

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*

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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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S. Oța

Earrings Decorated with Hemstitched Spherical Pendants Found on the Territory of Romania, Moldavia and the Serbian Banat

Keywords: Carpathian-Danube region, 13th—16th cc., earring, filigree, granulation, pendant, link, hoard, grave

Ключевые слова: Карпато-Дунайский регион, XIII—XVI вв., серьги, филигрань, зернь, подвески, кольцо, клад, погребение

S. Oța

Earrings Decorated with Hemstitched Spherical Pendants Found on the Territory of Romania, Moldavia and the Serbian Banat

The article discusses the structure of the earrings with hemstitched spherical pendants, decorated in the granulation and filigree technique, found on the territory of Romania, Moldavia and the Serbian Banat. In total, finds from 11 locations were analyzed (Cetățeni-Poiana Târgului, Ilidia-Oblița, Reșița-Ogășele — necropolises; Buruienești, Țușuța, Brașov, Cotul Morii-Popricani, Olteni, Schinetea, Dubovac, Șaptebani, Cotnari — hoards). This decoration pattern is found on the circular link earrings, but also on the question mark shaped earrings (Ilidia-Oblița, Brașov, Dubovac, Schinetea). Their chronology is mainly determined by the hoard coins. The items were also analyzed in terms of structure and decoration. From a chronological point of view, they were spread from the thirteenth century to the early sixteenth century. Their occurrence is typical for the communities south and east of the Carpathians, but also in the Banat or southern Transylvania, exactly in the same places where the Byzantine items or the items of Balkan tradition were in fashion during the previous centuries.

C. Oța

Серьги, украшенные ажурными сферическими подвесками, происходящие с территории Румынии, Молдовы и Сербского Баната

В статье обсуждается конструкция серег с ажурными полусферическими подвесками, украшенными зернью и филигранью, которые были обнаружены на территории Румынии, Молдовы и Сербского Баната. В целом, анализируются находки из одиннадцати местонахождений (Четэцэнь-Поаяна Тыргулуй, Илидия-Облица, Решица-Огэшэле — могильники; Бурюнешть, Шушица, Брашов, Котул Морий-Поприкань, Олтеня, Скинетя, Дубовац, Шаптебань, Котнар — клады). Этот вид орнамента обнаружен на серьгах с круглой дужкой, а также дужкой в виде вопросительного знака (Илидия-Облица, Брашов, Дубовац, Скинетя). Их хронология определяется преимущественно монетами из кладов; они обнаруживаются в период с XIII по начало XVI вв., и типичны для территорий к югу и востоку от Карпат, а также для Баната (Южной Трансильвании) — то есть для тех территорий, где в предшествующее время распространялись находки византийского происхождения или относящиеся к балканской традиции.

The stage of research. The hemstitched spherical pendants represent one of the relatively common motifs during the Middle Ages in the South-East European area. They are made of two hemispherical flowers, with a different number of petals, linked in the area with the maximum diameter. The decorations were made in the granulation and filigree technique, added by the use of spiral wires. The latter either decorated the pendants or were fixed in the points where the link passed through the central mounting. They were used especially for large links, and in most cases they were three, fixed apart from one another. As a rule, the central pendant is larger in size compared to the lateral ones. Fewer specimens were mounted on the question mark shaped earrings (Ilidia, Dubovac, Brașov, Schinetea). A hemstitched sphere was also found attached to a chain discovered in the Streza-Cârțișoara hoard (Lukács 1998: 145—147, Fig. 1: 1; 2). This type of pendant is

quite common in the south of the Danube and is found in various variants, either simply mounted on a link or two (see Бобчева 1978) or three.

In general, the analysis was made on the manner of execution, the context of the findings, namely the hoards (Neamțu 1961: 283—298; Rosetti 1972: 3—14; Uzum 1983: 509—519; Lukács 1998: 145—156; Dumitriu 2001; Alai-ba 2007: 15—53; Oța, Oberlander-Târnoveanu 2018: 221—254), the graves (Păunescu 1976: 257—264; Uzum 1987: 297; Țicu 1989: 64, Fig. 5: d; 66) and the analogies. The components of the earrings and their combination with other elements of auxiliary decoration were less studied.¹

¹ The exception is represented by only a few items, such as Oța 2010, Oța, Georgescu 2015 etc.

