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**ARHEOLOGIJA**  
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# GLASNIK

Zemaljskog muzeja Bosne i Hercegovine

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# Avarodobni nalazi u okolici Nove Gradiške

## Avar-Period Finds in the Vicinity of Nova Gradiška

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U ovom radu predstavljamo četiri nova nalaza iz fundusa Gradskog muzeja Nova Gradiška pronađena u blizini Nove Gradiške (Republika Hrvatska). Tipokronološka analiza dva pojasna jezičca sporednih remena, jednog okova glavnog i jednog okova sporednog remena ukazuje na avarodobnu produkciju kasnog 8. stoljeća. Jedan od jezičaca pripada široj skupini nalaza tipa Hohenberg, dok je jedan od okova glavnog remena ukrašen motivima grožđa. Drugi jezičac ukrašen je motivom stabla života, dok je okov sporednog remena neukrašen. Analogije ovim predmetima potječu s rubnih dijelova Avarije, što podržava teze pojedinih istraživača o „elitama s periferije“, ali svjedoče i o visokom stupnju proizvodnje i /ili trgovine u ovom području. Zanimljivi zbog činjenice da se radi o relativno rijetkim nalazima u okvirima cjelokupne avarodobne produkcije još su zanimljiviji jer potječu s područja za koje se do sada smatralo da nema nalaza iz ovog razdoblja. Premda su ovi nalazi slučajni, površinski, njihova pojava i značaj upućuju na daljnju potrebu istraživanja ovog područja kako bismo shvatili karakter nalazišta i smjestili nalaze u stratigrafske odnose.

**Ključne riječi:** okovi pojasa, jezičci pojasa, avarodobni nalazi, Nova Gradiška

This paper presents four new finds from the collection of the Municipal Museum Nova Gradiška, discovered near Nova Gradiška (Croatia). A typonchronological analysis of two belt strap ends, one main belt fitting, and one side strap fitting indicates Avar-period production from the late 8th century. One of the strap ends belongs to the broader group of Hohenberg-type finds, while one of the main belt fittings is decorated with grape motifs. The other strap end is decorated with a Tree of Life motif, while the side strap fitting is undecorated. Analogies for these items come from the peripheral areas of Avaria, supporting the theories of certain researchers regarding "peripheral elites". The finds also demonstrate a high level of production and/or trade in this area. These items are particularly interesting due to their rarity within Avar-period production, coming from an area previously considered devoid of finds from this period. Although these finds are accidental and surface finds, their occurrence and significance indicate a further need for research in this area, in order to understand the character of the site and to place the finds within stratigraphic contexts.

**Keywords:** belt fittings, belt strap ends, Avar-period finds, Nova Gradiška

## UVOD

Izložba „Avari i Slaveni južno od Drave“<sup>1</sup>, u zajedničkoj organizaciji Arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu i Gradskog muzeja Vinkovci, prilikom gostovanja u drugim muzejima često je bila obogaćena i nalazima koji se u tim ustanovama čuvaju. Tijekom gostovanja u Gradskom muzeju Nova Gradiška<sup>2</sup> iz fundusa je izdvojeno nekoliko nalaza koji pripadaju avarodobnoj produkciji, a koji su javnosti po prvi puta predstavljeni u okviru izložbe. Predmeti u pitanju do sada nisu objavljeni i nisu bili poznati, a zanimljivi su iz nekoliko razloga. Ukupno četiri nalaza potječu s dva lokaliteta udaljena oko 9 km zračne linije jedan od drugog (Karta 1); u okvirima avarodobne produkcije neki od ovih nalaza su iznimno rijetki ili luksuzni proizvodi; ovi nalazi popunjavaju nam takozvane „bijele mrlje“ na arheološkoj karti avarodobnog razdoblja u Hrvatskoj<sup>3</sup>.

Naime, u središnjem južnom dijelu kontinentalne Hrvatske do sada su bila poznata samo tri nalazišta iz ovog razdoblja: Brodski Drenovac, djelomično istraženo groblje<sup>4</sup> udaljeno 35 km zračne linije prema istoku; Požeški Brestovac, nalazi iz uništenog groblja<sup>5</sup> udaljen 25 km zračne linije prema sjeveroistoku i nalaz sablje iz Novske<sup>6</sup> udaljene oko 20 km zračne linije prema zapadu. U svjetlu ovih prethodno spomenutih nalaza otkriće u okolici Nove Gradiške nije iznenađujuće, ali je značajno i zanimljivo.

## INTRODUCTION

The exhibition *Avars and Slavs South of the Drava*,<sup>1</sup> organized jointly by the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb and the Municipal Museum Vinkovci, was often supplemented during its travels to other museums by finds from those institutions. When it was presented at the Municipal Museum Nova Gradiška,<sup>2</sup> several artifacts from the Avar period were selected from this museum's holdings and presented to the public for the first time as part of the exhibition. These objects had not been published previously and were unknown to the broader academic community, but are interesting for several reasons. Altogether, four finds come from two sites approximately 9 km apart in a straight line (Map 1), with some of these finds being extremely rare or luxury items within Avar-period production, also serving to fill so-called 'blank spots' on the archaeological map of the Avar period in Croatia.<sup>3</sup>

In the central southern part of continental Croatia, only three sites from this period were previously known: Brodski Drenovac, a partially investigated cemetery,<sup>4</sup> located 35 km east in a straight line from our sites; Požeški Brestovac, with finds from a destroyed cemetery,<sup>5</sup> located 25 km northeast in a straight line; and a sword find from Novska,<sup>6</sup> about 20 km west in a straight line. In light of these previously mentioned finds, the discovery in the vicinity of Nova Gradiška is, while being of some significance and interest, of little surprise.



Karta 1. Položaj lokaliteta Pivare (plava točka) i lokaliteta Gornji Bogičevci (crvena točka) na karti Hrvatske (izradio I. Brtan (GMNG), podloga DGU)

Map 1. Location of the Pivare site (blue dot) and the Gornji Bogičevci site (red dot) on the map of Croatia (prepared by I. Brtan (GMNG), base map: DGU).

1 Dugonjić, Rapan Papeša 2019.  
2 Datum izložbe: 02. prosinac 2022. – 12. siječanj 2023.  
3 Šmalcelj Novaković 2022a, 68, Fig. 3  
4 Vinski-Gasparini, Ercegović 1958.  
5 Jarak 2016.  
6 Aralica, Ilkić 2012, 172–173.

1 Dugonjić, Rapan Papeša 2019.  
2 Exhibition dates: 2 December 2022 – 12 January 2023.  
3 Šmalcelj Novaković 2022a, 68, Fig. 3.  
4 Vinski-Gasparini, Ercegović 1958.  
5 Jarak 2016.  
6 Aralica, Ilkić 2012, 172–173.

## POVIJEST ISTRAŽIVANJA

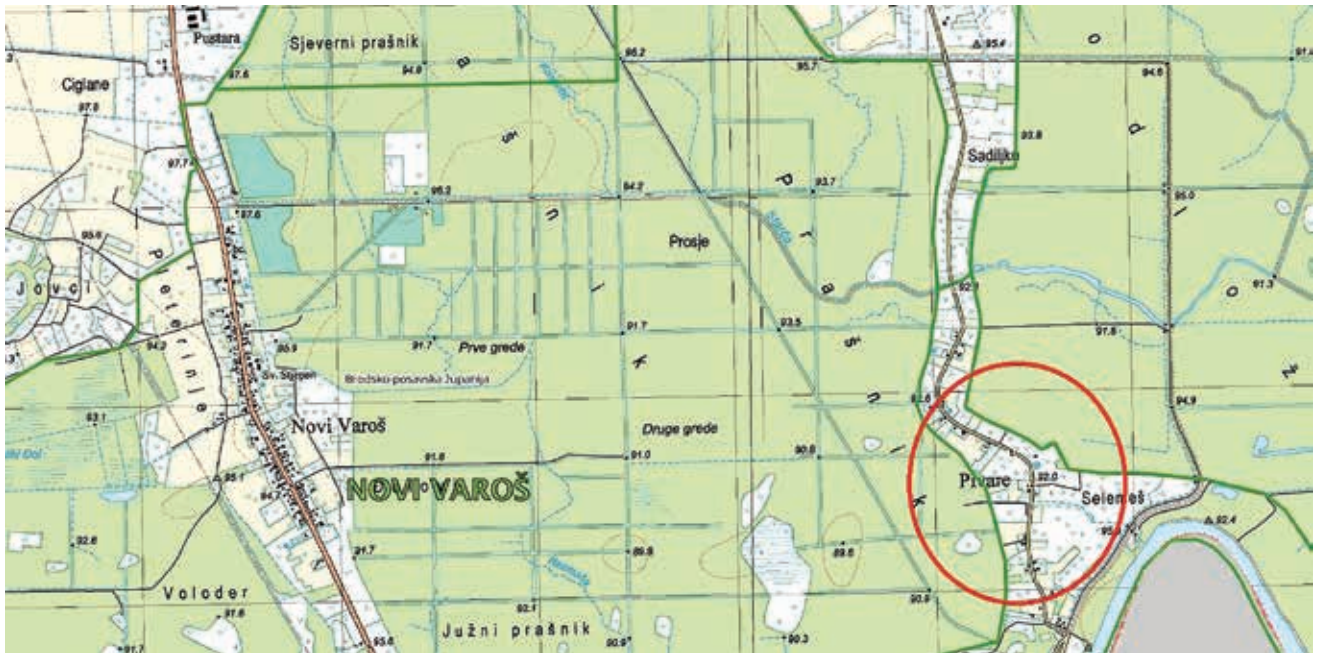
Okov glavnog remena i jezičac sporednog remena potječu s lokaliteta Pivare. Pivare su najmanje naselje u općini Stara Gradiška, smješteno na 95 metara nadmorske visine na lijevoj obali rijeke Save, na mjestu gdje Sava stvara okuku mijenjajući tok iz smjera jug – sjever u zapad - istok (Karta 2). U Pivarama je zabilježeno postojanje antičkog naselja<sup>7</sup>, koje pojedini autori čak identificiraju s antičkim Servicijem<sup>8</sup>. No, prevladava mišljenje da je Servicij smješten na prostoru Bosanske Gradiške, a u blizini Pivara, uz Posavsku magistralu prolazi i odvojak ceste prema sjeveru.<sup>9</sup> S obzirom na antičku ostavštinu, kao i činjenicu da se radi o prirodnom prijelazu preko rijeke Save ovo područje svakako je zanimljivo. Arheološki nalazi iz ranog srednjeg vijeka prikupljeni su tijekom terenskog pregleda 2020. godine.

