

# SIMILAR TRAITS AND INFLUENCES IN THE PRODUCTION OF BELT SETS IN BULGARIA AND ROMANIA IN THE 10<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AD

Stela DONCHEVA\*

**Cuvinte-cheie:** centre de prelucrare a metalului, secolul al X-lea, producția de piese de centură, prelucrarea metalului.

**Keywords:** metal art centres, 10<sup>th</sup> century, production of belt sets, metalworking.

**Rezumat:** Descoperirea de centre de prelucrare a metalului din secolul al X-lea în vecinătatea capitalei Preslav, lângă satele Novosel (mun. Shumen) și Zlatar (mun. Preslav), a deschis o nouă direcție în arheologia medievală bulgară. Centrul de producție de la Novosel se întindea pe o suprafață de 170 acri și a funcționat intensiv în prima jumătate a secolului al X-lea. În același timp, centrul de la Zlatar era de dimensiuni mai mici și ocupa 40 acri. Ambele erau proiectate și specializate pentru turnarea de metale neferoase și pentru manufactura de podoabe din metal. Principala activitate a centrelor din jurul orașului Preslav este metalurgia. Nu a fost descoperit minereu topit aici, nu există nici urme de cuptoare de reducere a minereului și nici deșeuri produse în urma unor activități metalurgice similare. Un al treilea centru aflat în vecinătatea localității Nadarevo (mun. Targovishte) nu este încă obiectul cercetărilor sistematice. Investigațiile din siturile de la Novosel și Zlatar au ajutat la clarificarea unor probleme controversate legate de locul și rolul unui mare număr de obiecte din metal descoperite de arheologi sau donate muzeelor în ultimele două decenii. Rezultatele cercetării exhaustive de la Novosel au fost publicate într-o monografie<sup>1</sup>. Investigațiile din cel de-al doilea centru – lângă Zlatar, au început în anul 2007 și continuă și astăzi. În cele două situri au fost descoperite până acum 2200 de piese în total. Multe dintre ele sunt obiecte din metal precum: decorațiuni de centură – aplice, capete de curea, cataramă; obiecte de cult – cruci și medalioane; podoabe – inele și cercei; ștampile cu o singură față sau cu două fețe. Descoperirea de fragmente ceramice și monede tipice perioadei – folles de la Leo VI (866-

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\* Stela DONCHEVA: National Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Department of Middle Ages Archaeology, 2 Saborne Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria; e-mail: donchevastela@yahoo.com.

<sup>1</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 323.

912), Romanos I Lekapenos (920-944), Constantin VII și Romanos II (945-950) – ne ajută în plasarea activității centrelor amintite în prima jumătate a secolului al X-lea p.Chr.

Moda centurii ornamentate cu metal era răspândită în secolul al X-lea și populația numeroasă a orașelor medievale necesita nu numai montarea lor, ci și comercializarea lor continuă. Nu este o întâmplare că obiectele de artă a metalului descoperite sporadic în locuri diferite în Preslav sunt identice cu cele făcute în centrele de producție din împrejurimi și provin în mod evident din aceste locuri. Mai mult, în vecinătatea centrelor de producție existau și alte câteva așezări, unele dintre ele de dimensiuni semnificative. Odată cu creșterea interesului față de produsele din metal, mai ales cele legate de decorul centurii și al vestimentației, locuitorii lor se aflau între potențialii beneficiari ai producției acestor centre. În aceste circumstanțe nu este dificil de concluzionat că la mijlocul secolului al X-lea capitala Preslav era înconjurată de așezări ai căror locuitori aveau diferite mijloace de trai, printre care se număra și producția de podoabe. Imaginea conturată presupune contacte intense între oameni și o rețea de drumuri densă și sigură. Rutele comerciale sunt dificil de identificat, dar prospecțiunile arheologice arată că viața în zonă a continuat neîntrerupt și așezările au suportat modificări minore. În mod semnificativ acestea sunt și astăzi zone dens populate. Și siguranța drumurilor este demonstrată de decizia familiei conducătoare de a părăsi orașul regal în timpul invaziei bizantinilor exact spre această zonă, în care minunatul set cunoscut peste tot în lume ca tezaurul de aur de la Preslav a fost ascuns într-una dintre aceste așezări.

**Abstract:** The discovery of 10<sup>th</sup> century metal art centres in the vicinity of the capital of Preslav, i.e. near the villages of Novosel, municipality of Shumen and Zlatar, municipality of Preslav, opened a new trend in the medieval Bulgarian archaeology. The production center at Novosel is spread over an area of 170 acres and has been operating with great intensity in the first half of 10<sup>th</sup> century. At the same time, Zlatar center was smaller in size and occupied an area of 40 acres. Both centers are designed and specialized in casting non-ferrous metals and manufacturing fine metalwork. The main activity of the centers around Preslav is metalworking. There is no melted ore here, so there are no remains of melting furnaces, from the ore itself and the accompanying similar metallurgical activity waste production. A third center of metal art in the vicinity of Nadarevo, municipality of Targovishte, is not yet systematically studied. The investigations made on Novosel and Zlatar sites helped clarifying some controversial issues connected with the place and role of a large number of metal items found by archaeologists or donated to museums in the past two decades. The results from the successful completion of the excavations on the Novosel metal art centre are subject of a printed monograph<sup>1</sup>. The investigations on the second centre - near Zlatar, started in 2007 and are still in progress. A total of 2200 artefacts have been found so far on both sites. Most of them are metal items, such as belt decorations: mounts, strap ends, buckles; cult objects: crosses and medallions; jewellery: rings and earrings; single- and double-sided stamps. Typical ceramics and coins found (folles of Leo VI (866-912), Romanos I Lekapenos (920-944), Constantine VII and Romanos II (945 -950) help us define that activity of all metal art centres was in the first half of 10<sup>th</sup> century AD.

In the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the fashion of the ornamental metal belt was widespread, and the large population of medieval city centers required not only repeatedly tying the items, but also their continued presence in the marketplaces. It is no accident that the metal art items, which are discovered sporadically on various places in Preslav, are the same as

*those made in production centres around it and obviously originate from these places. In addition, in the vicinity of production centers there were several other settlements, some of which were significant in their size. With the increased interest in metalworking products, especially those related to the belt and clothing decoration, their inhabitants were also among the potential users of this production.*

*Under these circumstances, it is not difficult to conclude that in the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup> century the capital Preslav was surrounded by settlements, the population of which had different livelihoods, including the manufacture of jewelry, too. The outlined picture implies intense contact between people and a dense and secure road network. Routes are difficult to establish, but archaeological surveys show that life in the area has not been interrupted and inhabited places underwent minor changes. Significantly, today there are densely populated settlement areas. And that the roads were sure shows the choice of a part of the ruler's family to leave the royal city during the invasion of the Byzantines precisely in that direction, in which the magnificent garnish that became known all over the world as the Preslav gold treasure was concealed in one of the settlements.*

The discovery of the three centers of metal art in the vicinity of Preslav and the numerous artifacts found there prove that in the first half and mid-tenth century in Bulgaria there was a very well-organized production of metal art. Among the findings the group of belt decorations stands out, which is a huge group and includes items different in shape and ornamentation. Basically, three elements of the belt set are manufactured - buckles, belt tips and mounts, the last one presenting the greatest variety. Other popular objects of the time are present, too. Among them are the cult objects - single- and double-crosses, stamps with different images on them; jewelry and decorations - rings, earrings and more.

