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Studii dedicate lui Nikolaus Boroffka la aniversarea a 60
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Studies dedicated to Nikolaus Boroffka on his 60th
birthday

Volum îngrijit de/Edited by:

Horia Ciugudean,
Gabriel Tiberiu Rustoiu
Radu Ota



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ROMAN BRONZE MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND HARNESS IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE ALBA IULIA MUSEUM. I. BELT AND BALDRIC PLATES

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Muzeul Național al Unirii Alba Iulia

Key-words: Apulum, municipium/colonia, necropolis, canabae, cingulum, balteus, belt plate, military equipment.

Cuvinte cheie: Apulum, municipiu/colonie, necropola, canabae, cingulum, balteus, aplica de centura, echipament militar.

According to the currently prevalent opinion of archaeologists, Roman military equipment includes offensive and defensive weapons, personal equipment (belts), common equipment (tents), *dolabrae*, and harness gear. Belt mounts represent the first category of personal equipment. They consist of buckles, riveted ornamental plates and strap terminals.

The belt, *cingulum militiae sumere*¹ or *cingulo aliquem exuere*², a distinct sign of the affiliation to the army, was worn over the tunic or cuirass both in times of war and peace. Funerary monuments from the 1st century AD, such as the one of Annaius Daverzus (*cohors IV Delmatarum*), depict a soldier wearing two belts, one of it sustaining the sword, the other one the dagger. At their crossing point, an apron made of straps of variable length, consolidated by plates or riveted bronze studs and pendants intended to protect the abdomen, was fastened on a leather strip.

As symbol of a soldier's identity, the belts were adorned with various plates, some of them provided with suspension loops. At the beginning of the 1st century AD, every soldier was wearing at least two crossing belts. The sword was suspended from one belt, with the sheath tied to it with laces passing through four scabbard rings. The dagger hung from the second belt, with the scabbard connected to the suspension loop of a belt plate.

¹ Cod.Th., 6, 30, 18: 'Non aliter quilibet in officio sacrarum privatarum cingulum militiae sibi sumendum existimet, nisi nostrae mansuetudinis adnotationem meruerit'.

² Cod.Just., 7, 38, 1: 'Saepenumero perceptum est, ut servi atque liberti, colonique praetera rei nostrae nec non etiam eorum suboles ac nepotes, quicumque de nostris possessionibus recessissent ac se addiversa militiae genera contulissent, cingulo, in quo obreperant fraudulenter, exuti, si ad aliquas fortasse transcenderint dignitates, omni temporis definitione submota nostro patrimonio redderentur. valentin. et valens aa.a probum pp.galliorum'.

As the fashion changed, a single broader belt to which both weapons were suspended was more frequently worn towards the end of the 1st century AD. During the first two centuries AD, the above-mentioned apron, made of 4-6 up to 9 straps of leather decorated with studs and metallic strap ends of protective function, was also suspended to the belt. The noise of the metallic elements in motion along with the hobnailed boots (*caligae*) was designed to announce the imminent arrival of a legionary. Part of the panoply of the legionary, the apron



Fig. 1. Statue of a Roman soldier from Apulum

may have been used to an extent as a unit identifier, and seems to disappear around the time of the adoption of trousers for the military.

The equipment issued to legionaries was remarkably uniform throughout the Empire, and it is highly possible that there were large centres in Gaul and North Italy for the mass manufacturing of helmets, armour and weapons, as well as the kettles and mess-tins³. One can detect changes in style at different times and there seems to be a tendency in the first two centuries to gradually simplify and reduce the over-elaboration on more decorative pieces. It was determined that in the middle of the first century, for example, the buckles, belt-plates and apron terminals were not only silvered and occasionally gilded, but also decorated with black *niello* inlay. However, it seems that attempts to impose modern sets of values on ancient artefacts have only fuelled the myth surrounding them, as scientific analysis has shown them to have been made of tinned brass, the usual material for any embossed military decoration⁴. By the end of the first century this practice had ceased, whereas in the second century the tendency is for lighter metal adornments with open “fretwork” designs placed over coloured cloths or leather. It may even be possible to trace a similar change of style in the humble mess-tin⁵. If plates decorated with niello inlay are traditionally encountered in the 1st century AD, more or less

³ MacMillan, 1920, p. 23-40.

⁴ Bishop, Coulston 1993, p. 38; Lippold 1952, p. 4; scientific analysis: Klumbach 1970, p. 130; Walker 1981.

⁵ Webster, 1969, p. 122-123.

completely changed starting from the second third of the 2nd century AD. These adornments incorporating open- or fretwork designs of Celtic influence are recognizable as prototypes of 3rd century AD plates which occur across the Empire from Britain, along the Rhine and Danube to Dura-Europos in Syria.

Belts of different types may be seen on several sculptural representations throughout the Empire, the nearest analogies from Dacia being the two statues of soldiers from Apulum with the “Ringschnallencingulum”-type⁶ (**Fig. 1**).

The presence of a substantial amount of Roman military equipment artefacts in the collections of the Alba Iulia National Museum of Union is undoubtedly linked to the existence and functioning of the XIIIth Gemina Legion at Apulum, one of the most important towns in the province of Dacia (**Fig. 3**). The analysis of the belt plates in these collections allows us to conclude that they are spanning all the one and a half century of the XIIIth Gemina Legion’s sojourn at Apulum. From a typological point of view, most of them have good parallels among the items recovered both from Dacia and other provinces of the Empire, with the possible exception of the unique specimen decorated with a kantharos.

Military equipment and harness artefacts were discovered in different areas of the two cities at Apulum:

I.1. Northern necropolis: a) Stația de salvare (isolated items and grave assemblages); b) Stadium; c) Profi Mall; d) OMV oil station. **2. Southern necropolis:** a) Dealul Furcilor - Podei; b) Dealul Furcilor – Monolit (civilian environment). **3. Canabae** – North-Eastern Carolina residential district. **4. Partos district (*Municipium Aurelium/Colonia Aurelia Apulensis*):** a) Adalbert Csernis Excavations 1912 (Gh. Toth garden); b) ancient collections; c) Vasile Moga and Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț Excavations 1988-1994. **5. *Praetorium consularis*.** **6) The XIII Gemina legion camp.** **7)** Rescue excavations in different areas of Apulum. **8. *Villa suburbana*** – Milenium street (**Fig. 2**).

An important amount of military and harness fittings in the collections of the museum resulted also from:

II. Former private collections: a) **Sabin Olea Collection** – acquired in 1967 (Roman epoch items from Homorod-Joseni, Hunedoara County); b) **Gheorghe Alungulesei collection** – acquired in 1994, 2002, 2004 (Roman epoch objects collected on the territory of both cities from ancient Apulum).

II.a. The collection of the priest Sabin Olea (1907-1984) from the village Cib (Alba County) comprised an amount of 1766 archaeological, historical and ethnographical items. Father Olea participated to different religious conferences at Homorod and Geoagiu - *Germisara* (Hunedoara County), Almașu Mare, Zlatna - *Ampelum* or Alba Iulia - *Apulum* – (Alba County), where he had good opportunities to increase his archaeological collection.

⁶ Ciugudean, Ciugudean 2000, Fig. 2/6, 4 a-b, 5 a-b; idem 2000a, Fig. 1/6, 3 a-b, 4 a-b; Ciugudean 2010, p. 449-450, Fig. 1/4; Ciugudean 2011, passim, Pl. I/6, II/4, III/1-5, V/1-2.

Archaeological objects from the Roman period included clay vessels, tiles and bricks with the stamp of *LEG XIII G*, inscriptions, fragments of altars, bronze and silver coins, and numerous military equipment artefacts. Some military equipment bronze items were probably collected or bought accidentally from two villages in the Hunedoara County: Homorod which belongs to Geoagiu commune and Josani. According to *Tabula Peutingeriana*, the Imperial road between Sarmizegetusa and Apulum passed through Cigmău, where a fort and a settlement of military *vicus* type were established. In the opinion of scholars, the fort itself and the prosperous civil settlement around it were actually called *Germisara*⁷. Inscriptions and tiles bearing the stamp of XIIIth Gemina Legion were for example unearthed in these locations⁸. Soldiers of the legion and *auxilia* distributed in different areas of the province worked on military and civilian urban equipment, to lay out roads or to set up aqueducts⁹. One can presume that artefacts of military equipment could belong to the soldiers of the XIIIth Gemina Legion who could accidentally lose their garments during the duties they performed there.



Fig. 2. View of Alba Iulia region with the main Roman sites.

⁷ EncCivRom 1982, p. 186-187; Moga 1972, p. 154.

⁸ *TIR*, L, p. 34, 47; *CIL* III, 8064, 6 and 13751, b; Albu 1971, p. 75; Pescaru-Rusu 1995-1996, p. 326; Popa 2002, p. 88.

⁹ Tudor 1968, p. 130-131; EncCivRom 1982, p. 423.

Belt and baldric plate types

The belt plates under consideration in this study provide a broad overview of almost the entire range of forms and types used in the Imperial Roman army mainly in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD.

1. Openwork plate with baluster-moulded bar – Inv. nos. 9577/1-4 (Pl. I/1-4, XI/1-4) – Type 1.

The analysis of the narrow rectangular items decorated with baluster-moulded bars from the Alba Iulia collections allowed to distinguish 3 main types of such plates:

Type 1 – plates with terminals decorated with double-pelta piercings and baluster-moulded bar cast apart and welded into the small slots on the underside of the fittings (Inv. nos. 9577/1-4).

Type 2 – plates with terminals adorned with double-pelta piercings and two baluster-moulded bars separated by a frame, cast in the same one-piece mould with the plate itself (Inv. nos. 3633-3634).

Type 3 - plates with ansate terminals and single baluster-moulded bar cast in the same one-piece mould with the plate itself (Inv. no.3460).

The peculiarities of the decorations exhibited by these types of plates points to their production in a local workshop in *Dacia*. In this respect, I am first taking into consideration the baluster bar as a central ornament, and secondly the pierced peltate ornaments at the end of the plates, which seem to be common decorative motifs occurring especially on the Roman soldiers' equipment in *Dacia*.

In *Dacia*, openwork plates with baluster-moulded-bar of Type 1 from Apulum were unearthed into the grave no. 6 from Lechința de Mureș¹⁰. A similar piece with the terminals adorned with double-pelta piercings, but with most probably lost baluster-moulded bar, is known from Ilișua¹¹. A set of belt fittings including four rectangular appliqués with baluster-moulded bars in the central opening, but without peltate ends, was found into the grave no. 2 from Tomis¹², a civil town in Moesia Inferior. In other provinces of the Empire, plates of similar aspect, with or without baluster-moulded bars, appeared at Viminacium¹³, in the auxiliary fort at Gerulata - Pannonia Superior¹⁴, but also at Buch¹⁵ and Newstead¹⁶.

¹⁰ Horedt 1958, p. 20-22, Abb. 4/2, 5; Petculescu 1995, p. 110-112, Pl. 7/2-5.

¹¹ Protase, Gaiu, Marinescu 1997, Pl. LXXVII/4.

¹² Petculescu 1998, p. 154, Fig. 1/2.

¹³ Zotović, Jordović 1990, Taf. LXXXVI/3 = G1-58.

¹⁴ Kreković 1994, p. 212, Fig. 5/1, 2, 6.

¹⁵ Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 65/832.

¹⁶ Curle 1911, Pl. 78/14.

Chronology.

The Lechința set of fittings represent a Danubian variant of the standard narrow 2nd century AD military belt. The Buch plate is dated around 150 AD, whereas the baluster-moulded bar from Eining-Unterfeld was deposited between 170 and 180 AD¹⁷. The funeral assemblage from the grave no. 2 at Tomis is also dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD¹⁸.

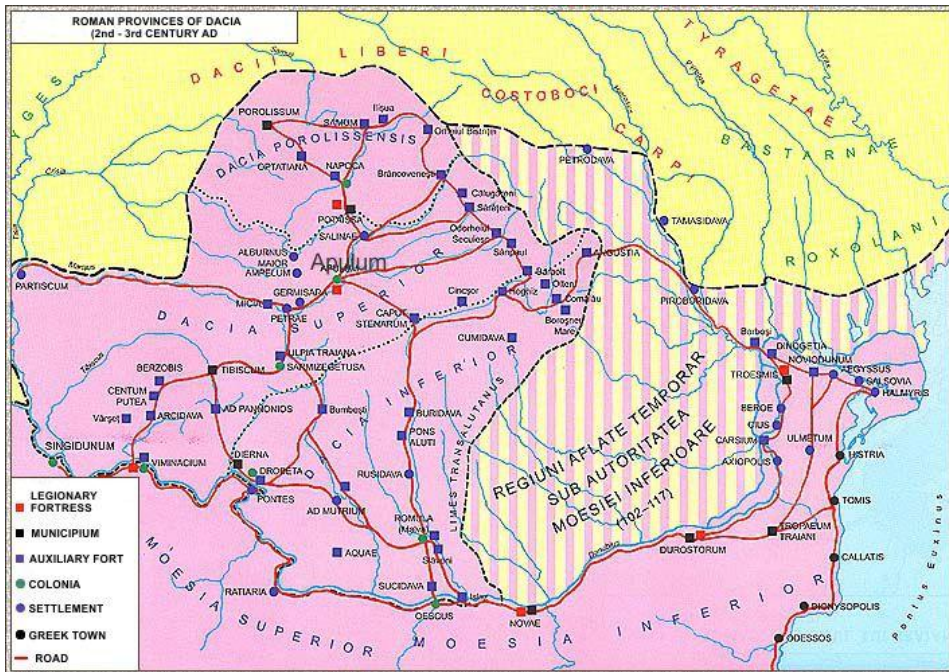


Fig. 3. Roman provinces of Dacia (2nd – 3rd c. AD) with the location of Apulum.

From these parallels, one can conclude that the narrow belt plates with central opening and baluster-moulded bar were only in fashion possibly from about 150 until at least 170-180 AD. A large number of belt fittings were found in eight graves of the cemeteries at Gerulata, rectangular mounts being the most frequent ones¹⁹. According to Oldenstein, they are thought to have been made from the last third of the 2nd century till the first half of the 3rd century AD. However, some finds from Gerulata indicate that they may belong to an earlier date. One mount (Fig. 5/6) was found together with a coin of Faustina the Elder (Faustina I – post 141 AD) in grave no. 69 of Cemetery I, and another one with the remains of a massive

¹⁷ Petculescu 1995, p. 111.

¹⁸ Petculescu 1998, p. 154.

¹⁹ Kreković 1994, p. 212.

bronze casserole presumably from the first half of the 2nd century (Fig.5/1) in grave no. 69 of the Cemetery II²⁰.

1.a. Detached baluster-moulded bars – Apulum - Inv. nos. 3484, 3491 (Pl. I/7, 6).

Solely baluster-moulded bars in the ancient collections of the Alba Iulia museum²¹ have parallels both in *Dacia* and other provinces of the Empire. A detached central baluster-shaped bar was recovered from the cremation grave inventory at Lechința de Mureș, which could constitute the missing central part of one of the plates nos. 4-5 from the same stock at best²². In Raetia, a detached baluster-moulded bar was found at Eining-Unterfeld in the supposed fortress of *Legio III Italica*, dated circa 170-180 AD²³. Another isolated baluster-moulded bar comes from Straubing²⁴.

Chronology. As previously.

2. Openwork plate with baluster-moulded bar – Inv. nos. 3633-3634 (Pl.II/1-2) – Type 2.

In *Dacia*, openwork plates of Type 2 from Apulum with double baluster-moulded bars cast in the same mould with the whole artefact were unearthed at Porolissum²⁵ - which have both peltate and ansate ends, Mehadia²⁶ - with peltate terminal and Ilișua²⁷ - which has no decorated ends.

Chronology. As previously.

3. Openwork plate with baluster-moulded bar – Inv. no. 3460 (Pl. I/5) – Type 3.

Items of Type 3 from Apulum with ansate terminals and single baluster-moulded bar cast in the same one-piece mould with the plate itself seem to be scarce. No exact parallel has been found. Despite their similarities as regards the *ansa*-shaped ends, but in the absence of a description of the items – it is very difficult to discern from the drawings if the baluster-moulded bars of the plates at

²⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 197.

²¹ Ciugudean 2012, p. 113, Pl. III/3-4.

²² Petculescu 1995, p. 111, Cat. no. 4, Pl. 7/4a.

²³ I Jütting, *Lesefunde aus dem römischen Lager Eining-Unterfeld*, 1992, no.117 – unpublished M. A. thesis, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität-München (apud Petculescu 1995, p. 143).

²⁴ Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 66/871.

²⁵ Gudea 1989, Pl. CCVI/13, p. 22-23; Gudea *et alii* 1992, p. 150, Fig. 22.

²⁶ Bozu 2000, p. 225, 1.16, Pl. II/3.

²⁷ Protase, Gaiu, Marinescu 1997, Pl. LXXVII/5.

Buch²⁸ and Gerulata²⁹ were cast apart and welded, or whether they were cast in the same one-piece mould with the proper plate.

Chronology. As previously.

4. Openwork in *opus interrasile* belt plate – Partoş - Inv. no. 3248 (Pl. II/6).

In *Dacia*, similar plates were unearthed in the forts at Buciumi³⁰, Porolissum³¹ and in the Roman farm at Gârla Mare³². Close parallels are known in other provinces of the Empire from Britannia to Mauretania Tingitana. Two items were found in Southern Pannonia at Siscia³³, while many others come from Saalburg³⁴ Stockstadt³⁵ Osterburken³⁶, Caerleon³⁷, Prysog Field³⁸, Caerwent³⁹ (Venta Silurum) and Volubilis⁴⁰.

Chronology.

The plates from Siscia are dated from the end of the 2nd century to the 3rd century AD⁴¹, or from the last third of the 2nd century to the middle of the 3rd century AD⁴². The two items, recovered from the drain-sink of the fortress baths at Caerleon with other scrap-metal objects brought together for smelting in the late 3rd century, are generally dated 160-230 AD⁴³. The examples at Volubilis in Mauretania Tingitana are ascribed to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD⁴⁴.

5. Openwork with blossom motifs belt plate – Moţilor Road – canabae, Not registered (Pl. II/3).

Openwork belt mounts with blossom motifs were recovered in *Dacia* from the forts at Ilişua⁴⁵, Porolissum⁴⁶, Gherla⁴⁷, Gilău⁴⁸ and Buciumi⁴⁹. A similar item

²⁸ Oldenstein 1976, p. 198, Taf. 65/832.

²⁹ Kreković 1994, p. 212, Fig. 5/2.

³⁰ Gudea 1972, Taf. LXXVI/3, 5; idem 1997, p. 71.

³¹ Gudea 1989, Pl. CCVII/3.

³² Stângă 2005, Pl. XXXIII/25-26.

³³ Migotti 1997, V.b.5; Radman-Livaja 2004, Pl. 42/280; Sellye Lakos 1941, p. 74, 93, Pl. XIX/6.

³⁴ Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 62/794.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, Taf. 62/787.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, Taf. 62/791.

³⁷ Zienkiewicz 1986, p. 175, Fig. 57/36-37.

³⁸ Nash-Williams 1932, p. 85, fig. 33/32-3.

³⁹ Bishop, Griffiths 1993, Fig. 1/4.

⁴⁰ Boube-Picot 1994, Pl. 12/110-111.

⁴¹ Migotti 1997, p. 64.

⁴² Radman-Livaja 2004, p. 94.

⁴³ Zienkiewicz 1986, p. 173.

⁴⁴ Boube-Picot 1994, p. 13.

⁴⁵ Protase, Gaiu, Marinescu 1997, Pl. LXXVII/7.

⁴⁶ Gudea 1989, Pl. CCVII/2.

⁴⁷ Găzdac 1995, Fig. 3/12.

was found among no. 5 grave goods from the rural settlement at Mărișelu⁵⁰. Similar belt plates are known in other provinces of the Empire at Zugmantel⁵¹, Stockstadt⁵², Osterburken⁵³ and Thamusida⁵⁴. A specimen with this decorative pattern variant was unearthed at Zwammerdam in Germania Inferior⁵⁵ while another one seems to originate from Thracia or Moesia Inferior⁵⁶.

Such plates are also present further to the West at Caerleon – fortress, baths, hospital⁵⁷ and in the Roman-British towns of Verulamium⁵⁸ and Chichester⁵⁹.

Chronology.

