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## LATE LA TÈNE BUCKET-SHAPED PENDANTS FROM EASTERN CROATIA: AMULETS THAT PROTECTED FROM EVIL AND MISFORTUNE

The greatest amount of knowledge about the Late La Tène material legacy of the Scordisci in the western part of their distribution in eastern Croatia comes from numerous excavations conducted in the area of Vinkovci and its surroundings, including finds of bronze bucket-shaped pendants. These pendants, previously unknown in the territory of the Scordisci, were probably worn as miniature objects on necklaces, or perhaps bracelets, together with other forms of pendants and beads; in addition to their decorative role, they had a certain symbolic meaning. The most similar pendants were found at sites in Central and Western Europe in different and heterogeneous cultural environments, while Eastern European sites contained bucket-shaped pendants of slightly different forms. Bucket-shaped pendants probably imitate functional objects from real life and contained some organic substances, which is why they served as amulets with an apotropaic function to protect or heal those who wore them. The finds of these pendants from burials show how they were carried by children and women, and their wearing reflects different aspects of social identities and has a distinctive gender and age meaning. Also, the analysis of the Late La Tène bronze bucket-shaped pendants discovered at the sites in the Vinkovci area recognizes the dynamic cultural contacts of the Scordisci with neighbouring and remote areas, and especially with Central Europe.

Key words: bucket-shaped pendants, Late La Tène, Scordisci, amulets, symbolic meaning, burials, children, women, cultural contacts / *Ključne riječi: privjesci u obliku vjedra, kasni laten, Skordisci, amuleti, simboličko značenje, pokopi, djeca, žene, kulturni kontakti*

### Introduction

The Late Iron Age in the southeastern Carpathian Basin is represented by characteristic material legacy attributed to the Scordisci, the community considered to represent the symbiosis of Celtic settlers and the local population. The Scordisci shared ritual norms and material legacy with other communities of the Eastern Celts that settled in the Carpathian Basin. But there are also certain particularities, primarily in the forms of female costume and jewellery which are considered to be the contribution of the legacy of the autochthonous population, i.e. which are the result of the position of the Scordisci on the southeastern edge of the La Tène culture.<sup>1</sup>

The present understanding of the Late La Tène material legacy of the Scordisci in the western area of their territory in eastern Croatia, i.e. in western Syrmia and eastern

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Slavonia, is mostly based on the numerous excavations undertaken in the area of Vinkovci and its surroundings.<sup>2</sup> In addition to the Late La Tène finds collected since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>3</sup> a series of trial and rescue excavations was carried out in the 1970s and 1980s on multi-phase prehistoric fortified settlements along the Bosut river (i.e. Dirov Brijeg in Vinkovci, Orolik, Privlaka, Stari Mikanovci) which were dated to the later phase of the Middle and Late La Tène.<sup>4</sup> Also, field surveys conducted in the last twenty years have discovered numerous lowland settlements that can also be dated to the Late La Tène, wherefore Vinkovci and its surroundings can be considered as the area with the best preserved Late La Tène settlement network in eastern Croatia. The discovered finds are attributed to the material legacy of the Scordisci and confirm that this area also belongs to the central European legacy of the Late La Tène culture.<sup>5</sup> This is evidenced not only by numerous items of women's costume and jewellery, but also by the finds of bronze bucket-shaped pendants which were probably worn on necklaces or armrings and are assumed to have a certain symbolic meaning.

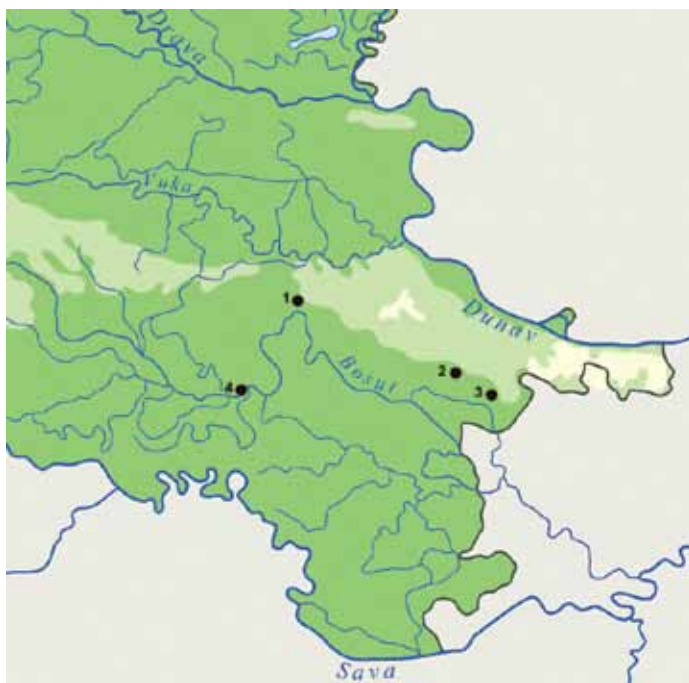


Fig. 1. Distribution of bucket-shaped and grape-shaped pendants from the Vinkovci area: 1 Vinkovci – Blato; 2 Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma; 3 Ilača – Čordašica; 4 Cerna – Grabovci (made by: M. Dizdar) / Sl. 1. Rasprostranjenost privjesaka u obliku vjedra i privjesaka grozdolikog oblika na području Vinkovaca: 1 Vinkovci – Blato; 2 Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma; 3 Ilača – Čordašica; 4 Cerna – Grabovci (izradio: M. Dizdar)

## Late La Tène bucket-shaped pendants

Bronze bucket-shaped pendants have been found at three Late La Tène sites in the Vinkovci area (Fig. 1). The largest number of these pendants were found in the well-known settlement of Vinkovci – Blato, which is one of the most prominent researched centres that significantly changed our understanding of the settlement network of the Scordisci in eastern Croatia during the Late La Tène. A total of four such pendants were discovered at the Blato site (Fig. 2), each showing certain common characteristics, but also certain peculiari-

2 Dizdar 2001a; Dizdar 2016.

3 Brunšmid 1902; Majnarić-Pandžić 1970; Dimitrijević 1979.

4 Majnarić-Pandžić 1984; Majnarić-Pandžić 1996; Dizdar 2001b.

5 Dizdar 2016.

ties.<sup>6</sup> The Vinkovci – Blato site was discovered in the early 1990s during a field survey in the northern part of Vinkovci; the ceramic vessels and metal and glass finds collected on the surface of a low elevation can mostly be dated to the Late La Tène.<sup>7</sup> A trial excavation conducted in 1998 showed that the site had been exposed to deep ploughing and that only the lower parts of features were preserved.<sup>8</sup> In the following years, the number of collected finds rapidly increased; in 2010, the Vinkovci Municipal Museum and the Institute of Archaeology carried out a trial excavation. The 500-meter trench yielded the remains of settlement infrastructure with post-built houses and pit dwellings, but also numerous pits, like other Late La Tène lowland settlements of the Scordisci. The abundance and diversity of the collected metal finds, mostly dated to LT D1, suggest that the settlement at Blato likely had a prominent position in the Late La Tène settlement network of the Scordisci.<sup>9</sup>

The first bucket-shaped pendant from Blato is small in size and has three horizontal ribs on the body – one at the rim, one in the middle, and one at the bottom. At the top there is a triangular hanging eyelet of circular cross-section, while at the bottom there are three small feet. The pendant is 1.7 cm high and 1.1 cm in diameter (**Fig. 2: 1**). The second pendant is also small, with a preserved height of 2.2 cm and diameter of 2.1 cm (**Fig. 2: 2**). It also has three ribs on the body and three small feet at the bottom. The difference is in the shape of the hanging eyelet: protruding from its rim, there are three preserved small protrusions of round cross-section, which joined in the middle. Another pendant has the same shape of the hanging eyelet, with some minor differences (**Fig. 2: 3**). At the top of the hanging eyelet there is a small ring, while the rib located along the rim has three protrusions extending into three oblique bars, which join into an eyelet above another protrusion on each of the bars. There are also three ribs on the body of the pendant, while the three feet are more prominent and protrude beyond the axis of the body. This pendant is 3.6 cm high and 1.5 cm in diameter. The fourth bucket-shaped pendant from Blato has a different shape. The pendant has an ovoid smooth body with a hanging eyelet that has a small protrusion at each end, at the junction with the rim (**Fig. 2: 4**). The pendant is 2.1 cm high and 1.4 cm in diameter.