Ceramics and coins are dating the centers in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, here production of belt details are the most popular objects, giving a complete idea of some issues of the technology and organization of this activity. A number of analogies were found during the study and some of them are found outside of the territory of medieval Bulgaria. Their location is in neighboring Romania where there are huge medieval settlements and fortresses of that time. The focus of this work is precisely on these findings, mainly belt set items found at the production centres of metal art near Zlatar, Novosel and Nadarevo and the analogies found in Romania.

Emphasis is placed on the mounts group, which are also the largest group of finds. Attention should also be paid to the rest of the belt decorations, which are the smaller group but important as functional role. Buckles and belt tips were connected with a belt set design and its perception as all.

## I. BUCKLES

The most popular and widely spread have been buckles with a solid plate and an oval frame - 2 buckles found at Novosel<sup>2</sup> and most found at Zlatar - 18 items and 3 lead models. There are only 1 lead model and 1 bronze cast from Nadarevo (**Table IA 1-2**). The attachment has two-three spines at the back.

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<sup>2</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 107, 273, Pl. XXXI/196-197.

Buckles with cut-out plate and oval support frame were found in Preslav (the Palace, the southern part of the City, the eastern wall and Stamboli Yolu region)<sup>3</sup>. This kind of buckles also comes from the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> and the first decades of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, for instance in Skala fortress<sup>4</sup>, Păcuilui lui Soare (Table IB), Noviodunum (Isaccea) (Romania)<sup>5</sup>, in Tarcal, Karos, Izsák-Balázspuszta necropolises (Hungary)<sup>6</sup> and Corinth<sup>7</sup>.

Well represented among the items from the production centers are the openwork buckles. The most numerous are buckles with a rectangular base and an oval support frame. 5 currents and 1 lead model (Table I B 1)<sup>8</sup> were found in Novosel; in Zlatar - 3 bronze buckles and 1 lead model. Varieties of this type are buckles with one embossed bud (Table I B 2). 2 such lead models and 1 bronze casting originate from Novosel<sup>9</sup>; 2 models and 2 castings come from Zlatar. Similar to this type is that one with two oval frames and two large curves emerging at both ends (Table I B 3). Such buckles - a total of 4 pieces were found only in Zlatar.

The widespread use of openwork buckles is confirmed by the mould found in Pliska<sup>10</sup>. Buckles have been found in Pliska, Preslav, Vetren, Dolni Lukovit, Gradeshnitsa (Bulgaria)<sup>11</sup>, Păcuilui lui Soare<sup>12</sup>, Dinogetia, Târgșor (Prahova county), Noviodunum (Isaccea), Transilvania (Romania), Ekimauci (Moldova)<sup>13</sup>. The type of so-called "lyroid" buckles is widespread in Hungary and Slovakia (Gádoros, Kecel, Kenezlő, Hencida, Rakamaz-Strázsadomb, Szeged-Makkoserdő, Pilin, Doroszlo, Szaboles, etc.)<sup>14</sup>. Several objects were also found in Corinth<sup>15</sup>.

The study results confirm the distribution and production of the two main types of buckles - openwork and whole-plate with a circular hole for the tongue. The number of the last is very little greater than of openwork buckles. The choice depends on the main and leading ornamentation of the belt set details - mounts and tips, where the buckles form a united decorative system with common shape and decoration.

<sup>3</sup> STANILOV 1995, p. 113, fig. 3/19-21; OVCHAROV 1985, p. 154, fig. 42.

<sup>4</sup> JOTOV & ATANASOV 1998, p. 107, fig. 3/3.

<sup>5</sup> DIACONU & VÎLCEANU 1972, p. 155, fig. 62/6, 12; DIACONU 1969, fig. 1-5, 9; BARNEA & MITREA 1959, p. 471, fig. 10/9.

<sup>6</sup> FETTICH 1937, Pl. XLIII/32, CXXX/4; TOTH 1976, p. 154, fig. 15/12, p. 161, fig. 20/12; FODOR 1996, p. 123, fig. 7/1.

<sup>7</sup> DAVIDSON 1952, p. 273, Pl. 114, no. 2212.

<sup>8</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 106, 273-274, Pl. XXXI/204, 206; Pl. XXXII/207-209.

<sup>9</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 273, Pl. XXXI/203, 205.

<sup>10</sup> STANCHEV 1965, p. 194, fig. 12.

<sup>11</sup> STANCHEV 1955, p. 208, fig. 26/2; ATANASOV & JORDANOV 1994, Pl. III/13; STANILOV 1991, p. 11, 55, Pl. I/3-5.

<sup>12</sup> DIACONU & VÎLCEANU 1972, p. 155, fig. 62/10-11, 16-17; DIACONU 1969, p. 501-506, Fig. 1, 13-16.

<sup>13</sup> BARNEA & ȘTEFĂNESCU 1971, p. 309, fig. 105/8; HARHOIU 1972, p. 417-425; GALL 2010, p. 227, Pl. 9; BARNEA & MITREA 1959, p. 471, fig. 10/10; FEDOROV 1953, p. 104-126; RABINOVICH & RJABCEVA 2016, p. 323-341.

<sup>14</sup> FETTICH 1937, p. 251, 257, 260, Pl. 88/2, 91/120, 98/2; REVESZ 1987, p. 271, fig. 6-1, 2; FODOR 1996, p. 118, fig. 10.

<sup>15</sup> DAVIDSON 1952, p. 272, Pl. 114, no. 2204-2206.

## II. STRAP TIPS

An important element of belt set are the tips. They also offer a great variety. The shape of all is similar - straight base or "swallowtail" type with a pointed or rounded edge. There are studs and rarely rivets on the reverse side. The differences are mainly in the surface decoration. The strap tips and mounts are divided by the ornamentation on them. They have a smooth surface, embossed or incised decoration. The tips differ in size, being elongated or shortened; in the shape of the base at the upper end - a type of "swallowtail", split base or with middle bud.

The most common on the territory of Bulgaria and Romania are belt tips with embossed decoration (**Table II A 1-3**). A free interpretation of the motif is offered by the gilded belt tip found in Novosel workshops (**Table II A 1**)<sup>16</sup>. The form of a five-leaf palmette with symmetrically arranged leaves along the longitudinal axis, which do not touch each other and are separated by a droplet leaf is basic. A variant of composition is the type represented by two belt tips, also found in Zlatar, with tied palmette leaves with no leaves between them (**Table II A 2-3**). An embossed edge goes along the outline of all the articles. Predominant is the floral ornament of knotted palmettes with curls and that one arranged with mid-touch branches and rounded leaves. The individual motifs are separated by tree-leaves with a diamond-shaped mid-leaf.

