

Papers in Honour of Rastko Vasić 80th Birthday

Зборник радова у част 80 г. живота Растка Васића

АРХЕОЛОШКИ ИНСТИТУТ

**ЗБОРНИК РАДОВА У
ЧАСТ 80 Г. ЖИВОТА
РАСТКА ВАСИЋА**

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**PAPERS IN HONOUR
OF RASTKO VASIĆ
80th BIRTHDAY**

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Foreword

Since 1990, after practically 30 years and the publication of the volume of the *Starinar* journal dedicated to the academician and professor Milutin Garašanin, the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade publishes a volume dedicated to a doyen of both Serbian and European archaeology, Rasko Vasić. In contrast to university centers, where this kind of publications are usual, due to the position of individuals as professors and teachers (*Festschrift*, *Homage...*), the scientific researchers are usually neglected in that respect, which can be seen in the fact that this volume represents the first of a kind published by the Institute of Archaeology. Bearing in mind the significance and the influence of Vasić's work on ex-Yugoslav and prehistoric archaeology of Europe, as well as the fact that he spent his entire career at the Institute of Archaeology, we consider this volume as a humble act of our gratitude for everything our dear colleague Vasić did for archaeology and the Institute, on occasion of his 80th birthday.

Indeed, Rastko Vasić stands as a great of both Serbian and Yugoslav archaeology, distinctly appreciated and esteemed, which stands in opposition to his humble and unobtrusive nature. Vasić's scientific and artistic educations often intertwined in his papers dealing both with the protohistoric art and the particular problems of the Bronze and Iron Age in southeastern Europe. Years of work and scientific questions led him to various phenomena of our prehistoric archaeology, many of which he had himself defined, but from time to time he used to go back and discover the until then unobserved Iron Age art of the Central Balkans. Only a glimpse of his bibliography at the beginning of this volume reveals the archaeological phenomena he had defined and interpreted, and through his serious and responsible scientific work and afterwards authority introduced to archaeology. His first monographs (*Културне групе старијег гвозденог доба у Југославији* and *The Chronology of the Early Iron Age in Socialist Republic of Serbia*) were created on basis of his doctoral dissertation and more than a couple of decades since the publication represent often cited literature.

Увод

Након безмало 30 лета и *Старинара* посвећеног академику и професору Милутину Гарашанину из 1990. године, Археолошки институт у Београду објављује једну засебну публикацију посвећену дојену српске, али и европске археологије Растку Васићу. За разлику од универзитетских центара, где је овај тип публикација (*Festschrift*, *Homage...*) уобичајен због позиције појединца као професора и учитеља, научни су радници обично занемарени у томе погледу, што се види и по томе да је ово прва таква засебна публикација наше куће. Но, имајући у виду значај Васићевих дела за бившу југословенску и праисторијску археологију Европе и утицај на њу, као и то што је цео свој радни век провео у Археолошком институту, сматрали смо да је овај зборник поводом 80 година живота један скромни чин наше захвалности за све што је драги колега Васић учинио за археологију и Институт.

Растко Васић доиста представља велика на српске и југословенске археологије, изразито уваженог и цењеног, што је у неку руку у супротности са његовом скромном и ненаметљивом природом. Васићево научно, али и уметничко образовање често се сустицало у његовим првим радовима, када се бавио како уметничким протоисторијским темама, тако и конкретним проблемима гвозденог и бронзаног доба југоисточне Европе. Године рада и стручна питања одвела су га ка многим феноменима наше праисторијске археологије, од којих је неке и сам дефинисао, али се с времена на време враћао, а уједно и откривао до тада незапажену уметност гвозденог доба централног Балкана. Само и летимичан поглед на његову библиографију на почетку овог зборника говори о археолошким појавама које је Васић одредио и интерпретирао, а својим озбиљним и одговорним научним радом и доцнијим ауторитетом увео у домаћу археологију. Његове прве монографије (*Културне групе старијег гвозденог доба у Југославији* и *The Chronology of the Early Iron Age in Socialist Republic of Serbia*), настале на основама док-

A complete affirmation in Yugoslav archaeology for colleague Vasić was the invitation to write no less than 13 chapters for the 5th volume of the distinguished publication *Praistorija jugoslavenskih zemalja*, as one of the youngest authors, dealing with less familiar subjects or subjects with scarce background data, undetermined origin or undefined to a great extent. It can be said that even nowadays, after more than 30 years, Vasić's certain syntheses from the aforementioned publication, remain the postulates for the Iron Age of the Central Balkans. Another significant work of Rastko Vasić, although often not emphasized enough, is the fact that under the invitation of the academician Dragoslav Sreјović, he participated in writing of 150 separate units in the unique domestic archaeological encyclopedia - *Arheološki leksikon – preistorija Evrope, Afrike i Bliskog Istoka, grčka, etrurska i rimska civilizacija*, a paper that Yugoslav and Serbian archaeology lacked for a number of decades. His international reputation was confirmed by five monographs published within the prestigious *Prähistorische Bronzefunde* edition. In parallel with that, through his advice and influence, as well as through his scientific renown, he aided younger colleagues to prepare the volumes for the same edition.

In that context, it is important to mention that defending boards for magister or doctoral thesis on the subject on Bronze and Iron Age could not be imagined without the presence of the colleague Vasić. On such occasions, not a single critique or a bad word could be heard from Vasić, but positive opinion and useful suggestions above all, so that the candidate could properly prepare the thesis for future publication. Rastko Vasić has been a member of the editorial board for the *Starinar* journal for more than 40 years, as well as for many other corpora and journals in the territory of southeastern Europe. As a member of editorial staff or as a reviewer of papers and monographs, he would always point out the qualities of the submitted material, and if the other members of editorial staff or reviewers decided to reject the material, his benevolent suggestions would help in publishing each useful paper after all, even in some other journal. Also, as a long-time director of scientific projects at the Institute of Archaeology, he would always do his best to help

торске дисертације, и даље су, неколико деценија након објављивања, цитирано штиво.

Потпуну афирмацију у југословенској археологији колега Васић доживео је када је позван да, као један од тада најмлађих аутора, напише чак 13 поглавља за том V чувене *Праисторије југославенских земаља*, и то на неке теме о којима се мало знало или у вези с којима су подаци били штурни, нејасног порекла и добрим делом недефинисани. Може се рећи да и данас, након 30 и више година, поједине Васићеве синтезе из ове серије и даље остају једини постулати гвозденог доба централног Балкана. Још један значајан допринос овога типа, чини се, није довољно помињан у досадашњем његовом раду, а то је чињеница да је на позив академика Драгослава Срејовића учествовао у изради преко 150 засебних јединица у јединственој домаћој археолошкој енциклопедији – *Археолошки лексикон – преисторија Европе, Африке и Блиског истока, грчка, етрурска и римска цивилизација*, делу које је дуги низ деценија недостајало југословенској и српској археологији. Међународни углед потврдио је са пет монографија у престижној едицији *Prähistorische Bronzefunde*, док је паралелно саветима и својим утицајем, као и научним реномеом, помагао млађим колегама да припреме своје свеске за исту едицију.

У томе контексту, важно је поменути да се без колеге Васића није могла замислити комисија за одбрану магистарских или докторских дисертација на тему бронзаног или старијег гвозденог доба. Том приликом од њега се није могла чути покуда или лоша реч, већ надам се позитивно мишљење и корисне сугестије како би кандидат своје дело адекватно припремио за будуће објављивање. Преко 40 година члан је редакције *Старинара*, као и многих зборника и часописа на простору југоисточне Европе. Као чест члан редакција или рецензент радова и монографија, увек је истицао квалитете прилога, а уколико би се остатак редакције или други рецензенти одлучили да одбију аутора, он би сесвојим благонаклоним сугестијама трудио да сваки користан рад ипак буде објављен, па макар у неком другом часопису. Такође, као дугогодишњи руководиоца научних пројеката у Археолошком институту,

young colleagues on each matter, never striking as a boss or a superior.

Plenty of details on the private and professional life of Rastko Vasić, both as an archaeologist and painter and literate, can be found in the continuation of this volume, which was one of the ideas of the editors. Therefore, about 60 pages are dedicated to his life and work, biography and a detailed bibliography, while the interview is illustrated with Vasić's numerous paintings, selected by the celebrant himself. Afterward, there is a collection of papers dedicated to the colleague Vasić, written in English, German, Russian and the ex-Yugoslav languages, assorted chronologically. Unfortunately, certain authors which were invited in agreement with the celebrant did not respond, primarily due to the poor health, so the editors once again point out that they regret the situation, although on the other hand, we are grateful and proud of the content of the volume, on 33 authors of the papers, and the editorial board comprised of prominent names of the word archaeology from nine different countries.

Through this volume, the editorial board and the Institute of Archaeology would like to heartily congratulate the jubilee to our colleague Vasić and to wish him many more years in archaeology.

Vojislav Filipović
Aleksandar Bulatović
Aleksandar Kapuran

тудио се да помогне млађим колегама по свим питањима, не постављајући се притом као шеф.

Многи детаљи о приватном и професионалном животу Растка Васића и као археолога, и као сликара и књижевника, могу се наћи у наставку овог зборника, што је била и једна од идеја приређивача. Стога је првих шездесетак страна посвећено његовом животу и раду, биографији и детаљној библиографији, док је интервју илустрован бројним Васићевим сликама, по избору самог слављеника. Након тога уприличени сурадови посвећени колеги Васићу, на енглеском, немачком, руском и језицима бивше Југославије, поређани по хронолошком реду. Нажалост, поједини аутори позвани у консултацијама са слављеником нису се одазвали позиву, поглавито због нарушеног здравственог стања, па уредници и овом приликом напомињу да жале због оваквог развоја ситуације. С друге стране, поносни смо на садржај зборника – како на 33 аутора прилога, тако и на редакцију, у којој су врхунска имена светске археологије из девет земаља.

Колеги Васићу уредници и Археолошки институт овим зборником од срца честитају јубилеј и желе још много година рада у археологији.

Војислав Филиповић
Александар Булатовић
Александар Капуран



In the National Museum in Belgrade, 2018 (by Aca Đorđević)
У Народном музеју, 2018. године (фото Аца Ђорђевић)

New Late Hallstatt Finds from the Vinkovci Region (Eastern Croatia): A Contribution to the Study of Impacts from the Balkans to the southeastern Carpathian Basin

Marko Dizdar

Abstract: The Late Hallstatt period in the territory of the southeastern Carpathian Basin is defined by a characteristic group of finds, mostly from female graves, which have been attributed to the Syrmian group. The group is characterized by flat cemeteries with inhumation burials. During all phases the group adopted various influences, mostly from the Central Balkan and southeastern Alpine region, and transformed them into its own recognizable style visible in female burials, which also bear witness to the process of social differentiation of local communities. Typical female burials consist of costume and jewellery items, while rare male graves feature weaponry. The female costume includes bronze astragal belts and various types of fibulae, the most frequent among them being Certosa types V and XIII, but there also appear other types that originated in the Central Balkan region. One of the best examples of the transfer of ideas from the Central Balkan region and their local adoption into a distinct style, except for fibulas, can be seen in the bronze astragal belts which very often appear in female graves in the Syrmian, Eastern Slavonian and southeastern Transdanubian cemeteries, where they were dated at the late 6th and 5th centuries BC. New finds from the Vinkovci region, together with some other previously collected items, indicate an earlier appearance of the astragal belts which have direct analogies in the area of spreading of the Glasinac cultural complex, testifying to a firmly connectivity between the southeastern part of the Carpathian Basin and the Central Balkans at the beginning of the Late Hallstatt period.

Key words: Late Hallstatt period, Syrmian group, southeastern Carpathian Basin, Central Balkans, female burials, costume, jewellery, astragal belts, fibulae, identity.

The Late Hallstatt period in the southeastern Carpathian Basin is one of the less known prehistoric periods of the observed area, primarily because of the small number of targeted archaeological investigations of sites which can be dated to that time and the modest material legacy that largely resulted from accidental discoveries of female inhumations. An immense contribution to the knowledge about the mentioned timeframe and clarify the dynamic changes which are marked, in many of his contributions gave Rastko Vasić where he showed all the complexity of known material legacy by presenting interesting ideas that are still essential in the study of the Early Iron Age in the southeastern Carpathian Basin and the Central Balkans.

