



AKADÉMIAI KIADÓ

Archaeologiai Értesítő

146 (2021) 155–168

DOI:

[10.1556/0208.2021.00009](https://doi.org/10.1556/0208.2021.00009)

© 2021 The Author(s)

Short communication



# Early medieval finds from the delta of the Don – an attempt at identifying the earliest group of the masque type belt mounts in the Eastern European steppe

Bence Gulyás<sup>1\*</sup> – Péter Somogyi<sup>2</sup> – Nikita Iudin<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eötvös Loránd University, Institute of Archaeological Sciences; 1088 Budapest, Múzeum körút 4/B

<sup>2</sup> Independent researcher;  
e-mail: Peter.Somogyi@illwerkevkw.at

<sup>3</sup> Azov Historical, Archaeological and Paleontological Museum-Reserve,  
346780, Russia, Azov, Moskovkayast. 38/40;  
e-mail: niarchaeologist@gmail.com

Manuscript received: 10 May 2021 • Manuscript accepted: 26 May 2021

## ABSZTRAKT

A cikkünk középpontjában az állítólag Belovode (Rosztovi terület) határában előkerült leletek állnak. A leletegyüttesből származó öntött maszkos veretek formai szempontból a tárgy típus legkorábbi horizontjába tartoznak. Hasonló övszerelések a Dontól keletre eső sztyeppén, illetve a Volga–Urál régióból ismertek. Ezek alapján egy észak–déli kereskedelmi/kommunikációs út rekonstruálható.

## KULCSSZAVAK

Belovode, maszkos veretek, Szivasovka-típusú sírok, Volga–Urál régió

## ABSTRACT

Our article focuses on the finds allegedly found in the vicinity of Belovod'e (Rostov oblast). The cast masque type belt fittings from the assemblage belong to the earliest horizon of the object type in terms of form. Similar belt mounts are known on the steppe east of the Don and from the Volga–Urals Region. Based on these, a north-south trade / communication route can be reconstructed.

## KEYWORDS

Belovod'e, masque type belt fittings, Sivashovka type burials, Volga-Ural Region

## INTRODUCTION

One of the most emblematic types of early medieval Eastern European finds is the masque type belt fittings made by cast and pressed technique.<sup>1</sup> The Russian literature calls these objects heraldic type belt mounts. Due to the greatly varied shapes and ornaments of the finds, many researchers proposed their own typological system.<sup>2</sup> However, these systems are not uniform either in their terminology or their typology. Dating of the mount type is often not settled yet. The distinction between the Balkan and Eastern European masque type fittings became obvious early on, in the studies of A. Ambroz. The belt fittings richly ornamented with curved apertures belong to his first stylistic group, and some from the coastline of the Black Sea in the Crimean Peninsula. The origins of both were identified as Byzantine.<sup>3</sup> These mounts are from reliably dated mid-6<sup>th</sup> to early 7<sup>th</sup> century layers of Byzantine forts in the

\* Corresponding author:

E-mail: [gbence567@gmail.com](mailto:gbence567@gmail.com)

AKJournals

<sup>1</sup>The article is supported by the Thematic Excellence Programme – NKFIH-832-15/2019.

<sup>2</sup>Including, but not limited to AMBROZ 1971; SOMOGYI 1987; AYBABIN 1990; BÁLINT 1992; GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996; KOVALEVSKAYA 2000; BALOGH 2014; GAVRITUKHIN 2018.

<sup>3</sup>AMBROZ 1971, 118. A. Komar called this group of finds Sadovec-Pleven group (KOMAR 2006, 114).

Lower Danube region.<sup>4</sup> A. Ambroz assigned all other Eastern European masque type fittings to his second group without any further classification.<sup>5</sup> In this group I. Gavritukhin divided the belt fittings of the Volga–Ural Region on a stylistic basis. The stylistic group concerning our study was described with the following criteria:

- a) Cast T-shaped mounts having a rectangular plate with straight or curved sides
- b) Symmetric mounts with rhombic-shaped connecting part
- c) Strap-ends with straight sides, slightly pointed end, with round or other geometric apertures
- d) Short and wide box-shaped strap-ends
- e) Trefoil- and quatrefoil-shaped flat mounts
- f) Pseudo-buckles belonging to the so-called Type 5 after Gavritukhin.
- g) Simple ornamentation: the big sized round apertures are common while the geometric and keyhole-shaped apertures are rarer
- h) Mounts with slightly curved “fish-tail”<sup>6</sup>

According to I. Gavritukhin the early dating of the stylistic group is supported by the coincidence of mid-5<sup>th</sup> to mid-6<sup>th</sup> century Post-Hunnic or Shipovo-horizon objects, like in grave 165 of Birska.<sup>7</sup> In our article we attempt the identification and dating of the finds that fulfil the criteria of the first stylistic group of the Volga-Ural Region in the so called Sivashovka-type burial of the 6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> century material from the East European steppe region. In this task we first present an “assemblage”, allegedly originating from the Don Delta (Fig. 1).

## THE BELOVOD’E FINDS

A number of early medieval objects were handed over to the Azov History, Archaeology and Palaeontology Museum-Reserve in 2012. According to their finders they were found near Belovod’e in a sandpit, when one of its walls collapsed.<sup>8</sup>

Description of the finds:

1. Golden cast crescent-shaped earring (Fig. 2. 12) The thick lower part narrows to its ends which are joint. Diameter: 1.3 cm. thickness: 0.2–0.6 cm, weight: 3.22 g.
2. Elements of the silver belt set
  - a) “D-shaped” profiled buckle frame (Fig. 2. 1; Fig. 3. 1). It has widened D-shaped and its front side is thick-

ened. The cross section of the frame and tongue is D-shaped. The tongue is bent, its front end is thickened. There is a nest on the rear part. The inlay is missing. Length: 4 cm, maximum width: 3.4 cm.

- b) Scutiform hollow mount with round aperture near its edge (Fig. 2. 4; Fig. 3. 4). Cast. Its lower end is pointed, the upper one is double curved. In the middle, at the joint of the two curves, there is a round aperture, which almost touches the rim. There is a rivet on the back. Length: 3 cm, width: 2.5 cm.
- c) Pseudo-buckle (Fig. 2. 2; Fig. 3. 2). Cast. It consists of a scutiform plate with bevelled edges and a B-shaped frame. The frame is solid, its surface is smooth with two round apertures in the edges. The tongue is curved, profiled with a small protrusion on the rear end. The movable frame was connected to the plate with two cut-out straps. The other side of the stripes join to a rectangular plate which extends along the whole buckle plate. A rivet is connected to that. Length: 4.7 cm, width: 2.8 cm, thickness: 0.9 cm.
- d) Buckle frame with bevelled edges (Fig. 2. 3; Fig. 3. 3). Fragmented pseudo-buckle(?). Cast. The scutiform plate has pointed end. The missing buckle frame was fastened to the plate with two stripes. The buckle was movable. The other side of the stripes join to a rectangular plate which extends along the whole buckle plate. A rivet is connected to that. Length: 2.8 cm, width: 2.3 cm, thickness: 0.7 cm.
- e) Remains of a box-shaped strap end with side band (Fig. 2. 9–11; Fig. 3. 10–11). It has straight sides and rounded end. There is a hole by its upper end in the middle, it contains a rivet. The front and back plate are fragmented, the side band is intact throughout but its shape is deformed. Plate 1 – length: 5.3 cm, width: 2.7 cm; Plate 2 – length: 4.7 cm, width: 2.6 cm; side band – L.: 5.8 cm.
- f) Hollow silver strap end (Fig. 2. 8; Fig. 3. 9). Cast. Its upper edge is straight, the tip is gently pointed. There is a smooth vertical ridge on the front side. There are two incised lines parallel to the upper end and two round apertures in the upper third. There is a rivet on the upper part of the back. Length: 3.7 cm, width: 2 cm.
- g) Rectangular mounts with slightly curved ends (2 pieces) (Fig. 2. 7; Fig. 3. 7, 8). Cast. Its sides are straight, but ends in “fish-tail”. There is a smooth vertical ridge on its surface. An incised line divides the front side in 1:2 ratio. There are two round apertures in the smaller and four in the bigger part arranged symmetrically. There are three rivets on the back. Mount 1: length: 4.3 cm, width: 2.2 cm. Mount 2: length: 4.3 cm, width: 2.1 cm.
- h) Hollow T-shaped mount (2 pieces) (Fig. 2. 5, 6; Fig. 3. 5, 6). Cast. The ends of the shield shaped part are pointed, there are two round apertures in the upper third. The crossbar is curved. There are two rivets on the backside of the mount with thin plate. Mount 1: length: 3.7 cm, maximum width of the scutiform part: 1.9 cm. Mount 2: length: 3.5 cm, maximum width of the scutiform part: 2 cm, width of the crossbar: 2.3 cm.

