

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA



2013 1

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On the cover: a silver gilt cup, 1st c. AD. See the paper of Ignatov / Gospodinov.

Oven Models from Early Bronze Age Settlements in Central and Southern Parts of the Balkan Peninsula

Contribution to the Understanding of Cultural Links between Northern Greece and the Central Balkans in the Early Bronze Age

Aleksandar BULATOVIĆ

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 1 (2013), 1-13

In the spring of 2012, part of a necropolis with burned human remains dating back to the Early Bronze Age was excavated as part of the archaeological assessments conducted along the Niš-Skopje highway in the village of Ranutovac near Vranje¹. Besides numerous vessels made of baked clay and one perforated stone axe, this necropolis also yielded several objects made of baked clay with an unusual appearance. They were reminiscent of lamps that, as it turned out, were not entirely unusual in the southern and central parts of the Balkan peninsula during the Early Bronze Age. No uniform term has yet been adopted to describe them, though they have appeared for decades in the literature. It is interesting that they are usually accompanied by ceramics with identical stylistic-typological characteristics, indicating a uniform material culture, although the territory in question is fairly vast.

These artefacts provided the basis for determining, in greater detail, the links between the populations of the Early Bronze Age that settled in northern Greece and the interior of the Balkan Peninsula by defining their use, origin, distribution and chronology.

CATALOGUE OF SITES (MAP 1)

1. Ranutovac, Meanište site, Vranje, Serbia²; 2. Kokino Selo, Tatikey Kamen site, Kumanovo, Macedonia (Булатовић / Станковски 2012, T. LXIII/45, photo 25/17.); 3. Lopate, Pribovce site, Kumanovo, Macedonia (Sanev 1999, 127-136, pl. VII/1; Mitrevski 2003, 13-72, tab. IV/2); 4. Radobor, Tumba site, Bitola, Macedonia (Sanev 1999, 127-136, pl. VII/3); 5. Bukri, Visok Rid site, Bitola, Macedonia (Sanev 1999, 127-136, pl. VII/2); 6. Korcha, Maliq, Albania (Prendi / Bunguri 2008, tab. XXIV/1, 3); 7. Mandalo, Tumba site, Pela, Greece (Παπαευθυμίου-Παπανθίμου / Πιλάλη-Παπαστερίου 1991, 173-180, fig. 7); 8. Pela, Archontiko site, Giannitsa, Greece (Παπαευθυμίου-Παπανθίμου / Πιλάλη-Παπαστερίου 1997, 147-154, fig. 3; Παπαευθυμίου-Παπανθίμου / Πιλάλη-Παπαστερίου 1998, 83-90, fig. 11); 9. Agios Mamas, Tumba site, Chalkidiki, Greece (Hänsel / Aslanis 2010, Abb. 62).

USE OF THE OBJECTS

All of these objects have the same design – they are comprised of two cylinders, a horizontal and a vertical one (“the chimney”), connected

¹ This paper has been written as part of the scientific research project Cultural Identity, Integrating Factors, Technological Processes and the Role of the Central Balkans in the Development of European Prehistory, number 177 020.

² All finds are unpublished and located in National Museum in Vranje.

