

# Brončano prstenje iz latenskoga groblja na Ciglani u Donjem gradu u Osijeku

## *Bronze Fingerrings from the La Tène Cemetery at Ciglana in the Lower Town in Osijek*

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*Prstenju u grobovima Skordiska i Tauriska nije se dosad obratila posebna pozornost. Ono nije ni česti nalaz. U članku se analiziraju osječki primjerci, određuje im se tipološko-kronološka pripadnost te pokazuje da su predstavljali dio karakterističnog kolutastog nakita u bogatije opremljenim srednjolatenskim grobovima žena.*

*Ključne riječi: keltsko prstenje, keltska ravna groblja u srednjem Podunavlju, ženski kolutasti nakit, srednjolatenska ženska nošnja*

*The fingerrings in the graves of the Scordisci and the Taurisci have not received particular attention so far. Nor are they a frequent find. The paper analyzes the pieces from Osijek, determines their typological and chronological attribution and shows them to have represented a part of the characteristic annular jewellery in the richly furnished Middle La Tène female graves.*

*Key words: Celtic fingerrings, Celtic flat cemeteries in the middle Danubian basin, female annular jewellery, Middle La Tène female costume*

U literaturi već dobro poznato i mnogo citirano latensko groblje u Donjem gradu u području Zelenog polja došlo je na vidjelo ranih pedesetih godina 20. st. Na grobove i nalaze nailazilo se pri vađenju gline na tamošnjoj ciglani i to na prekide od 1953. do 1966. god. (Šimić 1997, 23-24). Ti radovi nisu nikada bili arheološki stručno vođeni pa su dosljedno tome ostali nedokumentirani, što su sve dobro poznate činjenice. Bogati i zanimljivi nalazi iz te biritualne nekropole predavani su na svu sreću u Muzej Slavonije, a objavio ih je tamošnji prapovjesničar E. Spajić (Spajić 1954; 1956; 1962). U muzejskoj dokumentaciji nema crteža grobova, grobnih zapisnika ni fotografija. Nalazi su objavljeni u uglavnom lošim i nepreciznim crtežima, bez profila predmeta, a objavi je dodana samo jedna fotografija jednog od skeletnih grobova na kojoj nisu prepoznatljivi grobni prilozci (osim, možda, pločastog predmeta u području struka (Spajić 1954, T. VII). Fotografija u objavi nije numerirana, a nije zabilježen ni broj groba.<sup>1</sup>

1. Iz muzejske inventarne knjige očito je da su radnici-namještenici ciglane prikupljali nalaze, odnosili ih u Muzej i izvještavali o svojim zapažanjima na terenu. E. Spajić je ipak grupe nalaza objavio kao grobne cjeline, ukupno njih 52, a dosta je predmeta objavio s naznakom da potječu iz „iskopa“. Iskope je također numerirao, ali kako ne postoji plan groblja ne znamo u blizini kojih grobova su se nalazili.

The La Tène cemetery in the Lower Town (Donji Grad) in the area of Zeleno Polje, often quoted and well-known from the literature, surfaced in the early 1950s. During the extraction of clay in the local brick factory (Ciglana) workers were coming upon graves and finds, intermittently between 1953 and 1966 (Šimić 1997, 23-24). These works were never carried out under a professional archaeologist and have consequently remained undocumented, which are all facts we are familiar with. The rich and interesting finds from that biritual necropolis were luckily delivered to the Museum of Slavonia and published by the local prehistorian E. Spajić (Spajić 1954; 1956; 1962). The Museum documentation does not contain any illustrations, inventory lists or photographs of graves. The finds were published with mostly poor and imprecise drawings, without the profiles of objects, and the publication was accompanied by merely one photograph of one of the skeletal graves, which allows no recognition of grave goods (with the possible exception of a plate-like object in the area of the waist) (Spajić 1954, Pl. VII). The photograph in the publication was not numbered, and there is also no indication of the number of the grave.<sup>1</sup>

1. It is evident from the Museum Inventory Book that the workers-employees of the brick factory collected the finds, delivered them to the Museum and reported on their observations in the field. E. Spajić nevertheless published groups of finds as grave assemblages, a total of 52, while he published a number of objects with the remark that they come from „the trenches“. He numbered the trenches as well, but as a plan of the cemetery does not exist we do not know next to which graves they were situated.

U literaturi su se Spajićeve grobne cjeline citirale kao sigurni grobovi, naročito je često navođen grob ratnika 29 kao pokazatelj za 1. stupanj (Beograd 1, prema D. Božiću). Taj je grob doista po svom tipološko-kronološkom sastavu uvjerljiv, a ima i brojnih paralela u Mađarskoj, naročito na Karaburmi (Božić 1981, 317, T.6, 1-4; Božić 1982, 51-53; Guštin 1984, 320, sl. 10). O ostalim „grobnim cjelinama“ treba razmatrati pojedinačno, što je zadatak koji tek predstoji. Posebno je stoga nezgodno ako se osječko groblje navodi kao oslonac za određivanje kronologije kulture Skordiska u istočnoj Slavoniji (Popović 2002, 147, bilj. 15).

