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29TH EAA ANNUAL MEETING

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ABSTRACT BOOK

been accessible in English either. In the recent past archaeometallurgic studies have been involved in the research of the material culture of the given period, consequently their preliminary results will be included in the talk, and it also wishes to summarize the relationships of the individual types of artefacts, their parallels found in the Carpathian basin and in the wider Central European context.

3 WHY DID IT BECOME SO POPULAR? TWISTED JEWELLERY FROM THE FORMATIVE PERIOD OF THE HUNGARIAN STATE IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

Abstract author(s): Radišić, Milica (Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade)

Abstract format: Oral

The use of wire had an important place in the European crafts milieu during the Antiquity and the Middle Ages, however, jewellery made entirely by twisting wires was specific only to particular periods and geographical areas. It is well known that twisted neck-rings (torcs) and arm-rings were widespread in the north and east of Europe – a huge number of such finds come from famous Viking-age silver hoards. Similar twisted items, mainly made of bronze, were also popular in the Carpathian basin during the last decades of the 10th and the 11th century, but they are less known to a wider scientific audience. Nearly four hundred torcs and probably several hundred twisted bracelets and finger-rings originate from cemeteries of the so-called Arpad period. In previous studies, scholars from Hungary, Romania and the former Yugoslav countries emphasised different causes behind their spread, such as an atavism of the Antiquity, the Avar-period legacy and the influence of Byzantine culture. It is surprising that there has been almost no attempt to interpret these artefacts in the context of fashion influence and craft skills transfer from the Kievan Rus' and the Norse world. Even more so since historical sources hint at some contacts involving commercial and military cooperation between the Hungarian state and the aforementioned regions. This paper will discuss archaeological contexts, as well as morphological and technological characteristics of twisted jewellery in order to gain a better understanding of the nature of the relationships between East-Central Europe and the surrounding world in the beginning of the High Middle ages.

4 STAR-SHAPED BROOCHES AS FUNERARY ITEMS: SOME REMARQUES ON THEIR ORIGIN AND CHRONOLOGY

Abstract author(s): Marcu Istrate, Daniela Veronica (Romanian Academy, "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest)

Abstract format: Oral

This paper aims to reopen the debate on the so called "star-shaped brooches", based on two exceptional items uncovered in 2011 in Alba Iulia (Transylvania, RO), in front of the Roman Catholic Cathedral. The today cathedral is a 13th century building. However, churches have been built on the same spot since the 10th century, and a burial site has been opened at the end of the 11th century, to be intensively used in the following centuries. Over 400 graves were uncovered in 2011, overlapping the ruin of a Byzantine style church. Very few of them had funeral items, which typically were earrings with S-shaped end, finger rings or coins. Nevertheless, several graves stand out for their very special inventory, among them being two special star-shaped brooches.

This paper will introduce the artifacts and the archaeological context of their discovery, as extremely relevant from a chronological point of view. Some new hypotheses regarding the origin of these pieces, their evolution over a wide area in Central-Eastern Europe and, last but not least, possible meanings of their fabric and usage, will be discussed.

5 PINS DISCOVERED AT CHURCHYARD CEMETERIES: VARIATIONS OF FORMS, DECORATION AND FUNCTIONS

Abstract author(s): Szocs, Peter Levente (Muzeul Judetean Satu Mare)

Abstract format: Oral

A series of new and older discoveries of pins will be presented coming from medieval and early modern Hungary and Transylvania. Their number is steadily growing due to the extensive archaeological rescue researches at church-yard cemeteries. Pins are found as grave-goods, more precisely as accessories of cloths, head-wears or shrouds, but a considerable number are found in various fills or layers, not connected directly to burials. It is of particular interest that the discovered pins present a high variation of materials (from common metals to noble ones, and their combination); dimensions; forms (from the simplest ones, to spectacular spherical heads); and decoration. All these features, and the position or the context of the discovery permit to identify the function of pins, and even the social status of their bearers. Moreover, variation of materials and decorations might help to identify techniques of production and workshops. Similar forms are present in different contexts, though, which suggests that particular objects could be used for multiple purposes.