

EARRINGS MOULDED IN THE SHAPE OF BUNCH OF GRAPES ON ROMANIAN TERRITORY (10TH – 11TH CENTURIES)

DE

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Undoubtedly the earrings hold a special place among various pieces of jewelry, with a significant diversity of forms. Some of the items dating back to the migration period are often mentioned in connection with the south Danubian area.

Remarkable, due to their fine execution and also to the technology used in their manufacture are the "Earrings Moulded in the Shape Bunch of Grapes / traubenförmig/ grappe de raisins (type 17a-17b Giesler) earrings, belonging to different ethnic groups.

We won't insist on the luxurious type, which are considered to be of Byzantine origin. Such items have been excavated in cemeteries in Alba Iulia-*Stația de Salvare*¹, Blandiana-*"În Vii"*² (fig. 1), Cluj-Napoca-*"Str. Zapolya"*³, Oradea⁴ and Pecica-*"Șanțul Mare"*⁵.

Similar items to the *bunch of grapes earrings* excavated in Cluj-Napoca-*"Str. Zapolya"* with a rhomboidal ornament inserted in the central part of the globe-like earring can be found in Tomb no. 69 in Szob- *Kiserdő*⁶ and in Vukovar- *Lijevo baro*⁷.

Made out of silver, covered on gold, with filigree and granulated setting, this type of earrings are traceable in Transylvania starting with the 10th century. Later on they also appear in Moldavia and Kiev-Russia⁸. In Crișana such earrings have been excavated in Biharcă –*Dealul Șumuleu* and Tarcea⁹. A later mode,

¹ H. Ciugudean, *Amul 1000 la Alba Iulia. Între istorie și arheologie. Catalogul expoziției*. Alba Iulia, 1996, 10, 14, fig. 61. Inv. 8700 - 8701; H. Ciugudean, A. Dragotă, *Civilizația medievală timpurie din Transilvania: rit și ritual funerar (secolele IX - XI). Catalogul expoziției*, Alba Iulia, 2002, 41, Fig. 73 - 74.

² K. Horedt, *Die Ansiedlung van Blandiana, Rayon Orăștie, am Ausgang des ersten Jahrtausends u. Z.*, *Dacia N. S. X / 1966*, 276, Fig. 18 / 1, 3; R. R. Heitel, *Unele considerații privind civilizația din bazinul carpatic în cursul celei de-a doua jumătăți a sec. IX în lumina izvoarelor arheologice*. *SCIVA* 34, 2, 1983, 106sq, nota 40; K. Horedt, *Siebenbürgen im Frühmittelalter*, Bonn, 1986, 77, Fig. 35 / 1.

³ István Kovács, *A kolozsvári Zápolya-utcai magyar honfoglaláskori temető. – Dar landnahmezeitliche Friedhof von Kolozsvár, Zápolya Gasse. KözlCluj II*, 1, 1942, 98, Pl. 5 / 10, 12, Fig. 5 / 8 - 8 a; Gy. László, *A kolozsvári Zápolya - utcai honfoglaláskori temető*. *ErdMúz*: XLVII, 4, 1942, 581; R. R. Heitel, *Die Archäologie der ersten und zweiten Phase des Eindringens der Ungarn in das innerkarpatische Transilvanien*, *Dacia N. S. XXXVIII - XXXIX*, 1994 - 1995, 414, Fig. 8 / tn, o.

⁴ J. Hampel, *Altertümer des frühen Mittelalters in Ungarn*, I - III, Budapest, 1905, 558sq, Fig. 12.

⁵ I. H. Crișan, *Ziridava*, 1978, 25, Fig. 11.

⁶ K. Bakay, *Honfoglalás - és államalapítás - kori temetők az Ipoly mentén*. *Studia Comitatus* 6, Szentendre, 1978, 38, Pl. XXII / 17, Fig. 21 / 8.

⁷ Z. Vinski, *O postojanju radionica nakita starohrvatskog doba u Sisku. - Zur Frage des Bestehens von Schmuckwerkstätten aus altkroatischer Zeit in Sisak*. *Vjesnik IV*, 1970, 60, Pl. VI/2.

⁸ R. R. Heitel, *Unele considerații privind civilizația din bazinul carpatic în cursul celei de-a doua jumătăți a sec. IX în lumina izvoarelor arheologice*, *SCIVA* 34, 2, 1983, 106sq.

⁹ C. Cosma, *Vestul și nord - vestul României în secolele VIII - X d. H.*, Editura Nereamia Napocae, Cluj - Napoca 2002, 134, Pl. 58 / 19 a - b, 235 / 1.

a bronze moulded earring has smaller dimensions. This type is traceable in a variety of forms, most of which imitate the shape of a bunch of grapes.

