

ROMAN JEWELLERY

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archaeological excavations, e. g. from the reservoirs of the Roman thermae at Aquae Calidae near the present-day town of Aitos in Southeastern Bulgaria, the sanctuary of Zeus and Hera at Caristorum (present-day Kopilovtsi village, Kyustendil region), the sanctuary of the Thracian Horseman at Dinekli (present-day Lozen village, Haskovo region), and elsewhere. No less rich and varied are the articles of adornment and the jewellery in the museum collections throughout the country.

This enormous ancient heritage has not been published in its vast majority. Jewellery and articles of adornment have not merited special comprehensive publications, apart from the brief communications under the headings of "Archaeological News" and "Newly-Discovered Antiquities" in the *Bulletin of the Archaeological Institute*, Bogdan Filov's publication on the Roman treasure from Nikolaevo and three finds from Ratiaria, as well as publications about single or accidental finds from graves in the country. The real start in this research can be traced to the work of Alexandrina Dimitrova-Milcheva "Ancient Gems and Cameos from the National Archeological Museum in Sofia," which comprises glyptic objects, including rings, earrings and medallions decorated with gems and cameos. The present monograph is a continuation of the cited work, and it is the first attempt to investigate and publish a collection of Roman jewellery and articles of adornment in its entirety. Parallel with this, systematization, typologization and dating of a large part of the jewellery have been made, and light has been thrown on the influence of certain models and concrete workshops for the general development of the jeweller's art in Moesia and Thrace.

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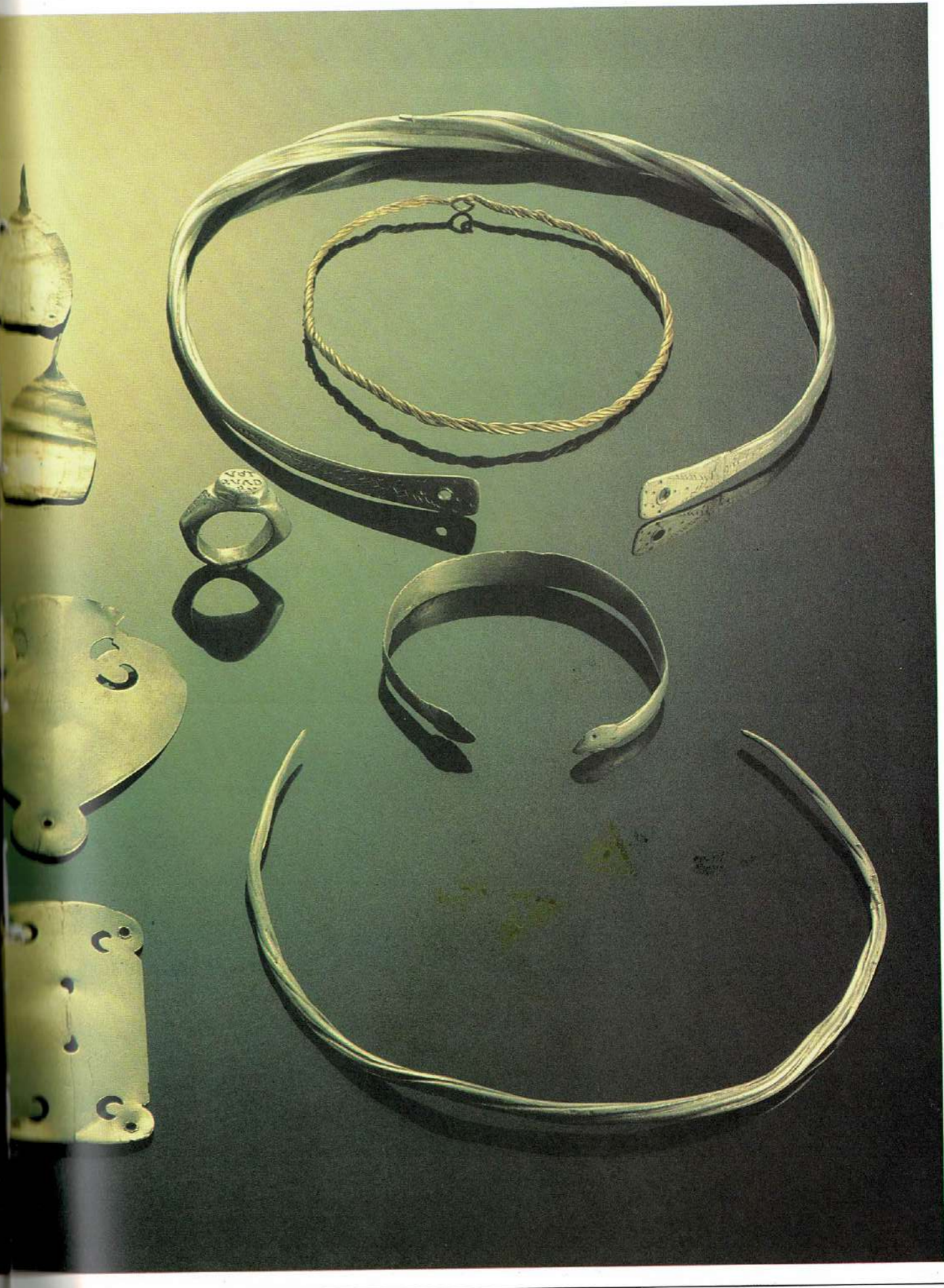
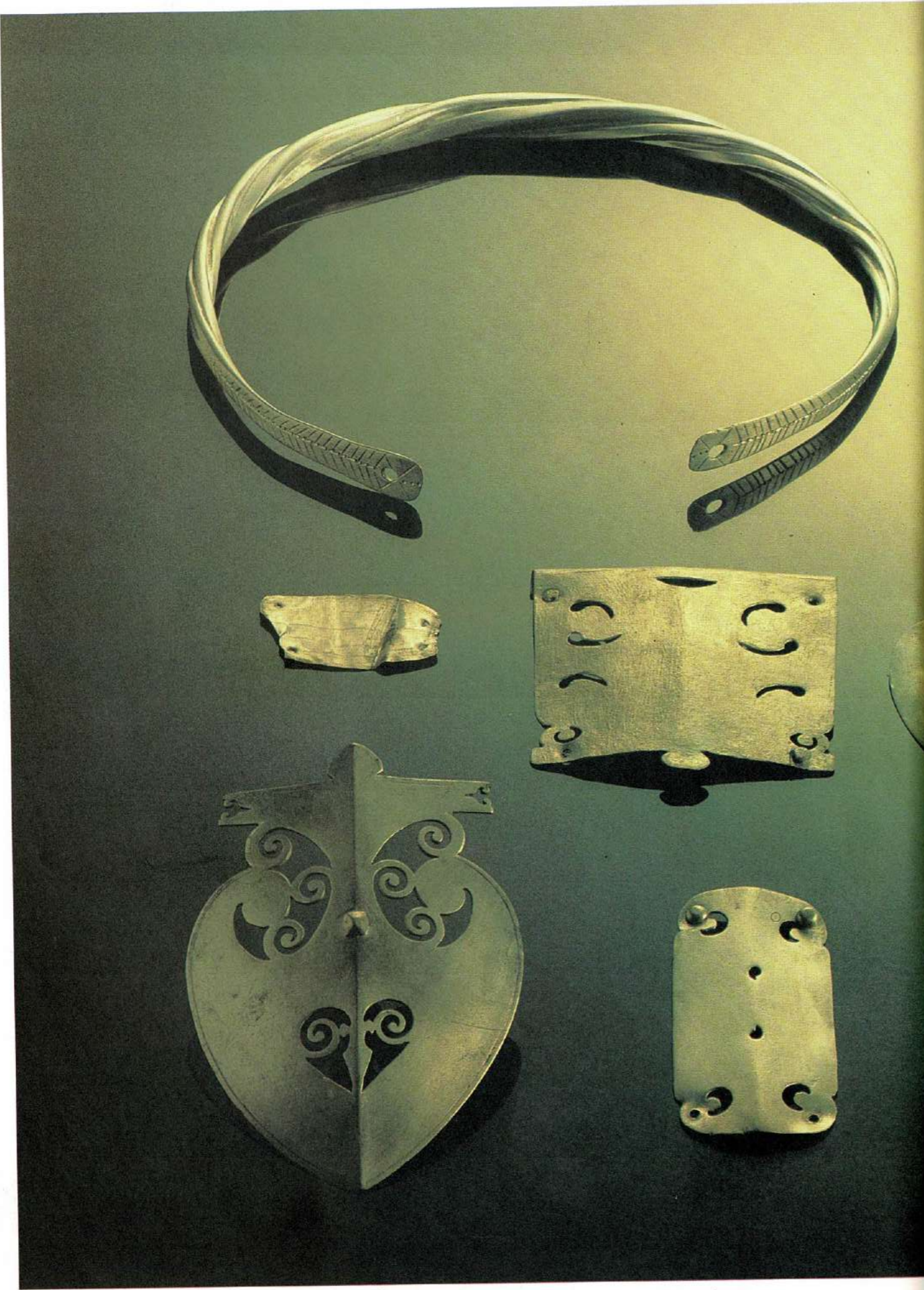
PREFACE

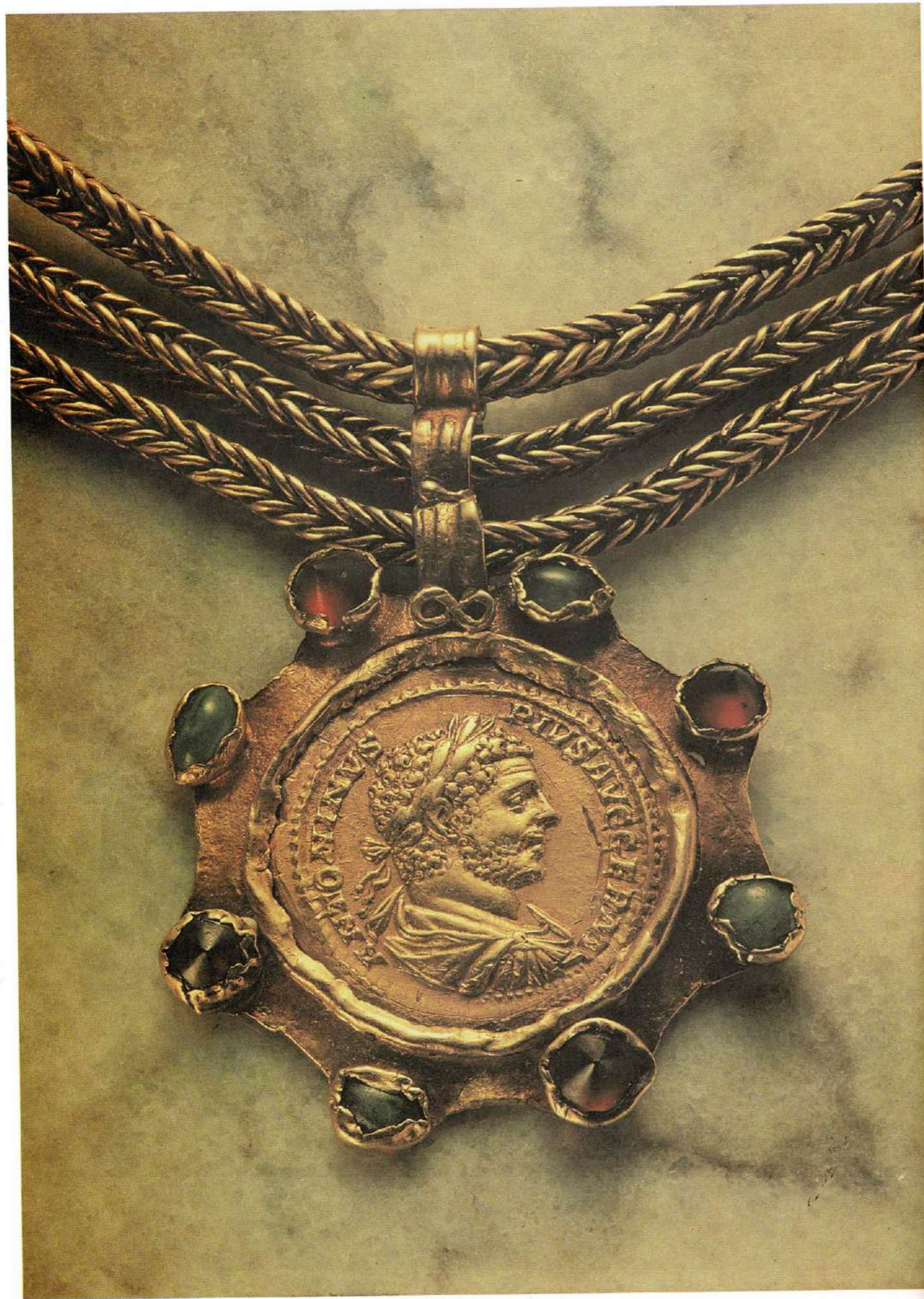
The collection of Roman jewellery in the National Archaeological Museum in Sofia contains 337 metal objects and it is the biggest collection in Bulgaria. It comprises exquisite works of jeweller's art: earrings, torques, necklaces, bracelets, rings, etc., mostly made of gold and silver. The history of the accumulation of the collection is connected with the history of the oldest museum in Bulgaria. Established initially as a department of the Public (National) Library in 1878, it became National Museum in 1892 and was integrated with the Archaeological Institute in 1943, becoming a part of the system of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The collection of Roman jewellery and articles of adornment, many of which were registered among the first exhibits in the Museum, are among the many thousands of objects that express the material and nonmaterial culture of the Bulgarian people since the remotest antiquity. Here belong some of the most significant treasures and hoards discovered in Bulgaria, notably those from Bazaurt, Chaoushevo and Nikolaevo, as well as the abundant and rich funerary offerings, most prominent among them being the exquisite jewellery from Ratiaria. A considerable part of the collection is made up of single or accidental finds, as well as of finds unearthed during









JEWELLERY IN MOESIA AND THRACE DURING THE ROMAN PERIOD

Jewellery during the Roman Period is an essential part of art as a whole. The striving toward adornment, the taste and preferences for different types of jewellery are particularly pronounced in women, and this is a tradition registered since the remotest antiquity during all historical periods.¹ This does not exclude articles of adornment and jewellery being worn by men, but it was done mostly as some sort of status symbol or insignia.

The broad popularity of the jewellery, and more specifically jewellery made of precious metals, is indirectly suggested by some prohibitions imposed by state authorities. Literary sources mention a 5th century BC law which restricts the amount of gold that could be placed in the tombs.² The law of Opia stipulates limitations of up to half an ounce of gold that a Roman lady could wear.³ These prohibitions were probably of a temporary nature, because at the beginning of the Imperial Age Pliny mentioned that "Roman matrons did not wear only the bracelets of their horses."⁴ Similar is Seuthonius' evidence about Caligula, who appeared in public with bracelets all over his hands and arms, as well as about Elagabalus who lost some of his popularity because he wore "Eastern jewellery."⁵ This excessive splendour was also reflected in the numerous sculptures from

Palmyra, in the portrait-mummies from Pompeii and Herculaneum, as well as in the frescoes dated to the Roman Period.⁶

Like all other forms of art, jewellery also expressed the fashion of the age, taking into account local tastes and traditions.⁷ One of the outstanding researchers of these problems, the French scholar Coche de la Ferte, defines Roman jeweller's art as the "art of compromise, an art that fails to create its own image."⁸ Its development is associated with the strong influence of Etruscan art, on the one hand, from which Romans had inherited their taste and love for gold and jewellery, and on the other hand – the influence of Italic-Greek Hellenistic jeweller's art.⁹ Therefore, Roman jewellery is defined as Hellenistic-Roman and Italic-Roman, depending on the influence under which it is produced, whereby the term "Roman" is used to denote solely the period, and not the ethnic belonging of the object.¹⁰

Hellenistic-Roman jewellery reflects above all the influence of the Romanized Hellenistic centres in the East. The interaction consisted in the restoration and the extensive application of a number of ancient traditions of the Eastern peoples, notably the love for splendour and jewellery. The extreme popularity of precious and semi-precious stones, their magnificent polychrome nature, the use of natural pearls, the reviving of the gold-cutting techniques, i.e. the so-called *opus interrasile*, became the main feature in the ornamental pattern of Roman jewellery. The popularity of amulets acquired a new meaning. The magic properties of the crescent-shaped pendants were resuscitated, as well as the "wheel" motif (on the fastener), as a manifestation of love magic. Images of real and fantastic animals became widespread, with special emphasis on the snake, which was probably associated with the Bacchic cult. Symbols of deities connected with the Eastern religion also featured prominently.¹¹

The actual Hellenistic influence consisted in the elegant proportions and in the ornamentation of Roman jewellery. The so-called Hercules' knot was revived, resembling grains in the form of a dodecahedron. Deities, human heads and mythological scenes, engraved on gems and cameos, were also common. The Etruscan tradition of granulation and filigree was accepted through the Greeks.¹² Amidst this blend of various influence, Roman jewellery evolved its own preferred forms and techniques. Medallions decorated with gems and cameos acquired tremendous popularity.

The portrait stood out distinctly among these gems and cameos, with a richly ornamented periphery of floral and geometric openwork ornaments in the cut gold. A new fashion that emerged in the 2nd century AD was to use gold coins for medallions and rings,¹³ and this fashion quickly spread to all provinces. The technique of granulation and filigree was mostly executed as imitation: pseudogranulation and pseudofiligree.¹⁴

The influence of the style and method on the



execution of Roman jewellery was expressed in the shape, decorative elements and technique. A special role in the formation of these aesthetic concepts was attributed to the permanent contacts between Rome and the various Roman provinces as a result of their political, cultural and economic relations. This can explain the not isolated occurrence of very similar objects in different parts of the Empire. Being easily transportable, jewellery accompanied its owners during conquests, travels, trade, etc.¹⁵ There are many instances of goldsmiths who emigrated from the East to work in the smithies of Rome¹⁶ or in the Roman provinces. Recreating the forms of their models, they influenced local production.

Roman jeweller's art in Thrace and Moesia followed the fashion trends of the epoch. It did not differ in character from the art of the remaining Roman provinces, featuring the marked influence of the two main groups: Hellenistic-Roman and Italic-Roman.¹⁷ The social, economic and political changes in the newly-emerged Roman provinces created prerequisites for close contacts with the rest of the Roman world. The new phenomena in urbanization left an imprint on the entire mode of life. The numerous immigrants from Asia Minor, Syria and the remaining Eastern provinces were well received due to the hectic urban construction going on at that time and to the developing commerce and crafts.¹⁸ The impressive influx of migrants from the East was further intensified by the ethnic composition of the garrisons of the Roman legions stationed along the right bank of the Lower Danube. The settlements that cropped up near the military camps gave refuge not only to the craftsmen and merchants offering their services to the troops, but also to some of the veteran soldiers, many of whom were of Eastern origin. They brought with them the millennial tradition of their Eastern culture,¹⁹ in which the jeweller's art featured very prominently. Parallel with this, the influence of Rome which had imposed its socio-political and economic dominance over the provinces, found its reflection in all spheres of culture. The numerous articles of adornment found in the provinces of Moesia and Thrace were a reverberation of these two tendencies in the evolution of artistic culture as a whole, taking into account the local artistic tastes of the clients, which were also manifested in the jewellery.²⁰

The jewellery collection of the Archaeological Museum, one of the best among the museum collections in the country, contains almost all characteristic types of the epoch, which were widespread in Moesia and Thrace in the 1st-4th century AD. Being accumulated in the course of a century, the collection consists mostly of accidental finds which were unearthed predominantly during farming operations. The jewellery came to the Museum mainly through intermediaries (antique dealers), therefore the exact circumstances in which they were discovered were not always recorded, which complicated their comprehensive interpreta-

tion. Referring to the entries in the inventory registers, it became clear that most of the jewellery came from graves within the necropolises of the big urban centres like Ratiaria (present-day Archar village), Oescus (Gigen village), Novae (town of Svishtov), Augusta Trajana (Stara Zagora), Odessos (Varna), Serdica (Sofia), Durostorum (Silistra), etc. The jewellery is dated taking into account both the typological data and the rest of the grave offerings found. Grave offerings containing coins are of exceptional importance, e. g. the finds from Oescus, Serdica, the present-day village of Petrunitsa near Pleven, Svilengrad, etc. Other types of dating material can be the rest of the funerary offerings: votive relief, bronze sculpture, ceramic objects and especially the lamps discovered in burials from the village of Izvor near Yambol, Mezdra, Odessos and Dede Agach in Southern Thrace.²¹ The second essential group of jewellery is represented by the three major treasures from Bazaurt, Chaoushevo and Nikolaevo. Their value is exceptional not only in quantitative terms, but also in view of the coin hoards included in them, which cast light not only on the dating of the treasures, but also of accidentally discovered jewellery.

The treasure from Bazaurt (present-day Zhitnitsa village near Dobrich) was discovered quite by chance in Georgi Velikov's cornfield on June 13, 1916. It consists of 39 silver objects, among them 24 silver ornaments weighing 1430 grams (two torques, six bracelets, 15 earrings and one medallion), three dishes, 12 plate-appliques, repousse and 1430 Roman Republican and Imperial silver coins, the most recent of which were of Emperor Hadrian (117-138 AD).²² In the present monograph we have included a total of 17 articles of adornment that have survived to our days (2 torques, 6 bracelets, 8 earrings and 1 medallion). The dating of the treasure to the late 1st or early 2nd century AD is in agreement with the dating of the typology of the various ornaments, which is best expressed for bracelets and earrings. The treasure from Chaoushevo (present-day Tsenovo village near Rousse) was also an accidental find which was unearthed in three stages. In 1932 the dealer in antique jewellery Armenyak Sahakyan made an offer to the National Museum to purchase the treasure discovered in the plot of land of an unknown peasant, containing a total of 15 objects: a gold and a silver torque, a silver bracelet, a silver fibula with gilt, 11 silver appliques and 309 Roman silver coins (out of the 1049 coins discovered). Nikola Moushmov had the opportunity of examining the remaining 740 coins at the dealer's shop. The hoard included coins of more than thirty Roman Emperors, starting with Nero (54-68 AD) and ending with Gordian III (238-244), the predominant coins being from the 2nd-3rd century AD.²³ Another three silver articles—a torque, a bracelet and a ring—were purchased by the Museum in 1935 with the assistance of the same dealer. There can be no doubt that they belong to the same treasure, because the silver torque

(Cat. No 87) is practically identical to the one found in 1932 (Cat. No 86). The last silver torque (Cat. No 88) was sold in 1936. In this way the objects in the treasure numbered 19, seven of them being various articles of adornment (only six have been preserved to this day). Judging by the typology of the ring and of the bracelet, the jewellery can be dated to the mid-3rd century, which corresponds to the most recent coins in the hoard of Emperor Gordian III (238-244). N. Moushmov expressed doubts about the belonging of the coins to the treasure, but this fact is indisputable, because concealing coin hoards was not an isolated occurrence for that time. This is confirmed both by the treasure from Bazaurt and by the treasure from Nikolaevo. The concealing of the treasure by burying it into the ground, as in the case of the Nikolaevo treasure, coincided with the period of devastating Gothic incursions south of the Danube, which started during the reign of Emperor Maximian in 238 AD.²⁴

The third treasure known from the Roman Period in the Bulgarian lands, which is also the richest in jewellery, is the treasure from the village of Nikolaevo near Pleven. Its history is similar to that of the Chaoushevo treasure. It was discovered by chance while Penko Penkov was digging his vineyard and through the dealer Atanas Bankov an offer was made to the Museum in 1909 to buy silver and gold jewellery together with 15 silver coins. The next year the man who discovered the treasure offered the rest of it for sale, consisting of two dishes, one bracelet and 918 coins. In this way the total number of objects in the treasure is 35 articles of adornment (30 gold and 5 silver), two silver dishes (one salt dish and a phiale), with a total weight of 895.84 g gold and 293.46 g silver, as well as 933 silver and 2 bronze Roman coins. The treasure from Nikolaevo is extremely valuable not only in quantitative terms, but rather with the variety of the jewellery it contains: seven gold necklaces, 2 fragments of necklaces, 3 gold torques, 5 gold and 4 silver bracelets, 6 gold and 1 silver rings, and 7 gold earrings. Among the necklaces and bracelets one can observe the only jewellery discovered in the Bulgarian lands so far, which betray some similarity with jewellery coming from the East or from the Caucasus, demonstrating definite mutual influences and contacts with the rest of the Roman world.²⁵ Of particular interest among the necklaces is the one made of gold with a triple chain of the Isthmion type and with a medallion which is actually a gold coin of Emperor Caracalla (211-217 AD), minted in 215 AD according to the inscription on the reverse. Apart from belonging to the type with a triple chain, this necklace is particularly valuable with its accurate dating. The clarification of the dating of the treasure is further aided by the 933 silver coins discovered together with it, minted during the reigns of 31 Roman emperors: from Titus (77-78 AD) to Philip the Arab (244-249 AD), whose last coin issues were minted in 248 AD. This year is assumed to be the *terminus post*

quem for the treasure, more specifically for the time when it was concealed, which shows a remarkable coincidence with that of the Chaoushevo treasure. Two Gothic incursions are documented in the Moesian province in 248 and 249, therefore the burying of the treasures may be associated with these events.

The diversity of the jewellery in the collection under consideration largely reflects the general tendencies in the development of jeweller's art in the Thracian lands during the Roman Period, in terms of forms and technical execution. The use of polychrome stones and the application of glyptics—gems and cameos—as a decoration of earrings, rings and medallions, continued in the composition of the decorative pattern. The use of geometric motifs or of real animal figures is illustrated by the snake-like forms of torques, bracelets and rings. The medallion with cameo, very fashionable for that epoch, was richly decorated with openwork frames of floral motifs executed in the *opus intarsiale* technique or oblique hatches, often applied for earrings as well. A prominent example of medallions with gold coins incorporated in them is the necklace from Nikolaevo, decorated with rubies along the periphery. Various motifs of the so-called Heracles' knot or the crescent can be traced in the necklace and in the pendants. The definite stylistic features and influences in jewellery illustrate local tastes.²⁶

The earrings in the collection are represented by the principal forms: resembling hoops, with an S-like or ordinary hook, part of them being identified as pendants for earrings and pendants worn over the temples. Additional elements were semispherical, round or rectangular shields, horizontal plates and pendants, richly decorated with precious stones, cameo and glass paste, as well as with filigree and granulation. The collection also features the not so popular "double earrings" (i. e. earrings with a double shield), executed using pseudofiligree and pseudogranulation techniques. Most of the types considered betray a definite Hellenistic influence, as well as Eastern influence—from Egypt and Syria. Earrings with an openwork shield and with pendants having a grape-like ornament of small gold pearls have been included in the collection from the treasures from Nikolaevo, Novae, Sexaginta Prista and the present-day Pleven region, as well as from other parts of the country. They demonstrate a popular type of jewellery in the Thracian lands, typical of the Roman Period. This, in addition to the less refined execution, suggests that they were produced in the local workshops, whose influence was felt even in works coming from Southern Russia, more specifically from the Chersonesos, which has been documented in other types of jewellery as well.²⁷

The relatively small number of torques in the collection, as well as in other finds throughout the country, suggests their limited use. Nevertheless, the finds give grounds for interpreting them both as articles of adornment worn by men, possibly as some



form of military insignia,²⁸ e. g. the torques from Chaoushevo, and as something used by women and children alike, which is illustrated by the torques found in graves in Ratiaria, Oescus and Svilengrad.²⁹ They were made of fluted or spirally twisted wires, in the tradition of the Hellenistic types characteristic of the Thracian lands, demonstrating also a similarity with barbarized prototypes of Eastern workshops. The localizing of a larger number of torques in the Lower Moesian province can also be associated with the influence of the numerous settlers and veterans from the Roman legions along the right bank of the Lower Danube.³⁰

The variety of necklaces reveals all models characteristic of that period. The principal components of the chain—the interlinking loops—appear in all possible variants. A small part of them were used only as chains, similar to the bronze and gold chains from Ratiaria, others were additionally decorated with a medallion or a crescent-shaped pendant, e. g. the gold necklace from the Nikolaevo treasure, with parallels in necklaces from Tortosa in Syria. The Isthmion-type chains that were very popular in the Thracian lands during the Hellenistic Age,³¹ reappeared during the Roman Period. They are represented by the gold necklace with triple chain from Nikolaevo, dated to the mid-3rd century BC, by the

2nd century silver decoration with fibulae from Ratiaria and by the silver chain from the Samokov region, as well as by similar objects from Hissar, Novae and elsewhere.³² Necklaces of the mixed-chain types, combined with gold beads of various shapes, e. g. dodecahedral, spheric, etc., as well as with different kinds of stones, glass and bone, were particularly popular in the 2nd-3rd century AD. The glass and bone beads of some necklaces are broken or missing, being made of a nondurable material. In addition to the necklaces included in the collection from Ratiaria, Ryahovo and Peturnitsa, there are also numerous exhibits from the collections of the history museums in Vidin, Plevna, Kyustendil, etc.³³ They feature similar decorative patterns and at the same time confirm their local origin. The ornament known as Hercules' knot, which was very popular during that period, is illustrated by a fragment of a necklace with openwork segments from the treasure in Nikolaevo. The group of necklaces from Nikolaevo with double hollow gold segments made in a mould, with exquisitely modelled stylized leaves, pinecone ornament and fluted segments is very interesting. The perfectly similar necklaces from Nikolaevo and Lesichevo find parallels in works imported from Emessa in Syria, which definitely demonstrates the influence of the Eastern workshops, and more

specifically of the Eastern master goldsmiths.³⁴ The popularity of bracelets, similar to the torques, reveals their mixed use: as an ordinary article of adornment, on the one hand, and on the other—as a military decoration or insignia. This fact has been registered in the collection discussed here, albeit only as a hypothesis, without definite archaeological proof. The most widespread type of bracelets with hoop-and-hook fastener represents a revival of the Hellenistic tradition and finds close analogies with finds from Dacia and Southern Russia. The construction of many of them incorporates the decorative element of a horizontal spiral. These bracelets repeat the techniques and the decoration registered for earrings and torques, prompted by a local production. Interesting specimens in the collection are the "bipartite" gold bracelets from the treasure of Nikolaevo, which are the only known parallels so far to the bipartite bracelets from the Caucasus.³⁵ They are a manifestation of the mutual influence, and more specifically of the influence of Thrace on the jeweller's art of the Chersonesos.³⁶ Rings are presented best in their typological development. This fact is influenced by the existing concrete forms and types of objects that were widespread throughout the entire Roman Empire. In addition to the simplified finger-rings, which are snake-like or with openwork decoration, there are also rings used as seals, as well as rings with votive inscriptions connected with the local religious customs of the population. Interesting examples can be found among the rings with inscriptions marking engagements and marriages, expressing "concordia," to which the motif of the two clasped hands (*iunctio dextrarum*) belongs. Many of the rings are decorated with gems and cameos as a continuation of the tradition of the Classical Period. Subjected to the influence of Greek, Italic and Eastern art, glyptic works of art reflected the tastes of the local clients. Some stylistic and technical specificities in the workmanship suggest that a part of the gems and cameos came from local engraving workshops, which have been attested reliably in Novae and in Ratiaria.³⁷

The known articles of adornment found on the territory of Moesia and Thrace reflect the evolution of the jeweller's art during the Roman Period. Jewellery-making flourished under local conditions, in addition to the remaining artistic crafts.³⁸ These exquisite objects were felt as a necessity that satisfied the aesthetic needs not only of the rich upper crust of society, but also of the middle strata of the population, which was often reflected in the lower value of the metal of which they were made. The discovery of a large part of the objects to the north of the Balkan Range, and more specifically in Ratiaria, defines this settlement as the biggest centre of toreutics in the Antiquity.³⁹ This theory was launched in the first decades of this century, a parallel being drawn with the gold finds in the Transylvanian mountains.⁴⁰ The new archaeological finds in

Northwestern Bulgaria cast new light on the problem of the ore deposits. The intensive life in the settlements in the region of Montana (present-day Mihailovgrad), the twenty-four documented fortresses and the abundance of military units stationed there, are associated with the extreme economic significance of the region, resulting from its rich ore deposits localized to the south and to the southwest of the city.⁴¹ This was also the area of eighteen of the documented fortresses, which were also used as a special form of protection by the Roman authorities. In addition to the ore deposits, there is also indisputable evidence that gold-bearing sand was washed along the rivers Ogosta and Zlatitsa.⁴² On account of all these riches, the Montana region was defined as "one of the most substantial gold-bearing regions in the Balkans during the Roman Period."⁴³ These gold deposits supplied the metal to the workshops in Ratiaria.

The propagation of the toreutic works of art of Ratiaria, or of similar prototypes throughout the entire Moesia Inferior and in Thrace, has been documented by a number of finds from Novae, Almus (present-day Lom), Oescus, Plevna, Durostorum, Pautalia (present-day Kyustendil), etc. This also determined the leading role of the gold from Ratiaria in the entire jeweller's production, and it influenced a number of other workshops as well. What is more, necklaces and medallions that were totally similar to those from Ratiaria, occurred outside the boundaries of our provinces, e. g. in the Chersonesos (the Northern Black Sea coast), Viminacium (present-day Kostalac in Yugoslavia), Intercisium in Pannonia (present-day Hungary), which clearly proves that they found a good market spread by merchants along the Danube and the Black Sea.⁴⁴

In the Thracian lands there is no doubt about the existence of toreutic workshops in Serdica, Philippopolis, Augusta Trajana and Pautalia, which were major centres of artistic crafts during the antiquity.⁴⁵ This is evidenced, both by the abundant jewellery finds⁴⁶ and by a number of data about the availability of raw materials for their production. There were gold mines on the territory of Serdica.⁴⁷ Gold-bearing sand was washed in Pautalia, along the Strymon river.⁴⁸ This tradition was also reflected in the images on coins from Pautalia, where the symbols of fertility and of natural riches are illustrated not only by figures, but also by the inscriptions ΑΡΓΥΡΟΣ—silver, and ΧΡΥΣΟΣ—gold,⁴⁹ a fact also documented by the coins of Philippopolis.⁵⁰ The local Thracian jeweller's art has been attested in epigraphic monuments, e. g. the inscription from the Roman villa near Kalimanitsa, Mihailovgrad region, where the dedicator Pudentius was either a goldsmith, or he was connected with the processing of gold and silver.⁵¹ An inscription from Damascus in Syria indicates that goldsmiths, like all other craftsmen, had their associations.⁵² The development of the jeweller's art in the Thracian lands during the Roman Period was an essential

element of art and the crafts. It expressed the general tendencies of the culture and socio-economic relations of the province. The objects produced followed the fashion of the epoch, reflecting the needs and the tastes of the mass consumer. Having emerged basically under the influence of Eastern workshops, as well as with the direct participation of craftsmen coming from the East either as settlers or as veterans, jeweller's art in the Thracian lands acquired its own characteristic features and its own prototypes for a vast majority of the jewellery. Various types of earrings, necklaces and medallions are defined as characteristic Thracian forms.⁵³ The propagation of a large part of them along the northern Black Sea coast, more specifically in the Chersonesos, as well as in present-day Eastern Serbia, indicates the sphere of influence of Thracian jewellery, resulting from trade and cultural contacts.⁵⁴ This has also determined the special place which Thrace held in the development of the jeweller's art during the Roman Period.⁵⁵ The collection discussed in this book contains 337 metal articles of adornment. According to their functions, they are classified as head and body ornaments, and are divided into seven major types: earrings, torques, necklaces, bracelets, finger-rings, ornamental hairpins and elements of unidentified nature. The only exception from the main group is the decorative object with fibulae from Ratiaria.

NOTES

- ¹ Zouhdi, B. Les influences réciproques entre l'Orient et l'Occident d'après les bijoux du Musée national de Damas. — AA Syr. 21 (81971), p. 95.
² Coche de la Ferté, E. Les bijoux antiques. Paris, 1956, p. 87; Higgins, R. A. Greek and Roman Jewellery. London, 1961, p. 173.
³ Ibid.
⁴ Coche de la Ferté, E. Op. cit., p. 87.
⁵ Ibid.
⁶ Higgins, R. Op. cit., 178-181; Zouhdi, B. Op. cit., p. 97; BMCJ, p. xiii, p. 329, fig. 88.
⁷ Coche de la Ferté, E. Op. cit., p. 87.
⁸ Ibid.
⁹ Ibid; Higgins, R. Op. cit., 178-181.
¹⁰ Димитрова, Ал. Развитие и стилови особености на ювелирното изкуство в Тракия и Мизия през I—III в. — Проблеми на изкуството, 1982, № 3, с. 33.
¹¹ Coche de la Ferté, E. Op. cit., 87-96; Higgins, R. Op. cit., 178-181; BMCJ, p. xlix-li; Zouhdi, B. Op. cit., 95-103; Zahn, R. Sammlung Baura Schiller—Berlin, 1929, p. 14; Pfeiler, D. Römischer Goldschmuck. Mainz, 1970, 5-11; Ruxer, M. S., J. Kubczak. Naszjnik Grecki w okresach Hellenistycznym i Rzymskim. Warszawa-Poznan, 1972; Carducci, C. Gold- und Silberschmuck aus dem Antiken Italien. Milano, 1962, p. XVII.
¹² Ibid.
¹³ Higgins, R. Op. cit., 181, 186; Coche de la Ferté, E. Op. cit., p. 93.
¹⁴ Ibid., p. 95, 180.
¹⁵ Zouhdi, B. Op. cit., p. 96.
¹⁶ Higgins, R. Op. cit., p. 181, 182.
¹⁷ Димитрова, Ал. Op. cit., p. 33.

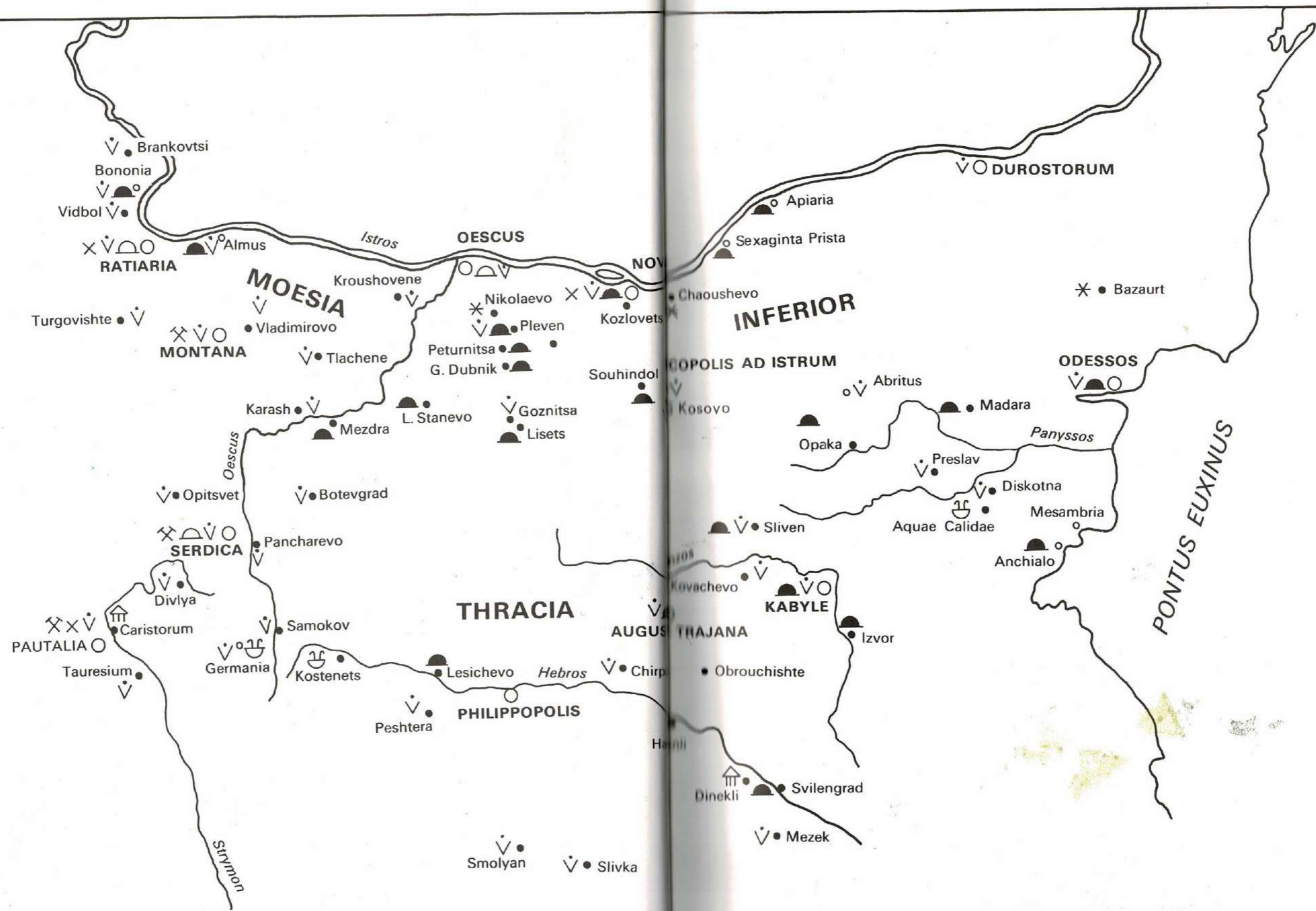
Earrings are represented by 104 specimens (Cat. Nos 1-74): 87 made of gold and 17 of silver. The torques number 19 (Cat. Nos 75-93): 10 gold and 9 silver. Necklaces (together with parts of necklaces, e. g. beads, fasteners, crescent-shaped pendants and medallions, are 46 (Cat. Nos 94-139): 40 gold, 5 silver and 1 bronze. There are 44 bracelets (Cat. Nos 140-175): 11 gold, 22 silver and 11 bronze. The rings number 108 (Cat. Nos 176-276): 48 gold, 40 silver, 1 bronze with gilt, 10 plain bronze and 9 iron rings. Decorative objects for the hair (hairpins, pendants) are 10 (Cat. Nos 277-286): 3 gold, 4 gilded, 2 silver and 1 bronze. There are 6 elements (Cat. Nos 287-292): 3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze and 1 lead. Gold jewellery predominates with a total of 206 objects, followed by silver jewellery—96, bronze—25, iron—9 and lead—1. The jewellery is classified into types and variants on the basis of external morphological features, strictly taking into account their chronological development. The typology results from their principal components, additional elements and decoration, irrespective of the metal. The difference is reflected in their ordering in the catalogue in the following sequence: gold objects come first, followed by silver, bronze, etc. Fragmented articles of adornment, about which there is no sufficient information, are given separately in groups for each type of jewellery.

- ¹⁸ Тачева-Хитова, М. Тракийските земи и Мала Азия през римската епоха. — In: България в света от древността до наши дни. Т. 1. С., 1979, с. 161.
¹⁹ Ibid.
²⁰ История на България. Т. 1, с. 362.
²¹ Кузманов, Г. Антични лампи от НАМ, кат. № 71, 90, 128, 136, 137, 149, 150, 163, 178, 179, 181, 182, 206 (in press).
²² Велков, Ив. Новооткрити старини. — ИАД, № 7, 1919/1920, 150-151.
²³ Мушмов, Н. Колективни находки на монети. — ИАИ, № 7, 1932/1933, с. 425.
²⁴ Велков, В. Градът в Тракия и Дакия през късната античност. С., 1969, с. 289; Velkov, V. Cities in Thrace and Dacia in Late Antiquity (Studies and Materials). Amsterdam, 1977, p. 96.
²⁵ Филев, Б. Римското съкровище от Николасво. — ИАД, № 4, 1-48; Найденова, В. Изложба „Златото на Рациария“. — Изкуството, 1988, № 4, с. 35; Димитрова, Ал. Op. cit., p. 38.
²⁶ История на България. Т. 1, с. 363.
²⁷ Димитрова, Ал. Op. cit., p. 36; Филев, Б. Op. cit., p. 33, 34.
²⁸ Maxfield, W. A. The Military Decorations of the Roman Army. London, 1981, p. 86.
²⁹ Cf. Cat. Nos 76, 80 and 84.
³⁰ Тачева-Хитова, М. Op. cit.; Ролята на преселниците от Мала Азия, Сирия и Египет в икономическия и културен живот на Долна Мизия и Тракия I—III в. от н. е. (автореферат на дисертация). В. Търново, 1969, с. 7; Tatscheva-Chitova, M. Handwerker und Kaufleute aus dem griechischen Osten in Thracien (I—III Jh.). — Acta Conventus "Eirene", 1971, p. 87.
³¹ Попов, Р. Сребърното съкровище от Букьовци. — ГНМ за 1922—1925 г., с. 1, обр. 2, 8; Чимбулева, Ж. Новооткрити еллинистически гробници от Несебър. — Археология, 1964, № 4, с. 35; Велков, Ив. Op. cit., p. 417, fig. 176.

- ³² Прес, Л., М. Чичикова. Българо-полски разкопки в Нове през 1960 и 1961 г. — Археология, 1963, № 2, с. 63, обр. 3; Цончев, Д., А. Саркасян. Некрополите на стария град при Хисарските топломинерални извори. — Археология, 1960, № 4, с. 36, обр. 1.
³³ Джонова, Д. Могилни погребения от Видинско. — Археология, 1962, № 3, с. 31, обр. 3; Атанасова, Й. Погребения от некропола на Рациария. — ИБМ, № 1, 1969 (С., 1971), с. 90; Русева-Слокоска, Л. Едно погребение от Пауталия. — Археология, 1965, № 4, с. 44.
³⁴ Филев, Б. Op. cit., p. 31, 42 sq.; Димитрова, Ал. Op. cit., p. 36.
³⁵ Найденова, В. Op. cit., p. 35; Димитрова, Ал. Op. cit., p. 38.
³⁶ Ibid.
³⁷ Димитрова-Милчева, Ал. Антични геме и камени от Националния археологичен музей в София, 19—24.
³⁸ История на България. Т. 1, с. 363; Димитрова, Ал. Развитие и стилови особености..., 36—38.
³⁹ Димитрова-Милчева, Ал. Антични геме и камени..., с. 22; Димитрова, Ал. Развитие и стилови особености..., с. 37.
⁴⁰ Филев, Б. Op. cit., p. 41.
⁴¹ Александров, Г. Антични крепости в района на Монтана (дн. Михайловград). — In: Чипровци 1868—1968. С., 1971, с. 115 sq.
⁴² Ibid., p. 126, 127.
⁴³ Велков, В. Приноси към историята на римските градове

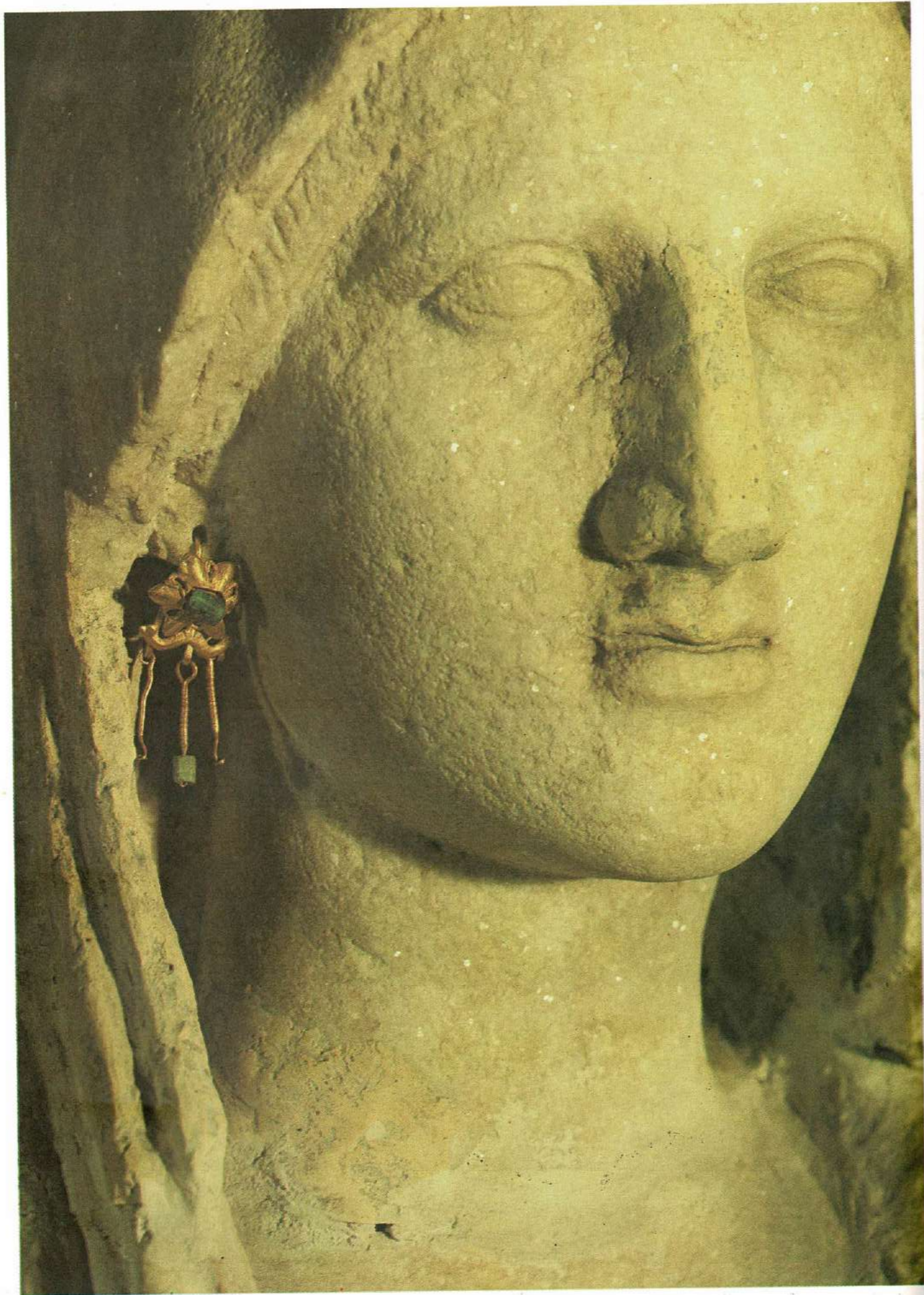
- в България. Т. 2. Монтана (днешния Михайловград). — In: Чипровци 1868—1968. С., 1971, с. 112.
⁴⁴ Димитрова-Милчева, Ал. Антични геме и камени..., с. 23.
⁴⁵ Димитрова, Ал. Развитие и стилови особености..., с. 37.
⁴⁶ Филев, Б. Софийската църква „Св. София“. С., 1913; Буюклиев, Хр. Тракийският могилен некропол при Чаталка, Старозагорски окръг. — РП, № 16, с. 9 sq., Русева-Слокоска, Л. Op. cit., p. 44.
⁴⁷ Станчева, М. Тракийски златоносни рудни разработки край София. — Археология, 1973, № 1, с. 54 sq.
⁴⁸ Геров, Б. Проучвания върху западнотракийските земи през римско време. — ГСУ ФФ, № 54, 1959/1960, № 3, 251—254, 266 with cited literature.
⁴⁹ Герасимов, Т. Пауталийските монети. — In: Сборник в чест на 100-годишнината от основаването на читалището в Кюстендил (1869—1969). С., 1973, с. 59, обр. 10; Ruticka, L. Münzen von Pautalia. — ИАИ, No 7, 1932/1933, No 634, 473, Tabl. VI, 19.
⁵⁰ Колев, К. Богатството на пловдивското поле и река Марица, отразени върху антична монета от Филипопол. — ГНАМП, № 6, 1968, 95—116.
⁵¹ Александров, Г. Латински надписи от Монтана (дн. Михайловград). — Векове, 1977, № 5, с. 52.
⁵² Higgins, R. Op. cit., p. 182 with cited literature.
⁵³ Димитрова, Ал. Op. cit., p. 38.
⁵⁴ Ibid.; Димитрова-Милчева, Ал. Op. cit., p. 23.
⁵⁵ Ibid.





The Roman provinces of Lower Moesia and Thrace, with data on the localization of the finds

- large city
- ancient settlement
- modern settlement
- ⚔ ore mining (gold)
- × production centre
- * treasure
- △ necropolis
- ◐ grave find
- ▽ single find
- ♨ Roman thermae
- ⛩ sanctuary



EARRINGS



Earrings are among the most widespread forms of jewellery worn during the antiquity. Born in the Orient, they were handed down from one generation to the next, taking into account aesthetic tastes and patterns, being predominantly a typical decoration for women. Their great popularity during the Archaic and Classical Greek periods can be seen in the numerous sculptural monuments and stone sculpture. In addition to the other forms of jewellery (necklaces, bracelets, finger-rings and torques), earrings sculptured in marble or rendered as metal appliques are very frequent.¹

The collection comprises the principal forms of earring during the Roman Period, divided into two types with variants and subvariants, as well as a group of unspecified or fragmented earrings. The defining module for differentiation is the principal component of the earring, i. e. the way it is attached to the ear: with a hoop or with a hook. The variants and subvariants reflect the different types of hoops and hooks, the decoration consisting of additional elements, e. g. shields and pendants, on the visible part of the earring. The collection also includes known earrings and pendants worn on the earrings or over the temples, although there are no reliable data about the exact way in which these earrings were worn, as well as plain-hoop earrings for pierced ears. The problem of the pierced ears is still debatable, but it is apparent, as Pliny points out, that this was the obligation of women.² "People explored the depths of the Red Sea to seek pearls, and the depths of the earth to seek emeralds. This led to the fashion of the pierced ears, because it was no longer enough to adorn the hands, arms, neck and hair, without piercing the body."

The earrings are usually dated between the 1st and the 4th century AD on the basis of reliably dated archaeological material from grave finds in Ratiaria, Novae, Oescus, Apiaria, Serdica, etc., as well as from the treasures from Bazaurt and Nikolaevo. Individual specimens find parallels in a number of finds from the other Roman provinces, notably those from Northern Greece, Macedonia, Asia Minor, Syria and Southern Russia. The popularity of some forms and models in the Thracian lands defines them as characteristic local prototypes which became widespread or influenced production in the adjacent provinces.

The proposed typology of the earrings is as follows:
Type I: Plain-hoop earrings (Cat. Nos 1-42, 64-72), with four variants.

Type II: earrings with hooks—S-shaped and ordinary (Cat. Nos 43-58, 73, 74), with six variants.
Groups I-II: earrings with unspecified hoops or hooks, as well as fragments (Cat. Nos 59-63).

Type I. Plain-hoop earrings were a tradition in the most widespread Hellenistic earrings, defined by H. Marshall as a continuation of Greek earrings with an animal's head. They have been attested in Greek-Roman and Roman jeweller's art between the 2nd century AD and the 3rd century BC.³ Many of

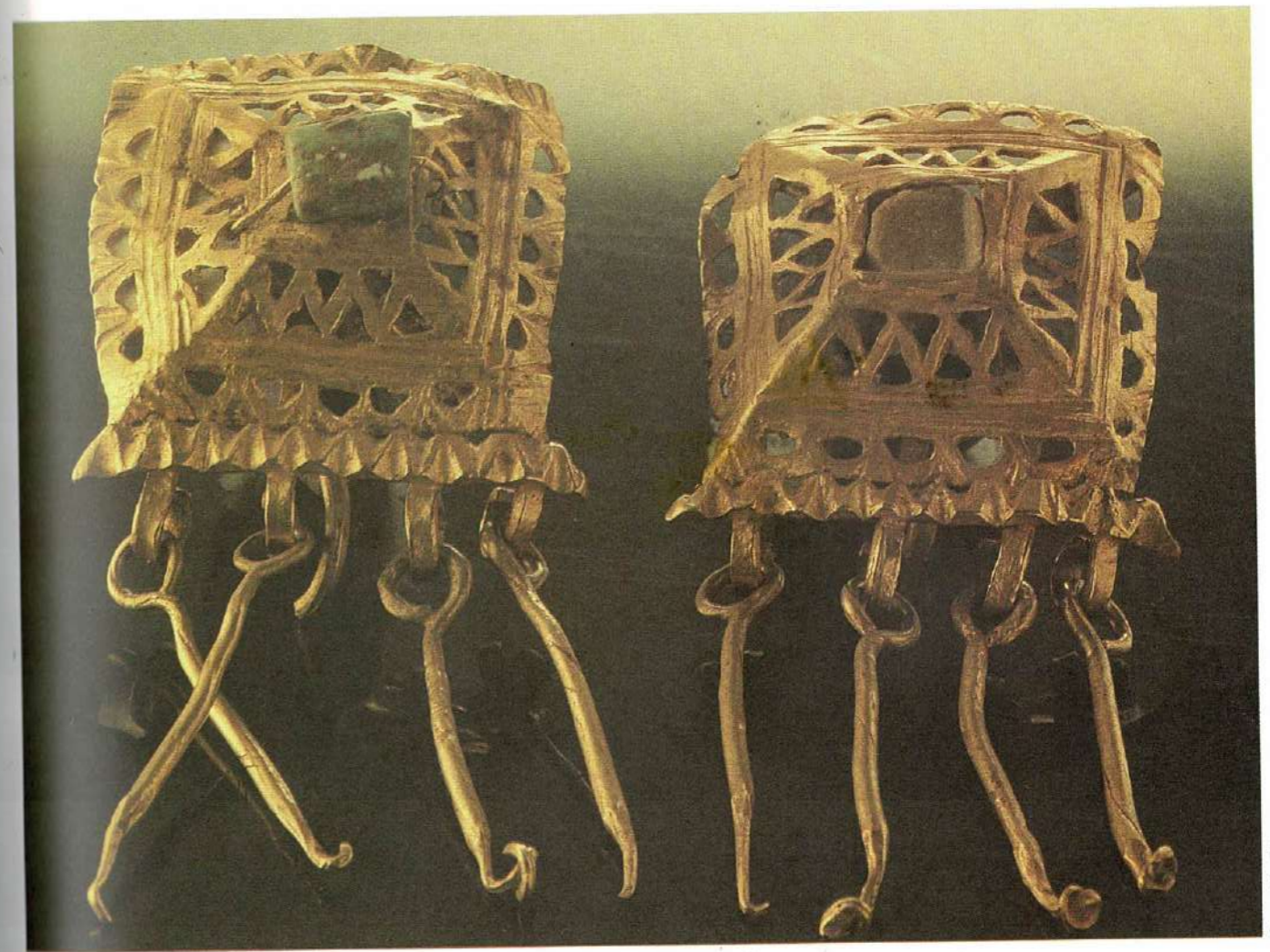


the plain-hoop earrings are decorated with shields and pendants. According to the way in which the end of the hoop is shaped, four variants (with subvariants) are distinguished:

Variant 1. Plain-hoop open earring, oval in shape, made of wire with round or concave cross section, ends thin and almost touching. The variant is a continuation of the 5th-3rd century BC Hellenistic tradition, where the hoop ended in animal or human heads, betraying predominantly Eastern influence—from Egypt, Syria and Cyprus—where many finds have been dated from burials containing coins.⁴ The numerous Hellenistic specimens from the Thracian lands, similar to those from Moushovitsa and Koukova Mogila at Douvanli, Plovdiv district, from Varna, Asenovgrad, Nesebur and elsewhere, dated to the period between the late 6th and the 3rd century BC, are a demonstration of their great popularity and of the tradition that inevitably passed into the Roman period as well.⁵ The variant is represented by gold and silver earrings (Cat. Nos 1, 2, 64-66). Among them are the well dated silver earrings from the Bazaurt treasure, attributed to the period from the end of the 1st until the first half of the 2nd century AD.

Variant 2. Plain-hoop open-end fastened earring, oval in shape, made of one wire, with round, concave or

rhomboid cross section, with thinner ends that either run parallel one against the other, or their ends are spirally twisted several times. This type is very frequent mainly with the way in which the earrings are fastened. It has been documented both for earrings and for finger-rings.⁶ In Egypt this type of fastening was known from the 12th dynasty, being attested in rings with scarabs.⁷ The type is defined both as functional and as decorative in Egyptian art. It also occurs in earrings from Cyprus, dated to the Mycenaean Age (13th-11th century BC),⁸ in 11th-7th century BC Eastern Greece rings from Asarlik and Carya,⁹ in Early Etruscan earrings defined as Early Italic and dated to the 5th century BC.¹⁰ This type of fastening was revived and became again fashionable during the Roman period. Its popularity is illustrated by the numerous finds from Southern Russia, Macedonia, Syria, Egypt and elsewhere.¹¹ Earrings of this type cannot be unfastened easily. They were worn on the ears in the same way all the time, being permanently fastened after they were placed on the ears, or were specially made as jewellery to be placed in graves as funerary offerings. The earrings under consideration manifest certain differences in the length of their ends and in their composition pattern. Their ends are either parallel to one another (Cat. Nos 3, 4, 67b) or crossed immediately after they meet



(Cat. Nos 5, 67a). Part of the hoops are decorated with groups of perpendicular incised concentric lines, a characteristic decorative pattern of 1st-3rd century AD earrings (Cat. No 3).¹² Other earrings are with additional decoration consisting of pendants: mobile hoop (Cat. No 3), chain with bead (Cat. No 5), threaded glass bead (Cat. No 70) and an axe-like pendant (Cat. No 71).

The variant is dated to the period between the 1st century BC and the 2nd-3rd century AD. Some specimens have parallels with reliably dated finds from the late 1st to the late 2nd century AD (Cat. No 3), similar to the earrings from Tumulus 7 at Chatalka¹³ and the tumular necropolis at Obrouchishte, Stara Zagora region.¹⁴ The silver earrings from the Bazaurt treasure (Cat. Nos 67, 68) also belong to them. The latest dating (end of the 3rd century AD) is attributed to the gold earring from the necropolis of the St Sophia church (Cat. No 6). The wide occurrence of open-end fastened earrings, whose design recurs in torques and bracelets from Thrace and Moesia, defines them as a preferred and popular variant in local jewellery manufacturing. Variant 2 is represented by gold (Cat. Nos 3-5) and silver earrings (Cat. Nos 67-71).

Variant 3. Plain-hoop, closed-end with two hoops, made of one wire with round or rectangular cross section, or spirally twisted, with thinner ends shaped as a hoop (in some earrings with spiral coils) and a hoop-and-hook oriented in two plains: horizontal and vertical. Part of the earrings are additionally decorated with a shield or with mobile pendants, or both. Variant 3 is a continuation of the Hellenistic type of earrings, betraying predominantly Eastern influences, but with certain modifications during the Roman Period, in the 2nd century AD. R. Higgins defines these earrings as full hoops with fastened ends.¹⁵ H. Marshall classifies them as hoop-type fastened with two hoops, noting their great popularity in the East—in Syria and in Cyprus—in the 1st-2nd century AD.¹⁶ The numerous finds from Eleutheropolis—Palestine, Thessaloniki, Amathus and Enkomi—Cyprus¹⁷ are known, as well as from Pannonia¹⁸ and Austria,¹⁹ many of which are funerary offerings that are well dated with coins. The earrings included in the collection, some of which were also found in graves, fit in the above mentioned chronological limits, dated with coins. The gold earrings from Svilengrad (Cat. Nos 9, 12), discovered together with a coin of Faustina Minor, are dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD, whereas the gold earrings from the necropolis of the St Sophia church (Cat. Nos 5, 6, 7, 11) are attributed to the period from the 2nd to the early 4th century AD, which is also supported by the decoration of the pendants with threaded beads, or feature the typical 2nd-3rd century pendant resembling grapes (Cat. Nos 32-34). Six subvariants (3A-3E) are distinguished according to the additional ornamentation—shield and pendants—and they are represented by gold specimens (Cat. Nos 6-14).

Variant 3A. Plain-hoop earring, closed-end fastened, with two hoops, one end below the horizontal hoop with two or three coils, a pendant with a grape-like ornament or a threaded bead. The subvariant is illustrated by Cat. Nos 6 and 7.

Variant 3B. Plain-hoop earring, closed-end fastened, with two hoops and a semispherical shield. An intermediary variant of the typology of R. Higgins, defined as a ball-type, but with S-shaped hook, dated to the 1st-3rd century.²⁰ Close analogies are the earrings from Pozzuoli in Italy and Enkomi in Cyprus, dated to the 1st-3rd century AD.²¹ The subvariant is represented by a pair of gold earrings found in a grave in Oescus (Cat. No 8).

Variant 3C. Plain-hoop earring, closed-end fastened, with two hoops, with thinned ends which are twisted spirally in several coils, with a horizontal spiral and with pendants. Each hoop is decorated with three groups of incised concentric lines, which is a characteristic decoration of 1st-3rd century earrings, similar to those cited in variant 2.²² Usually the horizontal spiral is a wire twisted in a circle above the hoop used for fastening. It is made for decorative purposes and replaces the shield, therefore it is defined as a pseudo-shield. This is a typical element in the ornamentation of Roman jewellery, usually found in earrings, finger-rings and bracelets.²³ The pendants are suspended on a hoop and move freely. Their body is made of a round wire, with horizontal and oblique fluting resembling spiral twists, with threaded hollow gold beads of the gold pearl type, consisting of two hemispheres. This type of pendant is characteristic of 1st-3rd century AD Roman jewellery and is illustrated by numerous finds from Cyprus, Tortous, Southern Russia and elsewhere.²⁴ Representatives of this subvariant are the gold earrings under Cat. Nos 9-11.

Variant 3D. Similar to Variant 3C. The only difference is the shield—a small circle filled with dark blue enamel. Representatives: a pair of gold earrings (Cat. Nos 9-11).

Variant 3E. The hoop and the pendant are perfectly similar to Variant 3C,D. The shield appears with a new element: it is semispherical, framed with wire having horizontal fluting that resembles pearl ornament and has a pit for enamel. The semispherical shield was a popular form in Roman earrings. It is present in the typology proposed by R. Higgins as a plain-hoop earring with a shield, usually having a pendant with a ball, dated to the 2nd century, found in tombs in Amathus in Cyprus.²⁵ Many more examples are known from Tortous,²⁶ Carnuntum in present-day Austria²⁷ and the Roman-German Museum in Bonn.²⁸ The semispherical shield is also present in many earrings from the collection under consideration (Cat. Nos 21-24, 31-34), as well as from the collections in museums throughout the country.²⁹ Represented by a pair of gold earrings (Cat. No 13).

Variant 3F. Plain-hoop earring, closed-end fastened with two hoops, a rectangular shield, a massive setting containing a stone and pendants. R. Higgins

uses the latter element, i. e. the pendant, to identify the type as a pendant-earring with a stone or glass in a setting to which a base of a horizontal band with pendants has been soldered. This type was in use for a relatively long time: from the 1st to the 3rd century AD.³⁰ An interesting feature in this case is the decoration of relatively large stones in solid settings, which was an element borrowed from 3rd century Eastern earrings.³¹ Represented by the earring under Cat. No 14.

Variant 4. Plain-hoop earring with hoop-and-hook fastener. Oval shape of one round wire, ends thinned out—one bent to form a hoop and the other one—a hook. Most of them are additionally decorated with a shield and pendants. Some differences are observed in the individual elements: (a) a hoop consisting of a spirally twisted wire with rectangular cross section (Cat. Nos 20, 24), consisting of three ornamented bodies (Cat. No 26) or of several such bodies, intricately intertwined (Cat. No 27); (b) the hoop of the fastener is usually a continuation of the hoop, it is

made of round wire (Cat. Nos 15-19, 31, 34, 38-42) or the round wire is flattened (Cat. Nos 20-23, 29), individual earrings have decorative hooks with pearl ornament (Cat. Nos 26-28). Hooks are thinner and with a pointed end (Cat. Nos 15, 20, 23, 31, 34), others form cone-shaped heads (Cat. Nos 21, 39). The fastener of some earrings is just a simple bending of the wire, without detailed modelling of the hoop and hook (Cat. Nos. 35-37, 41). Earrings with a spiral pseudoshield end in spiral twists (Cat. Nos 16-20, 38, 40).

Evolution is observed in the decoration, in addition to the already discussed pseudo-spiral, round and semispherical shields. Richly ornamented periphery, with floral or geometric motifs in relief (Cat. Nos 22-25), with a setting for a stone or for enamel in the centre. A new element is the richly decorated double shield (Cat. Nos 26-29) or a shield featuring human figures, e. g. a figurine of Eros (Cat. No 30). The pendants are decorated with gold beads of various shapes: biconic (Cat. No 39), pearl-shaped (Cat. No



31), grape-like (Cat. Nos 32-35, 38, 40), or stones (Cat. Nos. 25, 36, 37, 41), some of them in special settings (Cat. No 42). In accordance with the varieties mentioned above and the additional decoration in the form of a shield and pendants, we propose the following seven subvariants (4A-4G), with representatives among the gold earrings dated to the period between the 1st and the 4th century AD.

Variant 4A. Plain-hoop earring with hoop-and-hook fastener, oval in shape, made of one round wire, with tapering ends. The variant is represented by the gold earring from Botevgrad (Cat. No 15) and a pair of silver earrings from Madara, Shoumen region (Cat. No 72).

Variant 4B. Plain-hoop earring with hoop-and-hook fastener, made of one round wire (or of spirally twisted wire with rectangular cross section), with tapering ends, spiral coils below the hoop of the fastener and with a spiral pseudo-shield. Represented by Cat. Nos 16-20.

Variant 4C. Plain-hoop earring with hoop-and-hook fastener, oval in shape, made of one round wire, with round or semispherical shield, richly decorated periphery of spirally twisted wire, the decoration is of filigree and granulation, ornaments in relief, settings for stones or enamel in the middle, some earrings are with pendants. The use of stones or enamel is a characteristic element in the decoration of 2nd-3rd century jewellery, a dating supported by the earring from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 22). Representatives: Cat. Nos 21-25.

Variant 4D. Plain-hoop earring with a hoop-and-hook fastener, oval in shape, made of several profiled wires in a pearl ornament and twisted spirally or intricately intertwined, with a double and richly ornamented shield (the so-called double earrings), with filigree and granulation, and stones in settings. A typical decorative motif here is Heracles' knot, known from the Hellenistic Age (3rd-1st century BC) and later widely popular in Roman jewellery, too,³² used mainly in necklaces, bracelets and other types of jewellery.³³ Earrings featuring a sophisticated intertwined hoop and a double shield were widespread in Southern Russia,³⁴ Syria and Cyprus,³⁵ dated to the long period between the 3rd century BC and the 3rd century AD. Two of the earrings discussed here (Cat. No 26), a grave find from Varna district, are dated by the clay lamps found together with them between the 1st century and the first quarter of the 3rd century AD.³⁶ The magnificent decoration of pseudofiligree and granulation finds parallels with Celtic art in the Balkan Peninsula in the 1st century BC and with jewellery from Thrace during the Roman Period,³⁷ with numerous fibulae from Germany, elements of earrings from Southern Russia, etc.³⁸ Representatives: Cat. Nos 26-29.

Variant 4E. Plain-hoop earring with hoop-and-hook fastener, oval in shape, made of one spirally twisted wire, shield with figurine of Eros. The figured shield is a continuation of Hellenistic earrings: hoops with human and animal heads or with statuettes.³⁹ The

latter are widespread in the type with figured pendants, the figurine of Eros being most common among them.⁴⁰ Roman earrings ending with a figure (i. e. shield) were typical of the towns along the Black Sea coast, more specifically in Southern Russia — Kerch and Olbia — where the influence of Greek culture was very pronounced, as well as the continuation of this influence from the East — Egypt, Syria and Cyprus — from the Hellenistic Age until the 1st-2nd century BC.⁴¹ Many examples are also known from Pompeii, notably in the form of portrait-mummies of the Augustan period.⁴² Close analogies with the variant considered are the earrings with the figurine of Eros from the Roman-German Museum in Bonn,⁴³ from the Museum in Cyprus,⁴⁴ from Damascus⁴⁵ and elsewhere, dated to the 1st-2nd century AD (Cat. No 30).

Variant 4F. Plain-hoop earring with hoop-and-hook fastener, oval in shape, made of one round wire (or a spirally twisted wire with rectangular cross section), with a shield (round flat, semispherical, hexahedral pyramidal resembling a blossom, spiral pseudo-shield), with pendant (spheric or biconic gold pearls, grape-like or trapezoid plates with beads). Part of these earrings fully resemble Variant 4C in the way the hoop and the shield are formed. They are dated to the period between the mid-2nd and the mid-4th century AD with the reliably dated specimens in the treasure from Nikolaevo (Cat. Nos 32, 39). A characteristic element is the grape-like pendant⁴⁶ which, in addition to the pendant in the form of a gold pearl — biconic and spheric — and the semispherical profiled shield, were a typical model in the Thracian lands, produced under Eastern influence. Representatives: Cat. Nos 31-41 (the last number is the only example in the variant of an earring without shield).



Cat. No 27



Cat. No 51



Cat. No 22, 59

Variant 4G. Plain-hoop earring with hoop-and-hook fastener, irregular ellipsoid, made of one round wire, without shield, with a freely moving pendant and with stones in settings. The presence of the pendant has given grounds to R. Higgins to define this type of earrings as "pendant-earrings."⁴⁷ Representative: a gold earring from the necropolis of the St Sophia church in Sofia (Cat. No 42).

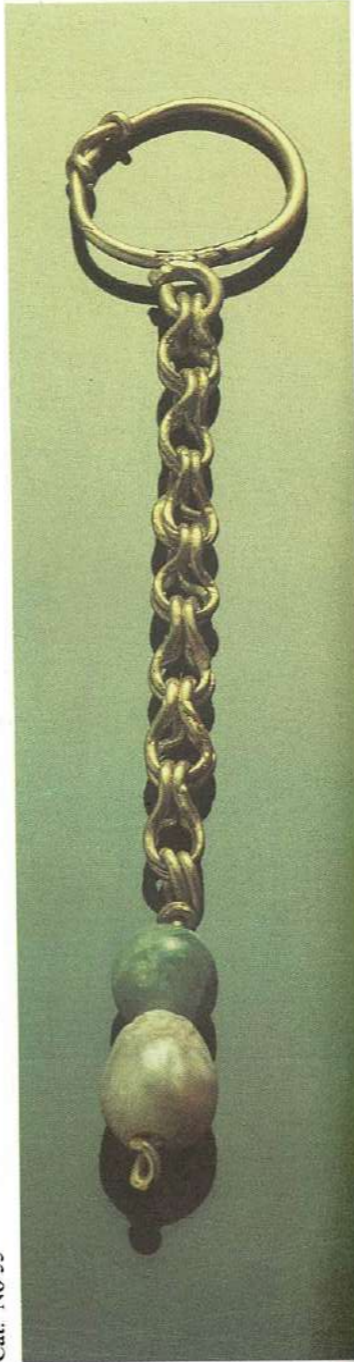
Type II — with S-shaped hook or with an ordinary bent hook, known in the literature generally as S-shaped earrings. H. Marshall defines them as Greek-Roman and dates them to the period between the 1st century BC and the 3rd century AD, citing many examples from Pompeii that were discovered together with coins from that period.⁴⁸ In fact, most of these earrings are with pendants, attributed by R. Higgins to different variants depending on the additional decoration: pendant-crook, ball-earring, pendant-earring and other specimens typical of the 1st-3rd century AD.⁴⁹ The cited examples demonstrate the propagation of the type in Italy, Gallia, Greece, Egypt, Syria and Palestine. It also occurs in earrings from Germania, Southern Russia and Cyprus between the 1st and the 3rd century AD.⁵⁰

Although they are defined as Roman, it is necessary to note their influence and their presence in earlier epochs. Earrings with an ordinary bent hook were widespread in the Greek world, among Etruscan monuments and especially in the Hellenistic examples (late 4th — 1st century BC).⁵¹ In this case these hooks replace the hoop in Type I, which is in itself a type of earring, even without the additional decoration. This is impossible in the S-shaped earrings. The S-shaped or ordinary hook actually represents the way in which the earring is attached to the ear. An indispensable element in them is the additional decoration of a shield or a combination of shield with pendants, the latter being the more frequent variant. It is not yet completely clear how the earrings with hooks were worn, and more specifically those with S-shaped hooks. It is difficult to assume that a bent-end hook, which is the prevailing type of fastening, has been passed through the ear. Probably some of them were used as pendants worn over the temples, not directly on the ears, but on a special band worn on the head,⁵² or the end of the hook was bent additionally, after the earring was attached to the ear (similar to the assumption about the permanently fastened hoop-like earrings). S-shaped earrings are differentiated into the following five variants, depending on the additional decorative elements, namely:

Variant 1. S-shaped earring with a shield. The hook is made of a round wire, bent twice, the lower end thinned out and pointed. The disc-shield resembling a hexahedral rounded pyramid or semispherical in shape is soldered to the upper end, which is flattened. The variant is similar to the ball-like earring in the definition of R. Higgins, consisting basically of a semispherical element with an S-shaped hook in the back, dated to the 1st-2nd century AD.⁵³ The type



Cat. No 55



Cat. No 5

originates from Late Etruscan earrings with rounded surfaces, which were widespread or survived during the Roman Period. The variant is exemplified by many finds in portrait-mummies from Pompeii, Herculaneum and Boscoreale, from Cyprus and Eleutheropolis in Palestine.⁵⁴ According to other researchers, the form was entirely new for the 1st century and defined it as Italic-Roman, it was widespread—with few exceptions—until the middle of the 2nd century AD throughout the Roman Empire.⁵⁵ The type occurs in earrings from Kerch in Southern Russia, in the collection of the Roman-German Museum in Bonn, dated to the 1st-2nd century AD,⁵⁶ and in Britannia in the 3rd century.⁵⁷ Representatives: Cat. Nos 43-46.

Variant 2. S-shaped hook with a shield—bezel in

a setting, no pendants. The hook is made of one round wire, bent twice, with a thinned out and pointed end (in one earring the end is bent). The shield represents a massive setting in which the stone was mounted, and is soldered to the upper part of the hook. The use of stones for decorative purposes is a new element in Roman jeweller's art, typical of the 2nd-4th century AD.⁵⁸ Representatives: Cat. Nos 47-49.

Variant 3. S-shaped hook with open-work shield, cameos, a horizontal plate, pendants. The variant was very popular during the Roman Age. The application of glyptics, and more specifically of cameos, permeated the Hellenistic world after the military campaigns of Alexander the Great in India. Their extensive popularity in Moesia and Thrace



Cat. No 54

during the Roman Period is attested by many specimens belonging to different types of jewellery.⁵⁹ Representatives: Cat. Nos 50, 51.

Variant 4. S-shaped (or ordinary) hook, with open-work shield, small stones in the centre, a horizontal plate and pendants. The shield occurs in several variants: shaped like a circle with petals cut in open-work technique, in the form of a blossom or leaf, and rectangular. The horizontal plates at the base add further touches to the plastic rendering of the earring. Openwork techniques were a new tendency in Roman jewellery. This technique is known as *opus interrasile* (cut gold) and was actually known from the East, mainly under the influence of Syria from the 2nd-3rd century onward.⁶⁰ The earrings under consideration are defined by

R. Higgins as pendant-earrings of a new type, characteristic of the Roman Age, which contain stones or pieces of glass in their base, with horizontal bands and pendants with stones, dated between the 1st and the 3rd century AD.⁶¹ Representatives: Cat. Nos 52-55.

Variant 5. S-shaped or ordinary hook, with ellipsoid shield, setting and pendant with stone. The hook resembles those in the previous variants. In the two earrings considered here the end is bent. The shield is with a massive setting for the stone. The pendant features the same setting for a stone (Cat. No 57) or a series of small spheric stones strung on a piece of gold wire, twisted around the massive wire of the pendant (Cat. No 56). R. Higgins also examines this variant as a pendant-earring of a new type, radically

different from Hellenistic pendants,⁶² popular in the 2nd-3rd century AD. Representatives: Cat. Nos 56, 57.

Variant 6. Ordinary hook, with a round shield, horizontal plate, pendants. This is a variety of the earlier types, with semispherical shield framed with wire decorated with horizontal fluting, without any decoration with stones. The horizontal plate on which the pendants with stones are attached appear in a simplified form. B. Pitlik defines it as a "beret-earring"—an early Italic-Roman form (1st

NOTES

¹ Daremberg, C., E. Saglio. *Dictionnaire des antiquités Grecques et Romaines*, Paris. and *Roman Jewellery*. London, 1961, p. 138, fig. 22; BMCJ, p. 176, figs 55, 56, p. 178, fig. 57, p. 180, figs 58, 59, p. 184, fig. 60, p. 320, fig. 88.

² Plin. *Nat. Hist.* XII, 1, 2; Allason-Jones, L. *Roman Earrings*. — *Current Archaeology*, 1984, No 94, p. 340; *Earrings in Roman Britain*. — *BAR*, 201, 1989, p. 26.

³ BMCJ, XI, iii.

⁴ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 183, No 3; Венедиков, Ив., Т. Герасимов. *Тракийското изкуство*. С., 1974, с. 100.

⁵ *Ibid.*; Amandry, P. *Les bijoux antiques*. Collection Hélène Stathos. Strasbourg, I, 1953, p. 50; Филов, Б., Ив. Велков, В. Миков. *Надгробните могили при Дуванлий в Пловдивско*. С., 1934, с. 194.

⁶ Haskens, T., E. Lévy. *Trésor hellénistique trouvé à Delos en 1964*. — *BCH*, 89, 1965, p. 503, 552-554.

⁷ El-Sawy, A., I. Ondrejova. *Les bijoux et les aiguilles de la nécropole de ferénouthis en Egypte*. — In: *Acta Universitatis Carolinae-Philologica*, 1982, No 1, p. 48.

⁸ BMCJ, No 373, pl. III.

⁹ *Ibid.*, No 1216, table XIII.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, No 1514, table XXIII.

¹¹ Greifenhagen, A. *Schmuckarbeiten in Edelmetall*. T. 2. Berlin, 1975, p. 61, No 11-14, Tabl. 48; *BCH*, 86, 1962, p. 817, fig. 1; Segall, B. *Katalog der Goldschmiede-Arbeiten*. Museum Benaki Athen. Athen, 1938, 103-104, No 138, pl. 35; BMCJ, No 2593, pl. LIV, No 2828, pl. LXIII, No 2809, pl. LXVI; El-Sawy, A., I. Ondrejova. *Op. cit.*, 48-51, fig. 1.

¹² Ondrejova, I. *Les bijoux antiques*. Praha, 1975, No 20, 21, pl. V, 3a, b; Zahn, R. *Sammlung Baurat Schiller*—Berlin. Berlin, 1929, No 68; Rudolph, W., E. Rudolph. *Ancient Jewelry from the Collections of Burton*. Indiana University. Bloomington, Indiana, 1973, p. 100, 142, 182, 186, figs 77b, 116b, 149b, 151b; Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 183, tabl. 54A.

¹³ Буюклиев, Хр. *Тракийският могилен некропол при Чаталка, Старозагорски окръг*. — *РП*, 16, 1986, № 372.

¹⁴ Буюклиев, Хр. *Трако-римски могилен некропол в района на промишления комплекс „Марица—Изток“*. — *Археология*, 1962, № 1, с. 50.

¹⁵ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 183, No 1, table 54A.

¹⁶ BMCJ, XLiii, pl. LIII.

¹⁷ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 183; BMCJ, Nos 2463, 2464, pl. LIII.

¹⁸ Pitlik, B. *Der Römische Goldschmuck aus Österreich*. Wien, 1983, Nos 27-1a, b, 25, 28-2, 3a, b; RDZ, No 57, 59, 61, 62.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, Nos 57, 59, 61, 62.

²⁰ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 184, No 6, table 54E.

²¹ BMCJ, Nos 2612-2618, 2509, pl. LIII.

²² Ondrejova, I. *Op. cit.*, Nos 20, 21, tabl. V, 3a, b; Zahn, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 183, No 1, tabl. 54A.

²³ Henkel, F. *Die römischen Fingerringe der Rheinlande und der benachbarten Gebiete*. Berlin, 1913, Nos 27, 28, tabl. II, Nos 324-328, tabl. XVI, XVII, Nos 712-735, tabl. XXIX.

²⁴ BMCJ, No 2524, pl. LII, Nos 2526, 2532, 2542, pl. LIII; Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 183, No 2, table 54B; Ondrejova, I. *Op. cit.*, Nos 24, 25, tabl. Va, b.

²⁵ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 183, No 2, tabl. 54B.

²⁶ BMCJ, Nos 2516, 2532, pl. LIII, No 2577, pl. LII.

²⁷ Pitlik, B. *Op. cit.*, No 27-1.

century BC—3rd century AD), spread mainly in Pompeii.⁶³ Representative: Cat. No 58.

Groups I-II. Earrings with an unidentifiable hoop or hook. Fragments of earrings. The state in which they were found prevents their more accurate identification. Individual elements are similar to some of the earrings under consideration. Representatives: Cat. Nos 59-63, 73, 74. Earrings which probably had a hoop are attributed to Group I, those with a probable hook—to Group II.

²⁸ RGZ, Nos 58, 59, tabl. 26, 27.

²⁹ Танчева-Василева, Н. *Новооткрита засводена гробница при с. Борисово, Ямболски окръг*. — *ИМЮИБ*, 7, с. 72, табл. IV; Танчева, Г. *Новооткрита гробница около Одесос*. — *ИБАД*, 15, 1964, с. 54, обр. 9.

³⁰ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 185, No 10, tabl. 54G.

³¹ BMCJ, Nos 2626, 2627, pl. LIV, Nos 2668, 2669, pl. LV, No 2576, pl. LIII.

³² Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 155, tabl. 45A, 46, 53A.

³³ *Ibid.*, tabl. 57A; BMCJ, No 2730, pl. LXII; *Jewellery in the Cyprus Museum*. Picture Book No 5. Cyprus, 1971, No 8, pl. XXIX, 9.

³⁴ Ondrejova, I. *Op. cit.*, Nos 16, 17, tabl. IIIa, b; Пятишева, А. В. *Ювелирные изделия Херсонеса*. М., 1956, с. 50, 51, табл. X, № 4.

³⁵ Greifenhagen, A. *Op. cit.*, I, p. 45, Nos 15-24, tabl. 22.

³⁶ Кузманов, Г. *Антични лампи от НАМ—София*. С., № 71, 136, 137, 151, 170, 182 (in press).

³⁷ *Sur la question de filigrane dans l'art des Celtes Orientaux*. — *Alba Regia*, 14, 1975, p. 147; Димитров, Д., А. Кузев. *Археологически музей Варна*. С., 1965, с. 137, обр. 53.

³⁸ Kolnik, T. *Rimske a Germanske Umenie na Slovensku*. Bratislava, 1984, Nos 157, 160, 161, 179, 187; Greifenhagen, A. *Op. cit.*, I, p. 45, Nos 14, 26, tabl. 22.

³⁹ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 163, 164, tabl. 47; BMCJ, pl. XXXiii.

⁴⁰ BMCJ, pl. XXXIV, XXXV.

⁴¹ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 183, No 3.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ RGZ, No 43, tabl. 18.

⁴⁴ *Jewellery in the Cyprus Museum*, p. 47, Nos 5, 6, tabl. XXXII.

⁴⁵ BMCJ, No 2327, pl. LI.

⁴⁶ Ondrejova, I. *Op. cit.*, Nos 16, 17, 48, 49, tabl. III, V.

⁴⁷ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 185, No 10.

⁴⁸ BMCJ, XLiii.

⁴⁹ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 184, Nos 4, 5, 6.

⁵⁰ RGZ, No 11, tabl. 6; Ondrejova, I. *Op. cit.*, Nos 18, 19, 22, 23, tabl. III; *Jewellery in the Cyprus Museum*, Nos 3, 9, 12, tabl. XXXII.

⁵¹ BMCJ, XXXiii, III, XXXiv, IV; Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, 161-168, tabl. 48; *Les Ors Hellénistiques de Tarente*. Paris, 1986-1987, 162-174, Nos 74-93.

⁵² Филов, Б., Ив. Велков, В. Миков. *Op. cit.*, p. 194.

⁵³ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 184, No 6, tabl. 54E.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ Pfeiler, B. *Römischer Goldschmuck des ersten und zweiten Jahrhunderts n. Chr. nach datierten Funden*. Mainz—Rhein, 1970, p. 17, 18, pl. 2, 1.

⁵⁶ Ondrejova, I. *Op. cit.*, Nos 22, 23, tabl. III; RGZ, No 48, tabl. 17.

⁵⁷ Allason-Jones, L. *Earrings*, Nos 51, 52, pl. 22.

