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ROMAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT

IN THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF MOESIA INFERIOR.

II. THE NOVIODUNUM CEMETERY. TUMULUS 30

LIVIU PETCULESCU

ABSTRACT:

Barrow 30 was raised above a previous funerary plot of a soldiers' family. Inside the plot there are three military graves and five civilian ones belonging to this family, among which one double inhumation in a limestone *sarcophagus*. The first military grave with an inventory including two bone belt fittings dates during the 2nd quarter of the 2nd century AD. Mithres, the son of the soldier buried in this grave, an *arkarius* of the Moesia Inferior fleet was cremated c. AD 170-180 with a sword, a chalcedony sword pendant, a baldric and two belts provided with silver mounts plus a copper alloy inkpot. In the last military grave, an adolescent who was meant to be a soldier was cremated wearing a belt with copper alloy mounts. All the soldiers, one servant and a child were cremated *in situ* at variance with inhumed women, a girl and a small child. Although the northeastern part of Moesia Inferior was gravely affected during the 3rd century AD crisis, inside the plot there isn't any robbed grave as they were covered by the *tumulus* raised probably toward AD 250.

That Mithres, an *immunis*, possessed luxury military fittings is evidence to the right of the soldiers, regardless of their rank, to display items made of precious metals. And the parallels of his equipment found in the bases of *cohortes*, *alae* and *legiones* and their civilian settlements and cemeteries mean that already in the 2nd half of the 2nd century AD the soldiers of all category of military units, including the least prestigious navy, had virtually identical equipment.

REZUMAT: ECHIPAMENTUL MILITAR ROMAN ÎN PARTEA NORDESTICĂ A MOESIEI INFERIOR. II. CIMITIRUL NOVIODUNUM. TUMULUL 30

Tumulul 30 a fost ridicat peste o incintă funerară preexistentă a unei familii de soldați. În această incintă sunt trei morminte militare și cinci de civili aparținând acestei familii printre care o dublă înhumăție într-un sarcofag de calcar. Primul mormânt militar cu un inventar incluzând două piese de centiron din os datează din al doilea sfert al secolului II p. Chr. Mithres, fiul soldatului îngropat în acest mormânt, un casier al flotei militare a Moesiei Inferior a fost incinerat aproximativ în anii 170-180 p. Chr. cu o sabie, un pandantiv de sabie din calcedoniu, un balteus și două centiroane prevăzute cu piese de argint plus o călămară din aliaj de cupru. În ultimul mormânt militar a fost incinerat un adolescent purtând un centiron cu aplice din aliaj de cupru, care era destinat să devină soldat.

Toți soldații, un servitor și un copil au fost incinerați *in situ* spre deosebire de femei, o fată și un copil mic care au fost inhumați. Deși partea nordestică a Moesiei Inferior a fost grav afectată în timpul crizei secolului III p. Chr. nici unul dintre mormintele din interiorul incintei funerare nu a fost jefuit întrucât ele au fost acoperite de tumulul ridicat probabil către 250 p. Chr.

Că Mithres, un *immunis*, avea accesorii de echipament de lux, atestă dreptul soldaților să poarte podoabe din metal prețios indiferent de rangul lor. Iar analogiile pieselor din mormântul său descoperite în castralele cohortelor, alelor și legiunilor precum și în așezările civile și cimitirele acestora dovedesc faptul că deja în a doua jumătate a secolului II p. Chr. soldații din toate categoriile de trupe, incluzând și pe cei din marina militară cu cel mai scăzut prestigiu, aveau echipament practic identic.

KEYWORDS: Moesia Inferior, Noviodunum, classis Flavia Moesica, military equipment graves, silver baldric and belt fittings,

CUVINTE CHEIE: Moesia Inferior, Noviodunum, flota Moesiei Inferior, morminte cu echipament militar, aplice de balteus și centiron din argint.

Noviodunum (Isaccea town, Tulcea county) was located on the southern bank of the Danube, c. 80 km away from the river mouth in the Black Sea. Placed about mid-distance between Novae and Crimea, at the center of the naval frontier defended by the *classis Flavia Moesica*, it was the residence of the *praefectus classis*¹ and accordingly the main base of this fleet. Near the military fortification, an important civilian settlement developed, probably a *vicus* promoted *municipium* during Marcus Aurelius or at the latest around AD 200.²

THE CEMETERY.

A tumular cemetery extended 3 km along the main road coming from Noviodunum to the south through the middle of the Dobrudja region.³ The excavations of this cemetery began in 1958 and were resumed after a long break in 1979-1980.⁴

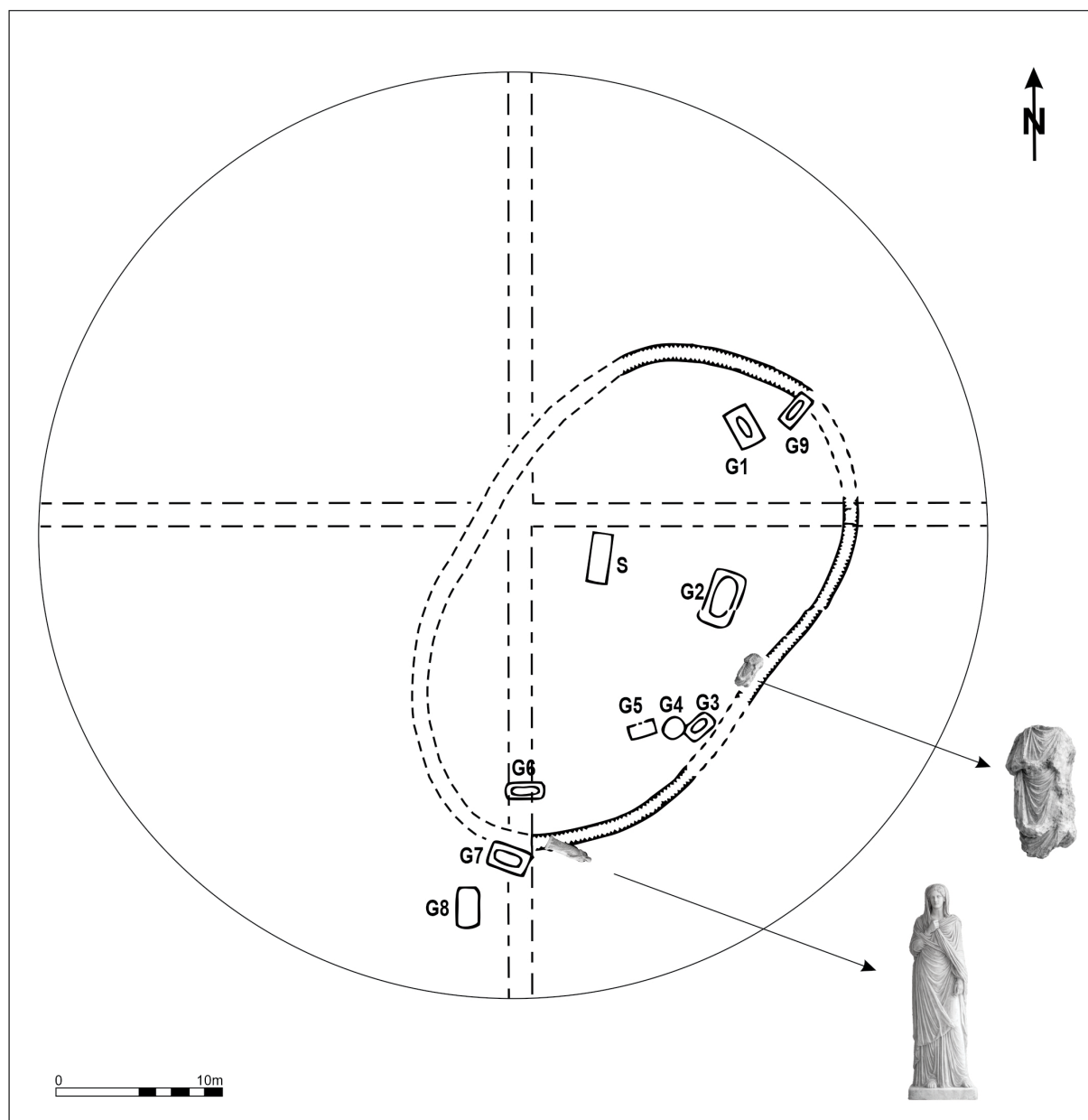


Fig. 1. Noviodunum. Tumulus 30. Roman graves (redrawn and adapted after Simion 1994-1995, fig. 2).

S= sarcophagus; G= graves.

¹ ISM V, 281.

² Barnea 1988, 54-55.

³ Simion 1984, 75-76, pls. 1-3.

⁴ Bujor and Simion 1960, 391-399; Simion 1984, 75-102.

TUMULUS 30.

In 1980, 1982 and 1990 the tumulus 30, of 62 m in diameter and 5.25m in height was excavated.⁵ Beneath the eastern half of the barrow, was discovered a part of 1-1.40 m wide and 0.8-1 m deep trench dug through the Roman soil.⁶ It delimited an elongated burial plot c. 28 m long by 19 m wide, containing one central *sarcophagus* and 5 cremations *in situ* (*bustum* type) plus two inhumations, one of a child and the second one in a stepped pit, all placed in its eastern part i. e. toward the road. The rear part of the plot, free of graves may have been a funerary garden. Two other *busta*, nos. 7 and 8, were located beyond the southeastern end of the enclosure, the first one intersecting the trench and consequently being probably later than the graves inside the plot. Two funerary statues, one of a woman and the other one of a man, both fragmentary, were found above the trench facing the road.⁷ After a period of time, a larger area including the entire funerary ground was covered by the erection of tumulus 30. In its structure were found some late Roman or post-Roman inhumations dated largely from the 4th to the 10th century.

*Sarcophagus.*⁸

The *sarcophagus* is made of local limestone decorated with vegetal motifs in low relief on the long side of the lid facing the road. In the centre of the front side of the box, beneath the decorated side of the lid there is an inscription placed inside of a *tabula ansata*: D(is) M(anibus) / VLP(ia) IULIA VIX(it) / AN(nis) XL / P(ublius) AELIVS MITHRES / ARK(arius) CLAS(sis) CONIVG(i) / B(ene) M(erenti) F(aciendum) C(uravit). Inside the *sarcophagus* there are two bodies, one of the wife mentioned in the inscription and the other one of an adolescent girl. The grave goods of the woman included a golden ring, a pair of golden ear rings and a bronze coin of Faustina Senior dated after AD 141 and those of the girl a bronze coin of Faustina Junior dated AD 161-180.

