <sup>16</sup> Vulpe R., Dunăreanu-Vulpe E. 1933, 344, fig. 127; Vulpe R. et alii 1952, fig. 28 = Vulpe R., Teodor S. 2003, 215, 581, fig. 102/3; Vulpe R., Teodor S. 2003, 215, 581, fig. 102/4; Vulpe R., Dunăreanu-Vulpe E. 1933, 327, fig. 107 = Vulpe R., Teodor S. 2003, 216, 581, fig. 102/12; Vulpe R., Teodor S. 2003, 216, 582, fig. 103/2.
- <sup>17</sup> Căpitanu V. 1984, 64, no 2, 74, fig. 1/5. According to the author, the item could be made of silver, but the colour of the green oxide covering the fibula permits interpreting its material as being either bronze, or an alloy with a very low silver content.
- <sup>18</sup> v. *supra* n. 6.
- <sup>19</sup> Horedt K. 1973, 132, tab. I, 136; Spănu D. 2002, 100.
- <sup>20</sup> Floca O. 1956, 18-36.
- <sup>21</sup> Bleyer I. 1906, 363-364; for an adequate description of the denars unearthed at Remetea Mare, see: Chițescu M. 1981, 256. As regards the exceptional association in the thesaurus at Remetea Mare of the spoon-bow fibulae with the Thasian tetradrachmas, see Horedt K. 1973, 136, n. 32.
- <sup>22</sup> For the relevance of the associations between the knotted fibulae and the drachmas, see Horedt K. 1973, 131-132, tab. I; Spănu D. 2002, 98-99, fig. 19.
- <sup>23</sup> Vulpe R. et alii 1952, 209-210. For further information, see Protase D. 1971, 38, nt. 50.
- <sup>24</sup> Vulpe A. 1976, 208-210. The taxonomy of the fibulae proposed by A. Vulpe has been taken over without checking it by Sirbu V. 1993, 72-73 and 1994b, 126. Quite justly, therefore, Rustoiu A. 1996, 33 specifies that the fibulae considered by Vulpe as belonging to the Nauheim type are in fact spoon-bow fibulae. So far however, the inventory of the Movila Hârtoap grave unearthed at Poiana has not been illustrated.
- <sup>25</sup> The items pertaining to the grave inventory are at the Museum of Tecuci, inv. 3052-3053 and they were catalogued in May 2001 and May 2003 by the present author and by permission of Mr. Mircea Nicu, the Director of the Museum, to whom I have the honour of thanking here. The grave inventory comprises, alongside the three fibulae, an iron knife (*non videt*, mentioned by Vulpe A. 1976, 208), several scarlet glass necklace-phiales, some coloured glass and rock crystal beads, three spiral rings and a silver mesh, the gold sheet cabochon which probably pertains to a finger ring, a bronze mirror and some ceramic fragments of an urn, several fruit holders and other vessels made of an ashen paste processed on the potter's wheel, as well as other things.
- <sup>26</sup> For dating the type in the north-alpine regions, starting with the middle of Augustus's reign and extending to the end of the Julian and Claudian dynasty, in addition to the older literature quoted by Rustoiu A. 1997, 56, nt. 281-282, see more recently: Demetz S. 1999, 137-147 and 195-196.
- <sup>27</sup> In an unjustified manner, Vulpe R., Teodor S. 2003, 208, no 33 și 35 trace back the items discovered in Poiana to "the 1st c. BC – the 1st c. AD", or, as in the case of the item under no. 34, they trace it back only to "the 1st c. BC" (i). On the other hand, the fibula under no 37 is acceptably dated back to "the 1st c. AD", although this affirmation could also be improved by further detail additions.
- <sup>28</sup> See n. 14 *supra*.
- <sup>29</sup> Popescu D. 1941, 186, fig. 4.
- <sup>30</sup> In Bulgaria, Theodossiev N. 2000, 25-26 draws attention to the wide scale of the active hoard seekers in the latter decades, and Lazarova S., Paunova V., ArchBulg 7, 1, 2003, 45 offer a relevant example in this respect.
- <sup>31</sup> Bucovală M. 1967, 115, no 72, grave LXII, item c; unfortunately, the fibula has not been illustrated. Apart from the laconic description of the fibula, another element which pleads for its identification as a spoon-bow fibula is the analogy proposed by the author with one of the fibulae from Popești (Vulpe R. 1957, 240, fig. 22/3).
- <sup>32</sup> Rustoiu A. 1997, 49 and 108, list 14, no 7. Rustoiu even proposes an identification of the variant, as "var. 16c (?)", though he has reservations enough; this would involve the preliminary determination of the pin support as notchless, which represents a detail or aspect not implied by Bucovală's cursory remark.
- <sup>33</sup> The two fibulae were also in the Belgrade Museum between the wars, and they were published by Grdić M. 1930, 177-178, fig. 1-2, pl. XXXIV/1-2; he erroneously considered them to be Roman fibulae; more recently they have been illustrated and dated quite adequately to the pre-Roman period by Popović I. 1994, 187, nos 30-31.
- <sup>34</sup> Spănu D. 2004, 85-86, fig. 1/7.
- <sup>35</sup> Stângă I. 1992, 151-152, 154, fig. 2.
- <sup>36</sup> The two cups, mentioned by Popescu D. 1958, 186, were acquired by the National Museum of Antiquities in Bucharest before the Second World War and they could be seen as tantamount to the two cups published by Mărghitan L. 1976, 62, pl. XLIX.
- <sup>37</sup> Garašanin D. 1954, 67, no 4880, pl. XLIV/10.
- <sup>38</sup> Mikov V. 1957, 299, 302, fig. 7.
- <sup>39</sup> Popov R. 1922, 159-160, fig. 149.
- <sup>40</sup> Rustoiu A. 1997, 49.
- <sup>41</sup> V. *supra* n. 32.
- <sup>42</sup> The sources pleading in favour of a Moesia extension to the Pont, including the transformation of Thracia into a province are Pippidi D. M. 1967a, 375-376 and Avram A. 1999, 56-57. The correspondence addressed to the Histrians by the governors of Moesia starting with the year 46 p.Chr and especially the recording of a customs post on the Thracian bank of the Danube (*Portoriul ripae Thraciae*, IMS 1 67-68) as early as Nero's reign (60 p.Chr.) are the central arguments invoked in favour of the thesis maintaining an earlier dating for Moesia's extension. For the thesis claiming that Dobruja was annexed later, see Suceveanu A. 1991, 255-276 (and the earlier literature).
- <sup>43</sup> There are numerous analogies in this respect, in the alpine regions or in Pannonia, where the pre-Roman traditional dress elements were maintained after the beginning of the imperial age (Garbsch J. 1965, 4; Martin-Kilcher S. 1993, 187-200; 1998, 225).
- <sup>44</sup> Woźniak Z. 1974, 130.
- <sup>45</sup> Spănu D. 2004, 130-131.
- <sup>46</sup> Kovaceva T., Lazarova S., 1994, 25-28, fig. 1-2.
- <sup>47</sup> For the chronological distribution of the fibulae with granular appliances, see the mappings offered by Horedt K. 1973, 134, fig. 3, Rustoiu A. 1997, 167, fig. 11 or Spănu D. 2002, 97, fig. 17-18.
- <sup>48</sup> Nikolov B. 1972, 64-65, fig. 12.
- <sup>49</sup> For the research on pre-Roman Dacian buckles, see the reference text written by Babeș M. 1983, 196-221. For the research on the analogies of the Altimir buckle and their implications of the same, see, Spănu D. 2004, 114-115.
- <sup>50</sup> Clipsești: Mitrea I. 1972, 642, fig. 4; Fântânele: Berciu D. 1939, 206, 219, fig. 295, 1-2; Tilișca: Lupu N. 1989, 34, (grave 1, item 3), fig. 8/2-16.
- <sup>51</sup> Popești and Zimnicea: Casan Franga I. 1967, Vulpe A. Gheorghiuță M. 1976; Cârlomanești: Babeș M. 1975, 125-127; Crășani: Conovici N. 1978; Ocnița: Berciu D. 1981, 54-58 ș.a. In spite of the numerous contributions to the study of this category of luxury ceramic objects of pre-Roman Dacia, the study by Vulpe A., Gheorghiuță M. 1976 still proves to be the most comprehensive reference work available.
- <sup>52</sup> Zgalevo: Čičikova M. 1952, 346, fig. 352-353, Cončev D. 1959, 96-97, no 6, fig. 5; Batin and Nikopol: Vulpe A., Gheorghiuță M. 1976, 177-179, nos 2 and 19.
- <sup>53</sup> These items of information have been kindly entrusted to me by I. Pătrașcu and D. Măndescu, further to some documentary trips to Bulgaria, financially and very very kindly supported by Prof. Dr. M. Babeș.
- <sup>54</sup> Pentru cartări expresive: Woźniak Z. 1974, 76, map 2; 1976, 389, fig. 2; Zirra V. 1976, 179, fig. 3; Spănu D. 2004, 108, fig. 6 și 129, fig. 11.
- <sup>55</sup> Woźniak Z. 1974, 69-70; Sirbu V., Rustoiu A. 1999, 86-88; Theodossiev N. 2000, 42. Spănu D. 2004, 106-107.
- <sup>56</sup> Woźniak Z. 1974, 69-70.
- <sup>57</sup> Theodossiev N. 2000, 71-91. Sirbu V., Rustoiu A. 1999, 87-88 avoid a precise ethnical determination and consider the late Latene funerarys of the Lower Danube as being "a late expression of mercenary practices".
- <sup>58</sup> Werner W. M. 1988, 98-99, pl. 71 B.
- <sup>59</sup> Woźniak Z. 1974, 99-102; Rustoiu A. 2001, 181-182.
- <sup>60</sup> Arguments in favour of this can be found in Spănu D. 2004, 128-131.

# Objects from the Roman time

by Cristina Alexandrescu

## Belt pins and strap-ends

The two items (cat. No 136 and 137) are part of a group of pins differing in what regards the size of the diameter; they have on the reverse a peduncle-like fixing structure, and they are decorated with human or allegorical figures. The individual items have a protruding ornamentation, which is framed by a more or less wide ring, obtained by the beating of the metal sheet on a manufacturing punch. It is assumed that some of these pins were used for decorating the leather lambrechins of the Roman soldiers' sword belts.

G. Ulbert and M. Feugère dedicated special studies to this category of artefacts. Both authors also proposed a typology. Feugère put forward a hypothesis for identifying a unique workshop manufacturing these belt pins at Besançon; he based his hypothesis on the discovery of the majority of known pieces in a grave from this locality, and on the very restricted area over which these items were spread, in the *Galliae* and *Germaniae* provinces. The hypothesis was actually immediately attacked, and quite justly, by E. Künzl<sup>1</sup> who calls attention to the fact that the pins and the mellon shaped pearls, over 600 in number, which were deposited in the grave of Besançon probably came here from the 'warehouse' of a merchant. New finds, and the publication of some archaeological material from the Eastern part of the Roman Empire zone permit completing with new landmarks the chart of these items' spread; they have also been recorded on sites in Britannia and in the provinces along the Rhine, reaching as far as the Danubian zone of the Empire. In this way can their widespread distribution be proven, as well as the concrete existence of at least a second manufacturing workshop at *Siscia*<sup>2</sup>.

Items nos 136 and 137 correspond to the type 4a, and the type 7a, respectively, in the typology of Feugère 1985, even as their dimensions are concerned.

Cat. No 136 bears the portrait of Domitian heading right, with his hair caught in a ribbon. By comparison to type

4a of FEUGÈRE 1985, the item under discussion is smaller (it has only 2.3 cm, by comparison to 2.8 cm). It has what appears to be a palm-tree branch depicted on it, in front of the portrait, of what was eventually identified as a sceptre and only appears in types 6 and 7 by Feugère 1985.

Cat. No 137 corresponds both as dimensions, and in other respects also, to type 7a of Feugère 1985, and it has analogies in London.

The strap-ends for the sword-belt, used to decorate the military belts, and the lambrechins forming the so-called apron, have sometimes wrongly been identified as pendants. The existence of several, types' has been observed, differing by their component elements and by their ornamentation. The item of the present lot is to be included in the Germanic variant<sup>3</sup>. The centre of the piece has a hole, usually round, and the upper side is cut horizontally. Consequently, in the resulting slit was introduced the belt ear, and afterwards the end-piece of the belt was riveted in place. It has been proved that this variant is not typical to the Germanic frontier, since this variant has also been found not only in *Germaniae*<sup>4</sup>, but in *Britannia* and *Dacia* (here examples from Drobeta, Gilău, Răcari, Săpata de Jos, Romita, Turda) as well. The end-pieces for the belts of this type were in use in the interval from the end of the 2nd century and the first half of the following century<sup>5</sup>.

## Medical Instruments

The probe (**cat. Nr. 154b**) with the active element shaped as a scoop and the other element sometimes potentially shaped as a bulb was used for preparing mixtures: one end was used for measuring substances, the other for stirring. On the other hand, either because they were already attested or experimentally ascertained, there are further possible uses for these instruments. Analogies for this find are known in Mainz, Rome, London and *Dacia*.

The two ear-probes (*specillum oricularium*) (**cat. nr. 161 și 162**), consist of long sticks ending in a round, slightly

concave, spoon. They were used for investigating the inside of the ear and to introduce medicine inside the ear and the eye. This kind of probe was frequently used, as evidenced through the analogies in *Britannia* (Verulamium), Gallia (Trier), Italia (Pompei), *Dacia* (Sucidava, Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Turda, Porolissum), and *Asia Minor*. Apart from being used in the medical and formulary domain, it is considered quite plausible that these flat- and concave- spoon combinations may have been used for the preparation and measuring of powders for cosmetic make-up.

The medical instruments have been found either singularly or in sets and kits. Very interesting cases but also quite problematic ones are the grave inventories. Based upon this kind of finds, the scholars tried to identify the deceased person's occupation. Further the instruments have been investigated on their own. Such sets were found, for example, in graves dated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD, at Köln and Wehringen<sup>6</sup>. Sometimes, only one instrument appears in funerary context. The difficulty of their interpretation comes primarily from the incomplete perception of the domains in which these instruments were in use – for they seem not to have been used only for medical purposes.

In the area of the Roman provinces of *Dacia*, *Moesia* and *Thracia* medical instruments have been found both as sets and as singular finds. In 1983, Künzl included in his catalogue two sets coming from graves of Viminacium/Kostolac (*Moesia superior*). For *Moesia inferior* there were recorded some findings, coming from graves as well: four „sets” from Tomis/Constanța, two from Dionysopolis/Balcic, four from Odessos/Varna. In all of these cases are present flat spoons of the kind presented here, in this catalogue, used for medical or cosmetic purposes. For Thracia three points are known with findings of this kind: Philipopolis/Plovdiv, Bansko and Nova Zagora.

## “Steelyard”

Cat. Nr. 155 is a fragment of a graded scale of a balance. Due to its precarious state of preservation, there have not come down to us any details related to the mode of operation of this item, as regarding, for example, the limits of the weights that it could handle. This kind of portable balance consists of a graduated horizontal metal beam suspended on a chain.

The analogies allow deductions about the range of weights these scales could measure: from one to 60 *librae* (circ. 0.330 and 19.647 kg). They are generally determined by means

of the gradations on the arm of the scales. In this case the gradations are not preserved. Well-preserved items from the Roman Empire, however, attest the capacity to weigh considerable weights. An entirely preserved piece of this kind, similar to the one in this lot, together with the auxiliary elements (weights, balance pans, hooks) was discovered in a grave at Ingelfingen (dated to the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD).

The rapid scales are often to be found in medical „kits”, being used for preparing medical formulae. Another of its possible uses is for weighing the components of the alloys. The bronze item of the 6<sup>th</sup> c., discovered at Dinogetia/Garvăn had three hooks, which enabled it to be used for weighing merchandise varying in mass and ranging from 1 to 60 *librae* (from circ. 0.330 to 19.647 kg) and the amount weighed depended on the hook used, to which corresponded one of the three graded sizes inscribed on the horizontal shaft. The fourth side bore on it an inscription written in Greek, with the sign of the cross preceding it: „In the period of the magnificent prefect of the City (of Constantinople), Gerontios” .

<sup>1</sup> Künzl 1996, 434 note 182

<sup>2</sup> Descheler-Erb 1999, 47-48 and note 221; Radman Livaja 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Oldenstein 1976, p. 147-150

<sup>4</sup> Oldenstein 1976, plates 37/336-340

<sup>5</sup> Oldenstein 1976, p. 150

<sup>6</sup> Wamser (Hrsg.) 2000, nr. cat. 100-101

# Romano-Byzantine Cast Fibulae

by Andrei Măgureanu

Fibulae are jewel and dress accessories common in the southern Danube Byzantine world. In what follows, we shall only discuss some of the cast fibulae.

We shall concentrate here on the well-known fibulae with the foot twisted underneath, made by casting the metal in bivalve moulds. They consist of a quite observable bent arc and a pin support foot, in the shape of the letter “U”. The end of the pin support is united to the body of the fibula by a bar fixed at the point of intersection between the arc and the foot. In the majority of cases, there are also spiral imitations represented at that point. At the other end of the arc there is a hole which serves for fixing the spring. There appears a button above the hole, with finished facets.

Recently, there have been discovered a number of items of this kind on the territory of Bulgaria; they are the pretext of the following lines.

We shall conventionally refer to them here as *Romano-Byzantine cast fibulae*. This denomination points to three of the main characteristics that this group of fibulae shares: technology of production, chronology and space of provenance. There are other synonymous terms encountered in the literature; they are: Roman-Byzantine fibulae<sup>1</sup> = gegossene bronze fibeln mit Scheinumwicklung des Bügels<sup>2</sup> = Byzantine-Danubian fibulae<sup>3</sup> = Fibulae with pseudo-wrappings<sup>4</sup> = cast fibulae with bent stem<sup>5</sup> = Illyrian and Danubian fibulae<sup>6</sup> = fibulae with backward turned feet and pseudo-coils<sup>7</sup>.

## The Conditions of Their Finding

There have been discovered Roman-Byzantine fibulae in over 100 localities, most of them situated to the south of the Danube, on the territory of the former provinces of the Byzantine Empire (figure 1). After analyzing the conditions of their finding, we can note that they were discovered, in their majority, within the precinct of fortifications, either military or civil.

Only a restricted number of fibulae come from unfortified settlements. These were findings from the north of the Danube, most of them being reported in the Moldavian sub-Carpathian area.

Very few of the findings come from funerary sites. There are 12 graves, pertaining to 9 necropolises where

Roman-Byzantine fibulae were found. Of these, 9 units are burial graves, while the remaining 3 units represent cremation tombs – with only one being documented, namely, the one at Sărata Monteoru<sup>8</sup>.

We believe that another two elements can be added to the sure findings mentioned above, but they do not have a clear context. They are the following:

Firstly, the Timișoara-Freidorf fibula, discovered in the cultural stratum of the 3rd and 4th c. settlement, although we believe it is rather related to the horizon of the Gepides burial graves; as an area, this necropolis overlays the one of the Dacian-Romans' settlement<sup>9</sup>. The second questionable discovery is the one at Bârlălești; here, in the same place were found two appliqués, one manufactured by casting, the other by pressing, and one ring was also found, with a bird on the chaton<sup>10</sup>. These items seem associated with the inventory of a grave, which was probably destroyed, and from which only part (?) of the funerary inventory was recovered.

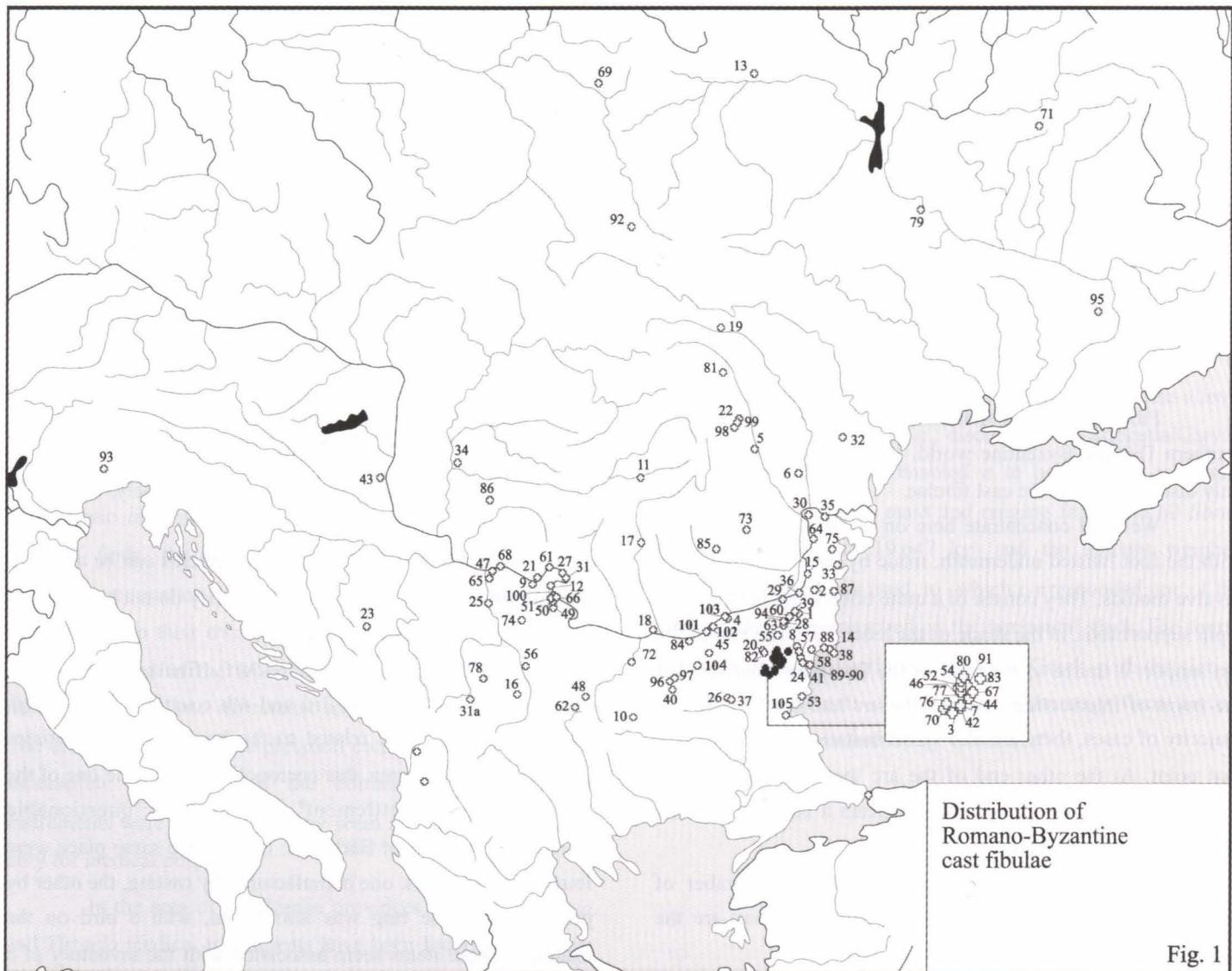
For a quite big series of fibulae, it is not possible to specify the archaeological unit they originally pertained to. More often than not, they are isolated findings, or items from museums which retain in their records no more than the names of the localities where the objects were found.

## Classification

Although considered to be a group of extremely homogeneous items<sup>11</sup>, there are several attempts at establishing a typology in the literature. We believe that, for our present study, it is important to point out the important works in the field.

Syna Uenze published a very important article devoted to this particular kind of fibulae in 1974<sup>12</sup>. Without undertaking to establish a typology proper, the author makes a few important observations; they are especially relevant for the way the typologies by D. Jankovič and A. Haralambieva subsequently evolved.

Thus S. Uenze observes that the great majority of the fibulae have a semi-circular cross-section arc, this being true especially for the pieces with no decorations, or the pieces with a rectangular cross-section, in the case of the decorated ones. In the latter category, there can be noticed two kinds of



decorations: a) sinusoid lines, framed by dotted lines; or b) circles with a dot at the centre<sup>13</sup>.

In some fibulae with a rectangular cross-section, on the foot of the item is cast a cross-shaped ornamentation<sup>14</sup>. Only a restricted number of fibulae have a triangular cross-section arc<sup>15</sup>.

Two years later, on the occasion of publishing the metallurgical workshop of Drobeta, A. Bejan makes a new ordering of the material<sup>16</sup>.

According to this last researcher, there should exist a classification as follows, made in accordance with the ratio of the arc dimensions to the foot of the fibula; this ratio was established by relating the connection point of the pin support with the body of the piece<sup>17</sup>.

Group **I** is the one of a balanced ratio, in which the foot and the arc have almost identical dimensions. Group **II** has a foot much smaller than the fibula arc, and group **III** has the foot longer than the fibula arc. The examples pertaining to the last two groups are more massive than the ones of group **I**. Group **IV**, the last one, comprises iron fibulae.

For the first group, the author also puts forward the following sub-classification:

**I a:** fibulae with an imitation of spirals on the body and with sections created by ribs;

**I b:** fibulae with ribs for the created sections, but without imitations of spirals;

**I c:** fibulae whose arc is decorated;

**I d:** the foot of the fibula has a cross cast at the same time as the part itself.

We want to point out that the two last sub-groups should not stand apart, for they are actually an attempt at highlighting some items which actually belong to the subgroups **I a** and **I b** (all the fibulae with a decorated arc or with a cross on the foot are either with an **I a** imitation of spirals on the body or they do not accept the **I b** imitation). Also, we find odd the idea of establishing the last group (**IV**) according to the metal, as a criterion, when for the other groups the criterion was descriptive.

