

## LATE ROMAN NECROPOLIS BELJNJAČA IN ŠID

UDC  
DOI  
Preliminary communication

Received: February 24, 2009  
Accepted: May 04, 2009

**Abstract:** After accidental discovery of the Late Roman sarcophagus in Šid there were conducted rescue archaeological excavations in 1998. On that occasion has been discovered underground rectangular structure – crypt where the sarcophagus had been placed. In the immediate vicinity has been discovered a grave of a female buried in simple burial pit. In this work we are discussing representations of soldiers on the sarcophagus, dating of the find and possibility of the villa existing in the immediate vicinity of the necropolis.

**Key words:** Lower Pannonia, Late Roman period, Šid, necropolis, sarcophagus, representation of the officer, military belt, fibulae.

After accidental discovery of the marble sarcophagus in the Mičurinova St. in the district of Šid known as Beljnjača in 1997, rescue archaeological excavations were conducted in the following year (1998) in an attempt to investigate the immediate vicinity of the find.<sup>1</sup> The site is situated around 600 meters far from the city center on the left bank of the Šidina River. The investigations carried out so far in order to define the line of antique communication passing through Srem indicated the presence of the Roman culture in the city as well as in its vicinity.<sup>2</sup> The excavations carried out in 1998 provided for the first time the reliable data about the antique past of Šid (Fig. 1).

Using the test-trenching system we investigated the remains of the funerary architecture where the

sarcophagus was deposited (G-1) as well as one grave of the dead buried in a simple burial pit (G-2), which was in the immediate vicinity (Fig. 2).

### Crypt

The rectangular structure was partially buried under the ground level. As the walls were almost completely destroyed, only their remains consisting of mortar impressions in the clayey virgin soil have been encountered. Therefore, the height of the walls, their

- 1 The investigations were carried out in cooperation of the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade, Sava Šumanović Gallery in Šid and the Office for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Sremska Mitrovica. Director of excavations was academician Vladislav Popović.
- 2 Popović 1978, 101-102; Сремац 2008, 325.

\*The article results from the project: *Urbanization and Transformation of the City Centers of Civil, Military and Residential Character in the Region of the Roman Provinces Moesia, Pannonia, Dalmatia* (no 147001) funded by the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

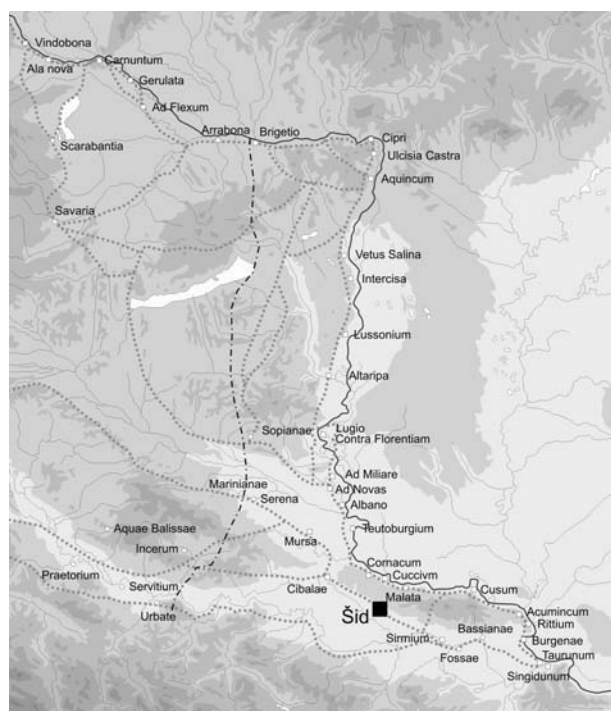


Fig. 1. Position of Šid in Lower Pannonia

Сл.1. Положај Шига у Доњој Панонији

highest point and the shape of the vault could have not been determined. On the basis of the highest preserved point of the virgin soil next to the northeastern side of the structure it could be concluded that it was buried at least 1.30 meters under the ground level. However, if we accept the possibility that present-day ground level (110.30 m ASL) corresponds to the level of the antique ground, then it could be concluded that the floor of the crypt was almost three meters under the ground level. As it could have been concluded in the investigations the crypt consisted of one room of square plan (3.16 x 3.27m) where the sarcophagus has been discovered. The external dimensions of the crypt are somewhat larger - 3.80 x 3.93 m. The northeastern wall is the one, which is the most damaged and it was recorded only as an impression of lime mortar in yellow clay, while wall 5 in the northwest has been only partially explored because its southwestern section was in the profile of the trench. The thickness of both walls is approximately 0.32 m. The southeastern wall 1 is preserved in places up to the height of one course of bricks (370x296x35 mm) laid in the lime mortar. Slightly better preserved is the southwestern side of the crypt where an extension next to wall 3 towards the southwest has been encountered. The extension consists of the row of horizontal bricks placed

