

# NEW FINDS OF BRONZE FIBULAE WITH ENAMEL – WHAT WOMEN LIKED TO WEAR DURING THE MIDDLE AND LATE LA TÈNE IN THE SOUTHERN CARPATHIAN BASIN<sup>1</sup>

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**DIZDAR, Marko. Nové nálezy bronzových spôn s emailom – čo ženy rady nosili počas strednej a neskorej doby laténskej v južnej časti Karpatskej kotliny.** Bronzové spony zdobené rôzne tvarovanými priehlbínami vyplnenými farebným emailom, ktoré sa nedávno našli v južnej časti Karpatskej kotliny, dopĺňajú predchádzajúce poznatky získané pri skúmaní tejto významnej súčasti ženského kroja strednej a neskorej doby laténskej. Stredolatónske tvary sú charakteristické obdĺžnikovou platničkou na konci pätky, ktorá má priehlbiny rôznych tvarov. Tie sú základom pre identifikáciu typov, ktoré sa objavujú v špecifických oblastiach a pravdepodobne označujú miesto ich pôvodu. Na základe početných nálezov, ktoré sú v Karpatskej kotline široko rozšírené, možno predpokladať, že sú dôležitou súčasťou kroja strednej doby laténskej, najmä v juhovýchodnej a východnej časti Karpatskej kotliny. Na druhej strane, neskoro laténske spony typu Gomolava majú zložitejšiu formu a v súčasnosti sú známe len z lokalít nachádzajúcich sa v južnej časti Karpatskej kotliny a s jednou výnimkou sú pripisované Skordiskom. Bronzové spony zdobené farebným emailom, ako aj bronzové opasky s obdĺžnikovými a lýrovito tvarovanými článkami, rovnako bohato zdobené emailom, tvorili dôležitý prvok vizuálnej identity žien, ktoré nosili takto poznateľné súčasti kroja.

**Kľúčové slová:** ženský kroj, spony s emailom, stredná doba laténska, neskorá doba laténska, južná časť Karpatskej kotliny, identita, dielne

**Keywords:** female costume, fibulae with enamel, Middle La Tène, Late La Tène, southern Carpathian Basin, identity, workshops

The characteristic forms of the Middle La Tène female costume in the southeastern and eastern Carpathian Basin include the fibulae that have a rectangular plaque on the end of the foot, with depressions of different shapes filled with colourful enamel (*Dizdar 2014, 97-105, fig. 1* with research history on pp. 97-99). They have characteristic rectangular plaques located on the end of the foot, between a single spherical knob on each side, which have depressions of different shapes. The foot can end with an anchor-shaped terminal above the spring, which most often consists of six or eight coils connected with an external chord. Insights have shown that the Middle La Tène forms of fibulae with enamel are found in the greatest number in the southeastern Carpathian Basin and along the Tisza River, but they have also been recorded on sites from Slovakia to Transylvania. On the basis of all known finds, the distinct variants can probably be dated to late phase of LT C1 and LT C2, with particular forms only rarely characterising particular areas, which possibly included the workshops where they were produced (*Dizdar 2014; Popović 2002*). One of these rare narrowly distributed forms is represented by the fibulae of the Boljevci variant, which are probably characteristic for LT C2 and are currently restricted to the southeastern Carpathian Basin with isolated finds more

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to the south, in the area of the western and central Balkans, where they probably arrived by means of cultural transfers and/or the mobility of the women who wore them (*Dizdar 2014*, 103-105, fig. 5). An even narrower distribution can be seen for the more complex form of the Late La Tène fibula with enamel or the Gomolava-type fibula, which has been found – similarly to the fibulae of the Boljevci variant – only on the sites in the southern Carpathian Basin, with one exception on those attributed to the Scordisci (*Dizdar 2014*, 106, 107; *Guštin 2011*, 125, 126, fig. 8).

On the basis of known finds, it can be assumed that the fibulae with a rectangular plaque were an important item of the Middle La Tène female costume, especially in the southern and eastern Carpathian Basin. Bronze fibulae decorated with colourful enamel, as well as bronze belts with rectangular and lyre-shaped segments which are richly decorated with enamel, were an important element of the visual identity of the women who wore such costume items (*Dizdar 2014*).<sup>2</sup>

The sites in eastern Slavonia and western Syrmia produced new finds of enamel-decorated fibulae, both the Middle La Tène fibulae with variously shaped depressions in the rectangular plaque and the Late La Tène fibulae of the Gomolava type. These finds complement the prior knowledge on the distribution of distinct forms in the Carpathian Basin (*Dizdar 2014*), which also needs to be complemented with some recently published finds.

As we pointed out already, the greatest number of the enamel-decorated Middle La Tène fibulae shows similar typological characteristics: the rectangular plaque is on the cast end of the foot and is always set between a single large or small spherical or hemispherical knob on each side. The back knob which is closer to the spring lies above the bow, in most cases very near to the spring, while the front knob can stand in front of the bow (*Dizdar 2014*, Pl. 1: 9, 12; 2: 4, 11; *Jáky 2016*, Pl. 7: 18); it can touch the bow (*Dizdar 2014*, Pl. 1: 4, 7; 2: 12); only rarely it is above the bow (*Dizdar 2014*, Pl. 1: 3, 5; 2: 1, 6, 7). There is often a groove along the edges of the plaque. The last part of the foot always stands above the low wire bow with the circular cross-section and trapezoidal shape, while the spring consists of six or eight or more coils that are always connected with an external chord. The foot often ends with an anchor-shaped terminal covering the spring. The bronze fibulae with rectangular plaques are divided into several variants on the basis of the shape of the depressions in the plaques for enamel, with the distribution of specific distinct variants probably pointing to the location of the Carpathian Basin workshops where they were produced (*Dizdar 2014*, 98, 99).<sup>3</sup>

### **Bronze fibulae with a rectangular plaque with a rectangular or square depression**

One of the most frequent forms of enamel-decorated fibulae is the fibula with a rectangular or square depression in the rectangular plaque, which has a groove along the edges. Aside from the sites in the southeastern Carpathian Basin, this fibula variant was recorded on the sites in Transylvania and Slovakia (*Dizdar 2014*, 99, 100, fig. 2, black squares, Pl. 1: 1-6). A fibula of this variant was found on the Mirkovci – Malat site (fig. 1: 1). This site contained numerous surface finds dated to all the development phases of the La Tène culture, with the Late La Tène finds being dominant. The fragment of a fibula found on the site surface has a low wire bow and the cast end of the foot that has a rectangular plaque with a rectangular depression for the enamel between a single spherical knob on each side. Interestingly, the wire bow passes through a deep narrow groove on the bottom side of the back knob that stands closer to the spring. The end of the foot, after the knob, slightly widens towards the spring, while the ending have an anchor shape. Only two coils of the spring have been pre-

<sup>2</sup> I would like to thank my colleagues Hrvoje Vulić and Boris Kratofil from the Municipal Museum in Vinkovci for the finds from the Late Iron Age sites in the Vinkovci region.