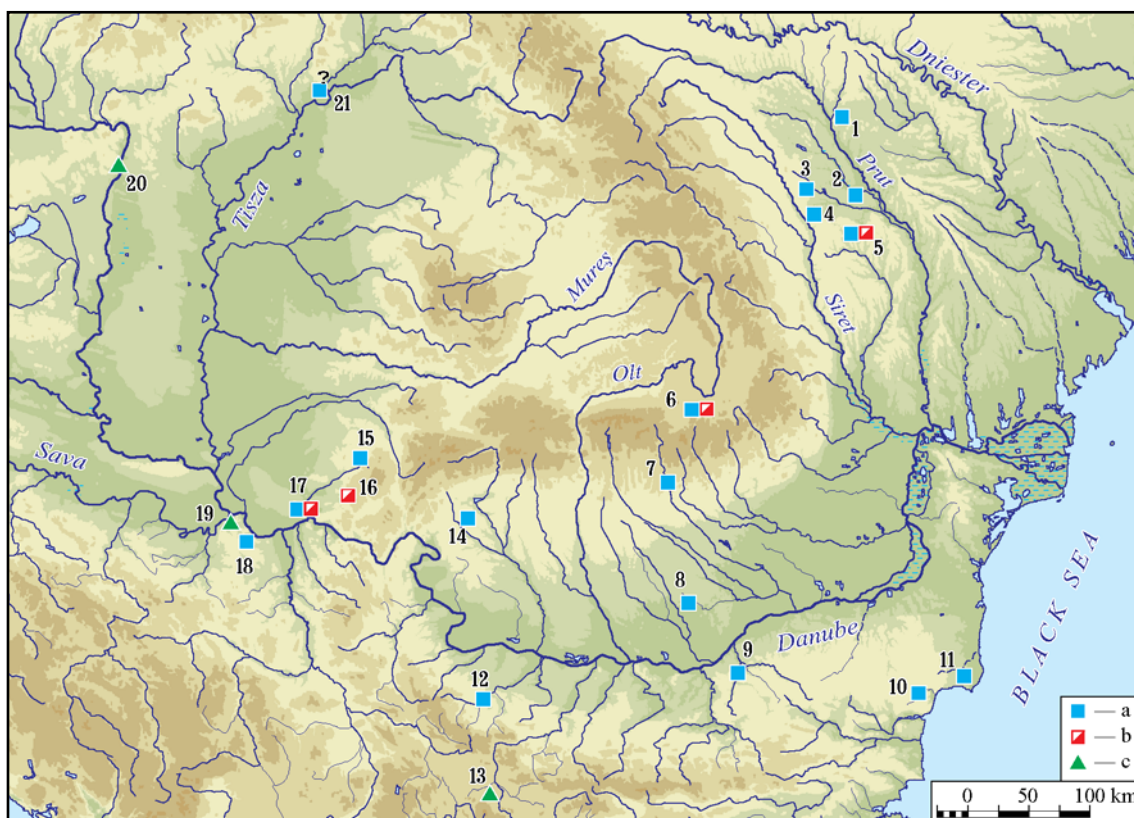


Fig. 1. Locations where the earrings with hemstitched pendants on the link, decorated in the granulation and filigree technique were discovered: a — earrings with circular link; b — earrings in the question mark shape; c — museum collections. 1 — Şaptebani; 2 — Cotul Morii-Popricani; 3 — Cotnari; 4 — Buruieneşti; 5 — Schinetea; 6 — Braşov; 7 — Cetăţeni; 8 — Olteni; 9 — Baniska; 10 — Dolişte; 11 — Kaliakra; 12 — Montana; 13 — Sofia; 14 — Şuşiţa; 15 — Reşiţa; 16 — Ilidia; 17 — Dubovac; 18 — Ritopek; 19 — Belgrade; 20 — Budapest; 21 — Tokaj.

Рис. 1. Локализация находок серег с ажурными подвесками на кольце, украшенных зернью и филигранью: а — серьги с кольцевидной дужкой; б — серьги с дужкой в виде вопросительного знака; с — музейные коллекции. 1 — Шapteбaн; 2 — Котул Морий-Поприкань; 3 — Котнар, 4 — Буруйенешть; 5 — Скинетья; 6 — Брашов; 7 — Четэцень; 8 — Олтен; 9 — Баниска; 10 — Долиште; 11 — Калиакра; 12 — Монтана; 13 — София; 14 — Шушица; 15 — Решица; 16 — Илидия; 17 — Дубовац; 18 — Ритопек; 19 — Белград; 20 — Будапешт; 21 — Токай.

Such items (Fig. 1) were found so far in **graves**, such as in Cetăţeni-Poiana Târgului (Păunescu 1976: 257, 260, 261, 262, Fig. 4; 263; Dumitriu 2001: 116, Taf. 86: 7—8; OŢa, Georgescu 2015: 375—376, 389, Fig. 3: 7—8), Ilidia-Obliţa (Ţicu 2009: 82, 32: 1—2; 193, 263, Fig. 23), Reşiţa-Ogăşele (Ţicu 1989: 64, Fig. 5: d; 66; 2009: 54, 81, Pl. 31: 7; 260, Fig. 20, bottom left), in Romania and **hoards**: Cotu Morii-Popricani (Neamţu 1961: 284, Fig. 1: 1, 2; 285, Fig. 2: 1, 2), Olteni (Rosetti 1972: 9, 12, Fig. 24; Dumitriu 2001: 130, Taf. 42: 1, 2), Schinetea (Alaiba 2007: 24, Fig. 13; 25, 26, Fig. 14—19; 27, 28),² Buruieneşti (Petrişor 1986: 171—191), Şuşiţa (Dumitriu 2001: 137, Taf. 50: 4—7), Cotnari (Reabţeva 2014: 299, Fig. 37: 18), Braşov (Lukács 1998: 154, Fig. 5,

row 2 and bottom right),³ in Romania and Dubovac (Бирташевић 1961: 27, Tab I: 1—2, 7—12; Ţicu 2009: 112, Pl. 48: 3, 4; 191, 192; 260, Fig. 20, top left) in the Serbian Banat. The context of the discovery is not known in the case of other items, such as the earring found in the Republic of Moldova, in Şaptebani locality (Reabţeva 2014: 300, Fig. 38: 1).

South of the Danube (Fig. 1), there are other items in museum collections, such as the items in the National Museum in Beograd (Милошевић 1990: 155, item from Ritopek area; 156—159) or Sofia (Reabţeva 2014: 295, Fig. 33: 11, 13, 14). However, most items were also found in hoards, such as the one in Dolişte (Reabţeva 2014: 297, Fig. 35: 9, 10), Montana (former Mihailovgrad; Александров 1984: 31, 33, Obr. 3: a) and Banis-

² We would like to thank Mrs. Ramona Mocanu for the permission to use photographs of the items in the hoard found in Schinetea, Vaslui County.

³ It should be noted that this hoard is currently at the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest.