Such tips were found in the Palace and the administrative buildings in Preslav<sup>17</sup>, Skala fortress, the settlement of Yakimovo (Montana district), the early medieval settlement near the village of Debrene, Dobrich district dating at the end of 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century, where folisses of Leo VI (886-912) were also found<sup>18</sup>. Among the published belt details are those found at Dinogetia-Garvăn (Tulcea county) and Tufani (Constanța county) (Romania) settlements<sup>19</sup> and those in Belgrade Museum<sup>20</sup>.

Only one type represents buckles with incised ornament. This is a waste product found in Novosel (**Table II B 1**)<sup>21</sup>. Its decoration consists of two incised wavy symmetrical lines at the outline. Such items were found in Preslav<sup>22</sup>, several are in Varna, Dobrich and Târnovo museums. It also comes from the villages of Târgușor (Constanța county, Romania)<sup>23</sup>, Kamenka and Alekseevka, Belgorod region<sup>24</sup>. Tips made of silver with gilding have been found in necropolises in Hungary, dated to the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Such a tip is also part of metal decoration on a small bag found in grave 6 in the Tuzsér necropolis (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)<sup>25</sup>. In a Tiszaszederkény necropolis tomb, along the Tisza River, there is a

<sup>16</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 275, Pl. XXXIII/228.

<sup>17</sup> STANILOV 1991, p. 124, fig. 8/97; VITLJANOV 2004, p. 138, fig. 1.

<sup>18</sup> JOTOV & ATANASOV 1998, p. 315, Pl. CXVI/477; MILCHEV 1963, p. 33, fig. 12/7; JOTOV 1993, p. 123-129, Pl. III/4.

<sup>19</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2012, p. 360, Pl. 6/4, p. 356, Pl. 2/6, p. 358, Pl. 4/6.

<sup>20</sup> BALINT 1991, p. 106, Pl. XXXIII/26.

<sup>21</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 108, 275, Pl. XXXIII/230.

<sup>22</sup> VITLJANOV 2004, p. 138, fig. 12/2.

<sup>23</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2012, p. 356, Pl. 2/9.

<sup>24</sup> MAKAROVA & PLETNEVA 1983, p. 75, fig. 8/3-4.

<sup>25</sup> FODOR 1996, p. 205, fig. 4.

whole set consisting of 28 mounts, a buckle with a plate and a belt tip decorated with parallel wavy lines along the outline<sup>26</sup>. All details are cast in silver alloy with additional gold plating.

All buckles and belt tips found at all production centers, supplemented by similar items from the territory of Romania, testify to the variety of shapes and decorations in different types. It is a result of the wide art program, full of combinations of well-established elements and compositions, as well as of their skillful reproduction in the workshops.

### III. MOUNTS

Mounts are the largest group that is presenting a wide variety of shapes and decorations. It is mainly bronze made. Several silver objects have been found, too. shape of mounts is shield-shaped, heart-shaped, leaf-shaped, openwork, geometric etc. Each of the groups include different compositions, shown in both types of forms - narrow and wide. The choice depends on the position of the details on the belt set.

Many items belong to more than one main group, too. This proves their diversity and rich ornamentation. The most basic elements determine the piece and place it in the appropriate group. For example, some of the mounts could be successfully added to both the heart-shaped and leaf-shaped group and in some cases to the shield-shaped group. Therefore, the shape was followed by the decoration (with fold at the base - heart-shaped; a little rounded base - leaf-shaped; a shield-shaped or with cutouts - openwork, etc.).

One of the most popular mounts made in the workshops, having analogies among finds from Romania is the one with a shield-shaped form. The large group of these mounts will be presented here. Other types will be submitted in the second part of this topic.

#### III. 1. MOUNTS WITH SHIELD-SHAPED FORM

The type of shield-shaped mounts with analogies from Romania (**Table III A 1-10**) includes a total of 10 types. One of them are smooth-surface mounts in two types (**Table III A 1-2**). The first one includes a narrow and a wide form, represents a shield-shaped form with a smooth face and five buds along the outline - one at the base and four at the end (**Table III A 1**). There were found: narrow - 1 bronze broken model in Novosel and 2 wide lead models and 1 narrow item in Nadarevo<sup>27</sup>. Most mounts come from the center in Zlatar - a total of 31 pieces, 11 of which are narrow with 7 bronze models and 9 wide ones with 3 bronze models.

Such items were found in Byal Bryag near Preslav<sup>28</sup> and Vetren fortress<sup>29</sup>. Many are in the collections of the National Museum<sup>30</sup>, the museums in Varna,

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<sup>26</sup> FODOR 1996, p. 414, fig. 1.

<sup>27</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 109, 275, Pl. XXXIII/232; KONAKLIEV 2005, p. 242, Pl. 4/24.

<sup>28</sup> ANGELOV & STANCHEV 1955, p. 429, fig. 17/13.

<sup>29</sup> ATANASOV & JORDANOV 1994, Pl. III/16.

<sup>30</sup> STANILOV 1991, p. 59, Pl. V/26.

Shumen and Dobrich<sup>31</sup>. A wealth of metal ornaments (67 bronze objects in total) was found at the Roman-Byzantine fortress Adamclisi (Constanța county, Romania)<sup>32</sup>. A very well-preserved item of the whole variety of mounts dating from the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries was found at the early medieval fortified settlement Oltina - "Capul Dealului" (Constanța county, Romania)<sup>33</sup>. Remains of early medieval dwellings with ceramic fragments have been seen in many sectors. Probably, there is a local workshop of metal art nearby. Among these are 1 narrow and 2 wide forms of the type considered shield-shaped mounts.

A more sophisticated image of the first type of shield-shaped mounts with five pimples along the outline (one at the base of tip and two at the sides) present a third type (**Table III A 3**). There is a medallion with an embossed edge in the middle, emphasized by two parallel oval incised lines. Artifacts of this type of mounts were found only in Zlatar (3 narrow lead models and 3 bronze casts and 2 wide bronze casts). Such items have been found in Preslav<sup>34</sup>; northwestern Bulgaria (Yakimovo district)<sup>35</sup>; fortresses and settlements in the vicinity of Varna and Dobrich, where a total of 23 objects were found<sup>36</sup>; many are stored in Sofia museum<sup>37</sup>.

Similar specimens were also found in early medieval settlements and fortresses dating from the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries in Romania - Noviodunum (Isaccea), the fortress Adamclisi<sup>38</sup>, fortified early medieval settlement at Oltina - "Capul Dealului"<sup>39</sup>, also in the settlements near Svrlig-grad and Trajan's Bridge (Serbia)<sup>40</sup>.

The next type of mounts is similar to the previous one (**Table III A 4**) with shield-shaped form in both variants - six pimples along the outline and a relief medallion in the middle. The medallion has a heart-shaped form, emphasized with a relief line. Such items are found at all production centers: 2 mounts (narrow and wide) in Nadarevo<sup>41</sup>, 1 narrow and 2 wide mounts, together with 1 lead model in Zlatar and only 1 narrow shape in Novosel<sup>42</sup>. It is noteworthy that these items were widespread not only in Bulgaria but also outside the country. Museum collections are an example of this<sup>43</sup>.

