Artefacts of the 4th–7th centuries AD
Jewellery

1. **Earring (Pl. 1, Colour Pl. 2)**
   - Single piece of composite construction.
   - Triangular gold sheet with one green glass and two garnet cabochons, enriched with filigree, beaded wire and granulation. Three hollow U-shaped pendants are suspended from the base. 4th century Pontic Sarmatian
   - Gold, garnet, green glass
   - Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893
   - Inv. no: 1923,7-16,11 Old cat. no. 145
   - Percentage of gold: 75
   - Size: W: 25.2mm L: 46mm Weight: 5.19g
   - Unpublished

   The suspension loop of the pendant is fastened to the apex of the base-plate. It is a 0.7mm wide gold band with a median engraved line. The two ends of the loop are flattened where they are soldered. (W of loop: 1.8mm; D: 4mm)

   The base-plate of the pendant is a single sheet in the form of an equilateral triangle, with a wedge-shaped projection at the top to support the decoration. In the middle are three tear-shaped cabochons in gold settings with the edges of the collets bent over to secure the inlays. They are arranged in a triangle with the two garnets side by side beneath the green glass setting. (The base-plate: H: 26mm, sides: 27.2mm, base: 25.1mm; inlays: L: 8mm; W: 5.1mm; collet H: 1mm).

   In the field between the two garnets are three granules in a trefoil pattern. There is a beaded-wire border around each collet, which fills the space between the settings. In each corner of the base is a group of six granules arranged in a triangle. Across the base of the triangle runs a ‘false-plait’ pattern of two pairs of twisted wires. These are flanked by a beaded wire above and below. The pendant has on two sides a similar beaded-wire border, which also frames two granules at the apex. (D of granules: 1mm; W: 0.7mm; W of bordering wire around the pendant: 1mm; W of herring-bone patterned wire: 2x1mm; W: 0.7mm; W of beaded wires above and below them: 1mm).

   Three loops of circular-section wire with flattened ends are soldered to the back of the base-plate. From each is suspended a loop-in-loop chain of two links, each of circular section wire forming a twisted figure-of-eight. Each chain supports a hollow inverted U-shaped pendant, attached by a loop of circular-section wire soldered to the top. Each pendant consists of two U-shaped sheets by a strip soldered round the curved edge and is open at the end. (Size of loops: D: 0.8mm; distance between loops: 1st loop from the angle: 3.1mm; 2nd from the 1st: 7.8mm; 3rd from the 2nd: 8.7mm 3rd from the angle: 5.5mm; chain D: 0.6mm; pendents W: 5mm; L: 5mm; thickness: 2.5mm).

   Originally the pendant was probably part of an earring. It may have been connected to the hoop by means of a smaller intermediate plaque connected by a hinge to the top of the triangle (see Coche de la Ferre).

   There is a very close parallel from Kerch in the Louvre. It is of similar shape and construction and is dated to the 4th century by Coche de la Ferre. A similar pair of earrings from Kerch-Glinishche in the Diergardt Collection, Cologne, is dated to the 4th century by Damm. Two broadly similar earrings were found in Armenia in 1909–10. Both are of gold and triangular with gold pendants attached to the base, but with a single, central, tear-shaped cabochon. A pair of earrings from Olbia (Mikolayiv, Ukraine) in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, can be related (in shape and construction) to the Crimean ones. It is considered to be Alanic of the first half of the 5th century by Brown, but is in fact of Near-Eastern origin of the 2nd–3rd century (Damm, pers. comm.). The piece in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection is of a later type of this long-lived form. According to Aibabin this type of earring was born by the Sarmatians in the second half of the 3rd/first half of the 4th century.

2. **Earring (Pl. 1, Colour Pl. 2)**
   - Single piece of composite construction.
   - Tear-shaped garnet plate in a gold collet with a double beaded-wire border and plain wire hoop.
   - Gold, garnet
   - Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1905
   - Inv. no. GR 1981,9-5.12 – transferred to Greek and Roman Department in 1981; original Inv. no. 1923,7-16,69 Old cat. no. 266
   - Percentage of gold: base-plate: 91 hoop: 91
   - Size: W: 10mm L: 13mm Weight: 1.24g

   The suspension loop of the pendant is fastened to the apex of the base-plate. It is a 0.7mm wide gold band with a median engraved line. The two ends of the loop are flattened where they are soldered. (W of loop: 1.8mm; D: 4mm)

   The base-plate of the main component is not exactly tear-shaped as the end is not pointed, but stepped and squared off. There are two beaded wires soldered around the collet of the garnet, each end of which is turned back to form a small loop. There is no foil beneath the garnet. (Thickness of garnet: c. 1.5mm). The beaded wire is very uneven and many of the beads are conical rather than spherical. This occurs when the beading tool is held at an angle and pressure is applied irregularly. It is probably done with a single-bladed tool.

   The base-plate contains slightly more copper than silver, which is unusual for ancient silver and may be due to contamination from the solder. There is no evidence that this component has been added recently.

   There is a similar gold and garnet earring-pair of unknown provenance published by Damm as 4th-century Bosporan. A similar piece from Kerch-Glinishche (Ukraine) serves as the upper part (i.e. a decorated loop) for a triangular earring similar to the one in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection (see cat. no. 1). It is also said to be 4th-century Bosporan by Damm. The parallel suggests the possibility that this ‘earring’ served as a suspension loop for an earring pendant like cat. no. 1 above.

   A pair of earrings of this type from Kerch is dated to the 1st–2nd century by Ondrejová. Further earrings from ‘south-Russia’ are dated to the 3rd–4th century by Greifenhagen.

3. **Earring (Pl. 1, Colour Pl. 3)**
   - A pair, each of composite construction.
   - Tear-shaped garnet plate in a gold collet with a double twisted wire border and twisted wire hoop.
   - 3rd–4th century Late Hellenistic or Roman
   - Gold, garnet
   - Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1897

Comparative Bibliography
1. Coche de la Ferre 1962, pl. IX
2. Damm 1988, 126–7, ill. 75–7
3. OIAK 1913, 218, ill. 249
4. GHA 1987 (K. Brown), 115, ill. I, 21
5. Aibabin below

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Inv. no. GR 1981,9-5,4 and 5 – transferred to Greek and Roman Department in 1981; original Inv. no. 1923,7-16, 48 and 49
Old cat. no. 182
Size: no. 4: W: 9mm Weight: 1.37g:
no. 15: L: 18mm Weight: 1.34g:
Similar in shape and decoration to cat. no. 2 above. The hoop is formed of a twisted wire with one end flattened and soldered onto the back of the base-sheet, the other end plain and bent to form an S-shaped hook. Soldered onto the back of the base-sheet is a circular loop of twisted wire, with both ends flattened. The two wires together form a hook- and-eye fastening. They are of block-twisted type.

The main component has a base-plate in the form of a tear-shaped gold sheet containing a tear-shaped garnet plate at the centre. There is no foil beneath the garnet. The collet of the garnet consists of a single strip of rectangular section, soldered onto the base and bent to form a tear-shape, with a butt-joint at the point. The border of the base-plate is decorated with two concentric lengths of twisted wire (block-twisted type), one soldered around the collet, the other along the edge of the base-plate. The ends of both meet at the point of the tear-shape.

(Thickness of garnet plate: c. 1.5mm.)
No. 1981,9-5,5 has had its garnet replaced. It is glued onto a pad of fibres.

This type of earring is rather difficult to date, but from similarities to the earring cat. no. 2 above it isdatable probably to the 3rd–4th century as well.

Many earrings from 'south Russia' are published by Greifenhagen1 as late Etruscan, of the 3rd–4th century.1 An earring of unknown provenance in the Museum of Art, Rhode Island, is dated to the 1st century bc–2nd century AD.2

Comparative Bibliography
2 Rhode Island 1976, 100 no. 40

4 Earring (Pl. 2, Colour Pl. 3)

In two pieces, each of composite construction.
Gold hoop and a tear-shaped pendant with cloisonné garnet inlays, filigree and beaded wire.
Gold, garnet
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893
Inv. no. 1923,7-16, 6 Old cat. no. 141
Percentage of gold: 93
Size: L: 49mm overall L of loop-part: 25mm L of pendant: 27mm W: 15mm Weight: 5.87g
Unpublished

The elongated hoop is of circular-section wire and narrows towards the upper end, which is in the form of a long hook for suspension from the ear. The other end is formed into a round loop which secures the pendant. It is flattened where a thin gold disc is soldered above the loop to serve as a base-plate for a garnet disc set in a cylindrical collet. It is bordered with beaded wire made with a multiple-bladed tool. There is a plain gold foil underlay beneath the garnet. (Thickness of hoop: 11mm; L: 17mm; thickness of loop: 1.7mm; D of garnet disc: 4mm; collet H: 26mm.)

