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ANOTHER ROMAN GRAVE WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM APULUM

DANIELA CIUGUDEAN
Muzeul Național al Unirii, Alba Iulia

Key words: Apulum, northern necropolis, personal military equipment, grave, openwork plates, baluster-moulded bar.

Cuvinte-cheie: Apulum, necropola nordică, mormânt, echipament militar personal, aplici ajurate, balustru.

There were two Roman necropolises at *Apulum*, one located south of the military camp, on the hill called Dealul Furcilor - Podei¹, the other north of the town, on both sides of the road to *Ampelvm*, on the site named Stația de salvare - Stadium². The northern Roman necropolis from *Apulum* is one of the few exhaustively excavated in *Dacia Superior* until the present day. Roman burials together with Early Middle Age graves, were unearthed during the excavation campaigns carried out in that area between 1979-1980, 1981-1985³, and the subsequent archaeological surveys carried out in 2002⁴, 2002-2003⁵ and 2010. A recent paper offers an overview and statistics of the Roman graves discovered in the northern necropolis⁶, burials which have received scant attention and were published only cursorily so far. From the total amount of approximately 1024 graves unearthed in all the investigated areas, 804 were cremation graves and 220 inhumation graves.⁷

The inventory of the Roman graves consists of pottery (jugs and clay lamps), coins, bronze belt and dress fittings, silver and bronze jewellery, glass vessels and beads, iron tools, nails and hobnails, several bone artefacts etc. The presence of typical belt fittings, mounts and occasional weapons allows us to distinguish the military graves from the civilian ones.

¹ Protase 1959a, 433-442; 1959b, 397-400; 1961; 1974; Gligor et alii 2005; Moga et alii 2006; 2008; Gligor et alii 2010.

² Protase 1959b, 400-403; Blăjan, Popa 1983; Moga 1987, 158, 166-168.

³ Ciugudean 1996, 4-5; 2006, 12.

⁴ Inel et alii 2002, 145.

⁵ Dragotă, Rustoiu 2003, 132.

⁶ Inel 2011.

⁷ *Ibidem*, 150.

Two funeral assemblages consisting of military equipment items unearthed into the northern Roman necropolis are already published. The first one is a cremation grave⁸ and the second one is an inhumation burial⁹, both of them containing, besides brooches, mounts, strap terminals and a coin, the so-called *Ringschnallencingulum* type belts, all of them on bronze.

This paper concentrates on the cremation grave no. 8/trench IV excavated in the northern Roman cemetery from Alba Iulia - Stația de salvare, in the parking lot of the Stadium in 1981.¹⁰

The inventory of the grave consists of a set of bronze belt fittings, two bronze brooches and two glass beads (PI.I).

Abbreviations used in the text: L = length; W = width; T = thickness; H = height; D = diameter. All the measurements of the items are in cm.

1-6 Set of belt fittings.

1. Belt plate (PI.II/1). Rectangular openwork plate of copper alloy.

The plate exhibits a double pelta-shaped ornament with pierced 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 prominence. 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 on both sides before conservation. Restored.

L = 6,8 cm; W = 1,9 cm; T = 0,4 cm.

Inv.no. 9577/1.

References: Ciugudean 1997, p.685-690.

2. Belt plate (PI.II/2). Rectangular openwork plate of copper alloy similar to the previous, except one pelta-shaped terminal which is partially broken. One iron rivet at the opposite end. Traces of intense burning on both sides before conservation. Restored.

L = 6,1 cm; W = 1,9 cm; T = 0,5 cm.

Inv.no. 9577/2.

References: Ciugudean 1997, 685-690.

3. Belt plate (PI.II/3). Incomplete rectangular openwork plate of copper alloy. The baluster bar in the central opening is missing. One iron rivet is still in place. Traces of intense burning on both sides before conservation. Restored.

L = 6,8 cm; W = 1,9 cm; T = 0,4 cm.

Inv.no. 9577/3.

References: Ciugudean 1997, 685-690.

⁸ Ciugudean D – H 2000 and 2000a.

⁹ Ciugudean 2010.

¹⁰ The excavations were carried out by Dr. Cloșca Băluță, who registered them separately from those located south of the road to Ampelum.

4. Belt plate (Pl.II/4). Incomplete rectangular openwork plate of copper alloy. One pelta-shaped terminal is half broken. The plate is slightly bent up, possible distortion caused by the burning of the item. Traces of intense burning on both sides before conservation. Restored.

L = 5,8 cm; W = 1,9 cm; T = 0,4 cm.

Inv.no. 9577/4.

References: Ciugudean 1997, 685-690

5. Buckle (Pl.II/5). Incomplete copper alloy buckle cast in a flat one-piece mould. The hoop is ovoid with the ends curved back in the form of flat scrolls to either side of the tongue, which is missing. At the opposite end to the bow of the buckle is a rectangular expansion for attachment to a belt plate. Traces of intense burning on both sides before conservation. Restored.

L = 3 cm; W = 2,4 cm; T = 0,3 cm.

Inv.no. 9577/5.

References: Ciugudean 1997, 685-690.

6. Ring (Pl.II/6). Copper alloy ring, of semi-oval section. Traces of intense burning on both sides before restoration. Restored.

D = 2,8 cm; T = 0,3 cm.

Inv.no. 9577/6.

References: Ciugudean 1997, 685-690.

7. Zoomorphic brooch (Pl.III/1). Incomplete. The bow of the yellow copper alloy brooch depicts a static horse. The mane of the animal is rendered by fine incisions and the croup is decorated with similar incisions on both sides of the artefact. The short queue has a triangular shape. The fastening mechanism by spring is missing. The half broken catchplate has a rectangular shape. The pin is not preserved. Manufactured of several elements. Traces of intense burning on both sides before conservation. Restored.

H = 2 cm; W = 4 cm.

References: Cociş, Ciugudean, Deleanu 2004, 281, Pl.II/8.

8. Knee brooch (Pl.III/2). Reddish copper alloy waste/semi-manufactured product of a knee brooch. The headplate is rectangular and the bow is bent in a letter D shape. The support following the headplate renders two crossed/perpendicular incised lines meant to mark out the border of the spring head to be cut and also the drilling place of the hole for the spring. Near the headplate there is a fastening hook for the tall chord of the spring. The short foot is broken above its lower side which should be provided with the catchplate and a terminal knob. The fastening mechanism by spring, usually formed of 8 windings, was not manufactured. Traces of intense burning on both sides before conservation. Restored.

L = 3,2 cm.

References: Cociş, Ciugudean, Deleanu 2004, 281, Pl.I/6.

9. Bead (Pl.I). Glass. Oval section. Complete melon-shaped bead of opaque vitreous paste of bright blue colour.

D = 1,5 cm; H = 1,2 cm.

Unpublished.