Two more bronze bucket-shaped pendants were found in the eastern part of the Vinkovci area, which belongs to western Sarmia. A fragment of a pendant was discovered during the field survey conducted in 2019 at the site of Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma, where there was a great number of finds from all the phases of the La Tène culture. The most numerous finds are those from the Late La Tène.<sup>10</sup> The fragment of the pendant has three horizontal ribs and two small feet preserved at the bottom (**Fig. 3: 1**). There is also a preserved part of the hanging eyelet, which has a small lateral protrusion at the joint with the rim. The preserved height of the pendant is 1.4 cm, while the diameter is 1.2 cm. The Ilača – Čordašica site, which is located a few kilometres to the east, included a bucket-shaped pendant with weakly pronounced horizontal ribs along the rim and at the bottom, while the central one is missing (**Fig. 3: 2**). There are three small feet at the bottom; only the beginnings of the hanging eyelet have been preserved on both sides of the rim. The preserved height is 1.5 cm and the diameter is 1.3 cm.

6 Dizdar 2016: 39, Fig. 12. I would like to thank my colleagues Hrvoje Vulić and Boris Kratofil from the Vinkovci Municipal Museum for the finds of the La Tène culture collected at the sites in the Vinkovci area.

7 The site yielded finds from other prehistoric periods too, as well as the Roman period, just like the other two sites mentioned here: Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma and Ilača – Čordašica.

8 Dizdar 1998.

9 Dizdar 2016: 33, Figs. 3-14.

10 Dizdar 2021.

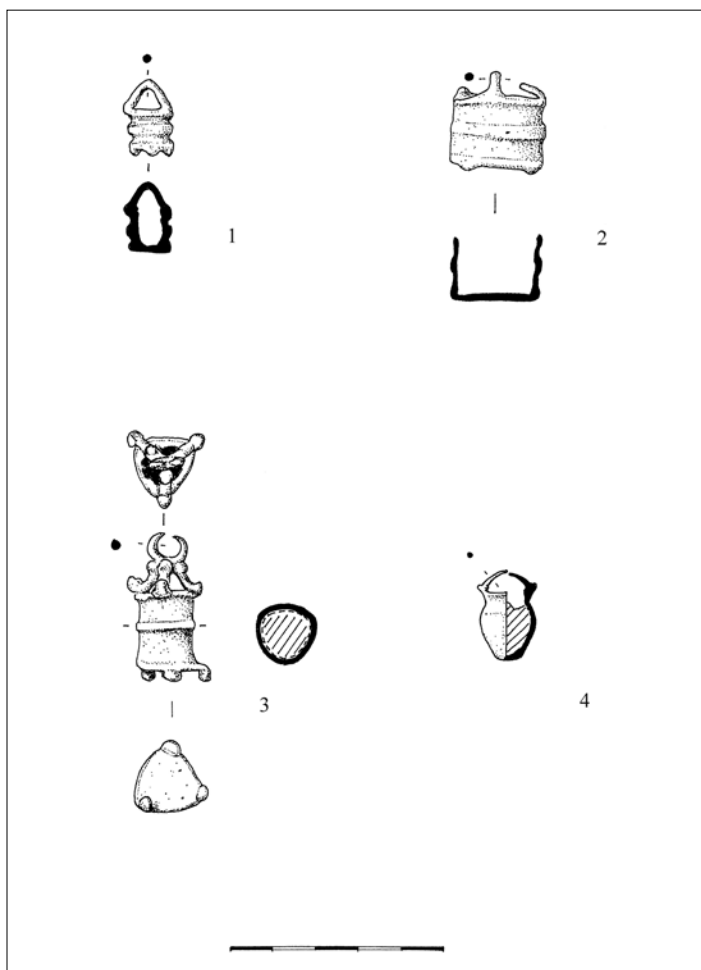


Fig. 2. Bucket-shaped pendants from the Vinkovci – Blato settlement (drawn by: M. Marjanović Lešić) / Sl. 2. Privjesci u obliku vjedra s naselja Vinkovci – Blato (nacrtala: M. Marjanović Lešić)

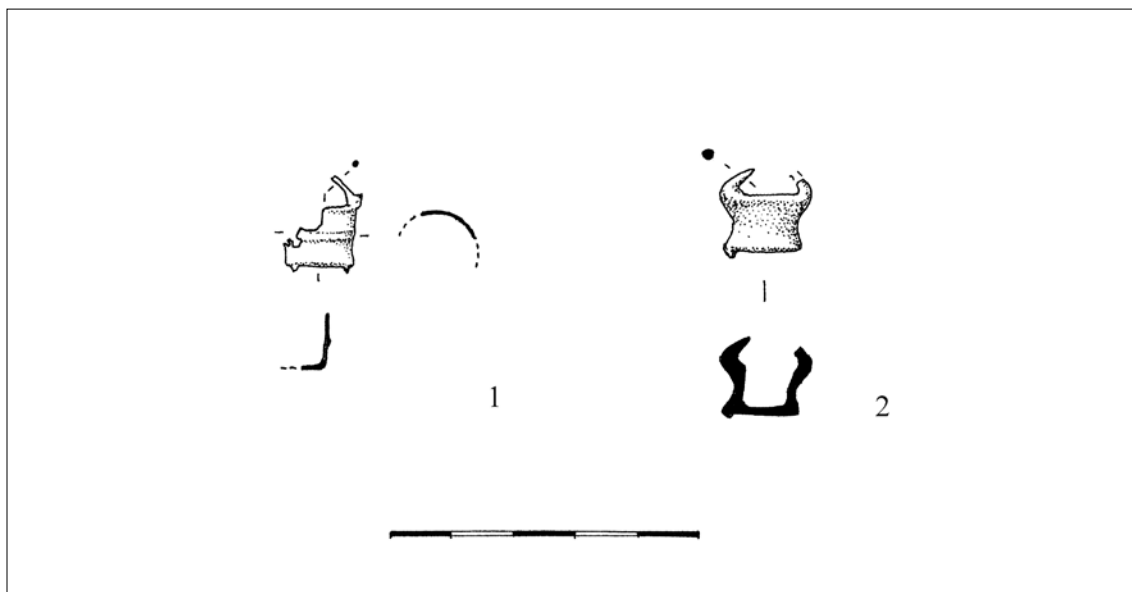


Fig. 3. Bucket-shaped pendants from: 1 Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma; 2 Ilača – Čordašica (drawn by: M. Marjanović Lešić) / Sl. 3. Privjesci u obliku vjedra: 1 Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma; 2 Ilača – Čordašica (nacrtala: M. Marjanović Lešić)

Thus, a total of six bucket-shaped pendants were found at three sites in the Vinkovci area; five of them show similar characteristics, while one of the pendants from Blato (**Fig. 2: 4**) differs in shape from other finds. It should be mentioned that these pendants have not been found until now at other sites of the Scordisci.

