

Relații Interetnice în Transilvania

Militaria Mediaevalia în Europa centrală și de sud-est



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Lucrări prezentate în conferințele internaționale
Interethnic Relations in Transylvania
Sibiu, 2018-2019

Editat de / Edited by
Zeno Karl PINTER, Claudia URDUZIA și Anca NIȚOI

Editura ASTRA MUSEUM
Sibiu • 2020

Finanțat de Departamentul pentru Relații Interetnice din cadrul Secretariatului General al Guvernului României prin intermediul Forumului Democrat al Germanilor din România și al Forumului Democrat al Germanilor din Sibiu.

Se distribuie gratuit.

Descrierea CIP a Bibliotecii Naționale a României
Relații Interetnice în Transilvania : militaria mediaevalia în Europa centrală și de sud-est : lucrări prezentate în conferințele internaționale Interethnic Relations in Transylvania Sibiu, 2018-2019 / ed.: Zeno Karl Pinter, Claudia Urduzia și Anca Nițoi. - Sibiu : Astra Museum, 2020
ISBN 978-606-733-312-1

I. Pinter, Zeno Karl (ed.)
II. Urduzia, Claudia (ed.)
III. Nițoi, Anca (ed.)

94

Front cover: Pictură murală din biserica evanghelică din Mălâncrav – detaliu.

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Please send any mail or messages regarding this publication at:
ancanitoi@yahoo.com, claudiaurduzia@yahoo.com

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Adress: Editura ASTRA MUSEUM
Piața Mică, nr.11, cod poștal 550182, Sibiu, Romania
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CUVÂNT ÎNAINTE

Evul mediu reprezintă o perioadă ce paradoxal se bucură de atenția constantă a specialiștilor dar, în același timp, încă, reprezintă din multe puncte de vedere o perioadă cu multe pete albe. Istoria militară a reprezentat mereu o temă predilectă pentru foarte mulți din cercetătorii perioadei medievale. Chiar și istoriografiile din fostele state socialiste, puternic influențate de curentul marxist, au acordat atenție deosebită istoriei militare. Starea de beligeranță permanentă dintre lumea creștină și lumea musulmană în perioada secolelor VIII-XVII este încă o temă abordată frecvent în mediul științific. Totodată, această perioadă este la originea unor realizări artistice de excepție în literatura și pictura romantic, care au făcut cunoscute unele dintre cele mai importante realizări ale lumii medievale: castelele.

Chiar și astăzi istoria militară a evului mediu reprezintă o sursă de inspirație pentru mulți cercetători. Dacă în urmă cu cca. 50-60 de ani domeniul era dominat mai ales de cercetători de gen masculin, asistăm astăzi la o apetență tot mai mare manifestată pentru această tematică și de către femei. Tematica este departe de a putea fi considerată epuizată și în poziția de a nu mai putea furniza elemente noi de înțelegere a mecanismelor care au guvernat comunitățile medievale

În urmă cu 15 ani se năștea ideea unei conferințe dedicate analizării interacțiunii diferitelor comunități etnice din Transilvania – Relații Interetnice în Transilvania (sec. VI-XIII) – care s-a dovedit a fi o idee care a adunat aproape an de an specialiști dedicați cercetării relațiilor interetnice prin prisma arheologie, istoriei, istoriei artei sau arhitecturii. În anul 2010, ca urmare a unor discuții începute în Varna (Bulgaria) cu colegi din Bulgaria și din Polonia, s-a născut ideea ca sub umbrela conferinței Relații Interetnice în Transilvania, să fie organizată o conferință dedicată istoriei militare a perioadei migrațiilor și evului mediu timpuriu – *Medievalia Militaria in South-East Europe*. Conferința, a cărei primă ediție a fost în anul 2011, s-a bucurat mereu de o largă participare internațională și a dus la publicarea a 7 volume dedicate istoriei militare sub toate aspectele ei, demonstrând că speranța pe care o exprima Zeno Karl Pinter în Cuvântul Înainte la primul volum din seria Relații Interetnice (2005) s-a transformat în certitudine. În acest context cele 7 volume apărute între 2011-2018 reprezintă o contribuție importantă, fiind și singurele volume tematice ce abordează, în istoriografia din România, această tematică.