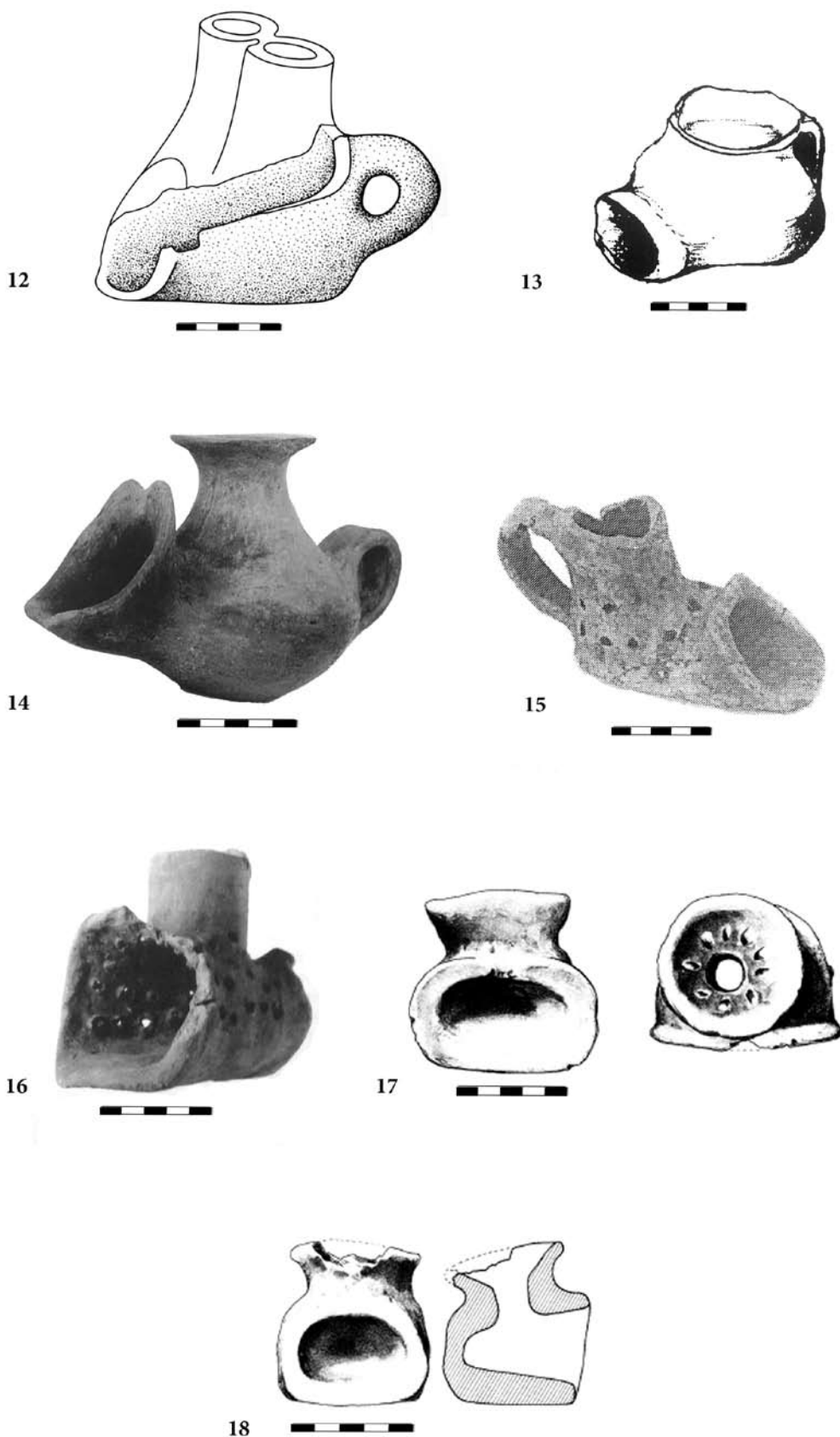


Fig. 12-18: 12 Oven model from Maliq (after Prendi / Bunguri 2008); 13 Oven model from Mandalo near Pela (after Παπαευθυμίου-Παπανθίμου / Πιλάλη-Παπαστερίου 1987); 14-15 Oven models from Archontiko (after Παπαευθυμίου-Παπανθίμου / Πιλάλη-Παπαστερίου 1997; 1998); 16 Oven model from Agios Mamas (after Hänsel / Aslanis 2010); 17-18 Oven models from Varvara, Bosnia (after Čović 1983)

Terracotta Figurines from the Thracian Sanctuary of Tatoul

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 1 (2013), 15-25

Zdravko DIMITROV

The presence of Thracian monuments in Bulgaria has generated enormous interest within the scholarly community for several decades. In particular, the monumental grave complexes and exceptionally attractive gold and silver treasures have been revealed to have formidable exhibition value. They also are of significant importance to tourism development, as they are considered to be some of the most exciting manifestations of Thracian culture from the dawn of the Hellenistic era (the end of 4th to the 3rd century BC). However, recent exploration at Thracian sites has yielded other material that is equally as interesting, although perhaps not as spectacular.

In this paper I wish to present a small corpus of terracotta figurines that is exceptionally rare for the inner lands of Thrace. Associated co-finds place them in the Hellenistic period. These figurines were found in a sanctuary near the village of Tatoul in the municipality of Momchilgrad. This sanctuary is considered to be the largest Thracian cult place in the eastern Rhodopes Mountains and is no more than 50-60 km. from the northern Aegean coast and from the Greek sites of *Ainos*, *Mesembria*, and *Maroneia*, as well from the island of *Thasos*.

The sanctuary of Tatoul was transformed into an important cult center for local Thracian tribes during the Late Bronze Age (15th-12th century BC). From this period our archaeological team¹ found 30 clay altars that provide considerable evidence for large-scale, annual cult practices, located around a huge symbolic grave complex dedicated to an unknown Thracian hero. The focus of the whole complex is an enormous rock-cut pyramid that rises over the sanctuary and that was altered in the Late Bronze Age by the cutting of two sarcophagus-like grave niches (**fig. 1**). In the mid-1970s prof. I. Venedikov, prof. Al. Fol, and prof. V. Gerasimova proposed the hypothesis that this cult place had been a sanctuary-*heroon* connected directly with the cult of Orpheus that was so widespread among the Thracian tribes (Венедиков / Виходцевски 1972, 5-24; Герасимова-Томова 1978, 123-124; Мегалитите 1976). Literary evidence confirms that. Description of a sanctuary-*heroon* dedicated to Orpheus is found in the writings of the 1st-century mythographer Konon, and it conforms very closely to the present character of the sanctuary as it was revealed by the close of archaeological exploration in 2007. This corresponds to a second phase in the life of the Tatoul sanctuary, which dates to the early Hellenistic era (end of 4th / beginning of the 3rd century BC).