Bucket-shaped pendants were analysed in detail by I. Beilke-Voigt,<sup>11</sup> who divided them into twelve types which are then divided into variants. The five mentioned pendants from the sites in the Vinkovci area can be attributed to type H, which is the second most numerous form, characterized by a ribbed body. The pendants can be attributed to variant IV due to the small feet at the bottom, where the ribs are located along the rim and at the bottom, which is different from the finds from the Vinkovci area. Pendants of the type H are mostly made of iron, followed by bronze, gold, and silver.<sup>12</sup> Their distribution in the area of the Przeworsk culture is highlighted, although there are finds from other areas too.<sup>13</sup> Interestingly, the oldest examples belong to variant IV with feet.<sup>14</sup> Bucket-shaped pendants were most often worn by women and girls.<sup>15</sup>

Bucket-shaped pendants with ribs of type H, variant IV, were found more frequently at Przeworsk culture sites, as shown by the analysis of I. Beilke-Voigt.<sup>16</sup> On the other hand, bucket-shaped pendants made of iron in a different form are mostly known from sites located east of the Carpathians, but there are some finds in Transylvania,<sup>17</sup> and also in other parts of the Carpathian Basin and Central and Western Europe, as the analysis will show. Considering the distribution of bucket-shaped pendants in a wide area, importance is given to the finds that come from closed contexts, especially graves, which also indicate their functional position on different parts of the body.<sup>18</sup>

The finds of bucket-shaped pendants that are most similar to those from the Vinkovci area are two pendants from the famous Szárazd – Regöly collection in south-eastern Transdanubia. It is a large ensemble of finds dating from LT D1, consisting of Late La Tène women's costume and jewellery items such as parts of astragal belts, Jarak-type fibulae, knobbed rings, gold and silver pendants of different shapes, amber and glass beads, and bronze casting moulds. Both pendants show the same characteristics as the pendants from the Vinkovci – Blato settlement. The larger pendant, found in 1892, is 2.6 cm high and 1.4 cm in diameter. The body has three ribs and three feet at the bottom. Just like in one pendant from the Blato site (**Fig. 2: 3**), three bars emerge from the rim and connect at the top below a small ring.<sup>19</sup> A slightly smaller pendant, 2.4 cm high and 1.5 cm in diameter, was found in 1894. Again, the body has three ribs and three feet at the bottom. The hanging eyelet has a triangular outline with an oval thickening at the top,<sup>20</sup> similar to one pendant from Blato (**Fig. 2: 1**). These two pendants from the Szárazd – Regöly site are not only the closest parallels for the finds from the Vinkovci area, but in fact the only direct parallels in the southern Carpathian Basin for the shape of the pendants with three ribs and feet and the shape of the hanging eyelets.

11 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 51–88, Fig. 58.

12 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 55, 58, Fig. 60.

13 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 68–69, Map 14, List 35, Fig. 78.

14 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 68.

15 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 74–76, Fig. 88.

16 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 68–69, Map 14.

17 Rustoiu 2019a: 169, Fig. 4.

18 For the possible positions of pendants on the body see: Beilke-Voigt 1998: 79–93, Figs. 94–100.

19 Kemenczei 2012: 325, Fig. 7: 11.

20 Kemenczei 2012: 329, Fig. 8: 5.

Parallels for bucket-shaped pendants have also been recorded at the important *oppidum* of Velem Szentvid in north-western Hungary. One pendant has three ribs on the body, then a flat bottom and a hanging eyelet of triangular outline. The second pendant has a low body with two ribs and prominent feet at the bottom as well as a higher hanging round eyelet.<sup>21</sup> This site includes a parallel for the pendant from Blato (**Fig. 2: 4**) which has a situla-shaped body with a rib on the neck, and with a hanging eyelet that has a small protrusion at each end.<sup>22</sup> A similar bucket-shaped pendant comes from the Óhuta – Nagysánc site, with a hanging eyelet with folded protrusions at the ends directed towards the tip of the eyelet that appears to end in zoomorphic heads. Likewise, there is a protrusion at the bottom.<sup>23</sup>

From the Staré Hradisko *oppidum* comes a 2.9 cm high bucket-shaped pendant with a concave body and a cylindrical neck. On the rim there is a hanging eyelet of triangular outline, which has two protrusions on one side and one smaller protrusion on the other.<sup>24</sup> A bucket-shaped pendant with a high oval eyelet from the sanctuary of Liptovská Mara I is known to have been used as an amulet.<sup>25</sup> A bronze bucket-shaped pendant of square shape with a hanging eyelet of round cross-section comes from the Nowa Cerekwia settlement in south-western Poland. The body is decorated on all four sides with two ring-and-dot motifs placed one above the other, while the flat bottom has another such motif.<sup>26</sup> This pendant differs in shape and decoration from all the others mentioned.

Bucket-shaped pendants are known from some other sites in Central Europe. Thus, from the settlement of Haselbach, dated to the Middle La Tène with its peak during LT C2, comes a bronze bucket-shaped pendant with one rib on each of the upper and lower parts, while the bottom is flat. The hanging eyelet has a rectangular outline,<sup>27</sup> which distinguishes this pendant from the others. Likewise, the Manching *oppidum* was the site of a bronze bucket-shaped pendant with an oval but narrow body and a high eyelet which is also associated with an amulet function.<sup>28</sup> Let us mention two other slightly different pendants from Magdalensberg; on opposite sides of the rim they have protrusions with eyelets through which the ends of the handles passed.<sup>29</sup>

Aside from the mentioned bucket-shaped pendants with three small feet from the Szárazd – Regöly and Velem Szentvid sites, the same form of pendant was found in the Wederath – Belginum cemetery in West Germany. In this long-period and large cemetery, various forms of pendants have been found in graves of women and children, which are also believed to have had the function of amulets.<sup>30</sup> The bronze bucket-shaped pendant from cremation grave 1673 (**Fig. 4**) corresponds to the finds from the Vinkovci area. The grave pit, of an irregular rectangular shape with rounded corners, contained five ceramic vessels and the remains of at least five wooden vessels. The items with the burnt remains of the dead included not only the pendants, but also fragments of an iron fibula with a spiral with 6 + 6 coils connected by an external chord and a small iron spear