Okov sporednog remena i jezičac sporednog remena, potječu s lokaliteta Gornji Bogičevci. Gornji Bogičevci sjedište su istoimene općine, smješteno na obroncima Psunja, na nadmorskoj visini od 140 m (Karta 3). Pregled terena (reko-gnosciranje) provedeno je 2021. godine na oranicama ispod kasnosrednjovjekovne utvrde (sl. 1). Na oranicama koji su smještene jugozapadno od kasnosrednjovjekovne utvrde Sv. Ivan Trnava na, prostoru zvanom Varošine, prikupljeni su nalazi koji pripadaju razdoblju kasne antike (4. stoljeće), te ranog srednjeg vijeka (8. stoljeće) i kasnog srednjeg vijeka (14.-16. stoljeće).

## HISTORY OF RESEARCH

The main belt fitting and the side strap end come from the site of Pivare. Pivare is the smallest settlement in the municipality of Stara Gradiška, situated at 95 meters above sea level on the left bank of the Sava, at a location where the Sava forms a meander, changing its flow from south–north to west–east (Map 2). An ancient settlement has been recorded in Pivare,<sup>7</sup> which some authors even identify with the ancient Servitium.<sup>8</sup> However, the prevailing opinion is that Servitium was located in the area of (Bosanska) Gradiška, with a branch of the road diverging north from the Posavinan main road near Pivare.<sup>9</sup> Considering the ancient heritage and the fact that it is a natural river crossing, this area is certainly of archaeological interest, with finds from the Early Middle Ages having been collected during a field survey in 2020.

The side strap fitting and the side strap end come from the site of Gornji Bogičevci. Gornji Bogičevci is situated in the same municipality on the slopes of Psunj, at an altitude of 140 m (Map 3). A terrain survey (reconnaissance) was conducted in 2021 on fields below the Late Medieval fortress (Image 1). On the fields, southwest of the late medieval fortress of St. Ivan of Trnava, in the area called Varošine, finds belonging to the Late Antique period (4th century), the Early Middle Ages (8th century), and the Late Middle Ages (14th–16th centuries) were collected during this survey.



Karta 2. Položaj lokaliteta Pivare (izradio I. Brtan GMNG, podloga DGU, M-1:25000)

Map 2. Location of the Pivare site (prepared by I. Brtan (GMNG), base map: DGU, scale 1:25,000).

7 Mihaljević 2012, 134.

8 Miškov 2006, 48.

9 Milotić, 2010, 418.

7 Mihaljević 2012, 134.

8 Miškov 2006, 48.

9 Milotić 2010, 418.

Karta 3. Položaj lokaliteta Gornji Bogičevci (izradio I. Brtan GMNG, podloga DGU, M-1:25000)

Map 3. Location of the Gornji Bogičevci site (prepared by I. Brtan (GMNG), base map: DGU, scale 1:25,000).



Slika 1. Terenski pregled oranica oko utvrde sv. Ivan Trnava (snimio: I. Brtan, GMNG)

Figure 1. Field survey of arable land around the fortress of St. Ivan Trnava (photograph: I. Brtan, GMNG).



Ivanovačka utvrda - Sv. Ivan Trnava (*castrum sancti Johannis Tornow*) smjestila se jugoistočno od naselja Gornji Bogičevci u blizini dvaju potoka, Dračevca i Starče. Prema smještaju u prostoru i vrsti terena utvrda Sv. Ivan Trnava kod Gornjih Bogičevaca nizinska je utvrda okružena s dvije grabe, koje su bile ispunjene vodom. Sustavna arheološka istraživanja rezultirala su nalazima nepokretne strukture drvene fortifikacije te mnoštvom pokretnog arheološkog materijala koje se preliminarno datira u razdoblje od 14. do prve polovice 16. stoljeća<sup>10</sup>.

The Knights Hospitaller fortress – St. Ivan of Trnava (*castrum sancti Johannis Tornow*) was located southeast of the settlement of Gornji Bogičevci, near two streams; Dračevac and Starče. Based on its spatial location and terrain type, the fortress of St. Ivan of Trnava near Gornji Bogičevci is a lowland fortress surrounded by two moats, which were filled with water. Systematic archaeological investigations resulted in findings of immovable wooden fortification structures, as well as a large amount of movable archaeological material, preliminarily dated from the 14th to the first half of the 16th century.<sup>10</sup>

10 Ivanušec 2015, 87-90; Mihaljević et al. 2015; 2016; 2017; Mihaljević, Matković Vrbanić 2018; Mihaljević 2019

10 Ivanušec 2015, 87-90; Mihaljević et al. 2015; 2016; 2017; Mihaljević, Matković Vrbanić 2018; Mihaljević 2019.

## KATALOG NALAZA

### 1. OKOV GLAVNOG REMENA, PIVARE (INV. BR. 7923A ,sl. 2-3)

Brončani, na proboj lijevan, dvodijelni okov glavnog remena, štitolika oblika, izvorno sa šarnirom i privjeskom koji sada nedostaju, od tri zakovice uz gornji rub sačuvana samo krajnja lijeva, a od dvije zakovice uz donji rub sačuvana samo desna, ukras, zrcalno po sredini, prikazuje u donjem dijelu cvijet s tri latice, a u gornjem dijelu sa zaobljene vitice visi grozd sa pet boba, dužina: 41 mm, širina: 33 mm, debljina: 5-7 mm.

### 2. JEZIČAC SPOREDNOG REMENA, PIVARE (INV. BR. 7923B, sl. 4-6)

Brončani, na proboj lijevan, jednodijelni jezičac sporednog remena, s tuljcem koji po sredini gore ima rupu za zakovicu koja nedostaje i ukrašen je vodoravno postavljenom viticom s-oblika, ravnih stranica i zaobljena donjeg dijela, ukrašen motivom drva života, uz rub imitacija krupnog perlastog ruba, debljina: 40 mm, širina: 15 mm, debljina: 3-6 mm.

### 3. JEZIČAC SPOREDNOG REMENA, GORNJI BOGIĆEVCI (INV. BR. 10243, sl. 7-9)

Brončani pozlaćeni lijevan dvodijelni jezičac sporednog remena, na gornjem dijelu s dvije zaobljene ušice za zakovice (nedostaju), ušice uokvirane plitkom imitacijom perlastog ruba, ravnih stranica i zaobljena donjeg dijela, ukrašen s dva para nasuprot postavljenih s-vitica, uz rub imitacija perlastog ruba, bočne stranice ukrašene motivom jelove grančice d. 21 mm, š. 12 mm, deb. 8 mm.

### 4. OKOV ZA RUPICE/OKOV SPOREDNOG REMENA, GORNJI BOGIĆEVCI (INV. BR. 10242 , sl. 10-11)

Brončani lijevani okov za rupice ili okov sporednog remena, štitolika oblika s oblim krajevima, uz gornji rub urez, po sredini gore i dolje rupe za zakovice (obje nedostaju), neukrašen, manje oštećenje po sredini desno, v. 19 mm, š. 18 mm, deb. 4 mm.

## RASPRAVA

Okov glavnog remena s lokaliteta Pivare (sl. 2-3.; kat. .br. 1) predstavlja iznimno zanimljiv i relativno rijedak nalaz u avarodobnim pojasnim garniturama. Prema dostupnoj literaturi, poznato je svega nekoliko sličnih nalaza.

Prostorno, najbliže analogije nalazimo na lokalitetu Nuštar Dvorac, u okovima glavnog remena pojasne garniture iz groba 68B<sup>11</sup> i 55. Pojasna garnitura groba 68B<sup>12</sup> sadrži i šest okova glavnog remena. Četiri okova sačuvana su u cijelosti, dok na dva, kao i na primjerku iz Pivara, nedostaje privjesak. Okovi, lijevani na proboj, su štitolika oblika, sa šarnirom

## CATALOGUE OF FINDS

### 1. MAIN BELT FITTING, PIVARE (INV. NO. 7923A, Fig. 2-3)

Bronze, openwork, shield-shaped two-part main belt fitting, originally with a hinge and a pendant (now missing). Out of three rivets on the upper edge, only the far left is preserved, and out of two rivets on the lower edge, only the right is preserved. The decoration, mirrored down the center, shows a three-petaled flower at the bottom and, above, a cluster of five grapes hanging from rounded tendrils, length 41 mm, width 33 mm, thickness 5–7 mm.

### 2. SIDE STRAP END, PIVARE (INV. NO. 7923B, Fig. 4-6)

Bronze, openwork, single-piece side strap end, with a socket that has a hole in the middle at the top for a rivet (missing), decorated with a horizontally placed S-shaped tendril, with straight sides and rounded bottom, decorated with a Tree of Life motif, along the edge an imitation of a large beaded rim, length 40 mm, width 15 mm, thickness 3–6 mm.

### 3. SIDE STRAP END, GORNJI BOGIĆEVCI (INV. NO. 10243, Fig. 7-9)

Bronze, gilded, cast, two-part side strap end, with two rounded rivet loops at the top (missing), loops framed with a shallow imitation of a beaded rim, straight sides, rounded bottom, decorated with two pairs of opposing S-shaped tendrils, with sides decorated with a motif of a fir branch, length 21 mm, width 12 mm, thickness 8 mm.

### 4. FITTING FOR HOLES / SIDE STRAP FITTING, GORNJI BOGIĆEVCI (INV. NO. 10242 , Fig. 10-11)

Bronze, cast, fitting for holes or side strap fitting, shield-shaped with rounded ends, with a notch along the upper edge, holes for rivets at the top and bottom (both missing), undecorated, minor damage in the middle on the right, height 19 mm, width 18 mm, thickness 4 mm.

## DISCUSSION

The main belt fitting from Pivare (Fig. 2-3, Cat. no. 1) represents an extremely interesting and relatively rare find among Avar-period belt sets. According to the available literature, only a few similar finds are known. Spatially, the closest analogies are found at Nuštar Dvorac, in the main belt fittings of belt sets from graves 68B<sup>11</sup> and 55. The belt set from grave 68B<sup>12</sup> contains six main belt fittings. Four fittings are preserved entirely, while two, as in the Pivare example, lack pendants. The openwork fittings are shield-shaped, with a hinge and a U-shaped pendant, and decorated with an

11 Dugonjić, Rapan Papeša 2019, 118.

12 Rapan Papeša 2024, 177, 183-185.

11 Dugonjić, Rapan Papeša 2019, 118.

12 Rapan Papeša 2024, 177, 183-185.

Sl. 2. Okov glavnog remena s lokaliteta Pivare (GMNG, inv. br. 7923a, snimila: J. Kovre, GMNG)

Figure 2. Main belt fitting from the Pivare site (GMNG, inv. no. 7923a, photograph: J. Kovre, GMNG).