Alba Iulia (Fig. 3): Moulded items, copying the original bunch one, have also been excavated in Alba Iulia necropolis - *Stafja de Salvare*¹⁰.

Similar items which can be included in the same typology have been excavated in Croatian cemeteries such as Kloštar Podravski¹¹, Popovec¹², *Bregi*¹², Veliki Bukovec¹³ and Vukovar - *Lijeva bara*¹⁴.

The *volhunic* type earring (form 17b Giesler) is traceable in T.6 from Sveti Juraj u Trnju associated with beads (form 41a) and a ring (form 35- Giesler) is dated in the second phase of Bjelo-Brdo horizon¹⁵.

The 17b model was also discovered in the excavation in Cauaceu¹⁶ (Fig. 8), Oradea - Cazarma Husarilor (Fig. 4)¹⁷, Oradea - Salca¹⁸ (Fig. 5-7), Ciganka¹⁹, Halimba - *Cseres*²⁰, Gomjenica²¹, Ptuj - *Grad*²² și Sišak²³. The pieces excavated in the Zvonimirovo - Veliko Polje necropolis are dated in Zvonimirovo second phase, which is synchronous with the Bjelo-Brdo first phase²⁴ horizon.

J. Giesler places this type in a transitional pre Bjelo Brdo horizon, but it can also be traceable in the first phase of Bjelo Brdo horizon. At the end of this phase, model 17a was abandoned and at some time between phases one and two of Bjelo Brdo horizon, type 17b²⁵ was also abandoned.

Alba Iulia: A bunch moulded bronze earring (type 12 Mesterházy) belonging to the fine group of imitation, is recorded in the old collection of the National Museum in Alba Iulia. It has an upper part made of circular wire (1 mm thick) stuck of the lower, which is decorated with a string of cross-form beads. On the edges of lower part and on the inferior part of the pendant four flattened globs were applied. The item could be included in subtype 12b1²⁶.

¹⁰ H. Ciugudean, *Anul 1000 la Alba Iulia. Între istorie și arheologie. Catalogul expoziției*. Alba Iulia, 1996, 10.

¹¹ J. Brunšmid, *Hrvatske sredovječne starine, Vjesnik Hrvatskoga arheološkoga društva n. s.*, sv. VII, Zagreb, 1903 / 4, 81, Fig. 33 / 5.

¹² S. Ercegović, *Sondiranje ranosrednjovjekovne nekropole u Popovcu, Arhpregled 1*, Beograd 1959, 105 - 107.

¹³ J. Branšmid, *Hrvatske sredovječne starine, Vjesnik Hrvatskoga arheološkoga društva n. s.*, sv. VII, Zagreb, 1903 / 4, 85, Fig. 38 / 2 - 3.

¹⁴ Z. Vinski, *Ausgrabungen in Vukovar, ArchJug III*, 1959, 103, Pl. XXXIX / 28 - 30. M. 62, M. 426 și M. 440.

¹⁵ Ž. Tomičić, *Ranosrednjovjekovno groblje u Sv. Jurju u Trnju u Medimurju prinos datiranju nalazišta. / Der frühmittelalterliche Friedhof in Sv. Juraj u Trnju in Medimurje. Ein Beitrag zur datierung der Fundstelle. Prilozi 15 - 16, 1998 - 1999, 47, T. 1. 2., T. 5. 1.*

¹⁶ C. Cosma, *Gräberfelder, Einzelgräber und Grabfunde Unsicherer Charakters aus dem 9. - 10. Jh. in Westen und Nordwesten Rumäniens. StudArchHist IV*, 2001, 520, Pl. 14 / 17.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, 209sq, Pl. 23 / 9.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, 208sq, Pl. 177 / 4-6.

¹⁹ Ž. Tomičić, *Tragom novijih istraživanja bjelobrdске kulture, u Slavenskom dijelu Podravine. Prilozi 7, 1990, 87, T. X. 2.*

²⁰ Gy. Török, *Die Bewohner von Halimba im 10. und 11. Jahrhundert*, Budapest, 1962, 147, Pl. XXVIII.