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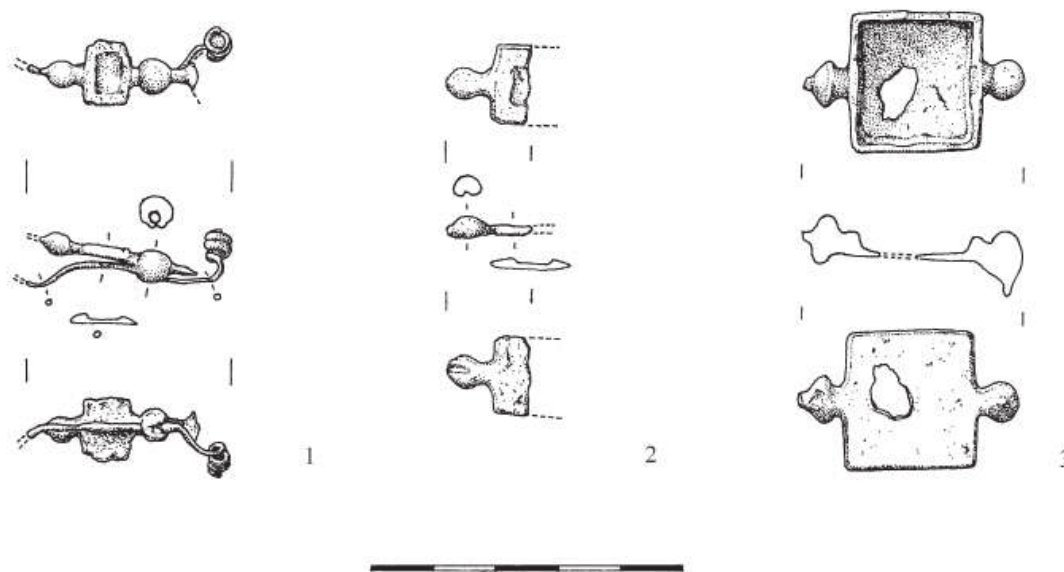


Fig. 1. Bronze fibulae with a rectangular plaque and enamel decoration from sites: 1 – Mirkovci – Malat; 2 – Ivankovo – Slatine; 3 – Vinkovci – Jošine. Drawing by M. Marijanović Lešić

served. Moreover, the Ivankovo – Slatine site contained a fragment of a fibula with the partly preserved end of the foot, segmented originally with a rectangular plaque set between a single spherical knob on each side, with only one knob being preserved. On the bottom of the knob there is a groove for the missing wire bow of the fibula (fig. 1: 2). The rectangular plaque has a groove along the edges and a rectangular depression in the central part.

The closest parallels for the described finds are the fibulae found on the bank of the Danube near Zemun (*Dizdar 2014*, 99, Pl. 1: 1; *Popović 2002*, 352, 353, Pl. III: 4-5, 7-9; *Todorović 1968*, 153-155, Pl. LIII: 11, 15; LV: 15; 1971, 150-153, Pl. LXVIII: 9, 12, 14; LXIX: 1, 3, 5). One of them has a spring with six coils connected with an external chord and with a pendant (*Dizdar 2014*, 99, Pl. 1: 2; *Popović 2002*, 353, Pl. III: 6; *Todorović 1971*, 153, Pl. LXIX: 9). Along with the finds described in our paper from 2014, this group includes the fibula from the Tiszakeszi – Szódadomb site, which has a rectangular plaque with a groove along the edges and with a square depression, while the end of the foot has a slightly anchor-shaped terminal (*Fischl et al. 2017*, 159, fig. 8: 2).

A special form of the square depression variant is the fragment of a cast end of the foot of a fibula from the Vinkovci – Jošine site, which includes only a square plaque with a square depression flanked by a spherical knob on each side (fig. 1: 3). The plaque stands out because of the size of the depression, which covers the entire surface of the plaque, setting it apart from the other fibulae of this variant. Since there are no grooves on the bottom side of the knobs, the fibula didn't have a usual wire bow. The back knob has a prong on the bottom side, which means that at least one part of the bow was flat like at the Late La Tène fibulae of the Gomolava type.

### **Bronze fibulae with a rectangular plaque on which there is a round or oval depression**

For the time being, the Carpathian Basin has fewer fibulae with an oval or circular depression in the rectangular plaque (*Dizdar 2014*, 100, fig. 2, black circles; Pl. 1: 7-9). The already mentioned Ivankovo – Slatine site contained a fragment of a fibula with the almost entirely preserved end of the foot, segmented with a rectangular plaque set between a single spherical knob on each side. The terminal is broken off. The bottom side of the knobs has a groove

for the missing wire bow of the fibula (fig. 2: 1). The rectangular plaque has a groove along the edges, while the central part has an oval depression filled with white enamel. A fibula of the same shape with an oval perforation (sometimes described as rectangular) at the plaque has been found on the mentioned site on the bank of the Danube near Zemun (*Dizdar 2014*, 100, Pl. 1: 7; *Popović 2002*, 352, 353, Pl. III: 10; *Todorović 1968*, 154, Pl. LV: 14; 1971, 152, 153, no. 635, Pl. LXIX: 1). There are some particularly interesting finds from the Slovakian sites of Blatnica and Beluša – Belušské Slatiny. A fibula from Blatnica contains red enamel, which has been preserved in the oval depression in the plaque. The end of the foot has a slightly anchor-shaped terminal towards the spring below it, which consists of six coils connected with an external chord (*Dizdar 2014*, 98, 100, Pl. 1: 9; *Pieta 2010*, 31, 32, fig. 9; 72: 8; F2: 2-3). Other than that, the enamel-decorated fibulae found on the Slovakian and Moravian sites have been associated with influences from the southern Carpathian Basin, i.e. the territory of the Scordisci, and it has been assumed that they arrived with new settlers (*Čižmář 2005*, 133, fig. 2; *Pieta 2010*, 31, 32, fig. 9).

### **Bronze fibulae with a rectangular plaque with a depression in the shape of a clepsydra**

One of the characteristic forms of the enamel-decorated fibula is the fibula with the rectangular plaque with the depression in the shape of one or two clepsydrae, the latter also having a central circular depression. When there is a preserved spring, it has six coils connected with an external chord. The clepsydra-decorated fibulae are most numerous on the sites in the south-eastern Carpathian Basin, but there are some in Transylvania and all the way to Slovakia (*Dizdar 2014*, 100, 101, fig. 3; Pl. 1: 10-12; 2: 1, 2).

The variant with the depression in the shape of a single clepsydra includes the fragment of a fibula found on the Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma site (fig. 2: 2). It contains a preserved part of a wire bow below the entirely preserved end of the foot, segmented with a rectangular plaque set between a hemispherical front and spherical back knob. The bottom side of the back knob has a deep groove which contains the wire bow of the fibula, while the groove on the front hemispherical knob is shallower. The central part of plaque has a depression in the shape of the clepsydra. The terminal is broken.

The closest parallels for the fibula decorated with a single clepsydra from Vinkovački Banovci have been recorded on Sarmatian sites such as Novi Banovci, which contained a fibula with an end of the foot segmented with a rectangular plaque between a spherical knob on each side and above a low trapezoidal bow. The end of the foot has an anchor-shaped terminal above the spring, which probably consisted of six coils connected with an external chord. The fibula probably comes from a destroyed grave (*Dizdar 2014*, 100; *Majnarić-Pandžić 1970*, 37, Pl. XVII: 6; *Popović 2002*, 353, n. 30). There is also an end of the foot from the bank of the Danube near Zemun (*Dizdar 2014*, 100, 101, Pl. 1: 10; *Popović 2002*, Pl. III: 3; *Todorović 1968*, Pl. LV: 15; 1971, Pl. LXVIII: 15), and an almost complete fibula from the Balatonboglár – Berekre-dűlő settlement which was found in the Middle La Tène feature 350 (*Jáky 2016*, 102, Pl. 7: 18). Another end of the foot with a clepsydra-shaped depression in a rectangular plaque was found on the Tibolddaróc site. It has a prominent anchor-shaped terminal (*Nees 1934*, 174, fig. 95: 9).

