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## THE “DACIAN” SILVER HOARDS FROM MOESIA SUPERIOR. TRANSDANUBIAN CULTURAL CONNECTIONS IN THE IRON GATES REGION FROM AUGUSTUS TO TRAJAN

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*Abstract.* – The aim of this paper is to discuss some aspects concerning the “Tekija–Bare hoards horizon”: their “Dacian” origin, their significance, and the manner in which this phenomenon emerged after the practice of burying assemblages of silver body ornaments had ceased to the north of the Danube one or two generations earlier. The so-called Tekija–Bare group of hoards originates from the northern Danubian hoards containing silver body ornaments. This is demonstrated by the typology of some silver costume accessories and the tradition of burying them together with silver coins and metal or ceramic vessels. The appearance of these hoards south along the Danube in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD was the result of the revival of some northern Danubian ritual practices. This revival can be ascribed to the “Getae” who were moved to the south of the river by Aelius Catus at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and were later known as Moesi, according to Strabo (VII.3.10). The displacement of a large number of people, including entire communities, resulted in the transfer of a number of ritual practices and beliefs from one territory to another. However, these were transformed and adapted according to the new social conditions from Roman Moesia.

*Key words.* – Silver hoards, Moesia, Dacia, Tekija–Bare hoards horizon, Iron Gates region, Late Iron Age

The investigation of Late Iron Age silver hoards from the north of the lower Danube has a relatively long history, from the first discoveries of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the specialist studies of the interwar and post-war periods, and to the more recent analyses and interpretations. Among the most representative publications are those authored by G. Téglas in 1911<sup>1</sup>, N. Fettich<sup>2</sup>, D. Popescu<sup>3</sup> and O. Floca<sup>4</sup> around the middle of the last century, K. Horedt in 1973<sup>5</sup>, F. Medeleț<sup>6</sup> sometime later, and D. Spânu more recently<sup>7</sup>. A series of problems regarding their functions and chronology have also been re-analysed recently<sup>8</sup>. All of these contributions have defined the debates concerning the practice of burying “Dacian” hoards in general, and the ways in which silver body ornaments were assembled in this kind of archaeological context.

One problem that has constantly been debated concerns the chronological evolution of these hoards. K. Horedt was the first to use seriation to date these assemblages of body ornaments made of silver; his three chronological groups were subsequently adopted by F. Medeleț and, with some minor changes, also by V. V. Zirra and D. Spânu<sup>9</sup>, and the author of this

<sup>1</sup> Téglas 1911.

<sup>2</sup> Fettich 1953.

<sup>3</sup> Popescu 1937–1940a; 1937–1940b; 1945–1947; 1958.

<sup>4</sup> Floca 1956.

<sup>5</sup> Horedt 1973.

<sup>6</sup> Medeleț 1977; 1993; 1994.

<sup>7</sup> Spânu 2012.

<sup>8</sup> Egri, Rustoiu 2014 and forthcoming.

<sup>9</sup> Zirra, Spânu 1992.

| Relative chronology | Horedt 1973                     | Spânu 2012; 2019           | Rustoiu 2020               |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| LT D1               | <b>Frühe Gruppe</b> 125–75 BC   |                            | <b>1</b> 150/125–75/50 BC  |
| LT D2               | <b>Mittlere Gruppe</b> 75–25 BC | <b>1</b> 80/70–30/20 BC    | <b>2</b> 75/50–30/25 BC    |
| Eggers B1           | <b>Späte Gruppe</b> 25 BC–AD 25 | <b>2</b> 30/20 BC–AD 20/50 | <b>3</b> 30/25 BC–AD 25/30 |

Table 1. The main chronologies of Late Iron Age nord-danubian “Dacian” hoards

Табела 1. Основна хронологија за „дачке остјаве“ у области северној Подунавља, из периода Касној њвозденој доба

article<sup>10</sup>. Sometime later, D. Spânu changed his mind, opting to divide these hoards into just two chronological groups<sup>11</sup> (Tab. 1). I have recently argued against his interpretative model elsewhere<sup>12</sup>, so the detailed analysis will not be repeated here (Tab. 2). It is, however, important to mention that:

1) The “Dacian” silver hoards have a relatively unitary structure from a functional perspective (Fig. 1);

2) They are specific to a particular geographic and cultural area that largely corresponds to the territory occupied by the Dacian kingdom (Fig. 2);

3) They are exclusively female sets of body ornaments;

4) They have a well-defined chronology, being used during the LT D and at the beginning of the Roman imperial period; the practice of burying such hoards ceased in the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

Within this seriation, the single hoard that does not fit into the proposed chronologies is the one discovered at Poiana–Gorj, a village that is now part of the town of Rovinari in Gorj County. Thus, in this article, the discovery is listed as coming from Rovinari–Poiana. Its inventory includes both Republican and Imperial denars, with the latest dated ones being issued by Domitian in AD 81<sup>13</sup>. K. Horedt has included this hoard in the latest dated third group together with other similar discoveries, such as the hoards from Bare and Tekija, both found south of the lower Danube in the Iron Gates area, which were dated to the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. He has considered that in some cases costume accessories continued to be used over a longer period of time as “heirlooms”<sup>14</sup>. At the same time, F. Medeleț has suggested that the hoard from Rovinari–Poiana and those from Serbia belonged to a distinct fourth group of “Dacian” silver hoards<sup>15</sup>. Lastly, I. Popović has repeatedly suggested that the hoards from Serbia continued the tradition of the “Dacian” ones and were the starting point of a series of assemblages containing silver body ornaments that were widely distri-

buted in the Roman provincial environment during the 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. On the basis of these observations, she included them into the so-called group of Balkan – Danubian hoards<sup>16</sup>. D. Spânu, who ignores the Serbian hoards, has also noted that the hoard from Rovinari–Poiana does not fit into his chronological model, but has considered that it was just a later manifestation of a phenomenon that almost disappeared in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD: “This decline could be correlated with the decreasing importation of Imperial coins issued between the reigns of Tiberius and Nero. However, this conjuncture reflects not only the limited access to the precious metal, but also the abandonment of the interest in symbolic representation by the local elites. The tradition of lavish displaying using original prestige objects diminished in the context of an increasing Roman influence on the lower Danube”<sup>17</sup> (translation AR). However, precisely in this period, in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, a series of hoards containing silver body ornaments appeared in Moesia Superior, in the area of the Danube’s gorges, and more recently also on the lower Sava river. Most researchers consider that they have typological antecedents in pre-Roman Dacia. M. Guštin and I. Popović have recently named this group of discoveries the “Tekija–Bare hoards horizon”<sup>18</sup> (Fig. 2).

This horizon of hoards will be discussed below, the aim being to respond to a series of questions concerning their “Dacian” origin, their significance, and

<sup>10</sup> Rustoiu 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Spânu 2002; 2012; 2019a.

<sup>12</sup> Rustoiu 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Popescu 1937–1940b.

<sup>14</sup> Horedt 1973, 132, 151–152, Tab. 1.

<sup>15</sup> Medeleț 1993; 1994.

<sup>16</sup> Popović 1994a; 2004, 41–45; 2010a etc.

