

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ВЪРХНА АНТРОПОЛОГИЧЕСКА ШКОЛА



# «На одно крыло — серебряная, На другое — золотая...»

Сборник статей памяти Светланы Рябцевой

*Под редакцией  
Р. А. Рабиновича и Н. П. Тельнова*

Библиотека



КИШИНЕВ  
2020

902/904 (082)=111=161.1

H 120

**Печатается по решению Ученого совета**  
университета «Высшая антропологическая школа»

**Составители и ответственные редакторы:**

доктор истории Р.А. Рабинович,  
доктор истории Н.П. Тельнов

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**DESCRIEREA CIP A CAMEREI NAȚIONALE A CĂRȚII**

**«На одно крыло — серебряная, На другое — золотая...»** Сборник статей памяти Светланы Рябцевой = "One her wing is silver, The other one is made of gold..." Selected papers in memory of Svetlana Ryabtseva / составители и ответственные редакторы: Р.А. Рабинович, Н.П. Тельнов; обложка: Д.А. Топал; Университет Высшая антропологическая школа. — Кишинэу: Stratum Plus, 2020. — 508 p.: fig., fot., fig., fot. color, 35 p. il. color. — (Библиотека «Stratum» = Library «Stratum»), ISBN 978-9975-3198-0-5).

Cerințe de sistem: PDF Reader.

Tit., cuprins, rez. paral.: lb. engl., rusă. — Texte: lb. engl., rusă. — Referințe bibliogr. la sfârșitul art.

ISBN 978-9975-3343-6-5.

902/904 (082)=111=161.1

H 120

Этот сборник научных статей посвящён памяти учёного, археолога, видного исследователя истории средневекового ювелирного дела, костюма и ювелирного убора Восточной и Юго-Восточной Европы — Светланы Станиславовны Рябцевой (1966—2019 гг.). С.С. Рябцева занимала в науке уникальное место: её изыскания стали своеобразным «мостом между Востоком и Западом» — исследованиями Восточной, Юго-Восточной и Центральной Европы. Светлана Станиславовна прожила короткую жизнь, но оставила о себе добрую память. Это её замечательные научные работы и то позитивное вдохновение, которое исходило от неё к близким людям, друзьям и коллегам. Сборник объединяет работы исследователей из Молдовы, России, Украины, Румынии, Беларуси, Болгарии, Венгрии, Словакии, Польши, Франции и Великобритании.

**ISBN 978-9975-3343-6-5.**

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Редактор материалов на английском языке: Ю.Д. Тимотина

Технический координатор: Ж.Б. Кроитор

Оригинал-макет: Д.А. Топал, Л.А. Мосионжник, Г.В. Засыпкина

Редактор карт: Л.А. Мосионжник

Корректор: Г.В. Засыпкина

HIGH ANTHROPOLOGICAL SCHOOL UNIVERSITY



# **‘ONE HER WING IS SILVER, THE OTHER ONE IS MADE OF GOLD...’**

Selected papers in memory of Svetlana Ryabtseva

*Edited by  
R.A. Rabinovich and N.P. Telnov*



KISHINEV  
2020

*Памяти*  
**Светланы Станиславовны Рябцевой**  
*посвящается*



*In memory of Svetlana Ryabtseva*

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## Pin jewelry pieces from an early 17<sup>th</sup> century hoard found near Vlădiceasca village, Călărași county

**Keywords:** Wallachia, Transylvania, 16<sup>th</sup>—17<sup>th</sup> century, pin jewelry, veil pin, brooch, hoarding

**Ключевые слова:** Мунтения, Трансильвания, XVI—XVII вв., декоративные булавки, булавки для вуали, броши, тезаврация

C. Tătaru, T.A. Martin

### Pin jewelry pieces from an early 17<sup>th</sup> century hoard found near Vlădiceasca village, Călărași county

This paper examines five jewelry pieces provided with shafts from the Vlădiceasca hoard, Călărași County, Romania. Due to the rarity of iconographical and written sources, as well as the scarcity of this type of jewelry in archeological discoveries, the interpretation of the function of these items is quite difficult to make. In the first part of the article a short description of the hair pins preserved in the Vlădiceasca hoard and the presentation of the most important similar items found in archaeological context in Wallachia and Moldavia are made, in order to gather some function and style characteristics for these pieces. The second part of the paper is dedicated to the catalogue of the five pieces, which are classified according to their stylistic features, while also being compared with similar findings coming especially from the hoards discovered in the Moldavian space. Special attention is paid to the form in which they are published, some of the large pin jewelries being interpreted as brooches or as veil pins.

К. Тэтару, Т.А. Мартин

### Булавки из клада начала XVII века из Влэдичаска, жудец Калараш

Рассматриваются пять ювелирных изделий с острыми сужающимися концами, происходящих из клада Влэдичаска, жудец Калараш, Румыния. Вследствие редкости иконографических и письменных источников, а также археологических находок таких изделий, их интерпретация достаточно затруднена. В первой части статьи дается краткое описание булавок для прически из клада Влэдичаска, а также представлены важнейшие аналогии им, происходящие из различных археологических контекстов Мунтении и Молдовы; дается обобщенная функциональная и стилевая характеристика этих изделий. Вторая часть статьи представляет собой каталог рассматриваемых пяти булавок из клада Влэдичаска и их классификацию в соответствии со стилевыми характеристиками. Также они сопоставляются с находками сходного вида, происходящими преимущественно из кладов Молдовы. Особое внимание уделяется тому, в каком виде они опубликованы; некоторые из больших булавок интерпретированы как броши или булавки для вуали.

