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Funeralkultur der Thraker und Skythen
des 7. bis 5. Jahrhunderts v. Chr.
an der unteren Donau

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Logo der Reihe: Gehörnter Greifvogel mit Fisch im Schnabel und Hasen in seinen Klauen
Darstellung auf einem vergoldeten Silberhelm aus Peretu (nach E. Moscalu, Bericht RGK 70, 1989, Abb. 7)

Logo des Vorgeschichtlichen Seminars der Philipps-Universität Marburg

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Remarks on Funerary Practices of Late Hallstatt Srem / *Syrmia Group*, Northern Serbia

Marija Ljuština

Introduction

The Late Hallstatt period in the lower part of the Middle Danube Basin is characterised by cultural complexity. The Srem / *Syrmia group* (fig. 1) is one of the groups in this vibrant cultural milieu. Recent excavations, along with new monographs and articles on sites excavated long ago, have shed some new light on aspects of

of the Central Balkans. The graves of the late phase of the Early Iron Age were connected to the group of necropolises lying between Lake Balaton and the Sava river (Teržan 1977b, 9-21), dated to the period between the late 7th century BC and the second half of the 4th century BC. These necropolises were mainly composed of

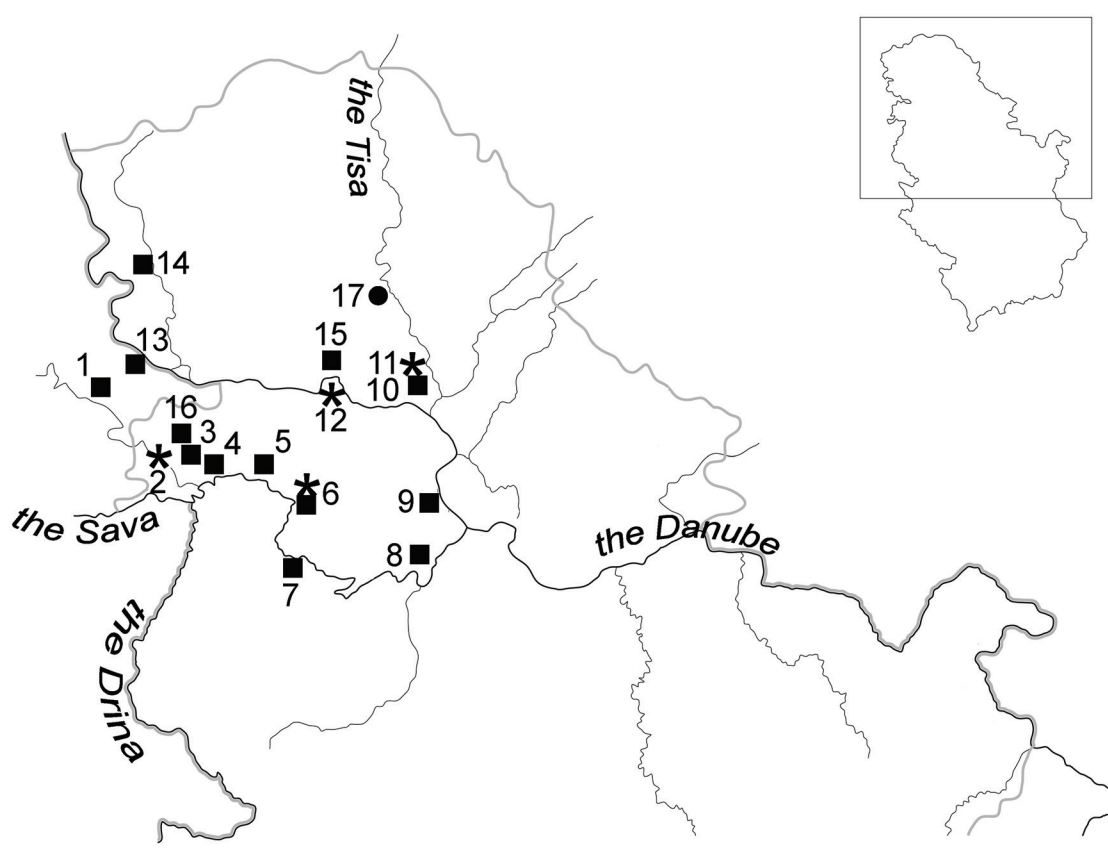


Fig. 1: Map of sites of the *Syrmia group* (squares – necropolises, asterisks – settlements, dots – hoards): 1 – Vin-kovci, 2 – Gradina na Bosutu in Batrovci, 3 – Adaševci, 4 – Kuzmin, 5 – Sremska Mitrovica, 6 – Gomolava in Hrtkovci, 7 – Šabac, 8 – Surčin, 9 – Novi Banovci, 10 – Stubarlija in Mošorin, 11 – Feudvar in Mošorin, 12 – Petrovaradin fortress, 13 – Vučedol, 14 – Doroslovo, 15 – Volarsko Polje in Novi Sad, 16 – Beljnjača in Šid, 17 – Čurug

funerary practices of these mid-Danubian Late Hallstatt communities (Ljuština 2010, 61-64). The Iron Age *Syrmia group* of the West Balkans complex was first defined by M. Garašanin (Garašanin 1973, 511-515). It was connected with a number of flat inhumation graves with rich inventory in the Pannonian regions of Syrmia and eastern Slavonia, as well as adjoining parts

of inhumation burials, although some incineration graves could be found, as well, as in the case of Szentlőrinc (Jerem 1968, 159-208). Typical of this group are female inhumations, with grave goods consisting of clothing and jewellery, while male graves feature items of weaponry (Guštin / Teržan 1976, 188-202; Guštin / Teržan 1977, 77-89). The clothing includes bronze astragal

belts and various types of fibulae, the most frequent among them being *variants V and XIII* of the *Certosa-type* of fibula. The women wore necklaces consisting of glass beads of various shapes, and in several graves gold and silver beads have also been found, as well as beads made of amber or coral. Roughly speaking, two chronological subdivisions could be made on the basis of the material: the earlier one (6th – 5th century BC) characterised by finds of foot-plate fibulae and *Certosa* fibulae, and the later one (end of 5th – 4th century BC) with *Čurug-type* fibulae and examples with multiple coiled arches (Ljuština 2010, 61; Potreblica / Dizdar 2014, 152).