<sup>4</sup>GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, ris. 60–63, 64–66; TRAYKOVA 2017, 170–174.

<sup>5</sup>AMBROZ 1971, 118.

<sup>6</sup>GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 85, ris. 89.

<sup>7</sup>GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 85, 273, ris. 89, 128–134. For the chronological relationship between “Post-Hunnic” burials and the burials characterized with the masque-type belt mounts, see KAZANSKI 2020, 91–93.

<sup>8</sup>IUDIN 2014, 123–125. According to S. Bezuglov, illegal metal detectorists transferred the finds to the museum, so, the finding spot is hypothetical, it is possible, that the finds were found in other (personal communication with S. Bezuglov).



3. Solidus of Emperor Zenon (*Fig. 2. 13*). Constantinople mint, Officina 10. Obverse: DNZENO | PERPAVC Pearl-diademed, helmeted, cuirassed bust facing, head slightly to right, holding a spear in right hand over the shoulder, shield decorated with a horseman in left. Reverse: VICTORI | AAVCCC I Victory standing facing, head left, long jewelled cross resting on the ground in the right hand, star in the right field, in exergue CONOB. Weight: 4.35 g. At the lower margin, in the breast area of the emperor pierced. The face of the emperor and the figure of Victoria worn off, otherwise in good condition. MIR 7 (Aug. 476 – 11.4.491).

## ASSESSMENT OF THE FINDS

### Crescent-shaped earring

According to A. Mastykova this type had sporadically appeared in Central Asia and the Middle East as early as the first centuries of the first millennium AD.<sup>9</sup> However, due to their simplistic design, as well as their chronological and geographical distance from later objects, their origin is debatable. The mass distribution of this object type in Eastern Europe and the Carpathian basin occurred in the Hunnic Period.<sup>10</sup> From this period golden, silver and bronze specimens are known. In the steppe burials the golden ones dominated.<sup>11</sup> As A. Mastykova points out, such earrings were described in 6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> century graves containing masque type belt fittings. Examples of such burials are Borisovo and Mokraya Balka for settled peoples, and Lebedi IV grave 2 of mound 5 for the steppe peoples.<sup>12</sup> Contrary to their extraordinarily great number and well-distinguished type variants, the typology of crescent-shaped earrings has not been prepared till date. This makes dating of certain specimens rather difficult.

### “D-shaped” profiled buckle frame

The silver buckle has no exact parallel in the archaeological record of early medieval Eastern Europe. The closest analogy of the frame's shape is known from the grave 60 in the Borisovo cemetery. That frame is made of bronze, and had an iron tongue.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>9</sup>MASTYKOVA 2009, 72.

<sup>10</sup>MASTYKOVA 2009, 72; TEJRAL 2011, 220–223.

<sup>11</sup>The Grave 2 of Mound 8 in Kubey, Pokrovsk–Voschod, Verkhne Pogromnoye or Mound 2 of Shipovo can be mentioned as an example (TEJRAL 2011, 221). However, M. Kazanski dated all of them except the grave from Kubey to the Post-Hunnic Period (KAZANSKI 2020, 109).

<sup>12</sup>MASTYKOVA 2009, 72; SKARBOVENKO–LIFANOV 2012, 63, ris. 7, 10.

<sup>13</sup>SAKHANEV 1914, 97–98, 128, ris. 19, 3.

The tongue deserves special attention for the cell designed on the rear of the tongue. Similar ornamentation is known mainly from the Hunnic period,<sup>14</sup> but sporadically it occurred in the 6<sup>th</sup>, and even the early 7<sup>th</sup> century. Its exemplars are an Abkhazian from Abgidzrakhu and two Crimean specimens from Sakharnaya Golovka, and Suuk-Su.<sup>15</sup> Only one steppe burial had a similarly ornamented tongue. This object from the grave 2 of mound 3 from Ilovatka has B-shaped frame and scutiform plate, and at the rear end of the tongue there is a semicircular red glass inlay (*Fig. 4. 18*).<sup>16</sup> This burial is regarded as one of the earliest to have masque type mounts.<sup>17</sup>

### Box-shaped silver strap-end with side band

The assessment of this object is difficult, since some fragments of the silver plate are missing. Based on the available pieces its width was approximately 2.7 cm, and its length was no more than 5.3 cm. I. Gavritukhin classified these strap-ends based on the proportions of their lengths versus their widths. In his classification the Belovodë specimen belongs in the intermediate proportion class. The common traits of these are a width greater than 2.2 cm, but their length is not greater than three times their width.<sup>18</sup> Precisely documented evidence of this type from the steppe is available from grave 2 of mound 3 in Ilovatka (2.4×4.7 cm) and grave 15 from Spokoynaya (2.6–2.7×5 cm),<sup>19</sup> but based on its drawings the strap-end from Chapaevskiy grave 2 mound 29 is also of the intermediate class.<sup>20</sup> These stumper specimens appeared in the Volga–Ural Region relatively early, in I. Gavritukhin's opinion as early as the last third of the 6<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>21</sup>

Most Sivashovka type burials yielded box-shaped strap-ends,<sup>22</sup> but their exact dimensions are rarely determined.<sup>23</sup> As the available data demonstrates, the strap-ends from Belovodë and Spokoynaya are wider than most of their parallels, as those are 2–2.5 cm wide. A strap-end of extreme proportion is the one found in grave 6 of mound 13 in Malai – its length is five times its width (*Fig. 4. 27*).<sup>24</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Few examples: Regöly (TEJRAL 2011, 205, Abb. 158, 3); Kerch, catacomb excavated on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1904 (TEJRAL 2011, 293, Abb. 222, 2); Szeged-Nagyszéksós (TEJRAL 2011, 310, Abb. 238, 9).

<sup>15</sup>AMBROZ 1989, 16.

<sup>16</sup>SMIRNOV 1959, 219, 221, ris. 7, 6.

<sup>17</sup>KOMAR 2006, 123.

<sup>18</sup>GAVRITUKHIN 2018, 77.

<sup>19</sup>GAVRITUKHIN 2018, 77.

<sup>20</sup>ATAVIN 1996, 241, Tab. 4, 2.

<sup>21</sup>GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 85; GAVRITUKHIN 2018, 77.

<sup>22</sup>KOMAR et al. 2006, 271.

<sup>23</sup>Besides the above-mentioned specimens: Bogachevka Grave 12 of Mound 8: 1.8–2×5.5 cm (GENING–KORPUSOVA 1989, 10), Chernomorskoe Grave 11 of Mound 1: 2×5.6 cm (KOMAR–ORLOV 2006, 393), Kostogryzovo Grave 7 of Mound 1: 2.2×6–6.2 cm (KOMAR et al. 2006, 330); Sivashovka Grave 2 of Mound 3: 2.5×6 cm (KOMAR et al. 2006, 271).

<sup>24</sup>ATAVIN 1996, 258, Tab. 21, 1.





