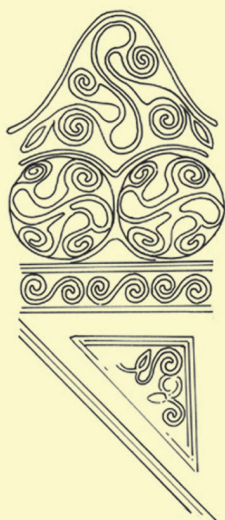




*protohistoire
européenne*

II
2009



Georg TIEFENGRABER
Boris KAVUR
Andrej GASPARI
(eds.)

Keltske študije II

Studies in Celtic Archaeology

Papers in honour of Mitja Guštin



éditions monique mergoil

KELTSKE ŠTUDIJE II
STUDIES IN CELTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Protohistoire Européenne

11

Collection dirigée par
Michel Py

KELTSKE ŠTUDIJE II

STUDIES IN CELTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Papers in honour of Mitja Guštin

Georg Tiefengraber – Boris Kavur – Andrej Gaspari (eds.)



éditions monique mergoil
montagnac
2009

Tous droits réservés
© 2009



Diffusion, vente par correspondance :

Editions Monique Mergoil
12 rue des Moulins
F - 34530 Montagnac

Tél/fax : 04 67 24 14 39 - portable : 06 73 87 13 91
e-mail : emmergoil@aol.com

ISBN : 978-2-35518-009-5
ISSN : en cours

Aucune partie de cet ouvrage ne peut être reproduite
sous quelque forme que ce soit (photocopie, scanner ou autre)
sans l'autorisation expresse des Editions Monique Mergoil

Logo de la collection :
linteau préromain de Nages (Gard)
dessin G. Monthel
(avec l'aimable autorisation du Prof. Chr. Peyre)

Texte, saisie : auteurs
Illustrations : v. les crédits indiqués
Maquette : Georg Tiefengraber
Couverture : Editions Monique Mergoil
Imprimerie numérique : Maury S.A.S
Z.I. des Ondes
F - 12100 Millau

Contents

Introduction (Boris Kavur, Andrej Gaspari and Georg Tiefengraber)	7–10
Alexandrine EIBNER Symbol und Bedeutung des Stabes – anhand eisenzeitlicher Bildquellen	11–46
Peter TURK – Dragan BOŽIČ – Janka ISTENIČ – Nada OSMUK – Žiga ŠMIT New Pre-Roman Inscriptions from Western Slovenia : The Archaeological Evidence	47–64
Heiner EICHNER – Robert NEDOMA Neue vorrömische Inschriften aus Westslowenien : epigraphische und linguistische Evidenz	65–76
Dragan BOŽIČ Late Hallstatt period bronze vessels in two late graves of the La Tène-Early Imperial Idrija group	77–84
Biba TERŽAN Eine latèneartige Fremdform im hallstätischen Vače	85–100
Stefan MOSER Ein Negauerhelm vom Dürrnberg bei Hallein. Vorbericht zur Grabung des ÖFD 2008	101–106
Jarmila VALENTOVÁ – Pavel SANKOT The first glaive from Bohemia? A first cleaning of the Klučov sword	107–116
Peter C. RAMSL Eine Omeganadel im latènezeitlichen Gräberfeld von Mannersdorf am Leithagebirge, Niederösterreich	117–124
Marija LUBŠINA TUŠEK – Boris KAVUR A sword between. The Celtic warriors grave from Srednica in North-Eastern Slovenia	125–142
Paul GLEIRSCHER Gräber keltischer Schwertkrieger vom Fuße der Gracarca (Kärnten)	143–162
J. V. S. MEGAW – M. Ruth MEGAW Hare or hind? The decorated spear from Kandija grave K44	163–172
Veronika HOLZER Druideninsignie und Götterfigur. Zeugen keltischer Rituale in Roseldorf/Niederösterreich	173–184
Michel FEUGÈRE Celtic Regionalities : personal ornaments from Southern Gaul	185–196
Martina BLEČIČ KAVUR Universal and Original. Transformation of style in the North-Adriatic Region	197–208
Kristina MIHOVIČ New finds of La Tène fibulae from Istria	209–216

Miha MLINAR	
About three Iron age finds, excavated in the year 1927 at Most na Soči	217–224
Dubravka BALEN-LETUNIĆ	
Bulla – An amulet and ornament of the Japodian wear	225–234
Nives MAJNARIĆ PANDŽIĆ	
On the South Pannonian Population in the Late Iron Age	235–246
Petar POPOVIĆ	
Scordisci on the Fringes of the Hellenistic World	247–258
Georg TIEFENGRABER	
Befestigte mittel- und spätlatenezeitliche Flachlandsiedlungen im Südostalpenraum	259–282
Branko KERMAN	
Celtic warrior's grave from the site of Pod Kotom-north near Murska Sobota	283–292
Marko DIZDAR	
La Tène Sword from Gačište near Virovitica	293–304
Bernhard HEBERT	
in cooperation with Andreas BERNHARD – Jörg FÜRNHOLZER – Maria WINDHOLZ-KONRAD	
Wege und Wälle und Neuigkeiten aus der Steiermark	305–314
Andrej GASPARI	
Some Iron Age and Early Roman finds from Stari grad above Unec (Notranjska, Slovenia)	315–330
Janka ISTENIČ	
An Early Roman dagger from the vicinity of Štanjel	331–342

Introduction

A personal introduction

Not so long ago, at the opening of a new museum dedicated to a famous site and Celtic archaeology in general, we stood in front of a wall. I must have felt amazed, but still I was aware of his disillusion with the observed image. It was a nice map, painted with thick white colour on the gray concrete, showing the spread of Celtic occupation of Europe in the Late Iron Age. But both of us stared upon a small area of gray concrete, a little bit below the centre on the right hand side, where we expected it to be all covered in white, there was nothing to see. When we were leaving, he sorrowfully grumbled, that he dedicated the majority of his career to the research and promotion of archaeological heritage from that specific area and that he hopes the badly lightened map will remain mostly unnoticed. But deep in me, the decision fell... we have to do it internationally. 30 years after he edited and published *Keltske študije* in a small regional museum, we have to present a second volume with the same title and dedicate it to his jubilee. Three decades after the pioneer work, we, his friends and students, have to demonstrate the progress in research triggered, inspired and mentored by Mitja Guštin.

To complete the picture on that grey concrete wall we decided to invite contributors to demonstrate the improvement, development and changes in our knowledge on the Late Iron Age on the territory between the Alps, the Pannonian plain and the central Balkans. Themes ranging from the eve of the Celtic occupation to their submission were used to demonstrate the two sides of our scientific discipline. On one hand the archaeological record discussed was used to demonstrate the inclusion of the discussed area into the Celtic world and its regional peculiarities. And on the other hand it demonstrated the long regional history of research of these subjects, which confirmed the importance of the previously conducted work for the European history of Celtic archaeology.

We hoped that our contributions, published in an prestige international series, will be just the white paint, but soon after receiving the first contributions we realised that the volume will be not only a dedication to a personal jubilee, but more a compliment to the sense that the honoured developed and unfolded to observe, present and explain the big and small phenomenon and problems of Celtic archaeology. The variety of themes received had one thing in common, they were all focusing on the subjects Mitja Guštin started in his research. I had the feeling as if we were addressing our dedication to a *demiurge*, a primordial name-giver as called by the Greek philosophers, who stood at the beginning and designated names to the objects observed. I realised that with the presentation of new facts and compilation of new knowledge we did not only change the future, we have also confirmed the importance and the value of the humble beginnings started long time ago.

In the end, of course we partly failed ... It took much more time to finish the book as we have thought it will be necessary. With it finished in my hands, images of the things we did not manage to include shoot through my mind and remind me to apologize to all affected. I hope it was worth waiting.