Such items were found in Preslav<sup>44</sup>, Skala and Okorsh fortresses in Bulgaria<sup>45</sup> and Adamclisi fortress in Romania<sup>46</sup>. In Kenézlő-Fazekaszug (Borsod-Abaúj-

<sup>31</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 42, 200, Pl. IX/162-173, p. 201, Pl. X/174-178.

<sup>32</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 164-196.

<sup>33</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/16.

<sup>34</sup> MAVRODINOV 1959, p. 305, fig. 274/3; STANILOV 1995, p. 115, fig. 4/42-43.

<sup>35</sup> MILCHEV 1963, p. 23, fig. 12/9.

<sup>36</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 206, Pl. XV/270-277, p. 207, Pl. VI/278-292.

<sup>37</sup> STANILOV 1991, p. 59, Pl. V/31, p. 60, Pl. VI/35.

<sup>38</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. 19-20.

<sup>39</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/17.

<sup>40</sup> RADISIC 2015, p. 24, fig. 1/4; RADISIC 2018, p. 146, fig. 6/1; BARNEA & MITREA 1959, p. 471, fig. 10/12; BALINT 1991, p. 106, Pl. XXXIII/14.

<sup>41</sup> PLETNIOV 2004, p. 229, Pl. 1/3-5; KONAKLIEV 2005, p. 242, Pl. II/13-14.

<sup>42</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 109, 275, Pl. XXXIII/236.

<sup>43</sup> STANILOV 1991, p. 59, Pl. V/30; PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 205, Pl. XIV/257-262, Pl. XV/263-265.

<sup>44</sup> MAVRODINOV 1959, p. 304, fig. 272/1, p. 305, fig. 273/6; BONEV 1993, p. 73, fig. 12/a-6.

<sup>45</sup> JOTOV & ATANASOV 1998, p. 419-450; ATANASOV & MARINOV 2018, p. 57, fig. 50/4.

Znémléu county) (Hungary) necropolis a complete belt set made of silver alloy with gilding was found <sup>47</sup>.

A developed version of the heart-shaped medallion in the middle of the surface of the mount presents the next item, produced mainly in Zlatar workshops (**Table III A 5**). Objects were found in Okorsh (Dulovo district), Samotino and Izvornik (Varna district) <sup>48</sup> and Adamclisi (Romania)<sup>49</sup>.

A complicated variant represents the next type of shield-shaped mounts (**Table III A 6**). There are items found at all production centers and those in Novosel has the largest group – 7 (1 bronze and 1 lead model and 5 complete objects)<sup>50</sup>. Some casts were found in Zlatar - a total of 5, (2 whole objects and 1 lead model). There is only 1 lead model found in Nadarevo<sup>51</sup>. Such items were found in Preslav<sup>52</sup>, Vetren Fortress<sup>53</sup> and Păcuiul lui Soare<sup>54</sup>. A dozen are stored in the collections of various museums - National museum and Shumen museum. Other objects were found in Varna district (the Petrich Kale fortress, Izvornik, Novakovo, etc.) <sup>55</sup>.

Combination of the above two types of products presnet type **A7**. There are 3 (narrow and wide) found in Zlatar and 2 found in Novosel<sup>56</sup> (**Table III A 7**). The type has a drip-shaped medallion with a pearl line inscribed in the palmette motif of three dense leaves at the base and three outgrowths between them. A similar specimen originates from the military-administrative buildings in Preslav<sup>57</sup>. Such items of last three types of mounts were found at the fortress Dinogetia (Romania)<sup>58</sup>, and 21 in the necropolis at Bâtmonostor-Anoyal (Southern Hungary) dated in the 10<sup>th</sup> century<sup>59</sup>.

The most common type is type **A8** (**Table III A 8**) where the base is cut and has segmented rather than convex form. The two palmette leaves here are thin and curved above the protruding buds and do not extend beyond the outline. The other three buds, top and side, are curled leaves, supporting the pearl row above them, which, like the previous type of mounts, closes a hearty but small pendant in the middle where there is a five-leaves palmette with fleshy leaves. Most of the items are found in Nadarevo (4 lead and 2 bronze models and 18 casts)<sup>60</sup>; in Zlatar (1 lead model and 4 narrow and 3 wide casts) and in Novosel (2 models, bronze

<sup>46</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/16.

<sup>47</sup> FODOR 1996, p. 156, fig. 13.

<sup>48</sup> PLETNOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 208, Pl. XVII/294-298.

<sup>49</sup> ATANASOV & MARINOV 2018, p. 57, fig. 50; PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/21.

<sup>50</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 112, 277, Pl. XXXV/265-271.

<sup>51</sup> DONCHEVA 2010, p. 18, Pl. I/11.

<sup>52</sup> VITLJANOV 2004, p. 138, fig. 12/37.

<sup>53</sup> ATANASOV & JORDANOV 1994, Pl. III/15.

<sup>54</sup> DIACONU & VÎLCEANU 1972, p. 154, fig. 62/2; DIACONU 1969, p. 503, Fig. 1, 2.

<sup>55</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 211, Pl. XX/353-358, p. 212, Pl. XXI/359-363.

<sup>56</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 111, 277, Pl. XXXV/263-264.

<sup>57</sup> VITLJANOV 2004, p. 257, Pl. II/19.

<sup>58</sup> ȘTEFAN *et alii* 1967, p. 297, fig. 173/11.

<sup>59</sup> STANOJEV 1989, no. 77-97; PLETNIOV 2002, p. 84, fig. 3; BALINT 1991, p. 208, Pl. LIII/15-16.

<sup>60</sup> KONAKLIEV 2005, p. 241, Pl. I/3; DONCHEVA 2010, p. 18, Pl. I/28-29.

and lead and 7 casts, with the majority of wide shapes)<sup>61</sup>. These mounts are widespread throughout this period and evidenced by numerous examples found in Preslav and the smaller settlements and fortresses - Druster, Sredishte and Popina<sup>62</sup>, Păcuiul lui Soare<sup>63</sup>. Several objects were found in the tomb at Cádoros necropolis (Hungary) and Adamclisi fortress<sup>64</sup>.

Considered mounts are combined within one belt set with the next type, which is identical to it and differs only in the openwork heart-shaped section (**Table III A 9**). A variant of the last two types is the form with line base and suspension hinges, presented with 1 object found in Nadarevo (**Table III A 10**). Such items are found in Zemplin and Szentes-Nagyhegy (Hungary), Svirlig-grad (Serbia)<sup>65</sup>, fortress Adamclisi (Romania), Bădragii Vechi (Moldova)<sup>66</sup>.

Similar objects of the last two types are constituent elements of a 10<sup>th</sup> century belt set found in the necropolis Bădragii Vechi (Moldova) in the Prut-Dnester region<sup>67</sup>. The belt is located in the area of the pelvis and below it. There is a gilded buckle in the center with a length of 4.4 cm, a frame width of 2.3 cm, a width of the shield - 2 cm, with five and seven-leaved palmette. Its length is 4.7 cm, width - 2.1 cm, fixed by five pins. On the belt are 40 gilded mounts of low-grade silver (billon) in two varieties - narrow and wide - with a heart-shaped cutout, fixed with three pins. In the center of the composition is a heart-shaped shield with a palmette. Three mounts are stored on the belt in its original form. Along with the belt were found a bow, quiver for arrows and arrows.