Sl. 3. Okov glavnog remena s lokaliteta Pivare - poleđina (GMNG, inv. br. 7923a, snimila: J. Kovre, GMNG)

Figure 3. Main belt fitting from the Pivare site – back (GMNG, inv. no. 7923a, photograph: J. Kovre, GMNG).

Sl. 4. Jezičac sporednog remena s lokaliteta Pivare (GMNG, inv. br. 7923b, snimila: J. Kovre, GMNG)

Figure 4. Secondary belt tongue from the Pivare site (GMNG, inv. no. 7923b, photograph: J. Kovre, GMNG).



Sl. 5. Jezičac sporednog remena s lokaliteta Pivare - poleđina (GMNG, inv. br. 7923b, snimila: J. Kovre, GMNG)

Figure 5. Secondary belt tongue from the Pivare site – back (GMNG, inv. no. 7923b, photograph: J. Kovre, GMNG).



Sl. 6. Jezičac sporednog remena s lokaliteta Pivare – bočno (GMNG, inv. br. 7923b, snimio: A. Pavleković, GMNG)

Figure 6. Secondary belt tongue from the Pivare site – lateral view (GMNG, inv. no. 7923b, photograph: A. Pavleković, GMNG).



i privjeskom oblika širokog slova U, ukrašenim motivom cvijeta na proboj. Za pojas su se pričvršćivali sa pet zakovica, tri u gornjem dijelu i dvije u donjem dijelu. Na temelju razmaka između zakovica širina pojasa iznosila je 2,5 cm, što dodatno potvrđuje i razmak između zakovica na jezičcu glavnog remena i kopči pojasa. Ukrašeni su simetrično, na donjem dijelu nalazi se cvijet s tri latice koji je viticom povezan s grozdom s pet boba smještenim u gornjem dijelu. Riječ je o dvojnom grobu dva muškarca od kojih drugi (grob 68A) ima pojasnu garnituru ukrašenu biljnim ornamentima cvijeta ljljana na punciranoj podlozi, a kako je ukop istovremen to nam omogućava i dataciju ovog groba u posljednju četvrtinu 8. stoljeća.<sup>13</sup>

Na istom lokalitetu, Nuštar Dvorac, u grobu 55 je pokopan pokojnik koji ima pojasnu garnituru koja sadrži i sedam okova glavnog remena.<sup>14</sup> Pet okova sačuvano je u cijelosti, dvama nedostaje privjesak, a posljednji, sedmi nije imao privjesak i sačuvan je u cijelosti. Okovi, lijevani na proboj, štitolika su oblika, sa šarnirom i privjeskom oblika širokog

openwork flower motif. They were attached to the belt by five rivets; three at the top and two at the bottom. Based on the distance between the rivets, the belt width is 2.5 cm, further confirmed by the spacing between rivets on the strap end of the main belt and the belt buckle. They are symmetrically decorated, with a three-petaled flower at the bottom connected by a tendril to a cluster of five grapes at the top. The double grave contained two men; the other (grave 68A) has a belt set decorated with floral ornaments of lilies on a punched background, and as the burial is simultaneous, it allows dating of this grave to the last quarter of the 8th century.<sup>13</sup>

Also at the Nuštar Dvorac site, grave 55 contains a buried person with a belt set including seven main belt fittings.<sup>14</sup> Five fittings are fully preserved, two lack pendants, and the final, seventh, had no pendant but is fully preserved. The openwork fittings are shield-shaped, with a hinge and a U-shaped pendant. The pendants are also openwork, decorated with a flower motif. The fittings were attached to the belt by three rivets;

13 Rapan Papeša 2024, 413.

14 Rapan Papeša 2024, 149-153.

13 Rapan Papeša 2024, 413.

14 Rapan Papeša 2024, 149-153.



Sl. 7. Jezičac sporednog remena s lokaliteta Gornji Bogičevci (GMNG, inv. br. 10243, snimila: J. Kovre, GMNG)

Figure 7. Secondary belt tongue from the Gornji Bogičevci site (GMNG, inv. no. 10243, photograph: J. Kovre, GMNG).



Sl. 8. Jezičac sporednog remena s lokaliteta Gornji Bogičevci - poledina (GMNG, inv. br. 10243, snimila: J. Kovre, GMNG)

Figure 8. Secondary belt tongue from the Gornji Bogičevci site - back (GMNG, inv. no. 10243, photograph: J. Kovre, GMNG).



Sl. 9. Jezičac sporednog remena s lokaliteta Gornji Bogičevci - bočno (GMNG, inv. br. 10243, snimio: A. Pavleković, GMNG)

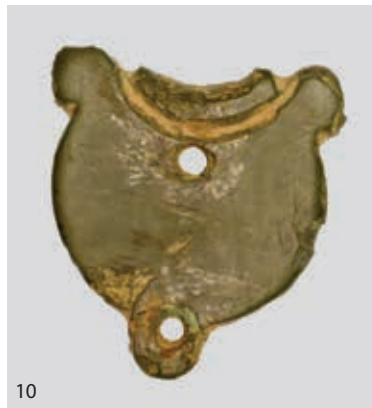
Figure 9. Secondary belt tongue from the Gornji Bogičevci site - lateral view (GMNG, inv. no. 10243, photograph: A. Pavleković, GMNG).

Sl. 10. Okov sporednog remena s lokaliteta Gornji Bogičevci (GMNG, inv. br. 10243, snimila: J. Kovre, GMNG)

Figure 10. Secondary belt fitting from the Gornji Bogičevci site (GMNG, inv. no. 10243, photograph: J. Kovre, GMNG).

Sl. 11. Okov sporednog remena s lokaliteta Gornji Bogičevci - poledina (GMNG, inv. br. 10243, snimila: J. Kovre, GMNG)

Figure 11. Secondary belt fitting from the Gornji Bogičevci site - back (GMNG, inv. no. 10243, photograph: J. Kovre, GMNG).



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slova U. Privjesci su također lijevani na proboj i ukrašeni su motivom cvijeta. Okovi su za pojas pričvršćivani s tri zakovice, jednom u gornjem dijelu, a po dvije u donjem dijelu. Na osnovu razmaka između zakovica od 2.2 cm širina pojasa iznosi 2.5 cm. Okovi su ukrašeni simetrično, na donjem dijelu je prikaz cvijeta s tri latice viticom povezana s grozdom od pet bobaa u gornjem dijelu. Ovaj grob, na temelju nalaza i horizontalne stratigrafije groblja, datiramo u posljednju četvrtinu 8. stoljeća.<sup>15</sup>

Južnom dijelu kaganata pripada i nalaz iz razorenog groba 9 na nekropoli Odžaci V, koju autor datira u kraj 8. i

one at the top and two at the bottom. Based on the spacing of 2.2 cm between rivets, the belt width was 2.5 cm. The fittings are symmetrically decorated, with a flower at the bottom connected by a tendril to a cluster of five grapes at the top. This grave, based on the finds and horizontal stratigraphy of the cemetery, is dated to the last quarter of the 8th century.<sup>15</sup>

The southern part of the khaganate would also include the find from the destroyed grave 9 in the Odžaci V necropolis, which the describing author dated to the end of the 8th and the beginning of the 9th century.<sup>16</sup> The openwork fitting is shield-shaped, with a hinge and a pendant in the shape of a wide letter U, decorated with an openwork cast flower motif.

15 Rapan Papeša 2024, 412.

15 Rapan Papeša 2024, 412.

16 Karamanski 1975, 10, T. VII/4.

početak 9. stoljeća.<sup>16</sup> Okov, lijevan na proboj, je štitolika oblika, sa šarnirom i privjeskom u obliku širokog slova U, ukrašen na proboj lijevanim motivom cvijeta. Za pojas se pričvršćivao sa pet zakovica. Ukrašen je simetrično i zrcalno cvijetom s tri latice u donjem dijelu i grozdom na vitici u gornjem dijelu. Novija analiza ovaj grob datira u drugu polovinu 8. stoljeća (s mogućnosti da pripada i fazi SS III po Zaboju, 750-780), dok datacija cijelog groblja ostaje uglavnom nepromijenjena u odnosu na prvotnu objavu.<sup>17</sup> Opća datacija u 8. stoljeće navodi se u ADAM-u.<sup>18</sup>

Posljednja paralela uključuje nalaz iz konjaničkog groba 10 na lokalitetu Žitavska Ton u Slovačkoj. Konjanik ima pojasnu garnituru s pozlaćenim okovima koju autor datira oko 800. godine.<sup>19</sup> Pronađeno je ukupno šest dvodijelnih okova, rađenih od pozlaćene bronce lijevanjem na proboj, pri čemu na dva nedostaju privjesci. Okovi su štitolika oblika, sa šarnirom i privjeskom oblika širokog slova U, ukrašenog motivom cvijeta na proboj. Na pojas, širine 3.5 cm, pričvršćivali su se sa tri zakovice. Ukrašen je simetričan, na donjem dijelu nalazi se cvijet s tri latice koji je viticom povezan s gornjim dijelom na kojem se nalazi grozd s pet boba. Ova garnitura potječe iz groba u kojem su uz konja pronađeni i poznati ukrasni dijelovi orme, okovi s licima.<sup>20</sup> Datacija lokaliteta u cjelini obuhvaća posljednju četvrtinu 7. do kraja 8. stoljeća.<sup>21</sup>

U literaturi se navodi i primjerak iz Tatabánye (Mađarska), koji, zbog izostanka opisa i slikovne dokumentacije te

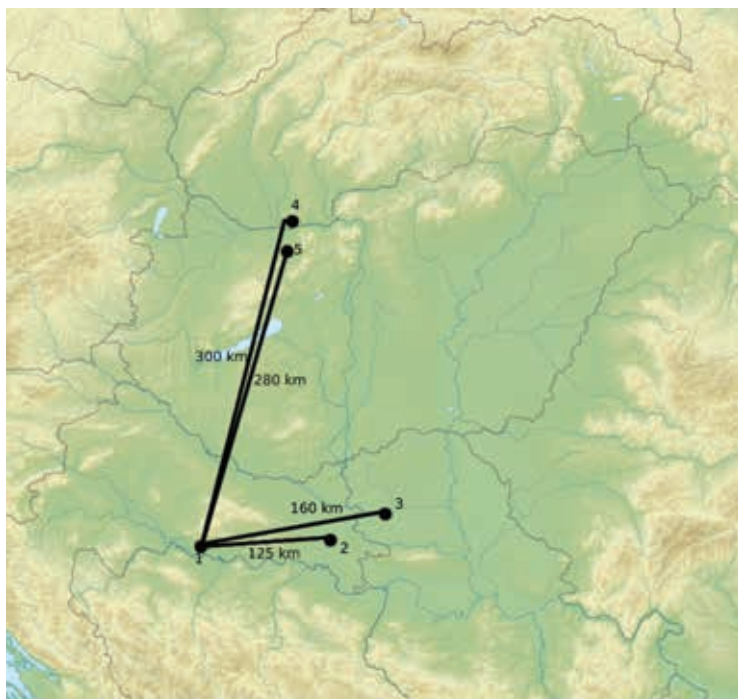
It was attached to the belt by five rivets. It is symmetrically decorated with a three-petaled flower in the lower part and grapes on a tendril in the upper. A more recent analysis dates this grave to the second half of the 8th century (with the possibility that it also belongs to the SS III phase according to Zaboju, i.e. 750–780 CE), while the dating of the entire cemetery remains largely unchanged compared to the original publication.<sup>17</sup> A general dating to the 8th century is cited in ADAM.<sup>18</sup>