10. Bead (Pl.I). Glass. Oval section. Complete melon-shaped bead of opaque vitreous paste of bright blue colour.

D = 1,3 cm; H = 1,0 cm.

Unpublished.

Belt plates. Rectangular narrow openwork plates with baluster-moulded bar in the central opening were unearthed in *Dacia* in a cremation grave at Lechința de Mureș¹¹, Porolissum¹², Ilișua¹³, on the Roman site at Mehadia¹⁴ and in grave no.2 from Tomis¹⁵. Few rectangular openwork plates with the ends in the form of *tabula ansata* discovered in the fort at Copăceni – Praetorium I were probably provided with or at least intended to receive baluster-moulded bars in their central openings¹⁶.

Narrow rectangular appliques with central opening preserving or not the baluster bar are registered in other provinces of the Empire in grave no.58 from the „Više Grobalja” necropolis at Viminacium¹⁷, in the cemeteries of the auxiliary fort at Gerulata in Pannonia superior¹⁸, at Buch¹⁹, Kösching²⁰, Gnotzheim²¹, Niederbieber²², Aquincum²³, Newstead²⁴, Carnuntum²⁵ and Aquileia²⁶. A rectangular openwork plate with pelta-shaped ends and central opening which does not preserve a baluster bar was recovered at Thamusida, in Morocco.²⁷ From different sites in Bulgaria come few plates with pelta-shaped ends and central opening which did not preserve the baluster bar: the first one of

¹¹ Petculescu 1995, 110-112, Pl.7/1-5. Horedt 1958, 20-22, Abb.4/2,5.

¹² Gudea 1989, 643-4, Pl.CCVI/12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 22-25 (the plates are part of the private collection of count Wesellényi-Teleki from Jibou, donated to the Museum of History and Art from Zalău in 1958); Gudea, Chirilă, Matei, Bajusz, Tamba 1992, 150, Fig.22.

¹³ Protase, Gaiu, Marinescu 1997, Pl.LXXVII/4.

¹⁴ Bozu 2000, 225, Pl.II/3.

¹⁵ Petculescu 1998, 154, Fig.1/2.

¹⁶ Tudor 1982, 52, Fig.2/4-6; Fig.5/13.

¹⁷ Zotović, Jordović 1990, T.LXXXVI/3.

¹⁸ Kreković 1994, 212, Fig.5/1, 2, 6.

¹⁹ Oldenstein 1976, Taf.65/832.

²⁰ *Ibidem*, Taf.62/780.

²¹ *Ibidem*, Taf.62/781.

²² *Ibidem*, Taf.62/782.

²³ Kuszinszky 1890, Taf.1, 9.

²⁴ Curle 1911, Taf.78, 14.

²⁵ Buora 2002, 46: unpublished items kept in the museum at Carnuntum.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, Tab.1/6.

²⁷ Boube-Picot 1994, 13, Pl.68/103.

unknown location and the second one from Topola²⁸, as well as a plate with the baluster bar still in place from Nicopolis ad Istrum²⁹. These artefacts were dated to the middle of the 2nd century AD.³⁰ An almost identical plate to the items from Apulum, without baluster-moulded bar in the central opening, has no certain place of discovery.³¹

Isolated baluster-moulded bars are known in Dacia at Stolniceni³² and at *Apulum*³³ (PI.III/3-4). A sole baluster-moulded bar from Straubing³⁴ figures amongst other various belt fittings, without any comment from the author. In Raetia a detached baluster-moulded bar was found at Eining-Unterfeld in the supposed fortress of *Legio III Italica*, dated aprox. AD 170-180³⁵.

The belt plate with baluster-moulded bar unearthed in the Raetian auxiliary fort from Buch, which was built towards the middle of the 2nd century AD, was consequently dated to about AD 150³⁶.

The set of belt fittings including four rectangular appliques with baluster-moulded bars in the central opening at Tomis, the civil town in Moesia Inferior, was dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD³⁷. The Lechința de Mureș funeral assemblage containing a set of belt fittings and agricultural implements is supposed to have been deposited approximatively between AD 150-170, which was considered to be the same date as the jar in which it was placed.³⁸

Rectangular mounts seem to be the most frequent items between the large number of belt fittings recovered from eight burials in the cemeteries at Gerulata. One mount³⁹ was found together with a coin of Faustina the Elder (Faustina I – after AD 141) in the grave no. 69 of Cemetery I, and another plate⁴⁰ with the remains of a massive bronze casserole presumably dates to the first half of the 2nd century in the grave no. 69 of the Cemetery II. The only plate with the baluster-moulded bar still in place was found in grave no.67 from the Cemetery II together with a smaller mount and a double button with conical

²⁸ Gencheva 2009, Fig.5/7, 11.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, Fig.5/8.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, 11, 26-27.

³¹ *Ibidem*, Fig.5/10.

³² Unpublished item in Muzeul Județean Vâlcea, information L. Petculescu.

³³ Pieces from old collections of Muzeul Național al Unirii, Inv.nos.3491 and 3484.

³⁴ Oldenstein 1976, Taf.66/871.

³⁵ Jütting, 1992, no.117.

³⁶ Oldenstein 1976, 197.

³⁷ Petculescu 1998, 154.

³⁸ Petculescu 1995, 111.

³⁹ Krekovič 1994, 212, Fig.5/6.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, Fig.5/1.

head of the type Oldenstein 485, which could not be more precisely dated⁴¹. In spite of the fact that, according to Oldenstein, the rectangular openwork appliques are thought to have been made from the last third of the 2nd century AD till the first half of the 3rd century AD, in the opinion of E. Krekovič some finds from Gerulata indicate that they may belong to an earlier date⁴².

Dealing with personal military equipment fittings from the old collections and recent discoveries at *Apulum* I paid attention to a wide category of such items and I have to emphasise the presence of two variants of openwork plates with baluster-moulded bars. The first variant was analysed above and consists of pieces with the balusters bars cast apart and welded into two small slots on the underside of the plate. This detail might be the explanation for the existence of so many plates everywhere, without baluster bars in their central opening. The second variant is indicated by another openwork plate from the old collections at *Apulum* (Inv.no.3460). The terminals of this plate in the shape of *tabula ansata* describe a double pelta shape ornament. What differentiates it from the first variant is the baluster-moulded bar which was cast in the same one-piece mould with the whole plate (PI.IV./2). The peculiarities of the decorations exhibited by this type of plate point to their production in a local workshop in Dacia. In this respect I am taking into consideration firstly the baluster bar as a central ornament and secondly the pierced peltate ornaments at the ends of the plates, which seem to be common decorative motifs occurring especially on the Roman soldier's equipment in Dacia.