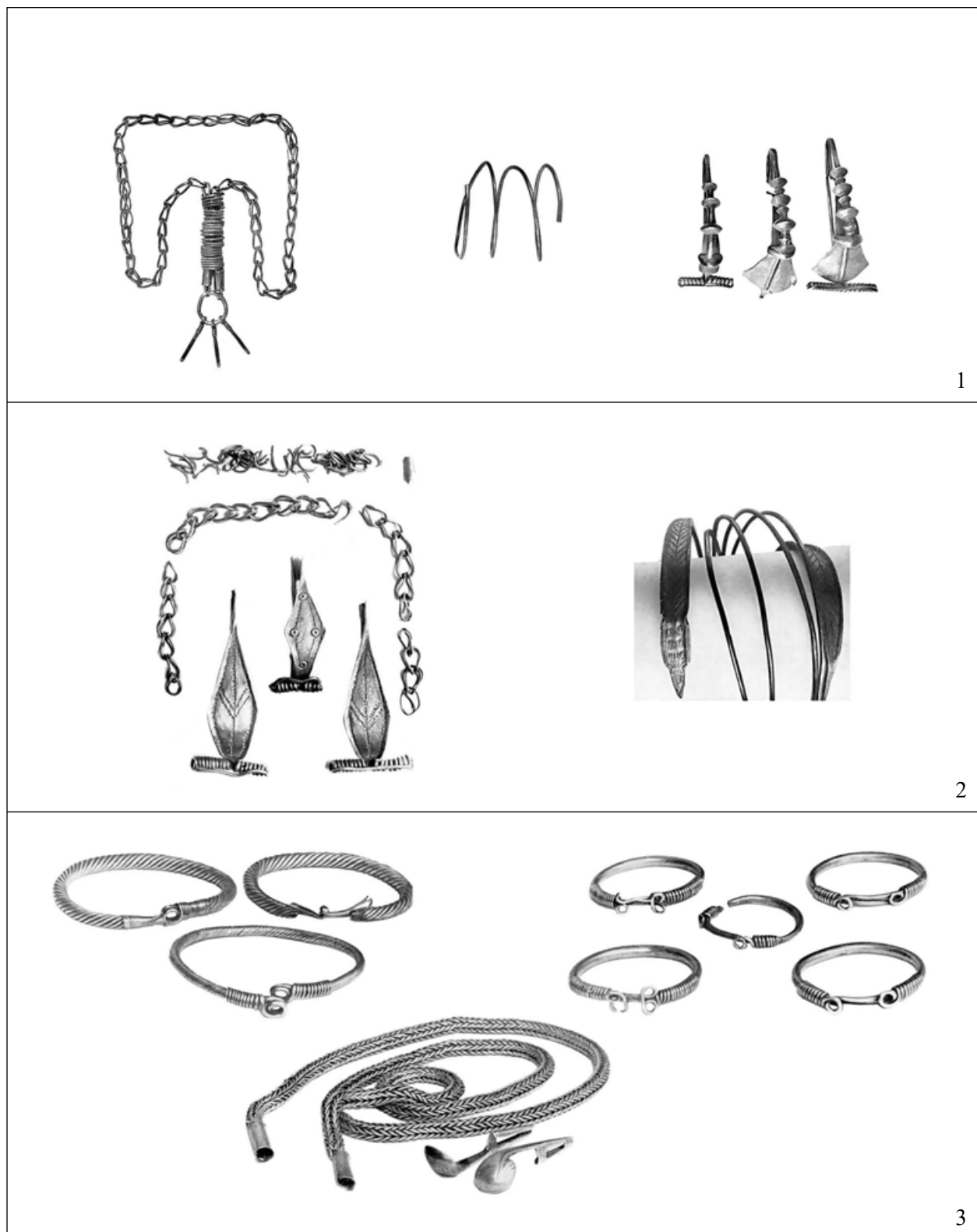
<sup>17</sup> Spânu 2012, 145.

<sup>18</sup> Guštin, Popović 2017, 54.

| Hoards        | Brooches (phalerae) | Brooches w/ knobs | LT D type brooches | Brooches w/ rhombic plate | Spoon-shaped brooches | Other types of brooches | Belts | Twisted bracelets | Bangles | Simple spiral bracelets | Spirals w/ palmettes | Bracelets w/ twisted ends | Earrings | Mastoi | Kantharoi | Late Republican vessels | Coins             | Chronological groups |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------|---------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------|--------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Bucuresti-H.  |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | Th                | 1                    |
| Lupu          |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Sâncrăieni    |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | Dy, Th            |                      |
| Agârbiciu     |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | Dy                |                      |
| Cehei         |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | Dy                |                      |
| Clipicești    |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | Th                |                      |
| Tilișca 1     |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Tilișca 2     |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           | Ag                      |                   |                      |
| Drăgești      |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | Dy, A, RD (75 BC) |                      |
| Oradea 3      |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Cojocna       |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Săcălășău 1   |                     | ?                 |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | Dy, A             |                      |
| Săcălășău 2   |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Cehetel       |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Bistrita      |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Sărmășag      |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Mediaș        |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Sărăcsău      |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Coldău        |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Ghelinta      |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | RD (67 BC)        |                      |
| Săliștea      |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Bălănești     |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Coadă Malului |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Saes          |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Cadea         |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | RD (41/38 BC)     |                      |
| Cerbăl        |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | RD (44/43 BC)     |                      |
| Rociu         |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | RD (81/76 BC)     |                      |
| Izvoru Frumos |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | RD (81 BC)        |                      |
| Vedea         |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           | Ag                      |                   |                      |
| Remetea Mare  |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | Th, RD (16/15 BC) |                      |
| Cetățeni      |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | RD (8 BC)         |                      |
| Seica Mică    |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | RD (28 BC)        |                      |
| Peteni        |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         | RD (70/58 BC)     |                      |
| Hetiur        |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |
| Senereuș      |                     |                   |                    |                           |                       |                         |       |                   |         |                         |                      |                           |          |        |           |                         |                   |                      |

Table 2. Chronology of the silver hoards from Late Iron Age Dacia (after: Egri, Rustoiu forthcoming and Rustoiu 2020)

Табела 2. Хронологија сребрних осџава из Дакије, из њериода Касној њвозденој доба (џрема Egri, Rustoiu (у иџамџу) и Rustoiu 2020)



*Fig. 1. Typical sets of Dacian body ornaments from horizons 1, 2 and 3:  
1) Cojocna; 2) Cadea (both after: Fettich 1953); 3) Șeica Mică (after: Floca 1956)*

*Сл. 1. Уобичајени седи дачкои накитија из хоризонаија 1, 2 и 3:  
1) Којокна; 2) Кадеа (оба према Fettich 1953); 3) Шејка Мика (према Floca 1956)*

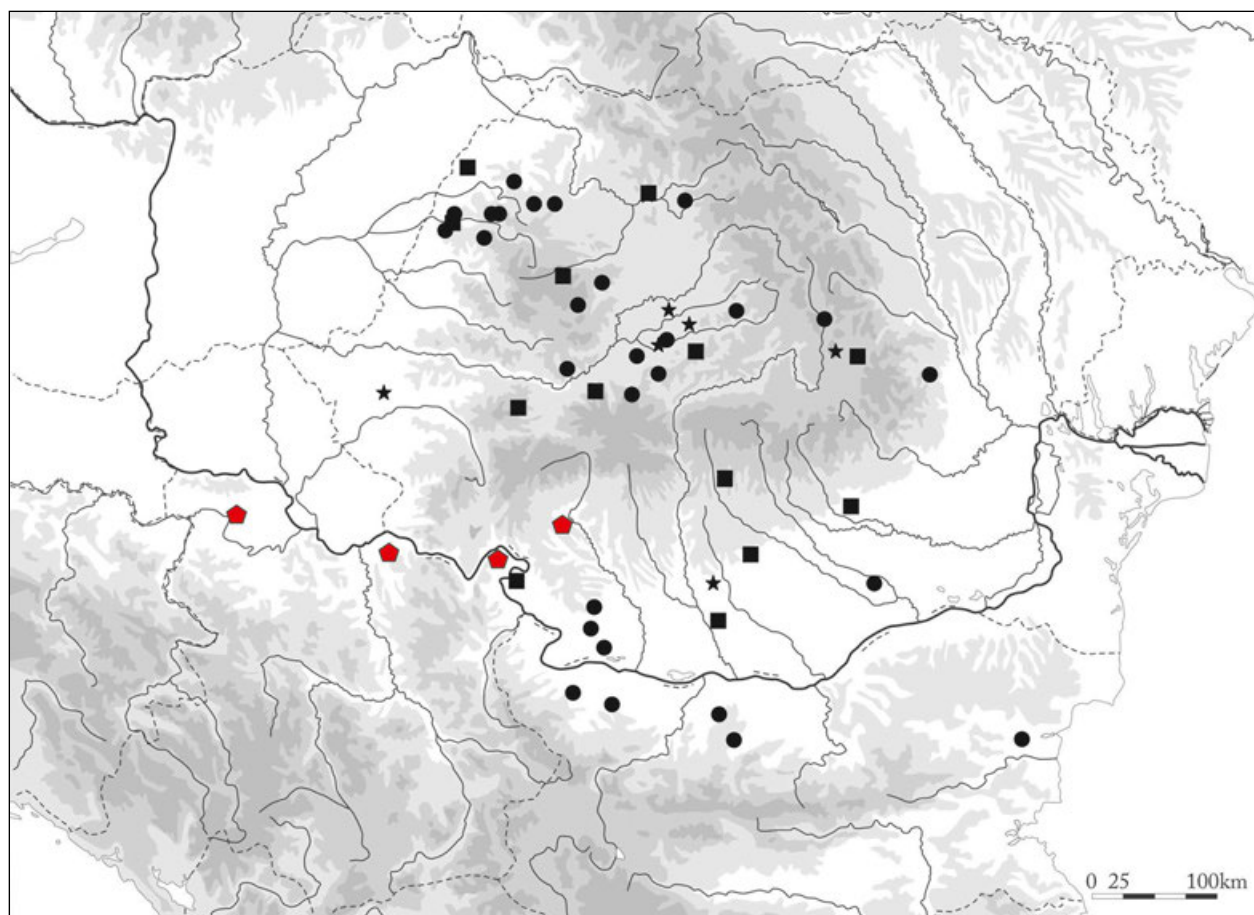


Fig. 2. Distribution map of the silver hoards in Late Iron Age Dacia (black dots – 1<sup>st</sup> horizon; black squares – 2<sup>nd</sup> horizon; black stars – 3<sup>rd</sup> horizon) and the horizon of Tekija – Bare hoards (red symbols)

