

BRACELETS WITH SPLAYED ENDS AND DECORATED APPLIQUÉS IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE AVAR PERIOD (7TH–8TH CENTURIES AD)

NEW DATA ON THE RELATIONS OF AVAR ARTEFACTS WITH NORTHERN ITALY AND THE ALPINE REGION

The subject of the present paper is a particular group of Middle and Late Avar bracelets, that despite their rare occurrence can be defined well. These objects have hollow splayed ends. Thin sheets with beaded trims and/or ribs cover the appliqués. In many cases, lead filling can be observed at the thinnest part of the object, increasing their weight and preventing it from breaking easily. The first specimens were published in the 1960s dealing with those from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Austria. However, their detailed evaluation is still awaiting.

AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF RESEARCH

The first mention of this type of bracelet is associated with I. Kovrig, who summarized previous knowledge about them on the basis of the pair of bracelets found in grave 184 of the Alattyán cemetery (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county/HU). Nevertheless, similar to the later works of past researchers, she dealt not only with the type examined below, but mentioned all kinds of bracelets with splayed ends from the Late Avar period, regardless of their manufacturing technique. Among them, only the examples from Pilismarót (Komárom-Esztergom county/HU) and Vasasszonyfa (Vas county/HU) – previously known as Nagyasszonyfa – belong to the group of bracelets with appliqué decoration. She cited Bavarian and Alemannic analogies, pointing out the western connections of this object type (Kovrig 1963, 168–169). Z. Čilinská, based on the research of Kovrig, did not differentiate between the bracelets with splayed ends; her list even included the pieces from the Early Avar period. The jewellery found in grave 245 at Nové Zámky/SK was dated to the early phase of the cemetery by her (Čilinská 1966, 154–155). A. Lippert traced back the bracelets with beaded trim-ornamented, splayed ends to Roman workshop traditions (Lippert 1969, 48–49). Čilinská, in her work on Avar female jewellery, classified the type examined below to Group II, together with the different types with splayed ends. Regarding the oval earrings with bead pendants that appeared in some graves, she emphasized that, while such bracelets are dated in Western Europe to the second half of the 7th century, they remained in fashion even in the 8th century in Avar territories. Beside the above-mentioned Merovingian analogies, Čilinská connected the Avar-age examples with the bracelets with splayed ends from the Great Migration Period as well (Čilinská 1975, 83–84).

The object type was discussed in some detail by A. Distelberger, who argued that they are evidence of a connection between West Pannonia and the East Alpine region. His valuable observation is that these bracelets show a similar distribution to the Biringen-type belt sets (Distelberger 2004, 20). Unlike previous works, he listed only the specific type of bracelets that is also the subject of the present study. Distelberger

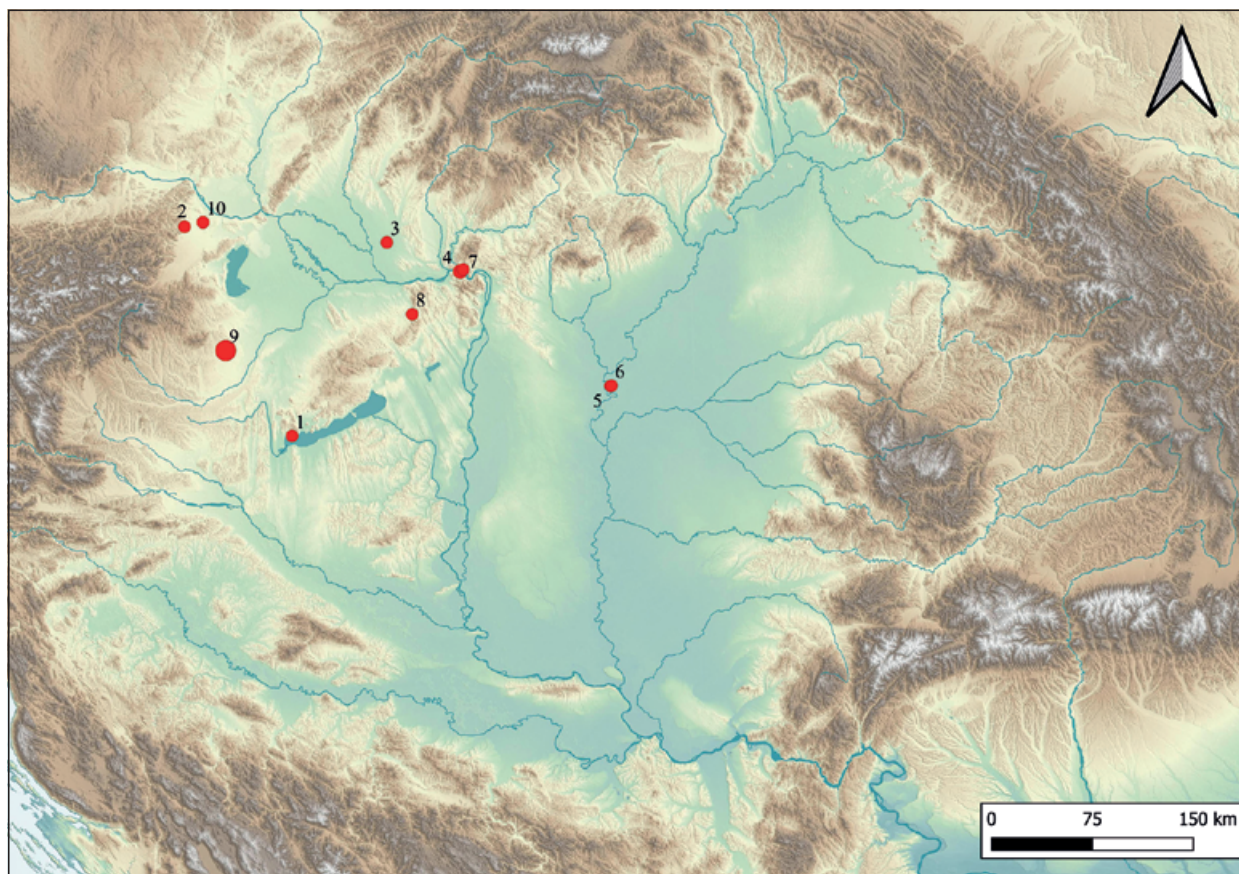


Fig. 1 The distribution of the bracelets examined in the Carpathian Basin. For the numbers, see **tab. 1**. – (Map B. Gulyás).