Boris Kavur

A (scientific) introduction

This Festschrift, in honour of Professor Mitja Guštin, has the ambition of providing fresh impetus to the in-depth scientific research of the Celts in the South-Eastern Alpine area and of the role this area played in the events of a wider region between the Channel and the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and northern Europe. It is in fact Guštin who is to be credited with pioneering the research of the Late Iron Age in the hinterland of the northern Adriatic and western Balkans. The two proceedings of international symposia (Celtic Studies / Keltske študije, Posavski muzej Brežice, 1977, 1984), which include Guštin's chronology of the Mokronog Group that remains topical to this day, on the one hand, and his presentation of the Iron Age graves with wagons, on the other, certainly represent an excellent foundation for future work. Part of this foundation is also the extensive review article entitled Celts in Yugoslavia (JbRGZM, 1984), the organisation and heading of the Keltoi Project, one of the most important exhibitions ever to be mounted in Slovenia (National Museum of Slovenia, 1983), and Posočje, the dissertation on the Idrija Group (KiM 1991), to limit ourselves with only the most prominent results of Guštin's scientific endeavour. The value of the said foundation is well illustrated below, by the findings published by the author.

Desiderata in this field of research are, of course, mounting, not least due to the unjustified marginalisation of the research into the La Tène period within the framework of the late prehistoric studies on the university level. Slovene archaeology also has old debts in this field, which include a monographic analysis of the Middle La Tène cemeteries at Dobova and Brežice as well as the auxiliary necropolis at Verdun pri Stopičah. An integral publication of the Mihovo cemeteries represents another and a particularly formidable task in terms of cost and organization, the realisation of which will apparently need to wait for more propitious times. Much is expected from the detailed analysis of the grave groups from Kapiteljska njiva in Novo mesto, which in its relation to the roughly contemporaneous Celtic cemeteries in the Brežice Gate may allow crucial insight into the merging of the indigenous Hallstatt population with the newcomers. The absence of systematic research into settlements in the past has been temporarily filled by the discoveries of numerous sites on the routes of motorways and other building sites across Dolenjska (Bič pri Zagorici), Štajerska (Celje and surroundings of Maribor and Ptuj) and Prekmurje (Kotare-Krogi). Among other things, these discoveries lift the veil of mist surrounding the first waves of Celtic immigration at the end of the 4th century and help to complete the settlement picture of the north-eastern Slovenia in the Late La Tène that has thus far been only poorly documented. Of no lesser importance are the individual discoveries in Gorenjska (place of cult near the church of St. John the Baptist at Bohinj, bipyramidal iron ingots from Lesce and the wider research of ferrum noricum) and the analyses of new as well as previously known sites from western Slovenia. Locations such as the hillfort at Golo Brdo above the Idrija River, sanctuary at Gradič pri Kobaridu, funeral site Most na Soči as well as settlements and siege sites in the regions of Cerkljansko, Idrijsko and primarily in Notranjska are of key importance for the study of the political and military history of the wider area of the Italo-Illyrian Gates in the last centuries BC. The same can be said of the eagerly awaited analysis of the extensive body of the newly uncovered Celtic and Roman Republican coins and its importance for the economic history. Of equal interest is the question of localising pre-Roman Nauportus and the Celtic presence in the Ljubljana basin, which will at least in part be illuminated by the publication of the settlement at Tribuna in Ljubljana, and an integral analysis of the complexes of the Late Iron Age material from the Ljubljanica River. In light of the above, we cherish the hope that the esteemed professor rededicates himself, with his unique research fervour, to the study problems, which he so successfully broached already as curator at the Posavje Museum in Brežice.

Andrej Gaspari

Warum „KELTSKE ŠTUDIJE II“? – Eine Art „organistatorische“ Einleitung

Oder : Über die (unerreichbare) Kunst, einer *Koryphäe* ihres Faches, die von sich selbst behauptet erst 23 Jahre alt zu sein, eine Festschrift aus Anlass ihres (nachgewiesenermaßen!) 60. Geburtstages zu widmen und dabei gleichzeitig sämtlichen Kollegen, Freunden und Schülern die Möglichkeit zu geben, zu Ehren des Jubilars einen Beitrag für dieselbige zu verfassen, wohlwissend, dass dieser der Idee „Festschrift“ grundsätzlich mit gewissen Vorbehalten gegenüber steht (Zitat Mitja Guštin : „*Festschriften sind nur etwas für alte Leute!*“).

Die Herausgabe einer Festschrift für verdiente Wissenschaftler ist – ganz abgesehen von den redaktionellen Problemen – für gewöhnlich mit einer Reihe von grundsätzlichen Vorgaben verbunden. So kann es mittlerweile als Usus, ja beinahe schon „ungeschriebenes Gesetz“ angesehen werden, bereits bei der Auswahl des Titels einen dermaßen großen fachlichen Spielraum zu eröffnen, der einer möglichst großen Anzahl an Kollegen, Freunden und selbst Schülern die Möglichkeit bietet, ihre Forschungsergebnisse in Form eines gewidmeten Aufsatzes gleichsam als Würdigung des Jubilars beizusteuern. Die Folge sind in der Regel äußerst umfangreiche, ja mitunter mehrbändige Festschriften mit einer derartig weitgefächerten – oftmals überhaupt nicht mehr in das angedachte Gesamtkonzept passenden – Themenspanne, bei der der Leser sich mitunter nicht des Eindruckes erwehren kann, dass die Herausgeber – für gewöhnlich bedarf es hier schon eines ganzen „Herausgeberteams“ – eher von einem „quantitativ-agonalen“, denn von einem qualitätsbezogenen Prinzip geleitet werden. Für den Gewürdigten bzw. die Gewürdigte gibt der Umfang „seiner“ bzw. „ihrer“ Festschrift zwar einerseits jeden Grund zum Stolz, spiegeln sich darin doch oftmals jahrzehntelange Kontakte und Freundschaften sowie das eigene Wirken als universitärer Lehrer und – durchaus nicht in allen Fällen! – das breitgefächerte Arbeits- und Interessensgebiet wieder. Andererseits – und das wird wohl keiner bzw. keine der dermaßen Gewürdigten verneinen können – ist eine Zunahme des Umfanges ohne Zweifel auch immer mit einer Einbuße an inhaltlicher Qualität verbunden.

Demgegenüber stellt sich die Herausgabe einer Festschrift für einen „Spezialisten“, d. h. für einen Wissenschaftler mit fachlich schwerpunktmäßig eingeschränktem, kompaktem Arbeitsgebiet als ein auf den ersten Blick vermeintlich einfacheres Unterfangen dar, da die primäre Beschäftigung mit einem speziellen Fachgebiet dabei von vornherein nur einen selektierten Kollegenkreis als potentielle Autoren nahezulegen scheint. Je spezialisierter sich das fachliche Arbeitsgebiet des Gewürdigten darstellt, desto selektiver kann – in der Theorie – das Thema bzw. der Titel der Festschrift gewählt werden und desto spezifischer (und fachlich höherwertiger) sollten demzufolge auch die entsprechenden Beiträge ausfallen. Dass auch dies in der Praxis nicht immer funktioniert, braucht wohl nicht erst betont zu werden. Zumindest vermag der Fall einer thematisch „eingeschränkten“ Festschrift ein umfangmäßiges Ausufern zu vermeiden!