Сл. 2. Карта распрострањености остатака сребра из периода Касне њвездене гоба у Дакији (црни кругови – 1. хоризонт; црни квадрати – 2. хоризонт; црне звездице – 3. хоризонт) и хоризонт остатака Текија – Баре (црвене ознаке)

the manner in which this phenomenon emerged after the practice of burying assemblages of silver body ornaments had ceased to the north of the Danube one or two generations earlier. These hoards were discovered at Tekija (Transdierna) in 1948<sup>19</sup>, Bare in 1964<sup>20</sup> and recently at Mačvanska Mitrovica<sup>21</sup>. Starting from them, the significance of the hoard from Rovinari–Poiana, discovered in 1938<sup>22</sup>, can also be understood. Aside from these assemblages, there are some other similar silver artefacts that have an uncertain provenance, for example the rigid necklaces or rings with axe-shaped pendants from Ratiaria or Vladimirovo in north-western Bulgaria<sup>23</sup>, and others kept in private collections or offered for sale on the antiquities market. These are not going to be discussed in detail here, but it is worth noting that some have recently been analysed<sup>24</sup>.

### Why are these hoards “Dacian”?

Even a brief examination of the hoards containing body ornaments that were dated either to the LT D or to the early Imperial period and were discovered in the nearby areas would indicate that no obvious similarities exist between them and the Moesian hoards, neither in the functional composition of the inventories, nor from a typo-morphological perspective.

<sup>19</sup> Mano-Zisi 1957.

<sup>20</sup> Popović, Borić-Brešković 1994.

<sup>21</sup> Guštin, Popović 2017.

<sup>22</sup> Popescu 1937–1940b.

<sup>23</sup> Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, 131, cat. no. 71; 135, cat. no. 85.

<sup>24</sup> Cleșiu, Mirea 2019.



Fig. 3. The Židovar hoard (after: Jevtić et al. 2006)

Сл. 3. Основа из Жуговара (према Jevtić et al. 2006)

For example, the hoards from the “Scordiscian” environment (Fig. 3–4), like those from Kovin, Židovar, Jarak, Hrtkovci or Szárazd–Regöly<sup>25</sup>, combine local costume accessories that are specific to the cultural area around modern Belgrade (middle LT brooches of the “Jarak type”, plate belt buckles, anthropomorphic, zoomorphic or vegetal pendants etc) with others of Mediterranean origin (intertwined chains, toiletry objects, pyxides, etc). They are accompanied by artefacts made of different materials, for example beads made of glass or amber. These assemblages are markedly different from those from pre-Roman Dacia.

The hoards of body ornaments or the funerary inventories of the early Imperial period, which were discovered in Moesia, contain artefacts specific to the late Hellenistic jewellery-making style and the eastern Mediterranean environment of the early Empire (Fig. 5). This includes a preference for gold jewellery,

which is absent in the “Dacian” or “Scordiscian” hoards. The individual female assemblages consist of earrings, various types of chains, bracelets and so on, all being frequently decorated with semiprecious stones, polychromy being one of the main characteristics of these finds<sup>26</sup>.

From the typo-morphological perspective, the hoards belonging to the Tekija – Bare horizon contain a series of artefacts that are encountered in the northern Danubian hoards, a feature that was already noted by the majority of the researchers who investigated this subject (Fig. 6–7).

<sup>25</sup> Rašajski 1961; Jevtić et al. 2006; Ljuština 2014; Guštin 1984; Dautova Ruševljan, Jevtić 2006; Rustoiu, Berecki 2014, 257, note no. 6, with previous bibliography.

<sup>26</sup> Ruseva-Slokoska 1991; Popović 2010b etc.

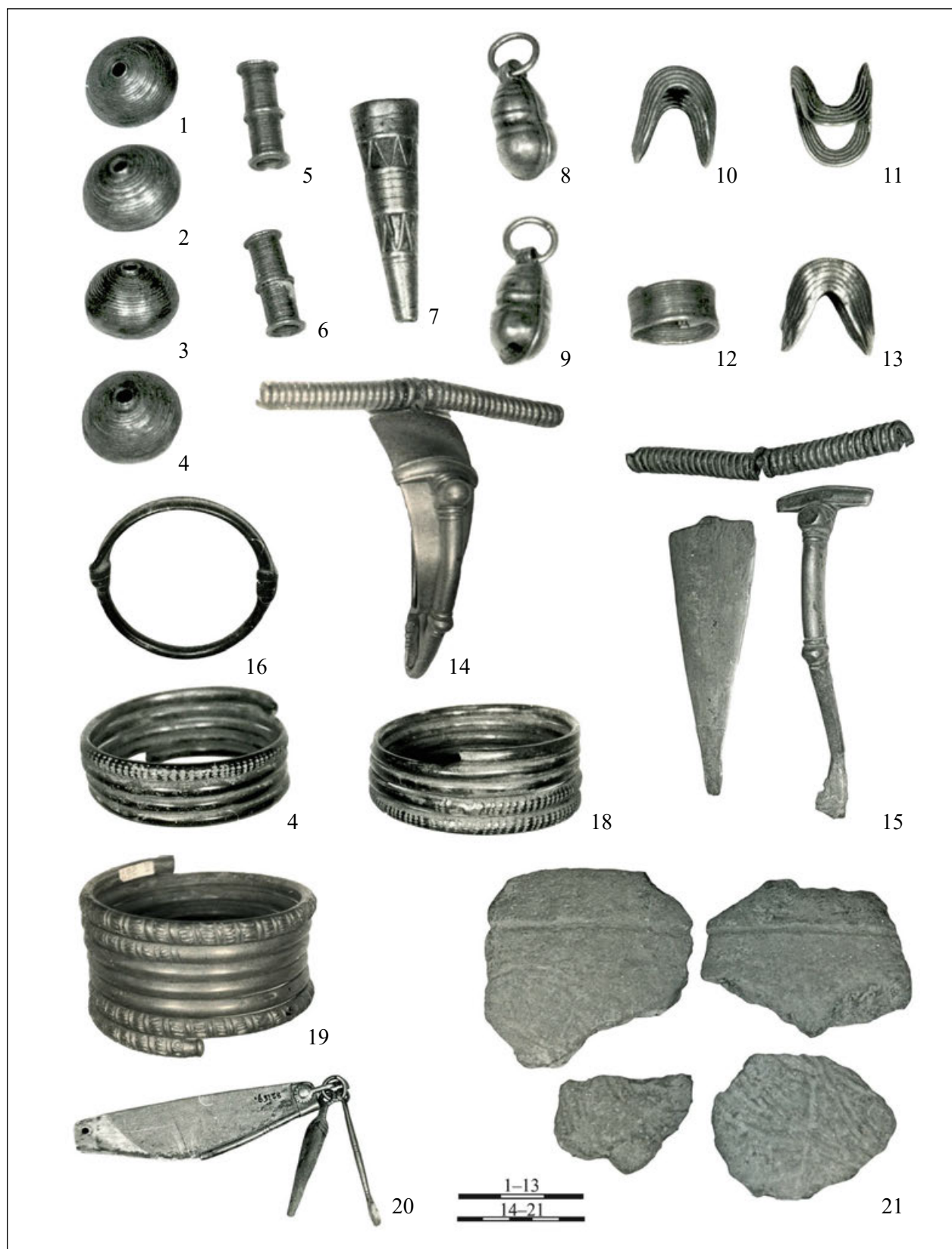


Fig. 4. The Kovin hoard (Museum of Vršac, photos F. Medelet)

Сл. 4. Осџава из Ковина (Музеј у Вршцу, снимџо F. Medelet)



Fig. 5. Gold jewellery from a burial in the cemetery at Ratiaria (after: Ruseva-Slokoska 1991)

Сл. 5. Златан накит из гроба са некрополе у Рацјарији (према Ruseva-Slokoska 1991)

The earrings having a conical or zoomorphic end, similar to those from Bare<sup>27</sup> or Rovinari–Poiana, and are commonly encountered in pre-Roman Dacia mainly during the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD<sup>28</sup>, while the hair-lock spirals having zoomorphic ends, which are present at Bare, are specific to the second and third group of the “Dacian” silver hoards<sup>29</sup>.