In the springtime of 2015, a jewelry hoard comprised of more than twenty-five items, some of which are unfortunately broken, while others are preserved only as fragments of more elaborate adornments, was brought to the National History Museum of Romania. The hoard, which is characterized by a quite composite structure, was found near the rural settlement from Vlădiceasca, Călărași County and it seems to have not been entirely recovered, containing fragments of earrings, rings, veil pins, large jewelry with pins, pendants and even a communion spoon. Despite the fact that the communion spoon is marked with a Slavonic inscription bearing the name of a known noble lady from Wallachia, called Kaplea from Periș<sup>1</sup>, the context of the finding didn't

reveal much information about the items or about their clear function. The items were found with a metal detector and, according to the description of the finder, they were scattered on a very large surface. Also, the items are quite different in terms of provenance, some of them coming from Transylvanian workshops, while some of the others have an oriental or Balkan origin.

In this paper we will focus on a quite unresearched category of jewelry, which are provided with simple shafts as fastening system. First of all, we have to mention that they caught our attention due to the difficulty of finding a clear explanation for the way these items were worn during the late

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<sup>1</sup> Given the fact that different historical sources speak about the existence of at least two noble ladies called

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Kaplea from Periș, who lived during the second part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the first part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, a different discussion is to be made about the exact lady Kaplea from Periș, whose name is written on the communion spoon from the Vlădiceasca hoard.

16<sup>th</sup> century and the 17<sup>th</sup> century. For this reason, through our paper we explore the presence of this type of jewelry in the local findings. Disregarding the fact that the pin jewelry pieces are not an unusual presence in the findings from Wallachia and Moldavia, there are still many questions that have no answers, like how they were worn, how can we identify a link between the shape or the processing technique of the adornments with shafts and the workshop where they were produced, who was supposed to wear them, considering the fact that the pin jewelry doesn't enjoy a large representation in the contemporary portraiture?

In the Vlădiceasca hoard are preserved a number of fifteen items that are provided with shafts or that present on their back the traces of a now lost shaft. Alongside these pieces two other singular shafts that cannot be linked with any of the head adornments from the treasure are preserved (fig. 1: 11, 12), a fact which indicates that in the initial structure of the hoard there were accumulated at least two other jewelry items with shafts. Based on their dimension and weight, the fifteen mentioned pieces can be divided in two main groups: (1) hair pins and (2) a more comprehensive group of pin jewelry pieces.

Firstly, the items we assigned to the hair pins category are light (fig. 1), weighting between 1.29 g up to 9.19 g, with the mention that the two silver shafts from the hoard weights are of 1.93 g and 1.86 g. Only one piece, having the weight of 1.80 g still has attached the original shaft, therefore, in order to have an idea about the original weight of the items illustrated in the figure no. 1 it should be added the medium weight of a silver shaft. Secondly, the diameters of the heads of the hair pins, which are designed more or less as flowers, measure between 19.20 mm and 35.60 mm. The light weight and the small dimensions of the ornamental plaques allow us to deduce that these jewelry pieces are in fact hair pins used to hold the veil on the head. There are not known many similar veil pins found in a precise archeological context. Thus, for the Wallachian space, of great importance is the tomb from the old church of Cătălui-Căscioarele, assigned to lady Maria Corbeanu, who was wearing in the veil that covered her head a number of seventeen veil pins with the heads shaped as stars with a turquoise stone in the middle (Cantacuzino, Trohani 1979: 286; Trohani 2019). These veil pins have a medium weight of 2.60 g and the pieces entirely preserved measure in length almost 66 mm. A veil pin with an eight petals flower made in the same style as the ones from Cătălui-Căscioarele and adorned with a large central turquoise was found in a tomb located in the narthex of the Snagov Monastery church (Rosetti 1935: fig. 50). Around the head of the deceased,

alongside the mentioned jewelry were also found several simple silver veil pins with spherical head and a veil pin with floral shaped plaque, whose petals consist of garnets set in four claw mountings and a central turquoise (Rosetti 1935: 31, fig. 49, 51). The mix between pins with globular heads and flower shaped plaques is also documented in a tomb from the narthex of the Tismana Monastery Church, where four pins with decorative plaques similar with the one with granules and turquoise found from Snagov and two other pins with small globular heads were also found (Cantacuzino 2004: 55).

Another important archaeological research in a necropolis during which veil pins were discovered was the one conducted at the old church from Buda, Buzău County in 1931. Several extremely delicate veil pins made of brass were found in the tomb of lady Anca, mother of lady Neaga who was the wife of the Wallachian Prince Mihnea II (1577—1583/1585—1591) (Drăghiceanu 1931: 172; fig. 24). The veil pin has approximately 60 mm with a pointed tip, while the other end presents a spherical globule. An almost identical veil pin, but made of gold was found in a tomb from the church of Câmpulung Monastery, near the head of the deceased alongside a cloth sewed with golden thread (Drăghiceanu 1964: 320) and another similar veil pin made of gilded silver, with a hemispherical head was found in the tomb of lady Chirana from the Retevoiești church, Argeș county (Popescu, Rosetti 1959: 712—713; Popescu 1970: 21). Unfortunately, for the veil pins from Buda and Retevoiești it is not mentioned their exact position on the body of the ladies, as it was recorded for the ones coming from Cătălui-Căscioarele. Four other gilded silver veil pins, similar in shape, are worth to be mentioned. They were found in the tomb no. 3 from the necropolis of the old Comana Monastery, a tomb that was assigned to lady Ancuța, who was buried around the year 1667 (Milencovici-Bătrâna 1973: 15—16, fig. 10—11). Three of them are simple with globular head, while the fourth one presents an ornamental head shaped as a flower with five petals.

