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Autorii își asumă întreaga răspundere pentru conținutul studiilor
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LUXURY AND CULT OBJECTS OF BYZANTINE ORIGIN IN TENTH-CENTURY FUNERARY CONTEXTS AT ALBA IULIA

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Cuvinte-cheie: Alba Iulia, cruce relicvar, podoabe de lux, granulare, filigran, pentagramă
Key words: Alba Iulia, reliquary cross, luxury ornaments, granulation, filigree, pentagram

The Byzantine goldsmithery of the Middle Ages left its mark on a wide range of luxury ornaments (globular pendants, bell-shaped pendants, silver beads, rings) and cult objects (double reliquary crosses, small crosses). Through Byzantine clerics, as well as through the Hungarians involved in the episode of Christianization in 952, artefacts characteristic of the Byzantine cultural milieu, and implicitly of its elite, were disseminated in Alba Iulia. As might be expected, the majority of these artefacts, including the cult objects, originate from the *Izvorul Împăratului* necropolis, which is clearly associated with the episode of Christianization linked to the Byzantine Empire. The other luxury items come from two other funerary sites in Alba Iulia, namely *Stația de Salvare* and Pîclișa – *La Izvoare*, and broadly correspond to the typological range identified at *Izvorul Împăratului*. On the basis of shared characteristics (metal, manufacturing techniques, and forms), we have classified these artefacts into 13 types (with distinct variants in the case of Types I, X, and XIII).

Type I/Variants Ia–Ib. This category includes globular pendants with a hollow, ellipsoidal body and a small opening at the upper end. The body is made of two hemispherical parts joined horizontally at the middle (**Pl. III/2, 5; IV/2, 4-5; VII/3-4: X/1b, 3a-3c, 5a-5b, 6**).

The body of these pendants is decorated with spherical granules arranged in parallel rows, closely spaced across the surface. One variant is entirely decorated with granules covering the whole body (Variant Ia), while another has the upper part of the body decorated with two-strand twisted wire arranged in adjacent spiral turns, extending from the base of the suspension loop to the middle (Variant Ib). The lower half is decorated with rows of spherical silver granules, following the same pattern as in the first variant.

The spherical silver granules, gilded in some examples, are arranged side by side across the middle until the entire hemisphere is covered. The middle itself is marked by a row of granules. Both the granules and the twisted wire are attached to the spherical body. The spherical body appears to have been made from two hemispheres joined together in the middle.

Particularly noteworthy are the pendants from *Izvorul Împăratului*, G. 17 and G. 189. In each case, the individual granules are set on small rings made of thin silver wire, leaving a small gap between the ends, and attached directly to the surface of the supporting sphere.

In general, the suspension element of these pendants consists of a loop made of drawn silver wire, held vertically by a broad strip divided into two narrow sections. The strip is bent around the loop, with the two sections folded inward and then pushed apart in opposite directions, probably through the lower opening of the opposite pole. In some cases, to secure the loop with the suspension loop, a ring of gilded wire with a small gap between its ends was placed around the base of the loop and tightened around the polar opening (*Stația de Salvare*/G. 637).

The height of these pendants ranges from 21.4 to 28.5 mm, while the diameter of the spherical body ranges from 14.4 to 21.5 mm. They were found at the right hip of the deceased (*Stația de Salvare*/G. 637) and along the left side of the ribcage (Pîclișa – *La Izvoare*/G. 33).

Pendants of this type have been recovered from the cemeteries of Alba Iulia – *Stația de Salvare* (S. XVI/G.4, G. 495, 609, and 637), *Izvorul Împăratului* (G. 17, 186, and 189), and Pîclișa – *La Izvoare* (G. 33). Some pendants were made of gilded silver (Pîclișa – *La Izvoare*/G. 33; *Stația de Salvare*/G. 609 and 637).

Type II. Globular bronze pendant with a suspension loop. The central section is delimited and decorated on either side with geometric motifs consisting of triangles formed by six granules each. The upper pole is decorated with granules around the suspension loop, while the lower pole bears the same type of decoration around the globular body at the end of the pendant. *Stația de Salvare*, 1982 (**Pl. IV/3; X/4**).

Type III. This group features a biconical pendant made from a silver sheet, found at *Izvorul Împăratului* in G. 17. Its decoration was created by repeatedly pressing and shaping the surface (**Pl. I/5; VI/4a-4c**).

The lower half of the pendant was decorated this way with a floral pattern made up of ten petals arranged around the pole of the sphere, marked by a flat, rhomboid center. The petals are long and rhomboid, with pointed tips facing the middle of the pendant and the other ends narrowing toward the pole.

The upper pole was decorated similarly, through deformation caused by mechanical pressure. The decoration consists of ten successive projections resembling the surface of a mulberry, arranged with their pointed lower ends directed towards the midsection. The upper pole is pierced by an opening through which a loop was inserted, with its ends passed into the interior of the pendant and bent outwards in opposite directions. A silver ring secures the sheet-metal edge of the pendant's pole and the loop.

As a result of the mechanical pressure applied to the surface, the midsection of the pendant forms a deformed, undulating ridge. Its maximum length is 21.7 mm, including the ring, and 16.4 mm without it. The diameter of the ellipsoid is 19.5 × 18.7 mm.

Type IV. This category includes a heart-shaped pendant made of gilded silver sheet (*Stația de Salvare*/Grave 465). The pendant was found fragmented into numerous pieces and originally had two loops made of gilded silver wire, measuring 6.3 mm in diameter and 1.1 mm in thickness. The sheet is less than 0.1 mm thick.

The pendant's body is decorated with parallel bands of three rows of small spherical granules set closely side by side, along with small and larger lozenges arranged end to end. The pendant was damaged during excavation and was later partially reconstructed by Mihai Blăjan (**Pl. IV/9**).

Type V. This Byzantine bell-shaped pendant with a truncated-conical body (MNUAI F. 9874)[1] is gilded on the inside with a thin layer of gold and most probably comes from G. 169 at *Izvorul Împăratului*. The pendant was worn by a woman around her neck, but it was found broken into ten fragments of different sizes when the burial was excavated.