The final parallel includes the find from the horseman's grave 10 at the Žitavská Tôňa site in Slovakia. The horseman had a belt set with gilded fittings, which the describing author dated to around the year 800.<sup>19</sup> A total of six two-piece fittings were found, made of gilded bronze openwork casting, with two missing pendants. The fittings are shield-shaped, with a hinge and a pendant in the shape of a wide U, decorated with an openwork flower motif. These were attached to a belt, 3.5 cm wide, by three rivets. The decoration is symmetrical, with a three-petaled flower on the lower part connected by a tendril to the upper, which has a cluster of five grapes. This set comes from a grave in which, along with a horse itself, known decorative parts of harness fittings with faces were found.<sup>20</sup> The dating of the site as a whole covers the last quarter of the 7th to the end of the 8th century.<sup>21</sup>

The literature also reports a specimen from Tatabánya (Hungary); however, due to the absence of a description and visual documentation, as well as the unavailability of the specimen itself, it was not possible to include it in the discussion.

Karta 4. Međusobna zračna udaljenost lokaliteta Pivare (1) u odnosu na Nuštar (2), Odžake (3), Žitavsku Ton (4) i Tatabányu (5) (izradila A. Rapan Papeša, podloga [https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modul:Location\\_map/data/Panonska\\_nizina#](https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modul:Location_map/data/Panonska_nizina#))

Map 4. Straight-line distances between the Pivare site (1) and Nuštar (2), Odžaci (3), Žitavska Ton (4), and Tatabánya (5) (prepared by A. Rapan Papeša, base map: [https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modul:Location\\_map/data/Panonska\\_nizina#](https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modul:Location_map/data/Panonska_nizina#)).



16 Karamanski 1975, 10, T. VII/4.

17 Bugarski 2014, 414, 418, T.44.

18 ADAM 2002, 270.

19 Budinsky-Krička 1956, 19, 52-53, T. XVII.

20 Avari a Slovania 2015, 28.

21 ADAM 2002, 301.

17 Bugarski 2014, 414, 418, T. 44.

18 ADAM 2002, 270.

19 Budinsky-Krička 1956, 19, 52-53, T. XVII.

20 Avari a Slovania 2015, 28.

21 ADAM 2002, 301.

nedostupnosti samog primjerka, nije bilo moguće uključiti u raspravu.

Time ovaj primjerak postaje šesti poznati i objavljeni; uz dva poznata na sjeveru ovo je četvrti na jugu Avarije (Karta 4). Nalazi na rubnim dijelovima Avarije iz druga polovina 8. stoljeća često nemaju paralela u središnjim dijelovima (prostor današnje Mađarske) ili su one pojedinačne, što sugerira opskrbu iz jednog proizvodnog centra i distribuciju istaknutim članovima zajednica na rubnim područjima.<sup>22</sup>

Serijacija J. Zaboyník-a ne donosi ovaj konkretni primjer, ali općenito gledano može se svrstati u skupinu okova glavnog remena tipa 245, 246 i 248 koji se datiraju u vrijeme SS III (750-780).<sup>23</sup>

Prema klasifikaciji P. Stadlera<sup>24</sup> ovakvi okovi pripadaju grupi HRB09110 (*Hauptriemenbeschlag*), s opisom „lijevani – štitoliki – cvjetna lozica – dva cvijeta“, a navodi da su nađeni na tri lokaliteta (ukupno 6 primjeraka - po jedan u Odžacima i Tatbanyu, te četiri u Žitavskoj Toni).

Prema klasifikaciji G. Szenthe ovakvi okovi pripadaju grupi IV. (složene kompozicije s palmetama), podgrupi IV.5.3. (prikazi stabla palmete) te su označeni kao Tip 8. (par okomito ponovljenih, raširenih vitica). Motivi ovog tipa opisani su: „Na kraju donjeg para, oko okruglog središta, nalazi se cvijet s tri latice, dok na gornjem paru voluta visi peteročlani grozd.“<sup>25</sup> U kasnoavarodobnoj dekorativnoj umjetnosti, novi trend koji je donio izrazitu promjenu nakon pojave kasnoavarodobnog životinjskog stila najbolje se može uočiti kroz osno simetrične oblike palmeta. Pojam „palmeta“ opisuje općenito jединicu bilo kojeg aksijalno simetričnog uzorka biljnog podrijetla;<sup>26</sup> pojavljuju se u krupnoj, plastičnoj izvedbi svojstvenoj kasnoavarskom animalnom stilu.<sup>27</sup> U skladu s njegovom tipološkom – kronološkom shemom ovakvi okovi vežu se uz kasnoantički krug avarodobne produkcije (faza SS IIb po Zaboyníku), što znači da se radi o antičkom motivu koji, preko Mediterana, ulazi u područje Avarije.

Motiv grožđa u avarodobnoj umjetnosti nije uobičajen, ali nije ni nepoznat. U antičkoj ikonografiji, grožđe se opisuje kao simbol života, obilja, bogatstva i plodnosti.<sup>28</sup> Međutim, kao i kod drugih antičkih motiva, njihova simbolika u avarodobnom društvu vjerojatno se razlikuje.<sup>29</sup> Motiv vinove loze nešto se češće pojavljuje na jezičcima remena, pa neki autori smatraju da ovi prikazi predstavljaju vrhunac realističnih prikaza tog razdoblja.<sup>30</sup>

Jezičac sporednog remena s lokaliteta Pivare (sl. 4-6; kat. br. 2) na prvi pogled izgleda kao jedan od uobičajenih nalaza avarodobne produkcije, prvenstveno zbog motiva stabla života. Međutim, detaljnija analiza otkriva tek nekoliko sličnih analogija i za ovaj nalaz.

This makes this example the sixth known and published; along with two known in the north, this is the fourth in the south of Avaria (Map 4). Finds on the outskirts of Avaria from the second half of the 8th century often have no parallels in the central parts (the area of present-day Hungary), with any such examples being isolated finds, suggestive of supply from a single production center and distribution to prominent members of communities in the peripheral areas.<sup>22</sup>

J. Zaboyník's seriation does not cover this particular example, but, in general, it can be classified in the group of main belt fittings of types 245, 246, and 248, which are dated to phase SS III (750-780 CE).<sup>23</sup>

According to P. Stadler's classification,<sup>24</sup> such fittings belong to group HRB09110 (*Hauptriemenbeschlag*), described as "cast – shield-shaped – floral tendril – two flowers," with Stadler noting that examples of such have been found at three sites (a total of six specimens: one each from Odžaci and Tatabánya, and four from Žitavská Tõňa).

In the classification of G. Szenthe, these fittings belong to group IV (complex compositions with palmettes), subgroup IV.5.3. (depictions of a palmette tree) and are designated as Type 8 (a pair of vertically repeated, spreading tendrils). The motifs of this type are described as follows: "At the end of the lower pair, around the circular center, there is a three-petaled flower, while on the upper pair of volutes there is a cluster of five grapes."<sup>25</sup> In late Avar decorative art, a new trend that brought a marked change after the emergence of the late Avar animal style can best be seen through the axisymmetric forms of palmettes. The term 'palmette' generally describes a unit of any axially symmetrical pattern of plant origin;<sup>26</sup> they appear in a large, plastic design characteristic of the late Avar animal style.<sup>27</sup> According to Szenthe's typological-chronological scheme, such fittings are associated with the late antique circle of Avar-period production (phase SS IIb according to Zaboyník), meaning that this is an antique motif that entered the Avar territory via the Mediterranean.

The grape motif is not common in Avar art, but it is not unknown either. In ancient iconography, grapes are described as a symbol of life, abundance, wealth, and fertility.<sup>28</sup> However, as with other ancient motifs, their symbolism in Avar society probably differs.<sup>29</sup> The vine motif appears somewhat more frequently on belt strap ends, with some authors considering these depictions as the zenith of realistic depictions of that period.<sup>30</sup>

The strap end of the side strap from the Pivare site (Fig. 4-6, Cat. no. 2) at first glance appears to be a usual find of Avar-period production, primarily due to the motif of the Tree of Life. However, a more detailed analysis reveals only a few close analogies for this find. One of these comes from grave 2286 at the Zamárdi – Rétiföldek site; a male burial with a belt

22 Cf. Rapan Papeša 2021a; Šmalcelj Novaković 2022b.

23 Zaboyník 1991, 319.

24 Stadler 2005.

25 Szenthe 2020, 186.

26 Szenthe 2020, 420.

27 Szenthe 2020, 427.

28 Savo *et al.* 2016.

29 *usp.* Szenthe 2023.

30 *cf.* Pap 1997, 8.

22 *cf.* Rapan Papeša 2021a; Šmalcelj Novaković 2022b.

23 Zaboyník 1991, 319.

24 Stadler 2005.

25 Szenthe 2020, 186.

26 Szenthe 2020, 420.

27 Szenthe 2020, 427.

28 Savo *et al.* 2016.

29 *cf.* Szenthe 2023.

30 *cf.* Pap 1997, 8.

Jedan od njih potječe iz groba 2286 na lokalitetu Zamárdi – Rétiföldek, ukopa muškarca s pojasnom garniturom.<sup>31</sup> Riječ je o dva jezičca sporednih remena, jednodijelni, lijevani na proboj, neukrašenim tuljcem, ravnih stranica i zaobljena donjeg dijela, ukrašeni su motivom stabla života i imitacijom krupnog perlastog ruba. Grob je datiran u 8. stoljeće.<sup>32</sup>

I u ovom slučaju imamo nalaze koji se smještaju na sjevernoj, odnosno zapadnoj granici Avarije, a nalaz iz Pivara predstavlja jedini nalaz na južnoj granici.