Chronology of the Syrmian Group

The Late Hallstatt period in the greatest parts of the southeastern Carpathian Basin (Syrmia, eastern Slavonia, Baranya, southern Bačka, Mačva, probably Semberija) was marked by the development of the Syrmian group, which was first defined as a separate cultural phenomenon by M. Garašanin.¹ He was followed by other researchers,² some of whom only used a different name

¹ Garašanin 1973, 511-515.

² Vasić 1977; 1982a; 1987a; 1987b; 1988; 1989; Medović 1991; 2003; Medović, Hänsel 2006; Ljuština 2010.

for the same assemblages of finds.³ The group is characterized by flat cemeteries with predominantly inhumation burials,⁴ but there are also burials of horses with harness,⁵ as well as Greco-Italic imports.⁶ During all the phases, the group adopted various influences (from the southeastern Alps, Central Balkans, Lower Danube areas) and transformed them into its own recognizable style, mostly visible in rich female grave assemblages, which reveal the process of social differentiation of local communities. Considering the known corpus of finds, many of them discovered as early as the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, the group has been dated between the mid-6th to the second half of the 4th cent. BC.⁷ The general chronological classification of the grave assemblages and characteristic finds has not undergone any important changes⁸ and the newly discovered graves can also fit into it,⁹ but they also enable a more precise chronological classification of the group.¹⁰

As it has been pointed out, the material legacy of the Sarmian group was singled out exclusively on the basis of finds from graves or accidental discoveries that can be assumed to have originated from destroyed funerary complexes. Contemporary settlements (such as Gradina on the Bosut River, Gomolava, Feudvar) used to be considered within the cultural framework of the latest phase of the Bosut group, or the phase of channelled pottery following on from an earlier phase marked by ceramics ornamented in the Basarabi style.¹¹ The inhumations of the Sarmian group were associated with the settlements from the channelled pottery phase of the Bosut group by D. Popović, who noticed that such graves were close to the settlements of the latest development phase of the Bosut group, which has no known burials.¹² The hypothesis that was proposed in the publication of the Stubarlija cemetery and in the final publication of the settlement of Gradina on the Bosut River was later accepted by P. Medović, who pointed out the significant problem of the lack of graves from the phase of channelled pottery and the issue of the duration of that phase.¹³ N. Tasić came to a similar conclusion and put forward the interesting possibility that the known graves of the Sarmian group are the inhumations of prominent members of the community.¹⁴ Their final linking with the settlements of the Bosut group, according to R. Vasić, still includes certain ambiguities, such as the insufficient number of ceramic goods in the graves of the Sarmian group and the lack of knowledge about metal objects from contemporary settlements.¹⁵ Moreover, studies of the beginning of the characteristic material expression of the Sarmian group recognized the importance of impacts from the area of spreading of the Glasinac Complex, with noticeable influences from the west, from the southeastern Alpine region.¹⁶ The present knowledge considers it a unique and characteristic material legacy within the framework of the Bosut group, which marked the latter phase of the Early Iron Age in the southeastern Carpathian Ba-

³ Guštin, Teržan 1976; Teržan 1977 as the Late Hallstatt South Pannonian group; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002 as the ceramic horizon V; Kemenczei 2012 as the Sarmian-South Pannonian group; Dizdar 2015 as the Osijek group; Božič 1981a singled out a Čurug phase as the youngest phase of the Sarmian group.

⁴ Vasić 1987b; 1989; Medović 1991; 2003; 2007; Medović, Hänsel 2006; Ljuština 2010.

⁵ Jerem 1968; Majnarić-Pandžić 2000; 2003.

⁶ Guštin, Teržan 1976; Vasić 2001; 2005; Potrebica, Dizdar 2014.

⁷ Teržan 1977, 14; 1990, 158; Vasić 1989, 109; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 179, 203; Ljuština 2010, 61.

⁸ Vasić 1987b; 1988; 1989; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 179, 418.

⁹ Medović 2003; 2007; Koledin 2012; Dizdar 2015.

¹⁰ Dizdar 2015, 52-56.

¹¹ Medović 1978; 1981; 1994; 2003; Medović, Medović 2011; Tasić 1971a; 1971b; 1975; 1976; 1979; 1987; 1988; 1999; 2007; Vasić 1987b and others.

¹² Popović 1981, 39; 1994, 68.

¹³ Medović, Hänsel 2006, 493-495; Medović 2007, 70-72; Medović, Medović 2011, 262, 272.

¹⁴ Tasić 2007, 11; Ljuština 2010, 66.

¹⁵ Vasić 1987a, 545; 1987b, 555, 558; 1989, 103-104.

¹⁶ Vasić 1973, 95; 1977, 23, 28-29; 1987a, 553; 1987b, 557; 1989, 109.

sin.¹⁷ One of the problems is certainly the initial development phase of the Sarmian group, which has still not been completely defined, primarily because of a lack of finds from closed funerary complexes.

On the other hand, the beginnings of the Sarmian group should be closely related to the ending of the Dalj group, which marked the beginning of the Early Iron Age on the territory that would be later held by the Sarmian group.¹⁸ The relation of the Sarmian group towards the Bosut group, the eastern neighbour of the Dalj group and yet another territory to be taken by the Sarmian group, is much more complex.¹⁹ The relation to the latest phase of the Bosut group, defined as a channelled pottery phase pursuant to the research of settlements, has been partly clarified by the mentioned linking of the two, but there is still the issue of defining the time relation to the previous phase, characterized by pottery ornamented in the Basarabi style; in other words: from the aspect of relative chronology, when did the channelled pottery phase start and how long did it last? Can we date the channelled pottery phase to the beginning of the Late Iron Age, as it has been pointed out on several occasions,²⁰ or did it end earlier, with its end marking the beginning of the Sarmian group? As for the beginning of the channelled pottery phase, we believe that a noticeable change

¹⁷ The publication of the results of research on the eponymous multilayer settlement, Gradina on Bosut, with the youngest Early Iron Age horizons (IX and especially X) indicating a ceramic repertory of a developed Sarmian group (see: Medović, Medović 2011, 234-266), as well as the most recent discoveries of graves of the Sarmian group, e.g. at Stubarlija (Medović 2003; 2007; Medović, Hänsel 2006), have clearly shown the link between the latest phase of the settlements of the Bosut group with the graves of the Sarmian group, revealed primarily by comparing the shapes, motifs and techniques of decoration of ceramic vessels from settlements and from graves.

¹⁸ Even though the ending of the Dalj group used to be associated with the beginning of the Late Iron Age (Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 273-274; Vinski-Gasparini 1978, 135, 138; 1983, 605), the results of the research of the cemeteries of the Dalj group indicate that the youngest finds can be currently dated to the second half of the 7th cent. BC (Tasić 1975, 618; 1979, 19; 1994, 18; Ložnjak Dizdar 2004), i.e. to the ceramic horizon IV, which would seem to have lasted until mid-6th cent. BC (Mezner-Nebelsick 2002, 175-177, 179, Fig. 76). In the Dalj group cemetery in Doroslovo, the latest phase is indicated by the grave 141 with a bronze two-loop fibula with the foot in the shape of a Boeotian shield, dated to the first quarter of the 6th cent. BC (Trajković 2008, 158, Pl. on p. 307/14; Vasić 1999a, 65-71, Pl. 66; 2008, 343, 348-349; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 110, 426, Fig. 39), but there are opinions that the youngest graves can be dated to the end of the 6th cent. BC (Ljuština 2010, 60, 66, Fig. 2). The mentioned fibulas (Teržan 1987, 15; 1990, 99-100, 139; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 110-112, 415-416, 425-426: in the first half or mid-7th cent. BC; Heilmann 2016 with the latest chronological classification and datation), along with several types of boat-shaped fibula, represent the youngest finds in the cemeteries of the Dalj group in Batina (Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 276, Fig. 110; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 109-110, 419, 421-422, 425, Pl. 9/18, Pl. 27/7, Pl. 39/4-6, 15, Pl. 66/1), Lijevo Bara in Vukovar (Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 276, 285; Vinski-Gasparini 1973, 159, 163; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 172), Dalj (Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 270, 276, Pl. VII/79; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 659, Katalogfig. 19/5), Sotin (Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 271, 279-280, Pl. VIII/93); so, the known metal finds locate the lower limit duration of the development of the Dalj group to the end of Ha C2 and not later than the beginning of Ha D1.

¹⁹ The Bosut group went through different development phases as opposed to the Dalj group, with a noticeable difference in the method of distinguishing the chronological phases of their development: the Bosut group was divided pursuant to the results of research of settlements, while the chronology of the Dalj group is based on the analysis of cemeteries. The latest phase of the Dalj group could be the contemporaneous as the beginning of the channelled pottery phase, but there is the problem of a lack of grave assemblages of the period in the area of spreading of the Bosut group. If so, grave 141 from Doroslovo would be contemporaneous with a grave from Hrtkovci with a bronze open-work belt, a pair of bracelets with overlapping endings and spiral bracelets, dated to the beginning of the Bosut III phase, or the phase II of the Iron Age – Ha C2 period (Vinski 1955, 35, Fig. 18-19; Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 271, 278, Pl. VI; Vasić 1977, 18, 21, Pl. 22A; 1987a, 544, 548). In Donja Dolina, the separate horizon is well represented by the double grave from the plot of S. Čegrlja (Truhelka 1904, 85-86, Pl. XL; Teržan 1974, 43, Fig. 7; 1998, 515), while the link would be the inhumation grave from Dvorovi near Bijeljina and the finds from another destroyed grave (Marić 1960, 50-54, Pl. II/3, 6, Pl. III/1-5). It was a period of significant changes in the wider area of the Carpathian Basin, as testified by the simultaneous inception of the Ferigile group cemeteries in the lower Danube in mid-7th cent. BC (Vulpe 1977, 90-91; 1990, 125-127; Vasić 1987a, 553; Teržan 1990, 73-76, 113, 115; 1998, 514). On the other hand, inhumation under tumuli in the west Pannonian area has been dated until mid-6th cent. BC (Teržan 1990, 204), while the Donja Dolina cemetery existed continuously until the Late Iron Age. It all indicates a different dynamic of development during the Early Iron Age in different areas that communicated intensely, which is now probably best testified by the cemetery in Donja Dolina.

²⁰ Medović 1978; 1981; 1990; 1994.

in relation to the “Basarabi phase” took place in mid-7th cent. BC at the latest,²¹ which leads to the open issue of whether the finds of that horizon of the Bosut group can already be considered as the initial phase of the Syrmian group, or the initial horizon would be the somewhat younger finds from Banoštor, as hypothesized by R. Vasić,²² where their relation to the channelled pottery phase remains unclear. Therefore, even after several decades of examining the end of the cultural phenomena that marked the early centuries of the first millennium BC in the territory of the south-eastern Carpathian Basin,²³ which also included great contributions of R. Vasić,²⁴ there is still a lack of finds that would shed more light on the beginnings of the Syrmian group or that would help define its oldest phase. Also, considering the documented continuity at Gradina on the Bosut River, Gomolava and Feudvar, a key issue for any future research will be to establish the common denominator for the sites and finds from the latter phase of the Early Iron Age in the southeastern Carpathian Basin. It is clear that the channelled pottery phase was only one post-Basarabi phase in the development of the Bosut group, which is yet to have a defined lower limit duration, to be followed by the Syrmian group phase within the Bosut group. Unfortunately, there is still a lack of graves that would help resolve this crucial issue for the development of the Bosut group, as repeatedly pointed out by R. Vasić.²⁵ Still, it should be pointed out that the Syrmian group developed in an area that had been the territory of the Dalj and Bosut groups, where the characteristic inhumation burials are seen as the legacy of earlier development phases of the Bosut group, but on the other hand, this inhumation burials is something new in the territory previously held by the Dalj group. Can this change in the funerary rite in the former territory of the Dalj group, therefore, chronologically be considered as the beginning of the Syrmian group, and does it indicate the possibility to consider the Syrmian group as a separate cultural phenomenon after all?