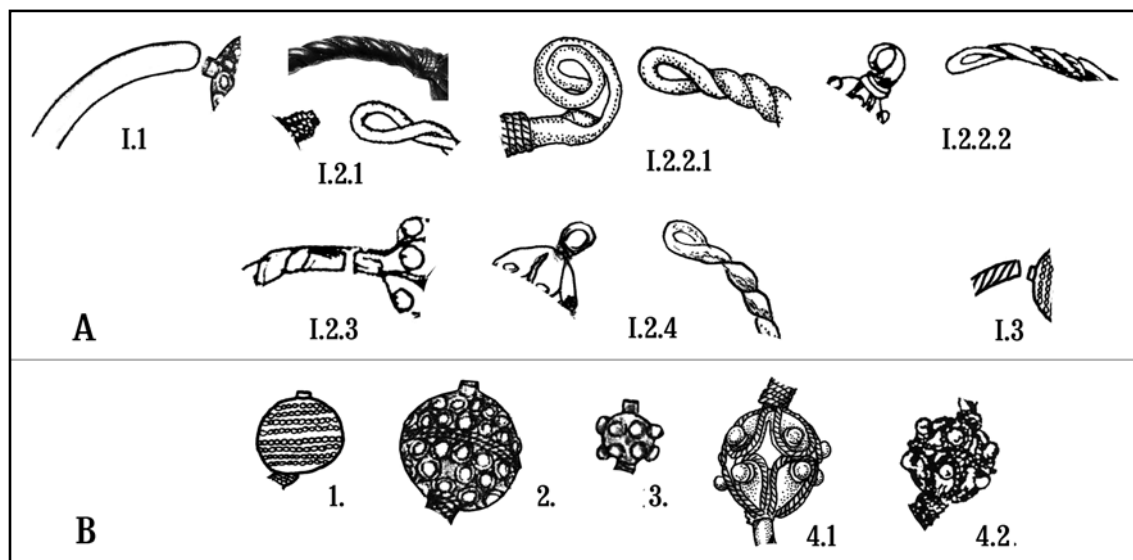


Fig. 2. A — types of links; B — models of side pendants. A: I.1 — Reșița-Ogășele, items from NM, Budapest; I.2.1 — Schinetea, Dubovac; I.2.2.1 — Cotul Morii-Popricani; I.2.2.2 — Șaptebani, Schinetea; I.2.3 — Cotnari; I.2.4 — Buruienești; I.3 — Cetățeni-Poiana Târgului; B: 1 — Cetățeni-Poiana Târgului; 2 — Reșița-Ogășele; 3 — Dubovac; 4.1 — Cotul Morii-Popricani, Cotnari, Șaptebani, Olteni, Șușița, Schinetea, Brașov; 4.2 — Schinetea, Buruienești.

Рис. 2. А — типы дужек серег; В — модели боковых подвесок. А: I.1 — Решица-Огэшеле, находки из Национального музея, Будапешт; I.2.1 — Скинетья, Дубовац; I.2.2.1 — Котул Морий-Поприкань; I.2.2.2 — Шapteбань, Скинетья; I.2.3 — Котнарь; I.2.4 — Буруенешть; I.3 — Четэцень-Пояна Тыргулуй; В: 1 — Четэцень-Пояна Тыргулуй; 2 — Решица-Огэшеле; 3 — Дубовац; 4.1 — Котул Морий-Поприкань, Котнарь, Шapteбань, Олеть, Шушица, Скинетья, Брашов; 4.2 — Скинетья, Буруенешть.

ka (Reabțeva 2014: 296, Fig. 34: 1, 2). Their presence inside the graves here remains relatively reduced, however they are found in some cemeteries such as those in Kaliakra (Бобчева 1978: 160, Tabl XVII: d), Panagiuriște (Григоров 2010: 128, 258, Obr. 63: grob 56), Loveć (Reabțeva 2014: 294, Fig. 32: 9).

There are also a few items at the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest (Mesterházy 1994: 196, 200, 201, 3. Ábra.1—4), but their place of discovery is unknown.

Manufacturing materials. Most items were made of silver, gold plated or not.

Manufacturing techniques. There are invariably a few execution techniques for all the items, namely drawing, twisting, filigree in the case of the links and granulation, filigree, cutting and spiraling of a simple wire in the case of the pendants. Exceptionally, they are added by the decoration made with pseudo granules (Cetățeni-Poiana Târgului) for the side spheres, but also hemstitched spheres whose perforations have attached on the edges a simple wire frame (Reșița-Ogășele). For some items, the “granules” were partly manufactured by a process other than the classical one. They were most likely obtained by casting a bar with a grain row appearance, which was then circle-shaped bent and linked to a metal foil usually made of silver.

The structure of the earrings. In order to discuss the items, we will structure their analy-

sis based on the component parts of the earrings models, namely links, pendant (for the simple items), central pendant and side pendants.

The links

They were manufactured quite differently from silver wire (sometimes gilded) and come in two forms.

I. The circular links. They are the most used and were manufactured in several forms.

I.1. The simplest ones are made of a simple silver bar (Fig. 2: I.1.), round in section (Reșița-Ogășele).

I.2. Then there are the items made of wire double folded on a certain portion, then twisted. There are several sub-variants here, depending on the aspect:

I.2.1. Links with one end finished in a loop formed by bending the wire that forms the link while the opposite end is simple. They are items decorated with filigree silver wire, inserted between the twisted wires forming the link (Schinetea, M.J. Vaslui, Inv. no. 15866, 15865, 15868, 15867 + 15866, 15864 + 17578; in the case of the last two inventory numbers belonging to an earring, it can be observed that the filigree wire existed and only a small fragment was preserved. The less tight twisting of the wire that forms the link indicates that the auxiliary decoration is absent here). This decoration is also notice-

able in the earrings found at Dubovac, in this case also only partially preserved (Fig. 2: A.I.2.1.).

I.2.2. Another model is represented by the items that have one of the ends bent outwardly in the form of a spiral. This model is known under two forms:

I.2.2.1. A spiraled end (Fig. 2: A.I.2.2.1.) bent outwards (Cotu Morii-Popricani, MNIR, Inv. nr. 81926, 81927).

I.2.2.2. Links similar to the previous ones (Fig. 2: A.I.2.2.2.), but with silver filigree wire introduced through the twisted ones that form the link (Şaptebani, Schinetea, M.J. Vaslui, Inv. no. 15870, 17158, 15871, 15872, 17155).

