

*Papers in Honour of Rastko Vasić 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

*Зборник радова у част 80 г. живота Растка Васића*

АРХЕОЛОШКИ ИНСТИТУТ

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**PAPERS IN HONOUR  
OF RASTKO VASIĆ  
80<sup>th</sup> 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 надамне 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)



## Some Early Iron Age symbols and their possible interpretations

Jan Bouzek

*Abstract:* The shape of feminine Chalcolithic idols appears again in bronze and clay in the Early Iron Age; their meaning was apparently similar, as attested also by the anagram on the base of a ritual loom weight from Pistiros.

*Key words:* Chalcolithic idols, Eneolithic ring idols, Early Iron Age, Macedonian bronzes, loom weights, symbols, interpretation.

In my country we only started to get permission to travel to former Yugoslavia in the mid-sixties, and to us it seemed to be near to paradise. I enjoyed meeting the old generation, the Garašanins, the Vinskis and also the young colleagues during conferences and while travelling by train across the country to Greece and back. I used to interrupt the trip, stay one to three days in Zagreb or Beograd, Skopje or Sarajevo, where I studied in the museums and libraries, learned from friendly colleagues, and collected in drawings and photographs what would become the “data base” for my relations books and Macedonian bronzes. This nice atmosphere ended with my last trip, including Sarajevo, in 1970, and then there came a pause of nearly twenty years, after which my country was split into two and Yugoslavia into more small countries; to a large extent by support of the same dark forces. I connected with some friends of mine by mobile telephone, even during the shelling of Split and bombarding of Serbia, and by reports from my student from Daruvar Vlasta Sakařová, who with her newborn child survived the battle at Vukovar. I very much admired the diligence of our jubilee with his all PBF volumes and other catalogues and monographs and felt ashamed, as only one of the two volumes I promised to H. Müller-Karpe was finished by L. Jiráň, while I owed much to R. Vasić and other friends and colleagues in the western Balkans for my main Bronze and Early Iron Age books.

Even as fate led me in the last twenty years more to the east of Serbia, I enjoyed participating in several conferences and the positive atmosphere of friendly collaboration among those who refused to be seduced by evil.

Besides the frame of LBA and EIA grids of culture and specific items classified and organized into chronological systems, of special importance is the religious symbolism, which became known since the Dupljaja chariot, but in the Balkans was largely understood thanks to our jubilee (Vasić 1988 and bibl.; cf. Kossack 1954; Briard 1987; Kaul 1998; Pare 1989, Paulík 1999-2001). Cauldrons with birds and bird protomae are also known from Delphi, and are mentioned in the



Fig. 1 – Vesselwagon from Milavče, Bohemia.

inventory of Solomo's treasury (Bouzek 1997: 131-124; Pare 1989); in the Macedonian city of Krannon, wheeled cauldrons with tied ravens were drawn there and back with much noise in order to bring rain (Dionysios Karystios, *Hist. mir.* XV, cf. from Milavče, here Fig. 1).

Patterns of ornaments known from the Kalendberg and Halstatt cultures in central Europe were derived from the SE, a.o. from the Adriatic Daunian pottery and stelae, (Bouzek 1997a: 224-226). The Býčí Skála bull and the protomae on the Kalendberg pottery are reminiscent of Lydian and Phoenician models, ultimately derived from Egyptian tradition (including the Apis sign on his front), while the Stettweg goddess took inspiration from Greek Geometric models, as did also the Verucchio throne figurines, reminding one of Boeotian vases (Bouzek 1997a: 182-200). Much amber came from the north, and wonderful figurines were made of them in Serbia, Bosnia and Montenegro (Vasić 1982; *Idem.* 1987; *Idem.* 1988 etc, cf. his bibliography in this volume). Bronze figurines of high technical and artistic quality were made also north of the Aegean (cf. from Bohemia a horse similar to the Trundholm chariot (Smejtek – Svédová 2015); from northern Thrace the Sevlievo stag, and from Macedonia e.g. the bird (here Fig. 4).

Against the pan-Adriatic region of the Early Iron Age including Piceno and Daunia, the western „Illyrian“ province with its dress fasteners (double pins, fibulae, Vasić 1982, cf. the bibliography),