Since the inscription refers only to the dead woman, it means that the girl, who was most probably her daughter, was buried sometimes later. Considering the age of the mother and of her daughter respectively and that their bones weren't mixed, it results that the gap between their burials couldn't be more than a couple of years. Anyway, as there isn't a pit in the barrow as far as the *sarcophagus* or traces of its opening, it means that both burials were made in a relative quick succession before the erection of the tumulus.

Grave 1.

Cremation grave of *bustum* type. Rectangular, stepped pit of 2.70 by 1.60 m with a lower pit of 1.50 by 0.40 m. The funerary assemblage consists of a sword placed near the right foot of the cremated deceased, one chalcedony sword pendant with a silver suspension loop, a set of silver baldric fittings and two sets of silver belt fittings, a bone handgrip? perhaps associated with an openwork silver or copper alloy band, two bronze coins – one issued by Caligula and the other one illegible – a copper alloy inkpot and on the southern step, near the feet of the body, a ritually broken clay *oenochoe*.⁹

Sword (nos. 1 and 2)

The sword (no. 1) is one of the shortest and narrowest *spatha* of Ulbert's type Lauriacum-Hromovka.¹⁰

Two *spathae* with a similar width and even shorter blades, 512 and 508 mm, were found in *Barbaricum* at Vimose (Denmark).¹¹ However, at variance with Noviodunum example, they have pattern-welded blades with channels running down and certainly are of a later chronology.

From its scabbard survived remains of the wooden lining, the very narrow iron-made binding and the copper alloy chape. The long peltate chape (no. 2) with high lateral pseudo-voluted projections has an intermediate position between Miks's types Caerleon-Lyon and Peltate with volute projections.¹² So far, I know similar, even shorter, characteristic high projections only on a chape from Timacus Minus (Ravna) in Moesia Superior.¹³

Sword pendant (no. 3a-b).

The chalcedony sword pendant (no. 3a) was found together with a suspension loop made of a silver wire (no. 3b). Chalcedony pendants very similar in shape and decoration are met in *Barbaricum* westward of the Dacia province

⁵ Simion 1994-1995, 121.

⁶ Simion 1994-1995, 121, fig. 2.

⁷ Simion 1994, fig. 2.

⁸ Simion 1994-1995, 122-124, 128-129 "principal grave".

⁹ Simion 1994-1995, 124-125, figs. 6d, 7a-m, 7s, 11f, 13b.

¹⁰ Ulbert 1974, 204, 215-216.

¹¹ Engelhardt 1869, fig. 6/14-15.

¹² Miks 2007, 330-334, pl. F/35-37.

¹³ Miks 2007, 863, B 237.1, pl. 241.

among the funeral goods of the Sarmatian graves from Vizejdia (Timiș county) and Jászberény-Csegelapos (Theiss plain) dated at the end of 2nd- the beginning of the 3rd century AD.¹⁴

J. Werner who identified this kind of items as sword accessories has thought they were brought in Europe by the Huns, but K. Raddatz proved that already around AD 200 they were taken by the Roman auxiliaries from the military equipment of the Sarmatians settled in the Carpathian basin.¹⁵ As such accessories are met in the Sarmatian military graves from the Don region,¹⁶ it means that they arrived in the Carpathian basin from the Northern-Pontic area most probably during the Marcomannic Wars. Even if these artefacts made of semi-precious stones, amber and glass were dealt with in an impressive bibliography, their precise function is still debatable. So, the discovery of a Roman sword in *Barbaricum* at Tiszalök, dated around AD 200, is evidence that at least part of the so-called pendants made of glass were in fact pommels.¹⁷ Besides, in the discussion of these sword accessories from Nydam (Denmark), A. Rau pointed out that they were usually found associated with the scabbards and not the blades and consequently were scabbard or baldric mounts.¹⁸ It results that these items had different, even quite related functions, which was to be expected of fittings used from 2nd to 7th century AD, in various contexts in *Barbaricum* and the Roman Empire. Yet, the Noviodunum piece provided with a suspension loop was certainly a pendant but, as its position inside the grave wasn't recorded, one can't specify to which part of the sword it was attached.

Hand grip ? (nos. 4a-b).

The bone hand grip ? (no. 4a) and the openwork suspension band (no. 4b) are not mentioned in the compendious excavation record but only "a wooden handle with bronze mounts". To make the situation more puzzling the hand grip was published twice, each time with different shape and size and the suspension band as made of silver or bronze.¹⁹ Moreover, these items weren't accessible to me and I don't know either the materials they were made of or their exact dimensions. Under such circumstances I doubt of their association and consequently also their function. If no. 4a looks like a bone stick no. 4b has a similar shape as the poorer decorated suspension bands of knife sheaths deposited toward the end of the 2nd century AD in sites from the northern frontier provinces of the Roman Empire.²⁰ Significantly, two such silver bands belonging to a knife sheath were found in a military grave near Capidava auxiliary fort on the bank of the Danube river, c. 160 km upstream from Noviodunum.²¹ However, if the identification of no. 4b as part of a knife sheath is correct it means that a second suspension band was overlooked by the excavators of Noviodunum barrow, which seems quite unlikely.

Set of silver baldric mounts (nos. 5a-b).

The set of baldric fittings is made of a plate (no. 5a) and a terminal plate (no. 5b). Both quasi-triangular shaped openwork mounts have similar curvilinear decoration yet the terminal is folded back at the bottom to enclose the horizontal end of the baldric which isn't provided with the usual leaf-shaped pendant. A bronze plate almost identical to no. 5b, but without the folded back bottom characteristic only of terminals was discovered at the end of the 19th century by Gr. G. Tocilescu in the Slăveni *ala* fort (Olt county) on the Dacia Inferior *limes*.²² At Porolissum (Sălaj county), on the northwestern part of Dacia Porolissensis *limes*, was found a bronze openwork terminal consisting of an elongated quasi-triangular plate and a similar smaller hinged pendant.²³ The shape of the Porolissum artefacts is much closer to the triangles than of the Noviodunum plates and their curvilinear decoration includes sea-horses, trumpets and lotus buds motifs symmetrically disposed on both sides of the vertical axes rendered by stylized spears. So, the Porolissum terminal represents quite a distinct variant of triangular baldric mounts. A fragment of a triangular openwork bronze plate with a fixing rivet on the rear face was discovered in the eastern tower of the *porta praetoria* of the Porolissum auxiliary fort.²⁴ Unfortunately, the item is currently

¹⁴ Vaday 1986, 207, no. 34, fig. 3/2 Vizejdia barrow 4; 206-207, 218-219, figs. 3/3, 7/4 Jászberény-Csegelapos; 219 chronology.

¹⁵ Werner 1956, 26-56. Raddatz 1957/1958, 81-84, pl. 6.

¹⁶ Šarov 2003, 36, fig. 2 left, no. 4 Čentrálny cemetery, grave 8; fig. 2 right, no. 2 Sladkowskij cemetery, barrow 20, grave 1 chalcedony pendant.

¹⁷ Kovács 2001, 289-294, fig. 4. von Carnap-Bornheim 2003, 374-375, fig. 3. Biborski and Kaczanowski 2013, 423-424, fig. 3.

¹⁸ Rau 2010, 380-384.

¹⁹ Simion 1994-1995, 125, fig. 11f short grip and silver band. Simion 1995, 223, no. 11, fig. 2a-c, table 1, no. 49 longer grip and bronze mount (with metal analysis) of „a dagger scabbard, knife handle or belt buckle”.

²⁰ Petculescu 2025, 188-190, notes 29-31.

²¹ Petculescu 2025, 188, nos. 4a-b.

²² Tudor 1978, fig. 81/1. Bondoc and Gudea 2009, 213, no. 538, pl. 98 includes an identical mount among the pieces from Răcari fort originating from the old excavations. Yet, as this fitting isn't published in Tudor 1965, 233-257 together with all the bronze artefacts found by Tocilescu in Răcari fort, it results that it is in fact the piece discovered by Tocilescu in Slăveni fort which was mistakenly considered as lost in Tudor *et alii* 2011, 204, no. 348, pl. 67.

²³ Wright *et alii* 2005, 11-119; Wright *et alii* 2017, 51-55.

²⁴ Gudea 1989, 673, pl. 220/15 “pendant” kept in the National History Museum of Transylvania from Cluj-Napoca without inv. no.

unavailable and from the schematic published drawing one can only suppose that it belongs to the same baldric variant as the above mentioned Porolissum mount. The very few triangular baldric fittings known so far are evidence of their manufacturing during a short period of time in one or two production centres located in the Lower Danubian provinces, most probably in Moesia Inferior and/or Dacia.

Set of silver belt fittings (nos. 6a-e).

This set of fittings (Fig. 2/6) consists of one buckle with plate (no. 6a), two identical plates (nos. 6b-c) and other two differently shaped plates (nos. 6d and 6e). The hinged oval buckle decorated with two internal trumpet motifs has close parallels at Poetovio (Pannonia Superior), Lauriacum (Noricum), Dambach and an unknown findspot (Raetia), Newstead (Britannia).²⁵ The Dambach example is silver made while all the others are copper alloy made. This variant of oval buckles has its prototypes in the quite rare D-shaped buckles with internal volutes linked by curved extensions to the front side of the loop, distributed in the frontier provinces of the Roman Empire until the beginning of the 2nd century AD.²⁶

The openwork belt plates of curvilinear design including trumpet motifs are common but distinct in the decoration details from one another as for example the plates of Capidava set.²⁷ Besides, I know only distant parallels to the buckle plate no. 6a at Capidava, Canlia, Chersonesos (Moesia Inferior), Faimingen and unknown findspot (Raetia) and Newstead (Britannia).²⁸ Also, a belt plate of similar shape to no. 6a yet decorated with lotus buds and differently disposed trumpet motifs originates at Singidunum (Moesia Inferior).²⁹ Closer analogies to the identical plates nos. 6b-c are represented by three plates, one discovered at Singidunum and two other at Banasa (Mauretania Tingitana).³⁰ On the contrary, the no. 6d have only distant similarities with two short irregularly shaped buckle plates from Porolissum (Dacia) and Poetovio (Pannonia Superior) respectively and the ellipsoidal plate no. 6e with the belt plates including peltate motifs from Kosmaj region (Moesia Superior).³¹

As the position of the fittings inside the grave wasn't recorded, the content of the set could be reconstructed only using typological criteria. Obviously, nos. 6a-c of a similar shape and decoration, belonged to the same belt. No. 6d is differently shaped but has identical decoration motifs to nos. 6a-c. And the association of the Poetovio buckle with an irregularly shaped buckle plate made of trumpet motifs is indirect evidence for assigning no. 6d to this set. Finally, no. 6e has the same width but different shape and decoration as the other pieces of this belt. Anyway, nos. 6d-e couldn't belong to the second belt (no. 8) composed of clearly distinct flat plates made of geometrical motifs. So it results that they were probably added to this belt later.