The answers to these questions might be found in the numerous works of Rastko Vasić, the honouree, who approached the problem by recognition of characteristic horizons,²⁶ primarily on the basis of known closed grave assemblages, in the wider area of the southeastern Carpathian Basin and Central Balkans.²⁷

But let us go back to the current knowledge on the development of the Late Hallstatt period in the southeastern Carpathian Basin, which recognizes the Syrmian group as a unique cultural phenomenon. The currently known earliest phase of the Syrmian group, represented by the finds from Banoštor – probably from destroyed burial contexts – can be dated around the mid-6th cent. BC.²⁸ In Banoštor, beside some other finds – segments of astragal belt(s) and multihead pins – there are various recognizable forms of fibulae with a trapezoidal foot (types: Rusanovići, Potpećine, Arareva gromila)²⁹ which were dated to the second half of the 6th and the beginning

²¹ See: Teržan 1990, 73-76, 113, 115; 1998, 514. As opposed to P. Medović (1978, 55; 1981, 27-28; 1990, 29; Medović, Medović 2011, 272), other researchers date the beginning of the so-called channelled pottery phase to the early 6th cent. BC already: Popović 1981, 44; Vasić 1987a, 545; Tasić 1975, 618; 1999, 18; besides, this has also been proposed on the basis of the results of the Feudvar research: Hänsel, Medović 1992, Abb. 4.

²² Vasić 1989.

²³ Metzner-Nebelsick 2002.

²⁴ Vasić 1977; 2008.

²⁵ Vasić 1987a; 1987b; 1989.

²⁶ Vasić 1971; 1973; 1974; 1977; 1979; 1981; 1982a; 1982b; 1982-1983; 1988; 1992; 1997; 1999a; 2003; 2008; 2010; 2014; 2015.

²⁷ The greatest number of Late Hallstatt finds from the Vinkovci region belongs to the phases III and IV after the chronological classifications done by R. Vasić (1977; 1999a, 7-8 etc.), although the intensification of contacts can be recognized already during the phase II.

²⁸ Vasić 1989, 109-111.

²⁹ After: Teržan 1987.

of the 5th cent. BC.³⁰ The next phase of the group is very well represented by the greatest number of graves: Vinkovci-Silos, Novi Jankovci, Vučedol, Stubarlija, Srijemska Mitrovica I, Beremend etc. with bronze Certosa fibulae of type V, which appear at the end of the 6th and during the first half of the 5th cent. BC from the southeastern Alps to Glasinac and the Danube Basin.³¹ The next phase, from the second half of the 5th and the beginning of the 4th cent. BC, was marked by graves from Vinkovci-Nama, Šid and Beliše with characteristic finds of hinged Certosa fibulae, the most numerous being those of the type XIIIc and the somewhat younger type XIIIh. The youngest phase (Čurug phase: the eponymous hoard, finds from Bogdanovci, the grave Srijemska Mitrovica II) is dated to the second quarter of the 4th cent. BC and represents the time when the material culture went through intensive *latènization*, which would lead to the dominance of La Tène forms in the last third of the 4th cent. BC and to the beginning of the Late Iron Age, although autochthonous elements would be retained too.³²

Late Hallstatt Sites and Finds in the Vinkovci Region

A little more light on the oldest phase and other development phases of the Syrmian group is shed by the finds collected in several sites in and around Vinkovci, which undoubtedly belong to a separate time frame (Map).³³ Even though they are chance finds that mostly correspond to the known spectrum of the Late Hallstatt finds from the areas of eastern Slavonia and Syrmia, their recognized typological characteristics make it possible to put forth some interesting ideas about the beginnings of the Syrmian group and the relations established with contemporary cultural phenomena in neighbouring territories.

In previous studies of the Late Hallstatt period, collected finds from Vinkovci and its surroundings undoubtedly indicated their affiliation to the Syrmian group. Aside from the finds collected in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, two cemeteries found in the area of the town of Vinkovci represent a good basis in the chronological considerations of the development of the Syrmian group. The richly equipped female inhumation found at the site of Silos in the southeastern part of Vinkovci represents a typical Late Hallstatt south Pannonian costume, which yielded an astragal belt, a bronze Certosa fibula of type V decorated with a motif of fir branches incised on the bow, and necklaces made up of 24 glass beads of different colours. The grave was dated to the developed 5th cent. BC.³⁴ A similar female burial was found in nearby Novi Jankovci, yielding 11 bronze segments of an astragal belt, a bronze Certosa fibula of type V, and 4 glass beads.³⁵ In-

³⁰ Vasić 1989, 105-106; 1995b, 361; 1997, 58; 1999a, 89-98. According B. Teržan, the fibulae of the Borajna, Potpećine and Rusanovići types can be dated to the end of the 7th cent. BC and the first half of the 6th cent. BC, while the Arareva Gromila type appears from the mid-6th cent. BC and during the first half of the 5th cent. BC (Teržan 1974, 42-44, Fig. 7; 1987, 19). In his latest articles, R. Vasić dated the Rusanovići and Potpećine types of fibulae to the 6th cen. BC as well, and the Arareva Gromila type to a slightly younger period (Vasić 1997, 50, Fig. 2; 1999a, 89-98). For the latest chronological classification and the absolute chronology of the Glasinac group, see: Čović 1987b. On the other hand, a fibula of the Potpećine type has been found in the hoard in Abrahám (Slovakia) together with boat-shaped fibulae, a three-knobbed fibula and a serpentine fibula with two loops (Dušek 1971, 436, Fig. 22; Kilian 1975, Pl. 13). The hoard was dated to the beginning of the Ha D1 phase at the latest (Vasić 1977, 23; 1999a, 94; Teržan 1987, 19; 1990, 181-183), and to the period from the late 7th to the beginning of the 6th cent. BC, respectively. This datation maybe witness how some finds from Banoštor maybe indicate the beginning of the Syrmian group latest at the beginning of the 6th cent. BC.

³¹ Dizdar 2015, 53.

³² Dizdar 2015, 52-56.

³³ I would like to thank my colleagues Hrvoje Vulić, Maja Krznarić Škrivanko, Anita Rapan Papeša and Boris Kratofil from the Municipal Museum in Vinkovci for the finds from Late Hallstatt sites in the Vinkovci region. Some finds were found and donate to the Museum by Mirko Adžaga, Ivan Brkić, Steve Gaunt, Zvonimir Harhaj, Domagoj Jovanić and Ivan Kelava.

³⁴ Majnarić-Pandžić 1973, 39-40, Pl. XX; Dimitrijević 1979, 144, Pl. 8/3-5.

³⁵ Brunšmid 1902, 72, Fig. 32.

dividual segments were found at several more sites in and around Vinkovci.³⁶ In the town center, at the Nama site, which stands on the western periphery of a multilayer prehistoric settlement at Tržnica, there was found a small cemetery with eight graves³⁷ and three inhumations of horses with equipment, dated to the second half of the 5th and first half of the 4th cent. BC, testifying about influences from both the lower Danube area and the northern parts of the Pannonian Plain.³⁸ The nearby location at Tržnica is also the origin of the bronze Certosa fibula of the XIIIc type,³⁹ while Rajterovo Brdo in Orolik and Vinkovački Banovci are known for chance finds of glass beads decorated with a white and blue eye motif.⁴⁰

The remains of settlements found by excavating the multilayer prehistory settlements of Dirov brijeg in Vinkovci and Damića gradina in Stari Mikanovci (Map) also belong to the same time period. Ceramic finds are particularly plentiful at Damića gradina, with numerous identified shapes and recognized decorating techniques and motifs that paint the ceramographic picture of the Late Hallstatt settlements in the territory of eastern Slavonia and Syrmia.⁴¹ The closest parallels for the ceramic shapes from these settlements have been documented in the youngest Early Iron Age layer (especially layer X) at the eponymous Gradina settlement on the Bosut river.⁴²

Aside from these graves and settlements, the areas in and around Vinkovci have been examined in filed surveys many times in recent years, revealing new and previously unknown sites (Map) which provide a clearer cultural and chronological picture of the development of the Syrmian group in the territory of eastern Slavonia and western Syrmia. What particularly stands out are the numerous finds that can be dated to an older phase of its development, covering the period from the late 6th to the first half of the 5th cent. BC, which is the horizon of the graves in Vinkovci-Silos and Novi Jankovci. Still, it should be noted that the collected finds include those of the



Map – Late Hallstatt Cemeteries in the Eastern Slavonia and Western Syrmia and Late Hallstatt Sites in the Vinkovci Region: 1 Osijek-Zeleno Polje; 2 Beliše-Zagajci; 3 Dalj; 4 Vučedol; 5 Bogdanovci; 6 Vinkovci-Silos; 7 Vinkovci-Nama; 8 Vinkovci-Blato; 9 Vinkovci-Dren; 10 Vinkovci-Slatine; 11 Stari Mikanovci-Damića gradina; 12 Mirkovci-Malat; 13 Novi Jankovci; 14 Srijemske Laze-Staro selo; 15 Orolik; 16 Vinkovački Banovci-Šuma; 17 Podgrađe-Gradina; 18 Podgrađe-Stanić.

³⁶ Potrebica, Dizdar 2002, 83, Pl. 1/4, 9-10.

³⁷ Along with rare weapon objects (a spear), a bronze scepter, glass beads and ceramic vessels, the finds that stand out are various shapes of fibulae: bronze Certosa fibulae of the type XIII, bronze and iron fibulae of hinged construction with a slightly bended foot, and a bronze fibula with a drum bow.

³⁸ Majnarić-Pandžić 2000; 2003.

³⁹ Potrebica, Dizdar 2002, 83, Pl. 1/2.

⁴⁰ Potrebica, Dizdar 2002, 83, Pl. 1/5-7.

⁴¹ Potrebica, Dizdar 2002, 84-88, Pl. 2-5.

⁴² Medović, Medović 2011, 250-266, Figs. 238-239, 241, 243-253. Gradina on the Bosut River, within horizon X, included a pin from a bronze fibula: (Medović, Medović 2011, 262, Fig. 253/2); the foundations of house 69 included an amphora glass bead: (Medović, Medović, 2011, 255, Fig. 241/1), dating the youngest horizon to the Čurug phase according to the classification of D. Božić: 1981a.

period from the second half of the 5th and the early 4th cent. BC, corresponding to the age of the cemetery researched at the Vinkovci-Nama site. However, the most important finds could be those indicating that they belong to the less known initial phase of the development of the Sarmatian group and testifying about the direction and intensity of the contacts realized with neighboring territories which could have a prominent role in the changes sweeping over the southeastern Carpathian Basin in the second half of the 7th and the early 6th cent. BC, and leading to the creation of the Sarmatian group.

At the site of Vinkovci-Dren, located on a gentle elevation on the left bank of the Bosut river some 6 km southwest of the center of Vinkovci (Map), the numerous finds from all periods of prehistory and especially antiquity include objects belonging to female costume and jewellery from the Late Hallstatt period (Fig. 1). The nearby site of Slatina, located some 800 m to the north and separated from the site of Dren by the eponymous stream, yielded only a few surface finds (Fig. 2), but there is a notable unfinished fibula that might indicate the location of the settlement. Another site, Vinkovci-Blato, located some 2.5 km northwest of the town center, with the remains of a Late Iron Age settlement,⁴³ included small number of Late Hallstatt fibulae (Fig. 3). Aside from these sites in and around Vinkovci, the material legacy that can be attributed to the Sarmatian group has been found at a few other sites (Map) in the eastern part of the Vinkovci area (e.g. Mirkovci, Srijemske Laze, Orolik, Vinkovački Banovci), including a notable number and variety of finds at a site discovered at Podgrađe-Stanić, already in western Sarmatia. A gentle elevation some 2 km southeast of the center of the village and some 1.5 km southwest from the multilayer prehistoric settlement of Gradina on the Bosut River was the location of numerous objects from female costume and jewellery belonging to the characteristic legacy of the Sarmatian group (Fig. 4).