### **Bronze fibulae with a rectangular plaque in which there is a central depression surrounded by small depressions in the corners**

A distinct variant of the enamel-decorated fibula is the fibula with a rectangular plaque decorated with more complex motifs: the centre most often contains a rhombic depression with sometimes concave sides, while the corners have crescent-shaped, triangle-shaped or oval depressions. Fibulae of this variant have been found on the sites along the Tisza River

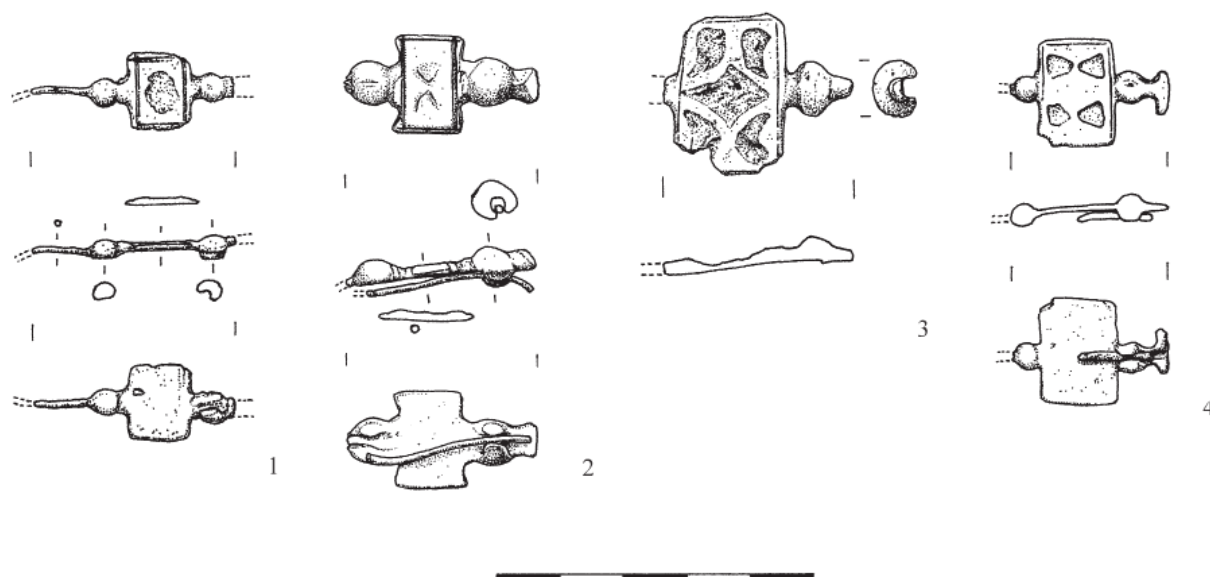


Fig. 2. Bronze fibulae with a rectangular plaque and enamel decoration from sites: 1 – Ivankovo – Slatine; 2 – Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma; 3 – Grabovo; 4 – Ilok – Upper Town.

Drawing by M. Marijanović Lešić

and in eastern Sarmia, which probably points to the location of the workshop(s) where they were produced (Dizdar 2014, 102, 103, fig. 4, black rhombs, Pl. 2: 6-10).

The fragment of a fibula attributed to this variant from the Grabovo site near Sotin contains a rectangular plaque flanked by a spherical back knob with the groove for the missing wire bow (fig. 2: 3). The central part of the plaque has a rhombic depression with concave sides, while each corner has a single crescent-shaped depression. The depressions contain the preserved remains of red enamel. The plaque has a groove along the edges.

The closest parallel to this fibula fragment from Grabovo, considering the shapes of the plaque depressions and especially the crescents in the corners, is a fragment from an unknown site that was probably in Tisza River valley. The end of the foot has a pronounced anchor-shaped terminal (Dizdar 2014, 103, Pl. 2: 10; Sellye 1939, Pl. II: 9). The finds of particular importance for the dating of this variant are the two almost complete fibulae from a grave in the Törökszentmiklós – Surján site which probably can be dated at the end of the LT C1 phase. The fibulae have a long foot and a low and long trapezoidal bow, while the end of the foot above the spring also has an anchor-shaped terminal (Dizdar 2014, 102, 103, Pl. 2: 7, 8; Stanczik/Vaday 1971, 24, Fig. 3: 4, 5; Szabó 1988, fig. 51; Teleagă 2008, 95, fig. 5: 2). Furthermore, the Szeged – Kiskundorozsma settlement, dated to LT C1b – C2, contained a fibula with a central rhombic depression and small triangle-shaped depressions in the corners. The end of the foot also has an anchor-shaped terminal above a spring consisting of eight coils connected with an external chord (Dizdar 2014, 103, Pl. 2: 9; Pilling/Ujvári 2012, 221, 222, Pl. 7: 1).

### **Bronze fibulae with a rectangular plaque on which there are depressions with opposing series of triangles – the Boljevci variant**

A recognizable form of the bronze fibulae with a rectangular plaque on the end of the foot, set between a spherical knob on each side, is the fibula set apart as the Boljevci variant, which also has a low trapezoidal wire bow. The plaque on the fibulae of this variant has opposite triangular depressions, usually three on each side, almost always with motifs of concentric circles or rings-and-dots between them. The points of the triangles sometimes touch, creating

the impression that the plaque is decorated with three clepsydrae. There is sometimes a groove along the edges of the plaque. The end of the foot has a distinctly anchor-shaped terminal above the spring, which is sometimes shaped as an elongated rectangular plaque. The terminal can also sometimes have a triangular depression. The springs, if preserved, have six coils connected with an external chord. The greatest numbers of the enamel-decorated fibulae of the Boljevci variant have been recorded in the southeastern Carpathian Basin, i.e. the territory of the Scordisci, with isolated finds in the western and central Balkans, where they probably arrived from the north. Although no finds of the Boljevci variant fibulae originated from a funerary complex, they can probably be dated to the Middle La Tène, i.e. LT C2 (Dizdar 2014, 103-105, fig. 5, Pl. 2: 11-14; 3: 1-9).