The article of 1988, written by Dan Gh. Teodor, dedicated to the Roman-Byzantine fibulae, whether cast or not, aspires to be a monographical one. But this gentleman only deals with the items discovered on the territory of today's Romania; statistically speaking, here there are by far fewer fibulae than the ones discovered south of the Danube.

He proposes as a main criterion for his typology „the manufacturing technique”, with the form and raw matter as subsequent criteria. Here the fibulae are classified into three principal groups:

- I bronze fibulae with a wrapped-in foot, hand-made
- II bronze fibulae cast entirely
- III iron fibulae hand-made or by casting

The groups were subdivided in accordance with the forms resulting from relating the bowed shape of the body, the foot and the pin-support<sup>18</sup>.

For the second group, D. Gh. Teodor establishes several variants and sub-variants

- 1 – items with the imitation of threaded wiring
  - a. with ribs forming sections ;
  - b. without ribs;
  - c. with ribs forming sections and with „a protruding structure consisting of several overlapping disks” on the bent side;
- 2 – items which do not have the imitation of spool wiring
  - a. with the ribs across
  - b. without ribs
  - c. with the foot forming a rectangle with the pin support

It is easy to note that the author of the typology does not have in mind a clear hierarchical tree-structure and is not observing one in the definition of the great groups or in establishing the characteristic variants. Actually there are several mixed typologies.

Unlike the work of Bejan and Teodor, whose typologies start from a point of likeness, as it were, D. Jankovič tries to propose by his two interventions, a new basic criterion: the form of the fibula arc cross-section; we believe that his novelty is inspired by the 1974 article by S. Uenze.

Thus, in 1980<sup>19</sup> and under the denomination „Byzantine-Danube fibulae”, Jankovič proposes the following groups.

Group A. Fibulae with a rectangular arc cross-section, with imitations of spirals and with two ribs on the foot (Histria, Isaccea, Sadovetz, Prahovo, Debelo Brdo).

Group B<sup>20</sup> has a trapezoid cross-section, with the arc decorated by sinusoid lines framed by dotted lines. It is supposed that their centre is at Aquis<sup>21</sup>.

A last group, Γ, consists of the discoveries centred around Justiniana Prima, but without specifying the main characteristics of the group<sup>22</sup>.

In 1981, Jankovič returns with a new proposal based only on the discoveries of Aquis<sup>23</sup>. He first considers it necessary to discuss separately the fibulae which have already been considered surely of Byzantine origin, by comparison to the ones which are considered to be „barbarianized”.

Jankovič separates the fibulae credibly considered to have been manufactured at Aquis referring to the form of the fibula arc cross-section:

A – fibulae with rectangular arc cross-section, dated to the first half of the 6th c. ;

B – fibulae with trapezoid arc cross-section, datable to the middle of the 6th c., and extending into the reign of Justin II;

B – fibulae with a semi-spherical arc cross-section, datable to the reign of Justin II and the reign of Tiberius ;

Γ – small fibulae with a semi-spherical arc cross-section, dating back to the reign of Justinian and reaching to a period as late as 585/6

Unfortunately, this is a typology exclusively based on the items discovered at Aquis and besides the fact that it proposes a too fine chronology proposal, restrictive as regards the circulation of the items, it also errs by the mixing of two descriptors: the cross-section of the arc and the dimension of the piece. If the main descriptor is the cross-section of the arc, then group Γ should disappear as a main group.

In 1989, A. Haralambieva tries to adapt Jankovič's scheme<sup>24</sup>. Thus the Bulgarian researcher includes the fibulae that interest us here in variant II of the fibulae with a foot twisted underneath<sup>25</sup>, while the first variant is represented by the hand-made fibulae, not the cast fibulae. Variant II is divided into 5 subvariants, as follows:

- 1 – fibulae with a rectangular arc cross-section;
- 2 – fibulae with a trapezoid arc cross-section;
- 3 – fibulae with a triangular arc cross-section;
- 4 – fibulae with a semi-circular arc cross-section;
- 5 – fibulae with the foot decorated with a cast cross.

Unfortunately, even in this case we deal with a typology deriving from a single lot of items. Also, subgroup 5 does not observe the dominant criterion of the other sub-groups and it prefers to hold to an intrinsic criterion, despite the fact that, owing to the cross-section of their arc, the items in this subgroup could easily be included in sub-groups 1, 2 and 4.

The last attempt we are aware of in classifying fibulae is the one of I. Gavrituchin, in an article of 2002. His proposal covered the fibulae of three regions: the Porțile de Fier, Sadovec and Varna regions; the author considers these sufficient for his research. The main relationship on which Gavrituchin bases his typology is the one between the the cross-section of the arc, considered to work as an argument for establishing the type and dimension of a particular item, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the dimension of the item, considered to work as an argument for establishing the variant<sup>26</sup>.

The relation between the two sets of data was illustrated by small chart whose purpose was to establish the vicinities, or the analogies between/among the various items<sup>27</sup>. When laying stress, subsequently, upon the branches of the classification, the name of a locality is also introduced.

The fibula of the respective locality is then considered representative for some characteristics<sup>28</sup>.

The discovery of certain common features among the variants then leads Gavrituching to assuming there existed an evolution from the complex to the schematic (especially as regards the decoration) and an evolution from the small to the little (in what the size is concerned).

We can conclude this short presentation by noticing that all the authors who have proposed different typologies have not established their own very coherent hierarchies; we especially notice that they have not really abided by it from beginning to end in their typological analyses. In our opinion, it is unacceptable to bring two or more criteria to bear upon the same level in the typological separation. A further unacceptable fact, in our opinion, is to work with a limited number of items as a basis for argumentation in favour of a certain typology. It is because of such reduced data bases, consisting either in a collection, or in a territory with a restricted number of found items, that the resulting typologies may end up as being unusable on a large scale.

In the particular case of the Roman-Byzantine fibulae, we believe that no formal typology (with the form of the item as the main criterion) would be really useful, especially as there are quite big lacunae in the publication of the items, both descriptively and photographically speaking.

What seems to us more profitable to exist would be the ordering of the fibulae taking into consideration the main decorative elements. It therefore appears to us as more important to follow, for example, the spread of the fibulae with a cross on the foot, in a comparison with the spread of the fibulae with a button on the arc, or the fibulae with human figures.

It is in this connexion that we have made the following division of fibulae into work groups:

**A. Fibulae that do not have threaded wiring** (Figure 2)

This is a group consisting of 17 items discovered in 9 locations. The most important are the unfinished fibulae found at Drobeta-Turnu Severin<sup>29</sup>. 6 items have been found here, with sizes ranging from 7.0 cm (4 fibulae) and 4 cm (2 fibulae). Another item, of 7.0 cm has the Danube cleft specified as the place where it was found<sup>30</sup>. It is from Boljetin that another two items of different sizes come, one of 6.7 cm, the second a 5.5 cm item<sup>31</sup>. One single fibula was discovered at Novae (3.6 cm)<sup>32</sup>, one also at Savinac, (5,7 cm)<sup>33</sup> or Niš (4.8 cm)<sup>34</sup>. Similarly, one single item was discovered in the fortification at Onogur (5.2 cm)<sup>35</sup>. One fibula of this group comes from grave 492 of the Avar necropolis at Kölked-Feketekapu A (3.9 cm)<sup>36</sup>. The last three items come from Celei-Sucidava. The smallest fibula is of 4.2 cm<sup>37</sup>; the longest of these is of 6.5 cm<sup>38</sup>. The

third item is of 5,1 cm<sup>39</sup>. To these should be added the two fibulae we introduced at the beginning of our study.

It seems that the fibulae discovered at Apolloni and Finiqui<sup>40</sup> pertain to the same group, with no threading of the wiring.

We can note that in the Poștile de Fier zone there is a concentration of fibulae, where is to be found the source for the items, manufactured in the Drobeta workshop (figure 3). Another thing is that their distribution in accordance with the size is complete, since the entire range from 3.6 to 7 cm is covered.

**B. Fibulae with a button placed on the arc** (Figure 2)

This group is extremely well individuated, owing to the button placed on the arc. There have only been found 5 items from this category so far. First comes a fibula unearthed in the area of the Danube Cleft, 4.3 cm long<sup>41</sup>. The second finding comes from Prahovo-Aquis and it is only 3.7 cm in length<sup>42</sup>. The third fibula belongs to the fortification of Mokranjske stene and is 3.8 cm in length<sup>43</sup>.

The homogeneity of the group is to be observed first, both constructive in nature (regarding the decoration and dimensions), and as regards the spread of the items over a very restricted territory.

**C. Fibulae with a cross cast on their foot** (Figure 2)

This is one of the densest and best represented groups. There are 13 localities of origin for the findings of 19 fibulae which have a cross-form decoration cast on the foot, at the same time as the item itself. Three of the items come from Dragoevo. They are items whose length ranges from 4.1 cm to 4.2 cm<sup>44</sup>. There were discovered another three items in the fortification of Pernik; their dimensions range from 4.4 cm to 4.6 cm<sup>45</sup>. Yet three more fibulae belong to the Pongrácz collection and they come from the region of the towns Prahovo-Kostol-Kurvingrad-Negotin-Kladovo. Their dimensions range from 4.0 to 4.4 cm<sup>46</sup>. Only one fibula was found in each of the following places: at Arkovna (4.1 cm)<sup>47</sup>, Čerenča (4.2 cm)<sup>48</sup>, Kičevo (4.1 cm)<sup>49</sup>, Novae (4.2 cm)<sup>50</sup>, Nikola (4.3 cm)<sup>51</sup>, Sadovsko kale (4.0 cm)<sup>52</sup>, Sexaginta Prista (3.8 cm)<sup>53</sup>, Šumensko (4.1 cm)<sup>54</sup> and Venčan (3.8 cm)<sup>55</sup>. One last item comes from an unknown locality in Bulgaria (3.6 cm)<sup>56</sup>.

There is another decoration described as cruciform on a fibula at Abrit (of 4.2 cm), but from the drawing we can tell that it should in fact be just a decoration in the shape of an hour-glass that we can see here<sup>57</sup>. So we must express reservations about its being attributable to group C. There is another almost identical fibula discovered at Dervent<sup>58</sup>; it has the same kind of decoration on the foot as the one on at Abrit and it is of 4.3 cm.

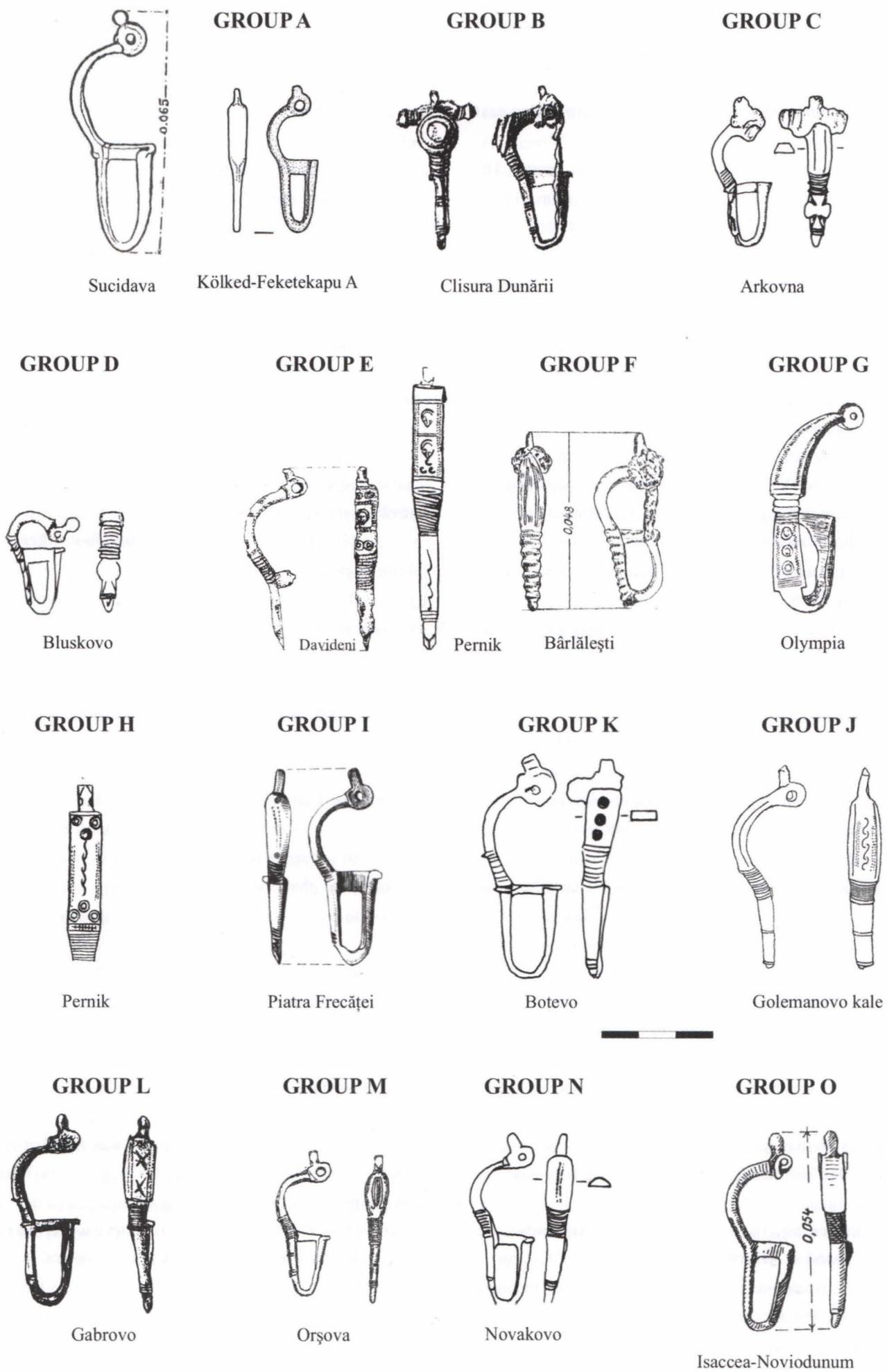


Figure 2

As can be noticed from the presentation of the dimensions, this group is pretty compact, and consisting of small size fibulae. Geographically, it can be seen to extend to the north-east of the Moesia Secunda province.

**D – Fibulae with the disc-triangle combination cast on the foot** (Figure 2)

There are five items included in this group. The westernmost finding is the one at Prahovo-Aquis, from which a fragment of a fibula, i.e., a foot (of 1.9 cm) is extant<sup>59</sup>. Two items from Celei-Sucidava should be enumerated next. One is of 4.0 cm<sup>60</sup>, and the other, of 4.3 cm<sup>61</sup>. The tiniest of all seems to be the one found in Bluskovo, whose size, as measured now, is of only 2.8 cm in length<sup>62</sup>. But the real length of the fibula (given its strongly bent arc since time immemorial) was greater, probably approaching 4.0 cm. The last item in the series was discovered at Capidava and it is 4.0 cm long<sup>63</sup>.

If, judging by the dimension of the foot, we presuppose that the Prahovo fibula may have reached about 4.0 cm in length, we can say that this group is a compact one, both in view of the items' decoration and in view of their size, but the items are spread over a quite large area, the members of this group covering the entire *limes*.

**E. Fibulae that have human images on the arc** (Figure 2)

This is the most numerous category of fibulae, there being recorded so far 14 members of this group, in 11 localities (this constitutes the largest number we have had access to, thanks to the quality of their publication). The majority of members of this group come from Pernik, and it is here that the largest fibulae were found<sup>64</sup>. Two of the four items found here are of 7.5 cm, a third one reaches 5.7 cm, and the last one is only 5.2 cm long. It should be noted that the 7.5 cm fibulae are the only ones with a decoration of the foot, also. The westernmost item is an item from Prahovo-Aquis, 4.8 cm in length<sup>65</sup>. It is similarly from fortifications that the singular findings at Abritus (5.4 cm)<sup>66</sup>, Appiaria (5.2 cm)<sup>67</sup>, Svištov-Novae (5.6 cm)<sup>68</sup> or Dragoevo (5.6 cm)<sup>69</sup> come.

Three items come from the north Danube area. One item (of 5.6 cm) was found in an unknown locality<sup>70</sup>, a second item (of 4.8 cm) was discovered in a sunken building of Davideni<sup>71</sup>, while the third fibula (of 6.5 cm) was unearthed at Cernauca<sup>72</sup>. One last item (of 5.4 cm) comes from an unknown locality in Bulgaria<sup>73</sup>.

It is interesting to notice that the arcs of two fibulae, one, of 5.4 cm, found at Histria, and the second, of 6.7 cm, at Orșova, were treated as if in preparation for their receiving human figures, but the process was never completed. As a result, on the arc of the finite items is to be found only the framing specific for the fibulae containing human figures on the other fibulae.

This is a grouping of big size fibulae, with the average length situated around the value 5.6 cm. The smaller members of this group (of 4.8 cm) are the ones of Prahovo or Davideni, while at Pernik there are items which get to 7.5 cm.

It is possible for the fragment discovered at Snežina to belong here, but its photograph is rather hazy<sup>74</sup>.

The spread of these fibulae is quite ample, since this is one of the few groups which also includes members found outside the Empire.

**F – Fibulae with close notches on the foot** (Figure 2)

This group includes only four items discovered in three localities. Two of its members come from Voltago and they are the biggest (6.5 cm; 7.3 cm)<sup>75</sup>. The smallest member of this group was found at Bârlălești (4.8 cm)<sup>76</sup>, and the one discovered last is the one of Zvonetskoye (6.0 cm)<sup>77</sup>.

We have to do here with yet another group in which the fibulae of over 6.0 cm are predominant. Another characteristic of this group comes from the fact that none of its members appears in the Byzantine Empire fortifications.

**G – Fibulae with a trapezoid foot when seen in plane** (Figure 2)

The main characteristic of this group is represented by the form of the upper part of the foot, which is trapezoid in shape. There are two fibulae which present this characteristic. The most well-known piece is the one from Olympia, published in 1923 (5.6 cm)<sup>78</sup>, and a second fibula was discovered at Komarevo (5.0 cm)<sup>79</sup>.

This is a scarce group, but it has a strongly individualised aspect. We cannot say anything certain about its spread, owing to the small number of items from this group discovered so far. As regards the dimensions of the two fibulae, we can note that they are approximately equal, which can suggest to us, similarly, homogeneity, from this point of view as well.

**H – Fibulae with have a number of dots united by one or several lines at the extremities of the arc, on the arc axis** (Figure 2)

This is a group formed of 5 fibulae which come from an equal number of sites. One fibula, of 6.1 cm, comes from Brza Palanka<sup>80</sup>; another fibula, of 6.6 cm, was discovered at Prahovo<sup>81</sup> and a third one, of 5.8 cm, was found at Suceava-Șipot<sup>82</sup>. From Pernik we have just a fragmentary member of this group, with just the arc having come down to us<sup>83</sup>. But the length of this arc (4.7 cm) makes us believe we have to do with a big item which reached 7 cm. A last one comes from Gornji Streoc (5.3 cm)<sup>84</sup>.

It can easily be noticed that we have here a group of big fibulae, spread over a quite restricted area. The exception is offered by the Suceava-Șipot fibula, discovered at a great distance from the rest of the members of this group.

**I – Fibulae which have singular dots at the extremity of the arc, united by one or several lines figured on the axis of the arc** (Figure 2)

This group could represent a variant of the preceding group, the main difference consisting in the number of dots figuring at the extremities of the arc.

So far, 4 fibulae from 3 sites have been discovered as follows: from grave E 143 of Piatra Frecăței come two almost identical fibulae, of 5.3 cm<sup>85</sup>; another member of this group was discovered between Varna and Balçic, and it measures 5.2 cm<sup>86</sup>; the last item comes from Kiten, and it measures 5.4 cm<sup>87</sup>.

We want to draw attention to the fact that this type of decoration is to be found on a fibula of group C, in the Kičevo fibula<sup>88</sup>.

By contrast to the preceding group, this one comprises smaller, uniform fibulae, which are spread over a more eastern area.

**J – Fibulae with Sinusoid Lines** (Figure 2)

The group is defined by little S shaped lines inscribed in the middle of the arc of the fibula. This group has also been identified by Uenze<sup>89</sup>. It comprises 10 items found on a corresponding number of sites. Such fibulae surfaced at Sadovsko kale (4.4 cm)<sup>90</sup>, Prahovo (6.1 cm)<sup>91</sup>, Botevo (5.5 cm)<sup>92</sup>, Hódmezővásárhely – Kishomok (4.2 cm)<sup>93</sup>, Prahovo-Kostol-Kurvingrad-Negotin-Kladovo (4.4 cm)<sup>94</sup>, Negotin (6.0 cm)<sup>95</sup>, Golemanovo kale (5.5 cm)<sup>96</sup> and Provadiia (5.8 cm)<sup>97</sup>; there are two more items, of 4.4 cm and 6.3 cm respectively, which come from unknown localities in Wallachia<sup>98</sup>.

A variant of this group is represented by a 5.6 cm fibula found at Botevo, having on the arc a decorative incision consisting of two little lines consisting of little „S”s<sup>99</sup>.

Another variant appears on a fibula at Dragoevo, where there appears an incision in the form of a wavy line on the arc of the fibula<sup>100</sup>.

If it is true that these fibulae are uniform from the point of view of the decoration, these fibulae fail to converge as their dimensions are concerned: in this group there are big fibulae (of 6.3 cm) and small fibulae (of 4.2 cm).

From the point of view of their spread, these fibulae can be seen to be more wide-spread in the Moesia Secunda province, also in the Porțile de Fier region we can notice an extremely tide group.

**K – Fibulae with a row of circles on the line of the central arc** (Figure 2)

It is a group with quite a big number of members: 12 items found on 10 sites. In some of the fibulae it can be noticed that on their main describable section there is a frame of dotted lines figured in the margin of the arc.

The westernmost points where such fibulae were found are the ones of Orșova (5.7 cm)<sup>101</sup> and Mora Vagei (6.3 cm). Two other fibulae were discovered at Golemanovo kale.

One is of 5.1 cm<sup>102</sup>, and the second is of 4 cm<sup>103</sup>. Another two fibulae were discovered at Izvoarele-Pârjoaia (5.8 cm the first one<sup>104</sup>, and 5.2 cm the second one<sup>105</sup>). As regards the rest of the findings in this class, they came one from each location as follows: Dragoevo (4.2 cm)<sup>106</sup>, Mesembria (4.2 cm)<sup>107</sup>, Kosovo (5.4 cm)<sup>108</sup>, Suvorovo (6.6 cm)<sup>109</sup>, Botevo (6.0 cm)<sup>110</sup>, Slava Rusă-Ibida (3.2 cm extant in length)<sup>111</sup> of the Smjadovo fibula (6.4 cm extant length)<sup>112</sup>.

It is possible for the fibula from thesaurus found at Koprivec (4.8 cm) to belong here as well, but the description and drawings existing are not convincing<sup>113</sup>.

This is a group with quite big variations in the item dimensions, with the lower limit situated somewhere at 4.2 cm, and the upper limit reaching 6.6 cm.

As regards the area over which these fibulae are spread, it is possible to notice a concentration in the north-eastern part of the Moesia Secunda province and there are isolated presences in the rest of the neighbouring area.

**L – Fibulae with an X shaped decoration** (Figure 2)

This type of decoration appears on few items. It covers only one descriptive level, on the arc of the fibulae at Bulgarevo (5.0 cm)<sup>114</sup>, Gabrovo (5.4 cm)<sup>115</sup> and Prahovo (4.3 cm)<sup>116</sup> or it appears on several sections on the arc of the fibula at Pernik (7.0 cm)<sup>117</sup>.

This is one instance which verifies the idea that there exists a relationship between the dimensions of one particular item and the complexity of its decoration, as the Pernik fibula is the longest and most abundantly decorated one.

We cannot notice the existence of a sufficiently strong relationship between the dimensions. But except for the Pernik fibula, the other items have closely similar dimensions. There is not a concentration of fibulae of this kind to be noted in one or another region, which only allows us to state that these fibulae, in their majority, were found on sites that are remote from the *limes*.

**M – Fibulae with deep elipsoid groovelling on the central axis of the arc** (Figure 2)

This group consists of four fibulae found on four sites. One item was discovered at Orșova (4.0 cm)<sup>118</sup>, another one comes from the region of the Prahovo-Kostol-Kurvingrad-Negotin-Kladovo towns and it measures 5.5<sup>119</sup>, the third, of 6.9 cm, appeared at Pernik<sup>120</sup>, while the last item belongs to the lot of fibulae from Izvoarele-Pârjoaia and it is 4.1 long<sup>121</sup>. It is possible to add to this group the item of 4.2 cm discovered at Čerenča<sup>122</sup>, which is nevertheless also included in group C, owing to the cross-shaped decoration on the foot of the fibula.

This is a group widespread on the *limes* especially, with a concentration in the Porțile de Fier area, and it is extremely unhomogeneous as the size is concerned.