Buckle. The buckle can be placed among the common 2nd century AD oval buckles with internal volutes and trapeziform or rectangular shaped attachment loop. This extension served as the means of attaching the buckle to the belt plate. The buckle was positioned behind the belt plate so that the hoop was visible but the extension was concealed. A strip of bronze passed from the back of the plate through the rectangular hole in the buckle's extension and was soldered or fastened by rivets at the opposite end of the plate, as is shown for instance by different artefacts from Osterburken⁴³, Romula grave no.2⁴⁴, Lechința de Mureș⁴⁵ and the item from the fort and military *vicus* at Bumbești-Jiu „Vârtop”⁴⁶. In Roman *Dacia*, the closest parallel for the item at *Apulum* is an identical buckle found in the fort at Buciumi⁴⁷. Two other buckles with

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, 217, Fig.5/2, 4.

⁴² *Ibidem*, 197, 212; Oldenstein 1976, 197.

⁴³ Oldenstein 1976, 214-215, Abb.7, Taf.75/997.

⁴⁴ Petculescu 1995, Pl.2.1;

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, Pl.7/1-2.

⁴⁶ Marinoiu 2002, 76, pl.LXIX/6.

⁴⁷ Gudea 1997, 16 fig. no.4 down right.

trapeziform extension, considered as imports, were unearthed at Drobeta.⁴⁸ Some variants of bronze buckles of the debated type with unknown discovery site (Porolissum ?), are kept in the deposits of the Museum of History and Art from Zalău.⁴⁹ Two similar buckles with rectangular extension were unearthed in the camp at Micia.⁵⁰ From the *villa rustica* at Gârla Mare two buckles are known, one with rectangular extension and the second with trapeziform attachment loop.⁵¹ Amongst the rich archaeological material unearthed in this farm there are almost 80 artefacts of personal military equipment suggesting that it was the possession of a veteran of the Trajanic wars in *Dacia*.

In the old collections of the National Museum at Alba Iulia two almost similar items from ancient *Apulum* figure. The first buckle with oval hoop and trapeziform extension behind is smaller in proportions.⁵² The second buckle, embellished with inner and outward-curving volutes was registered together with a detached folded bronze strip (Inv.no.3459) very similar to that attached to the buckle at Lechința de Mureș. The long strip for fixing the buckle to the plate is folded near one end and secured with a bronze rivet. The opposite end preserves a round rivet hole (**Pl.IV/1a-b**).

The buckle from grave no.8, trench IV at *Apulum* has also good parallels in other provinces of the Empire at Iža⁵³, Zugmantel⁵⁴, Saalburg⁵⁵, Pfünz⁵⁶, Neuburg an der Donau – grave no.10⁵⁷, South Shields⁵⁸, Caerleon⁵⁹ and Caerwent⁶⁰. Similar buckles, dated to the middle of the 2nd century AD, were found on the modern territory of Bulgaria at Novae⁶¹ or at unknown locations.⁶² An identical buckle was discovered in the inventory of grave no.26 from the cemetery at Carnuntum⁶³, together with a glass vessel, a clay lamp, a "Trompetenornament" plate, a fungiform button, a knee brooch with semi-round

⁴⁸ Stîngă 1998, Pl.LXXII, 8-9.

⁴⁹ Gudea 1989, 675-676, Pl.CCXXII/12-25, 30-34. The brooches are part of the private collection of count Wesellényi-Teleki from Jibou, donated to the Museum of History and Art from Zalău in 1958.

⁵⁰ Petculescu 1991, Fig.1-2; *Dacia Augusti Provincia* 2006, 152, Cat.140-141.

⁵¹ Stîngă 2005, Pl.XXXV/22-23.

⁵² Unpublished piece, Inv.no.3462.

⁵³ Rajtár 1994, Abb.8/6.

⁵⁴ Oldenstein 1976, Taf.76/1003, 1013.

⁵⁵ *Ibidem*, Taf.76/1008.

⁵⁶ *Ibidem*, Taf.76/1018.

⁵⁷ Hübener 1963-4, 23, Abb.4-5/151.

⁵⁸ Allason-Jones, Miket 1984, 3.619.

⁵⁹ Evans, Metcalf 1992, fig.77-78.

⁶⁰ Bishop, Griffiths 1993, Fig.1/3.

⁶¹ Gencheva 2009, Fig.1/3-4.

⁶² *Ibidem*, Fig.1/5-9, 11.

⁶³ Ertel et alii 1999, 72, Taf.25/8.

head, but also with two coins, one of Nerva (AD 96-98) and the other of Hadrianus (AD 117-138). A second similar buckle, with partially preserved strip for fixing it to the plate comes from grave no.147 of the same cemetery⁶⁴, with a significant furnishing containing this time a coin of Alexander Severus⁶⁵ (AD 222-235). This situation pleads for the using of this type of buckle for a period of at least one century, when it was worn and still in fashion. In his survey of auxiliary equipment in use on the Upper German-Raetian frontier in the second and early third centuries AD, Oldenstein assumes that these buckles originated there and were worn mainly by auxiliary forces, similar items from elsewhere being of continental derivation. Although their occurrence/incidence in legionary context⁶⁶ is not large but noteworthy, it is probable that many types of equipment were in common use throughout the army with no distinction between legionary and auxiliary usage.

Oldenstein dates this type of buckles to the second half of the 2nd century AD, ascertaining that they were still in use until the fall of the German frontier in AD 260.⁶⁷

Ring. The presence of a single ring in grave no.8/trench IV at *Apulum* raises some problems of interpretation. The item was probably deliberately put in isolation with the intention of suggesting the entire system of suspension of a weapon/sword or at least a dagger/knife. A recognized team of scholars stated that „the question of sword suspension is vexed, but it certainly seems that it started with the sword on one belt and the dagger on another. Precisely how the sword was attached to the belt is unknown, although various suggestions have been made. The advent of the single belt may have necessitated the adoption of a baldric (no examples of double belts with a baldric are shown on the Rhineland tombstones), but we cannot be certain of whether only two suspension rings, three, or even all four were employed”.⁶⁸ An important metamorphosis occurred in the Roman weaponry and style of fighting some time after the middle of the 1st century AD and the beginning of the 2nd century AD, with the replacement of the familiar long-pointed, taper-bladed weapon of the Republic, the so-called *gladius Hispaniensis* - known as the „Mainz” type - by a parallel-edged, short-pointed sword, the *spatha* - known as the „Pompeii” type. The *gladius* scabbard with metallic structure was usually attached to the *cingulum* by a system of four rings while the wooden-leather sheath of the *spatha* was fixed with bronze, iron or bone scabbard slides through which a central lock was engaged to the belt of the *balteus*. Besides, the use of the suspension rings for the wooden sheath of the

⁶⁴ *Ibidem*, Taf.77/9.

⁶⁵ *Ibidem*, Taf.77/7.

⁶⁶ Evans, Metcalf 1992, cat.nos. and figs.75-78.

⁶⁷ Oldenstein 1976, 211-214, Taf.76/1011-1018.

