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Identifying the Workshop for Intensely Profiled *Fibulae* at *Viminacium*

The description, distribution and dating

In most of the cases intensely profiled fibulae are made of one piece and have two knots - at the head and at the bow - which are sometimes decorated with incised ornaments. The spring usually with eight loops connects pin with the body of brooch. The foot is often widened and ornamented with the spots. Fibulae could be of various dimensions what do not define the period to they belonged. Mostly are made of bronze, but there are specimens of silver too. At the territory of *Viminacium* only one silver fibulae of the type has been found. However, in the nearby site (hoard from Bare) two more have been found and dated by the bronze coin into 80-ies of I century.

Intensely profiled *fibulae* of so-called Black Sea – Danubian Basin type are characteristic for the territory of lower Danube and have been found at *Dacia*, *Moesia Superior*, *Moesia Inferior*, occasionally in *Pannonia* just as on the north coast of the Black sea (where also semi products were found)¹, as well as in the Carpic part of Moldavia (II-III century)² The most western finds are located at the castle Zugmantel I³ and settlement Sulz on the river Neckar⁴.

The majority of this type of fibula have been found in *Moesia Superior*. In the museums throughout whole nowadays Serbia seventy specimens are kept. To this number could be adding sixty three examples found mostly at the graveyards of *Viminacium*. They could be divided into six variants. Most of the specimens from *Moesia Superior* have a slightly widened foot and a spring consisting of eight loops (variants from 1-4). Judging from the great number of found fibulae, it is inevitable to presume their manufacture in the local workshop possibly just at *Viminacium*.

Examples found on the north coast of Black sea and Moldavia mostly have a slightly narrower foot which corresponds to the width of a bow and especially long spring. Findings of semi –worked products from the mentioned territory confirm the existing of this type *fibulae* manufacture centre (variant 5 and 6).

Until nowadays during archaeological researches at *Viminacium* no semi-worked products or moulds for fibulae manufacture were found to attest the existence of the workshop. Huge numbers of this type characteristic of *Moesia Superior* perhaps indirectly point towards local workshops at the territory of *Viminacium*.

¹ АМБРОЗ 1966, 40, Т. 8/1-8, 10, 11.

² ВІСНІВ 1967, 205, fig. 24, 1, 4, 5, 7, 10.

³ ВОНМЕ 1972, 13, Т. II;46.

⁴ RIECKHOFF-PAULI 1977, 12, abb. 2, 22.

The lack of a certain proof of the existence of a workshop for fibulae perhaps could be in the fact that last decades most excavations took place in cemeteries where the place of manufacture could not be determined. Therefore the final confirmation ought to be expected during excavation of city core and *villae rusticae* in surroundings.

Intensely profiled fibulae of so-called Black sea - Danubian Basin type are dated in the period from the end of I till the middle of the III century.

Variant 1: 1-2

The characteristic of this variant is missing the knot at the bow. Five examples have been found at *Viminacium* and only one at the legionary camp of Singidunum dated by the coin in the period of Nerva⁵. One fibulae of the same variant has been found in Siscia⁶.

Variant 2: 3-5

Variant 2 is characterized by the single knot at the turn from the bow to the foot. The head of a bow is slightly widened, but not profiled as a knot. At *Viminacium* five specimen have been found, while in Siscia only one. The whole group is according the coin dated into first half of the second century.

This variant was in use simultaneously with the variant 3 (only that variant 3 remained in use till the middle of the III century).

Variant 3: 6-19

Variant 3 is present with 31 examples found in graves at *Viminacium*. Fibulae are distinctive by the two button-like thickenings at the bow which could be ornamented by the incision and wide flat foot, most often of oval shape. Fibulae are manufactured from bronze except No. 15, made of silver. To the variant belong two mentioned above from the Bare hoard. The brooch from the site Castrum, is found together with the material of IV century. However the layers were disturbed by the agriculture so the use of this fibula in IV century is not really attested. Their use is from the end of I till the middle of III century.