**N – Simple lines notched in parallel with the central ax of the arc** (Figure 2)

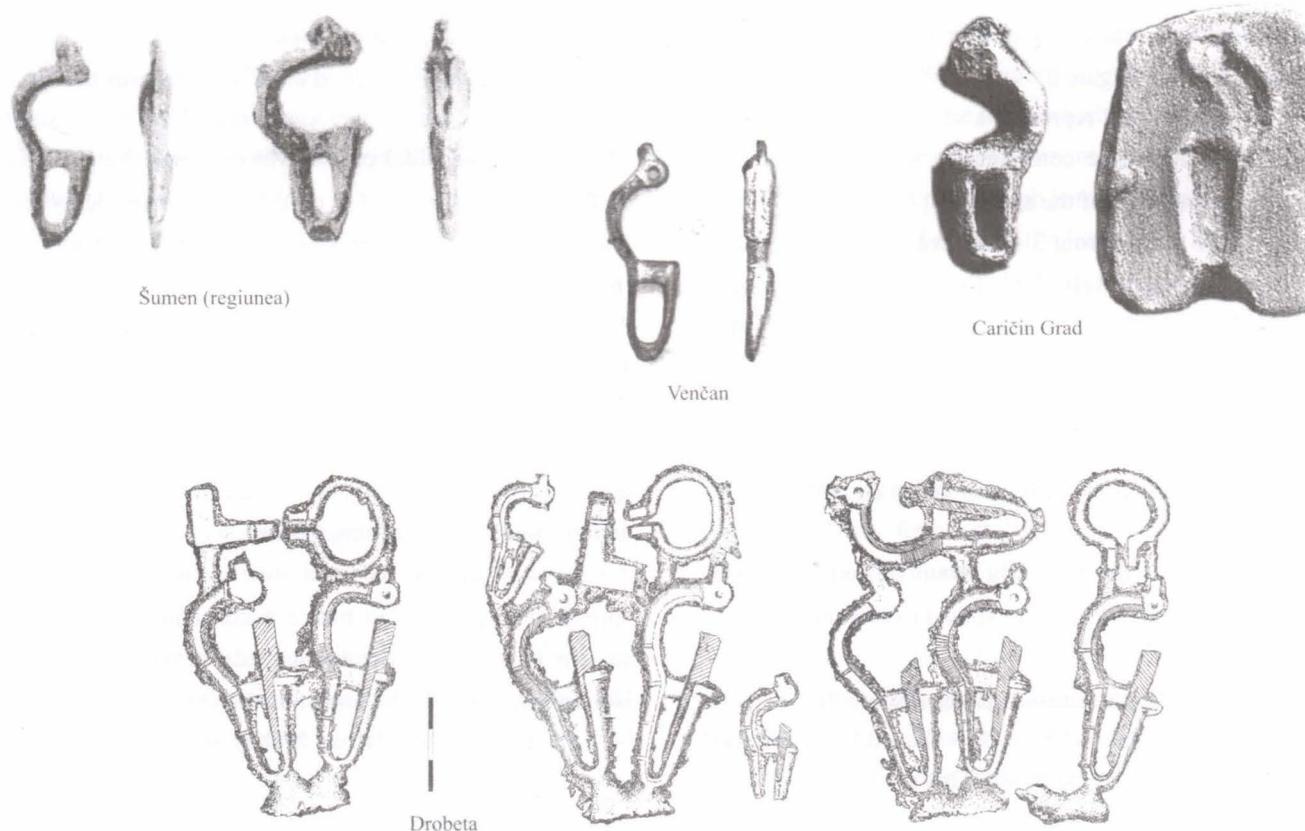


Figure 3: Moulds and unfinished cast fibulae

There are seventeen fibulae attributable to this group, which can have more subvariants determined in accordance with the number of lines notched on the arc (one line, two, or four). There a single line notched on the fibula at Riš (5.9 cm)<sup>123</sup> and on the items from Stălpiște – Trimammium (4.2 cm)<sup>124</sup>, Onogur (5.3 cm)<sup>125</sup>, Šumen (6.5 cm)<sup>126</sup> or Kölked-Feketekapu B (4.0 cm)<sup>127</sup>. Two lines appear on the arc of the fibulae found at Prahovo (4.7 cm)<sup>128</sup>, Novakovo (4.6 cm)<sup>129</sup>, Šumensko (5.8 cm)<sup>130</sup> or Čečan (3.8 cm)<sup>131</sup> and on three items found in the Danube Cleft area: one of 4.8 cm<sup>132</sup>, the second of 4.2 cm<sup>133</sup>. The third item<sup>134</sup> is 4.0 cm long. This decoration also appears on some fibulae from Orșova: one of 4.0 cm<sup>135</sup>, another of 4.1 cm<sup>136</sup> or on fibulae from the area of the towns Prahovo-Kostol-Kurvingrad-Negotin-Kladovo (5.8 cm)<sup>137</sup>. Four lines appear on items found at Prahovo (5.6 cm)<sup>138</sup> and Šumensko (5.6 cm)<sup>139</sup>.

We have to note that there appear notched lines on the arc of the fibula in the group C fibulae discovered at Dragoevo (4.2 cm)<sup>140</sup> and in the region of the towns Prahovo-Kostol-Kurvingrad-Negotin-Kladovo (4.4 cm)<sup>141</sup>.

This is a group spread on two areas, which are quite clearly delimited. The first one is in the Porțile de Fier region, where 9 fibulae were discovered, and the second lies in the eastern half of the province Moesia Secunda, being represented by 6 fibulae.

We can note that the second area of concentration comprises only big fibulae, excepting the fibula of Novakovo. We cannot make the same statement about the first group of the Porților de Fier region, where the majority of the fibulae were of small size.

Obviously there are fibulae decorated with other motifs than the ones defined in the grouping above. We can quote as one example the Donicko brdo fibula, an item which has on its arc notched lines placed at right angles to the long axis of the arc<sup>142</sup> just as we can mention the items found at Ripnev and Kölked-Feketekapu B (M 438). But these are singular findings which can for the moment regard as „accidents”, and we are waiting for further findings to confirm that they belong to one group or another.

**O – Undecorated fibulae, which otherwise imitate spirals** (Figure 2)

The largest group is the one of the undecorated fibulae. In their case there have not been found any decorative elements present on any part of the items.

So far there have been found over 90 items, spread on a very ample area, as follows: Abritus (4.1 cm)<sup>143</sup>; Adamelisi-Tropaeum Traiani (a-5.8 cm; b-6.0 cm)<sup>144</sup>; Bacău (4.0 cm)<sup>145</sup>; Blăskovo (4.1 cm)<sup>146</sup>; Boljetin (a-4.2 cm; b-4.6 cm; c-5.5 cm)<sup>147</sup>; Borniș (4.0 cm)<sup>148</sup>; Buhliciskii hutor (3.3 cm)<sup>149</sup>; Bulgaria (a-3.8 cm; b-4.3 cm; c-5.5; d-5.4 cm; e-5.1 cm; f-6.7 cm)<sup>150</sup>; Caričin Grad (a-3.9 cm; b-6.0 cm; c-4.0 cm; d-6.8

cm)<sup>151</sup>; the Danube Cleft (6.2 cm)<sup>152</sup>; Debelo brdo (5.8 cm)<sup>153</sup>; Dolište (6.5 cm)<sup>154</sup>; Donicko Brdo (5. cm)<sup>155</sup>; Drjanovo (6.7 cm)<sup>156</sup>; Efreitor Bakalovo (7.0 cm)<sup>157</sup>; Garvăn-Dinogetia (4.8 cm)<sup>158</sup>; Hansca (4.0 cm)<sup>159</sup>; Isaceea-Noviodunum (5.4 cm)<sup>160</sup>; Kaliakra (4.1 cm)<sup>161</sup>; Kapitan Dimitrovo (3.8 cm)<sup>162</sup>; Kazanlāk (3.6 cm)<sup>163</sup>; Lesново (7.9 cm)<sup>164</sup>; Nenovo (a-4.2 cm; b-5.4 cm)<sup>165</sup>; Nevša (8.2 cm)<sup>166</sup>; Nikiup-Nikopolis ad Istrum (6.8 cm)<sup>167</sup>; Niš (3.8)<sup>168</sup>; Obročište (6.6 cm)<sup>169</sup>; Pet Mogili (4.1 cm)<sup>170</sup>; Prahovo (4.0 cm); România (5.3 cm)<sup>171</sup>; Sadovetz – Golemanovo kale (a-4.2 cm; b-4.9 cm; c-4.1 cm; d-4.2 cm; e-5.4; f-7.0 cm; g-7.1 cm; h-6.0 cm)<sup>172</sup>; Sărata Monteoru (three fragmentary items)<sup>173</sup>; Slava Rusă-Ibida (5.6 cm)<sup>174</sup>; Sočanica bei Kos (8.0 cm)<sup>175</sup>; Srednee Podneprov'e (6.5 cm)<sup>176</sup>; Stan (4.2 cm; 3.9 cm)<sup>177</sup>; Stălpište – Trimammium (3.8 cm)<sup>178</sup>; Sucidava - Celei (a-3.5 cm; b-6.2 cm)<sup>179</sup>; Svištov – Novae (a-4.0 cm; b-4.1 cm; c-7.9 cm; d-5.6 cm)<sup>180</sup>; Šumen (6.5 cm)<sup>181</sup>; Timișoara- Freidorf (5.0 cm)<sup>182</sup>; Varna (4.1 cm)<sup>183</sup>; Venčan (a-5.9 cm; b-4.0 cm; c-4.2 cm; d-3.9 cm; e-4.2 cm; f-3.9 cm)<sup>184</sup>; Voinikovo (a-4.0 cm; b-4.0 cm)<sup>185</sup>; Volosskoe (4.4 cm)<sup>186</sup>.

This being the most numerous group, it is also the most widespread. The findings cover practically all the provinces between the Balkans and the Danube. It is the group most prominently present outside the Empire.

As regards the dimensions, it can be noted that they have the entire range of sizes. Half of the fibulae in this group have lengths gravitating around the value 4.0 cm.

After charting the groups, two zones could be delimited. There is first a zone where groups A, B, H, L and M were found, but the findings are obviously concentrated in the Porțile de Fier area (**zona 1**). On the other hand there is a C, D, E, G, I and K group, concentrated in north-east Bulgaria of today (**zona 2**). It is indisputably true that there existed fibulae common to the two zones, as can be noted in the charting of the groups J and N.

Another interesting thing is that the fibulae with a decorated foot appear almost exclusively in the second zone. Practically, the decoration of the foot, either with crosses (as in group C), or with a disc and triangle (as in group D), with a shaped plate (Group G) seems to be a characteristic of the former Moesia Profunda region. The only exception is represented by group F, which, on the other hand, does not really belong quite clearly to any of the two zones, while it forms itself a zone situated outside the Empire.

As regards the fibulae with a decoration of the arc, it can be noticed that they are common to the two zones. We need to specify, however, that though in zone 1 we can note a strong concentration of these fibulae in the Porțile de Fier zone, we can note a wider dispersion within zone 2.

One of the main arguments taken into consideration in establishing a typology of the Roman-Byzantine fibulae was the form of the arc cross-section. In what follows, we shall try

therefore to discuss the importance of this argument. In developing this topic, we have only used the items that offered sufficient details to enable their attribution to one or another form.

There are four main forms of the arc cross-section: semicircular, rectangular, trapezoid or triangular. It is a fact that there exist also variants of these forms. But mainly, the semi-circular cross-section can easily become slightly ellipsoid.

The semicircular section fibulae predominate in the multitude of items analysed here, followed by the ones with a rectangular cross-section. The fibulae with trapezoid cross-section rank third. There are only very few fibulae with a triangular cross-section of the arc, which we can easily notice only for 6 items.

This last category only appears in the Moesia Profunda province, but the reduced number of items found so far imposes us to be reserved in considering them a characteristic for this territory.

We have noticed a significant increase in the area of which are spread the fibulae with a trapezoid cross-section of the arc. The majority of points on the map where they were found are concentrated in Moesia Secunda, and the south of the province has an even more intense concentration. A secondary concentration of the findings is in the Porțile de Fier zone, at the border of the provinces Dacia Ripensis and Moesia Prima. There is a scarce distribution of such fibulae in other provinces such as Dacia Mediterranea, Thracia or Scythia Minor. Only one item was discovered beyond the borders of the Empire, in the Avar necropolis of Hódmezővásárhely – Kishomok.

The rectangular cross-section fibulae are also spread on the above mentioned territory. But we notice an increase in the number of findings both in Moesia Secunda, and in the east-Carpathian space.

The most widespread group is that of the fibulae with the semicircular arc cross-section. These fibulae cover all the provinces to the north of the Balkans, becoming significantly present in the fortifications erected along the Danube. This class of fibulae also penetrates quite strongly in the east-Carpathian space. There can be noted scarce findings in the Avar necropolises, as well as in the Slavs settlements.

We want to point out the fact that the presentation of the spreading zones for the fibulae with the different arc cross-sections cannot lead to the conclusion of a gradual expansion in time or in space, from the zone „occupied”, as it were, by the triangular cross-section fibulae to the zone characterised by the presence of the semi-circular cross-section fibulae. We believe that the maps can very well indicate zonal particularities. Also, they reflect a potential quantitative relationship between what could be „common” and what would qualify as „rare”, i.e., restricted, lesser.

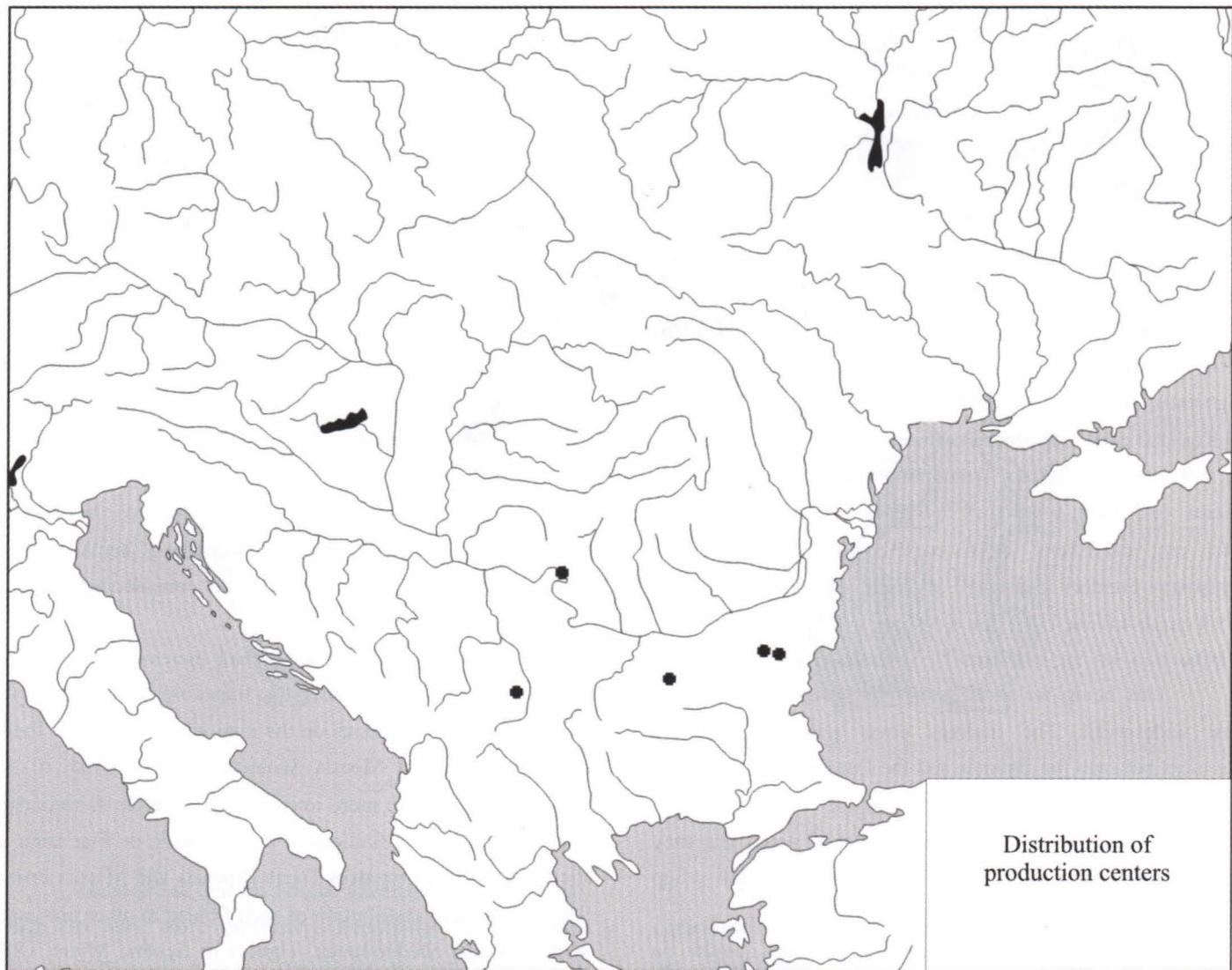


Figure 4

Unfortunately, owing to the discovery of the greatest part of the fibulae outside any clearly delimited units in the Empire, it is impossible to attribute any further significance to the notions of „common”/ „rare”, apart from the ones related to their occurrence (presence in space) and their quantity.

From the comparative analysis of the cross-section form in the fibula arc, on the one hand, and the length of these items, on the other hand, we have been able to note that there is no conditioning relationship between the two characteristics.

Both in the case of the fibulae with a rectangular cross-section, as in that of the items with a trapezoid cross-section, we could discern a uniform deployment of fibulae on the entire scale of values from 4 to 8 cm. The same can be observed in the graph of the fibulae with semi-circular cross-sections, but with one proviso: namely that the items in this group also decrease in size towards the dimension of 3 cm, while in the interval from 7 to 8 cm, we notice a brisk passage.

In the triangular cross-section fibulae, we notice that four of the seven items have values approaching 4 cm, while, of the other two fibulae, one approaches 7 cm, and the other exceeds 8 cm in length.

That the relationship between the cross-section types and the length of the items has a similar behaviour, irrespective of the shape of the cross-section is a clear conclusion to derive from the centralizing graphs. From here it obviously results that there is no dependence relationship between the form of the arc cross-section and a particular dimension.

But we derive a very different image if we follow the presence of the form that the arc cross-section has within the groups established by taking into consideration the main decoration of the items.

The semi-circular cross-section is characteristic for six of the groups (A, D, F, H, M and N), but only group M represents the totality of the items. In three groups the trapezoid cross-section rank second after it (D, F, and H). In two of the groups the rectangular cross-section also comes up, but this is an insignificant amount, ranging even much below the level of presence (of incidence) of the trapezoid cross-section.

The rectangular cross-section appears as more exclusive. Groups E, G and L exclusively have this characteristic. Also, a powerful presence is manifested in groups C or I.

The items with the trapezoid cross-section are overriding only in group J, but they are closely seconded by the ones with a rectangular cross-section. In groups D, F and H, dominated by the fibulae with a semi-circular cross-section, the trapezoid cross-section manifests a high incidence, ranging from 25 % to 33 % of the total number of members of the respective group.

The triangular cross-section does not appear at all in the groups with decorated fibulae. There is a random and sole item in group K.

Two of the groups are cosmopolitan, when regarded via the presence of the three kinds of cross-sections.

For example, in group C there is an extremely balanced situation, none of the cross-sections could gain pride of place. This may be due to the fact that the decoration of the fibulae in this group, the main ornamentation is situated on the foot of the item.

The situation is equally well-balanced in group I, as here it is only the semi-circular and rectangular cross-sections that appear; there not having been recorded so far any trapezoid cross-section items in this set.

### Workshops

The cast fibulae have always been considered a characteristic product of the Byzantine culture<sup>187</sup>.

It is at present accepted that they derive from the hand-made fibulae with the foot twisted underneath<sup>188</sup>. The change brought to them was probably due to the need of manufacturing them in the mass<sup>189</sup> and so as to meet the demand of the respective age<sup>190</sup>.

As late as the year 2000 there had been no documentation about workshops, apart from the site at Drobeta, this is why it was considered a standard<sup>191</sup>.

But it was assumed that this was not the only workshop, and that it could not, of itself, supply the necessary mass of products in demand at the time. It is very probable that such workshops also existed in other centres such as Prahovo or Sadovetz, Negotin or Pernik, as suggested by the great concentrations of fibulae found here<sup>192</sup>. This is the purport of the suggestion which Jankovič made in 1981, trying to demonstrate that there existed at Prahovo-Aquis a strong centre which manufactured this kind of fibulae<sup>193</sup>.

Several cast items which were to be finished but had been left unfinished were discovered at Drobeta. The 10 items found here had been cast in bivalve moulds. Each mould could produce several items simultaneously and was not specialised in casting fibulae only. This fact is demonstrated by the way the unfinished items were associated (fibulae, key and buckle): they were interconnected by bronze „ties” which had filled the filling channels when the casting had been done.

In an article of the year 2000, A. Haralambieva presents another three members of the class of unfinished fibulae. A fibula of this kind, with remains from casting and no fixture hole for the spring was discovered in the fortification at Gabrovo<sup>194</sup>. Another two unfinished fibulae come from the Šumen town region<sup>195</sup>. One last item that we can quote is a fibula discovered at Venčan, on which, again, there can be noticed some unfinished remains from its casting in a bivalve mould<sup>196</sup> (figure 3).

The manufacturing of the fibulae by bivalve mould casting was accepted and evident once the Drobeta fibulae were published<sup>197</sup>, yet so far no such bipolar mould has been found.

Recently, however, on the site of the *Ministère Français des Affaires Étrangères* I have had a little surprise. This web site also houses a section dedicated to some „archaeological notes”, which, very briefly, present the results of the French archaeological missions activating on sites in various parts of the world.

One of these archaeological sites is the one of Caričin Grad. Here, the excavations brought to light two fragments of moulds destined for the casting of fibulae, together with one such unfinished fibula<sup>198</sup>. Neither does this latter item have the orifice for fixing the spring in place, which makes it resemble the case of the Gabrovo fibula (figure 3).

On the site is illustrated a mould valve, which comprises the image of a single item, a single channel for the molten metal inlet and a protruding part to one side; it may have been destined for putting the second valve in place. The material of the mould seems to be clay, kneaded with several pebbles and mica. The item is placed centrally. According to the image, it seems to be unornamented and it does not have an imitation of spirals, which would place it within our group A of the proposal put forward in this paper.

Thus, the unclear image we have held so far, about the manufacturing centers for the Roman-Byzantine cast fibulae is beginning to clarify itself, by means of the five findings of unfinished fibulae and of the mould, which constitutes a unique item up to now (figure 4).

Outside the Empire, the discoveries of fibulae at Bârlălești, Hansca and other locations constitute proofs for the potential existence north of the Danube<sup>199</sup> of some manufacturing centers; they constitute such proofs in virtue of the presence of some elements which should be considered as effects of the barbarization suffered by the original Byzantine models. This is the direction in which point as well the findings of Borniș and Groșșani, where the particularity of the two fibulae is the rectangular form of the pin support; this was a feature missing in all of the fibulae in the Empire. Still, it is fair to say that so far there have not been discovered either series of items, or individual rejects, or wastes or unfinished items and moulds capable to support this theory.

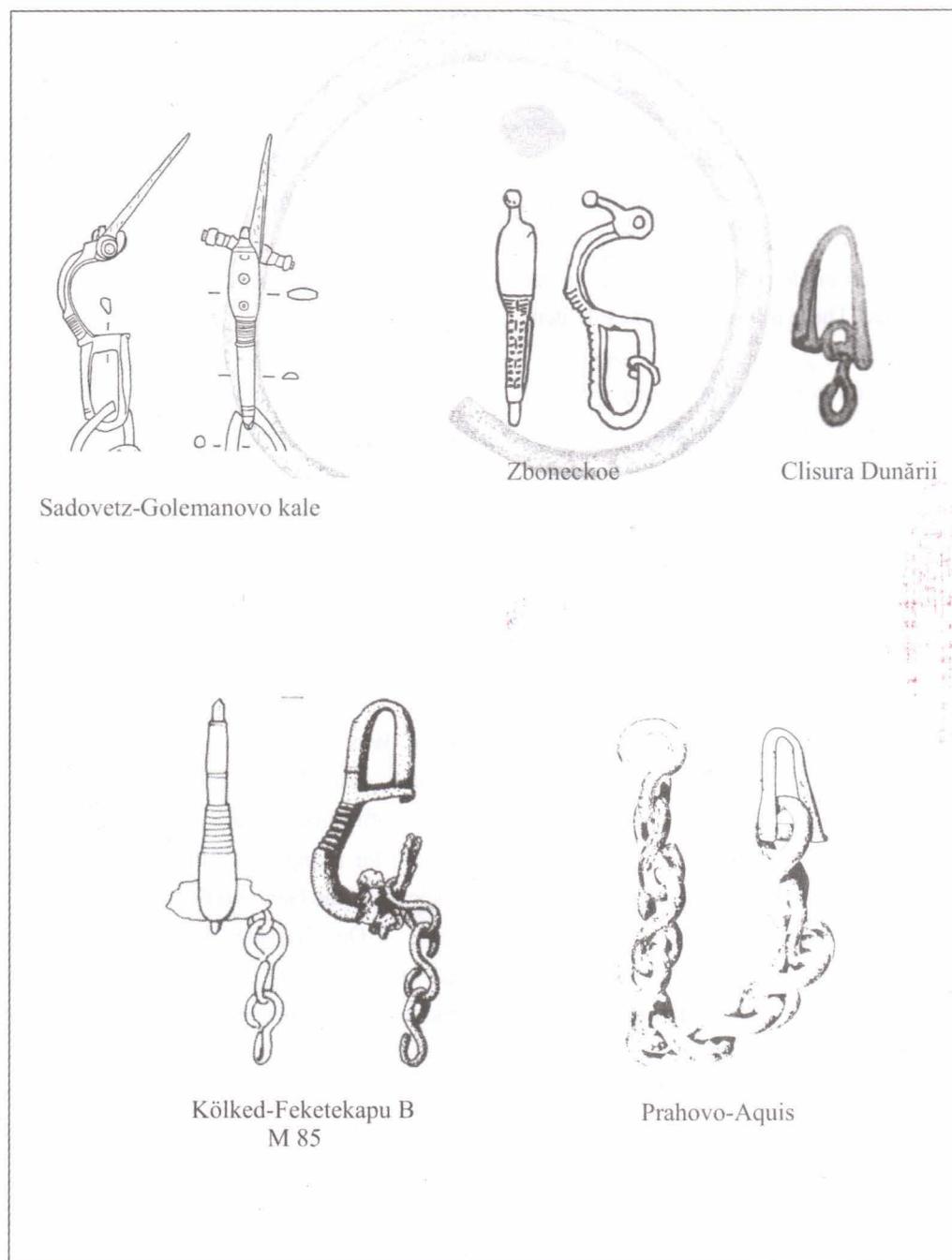


Figure 5

The production of cast fibulae ceased under the pressure of the Slavs and Avars attacks, on the eve of the 7th c., which destroyed the Byzantine order and rule in the Lower Danube area<sup>200</sup>.