Many veil pins made of copper or brass, presenting the globular head, were found in Piuia Petrii (Orașul de Floci), Ialomița County. Most of them come from the graves excavated in the necropolis found near the „Church nr. 2”, which were dated with the help of the coins found in the graves between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century (Chișescu et al. 1979: 226; fig. 17:16). Two other veil pins were found in remote places. A copper hair pin with the head made of two welded hemispheres, was found at Piuia Petrii, during the archeological campaign of the year 1980, conducted in the

point called „Monastery”. The piece was recovered from a bone processing workshop (Chițescu et al. 1982: 130, fig. 3: 6). Nevertheless, a more precious veil pin made of gilded silver was recovered from a bone and precious metal processing workshop where, as the findings indicate, were produced different types of jewelry. As the description offered by the authors mentions the veil pin consisted of a flower shaped head with the diameter of 20 mm, presenting in the center a circular cassette surrounded by four wire spiral tubes, while on the edge of the ornamental plaque are attached fourteen circles made of twisted wire (Chițescu et al. 1992: 101; fig. 5: 3). The same situation, characterized by the presence of a large number of bronze veil pins with globular heads, can be seen in the inventories of the medieval graves researched around the Stelea church in Târgoviște, where only one veil pin with an ornamental plaque shaped as a flower with eight petals and that can be dated during the 15<sup>th</sup> century was found (Diaconescu, Ionescu 1979: 364).

A silver veil pin decorated with a circular open-work plaque bearing a greenish stone fixed in a central cabochon and having a weight of 2.38 g, was worn on the left part of the head by a woman buried in the tomb no. 3 from the narthex of the ancient Plăviceni Monastery, Teleorman County, dated during the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Cristoceia et al. 2001: 153). However, in the necropolis located near Plăviceni monastery several simple veil pins with copper or glass globular heads were found (Țanțăreanu, Mirea 2005: 246—247). Another interesting silver veil pin having a head shaped as a flower with six round petals with jagged edge and a central stone was found in a funerary context in Câmpulung Muscel (Mărtzu 1995: fig. 4/P). Unfortunately, for this quite unique piece there are not mentioned the dimensions.

Nine copper veil pins with spherical heads were found near the skull of a defunct buried in the tomb no. 21 of the Monastery Cernica 17<sup>th</sup> century necropolis (Cantacuzino, Trohani 1981: 227, fig. 12). Out of the ordinary is an early veil pin which was intentionally deformed in order to obtain a ring, which was found on the hand of a defunct (tomb no. 24) from the princely necropolis of Cetățeni, Argeș County (Chițescu, Păunescu 1992: 54).

Four interesting hair pins were found in the necropolis of the Saint Athanasius Church from Niculițel, Tulcea county (Bătrîna, Bătrîna 1986: fig. 14, 15). Three of the pins are simple and they follow what we can now consider to be the common shape of veil pins, being made of silvered copper and presenting small spherical heads. In the absence of specific characteristics, they seem to be largely dated between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> cen-



**Fig. 1.** Veil pins from the Vlădiceasca hoard, Călărași County, Romania (photos by Ing. Marius Amarie). Weight: 1 — 4.22 g; 2 — 4.61 g; 3 — 3.48 g; 4 — 3.12 g; 5 — 2.80 g; 6 — 9.19 g; 7 — 6.47 g; 8 — 1.80 g; 9 — 1.29 g; 10 — 5.38 g; 11 — 1.86 g; 12 — 1.93 g.

**Рис. 1.** Булавки для вуалей из клада Влăдичаска, жудец Калараш, Румыния (фото М. Амарие). Вес: 1 — 4,22 г; 2 — 4,61 г; 3 — 3,48 г; 4 — 3,12 г; 5 — 2,80 г; 6 — 9,19 г; 7 — 6,47 г; 8 — 1,80 г; 9 — 1,29 г; 10 — 5,38 г; 11 — 1,86 г; 12 — 1,93 г.

tury, being a common presence in the researched female tombs. Nevertheless, an interesting veil pin is the one found in the tomb M24. Made of silver, the jewelry presents a head shaped as a flying bird and, following the briefly argued opinion of Marin Matei Popescu, the jewelry was ascribed by the authors as belonging to the Balkans tradition of veil pins (Popescu 1967: 55; Bătrîna, Bătrîna 1986: 84). Svetlana Reabțeva opens as well a short discussion about this type of veil pins decorated with miniature birds arguing that

their origin can be traced back in the Eastern settlements from Volga, similar pieces being found also in the Golden Horde area (Reabțeva 2014: 92). Svetlana Reabțeva mentions without many details a resembling miniature bird veil pin with the one found in the necropolis of Saint Athanasius church from Niculițel, which was found in Suceava (Reabțeva 2014: 93; fig. 52:5).

Regarding the Moldavian space, probably some of the most impressive veil pins come from the tombs located in the narthex of the Saint Nicholas Church of Probota Monastery, Suceava County. Thus, in the grave no. 8 attributed to the lady Vasilica Stroici, who died in 1569, four ornamental pins were found, two of them shaped as birds, while the other two present a circular ornamental plaque decorated with stones (turquoise, garnets) (Pușcașu 2013: 56, 137; fig. 41: d-f; 1997: 21; Reabțeva 2014: 91). Another silver veil pin was found in the grave no. 9, of lady Păscălina, wife of Lupu Stroici, who died before 1628 (Pușcașu 2013: 56, 137; 1997: 23), while other two veil pins with circular ornamental heads adorned with pearls come from the graves nos. 5 and 20, where were buried lady Eftimia, wife of Simion Stroici and their daughter Ana, both of them dying in the year 1621 (Pușcașu 2013: 57, 137; fig. 40: e; 1997: 23; Reabțeva 2014: 91).