⁵⁸ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 180.

⁵⁹ Димитрова-Милчева, Ал. *Антични геми и камии от НАМ—София*. С., 1980, 8-24; Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 178; Zouhdi, B. *Les influences réciproques entre l'Occident d'après les bijoux du Musée Nationale de Damas*. — *AA Syr.*, XXI, 1971, p. 98.

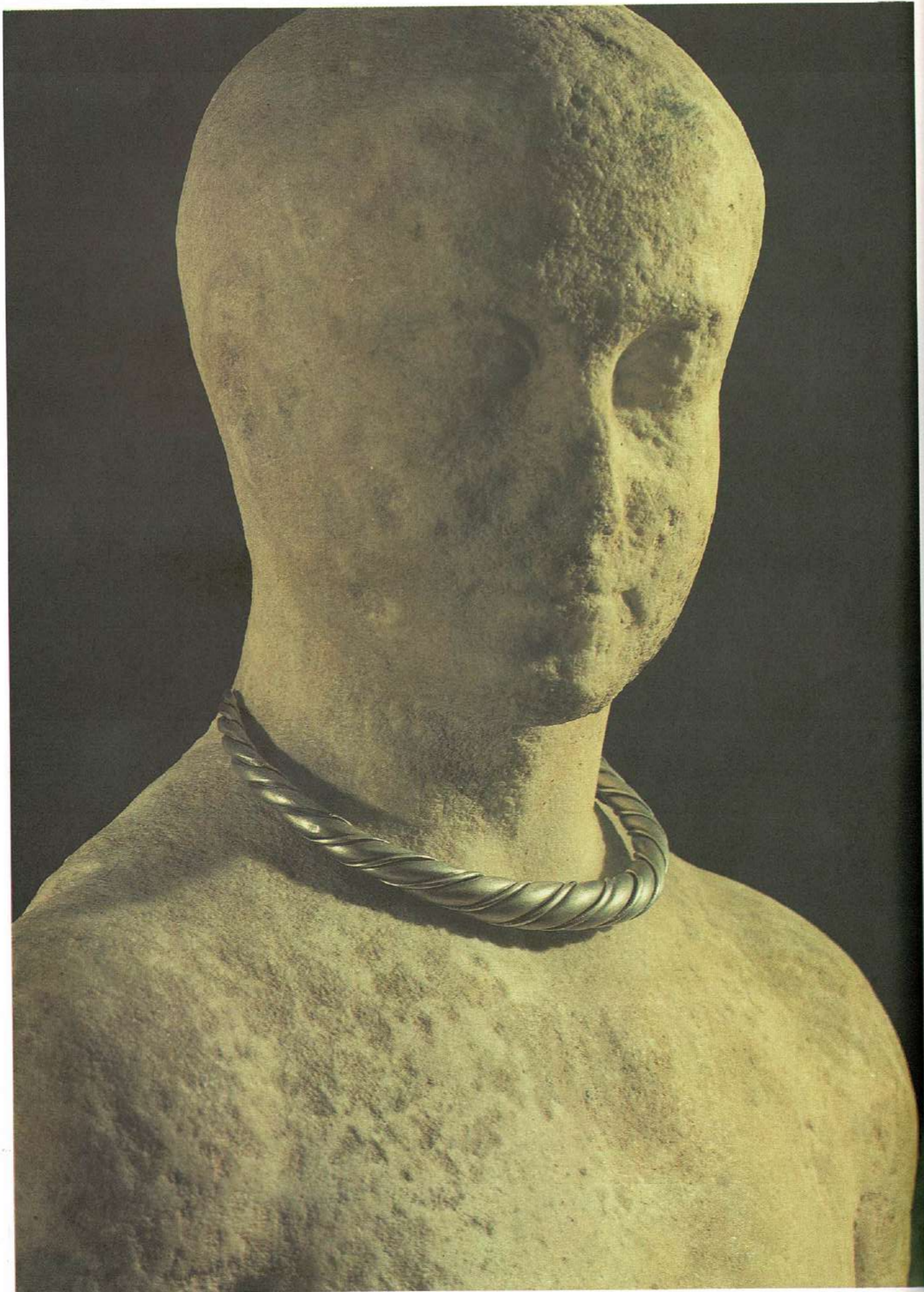
⁶⁰ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 180; Zouhdi, B. *Op. cit.*, p. 97.

⁶¹ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 181, 185, No 10, tabl. 54G.C.

⁶² *Ibid.*, p. 185, No 9, fig. 31.

⁶³ Pitlik, B. *Op. cit.*, 7-1, tabl. 18.





TORQUES



The torque is an open or closed metal ring made of precious metal, bronze or iron, which is used to decorate the neck.¹ The name torque is Latin and it was not known in the Greek world.² Without being a very widespread article of adornment, torques were known to Persians, Scythians, Thracians, Illyrians and Celts. They were known in the Thracian lands during the Early Iron Age and their use continued during the Classical Age and especially during the Hellenistic Age, where typically Thracian forms emerged. Romans became familiar with torques during their wars against the Celts and during their marches to the East at the end of the 4th century BC. It is therefore assumed that torques were mainly used by men, although they have been found to adorn women as well. Men wore torques as a kind of distinction, status symbol or military insignia, mainly in the army. Torques have been traced down even to the barbarian people—Persians, Scythians and Celts³—and were therefore perceived as a barbarian decoration. In this aspect they have been mentioned by the ancient authors, e. g. by Livy in connection with a battle between Gauls and Romans in 361 BC, as well as by Polybius who reports that 83 torques were given to the Roman soldier Silius Dentatos after the victory over the Gauls in 89 AD. An inscription on a bronze plaque from Rome lists military distinctions (*dona militaria*) given to horsemen in Spain, among which a torque is also mentioned.⁴ Distinctions were awarded during the Republican Age to the military for bravery in combat, irrespective of their rank or occupation in the army. Restrictions were imposed during the Imperial Age for the different ranks. According to Procopius, torques were also given as an award during the reign of Emperor Justinian (527-565 AD) as well. Rank-and-file soldiers, sergeants and centurions received phalerae, torques and bracelets.⁵ As a distinction, torques were attached to the soldiers' shoulders and fell over their chests. This is illustrated in sepulchral sculpture, the most outstanding example in this respect being the statue on the grave of Marcus Caelius, kept in Bonn.⁶ A Latin inscription from the village of Neden near Veliko Turnovo gives interesting information about the military career of Lucius Valerius Proculus from the Fifth Macedonian Legion, born probably in Oescus (present-day village of Gigen near Pleven), who was awarded with torques, armillae and phalerae⁷ for excelling in the Dacian Wars under Emperor Domitian (81-96 AD). In addition to their function as an award for men-warriors, torques were used as jewellery by women as well. Torques have been attested in a number of rich burials from the Hellenistic Age—Douvani and Seuthopolis.⁸ They decorate the maenad in the Dionysiac procession on the jug from Borovo, the goddesses on the knemis from Agighiol and Vratsa, the phalerae from Galiche and Yakimovo.⁹ Four torques are seen to adorn the neck of the horseman on the phalerae from Galiche. Similar iconographic images are seen on the matrices from



Abritus (present-day Razgrad), the mosaics of Armira village near Ivailovgrad¹⁰ and Hecate's stele from Mesambria.¹¹ The goddess is also wearing a torque in addition to all her insignia showing her priestly status. Her torque is a barbarized prototype influenced by Greek-Roman art and by the art of Eastern Asia Minor, which was very widespread in the Thracian lands during the epoch of Roman domination.

The collection under consideration includes 19 torques made of precious metal: 10 gold (Cat. Nos 75-84) and 9 silver torques (Cat. Nos 85-93). Most of them belong to treasures reliably dated with coins: from Bazaurt—two silver torques dated to the middle of the 2nd century AD (Cat. Nos 91, 92), Chaoushevo—one gold and three silver torques from the 1st-3rd century AD (Cat. Nos 77, 86-88) and Nikolaevo—three gold torques from the middle of the 3rd century AD (Cat. Nos 75, 78, 79), as well as from grave finds dated with coins from Ratiaria, Oescus and Svilengrad (Cat. Nos 76, 80, 84). The remaining finds are accidental and there is no additional information about them.

The other finds accompanying the torques, especially from burials, allow us to identify reliably the belonging of the torques to men or to women. The silver torques from the Chaoushevo treasure (Cat. Nos 86-88) belonged to men-warriors, whereas those

from the graves in Ratiaria, Oescus and Svilengrad belonged to women, which is proved by the other jewellery present: gold earrings, necklaces, rings, etc. What is more, two of the burials in Ratiaria and Oescus are identified as being of children—young girls—which indicates that no age limits existed in the use of torques.

The limited number of torques in the collection does not allow to introduce a precise typology with respect to their chronology. As with the other types of jewellery, the typology is based on their morphological features. Three types are distinguished according to the way in which the hoop is made, more specifically the type of the wire used: twisted or spirally fluted wire, one or more wires, with round cross section, as well as according to the way the ends are shaped: open hoop ending in elongated plaques, with stylized snake's heads, bent to form small hoops or pointed. These types are presented as variants. The closed hoops of the torques are also differentiated into variants: with simple fasteners and with hoop-and-hook fastener. Torques lacking reliable data about the way in which the ends were shaped are differentiated in separate groups with the types. The gold and silver torques in the collection have not been attested in all cited types and variants.

Type I: open hoop, body made of twisted or spirally fluted wire (one or more). The type is represented by



gold and silver torques. Influence of Hellenistic types characteristic of the Thracian lands is observed. Four variants are distinguished according to the way in which the ends are shaped, namely:

Variant 1—the ends are shaped as elongated plaques with a round hole. Here belong the silver torques from the Chaoushevo treasure, 2nd-3rd century AD (Cat. Nos 86, 87).

Variant 2—the ends are shaped to resemble stylized snake's heads. Represented by the silver torque from Vladimirovo, 1st century BC—1st century AD (Cat. No 85).

Variant 3—the ends are shaped like flat ellipsoid hoops. Represented by the gold torque from the Nikolaevo treasure, mid-3rd century AD (Cat. No 75).

Variant 4—the ends are thinned out and pointed. Represented by the silver torques from the Chaoushevo treasure (Cat. No 88), 2nd-3rd century AD, as



Cat. No 75



Cat. No 77

well as two torques from Ratiaria, accidental finds, 2nd century AD (Cat. Nos 89, 90).

Type II: hoop with an open-end fastener and with a hoop-and-hook fastener, body made of twisted or spirally fluted wire (one or more). Represented by gold and silver torques, with three variants according to the type of fastener, i. e. according to the way in which the ends are shaped:

Variant 1—open-end fastened hoop, the ends running parallel or twisted in spiral coils—a technique known from other types of jewellery as well: earrings and bracelets. Represented by a gold torque from Svilengrad, grave find from a female burial, discovered together with four gold earrings, dated with a coin of Empress Faustina Minor, late 2nd century AD (Cat. No 76).

Variant 2—the ends form a hoop-and-hook fastener, with spiral coils. Representatives: a gold torque from the Chaoushevo treasure, 2nd-3rd century AD (Cat.



Cat. No 84, 76, 82

No 77) and two silver torques from the Bazaart treasure, first half of the 2nd century AD (Cat. Nos 91, 92).

Group with Type II: the torques are thinned out towards the ends, but due to the poor state of preservation there are no data about the way in which they were shaped. Represented by the two gold torques from the Nikolaevo treasure, mid-3rd century AD (Cat. Nos 78, 79).

Type III—open-ended, body made of one round wire. Four variants are distinguished according to the way in which the ends are shaped.

Variant 1—the ends are shaped with one hoop in two plains: horizontal and vertical. Represented by the gold torque from Ratiaria, a mid-3rd century grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. No 80).

Variant 2—the ends are shaped with one hoop and spiral coils. Representatives: two gold torques, accidental finds, 2nd-3rd century AD (Cat. No 81).

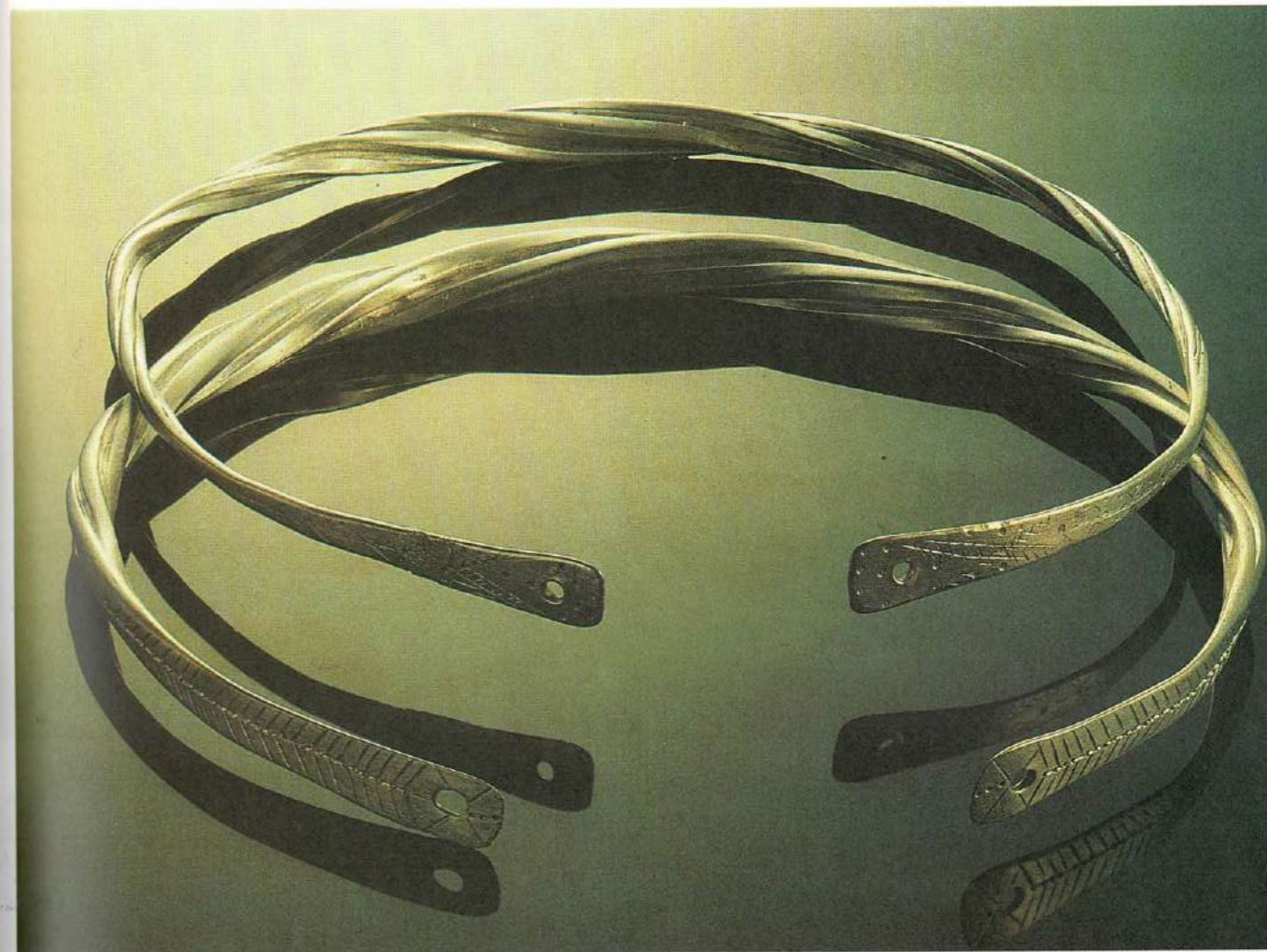
Variant 3—the ends are bent to form hooks. Represented by the gold torque from Ratiaria, 2nd century AD, accidental find (Cat. No 83).

Group with Type III—no evidence about the way in which the ends were shaped, because of poor state of preservation. Represented by the gold torque from

Oescus, grave find, with coins, 1st-3rd century AD (Cat. No 84) and a silver torque from Nikolaevo (Cat. No 93).

The torques are generally dated on the basis of the coin hoards discovered together with the jewellery, which allows greater precision, as well as on the basis of the rest of the grave goods and coins discovered in the various graves. The typological differentiation and the variants presented above reveal their place in the general evolution of Roman jeweller's art and production in the Thracian lands, where the works of Oriental workshops featured prominently in addition to the influence of Hellenistic and Greek-Roman objects of art. Without being widely popular and used on a mass scale, torques offer a richer repertoire of applications. On the one hand, they were worn by men-warriors, on the other hand—by goddesses, by the priestesses dedicated to these goddesses or by deified deceased women.

The predominance of torques made of fluted or of spirally twisted wires, which are the characteristic Hellenistic Thracian types, is evidence of the continuing tradition in the local production centres and workshops.



Cat. No 86, 87

NOTES

¹ Neumann, A. Torques. — *Der Kleine Pauly*. T. 5, 1979, kol. 890; Buthner, A. Untersuchungen über Ursprung und Entwicklung von Auszeichnungen in römischen Heer. — *BJ*, 157, 1957, 145-152; Domaszewski, A., B. Dobson. Die Rangordnung des römischen Heeres. — *BJ*, 14, 1967, p. 68, 110; Cagnat, R. *Lexique des antiquités romaines*. Paris, 1895, p. 287; Watson, G. R. *The Roman Soldier*. Bristol, 1969, p. 114 sq.

² *Ibid.*

³ Maxfield, A. W. *The Military Decorations of the Roman Army*. London, 1981, p. 86.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 87.

⁵ Иванов, Р. Заплащане, награди и наказания в римската

войска през принципата (I—III в.). — *ВИСБ*, 1984, № 3, с. 187.

⁶ *CIL*, XIII, No 8648.

⁷ *CIL*, III, No 12422; Геров, Б. Романизмът между Дунава и Балкана от Хадриан до Константин Велики. ГСУ ФФ, 47, 1951, № 34, с. 77.

⁸ Филов, Б., Ив. Велков, В. Миков. Надгробните могили при Дуванлий, Пловдивско. С., 1934, с. 44.

⁹ Венедиков, Ив., Т. Герасимов. Тракийското изкуство. С., 1974, с. 111; Филов, Б., Ив. Велков. Новооткрити старини. ИАД, 7, 1919-1920, с. 146 сл.; Vasilev, V. P. *Bronzene Matrizen aus Mosien und Thracien*. ИАИ, 37, с. 177, обр. 8, 10, 11.

¹⁰ Попова-Мороз, В. 24 древни мозайки от България. С., 1987, с. 43, обр. 6.

¹¹ *IG Bulg.*, I, No 345.



NECKLACES

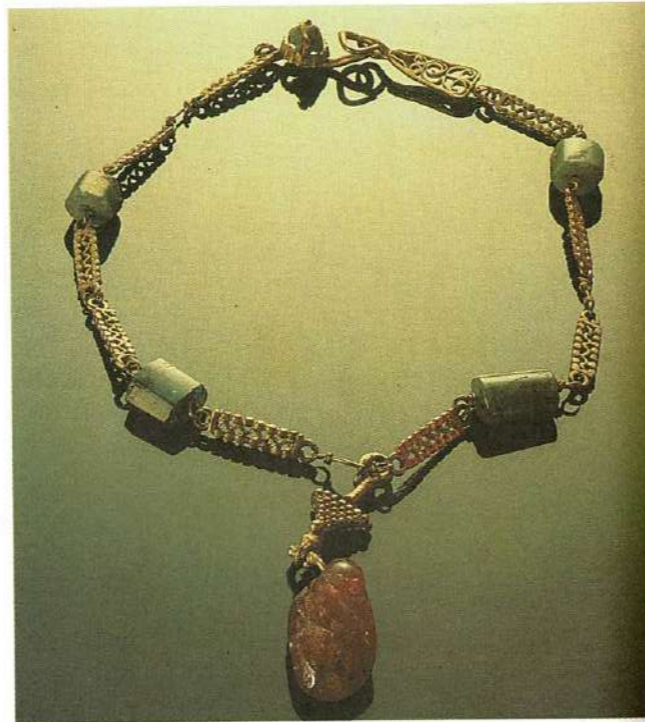


Necklaces were a popular form of jewellery during the antiquity. Similar to the earrings, they were worn during all ages, predominantly by women. They were known by the Greek name *μόννος* or by the Latin name *monile*—decoration worn on the neck.¹ The narrower meaning of *monile* is a choker-necklace, which explains the variety in Greek *ῥημος*, i. e. longer necklaces that hung over the breasts.² Nevertheless, the difference was not always felt and reflected in the antiquity. For example, when Ovid wrote about Aphrodite, he used the term "longa monilia" to denote her long necklace,³ whereas the term used by Petronius was "magnus monilibus" (big necklace).⁴ The necklace termed as *hormos* occurs in Homer's hymns, in *The Iliad* and in *The Odyssey*, moreover as a gold necklace, one of the necklaces being decorated with rock crystal.⁵ The etymology suggests in principle that necklaces were identical as a form of jewellery for all nations and for all historical periods. The differences are influenced predominantly by the development of the jeweller's art, as well as by the different influence of the different cultures.

Oriental traditions of forms and models prevail in the necklaces dated to the Roman period.⁶ Particularly popular was the striving towards polychromy: the rich decoration with precious and semiprecious stones and glass beads, openwork segments and decoration.⁷ After the 2nd century AD, the new element—the medallion—decorated with cameo, with imperial gold coins, as well as different pendants shaped like crescents, gold beads, etc.,⁸ became very fashionable.

The extreme popularity of necklaces is reflected in the numerous sculptures from Palmyra from the 2nd century AD onward.⁹ They are also attested on sculptures and reliefs in the Thracian lands during the Roman Period. A female statue from Ratiaria is decorated with a necklace consisting of large pearls or beads, closely encircling the neck.¹⁰ A similar image is also seen on a statue from Oescus,¹¹ as well as on sepulchral monuments from the Strymon valley¹² and Mesambria.¹³

The collection of the National Archaeological Museum comprises a total of 46 gold, silver and bronze necklaces, which also include parts of necklaces, medallions and pendants. In their vast majority (40 necklaces) they are made of gold. The distribution in types and variants is made in accordance with the principal elements of the necklaces, i. e. the interlinking loops, the existence of beads or the additional decoration. Fragments of necklaces and pendants—medallions, crescents, etc.—form separate groups. They are dated on the basis of the archaeological context, of parallels with reliably dated similar necklaces found in graves, or necklaces forming a part of treasures. Twenty of the necklaces and pendants under consideration are found in graves, an essential part of them coming from the reliably dated complexes in Ratiaria, as well as individual finds from Svilengrad (with the bronze coin of Faustina Minor, Cat. No 115), from Mezdra



Cat. No 105



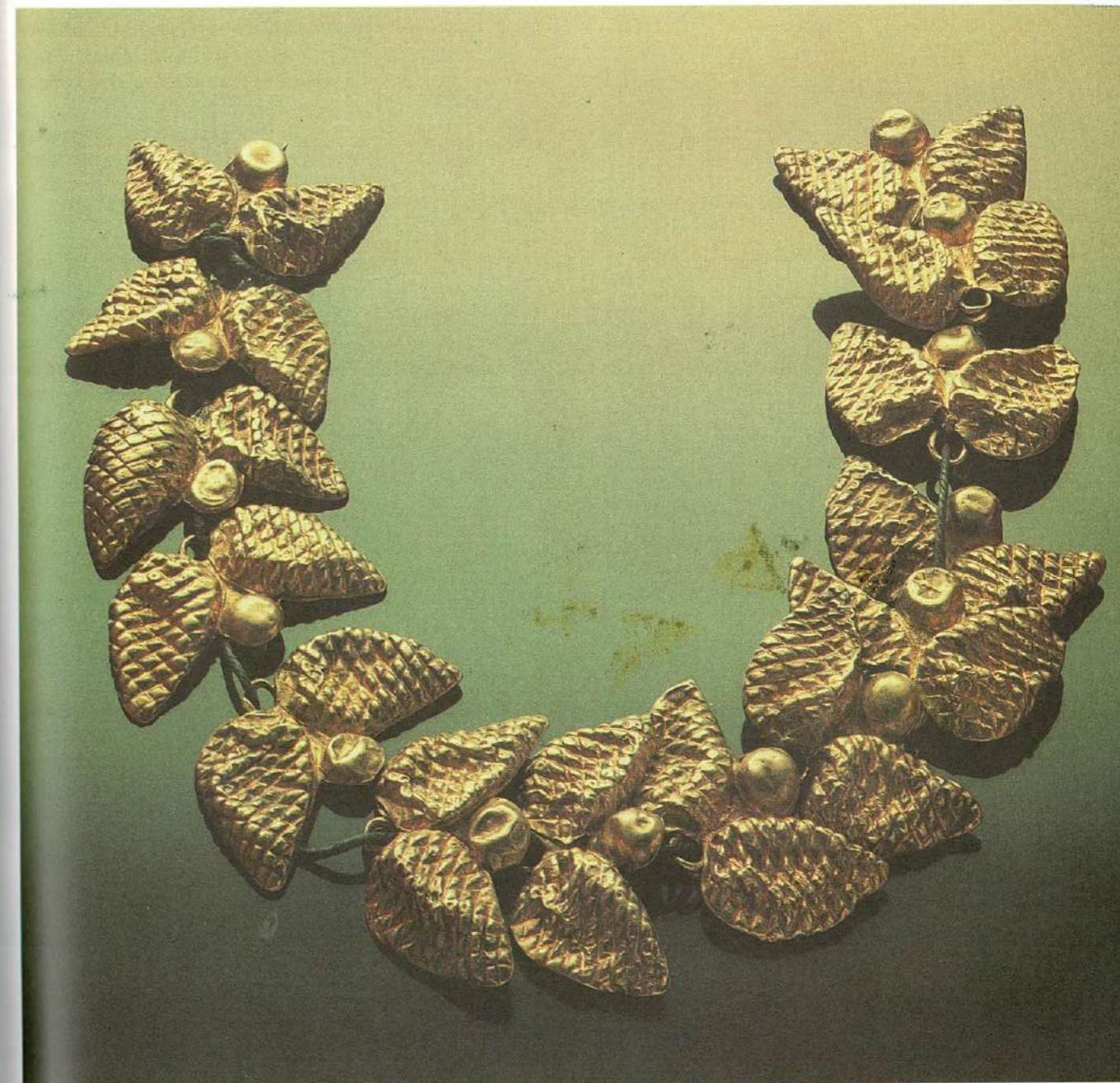
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Cat. No 111

(with a clay lamp bearing a seal, 2nd-3rd century, Cat. No 122). The precision of the chronology is greatly enhanced by the finds from the Nikolaevo treasure: 10 gold necklaces and pendants, as well as the silver medallion from the Bazaurt treasure. The remaining 14 necklaces are of unidentified origin and are dated on the basis of similar materials. Thus, for example, the gold chain-necklace—an accidental find from Ratiaria (Cat. No 95)—fully resembles the gold chain-necklace coming again from Ratiaria (Cat. No 94). The gold crescent (Cat. No 125), of unidentified origin, is the exact parallel of the gold necklace with crescent from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 96), of the Isthmion type silver chain from the region of Samokov (Cat. No 134), of the triple-chain gold necklace from the Nikolaevo

treasure (Cat. No 98) and the silver jewellery with fibulae from Ratiaria (Cat. Nos. 135, 136). Almost all characteristic specimens found in the Thracian lands during the Roman Period are represented. They find close analogies in the remaining Roman provinces as well, especially those in the East—Syria and Egypt. The fact that a large part of the necklaces were discovered to the north of the Balkan Range (specimens from Ratiaria, the treasure from Nikolaevo and finds similar to them from various other places) raises the problem of a local production, suggesting more specifically that the goldsmith workshop was probably localized in Ratiaria.

Type I: chain-like necklace with loops resembling the figure of eight.

Type II: chain-like necklace consisting of freely intertwined hoops (loop-in-loop), in three variants.

Type III: chain-like necklace, double loop-in-loop of the so-called Isthmion type, in two variants.

Type IV: necklaces of mixed chains, combined with gold beads, various stones, glass and bone. Three variants are distinguished depending on the type of the connecting loops in the chain.

Type V: necklaces made of openwork segments, combined with stones or glass beads, in two variants.

Group I: elements of necklaces (beads, segments, fasteners).

Group II—crescent-shaped pendants.

Group III: pendants-medallions in three variants.

Type I: simple chain necklace consisting of S-shaped loops with joined ends (to form the figure eight), resulting in two circles in one plain. When the loops are joined, each subsequent loop is perpendicular to the previous one.¹⁴ This is the most common type of chain, a modification of hoops joined together.¹⁵ It is used as a chain and can be worn in two or three rows, depending on the length of the chain. Its aesthetic value came only from the metal and therefore this type of chain was limited in use.¹⁶ It is represented by a bronze chain from Ratiaria (Cat. No 139), from which the hook-like fastener has been preserved, resembling in form the silver hook-pendants of earrings, from the treasure of Bazaurt (Cat. No 72a, b), on the basis of which it is dated to the late 2nd—early 3rd century AD.

Type II: chain-like necklace, loop-in-loop, double twisted wire to form the figure of eight.¹⁷ This type is a variant of the widely popular loop-in-loop chain of wire hoops, pinched and bent in two.¹⁸ The new element in this case is that the pinching of the two hoops results in parallel wires between them, forming double and mutually perpendicular hoops in the ends. The way in which they are formed is a simplified modification of the Isthmion type. Necklaces belonging to this type resemble simple chains. Irrespective of this, they are partly of a decorative nature, noted for their "light-and-dark" effect resulting from the different planes in which the loops of the figure of eight are localized. The type is

characteristic of the ancient jeweller's art, being particularly widespread during the Hellenistic Age in the second half of the 1st millennium BC, a tradition inherited in Roman necklaces, with numerous examples from the various provinces.¹⁹ Some of the chain-like necklaces are additionally decorated with pendants and medallions with stones, a very widespread fashion after the 2nd century AD, definitely under Eastern influence.²⁰ Another variety is the combination with gold beads, where the chain

plays the role of interconnecting loops. This is used in mixed necklaces (Type IV) in combination with another type of loops, with gold and glass beads. Depending on the varieties discussed above, Type II is divided into three variants:

Variant 1—chain-like necklace, single loop-in-loop, without pendants.²¹ The ends are shaped like hoop-and-hook fastener, with a cylindrical clasp or spirally twisted wire. The relatively small dimensions suggest that this type of necklace was worn closely



Cat. No 130



Cat. No 98

around the neck. Apart from being an article of adornment for women, such necklaces were also worn by children— young girls— which has been attested with one such chain found in a girl's burial in Ratiaria (Cat. No 94). The variant is represented by two gold chain-necklaces from Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 94, 95), dated to the middle of the 3rd century AD. *Variant 2* is similar to *Variant 1*— a single loop-in-loop chain, but with a medallion fixed to it, next to which the fastener of the necklace is made,²² as well as a crescent-shaped pendant (about the latter cf. Group II). Represented by the gold necklace in the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 96), mid-3rd century AD. Totally similar is the gold necklace from Tortous, the only difference being that garnet beads are threaded on the wires forming the connecting loops, similar to Cat. No 101.²³ The use of medallions, as well as set stones or pieces of glass, acquired great popularity after the 2nd century AD. *Variant 3*— a necklace with gold beads interconnected with loops of doubly twisted wire resembling the figure of eight. The gold beads are dodecahedral in shape and betray Hellenistic influence and extensive popularity among Roman necklaces. The combination of gold dodecahedral beads and the same connecting loops also occurs in the mixed chain-like necklaces (Type IV). The variant is represented by a gold necklace from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 97), mid-3rd century AD. The dating based on the coin hoard discovered together with the treasure is supported by numerous examples of similar necklaces: grave finds with coins from Ratiaria and Pautalia, as well as by reliably dated jewellery from the collections of the British Museum and the Roman-German Museum in Bonn (cf. Cat. No 97). **Type III:** chain of doubled loop-in-loop type (double, quadruple, sixfold, etc.). The type is known with the names Isthmion, "chain-column" or "snake-chain."²⁴ The principal element in the elaborate chain obtained is that every double loop passes through the last two loops, thus resulting in a massive and compact chain, round or rectangular in cross section, depending on the number of wires used. The type was equally popular among classical, Greek and Roman jewellery, mainly necklaces, attested with numerous examples from Asia Minor, Cyprus, Southern Russia and elsewhere.²⁵ Early examples from the Thracian lands are the silver necklaces from Boukyovtsi, the gold chains from Mesambria, from the region of Gotse Delchev, etc.²⁶ The type is represented by the gold necklace with a triple chain and medallion with a coin of Emperor Caracalla in the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 98), mid-3rd century AD, the silver chains with fibulae from Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 135, 136), late 2nd—early 3rd century AD and the silver chain from Samokov region (Cat. No 134). Similar specimens of Isthmion-type chains in the present-day Bulgarian lands are also known from Novae and Hissar.²⁷ Three variants are distinguished depending on the way in which the chain was used: to decorate the clothing, attached with fibulae, or as a necklace

without additional ornamentation or decorated with a medallion.

Variant 1— chain used to decorate the clothing and attached with fibulae. It consists of an Isthmion-type chain at both ends of which there is an anchor-like fibula attached with a hoop. The variant is represented by the silver chains from Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 135, 136), which are the only specimens discovered so far from the Thracian lands and dated to the Roman Period. A similar item of jewellery— a chain with fibulae— is kept at the British Museum, in the Castellani Collection, but with Hellenistic fibulae and incorrectly dated by H. Marshall to the 3rd century AD.²⁸ According to the type of the fibulae, the chain from Ratiaria is dated to the late 2nd—early 3rd century AD.²⁹

Variant 2— chain-like necklace of the Isthmion type, the ends form clasps decorated in relief, with a hoop-and-hook fastener. The variant is represented by the silver chain-necklace from the region of Samokov (Cat. No 134), dated to the 2nd century AD on the basis of parallels in the Antique Museum in Berlin.³⁰

Variant 3— chain-like necklace of the Isthmion type, with medallion. Represented by the triple-chain gold necklace with a medallion— Emperor Caracalla's gold coin— from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 98). The exact dating of the necklace is referred to the 215-248 AD interval, i. e. from the date when Caracalla's coin was minted to the date when the last coin in the hoard— that of Philip the Arab— was minted.³¹ The necklace under consideration is also an illustration of the new phenomenon in Roman jeweller's art in the beginning of the 2nd century AD, namely the use of coins with the Emperor's image to decorate medallions— a fashion that spread throughout the Roman Empire. This fashion is manifested in the numerous finds from Gallia, Pannonia, Asia Minor and Egypt, in the collections of the National Library in Paris, the British Museum, the Vienna Museum, etc.³² A close analogy to the medallion on the necklace from the Nikolaevo treasure with precious stones, but in a more simplified form, can be seen in the gold fibula with amethyst from Palmyra.³³

Type IV: mixed chains of the so-called *hormoi* type. The Greek name *δρμος*, *ον* means not only a longer necklace, but also a necklace decorated with pearls or with other threaded ornamental elements.³⁴ Necklaces of this type are composed of different loops or parts of chains, combined with gold beads or different types of stones, glass or bone.³⁵ The principal structural part is the connecting element forming the chain. These are the loops that fix the joints and allow the bead or the segment forming the decorative part to be linked in an integral whole. The loop is usually an elongated piece of wire or a thin plate on which the bead is threaded, limited on both sides with linking hoops. Three variants are distinguished depending on the way in which the wire is shaped and the ends of the hoops of the connecting



Cat. No 103

loops are formed, namely:

Variant 1—necklaces with linking loops made of round wire, forming two hoops with spiral coils at the ends.³⁶ After the bead is threaded, the hoops are formed successively with the spiral coils, being fastened by one of the hoops of the previous loop. This variant is the most elementary form of linking chains. The beads are different and are made of gold, glass or bone. The latter are often destroyed, being made of non-durable material, so that only the chains with the connecting loops are preserved. Similar necklaces with bone beads, several of which have survived, are known from Ratiaria and Pleven.³⁷ The variant is represented by the gold necklaces from Ratiaria (Cat. No 99), dated to the 3rd century BC, from which only the chain has been preserved, as well as by a fragment of a gold necklace from Peturnitsa (Cat. No 100), with gold beads, dated to the mid-3rd century AD.

Variant 2 is similar to Variant 1. It differs in the way the hoops of the loops are made, of flat wire, one of them being fixed in advance in a small circle, without spiral coils. Thus the linking with the adjacent loop was done only by the second hoop which, after the bead is threaded, is fastened to the preceding fixed loop and forms spiral coils.³⁸ The variant is represented by the gold necklace from a children's burial from Ratiaria, dated to the 2nd century AD (Cat. No 101) and the mid-3rd century gold necklace from a grave find in Ryahovo (Cat. No 102), from which only the chain has survived.

Variant 3—necklace with a combination of gold and bone or gold and glass beads, with connecting loops in a combination of Variant 1 of Types IV and II. The characteristic element in this case is that the gold beads are threaded on the stronger loop (Type II), i. e. the double-twisted wire to resemble the figure eight, similar to the linking of the gold segments in Type VI. Representatives: necklaces from Ratiaria in a combination of gold dodecahedral beads and glass beads (Cat. No 103) and in combination of gold dodecahedral beads with bone beads (Cat. No 104), dated to the 3rd century BC.

Type V: necklaces combined of gold openwork segments and stones, joined by connecting loops of Type IV. Most of the openwork segments are round, similar to those from Ratiaria,³⁹ Augusta Trajana,⁴⁰ Montana⁴¹ and elsewhere, with parallels in Southern Russia, Italy and Germany.⁴² A variety of openwork segments is the form known as Hercules' knot, which was very fashionable during the Roman period. Two variants are distinguished depending on the shape of the gold segments, namely:

Variant 1—with openwork gold segments, represented by the gold necklace from Ratiaria (Cat. No 105), with elongated rectangular segments, combined with glass beads.

Variant 2—gold segments of the type known as Hercules' knot, combined with glass beads. The variant is represented by the fragment of a gold necklace from the Nikolaevo treasure, mid-3rd



Cat. No 128

century AD (Cat. No 106).

Type VI: necklaces of double hollow gold segments, produced on a mould, with decorated visible surfaces. The connecting loops belong to Type II chain-necklaces. The main group is represented by necklaces from the Nikolaevo treasure, as well as by a necklace from Lesichevo (Cat. No 108), fully similar to a necklace from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 107). The influence of Hellenistic models is detected in the technique, workmanship and decoration.⁴³ Depending on the shape of the gold segments, three variants are differentiated. Here also belongs the gold necklace from Ratiaria (Cat. No 111), made using the same technique, but without the decoration of the segments.

Variant 1—necklaces with rounded rectangular segments, with fluted obverse. Its representatives are fully similar to necklaces from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 107) and from Lesichevo near Pazardjik (Cat. No 103), which find close analogies with necklaces from Emessa in Syria.⁴⁴

Variant 2—necklaces with segments resembling a double leaf. Represented by necklaces from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. Nos 109, 110).

Variant 3—necklace with gold crescent-shaped segments. Representative: the necklace from Ratiaria (Cat. No 111).

Group I: fragments and elements of necklaces, e. g. beads of various shapes—truncated cone, biconic, dodecahedral and openwork beads—Hercules' knot (Cat. Nos 112-116, 137); fasteners and elements of fasteners (Cat. Nos 117-119).

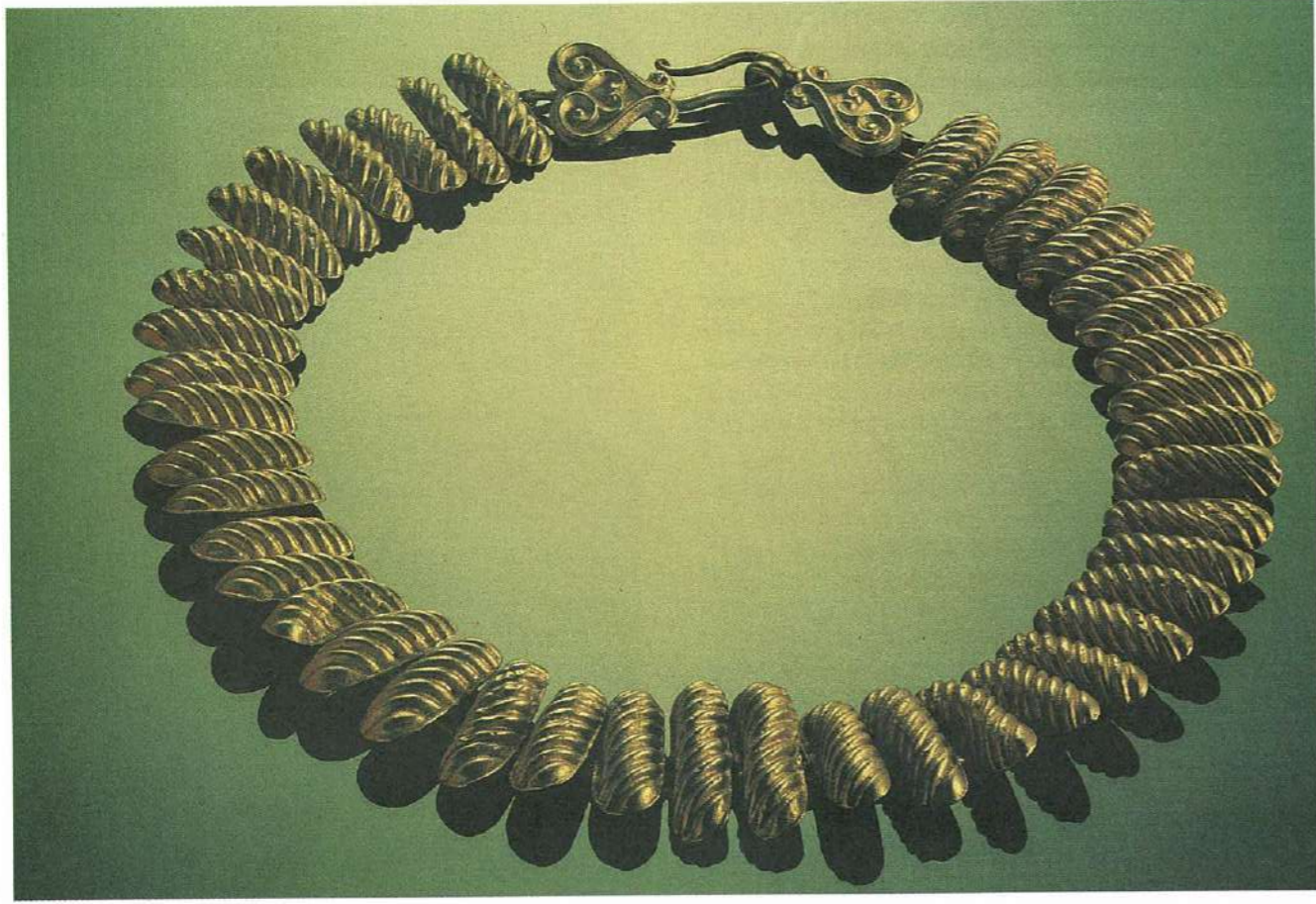
Group II—crescent-shaped pendants of necklaces. This form (lunula) is defined as a new motif in Roman jewellery. It resembles the Hellenistic crescent-shaped ornament of Syrian origin, belonging not to the god of the Moon, but to the god-idol.⁴⁵ This is why the lunula is used not only as an ordinary decorative pendant, but also as an amulet rejecting the evil forces.⁴⁶ The name lunula comes from the name for half-moon or moon-crescent with pointed ends, turned downwards. In the upper part of the ornament there is a hoop used to attach the ornament to the necklace. This type of crescent-shaped pendant is attested with numerous objects from Greece and Rome in the 2nd century BC, from where it spread throughout the entire empire. The dating of the crescent-shaped ornaments is usually associated with the rest of the archaeological material. The collection under consideration comprises seven gold crescents (Cat. Nos 120-126), three of them from grave finds, one from a treasure and three—accidental finds, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD.

Group III: pendants-medallions. Designated by the Latin name *bulla*, they are an ornament which is either flat and round or spherical in shape.⁴⁷ The pendant-medallion is an additional decorative element to Roman necklaces after the 2nd century AD.⁴⁸ Most of them are decorated with precious stones, cameo or gold coins, placed in settings with a richly ornamented periphery, using the *opus*



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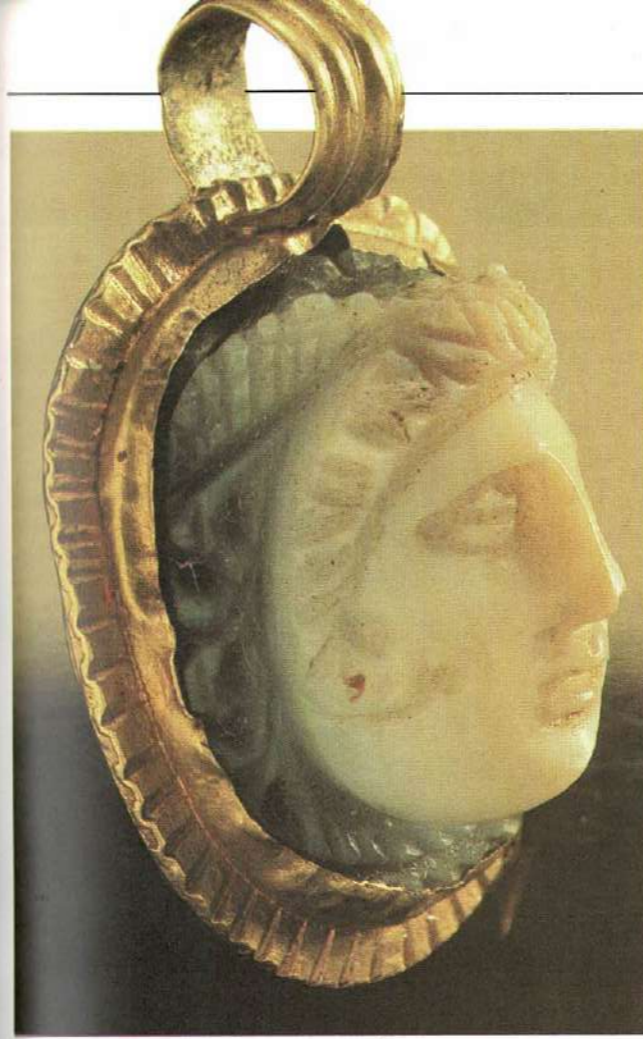




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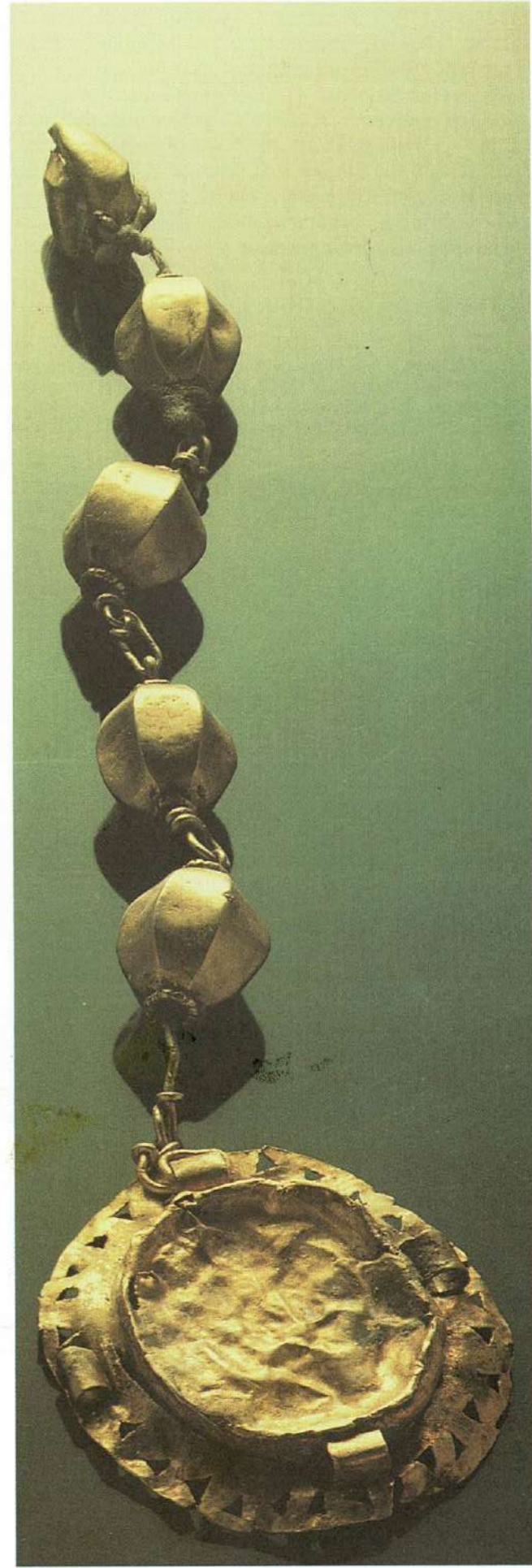
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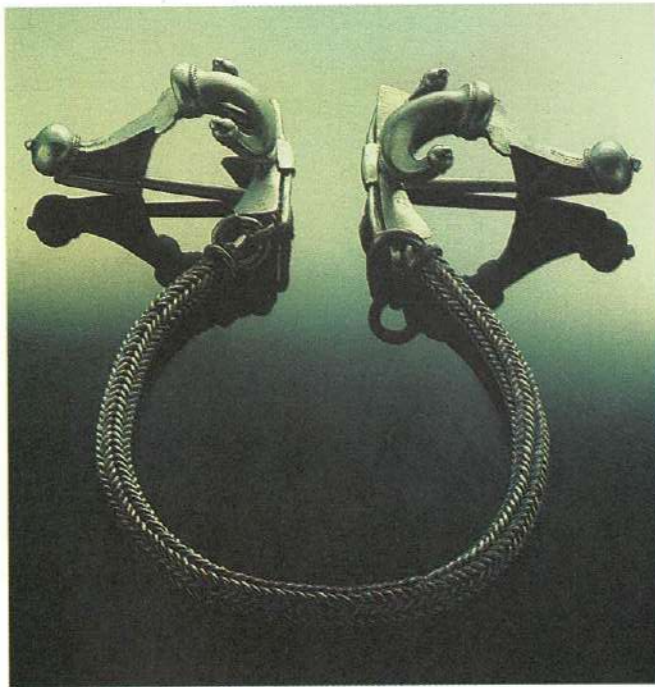


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interrabile,⁴⁹ or featuring a simple decoration of hatches. Less sophisticated are the medallions made of a round or ellipsoid plaque with ornamentations in relief, or those with a double plaque, made to resemble amulets. There are also elongated pendants—cylindrical or in the shape of truncated cone, decorated in the filigree technique, with stones at the base, also used as amulets. Depending on their form and additional ornamentation, three variants of medallions are distinguished:

NOTES

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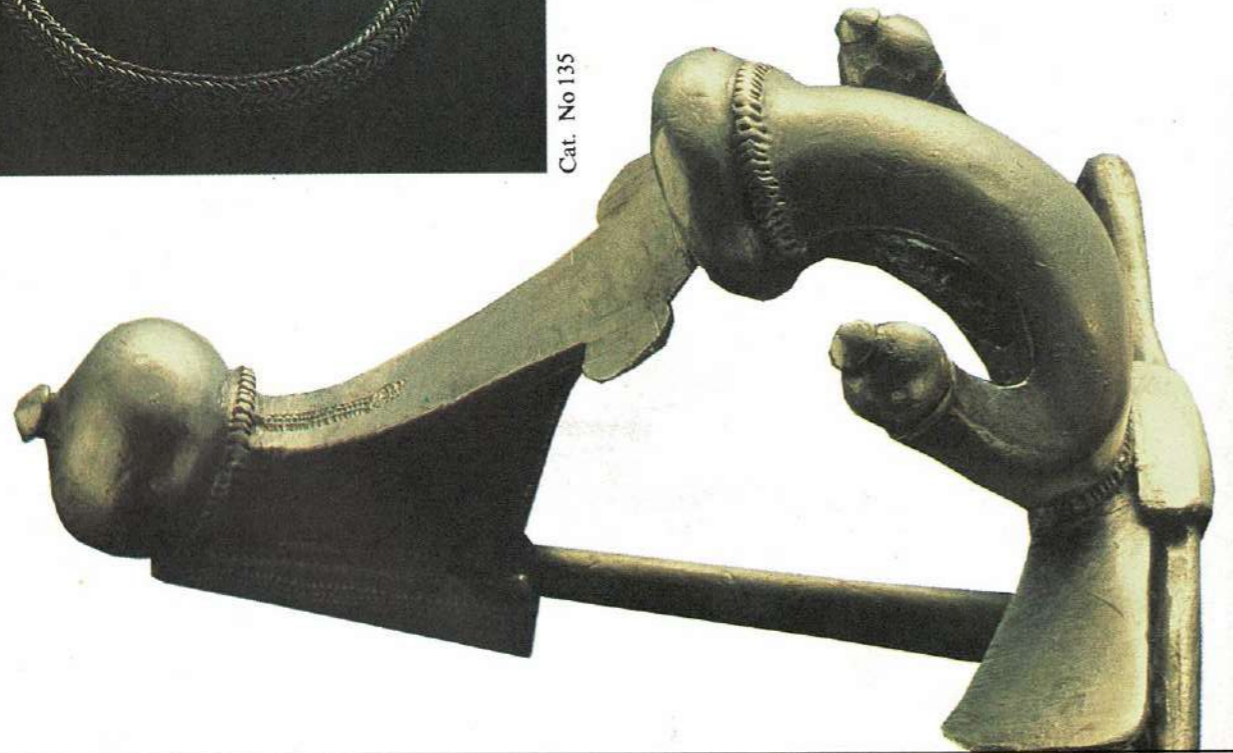


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Variant 1—medallions with cameo. Representatives—gold medallions (Cat. Nos 127-130).
Variant 2—medallion with ornamentation in relief. Represented by a gold medallion (Cat. No 131) and a silver one (Cat. No 138).
Variant 3—medallions and pendant-capsules. Representatives: gold semispherical medallion from Ratiaria, grave find (Cat. No 132) and gold pendant shaped like a truncated cone, with filigree ornamentation and a green stone at the base (Cat. No 133).

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¹⁹ Soong, D., D. Bown. *Roman Crafts*, London, 1976, p. 56; Ogden, J. Op. cit., p. 58; Higgins, R. A. Op. cit., p. 14, 15.

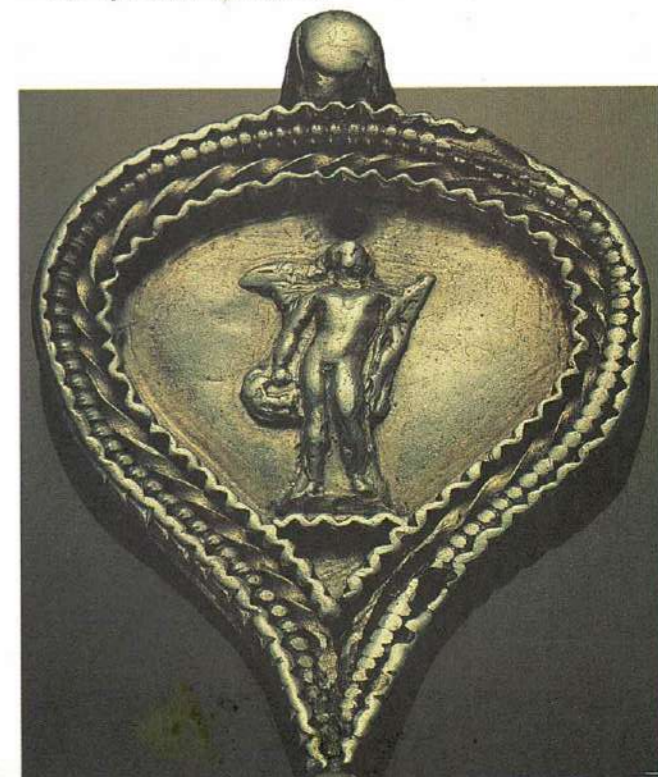


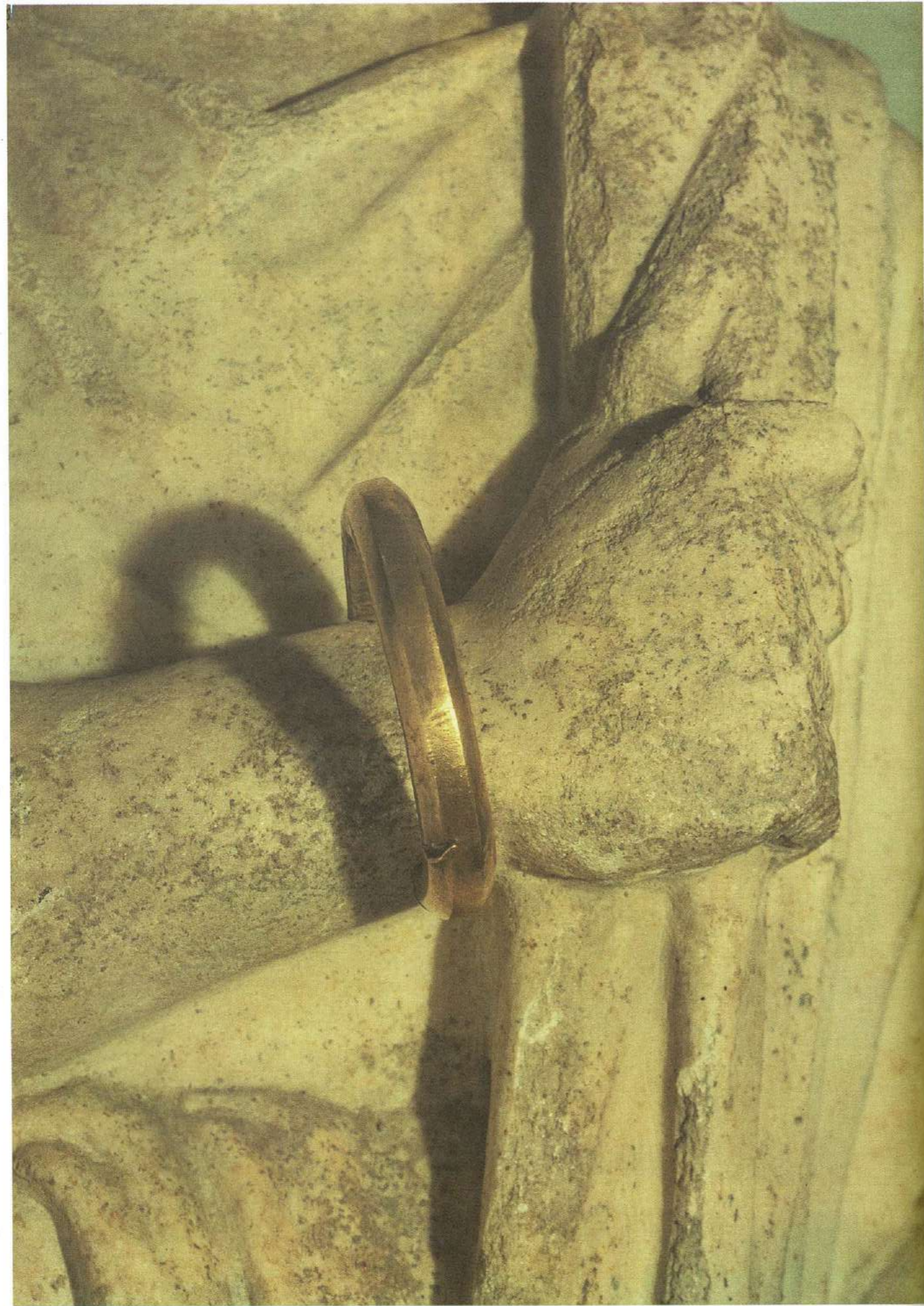
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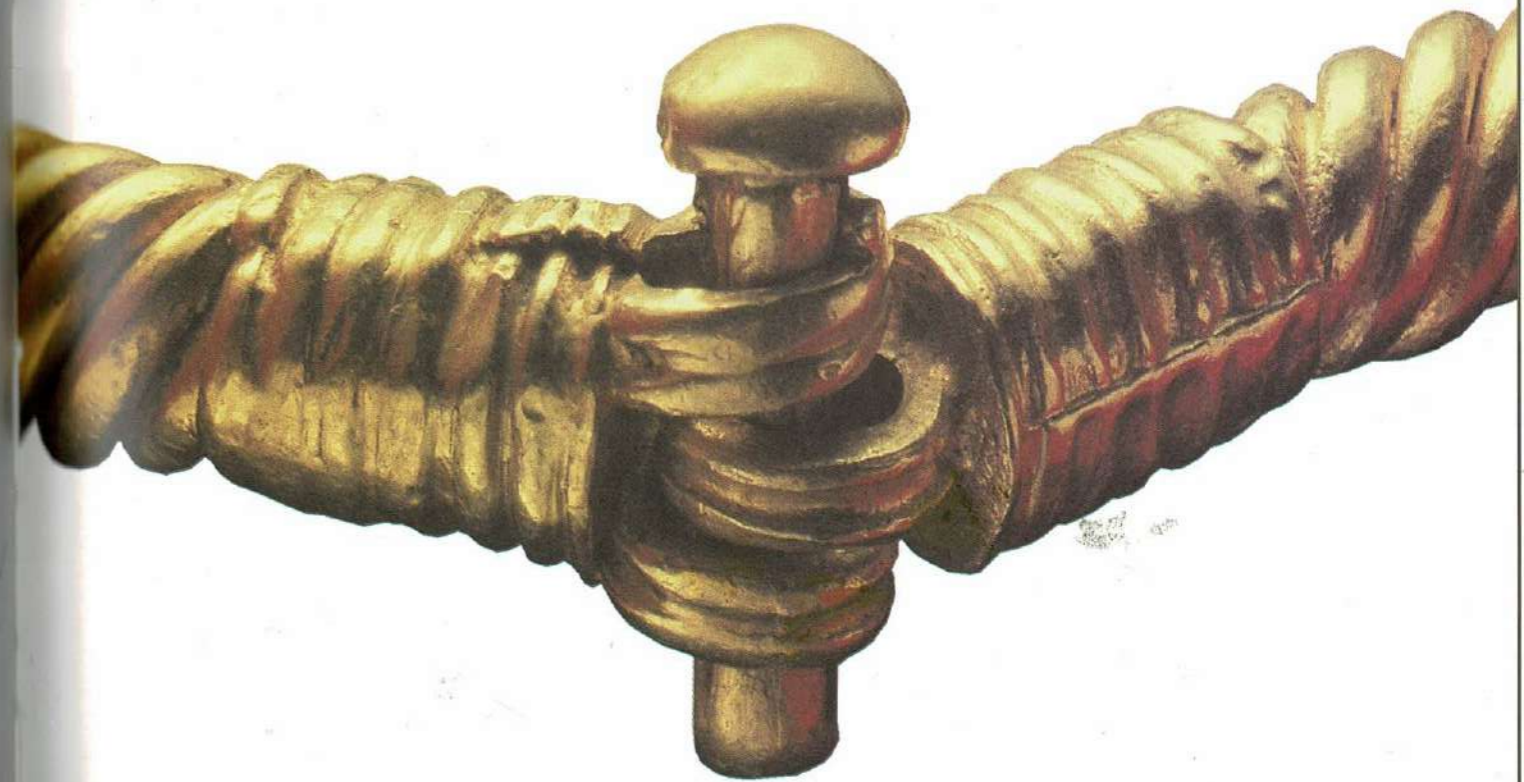
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⁴² BMCJ, No 2730, pl. LXVIII; Pfeiler, B. Op. cit., p. 67, tabl. 13, 15.
⁴³ Димитрова, Ал. Op. cit., p. 35.
⁴⁴ Филов, Б. Op. cit., p. 45, note 3.
⁴⁵ Higgins, R. A. Op. cit., p. 179.
⁴⁶ Ibid., tabl. 55B, p. 186, No 3; Pitlik, B. Op. cit., p. 6; RE, XIII, II, coll. 1811, lunula.
⁴⁷ Войнов, М., А. Милев. Латинско-български речник. С., 1980, с. 88 (bulla).
⁴⁸ Higgins, R. A. Op. cit., p. 186, No 3d, e, f.
⁴⁹ Zouhdi, B. *Les influences reciproques entre l'Orient et l'Occident d'après les bijoux du Musée National de Damas*. — AA Syr. XXI, 1971, p. 97.





BRACELETS



Bracelet (Latin name *armilla*) means in most general terms an article of adornment worn predominantly by women, mostly on their arms, less frequently on their feet, as well as sometimes by effeminate men.¹ Literary sources and iconographic monuments confirm its use since the remotest antiquity, which is also attested by Schliemann's findings in Troy and Mycenae. Bracelets were worn both on the wrists and above or below the elbow,² and were accordingly designated by the Greek or the Latin terms *περικάρπιος, ον* — *armilla* and *περιβραχιόνιος, ον*. The bracelets are usually hoop-shaped, made of metal wire, rod or band of various thicknesses, with or without decoration. Metal bracelets were made of precious metals — gold or silver, as well as of bronze (or copper). The snake-like form became very popular both for Hellenistic and for Roman bracelets: a hoop shaped to resemble a snake's body, a body with two snake's heads, or a spirally twisted hoop. Bracelets are usually found in pairs, which suggests that they were worn one on each arm.³

Similar to torques, bracelets were worn not only as adornment, but also as a military decoration and as military insignia.⁴ It was an element of military distinctions (*dona militaris*), in addition to phalerae and torques given to soldiers, sergeants and centurions doing their regular military service, as attested by the numerous images on grave steles and by epigraphic monuments.⁵ From Gauls and Persians, for whom the bracelet meant a military rank, it began to be used in the Roman army, too.⁶

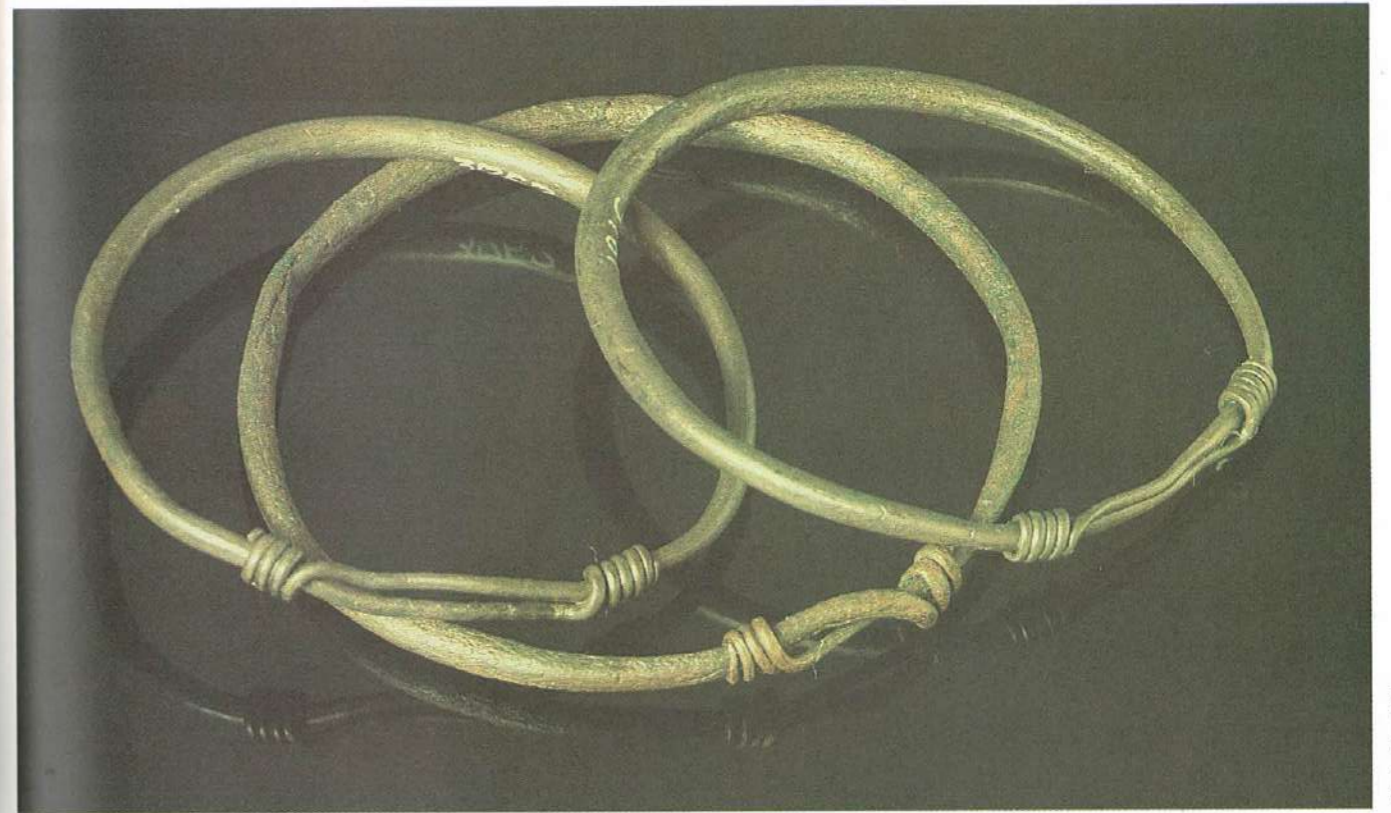
The collection under consideration contains 44 bracelets (11 gold, 22 silver and 11 bronze). Bronze bracelets are represented with a limited number of reliably dated specimens, because their shape and decoration persisted, with minor alterations, during the Middle Ages as well.

The very clear archaeological context of a large part of the bracelets, coming from treasures (Bazaurt, Chaoushevo and Nikolaevo — 15 bracelets), grave finds (Ratiaria, Peturnitsa, Sexaginta Prista, Odessos and Serdica — 15 bracelets) or discovered in sanctuaries (Dinekli and Caristorum — 3 bracelets), is conducive to their correct interpretation and dating. Only eleven of the bracelets are accidental finds, with unspecified data, but they find close analogies among the reliably dated specimens.

The collection includes almost all bracelets characteristic of the Roman Period, which were widespread in the Thracian lands. As types, a large part of them bear the features of the Hellenistic traditions in jewellery, manifested in the form of the hoop, the fastener, the decoration, etc. This is also valid of the techniques with which the bracelets were made, mainly forging or drawing. Many of the silver bracelets were made with an inlay of a copper wire (also attested in the gold torques from Nikolaevo) or with a resin filling in the bipartite bracelets from the same treasure. The bracelets are oval, round or ellipsoid in shape, with closed or open hoop. They are made of one wire, round or rectangular in cross



Cat. No 160



Cat. No 167



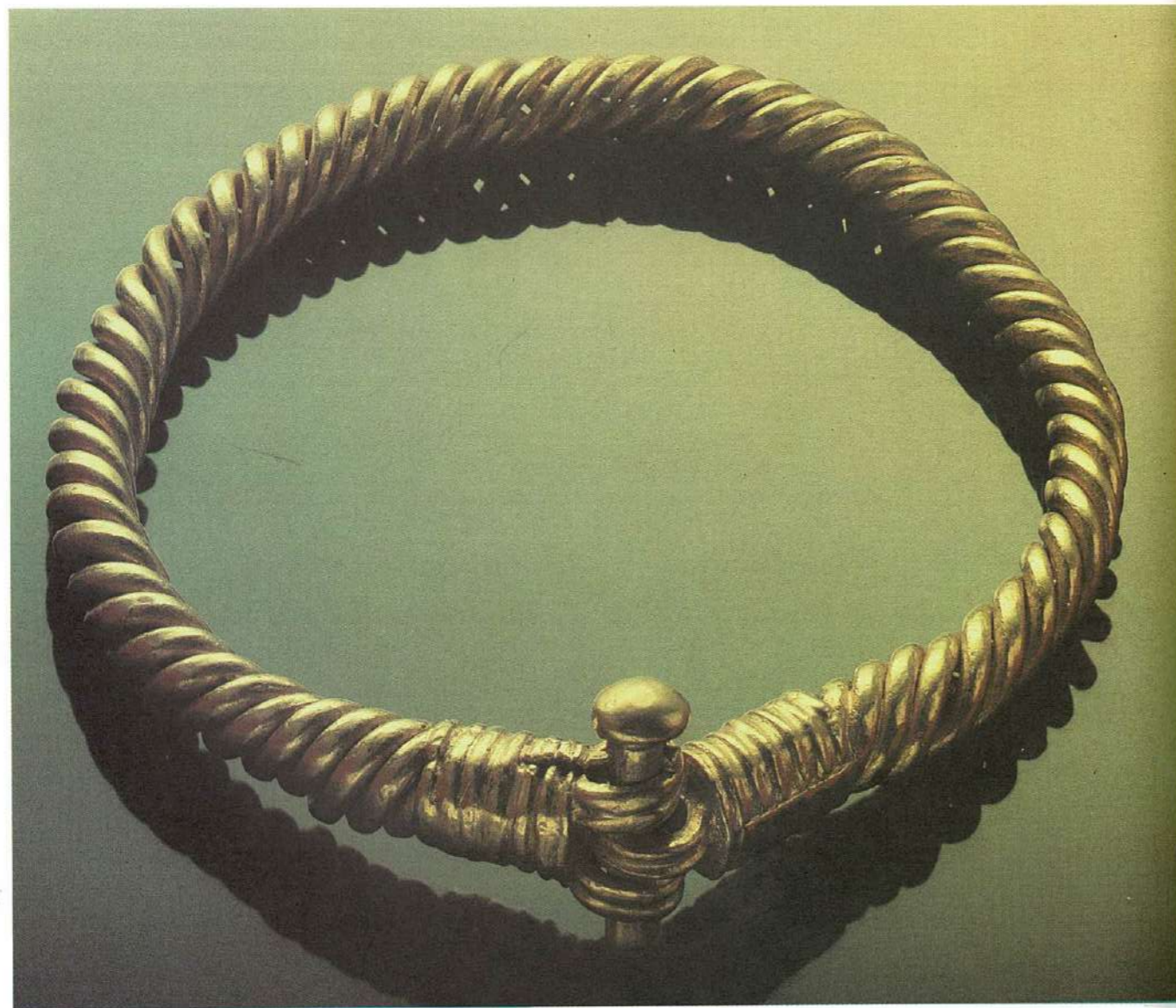
Cat. No 173

section, spirally fluted, of several spirally twisted wires, of a flat or cylindrical plaque, or of a thicker rod—round or rectangular in cross section. Bracelets bear a similarity to torques in their form and workmanship. Gold bipartite bracelets from the Nikolaevo treasure, with a joint-and-pin fastener, as well as a similar bracelet, the only one known so far from Ratiaria, made of a special type of vegetative material, gagate, and with gold facing at both ends, are interesting types that were not frequent in the Thracian lands. These types find analogies in the Caucasus, which demonstrate the closeness between various articles of jewellery in Thrace and in the Chersonesos.⁷

The decoration of the bracelets is poor compared with the other types of jewellery. They lack the splendid decoration of stones, openwork ornaments and medallions. Their aesthetic impact consists in the simplified and well-proportioned forms, which is intensified by the shine of the precious metal—gold and silver. To the extent that it is present, the decoration is connected with structural elements. Popular decorative motifs are the horizontal spiral

and the spiral coils in the periphery (Cat. No 147), also used in earrings, the undulating ornament made of round wire (Cat. No 142) and the fluted cylindrical facing (Cat. Nos 144, 146, 169 and 170). The decoration on the snake-like bracelets is also sparse and schematic: anatomical details are rendered with incised hatches and points (Cat. Nos 160-162, 174, 175).

Most of the bracelets in the collection are identified as being female, having been discovered in female and children's burials, and in treasures containing typically women's jewellery: necklaces and earrings. For the time being, we lack sufficient information about bracelets worn by men. Certain hypotheses may be launched about the silver bracelet from the Chaoushevo treasure (Cat. No 161), connected with the torques identified as military distinctions, as well as about the silver bracelets from Gorsko Kosovo (Cat. No 153a, b), judging from their larger sizes. This is supported by the Latin inscription from the village of Neden near Veliko Turnovo, reporting about a Lucius Valerius Procillus from the Fifth Macedonian Legion who received military distinctions in the



Cat. No 144



Cat. No 140

form of torques, bracelets (*armillae*) and *phalerae*.⁸ The bracelets under consideration have another characteristic feature: they were usually worn in pairs, one on each arm. This custom is confirmed by the two fully identical bracelets from Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 140a, b, 141—the second one is missing), from the Bazaurt treasure (Cat. Nos 149, 150), from Varna (Cat. No 162a, b), from Gorsko Kosovo (Cat. Nos 153a, b; 157a, b), from Rouse (Cat. No 158a, b), from Kroushovene, Plevan region (Cat. No 167a, b), from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 144a, b; 145a, b). Its popularity is also attested on various images, e. g. Hecate's stele from Mesambria, on which she is depicted wearing snake-like bracelets on her arms,⁹ in the stele from Vranja, near Blagoevgrad, one of the women is wearing a bracelet on each arm,¹⁰ in the female images on the matrices from the collective find from Razgrad—with two or three bracelets on each arm, both on the wrist and above the elbow,¹¹ in the *phalerae* from Galiche—a female bust with bracelets above the elbow,¹² etc.

On the basis of external features, depending on the form of the hoop and on the way in which the ends are shaped—open or fastened—the bracelets are divided into eight types, with variants reflecting the type of the wire, the plate or the rod from which they are made, as well as their decoration. Fragments are discussed in a group of their own. The chronology of the bracelets is between the late 1st century and the 4th century AD.

Type I: closed-end bracelets with the so-called mobile fasteners, in two variants.

Type II: closed-end bracelets with hoop-and-hook fastener, in two variants.

Type III: closed-end bracelets with a pin-like fastener.

Type IV: closed-end bipartite bracelets, the two parts with a hinged joint and with a pin fastener.

Type V: open-end bracelets made of a thick wire or rod in two variants.

Type VI: open-end bracelets made of a thin plate.

Type VII: open-end bracelets made of thick wire, with flat decorated ends.



Cat. No 141



Cat. No 142



Type VIII: open-end snake-like bracelets, in two variants.

Group I: bracelets without definite data about the hoop—fragments.

Type I: bracelets with an oval, nearly round hoop, their ends running parallel, shaped like spiral coils. In the literature these bracelets are identified as being adjustable in diameter.¹³ The dimensions of the closed bracelet can be either increased or decreased by sliding the ends in two directions, therefore these bracelets are also said to have a mobile or extendable fastener. This peculiarity makes these bracelets particularly suitable for children, as has been attested by children's burials from Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 140, 141) and Kerch.¹⁴ The type revived the Hellenistic tradition and acquired broad popularity in Roman jewellery: in bracelets, earrings and torques. The earliest reliably dated Roman finds are objects from the grave find in Novae, dated to the 1st century BC,¹⁵ from the Dacian treasures from Sioera, Feldioara, Senereus, Poiana, etc., dated to the period between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD¹⁶ and from the 1st century AD children's burials in Kerch (dated with a coin of Kotys to 58-68 AD).¹⁷ Their general dating ranges from the late 1st to the late 3rd century AD. The earliest finds (late 1st—early 2nd century AD) are represented by the silver bracelets from the Bazaurt treasure (Cat. Nos 148-150). The gold bracelets from the necropolis in Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 140, 141) are referred to the 2nd century AD. The bronze bracelet from Oescus (Cat. No 166) is dated to the 2nd-3rd century on the basis of the remaining material, whereas the silver bracelet



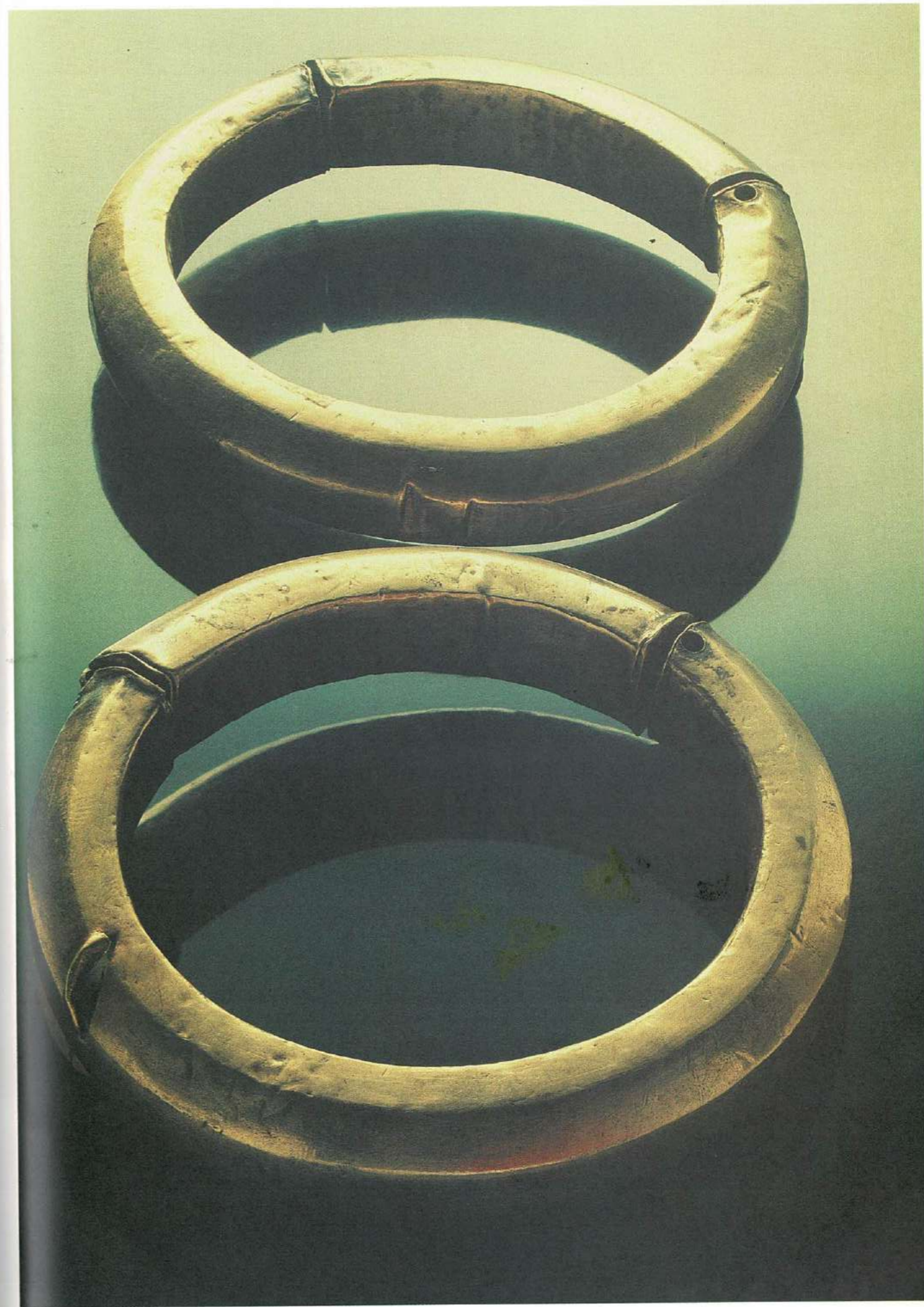
found in a grave in Souhindol is dated to the 3rd century on the basis of the gold earrings with cameos.¹⁸ The remaining bracelets are accidental finds, but they find close parallels with the reliably dated finds. Two variants are distinguished depending on the wire shaping the hoop:

Variant 1—hoop made of one round wire, thinned out at both ends that run parallel and are spirally twisted to form coils. Representatives: gold bracelets (Cat. No 140a, b), silver bracelets (Cat. Nos 148-152) and bronze bracelets (Cat. Nos 166, 167).

Variant 2—hoop made of a metal band, the thickened concave outer surface, thinned out to form tetrahedral rounded wire at the ends which run parallel in opposite directions, the decoration consisting of horizontal spirals and spiral coils. The new element of horizontal spirals occurs also in bracelets from the Bazaurt treasure (Cat. No 154) and from the sanctuary Dinekli (present-day Lozen village) (Cat. No 156). The dating of the gold bracelet from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 147) coincides with that of the type. Representatives: the gold bracelet from Ratiaria (Cat. No 141), 2nd century AD.

Type II: closed-end bracelets with oval, nearly round hoop, with a hoop-and-hook fastener. It is a popular and at the same time elementary type, which was common throughout the entire Roman Empire, in addition to the other types. The earliest finds are the silver bracelets from the Bazaurt treasure, dated to the late 1st or early 2nd century AD (Cat. Nos 154, 155), whereas the latest are dated to the mid-4th century AD and are represented by the gold bracelet

Cat. No 174



Cat. No 145



Cat. No 147

from Petrunitsa, found in a grave together with a coin of Constantius II (337-361 AD) and a bronze bracelet from Southern Thrace, a grave find dated with the help of clay lamps to the 2nd—early 3rd century AD and 3rd—early 4th century AD (Cat. No 170). Two variants are distinguished depending on the type of wire shaping the hoop:

Variant 1—hoop made of one round wire. Representatives: gold (Cat. Nos 142, 143), silver (Cat. No 153a, b) and bronze bracelets (Cat. No 168).

Variant 2—hoop made of one or more spirally twisted wires. Represented by silver (Cat. Nos 154-156) and bronze bracelets (Cat. Nos 169, 170). In addition to the reliably dated early specimens from the Bazaurt treasure, the silver bracelet found close to the Thracian sanctuary near Dinekli (Cat. No 156) suggests that it was used throughout the 2nd and in the beginning of the 3rd century AD,¹⁹ with close analogies from the necropolis in Kerch.²⁰ The fully similar bronze bracelets (Cat. Nos 169, 170), dated with the rest of the grave finds, are referred to the 3rd-4th century AD,²¹ which finds exact parallels in materials found in the Roman necropolis of Gerulata Rusovce in Czechoslovakia.²²

Type III: closed-end bracelets with a pin-like fastener. The hoop is made of several spirally twisted round wires. Similar bracelets, usually featuring additional decoration—ends shaped like snake's heads, with set stones or with openwork ornaments—illustrated the Hellenistic tradition in Roman jewellery.²³ Pin-like fasteners occur in bracelets dated to the 1st and to the 2nd-3rd century AD, notably from Pompeii, Tunisia and the collections of the British Museum.²⁴ This type is represented solely by the gold bracelets from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 144a, b).

Type IV: closed-end bracelets consisting of two parts of different sizes, linked with a joint-and-pin fastener. This type of bracelets is known in the literature as "bipartite." Similar to the previous type of bracelets, this type is also a Hellenistic reminiscence.²⁵ It is represented by the gold bracelets from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 145a, b) and the bracelet from Ratiaria (Cat. No 146). Gold bracelets are hammered out of a plate to form a hollow cylindrical body filled with resin. The bracelet from Ratiaria is made of vegetative material—gagate—and its ends are with gold facing. The bracelets from Nikolaevo and Ratiaria belong to the only type of bracelets known



Cat. No 146

so far from the Thracian lands, bearing a similarity to the bipartite bracelets from the Caucasus.²⁶

Type V: open-end bracelets, with oval hoop, made of one thick wire or thin rod, with round or rounded rhomboid cross section. Two variants are distinguished depending on the way in which the ends are shaped:

Variant 1—with tapering and pointed ends. Represented by silver bracelets only (Cat. No 157a, b), accidental find from Gorsko Kosovo. The bracelets are dated to the 3rd century AD on the basis of the totally similar bracelets from the Nikolaevo treasure (Inv. No 4790), subsequently lost.²⁷

Variant 2—with tapering and vertically cut end. Representatives among the silver (Cat. Nos 158, 159) and bronze bracelets (Cat. No 171). The dating of the silver bracelets found in a grave in Rousse to the 2nd-3rd century BC on the basis of the gold earrings with cameos from the same burial (Cat. No 45)²⁸ is confirmed by similar examples from the necropolis in Kerch.²⁹ A relatively later date (3rd-4th century AD) is reported for the bronze bracelet from Southern Thrace, determined on the basis of the clay lamps found in the same burial.³⁰

Type VI: open-end bracelets made of a thin plate. The only representative of this type is the gold bracelet from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 147). The decoration of horizontal spirals finds analogies among the silver bracelets from Bazaurt.³¹

Type VII: open-end bracelet made of a thick wire which passes into rectangular plates at the ends, decorated with geometric motifs. Representatives: the bronze bracelets from the necropolis in Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 172, 173), dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD with the remaining finds. Of particular interest is the bronze bracelet (Cat. No 173), discovered together with the gold jewellery.³²

Type VIII: open-end snake-like bracelets. The ends are shaped like snake's stylized heads or body—head and tail. Snake-like bracelets, similar to some of the remaining types, were a continuation of the Hellenistic tradition in the Roman period.³³ Their popularity in the Thracian lands is explained with the snake cult in the religion and mythology of the indigenous population. Two variants are distinguished, depending on the way in which the hoop is shaped:

Variant 1—hoop made of a flat band, ends shaped



like a snake's head and tail, or two snake's heads. The variant is represented by the silver bracelets from the treasures from Nikolaevo and Chaoushevo (Cat. Nos 160, 161) and the bronze bracelet from the sanctuary of Zeus and Hera at Caristorum (Cat. No 174), dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD.³⁴

Variant 2—hoop made of a round rod (thick wire), the ends shaped like snake's heads. Representatives: the silver from a grave find in Varna district (Cat. No 162a, b), dated on the basis of the clay lamps in the 2nd-3rd century AD.³⁵ The variant also comprises the bronze bracelet from the sanctuary near Caristorum (Cat. No 175), discovered together with Cat. No 174, where the snake's body is rendered in a very stylized form. The decoration on the snake-like bracelets is very schematic and stylized. Anatomical details are rendered in geometric orna-

ments: incised lines in semicircle, crossed and oblique hatches, stippled decoration, etc.