Volumul de față este al VIII-lea și el grupează comunicări susținute la edițiile din 2018-2019 ale conferinței **Relații Interetnice în Transilvania. Militaria Mediaevalia în Europa centrală și de sud-est**.

Temele dezvoltate în cele 14 studii din cuprinsul volumului dezbat subiecte legate de arheologia și istoria militară și a echipamentelor militare, de arheologia și istoria așezărilor, de istorie a bucătăriei și gătitului, legate de patrimoniul construit sau de istoria și arheologie ecleziastică. Deși aparent studiile reflectă o eterogenitate a temelor, asocierea lor nu face decât să ilustreze multiplele fațete prin care societatea medievală se manifesta, precum și modul în care societatea noastră, contemporană, se raportează la martorii încă prezenți ai acelei perioade.

Studiile ne poartă, nu doar pe un interval cronologic larg (secolele IV-XVIII) ci și pe un areal geografic care pornește din Transilvania (Z.K. Pinter, *O descoperire veche, într-o lumină nouă. Complexul arheologic de la Viscri / Deutsch-Weisskirch*; A. Nițoi, *Arms and Armour from the Medieval Paintings of the Church at Mălâncrav (Sibiu County)*; P. Langa, *The Sword and the Saber – Symbols of Social Position in the Votive Images of Medieval Transylvania*; D. Bacueț, H. Cociș, T. Keresztes *Ordine monastice medievale pe valea Barcăului. Despre urmele mănăstirii pauline din hotarul localității Nușfalău (jud. Sălaj)*; R. Frîncu, Simona Malearov, *Rețete culinare ale landlerilor reflectate în manuscrise și cercetări de teren*), ajunge în Bulgaria (V. Yotov, *Chafing Dishes and Ember Covers Vessels North at the Danube River (30-ies Years of 9th – Beginning of 10th Century)*; S. Popov, *Late Medieval War Hammers from Vatevi Collection (Bulgaria); Elements of the 15th – 16th C. Equipment of Horseman and Horse – Possible Witnesses of the Conflicts Between the East and West*; S. Boyanov, *Localization of the Battle of Adrianople (378), the Causes and Consequences*

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of this Military Conflict According to Ancient Authors) pentru a ajunge în regiunea Rusiei (E. Shinakov, V. Guryanov, A. Chubur, *Ownership Settlements of the Ancient Rus Epoch in the Desna Region: Natural, Economic and Ethno-demographic Aspects*). Subiectele prezentate anterior sunt completate de studii dedicate analizării apariției unor motive decorative pe săbii (D. Toichkin, Y. Toichkina, *About the Origin of Swords, Decorated with Special Christian Symbols and Inscriptions*) și de analiza procesului de restaurare a uneia dintre cele mai importante fortificații de pe linia Dunării de Jos (V. Speriatu, *Inițiativa de restaurare și valorificare a Cetății Capidava*).

În încheiere un cuvânt de prețuire trebuie adus colectivului redacțional care a făcut posibilă editarea acestui nou volum: Zeno Karl Pinter, Claudia Urduzia și Anca Nițoi.

Sibiu, septembrie 2020

Prof. univ. dr. habil. Ioan Marian Țiplic

FOREWORD*

Middle Ages is a period of time which paradoxically sees the constant attention of specialists and at the same time is still in many regards an age with many blank spots. Military history has been always a popular theme for many of the researchers studying the medieval period. Even historiographies in former socialist states, under the strong influence of the Marxist currents, have shown a special attention to military history. The permanent state of belligerence between the Christian world and the Muslim world in the period of time comprised between the 8th and the 17th centuries is still a frequent approached theme in the scientific environment. At the same time this period of time is at the origin of some exceptional artistic achievements in Romantic literature and painting, which popularised some of the most important achievements of the medieval world: castles.

Even today the military history of the Middle Ages serves as an inspiration source for many researchers. If some 50-60 years ago this domain was dominated by researchers of the male gender, one can observe today an increasing taste for such subjects among female scientists as well. The topic is far from being exhausted or in the situation of being unable to supply new elements for understanding the mechanisms which governed medieval communities.