J. Šimić, najbolji poznavatelj zbirke prapovijesnih nalaza u Muzeju Slavonije, riješila je navedeni slučaj Ciglana na Zelenom polju tako da je sve nalaze, koji su u literaturu već ušli kao sastavni dijelovi grobnih cjelina prema E. Spajiću, predstavila u katalogu izložbe o Keltima i Rimljanima u Osijeku kao slučajne nalaze (Šimić 1997). Ta autoričina vrlo značajna odluka trebala bi imati reperkusija. Ipak, u istom katalogu J. Šimić navodi da su „samo ponekad arheolozi prisustvovali otkopavanju pojedinih grobova“. Bilo bi dragocjeno znati pri kojim grobovima, ali to je nepoznato. Opisan je, doduše, jedan paljevinski grob sa svim pojedinostima ukopa (Šimić 1997, 25).<sup>2</sup>

Nesporno je da još predstoji, kao potreban zadatak, prezentacija nalaza s donjogradske ciglane, gdje bi sveukupni nalazi bili precizno iscrtani jer se radi o najvećem i najznačajnijem groblju Skordiska u Hrvatskoj.

Nakon, čini se prijeko potrebnog, uvoda prelazim na pravi zadatak ovog članka posvećenog poštovanom i dragom kolegi prof. dr. sc. Željku Tomičiću, u povodu njegove godišnjice.

Radi se o nalazima brončanog prstenja u osječkom Donjem gradu kojima se, kao grobnim priložima u Skordiska, dosad nije obratila potrebna pozornost. Par od dva identična brončana prstena (sl. 1, sl. 2,5) nađen je u Spajićevom skeletnom grobu br. 6 (Spajić 1954, 10-11, T. II,15). Citiram Spajićeve podatke o grobu iako oni nisu potkrijepljeni nužnim dokumentima – crtežom i fotografijom grobne cjeline, tj. situacije pri otvaranju groba. Skelet je prema E. Spajiću bio dobro očuvan, sa uz tijelo opruženim rukama, orijentiran Z-I. E. Spajić pobrojava i opisuje grobne priloge, ali ne navodi mjesto na kojem su bili priloženi uz skelet ili na njemu. Prstenje je lijevano tehnikom izgubljena voska; sitno naroskani kolut prstena nosi „na glavi“ ukras od probijene osmice. Posred osmice ističu se dva polukuglasta ukrasna ispupčenja. Segmenti na kolutu nižu se uz rubove osmice izraženijim plastičnim ispupčenjima, a sužavaju se prema sredini koluta. (Inv. br. 6363; promjer 2 cm, težina 1,9 gr; drugi polomljen 2,1 gr; prstenje je kvalitetno izrađeno i vrlo dobro sačuvano).

Iz jednog od iskopa (br. 13) potječe još jedan brončani prsten tež. 1 gr, identičan oblikom paru iz Spajićeva groba 6, što indicira postojanje još jednog uništenog groba s takvim nakitom.<sup>3</sup>

2. Zahvaljujem dr. sc. Jasni Šimić na susretljivoj dozvoli da pregledam nalaze iz groba 6, kao i na svojoj pomoći pri ovom radu.

3. Različite težine prstenja, osobito najmanjega i najlakšeg iz iskopa 13, govori da je ono bilo namjenski izrađivano.

Spajić's grave assemblages were quoted in the literature as secure graves. Warrior grave 29 was mentioned particularly frequently as an indicator of phase 1 (Belgrade 1, after D. Božić). That grave is indeed convincing by virtue of its typological-chronological composition and it also has numerous parallels in Hungary, and in Karaburma in particular (Božić 1981, 317, Pl.6, 1-4; Božić 1982, 51-53; Guštin 1984, 320, Fig. 10). The remaining "grave assemblages" ought to be treated one by one, which is a task that is yet to come. It is therefore highly inappropriate to consider the Osijek cemetery as the basis for the determination of the chronology of the culture of the Scordisci in eastern Slavonia (Popović 2002, 147, note 15).

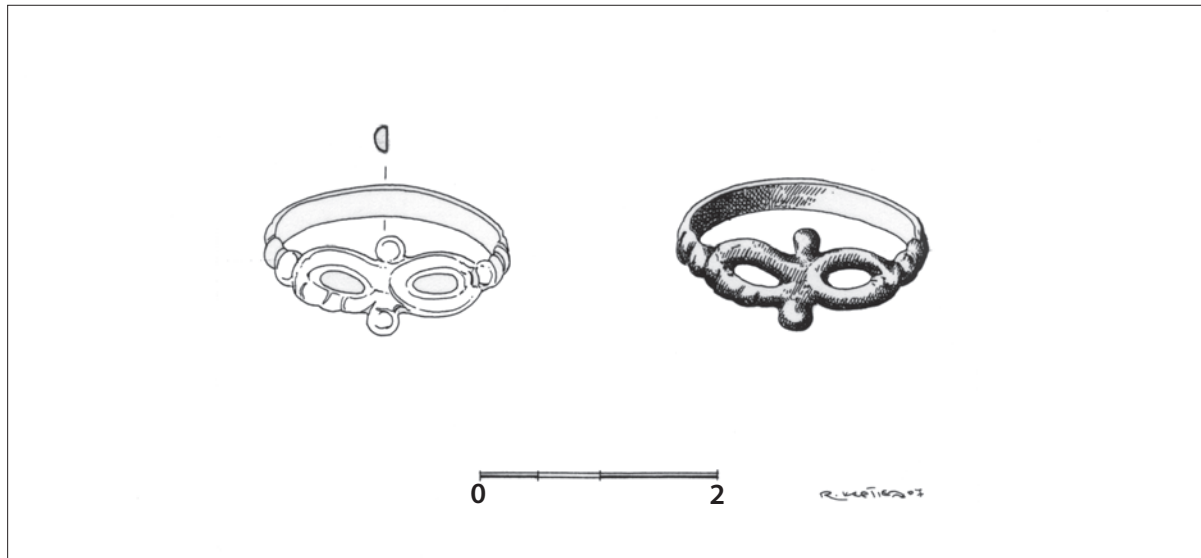
J. Šimić, the most knowledgeable person when it comes to the collection of prehistoric finds in the Museum of Slavonia, solved the mentioned case of Ciglana in Zeleno Polje by presenting as chance finds all the finds that had already entered the literature as integral parts of Spajić's grave assemblages (Šimić 1997). This significant decision by the author is bound to have repercussions. Still, in the same catalogue J. Šimić says that "the archaeologists were only occasionally present during the excavation of individual graves". It would be valuable to know which graves those were, but this is not known. There is, it is true, a description of a cinerary grave with all the details of the burial (Šimić 1997, 25).<sup>2</sup>

It is undeniable that there is still a task lying ahead, consisting of the presentation of the finds from the Ciglana in the Lower Town, where the entire body of finds would be precisely drawn, considering that the site represents the largest and most important cemetery of the Scordisci in Croatia.