noted with regard to the dating that they were in use from the end of the Middle Avar period until the second half of the Late Avar period (Distelberger 2004, 20). G. Cseh provided the most detailed analysis of the object type and produced significant results. She observed that the fundamental difference between the bracelets with splayed ends in the Early and Late Avar period is that the former were mainly of silver, while the latter were exclusively of bronze. The terminals of the Late Avar specimens have smaller diameters and the thin central part is also hollow. She emphasized the pseudo-granulations and rims as typical decorations. Cseh, as well as the previous researchers, looked for Late Antique antecedents (Cseh 2011, 179–180).

DISTRIBUTION

The bracelets examined rarely occur in the Carpathian Basin (**fig. 1**; cf. **figs 3–5**), the published specimens are listed in **table 1**.

As can be observed from the locations of the above-mentioned sites, they form four territorial groups. The first one contains the cemeteries on the western edge of the Avar Kaghanate, like Mödling/AT, Vasszonyfa and Zwölfaxing (Bez. Bruck an der Leitha/AT). The sites in northeast Transdanubia (Pilismarót, Szob [Pest county/HU], Tatabánya [Komárom-Esztergom county/HU]) form the second group. Based on the overall view of the assemblage, the Nové Zámky specimen belongs to this as well. According to our present knowledge, the bracelet from Gyenesdiás (Zala county/HU), in the western part of Lake Balaton, is the sole

	site	grave no.	amount	picture	reference
1	Gyenesdiás-Avar vezér utca (Zala county/HU)	168	2	fig. 3, 5	Müller 2019, 95 fig. 103
2	Mödling-An der Goldenen Stiege (Bez. Mödling/AT)	526	2	fig. 3, 1–2	Distelberger 2004, 82 fig. 4
3	Nové Zámky (okr. Nové Zámky/SK)	245	2	fig. 4, 5–6	Čilinská 1966, 51. 287 pl. XLV, 245, 11–12
4/1.	Pilismarót-Basaharc (Komárom-Esztergom county/HU)	stray finds 1938	2	fig. 5, 3–4	Fettich 1965, 10. 16 fig. 13, 1–2
4/2.	Pilismarót-Basaharc (Komárom-Esztergom county/HU)	22	2	fig. 5, 5	Fettich 1965, 19. 22 fig. 22, 3–4
5	Rákóczifalva-Bagi földek, site 8 (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county/HU)	5	2	fig. 4, 1–2	Schmid 2015, 128–129. 210 pl. 10, 10–11
6	Rákóczifalva-Bagi földek, site 8a (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county/HU)	221	2	fig. 4, 3–4	Mácsai 2012, 137–138 pl. 55, 221, 5. 7
7	Szob (Pest county/HU)	141*	2	fig. 3, 6	Bakay 1975, 283–284 figs 64–65
8	Tatabánya-Síkvölgypusztá (Komárom-Esztergom county/HU)	15	2	fig. 5, 1–2	Cseh 2011, 175–176. 190 pl. 7, 1–2
9/1.	Vasasszonyfa (Vas county/HU)	132	2	-	Distelberger 2004, 20
9/2	Vasasszonyfa (Vas county/HU)	140	2	-	Distelberger 2004, 20
9/3	Vasasszonyfa (Vas county/HU)	stray finds 1920–1925	8	-	Distelberger 2004, 20
10	Zwölfaxing (Bez. Bruck an der Leitha/AT)	194	2	fig. 3, 3–4	Lippert 1969, 155 pl. 68, 11. 18

Tab. 1 Overview table of the specimens from the Carpathian Basin.

* K. Bakay described the pair of bracelets as grave goods from the double burial 139–140. However, in the table the grave number 141 is given. This is supported by the drawing of the grave, which does not depict a multiple burial. The description of grave 141 is missing, therefore, it is likely that the parts mentioning the finds from grave 139–140 and the general information on grave 141 are absent (cf. Bakay 1975, 283–284).

find in this region, therefore, it is the only piece in the third group. Lastly, the examples from the two cemeteries in Rákóczifalva (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county/HU) belong to the fourth one.

Examining the number of bracelets in the sites, it can be noted, that only one pair appears in almost every cemetery. One of the exceptions is Pilismarót, where there are two identical stray finds that were found most probably in the same grave. Additionally, grave 22 contained a pair of similar pieces, however, they were accompanied by a pair of cast bronze bracelets with a punched decoration. Regarding the distribution of the bracelets with splayed ends, the cemetery of Vasasszonyfa is of outstanding importance, since a total of six pairs of such items were allegedly found there¹.

TYPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SPECIMENS IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

The fact that the bracelets from Vasasszonyfa are still unpublished makes the examination of this type of jewellery from the territory of the Avar Kaganate difficult. As mentioned before, G. Cseh observed that these bracelets were without exception made of bronze (Cseh 2011, 179). However, the Szob specimens