The rural grave at Mărișelu - as well as other ones situated behind the North-Eastern frontier of Dacia, assignable to colonists from Noricum and Pannonia - was dated to the first half of the 2nd century AD⁶⁰. The items from the Upper German *limes* at Stockstadt and Osterburken are dated from the middle of the 2nd century AD till about 260, the period of the so-called external *limes*, where they originate from⁶¹. The example at Zwammerdam, from the period II or III, could be dated to the last third of the 2nd century AD⁶².

The plates at Thamusida in Mauretania Tingitana are generally ascribed to the 2nd – 3rd centuries AD⁶³. The item recovered from the drain-sink of the fortress baths at Caerleon with other scrap-metal objects brought together for smelting in the late 3rd century are generally dated between 160 and 230 AD⁶⁴.

6. Rectangular plain-field plate – Inv. no. 3466 (Pl. II/7).

In *Dacia*, rectangular plain-field plates with treflate terminals are encountered at Porolissum⁶⁵, only two of them being decorated with “dot and circle” incisions⁶⁶. Two other decorated examples originate from the Roman

⁴⁸ Isac 1997, Fig. on page 10.

⁴⁹ Gudea 1972, p. 74, Taf. LXXVI/2, 4.

⁵⁰ Petculescu 1995, p. 108, Pl. 6/2.

⁵¹ Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 62/795.

⁵² *Ibidem*, Taf. 62/796.

⁵³ *Ibidem*, Taf. 62/797.

⁵⁴ Boube-Piccot 1994, p. 13, Pl. 11/107-108.

⁵⁵ Haalebos 1973, Abb. 16/39; 1977, p. 220, no. 39, Fig. 18/39.

⁵⁶ Fischer 1988, p. 169, fig. 1/7, Pl. 20/2.

⁵⁷ Nash-Williams 1932, 41, nr. 33, fig. 33/33; Evans, Metcalf 1992, p. 124, Cat. 90-92; Zienkiewicz 1986, p. 175, Cat. no. 38, Fig. 57/38.

⁵⁸ Bishop 1991, p. 23-4, 26, Fig. 5.1/B 3, 4.

⁵⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 25, 27, Fig. 5.2/C 3; Down, Rule 1971, Fig. 5/18.

⁶⁰ Petculescu 1995, p. 121.

⁶¹ *Ibidem*, p. 109; Oldenstein 1976, *passim*.

⁶² Oldenstein 1976, note 658.

⁶³ Boube-Piccot 1994, p. 13.

⁶⁴ Zienkiewicz 1986, p. 173.

⁶⁵ Gudea 1989, Pl. CCVI/1-9.

⁶⁶ *Ibidem*, Pl. CCVI/5-6.

custom house at Porolissum⁶⁷. Among the bronze artefacts from the fort at Bologa-Rescylvm, there is a rectangular mount with treplate ends, but lacking circular motifs⁶⁸. A rather similar plate was unearthed together with several Roman military equipment items into the “Barbarian” settlement at Medieșu Aurit - Satu Mare County⁶⁹.

Chronology.

As the circular incisions are supposed to be a later ornamental motif, this type of mount could be probably dated to the 3rd century AD⁷⁰.

7. Belt plate with zoomorphic ornament/dolphin - Inv. no. 3441 (Pl. II/5).

In Roman *Dacia*, two similar still unpublished pieces are pointed out at Buciumi and Stolniceni⁷¹. Another item identical to the Apulum one was unearthed in Barbaricum, in the proximity of the Dacian limes, at Mătăsaru⁷². In the other provinces of the Roman Empire, an almost similar iconic item is a plate simply in the shape of a dolphin, without a rectangular frame, which was recorded among the fittings recovered at Novae⁷³. The dolphin is perceived as a symbol of regeneration, prediction, wisdom and cautiousness. The dolphins are sacred, psychopomp animals, hence their role as protectors of souls in funerary rites, as they carry on their back the deceased to their last homes. Jesus Christ was also likened to a dolphin. Moreover, among fish, the dolphin was the favourite representation on the earliest Christian monuments⁷⁴.

Chronology.

This type of plates usually adorned narrow belts, their dating being thus related to these previous ones. It seems that the narrow rectangular openwork plates make up decorative fittings of the narrow belts fashionable in the Dacian province in the second half of the 2nd century AD⁷⁵.

8. Enamelled hinged buckle plate – Inv. no. 3614 (Pl. III/1).

Rectangular plates were usually provided with hinge loops for buckle attachment and with shanks on the reverse for fastening to the leather belt. Proper plate was decorated with recessed squares inlaid with coloured enamel portraying

⁶⁷ Gudea 1996, p. 266, Pl. LXXX/6-7.

⁶⁸ Gudea 1997a, p. 27.

⁶⁹ Dumitrașcu, Bader 1967, Pl. 16/7; Petculescu 1999, p. 899, Pl. 3/29.

⁷⁰ Petculescu 1999, p. 899.

⁷¹ *Ibidem*, p. 896.

⁷² Bichir 1984, pl. 57/2; Petculescu 1999, p. 896, Pl. 1/9.

⁷³ Gencheva 2009, p. 17, Fig. 4/4.

⁷⁴ DACL, IV, p. 1, col. 283-295; Danielou 1961; Brehier 1918, p. 33.

⁷⁵ Petculescu 1995, p. 111, Pl. 1/1; idem 1999, p. 896; Ciugudean 2012, p. 122.

geometrical, leaves or lobed shaped motifs. In *Dacia*, enamelled plates were unearthed at Tibiscum⁷⁶, Porolissum – Pomet fort, barrack IV⁷⁷ and *fabrica*⁷⁸, Buciumi fort, barrack no. 3⁷⁹ or at Ilişua⁸⁰. Another similar plate with partially preserved buckle was discovered in the fort at Răcari⁸¹. Typologically, the items from Roman Dacia have good parallels with the artefacts recovered from the other provinces, their similarity confirming the standardising of some military equipment fittings in the 2nd century AD. It is assumed that such products could be created in local workshops⁸², such as the one already known at Tibiscum. The items themselves have a leading functional purpose, and only a secondary ornamental aim. This could account for the simplicity of the enamelled decoration and for the fact that a similar pattern is also found on the buckle itself⁸³. In other provinces of the Empire, enamelled hinged buckle plates are known from the territory of Pannonia at Carnuntum⁸⁴, Tata⁸⁵, an identical item to the one at Apulum being unearthed at Brigetio⁸⁶.

Although they are spread throughout almost all the provinces of the Empire, Oldenstein points to the scarcity of this type of fittings in the German-Raetisch limes. Nonetheless, such items are recorded in the forts at Saalburg⁸⁷, Eulbach⁸⁸, Streke⁸⁹ or in the Raetian *vicus* at Regensburg-Kumpfmül⁹⁰. Similar enamelled plates appear in Britain at Manchester⁹¹, Corbridge⁹², Holt⁹³, Caerleon⁹⁴ and Chesters⁹⁵.

Chronology.

Oldenstein assumes that the enamelled plates from the German area could be dated to the middle of the 2nd century AD, or even earlier. In his analysis of the items from Britannia, Bishop considers that all of them come from sites that are Flavian or later foundations, and do not produce the typical pre-Flavian *niello*-

⁷⁶ Benea *et alii* 2004, p. 57-61; Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 120, Pl. XIX/1.

⁷⁷ Gudea, Tamba 1992, p. 318, Pl. XI/1; Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 120, Pl. XIX/2.

⁷⁸ Gudea, Tamba 1992, p. 318, nr. 2, Pl. XI/2; Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 121, Pl. XIX/3.

⁷⁹ Gudea, Tamba 1992, p. 318-319, Pl. XI/3; Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 121, Pl. XIX/4.

⁸⁰ Nemeti 2001, p. 97, no. 21, Pl. II/9; Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 121, Pl. XIX/5.

⁸¹ Bondoc, Gudea 2009, p. 212, Cat. no. 527, Pl. XCVII/527.

⁸² Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 120; Oldenstein 1976, *passim*.

⁸³ Bonis, Sellye 1988, pl. 23/1-3; Flügel *et alii* 2004, Abb. 1/1-2; 2/a/b; 6.

⁸⁴ Sellye 1939, p. 81, Pl. XIV, 1.

⁸⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 81, Pl. XIV, 2.

⁸⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 81, Pl. XIV, 3.

⁸⁷ Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 64/827, 830.

⁸⁸ *Ibidem*, Taf. 64/831.

⁸⁹ *Ibidem*, Taf. 64/829.

⁹⁰ *Ibidem*, Taf. 64/828; Faber 1994, pl. 148/10.

⁹¹ Bruton 1909, Pl. 102.3; Bishop 1993, Fig. 1.

⁹² Bishop 1993, Fig. 2.

⁹³ Grimes 1930, Fig. 56, 22.

⁹⁴ Evans, Metcalf 1992, p. 123, No. 88.

⁹⁵ Budge 1907, p. 376, No. 656/657.

inlaid plates. Moreover, they are invariably hinged buckle plates and always have three shanks for attachment to fairly narrow belts. In Bishop's opinion, these objects can be dated between 60 and 120 AD⁹⁶. One can distinguish between this type of enamelled plates from Roman Britain, which are usually decorated with leaves and lobed ornaments, and the similar items from the German-Raetian *limes* – which are decorated primarily with geometrical motifs. In addition to these artefacts, the last ones are dated later, the piece from Saalburg to the first half of the 2nd century AD, and that from Eulbach to the middle of the 2nd century AD⁹⁷.

9. Enamelled plate with *millefiori* – Inv. no. 3247 (Pl. III/2).

Besides the *champlevé*, there is another method generally known as *millefiori* enamel which applied to the decoration of metal a tiny flower, chequers, alternate lines of colour. Everything was then fused together into a single rod, the design being increased or diminished in size at will, as the rod was thickened or rolled out into a longer piece. While the rod was still hot, slices of the enamel could be cut from it, each reproducing exactly the same pattern. These slices formed a glass mosaic and could be applied on the flat metal surface of a brooch, plate or buckle, and fixed there through heat. *Millefiori* enamel occurs on several specimens, appearing even side by side with the simpler *champlevé* enamel on the same ornaments.

In *Dacia*, enamelled plates are known at Porolissum: one came from the fort on Pomet - *praetentura sinistra*⁹⁸ and a second one mentioned without the context of discovery⁹⁹. Another enamelled specimen was unearthed in the fort at Ilişua¹⁰⁰.

In other provinces of the Empire, an item of unknown origin is published from Pannonia¹⁰¹; in Raetia, two enamelled plates were recovered into the fort at Eining¹⁰². A buckle plate with the remains of a hinge, adorned similarly to the plate at Apulum - comes from the fort at Newstead¹⁰³. In a private collection in Germany, an artefact of unknown origin is to be noted, consisting of an enamelled *millefiori* belt plate, with a fastening circular button (frog) attached to one end¹⁰⁴. Isolated enamelled *millefiori* buckles belonging to some belt plates were recovered

⁹⁶ Bishop 1993, p. 19.

⁹⁷ Oldenstein 1976, p. 197.

⁹⁸ Gudea, Tamba 1992, p. 319, Pl. XII/2; Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 102, Pl. XIV/6.

⁹⁹ Gudea, Tamba 1992, p. 319, Pl. XII/3, 4; Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 102, Pl. XIV/4, 5.

¹⁰⁰ Protase *et alii* 1997, Pl. XXXVI/1; Miles Romanus 1997, Cat. no. 116; Antique Bronzes 2003, Cat. no. 346; Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 102, Pl. XIV/1; Dacia Augusti Provincia 2006, Cat. no. 197; Gaiu 2007, Cat. no. 104, Fig. 5/104, Pl. XV/104; Flügel *et alii* 2004, p. 539, Abb. 5/1.

¹⁰¹ Sellye 1939, Pl. XIV/9.

¹⁰² Flügel *et alii* 2004, p. 539, Abb. 5/2-3; Gschwind 2004, Taf. 48 C439; C440.

¹⁰³ Curle 1911, p. 332, Cat. no. 4, Pl. LXXXIX/25.

¹⁰⁴ Flügel *et alii* 2004, p. 539, Abb. 4.

in the Germanic area at Zugmantel and Osterburken¹⁰⁵ – dated around 160 AD as *terminus post quem*¹⁰⁶ – which are confirming the hypothesis that the buckles themselves were ornamented in the same style as the counter-plate and the plates per se. A similar piece recovered from the fort at Eining-Unterfeld is dated between 171 and 179 AD¹⁰⁷. One specimen was unearthed in the Roman fort at the Lawe, South Shields¹⁰⁸; a similar buckle was found at Saalburg¹⁰⁹ and another item was discovered at Carnuntum¹¹⁰. None of these last three specimens seems to have been found in circumstances which would enable it to be dated with certainty, but the Saalburg example was taken from a pit in the Civil Settlement, which is not believed to be earlier than the reign of Hadrian¹¹¹.

Chronology.

Since the specimens on the German *limes* were dated to 160 AD, respectively 171-179, this type of plates could be assigned to the six-eight decades of the 2nd century AD.

10. Enamelled belt plate with baluster moulded bar - Inv. no. 3459 (Pl. III/3).

Enamelled rectangular openwork plates with peltiform ends occur across the Empire from Britain, along the Rhine and Danube, to Syria. A similar example to the one from Apulum is published in *Dacia* from Porolissum. Considered to be a buckle with a broken end, but lacking traces of a hinge for certain assessment, this item of unknown place of discovery is part of the private collection of Dr. Alexandru Culcer from Cluj-Napoca¹¹². Some artefacts from other provinces of the Empire are coming from Pannonia at Carnuntum¹¹³, Csorna¹¹⁴ and Kömlöd¹¹⁵. Two other similar plates from Carlisle - Annetwell Street,¹¹⁶ and South Shields¹¹⁷ are known from Britannia, whereas a fragmentary mount with a rivet on the rear was unearthed on the German *limes* at Osterburken¹¹⁸. Two hinged buckle-plates of similar appearance were discovered at Saalburg¹¹⁹ and Osterburken¹²⁰.

¹⁰⁵ Oldenstein 1976, p. 49, Taf. 74/980, p. 982.

¹⁰⁶ Körtum 1998, p. 61-63 – Dendrodaten aus dem Limesgebiet - ; Flügel *et alii* 2004, p. 539.

¹⁰⁷ Jütting 1995, p. 194, Abb. 7, 36; Flügel *et alii* 2004, p. 539, Abb. 6.

¹⁰⁸ *Archaeologia Aeliana*, vol. X, 223, fig. 48, apud Curle 1911, p. 329.

¹⁰⁹ Jacobi 1897, Fig. 53.

¹¹⁰ *Der römische Limes in Österreich*, Heft VIII, p. 12, Fig. A.

¹¹¹ Curle 1911, p. 329.

¹¹² Gudea 1989, p. 677, Cat. no. 10, Pl. CCXXIII/10; Winkler, Culcer 1970, p. 544, no. 26.

¹¹³ Sellye 1939, p. 12, Pl. XIV/12; Bishop, Coulston 1993, Fig. 108/1.

¹¹⁴ Sellye 1939, p. 12, Pl. XIV/13.

¹¹⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 12, Pl. XIV/14.

¹¹⁶ Padley, Cracknell 1989, p. 27-28, Fig. 1, Type 2, Fig. 2/3.

¹¹⁷ Curle 1911, p. 329-330, Fig. 48; Allason-Jones, Miket 1984, p. 94, 3.10, Pl. VI; p. 96, 3.11, Pl. VI; Bishop, Coulston 1993, p. 153.

¹¹⁸ Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 63/810.

¹¹⁹ *Ibidem*, Taf. 63/809.

Between the traditional *niello*-inlaid belt plates of the first century AD¹²¹ and later examples of the enamel inlaid variety from the second and third centuries, our knowledge is deficient. There are vague indications that enamel inlaid belt plates were beginning to appear in the early second century, possibly in the pre-Antonine period, when enamel was not a favoured medium for decorating military equipment¹²². In a very useful study of the basic material constituting enamelled items from Britain¹²³, different objects have been analysed to determine what colours were used, or in which combinations they were employed. For the Roman pieces under review, the results yielded that copper was used extensively to colour red, green and blue, though in some cases blue was produced by cobalt¹²⁴. Tin oxide produced opaque white, while lead antimonate and calcium antimonate were common opacifiers and could also be the colorants of the yellow and white enamels¹²⁵. Among some of the most outstanding Roman relics are those bearing *millefiori* decoration, whose problem lies in the method of application. The two possible methods were: either the slices have been used as inlay in that they lie on a bed of red enamel which acts as an adhesive to hold them in place, or they have been placed directly on the metal and fired in the same way as an enamel, being given enough heat to make them adhere, but not enough to distort the pattern¹²⁶.

Recent neutron and X-ray analysis made on an enamelled with *millefiori* belt plate from a private collection in Germany has revealed that the enamel was actually put on an intermediary layer of organic nature 0.1 mm thick, for a better consolidation¹²⁷.

Enamelled artefacts became popular all across the European provinces of the Roman Empire after Caesar conquered Gallia. From that moment, one can notice the dissemination of a large variety of the daily-life clothing accessories, as well as of the enamelled fittings for military equipment and harness. The *millefiori* technique of enamelling by using polychrome glass rods is introduced starting with the 1st century AD - with the middle of the 3rd century AD being the peak of the enamelled items' dispersal. The production of these adornments ceased in the workshops from Northern Gaul, the Rhine borders and Belgium under the barbarians attacks on the Roman provinces of the Empire. Moreover, the enamelling workshops are quite few and mostly uncertain, their functioning necessitating knowledge of both metal casting and glass melting. A large number of bronze enamelled pieces was discovered near Namur (Belgium), where the biggest *officina* from the Empire was identified in the *villa rustica* from Anthée. In Roman *Dacia*, there are 20 centres with bronze workshops in the civilian and

¹²⁰ *Ibidem*, Taf. 63/811.

¹²¹ Grew, Griffiths 1991, p. 47-84.

¹²² Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 64/826-831; Allason-Jones 1988, p. 105.

¹²³ Bateson 1981.

¹²⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 71.

¹²⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 74-75.

¹²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 94.

¹²⁷ Flügel *et alii* 2004, p. 534, Abb. 2/1-5.

military environments. They were identified after the burning installations, the melting pots, the moulds, fabrication scrap, unfinished pieces¹²⁸, but only those from Tibiscum, Buciumi and Porolissum seem certain¹²⁹. So far, there are no archaeological evidences to sustain – as supposed - the existence of such *fabricae* inside the legion forts from Apulum and Potaissa. However, an inscription from *Apulum* mentions two *conductores armamentarii* named Turranius Marcellinus and Antonius Senecio Junior¹³⁰. As merchants, these two probably “leased” the *militaria* (weapons and equipment) supply for the XIIIth Gemina Legion and perhaps all of Dacia. One cannot therefore exclude the assumption of the functioning of a specialised workshop at Apulum, although the “*militaria*” could be imported from all over the Empire on the free market. Otherwise, as it is well-known, during the rule of Maximinus Trax and Gordian the 3rd, the workshop at Mediolanum produced for the army¹³¹.

As regards the spread of the enamelled bronzes in Dacia, one should mention the presence of imported items (clothing accessories, military and equine equipment) from the Western Rhenan area or from Namur to the middle of the 2nd century AD. Imports and local provincial manufactured pieces coexisted from the last decades of the 2nd century to the 3rd century AD¹³².

Chronology.

This type of plates are also highlighted at Vimose and Novaesium, and are dated by Oldenstein to the middle of the 2nd century AD¹³³ while the example from Dura Europos¹³⁴ could not have been buried before 165 AD. A piece almost identical to the one from Apulum, dated to the first half of the 3rd century AD, comes from the fort at Mautern-Favianis¹³⁵.

11. Openwork plates with trumpet motif/ornaments - Inv. nos. : 3627; R.9397; not registered; 3628; 3631; 3632; 3635; 3254; R.9133: (Pl. IV/1-10, VII/1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12).

The so-called “Trompetenmuster” ornament of many belt and harness mounts is considered by Celtic influence and tradition¹³⁶. In *Dacia*, plates with trumpet -shaped ornaments were recovered from the forts at Buciumi¹³⁷, Slăveni¹³⁸

¹²⁸ Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 152.

¹²⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 161.

¹³⁰ IDR III, p. 5, 285: S.I.M. Turranius Marcellinus et Ant. Senecio conductores armament(ari) posuerunt.

¹³¹ Oldenstein 1976, p. 82-87.

¹³² Benea *et alii* 2006, p. 161.

¹³³ Oldenstein 1976, p. 196-7, footnote no. 663.

¹³⁴ Frisch, Toll 1949, Taf. 9/31; Bishop, Coulston 1993, Fig. 108/4.

¹³⁵ Gassner *et alii* 2000, p. 335, Abb. 245/3.