A couple of parallels offer clues for the Noviodunum belt chronology. Thus, one spectacular long buckle plate of curvilinear design and trumpet motifs discovered at Eining-Unterfeld dates 171/172-179, the duration of the fortress itself and the buckle with internal trumpet motifs hinged to an openwork buckle plate from Newstead was deposited at latest towards AD 180 when the fort was abandoned.³² The few analogies of the Newstead buckle are distributed all along the Danubian frontier provinces, from Noviodunum to Dambach,³³ but its plate is almost identical with the buckle-and counter plates from Capidava, close to other buckle-and counter plates from Canlia and Chersonesos and more distant to a slightly different plate from Faimingen.³⁴ The concentration of the Newstead buckle plate parallels, including the virtually identical Capidava examples, in the northeastern part of Moesia Inferior seems to be evidence for the presence of a vexillation from Britannia in this region during the Marcomannic Wars when such fittings were fashionable.

Silver strap terminal (no. 7).

The riveted strap terminal (Fig. 2/7) belonged to a very rare variant of such fittings attested, as far as I know, only by four items distributed on the eastern Danubian frontier.³⁵ Among them, the closest parallel to no. 7 is

²⁵ Poetovio: Tušek 1987, fig. 5. Lauriacum: Wieser 1996, 17-19, figs. 1-2. Dambach: Selke 2014, 61-62, no. 1438, pl. 40. Raetia, unknown findspot: Lindenschmit 1881, pl. V/5. Newstead: Curle 1911, 304, pl. 76/2.

²⁶ E. G. Vindonissa: Unz and Deschler-Erb 1997, nos. 1178, 1180-1183 and bibliography.

²⁷ Petculescu 2025, 187-188.

²⁸ Capidava, Canlia, Chersonesos, Newstead: Petculescu 2025, 187, notes 21-24. Faimingen: Müller 1999, 132, grave 292, pl. 51. Raetia, unknown findspot: Lindenschmit 1881, pl. V/5.

²⁹ Crnobraja and Krnić 1997, 292, no. 501.

³⁰ Singidunum: Crnobraja and Krnić 1997, 291, no. 499. Banasa: Boube-Piccot 1980, 267, nos. 445-446.

³¹ Porolissum: Petculescu 2025, 187, note 12. Poetovio: Tušek 1987, fig. 5.

³² Eining-Unterfeld: Jütting 1995, 163, no. 35, fig. 6 the plate; 190 the dating of the fortress. Newstead: Curle 1911, 304, pl. 76/2. Breeze 2015, 118-119 the date of the abandonment of the fort.

³³ See above 162, note 24.

³⁴ Petculescu 2025, 187, nos. 3a-b and notes 20-24.

³⁵ Petculescu 2025, 188, notes 27-28 three soldered terminals in Moesia Inferior at Capidava (nos. 3h-i) and in *Barbaricum* at Mătasaru plus one cast in Dacia at Buciumi.

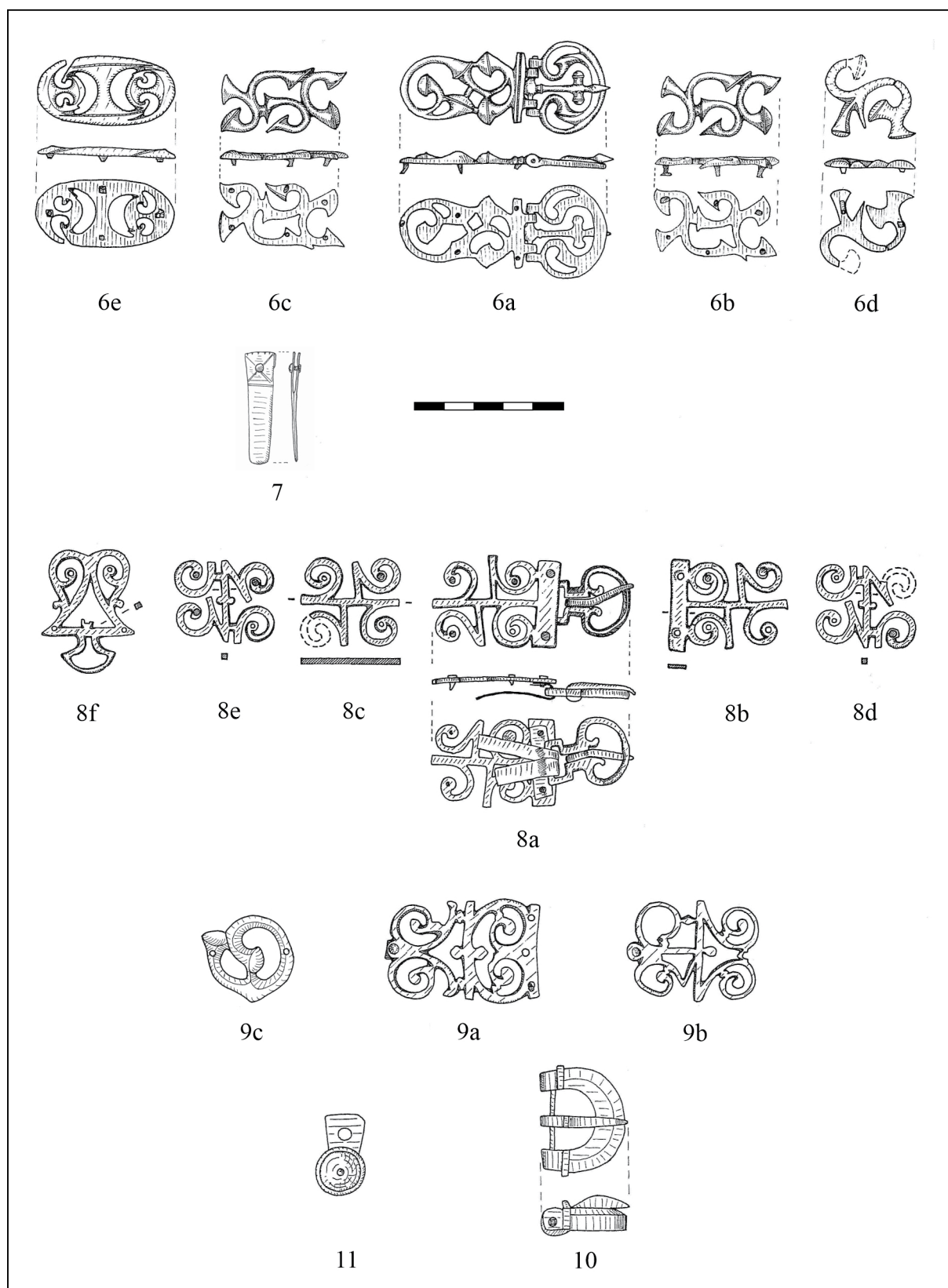


Fig. 2. Noviodunum. Tumulus 30. Sets of belt fittings. 6-8 Silver. 9 Copper alloy. 10-11 Bone. Scale 1 : 2.

the Capidava terminal no. 3h bearing an incised decoration common to the terminals with middle round loop met after the Marcomannic Wars.³⁶ The association of this strap terminal to either no. 6 or no. 8 set of belt fittings is

³⁶ Petculescu 2025, 188, 190.

debatable. The terminal fits well to the flat plates, decorated with geometric motifs, of belt no. 8. However, since it is virtually identical to Capidava terminals nos. 3h-i, it results that it most probably belonged to belt no. 6. And the fact that all the other three belt sets of the same type as no. 8 were found without any strap terminal³⁷ is perhaps additional evidence to assign this terminal to the belt no. 6. Yet, it is certain that no. 7 was only one from a pair and a second similar item must have been overlooked by the excavators.

Set of silver belt fittings (nos. 8a-f).

This belt fittings set (Fig. 2/8) consists of one buckle with plate (no. 8a), a counter plate (no. 8b) and another identical plate but without the vertical band (no. 8c), two similarly decorated plates (nos. 8d-e) and a plate provided with the attaching loop of a missing pendant (no. 8f). The oval buckle with T-shaped attachment loop (no. 8a) belongs to a variant of a very common belt buckle type characterized by two vestigial volutes dated from the middle of the 2nd century AD until the first half of the 3rd century AD. On the contrary, the openwork belt plates without a frame and bearing a geometric decoration made of spiral and angular motifs are very rare.

The prototypes of these plates were made up of the openwork belt plates decorated with *tamga* representations from the Bosporean kingdom, Chersonesos and the neighboring regions in Crimea and around Olbia.³⁸ The *tamga* symbols were classified by Treister in 6 types dated during the Bosporean kings Rhoimetalkes (AD 131-153) and Tiberius Iulius Eupator (AD 154-170).³⁹ The *tamga* types nos. 1, 3-5 were also rendered on the official inscriptions, stone reliefs and gold foil buckles which means their interpretation as rulers symbols is virtually certain. As for type no. 2 it derives from type no. 1 belonging to Tiberius Iulius Eupator and isn't worth any farther comment. The so-called *tamga* type no. 6 consisting of a central vertical shaft ending in two diverging spearheads linked to two laterally placed spiral motifs were met only on the copper alloy belt fittings.⁴⁰ So, it seems that this simple decoration rendered only a pseudo-*tamga* easier to be executed during mass production of the common military fittings.

The belt plates and strap terminals bearing *tamga* reproductions were mostly associated to oval buckles with the frame curved inside to join its rear part by two ivy leaf ornaments and a T-shaped attachment loop.⁴¹ In the Roman Empire this type of oval buckle was exceedingly common yet I know only few examples with internal ivy leaf motifs and T-shaped or rectangular attachment loops at Carnuntum in Pannonia Superior and Lauriacum in Noricum.⁴² Thus, the belonging of these Bosporean fittings to a rare variant of the oval buckles supports the assertion that they were manufactured in a local workshop during a relatively short period of time.⁴³

The Noviodunum buckle no. 8a represents a Roman style item close to the Bosporean oval buckles, the ornamentation of the plates nos. 8a-e originates in the pseudo-*tamga* no. 6 symbols and the combination of a triangle, curves and spirals on the no. 8f was borrowed from the *tamga* types nos. 1-2 and the pseudo-*tamga*. It results that the belt set nos. 8a-f is a Roman version of the Bosporean belts decorated with different *tamga*-like motifs.