In Anbetracht dieser Vorüberlegungen standen die Herausgeber der geplanten Festschrift für Mitja Guštin vor zwei Alternativen :

1. Sämtlichen Kollegen, Freunden und Schülern des Jubilars sollte die Möglichkeit geboten werden, ihre Forschungsergebnisse etc. in Form eines Aufsatzes beizusteuern. Im Hinblick auf das sowohl fachlich, als auch geographisch enorm breitgefächerte Interessens- und Arbeitsgebiet des Jubilars, wäre dabei von einer thematisch derart weitläufigen, vom Umfang her sicher mehrbändigen Festschrift auszugehen, die darüberhinaus Beiträge in mehreren Sprachen umfasst hätte. Diese Variante, die zwar allen Gratulanten die Möglichkeit zur Partizipation geboten hätte, wäre einerseits für unser personell doch nur schwach besetztes Redaktionsteam nicht bewältigbar gewesen, andererseits wäre damit in weiterer Folge auch ein unmittelbares Problem der Druckkostenfinanzierung verbunden gewesen.

2. Beschränkung auf ein fachliches Thema bzw. einen Titel, das bzw. der mit dem Jubilar in engsten Bezug gesetzt werden kann : Hierbei ergab sich durch Zufall eine bemerkenswerte zeitliche Koinzidenz : Abgesehen vom 60. Geburtstag des Jubilars stellte das Jahr 2007 auch den 30. Jahrestag des von Mitja Guštin herausgegebenen Standardwerkes zur keltischen Archäologie im Südostalpenraum „KELTSKE ŠTUDIJE“ dar. Diese glückliche „Terminkollision“ ermöglichte es uns als Herausgeber nun mittels einer „Fortsetzung“ dieses grundlegenden Sammelbandes eine entsprechende wissenschaftliche Würdigung des Jubilars auf seinem eigentlichen Forschungsinteressenskernegebiet zu erreichen. Ein besonderer Dank gilt in diesem Zusammenhang Michel Feugère, der sich als langjähriger Freund und Kooperationspartner des Jubilars sofort bereit erklärte, diesen Band in die Reihe „Protohistoire Européene“ aufzunehmen.

Unter den geschilderten Aspekten ist nun die vorliegende Arbeit „KELTSKE ŠTUDIJE II“ primär als eine „*Hommage*“ an die pionierhaften Forschungsarbeiten Mitja Guštins auf dem Gebiet der keltischen Archäologie zu werten, und nicht als „Festschrift“ im eigentlichen Sinne, für die der Jubilar (nach seinen eigenen Angaben) ja auch noch gar nicht das geeignete Alter erreicht hätte!

Ad multos annos!

Georg Tiefengraber



Most na Soči 2007



Petar Popović*

Scordisci on the Fringes of the Hellenistic World

Summary : The presence of the Scordisci in the upper course of the Južna (South) Morava River is confirmed besides some earlier finds also by abundant La Tène pottery discovered at the site Kale in Krševica near Bujanovac. The Scordisci in alliance with other Balkan barbarians used in the 2nd/1st century BC the abandoned 4th/3rd century acropolis as an important stronghold in their plundering raids in Macedonia and Greece. The heterogeneity of this alliance is illustrated by the pottery among which we encountered the coarse pottery of the autochthonous origin together with the Celtic pottery shapes. The proximity of and contacts with the civilized areas had an impact visible in the Celtic vessels inspired by the Hellenistic shapes. The stay of the Scordisci in the Južna Morava valley came to an end by all appearances as a consequence of the campaign of Scipio Asiagenes who expelled them in the eighties of the 1st century BC towards the north and their home territories.

Keywords : Central Balkans, Scordisci, Kale-Krševica, Late La Tène, 2nd–1st century BC

* Petar Popović
Arheološki institut
Knez Mihailova 35/IV
RS–11000 Beograd
E-mail : p.pop@yubc.net



Fig. 1 : Site Kacipup in the Village Oraovica (Photo 1978).

The connections of the Carpathian basin with the Aegean run along the Morava-Vardar valley, which was the unavoidable communication even in the time of the Celtic campaigns in the Balkans. According to the antique writers the historical events brought the Celts to these parts of the Hellenistic world at least on two occasions. It was the Celtic invasion, which ended in a defeat at Delphi in 279 BC and from the middle of the 2nd century BC the written sources mentioned the Scordisci and other Balkan barbarians plundering Roman territories in Macedonia and Greece. In both instances the archaeological confirmations of these events were rare or entirely lacking. It took quite a lot of time to acquire first data about the Celtic or La Tène finds in the valleys of Južna Morava and Vardar. We still have rather insufficient data about the Celtic invasion in the beginning of the 3rd century BC but thanks to the new investigations in the Južna (South) Morava valley we now have valuable information about the presence of the Scordisci in the areas, which were close to the civilized regions. Thus, the expansionist policy of the Roman Republic after the fall of Macedonia in 168 BC and establishing of the Roman province in 146 BC brought the conquerors closer to the central Balkan tribes.

The first rather important results were obtained in the end of 1970s after small excavations at the site Kacipup in the village Oraovica near Preševo not far from the present day FYR Macedonia border. The site had the characteristics of the hillfort settlement with a plateau and prominent ridge above the Oraovička River (Fig. 1). The settlement was established in the Early Iron Age but most significant layers with abundant pottery finds date from the end of Classical and Hellenistic period. There were discovered in the surface layers for the first time fragments of the La Tène vessels together with the fragments of the Hellenistic pottery. These are mostly various variants of the wheel-made bowls of “S” profilation, of gray color and with polished or smoothed surface (Fig. 2, 1–9). The second group comprises the handmade pots of simple shape, of coarse fabric and brown or dark gray color and they usually have shallow grooves and combed or wavy ornament (Fig. 2, 10–14). Because of the indecisive stratigraphic data this material was according to its main characteristics dated in the Late La Tène period, i. e. in the 2nd/1st century BC¹. In the meantime few metal objects were discovered by chance at this site and most significant are bronze fibula

¹ Vukmanović – Popović 1982, 201, 204.