Another type of veil pins that should be mentioned and which we wanted to present separately, due to the fact that they have a different shape and they are not represented in the Vlădiceasca hoard is the veil pins with large spherical heads. A significant finding consisting of a set of eight silver veil pins was made in the tomb no. 9, dated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and located in the sanctuary of the old church from Hălmașiu, Arad County (Căpățînă 1976: 79). Two of the pins present the small globule head, while the other six pins are adorned with polyhedral bulbs of different dimensions, five of them having welded at the top a setting with four claws inside which are fastened red stones, rubies according to the author (Căpățînă 1976: fig. 10). For the Wallachian space, the most relevant finding that contains veil pins with large spherical bulbs is the Brânceni hoard, Teleorman County. The hoard consists of coins issued in the second part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and several disparate and fragmentary jewelry, of which one entirely preserved veil pin (10.80 g) and two decorative heads (10.02 g — 6.38 g). The characteristic element of these pins is the head which is shaped as a sphere with the diameter of approximately 25 mm, modeled from two welded hemispheres, the lower one being simple, undecorated, while the upper hemisphere is decorated with filigree circles, silver globules and garnets (Țânțăreanu

2012: 228—229). It is almost certain that these veil pins were produced in a Saxon workshop from Transylvania and it is a unique finding in the extra-Carpathian space, similar pieces being attested in different findings from: Huedin, Baia Mare, Bădăcini — Sălaj County, Șopteriu — Bistrița County (Țânțăreanu 2012: 231; Cipăianu 1973: 662—663; Marianciuc 2008: 612; Velter, Dumitriu 2012: 55, cat. 5—9). This type of veil pins can be associated with the so-called *bockelung*, the pin used for the fastening of the veil by the German origin ladies until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as a traditional feature of their costume (Nistor 1973: 230—231). What is specific for these head ornaments is that the decorative plaque was attached perpendicular to the shaft, like a flower on a stem, so that the pins would be inserted in the veil or in a thick ribbon and the decoration still be visible from the front, in contrast to the veil pins preserved in the Vlădiceasca hoard, that naturally would be set in the temple area or on the back of the head, where the hair would be wrapped in a bun, being in this case visible only from the profile. The *bockelung* veil pins were produced in abundant sets, in order to be worn as a crown around the head by Saxon ladies.

The presence of these veil pins with spherical head, datable at the end of 16<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of 17<sup>th</sup> century, was also signaled in Serbia, where similar ones were found in hoards like Tomaševac (Cipăianu 1973: 663; Țeicu 2009: 100, pl. 47) and Ritopek, the same tradition of embellishing the head with a crown made of pins with spherical heads being attested at the populations living in the western part of the Balkans.

Mentionable because they were found in Oltenia are the two silver veil pins found in Șimnic, Dolj County, unique due to their open-work spherical heads (diameters of 10—16 mm), made of twisted wire and whose weights are of 3.90 g and 1.84 g. The heads of the pins somehow recall a simpler model of the large decorative spheres of the temple earrings of 14<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> century and also the large spherical open-work buttons like the one present in the Coveiu hoard (Dumitriu 2001: taf. 25.15) and some other buttons preserved in the collections of the National Museum of Art of Romania (Popescu 1970: 75, cat. 192), a fact which might suggest that the Șimnic veil pins could be dated later, during the first part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. According to the author of the catalogue descriptions, these veil pins were dated in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Evoluția podoabelor... 2008: 37). Also, in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century can be dated the seven silver veil pins from the Jidoștița hoard, which was found before the year 1989 and which, unfortunately was not saved. Some information was gathered by the specialists from the Iron Gates Region Mu-



seum in Drobeta Turnu-Severin and with the help of a photo made by Ion Sîngă, some drawings of the pins were published by Luminița Dumitriu (Dumitriu 2001: 127–128, taf. 95.1–7). The lengths of these veil pins are between 54 mm and 69 mm (Sîngă 2002: 41). The heads of the pins were made of two hemispheres with tear shaped elements made of twisted wire which were decorated in between with grains, recalling even more of the temple earrings spheres of the 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> century. At this point of the research, which should be further investigated, these similarities allow us to suggest that Șimnic and Jidoștița veil pins can be attributed to a south Danube jewelry workshop.

The purpose of the presentation of these veil pins was not to offer an exhaustive repertoire of the pin findings in archaeological context<sup>2</sup>, but to draw a general image of the use of this jewelry. At this point, we can conclude, firstly, that the veil pins are rather isolated findings compared to other types of jewelry such as rings or earrings and secondly, that there are three main categories

of veil pins: the category of simple pins with small spherical heads, with an evidently functional role, generally made of copper, only a few examples being produced of precious metals and which are mainly associated with burials of not so privileged people, as opposed to the second category of decorative veil pins, always made of silver or gilded silver that present an ornamental circular plaque shaped as flowers or rarely as birds and which are found in the rich nobles ladies' tombs, while the third category comprises the veil pins with large spherical head and which seemed to be extremely fashionable in Transylvania, while their presence in Wallachia appears to be rather accidental.

In the second group of pin jewelry pieces we assigned the five items from the Vlădiceasca hoard, which are too large and too heavy to be simply hanged to the delicate veils that were used to cover the heads of the noble ladies, a fact which determined us to believe that we deal with a different category of jewelry than veil pins.

## Catalogue

1. Large jewelry with shaft, consisting of a silver shaft with circular section and an elaborated head pin. The gilded head pin is constituted of a silver plaque, shaped as a flower with eight circular petals intercalated by eight smaller leaf-shaped ornaments. The plaque is decorated with granules and wire with circular section stylized with parallel upright notches. The stylized wire was used to mark eight circular areas on the edge and a central, larger, circular area. Each one of the eight circular leaves/areas were adorned with small hemispheres made of thick upright wires. Above the hemisphere was attached a rectangular setting with four claws, inside which were fastened red stones. At the present moment are preserved only six stones of eight. The central area is decorated with seven ornaments of wire shaped as the letter S, all around the central rectangular mounting that has the edges slightly bent, inside which is preserved a rectangular ornament made of transparent glass. The now visible shaft is not the original one, some traces of the old shaft which was welded on the back of the plaque are still visible. The shaft is mobile, the hemisphere through which the shaft is attached to the back of the decorative plaque allowing the spinning of the shaft.