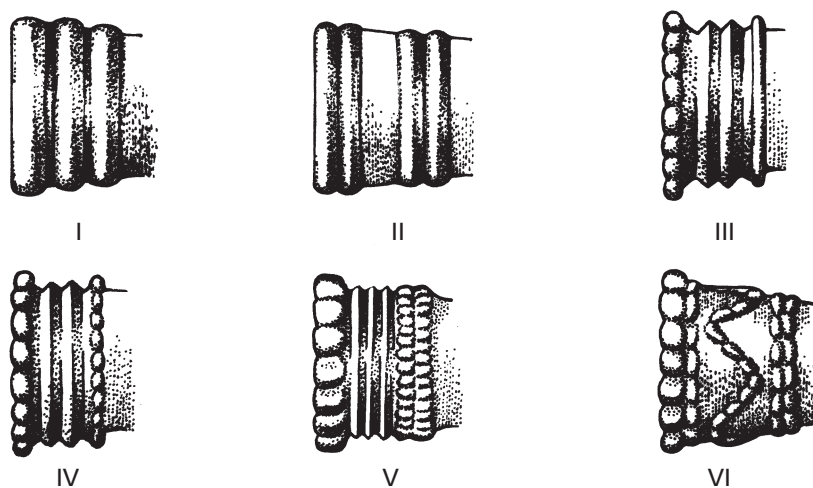


Fig. 2 Variants of the ornamentations at the ends of the bracelets, redrawn by Z. Hrabák. – (I after Mácsai 2012; II after Fettich 1965; III–IV after Čilinská 1966; V after Daim et al. in print; VI after Cseh 2011). – Not to scale.

published by K. Bakay, based on the description, were made of silver (Bakay 1975, 283). The lead filling inside the thinnest part of the bracelets was described by Cseh (Cseh 2011, 176). This feature is clearly visible on the items from Pilismarót as well².

Several groups can be distinguished based on the decoration of the appliqués on the ends of the bracelets (fig. 2). The examples from the Rákóczifalva cemeteries are ornamented only with three ribs (Type I). A related variant of this can be observed on one of the stray finds from Pilismarót, where there is a double rim on the edges of the appliqué (Type II). One of the Nové Zámky specimens and the other stray find from Pilismarót form a separate group. There are a large beaded trim and three ribs on the ends of these (Type III). The second bracelet from Nové Zámky and the item from grave 22 at Pilismarót are ornamented with a large beaded trim on the outer edge, a smaller one on the inner side with two ribs between them (Type IV). A twofold beaded trim on the inside edge is typical of their advanced version (Type V). This can be observed on the specimens from Mödling, Zwölfaxing, Gyenesdiás and Szob. Finally, the bracelets from Tatabánya can be mentioned. In these cases, two rows of pseudo-granulations on the outer and double trims on the inner edge enclose a zigzag motive (Type VI).

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE ASSEMBLAGES CONTAINING THE EXAMINED BRACELETS

There is a consensus among the researchers that these bracelets appeared at the turn of the Middle and the Late Avar periods, around the last quarter of the 7th century and they were still in use even in the 8th century in the Carpathian Basin (Čilinská 1975, 83). A. Distelberger determined the relative chronological positions of the examples from Austria and Slovakia, however, he did not go into details (Distelberger 2004, 20)³. In the following, I will attempt to give the exact chronology of each specimen. This is not possible in every case, since some bracelets of Vasasszonyfa and Pilismarót found in 1938 are without any context and the assemblages of grave 141 at Szob, graves 132 and 140 in Vasasszonyfa and grave 168 at Gyenesdiás are only partially published⁴.

The round earring ornamented with seven beads found in grave 5 at Rákóczifalva, Site 8 is traditionally dated to the Middle Avar period (Schmid 2015, 210 pl. 10, 9. 13). Its golden prototypes were found in the wealthier burials of this period, the so-called Tótipuszta-Igar group (Fejér county/HU; Garam 2001, pl. 11, 5–6). A. Pásztor examined the earrings with radially arranged bead pendants and she observed that those

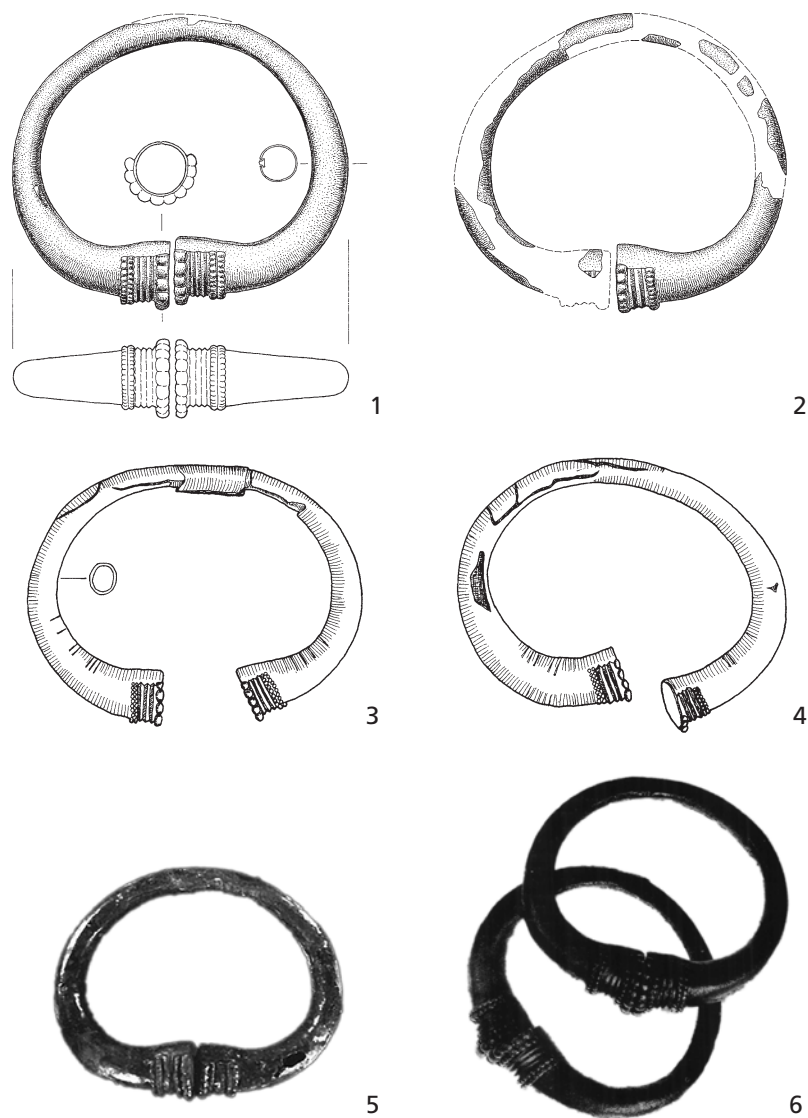


Fig. 3 Specimens examined from the Carpathian Basin 1: **1–2** Mödling, Grave 526. – **3–4** Zwölfaxing, Grave 194. – **5** Gyenesdiás, Grave 168. – **6** Szob, Grave 141. – (1–2 after Daim in print; 3–4 after Lippert 1969; 5 after Müller 2019; 6 after Bakay 1975). – Not to scale.

examples that occurred with melon beads can be dated to the end of the 7th and to the 8th century, as in the case of Rákóczifalva (Pásztor 1986, 128–129).

