

FUNNEL-SHAPED SNAFFLE BITS OF THE 7TH-8TH CENTURIES DISCOVERED IN TRANSYLVANIA AND SLOVAKIA

Three identical horse bits not analysed until now in the literature and belonging to a unique type among similar artefacts dated to the 7th-8th centuries, were discovered on the present territories of Transylvania and Slovakia. Two of the objects come from Transylvania: the first one from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe (jud. Mureș/RO)¹, and the second one from Săcueni (jud. Bihor/RO). The horse bit from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe was identified inside a house and is not published, while the exemplar from Săcueni is a stray find and has been only mentioned until now in the literature. The third artefact was discovered in a grave from the cemetery at Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava/SK) (fig. 1).

Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe »Pe Șes« (jud. Mureș/RO)

Circumstances and place of discovery: Systematic excavation; settlement. The object was identified inside a house (no. 1/1994), belonging to the Early Middle Ages settlement.

Description: Mobile iron horse bit. The two snaffle bars are funnel-shaped (fig. 2, 1a-c). The snaffle bars were made from two pieces of sheet metal. Both are rectangular and equal in length. They were rolled in the shape of a funnel, hollow on the inside. The outer ends, of larger diameter in comparison with the inner ones, were cut and bent in-

wards forming two hook-shaped loops, used for supporting the cheek pieces. The inner ends also present hook-shaped joint loops. The general view presents a bit with wide exterior ends and a narrow middle part. No fragment belonging to the two cheek pieces has been identified.

Dimensions: Length of the two bars 16.3 cm; diameter 0.6-2.5 cm.

Dating: 7th century.

Bibliography: Unpublished; excavations by C. Cosma (Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei al Academiei Române din Cluj-Napoca).

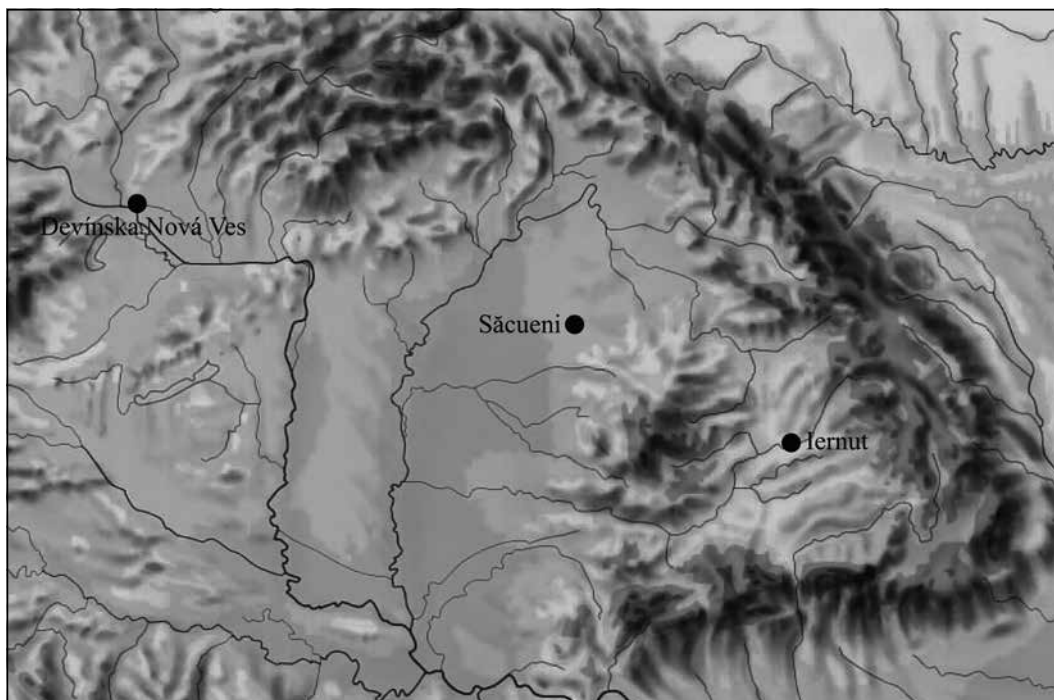


Fig. 1 Findspots of the snaffles. – (Map © László Zentai, 1996).