The three sets of openwork belt fittings belonging to the same type as the Noviodunum example are distinct from one another in the details of their design. The Durostorum (Moesia Inferior) silver set includes a rectangular buckle with rectangular decorations on the bottom and rectangular attachment loop, a rectangular counter plate with rectangular and spiral decorations, three oval plates made of oval and spiral motifs and one plate made of two spirals placed on openwork rectangular bottoms.⁴⁴ The Viminacium (Moesia Superior) silver set has an oval buckle with pierced decoration and a small T-shaped attachment loop linked to a rectangular buckle plate plus five plates of a complex design mixing up diverse spiral and angular motifs, soldered on silver sheets backings. Besides, a second small rectangular buckle was considered part of this set yet I can't understand its function.⁴⁵ The Neuburg a. d. Donau (Raetia) copper alloy set is a typological hybrid.⁴⁶ Its oval buckle with internal volutes, T-shaped attachment loop and two ovalpointed openwork plates are common Roman fittings, but the other four lyre-shaped plates bearing internal and external spiral motifs are characteristic to the belts of geometric design.

Close parallels to the belt set no. 8 originate in two other Noviodunum graves. So, in the cremation grave no. 9 from tumulus 30 there was found an incomplete copper alloy belt set no. 9 (Fig. 2/ 9) which will be discussed

³⁷ Durostorum: Genčeva 2009, 15, fig. 2/1-6. Viminacium: Redžić 2013, 62, nos. 89a-g, pl. 12. Neuburg a. d. Donau : Hübener 1963-1964, 21-24, figs. 4-5.

³⁸ Treister 2000 with bibliography. Treister 2009 with bibliography.

³⁹ Treister 2000, 364-372. Treister 2009, 257-259 the classification; 269-270 the chronology.

⁴⁰ Treister 2000, 370, fig. 1/5. Treister 2009, 259, fig. 2/6.

⁴¹ Treister 2000, fig. 1/4-5; figs 2, 3. Treister 2009, figs. 5/1, 3, 4-5, 8/1-2

⁴² Carnuntum: Buora and Jobst 2002, 238, IVa. 76; Beutler *et alii* 2017, 239, nos. 209, 211. Lauriacum: Wieser 1999, Katalog 12-14, nos. 5, 7-13, pls. I-II/5, 7-13.

⁴³ Treister 2009, 269 short dating of the *tamga* belts.

⁴⁴ Genčeva 2009, 15, fig. 2/1-6.

⁴⁵ Redžić 2013, 62, nos. 89a-g, pl. 12.

⁴⁶ Hübener 1963-1964, 21-24, figs. 4-5.

below in the context of the funerary assemblage it belongs to. And two elongated silver fittings probably representing belt stiffeners, each made of two spirals symmetrically placed toward a horizontal bar, were deposited in a cremation grave of a soldier 375 m northeast from tumulus 30.⁴⁷ Isolated openwork belt plates of geometric design and without frames are met along the northern European *limes*: in Moesia Inferior at Balcik an ovalpointed plate with internal and external spirals, in Dacia at Apulum a plate made of four spirals (fig. 3), in Raetia at Eining an elongated plate parallel to shorter nos. 9a-b and at Ellingen a distant parallel to no. 8b, in Germania Superior at Zugmantel a parallel to no. 8c, in Germania Inferior at Colonia Ulpia Traiana (Xanten) a parallel to Eining piece and at Nijmegen a distant parallel to Eining and Xanten examples and another one with fan-shaped positioned spirals, in Britannia at Great Chesters a quite close parallel to the Zugmantel item and in a private collection a plate with unknown findspot remarkably similar to the Eining piece.⁴⁸



Fig. 3. Apulum.
Belt plate. Copper alloy.
Scale 1 : 1.

Therefore, the geometric belt type originating in the Bosporan belts including *tamga* symbols is characterized by openwork flat plates without frame made of spiral and angular motifs. The spirals prevail on all the examples but, on some plates of the Durostorum belt they are mixed with rectangular motifs and on Neuburg a. d. Donau set with curvilinear ones. One can identify the origin of the Noviodunum belt decoration in the pseudo-*tamga* no. 6 symbols, yet the sets from Durostorum and Viminacium combine in their design motifs met in different Bosporan prototypes, while the one from Neuburg a. d. Donau is a hybrid between the common Roman openwork belts of the 2nd half of the 2nd century AD and those of geometric design. The buckles of this belt type aren't specific as even the Bosporan prototypes used a variant of Roman models for these fittings. On the contrary, the large strap terminals of the *tamga* belts were so particular that they couldn't be integrated, even with adjustments, among the contemporary Roman sets. And this might explain the lack of strap terminals on all the four geometric belts known to me.

The belts from Noviodunum, Durostorum and Viminacium are the closest to their prototypes and all of them, plus the belt stiffener also found at Noviodunum, are made of silver pointing out that, the same as their Bosporan counterparts, they were deemed prestige goods. All the above suggests that this belt type was formed in Moesia Inferior, and perhaps also in Moesia Superior, during the Marcus Aurelius wars when the frequent shifting of troops along the northern frontier allowed its spreading far away from the initial distribution area. The presence of three such sets at Noviodunum, two of silver and one of copper alloy, is evidence for their production in a local workshop or at the close legionary base in Durostorum. Considering the chronology of their prototypes and the apparition of the new type of rectangular Roman buckles before AD 197⁴⁹ as the one from Durostorum, it seems that geometric belts date approximately from the last third of the 2nd century AD to the beginning of the 3rd century AD, the western examples being likely the latest.

From the chronology of some items included in the funeral assemblage of the grave no. 1 – the sword pendant, the openwork suspension band, the trumpet decorated belt fittings and the belt plates of geometric design – it results that the burial took place most probably around AD 180, but anyway not later than the end of the 2nd century AD.

Grave 9.

Cremation grave of *bustum* type. Rectangular stepped pit of 2.15 by 1.05/1.10 m with a lower pit of 1.61 by 0.45. The funeral assemblage consists of a ritually broken clay jug and a mug deposited at the feet of the deceased, an incomplete copper alloy set of belt fittings, a strange copper alloy mount of obscure function and a provincial bronze coin of Hadrian (AD 117-138).⁵⁰

Set of copper alloy belt fittings (nos. 9a-c).

The set (Fig. 2/9) consists of an elongated openwork frameless buckle plate (no. 9a), a similar plate but without the front side vertical bar (no. 9b) and an openwork circular plate of curvilinear design including trumpet motifs

⁴⁷ Stănescu *et alii* 2023, 48-60, nos. 9-10, fig. 12.

⁴⁸ Balcik: Genčeva 2009, fig. 2/8. Apulum: Unpublished, Ioan Străjan Collection in the custody of the National Museum of the Union from Alba Iulia. Eining: Gschwind 2004, 330, C388, pl. 46. Ellingen: Zanier 1992, 180, B42, pl. 16. Zugmantel: Oldenstein 1976, 247, no. 248, pl. 33. Xanten: Lenz 2006, 196, no. 761, pl. 76. Nijmegen: Nikolay 2007, 291, nos. 209.16, 209.18. Great Chesters: Allason-Jones 1997, 194, no. 44, fig. 11. Unknown findspot: Fischer 2012, 124, fig. 130/5.

⁴⁹ Bishop and Coulston 2006, 163, fig. 101/1 a rectangular buckle from the famous Lyon military burial.

⁵⁰ Simion 1994-1995, 126-127, figs. 4b, 7n-r, 8i-j, 12h.

(no. 9c). The plates nos. 9a-b are quite close to nos. 8a-b of the geometric type belt from grave no. 1, but no. 9 is decorated with trumpet motifs characteristic to the plates of the so-called Celtic type as nos. 6a-d from grave no. 1. Thus, this set including besides the geometric plates at least one surviving plate of another type is, the same as the one from Neuburg an der Donau, a representative of the typological hybrid belts. Anyway, its parallels among the belts from the neighboring grave no. 1 hint both to their being manufactured in the same production centre and their similar chronology.

Grave 2.

Cremation grave of *bustum* type in a stepped pit. It has a step of 0.30 by 0.50. m and a lower pit of 2.60 by 1.60 m. The funeral assemblage consists of two glass vessels, a broken clay mug and a clay *oenochoe*, burned nuts and fir or pine cones, a poorly preserved knife, a golden ring, a bone buckle and a bone button-and-loop fastener.⁵¹

The buckle (no. 10) belongs to the variant with vertical ridges of D-shaped bone belt buckles present during the 1st century AD in military sites located all over the Roman Empire, among which the legionary fortress at Vindonissa (Germania Superior) where 22 examples originate!⁵² However, as a fitting of this type dating during the Domitianic-Trajanic period was found at Colonia Ulpia Traiana (Xanten), another one belonging to the Trajanic period was discovered at Colonia Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa and a third one in the auxiliary fort at Buciumi (Dacia) built after AD 106 when the new province was annexed,⁵³ it results they were still part of the equipment of the Roman soldiers at least at the beginning of the 2nd century AD. Considering that these items were probably used after Trajan's reign and the deceased could have been buried with some of his outdated belongings, it means that no. 10 was deposited some decades later, but anyway during the first half of the 2nd century AD.

The button-and-loop fastener (no. 11) belongs to the rare items of Wild type X.⁵⁴ However, 40 examples of this type of fasteners were found at Vindonissa, which are more than all other such bone items known in the entire Roman Empire.⁵⁵ Among them there are also some pieces similar in size and shape to no. 11 and provided also with circular hole in the shank.⁵⁶ Accordingly, it seems that the Noviodunum piece derived from Vindonissa prototypes arrived at Durostorum as part of the equipment of *legio XI Claudia* after Trajan's Dacian wars.⁵⁷ These fasteners are attested by sculptural representations as fittings of personal military equipment or horse gear,⁵⁸ but no. 11 was certainly a belt accessory, perhaps used for attaching the sheath of the knife found in this grave. Hence, both bone buckle and button-and-loop fastener characteristic to the equipment of *legio XI Claudia* were probably manufactured at Durostorum at the beginning of the 2nd century AD and were deposited during the 2nd quarter of the 2nd century AD.

Discussion.