The pair of earrings from grave 526 of Mödling are identical to the Rákóczifalva specimen. Beside them, the burial contained a necklace of black and light yellow millet-shaped beads. This type can be dated to a broader period between the last third of the 7th and the end of the 8th century (Pásztor 2003, 334). However, they were in fashion together with the earring with radially arranged bead pendants at the end of the 7th century (Pásztor 1986, 128).

There was a round earring with a round black bead pendant in grave 221 at Rákóczifalva, Site 8a, which belongs to the earlier period of such jewellery. They became common in the third and fourth periods of the Tiszafüred cemetery (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county/HU), which can be dated to the end of the 7th and the early 8th century (Garam 1995, 278). Z. Čilinská classified the earrings similar to the Rákóczifalva specimen to the type IX/A, which she dated to the second half or last third of the 7th century (Čilinská 1975, 78). There were spherical and millet-shaped black, as well as blue and translucent melon beads on the necklace (Mácsai 2012, II, 137). The spherical ones appeared in the cemetery at Székkutas (Csongrád-Csanád

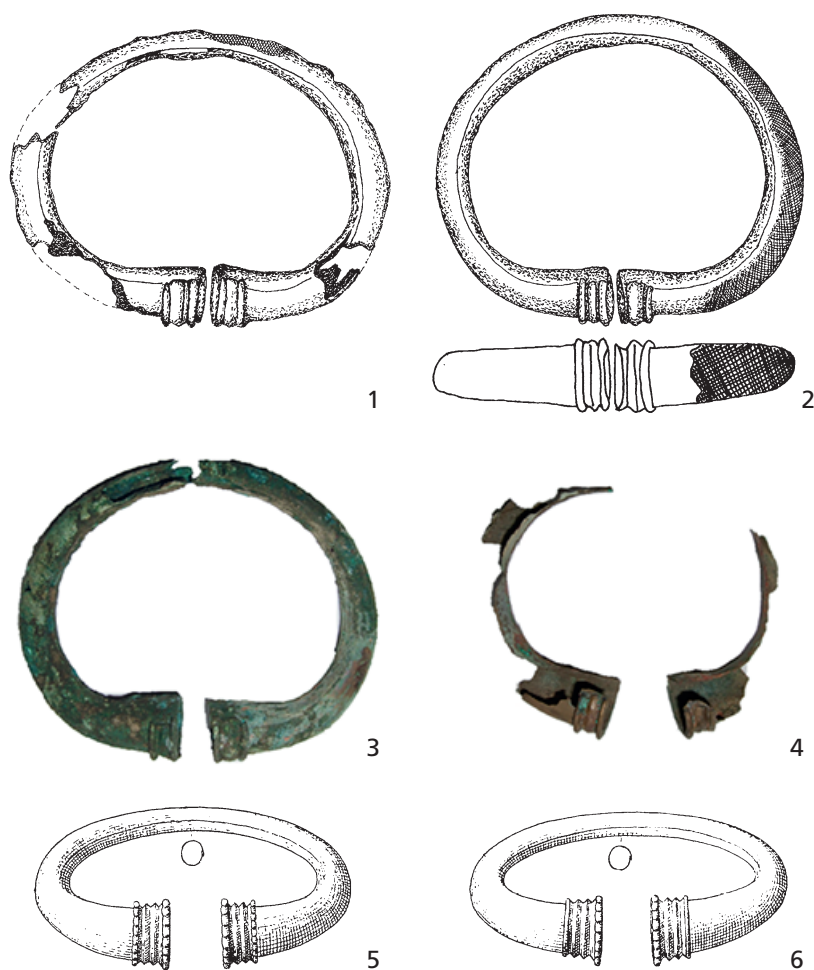


Fig. 4 Specimens examined from the Carpathian Basin 2: **1–2** Rákóczifalva-Bagi-földek, Site 8, Grave 5. – **3–4** Rákóczifalva-Bagi-földek, Site 8a, Grave 221. – **5–6** Nové Zámky, Grave 245. – (1–2 after Mácsai 2012; 3–4 after Schmid 2015; 5–6 after Čilinská 1966). – Not to scale.

county/HU) in the first third of the 8th century (Pásztor 2003, 333). This evidence supports the opinion of V. Mácsai, who classified the grave to phase IV between 700/710–730/735, based on the grave goods and the position within the cemetery (Mácsai 2012, 95).

Grave 194 of Zwölfaxing can be dated on the basis of two types of items. There were earrings with granulated barrel-shaped pendants on both sides of the skull (Lippert 1969, 155). The forerunner of this type is known from grave 1 in Gyenesdiás, which was dated to the Middle Avar period by R. Müller (Müller 2019, 86). The needle cases made of iron are traditionally considered to be one of the latest types of objects within the Avar period (Szóke 1992, 885; Garam 1995, 338). However, they seem to have appeared as early as the Middle Avar period in the Vienna Basin. This is indicated by the fact that this type was found together with an earring with an elongated, movable pendant in grave 35 of the Sommerein cemetery (Bez. Bruck an der Leitha/AT; Daim/Lippert 1984, 284 pl. 26)⁵. These support the dating of the assemblage to the end of the Middle Avar and the beginning of the Late Avar period, as was suggested by A. Distelberger (Distelberger 2004, 20).