Variant 4: 20-23

Variant 4 is represented by 10 specimen characterized by the two knots at the bow and somewhat narrower foot than by the brooches of previous variant. They are dated usually at the II century, while at *Viminacium* we could only conclude to be in use in the first half of III century. For earlier use there is not proof.

Variant 5: 24-26

Characterized by an exceptionally long spring and a bow without knots (brooch No 26 with even 30 loops) at *Viminacium* this variant is present with four examples. Three of them were found in a grave and one in an inhumation grave together with ceramic beaker (II - III century). Cremation was practiced till the middle of III century, so this variant of fibulae could not be later.

Variant 6: 27-28

The difference between this one and former one is in presence of two knots at the bow of this variant. Similar brooches was found in Siscia⁷, while four examples are known from *Viminacium*.

⁵ BOJOVIĆ 1983, 42.

⁶ KOŠČEVIĆ 1980, 24, T. XIX, 138.

⁷ KOŠČEVIĆ 1980, 24, T. XIX, 136.



Fig. 1 - Varijant 1 (1-2); varijant 2 (3-5); varijant 3 (6-15).

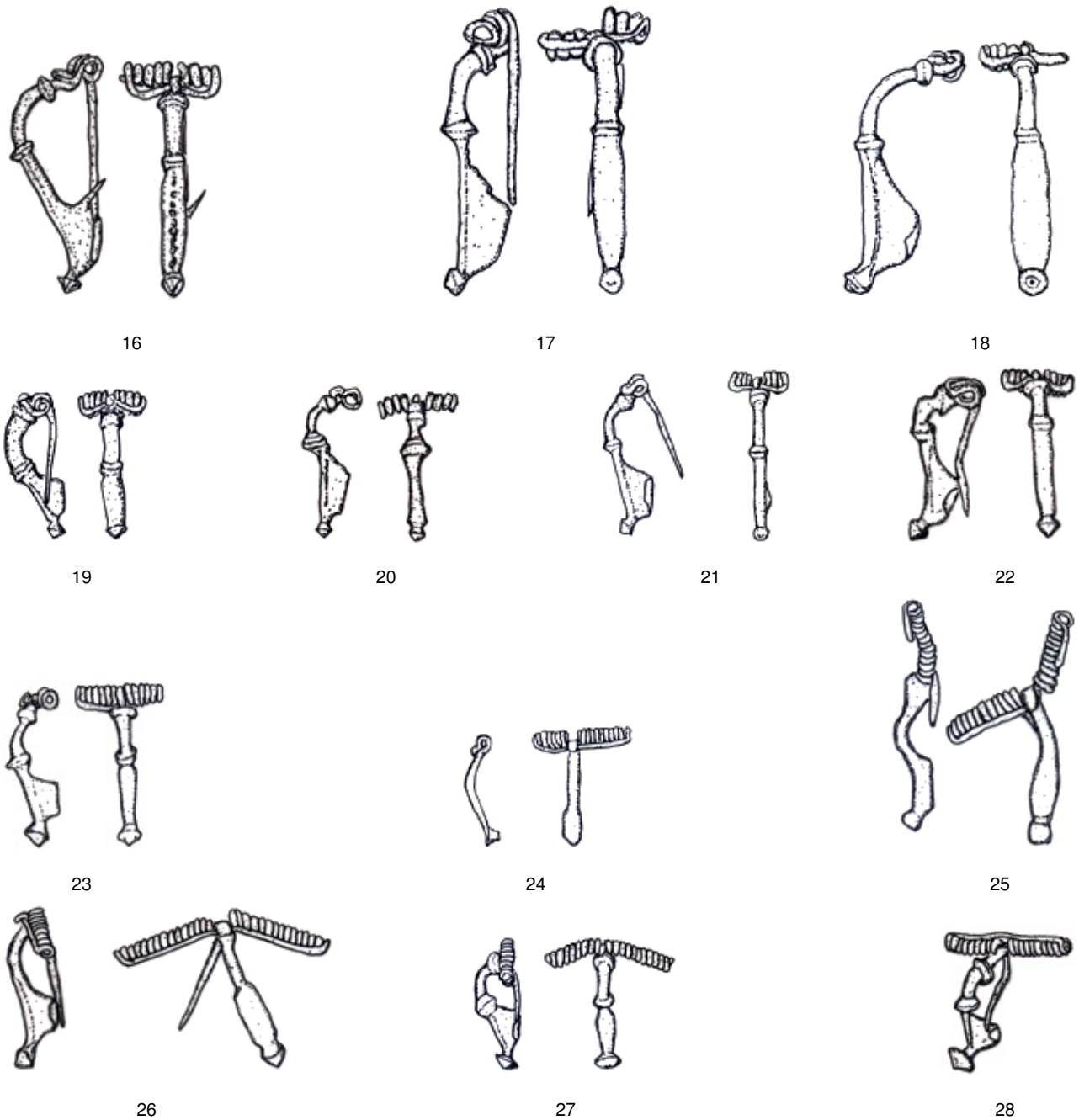


Fig. 2 - Varijant 3 (16-19); varijant 4 (20-23); varijant 5 (24-26); varijant 6 (27-28).

Catalogue

1. Bronze fibula (pin and part of hinge are missing); Site Pećine, C-3539; 8,7 cm
2. Bronze fibula (pin is fragmented); Site Više grobalja, C-2499; 3 cm; the end of II till middle of III century suggested considering the conditions of the find
3. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-9235; 4,7 cm; found in the grave No G-3160 with three more fibulae of this type and the coin of Trajan.

4. Bronze fibula (pin is fragmented); Site Velika kapija, C-41; 3,5 cm; found in the same layer with fibula No 6 (variant 3).
5. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-13214; 2,9 cm; found with the coin of Antoninus Pius.
6. Bronze fibula (pin is fragmented); Site Velika kapija, C-40; 2,6 cm; found in the same layer with fibula No 3 (variant 2).
7. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-3287; 3,3 cm; found in the grave No G1-216 with the coin of Trajan.
8. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-4457; 3,6 cm.
9. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-6337; 3,1 cm.
10. Bronze fibula (the pin is missing); Site Pećine, C-6894; 3,2 cm; found in the grave No G-2501 with coins of I and pottery of the II century.
11. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-8546; 3,5 cm.
12. Bronze fibula (pin and hinge are fragmented); Site Pećine, C-10580; 3,7 cm.
13. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-6010; 6 cm; found in the grave No G1-518 with five coins (three of them from I century one of Trajan and one of Hadrian).
14. Bronze fibula (pin is fragmented); Site Kod bresta, C-1030; 6 cm.
15. Silver fibula; Site Pećine, C-3442; 7,2 cm.
16. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-2635; 5,2 cm; found in the grave No G1-214 with the pottery of the II century.
17. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-12623; 6,3 cm.
18. Bronze fibula (pin and hinge are fragmented); Site Pećine, C-7557; 5,5 cm; found above the grave No G1-695 with coin of Marcus Aurelius as Cesar.
19. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-11056; 3,2 cm; found in the grave No G1-1004 with the coin of Gordian III.
20. Bronze fibula (pin is fragmented); Site Pećine, C-5887; 3,3 cm; found above the grave No G-2178 with coin of Gordian III.
21. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-3609; 3,5 cm.
22. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-3461; 3,7 cm.
23. Bronze fibula (pin is missing); Site Više globalja, C-5206; 3,5 cm; found in the layer with coin of Gordian III.
24. Bronze fibula (foot is fragmented); Site Više globalja, C-6603; 2,5 cm.
25. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-8662; 3,3 cm.
26. Bronze fibula; Site Više globalja, C-11304; 3,5 cm.
27. Bronze fibula (pin is fragmented); Site Pećine, C-3004; 2,8 cm.
28. Bronze fibula; Site Pećine, C-496; 3 cm.

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