Gilt silver, glass, garnets; Weight: 37.10 g; Maximum diameter: 63.15 mm; Total length: 105.50 mm;

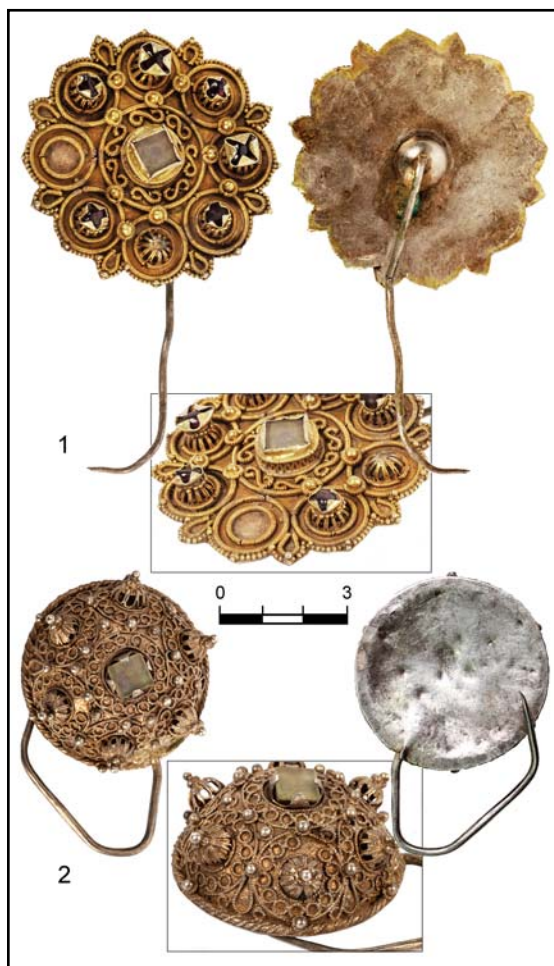
Shaft length: 75.30 mm; Height of the hemisphere with mounting: 9.40 mm. (fig. 2: 1).

2. Large jewelry with shaft, consisting of a silver shaft with circular section and an elaborated head pin. The shaft is crooked in the shape of the U letter. The head pin is shaped as a hemisphere decorated with stylized twisted wire and granules. On the surface of the head pin were attached six small hemispheres made of filigree. At the tip of the hemisphere was set a mounting with four claws in which was fastened a rectangular transparent glass. The shaft is embedded between the circular silver plaque and the hemisphere and in order to be stable it was welded at a high temperature, the decoration around the contact area between the sphere and the pin having a smoothed aspect.

Silver, glass; Weight: 29.21 g; Maximum diameter: 83.5 mm; Total length: 67.55 mm; Estimative length of the shaft: 86 mm; Height of the hemisphere: 19.35 mm; Medium height of the small hemispheres welded on the surface of the pin head: 8.75 mm; Medium diameter of the small hemispheres welded on the surface of the pin head: 8.35 mm; Length and width of the glass ornament: 8.85 x 8.35 mm. (fig. 2: 2)

3. Large jewelry with shaft, consisting of a silver shaft with circular section and an elaborated head pin. The gilded head pin is constituted of a silver plaque, decorated on the edge with 28 round concave petals that have a small semicircular cut on the edge. On the edge, over the petals are welded six rectangular mountings, each one with four claws, preserving three transparent white glass and two opaque white stones. In the center, an open-work hemisphere set on a circular frame, surrounded at the base by a decorative wire. The hemisphere is empty on the inside and the upper part is made of stylized leaves welded between them. Twelve stone mountings similar

<sup>2</sup> Veil pins were also found in: the medieval necropolis of the Church „Precista” from Galați (Matei et al. 1983: 527), the necropolis of the village Bârzești-București (Panait, Ștefănescu 1983: 533), in the necropolis of the Ester village, Constanța County (Custurea 1981: 550), the necropolis of the church Saint Demeter of the Drăgănești monastery, Teleorman County (Țânțăreanu 2010: 138), in the narthex of the church of the Radu Vodă Monastery in Bucharest (Cantacuzino 2001–2005: 60) etc.



**Fig. 2.** Pin jewelries from the Vlădiceasca hoard, Călărași County, Romania (photos by Ing. Marius Amarie).

**Рис. 2.** Булавки из клада Влэдичаска, жудец Калараш, Румыния (фото М. Амарие).

with the ones from the edge, were applied on the surface of the leaves, preserving only eight stones: six of transparent white glass, one opaque white stone and one red stone, probably a garnet. The stones are processed in different ways, some of them being faceted, while others were simply shaped as circles or buttons, which might indicate that some of these stones are not the original one, being replaced over time. The peak of the hemisphere is outlined by some silver petals on which was mounted a rectangular box with a slightly bent edge. The central rectangular stone is lost. On the back a goldsmith mark consisting of two letters G and K.

Due to the fact that the head pin is heavy, the securing system of the shaft consists of a rectangular silver bar with two bent ends like two hooks, that penetrates the silver plaque and the rhomboidal part of the shaft which is welded on the back of the plaque.