The oval earrings with bead pendants, which have a small side ring of a bead-imitated wire, help us to date the grave at Tatabánya (Cseh 2011, 190 pl. 7, 4). Z. Čilinská classified such pieces to type X and dated them to the 8th century (Čilinská 1975, 79–80). É. Garam thought that these earrings appeared in the Tiszafüred cemetery in the second half of the 8th century (Garam 1995, 280).

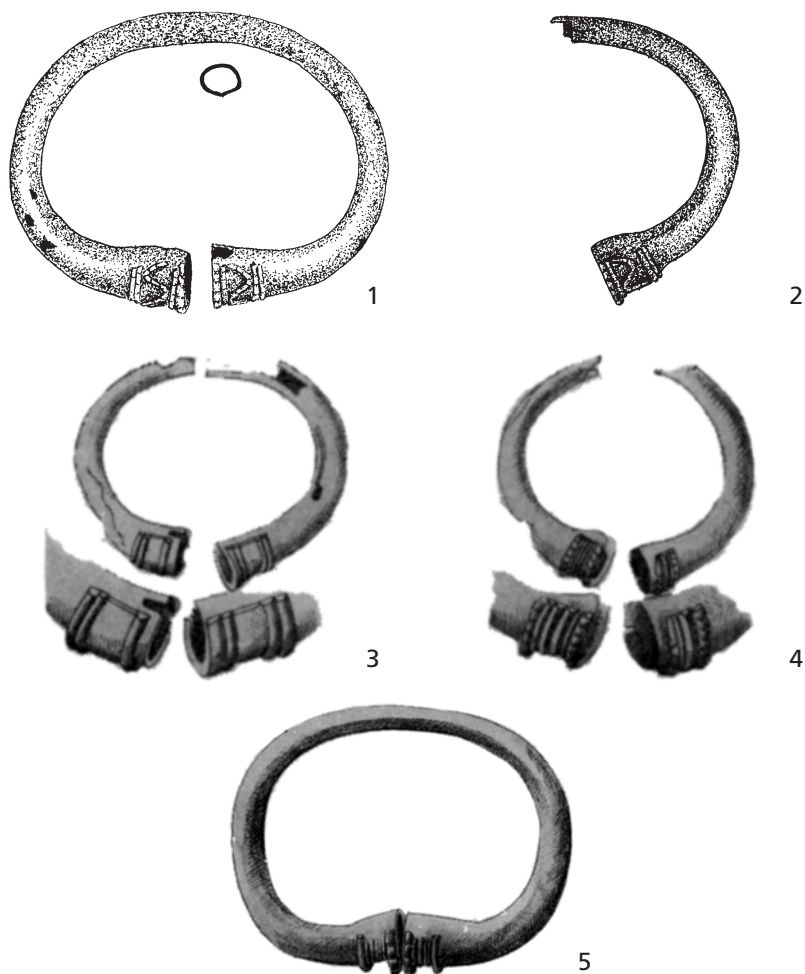


Fig. 5 Specimens examined from the Carpathian Basin 3: **1–2** Tatabánya-Síkvölgypuszta, Grave 15. – **3–4** Pilismarót-Basaharc, finds from 1938. – **5** Pilismarót-Basaharc, Grave 22. – (1–2 after Cseh 2011; 3–5 after Fettich 1965). – Not to scale.

Similar earrings were found in grave 22 at Pilismarót (fig. 6; Fettich 1965, 19 fig. 22, 1). The late dating of the assemblages was supported by the black beads with drizzled, yellow decoration and amphora-shaped beads as well (Fettich 1965, 19 fig. 23, 39–50). B. M. Szőke linked these types to the youngest horizon of Avar female fashion, dating them to the turn of the 8th–9th centuries (Szőke 1992, 874–881). Based on the observations of A. Pásztor, the late version of beads with bulges and those with drizzled decoration were in use in the second half or at the end of the 8th century in the Székkutas cemetery (Pásztor 2003, 351). The bronze band ring with punched zigzag motif found in the Pilismarót grave is also typical for the latest Avar graves (Szőke 1992, 871).

Grave 245 of the Nové Zámky cemetery might have contained two oval earrings with bead pendants probably connected by a chain. Additionally, small cylindrical and several large melon beads were found in the burial. In one of the latter type there was a small bronze tube (Čilinská 1966, 51). The precise determination is difficult due to the lack of a detailed description. Based on the typology of A. Pásztor, the flat, drop-shaped melon beads are the nearest analogies, they were dated to between the first half of the 8th and the first third of the 9th century (Pásztor 2003, 340). The remarks of B. M. Szőke are the most important regarding the simple band ring found in the assemblage. According to him, this type already appeared in the 7th century in the Carpathian Basin, but their fashion peaked in the 8th century (Szőke 1992, 871). Therefore, the grave can be dated to the middle or the second half of the 8th century, albeit based on incomplete information⁶.



Fig. 6 Grave 22 of Pilismarót-Basaharc. – (Photos B. Takács / Zs. Básti). – Scale 1:2.

This is broadly in line with the dating proposed by A. Distelberger, who connected the grave to phase SpA III of J. Zábójník (Distelberger 2004, 20).

Based on the evidence mentioned above, the bracelets with splayed ends and appliqué appeared at the end of the Middle or at the beginning of the Late Avar period. The first examples are from the Vienna Basin and the Gyenesdiás bracelet probably belongs to the earliest. The two pairs from Rákóczifalva can be dated immediately after this, at the very beginning of the Late Avar period. The finds from Pilismarót, Tatabánya and Nové Zámky appeared much later, only in the second half of the 8th century. These chronological differences can also be detected for the various types in terms of their design. The Lower Austrian bracelets belong to Type V, while the specimens from Rákóczifalva represent Type I. In contrast, Types II, III, IV and VI are known from northeast Transdanubia and Slovakia⁷. This may indicate that they originally appeared in the Carpathian Basin with a uniform style and the individual decoration of the appliqués became characteristic only at the end of the Avar period.