The pendant has a central opening surrounded by a thin silver wire ring. A truncated-conical neck connects the main body of the pendant to a hollow cylindrical tube through which the cord was threaded. The cylinder has a wire ring at each end, as well as a row of spherical granules along its inner edge.

The upper part of the bell is decorated with a longitudinal band consisting of two rows of spherical granules. Each of the two hemispheres is decorated with four triangles arranged symmetrically, with their bases facing

[1] Popescu 2018, p. 353-359.

outward and their points directed towards the central opening. Three silver wire rings divide the bell-shaped body into two equal registers. Parallel to these rings, an additional ornament consisting of a row of spherical granules was applied (**Pl. III/1**). The central area is decorated with two rows of equilateral triangles arranged in opposite directions (L.: 24 mm; base diameter: 18 mm).

Analogies for this type of pendant have been identified at Dăbâca (excavation area "A"/1964)[2], Draßburg in Burgenland[3], Austria, and Maszenice[4]. Its origin has been discussed as either North Pontic or Byzantine. According to Ștefan Pascu, this type of ornament, dated to the ninth century, derives from the Keszthely-type earring, and its origins should be sought in a Byzantine or Pannonian workshop. However, based on the manufacturing technique and decorative composition, the pendant appears to have closer connections with the Moravian-Byzantine cultural milieu than with the North Pontic region[5].

The Draßburg find has been dated either to the sixth century or to the ninth–eleventh centuries and has been associated with a hoard or with the cremation burial of a woman of high status. The origin of these objects has also been linked to the Martinovka cultural milieu or to the Volhynia region[6].

Type VI. This category includes ovoid and trilobate silver beads of *Szilágyi* Type 52[7] (**Pl. III/3-6; VI/5; VII/1-2, 7; X/1a, 1c, 2a-2b**), represented by finds identified in the cemeteries of Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 11 (MNUAI F. 9132) and G. 189, as well as at *Stația de Salvare*/S. II/G. 10 and S. XXII/G. 8[8] (MNUAI F. 7147–7148, 8416). The bead from G. 189 was found together with faceted beads of *Szilágyi 49* type.

Parallels for this type have been identified at Cabaj-Čápor/G. 2[9], Draßburg[10], Halimba/G. 406[11], Sorokpolány/G. 43[12], Tarpa[13], and Mazovia (Poland). In funerary assemblages, this form is associated with Giesler Forms 4–5, 13, and 17a, pentagram rings (*Keszi Type C*), beads, and pottery.

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[2] Pascu *et alii* 1968, p. 175-177, Fig. 3/1-4; Paleocreștinism 2000, p. 44, 68, cat. 162; Mesterházy 2004, p. 237; Gáll 2013, p. 159-210.
[3] Hampel 1907, p. 225-228, Pl. 96/1-17; Bóna 1964, p. 158 sq, Pl. II/1-18; Mesterházy 2004, p. 237; Popescu 2018, p. 353-359; Ungerman 2022, p. 213 sq, Fig. 3.B/1-16.
[4] Slaski, Tabaczyński 1959, p. 41, Pl. XII/2.
[5] Pascu *et alii* 1968, p. 175-177, Fig. 3/1-4.
[6] Fettich 1951, p. 74, 76, Pl. LVI/1-16; Bóna 1964, p. 164.
[7] Szilágyi 1995, Fig. 2b și 3.
[8] Ciugudean 1996, p. 15, Fig. 75.
[9] Importants sites slaves 1978, p. 49, Fig. 13/10-12; Mesterházy 2004, p. 236.
[10] Fettich 1951, p. 74, Pl. LV/12-13; Ungerman 2022, p. 214, Fig. 3.A/12-13.
[11] Mesterházy 2004, p. 237, Abb. 3/1.
[12] Mesterházy 2004, p. 239, Abb. 3/4.
[13] Jakab 2014, p. 82.

Type VII. This category includes bronze rings decorated with an incised pentagram enclosed in a circle, with the lateral edges ornamented with two incised X-shaped motifs on each side, crossed by a vertical stroke (**Pl. I/2-3; IV/7; VI/2**). Finds belonging to this category come from only two cemeteries in Alba Iulia: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 11 (MNUAI F. 9134), G. 44, G. 60 and *Stația de Salvare*. The ring from *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 11 preserves, along part of the profile and around the edge of the bezel, a strip of textile fabric, whose fine white threads intersect at right angles—dimensions: H. 21.7 mm; D. 22.8 mm.

The pentagram is considered one of the oldest symbols in human history, with complex meanings in religious, historical, and political contexts, as well as in modern popular culture. Its interpretations have ranged from associations with evil, Satanism, magic, and witchcraft to meanings related to protection, perfection, harmony, unity, humanity, and balance. The pentagram ("the proportion of God") has been associated with the number five and has acquired a wide range of symbolic meanings. It may represent the five elements (water, fire, air, earth, and spirit); the five wounds of Jesus Christ on the cross, or Christ himself; the five extremities of the human body (the head, two hands, and two feet); the five fingers of the hand and the five senses; Alpha and Omega; and protection against evil spirits, demons, and the effects of witchcraft. It has also been interpreted as the Star of Bethlehem, symbolising divine incarnation, salvation, and the descent of the Holy Spirit to Earth, as well as the five chivalric virtues[14]. When enclosed within a circle, the pentagram symbolises unity, infinity, and protection, "binding" its elements into a harmonious whole.

Rings decorated with pentagrams (*Type II-1 P. Gatev*, *III. 4 V. Grigorov*, *Type III G. Atanasov*, *V. Grigorov*, *Keszi Type C*)[15] belong to the category of ornaments characteristic of the Byzantine cultural sphere. This ring type has been identified in tenth-century funerary contexts in Albania, Bulgaria, Corinth, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Hungary. Within this broader context, parallels can be identified among the archaeological finds from Alba Iulia – *Stația de Salvare*/S. X/G. 24, Capidava/G. 3[16], Dinogeția/*Bisericuța – Garvăn*[17], Malé Kosihy/G. 229[18], Prša/G. 76[19], Szentes – *Szentlászló*/G. 26[20], G. 67[21], and G. 84[22], Tuchovište[23], Varna[24], and Veliki Gradac/G. 102[25].