The pendant is attached to the earring hoop by a loop of circular-section wire, flattened at the ends which are soldered to the base-plate.

The base-plate of the pendant is a single tear-shaped sheet with a trefoil terminal. In the centre is soldered a gold strip to form a tear-shaped collet. It is sub-divided into three cells by an inverted T-shaped setting formed of two strips, each containing a cloisonné garnet inlay. The setting and the pendant itself are each bordered with the same type of beaded wire, made with a multiple tool (as the beaded wire above). In the field between these two wires is a broad corrugated band of gold. At the trefoil terminal of the base-plate there are three identical garnet discs, each in an individual collet. Beneath each of the garnets there is a plain gold foil. (Collet H: 2mm; thickness: 1mm; W of broad wire: 2mm.)

One triangular and one circular garnet plate are missing. The other garnet settings are damaged and scratched.

A similar pattern of cloisonné garnet inlay can be seen on the earring pair cat. no. 5 below.

This appears to be a rather popular type of earring coming mostly from the Black Sea region. It occurs with either two or three circular settings at the point of the tear-shape.

There is a similar piece in the British Museum from the collection of Alessandro Castellani with an unknown, possibly Italian, provenance, dated by Marshall to the 2nd–3rd century.1 There is a pair of point-and-eye fastening earrings from Taman (south Russia) in the Diegordt Collection, dated to the last quarter of the 4th/first half of the 5th century by Damm,2 and three similar pairs from Kerch excavated in 1904. One of them has a similar tear-shaped setting divided into three cells by a T-shape.

Another has the same arrangement of a central tear-shape and three circular settings at the point. They are dated to the end of the 4th/first half of the 5th century by Zasetskaya3 and Spitsin,4 but according to Albabin5 they are not earlier than the 5th century. He regards these earrings as typically Hunnic of the 5th century. A similar earring from Kerch in the Louvre is dated to the 3rd–4th century by Coche de la Ferté,6 and a similar pair from Olbia (Mikolayiv, Ukraine) in Kassel is dated to the 3rd–4th century by Stefanelli and Pettinau.7 Two similar pairs of earrings were auctioned in Paris in June 1924, and are said to be from the Crimea.8

According to a drawing published by Goldina and Vodolago,9 there are three similar pendants from the Ural region. But on account of the lack of detail in the illustration they may belong to a different, later type; they are inlaid, made of silver and bronze, and possibly date to the 6th–7th century. The other objects from the same grave tend to support the later dating of what might be an example of a long-lived form.

Comparative Bibliography
1 Marshall 1911, 280 no. 2372, pl. 51
2 Damm 1988, 125–6, ills 73, 74
3 Zasetskaya 1979, 16, pl. 210 (grave no. 54), 40, 41 (graves excavated 24 June 1904); Zasetskaya 1993, 53, 77, pls 22:84 with glass inlays), 24:85 (with garnets), 50:243 (central amber, circular garnets)
4 Spitsin 1905, 115, 123, ill. 29; 30
5 Albabin below
6 Coche de la Ferté 1962, pl. IX
7 Stefanelli and Pettinau 1992, 159, ill. 167
8 Sale Cat. Paris 1924, no. 10. no. 138, pl. IV138
9 Goldina and Vodolago 1990, 26, 43, 60, 78; pl. XXII:26 (from Verkh-Sainska, Bartimska and Nevolino)

5 Earring (Pl. 2, Colour Pl. 2)

A pair, each of composite construction.
Gold hoop with tear-shaped pendant decorated with cloisonné garnet inlays and with a gold 'bunch-of-grapes' pendant suspended from its base.
Gold, garnet
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893
Inv. no. 1923,7-16, 9 and 10 Old cat. no. 144
Percentage of gold: cell wall: 91 granulation area: 90
Size: L: 61mm overall Weight: no. 9: 5.11g no. 10: 5.03g
Unpublished

The hoop is made of a twisted gold wire with one end turned back forming a hook, and the other end bent to form a loop then twisted cylindrically around itself in a return. The two ends together form a hook-and-eye fastening. (D of hoop: 18mm; D of wire: 1.5mm; 0.5mm at the hook; D of the loop: 5.5mm.)

The pendant has a tear-shaped base-plate. Upon its edge is soldered a 1mm thick gold strip to form a collet which is joined at the point. The tear-shape is divided into three cells by a T-shaped arrangement of two strips. Each cell contains a flat garnet: a triangular one at the point and two triangles with curved outer sides below. The top edges of the cell walls are burr-ed over to hold in the garnets. The garnets have well-finished edges, tapering towards the lower surface. There are plain gold foils beneath the garnet plates, but there is no evidence of backing paste. (Size of tear-shape: 8 x 11mm; H: 2mm; collet thickness: 0.5mm; size of the cells: sides of the triangle: 2.5mm; 4mm; 4mm; 4mm; sides of the curved triangles: 2.5mm; 5.5mm; curved side: c. 8mm; thickness of garnets: 1.5mm.)

The tear-shaped pendant is suspended by means of a loop hammered to shape and flattened at the end where it is soldered to the back of the base-plate. (D of loop: 6mm; thickness of wire: 1.3mm.) At the other end is a similar but smaller loop also soldered to the base-plate. From it is suspended a 'bunch-of-grapes' pendant (D of loop:
4 mm; thickness of loop: 1 mm; size of the pendant: 22 x 8.5 mm).

This is a set of seven hollow gold knobs soldered together with small granules in between. Four of the latter form a terminal at the point. Each knob is made of two hemispheres soldered together. The pendant is suspended by a loop made of a gold strip with a rib along each edge. The loop is soldered to a ribbon strip which has been folded to form a cylinder on top of the pendant and is bordered by beaded wire at the base. (D of spheres: 4 mm; D of granules: 1.5 mm; D of suspension loop: 4 mm; W: 2 mm; thickness: 0.8 mm; D of cylinder at the top: 2.5 mm; L: 3.5 mm; thickness of beaded wire: 0.8 mm).

The lower suspension loops of the tear-shaped pendants have worn thin, suggesting use over a long period of time.

The ‘bunch-of-grapes’ pendant and the hoop may not originally have belonged to the tear-shaped pendant (see below).

The triangular garnet plates of both earrings are missing. The earring cat. no. 4 above has a similar arrangement of garnets, i.e. in a tear-shaped collet divided into two bow-sided triangles and one triangular cell.

This pair of earrings is constructed with a rather unusual combination of two different types of pendant.

The garnet-inlaid part is very similar to the central pattern of cloisonné garnets that can be seen on the earring cat. no. 4. Above and also on a pair of earrings from Kerch (excavated 24 June 1904). This part therefore could be dated to the end of the 4th–first half of the 5th century.

The garnet-inlaid part could be the central section of a more complex and larger pendant. The garnet-inlaid part is very similar to the central pattern of cloisonné garnets that can be seen on the earring cat. no. 4. Above and also on a pair of earrings from Kerch (excavated 24 June 1904). This part therefore could be dated to the end of the 4th–first half of the 5th century.

But on the other hand, the hoop and the ‘bunch-of-grapes’ pendant are very similar to those of the earring (cat. no. 106) below also in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection, and now in the collection of the Greek and Roman Department in the British Museum. There is also a Late-Antique 3rd-century necklace with a similar ‘bunch-of-grapes’. Accordingly the lower pendant of the earring – and maybe the hoop as well – seems to be earlier than the garnet-inlaid part.

6 Earrings (Pl. 3, Colour Pl. 1)

A pair.
Small plain hoop and cast polyhedral bead terminal.
End of 4th–5th century – or later (see below). North Pontic.
Gold.
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893
Inv. no. 1923,7-16,30 and 31
Old cat. no. 152
Percentage of gold: 78
Size: no. 30: 21 x 20 mm
Weight: 5.96 g
no. 31: 20.5 x 20 mm
Weight: 6.07 g
Published: GHA 1987, (Kidd) 97,110, ill. I,16.h.