#### Dating

In 1974, S. Uenze makes the first syntheses regarding the dating elements.

At Golemanovo kale there appeared one fibula in a level of destruction, alongside the coins from the reign of Justinus I and Justinus II, and another fibula pertaining to a homestead dated by means of a coin from the reign of Justin II. The fortification was destroyed around the year 600, and the last coin came from the reign of Mauricius (582-602)<sup>201</sup>, which offers a final term for the fibulae unearthed there.

The Hódmezővásárhely – Kishomok grave has in its inventory, apart from one fibula, a buckle with analogies in the

tomb at Gračanica (Ulpiana), dated by means of a solidus from Justinianus I (527-565)<sup>202</sup>. Nagy makes a more detailed discussion upon the respective buckle, and his conclusion regarding the dating is the same<sup>203</sup>.

The thesaurus of Bracigovo is another unit considered important for establishing a chronology. Mentioned as early as 1945 by Dorin Popescu, as an argument in favour of dating the objects of this unit to the Justinian age<sup>204</sup>, the thesaurus consists of 172 bronze coins, issued by Justinus I, Justinianus I and Justinus II; these were found together with two fibulae, earrings and finger rings. It is again possible to connect the Roman-Byzantine fibulae with the reign of Justinus II<sup>205</sup>. Unfortunately we do not know of any monographic publication of this thesaurus so far, as should definitely have been the case; all the references are made to Mushmov's extremely succinct mention of the year 1929<sup>206</sup>.

The year 1992 is a moment when S.Uenze<sup>207</sup> and F.Curta<sup>208</sup>, the former discussing the finds at Sadovetz, and the second referring to the fibulae found at Izvoarele-Pârjoaia, consider it necessary to make a new synthesis of the arguments brought for dating the Roman-Byzantine fibulae. It is interesting that both specialists restrict themselves to recalling exactly the same findings discussed by S. Uenze in 1974; between the two moments there was not published any material on fibulae, capable of contributing arguments usable for specifying a more refined chronology.

The conclusion of the two is that the cast fibulae can be dated only to the second half of the 6th century. In fact, this conclusion is shared by all the researchers who have dealt with these fibulae.

It is surprising that the finding from Koprivec<sup>209</sup>, published in 1986, is ignored. Here appeared a cast fibula, in combination with 40 bronze coins issued by Justinian I and Justin II<sup>210</sup>. In his 2001 synthesis about the appearance of the Slavs, Curta recalls it, nevertheless<sup>211</sup>.

For dating the end of the Roman-Byzantine cast fibulae, A. Haralambieva brings up for discussion one grave in the Debelt necropolis; here was found, alongside a fibula, a coin minted by the Emperor Mauricius (582-602)<sup>212</sup>. We must call attention to the fact that this finding has already been published in 1984<sup>213</sup>, and Uenze will have known about it since at least 1974<sup>214</sup>.

As regards the potential dating back of the fibulae to the beginning of the 7th century, Mr. Gh. Teodor is in favour of it<sup>215</sup>, while Curta is categorically opposed to dating them any later than the end of the 6th c.<sup>216</sup>

However, in spite of the fact that in 1988 Gh. Teodor brought no arguments in favour of his thesis regarding the dating of the fibulae to the beginning of the 7th c., the recently published graves of Kőlked-Feketekapu seem to support his proposal, at least for some of the findings beyond the range of the Empire.

For example, in grave 492 A (Kőlked-Feketekapu A) a Roman-Byzantine fibula was discovered alongside the earrings of the *mit Wicklung* type<sup>217</sup>. These earrings appear in the same necropolis, alongside a Siracusa type buckle<sup>218</sup>. The respective Byzantine buckle is datable back to the end of the 6th c. and the first half of the 7th c.<sup>219</sup>.

Yet another grave which seems to suggest the possible dating to the beginning of the 7th c. is the grave number 438 of the Kőlked-Feketekapu B necropolis<sup>220</sup>. Here, was discovered, alongside a Roman-Byzantine cast fibula, one earring with a pyramid-shaped pendant, dated to the end of the 6th c. and the first quarter of the 7th c.<sup>221</sup>. Basing his account on the discoveries of Keszthely – Fenékpuszta, E. Garam carries the dating of the earrings to the mid 7th century<sup>222</sup>. In the same

grave appeared a Cividale type fibula<sup>223</sup>, which can be very probably dated back to the beginning of the 7th c.<sup>224</sup>.

The association of the two kinds of fibula, Cividale and Roman-Byzantine, also appears in the case of grave 85 of the necropolis Kőlked-Feketekapu B<sup>225</sup>. In the same grave there appears a buckle of the Merovingian type dated back by Kiss to the end of the 6th c.<sup>226</sup>. But in the study dedicated to the buckles of the Merovingian age discovered in Normandy such items are unexceptionably dated to the end of the 6th c. and the first half of the 7th c.<sup>227</sup>. Moreover, the buckles on which a human mask appears seem to be predominantly datable back only to the first half of the 7th c.<sup>228</sup>. The hairpin discovered in the same grave was itself dated back to the end of the 6th c. and the first quarter of the 7th c.<sup>229</sup>. The earrings with a tiny basket-like pendant also belong to this period<sup>230</sup>, while the ring with a diamond shaped chaton was dated back to the mid 7th c.<sup>231</sup>.

We can therefore put forward some arguments indicating that, at least in the space inhabited by the Avars, there existed Roman-Byzantine cast fibulae at the beginning of the 7th c. But this cannot, indeed be generalized for the entire territory of the Lower Danube. It is certain that the fibulae discovered south of the Danube, in a Byzantine environment, have another evolution, which stops once the presence of the Empire at the Lower Danube ceases.

#### **Some Remarks on the Way the Cast Fibulae may have been Worn**

Of the fibulae discovered at Golemanovo kale, S. Uenze also published in 1974 an item which had a little chain fixed on the foot (figure 5). Starting from here, the researcher considered it was highly probable that the Roman-Byzantine fibulae were worn with the spring up and the foot down<sup>232</sup>.

Since then, there appeared three more instances of fibulae with a little chain attached to them (figure 5).

In the Prahovo-Aquis fortification was found such a fibula tied with a bronze chain<sup>233</sup>. Another fibula comes again from the Porțile de Fier region, and there is a bronze mesh attached to its foot<sup>234</sup>. The same situation obtains in another item, which appeared in the settlement at Zvoneckoye<sup>235</sup>; here the fibula has a single chain mesh attached to the foot.

Meanwhile one of the fibulae got published, namely the one of grave 85, from Kőlked-Feketekapu B, which has a little chain attached to the fibula pin<sup>236</sup> not to its foot, which appears to amend the 1974 proposition made by Uenze.

These situations make it very possible for there to have existed a custom of wearing the fibulae in pairs and connected to each other by a bronze chain; or maybe there existed a habit of tying the fibulae to other objects.

So far there has appeared a single pair of Roman-Byzantine cast fibulae, in the child's grave E 143 of Piatra Frecăței.

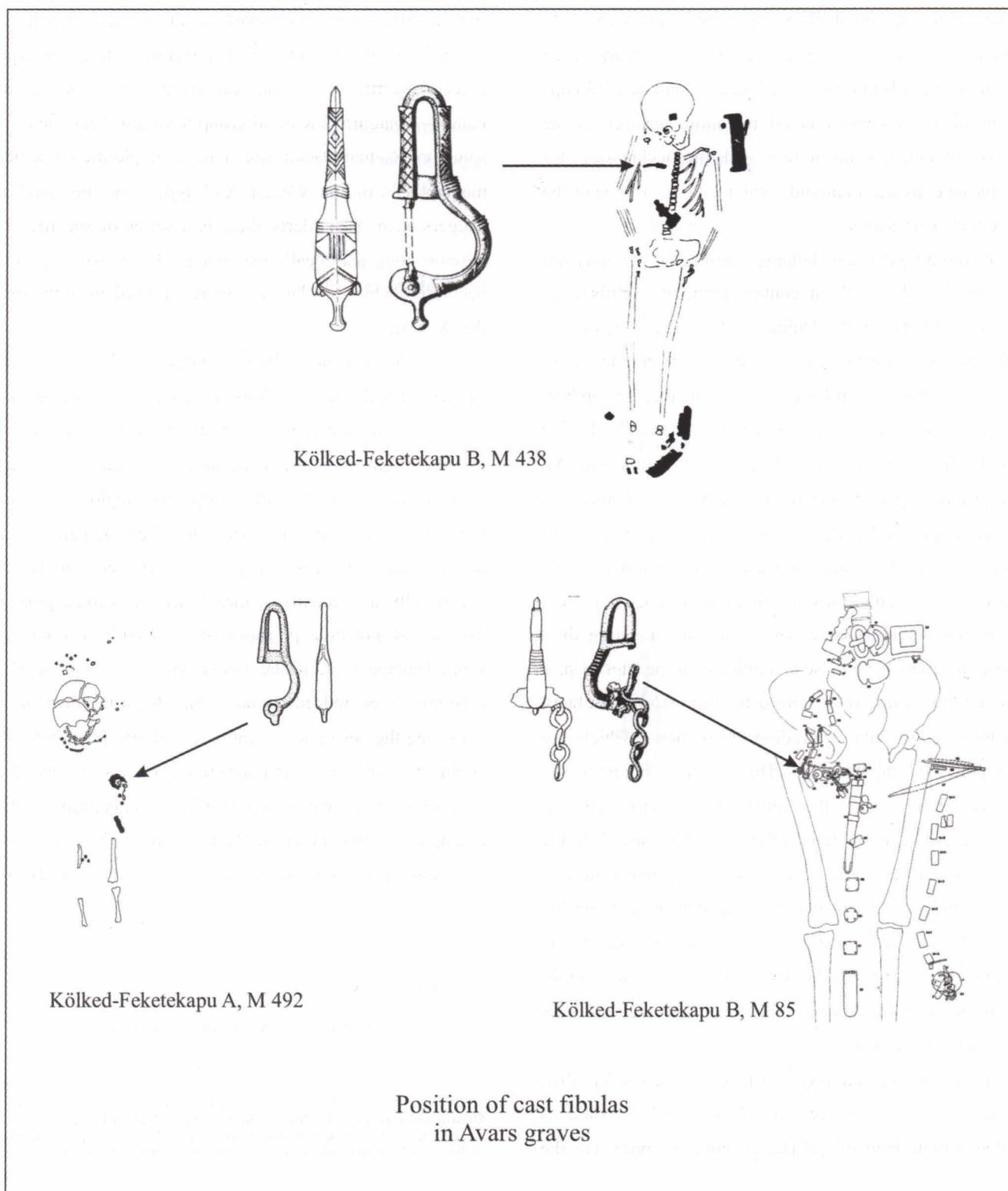


Figure 6

The fact that by comparison to the situation in Piatra Frecăței, in the Avar graves of Pannonia, in those of Kölked-Feketekapu A, Kölked-Feketekapu B and Hódmezővásárhely – Kishomok there appears no more than one item per site was something that drew Uenze's attention<sup>237</sup> or, more recently, Curta's interest<sup>238</sup> - but none of them went beyond signaling this fact.

The difference between the two situations can also be explained, however, by the characteristic costume differences between the two zones, namely Scythia Minor and Pannonia. In the two graves of Kölked-Feketekapu B, alongside the

Roman-Byzantine fibula there appears, in each case, one Cividale type fibula. We want to point out that the two Cividale type fibulae are identical.

Also the position in which the fibulae of the Avar graves were found seems to suggest the same idea, of differences in habitual costume between the Empire and the Avar Khaganate as will be shown in what follows.

#### Size Reduction or Dressing Rules?

In Jankovič there appeared a hypothesis which interpreted the differing dimensions of the fibulae as dependent

on the economic condition of the Empire. The biggest ones are therefore dated back to the middle of the 6th c. regularly, in an age of economic flourishing, while the items which are smaller in size are to be dated back allegedly to the end of the 6th c., a period of recorded economic decline<sup>239</sup>.

Gavrituchin puts forward another hypothesis. He considers that the differences in size can be explained by the differing economic possibilities of the potential buyers<sup>240</sup>.

In his study, the same researcher suggests a potential relationship between the dimension of the fibula and the age of the wearer, specifying that the Drobeta fibula measuring 4.5 cm could be an adolescent's fibula<sup>241</sup>.

This hypothesis incited us and we tried verifying it by comparing the data in the graves. Unfortunately, there are extremely few units capable of furnishing us the required data. But the table below seems to indicate quite clearly that there is no relationship between the dimensions of the fibulae and the age of the deceased.

Necropolis	Grave	Age	Fibula dimension
Piatra Frecăței	E 143	infans II	5.3 cm
Kölked-Feketekapu A	438	infans I	4.0 cm
Kölked-Feketekapu B	85	maturus	4.0 cm
Kölked-Feketekapu B	492	infans II	8.0 cm

We believe there exists yet another explanation for the differing dimensions.

The not too numerous graves in which Roman-Byzantine fibulae were found, could suggest a number of things.

In the case of grave 492 of the Kölked-Feketekapu A, the fibula is deposited next to the pelvis<sup>242</sup>. The respective item is small in size. The situation is identical in the case of grave 85 of Kölked-Feketekapu B, where, again, the small fibula is deposited in the area of the pelvis<sup>243</sup>. Again, a small size fibula was found near the pelvis in a grave of the Bratei necropolis<sup>244</sup>.

Things are different in grave 492 of the necropolis of Kölked-Feketekapu B, where the fibula is disposed in the region of the right shoulder<sup>245</sup>. But now the fibula in question is big.

We want to point out the fact that the two graves of Kölked-Feketekapu B also have Cividale fibulae, one for each. But these last fibulae do not change their positions, as the fibula was constantly deposited above the belt. This makes us believe that the differing positions of the cast Roman-Byzantine fibulae are not accidental.

Summing up what has been shown so far, we believe that the difference in size of the romano-byzantine cast fibulae may suggest a certain fixed position they held in the costume, as follows: the big fibulae were used for fastening in the area of the shoulder, while the small size, lighter fibulae were used for fastening the dress items in the lower part of the trunk.

### Exclusively Feminine Dress ?

The funerary findings, both in the Empire and beyond its limits, seem to encourage us to think they may represent feminine dress elements, though we cannot draw a final conclusion in this respect<sup>246</sup>.

In all the graves about which we have complete information there appear side by side fibulae and other dress or ornamentation elements which have feminine attributes, especially earrings and glass beads.

There were found fibulae, however, in military fortifications. This, alongside the interpretation of the button placed above the spring as a reminiscence of the military fibulae of the 4th to the 5th centuries, led us to the formulation of the hypothesis that these fibulae belonged predominantly to the military ranks of the Byzantine army<sup>247</sup>.

Uenze draws attention upon yet another aspect: the extraordinary difference between the number of fibulae discovered on sites such as Novae or Celei and the very restricted number of fibulae which appear in the cities of Scythia Minor, such as the ones from Isaccea (Noviodunum), Garvăn (Dinogetia) or Histria; and we cannot attribute these simply to the "stage of the research limitations" in order to leave this difference unexplained<sup>248</sup>. Rather, it directs our attention upon the attack routes followed by the Slavs and the Avars, only rarely directed upon Scythia Minor. Consequently, the concentration of fibulae would indicate concentrations of troops disposed along the main attack routes. This is evidently the case with the Porțile de Fier area.

Confronted with these two hypotheses which attempt to attribute the wearing of the Roman-Byzantine cast fibulae either to the feminine or to the military costume, Curta has recently proposed a quite different solution. He combines the two situations and suggests that the cast fibulae could belong to the wives of the military ranks<sup>249</sup>.

### Brief Ethnical Considerations

The literature for this subject is enormously ample, even though rather stereotypical, and we cannot undertake here to make full a discussion of it; we can only just succinctly point out a few ideas.

Romanian historiography is unanimous in believing that this type of items reflects only the Romanized population to the north of the Danube, and Romanian historiography upholds the opposition between the Roman-Byzantine fibulae

(autochthonous) and the bow fibulae (allogeneous)<sup>250</sup>. A new shade of meaning appears in Artimon, who believes that the Romanized population is only the main wearer<sup>251</sup>.

In contradiction to the Romanianians, some Russian or Ukrainian researchers consider that the fibulae are elements of the Slavs, more precisely, of the Penkovka culture<sup>252</sup>.

There exists even a third proposal. According to it, the items to the north of the Danube were brought over by the Byzantine prisoners of the Slavs<sup>253</sup>.

We do not want to insist upon the arguments of each side, but we believe the items in themselves cannot determine an ethnical attribute, which is what Pescheck tried to suggest<sup>254</sup>, in the conclusion to his 1953 synthesis. This type of items can only indicate the integration with a fashion or a trend. Or maybe they are elements indicative of a sort of social status, since they are of Byzantine origin.

Either way, the tendency in ascribing an ethnic interpretation to the area north of the Danube is to abandon the extremely politicized system in force so far<sup>255</sup>. The idea which is gaining more and more currency today is that there might have existed a group of populations, a new conglomerate, separate from the Avars, who attacked the Empire and who have been preferably called Slavines by the Byzantine literary sources, for the 6th century<sup>256</sup>.

### Conclusions

The Roman-Byzantine cast fibulae represent one of the most characteristic items of the second half of the 6th c.AD in the Lower Danube Area. They are spread over a clearly delimited zone and they have a quite precise chronology.

The paper presented here has tried to propose a new approach to the classification of this type of fibulae, renouncing the older criteria and foregrounding solely the stylistic criterion. There resulted several groups, some extremely well individualized ones, both on the basis of the decoration, and as regards the dimensions and crossection of their arcs.

Some of these groups evince a clearly outlined micro-zonal spread, while others extend over a more widespread zone. This aspect of the zonal spread will certainly remain under the sign of the publication of new collections from the museums of the South Danube.

We have tried to offer, as much as applicable, a clear image on the capacity and modality of manufacturing such fibulae. The solitary image of the Drobeta workshop acquires more consistencies by its correlation with the images of other workshops, especially the one from Caričin Grad. But it remains, nevertheless, the sole workshop dedicated to the massive production of fibulae.

As regards the dating, we hope we have managed to propose a detailed view. The great majority of the fibulae cease being used after the end of the 6th c., but this is true for all the findings within the area of the Empire; not, also, for the Avar

zones where they continued to be worn until as late as the middle 7th c. But this does not mean the production of these fibulae continued in the 7th c.

There has been going on a long dispute regarding the dimensions of the cast fibulae. We believe that besides the economic explanation or the mercantile one, we can also suggest an explanation based on the rules of dressing; the big size fibulae were probably worn around the shoulder, while the little items were worn around the pelvis.

There also exist details that indicate the wearing of the fibulae in pairs, or fastened with a chain to other dress items.

Judging from the data we have at present, it is hard to attribute the wearing of the fibulae under discussion either to the feminine or the masculine costume. The graves suggest that the fibulae are feminine dress items, while the findings in the military fortresses seem to suggest a masculine costume attribute. Until any further publications of units are made, the existing data leave the matter open for discussion; but one cannot exclude from the start the possibility that the fibula may either be a universal item of dress/ornamentation or it may, on the other hand, be associated with regional dress/ornamentation differences. I have in mind especially the potential differences between the Avar and the Roman-Byzantine cultural spaces.

At any rate, these fibulae cannot be an ethnic index. They represent a Byzantine product appearing in small numbers and outside the perimeter of the Empire. They are the protagonists of a fashion trend developed in a brief space of time and over a restricted area which is quite clearly delimited.

<sup>1</sup> Teodor 1970, p. 109

<sup>2</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 483

<sup>3</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 171

<sup>4</sup> Haralambieva, Ivanov 1986, p. 9

<sup>5</sup> Curta 2001, p. 245

<sup>6</sup> Gavrituchin 2002, p. 230

<sup>7</sup> Ivanišević, Špehar 2005, p. 138

<sup>8</sup> Fiedler 1992, p. 82, Abb.11/8,11,16

<sup>9</sup> Benea 1997, p. 74, fig. 4

<sup>10</sup> Coman 1969, p. 291, no 16, fig. 17; Teodor 1970, p. 108, note 35

<sup>11</sup> Curta 2001, p. 245

<sup>12</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 483-494

<sup>13</sup> Uenze 1974, 483-484

<sup>14</sup> Uenze 1974, 485

<sup>15</sup> Uenze 1974, 485

<sup>16</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 257-268

<sup>17</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 259

<sup>18</sup> Teodor 1988, p. 198

- <sup>19</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 171
- <sup>20</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 171
- <sup>21</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 173
- <sup>22</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 173
- <sup>23</sup> Jankovič 1981, p. 220 - 221
- <sup>24</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 29-40
- <sup>25</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 36
- <sup>26</sup> Gavrituchin 2002, p. 232
- <sup>27</sup> Gavrituchin 2002, p. 245, ris. 1
- <sup>28</sup> Gavrituchin 2002, p. 233
- <sup>29</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 257-258, Pl. I, II
- <sup>30</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 267, no 23, pl. IV/1
- <sup>31</sup> Vinski 1974, p. 39, tab. XXXIV/2, 7
- <sup>32</sup> Stefanov 1961, p. 344, fig. 4/26
- <sup>33</sup> Vinski 1974, p. 39, tab. XXXIV/9
- <sup>34</sup> Pescheck 1953, p. 262, Abb. 4/3
- <sup>35</sup> Haralambieva 1992b, p. 138, no 32, table III/9
- <sup>36</sup> Kiss 1996, p. 132, taf. 89/A 492-3
- <sup>37</sup> Tudor 1938, fig. /14
- <sup>38</sup> Tudor 1941, fig. 8/g
- <sup>39</sup> Tudor 1941, fig. 8/h
- <sup>40</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 266, no 27-28; we have been unable to study any representation of these fibulae, either by a drawing, or by a photograph.
- <sup>41</sup> Tănase, Mare 2002, p. 187, nr. 1.3.3; cf. Bejan 1976, p. 267, no 30; the fibula is of only 4.0 cm
- <sup>42</sup> Jankovič 1981, pl. XV/10
- <sup>43</sup> Sretenovic 1984, fig. 216/2
- <sup>44</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 117-118, no 104, 106, 105, tabl. IX/3; X/4; XIII/3
- <sup>45</sup> Ljubenova 1981, p. 169, obr. 112/2-3,10
- <sup>46</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 268, nr. 39-41, pl. IV/7-9
- <sup>47</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, no 61, tabl. VI/9
- <sup>48</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 118, no 110, tabl. IX/4
- <sup>49</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, nr. 63, tabl. VI/10
- <sup>50</sup> Stefanov 1961, p. 344, nr. 23, fig. 4/23
- <sup>51</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, nr. 62, tabl. VI/11
- <sup>52</sup> Uenze 1992, p. 527, nr. SK 41, taf. 4/1
- <sup>53</sup> Haralambieva, Ivanov 1986, p. 10, no 3, tabl. I/3
- <sup>54</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 118, no 115, tabl. X/5
- <sup>55</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, no 60, tabl. VI/8
- <sup>56</sup> Pescheck 1953, p. 261, Abb. 3/3
- <sup>57</sup> Haralambieva 1992b, p. 138, no 33, tabl. III/11
- <sup>58</sup> Diaconu 1985, p. 88, fig. 7
- <sup>59</sup> Jankovič 1981, pl. XV/8
- <sup>60</sup> Tudor 1948, fig. 41/15
- <sup>61</sup> Tudor 1941, fig. 8/i
- <sup>62</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, no 64, tabl. VI/12
- <sup>63</sup> Covacef 1996, p. 98, nr. I.1.9, pl. II/8, IX/6
- <sup>64</sup> Ljubenova 1981, p. 169, obr. 112/4-7
- <sup>65</sup> Jankovič 1981, pl. XIV/1
- <sup>66</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 37, no 37, tabl. IV/4
- <sup>67</sup> Haralambieva, Ivanov 1986, p. 10, no 6, tabl. I/6
- <sup>68</sup> Stefanov 1961, p. 344, fig. 4/22
- <sup>69</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 117, nr. 103, tabl. X/10
- <sup>70</sup> Popescu 1945, p. 504, Abb. 11/120
- <sup>71</sup> Mîtea 2001, p. 139-140, fig. 67/3,5
- <sup>72</sup> Artimon 2005, p. 139, pl. XXXV/12; in the drawing published by Gavrituchin 2002, p. 239-240, ris. 6/1, there appear no human figures any longer; instead to concentric circles are represented here.
- <sup>73</sup> Haralambieva, Ivanov 1986, p. 11, nr. 12, tabl. II/12
- <sup>74</sup> Haralambieva 2002, p. 114, nr. 115, tabl. XIII/114
- <sup>75</sup> Vinski 1974, p. 39, tab. XXXV
- <sup>76</sup> Coman 1969, p. 307, fig. 17/1
- <sup>77</sup> Prihodniuk 1998, ris. 6/1
- <sup>78</sup> Almgren 1923, p. 77, taf. VII/160
- <sup>79</sup> Haralambieva 2002, p. 114, no 114, tabl. XIII/115
- <sup>80</sup> Jankovič 1981, pl. XIV/7
- <sup>81</sup> Jankovič 1981, pl. XIV/12
- <sup>82</sup> Teodor 1969, p. 199, fig. 16/1
- <sup>83</sup> Ljubenova 1981, p. 169, obr. 112/8
- <sup>84</sup> Ivanišević, Špehar 2005, p. 138, Fig. 3/4
- <sup>85</sup> Petre 1987, pl. 145/239d
- <sup>86</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 37, no 44, tabl. V/1
- <sup>87</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 37, no 42, tabl. V/2
- <sup>88</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, no 63, tabl. VI/10
- <sup>89</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 484
- <sup>90</sup> Uenze 1992, p. 527, no SK 39, taf. 3/17
- <sup>91</sup> Jancovič 1981, p. 170, sl. 69, pl. XIV/13
- <sup>92</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 37, no 41, tabl. IV/7
- <sup>93</sup> Bóna, Nagy 2002, p. 45, taf. 11, taf. 72/1a-b
- <sup>94</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 267, no 37, pl. III/5
- <sup>95</sup> Jancovič 1980, p. 172, ris. 1/3
- <sup>96</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 487, Abb. 3/6
- <sup>97</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 37, no 46, tabl. V/3
- <sup>98</sup> Popescu 1945, p. 504, Abb. 11/119 și Abb. 11/117
- <sup>99</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 38, no 48, tabl. V/9