I.2.3. Double folded and twisted wire link (Fig. 2: A.I.2.3.), but without the end loop (Cotnari). This model can also be noticed in the earrings found in Bulgaria, at Dolište (Reabţeva 2014: 297, Fig. 35: 3, 6) and also in an item from the collection of the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest (Mesterházy 1994: 200, 201, 3. Ábra 1).

I.2.4. The double folded and twisted wire link (Fig. 2: A.I.2.4.). A loop is formed at one end by bending the wire, and another loop made of a thinner wire is formed at the opposite end (Buruieşte).

I.3. Links made of wire rectangular in section, then twisted (Cetăţeni-Poiana Târgului). These items are also gilded (Fig. 2: A.I.3.). Such items were found for example at Baniska (Reabţeva 2014: 296, Fig. 34: 1, 2).

II. Another model is the question mark shaped model. It is known in several variants.

II.1. Earrings made of simple wire, circular in section. There are two sub variants. Depending on the size of the decoration fixed on the rod, they may vary in terms of length.

II.1.1. Simple wire earrings (Ilidia-Oblia, Braşov, Dubovac).

II.1.2. Earrings with one perforated rhomb-shaped end (Schinetea, M.J. Vaslui, Inv. no. 15898).

II.2. Double folded and twisted wire earrings (Braşov).

The side pendants: depending on the manufacturing technique, several models can be noticed.

1. The simplest (Fig. 2: B.1) model consists of a sphere decorated with pseudo granules (Cetăţeni-Poiana Târgului; Fig. 6: 5). Its duration of use is quite long, from the twelfth century to the fourteenth century. On the earrings with three pendants it was used especially in the thirteenth century and less frequently during the following one (Oţa, Georgescu 2015: 373—392). Similar earrings in terms of combination of decorative motifs were also discovered in Baniska (Reabţeva 2014: 296, Fig. 34: 1, 2) and one item is found

at the National Museum of Beograd (Ђоровић-Љубинковић 1954: 88, Sl. 14).

2. The second model consists of a hemstitched sphere (Fig. 2: B.2). A simple wire frame was attached to the edges of each circular orifice (Reşiţa-Ogăşele). This side sphere model was used especially during the thirteenth — fourteenth centuries. It was used only as an auxiliary decoration element on the earrings found especially in south-eastern Europe, such as in Kladovo, Prahovo, Zaječar, in Serbia, Voineşti, Macovişte, Cuptoare-Sfocea, in Romania, Prilep, in Macedonia, Dragijevo, in Bulgaria (Filow 1919: 41, Fig. 37, 34), earrings in Bulgaria and in the so-called Tokaj hoard (Oţa 2010: 117—138). Other items are also preserved at the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest (Mesterházy 1994: 196, 198, 1. Ábra 3—6; 200, 202, 4. Ábra 1—2; 203).

3. Then we have the pendants made of two hemispheres attached at the middle (Fig. 2: B.3), each decorated by attaching granules around each half that forms the sphere (Dubovac). This method of decorating the spherical pendants is less common. It can also be noticed in an earring from the collection of the Sofia Museum (Reabţeva 2014: 295, Fig. 33: 8) and another from the collection of the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest (Reabţeva 2014: 292, Fig. 30: 8).

4. The fourth model has two variants. It is made by cutting a metal plate in the shape of a flower, then pressing it to obtain a half sphere. The opposite side was made similarly, then it was decorated in the granulation technique (by attaching one or two granules on each petal) and the filigree technique (each petal has on the side a simple or filigree wire frame). The two halves were attached in the middle area. This is also the most widespread model of side pendant among those studied.

4.1. In the case of the simplest items, the attachment of the hemispheres was made directly (Fig. 2: B.4.1.). Such decoration is found in the earrings at Schinetea, Olteni, Cotu Morii-Popricani, Braşov, Cotnari, Şaptebani and Şuşiţa.

4.2. The second variant is similar to the previous one, only that a filigree wire is also attached in the middle area (Fig. 2: B.4.2.). This detail can be noticed in five items discovered at Schinetea and two at Buruieşte.

The central pendant of the earrings with three pendants on the link

Besides the items that have the central mounting made of two halves of silver foil, cut in the shape of a flower and attached to the area with the (Fig. 6: 3) maximum diameter, there are also

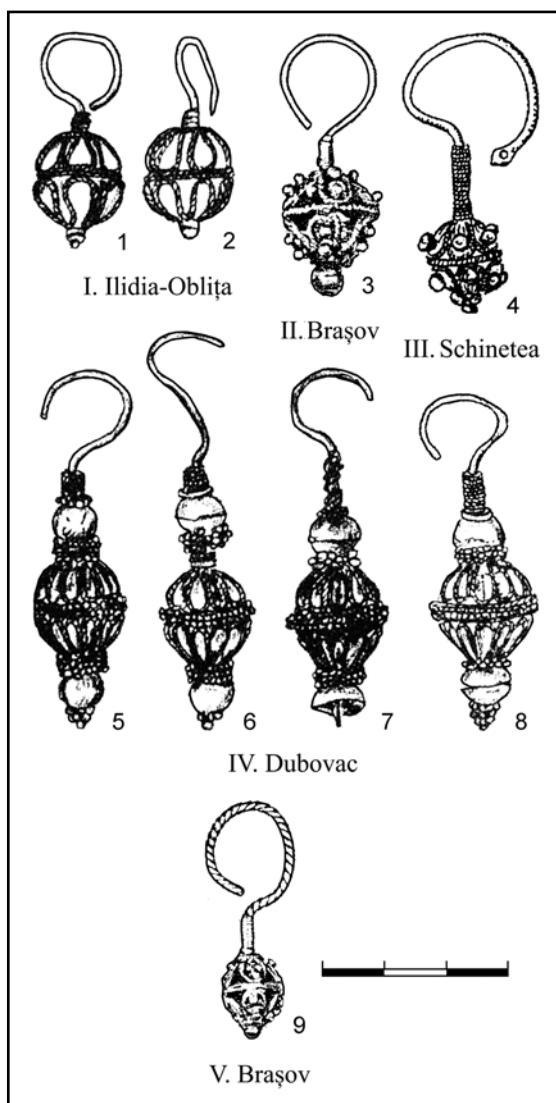


Fig. 3. Earrings with a question mark-shaped link: 1, 2 — Ilidia-Oblița (after Țeicu 2009); 3, 9 — Brașov (after Lukács 1998); 4 — Schinetea (after Reabțeva 2014); 5—8 — Dubovac (after Țeicu 2009).