[14] Charles D'Avalon 2020.
[15] Dragotă 2014, p. 170 sq.
[16] Pinter *et alii* 2011, p. 388 sqq, Pl. VI/a.
[17] Ștefan *et alii* 1967, p. 284, Fig. 170/10.
[18] Hanuliak 1994, p. 128, Pl. XLVII/B.
[19] Točik 1968, p. 38, pl. XXVII/33.
[20] Széll 1941, p. 234, Pl. III B/ 5 a-b.
[21] Széll 1941, p. 238, Pl. V B/14 a-b.
[22] Széll 1941, p. 241, Pl. VII A/27 a-b.
[23] Stojanova-Serafimova 1979, p. 800, Fig. 9/1.

In funerary contexts, pentagram rings occur in numbers ranging from one to three examples per grave, in association with other artefacts, including Giesler Forms 1a, 4, 13, 17a, 19, and 37; eagle rings (*Keszi Types A1, A2*) or rings decorated with a vegetal motif (*Keszi Type D1*); globular buttons; knives; pectoral crosses; beads; and pottery.

Type VIII. This category is represented by a bronze ring decorated with a floral motif, discovered at *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 2 (**Pl. I/4; VI/3**). The chaton is ornamented with an incised oval enclosing a six-pointed rosette in the central field. One lateral section also bears a cluster of short incisions intersecting to form an X-shaped motif. Following its discovery, the ring was found broken into five fragments. Dimensions: H. 23 mm; W. 21.2 mm; chaton width 14.2 mm; chaton thickness 1.3 mm (MNUAI F. 9119)[26].

Rings decorated with floral or vegetal motifs (*Keszi Type D2*) have parallels at Corinth[27], Ibrány – *Esbőhalom*/G. 255[28], Kladentsi[29], Pliska[30], Rád – *Kishegy*/G. 8[31], Szentes – *Szentlászló*/G. 77[32], Tiszabezdéd – *Harangláb–dűlő*/G. 14[33], and Varna[34]. In funerary assemblages, this type of ring is associated with pottery, bead necklaces, buttons, and Giesler Form 2 bracelets[35].

Type IX. This category includes the Byzantine luxury ring (Giesler Form 38a) from Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 17[36] (**Pl. I/1a-1d; VI/1a-1d**). Dimensions: globule diameter 5.18 × 5.82 × 5.72 mm; shank width 8.38 mm; shank thickness 1.47 mm; chaton length 14.60 mm.

Fragmentary examples sharing certain features, such as the shank and the decoration consisting of three globules framing the chaton, have also been identified among the finds from the *Roman Baths* and *Stația de Salvare* (S. III/G. 10). Dating to the tenth–eleventh centuries, rings of this type, displaying similar features such as granulation and filigree but differing in the ornamental treatment of the chaton, are also attested in funerary contexts, for example at

[24] Keszi 1999, p. 137; Tryjarski 1990, p. 381, Fig. 6.
[25] Radičević 2007, p. 94, Fig. 1/11.
[26] Blăjan 2006, p. 55, Fig. 126.
[27] Davidson 1952, p. 243, Pl. 105/1931.
[28] Bollók 2010, p. 183, Plate 4.
[29] Tryjarski 1990, p. 381; Keszi 1999, p. 137.
[30] Tryjarski 1990, p. 381; Keszi 1999, p. 137.
[31] Patay 1957, p. 62; Keszi 1999, p. 135.
[32] Széll 1941, p. 271, Pl. VII A/1 a-b; Keszi 1999, p. 135.
[33] Keszi 1999, p. 135.
[34] Tryjarski 1990, p. 381, Fig. 7-8; Keszi 1999, p. 137.
[35] Dragotă 2014, p. 168.
[36] Blăjan 2006, p. 55, Fig. 124; Dragotă 2018b, p. 122-125.

Dervent/G. 29[37], Păcuiul lui Soare[38], Svinjarevici – *Studenac*/G. 15[39], Vukovar – *Lijeva Bara*, G. I/1951[40], and Zvonimirovo – *Veliko polje*/G. 4 and G. 17[41].

In funerary contexts, this variant of luxury ring occurs in association with Giesler Forms 1b, 4, 7, 17a, 17b, 30, and 39–40, Giesler Rings I–II, and coins issued by Stephen I[42].

Type X. Variant 1. Luxury earrings (Giesler Type 17a). The specimens from Alba Iulia have a central pendant decorated with filigree and granulation, while the hoop is provided with four rosettes, arranged in pairs on either side (**Pl. II/1a-1b, 2a-2b, 3a-3b; VI/6; VIII/1-6, 8-9; X/7**).

Specimens belonging to this category have been identified among the funerary finds from Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 11 (MNUAI F. 9129a–b)[43], G. 17 (MNUAI F. 9131a–b), and G. 141, as well as from *Stația de Salvare*/MNUAI F. 6833 (S. XVIII/G. 8, 1983), MNUAI F. 6887 (S. XXI/G. 6, 1983), MNUAI F. 8415 (S. XXX/G. 3), MNUAI F. 8700–8701 (S. II/G. 10, 1982)[44], and MNUAI F. 8430–8431 (S. XXXVI/G. 2).

Similar specimens, with minor differences in dimensions and decorative treatment, are also known from other tenth-century funerary contexts in Europe, including Blandiana B/G. 1[45], Cluj-Napoca/*Zapolya St.*/G. 5[46], *Plugarilor St.*/G. 8[47], Pliska/G. 5[48], and Przemysl Zasanie/G. 2[49]. Dimensions: H. 37.95 × 41.86 mm; rosette diameter 5.40 × 4.95 mm; pendant length 21.51 × 25.18 mm and 24.67 × 24.85 mm.