- <sup>100</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 117, no 101, tabl. X/6
- <sup>101</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 267, no 21, pl. IV/3
- <sup>102</sup> Uenze 1992, p. 441, no B 14, taf. 3/11
- <sup>103</sup> Uenze 1992, p. 442, no B 17, taf. 3/12
- <sup>104</sup> Curta 1992, p. 46, no 61, Abb. 8/61
- <sup>105</sup> Curta 1992, p. 46, no 62, Abb. 8/62
- <sup>106</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 117, no 99, tabl. IX/1
- <sup>107</sup> Pescheck 1953, p. 260, Abb. 3/2
- <sup>108</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 117, no 107, tabl. X/9
- <sup>109</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 38, no 47, tabl. V/4
- <sup>110</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 37, no 39, tabl. IV/5
- <sup>111</sup> Opaïț 1991, p. 44, no 35, fig. 19/35
- <sup>112</sup> Gavrituchin 2002, p. 240, ris. 6/2
- <sup>113</sup> Haralambieva, Ivanov 1986, p. 10, no 4, tabl. I/4
- <sup>114</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 37, no 40, tabl. IV/6
- <sup>115</sup> Kojtscheva, Haralambieva 1993, p. 64, 71, no 70, tabl. V/2
- <sup>116</sup> Jankovič 1981, pl. XIV/3
- <sup>117</sup> Ljubenova 1981, p. 169, obr. 112/1
- <sup>118</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 266, no 18, pl. III/6
- <sup>119</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 267, no 38, pl. IV/2
- <sup>120</sup> Ljubenova 1981, p. 169, obr. 112/9
- <sup>121</sup> Curta 1992, p. 46, no 63, Abb. 8/63
- <sup>122</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 118, no 110, tabl. IX/4
- <sup>123</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 117, no 109, tabl. IX/6
- <sup>124</sup> Haralambieva, Iavnov 1986, p. 10, no 2, tabl. I/2
- <sup>125</sup> Haralambieva 1994, p. 40, no 38, tabl. IV/4
- <sup>126</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 118, no 112, tabl. IX/7
- <sup>127</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 35, taf. 108, the drawing does not represent the notched lines, but they can be very easily discerned in the photograph.
- <sup>128</sup> Jankovič 1981, pl. XIV/6
- <sup>129</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, no 58, tabl. VI/6
- <sup>130</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 118, no 113, tabl. IX/8
- <sup>131</sup> Ivanišević, Špehar 2005, p. 138, Fig. 3/3 (at the bottom of the Figure 3, the finding place for the fibula is noted as Gornji Streoc!)
- <sup>132</sup> Tănase, Mare 2002, p. 187, no 1.3.2, pl. IV/3
- <sup>133</sup> Tănase, Mare 2002, p. 188, no 1.3.3, pl. IV/5; Bejan 1976, p. 267, no 25
- <sup>134</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 267, no 26, pl. IV/6
- <sup>135</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 266, no 11, pl. III/4
- <sup>136</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 266, no 15, pl. III/7
- <sup>137</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 268, no 43, pl. III/1
- <sup>138</sup> Jankovič 1981, pl. XIV/2
- <sup>139</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 118, no 111, tabl. IX/5
- <sup>140</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 117, no 106, tabl. X/4
- <sup>141</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 268, no 40, pl. IV/7
- <sup>142</sup> Petrovič 1965, p. 288, fig. 40/5
- <sup>143</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 38, no 51, tabl. V/8
- <sup>144</sup> Barnea et alii 1979, p. 191, 10.2, fig. 169/10.2 (a); p. 191, 10.3, fig. 171/10.3 (b)
- <sup>145</sup> Mitrea 1973, p. 665, fig.3
- <sup>146</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, no 56, tabl. VI/4
- <sup>147</sup> Vinski 1974, p. 39, tab. XXXIV/1,3,6
- <sup>148</sup> Coman 1971, fig. 7/4
- <sup>149</sup> Gavrituchin 2002, p. 239, no 2, ris. 5/1
- <sup>150</sup> Haralambieva, Ivanov 1986, p. 10, no 1, tabl. I/1 (a); p. 11, no 11, tabl. II/11 (b); p. 11, no 13, tabl. II/13 (c); p. 11, no 10, tabl. II/10 (d); p. 11, no 9, tabl. II/9 (e); p. 11, no 8, tabl. I/8 (f)
- <sup>151</sup> Vinski 1974, XXXIV/14 (a); XXXIV/13 (b); Caričin Grad II, p. 237, no 270, pl. XLII/270 (c); Gavrituchin 2002, ric. 6/3 (d)
- <sup>152</sup> Tănase, Mare 2002, p. 188, no 1.3.6., pl. IV/8
- <sup>153</sup> Vinski 1974, Tab. XXXIII/13
- <sup>154</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 38, no 52 tabl. V/6
- <sup>155</sup> Vinski 1974, tab. XXXIV/8
- <sup>156</sup> Kojtscheva, Haralambieva 1993, p. 64, p. 71, no 73, tabl. VII/6
- <sup>157</sup> Haralambieva 1994, p. 40, no 36, tabl. IV/7
- <sup>158</sup> Ștefan, Barnea, Comșa, Mitrea 1961, p. 593, fig. 4/5
- <sup>159</sup> Teodor 1988, p. 204, fig. 6/8
- <sup>160</sup> Barnea, Mitrea 1959, fig. 10/7
- <sup>161</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, no 59, tabl. VI/7
- <sup>162</sup> Haralambieva 1992b, p. 137-138, no 31, tabl. III/7
- <sup>163</sup> Pescheck 1953, p. 258, Abb. 3/1
- <sup>164</sup> Genceva 1989, p. 35, Obr. 2/a
- <sup>165</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 37, no 43, tabl. IV/2 (a); p. 37, no 42, tabl. IV/9 (b)
- <sup>166</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 38, no 50, tabl. V/5
- <sup>167</sup> Haralambieva, Ivanov 1986, p. 10, no 7, tabl. I/7
- <sup>168</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 171, ris. 1/2
- <sup>169</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 38, no 49, tabl. V/7
- <sup>170</sup> Haralambieva 1992, p. 117, no 108, tabl. IX/2
- <sup>171</sup> Popescu 1945, p. 504, no 118, Abb. 11/118
- <sup>172</sup> Uenze 1992, p. 441, no B15, taf. 3/16 (a), p. 482, no D203, taf. 3/14 (b); p. 442, no B16, taf. 4/4 (c); p. 518, no K4, taf. 4/2 (d); p. 441, no B13, taf. 3/10 (e); p. 527, no SK37, taf. 3/9 (f); p. 473, no D14, taf. 3/8 (g); p. 441, no B12, taf. 3/15 (h)
- <sup>173</sup> Fiedler 1992, Abb.11/8,11,16
- <sup>174</sup> Opaïț 1991, p. 44, no 34, fig. 19/34
- <sup>175</sup> Jankovic 1980, p. 173, ris. 1/7
- <sup>176</sup> Gavrituchin 2002, p. 240, no 4, ris. 6/4
- <sup>177</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 38, no 53, tabl. VI/1 (a); Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 67, tabl. IV/1 (0062)
- <sup>178</sup> Haralambieva, Iavnov 1986, p. 10, no 5, tabl. I/5
- <sup>179</sup> Tudor 1941, fig. 8/j (a); Tudor 1948, fig. 41/13 (b)
- <sup>180</sup> Ștefanov 1961, p. 344, no 26, 25, fig. 4/26, 25 (a-b); Biernacki 1975, p. 55, ric. 44 (c); Dimitrov et alii 1964, p. 230, no 14, ris. 16/1 (d)
- <sup>181</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 118, no 114, tabl. IX/9

- <sup>182</sup> Benea 1997, p. 74, fig. 4
- <sup>183</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 39, no 57, tabl. VI/5
- <sup>184</sup> Haralambieva 1989, p. 36, no 36, tabl. IV/8 (a); p. 39, no 55, tabl. VI/3 (b); p. 39, no 54, tabl. VI/2 (c); p. 37, no 38, tabl. IV/3 (d); Haralambieva 2002, p. 114, no 113, tabl. XIII/113 (e); Haralambieva 1989, p. 36, no 35, tabl. IV/1 (f)
- <sup>185</sup> Haralambieva 1994, p. 40, no 37, tabl. IV/1 (a); Haralambieva 1992b, p. 137, no 30, tabl. III/6 (b)
- <sup>186</sup> Prihodniuk 1998, ris. 6/3
- <sup>187</sup> Teodor 1988, p. 202
- <sup>188</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 261; Teodor 1988, p. 206; Corman 2001, p. 39
- <sup>189</sup> Bejan 1976, p. ; Teodor 1988, p. 206
- <sup>190</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 177
- <sup>191</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 490, Abb. 1/1
- <sup>192</sup> Teodor 1988, p. 206; Uenze 1992, p. 155
- <sup>193</sup> Jankovič 1981, p. 220
- <sup>194</sup> Haralambieva 2000, p. 395
- <sup>195</sup> Haralambieva 2000, p. 395
- <sup>196</sup> Haralambieva 2002, p. 114, no 113, tabl. XIII/113
- <sup>197</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 263
- <sup>198</sup> [http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/actions-france\\_830/archeologie\\_1058/les-carnets-archeologie\\_5064/europe-maghreb\\_5066/serbie-montenegro-caricin-grad\\_5597/habitat-civilisation-materielle\\_15868.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/actions-france_830/archeologie_1058/les-carnets-archeologie_5064/europe-maghreb_5066/serbie-montenegro-caricin-grad_5597/habitat-civilisation-materielle_15868.html); the page was visited in May 2006.
- <sup>199</sup> Curta 2001, p. 245
- <sup>200</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 178
- <sup>201</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 486
- <sup>202</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 486
- <sup>203</sup> Bóna, Nagy 2002, p. 125
- <sup>204</sup> Popescu 1945, p. 505
- <sup>205</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 486
- <sup>206</sup> Mushmov 1929, p. 328-329
- <sup>207</sup> Uenze 1992, p. 156
- <sup>208</sup> Curta 1992, p. 84
- <sup>209</sup> Haralambieva, Ivanov 1986, p. 10, no 4
- <sup>210</sup> Milčev, Draganov 1992, p. 39, obr. 5
- <sup>211</sup> Curta 2001, p. 245
- <sup>212</sup> Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 96
- <sup>213</sup> Damianov S., Balabanov P. Spasitelni raskopki v m. Kostadin češma, kraj s. Debelt, Burgaski okrās., in Arheologičeski otkritija i raskopki pres 1984 g. Sliven, 1985, s. 106 according to Haralambieva, Atanasov 1992, p. 96, note 45
- <sup>214</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 494
- <sup>215</sup> Teodor 1988, p. 205
- <sup>216</sup> Curta 1992, p. 84
- <sup>217</sup> Kiss 1996, p. 132, tafel 89 / A 492
- <sup>218</sup> Kiss 1996, tafel 69 / A 325
- <sup>219</sup> Garam 2002, p. 95; Schulze-Dörrlamm 2002, p. 179
- <sup>220</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 140, taf. 81
- <sup>221</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 203
- <sup>222</sup> Garam 2002, p. 29
- <sup>223</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 140, taf. 81/2
- <sup>224</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 206
- <sup>225</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 29-37, taf. 29-31
- <sup>226</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 293
- <sup>227</sup> Lorren 2001, p. 214 - 243
- <sup>228</sup> Lorren 2001, p. 231-243
- <sup>229</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 268
- <sup>230</sup> Garam 2001, p. 16, 18
- <sup>231</sup> Garam 2001, p. 87
- <sup>232</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 490, Abb. 1/1
- <sup>233</sup> Jankovič 1980, pl. XIV/15
- <sup>234</sup> Bejan 1976, p. 267, no 28
- <sup>235</sup> Prihodniuk 1998, ris. 6/1
- <sup>236</sup> Kiss 2001, taf. 30/40
- <sup>237</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 490; cf. și Curta 1993, p. 212
- <sup>238</sup> Curta 1992, p. 84
- <sup>239</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 178-179
- <sup>240</sup> Gavrituchin 2002, p. 233
- <sup>241</sup> Gavrituchin 2002, p. 234
- <sup>242</sup> Kiss 1996, p. 132, taf. 89/A 492
- <sup>243</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 35, taf. 30/40
- <sup>244</sup> Information due to Radu Harhoiu (whom I want to thank again on this occasion )
- <sup>245</sup> Kiss 2001, p. 140, taf. 81/B 438
- <sup>246</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 490
- <sup>247</sup> A recent debates at Gavrituchin 2002, p. 235-236
- <sup>248</sup> Uenze 1974, p. 491
- <sup>249</sup> Curta 2001, p. 245
- <sup>250</sup> Teodor 1970, p. 109; Comșa 1973, p. 206; Bejan 1976, p. 261; Teodor 1988, p. 210;
- <sup>251</sup> Artimon 2005, p. 139
- <sup>252</sup> Prihodniuk 1997, p. 506
- <sup>253</sup> Jankovič 1980, p. 171
- <sup>254</sup> Pescheck 1953.
- <sup>255</sup> Curta 1997, p 225-310, regarding the influence of the political interpretations upon the ethnical ones, see also Niculescu 2005.
- <sup>256</sup> Curta 2001, p. 335-350 is the strongest defender of this idea; Gavrituchin 2002, p. 239

# Medieval bracelets

by Adrian Ioniță

The seven medieval bracelets in this lot pertain to three major types: I. the smooth massive bar (No 2); II. the band-shaped: a. with widening ends (No 3); b. with non-widening ends (No 3a, 7); III. Consisting of twisted wiring (Nos 4, 5, 6).

Type I (No 2). Bracelet No 2 was probably made by casting it as a bar with an oval cross-section and sharp-pointed ends. This type of bracelet was frequently found, pertaining both to the Roman Age, for example in the Calatis<sup>1</sup> necropolis (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD) – or even to earlier periods – as well as to the Middle Ages. Given the missing archaeological context, it is very hard to tell what period bracelet No 2 of our lot would belong to. In Romania, such bracelets, dating back to the Middle Ages, were discovered in necropolises from such places as Oltenia<sup>2</sup> and Dobrudjia<sup>3</sup>. The massive bar bracelets with sharp-pointed ends are wide-spread in the Lower and Middle Danube Area, as well as in southern Poland and Russia, in the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD<sup>4</sup>. Type II consists of the band-shaped bracelets, with two variants: a. with widening ends; b. with non-widening ends. Type II.a (No 3). Generally, these bracelets with a rectangular cross-section were cast, and the widening of the ends was achieved by beating the metal. The item that we are presenting here had the ends decorated by cutting in them several dots. These kinds of bracelets, having concentric circles as decorative motifs, appear as a rule in the inventories of the graves pertaining to Magyar riders, being dated back to the period between the 10<sup>th</sup> c. AD and the reign of Ștefan I (997-1038)<sup>5</sup>. Such items were discovered in Hungary<sup>6</sup>, Serbia<sup>7</sup> and Romania<sup>8</sup>. The majority of the wide ended bracelets, plain or ornamented with various motifs were discovered in the necropolises of: Oltenia<sup>9</sup>, Dobrudjia<sup>10</sup>, Bulgaria<sup>11</sup>, Serbia<sup>12</sup> and Banat<sup>13</sup>, usually being dated back especially to the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Type II.b (No 3a, 7) with non-widening ends. The two bracelets included here differ mainly by their kind of manufacture, and then they differ by the decoration. No 3a is made from a thin bronze sheet, having an irregular width, and the ends ending in an approximately trapezoid form. The rather effaced ornament consists of several lines, one circle, and at the ends a zoomorphic motif representing the head of a very highly stylized animal. Bandiform bracelets with a stylized

zoomorphic motif (i.e., with the so-called feline heads) at the ends were discovered at Dinogetia<sup>14</sup>, Păcuiul lui Soare<sup>15</sup> and Oțeleni<sup>16</sup>; but they had unmodified, straight ends and further complementary motifs on the body of the bracelet. Except for the two bracelets of Dinogetia, dated between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> c. AD, though in default of solid argumentation, the rest of bracelets have been dated back to the 14<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD. This type of bracelet is spread in the area of the Gold Horde, at the peak of its domination, i.e. between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD. No 7 was probably made by casting, and from a thick bronze band, having one straight end and one round end. Its aspect is massive, approximately like the type I (no 2). The ornament was made by cutting in dots, both on the face and on the sides of the bracelets. The distribution of the dots on the body is as follows: there are two groups of five bigger dots between two rows of dotted lines, there is one diamond which is made of dotted lines on either side, and at the end, there is one rectangle made of dotted lines and having three bigger dots inside. Just as in the case of the bracelets with widening ends, the majority of analogies for this type are to be found in: Oltenia<sup>17</sup>, to the south of the Danube in: Dobrudja<sup>18</sup>, Bulgaria<sup>19</sup>, Serbia<sup>20</sup>, within the Bjelo-Brdo culture<sup>21</sup>, but also in Kievan Russia<sup>22</sup>.

Type III (Nos 4, 5, 6) includes the twisted wiring bracelets, sometimes called “torques” also. Such bracelets consist of two silver and bronze wires, each of them twisted and entwined with, or twisted around, each other, so that they form a loop at the two ends, in which the wire ends show; the two ends are flattened. This item of jewelry is often recorded as found in the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD in Oltenia<sup>23</sup>, in places of the South-Danubian area, such as: Dobrudjia<sup>24</sup>, Bulgaria<sup>25</sup>, Serbia<sup>26</sup>; in the middle Danube Region in: Banat<sup>27</sup>, Hungary<sup>28</sup>, Slovakia<sup>29</sup>, but also in East Europe<sup>30</sup>.

- 1 C. Preda 1980, p. 51, 157, pl. 23.
- 2 Fântâna Obedeanu L. Dumitriu 2001, p. 118; Taf. 89/20).
- 3 Dinogetia (Dinogetia I, p. 290-291; fig. 172/1-3); Păciul lui Soare (P. Diaconii, S. Băraschi 1977, p. 117, fig. 93/16; p. 120); Isaccea (L. Dumitriu 2001, p. 109).
- 4 L. Dumitriu 2001, p. 62.
- 5 Cs. Bălint 1991, p. 252.
- 6 Fabiansbesteyen (G. Csallany 1905, p. 41-42); Puspokladany-Eperjesvolgy (I. Fodor 1996, p. 245-246, 251 - 252, fig. 18); Kaba (Z. Văna 1954, p. 66-67, tab. 3/3).
- 7 Ruski Krstur (J. Giesler 1981, tab. 53, nr. 3).
- 8 Moldovenesti (K. Horedt 1986, p. 112-113); Arad Foldvari-puszta (I. Fodor 1996, p. 299-301; fig. 6,b); Dridu La Metereze (A. Ioniță 1998, p. 311, 379, Fig. 49/19).
- 9 Izimșa (D. Galbcnu 1974, p. 259-260, fig. 3); Orlea (O. Toropu 1976, p. 178, 212).
- 10 Păciul lui Soare (P. Diaconu, S. Baraschi 1977, p. 117, fig. 93/10; p. 120).
- 11 S. Georgieva 1961, p. 6-7, fig. 4/1-2; 5/1,3; Lovce (S. Georgieva, R. Peseva 1955, p. 532, fig. 23/1; p. 534, fig. 26-27; p. 535, fig. 30-31); Seuthopolis (J. Cangova 1972, p. 107, fig. 87/S; p. 108, fig. 88); Pleven (S. Stancev ș.a. 1961, p. 37, fig. 5/3).
- 12 Trnjane (G. Marjanovic-Vujovic 1984, p. 168, tah. 10/10; 11/4; 14/6; 16/5; 17/1; 23/6); Brestovik (M. Corovic-Ljubinkovic 1956, p. 135, fig. 4/nenumerotat; Cs. Bălint 1991, p. 106, tab. 33/3).
- 13 Șopotu Vechi Mărvilă (D. Teicu 1993, p. 263, fig. 6/7.)
- 14 Dinogetia I, p. 291; fig. 172/17-18; p. 292.
- 15 P. Diaconu, S. Baraschi 1977, p. 117, fig. 93/11; p. 120.
- 16 D. Teodor 1964, p. 345, fig. 2/la-c; p. 347, fig. 3/1.
- 17 Hinova (D. Berciu, I. Berciu 1937, p. 82-83; D. Berciu 1939, p. 382, fig. 289); Izimșa (D. Galbenii 1974, p. 259-260, fig. 3); Svința (L. Dumitriu 2001, p. 136; Taf. 97/9).
- 18 Păciul lui Soare (P. Diaconu, S. Baraschi 1977, p. 117, fig. 93/11; p. 120); Dinogetia (Dinogetia I, p. 291, fig. 172/4,16-18; p. 292).
- 19 S. Georgieva 1961, p. 7, fig. 5/2; S. Georgieva 1961a, p. 12, fig. 1/2,4-5; p. 13, fig. 2/3-5; Lovce (S. Georgieva, R. Peseva 1955, p. 534, fig. 28? p. 535, fig. 29); Seuthopolis (J. Cangova 1972, p. 107, fig. 87/5-7, 12-15; p. 111, fig. 91/1-2).
- 20 Trnjane (G. Marjanovic-Vujovic 1984, p. 168, tab. 3/4; 6/4; 7/2; 9/15; 25/6; 28/7; 29/4-5); Rudine (M. Popovic, V. Ivanisevic 1988, p. 139, fig. 10/3); Mirjevo (M. Bajalovic-Birtasevic 1960, p. 20, 32; tab. 12/3).
- 21 Z. Văna 1954, p. 66-67, tab. 3/1; C. Bălint 1991, p. 103, fig. 27.
- 22 Novgorod (M. V. Sedova 1959, p. 251, fig. 9/2-3,5-16); Rjazan" (A. L. Mongajit 1955, p. 178, fig. 137/1,16).
- 23 Orlea, Izvoarele (O. Toropii 1976, p. 178, 212); Ferigile (A. Vulpe 1976, p. 186; pl. 26/31); the Drobeta zone (M. Bălăceanu 1982, p. 202-203, fig. 1).
- 24 Dinogetia (Dinogetia I, p. 291, fig. 172/8; p. 292).
- 25 S. Georgieva 1961, p. 6, fig. 4/5; Lovce (S. Georgieva, R. Peseva 1955, p. 539, fig. 36); Seuthopolis (J. Cangova 1972, p. 107, fig. 87/1); Doino Sahrane (L. Getov 1965, p. 221, fig. 29/1-4); Pleven (S. Stancev ș.a. 1961, p. 37, fig. 5/2).
- 26 Trnjane, (G. Marjanovic-Vujovic 1984, p. 169, tab. 2,4-17,19-25); Rudine, Svetinja (M. Popovic, V. Ivanisevic 1988, p. 139, fig. 10/4; p. 164, fig. 34/12-15); Brestovik (M. Corovic-Ljubinkovic 1956, p. 135, fig. 4/nenumerotat); Mirjevo (M. Bajalovic-Birtasevic 1960, p. 32; tab. 6/1,31).
- 27 Șopotul Vechi Mărvilă, Cuptoare Sfogea, Gornea Căunița (D. Teicu 1993, p. 246, 263; fig. 6/5-9,11; p. 269; fig. 12/1-6).
- 28 Derecske (D. Csallány 1959, p. 303, fig. 11/3).
- 29 Nitra (P. Caplovnic 1954, p. 43, tab. 9/4).
- 30 Rjazan" (A. L. Mongajit 1955, p. 178, fig. 137/18-19); Sarkel-Belaja Veza (M. I. Arlamonov 1958, p. 70, fig. 48/nenumerotat); Novgorod (M. V. Sedova 1959, p. 246, fig. 8/1-2,4).