⁶⁸ Bishop, Coulston 1993, 74, Fig.38/1-2.

spatha was excluded because they could be fixed only to the narrow metallic frame, which could damage the scabbard itself by consequence of the sword's weight distribution on the edges. The study of daggers and their sheaths – used by both legionary and auxiliary infantry and sometimes by cavalymen as the tombstone evidence reveals - is very complex. Two main types of sheaths have been stressed: on type A (items from Allériot and Rod Hill), the four suspension rings were usually free to move, attached to the sheath by fine copper alloy loops⁶⁹; on type B (items from the Rhine at Mainz, Vindonissa, Leeuwen), there are two lugs on either side through which the rivets securing the suspension loops - more elaborately formed - and also provided with rings, passed.⁷⁰ This brief attempt on the suspension system of a weapon does not facilitate or enlighten the problem of the type of weapon owned by the deceased from the grave no.8/trench IV at *Apulum*. Simply the presence of a bronze ring in the funeral assemblage suggests that it belonged to a suspension system of the weapon of a soldier or veteran who served in the Roman army.

Zoomorphic Brooch. Zoomorphic brooches are spread in the entire Roman world and also in the *Barbaricum*⁷¹, the largest category being represented by the enamelled items found in the western provinces, while those without enamel are disseminated in *Noricum*, *Pannonia*, *Moesia* and *Dacia*. It has been accepted that the enamelled artefacts are imports and unornamented brooches, in the majority, were of local production. This assumption is supported for the case of *Dacia* by the discovery of a brooch--mould depicting a rabbit⁷² within the workshop from *Napoca*.

According to the classification made by S. Cociş in his work dedicated to the Roman brooches in *Dacia*, the zoomorphic brooch in the shape of a static horse from *Apulum* belongs to the 22a2 type, with spring fastening mechanism and catchplate of type 4.⁷³ This type of brooch emerges in *Dacia* at the beginning of the 2nd century AD and is in use until the close of the century, their bearers being, judged from archaeological contexts, both civilians and military.⁷⁴ The brooch has good parallels in *Dacia* at Porolissum⁷⁵ (?), Micia fort⁷⁶ and in the rural settlement at Cioroiul Nou⁷⁷.

⁶⁹ *Ibidem*, 74, Fig.41/4, 5.

⁷⁰ *Ibidem*, 76, Fig.41/2, 6-8.

⁷¹ Böhme 1972, 40-41; Jobst 1975, 113-115; Riha 1979, 188-204, Taf.61-68; Sellye 1939, 49-64; Ettlinger 1973, pl.3; Bojović 1983, pl.XXX; Matoustchek, Nowak 1979, 81-110; 1985-6, 101-222, Feugère 1985, 383-416.

⁷² Cociş 2004, 118, pl.CLXXI/3.

⁷³ Cociş 2004, 115.

⁷⁴ *Ibidem*, 118-9.

⁷⁵ Gudea Lucăcel 1979, 338, pl.XV/169-174; Gudea 1989, 608, 12-19, Pl.CXC/12-19 (the brooches are part of the private collection of count Wesellényi-Teleki from Jibou, donated to the

Knee Brooch. According to the classification made by S. Cociș in his work dedicated to the Roman brooches in Dacia, the wasted knee brooch from the grave no.8/trench IV at Apulum belongs to the 19b1a type⁷⁸, similar to Jobst 13A type at Lauriacum⁷⁹, Böhme 20a type at Saalburg and Zugmantel⁸⁰ or Riha 3.12.5 type at Augst⁸¹. This type of brooch is spread especially in *Noricum* and *Pannonia*⁸², but they can be found in other provinces of the Empire⁸³ as well. One can mention that besides the knee brooches with fastening mechanism by spring, there are also few exceptions fastened by hinge.⁸⁴ As regards Roman *Dacia*, knee brooches with rectangular headplate and the bow in the form of a D-shaped letter appear mainly in *Dacia Superior* at Apulum⁸⁵, Porolissum⁸⁶, Napoca⁸⁷, Drobeta⁸⁸, and Gherla⁸⁹. In the fort at Gherla two similar knee brooches were unearthed, one of them almost identical to the specimen at *Apulum*. Recent archaeological rescue excavations carried out in the southern necropolis from Dealul Furcilor-Podei at *Apulum* revealed personal military equipment items: knee type brooches prevail here, in both variants with hinge and spring fastening mechanism.⁹⁰ Another identical item⁹¹ to the one of grave no.8/trench IV was recovered in the same area during the excavations carried out in 2004. The knee brooches were in fashion for a long time, starting from the 2nd till the 4th centuries AD, their bearers being doubtless the soldiers from the Rhine-Danube frontier.⁹² This type of brooch was dated beginning with the Antoninian period to the 3rd century AD.⁹³ On the basis of a flawed piece (no.1188) of 19b1 type found in the brooch workshop from *Napoca* - which was functioning starting from the Trajanic period - S. Cociș suggests that this dating

Museum of History and Art from Zalău in 1958); Cociș 2004, 205, Cat. nos.1400-1404, Pl.C/1400-1403.

⁷⁶ Cociș 1985-1986, 530, pl.III/3; Cociș 2004, Cat. nos.1405-1406, Pl.C/1405-1406.

⁷⁷ Tudor, Diaconescu, Popilian 1967, Fig.7/15.

⁷⁸ Cociș 2004, 98.

⁷⁹ Jobst 1975, 64, 97-98.

⁸⁰ Böhme 1972, 20.

⁸¹ Riha 1979, 86, Taf.12/298.

⁸² Jobst 1975, 64; Patek 1942, 298; Sedlmayer 1995, 45; Košćević 1980, pl.XXII/174.

⁸³ Bojović 1983, pl.XXI/193-198; Prammer 1976, Taf.9, 6.

⁸⁴ Popescu 1941-1944, nos.50-53; Moga, Ciugudean, Cociș, Rodean 1997, Pl.VII/58.

⁸⁵ Moga, Ciugudean, Cociș, Rodean 1997, Pl.V/40; Catalog 2008, 27, 12 (Inv.no.R.10498).

⁸⁶ Gudea, Lucăcel 1979, 335, pl.XI/129-130; 340, pl.XVI/180, pl.XVII/195; Gudea, Cociș, Tamba, Matei 2001, pl.V/37, pl.VI/39; Cociș 2004, 198, Cat.nos.1179-1184, Pl.LXXVII/1179-1184.

⁸⁷ Cociș 2004, 99, pl.LXXVII/1188.

⁸⁸ Sfîngă 1998, 136, Pl.XCIV/4-7.

⁸⁹ Cociș 2004, Pl.LXXVII/1185; Cociș, Ardevan, Pinteana 1992, 328, pl.III/50; pl.III/48.

⁹⁰ Ciobanu, Rodean 1997, Fig.6/1,3,4, 6.

⁹¹ Catalog 2006, 27, Cat.no.85, S031D/C34/2004, Inv.no.R10358.