Regarding the number of the triangular depressions, the Boljevci variant fibulae can be classified into two basic sub-variants with two series of three or two triangular depressions each, with a possible further classification depending on whether there is motifs of concentric circles or rings-and-dots (Dizdar 2014, 104, 105). The fibulae with two series where each has three triangular depressions and (most frequently) four concentric circles or rings-and-dots are the most numerous (Dizdar 2014, 103, 104, Pl. 2: 11-14; 3: 1-5), while those with only two series of three triangular depressions are an exception, found in the River Mlava valley (Dizdar 2014, 105, Pl. 3: 6; Stojić 2000, 61, Pl. I: 43). Much less numerous fibulae are those with two series of two triangular depressions each, with that from Zemun including three concentric circles (Dizdar 2014, 104, Pl. 3: 8; Tatić-Đurić 1970, 82, Pl. II: 5) and that from the banks of the Danube near Zemun having no circles (Dizdar 2014, 105, Pl. 3: 9; Popović 2002, 352, Pl. II: 9; Todorović 1968, 153, Pl. LIII: 16; 1971, 152, Pl. LXIX: 2). The mentioned sub-variant without concentric circles or rings-and-dots also includes the fragment of a fibula from Roman pit SU 3130 in the Upper Town of Ilok, which has on the rectangular plaque two opposite groups of two triangular depressions filled with red enamel (fig. 2: 4). Along the edges of the rectangular plaque, which does not have such an elongated rectangular shape as the fibulae with two series of three triangular depressions, there is a groove, while a single spherical knob stands on each side. The end of the foot has a slightly anchor-shaped terminal. The back knob towards the spring and the anchor-shaped terminal have a deep oval groove with the remains of the wire bow of the fibula on the bottom side, while the plaque is flattened on the bottom side.

Other than that, the depressions most often contained red enamel, similarly to the fibula from Ilok, but the depressions in the fibula from the Boljevci cemetery contained yellow and blue enamel (Dizdar 2014, 103, 104, Pl. 2: 11; Hunyady 1942, Pl. XXI: 11; Jovanović 1987, 838, Pl. LXXXIII: 7; Majnarić-Pandžić 1970, 15, Pl. I: 5; Popović 2002, 352, Pl. II: 7).

### **Late La Tène Gomolava type of fibulae with enamel decoration**

The appearance of bronze fibulae with variously shaped depressions for enamel during the Late La Tène is primarily evidenced by the find from the mass grave on Gomolava and in some other sites (Guštin 2011, 125, 126, fig. 8). The Gomolava-type fibulae, unlike the Middle La Tène fibulae with rectangular plaques, have the characteristic triangular plaque on the end of the foot, between a single spherical or hemispherical knob on each side. Each vertex of the triangular plaque has protrusions usually in the shape of a bird's head, and there is another plaque of rectangular shape towards the spring. Considering the somewhat different shape of the first plaque, which doesn't have birdlike, but circular protrusions, and its spatial distribution, similar fibulae have been identified in the Bela Cerkev type, which appears in the area of the southeastern Alps during LT D1, i.e. the sites of the Mokronog group (Mokronog IIIa) (Dizdar 2014, 106, 107, Pl. 3: 15-17; Dular 1991, 54, 55, fig. 26; Pavlin 2007, 760, 761, fig. 2/2, 3/1-3; Stare 1973, 43, Pl. 54/1-2; Teržan 1973, 667, Pl. 5/4). On the other hand, contemporary fibulae of the Gomolava type, which were first assigned to one nameless type by P. Popović (2002, 353, 354), then attributed to one group together with somewhat different fibulae of the

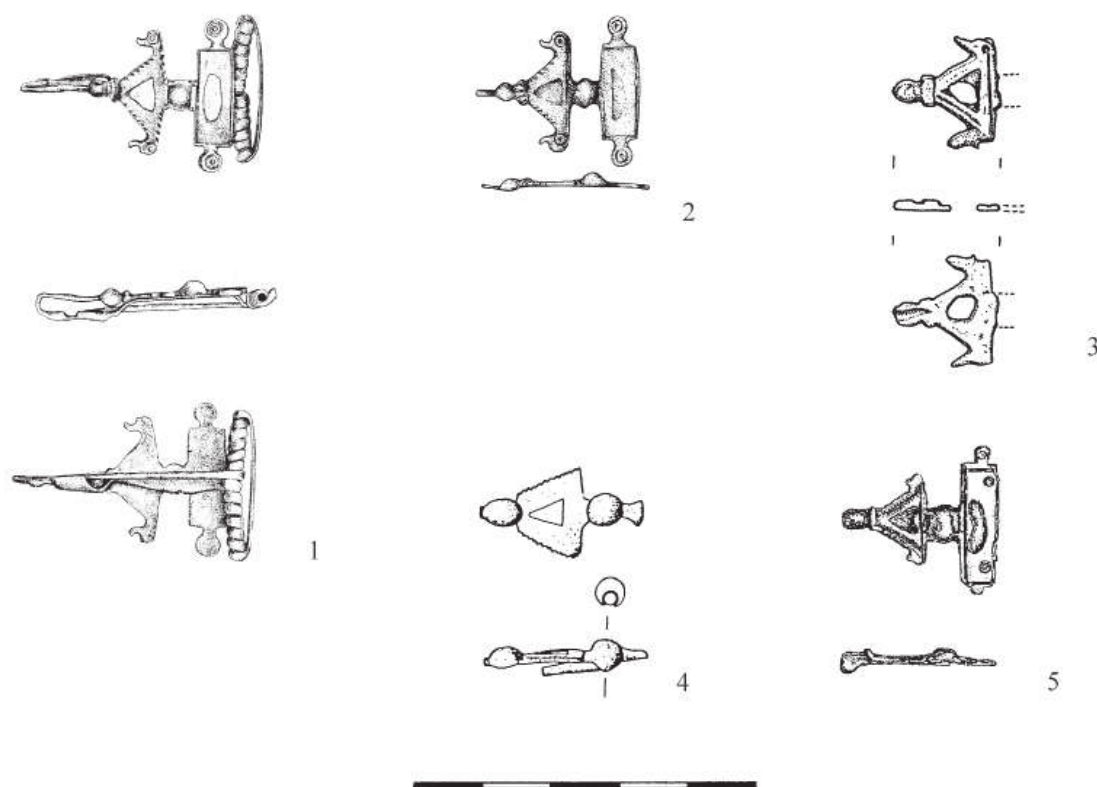


Fig. 3. Bronze fibulae of the Gomolava type with enamel decoration from sites: 1 – Gomolava – mass grave (after Jovanović/Jovanović 1988); 2 – Gomolava (after Jovanović/Jovanović 1988); 3 – Ilok – Upper town; 4 – Sotin (after Ilikić 1999); 5 – Donja Dolina (after Marić 2017)

Mokronog group (Guštin 2011, 126; Pavlin 2007, 761-763) and only later separated and named (Dizdar 2014, 106, 107), have been recorded only in the southeastern Carpathian Basin, i.e. on the sites of the Scordisci, along with an isolated find in Donja Dolina (fig. 5). Aside from the known finds from Gomolava, this type includes the new finds of fragments of fibulae from Vinkovci and surroundings.