### *III. 2. Mounts with heart-shaped form (Table IV B 1-12)*

The type of heart-shaped mounts with similar findings from the territory of Romania includes a total of 12 types. The shape is defining. It is a heart with a fold at the base. The division retains its conditional character and, as mentioned in the beginning, aims to present in a logical manner the variety of forms and ornaments among the articles of the manufacturing centers.

Smooth-surface mounts are the most. They represent a classic heart-shaped form with an embossed bud at the base and a sharp tip (**Table IV B 1**) and a second relief bud at the top (**Table IV B 2**). An embossed edge runs through the longitudinal axis, which emphasizes the two halves of the shape and adds volume. The attachment is with two, rarely with three spines at the back. Outside the production centers, similar mounts were found at Novakovo, Varna district, and Odartsî, Dobrich district<sup>68</sup>; at the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>69</sup> and the fortified

<sup>61</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 275, Pl. XXXIII/239-240, p. 276, Pl. XXXIV/241-247.

<sup>62</sup> STANILOV 1993, p. 146, fig. 6/1-10.

<sup>63</sup> DIACONU & VÎLCEANU 1972, p. 155, fig. 62/2.

<sup>64</sup> BALINT 1991, p. 39, Fig. 12; PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/55.

<sup>65</sup> RADISIC 2018, p. 145, fig. 6, 8.

<sup>66</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/53-54; REABCEVA 2016, p. 278, fig. 2.

<sup>67</sup> ABIZOVA & RIABCEVA 2012, p. 358; CHIRKOV 1990, p. 162, fig. 4; SPINEI 2009, fig. 27.

<sup>68</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 198, Pl. VII/131-138.

<sup>69</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/10-11.

early medieval settlement at Oltina – “Capul Dealului”<sup>70</sup>, Constanța county and Dinogetia fortress, too<sup>71</sup>.

The heart-shaped decorative motif gradually develops into a three-leafed palmette, incorporated in a similar form with a single bud at the base and a sharp tip, which is observed in the next type of applications of this kind (**Table IV B 3**). The two lower palmette leaves are curved to the base and grow into an embossed frame along the outline of the whole object. The middle leaf is elongated and separated from the lower leaves. The attachment has two spikes at the back. In this type, the number of applications from Novosel is predominant - 13 narrow and 23 wide, along with 9 bronze and 1 lead model. Many of them are covered with white metal (silver, tin). The mass production of this type of mount in the first half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century is confirmed by the models and defective products from Novosel and those from the center near Nadarevo<sup>72</sup>. Lead models are also stored in private collections<sup>73</sup>. Outside the country, similar mounts were found at Oreşak, Banat<sup>74</sup> and Adamclisi fortress<sup>75</sup>.

Of particular interest are mounts with three embossed buds at the base of both sides (**Table IV B 4**). The embossed decoration consists of a five-leafed palmette with rounded short leaves and a spear-shaped middle leaf. A frame of S-shaped curved gussets (curls) goes around it. The attachment has two studs. Outside the country, the type is attested at the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>76</sup>.

The palmette motif develops into a seven-leaf form in the type of mounts, presented with three items - 2 lead models found in Zlatar and in Nadarevo and 1 bronze cast (**Table IV B 5**). The two double leaves at the base pass into an embossed flat frame along the outline. Similar mounts were found in Preslav<sup>77</sup>, others are stored at Sofia National museum<sup>78</sup>. Outside the country, these were found at the fortress Adamclisi<sup>79</sup>.

The number of applications of the type (**Table IV B 6**) is relatively large and representing a heart-shaped one embossed bud at the base and the tip with a decoration of five-leaves palmette with broad lower leaves, extending into an embossed frame along the outline of the object and a medially divided spear-shaped leaf ( three-leaves shape). Outside the regions of production, similar items were found in Preslav and the surrounding area<sup>80</sup>, in Varna<sup>81</sup> and the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>82</sup>.

<sup>70</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/10.

<sup>71</sup> ȘTEFAN *et alii* 1967, p. 298, fig. 173/8.

<sup>72</sup> KONAKLIEV 2005, p. 241, Pl. I/16.

<sup>73</sup> DONCHEVA-PETKOVA 1992, p. 211, fig. 2.

<sup>74</sup> OȚA 2016, p. 456, Pl. 6/17.

<sup>75</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/33, 37-38.

<sup>76</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/44.

<sup>77</sup> VITLJANOV 2004, p. 138, fig. 12/26.

<sup>78</sup> STANILOV 1991, p. 64, Pl. X/68.

<sup>79</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/52.

<sup>80</sup> VITLJANOV 2004, p. 138, fig. 12/18-19.

<sup>81</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 225, Pl. XXXIV/601-607.

<sup>82</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/43.

Such decoration presents the next type of mounts, where there is only one bud at the base and the tip is sharp (**Table IV B 7**). The decoration is very precisely done. Only two narrow castings originate from Zlatar. Such mounts were found in the study of the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>83</sup>.

Different sizes, shape and decorations show the next type of mounts. It is present in Novosel - 5 narrow and 7 wide mounts and 1 lead model (**Table IV B 8**). In Bulgaria, similar mounts were found at Dobroplodno, Varna and the medieval wind of the Danube. Outside the country, such were found near Pančevo, Banat<sup>84</sup> and the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>85</sup>.

A smaller variant of this type of heart-shaped application are the three specimens from Zlatar (**Table IV B 9**). Similar mounts of the narrow form were found in Pliska and the fortress near Adamclisi (**Fig. 1, 51**)<sup>86</sup>.

The following type is also present with several objects (**Table IV B 10**). 1 narrow and 3 wide shapes, of which 2 lead patterns at Zlatar and 1 wide shape at Novosel<sup>87</sup> were found. The two variants are decorated with petal palmette whose lower leaves protrude from the frame at the base and are opposite to it. Below them is a shamrock. Similar applications were found at Kichevo, Varna<sup>88</sup> and the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>89</sup>.

A complicated version of palm trees, represented by thin leaves extending from the frame at the base and separated from the middle leaf, gives another type of mount (**Table IV B 11**). In Zlatar 5 narrow and 2 wide shapes, along with 6 lead models were found. A similar mount was found in the early medieval fortified settlement at Oltina - Capul Dealului, (Constanța county) from the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century<sup>90</sup>.

Another type of mount is a stylized version of this composition (**Table IV B 12**). The base is accentuated by a large ornament, the tip is sharp; there are also two single buds in the middle of the sides. Of this type of mounts 4 narrow and 2 wide were found at Zlatar and 1 wide at Nadarevo. Outside the country, similar to the narrow version, one was found at the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>91</sup>.