Variant 2. Luxury Byzantine earring made of silver using the techniques of granulation and filigree, differing in design from the preceding variant. Three rosettes are attached to the hoop, while the upper half of the pendant is decorated with 9–10 filigree wires arranged to imitate a twisted motif. The lower half imitates the circular motif formed by granules and has a transitional zone with the slightly flattened globule at the end of the pendant (**Pl. VIII/7**).

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[37] Damian, Vasile 2010, p. 354, Pl. 12/5.
[38] Diaconu, Vîlceanu 1972, p. 147, Fig. 56/4.
[39] Demo 2014, p. 73.
[40] Demo 1996, p. 71, Fig. 14/4; Demo 2014, p. 73.
[41] Demo 2014, p. 74; Tomičić 2004, p. 415-418, Fig. 1-2.
[42] Dragotă *et alii* 2010, p. 107-116; Dragotă 2014, p. 171 sq.
[43] Blăjan 2006, p. 55, Fig. 118-119.
[44] Ciugudean 1996, p. 14, Fig. 61; Dragotă 2014, p. 15, Fig. 3/17.
[45] Horedt 1966, p. 276, Fig. 18/1; Dragotă 2014, p. 15, Fig. 3/1-2.
[46] Dragotă 2014, p. 15, Fig. 3/5.
[47] Dragotă 2014, p. 15.
[48] Henning 2007, p. 694, Fig. 189.
[49] Świętosławski 2006, p. 67, Ryc. 12/1.

Type XI. Silver earrings with a cylindrical pendant bearing a globule at each end. Two circular/ovoid globules, made of two hollow silver-sheet hemispheres joined at the equator, are attached to the lower part of the hoop, framing the pendant on both sides. On the lower section, the wire hoop is decorated with a ribbed or pseudo-granulated motif, quadrangular in cross-section. The pair of earrings comes from S. XXXVI/G. 2 at *Stația de Salvare* and belongs to the artefacts discovered within the Blandiana A group (**Pl. VII/5–6**)[50].

Objects of this type, attributed to the Byzantine cultural sphere (Giesler Type 16, Mesterházy Type 12), were distributed during this chronological horizon across the territories of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Romania. Parallels include Halimba/G. 506 and G. 621, Gradešnica, Piatra Frecăţei, and Tărian – *Dâmbul lui Ciordaș*[51].

Type XII. The silver pectoral cross from *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 30 was found attached to a string of 13 beads (MNUAI F. 9849). The upper half of the suspension loop is broken and missing. The three arms are approximately equal in size: the lateral arms measure 0.81–0.83 cm in width, while the lower lobe measures 0.81 cm. The upper arm, terminating in a loop with an opening, is shaped as a truncated pyramid.

On the upper surface, a representation of a human figure can be discerned, rendered through the depiction of the lower limbs and incised vertical lines, which may represent the Crucifixion of Christ. A dark coating on the incised design prevents the complete reconstruction of the scene. Dimensions: H. 2.4 cm; W. 2.00 cm; Th. 0.27 cm (**Pl. VI/7**).

Similar lead crosses have been identified in contemporary finds from Dobruja[52].

Type XIII/Variants a–c. Double reliquary crosses from Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului* (G. 10, G. 24, and G. 81).

XIIIa – Plain Latin-type double reliquary cross (G. 10, adult male, 26–35 years), corresponding to Pitarakis Form I and fitted with a Pitarakis Type II hinge (**Pl. IX/1a-1c**). The cross from G. 10[53] has parallels of varying dimensions within the Byzantine cultural sphere, dating from the eighth to the twelfth centuries[54].

[50] Ciugudean 1996, p. 14, Fig. 62; Dragotă 2014, p. 12, Fig. 2/8.
[51] Dragotă 2023, p. 37.
[52] Florescu *et alii* 1958, p. 234, Fig. 118/1.
[53] Dragotă 2017, p. 165 sq, Fig. 3-4.
[54] Davidson 1952, p. 258, fig. 2068; Diaconu, Vîlceanu 1972, p. 161, Pl. XXVIII/3; Catalogue 2008, Fig. 19.

XIIIb – Double reliquary cross with incised decoration (G. 24, adult male, 20–40 years). The cross from G. 24[55] (**Pl. V/2a-2b; IX/3a-3b**) has parallels of varying dimensions in the collections of the National Museum in Belgrade[56] and those of Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos[57], all dated to the tenth–eleventh centuries.

XIIIc – Double reliquary cross with relief decoration (G. 81, adult male, 35–45 years) (**Pl. IX/2a-2d**).

Variant Xc (G. 81) has parallels at Capidava[58], Păcuiul lui Soare[59], Véstő–Mágori Domb[60], and in the collections of the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest[61], the National Museum of Slovenia[62], and Vatopedi Monastery (Mount Athos). The specimen from G. 81 displays similarities with numerous finds from Banat[63], Bulgaria[64], Corinth[65], Dobruja[66], Serbia[67], Slovakia[68], and Hungary[69].

The fastening system, method of attachment, casting technique, and decoration of the obverse and reverse are features that allow the reliquary cross from G. 81 to be assigned to Group 1, Variant 1a, according to *Horníčková*[70], or to I C/*Gudea-Cosma*[71].