The hoop is of thick, circular-section rod bent to form an open ring and hammered to its final shape. At one end it is joined to the bead either by casting or by soldering; the other end is free and is slightly thinner, with a cut-off end. (D of hoop: 20 mm; D of the hoop-wire at bead: 2.5 mm; at the free end: 1.8 mm).

Each polyhedral bead is cast with four hexagonal, eight triangular and two octagonal faces. There are indistinct traces of a diamond-cut surface on the corners of the triangular faces. There are no foils visible beneath the garnet plates. The bead gives no additional information on the construction method. (Size of bead: no. 30: 6.5 x 6 mm; no. 1: 6 x 7 mm).

Both are in good condition. Some of the triangular faces are irregularly formed.

There is a basic disagreement over the origin of polyhedral earrings (see also cat. no. 7 below). According to one theory (e.g. Vágo and Bóna, Bierbrauer, Damm) this type of earring was popular in the Danubian provinces of the late Roman Empire, and appears in East Germanic graves from the late 4th century up to the mid-6th century. But according to another theory (e.g. Salamon and Barkóczi, Werner) they derive from the Black Sea/Caspian region, and were spread by Germanic tribes from the 4th century. According to Werner they were in use in Central Europe until the 7th century.

The silver and bronze variants of the same type are imitations of the gold ones, which appear in the richer graves. I have surveyed only the gold earrings with solid polyhedral beads. There is an earring from Kerch, found on 24 June 1904, dated to the end of 4th/first half of 5th century by Zasetskaya. Albabin dates this type from the 4th to the first half of the 7th century on the basis of the dating of the other finds from the same grave. The earring from Intercisa (Dunaújváros, Hungary) is dated to the late 4th century. A pair from Maikop (south Russia) is dated to the 4th–5th century by Dammo and the earring from Phanagoria (Taman, south Russia) is dated to the same period by Werner. The earring pair from Regoly (Hungary) and its type are dated to the 5th century. A pair of earrings from Sigisfoara (Segesvár, Romania) is considered to be a characteristic piece of Gepid fashion of the Hunnic period by Bóna. They are dated to the period between 472–568 by Csállány, while according to Bierbrauer the East Germanic variants of this late-Roman (late 4th-century) type of earring can be dated to the 5th–6th century. There is one from Aquileia (Italy) and another with no provenance, but probably from southern Italy. There is a pair from a woman’s grave at Hochfelden (France) found together with late 4th/early 5th-century jewellery, and a smaller and a slightly bigger earring of this type come from Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy. They were found together with objects of fashionable Danubian East Germanic type. There is a pair of unknown provenance in the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg.

The earring pair of the Berthier-Delagarde Collection can be considered as early examples of the type, and therefore may be dated to the end of the 4th–5th century.

Comparative Bibliography
1 Vágó and Bóna 1976, 196
2 Bierbrauer 1975, 163–5
3 Dammo 1988, 121
4 Salamon and Barkóczi 1971, 74
5 Horedt 1979, 246
6 Von Freeden 1979, 277–287
8 Albabin 1990, 58, pl. 2:60
9 R. Alfoil, Barkóczi et al. 1957, 431, 432, ill. 93
10 Dammo 1988, 121–2, ill. 63
11 Werner 1956, pl. 48:5
12 Bóna 1991, 160 ill. 100, 288; 1993, 143, ill. 100:258
13 Bóna 1986a, pl. 26:7.8
14 Csállány 1961, 198, pl. CCXIII:19:10
15 Bierbrauer 1975, 163–5
16 Bierbrauer 1975, 163–4, pl. I,4
17 Bierbrauer 1975, pl. LV,4
18 Hatt 1965, 250
19 Marin 1990, 72
20 Hoffmann and von Claer 1968, 130–131, ill. 85a

7 Earrings (Pl. 3, Colour Pl. 1)

A pair, each of composite construction.
Twisted wire hoop and polyhedral bead with garnet inlays.
Gold, garnet, gypsium (core).
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1900
Inv. no. 1923,7-16, 64 and 65
Old cat. no. 231
Percentage of gold: no. 64: 93
no. 65: 62
Size: no. 64: L: 33 mm
W: 31 mm
Weight: 8.36 g
no. 65: L: 32 mm
W: 30.5 mm
Weight: 7.6 g
Total: 15.96 g
Published: Dalton 1924a, 262, pl. XXXVII:15 and 16 reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Tait 1976, 130 no. 192, pl. 192; GHA 1987; (Kidd) 173, ill. 1,1.a.

The hoop is made of a pair of wires twisted together. They show no evidence of manufacture by twisting or drawing, and may have been hammered. One end of the hoop is fastened into the perforation in one of the square faces of the gold frame. The other end is free and thinner (about half of its thickness: from 2 mm to 1 mm.). (Hoop D: 3 mm).

Each polyhedral bead consists of an openwork frame of gold strip filled with eight identical triangular and four identical square garnet inlays. There are no foils visible beneath the garnet plates. The bead has a white core of gypsium. Surface examination under magnification gives no additional information on the construction method. (Size of openwork frame: W: 11.3 mm; L: 14 mm; thickness: 2 mm. Size of garnet inlays: sides of triangles: 4 mm; sides of squares: 5 mm).

The two opposed square faces have not been cut out but are solid, with a central perforation for attachment of the hoop. Each perforation is bordered by a beaded-wire ring. Between the two holes is an internal cylindrical collar of gold sheet which passes right through the centre of
the bead. One of its ends is folded over the beaded wire for reception of the pointed end of the wire hoop. (Perforations D: 2mm).

The gold frame of earring no. 1923.7-16, 65 has been restored. It was made in two halves and soldered together. The garnets were replaced with lighter-coloured, slightly smaller (c. 1 mm) garnet plates which are not set in the gold as precisely as on no. 1923.7-16, 64; their edges project from the frame.

The hoop of no. 1923.7-16, 65 is broken; the inlays are possibly later replacements.

There is a very similar pair of earrings among various Germanic groups (Ostrogoths, Gepids and Burgundians) in the 5th–6th century. Bóna and Vágó (1976, 196) assume the late-Roman origin of the form. There is a very similar pair which appeared among various Germanic groups (Ostrogoths, Gepids and Burgundians) in the 5th–6th century by von Freeden. According to her theory this type of earring was spread from the East-Roman provinces of the Black Sea/Caspian region and Pannonia by the Gothic migration. It disappeared with the fall of the Ostrogothic Kingdom in Italy and was unknown to the Langobards. Salamon and Barkóczi, “and Horedt” also presume a Caucasian origin, whence this type of earring was spread by Germanic or Alanic tribes. The pair of earrings from Beograd–Ćukarica (former Yugoslavia) is dated to the 5th–6th century by Bierbrauer. He regards it as an Ostrogothic-Italian type of an originally provincial-Roman form which appeared among various Germanic groups (Ostrogoths, Gepids and Burgundians) in the 5th–6th century. Bóna and Vágó also assume the late-Roman origin of the form. There is a very similar pair from Olbia (Mikolayiv, Ukraine) and one from Kerch (Crimea). According to Aibabin the earrings were imported to Kerch. There is a recent brief survey of the bibliography of the type by Quast.

On polyhedral earrings see also cat. no. 6.

Comparative Bibliography:
1. Von Freeden 1979, pl. 62:2
2. Von Freeden 1979, 253, 260
3. Salamon and Barkóczi 1971, 74
4. Horedt 1979, 246
5. Bierbrauer 1975, 165; pl. LXXVII:6,7
6. Vágó and Bóna 1976, 196
7. OIAK 1906, 149; ill. 290; it might be the same earring as in Ross 1900 (more precisely: Suuk-Su; see de Baye below)
8. Fettich 1953, pl. XX:4
9. Aibabin below
10. Quast 1993, 75–7

8 Earring (Pl. 3, Colour Pl. 1)

Single piece of composite construction. Large hoop with composite polyhedral sheet bead and glass inlays in high collets.


Prov.: near Hurzulf (“Gourzouf,” Register), Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1900 (more precisely: Suuk-Su; see de Baye below)

Inv. no. 1923.7-16, 62 Old cat. no. 234

Percentage of gold: 86

Size: L: 52mm W: 52mm

Weight: 45.7g

Published: de Baye 1908, 101–3, fig. 11; Dalton 1924a, 262, pl. X X X V II:9 reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Tenishcheva 1930, 102, pl. XXXIX:150; GHA 1987, (Kidd) 110, 111, ill. I, 171.