The eponymous find is represented by the fibulae from Gomolava, which consist of a completely preserved fibula that was found in a mass grave (fig. 3: 1) and a fragment of a fibula – the profiled end of its foot – originating from pit XXII (fig. 3: 2). The fibula from the mass grave was at the bottom of the pit next to a kantharos with conical neck and high handles, in the part of the grave with the remains of a woman aged between 44 and 48. On the end of the foot of both fibulae, behind a small spherical knob and a narrow transversal rib, there is a triangular plaque with incisions along the edges. At each vertex of the plaque there is a side protrusion in the shape of a bird's head, turned towards the end of the fibula. The eyes are represented by the motif of the ring-and-dot, while the beak is slightly curved. At the centre of the plaque there is a triangular depression. At the end of the cast end of the foot, behind a large hemispherical knob, there is a rectangular plaque with a semi-circular (the fibula from the pit) or oval depression (the fibula from the mass grave) in the middle and a round protrusion on each shorter side, which are also decorated with the motif of the ring-and-dot. The depressions in the fibula from the mass grave are filled with red enamel. The back side of the segmented end of the foot is smooth and flat, while the bow of the fibula from the mass grave has a markedly low trapezoidal shape and is slightly strap-flattened towards the spring. The spring of the fibula from the mass grave consists of twelve coils connected with an external chord. The mass grave, which contained a man, a woman and a child with

fragments of ceramic vessels and fragments of millstones that covered the dead, has been dated to the later part of the Gomolava VIb phase, or to the last quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (*Jovanović/Jovanović 1988, 54-58, 85, 173, fig. 16, 17; Pl. XLII: 13; XLIII: 2a-c*). On the other hand, the fibulae from Gomolava have been dated to LT D1 (*Guštin 1984, 327, 341, n. 123, App. 1/81; Pavlin 2007, 761-763, fig. 3: 5, 6*), i.e. Late La Tène phase (*Dizdar 2014, 106, Pl. 3: 14*).

Aside from Gomolava, fragments of fibulae of the Gomolava type have been found on a few other sites in western Syrmia and eastern Slavonia, which significantly increased the number of the known finds of this unique Late La Tène form of enamel-decorated fibula.

The Late La Tène pit SU 3904 at the Upper Town of Ilok contained a fragment of the end of the foot of a fibula with a triangular plaque with the damaged central part that probably contained a triangular depression (fig. 3: 3). On each vertex of the triangular plaque there is a protruding bird's head turned towards the end of the fibula with a slightly crooked beak. In front of the triangular plaque there is first a transversal rib and after it a small hemispherical knob with the bottom side containing the groove for the wire bow. Probably only the beginning of the bow was of wire with the circular cross-section, but the rest of it was flat. This is suggested by the fragments of the end of the foot of fibulae on fig. 4: 2 and 3, which have a pierced front knob and a hole in the back knob or a prong below it. Nearby Sotin contained a complete end of the foot of a fibula with a triangular plaque between two small spherical knobs (fig. 3: 4). The plaque also has a triangular depression filled with enamel, while two edges have series of tiny incisions. There is also a preserved part of the wire bow of the fibula, which goes through a deep narrow groove located on the bottom side of the back knob (*Ilkić 1999, 39, 79, Pl. XXII: 12*).

The greatest number of the new finds of the Gomolava type fibulae comes from the sites in Vinkovci and surroundings. They are the finds collected in field surveys, most often originating from the surface of Late La Tène settlements, but the possibility of destroyed graves as their origin has not been completely ruled out.

The Late La Tène settlement of Vinkovci – Lisičak, located northwest of the town, contained a fragment of the end of the foot of a Gomolava type fibula, which has a triangular plaque whose centre contains a triangular depression filled with white enamel (fig. 4: 1). Each vertex of the triangular plaque has small protrusions which are not completely preserved. There are grooves along the upper edge of the triangular plaque. In front of the triangular plaque there is a partly preserved knob, while the other side of the triangular plaque, towards the spring, has a hemispherical knob with a prong on the lower side. The prong connected the end of the foot to the bow, which was probably flattened towards the spring. The end of the foot is terminated by a rectangular plaque with a groove along the edges and tiny incisions on the edge itself. In the central part of the rectangular plaque there is a trapezoidal depression filled with red enamel.

A fragment of a Gomolava type fibula has also been found in the Late La Tène settlement of Ostrovo – Sokolovac (fig. 4: 2). There is the partly preserved end of the foot, segmented with a triangular plaque that has a triangular depression in the central part. On each vertex of the triangular plaque there is a protruding bird's head turned towards the end of the fibula with a short beak. In front of the triangular plaque there is a horizontally perforated small spherical knob that was probably pierced by the wire part of the bow. On the other side of the triangular plaque, towards the spring, there is a vertically perforated narrow square plaque through which the end of the foot was probably connected to the bow. The Karadžičevo – Markuševački atar/Pašnjaci site contained a fragment of a fibula with the partly preserved end of the foot, which includes in front of the triangular plaque two spherical knobs that are connected on the bottom side and horizontally perforated for the bow of the fibula (fig. 4: 3). Behind the knobs there is a triangular plaque with the central part containing three depressions partly filled with white enamel. The two lower depressions are narrow with a



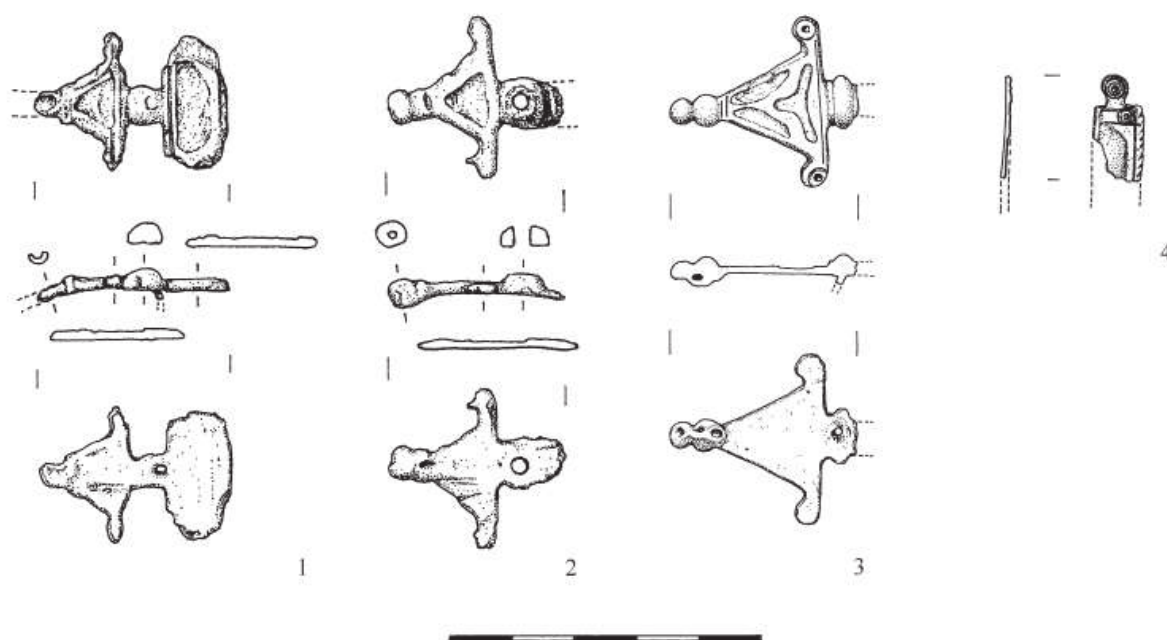


Fig. 4. Fig. 4. Bronze fibulae of the Gomolava type with enamel decoration from sites:  
 1 – Vinkovci – Lisičak; 2 – Ostrovo – Sokolovac; 3 – Karadžičevo – Markuševački atar/Pašnjaci;  
 4 – Rokovci – Rokovačke zidine. Drawing by M. Marijanović Lešić

semi-circular shape, while the upper one has the shape of a three-pointed star. The vertices of the triangular plaque, on each side, have a circular protrusion with a ring-and-dot motif. On the other side of the triangular plaque, towards the spring, there is a hemispherical knob with a prong on the bottom side. The prong connected the end of the foot with the bow of the fibula. Also, the Rokovci – Rokovačke zidine site, located south of Vinkovci, contained a small fragment of the end of the foot of a Gomolava type fibula with a preserved part of the rectangular plaque with a groove along the edges and tiny oblique incisions on the edge itself (fig. 4: 4). The central part of the rectangular plaque has an oval depression that was filled with red enamel. Along the preserved shorter side, between the oval depression and the edge, there is the decorating motif of the ring-and-dot. This preserved shorter side has a circular protrusion decorated also with the motif of the ring-and-dot.