Fig. 2. Plan of the site Belnjača

Сл. 2. Основа локалитета Бельнача Р 1:50

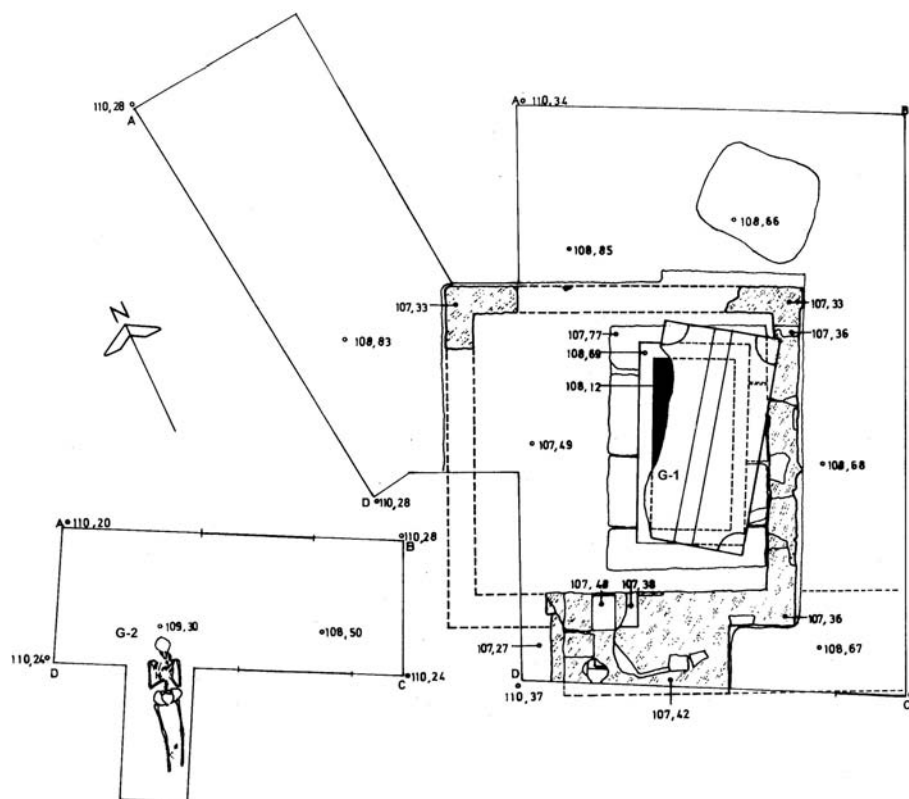




Fig. 3a, b. Brick with human representation

Сл. 3а, б. Оџека са људском ѓредсџавом

on the lime mortar and its length has been explored up to 0.75 m. As the extension entered the trench profile it was not possible to define completely its spreading towards the southeast and consequently its purpose.

The room floor, which was raised for few centimeters (107.47 m) above the foundation zone of the walls (107.33 m), consisted of packed brown earth mixed with lumps of mortar. There have not been noticed any traces of the floor pavement.

The sarcophagus standing on the base of stone blocks and raised 0.30 m from the crypt floor was placed next to the southeastern wall of the crypt. The base consisted of two large stone blocks at both ends and few smaller stones in the middle of the base. The junction of sarcophagus and base was covered from the outside with the hydrostatic mortar.

Large number of the fresco fragments and one brick with mortar and fresco decoration on it have been found in the course of investigation this underground chamber, in the substantial layer of building rubble filling the room. The fragmentariness of the frescoes does not make possible recognition and reconstruction of the motifs, which were once embellishing the walls. Various nuances of yellow, green, blue, red and brown color as well as borders and floral motifs indicate that

crypt walls were lavishly decorated. Among the material discovered in the rubble was also one fragmented brick on which a human figure had been finger-drawn before firing (Fig. 3a, b). On the brick surface are visible remains of lime and hydrostatic mortar suggesting probably that this brick once was part of the masonry structure.

Rather vague drawing shows the round head with eyes and nose, right extended arm holding a spear (?) and an ellipse with two hollows to the left. Above the head are two semicircles around 3 cm apart and between them is a series of vertical lines. Under the right arm is a curved line. As larger segment of the brick is missing it is difficult to assume what complete representation was looking like. At a rough guess it could be interpreted as the representation of a soldier holding spear in his right hand and small oval shield in the left hand. The latticed motif above the head could be explained as part of a helmet,<sup>3</sup> more precisely the helmet ornament – crest. The transversally placed crest (*cresta transversa*) is known as an element of decoration of the centurion helmets.<sup>4</sup> Two representations of these ornaments from Carnuntum<sup>5</sup> and Poetovio<sup>6</sup> depict the 1<sup>st</sup> century helmets. The crests on Late Roman helmets were usually placed longitudinally. However, on some representations on coins although the helmet was depicted en face the crest was depicted in semi profile.<sup>7</sup> It is interesting that on these coins the emperor was depicted on the obverse with spear in his right hand and shield in the left. It is possible that simple finger-drawing on the brick unskillfully imitates the same motif. But it is difficult to reach final conclusion without analyzing the complete representation.

### Sarcophagus – G1<sup>8</sup>

The marble sarcophagus consisted of rectangular chest made of single large block and the lid carved as the pitched roof<sup>9</sup> (Figs. 4-6). The longer side of the sarcophagus facing northwest is divided into

3 I also considered the possibility that nimbus was represented above the head as suggested by Doc. Dr. Miroslav Vujović, but nimbuses are usually depicted as full circles without segmental circles in the middle as it could be seen on the fresco of Iulius terentius from Dura Europos. James 2004, 41; Pekary 1986, 93.

