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# PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS AND NOTES ON THE SARMATIAN BURIAL VESTIGES OF TIMIȘOARA – „HLADIK 1” (TIMIȘ COUNTY)

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## ABSTRACT:

The 2019-2020 archaeological research resulted in the discovery, near Timișoara, at site Hladik 1, of a Sarmatae cemetery of which 139 burials have been investigated, some encircled by a ditch. The grave goods in the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” burials, rather varied and rich, are represented by handmade or wheel-thrown pots, domestic and household objects, toiletries, silver coins, adornment and dress items, weapons, etc. The preliminary analysis of the grave goods dates *grosso modo* the graves' group to the chronological frame comprised between late 2nd century and last decades of the 3rd century AD.

## REZUMAT: CONSIDERAȚII ȘI NOTE PRELIMINARE ASUPRA VESTIGIILOR FUNERARE SARMATE DE TIMIȘOARA – „HLADIK 1” (JUDEȚUL TIMIȘ)

Cercetările arheologice din anii 2019-2020 au dus la descoperirea, lângă Timișoara, punctul Hladik 1, a unei necropole sarmatice din care au fost cercetate 139 de morminte, unele înconjurate de șanț circular. Mobilierul funerar din cadrul mormintelor de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”, unul destul de variat și bogat, este reprezentat de vase ceramice modelate cu mâna sau la roată, obiecte de uz casnic și gospodăresc, obiecte de toaletă, monede din argint, piese de podoabă și vestimentație, arme etc. Analiza preliminară a inventarului funerar indică în linii mari o datare a acestui grup de morminte *grosso modo* în intervalul cronologic cuprins între sfârșitul sec. II p. Chr. și ultimele decenii ale sec. III p. Chr.

**KEYWORDS:** The Sarmatae, the Iazyges, burials, ritual ditched enclosures, artefacts, the Pannonian Plain, the Banat  
**CUVINTE CHEIE:** sarmați, iazigi, morminte, amenajări rituale cu șanț, artefacte, Câmpia Panonică, Banat

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The archaeological site within the range of Timișoara city – point Hladik 1 (Site 6) (Fig. 1), has been known in the academic literature since 1982, when it was identified by fieldwalks. Until the summer of 2019, when rescue archaeological excavations were initiated, data on this complex site had been entirely incomplete, neither its extension nor its complexity being known for certain. Furthermore, there was no minimal indication on an existing cemetery within the site's identified limits. The opportunity to investigate most of it arose when Timișoara's southern by-pass route crossed the site's area (Fig. 2).

The rescue archaeological investigations conducted in 2019-2020<sup>1</sup> evidenced the presence within the site's area of three different periods of habitations: the Neolithic, Roman period (Sarmatae settlement and cemetery) and early medieval period (Fig. 3/1). Other four isolated finds can be added: two cremations and a pit dated to the late period of the Bronze Age, and a feature which belonged to the Coțofeni culture (early Bronze Age).

In the 2019 campaign there were identified and analysed a number of **119** Sarmatae inhumations. Additional investigations, requested by the builder and accomplished in 2020, led to the find and research of further **20** Sarmatae burials. Subsequent to the archaeological excavations performed in mentioned years, the southern and south-western sides of the cemetery have been successfully identified. Fieldwalks carried out in the area located outside the excavated limits noted that the Sarmatae cemetery also spread on the land to the site's north-east, the settlement's nucleus, to which the cemetery was related, lying to the north and north-west.

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<sup>1</sup> Archaeological excavations were carried out in 2019 by Cristinel Fântăneanu, Cristian Florescu and Anca Matîș, while those of 2020 by Gabriel Bălan (National Museum of the Union Alba Iulia), whom we thank this way too for kindly making available to us for publication the 20 burials investigated in 2020.

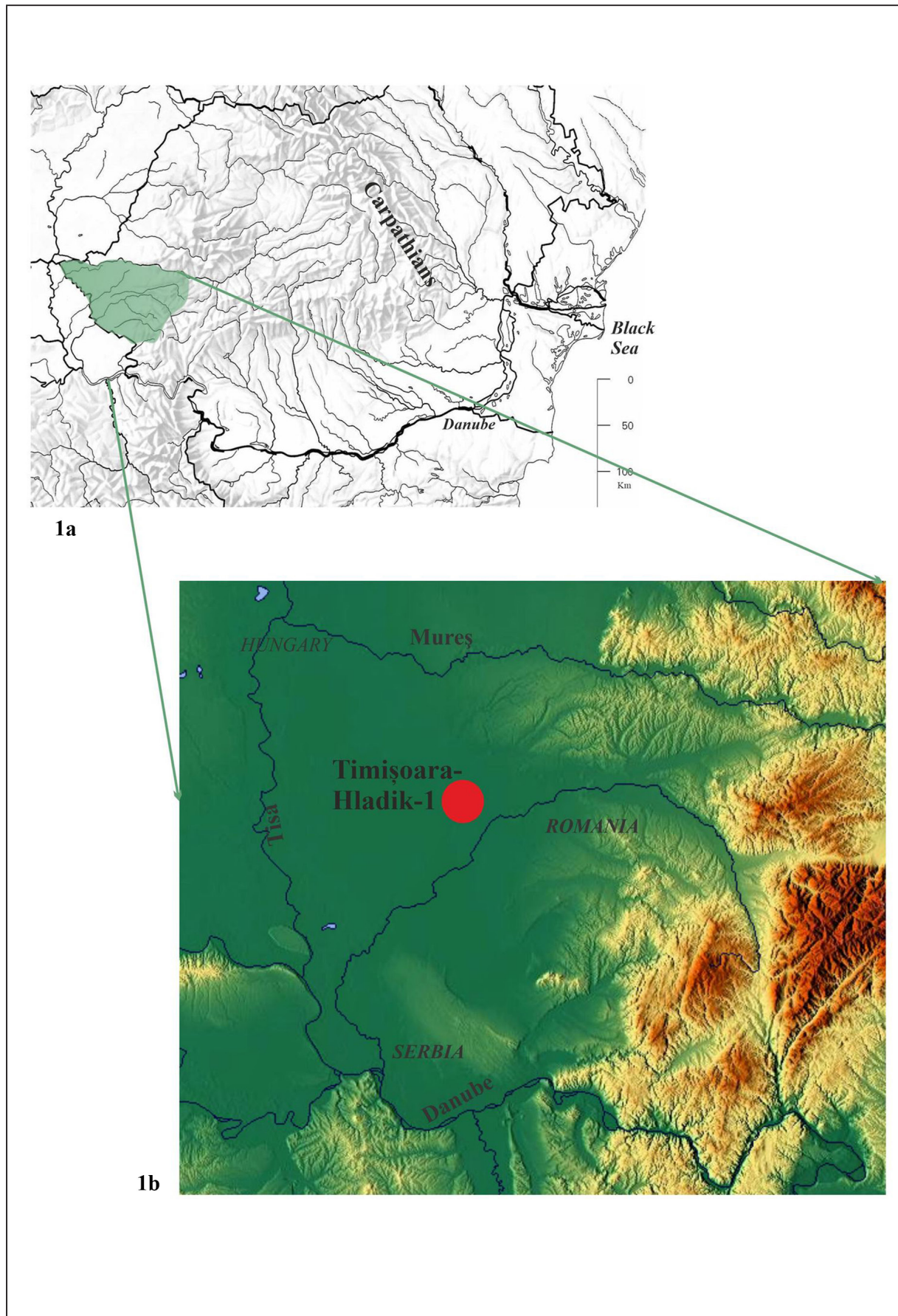


Fig. 1. Map with the location of the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” site.



*Fig. 2. Satellite image with the layout of the Sarmatian burial remains within the investigated area of the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” site.*

All **139** burials were part of the same inhumation cemetery related to the settlement where the two archaeological campaigns led to the investigation of several features (wastepits, ditches, kilns, sunken houses, etc.). The 2019-2020 archaeological campaigns evidenced a part of the cemetery layout, grave orientations, gravepit types, orientation and position of the deceased, as well as the presence of richly furnished graves.

Within the cemetery, **13** flat circularly ditched burials and related graves were identified and fully investigated, some with damaged portions (Fig. 3/3; 4). To these may be added other three identified and partially researched in the subsequent extensions of the investment project's area, northwards and north-eastwards. Inside most of these enclosures, only a single burial feature could be found (Fig. 3/3; 4), while the circular ditch Cx 124 contained four graves. The shape of the latter was ovoid (10.8 x 7.3 m). All these flat ditch encircled burials from the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” cemetery were provided, similarly to the rest of the Sarmatae world<sup>2</sup>, with an access area inside (Fig. 3/3; 4). The diameters of the circular ditches varied between 7 and 11.8 m and their width between 0.7 and 1.2 m. The **16** circularly ditched burials of this cemetery join the other few discovered in the last decade, in the south-western territories of Romania, as a result of rescue archaeological excavations performed prior the construction of the Nădlac-Arad Motorway and the Nădlac-Pecica stretch<sup>3</sup>. Other such burial enclosure types are currently unknown in the Western Plain of Romania, north (Crișana) and south (Banat) of the Mureș river. This is, though, due to the lack of large scale archaeological investigations like those carried out in the last three decades in Hungary, where there were discovered many such graves.

In the case of the graves from the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” cemetery it may be noted, similarly to the many Sarmatae cemeteries of the Pannonian Plain<sup>4</sup>, that only some were encircled with a ditch, while in their interior a single burial feature could be found. The presence of several graves or double inhumations in the interior of the burial setups is rare throughout the Sarmatae Iazyges environment. Also, it may be noted that the ditch encircled graves from the investigated area of the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” cemetery form two groups, around them, other graves were present that were not ditch enclosed. The gravepits in the interior of the ditched burials are predominantly rectangular and lay at a somewhat greater depth than the surface of their set up. Some gravepits are larger than of the graves without an encircling ditch, preserving in a few cases remains of the wooden structure from the interior. The majority of the investigated graves had the deceased placed in the grave with their head to the south, south-west or south-east (Fig. 5-6), a dominant orientation in the Sarmatae milieu of the Pannonian Plain throughout their

<sup>2</sup> See Bârcă 2015, 103-118; Bârcă 2020, 334-345.

<sup>3</sup> Bârcă and Cociș 2013; Bârcă and Grumeza 2014; Grumeza and Ursuțiu 2016; Bârcă 2020, 342-343.

<sup>4</sup> For a series of examples with references see Bârcă 2020, 344, notes 256-257.





Fig. 3. 1. Developed general plan; 2. Layout of Sarmatian burial features within the mapped area of the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” site; a – Expropriation limit; b – Sarmatian burial features.



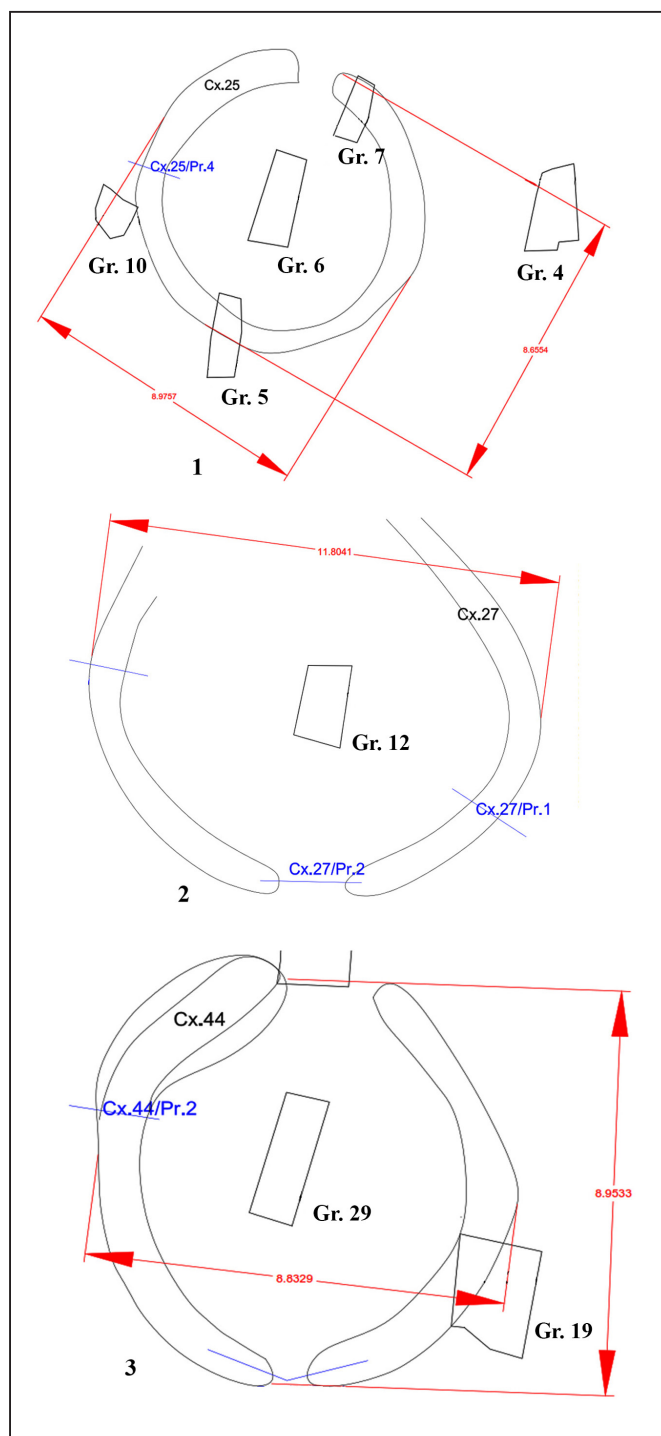


Fig. 4. Burial structures with circular ditch and graves in the interior from the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” cemetery.

inhabitanity of the area, although the northern, rarely the eastward or westward orientation were also found<sup>5</sup>. Almost two decades ago, the analysis of the funerary rite of the Sarmatians from the Carpathian Basin concluded that the southern orientation is the most common tradition of the Sarmatian Iazyges, prevailing in most part of the above mentioned geographic area<sup>6</sup>. Thus, the analysis of the 1183 Sarmatae graves from the Pannonian Plain established that in 65%, the deceased were buried with their head southwards<sup>7</sup>. These southern oriented graves originate, according to the same scholar, from 68.5% of the sites with Sarmatae burial finds. The southern orientation dominance with the Sarmatae of the Pannonian Plain is also confirmed by the rescue archaeological excavations conducted in the last decades in Hungary. These have yielded other new cemeteries where the southern orientation of the deceased predominated. It is also preponderant in the Sarmatae graves discovered in the plain south of the Lower Mureș<sup>8</sup>. Even in the Sarmatae cemeteries and grave groups investigated in the last three decades on the territory of Romanian Banat, deposition of the deceased with their head southwards<sup>9</sup> was predominant. Thus, it may be concluded that the southern orientation was dominant in the Pannonian Plain throughout the Sarmatae inhabitanity of the area and that further inflows of new Sarmatae groups arriving from the east, bearers of different traditions, could not alter this custom, which makes it the most constant feature of the Sarmatae culture in this area.