# Catalogue of the Items in the Bulgaria Lot

Archeological sheet type: Name; Material; Dating; Dimensions (in centimeters); Weight (in grams)

**L** = length **l** = width; **H** = depth; **D** = diameter (ext. = exterior; sec. = cross-section); **W**: = weight.

## Weapons

1. Socketed - axe; bronze; Late Bronze Age; **L**: 6.8 ; **l** blade 3.5 ; **l** mouth: 2.9 ; **l** splicing: 4.3; **W**: 145.
38. Arrowhead with three winglets; iron; Iron Age (circ. 650-550 BC.); **L**: 3.8; **W**: 6.
39. Arrowhead with two winglets; iron; Iron Age (circ. 650-550 BC.); **L**: 3.4; **W**: 5.
40. Arrowhead with three winglets; iron; Iron Age (circ. 650-550 BC.); **L**: 2.7; **W**: 3.
41. Arrowhead with three winglets; iron; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2.7; **W**: 3.
42. Arrowhead with three winglets; iron; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 3.1; **W**: 2.
43. Arrowhead with three winglets; iron; Iron Age (circ. 350-250 BC.); **L**: 3.5; **W**: 3.
44. Arrowhead with three winglets; iron; Iron Age (circ. 350-250 BC.); **L**: 3.6; **W**: 3.
45. Arrowhead with three winglets; iron; Iron Age (circ. 350-250 BC.); **L**: 4; **W**: 5.
46. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2;
47. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 1.9;
48. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 1.8;
49. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 1.8;
50. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2;
51. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2;
52. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2.1;
53. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2.6;
54. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2.1;
55. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2.2;
56. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2.1;
57. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2;
58. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2.1;
59. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2.6;
60. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 1.9;
61. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 450-350 BC.); **L**: 2.2;
62. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 450-350 BC.); **L**: 2.4;
63. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 450-350 BC.); **L**: 2.6;
64. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 350-250 BC.); **L**: 2.9;
65. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 550-450 BC.); **L**: 2.8;
66. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 350-250 BC.); **L**: 3.1;
67. Arrowhead with three winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 350-250 BC.); **L**: 2.3; **W**: 1.

68. Arrowhead with two winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 650-550 BC.); **L:** 3.1; **W:** 2.
69. Arrowhead with two winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 650-550 BC); **L:** 3.1; **W:** 1.
70. Arrowhead with two winglets; bronze; Iron Age (circ. 650-550 BC); **L:** 4; **W:** 3.
71. Arrowhead; bronze; **L:** 4.5; **W:** 3.
72. Arrowhead; bronze; **L:** 4; **W:** 2.
31. Arrowhead with a diamond-shaped cross-section and with a fixing thorn; iron; the Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD) **L:** 6.4; **W:** 6.
32. Arrowhead with a diamond-shaped cross-section and with a fixing thorn; iron; the Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD) **L:** 6.2; **W:** 5.
33. Arrowhead with a diamond-shaped cross-section and with a fixing thorn; iron; the Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD) **L:** 6.3; **W:** 3.
34. Arrowhead with a diamond-shaped cross-section with a fixing thorn; iron; the Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 5.9; **W:** 3.
35. Arrowhead with a diamond-shaped cross-section with a fixing thorn; iron; the Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 6.8; **W:** 3.
36. Arrowhead with a diamond-shaped cross-section with a fixing thorn; iron; the Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 8.7; **W:** 6.
37. Arrowhead with a diamond-shaped cross-section with a fixing thorn; iron; the Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD) **L:** 9.7; **W:** 6.

REMARK: In the East European region, such arrowheads were predominantly used in the 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD. In Bulgaria, such arrowheads were dated back to the first czarate, and in Slovakia they were found in closed units dated back to the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD; Lit: Kirpicnikov, A. Medvedev 1985, p. 347, tab. 135/14; p. 351, tab. 138/3-4; Jotov 2004, p. 25, fig. 3/type IDA; p. 29-30; Ruttkay 1976, p. 327, fig. 54, type B/7,10,11; p. 331.

## Dress Items and Decorative Accessories

### Bracelets:

2. Bracelet made of a massive bar; with peaked ends; bronze; the Middle Ages; **D ext.:** 5.57; **D sec.:** 0.3; **I:** 1; **W:** 29.

3. Bandiform bracelet with widening ends; bronze; the Middle Ages ( the 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **D ext.:** 5.8/5.2; **I** from the head to the centre: 1; **I** of body: 0.5; **W:** 22.

- 3A. Bandiform bracelet with peaked ends; bronze; the Middle Ages (12<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD) **D ext.:** 5.2; **I:** 0.9; **W:** 16.

4. Twisted wiring bracelet, with loop-shaped ends; bronze; the Middle Ages (c. 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> AD); **D ext.:** 5.7; **D sec.:** 0.5; **W:** 19.

5. Twisted wiring bracelet, with loop-shaped ends; bronze; the Middle Ages (c. 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **D ext.:** 6.7; **D sec.:** 0.5; **W:** 20.

6. Twisted wiring bracelet, with loop-shaped ends; bronze; the Middle Ages (c. 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> AD); **D ext.:** 6.5/5.5; **D sec.:** 0.4; **W:** 13.

7. Bandiform bracelet; bronze; the Middle Ages (c. 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> AD); **D ext.:** 6.7/4.7; **D sec.:** 0.5; **I:** 1; **W:** 60.

8. Bracelet; silver; Latene age; **D ext.:** 6.7/4.7; **D sec.:** 0.5; **I:** 1; **W:** 31.

9. Bracelet; silver; Latene age; **D ext.:** 8; **D sec.:** 0.3/0.4; **W:** 26.

10. Bracelet; silver; Latene age; **D ext.:** 6.5; **D sec.:** 0.3/0.5; **W:** 31.

11. Bracelet; glass; **D ext.:** 5.5; **D sec.:** 0.4/0.6; **I:** 1.1; **W:** 20.

13. 'Bangle' with birds; bronze; 2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> c. BC; **D ext.:** 5.2; **D sec.:** 0.5; **W:** 36; Lit: Kuhnen 1976; Dannheimer 1975; Keller 1984, 40.

### Fibulae:

14. Spoon-bow fibula; bronze; Latene (2<sup>nd</sup> half of 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC – 1<sup>st</sup> half of 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD ); **L:** 8.4; **I:** 0.5/0.3; **I end:** 1.3; **W:** 4.

15. Spoon-bow fibula; bronze; Latene (2<sup>nd</sup> half of 1<sup>st</sup> c BC – 1<sup>st</sup> half of 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD ); **L:** 8.2; **I:** 0.7/0.3; **I end:** 1.6; **W:** 3.

16. Fibula; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 8.2; **I resort:** 3.9; **W:** 23.

17. Fibula; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 3.1; **W:** 6.

18. Fibula; bronze; Roman age ; **L:** 5; **W:** 19.

19. Fibula; bronze; Roman age ; **L:** 3.4; **I spring:** 1.3; **W:** 9.

20. Fibula; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 4; **I spring :** 3.6; **W:** 15.

21. Fibula ; Thracian schema; bronze; Latene (4<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>th</sup> c. BC); **L:** 5.5; **W:** 5.

22. Fibula; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 3.6; **I spring:** 2.2; **W:** 6.

23. Fibula; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 3; **I spring:** 1.7; **W:** 8.

24. Cast fibulae with bent stem (gegossene Bronzefibeln mit Scheinumwicklung des Bügels); bronze; early Byzantine age (1<sup>st</sup> half of 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 3.7; **W:** 5.

25. Cast fibulae with bent stem (gegossene Bronzefibeln mit Scheinumwicklung des Bügels); bronze; early Byzantine age (1<sup>st</sup> half of 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 4.3; **W:** 4.

26. Fibula; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 3.6; **I** spring: 2; **W:** 7.

27. Fibula with spring-shaped stem; bronze; Latene; **L:** 2.3; **W:** 1.

28. Fibula with Boeothian shield; bronze; Hallstatt (7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> c. BC); **L:** 7.2; **W:** 35.

29. Fibula; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 3.3; **I** spring: 1.7; **W:** 5.

### Pins

156. Hairpin ending in the shape of a right-hand holding a fruit; bronze; Roman age; (1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD) **L:** 15; **W:** 11. Analogies: Köln, Augst, Romula; Lit.: Riha 1990, tip 2, nr. 1367; Franken 1996, nr. 140-142.

### Belt Accessories

136. Belt pin with anthropomorphic ornament - decorative belt pin for the belt buckles of the *cingulum*, bearing the portrait of Emperor Domitian (81-96); Roman age (1<sup>st</sup> c. AD); **D:** 2.3; **W:** 1; Remark: potentially (recycled) for use as a button after the fixing stem came loose. Analogies: in Moesia, Dacia, Noricum but especially to the West of the Empire; Lit: Ulbert 1971; Feugère 1985, type 6b.

137. Belt pin with anthropomorphic decoration - decorative belt pin for the belt buckles of the *cingulum*, bearing the portrait of an emperor, very schematically rendered; Roman age (1<sup>st</sup> c. AD); **D:** 2.2; **W:** 1. Analogies: in Moesia, Dacia, Noricum but especially to the West of the Empire; Lit: Ulbert 1971; Feugère 1985, type 7 a-b.

166. Belt pin; bronze; Roman Age **H:** 2; **W:** 6.

179. Strap end; Roman Age (3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 5; **W:** 7.

180. Strap end; Roman Age (3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 4.8; **W:** 7.

### Rings

12. Ring with five humps; bronze; 2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> c. BC; **D:** 4; **W:** 18; Analogies: Bucharest, Germany; Lit.: Turcu 1979, 153-154, fig. 26.

124. Celtic ring with 3 pearls on three rows, massive, cast metal; bronze; 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC- 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD (in the Latène tradition); **H:** 1; **D:** 2.3; **W:** 12; Analogies: Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa,

Künzing, Augst, Heimstetten; this form has been attested both in gold and in glass. Lit: Riha 1990, type 2.20, no 223; Henkel 1913, 213, pl. 24/474-476; Keller 1984, 40, pl. 4/7, 5/3, 7/5; Turcu 1979, fig. 26/4; Dannheimer 1975. Remark: Judging in terms of the discovery of such an item in feminine burial graves at Heimstetten (early Roman age) it was noted that the ring was worn on a little chain hanging from the neck, potentially as an amulet.

88. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high in profile, rectangular, decorated with a protruding geometrical motif; bronze; **H:** 2.2; **D:** 2; **W:** 3.

89. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop; Roman age (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2; **D:** 2.1; **W:** 3.

90. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, having two lateral protuberances; bronze; Roman age (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2; **D:** 2.2; **W:** 3. Analogies: Callatis (M 202, M305); Lit: Preda 1980, p.159, pl.25.

91. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, flattened, oval, erased decoration; bronze; **H:** 2; **D:** 2.1; **W:** 1.

92. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, circular, decorated by the incision of three notches; bronze; Roman Age (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 1.7; **D:** 1.7; **W:** 1.

93. Ring; bronze; **H:** 2.6; **D:** 2.4; **W:** 9.

94. Ring with a gem; silver; Roman Age; **H:** 2; **D:** 2.9; **W:** 15.

95. Ring with a gem; bronze; Roman Age; **H:** 1.9; **D:** 2.1; **W:** 4.

96. Ring with a gem; bronze; Roman Age; **H:** 2; **D:** 2.1; **W:** 4.

97. Ring with a gem; bronze; Roman Age; **H:** 2.1; **D:** 2.1; **W:** 3.1

98. Ring with a gem; bronze; Roman Age; **H:** 1.9; **D:** 1.9; **W:** 1.

170. Pendant; gold; Roman Age; **L:** 1.5;

171. Ring with a stone in a case on the finger loop and a pendant; gold; Roman Age; **L:** 2.2;

172. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop; gold; Roman Age (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **D:** 1.2. Analogies: Callatis (M.112); Lit: Preda 1980, p.159, pl.25.

107. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, circular, decorated with a highly stylized decoration; bronze; Roman Age (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2.2; **D:** 2.3; **W:** 3. Analogies: Callatis (M.354); Lit: Preda 1980, p. 159, pl. 25.

109. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, circular, notched decoration; bronze; Roman Age (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2.2; **D:** 2.1; **W:** 5. Analogies: Callatis; Lit: Preda 1980, p. 159, pl. 25/pas.

113. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, circular, decorated with notches on the lateral side; bronze; Roman Age (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2.3; **D:** 2.2; **W:** 6; Analogies: Callatis (M.354.2); Lit: Preda 1980 p. 159, pl.25.

116. Ring ; bronze; Roman Age; **H:** 2.3; **D:** 2.8; **W:** 6.

117. Ring; bronze; Roman Age; **H:** 2; **D:** 2.6; **W:** 9.

118. Ring ; bronze ; Roman Age; **H:** 1.8; **D:** 2.3; **W:** 4.

99. Ring with a chaton welded to the finger loop, disk-shaped, ornamented with eight little notched circles; bronze; Middle Ages (12<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 1.9; **W:** 5.

100. Ring with a chaton welded to the finger loop, disk-shaped, ornamented with seven little notched circles; bronze; Middle Ages (12<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2.2; **D:** 2.3; **W:** 5.

101. Ring with a chaton welded to the finger loop; bronze; The Middle Ages (12<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 1,8; **D:** 1,8; **W:** 3. REMARK: Rings no 99, 100, 101 are spread in the region of the Lower Danube, the ones decorated with little concentric circles having been found in the necropolises of Isaccea and Svinița. There is one chaton identical to the one of no. 99, which is detached from the finger loop and to be found in the collections of the Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest, being found by chance in Dobrudja during the works on the Danube - Black Sea channel site, in 1951. There were similar jewels found in Bulgaria, and there exist also in the collections of the National Museum of Belgrade, where they were dated back to the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, and even later. Lit: Dumitriu 2001, p.109, pl.73/12; p.136, pl. 97/11; Milošević 1990, p.57; Ivanić 1995, p.15.

102. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, circular, decorated by the incision of a diamond with a little circle inscribed in it and with notches outside the area of the diamond; bronze; the Middle Ages (c. 13 - 14); **H:** 2.1; **D:** 2.2; **W:** 4; Analogies: Bulgaria (Kaliakra, Lukovit-Musat) Serbia; Lit: Bobčeva 1978, p. 162; Tab. 18/a.b; Jovanović 1987, p. 118, tab. 3/29; Marjanović-Vujović 1984, tab. 28/M.350; Milošević 1990, p. 62.

103. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, circular, decorated in the margin, by incision with two rows of dots **H:** 2.3; **D:** 2.2; **W:** 6; Analogies: Serbia; Lit: Milošević 1990, p. 103.

104. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high in profile, circular, decorated

with a pearl circle in the margin, and in the middle with a schematically represented character, a saint (an arch-angel, with an aura and wings), with a cross to its right; bronze; the Middle Ages. (c. 12- 14); **D:** 2.1; **W:** 4;

REMARK: The image of a saint (arch-angel) with wings and a cross represents an older motif, widespread in the Byzantine world in c. 6 - 7 . The styling of the character on ring no 104 makes us believe that we have to do rather with an item manufactured in the 13 - 14th century in the Balkan milieu, although it does not exclude the possibility of its being even earlier. Similar rings, but whose represented figure has been considered to be that of a venerated warrior, were found in Serbia, in the necropolis of Mirijevo dated to the 12th - 14th centuries Lit: Ross 1965, p. 53; pi. XLI/59; Bajalović-Birtasević 1960, p. 45; tab. 10/7 (M.62); tab. 12/1 (M.91).

105. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, flat, circular, with an erased decoration; bronze; Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2.1; **D:** 2.1; **W:** 2; Analogies: Serbia (Trnjane, M.331); Lit: . Marjanovic-Vujovic 1984, tab. 25/4; Ivanić 1995, p. 19.

106. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, flat, circular, decorated by the cutting of a diamond with a rectangle inscribed in it; bronze; **H:** 1.8; **D:** 2; **W:** 1.

108. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, shaped as a drop of liquid, decorated by cutting some lines all around it; bronze; the Middle Ages (14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> AD); **H:** 2.2; **D:** 2.1; **W:** 5; Analogies: Bulgaria (Lukovit-Mušat), Serbia; Lit: Jovanović 1987, p. 122, tab. 5/130; Milošević 1990, p. 132.

110. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, oval, decorated by the incision of four lines intersecting in the form of a star-cross with eight arms, inscribed in a circle; bronze; Middle Ages (13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD) ; **H:** 2.1; **D:** 1.8; **W:** 6; Analogies: Serbia; Lit: Milošević 1990, p.64

111. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, oval, erased decoration, decorated with lines forming triangles on the sides; bronze; Middle Ages (13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2.2; **D:** 1.9; **W:** 6.

112. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, octagonal, decorated by the cutting in of a diamond divided into four sectors, and with notches outside the diamond; bronze; Middle Ages (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2.5; **D:** 2.3; **W:** 9; Analogies: Serbia; Lit: Milošević 1990, p. 60, 62, 71; Ivanić 1995, p. 31.

114. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high profile, oval, decorated by the

incision of some double lines crossing to form an X, and with a cut-in diamond on the side; bronze; Middle Ages (13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2; **D:** 1.7; **W:** 4; Analogies: Bulgaria (Lukovit-Mušat), Serbia (Trnjane M.180, Mirijevo); Lit: Jovanović 1987, p. 122, tab. 5/125; Marjanović-Vujović 1984, tab. 12/2; Bajalović-Birtasević 1960, p. 45; tab. 16/6; Milošević 1990, p.66.

115. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high in profile, flat, oval; bronze; Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2; **D:** 2.2; **W:** 3; Analogies: Serbia (Trnjane M.60, M.202); Lit: Marjanović-Vujović 1984, tab. 4/1, tab 13

119. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high in profile, oval, decorated with a stylized seabird and one pair of broken straight lines to either side of the chaton - all of these made by incisions; bronze; the Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 2.1; **D:** 2; **W:** 3; Analogies: Serbia (Trnjane M.318); Lit: Marjanović-Vujović 1984, tab. 23/3; Ivanić 1995, p. 28.

120. Ring with a chaton designed to form a single, solid unit with the finger loop, very high in profile, circular, decorated by cutting in it a combination of long lines and short lines; bronze; Middle Ages (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 1.9; **D:** 2; **W:** 4; Analogies: Serbia (Mirijevo); Lit: Bajalović-Birtasević 1960, p. 45; tab. 6/2; Milošević 1990, p.59, 61-62, 138.

87. Ring with a dome-shaped chaton welded on the finger loop, very high in profile; Middle Ages (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 3.9; **D:** 2.4; **W:** 19; Analogies: Bulgaria ( the Ottoman Empire Period), Serbia; Lit: Georgieva 1961, p. 8, fig. 6/3; Ivanić 1995, p. 44-51. REMARK: The rings with a dome - shaped chaton are inspired by the rings of the 11th c. as they are unanimously known from the findings of Dinogetia and Dervent. The model is taken over from the 17th - 18th centuries and it has been adapted to the modern craft of jewelry and to the taste of the age; Lit: Dinogetia I, p. 167, pl. 167/4-6.

## Instruments

### Keys:

73. Key with a round head, long body and flat active part, with straight teeth; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 5.2; **W:** 41; Lit: Gudea/Matei 1981, type IIIa

74. Key with a ring-head, long stem, flat active part, with flat teeth; bronze; the Roman Age; **L:** 4.4; **W:** 23; Analogies: Lauriacum; Lit: Gaheis 1930, fig. 110.

75. Ring-key – the active part derives from the stem, having a protruding profile and straight teeth; bronze; Roman Age

(2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 3.2; **W:** 13; Analogies: Dacia; Lit: Gudea/Matei 1981, type Ic, pl. III/18

76. Ring-key – the active part derives from the stem, having a protruding profile and straight teeth; bronze; Roman Age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 2.6; **W:** 14; Analogies: Dacia; Lit: Gudea/Matei 1981, type Ic, pl. III/18.

77. Ring-key – the active part derives from the stem, having teeth with an 'X' incised on them; bronze; Roman Age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 2.8; **W:** 19; Analogies: Dacia; Lit: Gudea/Matei 1981, type Ic, pl. III/26.

78. Ring-key – the active part derives from the stem, having a high profile, and straight teeth; bronze; Roman Age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 2.8; **W:** 12; Analogies: Dacia; Lit: Gudea/Matei 1981, type Ic, pl. III/18.

79. Ring-key – the active part derives from the stem, having a high profile, with 'X' incised on the teeth; bronze; Roman Age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 2.6; **W:** 12; Analogies: Dacia; Lit: Gudea/Matei 1981, type Ic, pl. III/22-24.

80. Ring-key – the active part derives from the stem, having a high profile, having straight teeth; bronze; Roman Age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 2.6; **W:** 8; Analogies: Dacia; Lit: Gudea/Matei 1981, type Ic, pl. III/17.

81. Ring-key – the active part of the key is flat, having been perforated; the little key was worn on the finger and served for locking a casket; bronze; Roman Age; **L:** 2.1; **W:** 5; Analogies: Pompei, Augst, Regensburg, Mainz, Lyon, Richborough, Siscia, Porolissum, Buciumi, Slovenia; Lit: Gaheis 1930, 233-262; Riha 1990, type 2.17.2, no 196-197 (for Federschloss); Gudea/Matei 1981, type Ia, pl. I/6-7; Henkel 1913, 248-250, pl. 72, 1940-1967; Alicu et.al. 194, no763; Chadour, Joppien 1985, no 89, 107, 187.

82. Ring-key – with the active part emerging from the stem, having a high-profile and straight teeth; bronze; Roman Age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 2.7; **W:** 8; Analogies: Dacia; Lit: Gudea/Matei 1981, type Ic, pl. III/18.

83. Ring-key – the active part evolves from the stem and is high in profile, having straight teeth; bronze; Roman age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 2.4; **W:** 5; Analogies: Dacia; Lit: Gudea/Matei 1981, type Ic, pl. III/17.

84. Ring-key – the active part evolves from the stem and is high in profile, having straight teeth; bronze; Roman age ; **L:** 2.5; **W:** 7.

85. Ring-key – the active part evolves from the stem and is high in profile, having straight teeth; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 2.6; **W:** 14.

86. Ring-key – the active part evolves from the stem and is high in profile, having straight teeth; bronze; Roman age ; **L:** 3; **W:** 17.

123. Key for casket; bronze; **H:** 2,5; **D:** 2; **W:** 4; Analogies: Constanța; Lit: Petculescu (ed.) 2003, no 168.

134. Key shaped as a *herme* representing the god Hermes wearing a ribbon on his head; the terminal parts of the ribbon are hanging over the shoulders and breast; bronze; Roman Age; **H:** 5.2; **W:** 34; Analogies: in Moesia (Durostorum); Lit.: Georgiev, Donevski 1980, no 7, fig. 3/7; Petculescu (ed.) 2003, no159.

### Medical Instruments

154. Medical instrument, flat spoon (*cyathiscomele*); bronze; Roman age (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 9.2; **W:** 3; Analogies: Pompei, Roma, Cioroiul Nou, Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Apulum, Potaissa; Lit: Alicu/Cociș 1990, pl. III/13.

155. “Steelyard”; bronze; Roman and Byzantine age (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 12.6; **W:** 11; Analogies: Reims, Zugmantel (Byzantine period – Istanbul); Lit: Künzl 1983, fig. 33 (Gallia Belgica 3 unit); Wamser (Hrsg.) 2004, no 782; REMARK: Sometimes it appears also together with medical instruments/kits.

160. Double medical instrument, flat spoon and hook (*ligula*); bronze; Roman age (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 12; **W:** 18; Analogies: Asia Minor and Pompei; Lit: Künzl 1983 Abb. 15/6; Bliquez 1994, no 80, fig. 39.

161. Medical instrument, flat spoon for the ear (*specillum oricularium*); bronze; Roman age (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 11.1; **W:** 8; Analogies: Pompei and Asia Minor; Lit: Künzl 1983, fig.3, 16/31-33 (Asia 1 ensemble), 79 (Germania Inferior ensemble, Köln).

162. Medical instrument, flat spoon for ear (*specillum oricularium*); bronze; Roman age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 5,8; **W:** 4; Analogies: Asia Minor; UT Sarmizegetusa ; Lit: Künzl 1983, fig. 16/30-36 (Asia 1 ensemble), 79 (Germania Inferior ensemble, Köln); Alicu/Cociș 1990, no 4.

### Pins and Needles:

157. Pin; bronze; **L:** 12,6; **W:** 4.

158. Sewing needle with oblong ear; bronze; Roman age ( the first third of 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD.); **L:** 16,4; **W:** 9; Analogies: Aquincum, Buciumi; Lit: Chirilă et el. 1972, pl. CX/2; Topál 2003, Grave no V, M.6, pl.4 / 9-10..

159. Pin; bronze; **L:** 8,1; **W:** 4.

178. Pin; bronze; **W:** 4.

## Statuettes

125. Statuette „Venus pudica nuda” type; the goddess is represented standing, resting her weight on the right foot, having the left foot flexed forward. The body is slightly bent. It seems to have worn the hair parted in the middle, and with *krobylos* on the top of the head, fastened with a ribbon and two rolled hair batches framing the two parts of the face and forming a knot on the nape. It had a diadem on the crown of her head, shaped as a semiluna and having two protuberances (potentially resembling the item Țeposu-Marinescu, Pop 2000, no 92). The left hand of the statuette was brought in front, covering the pubian zone, the right arm was flexed, away from the body; bronze, solid cast; Roman age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 6.1; **W:** 23; Analogies: Augst, Mayen, Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa; Lit: Menzel 1986, no 99; Kaufmann-Heinimann 1977, type IIB; Țeposu-Marinescu / Popp 2000, no 120; Petculescu (ed.) 2003, no 85-87 and 91.

126. Horse rider; bronze, solid cast; Roman age (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 5; **W:** 37; Analogies: Moesia and Dacia; Lit: Ognenova-Marinova 1975, nos 41 and 42.

127. Horse rider; bronze, solid cast; Roman age (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD); **H:** 5; **W:** 15; Analogies: Moesia and Dacia (Târnava, jud. Sibiu); Lit: Ognenova-Marinova 1975, no 28; Marinescu 1995, no 2a; Krings (coord.) 2004, nno 298-299.

142. Forearm of a statuette with the right hand holding one attribute (*fulmen*, lance, *thyrsos*, torch or money bag, which would induce the identification of the statuette as Hermes/Mercur); bronze, solid cast; Roman age; **L:** 4,2; **W:** 28; Analogies: Bulgaria (Haltern, Blažievo); Lit: Menzel 1985, pl. 18/2; Krings (coord.) 2004, no 317.