The large hoop is an oval of circular-section wire with one end fastened inside the bead to another wire inside the hole. The other end is free. The small internal wire is flattened where it is soldered to both the hoop and bead; the other end emerges from the hole at the opposite side of the bead. It is possibly the fragment of a clasp, or else may secure the hoop, or give strength to the bead. (Size of hoop: 51.5 x 40mm; thickness: 1.8mm).

The body of the polyhedral bead is made from a single sheet which covers a solid core. The bead is effectively a tube with the ends folded in, and the structure is supported by its core of paste (sulphur). It has four lozenge-shaped and eight triangular faces, with two diamond-shaped ends. In the centre of each of the lozenge-shaped faces is a setting in a high collet. Each collet is formed by a strip bent outwards at each end to form a cylinder, or else may secure the hoop, or give strength to the bead. (Size of hoop: 51.5 x 40mm; thickness: 1.8mm).

According to Aibabin the earrings are typical south Crimean objects of the second half of the 6th/first half of the 7th century. A very similar earring with a pendant attached to its bead is found in Kuban.

Comparative Bibliography:
1. Repnikov dated those from Artek and Suuk-Su to the 5th–7th century.
2. Aibabin below
3. de Baye 1891, 468 ill. 420
4. Beninger 1929; GHA 1987, (P. Stadler) 345, 327 pl. 53 ill. VII,37d
5. Aibabin below

9 Necklace (Pls 4–5, Colour Pl. 1)

Eight composite gold pendants with garnet inlays, alternating with 10 composite gold sheet spacers and one blue faience pendant.


Prov.: Krym, Crimea (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893

Inv. no. 1923.7-16, 8 Old cat. no. 143

Percentage of gold: collet of faience pendant 79

spacers (all three types) 85

Size: L overall: 160mm W: 29mm

Weight: 28.5g

Published: Smith 1923, 170; Tait 1976, 130 no. 192a, pl. 192; Tait 1986, 102, 247, ill. 226g; GHA 1987, (Kidd) 110, 111, ill. I, 171.

A Eight gold spacers are of the same type, consisting of four cylinders formed from two ribbed sheets. Each sheet is rolled into a pair of cylinders having a closed S-shaped section. Each spacer was then formed by soldering two pairs of cylinders side by side. Each spacer has a ribbed wire border, imitating beaded wire, but with indentations on one side only. (Spacers: 13 x 8mm; cylinders D: 2mm; see Pl. 5).

B Two of the spacers were differently made, comprising only three cylinders: one consists of a pair of cylinders of closed S-shaped section, with a single cylinder soldered alongside. The other spacer consists of a central single cylinder soldered in the middle of a ribbed gold sheet which has its edges rolled inwards to form two outer cylinders. These sheets used have slightly different ribbing. These two spacers have no border wires around their ends. (Spacers: 13 x 8mm; cylinders D: 2; 2.5mm; see Pl. 5).

C Each of the eight pendants has a tear-shaped gold sheet base-plate with lobed ends. The collet round each pendant consists of a single gold strip bent outwards at each end to form a cylinder. Each collet contains a flat tear-shaped garnet with two circular cabochons beneath. The other tear-shape is not flat, but a cabochon garnet. There is a gilt-silver foil beneath each garnet plate (the black fragments preserved in the collars of the missing cabochons might be the remains of such foils). The suspension loop of each pendant is made of a circular-section gold
wire, bent to form an open ring. It is attached by soldering to either side of a small projection from the top of the back-plate and to the corresponding part of the collet. The spacers and pendants are now strung by threads going through the cylinders of the spacers and the loops of the pendants. (Pendants: 24.5 x 7.5mm; tear-shapes L: 15.4mm; collet H: 3.8mm, thickness of collet: 0.5mm; circular cabochons D: 4mm; thickness of the loop: 1.4mm; D: 6mm). See PL 5.

D The blue faience pendant is biconical and decorated with longitudinal ribs. It is held in a sheet gold collet which has a soldered seam and is crimped around the girth of the pendant and over a sheet gold disc at the top. A pair of block-twisted gold wires are soldered around both the top and bottom edges. Three tear-shaped settings of blue glass decorate the upper part of the collet, each in a gold strip collet. The loop of the pendant is a cast, circular gold band with ribbed decoration, which is soldered to the top disc. (Pendant: 27 x 12mm; stone L: 9.5mm, upper D: 7.8mm; W of each wire: 0.5mm; size of small tear-shapes: 4.5 x 3.1mm; collet H: 1.3mm; D of the loop: 0.8mm; thickness of the band: 5.6mm).

The fourth pendant from the left was possibly mended later because its loop is fastened to a projection of the side strip.

Thirteen of the circular cabochon garnets are missing. Traces of two of them are visible in their settings. The fastener of the necklace is also missing.

The beaded wires on eight of the spacers are of a distinctive type, beaded on one side only, similar to that on the studs (cat. nos 291–K) and on the earring (cat. no. 8).

The original photograph (Archive Pl. 2a, 2b) shows that, at the time it was taken, all the spacers and pendants were associated together. It is possible that they were contemporary, but some of the pieces may have been added in modern times: two of the spacers were made in a different technique, and the faience pendant is very different from the others. Since there is no positive evidence that they were originally associated the new photograph omits one of the spacers and the faience pendant.

There are similar tear-shaped pendants from south Russia in the Diergardt Collection. One single pendant and four pendants as parts of a necklace were found at Maikop; another pendant comes from Taman, and all are dated to the 5th century by Damm. A necklace with similar pendants of bronze and glass was found at Shipovo on the Derkul (Ukraine) and is dated to the 5th century by Werner. A gold hair-pin from Normandy has a terminal of a similar shape to the necklace pendants, although constructed differently, and may be contemporary, but some of the pieces may have been added in modern times: two of the spacers were made in a different technique, and the faience pendant is very different from the others. Since there is no positive evidence that they were originally associated the new photograph omits one of the spacers and the faience pendant.

The early types of lunate pendant from the Siret and Dniester area were surveyed by Werner. It is possible that they gave rise to the later forms of garnet-inlaid pendants, some of which incorporate two opposed birds’ heads in their decoration. Lunate pendants, both of stamped sheet and cast, with bird-headed terminals, are known from Scandinavia in the 5th century. The closest parallel to the Berthier-Delagarde example is the pendant from a Gepid grave at Oradea (Nagyvárad, Romania), dated to the early part of the 6th century. A similar pendant from Géva (Hungary) is dated to the first half of the 5th century by Alföldi, but to the second half by Annibaldi and Werner. There is a similar pendant from Laa an der Thaya (Austria) in Berlin (Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte). The pendant from Strachotín (Bohemia) is considered to be Herulian, of the second half of the 5th century by Tejral. Two pendants of this form from Verkhnyaya Rutka (Osetia) are dated to the end of the 5th–6th century by Kargopol’tsev and Bazarov. According to Aibabin this type of pendant was imported to the Crimea from the Gepid or Ostrogothic regions.  

Comparative Bibliography

1 Kargopol’tsev and Bazarov 1993, 113–22
2 Werner 1988, 241–86
3 Kargopol’tsev and Bazarov op. cit., 116–18
4 Bóna 1986, 153 pl. 29.2
6 Annibaldi and Werner 1963, 371
7 Kühn 1935a, 456 no. 10
8 GHA 1987, (J. Tejral) 376; pl. 58.VIII, 18.b
9 Kargopol’tsev and Bazarov op. cit., 116
10 Aibabin below

11 Pendant (PL 6, Colour Pl. 3)

Single piece of composite construction. Tear-shaped gold pendant decorated with all-over garnets, green glass and a central cabochon, with beaded wire and granulation. 5th century. Pontic. East Germanic.

Gold, garnet, green glass.