The cult objects from G. 10, G. 24, and G. 81 were exclusively associated with male burials, whereas all items of personal adornment, including the pectoral cross from G. 30 at *Izvorul Împăratului*, were recovered from the burials of adult women aged between 20 and 40 years. Some of these objects have Christian associations, such as the pentagram rings, double reliquary crosses, and the pectoral cross, whereas others represent exclusively luxury items, including the Giesler Form 38a ring from G. 17, the Giesler Form 17a

[55] Dragotă 2018a, p. 90 sq, Fig. 3; Dragotă 2018b, p. 122-125.
[56] Marjanović-Vujović 1987, p. 40, cat. 33.
[57] Pitarakis 2006, p. 210 sq, Fig. 77, 78; Oikonomaki-Papadopoulou *et alii* 2001, p. 36 sq, nr. 4.
[58] Cosma 2022, p. 127, Fig. 9.2/3a-3b.
[59] Cosma 2022, p. 127, Fig. 4.9/2.
[60] Bárány-Oberschal 1953, p. 212 sq, 247, Fig. 62a-b; Lovag 1971, p. 146-148, Fig. 1/2a-2b; Lovag 1979, p. 56, Fig. 1a; Szatmári 1995, p. 220 sq, Fig. 1/1a-b; Horníčková 1999, p. 220 sq, 234; Dragotă 2018a, p. 92; Cosma 2022, p. 146.
[61] Pitarakis 2006, p. 233, fig. 156.
[62] Knez 2014, p. 86, Fig. 1.
[63] Cosma 2022, p. 143 sq.
[64] Henning 2007, p. 675, cat. 56; Cosma 2022, p. 145.
[65] Davidson 1952, p. 257, Fig. 2059, 2062.
[66] Cosma 2022, p. 125, 144 sq, Tab. 3.
[67] Marjanović–Vujović 1987, p. 30 sq, cat. 12, 13; Dragotă 2018a, p. 92; Cosma 2022, p. 145 sq.
[68] Točik 1971, p. 168, Pl. XXXVIII/5-5 a.
[69] Fodor 1996, p. 291 sq, Fig. 3; Pitarakis 2006, p. 232, fig. 154; Dragotă 2018a, p. 92; Cosma 2022, p. 146.
[70] Horníčková 1999, p. 220 sq.
[71] Gudea, Cosma 1998, p. 273-303; Horníčková 1999, p. 220 sq; Cosma 2022, p. 143.

earrings from *Izvorul Împăratului* and *Stația de Salvare*, the globular pendants, and the silver beads.

In most cases, these objects appear to have been concentrated in particular graves, both at *Izvorul Împăratului* and *Stația de Salvare*. Outside these two sites, another globular pendant, made of gilded silver, was discovered at Pîclișa – *La Izvoare*/G. 33, in the burial of a woman. This luxury ornament was likewise found at an archaeological site where a Hungarian group was buried, having separated from the community at Alba Iulia at the time of the arrival of the Byzantine Christian mission in the region.

All these objects date to the second half of the tenth century and belong to the Byzantine cultural sphere. They can be associated with the "*Hierotheus episode*" and were most probably brought by the group that converted to Christianity in Constantinople in 952.

ABSTRACT

This article examines Byzantine and Balkan luxury and religious artefacts from tenth-century burials at the archaeological sites of Alba Iulia–Izvorul Împăratului, Stația de Salvare, and Pîclișa–La Izvoare. The proposed typology (Types I–XIII), including variants Ia–Ib, X1-X2 and XIIIa–XIIIc, offers a comprehensive overview of luxury artefacts with Christian significance recovered from female burials. The assemblage includes rings with pentagram and vegetal motifs, a chatonring (Giesler Form 38a), globular pendants made of gilded silver, a bell-shaped pendant, a heart-shaped pendant made of sheet silver, silver beads (Szilágyi Type 52), luxury earrings (Giesler Form 17a), and double reliquary crosses, either plain or decorated with incised or relief ornamentation. In many cases, Giesler Form 17a earrings were found with Szilágyi Type 52 beads or globular pendants in individual burials from Izvorul Împăratului and Stația de Salvare. With the exception of Type XI (Byzantine earrings belonging to the Blandiana A group, dated to the first half of the tenth century), all the artefacts can be dated to the second half of the tenth century.