**Fig. 1.** Assemblages with early masque type belt fittings in Eastern Europe. 1: Belovod'e; 2: Malai; 3: Vostochnij Malai; 4: Greki; 5: Ilovatka; 6: Verkh Saja; 7: Urya; 8: Armievo; 9: Starij Kadom; 10: Birsck

**1. kép.** Korai maszkos vereteket tartalmazó leletgyűtésesek Kelet-Európában. 1: Belovode; 2: Malaj; 3: Vosztocsnij Malaj; 4: Greki; 5: Ilovatka; 6: Verh Saja; 7: Urja; 8: Armievo; 9: Sztarij Kadom; 10: Birszk

## Cast silver strap-end

The strap-ends with parallel sides, slightly pointed tip ornamented with two round apertures and a ridge on their axis are common objects in Eastern Europe. N. Limberis and I. Marchenko derived this type from their Hunnic prototypes that are characterised by narrow, longitudinal ridge. These strap-ends are dated to the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>25</sup> The classical specimens occurred sporadically in Crimea and the Caucasus, but they were most prevalent in Volga–Ural region and the eastern bank of Lake Aral.<sup>26</sup>

The cast strap-ends with two round apertures occur in the Sivashovka-type burials as well. Such specimens were discovered in grave 12 mound 1 of Vostochnij Malai II, east of the Azov Sea (Fig. 4. 7),<sup>27</sup> in Zinovievka<sup>28</sup> and grave 7 of

mound 1 in Berezhnovka-II in the Lower Volga Region,<sup>29</sup> and in grave 2 of mound 3 from Sivashovka<sup>30</sup> on the northern coast of the Black Sea. Only one strap-end was found in Zinovievka, whereas in Malai two, in Berezhnova and Sivashovka three specimens occurred.<sup>31</sup>

## T-shaped mounts

The two T-shaped mounts known from the assemblage have a scutiform plate. Regarding its shape, this type of mounts are quite common among the burials in the steppe region, however, their plates, unlike the specimens from Belovod'e,

<sup>25</sup>МАКСИМОВ 1956, 78, ris. 47.

<sup>30</sup>КОМАР et al. 2006, 270.

<sup>31</sup>According to A. Komar, the Sivashovka specimens are pressed because he thought he had discovered a volute motive on their upper part (КОМАР et al. 2006, 270). However, according to the photos (КОМАР et al. 2006, 268, ris. 12, 10–12, 31–33; КОМАР 2013, Tab. 17, 20–22), they were probably cast.

<sup>25</sup>LIMBERIS–MARCHENKO 2011, 434–435.

<sup>26</sup>КОМАР et al. 2006, 270.

<sup>27</sup>LIMBERIS–MARCHENKO 2011, 434–435.

<sup>28</sup>РЫКОВ 1928, 227, 109. kép 2.





Fig. 2. Finds from the Belovod'e "assemblage". Photos of N. Iudin

2. kép. Tárgyak a belovodei „leletgyűjtesből”. Fotók: N. Yudin

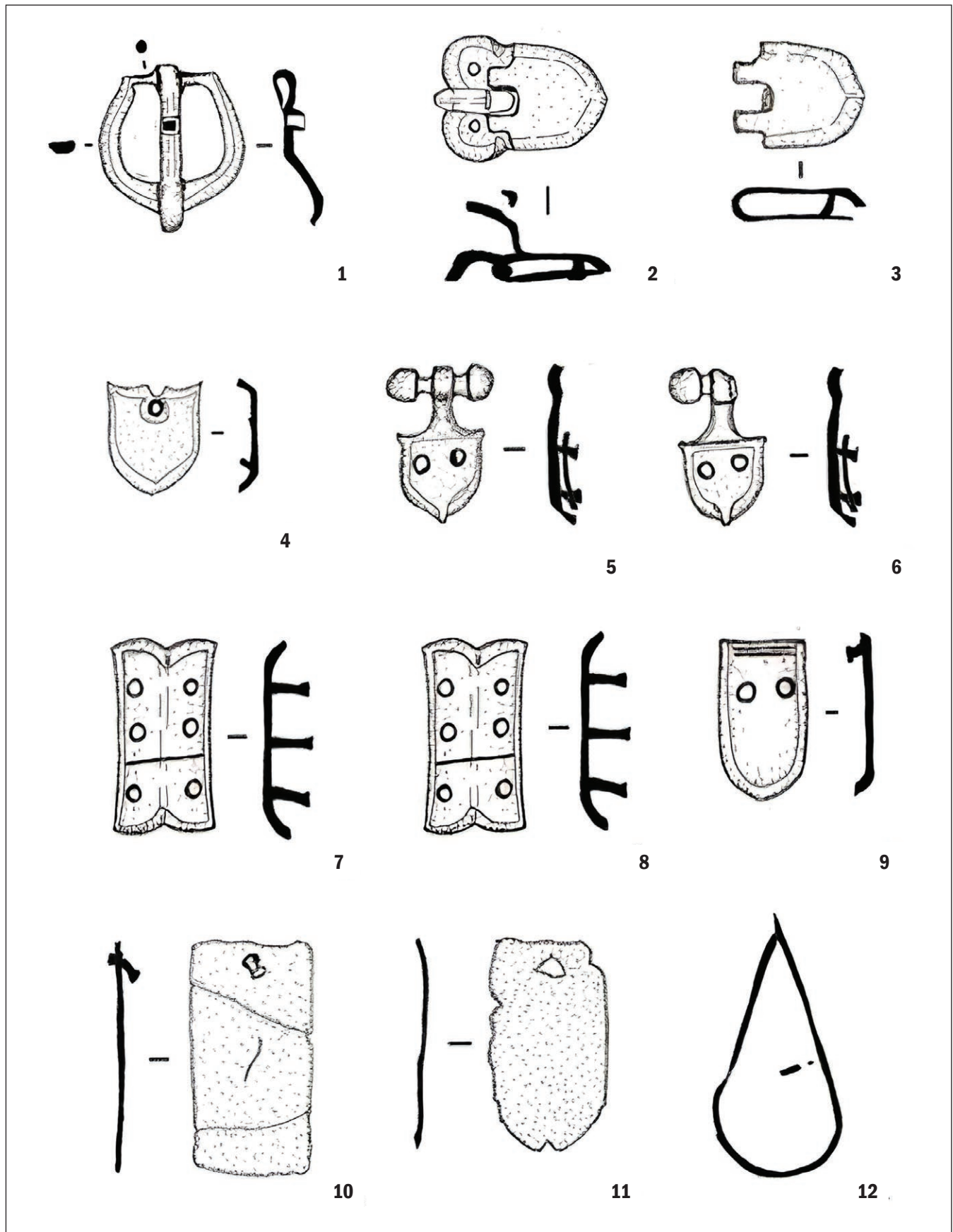


Fig. 3. Finds from the Belovod'e "assemblage". (After IUDIN 2014)

3. kép. Tárgyak a belovodei „leletgyűttesből”. (YUDIN 2014 nyomán)

are mostly ornamented with U-shaped apertures.<sup>32</sup> The T-shaped mounts with scutiform plates ornamented with two round apertures are very rare, only four specimens are known from the Caucasus,<sup>33</sup> the Crimea,<sup>34</sup> and the western shore of the Black sea.<sup>35</sup> T-shaped mounts with identical ornamentation often have a different form, their plates are rectangular with straight or curved sides. These mounts are common in the Volga-Ural Region (Fig. 5. 7, 33, 42),<sup>36</sup> where they belong to the first stylistic group of the masque-type belt fittings of I. Gavritukhin.<sup>37</sup> Among the Sivashovka-type burials, only grave 6 of mound 13 in Malai contained such mounts, however, they were pressed unlike the more typical cast ones (Fig. 4. 36).<sup>38</sup>

### Scutiform mount with round aperture near its edge

A round aperture is on the upper edge of the scutiform plate, located between two slightly curved rims. Similar belt fittings are rare in the steppe. The grave 2 of mound 29 in Chapaevskiy contained a similar one. A barely visible ridge is on its longitudinal axis, while an ∞ shaped aperture is located near its upper end.<sup>39</sup> Identical mount was found in the grave 2–3 of the mound 15 in Verkh Saya cemetery, in the Ural Mountains. The belt garniture contains a strap-end with round apertures, pseudo-buckles and T-shaped mounts is dated to the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century by R. Goldina.<sup>40</sup> The third analogy is known from the grave 53 of Stariy Kadom located in the Middle Oka Region (Fig. 5. 30). The other belt fittings of the assemblage, like the T-shaped mount with rectangular plate, mount with slightly curved end, cast strap-end with two big round apertures and ridge in its axis, are also belong to the first stylistic group of I. Gavritukhin.<sup>41</sup>