Although in the Pannonian Plain predominate cemeteries with only the southern orientation of the deceased, there are many cases where northern, eastern or western orientations were found within cemeteries<sup>10</sup>. Similar situations may be noted also in the case of several cemeteries on the territory of Banat, the recently investigated included<sup>11</sup>. In the Sarmatae environment of the Pannonian Plain, cemeteries where all graves were oriented north-south are rare. These are also present in the southern part of the territory located between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 16-22.

<sup>6</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 16-18, 93, 109.

<sup>7</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 16, 93, 109.

<sup>8</sup> Grumeza 2014, 48-50.

<sup>9</sup> Tănase and Mare 2000; Bejan, Măruia and Tănase 2011; Grumeza, 2011; Grumeza 2014, 48-50; Stăvilă and Craiovan 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 16-22.

<sup>11</sup> Tănase and Mare 2000; Grumeza 2011; Grumeza 2014, 49-52; Bârcă 2014, 80.

<sup>12</sup> Grumeza 2014, 50-51.

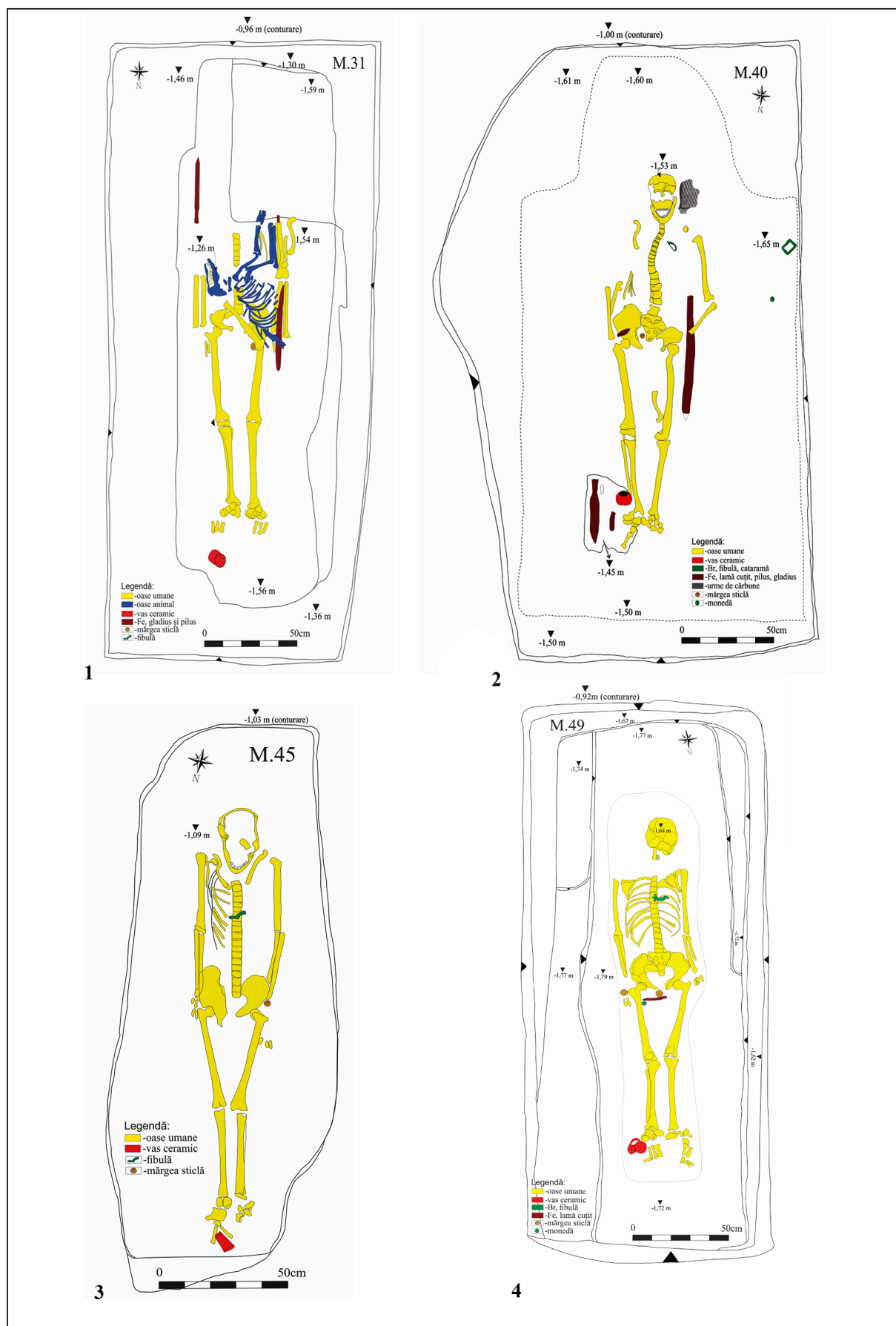


Fig. 5. Plans of graves from Timișoara – „Hladik I”. 1 – Gr. 31; 2 – Gr. 40; 3 – Gr. 45; 4 – Gr. 49.

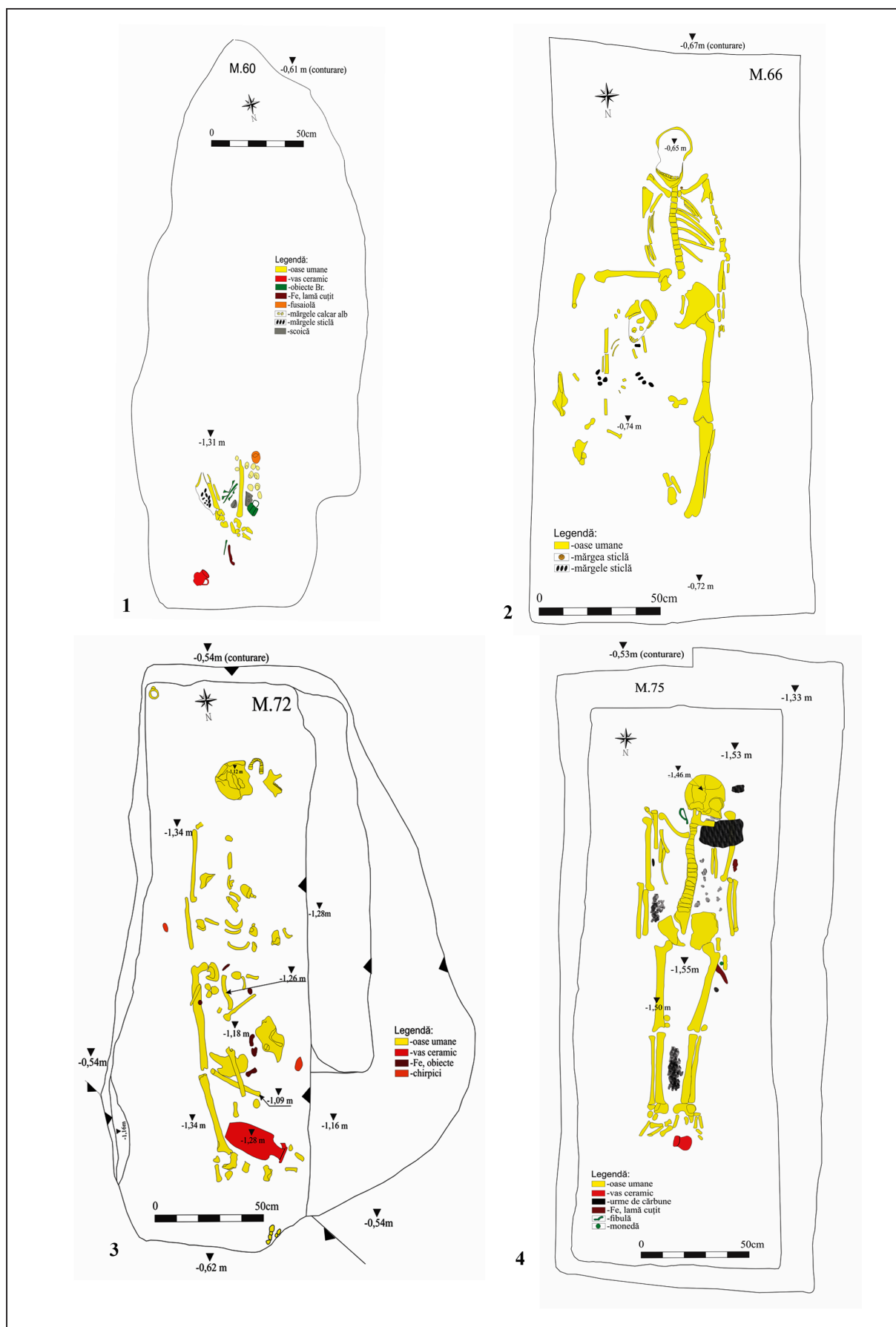


Fig. 6. Plans of graves from Timișoara – „Hladik 1”. 1 – Gr. 60; 2 – Gr. 66; 3 – Gr. 72; 4 – Gr. 75.



Graves with northern orientation from the Pannonian Plain do not stand out from the general context, neither by rite nor by grave goods. Geographically, it was noted they somewhat cluster in the Criș-Mureș-Tisza area and along the northern frontier of the Sarmatae *Barbaricum*, in the earth ramparts' area<sup>13</sup>. In the latter, this type of burials are part of the barrow graves group<sup>14</sup>.

In the area located south of the Lower Mureș, the northern orientation emerges somewhere by late 2nd century – early 3rd century AD<sup>15</sup>, however it is frequently found in late graves, mainly in the southern part of this region<sup>16</sup>. It is interesting that placing the deceased with the head northwards is also found in barrow graves from the territory south of the Lower Mureș, as well as at Vizejdia, Dudeștii Vechi, Nerău<sup>17</sup>.

The Sarmatae barrow graves from the Pannonian Plain are a distinct cultural horizon dated by late 2nd – first half of the 3rd century AD<sup>18</sup>, characterised by large mound burials, grouped however in small cemeteries of few graves. These small barrow cemeteries mostly lie by the border of the *Barbaricum*, while the deceased were buried according to nomad customs – with weapons, harness objects, horse skulls or limb bones, occasionally beside dogs<sup>19</sup>.

Regarding the position of the deceased within the graves, in the investigated graves, where skeletons were not destroyed or disturbed by looting, it could be noted that the deceased lay mainly on their back with hands and legs extended straight (Fig. 5-6). This deposition type dominated the entire Sarmatae world, including in the graves from the Pannonian Plains, yet also in those from the territory comprised between the Mureș, Tisza and the Danube. In a series of graves, there were cases where skeletons had different positions of the hands and legs, situations also found in graves from historical Banat<sup>20</sup>.

The grave furnishing of the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” burials, although widely looted from ancient times, is rather varied and rich, being represented by handmade and wheel thrown pots, domestic and household objects, toiletries, silver coins, adornment and dress items, weapons<sup>21</sup> etc. Similarly to the rest of the Sarmatae world, in the burials of Timișoara – „Hladik 1” it could be noted that grave goods from female graves differentiated from those placed in male graves. On the other hand, a series of artefacts are found in graves, regardless the sex and age of the deceased. Amongst, count pots, a series of adornment and dress objects (for instance, brooches, pendants, links) as well as certain domestic and household objects (for instance, knives). The preliminary analysis of the grave goods in the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” burials mirrors, in certain cases, also the social differentiations existing among the individuals within the community buried there.

Pots were discovered in approximately half of the **139** graves, being represented by handmade and wheel-thrown pots (Fig. 7/1-4; 8/7-8). The latter are represented by beakers, cups, jars, bowls, terrines, vessels that copy the kantharos shape, jugs etc. (Fig. 7/5-14; 8/1-6, 9). These are made of fine and semifine fabric, preponderantly gray coloured in different hues, yet there are also a series of yellowish-red or orange fabric pots (beakers, two-handled vessels) the amphoroid jug has the surface covered with red slip in the shape of stripes (marbled decorations) (Fig. 7/14; 8/9). Most pots were discovered in the northern part of the gravepits, in the legs area (Fig. 5/1-4; 6/1, 3-4), similarly to most Sarmatian graves from the Pannonian Plain<sup>22</sup>. Cases when two or several pots were deposited are rare, while the presence in some graves of pots in the upper body part, near the hand or in the head area, is deemed an

<sup>13</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 16-17, 18-19, 93, 109.

<sup>14</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 16, 93, 109.