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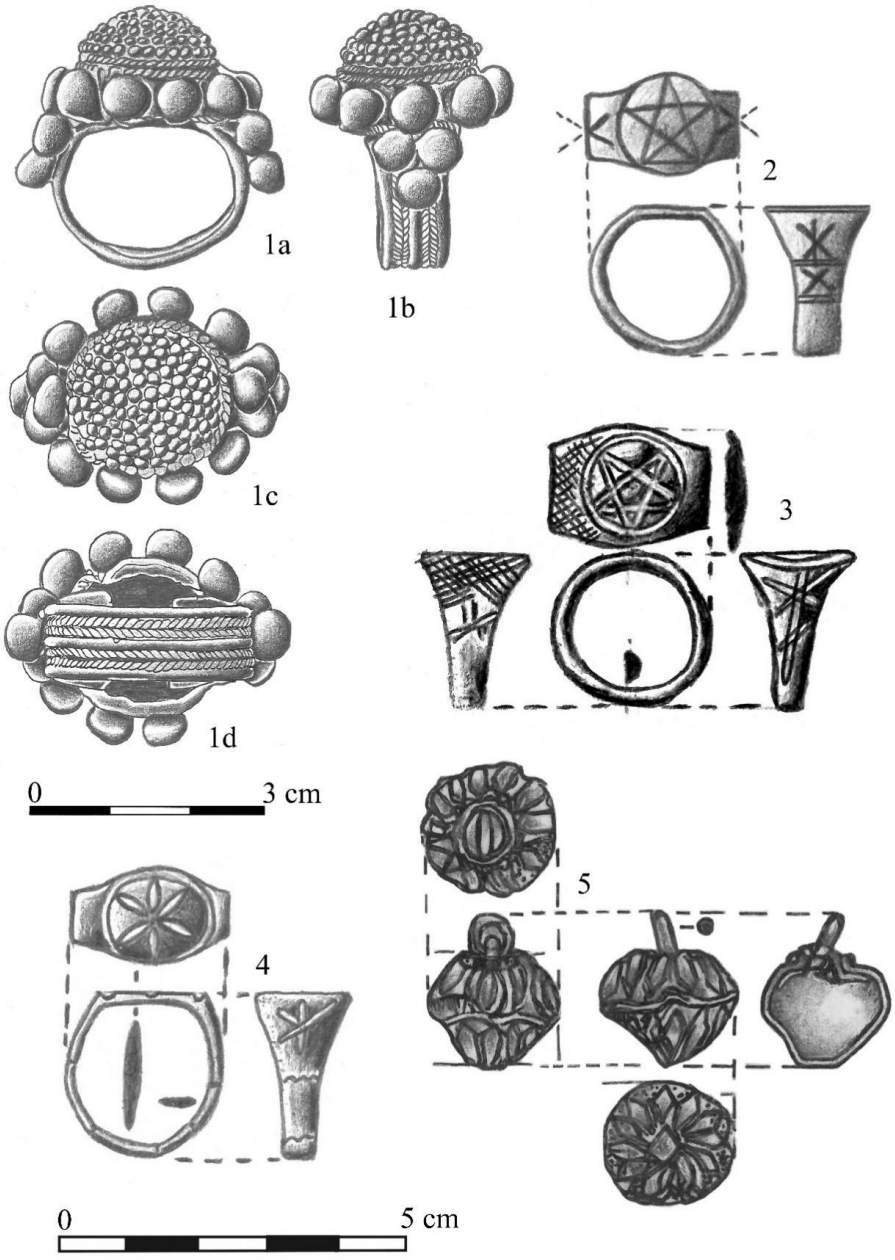
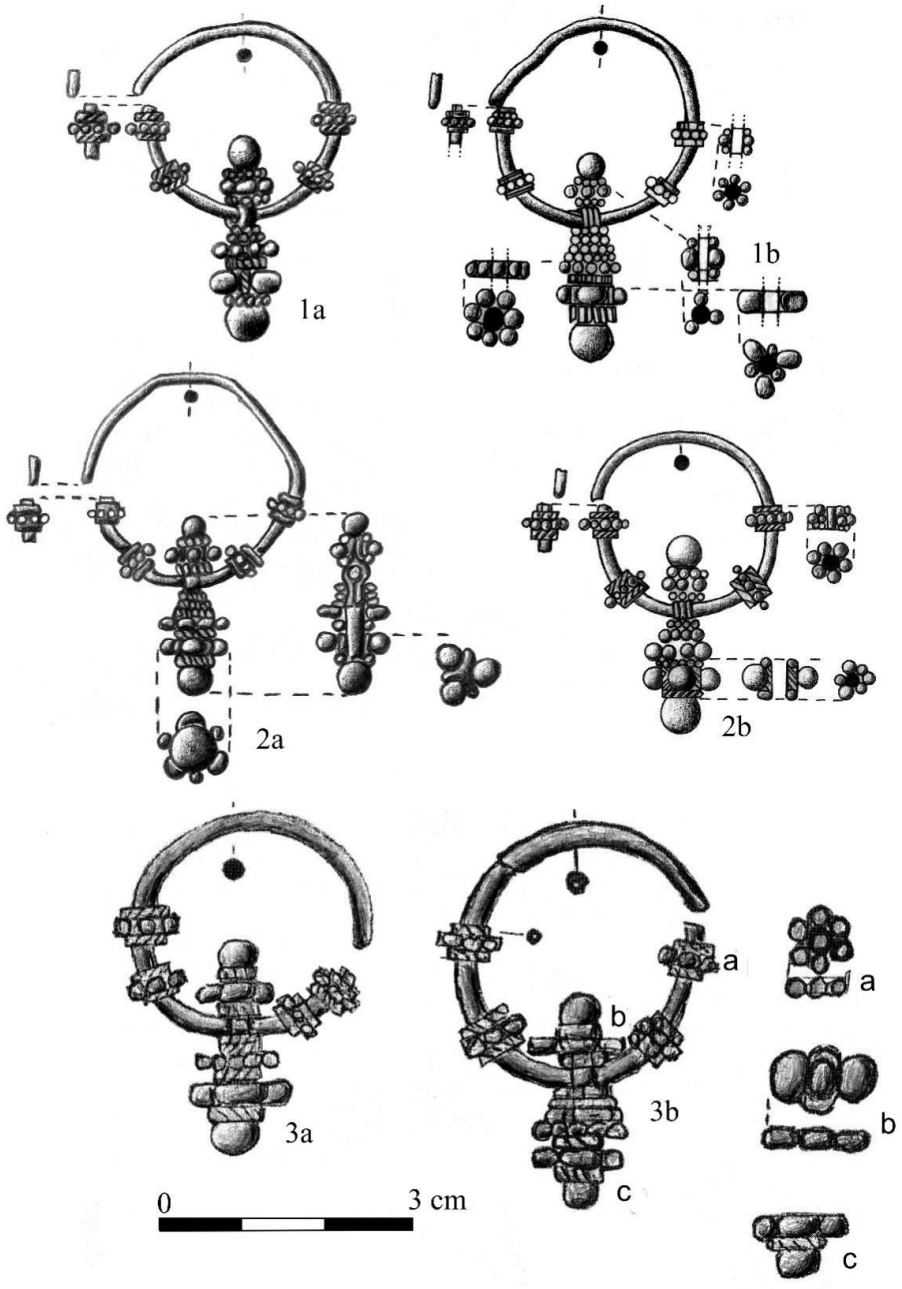
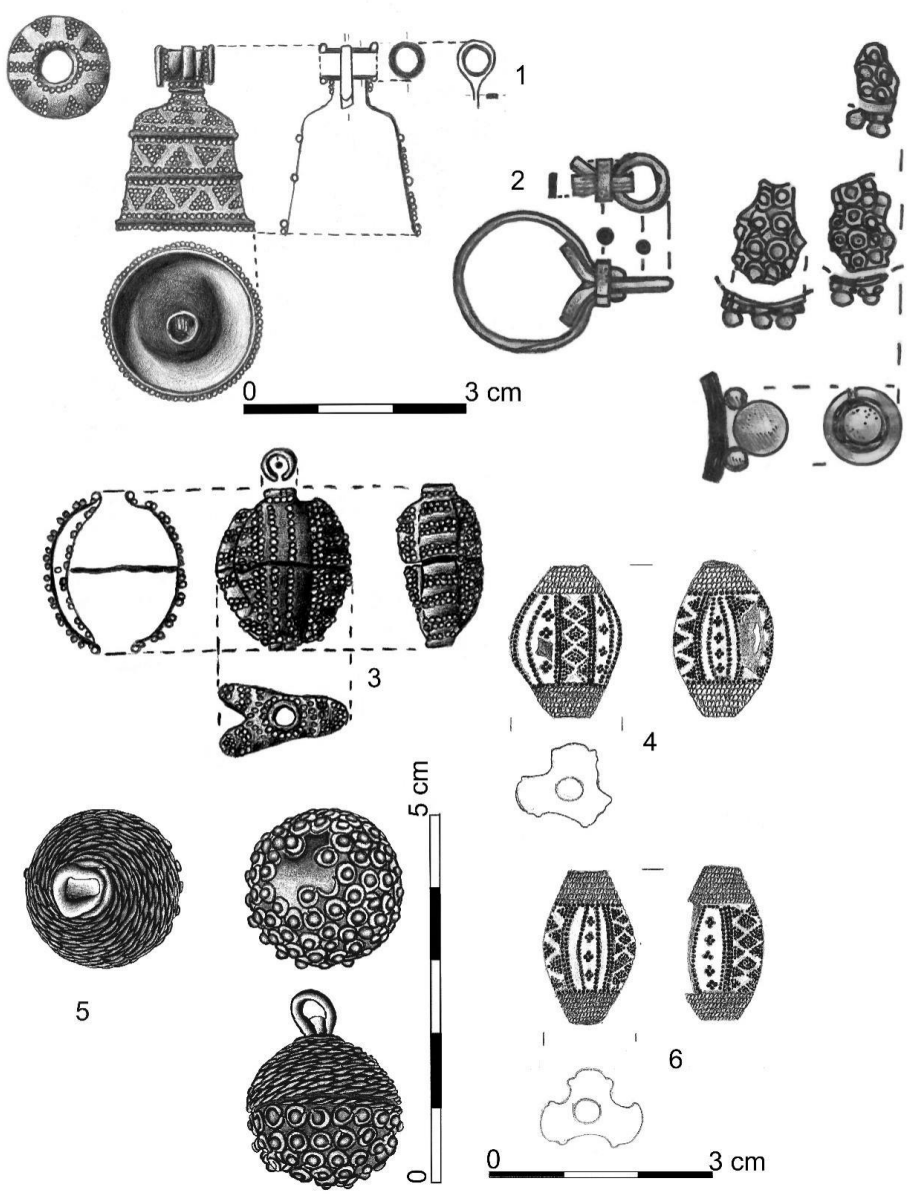