The rigid necklaces made of a single metal rod, sometimes twisted, or of several twisted silver wires, like those from Mačvanska Mitrovica, Bare or Rovinari–Poiana, are frequently encountered in hoards from pre-Roman Dacia, for example at Șeica Mică<sup>30</sup>.

The bracelets with superposed and twisted ends, sometimes with attached axe-shaped pendants<sup>31</sup>, are also commonly encountered in the northern Danubian hoards, with those from Șeica Mică<sup>32</sup> and Șaeș<sup>33</sup> offering close analogies.

The belts consisting of several rings with superposed and twisted ends, which are interlinked in different ways, are already attested in the first group of the “Dacian” silver hoards, for example at Tilișca<sup>34</sup> in

Transylvania, Clipicești<sup>35</sup> to the east of the Carpathians, and Fântânele<sup>36</sup> in Oltenia.

On the other hand, the hoards from Moesia include a variety of ornaments for the chest, which is a particularity of the horizon in question. Some of these ornaments have antecedents in the northern Danubian

<sup>27</sup> While these artefacts have diameters that are similar to those of some bracelets, their features and some analogies suggest that they are more likely earrings.

<sup>28</sup> Rustoiu 1996, 102–104; 2002, 196, Fig. 12/23–29, 13/1–15.

<sup>29</sup> Rustoiu 1996, 108–109; 2020, 18, Tab. 1.

<sup>30</sup> Floca 1956, 25–26, Fig. 115–17, Pl. 30; see also Rustoiu 1987–1988.

<sup>31</sup> For the axe-shaped pendants, see Rustoiu 1996, 124; 2002, Fig. 11/1–3, 12/16–17; Guštin, Popović 2017, Fig. 10 (the most recent distribution map).

<sup>32</sup> Floca 1956, 26–29, Fig. 18–19, Pl. 31.

<sup>33</sup> Mărghitan 1976, Pl. 43/2.

<sup>34</sup> Lupu 1981, Fig. 3/4; see also Rustoiu 1996, 111–113.

<sup>35</sup> Mitrea 1972.

<sup>36</sup> Spănu 2012, Pl. 43.

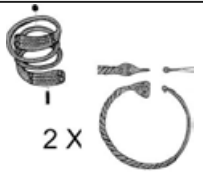



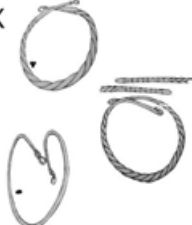

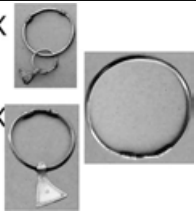
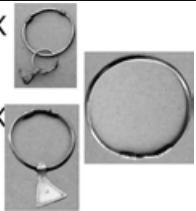













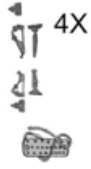
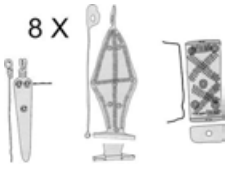


|         | Mačvanska Mitrovica  | Bare  | Tekija   | Poiana (Rovinari)  |
|---------|--|---|--|--|
| Head    |  | <br>2 X  | Au   | 2 X     |
| Neck    | 3 X   | 4 X    |  | 2 X     |
| Arms    | 2 X <br>2 X      | 4 X <br>2 X <br>3 X  | 2 X <br>5 X <br>Au  | 2 X     |
| Waist   |    | 19 X    |  | 11 X  |
| Chest   | 2 X <br>3 X  | 4 X <br>4 X   |  | 8 X   |
| Vessels |  |   | 2 X    |  |
| Coins   |  | Total: 279<br>(Rep.-Imp.)/Iast 81   |  | Total: 23<br>(Rep.-Imp.)/Iast 81   |
| Other   |  |   |    |  |

Fig. 6. The hoards from Mačvanska Mitrovica (after: Guštin, Popović 2017), Bare (after: Popović, Borić-Brešković 1994), Tekija (after: Mano-Zisi 1957), Rovinari–Poiana (after: Popescu 1937–1940b), and their functional components

Сл. 6. Осипаве из Маџванске Миџровице (према Гуштин, Поповић 2017), Баре (према Поповић, Борић-Брешкович 1994), Текије (према Мано-Зиси 1957), Ровинари – Појане (према Попеску 1937–1940b) и њихови функционални делови

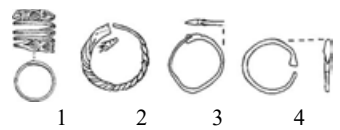
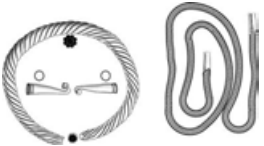

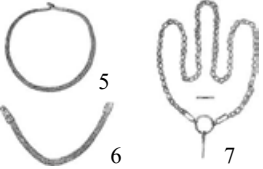




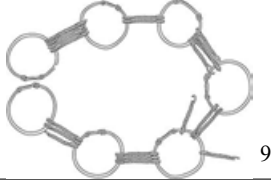





|         | Șeica Mică  | Șaeș  | Dacia   |
|---------|---|---|---|
| Head    |   |   |    |
| Neck    |        |       |    |
| Arms    | 5 ×    |        |    |
| Waist   |   |        |   |
| Chest   | 2 ×  | 5 ×  |  |
| Vessels |   |   |  |
| Coins   | 356 rep./last 28 BC   |   |   |
| Other   |   |   |  |

Fig. 7. The hoards from Șeica Mică (after: Floca 1956), and Șaeș (after: Mărghitan 1976), and silver jewellery from other Dacian hoards and settlements: 1, 6–7, 11 – Vedeia; 2–4 – various settlements; 5, 8, 10, 12 – Senereuș; 9 – Clipsești (1, 5–8, 10–12 – after: Mărghitan 1976; 2–4 – after: Rustoiu 1996; 9 – after: Spânu 2012)

Сл. 7. Осѣаве из Шејка Мика (ѡрема Floca 1956) и Шајш (ѡрема Mărghitan 1976) и сребрни накитѡ из осѣавих дачких осѣава и насеља: 1, 6–7, 11 – Ведеа; 2–4 – различитѡа насеља; 5, 8, 10, 12 – Сенереуш; 9 – Клипѣшти (1, 5–8, 10–12 – ѡрема Mărghitan 1976; 2–4 – ѡрема Rustoiu 1996; 9 – ѡрема Spânu 2012)

hoards. This is the case with the rhombic pendants whose shape and decoration point to the decorative features of some shield brooches<sup>37</sup>. Other pendants with an elongated leaf shape probably originated from the nail-shaped pendants<sup>38</sup>.

Lastly, the hoards from Moesia, such as the northern Danubian ones<sup>39</sup>, sometimes include metal vessels<sup>40</sup> and coins, the latter being dated between the late Republican period and the reign of Domitian. In this context, it is worth noting that the latest dated coins from Bare and Rovinari–Poiana were issued in AD 81, like in the case of the monetary hoard from Boljetin<sup>41</sup>, also in the Danube gorges. Due to this dating, some researchers have considered that the hoards in question were buried during the military conflicts between the Dacians and the Romans under Domitian<sup>42</sup>.

Unlike the northern Danubian hoards, those from Moesia also include some new elements, for example plaques with anthropomorphic or geometric decorations and small tubes. The hoard from Tekija stands out due to the presence of some gold ornaments (earrings and finger-rings), a military belt that belonged to *C. Valerius Crescens*, a soldier of *Legio VII Claudia*, and a number of small decorated silver plaques, which are usually votive offerings. Similar plaques have been found in the sanctuary of Dolichenus at Mauer an der Url, in Noricum<sup>43</sup>, while others made of gold have been found at Germisara in Dacia, dedicated to the nymphs<sup>44</sup>. In this case the entire assemblage seems to be an accumulation of valuables that was hastily buried in a ca. 1.5 m deep pit under the floor of a rectangular room with a stone foundation, from the military camp at Tekija.