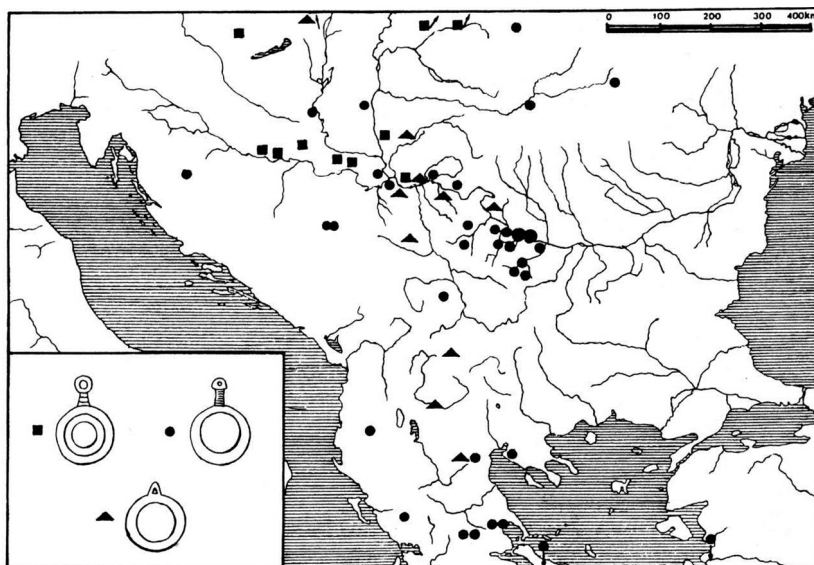


Fig. 2 – Distribution of Early Iron Age ring pendants, after Vasić.



Fig. 3 – Loom weights of B shape from Pistiros.

the Macedonian bronzes in the south and the Thracian group produced somewhere in central Bulgaria – the ring pendants are concentrated mainly in and around Serbia (Vasić 1988 etc.; Bouzek 1997a; here Fig. 2). Some have also been found in northern Greece; one find shows a number of them as having been worn on the belt of the deceased (Chrystostomou 1992: fig. 133). The most useful survey of them was by R. Vasić, and they have some forerunners in Croatian and Hungarian hoards (Vinski – Gasparini 1973).

Some scholars compared them with alleged protomonetary functions of arrowheads in the eastern Balkans, but their shape repeats the reduced form of Eneolithic ring idols, and it is reasonable to suppose that they belonged to a similar sphere of divinity. Even our symbol for female and for the planet Venus is similar.

Another parallel to these pendants is formed by the loom weights in shape of Eneolithic idols, changing female body into reduced abstract idiom. They were made by women at home mainly, the modelling by hand and fingerprints characterizing their personal character. They were popular in Thrace and Paionia, while Greek women preferred the pyramidal shape (Bouzek 1997b: 347-9; Bouzek-Domaradzka 2013, here Fig. 6).

Spinning and weaving were occupations of noble women, of Athena Ergane; from the Verucchio throne the goddess organised the whole textile production, considered analogous to the preparing of our destiny by the *parcae* (Fig. 5).

Through comparing symbolic representations we get glimpses into their meaning, the symbolic language of preliterate cultures in the Balkans, but the evidence can also be compared with written sources (Neděľčev – Atanasov 2002; cf. Rousseva 2000).

On a pyramidal loom weight found at Pistiros (4<sup>th</sup> century BC) the base has an anagram that can best be read „*thea meter*“, on one of lateral triangles a female figure in broad skirt as those at Sopron is imprinted, on the opposite side Zeus' thunder with two *kerykeia*, and on the other two sides stars and Persian solar standard (Bouzek 2014, here Fig. 3).



Fig. 4 – Peacock from Macedonia, Charles University Prague.

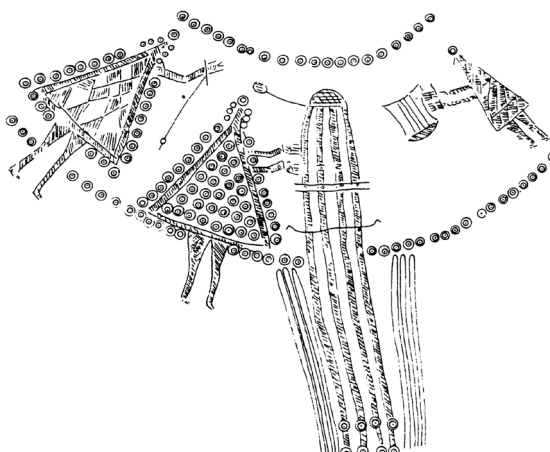


Fig. 5 – Weaving women entertained by music. Sopron.



Fig. 6 – Magic loom weight from Pistiros.



In the discussion on the hierarchy of powers between three pages on the court of Dareios I (Ezdras, Paralipomena to Old Testament), women are considered mightier than men; one of the reasons being the symbolic meaning of spinning and weaving as predicting the fate by the parcae; in the power of Athena Ergane we get other glimpses into this subject (*cf.* also Bouzek 2005; *Idem.* 2008; Ustinova 2004; Buyskich 2005).

In two expressively patriarchal periods of male heroes – Eneolithic and Early Iron Ages – the ideal of the maternal goddess was worshipped as an especially important force, as was the cult position of the Holy Mary and minnesänger poetry in early Middle Ages.

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