Aside from the mentioned sites, the only find of a Gomolava type fibula originating from outside the territory of the Scordisci is a fragment of the end of the foot of a fibula from Donja Dolina with a triangular plaque that has a heart-shaped depression and a bird's head-shaped protrusions on both sides (fig. 3: 5). In front of the triangular plaque there is a horizontally perforated small spherical knob, while behind the plaque there is a large hemispherical knob. Behind this back knob there is a narrow rectangular plaque with a kidney-shaped depression and a ring-and-dot motif along each shorter side. Also, there is a protrusion on each lateral side with ring-and-dot motif. The depressions contain the preserved remains of red enamel. The fibula has been ascribed to the phase IIIc (Marić 1964, 49, Pl. XX: 14; 2017, 121, 122, 329, Pl. XCIII: 576; Pavlin 2007, 761, fig. 3: 4).<sup>4</sup>

Other than that, P. Popović (2002, 354, n. 41) associated the Gomolava type with the fragment of a fibula from Ostrovul Șimian with the preserved oval plaque that is set between two spherical knobs and that has a single circular protrusion on each lateral side (Beldiman 1993, 183, fig. 2: 4; Pavlin 2007, 761, fig. 3: 7). The fragment of the fibula has been ascribed to the variant 5b (Rustoiu 1997, 38, 39, 99, List 5, no. 7, fig. 25: 10).

<sup>4</sup> For the information about the fibula from Donja Dolina I would like to thank my colleague dr. Ana Marić from the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## **Conclusion**

The bronze fibulae with variously shaped plaques that have depressions for enamel can be considered on the basis of the extremely rare finds from graves and the finds from settlements to be a characteristic item of the Middle and Late La Tène female costume in the Carpathian Basin (*Dizdar 2014*).

The Middle La Tène forms of fibulae are characterised by rectangular plaques that are set between a single spherical knob on each side and that contain depressions of various shapes which are filled with enamel of different colours. On the basis of the forms and composition of the depressions, this typologically heterogeneous group of fibulae consists of several variants that are found in the greatest number on sites of the eastern and particularly southeastern Carpathian Basin inhabited by the Scordisci, although there have been some rare finds north and west of the Danube. The newly discovered finds also correspond well to the identified area of distribution of specific variants, while significantly increasing their number in the western territory of the Scordisci. In fact, in the western territory of the Scordisci, i.e. in eastern Slavonia and western Syrmia, until now we didn't know any fibulae with a rectangular plaque or of the Gomolava type (*Dizdar 2014*, figs. 1-5).

The classification of a series of variants on the basis of the shape of the depressions and the identified concentration of finds probably indicates the existence of different workshops for their production, where even the fibulae attributed to a single variant can originate from different workshops, just as each workshop could have produced fibulae of different variants (*Dizdar 2014*, 106, 107). Still, the identified concentration of finds along the Danube near Zemun should confirm the assumption that particular forms were produced in eastern Syrmia, as confirmed by the find of a wrongly cast plaque of a fibula found on the bank of the Danube (*Popović 2002*, 353).

The extremely rare finds from the funerary complexes such as the one on the Törökszentmiklós - Surján site (probably late phase of LT C1) (*Stanczik/Vaday 1971*) or Kamenjača in Breza near Sarajevo (inhumation grave from LT C2) (*Marić 2015*) are particularly important for the dating of the fibulae with rectangular plaques decorated with enamel, noting that the fibulae with a rectangular plaque were still worn during LT C2 or to the beginning of LT D1 (*Dizdar 2014*, 107), which is the probable dating for the most decorative fibulae classified as the Boljevci variant, which seem to be distributed mostly in the territory of the Scordisci and their surroundings (some specimens were found also far away; cf. the Map in *Dizdar 2014*, fig. 5). The workshops for their production were probably located in eastern Syrmia and northern Serbia, even though none of the numerous known fibulae have been found in a closed funerary complex (*Dizdar 2014*, 107). This dating is indicated by the contemporary bronze belts with rectangular and/or lyre-shaped links that were also decorated with enamel and were an important item of the Middle La Tène female costume. The inclusion of the belts and the fibulae among the products of the same workshops is indicated by the similarly organised and shaped depressions for the insertion of enamel. This also corresponds with the knowledge on the production of the fibulae with triangular plaques that have been found in the areas of the southeastern Alps and the southwestern Pannonia (Grabelsdorf type), where they have been dated to LT C2 (*Dizdar 2014*, 107).

In any case, the bronze fibulae with rectangular plaques decorated with enamel are a recognisable and markedly decorative item of the Middle La Tène (from the end of LT C1 and during LT C2) female costume in the southeastern and eastern Carpathian Basin. They were a prominent part of the female visual identity.

Differently to the slightly older fibulae of the Boljevci variant, distributed in the eastern part of the territory of Scordisci with isolated finds to the south and the east, the Late La Tène female costume in the western part of the territory of the Scordisci, probably beside Jarak and Karaburma 39 types of fibulae, is characterised by the Gomolava type fibulae (fig. 5). On the