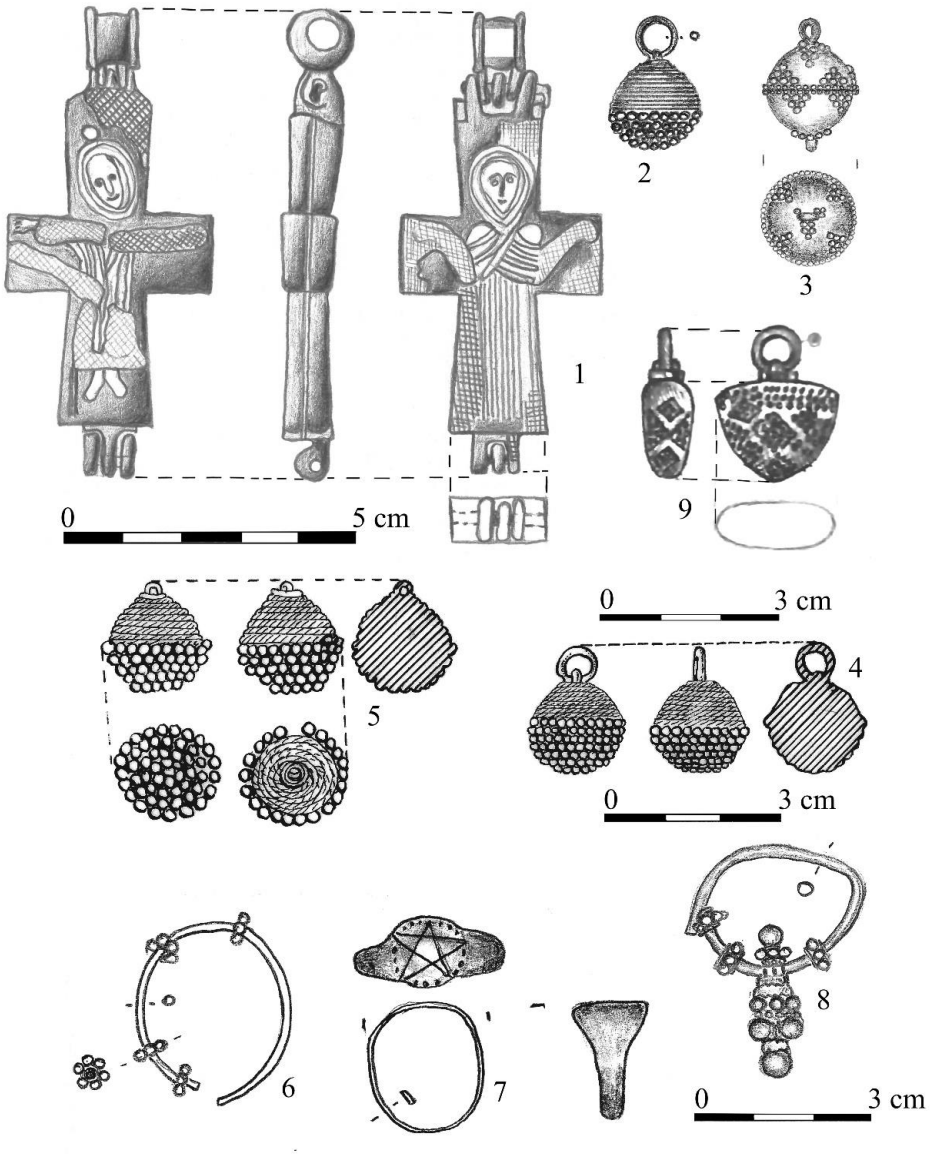
Pl. I. Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului.* 1a-1c, 5: G. 17; 2: G. 60; 3: G. 11; 4: G. 2.