Рис. 3. Серьги с дужкой в виде вопросительного знака: 1, 2 — Илидия-Облица (по Țeicu 2009); 3, 9 — Брашов (по Lukács 1998); 4 — Скинетя (по Reabțeva 2014); 5—8 — Дубовац (по Țeicu 2009).

several items in which this decoration has only an auxiliary role.

I. Items with the central sphere made of silver foil, cut and adorned in the granulation and filigree technique. Practically, outside the pairs of earrings, there is no large-scale production. At this time we can distinguish nine models of central pendants manufactured using this method. All the items have on each petal a frame made of simple or filigree wire, and the large granules are based on a small circle (Fig. 6: 1) made of the same material (A/N filigree wire).

I.1. Pendant decorated on the petals with a filigree wire twisted in an “S” shape. A granule is attached to each loop of the wire on the petals. The middle area is made of a silver band on which small spiral wire pieces were mounted (Fig. 6: 5). At the base of each half there is a silver granules moulding (Fig. 6: 3, for example). The item was found in the cemetery at Reșița-Ogășele (Fig. 4: 1).

I.2. Pendant decorated on each petal with a wire bent at the ends in the shape of a volute. A row of granules was attached between the petals. The middle area was made in a manner similar to the one of the previous pendant. The items (pair) were found at Cetățeni-Poiana Târgului (Fig. 4: 2).

I.3. Two variants can be noticed.

I.3.1. The pendant decorated between the petals with a row of granules. Four grains arranged in the shape of a cross are attached on each petal. The middle area, formed of a silver foil, is decorated on the edges with filigree wire, and in the center there is a row of granules placed side by side. The items (pair) were found in the Dubovac hoard (Fig. 4: 3).

I.3.2. Pendant similar to the two previous ones. It is differentiated by the filigree wire frame, double on each petal, and by arrangement in the shape of a cross (four) of the granules on the petals (Schinetea; MJ Vaslui, inv. nr. 15868, 15867, 15866, 17158). The rows of granules between the petals are absent (Fig. 4: 5).

I.4. Pendant decorated with a filigree wire frame double on the edges of each petal, having two distanced granules attached inside (Fig. 4: 4). Between them there is a row of smaller granules that separates each petal. The middle area is decorated with a silver band that has a row of granules at the center and two rows of smaller granules on the sides (Schinetea; MJ Vaslui, inv. nr. 15864, 17578).

I.5. Pendant decorated with a filigree wire frame on each petal, having two distanced granules inside (Fig. 4: 8, 9). A granule was mounted between the petals. The middle area is made in a manner similar to the one of the previous item, except that on the edges of the silver foil the frame is made of filigree wires (Buruienesti; Schinetea; MJ Vaslui, inv. no. 15866, 15865).

I.6. Pendant similar to the previous ones, except that the granules between the petals are absent. Three granules are attached on each of them in the shape of a triangle (Schinetea; MJ Vaslui, inv. no. 15870, 17158, 15897, 15872, 15871, 17155).

I.7. Pendant similar to the ones described in paragraph 1.5., except that on each petal there are three granules arranged in a line and distanced.