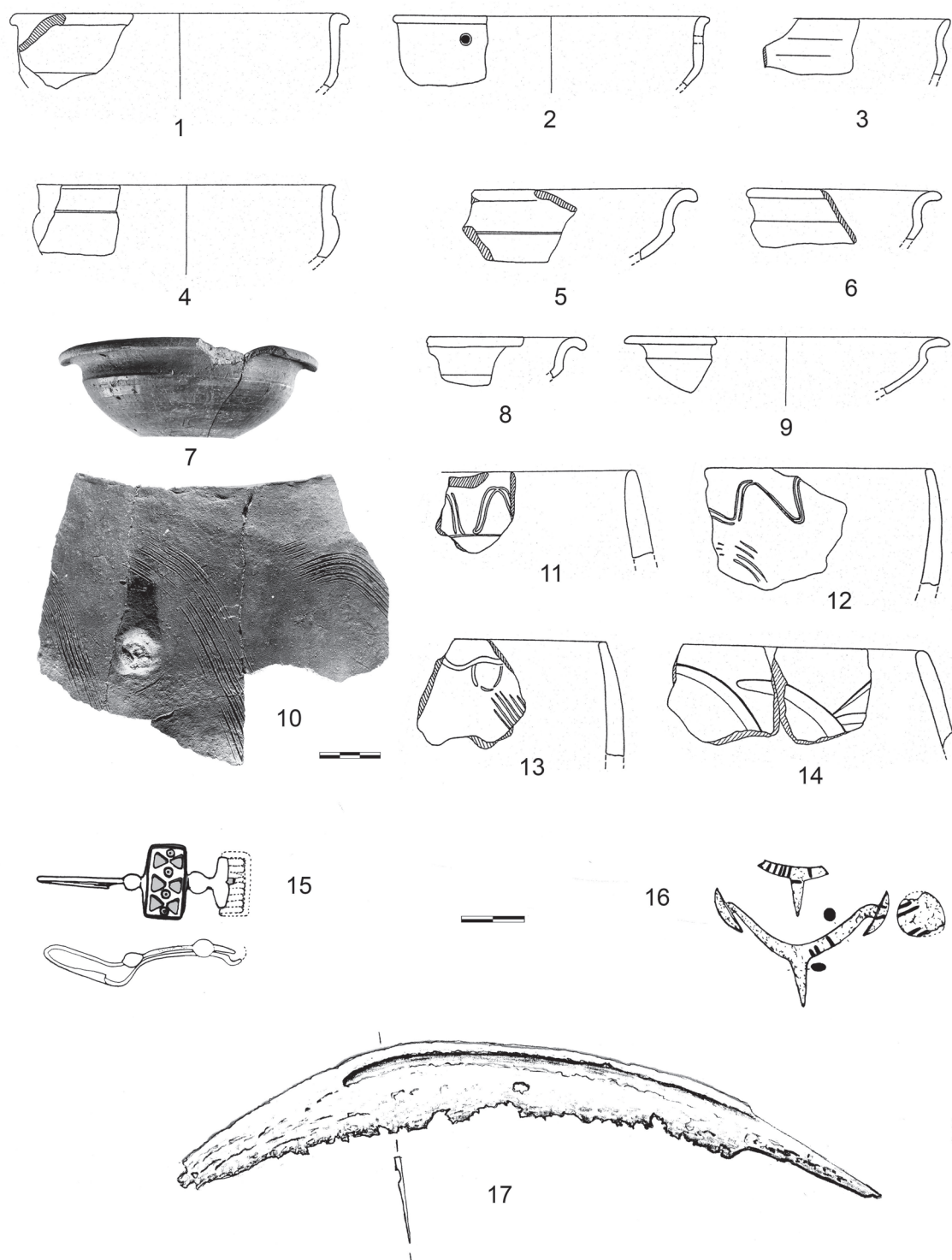


Fig. 2 : Kacipup-Oraovica : 1–14 Pottery (Scale 1 : 3), 15–17 Metal Objects (Scale 1 : 2).



Fig. 3 : Site Kale in the Village Krševica (Photo 2003).

of the Middle La Tène scheme decorated with enamel and an iron spur with still visible traces of red enamel (Fig. 2, 15–16)². The fibula, which is dated in the 2nd and the beginning of the 1st century BC, is of the “Zemun” type as most of the finds of this type were registered on the Danube bank upstream from Zemun³. The third object discovered at this site is curved iron knife, which is a frequent find on the La Tène sites throughout the Balkan Peninsula and is of no chronological relevance (Fig. 2, 17).

Thanks to the activities of the National Museum in Vranje few more La Tène sites were registered during the site survey of this region in the end of the last century. The bowls and pots resembling the finds from the site Kacipup were discovered in the Vranje periphery and rather small fragments with combed and broomstroke decoration were encountered in the Krševica River valley near the village Klinovac, within the monastery complex of St. Prohor Pčinjski and near the village Svinjište to the east of the Preševo valley⁴.

The excavations in the village Krševica near Bujanovac have started in 2001 and the intention was to investigate the settlement remains at the site Kale known earlier for the finds of Greek pottery dating from the 4th century BC⁵. The continuation of investigations of the section of acropolis and suburbium revealed that it is an outstanding site abounding in finds and with substantial remains of ramparts, buildings and other structures. All this looked like an urban settlement from the 4th and the first decades of the 3rd century BC⁶. Already in the first year of excavations one La Tène pit filled with pottery vessels was discovered on the plateau of the acropolis⁷. It was a sign that the La Tène period site, which was unknown before was situated above the village and the Krševica River valley (Fig. 3). It was confirmed in the following years when after investigating larger areas we discovered various pottery material from the 2nd/1st centuries BC that came from the surface layers, i. e. the features with concentration of vessels and pits dug into the earlier horizons. The zone with La Tène finds covered the southwest segments of the plateau and was restricted to an area between the approaching earthen barrow with broad defensive trench and the complex of

² Bulatović 2000, 326 f.; Popović 2002, 352 Pl. III, 1–2.

³ Popović 2002, 352 ff.

⁴ Bulatović 2000.

⁵ Mikulčić – Jovanović 1968.

⁶ Popović 2005a; Popović 2006, 523–532.

⁷ Popović 2005b, 78 Fig. 3–4.

buildings, which once constituted the central zone of the acropolis. It was difficult to distinguish the La Tène and Hellenistic horizon because until the late 1940s there was a vineyard, which because of the soil cultivation considerably damaged upper layers. Between the years 2001 and 2005 during the works on the acropolis have been discovered six pits mostly filled with many fragments of large vessels (Fig. 4) so their conservation and reconstruction is still in progress (because of large quantity of the material the priority was given to the representative and better preserved vessels from the 4th/3rd centuries BC). Therefore, on this very occasion I will discuss the main characteristics of the La Tène finds from Krševica that will, I hope, satisfy the interest for the Celts and the Mediterranean of my old friend Mitja Guštin.

The La Tène material was mostly concentrated within the acropolis while for the time being such material was not encountered on the slopes and at the foot of the site where once was located the larger part of the settlement. The largest quantity of the material are the pottery fragments from the pits so at present, thanks to the conservators we have at our disposal considerable collection of complete vessels. The characteristic of these pits is that they have heterogeneous contents consisting of Celtic, local and Hellenistic forms but certain distinctions are also conspicuous. The topic of this work is not the problem of the La Tène pits in Krševica but for the time being everything indicates that these were cult structures of great significance for the groups residing on the plateau. Thus, our intention is to establish by means of basic typological and chronological analysis the cultural-ethnic picture of this doubtlessly important site.

On the basis of the studied material from Krševica the Celtic forms look at first glance rather uniform and that could also be assumed for many Late La Tène sites. However, giving the problem more careful consideration, it is difficult to find closer analogies for many specimens so the impression is rather that it is very distinctive site. The different variants of the vessels of “kantharos” type are for instance frequent in the La Tène period but for our two specimens because of their elbow-shaped handles and to a certain extent the manner of decoration we could find just some similarities with the vessels from a grave from Ajmana in the Iron Gates⁸. There has been found among other things also the vine-drinking set so judging by its size (height 19.5 cm) this “kantharos” was more probably used as the Greek krater. Both “kantharoi” from Krševica, 21.5 cm and 20 cm high, could have had the same function (Fig. 5, 1–2). Another case is biconical bowls with short everted rim and frequently decorated with burnished ornament on the inside (Fig. 5, 7–10). Something similar was encountered on a few specimens from the earliest horizon at Gomolava⁹ but we should probably pay more attention to the bowls from the graves of the Middle La Tène period in the necropolis Pişcolt from the northeastern periphery



Fig. 4 : Kale-Krševica – Acropolis : La Tène pits 5/05 and 6/05 (Photo 2005).

of the Carpathian basin¹⁰. This could illustrate the connections between the earlier 3rd/2nd century forms and the appearance of new details like the burnished decoration. The variants of “S” bowls (Fig. 5, 11–13), rather large biconical vessels (Fig. 5, 6), Celtic pots with vertical grooves (Fig. 5, 5) or many pots of coarse fabric and of various size with combed, broomstroke or other ornaments (Fig. 6, 8–14) belong to the common repertoire of the Late La Tène forms from the settlements or graves within the wide territories inhabited by the Scordisci and their neighbors¹¹.

The group of finds from the southwestern periphery of the plateau belongs to a distinct category. It was shallow buried in the layer with earlier material and consisted of many vessels just partially damaged because of the earth pressure. This interesting content included the luxurious vessels as well as the coarse pots, one “Dacian” cup and fragmented fibula of the Middle La Tène scheme made of iron wire. Few of these vessels immediately draw our attention as similar combinations of Late La Tène and Hellenistic forms have not been known so far. One of the characteristic examples is a vessel of “kantharos” type made in the Late La Tène manner (two-handled beaker with burnished ornament) but on the high profiled foot typical for the Hellenistic forms (we should mention here also small bowl on the foot from the same area of the plateau) (Fig. 5, 18–19). There is also a bowl with matching lid that resembles the Greek lekane (Fig. 5, 20). Similar specimen from the necropolis Vajuga-Pesak in the Iron Gates could have arrived as well as our specimen from the south through the Hellenistic influences or from the Black Sea coast via the Danube valley¹². There are, finally, two vessels entirely alien to the La Tène shapes and obviously inspired by the “Megarian cups” characteristic of the end of the Hellenistic period (Fig. 5, 16–17)¹³. The other finds mostly belong to the standard shapes of the Late La Tène

¹⁰ Cf. Nemeti 1992, Fig. I, M. 10/10; 8, M. 60/3; 12, M. 80/5.