THE ORIGIN OF THESE BRACELETS

As already pointed out, the alleged western origin of the bracelets with splayed ends and appliqué decoration appeared in the earliest works (fig. 7). The bracelets from Klettham (Lkr. Erding/DE) and Oberfinning



Fig. 7 Distribution of the bracelets with splayed ends: **1** Castellarano-Via Cusna. – **2** Castellarano-Viale della Pace. – **3** [Reggio Emilia]. – **4** Guidizzolo. – **5** Säben. – **6** Leoben. – **7** Gyenesdiás. – **8** Mödling. – **9** Nové Zámky. – **10** Pilismarót-Basaharc. – **11** Rákóczi-falva-Bagi-földek, site 8. – **12** Rákóczi-falva-Bagi-földek, site 8a. – **13** Szob. – **14** Tatabánya-Síkvölgypuszta. – **15** Vasasszonyfa. – **16** Zwölfaxing. – (Map B. Gulyás).

(Lkr. Landsberg am Lech/DE) or Gauting (Lkr. Starnberg/DE) in Bavaria published by H. Bott differ from the type examined in the Carpathian Basin, both in terms of their manufacturing technique and their decoration. The examples from Bavaria are cast and beside the beaded trim, they are decorated with wavy lines and almandine inlays⁸.

O. von Hessen formulated his particular theory about the grave discovered at Castellarano (prov. Reggio Emilia/IT), Via Cusna in Northern Italy (**fig. 8, 1–2**). Based on Avar analogies of the bracelet and the rings with glass inlay, he suggested that the woman buried there originated from the Carpathian Basin and came to the Langobard territory by exogamy (von Hessen 1980). V. Bierbrauer presented a detailed analysis of the object type regarding grave 64 in Säben (prov. Bolzano/IT) in South Tyrol (**fig. 9, 1–2**). He rejected the theory of von Hessen, because of several Italian examples and linked them to the autochthonic, Late Antique population (Bierbrauer 2015, 246–249).

The German research did not distinguish the specimens mentioned above from the other types of bracelets with splayed ends, which made it very difficult to evaluate of the western examples. J. Werner examined those objects with appliqué decoration and the bracelets with punched edges together (Werner 1991). In the monograph of B. Wührer on Merovingian bracelets, all the above-mentioned groups belong to Type A.3.9. However, the author herself noted, that this type can be separated into two basic groups, namely, on the one hand the pieces with appliqué decoration or the ones with punched ornaments arranged in rows, on the other hand the bracelets with granulated terminals. She made no distinction re-

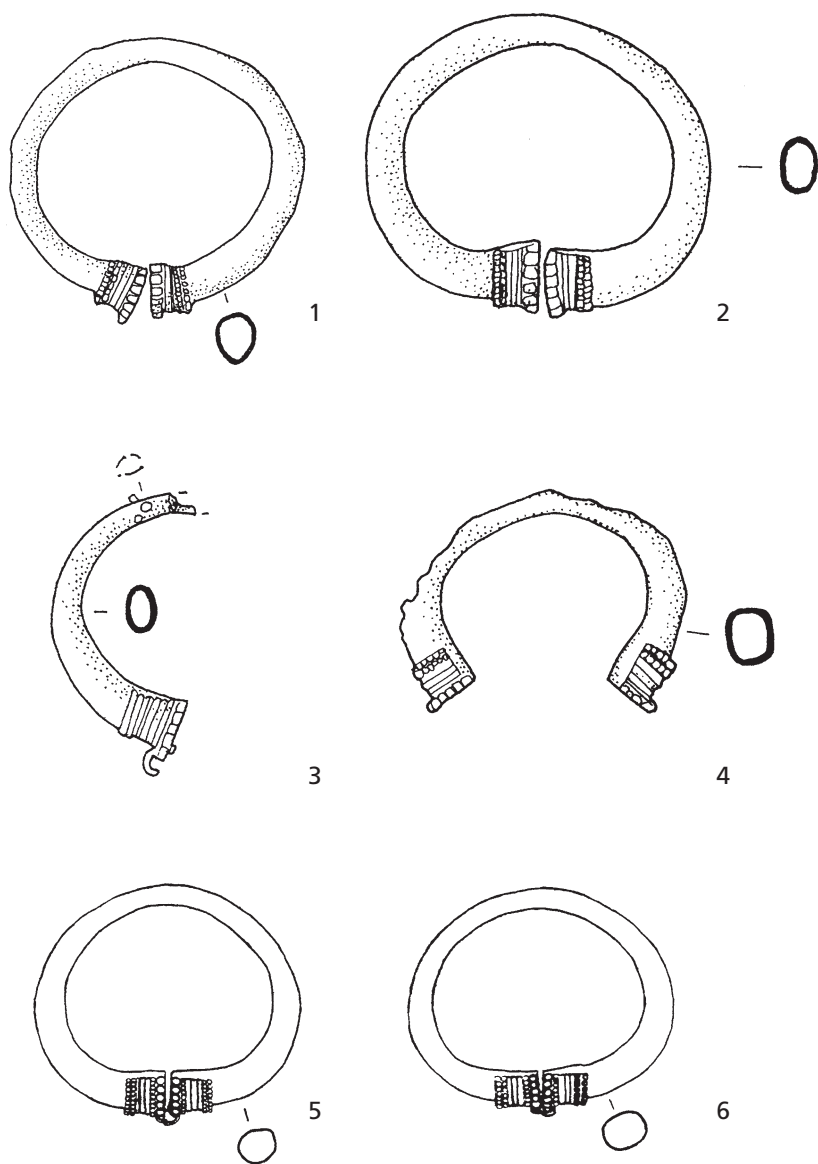


Fig. 8 Specimens examined from North Italy: **1–2** Castellarano-Via Cusna, Grave 1. – **3** Castellarano-Viale della Pace, Grave 15. – **4** stray find from the museum in Reggio Emilia. – **5–6** Guidizzolo, Grave 17. – (After Bierbrauer 2015). – Not to scale.

garding the manufacturing technique, her type consists of both cast and hollow bracelets (Wührer 2000, 44).