⁹² Riha 1979, 85.

⁹³ Böhme 1972, 20; Sedlmayer 1995, 45.

is too late for the artefacts recovered in *Dacia*, assuming that the type ceased to be produced around the 3rd quarter of the 2nd century AD.⁹⁴

Beads. A first classification of beads considering the quality of the vitreous paste, followed by a typology of the items starting from their shape and colour was produced by K. Böhmer⁹⁵. The beads from grave no.8/trench IV at *Apulum* belong to the class of opaque melon-shaped beads of vitreous paste, often of a bright blue colour, common on all Roman sites. According to the typology of E. Riha for the „Melonenperlen” in the wider context of various adornments from Augst and Kaiseraugst, the specimens from *Apulum* belong to Type 11.1.3⁹⁶. As regards Roman *Dacia*, in analysing the beads from the workshops at Tibiscum, D. Benea points out that the melon-shaped beads - Type X = 10 (DB 1997), are extremely scarce there⁹⁷. They were in fashion during the 1st century AD especially in the western provinces of the Empire⁹⁸. A melon-shaped bead unearthed in an inhumation grave at Heimstetten⁹⁹ should be mentioned as an exception from the Danube area. Only two items recovered from archaeological context at Augst and Kaiseraugst could be dated, the first one to the end of the 1st century – beginning of the 2nd century AD, the other one being associated with a coin of Hadrian (AD 117-138)¹⁰⁰.

Speaking of the peculiar status of military equipment burials, as is the case of grave no.8/trench IV at *Apulum*, it is less than probable to find among the grave-goods adornments usually worn by women, like bead necklaces are. However, a simple globular glass bead¹⁰¹ was found in cremation grave no. 2 at Romula together with two jugs, a cup, an amulet, a set of belt fittings and a bronze coin issued in AD 145-161. The meaning of the presence of one glass bead was interpreted as giving some kind of magic protection to the owner, similar to the one offered by the *bullae*, worn especially by Roman children¹⁰². Besides, beads have been found in *Barbaricum* in Germanic warrior graves and even in the Thorsbjerg bog, where various examples are associated with military equipment partly of Roman origin¹⁰³.

Discussion. Besides their weaponry, the belt was the most immediately recognizable component of a soldier's equipment, including a large variety of

⁹⁴ Cociş 2004, 99.

⁹⁵ Böhmer 1958.

⁹⁶ Riha 1990, 82, Taf.36/1152-1159.

⁹⁷ Benea 2004, 201, Pl.II, Fig.31.

⁹⁸ Rütli 1988, 96, Taf.27,1934; Crummy 1983, Abb.32,524; Guido 1978, Abb.37,21-22; Frere 1972, Abb.79,70; Alarcao 1976, Taf.46,329-330.

⁹⁹ Keller 1984, Taf.12, 1e.

¹⁰⁰ Riha 1990, 82, 1152, 1153.

¹⁰¹ Petculescu 1995, 112, 128, Pl.2/4.

¹⁰² Deringer 1966.

¹⁰³ Raddatz 1957/58, 81, Note 1, pl.6; 1987, nos. 8609-70, Pl.108/4-5.

fittings like buckles or belt plates usually recorded by excavations.¹⁰⁴ It is a well-known fact that in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, weapon graves were particularly infrequent across the whole Roman Empire. However, a general survey of the weapon graves of the 1st-3rd centuries AD, provincial syntheses or publications of individual graves thoroughly studied in the western provinces were produced¹⁰⁵.

The Apulum funeral assemblage gifts were probably burnt on the *ustrinum*, on a pyre situated at some distance from the burial ground and only a selection was placed into the grave's simple pit (?). This treatment of the funeral gifts accounts for the fact that significant fragments of the belt - i.e. the folded strip of the buckle for the attachment to the counter-plates which should be a pair and was not preserved - and possibly the weapon with its scabbard were not found in their entirety. Unfortunately, the evidence of the grave is severely limited by the fact that there is no available excavation data for this area in the archives of the museum.

All the analysed military equipment fittings from the grave – although poorly provided – are made of copper alloy, which indicates that their owner was a common soldier, according to Roman standards. Yet, it is assumed that starting from the middle of the 2nd century AD, the only military items found in funeral inventories are belts, which were probably intended to suggest the entire equipment and the soldier status of the deceased.¹⁰⁶ Despite the fact that few military equipment graves in Roman Dacia were published so far¹⁰⁷, the review of the belts discovered in burials suggests a pattern for the evolution of them for the entire province: if in the first half of the 2nd century wide type belts were used, in the middle and in the second half of the 2nd century they were substituted by the Danubian variants of narrow belts. These latter ones have some distinct characteristics – part of them drawn up above – most likely due to their production in *Dacia*, an opinion¹⁰⁸ to which I subscribe in reflection of the main item, i.e. the belt, found in grave no.8/trench IV at *Apulum*. Although pierced peltate ornaments of the Apulum, Lechința de Mureș and Ilișua shape do not occur on other published narrow belt plates, i.e. the plates at Tomis, they are present on other belt or baldric mounts, such as the subsquare openwork plates from the graves no.1 at Romula¹⁰⁹, no.19/trench XXXII at Apulum¹¹⁰, from a

¹⁰⁴ Bishop, Coulston 1993, 196, Bishop 2001, 8.

¹⁰⁵ Schönberger 1953; Dorsealer 1963/64; 1965; Hübener 1963-4; Márton 2002.

¹⁰⁶ Petculescu 1995, 122.

¹⁰⁷ Petculescu 1995; 1998; Ciugudean H-D 2000, 2000a; 2010.

¹⁰⁸ Petculescu 1995, 123.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibidem*, Pl.1/6.

¹¹⁰ Ciugudean D-H 2000, 342, Fig.1/9; 2000a, 206, Fig.2/9.

suburban villa at Apulum¹¹¹ and another identic example from Apulum¹¹². Two similar plates come from Micia¹¹³ and Potaissa¹¹⁴, an item was found at Gherla¹¹⁵ and five specimens were uncovered at Porolissum.¹¹⁶ Two subsquare openwork plates without certain location, dated to the middle of the 2nd century AD were recovered in Bulgaria¹¹⁷, but they could be produced in a workshop somewhere in the Danubian area. The same peltate ornament is to be found on the domed studs with peltate extension from the grave no.2 at Tomis¹¹⁸, and the pelta-shaped mount from grave no.29/trench IX at Apulum.¹¹⁹ The incidence of the peltate ornaments on different belt plates or baldric mounts seems to be a common decorative motif on the Roman soldier's equipment in *Dacia* in the second half of the 2nd century AD.