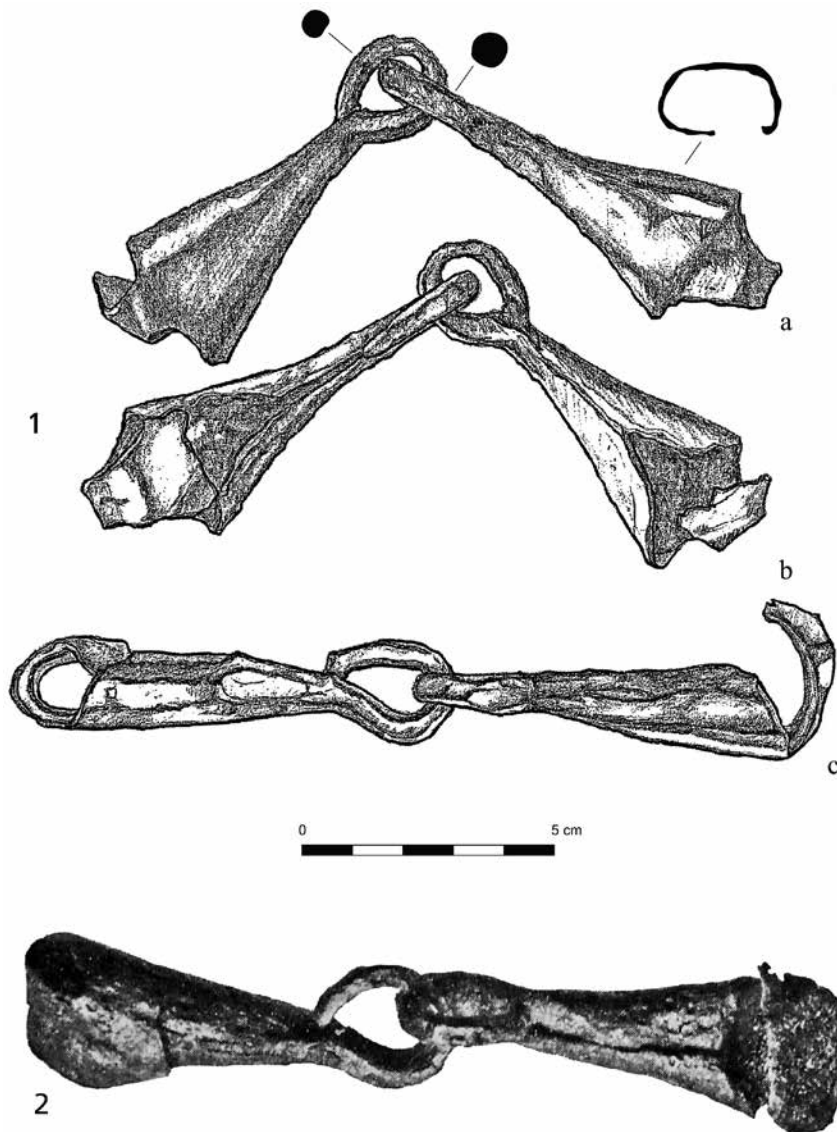


Fig. 2 1a-c Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe (jud. Mureș/RO). – 2 Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava/SK). – (After Eisner 1952, 38 grave 113 pl. 29, 5).

Săcueni »Cartierul țigănesc« (jud. Bihor/RO)

Circumstances and place of discovery: Stray find, at the base of a hill; the funerary character of the discovery is uncertain (a possible grave).

Description: Mobile iron horse bit. The two snaffle bars are funnel-shaped. One of the cheek pieces is preserved (fig. 3, 1a-b). The snaffle bars were made from two pieces of sheet metal. Both are rectangular and equal in length. They were rolled in the shape of a funnel, hollow on the inside. The outer ends, of larger diameter in comparison with the inner ones, were cut and bent inwards, forming two hook-shaped loops, used for supporting the cheek pieces. The inner ends also present hook-shaped joint loops. The general view presents a bit with wide exterior ends and a narrow middle part. The surviving cheek piece is ring-shaped. It was made of an iron bar, square in section. The cheek piece ring is provided with a wide plate shaped as a fan.

Dimensions: Length of the two bars 19 cm; diameter of the bars 1.2-3 cm; diameter of the cheek piece 6.8 cm.

Dating: 7th century.

Bibliography: Cosma 2002, 222 no. 176 fig. 221, 1.

Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava/SK)

Circumstances and place of discovery: Systematic excavation; cemetery, grave no. 113.

Description: Mobile bronze horse bit. The two snaffle bars are funnel-shaped, hollow on the inside (fig. 2, 2). No cheek pieces were preserved. The exterior ends are hook-shaped, while the interior ones are joined, resulting a bit with wide exterior ends and a narrow middle part.

Dimensions: The total length of the snaffle is 17 cm (8.7 cm one bar, 8.3 cm the other).

Dating: Second half of the 7th century to the early decades of the 8th century.

Bibliography: Eisner 1952, 38 grave 113 fig. 29, 5.