Due to the above-mentioned problems, only a few bracelets are known which can certainly be assigned to the group with the Avar specimens which are the subject of the present article. Most of them are from the broader area of the Po Valley and the northern Apennine Mountains, i.e. the region of Emilia Romagna. V. Bierbrauer lists such bracelets from the sites of Castellarano-Via Cusna (**fig. 8, 1–2**), Castellarano-Viale della Pace (**fig. 8, 3**), Guidizzolo (prov. Mantova/IT; **fig. 8, 5–6**) as well as some stray finds kept in the museum of Reggio Emilia (**fig. 8, 4**) (Bierbrauer 2015, 246). Additionally, the pair from grave 64 at Säben (South Tyrol) can be mentioned (Bierbrauer/Nothdurfter 2015, pl. 72, 5–6) (**fig. 9, 1–2**). A stray find from Leoben (Bez. Leoben/AT) was recently published (Gutjahr 2020, 381 fig. 4) (**fig. 9, 3**). The latter one supports especially the observation of S. Keim, who argued that this type appeared on both sides of the Alps (Keim 2007, 104)⁹.

A common feature of the examples is that all of them were made of bronze. Regarding the decoration of their terminals they belong to Type V. The only exceptions are the specimens known from grave 15 of

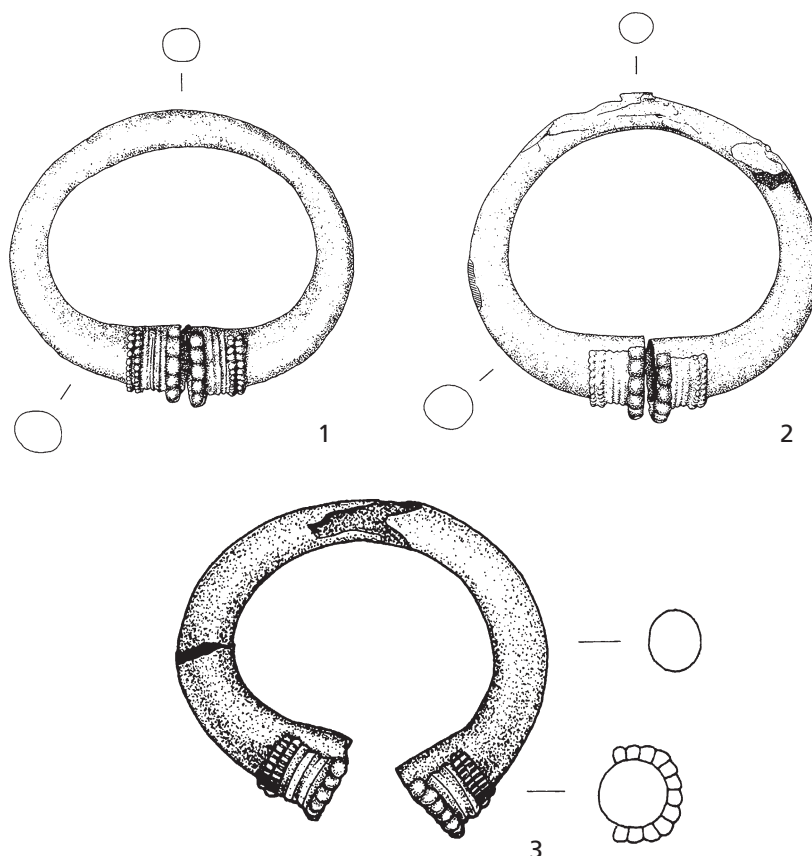


Fig. 9 Specimens examined from the Alpine Region: **1–2** Säben, Grave 64. – **3** Leoben. – (1–2 after Bierbrauer/Nothdurfter 2015; 3 after Gutjahr 2020). – Not to scale.

Castellarano-Viale della Pace, which belong to Type III. According to Bierbrauer, the Italian bracelets cannot be dated more precisely within the 7th century (Bierbrauer 2015, 248). Only the grave goods of burial 64 from Säben come from the last quarter of the century (Bierbrauer 2015, 248).

CONCLUSIONS

The bracelets with splayed ends and appliqué decoration very rarely occur in the Middle and Late Avar material. Based upon our recent information, the type appeared in Northern Italy in the 7th century and reached the western territories of the Avar Kaghanate via the Alps (fig. 7). The earliest examples had a uniform design; one row of larger bead trim was on the outer edge of the appliqué, two rows of smaller ones were on the inner edge with ribs between them. The bracelets from Säben, Mödling and Zwölfaxing can be dated to the last quarter of the 7th century, therefore the type might have appeared in the Alps and on the western fringe of the Avar Kaghanate at the same time. In my opinion, we can suppose that the bracelets of Type III were originally imported goods from Italy; however, this theory should be supported with scientific examination in the future.

The bracelets with splayed ends appeared in the Central Tisza region at the beginning of the 8th century and in the broader area of the Danube Bend in the second half of that century. Their manufacturing technique followed the Italian traditions regarding the hollow structure and the lead filling, the only difference can be observed in the new motifs.

It is worth noting that the development of the so-called Bieringen or East Alpine belt sets shows a similar evolution in the Carpathian Basin. The earliest examples are known mostly from Transdanubia. The replicas of more modest quality were concentrated in the north-western part of the Kaghanate from the end of the 7th century (Lőrinczy/Straub 2005, 143–144). It might help us to understand the dynamics of the distribution of hollow bracelets; while the genuine imported items are the earliest ones, different types refer to local productions in several workshops. The development of the group in the Danube region is not obvious, because the dating of the Szob specimens is not possible without the publication of the whole assemblage. Nevertheless, it can be possible that it is one of the earliest in the Carpathian Basin, based on its decoration of Type III. If this is true, the question is whether there was a 25–30 year-gap between the Szob and the Nové Zámky finds, the latter being the second earliest in the region, or whether the use of such bracelets was continuous in the region.