From this second period of Tatoul's history, at the beginning of the 3rd century BC, we found a transplanted model of a classical *heroon*

¹ Assoc. Prof. Dr. habil. Nikolay Ovcharov – head of the excavations; Assist. Prof. Dr. Zdravko Dimitrov and Daniela Kodzhamanova – deputy-heads of the excavations; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasimir Leshtakov – consultant.

Fig. 2. The portable clay altar with floral and animal images, found in the *temenos* of Tatoul sanctuary – early Hellenistic epoch: the end of 4th / beginning of the 3rd c. BC (photo: Z. Dimitrov)

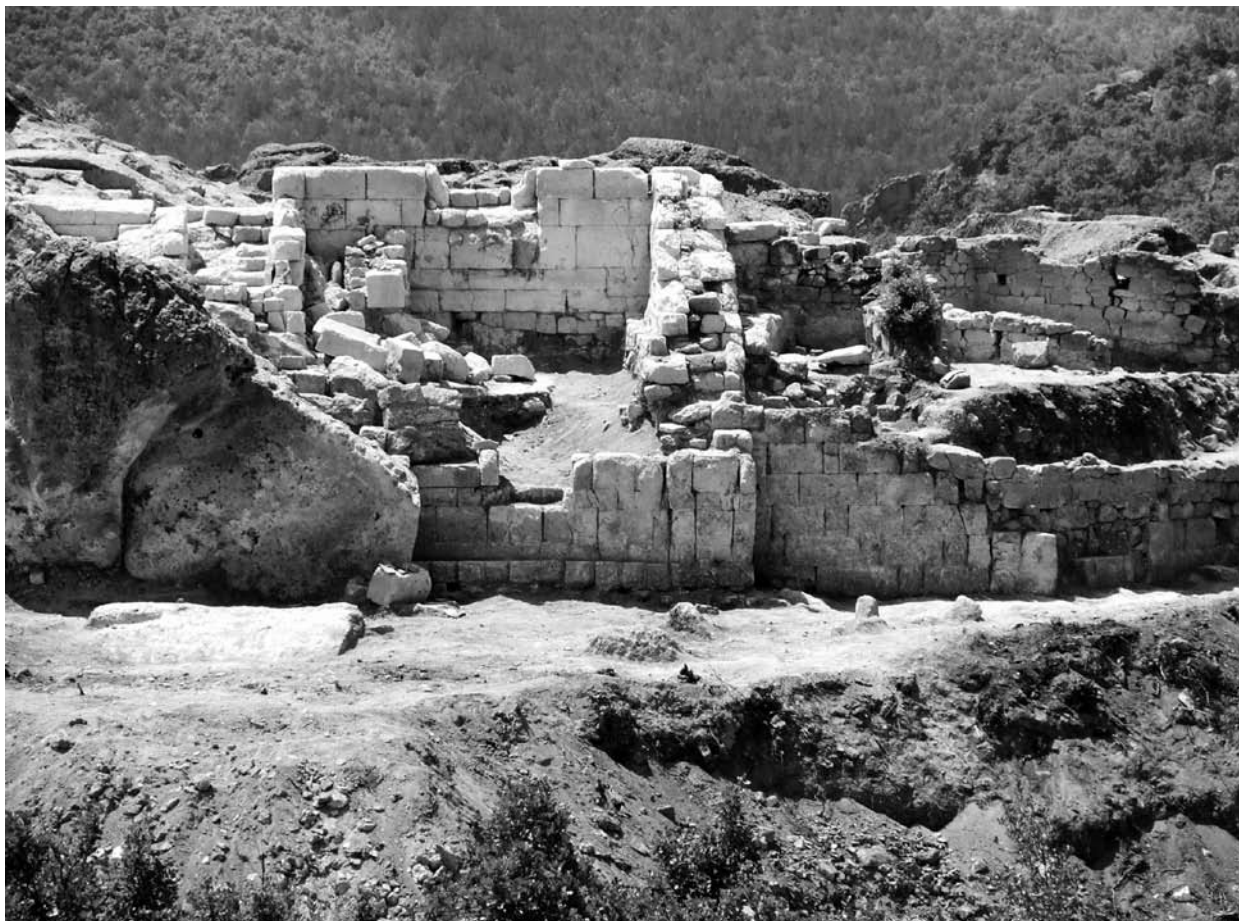


Fig. 3. The main cult building from the *heroon* of Tatoul – early Hellenistic epoch: the end of 4th / beginning of the 3rd c. BC (photo: Z. Dimitrov)