<sup>15</sup> Bărcă 2014, 82. Almost five decades ago, M. Párducz argued that graves with the deceased's head placed northwards belonged to the Roxolani entering the Pannonian Plain after the Marcomannic Wars, mainly in the 3rd century AD (Párducz 1960, 74). V. Kulcsár explains the presence of the northern orientation of the deceased in these graves by the constant inflow of new migrants arriving from the east (Kulcsár 1998, 93, 109). Similar views were expressed by A. V. Simonenko, who believes that the emergence in the Pannonian Plain of the northern orientation besides other burial customs (main burials underneath mounds, ditch encircled graves) and dress and costume elements are an indication of the entry of the Roxolani in this area, in the aftermath of the Marcomannic Wars (Simonenko 1993, 63; Simonenko 2001, 117, 122).

<sup>16</sup> Grumeza 2014, 50-51.

<sup>17</sup> Grumeza 2014, 51.

<sup>18</sup> Istvánovits and Kulcsár 2003, 238.

<sup>19</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 87, 102, 117; Istvánovits and Kulcsár 2003, 238.

<sup>20</sup> Grumeza 2014, 47-48. For such cases, in the Sarmatae graves of the Pannonian Plain see Kulcsár 1998, 31-34, 95, 111. For similar cases found in the Sarmatae environment of the north and north-west Pontic area see Bărcă 2006, 52-53, Bărcă 2006a, 39-40; Bărcă and Symonenko 2009, 45, 107, 214-215.

<sup>21</sup> Complete restoration of the metal objects was performed by dr. Dan Anghel, restorer with the National Museum of the Union, Alba Iulia, whom we thank this way for his kind aid. We also wish to thank Călin Adam and Mugurel Manea for making the drawings of most artefacts.

<sup>22</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 66-69, 99, 115.

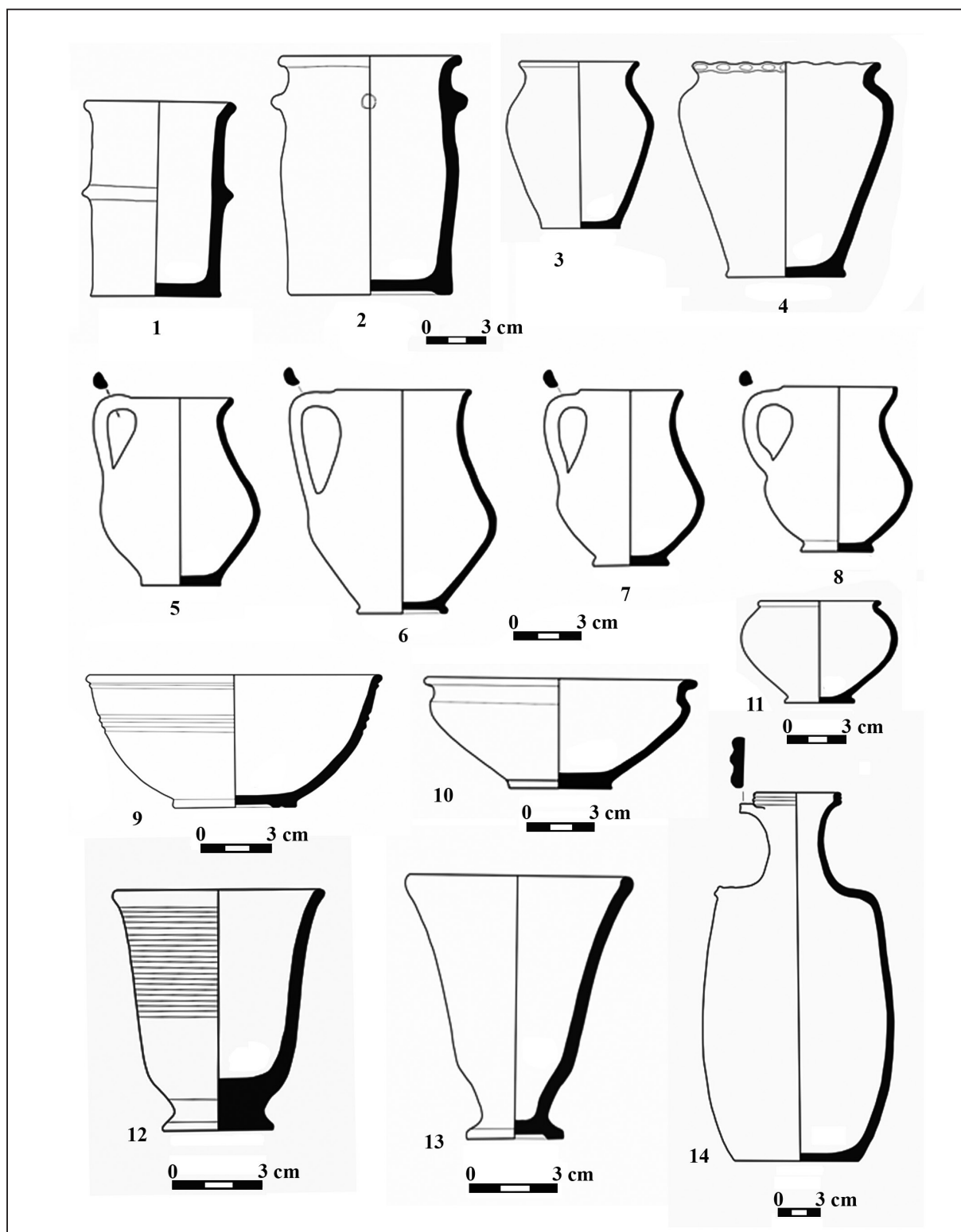


Fig. 7. Handmade (1-4) and wheel thrown (5-14) wares from the Timișoara – „Hladik I” graves.

anomaly<sup>23</sup>. For the area between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube it was noted that pots were placed mainly in one exemplar by the feet of the deceased, yet there are grave groups where pots were set in the upper part of the deceased's body, mainly the head area<sup>24</sup>. Regarding the handmade pots, these are coarse, the majority being fired in reduced atmosphere (see Fig. 8/7-8). Predominating colours are grayish-brown, dark brown, light gray,

<sup>23</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 66-69, 99, 115.

<sup>24</sup> Grumeza 2014, 128.



Fig. 8. Handmade (7-8) and wheel-thrown (1-6, 9) wares from Timișoara – „Hladik I” graves. 1 - Gr. 112; 2 - Gr. 29; 3 - Gr. 97; 4 - Gr. 22; 5 - Gr. 101; 6 - Gr. 19; 7 - Gr. 96; 8 - Gr. 59; 9 - Gr. 72.



almost black and rarely yellowish, even then with a strong gray hint. Some of the pots in this class exhibit traces of secondary firing mainly due to their prolonged use in open fire. Functionally, cooking and food storage wares dominate. Last but not least, we note that deposition of pots is independent to sex, age or social condition of the deceased.

The domestic and household objects are represented by spindle whorls and iron knives (Fig. 15/3-5). The first category was identified in 17 graves, while knives in ca. 20 cases. Spindle whorls, discovered mainly in the central part of the graves are biconical and conical in shape, being modelled of clay and fired in oxidising or reducing atmosphere.

Among the toiletries stands out the disc shaped fragmentary mirror provided with handle from Gr. 61 (Fig. 14/8) and the bronze fragmentary pyxis from Gr. 24. The mirror is decorated on the reverse with a circular outline engraved on the lathe, set at equal distance from the mirror edge, which is rounded. The item is similar to mirrors framed in group X, variant a, type "Corstopitum"<sup>25</sup> characterised by a slightly convex disc face and decoration composed of an engraved circle delimiting the disc edge, alike the mirror of Timișoara – „Hladik 1". Most mirrors in group X are dated by late 2nd – 3rd century AD<sup>26</sup>. Regarding the pyxis, similar or very close exemplars were discovered in other Sarmatae graves of the Pannonian Plain, including the territory comprised between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube<sup>27</sup>.

Coins (Cf. Fig. 16-17) were discovered in 20 of the graves investigated in the two campaigns. These are Roman denarii issued under emperors Vespasian (2 pieces – Gr. 20, Gr. 45); Titus (1 piece – Gr. 56); Trajan (1 piece – Gr. 121); Hadrian (2 pieces – Gr. 6, Gr. 75); Antoninus Pius (Faustina I - 2 pieces – Gr. 60, Gr. 87; Marcus Aurelius Caesar - 2 pieces – Gr. 18, Gr. 31); Marcus Aurelius (2 pieces – Gr. 62, Gr. 134; Lucius Verus - 1 piece – Gr. 110; Faustina II - 2 pieces – Gr. 98, Gr. 117; Lucilla Augusta - 1 piece – Gr. 35); Septimius Severus (2 pieces – Gr. 22, Gr. 139; Publius Septimius Geta - 1 piece – Gr. 49)<sup>28</sup>. To these adds an unidentifiable burnt coin from Gr. 40.

In the Sarmatae environment of the Pannonian Plain coins emerge in burial features under Roman influence starting with late 2nd – early 3rd century AD<sup>29</sup>, lacking, except for a few cases, from Sarmatae burial features of the eastern territories. In the Pannonian Plain graves with coins have been documented, except the Danube-Tisza interfluvium, in areas where finds of Roman coins yet also other import goods<sup>30</sup> cluster. Roman coins are documented also in several Sarmatae graves from the territory comprised between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube<sup>31</sup>.

Adornment and dress items are by far the most numerous class of artefacts discovered, being represented by collars (Fig. 10), bracelets (Fig. 9), earrings (Fig. 11/6, 11-12), links (Fig. 11/7-10), buckles (Fig. 11/2-5) and belt fittings (Fig. 12/4, 7), pendants (Fig. 12/1, 3, 5-6, 8), bells (Fig. 12/2), brooches (Fig. 13; 14/1-7) and beads.

Silver and bronze made collars (2 exemplars) were discovered in seven of the graves (16, 21, 30, 69, 83, 90, 129) (Fig. 10). These are represented by semicircular exemplars with loop closing mechanism, like in graves 83 and 129 (Fig. 10/1, 4), semicircular with circular (Gr. 30) or square section (Gr. 16) with one end widened by hammering and pierced (Fig. 10/3), as well as almost circular, made of bronze or silver wire with twisted body and flattened ends by hammering and piercing, thus making an attachment link (Fig. 10/2). Somewhat more numerous bracelets come from 12 graves (21, 24, 29, 30, 36, 53, 67, 88, 94, 101, 125, 129). In each of the graves 24, 36, 101 and 129 two exemplars were found. Earrings were identified in graves 19, 24, 89, 113, 129. Amongst them stand out those with one end bent in the shape of a hook and the other in the form of a loop, wrapped around the body (Fig. 11/6, 11-12). Such earrings are numerous in the Greco-Roman world, from where they likely diffused to other cultural environments where they are often found. Frequently, these earrings are discovered in Sarmatae graves of the first centuries AD throughout the space they inhabited<sup>32</sup>.

Buckles and belt fittings, not many, come from graves 13, 22, 40, 67, 113, 132, 139. Amongst them, stand out the buckle and belt fitting from Gr. 13 (Fig. 11/2; 12/4) and belt fitting from Gr. 132 (Fig. 12/7), all three made of silver. The iron buckle from Gr. 22 is of the same type with the silver specimen from Gr. 13 (Fig. 11/2), while that in iron from Gr. 139 with the example in Gr. 113 (Fig. 11/3).

<sup>25</sup> Lloyd-Morgan 1981, 95-98, Fig. 8/8a.

<sup>26</sup> See Niezabitowska-Wisniewska 2012, 215-220.

<sup>27</sup> See in this respect Bârcă 2014, 136-138; Bârcă 2017, 101-123.

<sup>28</sup> We thank this way to our colleague dr. habil. Cristian Găzduc for kindly determining the coins from these graves.

<sup>29</sup> Vaday 2002, 221. In the 1998 monograph study V. Kulcsár argued this custom emerges no earlier than the 2nd century AD (Kulcsár 1998, 57-59, 98, 114).

<sup>30</sup> Kulcsár 1998, 58-59, 98, 114.

<sup>31</sup> See in this respect Grumeza 2014, 109-114.

<sup>32</sup> See for such earrings with complete bibliography Bârcă 2006, 106; Bârcă 2014, 98-99.