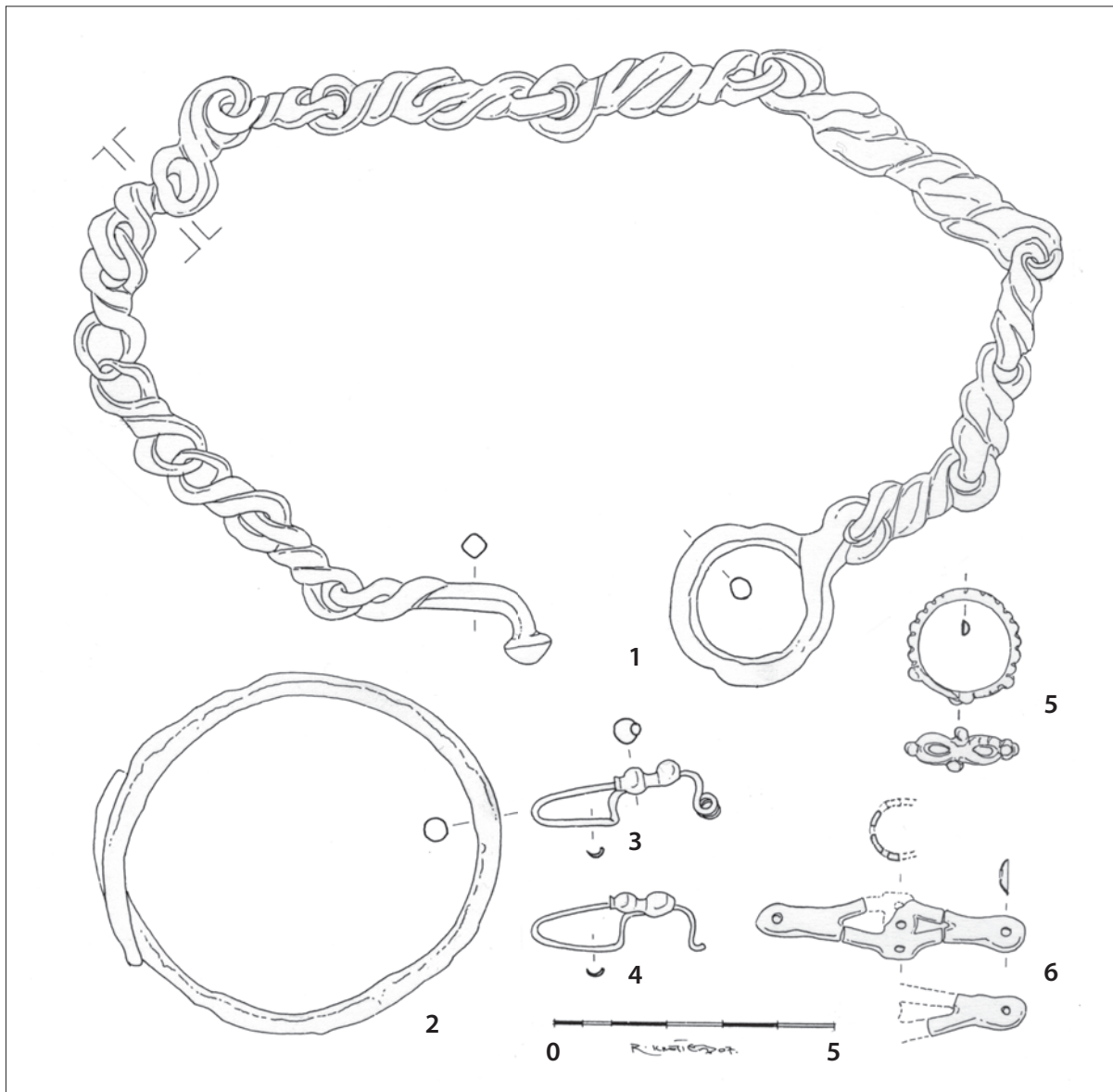
After what is, it appears, a highly necessary introduction, I move on to the real objective of this paper, dedicated to our esteemed and dear colleague, Prof. Željko Tomičić, Ph. D. on the occasion of his jubilee.