Na lokalitetu Balatonszólós – zadružna štala, u razorenom grobu označenom kao grob C, otkrivena je pojasna garnitura koja uključuje i dva našem identična jezičca sporednog remena.<sup>33</sup> Brončani jednodijelni jezičci sporednih remena, lijevani na proboj, s dvama ušicama sa zakovicama na vrhu, neukrašenim tuljcem, ravnih stranica i zaobljena donjeg dijela, ukrašeni su motivom stabla života i imitacijom krupnog perlastog ruba. Ovaj grob, kao i još nekoliko njih, datirani su na prijelaz 8. u 9. stoljeće,<sup>34</sup> odnosno u 8. i prvu četvrtinu 9. stoljeća.<sup>35</sup>

Slični jezičci sporednog remena pronađeni su u grobu 148 na lokalitetu Pilismarót-Basaharc, kao dio pojasne garniture.<sup>36</sup> Brončani jednodijelni jezičac sporednog remena, lijevan na proboj, s dvama ušicama sa zakovicama na vrhu, tuljcem ukrašenim vodoravno položenom s-viticom, ravnih stranica i zaobljenog donjeg dijela, s ukrasom motiva stabla života i imitacijom krupnog perlastog ruba. Groblje je datirano u razdoblje od 740. do 796. godine,<sup>37</sup> odnosno od sredine 8. do prve četvrtine 9. stoljeća.<sup>38</sup>

Još jednu analogiju nalazimo u grobu 43 na lokalitetu Zwölfaxing, ukopu muškarca s pojasnom garniturom.<sup>39</sup> Brončani jednodijelni jezičac sporednog remena, lijevan na proboj, s dvama ušicama sa zakovicama na vrhu, ukrašenim tuljcem, ravnih stranica i zaobljena donjeg dijela, ukrašen motivom stabla života i imitacijom krupnog perlastog ruba. Ovaj grob pripada posljednjoj fazi, odnosno završetku ukopa na groblju koje je prema autoru datirano od zadnje četvrtine 7. do prve četvrtine 9. stoljeća,<sup>40</sup> odnosno u kraj 7. i 8. stoljeća.<sup>41</sup> (Karta 5).

Serijacija J. Zábójniká ne donosi ovaj konkretni primjer, ali općenito gledano može se svrstati u skupinu jezičaca sporednih remena remena tipa 90, koji se datiraju u vrijeme SS III (750.-780.).<sup>42</sup>

Prema klasifikaciji P. Stadlera ovakvi jezičci pripadaju grupi NRZ02270 (*Nebenriemenzunge*) s opisom „lijevan – stablo – 2 ušice“, a navodi da su nađeni na četiri lokaliteta (ukupno

set,<sup>31</sup> with two single-part strap ends of side straps created by openwork casting, with an undecorated socket, straight sides, and a rounded lower part decorated with a Tree of Life motif and imitation of a coarse beaded border. The grave is dated to the 8th century,<sup>32</sup> and, as with Pivare, the finds are located on the periphery of Avaria, along the northern or western borders, with the find from Pivare being the only one situated on the southern border.

At the Balatonszólós – Cooperative Stable site, a belt set was discovered in a disturbed grave, marked as Grave C. It includes two identical side belt strap ends.<sup>33</sup> The bronze openwork single-piece side belt strap ends feature two loops with rivets at the top, an undecorated socket, flat sides, and a rounded lower part. They are decorated with a Tree of Life motif and an imitation of a large beaded edge. This grave, along with several others, is dated to the transition between the 8th and 9th centuries,<sup>34</sup> or, more precisely, to the 8th century and the first quarter of the 9th century.<sup>35</sup>

Similar side strap ends were found in Grave 148 at the Pilismarót-Basaharc site, as part of a belt set.<sup>36</sup> The single-piece bronze openwork side belt strap end has two loops with rivets at the top and a socket decorated with a horizontally placed S-shaped tendril. It has straight sides and a rounded lower part, decorated with a Tree of Life motif and an imitation of a large beaded edge. The cemetery is dated to the period from 740 to 796,<sup>37</sup> or from the mid-8th to the first quarter of the 9th century.<sup>38</sup>

Another parallel is found in Grave 43 at the Zwölfaxing site; the burial of an adult male with a belt set.<sup>39</sup> The bronze openwork single-piece side belt strap end has two loops with rivets at the top and a decorated socket. It features straight sides and a rounded lower part, again adorned with a Tree of Life motif and an imitation of a large beaded edge. This grave belongs to the final phase, or rather the conclusion, of burials in the cemetery, which, according to the author, can be dated to the last quarter of the 7th to the first quarter of the 9th century,<sup>40</sup> or to the end of the 7th and throughout the 8th century.<sup>41</sup> (Map 5).

J. Zábójnik's seriation does not include this specific example, but in general it can be classified as a group of side belt strap ends of type 90, dated to the time of SS III (750-780).<sup>42</sup>

According to P. Stadler's classification, such strap ends belong to the group NRZ02270 (*Nebenriemenzunge*) with the description "cast - stem - 2 loops", with the classification further stating that examples of such had been found at four sites (four examples in total); however, one example is mentioned twice, meaning that there are actually three examples from three sites.

31 Bárdos – Garam 2014, 127.

32 Bárdos – Garam 2018, 109, 288.

33 Nemeth 1969, 160, sl. 13.

34 MRT 1969, 56.

35 ADAM 2002, 41.

36 Fettih 1965, 50, sl. 80.

37 MRT 1979, 285.

38 ADAM 2002, 289.

39 Lippert 1969, 80-82, 132.

40 Lippert 1969, 102-103.

41 ADAM 2002, 436.

42 Zábójnik 1991, 301.

31 Bárdos, Garam 2014, 127.

32 Bárdos – Garam 2018, 109, 288.

33 Erdélyi, Nemeth 1969, 160, Fig. 13.

34 MRT 1969, 56.

35 ADAM 2002, 41.

36 Fettih 1965, 50, Fig. 80.

37 MRT 1979, 285.

38 ADAM 2002, 289.

39 Lippert 1969, 80-82, 132.

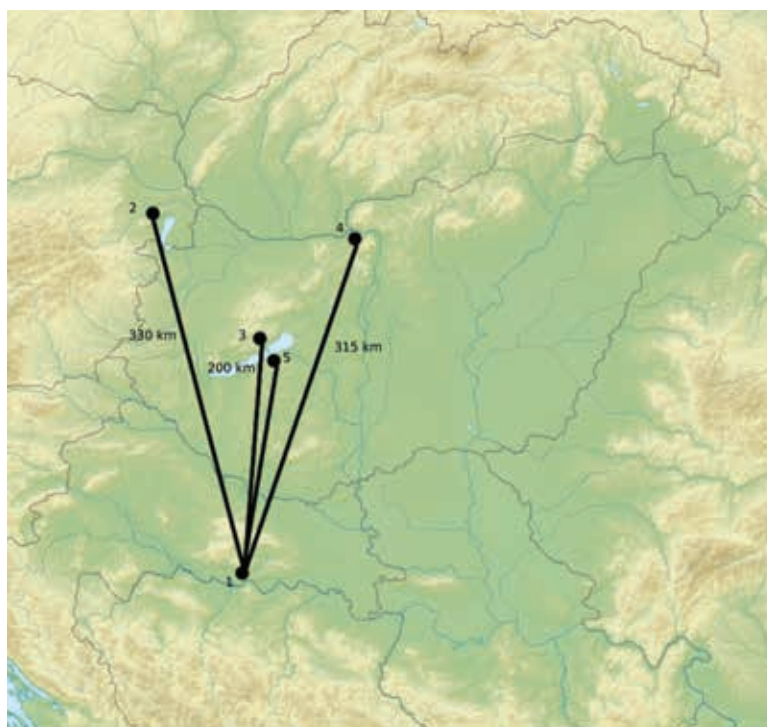
40 Lippert 1969, 102-103.

41 ADAM 2002, 436.

42 Zábójnik 1991, 301.

Karta 5. Međusobna zračna udaljenost lokaliteta Pivare (1) u odnosu na Zwölfaxing (2), Balatonszőlős (3), Pilismarót (4) i Zamárdi (5) (izradila A. Rapan Papeša, podloga [https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modul:Location\\_map/data/Panonska\\_nizina#](https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modul:Location_map/data/Panonska_nizina#))

Map 5. Straight-line distances between the Pivare site (1) and Zwölfaxing (2), Balatonszőlős (3), Pilismarót (4), and Zamárdi (5) (prepared by A. Rapan Papeša, base map: [https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modul:Location\\_map/data/Panonska\\_nizina#](https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modul:Location_map/data/Panonska_nizina#)).



4 primjerka); pri tome jedan primjerak navodi dva puta, tako da u konačnici ima tri primjerka s tri lokaliteta.

Ovaj motiv, ali zrcalno izveden u odnosu na naš primjerak, zabilježen je u grobu 1281a na lokalitetu Tiszafüred,<sup>43</sup> a datiran je u početak treće faze ukopa na ovom lokalitetu koja se veže uz bizantske utjecaje, odnosno početak 8. stoljeća.<sup>44</sup>

Prema klasifikaciji G. Szentheya ovakvi okovi pripadaju grupi IV. (složene kompozicije s palmetama), podgrupi IV.1. (simetrični stupci identičnih elementa) te Tipu 2.1. (vrh zatvoren iglom koja raste između listova), varijanti 4. (baza svakog trećeg lista na deblu oslanja se na volutu) i Tipu 2.2. (stup zatvoren s parom malih voluta, koje se sastoje od dijelova, po dva odjednom, s uskim listovima koji rastu prema gore).<sup>45</sup> Ovu ornamentiku prati tipološka ujednačenost i stilska sličnost, čak i kad se nalaze na lokalitetima velike udaljenosti.<sup>46</sup> U skladu s njegovom tipološko – kronološkom shemom ovakvi motivi vežu se uz geometrijski stil avarodobne produkcije (faza SS IIb-III po Zabojujniku), stil specifičan za Karpatsku kotlinu, ali oblikovan utjecajima svijeta koji ju okružuje.<sup>47</sup>

Motiv stabla života, uvriježen naziv u starijoj literaturi, u novije se vrijeme opisuje kao modificirani prikaz palme,<sup>48</sup> što polako postaje prihvaćeno i u krugu avarodobne arheologije.<sup>49</sup>

S lokaliteta Gornji Bogičevci također imamo dva nalaza; prvi od njih (sl. 7-9; kat. br. 3) je jezičac sporednog remena

A version of this motif – mirrored in relation to our specimen – was recorded in Grave 1281a at the Tiszafüred site.<sup>43</sup> It is dated to the beginning of the third phase of burials at the site, which is associated with Byzantine influences; i.e. the early 8th century.<sup>44</sup>