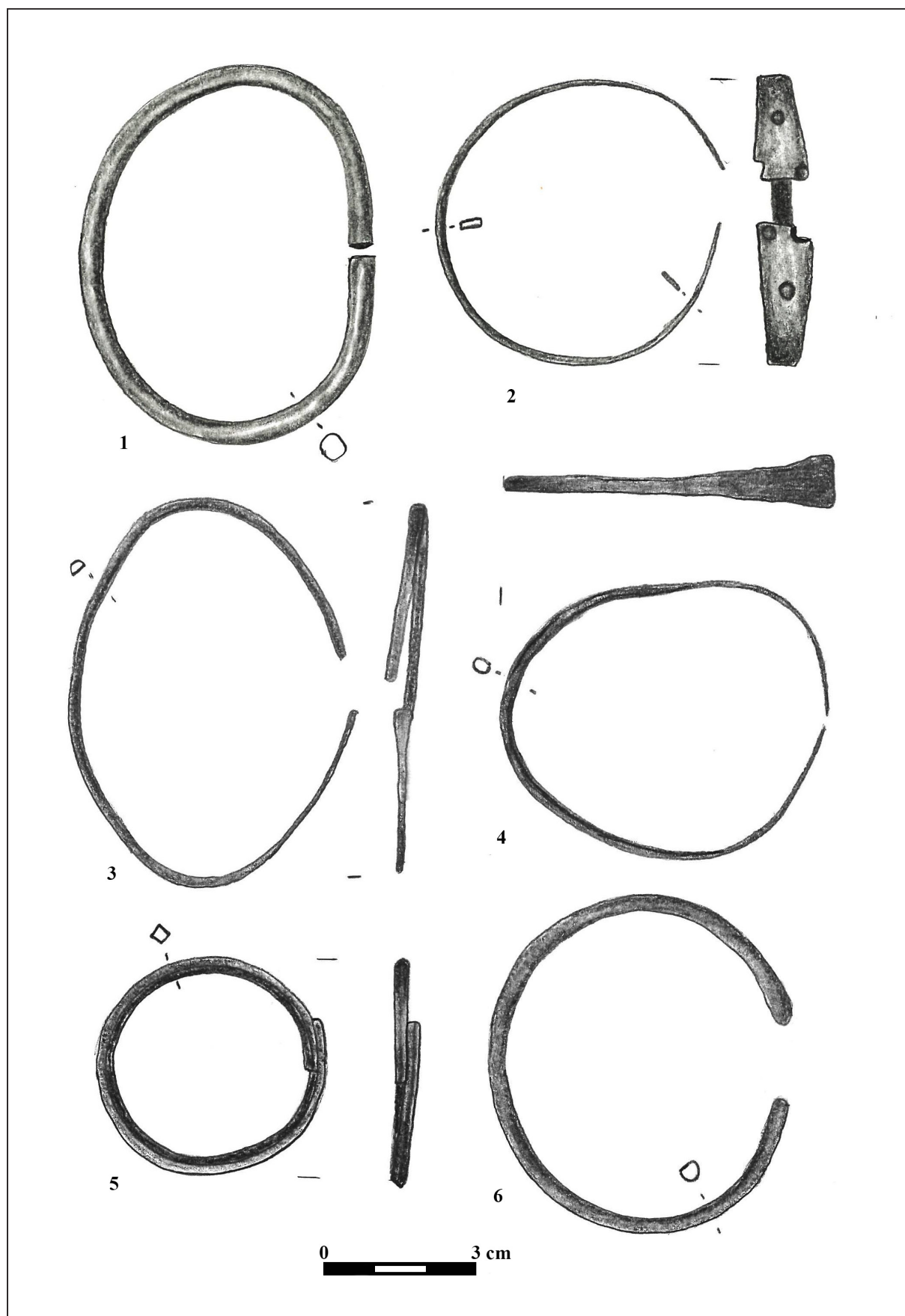


Fig. 9. Bracelets from the Timișoara – „Hladik I” graves. 1 – Gr. 36; 2 – Gr. 29; 3 – Gr. 67; 4 – Gr. 24; 5 – Gr. 129; 6 – Gr. 53.

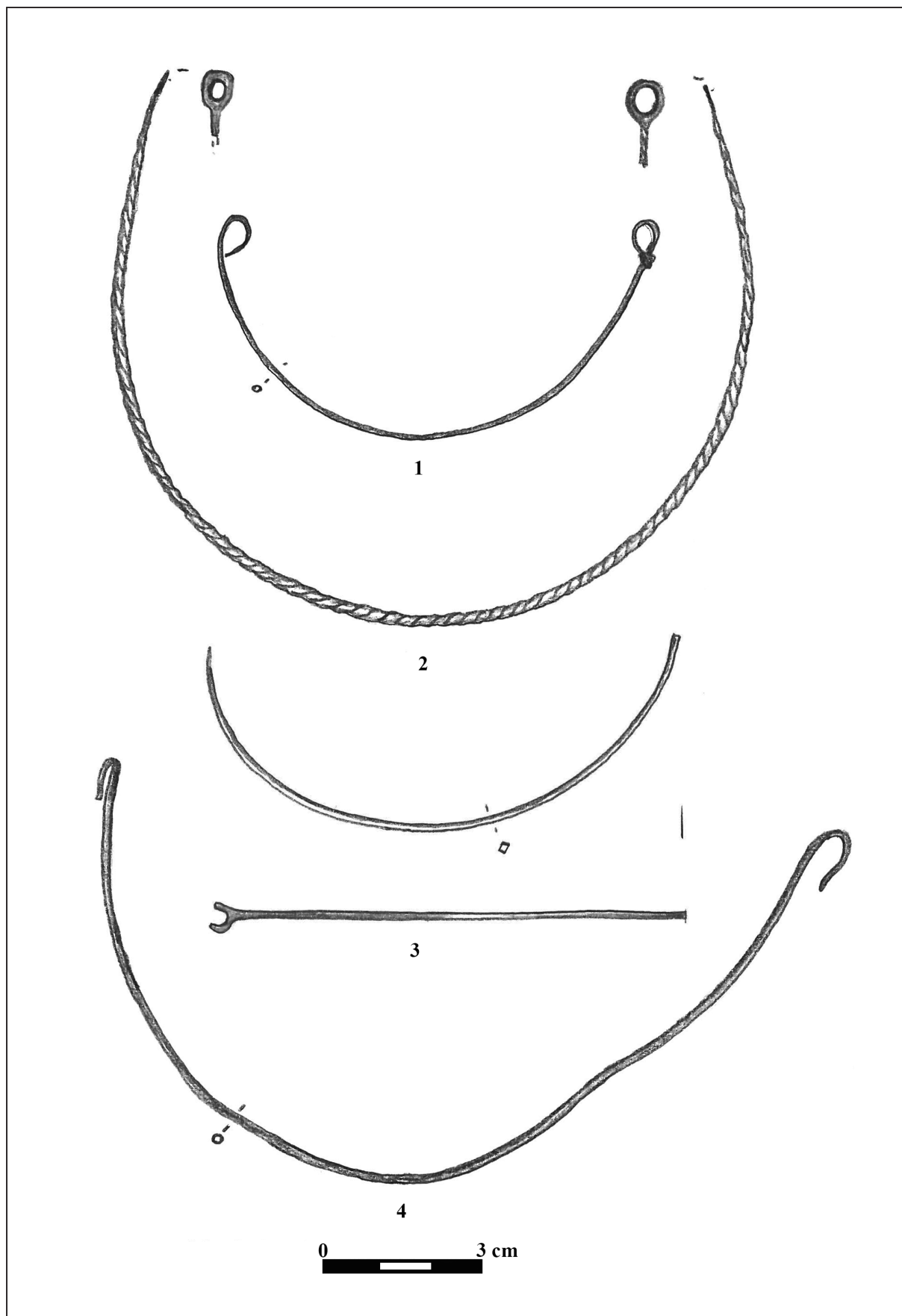


Fig. 10. Silver (1) and bronze collars from the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” graves.  
1 - Gr. 129; 2 - Gr. 90; 3 - Gr. 16; 4 - Gr. 83.



The buckles from Gr. 13 and Gr. 22 are composed of two main parts: an approximately rectangular plate, mobile and a semicircular loop, bound to the belt with rivets, via the mobile plate. The rectangular plate of the piece in Gr. 13 is composed of a silver folded sheet, bound with four rivets, with an orifice for the buckle tongue and incised stylised decoration made by hammering on the front side (Fig. 11/2). The iron specimen in Gr. 22 has a rectangular folded plate, bound with two rivets.

Specifically, these buckles have their head composed of two parts: the semicircular head part and that vertical, formed of an axis connecting the two heads. The rectangularly-shaped metal plate of these buckle bodies is placed over this axis. Their bodies are narrower than their heads, the tongue having a bent tip. It is believed that this buckle type emerged in the Barbarian environment of the last third of the 2nd century AD<sup>33</sup>, being specific to phase C1a Przeworsk milieu<sup>34</sup>. Such buckles are present in several Sarmatian graves of the Pannonian Plain<sup>35</sup>, including in the ancient Banat's<sup>36</sup> territory, originating from late 2nd – 3rd century AD graves<sup>37</sup>.

The single-piece smaller bronze exemplars from Gr. 67 (Fig. 10/4) stand out amongst the discovered buckles. They belong to type I, variant 2 in A. Vaday and V. Kulcsár's classification<sup>38</sup>, believed, beside other variants, as "Sarmatian" buckles<sup>39</sup>. These "Sarmatian" buckles are frequent in Sarmatae burials of the period between the last two decades of the 2nd century AD and mid 3rd century AD (phases C1a-C1b) in the Pannonian Plain<sup>40</sup>, being specific to male graves<sup>41</sup>. Buckles in Gr. 67 were discovered together with small metal belt fittings made of a folded plate attached to the belt by one rivet. These are ascribed to type I in A. Vaday and V. Kulcsár's classification<sup>42</sup> and likely belong to belts that served for fastening footwear<sup>43</sup>. In 1984, such buckles and small belt fittings were recorded in the Pannonian Plain in finds yielded in 54 sites<sup>44</sup>.

Links are represented by simple items (Gr. 46, 47, 62, 69, 82, 97) (Fig. 11/10), some with slightly distanced ends or the specimens with overlapping wrapped ends (Gr. 30, 46, 76, 82, 87, 104) (Fig. 11/7-9). It is worth mentioning the presence in Gr. 18 and Gr. 60 of *Cypraea* pendants (Fig. 11/1). These emerge in the Sarmatae milieu of the Pannonian Plain with the last third of the 2nd century AD, being present until the second half of the 3rd century AD when they disappear and remerge in the last third of the 4th century AD<sup>45</sup>, likely carried by new Iranian groups. Among the discovered pendants stands out the *lunula* example from Gr. 104 (Fig. 12/5) and the silver specimen made in the shape of a volute from Gr. 89 (Fig. 12/8). Bells are represented by a bronze exemplar in Gr. 60 (Fig. 12/2) and other two in iron in Gr. 97. According to body shapes, the bell in Gr. 60 may be framed in type D (*Halbkugelige Glocken*) in Wojciech Nowakowski's classification<sup>46</sup>, while those in Gr. 97 to type C (*Kegelförmige Glocken*)<sup>47</sup>, both bell types being fashionable throughout the first four centuries AD in several cultural environments. W. Nowakowski believed that the bells' use and wide diffusion in the Barbarian environment from Central Europe is the result of influences from the Roman empire<sup>48</sup>. The same author infers that small bells, like in Gr. 60, were used in the Sarmatae milieu as an element of women dress. In the Sarmatian environment, bells are found mainly in 1st – 4th century burial features and were especially a female dress element. Bells of various types and versions are frequent in the Sarmatae setting of the Pannonian Plain as well<sup>49</sup>, being mostly imports from the Roman milieu<sup>50</sup> where they were widely used.

Most numerous and diversified artefact class recorded in the burials of this cemetery is represented by beads present in **67 graves**. Most beads from the analysed graves are made of glass, limestone, chalcedony, coral, amber

<sup>33</sup> Vaday 1989, 68.

<sup>34</sup> Maczyńska 2003, 554, Fig. 91/13, 17.

<sup>35</sup> Vaday 1989, 68, Fig. 8/13, 16.

<sup>36</sup> Tănase and Mare 2000, 197, Fig. 3/2; Grumeza 2014, 91, Fig. 29/5-6, Pl 12/2, 17/2b, 56/8, 59/4, 112/5.

<sup>37</sup> For buckle types with two part heads: semicircular head part and vertical part formed of an axis connecting the two heads with or without plate from the Central European *Barbaricum* where 32 types have been identified see Madyda-Legutko 1986, 24-35, Group D, Pl. 7-10.

<sup>38</sup> Vaday and Kulcsar 1984, 246-247, Fig. 1/3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 20, 22; Vaday 1989, 66, Fig. 8/2.

<sup>39</sup> Vaday 1989, 66.

<sup>40</sup> Vaday and Kulcsar 1984, 258, Fig. 9.

<sup>41</sup> Istvánovits and Kulcsár 2005, 173.

<sup>42</sup> Vaday and Kulcsar 1984, 251, Fig. 4/31, 34, 37, 40.

<sup>43</sup> For more details see Vaday and Kulcsar 1984; Vaday 1989, Fig. 9.

<sup>44</sup> See Vaday and Kulcsar 1984.

<sup>45</sup> Kovács and Vaday 1999, 259.

<sup>46</sup> Nowakowski 1988, 80-82.

<sup>47</sup> Nowakowski 1988, 78-80.

<sup>48</sup> Nowakowski 1988, 133.

<sup>49</sup> Cf. Bărcă 2014, 106 with complete bibliography.

<sup>50</sup> Vaday 1989, 60.