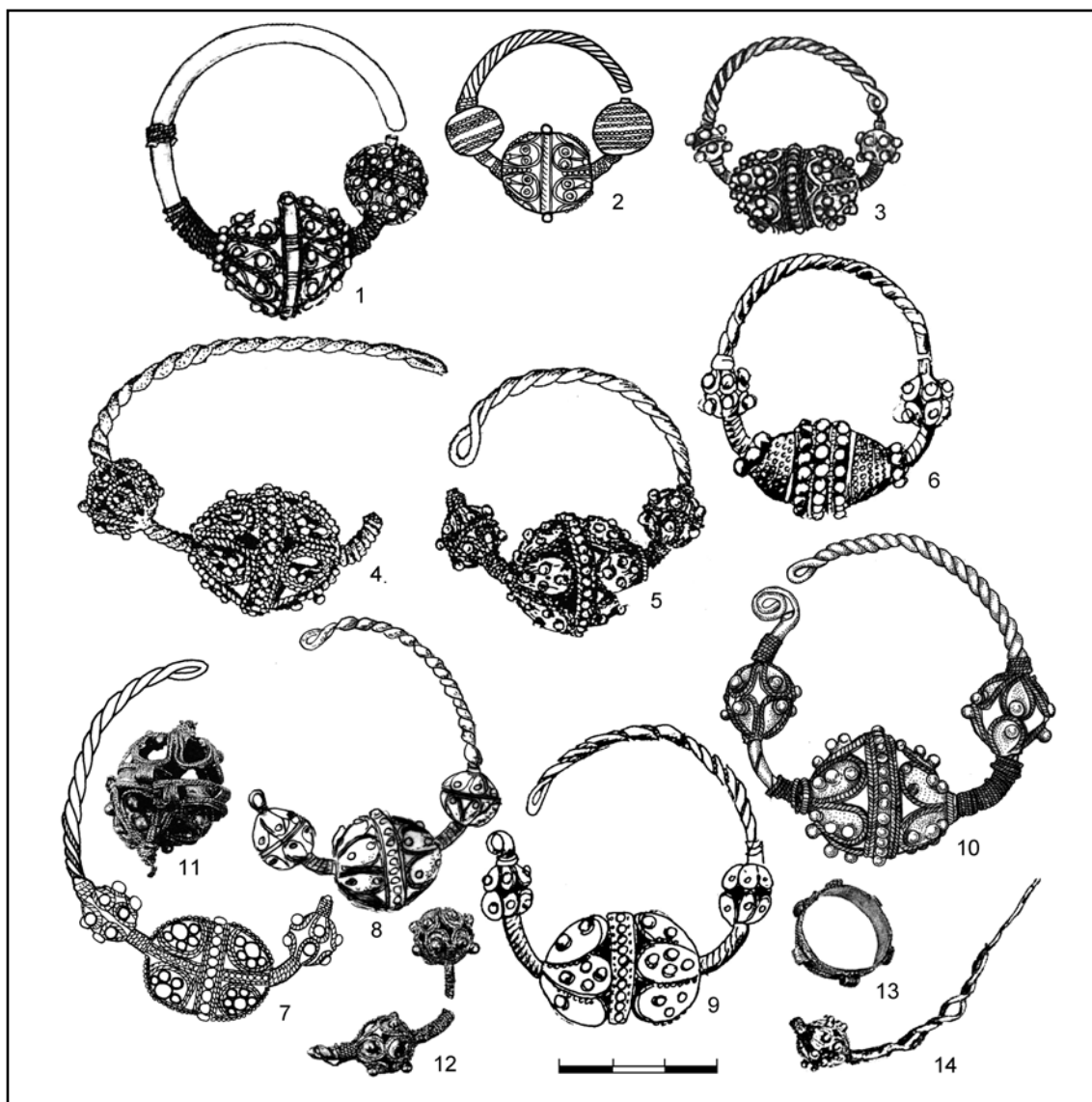


Fig. 4. Models of earrings with circular link: 1 — Reșița-Ogășele (after Țeicu 2009); 2 — Cetățeni-Poiana Târgului (drawing by Georgiana Ducman); 3 — Dubovac (after Țeicu 2009); 4—5 — Schinetea (after Reabțeva 2014); 6 — Cotnari (after Reabțeva 2014); 7 — Olteni (drawing by Georgiana Ducman); 8 — Buruienești (drawing by Silviu Oța after Petrișor 1986; without scale); 10 — Cotul Morii-Popricani (drawing by Simona Mateescu); 9 — Șaptebani (after Reabțeva 2014); 11—13 — Șușița (after Dumitriu 2001; without scale); 14 — Brașov (after Lukács 1998; without scale).

Рис. 4. Модели серег с кольцевидной дужкой: 1 — Решица-Огэшеле (по Țeicu 2009); 2 — Четэцень-Пояна Тыргулуй (рисунок Г. Дукман); 3 — Дубовац (по Țeicu 2009); 4—5 — Скинетя (по Reabțeva 2014); 6 — Котнар (по Reabțeva 2014); 7 — Олтеня (рисунок Г. Дукман); 8 — Бурунешть (рисунок С. Оца по Petrișor 1986; без масштаба); 10 — Котул Морий-Поприканя (рисунок С. Матееску); 9 — Шаптебаня (по Reabțeva 2014); 11—13 — Шушица (по Dumitriu 2001; без масштаба); 14 — Брашов (по Lukács 1998; без масштаба).

The items were found at Cotul Morii-Popricani (Fig. 4: 10).

1.8. Pendant with four petals set apart by a row of granules (Fig. 6: 4) flanked by filigree wires. On each petal there is a double filigree wire small circle that surrounds another one made of granules. The center of each one has a larger granule (Olteni). The middle area is similar to the ones at Dubovac (Fig. 4: 7).

1.9. They are added by a rather deformed one, decorated in the middle area with a silver band adorned on the sides with filigree wire and on the inside with spiral wire tubes. Two granules were attached on each petal, surrounded by a filigree wire frame. The item was found at Șușița (Fig. 4: 11—13).

II. Items in which the studied decoration plays an auxiliary role. This is just an item discovered

in the Cotnari hoard (Fig. 4: 6). It has analogies for the central pendant only with an earring kept in the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest (Mesterházy 1994: 200, 201, 3. Ábra 1). In the same museum there are also two earrings from the so-called Tokaj hoard, earrings whose central pendants are ellipsoidal, decorated with granule moldings, while the lateral pendants are made of a foil cut in the shape of a flower (Mesterházy 1994: 196, 201, 3. Ábra 3—4). Considering that the links of the latter items are simple, such as the earring at Reșița-Ogășele, and this model (A/N link model) began to be replaced around the last third of the thirteenth century with the twisted wire link, we can lower the dating of this decoration model towards the middle of the abovementioned century. If we also consider the type of link of the item in Cotnari, we can speak of an item that we can date to the end of the thirteenth century or in the fourteenth century.

The decoration of the question mark-shaped earrings

They are quite different from each other.

I. The simplest items, namely those from the necropolis at Ilidia-Oblița (Fig. 3: 1—2), have the pendant made of two cut hemispheres attached in the middle area, where there are two filigree wire circles side by side. A filigree silver wire is attached on the edges of each petal. For fixing purposes, filigree wire was wrapped on the upper part of the pendant and at the bottom there is a group of granules.

II. Then we have an item found in the Brașov hoard (Fig. 3: 3). It was made in a similar manner, except that two distanced granules are attached on each petal. Simple wire is wrapped around the link in the upper part of the mounting.

III. An item found in the Schinetea hoard (Fig. 3: 4) has the link end flattened, rhomb-shaped and perforated (Fig. 6: 1). The pendant is made in a manner similar to the earrings at Ilidia-Oblița, except that a granule is attached to each petal.

IV. The items in Dubovac (Fig. 3: 5—8) have the pendants made of several petals decorated on the edge in a manner similar to the items at Ilidia-Oblița. The middle area is decorated with mouldings made of small granules. In the areas where the link passes through the pendant, three mouldings made of adjacent granules were attached around it. Then we can note a smaller sphere, made of two other foil hemispheres. At the opposite end of the small spheres there is a decoration consisting of granule mouldings. Pyramids made of granules were attached to the up-

per part of the earrings. For a better attachment, the filigree wire is wrapped around the link in the upper part.