4 Bishop, Coulston 1993, 93.

5 Tombstone of Titus Calidius Severus, (Krüger 1970, 319).

6 Tombstone of Marcus Petronius Classicus, (Rimljani 2004, 153, fig.6)

7 Constantius II 355-357, Rome, solidus, RIC VIII, 294(A); Constantius II, Sirmium, solidus, RIC VIII, 5; Constantius II, Siscia, solidus, RIC VIII, 357.

8 Results of the iconographic analysis of the sarcophagus were presented on the congress *Roman sarcophagi in Pannonia and Upper Moesia*, Ljubljana 2005. Works from this meeting are in print.

9 Results of petrographic analyses revealed that sarcophagus was made of marble from the east Alpine quarries, Đurić et al. 2008, 116.



Fig. 4. Frontal side of marble sarcophagus

Сл. 4. Предња страна мермерној саркофага

three panels; the larger one is for the inscription and there are two small side ones. In the side panels are depicted male and female figures both on the pedestals while top edge of the panel is decorated with the volute. Such organization of the panels on the frontal side with one bigger and two smaller side panels with the volute on the top is typical for the largest group of sarcophagi from Poetovio,<sup>10</sup> where it is actually assumed that the Šid sarcophagus had been primarily made. The inscription panel with moldings on lateral and bottom edges had on the damaged top edge the motif of Noric-Pannonian volute, the so-called ‘running dog’ that usually appears on the lateral sides.<sup>11</sup> The lateral sides of the sarcophagus are also lavishly decorated, both with identical representations of the affronted lions and between them is a kantharos from which grows the vine with grapes. The traces of blue color on grapes were discernible during excavations but it was wiped off in the course of time, while red color is still visible in certain segments. The back lateral side of the chest facing the wall I was roughly trimmed and without any ornamental elements.

The monolithic lid was also decorated on three sides only. The complete lid is shaped as pitched roof with four corner acroteria of which only three are preserved. On the northwestern longer side is depicted a roof with tegulae and very narrow imbrices. The personifications of the seasons are depicted on the acroteria. Three out of four representations are preserved and they are depicted in a different ways and with many details. Winter is illustrated as a figure with hooded cape fastened with circular fibula and she was holding two animals in the arms. Autumn is also in the cape fastened with circular fibula on the right shoulder and with vessel with fruits in the left hand and many

large fruits gathered in a bunch in the right hand. In the frieze on the longitudinal edge of the lid is depicted the motif of ivy leaves of which just one leaf is preserved. It is interesting that missing marble fragments of the chest and lid have not been discovered during excavations. The head of Medusa with two affronted snakes entangled in a knot around her neck was depicted on both gables. In these figures is also conspicuous the intention of the stonecutter to depict many details like using tiny incisions to accentuate every hair in the curls of Medusa.

In the niche to the right of the inscription panel is depicted an older female figure. Despite the fact that stonecutter also paid here great attention to depict the details, visible in the series of incisions showing pleats on multi-layered clothes, it is not possible to distinguish all their elements. Clearly distinguishable is a long tunic reaching to the ankles (*chiton*) and on top of it are another tunic, probably sleeveless, (*stola*) and bigger cloak (*palla*) covering head and shoulders. Rather rough features with prominent cheek bones and chin indicate the woman of considerable age.

Something that particularly distinguishes the sarcophagus discovered in Šid is the representation of an armored officer with belt and sword<sup>12</sup> (Fig. 8). Man in the military gear is standing on a pedestal and holding spear with triangular spearhead and prominent rib in his right hand. Probably because there was not enough space to show the segment of arm from under the shoulder to the wrist the elbow was not illustrated but the fingers are closing around the spear under the spearhead. Of the left arm is visible just the hand holding the handle of the sword. The position of the figure is completely erect and the body is resting on both legs. The face is depicted *en face*. There are prominent almond-shaped eyes and eyebrows. The nose is considerably damaged while the mouth is depicted by distinct engraving between the lips. Most of the face except the cheeks is covered with beard and moustaches. The short-cut hair combed forward emphasizes the forehead. The ears are large and clearly visible. The entire image of the face corresponds to the typical representation of the man from the time of tetrarchy.

The clothes are depicted in detail and consist of few overlapping layers. The greatest portion of the

10 Đurić 2001, 48.

11 Dautova-Ruševljan 1983, 106.

12 I do not know about the representation on the Late Roman sarcophagi depicting the deceased in armor. The representations of soldiers on the Late Roman stelae from Aquileia depict the deceased with weapons but dresses in a tunic. Rebecchi 1976, 94.