Group I: bracelets with unidentifiable ends, their hoop being made of round wire. These bracelets have the common features of the remaining types, all the more that they are represented by the silver bracelets from the treasures of Bazaurt and Nikolaevo (Cat. Nos 163-165). An interesting example is the silver bracelet from Bazaurt, with a body spirally twisted to form several coils (Cat. No 163). It is possible that the ends were shaped like stylized snake's heads or like a snake's head and tail.

The distribution of the bracelets in the catalogue follows the order accepted for the other types of jewellery, i. e. according to the type of the metal used: gold, silver and bronze.

NOTES

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² Ibid; RE, II, col. 1180.

³ Planche, J. *Dictionnaire Grec-Français*. Paris, 1872, p. 1003, 1008; Dell'Aglio, A. *Les ors hellénistiques de Tarente*. Paris, 1986-1987, p. 237.

⁴ Maxfield, W. A. *The Military Decorations of the Roman Army*. London, 1981, 89-91; Иванов, Р. *Заплащане*

и наказания в римската войска през принципата (I—III в.). ВИСБ, 1984, № 3, с. 188.

⁵ Maxfield, W. A. *Op. cit.*, tabl. 2a, 7b, 8a, fig. 10.

⁶ Ibid., p. 90.

⁷ Димитрова, Ал. Развитие и стилови особености на ювелирното изкуство в Тракия и Мизия през I—III в. — *Проблеми на изкуството*, 1982, № 3, с. 38; Найденова, В. Изложба „Златото на Рациария“. — *Изкуство*, 1988, № 4, с. 35.

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¹⁰ Герасимова, В. За култа на Бендида в Тракия и тракийското женско облекло. — *Археология*, 1980, № 3, с. 28.

обр. 16.

¹¹ Vasilev, V. P. *Bronzene Matrizen aus Mosien und Thracien*. — *ИАИ*, 37, 1987, с. 179, № 8-11, обр. 8-11.

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¹³ Корпусова, В. Некропол Золотое. — *МИА*, 69, 1959, с. 53; Гайдукевич, В. Ф. Некрополи некоторых боспорских городов. — *МИА*, 69, 1959, с. 203.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 243.

¹⁵ Стефанов, Ст. Предримски паметници от Novae. — *ИАИ*, 19, 1955, с. 52, обр. 3.

¹⁶ Miclea, I., R. Florescu. *Stramosle romanilor vestigii milenare de cultura si arta Geto-Dacii*. Bucuresti, 1980, Nos 485, 458.

¹⁷ Гайдукевич, В. Ф. *Op. cit.*, p. 243.

¹⁸ Милчева-Димитрова, Ал. *Антични геми и камей от Националния археологически музей в София*. С., 1980, № 314.

¹⁹ Кацаров, Г. *Тракийското светилище при Дийникли*. — *ГПНБМ*, I, 1925, с. 127.

²⁰ Гайдукевич, В. Ф. *Op. cit.*, p. 215, fig. 82, 2.

²¹ Кузманов, Г. *Антични лампи от НАМ*, № 128, 206 (in press).

²² Gaskovska, L. *The Roman cemetery at Gerulata Rusovce*,

Czechoslovakia. — *BAR*, 10, 1976, p. 55, fig. 85-5, 8.

²³ Higgins, R. *Greek and Roman Jewellery*. London, 1961, p. 187, No 1, 60A; *BMCI*, Nos 2801, 2788, 2803, pl. LXIV, Nos 2812-2815, pl. LXV.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Higgins, R. *Op. cit.*, p. 187, No 4.

²⁶ Найденова, В. *Op. cit.*, p. 35; Pfeiler, В. *Op. cit.*, p. 78, tabl. 23, 24.

²⁷ Филов, Б. Римското съкровище от Николаево. — *ИАД*, 4, 1914, с. 12, № 26, табл. III, 6.

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²⁹ Гайдукевич, В. Ф. *Op. cit.*, p. 216, fig. 82, 3.

³⁰ Кузманов, Г. *Op. cit.*

³¹ Корпусова, В. *Op. cit.*, p. 53; Гайдукевич, В. Ф. *Op. cit.*, p. 239, fig. 5.

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FINGER-RINGS



Finger-rings were among the most popular types of jewellery during the Roman Period. They were usually made either of precious metals—gold and silver, or of bronze and iron. They were worn by men, women and children. The principal group of male finger-rings had a practical function to perform. These were signet rings used as a form of royal insignia by higher-ranking officials, or rings used as military insignia.¹ Most of the female rings were used as a decoration.

The forms and the decoration of the finger-rings were influenced by the general stylistic features in the development of the jeweller's art. In addition to inheriting earlier Hellenistic types, e. g. the snake-like rings, new forms characterizing the epoch were created, which were reflected in the shaping of their main components: the band, the plaque-shield, arms, etc. The new element is seen above all in the decoration, notably in the extensive use of polychrome stones,² of gems and cameos, which turned glyptics into a mass folk art. A fashion popular during that period was to incorporate gold coins in the ring's shield, similar to the medallions of the necklaces. Depending on their decoration, finger-rings are divided into two basic groups: with and without stones. As types, they are similar in form. Compared with the other types of jewellery, the comparative typology of finger-rings has been elaborated most comprehensively and they have been presented in their chronological development.³ The attaining of greater precision in this respect has been greatly aided by the numerous studies devoted to glyptics.⁴

The collection under consideration contains almost all types characteristic of that period. The distribution, typology and dating of the finger-rings is based on the studies of F. Henkel, H. Marshall, R. Higgins, as well as of other authors occupied with this research.⁵ Of particular importance is the only study on glyptics published in Bulgaria so far by Alexandrina Dimitrova-Milcheva.⁶

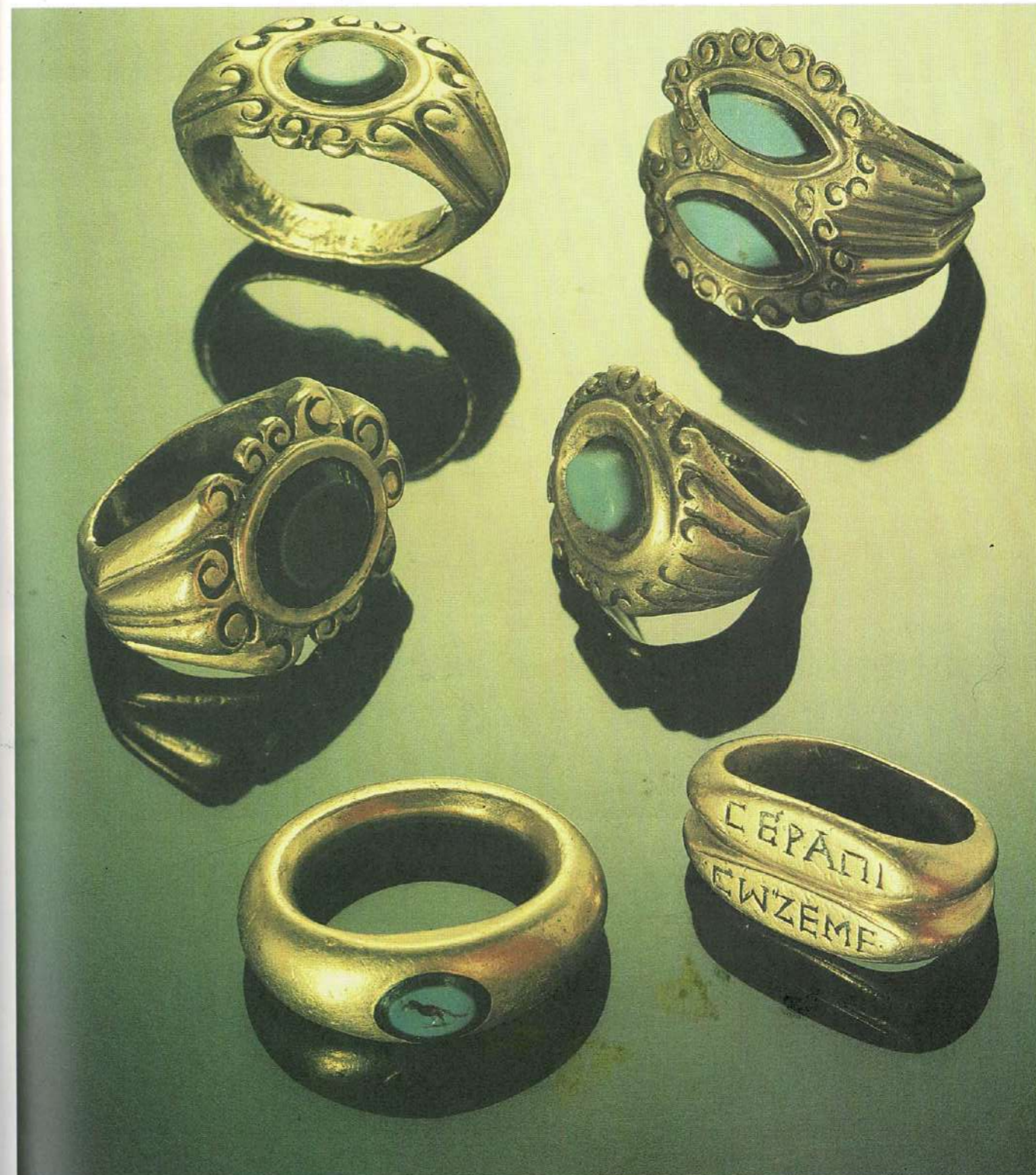
The collection comprises 108 finger-rings. Most of them are made of precious metals: gold or silver (48 gold and 40 silver), iron (9 rings) and bronze (11, one of which with gilt). With respect to the place where the finger-rings have been found, 18 came from grave finds, 8 from treasure and 19 were discovered during excavations mainly of the water-pipe systems in the Roman baths at Aquae Calidae, Germania (present-day Sapareva Banya) and Kostenets. The rest are accidental finds.

On the basis of their principal elements and external features, finger-rings are divided into 19 types with variants. They comprise the two large formal groups: rings without stones (Types I-X), represented by 32 specimens (gold, silver and bronze—Cat. Nos 176-188, 224-231, 264, 265, 267) and the rings with stones (Types I-IX)—76 specimens (gold, silver, bronze and iron—Cat. Nos 189-223, 232-263, 266, 268-276), which show a great similarity in the individual types. Only among the rings without

stones there are plain-hoop rings (Types I-III) which do not have articulated shoulders or shields. Their decoration is on the actual band of the finger-ring and it consists in an intricate intertwining, figural motifs or openwork ornamentation. The rings under consideration, and more specifically those whose ends are shaped like snake's heads (Cat. No 224), manifest new tendencies in the Hellenistic traditions during the Roman Period. The very popular fashion of cut gold (*opus interrasile*) has also been attested (Cat. No 177). A certain type of decoration connected with their functions is evidenced on rings with inscriptions in Greek and Latin. Part of them were signet rings (Cat. Nos 183, 185, 207, 228, 246). The inscriptions engraved on the plaque incorporated into the shield or on the gem itself contain the names of the owners. Others are of a votive nature, with a text expressing a plea for salvation, a promised votive offering or eulogy for happiness and welfare. These rings were usually associated with the indigenous religious beliefs and customs of the population (Cat. Nos 180, 182, 188, 216, 217, 224, 226, 227, 230). The gold ring from Ratiaria is inscribed with a well-wishing for happiness, which can be seen on the band (Cat. No 216). Interesting cases are the gold rings with inscriptions expressing "concordia," mostly used as engagement or wedding rings, which is also



Cat. No 188



supported by the images depicted: a male and a female figure, or the symbol of the two clasped hands (*iunctio dextrarum*) (Cat. Nos 188, 217). Gems and cameos occupy a considerable place in the decoration of finger-rings. They appear in various nuances of carnelian, jasper, sardonyx, nicolo and sard. The images on the gems are basically of the deities of the Greek-Roman Pantheon, as well as wild and domesticated animals, birds and insects. The cameo repertoire is more limited: female busts and the head of Medusa or Eros (Cat. Nos 205, 219, 223). The

stylistic specificities of most gems betray their provincial character and origin. Parallel with this, the fact that most of them were discovered to the north of the Balkan Range, and more specifically in Novae and Ratiaria, proves the existence of local engraver's workshops that functioned under the influence of specimens from the East.

The chronological boundaries of the finger-rings under consideration are determined to the period between the 1st century BC and the 4th century AD. The earliest specimens have been attested in finds



Cat. No 177

from Aquae Calidae (Cat. Nos 189, 190, 231-234). Most numerous are the 1st-2nd century rings, and especially those dated to the 3rd century AD, among which are the gold rings from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. Nos 210-214), as well as the numerous rings from Ratiaria. Parallel with this, many cases have been attested in which gems dated to relatively earlier periods were used in later types of finger-rings. The distribution of rings according to types is made in two basic groups (without and with stones), irrespective of the metal. The differences in the metal are reflected in the ordering in the Catalogue.

Type I (without stones): plain-hoop ring, the band is round in cross section, with intricate braiding, without emphasizing the shoulders, braided of 6 to 8 round wires, hammered at both ends to form a rectangular-section plaque. It is a variant of the Hellenistic type consisting of a hoop made of spirally twisted wires, found in Tarente in Italy and dated to the end of the 4th century BC.⁷ The type is represented by the gold ring from Kerch (Cat. No 176), with numerous analogies of similar finger-rings and earrings in necropolises in Kerch, dated to the period between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD.⁸ Many of these rings are kept in the collections of the museum in Pilsen (Czechoslovakia),



Cat. No 217

the Schiller Collection, etc.⁹ The type is characteristic of Southern Russia, Syria and Cyprus.

Type II (without stones), snake-like. Continuation of the evolution of the Hellenistic type of snake-like rings, which gave rise after the 1st century AD to a new variant of open-end ring with rounded band, ending in snake's heads.¹⁰ The type is represented by the silver ring from Aqua Calidae (Cat. No 225), with analogies in specimens from Pompeii and Herculaneum, dated to the 1st century AD.¹¹

Type III (without stones): plain-hoop rings, polygonal, made of a band with sectoral cuts on the outside, or round rings made of wires. The type is represented by gold, silver and bronze rings, many of which bear inscriptions. Dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD.¹² Two variants are distinguished depending on the decoration of the band:

Variant 1—narrow, massive band, rectangular in cross section, inscribed in the sectors on the outside. Represented by a silver ring from Uglen, Pleven region (Cat. No 224).

Variant 2—broad, thin band, openwork decoration. The technique of cut gold (*opus interrasile*) was revived from old Oriental traditions and was very popular in the 3rd century AD. The variant is represented by the gold ring from Nikolaevo (Cat. No 177), with analogies from Augsburg (dated with coins from Gordian to Valerian—252 AD¹³), Durham and Silchester in Britain,¹⁴ and the gold ring from Novae (Cat. No 178).

Type IV (without stones): round or ellipsoid hoop made of a band rounded on the outside, which is with slightly increased width and depth in its upper part, with well-outlined shoulders along the contour and with an ellipsoid shield, usually with engraved decoration or inscription. The type is characteristic of

the Early Imperial Age (1st—early 2nd century AD).¹⁵ Three variants are distinguished depending on the shape of the hoop and the decoration of the plaque:

Variant 1—round hoop made of a band rounded on the outside, with engraved ornamentation on the shield. Representative: the gold ring from Aquae Calidae (Cat. No 179), with analogies in Cologne and Bonn, dated to the 1st century AD.¹⁶

Variant 2—round hoop made of a band rounded on the outside, with undecorated ellipsoid shield. Representatives: 8 bronze rings found in a grave in Kabyle (Cat. No 267), identical in shape but with different dimensions, probably used as standards or as mass-produced series.

Variant 3—ellipsoid ring of a massive band, semicircular in cross section, with deep longitudinal fluting on the shield, dividing it into two and passing along the shoulders so as to create the impression of two rings closely adhering to one another. Representative: the gold ring with inscription in Greek from the region of Kyustendil (Cat. No 180), dated to the late 1st—early 2nd century AD, with analogous bronze rings, collective find from the nonmilitary settlement of the legion camp near Bonn.¹⁷

Type V (without stones): ellipsoid hoop made of a band with semicircular cross section (or a thin band bent to form a semicircle), with rounded horizontal (or slightly oblique) shoulders, ellipsoid shield with a modelled (or additionally incorporated) plaque decorated with some image. The type was characteristic in the beginning of the 3rd century AD.¹⁸ Representatives: gold ring from Vidbol (Cat. No 181), with analogy in Bonn, bearing the inscription "1st Minerva Legion," defined as a soldier's ring,¹⁹ and the silver rings from Kostenets and Diskotna (Cat.



Cat. No 180

Nos 228, 229).

Type VI (without stones): ring-keys, ellipsoid ring made of a thin band, rounded on the outside, with the "key" as an additional element in the upper part of the shield. The ring-keys used are examined as exemplified by the only specimen of this type—the silver ring-key from Aquae Calidae (Cat. No 231).

Type VII (without stones): hoop with irregular ellipsoid shape, made of a broad band, rectangular or semicircular in cross section, becoming wider and thicker towards the strongly oblique broad shoulders, with or without decoration, with polygonal or round shield on which a decorated plaque is modelled or applied. The type is characteristic of the 3rd century AD, occurring also in the period between the 2nd and the 4th century.²⁰ A coin is often mounted into the plaque. Three variants are distinguished depending on the way in which the different elements are shaped:

Variant 1—undecorated shoulders, polygonal shield with incorporated or modelled round plaque bearing inscriptions (some of which run over to the shoulders as well). Representatives among the gold rings (Cat. Nos 182, 183) and the silver rings (Cat. No 226), with analogies in the collections of the British Museum and in Mainz, dated to the 3rd century AD.²¹

Variant 2—shoulders with openwork decoration or with longitudinal fluting, with modelled or incorpo-

rated plaques in the shield. Representatives among the gold rings (Cat. Nos 184, 185), dated to the 3rd century AD, with parallels from Rome and Cardiff, and from the collections of the British Museum.²²

Variant 3—shoulders with fluted grooves and volutes around the shield, with an additionally attached round plaque with inscription. Representatives—among the silver rings (Cat. Nos 227, 230), finding analogies in form with the gold rings from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. Nos 210-213).

Type VIII (without stones): imitation of massive rings, ellipsoid hollow hoops of double bands in openwork, filigree or granulation, becoming wider towards the rounded triangular shoulders, with a round shield on which a plaque or a coin is attached. R. Higgins defines the shield as resembling an "eye," typical of the 3rd century AD.²³ Similar as a type are the richly ornamented rings from Bonn and Zurich, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD.²⁴ Representatives: the gold ring from Anchialo (Cat. No 186), featuring the motif of the two clasped hands (*iunctio dextrarum*), which is a frequent decorative motif on 2nd-3rd century gems,²⁵ and the bronze ring with gilt from the territory of Nicopolis ad Istrum (Cat. No 264).

Type IX (without stones): ellipsoid-polygonal hoop of a band of rectangular cross section, with sectors cut on the outside, becoming wider towards the upper



Cat. No 211

part to form a rectangular plaque, where an ellipsoid shield is shaped with an additional plaque decorated with an image, limited by a frieze. The type is a development of polygonal hoop-like rings without shield, and it is defined as Oriental influence, being widespread in the 2nd-3rd century AD, with reliably dated similar rings from Kerch.²⁶ Representatives among the gold rings (Cat. Nos 187, 188).

Type X (without stones): round hoop made of a round wire, with a double shield-plaque resembling the figure eight. Characteristic of the 1st-2nd century AD. Representative: the bronze ring from Caristorum (Cat. No 265).

Type I (with stones): ellipsoid or round hoop made of a band with rectangular and slightly rounded cross section, widening towards the upper part, with rounded and not very prominent shoulders on the curvature, ellipsoid horizontal plaque in which the bezel is shaped, without a receptacle or setting for the stone. The stone is placed at the level of the plaque or protrudes slightly above it.²⁷ The type is defined as a Hellenistic reminiscence, it is characteristic of the Early Imperial Age, with reliably dated finds from Pompeii.²⁸ Four variants are distinguished according to the way the different elements are shaped:

Variant 1—ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular cross section, widening in the upper part of the sloping shoulders and thickened below the



Cat. No 214

ellipsoid bezel-plaque. The stone is at the same level as the plaque. Representatives: a silver ring from Aquae Calidae (Cat. No 232) and an iron ring (Cat. No 269).

Variant 2—ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band with rounded triangular or with rectangular cross section, slightly widening toward the upper part to form an ellipsoid horizontal bezel-plaque. Representatives: silver rings from Aquae Calidae (Cat. Nos 233, 234).

Variant 3—round or ellipsoid hoop made of a band rounded on the outside, wider and thickened towards the ellipsoid bezel-plaque. The stone either protrudes or is at the level of the bezel. Representatives: gold rings (Cat. Nos 189-193).

Variant 4—similar to Variant 3, but made of a thinner band with rectangular cross section. In some rings the stone is set or protruding above the plaque, which are details characteristic of the 2nd century AD. Representatives: gold rings (Cat. Nos 194, 195), silver rings (Cat. Nos 235-240) and iron rings (Cat. Nos 270-275).

Type II (with stones): ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular, triangular and semicircular section, wider and thickened in its upper part, where it forms triangular rounded and very pronounced horizontal shoulders, without decoration, with ellipsoid plaque having a bezel or setting for a stone. A variety of this type is seen in the gold rings, where the shoulders are

decorated. The type is defined by F. Henkel as a form typical of the 3rd century AD, with reliably dated finds,²⁹ which can be traced among all metal rings. Four variants are distinguished:

Variant 1—with triangular rounded shoulders and shield with setting for the stone. Represented by gold (Cat. Nos 196-200, 202) and silver rings (Cat. Nos 241-245). The dating of the type is supported both by R. Higgins and M. Henig³⁰ by the dating of the gems used for decoration and by the other material found together with them. The gold ring from Mezdra (Cat. No 197) was found in a grave together with clay lamps dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD,³¹ the silver rings from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 241) are dated to the mid-3rd century AD,³² while the ring found while excavating the reservoir of the Roman thermae in Germania (Cat. No 243) was discovered together with votive reliefs of the Thracian Horseman, Asclepius, Hygia and Telesphorus, from the late 2nd—early 3rd century AD.

Variant 2—similar to Variant 1, the band is with triangular rounded cross section, while the shield represents a bezel without setting. Representatives: iron rings (Cat. Nos 268, 276).

Variant 3—band with semicircular cross section, strongly prominent and plastically moulded horizontal rounded shoulders, shield with a bezel, without

setting. Represented by silver rings (Cat. Nos 246-249).

Variant 4—thin band, slightly semicircular in cross section, becoming wider in the upper part. The arms and the periphery of the plaque are decorated with an engraved ornament, the shield is with a bezel-setting. Representative: gold ring (Cat. No 201), with a similar decoration to that of a 3rd century ring from Wiesbaden.³³

Type III (with stones): ellipsoid in the lower part, hoop made of a thinner and of a more massive band, rectangular and semicircular in cross section, respectively, with and without decoration, polygonal or ellipsoid plate with bezel or receptacle holding the stone. F. Henkel examines this type parallel with the previous type and defines it as a form characteristic of the 3rd century AD.³⁴ R. Higgins gives a more general dating, attributing them to the period between the late 2nd and the 4th century AD.³⁵ Two variants are distinguished depending on the decoration on the arms:

Variant 1—the shoulders are undecorated, polygonal or ellipsoid plaque with shield-bezel or receptacle holding the stone. Represented by gold (Cat. Nos 203, 218) and silver rings (Cat. Nos 250, 251).

Variant 2—shoulders decorated with engraved and openwork ornamentation consisting of fluting,



Cat. No 213



Cat. No 264





Cat. No 273



Cat. No 196



Cat. No 229



Cat. No 206



Cat. No 257



Cat. No 185



Cat. No 223



Cat. No 186

hatches, volutes, peltae, etc. Representatives: gold rings (Cat. Nos 204-209), among which there are the reliably dated grave finds from Ratiaria,³⁶ as well as the gems dated with certainty to the 3rd century.³⁷

Type IV (with stones): hoop of an irregular ellipsoid shape, made of a thin band with rectangular cross section, becoming slightly wider towards the shoulders shaped on the curvature, with a rectangular plate-shield having a receptacle to hold the stone. Some rings are decorated with vertical hatches on the shoulders. The dating is similar to the previous type. Representatives: silver rings (Cat. Nos 252, 253).

Type V (with stones): ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular and slightly rounded section, becoming wider and thickened towards the conically cut and richly ornamented shoulders, decorated with deep fluting and floral ornaments, ellipsoid horizontal plaque with volutes in the periphery and bezels or receptacles to hold the stones. The form and decoration of the rings are typical of the 3rd century.³⁸ According to the decoration, the type is divided into three variants:

Variant 1—with deep fluting on the shoulders, ending in volutes on the periphery of the plaque. The shield is ellipsoid, with a profiled setting for the stone. Among the representatives of this variant—gold and

silver rings (Cat. Nos 210-212, 254-257)—there are specimens from the Nikolaevo treasure, which, together with a silver ring from Opaka, a grave find with coins of Etruscilla, the wife of Trajanus Decius (249-251 AD) and Hostilianus (251 AD), date the variant to the middle of the 3rd century AD.

Variant 2—fully similar to Variant 1, but shaped as a double ring, and in a vertical plane, decorated with two stones. Represented by the gold ring from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 213).

Variant 3—the shoulders are horizontal and rounded, decorated with a floral motif in relief or in openwork, which continues on the external side of the band as well. Representatives among the gold rings (Cat. Nos 214, 215), dated on the basis of the ring from the Nikolaevo treasure and similar rings from the Tharsus treasure to the mid-3rd century BC.³⁹

Type VI (with stones): ellipsoid-polygonal hoop of a massive band with rectangular cross section and sectors cut on the external surface, becoming wider towards the rectangular plaque, with profiled setting for the stone. A characteristic form for the 3rd century AD.⁴⁰ Two variants are distinguished depending on the way in which the outer surface of the hoop is shaped:



Cat. No 246

Variant 1—with cut sectors. Representatives among gold rings (Cat. Nos 216, 217) and silver rings (Cat. No 258). The gold ring from Ratiaria (Cat. No 216) bears an inscription on the hoop.

Variant 2—with oblique hatches. Only representative: a silver ring from Aquae Calidae (Cat. No 257), with a 1st century gem, which suggests its subsequent reuse in a later ring.⁴¹

Type VII (with stones): the hoop and the plaque-shield are made separately and are soldered together. Richly decorated with gold pearls along the periphery of the shield, or with stylized motifs on the shoulders. A characteristic form of Late Antiquity rings, 4th century AD.⁴² Two variants are distinguished depending on the way in which the hoop is shaped: **Variant 1**—hoop made of round wire (pearl cord type or a combination of several such corded elements). Decoration of pairs of gold pearls or grape-like ornament. Representatives: gold rings (Cat. Nos 219, 221) and bronze rings (Cat. No 266).

Variant 2—band with semicircular cross section,

becoming wider and thicker towards the shoulders, decorated with stylized animal forms and floral motifs, additionally applied. The type is represented by silver and gold rings (Cat. Nos 220, 222, 260-262). On the basis of the gems the rings are dated to the 3rd century AD,⁴³ which presupposes reuse of earlier gems or the appearance of the type in an earlier period.

Type VIII (with stones): snake-like. The hoop is made of a rounded band whose ends are stylized to form snake's heads to which the shield with the bezel-setting is attached. The variant is represented by a silver ring (Cat. No 263).

Type IX (with stones)—double ring of two hoops made of a thin band and touching. A bezel-setting is seen in the upper part, between the hoops. This type of ring is produced specially for funerary purposes and are dated to the 3rd-4th century BC.⁴⁴ The type is represented by the gold ring from Novae (Cat. No 223), with analogies from Syria and Italy in the collections of the British Museum.⁴⁵

NOTES

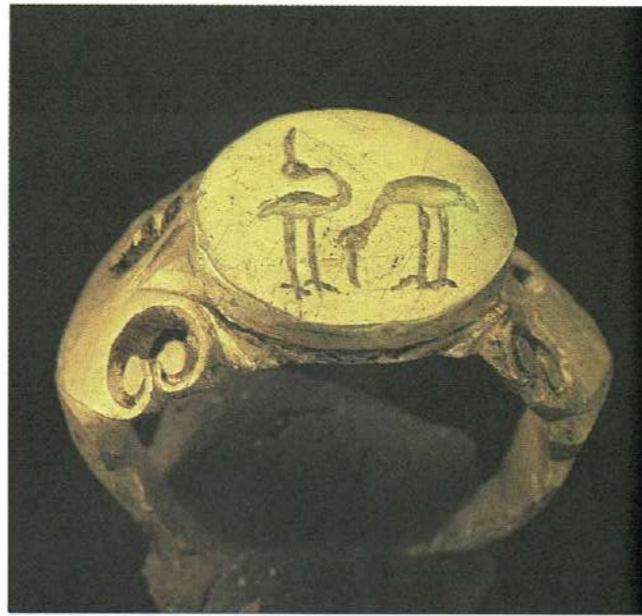
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³ Henkel, F. Op. cit.; BMCR; Higgins, R. A. Op. cit., p. 190.

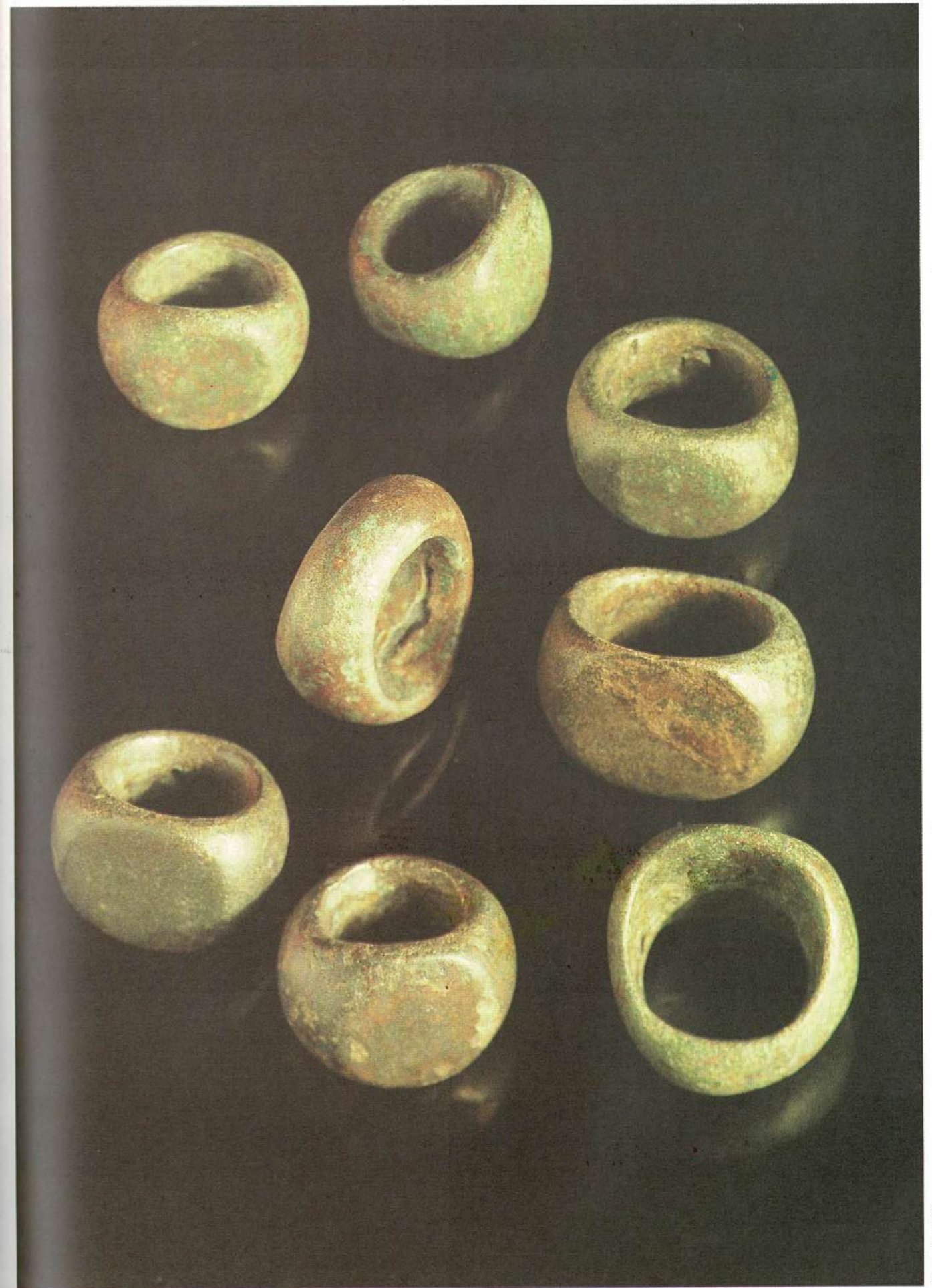
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- ⁸ Гайдукевич, В. Ф. Op. cit., p. 203.
- ⁹ Ondrejova, J. Op. cit., Nos 13-15, tabl. IV, V; Zahn, R. Op. cit., No 70, tabl. 52.
- ¹⁰ Higgins, R. A. Op. cit., p. 190, No 1, tabl. 62D; Henkel, F. Op. cit., 231-232.
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- ²⁰ Higgins, R. A. Op. cit., p. 190, No 3, tabl. 62E; Henkel, F. Op. cit., I, p. 10, No 3, tabl. IV.
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- ²³ Higgins, R. A. Op. cit., p. 195, No 5, tabl. 62B.
- ²⁴ Henkel, F. Op. cit., 259-261, tabl. XIII.
- ²⁵ Димитрова-Милчева, Ал. Op. cit., Nos 238, 241, 242; Henkel, F. Op. cit., No 86, tabl. V.
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- ³⁹ Higgins, R. A. Op. cit., p. 190, No 5, tabl. 62B.
- ⁴⁰ Henkel, F. Op. cit., I, p. 237, fig. 238, No 215, tabl. XI.
- ⁴¹ Димитрова-Милчева, Ал. Op. cit., No 125, with cited literature.
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- ⁴⁴ Higgins, R. A. Op. cit., p. 191, No 14.
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Cat. No 194

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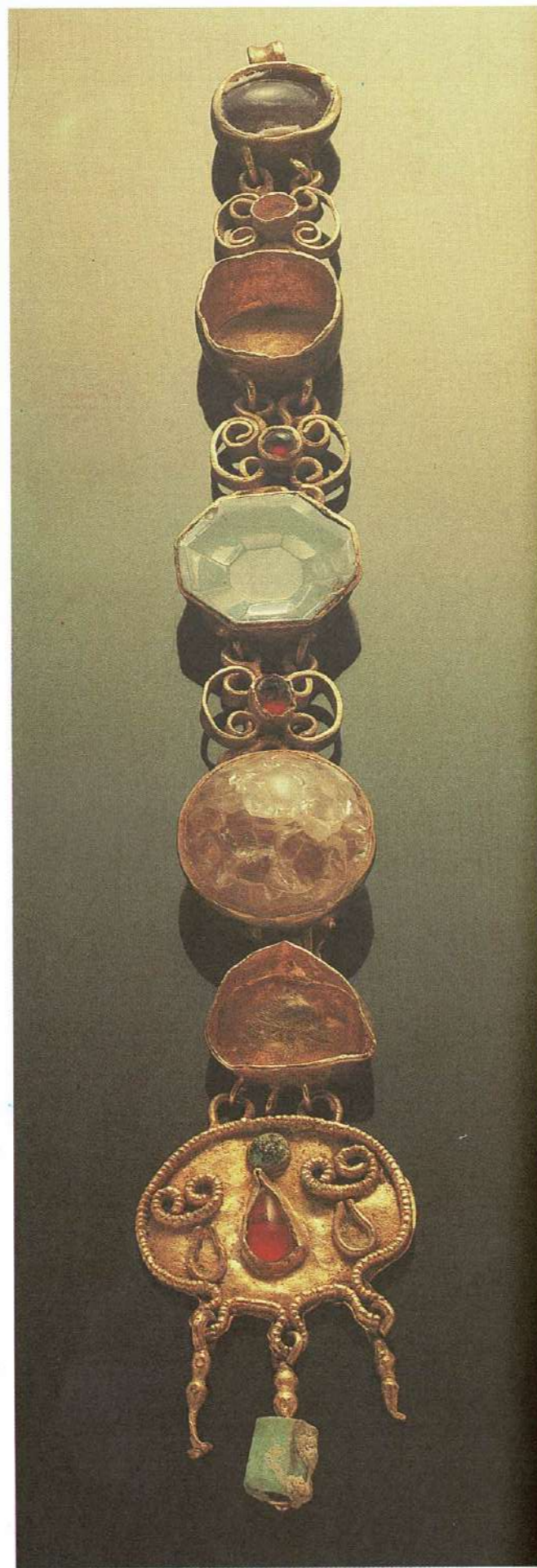


HAIR
JEWELLERY,
PENDANTS
AND
ORNAMENTS

Hair jewellery represented typical female articles of adornment, used to shape the hairstyle of Roman ladies. Most popular among them were the hairpins made of gold, silver and ivory, richly decorated in their upper part.¹ In addition to many other finds, hairpins are shown in the portraits of mummies.² Another less frequent type is the so-called pendant, defined by R. Higgins as sophisticated hair decoration.³ It is an elongated rectangular gold pendant, with rich openwork decoration and polychrome stones in bezel-settings, with small pendants at the end, pearls and sapphires. The only specimen found so far is from Tunisia, dated to the 3rd century AD.⁴ The way in which it was used is illustrated in the picture of a statue from Palmyra. It was placed on the head, in the high-combed hairstyles, and fell over the forehead.⁵ In addition to the way it was used, H. Marshall defines it as an amulet, comparing it to the necklace with pendants (medallions) decorated with the Gorgon's image, from the collection of the British Museum, connected with Etruscan art.⁶ Two types of hair jewellery are distinguished depending on the varieties discussed above.

Type I: hairpins. Represented by gold, silver and bronze pins (Cat. Nos 277-285). Gold or gilded hairpins predominate — 6 specimens (Cat. Nos 277-282). All of them are elongated and spindle-shaped. Three of the hairpins from Oescus (made of bronze, with gold coating) are with spiral fluted body and smooth upper part which ends with a conic shape (Cat. Nos 280-282). The uppermost part of other hairpins is decorated with gold pearls in a grape-like ornament (Cat. No 278). A hairpin from Novae (Cat. No 277) presents an interesting decorative endpiece of the hairpin, shaped like a votive hand. The votive gesture of supplication to the Almighty (*invocation latinae*) was very popular as a decoration of hairpins, which is attested with numerous examples from Novae: bronze, silver and especially bone hairpins.⁷ The image of the votive hand occurs in various other monuments as well.⁸ Another decorative motif is the hairpin ending with an amphora figurine, with a gold bead threaded above the crater, as seen in the hairpin from Ratiaria (Cat. No 279). The amphora figurines used as decoration are a continuation of the Hellenistic tradition in Roman jewellery. It is a particularly widespread decorative element in the pendants of earrings, attested by many examples in the collection of the British Museum: from Damascus, Tortous — Syria, Egypt, etc.⁹ Silver hairpins are usually with a less sophisticated decoration: a polygonal head or incised ornamentation (Cat. Nos 283, 284).

Type II: pendants. It is represented by the only pendant known from the Thracian lands during the Roman Period — the pendant from Ratiaria (Cat. No 286).¹⁰ As a type it fully resembles the pendant from Tunisia, examined earlier, kept in the collection of the British Museum, dated to the 3rd century AD.¹¹ There is no doubt that this type of hair jewellery was of Oriental origin. This is also emphasized by the



Cat. No 286



influence under which most of the jewellery found in the necropolis of Ratiaria was produced, notably the finds from the rich child's burial in which the pendant was found.

Pendants and ornaments — represented by several objects that lack any definite purpose and differ in their form and in the metal of which they are made — gold, silver, bronze and lead (Cat. Nos 287-292). Two of the pendants are shaped like axes (Cat. Nos 290, 292), similar to the pendants of some earrings, one is shaped like a small amphora (Cat. No

291) and one is ellipsoid, with a secondary hole so that it can be worn suspended (Cat. No 287). The last pendant resembles the shield of a ring. This miscellaneous group includes also the gold elements from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 288), which were probably used to complete various items of jewellery, or as buttons.

The classification of pendants and ornaments is not quite clear, because they are single or accidental finds and lack a definite archaeological context. Nevertheless, they are an integral part of the collection under consideration.

NOTES

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² *Ibid.*

³ Higgins, R. A. *Op. cit.*, p. 183, No 3.

⁴ BMCJ, No 2866, pl. LXIV; Higgins, R. A. *Op. cit.*, pl. 62C, col. pl. D.

⁵ BMCJ, p. 339, fig. 94.

⁶ *Ibid.*, XLVI, Nos 2736, 2737, pl. LX, Nos 1460, 1473, pl. XXI.

⁷ The Museum in Svishtov, Inv. No I 591, I 594; Димитров, Д. П. с колектив. Археологические раскопки в восточном

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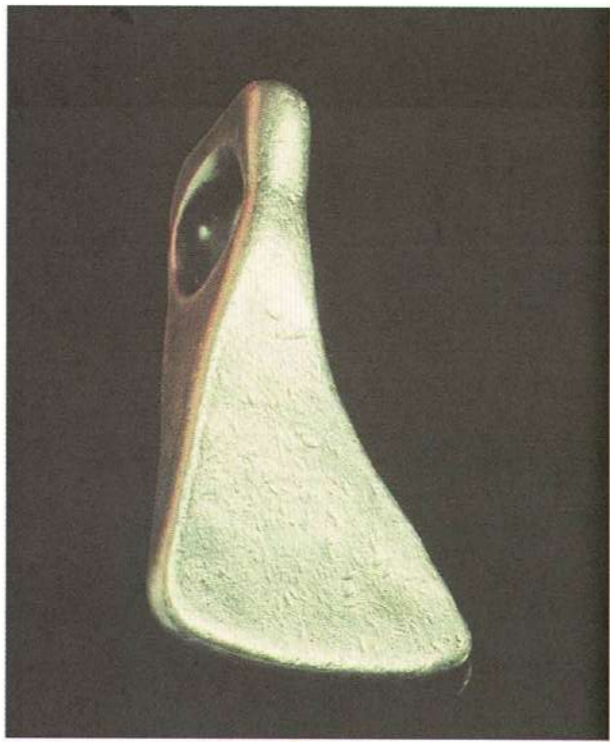
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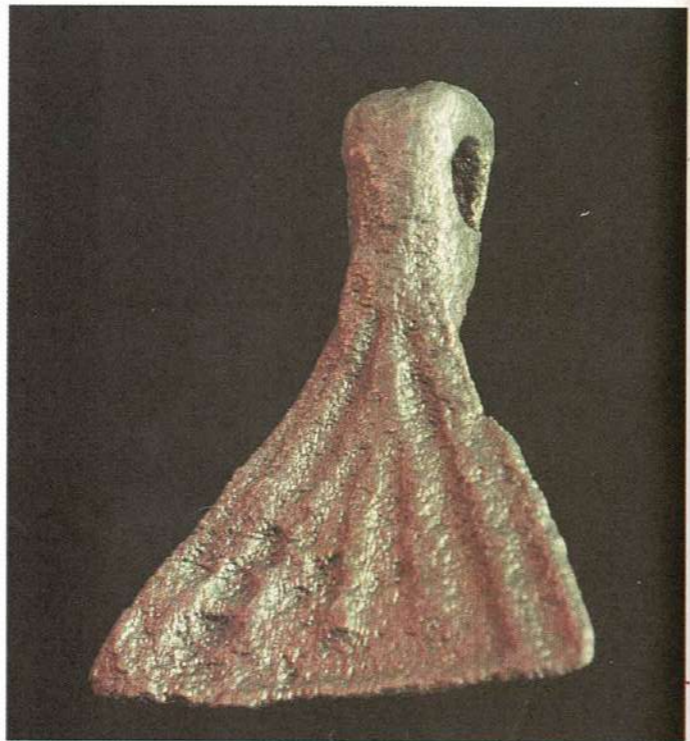
¹¹ BMCJ, No 2866, pl. LXIV.



Cat. No 277



Cat. No 290



Cat. No 292



Cat. No 279



Cat. No 280, 281, 277

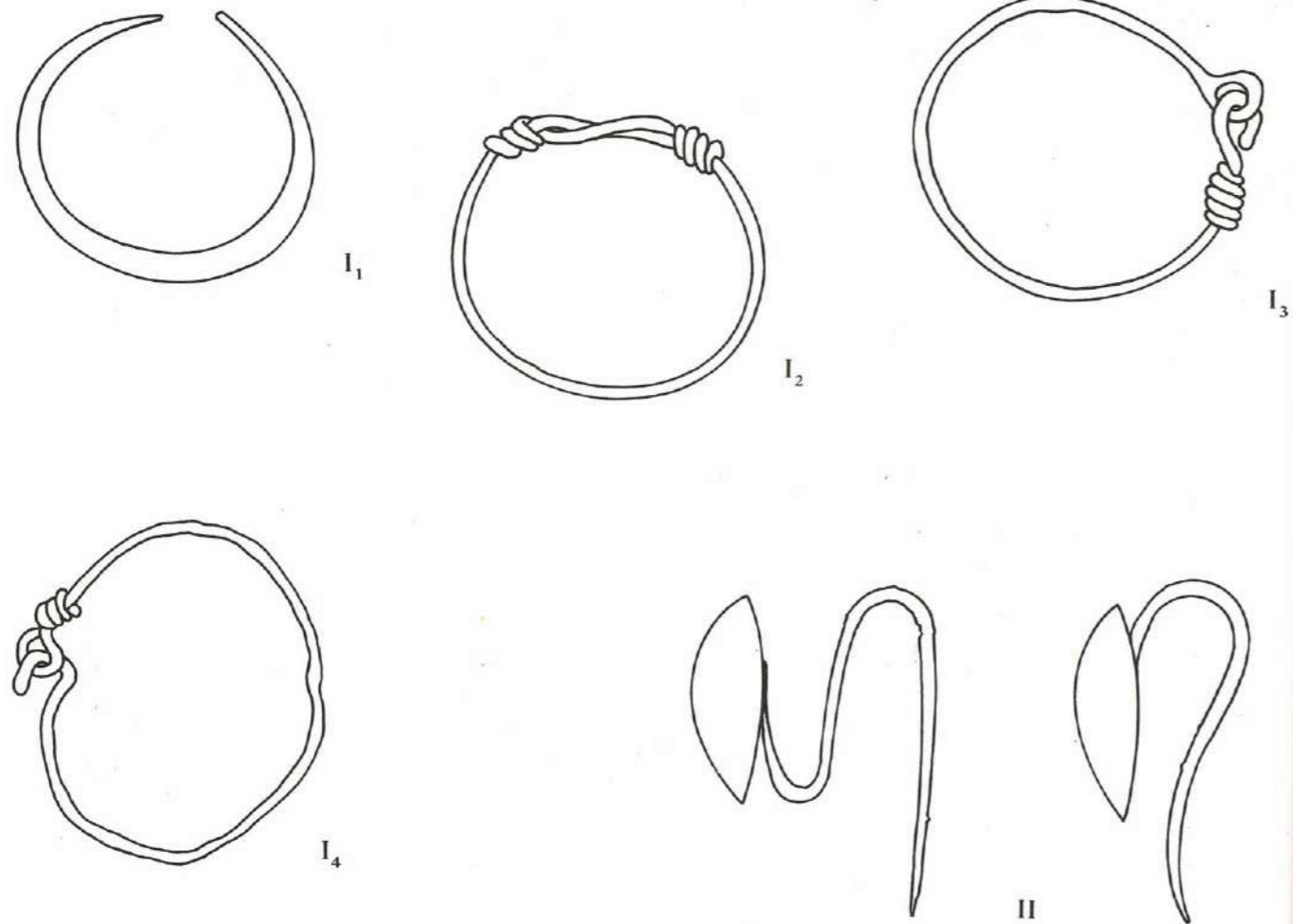


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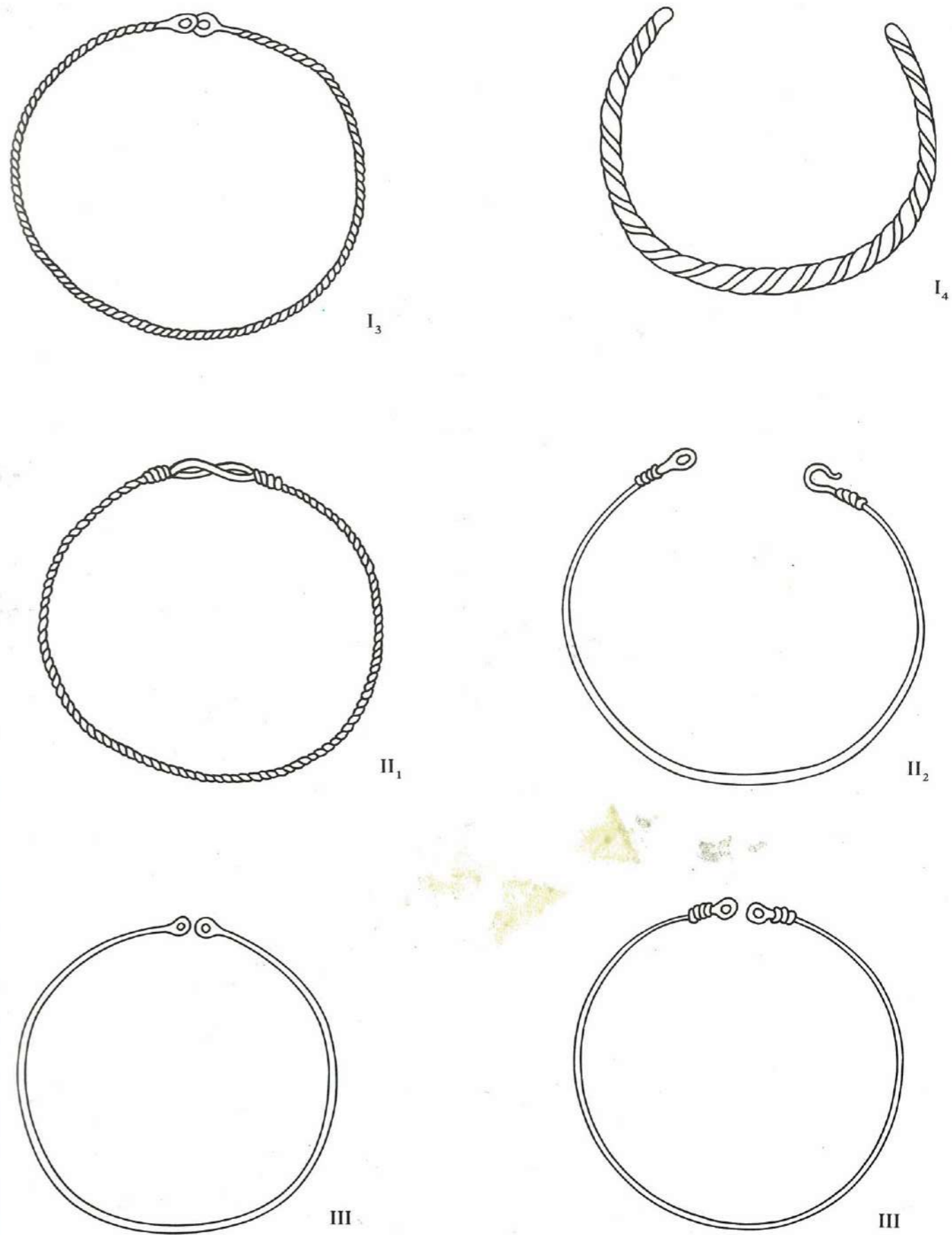
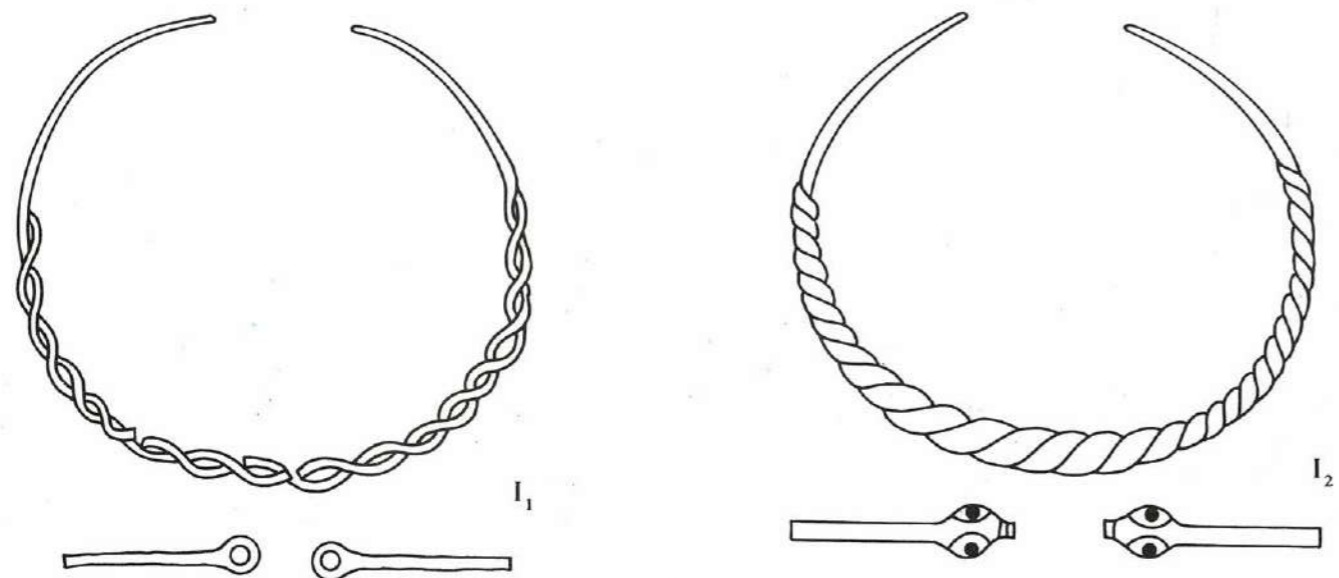
TYPOLOGY



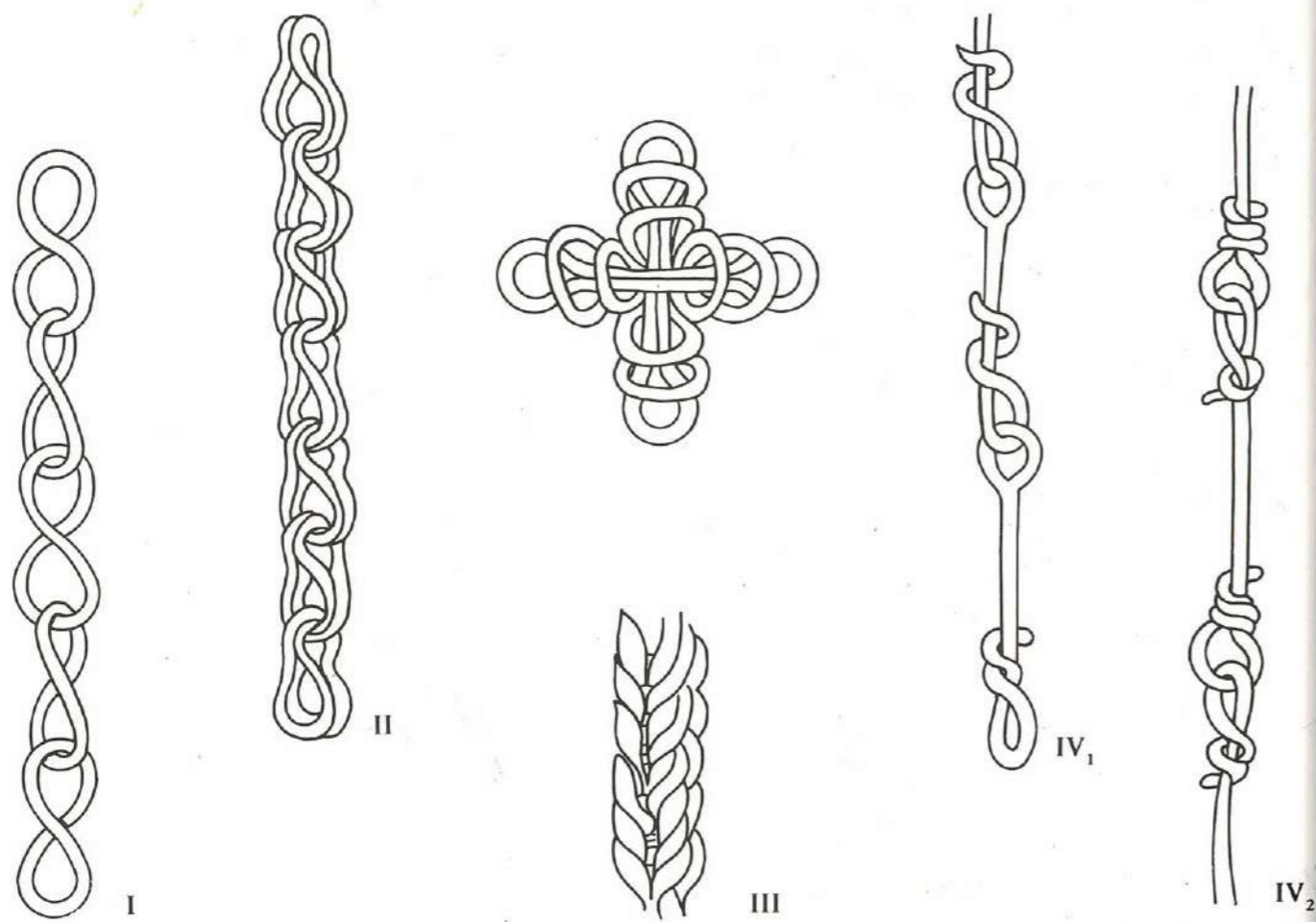
EARRINGS — basic types of hoops and hooks: type I — hoop-like with four variants; type II — hooks (S-shaped and ordinary). (See p.24-32)



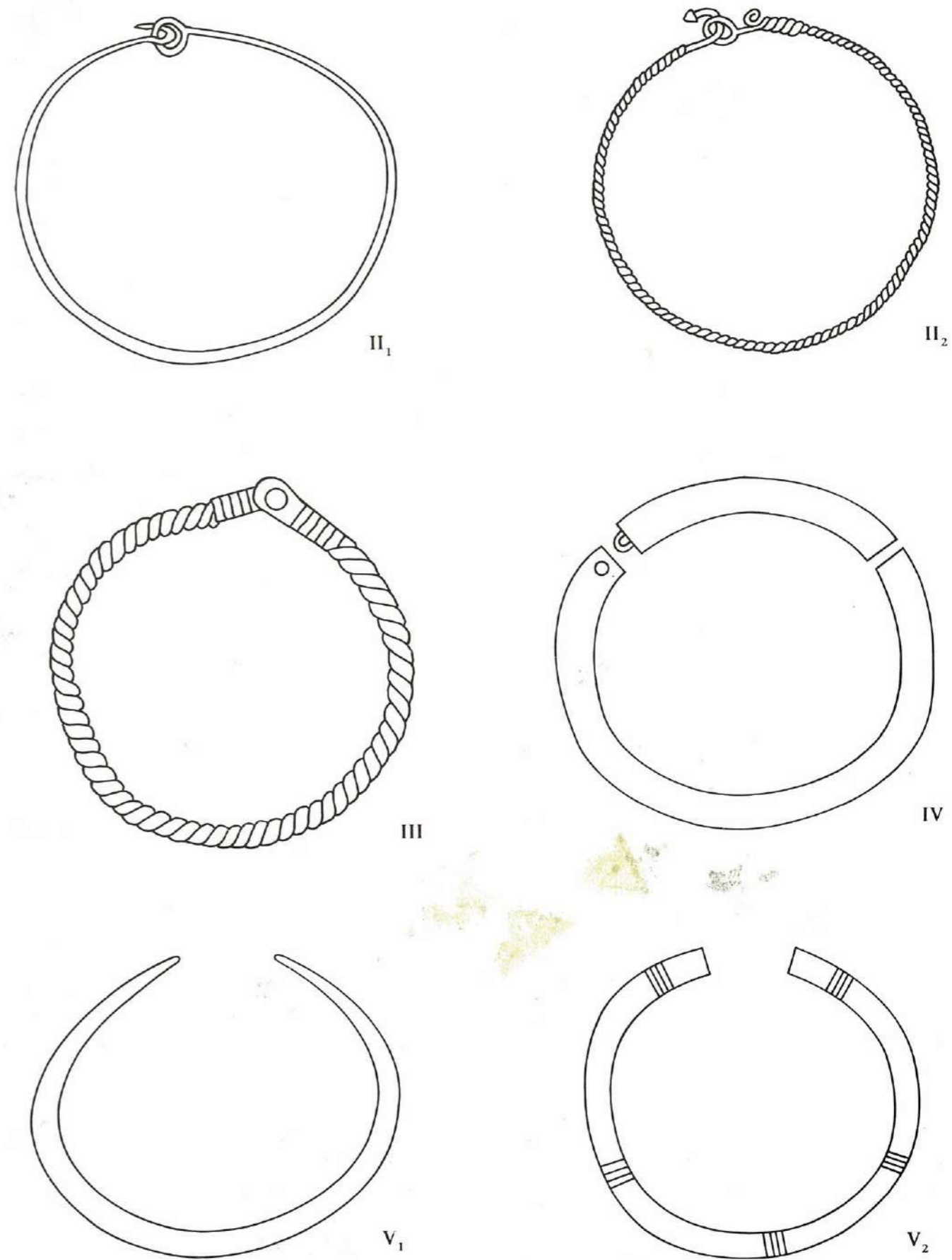
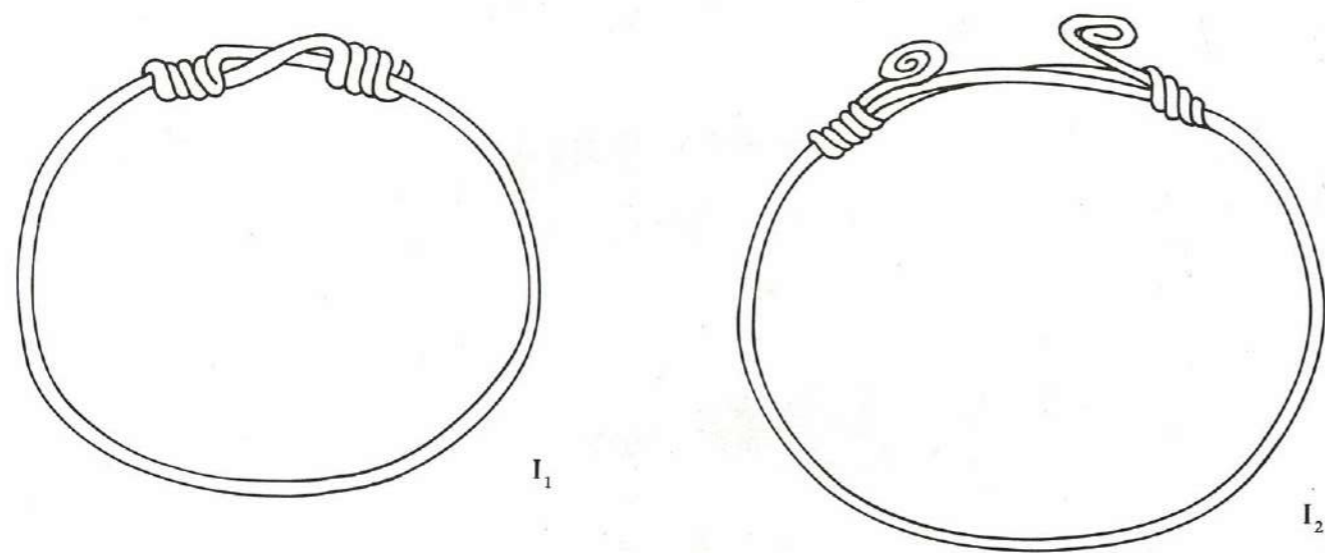
TORQUES — basic types according to shape of the hoop: I, II and III with variants. (See p.37-40)

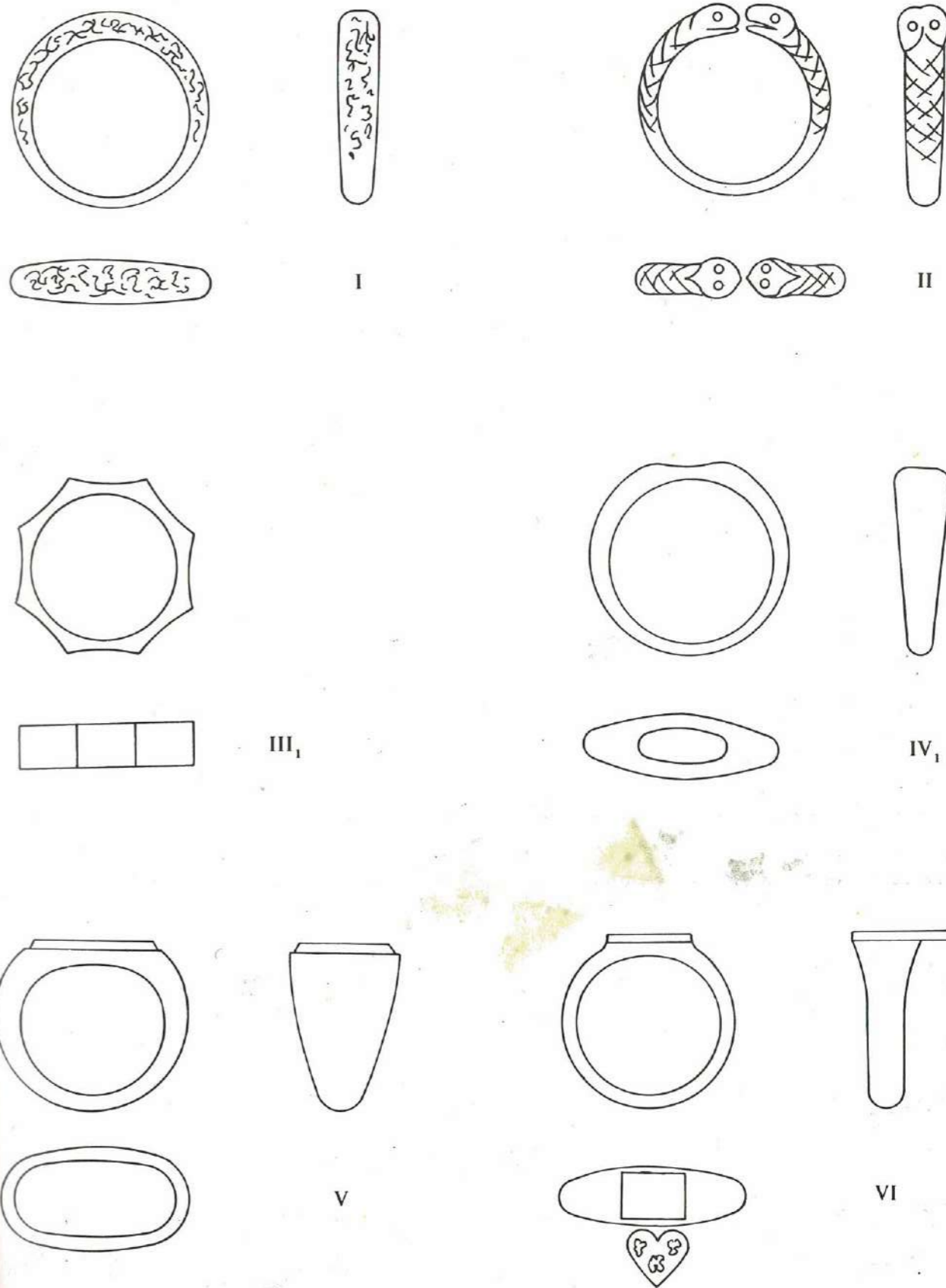
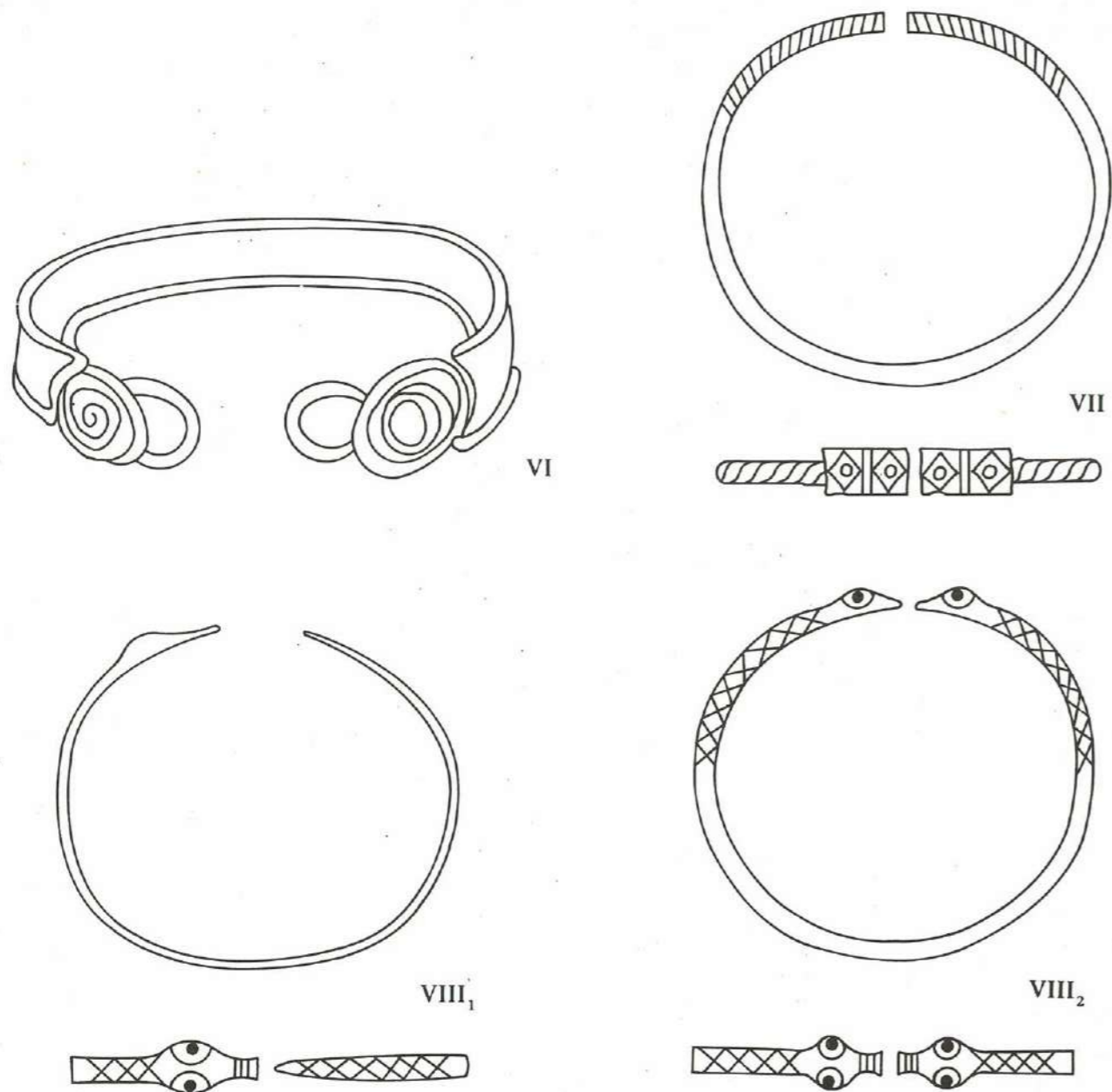


NECKLACES — basic types of loops and braids of the chains: I, II, III and IV with variants. (See p. 46-54)

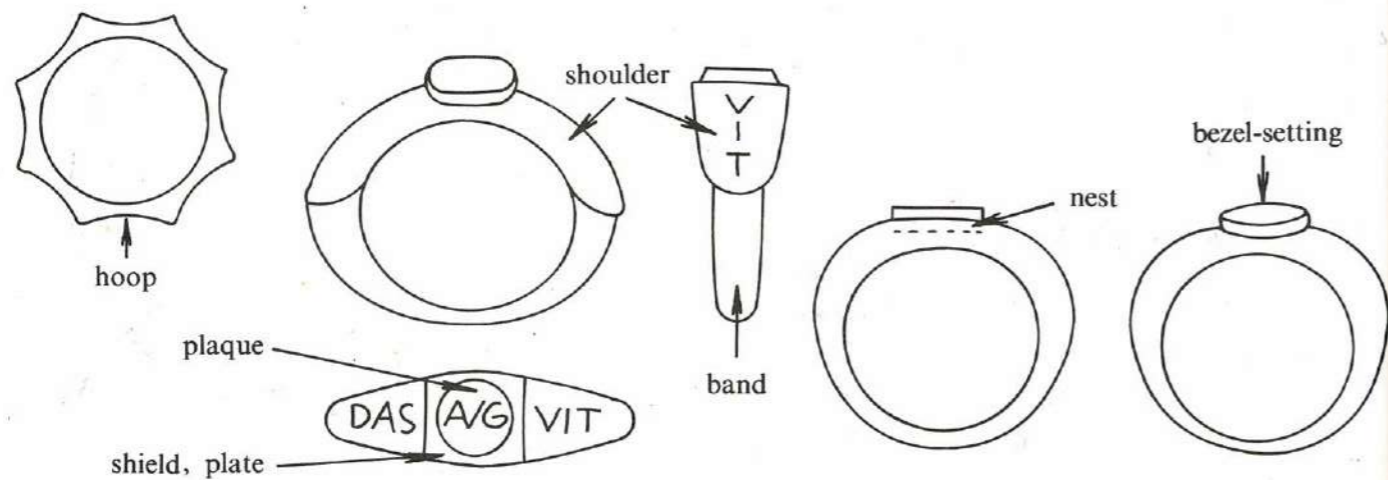


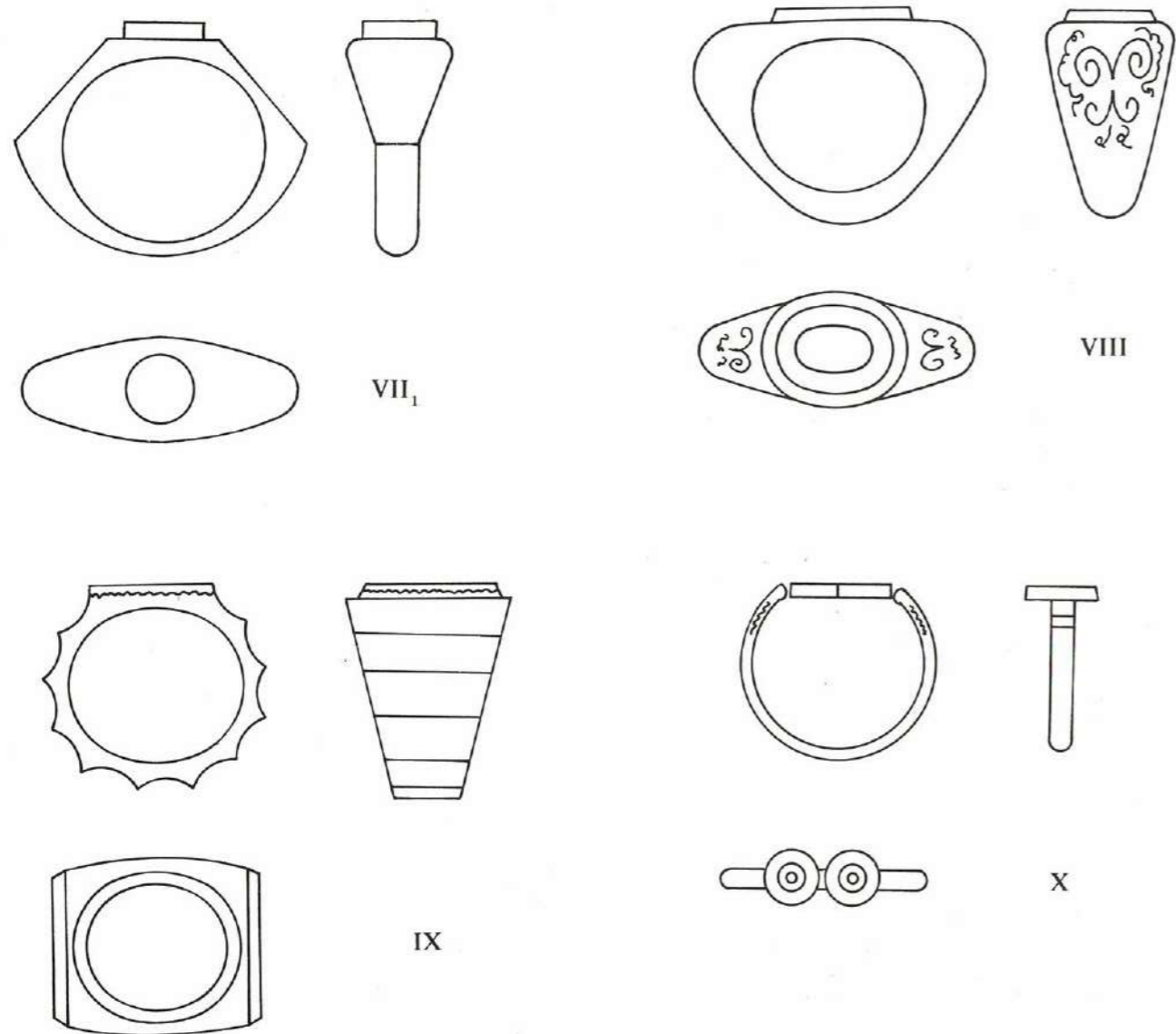
BRACELETS — basic types according to shape of the hoop: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII with variants. (See p. 61-68)



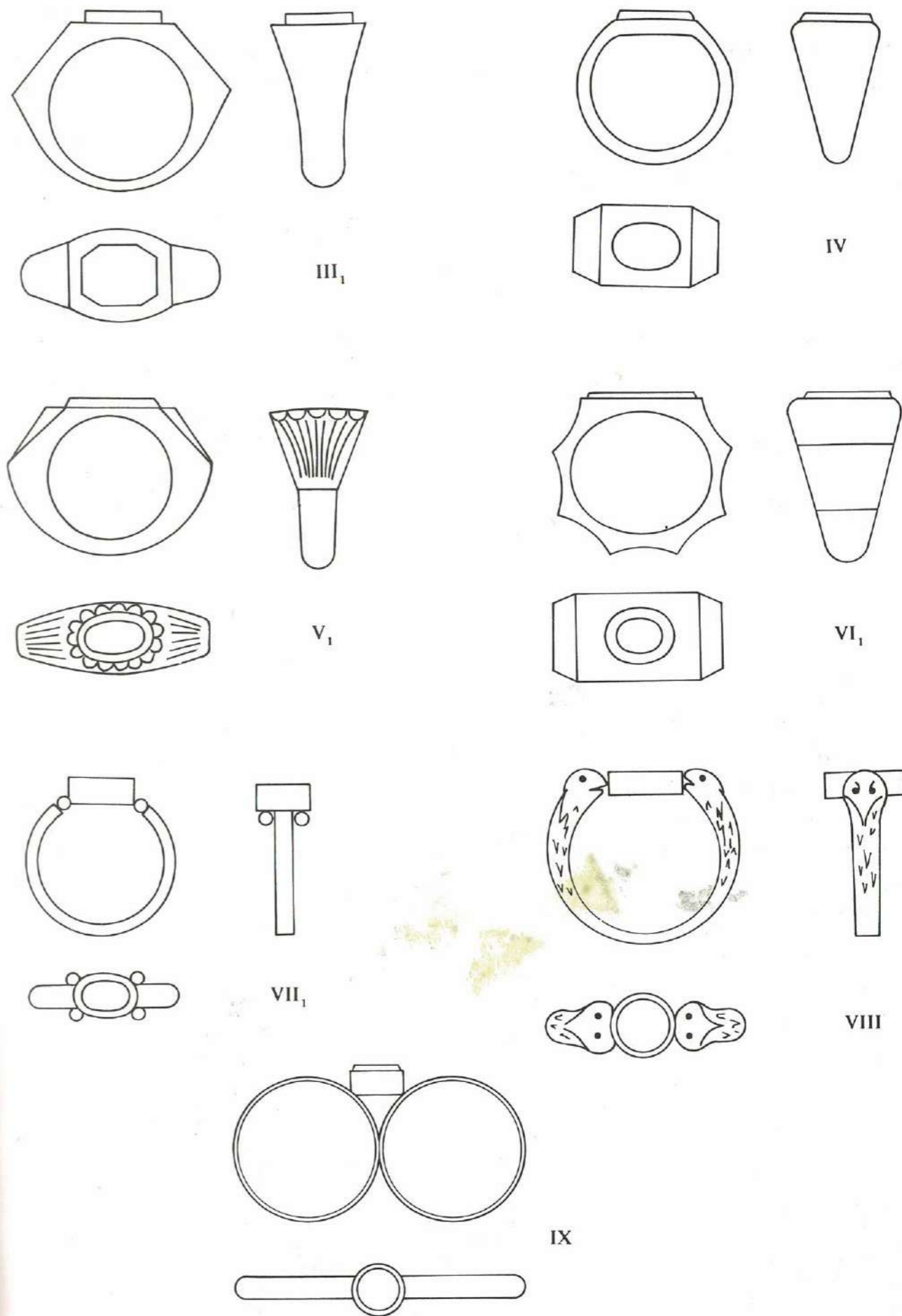
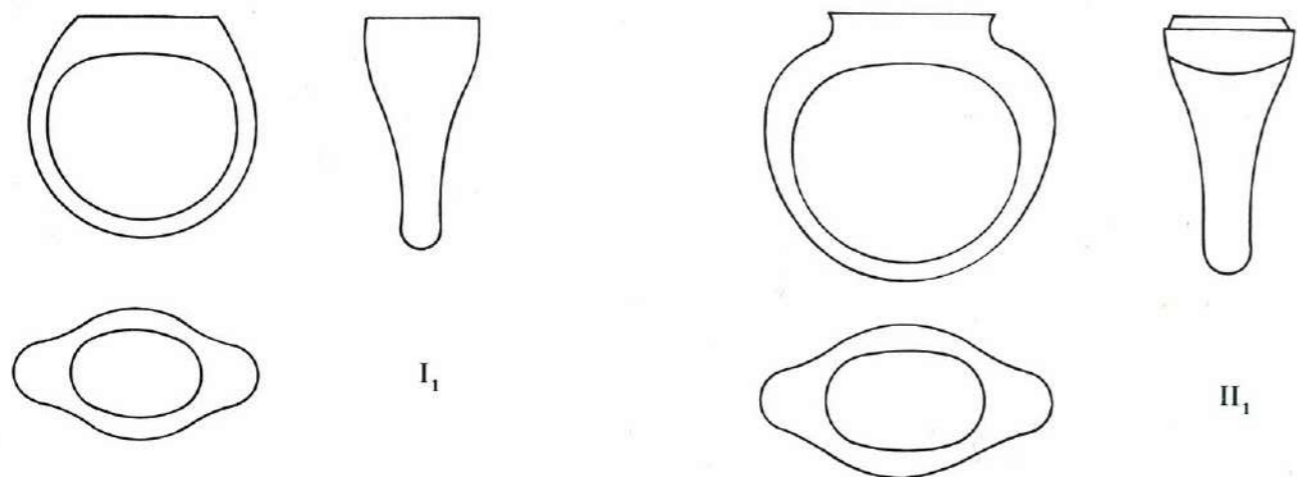


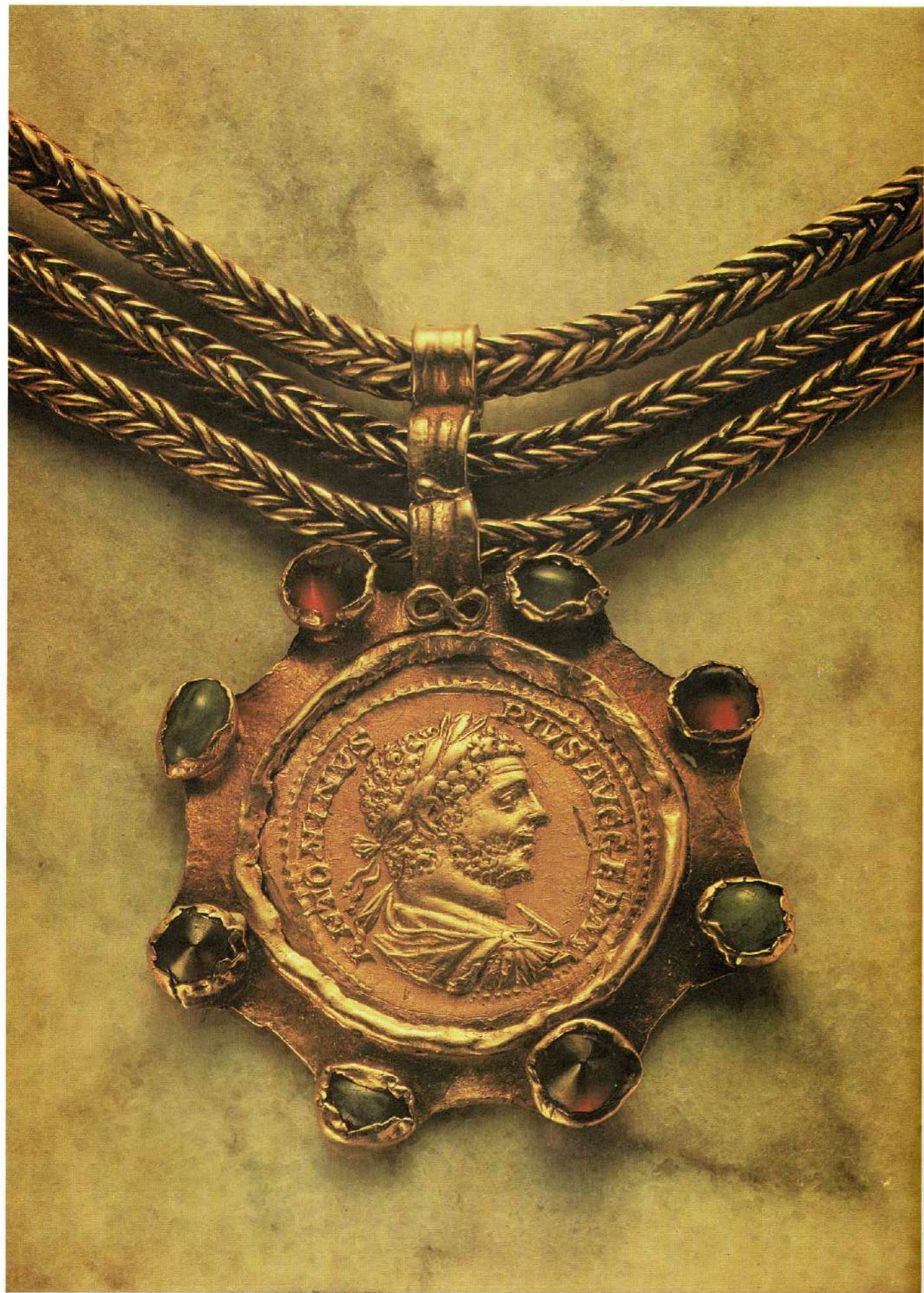
RINGS — terminology of the elements (hoop, band, shoulder, plate, shield, bezel-setting, nest, plaque)





RINGS WITH STONES — basic types according to shape of the hoop, shoulders, their additional decoration and the details of the remaining elements: I-IX with some of the variants. (See p. 77-83)





CATALOGUE

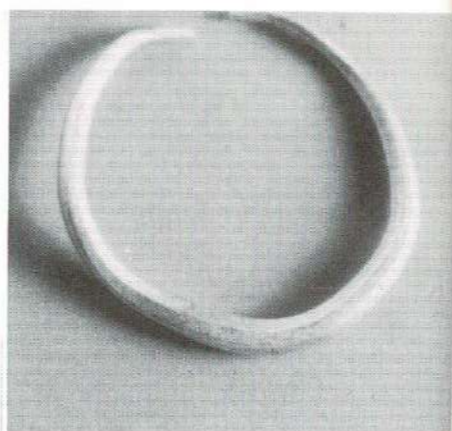


Cat. No 1. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 2231. Lazar Stanevo, Lovech region. Grave find. D. 24 × 22 mm,* th. of the wire 2.5-0.5 mm, distance between the ends 3 mm. Unpublished.