V. The last item was made in a manner similar to the previous one found in the Brașov hoard (Fig. 3: 5—9), except that its pendant is slightly smaller and the link is made of double folded and twisted wire.

The relative dating is necessary only for the items in Cetățeni-Poiana Târgului and Reșița-Ogășele. No coins were found inside the grave in the first case, and the item was found near disturbed graves in the second case. Given that both decoration motifs were discussed on another occasion, we will not revisit them. While in the first case the pseudo-granulation on spheres made of silver foil or copper foil (sometimes tin coated) was used from the twelfth century and stopped in the fourteenth century, in the second case the secondary decorative motif was used in the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries. Regarding the dating of the links made of double folded and twisted wires or simple twisted wires, the subject was analyzed in a study from the 1950s (Ћоровић-Љубинковић 1954: 81—93) made on the earrings decorated with three pendants on the link which, broadly, remain actual.

The absolute dating. The coins found in association either in hoards or in graves are not in all the cases relevant for the dating. They may be later, in the case of the items in the graves and, in this case, we can identify the moment of the burial rather than an accurate dating of the item, which may be earlier.

The situation is similar in the case of the hoards. Using coins, we can determine only the possible moment of burial of a hoard, assuming that the adornments or clothing accessories that compose it are no later than the issuing of the coins that compose it.

Coins were discovered so far only in the hoards at Cotul Morii-Popricani, Schinetea, Buruienesti and Șușița. In the first hoard were found coins from the reign of Sultan Mehmed II (1451—1481) to the reign of Suleiman I (it is also the latest coin and it was issued in 1520). In the hoard from Schinetea, the coins originate from the late fourteenth century and 1461/71. In Buruienesti were found coins issued during Petru II of Moldavia (1375—1391), Stracimir (1365—1396), Vladislav I of Wallachia (1364—1377), Vladislav II of Opole (1372—1379) and Marie of Anjou (coins from 1383—1385). The hoard from Șușița included coins issued during Tsar Stracimir (1365—1396). The hoard from Dubovac is a late one and the earrings analyzed here are the oldest adornment items accumulated.

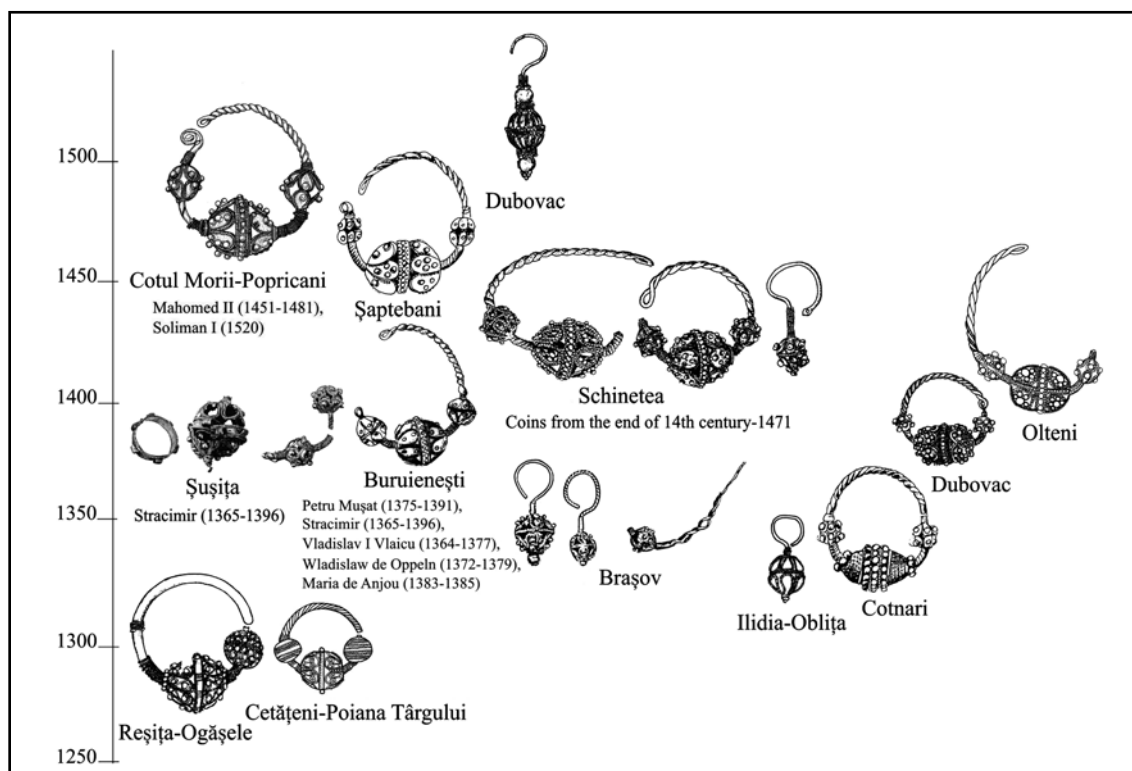


Fig. 5. Chronology of the items.

Рис. 5. Хронология находок.

Distribution

In the North-Danube area, most of the items were found in the Banat (Reşiţa-Ogăşele, Dubovac) and Moldavia (Cotu Morii-Popricani, Schinetea, Cotnari, Buruienesti, Şaptebani). To a lesser extent they were also discovered in Transylvania (Braşov), Oltenia (Şuşita) and Muntenia (Olteni). Unfortunately, all the hoards that included coins were dated based on the said coins from the second half of the fourteenth century in terms of accumulation timing. Most likely, a substantial part of the adornments they included were from the same age. Given that most of the items are concentrated in the south of the Danube, a large part of them were probably purchased from there. The exceptions are represented by those items that have a link end bent inwards or outwards, but also those that have a rhomb-shaped end, with perforation, typical of the Moldavian area but also of the Northwestern Pontic Area. This may suggest that the items arrived here both from the Balkan area, but also from the Northwestern Pontic Area. It is not excluded that some items were manufactured in the area north of the Danube.