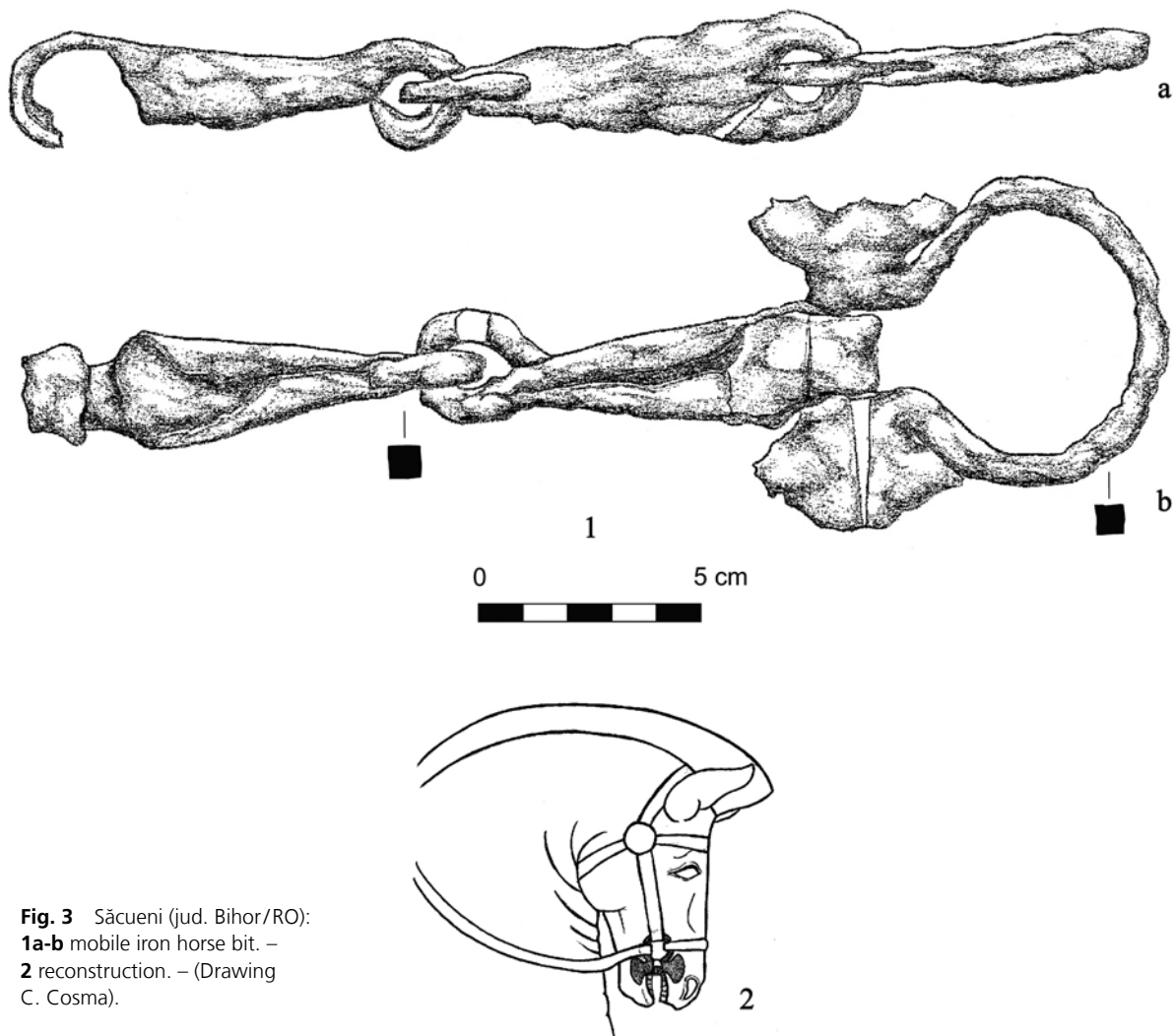


Fig. 3 Săcueni (jud. Bihor/RO):
1a-b mobile iron horse bit. –
2 reconstruction. – (Drawing
 C. Cosma).

With the exception of the three above-mentioned horse bits, the archaeological literature consulted by the author of this study does not give any indication of similar objects with funnel-shaped snaffle bars, hollow on the inside. Moreover, no similar artefacts have been identified between the 5th and the 10th centuries.

CONTEXT AND DATING

For a more accurate dating of the three horse bits with funnel-shaped snaffle bars discovered at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe, Devínska Nová Ves and Săcueni, their archaeological context is of paramount importance.

Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe

The horse bit at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe was excavated in a house provided with a fire installation. Beside the horse bit, the structure also contained pottery and iron objects including a spur, an arrowhead and a

spearhead. Though still unpublished, they shall be briefly discussed below, as arguments supporting the dating. The context, inasmuch as preserved, contained a large quantity of ash. It was very likely a sunken house. The upper part and the timber frame were completely destroyed. The fire installation, likewise almost completely damaged, consisted very probably of a clay-walled oven (a few wall pieces were discovered fallen on the fireplace). A fuel opening was observed in front of the oven. The shape of the sunken house, its supposed timber structure as well as the type of the presumptive fire installation represent archaeological features which, from a typological point of view, can be identified on a larger geographical area. Chronologically, the analogies cover a larger period of time, and they are common for the 7th century contexts as well².

The spur come to light in the sunken house (**fig. 4, 3**) was discussed in a study concerning the Early Middle Ages spurs discovered in Transylvania³. For this reason it is enough to mention here that this spur, together with the exemplars found at Breaza (jud. Braşov/RO) and Medişorul Mare (jud. Harghita/RO) form a special type among the spurs coming from the Transylvanian Plateau⁴. Their archaeological contexts, supported by similar discoveries from Bohemia and Bavaria⁵, allow a dating in the second half of the 7th century, with a possible extent in the first two or three decades of the 8th century⁶.

Socketed leaf-shaped arrowheads like the exemplar identified at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe (**fig. 4, 2**), or similar ones, are present in the Gepidic cemeteries from Transylvania⁷. They are found as well in the Germanic environment of the south-eastern part of Transdanubia of the late 6th-7th centuries⁸. The leaf-shaped arrowheads had been taken over by the Avars from the Germanic populations and were used especially in the Early Avar period⁹. Even though they are represented only by a small number of discoveries from the post-Gepidic period, the leaf-shaped arrowheads with socket form a separate group in the typology of the arrowheads present in the 7th century Slavic-Avar cemeteries of the Middle Danube Basin, situated west of the Danube, to the left and right of the river¹⁰.

The spearhead found in the sunken house has a wide blade, shaped as a pear leaf, with convergent sides, and an oval-flattened section. The socket is tubular, everted towards the end (**fig. 4, 1**). The spearhead has analogies among similar artefacts from the Slavic world, dated to the 6th-7th centuries¹¹. Moreover, the exemplar from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe is very similar to spearheads displaying a pierced blade discovered in the Avar cemetery at Gâmbaş (Aiud, jud. Alba/RO), dated to the second half of the 7th century and the early decades of the 8th century¹².

Pottery from the sunken house is poorly represented and in a fragmentary condition. According to the production technique, three pottery types were established: hand-made pottery; grey fast wheel-thrown pottery; coarse pottery, either reduced or oxidised, decorated, medium and fast wheel-thrown¹³ (termed generically »Danubian type pottery«¹⁴). The hand-made pottery is represented exclusively by pots without handle (**fig. 4, 4-8**). Based on the production technique, it has analogies in the 6th-7th centuries¹⁵. The evolved shape of the upper part of the pots (well-marked neck, reverted rim) argues – according to the typological parallels – for a dating to the 7th century, possibly even to the second half of this century¹⁶.