¹¹ See Sladić 1986; Jovanović – Jovanović 1988; Popović 2001.

¹² Popović 1991, Fig. 4, 3.

¹³ Cf. Romano 1994, Fig. 2, 9; Rotroff 1997, 113.

⁸ Stalio 1986, 32 ff. Fig. 41.

⁹ Jovanović – Jovanović 1988, T. I, 8; XXXIV, 3.

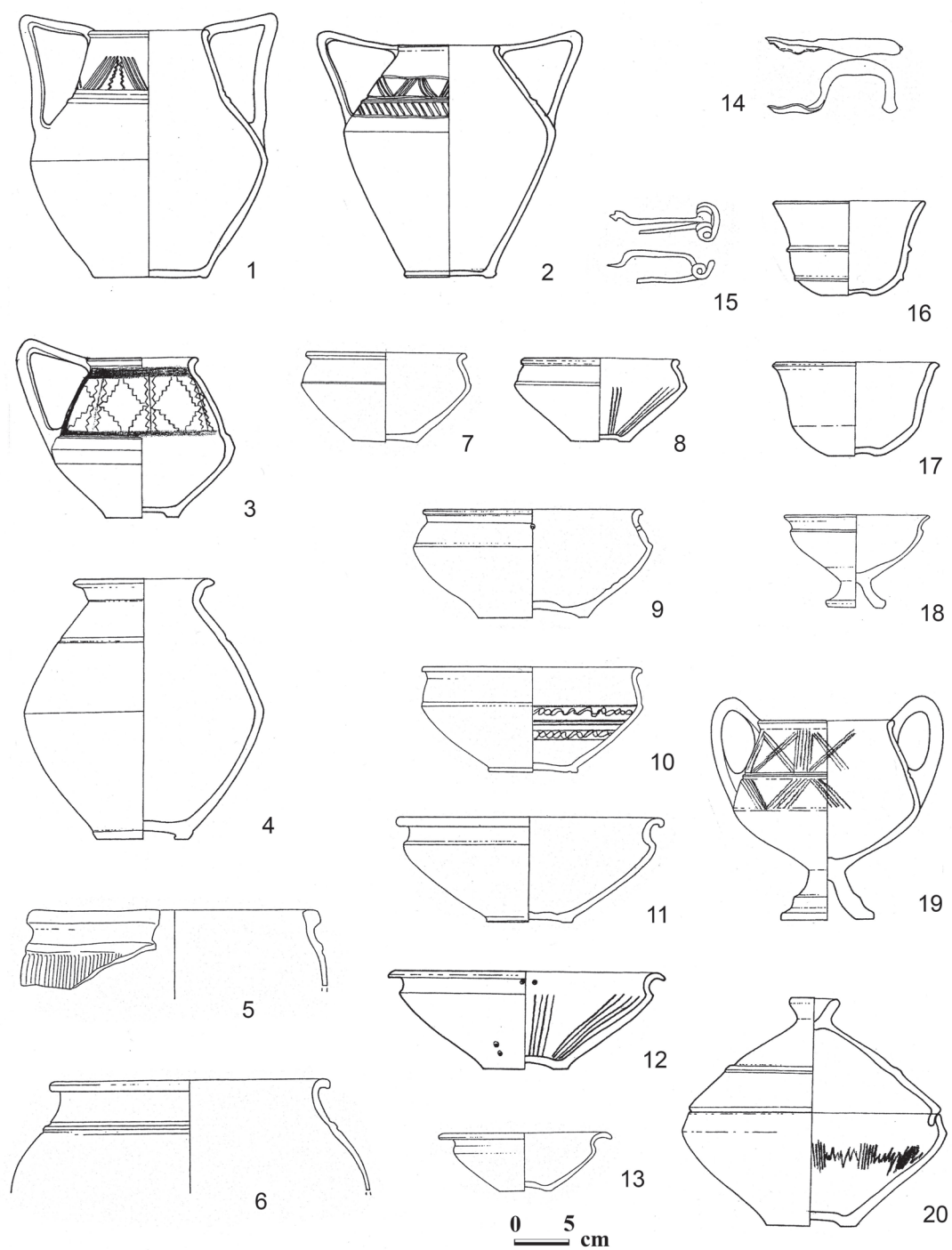


Fig. 5 : Kale-Krševica – Acropolis : 14–15 Metal Objects (Scale 1 : 2), 1–13 and 16–20 Pottery (Scale 1 : 5).

pottery including the single-handled jug with burnished decoration (Fig. 5, 3)¹⁴, biconical vessel with short slanting neck (Fig. 5, 4)¹⁵, bowls (Fig. 5, 8–12), coarse vessels and “Dacian” cup (Fig. 6, 1–4)¹⁶. The fibula with horizontal bow and two coils at each side regardless of rather poor state of preservation could correspond to the fibulas from the graves of the Middle La Tène period at Karaburma or Brestovik that have knobs on the foot and are of somewhat larger size (Fig. 5, 15)¹⁷. Just thanks to this specimen on one hand and mostly Late La Tène vessels on the other this group of finds could be generally dated in the second half of the 2nd and in the 1st century BC.

Another segment of the pottery from Krševica includes the vessels of poorly refined clay, handmade, usually of reddish to brown color and unevenly fired. These are simple shapes like single-handled beakers or conical bowls that by all appearances had not changed substantially since the Early Iron Age (Fig. 6, 1–2, 5–6). As an illustration could be mentioned the bowl with inverted rim (Fig. 6, 7). Similar specimens from the end of Early Iron Age were encountered on many sites in the Morava valley and the Danube valley¹⁸. The “Dacian” cups are common phenomena in the Late La Tène settlements of the Dacians, Scordisci and in the neighboring areas but their occurrence in this part of the Južna Morava valley was quite a surprise (Fig. 6, 3–4)¹⁹. Other vessels were generally the specimens of large size²⁰. It is obvious that potters were mainly inspired by the need to satisfy the basic purpose and that was a safe container for the collected food. In some instances these are the pithoi made after the Hellenistic models but mostly these were carelessly made but functional vessels whose aesthetic appearance was of no importance (Fig. 6, 15–16).

At the end of this part about the pottery it should be mentioned that Late La Tène material does not offer any more precise chronological framework so, considering the basic analogies the impression is that the plateau in Krševica had been used during the second half of the 2nd and in the 1st century BC. The same could be concluded for the site Kacipup near Preševu. If we now compare these results with the antique sources there is a possibility to reach certain more precise chronological data. For that matter, as we shall see later, of utmost significance is the famous campaign of L. Cornelius Scipio Asiagenes who in 84 BC inflicted a heavy defeat on the Scordisci and forced them “to withdraw to the Danube islands and the left Danube bank”²¹.