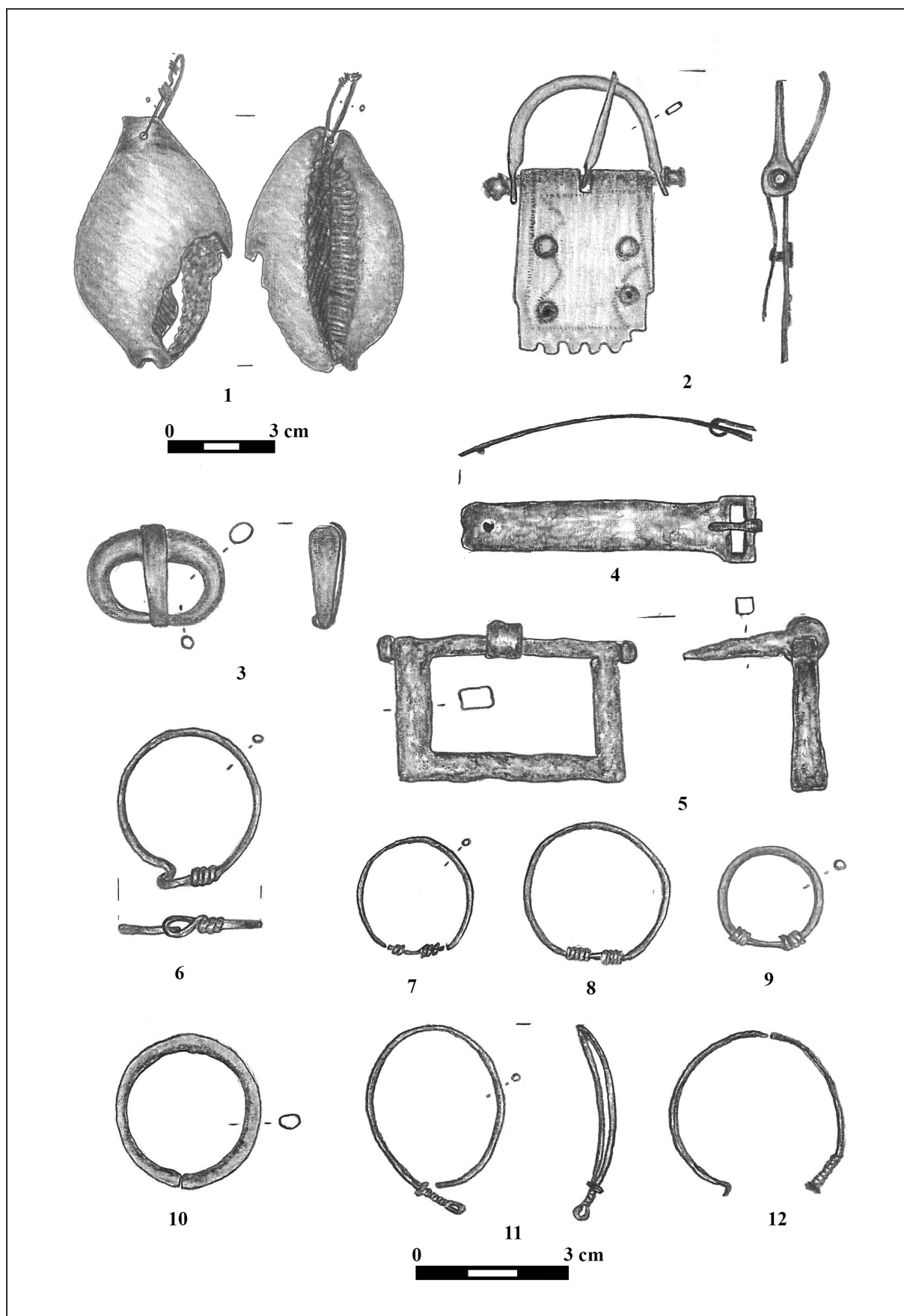


Fig. 11. *Cypraea* shells (1), buckles (2-5), earrings (6, 11-12) and links (7-10) from the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” graves.  
1 - Gr. 60; 2 - Gr. 13; 3 - Gr. 113; 4 - Gr. 67; 5 - Gr. 40; 6 - Gr. 129; 7-8 - Gr. 104; 9 - Gr. 82; 10 - Gr. 47; 11-12 - Gr. 113.

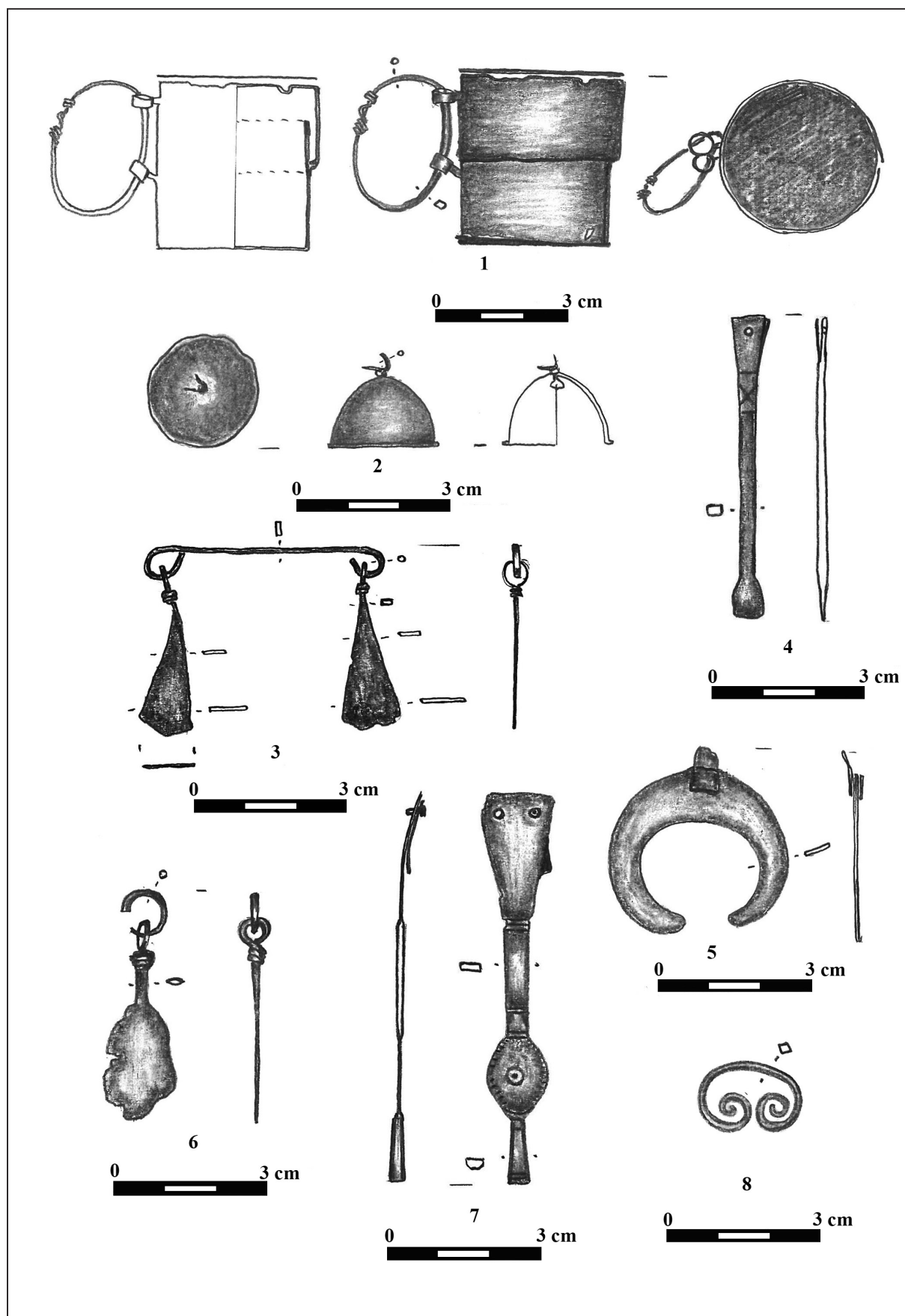


Fig. 12. Pendants (1, 3, 5-6, 8), bells (2) and belt fittings (4, 7) from the Timișoara – „Hlădik I” graves.  
1-3 – Gr. 60; 4 – Gr. 13; 5 – Gr. 104; 6 – Gr. 82; 7 – Gr. 132; 8 – Gr. 89.



or shells. They count from tens to a few hundreds of exemplars within the graves. Their large number is specific to the Sarmatae milieu of the Pannonian Plain and is firstly explained by their multiple functionalities. In some cases, they emerge in hundreds. The circumstances are also similar in the Sarmatae burial features from the area south of the Lower Mureș<sup>51</sup>. Beads were bracelet, collar or earring components, however, most often were beaded on apparel (especially the collar, sleeves and bottom of dress, in the belt area or on trousers), but also on belts, braids, bags or footwear, beading clothes and accessories being specific to female dress.

The preliminary analysis of beads indicates that the majority of dull and translucent monochrome glass exemplars come most likely from the Tibiscum workshops, contemporary with the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” cemetery, which produced similar beads. Similar origins may be invoked for the chalcedony pieces or most polychrome beads.

Chronologically, largely, the beads from the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” burials are found in Sarmatae burials from the area between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube by late 2nd – 4th century AD. Upon the analysis of the internal chronology of well researched Sarmatian cemetery, it may be noted that some types (and type combinations) are specific to the timeframe corresponding to late 2nd century – last third of the 3rd century AD (some monochrome bead types, mixed with globular or sandwich beads, carnelian beads (less those in amber) and the presence of those polychrome decorated in the *Millefiori* technique).

The brooches in the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” cemetery chronologically belong to distinct development phases that correspond to certain phases of the Roman imperial period. These were discovered intact or fragmentary in 31 graves, in four burials two specimens each being found (Gr. 11, 62, 104, 129).

Earliest are the knee brooches from graves 39, 53, 70 and 73. They are hinged, while the spring is inserted in a half-roll (Fig. 13/1-2), being fashionable between the seventh decade of the 2nd century and first decades of the 3rd century AD<sup>52</sup>.

Flat openwork brooches are represented within the cemetery by a single specimen (Fig. 14/5). It was yielded by Gr. 47 and has round body, openwork in “wheel” shape. It is hinged, while the catchplate is hook shaped. Brooches with similar morphology, spread especially in the border Roman provinces on the Rhine and the Danube, date between late 2nd century AD – first decades of the 3rd century AD<sup>53</sup>. After this period, such brooches are rare, being deemed unfashionable, respectively relics<sup>54</sup>.

From grave 49 comes a brooch with fork-shaped body (Fig. 13/3). It is both springed and hinged, its arms being provided each with an ending knob, while the foot is vertical, faceted and pointed. These brooches date between late 2nd century AD and first half of the 3rd century AD<sup>55</sup>.

In the cemetery was discovered a single brooch of type Almgren group VII, series I. The silver specimen comes from grave 18 (Fig. 14/4) and belongs to variant **B1**<sup>56</sup>, characterised by external chord and attachment support, subvariant **B1a2a1**. It is two-piece, the spring, broken from ancient times, being bilateral and most likely composed of a large number of coils simply set. The chord, which did not survive, was external. The brooch head is incorporated in the end part of the body, the latter being semicircular. The brooch body, strongly arched, is flat ovoid and semicircular in section. By the junction with the foot is noticeable a small, well marked necking. The brooch foot is short and has by the end a small knob, while the catchplate is rectangular. The pin did not survive (Fig. 14/4).

In T. Schulte’s work<sup>57</sup> discussing the brooches in group Almgren VII, with vertical catchplate from the European space, specimens in this group were divided in three series. Unfortunately, the classification did not take into account as a main factor also the closing mechanism (spring and chord design). Brooches similar to that here are classified by T. Schulte as brooches type Almgren VII, 2, form 5 (*Germanische Variante – Typ Friesland*)<sup>58</sup>. The absolute chronology of the Almgren VII, 2, brooches is rather briefly discussed for the lack of closed features<sup>59</sup>, yet also unsatisfactory awareness of references for the eastern territories. The dating of exemplars ascribed to type Almgren VII, 2, form 5 is placed in the first two thirds of the 2nd century AD<sup>60</sup>. Without further details, we

<sup>51</sup> Grumeza 2013; Grumeza 2014, 93-104; Grumeza, Rumegă-Irimuş and Bârcă 2014, 120-133; Grumeza and Bârcă 2020, 402-415; Grumeza 2020, 437-445; Bârcă and Grumeza 2022; Bârcă and Grumeza 2022a.

<sup>52</sup> Böhme 1972, 45; Jobst 1975, 117; Cociş 2004, 94-96, type 19a6.

<sup>53</sup> Cociş 2004, 125-128, type 25.

<sup>54</sup> Cociş 2004, 128. Openwork brooches identical with that of specimen in Gr. 47 come from Moesia superior (see Petković 2010, 183, cat. no. 960-962, Pl. XXXI/4-6).

<sup>55</sup> Cociş 2004, 136-137, type 34.

<sup>56</sup> Cociş and Bârcă 2014, 196; Bârcă and Cociş 2022, 249.

<sup>57</sup> Schulte 2011.

<sup>58</sup> Schulte 2011, 77-79, Fig. 48/8-10.

<sup>59</sup> Schulte 2011, 162-170.

<sup>60</sup> Schulte 2011, Fig. 107.