The grey pottery thrown on the fast wheel and made from fine fabric displays inner grooves resulted from the finger pressure applied during the fast turning process¹⁷. Typologically, the pottery sherds come from the upper part of the vessels and belong to barrel-type and pear-shaped pots. The vessel bases belong to both barrel-type and pear-shaped pots (**fig. 5, 1-6**).

The fine or coarse grey fast wheel-thrown pottery discovered in the sunken house has analogies in either the Gepidic period¹⁸ or the Merovingian environment¹⁹. Its presence on Transylvanian sites of the second half of the 7th century is still raising a lot of questions. The association at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe of this pottery with the »Danubian type«²⁰ supports the idea that it survived the disappearance of the Gepidic cemeteries belonging to the Band-Noşlac group.

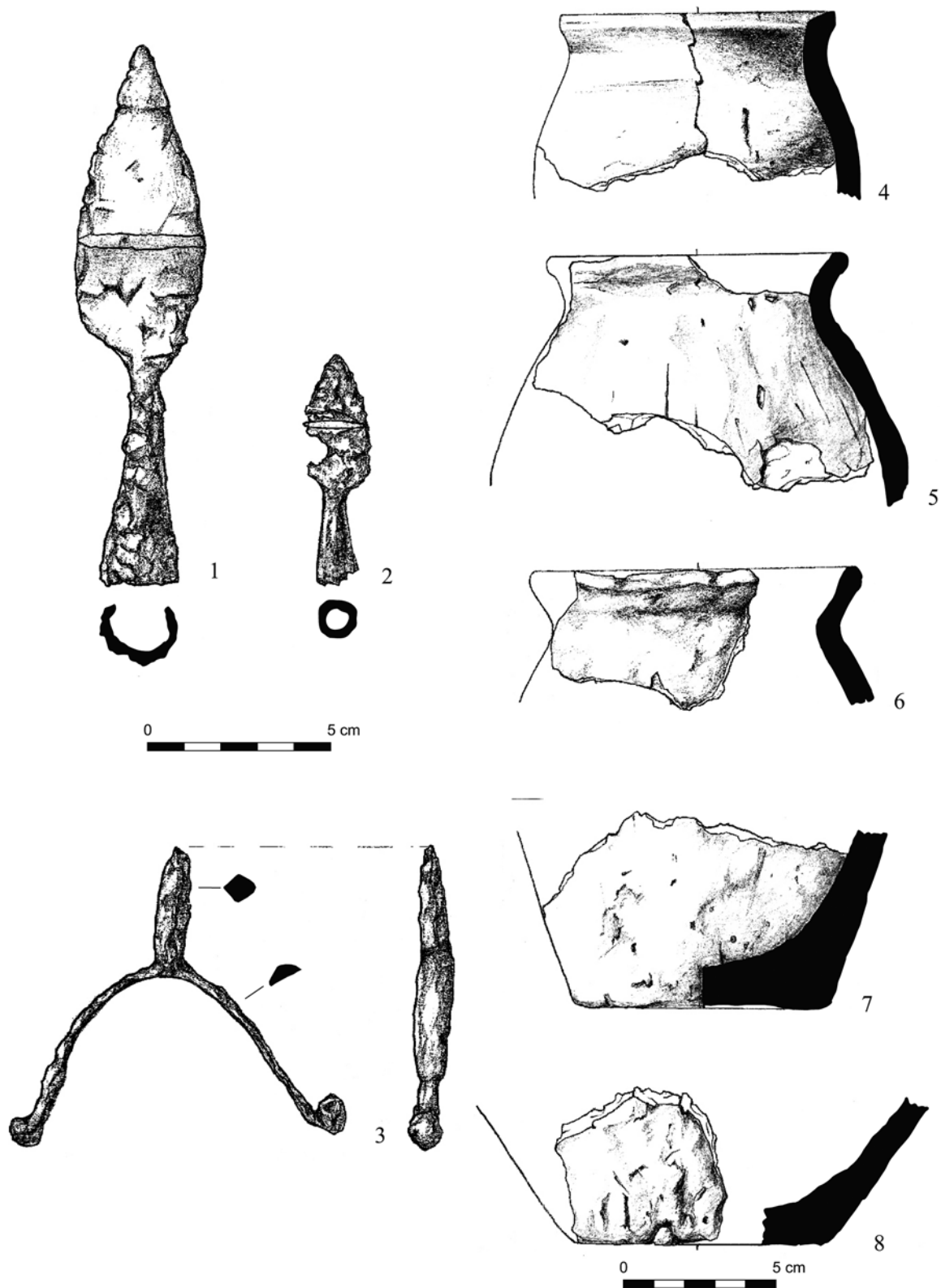


Fig. 4 Finds from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe (jud. Mureș/RO), house no. 1/1994: **1** iron spearhead. – **2** iron arrowhead. – **3** iron spur. – **4-8** hand-made pottery. – (Drawing C. Cosma).