15 years ago the idea of a conference dedicated to analysing the interaction between the various ethnical communities in Transylvania was born – Interethnic Relations in Transylvania (6th – 13th centuries) – which proved to be a popular idea, gathering together almost yearly specialists dedicated to interethnic relations in terms of archaeology, history, art history or architecture. In 2010, following some discussions started in Varna (Bulgaria) with colleagues from Bulgaria and Poland, came the idea of organising a conference dedicated to the military history of the Migration period and Early Middle Ages – *Medievalia Militaria in South-East Europe* – under the large umbrella of the conference *Interethnic Relations in Transylvania*. The conference which had its first edition in 2011, always enjoyed a large international participation and led to the publication of 7 volumes dedicated to military history in all its aspects, proving that the hope expressed by prof. Zeno Karl Pinter in his foreword to the first volume of the series *Interethnic Relations* (2005) is becoming a certainty. In this context the 7 volumes printed between 2011 and 2018 stand as an important contribution, being also the only thematic volumes to approach this topic in the Romanian historiography.

The volume here is the 8th and it brings together papers presented during 2018 and 2019 editions of the conference **Interethnic Relations in Transylvania. Militaria Mediaevalia in Central and South-Eastern Europe**.

The themes approached in the 14 studies of the volume deal with subjects linked to military archaeology and history and history of military equipment, settlement archaeology and history, history of kitchen and cooking, built patrimony, or ecclesiastic history and archaeology. Although the studies apparently reflect a heterogeneousness of themes, their association only illustrates the multiple facets through which the medieval society manifested itself, as well as the mode in which our contemporary society relates to the still present witnesses of those times.

The studies take us not only through a large chronological frame (4th-18th centuries) but also through a geographical areal beginning in Transylvania (Z. K. Pinter, *O descoperire veche, într-o lumină nouă. Complexul arheologic de la Viscri / Deutsch-Weisskirch*; A. Nițoi, *Arms and Armour from the Medieval Paintings of the Church at Mălâncrav (Sibiu County)*; P. Langa, *The Sword and the Saber – Symbols of Social Position in the Votive Images of Medieval Transylvania*; D. Bacueț, H. Cociș, T. Keresztes, *Ordine monastice medievale pe valea Barcăului. Despre urmele mănăstirii pauline din hotarul localității Nușfalău (jud. Sălaj)*; R. Frîncu, Simona Malearov, *Rețete culinare ale landlerilor reflectate în manuscrise și cercetări de teren*), reaches Bulgaria (V. Yotov, *Chafing Dishes and Ember Covers Vessels North at the Danube River (30-ies Years of 9th – Beginning of 10th Century)*; S.

* Translated in English by / Tradus în limba engleză de Claudia Urduzia.

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Foreword

Popov, *Late Medieval War Hammers from Vatevi Collection (Bulgaria); Elements of the 15th – 16th C. Equipment of Horseman and Horse – Possible Witnesses of the Conflicts Between the East and West*; S. Boyanov, *Localization of the Battle of Adrianople (378), the Causes and Consequences of this Military Conflict According to Ancient Authors*) until finally reaching Russian areas (E. Shinakov, V. Guryanov, A. Chubur, *Ownership Settlements of the Ancient Rus Epoch in the Desna Region: Natural, Economic and Ethno-demographic Aspects*). The subjects already mentioned are complemented by studies regarding the analyses of some special decorative motifs on swords (D. Toichkin, Y. Toichkina, *About the Origin of Swords, Decorated with Special Christian Symbols and Inscriptions*) and by the analyses of the restauration process of one of the most important fortifications of the Lower Danube line (V. Speriatiu, *Inițiativa de restaurare și valorificare a Cetății Capidava*).

Before closing we must add an appreciation thought for the editorial team, who made possible the editing of this new volume: Zeno Karl Pinter, Claudia Urduzia and Anca Nițoi.

Sibiu, September 2020

Prof. univ. dr. habil. Ioan Marian Țiplic

ELEMENTS OF THE 15TH – 16TH C. EQUIPMENT OF HORSEMAN AND HORSE – POSSIBLE WITNESSES OF THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST*

Stoyan POPOV**

Abstract: *The present work concerns several items of equestrian and horse equipment that were discovered on the territory of present-day Bulgaria but are not characteristic of the material culture of the local population. These are spurs and stirrups whose main area of distribution is Central Europe. The artifacts are stored in the collections of NAIM-Sofia and the Vatevi collection in Plovdiv. The objects date from the 15th - 16th centuries - the time of the height of the wars between the Ottomans and the European Christian peoples.*