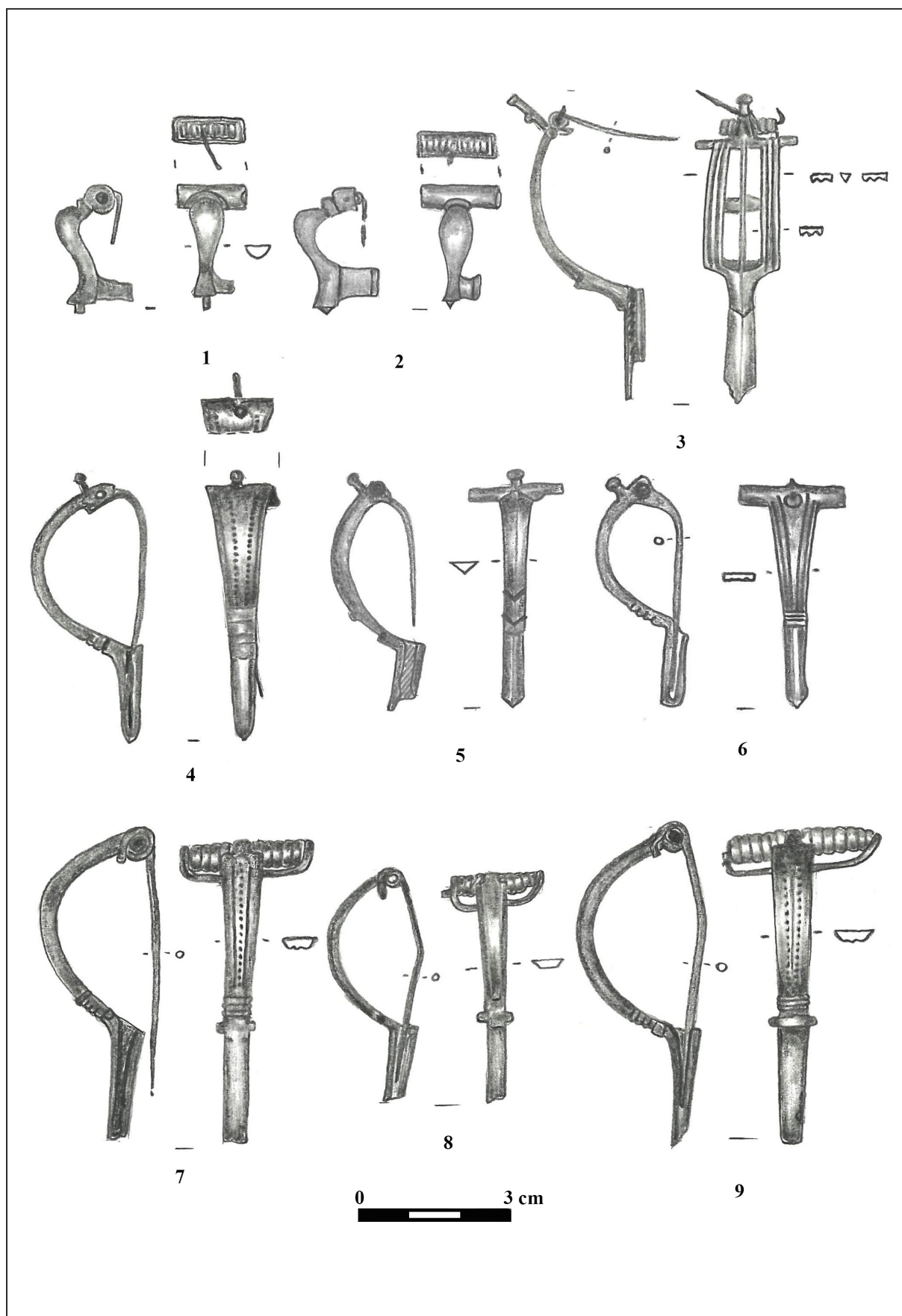


Fig. 13. Brooches from the Timișoara – „Hladik I” graves.  
1 – Gr. 70; 2 – Gr. 53; 3 – Gr. 49; 4 – Gr. 45; 5 – Gr. 129; 6 – Gr. 83; 7 – Gr. 63; 8 – Gr. 55; 9 – Gr. 98.

wish to mention that subsequent to the analysis of the exemplars yielded by well dated features (graves) it may be concluded that bronze or silver brooches characterised by external chord and springed attachment support from variation **B1**, as well those with external chord, headknob and spring in variant **B2** were used in the Sarmatian environment of the Pannonian Plain, the Barbarian environment from the west, north and north-west of Dacia, as well as in Roman Dacia, mainly between the last two decades of the 2nd century and mid 3rd century AD (phases C1a-C1b)<sup>61</sup>.

Among the brooches present in this cemetery also count brooches with returned foot. These come from graves 11 (2 fragmentary specimens)?, 22, 30, 40, 101, 122 and 123, being made of bronze (Fig. 14/1-2). All specimens are massive and either springed or hinged. In a few cases, these were single-piece and belong to type Almgren 158 (Gr. 30, Gr. 123) (Fig. 14/1). The springed specimens are mostly two-piece and have the chord pulled underneath. Brooches with similar morphology from the graves at Timișoara-„Hladik 1”, which are in fact Germanic in origin and which we may term as the “classical” variation, are mainly specific to phases C1a-C2 (AD 180-310)<sup>62</sup>.

Another significant group of brooches yielded by the cemetery includes cross-bow brooches (Fig. 13/7-9), present in graves 16, 20, 23, 24, 55, 63, 98, 104 and 139. All are characterised by small head, are springed, have the chord inserted through the interior and arched body, hence the appearance of a cross-bow<sup>63</sup>. These belong, except for the exemplar in Gr. 23 to type Cociș 36a1 and 36a2<sup>64</sup>, being framed by most scholars to the 3rd century AD<sup>65</sup>. This type exemplars are rarely found in the western territories of Europe, however in the province of Dacia their number is significant<sup>66</sup>. The diffusion area of brooch type 36a2 includes mainly free Germania, yet they are also found in some of the provinces of the Roman empire<sup>67</sup>, Dacia<sup>68</sup> included. The brooch in Gr. 23 has a headknob and belongs to type Cociș 36a3<sup>69</sup>. These brooches, also called Alamannic brooches, are specific to the German world, yet are also found in the Roman empire<sup>70</sup>. The exemplar in Gr. 139 had a headknob too, however it did not survive, the brooch exhibiting repair traces and the spring being exchanged for one in iron. The headknob exemplars, although believed specific to the 4th century AD<sup>71</sup>, had emerged in the 3rd century AD<sup>72</sup>, as further evidenced by the finds in Dacia<sup>73</sup>.

The graves in the Timișoara —„Hladik 1” cemetery also contained T-shaped brooches (Fig. 13/4-6). These brooch types are hinged, having a cast fixed part. The arms are short in earlier forms and longer in later specimens. Their arms and body give the T-letter appearance. They were found in graves 45, 79, 83, 129 and belong to type with trapezoid body, rectangular in section (type Cociș 39a3) or rectangular body, triangular in section (type Cociș 39b1)<sup>74</sup>. The morphological features of the brooch in Gr. 45 indicate it was a particular variant of this brooch type, characterised by missing arms<sup>75</sup>. The brooch in Gr. 83 belongs to type Cociș 39a3a2<sup>76</sup>, while those in Gr. 79 and Gr. 129 to type 39b1b<sup>77</sup>. The specimens in type 39a3 and 39b1 date to the first half of the 3rd century AD<sup>78</sup>, although their brief use after mid 3rd century cannot be excluded.

The brooch type in Gr. 75 is represented only by one exemplar (Fig. 14/3). Its trapezoid body is strongly curved, rectangular in section. It is hinged, the brooch’s head terminal part being twisted inwards, thus attaching the axis around which the pin revolved. The foot flattened by the extremity has a rectangular catchplate, parallel to the foot, yet shorter, being “cut”.

<sup>61</sup> See in this respect with complete bibliography Cociș and Barca 2014; Cociș and Bârcă 2020; Bârcă 2014, 115-117; Bârcă and Cociș 2022, 249-250.

<sup>62</sup> See in this respect with complete bibliography and expressed views Bârcă 2014a; Cociș 2014; Andrzejowski 2017; Andrzejowski 2018.

<sup>63</sup> For the features and specificities of this brooch type see Cociș 2004, 139-142.

<sup>64</sup> Cociș 2004, 139-140.

<sup>65</sup> Riha 1979, 83; Cociș 2004, 139, 140.

<sup>66</sup> See Cociș 2004, 139.

<sup>67</sup> Böhme 1972, 35; Riha 1979, 83; Bojović 1983, 74-75

<sup>68</sup> Cf. Cociș 2004, 139-140, Pl. CXXII/1706-1711, 1713-1718.

<sup>69</sup> Cociș 2004, 140.

<sup>70</sup> Böhme 1972, 36, Pl. 23/921; Riha 1979, 84; Bojović 1983, Pl. XXXVI/345-348; Buora 1994, 606-611; Cociș 2004, 140, Pl. CXXIII/1719-1722. For finds from Serbia see Petković 2010, 232-233, type 31/D, cat. no. 1173-1212, Pl. XLV- XLVI.

<sup>71</sup> Kolník 1965, 235; Bojović 1983, 75; Buora 1994, 610.

<sup>72</sup> Riha 1979, 84; Böhme 1972, 36.

<sup>73</sup> Cociș 2004, 140-141.

<sup>74</sup> See Cociș 2004, 148-151.

<sup>75</sup> We thank this way to our colleague dr. habil. Sorin Cociș for kindly aiding the typological framing of this exemplar.

<sup>76</sup> Cociș 2004, 149, Pl. CXLVIII/2014-2021.

<sup>77</sup> Cociș 2004, 151, Pl. CLV/2100-2110.

<sup>78</sup> Cociș 2004, 150, 151.

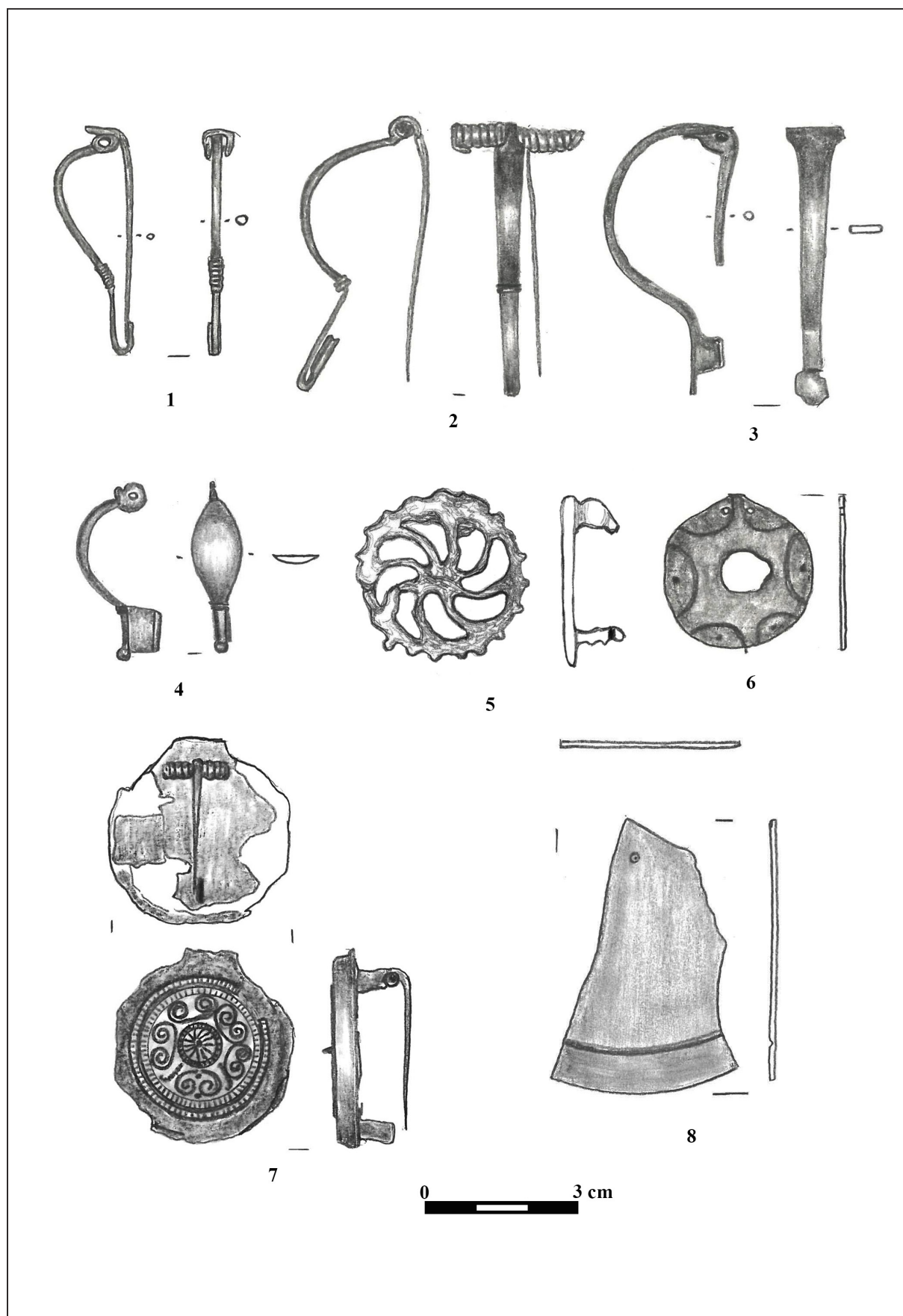


Fig. 14. Brooches (1-7) and mirrors (8) from the Timișoara – „Hladik I” graves. 1 – Gr. 123; 2 – Gr. 122; 3 – Gr. 75; 4 – Gr. 18; 5 – Gr. 47; 6 – Gr. 33; 7 – Gr. 129; 8 – Gr. 61.