Fig. 5. Right lateral side of sarcophagus

Сл. 5. Десна бочна сѝрана саркофаѝа

figure is covered with a cloak (*sagum*) fastened with a cruciform fibula on the right shoulder. In the moment of discovery the 'eyelets' on the fibula foot were partially visible but they could not be noticed today. This element, which is important for determination of the variant of the cruciform fibulae, identifies this specimen as Keller type III or IV, i.e. the Prötel type 3/4B that are dated in the middle and the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>13</sup> The cloak covers most of the bust where the pleats are depicted by incisions. It is folded over the left arm and falls freely along the left side of the figure where the pleats are depicted in relief. The figure was girded with broad belt under the bust. Under the belt are represented three rows of *pterygae*. The final row of long *pterygae* ends just above the knees. Under them is visible one row of alternating triangles, which depict the tunic worn under the armor. The *pterygae* are also depicted above the elbow on the right upper arm and underneath is a short sleeve. This sleeve was probably the part of the same piece of garment as the previously mentioned pleats – triangles – i.e. of the tunic. It seems reasonable to assume that segment of the bust looking like flat undecorated surface is in fact the armor. Simple footwear – closed *calcei* is depicted on the feet.



Fig. 6. Left lateral side of sarcophagus

Сл. 6. Лева бочна сѝрана саркофаѝа

The belt is illustrated in many details (Fig. 8). The belt plates of propeller shape that are belt ornaments characteristic of the 4<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>14</sup> buckle with pin and massive circular tongue decorated with a series of granules along the edge are clearly visible. Insisting on details the artisan depicted two rivets joining the tongue and the belt as well as two rivets on the buckle plate. The tongue was pulled through the belt frame from the inside thus covering a part of it. The only inconsistency is the size of the tongue, which could not have passed through the buckle frame of depicted size. The tongues shaped as circular plates (*scheibenförmige Riemenzungen*) were in use in Gaul and the Danubian provinces during the 4<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>15</sup> In contrast to the other specimens of this type<sup>16</sup> the tongue depicted on

13 Keller 1971, 37-39; Prötel 1988, 359.

14 Schmidts 2002, 429.

15 Forme C, Typ B (Sommer 1984, 54); Radman-Livaja 2004, 98; It is interesting that tongue of the same type and belt with the propellers were depicted in a fresco from the Later Roman tomb in Silistra (Димитров, Чичикова 1986, 61, fig. 46-48), and on Constantine's triumphal arch in Rome. (Sommer 1984, 84, Abb. e).

16 Gradišće bei Dunaj (Ciglencečki 1994, 241, Abb.2/9), Siscia - kat. br. 356-358 (Radman-Livaja 2004, 136, T-50), Sagvar (Sommer 1984, T-26/10), Manderscheid (Sommer 1984, T-21/8).



Fig. 7. Representation of the officer

Сл. 7. Представа официра

Fig. 8. Detail of belt and sheath

Сл. 8. Депољ ојасача и канија

the sarcophagus has a complete circle of rather large granules along the edge. One of the features that also distinguish this specimen from the existing variants is the end with rivets that is of a trapeze shape.

The sword is depicted on the left side. The rectangular sheath has the incision along both edges while when the handle is concerned just the rectangular wrist guard (*Parierstange*) and the tip of the hilt (*Knauf*) are visible. Opening of the sheath (*Mundblatt*) is denoted by single horizontal incision. Near the tip of the sheath is engraved a simple circle. At the same level but on the lateral side is depicted a strap inserted into the sheath. On the other side it ends under the belt buckle. Unfortunately, the sheath is damaged near the bottom so we do not know how the plating of the sheath tip (*Ortband*) looked like.

I think that the attention should be paid to the way how the strap attached to the sheath was depicted. Namely, the usual way of attaching the sheath in the Late Roman period was to use a distinct part – loop to pull through the crossed strap. On our sarcophagus the loop was not depicted at all but a circle was depicted in its usual place. I assume that this circle illustrates the decoration of semiprecious stones or glass paste that we know from some representations of the Late Roman swords<sup>17</sup> or the swords themselves.<sup>18</sup> It is interesting that loop of the sword from Durostorum was

17 Statue of the tetrarch standing today in front of the St. Mark's church in Venice; representations of Stilicho and Honorius on bone diptyches (Miks 2008, T. 345).

18 Dumanov 2005, 310-311.

also decorated with semiprecious stones. As, however, in our case the strap was pulled through from the side I suppose that simple loop was on the backside of the sheath as it is represented on the Honorius' sword. Other side of the strap, which ends at the belt buckle does not extend above the waist line and thus we can only assume that it was attached somewhere on the backside of the belt. In contrast to carrying the *balteus* over the shoulder that was characteristic of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, attaching the sheath to the belt was typical way of carrying the sword in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>19</sup>

All elements of the clothing and military gear indicate that some important person of higher officer rank had been buried in the sarcophagus. Nevertheless, except general dating of the burial into the 4<sup>th</sup> century there are no indications for more precise dating. The coin of emperor Arcadius from 383/388-392-402<sup>20</sup> has been found between the sarcophagus and eastern corner of the crypt. Judging by the finding place there are few possibilities how and when the coin got into the crypt. The coin could have been deposited next to the deceased during funeral and later displaced when the sarcophagus was plundered and that happened at least twice. The sarcophagus was plundered for the first time when parts of chest and lid were broken from the frontal side. It was plundered for the second time when the lid was removed towards the wall at the time when the wall actually did not exist any more. The lid has been encountered in that position in the beginning of excavations in 1998. The coin could have reached the crypt during the visits to the deceased – using of the crypt after the funeral or even during plundering. As there are few mentioned possibilities we are not ready to date with certainty the time of burial in the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century on the basis of the coin find although this possibility still remains plausible. Other elements including the cruciform fibula, plates of propeller shape on the belt and circular tongue also do not offer elements for more precise dating. As we mentioned before the motif of 'eyelets' on the fibula is not visible today and propeller-shaped plates also do not have any distinct feature, which could suggest their more precise dating within the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Somewhat different situation is with the belt tongue, which could only roughly be identified as the type of circular tongues with the granules along the edge.