Eine reiche Bestattung eines thrakischen Aristokraten aus dem 1. Jh.n.Chr. bei Karanovo, Kreis Nova Zagora, Südbulgarien

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 1 (2013), 27-47

Veselin IGNATOV / Konstantin GOSPODINOV

1.3 km nordwestlich vom Dorf Karanovo, am Fuß der Sredna Gora, liegt ein aus wissenschaftlichen Veröffentlichungen gut bekanntes antikes Objekt¹. Seit 1976 wurden im Zusammenhang mit Bautätigkeiten bei der Anlegung eines Bewässerungskanals archäologische Ausgrabungen durchgeführt, die mit einigen Unterbrechungen bis 1998 andauerten. Außer dem Objekt wurden einige Grabhügel aus seiner Nekropole ganz oder teilweise erkundet (Кънчев / Борисов 1981; Кънчев / Кънчева-Русева 1996).

Ende Oktober 2008 wurden nach Interventionen von Schatzgräbern archäologische Rettungsgrabungen am östlichsten Grabhügel der Nekropole durchgeführt². Wegen seiner Lage ist er unter dem Namen Osthügel bekannt. Der Hügel liegt in 980 m Entfernung nordwestlich vom Zentrum des Dorfes. Er ist leicht ellipsenförmig, misst 63-77 m im Durchmesser und ist mit der Längsachse Nord-Süd orientiert. Seine Höhe beträgt 11 m. Im Jahre 2008 wurde im südöstlichen Sektor des Hügels gearbeitet; dort wurde ein Komplex, bestehend aus einem antiken Wagen und Skeletten von zwei Zugpferden und einem Hund, erforscht (Ignatov 2009).

Im Jahre 2009 wurden die Ausgrabungen im Nordteil der östlichen Hälfte des Hügels fortgeführt. Das Ziel war die Erkundung des Grabes selbst, die Suche nach Reitpferden und die Feststellung der während des Begräbnisses ausgeführten Riten.

Erreicht wurde eine Tiefe von 5 m, gemessen vom höchsten Punkt des Hügels (225.6 m). Zu diesem Zeitpunkt der Forschung wurde klar, dass die Hügelaufschüttung aus vielen kleinen Hügeln besteht, die aus Erde mit unterschiedlicher Struktur und Farbe bestehen und durch Anhäufung von Erde dazwischen vereint sind (**Abb. 1**). Diese Art der Aufschüttung wurde auch bei den Ausgrabungen anderer großer Hügel beobachtet (Георгиева 2000, 153; Буюклиев 1986, 9; Китов / Агре 2002, 114; Ников / Велков 2010, 249-250). Die übereinstimmenden, gleichmäßig ausgebreiteten Schichten lassen die Idee aufkommen, dass die Thraker ein durch Tiertriebkraft bewegtes Transportband zur Aufschüttung benutzt haben könnten.

Nahe dem geometrischen Zentrum des Hügels, in einer Tiefe von 4.50 m unter dem höchsten Punkt des Hügels, wurde die Oberseite eines gemauerten Ziegelgrabs aufgedeckt (**Abb. 2**). Es besitzt einen rechteckigen Grundriss und eine Gewölbeüberdeckung (**Abb. 3a-b**). Im Plan weist das Grab folgende Maximalausmaße auf:

¹ Ausführliche Liste der Veröffentlichungen siehe bei Игнатов 1999.

² Die Ausgrabungen wurden von folgendem Team durchgeführt: V. Ignatov, K. Gospodinov und S. Borisova.



Abb. 15. Bronzegefäß mit Ausgusstülle in der Form eines Eberkopfes mit Horn zwischen den Zähnen
(Foto: S. Borisova)



Abb. 16. Mit der Hygiene und den Begräbnisriten verbundene Gefäße und Gegenstände in der nordöstlichen Ecke
(Foto: V. Ignatov)



Abb. 17. Gegenstände und Gefäße in der nordöstlichen Ecke des Grabes
(Foto: V. Ignatov und S. Borisova):
1 Bronzekännchen; 2 bronzene Patera;
3 bronzene Oinochoe; 4 bronzene Schüssel, 5 Detail des Strigilishalters;
6 Strigilishalter mit fünf Strigileis;
7 bronzene Kanne