¹³⁶ Allason-Jones 1984, p. 222, 224; Bishop, Coulston 1993, p. 157; Schleiermacher 2000, p. 184.

¹³⁷ Gudea 1972, Pl. 75/3.

¹³⁸ Tudor 1970, p. 82.

and Gherla¹³⁹. Five such items are present in the collections of the Zalău museum without certain place of discovery¹⁴⁰.

From other provinces of the Empire, similar specimens are known from Pernik and Novae¹⁴¹, Burgenae¹⁴², Intercisa¹⁴³, or Carnuntum.¹⁴⁴ Plates with trumpet-shaped ornaments were unearthed in the German area at Saalburg¹⁴⁵, Faimingen¹⁴⁶, Gnotzheim¹⁴⁷ and Zugmantel¹⁴⁸. Similarly decorated examples appear from Dura Europos¹⁴⁹ to the Western provinces at Richborough – Grave no. 186¹⁵⁰, South Shields¹⁵¹, Aldborough¹⁵² and Ulpia Noviomagus Batavorum¹⁵³.

Chronology.

Considering that the assemblage inventory of the grave no. 186, the plate at Richborough is dated between 125 and 170 AD. Oldenstein is dating the plates with trumpet-shaped ornaments to the middle of the 2nd century AD and the beginning of the 3rd century AD.¹⁵⁴ In the inventory of the grave no. 26 from Carnuntum, in addition to the plate under discussion there are also two coins of Nerva (98-117 AD) and Hadrian (117-138 AD), which support an earlier dating of this fitting type. As regards the plates from Alba Iulia – Profi Mall point, they belong to the inventory of the inhumation grave no. 13, together with a trapezoid-shaped bronze buckle, a jug and a coin of Antoninus Pius (138-161 AD). Based upon information received from archaeologists, it is a child burial, whose skeleton was deposited in a simple rectangular pit¹⁵⁵. The buckle and the three trumpet-shaped mounts constitute the accessories of an incomplete belt set suggesting a relationship with the Roman army. Given that we are speaking about a very young deceased – a plausible explanation is that he had yet to become a soldier in the Roman army.

12. Openwork square plates with pelta-shaped ornament – Grave no. 19/Trench XXXII Northern necropolis – Stația de salvare (Pl. V/1, IX/9); Inv. no.:

¹³⁹ Găzdac 1995, p. 403, Fig. 3/20-21.

¹⁴⁰ Gudea 1989, p. 653-654, Pl. CCXI/6-10.

¹⁴¹ Gencheva 2009, Fig. 4/1, 2.

¹⁴² Radman-Livaja 2008, p. 298, No. 19.

¹⁴³ Intercisa II 1957, Taf. 78, 16.

¹⁴⁴ Ertel *et alii* 1999, Taf. 25/7.

¹⁴⁵ Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 69/908.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, Taf. 69/900, 909, 911.

¹⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, Taf. 69/910.

¹⁴⁸ Schleiermacher 2000, p. 184, Taf. 7/16-23; Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 70/932.

¹⁴⁹ Frisch, Toll 1949, Pl. 16/144-145.

¹⁵⁰ Busche-Fox 1949, pl. XL, no. 151.

¹⁵¹ Allason-Jones, Miket 1984, p. 3.766-7, 3.768.

¹⁵² Bishop 1996, p. 73, Fig. 39/446.

¹⁵³ Enckevort, Thijssen 2001/2, Fig. 8.

¹⁵⁴ Oldenstein 1976, p. 207.

¹⁵⁵ Dragotă, Rustoiu 2003, p. 133, Ib.

R.10057 (**Pl. V/2**); R.10344 (Not illustrated); R.10844 (**Pl. VII/2**).

The four openwork square plates with pelta-shaped ornament at Apulum have good parallels in *Dacia* at Potaissa¹⁵⁶, Porolissum¹⁵⁷, Copăceni – *Praetorium I* fort¹⁵⁸ and the Bumbesti-Jiu – fort¹⁵⁹. Two items identical to those from Apulum were found in the Roman *vicus* at Cristești¹⁶⁰. In other provinces of the Empire, a similar appliqué of unknown location was discovered on the present territory of Bulgaria¹⁶¹.

Chronology.

In his well-known work, Oldenstein dates two similar plates with different central ornament recovered at Buch (no.1088) and Pfünz (no.1089) to the end of the 2nd century AD – the beginning of the 3rd century AD¹⁶². The plate from Alba Iulia – Stația de salvare is part of the inventory of the grave no. 19, trench XXXII – a cremation to the *ustrinum* grave and it may have been fixed on the *balteus* instead of the *cingulum*. The other fittings of the grave were a ring-shaped bronze buckle, three bronze studs with fungiform head, two bronze strap terminals, a bronze T-shaped brooch and a coin from Faustina II (161-176 AD). The belts belonging to the *Ring/Rahmenschnallencingulum* type generally date from the 3rd century AD¹⁶³. This dating is supported by the coin from Faustina II, which represents a *terminus post-quem*, but which could have also been used for a long period and placed into the grave at a later date, during the 3rd century AD¹⁶⁴.

13. Letter-shaped mounts – appliqués - Inv. nos. 3488, R.9398 (**Pl. V/3-4**).

Letter-shaped mounts were identified as fittings from belt sets with “VTERE FELIX” inscription and wish at the same time. In *Dacia*, the closest parallels for the mounts from Apulum are known to be at the Deva museum - an item in the form of letter “F” probably originating from Micia¹⁶⁵, and two others, in the form of letter “E” from the fort at Slăveni¹⁶⁶. An R-shaped appliqué¹⁶⁷ and two fragments in the form of the letters “F”¹⁶⁸ and ”V”¹⁶⁹ from the collections of the

¹⁵⁶ Bărbulescu 1994, fig. 16/4; idem 1997, Fig. 29/4.

¹⁵⁷ Gudea 1989, p. 644, Pl. CCVI/27-31.

¹⁵⁸ Tudor 1982, fig. 2/2.

¹⁵⁹ Marinou 2004, Pl. LXVIII/8.

¹⁶⁰ Man 2011, p. 197, Cat. no. 22-23, Pl. CXLVIII/22-23.

¹⁶¹ Gencheva 2009, Fig. 5/3.

¹⁶² Oldenstein 1976, p. 207, Taf. 82/1088-9.

¹⁶³ Oldenstein 1976, p. 222-3; v. Schnurbein 1977, p. 89-90; Coulston 1987, p. 143; Fischer 1988, p. 189-190.

¹⁶⁴ Ciugudean D – H 2000, p. 209; idem 2000a, p. 344.

¹⁶⁵ Petculescu 1991, p. 395, no. 4, Fig. 74.1/4.

¹⁶⁶ Tudor 1978, Fig. 81/1; Amon 2004, p. 152, Rep.BXXV, 7-8, Pl. XXXIX/5-6.

¹⁶⁷ Gudea 1989, Pl. CCXIII/1.

¹⁶⁸ *Ibidem*, Pl. CCXIII/2.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibidem*, Pl. CCXIII/3.

Zaláu Museum of History and Arts were unearthed more than probably at Porolissum. Two V-shaped specimens tied to a profiled terminal, originating from Micia, are kept in storage at the Cluj-Napoca museum¹⁷⁰. In the Danubian provinces of the Empire, isolated letter mounts were discovered at Brigetio¹⁷¹, Siscia¹⁷², Teutoburgium¹⁷³ and Burgenae¹⁷⁴. From Pannonia, letter-shaped mounts from Intercisa¹⁷⁵ and Brigetio were also published¹⁷⁶.

A complete belt set and a baldric bearing the inscription "VTERE FELIX" came to light from the famous grave of a soldier at Lyon.¹⁷⁷ An almost entirely preserved belt set - of "R and "E" letter-mounts, some missing but some preserving also two articulated strap terminals with trumpet motifs - was unearthed at Varaždinske Toplice, inside the Southern annex of the baths' basilica¹⁷⁸. Since the thermal complex in *Aquae Iasae* did not serve an exclusively secular purpose, but also played the role of a sanctuary because of its spring, it seems quite probable that the belt set was deposited as a votive gift by a soldier during his sojourn to the thermal baths¹⁷⁹.

Another interesting discovery originates from the village of Ljublen in Bulgaria, where a husband and wife couple was buried in an enclosed tumulus. The man was obviously a physician, judging by the grave goods which, - in addition to medical instruments, also contained his belt decorated with silver letter-shaped mounts spelling the wish "VTERE FELIX", from which only the letter "L" was missing¹⁸⁰. L. Petculescu also believes that the deceased at Ljublen had been in the army, as a military physician¹⁸¹.

It seems that the distribution area of "VTERE FELIX" type belts is limited along the Middle and Lower Danubian frontier as a distinctive part of the military outfit typical of the troops in the Danubian provinces, in the period between the last quarter of the 2nd until approximately the middle of the 3rd century AD, perhaps as late as 270¹⁸². Exceptionally, the outlying specimens at Lyon and Dura Europos may be explained by the presence of Danubian troops there¹⁸³. Depending on their size and embellishing technology, one can distinguish two categories of plates: a) simple, undecorated letters of small size (between 2 and 3.2 cm) like those at

¹⁷⁰ Petculescu 1991, p. 392, Fig. 74/2, 1; Dacia Augusti Provincia 2006, p. 148, Cat. no. 129, 131.

¹⁷¹ Bullinger 1972, p. 282, fig. 3/d-h.

¹⁷² Radman-Livaja 2004, p. 95, Pl. 43/286-287.

¹⁷³ Radman-Livaja 2005, p. 940-1, Cat. no. 21.

¹⁷⁴ Radman-Livaja 2008, p. 298, No. 20-27.

¹⁷⁵ Tóth 1981, p. 147-8, Abb. 1/40.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibidem*, Abb. 2.

¹⁷⁷ Bullinger 1972, fig. 2/a; Wuilleumier 1950, p. 146-148; Ulbert 1974, p. 213, Abb. 4; Waurik 1989, p. 51, Fig. 6; Feugère 1993, p. 148-149; Bishop, Coulston 1993, Fig. 92.

¹⁷⁸ Galić, Radman-Livaja 2006, p. 182.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibidem*.

¹⁸⁰ Ovčarov 1979, p. 33-34.

¹⁸¹ Petculescu 1991, p. 392-4.

¹⁸² Petculescu 1991, p. 392-4, 1995, p. 119; Ulbert 1974, p. 213; Oldenstein 1976, p. 88.

¹⁸³ Bishop, Coulston 1993, p. 153.

Apulum, Micia, Porolissum, Slăveni, Brigetio, Lyon which were fastened by rivets on narrow belts, fashionable especially in the 2nd century AD. The grave of the soldier at Lyon is dated to the year 197 AD, when the battle between Albinus and the army of Septimius Severus took place, and that soldier was killed; b) openwork decorated with highly stylized tendrils and lotus blossom motifs larger letter mounts (4.5-5 cm) riveted on broad belts, as the finds at Bruuiu¹⁸⁴, Buciumi¹⁸⁵, Romanași¹⁸⁶, Ilișua¹⁸⁷, Gherla¹⁸⁸, Potaissa and Slăveni¹⁸⁹ reveal. The grave at Bruuiu is dated to the middle of the 3rd century AD¹⁹⁰, the example at Potaissa is placed between 222 and 271 AD, and the one at Slăveni around 250 AD¹⁹¹. These broader belts decorated with letter mounts forming the inscription “VTERE FELIX” were worn both by infantrymen and cavalrymen in *Dacia*.

These belts form a link between narrow belts with letter-shaped mounts which spelled the motto “VTERE FELIX” dated around 200 AD¹⁹², and the 4th century belts with “VTERE FELIX” wish incised inscriptions on their buckles¹⁹³.

Chronology.

Given the smaller size and the simplicity of the letter-shaped mounts at Apulum, I assume that they adorned narrow belts and should be dated around 200 AD. The belt set at Varaždinske Toplice was dated to the last quarter of the 2nd until the middle of the 3rd century AD. The items of the funeral assemblage, together with a coin retrieved among them, allowed to date the grave at Ljuben to the end of the first quarter of the 3rd century AD, the author ascribing him to a member of the local aristocracy¹⁹⁴.

14. Simple pelta-shaped plates (Pl. V/5-8, VII/4, X/5).

The so-called *Beschläge in Peltaform*, with one or two attaching rivets, could garnish both the *cingulum*, as the grave no. 7 at Mangolding¹⁹⁵, near Regensburg, revealed, and also form parts of the harness gear, as many archaeological discoveries attest it¹⁹⁶. This type of belt or harness ornament seems to be very popular in most of the Empire's provinces from Mauretania Tingitana to *Dacia*¹⁹⁷. In *Dacia*, similar mounts were unearthed at Porolissum¹⁹⁸ and in the

¹⁸⁴ Petculescu 1995, p. 130-131, Pl. 3/5-8.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 119 and footnote no. 194- unpublished item.

¹⁸⁶ *Ibidem*, and footnote no. 196 – unpublished item.

¹⁸⁷ *Ibidem*, and footnote no. 197 - unpublished item.

¹⁸⁸ Găzdac 1995, p. 404, Fig. 3/25-26.

¹⁸⁹ Petculescu 1989, p. 392-3, Fig. 74,1.

¹⁹⁰ Petculescu 1995, p. 120.

¹⁹¹ Petculescu 1991, p. 394.

¹⁹² Bishop, Coulston 1993, p. 153.

¹⁹³ Bullinger 1972, p. 276-8, Fig. 1, a-c; Petculescu 1995, p. 119.

¹⁹⁴ Ovčarov 1979, p. 33-4, 37-45.

¹⁹⁵ Fischer 1990, Pl. 126B, 2; Gschwind 1998, p. 121.

¹⁹⁶ Bishop, Coulston 1993, p. 157, Fig. 112/9; Gschwind 1998, p. 120-121.

¹⁹⁷ Gschwind 1998, p. 136-137, Liste 6.

fort's bath at Romita.¹⁹⁹ Delta-shaped plates are known in other provinces of the Empire at Aquileia²⁰⁰, Zugmantel²⁰¹, Siscia²⁰² and Brigetio²⁰³.

Chronology.

The examples recovered from graves in Germania are dated in connection with the other items of the funeral assemblage during the first half of the 3rd century AD²⁰⁴.

15. Double shield-shaped mount - Inv. no. R.10374 (Pl. VII/7).

In *Dacia*, an item almost identical and closer in proportions (4.5 x 1.8 cm) to the one from Apulum is known at Prolisum.²⁰⁵ A double-shield shaped mount without a central lozenge-shaped mound from the belt or the horse harness²⁰⁶ is present in the collections of the Deva museum, discovered together with other military equipment fittings at Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa. Two other items similar to the previous one are known from fortuitous discoveries made in the area of the Gherla fort²⁰⁷.

In his survey of auxiliary equipment in use on the Upper German–Raetian frontier in the second and early third centuries AD, Oldenstein analyses only simple shield-shaped mounts²⁰⁸ of varying dimensions which are dominate those in the form of double shield. They are thought to be either belt fittings - as with the mount at Thamusida²⁰⁹, or more often as horse gear, as it is the case of the find at Alteburg bei Zell²¹⁰. Close analogies to the last item are also known from Novaesium, Halloy, Voerendaal, Vierherrenborn, Carnuntum, Bürgle bei Gundremmingen and York²¹¹.

Unadorned larger double shield-shaped mounts are known at Aquileia²¹² and Zugmantel²¹³. A smaller specimen (3 x 1.4 cm) was found on a leather belt

¹⁹⁸ Gudea 1989, p. 651, Pl. CCX/6-13.

¹⁹⁹ Matei, Bajusz 1997, p. 13, Pl. XCII/3, 4.

²⁰⁰ Buora 2001, Tab. 2/6; 3/3.

²⁰¹ Schleiermacher 2000, p. 186, Taf. 8/1-4.

²⁰² Radman-Livaja 2004, Pl. 73/524-525.

²⁰³ Barkóczy 1948, p. 170, 177, Pl. XXX/24, Pl. XXXIII/2.

²⁰⁴ Oldenstein 1976, p. 181.

²⁰⁵ Gudea 1989, p. 647, Pl. CCVIII/16.

²⁰⁶ Dawson 1990, p. 7, Cat. no. 5, Fig. 3/5.

²⁰⁷ Găzdac 1995, p. 408, Cat. nr. 96-97, Fig. 11/96-97.

²⁰⁸ Oldenstein 1976, p. 190-193, Taf. 59/733-740, 742.

²⁰⁹ Boube-Picot 1994, p. 13, Pl. 68/97.

²¹⁰ Gschwind 1998, p. 123, Abb. 4/5.

²¹¹ *Ibidem*, footnote no. 79, with bibliography.

²¹² Buora 2001, p. 48, Tab. 2/2,3.

²¹³ Oldenstein 1976, Taf. 65/854.

from a “Pferdegeschirrkolektivfund” at Zugmantel which was dated to the beginning of the 3rd century AD²¹⁴.

Chronology.

The example in Mauretania is included in the large category of the belt mounts widely dated to the 2nd – 3rd centuries AD²¹⁵.

16. Rectangular openwork plate with a *kantharos* ornament – Alba Iulia, Northern necropolis – Stația de salvare (Pl. II/8).

I did not find parallels for the analysed mount in the available literature until present-day. The wine drinking vessel to the Greeks and Romans, the *kantharos* was considered Dionysus’ specific receptacle, often appearing in this deity’s hands as well as in those of his acolytes²¹⁶. Liber-Dionysus and his attributes, including the *kantharos* are frequent images on the funeral symbolic from across Roman Empire²¹⁷, but also from *Dacia*²¹⁸. The *kantharos* has the largest occurrence as a funerary symbol on gravestones both in *Dacia*²¹⁹ and in other provinces of the Empire²²⁰. The *kantharos* is depicted on 15 funerary monuments from *Apulum* – which is the largest occurrence in *Dacia*²²¹. In this case, such statistics are supported by the functioning of a Liber Pater sanctuary, whose ruins have been found on the territory of *Colonia Aurelia Apulensis*²²². Two marble statues of the god holding a *kantharos* in the right hand, accompanied by the panther and Pan²²³, as well as broken *kantharos* vessels ritually deposited in cult pits²²⁴, originate from there. This is a clue that the cult of Dionysus had a substantial number of followers in the community from *Apulum*, as a consequence of its spreading into the most diverse milieu of the society, starting especially with the 2nd century²²⁵. The image of *kantharos* is represented at *Apulum* on various archaeological artefacts such as lamps²²⁶ or bone²²⁷ and bronze hairpins²²⁸

²¹⁴ Oldenstein 1976, p. 199-200, Taf. 65/855; Schleiermacher 2000, p. 174, Taf. 1/18.

²¹⁵ Boube-Piccot 1994, p. 13.

²¹⁶ *DA*, I, 2, p. 893 and footnote 8, s.v. *kantharos*.

²¹⁷ Bruhl 1953, p. 145-159; Cumont 1966, p. 209, 418-9.

²¹⁸ Bărbulescu 1984, p. 189.

²¹⁹ Daicoviciu 1968, p. 333-352; Floca, Wolski 1973, p. 38-40; Rusu-Bolindeț 1994, p. 115-6.

²²⁰ Bruhl 1953, p. 316-330; Turcan 1966, *passim*.

²²¹ Rusu-Bolindeț 1994, p. 117.

²²² Diaconescu, Piso 1993, p. 68-69; Diaconescu, Schaeffer 1997.

²²³ Diaconescu 2001, *passim*.

²²⁴ Fiedler 2005, p. 106, Abb. 9/1, p. 113, Abb. 11/1.

²²⁵ Bruhl 1953, p. 330.

²²⁶ Băluță 1994, p. 207, no. 60-62, pl. V/1-3.

²²⁷ Ciugudean 1996, p. 36, Fig. 1/3; 1997, p. 23-24, Cat. no. 139, Pl. XI/3; idem 2001, p. 64, Fig. 8/3; Catalogue 2011, p. 62, Cat. no. 56.

²²⁸ Moga 1987, p. 168, Fig. 9/5, cremation grave no. 7; Ciugudean 1996, p. 35-36, Fig. 1/1-2; idem 2001, p. 64, Fig. 8/1-2; Catalogue 2011, p. 49, Cat. nos. 5, 6.

discovered in the Northern necropolis at the Stația de salvare point, as well as in the Southern necropolis on Dealul Furcilor-Podei²²⁹. The offering practice of depositing some objects related in one way or another to the Dionysian creeds into the graves are a manner of expressing the affiliation to a Bacchic brotherhood, or the hope that Dionysus will provide salvation and an existence full of joy to the deceased²³⁰ in the underworld. Considering the variety of artefacts exhibiting the ornamental motif of *kantharos*, one can conclude that this is a typical “pattern” for the Apulum centre, as it is not to be found on similar examples from Dacia or the Empire – at least as concerns the belt plates. However, a *phalera* from Belgrade City Museum, with an openwork motif of *kantharos* and vine scrolls comes from an unknown site in the vicinity of Singidunum²³¹.