Very similar sarcophagus chest regarding the manner of division of the frontal side in three panels and considering the representations on the lateral sides is a specimen discovered in Savaria that is dated in

the time of the Severan dynasty.<sup>21</sup> As it could be assumed that chests of both sarcophagi were made in the same workshop the sarcophagus from Savaria should be also dated in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The identical motif of lions with vine growing from the kantharos between them was represented on one marble sarcophagus from Sirmium<sup>22</sup> as well as on one sarcophagus of unknown provenance now in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb.<sup>23</sup> Similar motif also appears on the sarcophagi from other sites in Pannonia.<sup>24</sup> There still remains the unsolved problem of partial completion of all parts of the sarcophagus until the finalization of all elements that were delivered to the customer. It has been assumed that initial work on the panels and decorative elements of the Šid sarcophagus had been carried out in the workshop in Poetovio, near the quarry from which the marble originates, while the portrait of the deceased could have been carved in Sirmium.<sup>25</sup>

Also, the question still remains how the crypt had been approached. As the results of investigation suggest the reason for construction of the underground structure was to bury the deceased portrayed in the left niche on the frontal side of the marble sarcophagus, hence the crypt had been built to place the sarcophagus in it. However, we think that position of entrance and position of sarcophagus are not in accordance. In other words, we think that the extension in the southwestern wall that in the course of excavations we explained as entrance, introduces certain ambiguities.<sup>26</sup> Considering the free space between the crypt walls and sarcophagus it seems that after descending the hypothetical staircase in the southwest a narrow space (around 0.50 m wide) between the sarcophagus and the wall must have been entered in order to reach the room. As this possibility seems less probable it is more reasonable to assume that entrance was opposite the frontal side of the sarcophagus, i.e. in the northwest.<sup>27</sup>

19 Bishop, Coulston 1993; Southern, Dixon 2000, 110.

20 Coins were identified by my colleague Pavle Popović from the Museum of Srem and I wish to thank him for this information.

21 Balla et al. 1971, 73.

22 Dautova-Ruševljan 1983, 16, kat. 40, T 22/4 A,B.

23 Cermanović 1965, 100, Cat 19. Abb. 16 b.

24 Cermanović 1965, 94; Đurić 2001, 48.

25 S. Pop-Lazić The Late Roman sarcophagus found in Šid. In Đurić B., Migotti B. (ed.) Roman sarcophagi in Pannonia and Upper Moesia, Ljubljana in print.

26 Circumstances during excavations did not make possible complete investigation of the extension and possibly some other segments of architecture discovered in the southwest.

27 The burial place opposite the entrance was encountered in the burial chambers II and III and VIII, as well as G-25 in Sopiana (Fülepe 1984, 42, 46, 59, 82).

Unfortunately, the remains of the masonry are totally devastated in the northwestern section, so there are no elements, which could indicate with certainty that there was the staircase. If the entrance to the crypt was in the northwest then the extension of the wall 3 was the niche where could have been stored the objects necessary for the post funeral rituals (lamps, vessels, etc.).

### G-2 (Fig. 9)

Few meters to the northwest from the crypt has been discovered the skeleton of a female buried in a simple burial pit at the relative depth of 1.00 meter, i.e. at 109.20 meters above sea level. The dead woman was lying in supine position, oriented in the northwest-southeast direction. The arms were bent at elbows and crossed on the chest. No traces of any funeral structure or coffin have been noticed in the process of excavation. Two bronze fibulae were discovered, one on the shoulder and the other on the chest (Figs. 9a, b, 10) while 32 blue and bone-white spherical beads whose diameter does not exceed 6 mm were found around the neck (Fig. 9c). Next to right thigh was found rather small iron knife with single-edged blade placed at an angle of 45° to the handle. The length of knife is 72 mm (Fig. 9d).

According to their finding place it could be assumed that two fibulae were used in pair to fasten the dress on left and right shoulder. However, though of similar manufacture they partially differ according to the decoration executed on the bow and the foot. On the preserved specimen string of the spring is rectangular and wide. The spring is wound around the iron bar, which was pulled through the loop forming the head of the fibula. The fibula bow was hammered of rather thin metal sheet expanded in the middle and tapering toward the ends. The middle of the bow and the edges are decorated with shallow longitudinal incisions. The transition towards the foot is somewhat more massive and decorated with slanting and transversal incisions. The narrow foot is damaged due to corrosion and hence the ornament is not clearly discernible. The length of the fibula is 46 mm.