Of these conflicts of the 15th century there remain material traces, part of which are the three spurs that are the subject of this work. Two of these spurs are stored in the Vatevi Collection (Ill. 1 - 5) and one in the NAIM-Sofia (Ill.6). All three spurs were found in areas related to the campaign of Vladislav III Jagello from 1444, located along the path of the Crusade to Varna and its retreat to Central Europe. The first two are from the Shumen region. In the Vidin region (near the village of Archar) the third spur was discovered. The following two artifacts that are the subject of this work are stirrups (Ill. 7-12). The two stirrups are accidental finds from the region of Nikopol. It is possible that they were taken as loot from Hungary, given the existence of this military tradition during this period. That type of stirrups were spread in Central Europe (most of all in Hungary) in the sixteenth century, from where they also have some spreading in the Balkans.

Keywords: *mediaeval equestrian and horse equipment, spurs, stirrups.*

Rezumat: *Prezenta lucrare are ca subiect câteva obiecte de harnașament și echipament militar care au fost descoperite pe teritoriul actual al Bulgariei, dar nu sunt caracteristice culturii materiale ale populației locale. Acestea constau în pinteni și scărițe ale căror principală arie de răspândire este Europa Centrală. Artefactele sunt păstrate în colecțiile NAIM-Sofia și Vatevi din Plovdiv. Obiectele aparțin cronologic secolelor XV-XVI – perioada de apogeu a războaielor dintre otomani populația europeană creștină.*

Din timpul acestor conflicte din secolul al XV-lea au rămas urme materiale, între care se numără și cei trei pinteni care fac obiectul prezentei lucrări. Doi dintre ei sunt păstrați în prezent în colecția Vatevi (Ill. 1 - 5) și unul în colecția NAIM-Sofia (Ill.6). Toți cei trei pinteni au fost găsiți în zone legate de campania lui Vladislav III Jagello din 1444, aflate de-a lungul drumului Cruciadei de la Varna și a retragerii sale spre Europa Centrală. Primii doi sunt din regiunea Shumen, al treilea a fost descoperit în regiunea Vidin (lângă satul Archar).

*Celelalte două obiecte care fac subiectul prezentei lucrări sunt scărițe (Ill. 7-12). Ele reprezintă descoperiri accidentale din regiunea Nikopole. Este posibil să fi fost luate ca pradă de la Ungaria, dată fiind existența acestei tradiții militare în această perioadă. Acest tip de scăriță era răspândit în Europa Centrală (mai ales în Ungaria) în secolul XVI, de unde au cunoscut o oarecare răspândire și în Balcani.****

Cuvinte cheie: *harnașament și echipament militar, pinteni, scărițe.*

The present work presents several items of equestrian and horse equipment that were discovered on the territory of present-day Bulgaria, but are not characteristic of the material culture of the local population. These are spurs and stirrups whose main area of distribution is Central Europe. The artifacts are stored in the collections of National

Archaeological Institute with Museum-Sofia and the Vatevi collection in Plovdiv. The objects date from the 15th – 16th c. – the time of the height of the wars between the Ottomans and the European Christian peoples.

The 15th century witnessed the struggle of the Bulgarian heirs to the throne Constantine and Frujin, aided by the Polish-Hungarian

Kingdom, against the Ottoman Empire, several crusades (two by Vladislav III Jagiello – 1443-1444 and one by Valeran de Vavrin in 1445), the campaigns of Vlad Tepes on the Danube. Of these conflicts of the 15th century there remain material traces, part of which are three of the spurs that are the subject of this work. Two of these spurs are stored in the Vatevi Collection (Ill. 1 - 5) and one in NAIM-Sofia (2725) (Ill. 6). These spurs are of the type with an elongated in height, flat shoulders, a long star-holder, beginning at the base of the high shoulders and ending with a star of small or medium diameter. This type of spurs was widespread in Central Europe (mainly Poland and Hungary) in the 15th century.¹ According to some scholars, the shape of these spurs is of purely Hungarian origin.²