Chronology.

Taking into account the shape and the fine manner in which the item was manufactured, the author asserts that it is mostly resembling the finds from the North African *limes*, which can be dated back to the period of the Severian dynasty²³².

17. Anchor-shaped openwork plate - Inv. no. 10059 (Pl. VI/6).

In the literature available to me, this type of plate has various descriptions such as heart-shaped, anchor-shaped or a curvilinear design forming a floral ornament.

A plate closely similar to the one from Apulum was unearthed in *Dacia* into the camp at Răcari²³³. Larger plates of the same type are also known from Răcari²³⁴, Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa²³⁵ and the camp at Sâmbotin²³⁶. Three elongated items, without inside peltate piercings, were found, together with a buckle, two pelta-shaped plates with attachment rings, two bipartite strap terminals and a coin, in the inhumation burial no. 1 from the Northern Roman cemetery at Tomis²³⁷. The coin, an *as* from Faustina I was issued by Antoninus Pius post 141 AD, but most probably after 148 AD²³⁸. Openwork plates with peltas and a

²²⁹ Catalogue 2011, p. 49, Cat. no. 7.

²³⁰ Bruhl 1953, p. 324.

²³¹ Vujovic 2003, p. 223, Pl. I/7; idem 2013, p. 38, Pl. V/5.

²³² *Ibidem*.

²³³ Tudor 1965, p. 248, Fig. 8/7, p. 249, no. 15; idem 1978, p. 295, Fig. 83/7; Amon 2004, p. 148, 243, Rep.B XX,34, Pl. XXXVIII/9; Bondoc, Gudea 2009, p. 215, Cat. no. 548, Pl. XCIX/548.

²³⁴ Tudor 1965, p. 246, no. 11, Fig. 7/11; idem 1978, p. 295, Fig. 83/21; Amon 2004, p. 148, 243, Rep.B XX/33, Pl. XXXVIII/8; Bondoc, Gudea 2009, p. 213, Cat. no. 534, Pl. XCVII/534.

²³⁵ Dawson 1990, p. 7, cat. no. 15, Pl. I/15, Fig. 2/15.

²³⁶ Amon 2004, p. 149, 255-6, Rep.B XXIII/3, Pl. XXXVIII/7.

²³⁷ Petculescu 1998, p. 153, Fig. 1/1.

²³⁸ *Ibidem*, footnote no. 8.

terminal in the shape of an anchor were also found at Magdalensberg²³⁹, Schirenhof²⁴⁰ and Pfünz²⁴¹. Other parallels are encountered on the Raetian *limes* into the funeral assemblage of the grave no. 10 from Neuburg an der Donau cemetery²⁴², unearthed together with a buckle and four other plates²⁴³ that belong to a set of belt fittings²⁴⁴. A bigger and more elaborated openwork plate than the specimen at Apulum was recovered from an unknown place of discovery on the present territory of Bulgaria²⁴⁵. Another parallel resulted from Dura Europos²⁴⁶.

Chronology.

This type of plates were dated to the middle of the 2nd century AD²⁴⁷, to the third quarter of the 2nd century AD²⁴⁸, or between the middle and the second half of the 2nd century AD²⁴⁹.

18. Baldric fastener (*phalera*) – Apulum - Inv. no. 3463 (Pl. V/10).

The baldric, the shoulder strap or sword belt – *balteus*²⁵⁰ - was worn both by legionary and auxiliares troops. Often called *phalerae* – the balteus fasteners display utterly plain or richer ornaments such as the eagle clutching thunder-bolts, peltae, hearts, trumpet, swastika openworks. More elaborate openwork phalerae type bear annular inscriptions that read OPTIME MAXIME CONSERVA, VTERE FELIX or OMNIUM MILITANTIUM²⁵¹. Jürgen Oldenstein is the first scholar who ascribed the most adequate nomination to these elements of equipment – *Balteusschliessen* – by discussing not only the formal make-up, but also their functional role. This was possible by analysing the representations on funerary stones or milites statues²⁵², reconstructing therefore their usage²⁵³.

²³⁹ Deimel 1987, Taf. 78/3.

²⁴⁰ Oldenstein 1976, p. 132, Taf. 32/242.

²⁴¹ *Ibidem*, Taf. 32/243, 245.

²⁴² Hübener 1963/64, Abb. 4/152, 155.

²⁴³ *Ibidem*, Abb. 4/151, 153-4, 156-7.

²⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 25, Abb. 5; Oldenstein 1976, p. 134, Abb. 1a.

²⁴⁵ Gencheva 2009, Fig. 2/11.

²⁴⁶ Frisch, Toll 1949, p. 22, no. 56, Pl. V.

²⁴⁷ Oldenstein 1976, p. 136.

²⁴⁸ Petculescu 1998, p. 153.

²⁴⁹ Gencheva 2009, p. 27.

²⁵⁰ Varro *De Lingua V*, 114; Plinius *Hist.Nat.* XXXII, 152; Tacitus *Hist.* I, 57; Bishop, Coulston 1993, p. 96; Connolly 1998, p. 234; Ilkjær 2002, p. 82-97.

²⁵¹ Oldenstein 1976, p. 223-6, Cat. no. 1092-6, Taf. 83 and note 756 with bibliography; Sellye Lakos 1941, p. 94, Pl. XX/3, 4, 6; Frisch, Toll 1949, Pl. I, II/9, 12; Boube-Piccot 1980, No.199-201, 386, 478-9, 562; Allason-Jones 1986; Petculescu 1991, p. 394-5; Bishop, Coulston 1993, p. 130-135, Fig. 91/1-8, 92/4; Bishop 1996, p. 67, Fig. 37/422; Radman Livaja 2004, p. 95-6, Pl. 46/311; James 2004, p. 62, 72-4, Cat. no. 18-22; Ilkjær 2002, p. 96-7; Alexandrescu 2007, p. 242-9.

²⁵² Oldenstein 1976, p. 226-234, Cat. no. 1105-1125, Taf. 84-86, Abb. 13-14.

²⁵³ *Ibidem*, Abb. 11-12.

Their function was recognised only in the second half of the 20th century, as a result of the detailed analysis of the artefacts on broad leather belts very well preserved from the Danish bogs at Thorsbjerg²⁵⁴, Vimose²⁵⁵, and also those from the necropolis at Simris²⁵⁶. Exceptional archaeological finds consisting of 15,000 Roman, as well as Scandinavian, weapons and military equipment spoils of war which were deliberately damaged (bent and broken, chopped into pieces) during a sacred ritual, before being sacrificed by depositing them into the lake, were uncovered from Illerup Ådal tell. These most impressive archaeological finds of our time came to light starting with 1950 after 18 years of excavations, investigations, research and conservation²⁵⁷.

At Illerup, 60 sets of baldrics with a few types of mounts could be distinguished, of which 44 are Germanic and 16 Roman²⁵⁸. The Germanic type of baldric is characterised by leather fastened by rivets around the scabbard, while the Roman one was fastened with the help of a disc-shaped mount with a loop²⁵⁹. Important differences could be noticed between the two main types: the German could not be opened or adjusted to warriors' different sizes, whereas the Roman ones could both be opened and adjusted. At the same time, the assemblages delivered other suggestive pieces of information for the researchers: all the baldric with silver mounts from Illerup site A were Germanic, while all the Roman ones were equipped with bronze fittings²⁶⁰.

Generally hammered or casted, the baldric fasteners have an approximate diameter of 4.8 and 7-8 cm which did not exceed the width of the baldric itself (one of the Vimose *balteus* was 8 cm wide, and the two from Thorsbjerg were 9.1, respectively 7 cm wide)²⁶¹. They were convex or flat, and the eye on the back was mostly cast into the same mould with the disc itself, or it was attached with the help of a rivet passing through the central hole of the item. The purpose of such fittings is primarily functional, as their loops serve to pass the thinner end of the belt, by which the belt would be closed and at the same time adjusted in the manner that most suited the owner.

Baldric *phalerae* are known on the territory of *Dacia* from Potaissa, Buciumi, Bologna, Micia, Târgșor²⁶², Romula and Schela Cladovei²⁶³, Cristești²⁶⁴,

²⁵⁴ Engelhardt 1863, p. 44, Pl. 11/48; Raddatz 1987, no. 165, 167, Fig. 12, 14-15.

²⁵⁵ Engelhardt, 1869, p. 19, Pl. XI; Sternquist 1954, p. 59-68, Fig. 4/1, 3.

²⁵⁶ Sternquist 1955, p. 116-7, Pl. VIII, XXI/11-12.

²⁵⁷ Ilkjær 2002.

²⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 82.

²⁵⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 86.

²⁶⁰ *Ibidem*.

²⁶¹ apud Bishop, Coulston 1993, p. 130.

²⁶² Petculescu 1980 passim; idem 1999, p. 897, Cat. no. 21, Pl. 2/21; *Dacia Augusti Provincia* 2006, p. 150, Cat. no. 135; *Miles romanus*, p. 18, Cat. no. 91, Pl. VI/91; *Antique Bronzes*, p. 177, Cat. no. 336.

²⁶³ Amon 2004, p. 118-9, 247, XXI/8, Pl. XXIV/6; p. 256, XXIV/1, Pl. XXIV/7.

²⁶⁴ Petică 1999, p. 257-259; Man 2011, p. 197, Cat. no. 24, Pl. CXLVIII/24.

Gilău²⁶⁵ and Tibiscum²⁶⁶. A particular baldric fastener bearing the inscription “VTERE FELIX” was identified into the ancient collections of the Bucharest National Museum of History²⁶⁷.

In spite of the large ornamental variety of *phalerae*, there are few parallels for the item from Apulum. A few identical pieces originate from Intercisa²⁶⁸ and Brigetio²⁶⁹ in Pannonia, and from Ušće near Obrenovac²⁷⁰, in the proximity of Singidunum in Moesia Superior. In the second part of her study dedicated to the bronze openwork objects in Pannonia, Sellye mentions as analogies for the item at Brigetio²⁷¹ - which she identifies as a “varied destination disc – a number of 8 similar items discovered in *Dacia*: 6 artefacts unearthed at Turda – Potaissa, which are to be found that moment into the museum at Debrecen; another one with a more sumptuous ornamentation originating from Cluj-Napoca²⁷² and finally, a specimen which is kept in the Alba Iulia Museum– registered under inventory no. 1791 at the time²⁷³. Since the only item of this category is the one I have analysed (new Inv. no. 3463), registered instead under the old Inv. no. 5701 – I consider that a faulty transcription of the respective register number –was made at some point in time by the Hungarian researcher.

Chronology.

In the subchapter dedicated to the larger openwork discs with diverse fastening methods on the rear²⁷⁴, Oldenstein discusses a fragmentary cross-shaped peltate item from Zugmantel, with a massive loop on the back, identifying it as a baldric fastener. In his opinion, this is to be dated to the end of the 2nd century AD, rather than the beginning of the 3rd century AD.²⁷⁵ As concerns the bog-finds from Illerup the earliest sacrifice contained 200 *denarii*, the coin last struck in 187-188 AD, meaning the find must have been deposited after that year. A dendrochronological analysis of three-ring chronology made on the oak-wood of a shield suggests that the tree was felled in 187 AD, and that a repair on another one was carried out after 205 AD, suggesting that the earliest part of the sacrifice comes from around that time²⁷⁶.

²⁶⁵ Diaconescu, Oprean 1987, p. 63, no. 44, Fig. 5/44.

²⁶⁶ Németh 1992, no. 44-45, Fig. 3/44-45.

²⁶⁷ Alexandrescu 2007, p. 242-249.

²⁶⁸ Intercisa II 1957, p. 238, Cat. no. 148, Taf. XLVII/19.

²⁶⁹ Sellye Lakos 1941, p. 74, 94, Pl. XX/3.

²⁷⁰ Vujović 2003, p. 221, Pl. I/4.

²⁷¹ Sellye Lakos 1941, p. 74, 94, Pl. XX/3.

²⁷² Riegl 1927, pl. XV.

²⁷³ Sellye Lakos 1941, p. 94.

²⁷⁴ Oldenstein 1976, p. 234-239, Cat. no. 1126-1165, Taf. 87-90.

²⁷⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 237, Taf. 88/1146; *ORL* 8, Pl. XII, 19, 8, No. 18; Sellye Lakos 1941, p. 94.

²⁷⁶ Ilkjær 2002, p. 48.

The baldric *phalerae* are generally dated from the end of the 2nd century AD to the middle of the 3rd century AD, regardless of the variant or the area of the Empire from which they were recovered²⁷⁷.

19. Beneficiarius spearhead-shaped baldric plate – Apulum - Inv. no. R.9468 (Pl. VII/13).

The most important *beneficarii* were those attached to the officium (headquarters staff) of the provincial governor. In the provinces with legions, the men were legionaries and were called *beneficarii consularis*. Whatever duties they performed away from the provincial capital, they did so as the representative of the governor. This explains the number of “beneficiarius lance” badges found in military sites throughout Northern Europe. These would have been attached to leather belts or strap ends, and showed that the person was an official of the governor and operating on his behalf independently of any other military officer.

The miniature spearhead pattern occurs both on baldric plates and strap terminals – with an ornamental function, and on baldric fasteners – having thus a functional role²⁷⁸.

This type of mounts have a spearhead shape in miniature size with longitudinal shank and two lateral holes on the blade and peltate ornaments above and/or under the blade. Two or three rivets for fastening on the leather baldric extend from the rear. As mentioned above, these artefacts were considered to be a kind of badges/*signum* worn by *beneficarii*, *frumentarii* and *speculatores*²⁷⁹, or emblems of sovereignty and Imperial power²⁸⁰. Moreover, the first scholar who analysed them systematically was G. Behrens, who assumed that they were worn by *signiferi*²⁸¹. The pieces found in *Dacia* were analysed by L. Petculescu who divided them into four main groups²⁸²: 1) with two open peltate ornaments above the blade and a crossbar with four pelta-shaped holes under the blade (Cat. nos. 1-3), modelled on the standards of Ephesos/Flobeck type; 2) with two large *peltae* under the blade (Cat.nos.4-5); 3) with two pairs of triangular holes placed above and below the central circular ones (Cat. nos. 6-7); 4) simply with median holes, but no peltate ornaments (Cat. no. 9)²⁸³. The author concluded that they had an apotropaic role and that they were used by the auxiliary troops²⁸⁴.

²⁷⁷ Oldenstein 1976, p. 230; Petculescu 1980, p. 61.

²⁷⁸ Oldenstein 1976, p. 152-7, Taf. 39-40.

²⁷⁹ *Ibidem*; Petculescu 1993, p. 192-194.

²⁸⁰ Alföldi 1959, p. 10-11, Pl. X.

²⁸¹ Behrens 1941, p. 20-21.

²⁸² Petculescu 1993, p. 181-196.

²⁸³ *Ibidem*, p. 182.

²⁸⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 192-193.

From the territory of *Dacia*, a bronze miniature spearhead is known from Răcari²⁸⁵ and another one was uncovered in an unknown location in Oltenia region²⁸⁶, both of them of Type 1, in addition to a plate at Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa.²⁸⁷ Other baldric miniature spearheads of Petculescu types 2 and 3 were discovered at Micia²⁸⁸, Mătăsaru²⁸⁹ and Medieșu Aurit²⁹⁰. A plate from Slăveni²⁹¹ was assimilated to Petculescu type 4, while an item at Drobeta²⁹² seems to be an intermediary variant of Petculescu types 3 and 4.

Baldric miniature spearheads have good parallels in other frontier provinces of the Empire, especially from *Germania Superior* and *Germania Inferior* at Zugmantel²⁹³, Buch²⁹⁴ and Pfunz²⁹⁵. Another plate in the form of a spearhead is known from the necropolis at Chersonesos²⁹⁶.

Irrespective of their various functions, spearhead fittings had a magic/religious significance, and they were mainly worn by auxiliary cavalrymen²⁹⁷.

The regional distribution of spearhead fittings is obviously due to their production in different manufacturing centres working almost simultaneously, which supplied one or more provinces. L. Petculescu states that the *Dacian* baldric mounts were probably produced in *Dacia* and certainly on the Lower Danube, whilst the piece from Zugmantel - which is completely isolated in *Germania Superior*, but is very close to items at Mătăsaru and Medieșu Aurit - must also come from *Dacia*²⁹⁸.

Chronology.

The closest parallels for the item from Apulum are the piece from Zugmantel, which was found with a coin of Severus Alexander in the vicus of *cohors I Treverorum equitata*,²⁹⁹ and the one of an unknown *cohors*, probably also *equitata* from Buch³⁰⁰. Morphologically, the fine plate at Apulum seems to be

²⁸⁵ Tudor 1965, p. 246, no. 12, fig. 7/14; Petculescu 1993, p. 195, Cat. no. 1, Fig. 1/1; Amon 2004, p. 149-151, Rep. B XX.37, Pl. XXXIX/3.

²⁸⁶ Petculescu 1993, p. 195, Cat. no. 2, Fig. 1/2; Amon 2004, p. 149, Rep.B XXVIII, 7.

²⁸⁷ Petculescu 1993, p. 195, Cat. no. 3, Fig. 1/3.

²⁸⁸ *Ibidem*, Cat. no. 4-5, Fig. 1/4-5.

²⁸⁹ Bichir 1976, p. 303, Fig. 10/3; idem 1984, p. 58, Pl. 52/8 and 53/4; Petculescu 1993, p. 196, Cat. no. 7, Fig. 2/7; Petculescu 1999, p. 895-6, Pl. 1/8.

²⁹⁰ Dumitrașcu, Bader 1967, p. 121, Pl. 3/3; idem 1967a, p. 40, Fig. 20, Pl. 16/8; Petculescu 1993, p. 196, Cat. no. 6, Fig. 2/6; Petculescu 1999, p. 899, Pl. 3/28.

²⁹¹ Petculescu 1993, p. 196, Cat. no. 9, Fig. 2/9; Amon 2004, p. 150, Rep.B XXV, 6.

²⁹² Petculescu 1993, p. 196, Cat. no. 8, Fig. 2/8; Amon 2004, Rep.B XI, 23.

²⁹³ Oldenstein 1976, p. 152-157, Taf. 39/363.

²⁹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 155, Taf. 40/385.

²⁹⁵ *Ibidem*, Taf. 40/386.

²⁹⁶ Kostromichyov 2005, Pl. 10/1.

²⁹⁷ Petculescu 1993, p. 190.

²⁹⁸ *Ibidem*.

²⁹⁹ Oldenstein 1976, p. 156, Taf. 39/363.

³⁰⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 155, Taf. 40/385.

related rather to the ruder one from Slăveni, which could be placed between the reign of Septimius Severus and the second half of the 3rd century, when the fort was abandoned. Since the majority of the pieces from *Dacia* at Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Micia, Drobeta, Răcari and the one from Oltenia are stray finds, or came from old excavations and have no stratigraphical data, they cannot be accurately dated. They could therefore be dated anywhere between 106 and 271 AD – the duration of occupation of *Dacia*. However, the items from Mătășaru, Medieșu Aurit, Slăveni and a plate from Micia could benefit from a briefer chronology, meaning approximately from 170 to 271 AD – the period within which Oldenstein placed the use of all the military fittings in the shape of spearhea³⁰¹. By comparison, the specimen at Apulum worn by a *beneficiarius consularis* could be dated from the last quarter of the 2nd century to the middle of the 3rd century AD.

20. Square-shaped flat openwork plates - Inv. nos. : 3556 (PI. VI/1); R.9496 (PI. VI/2); 10817 (PI. VII/11); 10818 (PI. VII/8); Not registered (PI. VII/14).

Similar, but not identically decorated plates are common in the forts and military settlements of the first half of the 3rd century AD in *Dacia*. Square-shaped flat openwork plates made of copper-alloy thin sheet appeared at Porolissum³⁰², Potaissa³⁰³, Ulpia Traiana³⁰⁴, Micia³⁰⁵, Buciumi³⁰⁶, Mehadia³⁰⁷ and into the grave no. 7 from Drobeta³⁰⁸. In the part of the province South of the Carpathian Mountains, parallels were unearthed in the fort of *ala I Hispanorum* at Slăveni³⁰⁹, the auxiliary fort at Urluieni³¹⁰, and the small fort of the *numerus burgariorum et veredariorum Daciae Inferiors* at Copăceni³¹¹. Another specimen adorned with four crescents is known from Răcari³¹², while a fragmentary one was discovered during old excavations (1897-8) in the same fort area³¹³. During the excavations

³⁰¹ *Ibidem*, p. 156-157.