Plain-hoop open earring, irregular ellipsoid in shape, made of one polygonal wire with rounded ribs, with tapering and pointed ends. Slightly deformed. 1st-2nd century AD. The shape of the hoop manifests a Hellenistic influence which was popular in the Thracian lands. A close parallel can be seen in the silver earrings from the Bazaurt treasure, dated with coins to the first half of the 2nd century AD (Cat. No 64a,b) [120, 183, No 3; 19, 100; 87, 194; 13, 150].

* The following abbreviations are used throughout this Catalogue: th.—thickness, w.—weight, c.—carat, H.—height, s.—shoulders, d.—diameter.



Cat. No 2. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6779e. Botevgrad region. Accidental find, together with five other gold earrings (Cat. Nos 15-18, 28). D. 8 × 7 mm, th. wire 3-1 mm. Unpublished.

Plain-hoop earring, ellipsoid in shape, made of one concave wire, with tapering and pointed touching ends. Well preserved. 1st-2nd century AD. For the type cf. above.



Cat. No 3a. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 6665a (forming a pair with Cat. No 3b). Obrouchishte, Stara Zagora region. Grave find, together with part of a gold necklace, handle of a bronze vessel and a bronze coin of Emperor Commodus (176-192 AD). D. 22 × 21 mm, th. wire 2-0.5 mm, w. 2.03 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, open-ended, irregular round shape, made of one wire with rounded rectangular cross section. The ends are thinned out, running parallel in opposite directions, each twisted spirally in three coils, where the wire is flattened. The hoop is decorated with bands of incised concentric lines, arranged symmetrically in three groups (of 3 or 4 lines). Slightly deformed. Part of the decoration is obliterated, suggesting that the earring was long in use. 2nd century AD. The type of plain-hoop open-ended earring was known much earlier, from the Classical and Hellenistic periods, to reappear in the Roman Period (cf. earrings Variant 2). Its definite Eastern influence, and more specifically that of Egypt, is attested in many finds kept in the Cairo Museum, the Benaki Museum, from the necropolis near Tel Abu Velo (ancient Terenoutis), etc. Analogous examples of well dated finds in Thrace are seen in the gold earrings from tumulus 7 in Chatalka (second half of the 1st to first half of the 2nd century AD), from the tumular necropolis near Obrouchishte, Stara Zagora region (dated with a coin of Emperor Trajanus), as well as the silver earrings from the Bazaurt treasure — the Forties of the 2nd century (Cat. Nos 67, 68). The decoration of belts of incised concentric lines in groups is also a typical element of earrings dated to the 1st and less frequently to the 2nd-3rd century AD [146, 103-104, No 138, pl. 35; 112, 48, fig. 1; 11, 91, No 372, tabl. 28; 13, 150; 105, No 2593, pl. LIV, No 2828, pl. LXIII; 143, No 65, tabl. 28].

Cat. No 3b. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 2)

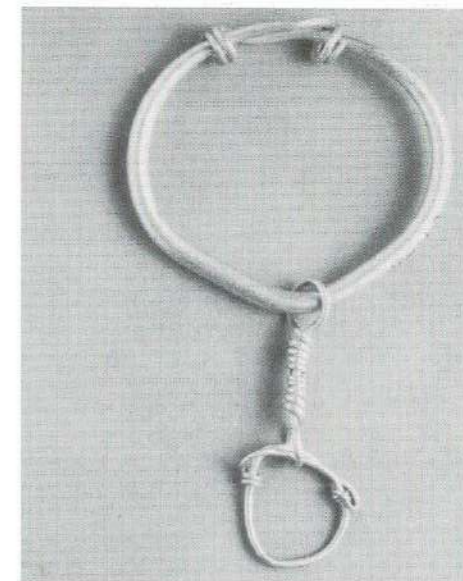
Inv. No 6665b. D. 19 × 20 mm, th. wire 2-0.5 mm; w. 1.95 g, 20 c. (840). Identical to Cat. No 3a. Slightly deformed. The decoration of bands of incised concentric lines is obliterated.



Cat. No 4. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5666. Ratiaria (present-day Archar village, Vidin region). Grave find in a child's burial in a lead sarcophagus, together with a silver guttus. D. 38 × 36 mm, th. wire 2.7-1 mm, pendant length 23 mm, d. hook of pendant 15 × 13 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm; w. 12.12 g, 22 c. (920).

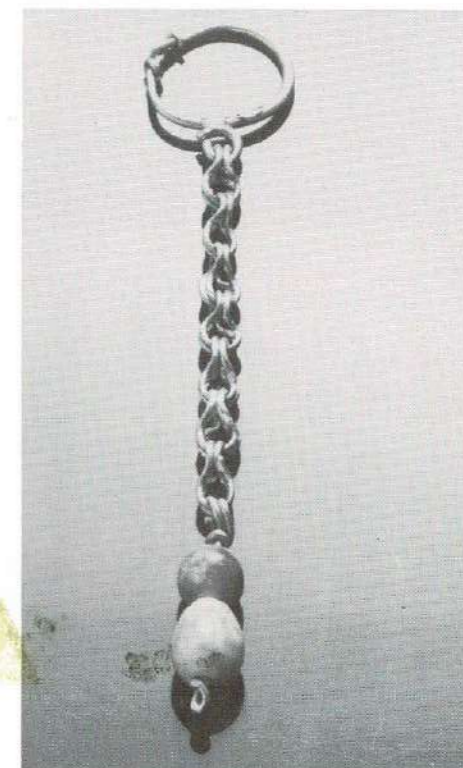
Plain-hoop, open-ended, irregular round shape, made of one round wire, ends thinned out, parallel, with two coils each. A freely moving small hoop, identical in type to the bigger one, is attached to the pendant. Slightly deformed. Part of the coils of the small hoop at the pendant are unwound. 2nd century AD. For the type cf. above: Cat. No 3a,b. The type occurred frequently also in rings, bracelets and torques during the Roman Period (1st-2nd century AD). Cf. Cat. Nos 106, 111, 170-172, 181-185, 203-205 [92, 224, fig. 156].



Cat. No 5. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5537. Serdica (Sofia), the necropolis of the St Sophia church, tomb XI. D. 13 × 11 mm, th. wire 3-1 mm, pendant length 62 mm, total length 61 mm, w. 0.73 g, 22 c. (920).

The earring consists of a hoop to which a pendant with beads is firmly fixed. The hoop is of irregular round shape, made of one round wire, open-ended. In the overlapping part the wire is flattened. A pendant consisting of an eight-figure chain which toward the end becomes one wire with a stop is attached to the lower end of the hoop. Two beads are threaded in that part of the hoop: a spheric green bead and a white one resembling a rounded drop. Late 3rd—early 4th century AD. Earrings belonging to this variant are generally dated to the 2nd century AD (on the development of the type cf. the earlier Cat. Nos 3, 4). In this case, the use of beads in the pendant points to a later period, which also corresponds to the general dating of the necropolis. A close parallel to the pendant-chain is found in the bronze article of adornment from the necropolis of Kabyle, dated with 2nd century coins, and an earring from the National Museum in Damascus, Syria [96, 76, fig. 62; 27, 50, No 8, tabl. XXIV-1; 155, 98].



Cat. No 6. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3A)

Inv. No 5355. Serdica, the necropolis of the St Sophia church, together with gold earrings (Cat. No 7a, b). Th. 13 mm, wire length 1 mm, pendant length 8 mm, w. 2.20 g, 23 c. (950).

Plain-hoop, round in shape, made of one round wire, closed-end fastened with two hoops: one in the horizontal plain with spirally twisted end with one coil, the other one in the vertical plain, actually forming a closed hook. The pendant moves freely, with a hoop in the upper end and a body made of a wire with spirally twisted end, with a thickened stop for a bead, now missing. Well preserved. The variant is a continuation of the Hellenistic type of earrings, mainly influenced by the East. 2nd century AD. Close analogies of the firmly fastened hoop, some of them also with a pendant, can be seen in earrings from Varna—1st century, from the Kabyle necropolis—2nd century, Oescus—3rd century, Somovit, Pleven region—2nd century, Strazhitsa, Veliko Turnovo region—2nd century, from the Frank Bequest Collection of the British Museum—1st-3rd century, from the Roman-German Museum in Bonn [47, 222, fig. 7; 20, 52, No 11, tabl. XXXIV-3; 35, 259, fig. 7; 34, 73, fig. 4-3; 56, 201; 96, 77; 63, 222, fig. 7; 27, 52, No 11, tabl. XXIV-3; 48, 259, fig. 7; 47, 73, fig. 4-3; 75, 204].



Cat. No 7a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3A)

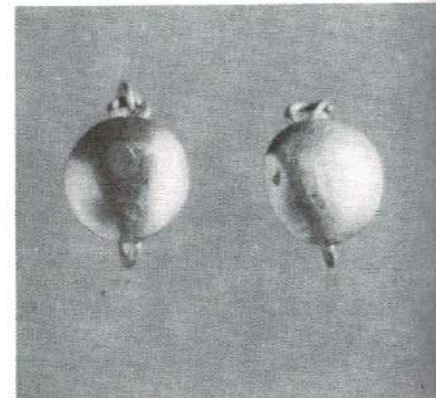
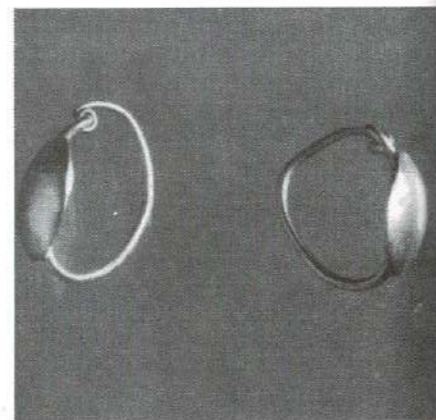
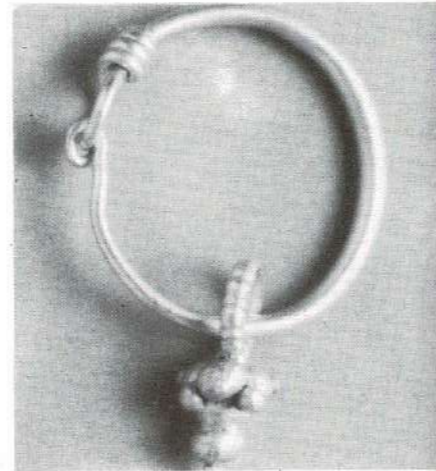
Inv. No 5356a (forming a pair with Cat. 7b). Serdica (Sofia), the necropolis of the St Sophia church, tomb XI, together with a gold earring (Cat. No 6). D. 15 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, pendant length 10 mm, w. 1.66 g, 21-22 c. (880-920).

Plain-hoop earring with pendant. The hoop is round in shape, made of one wire with round cross section, tapering at both ends and closed-end fastened with two hoops: one in a horizontal plane with spirally twisted end in three coils, the other one in a vertical plane, its end touching the hoop. The pendant resembles grapes in shape, it is attached by a hoop that moves freely around the earring, made of a round wire with horizontal fluting that resembles spiral twisting. The grape-like ornament consists of 13 gold grapes in three sizes (2, 4 and 7), arranged symmetrically to form a pyramid. 2nd-3rd century AD. For the type of the hoop, cf. Cat. No 6. Grape-like pendants were a frequent decorative motif in Roman earrings (2nd-3rd century AD). Numerous examples are known from Egypt, dated to the 1st-3rd century AD, Syria, Kerch, Southern Russia—2nd-3rd century, from the Schüler Collection—2nd century AD, the Frank Bequest Collection—2nd-3rd century AD, etc. There are also numerous such finds from the Thracian lands, among them the well-dated earrings from the Nikolaevo treasure—mid-3rd century AD (Cat. No 32a, b), single finds from the collection examined in this book (Cat. Nos 33-35, 38, 40), from the grave find near the village of Borisovo, Yambol region—dated with coins to the late 2nd—first half of the 3rd century BC, etc. [96, 77, fig. 63; 105, No 2501, pl. LIII, No 2600, pl. LIV; 155, 98; 143, No 48, pl. V, IVc; 108, No 181-183, 185-186; 95, 7, tabl. II, 5; 83, 73, tabl. IV, 1].

Cat. No 7b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3A)

Inv. No 5356b. D. 15 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, pendant length 10 mm, w. 1.66 g, 21-22 c. (880-920).

Totally similar to Cat. No 7a.



Cat. No 8a. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 3B)

Inv. No 6636a (forming a pair with Cat. No 8b). Oescus (present-day Gigen village, Pleven region). Grave find. D. 16 × 9 mm, th. wire 1 mm, d. shield 12 × 10 mm, w. 0.85 g, 20 c. (840).

Plain-hoop earring with semispherical shield. The hoop is ellipsoid, made of a thin round wire, flattened towards the part of the soldered shield, closed-end fastened with two hoops. The shield is semispherical, ellipsoid in shape. The type is an average variant of the type defined by Higgins as "ball-type" (but with S-like hook), dated to the 1st-3rd century BC. Close analogies can be seen in earrings from Pozzuoli in Italy and Enkomi in Cyprus, dated to the 1st-3rd century AD, as well as specimens from the museum in Damascus, Syria and in the Roman-German Museum in Bonn [71, 451; 120, 184, No 6, pl. 54E; 105, Nos 2616-2618, 2509, pl. LIII; 155, 98; 143, No 52, tabl. 27].

Cat. No 8b. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 3B)

Inv. No 6636b. D. 14 × 11 mm, th. wire 1 mm, d. shield 14 × 12 mm, w. 0.85 g, 20 c. (840). Totally similar to Cat. No 8a.

a b

Cat. No 9a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3C)

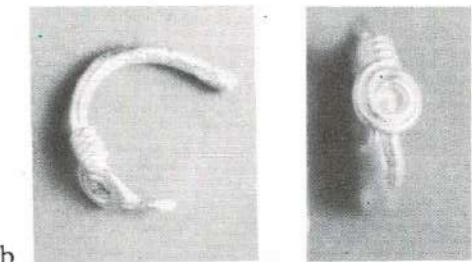
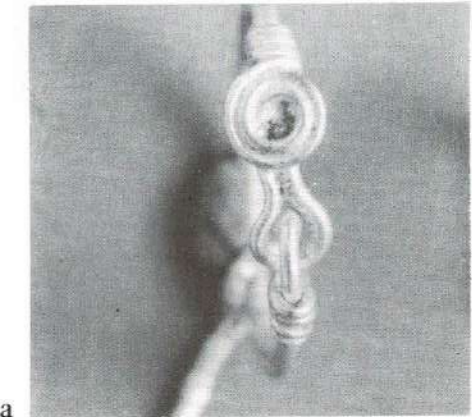
Inv. No 6603a (forming a pair with Cat. No 9b). Svilengrad. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 12, 76, 115), medical instrument and a gold coin of Faustina Minor (161-180 AD). D. 17 × 8 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm, pendant length 12 mm, w. 1.30 g, 20 c. (840).

Plain-hoop, closed-end fastened with two hoops, with pendant. Ellipsoid hoop of one round wire, with tapering ends which shape a fixed fastener of a hoop and hoop-and-hook, both ends twisted spirally to form two coils. Immediately above the hoop and before the end twisted in coils, the wire is wound like a horizontal coil which shapes a pseudo-shield. The hoop is decorated with bands of concentric lines, in two groups. The pendant is suspended on a freely moving hook, with a gold pearl at its base. The wire is with horizontal fluting resembling spiral twisting, and ends with a gold pearl, now broken. 2nd century AD. The decoration of a horizontal spiral is a new element in 2nd-3rd century Roman jewellery, not known in Hellenistic models. It is represented with specimens of the collection under consideration (Cat. Nos 10, 11, 39), with earrings from Sarafovo, Bourgas region, Oescus and Somovit, Pleven region, Krousheto and Strazhitsu, Veliko Turnovo region, and the production centre near Radomir, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD. Also found frequently as a decorative element of bracelets (Cat. Nos 147, 155, 156), with close analogies from Kerch, Kuban, Caucasus and Syria. Its popularity in the Thracian lands, seen in the numerous finds, shows the preference of the local workshops for the ornament and confirms the local production of the jewellery. Another characteristic element in the decoration of earrings are the bands of incised concentric lines which occur in numerous finds from Kerch and Olbia, Tortous, dated to the 2nd century AD [19, 151, fig. 142; 47, 73, No 3, fig. 5; 48, 259, fig. 7; 75, 201; 21, 257, fig. 188; 42, 54, fig. 41; 23, 239, fig. 3; 138, Nos 20, 21, tabl. V; Nos 2421, 2422, pl. LII; 54, 31, fig. 10].

Cat. No 9b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3B)

Inv. No 6603b. D. 8 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm, 0.92 g, 20 c. (840).

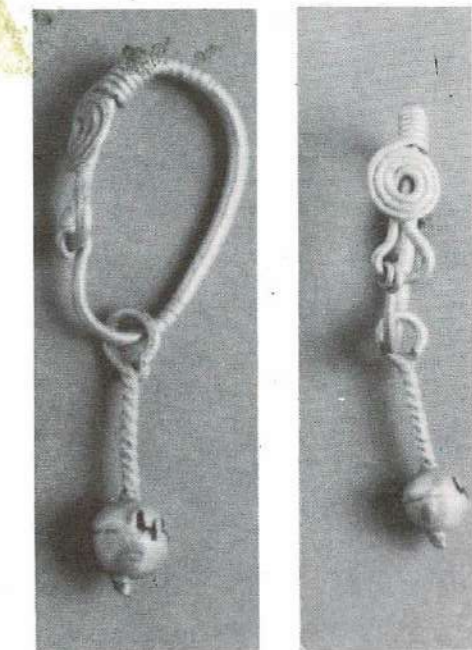
The upper part of the hoop is preserved. The pendant is missing. Fully similar to Cat. No 9a. 2nd century AD.

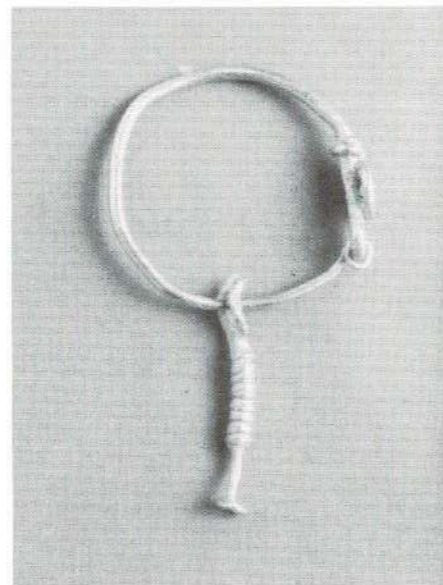


Cat. No 10. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3C)

Inv. No 4478. Kovachevo, Sliven region. Accidental find. D. 19 × 10 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm, pendant length 19 mm, d. pearl pendant 5 mm, w. 1.83 g, 21 c. (880).

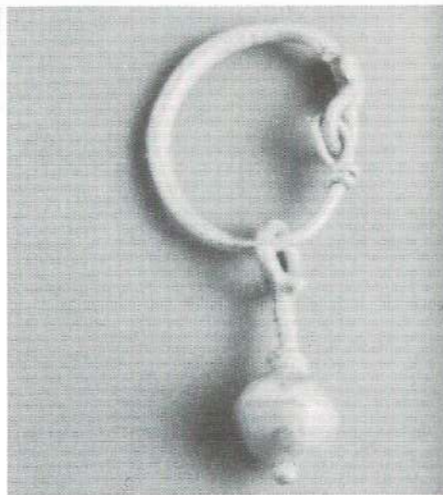
Plain-hoop, irregular ellipsoid shape, made of one round wire, with tapering ends that shape closed-end fastened hoop. One of the hoops is larger, in a horizontal plane, drop-shaped, with a horizontal spiral forming a pseudo-shield, one end twisted to form seven coils. The other hoop is vertical, of two wires. The hoop is decorated with two groups of incised concentric lines. The pendant moves freely along the hoop, suspended by means of a small hoop of round wire, a gold pearl at its base. The vertical wire is spirally twisted, one end bent to form a stop, over which a gold bead of two hemispheres is threaded. Well preserved. 2nd century. The type of pendant with a hollow gold bead consisting of two hemispheres is known as gold-pearl-type pendant. It occurs in earrings from Amathus and Curium in Cyprus, Tortous in Syria, Kerch in Southern Russia, being very popular in the 2nd-3rd century AD. Similar pendants are seen on the earrings in the collection under consideration (Cat. Nos 10-13). [95, 34, 5, fig. 9d; 105, Nos 2524, 2526, 2532, 2542, 2376, pl. LIII; 138, Nos 46, 47; 137, 111, 112, tabl. VI; 120, pl. 54E; 113, 46, Nos 19, 20, tabl. 23].





Cat. No 11. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3C)

Inv. No 5330. Serdica (Sofia), the necropolis of the St Sophia church. Grave find. D. 12×11 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm, pendant length 15 mm, w. 1.13 g, 22 c. (920). Plain hoop, irregular ellipsoid in shape, of one round wire, closed-end fastened with two hoops, a horizontal spiral forming a pseudo-shield. The pendant moves freely along the hoop, with horizontal fluting resembling twists, one end bent as a stop for a bead. The hoop is slightly deformed, the bead of the pendant is missing. 3rd century. For the type cf. Cat. No 10 [96, 82, fig. 70].



Cat. No 12a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3D)

Inv. No 6602a (forming a pair with Cat. No 12b). Svilengrad. Grave find together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 9, 76, 115), a medical instrument and a bronze coin of Faustina Minor (161-180 AD). D. 14×17 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm, pendant length 16 mm, w. 1.3 g, 20 c. (840).

Plain-hoop, closed-end fastened with hoops, with a small round shield. The hoop is irregular ellipsoid in shape, made of one round wire, with tapering ends which form closed-end fastened hoops, one of which has two spiral coils. The hoop is decorated with two symmetrical groups of incised concentric lines. The shield is filled with dark-blue enamel in the middle. The pendant moves freely, with a gold pearl at the base of the hoop on which it is suspended. The wire is with horizontal fluting, ending with a gold spherical bead of the pearl type, restricted by a pearl and a corded ornament. 2nd century AD. Close analogies to the decoration of the hoop and of the pendant are seen in the gold earrings (Cat. Nos 10, 13). The new element in the earring under consideration is the small round shield, similar to a specimen from Tortous in Syria—from the collection of the British Museum, dated to the 2nd-3rd century. The use of glass enamel paste as decoration also betrays Eastern influence, which was characteristic of the Roman Period from the 2nd century onward [19, 151, fig. 142; 105, Nos 2446, 2447, pl. LII; 120, 182].

Cat. No 12b. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 3D)

Inv. No 6602b. D. 14×7 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm, d. shield 3 mm, w. 0.74 g, 20 c. (840). Fully similar to Cat. No 12a. The hoop is broken.



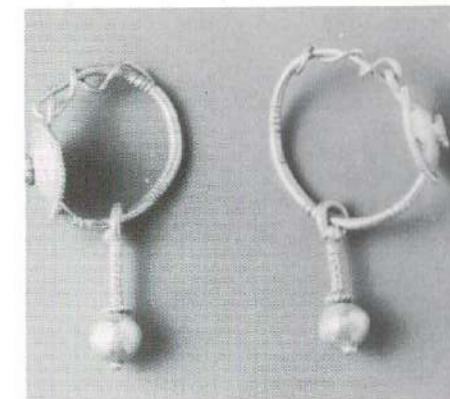
Cat. No 13a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3E)

Inv. No 6778a (forming a pair with Cat. No 13b). Plevan region. Accidental find, probably from a grave, together with a gold necklace (Cat. No 105). D. 20×17 mm, th. wire 1.2-0.3 mm, d. shield 10×11 mm, pendant length 18 mm, w. 3 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

Hoop-shaped, closed-end fastened, with semispherical shield and pendant. The shield is framed along its periphery with one row of wire, with horizontal fluting resembling spiral twists, with green enamel in the centre, placed in a pit made of the same wire. The pendant is of the gold type (cf. Cat. No 12a, b). Well preserved. The spirally twisted end of the upper hoop is unwound and the wire is curling freely. This probably happened when the closed-end hoop was opened so as to remove the earring from the ear, possibly for subsequent reuse. 2nd century. For the type of the hook cf. Cat. No 12, for the decoration with groups of concentric incised lines—Cat. Nos 10, 12. A new element in the earring under consideration is the semispherical shield, which was a very popular form during the Roman Period, identified by Higgins as hoop-like with shield. Dated to the 2nd century AD. A close analogy to the semispherical shield is seen in the numerous specimens from Tortous and Damascus in Syria, Smyrna in Asia Minor, Carnunthum in Pannonia, in the collection of the British Museum and of the Roman-German Museum in Bonn, dated to the 2nd century. Instead of enamel, some of these earrings have a decoration of gold pearls. A semispherical shield in the collection under consideration is seen in the earrings with Cat. Nos 21-24, 31-34 [120, 183, No 2, pl. 45B; 105, Nos 2516, 2532, pl. LIII, Nos 2378, 2379, pl. LII; 155, 73; 142, 27-1; 143, No 58, 59; 95, 34, fig. 9a].

Cat. No 13b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3E)

Inv. No 6778b. D. 18×11 mm, th. wire 1.2-0.3, d. shield 11×12 mm, pendant length—18 mm, w. 2.87 g, 20 c. (840). Fully similar to Cat. No 13a. Well preserved, the enamel on the shield is missing.



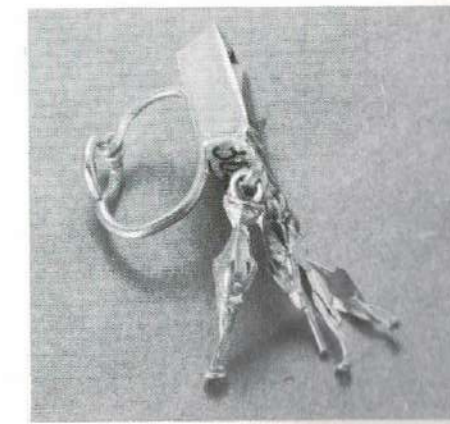
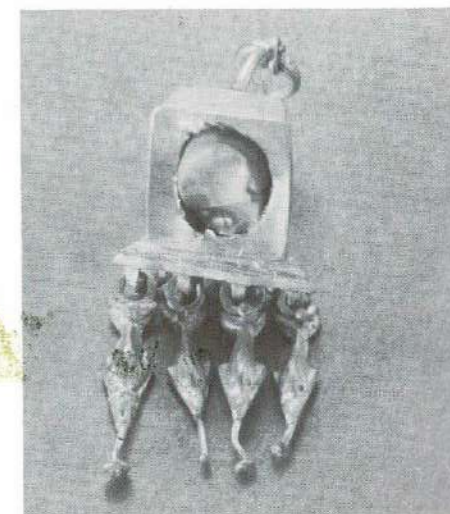
b

a

Cat. No 14. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 3E)

Inv. No 3699a. Augusta Trajana (Stara Zagora). Grave find, together with a gold earring (Cat. No 46). D. 14×9 mm, th. wire 1.2 mm, shield $10 \times 13 \times 5$ mm, pendant length 19 mm, total height 22 mm, w. 3.42 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, closed-end fastened with two hoops, made of one round wire, rectangular shield with trapezoid casing, ellipsoid bezel-setting with a blue semispherical stone. In the lower part of the bezel there is a horizontal trapezoid plaque, with four round hoops for pendants. The latter are shaped like stylized dolphin figures, with a thin wire and a stop for a bead in the end. In some places the bezel's surface is torn. There are bruises on the gem. The beads on the pendants are missing. 2nd-3rd century AD. The use of stones in massive settings is an element that was typical not only of earrings from the Roman Period. It also occurred in pendants, necklaces and other types of jewellery, betraying definite Eastern influence. Dolphins were a favourite decorative motif for various types of art during the Roman Period. In jewellery this motif followed a tradition of Hellenistic models that were very popular in the collections of Tarente, where it shaped the ends of necklaces. The dolphin is also seen attached to the hoop of an earring from Tarente in the collection of the British Museum, dated by R. Marshall to the 2nd century AD. Similar dolphin-shaped pendants are seen in a gold ring from the village of Lyublen, Turgovishte district, dated to the 3rd century [120, 178-180; 105, Nos 2668, 2669, pl. LV, No 2576, pl. LIII, Nos 2626, 2627, pl. LIV; 103, 306, No 7; 72, 40, fig. 10].



Cat. No 15. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4A)

Inv. No 6779c. Botevgrad region. Accidental find, together with five gold earrings (Cat. Nos 2, 16-18, 28). D. 18×15 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.8 mm. Unpublished.

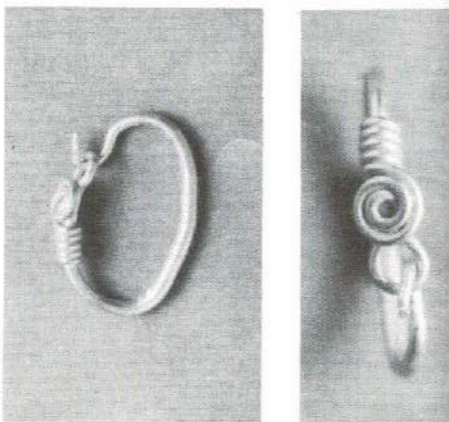
Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener. Shaped like an irregular ellipse, made of one round wire, tapering at the ends—one end sharpened and bent to form a hook, the other one flattened, bent to form an ellipsoid hoop, limited by a horizontally soldered piece of thin wire. Slightly deformed. The variant represents an elementary type of hoop which was very common among Roman earrings, without additional evidence of decoration [120, 183; 107, XLIII].



Cat. No 16. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4B)

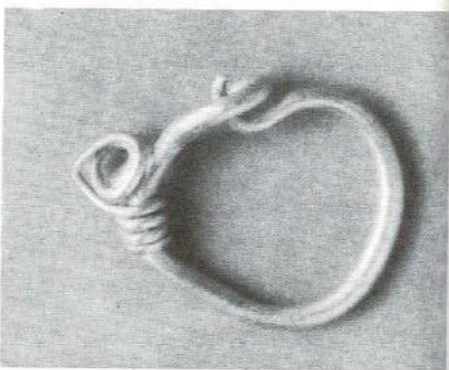
Inv. No 6779d. Found together with Cat. No 15. D. 14×9 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm. Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, with pseudo-shield like a spiral. Irregular ellipsoid shape, made of one round wire, tapering towards the ends—one end bent to form a hook, the other one shaped like a hoop, afterwards forming the horizontal spiral and ending in four spiral coils. Well preserved. 2nd century AD. For the type cf. subvariant 3C and Cat. Nos 9, 10, with the only difference that there the hoop is close-ended.



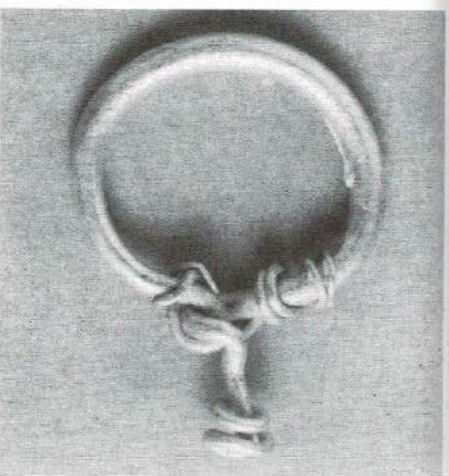
Cat. No 17. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4B)

Inv. No 6779d. Found together with Cat. Nos 15, 16. D. 11×10 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm. Unpublished. Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, pseudo-shield spiral. Fully similar to Cat. No 16. Slightly deformed, the spiral is unwound. 2nd century AD. Similar specimen—a gold earring, grave find from the village of Somovit, Plevan region, dated with a coin of Faustina Minor (161-180 AD). For the type cf. Cat. No 16 [48, 259, fig. 7].



Cat. No 18. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4B)

Inv. No 6779b. Found together with Cat. Nos 15-17. D. 19×12 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm. Unpublished. Fully similar to Cat. Nos 16, 17. The horizontal spiral is unwound.



Cat. No 19. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4B)

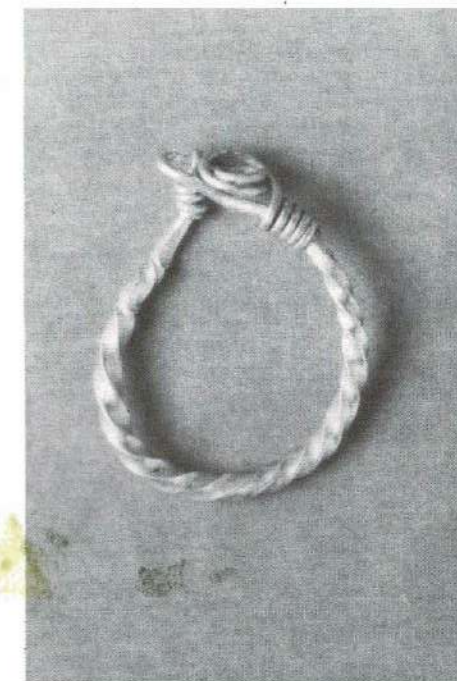
Inv. No 3266. Tatarevo, Stara Zagora region. Grave find, together with appliques from a Thracian chariot. D. 17×7 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm, d. pendant 10 mm, w. 0.95 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, with spiral pseudo-shield. Ellipsoid shape. Fully similar to Cat. Nos 16-18. An additional pendant which did not belong originally to the earring is attached to the hoop. The pendant is round, in openwork, made of a thin gold plaque on which a bird's figurine is cut: a round body, large beak and spread claws. The details—eye, wings, and contour of the bird, as well as the periphery of the circle—are outlined in relief. The hoop of the earring is slightly deformed. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 16-18.



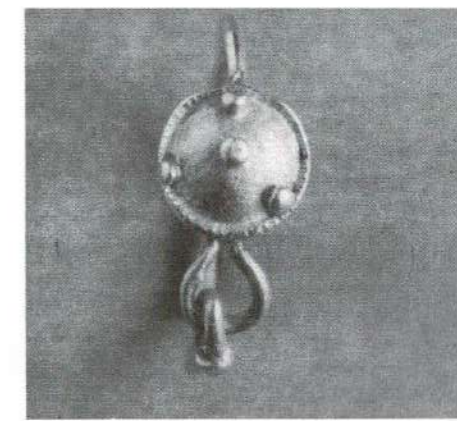
Cat. No 20. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4B)

Inv. No 1556. Serdica. Grave find, cremation burial, found together with glass lacrimaria and a clay urn. D. 20×15 mm, th. wire 2-0.5 mm, w. 1.20 g, 10 c. (750). Unpublished. Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, with spiral pseudo-shield. Irregular ellipsoid shape, spirally twisted wire, rectangular in cross section, tapering and rounded ends with coils. As a type, the earring fully resembles Cat. Nos 16-18, differing only in the shape of the wire and the spirally twisted end. A close parallel can be seen in the gold earrings from the Nikolaevo treasure, Slivka, Smolyan region (Cat. Nos 39, 40), as well as a pair of gold earrings from Sarafovo, Bourgas region, dated to the middle of the 3rd century AD. A similar type of hoop made of spirally twisted wire of rectangular cross section, but lacking a pseudo-shield, occurs in Hellenistic earrings that have analogies from Kerch. It also persisted during the Roman Period (1st-3rd century), being also represented by earrings from Kerch and Austria, dated to the 2nd-3rd century [95, 7, 34, fig. 9, tabl. III, No 4; 21, 257, fig. 188; 138, Nos 6, 7, 47-49, pl. IV-1a, b, V-5a, b; 142, 29-1; 113, No 5, 16, tabl. 23].

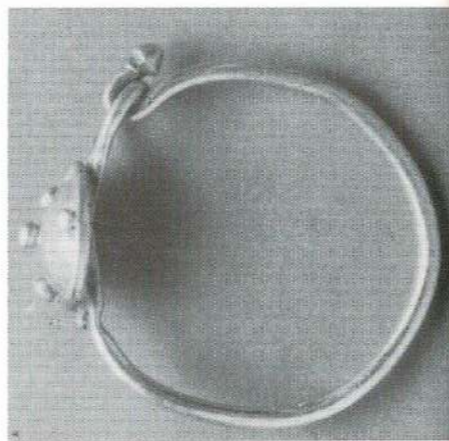


Cat. No 21. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4C)

Inv. No 5185. Lisets, Lovech region. Grave find, together with gold and silver jewellery (Cat. Nos 113, 124, 238) and a clay pot. D. 24×25 mm, th. wire 1.5-1 mm, d. shield 10 mm, w. 3.43 g, 20 c. (840).



Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, with a round semispherical shield. The shield is round in shape, made of one round wire, with thinned out ends that are bent into a hoop and a hook with conically thickened point. The shield is semispherical, outturned, with hatches resembling spiral twists in the periphery. Its surface is decorated with four gold pearls: one in the centre and three arranged symmetrically in the periphery. The part of the hoop on which the shield is soldered is flattened. Well preserved. 2nd century AD. In Higgins' typology the semispherical shield occurs in the plain-hoop earrings, usually with pendants, dated to the 2nd century, with finds from Amathus in Cyprus and Eleutheropolis in Palestine. It was also very common in earrings from Syria: specimens from Tortous in the British Museum, in the Damascus Museum, in the collection of the Roman-German Museum in Bonn, in Prague, Carnunthum, etc., dated to the 2nd or 2nd-3rd century [120, 183, No 2, pl. 54B; 105, No 2532, pl. LIII, 2377, pl. LII; 155, 71; 137, 122, Nos 34, 35, pl. VI; 143, Nos 58, 59, tabl. 26, 27; 142, 27-1, 2, 3].



Cat. No 22. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4C)

Inv. No 4801. The Nikolaevo treasure. D. 18 × 15 mm, th. wire 1.2-1 mm, d. shield 12 mm, w. 1.96 g, 20 c. (920).

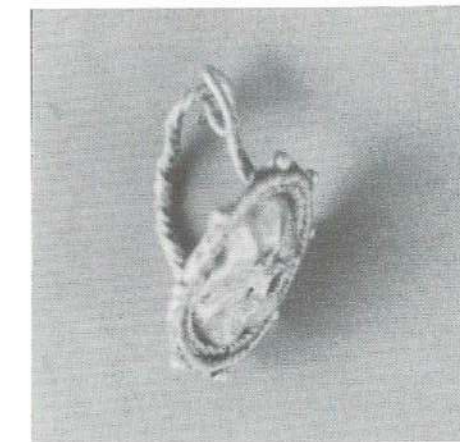
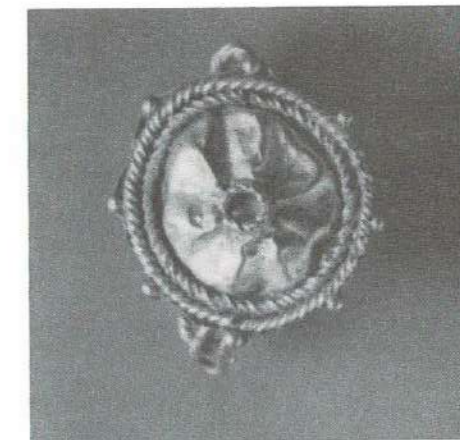
Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, semispherical shield. Irregular ellipsoid shape, made of round wire which becomes flat near the hoop of the fastener and the soldered rivet. The shield is with horizontal periphery and its end is bent outward, decorated with two bands of spirally twisted wire, with a bezel filled with dark-blue glass paste (enamel). Slightly deformed. The glass paste is missing. Mid-3rd century AD. A parallel can be seen in a fragment of an earring from the same treasure (Cat. No 59). For the type cf. Cat. No 21. It differs by the richer ornamentation of the shield in the periphery, as well as by the use of the enamel, a modification of the type, with analogies in Southern Russia, dated to the 3rd century. Their earlier use in Thrace is attested with a pair of gold earrings from the necropolis of Oescus, dated with coins of Claudius to the 1st century AD [95, 7, No 8; 113, 46, Nos 14, 15, tabl. 23; 47, 75, fig. 4-1].



Cat. No 23. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4C)

Inv. No 6105. Location unknown. D. 22 × 11 mm, th. wire 1-0.2 mm, d. shield 16 mm, w. 2.57 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

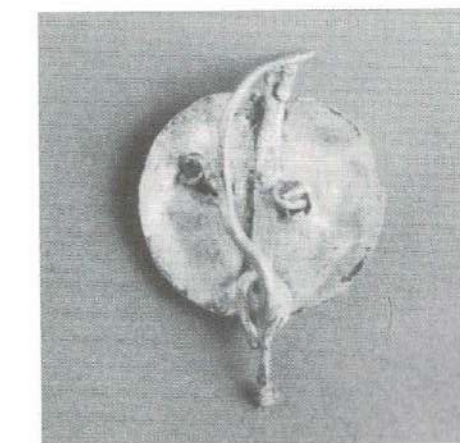
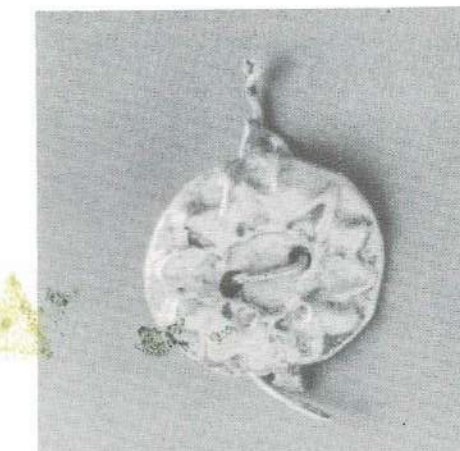
Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, semispherical shield. The hoop is similar to Cat. No 22. The end of the shield is turned outwards and is decorated with nine gold pearls (in protruding bezels) and two bands of spirally twisted wire. The semispherical shield is decorated with filigree of three doubly suspended spirals made of a thin round wire, with a setting in the middle for the glass paste. Slightly deformed. The glass paste and one gold pearl are missing. 3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 21, 22. The use of filigree and granulation in the decoration are features of Eastern influence, attested in Syrian jewellery kept in the museum in Damascus and a pair of earrings from the German-Roman Museum in Bonn, identified as Syrian-Roman production and dated to the 2nd-3rd century [156, 99, No 14, pl. 15; 143, No 51, tabl. 22].



Cat. No 24. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4B)

Inv. No 7137. Sadovets, Pleven region. Accidental find. Preserved length 23 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, d. shield 1.6 mm. Unpublished.

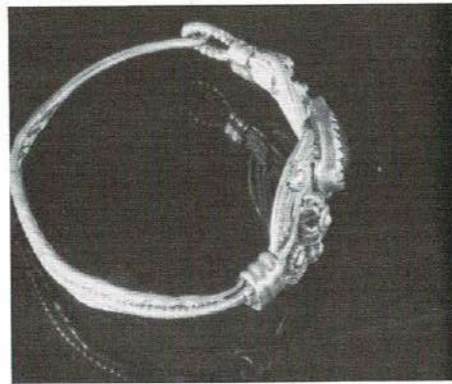
Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, with semispherical shield. The hoop is made of spirally twisted wire, flattened at the shield and round near the hoop-and-hook fastener. The base of the shield is octagonal; decorated with gold pearls in the corners. The periphery is framed by two rows of spirally twisted wire. The central part forms a multifoil rosette in relief, with a bezel of spirally twisted wire for glass paste in the centre. The hoop is deformed. The glass paste is missing. 3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 22, 23.



Cat. No 25. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4C)

Inv. No 7539. Oescus, excavations in 1948. D. 1.7 mm, th. wire 0.7-0.2 mm, d. shield 1.4 mm, pendant length 7 mm. Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, round shield made of two plates decorated in relief: double six-petal rosettes, one of them outlined in relief, the other one being with a massively protruding petal. In the centre: a hollow bed for a stone threaded onto a gold wire. The pendant moves freely, it is made of a thin wire with bent end to form a stop for a bead. The hoop is deformed. The hoop of the fastener, the beads from the shield and the pendant are missing. 3rd century. For the type cf. Cat. 24.



a b



Cat. No 26a. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4D)

Inv. No 561 (forming a pair with Cat. No 26b). Varna region. Grave find, together with clay lamps dated between the first and the third quarter of the 3rd century. D. 34 × 30 mm, th. wire 1 mm, th. hoop 3 mm, d. shield 29 × 14 mm. Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, double shield of the Hercules knot type, with stone. The hoop is irregular ellipsoid, made of three wires: the central one is made of pearl ornament, the lateral wires being spirally twisted to become one wire in the second half, which is tapered and bent to form a hook. The hoop of the pendant is ellipsoid, ornamented, the setting is of a horizontally fluted plate, with a gold pearl in the middle. The same setting is seen at the other end of the hoop, close to the shield. The latter consists of four rows of wire: the first, third and fourth wire with round cross section, the second one — with pearl ornament. The surface is decorated with six rosettes of gold pearls, symmetrically organized in groups of three pearls in either half, a larger semispherical rosette of small hoops with a gold pearl in the centre and a large dark-red drop-shaped stone, in a bezel setting with triangular indented periphery and a gold pearl on the top. The base of the cassette is framed by a band of one row of round wire. Well preserved. Precise workmanship. 2nd century AD. Richly decorated earrings with hoops in intricate braiding were typical for the Roman Period in the territories of Southern Russia, Syria and Cyprus. A close analogy of the hoop and stone can be seen in a pair of earrings from Kerch, dated to the 1st-2nd century, a specimen from Syria which is kept at the British Museum, from the Schiller Collection, etc. An exceptional similarity with the shaping of Hercules' knot can be seen in a fragment of a gold bracelet from Ostia, kept in the British Museum [138, 48, Nos 16, 17, pl. III, 4a, b; 23, 203, fig. 77; 105, No 2437, pl. LII, No 2767, pl. LXII; 154, 38, No 70, pl. 52; 52, Nos 71, 136, 137, 170, 182; 113, 46, Nos 15-24, tabl. 22].

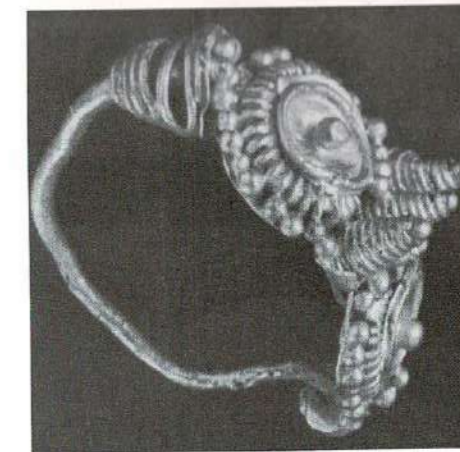
Cat. No 26b. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4D)

Inv. No 561b. D. 34 × 30 mm, th. wire 1 mm, th. hoop 3 mm, d. shield 29 × 14 mm. Fully similar to Cat. No 26a.

Cat. No 27. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4D)

Inv. No 4233. Location unknown. D. 23 mm, th. wire 1.1 mm, th. hoop 3 mm, d. shield 34 × 17 × 13 mm, w. 7.72 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

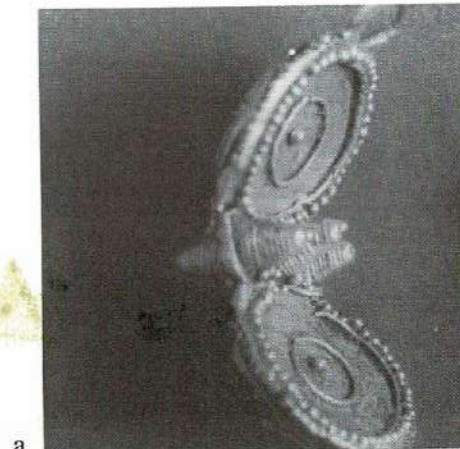
Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, with double shield of the type known as Hercules' knot, with stone. The hoop is irregular circle, in a complex braiding of three wires: two round and one granular. The ends shape a setting of a profiled ellipsoid plate. The hoop of the fastener is made of granulated wire soldered to the shield. The latter is modelled of the same wires as the hoop, but in a horizontal plane, with two rosettes at the bases. A dark-red semispherical stone is placed in the centre, in an ellipsoid bezel-setting with a triangularly cut periphery. The base of the bezel is framed by two round wires. The hoop is slightly deformed, the tip of the hook is missing. 2nd century AD. As a type, fully similar to Cat. No 26.



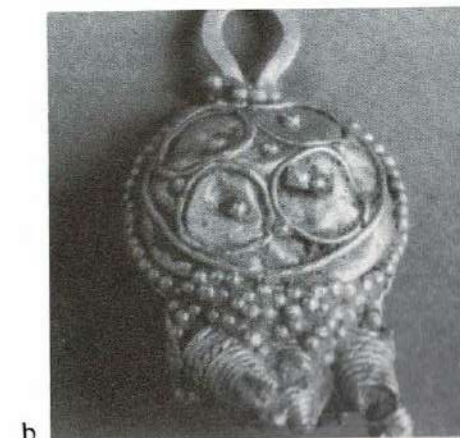
Cat. No 28. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4D)

Inv. No 6779a. Botevgrad region. Accidental find, together with gold earrings (Cat. Nos 2, 15-18). D. 19 mm, th. wire 2-1 mm, shield length 21 mm, d. 10 mm, H. conical spirals 5 mm. Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, double shield. The hoop is made of one round wire which becomes rectangular in cross section, with thinned out end bent to form a hook. The hook of the fastener is of granulated wire, soldered to the shield which forms the figure eight: two hemispheres, their periphery richly ornamented in three bands consisting of a round wire, small hoops threaded in the centre and a pearl cord. At the bases of the two shields there are groups of pearls, at the place where the shields meet — gold pearls and three cone-shaped ornaments of a spirally twisted wire, with a gold pearl on top. A similar ornament of ten coins also shapes the link between the shield and the hoop. The reverse is flat, made of a second plate and decorated with two embossed circles of thin wire. Well preserved. The workmanship is relatively coarse. 2nd-3rd century AD. The use of granulation to decorate Roman jewellery was a continuation of its popularity in the much earlier Etruscan and Hellenistic jeweller's art. The primitive technique is closer in this case to the pseudo-filigree of Celtic art, attested by numerous monuments in the Balkans until the 1st century BC, as well as by the decoration on jewellery during the Roman Period in Thrace, which resembled filigree and granulation. Close parallels of gold "double" earrings with granulation on the obverse can be seen in examples from the necropolis in Smolin, Czechoslovakia, dated to the Late Roman Period. The element of the spirally twisted wire at the hook occurs also in 2nd-3rd century filigree earrings in Southern Russia [120, 181; 156, 98; 148, 147-155; 31, 137, fig. 33; 113, 45, No 14, 26, tabl. 22; 150, 36, Abb. 5-9, 10].



a



b

Cat. No 29a. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4D)

Inv. No 3569a (forming a pair with cat. No 29b). Vidbol, Vidin region. Accidental find, probably from a grave, together with a gold ring (Cat. No 181). Shield length 24 mm, d. 12 mm, H. 4 mm, w. 2.59 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

Probably of the plain-hoop type, with hoop-and-hook fastener. A double richly decorated shield, shaped to resemble the figure eight, with two faces. The upper surface consists of two hemispheres having two bands of wire in the periphery — round and of the corded pearl type, each decorated with four symmetrically arranged circles and nine gold pearls. At the centre, where the two shields join, there are three cone-shaped ornaments of a spirally twisted wire, with a gold pearl on top and several at the base, fully similar to the ornamentation of Cat. No 28. The same ornamentation is repeated on the reverse, made of two flat circles with a similar ornamentation along the periphery: one inscribed circle made of a round wire and a gold pearl in the centre. Only the double shield of the earring is preserved, now bent, with the small hoop of the fastener. Relatively coarse workmanship. 2nd-3rd century AD. As a type, compare with Cat. No 28.

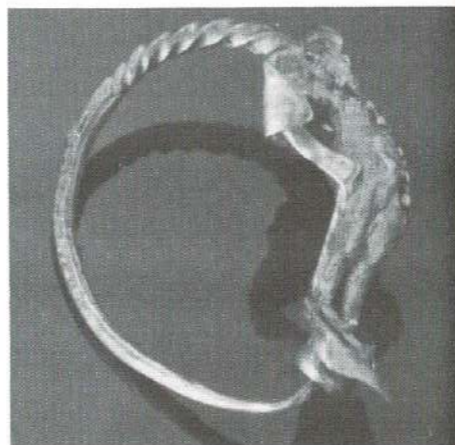
Cat. No 29b. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 4D)

Inv. No 3659b. D. shield 24 mm, d. 12 mm, H. 4 mm, w. 2.60 g, 20 c. (840). Only the shield is preserved, bent and broken in two, with the little hoop of the fastener.

Cat. No 30. GOLD FIGURE-DECORATED EARRING (Type I, Variant 4E)

Inv. No 424. Location unknown. D. 17 × 7 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm, d. shield 17 × 9 mm. Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener. The hoop is of irregular ellipsoid shape, made of one wire spirally twisted in the upper part and rectangular in cross section for the rest of its length, with thinned out end, bent to form a hook. The shield is decorated with the figure of Eros in his usual posture, concavely protruding along the hoop to which it is soldered. The figure is rendered in a stylized fashion, without details, naked, arms open and bent at the elbows, placed on the hips, with spread wings. The face is also generalized, with long hair and beard. The legs are parallel, with marked feet on a pedestal which shapes a cylindrical aperture—the hoop of the fastener. A palm twig executed in the granulation technique is seen diagonally across his chest. Well preserved. The ends of the wings are now bent towards the hands. 1st-2nd century AD. Figure-decorated earrings with Eros, representing part of the hoop, were typical during the Hellenistic Age, but they occurred in Roman times as well, with well-dated finds. The figure of Eros in this type of earrings is defined in two basic variants: as holding a syrinx and with arms on his hips. The earring under consideration here belongs to the second variant, with close parallels from Syria, kept in the Hamburg Museum (dated to the 1st-2nd century AD), and from Cyprus (2nd century). A similar earring—Eros with syrinx—is kept in the national museum in Prague, 1st-2nd century [105, Nos 1718, 1714, 1715, pl. XXXI; 113, 44, Nos 8, 9, tabl. 21; 121, 144, No 77; 137, 108, No 28, tabl. III, 2; 124, 160].



Cat. No 31a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 3224a (forming a pair with Cat. No 31b). Novae (Svishtov). Grave find. D. 22 × 18 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm, d. shield 7 mm, pendant length 18 mm, w. 3.30 g, 22 c. (920). Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener. Irregular ellipsoid shape, made of one round wire, one end shaped like a small hoop in the horizontal plane, the other one tapering and bent to form a hook. The hoop is decorated with three groups of incised concentric lines, divided symmetrically (3, 4 and 6 per group). The shield is round, slightly convex, soldered immediately above the fastener. The periphery is framed with spirally twisted wire, with four gold pearls resembling grapes in the centre. The pendant moves freely around the hoop, with horizontal fluting, a gold pearl at the base of its hook and at the end, serving as a stop, with a large hollow biconic gold pearl, with a pearl corded ornament in the upper part. Well preserved. Slight deformation of the tapering part of the hoop. Late 2nd century AD. The variant in question is typical of the Roman Period. The individual elements, e. g. decoration of a group of incised concentric lines, shield, pendant with gold pearl, are found in earrings from the collection (Cat. Nos 9-11, 13), some of them being very reliably dated with coins to the last quarter of the 2nd century AD. Numerous such finds are known from Cyprus, Syria and Southern Russia, dated to the 2nd-3rd century, whereas the closest analogies are seen in earrings from Cyprus and Syria, kept at the British Museum, the National Museum in Damascus, in Nicosia, in Prague, etc. [95, 34, No 4, fig 9 c; 105, Nos 2524, 2526, pl. LIII, Nos 2577, 2532, pl. LII-LIII; 154, 69, tabl. 53a, b; 137, Nos 34, 35].

Cat. No 31b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 3224b. D. 22 × 18 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm, d. shield 7 mm, pendant length 18 mm, w. 3.16 g, 22 c. (920). Fully similar to Cat. No 31a.



a

b

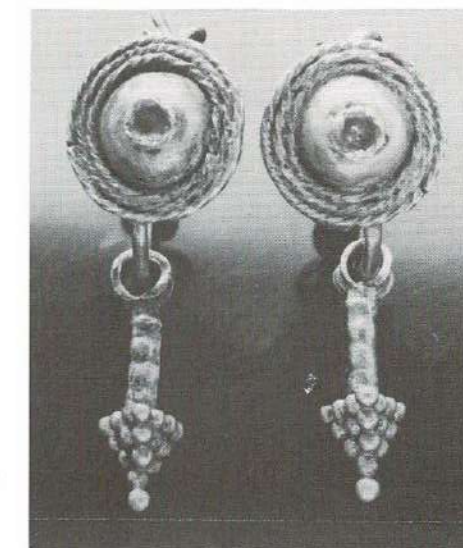
Cat. No 32a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 4798a (forming a pair with Cat. No 32b). The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 15 × 16 mm, th. wire 1.1-0.6 mm, d. shield 13 × 14 mm, H. shield—4 mm, pendant length—14 mm, total H.—36 mm, w. 3.65 g, 22 c. (920).

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener. Hoop in irregular circular shape, made of one round wire, one end shaped like a hoop in a horizontal plane, the other end tapering and bent to form a hook. The shield is semispherical, with a horizontal periphery decorated with three rows of spirally twisted wire, with a bezel for enamel in the centre, framed with one row of the same wire. The pendant moves freely by means of a broad and profiled hoop, cylindrical body with horizontal fluting, ending in a grape-like ornament. Well preserved. Traces of blue enamel in the bezel-setting. Mid-3rd century AD. The variant was widely popular among 2nd-3rd century earrings, where the same elements of the shield and a grape-shaped pendant occur. Such pendants are found exclusively on Roman earrings, mainly among those from Southern Russia, represented in the collection of the Antique Museum in Berlin, dated to the 3rd century, which coincides with the general dating of the treasure. The shield is also fully similar to other earrings from Nikolaevo (Cat. Nos 22, 59), from the village of Lyublen, Turgovishte region. Grape-shaped pendants also occur in Cat. Nos 33-35, 38, 40 [113, 46, Nos 9-11, tabl. 14, 23; 138, 48, 49, No 16, 72, No 48; 77, Nos 50, 51, tabl. X, 4; 72, 40, fig. 10].

Cat. No 32b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 4798b. D. 15 × 15 mm, th. wire 1.1-0.6 mm, d. shield 13 mm, H. 4 mm, pendant length 14.5 mm, d. hoop 3 mm, total height 36 mm, w. 3.90 g, 22 c. (920). Similar to Cat. No 32a.



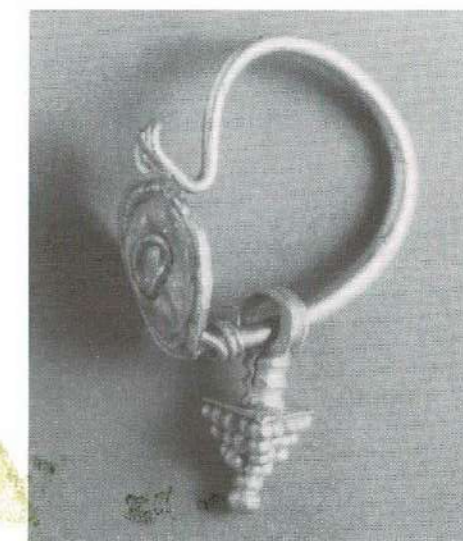
a

b

Cat. No 33. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 6241. Pleven region. Accidental find. D. 22 × 18 mm, th. wire 2-0.5 mm, d. shield 12 mm, pendant length 15 mm, w. 3.85 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

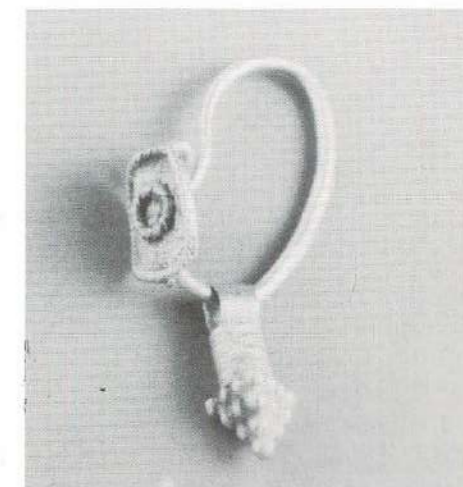
Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener. Similar to Cat. No 32a, b, differing in the decoration of the shield, framed with two rows of round wire and with vertical fluting. The pendant is cylindrical, of a profiled plate, ending in a grape-shaped ornament. The shield is slightly deformed. The enamel is missing. Mid-3rd century AD. For the type, cf. Cat. No 32a, b. Similar earrings from Southern Russia, dated to the 3rd century, are represented in the collection of the Antique Museum in Berlin [113, 46, Nos 14, 15, tabl. 23].



Cat. No 34. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 4221. Location unknown. D. 21 × 12 mm, th. wire 2-1.5 mm, d. shield 10 × 9 mm, pendant length 13 mm, w. 2.75 g, 20 c. (840).

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener. The latter is with conically thickened end (cf. Cat. No 21). The shield is round, flat, with one row of spirally twisted wire in the periphery and a bezel for glass paste in the centre. The grape-shaped pendant (similar to Cat. No 32, 33) is with a broad cylindrical hoop, made of a plate with horizontal fluting. Well preserved. The glass paste is lacking. Mid-3rd century AD. For the type, cf. Cat. Nos 32, 33 [95, 33, fig. 9a].



Cat. No 35a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 6848a (forming a pair with Cat. No 35b). Location unknown. D. 17 × 7 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, d. shield 12 mm, pendant length 18 mm, w. 1.97 g, 19 c. (800). Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, with a hoop-and-hook fastener. The shield is shaped like a hexahedral rounded pyramid, profiled decoration at the base. The grape-shaped ornament has a broad cylindrical hoop and its body is made of a plate with horizontal fluting, similar to Cat. No 34. Well preserved. Mid-3rd century AD. Fully similar in type to Cat. Nos 32-34. Differs in the shape and decoration of the shield, which is represented as a variant of semispherical ones.

Cat. No 35b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 6848b. D. 17 × 7 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, d. shield 12 mm, pendant length 18 mm, w. 1.97 g, 19 c. (800).

Fully similar to Cat. No 35a.

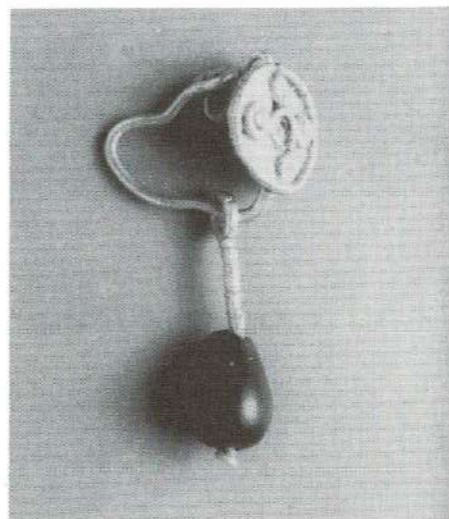


a b

Cat. No 36. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 3F)

Inv. No 5665. Location unknown. D. 16 × 12 mm, th. wire 1.2-0.5 mm, d. shield 10 mm, pendant length 22 mm, bead 9 × 4 × 6 mm, w. 2.96 g, 21 c. (880). Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, made of one round wire, tapering toward the ends. The shield is round, flat, framed with one row of round wire with vertical fluting. Decorated with 4 symmetrically arranged small circles with gold pearls and one in the centre—bezel for glass paste. The pendant is made of a wire with horizontal fluting, with a spirally twisted end to form a stop and a threaded large dark-red stone, biconic oval in shape. The hoop is deformed, the glass paste in the centre of the shield is missing. 3rd century AD. The shield is similar to Cat. No 34, but with a richer decoration, a variant of semispherical shields. Similar pendants with large stones occur in earrings from Carnunthum and Salzburg, dated to the 2nd-3rd century [142, tabl. 21-2, 22-1a, b, 2].



Cat. No 37a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

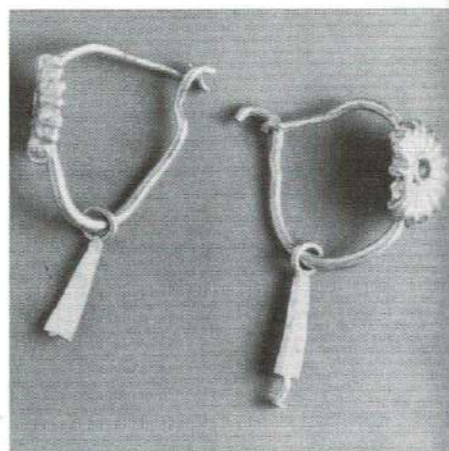
Inv. No 7045a (forming a pair with Cat. No 37b). Kyustendil region. Accidental find. D. 19 × 17 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm, d. shield 10 mm, pendant length 19 mm, w. 2.40 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener. The shield is shaped like a multipetalled leaf cut in relief, with a bezel of a pearl-like cord in the centre, filled with dark-blue enamel. The pendant is a trapezoid plate which passes into a wire with a spiral end on which a bead can be threaded. Relatively primitive workmanship, especially the fastener. The bead of the pendant is missing. 3rd century AD. A similar blossom-like ornament on shields occurs in an earring from Carnunthum, dated to the 3rd century, while pendants with trapezoid plates and ending with beads are seen on earrings in the Frank Bequest Collection in the British Museum, also dated to the 3rd century AD [142, tabl. 23-2a, b; 105, Nos 2672-2673, pl. LIII].

Cat. No 37b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 7045b. D. 19 × 17 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm, d. shield 10 mm, pendant length 15 mm, w. 2.39 g, 22 c. (920).

Fully similar to Cat. No 37a. The end of the pendant is missing.

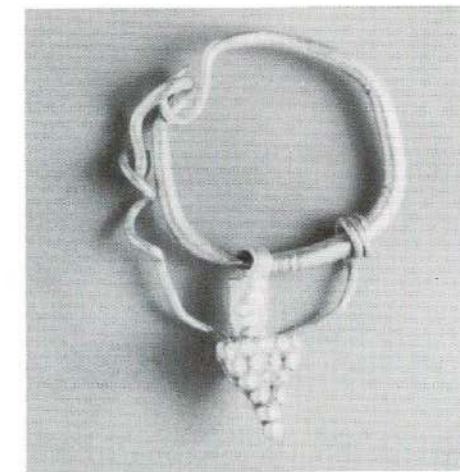


a b

Cat. No 38. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 6847. Preslav. Accidental find. D. 21 × 21 mm, th. wire 2-0.5 mm, pendant length 18 mm, w. 5.47 g, 23 c. (920). Unpublished.

Plain-hoop, hoop-and-hook fastener, pseudoshield-spiral, with grape-shaped pendant. The hoop is decorated with three groups of incised concentric lines, arranged symmetrically (2 and 3 in a group). The pendant is grape-shaped, with a cylindrical body made of a thin plate with horizontal fluting, five rows of gold pearls at the base and six in height. The spiral is untwisted now. The hoop is slightly deformed, part of the hoop of the pendant is missing. 2nd-3rd century AD. The earring comprises various elements considered so far, typical of the 2nd-3rd century. Decoration of three groups of incised concentric lines can be seen in Cat. Nos 9, 10, 12, 13, 31, shield spiral—Cat. Nos 9, 10, 16-20, and grape-shaped pendants—Cat. Nos 7, 32-35.



Cat. No 39a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 4800 (forming a pair with Cat. No 39b). The treasure from Nikolaev. D. 24 × 12 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.3 mm, d. shield 7 mm, pendant length 26 mm, total length 46 mm, d. spiral 8 × 7 mm, w. 3.87 g, 22 c. (920).

Plain-hoop, with a hoop-and-hook fastener and pseudo-shield of spiral-wound wire with pendant. Hoop with irregular ellipsoid shape, made of one spirally fluted wire. The hook of the fastener is with a conically thickened end. The spiral consists of five bands of wire. The pendant moves freely, it is made of one wire with horizontal fluting, ending with a gold pearl designed as a stop, with biconic hollow gold bead. A pearl-like corded ornament frames the base of the bead and the beginning of the pendant, with a small gold pearl at the base. Well preserved. Mid-3rd century AD. The various elements of this earrings are known from the other earrings under consideration, dated to the 2nd-3rd century. Cf. Cat. Nos 9, 10, 13, 20, 31 [95, 7, tabl. III, 4].

Cat. No 39b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 4799. D. 24 × 19 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.3 mm, pendant length 26 mm, w. 3.82 g, 22 c. (920).

Fully similar to Cat. No 39a. The spiral is broken and missing.

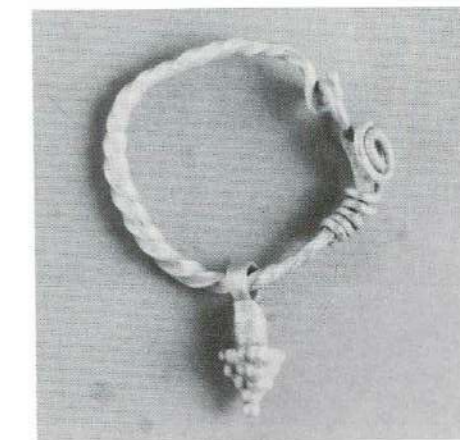


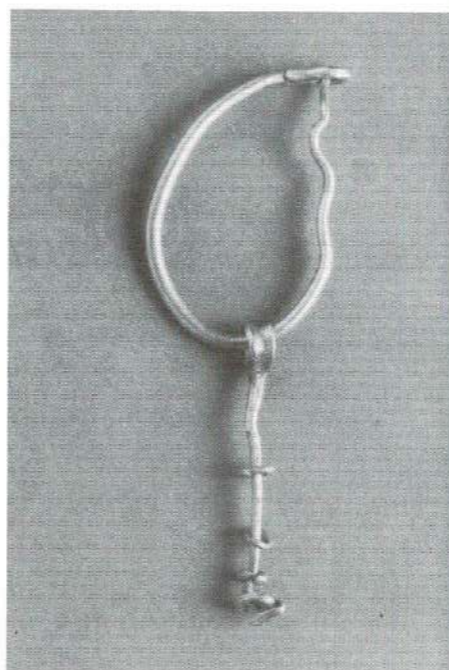
a b

Cat. No 40. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 3315. Slivka, Smolyan region. Found together with a bronze pedestal shaped like a lion's head and a silver fibula. D. 23 × 20 mm, th. wire 2-0.2 mm, d. shield 6 mm, pendant length 8 mm, w. 2.95 g, 19 c. (900).

Plain-hoop earring, made of one spiral¹⁾ twisted wire, with hoop-and-hook fastener, pseudo-shield-spiral and grape-shaped pendant. Fully similar to Cat. No 38, only the wire of the hook is different. 3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 38, 39 [95, 34, fig. 9b].

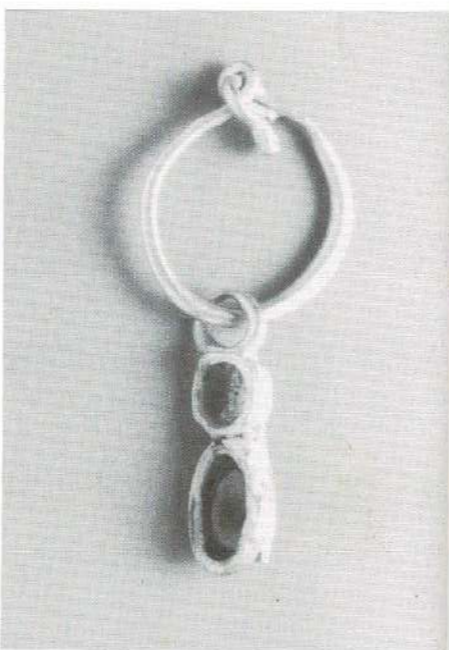




Cat. No 41. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4F)

Inv. No 5354. Serdica. The necropolis of the St Sophia church, tomb VII, found together with a bone hairpin, a drinking glass and a bronze spoon. D. 24×9 mm, th. wire 1.8-0.2 mm, pendant length 14 mm, w. 1.63 g, 22 c. (920).

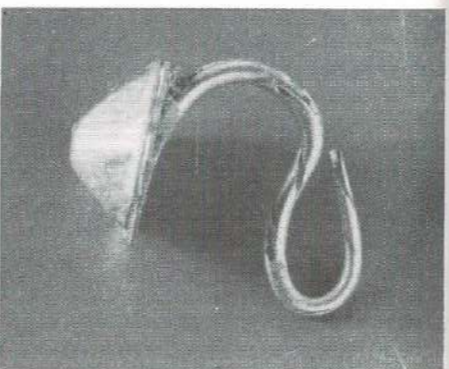
Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener. The hoop is of irregular ellipsoid shape, made of one round wire, with tapering ends that shape the fastener. The pendant is made of one wire, thinned out and spirally twisted in the end, with two small flat circles that move freely along the wire and stop the now missing bead from falling. The hoop is deformed. 4th century AD. The hoop and especially the fastener are elementary in form, without special details. Probably local Late Antiquity production which also corresponds to the general dating of the necropolis [96, 75, fig. 61].



Cat. No 42. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 4G)

Inv. No 5634. Serdica. The necropolis of the St Sophia church, found together with a glass vessel. D. 17×14 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, pendant length 19 mm, w. 2.29 g, 20 c. (840).

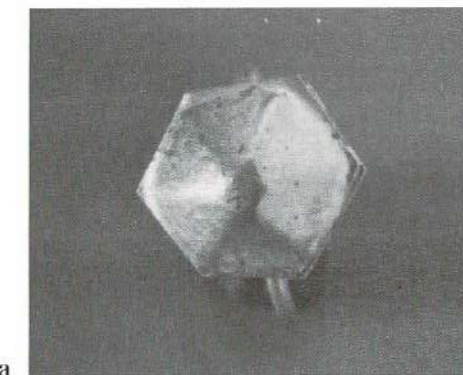
Plain-hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, pendant with stones. The hoop is round in shape and is made of one round wire. The hook of the fastener is with a bent end. The pendant moves freely by means of an ellipsoid hoop, with a flat wire in length, to which two ellipsoid bezel settings are soldered. One stone (black glass) is preserved. The hoop at the hook is deformed. 3rd-4th century. Similar massive bezel settings are observed in earrings from the Prince Napoleon (2nd-3rd century) and Hamilton (5th century) collections in the British Museum, as a characteristic element of Late Antiquity jewellery [92, 222, fig. 152; 105, No 2576, pl. LIII, No 2688, pl. IV; 120, 180-182].



Cat. No 43a. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6637a (forming a pair with Cat. No 43b). Oescus, grave find, together with another gold earring (Cat. No 44). H. 14 mm, th. wire 1.2-1 mm, d. shield 10 mm, w. 1.33 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

S-shaped hook with shield. The hook is made of one round wire, with tapering and pointed lower end. The shield is shaped like a hexahedral rounded pyramid, soldered to the upper part of the hook, closed by a plate at the base and with rim bent outward. 1st-2nd century. The type is a variety of the ball-like earrings, according to the definition of R. A. Higgins, dated to the 1st-2nd century. Totally similar earrings are known from the necropolises of Oescus, Sexaginta Prista and Augusta Traiana (cf. Cat. Nos 45, 46) [120, 184, No 6, pl. 54E; 138, No 23, 24, pl. III; 143, No 48, pl. 19; 47, 76, No 1, fig. 4-4; 99, Nos 51, 52, pl. 22].



a

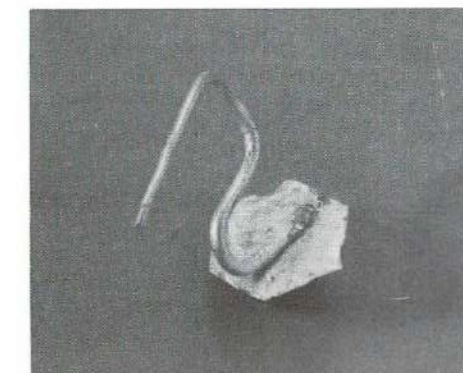
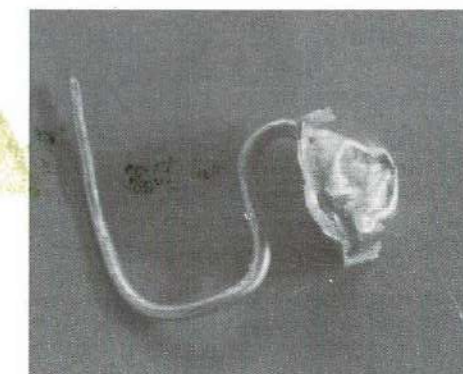


b



Cat. No 43b. GOLD EARRING (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6637b. H. 13 mm, th. wire 1.2-1 mm, d. shield 10 mm, w. 1.22 g, 20 c. (840). Fully similar to Cat. No 43a. The hook is slightly deformed.



Cat. No 44. GOLD EARRING (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6637c. Oescus. Grave find together with Cat. No 43a, b, H. 16 mm, th. wire 1.4-1 mm, d. shields 9 mm, w. 0.63 g, 20 c. (840). Fully similar to Cat. Nos 43a, b. The shield is slightly deformed.

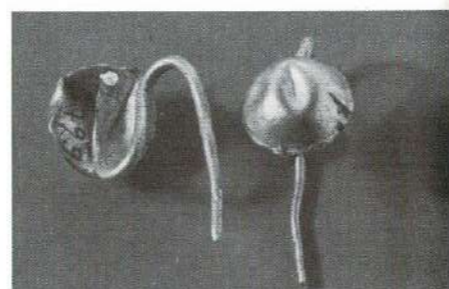
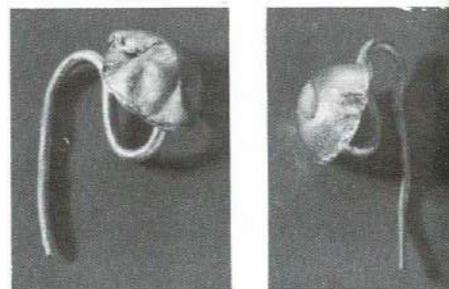
Cat. No 45a. GOLD EARRING (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5729a (forming a pair with Cat. No 45b). Sexaginta Prista (Rousse). Grave find, together with a pair of silver bracelets (Cat. No 158a, b). H. 20.5 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, d. shield 10 mm, w. 0.95 g, 20 c. (840).

S-shaped hook with shield. The hook is made of one round wire, doubly bent, with a thinned out and pointed lower end. The shield is soldered to the upper end. Shaped like a rounded hexahedral pyramid, closed with a plate at the base. Deformed. 1st-2nd century. The type is fully similar to Cat. Nos 43, 44 [93, 166].

Cat. No 45b. GOLD EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

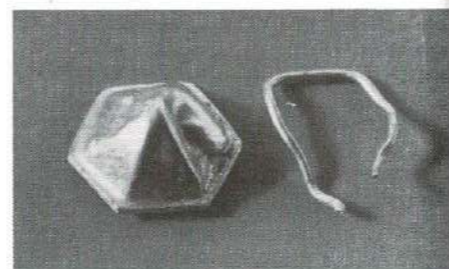
Inv. No 5729b. H. 21 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, d. shield 10 mm, w. 1.09 g, 20 c. (840). Fully similar to Cat. No 45a. Slightly deformed.



a b

Cat. No 46. GOLD EARRING (Type II, Variant 1)

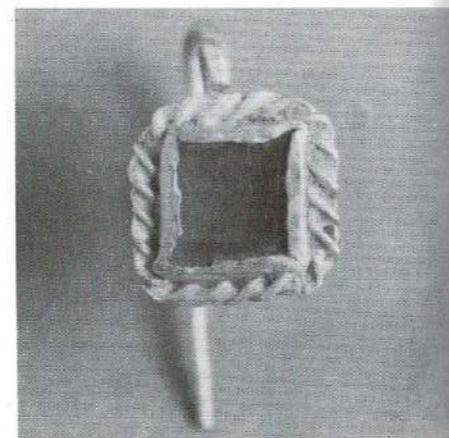
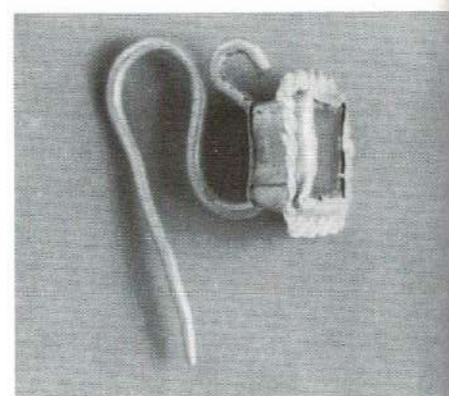
Inv. No 3699b. Augusta Trajana. Grave find, together with a gold earring (Cat. No 14). H. 12 mm, th. wire 0.6-0.2 mm, d. shield 10 mm, w. 0.80 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished. Fully similar to Cat. Nos 43-45. An example of an early type of 1st-2nd century earring, used in a relatively late burial (3rd century).



Cat. No 47. GOLD EARRING (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5139. Negovantsi, Vidin region. Accidental find. H. 19 mm, th. wire 1.6-0.5 mm, shield 9 x 10 x 4 mm, w. 1.05 g, 20 c. (840).

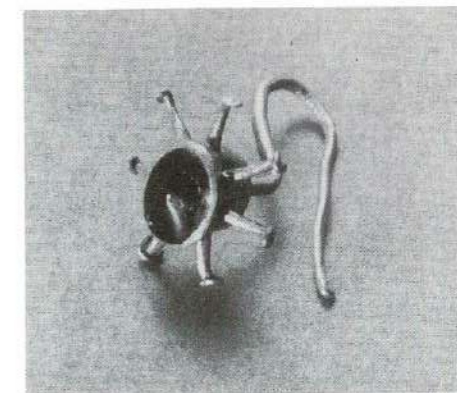
S-shaped double-bent hook with rectangular shield and stone. The hook protrudes above the shield, made of one round wire, thinned out and pointed at the lower end. The bezel on the shield is shaped like a truncated tetrahedral pyramid with horizontal periphery, decorated with diagonal fluting. The stone is light-green and its surface is smooth. 2nd-3rd century. Very close parallels can be found in earrings in the 3rd century Castellani Collection of the British Museum, earrings from the late 2nd—early 3rd century in the Roman-German Museum in Bonn and the 2nd-3rd century earrings from Carnunthum and Salzburg [89, 273; 105, No 2655, pl. LV; 143, No 71, tabl. 29; 142, 25, 1, 24, 3].



Cat. No 48. GOLD EARRING (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 2224. Serdica. The necropolis of the St Sophia church. H. 20 mm, th. wire 1.5-1 mm, d. shield 9 x 10, th. 4 mm, rays—5 mm, w. 1.55 g, 22 c. (920).

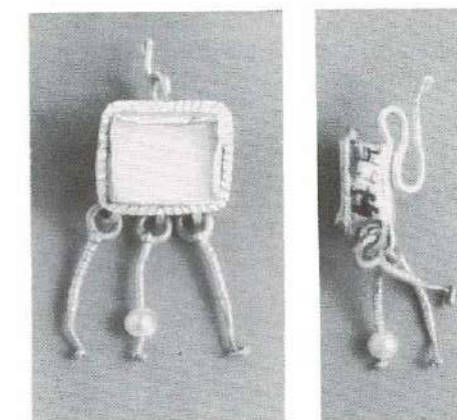
S-shaped hook made of one round wire, with thinned out and bent end. The shield is ellipsoid, with a massive bezel setting shaped like a truncated cone in which a ruby is set, its surface protruding conically. The sides of the shield are decorated with seven radial rays of round wire and with spirally twisted ends. 4th (5th?) century. The S-shaped hook is typical of 1st-3rd century earrings. The massive bezel-setting and the additional radial decoration suggests a later dating which also corresponds to the dating of the necropolis. Similar rays of doubly bent wires are seen on an earring from Carnunthum, dated to the 2nd-3rd century [96, 65, fig. 47; 142, 23-4].



Cat. No 49. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4974. Novae. Accidental find. H. 12 mm, shield 13 x 11 x 5 mm, pendant length 14 mm, w. 2.50 g, 21 c. (880). Unpublished.

S-shaped hook, doubly folded and with a bent tip. Rectangular shield with a massive bezel-setting, a white stone and horizontal periphery decorated with oblique hatches. At the base of the shield there are three freely moving pendants made of round wire with horizontal fluting which imitates pearl-like corded ornament, thinned and spirally bent at the end to form a stop for the threaded bead. The central bead—a natural spherical pearl—is preserved. There is one small gold pearl at the base of the hoops of the pendants. 2nd-3rd century. The decoration of the shield consists of oblique hatches in the periphery, which is a frequent ornament in earrings and medallions. Close analogies are earrings from Philippopolis, Carnunthum and Salzburg, from the British Museum, dated to the 2nd-3rd century [28, 302, fig. 5; 105, No 2390, pl. LII, No 2655, pl. LV; 142, 22-1a, b, 25-1].



Cat. No 50a. GOLD EARRING WITH CAMEO (Type II, Variant 3)

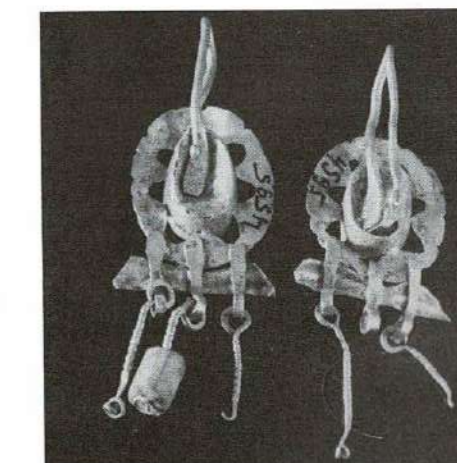
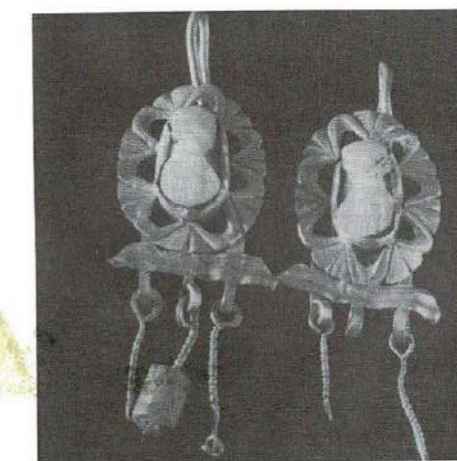
Inv. No 4595a (forming a pair with Cat. No 50b). Durostorum (Silistra). Accidental find. H. 22 mm (with the shield—49 mm), th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm, d. shield 19 x 15 mm, bezel-setting 12 x 6 x 4 mm, pendant length 14 mm, w. 3.47 g.