According to G. Szenthe's classification, these fittings belong to group IV (complex compositions with palmettes), subgroup IV.1 (symmetrical columns of identical elements) and Type 2.1 (top closed by a needle growing between the leaves), variant 4 (the base of every third leaf on the trunk rests on a volute) and Type 2.2 (column closed with a pair of small volutes, consisting of two-part elements with narrow leaves growing upwards).<sup>45</sup> This ornamentation is accompanied by typological uniformity and stylistic similarity, even when examples are found in sites of great distance from one another.<sup>46</sup> In accordance with his typological-chronological scheme, such motifs are associated with the geometric style of Avar-era production (phase SS IIb-III according to Zabojujnik); a style specific to the Carpathian Basin, but shaped by the influences of the surroundings.<sup>47</sup>

The motif of the 'Tree of Life', a common name in older literature, has recently been re-described as a modified depiction of a palm tree,<sup>48</sup> with this description slowly gaining acceptance in the circle of Avar-era archaeology.<sup>49</sup>

Two finds from the Gornji Bogičevci site are also relevant. The first (Fig. 7-9, Cat. no. 3) is a side strap end belonging to a group of finds referred to as being of Hohenberg type, after

43 Garam 1995, 156.

44 Garam 1995, 408-410.

45 Szenthe 2020, 148-149.

46 Szenthe 2020, 343, bilj. 1212.

47 Szenthe 2020, 352.

48 Eger 2004, 463-467.

49 Szenthe 2020, 440, bilj. 1717.

43 Garam 1995, 156.

44 Ibid. 408-410.

45 Szenthe 2020, 148-149.

46 Szenthe 2020, 343, bilj. 1212.

47 Szenthe 2020, 352.

48 Eger 2004, 463-467.

49 Szenthe 2020, 440, note 1717.

koji pripada skupini nalaza koju nazivamo, prema nalazištu u Austriji, tip Hohenberg. Jezičac ovog tipa vidljiv je i na djelomično sačuvanoj freski s prikazom dječaka u crkvi Santa Maria Antiqua u Rimu, datiranoj u 8. stoljeće.<sup>50</sup>

Prostorno najbliži nalaz ovog tipa u Hrvatskoj slučajni je nalaz iz Bijelog brda; jednodijelni jezičac sporednog remena, lijevan u bronci s tragovima pozlate, ukrašen degeneriranom viticom i pseudogranuliranim ukrasom po rubu, dužine 25 mm.<sup>51</sup> Lokalitet Bijelo Brdo I. (Bajer) datira se u 7. i 8. stoljeće,<sup>52</sup> dok se ovaj slučajni nalaz datira u prijelaz 8. na 9. stoljeće.<sup>53</sup>

Prostorno je blizak i jedan novi, neobjavljeni nalaz iz okolice Vinkovaca. Uz još neke novootkrivene i neobjavljene nalaze uskoro će biti detaljnije obrađen i objavljen.

Osim toga, poznat je i jedan nalaz iz okolice Sremske Mitrovice, brončani pozlaćeni jezičac glavnog remena, lijevan u komadu, s dvije ušice, ukrašen uvinutim viticama, s pseudogranulacijom na rubu i urezanim ukrasom na spoju.<sup>54</sup> Jezičac tipa Hohenberg – Bozen datiran je u 8. stoljeće,<sup>55</sup> iako ostaje otvoreno pitanje radi li se o predmetu bizantske ili avarske produkcije.<sup>56</sup>

S lokaliteta Bártok B. U. u Dömösu iz jednog od 11 istraženih grobova potječe jezičac sporednog remena tipa Hohenberg,<sup>57</sup> a lokalitet se datira u zadnju četvrtinu 7. i 8. stoljeće.<sup>58</sup>

S područja Dalmacije poznat je primjerak koji potječe iz Biskupije<sup>59</sup> ili Bribirske glavice,<sup>60</sup> ukrašen pseudogranulacijom po rubu i nasuprot postavljenim S-viticama; prema klasifikaciji F. Daima ovaj nalaz pripada tipu Hohenberg – Bozen, odnosno italo-bizantskim radionicama,<sup>61</sup> a ne avarskom zlatarstvu. Ovaj nalaz datiran je u drugu polovinu 8. i početak 9. stoljeća.<sup>62</sup>

Serijacija J. Zábójnika ne donosi ovaj konkretni primjer, ali općenito gledano može se svrstati u skupinu jezičaca sporednog remena tipa 116, koji se datiraju u vrijeme SS III (750-780) – SS IV (780-800/825).<sup>63</sup>

Prema podjeli P. Stadlera ovakvi jezičci pripadaju grupi NRZ03310 (*Nebenriemenzunge*) s opisom „lijevani – krugolika vitica – 2 ušice“, a navodi da su nađeni na 8 lokaliteta (ukupno 12 komada).

Prema podjeli G. Szenthe ovakvi nalazi pripadaju grupi „Sobor-Kiskőrös“ (plastični floralni geometrijski uzorci) i datiraju se samim krajem kasnoavarskog razdoblja, dok skupina nalaza tipa Hohenberg čini posebnu varijantu ovog tipa.<sup>64</sup>

the site in Austria. A strap end of this type can also be seen on a partially preserved fresco depicting a boy in the Church of Santa Maria Antiqua in Rome, dated to the 8th century.<sup>50</sup>

The spatially closest find of this type in Croatia is a chance discovery from Bijelo Brdo: a one-piece bronze side strap end with traces of gilding, decorated with a degenerated tendril and pseudo-granulated ornamentation along the edge, measuring 25 mm in length.<sup>51</sup> The Bijelo Brdo I. (Bajer) site is dated to the 7th and 8th centuries,<sup>52</sup> while this chance find dates to the turn of the 8th and 9th centuries.<sup>53</sup>

Another spatially close example is a newly discovered unpublished find from the vicinity of Vinkovci. Along with several other newly unearthed and unpublished finds, it will soon be analyzed in greater detail and published.

In addition, a find from the Sremska Mitrovica area is also known, a bronze gilded main belt strap end, cast in one piece, with two loops, decorated with twisted tendrils, pseudo-granulation along the edge, and an engraved ornament at the junction.<sup>54</sup>

The strap end of the Hohenberg–Bozen type from Sremska Mitrovica is dated to the 8th century,<sup>55</sup> although it remains an open question whether it represents a product of Byzantine or Avar manufacture.<sup>56</sup>

A Hohenberg-type side strap end<sup>57</sup> was found in one of the 11 excavated graves from the Bártok B. U. site in Dömös, with the site having been dated to the last quarter of the 7th and 8th centuries.<sup>58</sup> From the Dalmatian region, an example originating from Biskupija<sup>59</sup> or Bribirska Glavica<sup>60</sup> is known, decorated with pseudo-granulation along the edge and opposed S-shaped tendrils. According to the classification of F. Daim, this find belongs to the Hohenberg–Bozen type, i.e. Italo-Byzantine workshops,<sup>61</sup> and is not an example of Avar goldsmithing. This find is dated to the second half of the 8th and the beginning of the 9th century.<sup>62</sup> J. Zábójnik's seriation does not include this specific example, but in general it can be classified as belonging to a group of side strap ends of type 116, which date back to the time of SS III (750–780) to SS IV (780–800/825).<sup>63</sup> According to P. Stadler's classification, such strap ends belong to group NRZ03310 (*Nebenriemenzunge*), described as “cast – circular tendril – two loops”, with it further being noted that a total of twelve specimens been found across eight sites.

According to G. Szenthe's classification, such finds belong to the Sobor-Kiskőrös group (plastic floral geometric patterns), and date back to the very end of the Late Avar period, while

50 Daim 2000, 156.

51 Simoni 1986, 219.

52 ADAM 2002, 58.

53 Seoba 1962, 110.

54 Daim 2000, 159.

55 Bugarski 2022, 359.

56 Cf. Szenthe 2016, 359.

57 MRT 1979, 71.

58 ADAM 2002, 117-118.

59 Milošević 2000, 236.

60 Petrinc 2007, 79-80.

61 Piteša 2006, 9.

62 Petrinc 2007, 81.

63 Zábójnik 1991, 303.

64 Szenthe 2020, 514.

50 Daim 2000, 156.

51 Simoni 1986, 219.

52 ADAM 2002, 58.

53 Seoba 1962, 110.

54 Daim 2000, 159.

55 Bugarski 2022, 359.

56 Cf. Szenthe 2016, 359.

57 MRT 1979, 71.

58 ADAM 2002, 117-118.

59 Milošević 2000, 236.

60 Petrinc 2007, 79-80.

61 Piteša 2006, 9.

62 Petrinc 2007, 81.

63 Zábójnik 1991, 303.

Sl. 12. Jezičac sporednog remena s lokaliteta Bribir (snimio: Z. Alajbeg, Muzej hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika - Split)

Figure 12. Secondary belt tongue from the Bribir site (photograph: Zoran Alajbeg, Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments-Split).



Skupina nalaza tipa Hohenberg, prema nalazu iz Hohenberga smatra se bizantskom produkcijom,<sup>65</sup> no postoji jedna šira grupa u koju se svrstavaju i nalazi avarodobne produkcije, koji čak sežu i u post-avarodobno razdoblje.<sup>66</sup> Zanimljivo je da je ovdje prezentiran nalaz gotovo identičan, ukrasom i dimenzijama, nalazu iz Dalmacije (Sl. 12), te vjerojatno potječu iz iste radionice. Dodatne analize u budućnosti bi trebale potvrditi ili opovrgnuti ovu pretpostavku.

S područja Gornjih Bogičevaca potječe još jedan nedvojbena avarodobni nalaz (sl. 10-11; kat. br. 4), koji međutim bez točnog konteksta može predstavljati i okov sporednog remena (što je vjerojatnije), ali i okov za rupice remena. Naime, oba ova tipa nalaza su prilično slična i iako su okovi za rupice većih dimenzija nego okovi sporednih remena često se njihova veličina preklapa u različitim pojasi garnitura. Iako se i ovdje na prvu čini da je riječ o tipičnom nalazu, i u ovom slučaju imamo varijantu koju ne nalazimo često.

Prostorno najbližu analogiju predstavlja nalaz iz Borova, s lokaliteta Gradac, a radi se o dijelu nepotpuno sačuvane pojase garniture iz groba uništenog tokom rijeke Dunav.<sup>67</sup> Nalaz se sastoji od brončane pređice, okova brončane kopče, dva jezičca sporednog remena i četiri okova sporednog remena. Slučajni nalazi s borovskog Gradca datirani su općenito u 8. stoljeće,<sup>68</sup> dok se prema analogijama ovaj nalaz može uže datirati u razdoblje druge polovice 8. stoljeća.<sup>69</sup>

S lokaliteta Nuštar Dvorac, iz groba 5, potječu 4 identična okova sporednog remena,<sup>70</sup> od kojih je na jednom sačuvan dio tkanine interpretirane kao dio odjeće.<sup>71</sup> Grob se datira u razdoblje 750.-780. godine.