Mentioning *Čurug-type* fibulae leads us to one of the earliest and most representative of

the *Syrmia group* finds, the *Čurug* hoard (Grbić 1928, 10-22). It was not found in the territory of Srem / Syrmia, but in Bačka – the region which is nowadays proven to have been of great importance for the group. This rich silver hoard, containing both material of local provenance and imported goods decorated with filigree – finger rings, earrings, hinged fibulae with stellar ornaments on the arch, as well as amber and glass beads – also provides proof of the first contacts of the autochthonous communities with the Celtic world. The bronze fibula of *Dux type* is the material confirmation of this statement. The *Čurug* Hoard was of such an importance that D. Božič (Božič 1981, 315) named the last horizon of the Iron Age I after it (the *Čurug* stage).

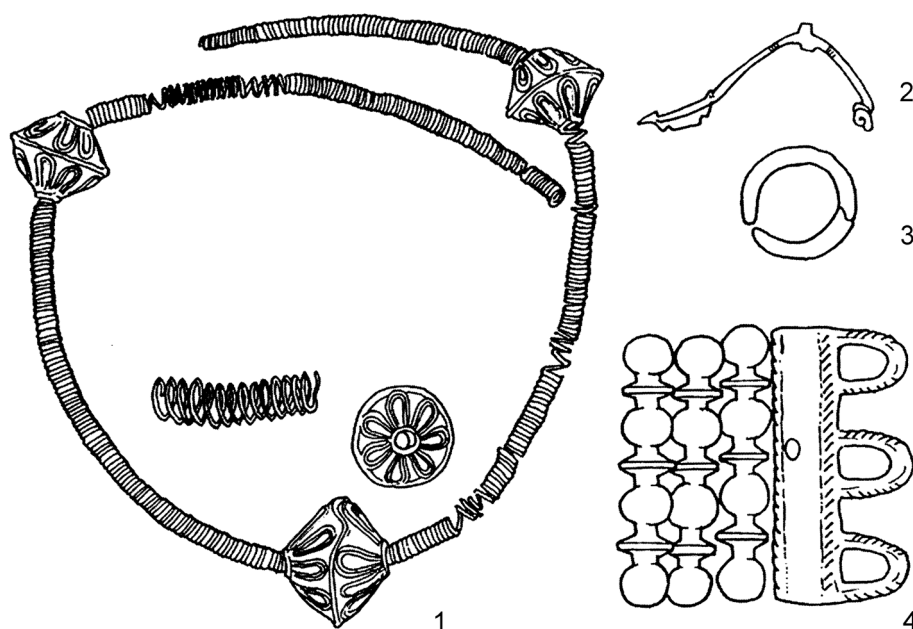


Fig. 2: Sremska Mitrovica, grave 1 (Medović / Hänsel 2006, fig. 3)

Funerary practice of the *Syrmia group*: General overview and specific remarks

The first important data about the graves, later defined as belonging to the *Syrmia group*, came from the publications by J. Brunšmid and M. Hoernes at the beginning of the 20th century. These are the finds from a couple of sites in Sremska Mitrovica, the most important being a tannin factory and sugar factory, as well as the finds from Salaš Nočajski – a neighbouring site, on the right bank of the Sava river. It is important to state that most of the finds were chance finds; even a bronze situla was found at the port of the Sava river (Medović / Hänsel 2006, 489; Medović 2007, 67; Ljuština 2010, 61).

A very rare and precious find of three bi-conical gold beads came from the Late Hallstatt inhumation grave I in Sremska Mitrovica, discovered in 1901. The beads originated from a necklace, and they had been separated by four thin tubes made of spirally-coiled gold wire, or *saltaleoni* (spring wire). In the same grave, there were also beads made of amber, a bronze astragal belt with three-eyed buckle, and two bronze fibulae of the *Certosa type* with three protrusions on the bow, dated to the late 6th and the early 5th c. BC (Guštin / Teržan 1976, 195, fig. 3/1; Potreblica / Dizdar 2014, 152-153) (fig. 2).

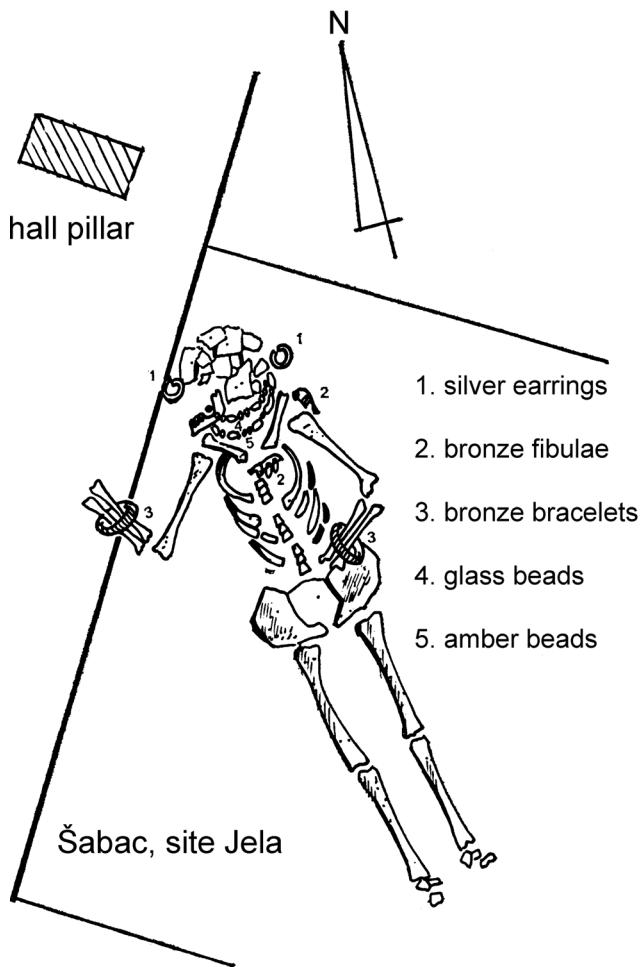


Fig. 3: Šabac, Benska Bara – Jela, position of the grave (Vasiljević 1977, fig. 1)

The presence of jewellery including gold beads with filigree and granulation decoration has always been interpreted as a southern influence (Potrebica / Dizdar 2014, 152).