S-shaped hook with bent tip. Ellipsoid shield with horizontal openwork periphery of stylized leaf-shaped ornament. In the centre—ellipsoid bezel with a low frieze, with a sardonyx cameo depicting the bust of a woman wearing a chiton. The woman's hair is drawn back, reaching her shoulders—a typical 2nd century hairstyle. Schematic rendering. In the lower part of the shield there is a horizontal trapezium-shaped plate with two concave longitudinal lines, attached on the reverse by means of the hoops of the three pendants. The latter move freely, they are made of wire in pearl-like ornament resembling spiral twisting, with a bent end to stop the beads which are shaped like octahedral prisms. Only one bead—that of the central pendant—is preserved. Part of one of the pendants is missing. 2nd century AD. Similar openwork peripheries are known from earrings from Tortous, the Frank Bequest and Castellani collections of the British Museum, from the museums in Bonn and Damascus, as well as in medallions dated to the 2nd-3rd century [34, 48, fig. 7a, b; 37, No 303; 105, Nos 2650, 2659-2660, 2665, 2670, 2674, pl. LV, No 3007, pl. LXIX; 142, No 19-1, 2; 155, 71; 143, No 75, tabl. 32; 73, 101, 102, No 69; 74, 43, fig. 74; 156, 98].

Cat. No 50b. GOLD EARRING WITH CAMEO (Type II, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4595b. H. 22 mm, with the shield and pendants—49 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm, d. shield 19 x 15 mm, bezel-setting 12 x 6 x 4 mm, pendant length 14 mm, w. 3.47 g, 20 c. (840).

Fully similar to Cat. No 50a. The middle pendant and a part of the first one are missing.



a b

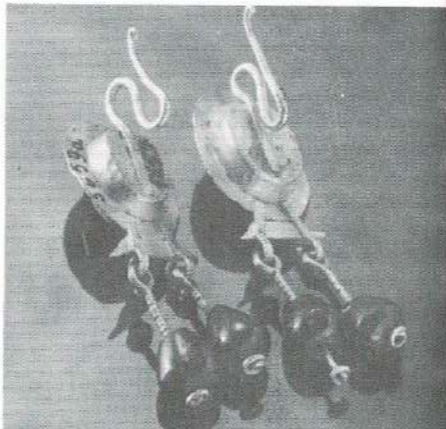
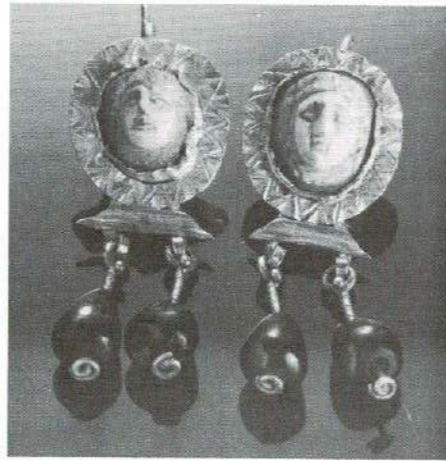
Cat. No 51a. GOLD EARRING WITH CAMEO (Type II, Variant 3)

Inv. No 5659a (forming a pair with Cat. No 51b). Souhindol, Veliko Turnovo region. Grave find, together with a silver bracelet (Cat. No 151), a children's toy and a clay pot. H. 19 mm, total H. 45 mm, th. wire 1.5 mm, d. shield 17 × 15 mm, pendant length 12 mm, w. 4.35 g.

Double S-shaped hook made of one round wire, thinned out and bent at the end. Ellipsoid shield with horizontal periphery, decorated with incised zigzag lines, with a bezel for a sardonyx cameo in high relief, featuring Medusa's head. In the lower part of the shield — a trapezium-shaped plate with horizontal fluting, attached in the back with two wires forming two hoops for the pendants. The latter are made of round wire, with horizontal fluting, with spirally bent end and biconical red beads made of garnet. Early 3rd century AD. For the type cf. the earrings discussed above [92, 226, fig. 159; 37, No 314].

Cat. No 51b. GOLD EARRING WITH CAMEO (Type II, Variant 3)

Inv. No 5659b. H. 17 mm, total H. 45 mm, th. wire 1.5-1 mm, d. shield 18 × 15 mm, pendant length 17 mm, w. 4.23. Fully similar to Cat. No 51a.



a

b

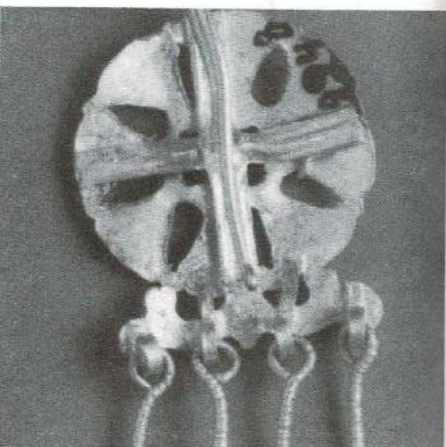
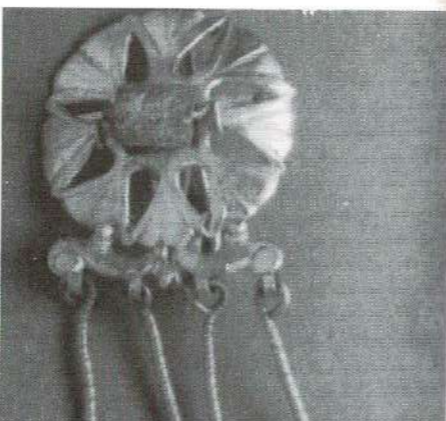
Cat. No 52a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Type II, Variant 4)

Inv. No 2248. Sexaginta Prista. Grave find (probably forming a pair with Cat. No 52b). H. 22 mm, d. shield 20 mm, pendant length 19 mm, w. 3.97 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished. Ordinary hook, slightly protruding above the shield. The latter is round, executed in openwork, decorated with a cut eight-foil rosette, with a green stone in the centre, shaped like an octahedral prism and threaded horizontally on a round wire. A bent plate with four hoops for pendants, made of round wire with horizontal fluting and with spirally bent end to prevent the bead from falling off, is attached to the lower part of the shield. Three gold pearls are seen at the base of the plate. Well preserved, beads on the pendants are missing. 3rd century AD. Openwork shields on earrings are typical of the Roman Period, betraying a definite Eastern—more specifically Syrian—influence. Their extensive popularity in the Thracian lands and the numerous such finds from Oescus, Plevna and Novae, define these earrings as locally produced. Close analogies of the type can be found in earrings kept at the Roman-German Museum in Bonn and in the British Museum, whereas individual elements of the openwork shield or the plate with the profiled decoration are known from earrings from Carnunthum and Halbturn (Burgenland), dated to the 3rd century [47, 70, fig. 4-2; 49, 51, 52, fig. 3; 76, 62, fig. 3; 36, 36; 120, 180; 105, No 2665, pl. LV; 143, No 76, tabl. 33, No 73, tabl. 30, No 75, tabl. 32; 142, 9-1, 3a, b; 156, 97; 158, No 296, tabl. XIII].

Cat. No 52b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Type II, Variant 4)

Inv. No 2169. H. 22 mm, d. shield 20 mm, pendant length 19 mm, w. 3.65 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

Fully similar to Cat. No 52a. The stone in the centre is missing, only the wire is preserved. The beads on the pendants are also missing.



a

b

Cat. No 53a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Type II, Variant 4)

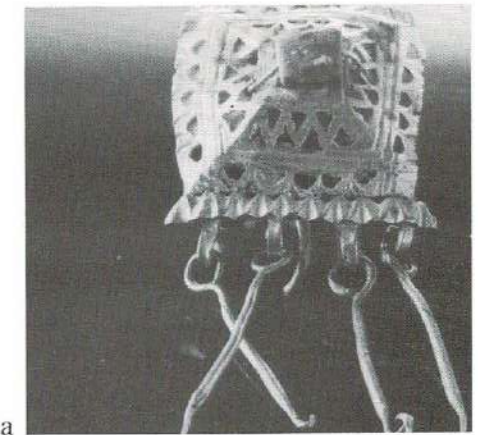
Inv. No 4902a (forming a pair with Cat. No 53b). Ratiaria. Grave find, together with gold and bronze jewellery (Cat. Nos 103, 104, 173), gems, as well as bronze, glass and clay vessels. H. 16 mm, th. wire 1.6-0.5 mm, d. shield 20 × 22 mm, pendant length 20 mm, w. 4.39 g, 20 c. (840).

S-shaped hook made of round wire, thinned out and pointed in the bent end, soldered to the reverse of the shield with two flat crossing wires. The shield is rectangular, in the form of a truncated pyramid, executed in openwork. The periphery is horizontal, similar in ornament to that on Cat. No 50. The remaining part consists of two friezes of incised triangles, bordered with bands of incised lines. In the centre — a rectangular bezel for a stone. The original stone was apparently replaced by a green stone, shaped like a hexahedral prism, tied additionally with wire threaded through its longitudinal hole. A trapezium-shaped plate, with four wires on the reverse forming the little hoops for the pendants, is soldered to the lower part of the shield. The surface of the plate is decorated with embossed zigzag ornament. The four pendants are made of round wire, with thinned out and spirally twisted end to stop the beads from falling off. Relatively coarse workmanship. The original stone of the shield has been substituted, the stones of the pendants are missing. Part of the hook and the tip of one of the pendants are broken. 3rd century AD. A similar openwork rectangular shield with the same stone in the centre is known from an earring in the Roman-German Museum in Bonn. The ornament of the periphery occurs very frequently in many openwork earrings and medallions from the British Museum and from the Museum in Damascus, dated to the 3rd century, as well as in the earrings under consideration here (Cat. Nos 50, 52) [95, 39, fig. 19; 89, 273; 95, 39, fig. 13; 143, No 75, tabl. 32, No 71, tabl. 29; 105, No 2665, pl. LV, No 2939, pl. LXVIII, No 3067, pl. LXIX; 155, 71; 37, No 32, 51, 137, 171].

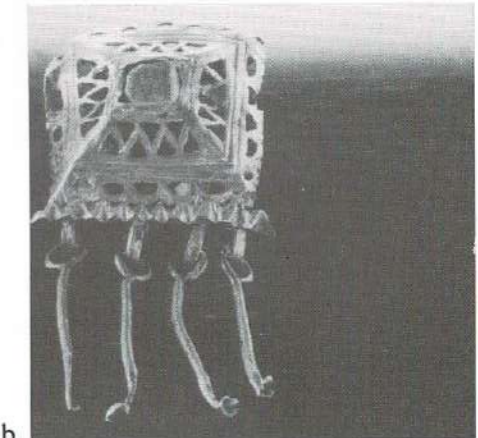
Cat. No 53b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Type II, Variant 4)

Inv. No 4902b. H. 46 mm, th. wire 1.6-0.5 mm, d. shield 20 × 22 mm, pendant length 20 mm, w. 4.25 g, 20 c. (840).

Fully similar to Cat. No 53a. The rectangular bezel in the centre contains a milky-beige stone with broken off surface. The tip of one of the pendants is missing. The stones of the pendants are also missing. The surface is slightly deformed.



a



b

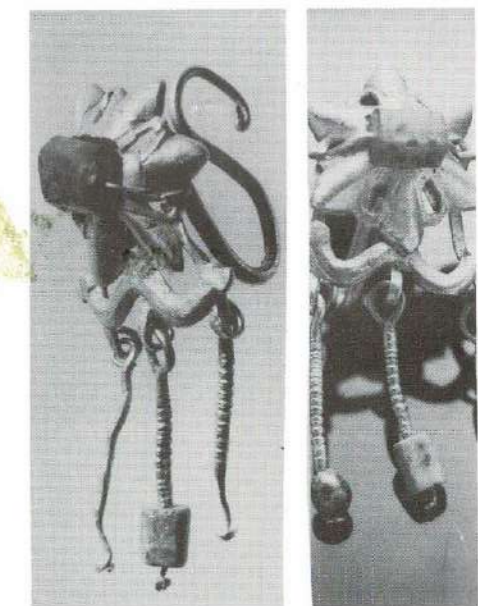
Cat. No 54a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type II, Variant 4)

Inv. No 4572a (forming a pair with Cat. No 54b). Ratiaria. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 99, 146, 208, 209, 279). H. 20 mm, th. wire 2-1 mm, d. shield 20 × 22 mm, pendant length 23 mm, w. 7.56, 20 c. (840).

S-shaped hook made of one round wire, with thinned out and bent tip. The shield is executed in openwork, shaped like a six-foil double rosette (star), with a rectangular sunken bezel in the centre, containing a green stone. The shape of the stone resembles a hexahedral prism, with a cylindrical longitudinal hole, where the gold wire is threaded so as to be attached to the openwork foil. A round plate is soldered over the tip of the hook on the reverse of the shield. An undulating plate decorated with vertical fluting on the reverse, bent to form hoops, is attached in the lower end. The plate resembles a stylized snake, one end shaping the head, the other end — the tail. There are three pendants made of wire with horizontal fluting, thinned out and spirally bent toward the end, stopping the threaded beads. Only one bead — the central one, green, shaped like a hexahedral pyramid — has survived. The earring was subsequently repaired and the pendant was substituted. The stones on two of the pendants are missing. 3rd century AD. On the openwork decoration of the earrings cf. Cat. Nos 52, 53 [95, 38, fig. 12].

Cat. No 54b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type II, Variant 4)

Inv. No 4572b. Fully similar to Cat. No 54a. The wires of the three pendants are original. Two stones are preserved: of the central pendant, just as in Cat. No 54a, and in the first pendant — dark-red, spherical, now cracked.



a

b

Cat. No 55a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Type II, Variant 4)

Inv. No 2736a (forming a pair with Cat. No 55b). Dolna Oryahovitsa. Accidental find. H. 23 mm, th. wire 1.1-1 mm, d. shield 10 mm, pendant length 22 mm, w. 3.23 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

Ordinary hook, with pointed end, bent towards the shield. The latter is executed in openwork, of a massive plate which is shaped like a vine leaf. In its lower part the shield ends in a trapezium-shaped plate, with horizontal fluting and three hoops at the base, to which the pendants are suspended: with round hoops, having a gold pearl, made of a wire with deep horizontal fluting which imitates pearl-like corded ornament only in the visible part, tapering and spirally twisted in the end, on which a green bead resembling an octahedral pyramid is threaded. Well preserved. The bead of the central pendant is missing. Mid-3rd century AD. The vine leaf ornament on the shield is a variety of earlier decoration (Cat. No 54a, b) with the same pendants and similar stones. The trapezium-shaped plate occurs in a number of openwork earrings from Tortous, Damascus, Carnunthum and elsewhere, dated to the 3rd century, as well as in Cat. Nos 50 and 61 [105, Nos 2650, 2659, 2660, pl. LV; 142, No 19-1, 2; 155, 71].

Cat. No 55b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Type II, Variant 4)

Inv. No 2736b. H. 23 mm, th. wire 1.1-1 mm, d. shield 10 mm, pendant length 22 mm, w. 3.20 g, 22 c. (920).

Fully similar to Cat. No 55a. The hook is slightly deformed. The stone of the central pendant is missing, as in Cat. No 55a.



a b

Cat. No 56a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type II, Variant 5)

Inv. No 4067a (forming a pair with Cat. No 56b). Location unknown. H. 13 mm, th. wire 1.6-1 mm, d. shield 7 x 6 mm, pendant length 20 mm, w. 2.21 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished. S-shaped hook, one of its ends thinned out and bent outwards, the other one forming a hoop on which the pendant is suspended. The shield is ellipsoid and forms a massive bezel-setting which becomes wider in the periphery and is bent inward. The stone is green and with a rounded surface. The pendant is conical in shape, hollow, a thin wire with spirally twisted end passing through its centre. Small, spherical green beads, threaded on a thin wire that is tied at both ends, are twisted in a spiral above. Well preserved. The spiral with the beads is slightly off-centre and the upper part of the cone is visible. End of 3rd century AD. Massive stones in bezel-setting were typical of the 3rd century. Similar earrings are known from the Damascus Museum and the British Museum. The rich decoration of stones near the pendant demonstrates the influence of Hellenistic jewellery [155, 71; 105, No 2666, pl. LV; 6, 29; 158, No 301, tabl. XII].

Cat. No 56b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type II, Variant 5)

Inv. No 4067b. H. 13 mm, th. wire 1.6-1 mm, d. shield 7 x 6 mm, pendant length 20 mm, w. 2.16 g, 22 c. (920).

Fully similar to Cat. No 56a.



a b

Cat. No 57a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type II, Variant 5)

Inv. No 7718a (forming a pair with Cat. No 57b). Apiaria (Ryahovo, Rousse region). Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 102, 199) and a clay pot. H. 21 mm, th. wire 1.2-0.5 mm, d. shield 14 x 10 mm, pendant 12 x 8 mm, w. 3.02 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

Ordinary hook, with thinned out end, bent outward. The shield is ellipsoid, with conical bezel-setting having a rim that is turned inward, containing a dark-purple semispherical stone. Laterally there is a horizontal periphery with deep radial hatches. A hoop made of a round wire is soldered to the lower part of the shield and holds the pendant, which also has a lateral ellipsoid bezel containing a purple stone. Comparatively primitive workmanship. The hooks are slightly deformed. In some places the periphery of the bezel is broken. The bezel of the pendant is also deformed. 3rd century AD. Similar types of earrings with hooks, shields and pendants in massive bezels are known from Syria and Cyprus, with very close analogies from Tortous, from the Prince Napoleon Collection in the British Museum, dated to the 2nd-3rd century. Shields with similarly decorated peripheries can be seen on specimens from Carnunthum, from the Roman-German Museum in Bonn and in the collection under consideration (Cat. Nos 47, 49, 62), dated to the 2nd-3rd century. The type is a variety of the pendant-earring defined by R. Higgins [105, Nos 2576, 2406, 2606, 2607, pl. LII; 142, 22-2a, b, 23-3a, b, 24-1a, b; 143, No 69, tabl. 28; 120, 183, pl. 54G].

Cat. No 57b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type II, Variant 5)

Inv. No 7718b. H. 21 mm, th. wire 1.1-0.5 mm, total H. 38 mm, d. shield 14 x 10 x 5.5 mm, pendant 12 x 8 mm, w. 3.02 g, 22 c. (920).

Fully similar to Cat. No 57a.



a b

Cat. No 58. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Type II, Variant 6)

Inv. No 5970. Location unknown. H. 20 mm, th. wire 1.2-0.5 mm, d. shield 8 mm, pendant length 14 mm, w. 1.47 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

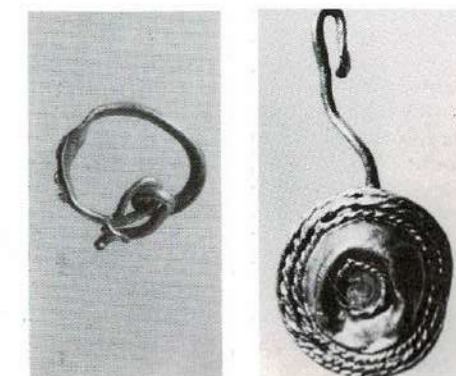
Ordinary hook, bent inward, with tapering, pointed and slightly bent tip. The shield is round, slightly bulging to form a hemisphere, framed with a pearl-like cord, with a horizontal plate in the lower part (attached to the reverse by means of the extension of one end of the hook), with two hooks for pendants. The latter are made of undecorated wire, with a spirally bent end for a bead. The shield is deformed. One pendant is missing, as well as the stone of the preserved pendant. 2nd-3rd century AD. As a type, it comprises elements of the variants discussed. The shield is elementary, without additional ornamentation [105, No 2377, pl. LII, No 2652, pl. LV].



Cat. No 59. GOLD EARRING (Group I)

Inv. No 4803. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. shield 12 mm, preserved H. of the hoop 8 mm, w. 0.84 g, 20 c. (920). D. hoop 12 x 9 mm, th. wire 1.2-0.8 mm.

Probably of the plain-hoop type; unclarified fastening, with a semispherical shield having horizontal periphery and end bent outward, decorated with three bands of a spirally twisted wire. In the centre—a bordered bezel for enamel. The shield is deformed, the enamel is missing. The wire of the hoop is untwisted. Another element of the same earring is a hoop of an earring, with a hoop-and-hook fastener, made of one round wire. Deformed and bent hook. Traces of a soldered shield. Mid-3rd century AD. The fragments in the collection, probably elements of two earrings, are similar to Cat. No 22 from the same treasure [95, 7, No 8].



Cat. No 60a. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Group I)

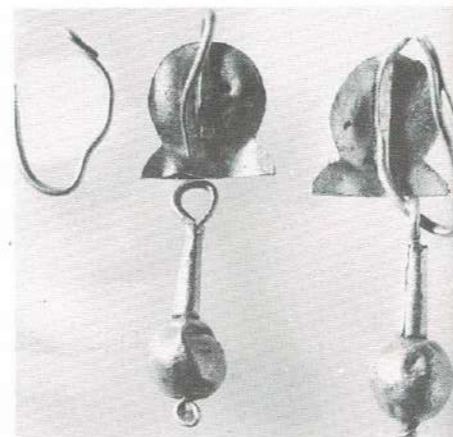
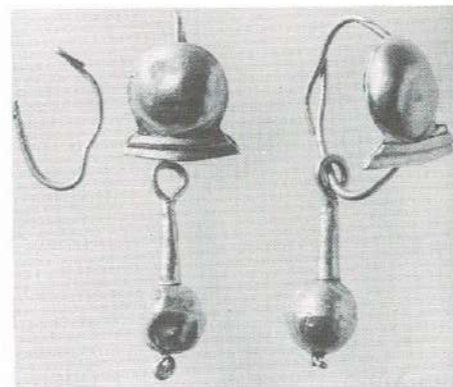
Inv. No 7924a (forming a pair with Cat. No 60b). Saparevo, Stanke Dimitrov region. Accidental find. Total H. 43 mm, d. hoop 20 × 10 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, d. shield 13 mm, pendant length 14 mm, w. 3.02 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

Unidentifiable hook or hoop. The shield is round, semispherical, with horizontal periphery, undecorated, with a trapezium-shaped horizontal plate at the base and with longitudinal fluting. The pendant moves freely, it is made of a vertical wire with spirally twisted end on which a hollow gold pearl consisting of two hemispheres is threaded. The remaining visible part of the pendant in height is enveloped in a thin plate shaped like a truncated cone. The wire of the hoop-hook is now ellipsoid in shape, with overlapping ends and broken off tips. Deformations are visible on the shield and on the pearl. Late 2nd—early 3rd century AD. Different elements of this earring occur in a number of 2nd-3rd century specimens. For the trapezium-shaped plate below the shield cf. Cat. Nos 14, 50, 51, 53, 55, 60 and 61. The gold pearl on the pendant is a typical ornament on Roman earrings. A characteristic element in this case is the additional plate on the wire, shaped like truncated cone, attested in earrings from Marcianopolis (Devnya), and Bolyarovo, Haskovo region, dated to the 3rd century, as well as in earrings kept in the British Museum (2nd-3rd century). The same element, but cylindrical in shape, is noted in earrings from our collection (Cat. Nos 33-35, 38, 40), dated to the same time [4, 100, tabl. II 1, 2; 84, 54, fig. 9; 105, No 2394, pl. LII, No 2532, pl. LIII, Nos 2672, 2673, pl., LIV].

Cat. No 60b. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Group I)

Inv. No 7924b. H. 40 mm, th. wire 1-0.5 mm, d. shield 13 mm, pendant length 14 mm, w. 2.66 g, 20 c. (840).

Fully similar to Cat. 60a. The wire of the hoop-hook is broken in two. The gold pearl of the pendant is deformed.

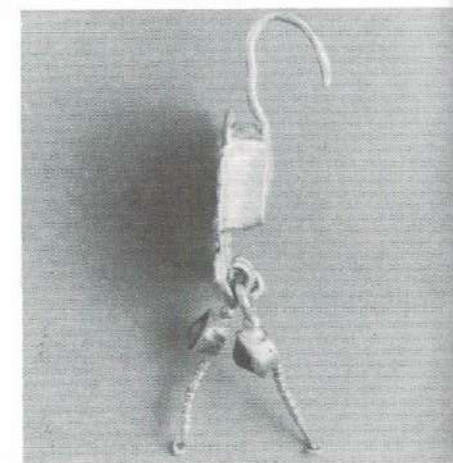


b a

Cat. No 61. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANTS (Group II)

Inv. No 658. Kozlovets, Svishtov region. Grave find, together with a gold ring (Cat. No 218), a clay pot, a bronze handle and two bronze coins. H. (preserved) 10 mm, th. wire 1.2 mm, d. shield 14 × 15 × 4 mm, pendant length 19 mm, w. 3.35 g, 23 c. (950). Unpublished.

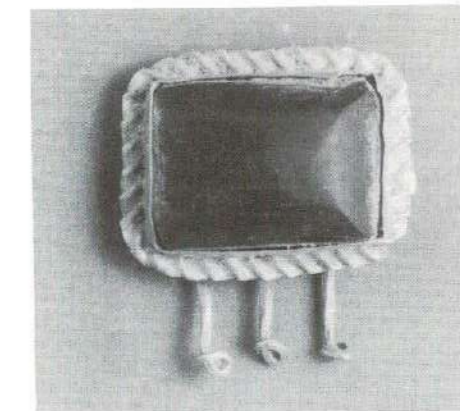
Hook of an unidentifiable shape (S-shaped or ordinary). Rectangular shield, with a massive bezel-setting containing a green stone, with openwork periphery—stylized palmette with embossed triangular ornamentation, in some places with incised triangles, rounded ends and embossed corded ornament to the bezel. At the base a trapezium-shaped plate with embossed horizontal ends, attached to the shield by means of three wires forming hoops for the pendants. The latter are free-suspended, they have a pearl at the base, with a conical bezel containing a purple stone in the upper part, made of a wire in a pearl-like cord, the end thinned out, smooth and twisted in a spiral to form a stop. A part of the hook, one pendant and the treaded beads of the two pendants are missing. The periphery of the shield is with deformations. Late 2nd—early 3rd century. The use of stones in bezels and on the pendants was typical of the Roman period. Openwork decoration of the periphery became popular after the 2nd century. Earrings with two stones in the pendants—one in a bezel, the other one moving freely along the wire—are known from the collection of the British Museum, from 3rd century tombs from Lyon and Villehardou, whereas earlier specimens were attested in Pompeii and Herculaneum from the 1st century AD [105, Nos 2665, 2670, pl. LV; 120, 185, No 103, pl. 54C,G; 145, No 71, tabl. 29].



Cat. No 62. GOLD EARRING (Group II)

Inv. No 922a. Sliven. Grave find, together with glass beads and bronze coins. D. 16 × 13 mm, pendant length 5 mm, w. 1.57 g, 19 c. (800). Unpublished.

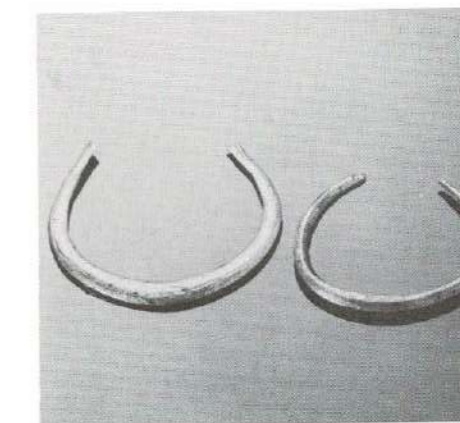
Only the shield with the pendants is preserved. The shield is rectangular in shape, with a bezel containing a green stone, its surface shaped like a tetrahedral truncated pyramid. Three pendants of spirally twisted wire, ends tapering and twisted to form a circle to prevent the bead from falling off, are suspended on the shield's reverse. The hook is broken, missing. The beads of the pendants are also missing. 2nd-3rd century. The bezel-shield resembles Cat. No 49, but the pendants are shorter.



Cat. No 63. GOLD EARRING WITH PENDANT (Group I)

Inv. No 4802. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. of the bezel 13 × 8 × 3 mm, pendant length 17 mm, w. 1.16 g, 20 c. (840).

The shield with the pendant is preserved. The shield is round, with a bezel for a stone (now missing), spiral fluting on the horizontal periphery. In the lower part of a trapezium-shaped profiled plate there is an immobile hoop on which there is a freely moving pendant, made of a vertical wire, spirally bent at the end and with a green bead threaded on it. The bead is shaped like a hexahedral prism. The stone of the shield is missing. The horizontal plate is deformed. Mid-3rd century AD. Very close analogies in earrings from Carnunthum and the Roman-German Museum in Bonn, dated to the 2nd-3rd century [142, tabl. 23-3a, b, tabl. 24-1a, b, 2a, b; 143, No 69, tabl. 28].



Cat. No 64a. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

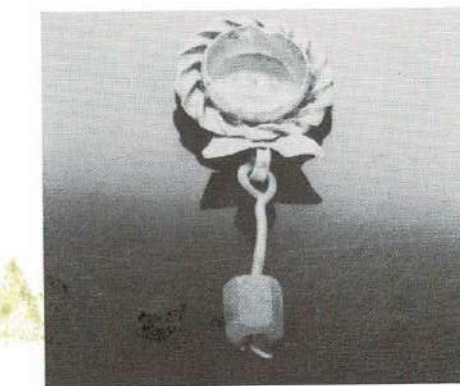
Inv. No 5862a (forming a pair with Cat. No 64b). The treasure from Bazaurt (Zhitnitsa, Dobrich region). D. 18 × 16 mm, th. wire 1.5-1 mm, distance between the ends 7 mm, w. 1.05 g.

Plain-hoop, open, ellipsoid earring made of one wire shaped like double convex lens, tapering and pointed towards the ends, now broken off. First half of the 2nd century AD. For the type, cf. Cat. Nos 1,2 [13, 150-151].

Cat. No 64b. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5862b. D. 22 × 17 mm, th. wire 3 × 1 mm, distance between the ends 13 mm, w. 1.7 g.

Fully similar to Cat. No 64a, but larger.



a b

Cat. No 65a. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 2354a (forming a pair with Cat. No 65b). Izvor, Yambol region. Grave find, together with silver jewellery (Cat. No 66a, b), bronze and glass bracelets, and two clay lamps. D. 18 mm, th. wire 2 mm, distance between the ends 3 mm, w. 1.1 g. Unpublished. Plain-hoop, open. Round, made of one wire of rounded cross section, with tapering and almost touching ends. 2nd—early 3rd century. Fully similar to the earrings from Bazaurt (Cat. No 64a, b). The dating of the clay lamps refers them to the first part of the 3rd century [52, No 181].

Cat. No 65b. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 2354b. D. 19 × 20 mm, th. wire 2 mm, distance between the ends 1 mm, w. 1.4 g. Unpublished.

Fully similar to Cat. No 65a.



a b

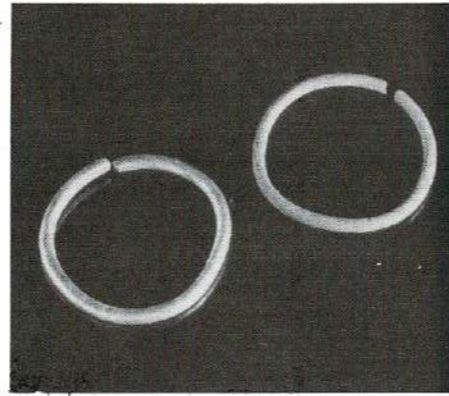
Cat. No 66a. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 2349a (forming a pair with Cat. No 66b), Izvor, Yambol region. Grave find, together with silver earrings (Cat. No 65a, b), bronze and glass bracelets and two clay lamps. D. 23×22 mm, th. wire 1.6-1.4 mm, distance between the ends 1 mm. Unpublished.

Plain-hoop earring, open-end fastened. Round hoop made of one wire with rounded cross section, vertically cut ends with a small distance between them. Low grade silver or silver-plated bronze. Slightly deformed. 2nd—early 3rd century AD. Similar to Cat. Nos 64a, b and 65a, b. The dating of the clay lamps refers them to the first half of the 3rd century, slightly later than the earrings from Bazaurt [52, No 181].

Cat. No 66b. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 2349b. D. 22 mm, th. wire 1.61-4 mm, distance between the ends 1.5 mm. Fully similar to Cat. No 66a.



a b

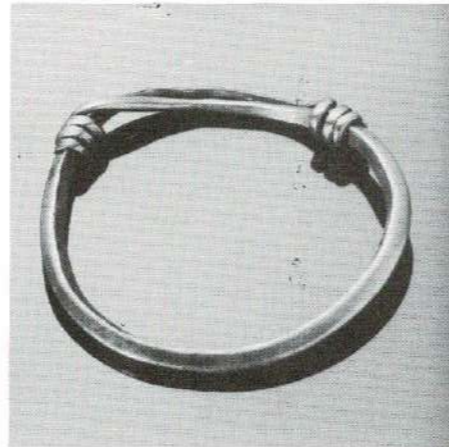
Cat. No 67a. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5861a (forming a pair with Cat. No 67b). The treasure from Bazaurt. D. 26.5×25.5 mm, th. wire 2-0.8 mm.

Plain-hoop earring, open-end fastened. Round shape, made of one wire with rounded lozenge cross section, with overlapping, thinned out and spirally twisted ends, each with three coils. Slightly deformed. First half of the 2nd century AD. The type is very popular from Roman jewellery, in rings, bracelets and earrings. Cf. Cat. Nos 3-5 [13, 150-151].

Cat. No 67b. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5861b. D. 26×25 mm, th. wire 1.5-1 mm. Fully similar to Cat. No 67a. Slightly deformed.



a

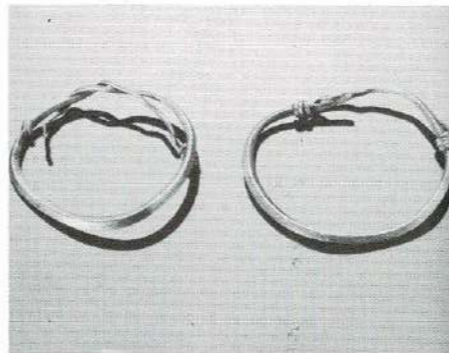
Cat. No 68a. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5863a (forming a pair with Cat. No 68b). The treasure from Bazaurt. D. 22×20 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm, w. 1.1 g.

Plain-hoop earring, open-end fastened, with overlapping, thinned out and spirally twisted ends. Fully similar to Cat. No 67a, b. One wire of the overlapping ends is broken and missing. Slightly deformed. First half of the 2nd century AD. [13, 150-151].

Cat. No 68b. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5863b. D. 20×19.5 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.3 mm, w. 1.1 g. Fully similar to Cat. No 68a. Deformed, the overlapping ends are broken.



a b

Cat. No 69. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4663. Aquae Calidae (the Roman basin of the Aitos baths). D. 19×18 mm, th. wire 1.2-1 mm, w. 0.80 g (900). Unpublished.

Plain-hoop earring, open-end fastened, with overlapping thinned out and spirally twisted ends to form 4 and 5 coils. In another two places on the hoop there are additional spiral coils, 4 and 5 per group. Slightly deformed. 2nd century AD. The earring bears the general characteristics of the variant, with well dated 2nd century finds. Cf. Cat. Nos, 3, 67, 68.



Cat. No 70. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 3809. Ratiaria. Grave find. D. 23×21 mm, th. wire 1.5-1 mm, w. 1.68 g (900). Unpublished.

Plain-hoop earring, closed-end fastened, with overlapping, thinned out and spirally twisted ends of three coils made of one silver-plated copper wire. A dark-blue tetrahedral glass bead is threaded on the hoop. The hoop is cracked in some places and the copper wire underneath is seen. There are traces of bruises on the bead. Mid-2nd century AD. Similar earrings with threaded beads are known from the Roman-German Museum in Bonn and from the Damascus Museum. There may have been a bead on the other earring as well, but it has fallen off subsequently. For the type cf. Cat. No 3, 67, 68 [143, No 64, tabl. 28; 155, 71; 99, No 40, fig. 2; 158, No 274, tabl. XII].



Cat. No 71. SILVER EARRING WITH PENDANT (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 3637. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 27×26 mm, th. wire 3.2-1 mm, pendant length 30 mm (width 17×5 mm), w. 11.70 g (900). Unpublished.

The type is similar to Cat. Nos 67-70, with four coils on each of the twisted ends. On the hoop there is a massive axe-shaped pendant, with tapering and pointed end towards the blade. The upper part is cross-like, with a cylindrical hole for threading, decorated with incised lines. Bruises with porous structure are visible in some places, probably due to the silver-plated copper wire. 1st-2nd century AD. Similar examples are the earrings from the production centre near Radomir [54, 31, 32].



Cat. No 72a. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 4A)

Inv. No 5004 (forming a pair with Cat. No 72b). Madara, Shoumen region. Grave find, together with silver jewellery (Cat. Nos 236, 237, 247). D. 30×25 mm, th. wire 3-1 mm, w. 2 g.

Plain-hoop earring, with hoop-and-hook fastener. Ellipsoid shape, made of one wire with biconcave cross section, tapering at the ends, one of which is bent to form an open hoop, the other one thinned out to go into the hoop. 2nd-3rd century. The type is characteristic of earrings from the Roman Period, dated to the 1st-4th century. In the concrete case the more precise dating is due to the rings found together with the earring [89, 280; 37, No 194, 209].

Cat. No 72b. SILVER EARRING (Type I, Variant 4A)

Inv. No 5004. D. 29×28 mm, th. wire 2.5-1 mm, w. 1 g. Fully similar to Cat. No 72a, but the ends are broken off.



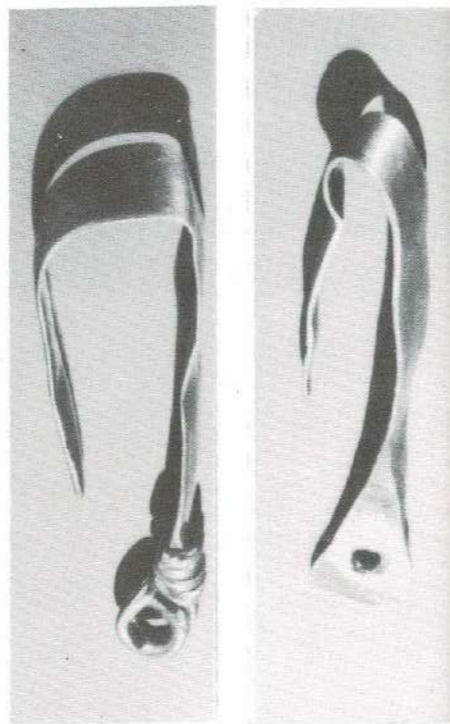
a



b

Cat. No 73. SILVER EARRING (Group II)

Inv. No 5871. The treasure from Bazaurt. H. 40 mm, width 3-5 mm, w. 2.70 g. Plain-hoop earring made of a thin plate, bent and pointed at one end, the other one passing into a round wire, twisted to form two circles—a hoop with a spirally twisted end in four coils. First half of the 2nd century AD. The hook to which an additional pendant was attached was part of a decoration worn over the temples, threaded and worn on one side of the head. The type with a long hook, to which a pendant is additionally attached, most often with a figured ornament, was very common during the Hellenistic Age and the tradition continued to Roman earrings as well. Very similar parallels of such hooks, but with preserved pendants, are seen in earrings from Olbia, Southern Russia and Egypt, dated to the 2nd or 2nd-3rd century AD [13, 150-151; 120, 166, No 7; 138, 51; 105, Nos 2373, 2399, 2412, pl. LII; Nos 2636, 2637, pl. LV; 114, 63, No 29, tabl. 49, 44, No 5, tabl. 21].

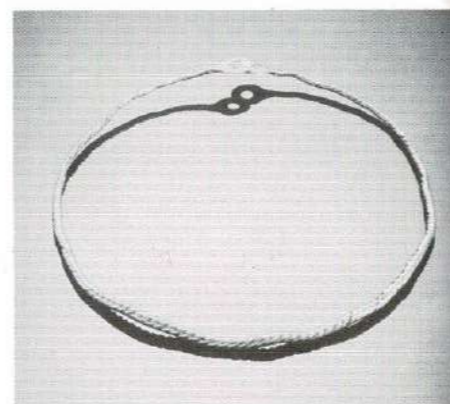


Cat. No 74. SILVER EARRING (Group II)

Inv. No 5872. The treasure from Bazaurt. H. 40 mm, width 3-5 mm, w. 1.6 g. Similar to Cat. No 73. Plain hoop made of a flat wire, bent and pointed at one end, shaped like a leaf, the other end widened to form a plate with a round hole. Two deep oblique hatches in the body. Slightly deformed. First half of the 2nd century AD. For the type, cf. Cat. No 73.

Cat. No 75. GOLD TORQUE (Type I, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4781. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 123 × 123 mm, th. wires 4-2 mm, d. hoops 8-10 mm, w. 42.94 g, 22 c. (920). Open oval torque, made of two thin wires, flattened and spirally twisted, tapering at the ends and hammered into thin plates shaping ellipsoid hoops with a round hole. Slightly deformed. The ends are joined now. Mid-3rd century AD [95, 8, No 12, tabl. IV, 14].



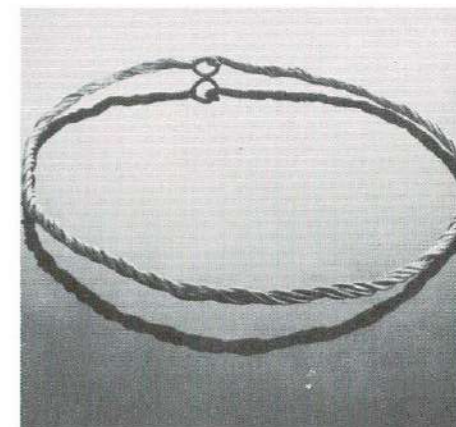
Cat. No 76. GOLD TORQUE (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 6601. Svilengrad. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 9, 12, 115), medical instrument and bronze coin of Faustina Minor (161-180 AD). D. 107 mm, th. wires 1.5-0.5 mm, total th. 2.5 mm, w. 12.73 g, 20 c. (840). The hoop is open-end fastened, round, consisting of four wires with round cross section (rectangular in some places), spirally twisted, tapering towards the parallel overlapping ends, then hammered to form one round wire ending with coils—weight at each end. Well preserved. 2nd century AD. The type of open-end fastened torques with parallel overlapping and spirally twisted ends to form coils was widespread in ancient jewellery: earrings, bracelets and rings since the remote antiquity. During the Roman Period it reappeared in 2nd-3rd century jewellery. Close parallels are also seen in the numerous earrings and bracelets from the collection under consideration, among which are the reliably dated finds from the Bazaurt treasure—mid-2nd century AD (Cat. Nos 67, 68, 148-150 [19, 152, fig. 142; 105, No 2593, pl. LIV, No 2828, pl. LXIII, No 2829, pl. LXIV].



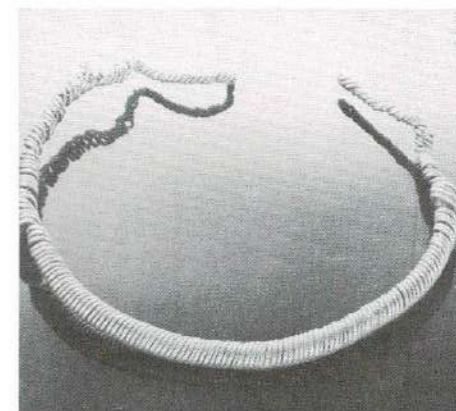
Cat. No 77. GOLD TORQUE (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 6558. The treasure from Chaoushevo. D. 105 × 108 mm, th. wire 0.5-0.7 mm, total th. 3-1 mm, hook length 5 mm, d. hoop 7 mm, w. 20.56 g, 21 c. (840-920). The hoop is closed with a hoop-and-hook fastener. It is oval in shape, made of five spirally twisted thin round wires, thinned out at the ends. The latter are hammered to form one round wire, shaping the hoop-and-hook fastener with a pointed tip, bent inwards, and a round hoop and a horizontal plate with a gold pearls at the base. Slightly deformed. In some places the spiral twisting of the wires is loosened out. At about 30 mm from the hoop of the fastener the hoop of the torque is broken and later soldered. 2nd-3rd century AD, dated on the basis of the coin hoard. Similar shaping of the spirally twisted wires, but over a copper core, is seen in the gold torques from the Nikolaevo treasure, dated to the mid-3rd century AD. Cf. Cat. Nos 78, 79 [66, 425].



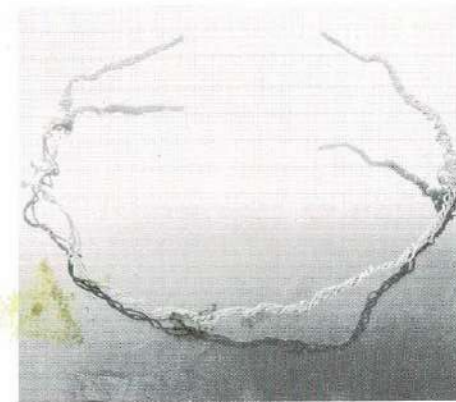
Cat. No 78. GOLD TORQUE (Group II)

Inv. No 4787. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 80 mm, th. wire 0.9-0.7 mm, total th. 5-2 mm, w. 22.05 g, 22 c. (920). The hoop is oval, without evidence that the ends were specially shaped. It consists of four spirally twisted thin round wires around a massive core of bronze wire, and becomes thinner towards the end. Poorly preserved, deformed. The ends are missing, the preserved parts are bent into one another. Part of the copper wire core is missing. Mid-3rd century AD. Published as a bracelet. The shaping of the hoop of several twisted wires is typical of Roman jewellery. In addition to torques, it occurs frequently in bracelets—gold and silver, also in the collection under consideration here (Cat. Nos 144, 169, 170) and in 2nd-3rd century bracelets from the collection of the British Museum [95, 8, No 16, tabl. III, 5; 105, Nos 2779, 2793, 2801, 2803, 2812-2815, pl. LII-LXV].



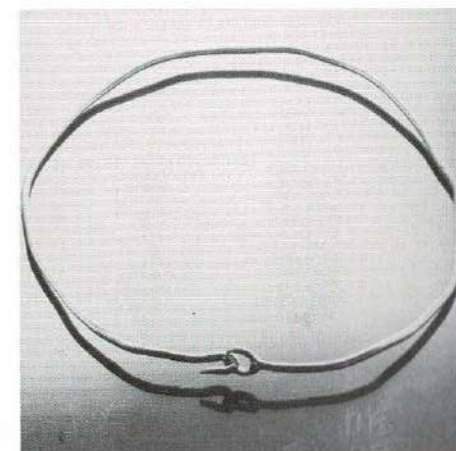
Cat. No 79. GOLD TORQUE (Group II)

Inv. No 4738. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 130 mm, th. wire 0.9-0.7 mm, total th. 4-2 mm, w. 16.25 g, 22 c. (920). Totally identical to Cat. No 78. Deformed, torn wires, untwisted. Parts of the copper wire core are preserved only near the ends. Twisted twice, ends upturned.



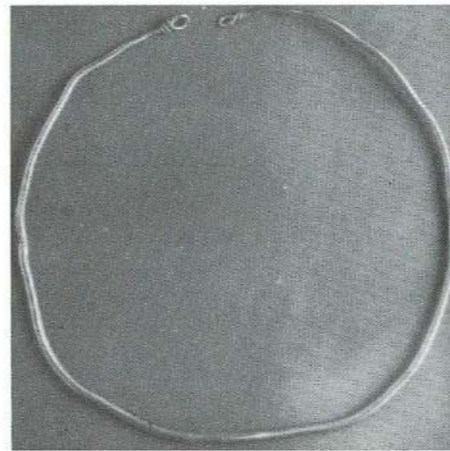
Cat. No 80. GOLD TORQUE (Type III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5572. Ratiaria. Grave find, child's burial, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 94, 101, 111, 132, 140, 141, 195, 286). D. 90 mm, th. wire 1.7-1 mm, d. hoops 7 mm, w. 10.85 g, 21-22 c. (920+). Open oval hoop, made of one round wire, tapering at the ends, each shaped like a hoop, one horizontal and the other one vertical. A gold pearl is seen at the base of the horizontal hoop. Slightly deformed, part of one hoop is broken and missing. Mid-3rd century AD. The shaping of the hoop as a smooth body made of a round wire betrays the influence of torques dated to the Latin Period in the Thracian lands, also preserved in bracelets [95, 37, No 5, tabl. V, 5; 20, 111; 87, 44].



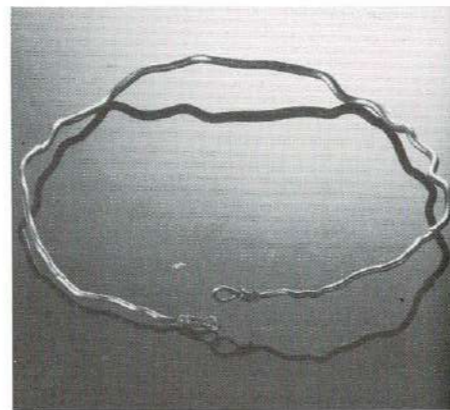
Cat. No 81. GOLD TORQUE (Type III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 6092. Location unknown. D. 100 × 107 mm, th. wire 3-1 mm, d. hoops 4 mm, distance between ends 8 mm, w. 24.96 g, 20 c. (840).
The hoop is open, oval, made of one round wire, thinned out at the ends and folded to form small hoops with spiral coils in groups of two or three. 2nd-3rd century AD. The shaping of the ends in hoops and spiral coils occurs in other types of Roman jewellery as well: earrings, bracelets (cf. Cat. Nos 12, 16, 17, 20, 153-156) [14, 229].



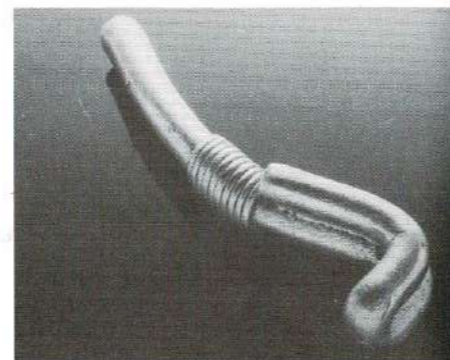
Cat. No 82. GOLD TORQUE (Type III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5752. Anchialo (present-day Pomorie, Bourgas region). Probably grave find, together with a gold ring (Cat. No 186). D. 114 × 110 mm, th. wire 3-1 mm, d. hoops 4 and 6.5 mm, w. 25.06 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.
The hoop is open, oval in shape, made of one round wire, thinned out in the ends which are shaped like hoops with spiral coils in groups of five and eight. One of the hoops is round, the other one is ellipsoid. Deformed, the body now is undulating and twisted in some places. One end is broken near the hoop, subsequently soldered. Two coils of the spiral twists at the end are broken off and move freely along the hoop. According to the inventory register, there is evidence of the existence of a flat hoop, probably a crescent, now missing. Mid-3rd century AD. Cf. Cat. No 81.



Cat. No 83. GOLD TORQUE (Type III, Variant 3)

Inv. No 5048. Ratiaria. Accidental find. Preserved length 68 mm, th. wire 7-5 mm, hook length 15 mm, width 10 mm, w. 56.63 g, 22 c. (920).
Oval hoop, open, made of massive round wire, slightly thinned out at the ends which are bent to form hooks. Ten spiral coils made of thin round wire are soldered to the end of the hoop. Preserved fragment — one end of the torque. Traces of hatches are seen on the surface.



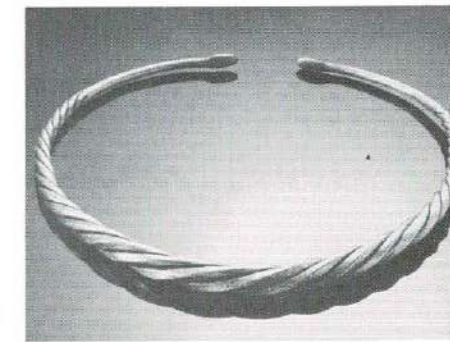
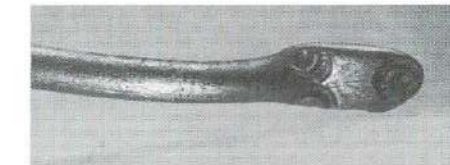
Cat. No 84. GOLD TORQUE (Group III)

Inv. No 6634. Oescus. Grave find, child's burial, together with gold ring (Cat. No 200) and coin hoard (1st-3rd century AD). D. 110 × 105 mm, th. wire 3-1 mm, d. crescent 23 × 18 mm, crescent hoop 6 × 5 mm, w. 33.38 g, 22 c. (920), crescent 20 c. (840).
Oval hoop made of one round wire, tapering at the ends, without evidence about the way they were shaped. A freely moving ellipsoid gold crescent is attached to the torque. The crescent is with a flat, thin body, tapering at both ends. The obverse is decorated with three gold pearls, arranged symmetrically, one in the centre and one on each side. A flat cylindrical hoop made of a plate, with two vertical flutes on the surface, is soldered to the upper part of the crescent. The hoop of the torque is slightly deformed. The ends are additionally spirally twisted towards one another in five coils, there are traces of broken parts on their tips. Late 2nd — early 3rd century AD. Crescents as a decoration of torques and necklaces were a characteristic element during the Roman Period, an influence of Hellenistic traditions of a Syrian origin (cf. Cat. Nos 121-126) [76, 451, fig. 268; 120, 179; 105, Nos 2719, 2720, pl. LVIII, LIX; 153, 179, Abb. 10].



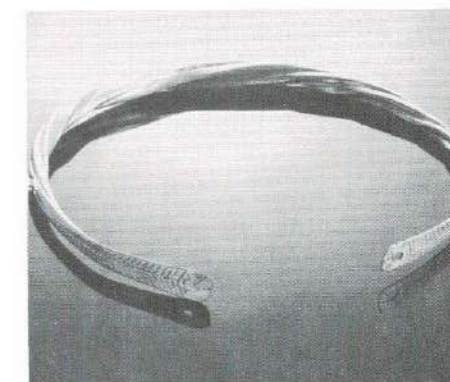
Cat. No 85. GOLD TORQUE (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 8147. Vladimirovo, Mihailovgrad region. Accidental find. D. 136 × 126 mm, th. wire 4-2 mm, total th. 10-3 mm, distance between ends 25 mm, w. 90.6 g. Unpublished.
Oval hoop, open, made of four massive, twisted wires, rectangular in cross section, with thinned out ends hammered to form one round wire and ending with stylized flat snake's heads, decorated with three incised circles designating the mouth and the eyes. Well preserved. 1st century BC — 1st century AD. A close analogy of the torque under consideration is seen in a specimen from the treasure Poiana — Gorge (Roumania), discovered together with coins dated from the late 2nd century BC to the 1st century AD and differing only in the rendition of the snakes' heads. The decoration of snakes' heads shaping the ends of jewellery occurs in rings, bracelets and fasteners of necklaces as a Hellenistic tradition during the Roman Period, mostly in the 1st-2nd century AD (cf. Cat. Nos 160-162, 174, 175, 225) [134, 203; 105, Nos 2780, 2782, 2781, 2789, pl. LXIII, 120, 187, pl. 61D,E; II, 38-40].



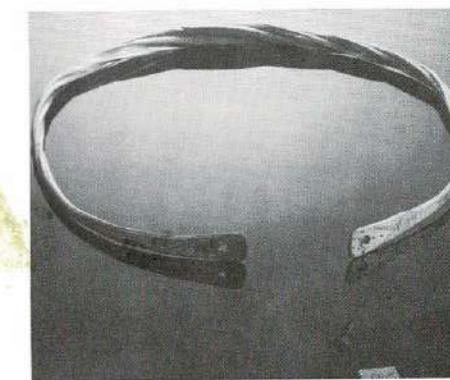
Cat. No 86. SILVER TORQUE (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6559. The treasure from Chaoushevo. D. 195 × 173 mm, th. wire 3.4-1 mm, total th. 14-5 mm, length of flattened wire 80 mm, distance between the two ends 70 mm, d. of holes 5 × 4 mm, w. 245.50 g.
Oval hoop, open, made of four massive spirally twisted wires, with rounded rectangular cross section. The ends are thinned out, hammered to form a plate with a rounded end and round hole. The plate is decorated with bands of oblique incised hatches and stippled ornamentation between them, which also continue above the hole around which there are four symmetrical hatches. Well preserved. On the surface of the hoop there are traces of cuts with a blade. 2nd — middle of 3rd century AD. The shaping of the ends as elongated plates with incised decoration betrays the influence of the early Hellenistic torques in Thrace, represented by the silver torque from Stolut [66, 425; 60, 395, fig. 175].



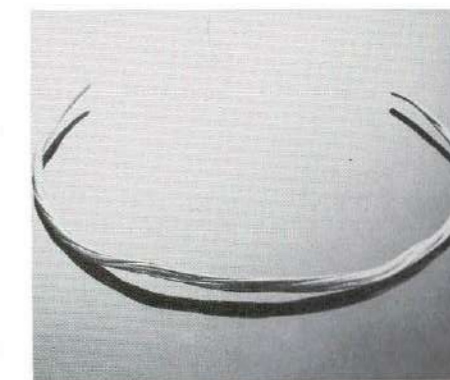
Cat. No 87. SILVER TORQUE (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6702. The treasure from Chaoushevo. D. 186 × 180 mm, th. wire 2.9-1 mm, total th. 12-3 mm, plate length 91 mm, distance between ends 42 mm, d. holes 3 and 4 mm, w. 139.90 g.
Fully similar in type to Cat. No 86. The only difference is in the decoration which consists of a band of incised X-like hatches, rows of which form a total of six lozenges which increase in dimension towards the top, with two parallel vertical longitudinal lines and stippled decoration. Well preserved. 2nd — mid-3rd century AD [66, 425].



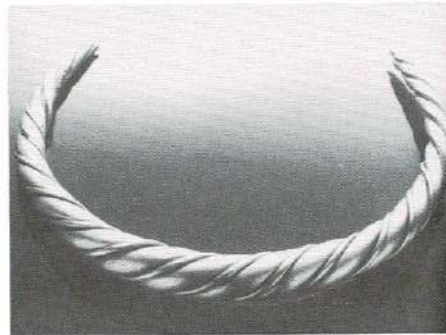
Cat. No 88. SILVER TORQUE (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 6774. The treasure from Chaoushevo. D. 155 × 136 mm, th. wire 1.5-0.5 mm, total th. 6-2 mm, distance between the end — 113 mm, w. 33.65 g.
Oval, open hoop, consisting of four rounded and flattened wires over a copper plate, spirally twisted, tapering at the ends, pointed and hammered out to form one flat wire. Slightly deformed. In some places on the surface there are bruises and fissures which suggest that the technique used was plating. The tip of one of the ends is broken and missing. 2nd-3rd century AD [66, 425].



Cat. No 89. SILVER TORQUE (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 6472. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 148 × 110 mm, th. wire 0.5 and 1.2 mm, total th. 1.4-3 mm, distance between the ends—116 mm, w. 201.2 g.
Oval hoop, open, made of three massive tetrahedral bodies and three thin bodies (oval on top), spirally twisted, with tapering and pointed ends. Part of the tetrahedral bodies at one end and the thin wires in both ends are missing. 2nd century AD. The outstanding plasticity obtained as a result of the combined use of wires with different thicknesses occurred already during the archaic period and persisted in Late Antiquity finds, which can be seen in bracelets from Kul Oba and Southern Russia [18, 407, fig. 161; 120, 129, pl. 30B; 114, 113, No 3, 4, tabl. 77, 3, 4].



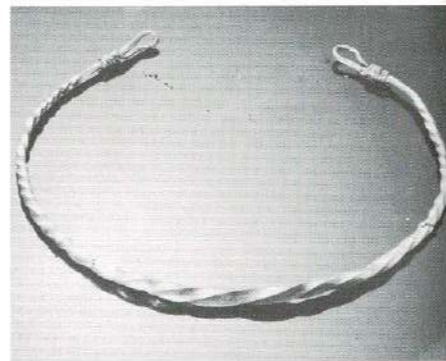
Cat. No 90. SILVER TORQUE (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 6473. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 161 × 103 mm, th. wire 1.5-1 mm, total th. 6-2 mm, distance between the ends 142 mm, w. 32.50 g.
Fully similar to Cat. No 88. Broken into three parts, the tips of the ends are missing. 2nd-3rd century AD [18, 407, fig. 161].



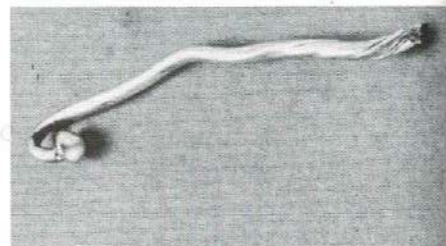
Cat. No 91. SILVER TORQUE (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5851. The treasure from Bazaurt. D. 141 × 124 mm, th. wire 7-2 mm, hoop length 18 mm, width 7-4 mm, hook length 19 mm.
Oval hoop, with hoop-and-hook fastener, made of spirally twisted wire with rectangular cross section, tapering at the ends, one of which is shaped like an elongated hoop with five coils, the other one with an additional hook with five coils. Slightly deformed. Broken in two, now soldered. Mid-2nd century AD. Close parallels are the bronze torque from Obrochishte, Varna region, dated to the 3rd century, and the gold torque from the Castellani Collection in the British Museum [13, 150-151; 84, 55, fig. 2; 105, No 2766, pl. LXII].



Cat. No 92. SILVER TORQUE—fragment (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5858a. The treasure from Bazaurt. Preserved length 68 mm, th. wire 3-2 mm, hook length 10 mm, w. 9.2 g (950).
The preserved part of the hoop consists of four spirally twisted silver wires, over a bronze plate, hammered out at the ends to form one wire, thinned out and bent to form a hook with a conically thickened tip. Mid-2nd century AD [13, 450-451].



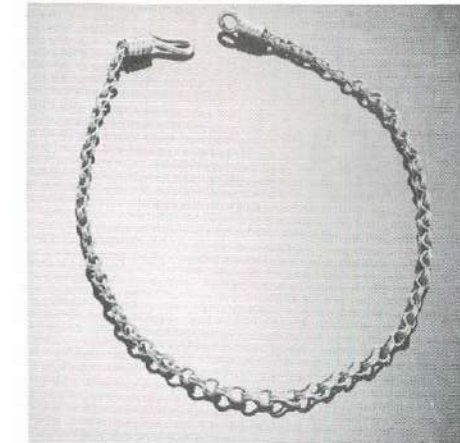
Cat. No 93. SILVER TORQUE—fragment (Group III)

Inv. No 4808. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Preserved length 60 mm, th. wire 2.2-1.2 mm, d. hoop 12 × 9 mm, w. 2.8 g.
Probably oval hoop, made of one round wire (over a copper plate), tapering at the end, one end preserved, bent to form a drop-shaped hoop, with spiral coils. Mid-3rd century AD. The possible form of the ends of the hoop was either with two hoops, similar to the gold torques from Ratiaria and Anchialo (Cat. Nos 80, 82), or with a hoop-and-hook fastener, similar to the silver torques from Bazaurt (Cat. Nos 91, 92). The fragment is published as part of a needle [95, 12, No 30, tabl. IV, 4].



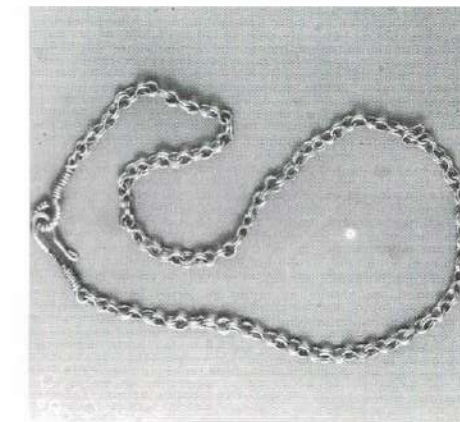
Cat. No 94. GOLD NECKLACE (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5570. Ratiaria. Grave find, child's burial, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 80, 101, 111, 132, 140, 141, 195, 286). Length 397 mm, w. 25.27 g, 22 c. (920), th. wire 13 mm, d. hoop 6 × 8 mm.
Single loop-in-loop chain of 47 twisted eight-shaped links, made of thin round wire. The ends are held together by hollow cylinders made of thin plate with horizontal fluting, to which the hoop-and-hook fastener is soldered. In this part the cylinders are closed. Well preserved. Mid-3rd century AD. Similar to another gold chain from Ratiaria (Cat. No 95), as well as to a number of chain-necklaces from the British Museum and from the Antiquity Museum in Berlin, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD [95, 37, No 4, tabl. V, 4; 105, Nos 2734, 2727, pl. LIX, Nos 2738, 2745, pl. LXI; 114, 30, No 2, tabl. 24].



Cat. No 95. GOLD CHAIN-NECKLACE (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6600. Ratiaria. Accidental find. Length 360 mm, th. hook 22-14 mm, d. hoop 7 mm, w. 11.75 g, 22 c. (920).
As a type, fully similar to Cat. No 94. Consisting of 57 loops. The ends are shaped with wire spirally twisted to form coils. The hoop is decorated with horizontal fluting which resembles pearl ornament, open-ended, connected to the links by means of an additional hoop, the tip of the hook is bent outwards. Mid-3rd century AD.



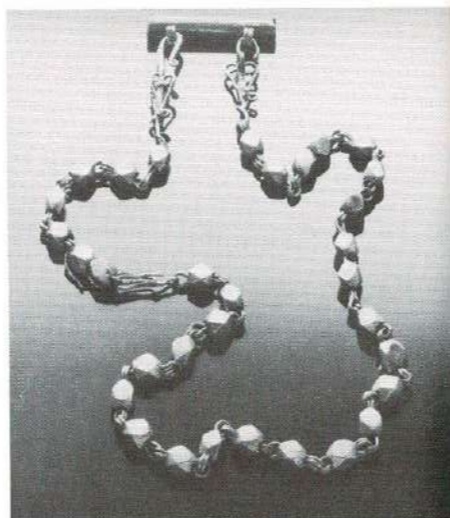
Cat. No 96. GOLD CHAIN-NECKLACE WITH MEDALLION AND CRESCENT (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4777. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Length 430 mm, d. medallion 33 × 25 × 6 mm, crescent 15 × 14 mm, w. 29.48 g, chain 20 c. (840), medallion 22 c. (920).
Single loop-in-loop chain of 50 twisted eight-shaped links, similar to Cat. No 95, shaped at both ends like segments resembling the connecting elements of Type V, Variant 1—drawn wire with two hoops at the end and spiral coils. These connecting segments shape the fastener of the chain by means of which the medallion is attached. The end of one of the segments is bent to form a hook with tapering and bent tip. The medallion is ellipsoid in shape, with a bezel on the obverse to hold the stone. The periphery is decorated with two bands of wire, the inner band thinner and round, the outer band with horizontal fluting resembling pearl ornament, with four gold pearls (only two preserved), arranged symmetrically. The reverse of the bezel is smooth. Along the longer sides two hoops made of thicker wire are soldered and the chain is fastened by means of them. A crescent-shaped pendant (lunula) consisting of two parallel plates—the external one being a hollow body of gold plate, thinned out and pointed at the ends, the inner plate being made of wire in pearl ornament, with spirally twisted ends—is fixed firmly to the chain by means of a small hoop. One end of the outer body of the crescent is missing. Mid-3rd century. Similar necklaces, without medallion with lunula, are seen in the collection of the Roman-German Museum in Bonn, dated with 2nd century coins, as well as a 2nd century necklace from Salzburg. The use of stones to decorate Roman jewellery was very popular after the end of the 2nd century, illustrated by medallions in the Castellani and Frank Bequest collections in the British Museum, dated to the 3rd century, necklaces from Tortous and Egypt (1st-2nd century), from the National Museum and the Benaki Museum in Athens [95, 6, No 6, tabl. III, 1; 143, No 4, tabl. 3; 142, 36, No 14, tabl. 14; 105, No 2726, pl. LIX, Nos 2734, 2745, pl. LXI, 3007, pl. LXIX; 149, 204; 104, tabl. XLVIII; 145, tabl. XXXVIII, XL].



Cat. No 97. GOLD NECKLACE (Type II, Variant 3)

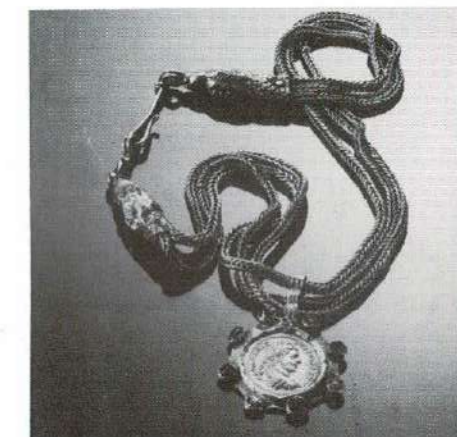
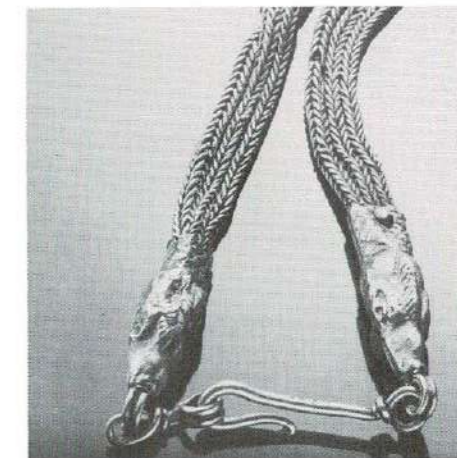
Inv. No 4778. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Chain length 429 mm, cylinder $32 \times 5 \times 4$ mm, beads 7×5 mm, w. 40.04 g, chain above 22 c. (920), cylinder 20 c. (840). The chain of the necklace is similar to those in Type II, Variant 1—loop-in-loop chain of twisted eight-shaped links, but in this case they play the role of connecting segments on which a total of 32 gold dodecahedral beads are threaded. The ends are in openwork ornamentation consisting of four S-shaped, bent flat wires forming a pyramid to which the bodies of the hoop and the hook of the fastener are soldered. A small tube is attached to the hoop as a second element of the fastener, ellipsoid in cross section, with two small hoops on the body (attached with one of them to the hoop of the necklace, the other one serving as the hoop of the fastener, into which the hook passes). The connecting loops are torn in some places. Probably one of the gold beads is missing. Mid-3rd century AD. Similar gold dodecahedral beads are seen in two other necklaces from Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 105, 106), dated to the mid-3rd century, the necklace from Vidin, from Pautalia—dated with a coin of Emperor Caracalla to the period between the first quarter and the middle of the 3rd century, as well as parallels in Egyptian necklaces from the Schiller Collection (2nd-3rd century), from the museum in Berlin, etc. The shaping of the fastener with S-like elements resembling a lyre is a typical motif of Roman necklaces, known from 2nd-3rd century exhibits in the British Museum. It is also present as an openwork segment in a necklace from the Roman-German Museum in Bonn, also dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD. The emphasis of the fastener with a second element—a cylindrical tube with two hoops in a row—registered and explained as capsules serving a magic purpose, some of them also containing magic texts, is similar to finds from Southern Italy, now in the British Museum, from Izmir, images on mummy-portraits, etc. Such tubules with two hooks are found in isolation, without a necklace, similar to the pyramidal tubule from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 118), from the Roman-German Museum in Bonn (2nd-3rd century), etc. [95, 6, No 5, tabl. III; 3; 78, 44, fig. 3; 154, No 118, tabl. 58; 114, No 3, 4, tabl. 18, 31-3, 34-19; 105, No 2715, pl. LVIII, No 2746, pl. LXI; No 3155, pl. LXXI].



Cat. No 98. GOLD NECKLACE WITH MEDALLION (Type III, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4774. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Length 465 mm, length chains 345, 350, 355 mm, d. 2×2 mm, th. holder (snake's heads with hoops) 38 mm, th. hoop (segment fastener) 17 mm, d. 5 mm, th. hoop 33 mm, d. medallion 34×28 mm, d. stones on the medallion 4-5 mm, w. 90.99 g, 23 c. (920).

The necklace consists of three chains of doubled four-stranded wire, loop-in-loop, with square cross section and different length of the chains (the difference is 5 mm), so that the chains are arranged one above the other, with a common holder for all three chains at both ends. The holder is shaped like a stylized snake's head—one end like a cylindrical insert to which the chains are attached by means of small nails, the other ending with a hoop of double wire in the mouth. Incised diagonal hatches, flaky ornament and circles render the anatomical features of the head. The elements of the fastener are attached to the hoops. The hoop is massive, cylindrical with horizontal fluting, with a spirally twisted and bent end. The hook is elongated, made of one wire, attached by means of a hoop with spiral coils, thinned out and bent, the tip turned outward. The medallion is round, with eight concave segments in the periphery, made of a massive plate shaping a casing for a gold coin of Emperor Caracalla (211-217 AD). A ring in relief is seen at the inner part of the casing and on the tips of the concave segments in the periphery there are small round bezel-settings in which four green stones (chrysoptase) alternate with four red stones (garnet), with spherically rounded surface. The reverse of the bezel is without face. The coin is visible on both sides. The obverse shows the Emperor's bust, facing right, with a laurel wreath and inscription: ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM. On the reverse—a lion walking to the left, with beams around the head and emblem—a lightning in the mouth. It is surrounded with an inscription: P M TP P XVIII COS IIII PP. In the upper part of the holder there are three successive cylindrical hoops with vertical fluting, placed one above the other, one for each of the three chains. On the reverse, above the first hoop at the base, a hoop made of flat wire is soldered for stabilization. On the obverse, at the base of the first hoop, there is an ornament of two small circles, as well as two small gold pearls before the second hoop. Relatively well preserved. In some places the wires of the chains are slightly torn. Three of the green stones on the medallion are with flattened bezel-settings. Mid-3rd century AD. The type of the chains in this necklace, the so-called Isthmion type, continues the Hellenistic tradition in the Roman Period, illustrated with a number of finds from Thrace, Moesia and the other Roman provinces, from the Schiller Collection in the British Museum, dated mainly to the 2nd-3rd century. The Hellenistic tradition is also seen in the way the ends are shaped like animal heads, snake's heads in the concrete case, with a close analogy in the Roman-German Museum in Bonn, dated to the period between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. A new element in Roman jeweller's art in the 2nd century AD was the use of coins in medallions on necklaces, which was of definite political importance. This is evidenced by the numerous finds of necklaces with one or several medallions, or only preserved medallions with coins from Gaul, Asia Minor, Egypt, from the collections of the National Library in the Paris Museum, the British Museum and the Vienna Museum, Caracalla's medallions from Petriane in Croatia, from Hungary, etc. The owners of jewellery with insert coins had definite merits before the state. Emperor Caracalla's coin on the medallion of the chain from Nikolaevo allows a relatively accurate dating. According to the inscription, the coin was minted in 215 AD. The last coin issues found in the hoard were from the time of Philip the Arab (249 AD). Consequently, this is the interval 215-249 AD, in which the necklace was made—a dating supported by numerous analogous examples [95, 5, No 1, tabl. II, 1; 154, No 107, tabl. 59, No 111, tabl. 61; 113, No 5, tabl. 26; 120, 181, 186 g, pl. 56, 61C; 143, No 8, tabl. 5, Nos 14, 15, 16, tabl. 7; 105, Nos 2727, 2735, 2936, pl. LIX, LX, LXVIII; 76, 63, 3].



Cat. No 99. GOLD NECKLACE (Type IV, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4576. Ratiaria. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 54, 146, 208, 209, 279). Length 395 mm, length connecting segment 13-18 mm, th. wire 1 mm, w. 7.94 g, 22 c.

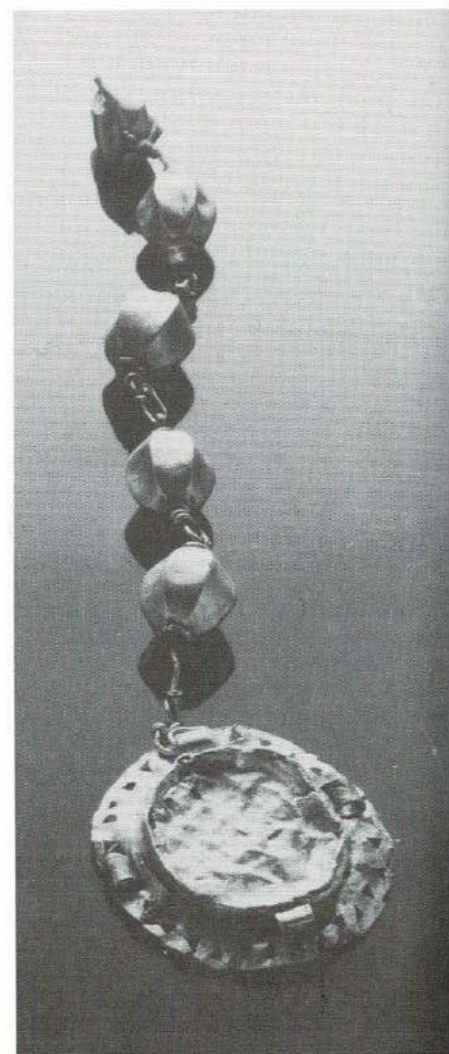
The necklace is of the "hormoi" type, made at its base of gold segments (connecting elements), on which glass or bone segments were threaded, now missing. The connecting segments consist of a loop—elongated body made of a round wire, ending with closed-end hoop-and-hook fasteners, with spiral coils at both ends. They were apparently linked consecutively. At present 30 intact and fragments of two other loops are preserved. The fastener is missing. The ends are deformed. Primitive workmanship. Mid-3rd century AD. Similar connecting loops are seen in the necklace with Cat. No 100, as well as in one of the loops of the necklaces with Cat. Nos 105 and 106. This type of connecting loops was very popular and very easy to produce. It is attested in numerous necklaces from Southern Russia, Pannonia, Germany, Syria, Gaul and elsewhere, dated to the period between the late 2nd and the late 3rd century AD. In a large part of the finds there are also preserved beads made of gold, bone, glass or precious stones of various shapes. Fully similar necklaces are seen in the Schiller Collection, in the Roman-German Museum in Bonn, Carnunthum, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD [95, 39, No 4, fig. 12; 105, No 2723, pl. LVII; 140, 67, tabl. 13, 15; 107, 8, 9, 12; 154, No 119, tabl. 17; 143, No 8, tabl. 8, No 7, tabl. 4; 114, No 4, tabl. 24; 142, No 2, tabl. 12].



Cat. No 100. GOLD NECKLACE WITH MEDALLION (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6094. Peturnitsa, Plevan region. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 118, 143), bronze fibula and bronze coin of Constantius II (337-361 AD). Preserved length—115 mm, loop th. 25-27 mm, beads 14 × 10 mm, medallion 38 × 33 mm, w. 24.80 g, 23 c. (950).

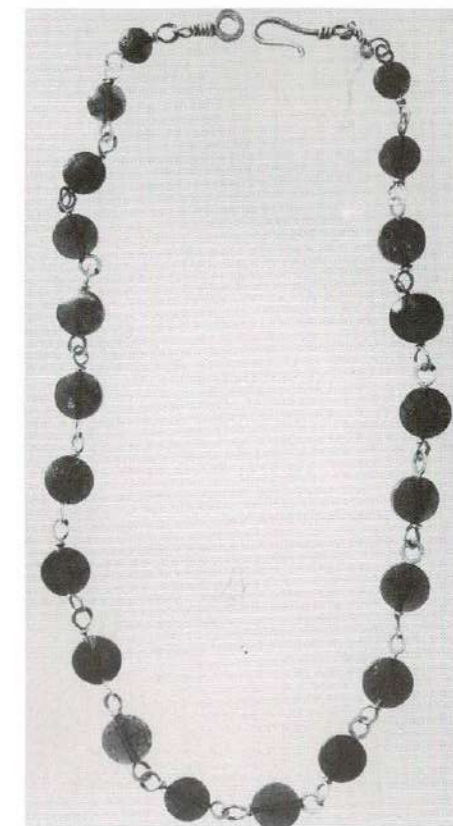
The necklace is of the "hormoi" type. Four whole and three fragmented elements are preserved, each with one hoop on which beads are threaded. The beads are hollow, truncated biconic, with a concave hexahedral surface, decorated at both ends with a band in pearl ornament. Five beads are preserved. The medallion is ellipsoid, with a holder and horizontal periphery, with openwork decoration of incised triangles and oblique hatches resembling corded ornament. On the reverse there are four symmetrical cylindrical hoops with which it is attached to the chain. The stone is missing. The medallion is deformed, the periphery and one of the beads are torn. Mid-3rd century AD. Medallions with openwork periphery were very popular in 2nd-3rd century Roman jewellery and were perceived as a new element. In addition to placing gold coins in bezels, the medallions are also decorated with various precious or semiprecious stones and cameos, similar to Cat. Nos 96, 109, 111, 128, 129, 131, referred to the cited dating. Therefore, the examined necklace, and more specifically the medallion, are referred not to the dating of the coin from the burial, but relatively earlier, which is confirmed also by its state of preservation, not only as a result of the finding, but also due to the long use. A similar openwork medallion with a stone is known from Montana (Mihailovgrad) [14, 226, fig. 102; 61, 50, No 10, fig. 5; 120, 186; 156, 97; 105, Nos 2938-2940, pl. LXVIII; 114, No 2, tabl. 33].



Cat. No 101. GOLD NECKLACE WITH GARNETS (Type IV, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5569. Ratiaria. Grave find, child's burial in a stone sarcophagus, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 80, 94, 111, 132, 140, 141, 195, 286). Length 320 mm, d. garnets 7, 6.5, 6 and 5 mm, th. 2 mm, connecting loop 15.5 mm, d. loop hoops—4 mm, d. hoop fastener 6 mm, hook length 16 mm, w. 11.20 g, 22 c. (920).

The necklace is of the "hormoi" type, consisting of 23 connecting loops, on 21 of which round flat garnet beads are threaded. The connecting loops at both ends are without stones. They shape the fastener: the hoop of one of the loops, but larger in diameter and with five spiral coils at the end. The hook is attached by means of a hoop and special coils to the last loop of the second end. It is made of a round wire, tapering towards the end, its tip bent outwards. The garnets are identical in size (7 mm), with the exception of the three nearest the ends (6.5, 6 and 5 mm). Well preserved. Slight bruises on several of the garnet beads. 2nd century AD. Among the well-known Roman jewellery, fully similar specimens are the necklaces in the Antiquity Museum in Berlin (2nd century), from Montemezola in Italy (1st century BC—1st century AD), from the Schiller Collection in Berlin (3rd century AD), the Madrid Museum, as well as some necklaces featuring the combination of openwork segments and garnets—the necklace from Stara Zagora, from the British Museum (2nd century), etc. [114, No 6, tabl. 30; 124, 198; 154, No 120, tabl. 56; 104, tabl. CXLVIII; 145, 111; 105, No 2714, pl. LVIII; 61, 48, No 6, fig. 5; 36, 35].



Cat. No 102. GOLD NECKLACE (Type IV, Variant 2)—preserved chain

Inv. No 7719. Apiaria. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. No 57, 199). Length 330 mm, hoop length 8-9 mm, d. hoops 2 mm, th. wire—0.6 mm, w. 3.5 g, 22 c. (920). The necklace is of the "hormoi" type, consisting of interconnected loops of the second type, 49 of which have been preserved (47 intact and two halves), similar to Cat. No 101. Glass, bone or stone beads, now missing, were threaded on the loops. The fastener of the necklace is also missing. 2nd-3rd century AD. This type of chain was very common among necklaces, but the non-durable beads, mostly made of glass or bone, fell off in the course of time. Close parallels can be found in necklaces from the necropolis in Chataalka near Stara Zagora, from Southern Russia and from Carnunthum, dated to the 2nd century AD [69, 28, fig. 173; 11, No 155, tabl. 14; 113, No 2, tabl. 30; 142, tabl. 12, 1].



Cat. No 103. GOLD NECKLACE (Type IV, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4903. Ratiaria. Grave find, together with gold and bronze jewellery (Cat. Nos 53, 104, 173), gems, as well as bronze, glass and clay vessels. Length 470 mm, length connecting loops 19-15 and 10 mm, fastener—decorative element with length 15 mm, d. hoop 3 mm, length hook 15 mm, gold beads 4 × 3 mm, glass beads 7 × 5 and 5 × 3 mm, w. 14.63 g, 20 c. (840).

The necklace is of the "hormoi" type, consisting of 36 alternating loops belonging to two types (II and VI), on which 17 gold and 20 glass beads are threaded. The gold beads are

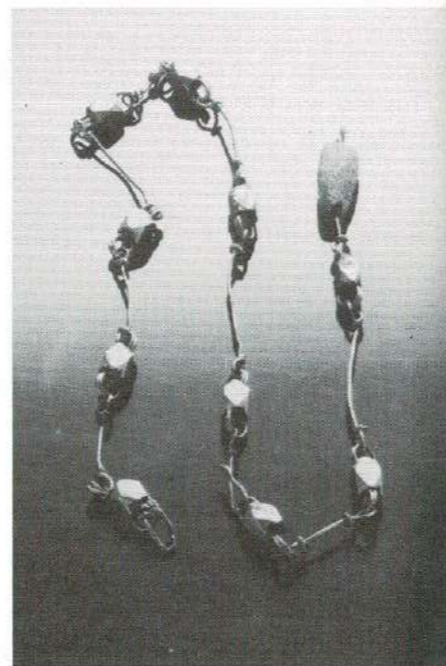
dodecahedral in shape, with a longitudinal cylindrical hole. The glass beads are of two colours and of various sizes: 8 beads are light-green and with the shape of a hexahedral prism, the remaining 12 are blue tetrahedral prisms, usually threaded in pairs, due to their smaller size. In some places only the interconnecting segments are preserved, the glass beads are missing, in other places the rhythm of alternation of glass with gold beads is disturbed, probably as a result of later repairs. The ends are shaped like a hoop-and-hook fastener, with additional openwork ornament of S-shaped double wires. In two places the connecting loops are deformed, glass beads are missing. 3rd century AD. Fully similar specimens in combination with dodecahedra and blue glass beads, differing only in the fastener, are seen in necklaces from Pautalia (present-day Kyustendil) and the Antiquity Museum in Berlin, dated to the 2nd century AD. An interesting feature is the use of mixed connecting loops, similar to another necklace from the same find (Cat. No 104), of necklaces from Salzburg, the British Museum and the Antiquity Museum in Berlin, dated to the 2nd-3rd century [89, 271, fig. 3; 95, 39, fig. 13; 37, Nos 32, 51, 137, 171; 78, 43; 113, No 3, 4, tabl. 29, No 3, 4, tabl. 30; 142, tabl. 14; 105, No 2723, pl. LVII].



Cat. No 104. GOLD NECKLACE (Type IV, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4904. Ratiaria. Grave find, together with Cat. No 103. Length 280 mm, length connecting loops 13-24 mm and 10 mm, gold beads 5 x 4 mm, bone beads 11 x 3 x 6 mm, w. 5.69, 22 c. (920).

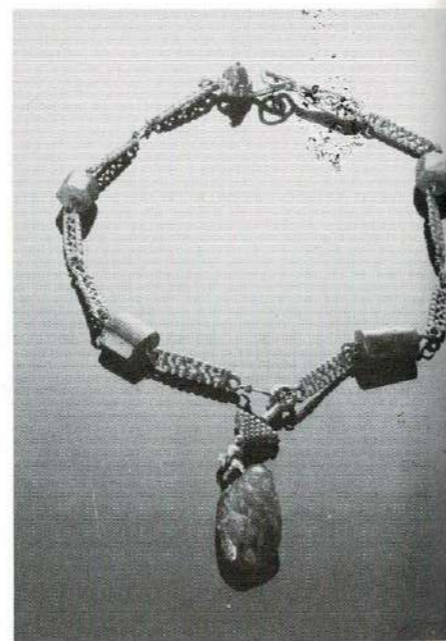
Similar in type to Cat. No 103, of two types of alternating connecting loops. A total of 21 loops are preserved, on which gold and bone beads are threaded. Ten of the gold dodecahedral beads are preserved and one bone bead shaped like a truncated cone. The fastener is missing. Part of the connecting loops are torn and deformed. 3rd century. Similar specimens, but only with bone beads, are known from Ratiaria, Plevan and Novae [89, 271; 95, 40, fig. 13; 36, 36; 49, 50; 76, 63, fig. 3].