The presence of these new elements in the hoards from Moesia, and also of the artefacts originating from Italic or provincial workshops, reflects the evolution of the concept of ceremonial costume and its associated objects, which was related to the functions performed by their owners in the provincial environment of the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

## WHEN AND WHY THESE HOARDS APPEARED IN MOESIA

### The archaeological context

The area around the Danube’s Iron Gates functioned as a “contact zone”<sup>45</sup>, both in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and later, when the Roman state controlled the entire lower Danube<sup>46</sup>. The communities inhabiting both banks of the Danube were permanently engaged in diverse net-

works of interaction, evidence being provided by the mixed ceramic repertoire. On both river banks, this repertoire includes elements of the typical “Dacian” tableware, for example the so-called fruit-bowls, and vessels specific to the “Scordiscian” environment, for example bowls with an S-shaped rim or large painted pots<sup>47</sup>. This could indicate a certain degree of hybridisation of the culinary and dining practices, which is commonly encountered in contact zones.

On the other hand, fortified settlements and fortresses are only encountered on the left bank of the Danube, from Židovar to Liubcova<sup>48</sup> (Fig. 8). These

<sup>37</sup> Rustoiu 1997, Fig. 42/5–7.

<sup>38</sup> Horedt 1973, 141–142, Type F1a–b, fig. 7.

<sup>39</sup> Rustoiu 2020, 18, Tab. 1.

<sup>40</sup> Janković 2014, 95, Fig. 9.1, has noted that the handles of some *paterae* from Tekija were decorated with axe-shaped pendants: “Such alteration has not been confirmed in any other form of Roman material culture, so we must assume that it was a local practice”. In my opinion, this local practice could have been related to the magical function that these pendants may have had. Regarding the Bare hoard, among other things, it includes a medallion with an anthropomorphic decoration (different Mediterranean deities being identified) that resembles a *phalera*. I. Popović has suggested that the medallion was attached to the bracelet with snake-shaped ends that was also part of the hoard (Popović 1997, 73–79). She has also noted that the artefact in question resembles the medallions that decorate the interior base of some late Hellenistic or early Imperial metal vessels, thus considering it an imitation of such pieces (Popović 1997, 76–77). In my opinion, the medallion from Bare was more likely used initially as a decorative element of a metal vessel and was later reused, being adapted to the bracelet with snake-shaped ends in the manner suggested by I. Popović. For medallions with similar dimensions, see, for example, one piece discovered in the so-called *Casa del Menandro* at Pompei, with a diameter of 4.8 cm, and 5.8 cm together with the attaching ring frame (Painter 2001, M 14, 63, pl. 14/1; see also the medallions on vessels from the Berthouville hoard: Lapatin 2014). The reuse of similar medallions for different purposes is also attested in this period, in different archaeological contexts (see, for example, Treister 2016).

<sup>41</sup> Guštin, Popović 2017, 55.

<sup>42</sup> See, for example, Popović 1997, 79, and Guštin, Popović 2017, 55, noting that these hoards are “a significant archaeological source for detection of probable military events in the winter of 81/82, or in a later period...”

<sup>43</sup> Noll 1980.

<sup>44</sup> Piso, Rusu 1990; Piso 2015.

<sup>45</sup> For the concept of “contact zone” and its applications in archaeology, see Egri 2018 with previous bibliography.

<sup>46</sup> See further Egri 2014; 2018; 2019; Drăgan 2020.

<sup>47</sup> Drăgan 2020, 46–66, 119–142.

<sup>48</sup> Rustoiu 2005; Rustoiu et al. 2017; Drăgan 2020. Despite the common opinion that the settlement at Židovar was fortified, M. Ljuština told me recently that the latest excavations have not confirmed the presence of any defensive elements (see also Ljuština 2014,



Fig. 8. Types of archaeological sites and discoveries from the Iron Gates region (after: Drăgan 2020)

Сл. 8. Врсте археолошких налазишта и налаза у области Тврђава (према Drăgan 2020)

delimit, both culturally and socially, the extension of the Dacian kingdom. At the same time, cremation graves containing weaponry and other features specific to the Padea–Panaghiurski kolonii-type burials are also attested. One relevant example is offered by the grave from Dubova<sup>49</sup> (Fig. 9/2).

On the opposite river bank are attested only rural settlements and flat cremation burials, which are structurally different from those identified in Dacia, despite containing weaponry (Fig. 9/1). For example, harness fittings are missing (Fig. 9/3), so the social identity of the deceased was not defined by horse riding, as in the case of the martial elites from the north of the river<sup>50</sup>.

Therefore, the spatial organisation of the landscape and habitation, and the funerary practices, points to some important differences between the communities living on each bank of the Danube. These differences are also visible in the structure of the ceremonial costume assemblages.

As already mentioned above, the distribution area of the hoards containing “Dacian” silver artefacts covers almost exclusively the inner Carpathian region and that between the southern Carpathians and the lower Danube. East of the Carpathians, the practice of bury-

ing silver hoards is rarely encountered<sup>51</sup>, despite some recent discoveries<sup>52</sup>, whereas south of the Danube the same practice is also rarely attested<sup>53</sup>.

A number of relevant discoveries are known from the Iron Gates area, on the left bank of the Danube.

22–223: “up to now ...no trace of fortification has been recognised”). Concerning this question, V. D. Mihajlović and M. A. Janković write: “Having in mind the destructive effects of erosion caused by rains and strong winds, the lack of reliable traces of enclosure is not an unexpected situation” (2021, 815). However, the morphological layout of the site location (a high terrace with steep slopes), the general situation observed in other similar settlements from the Iron Gates region (which were all fortified), and the analogies offered by other quite similar settlements that I have investigated over the years (for example Sighișoara-Wietenberg in central Transylvania, or Solotvino in Transcarpathian Ukraine), which had at least some double palisades on the limits of the inhabited plateaus, lead me to consider that the defensive elements of the settlement at Židovar will be most likely identified by future archaeological excavations.

<sup>49</sup> Spânu 2001–2002; Rustoiu 2019, 214–217.

<sup>50</sup> Drăgan 2020, 79–81, Fig. 56.

<sup>51</sup> Rustoiu 2002.

<sup>52</sup> One hoard of silver body ornaments has recently been discovered at Căndești, not far from the “Dacian dava” at Cărlomănești: information S. Matei (Museum of Buzău).

<sup>53</sup> Spânu 2012, Pl. 1.

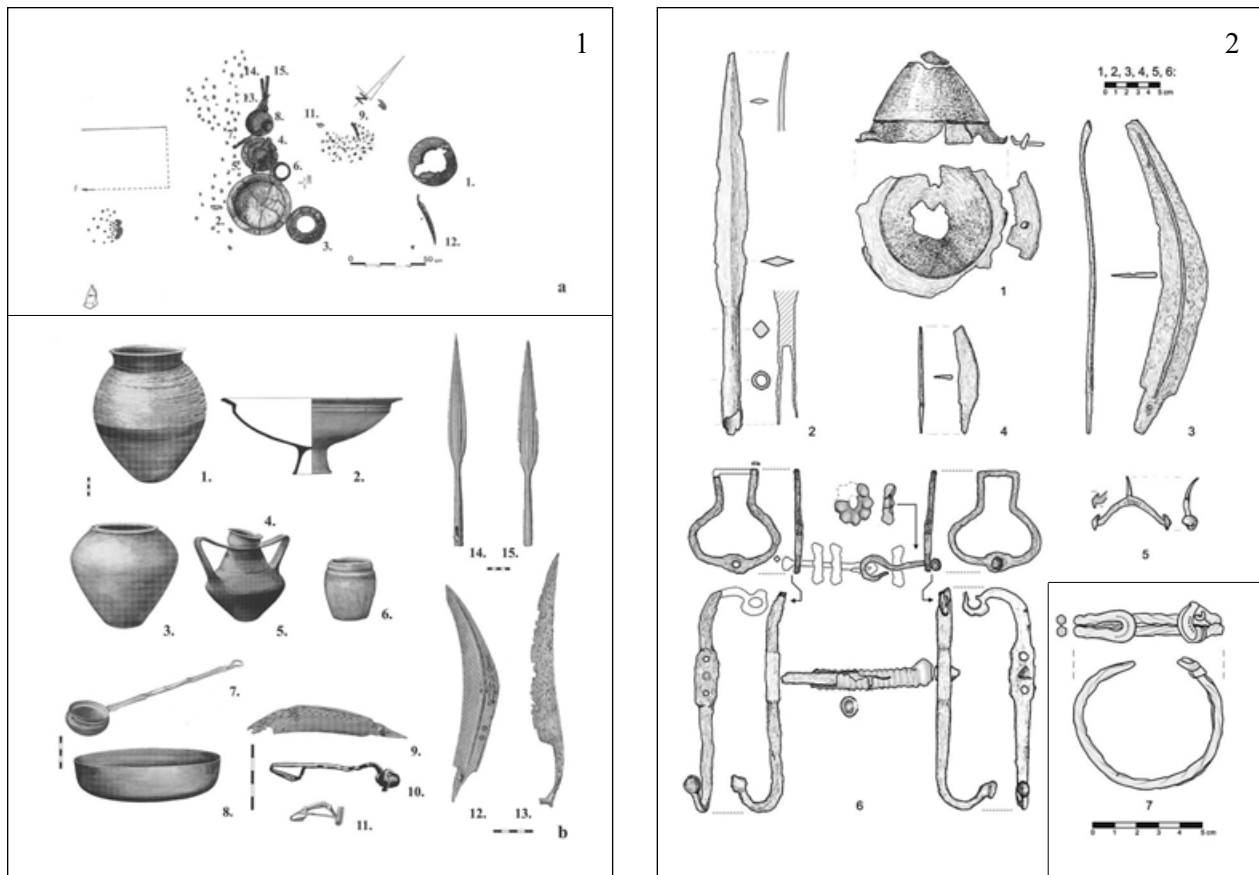
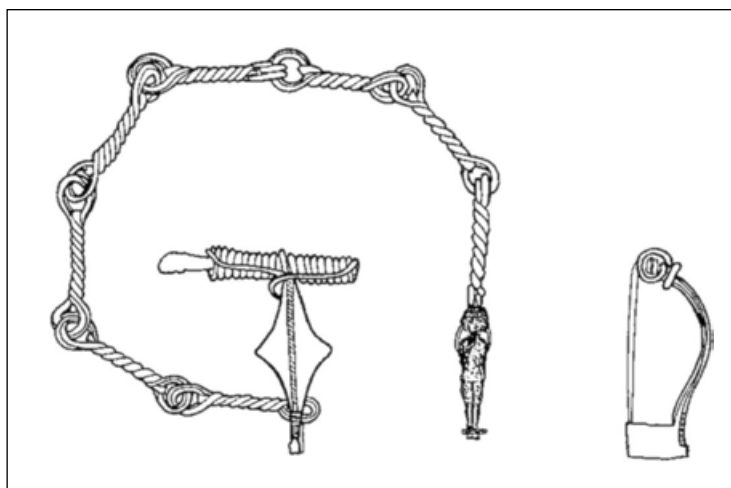