Gilt silver, glass, white opaque stones; Weight: 61.80 g; Maximum diameter: 58.55 mm; Total length: 129.55 mm; Shaft length: 109.85 mm; Hemisphere height: 30.30 mm. (fig. 3: 1)

4. Fragmentary jewelry with shaft, preserving at the present moment only the head pin. The gilt-



**Fig. 3.** Pin jewelries from the Vlădiceasca hoard, Călărași County, Romania (photos by Ing. Marius Amarie).

**Рис. 3.** Булавки из клада Влэдичаска, жудец Калараш, Румыния (фото М. Амарие).

ed head pin is constituted of a silver plaque, decorated on the edge with 30 round concave petals that have small triangular cuts on the edge. The center is marked by a wire with circular section decorated with parallel upright notches. In the center a hemisphere made of a gilded silver plaque from which were cropped petals, in order to give the hemisphere, the appearance of a flower. The hemisphere is adorned with six hooks made of silver wire which are now broken and six rectangular mountings with four claws which preserve three blue glass beads, one green glass bead and one transparent white glass bead. The peak of the hemisphere was initially decorated with a large stone, now lost, fastened in a setting with four claws, that is attached to the main plaque of the head through a vertical wire. Also, between the upper four claws mounting and the hemisphere a six petals flower was cut in a small silver sheet, slightly concave is supported by the vertical wire, which perforates the central area of the flower. On the surface of the hemisphere are welded six vertical wires with flattened heads in which were fastened pearls.

On the back of the head pin is partially preserved the shaft fastening system, similar with the one of the item no. 3.

Gilt silver, glass, blue stone; Weight: 40.33 g; Maximum diameter: 61.45 mm; Hemisphere height: 14.90 mm. (fig. 3: 2)

5. Fragmentary jewelry piece provided at the moment of production with a shaft which is now lost. The head pin is shaped as a bird, being cut from a silver sheet. The frontal surface is decorated with twisted and simple wires that cover the entire field. In the head, wings, tail and belly areas were fixed four circular mountings in which are fastened dark blue stones.

\* \* \*

In addition to the fact that these are too heavy and too wide in order to be easily attached to the head covering cloth even if it is a veil or a hat, another issue with these pieces is represented by the fastening system that consists of only one long shaft and not a spring with a clasp mechanism as it is used for the brooches. A good example for the difficulty to attach a piece to the hat is illustrated by the fastening system of the panaches, well known jewelry worn by the Transylvanian, as well as by the Wallachian and Moldavian princes. The panaches preserved in public museum collections present on their back a hook designed to be anchored to the bandy edge of the hat, but at the same time, in most of the cases, on the edge of the panache can be seen small circular perforations, most probably used to sew the panache to the hat and so to keep it tightly attached. Therefore, in the case of the five pieces from the Vlădiceasca hoard it should be taken into consideration the fact that a disproportion with regard to the weight of the items can be observed, the ornamental plaques being too heavy to be easily attached to a garment, without any other kind of support. On the other hand, the quite large length of the shaft of the pieces nos. 1, 2 and 3, makes them rather uncomfortable and probably impossible to be used as brooches as well. Moreover, the almost generalized loss of the shaft both for the veil accessories and the pin jewelry from the Vlădiceasca hoard and other hoards as well (Sihleanu, Zăvoaia, Păun, Bălțați etc.) suggest that these are quite fragile items.

An interesting document mentioning „six large silver pins” with the total weight of 404 g, is signaled by Florentina Nițu, who assumes that these pieces are veil pins and points out the fact that each pin would have a medium weight of 67 g and that no piece this heavy was ever recovered even during archeological excavations or from hoards (Nițu 2005: 145—146). Given the fact that some of its stones are missing, the pin no. 3 from Vlădiceasca hoard, can be used, in terms of weight, as a real example of pin jewelry for the mentioned document. In this context, it

On the lower area of the silver plaque are welded seven tubes to which were probably attached other type of ornaments.

On the back of the head pin is still preserved a fragment of the shaft, that was welded to the plaque.

Silver, blue stones; Weight: 9.25 g; Height: 42.40 mm; Length: 54.25 mm; Height of the circular mounting: 3.80 mm; Diameter of the circular mounting: 8.45 mm. (fig. 4: 1)

could be possible that a research of the use of the terms „pin”, „veil pin”, „hair pin” in the medieval documents might give a new perspective on these jewelry pieces.

These five jewelry pieces raise a consistent problem that generates numerous confusions in literature. Thus, due to absence of a precise archaeological context, the specific identification of their function in the costume fashion remains in doubt. As a consequence, in the scientific literature there is no clear framework that could help us have a clear definition of these pieces except for very general assumptions. In one of the earliest catalogues dedicated to the analyses of evolution of the medieval jewelry in Wallachia and Moldavia, in the list where the jewelry provided with shafts are described, the use of the term „hair pin” alternates with the more general term „hair jewelry” (Popescu 1970: 50—51), without any explanation concern-



**Fig. 4.** 1 — pin jewelry from the Vlădiceasca hoard, Călărași County, Romania; 2 — jewelry from the tomb of lady Neaga's daughter, Buda, Buzău County, Romania; 3 — jewelry from the tomb of lady Stanca, Buda, Buzău County, Romania (photos by Ing. Marius Amarie).

**Рис. 4.** 1 — булавка из клада Влăдичаска, жудец Калараш, Румыния; 2 — украшение из погребения дочери боярина Няга, Буда, жудец Бузэу, Румыния; 3 — украшение из погребения боярыни Станка, Буда, жудец Бузэу, Румыния (фото М. Амарие).

ing the change of the title. The lack of sources that could help us better understand the role of these precious jewelry it is also highlighted by the last conclusion of the small section concerning the hair pins from the catalogue, mentioning that sometimes they were also used as brooches or fibula for fastening the garments (Popescu 1970: 21). Therefore, each time the accidental archaeological findings reveal large pieces provided with vertical shafts, cautions opinions are issued, most of them considering these jewelries to be brooches (see Păun hoard, Musait hoard, Șendreni hoard). Florentina Nițu narrows the general brooch definition classifying these pieces in the category of the rosette brooches, as opposed to the clasp brooches, and she also highlights the fact that if the rosette brooches are confirmed only in the hoards, the use of the clasp brooches are mostly attested by the contemporary portraits, like those of Dimitrie Cantemir, Constantin Brâncoveanu or Miron Barnovschi, where the brooches are used for fastening the caftan (Nițu 2004: 243—244).