Even though archaeological excavation has not been undertaken at any of these sites, except for test excavations done at the site of Vinkovci-Blato, it can be assumed on the basis of the collected finds that most of them originated from destroyed graves. This applies particularly to the finds from the sites of Vinkovci-Dren and Podgrađe-Stanić, as testified by the numerous finds of astragal belts of different kinds and the large number and variety of the collected shapes of bronze fibulae. Along with the belts and fibulae, the finds included a fewer number of fragments of bronze bracelets and glass beads. Interestingly, the collected finds belong only to female costume and jewellery, with no objects that would indicate contemporary male graves. A significantly lower recognisability of objects that would belong to male inhumations is also indicated by the results of excavations on the cemeteries of the Sarmatian group, e.g. in Vučedol, Stubarlija or Vinkovci-Nama, which indicate that, aside from weapons, it is only rarely that objects of their attire can be found, and they are often made of iron, which makes them less preserved and more difficult to recognize, especially in the results of field reviews.

Finds of Late Hallstatt Fibulae

As it was pointed out, the most numerous finds are parts of astragal belts: variously shaped segments and characteristic buckles with three loops. However, the greatest diversity of shapes can be seen in the finds of bronze fibulae, which also belong to the female costume of the Sarmatian group, as directly testified by the finds from the preserved funerary complexes. Iron fibulae, which are also included in female graves (e.g. Vinkovci-Nama), have not been found at the newly discovered sites yet.

The most frequent shape is the bronze Certosa fibula of type V, which have been discovered, as already noted, in the graves of Vinkovci-Silos, Novi Jankovci and nearby Vučedol.⁴⁴ This fibula is also the most frequent shape at the newly discovered sites. It has been found at the sites of

⁴³ Dizdar 2016.

⁴⁴ Vinkovci-Silos: Majnarić-Pandžić 1973, 39, Pl. XX/2; Novi Jankovci: Brunšmid 1902, 72; Vučedol: Brunšmid 1902, 68, Fig. 22.

Vinkovci-Dren (Fig. 1/3) and Vinkovci-Blato (Fig. 3/1), while as many as five fragments of fibulae of that shape have been found at the site of Podgrađe-Stanić (Fig. 4/1-5). When it is preserved, this fibula has a single-side spiral with two coils. The bow has a low transverse rib on its side towards the spiral, while the other rib is at the end of the bow towards the trapezoid foot ending with a small circular plate. The foot of certain fibulae from Podgrađe are decorated with variously organized motifs of concentric circles (e.g. in one or two bands along the edges), where the same motif is sometimes seen on the plate at the end of the foot. The bow of a fibula from Podgrađe (Fig. 4/5) is also decorated with oblique and semi-circular lines and dots. Fibulae decorated with motifs of concentric circles on the foot have been recorded in a female grave from Vučedol,⁴⁵ inhumation graves 1 and 4 at Stubarlija,⁴⁶

where one of the fibulae from Podgrađe has an analogy in a fibula from grave 4 with concentric circles organized in two bands. Such a decorated foot of Certosa fibulae of type V, which is not considered to be a chronological mark,⁴⁷ has also been recorded in a grave from Salaš Noćajski,⁴⁸ grave 2 from Beremend,⁴⁹ and the grave at Szárazd-Gyerenyáspusztá,⁵⁰ in Glasinac, a fibula with such a decorated foot has been found in grave 5 of tumulus III in Vražići, from the Glasinac Va phase, together with a fibula of the Araveva Gromila type.⁵¹

The Certosa fibulae of type V, which were described by R. Vasić as fibulae with a spiral with two coils and dated by him to the 5th cent. BC,⁵² represent one of the most numerous shapes at the sites

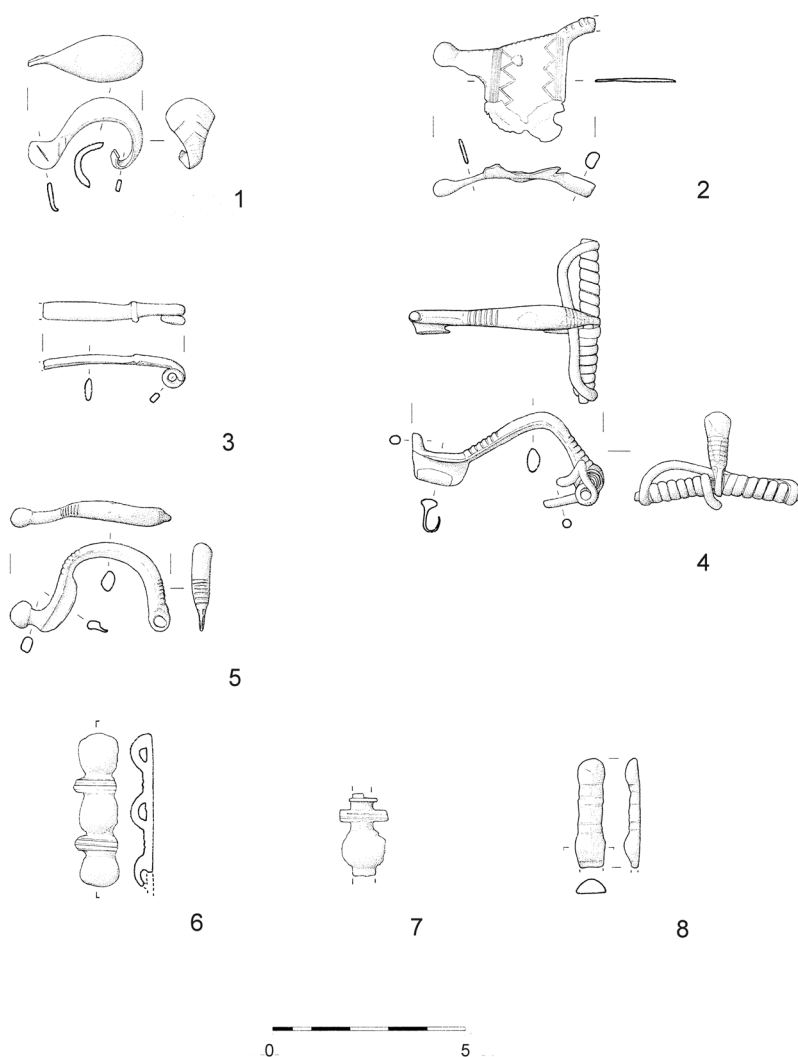


Fig. 1 – Late Hallstatt finds from the site of Vinkovci-Dren.

⁴⁵ Brunšmid 1902, 68, Fig. 22.

⁴⁶ Medović, Hänsel 2006, 492, Pl. IX/15; Medović 2007, 10, Fig. 6/2; 15, Fig. 9/10.

⁴⁷ Teržan 1976, 323.

⁴⁸ Vasić 1999a, 99-100, Pl. 50/839.

⁴⁹ Jerem 1973, 68, Fig. 6/6-7; 1974, 230, Fig. 1/6.

⁵⁰ Kemenczei 2012, 339-340, Fig. 9/4.

⁵¹ Teržan 1976, 376-377, Fig. 46/1; Čović 1987b, 631, Pl. LXIV/7.

⁵² Vasić 1999a, 99-100, Pl. 68A.

of the Syrmian group which appear in female burials at the end of the 6th and during the first half of the 5th cent. BC.⁵³ These fibulae are considered as evidence of renewed contacts between the southeastern Alps to Glasinac and the Danube Basin.⁵⁴

Aside from the Certosa fibulae of type V, some other shapes of bronze fibulae have been recorded, probably also as parts of female costume. A fibula found at the Podgrađe-Stanić site (Fig. 4/6) has three pointed protrusions at the center of the bow – one on the ridge and one on each side. On the bow, there are sets of transverse grooves towards the missing spiral (which was probably single-side) and a set of three transverse grooves towards the foot. On the upper side of the narrow foot, there are thick sets of shallow and slanted parallel grooves and another three deeper grooves going in the opposite direction, so that the foot looks like it is decorated with a net pattern. The end of the foot has not been preserved, and its cross-section has not been fully identified.

A similar fibula with a single-side spiral was found in the female grave Srijemska Mitrovica I, in which there was also an astragal belt with rectangular belt plates with three round loops and a necklace of gold beads and saltaleones.⁵⁵ The grave has been dated to the late 6th or the early 5th cent. BC.⁵⁶ This fibula was considered by R. Vasić in the context of fibulae grouped according to the shape of the single-side spiral, i.e. together with the Certosa fibulae of type V, and dated it similarly.⁵⁷ On the other hand, the fibula from grave I in Srijemska Mitrovica has been attributed to the three-knobbed fibulae, i.e. to type VII, which is assumed to belong to the youngest shapes of this widespread form, particular to the south Alpine area and extending all the way to Syrmia. The fibulae of type VII have been dated to the older phase of the Certosa type fibulae,⁵⁸ which seems to be confirmed by the find in the mentioned grave from Srijemska Mitrovica.

A small bronze boat-shaped fibula found at the site of Vinkovci-Dren is decorated with shallow lines on the preserved part of the foot and at the end of the bow towards the spiral, which has been only partly preserved, but it was probably single-sided (Fig. 1/1). The closest parallel can be found in a boat-shaped fibula from Srijemska Mitrovica, which is also decorated on the part of the bow towards the spiral, and dated to the first half of the 6th cent. BC.⁵⁹ A smaller boat-shaped fibula was found in grave 8 from the plot of I. Stipančević in Donja Dolina, together with a Donja Dolina-type astragal belt and Borajna-type fibulae with a ribbed bow, and it has been dated to the phase 2b.⁶⁰ From the area of Vinkovci, more precisely Orolik, we are aware of two bronze fibulae with a boat-shaped bow, which have somewhat different typological features. One fibula is decorated with carved lines on both ends of the bow, while the other belongs to the type of small boat-shaped fibulae with a decorated transverse rib on the bow and a protrusion on either side.⁶¹ Fibulae of this shape are not a frequent find at eastern Slavonian – Syrmian sites. The boat-shaped fibula with a transverse rib, considered to be a characteristic shape for the territories of eastern Alps and western Pannonia, is dated until the mid-7th cent. BC,⁶² but probably with duration until the beginning of the 6th cent. BC.

Regarding the mentioned shapes of fibulae, especially the most numerous Certosa fibulae of types V and XIIIc that indicate contacts with the territory of southeastern Alps, the sites of the Syrmian group in the area of Vinkovci have no known shapes of fibulae that would have originated from the Central Balkans. At the Vinkovci-Dren site, however, a bronze fibula of the

⁵³ Dizdar 2015, 53.

⁵⁴ Vasić 1977, 28; Guštin, Teržan 1976, 192, Map 2; Teržan 1976, 323-324, 344; 352-353, 375-377, Fig. 18; 1998, 521, Fig. 7; Jerem 1981a, 111, Fig. 2, Fig. 4/1; 1981b, 207, Pl. 4/3; Vasić 1999a, 100; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 418; Blečić Kavur, Jašarević 2016, 226-227, Fig. 2/2, Fig. 3.

⁵⁵ Brunšmid 1902, 75-77, Fig. 36-37.

⁵⁶ Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 278; Guštin, Teržan 1976, 195, Fig. 3/1; Teržan 1987, 19.

⁵⁷ Vasić 1999a, 99-100, Pl. 50/841.

⁵⁸ Teržan 1976, 344-345; Ogrin 1998, 113, 125, 129, Fig. 15; Tecco-Hvala 2012, 222.

⁵⁹ Vasić 1999a, 87-88, Pl. 44/662.

⁶⁰ Čović 1987a, 246, Pl. XXVI/3.

⁶¹ Potrebnica, Dizdar 2002, 81, Pl. 1/1, 3.

⁶² Teržan 1990, 99-102, Map 14; 1998, 521; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 109-110, 419, 421-422, 425.

Arareva Gromila type has been found (Fig. 1/2). The remaining parts of the fibula is the end of the bow with shallow transverse grooves and a wide trapezoid foot ending with a round thickening. One side of the foot, along both ends, is decorated with engraved parallel lines and zigzag lines.