In the area south of the Danube, most discoveries are concentrated in the northern Bulgarian area, the Serbian Banat and the Belgrade area.

Conclusions

Practically, when speaking of the circular links used, at this stage of research we can say that three models were in circulation.

I. Simple link (Reşiţa-Ogăşele).

II. Link made of rectangular, twisted bar (Cetăţeni-Poiana Târgului)

III. Twisted link (includes all the other items). Here we have several variants, depending on the manufacturing method of the link and the pendants chosen to decorate it:

III.1. Dubovac. They are different from other items especially by the side pendants.

III.2. Schinetea and Buruienesti, a total of five sub variants.

III.2.1. Schinetea — MJ. Vaslui (Inv. no. 15864, 17578).

III.2.2. Schinetea — MJ. Vaslui (Inv. no. 15866, 15865).

III.2.3. Schinetea — MJ. Vaslui (Inv. no. 15870, 17158, 15897, 15872, 15871, 17155).

III.2.4. Schinetea — MJ. Vaslui (Inv. no. 15868, 15867, 15866, 17158).

III.2.5. Buruienesti. They are different by one of the link endings and the arrangement of the granules on the central pendant.

III.3. Cotnari. Item decorated only with the auxiliary pendants from the studied model, while the link has one end probably severed.

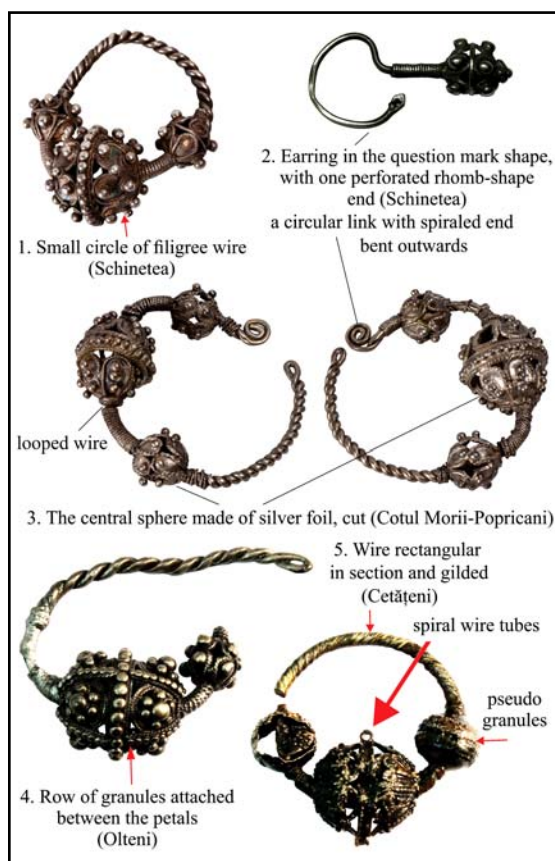


Fig. 6. Characteristics of the earrings (1, 3 — photos by Marius Amarie; 2, 4, 5 — photos by Silviu Oța).

Рис. 6. Характеристики серег (1, 3 — фото М. Амарие; 2, 4, 5 — фото С. Оца).

III.4. The item at Olteni is a special model by the central pendant model.

III.5. Cotul Morii Popricani and Șaptebani that include two sub variants. They are different from the previous items especially by the manufacturing method of the link, namely with a spiral end outwards.

III.5.1. Cotul Morii-Popricani. The item has the arrangement of the granules on the petals different (arranged in line and distanced) from the next item.

III.5.2. Șaptebani. The item has the granules on the petals arranged in the shape of a cross.

They are added by the items with the question mark-shaped link described above.

If we consider the technical features and the relative chronology, we can notice that these

items arrived sometime later, namely around the middle of the thirteenth century (Fig. 5). From this point of view, the model of the link of the item at Reșița-Ogășele, which most probably ceased to be produced after the second third of the thirteenth century, we can date this item during that age. Contemporary or slightly earlier items, stylistically have also appeared in the same region, as in the necropolis of Cup-toare-Sfocea (Uzum 1987: 297, Fig. 4: a, 298), but also in Bulgaria, at Skravena (Arpe 1990: 23, 24, Obr. 16) or Kaliakra (Бобчева 1978: 157, Tabl. XVII: d). All three abovementioned items have a simple wire link. In the same situation are the earrings with a simple link from the so-called Tokaj hoard, which were decorated with the same auxiliary motif as the earrings at Schinetea, Buruienești, Olteni, Brașov, Cotul Morii-Popricani and Șușița, except that the latter are later.

The items found in the cemetery from Cetățeni-Poiana Târgului, which have analogies in the Bulgarian space, were dated to the last third of the thirteenth century. It is very likely that the item at the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest, whose place of discovery is currently unknown, must be also dated similarly, if we consider the double folded and twisted wire link, or possibly dated at the beginning of the fourteenth century.

Practically, it is very likely that a very large production of such items began starting with the fourteenth century. They are mainly concentrated in Oltenia and Muntenia or the items from the Buruienești hoard (Moldavia).

Starting with the late fourteenth century and the following one, most of the items are concentrated in the Moldavian space. If we consider the absolute chronology, based on coins, they can be assigned quite precisely to this century.

Since from the fourteenth century there were also other decorative motifs for the earrings with three pendants on the link, it is very likely that the duration of use of the analyzed items should most probably be restricted to the middle of the fifteenth century at the most, as they no longer corresponded to the fashion of the time. However, their large dimensions and the amount of precious material they were made of represented a good argument for their hoarding.

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⁴ Their pendants are made of filigree wire, not of cut foil.

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