The bow of other fibula is decorated with symmetrically arranged deeper longitudinal incision in such a way that longitudinal fields on the bow are of identical width. The transition to the foot and the foot itself are decorated with alternating series of slanting and transversal incisions. This fibula is 57 mm long.

The feet of both fibulae terminate in some kind of metal scroll. The pin holders are hammered of the main part of the foot into rather thin bent sheet.

According to the design of the fastening mechanism – spring coil wound around the pivot – both specimens are of the T-fibula type with spring (*Armbrustfibeln*). But shape and decoration of the bow as well as the bent end of the foot distinguish them as distinct variant within that type. The bow expands gradually from the foot towards the middle and then tapers towards the head. Similar characteristics were identified on one fibula from the unknown site housed today in the Belgrade City Museum.<sup>28</sup> The similarities are conspicuous in the shape and decoration of the bow with parallel longitudinal incisions as well as in the decoration of the segment joining bow and foot. Unfortunately, the foot of the specimen from BCM is not complete so we do not know if this specimen also had the bent end of the foot. There are no elements for its more precise dating while variant 1 as they are attributed within type T fibulae with spring are usually dated in the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> and in the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Thus the elements for chronological determination of the fibulae from grave 2 are related to the time of burial. As the time of burial is also only roughly related to the time of building of the memoria with sarcophagus, the fibulae could also be dated in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

Although only two burials have been discovered in the course of investigations I think that we could assume the existence of a small necropolis at the site Beljnjača. This is suggested by the results of anthropological analysis,<sup>29</sup> which confirmed the existence of the skeletal remains of 7 individuals at the site. Unfortunately, the place of burial was not precisely established for the remains of 6 individuals.<sup>30</sup> As the position of the Roman communication has been confirmed few hundred meters to the south it is reasonable to assume that the interment ground had been connected to some residential structure in the vicinity. It is impossible to say, for the time being, whether that structure was on the left or right side of the Šidina brook. As this area is not known as the settlement it is most probable that there was a country estate whose inhabitants had been buried at Beljnjača and its manager or owner was the high ranking officer depicted on the sarcophagus. The woman discovered in the grave 2 was probably the person in his service. The process of establishing rather large country estates is characteristic of Pannonia in

28 Bojović 1983, 331, 145, T-XXXIV.

29 See text of Nataša Miladinović-Radmilović in this volume.

30 For the remains of three individuals was only assumed to have come from the sarcophagus as they were found in the close vicinity.