The plundering campaigns, which ensued from the middle of the 2nd century BC are described in detail and this is not the place to quote the sequence of these events, which

heavily affected Macedonia²². The Scordisci probably had the most important role in all that and in these joint enterprises they were mentioned besides the Thracians, Dardanians, Dacians and Triballi²³. One of the main routes to the south was running through the Južna Morava valley and in the upper course of this river were established the strongholds like Kale in Krševica and Kacipup near Preševu. These strategic points to the north of the Macedonia province borders were a permanent danger for the Roman interests and directly endangered the lives and goods of the local population. When during one campaign the Scordisci, Maedi and Dardanians invaded Greece the consequence was the resolute intervention of Scipio Asiagenes²⁴. We do not have many options concerning the location of this “decisive battle, which broke the offensive power of the Scordisci” as it could have happened only somewhere in their territories and it means in the area of the Preševu-Bujanovac plain. Furthermore, logical consequences according to this scenario would have been destruction or abandoning of these strongholds and final withdrawal of the defeated forces towards the home territories. From the archaeological point of view it would mean that pottery material from Krševica and Kacipup according to these data should be dated within more limited chronological framework, i. e. in the second half of the 2nd and the beginning of the 1st century BC. In brief, this should be the contribution to the confrontation of written and archaeological sources when the Late La Tène pottery chronology in the territories of the Scordisci is concerned and the time will show how justified it is.

The investigations in Krševica have revealed that in the vicinity of Južna Morava was situated well-organized settlement established in the beginning of the 4th century and existing until the first decades of the 3rd century BC. There is not enough data for the somewhat more precise dating of the end of life at this site as the latest coins are those of Demetrios Poliorketes (294–288) but much less chronologically relevant Hellenistic pottery suggests the wider span including as possibility also the first half of the 3rd century BC²⁵. This, perhaps, would not have been of particular importance if it was not for the well-known Celtic invasion just at the beginning of that century and that came to an end in 279 BC²⁶. This settlement, which was certainly along the one of the military routes was possibly destructed in some of the attacks of the Celtic warriors. The only find dating from that period is the fragment of an iron fibula of the variant of Duchcov type that was discovered on the acropolis together with the Hellenistic material (Fig. 5, 14)²⁷. Therefore, this question must remain open for the time being because the results of investigations so

¹⁴ Božić 1981, T. 5, 60; Guštin 1984, Abb. 15, 3.

¹⁵ Božić 1981, T. 5, 52; Guštin 1984, Abb. 16, 1.

¹⁶ See Jovanović – Jovanović 1988; Popović 2001.

¹⁷ Todorović 1972, Grave 34, T. XIV, 6; Popović 1994a, Fig. 11.

¹⁸ Cf. Srejić 1991, T. IV, 5; Potrebica – Dizdar 2002, 85 ff. T. 3, 9; Medović – Hänsel 2006, T. X, 5; Popilian – Nica 1998, Fig. 56.

¹⁹ Popović 2001, 87 f.

²⁰ Popović 2005b, Fig. 6–7.

²¹ Papazoglou 1978, 322 ff.; Šašel Kos 2005, 211.

²² Papazoglou 1978, 284 ff.

²³ Papazoglou 1978, 301 ff.; Popović 2005b; Šašel Kos 2005, 163.

²⁴ Papazoglou 1978, 314 ff.; Šašel Kos 2005, 203 ff.

²⁵ Popović 2007; Popović 2005a, 156.

²⁶ Papazoglou 1978, 271 ff.

²⁷ Cf. Jovanović 2007, 822 Sl. 2, B.

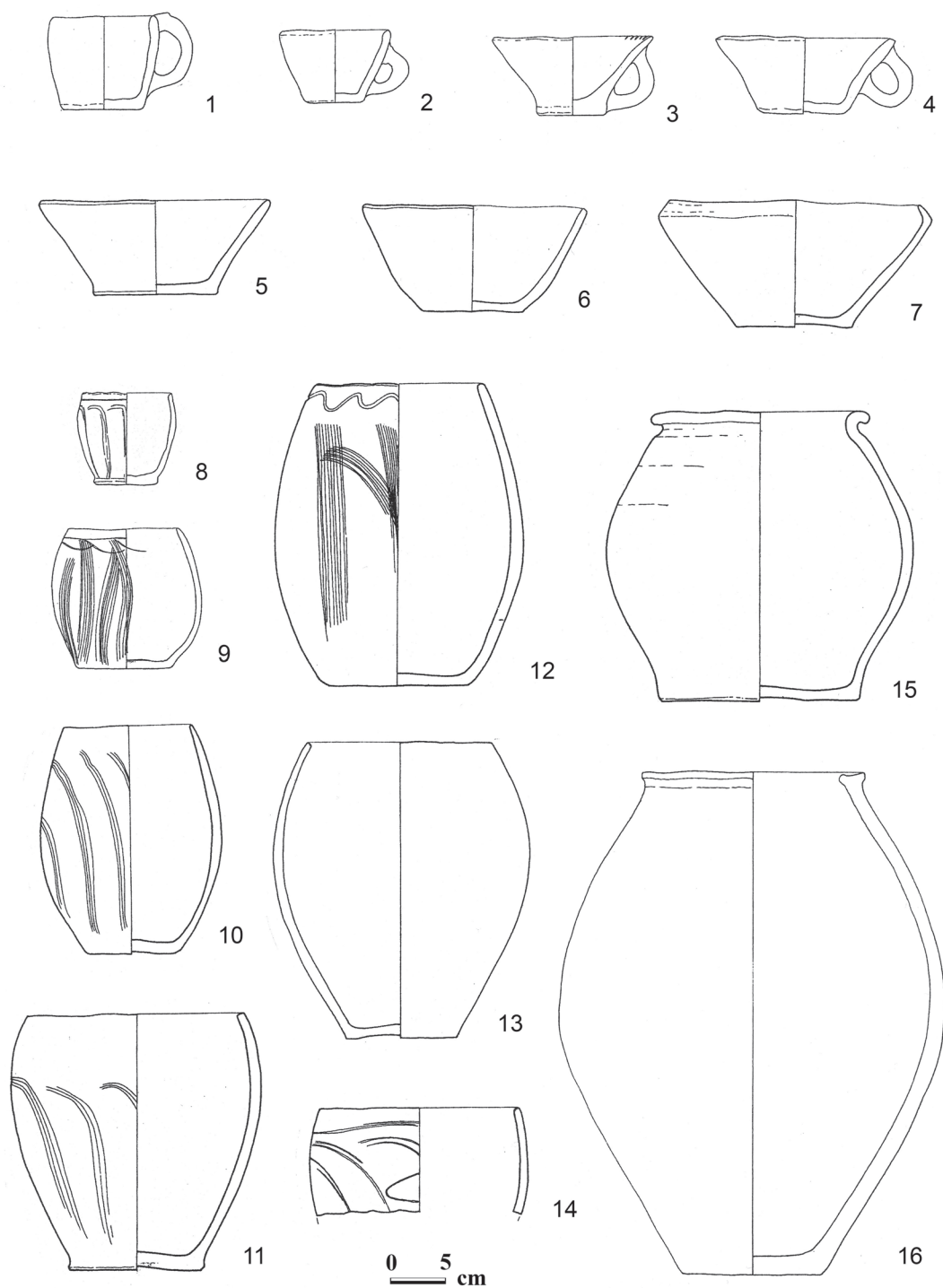


Fig. 6 : Kale-Krševica – Acropolis : Pottery (Scale 1 : 5).

far did not offer more convincing proof for the possible Celtic raging after which the settlement in Krševica has been abandoned.

Over a hundred years later the stronghold and refuge of the Balkan barbarians was established on the ruins of the antique acropolis. It had an excellent position with well protected plateau dominating the Vranje plain while in the immediate vicinity were two important communications, which opened the route to Macedonia. One was running southward along the Morava River and the other followed the Krševica River and the Pčinja River, which emptied into the Vardar River. The southwestern section of the plateau with concentration of the La Tène finds has been investigated only to a smaller extent so we do not have clear picture how this settlement looked like. It seems for the time being that it had been in use for rather long period of time although not continually but from time to time and when needed so only more detailed analyses of the material from the pits and further excavations in this sector could provide more detailed informations. When the diversity of vessels is concerned it is conspicuous that considerable amount of pottery is characteristic of the Scordisci, in some instances the Dacian forms could be recognized but the provenance of the handmade pottery, particularly the large size vessels, is difficult to determine because the material from the Early Iron Age in the central Balkans is not sufficiently known. Thus, we must ascribe these finds, relying on the information left by the antique writers, either to the neighboring Thracians or to Dardarians and Triballi.