Fig. 9. Funerary discoveries in Iron Gates region:  
 1. Mala Vrbica–Ajmana (after: Stalio 1986);  
 2. Dubova (after: Spânu 2001–2002);  
 3. Distribution map of graves with weapons: red symbols indicate the presence of harness fittings (after: Drăgan 2020)

Сл. 9. Гробни налази у области Бергаја:  
 1. Мала Врбица–Ајмана (према Stalio 1986);  
 2. Дубова (према Spânu 2001–2002);  
 3. Карта распрострањености гробова са оружјем: црвени симболи означавају присуство коњске опреме (према Drăgan 2020)

Fig. 10. The silver shield-type brooch and chain from Kladovo, with a bronze pendant representing the god Harpocrates (after: Popović 1994b)

Сл. 10. Сребрна фибула у облику штићива и ланац из Кладова, са бронзаним њривеском са њресѡавом боѡа Харѡократиѡа (ѡрема Поповић 1994б)



Among them are the hoard from Izvoru Frumos<sup>54</sup>, which was dated to the Augustan period, and the Transylvanian bracelet from a grave with weaponry discovered at Dubova; a recent re-examination of the latter artefact has demonstrated that it was not part of the personal inventory of the deceased, but the possible result of some magical rituals<sup>55</sup>. Other examples include the nail-shaped pendant from the settlement at Liubcova<sup>56</sup> and the hair-lock spirals decorated with stamped palmettes from the second phase of the LT settlement at Židovar<sup>57</sup>. These discoveries again demonstrate that the respective female costume assemblages belonged to the “Dacian” environment from the north of the Danube.

A number of isolated discoveries that belong to the last two groups of the northern Danubian hoards appeared sporadically in the same Iron Gates area, but on the right bank. These include a spiral with stamped palmettes that was discovered in unknown circumstances at Velika Vrbica<sup>58</sup>, a brooch with a rhombic shield from Mala Vrbica–Konopiste<sup>59</sup> and a brooch with a chain made of twisted segments, from Kladovo<sup>60</sup> (Fig. 10). The latter find, dated to the Augustan reign, was used over a longer period, based on the dating of the anthropomorphic pendant depicting Hippocrates that was attached to the other end of the chain, probably replacing another brooch that was most likely identical to the preserved one<sup>61</sup>.

It can, therefore, be said that there are very few antecedents for the Moesian hoards. Consequently, a short overview of the historical evolution of the region in question may contribute to a better understanding of the social-political and cultural context in which these hoards could have emerged.

### The Iron Gates region from Augustus to Trajan

In a polemic paragraph, Strabo (VII.3.10) mentions briefly that “in our own times Aelius Catus has removed from the opposite side of the Danube into Thrace fifty thousand Getae, who speak a language cognate with Thracian. They still inhabit the very spot, and pass by the name of Moesi”<sup>62</sup>. This paragraph has been widely discussed in archaeological literature,

<sup>54</sup> Stângă 1992; Spănu 2012, Pl. 64; Drăgan 2020, 84–87.

<sup>55</sup> Rustoiu 2019, 214–217.

<sup>56</sup> Rustoiu et al. 2017, Fig. 13.

<sup>57</sup> Jevtić 2007, 11, Fig. 7.

<sup>58</sup> Medeleț 1993; 1994.

<sup>59</sup> Popović P. 1989–1990.

<sup>60</sup> Popović I. 1994b.

<sup>61</sup> The artefact in question was acquired by the National Museum of Belgrade in 1930, together with other silver artefacts discovered in unknown circumstances at Kladovo. These include a torque, two bracelets (or earrings?) with snake-shaped ends, and a pair of strongly profiled brooches with the spring covered by a semi-circular shield. Since there is no information regarding their context of discovery, I. Popović has expressed significant reservations about the possible identification of a unitary assemblage of body ornaments (Popović 1994b, 70). Nonetheless, if these are elements of a single costume assemblage, this should be dated to the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, based on the chronology of the brooches (Cociș 2004, 62–63, Type 8a15).

<sup>62</sup> Trad. Hamilton, Falconer 1903 (<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=urn:cts:greekLit:tlg0099.tlg001.perseus-eng2:7.3.10>; accessed 18.02.2022). Mócsy 1974, 36–37, has noted that one method used during the Augustan period to consolidate the Roman authority was the displacement of entire communities from one territory to another. Therefore, the relocation of some Dacian communities south of the Danube was not an exceptional action; for other Roman strategies of expanding imperial authority on the middle and lower Danube, see Egri 2019.