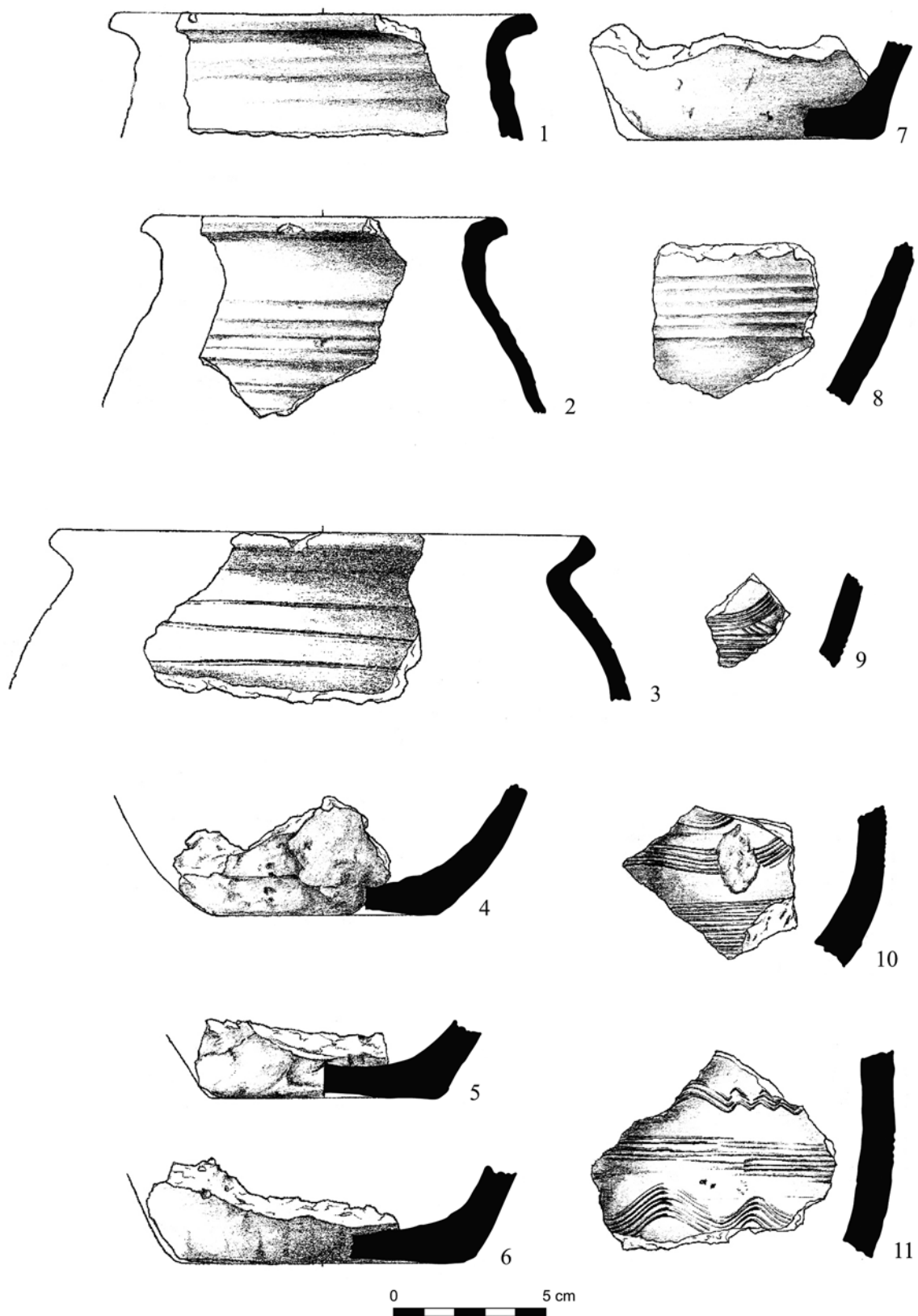


Fig. 5 Finds from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe (jud. Mureș/RO), house no. 1/1994: **1-6** pottery made with fast wheel. – **7-11** »Danubian type pottery«. – (Drawing C. Cosma).

The archaeological assemblage at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe also contained slow wheel-made pottery (fig. 5, 8-11) and a single fast wheel-made vessel base (fig. 5, 7). They were made of a coarse fabric, tempered with micro and macro gravel²¹. The pottery is decorated with waving and straight lines. They belong to pots of the so-called Danubian type pottery²².

The slow and fast wheel-thrown pottery, both undecorated and decorated²³ originating from the north-western part of Romania and dating to the first decades of the 7th century, provides no typological analogies for the pottery at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe; still, it proves the presence of the potter's wheel as early as the first decades of the 7th century. Thus, the phenomenon offers technological analogies for other geographical areas close to north-west Romania, like the Transylvanian Plateau.

Nevertheless, in Transylvania, the medium wheel-thrown coarse pottery similar to the one identified at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe, can be dated no earlier than the second half of the 7th century, being a characteristic of the following centuries. The chronological observations were based on the dating of the pottery discovered in cemeteries²⁴, but also in a few Transylvanian settlements²⁵. The fast wheel-made pottery represented by the vessel base come to light in Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe (fig. 5, 7) is also found in Transylvanian cemeteries, starting only in the second half of the 7th century²⁶.

The chronology of the pottery discovered in the sunken house indicates that these three pottery types were used together, at least for a certain period of time; this is a situation which allows the dating of the entire pottery assemblage to the 7th century, possibly only in its second half. The association of the three pottery types (hand-made; grey fast wheel-thrown; coarse, decorated, wheel-thrown) was in fact noted as early as 1954, following the first research on the »Pe Seş« plateau at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe. Since from a stratigraphic viewpoint the circumstances are not very clear, the association of the three pottery types was not much exploited scientifically. However, even then, the archaeological assemblage or the context where the three pottery types were discovered was dated to the 7th century²⁷.

Quantitatively, the grey fast wheel-made pottery of Germanic origin is dominant with 50 %, compared to the hand-made pottery (30 %) and the coarse wheel-thrown »Danubian type pottery« (20 %). Without being a very accurate or absolute dating criterion, the statistics above also argues for the dating of the entire pottery from the house at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe to the 7th century²⁸.

It may be concluded that the entire archaeological material yielded by the excavations of house no. 1/1994 at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe can be dated to the 7th century. This supports and confirms the dating of the mobile horse bit with funnel-shaped snaffle bars to the 7th century. We do not exclude a narrower time span during which the sunken house was in use, namely the second half of the 7th century.