### Rectangular mounts with slightly curved ends

Although identical specimen is unknown to us, the masque-type belt fittings with curved or 'fish-tail' ends formed the one of the most common type.<sup>42</sup> Based on the cur-

vature of the sides and the upper end, we can distinguish an early and a late group. The first one, which includes the mount from Belovod'e as well, is characterized by a slightly curved ends while their sides are almost parallels.<sup>43</sup> Among the nomadic burials, only Vostochniy Malai II mound 1 grave 12 contains such belt fittings, however, these are smaller than the Belovod'e specimen, they are ornamented only with four round apertures and their lower end is flat (Fig. 4. 3, 6).<sup>44</sup> Similar ones were found in the grave 15 in Akhmylovo, in the Oka Region and in the grave 191 of Armievo in the Sura Valley (Fig. 5. 4, 5).<sup>45</sup>

### Pseudo-buckles

An intact and a damaged silver pseudo-buckle are known in the assemblage. These belong to the type 3 of I. Gavritukhin, based on two round apertures on the solid lower frame. Similar specimens are known from the Bylym, Caucasus, and Khatsky, from the Middle Dnieper Region or from Urya in the Ural Mountains (Fig. 5. 38, 39).<sup>46</sup>

Three assemblages<sup>47</sup> with such items are known from the Sivashovka type burials. The pseudo-buckles from grave 2 of mound 29 in Chapaevskiy also belong to the type 3.<sup>48</sup> While the Belovod'e specimens have a smooth surface on their plate, then the Chapaevskiy ones are ornamented with two round apertures.<sup>49</sup> The pseudo-buckles from grave 6 of mound 13 in Malai belong to the type 1e of I. Gavritukhin (Fig. 4. 21–24). This type is characterised by the pressing technique, the two round apertures on the solid frame and the imitated tongue.<sup>50</sup>

### The interpretation of the Belovod'e finds

Stylistically, the togetherness of the mounts and buckles is out of question, however, it is debated whether the earring and the solidus minted between 476 and 491 belong to the same assemblage. The crescent shaped earrings appeared in the male graves from the Hunnic period.<sup>51</sup> The grave 2 of mound 8 from Kubey can be dated to the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century based on the material.<sup>52</sup> The specimen from the above mentioned grave from Vostochniy Malai, dated to the

<sup>32</sup>Among others Sivashovka Mound 3 Grave 2, Izobilnoe Mound 1 Grave 4, Chernomorskoe Mound 1 Grave 11, and Dmitrovka Mound 1 Grave 12 can be mentioned (KOMAR et al. 2006, 270). The specimen from Berezhnovka I Mound 1 Grave 7, which is ornamented with curved line shaped aperture (MAKSIMOV 1956, 78, ris. 47).

<sup>33</sup>Chmi: GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 215, ris. 37, 32.

<sup>34</sup>Kerch: Grave 67 (AYBABIN 1990, 229, ris. 50, 14).

<sup>35</sup>Zaichino oresh; Abrit: TRAYKOVA 2017, 492, Tab. 129, 1561–1562.

<sup>36</sup>See Armievo: Grave 191, Ufa–Novikovka (GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 273, ris. 89, 145; ris. 96).

<sup>37</sup>GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 85.

<sup>38</sup>ATAVIN 1996, 259, Tab. 22, 6–7.

<sup>39</sup>ATAVIN 1996, 244, Tab. 7, 7.

<sup>40</sup>GOLDINA et al. 2018, 587, Tab. 431, 24–26; 588, Tab. 432.

<sup>41</sup>SHITOV 1988, 58, Tab. 12.

<sup>42</sup>KOMAR et al. 2006, 268–269.

<sup>43</sup>GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 85.

<sup>44</sup>LIMBERIS–MARCHENKO 2011, 428, ris. 9, 3, 8.

<sup>45</sup>GAVRITUKHIN 2018, 53, Fig. 18.

<sup>46</sup>GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 34.

<sup>47</sup>The specimen from Tan'kin is unpublished, I. BEZUGLOV–PARUSIMOV 2013, 262.

<sup>48</sup>According to I. Gavritukhin, some of the pseudo-buckles from Chapaevskiy belong to the type 1b (GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 33). However, based on the description A. Atavin, their tongue were movable (ATAVIN 1996, 213).

<sup>49</sup>ATAVIN 1996, 243, Tab. 2, 3, 5.

<sup>50</sup>ATAVIN 1996, 259, Tab. 22, 1–3.

<sup>51</sup>TEJRAL 2011, 221–222.

<sup>52</sup>ZASETSKAYA 1994, prilozhenie 3; Tab. 46, 2.



middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, represents a special type, since four grains were attached to the lower part of the earring. Its best analogy is known from Mokraya Balka.<sup>53</sup> The latest crescent shaped earring from grave 2 of mound 5 in Lebedi IV was found with masque type belt fittings, although, this jewellery was made of bronze instead of gold.<sup>54</sup> However, we should note that, that these earrings have a different design, which can be explained with the different manufacturing technique. Thus, it can be possible, however, it cannot be proven either, that the crescent-shaped earring and the belt set belong to the same grave. Unfortunately, we can ascertain less about the origin of the solidus of Zenon.

### The earliest horizon of the Sivashovka type burials

The analogies of the masque type belt mounts from Belovodë can be found on the one hand in the Volga–Ural area on the other among the Sivashovka type burials. Following the method of I. Gavritukhin, in the following, we collect those assemblages in which the masque type belt fittings are accompanied by such items, which can be dated to the post-Hunnic period.

The grave 12 of mound 1 in Vostochniy Malai II plays a key role in the emergence of the masque type belt fittings because this assemblage combines the object types of the post-Hunnic and the following period (Fig. 4. 1–8). Because of that both the publishers and M. Kazanski dated the grave to the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>55</sup> The earliest object associated to the assemblage is the Hunnic-style copper cauldron, which was found in the upper layers of the barrow in several pieces. According to Zs. Masek its best analogies were found in Suncheleyevo in the Middle-Volga Region and in Lipnyagova in Southern Siberia.<sup>56</sup> However the cauldron of Vostochniy Malai belongs to an archaic type, so Zs. Masek suggested that it is not certain whether the Malai specimen was connected to the burial.<sup>57</sup> The double-edged sword with crossguard ornamented with cloissoné technique deserves a special attention among the finds. M. Kazanski assumes the Byzantine origin of such weapons, which were used in the post-Hunnic period.<sup>58</sup> In contrast, the analogies of P-shaped suspension loops of the scabbard were widespread in the 6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> centuries. Therefore, it is conceivable that the older weapon was put in a new scabbard before the funeral.<sup>59</sup> As it was mentioned above, the crescent shaped earrings were common in the Hunnic and the post-Hunnic period as well.

The grave 2 of mound 3 in Ilovatka is one of the earliest Sivashovka type burials, which was dated between 610–641 by A. Komar (Fig. 4. 18–20).<sup>60</sup> The cutting weapon described

as a dagger plays a key role in the determination of the chronological position of the assemblage. It is not clear whether the 22 cm long fragment was single- or double-edged. The inner side of U-shaped chape is serrated inner side and it is ended in stylized bird heads.<sup>61</sup> Similar weapon with the identical chape was found in the grave 17 of Baital-Chapkan, which was considered as a scramasax by M. Kazanski.<sup>62</sup> I. Akhmedov dated the chapes with stylized bird heads to the post-Hunnic period, to the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup>, to the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>63</sup> Similar object is known from Abkhazia, from the grave 2 of Shapka–Iustinanov kholm.<sup>64</sup> The buckle with rectangular plate with gem inlays has an outstanding significance regarding the dating. According to M. Kazanski, this type was used between the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> and the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>65</sup> However, the best analogies of the Ilovatka finds are known from the catacomb 357 of Klin Yar. The B-shaped buckle with movable scutiform plate on which a circular inlay is designed on its tongue.<sup>66</sup> Its analogy is known in Ilovatka. Additionally, a U-shaped chaped was found in the dromos of the catacomb in Ilovatka, however, its inner side is smooth.<sup>67</sup> Some horse bones were deposited next to the dromos which allegedly belonged to the catacomb. Based on the radiocarbon dating, the animal was buried between 547 and 600 with a probability of 62.8%.<sup>68</sup> Back to the burial of Ilovatka, the style of the masque type mounts allows an early date of the assemblage. These forms are roughly manufactured and they are ornamented only with big-sized circular apertures.<sup>69</sup>

The scramasax of grave 6 mound 1 of Greki I (Fig. 4. 9–17) did not survive, but according to the description and the photos, the best analogies were found in the burials in Ilovatka and Baital-Chapkan.<sup>70</sup> Not just the weapon connects this assemblage to the grave of Ilovatka, but the belt fitting with curved sides and ornamented with plastic rib and round apertures, which type is known only from these two burials (Fig. 4. 14–16, 20).<sup>71</sup> The grave of Greki is very similar to the burial of Vostochniy Malai based on the burial customs. The WNW–ESE orientation, the niche grave and, the whole horse skeletons are characterized by both graves.<sup>72</sup>

The grave 6 mound 13 of Malai contains only a few finds, just an iron knife was found beside the pressed belt fittings (Fig. 4. 21–36). A. Atavin dated to the second and the last third of the 7<sup>th</sup> century based on the pseudo-buckles and the

<sup>61</sup>SMIRNOV 1959, 219, 221, ris. 7, 5.