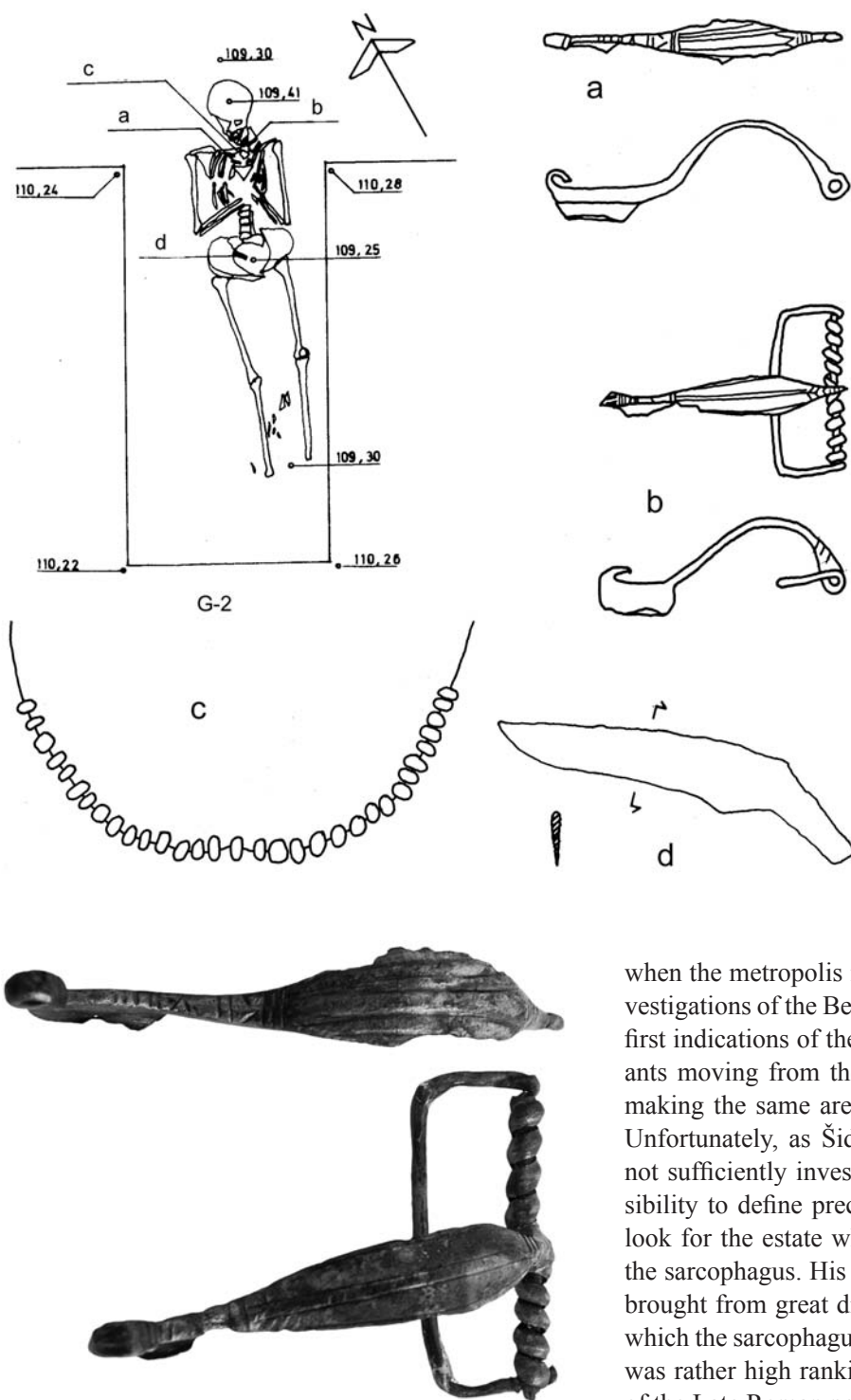


Fig. 9. G-2 (R 1:20);  
grave assemblage:  
a, b – fibulae, c – string of  
glass paste beads, d – iron  
knife (R 1:1)

Сл. 9. G-2 (R 1:20);  
їробни инвенїїар:  
a, b – фїбуле, c- нїска  
їерли од сїїаклене їасїїе,  
d- ївоздена брїїїва (R 1:1)

Fig. 10. Fibulae from G-2

Сл. 10. Фїбуле из G-2

the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.<sup>31</sup> The historical sources also confirm the existence of state villa in the vicinity of Šid.<sup>32</sup> The establishing of smaller necropoles adjacent to the villas outside the cities have been noticed also

when the metropolis is concerned.<sup>33</sup> The results of investigations of the Beljnjača necropolis offer so far the first indications of the process seeing the rich inhabitants moving from the city into the country and also making the same area the place of their eternal rest. Unfortunately, as Šid and its immediate vicinity are not sufficiently investigated we do not have the possibility to define precisely the area where we should look for the estate whose manager was the owner of the sarcophagus. His portrait, the marble sarcophagus brought from great distance, as well as the crypt into which the sarcophagus was placed bear witness that he was rather high ranking person in the Roman society of the Late Roman period.

31 Mócsy 1974, 299.

32 Mirković 2006, 37; At the 26th mile where vila Pistrensis is mentioned was actually the mansio, i.e. vicus Ulmo. It is considered today that the remains of the road stations were identified at the site Orašje near Tovarnik (Minichreiter 2007, 91);