Similar finds from Adaševci were mentioned in 1901 by M. Hoernes. Later, in the 1950s, K. and Z. Vinski dealt with the finds of the *Syrmia group*, using material and documentation from the collections of the Archaeological Museums in Zagreb and Vienna, where material collected in Syrmia had been taken until World War I. They mention some new sites presumably with inhumation graves with the characteristic Certosa fibulae at Hrtkovci, Kuzmin, Novi Banovci and Surčin (Medović / Hänsel 2006, 489; Medović 2007, 67; Ljuština 2010, 61).

The map of the *Syrmia group* (fig. 1) has been further extended with more sites and finds: Šabac – sites Jela in Benska Bara and Donjošorsko Groblje, Vinkovci, Doroslovo (Medović / Hänsel 2006, 490, fig. 1). At the site of Jela in

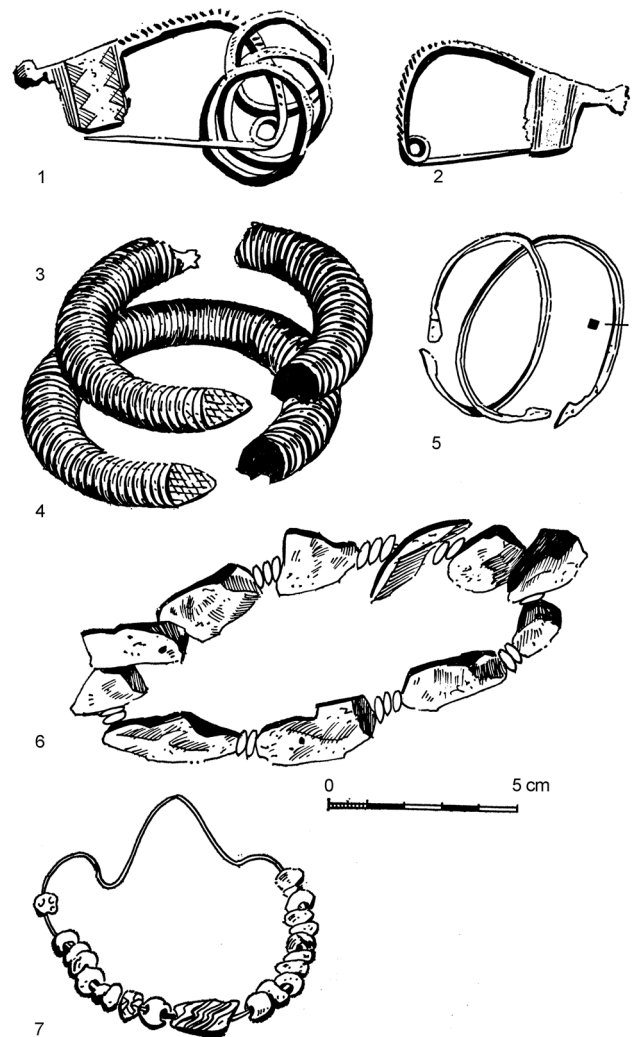


Fig. 4: Šabac, Benska Bara – Jela, grave inventory (Vasiljević 1977, fig. 2)

Benska Bara (fig. 3) an inhumation grave of a female in supine position, oriented N-S, was discovered in the Neolithic layer. The left hand was bent and placed on the belly while the right was stretched by the side of the body. The deceased was facing west. The grave inventory comprised: a pair of bronze bracelets, a large fibula with three ring-shaped pendants on the chest and a smaller fibula on the left shoulder. The fibulae belong to the *Glasiac type* with ribbed arch and trapezoid foot and are characteristic of the *phase Glasiac Va*. Two silver earrings were on both sites of the skull (fig. 4). A string of amber and glass beads was found around the neck. In the zone of the mandible there was a smaller string of bluish glass beads. The amber necklace consisted of twelve larger raw amber beads (fig. 5), between which thirty-six bluish-white glass beads were inserted. The



Fig. 5: Šabac, Benska Bara – Jela, amber finds (Palavestra / Krstić 2006, 361)



Fig. 6: Šabac – Donjošorsko Groblje, glass and amber finds (Palavestra / Krstić 2006, 362)

second, smaller necklace was made of opaque blue glass beads, with a cylindrical mollusc shell in the centre (Vasiljević 1977, 167, 169).

Rescue excavations at the site Donjošorsko

Groblje and Zorka Chemical Industry have revealed a necropolis with graves from different periods. Graves from the Late Hallstatt period were considered cremations, although no solid proof