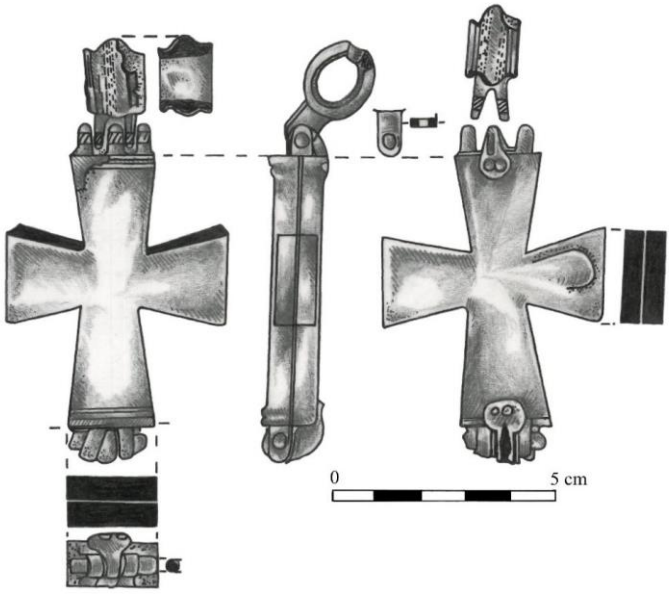
Pl. II. Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului.* 1a-1b: G. 11; 2a-2b: G. 17; 3a-3b: G. 141.



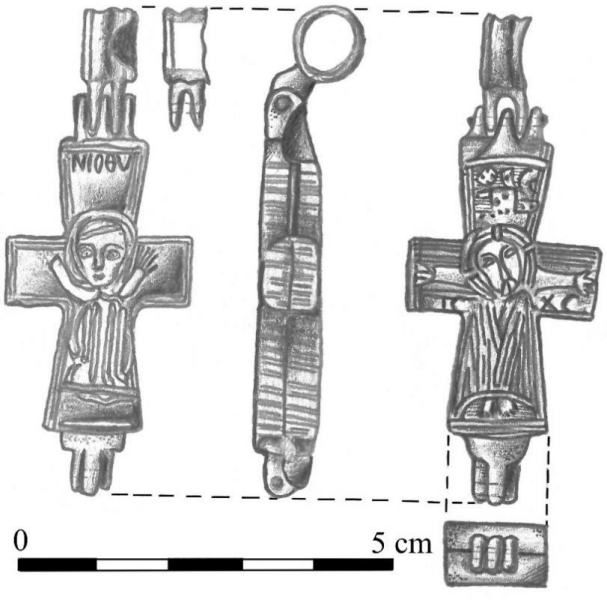
Pl. III. 1: Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 169 (?); 2: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 17; 3: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 11; 5: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 189; 4: *Stația de Salvare*/MNUAI F. 7148; 6: *Stația de Salvare*/MNUAI F. 7147.



Pl. IV. 1: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 81; 2: Pîclișa – *La Izvoare*/G. 33; 3: *Stația de Salvare*/MNUAI F.7143; 4: *Stația de Salvare*/G. 609; 5: *Stația de Salvare*/G. 637; 6: Stația de Salvare/MNUAI F. 6833 (S. XVIII/G. 8); 7: *Stația de Salvare*/MNUAI F.8017 (S. X/G. 24); 8: *Stația de Salvare*/MNUAI F. 6887 (S. XXI/G. 6); 9: *Stația de Salvare*/M. 465.



1a-1b



2a-2b

Pl. V. 1a-1b: Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 10; 2a-2b: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 24.


1


2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4


5


6


7a


7b


7c


8


9


10

Pl. VI. 1-4, 7a-7c: Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 17; 5, 8: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 11; 6: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 2; 9: *Stația de Salvare* (MNUAI F. 6833); 10: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 30.


1


2


3


4


5


6

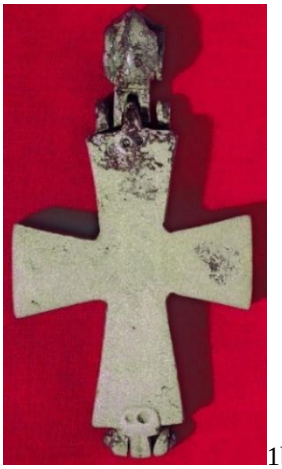

7

Pl. VII. 1: *Staţia de Salvare*/MNUAI F. 7147 (S. II/G. 10); 2: *Staţia de Salvare*/MNUAI F. 7148 (S. II/G. 10); 3: *Staţia de Salvare*/G. 637 (MNUAI F.7669); 4: *Staţia de Salvare*/G. 609 (MNUAI F. 7681); 5-6: *Staţia de Salvare* (S. XXXVI/G. 2; MNUAI F. 8430-8431); 7: *Staţia de Salvare*/MNUAI F. 8416 (S. XXII/G. 8).



Pl. VIII. I. 1-2: Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 141; 3-4: *Stația de Salvare* (S. II/G. 10; F. 8700-8701); 5-6: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 17; 7: *Stația de Salvare* (F. 8415; S. XXX/G. 3); 8-9: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 11.


1a


1b


1c


2a


2b


2c


2d


3a


3b

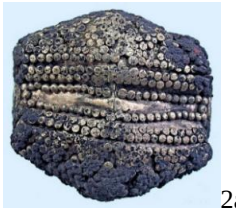
Pl. IX.1a-1c: Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 10; 2a-2d: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 81; 3a-3b: Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 24.



1a


1b


1c


2a


2b


3a


3b


3c


4


5a


5b


6


7

Pl. X. 1a-3c: Alba Iulia – *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 189; 4: *Stația de Salvare* (MNUAI F. 7143); 5a-5b: Pîclișa – *La Izvoare*/G. 33; 6: *Izvorul Împăratului*/G. 17; 7: *Stația de Salvare*/MNUAI F. 6887 (S. XXI/G. 6).