³⁰² Gudea 1989, p. 641, Pl. CCV/6-12.

³⁰³ Barbulescu 1994, p. 96, Fig. 16/2; Căținaș, Bărbulescu 1979, p. 119, Fig. 13/5.

³⁰⁴ Petculescu 1995, p. 117, footnote no. 155.

³⁰⁵ *Ibidem*, footnote no. 156 (unpublished piece, Inv. no. 123023 unearthed in 1978 at the bath excavations, housed into the Museum at Deva, Hunedoara county); Miles romanus 1997, p. 20, Cat. no. 112, Pl. VI/112; *Dacia Augusti* 2006, p. 148, Cat. no. 127.

³⁰⁶ Petculescu 1995, footnote no.159 (unpublished piece, Inv. no. 294/68 housed in the museum at Zalău, Sălaj county).

³⁰⁷ Macrea *et alii* 1993, p. 177, Pl. 25/2.

³⁰⁸ Petculescu 1995, p. 116-118, 137-138, Pl. 8/7.

³⁰⁹ *Ibidem*, footnote no. 150 (2 unpublished items, the second one under Inv. no. I.25279).

³¹⁰ *Ibidem*, footnote no. 151.

³¹¹ *Ibidem*, p. 117; Tudor 1982, p. 57, Fig. 3/12.

³¹² Tudor 1965, p. 246, no. 1, Fig. 7/1; idem 1978, p. 295, Fig. 83/14; Amon 2004, p. 242, Rep.B.XX, 29, Pl. XXXVI/12.

³¹³ Tudor 1978, p. 296, Fig. 84/13; idem 1965, p. 250, no. 31, Fig. 9/13; Bondoc, Gudea 2009, p. 213, no. 537, Pl. XCVIII/537.

carried out into the Roman fortification from the Transalutan *limes* at Ghioaca (Olt County, 1999 archaeological campaign) two similar items were recovered, a fragmentary one and another one ornated with radial crescents and a *crux gammata* central motif³¹⁴. Additionally, another plate was found in *Barbaricum* – at Mătășaru³¹⁵, in the very proximity of the Southern *limes* of *Dacia* province, where it consequently originates from.

In other provinces of the Empire, few objects are known from Saalburg³¹⁶, Holzhausen³¹⁷ and Munningen³¹⁸. When analysing the funerary assemblage at Drobeta, L. Petculescu made the remark that outside *Dacia*, the only good parallel for the above-mentioned belt set is to be found at Dura Europos³¹⁹. The same scholar asserts that the type of belt 4.0-5.0 cm wide, fitted with rectangular plates made of thin sheet copper alloy decorated with pierced motifs, was used quite extensively in *Dacia* and by all sorts of military units. It seems that this type of belt was characteristic of *Dacia*, yet it is difficult to say if it was also distributed in the neighbouring *Moesia Superior* and *Inferior*, and to what extent³²⁰.

Chronology.

The type of plates mentioned above were in use at Potaissa between 170 and 270 AD, the dates of the legionary fortress there. The Mătășaru item was assigned to phase III 1 of the settlement, dated by Bichir from Hadrian to Caracalla³²¹. The dating of Drobeta type belt was largely positioned between 150 and 250 AD³²². The pierced baldric mounts on the *Upper German-Raetian limes* should be dated after 150 AD, or rather 180-190 AD³²³. Given the limited distribution area of these belts and their width – unusual in the 2nd century AD, but common in association with a different type of buckle during the 3rd century, this accounts for their shorter date span, probably from the end of the 2nd to the first half of the 3rd century AD³²⁴.

21. Baldric circular/disc flat openwork plate – Southern necropolis – Dealul Furcilor - Not registered (Pl. VI/3).

This type of circular flat openwork plate made of a sheet of copper-alloy decorated with different motif piercings occurs rarely both in the Western

³¹⁴ Amon 2004, p. 273-274, Pl. XLVI/12, 13.

³¹⁵ Bichir 1984, Pl. 52/9; Petculescu 1999, p. 896, Pl. 2/12.

³¹⁶ Oldenstein 1976, p. 236-237, Taf. 88/1138, 1140, 1143, 1159.

³¹⁷ *Ibidem*, Taf. 88/1139.

³¹⁸ *Ibidem*, Taf. 88/1158.

³¹⁹ Frisch 1949, no. 52.

³²⁰ Petculescu 1995, p. 118.

³²¹ Bichir 1984, p. 86-87.

³²² Petculescu 1995, p. 118.

³²³ Oldenstein 1976, p. 230, 236-238.

³²⁴ Petculescu 1995, p. 118; idem 1999, p. 896.

provinces of the Empire and in *Dacia*. A parallel item decorated with round and crescent piercings was found at Buciumi fort³²⁵, and another one at Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa³²⁶. Two round indented plates ornated with peltate piercings³²⁷ and round and crescent piercings³²⁸ also resulted from old excavations made between 1897 and 1898 in the fort at Răcari. Two items displaying a design almost identical to the plate from Apulum were unearthed at Niederbieber³²⁹ and Zugmantel³³⁰. One can also notice that, unlike the piece from Apulum, the piece from Niederbieber has two headed shafts to secure the attachment to the baldric and the one at Zugmantel is provided with a central rivet on the rear.

Chronology.

Oldenstein considers the item no. 1139 at Niederbieber to be the earliest and he is dating it around the years 180-190 AD³³¹.

22. Square-shaped plate with peltate openwork - Inv. no. R.10850 (Pl. VIII/1).

Square-shaped openwork plates with four peltae were unearthed in *Dacia* at Porolissum³³², the Roman site *Praetorium* at Mehadia³³³, the forts at Râșnov - Cumidava³³⁴, Romula³³⁵, Bumbesti³³⁶ and Răcari³³⁷. Other similar specimens are also known from the forts at Buciumi³³⁸ and Ilișua³³⁹. Identically decorated items resulted from archaeological surveys carried out on Roman sites from Războieni - "Cetate" (Alba County)³⁴⁰ and Poiana - "Izvorul Lisca" near Potaissa (Cluj County)³⁴¹.

Chronology.

The incidence of peltate openwork ornaments on different belt plates or baldric mounts seems to be a common decorative pattern on Roman military

³²⁵ Gudea 1989, p. 625, Pl. CXC VII/43; idem 1997, p. 42, Fig. b.

³²⁶ Alicu *et alii* 1994, p. 50, Cat. no. 679, Pl. 33/679.

³²⁷ Bondoc, Gudea 2009, p. 216, Cat. no. 559, Pl. C/559.

³²⁸ *Ibidem*, Cat. no. 560, Pl. C/560.

³²⁹ Oldenstein 1976, p. 236, Taf. 88/1139.

³³⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 237, Taf.88/1138.

³³¹ *Ibidem*, p. 237.

³³² Gudea 1989, p. 644, Pl. CCVI/32, 36-37.

³³³ Bozu 2000, p. 224, Pl. II/1-2.

³³⁴ Gudea, Pop 1971, p. 59, Pl. LVIIa/1.

³³⁵ Amon 2004, p. 145, Rep.B XXI, 36, Pl. XXXVI/9.

³³⁶ Florescu 1957, p. 116, Fig. 2/10; Amon 2004, p. 145, Rep.B III, 2, Pl. XXXVI/11.

³³⁷ Bondoc, Gudea 2009, Pl. XCIX/549-550.

³³⁸ Gudea 1997, Fig. on page 72.

³³⁹ Nemeti 2001, p. 97, Pl. II/4.

³⁴⁰ Nemeti 2004, p. 90, No. 19-20, Pl. II/19-20.

³⁴¹ *Ibidem*, p. 93, No. 55, Pl. V/55.

equipment from *Dacia* in the second half of the 2nd century AD³⁴².

23. Rectangular openwork in *opus interrasile* plate - Inv. no. R.10881 (Pl. VIII/3).

I could not find close parallels for the elaborate openwork design of this type of plate among the discoveries in *Dacia*. Identical items – i.e. with identical decoration and proportions – were unearthed in the Western provinces of the Empire at Colchester³⁴³ and Zugmantel³⁴⁴. Another specimen known from Saalburg³⁴⁵ is additionally provided with a small hook on the narrow side. The author also mentions an example of the same pattern from the Linz museum equipped with a rectangular loop on one narrow side. In his opinion, these two items clasp together to form a belt fastener, and he proposes a reconstruction of their “hook and eye” joining method³⁴⁶.

Chronology.

By citing a parallel for the piece at Saalburg which came from Lauriacum, Oldenstein assumes that this one could not be dated earlier than 180 AD³⁴⁷. The mount at Colchester is generally ascribed to the 2nd century AD³⁴⁸.

24. Double-pelta openwork plate - Inv.no.R.10152 (Pl. VI/4).

In *Dacia* there are only a few plates of double-pelta openwork type which occur into the forts at Ilişua³⁴⁹, Porolissum³⁵⁰ and the Roman site from Mehadia³⁵¹. In other provinces of the Empire, similar mounts were unearthed at Aquileia³⁵², in the Roman villa at Wange³⁵³ and at Dura Europos³⁵⁴.

Chronology.

The items from Aquileia and Dura Europos are widely dated between 165 and 265 AD³⁵⁵, whereas those at Wange till the middle of the 3rd century AD³⁵⁶.

³⁴² Ciugudean 2012, p. 121.

³⁴³ Crummy 1983, p. 137, Fig. 157/4240.

³⁴⁴ Oldenstein 1976, p. 196, Taf. 64/816.

³⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, Taf. 64/817.

³⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 196, Abb. 5.

³⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, footnote no. 664.

³⁴⁸ Crummy 1983, p. 137.

³⁴⁹ Nemeti 2001, p. 97, no. 14, Pl. II/2.

³⁵⁰ Gudea 1989, p. 648, Pl. CCVIII/28.

³⁵¹ Bozu 2000, p. 223, 1.4, Pl. I/4.

³⁵² Buora 2001, p. 46, Pl. 1/8.

³⁵³ Lodewijckx *et alii* 1993, p. 78, Fig. 8/4.17; *idem* 1996, p. 14-15, Fig. 20/Type 17.

³⁵⁴ Oldenstein 1976, p. 180, Abb. 4/4.

³⁵⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 181; Buora 2001, p. 46.

³⁵⁶ Lodewijckx *et alii* 1993, p. 80.

25. Baldric heart-shaped openwork plate – Southern necropolis – Dealul Furcilor – Not registered (Pl. VIII/5).

As regards this type of artefact, it is difficult to determine for certain its place on the baldric, such as a simple plate – as some scholars categorize it³⁵⁷ or as a strap terminal – like others assign it³⁵⁸.

Two almost similar, but ruder and a slightly larger, items were unearthed in *Dacia* at Celei³⁵⁹ and Răcari³⁶⁰. Two examples are also known from the fort at Gherla³⁶¹. However, the piece no. 27 is much simpler, while the strap no. 28 is the largest and displays much more fretworks than the plate from Apulum. Other specimens were recovered at Porolissum³⁶², Buciumi³⁶³ and Tibiscum³⁶⁴. Outside *Dacia*, one can mention a close parallel from Intercisa³⁶⁵ and a rich, almost filigree ornated plate at Weissenburg³⁶⁶.

Chronology.

Oldenstein is dating the last above-mentioned piece at the end of the 2nd to the first half of the 3rd century AD³⁶⁷.

26. Belt/baldric polylobed openwork plate - Inv. No. R.9287 (Pl. VIII/6).

In *Dacia*, plates depicting similar, but not quite identical, central openwork design and without the semi-circular expansion loop for attaching the sheath of a knife, a pouch or at least a pendant, were found into the forts at Gilău³⁶⁸ and Copăceni³⁶⁹. Another parallel is known from the fort at Râșnov (Cumidava)³⁷⁰. Unlike the piece discovered at Apulum, the one from Cumidava has a peculiar broken terminal, which may suggest a pelta-shaped (?) loop. Given the lack of a description and drawings in the text, it is difficult to presume its real shape, the fastening manner and function – if not as an ornamental plate.

³⁵⁷ Oldenstein 1976, p. 178-184.

³⁵⁸ Găzdac 1995, p. 404 and footnote no. 43 with analogies at Thorsberg.

³⁵⁹ Tudor *et alii* 1960, p. 480, Fig. 2/8; Amon 2004, p. 148, Rep.B.VI, 39, Pl. XXXVIII/3a.

³⁶⁰ Tudor 1965, p. 246, no. 9, Fig. 7/9; Amon 2004, p. 148, Rep.b.XX, 32, Pl. XXXVIII/4.

³⁶¹ Găzdac 1995, p. 404, Fig. 3/27-28.

³⁶² Gudea 1989, p. 651, Pl. CCX/14-27.

³⁶³ Chirilă *et alii* 1972, p. 73, Pl. 75/5.

³⁶⁴ Bona *et alii* 1983, p. 414-5, Fig. 9/1, 6; Nemeth 1992, p. 206, Fig. 2/33-34; Benea, Bona 1994, p. 98, Fig. 44/16, 45/16.

³⁶⁵ Intercisa II 1957, p. 238, Cat. no.149, Taf. XLVII/14.

³⁶⁶ Oldenstein 1976, p. 182, Taf. 54/643 and footnote no. 601 for items at Lidney Park and the fort at Augst.

³⁶⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 182.

³⁶⁸ Isac 1997, p. 20.

³⁶⁹ Tudor 1982, p. 52, no. 1, Fig. 2/1; Amon 2004, p. 154, Rep.B, VIII, 18, Pl. XXXVIII/6.

³⁷⁰ Gudea, Pop 1971, p. 59, Pl. LVIIa/6.

Chronology.

Considering that the fort *Praetorium I* was built in 138 AD and abandoned in the middle of the 3rd century AD³⁷¹, the plate from Copăceni is supposed to be dated to the middle, or to the second half of the 2nd century AD³⁷².

Conclusions.

Several conclusions can be drawn at the end of the analysis of the bronze belt and baldric plates from the collections of the Alba Iulia Museum. They are part of the classical accessories of the entire Roman world and can be dated not only on the basis of the analogies, but also because the mentioned types circulated in the same patterns all over the Empire, even though some of them could have been locally produced. Apart from its basic function of hanging a sword and a dagger, *cingulum militare* had an important role in carrying scale armour or nail. The belt also had a symbolic significance and was worn with pride, both in active service and after the army discharge. One should reiterate the fact that this type of fittings from *Dacia* are made of their entirety of copper alloy, which indicates that their owner was a common soldier of a lower social status – by Roman standards.

In dealing with personal equipment accessories, I have to emphasize that this attempt is far from being comprehensive, or from shedding a full light on their presence, due to the fact that some items unearthed during the last years excavations, i.e. into the Southern necropolis or isolated rescue investigations in different areas of the ancient Apulum, are not yet published. However, they were displayed in some exhibitions, and I consequently benefitted from their catalogue presentations, upon publication.

Summing up the analysis of belt and baldric mounts in the collection of the Alba Iulia Museum, it has been ascertained that most of them have good parallels both in *Dacia* and in other provinces of the Empire. Nevertheless, one can mention that the highly particular mounts decorated with a dolphin and the one with a *kantharos* seem not to be a standardized mass production, but a local *facies* type of plates, which could be manufactured in a workshop at Apulum in a limited series, or possibly as unique artefacts. This fact can be presumed given their absence even from *Dacia* – with the exception of the identical plate ornated with a dolphin found at Mătăsarū — as well as from the provinces of the Empire. They may represent a special *Dacian apulense* pattern.

Acknowledgements.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. Dr. Siegmur von Schnurbein and the board of DAAD for the grant awarded in 2000, which gave me the opportunity to get informations on military equipment and graves in the library from Frankfurt am

³⁷¹ Tudor 1978, p. 287-8; Vlădescu 1983, p. 106-8.

³⁷² Amon 2004, p. 154.

Main. Last but not least, many thanks are due to Dr. Nikolaus Boroffka for his thorough proofreading and editing of the English text of my recent studies on the Roman military graves from Apulum.

CATALOGUE

Abbreviations used in the catalogue

All the measurements of the items are in centimetres (cm).

L = Length

W = Width

T = Thickness

D = Diameter

1. Rectangular openwork plate with baluster ornament (Pl. I/1, XI/1)

The plate exhibits a double pelta-shaped ornament with piercing holes for the rivets at both ends. An iron rivet is still in place, the second one is missing. Between the terminals and the middle area, the plate is decorated with a grooved protuberance. In the central rectangular opening, there is a baluster-moulded bar, which was cast apart. The sloping ends of the baluster were welded into two small slots on the underside of the plate. Traces of intense burning are present on both sides.

L = 6.8 cm; W = 1.9 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. 9577/1.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Northern necropolis – Stația de Salvare; Trench IV. Grave no. 8/1981 – cremation grave.

References: Ciugudean 1997a, p. 685-690; Ciugudean 2012, p. 110, Pl. II/1; Dacia Augusti Provincia 2006, p. 147, Cat. no. 124; Catalogue 2011, p. 109, Cat. no. 207.

2. Rectangular openwork plate with baluster ornament (Pl. I/2, XI/2)

Belt plate similar to the previous, except for one pelta-shaped terminal, which is partially broken.

L = 6.1 cm; W = 1.9 cm; T = 0.5 cm; Inv. no. 9577/2.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Northern necropolis – Stația de Salvare; Trench IV. Grave no. 8/1981 – cremation grave.

References: Ciugudean 1997a, p. 685-690; Ciugudean 2012, p. 110, Pl. II/2; Dacia Augusti Provincia 2006, p. 147, Cat. no. 124; Catalogue 2011, p. 109, Cat. no. 207.

3. Rectangular openwork plate with baluster ornament (Pl. I/3, XI/3)

Belt plate similar to the previous ones. The baluster bar in the central opening was not preserved.

L = 6.8 cm; W = 1.9 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. 9577/3.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Northern necropolis – Stația de Salvare; Trench IV. Grave no. 8/1981 – cremation grave.

References: Ciugudean 1997a, p. 685-690; Ciugudean 2012, p. 110, Pl. II/3; Dacia Augusti Provincia 2006, p. 147, Cat. no. 124; Catalogue 2011, p. 109, Cat. no. 207.

4. Rectangular openwork plate with baluster ornament (Pl. I/4, XI/4)

Belt plate similar to the previous ones. One pelta-shaped terminal is currently half broken.

L = 5.8 cm; W = 1.9 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. 9577/4.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Northern Necropolis -Stația de Salvare; Trench IV. Grave no. 8/1981 – cremation grave.

References: Ciugudean 1997a, p. 685-690; Ciugudean 2012, p. 111, Pl. II/4; Dacia Augusti Provincia 2006, p. 147, Cat. no. 124; Catalogue 2011, p. 109, Cat. no. 207.

5. Detached baluster-moulded bar (Pl. I/6)

Baluster-moulded bar cast apart, which had been placed into the central rectangular opening of a belt plate.

L = 3.6 cm; W = 0.5 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. 3491.

Provenance: Apulum, old collections.

References: Petculescu 1995, p. 111, footnote no. 65; Ciugudean 2012, p. 113, Pl. III/3.

6. Detached baluster-moulded bar (Pl. I/7)

Baluster-moulded bar similar to the last one, but cruder.

L = 3.8 cm; W = 0.8 cm; T = 0.4 cm.; Inv. no. 3484.

Provenance: Apulum, old collections.

References: Petculescu 1995, p. 111, footnote no. 65; Ciugudean 2012, p. 113, Pl. III/4.

7. Rectangular openwork plate with baluster ornament (Pl. II/1)

Fragment of an openwork rectangular plate. The terminal forms a double pelta-shaped ornament, half of it being broken. There is a grooved protuberance underneath the end. In the central rectangular opening, there is a baluster-moulded bar, cast in the same one-piece mould with the whole plate. The lower part of the item is broken under a middle cross frame. The half missing plate should be mirrored.

L = 3.4 cm; W = 2.0 cm; T = 0.2 cm.; Inv. no. 3633.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăștie, Hunedoara County). Acquisition 1967. Olea collection.

References: Unpublished.

8. Rectangular openwork plate with baluster ornament (Pl. II/2)

Fragment of a rectangular openwork belt plate, very similar to the above one. Between the two pelta-shaped ornaments of the terminal, there is a piercing hole for the rivet, which is missing.