33 The detailed analysis of this process in the suburbia of Rome was provided by J. Griesbach in Villen und Gräber, Griesbach 2007.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Balla et all. 1971** – L. Balla et all., *Die römischen Steindenkmäler von Savaria*, ed. Andras Mocsy and Tihamer Szenteleky, Budapest 1971.
- Bishop, Coulston 1993** – M. C. Bishop, J.C.N. Coulston, *Roman military Equipment – from the Punic Wars to the fall of Rome*, London 1993.
- Bojović 1983** – D. Bojović, *Rimske fibule Singidunuma*, Beograd 1983.
- Cermanović 1965** – A. Cermanović, Die dekorierten Sarkophage in den römischen Prowinzen von Jugoslawien, *Archaeologia Iugoslavica VI*, Beograd 1965, 89-103.
- Ciglenečki 1994** – Höhenbefestigungen als Siedlungsgrundenheit der Spätantike in Slowenien, *Arheološki Vestnik* 45/1994, 239-266.
- Dautova-Ruševljan 1983** – V. Dautova-Ruševljan, *Rimska kamena plastika u jugoistočnom delu provincije Donje Panonije*, Novi Sad 1983.
- Dautova-Ruševljan, Vujović 2006** – V. Dautova-Ruševljan, M. Vujović, *Rimska vojska u Sremu*, Novi Sad 2006.
- Димитров, Чичикова 1986** – Д. Димитров, М. Чичикова, *Касноантичната гробница при Сулистра*, София 1986.
- Dumanov 2005** – B. Dumanov, The encrusted Spatha from Durostorum, *Stephanos Archaeologicos in honorem Professoris Ludmil Getov*, Sofia 2005, 309-321.
- Đurić 2001** – B. Đurić, Production of marble sarcophagi in Poetovio, *Budapest Regisegei XXXIV*, Budapest 2001, 47-51.
- Đurić et al. 2008** – B. Đurić, J. Davidović, A. Maver, H.W.Müller, Stone use in Roman towns. Resources, transport, products and clients – Case study Sirmium: First report, *Starinar LVI* 2006 (2008), 103-137.
- Fülep 1984** – F. Fülep, *Sopianae – The History of Pecs during the Roman Era, and the Problem of the Continuity of the Late Roman Population*, Budapest 1984.
- Griesbach 2007** – J. Griesbach, *Villen und Gräber. Siedlungs- und Bestattungsplätze der römischen Kaiserzeit im Suburbium von Rom*, Köln 2007.
- James 2004** – S. James, *Excavations at Dura Europos: Final Report VII: Arms and Armour and other Military Equipment*, London 2004.
- Keller 1971** – E. Keller, *Die spätrömischen Grabfunde in Südbayern*, München 1971.
- Krüger 1970** – M. L. Krüger, *Die Reliefs des Stadtgebietes von Carnuntum*, CSIR Österreich I.3 (Wien 1970).
- Miks 2007** – C. Miks, *Studien zur römischen Schwertbewaffnung in der Kaiserzeit*, Köln 2007.
- Minichreiter 2007** – K. Minichreiter, Arheološki lokaliteti na trasi Iločke transverzale, brze ceste od Iloka do Lipovca, *Annales Instituti Archaeologici III*, 89-92.
- Mirković 2006** – M. Mirković, *Sirmijum – Istorija rimskog grada od I do kraja VI veka*, Sremska Mitrovica 2006.
- Mócsy 1974** – A. Mócsy, *Pannonia and Upper Moesia – a history of the middle Danube provinces of the Roman Empire*, London 1974.
- Pekary 1986** – T. Pekary, Das Opfer and dem Kaiserbild, *Bonner Jahrbücher 186 (1986)*, 91-103.
- Popović 1978** – D. Popović, Glavna antička komunikacija u Sremu u svetlu arheoloških istraživanja, *Putevi i komunikacije u antici*, Peć 1978, 101-107.
- Prötel 1988** – P. M. Prötel, Zur Chronologie der Zwiebelkopffibeln, *JhRGZM* 35 Jhrg. Teil 1. Mainz 1988, 347-372.
- Radman-Livaja 2004** – I. Radman-Livaja, *Militaria Sisciensia – Nalazi rimske vojne opreme iz Siska u fundusu Arheološkoga muzeja u Zagrebu*, Zagreb 2004.
- Rebecchi 1976** – F. Rebecchi, La stele di eta tetrarchica al Museo di Aquileia, *Aquileia Nostra XLVII (1976)*, 65-142.
- RIC VIII** - R. A. G. Carson, J. P. Kent, *Roman Imperial Coinage. Volume VIII. The Family of Constantine I. A.D. 337-364*, London 1981.
- Rimljani 2004** – *Rimljani – Steklo, Glina, Kamena*, katalog izložbe, ed. Irena Lazar, Ljubljana 2004.
- Schmidts 2002** – T. Schmidts, Ein spätantiker Gürtelbeschlag mit figurlicher Verzierung, *Archeologisches Korespondenzblatt* 32/3, 2002, 427-431.
- Southern, Dixon 2000** – P. Southern, K. Dixon, *The late Roman Army*, Cambridge 2000.
- Сремац 2008** – Р. Сремац, Прилог познавању топонима општине Шид са посебним освртом на римске локалитете, *Гласник САД* 24 (2008), 313-328.

**Резиме**

СТЕФАН ПОП-ЛАЗИЋ, Археолошки институт, Београд

**КАСНОАНТИЧКА НЕКРОПОЛА БЕЉЊАЧА У ШИДУ****Кључне речи:** Доња Панонија, касна антика, Шид, Некропола, саркофаг, представа официра, војнички појас, фибуле.

Након случајног открића касноантичког саркофага, спроведена су у Шиду заштитна археолошка ископавања 1998. године. Том приликом је откривена правоугаона подземна грађевина – крипта, у којој је био смештен саркофаг. Како су зидови крипте у потпуности били девастирани, није било могуће јасно разлучити њен некадашњи изглед. Претпоставља се да се улаз у крипту налазио на северозападној страни, на супрот саркофагу смештеном крај југоисточног зида. Такође се претпоставља постојање нише у југозападном зиду. У шуту који је испуњавао просторију, поред фрагмената фресака откривена је и једна опека на којој је невештом руком приказана људска фигура. Могуће је да је приказивала наоружану особу са шлемом на глави и копљем у десној, а штитом у левој руци.

Саркофаг (G-1), начињен од мермера из источноалпских рудника, био је богато декорисан. Изузетно важну информацију о изгледу позноантичког официра пружа нам представа великодостојника на једној од ниша фронталне стране саркофага. Приказан је са копљем у левој руци,

сагумом везаним луковичастом фибулом, оклопом са птеригама, туником, мачем и богато декорисаним опасачем. Претпоставља се да је мач био повезан ременом за опасач, док се ушица налазила на полеђини канија. Канија је украшена полудрагим каменом или стакленом пастом. Целокупна представа сведочи о идентитету високог официра, за чије потребе је израђен скупцени саркофаг. У непосредној близини крипте откривен је слободно укопан гроб покојнице (G-2), који је поред огрлице од стаклене пасте и гвоздене бритве, садржавао и две бронзане фибуле откривене на раменима. Оне су опредељене у варијанту Т фибула са опругом и шире датоване у IV век.

Откриће два гроба и сепулкралне архитектуре упућује на насебину која се налазила у непосредној близини локалитета Бељњача. Највероватније би ту насебину представљало имање – вила чији је власник или управник био официр приказан на саркофагу. За сада нема јасних индиција за прецизну локализацију касноантичког имања у Шиду.