The same observations concerning the confused function of these jewelry pieces can be traced back to the article of Virgil Drăghiceanu where two ornamental heads found in the tomb of the daughter of lady Neaga and in the tomb of lady Stanca are described as brooches (Drăghiceanu 1931: 172—173). Later, Marin Matei Popescu considers that the piece from the tomb of lady Neaga's daughter is a fragmentary veil pin (Popescu 1970: 51, cat. 50, fig. 20 — in the catalogue it is identified as a „hair jewelry” and in the illustration as a „hair pin”), while the one coming from the tomb of lady Stanca is identified as a brooch (Popescu 1970: 72, cat. 174, fig. 99). In the assumption of the function of these two items it should be taken into consideration the fact that for both pieces it is not known the precise position of the jewelry on the body of the defuncts, the pieces being removed from the graves before the arriving of the archeologists at the investigated area. An example of how important it is to record of the archaeological context, is the finding of a pin jewelry in the tomb assigned to lady Stanca, from the nave of the Hobaia-Suslănești church, Argeș County, who died in 1562. The piece was found above the hands, which were joined together in the lower abdomen area. Unfortunately, for this piece we weren't able to find out its weight and length. However, comparing it with the jewelry decorated with similar mountings with garnets, the piece seems to have the dimensions of a veil pin, with the diameter of the head of maximum 40 mm.

In order to easily find similarities with the pin jewelry from other hoards and following a com-

prehensive stylistic analysis, we propose a classification of the five pin jewelry pieces from the Vlădiceasca hoard in four groups.

The first group comprises the pin no. 1 (fig. 2: 1), for which it is important to underline that significant stylistic similarities can be observed with the pin head no. 3 from the Vlădiceasca hoard (fig. 1: 3), like the use of the thick wire decorated with parallel upright notches, four claw mountings, and the presence of small granules positioned in circles made of the same wire. The same decorations can be identified at the lady Stanca's jewelry from Buda (fig. 4: 3) and at the lady Stanca's pin found in Suslănești: shape of the plaque — flower with round petals, thick wire decorated with parallel upright notches, mountings with four claws, granules positioned in wire circles. Even more in the case of the pin no. 1 and the pin from Buda, the exterior wall of the central mounting is decorated with a frieze made of thin wire displayed in meander shape and also, both the head pin no. 3 and the pin from Buda present small tubes around the central area. At this moment, there are no sufficient arguments to support a clear hypothesis regarding the provenance of this jewelry, but the massiveness of the piece, the clean cuts, the balanced used of the granules in the decoration of the plaque, might indicate that this pin was produced in a workshop from Transylvania, like Brașov or Sibiu.

The second group is comprised of the pin no. 2 (fig. 2: 2), which even if it appears to be kind of unique, due to the head shaped as a full hemisphere covered with small circles made of twisted wire, has a number of common elements with the pin no. 1, suggesting that they might be produced in workshops from the same areas and for people with similar tastes. The main common features are: the use of mounting with four claws, made of a small rectangular plaque with the corners bent, the use of open-work hemispheres made of filigree wire in order to decorate the surface of the plaque and the use of metal granules. This piece is quite special due to the shape of the shaft, that seems to be intentionally bent like a hook, thus offering the possibility to be hanged and even used as a buckle. The same hypothesis as in the case of the pin no. 1, regarding the provenance of this piece, can also be drawn in this situation, most probably the pin being produced in a Transylvanian workshop. A quite similar piece is one of the three so-called brooches from the Păun hoard (Neamțu, Foit 1972: 360; Popovici 2010: 67—68, fig. 7), made of silver. This jewelry piece has the shape of a hemisphere, but with a smaller diameter of 45 mm and a decoration consisting of seven large double circles of twisted wire presenting in their centers four claw mountings, granules with

twisted wire circles at the base. The base of the hemisphere is surrounded by the same wire with parallel upright notches used for the pin no. 1.

The third group comprises the pins nos. 3 (fig. 3: 1) and 4 (fig. 3: 2) from the Vlădiceasca hoard. The main stylistic similarities that can be traced between the two pins are: circular plaque used as support that have the edge decorated with circles with concave-convex aspect and carefully jagged, decorative elements that can be seen as well on the veil pins nos. 8 and 9, open-work hemisphere shaped as a flower, the four claw mountings. It is important to highlight the fact that the hemispheres of the both pieces are mobile, the upper part being rotatable. This is possible due to the fact that the upper part of the hemispheres is welded to a vertical wire that perforates the silver plaque and the welded part of the shaft as well, while the terminations of the wire are bent on the back of the plaque, allowing the wire to spin in the same time with the hemisphere. However, even if the pieces seem to be similar in style, it must be underlined that pin jewelry no. 3 is superior in quality. The circles with concave-convex aspect and jagged edge can be also seen on one of the veil pins that are part of the Sihleanu hoard, Brăila County, a veil pin which is simpler in shape, being constituted of a circular plaque with this decoration on the edge and a rectangular glass in the middle set in a rectangular mounting (Neamțu 1980: 346, fig. 1: 13).

It was a great chance that the back of the ornamental head of the pin no. 3 was marked (fig. 3: 1), giving us the possibility to identify the workshop and also to set a narrower chronological framework for the moment when the piece was created. The mark consisting of the letters G and K in a shield seems to belong to Gerg Kozak who was for some time the starost of the goldsmiths' guild from Brașov (1606—1609, 1614, 1615—1617) (Mitran 2003: 120). He was active between the years 1596—1626, therefore, generally speaking the pin jewelry no. 3 from the Vlădiceasca hoard was produced in the first quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Brașov. Another pin jewelry that seems to have been created according to this esthetic is the jewelry found in the grave of the daughter of lady Neaga, from Buda (fig. 4: 2). With a diameter of 46 mm, the piece presents the same circular plaque with the stylized concave-convex leaves edge and an open-work hemisphere surrounded at the base by a twisted thick wire and is covered with three claw mountings and pearls fastened in wires with flattened heads.