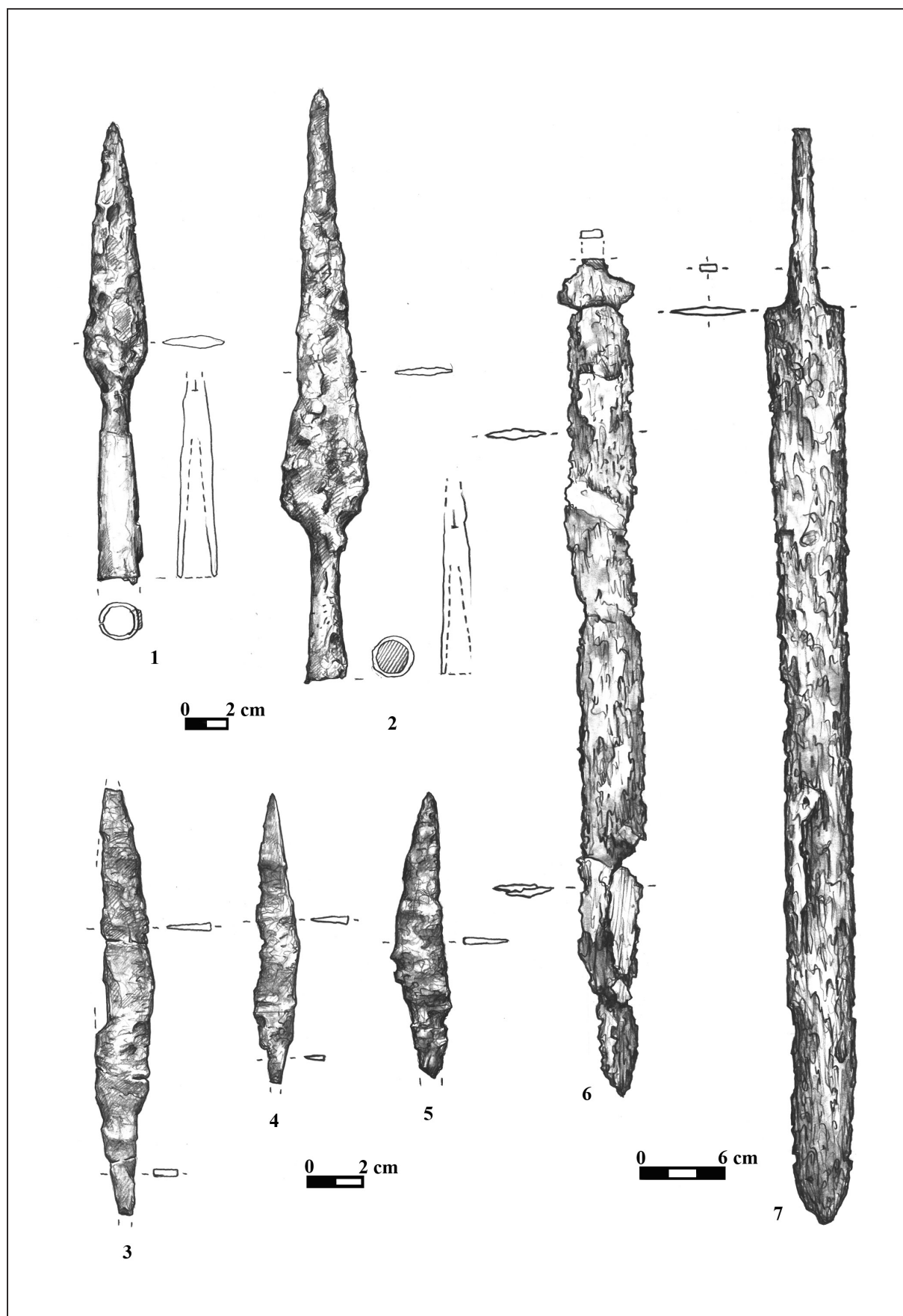


Fig. 15. Lanceheads (1-2), knives (3-5) and swords (6-7) from the Timișoara – „Hladik I” graves.  
1 – Gr. 101; 2 – Gr. 112; 3 – Gr. 75; 4 – Gr. 18; 5 – Gr. 89; 6- Gr. 40; 7 – Gr. 3.

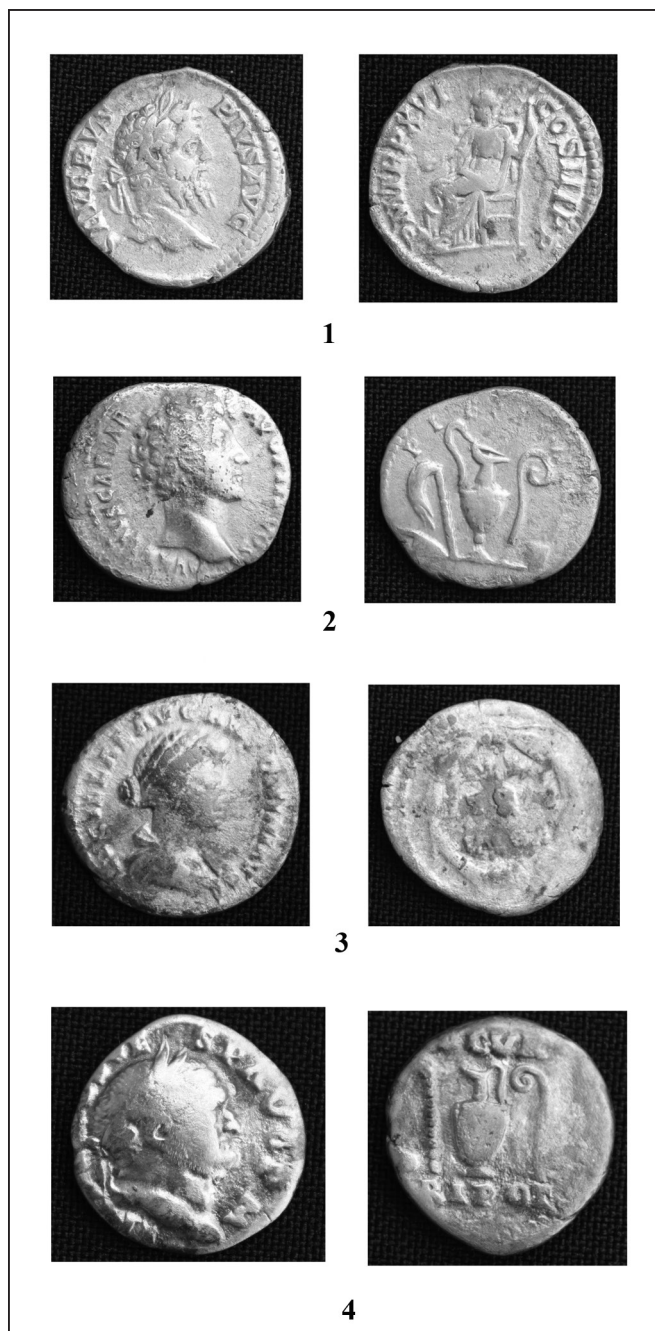


Fig. 16. Roman coins from graves 22 (1), 31 (2), 35 (3) and 45 (4).

corners, preserving the orifice by which the chord was inserted. The second brooch in Gr. 62 preserved the spring, pin and rectangular catchplate.

How the chord was attached through an orifice of the spring support is a method used by Barbarian origin artisans and suggests they were made by craftsmen rather outside the Roman empire, even though in some brooches, like the box/capsule types, Roman origin decoration elements may be found<sup>81</sup>. The surviving elements of the three brooches indicate these were attached to a geometric shaped body, very likely even box/capsule brooch types. Unfortunately, the specific type of these brooches cannot be established with certainty.

Last but not least, the disc box/capsule type brooch from Gr. 129 (Fig. 14/7), is made of two bronze, circular plates, bound by a rivet in the same metal. The external part of the plate is plated with a golden sheet with decoration in relief. In the central field is rendered a rosette suggestive of a wheel in motion or the solar disc with curved rays, encircled by five spiralled ornaments in the shape of a volute, the perimeter of the circular frame being delimited by a pearled line. The brooch spring is attached to a rectangular support, while the chord is inserted through a support orifice. The grave goods in Gr. 129 also comprised a T-shaped brooch (Fig. 13/5) of type Cociș 39b1b, which chronologically framed, as mentioned, above, to late phase C1a – phase C1b.

In many of the box/capsule type brooches, the decoration technique on any is specific to the period between late 2nd century – mid 3rd century AD in Central Europe<sup>79</sup>. Nevertheless, some decoration elements are rather specific to the period itself than a specific ethnic group. Evidence in this respect is provided by the presence of some of the brooches from the Sarmatian environment of decorative elements similar or close to those on a series of disc type brooches from the Roman and German milieu. The closing mechanism of the brooch in Gr. 129 indicates it is most likely an artefact made by a Barbarian artisan<sup>80</sup>.

Beside above mentioned brooches, also count the fragmentary specimens from Gr. 104 and Gr. 62 (2 pieces). The brooch in Gr. 104 no longer preserved the bilateral spring made of eight coils and the pin. The spring is attached in a rectangular support, while the chord is also inserted through another orifice of the support. The first brooch in Gr. 62 preserved the spring and pin, as well as the hook shaped catchplate. Similarly to the brooch in Gr. 104, the spring is attached to a rectangular support with rounded

<sup>79</sup> Vaday 1989, 92.

<sup>80</sup> For the analysis of this brooch type in this Sarmatian environment yet also other aspects related to the origin, diffusion and chronology see Bărcă 2016.

<sup>81</sup> Bărcă 2014, 120; Bărcă 2016, 231, 245.

Lastly, in a few of the 139 burials, weapons were identified. They are represented by lanceheads (Gr. 27, Gr. 40, Gr. 101, Gr. 112) (Fig. 15/1-2) and swords (Gr. 3, Gr. 40) (Fig. 15/6-7), in just one case all in the same grave (Gr. 40). In Gr. 40 two lanceheads were found, while in Gr. 40 and Gr. 101 knives emerged. The lanceheads in the four burials belong to type that count among the finds from the Sarmatian setting of the Pannonian Plain<sup>82</sup>. With respect to the two swords, they also belong to type specific to the 2nd - 4th century Sarmatian environment, although emerging much earlier<sup>83</sup>. The sword in Gr. 3 (Fig. 15/7) belong to type with simple handle, which forms with the blade base a straight angle<sup>84</sup>, while that fragmentary in Gr. 40 (Fig. 15/6) seems to belong to the type that forms with the blade base an obtuse angle, although it may belong to the same type as in Gr. 3. In the Sarmate environment from the area between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube, most swords are mainly long, being of the type with simple handle that forms a straight angle with the blade base<sup>85</sup>.

Weapons are infrequent in the Sarmatae burials in the area between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube<sup>86</sup>. Similar circumstances are noted throughout the Sarmatian environment of the Pannonian Plain<sup>87</sup>, even though in the last two decades were discovered various weapon types in several Sarmatian burials from the mentioned area<sup>88</sup>. An exception in this respect are the lanceheads present in larger numbers compared to other weapon classes<sup>89</sup>.

<sup>82</sup> For finds in this area of lanceheads, and their typological framing see Vaday 1989, 112, 113-114; Istvánovits and Kulcsár 1995; Hullám and Hullám 2013.

<sup>83</sup> For typological and chronological framing of swords and simple daggers in the Sarmatian environment from the eastern territories see Khazanov 1971, 15-27; Simonenko 1984, 142-145; Simonenko 1993a, 25; Simonenko 2001a, 225-229; Skripkin 1990, 126-133; Marchenko 1996, 56-57; Bârcă 2006, 184-188; Bârcă and Symonenko 2009, 266-269; Simonenko 2010, 43-61; Simonenko 2015, 53-71.

<sup>84</sup> For typological and chronological framing of swords in the Sarmatian environment of the Pannonian Plain as well as various related expressed views see Istvánovits and Kulcsár 2008, 95; Vaday 1985, 379-382, Fig. 5; Vaday 1989, 109-112; Vaday and Domboróczki 2001, 90-93, Fig. 76.

<sup>85</sup> See in this respect Grumeza 2014, 117-119, Fig. 41, type II.

<sup>86</sup> For weaponry finds in the Sarmatian environment of ancient Banat see Grumeza 2014, 114-122.

<sup>87</sup> For weaponry finds in the Sarmatian environment of the Pannonian Plain until 1998 see Kulcsár 1998, 64-65, 98-99, 114-115. For a series of more recent finds and analyses see Vaday 2001; Vaday and Domboróczki 2001; Istvánovits, Kulcsár and Carnap-Bornheim 2006; Istvánovits and Kulcsár 2008; Istvánovits and Kulcsár 2014; Hullám 2012; Hullám and Hullám 2013; Khrapunov, Istvánovits, Kulcsár and Stoyanova 2020.

<sup>88</sup> For a series of finds and more recent analyses see Vaday 2001; Vaday and Domboróczki 2001; Istvánovits, Kulcsár and Carnap-Bornheim 2006; Istvánovits and Kulcsár 2008; Hullám 2012; Hullám and Hullám 2013; Khrapunov et al. 2020.

<sup>89</sup> For this weapons class see Istvánovits and Kulcsár 1995; Kulcsár 1998, 64; Vaday 1989, 111-114 with references; Vaday and Domboróczki 2001, 94-99; Hullám 2012, 353; Hullám and Hullám 2013.



Fig. 17. Roman coins from graves 49 (1), 56 (2), 98 (3) and 110 (4).



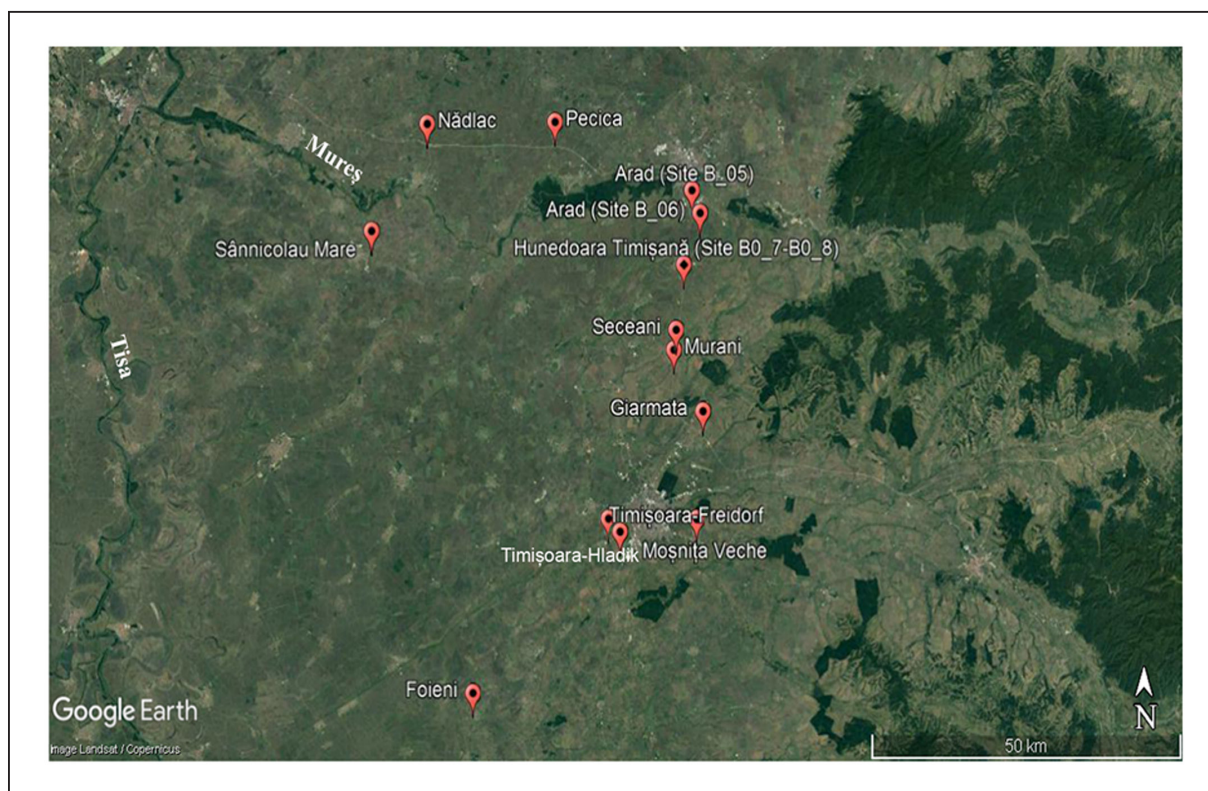


Fig. 18. Map of recent Sarmatian grave and cemetery finds in the area south and north of Lower Mureș.