21 Miske 1908: 46, 59, Pl. XXXVII: 65; XLV: 66.

22 Miske 1908: 46, Pl. XXXVIII: 37.

23 Hunyady 1942: Pl. XXXVII: 13.

24 Meduna 1961: 11, Pl. 1: 12.

25 Pieta 1996: 97, Pl. XI: 7; Pieta 2010: 327, Fig. 136: 3.

26 Rudnicki 2014a: 45, Pl. 8: 9; Rudnicki 2014b: 430, Fig. 9: 2.

27 Trebsche, Fichtl 2016: 13, Fig. 21.

28 Gebhard 2000: 89, Fig. 6: 4.

29 Deimel 1987: 387, Pl. 107: 12, 15.

30 Haffner 1989: 55, 67.

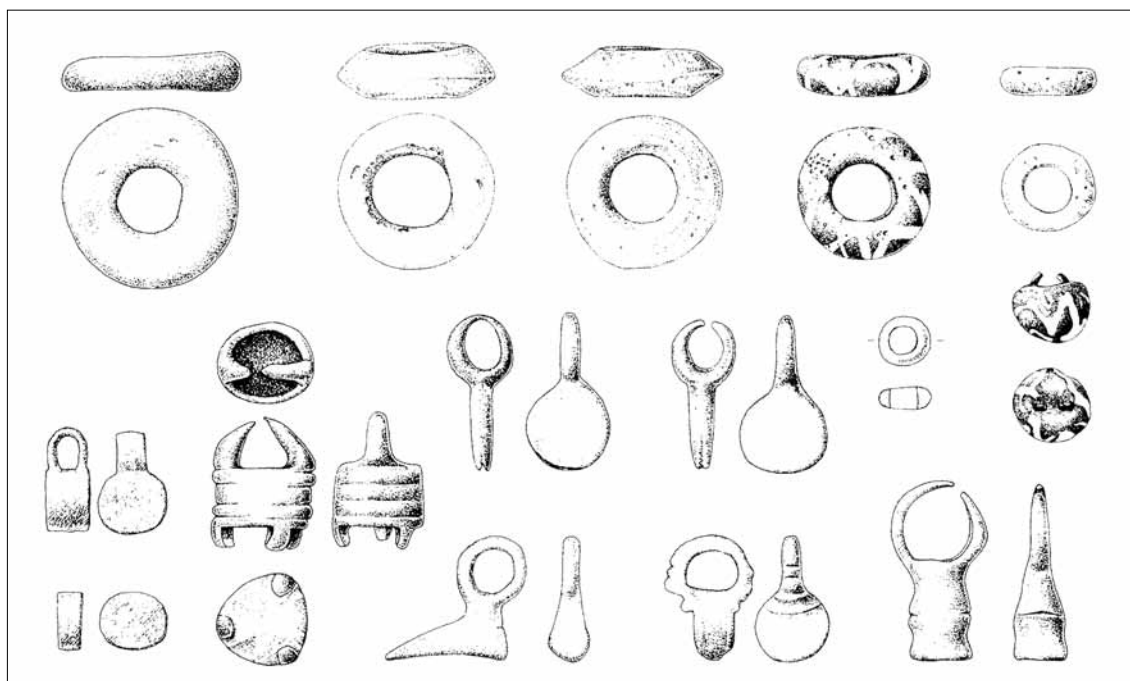


Fig. 4. Wederath – Belginum, pendants from grave 1673 (after: Haffner 1989) / Sl. 4. Wederath – Belginum, privjesci iz groba 1673 (prema: Haffner 1989)

with a lenticular cross-section. It is assumed that the necklace had one ceramic bead, six glass beads, two iron hollow round pendants, and six bronze pendants of different shapes. One bronze pendant has the shape of a foot, three pendants have a round shape, one is cylindrical with a groove in the middle of the body, and one ribbed bucket-shaped pendant has three feet slightly bent inwards. This pendant measures 1.4 cm high and 0.95 cm in diameter. The grave has been dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC;<sup>31</sup> based on the finds of glass ring beads it can probably be dated to LT D1. We should also mention cremation grave 1493 from the same cemetery, dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, i.e. to LT C2. The grave pit, square in shape, contained a bowl, two goblets, various glass beads, three bone beads, and an iron fibula with a low and long trapezoidal bow and a spiral with 2 + 2 coils connected by an external chord. In the bowl there were glass beads and an iron bracelet with eight bronze pendants – two with a spherical lower part, a foot pendant, two rings, and three cylindrical pendants with a groove in the middle of the body.<sup>32</sup>

An iron bracelet with pendants was found in cremation grave 2 in the cemetery of Canly – Les Trois Noyers in France, which also contained six ceramic vessels. The bracelet, about 7.0 cm in diameter, was on the edge of the pile of cremated bones and has a round cross-section and overlapping ends. On it there were a glass bead, two bronze wheel-shaped pendants with four spokes, and a small bronze bucket-shaped pendant. The pendant is 1.0 cm high and 1.1 cm in diameter. The hanging eyelet, not completely preserved, had a rectangular outline. It seems that there was a fibula on the bracelet, of which the only surviving spiral has 7 + 7 coils connected by an external chord. The grave

31 Haffner 1989: 67, Fig. 45; Cordie-Hackenberg, Haffner 1991: 91–92, T. 435: w; D6.

32 Haffner 1989: 55, Fig. 35; Cordie-Hackenberg, Haffner 1991: 49, T. 391: k; D3.

has been dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.<sup>33</sup> Nevertheless, a bronze bucket-shaped pendant with three small feet was found in the Bennecourt sanctuary. The pendant is 2.1 cm high and 1.6 cm in diameter. It has a smooth and undecorated cylindrical body and three feet at the bottom, similar to the finds from the Vinkovci area. The hanging eyelet had a semi-circular outline.<sup>34</sup>

Since bronze bucket-shaped pendants from the Vinkovci area are surface finds without contexts, the finds of these pendants in Eastern Europe are of particular importance; there they are more numerous and of slightly different forms, but often with a known context of discovery. Large numbers of bucket-shaped pendants were discovered at sites located in the area east of the Carpathians, while they occur in smaller numbers at sites in Transylvania. Also, their occurrence was recorded in *tumuli* in the area south of the Carpathians. These pendants were analysed in detail by A. Rustoiu<sup>35</sup> and then by V. Bârcă,<sup>36</sup> who gives an overview of the younger finds attributed to the Sarmatians.

A. Rustoiu singled out bucket-shaped pendants as type 5 (type A according to I. Beilke-Voigt),<sup>37</sup> which are more often made of iron sheet, but there are bronze ones too. They have a cylindrical shape and a flat bottom and a small hanging eyelet. They are believed to have been worn, along with beads, as pendants on necklaces.<sup>38</sup> Although bucket-shaped pendants were previously thought to have originated in the area of the Przeworsk culture, as evidenced by their abundance,<sup>39</sup> documented finds show that they first appeared in the Daco-Gethic area during the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and especially during the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, and spread to other areas from there. They remain in use in that area until the 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>40</sup> On the other side, M. Babeş singles out these pendants at the Poienişti – Lucăşeuca sites as type VI, considered to have originated in the Przeworsk culture.<sup>41</sup> A different conclusion is reached by V. Bârcă, according to whom these pendants originated in the North-Pontic region and spread to other cultural environments from there. There is a noticeable increase in their number among the Sarmatians from the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, where they appear in various forms in children's and women's graves, both richly and poorly equipped.<sup>42</sup> However, the mentioned finds from the area of Western and Central Europe show that bucket-shaped pendants, but in somewhat different forms, appear earlier in these areas, which is especially shown by the find from the Wederath cemetery.

In the settlement of Mereşti in eastern Transylvania there was a bronze bucket-shaped pendant which is decorated with a net decoration, while the hanging eyelet is of square cross-section. This pendant is considered to be an import from the area east of the Carpathians.<sup>43</sup> Another iron bucket-shaped pendant was probably discovered in the

33 Gaudefroy, Pinard 1997: 91, 97–98, Fig. 9.

34 Bourgeois *et al.* 1999: 99, 101, Fig. 75: 452.

35 Rustoiu 1996; Rustoiu 2019a.

36 Bârcă 2021.

37 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 52, Fig. 58A.

38 Rustoiu 1996: 125, Fig. 86: 41–47; Rustoiu 2002: 106, Fig. 70: 20–21; Rustoiu 2019a: 168–171, Fig. 2–4; Rustoiu 2019b: 158–160.

39 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 68.

40 Rustoiu 1996: 125; Rustoiu 2019a: 169; Rustoiu 2019b: 158.

41 Babeş 1993: 113, Abb. 29: VI.

42 Bârcă 2021: 412–423, Figs. 1–7.

43 Rustoiu 1996: 125, Fig. 86: 43; Rustoiu 2019a: 169, Fig. 2: 8; Crişan 2000: 138, Pl. 111: 12; Bârcă 2021: 422, Fig. 6: 24.



fortified settlement of Tilișca in southern Transylvania.<sup>44</sup> There are interesting contexts in the discovery of a large number of bucket-shaped pendants with flat bottoms, mostly iron but also bronze, in the burial complexes at the site of Hunedoara – Grădina Castelului, dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (e.g. complexes no. 6, 7, 13, 30-M16a, 68). Pendants, single or in pairs, are most often found in the graves of children aged several months to two years. They are found around the head and in the neck area, which shows that they were worn on a necklace hung around the neck. An interesting complex is no. 30 (M16a/C30), with a few burnt remains of an adult and an inhumation burial of a child not older than 7 months who had a bronze bucket-shaped pendant with a high banded hanging eyelet, its body decorated with zigzag ornaments between the two grooves. Only in complex no. 67, with the skeletal remains of a woman about 45 years old, there were two bucket-shaped pendants – one bronze and one iron – which were also located in the neck area of the woman.<sup>45</sup> Interestingly, one bronze and three iron bucket-shaped pendants appear in the Late La Tène *tumulus* 2 with weapons at the Popești site, which are thought to be of local origin. The *tumulus* has been dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, while the pendants are said to have been also used during the 1<sup>st</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD.<sup>46</sup>