All three spurs were found in areas related to the campaign of Vladislav III Jagiello from 1444, located along the path of the Crusade to Varna and its retreat to Central Europe. The first two are from the Shumen region. The medieval town of Shoumen itself was besieged, conquered and burned by the Christian army in late October. The crusade of King Vladislav Varnenchik (1434 – 1444) is an episode of the epic struggle of European Christian peoples against the Ottoman invasion. This is the second anti-Ottoman campaign of Vladislav III Jagiello. Around 20. 09. 1444 the Crusade crossed the Danube near the town of Orshova and headed east along the right bank of the river. By 26. 09. the old Bulgarian capital of Vidin was conquered. In the Vidin region (near the village of Archar) the third spur was discovered. The crusaders then head to Nikopol, which was not taken under their control.³ From here the road of the

crusade passes through Gorna Oryahovitsa and heads to Shumen, whose siege lasts for three days 25 - 27. 10. 1444. Following the taking over the fortress Madara, Ovech (today Provadia), the fortresses Petrich (today Razdelna) and Maglizh (now Aksakovo), and the cities of Kavarna, Galata and Varna surrendered voluntarily to the king's authority (9. 11. 1444).⁴ The next day – November 10, 1444, a Memorable Battle of the Peoples broke out, fateful for the peoples of Southeast Europe, consolidating the Ottoman conquests and their expansion over the next hundred years.

The following two artifacts that are the subject of this work are stirrups (Ill. 7-12). They are characterized by pear-shaped, made of bronze. There was no ear for the strap, and it passed around a horizontal axis, located at the top of the stirrup, concealed by an elongated, decorative, small shield. The step has a width within the middle, and from its front goes down a triangular shield with openwork ornamentation. These types of stirrups were spread in Central Europe (most of all in Hungary) in the 16th century,⁵ from where they also had some spreading in the Balkans. Both stirrups are accidental finds from the region of Nikopol.⁶ It is possible that they were taken as loot from Hungary, given the existence of this military tradition during this period.⁷ However, the possibility of these stirrups also being commercially traded should not be completely rejected.

A very interesting technological solution has been applied to one of the stirrups (Inv. No. 2726). It is badly damaged. The step has a longitudinal crack just behind the decorative front shield that extends to the shield too. The step is completely cracked transversely too. These cracks made the stirrup unusable. As a result, it has undergone a repair consisting in

* The here presented work is part of the research under project DN 10/2 entitled „The Bulgarian lands in the military conflicts between the East and the West” funded by the Scientific Research Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria.

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*** Translated in Romanian by / Tradus în limba română de Claudia Urduzia.

¹ Kalmár, J. *Régi magyar fegyverek*. Budapest, 1971, p. 362. Nadolski, A. (ed.) *Uzbrojenie w Polsce sredniowiecznej 1350-1450*. Lodz, 1990, 190-191. Andrzej

² Kalmár, J. *Ibid.*, p. 362, 60. kép. a. Fábíán, S. *Sarkantyúk Csongrád és Békés megyében*. Szeged, 2012, 56-57. – https://www.academia.edu/4740554/Sarkantyúk_Békés_és_Csongrád_megyében.

³ Цветкова, Б. *Паметна битка на народите. Варна*. 1969, 240-241. Кузев, Ал. *Маршрутът на*

Владислав III Ягело до Варна. Известия на Народния музей – Варна, т. IX(XXIV), 1973, с. 139.

⁴ Гюзелев, В. „Оплаквайте ме, небеса, всичко живо на света да ме жали”. *Походите на Владислав III Ягело през 1443-1444 г. и българите*. Варна 1444. Действителност и традиция. Варна, 2005, 13-16.

⁵ Kalmár, J. *Op. cit.*, 347-348.

⁶ Ágoston, G., B. Masters. *Encyclopedia of the Ottoman Empire*. New York, 2009, pp. 255-256. Palfy, G. *The Impact of the Ottoman rule on Hungary*. Hungarian Studies Review, vol. XXVIII, nos. 1-2, 2001, pp.109-132.

⁷ Faroqhi, S. *The Ottoman Empire and the World around It*. London-New York, 2004, pp. 98-100.

the attachment of an iron plate covering the entire bottom of the cracked step. It is threaded at its ends to the bronze stirrup by means of two pairs of iron rivets (Ill. 10). In addition, a rectangle is cut out next to the transverse crack and there is an iron rivet in place to hold the freely moving part of the step to the iron plate (Ill. 11).