Inside the burial plot subsequently covered by the *tumulus* 30 was placed a double inhumation in a *sarcophagus*, 5 cremations *in situ* (*bustum* type) among which three graves containing military equipment items (nos. 1, 9, 2), a child grave (no. 4) and one with an inventory consisting only in a clay *oenochoe* (no.3), plus two other inhumations, one of a child buried in an oval pit (no. 5) and the other one of a woman (no. 6) put in a stepped pit similarly shaped to those of the *busta*. Besides, two *busta*, one of a woman (no. 7) and the other one completely robbed (no. 8), were located immediately beyond the enclosure trench and overlapped by the same barrow.⁵⁹

A relatively short period of time after Ulpia Iulia inhumation in the *sarcophagus*, her husband P. Aelius Mithres was buried in the richest military grave 1 from the *tumulus* 30, which significantly also included in its inventory an inkpot⁶⁰ alluding to his function as *arkarius classis*. His father received the Roman citizenship from the emperor Hadrian, very likely as veteran from *classis Flavia Moesica* and, following the norm, recommended him for

⁵¹ Simion 1994-1995, 125, figs. 6a-b, e-f, h, 8d-e.

⁵² Unz and Deschler-Erb 1997, 52-53, nos. 2012-2027, 2030-2035, pl. 70 and bibliography.

⁵³ Xanten: Lenz 2006, 177, on. 478, pl. 49. Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa: Băeştean and Barbu 2010, 121-122, no. III/1, pl. X/2A-C. Buciumi: Chirilă *et alii*, 1972, 93, no.4, pl. 102/4.

⁵⁴ Wild 1970, 143-144.

⁵⁵ Unz and Deschler-Erb 1997, 54, nos. 2107-2147, pls. 71-72.

⁵⁶ Unz and Deschler-Erb 1997, 54, nos. 2107, 2111-2112, 2115, pl. 71.

⁵⁷ Matei-Popescu 2010, 133-134 the abandonment of the Vindonissa fortress by the legion and its arriving at Durostorum.

⁵⁸ Mrav 2015, 118-119, fig. 9 a suspension loop of a dagger on a funerary stele from Solva. Gui 2015, 233, pl. 2/ B2-3 horse gear on a frieze from Arles and one Auxerre statue.

⁵⁹ Simion 1994-1995, 123-127.

⁶⁰ Oța 2013, 238-239 the identification of the *pyxis* as inkpot. Stănescu *et alii* 2023, 354-355, fig. 11b the description and the illustration of the *pyxis*.

enlisting in the same military unit. As attested by Mithres cognomen, his family originates in the northeastern region of Asia Minor, on the territory of the former Pontus kingdom where a sizeable part of the population was, or pretended to have been, of Iranian descent and his father was probably drafted among the sailors settled on the Black Sea littoral.

The burial expenses of Mithres were made up of the costs of the proper cremation, the funerary offerings and banquet. The silver personal equipment items deposited in his grave weigh c. 165 gm, that is c. 48.5 *denarii* of 3.40 gm each but together with the missing small fragments and rivets of some fittings and the lost second strap terminal, one arrives at c. 50 *denarii*. Consequently adding the manufacturing cost of the pieces, one can appreciate the total value of the baldric and both belts at c. 100 *denarii*.⁶¹ And considering that at the beginning of the 2nd century AD a Roman sword amounts to 20 *denarii*, I think that the Noviodunum one had a similar price.⁶² The chalcedony pendant, the openwork suspension band and the inkpot can't be estimated but certainly had also a sizeable value.

Yet, he also buried his wife. Her limestone *sarcophagus* decorated with exquisite vegetal motifs on the front face of his lid was obviously more expensive than the plain examples and therefore probably worth c. 200 *denarii*.⁶³ She was accompanied in the afterlife by a golden ring with a plain blue gemstone or glass setting of 4.2 gm, a pair of golden earrings of 2.2 gm and some other cheaper offerings.⁶⁴ Subtracting 2 gm, the approximate weight of the gemstone/glass setting of the ring from the total weight of the jewelry it results their gold content amounts to c. 4 gm, meaning they were worth – including the manufacturing – c. 20 *denarii*.

Consequently, Ael. Mithres' and Ulpia Iulia's burials were worth at least c. 340 *denarii* plus the other unestimated offerings, the cremation expenses and the funerary banquets.

When his wife died 40 years old, Mithres was of the same age or probably even older and, as a soldier's son enlisted very young, he was near the end of his military service. So, in the remaining small period of time spent in the army, he most likely held the *arkarius* function, as much as soldiers with specific technical expertise usually keep their position. But for an *immunis* paid with the basic *stipendium* it was very difficult to cover funerary expenses of such magnitude. Accordingly, one can suppose that his wife originates from a family of means able to share her burying cost. If so, this is why her funeral rite different to that of the husband was respected and she received a lavish grave in the centre of the plot. And it's also characteristic for the careful burying of Ulpia Iulia and her daughter, that the coins deposited in their graves were selected amongst the empresses' issues.

The location of the grave 9 in the northeastern part of the funerary plot near the grave 1 suggests that the dead buried in these graves were kindred. The grave 9, with the lower pit of only 1.61 m in length, was too small for an adult and fitted merely to an adolescent burial. Hence, the belt with copper alloy fittings, the only military offering of this grave, points out that the deceased was meant to be a soldier. Accordingly, I think that the teenager was probably Mithres' son. The cramped position of the grave 9 partially overlapping the trench delimiting the plot and its poor inventory seem evidence of the son being buried after his father's demise. However, as they were buried with belts of the same type, it means their deaths followed in a relatively quick succession.

The grave 2, dated during the 2nd quarter of the 2nd century AD, was located in the middle of the eastern part of the plot, immediately behind the delimiting trench toward the road. Its inventory included two bone military equipment items and a 15 gm gold ring with a plain gemstone or glass setting. Besides, a fragmentary man's statue of Proconessos marble⁶⁵ found nearby obviously belonged to the same funeral assemblage. The furnishing and the conspicuous position of the grave 2 correspond to the socio-economic status of the deceased buried there, who, as a veteran of some wealth purchased the entire plot and reserved the best burial place for himself. Accordingly, he was most probably Mithres' father.

Near the delimiting trench at the southeastern end of the plot was placed the grave 6. The furnishing of this woman inhumation consists of one glass vessel, a pair of gold earrings and a provincial bronze coin of Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161).⁶⁶ A fragmentary woman statue of Proconessos marble,⁶⁷ found above the trench close to the grave, evidently belonged to the same burial. Thus, it is a reasonable assumption that the woman buried in this grave, who lived in the same period of time as Mithres' father and had a similar socio-economic status, was his wife. The strange stepped pit of this grave reproducing the shape of the men's *busta* from the plot is perhaps an attempt to conciliate the different funerary rites of herself and her husband.

⁶¹ See also Petculescu 2025, 190 for the funeral expenses of the military burials from Capidava.

⁶² Petculescu 2025, 190, note 38 the price of the Capidava sword.

⁶³ Russell 2011, 122 the price of an undecorated limestone *sarcophagus* in the 1st century AD of c. 150 *denarii*.

⁶⁴ Simion 1994-1995, 123, figs. 6/g-i; 13/d-f.

⁶⁵ C. Alexandrescu pers. comm.

⁶⁶ Simion 1994-1995, 126, figs. 6j, 12 g, 13d.

⁶⁷ See above note 65.

Between graves 2 and 6 there is a bunch of three burials. The grave 3 sticking on the inside edge of the trench is a *bustum* with a very poor inventory consisting only in a clay *oenochoe*.⁶⁸ So, it seems that the cremated deceased was a servant, almost certainly a slave. In the other two graves were buried children.⁶⁹ The grave 4 is a *bustum* in a simple oval pit without any offering and the grave 5 an inhumation, probably of a boy with a funeral assemblage made of two clay vessels, two dice and three provincial bronze coins, the latest issued by Cyzicus for Marcus Aurelius (AD 161-180). It looks like that, as normal, the inhumed child was less than 7 years old,⁷⁰ but his grave goods are remarkable compared to the lack of any furnishing in the grave 4, where was probably buried an older child.

The last two burials under the *tumulus* 30 are two *busta* located outside the southeastern end of the plot. In the grave 7, intersecting the external edge of the trench, was cremated a woman with a casket offering but the grave 8, placed 2 m distant of it, was completely robbed.⁷¹

From the above it results that in the funerary plot, subsequently covered by barrow 30, three generations of a soldier's family were buried: a veteran who was most probably Mithres' father and his wife; Mithres and his wife Ulpia Iulia; Mithres' adolescent son yet not enlisted but intended to be a soldier. Besides, three other family's children were also buried here, two of them - the teenage girl from the *sarcophagus* and the small child from grave 5 – certainly being Mithres' offspring.

All the soldier's family men, including the male child above a certain age from grave 4 and the servant were cremated. Consequently, it seems that irrespective of their traditional funerary rites, as auxiliaries they used the incineration "in situ" in order to express their allegiance to the Roman civilization. At variance with them, their wives plus the teenage girl and a very young child were inhumed, meaning they weren't compelled to conform with the military customs and kept their original rites.

From the two undated *busta* placed close to the plot, one had a poor uncharacteristic inventory and the other was robbed. So, one can't know if the deceased from these graves were linked to the army or had any relationship with Mithres family.

All burials of this plot date between the 2nd quarter of the 2nd century AD and about AD 180-190. During the 3rd century AD crisis, the northeastern part of Moesia Inferior was gravely affected but inside the plot there isn't any robbed grave. Therefore, I think that *tumulus* 30 was raised above the plot toward the middle of the 3rd century AD but it didn't cover grave 8 placed beyond the delimiting trench and both statues, later robbed, respectively vandalized.

The grave furnishings under the barrow 30 allow addressing the issue of some military fittings and soldier status during the last three quarters of the 2nd century AD. So, the bone buckle and button-and-loop fasteners from grave 2 belong to the types of military items specific to the 1st century AD but still in use until Hadrian's reign. The deceased cremated in grave 1 had two belts: one with plates of curvilinear design including trumpet motifs and an oval buckle with internal trumpet motifs (no. 6) and the other one formed by openwork geometric plates and a simple oval buckle with attachment loop and two fixing strips representing a distinct variant of the buckles with attachment loop and one central fixing strip (no. 8). Therefore, during the 2nd half of the 2nd century AD, belts made of buckles provided with hinges or attachment loops and differently shaped openwork plates were simultaneously utilized.