### III. 3. Leaf-shaped mounts (Table V C 1-8)

Leaf-shaped mounts are the largest group of these belt details. There is a total of 8 types for manufacturing centers and products originating in the territory of Romania. It is clear that the separation of heart-shaped and leaf-shaped mounts is conditional and is determined by purely subjective reasons, such as the shaping of the object, for example, with or without fold at the base. In many cases, there is a not clearly expressed similarity, but therefore, the shape of the product is a classic heart model. Therefore, some findings can be successfully assigned to both

<sup>83</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/36.

<sup>84</sup> OȚA 2016, p. 455, Pl. 5/12.

<sup>85</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/45.

<sup>86</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/51.

<sup>87</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 118, 286, Pl. XLIV/444.

<sup>88</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 76, 228, Pl. XXXVII/652.

<sup>89</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/25.

<sup>90</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/21.

<sup>91</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/41-42.

types of mounts. Defining in this case is the decoration and its combination with the specific shape, which is indicative of the affiliation of a product to the heart-shaped or leaf-shaped group of finds.

In the beginning, there are mounts with a leaf-like shape and a smooth surface start (**Table V C 1**). One type is represented with only 3 specimens found in Zlatar. Such an application originates in the early medieval fortified settlement of the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> c. Oltina – “Capul Dealului”<sup>92</sup>.

The pair of mounts of the elongated variant and the one with the opening at the base, of the next type are some of the most common outside the country (**Table V C 2**). The leaf-shaped has a bud at the base and a sharp tip. The embossed decoration consists of three three-leaves palmettes around a central stem, which fits into an outline or a total of the nine-leaves palmette. Similar mounts were found in Preslav<sup>93</sup> and in many places in Varna district (Novakovo, Ovech)<sup>94</sup>. Identical applications dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> century originate from the Middle Danube - the necropolises at Kecel-Vadéi dűlő (Bács-Kiskun county) and Kisdobra-Ligahomok; Balatonszállás region (Hungary)<sup>95</sup>. These have been found in Eastern Serbia<sup>96</sup> and the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>97</sup>.

The only specimen of its own type is the lead model found at Zlatar (**Table V C 3**). Such mounts originate from a settlement from the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century near Biharia - Dealul Șumuleu (Northern Romania)<sup>98</sup>.

The next type is representative of the group of mounts with leaf-shaped and incised decoration. A variant of the two types is represented by a considerable number of mounts at Zlatar - 20 narrow and 8 wide shapes and 5 lead models and several finds from Nadarevo - 1 of both variants and 1 lead model (**Table V C 4**)<sup>99</sup>. These types of mounts are widespread in our country and abroad. Similar sets were found in Varna, Kiten, Provadia district<sup>100</sup> and the fortress near Okorsh, Dulovo district<sup>101</sup> and Skala, Tervel district<sup>102</sup>. Identical mounts come from the 10<sup>th</sup>-century necropolis at Ladanybene-Benepuszta (Hungary)<sup>103</sup>, as well as from the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>104</sup> and the early medieval fortified settlement from the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century at Oltina – “Capul Dealului”<sup>105</sup>.

<sup>92</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/15.

<sup>93</sup> VITLJANOV 2004, p. 257, Pl. II/14.

<sup>94</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 82, 233, Pl. XLII/735-748, p. 83, 234, Pl. XLIII/749-753.

<sup>95</sup> FETTICH 1937, Pl. CXVIII; DIENES 1973, p. 191, Fig. 6/15-18; FODOR 1996, p. 325, fig. 3; BALINT 1991, p. 208, Pl. LIII/14.

<sup>96</sup> RADISIC 2018, p. 145, fig. 6/6-7.

<sup>97</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/46-49.

<sup>98</sup> COSMA 2002, p. 146-147, Pl. 237/2-8, Pl. 239/1-16, Pl. 244/5-27, Pl. 246/1-19, Pl. 250/1-17.

<sup>99</sup> KONAKLIEV 2005, p. 242, Pl. II/6.

<sup>100</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 214, Pl. XXIII/406-411, p. 215, Pl. XXIV/412-415.

<sup>101</sup> ATANASOV & MARINOV 2018, p. 57, fig. 50/2, 5.

<sup>102</sup> JOTOV & ATANASOV 1998, p. 313, Pl. CXIV/447.

<sup>103</sup> FODOR 1996, p. 339, fig. 6; DIENES 1973, p. 191, Fig. 6/12-18.

<sup>104</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/26.

<sup>105</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/18.

A variety of types of mounts with a "branch" decoration offers the following type (**Table V C 5**). At Zlatar 2 copies of the two variants were found. The broad-shaped mounts come from Preslav and the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>106</sup>.

A variety of this is another type of application. Its number is not very large - 6 narrow and 5 wide-shaped mounts with 2 lead models at Zlatar and 2 narrow and 1 wide-shaped mount - at Nadarevo (**Table V C 6**)<sup>107</sup>. Quite identical pieces to the narrow variant of mounts were found in grave 4 of the necropolis at Tarczal-Vinnadúló 3 along the river Tisa and Tarczal (Zemplén), (Hungary)<sup>108</sup>, as well as at the fortress Adamclisi<sup>109</sup> and the early medieval fortified settlement from the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century at Oltina - "Capul Dealului"<sup>110</sup>. Such narrow and wide-shaped mounts are an accidental find at Rudnica near the Ibar River (Eastern Serbia)<sup>111</sup>.

The next pair of significantly larger mounts - 5 narrow and 2 wide-shaped, were found in Zlatar and 2 wide-shaped ones in Nadarevo (**Table V C 7**). The leaf-shaped mounts have five buds along the outline, one in the middle of the base. Such narrow-shaped mounts, without exact location, are stored in the Varna Museum, and from the wide-shaped forms were found at the fortress near Samotino, Varna district<sup>112</sup>. Outside the country, close applications were found at the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>113</sup>.

A longer and more prominent leaf-shaped form offers another type of mount. Findings from it appeared mainly at Zlatar - 1 narrow and 15 wide-shaped variants, 4 lead models; at Nadarevo - 2 mounts of the narrow and wide variant of the shape<sup>114</sup> and at Novosel - 1 wide-shaped mount (**Table V C 8**)<sup>115</sup>. Outside the country, similar applications were found in the necropolis from the 10<sup>th</sup> century at Şeitin (Arad county)<sup>116</sup>.

### III. 4. *Openwork-shaped mounts (Table V D 1)*

The variety of shapes, ornaments and production techniques was successfully presented in the next group of openwork decoration products. It only includes 1 general type. And it is a heart-shaped item with a similar openwork cut in the middle, without additional decoration on the front surface, without a bud at the base and with a sharp tip (**Table V D 1**). These types of mounts are widespread in Bulgaria and abroad. Similar sets were found at Botevo and Suvorovo, Varna district and the fortress at Debrene, Dobrich district<sup>117</sup>, the

<sup>106</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAŢCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/24.

<sup>107</sup> KONAKLIEV 2005, p. 242, Pl. II/15.

<sup>108</sup> KOVACS 2015, p. 313, fig. 56-74; FETTICH 1937, Pl. XLIII/1-15.

<sup>109</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAŢCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/30.

<sup>110</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAŢCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/19-20.