L = 2.6 cm; W = 1.9 cm; T = 0.2 cm; Inv. no. 3634.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăștie, Hunedoara County). Acquisition 1967. Olea collection.

References: Unpublished.

9. Rectangular openwork plate with baluster ornament (Pl. I/5)

Copper alloy rectangular openwork plate with ansate pelta-shaped terminals and a grooved protuberance below. Two rivets at both ends are still in place. In the central rectangular opening, there is a baluster-moulded bar, cast in the same one-piece mould with the whole plate.

L = 5.8 cm; W = 1.9 cm; T = 0.3 cm; Inv. no. 3460.

Provenance: Apulum, old collections.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 104, Cat. no. 187; Ciugudean 2012, p. 114, Pl. IV/2.

10. Rectangular in *opus interrasile* openwork plate (Pl. II/6)

Fragment of a rectangular openwork belt plate. The wide end is pierced by a hole for the rivet, and is decorated with two pelta-shaped openwork. The central ground is ornated in *opus interrasile* with a lozenge-shaped lattice, whose effect is formed by cruciform piercings in a quincunx arrangement.

L = 4.3 cm; W = 2.6 cm; T = 0.2 cm.; Inv. no. 3248.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Partoș, Gh. Toth garden. Excavations 1912.

References: Cserni 1913, p. 28-29, Fig. 11, file 3; Catalogue 2011, p. 106, Cat. no. 194.

11. Rectangular with blossom motif openwork plate (Pl. II/3)

The central ground of the plate is adorned with a “lily” motif, depicting two lozenges in the middle of the openwork tracery. There is a semi-circular appendix preserving the bronze rivet at one end. In the middle of the opposite end, there is another rivet on the rear. Other three rivets are still in place in the corners of the rectangular frame and the last one is missing.

L = 5.3 cm; W = 2.8 cm; T = 0.2 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Alba Iulia, Calea Moșilor - *canabae*.

References: Unpublished.

12. Rectangular plain-field plate (Pl. II/7)

The plate of plain field and curved profile has the edges broken and chamfered, possibly treflated. The outer surface is divided in two rectangular panels decorated with four impressed dotted circles.

L = 4.2 cm; W = 1.8 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. 3466.

Provenance: Apulum, old collections.

References: Unpublished.

13. Rectangular openwork plate (Pl. II/4)

Fragmentary rectangular openwork belt plate. There is a stud on the wide raised end of the frame.

L = 2.7 cm; W = 3.1 cm; T = 0.3 cm; Inv. no. 3642.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăștie, Hunedoara County). Acquisition 1967. Olea collection.

References: Unpublished.

14. Belt plate with zoomorphic ornament (Pl. II/5)

Narrow rectangular copper alloy openwork plate. Two bronze rivets survived to the middle of both terminals. In the central rectangular opening, there is a flat ornament in the shape of a *dolphin*.

L = 6.0 cm; W = 2.0 cm; T = 0.2 cm; Inv. no. 3441.

Provenance: Apulum, old collections.

References: Catalogue 2011, 104, Cat. no. 186.

15. Rectangular enamelled buckle belt plate (Pl. III/1)

Incomplete rectangular plate with two hinge loops for buckle attachment, with the pivot bar for the buckle and the buckle tongue surviving. There is one circular-sectioned shank to the rear, behind the hinge. Under the latter, there are two plain mouldings. The front face of the plate carries an elaborate decoration, which is divided into three sunken rectangular panels. The two narrow borders are decorated with small recessed squares inlaid with white enamel. The larger central panel has a lozenge-shaped ornament, also inlaid with white enamel.

L = 4.6 cm; W = 2.4 cm; T = 0.2 cm; Inv. no. 3614.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăştie, Hunedoara County). Acquisition 1967. Olea collection.

References: Unpublished.

16. Rectangular enamelled belt plate (Pl. III/2)

The front face of the plate is divided into four narrow sunken panels bordering the central recessed ground, which is also divided into two rectangular cases. All the panels have a white *millefiori* enamel decoration. Two studs of bronze, one broken, the other one with a disc-headed end, extend from the rear of the plate.

L = 4.7 cm; W = 2.8 cm; T = 0.3 cm; Inv. no. 3247.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Partoş. Gh. Toth garden. Excavations 1912.

References: Cserni 1913, p. 28-29, Fig. 11, file 3, Catalogue 2011, p. 105, Cat. no. 193.

17. Opework enamelled with baluster-moulded bar plate (Pl. III/3)

Rectangular plate with semi-circular tri-lobed ends. The central openwork field would have had a vertical baluster-moulded bar, now lost. Repaired to an unknown date with a twisted wire of bronze to keep it in place, after one of the sides frames cracked across the mid-point. On the rear, there are two shafts with large head which secured the attachment to the belt's leather. Both lateral panels and the semi-circular ends decorated each with three lobes are recessed for *millefiori* enamel. In spite of the decay, almost all the patterns are entirely clear. The ground of the lobes and of the anchor-shaped ornaments under the semi-circular frames were decorated with pale blue enamel. The frames themselves inlaid red enamel set. The two side panels have a white and brown *millefiori* enamel set decoration.

L = 8.5 cm; W = 3.8 cm; T = 0.3 cm; Inv. no. 3459.

Provenance: Apulum, old collections.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 111, Cat. no. 212.

18. Rectangular openwork plate with a *kantharos* ornament (Pl. II/8)

The openwork plate with narrow frame is partially preserved. The surviving terminal is decorated with volutes in a pelta-shaped and triangular motifs tracery. In the central area, there is an ornament very refined in execution and appearance, in the form of a *kantharos* vessel. There is one fungiform stud for fastening to the leather belt on the rear face.

L = 4.5 cm; W = 2.9 cm; T = 0.3 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Northern necropolis - Stația de salvare (found in secondary position).

References: Unpublished.

19. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/1, VII/1)

The openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments preserves two rivets on the rear for attachment on the leather belt.

L = 4.4 cm; W = 2.0 cm; T = 0.5 cm; Inv. no. 3627.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăștie, Hunedoara County). Acquisition 1967. Olea collection.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 106, Cat. no. 196. The item is discussed under erroneous Inv. no. 3027 and origin.

20. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/9)

The openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments preserves on the rear, to the lower side, two rivets for the attachment on the leather belt.

L = 3.5 cm; W = 3.7 cm; Inv. no. R.9397.

Provenance: Alba Iulia, Dealul Furcilor, Trench no. 8. C10.

References: Ciobanu, Rodean 1997, p. 190, Fig. 7/16.

21. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/3, VII/9)

The openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments preserves on the rear two rivets for the attachment on the leather belt.

L = 3.5 cm; W = 2.1 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Northern necropolis – Profi Mall point, Trench no. 22 / Grave no. 13.

References: Dragotă, Rustoiu 2003, p. 132-133.

22. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/2, VII/6)

The openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments similar to above is provided with a transversal bar to the bottom. There are two rivets for fastening on the reverse.

L = 3.6 cm; W = 2.1 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Northern necropolis – Profi Mall point, Trench no. 22 / Grave no. 13.

References: Dragotă, Rustoiu 2003, p. 132-133.

23. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/4, VII/5)

Complete openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments. There are three attaching rivets on the underside.

L = 3.7 cm; W = 2.1 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Alba Iulia, Northern necropolis – Profi Mall point, Trench no. 22 / Grave no. 13.

References: Dragotă, Rustoiu 2003, p. 132-133.

24. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/5)

Fragmentary openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments, with one surviving rivet on the rear.

L = 4.4 cm; W = 2.2 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. 3628.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăștie, Hunedoara County). Acquisition 1967. Olea collection.

References: Unpublished.

25. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/6)

The openwork plate is broken in two fragments. Each of them has one rivet for the attachment to the leather belt, on the rear.

L = 2.0 cm; W = 2.0 cm; T = 0.3 cm. L = 2.0 cm; W = 1.4 cm; T = 0.2 cm; Inv. no. 3631.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăștie, Hunedoara County). Acquisition 1967. Olea collection.

References: Unpublished.

26. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/7)

Fragmentary openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments. The surviving terminal is provided with a hole for the fastening rivet, which is missing.

L = 2.8 cm; W = 1.9 cm; T = 0.1 cm; Inv. no. 3632.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăștie, Hunedoara County). Acquisition 1967. Olea collection.

References: Unpublished.

27. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/8)

Complete openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments. There are two fastening rivets on the underside.

L = 3.7 cm; W = 2.2 cm; T = 0.7 cm; Inv. no. 3635.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăștie, Hunedoara County). Acquisition 1967. Olea collection.

References: Unpublished.

28. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. VII/12)

Fragment of a belt plate decorated with trumpet-shaped motifs. The ribbed crossbar terminal is provided with a central hole for the rivet.

L = 3.1 cm; Inv. no. R.9133.

Provenance: Apulum. Acquisition 1994. Alungulesei collection.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 101. Cat. no. 177.

29. Openwork plate with trumpet-shaped ornaments (Pl. IV/10, VII/3)

Fragmentary openwork plate similar to the previous one. The rectangular end is adorned with mouldings. The rivets for the attachment on the leather belt are missing.

L = 3.3 cm; W = 2.0 cm; T = 0.2 cm; Inv. no. 3254 (the item was wrongly registered under Inv. no. 3253).

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Partoș - Gh. Toth garden. Adalbert Cserni excavations 1912.

References: Cserni 1913, p. 28-29, Fig. 11, file 2, position 10; Catalogue 2011, p. 105, Cat. no. 190.

30. Openwork square plate with pelta-shaped ornament (Pl. V/1, IX/9)

Square fragmentary plate. In the central openwork, there is a pelta-shaped ornament. Two attachment rivets are still in place on the rear.

L = 2.9 cm; W = 2.7 cm; T = 0.2 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Alba Iulia, Northern necropolis – Stația de salvare, Grave no. 19 / Trench no. XXXII.

References: D. Ciugudean, H. Ciugudean 2000a, p. 206, Fig. 2/9; D. Ciugudean, H. Ciugudean 2000b, p. 342, Fig. 1/9.

31. Openwork square plate with pelta-shaped ornament (Pl. V/2)

Openwork square plate with a central pelta-shaped ornament. There are two attachment shanks on the underside.

L = 3.4 cm; W = 3.1 cm; T = 0.3 cm; Inv. no. R.10057.

Provenance: Apulum. Gh. Alungulesei collection. Acquisition 2002.

References: Unpublished.

32. Openwork square plate with pelta-shaped ornament (Not illustrated)

Complete square plate. In the central openwork, there is a pelta-shaped ornament. Two attachment rivets on the leather belt preserve on the rear.

L = 3.1 cm; W = 3.05 cm; T = 0.5 cm; Inv. no. R.10344.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Milenium Street, *villa suburbana*.

References: Drîmbărean, Rustoiu 2003, p. 242, Pl. IV/2.

33. Openwork square plate with pelta-shaped ornament (Pl. VII/2)

Square plate with a pelta-shaped ornament in the central openwork. From the reverse, two attachment rivets extend on the leather belt.

L = 3.2 cm; W = 3.0 cm; T = 0.5 cm.

Inv. no. R.10844.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – 25 Timotei Cipariu Street, *canabae*.

References: Bounegru, Ota 2010, p. 438, Fig. 5/4.

34. Letter-shaped mount (Pl. V/3)

Belt mount in the shape of the “L” letter. On the underside, there are traces of two attaching rivets.

L = 2.6 cm; W = 1.5 cm; T. = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. 3488.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Partoș - Gh. Toth garden. Excavations Adalbert Cserni 1912.

References: Unpublished.

35. Letter-shaped mount (Pl. V/4)

Belt mount in the shape of the “E” letter. On the underside, there are traces of two attaching rivets.

L = 2.5 cm; W = 1.4 cm; T = 0.1 cm; Inv. no. R.9398.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Dealul Furcilor, Trench no. 11. C10.

References: Ciobanu, Rodean 1997, p. 190, Fig. 6/15.

36. Pelta-shaped mount (Pl. V/5, X/5)

The pelta-shaped mount has two shanks for attachment on the rear.

D = 2.7 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Alba Iulia, Northern necropolis – Stația de salvare; Trench IX / Grave no. 29. Excavations 1982.

References: Ciugudean 2010, p. 449, Fig. 1/5.

37. Pelta-shaped mount (Pl. VII/4)

Pelta-shaped mount with two shanks for fastening on the underside.

L = 2.4 cm; W = 2.3 cm; Inv. no. R.10235.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Dealul Furcilor – Monolit; Trench no. 047K/C69/2004, Roman *villa*.

References: Catalogue 2006, p. 33, Cat. no. 117; Catalogue 2011, p. 104, Cat. no. 188.

38. Pelta-shaped mount (Pl. V/6)

Fragment of a pelta-shaped mount, without traces of rivets.

L = 1.2 cm; W = 2.2 cm; T = 0.3 cm; Inv. no. 3473.

Provenance: Apulum, old collections.

References: Unpublished.

39. Pelta-shaped mount (Pl. V/7)

Fragmentary mount, without traces of the rivets on the rear face.

L = 1.2 cm; W = 2.2 cm; T = 0.4 cm; Inv. no. 3474.

Provenance: Apulum, old collections.

References: Unpublished.

40. Double shield-shaped plate (Pl. VII/7)

The plate in the form of a double shield exhibits a lozenge-shaped boss in the mid area. There are two disc-headed rivets on the reverse.

L = 4 cm; W = 1.4 cm; Inv. no. R.10374.

Provenance: Alba Iulia, 9 Mai Street. Rescue excavation 2006-7.

References: Bounegru 2007, p. 164, Pl. 7/5; Catalogue 2008, p. 65, no. 68; Catalogue 2011, p. 101, Cat. no. 176.

41. Simple shield-shaped plate (Pl. V/9)

The plate in the form of a simple shield preserves two shanks for the attachment to the leather belt on the rear.

L = 3. cm; W = 1.4 cm.; Inv. no. R.9362.

Provenance: Alba Iulia. Southern necropolis – Dealul Furcilor, Trench no.7. C2.

References: Ciobanu, Rodean 1997, 189, Fig. 6/8.

42. Baldric fastener (*phalera*) (Pl.V/10)

The flat cross-shaped disc of the fitting is decorated with four openwork pelta-shaped motifs. Remnants of a fastening-ring of rectangular section and circular hole are still preserved on the rear. The disc and the fastening-ring of the piece were entirely cast in one mould.

D = 4.9 cm; T = 0.5 cm; Inv. no. 3463.

Provenance: Apulum. Old collections.

References: Unpublished.

43. *Beneficiarius* spearhead-shaped baldric plate (Pl. VII/13)

Mount shaped in the form of a stylized spearhead with a raised central rib tapering at the upper side. On the median area, there are two symmetrical oval flattened projections, which form the blade of the spearhead. The blade is ornated by two affronted large holes on either side of the rib. Under the blade, two projections extend in the form of a *vexillum*. Above the blade, there are two symmetrical small round projections which – together with the tapered rib – may suggest a *phallus*. Three disc-headed rivets for fastening on the leather of the baldric survive on the rear face subsist.

L = 9.0 cm; W = 4.3 cm; Inv. no. R.9468.

Provenance: Alba Iulia – Partoș. Al. Diaconescu, C. Gazdac archaeological survey to the North of Liber Pater temple, 1996.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 100, Cat. no. 172.

44. Square-shaped flat openwork plate (Pl. VI/1)

The plate is hammered from a thin sheet of copper alloy and decorated with a central hole and radial crescent openwork. In the corners, there are four holes for the fastening rivets, which were not preserved.

L = 5.2 cm; W = 4.5 cm; Inv. no. 3556.

Provenance: Apulum – *Praetorium consularis*. Adalbert Cserni excavations 1911-1912.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 103, Cat. no. 182.

45. Square-shaped flat openwork plate (Pl. VI/2)

The plate is hammered from a thin sheet of copper alloy and decorated with a central hole surrounded by cross- and radial stick-shaped openwork. Three of the four fastening rivets are still in place in the corners.

L = 3.6 cm; W = 3.4 cm; Inv. no. R.9496.

Provenance: Apulum – Northern necropolis - Stația de salvare. Excavations 1983.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 103, Cat. no. 185.

46. Square-shaped flat openwork plate (Pl. VII/8)

The plate is hammered from a thin sheet of copper alloy and decorated with a central hole surrounded by radial crescents and four *phallus*-shaped piercings extending to the corners. Three of the four fastening rivets preserved.

L = 5.0 cm; W = 4.5 cm; Inv. no. R.10818.

Provenance: Apulum – Southern Necropolis – Dealul Furcilor (Pop property). Excavations 2008.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 103, Cat. no. 183.

47. Square-shaped flat openwork plate (Pl. VII/11)

Fragmentary (3 reliable pieces) plate hammered from a thin sheet of copper alloy and decorated with radial crescents and four *phallus*-shaped piercings extending to the corners. None of the four fastening rivets survived.

L = 5.0 cm; W = 4.5 cm; Inv. no. R.10817.

Provenance: Apulum – Southern Necropolis – Dealul Furcilor (Pop property). Excavations 2008.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 103, Cat. no. 184.

48. Square-shaped flat openwork plate (Pl. VII/14)

The distorted plate is hammered from a thin sheet of copper alloy and decorated with a central hole surrounded by radial sticks and four *phallus*-shaped piercings extending to the corners. Two of the four fastening rivets preserved.

L = 5.0 cm; W = 4.5 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Apulum – Southern Necropolis – Dealul Furcilor (Turean property). Grave no. 171. Excavations 2008.

References: Unpublished.

49. Square-shaped flat openwork plate (Not illustrated)

The fragmentary (3 pieces) plate is hammered from a thin sheet of copper alloy and decorated with a central hole surrounded by radial sticks and four *phallus*-shaped piercings extending to the corners. Two of the four fastening rivets preserved.

L = 5.0 cm; W = 4.5 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Apulum – Southern Necropolis – Dealul Furcilor (Turean property). Grave no. 171. Excavations 2008.

References: Unpublished.

50. Baldric circular flat openwork plate (Pl. VI/3)

The indented round plate is hammered from a thin sheet of copper alloy and decorated with a central hole surrounded by radial sticks and four *phallus*-shaped piercings. There are not traces of fastening rivets.

D = 4.5 cm; Inv. no. Not registered.

Provenance: Apulum – Southern Necropolis – Dealul Furcilor (Turean property). Grave no. 171. Excavations 2008.

References: Unpublished.

51. Square-shaped with peltate openwork plate (Pl. VIII/1)

The square-shaped plate is decorated with four peltate openworks and was provided with two shanks for the attaching to the belt on the rear face.

L = 3.1 cm; W = 2.6 cm; Inv. no. R.10850.

Provenance: Apulum – *municipium Septimium*, 25 Timotei Cipariu Street. Rescue excavations 2009.

References: Bounegru, Ota 2010, p. 439, no. 3, Fig. 5/3; Catalogue 2011, p. 102, Cat. no. 178.

52. Square-shaped openwork plate with “circle and dot” (Pl. VIII/2)

The plate is fragmented in two reliable pieces decorated with two affronted holes surrounded by “circle and dot” motifs. Two rivets on the corners are preserved on the rear of one of the fragments.

L = 2.8 cm; W = 2.1 cm; Inv. no. R.10849.

Provenance: Apulum – *municipium Septimium*, 25 Timotei Cipariu Street. Rescue excavations 2009.

References: Bounegru, Ota 2010, p. 438, no. 1, Fig. 5/2; Catalogue 2011, p. 102, Cat. no. 180.

53. Rectangular openwork in *opus interrasile* plate (Pl. VIII/3)

The plate exhibits central roundels and lateral scrolls which describe pelta openwork motifs. The elaborate design is symmetrically disposed in *opus interrasile*. Two disc-headed shanks for the fastening on the belt are still in place on the rear.

L = 3.5 cm; W = 2.2 cm; Inv. no. R.10881.

Provenance: Apulum. Rescue archaeological survey in the Park of Union 2006.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 102, Cat. no. 181.

54. Double-pelta openwork plate (Pl. VI/4)

Complete oval double-pelta shaped plate with two fastening rivets on the underside.

L = 4.6 cm; W = 2.2 cm; T = 0.3 cm; Inv. no. R.10152.

Provenance: Apulum, Northern necropolis – OMV oil station. Rescue excavations 2002.

References: Necropolele 2003, p. 96; Catalogue 2011, p. 104, Cat. no. 189.

55. Wheel-shaped openwork plate (Pl. VI/5)

The item looks like a notched wheel with crossed spokes clubs. The central rivet for fastening on the leather of the belt survived.

D = 3.2 cm; Inv. no. R.10168.