These are the finds of bronze fingerrings in the Lower Town of Osijek, which – similar to the grave goods of the Scordisci – have so far not been given due attention. A pair of two identical bronze rings (Fig. 1, Fig. 2,5) was found in Spajić's skeletal grave 6 (Spajić 1954, 10-11, Pl. II,15). I cite Spajić's information about the grave even though it is not substantiated by necessary documents – a drawing and a photograph of the grave assemblage, i.e. the situation on the occasion of the opening of the grave. According to E. Spajić, the skeleton was well preserved, with arms extended along the body, oriented W-E. E. Spajić lists and describes the grave goods, but omits to mention the place where they were deposited next to the skeleton or on it. The fingerrings were cast in the lost-wax technique; there is a decoration consisting of an openwork figure-of-eight on "the head of" a finely notched hoop of the fingerring. Two hemispherical decorative projections are prominent right across the centre of the figure-of-eight. The segments on the hoop are lined along the edges of the figure-of-eight with pronounced plastic projections, and they taper towards the centre of the hoop. (Inv. No. 6363; diameter 2 cm,

2. I thank Jasna Šimić, Ph.D. for her kind permission to view the finds from grave 6 and for all her help on this paper.



Sl. 1 Osijek, Ciglana u Donjem Gradu  
Fig. 1 Osijek, Ciglana in Donji Grad



Sl. 2 Osijek, Ciglana, grob 6  
Fig. 2 Osijek, Ciglana, grave 6

Premda sam se uvodno ogradila od Spajićevih grobnih cjelina, predstaviti ću okvirno grob 6 i provjeriti mogućnost njegove cjelovitosti (sl. 2). U grobu se navodi par brončanih fibula srednjolatenske sheme (sl. 2,3-4) od kojih je iscrtan oštećeni primjerak (Spajić 1954, T.II,16). Fibule su vrlo malih dimenzija (duž. 3 cm), fino rađene i dobro očuvane. Spirala na glavi od 6 navoja spojena je izvana. Visoki i tanki žičani luk (promjer žice 1 mm), spojen je s nožicom s dvije podjednako velike pune kuglice koje žljebićem nasjedaju na luk (Inv. br. 6364 a i b). Značajka je osječkih fibula da su kuglice smještene vrlo blizu, za razliku od ostalih fibula istog tipa, ali većih dimenzija i s po dvije razmaknuto razmještene kuglice. Za ove fibule mogu se navesti paralele u Mokronogu (Gabrovec 1966, T. 13,5, T. 30,7) ili u Manching-Steinbichelu u grobu 33 (ovaj je primjerak od željeza) (Krämer 1985, 85, T. 19,5). U istom se grobu 6 na osječkoj ciglani spominje i treća brončana, vrlo fragmentirana i veća fibula s dijelom spirale i komadom luka (nije inventirana).

U drugim grobovima, odnosno iskopu, nađene su još dvije fibule s dvije kuglice na luku: veća željezna i nešto manja brončana, ali obje s velikim razmaknutim kuglicama (Spajić 1954, T. V,29,31).

Od kolutastog nakita u grobu 6 očuvana je željezna narukvica s prebačenim krajevima (inv. br. 6365), promjera 5 cm i debljinom koluta 2 mm (sl. 2,2). E. Spajić spominje i fragment željeznog pletenog pojasa i donosi ga u posve neprimjerenom crtežu (Spajić 1954, T. II,17). U stvari, radi se o dobro očuvanom i kvalitetno izrađenom jednodijelnom pletenom pojasu s očuvana oba kraja: s karikom i kopčom s kukicom. Očuvano je 36 cm od pojasa koji je oštećen, prekinut po sredini (sl. 2,1).<sup>4</sup> U Spajićevom inventaru groba upisan je i ukrasni okov od brončanog lima izrađen na proboj (sl. 2,6) (Spajić 1954, T. II,1). Stilski taj okov, čini se barem, odgovara ukrasnoj koncepciji prstenja.

Ovako naveden i opisan pred sobom imamo inventar bogatijeg ženskog groba za kojeg paralele možemo naći u panonskom Podunavlju. O naknadnoj antropološkoj analizi skeleta ne možemo ni govoriti jer osteološki materijal iz osječkog groblja nije sačuvan.

Prstenje se u bogatijim ženskim grobovima (vrlo rijetko u muškima), po jedan ili u paru, javlja u kontinentalnoj Europi od horizonta kasnohalštatskih grobova, a osobito vrijedni primjerci pronalaze se u bogatim ranolatenskim grobovima (Waldhauser 1998, 85-91), poput npr. prekrasnog zlatnog primjerka iz groba kneginje u Reinheimu (Kellner 1955, T. 8,8). Prstenje se dalje nosi i nalazi u ravnim grobljima Lt B2 do C2 vremena, rijetko zlatno, a najčešće brončano ili čak željezno. To je prstenje tipološki uglavnom različito od osječkih primjeraka; navodim tako jedan trakasti prsten iz groba 13 iz Mane, datiranog fibulom tipa Duchov/Dux i inače opremljenog brojnim kolutastim nakitima (Benadik 1978, 406, 26, 2). U krajevima što su ih naseljavali Skordisci prstenja ima malo; dobro je to vidljivo u dosad najvećem i najopsežnije istraženom groblju na Karaburmi (Todorović

4. B. Teržan je upozorila da je takav pleteni pojas obično dio muške opreme vezan uz mač. Dakle, nije sigurno da ovdje pripada ženskoj nošnji i s tom ogralom možemo računati.

weight 1,9 gr.; the second ring is broken, 2,1 gr.; the workmanship of the rings is of good quality and they are very well preserved).