Cat. No 105. GOLD NECKLACE (Type V, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6777. Plevan region. Probably grave find, together with gold earrings (Cat. No 13a, b). Length 273 mm, length gold segments 17-18 mm, width 3.5 mm, length connecting loops 9.5-12 mm, d. stones 5-10 mm, pendant length 47 mm, th. segment-fastener 15 x 7 mm, d. hoop 5 mm, hook length 18 mm, rosette 7 mm, w. 15.03 g, about 22 c. (920), pendant 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

The necklace consists of openwork gold segments and connecting loops with green beads. The 9 openwork segments are rectangular in shape, decorated with pearl-like and undulating ornament, with a hoop at either end. The connecting loops alternate with the gold segments on which the stones are threaded, shaped like hexahedral prisms, of various length. The stones of three of the loops are missing, one loop is torn and its wire is used to tie the adjacent openwork segments. The ends are shaped like a hoop-and-hook fastener to which a triangular openwork plate is soldered, decorated with volutes and spirally twisted wire, with a hook, deformed, decorated with rosette-like bezel with green stone. A pendant consisting of two elements: a grape-like ornament of gold pearls and a second one in pearl-like ornament, with a large unpolished red stone threaded on it, is attached by means of a mobile hoop to the centre of the necklace, at the place of the missing stone. 3rd century AD. This combination occurs in necklaces from Ratiaria, Montana, Augusta Trajana, from the Antiquity Museum in Berlin, Carnunthum and Southern Russia, dated to the 2nd-3rd century. A close analogy is a necklace in the Schiller Collection in Berlin, where the openwork segments consist of elements (connecting loops in variants) [5, 90, fig. 2; 95, 33, fig. 8; 61, 48, fig. 5; 69, 28, fig. 17h; 11, No 154, tabl. 14; 114, Nos 2, 3, tabl. 31, No 3, tabl. 30, Nos 4, 5, tabl. 29; 154, No 120, tabl. 56; 142, No 2, tabl. 15; 145, tabl. XVI, 3].



Cat. No 106. GOLD NECKLACE (Type V, Variant 2)

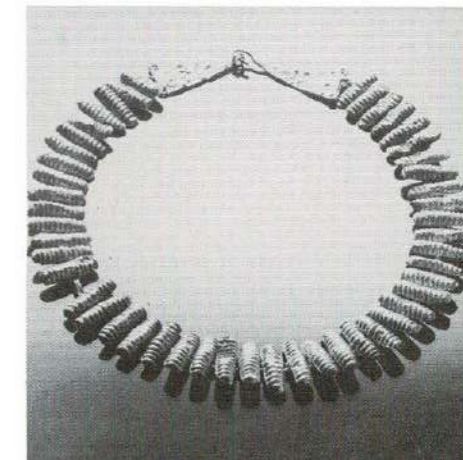
Inv. No 4779. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Preserved length 170 mm, d. segments 22 x 12 mm, d. stones 8 x 6.5 mm, w. 7.16 g, 22 c. (920).

The necklace is a combination of openwork gold segments of the Heracles' knot type, with connecting loops with stones. The loops are as in Cat. No 105. The stones are green, semitransparent, shaped like an octahedral prism and cylinder, of different sizes. Only part of the necklace is preserved: 4 gold segments, 6 connecting loops (two of which halves) and the hook of the fastener, its tip bent outwards. Mid-3rd century AD. Close analogies in necklaces from Tortous, from the Antiquity Museum in Berlin [95, 7, No 7, tabl. II, 4; 105, No 2730, pl. LX; 140, No 67, tabl. 15; 120, 187, pl. 57A; 113, No 4, tabl. 31].



Cat. No 107. GOLD NECKLACE (Type VI, Variant 1)

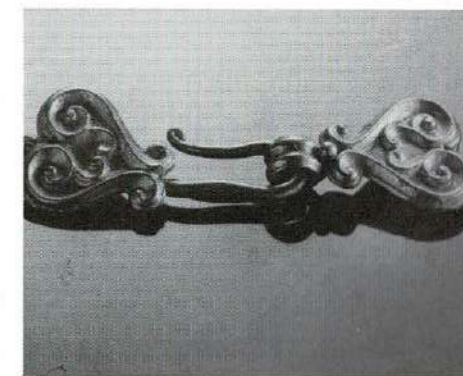
Inv. No 4775. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Length 384 mm, segments 27 x 5 x 1.5 mm, plates of the fastener 37-30 mm, loop length 7 mm, d. hoop 3.4 mm, w. 30.83 g, 21 c. (870). Consisting of 48 hollow gold segments and two oblong soldered plates, with rounded ends. The upper plate is semicylindrical, decorated with vertical fluting; the lower one is smooth and slightly concave. The segments are linked by means of a connecting hoop into a loop of a double twisted figure eight (cf. Type II). The ends are shaped like triangular plates, their surface is covered with embossed S-shaped ornaments and stippled decoration, with tapering ends. The tip of the hook is conically thickened. The hoop is cylindrical, with a horizontal fluting. Well preserved. One of the gold segments is missing. In some places the surface is slightly deformed. Mid-3rd century AD. The technique of hammering over a mould betrays a Hellenistic influence in Roman jewellery. Fully similar elements are seen in the necklace from Lesichevo, Pazardjik region (Cat. No 108), which also raises the question of a local production with variants, also seen in necklaces from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. Nos 109, 110). Close analogies exist also in 2nd-3rd century finds from Egypt [95, 6, No 5, tabl. III, 2; 114, No 3-5, 7, tabl. 32; 145, tabl. XXXI, 1; 36, 37].



Cat. No 108. GOLD NECKLACE (Type VI, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4121. Lesichevo, Pazardjik region. Grave find, together with a gold finger-ring (Cat. No 217) and two small silver spoons. Length 393 mm, segments 20 x 7 x 2 mm, length hook 17 mm, d. hoop 6 x 4 mm, w. 54.02 g, 22 c. (920).

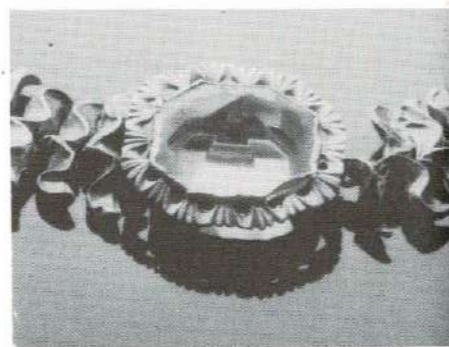
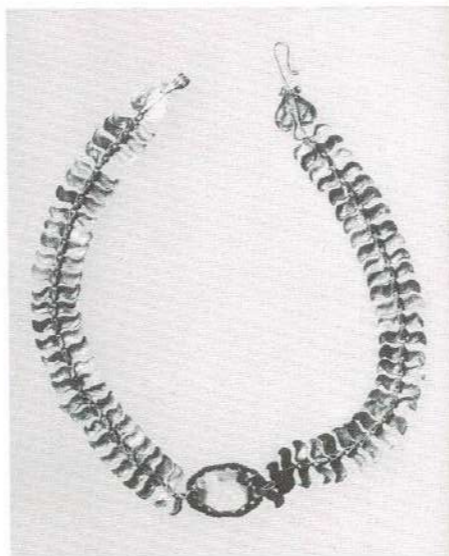
Fully similar as a type to Cat. No 107, differing only in the decoration on the obverse of the 42 segments—diagonal fluting, undulating and bent in some places. The ends of the necklace resemble heart-shaped flat ornaments with embossed decoration of volutes to which the elements of the fastener are soldered on the reverse. The hook is made of a round wire, its tip bent outward and joined at the other end with the connecting loops. The hoop is cylindrical, with horizontal fluting and a gold pearl at the base. The extension of the composite wire on the reverse is shaped like in the hook. Well preserved. Mid-3rd century AD. For the type, cf. Cat. No 107. The ornament on the fastener resembles completely another necklace in the same treasure (Cat. No 109) [95, 32, fig. 7].



Cat. No 109. GOLD NECKLACE WITH MEDALLION (Type VI, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4776. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Length 415 mm, segments 17 × 6 mm, medallion 26 × 23 mm, stone 18 × 16 mm, ornament fastener 9 × 8 mm, length hook 18 mm, d. hoop 7 mm, w. 29.15 g, about 21 c. (870).

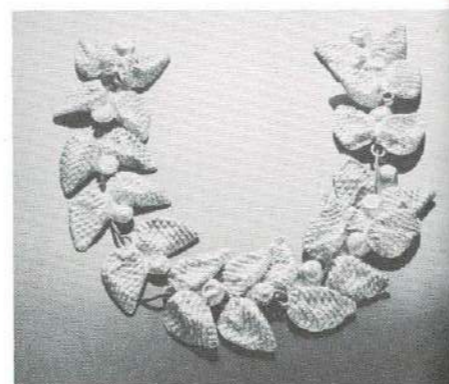
Consisting of 58 hollow gold segments, shaped like a double leaf made of two plates. The obverse is profiled in relief along the shape of the leaf. The lower surface is smooth, slightly concave, soldered in the periphery. The connecting loops are totally similar to those in Cat. Nos 107, 108. The ends are shaped like ornamented plates, resembling those of Cat. No 108. The medallion is firmly fixed at the centre, similar to the segments. It is octagonal in shape, with a massive bezel and openwork horizontal periphery. The stone is polished rock crystal shaped like an octahedral pyramid on the obverse and like a truncated octahedral pyramid on the reverse. The periphery is decorated with cut and rounded triangles and embossed leaf-shaped ornament. Well preserved. Two halves of the segments are broken. Slight deformation in some places on the obverse. Mid-3rd century AD. Similar in type to necklaces described above. Very close analogies in parts of necklaces from Egypt, as well as two necklaces with medallions from the collection of the Antiquity Museum in Berlin (3rd century), where the segments have the same shape, but are rendered in greater detail as a bird's body. A similar model of necklace is also seen on the famous Fayum portrait *The Girl with Jewellery* from Edinburgh [95, 5, No 2, tabl. II, 2; 114, No 3-5, 7, tabl. 32, No 1, tabl. 33; 143, No 11, tabl. 6, No 15, tabl. 7; 105, No 2725, pl. LIX, No 3007, pl. LXIX; 145, 151a; 107, 5, Abb. 3; 36, 37].



Cat. No 110. GOLD NECKLACE (Type VI, Variant 2)

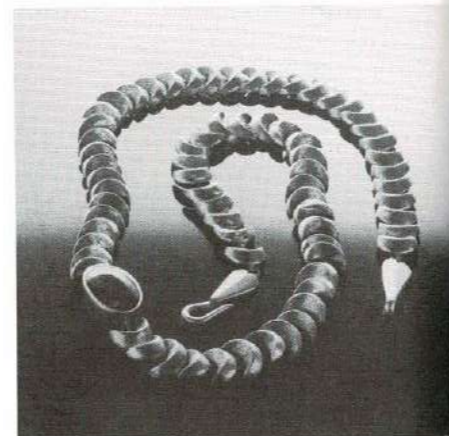
Inv. No 4780. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Preserved length 160 mm, segments 23 × 13 mm, connecting loops 14 mm, w. 22.51 g, 22 c. (920).

Preserved fragment of necklace, consisting of 14 segments shaped like double pinecones, with a round fruit between them. Similar to necklaces described earlier, they are made of two plates. The obverse plate is semicircular in cross section, decorated with a scaly ornament—lozenges—of incised diagonal lines. The reverse is smooth, slightly concave. The connecting loops are as in Cat. No 109. Many of the loops are torn and the segments are separated. Deformations are visible on their surfaces. Mid-3rd century AD [95, 6, No 3, tabl. II, 3].

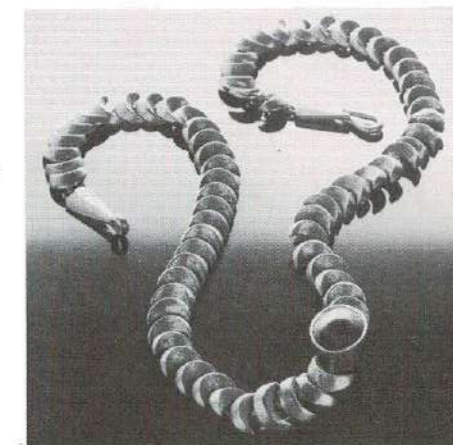


Cat. No 111. GOLD EARRING WITH AMETHYST (Type VI, Variant 3)

Inv. No 5568. Ratiaria. Grave find, child's burial in a sarcophagus, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 80, 94, 101, 132, 140, 141, 195, 286). Length 350 mm, segments 7.5 × 4 × 2 mm, connecting loops 5 mm, ornament fastener 12 × 6 mm, hook 6 mm, d. hoop 3 × 1.5 mm, w. 18.10 g, 23 c. (950).



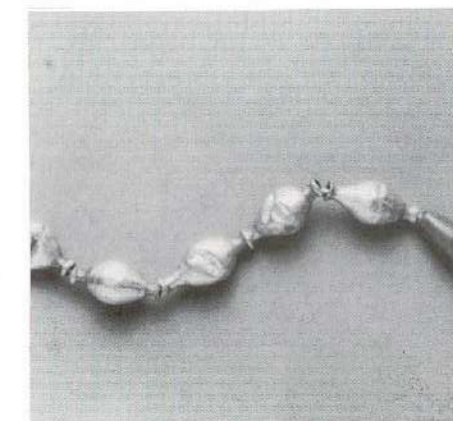
Consisting of 71 hollow gold segments, crescent-shaped, with connecting loops like Cat. Nos 107-110. The segments are made of a double plate. The obverse is modelled in two planes: convex and concave, the lower one is smooth, slightly concave. An ellipsoid medallion with oval amethyst in a bezel-setting is firmly fixed at the centre. The ends are shaped like triangular leaf-shaped convex plates, with an embossed longitudinal line in the centre, with a heart-shaped ornament in the wider part to which the hoop and the hook of the fastener are soldered. Well preserved. Part of the connecting loops are missing. One of the gold segments is separate now. Precise workmanship. 2nd century AD. For the type Cf. Cat. Nos 107-110. A fully similar fastener with leaf-like ornament is seen in a 2nd century necklace from Corinth, now in the British Museum, while similar amethysts in bezel-settings occur in necklaces from the same collection, dated to the 1st-2nd century AD [95, 36, No 2, tabl. V, 2; 105, No 2751, pl. LI, Nos 2746, 2749, 2747, pl. LVIII, LXI].



Cat. No 112. GOLD BEADS FROM A NECKLACE (GROUP I)

Inv. No 6841. Mezdra, Vratsa region. Grave find, together with parts of a silver necklace, copper pendant (Cat. Nos 137, 291) and a bronze coin of Constantine the Great. Gold beads 12 × 6 mm, glass bead 11.8 × 6 mm, w. 1.21 g. Unpublished.

Five gold biconical hollow beads, with cylindrically profiled extension towards the top, are preserved, as well as a blue glass bead of the same shape and with a cylindrical longitudinal hole for threading. The connecting chain is missing. Three of the gold beads are deformed. Mid-3rd century AD. Irrespective of the dating of the coin, the beads are similar to necklaces dated to the 3rd century AD in the Schiller Collection in Berlin, in combination with garnets, carnelians or glass beads from Carnunthum, from the Archaeological Museum in Skopje. Similar glass beads are seen in a necklace from Pleven, in a 3rd century grave find [154, No 131, tabl. 60, Nos 129, 130, tabl. 63; 142, 25, tabl. 8, 1; 79, 99, No 560; 49, 51, fig. 3].



Cat. No 113. GOLD BEAD FROM A NECKLACE (Group I)

Inv. No 5186. Lisets, Lovech region. Grave find, together with gold and silver jewellery (Cat. Nos 21, 124, 238). D. 10 × 13 × 0.5 mm, w. 0.80 g, 20 c. (840).

The bead is hollow, with truncated biconic shape, consisting of two parts soldered at the base, decorated with vertical fluting and framed at the ends with a spirally twisted wire. Deformed, part of the wire in the periphery is missing. 2nd century AD. Similar undecorated beads occur in a gold necklace from Ratiaria, grave find dated to the first half of the 2nd century AD, a necklace from Damascus in the British Museum, a necklace with a medallion with Roman coins from the Schiller Collection in Berlin [90, 334; 29, 31, fig. 3; 105, No 2718, pl. LVII; 154, No 111, tabl. 61].



Cat. No 114. GOLD SEGMENT FROM A NECKLACE (Group I)

Inv. No 4998. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 20.5 × 8 mm, th. 1 mm, w. 1.12 g, 22 c. Openwork, flat, Heracles' knot, made of wire with rounded cross section. Mid-3rd century AD. The segment is similar to those in the necklace from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 106). The element also occurs as pendant of an earring in the collection of the Antiquity Museum in Berlin. For the type cf. Cat. No 106 [96, 40, note 1; 114, No 10, tabl. 83].



Cat. No 115. GOLD BEAD (Group I)

Inv. No 6603. Svilengrad. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 9, 12, 76), medical instruments and a bronze coin of Faustina Minor (161-180 AD). Length 5 mm, width 4 mm.

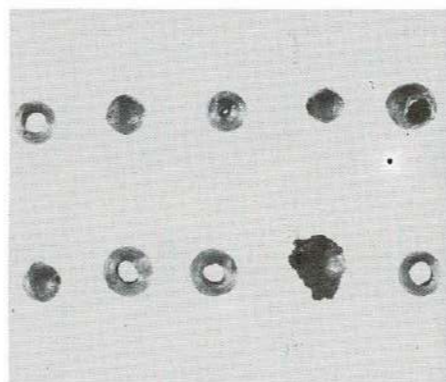
Dodecahedral shape, with a longitudinal hole for the connecting loops. Fully similar to the gold segments of Cat. Nos 97, 103 and 104 [19, 152].



Cat. No 116. GOLD BEADS (Group I)

Inv. No 6011. Almus (Lom). Grave find. D. 3×9×8 mm, 2×7×8 mm (4 beads); 3-4×10×8 mm (6 beads). Unpublished.

Hollow, truncated biconical in shape, made of two closely adhering parts, with a round hole at the bases. Smooth body, without decoration. Part of the beads are deformed. The connecting loop of one of the beads is oxidized by another metal. 2nd-3rd century AD. Probably the beads belonged to two necklaces, they differ not only in size, but also in the colour of the gold. Similar in type are gold beads from Lisets, Lovech region (Cat. No 113), necklaces from Ratiaria, the collection of the British Museum, the Schiller Collection in Berlin, dated to the 2nd century AD [29, 31, fig. 3; 105, No 2740, pl. LXI; 154, No 111, tabl. 61].



Cat. No 117. GOLD FASTENER OF A NECKLACE (Group I)

Inv. No 4805. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Length 29 mm, d. 4 mm, hook length 6 mm, d. hoop 4 mm, w. 2.24 g, 22 c. (920).

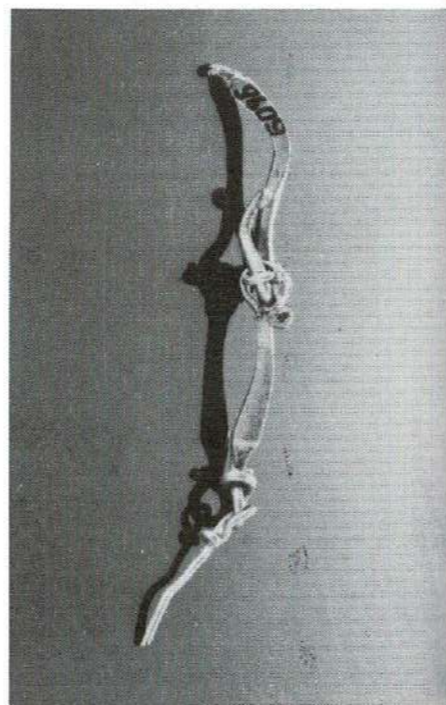
Consists of two cylindrical holders of a thin plate soldered longitudinally, closed towards the ends of the hoop and the hook. The surface is decorated with incised vertical fluting. The hook is soldered to one body made of a round wire, thinned out and with a tip bent outwards. The hoop is cylindrical in shape, made of two soldered round wires, forming a fluting between them. Well preserved. Mid-3rd century AD. Fully similar as a type to the fastener of the necklace from Ratiaria (Cat. No 94) [95, 7].



Cat. No 118. GOLD FASTENER OF A NECKLACE (Group I)

Inv. No 6096. Petrunitsa, Pleven region. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. No 100, 143), bronze fibula and bronze coin of Constantius (337-361 AD). Length 43 mm, with fragmented connecting loop 56 mm, hook length 23 mm, length hook body 23.5 mm, d. hoop 5 mm, width 3 mm, w. 3.05 g, 23 c. (950).

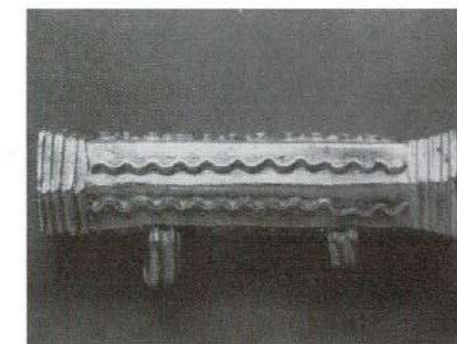
Consisting of two parts — a hoop and a hook, with tetrahedral prismatic bodies to them. The hoop becomes thinner towards the ends, passing to a round wire and forming a hoop-like loop with a spirally bent end to which the necklace is attached (with preserved fragment of a connecting loop, Type II, Variant I). The actual hoop is soldered to the other end. It is cylindrical, made of a thin plate with two longitudinal flutings, the end is thinner and bent outwards. The hoop is the continuation of the prismatic body, made of a round wire, bent and thinned out towards the tip. In the part towards the necklace it probably ended in the same way as near the hoop, i. e. with a round loop, now broken and threaded on the hook. Deformed. Mid-3rd century. It is possible for the fastener to have belonged to the gold necklace from the same grave find (Cat. No 100). A close parallel of the type of fastener with prismatic elements is seen in a silver fastener from the tumulus in Ivailovgrad, dated to the late 3rd—early 4th century AD, the gold necklace from the Antiquity Museum in Berlin, dated to the 3rd century AD [14, 226; 64, 40, fig. 6e; 113, No 2, tabl. 32].



Cat. No 119. ELEMENT OF A GOLD FASTENER (Group I)

Inv. No 4997. Ratiaria. Accidental find. Length 36 mm, wall 5.2 mm, d. hoops 5 mm, width 3 mm, w. 6.83 g, 22 c. (920).

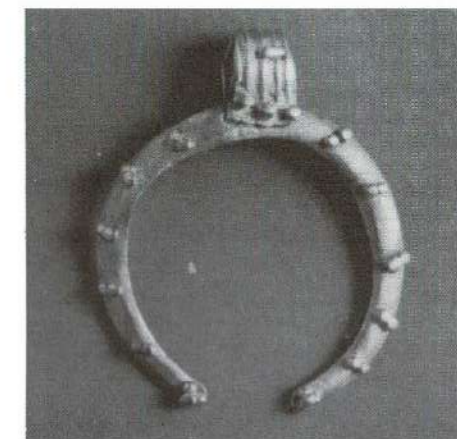
Part of a fastener—a tubule with two hoops. Shaped like a hexahedral prism, hollow, with profiled bases, with a band of horizontal fluting. The body is decorated with longitudinal undulating wire ornaments in relief, one for each wall. Two cylindrical hoops with vertical fluting are soldered to one of the walls. The bases of the prism are closed—one entirely, the other one is with an additionally cut ellipsoid hole. Well preserved. The hoops are slightly deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD. The tubule was an element of the fastener of a necklace, similar to that of Cat. No 97. Similar to a hoop from Pautalia, grave find, dated with a coin of Emperor Caracalla [95, 40-41, note 1; 78, 45, fig. 4a].



Cat. No 120. GOLD CRESCENT (Group II)

Inv. No 6775. Tlachene, Byala Slatina region. Accidental find. D. 27×26 mm, th. 1.5 mm, width 3-1.5 mm, distance between ends 7 mm, d. hoop 7×5 mm; width 4 mm, w. 3.95 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

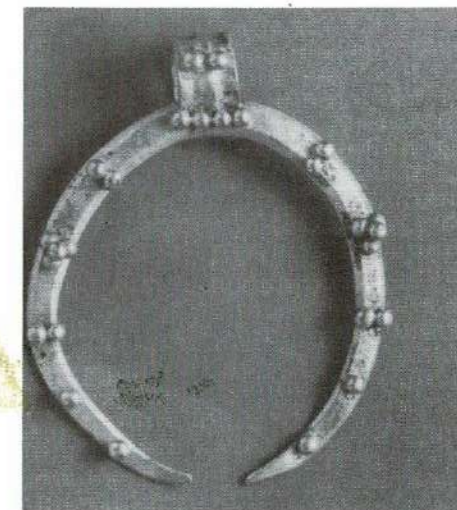
Shaped like a thin moon crescent, made of a rounded concave plate, tapering towards the ends. The obverse is decorated with ten pairs of gold pearls, three pairs at the ends, arranged symmetrically. The hoop is cylindrical, soldered to the body, decorated with vertical and gold pearls—three at the base and one on the body. Well preserved. 2nd-3rd century AD. The crescent as a pendant was a very popular decorative element in Roman necklaces, used mainly for magic practices as a continuation of the Hellenistic traditions developed further in the East, more specifically in Syria. Close analogies are seen in other objects from the collection (Cat. No 121-124), as well as from the British Museum, Egypt, Syria, Curium in Cyprus, dated between the 1st and the 3rd century AD, from Carnunthum, Salzburg, Linz, Vienna and elsewhere, dated to the same period [120, 179, 186, pl. 55B; 105, Nos 2718, 2723, 2743, pl. LVII, Nos 2719, 2720, pl. LVIII, No 2918, pl. LVII, Xlvi; 142, 6-10, Nos 1-6, tabl. 1, Nos 1-3, tabl. 2].



Cat. No 121. GOLD CRESCENT (Group II)

Inv. No 7032. Gorni Dubnik, Pleven region. Grave find. D. 24×26 mm, th. 1.5 mm, distance between the ends 3 mm, d. hoop 6×4 mm. Unpublished.

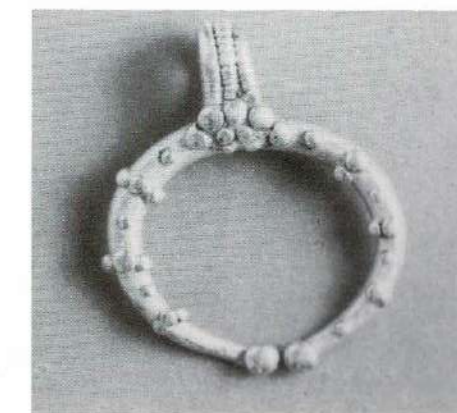
The obverse is decorated with 24 gold pearls in groups of 1, 2 and 4. Well preserved. Cf. Cat. No 120.



Cat. No 122. GOLD CRESCENT (Group II)

Inv. No 4938. Mezdra, Vratsa region. Grave find, together with gold rings (Cat. Nos 190, 197) and a clay lamp with seal. 2nd-3rd century AD. D. 18×12 mm, th. 2 mm, distance between the ends 1 mm, d. hoop 6×5 mm, w. 2.85 g, 20 c. (840).

Similar to Cat. Nos 120 and 121. The obverse is decorated with gold pearls—12 on the left (in groups of 1 and 3) and 9 on the right, probably with the same arrangement, but some of the pearls are missing. The tips end with one large pearl. The hoop consists of three soldered wires, of the pearl-corded type, decorated at the base with two groups of gold pearls in groups of 5 and 4. Well preserved. 2nd-3rd century AD (dated by the clay lamp with seal). A similar find from the tumular necropolis near Chatalka, dated to the 3rd century. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 120, 121 [95, 7, note 1; 52, No 228; 11, No 158, tabl. 14].



Cat. No 123. GOLD CRESCENT (Group II)

Inv. No 4804. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 21 × 16 mm, th. 1-2 mm, width 4-1 mm, w. 2.58 g.

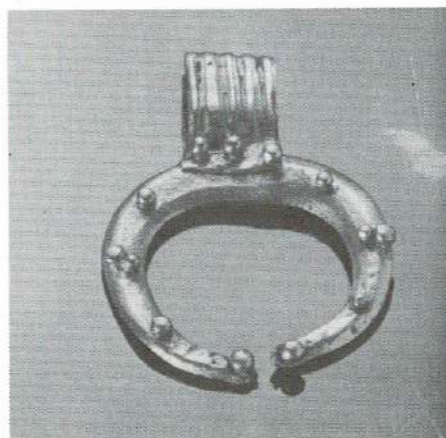
Similar to Cat. Nos 121, 122. The obverse is decorated with gold pearls, arranged in groups of 4 pearls in the shape of a grape or singly, symmetrical on both sides and at the base of the hoop (a total of 37 grapes are preserved). Two incised flutes on the hoop, three on the reverse, now obliterated. Evidence of long use. Mid-3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 121, 122 [95, 7, tabl. 8].



Cat. No 124. GOLD CRESCENT (Group II)

Inv. No 5187. Lisets, Lovech region. Grave find, together with gold and silver jewellery (Cat. Nos 21, 113, 238). D. 21 × 19 mm, th. 1.5 mm, distance between the ends 2 mm, d. hoop 10 × 6 mm, w. 4.07 g, 20 c. (840).

Shaped like a narrow moon crescent, made of a double soldered plate with rounded surface and tapering ends. The obverse is decorated with 10 gold pearls in groups of 2 and 1, arranged symmetrically, and 3 pearls at the base of the hoop. The latter is decorated with four vertical flutes. Well preserved. Relatively crude workmanship. 2nd century AD. A similar find in the tumular necropolis at Chatalka. Cf. Cat. Nos 120-123 [90, 334; 95, 7, note 1; 11, No 375, tabl. 28].



Cat. No 125. GOLD CRESCENT (Group II)

Inv. No 5924. Location unknown. D. 15 × 18 mm, th. 0.5 mm, d. hoop 6 × 3 mm, w. 1.20 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

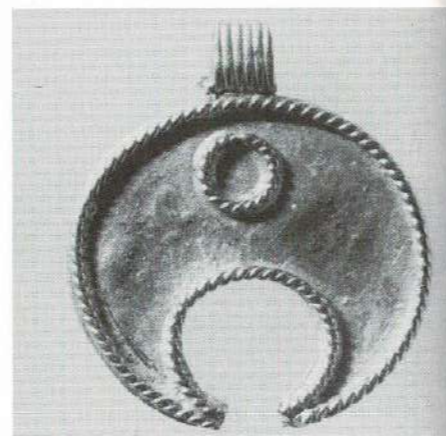
Consisting of two closely adhering wires, the outer wire more massive, with concave cross section, tapering at the ends, ending with a round bezel filled with blue enamel. The inner wire, placed lower, resembles pearl ornament, its ends thinned out and bent to form a circle. The obverse of the external shoulders is decorated with three gold pearls, arranged symmetrically. The hoop is ellipsoid in shape and with vertical fluting. The tip of the inner wire and a pearl of the decoration are missing. Mid-3rd century AD. Close analogy with the crescent of the necklace from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 96), as well as a crescent from Linz [142, No 6, tabl. 1].



Cat. No 126. GOLD CRESCENT (Group II)

Inv. No 6849. Chirpan region. Accidental find. D. 13 × 11.5 mm, th. 1 mm, d. hoop 2 × 1.8 mm, distance between the ends 2 mm, w. 0.70 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

The body is made of a gold plate, shaped like a wide moon crescent. The periphery is framed with spirally fluted wire, which also shapes a small circle on the body. Decorated on both sides. The hoop is ellipsoid in shape, with vertical fluting. Well preserved. 3rd century. The almost closed hoop and especially the thin plate of which it is made distinguish it from the remaining crescents. Analogies are seen in the round pendants in the Frank Bequest Collection of the British Museum, as well as in the fully similar earring in shape and decoration from Syria, cited by B. Zouhdi as an example of Eastern influence in the jeweller's art of the western provinces [105, No 2709, pl. LVI; 156, 100, No 23, pl. 16].



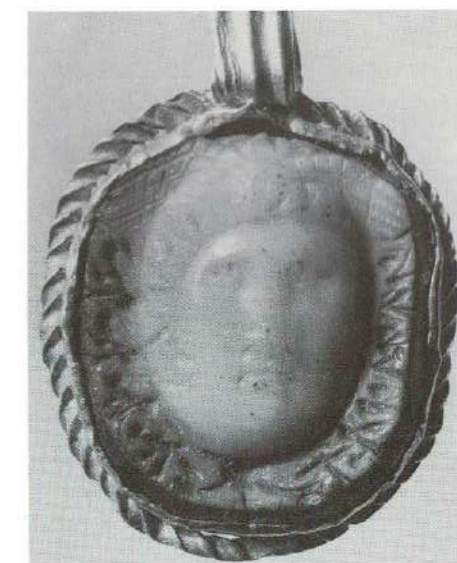
Cat. No 127. GOLD MEDALLION WITH CAMEO (Group III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4322. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 20 × 18 × 5 mm, cameo 16 × 13 × 7 mm, hoop 6 × 4 mm, width 3 mm, width frieze 1.8-2 mm, height cameo 10 mm, w. 4.73 g, 21 c. (880). The medallion is ellipsoid, slightly widening in the upper part, with bezel, horizontal periphery decorated with oblique hatches resembling corded ornament. An ellipsoid hoop made of a flat band with vertical fluting is soldered to the upper end. The cameo is of a two-layer sardonyx with Medusa's head in the typical rendering. Executed in high relief, with perfectly polished surface. 3rd century AD. Medusa's image appears frequently in Roman glyptics, including in the Thracian lands, in a number of medallions, rings and earrings. The simplified motif consisting of oblique hatches is popular among earrings and medallions in the 2nd-3rd century AD. Cf. Cat. No 49, 62, 131 [37, Nos 310-319; 143, No 16, tabl. 7].



Cat. No 128. GOLD MEDALLION WITH CAMEO (Group III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5601. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 39 × 32 mm, height bezel 3-5 mm, width periphery 2 mm, d. cameo 26 × 24 mm, hoop 8 × 5 mm, w. 9.02 g, 21 c. (880). Ellipsoid shape widening towards the top, with a bezel and horizontal periphery decorated with incised spiral hatches imitating twisted wires. A vertical ellipsoid hoop made of a plate with vertical fluting is soldered to the upper end. The cameo is of two-layered sardonyx on which Medusa's head is depicted, similar to Cat. No 127. 3rd century AD [91, 284, fig. 255; 37, No 311; 143, No 14, tabl. 7].



Cat. No 129. GOLD MEDALLION WITH CAMEO (Group III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 2680. Durostorum. Accidental find. D. 37 × 23 mm, H. bezel 3-5 mm, width frieze 1.5-2 mm, d. cameo 32 × 21 mm, d. hoop 5 mm, width 3 mm, w. 8.05 g, 22 c. (920). Ellipsoid shape, slightly wider in the lower part, with a bezel and horizontal periphery with oblique hatches. The hoop is vertical, ellipsoid in shape, with incised vertical fluting. The cameo is of two-layer sardonyx, grey-blue at the base and milky white on the surface, on which Athena's bust is depicted in profile, with the Corinthian helmet on her head, dressed in a sleeveless chiton. The bezel is torn in some places. 3rd century AD. Athena's image on gems and cameos, similar to the images of Roman deities, was widespread in glyptics also as a decoration of finger-rings during the Roman Period [37, No 321, Nos 43-47, 325].



Cat. No 130. GOLD MEDALLION WITH CAMEO (Group III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 2300. Durostorum. Accidental find. D. $29 \times 20 \times 17$ mm, th. 7 mm, width frieze 2-3 mm, d. cameo $22 \times 14 \times 7$ mm, d. hoops 3.5 mm, w. 4.79 g.

Ellipsoid shape, wider at the lower part, with a bezel made of a thin plate, with horizontal periphery, decorated with oblique hatches resembling a corded ornament. On the longer side, on the reverse of the bezel, there are parts of two cylindrical hoops. The cameo is of two-layer sardonyx, grey at the base and with a milky-white relief—the image of a woman facing to the right. Her hair is styled in a typical 3rd century fashion, with portrait features of the face, dressed in a chiton falling in large folds. The bezel is torn in some places, the horizontal surface is deformed. 3rd century. Close analogy in the medallion with cameo from Pleven, a cameo from Novae, as well as one from Dacia, Caracalla's museum (identified as Romula, a Syrian empress) [34, 47, fig. 6; 37, No 298; 49, 50, fig. 2; 151, 209, fig. 1; 143, No 11, tabl. 6].



Cat. No 131. GOLD MEDALLION (Group III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5275. Odessos (Varna). Accidental find, probably from a grave, together with a gold ring (Cat. No 196). D. 27 mm, hoop $9 \times 6 \times 8$ mm, w. 3.15 g, 20 c. (840).

Round shape, made of a thin plate. The obverse is decorated with three wires along the periphery, the outer ones resembling pearl ornament, the middle one braided of two wires. In the centre—the image of Fortuna (Tyche) in full face, in relief, wearing a calathos on her head, with a rudder in her right hand and the cornucopia in her left. In the upper end there is a soldered wide ellipsoid hoop, framed with wire in pearl ornament, with deep vertical fluting, at the base an embossed rosette of vertical circles, with a bezel in the centre for a stone or for glass paste. One gold pearl on either side of the rosette. The surface is deformed. The image in relief is not distinct. Torn in some places along the periphery, part of the framing wire is missing. 2nd-3rd century AD. Fully similar medallions with embossed images of Fortuna are known from the 3rd century tumular necropolis near Chatalka and from the Roman-German Museum in Bonn [91, 289, fig. 270; 11, No 157, tabl. 14; No 3, tabl. 25, No 4, tabl. 27, No 20, tabl. 35; 143, No 14, tabl. 7].



Cat. No 132. GOLD MEDALLION (Group III, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4476. Ratiaria. Grave find, child's burial in a sarcophagus, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 80, 94, 101, 111, 140, 141, 195, 286). D. 21×14.5 mm, hoop 5×3.6 mm, w. 1.32 g.

Round shape, made of two plates, spherically convex in the centre, with flat periphery. One plate is with triangles cut in the periphery, bent and attached to the second plate. The hoop is vertical, cut from the plate with the triangular ends, bent to the second plate. Relatively crude workmanship. Deformed. Mid-3rd century AD. Similar to the crescents, this medallion was also used in magic practices as amulet. A fully similar medallion is known from a gold torque in the Castellani Collection of the British Museum, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD [95, 37, No 9, tabl. V, 9; 105, No 2766, pl. LXII].



Cat. No 133. GOLD PENDANT (Group III, Variant 3)

Inv. No 1556. Serdica. Probably a grave find, together with glass and clay vessels. H. 31 mm with hoop, H. 25 mm, d. 8×4 mm, w. 2.67 g, 18 c. (750). Unpublished.

Shaped like a truncated cone, of one longitudinally soldered plate, the upper end thickened in profile, framed with wire along the periphery, the lower end bent towards the centre in a bezel-setting for stone—green and semitransparent. The upper plate is closed, with a soldered hoop, cylindrical in shape, with vertical fluting. The surface is decorated with drop-like ornaments made of pearl-like wire, with a gold pearl in the centre. The stone is mobile now. Part of the place where the plate is attached is open. 2nd-3rd century AD. Similar pendants are identified as amulets associated with the cult of Heracles. Exact parallels are seen in a pendant from the necropolis in Philippopolis, pendant-earrings from Olbia, Southern Russia and Britania, as well as numerous examples from Carnunthum and Vindobona (Vienna), dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD [42, 56, No 1, fig. 43; 105, Nos 2412, 2417, pl. LII; 113, No 3, tabl. 24; 99, No 5, pl. 14, Nos 61, 62, fig. 3; 143, tabl. 7, 21; 142, 14-17, tabl. 4, Nos 1-6].



Cat. No 134. SILVER CHAIN-NECKLACE (Type III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5558. Samokov region. Accidental find. Length 380 mm, d. 4-5 mm, length holder 20 mm, d. 8 mm, hoop 10×7 mm, hook 5 mm.

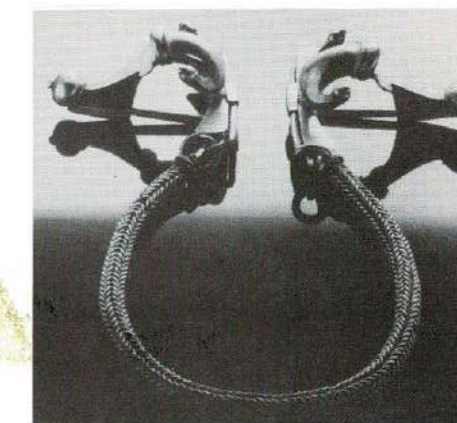
The necklace of the Isthmion type, of doubled four-stranded wire, loop-in-loop, with square cross section. The ends are shaped like hollow cylindrical holders, decorated in the periphery and at the centre with bands of round and spirally twisted wire and with undulating ornament between them, towards the bases to which the hoop and the hook are attached. The hoop is with cylindrical shape, with vertical fluting. The hook is made of two rows of round wire. The chain is broken in two parts, now soldered. In some places the soldering is deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD. Fully similar as a type to the gold necklace consisting of three chains and a medallion from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 98), the gold chain from the Ratiaria treasure, which has the same holders at the fastener [91, 181, fig. 252; 30, 32, No 8, fig. 10].



Cat. No 135. SILVER ORNAMENT WITH FIBULAE (Type III, Variant 1)

Inv. Nos 6464, 6465, 6474. Ratiaria. Accidental find. Length chain 257 mm, d. 8 mm, length with fibulae 374 mm.

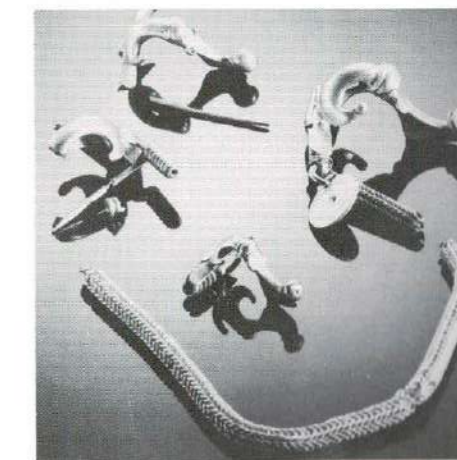
The chain is of the Isthmion type, made of doubled sextuple loop-in-loop wire. The ends are shaped like double hoops to which one anchor-like fibula is attached. Late 2nd—early 3rd century AD. The anchor-shaped fibulae are characteristic of the Danubian cities. They occur in the Balkan provinces and rarely in Pannonia, being dated with coins from the second half of the 2nd century to the middle of the 3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. No 134 [18, 407, fig. 160; 24, 34, type V h, fig. 2 g; 139, 41, No 4, tabl. IV].



Cat. No 136. SILVER ORNAMENT WITH FIBULAE (Type III, Variant 1)

Inv. Nos 6466, 6468, 6470. Ratiaria. Accidental find. Length chain (preserved) 235 mm, d. 8 mm, fibulae 56×45 mm, 52×35 mm, 37×26 mm.

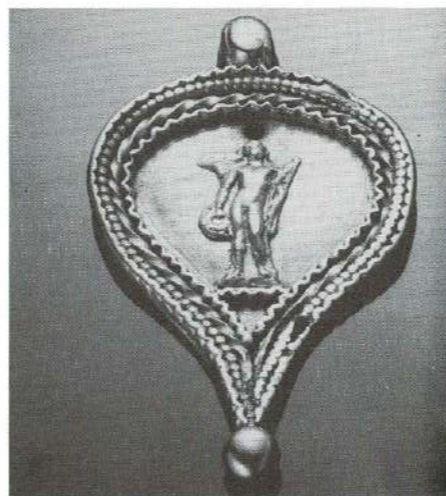
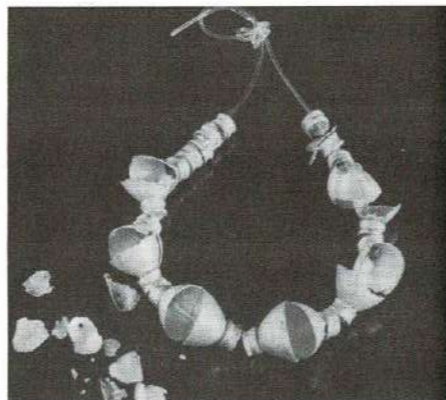
Chain and fibulae fully similar to Cat. No 136. A fragment of the chain and fibula is preserved. Another two anchor-shaped smaller fibulae belong to the same find. Cf. Cat. No 135.



Cat. No 137. SILVER BEADS (Group I)

Inv. No 6842. Mezdra. Grave find, together with gold beads from a necklace, bronze pendant (Cat. Nos 112, 291) and copper coin of Constantine the Great. D. 9 × 4 mm, H. 7 mm. Unpublished.

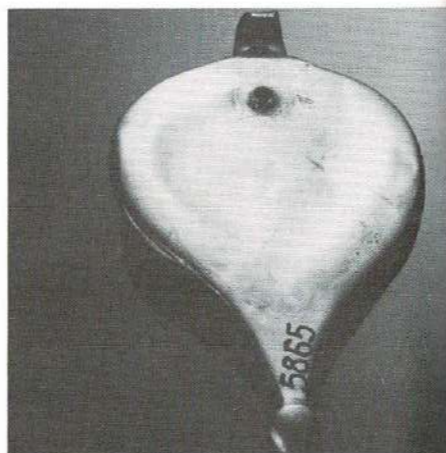
Shaped like a hollow truncated cone with rounded body and cylindrically profiled elongation towards the top. Smooth surface. Probably arranged in pairs, joined at their wide base. Preserved 12 beads and 7 fragments of beads. The body is torn. Mid-3rd century. Similar in shape to the gold beads from the same grave find (Cat. No 112).



Cat. No 138. SILVER MEDALLION (Group III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5865. The treasure from Bazaurt. H. 58 mm, width 40 × 4 mm, hoop 6 × 6 mm, th. 3 mm.

Heart-shaped, made of a massive plate, bent at the periphery, a part of it drawn to form a hoop in the upper end. Decorated only on one side with a rich frieze of four rows of wire in relief: zigzag, pearl ornament, spirally twisted wire and again zigzag. The first row on the outside holds firmly the bent end of the main plate. The tip ends with a massive pearl, additionally soldered. A semispherical pearl is attached to the ring. The central field is decorated with the image of Eros in relief, standing, in full face, weight lifted off the left foot, standing on an outlined terrain. The left hand is holding a bow. The face is rendered without details. The reverse is smooth. Above Eros' head there is a secondary hole. Part of the hoop is broken and missing. The frieze is deformed in some places. First half of the 2nd century AD. Typical local production, without analogies in the known literature. Eros is depicted in his usual iconography used in glyptics [13, 150; 37, No 136-138, 140-150, 280, 320, 322].



Cat. No 139. BRONZE CHAIN (Type I)

Inv. No 4297. Ratiaria. Accidental find. Length 86.5 mm, segment length 15-20 mm, length hoop-and-hook fastener 42 mm, width 6 mm. Unpublished.

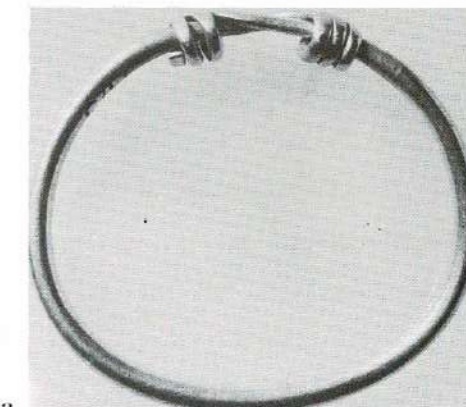
Consisting of S-shaped loops made of a round flattened wire, in different planes to one another. The fastener is preserved, the hook represents an elongated leaf-shaped body made of a plate, thinned out at the end and bent to form a hook. The other end passes into a round wire, forming a hoop with spiral coils by means of which it is attached to the chain. The hoop that forms the other part of the fastener is missing. 2nd-3rd century AD. Most elementary chain of S-shaped loops, typical of the Roman period. A fragment of a similar chain is known from the Merichleri necropolis, dated with a coin of Elagabaus (218-222 AD) [2, 102, No 5, fig. 24; 135, 58].



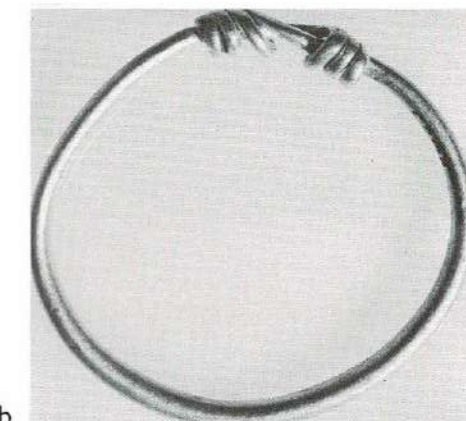
Cat. No 140a. GOLD BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5573 (forming a pair with Cat. No 140b). Ratiaria. Grave find, child's burial, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 80, 94, 101, 131, 132, 141, 195, 286). D. 46 × 42 mm, th. wire 3-1.5 mm, w. 17.75 g, 22 c. (920).

Oval hoop, open-end fastened, made of a thick round wire, with tapering, overlapping and spirally twisted ends to form three and four coils. The wire is flattened in the overlapping part and in the coils. 2nd century. The type of open-end fastened bracelets is a Hellenistic tradition dated to the 3rd-1st century BC, very popular also among Roman jewellery: earrings, torques and rings, being most widespread in the Thracian lands, Dacia and the Chersonesos. Very similar specimens in the collection under consideration are the silver bracelets from the treasure of Bazaurt, dated to the first part of the 2nd century AD (Cat. Nos 148-150), as well as the similar bracelets from Souhindol and Oescus (Cat. Nos 151, 152). The bronze bracelets from Oescus and Kroushovene (Cat. Nos 166, 167), dated on the basis of similar examples, are evidence that they were used during the Late Roman period as well (3rd-4th century AD) [95, 37, No 6, tabl. V, 7; 51, burial 53; 23, 243; 132, No 485, 488; 105, No 2828, pl. XLIII, Nos 5573, 5574, pl. LXIII].



a



b

Cat. No 140b. GOLD BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5574. D. 47 × 42.5 mm, th. wire 3-1 mm, w. 16.73 g, 21 c. (880). Fully similar to Cat. No 140a. Well preserved.

Cat. No 141. GOLD BRACELET (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5566. Ratiaria. Together with Cat. No 140a, b. D. 56 × 49 mm, width plate 7-4 mm, th. wire 3-1.2 mm, d. rosette 10 mm, w. 24.30 g, 20 c. (840+).

Oval hoop, open-end fastened, made of a flat plate with concave outer surface, thinned out at the ends to form a rounded tetrahedral wire, overlapping parallel to each other, forming a decoration of horizontal spirals and four spiral coils. 2nd century. Similar as a type to Cat. No 140a, b. The new element — the decoration of spirals — is a revival of the early Hellenistic traditions in Roman jewellery, the earliest example being from Apollonia in the 3rd century BC. Very similar bracelets are known from the Dacian treasures from Sioera, Feldioara, Senereus and Poiana, dated to the period between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD, as well as from the Kerch necropolis (1st-2nd century AD). Reliably dated silver bracelets from the first half of the 2nd century in the collection under consideration come from the Bazaurt treasure (Cat. No 154), a similar find from Dinekli (Cat. No 156), the gold bracelet from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. No 147), etc. The decoration of horizontal spirals was also very popular among gold earrings (cf. Type I, Variant 3B) [95, 37, No 6, tabl. V, 6; 132, No 489, 488; 23, 239, fig. 3; 51, 53].



Cat. No 142. GOLD BRACELET (Type II, Variant 1)

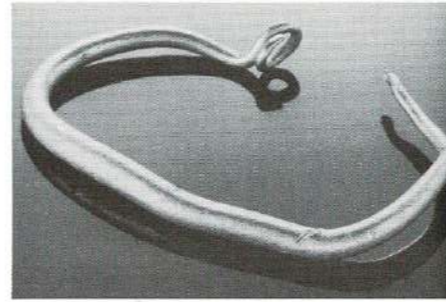
Inv. No 7995. Cherven Bryag, Stanke Dimitrov region. Accidental find. D. 62 × 58 mm, th. wire 4.5-4 mm, d. hoop 5 mm, length hook 7 mm, w. 35.12 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished. Oval hoop made of one thick wire, slightly thinner at the ends, which are shaped to form a hoop-and-hook fastener. The ends are with embossed decoration of two concentric circles with an undulating ornament between them, made of a thin round wire. The hoop of the fastener is vertical, round, of two thin soldered wires. The hook is additionally soldered to the extension of the hoop at one end, fixed with a holder made of a thin plate. Slightly deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD. Silver bracelets with hoop-and-hook fasteners also occur in the Bazaurt treasure (Cat. No 154a, b), the gold bracelet from Peturnitsa (Cat. No 143) and gold bracelets in the British Museum [105, No 2816, pl. LXI].



Cat. No 143. GOLD BRACELET (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6095. Petrunitsa, Plevan region. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 100, 118) and a bronze coin of Emperor Constantius II (337-361 AD). D. 45 × 38 mm, th. wire 4-1.5 mm, d. hoop 8 × 6 mm, w. 23.42 g, 23 c. (950).

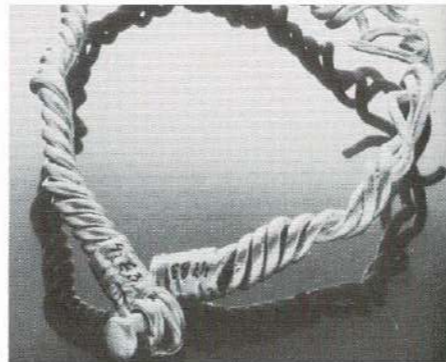
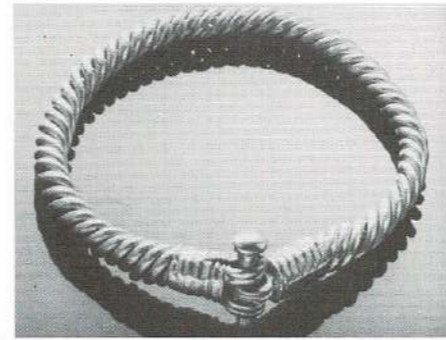
Oval hoop made of one thick round wire, tapering ends, bent to form the hoop and the hook of the fastener. Deformed, the hook is missing. Mid-4th century AD (dated by the coin in the burial). The type characteristic of the Late Antiquity was widespread particularly among bronze bracelets (cf. Cat. No 168) [14, 226, fig. 102; 98, 126; 111, 39, 40, Nos 1602, 1651, fig. 41, 42].



Cat. No 144a. GOLD BRACELET (Type III)

Inv. No 4872 (forming a pair with Cat. No 144b). The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 75 mm, th. wire 1.5-2 mm, d. 6-8 mm, d. hoops 6 mm, length pin 16 mm, w. 85.29 g, 22-23 c. (920).

Oval hoop made of four spirally twisted round wires, slightly tapering at the ends, ending with a cylindrical holder of a fluted thin plate and with a pin-fastener. The latter is shaped of double wire hoops: two at one end and one on the other end, forming a cylindrical hole when closed, into which a rivet with a stopper at the end is inserted. Well preserved. Mid-3rd century AD. The type of bracelets with spirally twisted wires is characteristic of the Roman Period. Similar fasteners are known from two bracelets in the Cyprus Museum, dated to the period between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD, a 2nd century bracelet from Lyon (decorated with a stone), two bracelets from Mesopotamia in the collection of the British Museum, as well as several other bracelets from the same museum, either ending with snake's heads, or decorated with stones, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD, 2nd-3rd century bracelets in the collection of the Roman-German Museum in Bonn, etc. Similar holders at the ends are seen in bronze bracelets (Cat. Nos 169, 170) [95, 8, No 15, tabl. IV, 13; 123, 45, No 5, pl. XXX; 120, 187, No 1, pl. 60A; 105, No 2801, pl. LXIV, Nos 2813-2815, pl. LXV; 143, No 124, tabl. 10].



Cat. No 144b. GOLD BRACELET (Type III)

Inv. No 4783. W. 73.38 g, 20 c.

Fully similar to Cat. No 144a. Deformed, the wires torn.

Cat. No 145a. GOLD BRACELET (Type IV)

Inv. No 4784 (forming a pair with Cat. No 145b). The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 102 × 88 mm, d. body 16 mm, w. 113.03 g, 22 c. (920).

Ellipsoid shape, hollow, bipartite, made of two parts of different size, held together by a joint with pin. Made of a thin plate, soldered on the inside, with pentagonal cross section of the body. The heads of the different parts are closed with a thin plate. The joint and the pin-fastener are shaped there. The joint is attached to two of the head surfaces, with trapezium-shaped holes in depth, axis made of a massive round wire at one end and a closed hoop moving freely to the axis of the second one. The joint-and-pin fastener is shaped with the other two faces. In one of the faces there is a rectangular hole with cylindrical shape in depth and a second cylindrical perpendicular hole in height, joining the first one. A cylindrical hoop is soldered to the contralateral side, which enters the rectangular hole when the bracelet is closed and the pin is inserted. On the inside the bracelet made of white resinous matter, on the surface there are bruises and hatches. The pin of the fastener is missing. Mid-3rd century. The massiveness of the bracelets is similar to Hellenistic and Etruscan jewellery. The type of the so-called bipartite bracelets was not popular in the Thracian lands. It is represented only with the examined pair, as well as with the bracelet similar to them from Ratiaria, made of wood and with gold casing. Bipartite bracelets find parallels with finds from the Caucasus, from the Mtscheta necropolis in Eastern Georgia, discovered together with coins of Marcus Aurelius and Commodus. The large sizes of the bracelets identify them as male jewellery [95, 8, No 13, tabl. IV, 3; 140, 78, tabl. 23, 24, Abb. 139; 67, 35, note 10].



Cat. No 145b. GOLD BRACELET (Type IV)

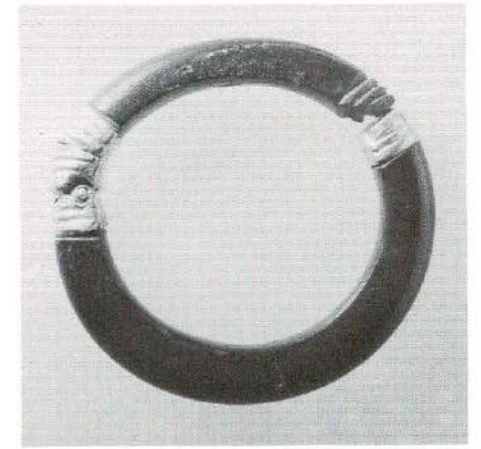
Inv. No 4785. D. 100 × 89 mm, d. body 15 mm, w. 114.77 g, 22 c. (920).

Fully similar to Cat. No 145a. The joint is broken, the rivet of the fastener is missing. On the surface—bruises and hatches.

Cat. No 146. WOODEN BRACELET WITH GOLD CASING (Type IV)

Inv. No 4571. Ratiaria. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 54, 99, 208, 209, 279). D. 80 × 73 mm, d. body 12-10 mm, w. 34.75 g, 21-22 c.

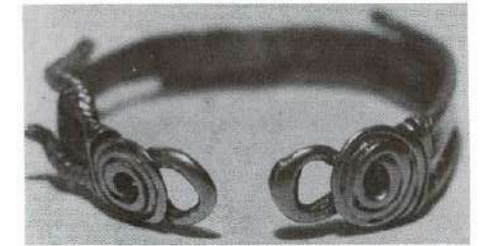
Ellipsoid shape, with U-shaped cross section, bipartite, made of two parts of different sizes, with a joint-and-pin fastener. Made of gagate—black material of vegetative origin, with very high density. The surface is polished. The ends of the two parts are with casing of a thin gold plate decorated with vertical fluting. The joint consists of three hoops: two on one side and one on the other, forming a cylindrical hole for the pin, when closed (similar to the bracelet with Cat. No 175). The fastener is with a hook, with a hole on the contralateral side. The bracelet is broken in two, now glued. The gold casing is torn and loose in some places, the pin of the joint is mobile. First half of the 3rd century. The material of which the bracelet is made is known from a number of Eastern finds. So far it is the only one of this type found in the Bulgarian lands. Close analogies in the Caucasus, from the necropolis of Mtscheta (Iberia, present-day Eastern Georgia). Similar as a type with Cat. Nos 144a, b) [95, 38, No 1, fig. 12; 140, 78, tabl. 23, 24, Abb. 139; 67, 35, note 10].



Cat. No 147. GOLD BRACELET (Type VI)

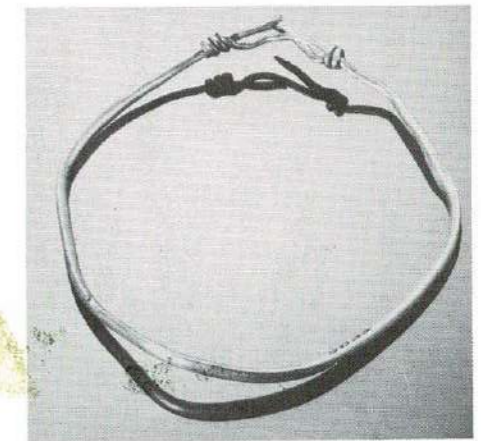
Inv. No 4786. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 46 × 49 mm, width plate 10 mm, distance between the ends 5 mm, w. 33.73 g, 22 c. (920).

Ellipsoid shape, open-ended. Made of a plate with concave outer thickening, framed with a spirally twisted gold wire (around a copper plate). The ends are with a soldered hoop of a flat wire, with one horizontal spiral over each hoop. Slightly deformed. The spirally twisted wire is torn along the periphery. Mid-3rd century AD. Similar decoration is seen on gold bracelets from Ratiaria (Cat. No 141) and the silver bracelets from Bazaurt and Dinekli (Cat. Nos 154, 156) [95, 8, No 14, tabl. IV, 5].



Cat. No 148. SILVER BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5853. The treasure from Bazaurt. D. 81 × 75 mm, th. wire 3.5-1 mm, w. 12 g. Oval hoop, open-end fastened, made of one thick wire with rounded rhomboid cross section, over a bronze plate, ends tapering, with parallel overlapping, spirally twisting in three coils. Deformed. One of the wires is torn at the end. Late 1st—early 2nd century AD. The type is very similar to the gold bracelets from Ratiaria (Cat. No 140a, b) [13, 150-151].



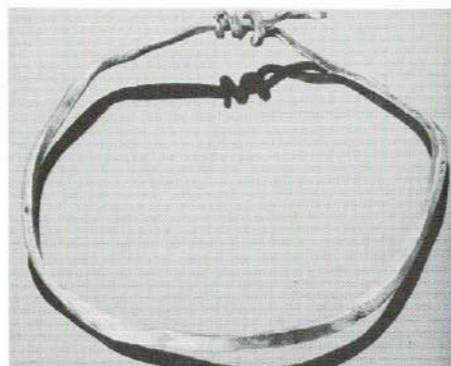
Cat. No 149. SILVER BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5855. The treasure from Bazaurt. D. 52 × 54 mm, th. wire 3-1 mm, w. 6 g. Similar to Cat. No 148. Deformed. The parallel overlapping ends are torn [13, 150-151].



Cat. No 150. SILVER BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

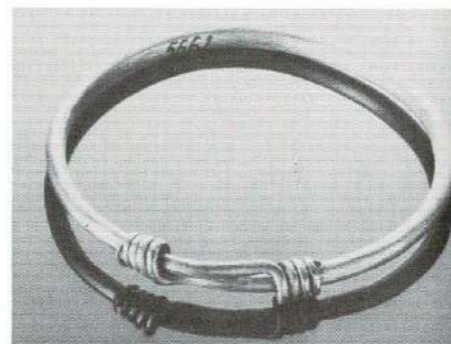
Inv. No 5854. The treasure from Bazaurt. D. 52 mm, th. wire 1.5-1 mm, w. 4 g. Similar to Cat. Nos 148, 149. Deformed. The wire is torn at the ends [13, 150-151].



Cat. No 151. SILVER BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5661. Souhindol, Veliko Turnovo region. Grave find, together with a pair of gold earrings (Cat. No 51a, b), clay vessels and terracotta. D. 71 mm, th. wire 4-1 mm, w. 24 g.

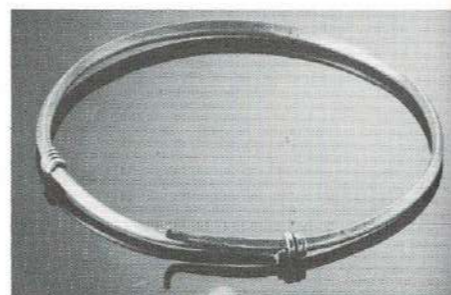
Round shape, open-end fastened, made of one round wire, thinned in the parallel overlapping and spirally twisted ends to form four and five coils each. Well preserved. Early 3rd century AD. As a type fully similar to Cat. Nos 148-150 [92, 226, fig. 160].



Cat. No 152. SILVER BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 1106. Oescus. Accidental find. D. 93 x 92 mm, th. wire 4-1.5 mm, w. 22.32 g. Unpublished.

Similar to Cat. Nos 148-151. The wire is rhomboid in cross section, over a bronze plate. Part of the spirally twisted ends are broken and move around the hoop. 2nd-3rd century AD.



Cat. No 153a. SILVER BRACELET (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 3626 (forming a pair with Cat. No 53b). Gorsko Kosovo, Sevlievo region. Together with a pair of silver bracelets (Cat. No 157a, b). D. 88 x 82 mm, th. wire 7-1 mm, w. 37.80 g. Unpublished.

Oval hoop made of one wire with rounded rhomboid cross section, thinned out at the ends which form a hoop-and-hook fastener and spiral coils. The hoop is made of one wire of elongated drop-like shape, horizontal. The hook is of a double bent wire, with rounded and flattened tip, turned inward towards the hoop. Well preserved. The fissures on the surface suggest the probable core of copper wire. 2nd-3rd century AD. A new element in this case is the bending of the hoop in the opposite direction, i. e. towards the inside of the hoop, which is a rare occurrence in fasteners. Fully similar specimens are some silver bracelets from Kerch, kept at the Antiquity Museum in Berlin, in the museum in Mainz and in the Louvre, dated to the 3rd century, the only difference being that the body is made of spirally twisted wire [114, 42, tabl. 36, 4].

Cat. No 153b. SILVER BRACELET (Type II, Variant 1)

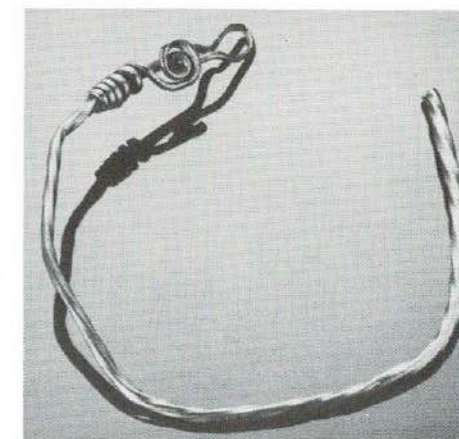
Inv. No 3626b. D. 84 x 82 mm, th. wire 7-1 mm, w. 33.30 g. Fully similar to Cat. No 153a.



Cat. No 154. SILVER BRACELET (Type II, Variant 2)

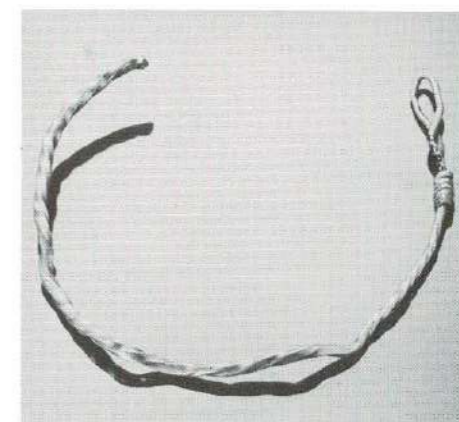
Inv. No 5857. The treasure from Bazaurt. D. 71 x 61 mm, th. wire 2-1 mm, d. hoop 17 x 5 mm, d. rosette 7 mm, w. 6 g.

Oval hoop made of one fluted wire with rectangular cross section over a copper plate, with tapering ends forming the fastener. Only the drop-shaped hoop of the fastener is preserved, decorated with a horizontal spiral and horizontally twisted coils. Deformed. The copper wire core is seen at the place where the hook of the fastener is broken off. 2nd century AD. Fully similar as a type to the silver torque from the same treasure — spirally fluted wire with fastener (Cat. No 91). The spiral decoration seen in the gold bracelets from Ratiaria and from the Nikolaevo treasure, as well as in the silver bracelet from Dinekeli (Cat. Nos 141, 147, 156), is lacking [13, 150-151].



Cat. No 155. SILVER BRACELET (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5858. The treasure from Bazaurt. D. approximately 65 mm. Fully similar to Cat. No 154, but without the spiral decoration. A fragment of the bracelet with the hoop of the fastener is preserved [13, 150-151].



Cat. No 156. SILVER BRACELET (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 2921. The sanctuary at Dinekli (present-day Lozen village, Haskovo region), together with bronze statuettes of the Thracian Horseman, pedestals of statuettes and bronze casings. D. 62 mm, th. wire 1.6 mm, d. rosette 6 mm, d. hoop 10 x 6 mm, hook length 8 mm, w. 3 g.

Hoop made of one spirally fluted thin wire with rectangular cross section, hammered at the ends to form a round wire of which the fastener is made. The hoop is drop-like in shape, with a horizontal spiral and spirally twisted end to form coils. The hook is with a conically thickened tip. Well preserved. 2nd-3rd century AD. Fully similar as a type to the silver bracelet from the Bazaurt treasure (Cat. No 154). The conically thickened tip of the hook is similar to a fragment of a silver torque from the same treasure (Cat. No 92). Similar bracelets are known from Kerch, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD [46, 127; 114, 42, tabl. 36, 4].



Cat. No 157a. SILVER BRACELET (Type V, Variant 1)

Inv. No 3626c (forming a pair with Cat. No 157b). Gorsko Kosovo, Sevlievo region, together with a pair of silver bracelets (Cat. No 153a, b). D. 62 x 55 mm, th. body 9-13 mm, distance between the ends 16 mm, w. 32.97 g. Unpublished.

Open hoop, ellipsoid shape, made of a thick rod with rounded rhomboid cross section, thinned out and pointed at the ends. Well preserved. In some places on the body there are fissures, probably caused by the copper wire core. 2nd-3rd century AD. An exact analogy is seen in a silver bracelet from the Nikolaevo treasure (Inv. No 4790 — broken in two, now missing), as well as in a gold bracelet from Smyrna, from the collections of the British Museum (2nd-3rd century AD), the only difference being that the latter had ornamentation on the ends [95, 12, No 26, tabl. III, 6; 105, No 2769, pl. LXVI].



Cat. No 157b. SILVER BRACELET (Type V, Variant 1)

Inv. No 3626d (forming a pair with Cat. No 157a). D. 64×55 mm, th. body 9-3 mm, distance between the ends 17 mm, w. 37.75 g.

Well preserved. Fissures visible on some parts of the body. Similar to Cat. No 157a, as well as Cat. No 173a, b, which suggests that they were worn in pairs—a fact illustrated in graphic art.



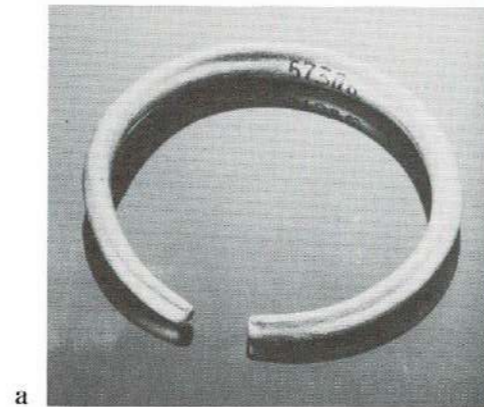
Cat. No 158a. SILVER BRACELET (Type V, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5730a (forming a pair with Cat. No 158b). Sexaginta Prista. Grave find, together with gold earrings (Cat. No 45a, b). D. 83×79 mm, th. body 6-4 mm, distance between the ends 8 mm, w. 35.85 g.

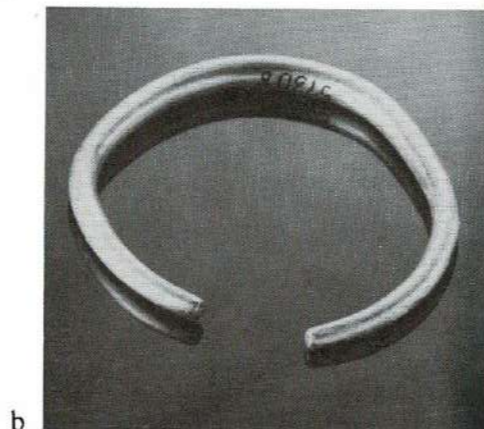
Open hoop, oval, made of one massive rod with round cross section, thinned out and vertically cut ends, with slightly concave cut surfaces. Slightly deformed. Fissures on the body, probably due to the copper wire core. 2nd-3rd century AD. Similar specimens are seen in the gold bracelets from the Ratiaria treasure, dated to the 3rd-5th century BC, from Kerch and the find from St Genie, the Genfer Museum in Savoie, dated with coins to the late 2nd—early 3rd century AD, as well as bronze bracelet with Cat. No 171, dated with clay lamps to the 3rd-4th century AD [93, 166; 30, 30, No 7, fig. 9; 119, 202, tabl. 79, 22; 23, 216, fig. 82, 3].

Cat. No 158b. SILVER BRACELET (Type V, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5730b. Forming a pair with Cat. No 158a. D. 68×60 mm, th. body 6-4 mm, distance between the ends 17 mm, w. 35.5 g.
Fully similar to Cat. No 158a.



a

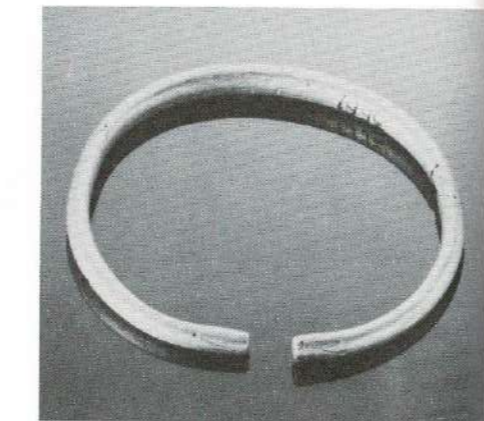


b

Cat. No 159. SILVER BRACELET (Type V, Variant 2)

Inv. No 3661. Karash, Vratsa region. Accidental find, together with a bronze ring and a bronze coin. D. 66×61 mm, th. body 5-3 mm, distance between the ends 7 mm, w. 22 g. Unpublished.

Oval shape, open hoop, made of one massive rod with round cross section, tapering towards the ends which are vertically cut. Two bands of three stippled points joined by lines decorate the ends and three symmetrically localized places on the hoop. Well preserved. Slightly deformed, in some places the bruises and cracks on the surface suggest the presence of copper filling. 3rd-4th century AD. Similar in type with Cat. Nos 158a, b.



Cat. No 160. SILVER BRACELET (Type VIII, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4768. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 60×54 mm, width plate 8-2 mm, w. 6.7 g, distance between the ends 23 mm.

Snake-like bracelet. Open-end hoop, oval shape, made of a thin plate with rounded triangular section, shaped like a snake's body. One end is shaped like a stylized triangular snake's head, the other end is thinned out and pointed to imitate the tail. Part of the body is decorated with incised X-like ornaments. Slightly deformed, cracked in one place. Mid-3rd century. Hellenistic tradition, but simplified as decoration and execution. Parallels in the collection of the British Museum, dated to the 2nd-3rd century [95, 12, No 25, fig. 5; 105, Nos 2782, 2789, pl. LXIII].



Cat. No 161. SILVER BRACELET (Type VIII, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6703. The treasure from Chaoushevo. D. 73×70 mm, width plate 11-6 mm, distance between the ends 23 mm, w. 21 g. (950).

Snake-like bracelet. Oval hoop, open-ended, made of a flat, wide band with rounded outer surface, narrower towards the ends which are shaped like stylized snakes' heads. The heads are ellipsoid in shape, stippled dots and incised semicircular lines render the eyes and the anatomical details of the head. The beginning of the body is decorated with an incised dot and a band of intersecting diagonal lines. The decoration is obliterated in some places. Fissures are seen on the surface, suggesting the earlier existence of a copper core. 2nd-3rd century AD. Two snake's heads at both ends are seen in the silver torque from Vladimirovo (Cat. No 85), 1st century BC—1st century AD, the silver bracelets from Varna region (Cat. Nos 162a, b) and the bronze bracelet from the sanctuary of Zeus and Hera in Kopilovtsi (Cat. No 174). A close analogy can be found in two gold bracelets from the Schiller Collection in Berlin, dated to the 1st century AD [66, 425; 154, 43, No 87, tabl. 48].



Cat. No 162a. SILVER BRACELET (Type VIII, Variant 2)

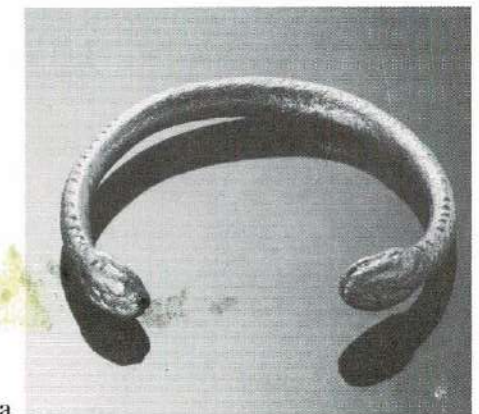
Inv. No 570 (forming a pair with Cat. No 162b). Grave find from Varna region, together with two clay lamps dated accordingly to the 1st—early 2nd and 2nd-3rd century AD. D. 49×46 mm, th. wire 5-3 mm, distance between the ends 29 mm. Unpublished.

Snake-like bracelet. Oval hoop, open-ended, made of a thick round rod, thinned out and flattened at the ends which are shaped to resemble snakes' heads. The latter are ellipsoid in shape, with horizontal incised lines for the mouth and circles for the eyes. The beginning of the body is decorated with semicircular hatches which resemble a scaly ornament. 2nd-3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. No 161 [52, No 71, 136, 137, 182, 170, 150; 157, No 401, tabl. XVII].

Cat. No 162b. SILVER BRACELET (Type VIII, Variant 2)

Inv. No 570. D. approximately 49 mm, th. wire 6-4 mm.

Fully similar to Cat. No 162a, differing only in the decoration of the body—vertical incised lines arranged in semicircles and forming grooves. The preserved fragment is about one-third of the bracelet, with one end. Bruises on the surface.



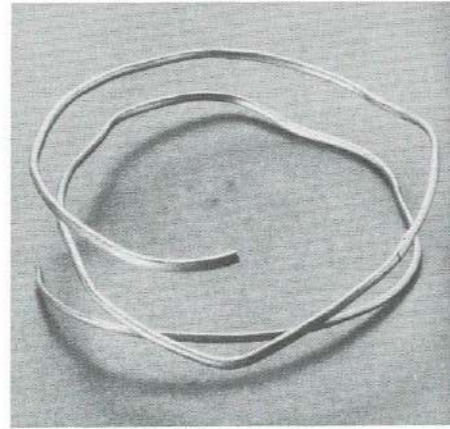
a



b

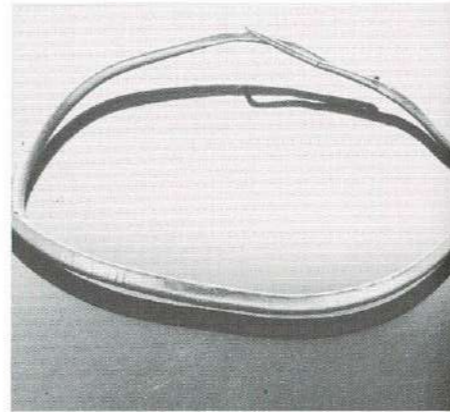
Cat. No 163. SILVER BRACELET (Group I)

Inv. No 5856. The treasure from Bazaurt. D. 82 mm, th. wire 2 mm, w. 19.2 g. Spirally twisted hoop in three coils, made of thin round wire. The ends are broken, no evidence of the way in which they were shaped. Traces of copper wire filling are visible at the places where the bracelet is broken. 2nd century AD. The bracelet resembles the spirally twisted specimens ending with snakes' heads. Similar bracelets are known from the Nelidov Collection in Syria [13, 150-151; 155, 71; 158, No 403, tabl. XVII].



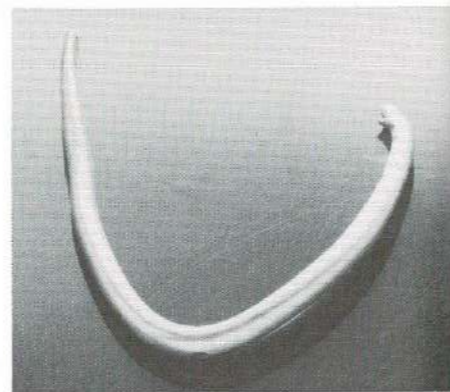
Cat. No 164. SILVER BRACELET (Group I)

Inv. No 4789. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 87 × 67 mm, th. wire 5.5-1.5 mm, w. 17.39 g. (950). Oval hoop made of one wire with rounded rhomboid cross section, tapering ends which run parallel. Deformed slightly, ends broken, fissures on the body. Probably with a copper wire core. Mid-3rd century AD. No precise data about the shaping of the ends. Similar to the finds from the treasure of Bazaurt and Souhindol, dated to the late 1st—early 2nd century AD [95, 12, tabl. V, 2].



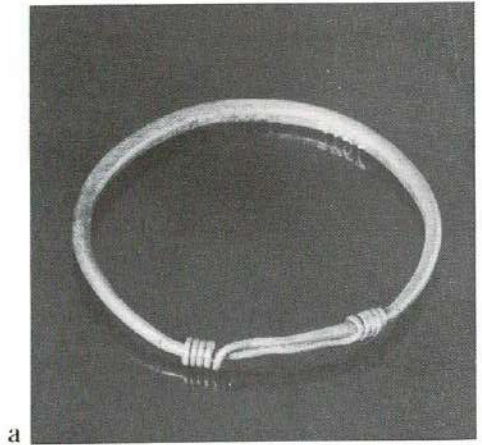
Cat. No 165. SILVER BRACELET (Group I)

Inv. No 4769. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Preserved length 97 mm (unfolded), th. wire 4-2 mm, w. 7.24 g. Fragment. Only part of the body and one vertically cut end are preserved. The hoop is made of one wire with rounded triangular cross section, with a copper wire core. Probably the type is similar to Cat. No 158a, b [95, 12, No 31].



Cat. No 166. BRONZE BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 3323. Oescus, together with a votive tablet on which Kybele is depicted, a bone pin ending with a statuette of Venus and a bronze statuette of Venus. D. 77 × 75 mm, th. wire 4-1 mm. Unpublished. Closed hoop, open-end fastened, made of one round wire, tapering ends that run parallel and are each twisted to form three coils. Well preserved. 2nd-3rd century AD. Fully similar specimens are known from the necropolis in the Kailuka locality near Plevn, dated to the 4th century. The type fully resembles the gold bracelets from Ratiaria and the silver bracelets from the treasure of Bazaurt (Cat. Nos 140, 148-150) [80, 37, fig. 3-2].



a

Cat. No 167a. BRONZE BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 3767 (forming a pair with Cat. No 167b). Kroushovene, Plevn region. Accidental find. D. 64 mm, th. wire 4-1 mm. Unpublished. Open-ended hoop made of round wire, ends tapering and running parallel, forming spiral coils. Well preserved. 2nd-3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. No 166.

Cat. No 167b. BRONZE BRACELET (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 3767 (forming a pair with Cat. No 167a). D. 68 × 63 mm, th. wire 4-1 mm. Well preserved. For the type cf. Cat. No 167a.



b

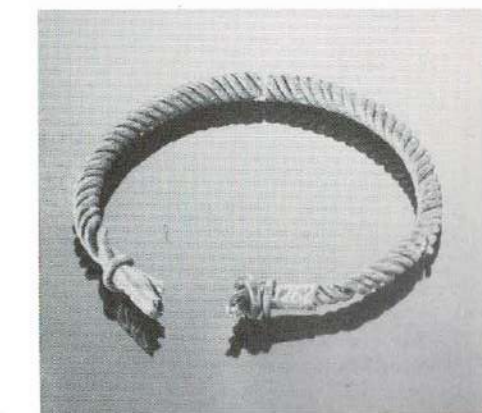
Cat. No 168. BRONZE BRACELET (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 1991. Yambol region. Accidental find. D. 55 × 51 mm, th. wire 2-1 mm, d. hoop 4 mm, th. hook 5 mm. Unpublished. Oval hoop made of one round wire, tapering at the ends to form a hoop-and-hook fastener. Deformed, broken in two parts. 4th century AD. Fully similar as a type to the gold bracelet from Peturnitsa, grave find, dated with a coin of Constantius II (Cat. No 143). Close analogies are seen in Late Roman bracelets from Intercisa, Pannonia and the Roman fortress South Shield, Britaina, 4th century [147, 294, No 3, tabl. XVI, 4-5; 98, 132, No 251, 256].



Cat. No 169. BRONZE BRACELET (Type II, Variant 2)

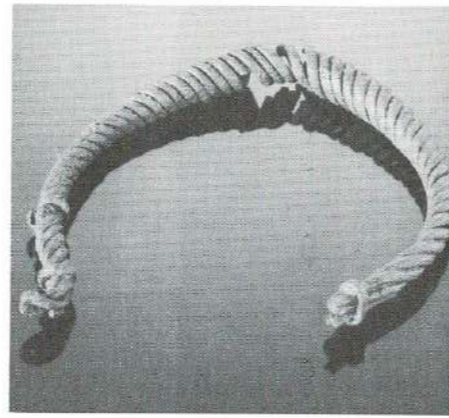
Inv. No 1267. Serdica. The necropolis of the St Sophia church. D. 62 mm, th. body 7-4 mm, th. wire 1.3-1 mm. Unpublished. Oval hoop made of four spirally twisted round wires, with fastener. The ends are shaped like cylindrical holders made of thin plate, restricted by circles of round wire. Only a small part of the hook is preserved, the hoop is missing. Broken in two parts, now repaired. 3rd-4th century AD. Fully similar in type to the bronze bracelet (Cat. No 170), a grave find dated with clay lamps. Similar bracelets are known from the Roman necropolis Gerulata Rusovce and the Late Roman military camp Cifer Pac in Czechoslovakia, dated to the first half of the 4th century, and from the Roman fortress South Shield in Britain [127, 55, fig. 85-5, 8; 125, 26, fig. 8, No 8; 98, 134, No 267-275].



Cat. No 170. BRONZE BRACELET (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5700. Southern Thrace. Grave find, together with a bronze bracelet (Cat. No 171) and clay lamps, dated to the 2nd—early 3rd century and 3rd-4th century. D. 77×62 mm, th. body 7-4 mm, th. wire 1.4-1 mm. Unpublished.

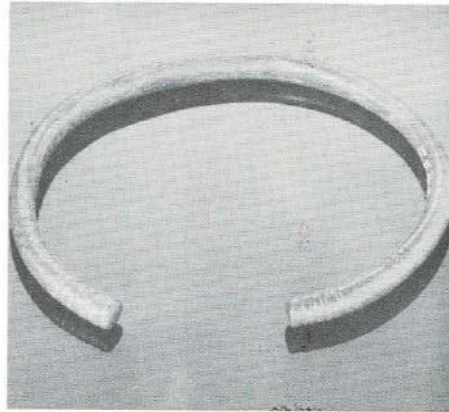
Oval hoop made of four spirally twisted round wires. The ends probably had a cylindrical holder of a plate which is now missing (similar to Cat. No 169), only the limiting circles made of a round wire and part of the hook are preserved, the hoop is missing. Broken in two parts. 3rd-4th century AD. For the type cf. Cat. No 169 [52, No 128, 206].



Cat. No 171. BRONZE BRACELET (Type V, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5699. Southern Thrace. Grave find, together with Cat. No 170. D. 67×58 mm, th. body 5-4 mm, distance between the ends 25 mm. Unpublished.