Traces of damage are also borne by the other stirrup (Ill. 12). It results in a strong lateral pressure that causes the horizontal axis to bend, around which the strap for hanging the saddle strap passed. In this way, both the axis and the stirrup were deformed. It can be suggested that this damage is the result of a severe lateral impact, such as a lateral fall of the horse, with the stirrup pressed between the surface of the ground and the horse's body.

CATALOGUE

1. Inv. № 1494

Star spur, left. Iron. The shoulders are slightly curved upwards, with a rectangular section, with a high and long heel bed that occupies almost the entire shoulders. The upper edge is decorated with sloping incised lines, bounded below by a horizontal one. The shoulders were bent to one another, causing the bed to crack and break the star holder. The shoulders end with vertical loops, in the form of horizontally lying figure 8 with round holes. In the outer loop are preserved: in the outer hole-hook with a heart shaped plate and T-segment; in the inner hole – a buckle with a frame from two adjoined rectangles, a V-profile, a flat triangular tongue, a hook for attaching to the loop with a triangular plate. The star holder is long, pointed upwards, cross-conical to the middle, and then acquires a rectangular section. Its rectangular part is split into 2 shoulders, ending in one circular extension, holding the axis of the star. The star is 6-ray, currently stationary. Two of the rays are bent.

Overall length 18,2 cm; width at the loops outside x inside 2,3x1,8 cm; long. of the loop 1,6 cm; height of the loop 1 cm; opening of the loop 0,4 cm; shoulders thicken. x height at the end of the heel bed 0,3x1,2 cm; heel bed height above the star holder x at the end 4,5x3,7 cm; star holder long. 9,2 cm; conical part long. x

base 4,8x1,1x0,7 cm; rectangular part long. x section 3,7x0,7 cm; round extensions at the end 0,9x0,7 cm; star d= 3,8 cm. buckle long. x width 2,6x2,2 cm; tongue long. x width 1,5x0,3 cm; hook of the buckle long. x width 2,3x1,5 cm; hook long. 3,2 cm; long. x width heart shaped plate 1,6x1,3 cm; T-segment long. x width 1,1x1,1 cm.

Weight 100 g

Found in the region of Shoumen, north eastern Bulgaria.

Dating: 15th c.

Vatevi Collection

Ill. 1.

2. Inv. № 61.

Star spur, right. Iron. The shoulders are straight, only at the very end they have an upward curve where they end with B-shaped loops. The shoulders are broad, flat, with a quadrangular section. Before the end, they have rounded cuts that form the edges of the loops. The strap loops are vertical, with 2 circular openings, one alongside the other. A buckle is attached to the right inner loop. It consists of a triangular plate with a hook and a frame with two trapezoidal openings. The frame is V-folded in the middle of its long sides. The tongue is retained - tapered, with a rectangular section. A triangular plate is attached to the outer opening of this loop. From the apex of the triangle comes a hook, and from its base a T-shaped element. The same plate is attached to the outer opening of the left loop. A circular hole is drilled into the left shoulder of the spur, to which a rectangular plate is attached through the hole. A rivet with wide flat head is put to this plate. The lower 1/3 of the shoulders are more prominent than the rest. A sharp edge starts from the base of the star holder and continues to the tip of the sharpening of the bed for the heel. The star holder starts from the thickening at the lower part of the shoulders. At 1/3 of its base it has a rectangular section, after which it splits. The star holder is horizontal. The split parts end with circular pieces in which the holes for the star's axis are drilled. The star has 6-rays currently stationary from corrosion. 2 of the rays were broken.

Overall length 18,2 cm; width at the loops outside x inside 8,5x8 cm; long. of the loop 1,5 cm; height of the loop 0,9 cm; opening of the loop 0,3 cm; shoulders thickn. bottom x top 0,4x0,2 cm; height of the lower broad part of the shoulders 1.3 cm; shoulders: height at the star holder x end before the incision for the loops 4.1 x 2.9 cm; plate-buckle with hook long. x width 2,7x1,6 cm; tongue long. x width 1,7x0,3 cm; buckle frame long. 2,6x2,4x2,6 cm, length 2.9 cm; buckle frame openings 1,9x1,6x1 cm; triangular plates long. x thickn. 2,9x0,1 cm; a rectangular plate with a rivet on the left shoulder long. x width x thickn. 3,2x1,1x0,2 cm; rivet internal height x external height x d x d head 0,2x0,5x0,4x0,9 cm; d rectangular plate opening 0.4 cm; star holder long. 6.4 cm; star holder base width x height 0.8x0.8 cm; d the edges of the star holder 0.7 cm; d of the star axis 0.3 cm; d star 2.8 cm

Weight 118 rp.