The Berthier-Delagarde Collection of Crimean Jewellery in the British Museum and Related Material | 37
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1900
Inv. no. 1923.7-16.15  Old cat. no. 217
Percentage of gold: 90
Platinum group inclusions are present in the gold, suggesting an alluvial source.
Size: L: 37mm; W: 14mm  Weight: 5.08g
Published: Dalton 1924a, 262, pl. XXXVII:1 reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Moss 1935, xiv, pl. III B lower right; Tait 1976, 130 no. 192c, pl. 192; Tait 1986, 103, 247, ill. 266e; GHA 1987, (Kidd) 110, 111, ill. 1, 16.c.
The suspension loop is a three-ribbed strip bent to form a cylinder and is flattened where soldered to the base-plate (D: 3mm; thickness: 0.6mm). The loop is similar to that of cat. no. 10 above.
The base-plate consists of a tear-shaped gold sheet with a squared end. By means of an overlapping joint a trefoil of gold sheet has been soldered to the end to create a point.
At the centre of the pendant is a tear-shaped cabochon garnet.
Round it are seven symmetrically-placed cloisons each containing a flat garnet, with another of triangular green glass directly below the suspension loop. The garnets are roughly cut. The cell walls are burnished over at the top to secure the inlays. This obscures the joins in the cells and nothing can be said about how the strips forming them were assembled. No foil is visible beneath the garnets. A single beaded-wire border passes within the loop. (Size of central cabochon: L: 7.2mm; W: 4mm; H: 0.8mm; W of the collet of the inlay: 0.8-1mm; W of beaded wire: 0.6mm).
The terminal is formed by a trefoil gold sheet soldered to the end of the base-plate and is decorated with four soldered-on granules (D: 2mm).
1. (Size of each setting from the point: circumference of the triangle: 2 x 6mm+4mm; of each rectangle above: 1.8mm+4.7mm+4.2mm+3mm; of rectangles above: 3mm; 5mm; 2.7mm; rectangles at the top: 2.7mm+6.5mm+4.4mm+2.4mm; of the green glass triangle: 2 x 4.2mm+6.9mm).
The gold collet is damaged at the point of the tear-shape.
No exact parallels to this pendant could be found in the literature but there are some similarities in technique to the pendant above (cat. no. 10).
A According to Aibabin this type of object is a unique find in the Crimea. 1 It was imported from the Gepid or Ostrogothic regions, and is evidence of connections between Crimean Gothia, the Danube region and Italy.
Comparative Bibliography
1 Aibabin below

12  Finger-ring (Pl. 7)
Single piece of composite construction.
The circular gold bezel is decorated with cloisonné garnets and cabochon glass inlays in cylindrical settings. The hoop is formed by a strip of triangular section.
Second half of the 5th century.  East Germanic.
Gold, garnet, glass
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893
Inv. no. 1923.7-16.14  Old cat. no. 148
Percentage of gold: 83
Size: W of the bezel at the hoop: 20mm  W across: 19mm  H: 24.5mm  Weight: 4.10g
Published: GHA 1987, (Kidd) 110, 111, ill. 1,16.i.
The base-plate of the bezel consists of a single circular sheet with four pairs of projecting lobes in a cruciform arrangement to support eight cylindrical collets. The wall of the bezel is formed by a single strip soldered to the base-plate. Each of the eight cylinders is independently soldered to the base-plate, to the wall of the bezel and to its pair. Not all of the collets have soldered seams.
At the centre of the bezel is a cabochon glass inlay in a circular cell. The bezel is further divided into four quadrants, each cell containing a cloisonné garnet which is roughly cut. There is a plain gold foil beneath each of the garnet plates. The cell walls do not extend to the full depth of the bezel. The junctions of the central cell walls are soldered and the tops are burnished over to secure the stones. (Size of cells: sides: 3.2mm; thickness of the sides differs: 0.2mm-0.9mm; D of central glass: 3.6mm; H: 1.9mm).
There are four pairs of cabochon settings in the cylindrical collets. The original inlays were all possibly garnets, but are now pink and yellow glass. Several of the stones, including the central cabochon and two of the cloisonné garnets, are held by wax (probably beeswax) which, together with gypsum, fills the cavity. (Stones: D: 2.6mm; cylinder H: 4mm; each pair of cylinders W: 6mm; collet thickness: 0.2mm).
The hoop consists of a strip, triangular in section and slightly oval in plan. The ends are lap-jointed where they are flattened and soldered off-centre beneath the base-plate of the bezel. The axis of the hoop to the bezel deviates slightly from a right angle. (Size of hoop: 32.5 x 18.3mm; thickness: 3mm; hoop W: 3mm).
One of the four garnet plates in the bezel is missing. The other inlays are damaged and some of them are possibly not original. The base-plate is damaged and one of the cabochons is missing.
A very similar ring, probably from the same workshop, was found in a Germanic aristocratic grave at Dunapataj-Bödpuszta (‘Bakodpuszta,’ Hungary). 2 According to Kiss it was made in one of the Late-Antique workshops of the Black Sea area, and such rings were worn by members of the Scirian ruling family in the second third of the 5th century. 3 Bierbrauer dated it to the mid to second half of that century. 4 There is a similar ring from the Kuban region (south Russia) with a circular bezel and peripheral cylindrical collets. 5 Another, broadly similar ring in the British Museum (P&E AF 492) with a garnet-inlaid circular bezel enriched with granulation, is dated to the 6th century and said to be Ostrogothic. 6 According to Bóna these rings appear from the second half of the 5th century. 7 Aibabin considers this type of ring as a unique find in the Crimea. They are Germanic objects of the second half of the 5th century and were imported to the Crimea.
Comparative Bibliography
1 Fettich 1951, pl. XVIII:3,3a
2 Kiss 1983, 95-131; Garam and Kiss 1992, 12; Ills 31, 34
3 Bierbrauer 1975, 168
4 Kondakov et al. 1891, 475; Ill. 430
5 Museum register
6 Bóna 1991, 291; 1993, 260
7 Aibabin below

13  Finger-ring (Pl. 7)
Single piece of composite construction.
The square gold bezel is decorated with cloisonné garnets, white inlay and cabochon glass inlays. The hoop is enriched with beaded wire and filigree.
Second half of the 5th century.  East Germanic.
Gold, garnet, glass, cristobalite white inlay, wax
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893
Inv. no. 1923.7-16.15  Old cat. no. 149
Percentage of gold: 85; side of bezel 84:
Size: W (bezel): 20.6mm  H: 26mm  Weight: 7.67g
Published: GHA 1987, (Kidd) 110, 111, ill. 1,16.j.
The base-plate of the bezel consists of a single square sheet with four pairs of projecting lobes at the corners to support eight cylindrical collets. The walls of the bezel and of the eight cylinders are all formed from a single strip, made by complex folding, and soldered to the base-plate. This construction differs from that of cat. no. 12 above.
At the centre of the bezel is a small yellow glass cabochon, secured with black wax, probably beeswax. The bezel is further divided into a square in the centre, which is filled with a white inlay (cristobalite, SIO,) and into eight isosceles-triangular garnet settings. Four of the triangles are arranged around a central square and are enclosed by the other four, the cell walls thus forming a square within a square within a square. The garnets are roughly cut. It cannot be ascertained whether there are foils beneath them. All the internal cell walls are joined with solder and the tops are burnished over to secure the stones. (Sides of bezel: 11mm; sides of squares: 11mm; 7.5mm; 6mm; collet thickness: 0.2-0.7mm; D of central cabochon: 1.4mm).
A pair of cylindrical collets projects from each corner. One of the pairs is filled with light red glass cabochons and two collets contain cream-coloured ones. Three of the inlays are missing. The collets contain a white paste (gypsum), which may be the remains of the original supporting paste (cylinder H: 4mm).
The base-plate is decorated with double granulations directly above the hoop (D of granules: 1.8mm).
The hoop consists of a bent strip, slightly oval in plan, and its ends are but-jointed under the centre of the bezel. It is decorated with a
‘false-plan’ pattern of two pairs of twisted wires along the centre, and a beaded-wire border along both edges. The beaded wires are soldered to the edges of the hoop. The axis of the hoop to the bezel deviates slightly from a right angle (as on cat. no. 12 above). (Size of hoop: D: 20.5mm; 19mm; 5mm wide and 1.2mm thick).

Four cabochon inlays are missing and the glass ones are possibly replacements.

The material of the central white inlay (crystobalite) is unusual; most inlays of this type are of shell, bone/ivory or magnesite (MgCO₃).