Oval hoop, open-ended, made of one thick wire with vertically cut ends, decorated with two bands of incised concentric lines. Well preserved. 3rd-4th century AD (dated on the basis of the clay lamps in the grave find). Close analogies are silver bracelets from a grave find from Rousse (Cat. No 158a, b) and bronze bracelets from the Tyriatki necropolis in Southern Russia, dated to the late 2nd—early 3rd century AD [52, No 128, 206; 23, 216, fig. 82, 3].



Cat. No 172. BRONZE BRACELET (Type VII)

Inv. No 6479. Ratiaria. Grave find, together with a bronze statuette of a bird and mask. D. 61×57 mm, th. wire 2-3 mm, distance between the ends 6 mm.

Open-ended hoop, ellipsoid shape, made of one thick round wire, towards the ends passing into a trapezium-shaped plate, decorated with oblique and vertical hatches. Slightly deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD.



Cat. No 173. BRONZE BRACELET (Type VII)

Inv. No 4914. Ratiaria. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 53, 103, 104) and gems. D. 58×60 mm, th. wire 4 mm, plate at ends 13×7 mm.

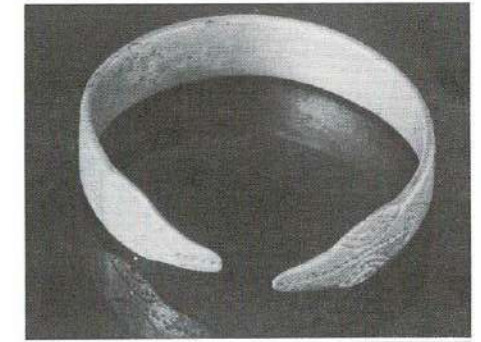
Open-ended hoop made of a massive round wire, hammered out at both ends to form rectangular plates, decorated with geometric ornaments: lozenges and circles inscribed in them. In the beginning of the hoop there is a band of oblique hatches. The ends are almost touching now. Slightly deformed. 3rd century AD [89, 271].



Cat. No 174. BRONZE BRACELET (Type VIII, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5466. Caristorum (present-day Kopilovtsi village, Kyustendil region), from the sanctuary of Zeus and Hera, together with bronze jewellery (Cat. Nos 175, 265, 266). D. 50×55 mm, th. plate 10 mm, distance between the ends 8 mm.

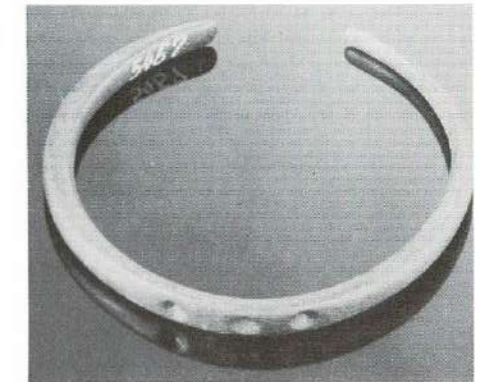
Snake-like. Ellipsoid open-ended hoop, made of a flat band, ends shaped like stylized snakes' heads. The latter are triangular, ornamented with deep dots and incised semicircular lines. The body is decorated with rectangular fields, X-like ornaments and triangles, some of which are filled with stippled dots. Slightly deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD. Similar as a type to the silver bracelet from the treasure from Chaoushevo (Cat. No 161) [45, 107, No 1, fig. 74].



Cat. No 175. BRONZE BRACELET (Type VIII, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5467. Together with Cat. No 174. D. 56 mm, th. body 4×2 mm and 3×1 mm, distance between the ends 18 mm.

Snake-like. Open-ended hoop made of a tetrahedral rounded rod, one end narrower and flattened to resemble in shape a stylized snake's body. One stippled dot at both ends and three on the body. Well preserved. 2nd-3rd century AD. Close analogy—bronze bracelet from the necropolis in Bourgas, dated to the 4th century AD [45, 108, No 2, fig. 75; 53, 49, fig. 2].



Cat. No 176. GOLD RING (Type I)

Inv. No 5925. Kerch, Crimea. D. 30×28 mm (20×22), width hoop 7-4 mm, w. 15.47 g, 22 c. (920+). Unpublished.

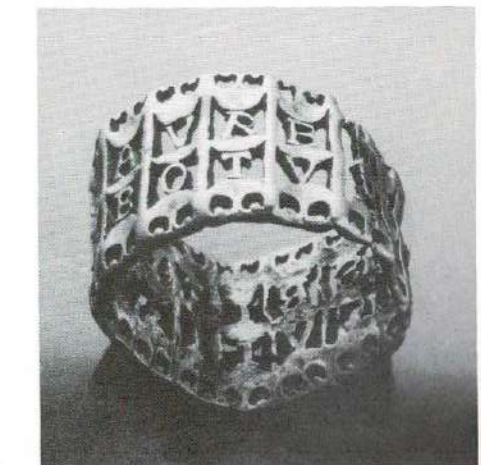
Hoop in an elaborate braiding, round cross section. Consisting of three belts, oriented diagonally in the braiding of 8 wires, passing towards the ends into two flat bands, overlapping and soldered to one another. Well preserved. 1st century. The type is characteristic of jewellery from the northern part of the Black Sea coast, registered with numerous finds of earrings, many of which are kept in the collections of the Pilsen Museum, the Schiller Collection in Berlin, etc. [138, 47-48, No 13-15, pl. IV, V].

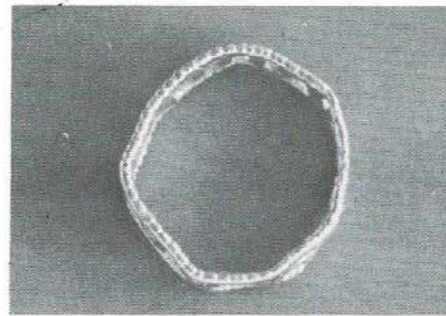


Cat. No 177. GOLD RING (Type III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4791. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 21×23 mm (20×22), width 14-15 mm, th. 0.9-1.1 mm, w. 11.23 g, 22 c.

Hoop-like ring, polygonal on the outside, with sectoral planes, made of a broad band with openwork decoration, rows of Amazonian shield-pelta in the periphery, between which two rows of rectangular fields are distinguishable, with a Latin inscription in two lines: AVRELIVS/BITVS/BOTV/HERCVLI, reading in translation "Aurelius Bitus, votive of Heracles." Some mistakes are detected in the writing of the letters, namely BOTV instead of VOTV(M). The inscription is of a votive nature, dedicated by the owner to Hercules. Similar is the content of the inscription on a silver ring from Silistra (Cat. No 227)—VOT/HER (VOT(VM)/HER (CVLI). The name of Aurelius Bitus is the name of a Romanized Thracian, one of the most popular Thracian names during the Roman Period. Mid-3rd century AD. Similar finds are known from Britania, with the same pelta ornament on the openwork band, dated to the 4th century, judging from the inscription. Close analogies are also found in the gold ring from Augsburg, Germany, dated with coins from Gordian to Valerian—252 AD [95, 9, No 17, tabl. IV, 5; 110, 9, pl. 1, 6, 7; 119, No 19].

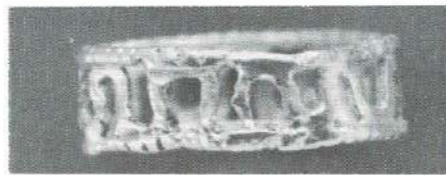




Cat. No 178. GOLD RING (Type III)

Inv. No A 8475. Novae, excavations 1967, sector IV. D. 15×14 mm, band width 5 mm, w. 1.7 g, 24 c.

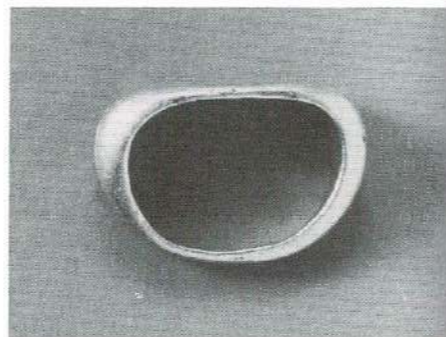
Hoop-like, openwork. The band consists of two wires of the pearl cord type in the periphery, linked with a U-shaped ornament of flat wire. Slightly deformed. 3rd century. The type is characteristic of the Late Antiquity. Parallels can be found in the hoop of gold rings with shield from the collections of the British Museum and of the Vienna Museum [58, 181; 106, No 558, pl. XVI; 157, 168, No 1285, Taf. 166].



Cat. No 179. GOLD RING (Type IV, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4596. Aquae Calidae. D. 20×18 mm (18×16), band width 2×4 mm, plate 8×5 mm, w. 5.26 g, 23 c. (950+).

Ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band, rounded on the outside, passing into a wider plate with engraved image of Victory, walking to the right, left foot raised, her garments and wings rendered in hatches. Well preserved. 1st century AD. According to F. Henkel, the type was characteristic of the Imperial Period (Flavius). Similar reliably dated rings are known from Köln and Bonn [89, 270; 119, 278, Nos 58, 59, 62, 64, tabl. III].



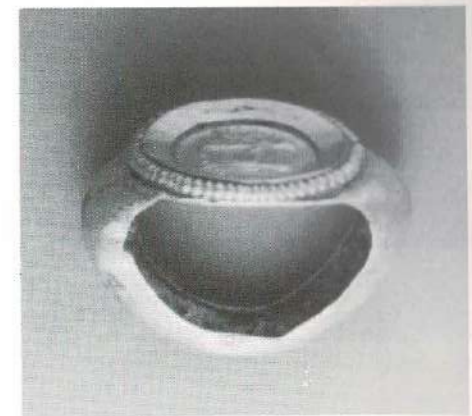
Cat. No 180. GOLD RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type IV, Variant 3)

Inv. No 5253. Kystendil region. Accidental find. D. 24×15 mm (18×13), band width 3.7 mm, plate 18×10 mm, w. 12.20 g, 23 c. (950). Unpublished.

Ellipsoid hoop of a massive band with deep fluting on the wide plate, dividing it in two in a horizontal direction, shaped like a double-convex lens, with incised inscription in Greek, consisting of two lines in the two fields:

ΣΕΡΑΠΙΙ
ΕΥΣΕΜΕ

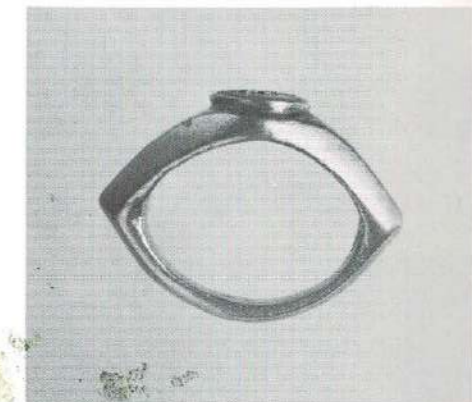
which reads in translation: "Serapis, save me," of a votive nature. When the Greek letters were written, there was a confusion with Latin characters (C instead of Σ). The form of the plate with deep fluting, passing to the shoulders as well, similar to a double hoop, with inscriptions on the fields, can be seen also on gold rings from Lyulin, Yambol region, in a grave find dated to the period between the early 2nd and the first half of the 3rd century AD, from Plevna in a mid-3rd century AD grave find, as well as a collective find of bronze rings from the legion's camp — the canaba of Neubau near Bonn [26, 52, fig. 5; 49, 52, fig. 5a-d; 119, 35, No 1803, fig. 15].



Cat. No 181. GOLD RING (Type V)

Inv. No 3658. Vidbol, Vidin region. Accidental find, probably from a grave, together with a pair of gold earrings (Cat. No 29a, b). D. 28×19 mm (21×15), band width 5-10 mm, shoulders 14 mm, d. shield 17 mm, w. 9.70 g, 23 c. (950). Unpublished.

Oval hoop made of a band bent to form a semicircle, imitating a massive ring, becoming wider towards the rounded and oblique shoulders. The shield is ellipsoid, with a border in relief, of pearl-like cord, with a plate set in depth, decorated with two embossed images of two standing Victorias, facing one another. The images are in low relief, with a rather general rendering. Early 3rd century AD. The exact analogy of the type is seen in a gold ring from Bonn [119, No 84, tabl. IV; 120, 190, 4, pl. 63H].



Cat. No 182. GOLD RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type VII, Variant 1)

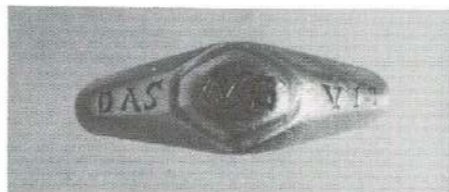
Inv. No 1616. Goznitsa, Lovech region. Accidental find, together with two gold rings (Cat. Nos 183, 204). D. 22×19 mm (18×15), band width 3-4 mm, shoulders 8 mm, shield 9×8 mm, w. 14.44 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

Ellipsoid hoop, the lower part made of a semicircular massive band, becoming wider towards the conical shoulders. The shield is made of an additional ellipsoid plate, inscribed in Latin in two lines: VTR/FEL. 3rd century AD. The type of ring with conically cut shoulders is typical of the 3rd century. The inscription UT(e)R(e)FEL (ix) is a blessing for welfare, probably like a saying, meaning in translation "welfare with uterus [with foetus]," i. e. referring to a concrete occasion, to concrete parts of the body, with a magic symbol. The same content is seen in an inscription on a bronze ring from the British Museum [119, No 73, tabl. IV, No 239, tabl. XII, Nos 841-844, 2198, 2215; 106, 108, No 645].



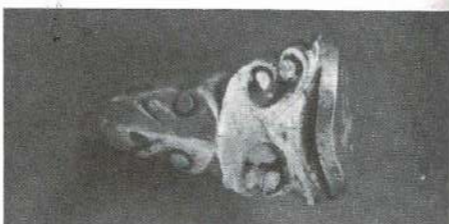
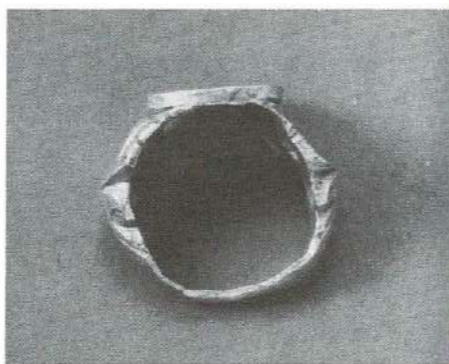
Cat. No 183. GOLD RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type VII, Variant 1)

Inv. No 1615. Together with Cat. No 182. D. 26 × 20 mm (17 × 15), band width 2.5-4 mm, shoulder width 8 mm, shield 10 × 8.5 mm, w. 12.23 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished. The hoop is with irregular ellipsoid shape, made of a massive band with trapezium-shaped cross section, widening towards the conical shoulders. The plate of the shield is hexagonal, emphasized by being slightly raised. On the shoulders and on the shield there is an inscription in Latin in one line: DAS/A/C/VIT, 3rd century AD. The inscription containing the name DAS (ius) AUG (ustus/ustolis/alis) VIT (elis) suggests that the shield of the ring was used as a seal as well [119, No 226, tabl. XI].



Cat. No 184. GOLD RING (Type VII, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4076. Vetren, Pazardjik region. Accidental find. D. 21 × 18 mm (15 × 16), band width 2-7 mm, shoulders 1 mm, d. shield 12 × 11 mm, w. 8.28 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished. Irregular ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band with rectangular cross section, widening and thickened towards the conical shoulders. The hoop below the shoulders is decorated with incised images of peltae, cut along a contour, with hatches. The arms are decorated with the same motif of the double peltae. The shield is ellipsoid, with an additionally soldered plate on which the images of two storks facing one another are depicted. One of the storks is with a head raised high, the other one is stooping and pecking. 3rd century AD. The type is characteristic of the 3rd century AD. Similar finds are known from the collections of the British Museum and Mainz [120, 190, No 3, pl. 62E, 63D; 106, No 976, pl. XXV; 119, Nos 73, 74, tabl. IV].

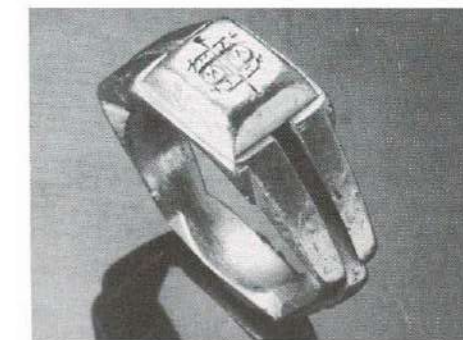


Cat. No 185. GOLD RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type VII, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5754. Southern Thrace. D. 27 × 22 mm (18 × 18), band width 4-5 mm, shoulder width 9 mm, shield 8 × 7 mm, w. 24.00 g, 23 c. (950). Irregular ellipsoid hoop, the lower end trapezium-shaped, made of a massive band which becomes thicker towards the conical shoulders, rectangular shield with trapezium-shaped cross section and an inscription in Latin, in three lines and in two vertical fields, written in negative and in positive:

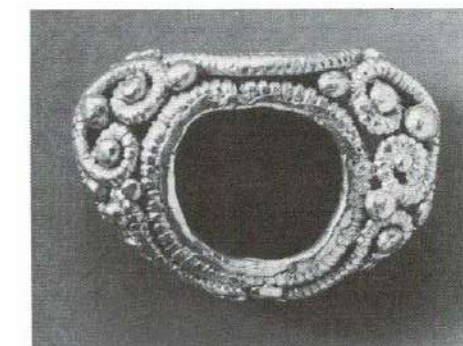
MA	AM
NA	AN
IT	TI.

The band of the hoop is subjected to additional plastic treatment. It is divided into three longitudinal fields, the middle part of which is convex in the lower part, while the next one in ascending order is concave. 3rd century AD. A signet ring: Amanti is the genitive of Amantus, i. e. 'beloved'—which is not characteristic of a free citizen, but rather of a freed slave. Similar rings with rectangular shields are kept in the British Museum and in Bonn, being a relatively close analogy to the plastic rendering of the hoop—a bronze ring from Köln, used as a seal [94, 153; 119, Nos 100, 103, 106, tabl. VI, No 937, tabl. XXXVI].



Cat. No 186. GOLD RING (Type VIII)

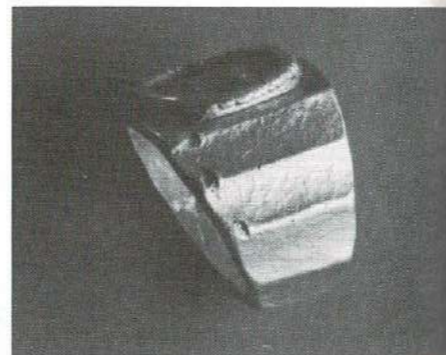
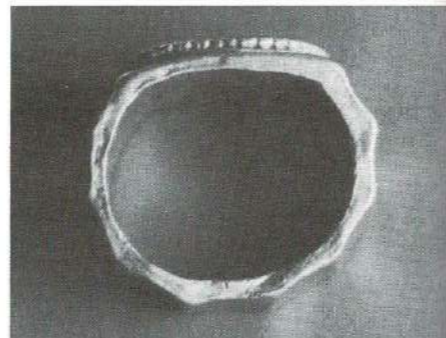
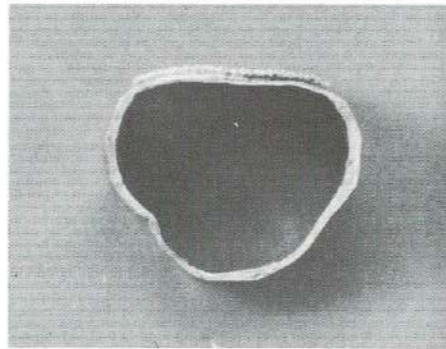
Inv. No 5741. Anchialo. Accidental find. D. 37 × 25 mm (22), band width 9-7 mm, shoulders 19 mm, d. shield 22 × 20 mm, w. 64.70 g, 20 c. (840). Openwork hoop, hollow, imitating massive rings. Made of two bands: inner and outer. The inner band is broad, plain, round in shape, one end bent in the periphery. The outer band is in openwork, ellipsoid in shape, becoming wider towards the rounded protruding shoulders. It is made of round wire with concentric fluting, imitating a pearl-like cord. Both parts are decorated with symmetrical forms: peltae and S-shaped ornaments, with gold pearls between them. The periphery is framed with the same wire as the ellipsoid shield. The latter is concave, it is made of an additional plate, with conically cut border to the periphery, a leaf-like ornament of two clasped hands in relief in the centre. Relatively crude workmanship. One-quarter of the outer hoop near the shoulder is missing after being cut. 3rd century. The type, as well as the rich openwork ornamentation, are characteristic of 3rd century rings. The motif of two clasped hands (*unctio dextrarum*) is popular in the decoration of rings, being also engraved on gems, as e. g. in gold rings from Germania and Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 187, 208). A similar type of rings with openwork hoop are known from Zurich and Bonn, dated to the 2nd century AD [94, 251; 37, Nos 238, 241, 242; 120, 191, No 5, pl. 62B; 119, Nos 259, 260, tabl. XIII; 106, No 926, pl. XXIII].



Cat. No 187. GOLD RING (Type IX)

Inv. No 7519. Germania (Sapareva Banya), the water system of Roman thermae, together with a silver ring (Cat. No 243) and votive tablets of the Thracian Horseman, Asclepius, Hygia and Telesphorus, as well as a coin hoard dated to the mid-2nd — mid-3rd century AD. D. 19 × 16 mm (17 × 14), band width 4-9 mm, shoulders 11 mm, d. shield 22 × 13 mm, w. 5.24 g, 20 c. (840).

The hoop is ellipsoid-polygonal, made of a thin band, becoming wider towards the shoulders and forming a rectangular plate, with ellipsoid shield, framed by a wire of the pearl-cord type. In the centre: a rather generalized *unctio dextrarum* in relief. The hoop is slightly deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD. The type is defined as Eastern influence, widespread in the 2nd-3rd century AD, with reliably dated finds from Kerch. Similar in form to a gold ring from Kallatis (Cat. No 188), but with a more massive band [25, 321; 39, 355; 119, 237, fig. 238, Nos 366-368, tabl. XVIII; 138, 66, No 43, pl. II, 8].



Cat. No 188. GOLD RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type IX)

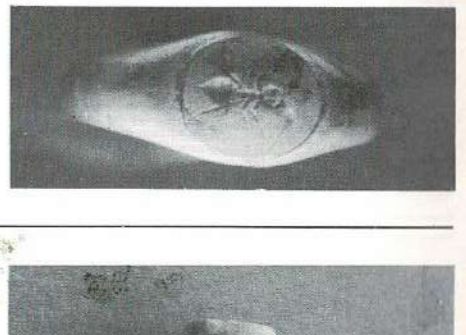
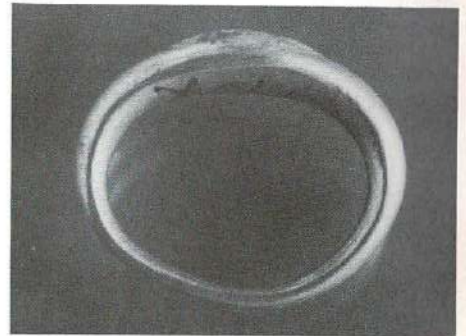
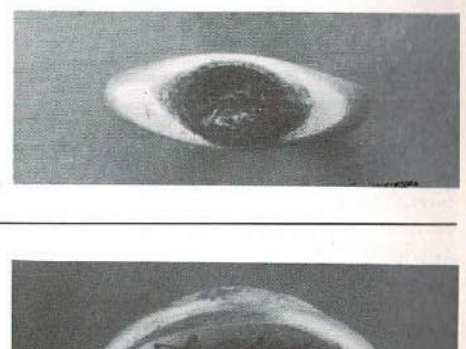
Inv. No 5967. Kallatis (Mangalia). D. 19 × 17 mm (17 × 14), band width 6-11 mm, shoulders 13 mm, d. shield 13.5 × 11 mm, w. 16.62 g, 23 c. (950). Unpublished.

Ellipsoid-polygonal hoop, made of a massive band, with outer sectoral segments, wider towards the shoulders, with a rectangular plate framed by an ellipsoid shield, framed by a wire border of pearl-like cord. In the centre: two standing figures in relief, a man and a woman, rendered in graceful movement towards one another, standing on the terrain denoted with a horizontal line, one line of inscription in Greek over their heads: OMONOIA. Well preserved. 2nd-3rd century AD. For the type of the ring cf. Cat. No 187. The inscription on the ring — *ὁμόνοια* — means concordia and defines the ring as a ritual ring for engagement or wedding, similar to the inscription HOMONO (Greek word spelled in Latin characters) on the gold ring from Lesichevo (Cat. No 217). The same inscription in Greek occurs on rings in the collections of the British Museum, from Gaul, etc. [118, 96, No 742; 159, 195, No 1009, pl. LXIV].

Cat. No 189. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 3)

Inv. No 5127. Aquae Calidae. D. 21 × 19 mm (15 × 14), band width 2-3 mm, shoulders 7 mm, shield 7 × 5 mm, w. 7.86 g, 22-23 c. (920-950).

Ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band, rounded on the outside, slightly wider towards the shoulders which are not emphasized. The shield is ellipsoid, on the same level as the plate, a bezel with a red jasper gem decorated with the head of a beardless satyr in a profile to the left, below the bust — a pedum image. Well preserved. 1st century AD. The type of ring is characteristic of the Early Imperial Age (1st century AD). The proposed dating to the 1st century BC is based on A. Milcheva's interpretation of the gem. Rings of a similar type are presented by F. Henkel, as well as rings from Kerch, both types dated to the 1st century AD [37, No 115; 119, Nos 161, 167, tabl. IX; 138, No 11, pl. I, II, 9].



Cat. No 190. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4937. Mezdra, Vratsa region. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 122, 197), clay lamp with seal (2nd-3rd century AD). D. 19 × 15 mm (16 × 13), band width 2-3.5 mm, shoulders 6 mm, d. shield 9 × 7 mm, w. 5.85 g, 22 c. (920).

Ellipsoid hoop of a thin band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the shoulder and plate, ellipsoid bezel with gem of whitish jasper, slightly rounded, decorated with a bee, shallow carving, opaque. 2nd-3rd century. The decorative element of a bee occurs on a silver ring (Cat. No 248), as well as on a gem for ring from the National Archaeological Museum (Inv. No 2874) [119, Nos 174, 175, tabl. IX; 37, Nos 221, 222].



Cat. No 191. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 3)

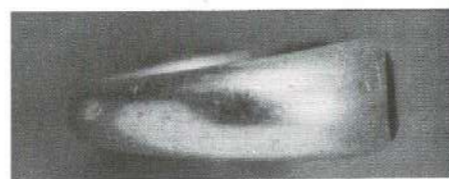
Inv. No 4773. Aquae Calidae. D. 18 × 16 mm (15 × 13), band width 1.5-2.5 mm, shoulders 4 mm, d. shield 9 × 7 mm, w. 3.45 g, 22 c. (920).

Oval hoop of a thin band, slightly rounded on the outside, widening towards the shoulders, slightly profiled ellipsoid shield, with a high flat gem of whitish jasper, decorated with the image of an Indian parrot, turned to the right, perched on an obscure object. 1st century AD. Shallow carving. The hoop is slightly deformed [37, No 213; 119, Nos 165, 181, tabl. IX].

Cat. No 192. GOLD RING WITH A GEM (Type I, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4599. Aquae Calidae. D. 26 × 22 mm (19 × 15), band width 5-7 mm, shoulders 8 mm, shield 8 × 5 mm, w. 23.55 g, 23 c. (950).

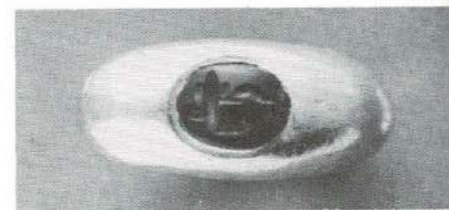
Ellipsoid massive hoop of a band that is semicircular on the outside, thickened towards the shoulders, ellipsoid shield-bezel. Gem of milky-white jasper, flat, with conically cut ribs, decorated with a parrot image, to the right, with folded wings, perched on an outlined terrain. Shallow carving. 1st—early 2nd century AD. The type of the ring demonstrates a Hellenistic tradition. A similar decoration of the gem with an Indian parrot is seen in Cat. No 191 [88, 216; 120, pl. 62A; 119, No 141, tabl. VIII, Nos 163, 175, tabl. IX; 37, Nos 213, 214].



Cat. No 193. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4344. Location unknown. D. 24 × 20 mm (17 × 19), band width 5-8 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 8 × 6 mm, w. 5.74 g, 23 c. (950). Unpublished.

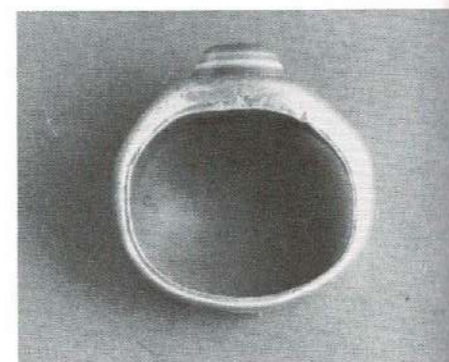
Ellipsoid massive hoop of a band that is semicircular on the outside, wider and thicker towards the shoulders, ellipsoid shield-bezel without setting. The gem is with a slightly rounded surface, red carnel, decorated with a flamingo bird, turned to the left, with a long neck, one leg folded above some obscure object. Shallow carving, good workmanship. 2nd century AD [119, Nos 194, 197, tabl. X; 120, pl. 62A; 106, No 187, pl. V].



Cat. No 194. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 6242. Kabyle (near the present-day village of Kabile, Yambol region). Grave find. D. 20 × 16 mm (17 × 14), band width 4-6 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 9 × 6.5 mm, w. 13.38 g, 22 c. (920+).

Ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular cross section, rounded on the outside, wider and thicker towards the shoulders, ellipsoid shield-bezel. Gem of three-layer sardonyx with oblique cone-like shape, decorated with the image of an eagle, to the left, perched on a marked terrain, wings folded and head turned upwards. Shallow detailed carving, good workmanship. 1st-2nd century AD [17, 379; 37, No 200; 119, Nos 198, 200, tabl. X; 120, pl. 62A; 106, No 495, pl. XIV].



Cat. No 195. GOLD RING WITH GARNET (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 195: Ratiaria. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 80, 94, 101, 111, 132, 140, 141, 286). D. 14.5 × 14 mm (13 × 12), band width 3-5 mm, d. shield 6 mm, w. 3.93 g, 21 c. (880).

Hoop with irregular oval shape made of a band slightly rounded on the outside, widening towards the curved shoulders, round shield-bezel with dark-red garnet, oblique cone-shape, 2nd-3rd century AD. Parallels from the necropolis of Ratiaria, kept at the History Museum in Vidin (Inv. Nos M I 400, 401, 405) [95, 37, No 8, tabl. 5; 5, 90].



Cat. No 196. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 1)

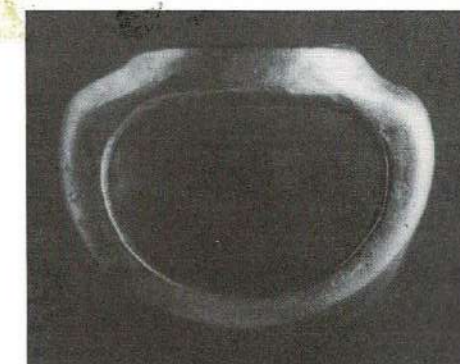
Inv. No 5274. Odesos. Probably a grave find, together with a gold medallion (Cat. No 131). D. 21 × 18 mm (17 × 13), band width 2.5-4.5 mm, shoulders 6 mm, d. shield 15 × 11 mm, w. 4.05 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

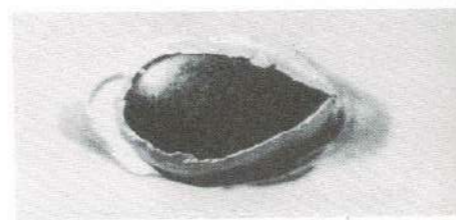
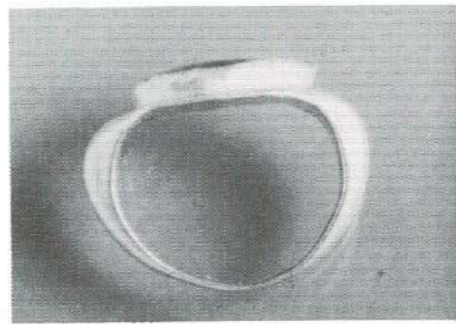
Ellipsoid hoop, thin band rounded on the outside, widening towards the triangular rounded shoulders. Ellipsoid shield with bezel containing a gem of light-red semitransparent carnel, on which Heracles' head is depicted, beardless, turned to the left, with short hair rendered in circles and hatches, the lips almost closed. Elegantly modelled features of the face. The background and the image are polished. First half of the 3rd century AD. The style of the gem dates it to an earlier period compared with the type (1st century AD), similar to a gem with the same decoration from Negovantsi, Vidin region [37, No 124; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H; 118, 49 (type X), fig. 2/X b].



Cat. No 197. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4936. Mezdra, Vratsa region. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 122, 190) and clay lamp with seal, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD. D. 23 × 18 mm (18 × 13), band width 2.5-3 mm, shoulders 5 mm, d. shield 15 × 10 mm, 10.06 g, 22 c. (920). Massive hoop, ellipsoid, made of U-shaped band, with rounded triangular shoulders, ellipsoid shield with a low bezel and a flat gem of dark-brown carnel, decorated with the images of two dogs running to the left, chasing two hares. Shallow carving. A small part of the gem is broken. 2nd-3rd century AD. A similar image, but with one dog and one hare, is seen on the gem of a silver ring from Ratiaria (Cat. No 257). The type of ring, referred to the 2nd-3rd century AD, also coincides with the dating of the lamp with seal EPICN [89, 270; 37, No 182; 52, No 288; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H; 119, No 221, tabl. XI].





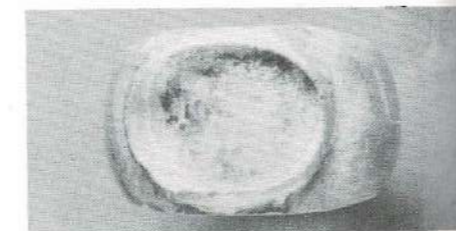
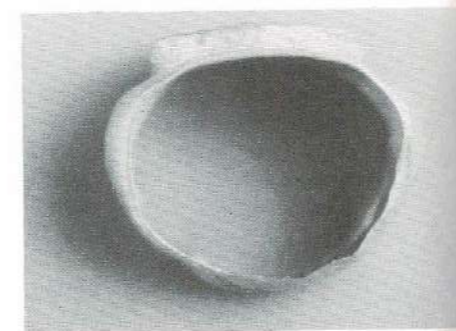
Cat. No 198. GOLD RING WITH STONE (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5968. Location unknown. D. 18×14 mm (17×12), band width 1.5-2.5 mm, shoulders 3 mm, d. shield 15×8 mm, w. 3.03 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished. Ellipsoid hoop of a thin band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the horizontal triangular shape. The shield is drop-like in shape, with a bezel containing a dark-green stone with a rounded surface. Deformations on the periphery of the shield. The first half of the 3rd century AD [119, No 219, tabl. XI; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H].



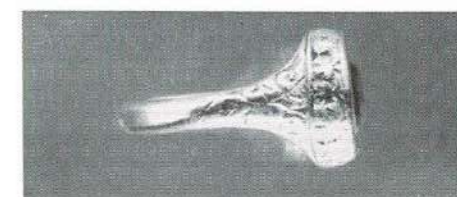
Cat. No 199. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 7717. Apiaria. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 57a, b, 102) and a clay pot. D. 17×12 mm (14×11), band width 1.5-4 mm, shoulders 4.5 mm, d. shield 9×7 mm, height 2 mm, w. 3.17 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished. Ellipsoid hoop of thin plate with rounded triangular cross section, wider and thicker towards the horizontal triangular shoulders. Ellipsoid shield, with bezel, the gem destroyed. First half of 3rd century AD [119, No 219, tabl. XI; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H].



Cat. No 200. GOLD RING WITH STONE (Type II, Variant 1)

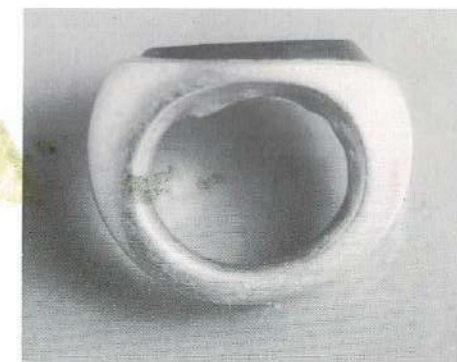
Inv. No 6635. Oescus. Grave find, child's burial, together with a gold torque (Cat. No 84). D. 22×16 mm (18×15), band width 4-9 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 14×10.5 mm, height 1.5 mm, w. 4.57 g, 21 c. (880). Ellipsoid hoop of a thin flat band, bent ovally towards the rounded triangular shoulders. Ellipsoid shield, with a bezel for gem or stone, now missing. The hoop is slightly deformed. 3rd century AD [71, 451; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H; 119, No 221, tabl. XI].



Cat. No 201. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 4)

Inv. No 8030. Location unknown, together with carnel gem. D. 22×24 mm (19×18), band width 3 mm, shoulders 7 mm, d. shield 15×8 mm, w. 11.93 g, 23 c. (950). Unpublished.

Round hoop of a thin band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the shoulders and thickened below the plate. Ellipsoid shield with a high bezel, profiled horizontal surfaces, with a blue gem decorated with the image of Concordia, with a rudder and the cornucopia. The shoulders and the periphery of the shield are decorated with an engraved ornament of a stylized palmette and vine sprouts. Well preserved. 3rd century AD. The type of ring — without pronounced shoulders, with a massive band below the plate — is a Hellenistic reminiscence over a long period (1st-3rd century AD), with parallels from Italy, Gaul and Britania. Gold rings with a similar decoration are known from Wiesbaden and Vienna, dated to the 3rd century AD [37, No 141; 119, No 246, tabl. XII; 157, 160, No 1236, Taf. 166; 120, 191, No 9, pl. 63E; 159, 78, type 1c; 118, 46, 47, type I, III, fig. 2].



Cat. No 202. GOLD RING WITH STONE (Type II, Variant 1)

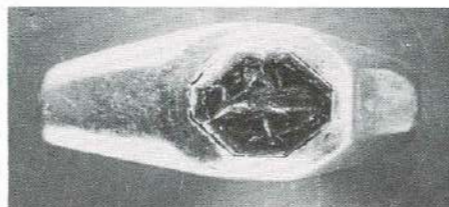
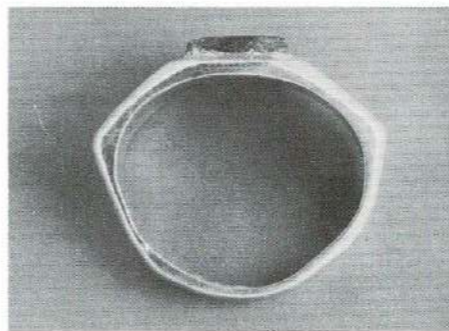
Inv. No 3695. Novae. Excavations. D. 28×24 mm (19×18), band width 4-5 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 24×17 mm, w. 10.89 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

Ellipsoid hoop, hollow, made of a U-shaped band, widening and thicker towards the rounded shoulders. Ellipsoid without bezel, black polished stone. A lozenge-shaped hole on the inside of the hoop, below the shield. Well preserved. 1st-2nd century. The type demonstrates a Hellenistic reminiscence, similar to finds from Kerch and Syria. Similar rings are known from Gaul and Austria, dated to the period between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD, from Brittany — Late Hellenistic Age and Hadrian's reign [120, 174, No 4, pl. 53D,F; 119, No 119, tabl. VI; 138, 36, No 2, pl. I, 5; 159, 78, Type 1b, c; 157, 209, No 1517, Taf. 164; 118, 46, type I, fig. 1].

Cat. No 203. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6505. Kapitan Dimitriev, Stara Zagora region. Accidental find. D. 26×21 mm (21×18 mm), band width 2.5-5.5 mm, shoulders 9 mm, d. shield 13×10.5 mm, w. 11.97 g, 23 c. (950).

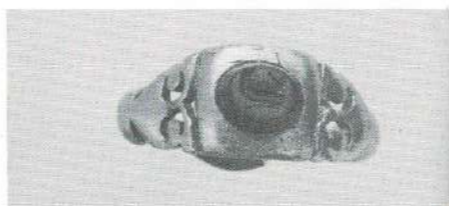
Oval hoop, with ellipsoid lower part of a band with rectangular cross section, wider and thicker towards the conical shoulders. The octagonal shield-plate is with a low bezel containing a nicolo gem decorated with the image of Fortuna, standing, on a terrain marked with a horizontal line, with her usual attributes: cornucopia and rudder. Well preserved. 3rd century AD. The type of conical shoulders (with and without decoration) is characteristic of the 3rd century AD as a form. Parallels in rings from Gaul, Austria and Britania [18, 413, fig. 166; 37, No 89; 119, No 226, tabl. XI; 120, 190, pl. 62E; 106, Nos 1191, 2000, XXIX, No 1439, pl. XXXIII; 150, 80, Type 3e].



Cat. No 204. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 1617. Goznitsa, Lovech region. Accidental find, together with gold rings (Cat. No 182, 183). D. 24×20 mm (17×17), band width 2-5 mm, shoulders 9 mm, d. shield 11×10 mm, w. 10 g, 23 c. (950).

Hoop, ellipsoid in its lower part, massive, made of a broad rounded band, with very oblique trapezium-shaped shoulders, openwork decoration of double peltae. Rectangular high shield without bezel, with a nicolo gem, conically cut and decorated with the image of a crayfish. Shallow detailed carving. Well preserved. 3rd century. Similar as a type to Cat. No 203, but the shoulders are with ornamentation characteristic of the 3rd century. R. Higgins dates them within a longer period: from the end of the 2nd to the 4th century AD, with examples from Rome and Cardiff. Known parallels in rings from Germany, Gaul, Austria and Brittany [37, No 223 and the literature cited there; 120, 190, No 3, pl. 62E, 63; 119, No 81, tabl. IV; 106, No 202, pl. V, No 545, 546, pl. XVI; 159, 80, Type 3f; 157, 169, Nos 1332, 1349, taf. 165].



Cat. No 205. GOLD RING WITH CAMEO (Type III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5049. Aquae Calidae. D. 24×24 mm (16×19), band width 4-6 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 13×9 mm, height 4 mm.

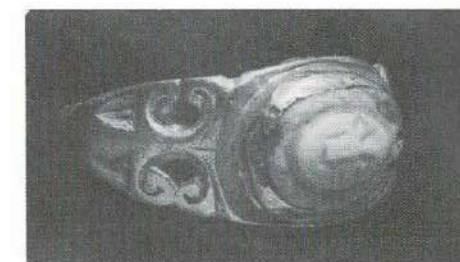
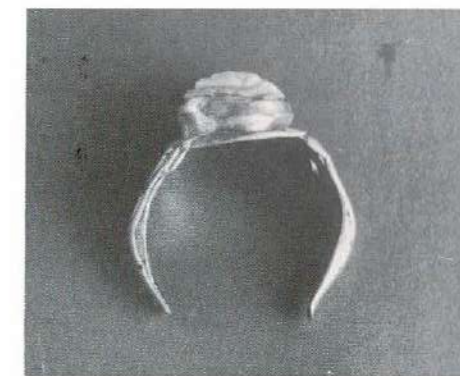
Ellipsoid hoop of a massive band of trapezium-shaped cross section, with concave rim on the outside, widened towards the very oblique shoulders. The latter are decorated with incised stylized ornament—double peltae, incised lines in the periphery, between them a vertical cord with herring-bone ornament. Ellipsoid shield with high bezel, agate cameo decorated with the bust of a young woman, breasts in full face, the head turned to the right. The details are rendered with oblique hatches. Polished surface. Well preserved. 3rd century. Similar as a type and as decoration to Cat. No 204, but with more primitive workmanship. A similar decoration on cameo with the same portrait characteristics is known from a grave find from the village of Lyulin, Yambol region, dated to the late 2nd—early 3rd century AD [89, 283, fig. 18; 37, No 301 and literature cited there; 119, No 72, tabl. IV; 26, 43, No 6, fig. 3].



Cat. No 206. GOLD RING WITH CAMEO (Type III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 6217. Tauresium (present-day Tavalichevo village, Kyustendil region). Accidental find. D. 18×17 mm (16×14), band width 2-3 mm, shoulders 8 mm, d. shield 10×9 mm, w. 3.9 g, 22 c. (920).

Ellipsoid hoop of a thin band with rectangular cross section, widened and thickened towards the conical shoulders, decorated with incised ornament and openwork: double peltae and triangles underneath. Rectangular plate with a high shield with bezel containing a cameo of two-layer sardonyx decorated with Medusa's image. The lower part of the hoop is broken off and missing. 3rd century. Medusa's image on the cameo resembles that on a gold ring from Novae (Cat. No 219). It also occurs in medallions from Ratiaria (Cat. Nos 127, 128) [16, 320; 37, No 312; 120, 190, No 3; 119, No 247, tabl. XII, No 544, tabl. XV; 82, 43, fig. 4; 118, Nos 725, 729, 730, pl. XLIV, XLV].



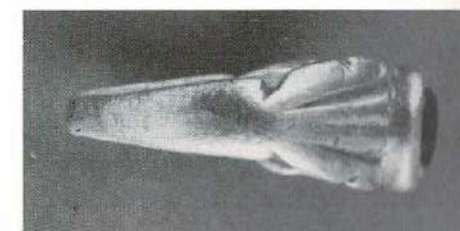
Cat. No 207. GOLD RING WITH GEM WITH INSCRIPTION (Type III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5668. Crniliste, near Prilep, Yugoslavia. Grave find. D. 19×19 mm (15×16), band width 2-4 mm, shoulders 7 mm, d. shield 8×7 mm, w. 5.73 g, 23 c. (950).

Hoop, ellipsoid in the lower part, made of a flat band which becomes wider towards the trapezium-shaped oblique shoulders, cut to resemble leaves, shaped with vertical grooves and hatches in the periphery. Ellipsoid shield with high bezel containing a nicolo gem, with an inscription in Latin in three lines:

V
I V E N
T

The ring is slightly deformed. 3rd century. Also used as seal. The inscription contains the male name Iuvent(i)—the genitive case of Iuventus [37, No 289; 119, Nos 235, 237, tabl. XII, No 386, tabl. XIX; 106, No 550, pl. XVI].





Cat. No 208. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type III, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4574. Ratiaria. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 54, 99, 146, 209, 279). D. 19×16 mm (17×14), band width 3-5 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 12×12 mm, w. 5.57 g, 22 c. (920).

Ellipsoid hoop, flat band, slightly rounded, widening towards the trapezium-shaped shoulders, cut to resemble hearts, decorated in the periphery with two incised lines on either side. The shield is round, decorated with two raised bands of pearl-like ornament, with a high bezel, with a red carneol gem decorated with the *iunctio dextrarum* motif, with two ears of wheat above. Slightly deformed. 3rd century. The two clasped hands appear as a decorative motif on rings that were given as an engagement or wedding gift, similar to the gold rings from Anchiolo (Cat. No 186), from Germania (Cat. No 187), the gold ring from Lesichevo (Cat. No 217), which also bears an inscription in Greek with Latin characters: HOMOHO, meaning concordia. In this case the appearance of the two ears of wheat with the clasped hands may be associated with fertility in marriage [95, 38, fig. 12; 37, No 241; 120, 190, No 3; 119, No 451, tabl. XXIII, No 1810, tabl. LXVIII].



Cat. No 209. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type III, Variant 2)

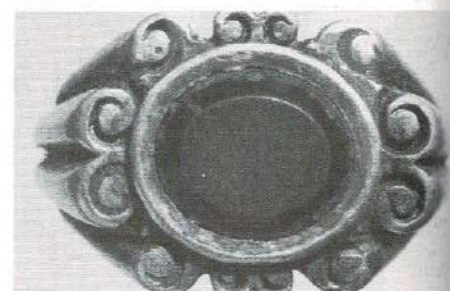
Inv. No 4573. Ratiaria. Together with Cat. No 208. D. 18×16 mm (16×14), band width 3-6 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 17×15 mm, w. 7.25 g, 21 c. (880).

Hoop, oval in the lower part, made of a thin band, slightly rounded on the outside, becoming wider towards the almost vertical shoulders which resemble a leaf-shaped ornament, with three vertical flutes and one incised circle towards the periphery. Ellipsoid shield with bezel containing a nicolo gem on which three swimming fishes are depicted. The hoop is slightly deformed, the gem is obliterated, with bruises on the surface. 3rd century. The ring is with a form typical of the 3rd century AD. Fish decoration, but combined with an anchor, is known on a gem from Novae (Inv. No 8090) from the collection of the National Archaeological Museum [95, 38, fig. 12; 37, No 287; 120, 190, No 3; 119, No 363, tabl. XVIII, No 368, tabl. XIX; 106, Nos 545, 550, pl. XVI].



Cat. No 210. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type V, Variant 1)

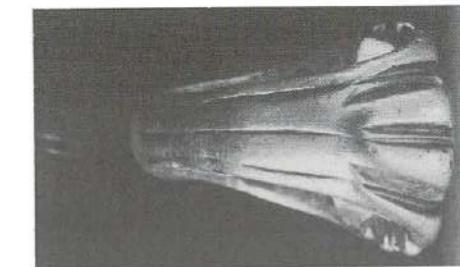
Inv. No 4794. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 28×17 mm (22×14), band width 5-8 mm, shoulders 7 mm, d. shield 19×16 mm, stone 9×7.5 mm, w. 20.57 g, 23 c. (950). Hoop, ellipsoid in the lower part, made of a massive band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the conical shoulders, decorated with three deep longitudinal flutes which end in volutes near the shield. The shield is ellipsoid, with concave bezel and periphery of an additional plate. On the side of the shield is seen the continuation of volutes, cut along their contour, and forming the periphery of the hoop. The stone is with two layers: light-blue on a dark-blue background, conically cut, with a horizontal surface. On the inside of the band there are traces of soldering. Mid-3rd century AD. The type demonstrates a form characteristic of the 3rd century, which coincides with the general dating of the treasure [95, 9, No 19, tabl. IV, 8; 119, 31 (tabl. IV, XI-XIII), 59, III (tabl. XXII-XXIII), No 76, tabl. IV, Nos 444, 445, tabl. XXIII; 106, Nos 263, 264, 268, pl. VII; 126, No 120].



Cat. No 211. GOLD RING WITH STONE (Type V, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4793. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 26.5×20 mm (18×18), band width 4.5-8 mm, shoulders 14 mm, d. shield 22×18 mm, stone 11×9.5 mm, w. 26.30 g, 23 c. (950).

Fully similar to Cat. No 210. The shoulders are straighter and with deeper fluting, emphasized in relief. Mid-3rd century AD [95, 9, No 20, tabl. IV, 10].



Cat. No 212. GOLD RING WITH STONE (Type V, Variant 1)

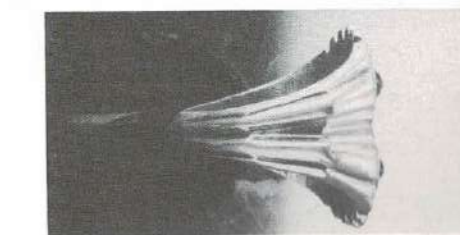
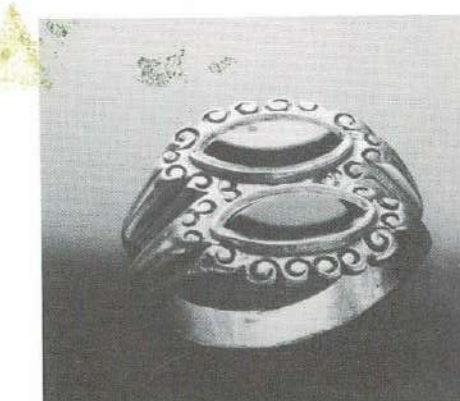
Inv. No 4795. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 22×12 mm (17×15), band width 3-8 mm, shoulders 13 mm, d. shield 17×17 mm, stone 9×7 mm, w. 14.98 g, 22 c. (920). Similar to Cat. Nos 210 and 211, but smaller in size. The shoulders are wider and more rounded, with shallow fluting and not very raised volutes at the ends. The hoop is slightly deformed. Mid-3rd century AD [95, 10, No 21, tabl. IV, 11].



Cat. No 213. GOLD DOUBLE RING WITH STONES (Type V, Variant 2)

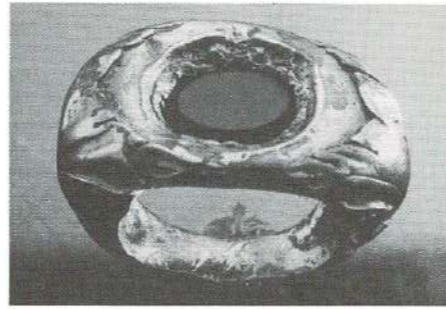
Inv. No 4792. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 28×21 mm (22×18), band width 4-11 mm, shoulders 14 mm, d. shield 20×23 mm, w. 23.96 g, 22 c. (920).

Rounded polygonal hoop, made of a massive band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the shoulders, from where a deep flute makes it similar to a double hoop, decorated with shallowed longitudinal flutes which end with volutes near the shield. The shield is double, resembling a double-convex lens, its periphery being profiled by an additional plate (similar to Cat. Nos 210-212), forming a deep bezel for the stones. They are of two layers: light-blue on a dark-blue background, conically cut, with a horizontal surface. The periphery of the shield is outlined with volutes, cut along the contour, as a continuation of the volutes on the shoulders. Well preserved. Mid-3rd century. The double rings are usually shaped by dividing the hoop in two at the shoulders. In the concrete case the visual effect is heightened with the deep flutes. The ring is fully similar in form and decoration to the remaining rings in the treasure, which have one stone on the shield. With a triple-band hoop and three stones — gold ring from the necropolis of Chatalka, Stara Zagora region [95, 9, No 18, tabl. IV, 9; 11, No 38, tabl. V; 119, No 181, tabl. IX, No 186, tabl. X; 106, No 106, No 762, pl. XIX].



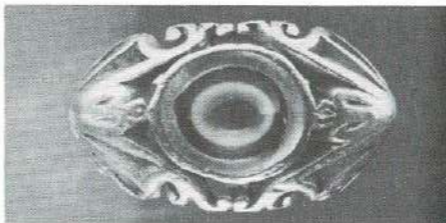
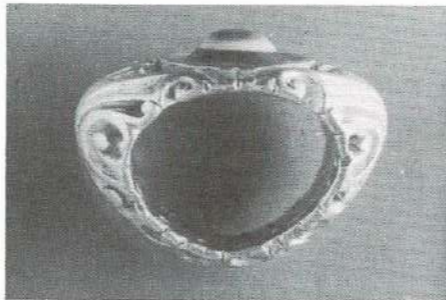
Cat. No 214. GOLD RING WITH STONE (Type V, Variant 3)

Inv. No 4796. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 26 × 20 mm (16 × 15), band width 4-10 mm, shoulders 13 mm, stone 9 × 7 mm, w. 22.10 g, 23 c. (950). Ellipsoid hoop, made of two plates which form a U-shaped body, widening towards the rounded shoulders decorated with leaf-like ornament in relief. The shield is ellipsoid, with a deep bezel, its periphery being also decorated with leaf-shaped ornament. The stone is with two layers, conically cut and with a horizontal surface. The ring is slightly deformed, in some places the decoration in relief is obliterated. Mid-3rd century AD. The type and the decoration are characteristic of the 3rd century AD [95, 10, No 21, tabl. IV, 11; 119, No 1815, tabl. LXVIII].



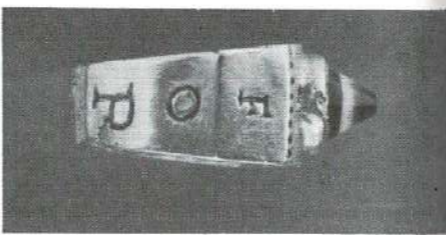
Cat. No 215. GOLD RING WITH STONE (Type V, Variant 3)

Inv. No 5276. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 30 × 21 mm (19 × 17), band width 6-10 mm, shoulders 15 mm, d. shield 14.5 × 12 mm, stone 9 × 7 mm, w. 31.63 g, 23 c. (950+). Ellipsoid hollow hoop made of two plates, the outer one rounded, strongly widening towards the horizontally protruding and rounded shoulders, with U-shaped profile. The outer band is with openwork decoration along the entire body, framed with one row of peltae in the periphery, growing larger towards the shield, where they are combined with stylized volutes and floral ornament. Holes of rather irregular shapes are cut in the inner band. The shield is ellipsoid, with a concave bezel and profiled periphery made of an additional plate. The stone is a three-layer agate: dark-blue, light-blue and light-brown, shaped like a truncated cone. Well preserved. 3rd century AD. The type of the ring and the decoration are characteristic of the 3rd century AD [90, 332, fig. 262; 120, 190, No 5, pl. 62B; 119, 258-261, tabl. XIII; 106, No 801, tabl. XX; 125, 188, 197, Abb. 5].



Cat. No 216. GOLD RING WITH STONE AND INSCRIPTION (Type VI, Variant 1)

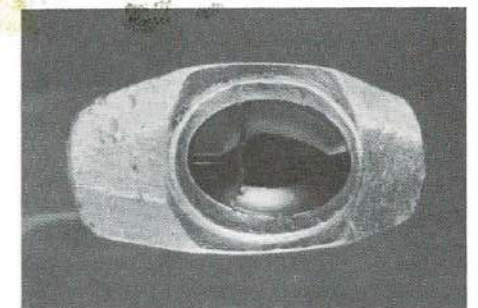
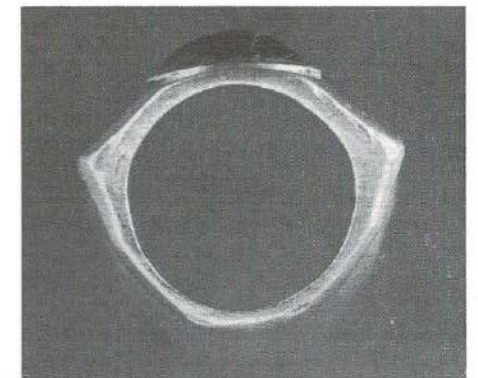
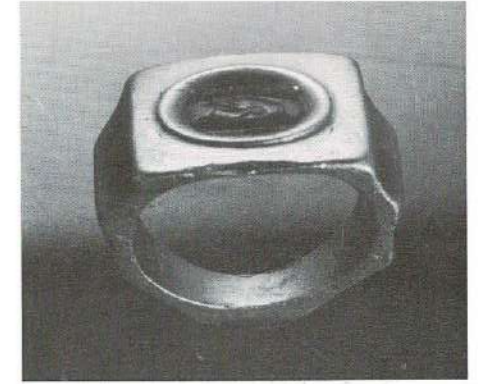
Inv. No 6238. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 15 mm (14 × 13), band width 8-5 mm, d. shield 12 × 8 mm, height stone 2.8 mm, w. 3.97 g, 22 c. (920). Hoop, polygonal on the outside and ellipsoid on the inside, made of a massive band that becomes broader towards the shoulder, shaping seven sectoral rounded sections in which an inscription in Latin, FORTVNI, is written in deep incised characters. The shield is rectangular, with an additionally soldered thin gold plate, one row of stippled dots on the short sides, with ellipsoid high shield in which a three-layer stone is set: red at the base and shaped like a truncated cone. The bezel-setting of the stone is slightly deformed. 3rd century. The inscription on the outer surface of the ring FORTVNI designates a Roman name in the genitive case, in Latin Fortunus-Fortuni, suggesting possession, but it was not used as a seal because of the localization of the inscription. The type of ring with massive polygonal hoop is a form characteristic of the 3rd century AD [16, 312, fig. 129; 119, 237, fig. 238, No 215, tabl. XI; 118, fig. 2, type IX].



Cat. No 217. GOLD RING WITH CAMEO AND INSCRIPTION (Type VI, Variant 1)

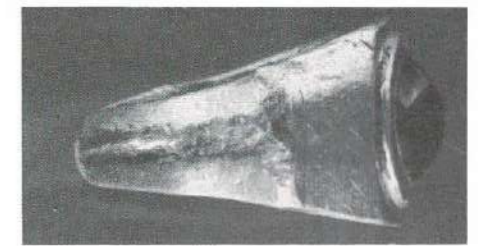
Inv. No 4122. Lesichevo, Pazardjik region. Grave find, together with a gold necklace (Cat. No 108) and two silver spoons. D. 20 × 16 mm (15 × 13), band width 3.5-10 mm, th. 1.2-2 mm, shoulders 12 mm, shield 16 × 14 mm, d. bezel 11 × 9 mm, w. 15.80 g, 22 c. Unpublished.

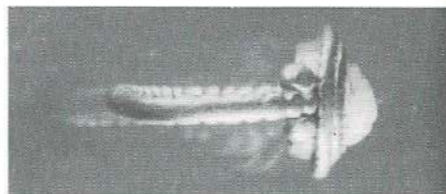
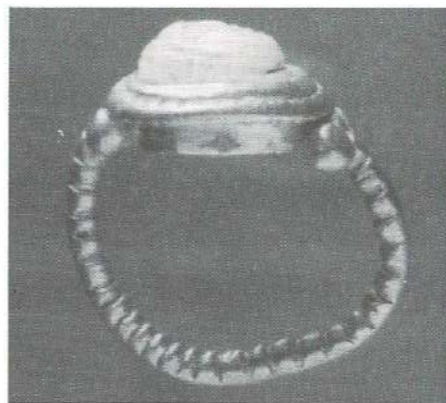
Polygonal-ellipsoid hoop with sectoral planes cut on the outside, made of a massive band which becomes wider and thicker towards the shoulders. Rectangular horizontal shield with ellipsoid profiled bezel, with rounded periphery of thin plate and a cameo of two-layer sardonyx decorated with the *iunctio dextrarum* motif, above which there is an inscription in Greek rendered in Latin characters: HOMONO. Well preserved. One of the horizontal sides of the shield is slightly deformed. 3rd century AD. The hands are clasped, one above the other. The larger male hand is underneath, while the smaller and finer female hand rests over it. Rendered in detail, with soft lines. The decorative motif on the ring and the inscription *ἁμόνοια*, meaning 'concordia,' are identical to the ring with Cat. No 188, identifying it as a ritual ring given at engagements or weddings. The motif of the two clasped hands also occurs in the gold rings from Ratiaria, Anchialo and Germania (Cat. Nos 208, 186, 187). For the type cf. Cat. No 216. Parallels for the motif and inscription can be found in the collections of the British Museum [106, 95, No 561, pl. XVI; 118, 96, No 742, pl. XLVII].



Cat. No 218. GOLD RING WITH STONE (Type III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 659. Kozlovets, Svishtov area. Grave find, together with a gold earring (Cat. No 61). D. 26.5 × 22 mm (18 × 18.5), band width 4-9 mm, shoulders 13 mm, d. shield 15 × 14 mm, stone 8 × 7 mm, w. 31.67 g. Unpublished. Rounded hoop, ellipsoid inside hoop, made of a massive band with rectangular cross section, widened and thickened towards the conically cut shoulders, undecorated. The shield is ellipsoid, with a rectangular bezel containing a semispherically protruding red stone. 3rd century AD. Well preserved. The type is a characteristic form of the 3rd century AD, similar to Cat. No 203 [106, No 786, pl. XX; 118, 49, type VIII, fig. 2; 159, 80, Type 3e].

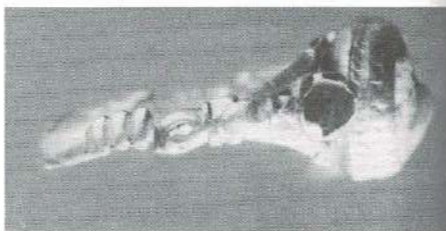




Cat. No 219. GOLD RING WITH CAMEO (Type VII, Variant 1)

Inv. No 8128. Novae. Excavations, sector IV, quadr. IX. 59, 79, 60, 80. D. 20×21 mm (18×13), band width 2.5 mm, d. shield 10×8 mm.

Rounded hoop made of a band with U-shaped cross section, with deep vertical hatches on the inside, resembling a pearl-type cord. Two gold pearls are seen symmetrically on either side of the hoop near the shield. The shield is soldered additionally, it is ellipsoid, with a profiled high bezel made of two plates, the inner one being decorated with vertical hatches resembling a corded ornament. The sardonyx cameo is decorated with Medusa's head, in a stylized rendering. The hoop is slightly deformed. 4th century AD. The type of rings consisting of a separate hoop and a shield-plate soldered to it is characteristic of the 4th century. Similar rings with hoops profiled in this way and decorated with two gold pearls on each side of the shield are known from Kabyle — dated to the 4th century AD on the basis of the portrait on the gem, from Martianopolis, from Zurich and Trier, and from the collection of the British Museum [57, 212, fig. 24; 37, No 319; 35, 239, fig. 1; 119, 38, V, Nos 279, 280, tabl. XIV; 106, Nos 861, 863, pl. XXII; 118, 95, Nos 729-731, pl. XV].



Cat. No 220. GOLD RING WITH CAMEO (Type VII, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4246. Location unknown. D. 7×19 mm (6×14), band width 2 mm, d. shield 9×8 mm, w. 2.50 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

Oval hoop made of a thin rounded band, widening slightly towards the shoulders, cut to resemble peltae in the periphery and with an openwork circle with decoration in relief, from where it splits into two wires soldered to the shield. At the beginning of the shoulders there is an additional plate with stylized decoration in relief and a bezel for a stone (now missing). Ellipsoid shield with a high bezel containing green stone (destroyed), with ornamented periphery of two decorative bands: of oblique hatches and stippled dots. The shield is soldered to the split part of the hoop, which is broken in two. 3rd-4th century AD. The type is characteristic of the Late Antiquity (3rd-4th century AD). Similar specimens with a split hoop at the shoulders, decorated with stones and with some similar embossed and openwork ornamentation, can be found in the collection of the British Museum (from Alexandria or from other collections), from Bonn and Köln, dated to the 3rd-4th century AD [106, No 795, pl. XX, No 836, pl. XXI, No 1129, pl. XXVIII; 119, No 262, tabl. XIII, No 283, tabl. XV].



Cat. No 221. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type VI, Variant 1)

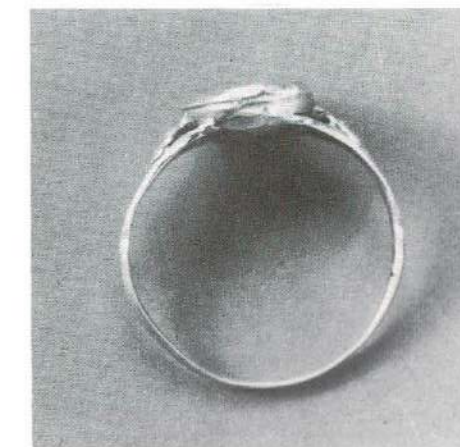
Inv. No 5213. Location unknown. D. 18×16 mm (16×15), band width 3-4 mm, shoulders 5 mm, d. shield 13×12 mm, w. 4.50 g, 20 c. (840). Unpublished.

Round hoop consisting of three wires: the central wire round, on each side one spirally twisted wire, additionally soldered to the shield. The latter is ellipsoid, with a high bezel and a gem of light-red carnel decorated with the image of Hermes, standing, naked, half-turned to the right, wearing a petasos on his head. Hermes is holding a purse over a round sacrificial altar and a caduceus (?) is seen in the background. The periphery of the shield at the base and the shoulders is decorated with a band of gold pearls of various sizes, arranged in groups of 12 to resemble a grape-like ornament. The soldering of the wires is visible on the hoop. The casing of the shield is slightly deformed and there are traces of bruising on the gem. 3rd-4th century AD. The hoop and the shield, made separately and soldered together, the different wires of which the band is made and the pearl-like decoration in various combinations are characteristic elements of 3rd-4th century rings. Parallels can be found in the rings from Martianopolis — 3rd century, Philippopolis — 4th century and in the collections of the British Museum — from Egypt, Köln, Bonn and elsewhere [4, 100, tabl. II, 4; 55, 25, fig. 7; 106, No 511, pl. XIV, No 533, pl. 15, No 980, pl. XXV; 119, No 113, tabl. VI, Nos 274, 279, tabl. XIV; 118, fig. 2, Type VIIIb; 136, 87, No 6, tabl. III; 37, No 61, 71; 159, 81, Type 4e; 110, 31, No 96, pl. IV, 13].

Cat. No 222. GOLD RING WITH GEM (Type VII, Variant 2)

Inv. No 494. Location unknown. D. 21.5×21 mm (20×19), band width 1.8-2.5 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 12×19 mm, w. 3.17 g, 18 c. (750). Unpublished.

Round hoop made of a thin rounded band, split in two at the shoulders which are soldered to the shield. From the centre on, the hoop becomes thicker, with a very stylized and plastically modelled body of an animal (lion?), its hind legs being open towards the shield. A six-foil rosette with stippled dots on the surface is applied on the animal's hind legs. The shield is ellipsoid, with a high bezel containing a flat gem of red carnel on which Athena is depicted, in profile to the left, with a Corinthian helmet on her head. Shallow, detailed engraving. 3rd-4th century AD. The splitting of the hoop near the shoulder, which is an additional openwork decoration, was very popular among Roman rings. The plastic effect of the ornamentation is heightened by the additionally soldered ornament, a rosette in the concrete case [119, No 107, tabl. VI, No 181, tabl. XI, 37, Nos 37-47].



Cat. No 223. GOLD DOUBLE RING WITH CAMEO (Type IX)

Inv. No 6187. Novae. Accidental find. D. 14 × 14 mm (14 × 13.5), band width 4 mm, bezel with cameo 8.5 × 4 mm, w. 2.68 g, 22 c. (920).

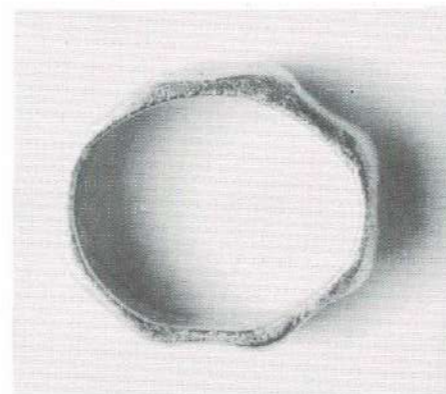
The ring consists of two round hoops, closely adhering to one another, made of a flat band and additionally soldered together by means of the setting for the cameo in the upper part. The periphery of the band is thickened in waves, resembling polygonal bending. The shield is ellipsoid, with a high bezel containing a sardonyx cameo of two layers: grey-black background and a milky-white figure in relief—Eros—to the right, in his usual iconography. The ring is slightly deformed. 1st-2nd century AD. Double rings were specially made for funerary purposes. Rings with two and with three hoops are known. Parallels are known from the British Museum, dated to the 3rd-4th century AD. A similar image of a winged Eros on a cameo is seen on gold earrings from Somovit, Plevan region (dated with a coin of Iulia Domna) and from Sliven, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD [37, No 320; 120, 191, No 14; 106, No 840, fig. 114, Nos 841, 842, pl. XXI, No 983, pl. XXV; 48, 256, fig. 4; 7, 31, fig. 20].



Cat. No 224. SILVER RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 3253. Uglan, Plevan region. Accidental find. D. 28 × 24 mm (24 × 22), band width 8 mm, th. 1.5-2.5 mm, w. 17.05 g (900). Unpublished.

Hoop-like ring, polygonal on the outside and round inside, closed-ended, without plate. An inscription in Latin is engraved in one line in the sectoral planes formed on the outside (one letter per sector): VOTVERON. 2nd century AD. The type is common among gold, as well as among silver and bronze rings, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD, most of these rings being inscribed. The inscription on the ring under consideration VOT(um) VERON(ai), translated as "gift to Veronius," defines it as a votive ring [119, 219-221, fig. 220, Nos 8, 11, 12, tabl. I, Nos 308-310, tabl. XVI, Nos 649-662, tabl. XXVI; 118, 47, 48, fig. 2, type IX].



Cat. No 225. SILVER RING (Type II)

Inv. No 4598. Aquae Calidae. D. 27 × 23 mm (20 × 18), th. 2.5-4 mm, w. 6.68 g (900). Unpublished.

Hoop-shaped, snake-like, with ellipsoid open-ended hoop, made of a rounded band with round cross section ending in snakes' heads that touch. Incised hatchures are used for the stylized rendering of the anatomical details of the head and of a part of the body. One of the snakes' heads is with open mouth. 1st century. Snake-like rings were a continuation of Hellenistic traditions. The ends shaped to resemble snakes' heads were a new type, characteristic of the 1st century AD, betraying a definite Italic-Roman influence. Many examples are known from Pompeii and Herculaneum, from Mainz, and from the collection of the British Museum, etc. Parallels from the Bulgarian lands are known from the tumular necropolis near Chatalka and from the production centre near Radomir (120, 190, No 1, pl. 62D; 119, 6, 231-232, Nos 317-342, tabl. XVII; 106, No 1136, pl. XXVIII; 140, tabl. 4, 4; 11, 67, No 39, tabl. 5; 54, 31, fig. 9).



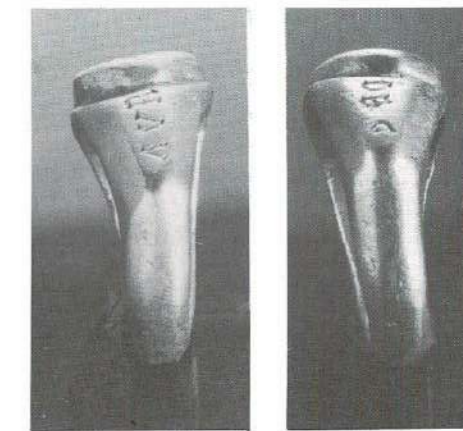
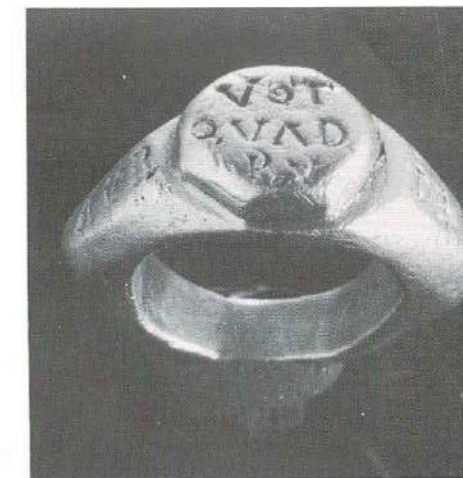
Cat. No 226. SILVER RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type VII, Variant 1)

Inv. No 6704. The treasure from Chaoushevo. D. 29 × 24 mm (19 × 22), band width 5-7 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 13 × 12 mm, w. 24.20 g (900). Unpublished.

Ellipsoid hoop (double-concave), made of a massive broad band, thickened towards the conically cut shoulders, octagonal high shield with a plate and with inscription in Latin in three lines, the middle line running along the shoulders as well:

V O T
A V R Q V A D P E C
R V

Mid-3rd century AD. This form of ring—massive and with strongly oblique conical shoulders—was a characteristic type for the 3rd century. The inscription "vot(um) Aur(elio) Quatro Pec" denotes a promise, a dedication belonging to Aurelius. PEC could mean the cognomen of Aurelius, or an abbreviation of pec/unia sua—"gives his property." The inscription is of a votive nature. The fact that a part of the inscription runs over the shoulders suggests that it was not used as a seal [119, Nos 391-393, tabl. XX; 106, Nos 200, 201, pl. V; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H].



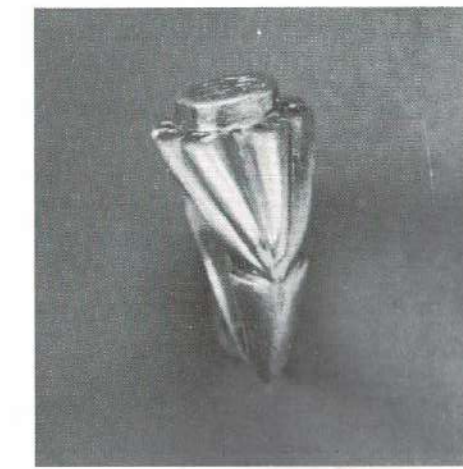
Cat. No 227. SILVER RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type VII, Variant 3)

Inv. No 3272. Durostorum. Accidental find. D. 26 × 12 mm (18 × 16), band width 2-5 mm, shoulders 11 mm, d. shield 8 × 7 mm, w. 8.80 g (950). Unpublished.

Double-concave hoop, ellipsoid lower part, made of a massive band with U-shaped cross section, conical shoulders with deep longitudinal flutes ending in volutes near the plate. The shield is round, with an additional plate, inscribed with two lines in Latin:

V O T
H E R

Mid-3rd century AD. The decoration of the shoulders with deep fluting and volutes around the shield fully resembles that of the gold rings in the treasure from Nikolaevo (Cat. Nos 211-213). The type is defined as a form characteristic of the 3rd century. The inscription is of a votive nature: vot(um) Her(culi), i. e. a sacrifice offered to Heracles. Similar votive inscriptions are seen on rings with Cat. Nos 224, 226 and 230 [120, 190, No 3, pl. 62E, 63; 106, XIViii, XXXii, Nos 263-265, pl. VII].



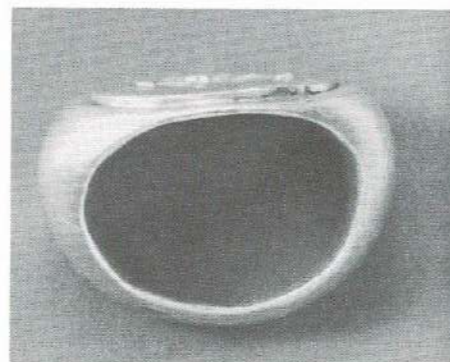
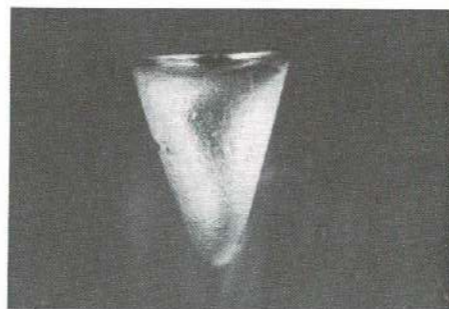
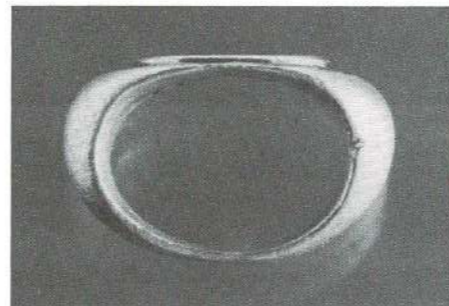
Cat. No 228. SILVER RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type V)

Inv. No 6088. Soludervent (Kostenets). The water-catchment of a Roman bath. D. 24 × 16 mm (18 × 14), band width 2.5-8 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 15 × 10 mm, w. 9.73 g (950).

Ellipsoid massive hoop with U-shaped cross section, widening towards the rounded prominent horizontal shoulders. Ellipsoid bezel with an additional built-in silver plate, with an inscription in Greek in three lines:

Μ
ΔΙ Δ V
V

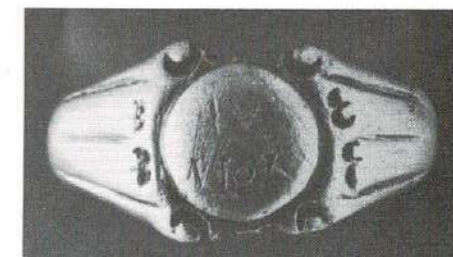
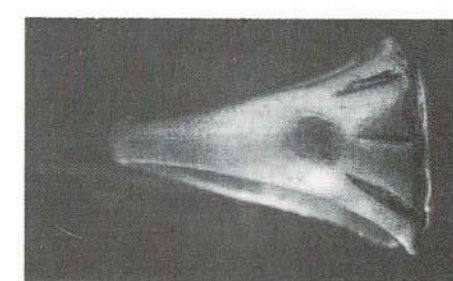
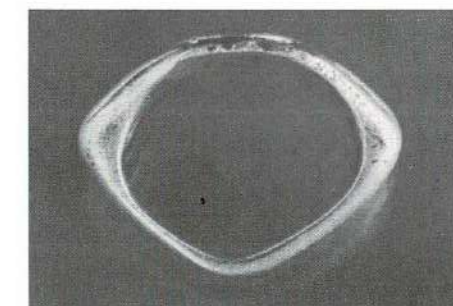
Well preserved. With patina due to the mineral water. 2nd century. The description defines the ring as a signet ring: Διμίδου is the genitive case of Διμίδος from the Roman name Dimidus [14, 212, fig. 77; No 209, tabl. XI, Nos 416, 421, tabl. XXI, Nos 1212, 1213, tabl. XLVII; 106, Nos 971, 972, pl. XXV, No 1172, pl. XXIX].



Cat. No 229. SILVER RING WITH GOLD PLATE (Type V)

Inv. No 6386. Diskotna, Bourgas region. Accidental find. D. 24 × 17 mm (19 × 14), band width 3-10 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 18 × 8 mm, w. 11.80 g (750).

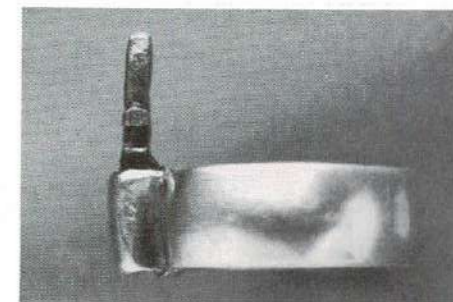
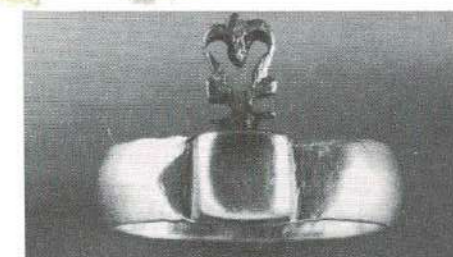
Ellipsoid hoop made of a band with semicircular cross section, rounded horizontal shoulders and ellipsoid plate. The ellipsoid shield-bezel contains a built-in gold plate decorated with a naked adolescent figure in relief, standing, turning to the left, holding a patera in his right outstretched hand and a twig in his left hand, which is hanging freely next to his body. 2nd-3rd century AD [18, 412, fig. 166; 37, No 153].



Cat. No 230. SILVER RING WITH INSCRIPTION (Type VII, Variant 3)

Inv. 352. Location unknown. D. 17 × 19 mm (19 × 16.5), band width 2-5 mm, shoulders 13 mm, d. shield 12 × 11 mm. Unpublished.

Irregular ellipsoid hoop, made of a flat band, widened and thickened towards the conically cut shoulders, decorated with incised longitudinal flutes ending in volutes near the shield. Round shield, contoured with the incised line at the base, with one line of inscription in Latin: VOT. Part of the inscription and of the decoration are erased. 3rd century. Probably signet ring. The votive inscription means a promised sacrificial offering, similar to the rings with Cat. Nos 224, 226 and 227. The decoration of fluted grooves on the shoulders and volutes around the plate is characteristic of 3rd century rings (cf. Cat. Nos 210-213).



Cat. No 231. SILVER KEY RING (Type VI)

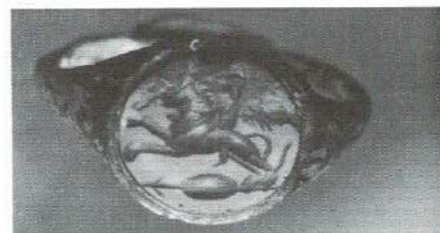
Inv. No 4698. Aquae Calidae. D. 21 × 15 mm (19 × 13.5), band width 5 mm, shoulders 5 mm, key-like plate 6 × 6 mm, w. 4.24 g (900).

Ellipsoid hoop, made of a flat band, slightly rounded on the outside, with small shoulders outlined along the curve of the hoop. The shield is square, with prominent horizontal openwork heart-shaped ornament — a key. 1st century. Key-like rings were popular during the Roman Period, with numerous finds in the Thracian lands [88, 217, 119, Nos 92, 93, tabl. V, No 361, tabl. XVIII; 44, 208, fig. 48; 59, 41; 7, 31; 43, 42, fig. 18; 86, 76, fig. 7; 110, 31, No 95, pl. IV, 12].

Cat. No 232. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4692. Aquae Calidae. D. 21 × 18 mm, band width 2 mm, d. shield 13 × 11 mm, w. 2.5 g.

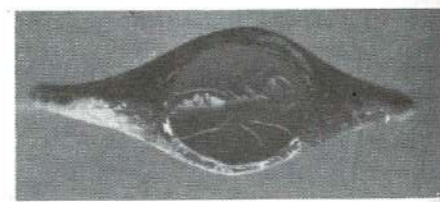
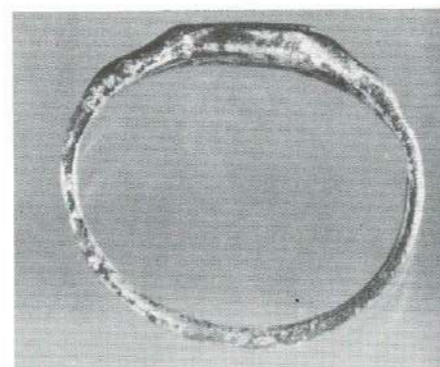
Ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band (wire), widening towards the shoulders. Ellipsoid bezel-shield with red carneol gem decorated with the image of a winged Eros and a lion running to the left. Below the lion's body — a shield and a legion banner (?). Part of the gem and part of the shield are broken off. 1st century. The type is defined as a Hellenistic reminiscence characteristic of the Early Imperial Period. It consists of a thin band, rounded on the outside, with a shield without bezel, shaped only as a small pit, the stone being fixed at the same level as the hoop. Well dated finds are some rings from Pompeii, the collection of the British Museum, Germany, Vienna, etc. [120, 190, No 6; 119, No 58, tabl. III, Nos 117, 118, 129, tabl. VII, No 407, tabl. XX; 106, Nos 385, 386, pl. XII; 157, 79, No 812, Taf. 162].



Cat. No 233. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4627. Aquae Calidae. D. 18 × 15 mm (17 × 14), band width 0.5-1.1 mm, shoulders 3 mm, d. shield 9 × 6 mm, w. 0.97 g.

Ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band resembling wire with rounded triangular cross section, becoming wider towards the rounded triangular shoulders. Ellipsoid shield-bezel containing a flat gem of light-red carneol on which a bee is depicted. Shallow and detailed carving. The ring is oxidized. 1st century AD. A bee is seen depicted on the gem of another ring, too (Cat. No 286). This type of ring, which was widespread in the 1st century AD, is illustrated with many finds kept in the British Museum, in Germany, etc. [119, Nos 60, 61, 63, tabl. III, No 405, tabl. XX, Nos 1127-1141, tabl. XLIV, No 1263, tabl. XLVIII, 106, Nos 1105, 1109, pl. XXVIII; 37, Nos 221, 222].



Cat. No 234. SILVER RING WITH A GEM (Type I, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4693. Aquae Calidae. D. 20 × 20 mm (17.5 × 18), band width 2.5 mm, d. shield 16 × 10 mm, w. 1.90 g (950).

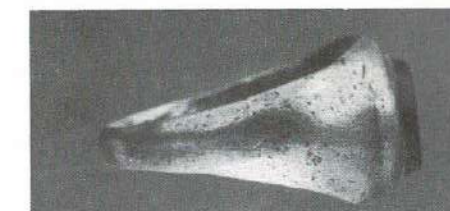
Oval hoop with traces of polygonal bending, made of a thin flat band, not very prominent shoulders. The shield is ellipsoid, with a bezel and an incised line which traces the periphery, with a garnet gem decorated with the winged Nemesis, turning to the right, dressed in a long chiton and standing on an outlined terrain. The hoop is slightly deformed. 1st century A.D. The type is characteristic of the Early Imperial Age [37, No 98; 119, No 124, tabl. VII, No 135, tabl. VIII, No 406, tabl. XX].