S područja Like (nepoznata nalazišta) u Arheološkom muzeju u Zagrebu čuvaju se dva primjerka<sup>72</sup>. Ovaj lokalitet

the group of finds of Hohenberg type constitutes a special variant of this type.<sup>64</sup>

The group of Hohenberg-type finds is, according to the Hohenberg find itself, considered to be of Byzantine production,<sup>65</sup> but there is a broader group that also includes finds of Avar production, which even date back to the post-Avar period.<sup>66</sup> It is of note that the find presented here is almost identical, in terms of both decoration and dimensions, to the find from Dalmatia (Fig. 12), and likely originates from the same workshop. Additional analyses in the future should confirm or refute this assumption.

Another undoubtedly Avar-period find (Fig. 10-11, Cat. no. 4) originates from the area of Gornji Bogičevci, which, however, without an exact context, may represent either a side belt fitting (which is more likely) or a belt-hole protectors. Namely, these types of finds are relatively similar, and, although the hole protectors are larger in size than the side belt fittings, their size ranges overlap. Although at first glance this seems to be a typical find, in this case, we have a variant that is not often found.

The closest spatial analogy is the find from Borovo, from the Gradac site, which is part of an incompletely preserved belt set from a grave destroyed by the Danube River.<sup>67</sup> The find consists of a bronze buckle frame, a bronze buckle fitting, two side strap ends, and four side strap fittings.

The chance finds from Borovo Gradac are generally dated to the 8th century,<sup>68</sup> while, based on analogies, this particular find can be more precisely dated to the second half of the 8th century.<sup>69</sup>

At the Nuštar Dvorac site, from grave 5, four identical side belt fittings were found,<sup>70</sup> one of which preserved a piece of

65 Daim 2010, 67–68.

66 Szalontai 1996.

67 Hutinec 2013.

68 ADAM 2002, 65.

69 Rapan Papeša 2021b, 356–357.

70 Rapan Papeša 2024.

71 Grömer, Rapan Papeša 2015, 61.

72 Simoni 1986, 218.

64 Szenthe 2020, 514.

65 Daim 2010, 67–68.

66 Szalontai 1996.

67 Hutinec 2013.

68 ADAM 2002, 65.

69 Rapan Papeša 2021b, 356–357.

70 Rapan Papeša 2024.

datira se u razdoblje posljednje četvrtine 8. i prve četvrtine 9. stoljeća.<sup>73</sup>

S lokaliteta Bártok B. U. u Dömösu iz jednog od 11 istraženih grobova imamo sličan okov sporednog remena,<sup>74</sup> a lokalitet se datira u zadnju četvrtinu 7. i 8. stoljeća.<sup>75</sup>

Slične okove, ali u funkciji štitnika za rupice, bilježimo u grobu 142 na lokalitetu Kechnec; riječ je o grobu konjanika i konja.<sup>76</sup> Lokalitet je datiran u 8. i prvu četvrtinu 9. stoljeća,<sup>77</sup> dok sam grob pripada kraju 8. stoljeća.

Okov iz groba 16 na lokalitetu Brodski Drenovac<sup>78</sup>, iako izgleda slično i ima istu vrstu ureza na vrhu za pojas se pričvršćivao sa tri zakovice,<sup>79</sup> pa ga ne uzimamo kao direktnu analogiju. Groblje je datirano u posljednju četvrtinu 8. do kraja polovine 9. stoljeća.<sup>80</sup>

Serijacija J. Zábójnika ne donosi ovaj konkretni primjer, ali općenito gledano može se svrstati u skupinu okova sporednog remena tipa 167, koji se datiraju u vrijeme SS IV (780-800).<sup>81</sup>

Prema podjeli P. Stadlera ovaj tip NRB00410 (*Nebenriemenbeschlag*), s opisom „lijevan – glatki – neukrašen – kruna“, a navodi da su nađeni na 18 lokaliteta (ukupno 18 primjeraka), no ne uzima u obzir različiti broj zakovica nego samo oblik i ukras.

Okviri se prema svom obliku, čak i kad nisu ukrašeni vezuju uz tzv. horizont nalaza Blatnica,<sup>82</sup> odnosno s garniturama s gravirano-punciranim ukrasima ili garniturama s dvodijelnim jezičcima s ušicama ukrašenim viticama.<sup>83</sup>

## ZAKLJUČNA RAZMATRANJA

Novi i do sada nepoznati nalazi iz okolice Nove Gradiške, na temelju analogija, pripadaju avarodobnim pojasnim garniturama. Kako se radi o predmetima koji nemaju siguran arheološki kontekst, njihov karakter određuje tipologija i kronološka analiza sličnih nalaza s područja Avarije. Prisutnost kasnoavarodobnih populacija na ovom području Hrvatske nije dvojbena ni upitna, a buduća istraživanja trebala bi pružiti više informacija o detaljima koji su trenutno na razini pretpostavki.

Čini se da je prisutnost avarodobnih populacija na južnim granicama Avarije znatno veća nego je to do sada predstavljano u literaturi. Kada razmotrimo povijesne činjenice takav rasplet ne bi trebao iznenađivati. Krajem 8. stoljeća Avarija se našla između velikih sila zapada i istoka – Franačkog i

fabric interpreted as part of an item of clothing.<sup>71</sup> The grave is dated to the period 750–780.

Two examples from unknown sites from the Lika region are kept in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb.<sup>72</sup> These have been dated to the last quarter of the 8th and first quarter of the 9th century.<sup>73</sup>

From one of the 11 excavated graves at the Bártok B. U. site in Dömös comes a similar side belt fitting,<sup>74</sup> with this site having been dated to the last quarter of the 7th and the 8th century.<sup>75</sup>

Similar fittings, though serving the function of belt-hole protectors, were found in grave 142 at the Kechnec site; a double burial of a horseman and his horse.<sup>76</sup> The site is dated to the 8th and the first quarter of the 9th century,<sup>77</sup> while the grave itself belongs to the late 8th century.

The fitting from grave 16 at the Brodski Drenovac site,<sup>78</sup> although similar in appearance and featuring the same type of incision at the top, was attached to the belt with three rivets,<sup>79</sup> and is therefore not considered a direct analogy. The cemetery dates from the last quarter of the 8th to the end of the first half of the 9th century.<sup>80</sup>

J. Zábójnik's seriation does not include this specific example, but, in general, it can be classified as a type 167 side belt fitting, which is dated to the SS IV period (780–800).<sup>81</sup> According to P. Stadler's classification, this type corresponds to NRB00410 (*Nebenriemenbeschlag*), described as "cast – smooth – undecorated – crown-shaped". These fittings were found at 18 sites (a total of 18 specimens), though Stadler does not consider the number of rivets, only shape and decoration.

Such fittings, even when undecorated, are associated with the so-called horizon of the Blatnica finds,<sup>82</sup> i.e. with sets with engraved-punched decorations or sets with two-part strap ends with loops decorated with tendrils.<sup>83</sup>

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

New and previously unknown finds from the vicinity of Nova Gradiška belong, on the basis of analogies, to Avar belt sets. Since these are objects that lack a secure archaeological context, their character is determined by the typology and chronological analysis of similar finds from the area of Avaria. The presence of late Avar populations in this area of Croatia is neither doubtful nor questionable, and future

73 ADAM 2002, 228.

74 MRT 1979, 71.

75 ADAM 2002, 117–118.

76 Pásztor 1971, 131.

77 ADAM 2002, 187.

78 Vinski-Gasparini, Ercegović 1958, 157.

79 Nalaz potječe iz groba žene i nađen je na području vrata uz ogrlicu od perli, što sugerira sekundarnu uporabu, ali raspored rupica i zakovica za pričvršćivanje je drugačiji od našeg.

80 ADAM 2002, 71.

81 Zábójnik 1991, 311.

82 Simoni 1986, 222; termin „Blatnica“ ovdje se koristi samo u svojstvu opisa koji je uvriježen u literaturi za slične nalaze, potpuno svjesni da novija istraživanja pokazuju da takav horizont ne postoji u dosadašnjem tumačenju, a da se slični nalazi okova vezuju uz kasnoavarodobno vrijeme (Robak 2017, 112).

83 Garam 1995, 256.

71 Grömer, Rapan Papeša 2015, 61.

72 Simoni 1986, 218.

73 ADAM 2002, 228.

74 MRT 1979, 71.

75 ADAM 2002, 117–118.

76 Pásztor 1971, 131.

77 ADAM 2002, 187.

78 Vinski-Gasparini, Ercegović 1958, 157.

79 The find comes from the grave of a woman, and was discovered in the neck area alongside a beaded necklace, suggesting secondary use; however, the arrangement of the holes and rivets for attachment differs from that of our specimen.

80 ADAM 2002, 71.

81 Zábójnik 1991, 311.

82 Simoni 1986, 222; the term 'Blatnica' is used here solely as a conventional descriptive label in the literature for similar finds. We are fully aware, however, that recent research indicates that such a horizon does not exist in current interpretations, and that comparable fittings are associated with the Late Avar period (Robak 2017, 112).

83 Garam 1995, 256.

Bugarskog carstva, a konačnoj propasti dodatno su pridonijela i unutarnja previranja<sup>84</sup>.