Seventh-Century Fibulae with Bent Stem in the Balkans

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 1 (2013), 49-70

Florin CURTA

Despite being recognized as a hallmark of the so-called Koman(i) culture, later fibulae with bent stem from the western region of the Balkans have never received adequate attention (Spahiu 1986, 90: “le bijou le plus répandu” of the Komani culture)¹. To date, there is no special study of this category of dress accessories, despite the fact that scholars commonly treat them as the last stage in the evolution of the late antique fibulae with bent stem (Popović 1984, 217; Riemer 2010, 330). In Albania, for a long time, the fibulae with bent stem have been regarded as the foremost element linking the Koman(i) culture to the Iron-Age civilization of the Illyrians, the main focus of Albanian nationalism during the Communist period (Anamali 1966, 203; Anamali 1969, 550-551; for the Koman(i) culture and Albanian nationalism, see Bowden / Hodges 2004; Veseli 2006). Yugoslav archaeologists insisted on the typological relation of the later fibulae with bent stem to specimens from military sites in the Balkans dated to the reign of Justinian (527-565) and his successors (Rajterić-Sivec 1974, 558; Јанковић 1980, 179; Popović 1984, 217). Few have noticed that the fibulae found on seventh-century sites in Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Greece are both larger (longer) and with bows much wider than both their Iron-Age and their sixth-century supposed archetypes (However, see Vinski 1971, 388). For example, the largest specimen known so far was found in Biogradi (Bosnia) and is 11.5 cm long, but most sixth-century fibulae are half that size (Čremošnik 1987-1988, pl. IV/6). By contrast, several seventh-century fibulae reach up to 15 cm in length. Syna Uenze believed that at the origin of the seventh-century fibulae from the western Balkans were sixth-century specimens with bow wider than the stem, but almost all specimens she could mention as examples were found in the northern parts of the Balkans, away from the sites of the Koman(i) culture (Uenze 1992, 149). How could fibulae popular in the sixth century in the Danube valley become the predominant fashion in the highlands of Albania during the seventh century? When did the latter begin to be deposited in burial assemblages, and how could this practice be explained in terms of continuity from Late Antiquity to the early Middle Ages? Why did a typically sixth-century female dress accessory continue to be used after 600 only in the western Balkans? In this paper, I intend to answer some of those questions through a systematic study of 140 fibulae with bent stem known so far from assemblages that could, with some degree of certainty be dated after the year 600². All those assemblages are from cemetery sites, as no fibulae have so far been found on any other kind of site³. In many cases, there is no description and no seemingly illustration to allow for

¹ Popović 1984, 218 with note 101 is the only scholar to have called for a special study dedicated to the later fibulae with bent stem.

² The chronology of the so-called Koman(i) culture is poorly studied, although Etleva Nallbani's dissertation (Nallbani 2002) promises to correct that problem. I have included in the Appendix all fibulae on which sufficient information has been published to allow a rough dating after 600.

³ The archaeology of early medieval settlements is notoriously under-developed in Albania and the surrounding regions. See Curta 2013.

Fig. 3. Later fibulae with bent stem:
 1 Prilep; 2 Shurdhah; 3 Koman; 4
 Derjan. After Mikulčić 2002, 357, fig.
 257/2; Komata 1979-1980, 118, pl.
 IV/10; Ippen 1907, 18, fig. 28/3; Kurti
 1971, pl. III/1

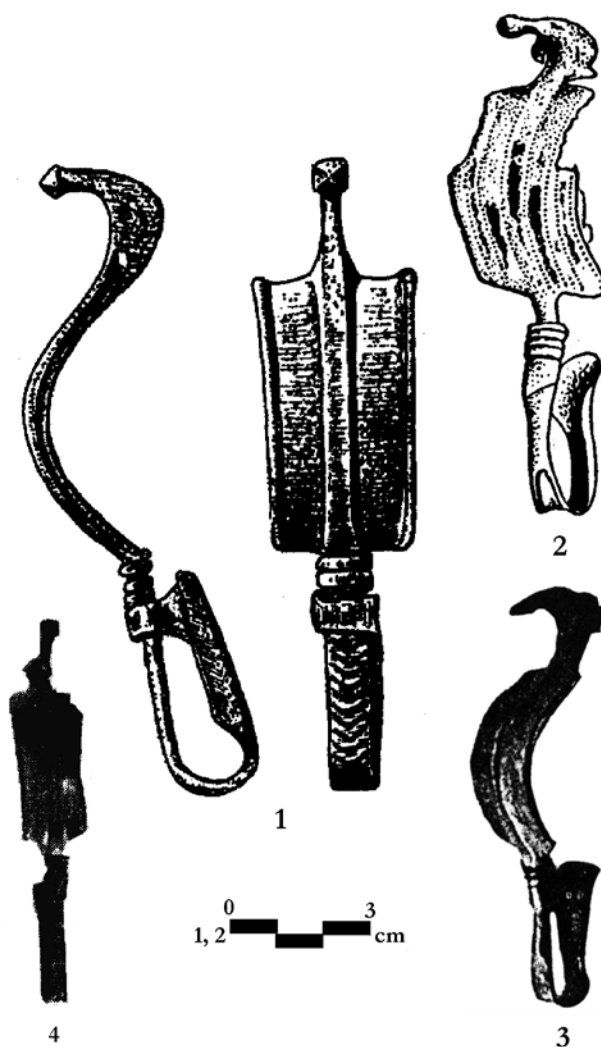
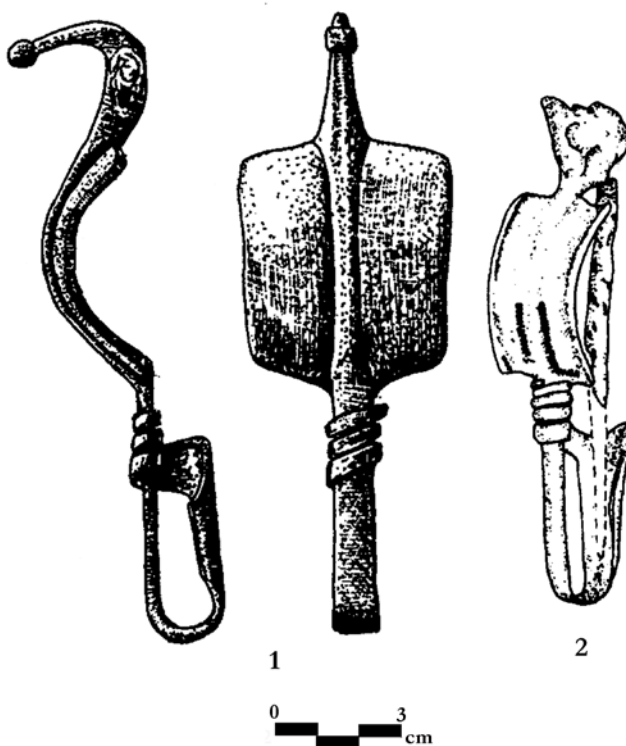