²¹ N. Miletić, *Slovenska nekropola u Gomjenici kod Prijedora. - Slawische Nekropole in Gomjenica bei Prijedor. Glasnik XXI-XXII, 1966 - 1967, 103, T. XXXI / 18.*

²² Ž. Tomičić, *Prilog istraživanju kronologije bjelobrdskog segmenta srednjovjekovnog groblja Ptuj - Grad. / A contribution to research into the chronology of the Bjelo Brdo section of the mediaeval cemetery of Ptuj - Grad. Ptujski arheoloski zbornik, 1993, 552, T. 7. 2., T. 8. 2., T. 11, T. 12.*

²³ Z. Vinski, *O postojanju radionica nakita starohrvatskog doba u Sisku. - Zur Frage des Bestehens von Schmuckwerkstätten aus altkroatischer Zeit in Sisak. Vjesnik IV, 1970, 58, Pl. II / 1-3.*

²⁴ Ž. Tomičić, *Ranosrednjovjekovno Zvonimirovo / Veliko Polje, prinos poynavanju bjelobrdске kulture u podravskom dijelu Slavonije. / Der frühmittelalterliche Friedhof Zvonimirovo / Veliko Polje, prinos poynavanju bjelobrdске kulture u podravskom dijelu Slavonije. Prilozi 13 - 14, 1996 - 1997, 101, T. 5, T. 8 / 1, T. II / 2.*

²⁵ J. Giesler, *Untersuchungen zur Chronologie der Bijelo Brdo - Kultur. Ein Beitrag zur Archäologie des 10. und 11. Jahrhunderts im Karpatenbecken. PZ 56, 1, 1981, 136.*

²⁶ K. Horedt, *Untersuchungen zur Frühgeschichte Siebenburgens*, Bukarest, 1958, 63, Fig. 17 / 17; Mesterházy 1991, 146sq; H. Ciugudean, R. Ciobanu, V. Moga, M. Drămbărean, C. Inel, A. Gligor, D. O. Dan, G. Rustoiu, A. Dragotă, C. Plantos, *Nekropolele orașului Alba Iulia - din preistorie în zorii evului mediu - Catalog de expoziție*, Alba Iulia, 2003, 63sq, Fig. 237. MNUAI, inv. 5408.

Some pieces have the wire ends in a hook that is attached on the ring, which comes out of the marginal knob. The piece from Alba Iulia has no hook, the upper part endings being attached directly to the marginal knobs. The four strings of beads that decorate the lower part like a cross-like section, are not stuck, but are the result of moulding. Such items are considered to have Slav origins. Best analogies are to be found in South Danubian area.

Blandiana A (fig. 2): The moulded earring excavated in T8 goes back to the Bjelo Brdo horizon, and may also be included in type 13-Mesterházy and 14- Giesler. A fragment of an ear has noxls on, in and on the lower part a pendant with a granular appearance²⁷.

Similar items have been excavated in Bulgaria and in Serbia. A moulded piece dating since the second half of 9th century and first half of 10th century have been excavated in the north-western part of Slovakia. Similar items that can be included in this typology have been found in Hungary. Here they are considered to be copies of gold and silver earrings.

In Halimba other items were dug out of T64, T 882, T778 and T 918. These items belong in the fine objects category. Those were made out after a pattern that had the lower part decorated with four bead strings. Beads close the endings of the lower part and on both parts, bead strings are present.²⁸

Analogies for this type have been discovered at Bjelo Brdo – T174 alongside with S shape rings and type 1 and 38. Other items worth mentioning here are those in Prijedor – Gomjenica²⁹.

This situation is well pointed out by J. Giesler, who notes that these pieces are mainly found in the ex-Yugoslavian area and less in Hungary and the same situation in Romania. Quite frequently, they have been associated with the Byzantine epoch either as imported objects or as local products³⁰.

Garvăn- Dinogetia (fig. 12): An alternative type, having a semi-moon and in the central part of the interior arch with a longish prominence (type 11 Mesterházy, 15c Giesler) is typical for the south-eastern Europe³¹. The only piece excavated in Romania was found in Garvăn. Mesterházy considers that earrings with four globs and their moulded imitations spread outside the Moravian territory in the southern part of Hungary³² mostly in the 10th century. Such items can be found in Ptuj – Grad, Sisak³³, Klostar³⁴ and Gomjenica³⁵. In Zvonimirovo – Veliko Polje (phase Zvonimirovo I synchronous with Bjelo Brdo I)³⁶ and in Mahovljani³⁷ they are in combination with type 10 Giesler.

²⁷ H. Ciugudean, Gh. Anghel, *Necropola feudal - timpurie de la Blandiana (jud. Alba)*. MCA XVII, 1983, 361 – 364; Gh. Anghel, H. Ciugudean, *Cimitirul feudal-timpuriu de la Blandiana (Jud. Alba)*. Apulum XXIV, 1987, 188, Fig. 4 / 3.