Another bronze fingerring, weighing 1 gr, comes from one of the trenches (No. 13). Its form is identical to the pair from Spajić's grave 6, which indicates the existence of another destroyed grave with jewellery of that type.<sup>3</sup>

Although at the beginning I distanced myself from Spajić's grave assemblages, I shall present grave 6 in general terms and test the possibility of its integrity (Fig. 2). A pair of bronze fibulae of the Middle La Tène scheme is attributed to the grave (Fig. 2,3-4), of which the damaged piece has been drawn (Spajić 1954, Pl. II,16). The fibulae are of very small dimensions (length 3 cm), of fine workmanship and they are well preserved. The spring on the head with 6 spirals is connected on the outside. The high and thin bow made of wire (diameter of the wire 1 mm) is connected with the foot by means of two solid knobs of almost equal size that are attached to the bow with a groove (Inv. No. 6364 a and b). A feature of the Osijek fibulae is that the knobs lie very close to each other, in contrast to the other fibulae of the same type, which have larger dimensions and two small knobs spaced at a distance. Parallels for these fibulae can be found in Mokronog (Gabrovec 1966, Pl. 13,5, Pl. 30,7) or in Manching-Steinbichel in grave 33 (this piece is made of iron) (Krämer 1985, 85, Pl. 19,5). With regard to the same grave 6 at the Ciglana in Osijek, a third fibula is mentioned, made of bronze, very fragmented and larger, with a part of a spring and a portion of a bow (not inventoried).

In the remaining graves, or the trench, two further fibulae with two small knobs on the bow were found: a larger one made of iron and a somewhat smaller one of bronze, but both have large spaced knobs (Spajić 1954, Pl. V,29,31).

Regarding annular jewellery, an iron bracelet with overlapping ends (Inv. No. 6365) was preserved in grave 6, with a diameter of 5 cm and the thickness of the hoop 2 mm (Fig. 2,2). E. Spajić mentions also a fragment of an iron chain belt and he presents it with a fully inappropriate drawing (Spajić 1954, Pl. II,17). In fact, this is a well-preserved one-piece chain belt of quality make with both ends preserved: one with a loop and the other with a buckle with a hook. The belt is preserved in the length of 36 cm, and it is damaged – broken in the middle (Fig. 2,1).<sup>4</sup> An entry in Spajić's inventory of the grave includes an openwork decorative fitting of sheet bronze (Fig. 2,6) (Spajić 1954, Pl. II,1). In terms of style this fitting seems to correspond to the decorative concept of the fingerrings.

This list and description present us with the inventory of a rather rich female grave for which we can find parallels in the Pannonian Danubian basin. There is no possibility of subsequent anthropological analysis of the skeleton whatsoever as the osteological material from the Osijek cemetery has not been preserved.

3. The different weight of the fingerrings, particularly of the smallest and lightest one from trench 13, tells us that they were made for a specific purpose.

4. B. Teržan cautioned that such chain belts usually form part of the male costume connected with the sword. Therefore, it is not certain that it belongs here to the female costume and we can take into consideration this reservation.



1972). Da je općenito u keltskoj nošnji i kićenju prstenje igralo prilično važnu ulogu, svjedoči i činjenica kako je u ogromnoj ostavi nakita u Duchcovu (Dux) registrirano oko sto brončanih prstena, a nalaženi su i u naseljima sjeverozapadne Češke (Waldhauser 1998, 108, bilj. 26).

Najopširnije prikupljanje i klasifikaciju kolutastog nakita u ženskim grobovima u Karpatskoj kotlini obavio je J. Bujna za Slovačku (Bujna 2005). U njegovoj monografiji ta je svojstvena nakitna vrsta latenske kulture obrađena, i tipološko-kronološki i sociološki, zahvaljujući opsežnim i dobro dokumentiranim iskopavanjima latenskih nekropola u Slovačkoj nakon II. svjetskog rata. Ono što Bujninoj klasifikaciji dodaje težinu je provedena serijacija. Stilsku i tehnološku sličnost s osječkim primjercima zapažamo u Bujninoj skupini BR-0, u oblicima Q i 02B datiranim u Lt C1 za Slovačku (Bujna 2005, 91, 93, sl. 75, sl. 77). Nadlaktica 02b pokazuje najveću sličnost s osječkim prstenjem, sa svojim središnjim motivom koncipiranim u vidu položene osmice spojene na sličan način. Taj je nakit inače kićenije ukrašen, a i tehnički zahtjevnije izveden: na podlozi su ukrasi izvedeni imitacijom filigrana, što nije strano ni našim južnopanonskim krajevima. Osječko se prstenje može donekle povezati i s Bujninom skupinom BR-J3, gdje se tordirani kolut na glavi spleće u žičane osmičaste petlje (Bujna 2005, 75, sl. 59).

Najpotpunija analogija osječkom prstenju otkrivena je u groblju Vác u blizini lijeve dunavske obale sjeveroistočno od Budimpešte (Hellebrandt 1999, T. 26,17). U ženskom paljevinskom grobu 12 priložen je gotovo identično koncipiran brončani prsten (sl. 3,7). Fibula u toj grobnoj cjelini je srednjolatenska žičana s osebujno oblikovanom nožicom, spojenom navojem žice na luku, imitirajući spiralu na glavi (sl. 3,6). U ženskom skeletnom grobu 8 na istoj nekropoli nađen je nataknut na prst brončani prsten svijen od dvostruke žice i ukrašen na glavi jednostavnom i malom spiralnom osmicom (Hellebrandt 1999, T. 26,2). U isti su grob priložene dvije brončane nanogvice sastavljene od tri velike kalote, dio nošnje tipičan za istočnokeltski krug u Karpatskoj kotlini, te ostaci željeznog štapičastog pojasa. Nažalost, oba navedena groba u Vácu bila su poremećena, vjerojatno kasnijim avarskim grobovima, pa njihova oprema ne treba biti potpuna. U oba groba nađena je oprema bogatijih žena iz starije faze srednjolatenskog razdoblja (Bujnina skupina BR-F5, tip B).<sup>5</sup>