This ring is a variant of the same basic type as cat. no. 12 above. Similar rings with a square bezel and peripheral circular inlays have been found in Taman (south Russia),1 Oubia (Mikolajiv, Ukraine),2 Dunapataj-Bödpuszta (Bakodpuszta, Hungary),3 Cluj-Şoseșeni (Kolozsvár-Szamosfalva, Romania),4 Facicolaro (Italy)5 and Lörrach (Germany).6 There are also three pieces of unknown provenance, one in the Hungarian National Museum (Inv. no. N. 465),7 and two in a German private collection.8 Also five pendants of the same form have been found at Cluj-Şoseșeni.9 They are considered to belong to the second half of the 5th century. The ring from Taman is in the Diergardt Collection and is dated to the 5th century by Damm.10 The one from Lörrach was found together with Aquileia-type radiate-beaded brooches and is dated to the first half of the 6th century by Werner11 and Bierbrauer.12 The ring from Facicolaro is early 6th century, Gepid, Ostrogothic or Alamanic according to Bierbrauer,13 and related to the similar Danubian East Germanic rings of the mid/second half of the 5th century. The one from ‘Bakodpuszta’ is considered to be Scirian of the second third of the 5th century by Kiss.14 According to Bóna these rings appear from the second half of the 5th century.15 Albabin regards this type of ring, like the comparable example above (cat. no. 12), as a unique find in the Crimea.16

**Comparative Bibliography**

1. La Niece 1988, 238–40
2. Götte 1915, 12 no. 5 (4th–5th century)
3. Ross 1965, 117–118; Pl. LXXXI:D (Gothic, late 4th/early 5th century)
4. Ferrich 1951, pl. XVII:2,2a,2b
6. Bierbrauer et al. 1993, illus. 2; 4; 4.2
7. Werner 1961a, 68–75; pl. 6.4.b
9. Catalogued by Dr. A.B. Chadour, Coll. no. 38.34; 38.35; Chadour 1994, 151, nos 505, 506
10. Horedt and Protase op. cit., pl. 23/19–24
11. Damm 1988, 155
12. Werner 1961a, 75
13. Bierbrauer 1975, 168
17. Albabin below

**14 Brooch (Pl. 8, Colour Pl. 4)**

Single piece of composite construction. Flat, oval gold brooch with all-over cloisonné garnet inlays.


Gold, garnet.

Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1900

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,73; Old cat. no. 224

Percentage of gold: 64

Size: 15.5 x 19.5mm; H: 13.5mm Weight: 4.4g

Published: Dalton 1924a, 262, pl. XXXVII:13 reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Rupp 1937, 82, pl. 24.10; Werner 1960b, 37 no. 172 note (who sheds doubt on findspot and attribution, and gives a false provenance of Kerch to this piece)

The silver base-plate of the brooch is cast in one piece. It consists of a ring of flat rectangular section containing four arms in a cruciform shape, and has seven trapezoidal plates projecting from the outer edge. The base-plate is overlaid with a gilt-silver plate which consists of a ring of similar section containing an identical internal cross. Its diameter is slightly less than that of the base-plate. Around the outer edge is a border of granulation. It does not have any projection cast around the edge, but instead, seven wedge-shaped gilt-silver collets are individually attached to the base-plate. (D of ring: 42mm; W: 7mm; distance between the trapezoids: 15mm; sides of the trapezoids: 7.3mm; 2 x 5.5mm; thickness of the double plate: 2mm).

The upper ring contains twenty-four equilateral triangular openings, each containing a flat garnet inlay. Each projecting wedge is also inlaid with a flat garnet plate. Each arm of the openwork cross contains a pair of stepped garnet inlays. The centre of the cross is an octagon with four concave sides. Each of these contains a garnet strip inlay in the form of an arc of a quarter circle cut to match each other. From the centre protrudes a circular gilt-silver collet containing a garnet disc and secured with a rivet. There is a rectangular area containing four fragments of flat garnet around the rivet-shank. It is impossible to determine whether this is in its original state, was caused by drilling for the central collet, or has occurred after manufacture. Each garnet plate is 1mm away from the edge and most of them well-cut edges, but the step-shapes are not of the finest workmanship. There are no foils or backing pastes in evidence now. The garnets are held in place by slight burring of the top edges of the gilded front plate. (Sides of the triangles: 4mm; 2mm between each triangle; size of the stepped garnets: 3.5 x 5.5mm; steps: 1mm; garnet strips: 1 x 8mm, sides of central garnet: 5mm; central garnet disc: D: 4mm; H: 2mm).

The pin-holder and pin-catch are soldered onto the back of the base-plate. The catch consists of a single strip of silver, folded double and bent at a right angle to form a hook. The fragment of the pin-holder is a single strip.

See Pl. 9 for construction.
The brooch has suffered heavy restoration, making the surface appearance difficult to interpret. Many of the garnets are now cracked. One of the peripheral trapezoid garnet plates is missing.

There is a disc brooch in the Diergardt Collection, said to be 7th-century Merovingian by Werner, who cites this piece as a parallel. There are two other related brooches of unknown provenance, one in the Hungarian National Museum, the other published by Rupp. There is no evidence for the exact dating of the type, although they might be related to late-Roman wheel-shaped disc brooches.

According to Aibabin this type of brooch is a unique find in the Black Sea region.  

### Comparative Bibliography

1. Werner 196b, pl. 37:172
2. Hungarian National Museum, Inv. no. 61.118.2
3. Rupp 1937, pl. XXIV:7. It is in the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, Cologne, and possibly from the northern Rhineland (Inv. no. 4620)
4. Aibabin below

16 Cicada brooch (Pl. 10)

Single piece of composite construction.

Silver brooch in the form of a winged insect, or perhaps of a plant. Late 4th–5th century. Hunnic period. (Sarmatian? Alanic?)

Silver, copper-alloy

Prov.: Kerkh, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1900

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,57

Old cat. no. 223

Percentage of silver: 87

Size: L: 38mm  W: 29mm  Weight: 6.39g

Published: Kühn 1935b, pl. 24:52, 56; Aibabin 1990, 26–7; pl. 10:13; Roth 1979, pl. 25a; same in: Martin 1894, 18–19

Yakovlev 1959, ill. 134.6; same in: Aibabin 1990, pl. 10:7; Aibabin 1979, pl. 5.9

Novotný 1976, 154, ill. 20 B3, pl. XXI:2; GHA 1987, (K. Pieta) 401, 414, ill. IX:23

4 Kovačević 1960, pl. V:19
5 Kovačević 1960, pl. XIV:59
6 GHA 1987, (K. Pieta) 414
7 Kovačević 1960, p.20
8 Bóna 1991, 196–7, 231–2, 91 ill. 34; 1993, 181–2, 210, 85 ill. 34 is a distribution map
9 Kühn 1935, 85–106
10 Vinski 1957, 136–60
11 Fitz 1985–86, 24–76
12 Aibabin 1990, 26–7

17 Armlet (Pl. 10)

Single piece.


Inv. no. 1923,7-16,119  Old cat. no. 287

Percentage of silver: 84

Size: 72 x 60mm  Weight: 44.58g

Published: GHA 1987, (Kidd) 113, ill. 1.18.e

The armlet is D-shaped. It has an oval section, expanding to trumpet-shaped terminals with flat, sharply cut-off ends. There are four engraved transverse grooves on each terminal which do not go round; the internal faces are plain.

Size of central section: 4 x 5mm; at the ends: 10 x 8.5mm; distance between the two ends: 9.5mm; thickness of ribs: 1.2mm.

No. 923, 7-16, 20 is similar, but with slight differences.

Silver armlets with engraved decoration on both ends are frequent finds, such as: Oradea (Nagyvárad, Romania), 1 Tiszafüred, grave no. 1 (Hungary), 2 Suuk-Su (with an eagle-headed buckle), 3 Domolospusztza (Hungary) (with a large buckle with a pentagonal attachment-plate), 4 Laa an der Thaya 5 and Atzgersdorf (Austria), 6 Luchyste (Luchistoye), grave no. 42 (Crimea) (with an eagle-headed buckle), 7 Keszthely-Fenékpuszta, burial no. 5 (with polyhedral bead earring) 8 and Miszla (Hungary) (with polyhedral earrings and brooches with chip-carved decoration). 9

### Comparative Bibliography

1. Bóna 1986, pl. 28:4 – Gepid
2. Csallány 1961, 217, pl. CXXVI:8; CXXV:2 – 500–68 Gepid
4. Annibaldi and Werner 1963, pl. 45 – second half of the 5th century – Ostrogothic
5. Berthier-Delagarde Collection of Crimean Jewellery in the British Museum and Related Material
8. Bóna 1991, 196–7, 231–2, 91 ill. 34; 1993, 181–2, 210, 85 ill. 34 is a distribution map
10. Vinski 1957, 136–60
11. Fitz 1985–86, 24–76

18 Armlet (Pl. 10)

Single piece.