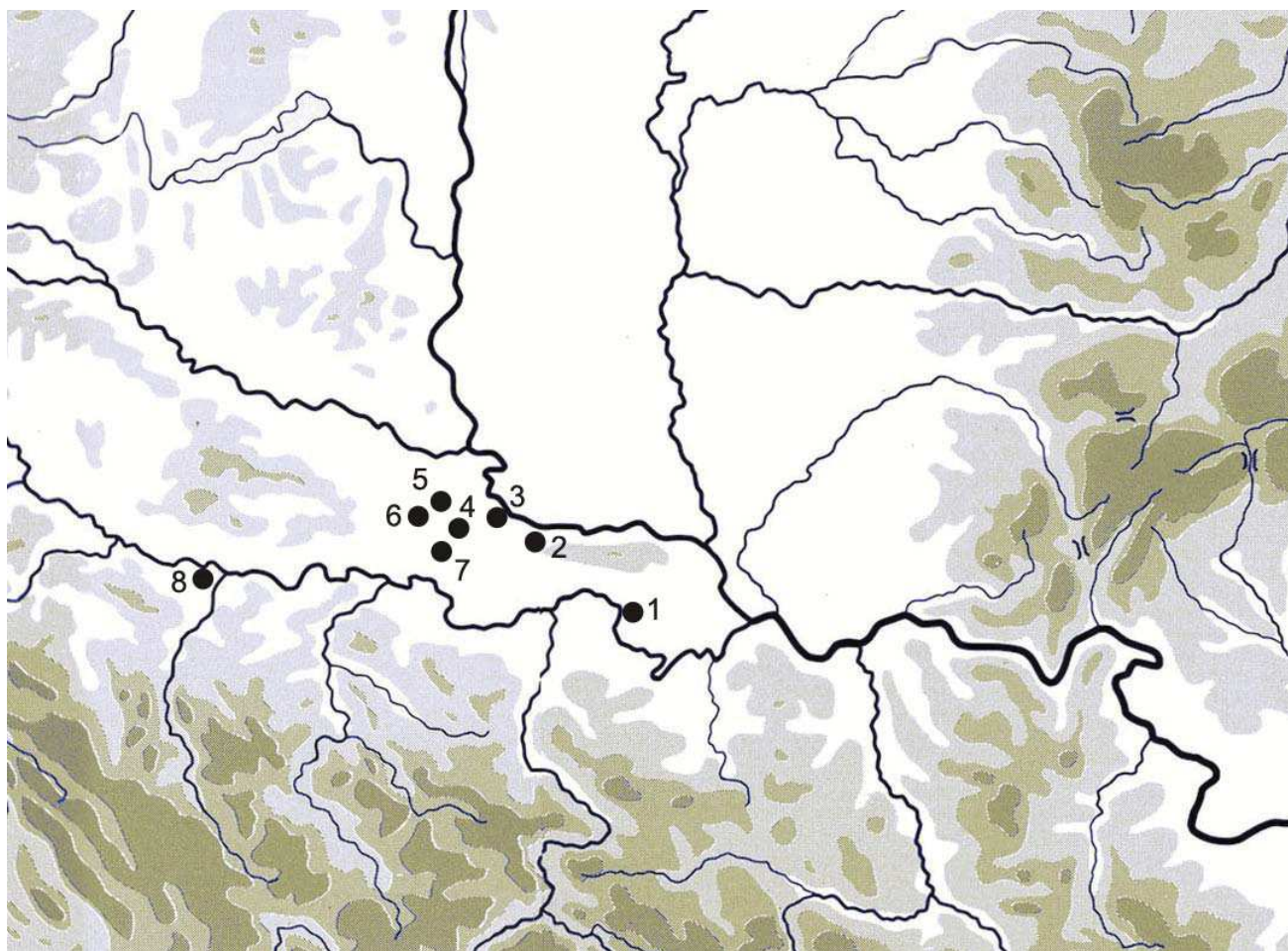


Fig. 5. Distribution of the Late La Tène fibulae with enamel decoration of the Gomolava type: 1 - Gomolava; 2 - Ilok - Upper town; 3 - Sotin (transitional form); 4 - Vinkovci - Lisičak; 5 - Ostrovo - Sokolovac; 6 - Karadžičevo - Markuševački atar/Pašnjaci; 7 - Rokovci - Rokovačke zidine; 8 - Donja Dolina

other side, the Bela Cerkev type fibulae can be considered just an extremely rare, an exceptional part of the Late La Tène female costume in the southeastern Alps, i.e. of the Mokronog group (Pavlin 2007). Both distinct types indicate the regional distinctions in the Late La Tène female costume, which can already be noticed during the Middle La Tène. The Gomolava type fibulae, with the characteristic and lavishly segmented end of the foot, are certainly one of the recognisable Late La Tène forms of the female costume in the western part of the territory of the Scordisci, where the form itself, complemented with enamel in different colours (red, white), points to their powerful visual impression. Even though a half of the ends of the foot aren't completely preserved (fig. 3: 3; 4: 2-4), we can still identify particular differences in the shapes of the depressions in triangular and rectangular plaques. The common characteristics are the lateral protrusions in the shape of a bird's head on the triangular plaques (fig. 3: 1-3, 5; 4: 2) and the circular ones on the rectangular plaques (fig. 3: 1, 2, 5; 4: 4), as well as triangular depressions at the centre of the triangular plaques (fig. 3: 1-3; 4: 1, 2). The fragment from Karadžičevo (fig. 4: 3) differs a lot from the other fibulae, because it has two connected knobs in front of the triangular plaque with three depressions in the central part and a circular protrusion on each side. Only the fragment of the fibula from Sotin (where the complete end of the foot has been preserved) (fig. 3: 4) has no lateral protrusions, and there remains the open question of whether they originally existed or not. As a matter of fact, this fibula represents a transitional form between the Middle La Tène fibulae with rectangular plaques and the Late La Tène Gomolava type.

Also, there are the interesting construction characteristics of the method by which the segmented end of the foot was connected with the bow. The end of the foot can contain a small hemispherical knob with a narrow and shallow groove on the bottom side that contained the wire bow of the fibula (fig. 3: 3), but the knob itself may also be perforated for the wire bow of the fibula (fig. 4: 2, 3). It should be pointed out that the back spherical knobs which are closer to the spring of the Middle La Tène fibulae had deep and narrow groove on the bottom side containing the wire bow (fig. 1: 1; 2: 1-4). The front knobs have no groove at all, if they stood in front of the bow or touched it (fig. 1: 1; 2: 4). Also, front knobs only have a shallow, not a deep groove, if they stood above the bow (fig. 2: 1, 2). The fibula from Vinkovci – Jošine site (fig. 1: 3) have a prong on the bottom side of the back knob.

Both the triangular plaques and the rectangular plaques of the Gomolava type fibulae have a smooth and undecorated bottom side, with a hemispherical knob between them that is flattened on the bottom side (fig. 3: 1, 2) and that can include a prong on the bottom side (fig. 4: 1, 3), which probably connected the end of the foot with the strap-flattened bow. Between the plaques of the fragment from the Ostrovo – Sokolovac settlement (fig. 4: 2), there is not a hemispherical knob but a vertically perforated square plaque through which the end of the foot was probably linked with the strap-flattened bow. As shown by the entirely preserved fibula from the mass grave on Gomolava (fig. 3: 1), the long bow had a low trapezoid shape, while the spring consisted of a large number of coils (twelve) connected with an external chord. The front knobs of the Gomolava type fibulae are spherical on the two fibulae from Gomolava (fig. 3: 1, 2) and on the fragment from Donja Dolina (fig. 3: 5). The fragment from Ilok (fig. 3: 3) has a flat hemispherical front knob with a shallow groove on the bottom side, but the fragments from Ostrovo (fig. 4: 2) and Karadžičevo (fig. 4: 3) have horizontally perforated spherical front knobs. That means that the front knobs of the ends of the foot of the fibulae from Ilok, Ostrovo and Karadžičevo stood above the low trapezoid bow, differently from the fibula from the mass grave on Gomolava, where the spherical front knob stands in front of the flat bow.

The Gomolava type fibulae have been dated to LT D1, although the eponymous find from the mass grave on Gomolava was initially dated to phase Gomolava VIb (*Jovanović/Jovanović 1988, 57*), probably to its later part, and in absolute terms to the last quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, for which reason it was believed that such fibulae were worn until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (*Popović 2002, 353, 354*). All the finds of the Gomolava type fibulae (fig. 5), except the find from Donja Dolina, indicate that the workshops for their production were located in the Late La Tène settlements on the territories of eastern Slavonia and western Sarmia, from where a fibula followed the communication route along the River Sava arrive to Donja Dolina. Still, despite the almost complete absence of finds from funerary complexes (the only specimen from a funerary complex is the fibula from the mass grave on Gomolava), it can be assumed that the Gomolava type fibulae were an important item of the Late La Tène female costume in the western territory of the Scordisci (eastern Slavonia and western Sarmia) and that they were a visually recognisable object in the southeastern Carpathian Basin.