Isto možemo zaključiti i za sva tri prstena s osječke Ciglane: dva od njih nošena su u paru i nađena u grobu 6, grobu koji se nakon pojedinačne analize priloga i njihove kombinacije ipak pokazao mogućom cjelinom. Istovjetni prsten iz „iskopa 13“ svjedoči postojanje još jednog groba s prstenom, pa tako nošnja iz groba 6 nije izolirana.<sup>6</sup> Žena

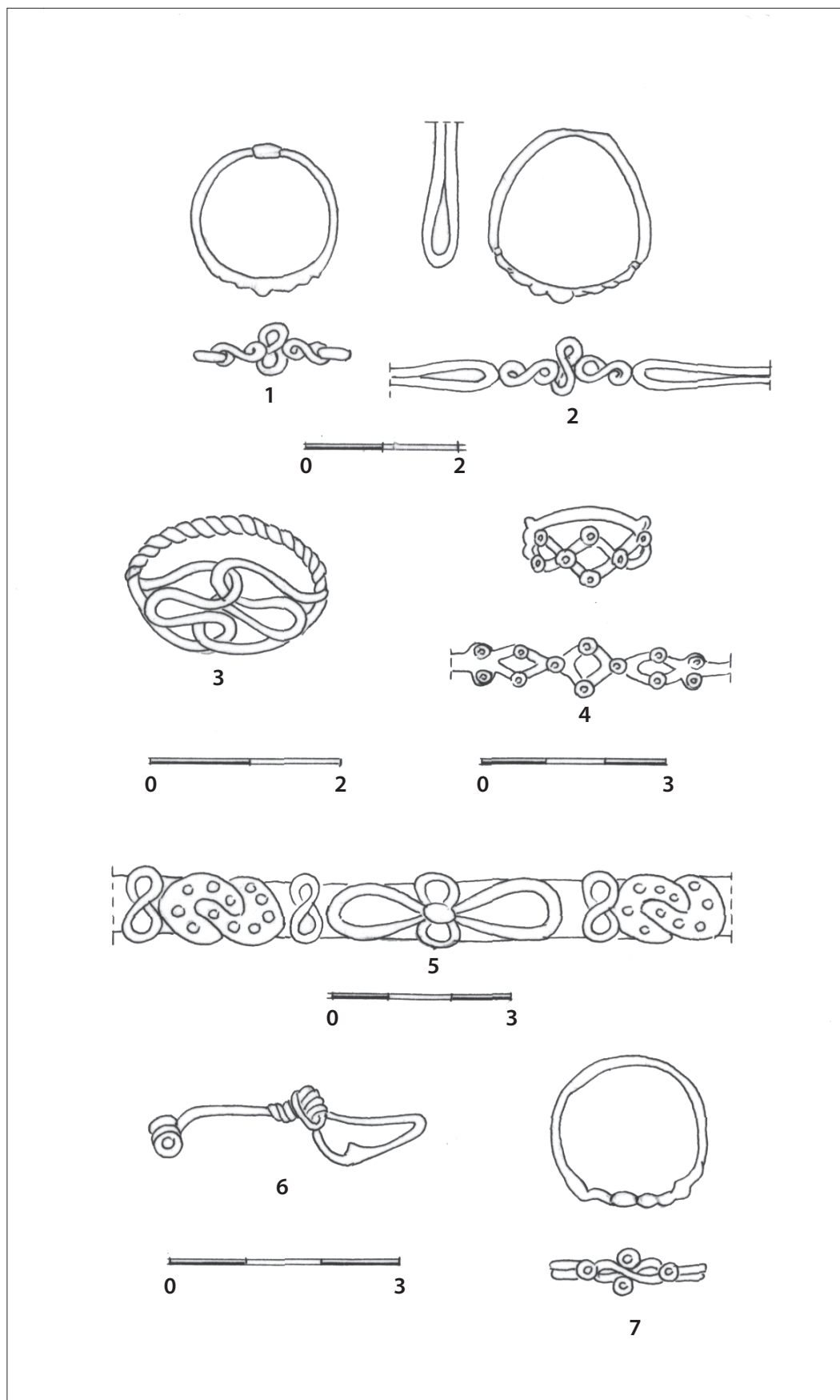
5 Spominjem da je M. Dizdar, predstavljajući dva brončana prstena iz latenske nekropole u Zvonimirovu kod Suhopolja, u svojoj neobjavljenoj disertaciji popisao i druge primjerke iz istočne Hrvatske i Karpatske kotline (Dizdar 2004, 253, sl. 117).

6. Zanimljivo je da se iz istog iskopa navodi fragment vrlo bogate plastično ukrašene brončane narukvice (Spajić 1956, T. X,5); ona se po svojim obilježjima i dekorativnosti može povezati s narukvicama iz uništenih grobova u Vukovaru (Majnarić-Pandžić 2007, T. I,2). Moguće je da se i tu radi o jednom uništenom ženskom grobu. E. Spajić svakako prsten i narukvicu u svom tekstu navodi jedno tik drugog (Spajić 1956, 49).