Cat. No 235. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 4728. Location unknown. D. 18 × 16 mm (16 × 15), band width 3 mm, shoulders 8 mm, d. shield 11.5 × 9 mm, w. 4.20 g (900). Unpublished.

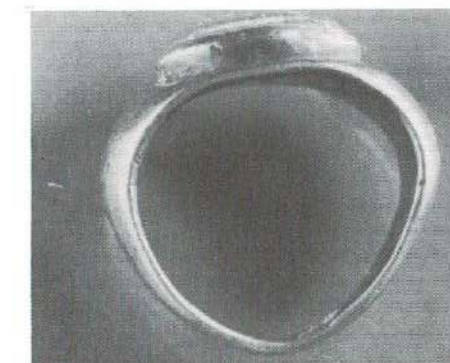
Ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the rounded shoulders. The shield is ellipsoid, without a bezel, with a flat carneol gem decorated with the image of Eros Pantheos. 2nd century AD [119, No 384, tabl. XIX, Nos 413, 422, tabl. XXI; 106, No 1174, pl. XXIX; 118, 46, fig. 1, Type 2].



Cat. No 236. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 5001. Madara, Shoumen region. Grave find, together with silver jewellery (Cat. Nos 72, 237, 247). D. 21 × 19 mm (17 × 17), band width 4-7 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 13 × 19 mm, w. 6.30 g (900).

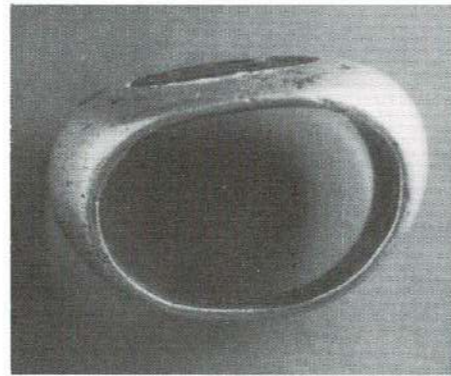
Oval hoop made of a flat band becoming wider towards the oval shoulders. Ellipsoid shield with a bezel containing a red carneol gem on which an eagle to the left is depicted. The hoop is slightly deformed. 2nd century AD [37, 209; 119, No 201, tabl. X; 106, No 1201, pl. XXIX].



Cat. No 237. SILVER RING WITH STONE (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 5002. Madara, Shoumen region. Together with Cat. No 236. D. 20 × 16 mm (16 × 14), band width 2.5-7 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 12 × 10 mm, w. 5.95 g (950). Ellipsoid hoop, made of a thin band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the rounded shoulders. Profiled ellipsoid shield, deformed. The hoop in the lower part is torn. 2nd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. No 235 [89, 280].

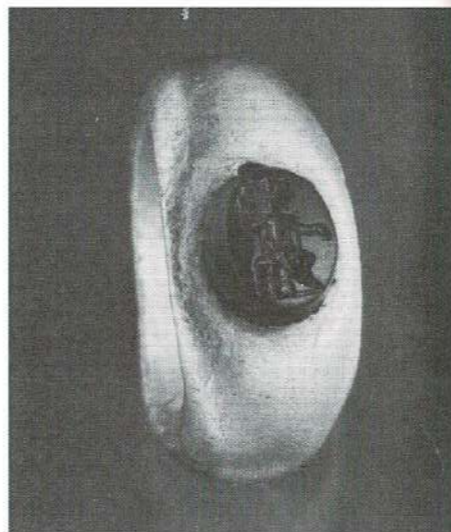
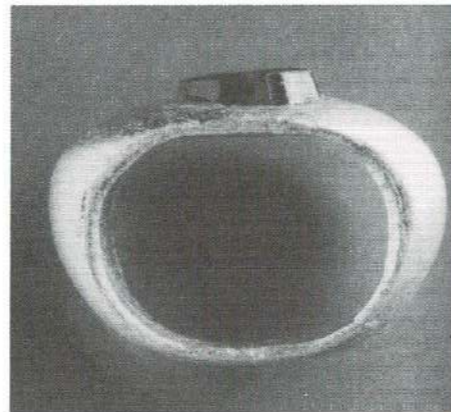




Cat. No 238. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 5184. Lisets, Lovech region. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 21, 113, 124). D. 23 × 16 mm (18 × 14), band width 4-9 mm, shoulders 13 mm, d. shield 14 × 10 mm, w. 9.95 g (900).

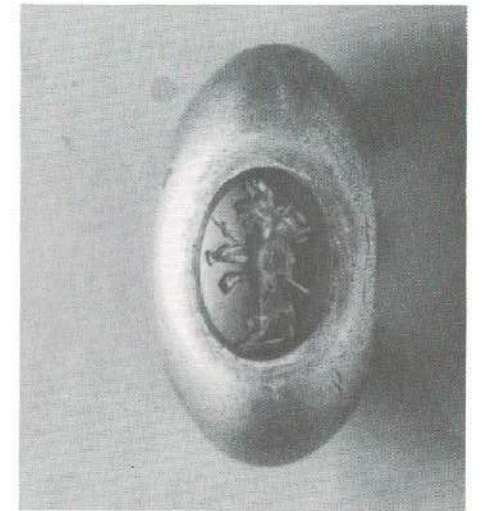
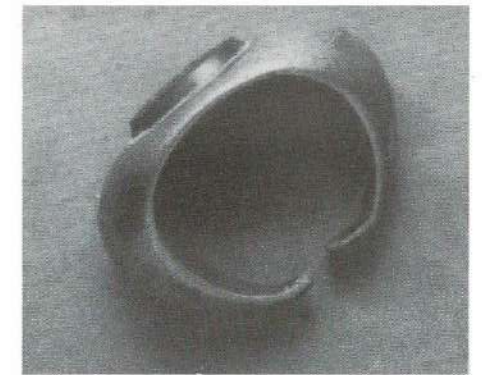
Ellipsoid hoop made of a massive band with rectangular cross section, thickened and wider towards the rounded shoulders. Ellipsoid bezel-shield containing a flat light-red carnelian gem decorated with the image of a winged Eros, standing on outlined terrain, with crossed legs, leaning on an inverted torch resting on a round sacrificial altar. The surface is bruised. 2nd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 236, 237 [90, 334, 37, No 148].



Cat. No 239. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 6224. Location unknown. D. 25 × 16 mm (18 × 8), band width 3-8 mm, shoulders 11 mm, d. shield 13 × 10 mm, w. 9.92 g.

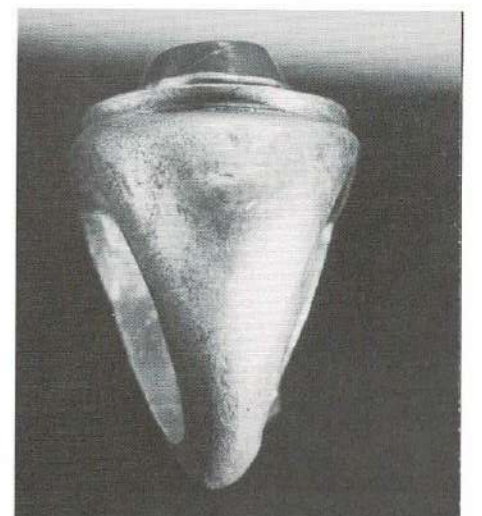
Ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular cross section, wider and thicker towards the horizontally rounded shoulders. Ellipsoid bezel-shield with a high gem of semitransparent red carnelian decorated with the image of Zeus, seated on a throne, holding a patera and a sceptre, the terrain traced with a line. 2nd century. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 236-238 [37, No 5].



Cat. No 240. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 2302. Pazardjik region. Accidental find. D. 31 × 20 mm (21 × 19), band width 2.5-9 mm, shoulders 8 mm, d. shield 16 × 12 mm, w. 23.10 g (950).

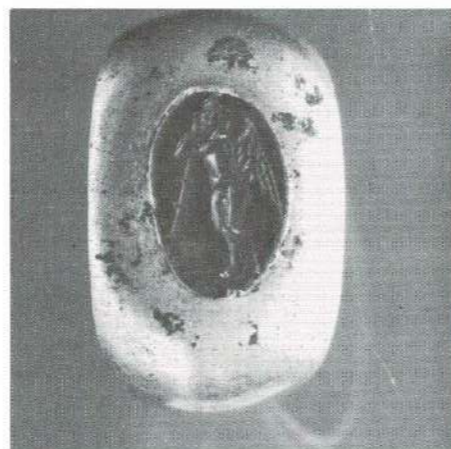
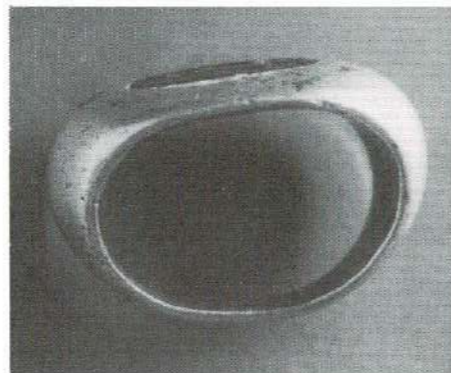
Ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular cross section, rounded on the outside, wider and thicker towards the horizontal shoulders. The ellipsoid, slightly profiled bezel-shield contains a red carnelian decorated with the image of Mars Victor Tropeophoros, standing, walking to the left on terrain traced with a line, with a helmet and spear, wearing high shoes. Part of the hoop in the lower end is missing. 2nd-3rd century AD. Parallel in a grave find from the village of Strahilovo, Veliko Turnovo [37, No 21; 81, 44, No 3, tabl. III, 7].



Cat. No 241. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4897. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 32 × 24 mm (19 × 17.5), band width 4.5-12 mm, shoulders 14 mm, d. shield 19 × 15 mm, w. 26.34 g (950).

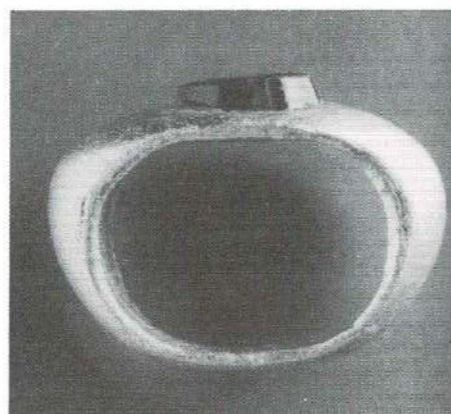
Ellipsoid hoop made of a massive band with U-shaped cross section, widening and thickening towards the triangularly prominent rounded shoulders and the plate. Ellipsoid high profiled shield of an additional plate, with a high bezel decorated in its horizontal part with oblique hatches resembling pearl-like cord. High, conically cut gem decorated with the image of Helios, to the left. Mid-3rd century AD. A similar find is a bronze ring from Sliven, a grave find with coins dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD. The type of rings with triangularly rounded shoulders is characteristic of the 3rd century, which is also supported by the dating of the treasure [95, 12, No 28, tabl. IV; 37, No 59; 7, 27, fig. 10; 119, Nos 425, 426, tabl. XXI; 106, Nos 1171, 1172, pl. XXIX; 118, 49, Type Xb, fig. 2; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H].



Cat. No 238. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 5184. Lisets, Lovech region. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 21, 113, 124). D. 23 × 16 mm (18 × 14), band width 4-9 mm, shoulders 13 mm, d. shield 14 × 10 mm, w. 9.95 g (900).

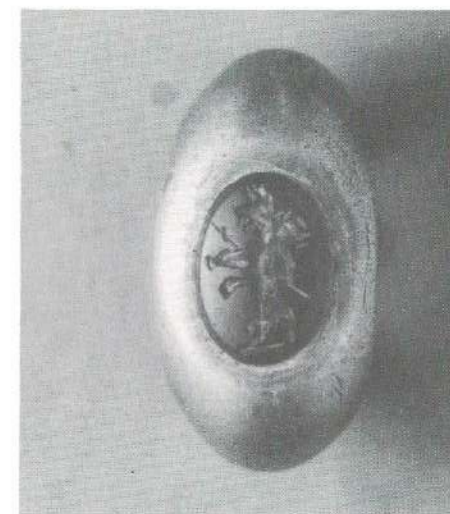
Ellipsoid hoop made of a massive band with rectangular cross section, thickened and wider towards the rounded shoulders. Ellipsoid bezel-shield containing a flat light-red carnelian gem decorated with the image of a winged Eros, standing on outlined terrain, with crossed legs, leaning on an inverted torch resting on a round sacrificial altar. The surface is bruised. 2nd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 236, 237 [90, 334, 37, No 148].



Cat. No 239. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 6224. Location unknown. D. 25 × 16 mm (18 × 8), band width 3-8 mm, shoulders 11 mm, d. shield 13 × 10 mm, w. 9.92 g.

Ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular cross section, wider and thicker towards the horizontally rounded shoulders. Ellipsoid bezel-shield with a high gem of semitransparent red carnelian decorated with the image of Zeus, seated on a throne, holding a patera and a sceptre, the terrain traced with a line. 2nd century. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 236-238 [37, No 5].



Cat. No 240. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 2302. Pazardjik region. Accidental find. D. 31 × 20 mm (21 × 19), band width 2.5-9 mm, shoulders 8 mm, d. shield 16 × 12 mm, w. 23.10 g (950).

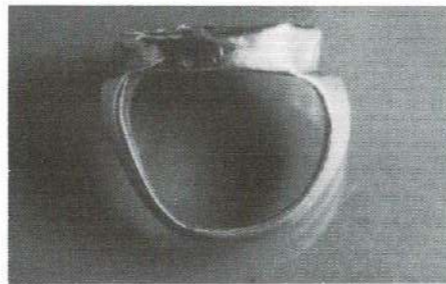
Ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular cross section, rounded on the outside, wider and thicker towards the horizontal shoulders. The ellipsoid, slightly profiled bezel-shield contains a red carnelian decorated with the image of Mars Victor Tropeophoros, standing, walking to the left on terrain traced with a line, with a helmet and spear, wearing high shoes. Part of the hoop in the lower end is missing. 2nd-3rd century AD. Parallel in a grave find from the village of Strahilovo, Veliko Turnovo [37, No 21; 81, 44, No 3, tabl. III, 7].



Cat. No 241. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4897. The treasure from Nikolaevo. D. 32 × 24 mm (19 × 17.5), band width 4.5-12 mm, shoulders 14 mm, d. shield 19 × 15 mm, w. 26.34 g (950).

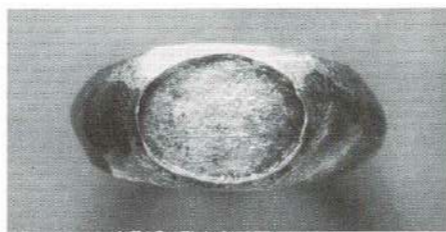
Ellipsoid hoop made of a massive band with U-shaped cross section, widening and thickening towards the triangularly prominent rounded shoulders and the plate. Ellipsoid high profiled shield of an additional plate, with a high bezel decorated in its horizontal part with oblique hatches resembling pearl-like cord. High, conically cut gem decorated with the image of Helios, to the left. Mid-3rd century AD. A similar find is a bronze ring from Sliven, a grave find with coins dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD. The type of rings with triangularly rounded shoulders is characteristic of the 3rd century, which is also supported by the dating of the treasure [95, 12, No 28, tabl. IV; 37, No 59; 7, 27, fig. 10; 119, Nos 425, 426, tabl. XXI; 106, Nos 1171, 1172, pl. XXIX; 118, 49, Type Xb, fig. 2; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H].



Cat. No 242. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 4364. Harmanli. Accidental find. D. 27 × 20 mm (18 × 14), band width 3-8 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 18 × 9 mm, H. 3 mm, w. 5.22 g (900).

Irregular ellipsoid hoop made of a flat band, rounded on the outside and widening towards the triangularly prominent shoulders. High ellipsoid shield with bezel containing a jasper (?) gem decorated with the image of a stallion, to the right, head turned back. The ring is deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD [37, No 186; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H; 119, No 433, tabl. XXII; 106, No 531, pl. XV].



Cat. No 243. SILVER RING WITH GEM (OR STONE - MISSING) (Type II, Variant 1)

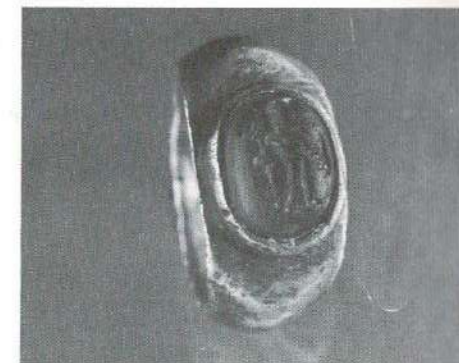
Inv. No 7522. Germania (present-day Sapareva Banya, Kyustendil region), near the water-catchment area of the spring, together with a gold ring (Cat. No 187) and votive tablets of the Thracian Horseman, Asclepius, Hygia and Telesphoros, and a coin hoard dated to the period between the mid-2nd and mid-3rd century AD. D. 21 × 16 mm (15 × 14), band width 3-5 mm, shoulders 8 mm, d. shield 11 × 8 mm, w. 4.58 g (500). The type is similar to Cat. No 242. The stone is missing, the ring is slightly deformed and oxidized. 3rd century AD [25, 321].



Cat. No 244. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No A 8476. Location unknown. D. 30 × 21 mm (21 × 18), band width 5-10 mm, shoulders 11 mm, d. shield 21 × 17 mm. Unpublished.

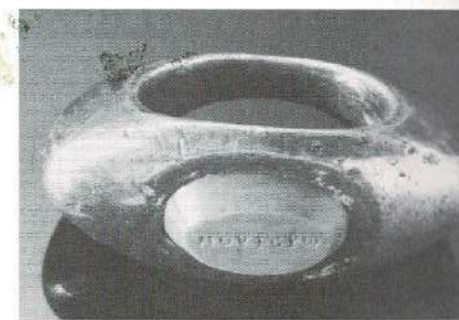
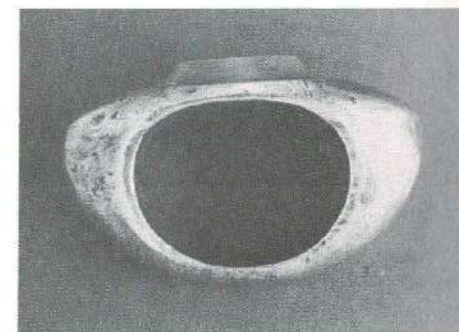
The type is similar to Cat. Nos 241-243. Ellipsoid hoop made of a band with U-shaped cross section, widened and thickened towards the prominent triangular shoulders. Ellipsoid shield-bezel containing a flat black stone. The shield is deformed, the stone is cracked. 3rd century.



Cat. No 245. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 1)

Inv. No 1393. Southern Thrace. D. 23.5 × 22 mm (18 × 16), band width 4-9 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 13 × 10 mm, w. 9.33 g (900).

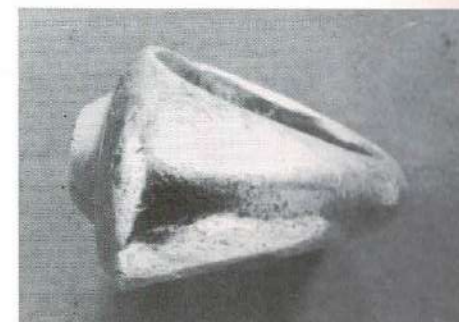
Ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular cross section, slightly rounded on the outside, wider and thickened towards the prominent triangular shoulders. High ellipsoid shield with bezel containing a conically cut carnel gem decorated with the image of Hermes, standing, to the right, holding a caduceum and a bursa in his hands. Slight bruises on the surface and along the periphery of the hoop. 3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 241-244 [37, No 71].

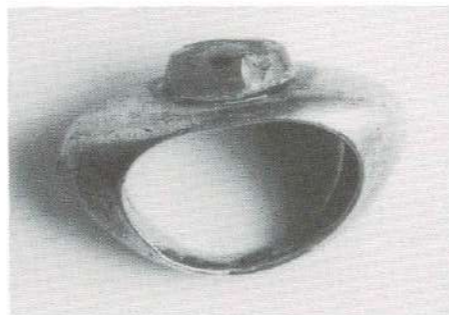


Cat. No 246. SILVER RING WITH GEM AND INSCRIPTION (Type II, Variant 3)

Inv. No 6103. Aquae Calidae. D. 35 × 20 mm (21 × 17), band width 4-10 mm, shoulders 13 mm, d. shield 20 × 14 mm, w. 25.80 g (900).

Ellipsoid hoop of a massive band with U-shaped cross section, wider and thicker towards the very prominent horizontally rounded shoulders. Ellipsoid bezel-shield with conically cut periphery, containing a gem of yellow jasper with brown stripes, with inscription in Greek in one line: MOVICPΩ. Signet ring. The surface of the hoop and the plate are bruised. 3rd century AD. The inscription is probably a combined name. The type of the ring is a characteristic form for the 3rd century [15, 253, fig. 71; 37, No 290; 119, No 86, tabl. — No 427, tabl. XXII, No 1221, tabl. XLVII; 106, No 188, pl. V; 118, fig. 2, Type X-Xa; 42, 49, No 6, fig. 35].





Cat. No 247. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 3)

Inv. No 5000. Madara, Shoumen region. Grave find, together with silver jewellery (Cat. Nos 72, 236, 237). D. 34 × 21 mm (21 × 17), band width 4-13 mm, shoulders 14 mm, d. shield 13 × 7 mm, w. 22.25 g (900).

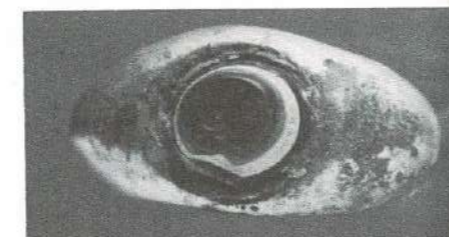
The type of ring is fully similar to Cat. No 246. The gem is of yellow-red carneol, decorated with the image of a lion running to the left, tail flying behind him. Hoop slightly deformed. 3rd century AD [37, No 194].



Cat. No 248. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 3)

Inv. No 641. Location unknown. D. 33 × 22 mm (22 × 16), band width 4-10 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 10 × 7 mm, w. 13.0 g (950).

Fully similar as a type to Cat. Nos 246, 247. The shield is horizontal, ellipsoid, without bezel, containing a carneol gem decorated with a bee image. 3rd century AD [37, No 221].



Cat. No 249. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 3)

Inv. No 106. Location unknown. D. 31 × 22 mm (22 × 18), band width 4-12 mm, shoulders 14 mm, d. shield 18 × 12 mm, w. 18.02 g (750).

Ellipsoid hoop made of a massive band with U-shaped cross section, widened and thickened towards the rounded oblique shoulders. The shield is ellipsoid, with a bezel containing a gem of three-layer sardonyx on which an eagle is depicted. 3rd century AD. The type is similar to Cat. Nos 246-248, only the shoulders are oblique [37, No 211; 119, No 212, tabl. XI, Nos 410, 415, 440, tabl. XXI, No 1226, tabl. XLVII; 118, fig. 2, type XII].



Cat. No 250. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 2947. Location unknown. D. 24 × 17 (18 × 16), band width 4-6 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 16 × 12.5 mm, w. 9.96 g (950).

Ellipsoid hoop, made of a wide band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the very oblique conical shoulders. Ellipsoid shield with bezel, with incised line at the base, flat red carneol gem on which Mars Ultor is depicted, standing, in full face, head turned to the left, holding a spear in his right hand, which is raised high, and resting his left hand on a shield. The bezel of the shield is deformed in some places. 3rd century AD [37, No 22; 119, 31, IV, 59, III, No 226, tabl. XI; 120, 190, No 3, pl. 62E].



Cat. No 251. SILVER RING WITH STONE (OR GEM) (Type III, Variant 1)

Inv. No 110. Location unknown. D. 25 × 19 mm (19 × 16), band width 5-7 mm, shoulders 15 mm, d. shield 15 × 12 mm, height 2 mm. Unpublished.

Hoop, ellipsoid in the lower part, conically cut in the upper part, made of a broad band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the strongly oblique conical shoulders. Ellipsoid shield with bezel. The stone or gem is missing. Bruises on the surface. 3rd century. For the type cf. Cat. No 250.



Cat. No 252. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type IV)

Inv. No 2087. Turgovishte, Mihailovgrad region. Accidental find, together with coins—the latest of Emperor Philip the Arab. D. 19 × 16.5 mm (18 × 15.5), band width 3 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 13 × 12 mm, w. 20.80 g.

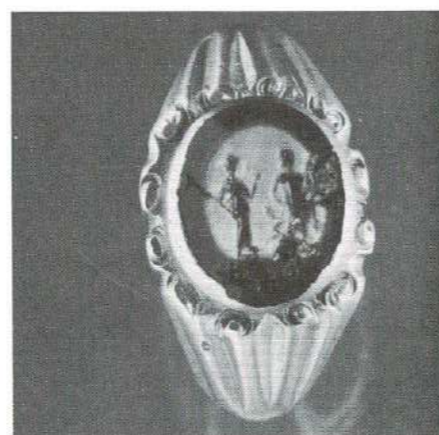
Oval hoop made of a thin band which widens obliquely towards the shoulders, rectangular plate with ellipsoid shield with bezel, with a nicolo gem on which a rooster is depicted. The shoulders are decorated with bands of three vertical hatches, differentiated from the hoop with a horizontal line. The surface of the plate and the bezel are bruised. 3rd century AD [37, No 217; 119, No 215, tabl. XI].



Cat. No 253. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type IV)

Inv. No 311. Location unknown. D. 18×17 mm (17.5×15), band width 8-10 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 12×8 mm, w. 5.68 g (950).

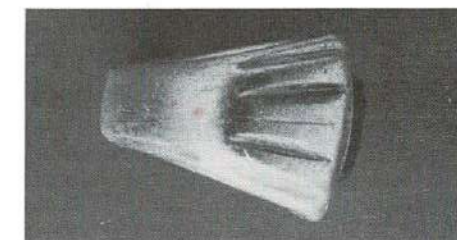
Oval hoop made of flat thin band, widening towards the oblique shoulders, decorated with two groups of incised hatches. Rectangular plate with ellipsoid shield, with a high bezel containing a red carnelian gem decorated with the image of a winged Eros. The hoop is slightly deformed. Bruises on the surface. 3rd century. Similar as a type to Cat. No 252 [37, No 144; 119, Nos 443, 428, tabl. XXII, No 779, tabl. XXXI].



Cat. No 254. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type V, Variant 1)

Inv. No 5235. Opaka, Turgovishte region. Grave find, together with coins of Etruscilla (249-251 AD) and Hostilian (251 AD). D. 32×22 mm (19×18), band width 5-10 mm, shoulders 15 mm, d. shield 17×15 mm, w. 27.80 g (950).

The hoop is ellipsoid on the inside and biconically cut on the outside, made of a massive band with semicircular cross section, becoming wider and thicker towards the conically oblique shoulders decorated with deep fluting that ends in volutes in the periphery of the plate. The shield is ellipsoid, with a high bezel containing a conically cut nicolo gem on which Asclepius and Hygia are depicted. Relatively crude workmanship. Bruises on the surface. Mid-3rd century AD. The type of conically cut shoulders, decorated with deep fluting and volutes, is characteristic of the 3rd century. The same type is also seen in the well dated gold rings from the Nikolaevo treasure (Cat. Nos 210-213) [90, 336; 37, No 113; 119, 31, IV, 59, III, Nos 444, 445, tabl. XXIII; 106, Nos 263, 264, 268, pl. VII, No 1440; pl. XXXIII; 106, No 1440, pl. XXXIII; 150, 80, Type 3g, No 268].



Cat. No 255. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type V, Variant 1)

Inv. No 8074. Abritus (Razgrad). Accidental find. D. 28×21 mm (19×16), band width 7-10 mm, shoulders 16 mm, d. shield 15×13 mm.

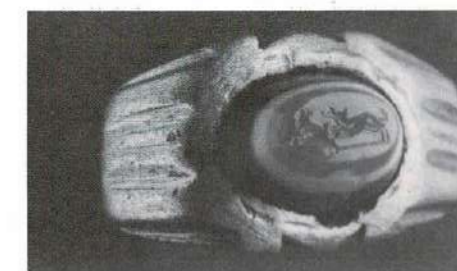
Polygonal hoop made of massive band, rounded on the outside, widening towards almost vertical shoulders, decorated with deep longitudinal fluting, with volutes near the shield. Ellipsoid shield with bezel containing a gem of light-brown carnelian on which the image of Athena is depicted. Slight bruises on the surface. 3rd century AD [37, No 46; 119, No 386, tabl. XIX; 106, No 1440, pl. XXXIII, No 268, pl. VII].



Cat. No 256. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type V, Variant 1)

Inv. No 7542. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 28×22 mm (22×18), band width 3-5 mm, shoulders 18 mm, d. shield 13×11 mm, w. 12.11 g.

Ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular cross section, broadening triangularly towards the conical shoulders, decorated with longitudinal fluting and volutes around the shield. Ellipsoid bezel containing a red carnelian gem on which a lioness with flying mane is depicted, walking to the left. Bruised surface, traces of burning. 3rd century AD [37, No 195; 119, Nos 444, 445, tabl. XXIII].



Cat. No 257. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type V, Variant 1)

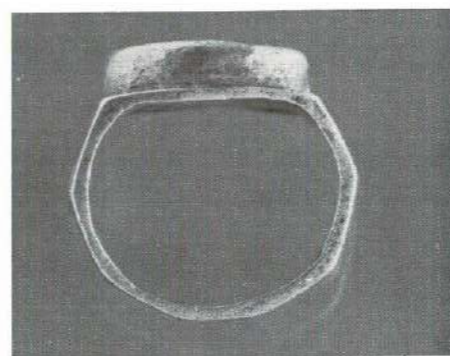
Inv. No 4935. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 29×21 mm (19×18), band width 6-10 mm, shoulders 16 mm, d. shield 13×9 mm, w. 23.33 g (900).

Massive hoop, ellipsoid on the inside and biconical on the outside, strongly oblique shoulders with vertical fluting, two grooves along the longitudinal side of the plate, shaping a triangular profile. The shield is ellipsoid, with bezel, traced with an incised line, with a gem of three-layer sardonyx on which a hare running to the left chased by a dog is depicted. Oxidized. The hoop is cracked. 3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 255, 256.



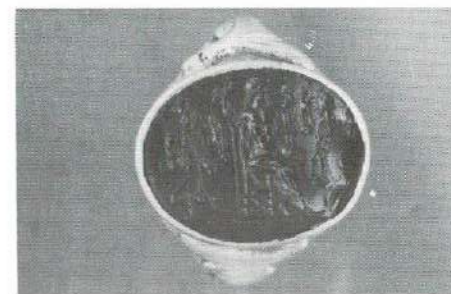
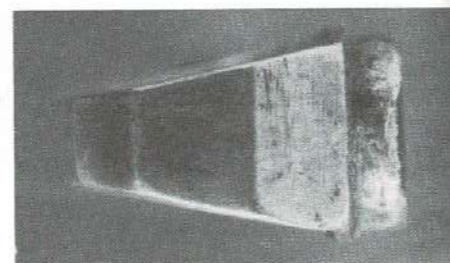
Cat. No 258. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type VI, Variant 1)

Inv. No 2653. Montana (Mihailovgrad). Accidental find. D. 19 × 19 mm (16 × 15), band width 5-7 mm, shoulders 12 mm, d. shield 11 × 9 mm, w. 7.85 g (950). Polygonal hoop made of a massive band with sectoral planes cut on the outer surface, wider and thicker towards the shoulders. Rectangular plate with a high ellipsoid shield with bezel containing a red carnel gem on which Asclepius is depicted standing, head turned to the right, holding a club around which a snake is twisting. Bruises on the surface of the ring. Traces of soldering are seen in the lower part of the hoop. 3rd century AD. Rings with polygonal shape of the hoop are characteristics of the 3rd century. Similar specimens are the gold rings from Ratiaria and Lesichevo (Cat. Nos 216, 217) [37, No 105; 119, 237, fig. 238, No 215, tabl. XI; 118, fig. 3, type IX].



Cat. No 259. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type VI, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4597. Aquae Calidae. D. 19 × 14 mm (17 × 13), band width 5 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 14 × 10 mm, w. 5.00 g (950). Polygonal hoop, without sectoral planes on the outside, massive band with rectangular section, becoming broader and thicker towards the shoulders. Rectangular plate with ellipsoid shield having a high bezel containing a gem of semitransparent light-brown carnel on which a beardless Heracles is depicted. 3rd century AD (the gem is dated to the 1st century) This suggests that earlier gems were used in later types of rings. Polygonal rings are a characteristic form for the 3rd century [37, No 125 and literature cited there; 118, 49, type VIII, fig. 2; 159, 80, Type 3g].



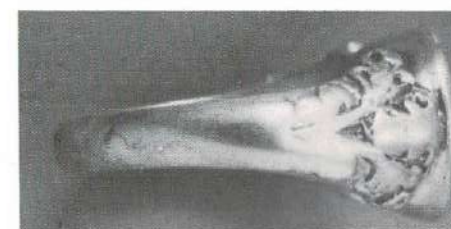
Cat. No 260. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type VII, Variant 2)

Inv. No 4480. Peshtera, Pazardjik region. Accidental find. D. 23 × 20 mm (20 × 20), band width 3-5 mm, shoulders 13 mm, d. shield 19 × 15 mm, w. 6.20 g. Round hoop made of a flat band becoming wider towards the shoulders which are decorated with additionally applied ornamentation consisting of leaves cut in openwork or engraved with incised lines. The ellipsoid shield is additionally soldered to the hoop, it has a high bezel decorated along the periphery with incised zigzag line, with a gem of dark-red jasper on which Zeus Nicephorus, Izis-Fortuna and Athena are depicted. The lower part of the hoop is broken. 3rd century. Rings with additionally soldered shield are characteristic as a type for the Late Antiquity (3rd-4th century AD) [37, No 14; 119, 38, V, 64, IV; 120, 190, No 9, pl. 63E].



Cat. No 261. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type VII, Variant 2)

Inv. No 6051. Novae. Accidental find. D. 27 × 24 mm (23 × 23), band width 4-6 mm, shoulders 15 mm, d. shield 17 × 13 mm, w. 7.70 g (500). Similar in type to Cat. No 260. The shoulders are decorated with openwork leaf-shaped ornament, with deep engraved lines on the surface, as a continuation of the hoop band. Additionally soldered ellipsoid shield with high bezel containing a flat gem of red opaque carnel on which Mars Ultor is depicted. Part of the leaf-like ornament is broken. With patina. 3rd century AD. Similar rings are known from the collection of the Vienna Museum [37, No 279; 157, 209, No 1516, Taf. 165].



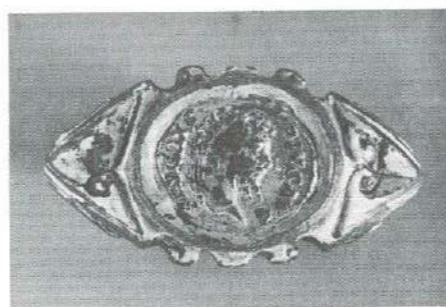
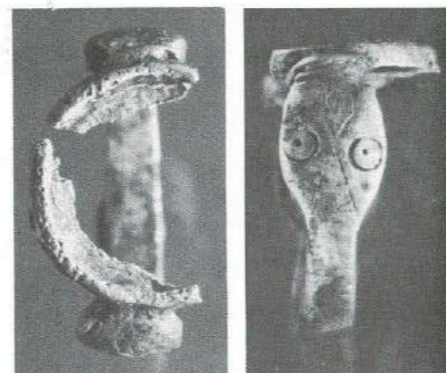
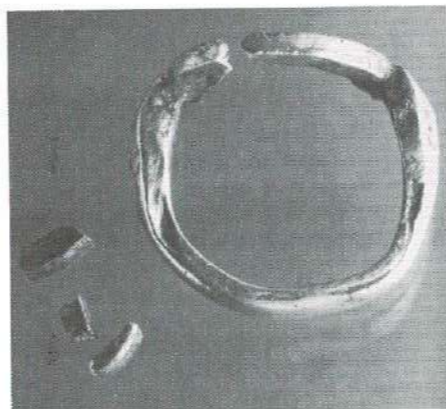
Cat. No 262. SILVER RING WITH GEM (Type VII, Variant 2)

Inv. No 1854. Oescus. Accidental find. D. 29 × 29 mm (23 × 23), band width 4-8 mm, shoulders 13 mm, d. shield 16 × 14 mm, w. 18.70 g. Round hoop made of a massive band, rounded on the outside, becoming wider towards the shoulders and decorated with profiled floral ornament covering the short sides of the shield. The latter is ellipsoid, additionally soldered to the hoop, with a high bezel containing red jasper on which an eagle is depicted, perched on the body of a dead hare and pecking at it, the hare lying over a tall haystack which rests against a tree. A jackal is seen to be approaching on the other side. Bruises are visible on the hoop. 3rd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 260 and 261. Parallels in the collections of the Vienna Museum [37, No 212; 157, 160, No 1236, Taf. 166].

Cat. No 263. SILVER RING WITH GEM (OR STONE —MISSING) (Type VIII)

Inv. No 109. Location unknown, D. 24 × 21 mm (18 × 18), band width 4-5 mm, shoulders 7.5 mm, d. shield 16 mm. Unpublished.

Snake-shaped hoop, made of a broad band with rectangular cross section, ends wider to form snakes' heads with stylized rendering of anatomical details: the eyes with an incised circle and a dot, the mouth with a horizontal line, and incised X-like ornament through the centre of the head. Round bezel-shield, additionally soldered to the shoulders of the hook, i. e. to the snakes' heads. The shield is broken in five parts, the bottom of the bezel is torn, a large part is missing. The stone (or gem) is missing, too. In front of the mouth of one of the snakes there is an additional coil of thin wire at the place of soldering to the shield, probably in order to prevent the ring from becoming too loose. 3rd century AD. Snake-shaped rings forming an open-ended hoop continued the Hellenistic tradition characteristic of earlier rings (1st century AD). The concrete ring under consideration is a representative of the type with an additionally soldered hoop and shield, characteristic of the Late Antiquity (3rd-4th century AD) (120, 190, No 1, pl. 62D; 119, 8-13, IV, Nos 344, 345, tabl. XVI, No 1878, tabl. LXX; 106, No 1143, pl. XXVIII).



Cat. No 264. BRONZE RING WITH GILT AND COIN (Type VIII)

Inv. No 2164. The territory of Nicopolis ad Istrum (pres. Koupina village, Veliko Turnovo region). Accidental find. D. 45 × 27 mm (15 × 19), band width 5-8 mm, shoulders 19 mm, d. shield 23 × 19 mm. Unpublished.

Massive, hollow, ellipsoid band with U-shaped cross section, widening towards the very prominent triangular shoulders decorated with incised profiled elements: peltae and volutes. Volute shape also the periphery of the shield, which is ellipsoid, concave, with a bezel in which a bronze coin of Septimius Severus (also gilded) is set, and bearing an inscription around the Emperor's bust: SEVERUS/PIUSAUG (ustus). The gilt on the surface has worn off. 3rd century AD (first quarter). The type is characteristic of the 2nd-3rd century and also corresponds to the fashion of setting coins into various types of jewellery, notably rings and medallions, similar to the numerous parallels from Gaul, Britania and elsewhere. A similar case is the medallion from the treasure from Nikolaevo (Cat. No 98) [120, 190, No 5, pl. 62B; 119, Nos 258, 259, tabl. XIII; 106, No 801, pl. XX].

Cat. No 265. BRONZE RING (Type X)

Inv. No 5469. Caristorum. Excavations of the sanctuary of Zeus and Hera, together with bronze bracelets (Cat. Nos 174, 175) and a bronze ring (Cat. No 266). D. 19 × 19 mm (16 × 16), band width 1.5 mm, d. shield 6 × 6 mm.

Round hoop made of a thin round wire, decorated at the shoulders with incised horizontal lines. The shield-plate is double, eight-figure shaped and consisting of two circles decorated with concentric lines. Patina. 2nd century AD. The type is characteristic of the 1st-2nd century AD. Similar rings with double shield-rosettes are the bronze rings from the territory of Pautalia, from the production and commercial centre near Radomir [45, 108, No 3, fig. 76; 54, 31; 106, No 985, pl. XXVI].



Cat. No 266. BRONZE RING WITH STONE (?) (Type VII, Variant 1)

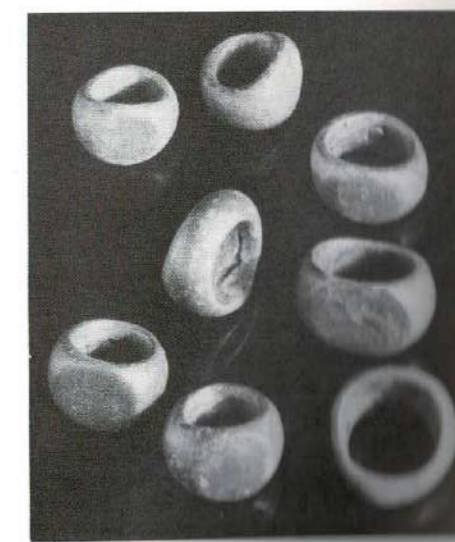
Inv. No 5470. Caristorum. Excavations of the sanctuary of Zeus and Hera. Together with Cat. No 265. D. 18 × 17 mm (16 × 15), band width 2-3 mm.

Ellipsoid hoop, made of a thin plate, rounded on the outside, slightly widening towards the shoulders, with additionally soldered plate-shield, now missing. Patina, slightly deformed. 3rd century AD. Rings with additionally soldered plate-shield are characteristic of the Late Antiquity [45, 108, No 3, fig. 77; 119, 38, V, Nos 279, 280, tabl. XIV; 106, No 775, pl. XX].

Cat. No 267. BRONZE RINGS (Type IV, Variant 2)

Inv. No 2591. Kabyle. Grave find, tumular burial in Chataltepe, together with applique from a Thracian chariot and two bronze coins of Constantine the Great (306-335 AD) and Delmatius (335-337 AD). Collective find of eight rings. D. 20 × 18 mm (11 × 11); 21 × 19 (12 × 13); 20 × 20 (12 × 12); 22 × 20 (14 × 13); 21 × 22 (13 × 13); 22 × 21 (15 × 15); 22 × 20 (16 × 16); 25 × 20 (16 × 17); band width 6-8 mm, shoulders 10-13 mm, d. shield 13 × 12—20 × 15 mm. Unpublished.

Round hoop of massive band, rounded on the outside, becoming wider and thicker towards the shoulders. Flat, ellipsoid shield. The rings are cast, without decoration, fully similar, differing only in size. Patina. 2nd-3rd century AD. Their identical shape and the lack of decoration suggests their probable use as standards for the sizes or as mass production in series [88, 16; 106, No 591, tabl. XVII; 118, type III].





Cat. No 268. IRON RING WITH GEM (fragment) (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 7094. Mezek, Haskovo region. Accidental find. D. (preserved) 23 mm, band width 3 mm, d. shield 16 × 12 mm.

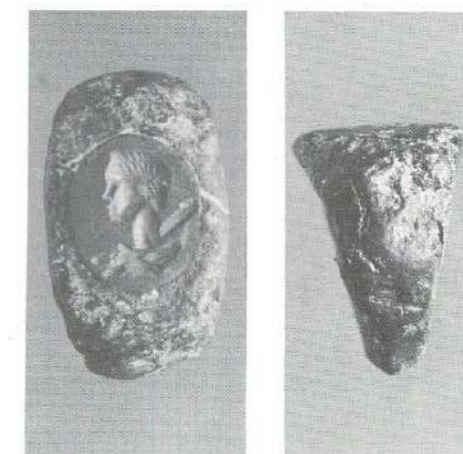
Round hoop of a thin band (wire) with triangular cross section, ellipsoid plate, thicker in the lower part, triangular rounded shoulders, shield-bezel with a gem of brown carnelian on which Fortuna-Isis is depicted. Strongly oxidized. 2nd century. The triangular rounded prominent shoulders are typical of the 3rd century. The combination with the relatively thin band with triangular cross section, thickened near the plate, points to earlier rings, which also coincides with the dating of the gem. A similar type is the iron ring from Brankovcha (Cat. No 276) [37, No 85; 119, I, 33; 59, III, Nos 1250-1257, tabl. XLVIII; 106, Nos 526, 532, pl. XV; 120, 190, No 4, pl. 63H].



Cat. No 269. IRON RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 1)

Inv. No 3991. Location unknown. D. 27 × 22 mm (22 × 18), band width 1.5-5 mm, d. shield 14 × 6.5 mm, w. 7.65 g. Unpublished.

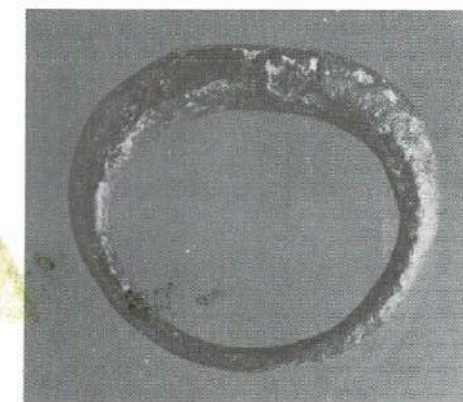
Ellipsoid hoop, made of a thin band, rounded on the outside, slightly widening at the oblique rounded shoulders and thickened in the lower part of the plate. Ellipsoid shield-bezel containing a flat gem decorated with the image of Fortuna-Isis, half-turned to the left, standing over an outlined terrain, wearing a modius on her head. She is holding the cornucopia in her hands and the rudder is at her feet. In front of her a winged Victoria is holding a palm bough and a wreath. Shallow, detailed carving. Oxidized. 1st century AD. The type is identified as a Hellenistic reminiscence, typical of the period between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD, with abundant parallels from Germany, Austria, Gaul, Britannia, the rings from Gaul being dated from the 1st to the mid-3rd century AD. A similar specimen is the silver ring from Aquae Calidae (Cat. No 232) [37, No 82; 119, 133, Nos 1446, 1447, tabl. LVI, No 1524, tabl. LVIII; 106, 70, Nos 385, 386, 419, pl. XII, XIII; 157, Nos 1177, 1208, 1214, tabl. 162, 163; 159, 79, Type 2a, No 583, pl. LXVIII].



Cat. No 270. IRON RING WITH A GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 5743. Kurchevo, Southern Thrac. Accidental find, together with a coin of Antonius Pius (138-161). D. 23 × 20 mm (19 × 17), band width 5-9 mm, shoulders 11-13 mm, d. shield 13 × 10 mm.

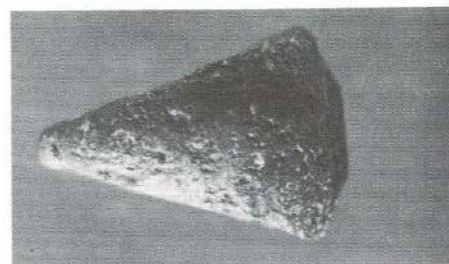
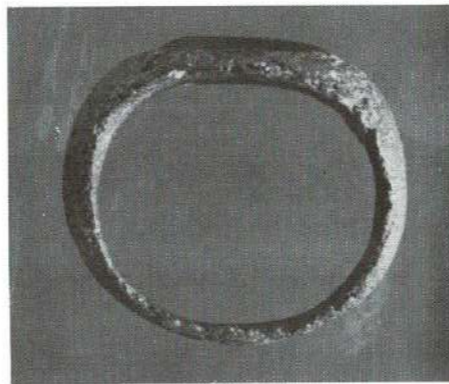
Ellipsoid hoop of a thin band, slightly rounded on the outside, becoming thicker towards the shoulders. Ellipsoid shield-bezel containing a flat heliotrope gem on which the image of a beardless Heracles is depicted. Strongly oxidized. 2nd century AD, which is supported also by the dating of the coin with which it is found, as well as by the numerous examples from Germany, Austria, Gaul and the British Museum, dated to the period between the 1st century BC and the mid-3rd century AD [94, 150; 37, No 126; 119, No 1558, tabl. LIX, Nos 1473, 1474, tabl. LVII; 157, Nos 1451, 1470, tabl. 163; 159, 79, Type 2d; 106, Nos 1171, 1174, pl. XXIX].



Cat. No 271. IRON RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 7315. Opitsvet, Sofia region. Accidental find. D. 25 × 23 mm (20 × 18), band width 1.5-5 mm, shoulders 8 mm, d. shield 13 × 10 mm.

Ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band, rounded on the outside, widening towards the shoulders and plate. Ellipsoid shield-bezel containing a gem of rock crystal with the image of Zeus seated on a throne, in profile to the left. Oxidized. 2nd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. No 270, as well as silver rings (Cat. Nos 235-240) [37, No 1].



Cat. No 272. IRON RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 8095. Ratiaria. Accidental find. D. 25 × 22.5 mm (23 × 20), band width 3-10 mm, shoulders 15 mm, d. shield 17 × 10 mm.

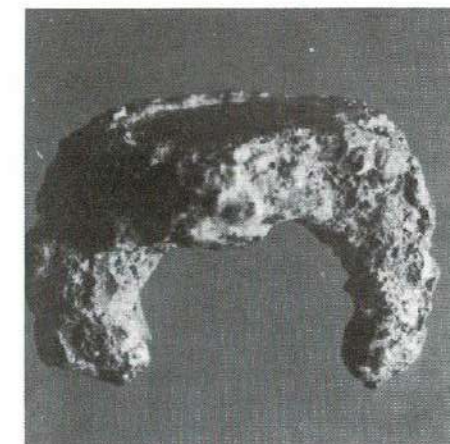
Ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band, rounded on the outside, ovaly widened and thickened towards the shoulders. Ellipsoid shield-bezel with conically cut nicolo gem decorated with the image of a satyr carrying a young Pan on his shoulders. Oxidized. 2nd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 270, 271 [37, 120; 119, 141, III, Nos 1548, 1570, tabl. LIV].



Cat. No 273. IRON RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

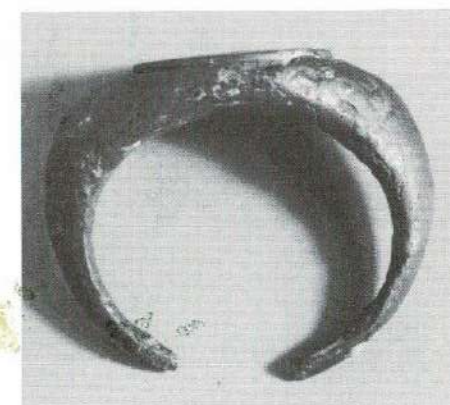
Inv. No 1392. Prosochan, Drama region. Accidental find. D. 24 × 22 (20 × 19), band width 4-6 mm, d. shield 12 × 8 mm.

Ellipsoid hoop of flat band, rounded on the outside, slightly widening towards the shoulders. Ellipsoid shield-bezel with a high gem of brown-red jasper decorated with a hybrid animal—ostrich with a snake's body and the head of Pan (?). Above the bird—cornucopia, underneath—an ear of wheat, in front—a bough. Oxidized. 2nd century AD. Cf. Cat. Nos 270-272 [37, No 254].



Cat. No 274. IRON RING WITH GEM (fragment) (Type I, Variant 4)

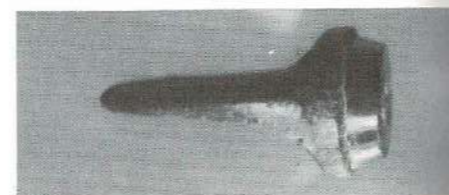
Inv. No 5669. Novae. Accidental find. D. 28 × 20 mm (16 × 10), d. shield 15 × 12 mm. Ellipsoid hoop (fragment) with a sardonyx gem on which Zeus-Pluto is depicted, seated on a throne. Strongly oxidized. 2nd century AD. For the type cf. Cat. Nos 270-273 [37, No 9; 119, No 1506, tabl. LVIII].



Cat. No 275. IRON RING WITH GEM (Type I, Variant 4)

Inv. No 2285. Oescus. Accidental find. D. 26 × 23 mm (22 × 21), band width 2-5 mm, shoulders 10 mm, d. shield 15 × 10 mm.

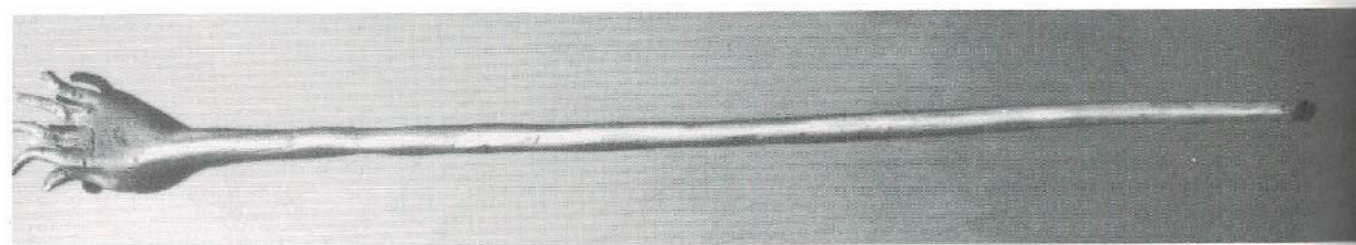
Ellipsoid hoop of a thin band with rounded triangular cross section, widening towards the triangular rounded shoulders. Ellipsoid bezel containing a sard gem on which Apollo is depicted. Part of the hoop is missing in the lower end. Oxidized. 2nd century AD. The type is characteristic of the early Imperial Age. In the 2nd century AD the hoop became thicker and more massive in its upper part, compared with the lower part. The shield is without bezel. The triangular rounded shoulders suggest a later date—2nd-3rd century AD [37, No 52; 119, I, 22, III, 29, X, 55, 141, III, Nos 1473, 1474, tabl. LVII; 120, 190, No 6; 118, fig. 1, type 2].



Cat. No 276. IRON RING WITH GEM (Type II, Variant 2)

Inv. No 5118. Brankovcha, Vidin region. Accidental find. D. 25 × 21 mm (21 × 17), band width 1.5-2 mm, shoulders 5 mm, d. shield 14.5 × 10 mm.

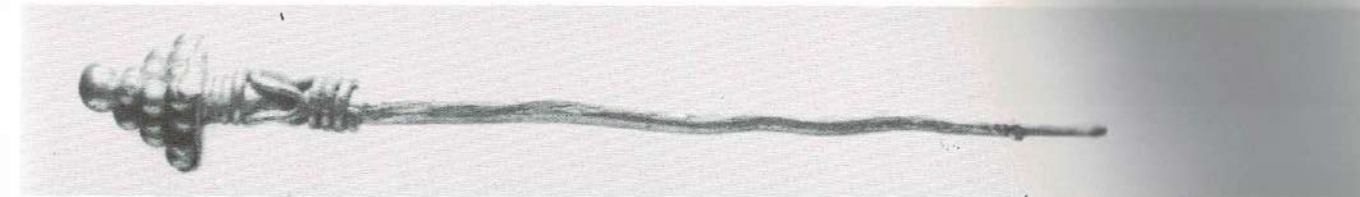
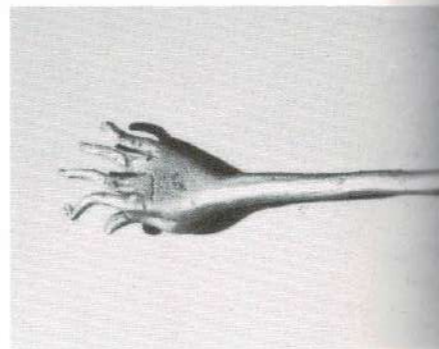
Ellipsoid hoop made of a thin band with triangular cross section, widening to form triangular shoulders. Ellipsoid bezel with a sard gem on which a rooster is depicted. 2nd century AD. Rings with triangular rounded shoulders are characteristic of the 3rd century AD. Similar to the iron ring from Mezek (Cat. No 268), the thin band with rectangular cross section suggests an earlier date [37, No 216; 119, I, 33; 59, III, Nos 1250-1257, tabl. XVIII; 106, Nos 526, 532, pl. XV].



Cat. No 277. GOLD HAIRPIN

Inv. No 4645. Novae. Accidental find. Length 127 mm, th. 1.6-1.3 mm, length hand 19 mm, width 7 mm, w. 9.84 g, 20 c.

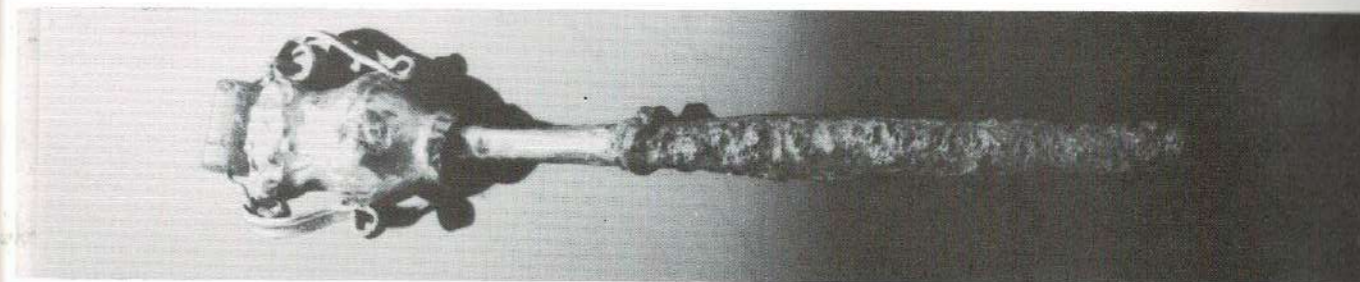
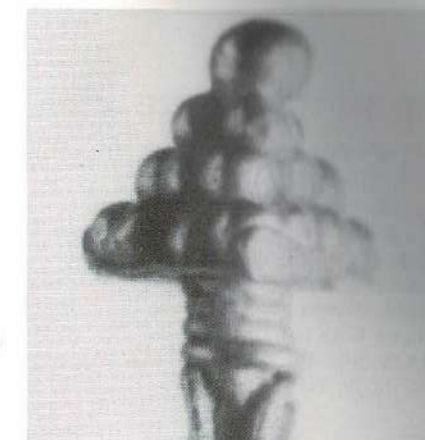
Spindle-shaped, of a massive gold wire, with pointed tip. The body is smooth. The upper part is modelled to resemble a female hand with slightly open fingers, the thumb pointing to the palm. The hand is given in graceful motion. Anatomical details are rendered with incised hatches. The pointed tip is broken off. Slightly deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD. The hairpin is in the form of a votive hand, which occurs in other hairpins, too: bronze ones from Novae (Inv. Nos I 591, I 594 in the History Museum in Svishtov, Cat. No 285 from the collection under consideration, bone hairpins from Kopilovtsi, the sanctuary of Zeus and Hera, from the collection of the British Museum [45, 107, tabl. XIX, 1, 2; 105, No 3033, pl. LXIX].



Cat. No 278. GOLD HAIRPIN

Inv. No 4186. Divlya, Radomir area. Accidental find. Length 42 mm, pyramid 6 × 6 mm, 23 c. (950). Unpublished.

Spindle-shaped, made of one wire with conically pointed body, smooth surface with decorated upper part—triangular pyramid of a grape-like ornament, gold pearl set in a spirally twisted thin wire and two bands limiting a surface decorated with undulating ornament of a thin wire. Slightly deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD. The pyramidal decoration of gold pearl, i. e. the so-called grape-like ornament, occurs in pendants for earrings, similar to the motif with undulating lines used to shape the ends of bracelets and necklaces, both ornamental motifs being very popular in Roman jewellery. Cf. earrings with Cat. Nos 33-35, 38, 40, and for the undulating ornament cf. Cat. No 135, 142.

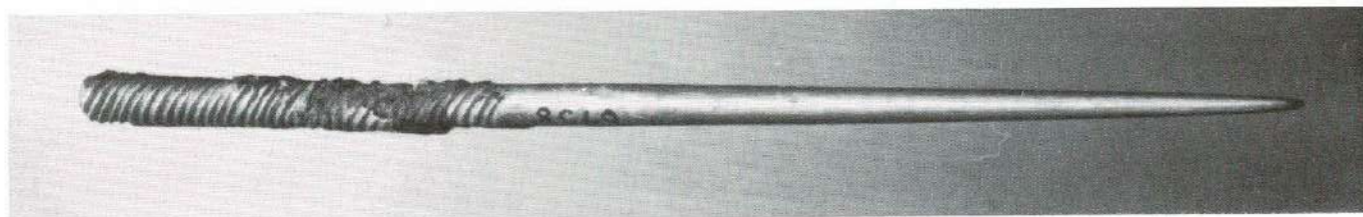


Cat. No 279. GOLD AND IRON HAIRPIN

Inv. No 4575. Ratiaria. Grave find, child's burial, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 54, 99, 146, 208, 209). Length 96 mm, length pin 70 mm, w. amphora 5.36 g, w. iron pin (gold casing) 4.19 g, H. amphora 19 mm, d. mouth 10 mm, d. bottom 7 mm, bead 7 × 5 mm.

The hairpin made of iron is spindle-shaped and with a pointed tip. The upper part, outlined with a circle in relief, passes into a cylindrical plate with gold casing. The head of the pin is shaped like a small gold amphora, hollow, placed in the iron core. The amphora is stylized, decorated near the mouth with leaf-shaped ornament, with vertical S-shaped handles of flat fluted wire, soldered to the body and to the mouth. The bottom is profiled. A green bead shaped like a hexahedral pyramid is attached over the mouth of the little amphora by means of thin gold wire. The amphora is deformed now, broken off the body of the hairpin. The iron tip of the pin is missing. Mid-3rd century AD. Amphoras in a diminished size were a very popular decorative element among Roman jewellery, continuing a Hellenistic tradition in the ornamentation. A very close parallel of the hairpin under consideration is kept in the Commarmond Collection of the British Museum, dated to the 3rd century. Amphoras as pendants on earrings have been registered in numerous finds from Syria—Damascus and Tortous, dated to the 1st-2nd and 3rd century AD, from Egypt—2nd-3rd century AD, Pannonia—2nd-3rd century AD, etc. [95, 39, No 5, fig. 12; 11, No 48, tabl. 4; 113, No 3, tabl. 21, No 8, tabl. 20; 105, No 3142, pl. LXXI, Nos 2324, 2325, 2334, 2335, 2338, 2355, 2370, 2371, pl. LI, No 2373, pl. LII, No 2443, pl. LIII, 142, No 1, 4, tabl. 9].

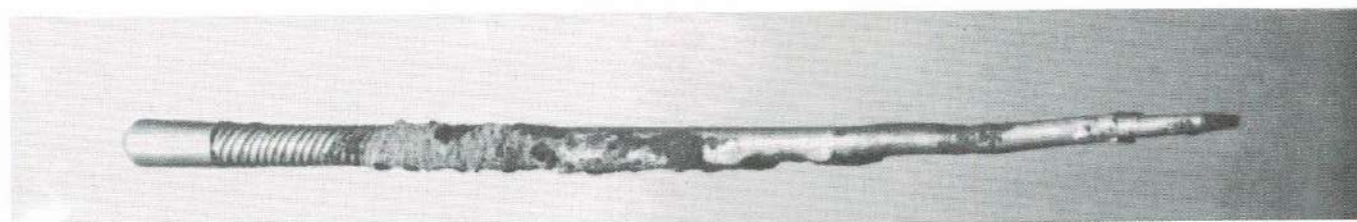




Cat. No 280. BRONZE AND GOLD HAIRPIN

Inv. No 5458. Oescus. Accidental find. Length 137 mm, th. 5.5-1 mm, w. 13.0 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

Spindle-shaped, thinned and pointed in the lower end. Made of bronze wire with casing of a gold plate. The body is undecorated 83 mm from the end, the remaining part on top is spirally fluted. The tip, now missing, was probably shaped like Cat. No 281 — with a smooth cylindrical holder and cone-shaped tip. Part of the gold casing is torn, in some places missing. This is a representative of an elementary type of hairpins, frequent among bone hairpins with the same decoration, with numerous finds from the ancient production centre near Radomir, the sanctuary of Zeus and Hera near Kopilovtsi, etc. [54, 28-29, fig. 4a, b, 5; 45, 107, tabl. 19].



Cat. No 281. GOLD AND BRONZE HAIRPIN

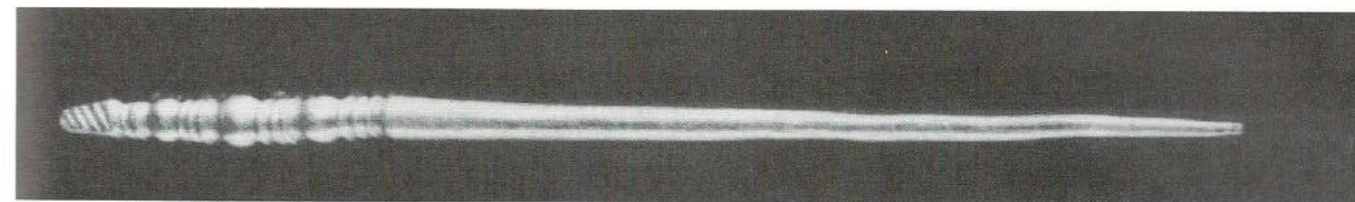
Inv. No 6459. Oescus. Accidental find. Length 122 mm, th. 4-1 mm, w. 8.65 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

Fully similar to the previous one, but with preserved upper end, shaped with an insert and conical tip, with undecorated surface. The gold casing is broken, in some places missing, the tinned tip is broken. Cf. Cat. No 280.



Cat. No 282. BRONZE AND GOLD HAIRPIN

Inv. No 6388. Oescus. Grave find, with a bronze coin of Diocletianus (284-316 AD). Length 117 mm, th. wire 4.2-1 mm, d. head 4 x 6 mm. Spindle-shaped, similar to Cat. Nos 280 and 281. Two cylindrical fields near the tip, limited by rings in profile, one of them concave. The head is spheroid or pinecone-shaped, with intersecting incised lines. Only a small part is preserved from the gold casing in the concave cylindrical field. 3rd century [18, 409].



Cat. No 283. SILVER HAIRPIN

Inv. No 1211. Pancharevo, Sofia region. Accidental find. Length 94 mm, th. wire 1-4 mm, w. 4.3 g. Unpublished.

Spindle-shaped, conically pointed body made of one wire. The upper part ends with a head in the form of a truncated tetrahedral pyramid, with oblique hatches on two of the sides. Below the head there is a decoration of bands of incised concentric lines and spheres. Slightly deformed. 2nd-3rd century AD. Parallels among bone hairpins. Cf. Cat. Nos 277, 280.



Cat. No 284. SILVER HAIRPIN

Inv. No 5140. Negovantsi, Vidin region. Probably grave find, together with a gold earring (Cat. No 47), glass and clay vessels. Length 66 mm, th. wire 1.5-1 mm, d. head 5 mm.

Spindle-shaped, pointed lower end, the upper end shaped like a spheroid-polygonal head. Undecorated body. 2nd-3rd century AD. Cf. Cat. No 283 [89, 273].



Cat. No 285. BRONZE HAIRPIN

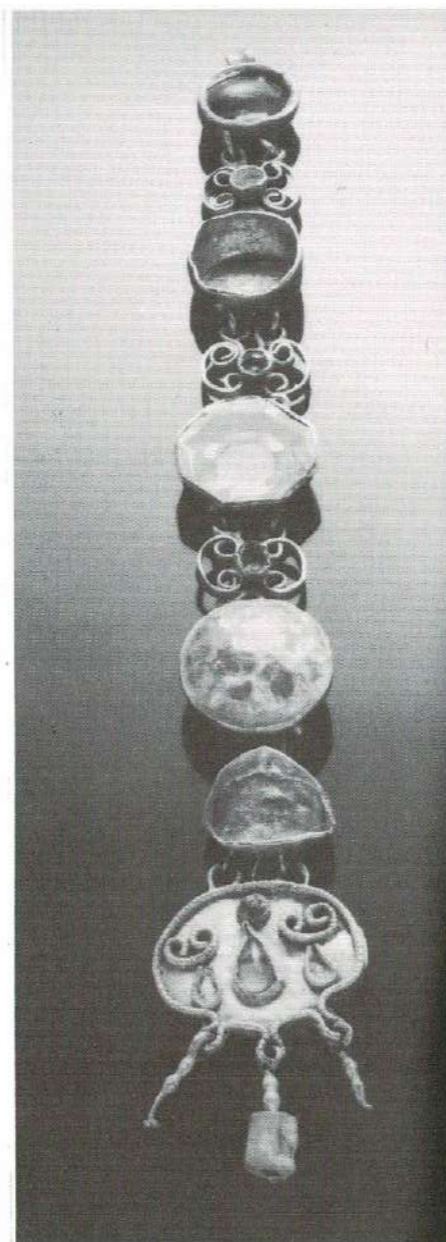
Inv. No 6236. Location unknown. Preserved length 66 mm, th. wire 2-3.5 mm, arm length 20 mm. Unpublished.

Spindle-shaped. The upper end modelled as a votive hand holding a bali or a pearl between thumb and forefinger. Under the fingers — decoration of two incised lines, below the wrist — two embossed rings. The hand is rendered in motion, without anatomical details. The lower part of the hairpin is missing. Similar as a type with the gold hairpin from Novae (Cat. No 277).

Cat. No 286. GOLD PENDANT

Inv. No 5571. Ratiaria. Grave find, together with gold jewellery (Cat. Nos 80, 94, 111, 131, 132, 140, 141, 195). Length 165 mm, w. 26.99 g, 22 c. (950). Diam. of the bezels with stones: 13×10×5.5 mm, 14×13×8 mm, 17.5×15×7 mm, 18×19×7 mm, 15×13×4 mm, openwork segments 13×18 mm.

Consisting of five gold bezels with stones (amethyst, glass and precious topaz), shaped like truncated cones of different sizes, alternating with openwork ornaments with a light-red garnet in the centre (three preserved, one missing), interlinked with hoops. The lower end terminating with an ellipsoid shield and pendants. The shield is made of a gold plate, framed along the periphery with wire — pearly ornament, decorated with the same wire on the upper pelta-shaped surface, a drop-like ornament and two stones in the centre — a green smaragd and an orange topaz. The three pendants are freely suspended on hoops shaped from the shield and made of pearl-ornamented wire with a stopper and with threaded beads (the middle bead is preserved — green stone shaped like an octahedral pyramid). A cylindrical hoop with profiled ends is soldered for attachment to the first bezel-setting in the upper part of the pendant. The openwork segments are made of flat wire, with pelta-like symmetrical ornaments on both sides, with an outlined round nest in the centre, with red garnet. They alternate with the bezels with stones, linked two by two with round hoops. Three have been preserved, the fourth is probably missing, because two of the bezels with stone are linked in succession. Two of the stones in the bezel-settings are missing (second and fifth). The stone in the first bezel-setting is loose. Some of the linking loops are broken. Two stones from the pendants on the shield are missing. 1st-3rd century. The pendant from Ratiaria is the only Roman pendant known so far from the Thracian lands. As a type it finds close analogies with the only pendant known from the remaining Roman provinces, discovered in Tunisia and kept in the collections of the British Museum. Its use as a hair ornament is illustrated with a statue of Palmyra, dated with coins from the same 3rd century find. Similar as types are numerous bracelets and necklaces from the collection of the British Museum, dated to the 3rd century, from the Schiller Collection in Berlin. 1st-2nd century, with polychrome stones in bezel-settings, with openwork ornaments between them [95, 35, No 1, tabl. V, 1; 105, 339, fig. 94, No 2866, pl. LXIV, Nos 2824, 2831, pl. LXVII-LXVII, No 2749, pl. LXI; 120, pl. 62 C; 154, No 89, tabl. 46; 149, 87, No 193].



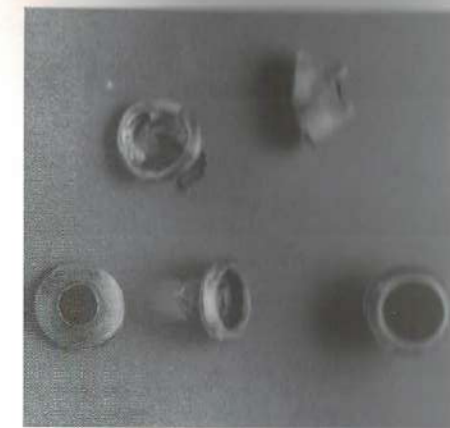
Cat. No 287. GOLD ORNAMENT

Inv. No 5933. Location unknown. Diam. 15×11×0.9 mm, w. 1.14 g, 22 c. (920). Unpublished.

Ellipsoid in shape, made of a thin plate, wider at the lower end, with a profiled periphery of wire in a pearl-like ornament. In the centre — the image of Fortuna (Tyche) in relief, facing, half to the left, with a calathos on her head, holding a steering wheel and cornucopia. In spite of the small size, the workmanship is precise. In the upper right-hand corner there is a small secondarily made hole for threading. Probably initially used as a shield for rings. 3rd century. For the type cf. Cat. No 132. A similar gold ornament can be found in the collection of the British Museum, 3rd century, defined as the shield of a ring [105, No 3087, pl. LXIX].

Cat. No 288. GOLD ELEMENTS

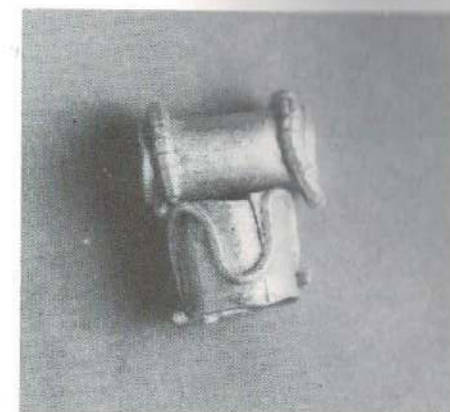
Inv. No 4806. The treasure from Nikolaevo. Diam. 7×3 mm, h. 5.5 mm. Unpublished. Shaped like a truncated cone with cylindrical widening towards the hole (at the base), with rim shaped inward. Stuck together two by two, they probably formed hollow biconic pearls. Five halves preserved, two of them deformed. Mid-3rd century. For the type cf. Cat. No 112.



Cat. No 289. GOLD ELEMENT

Inv. No 6849. Chirpan region. Accidental find. Diam. 8×5 and 6×5.5 mm. Unpublished.

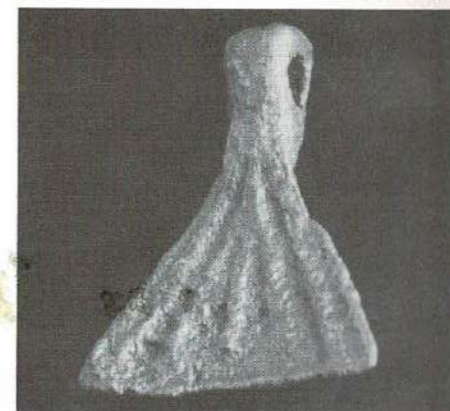
Consisting of two cylindrical parts, T-shaped with respect to one another. The ends are framed with wire — round or like pearly cord. Undulating ornament on the body of one of them. Slightly deformed. Probably part of the catch (of a bracelet or necklace), with a hoop from the fastener, similar to Cat. Nos 135 and 142, as well as a number of other examples in the collections of the British Museum. An analogous example from Egypt is a similar element for the suspension of a medalion with coin, dated to the 1st-2nd century [120, 187, pl. 57 b, 58; 105, Nos 2716, 2735-2737, pl. LIX, LX].



Cat. No 290. SILVER PENDANT

Inv. No 4690. Aquae Calidae. Diam. 15×20 mm, th. 0.5-1.5 mm, hole 3×4 mm. Unpublished.

Shaped like an axe — triangular plate, thickened in the upper end, where there is an ellipsoid hole. 2nd century. Similar is shape to the pendant on the silver earring from Ratiaria. For the type cf. Cat. No 71.



Cat. No 291. BRONZE PENDANT

Inv. No 6842. Mezdra. Grave find, together with beads from a gold and silver necklace (Cat. Nos 112, 137) and a copper coin of Constantine the Great. H. 17 mm, width 2-5 mm. Unpublished.

Stylized shape of an amphora, with a rounded widened body, pointed bottom, with a flat round hoop for suspension near the mouth. Green patina of a precious metal. 4th century (dated by the coin). Amphora-shaped pendants are characteristic of the Late Hellenistic Age, made mainly of gold, with a rich ornamentation. The amphora also appears on the gold pin from Ratiaria. (Cat. No 279) [113, tabl. 21; 120, 163, pl. 48].



Cat. No 292. LEAD PENDANT

Inv. No 4689. Aquae Calidae. 15 × 20 mm, th. 0.5-1.5 mm, hole 2 × 3 mm. Unpublished.

Triangular plate resembling an axe, with a hole shaped in the upper end. One of the sides is decorated with five radial lines in relief, from the top towards the base. The tip of the plate is thickened and bent to form an ellipsoid hole. There is no precise evidence about the place where it was used. It is possible that it represented an additional ornament-pendant on an earring or necklace, similar to medallions-amulets of different shapes from the collection of the British Museum [105, Nos 2964, 2974, pl. XVIII].



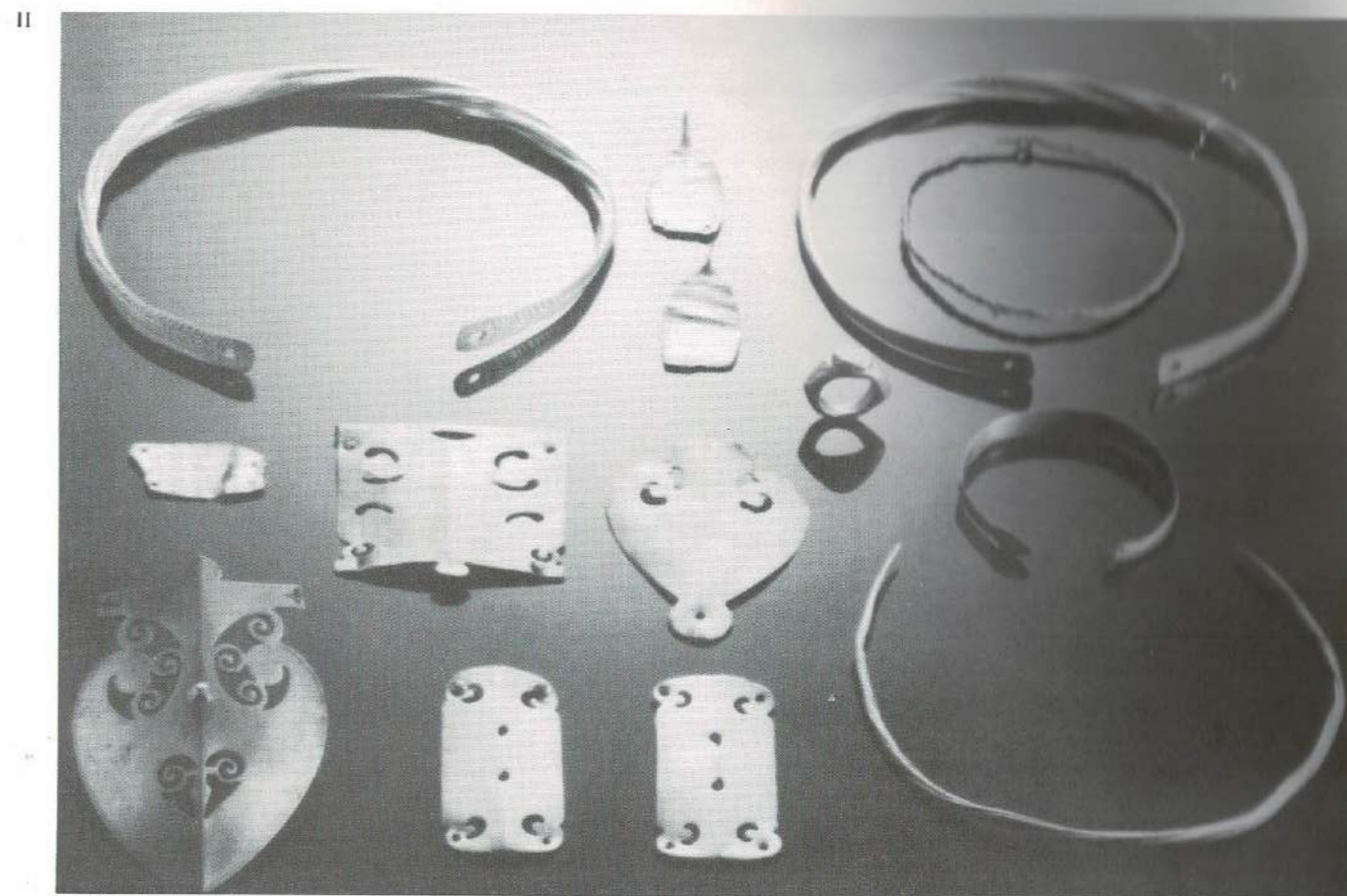
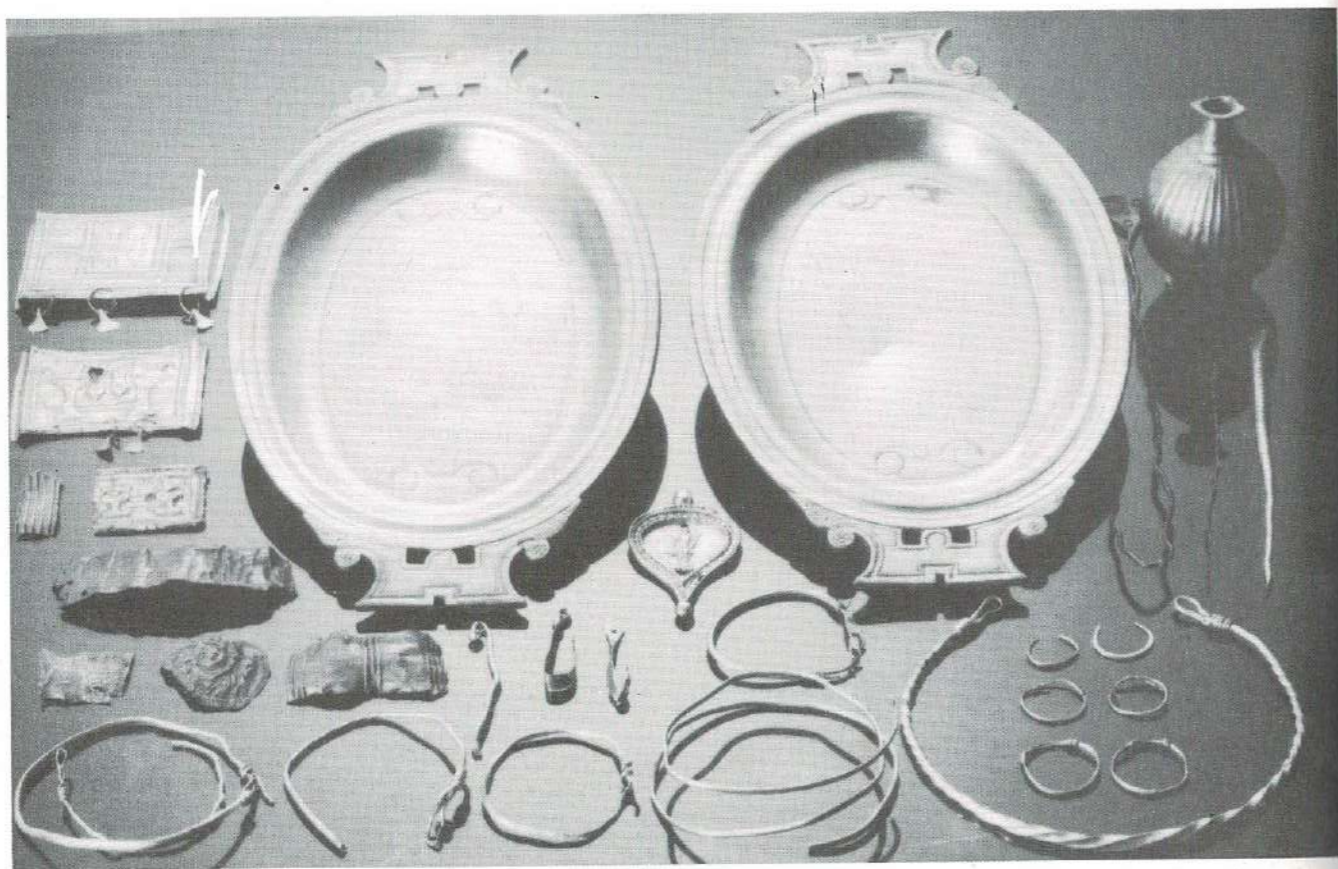
I. The treasure from Bazaurt (Zhitnitsa, Dobrich region). Comprises 39 silver artifacts including 24 ornaments weighing 1430 g (2 torques, 6 bracelets, 15 earrings and 1 medallion), 3 dishes, 12 applied plates, facings and 1430 silver Roman republican coins, the latest of Emperor Hadrian (117-138). Found in 1916.

II. The treasure from Chaoushevo (Tsenovo, Rousse region). Comprises 19 objects: 8 ornaments (7 preserved — 1 gold and 3 silver torques, 2 silver bracelets, a silver gilded fibula, a silver finger-ring) and 1049 silver coins of 30 Roman emperors, from Nero (54-68) to Gordian III (238-244). Found in three stages: 1932, 1935, 1936.

III. The treasure from Nikolaevo, Pleven region. Comprises 35 ornaments (30 gold and 5 silver), 2 silver dishes with a total weight of 895.84 g gold and 239.46 g silver, 933 silver and 2 bronze Roman coins of 31 emperors, from Titus (77-78) to Philip the Arab (244-249), the latest issues are of 248. Found in 1909 and 1910.

IV. Gold jewellery from a rich child burial in a stone sarcophagus from the necropolis of Ratiaria (Archar, Vidin region) found in 1914.

V. Gold jewellery: a burial find in a stone sarcophagus from the necropolis of Ratiaria (Archar, Vidin region) found 1916.



IV



V



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ABBREVIATIONS

ВИС	Военноисторически сборник. София
ИАД	Известия на Българското археологическо дружество.
(ИБАД)	София
ИАИ	Известия на Археологическия институт. София
ГМСБ	Годишник на музеите в Северна България. София
ГНАМП	Годишник на Народния археологически музей—Пловдив. Пловдив
ГНМ	Годишник на Народния музей. София
ГПНБМ	Годишник на Пловдивската народна библиотека и музей. Пловдив
ГСУФФ	Годишник на Софийския университет. Филологически факултет. София
ИБМ	Известия на българските музеи. София
ИВАД	Известия на Варненското археологическо дружество. Варна
ИНМ—В.	Известия на Народния музей—Варна. Варна
ИНМ—Р.	Известия на Народния музей—Русе. Варна
ИНМ—Х.	Известия на Народния музей—Хасково. София
ИМСЗБ	Известия на музеите—Северозападна България. София
ИМЮИБ	Известия на музеите—Югоизточна България. София
ИОИМ—ВТ.	Известия на Окръжния исторически музей—Велико Търново. Варна
МИА	Материали и изследвания по археология. Москва
НАМ—София	Национален археологически музей—София
РП	Разкопки и проучвания. София
AA Syr.	Annales archéologiques de Syrie. Damas
AA	Achäologischer Anzeiger. Berlin
BAR	British Archaeological Reports. Oxford, England
BSH	Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique. Paris
BJ	Bonner Jahrbücher. Bonn
BMCJ	Marshall, F. H. Catalogue of the Jewellery Greek, Etruscan and Roman, in the Departments of Antiquities. British Museum. London, 1911
BMCR	Marshall, F. H. Catalogue of the Finger Rings, Greek, Etruscan and Roman, in the Departments of Antiquities. British Museum. London, 1907
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum. Berlin
IGBulg	Mihailov, G. Inscriptiones graecae in Bulgaria repertae. 1—4. Serdicae, 1956—1970; 1, 2, ed. 1971
RE	Pauly-Wissowa-Kroll Real. Encyclopädie der Klassischen Altertumswissenschaft. Stuttgart Deppert-Lippitt.
RGZ	Goldschmuck der Römerzeit im Römisch-germanischen Zentralmuseum. Bonn, 1985

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