Provenance: Apulum, Northern necropolis – OMV oil station. Rescue excavations 2002.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 108, Cat. no. 202.

56. Anchor-shaped openwork plate (Pl. VI/6)

The plate incorporates to the upper terminal two peltate openwork motifs, and to the lower one an appendix from which two scrolls extend in the shape of an anchor. At both ends, there are two holes for the attaching rivets, which did not survive.

L = 3.8 cm; W = 2.1 cm; Inv. no. R.10059.

Provenance: Apulum. Gh. Alungulesei Collection. Acquisition 2002.

References: Unpublished.

57. Baldric heart-shaped openwork plate (Pl. VIII/5)

The incomplete plate exhibits a complex ornamentation: the upper part looks like a Greek Ionic capital composed of a notched abacus and volutes with “dot and circle” – central and lateral design. One of the volutes is missing. The body of the plate reveals peltate and crescent openwork. On the middle of its lower terminal, there is another “dot and circle” decoration, which also includes the hole for a fastening rivet, similar to the upper volutes.

L = 4.4 cm; W = 4.1 cm; Inv.no. Not registered.

Provenance: Apulum – Southern necropolis – Dealul Furcilor. Rescue archaeological survey 1997.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 100, Cat. no. 173.

58. Rectangular belt plate (Pl. VIII/4)

Fragmentary plate with the surface divided into three horizontal recessed panels meant to be filled with enamel set, which vanished. One of the cases presents three breaches, and both the ends (*ansae*) are broken. On the reverse, there are two shanks for fastening on the belt.

L = 4.4 cm; W = 2.3 cm; Inv. no. R.9483.

Provenance: Apulum – Northern necropolis – Stația de salvare. Rescue archaeological survey 1980.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 106, Cat. no. 195.

59. Polylobed openwork belt/baldric plate (Pl. VIII/6)

The item displays four lobes with a pair of pelta-shaped openwork including a median cross flanked by four elongate peltate piercings. At one terminal, there is a semi-circular loop for an object to be suspended from the fitting. On the reverse, there are four attaching rivets.

L = 3.7 cm; W = 3.2 cm; Inv. no. R.9287.

Provenance: Apulum, Northern necropolis – Stația de salvare. Rescue excavations 1981.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 107, Cat. no. 198.

60. Openwork peltate plate (Pl. VIII/7)

Fragment of a belt plate decorated with peltate motifs. The surviving end is provided with the hole for the fastening rivet.

L = 2.4 cm; W = 2.1 cm; Inv. no. R.9134.

Provenance: Apulum. Gh. Alungulesei Collection. Acquisition 1994.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 105, Cat. no. 192.

61. Pelta-shaped openwork plate (Pl. V/8)

Fragment of a pelta-shaped openwork plate. There is a fastening disc-headed rivet on the rear face.

L = 2.2 cm; W = 3.5 cm; T = 0.2 cm; Inv. no. 3644.

Provenance: Homorod-Joseni (Orăștie, Hunedoara County). Olea Collection. Acquisition 1967.

References: Unpublished.

62. Refuse peltate openwork plate (Pl. VIII/8)

Waste fragment of a plate ornated with peltate motifs. The casting burrs inside the openwork are not finished and there are no traces of riveting.

L = 5.1 cm; W = 2.0 cm; Inv. no. R.9986.

Provenance: *Municipium/colonia Aurelia Apulensis*. Fortuitous discovery.

References: Catalogue 2011, p. 105, Cat. no. 191.

**ECHIPAMENT MILITAR ROMAN ȘI PIESE DE HARNAȘAMENT DIN BRONZ
ÎN COLECȚIILE MUZEULUI DIN ALBA IULIA. I. APLICI DE CENTURĂ ȘI
*BALTEUS***

REZUMAT

Acest studiu se concentrează asupra unei categorii importante de artefacte de echipament militar din bronz, respectiv aplicile de *cingulum* și *balteus* aflate în colecțiile Muzeului Național al Unirii din Alba Iulia, a căror prezență semnificativă este legată indisolubil de prezența și staționarea Legiunii a XIII-a Gemina la Apulum. Aplicile de centură sunt parte a garniturilor de echipament clasice ale lumii romane, care au circulat în aceleași tipare ornamentale peste tot de-a lungul Imperiului, chiar dacă unele dintre ele puteau să fie produse local. În ceea ce privește aplicile de la Apulum se pot sesiza două cazuri particulare care nu par să fie produse standardizate de masă, respectiv exemplarele decorate cu delfin și *kantharos*. Aceste piese reprezintă în opinia noastră un *facies* local de aplici care ar fi putut fi fabricat într-un atelier din acest centru, în serie limitată sau chiar unică, constituind astfel un „pattern” apulens. Afirmăm acest lucru dat fiind faptul că, exceptând aplica identică ornată cu delfin de la Mătășaru – în *Barbaricum*, dar originară din Dacia, pentru ambele specimene nu am găsit deocamdată paralele nici în Dacia, nici în celelalte provincii ale Imperiului.

Prima parte a studiului este dedicată discuțiilor privind tipurile de aplici de centură semnalate în colecțiile muzeului, semnificația și tehnologia lor de fabricare, paralelele care se regăsesc printre exemplarele descoperite în Dacia, dar și în celelalte provincii ale Imperiului, precum și reperele cronologice în care acestea au putut fi încadrate. Cea de-a doua parte o constituie catalogul propriu-zis al pieselor la care am avut acces până la ora actuală, urmat de câteva concluzii generale care se pot contura în urma acestui demers.

Artefactele supuse discuției au fost analizate atât din punct de vedere morfologic cât și funcțional, încercând în același timp să determinăm – în măsura în care a fost posibil – apartenența lor la una sau alta dintre centuri, respectiv *cingulum* sau *balteus*. Prin urmare, specițiile din colecțiile noastre au fost încadrate în următoarele tipuri generice: aplici ajurate cu balustru – cu trei subtipuri sau variante; aplică ajurată în *opus interrasile*; aplică ajurată cu motive florale; aplică rectangulară cu câmp plin; aplică cu ornament zoomorf - delfin; aplică emailată de cataramă cu balama; aplici emailate cu *millefiori*; aplici ajurate cu motive în formă de trompetă; aplici ajurate pătrate cu ornament în formă de *pelta*; aplici în formă de literă; aplici în formă de *pelta* simplă sau dublă; aplică în forma de scut dublu; aplică ajurată rectangulară cu ornament în formă de kantharos; aplică ajurată în forma de ancoră; închizătoare de *balteus*; aplică de *balteus* în formă de “lance de beneficiar”; aplică rectangulară traforată circulară plată de *balteus*; aplici traforate rectangulare plate; aplică ajurată cu ornamente în formă de *pelta*; aplică rectangulară ajurată cu motive în *opus interrasile*; aplică în formă de roată cu spițe; aplică cordiformă ajurată de *balteus*; aplică ajurată polilobată de centură sau *balteus*.

Trebuie subliniat faptul că acest studiu este departe de a fi exhaustiv și nu clarifică integral existența și varietatea accesoriilor de echipament militar personal de la Apulum din cauza faptului că piese descoperite în ultimii ani în săpăturile arheologice sistematice sau de salvare sunt încă inedite. Cu toate acestea, unele exemplare au fost etalate deja în diverse expoziții temporare și în consecință, am putut beneficia de prezentarea lor în cataloagele publicate.

Analizarea acestui tip de garnituri ne-a permis să concluzionăm că ele acoperă cronologic toată durata de un secol și jumătate a staționării legiunii a XIII-a Gemina la Apulum, iar din punct de vedere tipologic majoritatea își găsesc analogii printre exemplarele descoperite atât în Dacia cât și în alte provincii ale Imperiului.