<sup>111</sup> RADISIC 2018, p. 144-147, fig. 7.

<sup>112</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 215, Pl. XXIV/427-429, p. 216, Pl. XXV/430-432.

<sup>113</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAŢCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/28.

<sup>114</sup> KONAKLIEV 2005, p. 242, Pl. I/25; DONCHEVA 2010, p. 21, Pl. II/49.

<sup>115</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 288, Pl. XLVI/489.

<sup>116</sup> MĂRGHITAN 1965, p. 582, fig. 2/1-7.

<sup>117</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 201, Pl. X/185-194, p. 202, Pl. XI/195-196.

medieval fortress Vetren<sup>118</sup>. Outside the country, such applications were found at the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>119</sup>.

### III. 5. Geometric-shaped mounts (Table VI E 1-7)

The last large group of mounts brings together geometric-shaped products. This group includes a total of 7 types of mounts of various shapes (Table VI E 1-7). Each variety represents a specific decoration on the front surface of the products.

The first type of this group includes products from all production complexes - 3 from Novosel<sup>120</sup>, 6 bronze castings and 1 lead model from Zlatar, 5 from Nadarevo (Table VI E 1)<sup>121</sup>. The products are round in shape with a smooth face and fastened with one stud or two bolts. Similar items were found at the fortress near Suvorovo, Varna district<sup>122</sup>. Outside the country, this type of mount has been popular at the Middle Danube. A large group of these are the items from Karos (Hungary)<sup>123</sup>. Similar mounts were found in the medieval fortified settlement at Oltina-“Capul-Dealului” (Constanța county)<sup>124</sup>.

The largest quantity of round mounts is type 4 (Table VI E 2). From Zlatar come 54 copies with 9 lead models, from Novosel - 3 copies<sup>125</sup> and from Nadarevo - 2 lead models<sup>126</sup>. The decoration consists of a five-leaves rosette with a bud in the middle, emphasized with a relief ring. The attachment has one or two spines at the back. Such mounts are known from Preslav<sup>127</sup> and Skala fortress<sup>128</sup>. An identical application originates from the medieval fortified settlement at Oltina-“Capul-Dealului” (Constanța county)<sup>129</sup>.

The following type presents a circular shape with an incised 8-leaf rosette with triangular leaves separated by radial lines around a central embossed bud in the middle (Table VI E 3). A thin layer of gilding is applied to the surface of some of the articles. Outside Bulgaria, similar objects, but with a 6-ray rosette (star), were found in the necropolises of the 10<sup>th</sup> century at Tarcál-Vinnai-dűlő and Győr-Újszállások, along the northern reaches of the Danube (Hungary)<sup>130</sup>. Such mounts also originate from a necropolis of the same time at Șiclău<sup>131</sup>.

The next type represents a bronze matrix (model) of the 9-leaf rosette, composed of oval-leaves arranged around a central embossed bud. The bronze model was found at Zlatar and has no analogy among the finds from the

<sup>118</sup> ATANASOV & JORDANOV 1993, Pl. III/24.

<sup>119</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/14.

<sup>120</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 290, Pl. XLVIII/527-529.

<sup>121</sup> KONAKLIEV 2005, p. 241, Ta6. I/12, 18; DONCHEVA 2010, Pl. II/69, 70, Pl. V/69, 70.

<sup>122</sup> PLETNIOV & PAVLOVA 1994-1995, p. 34, 194, Pl. III/45-52.

<sup>123</sup> FETTICH 1937, Pl. CXXXII/20-47; REVESZ 1989, p. 27, Fig. 4.

<sup>124</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/7.

<sup>125</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 290, Pl. XLVIII/525.

<sup>126</sup> PLETNIOV 2006, p. 229, Pl. I/19-20.

<sup>127</sup> TOTEV 2004, p. 238, fig. 7, 8.

<sup>128</sup> JOTOV & ATANASOV 1997, p. 314, Pl. CXV/454.

<sup>129</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/6.

<sup>130</sup> KOVACS 2015, p. 310, fig. 9/18-28; HORVATH 2014, p. 526, fig. 15/8-13.

<sup>131</sup> COSMA 2002, p. 246, Pl. 250/16-27.

production centers (**Table VI F 4**). A similar mount, but smaller in size and with 8 leaves, comes from the medieval fortified settlement at Oltina- "Capul-Dealului" (Constanța county)<sup>132</sup>.

Findings from all production centers present another type - a 6-leaf rosette made up of circular leaves arranged around a central relief bud (**Table VI F 5**). The attachment has a spike at the back - 1 item was found at Novosel<sup>133</sup>, 4 - at Zlatar and Nadarevo<sup>134</sup>. Similar mounts were found at the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>135</sup> and the medieval fortified settlement at Oltina - "Capul-Dealului" (Constanța county)<sup>136</sup>.

The following type is similar to the ones considered (**Table VI E 6**), presented with only 2 applications found at Zlatar. It is an 8-leaf rosette with circular leaves arranged around a large and convex bud in the middle. Similar applications, part of horse ammunition, were found in a necropolis dating back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century - Şiclău<sup>137</sup> and at the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>138</sup>.

Another of these types is the only specimen from Zlatar, which has a rectangular cutout at the base and a wide line of notches around it, filling the entire width of the outline (**Table V E 7**). The attachment has two spikes at the back. Such mount originates from the fortress near Adamclisi<sup>139</sup>. Details of the belt sets are also found in the burials at Cluj, Sheytin, Obshir, Izvorul (Romania)<sup>140</sup>.

## CONCLUSIONS

Each of the production centers had its own individual program, in which all the well-known and established decorative programs specific to this type of products were developed. Some of them were especially popular and therefore these items are mass-produced in large quantities. Other, single representatives, exhibit peculiar individual solutions that have no analogies and have not been subject to mass circulation. Each composition is an original interpretation of known details and forms and complements the rich visual program.

As a consequence, two main groups of products emerge among the production facilities of the production centers - of mass character and individual craftsmanship. Similar examples of mass-produced objects are found in most of the famous early medieval settlements and fortresses on the territory of medieval Bulgaria<sup>141</sup>. This applies not only to the largest group of mounts but also to other types of belt ornaments - the work of the organized production of belt sets in the first half and mid-10<sup>th</sup> century in the vicinity of the capital Preslav. A significant number of them are also registered at numerous sites outside the country - mainly Hungarian necropolises and Romanian fortresses and settlements - synchronous

<sup>132</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/5.

<sup>133</sup> BONEV & DONCHEVA 2011, p. 290, Pl. XLVIII/534.

<sup>134</sup> KÖNÄKLIEV 2005, p. 241, Pl. I/13.

<sup>135</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/3-6.

<sup>136</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI & CUSTUREA 2018, p. 386, Pl. I/4.

<sup>137</sup> COSMA 2002, p. 246, Pl. 5/19.

<sup>138</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/7-8.

<sup>139</sup> PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI *et alii* 2014, p. 195, Pl. VII/1.

<sup>140</sup> RJABCEVA & RABINOVICH 2007, p. 210.