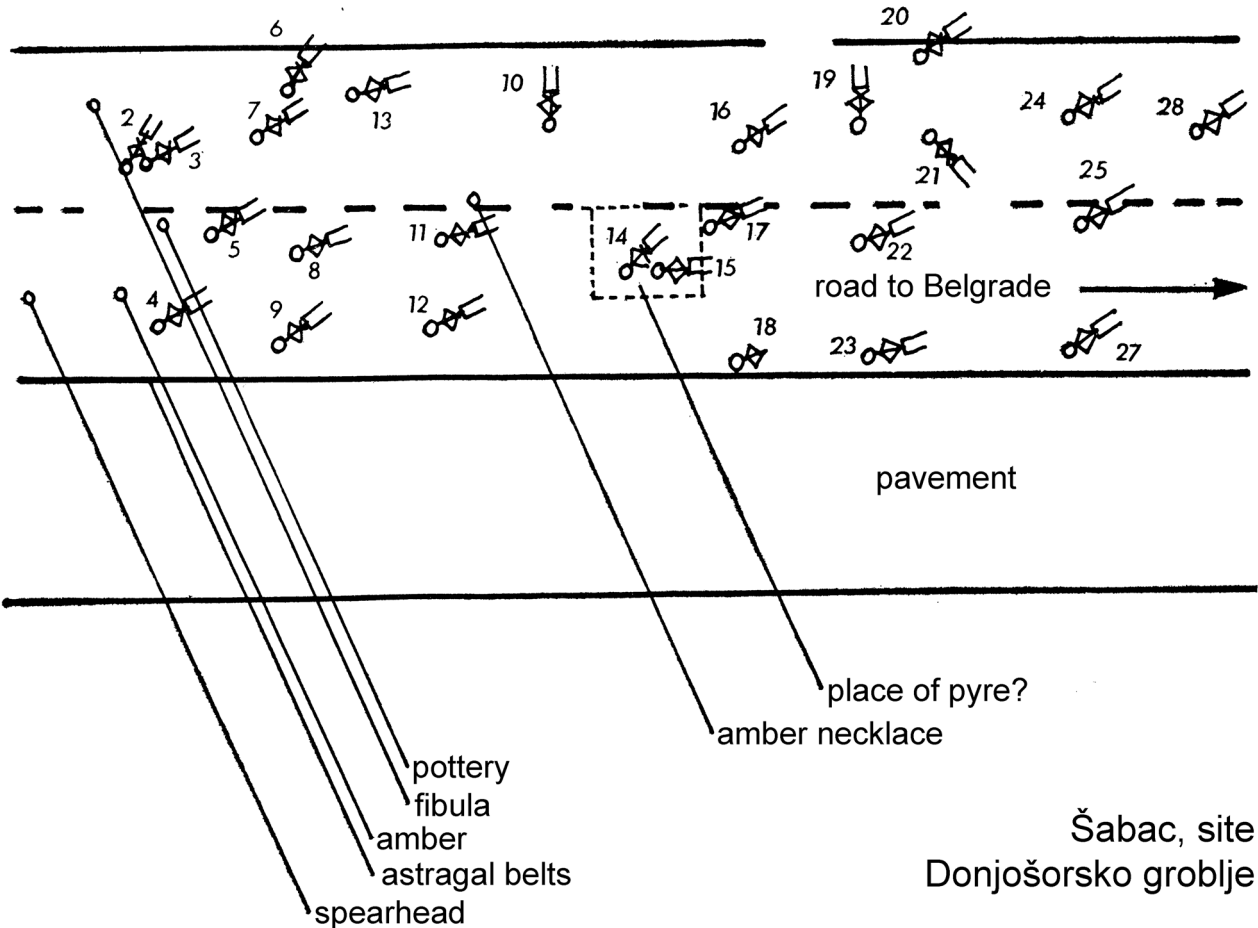


Fig. 7: Šabac - Donjošorsko Groblje, situation map (Vasiljević 1977, fig. 3)

Šabac, site
Donjošorsko groblje



Fig. 8: Šabac – Donjošorsko Groblje, Iron Age finds (Vasiljević 1977, fig. 4)

was given for this in the original publication. A pyre location was detected by the traces of ashes, burnt clay, soot, charcoal, burnt human bones (?) and iron slag (?) (fig. 7). In the vicinity of inhumation graves presumably from the 18th c. AD there were a number of Iron Age finds: a fibula of *Certosa* type, an iron spearhead, an amber necklace, two fragmented astragal belts, and two ceramic vessels (fig. 8). The necklace consisted of a larger piece of raw amber, centrally perforated, and eight multi-coloured glass beads with eyes (six yellow with blue eyes and two green with blue eyes) (Vasiljević 1977, 170) (fig. 6). The find of glass beads indicates strong trade connections of the site with the eastern Alpine and western Pannonian zone, while the finds of pottery, astragal belts and spearheads point to relations with the Central Balkan zone of the *Glasinac* culture (Vasić 1987, 557-558; Ljuština 2013, 102-103). The relations established during the lifetime of the deceased obviously found reflections in funerary practice.

The same can be said for retained traditional forms in material culture. Astragal belts are a good example. The recent study of Filipović and

Mladenović (Filipović / Mladenović 2017, 143-183) on this specific clothing accessory, confirmed their presence both in the graves of the bearers among the *Syrmia* group (the earlier Banoštor and later *Syrmia* types) as well as in a much wider region and broader cultural and chronological contexts. Even the archaeological contexts vary significantly, because fewer finds came from archaeologically excavated graves.

Intensive archaeological research in the last two decades has led to an increase in the number of explored sites as well as chance finds indicative of the *Syrmia* type of astragal belts (Arsenijević 1998, 7-33; Jovanović 1998, 39-95; Filipović / Mladenović 2017, 143-183). This is clearly visible when the results of study by M. Jovanović from 1998 (Jovanović 1998, 90) are compared with the most recent distribution map of astragal belt segments of the Banoštor and *Syrmia* types (Filipović / Mladenović 2017, 157, 161), which turned out to be a favourite clothing accessory that was important in revealing local identities, even in funerary practices.

Another remark should be made on the most recent finds and their recognition as belonging to the *Syrmia* group. Not far from the site where a Late Roman tomb was found, an inhumation grave of a deceased female was found at the site of Beljnjača, near Šid in Syrmia. The grave inventory consisted of two bronze fibulae, found at the shoulders, a string of beads around the neck and a small iron knife by the right thigh (fig. 9).

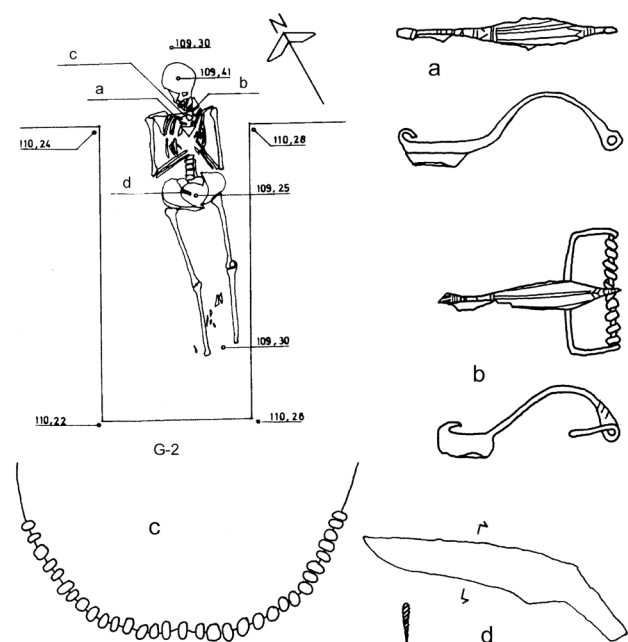


Fig. 9: Šid – Beljnjača, Iron Age grave (Pop-Lazić 2009, fig. 9)