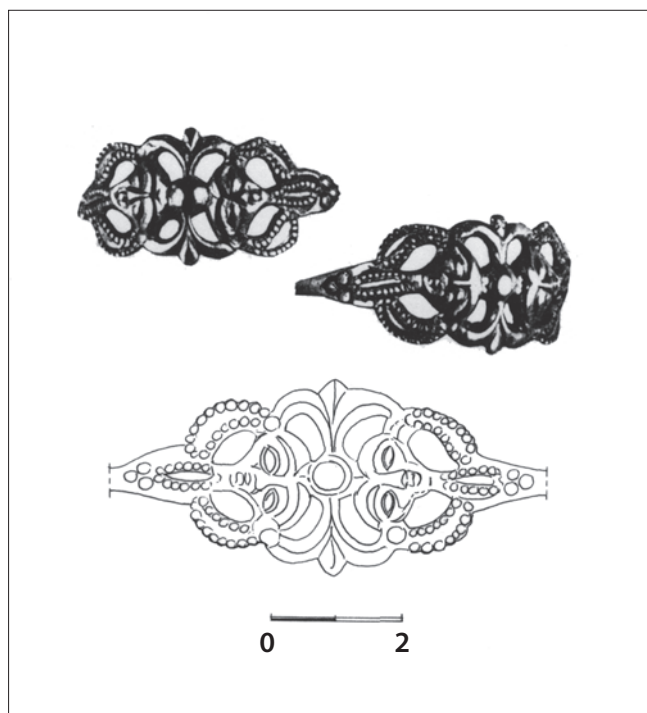
The fingerrings appear in richer female graves (very rarely in male ones), single or in pairs, in continental Europe starting with the horizon of Late Hallstatt graves, and particularly valuable pieces are found in rich Early La Tène graves (Waldhauser 1998, 85-91), e.g. a beautiful gold specimen from the grave of a princess in Reinheim (Kellner 1955, Pl. 8,8). The fingerrings continue to be worn and found in flat cemeteries from Lt B2 to C2 periods, rarely made of gold and most frequently made of bronze or even iron. In terms of typology those fingerrings generally differ from the Osijek pieces; I mention for instance a strap fingerring from grave 13 from Mana, dated by means of a Duchcov/Dux type fibula, which was otherwise furnished with numerous annular jewellery pieces (Benadik 1978, 406, 26, 2). In the area settled by the Scordisci there are few fingerrings; this is easily visible in the so far largest and most extensively excavated cemetery at Karaburma (Todorović 1972). That the fingerrings played quite an important role in the Celtic costume and decoration in general is testified by the fact that around a hundred bronze fingerrings were registered in the huge hoard of jewellery in Duchcov (Dux), and they were found also in the settlements in the northwest of the Czech Republic (Waldhauser 1998, 108, note 26).

The most extensive collection and classification of annular jewellery in female graves in the Carpathian basin was carried out by J. Bujna for Slovakia (Bujna 2005). This characteristic jewellery type of the La Tène culture was analyzed in his monograph both typologically-chronologically and sociologically, owing to extensive and well-documented excavations of the La Tène necropolises in Slovakia after the 2nd World War. What adds weight to Bujna's classification is the conducted seriation. The stylistic and technological similarity with the Osijek pieces is noted in Bujna's group BR-0, in the forms Q and 02B, dated to La Tène C1 for Slovakia (Bujna 2005, 91, 93, Fig. 75, Fig. 77). Armlet 02b shows the greatest similarity with the Osijek fingerrings, with its central motif conceived in the shape of a figure-of-eight attached in the similar way. This type of jewellery is generally more lavishly decorated and its technical workmanship is also more demanding: the decorations on the base were executed in the imitation of a filigree, which is not foreign to our south Pannonian lands either. The Osijek fingerrings can be connected to a certain degree also with Bujna's group BR-J3, where a twisted hoop on the head weaves into the figure-of-eight wire loops (Buna 2005, 75, Fig. 59).

The most complete analogy to the Osijek fingerrings was discovered at the cemetery of Vác in the proximity of the left bank of the Danube northeast of Budapest (Hellebrandt 1999, Pl. 26,17). Female incinerary grave 12 contained a bronze fingerring of an almost identical concept (Fig. 3,7). The fibula in that grave assemblage is a Middle La Tène wire type with a foot of idiosyncratic shape, connected by a spiral of a wire on the bow, imitating the spring on the head (Fig. 3,6). Female skeletal grave 8 at the same necropolis contained a bronze fingerring on the finger. The fingerring is made of a folded double wire and it is decorated on the head with a simple and small spiral figure-of-eight (Hellebrandt 1999, Pl. 26,2). Two bronze anklets composed of three large domes – a piece of a costume typical for the eastern Celtic circle in the Carpathian basin



Sl. 3 1-2 Mezönyárád; 3 Bujna Br-J3; 4 Bujna Q; 5 Bujna Q2-B; 6-7 Vac, grob 12  
 Fig. 3 1-2 Mezönyárád; 3 Bujna Br-J3; 4 Bujna Q; 5 Bujna Q2-B; 6-7 Vac, grave 12



Sl. 4 Sardinija (?)  
Fig. 4 Sardinia (?)

skeletno ukopana u grob 6 nosila je par vrlo malih i fino izrađenih brončanih srednjolatenskih fibula za kopčanje tanje tkanine i veću brončanu fibulu, željeznu narukvicu, željezni pleteni pojas, dva prstena i ukrasni okov, nošen možda na kožnatoj traci oko čela. Sudeći po tipološkim vezama takva je oprema pripadala ženama boljeg društvenog statusa iz vremena Lt C1, tj. iza 250. god. pr. Kr.