Other fibulae of the Arareva Gromila type⁶³ in Syrmia have been found in Novi Banovci, where one fibula has a bow decorated with transverse grooves.⁶⁴ A chance find at the site of Šećerana in Srijemska Mitrovica was a fragment of a fibula with a preserved trapezoid foot and a knob on the end, dated to the first half of the 5th cent. BC.⁶⁵ From Banoštor originate both variants: one is a heavily ribbed bow with two knobs at the end of a smaller trapezoid foot ending with vertical incisions; the preserved fragment of the other fibula is a bow decorated with transverse lines.⁶⁶

The fibulae of the Arareva Gromila type were also found in an inhumation grave from the site of Jela in Šabac, together with bronze hollow bracelets, silver earrings and necklaces composed of glass and amber beads. Two fibulae were found in the grave: one has a bow decorated with shallow grooves and a foot decorated like the fibula from Dren, except that the triangles are hatched. The foot of the other fibula has vertical lines only on both ends.⁶⁷ Four fibulae of this type have been found in the inhumation grave in Dvorovi near Bijeljina: they have a ribbed bow and decorated foot with two groups of vertical lines, but the knob on their ends is more conical.⁶⁸ A grave in Gračanica yielded as many as five fibulae with a trapezoid foot, which is decorated somewhat differently.⁶⁹ The possible direction from which fibulae of this type arrived to the area of Vinkovci might be indicated by the finds from the Lower Drina valley, such as

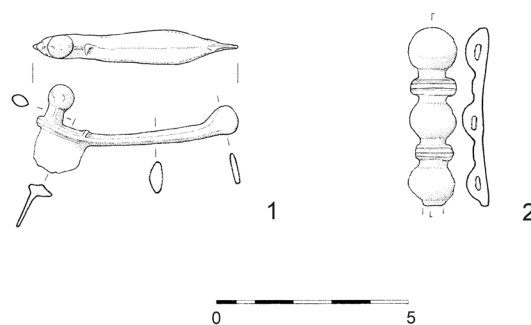


Fig. 2 – Late Hallstatt finds from the site of Vinkovci-Slatine.

cremation grave 2 in tumulus II at the site of Trnovica-Krčevine, where another five fibulae with a ribbed bow were found. Some fibulae on a larger trapezoid foot are decorated similarly, with engraved vertical parallel lines.⁷⁰ Fibulae of the Arareva Gromila type were found in the cemetery Donja Dolina: grave 35 from the plot of M. Petrović Younger contained two fibulae with a heavily ribbed bow, together with serpentine and plate fibulae. The fibula from grave 29 from the plot of N. Šokić I, with a lightly ribbed bow and a decorated foot, was found together with a serpentine fibula. These fibulae in Donja Dolina were dated to the mid-6th cent. BC by B. Teržan or to the phase 2c at the end of the 6th cent. BC by B. Čović.⁷¹ On the cemetery also was found a fibula with a large trapezoid foot and a bow decorated with transverse grooves, which is considered to be a younger shape.⁷² Fibulae with a decorated large trapezoid foot were also found in grave 2 in tumulus IX in Potpećine, dated to the Glasinac Va phase.⁷³

⁶³ R. Vasić singled out the fibulae of the Arareva Gromila type as bow fibulae with a ribbed bow and a foot which is trapezoid or rarely triangular, ending with a knob, with the foot often decorated with engraved lines: Vasić 1999a, 95-96. As a separate group, he singled out similar fibulae with a smooth bow, which frequently has a rhombic cross-section and is often decorated with transverse lines. The fibulae have a triangular or large trapezoid foot ending with a knob: Vasić 1999a, 96-98.

⁶⁴ Vinski, Vinski-Gasprini 1962, 273, 281, Pl. IX/100-101; Vasić 1977, 26, Pl. 50/6-7; 1999a, 97, Pl. 49/804-806.

⁶⁵ Vasić 1982-1983, 77, Fig. 4; 1999a, 97, Pl. 49/819.

⁶⁶ Vasić 1989, 104, Fig. 1; 1999a, 95, 97, Pl. 48/774, Pl. 49/801.

⁶⁷ Vasiljević 1977, 167-169, Fig. 2/1-2; Vasić 1977, 26, Pl. 52/1-6; 1987b, 556-557; 1999a, 95, Pl. 48/792-793.

⁶⁸ Marić 1960, 54-55, Pl. V/1-3.

⁶⁹ Gavranović 2011, 274, Fig. 267/5.

⁷⁰ Kosorić 1983, 31, 34, Fig. 1-2, Fig. 26-27; Kosorić, Krstić 1988, 30, Pl. I/1-4.

⁷¹ Truhelka 1904, 97, Pl. XLVIII/11-12, 116, Pl. LXV/14; Marić 1964, 40, Pl. XIII/12; Teržan 1974, 45, Fig. 7; Čović 1961, Y27/1-2; 1987a, 252, Pl. XXVIII/1; Gavranović 2011, 202, 272, Fig. 192/1, Fig. 267/2, 4.

⁷² Truhelka 1904, 144, Fig. 84-85; Marić 1964, 40, Pl. XIII/11; Gavranović 2011, 202, Fig. 192/3.

⁷³ Benac, Čović 1957, 21, Pl. XXXXIII/8-9; Čović 1987b, 619, 630, Pl. LXIV/11.

Considering the finds in the eponymous princely grave, fibulae of this type were originally dated to the Glasinac Va phase,⁷⁴ and subsequently dated to the IVC-2 phase, i.e. to the second half of the 6th cent. BC, where the characteristic of younger fibulae from the 5th cent. BC (the Va phase) is a larger trapezoid foot and a more lightly ribbed bow than in the older forms.⁷⁵ R. Vasić also dates these fibulae to the phase III or to the second half of the 6th and the beginning of the 5th cent. BC,⁷⁶ while B. Teržan concludes that the fibulae of the Arareva Gromila type appear from the mid-6th cent. BC and during the first half of the 5th cent. BC.⁷⁷ Considering the typological characteristics of the fibula from Dren, it probably belongs to the group of younger forms, with R. Vasić singling out the concentration of fibulae with a smooth bow or with transverse incisions at the sites in Syrmia and pointing out that they could have appeared in local workshops in eastern Syrmia under the influence of Glasinac, enduring until the mid-5th cent. BC.⁷⁸

It was not the only form of fibula originating in the territory of Central Balkans, as testified by the finds of gold, silver and bronze fibulae with rectangular catch-plate of the Novi Pazar type, dated to the end of the 6th and the 5th cent. BC,⁷⁹ respectively they appeared in phases IVC-2 and Va in Glasinac.⁸⁰ As for Syrmia, they have been found in Sotin, Kupinovo, Kuzmin, Srijemska Mitrovica, Novi Banovci and Zemun, and dated to the 5th cent. BC.⁸¹ They were also found in grave 2 at Beremend.⁸²

Aside from the mentioned fibulae, there are other forms with southern origin that are known from Syrmian and eastern Slavonian sites – e.g. beads made of precious metals, although it has been hypothesized that the younger forms were produced in local south-Pannonian workshops.⁸³ The same conclusion could apply to silver and bronze hinged fibulae of different types,⁸⁴ as well as gold and silver boat-shaped earrings (Erdut, Srijemska Mitrovica and Putinci) decorated using filigree and granulation.⁸⁵ The typological diversity of such items and their greater number after the middle of the 1st millennium BC indicate that they were produced in local south-Pannonian workshops, probably located somewhere in Syrmia.⁸⁶

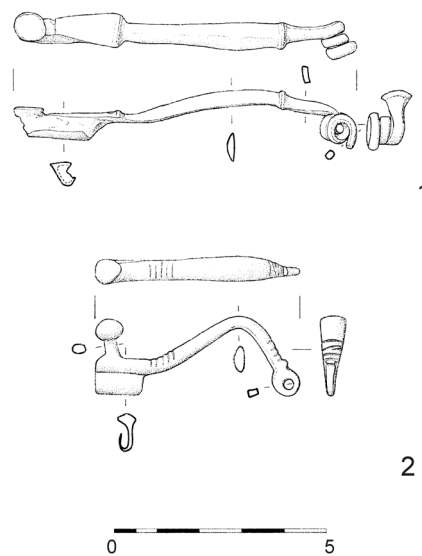


Fig. 3 – Late Hallstatt finds from the site of Vinkovci-Blato.

⁷⁴ Benac, Čović 1957, 49.

⁷⁵ Čović 1987b, 618-619, 630, Fig. 36/18, Pl. LXIV/11.

⁷⁶ Vasić 1972, 125-126, Fig. 2; 1977, 26; 1979, 263; 1982-1983, 77; 1987b, 557; 1989, 105-106; 1997, 50, Fig. 2; 1999a, 96-98, Pl. 64b.

⁷⁷ Teržan 1987, 19, 24, Fig. 14.

⁷⁸ Vasić 1999a, 98.

⁷⁹ Vasić 1972, 125; 1975, 85-86; 1987b, 556; 1987c, 41, 47; 1988, 170-172, 174, Fig. 2; 1990, 21; 1995b, 361-362; 1997, 51, Fig. 2; 1999a, 77-81, Pl. 67A; 1999b, 34; Gavranović 2011, 198, Fig. 185/2.

⁸⁰ Čović 1987b, 624-625, 630, Pl. LXIV/4, 9.

⁸¹ Brunšmid 1902, 71, Fig. 31; Garašanin 1954, 76, Pl. XLIX/17; Vinski 1960, 60, Fig. 3-4; Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 271-273, 281-282, Pl. VIII/94, Pl. IX/104, 106; Guštin, Teržan 1976, 192-193, Map 2; Vasić 1977, 26, Pl. 54/1; 1987c, 46-47, Pl. 3/3; 1988, 170-172, 174, Fig. 2/4; 1999a, 78-79, Pl. 41/591-592, 594-595, Pl. 42/615, 626, Pl. 59D/1-2; 2001, 23-24, Fig. 3; 2014, 208, Pl. 3/4.

⁸² Jerem 1973, 68, 74-77, Fig. 6/3-4, Fig. 9; 1974, 230, Fig. 1/1-2; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002, 417-418, Fig. 187/3-4.

⁸³ Jerem 1973, 81; 1974, 236; Vasić 1995a; 2001; 2005; Potrebica, Dizdar 2014.

⁸⁴ Vasić 1985; 1988, 172; 1991, 140; 1995a, 85-86; 1999a, 102-117, Pl. 68B, Pl. 69; 2001, 26.

⁸⁵ Vinski 1960, 60, Fig. 6; Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 282-283; Vasić 1991; 2001, 26.

⁸⁶ Vasić 1995a, 88; 2001, 25; 2005, 72; 2006, 120-121.

The next horizon of the Syrmian group, after the one represented by Certosa fibulae of type V, along with the other forms of fibulae we mentioned, is represented by bronze Certosa fibulae of type XIII, especially of variant c, which have been found at the sites of Vinkovci-Blato (Fig. 3/2) and Vinkovci-Dren, where two fibulae of this type are known (Fig. 1/4-5). There are already known fibulae of type XIII from female grave 1 of the Vinkovci-Nama cemetery and the nearby Tržnica site,⁸⁷ where a segment of an astragal belt was found, which might indicate the existence of graves in that part of the site too. The end of the bow of the fibulae has a hole for a hinge device, which has been preserved in a fibula from Dren too. There is a rectangular chord on the interior side of the bow, and a bronze wire pulled through the spiral. At the ends of the bow, towards the spiral and the foot, there are several transverse low ribs separated by grooves. At the end of the foot, there is a thorn with a spherical knob.