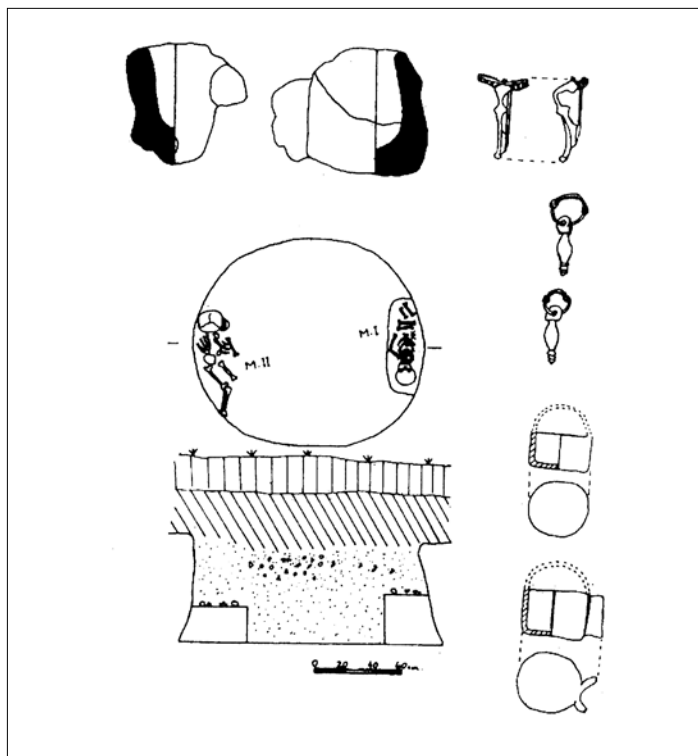


Fig. 5. The pit from the Brad settlement with two child burials with bucket-shaped pendants (after: Rustoiu, Ferencz 2020) / Sl. 5. Jama s naselja Brad s pokopom dva djeteta s privjescima u obliku vjedra (prema: Rustoiu, Ferencz 2020)

Like the discovery in Hunedoara, iron bucket-shaped pendants were discovered in the inhumation graves of children laid in pits in the Brad settlement, with two to four dead buried in each pit. Thus, pit 25 contained two children who were laid on raised ledges above the bottom of the pit (Fig. 5). One child had two iron bucket-shaped pen-

44 Rustoiu 2019a: 168, Fig. 2: 1.

45 Sirbu *et al.* 2007: 67, Figs. 34: 1–2; 36: 7; 37: 9; 38: 10–11, 13–14; Kelemen *et al.* 2012: 414–415, Pl. 3: 3; Rustoiu 2019a: 169, Fig. 2: 2–5; Rustoiu 2019b: 158–160, Fig. 31: 1; Bărcă 2021: 422, Fig. 6: 32–36.

46 Vulpe 1976: 198, 214, Figs. 5: 10; 6: 24; Bărcă 2021: 420, Fig. 6: 20–21.

dants in the neck area; the two crucibles found on the chest contain traces of melted bronze. One pendant seemed to be a double. The burial was dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD based on the discovery of a strongly profiled bronze fibula on the other child, who also had two earrings.<sup>47</sup> Two more pits show that this is not the only context with bucket-shaped pendants in this settlement. Skeletal remains of as many as four children laid in different directions were found in pit 23. Children marked as burials I, II, and III had two iron bucket-shaped pendants each, along with some other finds that also date the burials to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.<sup>48</sup> Pit 27, on the other hand, contained the burial of only one child with two beads as well as two iron bucket-shaped pendants located in the neck area.<sup>49</sup> These pendants, which were also discovered in the settlement (iron and bronze), are believed to be imports from Dacian and Przeworsk cultures.<sup>50</sup> The same context of bucket-shaped pendants was documented in pit C2 at the Ocnița – Buridava site. The burial of a woman about 35 years old was found in the upper part of the pit filling, while the burial of a child about three years old was found about 0.40 m below. The child had three bucket-shaped pendants in the neck area – two iron and one bronze. The iron ones are simple, cylindrical with a banded eyelet, while the bronze ones have two groups of three ribs in the upper and lower part. The bottom of this pendant is flat and has a high striped eyelet. The burial has been dated to the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC,<sup>51</sup> although it more likely dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.<sup>52</sup>

Iron bucket-shaped pendants have also been recorded at sites located in the north-western Carpathian Basin and may be associated with finds originating east and north of the Carpathians as well as with sites in Transylvania. They are dated in a similar way – from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Thus, in the Zemplín – Szélmalomdomb cemetery in eastern Slovakia, dating from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, iron bucket-shaped pendants with flat bottoms and cylindrical bodies were found in six graves: one of a child, one of a woman, and four of adults. Grave 22 in tumulus 2, in which a richly equipped younger person was buried, stands out with its twelve pendants. These pendants are considered to have been most often worn on necklaces, but they could also be found on *fibulae*, bracelets, and other items of costume and jewellery.<sup>53</sup> To the north of the Mala Kopanya fortress in south-western Ukraine, cremation grave P-13 discovered at the Chellenytsya I site contained an iron bucket-shaped pendant of cylindrical shape with a banded hanging eyelet and a flat bottom. In addition to ceramic vessels, the grave included pendants and beads, indicating the burial of a woman, although the burnt bones were identified as animal.<sup>54</sup> Other finds of such iron pendants, 1.0–1.5 cm high and 0.8–1.0 cm in diameter, are known from the same site, along with the find of a gold bucket-shaped pendant with ribs along the rim and bottom and a twisted wire eyelet.<sup>55</sup> Bucket-shaped pendants are thought to have originated in the area north

47 Ursachi 1986: 114, Pl. XXI: 4–5; 1995: 260–261, Pl. 361; Rustoiu 1996: 125, Fig. 86: 44–47; Rustoiu 2002: 106, Fig. 70: 20–21; Rustoiu 2016: 55, Fig. 13: 1; Rustoiu 2019a: 168, Fig. 3: 1; Rustoiu, Ferencz 2020: 225, Fig. 6: 1.

48 Ursachi 1986: 112–113, Pl. XVII: 5–10.

49 Ursachi 1986: 114–115, T. XXIII: 4–5; Rustoiu 2019a: 168, Fig. 3: 2.

50 Ursachi 1986: 121; 1987: 117, Fig. 12: 14, 16; Rustoiu 2019a: 169, Fig. 2: 9–12.

51 Berciu 1983: 34, Fig. 2; Rustoiu 2019a: 169, Fig. 2: 6–7.

52 Bârcă 2021: 421, Fig. 6: 28–30.

53 Budinský-Krička, Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990: 294, Pl. III: 9–20; VI: 3–4, 8–9; XIII: 25; Bârcă 2021: 417, Fig. 6: 1–16.