In Roman *Dacia* there are 20 centers with bronze workshops in civilian and military contexts. They were identified by the firing installations, the crucibles, the moulds, fabrication scrap, unfinished pieces¹²⁰, but only those from Tibiscum, Buciumi and Porolissum are certain¹²¹. So far, there is no archaeological evidence to sustain the existence of such *fabricae* inside the legion forts at Apulum and Potaissa. However, an inscription from *Apulum* mentions two *conductores armamentarii* named Turranius Marcellinus and Antonius Senecio Junior¹²². As merchants, these two probably „leased” the *militaria* (weapons and equipment) supply of the XIIIth Gemina Legion and maybe the whole of *Dacia*. Therefore, one cannot exclude the assumption of the functioning of a specialised workshop at *Apulum*, although the „militaria” could be produced in western workshops and imported from all over the Empire on the free market.¹²³ Otherwise, as is well-known, later, during the rule of Maximinus Trax and Gordian the 3rd, the workshop at Mediolanum produced for the army.¹²⁴

¹¹¹ Drîmbărean, Rustoiu 2003, 242, Pl.IV/2.

¹¹² Unpublished plate in the collections of the MNUAI (Inv.no.10057).

¹¹³ Unpublished pieces from the deposits of the museums at Cluj-Napoca and Bucarest.

¹¹⁴ Bărbulescu 1994, 98, fig.16/3; the second item, now lost, of the former Botar Collection.

¹¹⁵ Unpublished piece from the museum at Cluj-Napoca.

¹¹⁶ Gudea 1989, 644, Pl.CCVI/27-31.

¹¹⁷ Gencheva 2009, Fig.5/3, 5.

¹¹⁸ Petculescu 1998, 154, Fig.1/2.

¹¹⁹ Gudea 1989, 644, Pl.CCVI/27-31.

¹¹⁹ Ciugudean 2010, 451, Fig.1/5.

¹²⁰ Benea et alii 2006, 152.

¹²¹ *Ibidem*, 161.

¹²² IDR III, 5, 285: S.I.M. Turranius Marcellinus et Ant. Senecio conductores armament(ari) posuerunt.

¹²³ Oldenstein 1976, 68-85.

¹²⁴ *Ibidem*, 82.

The set of bronze fittings from *Apulum* appear to form part of a standard 2nd century AD military belt, representing a Danubian variant of the narrow military belts characterized even by its specific decoration which is primarily the baluster-moulded bar and secondly the pierced peltate motif. From the above mentioned parallels one can conclude that the narrow belt plates with central opening and baluster-moulded bar were in fashion possibly from about 150 until at least AD 170-180. Consequently, grave no.8/trench IV unearthed in the northern necropolis at *Apulum* can be dated to the middle until the third quarter of the 2nd century AD.

UN ALT MORMANT CU ECHIPAMENT MILITAR ROMAN DE LA APULUM

REZUMAT

Studiul de față se concentrează asupra unui alt mormânt cu echipament militar roman descoperit în necropola nordică de la Alba Iulia – Stația de salvare – Stadion în anul 1981, Mormântul de incinerare nr. 8, Secțiunea IV. Inventarul mormântului constă dintr-un set de accesorii de centură din bronz, două fibule din bronz și două mărgelile din sticlă (Pl. I).

Setul de garnituri de centură este alcătuit din patru aplici rectangulare cu capetele ornamentate cu un motiv traforat în formă de pelta dublă, în timp ce decupajele centrale dreptunghiulare sunt decorate cu câte un balustru turnat separat și sudat pe revers în două lăcașuri prevăzute special (Pl. II/1-4). În setul de accesorii de centură mai sunt incluse o cataramă din bronz cu corpul de formă ovală și o extensie rectangulară pentru atașarea la o aplică (Pl. II/5), precum și o verigă din bronz cu secțiune semi-ovală care făcea probabil parte dintr-un sistem de suspendare a tecii unei arme (sabie) sau cel puțin a unui pumnal sau cuțit de cingulum sau balteus (Pl. II/6).

Prima fibulă din bronz este de factură zoomorfă și reprezintă un cal în poziție statică, cu coama și crupa ornamentate cu incizii paralele (Pl. III/1). Sistemul de închidere prin resort și acul nu se mai conservă, iar portagrafa dreptunghiulară fracturată este de tip 4.

Cea de-a doua fibulă din bronz este un semifabricat al unei fibule cu genunchi cu corpul în forma literei D, al cărui mecanism de închidere format de obicei din 8 spire nu a mai fost confecționat (Pl. III/2).

Mărgelile din sticlă în formă de „pepene” sunt turnate din pastă vitroasă opacă, de culoare albastru deschis (Pl. I).

Toate artefactele din inventarul mormântului prezentau urme de ardere secundară intensă, ceea ce denotă faptul că au fost arse la *ustrinum* și apoi doar o parte dintre ele au fost plasate în groapa simplă funerară. Exemplarele în discuție au bune analogii atât printre descoperirile din Dacia, cât și din alte provincii ale Imperiului. Setul de garnituri de la *Apulum* apare astfel ca o parte a centurii militare standard din secolul al II-lea p.Chr., reprezentând varianta dunăreană a centurilor înguste caracterizate chiar prin decorul lor specific, în primul rând balustrul central și apoi motivele peltiforme traforate. În conformitate cu paralele analizate în text se poate concluziona că aplicile înguste cu baluștri centrali erau în vogă între anii 150 până cel puțin spre 170-180 p.Chr. În consecință, Mormântul nr. 8, Secțiunea IV din necropola nordică de la *Apulum* poate fi datat începând de la mijlocul și până în cel de-al treilea sfert al secolului al II-lea p.Chr.