Acknowledgments

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Notes

- 1) A. Distelberger referred to his oral communication with G. Kiss, so that this information cannot be checked.
- 2) I could examine the bracelets kept in the Hungarian National Museum with the help of Zs. Básti, whom I would like to thank for her help again.
- 3) For the methodological grounds of his dating cf. Distelberger 2004, 12–13.
- 4) The description of grave 526 at Mödling was provided to me by F. Daim. I thank him for his help.
- 5) For the dating of the type cf. Pásztor 1986, 128.
- 6) I. e. the earring is fragmented, there is an insufficient description of the beads.
- 7) The pair of silver bracelets of Szob belongs to Type V, so it can be the earliest occurrence of this type of jewellery in this region. Based on the sketchy drawing of the grave, a pair of round earrings with bead pendants was in the grave, thus supporting the early dating (cf. Bakay 1975, 284 fig. 64).
- 8) Bott 1952, 151 pl. 16, 11–12. This group is called the Klettham type in the German literature (cf. Riemer 2000, 92 note 28).
- 9) However, the exact type is unknown from the Bavarian and Alemannic territories.

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Zusammenfassung / Summary / Résumé

Armringe mit verbreiterten Enden und verzierten Appliken im Karpatenbecken in der zweiten Hälfte der Awarenzeit (7.–8. Jahrhundert n. Chr.). Neue Erkenntnisse über die Beziehungen von awarischen Artefakten zu Norditalien und dem Alpenraum

Dieser Artikel behandelt Armringe mit verbreiterten Enden und verzierten Appliken aus der zweiten Hälfte der Awarenzeit (7.–8. Jh. n. Chr.). Diese Art von Schmuck war im Awaren-Khaganat ungewöhnlich, da die meisten Funde im westlichen Teil des Karpatenbeckens gemacht wurden. Anhand der Verzierung der Enden lassen sich sechs verschiedene Typen von Armringen unterscheiden. Die ältesten sind mit einem Rand aus Perlen und Perlenschnüren verziert – ein typisches Merkmal für das Wiener Becken und die Balatonregion. Diese Art von Armringen ist aus der Emilia-Romagna, Südtirol und der Steiermark bekannt. Die ersten Exemplare, die ursprünglich aus Norditalien stammen, gelangten im letzten Viertel des 7. Jahrhunderts über die Alpen zu den Awaren. Die anderen Verzierungsvarianten sind möglicherweise das Ergebnis interner Entwicklungen. Diese Art von Schmuck blieb bis in die zweite Hälfte des 8. Jahrhunderts in Mode. Die Kontakte zwischen Awaren und Langobarden wurden hauptsächlich für die frühe awarische Periode untersucht. Armbänder mit verbreiterten Enden und verzierten Appliken bestätigen jedoch sehr wohl die Beziehungen der Awaren zum Südwesten nach der zweiten Hälfte des 7. Jahrhunderts.

Bracelets with Splayed Ends and Decorated Appliqués in the Carpathian Basin in the Second Half of the Avar Period (7th–8th Centuries AD). New Data on the Relations of Avar Artefacts with Northern Italy and the Alpine Region

The paper deals with bracelets with splayed ends and decorated appliqués from the second half of the Avar period (7th and 8th c. AD). This type of jewellery was uncommon in the Avar Kaghanate, most of them being found in the western part of the Carpathian Basin. Six types can be distinguished based on the ornamentation of the terminals. The earliest one with beaded trim and ribs is typical in the Vienna Basin and the Balaton region. Such bracelets are known from the Emilia Romagna, South Tyrolia and Styria. Most likely, the earliest specimens originated from Northern Italy and reached the Avars via the Alps in the last quarter of the 7th century. The other ornamental variations could be the results of internal developments. This kind of jewellery remained in fashion until the second half of the 8th century. The Lombardic-Avar contacts were examined mostly in the context of the Early Avar period. However, the bracelets with splayed ends and decorated appliqués serve as good evidence for the south-western connections of the Avars after the second half of the 7th century.

Bracelets à extrémités élargies et décors appliqués du bassin des Carpates dans la seconde moitié de la période avare (7^e–8^e siècles ap.J.-C.). Nouvelles données sur les liens entre artefacts avars et l'Italie du Nord et les Alpes

Cet article traite des bracelets à extrémités élargies et décors appliqués datant de la seconde moitié de la période avare (7^e–8^e s. ap. J.-C.). Ce type de bijoux était inhabituel dans le khanat des Avars, la plupart ayant été trouvés dans la partie occidentale du bassin des Carpates. Le décor des extrémités permet de distinguer six types de bracelets. Les plus anciens sont décorés d'une bordure de perles et de cordons perlés, un trait spécifique du bassin de Vienne et de la région du Balaton. On connaît ce genre de bracelets en Emilie-Romagne, au Tyrol du Sud et en Styrie. Les premiers spécimens, originaires du Nord de l'Italie, arrivèrent chez les Avars à travers les Alpes dans le dernier quart du 7^e siècle. Les autres variantes de décor résultent peut-être de développements internes. Ce type de bijoux resta à la mode jusques dans la seconde moitié du 8^e siècle. Les contacts entre Avars et Lombards ont été étudiés essentiellement pour la période avare ancienne. Mais les bracelets à extrémités élargies et décors appliqués confirment bien les relations des Avars avec le Sud-Ouest après la seconde moitié du 7^e siècle.

Traduction: Y. Gautier

Schlüsselwörter / Keywords / Mots-clés

Italien / Frühmittelalter / Schmuck / Armring / Awaren / Handel
Italy / Early Medieval period / jewellery / bracelets / Avars / trade
Italie / haut Moyen Age / bijoux / bracelets / Avars / commerce

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