Similarly to Capidava belt fittings, the silver baldric and belt mounts from Noviodunum have most copper alloy parallels, meaning the difference between the common and prestige personal equipment usually consisted only in the fine finishing of the latter and the precious metal they are made of.⁷² As for the openwork geometric belt plates, it seems that the copper alloy examples reproduced the silver ones. The fact that an *immunis* possessed a baldric and two belts adorned with silver fittings plus a chalcedony sword pendant evidences the right of relatively wealthy soldiers to own luxury equipment items irrespective of their rank.⁷³

Analogies of the Mithres' equipment originate not only in the bases of the *cohortes* but also in those of the *alae* and *legiones* and their adjacent civilian settlements and cemeteries (Slăveni, Durostorum, Apulum, Viminacium, Lauriacum). Consequently, already during the 2nd half of the 2nd century AD, soldiers from all categories of military units, including the least prestigious navy, had virtually identical personal equipment.

⁶⁸ Simion 1994-1995, 125.

⁶⁹ Simion 1994-1995, 125-126, figs. 8g, 12d-f, 13i.

⁷⁰ Pliny the Elder 7.72.

⁷¹ Simion 1994-1995, 126, fig. 11a-e, 13e.

⁷² Petculescu 2025, 189.

⁷³ See also Petculescu 1981, 210-212.

Acknowledgements

I am deeply indebted to the late Gavrilă Simion who gave me full access to the military equipment of grave 1 and to the compendious record of its excavation. A special debt of gratitude is owed to George Nuțu for the photograph of mount no 11 and the permission to complete the sketches of some fittings from this barrow. Many thanks are also due to Cristina Alexandrescu for the information on the marble the statues are made of, to Florian Matei-Popescu and Chiara Cenati for a bibliographical reference unavailable in Romania, to Alexandru Rațiu for computerizing the illustration and to Iuliana Barnea who drew the items after my own sketches.

CATALOGUE

All the items are kept in Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale, Tulcea (The Eco-Museal Research Institute, Tulcea). The missing parts of the items nos 4, 6d, 8c and 8d completed in the illustrations by dotted lines were still present in the photographs of the grave goods published by G. Simion. These objects were probably damaged during the restoration process. As the pieces nos. 2a and 2b are currently unavailable (gone astray?) I have taken their illustrations from the publication of G. Simion.

The catalogue numbers correspond to the illustrations of the items. As all the measurements are in mm and gm respectively, I haven't repeated these units of measure for every object. The measurements of the pieces nos. 9a-c are approximate as they are made after their scaled photographs. I didn't give the dimensions of the items unavailable to me and illustrated after Simion except for no. 11 which diameter was mentioned in the original publication.

Abbreviations: L: length; W: width; T: thickness; Ht: height; D: diameter; Wt: weight.

TUMULUS 30.

Grave 1. Cremation *in situ* (*bustum*) in a stepped pit.

1. Sword. Iron. Incomplete; the upper end of the blade including the tang and the handle assemblage is missing. The heavy burnt and corroded blade is broken in five fragments. On the upper part of the blade there are traces of wood from the sheath and fragments of its apparently iron-made guttering. L: 548; W: 47.

Sword with slightly tapering blade and short ogival point. The blade is lenticular-sectioned in the upper part due to the distortion caused by the heavy burning and subsequent corrosion and rhomboidal-sectioned in its lower part. The U-sectioned scabbard binding of only 2 mm of breadth presents a semicircular expansion intended to receive a fixing rivet.

Inv. nos. 25902 and 25755 (point). Simion 1994 - 1995, 124, fig. 11g.

2. Scabbard chape. Copper alloy. Incomplete; the front side, one lateral projection, the tip of the central projection and most of the edges are missing. L (including the part of the projection lost after the discovery): 47; W: 44; T: 8; T of the metal sheet: 1 – 1.5.

Long peltate chape with high lateral projections. It has a small perforation centrally placed through the back side to secure the attachment to the scabbard by means of a nail.

Inv. no. 25787. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7s, wrong inv. no.

3a - b. Sword pendant.

3a. Pendant of milky bluish chalcedony. Complete. D: 48.5 x 49.5; T: 22; Wt: 74.

Circular pendant with axial cylindrical aperture, flat bottom and bulging upper surface. It is decorated with grooves: one circular around the central aperture, another one also circular placed at 2 mm above the bottom and other ones disposed radial from top to bottom. The item was roughly worked due to the hardness of the material it was made of. It was discovered associated with the suspension loop no. 3b.

Inv. no. 25737 (the same as for 3b). Simion 1994 - 1995, 124, fig. 6d.

3b. Suspension loop. Silver. Complete. L: 42; W: 13; D of the bottom: 5; T 2.7; Wt: 4.27.

The item is made of a straight wire which comes through the cylindrical aperture of the pendant. At one end the wire is bent to make a loop and at the other end it has a circular expansion.

Inv. no. 25737. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 6d.

4a-b. Hand grip assemblage?

4a. Hand grip? Bone (covered by leather?). Incomplete; both ends and probably also parts of the sides were missing when the piece was drawn.

As the piece is unavailable (lost?) and there are not recorded data but its published drawing, it is not possible to identify his function with certainty. From its published illustration seems that the item was discovered in association with 4b.

Inv. no. 25785 (the same as for 4b). Simion 1994 - 1995, 125, fig. 11f; Simion 1995, 223, no. 11, fig. 2a.

4b. Suspension band. Silver (Simion 1994-1995) or copper alloy (Simion 1995). Incomplete: only the front side of the band and part of the back side strip are preserved.

Circularly folded band with a broader front side openwork decorated with tendril motifs and the back side made of a narrow strip with parallel upper and lower edges. The ends of the band are linked by a rivet.

Inv. no. 25785. Simion 1994 - 1995, 125, fig 11f; Simion 1995, 223, no.11, fig. 2b, c.

5a – b. Set of baldric fittings. Silver

5a. Baldric plate. Complete. L: 58; W: 52; T: 2.5; L of the rivets: 2.5 – 3; Wt: 22.62.

Quasi-triangular openwork plate with decoration made up of curvilinear and trumpet motifs. On the inner side there are three hollows made in order to spare some silver and three fixing rivets.

Inv. no. 25747. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7f.

5b. Baldric terminal plate. Complete. L: 70; W: 55; T: 3 – 7.7; L of the rivets: 2,5; Wt: 26.3.

Quasi-triangular terminal plate folded back at the bottom to envelop the lower end of the baldric. Its openwork decoration consists of curvilinear trumpet and lotus bud motifs. On the inner side there are three fixing rivets.

Inv. no. 25748. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7e.

6a – e. Set of belt fittings. The strap terminal no.7 could belong to this set or, less probably, to set no. 8. Silver.

6a. Belt buckle with plate. Complete. L (entire): 69.5; Wt: 21.3. Buckle: L: 27; W: 31.5; T of the hinge: 5. Plate: L: 46; W: 24; T: 3.5; L of the rivets: 3.2.

Openwork oval buckle with two cylindrical hinge loops and straight tongue with widen two bulbous lateral expansions and widen hinge loop. The oval frame of the buckle is curved inside to form two trumpet motifs and ends in doubling the front side of the loop.

The openwork ellipsoidal plate ends in a vertical grooved bar provided with two hinge loops towards the buckle. Its curvilinear design includes trumpet motifs. The plate has five fixing rivets.

Inv. no. 25746. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7a.

6b. Belt plate. Complete. L: 39.5; W: 22; T: 3.5; L of the rivets: 3.2; Wt: 6.05.

Elongated openwork plate of curvilinear design including trumpet motifs. The plate has six fixing rivets.

Inv. no. 25744. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7c.

6c. Belt plate. Complete. L: 41.4; W: 21; T: 3.3; L of the rivets: 2.5; Wt: 6.55.

As no. 6b.

Inv. no. 25743. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig.7b.

6d. Belt plate. Complete when was discovered. L: 31; W: 25.5; T: 3; Wt: 4.52.

Openwork short plate of irregular shape. Its curvilinear design includes four trumpet motifs. From the originally three fixing rivets survived only two.

Inv. no. 25742. Simion 1994 - 1995, 124, fig. 7g.

6e. Belt plate. Complete, but a small breach of the rim. L: 46.7; W: 23.3; T: 2.5; L of the rivets: 2.4; Wt: 11.26.

Openwork ellipsoidal plate with a decoration made of two peltate motifs. The plate has four fixing rivets.

Inv. no. 25745. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7d.

7. Strap terminal. Silver. Complete. L: 37.4; W: 10; T: 0.7; Wt: 3.3.

Short flat terminal made by the soldering of two thin sheets of metal tapering slightly toward the lower end. The upper end of the piece is divided to receive a 1 mm thick strap which was secured by a rivet.

The upper part of the item is decorated by incisions: two crossing at the rivet head and one horizontal at the bottom of the slit. Besides on the upper edge there are small file cuttings.

Inv. no. 25763. Unpublished.

8a – f. Set of belt fittings. Silver.

8a. Belt buckle with plate. Complete. L (entire): 66; Wt: 20.7. Buckle: L: 28; W: 24; T: 3. Plate: L: 42; W: 29.5; T: 2. L of the rivets (actual): 2. Fixing strip: W: 5 – 6; T: 0.8.

Oval buckle with chamfered edges, internal vestigial volutes, and T-shaped attachment loop. Two fragmentary strips are folded close to their front side around the back bar of the attachment loop, while their opposite missing ends were fixed by rivets in the centres of the spirals forming the rear part of the buckle plate.

The openwork buckle plate ends in a vertical bar towards the buckle. Near the extremities of the bar there are two rivets fastening a narrower and thinner plate used for keeping in place the forward ends of the fixing strips. The openwork decoration of the plate is composed by spiral and rectangular motifs symmetrically disposed towards the horizontal axis. Four small rivets placed at the ends of the spiral motifs, among which three survived, assured its fixing to the leather belt.

Inv. no. 25907. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7h.

8b. Belt counter-plate. Complete. L: 40; W: 31; T: 2; Wt: 9.1.

As buckle plate of no. 8a. Only two rivets were left.

Inv. no. 25912. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7l.

8c. Belt plate. Complete when was discovered. L: 33.5; W: 29; T: 2; Wt: 7.7.

Openwork plate similar to the buckle plate of no. 8a and the counter-plate no. 8b but without the vertical band. From the one surviving rivet is left only the head.

Inv. no. 25909. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7i.

8d. Belt plate. Complete when was discovered. L: 33.5; W: 28; T: 2; L of the rivet: 2; Wt: 6.1.

Openwork plate of geometric decoration made of spiral and angular motifs symmetrically disposed towards the vertical axis. From the four small fixing rivets only one is left.

Inv. no. 25910. Simion 1994 – 5, 124, fig. 7j.

8e. Belt plate. Complete. L: 33; W: 27.7; T: 2; Wt: 6.45.