54 Kotigoroško 2009: Fig. 12: 9; Kotigoroško 2015: 197, 226, Fig. 12: 9; Bârcă 2021: 420, Fig. 6: 17.

55 Kotigoroško 2009: Fig. 43: 22; 45: 4; Kotigoroško 2015: 226–227, Fig. 64: 22; 70: 4; Bârcă 2021: 420, Fig. 6: 18–19; 7: 2.

of the Black Sea at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC.<sup>56</sup> We should also mention that two iron bucket-shaped pendants were found in the Late La Tène women's grave 2 in the Dolinjany cemetery and are believed to have originated in the Przeworsk culture.<sup>57</sup>

### Bucket-shaped pendants as imitations of functional objects?

Bucket-shaped pendants, as miniature objects, probably imitate functional objects from real life – in this case probably wooden buckets with metal fittings – which<sup>58</sup> are known from the graves of prominent individuals and from settlements in Western Europe. Bucket-shaped pendants appear in this area too, as mentioned. On the other hand, the Scordiscan sites contain no wooden buckets or their parts for now, nor the remains of wooden vessels that are known from other sites of the La Tène culture.<sup>59</sup>

Wooden buckets with metal fittings have long been a subject of study in Western Europe,<sup>60</sup> where several important studies have been dedicated to this characteristic recipient in the last ten years.<sup>61</sup> They were analysed in detail by Q. Sueur,<sup>62</sup> who points out that wooden buckets with metal or wooden fittings were of local origin in northern Gaul, where they remained in use after the Roman conquest. There are three main types that differ on the basis of different shapes of handles and the junction of handles with the body of the vessel, emphasizing the link between typological development and the expansion of the use of buckets beyond their place of origin. Also, the analyses showed that the buckets for everyday use were made of oak planks with iron fittings, while the buckets that appear in the graves of prominent individuals as prestigious items were made of yew in combination with bronze. For the simplest variant, which is known starting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and was probably the most common, it is characteristic that the buckets had an iron or bronze handle with bended ends, while the fittings were made of iron. From the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, there appear buckets that have bronze fittings with bronze or iron handles with zoomorphic attachés. The third type of bucket, which is also the youngest, appears at the beginning of the Augustan period in the area of Treveri and is characterized by hinged handles with attachés, while the fittings are exclusively bronze and the bottom has feet.<sup>63</sup> This youngest form of bucket with three feet and bronze fittings seems to appear as a prestigious item only in the graves of prominent individuals. However, recent finds show that wooden buckets on feet also appear in settlements, which would mean that they were also used in everyday life.<sup>64</sup>

The fact that bucket-shaped pendants from the Vinkovci area have three feet at the bottom seems to indicate that they probably imitated the youngest type of bucket. However, as we already mentioned, these buckets appeared only in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, which would date the pendants to the very end of the La Tène culture. On the other hand, the finds in the Vinkovci area as well as those in the Százard – Regöly collection, and especially those in the Wederath cemetery, show that the pendants are

56 Kotigoroško 2015: 226–227.

57 Babeş 1993: 113, Pl. 47: 2g; Bârcă 2021: 420.

58 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 72–74.

59 E.g. Cordie 2007.

60 E.g. Jacobi 1974: 133–140, Fig. 32; Vidal 1976: 172–200, Fig. 6; Feugère 1985: 72–78, Fig. 8; Wieland 1999: 31–33, Fig. 25–27; Lambot 2009 etc

61 E.g. Metzler, Geng 2009: 286–305, Fig. 277–279; Sueur, Garcia 2016: 48–54.

62 Sueur 2018; Sueur 2020.

63 Sueur 2018: 208–254, Figs. 153–203; Sueur 2020: 130–133, 137–138, Fig. 4.

64 Sueur, Garcia 2016.

older. That buckets with feet appeared earlier is evidenced by the discovery of parts of buckets with feet in a well at the Fellbach – Schmiden site, dendrochronologically dated to the last quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (123 BC).<sup>65</sup> Therefore, it can probably be assumed that the emergence of bucket-shaped pendants, especially those with small feet on the bottom, followed real templates that were used in everyday life.

### Grape-shaped pendant

In addition to bucket-shaped pendants, a bronze grape-shaped pendant 7.6 cm high was found at the Cerna – Grabovci site (**Fig. 6**), which can also have an apotropaic function ascribed to it. The pendant at the top has a ring 1.3 cm in diameter above a smooth undecorated part. The body is of round cross-section and is decorated with three vertical rows of seven oval and joined knobs; there is a knob at the end.

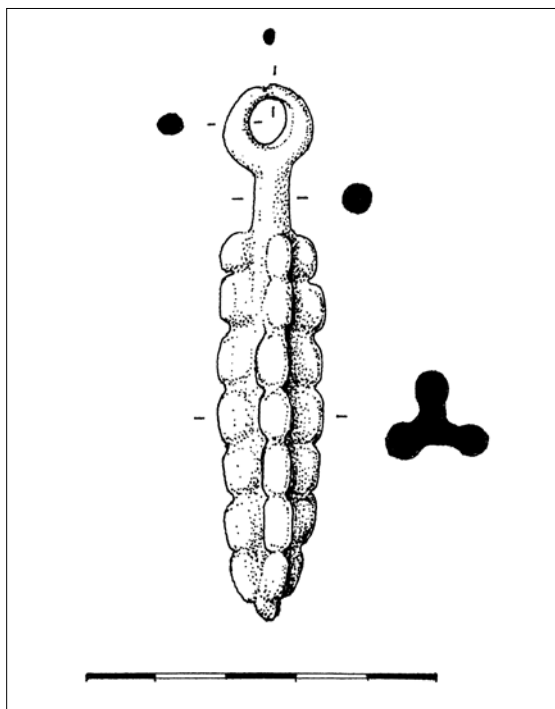


Fig. 6. Grape-shaped pendant from the Cerna – Grabovci site (drawn by: M. Rončević) / Sl. 6. Grozdoliki privjesak s nalazišta Cerna – Grabovci (nacrtala: M. Rončević)

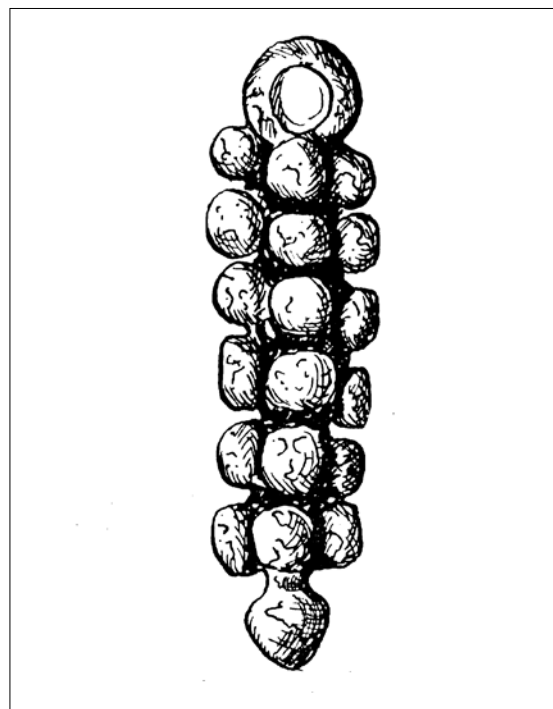


Fig. 7. Grape-shaped pendant from an unknown site (after: Garašanin 1959) / Sl. 7. Grozdoliki privjesak s nepoznatoga nalazišta (prema: Garašanin 1959)

This distinctive and uncommon form is known from only two sites for now. For the dating of the pendant from Cerna, the most important find is a pendant of this shape in the richly equipped women's cremation grave 2 from the Rospri Čuprija cemetery<sup>66</sup> which has been dated to LT D1 on the basis of a Belgrade-type astragal belt and other finds (**Fig. 8**).<sup>67</sup> A bronze grape-shaped pendant from this grave, 7.6 cm high and 1.2 cm

<sup>65</sup> Wieland 1999: 31–33, Figs. 25–27.

<sup>66</sup> Todorović 1956: 33, 36–37, Figs. 4–10; Todorović 1963: Y47.

<sup>67</sup> Božić 1981: 49, Figs. 4–5.

wide, has a ring at the top, above a shorter smooth part. The body of the pendant, of round cross-section, is decorated with three vertical rows of nine knobs. In the lower part there are three transverse grooves.<sup>68</sup>

A parallel for the pendants from Cerna and Rospa Ćuprija, according to D. Božič, is a bronze pendant which was found at an unknown site in Bosnia and Herzegovina or Macedonia together with several other Late La Tène finds.<sup>69</sup> The pendant, with a body of round cross-section, 5.3 cm long, has a ring at the top, above three vertical rows of six knobs (Fig. 7). At the end of the pendant there is another slightly larger knob.<sup>70</sup>

Although the pendant from Cerna is a surface find, it can be dated to LT D1 based on a direct analogy with the pendant from grave 2 from the Rospi Ćuprija cemetery; this dating seems to be confirmed by some other finds from the Cerna – Grabovci site. It was probably a pendant worn by women and it was certainly not only a decoration, but had a certain symbolic meaning after all, just like the more numerous bucket-shaped pendants.