Sastav priloga u grobu 6 ima bliske paralele u ženskom srednjolatenskom skeletnom grobu III. na austrijskom lokalitetu Klein-Reinprechtsdorf (Stift-Gottlieb 1935, 172-173, T. I-II,1). Nadalje je zanimljiv za osječko prstenje, premda pomalo bizaran slučaj, zlatni prsten koji navodno potječe sa Sardinije, a čuva se u Londonu (Megaw 1965/66). Iako daleko skupocjeniji i kićeniji, i materijalomi i izvedbom, taj prsten očituje konceptijske sličnosti s osječkim primjercima (sl. 4). U njegov se ukras uključuju i dvije ljudske maske u ranolatenskom stilu, pa ih je V. Megaw iskoristio za opsežnu raspravu o prikazu ljudskog lica u ranolatenskoj umjetnosti. V. Megaw se osvrće i na osnovno obilježje ukrasa na glavi, to jest vegetabilni motiv izveden na proboj (open-work), što se u reduciranom smislu odnosi i na osječko prstenje. V. Megaw taj motiv izvodi iz grčkog svijeta, što za naše srednjedunavsko područje nije bez značenja. Odnosi se to na brojne dokaze o vezama i ugledanju latenske kulture ovog kraja na južnobalkanske uzore (Szabó 1975; 1983; 1991; 1995); vidljivo je to npr. u sklonosti za oponašanjem južnobalkanskih tehnika filigrana i granulacije, zatim na oblikovanju kantaroidnih posuda te na keltskom kovanju novca od polovice 3. st. pr. Kr. (Hellebrandt 1989, 48, sl. 17 je tu činjenicu rječito spojila na jednoj zajedničkoj karti rasprostranjenosti). Naravno, te stilske značajke i njihove razvojne faze ne treba fiksirati u krute kronološke okvire (Megaw 1965/66, 113, 120), tim više jer se gotovo uvijek radi

– as well as the remains of an iron rod-belt, were deposited into the same grave. Unfortunately, both mentioned graves in Vác were disturbed, probably by later Avar graves, so their equipment is not necessarily complete. Both graves contained equipment belonging to richer women from the older phase of the Middle La Tène period (Bujna's group BR-F5, type B).<sup>5</sup>

We can conclude the same for all three fingerings from Ciglana in Osijek: two of them were worn in a pair and they were found in grave 6, which following the individual analysis of the grave goods and their combination eventually appears to represent a possible assemblage. An identical fingerring from "trench 13" bears testimony to the existence of yet another grave with a fingerring, so the costume from grave 6 is not isolated.<sup>6</sup> The women skeletally buried into grave 6 wore a pair of very small and finely made bronze Middle La Tène fibulae for buckling thinner textiles and a larger bronze fibula, an iron bracelet, an iron chain belt, two fingerings and a decorative fitting, worn perhaps on a leather band around the forehead. Judging by the typological relationships, such a costume belonged to women of higher social status from the Lt C1 period, i.e. after 250 B.C.

The composition of the grave goods in grave 6 has close parallels in female Middle La Tène skeletal grave III at the Austrian site of Klein-Reinprechtsdorf (Stift-Gottlieb 1935, 172-173, Pl. I-II,1). Although a somewhat bizarre case, a gold fingerring supposedly coming from Sardinia and now kept in London is also interesting for the Osijek rings (Megaw 1965/66). Although far more precious and lavishly decorated, both in terms of material and workmanship, this fingerring exhibits conceptual similarities with the Osijek pieces (Fig. 4). Two human masks in Early La Tène style are included in its decoration, so V. Megaw used them for an extensive discussion on the representation of the human face in Early La Tène art. V. Megaw reviews also the basic feature of the decoration on the head, that is the openwork vegetable motif, which in the reduced sense applies also to the Osijek fingerings. V. Megaw draws that motif from the Greek world, which is not without significance for our Middle Danubian area. This relates to numerous proofs about the mutual connections and the way the La Tène culture of this area modeled itself on south Balkan influences (Szabó 1975: 1983; 1991; 1995); this is visible e.g. in their tendency to imitate south Balkan techniques of filigree and granulation, in the shape of kantharoid vessels and in the Celtic coin mints from the mid-3rd cent. B.C. (Hellebrandt 1989, 48, Fig. 17 eloquently linked this fact on a common distribution map). Naturally, these stylistic features and their developmental phases should not be fixed into rigid chronological frames (Megaw 1965/66, 113, 120), all the more so as these are almost always locally produced middle Danubian types.

5. I mention that M. Dizdar, presenting two bronze fingerings from the La Tène necropolis in Zvonimirovo near Suhopolje, listed in his unpublished dissertation also the remaining pieces from eastern Croatia and the Carpathian basin (Dizdar 2004, 253, Fig. 117).

6. It is interesting that a fragment of a very rich plastically decorated bronze bracelet is mentioned as coming from the same trench (Spajić 1956, Pl. X,5); based on its features and decorative concept it can be connected with the bracelets from the destroyed graves in Vukovar (Majnarić-Pandžić 2007, Pl. I,2). It is possible that this is also a case of a destroyed female grave. E. Spajić certainly mentions the fingerring and the bracelet in his text one next to the other.

o lokalno izrađivanim srednjodunavskim tipovima.

Kada bismo htjeli odrediti značenje prilaganja prstenja pokojnici u grob, ne bismo za to imali pravog oslonca. H. Lorenz, koji je dosad najpotpunije obradio latenski grobni ritual s obzirom na pridanu nošnju, izrazio se vrlo oprezno o mogućem značenju prstenja kao vjenčanog (Lorenz 1978, 191). Naš osječki slučaj s dva prstena priložena jednoj pokojnici ne bi govorio nipošto u prilog takvu značenju. Vjerojatno je ipak da je nošenje prstenja imalo oznaku socijalnog statusa, to jest ugleda u društvu.

If we wished to determine the significance of depositing fingerings into the grave of a deceased woman, we would not have any real foundation. H. Lorenz, whose analysis of the La Tène burial ritual with regard to the accompanying costume has been the most thorough so far, expressed himself very carefully about the possible meaning of the fingerings as denoting marriage (Lorenz 1978, 191). Our case from Osijek with two fingerings deposited with one deceased woman would definitely not speak in favour of that meaning. It is more likely that the wearing of fingerings served as a mark of social status, that is prestige within the society.

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