Taking into consideration the type of artefacts discovered, the archaeological assemblage at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe may be identified as a warrior's house. Circumstances of houses with several metal objects possible to assign to a warrior, are exceptional for archaeology; even sites of such kind are lacking from Transylvania during the Early Middle Ages. The phenomenon is recognised as such, and its causes are multiple and require an individual approach.

In this case, the presence of objects specific to a warrior may be related to the powerful fire, which destroyed the house. Such an interpretation, proven by the discovery of a large quantity of ash and the presence of secondary burning traces on the artefacts, represented very likely the reason which prevented the recovery of the weapons and of the horse bit. It is difficult to specify if the structure was the warrior's permanent or temporary habitat, since this type of house is common for the 7th century. It is not different from other features identified in the settlement. If such metal artefacts assignable to a warrior would have been missing, the structure might have been included in the category of houses used by some of the common members of the community. However, the weapons to which one can add the spur and the horse bit discovered there support the presence of a warrior during the 7th century.

Devínska Nová Ves

The horse bit from the Slavic-Avar cemetery at Devínska Nová Ves was discovered in a warrior's grave (no. 113)²⁹. As early as its publication, the shape of the horse bit rose J. Eisner's interest, who considered it as »a curious, interesting shape«³⁰. The author does not comment closer on its shape and provides no analogies. He dated grave no. 113 and implicitly the horse bit to the second half of the 7th century and the early 8th century³¹. In 2004, J. Zábojník also noted the special shape of this horse bit and believed it was a horse bit singular for the 7th-8th centuries, without analogies at that time³².

Săcueni

The mobile horse bit with funnel-shaped snaffle bars of Săcueni is a stray find, and the context of its discovery is not known. In this case, the items at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe and Devínska Nová Ves, provide analogies for the dating to the 7th century. It is very likely that the horse bit was part of a damaged grave. From the area of the city of Săcueni several archaeological finds of Slavic and Avar origin are known, including graves of the 7th-8th centuries³³.

TYOLOGICAL DEFINITION

The three horse bits from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe, Devínska Nová Ves, and Săcueni are typologically identical. They differ only in the material they had been made of (iron: those from Transylvania; bronze: the one from Slovakia) and in their size. All three exemplars were made in the same technique – by rolled metal sheets. The snaffle is formed of two mobile bars. The outer ends of both bars were cut and twisted in hook shape, in order to support the cheek pieces. In the centre, the hooks joined the two bars together. The two mobile bars forming the snaffle are funnel-shaped and hollow on the inside. The maximum diameter can be observed on the exterior edges. The size of the bits is oscillating between 16.3 and 19 cm (Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe: 16.3 cm; Devínska Nová Ves: 17 cm; Săcueni: 19 cm). Only the iron cheek piece of the exemplar of Săcueni survived; it is made in the shape of a ring provided with a fan-shaped plate (cf. **fig. 3**). Very likely, similar cheek pieces were attached on the horse bits from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe and Devínska Nová Ves. The technological specificities and especially the shape of the snaffle distinguish the three horse bits discussed above as a special type in the panoply of artefacts in the Early Middle Ages. It may be called funnel-shaped snaffle bit. This type dates to the 7th century and its use during the second half of the 7th century, possibly even during the first decades of the 8th century, is not excluded.

All three mentioned horse bits come from a Slavic-Avar environment. However, current data does not allow a very fine assignment to either of the two cultural backgrounds. At Devínska Nová Ves, the artefact came to light in a warrior's grave, most likely an Avar one³⁴. In Transylvania, at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe, the horse bit was discovered in a house difficult to assign to any of the ethnicities living on the Mureş river valley during the Early Middle Ages. The spur came to light in the sunken house indicates rather the presence of a Slavic warrior. The hand-made pottery may be assigned to the same Slavic cultural environment, whereas the arrowhead and the spearhead are discovered in Germanic and Avar areas. The grey fast wheel-thrown pottery can be found in Germanic settlements. We believe that the specific ethnicity of the person using the weapon and harness pieces discovered in the archaeological assemblage at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe is not

highly important. The evidence, though, recording the presence of a warrior in a house within an Early Middle Ages settlement on the Mureş river valley, is of high relevance. The importance derives from the simple fact that for the 7th century Transylvania, insofar, there are no archaeological features that could be related to the presence of a warrior. Probably, the warrior lived on a permanent basis in the settlement at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe. His presence there may be connected to a control or surveillance mission of the area. He carried out the mission in the name of a centre of power, which, from the viewpoint of the geographical area of origin and the time to which the house dates, could be no other than the Avar Khaganate. The Avar elite clustered in small power centres located all over Transylvania, controlling and surveying the Transylvanian Plateau via Avar warriors and also warriors of other origin³⁵.

The fact that the mobile horse bits with funnel-shaped snaffle from Transylvania are identical to the example discovered at Devínska Nová Ves raises a series of questions referring to the production and distribution in this region. Clear answers are difficult to provide. Only a few hypotheses may be made. Thus, the fact that only one horse bit was found in Slovakia, compared to the other two in Transylvania, does not mean – based on the very small number of items – that the funnel-shaped snaffle mobile horse bits originate from the Transylvanian Plateau. The horse bits might have also been the work of a travelling craftsman, who made these three objects in different geographical areas. The possibility that they emerged independently from each other, in different places, is hard to accept. The identical shape of the three pieces, which implies the same production technique, points to a common environment where they were made and later distributed.

ORIGIN AND FUNCTION

We found no data on either the possible origins of the production technique or the horse bits' shape. We also found no close parallels or at least similar exemplars to those discussed here in published Avar or Slavic-Avar cemeteries from the Carpathian Basin, available to us for study. We retrieve the model neither in Eastern³⁶, nor in Western Europe³⁷.