Silver penannular armlet. Second half of the 4th–5th century.

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,120  Old cat. no. 287

Percentage of silver: 93

Size: 70 x 51mm  Weight: 16.27g

Prov.: unknown Unpublished

The armlet is oval. It has a flat oval section, very thin at the centre and expanding to faceted, trumpet-shaped terminals with flat, sharply cut-off ends. There are four engraved transverse grooves on each terminal which do not go round; the internal faces are plain.

Size of central section: 4 x 5mm; at the ends: 10 x 8.5mm; distance between the two ends: 9.5mm; thickness of ribs: 1.2mm.

No. 17 above is similar, but has transversely ribbed ends. It is also D-shaped in section, heavier and thicker. Trumpeter-shaped solid silver armlets with ribbed or plain ends are simply variants of the same type. There are many similar armlets of gold, silver, or copper alloy from barbarian Europe. They appear from the 3rd century with Central-Asian and Caucasian roots and became popular during the Hunnic era, representing an ‘international fashion’ which lasted into the 7th century. The silver and copper-alloy armlets are simpler variants of the gold ones. Silver ones have been found, e.g. in Skalyste (Skalistoye), grave no. 288, 1 at Artek (Ukraine) 2 and Valea Strâmă (Tekerö) patah;
Romania,1 Piacarlo, grave 4 (Italy), 2 Kapoles, grave 1 and Soponya (Hungary).4

There is a wide range in the dating of these armlets due to different theories concerning the associated grave goods. They appear for instance with eagle-headed buckles (Skalyste, copper-alloy armlet, grave 420),3 with large buckles with pentagonal attachment-plates (Skalyste, grave 288), and with earrings with polyhedral beads (Kapoles, grave 1).

According to Werner the gold ones were in use for 300 years from the beginning of the 3rd century till the end of the 5th century in the Germanic world.4 From the beginning of the 3rd century till the end of the 5th century in the Germanic world.4 They were symbolic of high rank and were worn on the right wrist.

Comparative Bibliography

1 Veimarn and Ambroz 1980, 248 ill. 114; 15 – dated to mid-7th century; Veimarn and Albabin 1993, 57–8, ill. 37:4, 5
2 Repnikov 1906, pl. XI:9
3 Bóna 1986, pl. 24:2 – dates it to the 4th century – Visigothic
4 Bierbrauer et al. 1993, 320, ill. 41 – second half of the 5th/6th century – Frankish, Alamannic with 5th-century East Germanic roots
5 Cs. Dax 1980, 98, 102, ill. 633:14; 11:1:2 – Gepid, Ostrogothic or Alanic type
6 Bóna 1971, 230, ill. 9–5 9th century Suevic
7 Veimarn 1970, 34, 37; ill. 2:5 – dates it to the second half of the 6th century; Veimarn and Albabin 1993, 98–101, ill. 72, 73, dating: 187
8 Werner 1980, 4–7, 23

19 Brooches (Pl. 11)

A pair, each of composite construction.


Gilded base silver, garnet, brass

Prov.: Kerkh, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893

Inv. no. 1923,18:16,39 and 40 Old cat. no. 161

Percentage of silver: no. 39: 69   no. 40: 61

Size: no. 39: 106 x 55mm: Weight: 27.19g
no. 40: 107 x 55mm: Weight: 28.15g

Published: Dalton 1924a, p.262, pl. XXXVII.19 reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Kühn 1946, 97 no. 2, ill. 84:1, 2; Kühn 1974, vol. 2, 617 pl. 244:4, 42; GHA 1987, (Kidd) 111,110, ill. 1, 16f.

Each brooch is gilded base silver (mercury-gilded), cast in one piece. The semicircular head-plate is decorated with a semicircular zone of relief scrollwork and has a plain semicircular zone in the centre with an incised border. There are five moulded knobs cast round the edge of the head-plate, the central one and the two outer ones in the shape of two conjoined discs; each knob has a cabochon garnet inlay on its lower part in a cast cylindrical collet. The garnets are secured simply by pressure from the collet and there must be backing paste beneath them, but no access is available for analysis. The other two knobs are in the shape of a rectangle with a rounded end. Each is decorated with three engraved crosswise grooves (two of the lines are arranged next to each other near to the top of the knob, the third is near to the base). (D of head-plate: 33.55mm; size of moulded knobs: 11 x 6.5mm; 8mm between each; collet D: 4mm; H: 3.5mm).

The bow of each brooch has a high-arched section. Each has two wide longitudinal grooves with two engraved horizontal lines below and above one. (Size of bow: 19 x 6.5mm; W of grooves: 4mm).

The foot-plate is sub-losenge-shaped with a cabochon garnet at the two lateral corners, each in a cast cylindrical collet (the dimensions and method of setting are the same as above). Between them is a longitudinal panel of two opposed relief scrolls, each of which consists of a spiral and a conjoined ‘S’ below which diminishes towards the terminal. The foot-plate widens out below the scrollwork to form a trapezoidal shape with one horizontal and two vertical engraved lines underneath it in the middle of the plate. Two holes have been cast one below the other on each side. There are two cabochon garnets, each in a cast cylindrical collet (dimensions as above) at the two lower corners, forming an elaborate animal-mask terminal. The trapeziums be the ears of the head with the two cabochons as the eyes. The foot-plate narrows to an oval shape below the cabochon garnets and is decorated with two carved ovals next to each other which might represent the animal’s nostrils. The end of the foot-plate is formed by a semicircular plane with a line engraved round its edge (the animal’s mouth?). The

This type of radiate-headed brooch is known as the Aquileian type. Its main characteristic is the widened foot-plate with projections forming originally two opposed birds or bird-heads. Variants of this type preserve only the schematic figure of birds as lappets with one or two perforations and circular garnet inlays (representing the bird’s eyes in some cases). The Crimean and south Russian brooches show characteristic features in terms of decorative technique.

There are contradictory theories about the dating of Aquileian-type brooches. Kühn surveyed a number of this type from south Russia, central and western Europe, and dated all of them between 450–550.1 Brooches from northern Italy and southern Germany are dated to the end of the 5th–6th century by Bierbrauer.2 Pokrovsky3 and Rybakov4 dated the south Russian pieces to the 5th–6th century; Werner to the first half of the 6th century;5 Pudovin to the 6th century6 and Zasetskaya to the second half of the 6th–beginning of the 7th century.7 According to Ambroz’8 and Albabin’9 this type of brooch was made in south Russia after the 5th–6th century with Damblian and Italian prototypes.10 Ambroz dates them to the second half of the 6th–7th century.11 As Albabin pointed out, brooches like the Berthier-Delagarde ones represent a distinctive type of Aquileian brooch which he calls the ‘Kerch variant’.12 Brooches of this kind have been found in the Kuban region (Pashkovskaya),13 and at Kerch (in grave 78 with an eagle-headed buckle)14 and Nikopol (Ukraine).15 Albabin dates them to the end of the 6th and to the 7th centuries.16 There is a pair of unknown provenance in the Metropolitan Museum, new York.17

Comparative Bibliography

1 Kühn 1974 II, 613–17, pl. 241–4 (no. 4, 28 is also in: Tackenberg 1928/29, p. 266 ill. 132 ‘in Museum of Sofia’, nos 4, 23–4, 25 are also in: Tackenberg 1928, 267, ill. 133a–c; no. 4, 18 is said to be from Torrino by Bierbrauer 1975, pl. XII:1; 2, no. 4, 43 is said to be from Artex by Repnikov 1906, 36:6,277, pl. VI:2
2 Bierbrauer 1975, 102–14; pls I:1;2; XLII:1;2; XLVI:1; LXXIV:7
3 Pokrovsky 1936, 159–69
4 Rybakov 1953, 57
5 Werner 1962b, 29–30
6 Pudovin 1962, 146
7 Zasetskaya 1990, pl. 2:35, 36; 1993, pl. 4:21, 22
8 Albain 1990, 21 mentions Ambroz’s 1974 doctoral dissertation, 182–4; 213; 214
9 Albain 1990, 21–2
10 Apart from the pieces in the above-mentioned publications there are Danubian-type brooches from Sirmia in: GHA 1987,206, ill. V,23a; Kovačević 1960, pl. VII:26
11 Ambroz as no. 8 above
12 Albain 1990, 21
13 Pokrovsky 1936, ill. 3
14 Rybakov 1953, 81, 87, the same in: Matsulevich 1933, ill. 1c; Albain 1990, pl. 15:5,6
15 Kühn 1974, pl. 244:4, 40, the same in: Werner 1961b, 29–30, pl. 17.192; 149–50
16 Albain 1990, 22
17 Inv. no. 17.192.149–50

20 Brooches (Pl. 12)

A pair, each of composite construction.