The intrusions towards Macedonia did not leave so far any significant archaeological traces and as examples we could mention the pots with combed ornament from the vicinity of Skoplje²⁸ or the more recent finds from the site Glos near Grčište in the vicinity of Valandovo²⁹. The consequences of their stay in the south after they returned to Krševica could be illustrated by the Hellenistic pottery or the La Tène vessels made after certain Hellenistic models. This just indicates that the Scordisci spent a considerable time in this part of the Južna Morava valley and that they were not just warriors but there were among them also the skillful potters. In addition to the La Tène pottery the production of the local vessels, which as pithoi were used for the food storage was also of particular importance. The booty in these plundering raids was often wheat or some other kind of foodstuff so it is understandable why on return this food should have been safely stored for a certain period of time. It is interesting that metal objects have not been found in the course of excavation but this is still another of many questions facing us in the investigations in Krševica.

If the Scordisci were after the defeat in 84 BC expelled to the north the archaeological results reveal that this relates only to the area as far as the Grdelica gorge. Further to the north have been discovered many Late La Tène sites, which could be followed downstream of Grdelica along the Južna Morava valley towards the Velika Morava basin. The visible consequences of this event were probably the denser settling of the Scordisci in those areas.

Already in the vicinity of Leskovac there are the remains of the well-known Neolithic settlement Gradac where also Hellenistic and La Tène finds but without more precise stratigraphic data have been discovered³⁰. From Niš and its surroundings come the La Tène pottery from the Late Roman site Mediana as well as the chance finds from the sites Bubanj and Vrtište³¹. In Boljevac near Ribarska Banja were collected without any information many fragments of the metal objects : buckle, fibulas, vessels, spearheads, knives, scissors, spurs and horse harness as well as the Republican denarius from the year 101 BC³². In the course of archaeological excavations of the multi-layered site Lazarev grad in Kruševac have been found the fragments of “S” shaped bowls and coarse pots decorated with the sheaves of incisions³³. Also the pit with rather interesting inventory was recently found by chance in the village Rutevac. There were found few well-preserved and many fragmented vessels from the Late La Tène period. There were the bowls of “S” shape often with burnished ornament, pots with combed or broomstroke decoration but also one rare specimen for this region. It was the base and body fragment of the vessel made in a mold that resembles the “Megarian cup”, obviously brought from the south. In the vicinity was also found the Republican denarius from 83–82 BC that could be tentatively added to this group³⁴. Finally, we should mention two more sites, which are already in the Velika Morava basin. Thus, the La Tène pottery fragments were encountered in the village Maskare³⁵ and the large find of metal objects was discovered at the site Veliki Vetren on the Juhor Mountain. According to the published material there were discovered among other things also jewelry, weapons and many specimens of horse equipment dated in the end of 2nd and the beginning of the 1st century BC³⁶.

The presence of the Scordisci in the south of Serbia and their warrior campaigns in Macedonia was an episode in their history, which, as it seems today, covered the final decades of the 2nd and the beginning of the 1st century BC. The words of Appian (App. Ill. V. 14) about the victory of Scipio Asiagenes over the Scordisci looked like a catastrophe for this tribe but it could be understood just as exaggeration of the Roman victories as it was often the case with the ancient writers. Something that looks certain

²⁸ Pašić 1989, Sl. 15.

²⁹ I wish to express my thanks to the colleagues Dragi Mitrevski and Silvana Blaževska from the University of Skopje for providing me with this information.

³⁰ Vasić 1911, 107 Sl. 61–64.

³¹ Perić 2001; Stojić – Jocić 2006, T. LXXVII, 241; XVI, 66–68. 70. 71.

³² Stojić – Čadenović 2006, T. VIII, 21. 270–275.

³³ Stojić – Čadenović 2006, T. L, 103–106; Fig. 40–41.

³⁴ Stojić – Čadenović 2006, 306–312.

³⁵ Stojić – Čadenović 2006, T. LXXXII, 40–46.

³⁶ Stojić 2003.

is that thanks to this victory Romans managed to get rid of the enemy, which caused them many problems. Many years later the Scordisci once again plundered Macedonia but this time together with Denthetae. It happened in 16 BC and soon after that event Tiberius defeated the Scordisci and occupied the territories around the Sava and the Danube³⁷. The archaeological data, however, unambiguously demonstrate that in the 1st century BC their territories included the Danube valley and the Sava valley from the eastern Slavonia to the Iron Gates in the north and the Morava basin as far as the Grdelica gorge in the south³⁸. Thus, until the arrival of the Romans the Scordisci played a significant role in the history of this part of the Balkans.

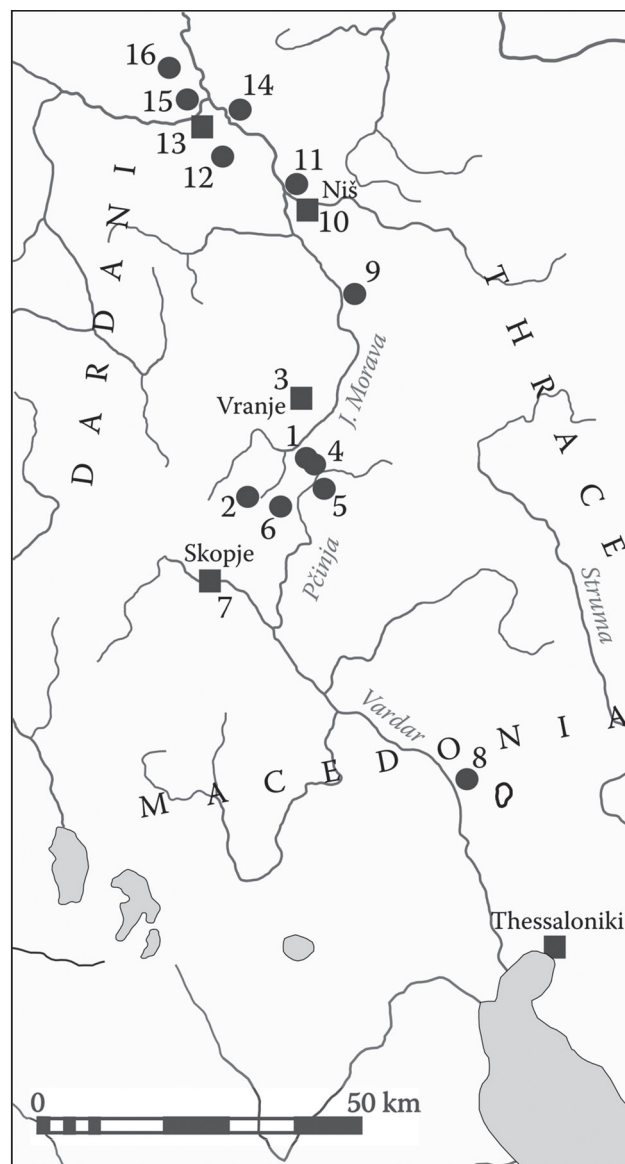


Fig. 7 : Map with the mentioned Sites : 1 Kale-Krševica, 2 Kacipup-Oraovica, 3 Vranje, 4 Klinovac, 5 Manastir Sv. Prohor Pčinjski, 6 Svinjište, 7 Skopje, 8 Glos-Grčište, 9 Gradac-Zlokučane, 10 Niš, 11 Vrtište, 12 Boljevac, 13 Kruševac, 14 Rutevac, 15 Maskare, 16 Veliki Vetren.