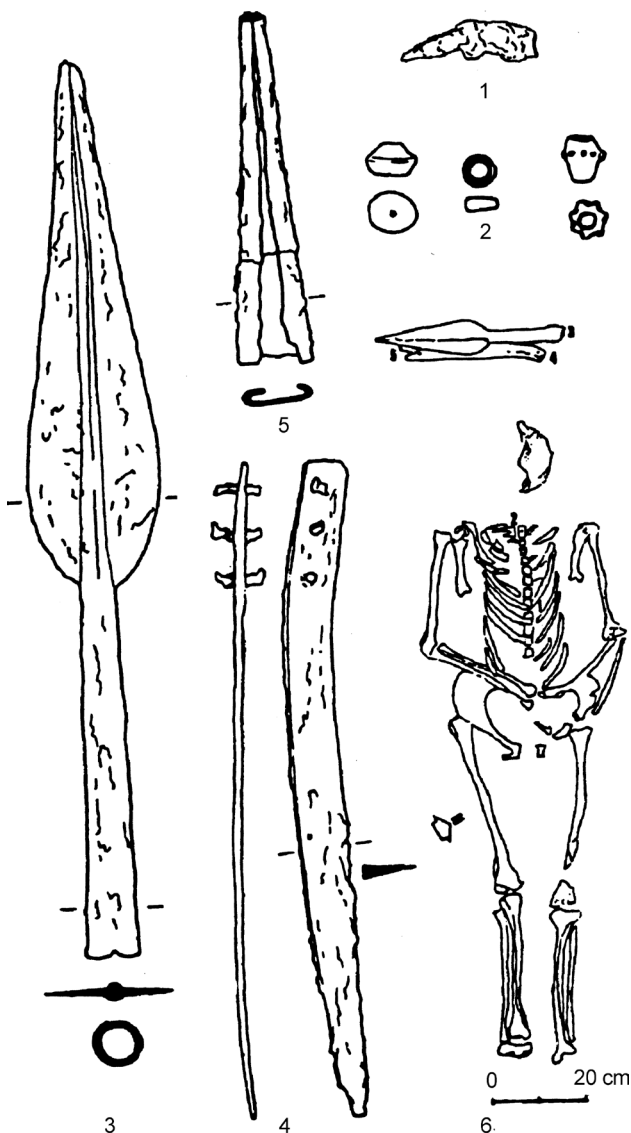


Fig. 10: Doroslovo – Đepfeld, grave 18 (Trajković / Popović 1994, fig.1)

S. Pop-Lazić erroneously identified the fibulae as belonging to the *T*-type (*Armbrustfibeln*) and dated to the 3rd to 4th century AD (Pop-Lazić 2009, 163-173). Fortunately, the grave attracted attention of our colleague J. Koledin (Koledin 2012, 107-112), who corrected the attribution and placed the ensemble at the end of the First Iron Age / Hallstatt period (4th century BC).

Geographically the nearest analogy for the Beljnjača grave comes from grave 14 of the necropolis at the site of Vinkovci-NAMA. It is a double inhumation grave (a female and a child), oriented SE-NW. In the grave two pairs of fibulae with a long spring were found – a bronze pair (with elevated end of the foot bent backwards, which makes them closer to eastern Alpine Late Hallstatt zoomorphic fibulae), on the left and

right side of the chest, and an iron pair, of which one of the fibulae was near the right elbow and the other by the left upper arm. An iron knife and thirty-six bluish and yellowish beads, as well as a bead with eyes, are typical of the Pannonian Late Hallstatt attire. Grave offerings consisted of a carinated vessel and the tibia of a young grouse. On the head of the child there were six glass beads (Majnarić Pandžić 2003, 485-487).

Iron knives with thorn and bent blade, 7-15 cm long, were traditionally deposited in the necropolis at Doroslovo-Đepfeld. More than thirty graves in the necropolis contained this type of knife. They are most frequent in the graves with urns belonging to the *Dalj* group (7th – 6th century BC), but the continuity of use is confirmed by the find from the inhumation grave 18, dated to the end of the Hallstatt period (Trajković 2008). A knife of the same type was found in the female grave 14 at Vinkovci-NAMA (Majnarić Pandžić 2003, 487, fig. 6/2). Since its length is 7.3 cm, it is reasonable to presume that the knife was part of the attire, worn hanging on the belt (Koledin 2012, 109).

The necropolis mentioned above at Doroslovo in Bačka (Trajković 2008) has turned out to be essential for the comprehension of the *Syrmia* group. Several inhumation graves (2/1957, 18, 19, 54) discovered in the Doroslovo necropolis are more recent than any of the cremation graves. Some of them could be dated to the 5th c. BC (2/1957, 18, 19) and some to the 4th c. BC (54) and are definitely not in continuity with the previous necropolis of cremated deceased buried in urns. They fit rather well in newly arising socio-cultural relations of the Late Hallstatt period, when the occurrence of smaller numbers of graves, some with weapons, in the Central Balkans is not unusual (Vasić 2008, 353). P. Medović and B. Hänsel consider that these graves are connected with the *Syrmia* group of the Late Hallstatt period (Medović / Hänsel 2006, 489-512). The inhumation grave 2 from the 1957 excavations belongs most probably to the 5th century BC. The dating is based on a fragmented Certosa fibula and it would be consistent with dating of a profiled beaker with a handle, made on a potter's wheel, which has parallels in the *Vekerzug-Hotin* culture group of the same period (Dušek 1966, 24; Vasić 2008, 351). An amber bead was found in the same grave, as well as a four-leaved iron arrowhead (Vasić 2008, 346). Inhumation graves from the excavations of 1974-1980 are not numerous. The graves that stand out are the