Bronze Certosa hinged fibulae of type XIII, together with eastern Alpine zoomorphic fibulae, are also considered as direct evidence of the contacts between the southeastern Alpine and Pannonian areas.⁸⁸ Certosa fibulae of type XIIIc, based on finds from cemeteries of Dolenjska group, including finds from cemeteries Szentlőrinc,⁸⁹ Donja Dolina⁹⁰ and Sanski Most,⁹¹ can be dated to the later phase of the Certosa horizon,⁹² so their occurrence is likely to be placed during the second half of the 5th cent. BC.⁹³

The youngest Certosa fibulae belong to type XIIIh, possibly such as the one found at the site of Vinkovci-Slatine (Fig. 2/1). The fibula has a bow with a roof-shaped cross-section, and there is a protrusion with a spherical knob at the end of the foot. At the end of the bow, the fibula has a round plate for the hinge, which is not perforated, which might mean it is unfinished and originating from the settlement. Certosa fibulae of the type XIIIh are known from grave 51 from the cemetery Osijek-Zeleno polje⁹⁴ and from a grave in Belišće.⁹⁵ They are most numerous in graves in Donja Dolina, Sanski Most and Szentlőrinc, and they are dated to the late 5th and the early 4th cent. BC,⁹⁶ with the possible duration at the beginning of the Čurug phase.⁹⁷

Finds of Late Hallstatt Astragal Belts

The most recognizable part of the female costume of the Syrmian group is the typical bronze astragal belt of the Nikinci type, as it was defined by D. Garašanin,⁹⁸ which is composed of equally shaped moulded segments in large numbers, even more than a hundred. The belt includes two rectangular belt plates with three round loops. This is evidenced by belts without preserved buckles from graves at Vinkovci-Silos and Novi Jankovci,⁹⁹ or by the completely preserved belt from a grave at the nearby site of Vučedol.¹⁰⁰ Individual belt segments have been found at several

⁸⁷ Vinkovci-Nama: Majnarić-Pandžić 2003, 488, Fig. 3/2, 4-5; Vinkovci-Tržnica: Potrebica, Dizdar 2002, 83, Pl. 1/2.

⁸⁸ Teržan 1976, 338, 377-382, 391, Fig. 30; 1998, 521.

⁸⁹ Jerem 1968, 184-185, Fig. 23,29/5, Fig. 25,42/3.

⁹⁰ Truhelka 1904, 103, Pl. LIII/13.

⁹¹ Fiala 1899, 70, Fig. 25; 100, Fig. 43.

⁹² Teržan 1976, 361, 377-382, 392, Fig. 28.

⁹³ Dizdar 2015, 54.

⁹⁴ Spajić 1962, Pl. XXVI/45-46.

⁹⁵ Dizdar 2015, 45-49, Fig. 3.

⁹⁶ Teržan 1976, Fig. 30, 380; Dizdar 2015, 49, Map.

⁹⁷ Božič 1981a, 315-316.

⁹⁸ Garašanin 1954, 78, Pl. L/2; 1967a, 36.

⁹⁹ Vinkovci-Silos: Majnarić-Pandžić 1973, 39, Pl. XX/1; Novi Jankovci: Brunšmid 1902, 72.

¹⁰⁰ Brunšmid 1902, 68-69, Fig. 24. The closest parallels for Late Hallstatt graves in and around Vinkovci have been noticed in finds from Vučedol graves: Brunšmid 1902, 68-71, Fig. 22-29. Warrior weaponry includes four spears and falcatas showing Balkan influences (Teržan 1977, 14, Fig. 4/8-12); the female grave is indicated not only by the astragal belt and Certosa fibulae of type V, but also by a necklace made of numerous glass beads.

other sites in and around Vinkovci,¹⁰¹ and J. Brunšmid mentions a decorated buckle of an astragal belt with three loops and a segment.¹⁰² The large number of finds of segments probably testifies about the existence of a large number of graves of the Syrmian group in Vinkovci. Aside from the mentioned finds, numerous segments of the same shape have originated from newly discovered sites, with fragments of two buckles originating from the site at Podgrađe-Stanić. The better preserved rectangular buckle has three loops, one of which is completely preserved, and is decorated with a set of shallow grooves along the longer edge towards the segments, just like the loop itself, while the bottom has four eyelets. Only one loop has been preserved from the other buckle (Fig. 4/7-8). In general, the rectangular part of the buckle can be decorated with variously organized incisions and motifs of concentric circles, as shown by examples from a grave at Vučedol,¹⁰³ from Donji šor cemetery in Šabac¹⁰⁴ and from Uzveće in Mačva.¹⁰⁵ Interestingly, the decorations on the edge and loops of the buckle from Podgrađe have parallels in the buckle from Vinkovci, mentioned by J. Brunšmid,¹⁰⁶ and belt buckles from grave I in Srijemska Mitrovica,¹⁰⁷ a buckle bought in Novi Sad,¹⁰⁸ and a buckle from grave 1 in Beremend.¹⁰⁹

The greatest number of segments was found at the sites of Podgrađe-Stanić (Fig. 4/9) and Vinkovci-Dren (Fig. 1/6-7), while a smaller number was collected at the site of Vinkovci-Slatine (Fig. 2/2). The segments are characterized by astragal elements of 4 rounded thickenings separated by rectangular plates decorated with horizontal grooves. The intermediate rectangular ribs are clearly separated from the round elements and rather elongated, sometimes even wider than the rounded thickenings. The characteristic feature of these segments, as well as others known from graves, is that the eyelets are located in rounded elements, and there is a narrow flattened rib on the bottom of the segments.

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, a significant number of Late Hallstatt astragal belts were found in Syrmia, and they are recognized as characteristic finds in this area.¹¹⁰ The mentioned grave assemblages, together with the finds from the newly discovered burials as Vinkovci-Silos, confirmed that it was a characteristic part of the female costume, although the first description of astragal belts from the beginning of the 20th century, made by J. Brunšmid, interpreted them as a part of male military dress according to the finds from destroyed graves from Vučedol.¹¹¹ Astragal belts were often associated with different variants of the Certosa type fibulae – the most numerous are those of type V¹¹² – which enables the dating of these Late Hallstatt belts to the late 6th and the first half of the 5th cent. BC.¹¹³ The manner of wearing them is evidenced by the findings in the grave 1 from Beremend¹¹⁴ and especially in the grave from Mözs,¹¹⁵ which also indicate that astragal belts were a part of the costume of adult females.

¹⁰¹ Potreblica, Dizdar 2002, 83, Pl. 1/4, 9-10.

¹⁰² Brunšmid 1902, 72.

¹⁰³ Brunšmid 1902, 68-69, Fig. 24.

¹⁰⁴ Vasiljević 1977, 171, Fig. 4/4.

¹⁰⁵ Vasić 1989, 110, Fig. 2/1.

¹⁰⁶ Brunšmid 1902, 72.

¹⁰⁷ Guštin, Teržan 1976, 195, Fig. 3/3.

¹⁰⁸ Vasić 1989, 110, Fig. 2/2; Arsenijević 1998, 16, Fig. 22; Jovanović 1998, 54, Pl. V/5.

¹⁰⁹ Jerem 1973, 68, Fig. 5/8; 1974, 230, Fig. 2/1-3.

¹¹⁰ I.e. Nikinci, Adaševci, Srijemska Mitrovica grave I etc.: Hoernes 1901, 282-283; Brunšmid 1902, 71-75; Vinski, Vinski-Gasparini 1962, 279; Guštin, Teržan 1976, 193; Vasić 1987b; 1989.

¹¹¹ Brunšmid 1902, 71-73. Interestingly, B. Čović also relates astragal belts to the warrior costume, considering the find in Arareva Gromila: Čović 1987b, 622.

¹¹² Jovanović 1998, 68, Tab.

¹¹³ Dizdar 2015, 53.

¹¹⁴ Jerem 1973, 66, Fig. 3.

¹¹⁵ Gaál 2001, 27-28, Pl. X. Aside from the mentioned female burials in the southeastern Transdanubia – with Certosa fibulae of type Ib and XIII in Beremend and with fibulae of type Ib in Mözs (Kemenczei 2012, 339, 343 wrongly as type V) – a Late Hallstatt astragal belt is also documented in the inhumation grave found at Szárazd-Gerenyáspusztá, together with Certosa fibulae of types V and XIII and glass beads (Kemenczei 2012, 339, Fig. 9/1-6).

The first analysis of astragal belts after Brunšmid's description was made at the end of the 1960s, when J. Todorović outlined the characteristics and dating of examples from the territory of former Yugoslavia,¹¹⁶ while E. Jerem described finds from the territory of Western Hungary.¹¹⁷ Until the present day, numerous examples have been published, establishing astragal belts as a part of the female costume in the southeastern Carpathian Basin during the second millennium BC.¹¹⁸ The last mentioned analyses demonstrate two peaks of production which can be observed: a Late Hallstatt one in the period between the 6th and the 4th cent. BC,¹¹⁹ which is well known on the basis of characteristic grave finds, and another during the Late La Tène, which has been discussed in detail by D. Božič.¹²⁰ However, examples from the intermediate, Early and Middle La Tène phases, are somewhat less known or recognized, although the continuity of the form is quite certain.¹²¹

Along with astragal belts of the Nikinci type, some other shapes of segments have been identified at the sites of Podgrađe-Stanić and Vinkovci-Dren, pointing to the existence of other types of bronze astragal belts at the sites of the Sarmatian group. It should be pointed out that those are not finds from funerary contexts, so the possibility remains that such segments might have been parts of belts with the prevailing shape of segments of Nikinci type belts, although a different position of eyelets would probably be a problem for the sequence of segments on the belt. The most numerous shapes of segments which we have described has the closest parallel in the fragments of two segments from the site of Podgrađe-Stanić, which are also made of oval thickenings separated by narrow horizontal ribs with grooves. The difference is in the position of eyelets, which are right under the oval thickenings, i.e. they are filled, while there is a narrow rib between the eyelets (Fig. 4/10). It seems there used to be an eyelet under each thickening. Since only fragments have been preserved, the number of thickenings in segments is unknown. A direct parallel for those fragments, considering the position of the eyelets, was noted in a segment from grave 1 of tumulus II from Taline, which contains two-looped fibulae with the foot in the shape of the Boeotian shield and spectacle fibulae.¹²² These shapes of segments from Podgrađe might point to a technological inter-phase in the development of astragal belts, since the eyelets are easily damaged on the bottom, which would make the segments lose their basic function, and that is why the eyelets on younger forms are set in the round thickenings themselves.

¹¹⁶ Todorović 1964.

¹¹⁷ Jerem 1973, 77-79, Fig. 9-10; 1974, 232-234, Fig. 4; Kemenczei 2012, 343-344.

¹¹⁸ For a more recent overview, see Božič 1981b; Jovanović 1993; 1998; Arsenijević 1998; Kemenczei 2012. Interestingly, S. Arsenijević (1998, 12) dates the astragal belts from the sites in eastern Slavonia to the late phase of the Dalj group, which depended, of course, on the prior dating of the end of the Dalj group to the beginning of the Late Iron Age.

¹¹⁹ Dizdar, Tonc forthcoming.

¹²⁰ Božič 1981b.

¹²¹ Dizdar, Tonc forthcoming. D. Božič (1981b) analyzed the La Tène astragal belts and differentiated three types: an older variant or type Osijek, and two contemporary, LT D forms, named types Belgrade and Dunaszekcső with the characteristic bell-shaped belt buckle. The Osijek type has 4 or 3 thickenings and horizontal incisions on the intermediate ribs, similarly to the older, Late Hallstatt belts. The finds from graves found at Zeleno polje in Osijek can be placed in this transitional period between the Late Hallstatt and the Late La Tène periods, where the shift from the three-looped buckle to the bell-shaped buckle can be observed. The earlier examples – from graves 9 and 22 – are more similar to the Late Hallstatt forms, considering the plate with three loops and 4 astragal-shaped thickenings with horizontal grooves on the intermediate ribs: Spajić 1954, 13, Pl. IV/26; 1956, 50, Pl. X/1, 6-7, Pl. XI/1-2. The later pieces, such as those from graves 4 and 26, have three round thickenings separated by narrow ribs with horizontal incisions, and bell-shaped buckles in place of the three loops: Spajić 1954, 10, Pl. II/11; 1962, 37-38, Pl. XIII. Finally, it can be concluded that the Osijek finds show Early and Middle La Tène phases in the development of astragal belts, with changes in the belt buckle being the most notable. Aside from the mentioned examples from the cemetery in Osijek, astragal belts which can be dated to the 4th cent. BC (Čurug phase), in relation to other finds, are known from graves at the cemetery in Donja Dolina: Truhelka 1904, 101, Pl. L/27, 112, Pl. LX/11-12. Some buckles and segments are also known from that cemetery, but without preserved burial contexts: Marić 1964, 40-41, Pl. XIV/23-25, 28-29.