As no. 8d. Only three rivets survive.

Inv. no. 25911. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig 7k.

8f. Belt plate. Complete. H (entire): 41; H (without the loop): 29; W: 31.5; T 2; Wt: 8.6.

Openwork plate with semicircular loop for attaching a pendant. Its curvilinear design includes one central triangular motif and two spiral motifs symmetrically disposed towards the vertical axis. The plate was attached to the belt by four small rivets, now lost.

Inv. no. 25908. Simion 1994 – 1995, 124, fig. 7m.

Grave 9. Cremation *in situ* (bustum) in a stepped pit.

9a – c. Set of belt fittings. Copper alloy.

9a. Buckle plate. Complete. L: c. 52; W: c. 36.

Openwork elongated plate ending in a vertical bar toward the buckle. On the bar there were three rivets, only one surviving, fastening the plate on the leather belt. Another fixing rivet with its washer preserved is placed in the middle of the opposite end of the plate.

The decoration of curvilinear design of the plate, including spiral and triangular motifs similar to those of no. 8, is divided in two parts by a vertical bar.

Inv. no. 43457 Simion 1994 - 1995, 127, fig. 7a.

9b. Belt plate. Complete excepting half of the frame of one rivet hole. L: c. 44; W: c. 34.

Openwork elongated plate of curvilinear design with two fixing rivets, among which only one left, placed at the ends of the longitudinal axis.

Its decoration, divided in two parts by a vertical bar, includes opposite spiral and triangular motifs. The part ending in the half frame of the rivet hole is almost identical to no. 8f and the posterior part of no. 9a.

Inv. no. 43448. Simion 1994 - 1995, 127, fig. 7n.

9c. Belt plate. Complete. D: c. 29.

Openwork circular plate of curvilinear design including trumpet motifs. It has two rivet holes on the rim.

Inv. no. 43446. Simion 1994 - 1995, 127, fig. 7p.

Grave 2. Cremation *in situ* (*bustum*) in a stepped pit.

10. Belt buckle. Bone. Complete. L: 29; W: 39; T: 7.5.

Massive D – shaped buckle with chamfered edges and vertical ridges in front of the axial holes. It has a copper alloy axial spindle and an arched tapering tongue of rectangular section.

Inv. no. 43522. Simion 1994 - 1995, 125, fig. 6e.

11. Button-and-loop fastener. Bone. Complete. D: 17; L: c. 28.

Convex boss with a flat triangular shank pierced by a small circular hole instead of the common semicircular one.

Inv. no. 43525. Simion 1994 -1995, 125, fig. 6f.

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Fig. 1. Noviodunum. Tumulul 30. Mormintele romane (redesenate și adaptate după Simion 1994-1995, fig. 2) S=sarcofag; G=mormânt.

Fig. 2. Noviodunum. Tumulul 30. Seturi de aplice de centiron. 6-8 argint; 9 aliaj cupru; 10-11 os. Scara 1 : 2.

Fig. 3. Apulum. Placă de centiron. Aliaj cupru. Scara 1 : 1.

Pl. 1. Noviodunum. Tumulul 30. Mormântul 1. 1 Sabie. 2 Buterolă. 3 Pandantiv de sabie: a Pandantiv; b Veriga de prindere. 4 Mâner de sabie?: a Mâner; b Bandă de prindere (redesenate după Simion 1994-1995, fig. 11f și Simion 1995, fig. 2b-c). 1 Fier. 2 Aliaj cupru. 3a Calcedoniu; 3b Argint. 4a Os și argint sau aliaj de cupru. 4b Argint sau aliaj de cupru. 1 Scara 1 : 4. 2 - 3, 5 Scara 1 : 1. 4 Scara aproximativ 1 : 1.

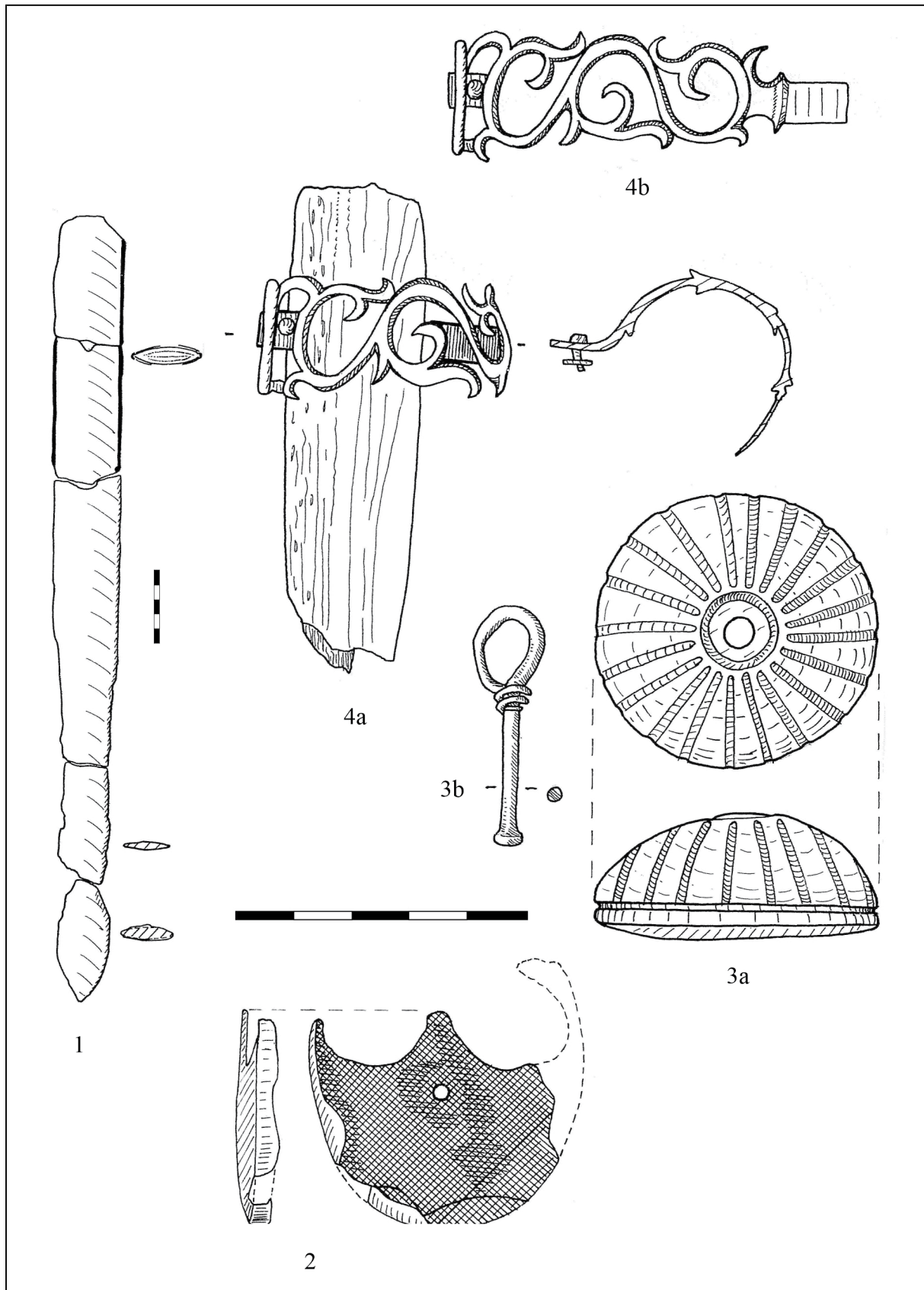
Pl. 2. Noviodunum. Tumulul 30. Mormântul 1. 5a – 5b Set de aplice de balteus. Argint. Scara 1 : 1.

Pl. 3. Noviodunum. Tumulul 30. Mormântul 1. 6a – 6e Set de aplice de centiron. 7 Terminal de curea. Argint. Scara 1 : 1.

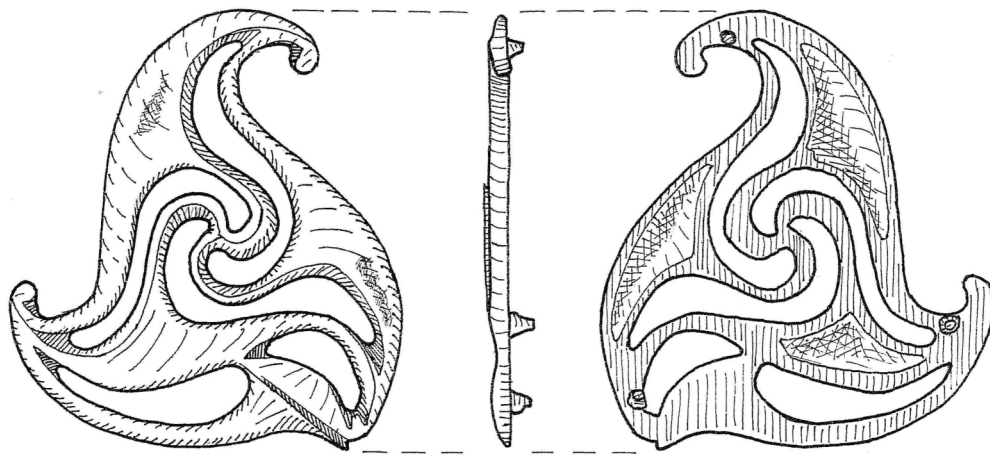
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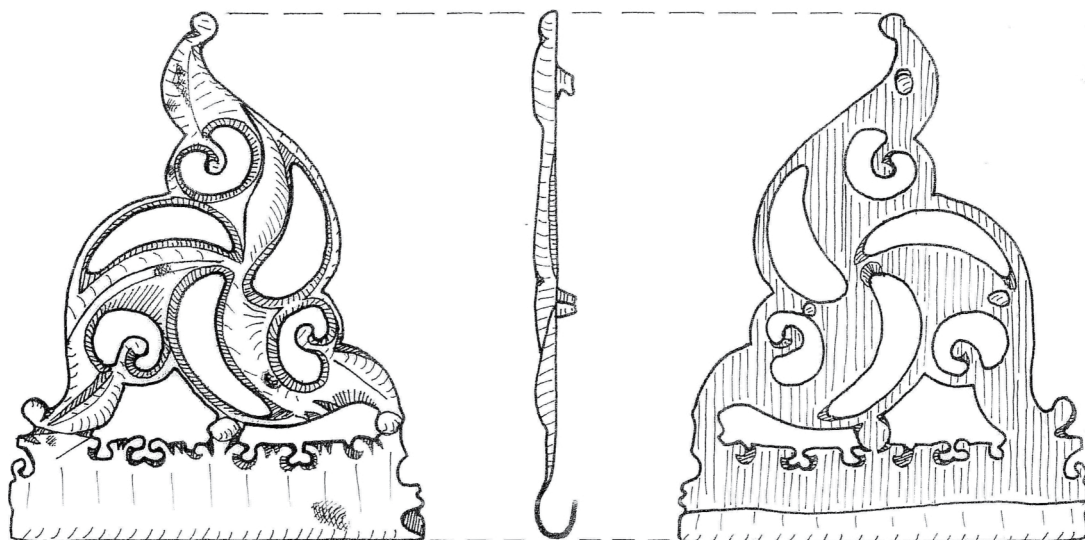
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Pl. 1. Noviodunum. Tumulus 30. Grave 1. 1 Sword. 2 Scabbard chape. 3 Sword pendant: a Pendant; b Suspension loop. 4 Hand grip assemblage? : a Hand grip; Suspension band (redrawn after Simion 1994-1995, fig. 11f and Simion 1995, fig. 2b-c). 1 Iron. 2 Copper alloy. 3a Chalcedony. 3b Silver. 4a Bone and silver or copper alloy. 4b Silver or copper alloy. 1 Scale 1 : 4. 2 - 3, 5 Scale 1 : 1. 4 Scale about 1 : 1.