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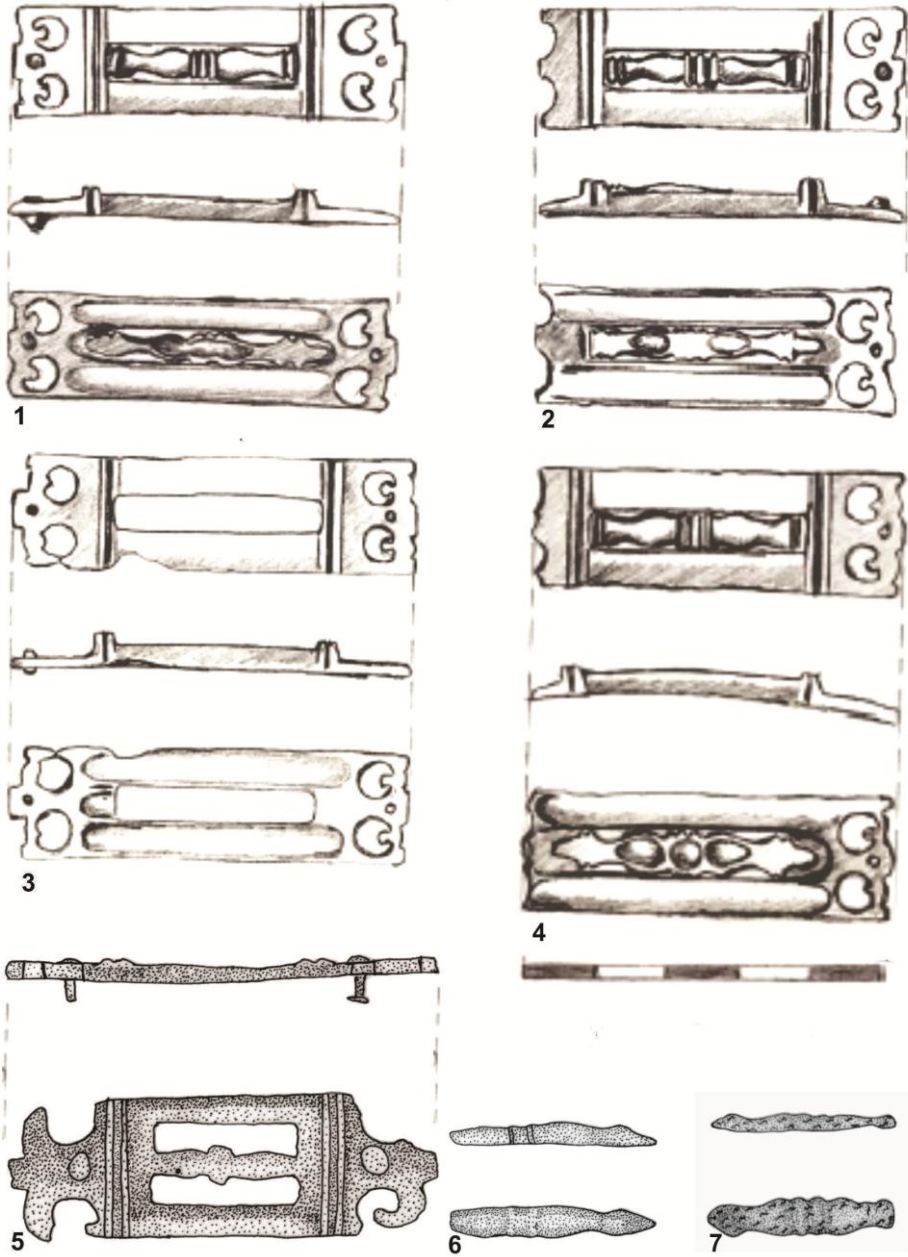
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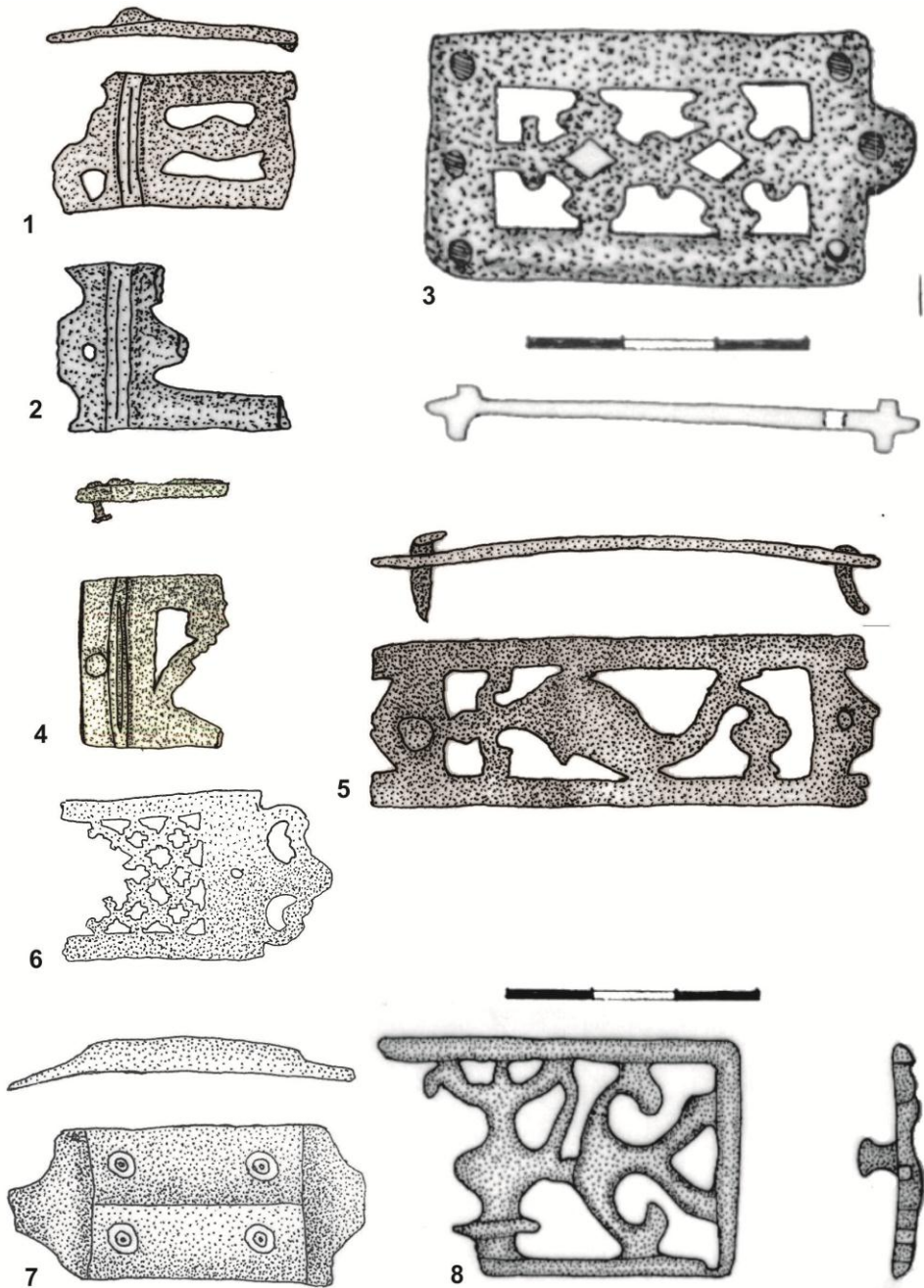
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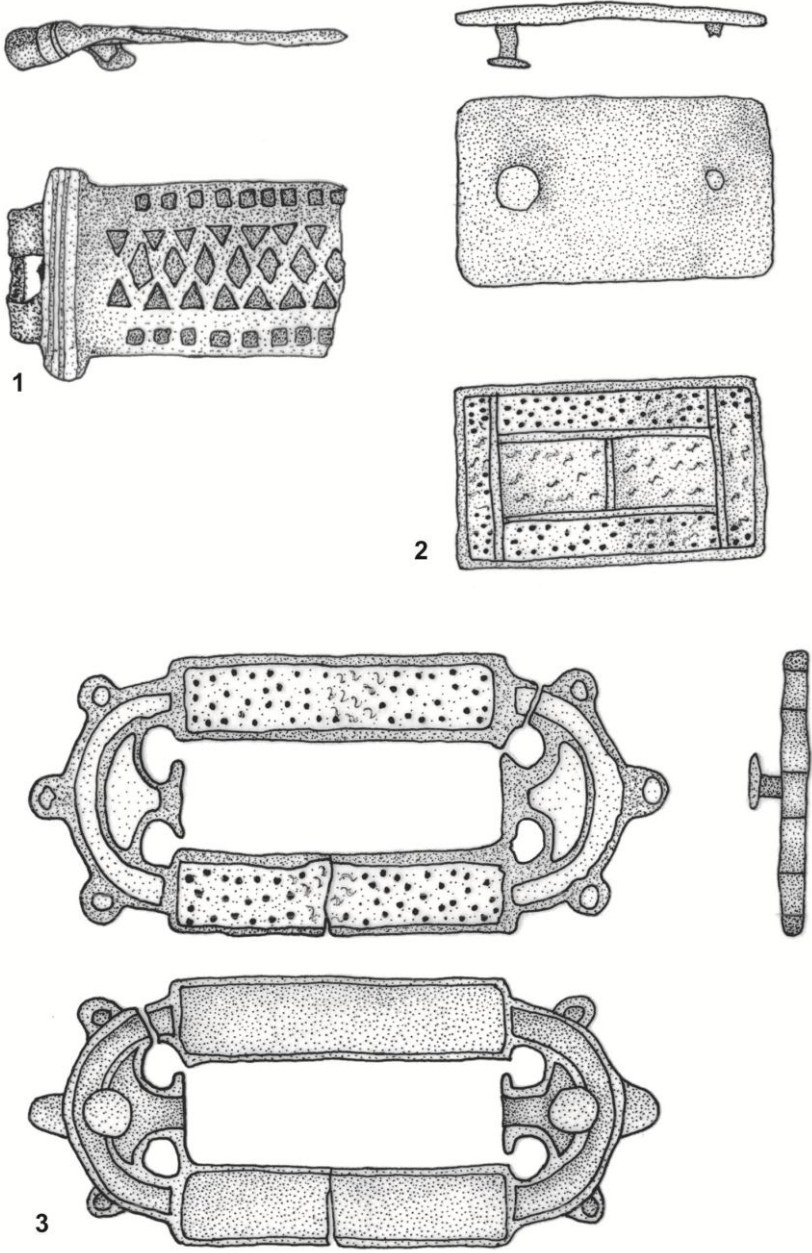
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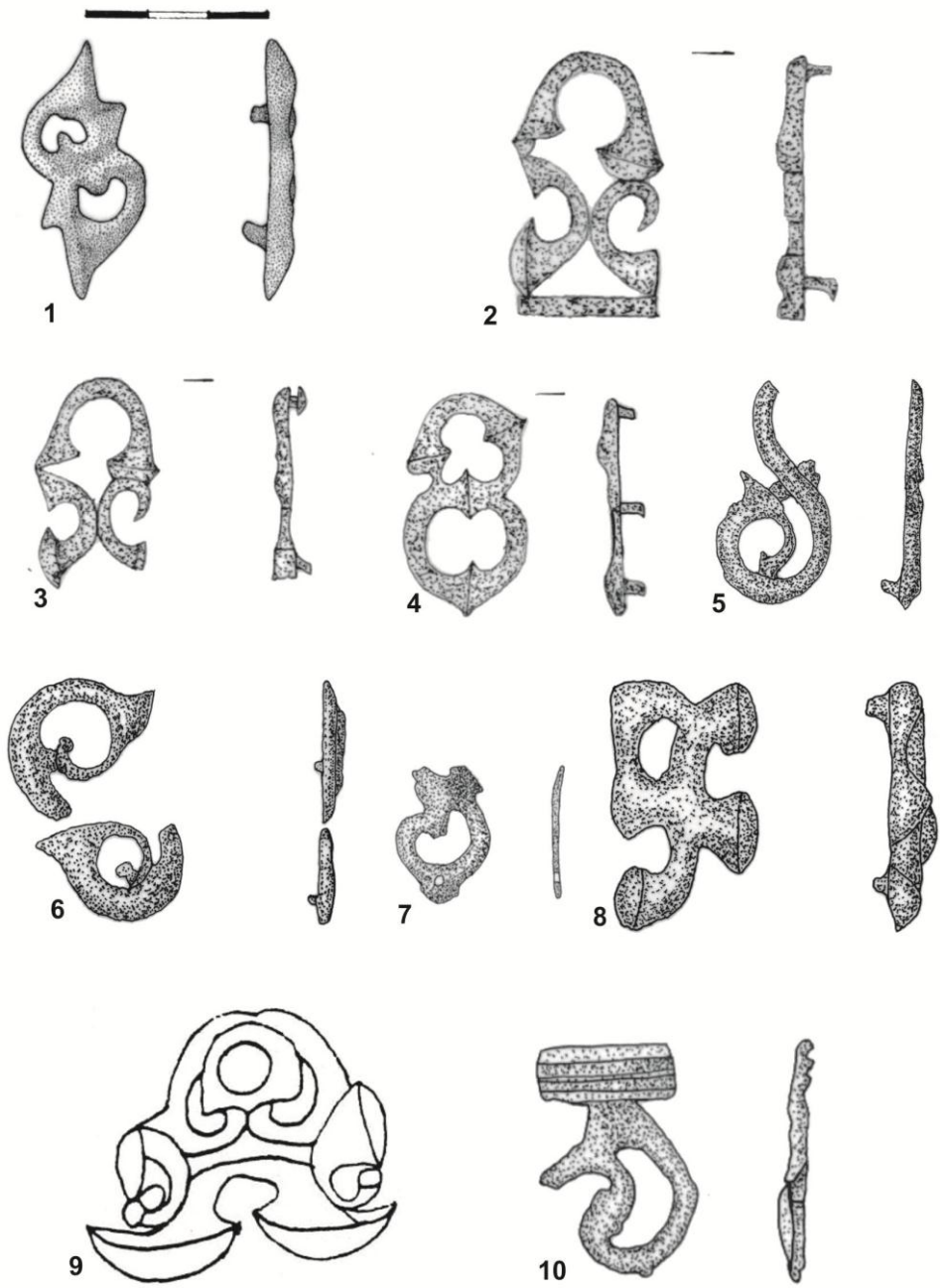
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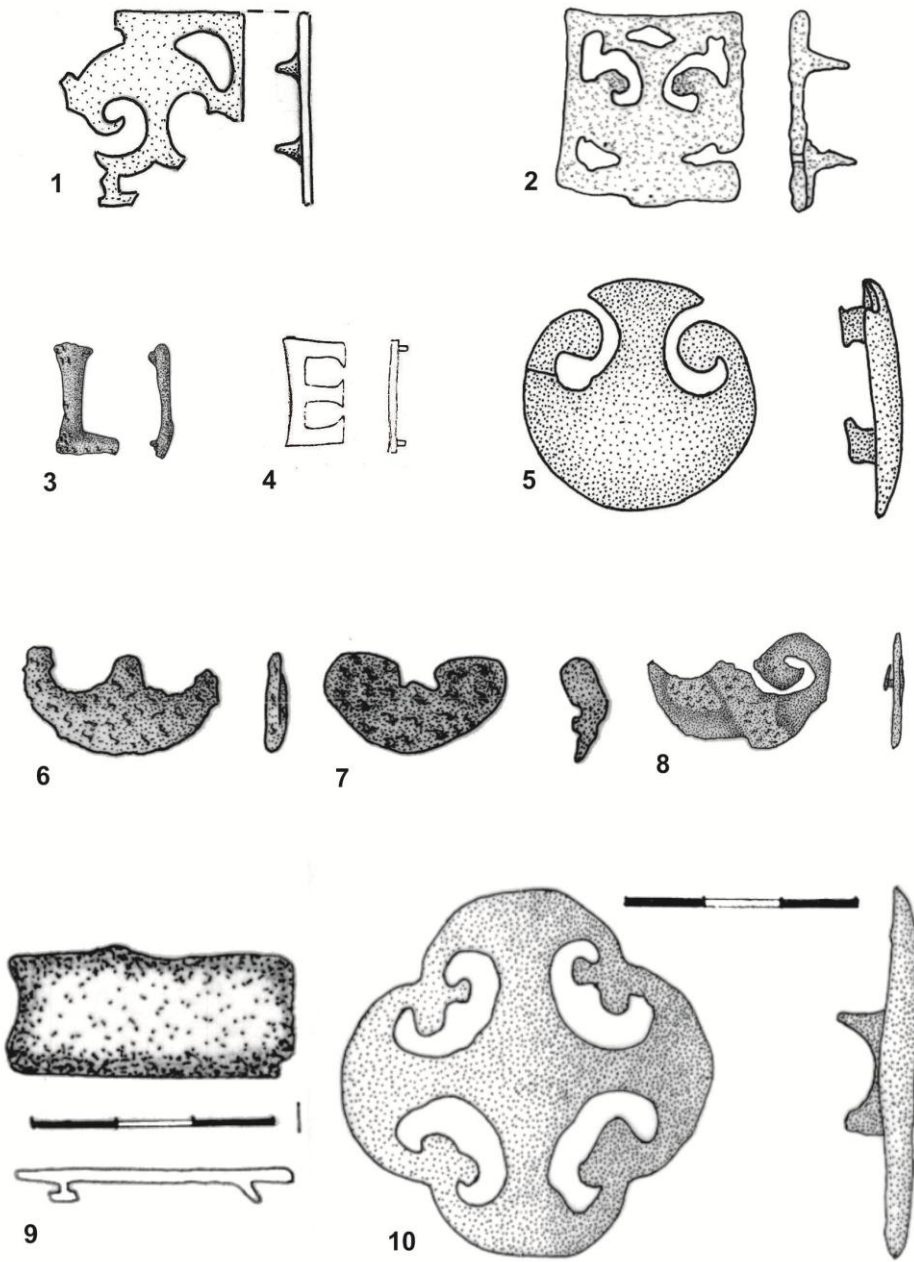
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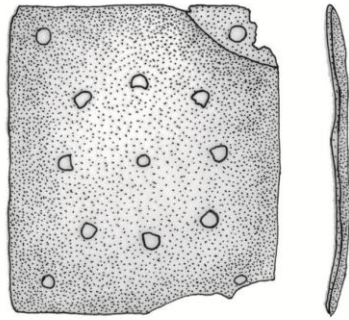
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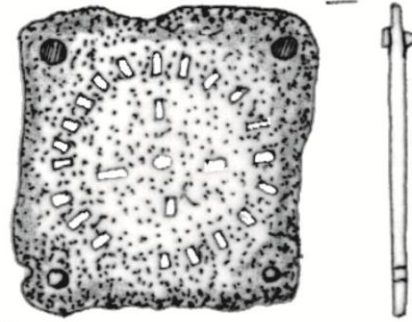
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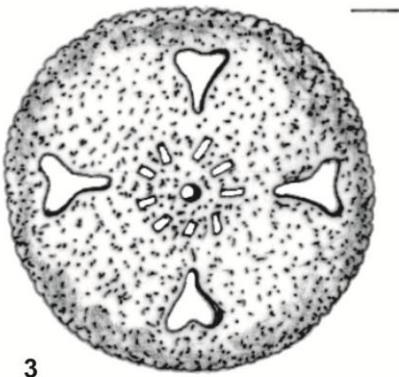
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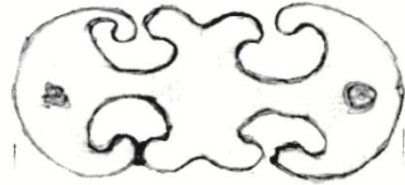
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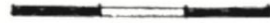
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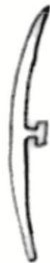
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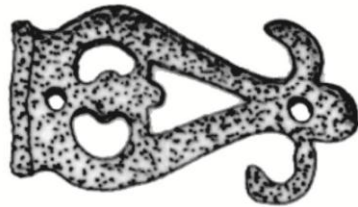
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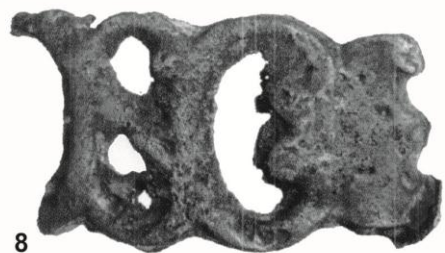
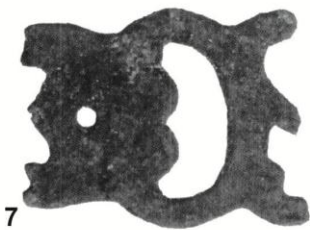
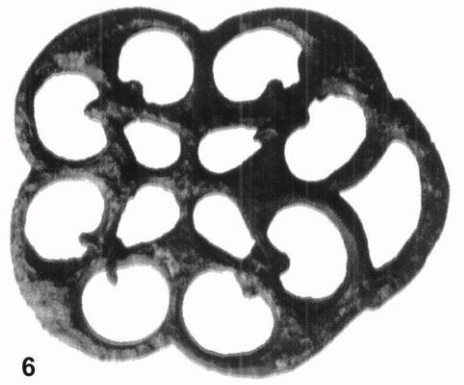
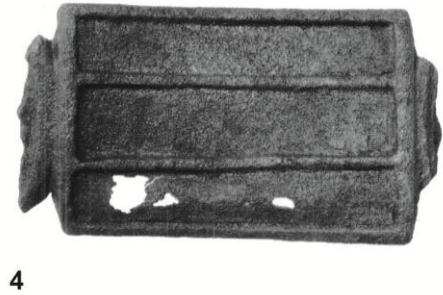
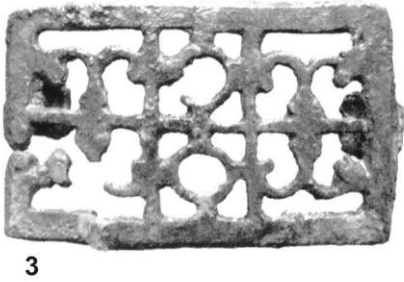
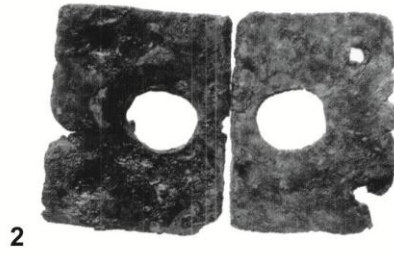
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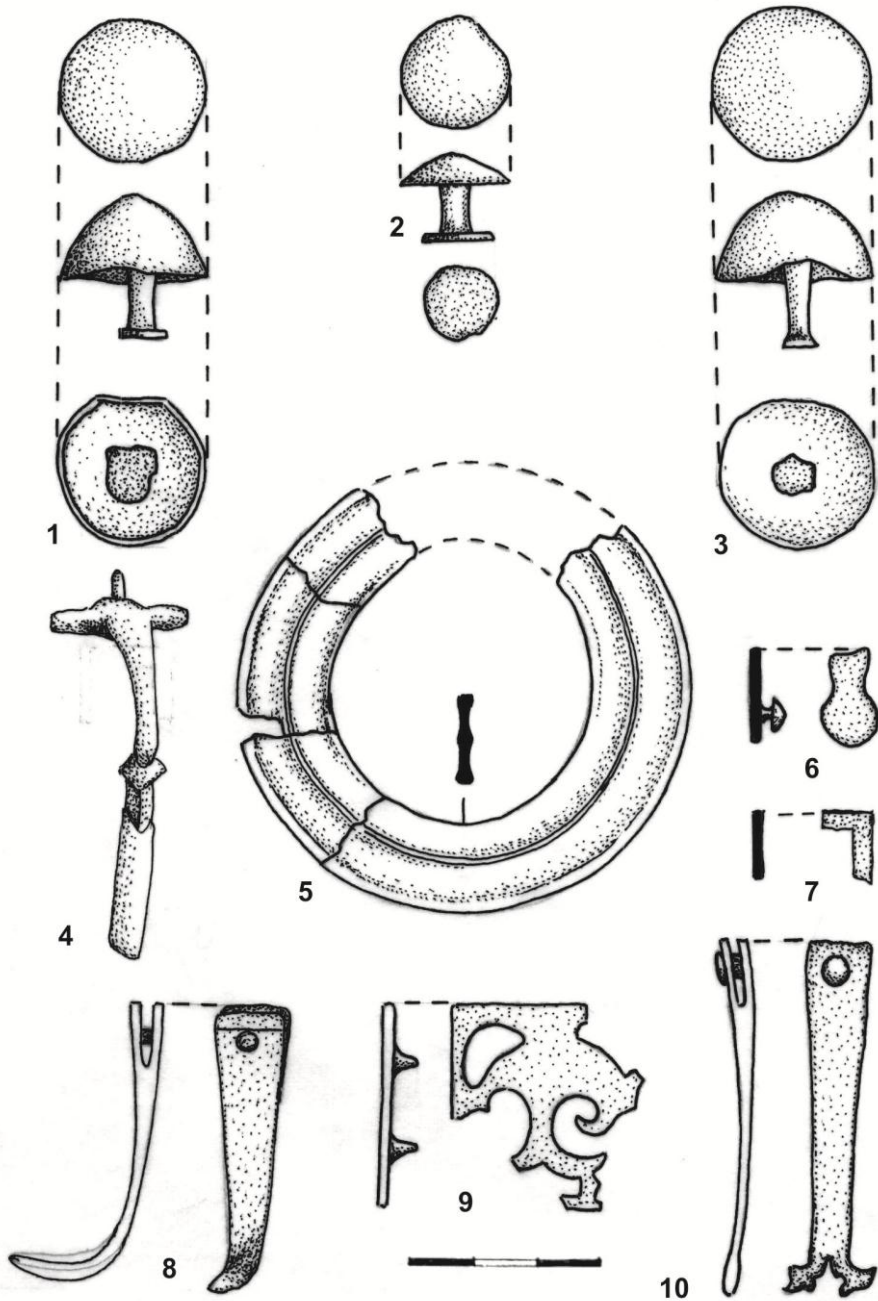
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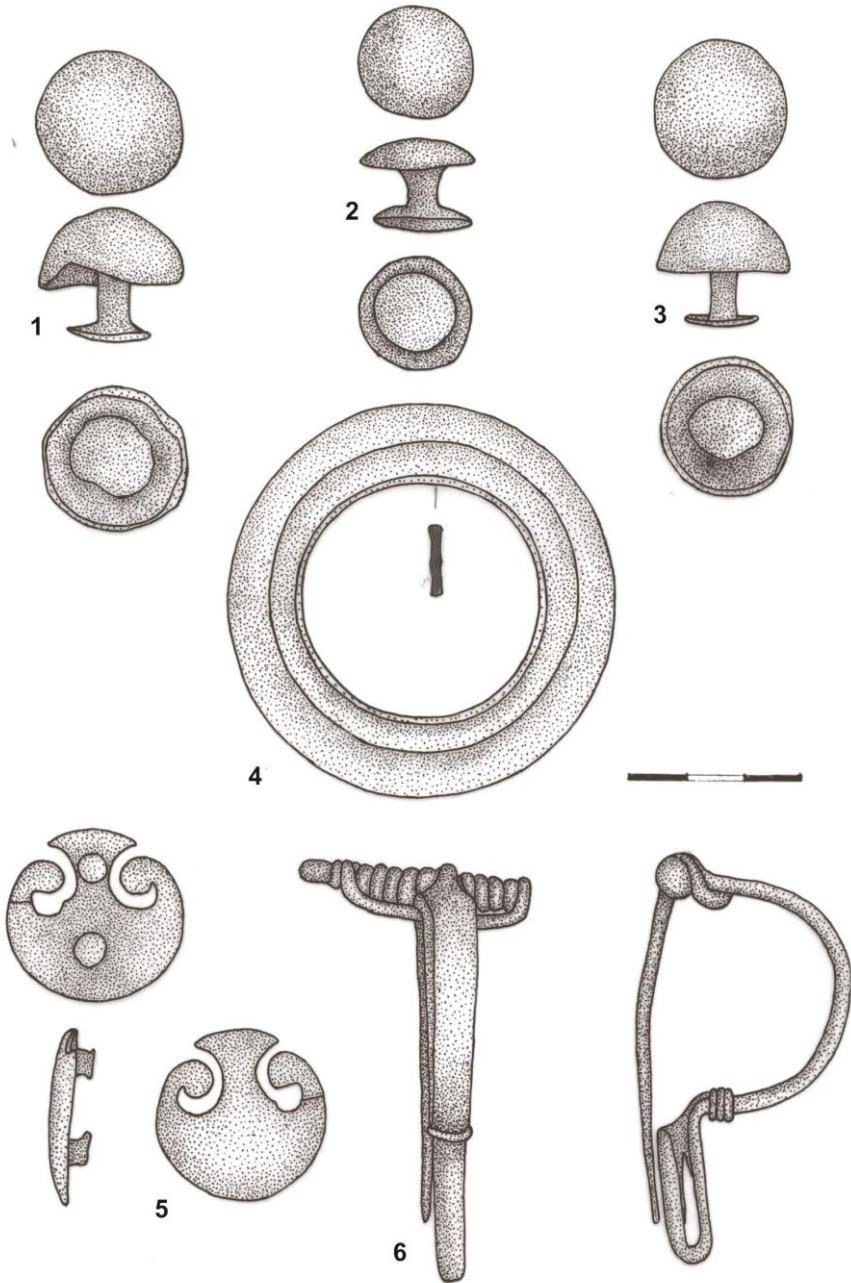
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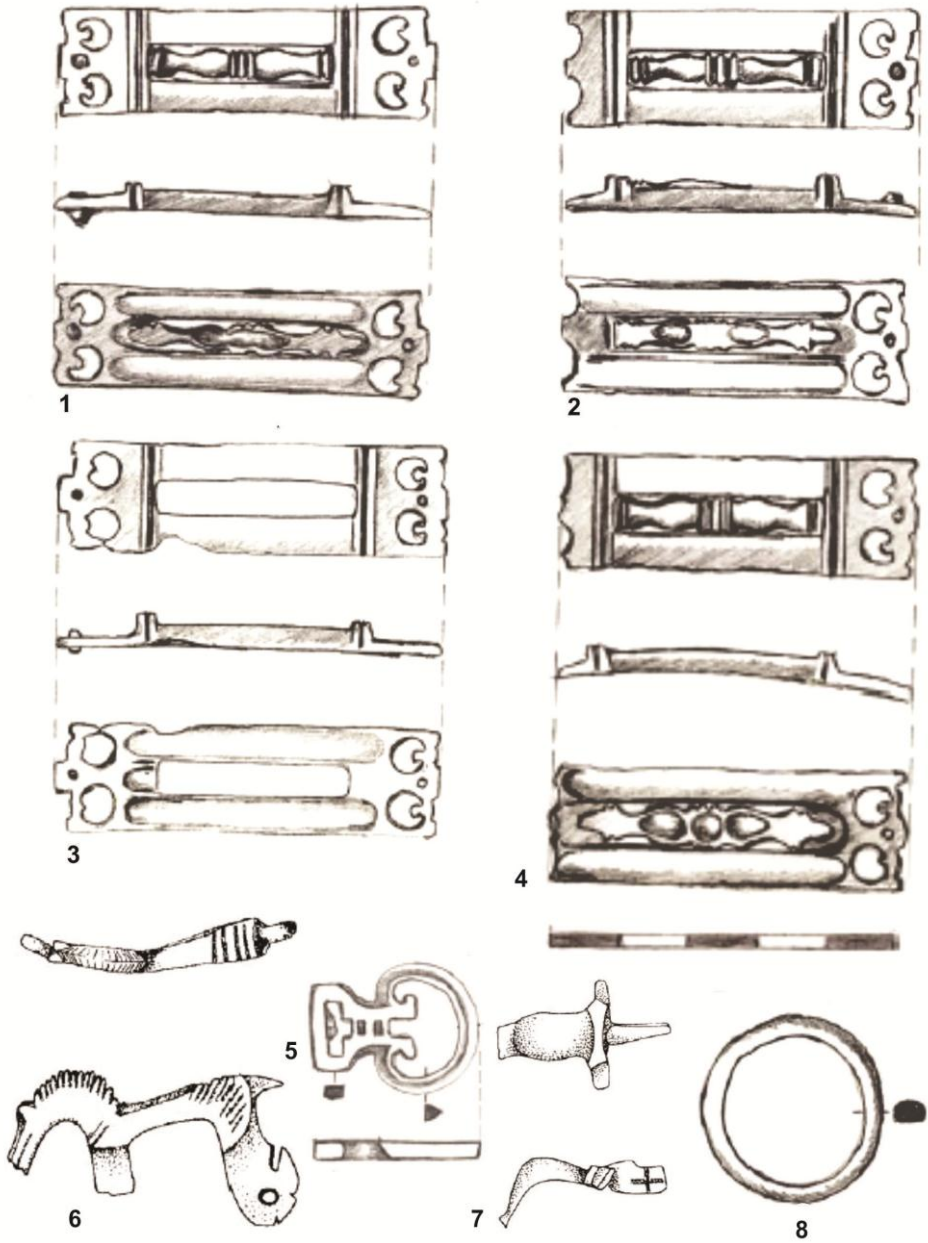
PL. VIII.



Pl. IX.



Pl. X.



Pl. XI.