¹²² Lucentini 1981, 80, Pl. XVII/17.

The three fragments of segments from the site of Podgrađe-Stanić also consist of round thickenings, with the notable difference that the thickenings are separated by thin horizontal ribs with three smaller wart-like protrusions (Fig. 4/11). On the bottom, there is an eyelet with a partly asymmetrical orientation towards the round thickening, while the rest is flattened. Furthermore, since only fragments have been preserved, it is unknown how many thickenings there were in the segments (probably four) and how many eyelets there were on the bottom, although it seems there were probably only two.

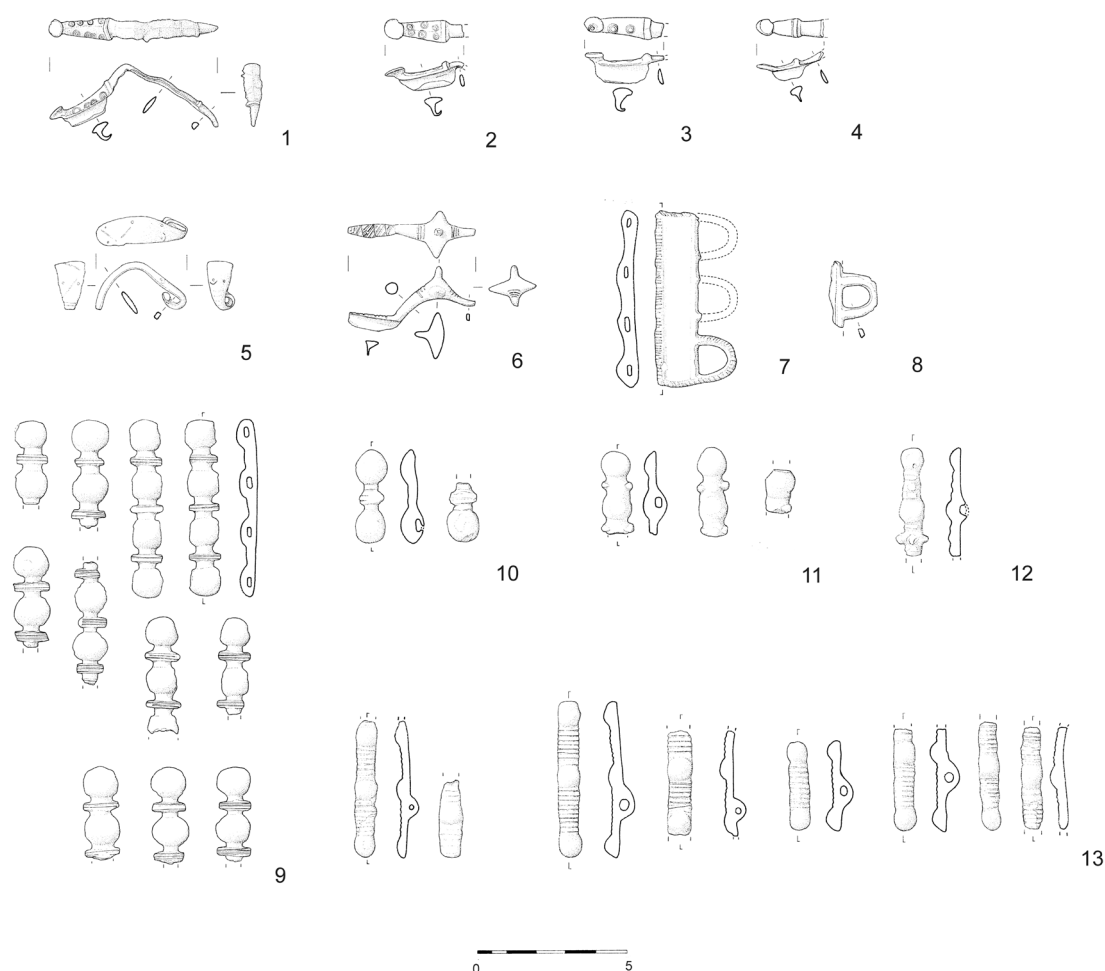


Fig. 4 – Late Hallstatt finds from the site of Podgrađe-Stanić.

Those segments can be compared to the belt from grave 1 of the princely tumulus Arareva Gromila, where the numerous finds of warrior equipment include a belt of 86 segments¹²³ and two rectangular buckles. The buckles have five eyelets on a longer side, with hanging triangular pendants with loops. The segments consist of four oval thickenings with eyelets inside. It seems there is a small wart-like protrusion in the middle of the thin intermediate ribs.¹²⁴ D. Garašanin¹²⁵ links this belt with the finds of astragal belts at the cemeteries of the Sarmian group and groups them into the same type. As for Glasinac, R. Vasić¹²⁶ mentions belts of the same type from the tumulus XIII/1 at Mlađ, tumulus X at Crvena Lokva, tumulus XV/1893 at Ilijak and tumuli LXXI/1894

¹²³ Truhelka 1893, 80, Fig. 49-51 mentioned 88 segments.

¹²⁴ Benac, Čović 1957, 20, Pl. XXXX/4; Vasić 1973, 81; Lucentini 1981, 81, Fig. 3/35, Pl. I/1; Čović 1987b, 622, Fig. 36/21; Arsenijević 1998, 10, Fig. 1; Jovanović 1998, 43, 62, Pl. IV/3.

¹²⁵ Garašanin 1967a, 36; 1967b, 47.

¹²⁶ Vasić 2003, 29.

and I/1896 at Rusanovići.¹²⁷ He dates the graves with astragal belts at Glasinac to the third quarter of the 6th cent. BC,¹²⁸ or the second half of the 6th cent. BC (Glasinac IVc-2 phase, earlier Va),¹²⁹ and even to the beginning of the second half of the 6th cent. BC,¹³⁰ while N. Lucentini dates them to phase III, i.e. to the 6th cent. BC.¹³¹ For these fragments from Podgrađe, another comparison can be made with the fragment of a segment from the settlement Pod near Bugojno, with two preserved thickenings and three small wart-like protrusions on the ribs. The fragment was dated to the phase 4 of the Central Bosnian group.¹³² Viteževo contained the fragment of a segment with two round thickenings and an intermediate rib with two preserved small wart-like protrusions, where the eyelet is located in the round thickening.¹³³

These belts and segments can be included in a special type of astragal belts – the Glasinac type – characterized by small wart-like protrusions on intermediate ribs, while eyelets are usually located in round thickenings, except for segments from Podgrađe, where eyelets are on the bottom, like in the segments of Banoštor-type belts, which may indicate that they were produced locally. The Glasinac type of astragal belts, based on finds in funerary contexts, has been dated as starting in the mid-6th cent. BC. This type is somewhat similar to the astragal belt from inhumation grave 1 in tumulus VII from Kriva Reka (Višovina site). The segments consist of three large round thickenings with exceptionally narrow and long rectangular intermediate ribs. The belt was buckled with a calotte buckle with wart-like protrusions along the edge; between the buckle and the segments, there is a narrow rectangular plate with wart-like protrusions set along both long sides. The grave has been dated to the 6th cent. BC, i.e. to the horizon III of the Early Iron Age.¹³⁴ The described calotte buckles have been dated to the Glasinac IVc-2 phase (with fibulae of the types Borajna, Rusanovići, Potpećine, and earlier variants of Arareva Gromila),¹³⁵ and to phase 2b of Donja Dolina¹³⁶ i.e. the second half of the 6th cent. BC.¹³⁷

A separate variant of astragal belts of the Glasinac type is the belt from inhumation grave 2 in the princely tumulus from the site of Trnjaci at Pilatovići. The grave was built in stone and is younger than the central cremation grave. It contained a buried 30-year-old woman with bronze and ceramic vessels, ten fibulae of different types (the most numerous ones have two loops and a perforated square foot; fibulae with a rectangular foot and a thickened bow; fibulae with a rectangular foot and a conical bow; fibulae of the Potpećine type), amber and stone beads, bronze bracelets, and gold objects. The belt, found around the woman's waist, has more than 50 segments, a rectangular buckle with three loops, and a calotte buckle with protrusions along the edge. The segments consist of three round thickenings separated by ribs with three small round protrusions, and the bottom of the last central thickening has another rib with protrusions. The eyelets are located within the thickening.¹³⁸ In accordance with the finds of fibulae, the grave was dated to the middle or the beginning of the second half of the 6th cent. BC, although the bronze vessels were associated with older forms from the early 6th cent. BC.¹³⁹ Considering the fibulae,

¹²⁷ Arsenijević 1998, 10-12; Jovanović 1998, 43.

¹²⁸ Vasić 2003, 39; 2007, 558; 2010, 110.

¹²⁹ Vasić 1982b, 10; 1989, 106; 2001, 23; Čović 1987b, 582, 613-614.

¹³⁰ Vasić 2003, 23; 2010, 115.

¹³¹ Lucentini 1981, 110.

¹³² Čović 1987c, 499, Fig. 28/15; Arsenijević 1998, 11, Fig. 5; Jovanović 1998, 42, Pl. III/8; Gavranović 2011, 238, Fig. 244/1.

¹³³ Jovanović 1998, 58, Pl. VIII/8.

¹³⁴ Todorović 1964, 46, Pl. I/8; Garašanin 1967b, 47, Fig. 16; Vasić 1977, 23, Pl. 29/2; Zotović 1985, 73, Pl. XIX/4; Arsenijević 1998, 10, Fig. 3; Jovanović 1998, 43-44, 63, Pl. IV/2.

¹³⁵ Čović 1987b, 621-622, Pl. LXII/29; Vasić 1999a, 89-98, Pl. 64B; Gavranović 2011, 224, Fig. 226, Map 65.

¹³⁶ Čović 1987a, 246, Pl. XXVI/8.

¹³⁷ Vasić 1982b, 10, note 14; 1997, 50-51.

¹³⁸ Zotović 1985, 89-92, Pl. XXXII/5-13; Arsenijević 1998, 10, Fig. 2; Jovanović 1988, 44, 63, Pl. IV/1; Jevtić 2016.

¹³⁹ Vasić 1987c, 50; 1989, 106; 1997, 52-53; 1999a, 67, 69, 84, 94; 2001, 23; 2007, 559-560; 2010, 111.

especially those with a rectangular perforated foot that continue after the ones with a foot in the shape of a Boeotian shield (group 8), maybe the bronze vessels actually date the grave correctly to the first half of the 6th cent. BC already.

The belt from Pilatovići, with round side protrusions on the segments, is close to the astragal belts singled out as the Donja Dolina type, represented by the finds from grave 8 from the plot of I. Stipančević. There are nine preserved segments with three round thickenings separated by ribs with a small round protrusion on each side. The rectangular buckle found in the grave has a three-leaf protrusion in the corners and in the middle of one side. The grave also contained Borajna-type fibulae, probably Rusanovići-type fibulae, a fibula with a ribbed bow and a long foot, and a small boat-shaped fibula.¹⁴⁰ The grave was dated to phase IIc by Z. Marić – the 5th cent. BC,¹⁴¹ then to phase 2b,¹⁴² i.e. the second half of the 6th cent. BC.¹⁴³ On the other hand, B. Teržan included the grave in the 3rd horizon of Donja Dolina (Ha D1), which belongs to the end of the 7th and the first half of the 6th cent. BC,¹⁴⁴ similarly to the proposed dating of grave 2 from Pilatovići.