³⁷ Papazoglou 1978, 340 ff.; Šašel Kos 2005, 153 f.

³⁸ Popović 1994b.

Bibliography

Božić 1981 : D. Božić, Relativna kronologija mlađe željezne dobe u jugoslovaneskom Podonavju (Relative Chronologie der jüngeren Eisenzeit im jugoslawischen Donauraum), *Arheološki vestnik* 32, 1981, 315–347.

Bulatović 2000 : A. Bulatović, Latenski nalazi u Vranjsko-bujanovačkoj i Preševskoj kotlini, *Leskovački zbornik* 40, 2000, 323–333.

Guštin 1984 : M. Guštin, Die Kelten in Jugoslawien. Übersicht über das archäologische Fundgut, *Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums* 31, 1984, 305–363.

Jovanović 2007 : B. Jovanović, Srebrne naušnice u nakitu ranog latena Srpskog Podunavlja (Silver earrings in jewellery of the Early La Tène period in the Middle Danube Region), in : M. Blečić – M. Črešnar – B. Hänsel – A. Hellmuth – E. Kaiser – C. Metzner-Nebelsick (eds.), *Scripta praehistorica in honorem Biba Teržan*, *Situla* 44, 2007, 821–827.

Jovanović – Jovanović 1988 : B. Jovanović – M. Jovanović, Gomolava. Naselje mađeg gvozdenog doba (Gomolava. Late La Tène Settlement) (Novi Sad, Beograd 1988).

Medović – Hänsel 2006 : P. Medović – B. Hänsel, Die Srem-Gruppe – Nekropolen bei den Siedlungen der Bosut-Gruppe, in : N. Tasić – C. Grozdanov (eds.), *Homage to Milutin Garašanin* (Beograd 2006) 489–512.

Mikulčić – Jovanović 1968 : I. Mikulčić – M. Jovanović, Helenistički opidum iz Krševica kod Vranja (Oppidum hellénistique de Krševica près de Vranje), *Vranjski glasnik* IV, 1968, 355–375.

Németi 1992 : I. Németi, Necropola Latène de la Pişcolt, jud. Satu Mare. III, *Thraco-Dacica* XII 1–2, 1992, 59–112.

Papazoglou 1978 : F. Papazoglou, *The Central Balkan Tribes in Pre-Roman Times* (Amsterdam 1978).

Pašić 1989 : R. Pašić, Lokalitetot Gradište vo seloto Sredno Nerezi kaj Skopje (Gradište site in the village Sredno Nerezi near Skopje), *Macedoniae Acta Archaeologica* 10/1985–1986, 1989, 91–100.

Perić 2001 : S. Perić, Nalazi latenske keramike sa Medijane kod Niša (The Finds of La Tène Pottery from Mediana), *Zbornik Narodni muzej Niš* 10, 2001, 11–18.

Popilian – Nica 1998 : Gh. Popilian – M. Nica, *Gropşani, Bibliotheca Thracologica* XXIV (Bucuresti 1988).

Popović 1991 : P. Popović, Mlađe gvozdeno doba Đerdapa (The Late Iron Age of the Territory of Đerdap - Iron Gate), *Starinar* n.s. 40–41/1989–1990 (*Mélanges Milutin Garašanin*), 1991, 165–176.

Popović 1994a : P. Popović, Latenski nalazi iz Brestovika (La Tène Finds from Brestovik), *Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja* XV.1, 1994, 51–56.

Popović 1994b : P. Popović, The Territories of Scordisci, *Starinar* n. s. 43–44/1992–1993, 1994, 13–21.

Popović 2001 : P. Popović, La céramique de la Tène finale sur le territoires des Scordisques, *Starinar* n. s. 50/2000, 2001, 83–111.

Popović 2002 : P. Popović, Enamel and Scordisci, *Godišnjak – Jahrbuch. Centar za balkanološka ispitivanja* XXXII/30 (*Spomenica Alojza Benca*) (Sarajevo 2002) 349–361.

Popović 2005a : P. Popović, Kale – Krševica : investigations 2001–2004. Interim Report, *Zbornik Narodnog muzeja* XVIII.1, 2005, 141–174.

Popović 2005b : P. Popović, “cum a Scordiscis Dacisque premeretur”, in : H. Dobrzańska – V. S. Megaw – P. Poleska (eds.), *Celts on the margin : studies in European cultural interaction VII. cent. BC – I. AD. Essays in Honour of Zenon Woźniak* (Krakow 2005) 77–83.

Popović 2006 : P. Popović, Central Balkans between the Greek and Celtic World : Case Study Kale-Krševica, in : N. Tasić – C. Grozdanov (eds.), *Homage to Milutin Garašanin* (Beograd 2006) 523–536.

Popović 2007 : P. Popović, Numismatic Finds from Kale in Krševica, *Arheološki vestnik* 58, 2007, 415–421.

Potrebica – Dizdar 2002 : H. Potrebica – M. Dizdar, Prilog poznavanja naseljenosti Vinkovaca i okolice u starijem željeznom dobu (Contribution to Understanding Continuous Habitation of Vinkovci and its Surroundings in the Early Iron Age), *Prilozi Instituta za arheologiju u Zagrebu* 19, 2002, 79–99.

Romano 1994 : I. B. Romano, A Hellenistic Deposit from Corinth : Evidence from Interim Period Activity (146–44 B. C.), *Hesperia* 63/1, 1994, 57–104.

Rotroff 1997 : I. S. Rotroff, *The Athenian Agora : Hellenistic Pottery; Athenian and Imported Wheelmade Table Ware and Related Material*, Vol. XXIX (Princeton 1997).

Sladić 1986 : M. Sladić, *Keramika Skordiska*, Centar za Arheološka istraživanja, knjiga 6 (Beograd 1986).

Srejović 1991 : D. Srejović, Tribalski grobovi u Ljuljacima (Triballic graves in Ljuljaci), *Starinar* n. s. 40–41/1989–1990 (Mélanges Milutin Garašanin), 1991, 141–153.

Stalio 1986 : B. Stalio, Le site préhistorique Ajmana à Mala Vrbica, *Đerdapske sveske* III, 1986, 27–50.

Stojić 2003 : M. Stojić, Veliki Vetren. Arheološki institut. Posebna izdanja, knjiga 38 (Beograd 2003).

Stojić – Jocić 2006 : M. Stojić – M. Jocić, Niš. Kulturna stratigrafija praistorijskih lokaliteta u niškoj regiji (Cultural Stratigraphy of Prehistoric Sites in the Niš Region) (Beograd, Niš 2006).

Stojić – Čadenović 2006 : M. Stojić – G. Čadenović, Kruševac. Kulturna stratigrafija preistorijskih lokaliteta u zoni stava Zapadne Morave i Južne Morave (Cultural Stratigraphy of Prehistoric Sites in the Kruševac Region) (Beograd, Kruševac 2006).

Šašel Kos 2005 : M. Šašel Kos, Appian and Illyricum, *Situla* 43, 2005.

Todorović 1972 : J. Todorović, Karaburma I – nekropola mlađeg gvozdenog doba, *Dissertationes et Monographiae* XIII (Beograd 1972).

Vasić 1911 : M. Vasić, Gradac. Praistorijsko nalazište latenskog doba, *Glasnik Srpske kraljevske akademije* LXXXVI, 1911, 97–134.

Vukmanović – Popović 1982 : M. Vukmanović – P. Popović, Sondažna istraživanja gradinskih naselja na području Vranjsko - preševske kotline (Les recherches de sondage des agglomérations fortifiées de type “gradina” dans la région de la vallée de Vranje-Preševo, Serbie du Sud), *Godišnjak Centra za balkanološka ispitivanja* XX/18, 1982, 189–210.