Found in the region of Shoumen, north eastern Bulgaria.

Dating: 15th c.

Vatevi Collection

Ill. 2 – 5.

3. Inv. № 2725, o. 811, n. 409.

Star spur. Iron. Overall length 25.2 cm; height shoulders 7.1 and 8 cm; height heel bed 3.6 cm; length star holder 17.2 cm. Shoulders. heel bed wide, covering 2/3 of the shoulders. Just below the middle of the shoulders, a horizontal edge extends above the base of the star holder. A vertical edge is formed above the base of the star holder, and here a heel bed is shaped arcuately, slightly protruding outwards in the direction of the star. The upper half of one shoulder of the heel bed is corroded and broken. The other shoulder also has corrosion holes.

At the end of the heel bed, from its base and forming the letter U rises up the end of the shoulder. Its end at the left shoulder is shaped like a rectangular plate with rounded edges which is the loop. It consists of 2 circular holes with a diameter of 0.5 cm, placed horizontally side by side. The loop on the right shoulder is broken. The star holder has an oval cross section, with a diameter of 0.8 cm at the base and a diameter of 0.6 cm at the star slot. The star holder is slightly curved upwards.

The star has 6 rays. The rays have a preserved length of 0.5-0.7 cm. It is attached to the star holder with an axis 0.9 cm wide and 0.3 cm in diameter.

Found in the region of Archar (Vidin district). Bought and enrolled at National Archaeological Institute with Museum-Sofia on March 11, 1905.

Dating: 15th c.

Ill. 6.

4. Inv. № 2726, o. 811, n. 1509

Stirrup. Bronze. Pear-shaped opening. At the top, the stirrup has no strap ring. The strap was driven around a horizontal axis with a semicircular cross section and $d=0.7$ cm. The part of hanging of the strap was concealed from the front by a vertical, pointed, tongue-formed plate. The upper and lower parts of the plate are shaped like sharp pointed arches. The height of the tongue-formed plate is 8.8 cm, width at the base 7,9 cm, width at the upper part 6 cm. Above the lower arch is formed a two-sloped relief edge, above which is an openwork decoration of three figures, composed of circular openings with $d=0,2-0,4$ cm. Above them are formed 2 horizontal relief edges, placed one above the other at a distance 1 cm. Between them, in the central part 2 circular openings adjacent to each other at a distance of 0.7 cm, with $d=0.7$ cm are made. Above the upper horizontal edge a strip with openwork decoration of circular openings with $d = 0.2 - 0.4$ cm is placed. Here, a chain of round holes with $d=0.2$ cm at the upper edge of the pointed arch is made.

At the front of the tread there is a vertical, pointed, tongue-formed decorative plate 0.2 cm thick. It is decorated with openwork floral decoration, achieved by circular openings with $d=0.2$ and 0.4 cm. On the outside of the hoop an edge is shaped. The tread is cracked and repaired using an iron plate attached underneath. It is riveted for the hoop with two pairs of iron rivets with $d=0.5-0.6$ cm.

Total height 26.3 cm; opening width down x up x height 12.5x7.8x12.5 cm. Width tread 3 cm, width at the top of the hoop 2 cm.

Found in the region of Nikopol. Bought and enrolled at National Archaeological Institute with Museum-Sofia on March 11, 1905.

Dating: 16th c.

III. 7-11

5. Inv. № 2727, o. 1004, n. 725

Stirrup. Bronze. Pear-shaped opening. At the top, the stirrup has no strap ring. The strap was driven around a horizontal axis with a semicircular cross section and $d=0.5-0.7$ cm. The part of hanging of the strap was concealed from the front by a vertical, pointed, tongue-formed plate. The upper and lower parts of the plate are shaped like sharp pointed arches. The height of the tongue-formed plate is 9.2 cm, width at the base 7.4 cm, width at the upper part 5.9 cm. Above the lower arch is formed a two-sloped relief edge. Immediately above it circular openings with $d=0.3$ cm are made, forming a two-sloped figure. 0.8 cm from the uppermost opening, a relief horizontal edge is made. 1 cm above it has another such parallel edge. Between these edges there are 2 circular openings located side by side, with $d=0.2$ cm. A rim of circular openings with $d=0.2$ cm is made along the edge of the pointed arch.