## Furniture ornaments and stands

128. Furniture applique; bronze; Roman age; **H:** 6.8; **I:** 7,4; **W:** 56; Analogies: Römisch-Germanisches Museum Köln, Naumur, Rome; Franken 1996, no 213.

133. Furniture applique, representation of Mars; Roman age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **H:** 4; **W:** 21; Lit: Menzel 1986, no 371.

138. Lion shaped applique, cart yoke or furniture decoration; bronze; Roman age; **D:** 1.9; **W:** 7; Analogies known: Romula, Ilișua, Gilău, Porolissum, Burghöfe, Neuss; Lit: Menzel 1986, no 354-355, 365; Gudea 1996, fig.40a, 1-2; Schmidt 2000, 40.

139. Lion shaped applique, cart yoke or furniture decoration; bronze; Roman age; **D:** 2,1; **W:** 11.

140. Applique for a box/casket decorated with a relief figure, chubby face, with wavy hair style and middle parting; Roman

age; **D:** 1,8; **W:** 3; Analogies: Augst, Burghöfe, Neuss, Gilău, Slăveni; Lit: Schmidt 2000, pl. 4/30a-b; Menzel 1986, nos 339 and 345; Bondoc 2004, no 3.

145. Fragment of the lower leg part in a tripod-support for a *lucerna* ending in the shape of a lion paw; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 4.4; **W:** 43; Analogies: Pompei; Lit: Biroli-Stefanelli 1990, fig. 181, cat. No 82 and fig. 182, cat. No 83; Pernice 1925, 58; Petculescu (ed.) 2003, no 156.

146. Leg of a chandelier or a metal vase, in the shape of a goose-web; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 3,6; **W:** 54.

## Others

30. Oblong applique, leaf shaped; **L:** 6.8; **W:** 14.

31. Fragment of a small vessel handle; the end is shaped as a stylized bird's head; bronze; Roman age (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD); **L:** 5.4; **W:** 14; Analogies: Augst, Pannonia, Richborough; Lit: Riha 2001, no 72.

129. Anthropomorphic applique; **L:** 4.8; **W:** 25.

130. Anthropomorphic; **H:** 3.5; **W:** 14.

131. Anthropomorphic applique; **H:** 2.8; **W:** 7.

132. Anthropomorphic applique; **H:** 2; **W:** 8.

135. Anthropomorphic applique; Roman age; **H:** 3.2; **I:** 2.4; **W:** 15.

141. Seal-box with the lid with enamel decoration; bronze; Roman age (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD); **L:** 2.7; **W:** 6; Analogies: Achtstetten (Biberach); Lit: Ciugudean 1997; Bajusz 1995, type VIIId. **REMARK:** The seal-box for the protection of the seal consists of a little seal-bearing box made of bronze and of a lid, connected to the box by a hinge. The lid is decorated with cells cast in the bronze and filled with reddish material (probably a gemstone or just vitreous material?). In the center of the lid two cells make the shape of a fish. Seals were used to authenticate documents written on papyrus, veal skin or wax-covered tablets. They were attached to the latter by means of a string, whose ends were allowed inside the orifices made in the sides of the little box. On the box were the ends in which the respective string was fixed, was imprinted the gem of the ring belonging to the person who issued or authenticated the respective document. The Roman seal had a double function: it warranted/certified the source issuing the respective document, and its secret status; the document was meant to be opened only once, being either an official, or a particular document such as: a letter, a contract, an application, a will.

143. Pendant, shaped as an elephant head; bronze; Roman age; **W:** 34.

144. Applique representing a horse neck; bronze; **H:** 3,6; **W:** 8.

147. Scythian applique, a crouching animal; bronze; Iron Age (6<sup>th</sup> c. BC.); **H:** 2.5; **I:** 3.8; **W:** 12.

148. Rectangular applique; bronze; **H:** 2; **I:** 3; **W:** 8.

149. Circular applique with graffite insertions; **D:** 4.7; **W:** 46.

150. Insignia from the Emperor Nero Age; bronze; Roman age (1<sup>st</sup> c. AD); **I:** 2.8; **W:** 6.

151. Button; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 4; **I:** 1.5; **W:** 20.

152. Button; bronze; Roman age; **L:** 2.2; **I:** 1.5; **W:** 15.

153A. Thimble; bronze; **H:** 1.8; **D** mouth opening: 1.3; **W:** 1. **REMARK :** The thimble is decorated with 8 and on the head with 3 parallel, continuous lines, consisting of incisions of dots, disposed in a circle/ in circles. The thimble end is slightly conical, the centre being marked with a dot-shaped incision. The lower margin of the wall is smooth, the dotted lines ending at one cut-in line. The last line of dots is interrupted, giving the impression that the dots are disposed in a spiral on the surface of a thimble.

153B. Thimble; bronze; **H:** 1.9; **D** opening: 1.6 **W:** 1. **REMARK:** Thimble, decorated on the wall with 5 and on the end with 4 parallel, continuous lines, consisting of dots forming circles/a circle. The end of the thimble is slightly conical; the centre is marked by a cut-in dot. The dotted lines decorate only one side of the wall, being limited by one cut-in line each. The dotted band is not continuous as far as the edge formed by the wall and the end of the thimble. The lower margin of the thimble is smooth, marked by a cut-in line.

The thimbles are generally of various depths, which indicate that they were worn on different fingers, depending on the material they were used for sewing on (i.e., different kinds of woven fabrics, leather etc). Thimbles decorated with punched dots, with or without other ornamental motifs, have been attested in the mediaeval and modern period. There are five items considered to come from the Byzantine age, which come from the Isle of Rhodes. Lit: Papanikola-Bakirtzi (ed.), *Everyday life in Byzantium* (Atena 2002), no 449 and 452.

163. Circular applique; bronze; **D:** 4.6; **W:** 12.

164. Circular applique; bronze; **D:** 3.5; **W:** 7.

165. Circular applique, broken, bronze; **D:** 2.6; **W:** 3.

167. Pectoral cross; silver; the Middle Ages (c.18); **L:** 5; **I:** 3.8; **W:** 9.

168. Pectoral cross; bronze, gilded, with silver rivets; the Middle Ages (18<sup>th</sup> c. AD); **L:** 4.7; **I:** 2.1; **W:** 9.

169. Locket; bronze; **D:** 2.8; **W:** 10.

173. Small bronze lamp with a secondary hanger; bronze, solid cast (lamp); Roman Age (1<sup>st</sup> c. AD); **L:** 6; **I:** 3.6; **D** opening hole: 1.3; **W:** 53; Analogies: Pompei, Aquincum, Kassel, Romula.

174. Phallic amulet; bronze; Roman Age; **L:** 3.1; **W:** 9.

175. Phallic amulet; bronze; Roman Age; **L:** 3,1; **W:** 12.

176. Phallic amulet; bronze; Roman Age; **L:** 3.2; **W:** 9.

177. Pendant, shaped as a bunch of grapes; bronze; Roman Age; **H:** 4.2; **W:** 29.

# Abbreviations

ActaArchHung - Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapesta  
ArchErt - Archaeologiai Ertesítő, Budapesta  
Archlug - Archaeologia Iugoslavica, Belgrad  
ArhMold - Arheologia Moldovei, Iași-București  
ArheologijaSofia - Arheologija. Organ na Arheologiceskija Institut i Muzej, Sofia  
AO - Arhivele Olteniei, Craiova  
BCMI - Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice, București  
Banatica - Banatica, Reșița  
Dacia - seria noua (NS): Dacia. Revue d'Archeologie et d'Histoire Ancienne, București  
Drobeta - Drobeta, Turnu-Severin  
IAB - Institutul de Arheologie "Vasile Parvan", București  
IzvestijaSofia - Izvestija na Arheologiceskija Institut, Sofia  
IzvestijaVarna - Izvestija na Narodnija Muzej Varna, Varna  
MIA - Materialy i Issledovanija po Arheologii SSSR, Moscova-Leningrad (St.Petersburg)  
PZ - Praehistorische Zeitschrift, Leipzig-Berlin-New York  
SlovArch - Slovenska Archeologia, Nitra  
Starinar - Starinar (NS), Belgrad  
ZbornikBeograd - Zbornik Radova Narodnog Muzeja = Zbornik Narodnog Muzeja  
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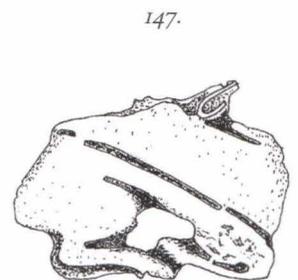
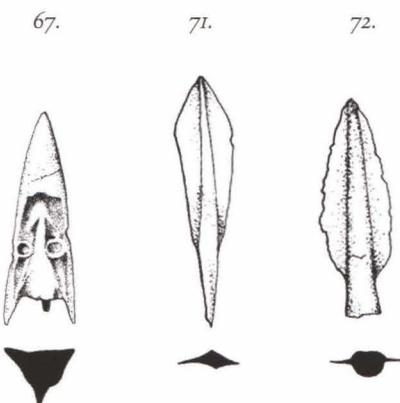
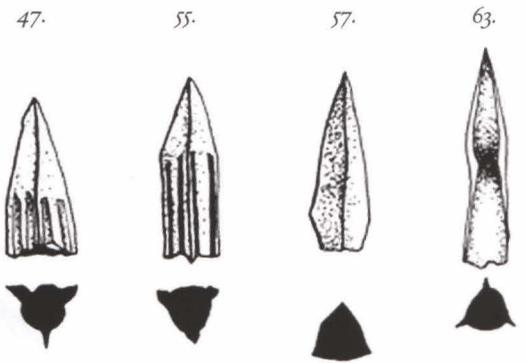
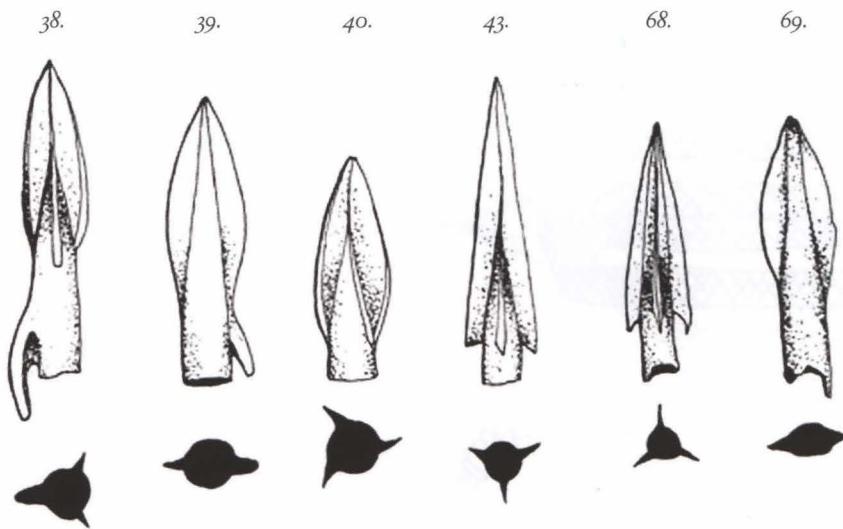
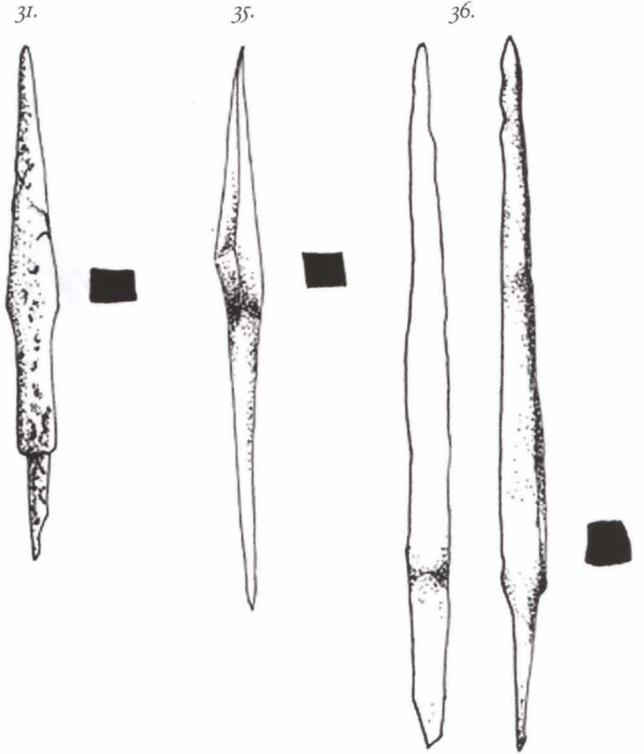
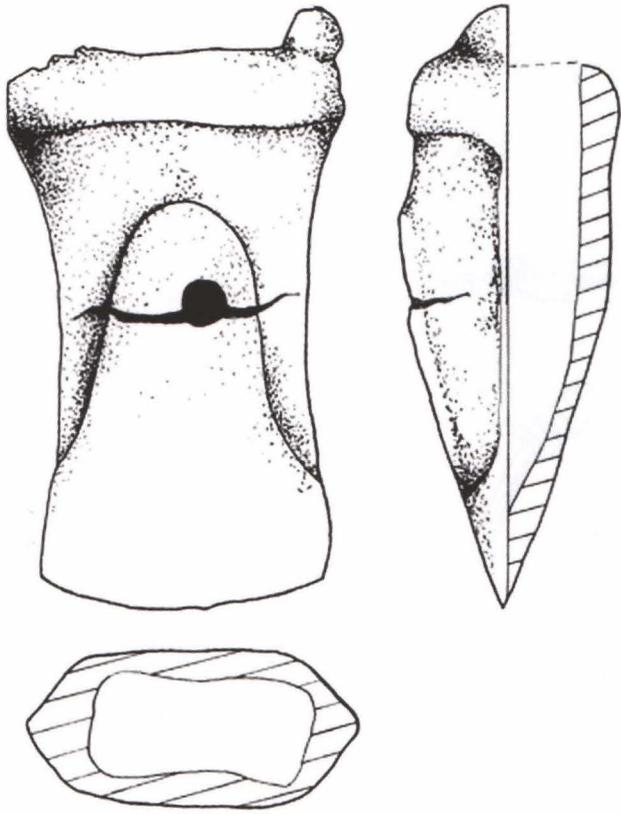


# *D*RAWINGS



# WEAPONS

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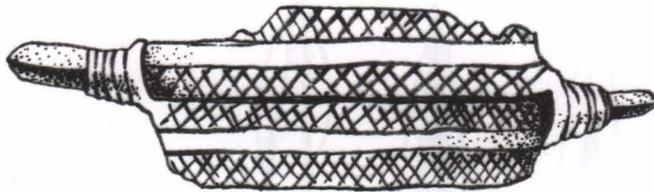


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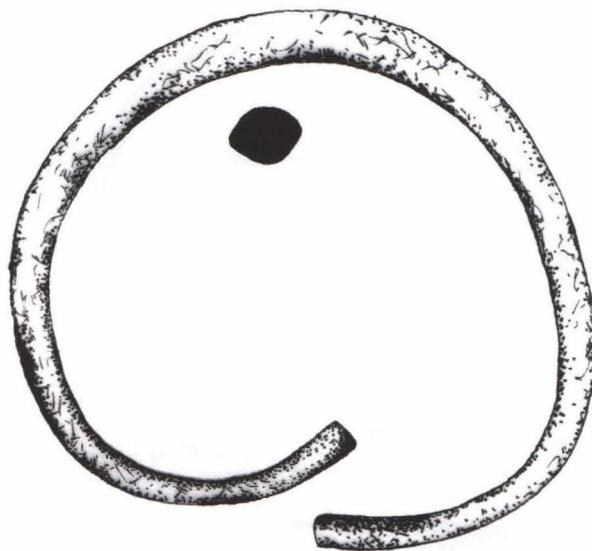
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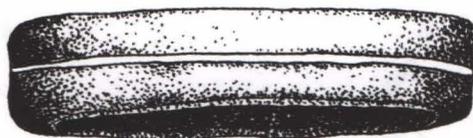
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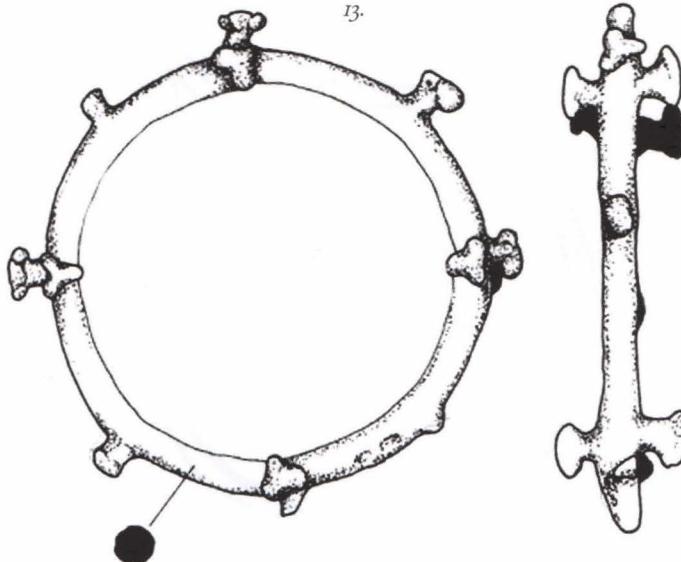
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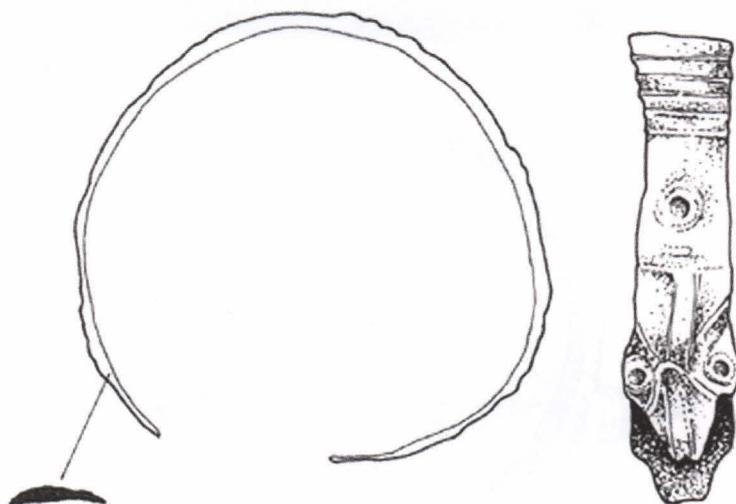
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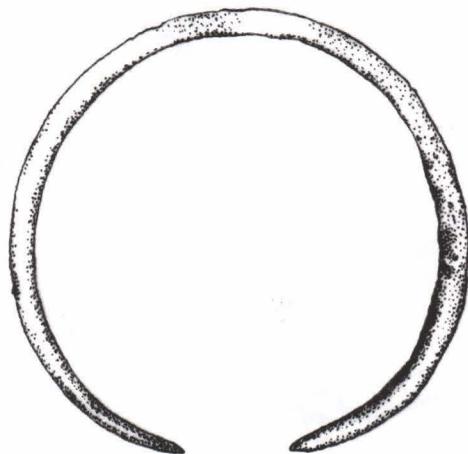
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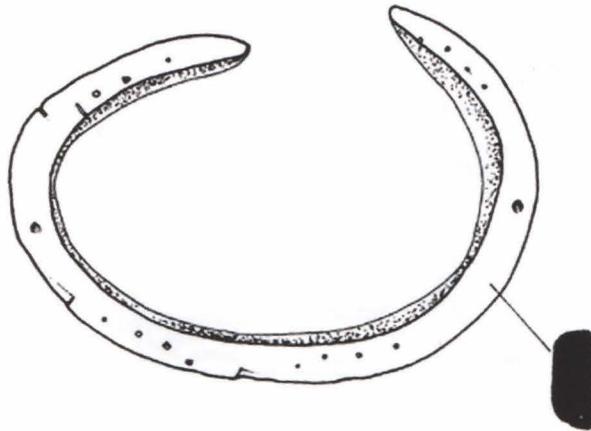
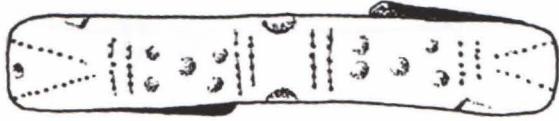
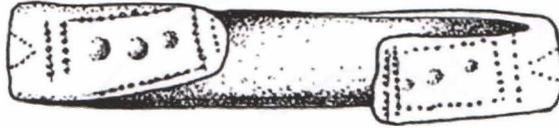
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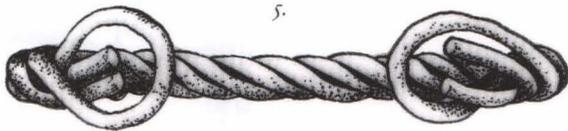
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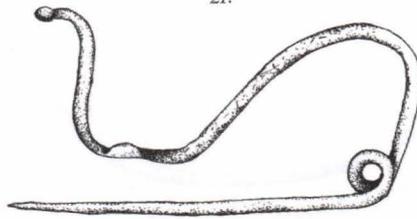


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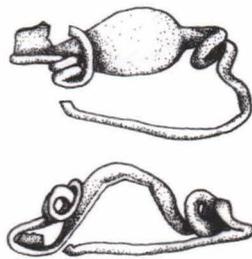
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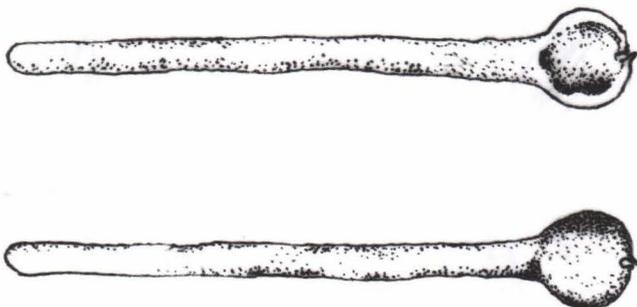
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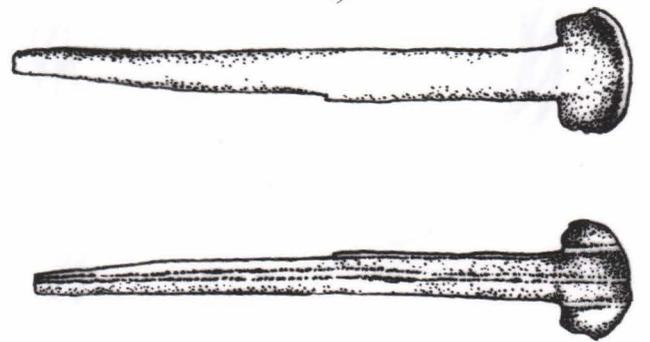
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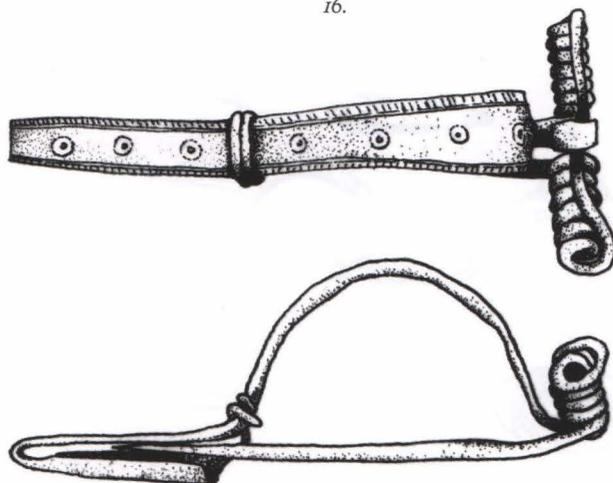
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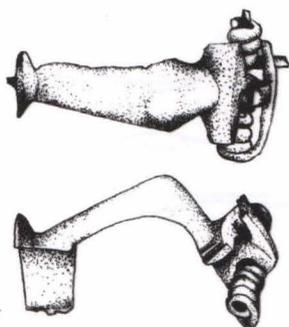
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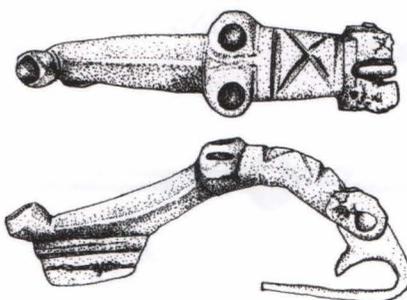
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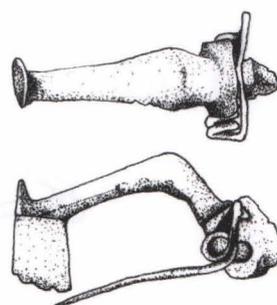
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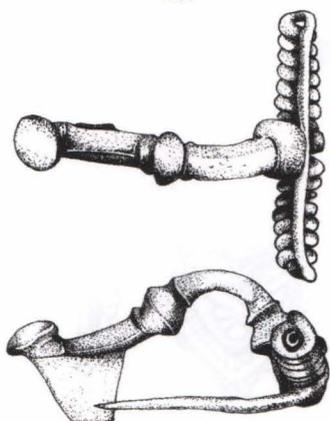
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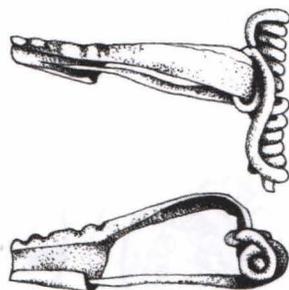
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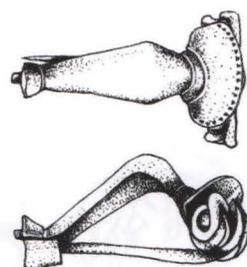
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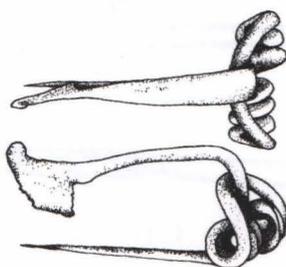
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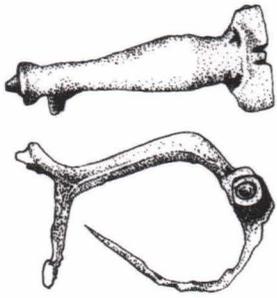
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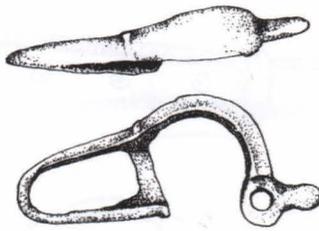
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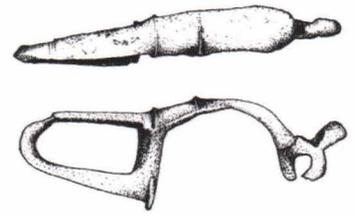
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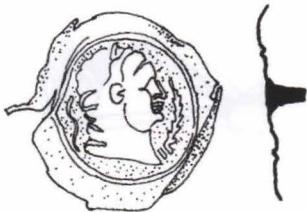
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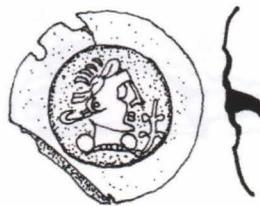