Fig. 4. Later fibulae with bent stem:
 1 Prilep; 2 Prosek, grave 14. After
 Mikulčić 2002, 357, fig. 257/1; Doda
 1989, 171, pl. VIII/1



Elemental Composition of Metal Artefacts from the 10th c. Metal Art Centre near the Village of Zlatar, Preslav Region, NE Bulgaria

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 1 (2013), 71-85

Stela DONCHEVA / Iliya PENEV / Galina TSEKOVA / Enikő FURU / Zita SZIKSZAI / Imre UZONYI

INTRODUCTION

The discovery of three 10th c. metal art centres in the vicinity of the capital of Preslav, i.e. near the villages of Novosel, municipality of Shumen, Zlatar, municipality of Preslav and Nadarevo, municipality of Targovishte, gave birth to a new trend in medieval Bulgarian archaeology. The investigations made on the Novosel and Zlatar sites helped to clarify some controversial issues connected with the role of a large number of metal items found by archaeologists or donated to museums in the past two decades. The results from the successful completion of the excavations on the Novosel metal art centre are the subject of a recently printed monograph (Бонев / Дончева 2011). The investigation of the second centre – that near the village of Zlatar, started in 2007 and is still in progress. A total of 2000 artefacts have been found so far at both sites. Most of them are metal items, such as belt decorations: appliquéés, end caps, and buckles; cult objects: crosses and medallions; jewellery: rings and earrings; and single and double sided stamps. The collection of jewellery making tools is also rich and includes various items, such as iron tools and crucibles. The ceramics and coins (folles of Leo VI (866-912), Romanos I Lekapenos (920-944), Constantine VII and Romanos II (945-950) help us to determine that both metal art centres were active in the first half of the 10th century AD.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

One of the most important tasks, along with investigation of the separate workshop lay-outs and production techniques, and classification of findings, was to determine the elemental make-up of metal artefacts. Our main aim was to establish the percentage of base elements, as well as the so-called trace elements in the alloys of some selected samples of metalwork. The results would enable us get a clear idea of the metals used in the process of casting, which could then serve as a basis of comparison with findings from other archaeological sites. That could provide a good start for the search of the sources of raw materials and the routes for their delivery to the metal art centres. Moreover, that would give us precious information not only on the