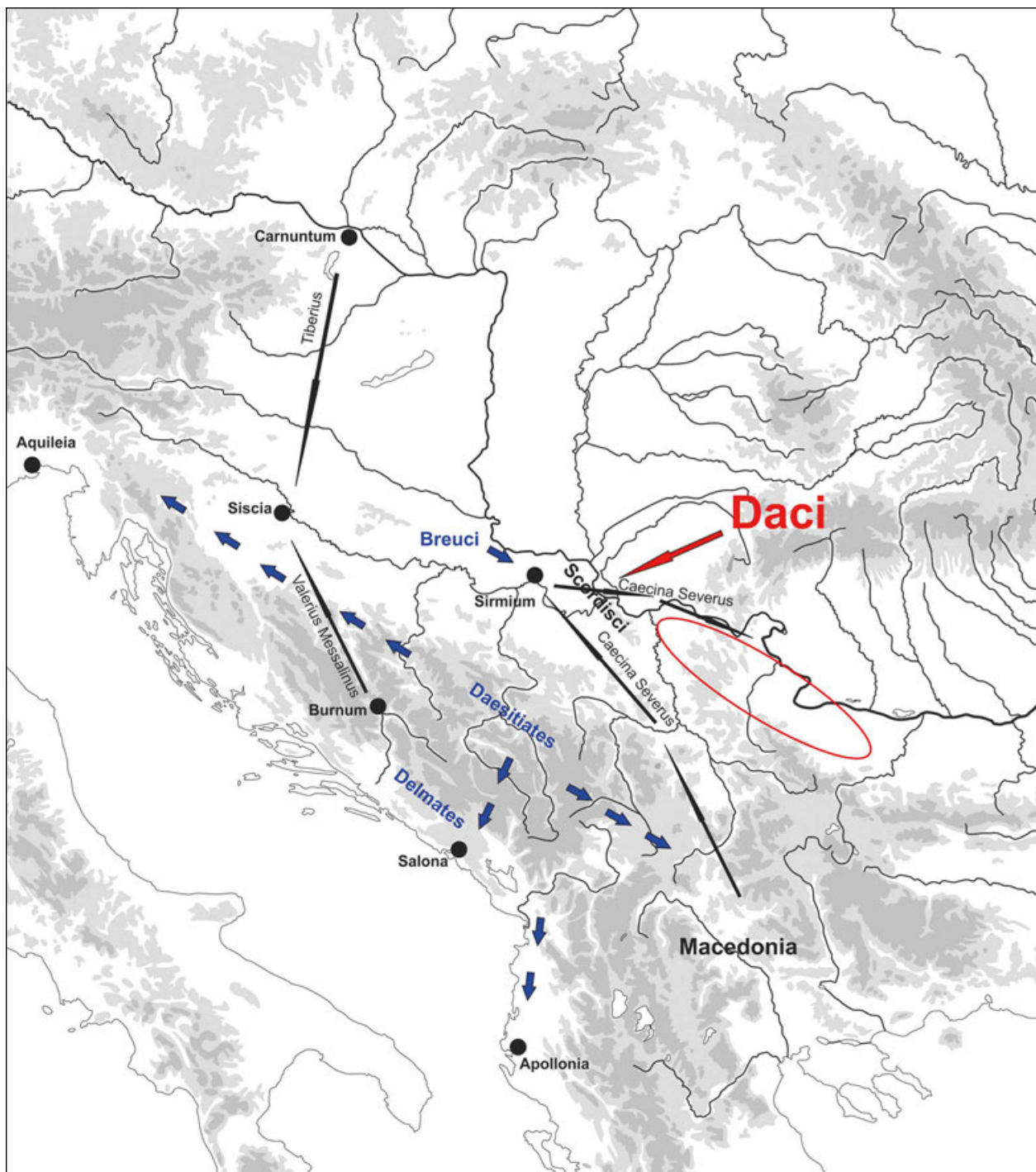


Fig. 11. Pannonian revolt from AD 6–9 (Bellum Batonianum): black arrows – direction of action of the Roman army; blue arrows – direction of action of the rebels; red arrow – Dacian and Sarmatian attack; red line zone – the territory south of the Danube on which northern Dacians were relocated (by Aelius Catus, according to Strabo); from the same territory come the military diplomas mentioning the Dacians recruited in the Roman army from Nero to Trajan

Сл. 11. Панонски устјанак из 6–9. године н.е. (Bellum Batonianum): црне стрелице – правац најага римске војске; плаве стрелице – правац најага устјаника; црвена стрелица – дачки и сармајски најаг; зона црвених линија – област јужно од Дунава на коју су пресељени северни Дачани (код Елијуса Кајуса, према Страбоу); из исте области постоје војничке дипломе у којима се спомињу Дачани рекрутовани у римску војску, у периоду од Нерона до Трајана

and since Vasile Pârvan<sup>63</sup> until very recently<sup>64</sup>, Romanian historiography commonly located the intervention of the governor of Macedonia in the Wallachian Danube’s area (east of the confluence of the Olt River with the Danube).

On the other hand, Doina Benea suggested two decades ago that the events in question must have happened somewhere in western Dacia and on the territory of the future province of Moesia Superior<sup>65</sup>. The episode mentioned by Strabo took place in the context of the Pannonian and Dardanian revolt in AD 6, when the Breuci led by Bato attacked Sirmium (Fig. 11). A. Cecina Severus, the commander of the Macedonian army, was sent to punish them, with the cavalry of King Rhoemethalces as allied troops. At the same time or shortly afterwards, the Dacians and the Sarmatians also attacked the territories of the Roman allies in this region<sup>66</sup>. As a representative of Aelius Catus, the governor of Macedonia, A. Cecina Severus, had to intervene and establish order<sup>67</sup>. The displacement of a large number of northern Danubian Dacians to the south of the river, in territories controlled by the Romans, must have been pursued in this political and military context. Consequently, the events could only have happened somewhere in western Dacia, either in southern Banat or in the Iron Gates region and western Oltenia (Fig. 11).

Coincidentally or not, the Dacian fortresses and settlements in the Iron Gates region were all destroyed violently at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD<sup>68</sup>. Although many were subsequently reconstructed, the fortified settlement at Liubcova was definitively abandoned after these events. During the same period, both on the right bank of the Danube<sup>69</sup> and deeper inland, for example at Paraćin in the middle Morava basin<sup>70</sup>, new settlements appeared whose inventories included kitchenware and tableware specific to the northern Danubian ceramic repertoire. The appearance of these settlements has been related to the displacement of Dacian communities in Moesia during the Augustan period or later, during the reign of Nero<sup>71</sup>.

Lastly, a number of military diplomas recently discovered through illegal means in north-western Bulgaria, and perhaps also in eastern Serbia, mention the recruitment of soldiers of Dacian origin in the fleet or the auxiliary units as early as the Claudian times and then also later, during Trajan’s Dacian wars<sup>72</sup>. These Dacians came from the south of the Danube, from the regions close to the Iron Gates, so they were most likely descendants of those brought by the Romans to Moesia at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD<sup>73</sup>.

The movement of entire communities south of the Danube also implied the transfer of many practices and customs from the homeland, if these did not contravene the Roman norms. For example, there were no fortified settlements, cult structures, human sacrifices or “invisible” funerary practices of the kinds encountered on the territory of the Dacian kingdom. On the contrary, proper burials in structured cemeteries reappeared among these communities, as would also happen later in Roman Dacia. The deceased were cremated, the remains being then placed in urns or simple pits. A number of cemeteries and cremation burials from the Iron Gates region or the Morava Valley were ascribed to these Dacian communities moved to the south of the Danube<sup>74</sup>.

Among the customs preserved by these communities is the use of particular sets of body ornaments made of silver. The brooch from Kladovo with a rhombic shield and a chain made of twisted segments that most likely had a similar brooch attached to the other end belongs typologically to the second or third group of the northern Danubian silver hoards<sup>75</sup> (Fig. 10). The brooch must have arrived south of the river with a displaced Dacian community, and was used there over a longer period. Its original meaning was transformed through the attachment of the anthropomorphic statuette depicting an Oriental divinity that was also worshipped in the province. Other silver artefacts, like the similar brooch from Mala Vrbica–Konopiste or the spiral with stamped palmettes from Velika Vrbica, which have been mentioned above, must have travelled through the same means south of the Danube.

<sup>63</sup> Pârvan 1926, 94–95.

<sup>64</sup> Daicoviciu 1972, 117–118; Vulpe 1976, 132–133; Rădulescu 2001, 665; Petolescu 2001, 718, note 1 etc.

<sup>65</sup> Benea 1989.

<sup>66</sup> These allies of the Romans could only have been the Scordisci, who a few years earlier fought alongside Tiberius during the Pannonian war of 12 BC, see Dzino 2010, 128–129.

<sup>67</sup> For events connected with the Pannonian and Dalmatian revolt, see Mócsy 1974, 37–39; Dzino 2010, 137–155; Šašel Kos 2011, 110–112.

<sup>68</sup> Rustoiu et al. 2017.

<sup>69</sup> Drăgan 2020, 89–150.

<sup>70</sup> Filipović et al. 2019.

<sup>71</sup> Filipović et al. 2019, 125–126, with previous bibliography.

<sup>72</sup> Dana, Matei-Popescu 2006; 2009; Matei-Popescu 2017.

<sup>73</sup> Matei-Popescu 2017, 141–142.

<sup>74</sup> Jovanović (A.) 2000.

<sup>75</sup> Horedt 1973, 132, Tab. 1; Rustoiu 2020, 18, Tab. 1.



Fig. 12. Silver plaques showing female characters:

1. Mačvanska Mitrovica (after: Guštin, Popović 2017); 2–3. Lupu (2 – after: Spânu 2012; 3 – photo: A. Rustoiu)

Сл. 12. Сребне плоче са представљама женских ликова:

1. Маџванска Миџровица (према Гуштин, Поповић 2017); 2–3. Луџу (2 – према Спâну 2012; 3 – снимко А. Рустоиу)

On the other hand, the original meanings and functions attached to these sets of body ornaments were most probably transformed south of the Danube through time. In Dacia, these sets of ornaments were used by women who fulfilled certain ritual roles and were sometimes associated with the warlike elites. When they died, their body was treated in a way that left almost no archaeological traces, but the respective sets of body ornaments and other objects related to the ritual role of their owners, for example metal or ceramic drinking-related vessels, were transferred from the world of the living into the afterworld by mutilating and burying them in pits located on sacred areas within the community's territory<sup>76</sup>.