²⁸ K. Mesterházy, *Bizánci és balkáni eredetű tárgyak a 10 - 11. századi magyar sírletekben I. - Gegenstände Byzantinischen und Balkanischen Ursprunges in den ungarischen Gräberfeldern des 10 - 11. Jh.* FoArch 42, 1991, 152sqq.

²⁹ J. Giesler, *Untersuchungen zur Chronologie der Bijelo Brdo -Kultur. Ein Beitrag zur Archäologie des 10 und 11. Jahrhunderts im Karpatenbecken.* PZ 56, 1, 1981, 94.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, 96.

³¹ Gh. Ștefan, I. Barnea, M. Comșa, E. Comșa, *Dinogetia I. Așezarea feudală timpurie de la Bisericița – Garvăn*; Editura Academiei R. S. R., București, 1967, Biblioteca de Arheologie XIII, 277, Fig. 168/1, 169/1-2.

³² K. Mesterházy, *Bizánci és balkáni eredetű tárgyak a 10 - 11. századi magyar sírletekben I. - Gegenstände Byzantinischen und Balkanischen Ursprunges in den ungarischen Gräberfeldern des 10 - 11. Jh.* FoArch 42, 1991, 150.

³³ Z. Vinski, *O postojanju radionica nakita starohrvatskog doba u Sisku. - Zur Frage des Bestehens von Schmuckwerkstätten aus altkroatischer Zeit in Sisak.* Vjesnik IV, 1970, 48, T. I / 11.

³⁴ J. Brunšmid, *Hrvatske sredovječne starine*, Vjesnik Hrvatskoga arheološkoga društva n. s., sv. VII, Zagreb, 1903 / 4, 81, Fig. 31 / 2.

³⁵ N. Miletić, *Slovenska nekropola u Gomjenici kod Prijedora. - Slawische Nekropole in Gomjenica bei Prijedor.* Glasnik XXI - XXII, 1966 - 1967, 86 – 102, T. XI, XII, XIX, XXVI, XXXI / 12, 17; N. Miletić, *Elementi della cultura di Koetlach in Bosnia e Erzegovina.* Balc 4, 1975, 101sq, T. III / 5.

³⁶ Ž. Tomičić, *Ranosrednjovjekovno Zvonimirovo / Veliko Polje, prinos poynavanju bjelobrdske kulture u podravskom djelu Slavonije. / Der frühmittelalterliche Friedhof Zvonimirovo / Veliko Polje, prinos poynavanju bjelobrdske kulture u podravskom dijelu Slavonije.* Prilozi 13 - 14, 1996 - 1997, 100, T. 10.

³⁷ Ž. Tomičić, *Istraživanje kronologije ranosrednjovjekovnog groblja u Mahovljanima kraj Banja Luke. / Untersuchungen zur Chronologie des frühmittelalterlichen Gräberfeldes in Mahovljani neben Banja Luka.* Prilozi 17, 2000, 28, T. 3, 2, T. 4, 1, T. 4, 2, T. 5, 1, T. 5, 2, T. 6, 1, T. 7, 1.

Detta (fig. 11): Among the finds of the 1882 archaeological campaign, there is a bronze moulded earring. The decoration from the central pendant is stylized. Unfortunately only one piece of the whole item has been preserved and dates since the tenth century³⁸.

Timișoara (fig. 9, 10): A bronze moulded earring type 15b Giesler has been excavated from T 13 and considered to be a Byzantine import dated in 10th 11th centuries³⁹. Analyzing the drawing of the item it looks more like a 14b-Giesler type. A frequent association with type 37, confirmed by Giesler too, is also confirmed by this situation⁴⁰.

Another model, which imitates very well the bunch of grapes type, has been excavated from T18⁴¹ and dated in the second half of the tenth century.

Răducăneți (fig. 13): Among the finds excavated in 1969 on the northern part of "Beșleaga" hill a bronze earring was discovered. Granulated and with ribs, this earring is very much like the one excavated in Garvăn- Dinogeția⁴².

All the finds excavated on Romanian ground emerged from different cultural areas, consequently with typological differences. They are in a small number and most likely imports. All of them have analogies in the Slav area, where a number of moulds have also been excavated. These are considered to be just imitations of the luxurious Byzantine jewellery. Chronologically speaking, those finds are dated in the tenth and eleventh centuries and come from the necropolis.

³⁸ J. Korošec, *Pomen nekaterih nakitnih predmetov najdenih v Detti v Banatu*. *ArhVest* V / 1, 1954, 52, Fig. 7.