The fourth group is comprised of the head pin no. 5 (fig. 4: 1), which is shaped as a bird, that can be identified as a peacock due to the presence of the three tear-drop shaped crest on his

head. The piece is individualized both by shape and by decoration, and in contrast to the other pieces from the hoard, the stones are set in circular mountings with the edge bent inward. But, the delicate frieze with meander shaped wire can be also seen on the pin no. 1 and on the veil pin no. 3, where it is present in a more discrete area, as the exterior wall of the central mounting. Most probably on the small tubes welded on the lower edge of the plaque there were attached leaf shaped ornaments. Some pieces that can be compared with this pin head were found in two hoards coming from the Moldavian space. Three pieces almost similar in shape were found in the Drăgușeni hoard (Reabțeva, Dergaciovă 2017: 93, fig. 1: 1) and in the Dezghingea hoard (Ioniță 2002: pl. II, 12—13), Republic of Moldavia, and both of them represent even more stylized images of two peacocks sitting back to back. The common elements of the Vlădiceasca head pin with the two mentioned pieces are the following: in the case of the Drăgușeni jewelry, the shape of the bird with the same ornament on the head and the same rectangular protuberance in the upper part of the plaque as well as the model of the stone mountings filled with the same blue stones, while in the case of the two identical pieces from Dezghingea, which are even more schematized, the two heads being hard to identify as birds, the common elements are the embellishment of the surface of the plaque with meander shaped wire and the presence of the small tubes welded on the lower part of the plaque.

A major contrast between these pieces can be observed in the fashion in which the back of the plaques was treated. Thus, if for the Vlădiceasca head pin there are still visible the traces of a perpendicular shaft which used to be welded in the lower part of the plaque, in the case of Drăgușeni and Dezghingea plaques, the extremities and the middle part were reinforced with thin flattened bars which were welded on the back of the plaques. Quite unusual is the shaft of the piece from the Drăgușeni hoard, which is placed horizontally, having the end crooked, a fact which determined the authors to consider that this is in fact a hat jewelry (Reabțeva, Dergaciovă 2017: 93). All the highlighted similarities might indicate that all these pieces, including the Vlădiceasca pin head could have a common origin, that can be traced in the areas from the East of the Carpathians. As the editors of Drăgușeni hoard observed, these pieces alongside the peacock pin found in Suceava — Câmpul Șanțurilor (Civilizația... 2004: 105, cat. 22) and the pair of birds veil pins from the tomb of Vasilica Stroici from Probota Monastery (Pușcașu 2013: 56, 137; fig. 41: d-f; 1997: 21; Reabțeva 2014: 91), are illustrative for



the luxury trend approached by the rich noble ladies from Moldavia in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Reabțeva, Dergaciova 2017: 94).

As regards to the style of the five pin jewelry pieces from the Vlădiceasca hoard, it seems quite hard to identify similar decorative elements with the jewelry pins from the contemporary hoards found in the eastern part of Romania, like: Sihleanu hoard, Brăila County (Neamțu 1980: 93, fig. 1: 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, fig. 4), Zăvoaia hoard, Brăila County (Dragomir 1972: 67—68), Șendreni, Galați County (Dragomir 1984: 181—182, pl. XV) Bălțați, Vaslui County (Alaiba 2008: fig. 2: 7—9), Păun, Botoșani County (Neamțu, Foit 1972: 359—360, fig. 1: 8—10.), Furniceni, raionul Orhei (Dergaciova et al. 2011: 107—108, fig. 5—6), Musait, raionul Vulcănești (Tezaure... 1994: 29 cat. 63—66, pl. XXV.1, pl. XXVI.1, pl. XXVII.1, pl. XXVIII.1) etc. Among the pin jewelry pieces from these hoards the four large items decorated with flowers from the Musait hoard are noticeable and can be related to the Vlădiceasca pin jewelry. Published as brooches, they have diameters comprises between 60 mm and 75 mm, a fact which make them rather unique among the other jewelry. Another element that should be discussed, within the limits of the information we now have, is the origin of these adornments. As it was underlined by the specialists in the papers which investigate the hoards mentioned above, most of those pieces seem to be produced in local workshops, that would mostly use models coming from Tran-

sylvania. However, at least four of the pin jewelries from Vlădiceasca hoard can be assigned to workshops from Transylvania, a fact which might confirm some hypothesis which were already disseminated in the literature, as the absence of constantly active goldsmith workshops in Wallachia, as opposed to Moldavia, where the presence of goldsmiths is attested during the 16<sup>th</sup>—17<sup>th</sup> century (Dobjanschi, Simion 1979: 88—89), which is proved also by the numerous silverware items created here. In this context, the increased demand of luxury products by the Wallachian nobles to the workshops from cities as Brașov and Sibiu is natural.

Taking everything into account through this paper we wanted to draw attention to the delicate line that exists between the jewelry pieces provided with shafts. Therefore, if the small ones that do not exceed the weight of approximately 10 grams are considered to be veil pins, the heaviest and largest ones can be interpreted as veil pins as well, as it is recorded in the document mentioning the „six silver large pins” with a total weight of 404 grams (Nițu 2005: 145—146), but at the same time most of them are published as brooches, as it can be seen for the large pins with rosette found in the hoards from Moldavia. On the other hand, it must not be ignored the very real possibility that these jewelries would have multiple functions and the exploration of all the aspects of these fascinating jewelries would add more information to the social history in the Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania.

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Статья поступила в сборник 13 апреля 2020 г.

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