In the case of the hoards from Moesia, the manner in which the women wearing these sets of body ornaments were treated upon death probably had to largely conform to the funerary norms of the province. However, other ritual traditions seem to recall older practices from pre-Roman Dacia, albeit transformed or reinvented in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. The inventories of these hoards always include anthropomorphic images (Fig. 12). Some are stylistically close to the images from pre-Roman Dacia, for example those on the *phalerae* from Lupu, in Transylvania<sup>77</sup> (Fig. 12/2–3). Others belong to the Hellenistic or Roman repertoire, as in the case of the medallion of a vessel from Bare or the votive plaques from Tekija. At the same time, some of the hoards from Moesia include sets of vessels, just like the Dacian ones. Lastly, they tend to appear in the vicinity of military forts, which could perhaps hint at older connections between the wearers of these costumes and the warlike elites. At Tekija, this association is suggested not only by the context of discovery, but also by the inclusion of military equipment.

Regarding the burying time of the Moesian hoards, the situation from Tekija seems to confirm the general hypothesis that they were hidden in the context of the Dacian wars under Domitian, which is suggested by the latest dated monetary issues. However, it is also possible that they were buried at different dates. The hoard from Rovinari–Poiana, whose composition is similar to those from Moesia, was more likely hidden at a time when the territory of Oltenia was controlled by troops from Moesia, maybe during the reign of Domitian, or more likely during Trajan's Dacian wars<sup>78</sup>. The hoard could have been brought to the north of the Danube in a period in which Oltenia depended in one way or another on the southern Danubian province, or

even later, when it was already part of Roman Dacia. Only this hypothesis could explain the presence of this kind of hoard north of the Danube in a period in which the aforementioned Dacian silver hoards had ceased to be used more than half a century earlier.

### Conclusions

As already noted by some specialists and further demonstrated above, the so-called Tekija – Bare group of hoards originates from the northern Danubian hoards containing silver body ornaments. This is demonstrated by the typology of some silver costume accessories and the tradition of burying them together with silver coins and metal or ceramic vessels.

The appearance of these hoards south of the Danube in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD was the result of the revival of some northern Danubian ritual practices. This revival can be ascribed to the “Getae”, who were moved to the south of the river by Aelius Catus at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and were later known as the Moesi, according to Strabo (VII.3.10). The displacement of a large number of people, including entire communities, resulted in the transfer of a number of ritual practices and beliefs from one territory to another. However, these were transformed and adapted according to the new social conditions from Roman Moesia. It can, therefore, be said that the structure and composition of the hoards of the Tekija – Bare type suggest that a number of practices originating from the area of the Dacian kingdom were preserved and revived south of the Danube in a period in which these had already been abandoned one or two generations earlier north of the river.

The reinvention of these traditions could also be related to the integration of these communities into the

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<sup>76</sup> Egri, Rustoiu 2014 and forthcoming.

<sup>77</sup> Guštin, Popović 2017, 56. For the hoard from Lupu, see Glodariu, Moga 1994.

<sup>78</sup> Perhaps already during the reign of Domitian, but surely after the first Dacian war under Trajan, the territory of Oltenia was organised as a military district controlled by the army of Moesia. The Hunt papyrus (British Museum 2851), dated either to AD 99 or later, to AD 105–106, mentions the presence of some detachments of *Cohors I Hispanorum veterana*, which belonged to the army of Moesia Inferior, to the north of the Danube at Buridava in Oltenia and Piroboridava on the Siret river, east of the Carpathians: see Vulpe 1976, 154–155, with older bibliography; Matei-Popescu 2010, 215–218.

<sup>79</sup> Ettliger 1973, Type 3, 5–6; Riha 1979, Type 1.4; Feugère 1985, Type 3.

social life of the adoptive province. According to a series of military diplomas, some members of these communities were recruited into the Roman army. They still had Dacian names and their ethnic identity is clearly stated in these diplomas. Their honourable discharge from the army, probably under Vespasian, bringing home all of the privileges offered to the veterans, most likely contributed to the construction of a particular identity that incorporated some traditional elements, as well as others resulting from the interaction with the Roman authorities and other social or ethnic groups from the province. In this context, the use of ceremonial costumes including body ornaments specific to the “Dacian” environment together with the adaptation of a series of older ritual practices to the provincial social norms must have played an important role.

This kind of return to older traditions among the indigenous communities from the provinces has also been noted in other situations. One example is the re-appearance in the Alpine or northern Alpine provinces of some costume accessories with “archaic” features that predate the organisation of the respective provinces by a few generations. Among them are some types of middle La Tène brooches, which have been discovered in contexts dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD from Gallia to Noricum and even further to the east<sup>79</sup>, aiming to recall some of the style of body ornamentation of the ancestors. This is not unlike our taste for “retro” fashion.

Other examples include the appearance in the north-eastern Alpine area of some strongly profile brooches whose bow bears zoomorphic decorations<sup>80</sup> or the composition of the female Norican – Pannonian costume<sup>81</sup>, all of which illustrate the revival of some styles of body ornamentation that predate the organisation of the respective provinces.

Therefore, the appearance of the hoards of the Tekija – Bare type is part of the same phenomenon of revival and reinvention of certain ancestral traditions within the Roman provincial environment. The hoard from Rovinari–Poiana, which belongs to the same group, must have been assembled south of the Danube, in the particular environment discussed above. The hoard could have arrived on the mentioned site across the river only when the territory of Oltenia was already controlled by the army of Moesia Inferior or after its inclusion into Roman Dacia.

Lastly, this group of hoards of the Tekija–Bare type contributed, as I. Popović has already mentioned, to the evolution of the Balkan – Danubian hoards containing costume accessories made of silver in the provincial environment of the 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

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<sup>80</sup> Demetz 2000; Spănu 2019b.

<sup>81</sup> Garbsch 1965.

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*Резиме:* АУРЕЛ РУСТОЈУ, Румунска академија, Институт за археологију и историју уметности, Клуж–Напока

## **„ДАЧКЕ” ОСТАВЕ СРЕБРА ИЗ ГОРЊЕ МЕЗИЈЕ. ПРЕКОДУНАВСКЕ КУЛТУРНЕ ВЕЗЕ У ОБЛАСТИ ЂЕРДАПА ОД АВГУСТА ДО ТРАЈАНА**

*Кључне речи.* – оставе сребра, Мезија, Дакија, хоризонт остава Текија–Баре, област Ђердапа, Касно гвоздено доба

Током друге половине 1. века н. е., у Горњој Мезији, у области Ђердапа, а недавно и у пределу доњег тока Саве, појављује се низ остава које садрже накит израђен од сребра. Већина истраживача сматра да своје типолошке претходнике имају у преримској Дакији. М. Гуштин и И. Поповић су недавно овој групи налаза дали назив „хоризонт остава Текија–Баре”. Циљ овог прилога је расправа везана за неке аспекте депоновања ових остава: њихово „дачко” порекло, њихов значај, као и појава овог феномена у периоду када се у областима северно од Дунава, генерацију или две раније, престало са депоновањем сетова сребрног накита, које је до тада представљало честу појаву.

Група остава Текија–Баре води порекло од остава сребрног накита депонованих на територији северно од Дунава. То се огледа у типологији неких делова накита израђених од сребра и обичај закопавања ових предмета заједно са комадима сребрног новца и металног или керамичког

посуђа. Појава оваквих остава јужно од Дунава током друге половине 1. века н. е. представљала је резултат оживљавања неких ритуалних радњи пореклом са територије северно од Дунава. Оживљавање овог обичаја се може приписати „Гетима”, које је почетком 1. века н. е. Елијус Катус преселио у област јужно од реке, а који су, по Страбону (VII.3.10), касније били познати под именом Мези. Премештање великог броја људи, укључујући читаве заједнице, за исход је имало преношење бројних ритуалних радњи и веровања из једне области у другу. Међутим, они су се изменили и прилагодили у складу са новим друштвеним околностима римске Мезије. Због тога се може рећи да структура и састав остава типа Текија–Баре указују на низ радњи које воде порекло са територије Дачког краљевства, а које су сачуване и оживљене јужно од Дунава, у периоду у којем су оне северно од Дунава већ једну или две генерације раније биле напуштене.