At the front of the tread there is a vertical, pointed, tongue-formed decorative plate 0.2

cm thick. It is decorated with openwork floral decoration, achieved by circular openings with $d=0.2$ and 0.4 cm. The lateral parts of the stirrup hoop, where the vertical tongue-formed plate begins, are getting narrow fluently towards the upper tongue-formed plate covering the headband of the belt. A central vertical edge is formed along this portion of the hoop. A severe blow received at the upper end of one side of the hoop resulted in a bending inwards. The impact distorted in s-shape the horizontal axis for the belt too. From this blow, there are 2 oblique notches at the upper end of the hoop. The edge of the tongue-formed plate is also bent inwards, with 2 horizontal triangular incisions and two shallower oblique cuts on its surface.

Total height 27 cm; opening width down x up x height 12.7x7.6x13 cm. Width tread 3.5 cm, width at the top of the hoop 2 cm.

Found in the region of Nikopol. Bought and enrolled at National Archaeological Institute with Museum-Sofia on March 11, 1905.

Dating: 16th c.

III. 12

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III. 1



III. 2



III. 3



III. 4



III. 5



III. 6



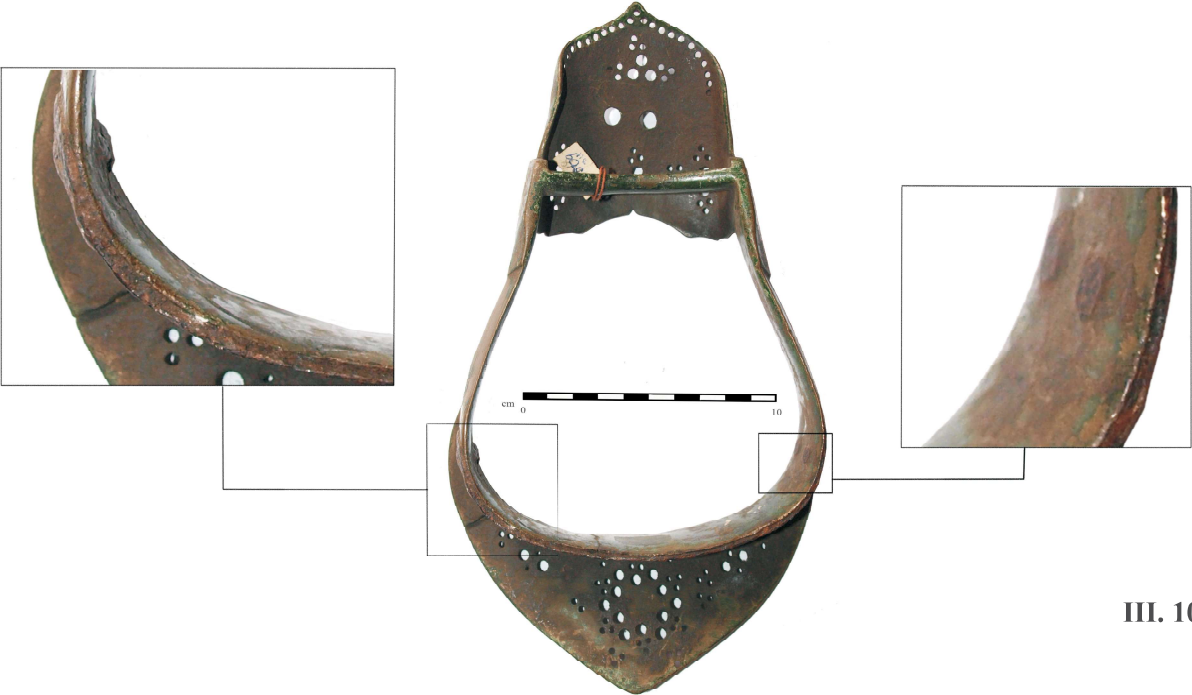
III. 7



III. 8



III. 9



III. 10



III. 11



III. 12