Aside from Donja Dolina, one segment with this shape was found in tumulus II at the site of Rudno Brdo near the village of Gotovuša near Pljevlja, and there is a mention of a fragment of another segment.¹⁴⁵ The segment, together with other characteristic finds, was dated to the 3rd phase of inhumation in the tumulus,¹⁴⁶ which is chronologically determined by the fibula of the Potpećine type, associated with the Glasinac IVc-2 phase. We should also mention a segment of this shape from a site in Albania, which was associated with the 3rd phase of the local chronology, i.e. the 6th cent. BC.¹⁴⁷ As a further conceptual comparison for the segments of astragal belts of the Donja Dolina type, we should mention bronze segments (belt applications) having a round thickening in the center with the eyelet below it, and with three small connected round thickenings at the ends. Fifteen such segments have been found in princely grave 1 of tumulus II at Osovo from the Glasinac IVc-1 phase. The mentioned segments are considered to be the forerunners of the astragal belts that already appear in the next phase, the IVc-2 phase.¹⁴⁸

Along with the segments of astragal belts of Nikinci and Glasinac types, the site of Podgrađe-Stanić and in small numbers the site of Vinkovci-Dren contained fragments of completely different narrow segments, but none of them whole, unfortunately. Longer preserved segments have up to three narrow round thickenings separated by rows of transverse ribs with grooves between them (Fig. 1/8; Fig. 4/13). Each end of the segments probably had one thickening, while another two or three were symmetrically set between them. On the bottom, usually under the segment decorated with ribs, there is the eyelet, while the rest is flattened. Considering the assumed length of the segments and the existence of four or five round thickenings, there were two eyelets on the bottom, each located closer to the end of the segment. Segment length could have been around 7.0-7.5 cm. The site of Podgrađe-Stanić also included a fragment of a narrow segment, which is partly in accordance with the mentioned ones. The fragment contains two preserved narrow and round thickenings, where one was probably at the end, separated by three wider transverse ribs (Fig. 4/12). On the other side of a thickening, which was probably in the middle of the segment, another three ribs can be noticed, with the central one having a small protrusion on both lateral sides. Also, a small wart-like protrusion can be seen in the central part of this rib. There is an eyelet under the central thickening, while the rest of the segment is flattened. The other eyelet

¹⁴⁰ Truhelka 1904, 129, Pl. LXXV/7, 13; Teržan 1974, 42-43, Fig. 7; Čović 1987a, 248, Pl. XXVI/6, 14; Arsenijević 1998, 11, Fig. 6; Jovanović 1998, 42, Pl. II/9; Gavranović 2011, 238, Fig. 244/2; Fig. 264/5.

¹⁴¹ Marić 1964, 40, Pl. XIV/22.

¹⁴² Čović 1987a, 248.

¹⁴³ Vasić 1989, 106.

¹⁴⁴ Teržan 1974, 42-44, Fig. 7.

¹⁴⁵ Čović 1967, 36-37, Pl. III/25; Arsenijević 1998, 10, Fig. 4; Jovanović 1998, 44, Pl. III/10.

¹⁴⁶ Čović 1967, 38.

¹⁴⁷ Prendi 1975, 123, Pl. VI/15.

¹⁴⁸ Benac, Čović, 1957, 15, Pl. XXVII/8-9; Lucentini 1981, 80, Fig. 3/34, Pl. XI/10; Čović 1987b, 611, Fig. 35/33.

was probably under the other central thickening, which means that the segment could have been around 6.0-7.0 cm long, so that the rib with three protrusions could have been in the center of the segment.

The described segments from Podgrade and from Dren show the greatest similarity with the segments from Banoštor, both by the shapes and number of thickenings and ribs on the top of the segments and by the position of eyelets on the bottom, so they are singled out as Banoštor-type belts.

A destroyed grave (or graves) at Banoštor in Fruška Gora probably contained the narrow segments of two different variants of this type of segments. The characteristics of both segment variants are two eyelets on the bottom, placed nearer to the ends of the segments. The first variant consists of segments made of five small round thickenings separated by three (sometimes two on the ends) narrow biconical ribs, while the segments of the second variant consist of six small round thickenings separated by one biconical rib. Therefore, there is a bigger distance between the round thickenings of the variant with five thickenings, while those with six thickenings have a smaller distance, with the segments of the second variant being narrower. Considering the preserved number of segments, as well as the similarities, it was supposed that differently shaped segments could have been parts of the same belt.¹⁴⁹ R. Vasić assumes it was a transitional form of the belt between Glasinac and Syrmian forms, regarding the shape and position of the eyelets on the bottom.¹⁵⁰ The find was associated with the oldest recognized phase of the Syrmian group at the time,¹⁵¹ and considering the finds of the fibulae of the Rusanovići, Potpećine and Arareva Gromila types, and multihead pins, the entire assemblage of the finds was dated to the second half of the 6th cent. BC,¹⁵² which means the Glasinac IVc-2 phase.¹⁵³ Considering the later dating of the mentioned fibulae according to B. Teržan,¹⁵⁴ the entire assemblage can perhaps be dated around the middle or the start of the second half of the 6th cent. BC at the latest, especially if it was a burial context.

Banoštor-type belts can also be assumed for the fragment of a segment in Viteževo, which has two preserved thickenings separated by ribs, and an eyelet on the bottom.¹⁵⁵ A segment found at Zemun had five round thickenings separated by narrow biconical ribs.¹⁵⁶ A parallel to a degree can be the narrow segment/appliqué from a destroyed tomb from Vašarovine near Livno, which has a small protrusion on both ends, separated by rows of transverse ribs. On the bottom, near the ends, there are single eyelets.¹⁵⁷ Other analogies are the narrow segments of bronze belts from a cemetery in Albania, which are differently shaped and also have eyelets on the bottom. The segments have been dated to the end of the 2nd phase, which includes the 8th-7th cent. BC.¹⁵⁸

As final remarks about the typology and chronology of bronze astragal belts, it can be said that the standard of producing and using astragal belts covers a large time-span, some six hundred years of the last millennium BC. Astragal belts were developed from belts with buttons arranged in three or four rows or connected with variously shaped round clips, as evidenced by graves from the cemetery in Donja Dolina and Glasinac where they have been dated to Ha C2 and the beginning of the Ha D1 phase.¹⁵⁹ Morphological features make it possible to divide the Late Hallstatt astragal belts into more types and variants, and also to show how the item changed through time

¹⁴⁹ Vasić 1989, 104, Fig. 1; Arsenijević 1998, 13, Fig. 13-14; Jovanović 1998, 52, 64, Pl. III/1-2.

¹⁵⁰ Vasić 1989, 107-108.

¹⁵¹ Vasić 1989, 108-109.

¹⁵² Vasić 1989, 105, 108; 1999a, 90-98, Pl. 44/665-666, Pl. 45/691-693, Pl. 48/774, Pl. 49/801.

¹⁵³ Čović 1987b, 618-619.

¹⁵⁴ Teržan 1987, 19.

¹⁵⁵ Jovanović 1998, 58, 68, Pl. VIII/1.

¹⁵⁶ Vasić 1977, 70, Pl. 51/19.

¹⁵⁷ Čović, Nikšić 1983, 89, Pl. II/13; Jovanović 1998, 68, Pl. III/4.

¹⁵⁸ Prendi 1975, 123, Pl. V/10-11; Jovanović 1998, 45, 63-64, Pl. III/5-7.

¹⁵⁹ Teržan 1974, 43; Čović 1987a, 241; Vasić 1989, 106; Arsenijević 1998, 9; Jovanović 1998, 61-62.

while maintaining the principal idea and scheme. Astragal belts are always associated with bronze fibulae and glass beads which clearly confirm they were a very significant part of female costume. Their origin is traced to the Central Balkan area, and their usage can be dated to the first half of the 6th cent. BC (Glasinac and Donja Dolina types with variants),¹⁶⁰ while those of the Banoštor type could be understood as an answer to local requirements. Astragal belts of the Nikinci type from cemeteries of the Syrmian group, which were dated to the late 6th cent. BC, and as written several times by R. Vasić,¹⁶¹ according to some typological characteristics (i.e. the place of the eyelets), obviously follow the ideas from the south because of their technological advantages. The justification of these assumptions may be confirmed by the newly discovered finds, particularly those from the Podgrađe-Stanić site, for which direct comparisons have been documented at sites of the Glasinac complex. Another important conclusion is that some typological differences in belts can't be explained only by their chronological position, where their simultaneity indicates various details that are interwoven in the segments of various types.

During the Late Hallstatt period, the most numerous astragal belts are those of the Nikinci type, which were characteristic for the material legacy of the Syrmian group, covering Syrmia, Eastern Slavonia and south-eastern Transdanubia, where it is interesting that so far they have been completely lacking in contemporaneous Late Hallstatt cemeteries located in the area to the east of the Danube, i.e. along the Tisza river.¹⁶² During the Late Iron Age astragal belts spread to adjacent areas, especially to the north along the Danube.

Final Remarks

The presented Late Hallstatt finds from Vinkovci and the surroundings reconfirm that the territories of eastern Slavonia and western Syrmia belong to the area of distribution of the Syrmian group, which could include the settlements at Dirov brijeg and Damića gradina, just like the youngest layers of the Early Iron Age at Gradina on the Bosut River. It was a period of intense contacts with all the neighbouring cultural groups that provided the Syrmian group with certain aspects of their own legacy, which often accepted them, but also transformed them in its own particular way into a characteristic material expression that is currently most recognizable in the finds from female graves. Astragal belts could be the best proof for this.

The latest analyses show that the Syrmian group represents the youngest phase in the continuous development of the Bosut group, which raises question regarding its name (as a group) and especially regarding the area of distribution, which covers a much bigger space than Syrmia. This is why we tried to introduce the concept of the Osijek group, now called the Osijek phase, which would show the youngest phase of the development of the Bosut group. That phase, considering the characteristic inhumation burials and female costume items, was when the Bosut group spread to the areas that used to be inhabited by the Dalj group. As it has been pointed out, this relationship has not been fully clarified yet, especially concerning the end of the Dalj group with cremation burial practice, but the finds collected until now indicate it ended in the late 7th cent.-beginning of the 6th BC at the latest. At the same time, there were more and more recognizable contacts with the territories of Central Balkans that might have had a crucial influence on the creation of a new material expression – the Syrmian group, as prefigured by R. Vasić in his works. More complete answers can be provided only by new research with closed contexts that will also determine the relationship towards the channelled pottery phase that started in the mid-7th cent. BC (phase II according to R. Vasić), which can probably be related to the grave from Hrtkovci.

¹⁶⁰ The Central Balkan origin of astragal belts was already indicated by J. Todorović, who pointed out the earlier time frame of the belts from graves in Glasinac and western Serbia: Todorović 1964, 47.

¹⁶¹ Vasić 1977, 28-29, 38; 1981, 167; 1982b, 9-10; 1987b, 556; 1989, 106-107.

¹⁶² Interestingly, finds of astragal belts are missing from the cemeteries of Vinkovci-Nama (Majnarić-Pandžić 2003) and Szentlőrinc (Jerem 1968), but this does not put in question their continuity with the finds from the Late Iron Age.

The reason is the fact that the periodization of the Bosut group is founded on the results of the research of settlements, primarily the multilayer settlements and their stratigraphy, where it is much harder to follow all the changes by examining ceramic finds. Therefore, the chronological classification into phases with characteristic burial assemblages of objects, proposed by R. Vasić, points to a good direction for future research. The singling out of phase III, which is currently best documented in Syrmia by the finds in Banoštor with fibulae of Glasinac origin, indicates more intense contacts with the south, already at the end of the 7th and in the first half of the 6th cent. BC. These contacts would persist in phase IV, where most finds defined within the Syrmian group are dated. Southern influences on the territory of Syrmia probably flowed through the valley of Great Morava, while it can be assumed for western Syrmia and eastern Slavonia that important communications went northwards by the river Drina, as confirmed by comparisons with the finds from the territory of the Lower Drina valley. The sources of these influences are indicated by the finds of astragal belts, especially those with direct parallels in the territory of the Glasinac culture. Their original and local transformation ensued within the Syrmian group/phase, with the appearance of Nikinci-type astragal belts, which were also a technological achievement that would keep developing, with certain changes, until the Late La Tène, which also testifies about their deep roots in local identity.

The research that has been done at the sites of the latter phase of Early Iron Age indicates the existence of communities located along the great rivers: Danube, Drava and Sava, with intense communications between them, as testified by numerous types of finds confirming an exchange of goods, but also of individuals and small groups, especially from the area of spreading of the Glasinac culture. The finds collected in and around Vinkovci, dated to the 6th-4th cent. BC, are yet another testimony of the complex cultural landscape of the southeastern Carpathian Basin in Late Hallstatt period, where further research will be the best way to represent the continuity of exceptional achievements made over several decades by our honouree RASTKO VASIĆ.¹⁶³

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