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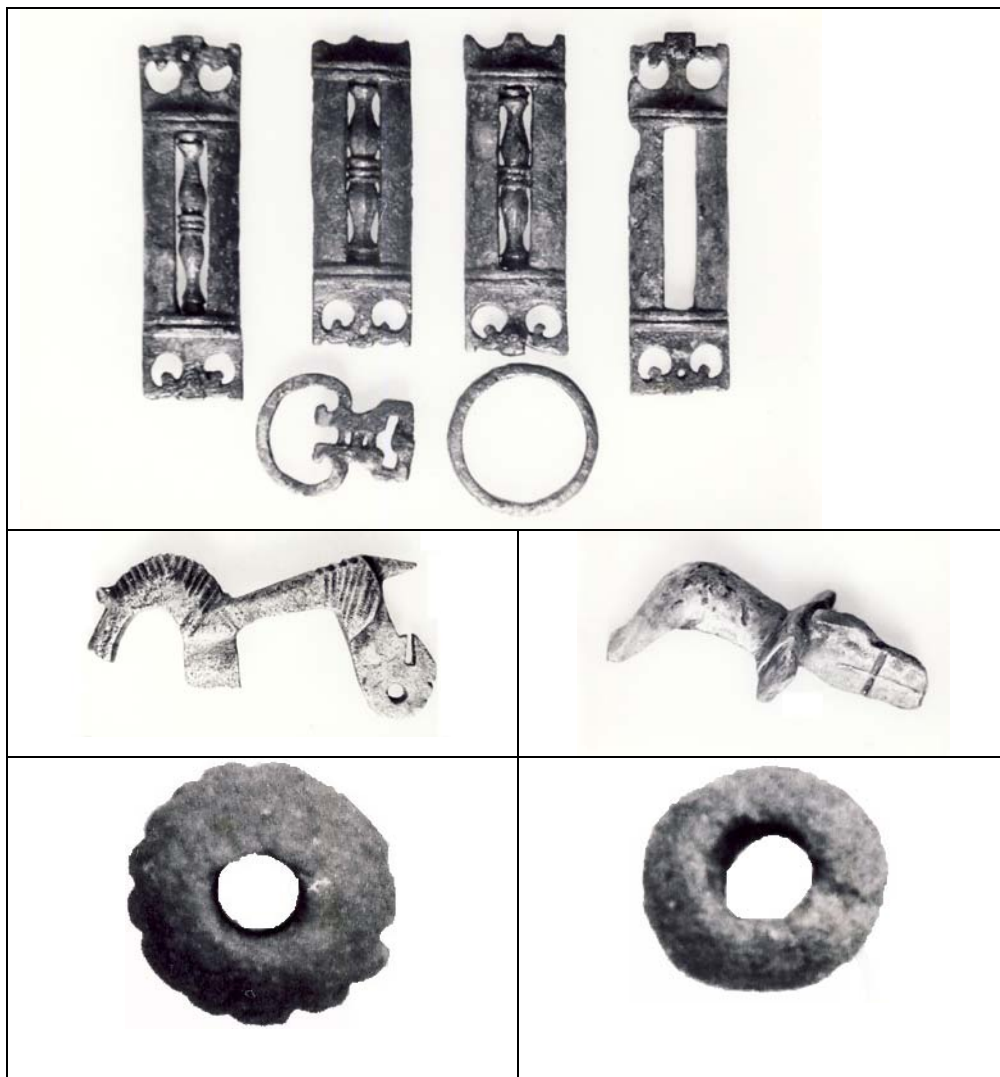
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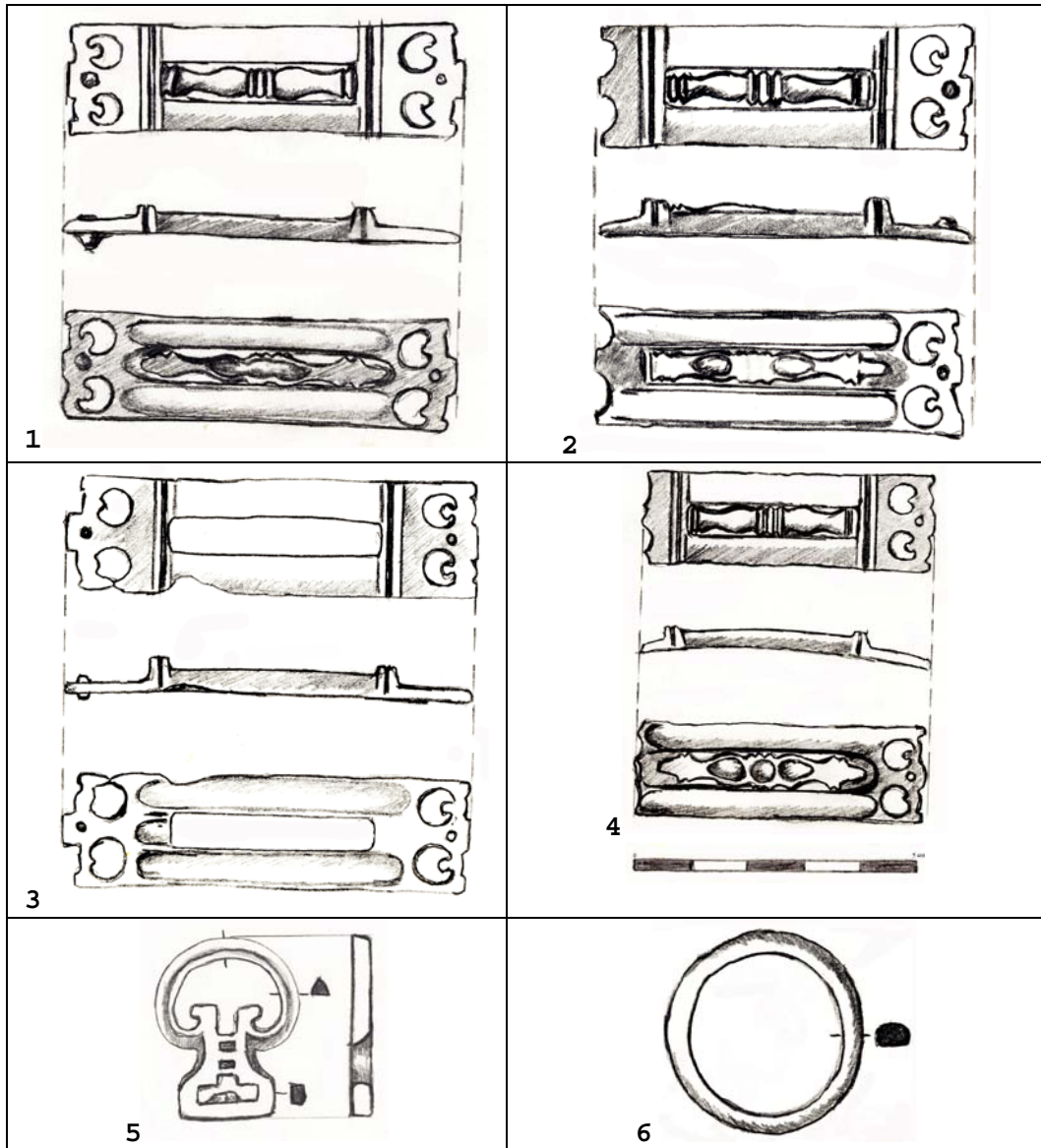
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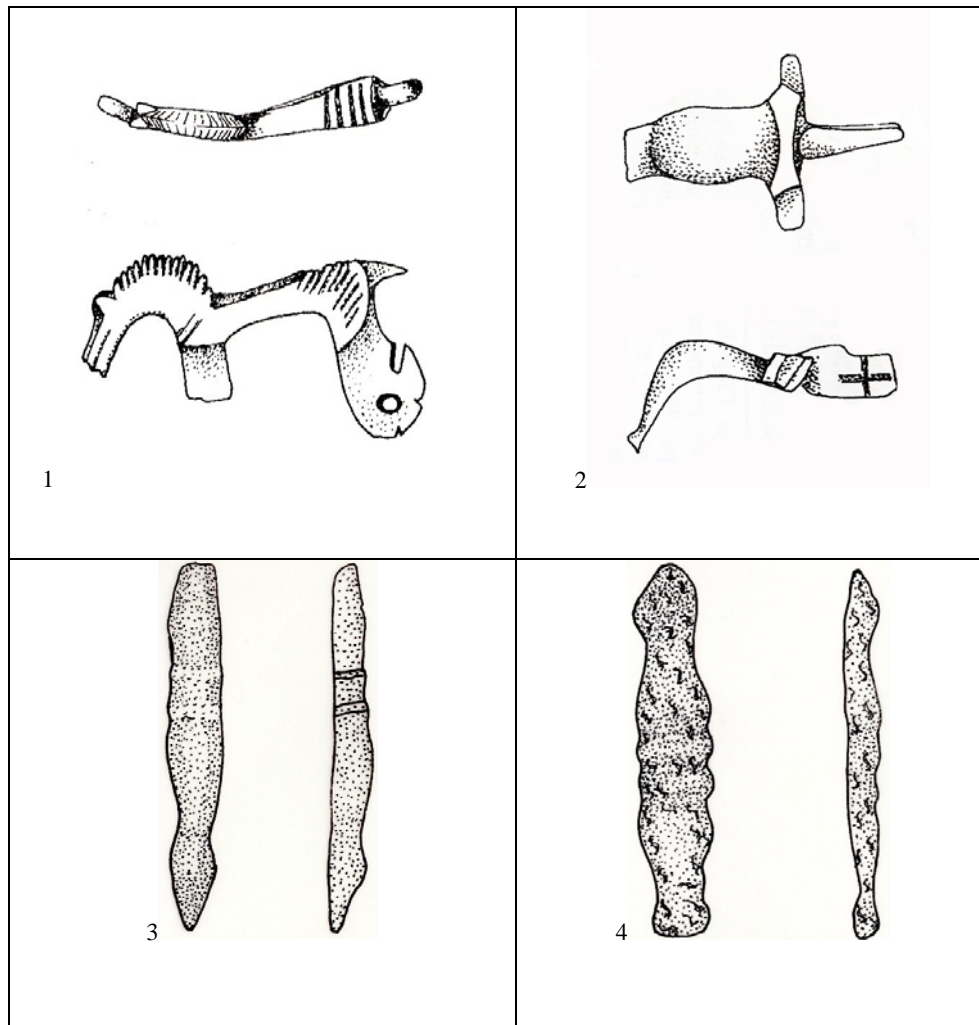
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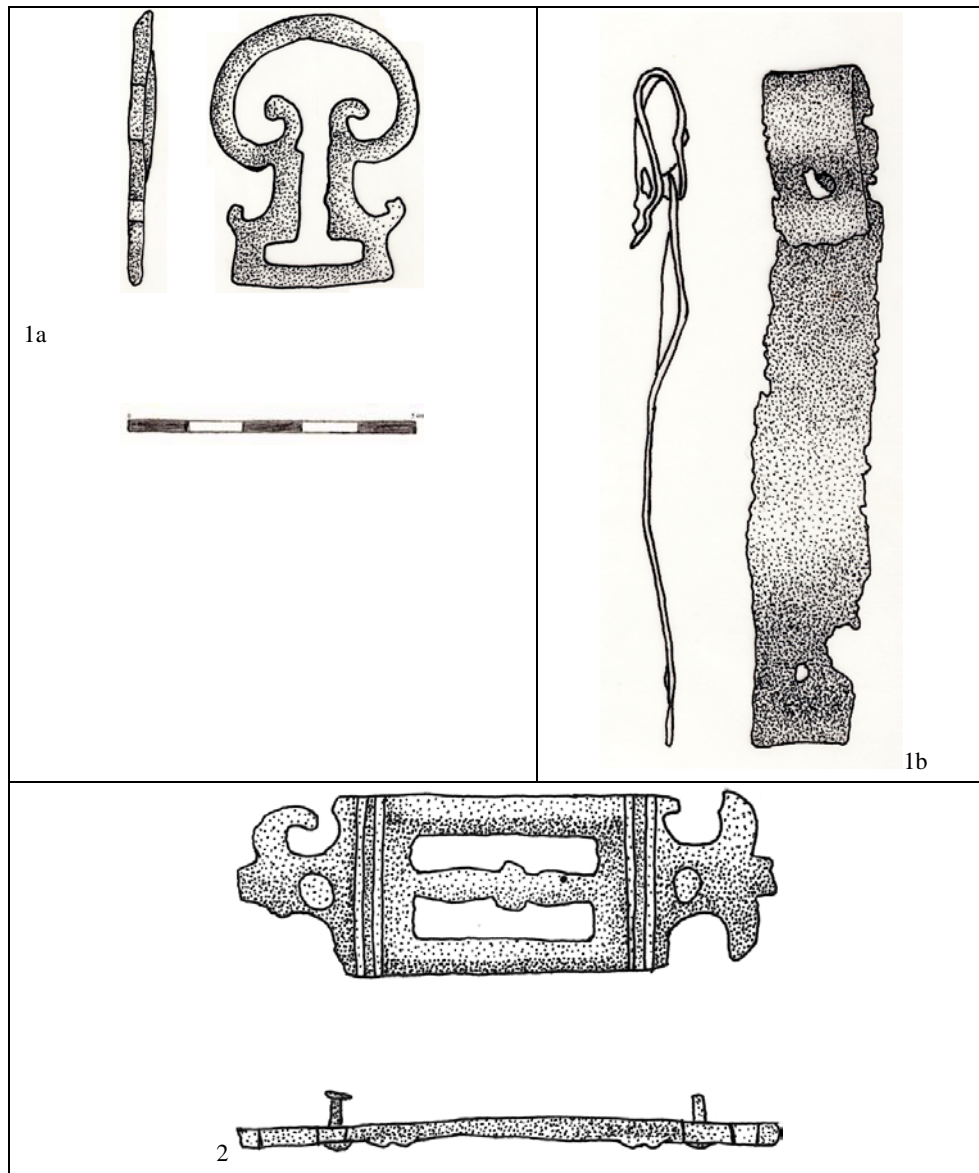
Pl. I. The funeral assemblage of the grave no.8/trench IV at Apulum.



Pl. II: 1-6. Set of bronze belt fittings: 1-4. Rectangular openwork plates; 5. Buckle; 6. Suspension ring.



Pl. III: 1. Zoomorphic brooch (apud Cociş, Ciugudean, Deleanu 2004); 2. Knee brooch (apud Cociş, Ciugudean, Deleanu 2004); 3. Detached baluster bar (Inv.no.3491); 4. Detached baluster bar (Inv.no.3484).



Pl. IV. Items from old collections at Apulum: 1.a. Bronze buckle; b. Folded bronze strip (Inv.no.3459); 2. Bronze openwork plate (Inv.no.3460).