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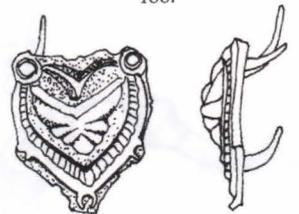
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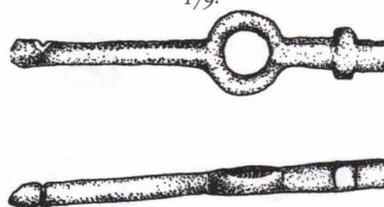
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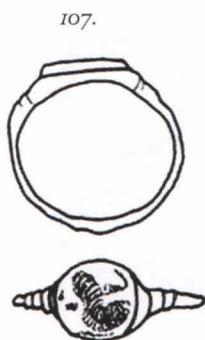
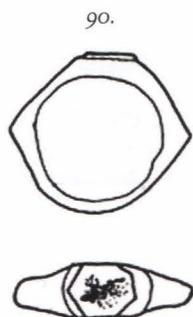
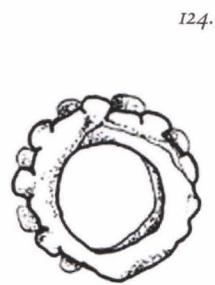
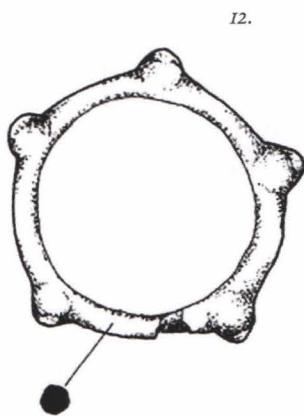
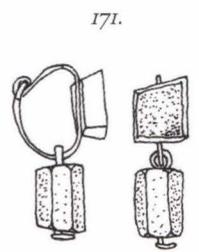
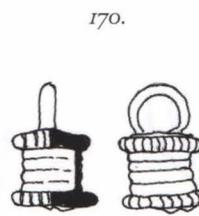
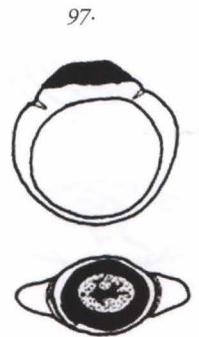
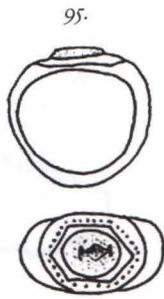
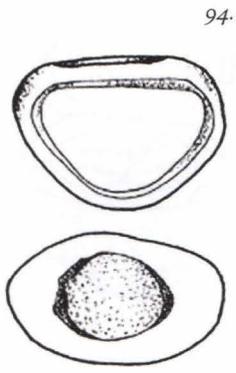
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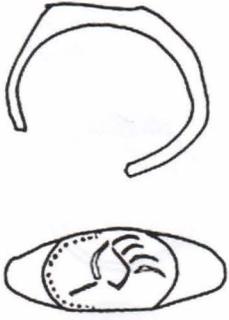
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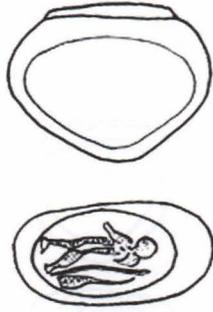
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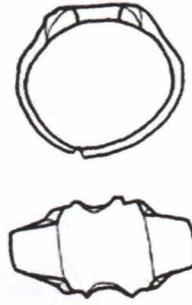
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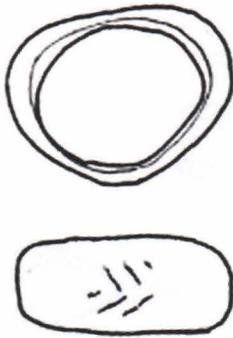
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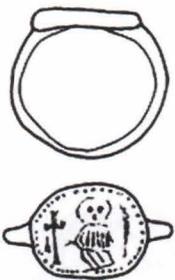
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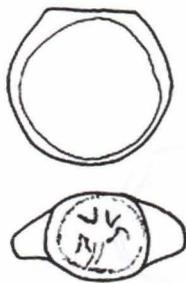
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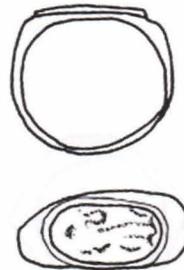
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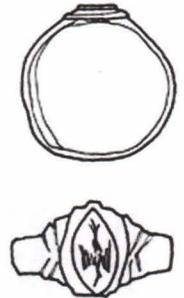
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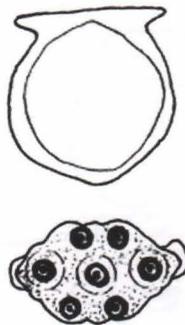
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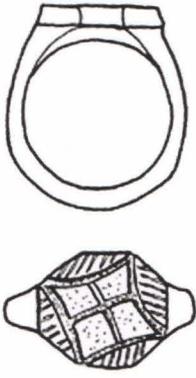
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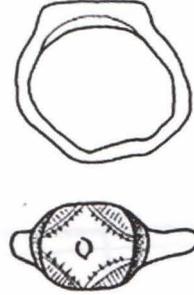
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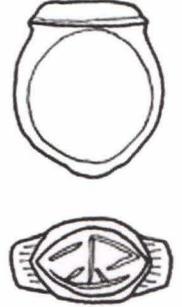
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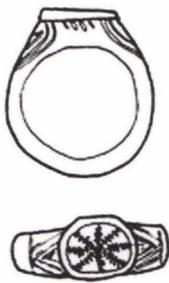
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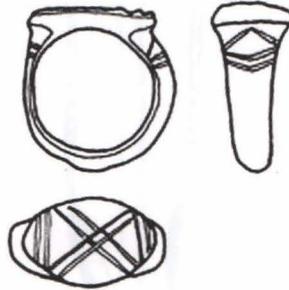
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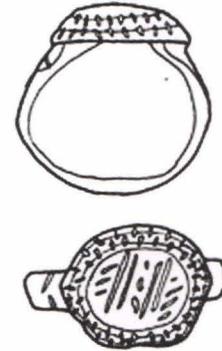
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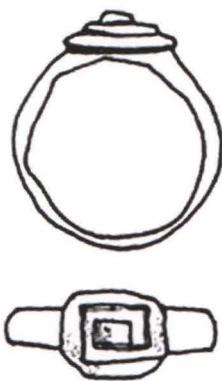
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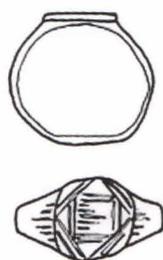
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MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS



# PINS AND NEEDLES

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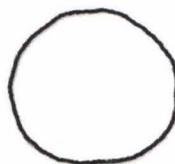
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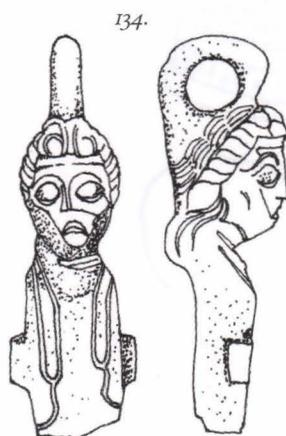
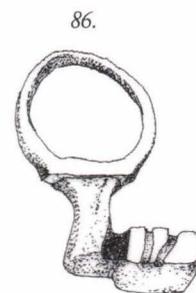
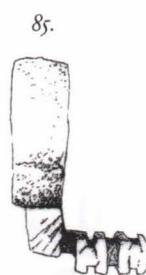
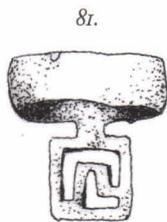
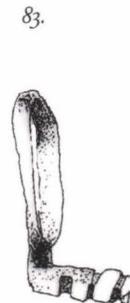
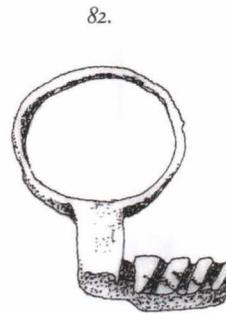
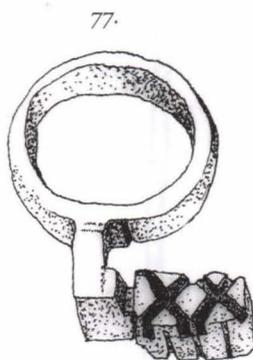
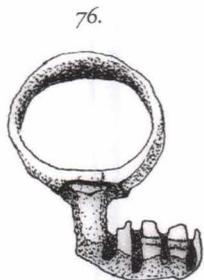
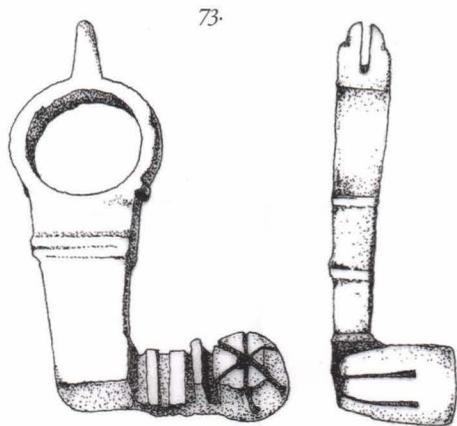
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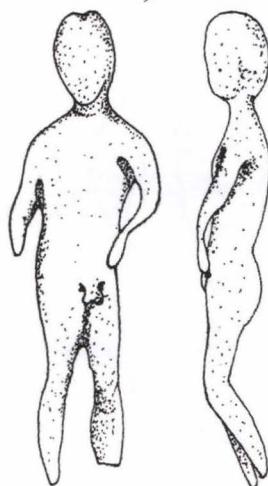


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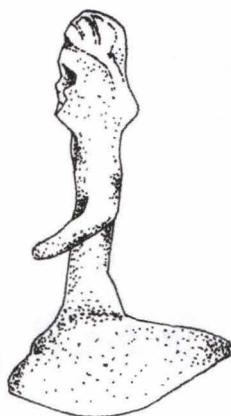
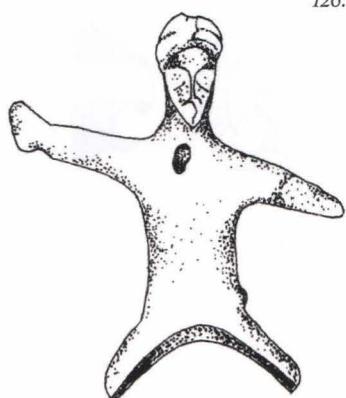


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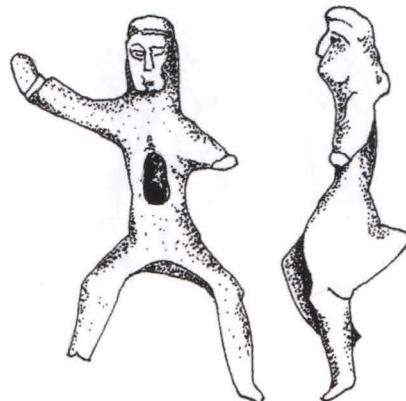
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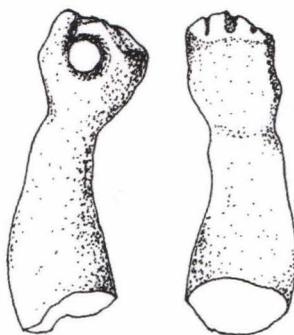
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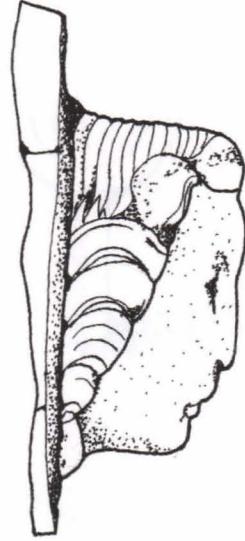


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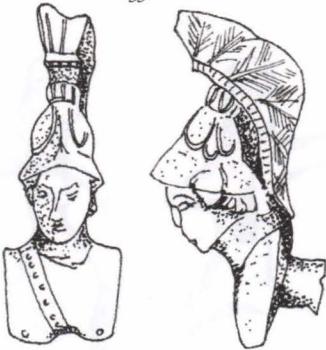


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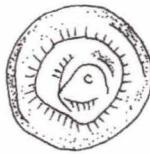
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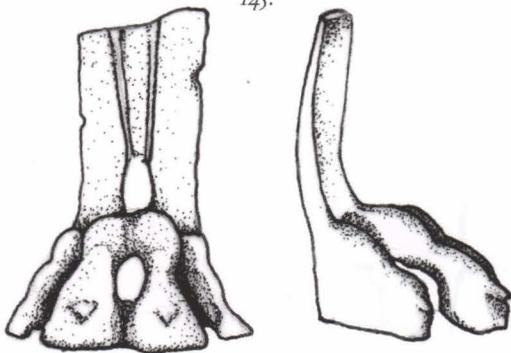
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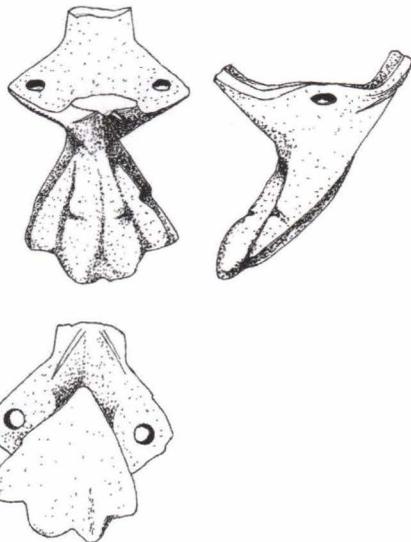
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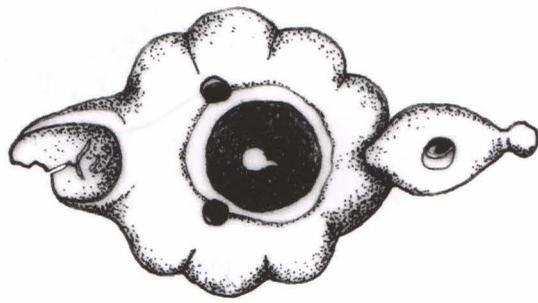
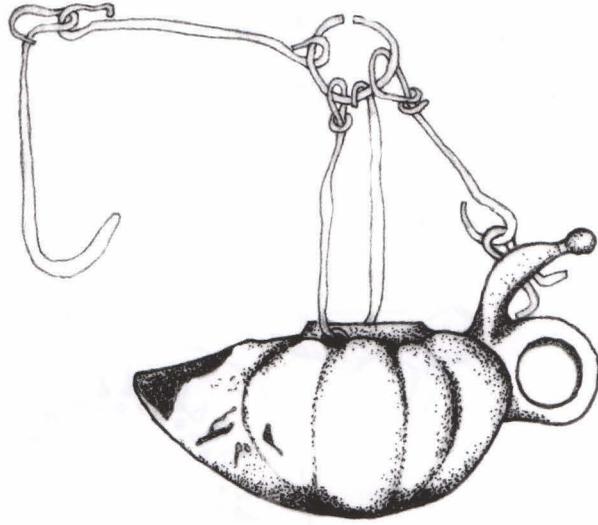


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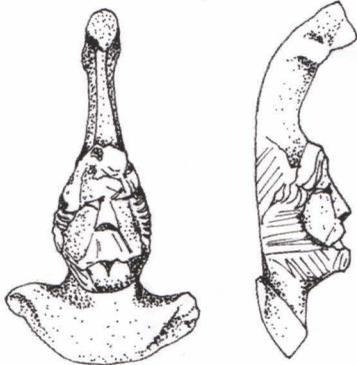


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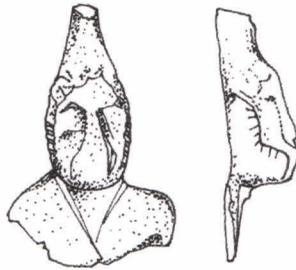




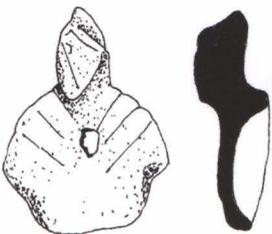
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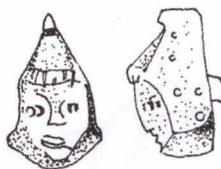
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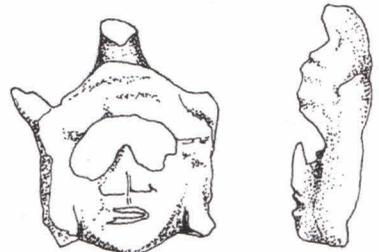
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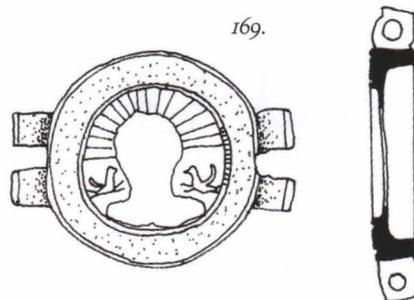
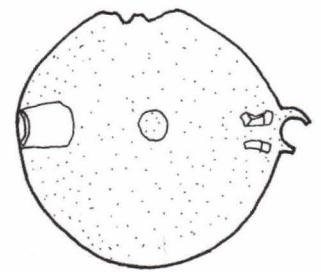
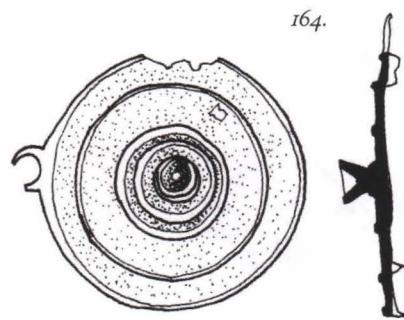
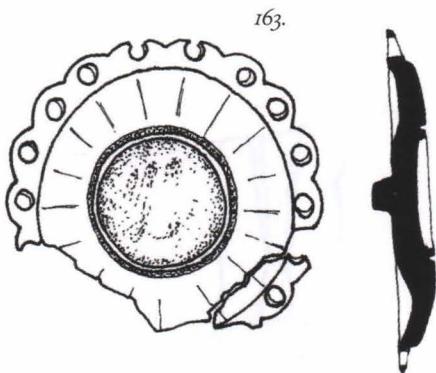
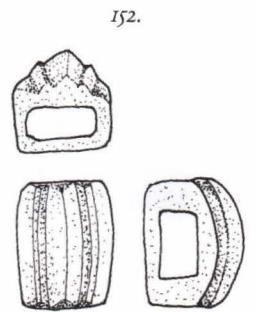
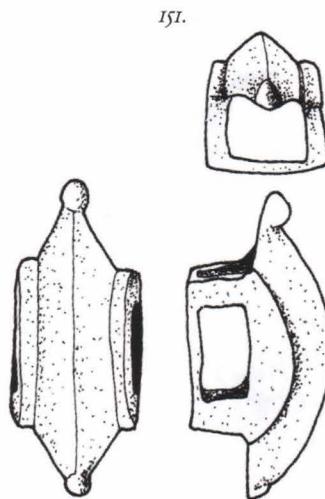
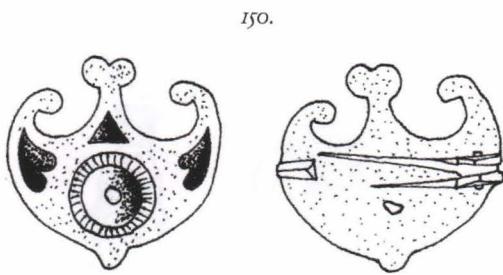
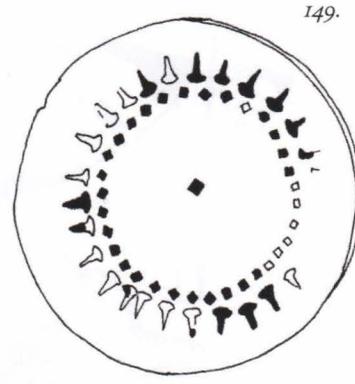
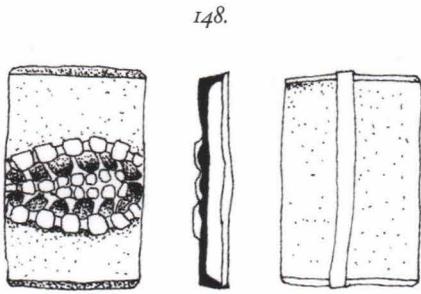
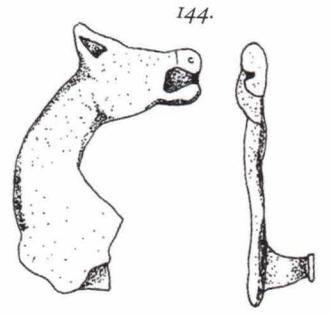
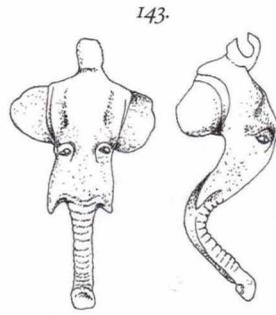
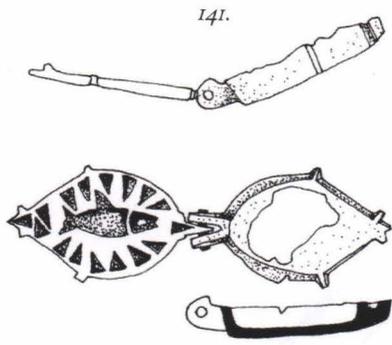


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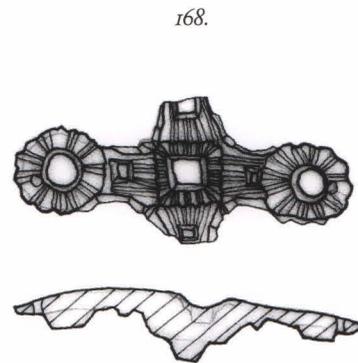
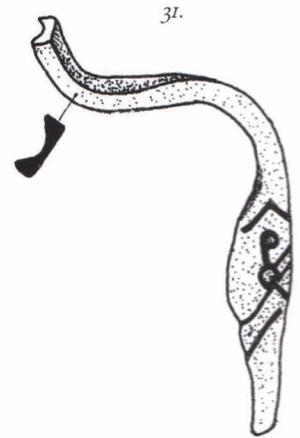
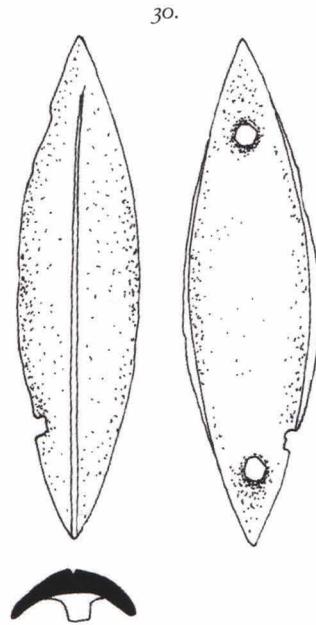
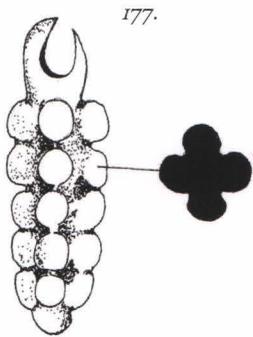
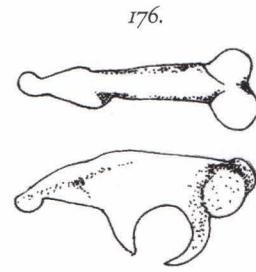
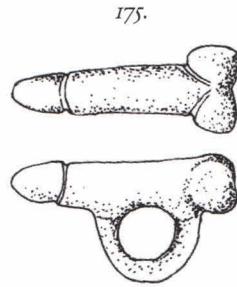
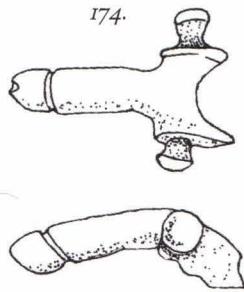


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VLAD V. ZIRRA (21, 27).



*T*REASURE LOST, TREASURE REGAINED

PART I