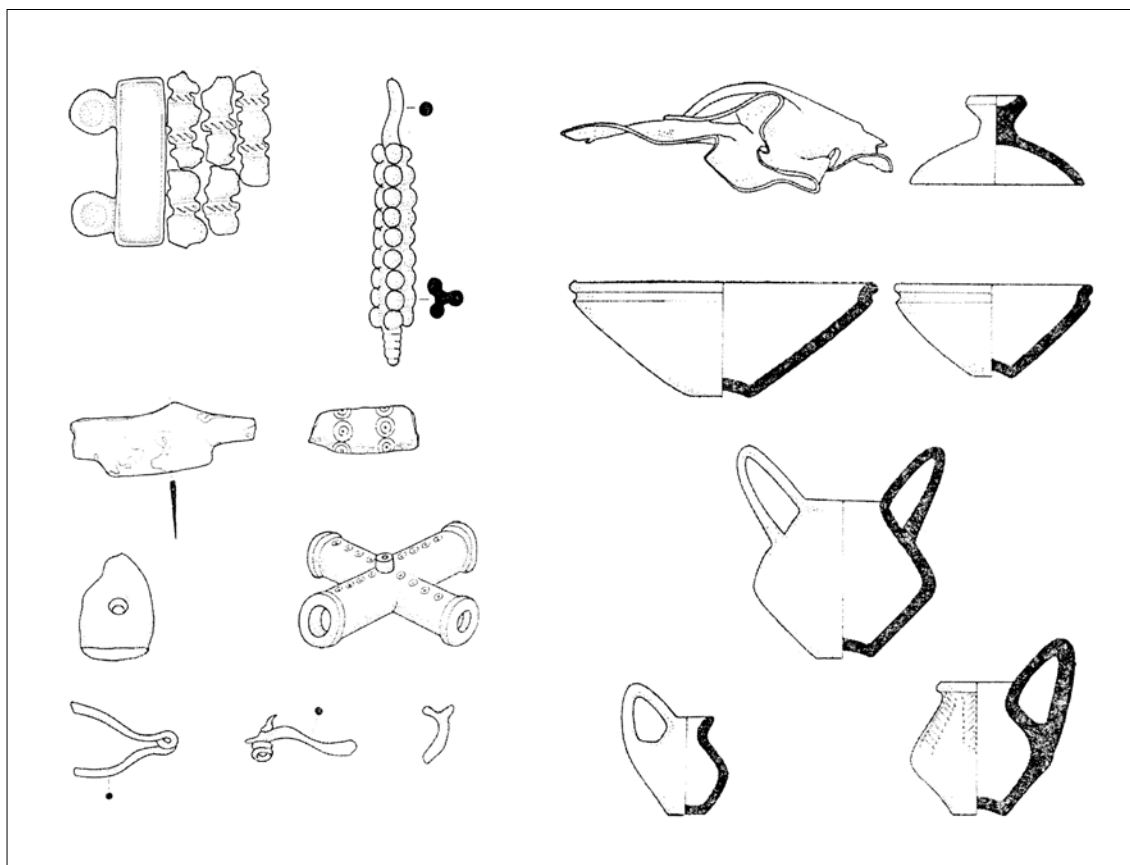


Fig. 8. Grave 2 from the Rospi Ćuprija cemetery (after: Božič 1981) / Sl. 8. Grob 2 s groblja Rospi Ćuprija (prema: Božič 1981)

68 Todorović 1956: 36, Figs. 7a: 9; 10; 1963: Y47: 12; Božič 1981: 49, Fig. 4: 2.

69 Božič 1981: 49, especially n. 27–28. D. Božič here corrects the wrong typological determination, and thus the dating of this pendant (Kilian-Dirlmeier 1979: 204, Pl. 72: 1297).

70 Garašanin 1959: 21, Fig. 3, Pl. 1: 3.

## Conclusion

The Late La Tène material legacy of the Scordisci is well known based on the results of excavations of settlements and cemeteries. However, finds like bucket-shaped pendants and other forms of the Late La Tène pendants are much less known.

Pendants such as bucket-shaped, as objects of small dimensions, were in fact often part of more complex objects and, in addition to their decorative role, had a certain symbolic meaning. The explanation of a particular pendant shape, including bucket-shaped pendants, is an extremely complex question to which it is not easy to offer an answer, but the documented context of the discovery is crucial for it. Such contexts are not known for bronze bucket-shaped pendants from sites in the Vinkovci area, as these are stray finds collected during trial excavation and field surveys. Analogies show that these are probably Late La Tène finds, and it is indicative that most of these pendants originate from the settlement of Vinkovci – Blato, which was an important centre in the settlement network of the Scordisci in eastern Slavonia and western Sarmatia. Earlier excavations indicate a densely populated area from the Late La Tène, when the inhabitants of those settlements played an important role in trade and exchange, with the increasing number of many different categories of finds bearing witness to important social and economic transformations that began occurring during the mid of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.<sup>71</sup>

Finds of bucket-shaped pendants from the Late La Tène settlements in the Vinkovci area, previously unknown in the territory of the Scordisci, confirm the already documented intensive cultural contacts with central Europe.<sup>72</sup> It is a heterogeneous group of finds characterized by a great variety of forms<sup>73</sup> which currently represent the south-easternmost finds and make a significant contribution to their distribution. In fact, it is a widespread form that has been recorded from Western Europe all the way to the Black Sea in different and heterogeneous cultural environments.

Bucket-shaped pendants, as miniature objects, probably imitate functional objects from real life – in this case wooden buckets with metal fittings – which are known from the graves of prominent individuals, but also from settlements in Western Europe. If they were amulets which served at different (religious, medical, social) levels, they would prove the discovery of such pendants in the graves of children and women, and they are attributed apotropaic function.<sup>74</sup> In fact, children's graves from the Late Iron Age are characterized by finds of pendants and beads of various shapes that probably had the function of amulets.<sup>75</sup> On the other hand, such finds from children's graves present children as a distinct social group within the communities of the Late Iron Age, i.e. this shows that their wearing reflected different aspects of social identities and had a distinctive gender and age meaning. Therefore, it can be assumed that the Late La Tène bucket-shaped pendants were items of Scordiscan children and women, while the grape-shaped pendant, based on the find from grave 2 from the Rospki Čuprija cemetery, was worn by an adult woman equipped with other costume and jewellery items which point to her social position in the community.

Their symbolic meaning is particularly important, as they are believed to have served as amulets and had an apotropaic function.<sup>76</sup> They were probably worn as pendants,

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71 Dizdar 2016: 42.

72 Dizdar 2016.

73 Beilke-Voigt 1998.

74 Beilke-Voigt 1998: 83–88; Rustoiu 2016: 46–49; Rustoiu 2019a: 169–171.

75 E.g. Ramsel 2010: 95–96; Rustoiu 2016.

76 Pauli 1975.

often with other forms of pendants and glass beads, around the neck on necklaces or around hands on bracelets, as testified at sites in Western and Eastern Europe. The pendants probably contained some organic material,<sup>77</sup> as shown by the somewhat younger Sarmatian finds,<sup>78</sup> which had the power to protect or heal those who carried them.<sup>79</sup> However, the nature of these objects, the assumptions as to why they possessed such powers, varied greatly from one community to another and even among specific individuals in each community; these are important points when dealing with such objects.<sup>80</sup>

The analysis of the Late La Tène bronze bucket-shaped pendants discovered at the sites in the Vinkovci area recognizes that the Scordisci had dynamic cultural contacts with neighbouring and remote areas, and especially with central Europe. This led to the creation of a complex cultural landscape in the south-eastern Carpathian Basin during the Late La Tène, which is currently reflected most clearly in the complex decorations of women's and children's bodies, with some items such as bucket-shaped pendants bearing some hidden messages and meanings.