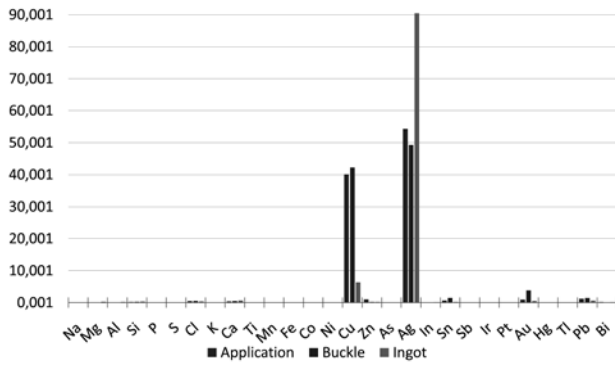


Fig. 1. Elemental composition of silver alloy. Linear scale

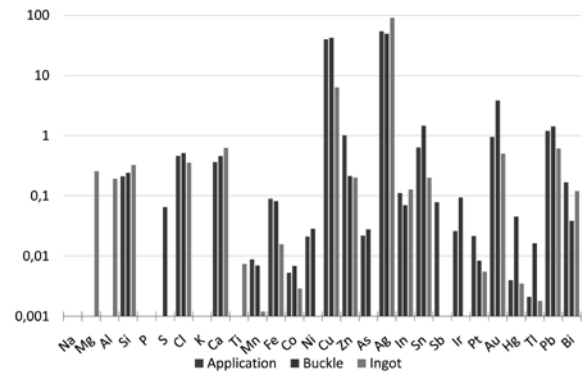


Fig. 2. Elemental composition of silver alloy. Logarithmic scale

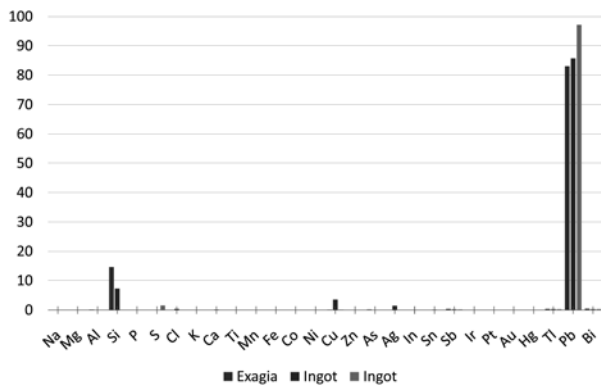


Fig. 3. Elemental composition of lead alloy. Linear scale

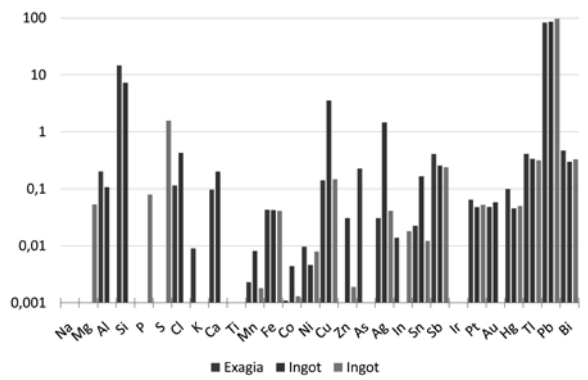


Fig. 4. Elemental composition of lead alloy. Logarithmic scale

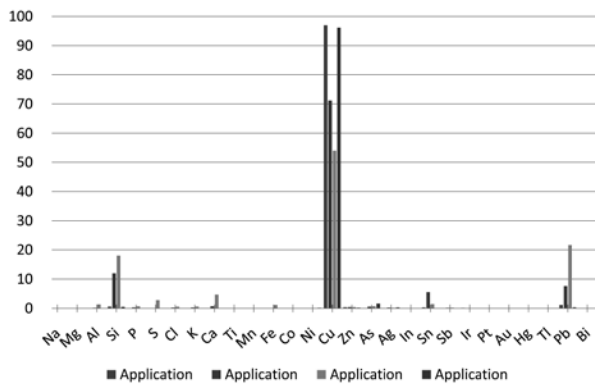


Fig. 5. Elemental composition of bronze. Linear scale

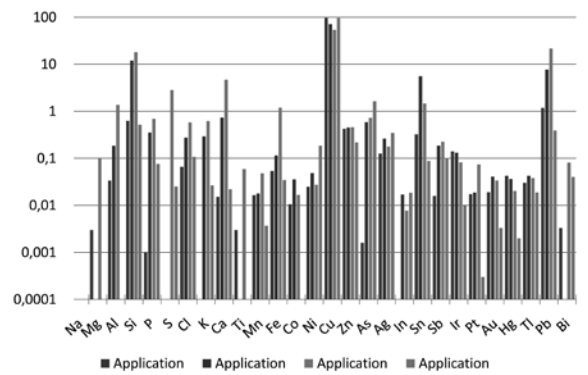


Fig. 6. Elemental composition of bronze. Logarithmic scale

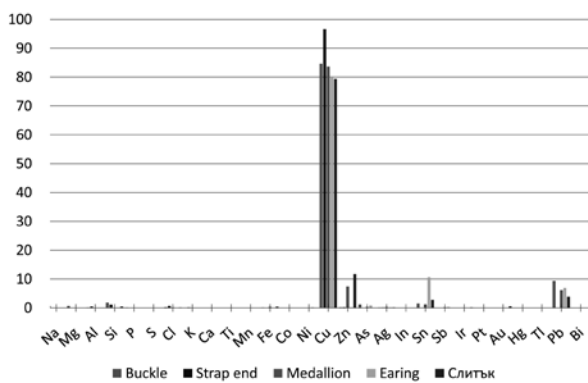


Fig. 7. Elemental composition of bronze. Linear scale

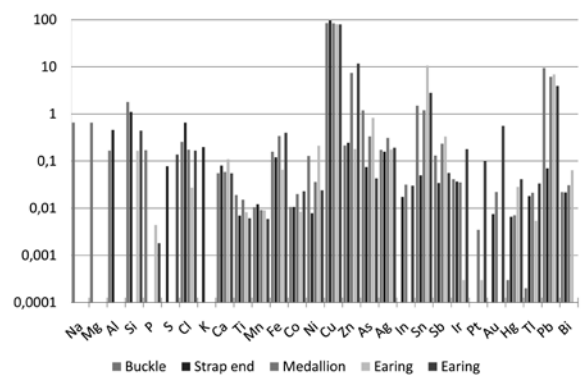


Fig. 8. Elemental composition of bronze. Logarithmic scale

REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 1 (2013), 87-93

**Lyudmil VAGALINSKI / Nicolay SHARANKOV
/ Sergey TORBATOV (eds.). The Lower
Danube Roman Limes (1st – 6th c. AD). National
Archaeological Institute with Museum-BAS, Sofia,
2012, 526 pp.**

Pünktlich zum 22. Internationalen Limeskongress in Ruse erschien ein Sammelband zum Limes an der unteren Donau, der den Forschungsstand an diesem Abschnitt der römischen Reichsgrenze kompakt in einem handlichen Buchformat zusammenfasst. Die Herausgeber verzichteten auf einen topographisch gegliederten Aufbau des Werks. Wer einen Limesführer erwartete, wie er beispielsweise 2003 in Ungarn (Visy 2003), 2006 in Léon (Morillo Cerdán / Aurrecoechea Fernández 2006) oder 2009 in Newcastle (Bidwell / Hodgson 2009) vorgelegt wurde, wird enttäuscht sein, doch sei auf ältere Zusammenstellungen verwiesen (Ivanov 1997; Gudea 2005), die primär diesen Anspruch erfüllen. Stattdessen entschieden sich die Herausgeber für eine thematisch organisierte Aufbereitung des Themas, deren inhaltlicher Schwerpunkt auf dem 471 km langen bulgarischen Abschnitt der römischen Donaugrenze gerichtet ist. In der Antike ist dieses Gebiet Teil der Provinz *Moesia inferior*.