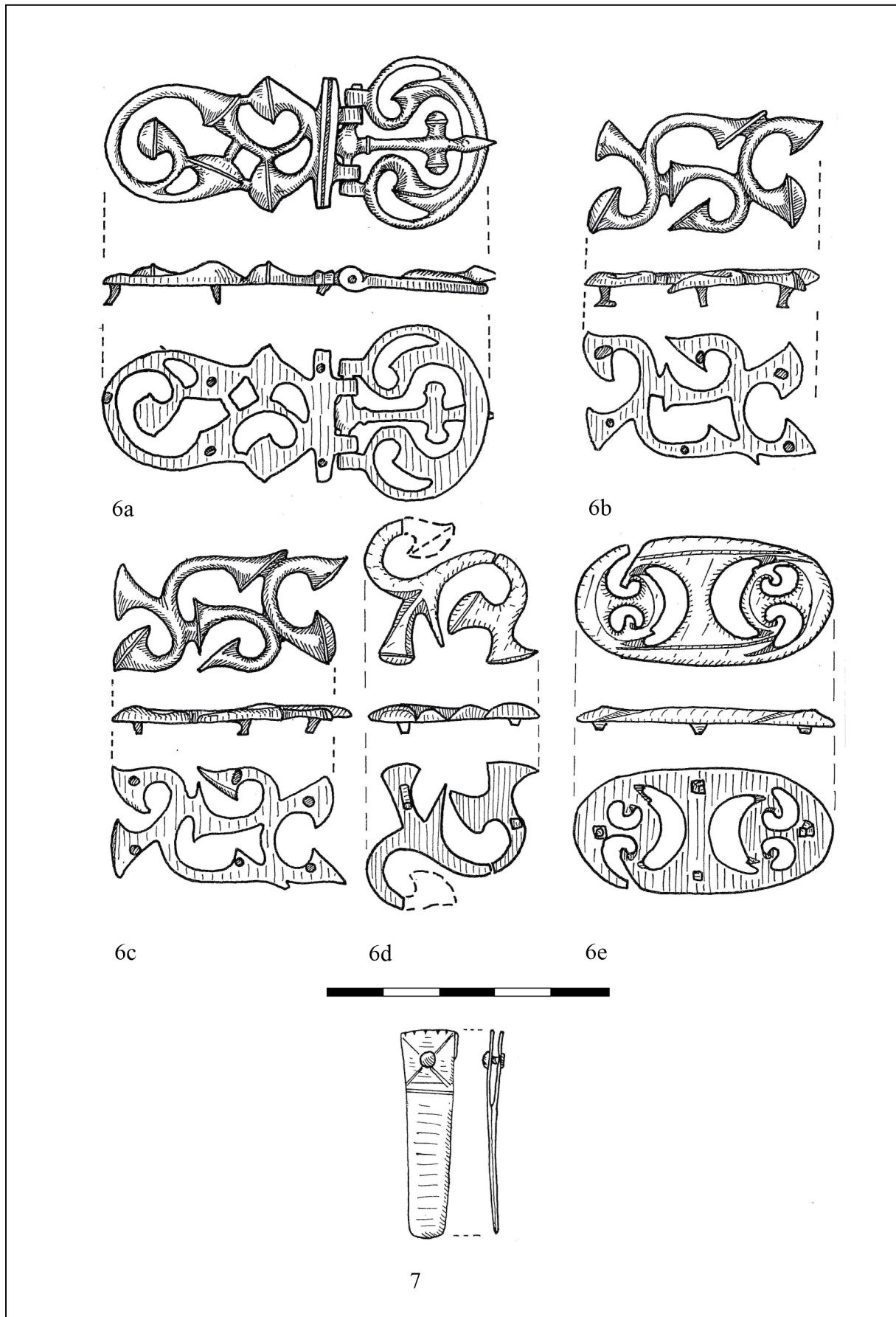


5a

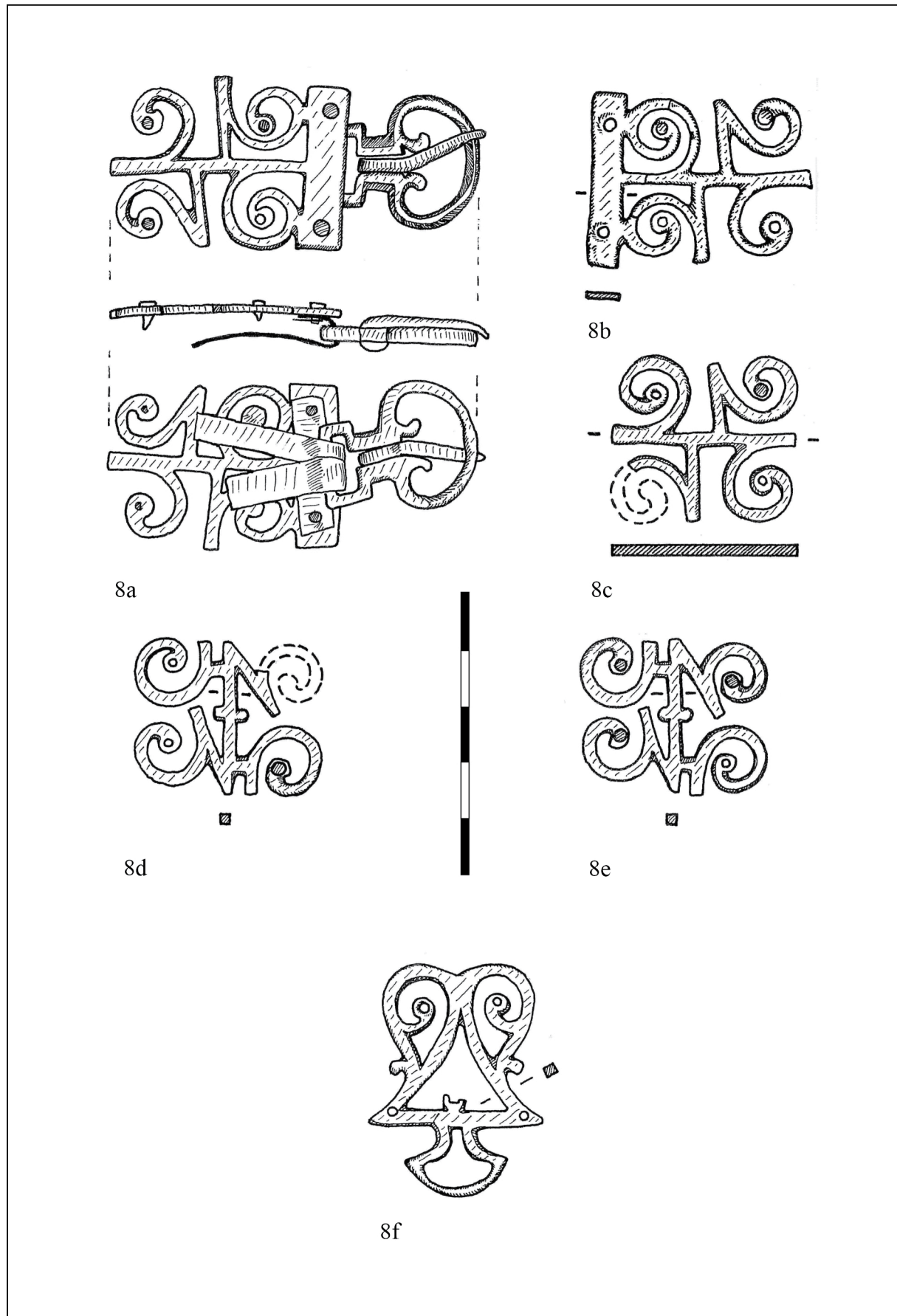


5b

Pl. 2. Noviodunum. Tumulus 30. Grave 1. 5a – 5b Set of baldric mounts. Silver. Scale 1 : 1.



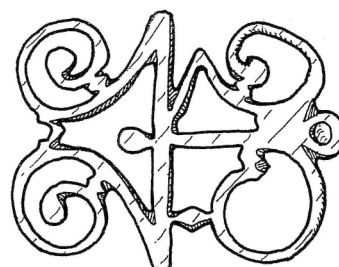
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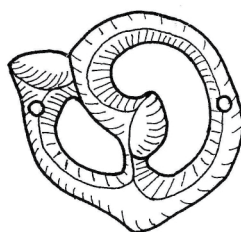
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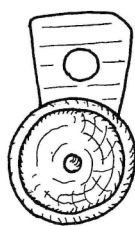
9a



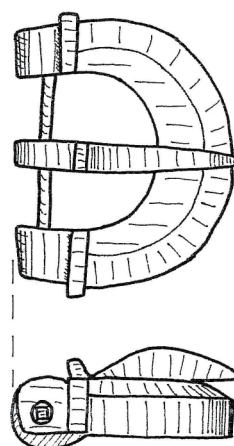
9b



9c



11



10

Pl. 5. Noviodunum. Tumulus 30. Grave 9. 9a – 9c Set of belt fittings. Grave 2. 10 Buckle. 11 Button-and- loop fastener. 9a – 9c Copper alloy. 10 -11 Bone. Scale 1 : 1.