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## RESUMÉ

### **Nové nálezy bronzových spôn s emailom – čo ženy rady nosili počas strednej a neskorej doby laténskej v južnej časti Karpatskej kotliny**

Vo východochorvátskej oblasti Vinkovci, lokalizovanej vo východnej Slavónii a západnej Syrmii, boli na lokalitách z mladšej doby železnej objavené nové nálezy emailom zdobených spôn. Ide o variant stredolaténskej spony s rôzne tvarovanými obdĺžnikovými platničkami rámmiku na lúčiku a neskorolaténskej spony typu Gomolava. Novo objavené nálezy z regiónu Vinkovci dobre zapadajú do identifikovanej oblasti ich distribúcie a zároveň významne navyšujú počet v západnom teritóriu Skordiskov.

Stredolaténske emailom zdobené spony majú podobné typologické vlastnosti: obdĺžniková platnička je na odsadenom konci pätky a je vždy umiestnená medzi väčším alebo menším guľovitým alebo polguľovitým vývalkom. Zadný vývalok, ktorý je bližšie k vinutiu, leží nad lúčikom vo väčšine prípadov veľmi blízko samotného vinutia, zatiaľ čo predný leží pred lúčikom, môže sa ho dotýkať, len veľmi vzácne je nad ním. Veľmi často sa nachádza drážka pozdĺž okrajov rámmika. Posledná časť pätky je vždy nad dolným vinutím lúčika s kruhovým prierezom a lichobežníkovým tvarom, zatiaľ čo vinutie pozostáva zo šiestich, ôsmich alebo viacerých závitov, ktoré sú vždy spojené vonkajšou tetivou. Pätky je vždy zakončená rámmovým zachycovačom pokrývajúcim vinutie.

Bronzové spony s obdĺžnikovou platničkou sú rozdelené do viacerých variantov na základe tvarovej škály plôšok pre email, spolu s rozšírením určitých odlišných variantov poukazujú pravdepodobne na výrobné centrá v Karpatskej kotliny. Stredolaténske formy spôn s emailom sú nachádzané vo veľkých počtoch v juhovýchodnej časti Karpatskej kotliny a v Potisí. Zároveň sú doložené na lokalitách od územia Slovenska po Transylvániu. Na základe všetkých známych nálezov, môžu byť odlišné varianty pravdepodobne datované do neskorej fázy LT C1 a LT C2. Jednotlivé formy iba zriedka charakterizujú jednotlivé oblasti. Jednou z týchto vzácných úzko rozšírených foriem je spona variantu Boljevci, ktorá je charakteristická pre LT C2 a vymedzená pre juhovýchodnú časť Karpatskej kotliny s ojedinělými dokladmi smerom na juh, v oblasti západného a centrálného Balkánu, kde sa pravdepodobne dostali prostredníctvom kultúrneho presunu a/alebo mobilitou žien, ktoré ich nosili. Na základe známych nálezov sa možno domnievať, že spony s obdĺžnikovou platničkou boli významnou súčasťou ženského kroja v strednej dobe laténskej, najmä v južnej a východnej časti Karpatskej kotliny. Bronzové spony zdobené pestrým emailom, rovnako ako reťazové opasky z doštičkových článkov alebo článkov lýrovitého tvaru taktiež bohaty zdobené emailom, boli dôležitým prvkom vizuálnej identity žien, ktoré nosili tento kroj.

Omnoho menšie rozšírenie môžeme pozorovať pri zložitejšej forme neskorolaténskej spony s emailom alebo pri spony typu Gomolava, ktoré boli objavené iba na lokalitách v južnej časti Karpatskej kotliny, s jednou výnimkou, pripisovanou Skordiskom. Okrem lokality Gomolava boli objavené fragmenty spôn tohto typu na niektorých ďalších lokalitách vo Vinkovci a priľahlom okolí, čo výrazne zvýšilo počet známych nálezov tejto unikátnej neskorolaténskej formy emailom zdobenej spony. Ide o nálezy objavené počas terénnych prieskumov, najčastejšie zo sídlisk, azda i zo zničených hrobov. Spona typu Gomolava má charakteristický trojuholníkový rámik na konci pätky, umiestnený medzi dvoma guľovitými alebo polguľovitými vývalkami. Každý vrchol trojuholníkového rámika pozostáva z výčnelkov, zvyčajne v tvare vtáčích hlavičiek, a zároveň sa oproti vinutiu nachádza ďalší štvorcový rámik. S ohľadom na trochu odlišný tvar prvého rámika, ktorý nemá vtáče hlavičky, ale kruhové výčnelky, a taktiež jeho priestorové rozšírenie, bola identifikovaná podobná spona v rámci typu Bela Cerkev, ktorý sa objavuje v juhovýchodoalpskej oblasti počas stupňa LT D1.

Spona typu Gomolava s charakteristickým bohato členeným zakončením pätky nepochybne patrí k rozpoznateľným neskorolaténskym formám ženského kroja v západnej časti územia Skordiskov (východná Slavónia a západná Sýrmia). Tu je samotná forma doplnená rôznofarebným emailom (červeným, bielym), zosilňujúcim tak vizuálny dojem. Napriek takmer úplnej absencii nálezov z pohrebných komplexov (jediným takýmto dokladom je spona z masového hrobu v Gomolave) sa možno domnievať, že spony typu Gomolava boli významným prvkom ženského kroja v LT D1 v západnej časti územia Skordiskov a predstavovali jasne odlišiteľný prvok.

### Obrazová príloha

Obr. 1. Bronzové spony s obdĺžnikovou platničkou zdobené emailom z lokalít: 1 – Mirkovci – Malat; 2 – Ivankovo – Slatine; 3 – Vinkovci – Jošine. Kresba: M. Marijanović Lešić.

Obr. 2. Bronzové spony s obdĺžnikovou platničkou zdobené emailom z lokalít: 1 – Ivankovo – Slatine; 2 – Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma; 3 – Grabovo; 4 – Ilok – Upper Town. Kresba: M. Marijanović Lešić.

Obr. 3. Bronzové spony typu Gomolava zdobené emailom z lokalít: 1 – Gomolava – mass grave (podľa *Jovanović/Jovanović 1988*); 2 – Gomolava (podľa *Jovanović/Jovanović 1988*); 3 – Ilok – Upper town; 4 – Sotin (podľa *Ilić 1999*); 5 – Donja Dolina (podľa *Marić 2017*).

Obr. 4. Bronzové spony typu Gomolava zdobené emailom z lokalít: 1 – Vinkovci – Lisičak; 2 – Ostrovo – Sokolovac; 3 – Karadžičevo – Markuševački atar/Pašnjaci; 4 – Rokovci – Rokovačke zidine. Kresba: M. Marijanović Lešić.

Obr. 5. Rozšírenie neskorolaténskych spôn zdobené emailom typu Gomolava: 1 – Gomolava; 2 – Ilok – Upper town; 3 – Sotin (prechodný tvar); 4 – Vinkovci – Lisičak; 5 – Ostrovo – Sokolovac; 6 – Karadžičevo – Markuševački atar/Pašnjaci; 7 – Rokovci – Rokovačke zidine; 8 – Donja Dolina.

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