<sup>141</sup> The system remains open for new additions.

with the period of operation of production centers in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. There are quite a few examples from some further regions, such as the territories of Russia and Ukraine, too.

The items date back to the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century, and its appearance is associated with the influence of the early Bulgarian, Hungarian and Pechenegian traditions. The variety of shapes and decorations attested by the items found on the area of the production centers near the capital Preslav and the finds from the territory of neighboring Romania show complete similarity in most of the given examples. Dating of the complexes in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, as well as the same date of most of the details found in Romania, indicate the presence of intense connections and influences during this period. The general composition solutions in the formation of the belt set and the popular metal-plastic style of the time show many similar features, but there are also many peculiarities, mainly in the details of the ornamentation. Shapes are comparable and albeit close, but the decoration is not quite the same. If we look carefully, mainly at the composition details, differences will be found, and the decoration features are obvious in the most cases.

Therefore, it is more correct to speak not of direct influences and transfer of completed schemes, but of separate directions in all metal art during the early Middle Ages. Accordingly, popular images, forms, and compositions were transformed in an original way, bearing the specificity of local tradition and culture.

The fashion of the ornamental belt is widespread throughout Eurasia at that time and the territories of Bulgaria and Romania are no exception. The huge production of details for the belt sets is a sure confirmation of the phenomenon. The composition is distinguished by the stylization of the individual elements and the floral and the geometric motifs have only decorative, but not sacred meaning in this period. The ornamental belt itself has lost its symbolic meaning as a sign of a certain rank and belonging to a defined class for a very long time. In the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the belt is already desacralized and present only the social status and financial prosperity of its customer. The discovery of metal objects in later settlements and the occasional finds too, are an indicator of established traditions and widespread popularity of ornamental style over time.

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Object type	Image	Dimensions	Novosel		Zlatar		Nadarevo		Romania
			Bronze	Lead	Bronze	Lead	Bronze	Lead	
<b>A</b>									
1 197.Ns / 1.Nd		2,5/ 1,3- 1,4- 2,2	5	1m	18	2m	1	1m	Păcuiul lui Soare, Noviodunum (Isaccea)
2 1.Nd		2,6/ 1,2- 1,4- 2,3	2	-	3 + 1 Ag	-	1 + 1 Ag	-	Păcuiul lui Soare
<b>B</b>									
1 206.Ns		2,2/ 2,2	5	1m	3	1m	-	-	Păcuiul lui Soare, Dinogetia, Târgșor (Prahova county), Transilvania, Noviodunum (Isaccea)
2 203.Ns		2,1/1,8- 1,9	1	2m	2	2m	-	-	Păcuiul lui Soare, Dinogetia, Târgșor (Prahova county)
3 1506.ZI		Δ. 2,2/III. 1,6-1,8			4				Târgșor (Prahova county)
			13	4	31	5	3	1	

Table I - Comparative table of buckles found in the metal art production centers near Preslav and their analogies found on the territory of Romania.





Object types	Image	Dimensions cm	Novosel		Zlatar		Nadarevo		Romania	
			Bronze	Lead	Bronze	Lead	Bronze	Lead		
A	1 228.Ns		3,2/ 1,0	1	-	-	-	1	-	Dinogetia
	2 175. Zl		2,8/ 1,3	-	-	6	-	-	-	Dinogetia
	3 147. Zl		3,3/ 0,9	-	-	2	-	-	-	Dinogetia, Tufani (Constanța county)
B	1 230. Ns		д. 2,6/ ш. 0,9	1						Târgușor (Constanța county)
1				1	-	8	-	1	-	

Table II - Comparative table of strap ends found in the metal art production centers near Preslav and their analogies found on the territory of Romania.







ZI		1,6/ 1,7															
7 263. Ns / 264. Ns		L 2,1/ 1,8  Sh 1,8/ 1,8	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dinogetia
8 924. ZI / 240. Ns / 41. Nd		L 2,0/ 1,7  Sh 1,8/ 2,0	1	1M +	-	1M	4	3	1M	-	2M +	10	2M	2M		Păcuiul lui Soare, Adamclisi, (Constanța county), Oltina- "Capul Dealului" (Constanța county), Bădragii Vechi (Moldova)	
9 892. ZI / 251. Ns		L 2,3/ 1,8  Sh 1,9/ 1,9	5	2	-	-	1	2	1M	-	2M +	11	3M	2M		Adamclisi, (Constanța county), Bădragii Vechi (Moldova)	
10 31.N d		Sh A. 2,3/ III. 2,0										1				Bădragii Vechi (Moldova)	
			10	15	1	1	45	48	6	2	29	26	5	5			

Table III - Comparative table of shield-shaped mounts found in the metal art production centers near Preslav and their analogies found on the territory of Romania.










	5		L 2,4/ 1,7  Sh 1,7/ 2,6	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Adamclisi, (Constanța county)
	6		L 2,4/ 1,6  Sh 1,9/ 2,5	-	-	-	-	6	5	-	1m	2	1	-	-	Oltina-„Capul Dealului” (Constanța county)	
	7		L 2,8/ 1,7  Sh 1,8/ 3,3	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	Adamclisi, (Constanța county)	
	8		L 1,5/ 1,1  Sh 1,7/ 2,2	-	1	-	-	1	15	1m	3m	2	2	-	-	Șeitin, Arad	
				3	2	-	-	36	36	6	5	5	6	2	1		
Openwork- shaped mounts																	
D	1		L 1,9/ 1,4  Sh 1,3/ 1,3	-	2	-	1m	14	4	-	-	-	1	-	1m	Adamclisi, (Constanța county)	
					2	-	1	14	4	-	-	-	1	-	1		

Table V - Comparative table of leaf-shaped and openwork-shaped mounts found in the metal art production centers near Preslav with their analogies found on the territory of Romania.








Object type	Image	Dimensions	Novosel				Zlatar				Nadarevo				Romania	
			Bronze		Lead		Bronze		Lead		Bronze		Lead			
Mounts		cm	L	Sh	L	Sh	L	Sh	L	Sh	L	Sh	L	Sh		
E Geometric-shaped mounts	1 97.ZI		D 1,2	-	3	-	-	6	-	2m	-	-	5	-	-	Oltina-„Capul Dealului” (Constanța county)
	2 25514.ZI		D 1,4	3	-	-	-	57	-	9m	-	-	-	2m	-	Oltina-„Capul Dealului” (Constanța county)
	3 475.ZI		D 1,4	-	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	2m	Șiclău
	4 1323.ZI		D 1,6	-	-	-	-	-	1m	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oltina-„Capul Dealului” (Constanța county)
	5 534.Ns		D 1,3	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	Adamclisi, (Constanța county), Oltina-„Capul Dealului” (Constanța county)
	6 935.ZI		D 1,4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Șiclău, Adamclisi, (Constanța county)
	7 867.ZI		Sh 1,5/ 2,0	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	Adamclisi, (Constanța county)
			3	5	-	-	77	2	11	-	-	12	2	2		

Table VI - Comparative table of geometric-shaped mounts found in the metal art production centers near Preslav with their analogies discovered on the territory of Romania.