graves 18, 19 and 54. Grave 18 (fig. 10) contained a skeleton laid on the back, with arms lying along the body, bent elbows and crossed on the upper part of the pelvic bone. It was poorly preserved. Above the head of the skeleton, as grave assemblage, several objects were found: a large iron leaf-shaped spearhead, a curved iron knife with three rivets, which differs greatly from the curved knives in the urn necropolis, and an iron sheath. The hollow of the clavicle contained ten beads made of glass and a fragment made of a double circularly twisted wire and a smaller curved iron knife with a part of the shaft (Trajković 2008, 43). The spear and the knife from grave 18 can be compared with similar weapons in the graves south of the Sava and the Danube in Pećine near Kostolac and Majur near Jagodina that are consistent with the Late Hallstatt period, i.e. 5th or 4th century BC. The spear is similar in form to a damaged spear from the site Vršac-At, which also contained Scythian arrows and amber beads and is dated to the 5th century BC (Vasić 2008, 350 with references). Grave 19 is a child's inhumation grave, with damaged skull, the body lying on its left side in a half-bent position, with legs bent at the knees. The grave also contained: two bronze plates, two knot-shaped pendants, one pendant made of green glass and the other made of snail shell. Grave 54 was another child's inhumation grave, heavily destroyed. Only remains of the arms were preserved. On one of the arms a bronze bracelet was found. It was twisted and circular in cross-section, with overlapping ends. After the skeleton had been removed, another bracelet, similar to the previous one, was found underneath (Trajković 2008, 44, 78). Twisted bracelets were also a popular form in the north Balkans at that time. They are mostly dated to the 3rd c. BC, but are known in a slightly altered form even earlier (Vasić 2008, 350; Ljuština 2010, 61-62).

So far the region of Bačka has provided us with a number of important necropolises of the *Syrmia group*. Aside from Doroslovo in western Bačka, Mošorin-Stubarlija near Titel and a recently published necropolis in the vicinity of Novi Sad (site Novi Sad-Volarsko Polje), in southern Bačka, should be mentioned.

The Stubarlija necropolis is situated near the village of Mošorin in southern Bačka, at the north-eastern edge of the Titel loess plateau, some 800 m eastwards from the Feudvar settlement site. This spacious necropolis of the



Fig. 11: Mošorin – Stubarlija, grave 1 (Medović 2007, fig. 3)

Bronze Age and the Iron Age contained five inhumation graves (1, 3, 4, 6; grave 5 with less certainty, being heavily damaged and without grave goods) attributed to the *Syrmia group*. The graves' inventory included pottery finds with traditions of the *Bosut group*, and imported goods: Certosa fibulae (eight pieces in three graves), glass beads and cowrie snail shells. The inhumation grave 1 (fig. 11) contained a well-preserved skeleton of a female (160 cm high, 35-50 years old), in supine position, with arms on the upper part of the belly. The grave goods included: three strings of glass beads around the neck, a clay spindle-whorl, three bronze fibulae and fourteen cowrie snail shells. In grave 3 there were skeletal remains of two individuals, one of them 20 to 25 years old, the other one about one-and-a-half. The remains were in a very bad state of preservation. It was only in the course of the anthropological analysis that was possible to separate the remains of the two persons. Two items from the graves' inventory are distinct from the rest of the typical *Syrmia group* material: a cup with a handle with deep incisions and a conical bowl next to it. The grave goods were placed near the skull of the older person.

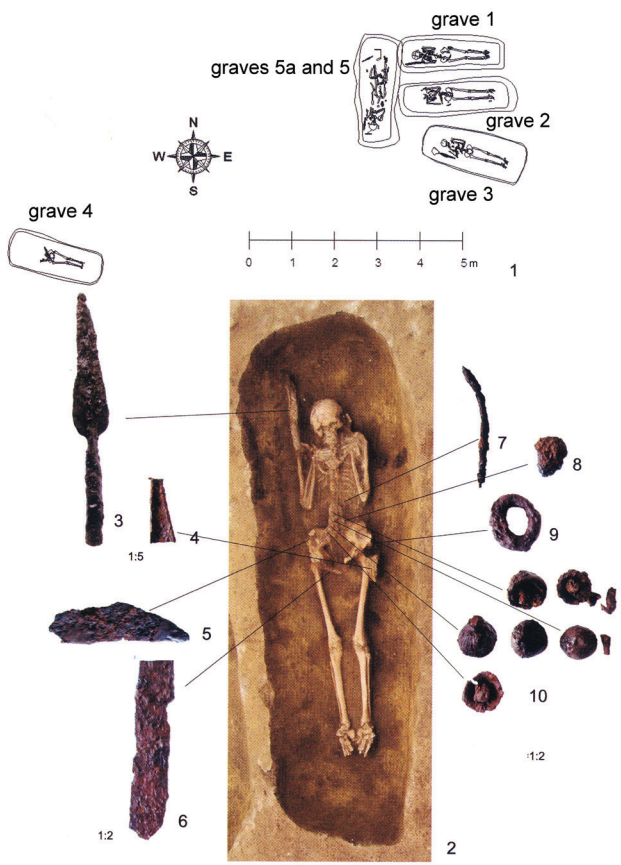


Fig. 12: Novi Sad – Volarsko Polje (Anđelić 2017, fig. 10), situation map (1) and grave 1 (2-10)

Around the person's neck, there was a string of multi-coloured glass beads. Grave 4 contained another well-preserved female skeleton. The supine deceased was 18 to 25 years old and approximately 150 cm high. She had strings of glass beads round her neck and on the chest, some of the beads being dislocated from their primary position, as well as four bronze fibulae on the upper part of the chest, one of them also dislocated. A fragmented two-handed beaker was found next to the right foot. The inhumation grave 6 contained the rather well-preserved remains of a female individual, 23-26 years old and 150 cm high, in supine position. The grave inventory included: a string of glass beads round the neck and another large multi-coloured glass bead at the right temple, a bronze fibula by the right clavicle and two ceramic vessels – a carinated bowl with a two-handed beaker inside it – next to the right foot (Medović 2007, 10-18; Ljuština 2010, 62-63).