³⁹ A. Rădulescu, E. Gáll, *Das landnahmezeitliche Gräberfeld von Temesvár (Timișoara) – Csókaerdő*. *ActaArchHung* 52, 1 - 3, 2001, 181, Fig. 11 / 16.

⁴⁰ J. Giesler, *Untersuchungen zur Chronologie der Bijelo Brdo -Kultur. Ein Beitrag zur Archäologie des 10. und 11. Jahrhunderts im Karpatenbecken*. *PZ* 56, 1, 1981, 103.

⁴¹ A. Rădulescu, E. Gáll, *Das landnahmezeitliche Gräberfeld von Temesvár (Timișoara) – Csókaerdő*. *ActaArchHung* 52, 1 - 3, 2001, 181, Fig. 11 / 11.

⁴² *Monnaies et parures du Musée d'Histoire de la Moldavie de Iași. Corpus Nummorum Moldaviae – II, Iași, Vasiliana '98*, 2001, 45, Fig. III / 8.

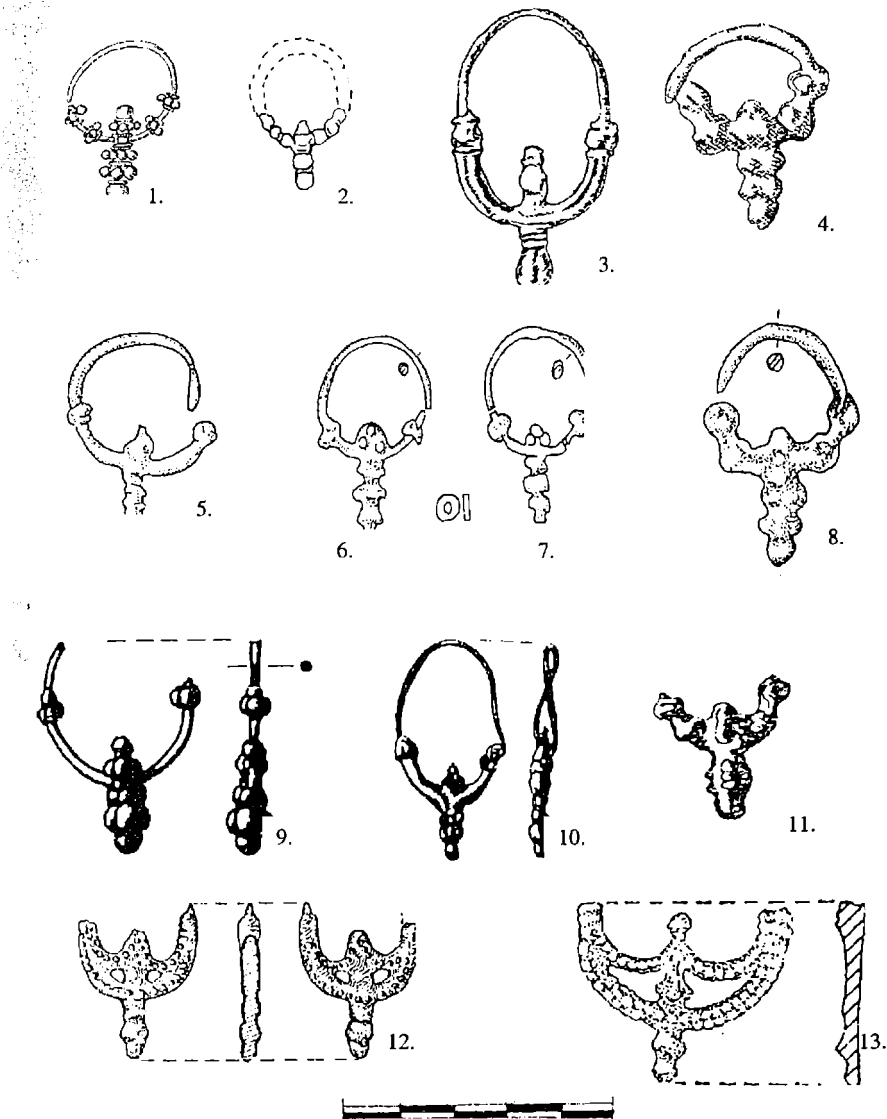


Plate I: 1. Blandiana B, 2 - Blandiana A, 3- Alba Iulia, 4 - Oradea - *Cazarna Husarilor*, 5- Oradea - *Salca / M.3*, 6 - Oradea - *Salca / M.4*, 7 Oradea - "*Salca*" M4, 8 - *Cauaceu*, 9- *Timișoara - Cioreni*, 10- *Timișoara - Cioreni*, 11- *Detta*, 12 - *Garvăn*, 13 - *Răducăneni*.