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77 Rustoiu 2019b: 157.

78 Bârcă 2021: 413.

79 Rustoiu 2019b: 147, 160–162.

80 Bohák 2015: 83; Raja, Rüpke 2015: 11.

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## SAŽETAK

### Kasnatolatski privjesci u obliku vjedra iz istočne Hrvatske: amuleti koji štite od zla i lošega usuda

Razdoblje mlađega željeznog doba u jugoistočnome dijelu Karpatske kotline predstavlja karakteristična materijalna ostavština pripisana Skordiscima, zajednici koja je nastala simbiozom keltskih doseljenika i autohtonoga stanovništva. Skordisci su dijelili ritualne norme i materijalnu ostavštinu s drugim zajednicama istočnih Kelta naseljenih u Karpatskoj kotlini. Međutim, u njihovoj ostavštini postojali su i pojedini predmeti, posebno ženske nošnje i nakita, za koje se smatra kako su doprinos ostavštine autohtonoga stanovništva.

Trenutno poznavanje kasnatolatske ostavštine Skordiska na zapadnome prostoru njihovoga rasprostiranja u istočnoj Hrvatskoj, odnosno u zapadnome Srijemu i istočnoj Slavoniji, počiva na rezultatima brojnih istraživanja provedenih na području Vinkovaca i okolice. Pored nalaza prikupljenih krajem 19. i početkom 20. stoljeća, brojna zaštitna i probna iskopavanja provedena su sedamdesetih i osamdesetih godina 20. stoljeća na višeslojnim prapovijesnim utvrđenim naseljima smještenima uz rijeku Bosut. Isto tako, posljednjih dvadesetak godina provedeni su i brojni terenski pregledi u kojima je otkriven niz naselja koja se također mogu datirati u kasni laten. Zbog toga se Vinkovci i okolica mogu smatrati prostorom s najbolje poznatom kasnatolatskom naseobinskom mrežom Skordiska u istočnoj Hrvatskoj. Otkriveni nalazi pokazuju kako ovo područje pripada prostoru rasprostiranja srednjoeuropske kasnatolatske materijalne ostavštine, što bi potvrđivalo i otkriće brončanih privjesaka u obliku vjedra za koje se pretpostavlja kako je njihovo nošenje imalo i određeno simboličko značenje.

Brončani privjesci u obliku vjedra do sada su pronađeni na tri kasnatolatska nalazišta na vinkovačkome području (sl. 1). Najveći broj – ukupno četiri – potječe s dobro poznatoga naselja Vinkovci – Blato (sl. 2) na kojem su provedena i pokusna iskopavanja. Veliki broj otkrivenih predmeta, većinom iz LT D1, upućuje na to da se radi o naselju koje je imalo istaknutu ulogu u komunikacijskoj mreži tijekom kasnoga latena u jugoistočnome dijelu Karpatske kotline. Sva četiri privjeska manjih su dimenzija, pri čemu tri pokazuju zajedničke oblikovne karakteristike, naravno uz neke manje razlike. Na tijelu se nalaze tri vodoravna rebra, na vrhu je ušica za vješanje, dok se na dnu nalaze tri male nožice (sl. 2: 1–3). Od ovih se privjesaka oblikom ponešto razlikuje onaj s glatkim situlastim tijelom (sl. 2: 4). Brončani privjesci u obliku vjedra, poput onih s Blata, pronađeni su i na dva nalazišta u zapadnome Srijemu: Vinkovački Banovci – Šuma i Ilača – Čordašica (sl. 3). Svakako je potrebno istaknuti kako privjesci ovoga oblika do sada nisu pronađeni na ostalim nalazištima Skordiska.

Privjeske u obliku vjedra detaljno je analizirala I. Beilke-Voigt koja ih je podijelila u dvanaest tipova, od kojih se potom svaki još može razdijeliti na varijante. Pet privjesaka s nalazišta na vinkovačkome području pripadalo bi tipu H odnosno varijanti IV. Privjesci ovoga tipa najčešće su izrađeni od željeza, no ima ih i od bronce, zlata i srebra, a smatra se kako su ih najčešće nosile žene i djevojke. U najvećem su broju poznati s nalazišta Przeworsk kulture, no ima ih i istočno od Karpata te u Transilvaniji, kao i na nalazištima u srednjoj i zapadnoj Europi. Za vinkovačke nalaze najbližu usporedbu predstavljaju dva iznimno slična privjeska koja potječu iz velikoga skupa nalaza Százard – Regöly u jugoistočnome dijelu Transdanubije koji se, na osnovi ostalih nalaza, može datirati u LT D1. Usporedbe su potom dokumentirane na istaknutome naselju Velem Szentvid u sjeverozapadnoj Mađarskoj, gdje je zabilježena i analogija za privjesak situlastoga oblika tijela s Blata. Brončani privjesci u obliku vjedra zabilježeni su na još nekim nalazištima u srednjoj i zapadnoj Europi, pri čemu je posebno važna usporedba s nalazom iz bogato opremljenoga paljevinskog groba 1673 na groblju Wederath – Belginum u zapadnoj Njemačkoj (sl. 4). Privjesak u obliku vjedra vjerojatno se, zajedno s većim brojem različitih privjesaka, nalazio na ogrlici. Veliki broj privjesaka u obliku vjedra pronađen je na nalazištima smještenima istočno od Karpata te u Transilvaniji gdje ih je A. Rustoiu izdvojio kao privjeske tipa 5 koji su najčešće izrađeni od željeza, dok su oni brončani znatno

malobrojniji. Ovi privjesci, za razliku od onih s vinkovačkih nalazišta, imaju cilindrično tijelo i ravno dno te se smatra kako su nastali na dako-getsom području tijekom 2. st. pr. Kr., pri čemu na ovome području ostaju u upotrebi sve do 3. st. po Kristu. Privjesci se najčešće pronalaze u grobovima djece (sl. 5), a nosili su se oko vrata.

S obzirom na prepoznatljiv oblik, za privjeske u obliku vjedra pretpostavlja se kako su nastali kao imitacija drvenih vjedara s metalnim pojačanjima. Ovakva se drvena vjedra pojavljuju na prostoru sjeverne Galije od 3. st. pr. Kr., a tijekom kasnoga latena često se nalaze u grobovima istaknutih članova zajednica.

Osim privjesaka u obliku vjedra, na nalazištu Cerna – Grabovci pronađen je brončani grozdoliki privjesak s obručem na vrhu (sl. 6) za koji se također pretpostavlja kako je imao apotropejsku funkciju. Izravnu usporedbu za sada predstavlja samo privjesak iz bogato opremljenoga groba 2 s groblja Rospi Ćuprija datiranoga u LT D1 (sl. 8).

Različiti oblici privjesaka kao predmeti malih dimenzija, poput onih u obliku vjedra, najčešće su bili dio složenijih predmeta te su, uz dekorativnu ulogu, vjerojatno imali određeno simboličko značenje. Za njihovo tumačenje često je važan kontekst otkrića što, na žalost, za nalaze s vinkovačkoga područja nije poznato. Međutim, dokumentirane usporedbe pokazuju kako su privjeske vjerojatno nosila djeca i žene, na ogrlicama oko vrata ili možda narukvicama. Nalazi ih se na širokome području u različitim kulturnim okruženjima pa se smatra kako su predstavljali amulete s apotropejskom funkcijom. Inače, u grobovima djece iz mlađega željeznog doba često se nalaze različiti privjesci i perle, što djecu predstavlja kao prepoznatljivu društvenu skupinu, kako dobnu, tako često i rodnu. Unutar privjesaka u obliku vjedra mogla se nalaziti neka organska tvar koja je štitila nositelja od zla i lošega usuda.