The bronze Certosa fibulae at Stubarlija belong to the eastern periphery of the area of their dispersion in the Balkan Peninsula. They are similar in size and shape and can be attributed

to groups V and XIII of Teržan (Teržan 1977a, 317-443). As for origin of the *Certosa* type in the territory of the *Syrmia* group, it is Medović's opinion (Medović 2007, 70) that it should be traced to Slovenia. They can be explained both as a direct importation from the eastern Alps region and as a product of local workshops, undoubtedly under strong influence from the west, the Sava river being the main communication route. As for the find of the cowrie snail shells in grave 1, this is unique in the *Syrmia* group territory. Since cowries (*Cypraea moneta*) originate in the Indo-Pacific marine province (Red Sea or other waters to the south and east (Reese 1991, 159-196)), it is not possible to determine every part of the trade route they passed to reach the mid-Danube region. Being imported goods, the cowrie snail shells could have been brought from the north-west, along with the *Certosa* fibulae and the multi-coloured glass beads. However, the importance of the Tisa as a transversal northward route should not be neglected.

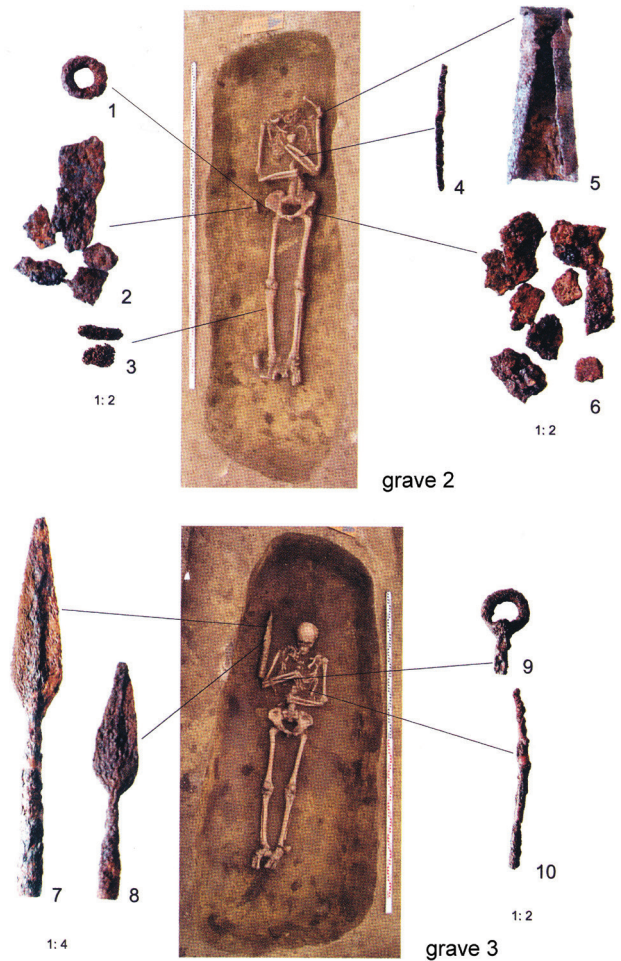


Fig. 13: Novi Sad – Volarsko Polje (Anđelić 2017, fig. 11), graves 2 (1-6) and 3 (7-10)

The multi-layered site at Volarsko Polje is situated in the vicinity of Novi Sad, on the highway route and on its eastern side, some 2.4 km to the west of the sites at Klisa and Adeko. Along with settlement remains from the late antique, early and middle medieval periods, there were six graves with inhumed deceased placed in rectangular grave pits (figs. 12-14). The graves were oriented E-W, with the head on the west. The only exception is a double grave (fig. 14), which was oriented N-S. The grave comprised two men, who were buried in manner of warriors, the first being placed with the head to the south, and the second over him, with the head to the north. In graves 1, 4, 5 and 6 there were single spearheads accompanied by spear covers by the waist. Two spearheads were in grave 3, while grave 2 did not contain a spearhead, but only a spear cover. Grave 2 was partially destroyed in the skull region, which is generally the zone in which one should expect spearheads to be found. The skull belonging to this grave was discovered dislocated above the grave, which was most probably the consequence of agricultural activities, since the graves were shallow. According to the excavator of the necropolis (Anđelić 2017, 34), the existence of a burial mound should be taken into consideration. Grave 1 included six calotte-shaped iron buttons on the right side of the waist. In every grave there were fragments of shanks and tips of iron pins or needles. The only female grave, some 10 m to the south-west from the group of warrior graves, had been robbed. The legs, pelvis, three lower vertebrae and forearms were in primary position. The skull and humeral bones were not found, while the ribs and the rest of the vertebrae were above both of the femora. The grave inventory comprised a pink coral bead (below the right forearm), two bronze fibulae with asterisks on the arc and foot in the form of a serpent head as parts of attire. This type of fibula, known as the *Štrpci* type, is characteristic of the whole Balkan

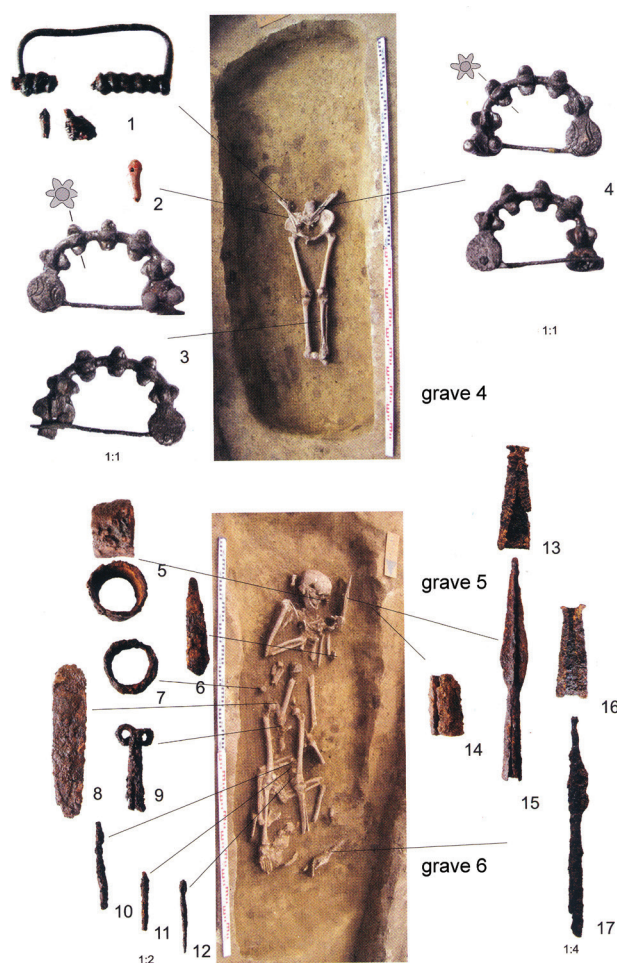


Fig. 14: Novi Sad–Volarsko Polje (Anđelić 2017, fig. 12), graves 4 (1-4), 5 (5-7, 13-15) and 6 (6, 8-12, 16-17)