<sup>62</sup>KAZANSKI 2012, 333.

<sup>63</sup>AKHMEDOV et al. 2016, 247–249.

<sup>64</sup>VORONOV–YUSHIN 1973, 182, ris. 11.

<sup>65</sup>KAZANSKI 2018, 91–96.

<sup>66</sup>BELINSKIJ–HÄRKE 2018, 301, Fig. 118, 62.

<sup>67</sup>BELINSKIJ–HÄRKE 2018, 301, Fig. 118, 61.

<sup>68</sup>WARREN–HIGHAM 2018, 130, Tab. 18.

<sup>69</sup>SMIRNOV 1959, 221, ris. 7, 7–8.

<sup>70</sup>CHKHAIDZE 2011, 117–118, 133, ris. 3.

<sup>71</sup>CHKHAIDZE 2011, 134, ris. 4, 9–11; SMIRNOV 1959, 221, ris. 7, 7.

<sup>72</sup>CHKHAIDZE 2011, 132, ris. 2; LIMBERIS–MARCHENKO 2011, 422, ris. 4.

<sup>53</sup>LIMBERIS–MARCHENKO 2011, 431, ris. 12, 1; 436–437.

<sup>54</sup>SKARBOVENKO–LIFANOV 2012, 63, ris. 7, 10.

<sup>55</sup>LIMBERIS–MARCHENKO 2011, 438–439; KAZANSKI 2020, 90–120.

<sup>56</sup>MASEK 2017, 91.

<sup>57</sup>MASEK 2017, 78–79; 94–95.

<sup>58</sup>KAZANSKI 2020, 102.

<sup>59</sup>LIMBERIS–MARCHENKO 2011, 433–434.

<sup>60</sup>KOMAR 2006, 123.





manufacturing techniques of the belt mounts.<sup>73</sup> This view can be traced back to that topos of the research that the pressed mounts appeared only after the cast ones.<sup>74</sup> The following arguments are against this late date based on that rigid above-mentioned rule. It was already mentioned, that the T-shaped fittings with rectangular upper part with less-curved end belong to the first, early style group of the Volga–Ural region.<sup>75</sup> The ribbed oval bronze buckle without any plate is more important.<sup>76</sup> A. Atavin mentioned the B-shaped buckles of Mokraya Balka as analogies, which were dated to the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> and the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> centuries by A. Afanasiev.<sup>77</sup> However, almost identical specimens are known in the type A6 of M. Schulze-Dörrlamm. Based on her distribution map, this type occurred mainly in the Carpathian Basin and in the Balkans, where they were used between the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> to the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>78</sup>

### Concluding remarks

In summary, a certain group can be outlined based on the belt mounts from Belovodë, which can be described with the following features:

1. The mounts are cast, however, regarding the Mound 13 Grave 6 of Malai, it is also possible, that the pressed specimens appeared relatively early
2. The form of the mounts is simple, besides the strap-ends, the scutiform or T-shaped fittings, the mounts with “fish-tail” end and the pseudo-buckles are common
3. A barely visible ridge was found in the midline of the mounts
4. The most common ornamentation are the relatively big-sized round apertures which are frequently arranged asymmetrically
5. The upper part of the so-called fish-tail mounts is less curved

Currently, grave 12 mound 1 of Vostochniy Malai II, grave 6 mound 1 of Greki I and grave 6 mound 13 of Malai from the eastern shore of the Azov Sea and grave 2 mound 3 of Ilovatka from the Lower Volga Basin belong to this group from the Sivashovka type burials. Regarding their style, the belt fittings from “Belovodë” have not good analogies from the North-Caucasus or the North Pontic region. Thus, even the exact site of the finds is not sure, they origina-

ted most likely from the area between the Don and Kuban Rivers.

The first group of the Volga–Ural region outlined by I. Gavritukhin contains the best analogies to our belt fittings, thus, it can help us to date the above mentioned Sivashovka-type graves more precisely (*Fig. 5*). Many of the northern assemblages like the steppe burials still include finds from the late 5<sup>th</sup>, early 6<sup>th</sup> centuries, which shows the transitional character between the post-Hunnic period and the assemblages characterized with masque type belt sets.

The contemporary burials of the above-mentioned earliest Sivashovka type burials located east of the Don River can be found on the northern shore of the Black Sea as well. The grave from mound 1 of Bolshoy Tokmak, grave 1 mound 22 in Malaya Ternovka and grave 2 mound 8 of Sukhanovo can be characterized with Sucidava-type buckles, while grave 1 mound 3 of Shelyug contained Sadovec-Pleven type masque belt mounts. According to A. Komar these burials belong to the so-called Sukhanovo-horizon and can be dated to the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>79</sup> Thus, the separation of the two groups is not based on their different chronological position. The representation of the Black Sea group originated from the Byzantine military(?) fashion of the Northern Balkans,<sup>80</sup> while the belt fittings of the other group from the Don eastwards emerged as a result of a north-south directed trading-communication system (see *Fig. 1*). This also points to the formation of the masque type belt fittings: while earlier an attempt was made to derive this style from the Byzantine-Sasanian cultural circles,<sup>81</sup> the new evidences suggest that we can expect the parallel appearance of at least two – technically close – groups, which started to merge from the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

The absolute chronological position of the group outlined in the article is an open question. The burial of Vostochniy Malai, which can be considered as the oldest assemblage of the above-outlined group, consists of many such types of objects, which does not exclude the possibility of the date to the post-Hunnic period, to the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. However, we would like to take a stand carefully in this question: in our opinion, the burials of this group were made in the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> or the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> centuries *at the latest*. Hopefully, the publication of further assemblages of this group or the scientific methods like <sup>14</sup>C can help with more precise dating.

<sup>73</sup> ATAVIN 1996, 229.

<sup>74</sup> SOMOGYI 1987, 131. According to the newly published burials, the pressed belt mounts appeared in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century as shoe-fittings (see BEZUGLOV–PARUSIMOV 2013, 258, ris. 2).

<sup>75</sup> GAVRITUKHIN–OBLOMSKIY 1996, 85.

<sup>76</sup> ATAVIN 1996, 258, Tab. 21, 3.

<sup>77</sup> ATAVIN 1996, 221.

<sup>78</sup> SCHULZE-DÖRRLAMM 2002, 14–15.

<sup>79</sup> KOMAR 2008, 101–103; 91, ris. 3, 5; 92, ris. 4, 2–3; 96, ris. 7, 5, 16–17. To the dating of the Sucidava-type buckles, see: SCHULZE-DÖRRLAMM 2002, 149.

<sup>80</sup> I. Gavritukhin supported this view and he found the best typological analogies of the north Pontic Sucidava type buckles in the territory of the present-day Bulgaria (GAVRITUKHIN 2009, 156–157).

<sup>81</sup> See BÁLINT 1992, 389–415.