It is possible that the funnel-shaped snaffle mobile horse bits have only emerged during the 7th century in the Carpathian Basin. The phenomenon might be simply the result of a blacksmith's invention, who wished to improve or provide a new tool in horse reining and riding. In general, for horse bits with mobile or vertical snaffle – both provided with straight bars, terminals ending in various forms and different types of cheek pieces – a series of principles were established related to the role of these pieces both in the mouth of the animal and in its reining³⁸. A series of data coming from modern horse riding³⁹ may be used to clarify how the mobile horse bits with funnel-shaped snaffle bars in the horse's mouth and also in its reining. Thus, contemporary mobile horse bits with snaffle bars in the shape of a funnel are used for young horses when the training of the animal begins. When using the strings to rein the horse, the horse bit puts double pressure on the horse's mouth. On one hand, the two snaffle bars ply in the mouth acting considerably on the palatine arch, which forces the horse to suddenly stop. On the other hand, the large diameter of the two snaffle ends places a permanent pressure on the interdental space, especially on the two corners of the horse's mouth. When the strings are pulled by the rider, the two thicker ends act more efficiently on the mandibular nerve, which facilitates a more firm manoeuvring of the horse when it is required to change the running direction. It is very likely that in the 7th century as well, the funnel-shaped snaffle mobile horse bits fulfilled a role in horse reining similar to that of contemporary horse bits. Although the horse bit does not cause any pain to the horse, the three objects of Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe, Devínska Nová Ves and Săcueni,

owing to the large diameter of the two outer ends, can be considered as a »firm« horse bit, yet efficient in reining young and balky horses. The fact that such a horse bit appears in a warrior's grave in the cemetery at Devínska Nová Ves provides additional arguments for the supposition that the mobile horse bits with funnel-shaped snaffle bars were also used by the 7th century cavalry. The fan-shaped cheek pieces like the one preserved at Săcueni (cf. **fig. 3, 2**) served a specific role in the steady reining of the horse.

However, a big question remains. It regards the very small number of the mobile horse bits with funnel-shaped snaffle bars within the panoply of harness pieces of the second half of the 1st millennium AD. The answer to the question: »Why are they so few in the Carpathian Basin sites dated to the Early Middle Ages?« cannot be given in clear-cut terms. Unquestionably, future research – archaeological excavations or studies in museums – will provide new data. For the moment, the three funnel-shaped snaffle bits from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe, Devínska Nová Ves and Săcueni, remain a separate type among similar artefacts.

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Notes

- 1) At Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe »Pe Șes«, a multi-component stratified site was identified, which was inhabited from prehistory to the Middle Ages. The site is located within the borders of the village Sfântu Gheorghe, on a high terrace of the Mureș river at the base of a hill on which an obelisk – a war memorial for the Second World War, known as the Monument of Oarba de Mureș – lies today. For information regarding the archaeological excavations at Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe »Pe Șes« see: CCA 1990-2002.
- 2) For instance: Chapelot/Fossier 1980, 33-135. – Cosma 1996, 264-274 with bibliography. – Pleinerová 2000, 35-40. – Šalkovský 2001. – Cosma 2002, 28-33 with bibliography. – Kuna et al. 2005, 324-329. – Tóth 2006. – Harhoiu/Baltag 2006, 19-25. – Vizauer 2008, 19-118. – Stanciu 2011, 110-163.
- 3) Cosma 2013, 80 no. 3, 1 pl. 1, 3.
- 4) Ibidem 82 f.
- 5) von Freeden 1987, 522. 559-561 fig. 46, 11-12. – Profantová 1994, 64-67 fig. 5, 3.
- 6) Cosma 2013, 82 f.
- 7) Bârză 2010, 118. – Dobos/Opreanu 2012, 46 f.
- 8) Kiss 1992, vol. I, 52 list 7 map 5 pl. 1, 3; 1996, 236. – Bârză 2010, 118. – Dobos/Opreanu 2012, 46 f.
- 9) Kalmár 1944-1945, 291. – Kiss 1992, vol. I, 52 list 7 map 5 pl. 1, 3; 1996, 236. – Bârză 2010, 118.
- 10) Kalmár 1944-1945, 291. – Čilinská 1973, 24. – Sós/Salamon 1995, 73 f. – Zábajník 2004, 48. 136.
- 11) Kazanski 1995-1996, 199 fig. 1, 2-3.
- 12) Horedt 1958, 60-91. 96. 99 figs 9a, 10; 14, 13.
- 13) Regarding the terminology see: Cosma 2011, 51 f.
- 14) Staňa 1995.
- 15) Teodor 1978, 43-45. – Vida 1999, 137-147. – Kuna et al. 2005, 338-342. – Harhoiu/Baltag 2006, 41-353. – Cosma 2011, 52-61. – Stanciu 2011, 171-245.
- 16) Vida 1999, 147 type III D9 fig. 59.
- 17) Cosma 2011, 51 f.
- 18) Bóna/Nagy 2002. – Cseh et al. 2005. – Tóth 2006. – Bârză 2010, 53-72. – Dobos/Opreanu 2012, 54-56.
- 19) Schnitzler/Arbogast/Frey 2009.
- 20) Staňa 1995.
- 21) Regarding the terminology see: Cosma 2011, 51 f.
- 22) Staňa 1995.
- 23) Stanciu 2011, 245-254.
- 24) Horedt 1976; 1979; 1986, 60-66. – Cosma 2011, 61-102.
- 25) Stanciu/Matei 1994, 140-148. – Zaharia 1994-1995, 301-314. 321-328. – Cosma 2002, 35-37. 39-42. – Stanciu 2011, 247-250.
- 26) Cosma 2011, 102-108.
- 27) Horedt 1955, 661 f.
- 28) For the dating of the Early Middle Ages pottery using the quantitative ratio criterion from the viewpoint of the production technique of the vessels (hand-made, fast and average wheel-thrown) discovered in a closed archaeological feature or site see: Stanciu/Matei 1994. – Stanciu 2000b. – Cosma 2002, 35-42.