region. The closest parallels in geographical and chronological-typological sense are found among the silver fibulae from the Čurug hoard (Grbić 1928, 10-22; Vasić 1987, 556). In the grave, there was a cross-shaped part of another fibula made of bronze (fig. 14/1) of the same type as the fibula found in the vicinity of Zemun (Todorović 1971, 87). Both of these types of fibula are dated to the pre-Celtic period, 5th – 4th century BC (Anđelić 2017, 34, 36), and can be attributed to a later phase in the development of the *Syrmia* group.

Conclusions

The increase in the number of explored sites indicative of the *Syrmia* group, as well as chance finds, has had as a consequence the fact that regularities in funerary practice can be defined more precisely. The place of eternal rest for the members of the *Syrmia* group was normally in flat necropolises. No trace of burial mounds has been

recognised so far. In most of the cases we are faced with unified treatment of bodily remains – inhumation (cremation has not been confirmed for the site at Donjošorsko Groblje in Šabac), in a supine position. Female individuals were buried with grave goods consisting of clothing, accessories and jewellery, while male graves

were composed mainly of elements of weaponry. Grave inventory included ceramic vessels as well. The attire included bronze astragal belts and various types of fibulae, the most frequent among them being the Certosa and the hinged types. The women wore necklaces consisting of glass beads of various shapes, and in several graves gold and silver beads have also been found, as well as beads made of amber or coral. The position of the arms and hands and the disposition of the elements of grave inventory may vary and this may reflect micro-regional and chronological variations. Some of the elements, such as the astragal belts, are confirmations of retained traditional forms in dress during lifetime as well as in funerary practices. On the other hand, some subtle elements of attire, today defined as exotic and sometimes almost invisible to the eye of the beholder but loaded with meaning, were the main objects of the "Glass bead game" / *Das Glasperlenspiel* – to quote both Hermann Hesse and M. Blečić Kavur with B. Kavur (Blečić Kavur / Kavur 2015, 39-47). In this, glass beads as well as the tears of

Phaëton's mourning sisters (amber) decorated the clothing of socially prominent individuals, who were individuals of connected cultures and cultural groups. These exotic goods act as indicators of trade and exchange and *ipso facto* the complexity of the cultural milieu, but they provide us with just a glimpse into the vibrant world of the Late Hallstatt period, given that we discovered them in funerary contexts. The makers and users of special implements of all sorts must have had a clear concept of the social meanings embedded in the raw materials they exploited. The special traits they attributed to the particular animal species supplying the raw materials were probably intertwined with layers of meaning in these special objects. Among animal raw materials there is the curious case of cowrie shell beads. This shell can be seen used as exotica on ladies' apparel or in necklaces even today, in 21st century Europe (Choyke 2008, 5-21). For some ladies from the *Syrmia group*, their cowrie adornment was obviously an important companion in the afterlife.

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Zapažanja o pogrebnoj praksi sremske grupe kasnog halštata severne Srbije. Sažetak

Kasnohalštatski period donjeg toka srednjeg Podunavlja obeležen je kulturnom kompleksnošću. Sremska grupa jedna je od grupa iz tog šarolikog kulturnog miljea. Novija istraživanja kao i nove monografije i članci koji se odnose na davno istraživane lokalitete osvetlili su neke od aspekata pogrebne prakse ovih srednjepodunavskih zajednica iz kasnog halštata. Ovu kulturnu grupu karakterišu skeletni grobovi, od kojih ženski imaju specifične elemente nošnje i nakita, a muški delove naoružanja. Nošnju su upotpunjavali astragalni pojasi i različiti tipovi fibula, od kojih su najčešće čertoške u varijantama V i XIII. Žene su nosile ogrlice od staklenih perli različitih oblika, dok su u pojedinim grobovima pronađene zlatne i srebrne perle, kao i perle od ćilibara i korala. Zahvaljujući hronološki osetljivom pokretnom materijalu prepoznate su dve faze u razvoju sremske grupe: ranija (VI-V vek pre nove ere) okarakterisana čertoškim i fibulama sa pločastom stopom, i kasnija (kraj V-IV vek pre nove ere) sa šarnirskim fibulama tipa Čurug i fibulama

sa višestrukim navojem. Porast broja istaženih lokaliteta koji pripadaju sremskoj grupi kao i slučajnih nalaza za posledicu je imao činjenicu da se pravilnosti u pogrebnoj praksi mogu preciznije definisati. U najvećem broju slučajeva u pitanju je ujednačen tretman posmrtnih ostataka – inhumacija (kremacija nije potvrđena ni u slučaju lokaliteta Donjošorsko groblje u Šapcu), i to u ispruženom položaju na leđima. Položaj ruku i šaka, ali i raspored elemenata grobnog inventara može da varira i odraz je mikro-regionalnih i finijih hronoloških razlika. Neki od tih elemenata, kao što su astragalni pojasi, potvrda su zadržavanja tradicionalnih formi u oblačenju kako tokom života, tako i u pogrebnoj praksi. Sa druge strane, neki osetljivi elementi nošnje, danas definisani kao egzotični i ponekad gotovo nevidljivi za oko posmatrača ali prepuni značenja, kao što su perle od ćilibara, stakla, korala ili plemenitih metala, činili su važan deo opreme i pojave istaknutih pojedinaca, onih koji su povezivali regije, zajednice i kulture.