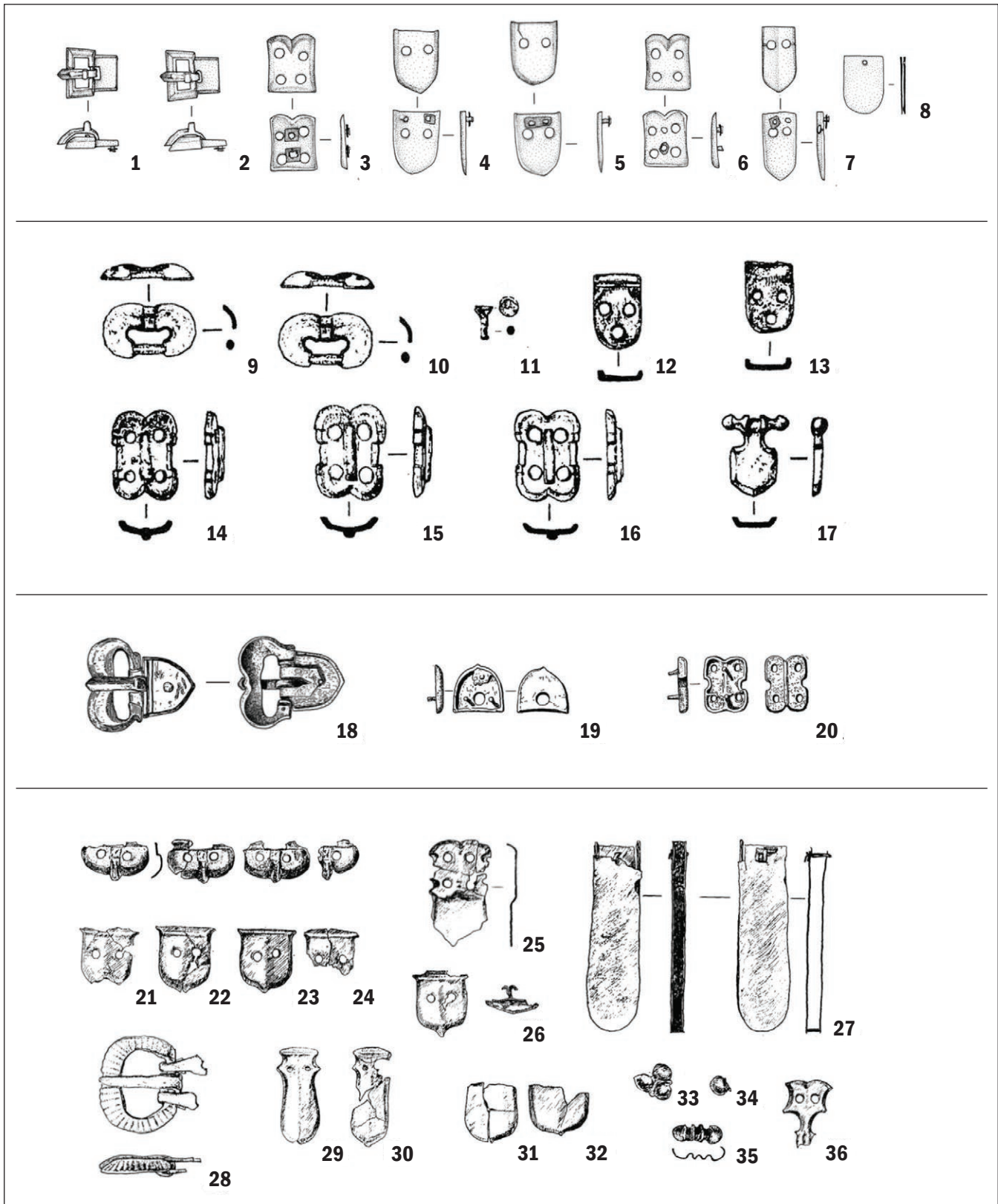
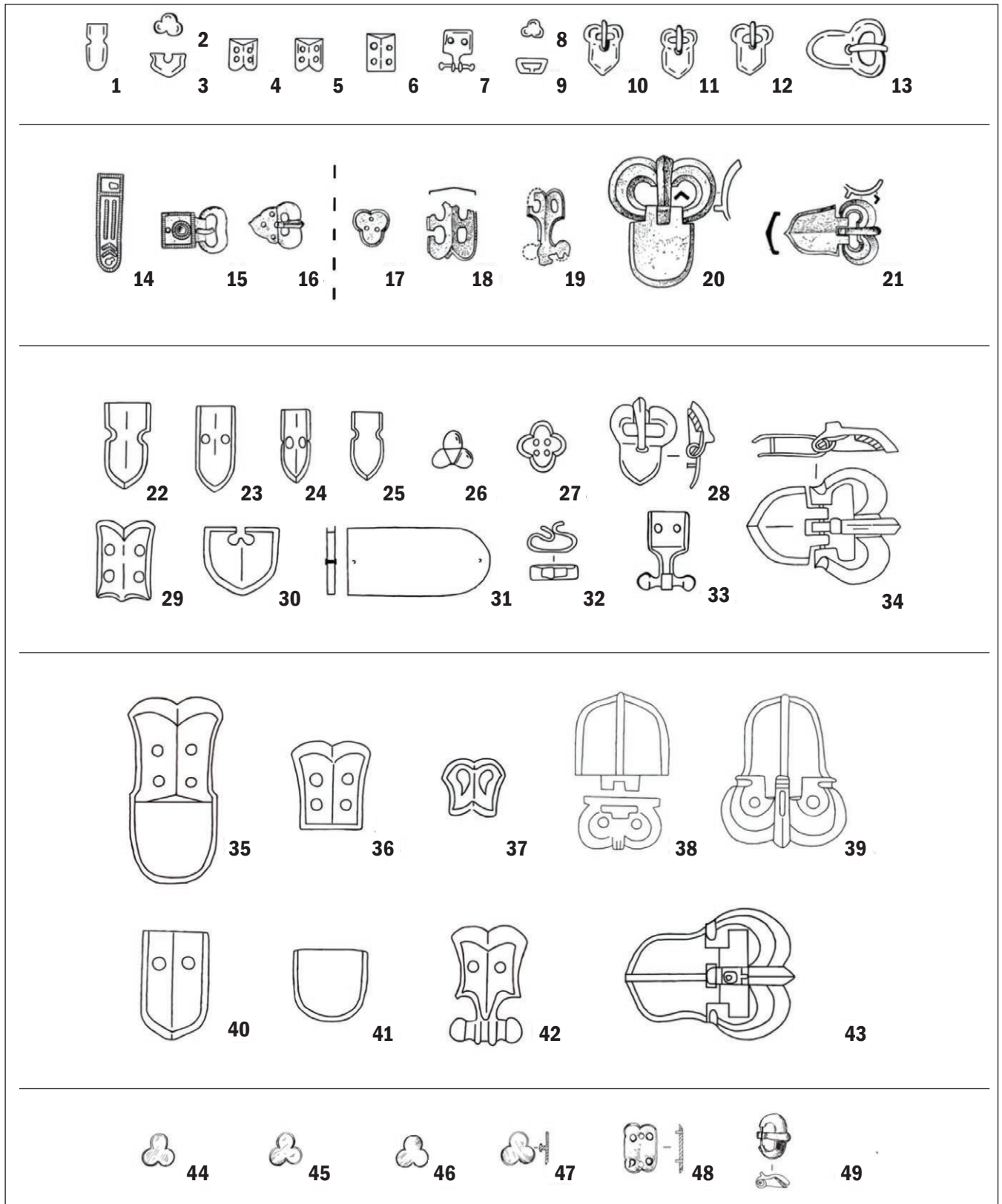


Fig. 4. Belt fittings from the early Sivashovka type burials. 1–8: Vostochniy Malai II, Mound 1 Grave 12; 9–17: Greki I, Mound 1 Grave 6; 18–20: Ilovatka, Mound 3 Grave 2; 21–36: Malai, Mound 13 Grave 6 (1–8: after LIMBERIS–MARCHENKO 2011; 9–17: after CHKHAIDZE 2011; 21–36: after SMIRNOV 1959 and ATAVIN 1996)

4. kép. Maszkos veretek a korai Szivasovka-típusú temetkezésekből. 1–8: Vosztocsnij Malaj II, 1. halom 12. sír; 9–17: Greki I, 1. halom 6. sír; 18–20: Ilovatka, 3. halom 2. sír; 21–36: Malaj, 13. halom 6. sír (1–8: LIMBERIS–MARCHENKO 2011 nyomán; 9–17: CHKHAIDZE 2011 nyomán; 21–36: SMIRNOV 1959 és ATAVIN 1996 nyomán)