- 29) Eisner 1952, 38 grave 113 fig. 29, 5.
 30) Ibidem 38 grave 113 fig. 29, 5.
 31) Ibidem 387-410.
 32) Zábojník 2004, 51. 137.
 33) Stanciu 2000a, 429-433. – Cosma 2002, 220-222. – Cosma et al. 2013, 77-80.
 34) Eisner 1952, 38. 387-410 grave 113 fig. 29, 5.
 35) Cosma et al. 2013.
 36) See for instance: Kirpičnikov 1973. – Kazakov 1992. – Kazanski 1995-1996, 202-204; 2000. – Akhmedov 2001. – Jotov 2004. – Rašev 2008, 174 fig. XCVII, CI. – Bliujienė/Butkus 2009. – Kontny/Okulicz-Kozaryn/Pietrzak 2009. – Nowakowski 2009. – Bavant 2012. – Kazanski 2012.
 37) See for instance: Stein 1967. – Colardelle 1983. – Oexle 1992. – Urlacher/Pasard/Mafredi-Gizard 1998. – Legoux 2005. – Carré/Jimenez 2008. – Schnitzler/Arbogast/Frey 2009.
 38) Oexle 1992. – Akhmedov 2001. – Bavant 2012.
 39) www.equisearch.com/tack_apparel/bit_gallery/jointedstaffle/; www.equisearch.com/tack_apparel/bit_gallery/loosering/; www.equisearch.com/tack_apparel/bit_gallery/loosering/ (3. 11. 2014).

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Bewegliche Trensen mit trichterförmigen Mundstücken aus dem 7.-8. Jahrhundert auf dem Gebiet Siebenbürgens und der Slowakei

Auf dem Gebiet Siebenbürgens und der Slowakei wurden drei Trensen entdeckt, deren Mundstücke identisch sind und die sich gleichzeitig von anderen Trensentypen des 7.-8. Jahrhunderts unterscheiden. Zwei Stücke stammen aus Siebenbürgen, aus Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe (jud. Mureş/RO) und Săcueni (jud. Bihor/RO). Die dritte Trense kam in einem Grab in Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava) in der Slowakei zutage. Besonderheiten in der Herstellung und die Form des Gebisses heben diese drei Trensen als einen Sondertyp in der Gesamtheit bekannter Artefakte heraus, die im frühmittelalterlichen Europa entdeckt wurden. Der Typ kann als bewegliche Trensen mit trichterförmigen Mundstücken bezeichnet werden. Die Stücke aus Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe, Devínska Nová Ves und Săcueni datieren in das 7. Jahrhundert, eine Verwendung besonders in der zweiten Hälfte des 7. Jahrhunderts, eventuell auch in den ersten Jahrzehnten des 8. Jahrhunderts ist nicht auszuschließen. Alle drei beweglichen Trensen mit trichterförmigen Mundstücken stammen aus dem slawisch-awarischen Milieu.

Funnel-shaped snaffle bits of the 7th-8th centuries discovered in Transylvania and Slovakia

Three identical horse bits, not analysed until now in literature and belonging to a unique type among the other contemporary horse bits dating to the 7th-8th centuries, were discovered in Transylvania and Slovakia. Two of them come from Transylvania: one from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe (jud. Mureş/RO) and a second from Săcueni (jud. Bihor/RO). A third bit was found in a grave in Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava) in Slovakia. The technological specificities and the special shape of the snaffle distinguish these three horse bits as a special type discovered in European sites of the Early Middle Ages. It may be called flexible horse bit with funnel-shaped snaffle. The examples from Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe, Devínska Nová Ves, and Săcueni date to the 7th century. Yet, the use of the respective horse bits, especially during the second half of the 7th century, possibly even during the first decades of the 8th century, cannot be ruled out. All three horse bits come from a Slavic-Avar environment.

Des mors mobiles aux filets en forme d'entonnoir des 7^e-8^e siècles découverts sur le territoire de la Transylvanie et de la Slovaquie

Sur le territoire de la Transylvanie et de la Slovaquie on a découvert trois mors identiques qui forment un type à part au sein des mors du 7^e-8^e siècles. Deux pièces proviennent de Transylvanie, la première de Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe (jud. Mureş/RO) et la deuxième de Săcueni (jud. Bihor/RO). Le troisième a été découvert dans une tombe à Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava) en Slovaquie. Les caractéristiques technologiques et surtout la forme de l'embouchure mettent ces trois mors comme type à part pour les sites du Bas Moyen Âge en Europe. Le type peut être dénommé mors mobiles aux filets en forme d'entonnoir. Ce type est présent à Iernut/Sfântu Gheorghe, à Devínska Nová Ves et à Săcueni, il date du 7^e siècle. On n'exclut pas l'utilisation des ces mors surtout dans la deuxième moitié du 7^e siècle, éventuellement dans les premières décennies du 8^e siècle aussi. Les trois mors proviennent du milieu slavo-avare.

Schlüsselwörter / Keywords / Mots clés

Rumänien / Frühmittelalter / Trensen / Geschirr / Pferd / Krieger
Romania / Early Middle Ages / horse bit / harness / horse / warrior
Roumanie / Haut Moyen Âge / mors / harnachement / cheval / guerrier

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