In the Sarmatian environment of the Pannonian Plain, weapons emerge sporadically in graves starting only with the 2nd century AD, increasing significantly by late 2nd – early 3rd century AD<sup>90</sup>. These were carried by the new immigrant waves, arriving in the Marcomannic Wars' aftermath<sup>91</sup>, in some cases being the result of gradually closer contacts with the Germanic world. Their find is rather rare in the central region of the Pannonian Plain, clustering mainly in peripheral areas, by the borders or in strategic areas<sup>92</sup>. Once with the last decades of the 3rd century AD, weapons increase in numbers as well in the central area of the Sarmatian *Barbaricum* and the unmarked mound graves or in burials encircled by ditches, likely subsequent a “Germanisation” of the archaeological material<sup>93</sup>. For Roman and Germanic origin weapons, there were noted two areas with significant clusters: the first lies in the Tisza-Danube interfluvies and the second in the peripheral territory of this area, far from the Pannonian *limes*, yet near to the Dacian and Germanic border, in the Upper Tisza region<sup>94</sup>.

It is certain that until the complete analysis of the graves and artefacts they yielded, it may be argued that the Sarmatian burial remains investigated in 2019-2020 at Hladik 1 date *grosso modo* between late 2nd century – last decades of the 3rd century AD, although the detailed analysis of the grave goods could bring clues for an extended date to early 4th century AD.

In the case of the artefacts from the burials at Timișoara – „Hladik 1” it may be concluded, similarly to other cases from the area between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube, that most are imports from the Roman and Germanic worlds. The objects of Roman origin reached the Sarmatae in this region, alike the rest of the Pannonian Plain, mainly by trade<sup>95</sup>. The outlets of Roman products and their starting points towards the Barbarian worlds, including the Sarmatians, lay in the settlements by the borders<sup>96</sup>, specific trade locations being established mainly by the Romans or subsequent to negotiations. On the other hand, it is possible that some of the Roman artefacts

<sup>90</sup> Vaday 1989, 109; Istvánovits and Kulcsár 1994, 405.

<sup>91</sup> Istvánovits and Kulcsár 1994, 405.

<sup>92</sup> Vaday 1989, 109, 111.

<sup>93</sup> Vaday 1989, 109.

<sup>94</sup> Istvánovits and Kulcsár 1994, 416.

<sup>95</sup> Under the Principate, Roman borders were mainly interaction and less division lines, as the Roman empire's economy depended to a great extent on the trading relations with neighbouring populations. This is in fact confirmed by ancient literary texts evidencing that both imperial borders and the neighbouring populations played an important role in empire's political ideology.

<sup>96</sup> Vaday 1989, 189.



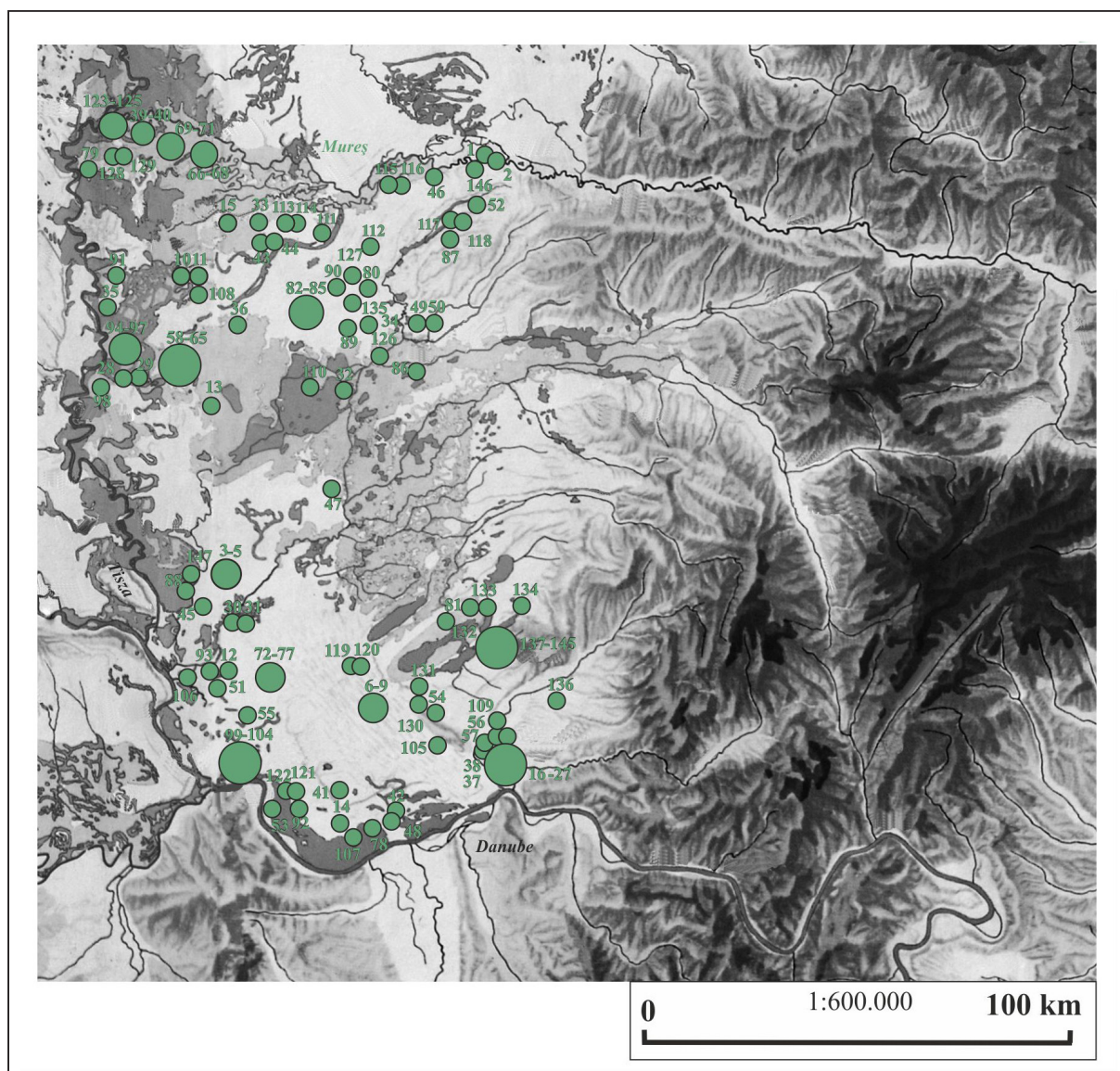


Fig. 19. Map with layout of Sarmatian burial finds in the area comprised between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube, and the ancient geographical landscape of the area, deeply floodable (after Bârcă and Grumeza 2022).

from the Sarmatian milieu were made by itinerant artisans, active in the economic interaction area nearby the *limes*, yet also inside the territories inhabited by the Sarmatians. It is certain that border trade was paramount for the Sarmatian world, alike to other Barbarian populations, yet it was similarly important and profitable both economically and politically to the Romans. The artefacts from the Sarmatian burials features and settlements from the Banat Plain support the strong Roman influence on their material culture, as also confirmed by the finds at Timișoara – „Hladik 1”.

Regarding the Germanic origin artefacts from the analysed graves, they stand proof for the good relations between the Sarmatians and the Germanic world, from where they adopted over the course of time several artefact categories. The good relations between the Sarmatae of the Pannonian Plain and the Germanic tribes are also reported by Ammianus Marcellinus<sup>97</sup>.

It must be noted that the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” burials date from the peak period of the exchanges between the Sarmatae of the Pannonian Plain and the Romans, widely dated to the 2nd – first half of the 3rd century AD. For the area between the Lower Mureș, Tisza and the Danube, this period is established by archaeological finds to late 2nd century AD (sometime after the Marcomannic Wars) and first half of the 3rd century AD<sup>98</sup>. With the second half of

<sup>97</sup> Ammianus Marcellinus XVII, 12.

<sup>98</sup> According to Grumeza 2014, 148.

the 3rd century AD, the influx of Roman artefacts to the Sarmatian environment of the Pannonian Plain decreased, including in the flatlands south of the Lower Mureş.

The results of the archaeological investigations at Timișoara – „Hladik 1” supply a multitude of data on the interaction between the Sarmatae and the Roman and German worlds and represent, beside other recent finds (Arad, Foeni, Giarmata, Hunedora Timișană, Moșnița Veche, Murani, Nădlac, Seceani etc.) (Fig. 18), an evidence that the Sarmatae settled the territory south of the Lower Mureş in the Marcomannic Wars’ aftermath. In this context, the analysis of the archaeological information leads to the conclusion that during the period until the end of the Marcomannic Wars, the Romans did not allow the Sarmatians to settle the flatlands of the Banat.

It is certain that the Timișoara – „Hladik 1” remains, beside the other Sarmatae finds (cemeteries, settlements) from the area between the Lower Mureş, Tisza and the Danube, indicate that the flatlands there were not incorporated in the province of Dacia, but laid outside its south-western frontier, located at not such great distance from the last westward forts along the Lederata-Berzobis-Tibiscum road. Concurrently, it is obvious that this territory, under Roman control, was, though, *extra provinciam*.

**Abbreviations:** Gr. = Grave.

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## Lista ilustrațiilor

Fig. 1. Harta cu amplasarea sitului de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”.

Fig. 2. Imagine satelitară cu dispunerea vestigiilor funerare sarmatice pe suprafața cercetată a sitului de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”.

Fig. 3. 1. Planul general desfășurat; 2. Dispunerea complexelor funerare sarmatice pe suprafața cercetată a sitului de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”; a – Limită exproprie; b – Complexe funerare sarmatice.

Fig. 4. Amenajări funerare cu șanț circular și mormânte în spațiul interior din necropola de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”.

Fig. 5. Planuri ale unor morminte de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1 – M 31; 2 – M 40; 3 – M 45; 4 – M 49.

Fig. 6. Planuri ale unor morminte de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1 – M 60; 2 – M 66; 3 – M 72; 4 – M 75.

Fig. 7. Vase ceramice modelate cu mâna (1-4) și la roată (5-14) din cadrul mormintelor de la de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”.

Fig. 8. Vase ceramice modelate cu mâna (7-8) și la roată (1-6, 9) din cadrul mormintelor de la de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1 - M 112; 2 – M 29; 3 – M 97; 4 – M 22; 5 – M 101; 6 - M 19; 7- M 96; 8 - M 59; 9 - M 72.

Fig. 9. Brățări din cadrul mormintelor de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1 - M 36; 2 – M 29; 3 – M 67; 4 – M 24; 5 – M 129; 6 - M 53.

Fig. 10. Colane din argint (1) și bronz din cadrul mormintelor de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1 - M 129; 2 – M 90; 3 – M 16; 4 – M 83.

Fig. 11. Cochilii-Cypraea (1), catarama (2-5), cercei (6, 11-12) și verigi (7-10) din cadrul mormintelor de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1 - M 60; 2 – M 13; 3 – M 113; 4 – M 67; 5 – M 40; 6 - M 129; 7-8 - M 104; 9 - M 82; 10 - M 47; 11-12 – M 113.

Fig. 12. Pandantive (1, 3, 5-6, 8), clopoței (2) și capete de curea (4, 7) din cadrul mormintelor de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1-3 - M 60; 4 - M 13; 5 - M 104; 6 - M 82; 7 - M 132; 8 - M 89.

Fig. 13. Fibule din cadrul mormintelor de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1 - M 70; 2 - M 53; 3 - M 49; 4 - M 45; 5 - M 129; 6 - M 83; 7 - M 63; 8 - M 55; 9 - M 98.

Fig. 14. Fibule (1-7) și oglinzi (8) din cadrul mormintelor de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1 - M 123; 2 - M 122; 3 - M 75; 4 - M 18; 5 - M 47; 6 - M 33; 7 - M 129; 8 - M 61.

Fig. 15. Vârfuri de lance (1-2), cuțite (3-5) și spade (6-7) din cadrul mormintelor de la Timișoara - „Hladik 1”. 1 - M 101; 2 - M 112; 3 - M 75; 4 - M 18; 5 - M 89; 6 - M 40; 7 - M 3.

Fig. 16. Monede romane din cadrul mormintelor 22 (1), 31 (2), 35 (3) și 45 (4).

Fig. 17. Monede romane din cadrul mormintelor 49 (1), 56 (2), 98 (3) și 110 (4).

Fig. 18. Harta descoperirilor recente de morminte și necropole sarmatice în spațiul de la sud și nord de Mureșul Inferior.

Fig. 19. Harta cu dispunerea descoperirilor funerare sarmatice din spațiul cuprins între Mureșul Inferior, Tisa și Dunăre și peisajul geografic antic al zonei, profund inundabil (după Bărcă și Grumeza 2022).

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