**Fig. 5.** Belt sets of the 1<sup>st</sup> stylistic group in the Volga–Kama Region. 1–13: Armievo, Grave 191; 14–21: Birsk, Grave 165; 22–34: Starij Kadom, Grave 53; 35–43: Urya; 44–49: Verkh Saja, Mound 26 Grave 1–2 (1–13: after POLESSKIKH 1979; 14–21: after MAZHITOV 1968; 22–34: after SHITOV 1988; 35–43: after GAVRITUKHIN 2001; 44–49: after GOLDINA et al. 2018)

**5. kép.** A Volga–Káma vidéki első stíluscsoport övgarnitúrái. 1–13: Armievo, 191. sír; 14–21: Birszk, 165. sír; 22–34: Sztarij Kadom, 53. sír; 35–43: Urja; 44–49: Verh Saja, 26. halom 1–2. sír (1–13: POLESSKIKH 1979 nyomán; 14–21: MAZHITOV 1968 nyomán; 22–34: SHITOV 1988 nyomán; 35–43: GAVRITUKHIN 2001 nyomán; 44–49: GOLDINA et al. 2018 nyomán)

## REFERENCES

- AKHMEDOV, ILYA R.–VASILEVA, YEVGENIYA. YE.–KHAVRIN, SERGEY V. / АХМЕДОВ, Илья Р.–Васильева, Евгения Е.–Хаврин, Сергей В.  
2016 Клиновое оружие из погребения 33 могильника Кичмалка II в Кабардино-Балкарии. Краткие Сообщения Института Археологии 244, 237–252.
- AMBROZ, ANATOLIY K. / АМБРОЗ, АНАТОЛИЙ, К.  
1971 Проблемы раннесредневековой хронологии Восточной Европы I. Советская Археология 2, 96–123.  
1989 Хронология древностей Северного Кавказа V-VII вв. Москва.
- ATAVIN, ANDREY G. / АТАВИН, АНДРЕЙ Г.  
1996 Погребения VII – VIII начала вв. из Восточного Приазовья. In: Кочкина, А. Ф.–Кузнецова, Л. В.–Сташенков, Д. А. (ред.): Культура евразийских степей второй половины I тысячелетия н. э. Самара. 208–264.
- AUVAVIN, ALEXSANDR I. / АЙБАВИН, АЛЕКСАНДР И.  
1990 Хронология могильников Крыма позднеримского и раннесредневекового времени. Материалы по Археологии, Истории и Этнографии Таврии 1, 3–86, 175–241.
- BÁLINT, CSANÁD  
1992 Kontakte zwischen Iran, Byzanz und der Steppe. Das Grab von Üç Tepe (Sowj. Azerbajdžan) und der beschlagverzierte Gürtel im 6. und 7. Jahrhundert. In: Daim, F. (Hrsg.): AWARENFORSCHUNGEN. Wien, 309–496.
- BALOGH, CSILLA  
2014 Masque Type Mounts from the Carpathian Basin. In: Doncheva-Petkova, Ly. – Balogh, Cs. – Türk, A. (eds): Avars, Bulgars and Magyars on the Middle and Lower Danube. Sofia–Piliscsaba, 37–54.
- BELINSKIY, ANDREJ V.–HÄRKE, HEINRICH  
2018 Ritual, society and population at Klin-Yar (North Caucasus). Excavations 1994–1996 in the Iron Age to early medieval cemetery. Archäologie in Eurasien 36. Bonn.
- BEZUGLOV, SERGEY I.–PARUSIMOV, IGOR N. / БЕЗУГЛОВ, СЕРГЕЙ И.–ПАРУСИМОВ, ИГОРЬ, Н.  
2013 Раннесредневековое погребение из хут. Пухляковский на Нижнем Дону. In: Ключников, В. В.–Кулаков, А. А. (ред.): Хазарские древности. Аксай, 256–261.
- СНКНАИДЗЕ, ВИКТОР N. / ЧХАИДЗЕ, ВИКТОР Н.  
2011 Раннесредневековые кочевнические погребения из Восточного Приазовья. Материалы и Исследования по Археологии Северного Кавказа 12, 115–140.
- GAVRITUKHIN, IGOR O. / ГАВРИТУХИН, ИГОРЬ О.  
2001 Эволюция восточноевропейский псевдопряжек. In: Сташенков, Д. А. (ред.): Культуры евразийских степей второй половины I тысячелетия н. э. (из истории костюма) т. 2. Самара, 31–86.  
2009 Элементы «Юстиниановского» воинского стиля у северных варваров (Пряжка типа Сучидава). In: Aparaschivei, D (ed.): Studia Antiqua et Medievalia. Miscellanea in honorem anno LXXV peragentis Professoris Dan. Gh. Teodor oblata. București. 153–183.  
2018 Belt sets from Alanic graves: Chronology and cultural links. In: Belinskiy, A. V.–Härke, H. (eds): Ritual, society and population at Klin-Yar (North Caucasus). Excavations 1994–1996 in the Iron Age to early medieval cemetery. Archäologie in Eurasien 36. Bonn, 49–96.
- GAVRITUKHIN, IGOR O.–OBLOMSKIY, ANDREY M. / ГАВРИТУХИН, ИГОРЬ О.–Обломский, Андрей М.  
1996 Гапоновский клад и его культурно-исторический контекст. Раннеславянский мир 3. Москва.
- GENING, VLADIMIR V.–KORPUSOVA, VALENTINA, N. / ГЕНИНГ, ВЛАДИМИР В.–КОРПУСОВА, ВАЛЕНТИНА, Н.  
1989 Археологические памятники Крымского Присивашья. Курганы у ц. Богачевка. Киев.
- GOLDINA, RIMMA D.–PEREVOZCHIKOVA, SVETLANA A.–GOLDINA, EKATERINA V. / ГОЛДИНА, РИММА. Д.–ПЕРЕВОЗЧИКОВА, СВЕТЛАНА А.–ГОЛДИНА, ЕКАТЕРИНА В.  
2018 Могильник вв. у д. Верх-Сая в Кунгорской лесостепи. Материалы и исследования Камско-Вятской археологической экспедиции 19. Ижевск.
- IUDIN, NIKITA I. / ЮДИН, НИКИТА И.  
2014 Археологические разведки на территории Азовского и Аксайского районов Ростовской области в 2012 году. In: Горбенко, А. А. (отв. ред.): Историко-археологические исследования в г. Азове и на Нижнем Дону в 2012 г. Азов. 111–130.
- KAZANSKI, MIKHAIL M. / КАЗАНСКИЙ, МИХАИЛ М.  
2012 К истории парадного клинкового оружия эпохи Великого переселения народов на Северном Кавказе: Кинджал и скрамасак. In: Гаджиев, М. С. (отв. ред.): Новейшие открытия в археологии Северного Кавказа: Исследования и интерпретации. XXVII Крупновские чтения. Материалы Международной научной конференции. Махачкала, 23–28 апреля 2012 г. Махачкала, 332–334.  
2018 Ранневизантийские пряжки из понтийских мастерских (середина V – середина VI вв.) In: Алексеев, Н. А. (отв. ред.): ΧΕΡΣΩΝΟΣ ΘΕΜΑΤΑ: империя и полис. Материалы X международного Византийского семинара. Симферополь, 91–95.  
2020 Древности степных кочевников постгуннского времени (середина V– середина VI в.) в Восточной Европе. Материалы по Археологии, Истории и Этнографии Таврии 25, 90–167.
- КОМАР, АЛЕКСЕЙ V. / КОМАР, АЛЕКСЕЙ V.  
2006 Перещепинский комплекс в контексте основных проблемы истории и культуры кочевников в Восточной Европы в VII нач. VIII в. In: Евлевский, А. В. (ред.): Степи Европы в эпоху средневековья, Т. 5. Хазарское время. Донецк, 7–244.  
2008 Памятники типа Суханово: к вопросу о культуре булгар Северного Причерноморья 2-й половины VI – начала VII в. Сугдейский Сборник 3, 87–117.  
2013 Кочевники восточноевропейских степей второй половины VI – первой половины VIII в. In: Досымбаева, А.–Жолдасбеков, М. (отв. ред.): Атлас Западного Тюркского Каганата. Астана, 674–735.
- КОМАР, АЛЕКСЕЙ V.–КУБЫШЕВ, АНАТОЛИЙ И.–ОРЛОВ, РУСЛАН С. / КОМАР, АЛЕКСЕЙ V.–КУБЫШЕВ, АНАТОЛИЙ И.–ОРЛОВ, РУСЛАН С.  
2006 Погребения кочевников VI-VII вв. из Северо-Западного Приазовья. In: Евлевский, А. В. (ред.): Степи Европы в эпоху средневековья, Т. 5. Хазарское время. Донецк, 245–374.
- КОМАР, АЛЕКСЕЙ V.–ОРЛОВ, РУСЛАН С. / КОМАР, АЛЕКСЕЙ V.–ОРЛОВ, РУСЛАН С.  
2006 Погребение кочевника 2-й пол. VII в. у села Черноморское. In: Евлевский, А. В. (ред.): Степи Европы в эпоху средневековья, Т. 5. Хазарское время. Донецк, 387–398.
- КОВАЛЕВСКАЯ, ВЕРА В. / КОВАЛЕВСКАЯ, ВЕРА В.  
2000 Компьютерная обработка массового археологического материала из раннесредневековых памятников Евразии. Москва.
- LIMBERIS, NATALIYA YU.–MARSHENKO, IVAN I. / ЛИМБЕРИС, НАТАЛЬЯ Ю.–МАРЧЕНКО, ИВАН И.  
2011 Погребения эпохи великого переселения народов и раннего средневековья из курганов степного Прикубанья In: Шаров О. В. (отв. ред.): Петербургский Апокриф. Послание от Марка. Санкт-Петербург– Кишинев, 417–441.