Einzelne Beiträge sind allerdings breiter angelegt, greifen über die Provinzgrenzen hinaus und gehen auf vergleichbare und unterschiedliche Entwicklungen insbesondere in den Nachbarprovinzen Obermösien und Thrakien ein. Dies ist beispielsweise notwendig bei der Frage nach der Konstituierung der Provinz *Moesia* im früheren 1. Jahrhundert n. Chr. (Dilyana Boteva), wo hinsichtlich dem erstmaligen Auftreten der *Mysi/Moesi* in den Schriftquellen, der Lokalisierung ihrer Siedlungsräume und der Etablierung beständiger Verwaltungsgrenzen von den ersten Jahrzehnten nach der Zeitenwende bis in flavische Zeit große Unsicherheiten bestehen. Die auf den Seiten 18 bis 21 tabellarisch erfassten Textstellen, darunter relevante Belege bei Cäsar, Cicero, Sallust, Horaz, Livius, Ovid u.a., wird man als hilfreichen Einstieg in die Problematik zu schätzen wissen.

Nach dieser historischen Einleitung folgt ein topographischer Überblick über die wichtigsten Plätze des römischen Limes in Bulgarien aus der Feder von Rumen Ivanov (S. 23-42). Dabei wird deutlich, dass nach wie vor große Schwierigkeiten bestehen, die Struktur und Entwicklung des Limes am unteren Donauabschnitt nachzuvollziehen. Vieles ist zwar in den Grundzügen bekannt, wie die anfängliche Errichtung von Holz-Erde-Anlagen, die in *Augustae* und *Novae* nachgewiesen sind, auf die dann später Steinbauten nachfolgten. Vielfach werden noch immer überlieferte historische Ereignisse herangezogen, um Baubefunde ohne eingehende archäologische Überprüfung zeitlich einzuordnen, zumeist weil moderne, unter stratigrafischen Gesichtspunkten ausgeführte Grabungen weitgehend fehlen. Die älteste, nachgewiesene Steinbefestigung in *Ratiaria* (Abb. 2) wird beispielsweise in das Jahr 86 datiert, dem Jahr der Provinzteilung in *Moesia inferior* und *superior*. Sie soll bis in das Jahr 106 bestanden haben, als *Ratiaria* den Status einer *colonia Ulpia Traiana* erhielt. Grundrisspläne wie der Abb. 3, die die nordwestliche Umwehrung