Distribucija tipoloških sličnih nalaza ocrtava zanimljivu vezu između juga i sjevera Avarije koja polako sve više ulazi u fokus istraživača. Pri tome treba imati na umu da se količina luksuznih predmeta u graničnim područjima na samom kraju kasnoavarodobnog razdoblja drastično povećava. Ovaj porast povezan je s vrijednošću tih područja koja omogućavaju prolaz drugim silama, kao i darovima koji upućuju na zaoštavanje unutarnje konkurencije i uspon elita.<sup>85</sup> U svakom slučaju, prethodno opisani primjerci mogu se povezati s nalazima „međuregionalnog sustava veza na daljinu“ koji je svojstven za elite.<sup>86</sup> U starijoj literaturi elite se tradicionalno povezuje s nalazima dragocjenih metala i /ili oružja; znamo li da se u kasnoavarodobnim grobovima takvi nalazi pojavljuju iznimno rijetko moramo kao odrednicu elite uzeti neke druge elemente<sup>87</sup> vidljive kroz vodoravni i okomiti poredak. Pri tome vodoravni poredak podrazumijeva elite koje oponašaju bizantske i mediteranske utjecaje, a okomiti poredak podrazumijeva privilegirani položaj unutar zajednice. Ove „elite“, pod navodnicima, svojstvene su rubnim područjima Avarije – nisu to elite u pravom smislu riječi, ali su ovi nalazi svakako odraz jedne više klase, koja je možda upravo kroz te nalaze dosegla svoj vrhunac. S druge strane, nalaze se u blizini lokaliteta Brestovac koji svakako spada u elitne nalaze i s oprezom možemo pretpostaviti jednu skupinu kasnoavarodobne elite.<sup>88</sup> Vjerojatno se radi o skupini koja nadgleda prijelaze preko rijeke Save i tako čuva južne granice Avarije.<sup>89</sup> Uključimo li u priču i trasu rimske Posavske magistrale koja je prolazila u blizini dobivamo dodatnu potvrdu, jer znamo da se u avarodobno vrijeme koristila rimska cestovna infrastruktura i komunikacijski pravci.<sup>90</sup>

Sva četiri ovdje predstavljena nalaza vezujemo uz kasnoavarodobnu produkciju druge polovine 8. stoljeća i možemo pretpostaviti da su proizvod vrlo kvalitetne radionice. Distribucija ovakvih nalaza pretpostavlja se da je išla iz nekog centralnog mjesta, poput hringa, zaslužnim pojedincima u važnim mjestima. Osim nalaza s lokaliteta Žitavska ton koji predstavljaju luksuzniju i dimenzijama nešto veću varijantu okova glavnog remena s motivom grožđa, nalazi s juga Avarije (Pivare, Nuštar, Odžaci) pokazuju značajne sličnosti u izradi i dimenzijama, što nas dovodi do pretpostavke da su rad istog majstora. U tom kontekstu, nalazi iz Žitavske Toni predstavlja uzorak, dok su nalazi s juga njegove kopije.

S obzirom na tehnologiju izrade jezičac tipa Hohenberg iz Gornjih Bogičevaca pripada produkciji Karpatske kotline, odnosno avarodobnim radionicama, iako je sam motiv mediteransko – bizantskog podrijetla. Riječ je o skupini nalaza

research should provide more information on aspects that are currently at the level of assumptions.

It seems that the presence of Avar populations on the southern borders of Avaria is significantly greater than has been presented in the literature to date. Considering historical circumstances, such a situation should be of little surprise. At the end of the 8th century, Avaria found itself between the great powers of the West and the East – the Frankish and Bulgarian Empires – and internal turmoil additionally contributed to its final collapse.<sup>84</sup>

The distribution of typologically similar finds outlines an interesting connection between the south and north of Avaria, which is slowly coming under increased focus of researchers. It should be noted that the quantity of luxury items in border areas rose dramatically toward the very end of the Late Avar period. This increase is connected both to the strategic value of these regions, which facilitated the movement of foreign forces, and to the circulation of diplomatic gifts, which are reflective of intensifying internal rivalries and the rise of local elites.<sup>85</sup> In any case, the previously described examples can be linked to findings of an “interregional long-distance communication system” that is characteristic of elites.<sup>86</sup> In older literature, the ‘elite’ are traditionally associated with finds of precious metals and/or weapons. However, since such items are exceptionally rare in Late Avar graves, we must redefine elite status through other indicators<sup>87</sup> visible in both the horizontal and vertical social hierarchy. The horizontal dimension refers to elites that imitated Byzantine and Mediterranean influences, while the vertical dimension indicates privileged positions within the local community. These ‘elites’ are characteristic of the peripheral areas of Avaria; while they are not elites in the true sense of the word, these finds certainly reflect the existence of an upper class, which perhaps reached its peak precisely through such artifacts themselves. On the other hand, they are found near the Brestovac site, whose finds can certainly be categorized as elite, and we can, therefore, cautiously assume a group of Late Avar elite.<sup>88</sup> It is likely that this group oversaw crossings over the Sava River, thus guarding the southern frontiers of the Avar Khaganate.<sup>89</sup> Additional support for this can be derived from the fact that the route of the Roman-era Posavinan Road passed nearby, since it is well known that Avar-period populations continued to use Roman road infrastructure and communication routes.<sup>90</sup>

All four finds presented here are associated with Late Avar-period production from the second half of the 8th century, and it can be assumed that they were products of a highly skilled workshop. The distribution of such finds likely originated from a central location – possibly a *hring* – with the items subsequently being passed on to distinguished individuals in key settlements. Aside from the finds from the Žitavská Tőňa

84 Gračanin 2008; 2009; 2013.

85 Szenthe 2020, 521.

86 Szenthe 2018, 297.

87 Szenthe 2015, 295.

88 Szenthe, Gall 2022, 329, sl. 128.

89 Gračanin 2009, 18, 20, 22.

90 Kovačević 1973 (istočni Srijem); Valent, Zvijerac 2017 (Podravina); Szücs 2015 (Mezőföld); Jurakić 2021.

84 Gračanin 2008; 2009; 2013.

85 Szenthe 2020, 521.

86 Szenthe 2018, 297.

87 Szenthe 2015, 295.

88 Szenthe, Gall 2022, 329, Fig. 128.

89 Gračanin 2009, 18, 20, 22.

90 Kovačević 1973 (for East Srijem); Valent, Zvijerac 2017 (for Podravina); Szücs 2015 (for Mezőföld); Jurakić 2021.

koju u kasnoavarodobnoj produkciji vežemo uz statusni simbol unutar zajednice.<sup>91</sup>

S obzirom na naše detaljnije nepoznavanje područja uz rijeku Savu u ovom razdoblju iz recentnih rasprava o trgovačkim putovima plovni put rijekom Savom je uglavnom izostavljen, ali je logičan i pretpostavljen,<sup>92</sup> uzmemo li u obzir činjenicu da se Dunav smatra jednim od komunikacijskih i trgovačkih pravaca distribucije.<sup>93</sup> Niz (pojedinačnih) nalaza uz rijeku Savu,<sup>94</sup> ali i oni koji joj gravitiraju dopuštaju takvo razmatranje. To je posebno važno u kontekstu luksuznih nalaza iz Požeškog Brestovca i ranosrednjovjekovnog groblja u Bojni.<sup>95</sup> Dodatnu potporu tezi o puno gušćoj naseljenosti nego što pretpostavljamo na osnovu dosadašnjih spoznaja pružaju i novi nalazi – ovdje predstavljeni, ali na primjer i dio naselja istražen u Stružanima.<sup>96</sup>

Područje uz rijeku Savu nedvojbeno je arheološki zanimljivo, ali u fokus istraživača ulazi intenzivnije tek unatrag nekoliko desetljeća. Tradicionalno, uobičajene granice avarodobnih utjecaja do kraja 20. stoljeća uglavnom se postavljala istočno od linije Koprivnica – Suhopolje – Vinkovci – Privilaka – Mitrovica,<sup>97</sup> no upravo niz kasnoavarodobnih nalaza uz Savu upućuju na strateški važne pozicije koje su kontrolirale ili putove ili prijelaze preko rijeke.<sup>98</sup> Ostaje otvoreno pitanje radi li se tu o trajnom naseljavanju<sup>99</sup> ili o zaposjedanju bez jasno definirane, homogene i planirane Vojne granice.<sup>100</sup> U posljednje vrijeme, i strani autori također postavljaju granicu Avarije na Savu, ali više sa stajališta područja utjecaja nego trajnog naseljavanja.<sup>101</sup> Objave nalaza poput onih ovdje predstavljenih trebali bi pridonijeti promijeni percepcije o južnoj granici rasprostranja Avarije.

## ZAHVALE

Autorice se zahvaljuju Slađani Latinović, višoj konzervatorici-restauratorici Arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu na obradi metalnih nalaza, kao i kolegi dr. sc. G. Szentheu iz Nacionalnog muzeja Mađarske u Budimpešti na pomoći oko rada.

site, which represent a more luxurious and slightly larger variant of the main belt fittings decorated with the grape motif, the finds from the southern regions of the Avar Khaganate (Pivare, Nuštar, Odžaci) bear notable similarities in craftsmanship and dimensions. This supports the assumption that they were made by the same master craftsman. In this context, the find from Žitavská Tôňa can be seen as the prototype, while the southern examples represent its copies.

In terms of production technology, the Hohenberg-type strap end fitting from Gornji Bogićevci belongs to the Carpathian Basin production – i.e. to Avar-period workshops – although the motif itself is of Mediterranean-Byzantine origin. This group of finds within Late Avar production is linked to status symbols within the community.<sup>91</sup>

Due to our still-limited understanding of the area along the Sava river during this period, recent discussions on trade routes have mostly excluded the navigable Sava, though it seems logical to assume it played a role,<sup>92</sup> especially considering that the Danube is recognized as a key communication and trade artery.<sup>93</sup> A series of isolated finds along the Sava<sup>94</sup> – as well as in areas gravitating toward it – supports this assumption. This is particularly significant in the context of luxurious finds from Požeški Brestovac and the early medieval cemetery in Bojna.<sup>95</sup>

Additional evidence for a denser settlement network than previously assumed, based on current knowledge, is provided both by the new finds presented here and by discoveries such as the excavated part of the settlement in Stružani.<sup>96</sup>

The area along the Sava River is undoubtedly archaeologically significant, yet it has only come into sharper research focus in recent decades. Traditionally, until the end of the 20th century, the usual western boundary of Avar-period influence was drawn roughly along the line Koprivnica – Suhopolje – Vinkovci – Privilaka – Mitrovica. However, the numerous Late Avar finds along the Sava point to strategically important locations that controlled routes and river crossings.

It remains an open question as to whether these finds indicate permanent settlement or rather occupation without a clearly defined, homogeneous, or planned military frontier. Recently, foreign scholars have also placed the southern border of the Avar Khaganate along the Sava, viewing it more as a zone of influence than an area of permanent habitation.

Publications of finds such as those presented here should contribute to reshaping our perception of the southern boundary of Avar territory.

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91 Szenthe 2013

92 Bugarski 2022, 360

93 Šmalcelj Novaković 2024, 238

94 Filipec 2003, 126

95 Madiraca et al. 2017, Budak 2019

96 Miklik-Lozok 2012, 43-51

97 Filipec 2003, 125

98 Rapan Papeša 2015

99 Filipec 2015, 35

100 Gračanin 2011, 141

101 Cf. Spánu, Gáll 2016, 188, Fig. 8; Szentpéteri 2019, 146; Bugarski, Cerović 2021, 334

91 Szenthe 2013.

92 Bugarski 2022, 360.

93 Šmalcelj Novaković 2024, 238.

94 Filipec 2003, 126.

95 Madiraca et al. 2017; Budak 2019.

96 Miklik-Lozok 2012, 43-51.

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