- МАКСИМОВ, YEVGENIY K. / МАКСИМОВ, ЕВГЕНИЙ К.  
1956 Позднейшие сармато-аланские погребения V–VIII вв. на территории Нижнего Поволжья. *Археологический Сборник* 1, 65–85.
- MASEK, ZSÓFIA  
2017 A fresh look at Hunnic cauldrons in the light of a new find from Hungary. *Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 68, 75–136. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1556/072.2017.68.1.4>
- МАСТЫКОВА, ANNA V. / МАСТЫКОВА, АННА В.  
2009 Женский костюм Центрального и Западного Предкавказья в конце IV – середине VI в. н. э. Москва.
- МАЗНИТОВ, NIYAZ, A. / МАЖИТОВ, НИЯЗ А.  
1968 Бахмутинская культура. Этническая история населения Северной Башкирии I тысячелетия нашей эры. Москва.
- MIR 7  
1989 Hahn, Wolfgang: Die Ostprägung des Römischen Reiches im 5. Jahrhundert (408–491). Wien.
- POLESSKIИ, MIKHAIL R. / ПОЛЕССКИХ, МИХАИЛ Р.  
1979 Армиевский могильник. In: Федоров-Давидов, Г. А. (отв. ред.): *Археологические памятники мордвы первого тысячелетия нашей эры. Труды МНИИЯЛИЭ* 63. Саранск, 5–56.
- RYKOW, PAWEL, S.  
1928 Aknasír Sinojewka (Petrovi kerület, Saratow-i kormányzóság) falu melletti dombban. *Archaeologiai Értesítő* 42, 225–228.
- SAKHANEV, VSEVOLOD V. / САХАНЁВ, ВСЕВОЛОД В.  
1914 Раскопки на Северном Кавказе в 1911–1912 гг. *Известия Императорской Археологической Комиссии* 56, 75–219.
- SCHULZE-DÖRRLAMM, MERTHILD  
2002 Byzantinische Gürtelschnallen und Gürtelbeschläge im Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseum. Mainz.
- ШИТОВ, VIKTOR N. / ШИТОВ, ВИКТОР Н.  
1988 Старокадомский могильник. In: Жиганов, М. Ф. (отв. ред.): *Материалы по археологии Мордовии. Труды МНИИЯЛИЭ* 85. Саранск, 23–70.
- SKARBOVENKO, VERA A.–LIFANOV, NIKOLAY A. / СКАРБОВЕНКО, ВЕРА А.–ЛИФАНОВ, НИКОЛАЙ А.  
2012 Погребально-Поминальные комплексы раннесредневековых кочевников из Восточного Приазовья (по материалам раскопок могильников Лебеди IV и Лебеди VIII в 1980 г.). *Материалы по археологии и истории античного и средневекового Крыма* 4, 44–68.
- SMIRNOV, KONSTANTIN F. / СМЯНОВ, КОНСТАНТИН Ф.  
1959 Курганы у сел Иловатка и Политотдельское Сталинградской области. In: Крупнов, Е. И. (отв. ред.): *Памятники нижнего Поволжья I*. МИА 60, 206–322.
- SOMOGYI, PÉTER  
1987 Typologie, Chronologie und Herkunft der Maskenbeschläge zu den archäologischen Hinterlassenschaften osteuropäischer Reiterhirten aus der pontischen Steppe im 6. Jahrhundert. *Archaeologia Austriaca* 71, 121–154.
- TEJRAL, JAROSLAV  
2011 Einheimische und Fremde. Das norddanubische Gebiet zur Zeit der Völkerwanderung. Brno.
- ТРАЙКОВА, LYUBA A. / ТРАЙКОВА, ЛЮБА А.  
2017 Коланът южно от Долен Дунав – края на III – началото на VII в. / The belt south of Lower Danube – the end of the 3rd c. – the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. Дисертации том 10. София.
- VORONOV, YURIJ. N.–YUSHIN, V. A. / ВОРОНОВ, ЮРИЙ Н.–ЮШИН, В. А.  
1973 Новые памятники Цебельдинской культуры в Абхазии. *Советская Археология* 1, 171–191.
- WARREN, REBECCA–HIGHAM, THOMAS  
2018 Radiocarbon dating at Klin-Yar. In: Belinskij, A. B.–Härke, H. (eds): *Ritual, society and population at Klin-Yar (North Caucasus). Excavations 1994–1996 in the Iron Age to early medieval cemetery. Archäologie in Eurasien* 36. Bonn, 127–133.
- ZASETSKAYA, IRINA P. / ЗАСЕЦКАЯ, ИРИНА П.  
1994 Культура кочевников южнорусских степей в гуннскую эпоху (конец IV–V вв.). Санкт-Петербург.

# Kora középkori leletek a Don deltájából – Kísérlet a Kelet-európai sztyeppéről származó maszkos veretek legkorábbi csoportjának meghatározására

Gulyás Bence – Somogyi Péter – Nikita Iudin

A kora középkori Kelet-Európa egyik legemblematikusabb leletcsoportját az öntött és préselt ún. maszkos fémveretek alkotják, melyeket az orosz nyelvű szakirodalom heraldikus veretek elnevezés alatt tart számon. A rendkívül változatos formájú és díszítésű maszkos veretek tipológiai rendszerezésére több kutató tett már javaslatot. Azonban ezek a rendszerek sem az alkalmazott terminológia területén, sem a kidolgozott típusokat illetően nem egységesek, és a verettípusok keltezése kapcsán is számos kérdés még mindig nyitott. Egyedül az Al-Duna vidékéről és a Krím félszigetről ismeretes íves áttörésekkel sűrűn díszített veretek keltezhetőek megbízhatóan a 6. század második felére, 7. század elejére.

Az összes többi kelet-európai maszkos veretet egy csoportba sorolják, s használatukkal általában az egész 7. század folyamán számolnak. Ezen csoporton belül stilisztikai alapon csak a Volga–Urál vidéki vereteket sikerült két stíluscsoportra bontani. Ráadásul úgy tűnik, hogy az első stíluscsoport veretei már a 6. század második felében elterjedhettek. Tanulmányunkban kísérletet teszünk a Volga–Urál vidéki első stíluscsoport ismerveit felmutató lelethorizont meghatározására és keltezésére a Szivasovka-típusú temetkezéseknek nevezett 7. századi sztyeppeni emlékszenvedőben. Ennek kiindulópontjaként egy, állítólagosan a Don-deltából származó „leletegyüttest” mutatunk be.

**Open Access.** A cikk a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>) feltételei szerint publikált Open Access közlemény, melynek szellemében a cikk bármilyen médiumban szabadon felhasználható, megosztható és újraközölhető, feltéve, hogy az eredeti szerző és a közlés helye, illetve a CC License linkje és az esetlegesen végrehajtott módosítások feltüntetésre kerülnek. (SID\_1)