Gilded base silver, garnet, brass

Prov.: Kerkh, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893

Inv. no. 1923,7:16,41 and 42 Old cat. no. 162

Percentage of silver: no. 41: 58   no. 42: 56

Size: no. 41: 96 x 51mm: Weight: 23.2g
no. 42: 95.5 x 51mm: Weight: 22.34g

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According to Aibabin there are cultural connections between the Upper Dnieper region and the Crimea in the 6th–7th century. There were similar garnet-inlaid silver brooches of different shape and decorative technique. A similar brooch but decorated with three instead of five garnet inlays was auctioned in Vienna in 1996.

### 21 Brooches (Pl. 13)

A pair, each of composite construction.

**Gilt-silver radiate-headed brooches with three moulded knobs.**

Decoration of cabochon garnets, relief scrollwork and concentric lozenges.

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**End of 5th–6th century? Ostrogotic.**

Gilded base silver, garnet, brass.

Prov.: Kerc, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893

Inv. no. 1923,7–16, 44 and 44

Old cat. no. 163

Percentage of silver: no. 42: 53.57

Size: 76 x 38mm

Weight no. 42: 11.20g;

no. 44: 10.87g

Published: Kühn 1974, vol. 2, 738 no. 50, pl. 262:64, 50

Each brooch is gilted base silver (mercury-gilded), cast in one piece.

The semicircular head-plate has cast decoration of opposed relief spirals with a triangle between them. There are three moulded knobs cast round the edge of the head-plate, each in the shape of an elongated disc with double-grooved ribbing across the base. (D of head-plate: 21mm, size of knobs: 7 x 9mm).

The bow of this brooch is flat and ungilded. The pin-catch and spring-holder are cast. The pin-catch, perforated to secure the pin-spring axis (different from nos 19 and 20 with a pair of spring-holding lugs). The catch is a single strip, bent over to secure the pin. Both brooches preserve fragments of the brass spring.

Both pins are missing.

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**This type of brooch is characterised by the two opposed relief or chip-carved spirals on the head-plate and concentric engraved lozenges on the foot-plate.** The bow-plate is enriched with three or five moulded knobs, while the foot has either a pair of circular settings at its corners containing garnet inlays, or a pair of plain circular projections. It has an animal mask or knob at the terminal. Brooches of this type appear in the Crimea, the Dnieper area and also in the Danube region and Italy. The Crimean pieces show characteristic features in terms of their shape and decorative technique.

Kühn calls them the Gurzuf type, coming mainly from south Russia but also from Central Europe and the Baltic (although he includes some brooches of different shape and decoration), and which he dates between 500 and 550. South Russian brooches of this type in the Diergardt Collection are from the first half of the 6th century according to Werner. Kovačević dated a similar brooch from Zmajove (former Yugoslavia) to the 5th century and others of the type from Cherson were made in the 5th first half of the 6th century according to Yakobson, and Zubar and Bykov. Rybakov dated a piece from the Middle Dnioper region to the same period. According to Aibabin there is a unique brooch of this type from Cherson showing Danubian features in its technique of chip-carving, which date it to the second half of the 5th century. He considers it to be either an import from the Danube region, or the work of a Danubian craftsman transferred to the Crimea. The earliest local products in the Crimea, however, were made in the first half of the 6th century, while later variants with cast or shallow, carved decoration are of the 7th century. Mashov dates a similar brooch from Harlec (Bulgaria) to the 6th–7th century and, according to the theory of Salin and Ambroz, the Crimean brooches were made in the 6th–7th century copying 5th–6th century Danubian prototypes, although this was opposed by Matsulevich. The brooch from Spas Pereksha (Upper Dnieper region) suggested to Ambroz that there were cultural connections between the Upper Dnieper region and the Crimea in the 6th–7th century.

A similar garnet-inlaid silver brooch is published by Repnikov and there is a pair of brooches of this type from Kerch in the Ashmolean Museum, each with five knobs round the head-plate and cabochon garnet inlays on the foot. A similar brooch but decorated with three circular blue enamel inlays was auctioned in Vienna in 1996.
The Berthier-Delagarde Collection of Crimean Jewellery in the British Museum and Related Material

Comparative Bibliography

1 Kühn 1974, 729–38, pls 261–2
2 Werner 1961b, 31–2, pls 31; 32; 122, 123; 33; 124–6
3 Kovačević 1960, 10, pl. XIX:90
4 Yakobson 1959, 267 ill. 137/2; 271 ill. 137:5
5 Zubar and Ryzhov 1976, 328
6 Rybakov 1953, 57 ill. 8.2
7 Albabil 1979, 22–34; 1980, 20–1, pls 2; 72; 14; 18; 10–13
8 Albabil 1990, pl. 14 (Danubian brooch from Cherson), pl. 14:11 (earliest local product), pl. 14:10; 12; 13 (later pieces)
9 Mashov 1976, 35–9, ill. 3
10 Salin 1904, 123; 193; 197; 207, ill. 38
11 Ambrozov 1970, 70–4
12 Matsuševič 1933, 593–6
13 Ambrož 1976, 74, ill. 2.6
14 Repnikov 1907, 101–48, ill. 132
15 Inv. nos 1909.800 and 1909.801. They were acquired by Sir John Evans, and presented to the Ashmolean by Sir Arthur Evans in 1909.

22 Brooch (Pl. 12)

Single piece. Radiate-headed brooch with five moulded knobs and geometric decoration. Second half of 5th century Copper alloy (brass) Prov.: Olbia (Mikolayiv), Ukraine – 1909 Inv. no. 1923,7-16,87 Old cat. no. 320 Size: 40 x 22 mm Weight: 4g Published: Kühn 1974, pl. 2, 745 no. 8, pl. 263:65,8

The head-plate is semicircular and decorated with fan-like, cast, linear decoration. Five moulded knobs project from the edge. (D of head-plate: 14mm; thickness: 2mm; size of knobs: 5.5 x 3.5mm).

The bow is of semicircular section.

The foot-plate is lozenge-shaped and decorated with a lozenge-shaped pattern (cast ?) and circular lappets on the two lateral corners. (L of foot-plate: 17mm; thickness: 2mm; D of lappets: 5.5mm).

The back is flat with remains of the cast pin-catch and spring-holder.

The terminal of the foot-plate is broken off and some of the knobs are fragmentary. It has been repaired after being broken in two. It appears to have been conserved in the past with a caustic cleaning agent.

Brooches of this type have similar fan-like ornament on the head-plate and a concentric lozenge-pattern on the foot. They have been found mainly in south Russia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany and Italy. A similar pair of gilt-silver brooches was found in one of the Ostrogothic woman’s graves by Bierbrauer. A similar mount was found at Pécsüszög (Hungary), (two of them with four circular cylindrical collars. It is conceivable that the latter might have formed the counter-plates of similar buckles. Fettich calls this technique of stone-setting ‘Persian style’ and considers that these objects represent Hunnic-Alanic craftsmanship. There is also a buckle, but with only one oval cabochon on the attachment-plate and three similar dome-headed rivets from Normandy.

A similar mount has been found at Kerch, but there is no information regarding its use. There are three buckles from Kerch with trefoil arrangements of oval cabochons on the attachment-plates which have attachment-rivets similar to those of the mounts in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection. It is conceivable that the latter might have formed the counter-plates of similar buckles. Fettich calls this technique of stone-setting ‘Persian style’ and considers that these objects represent Hunnic-Alanic craftsmanship. There is also a buckle, but with only one oval cabochon on the attachment-plate and three similar dome-headed rivets from Normandy.

Mounts

23 Mounts (Pl. 14, Colour Pl. 1)

A pair, each of composite construction. Trefoil gold mounts, each with a box-section body containing three oval cabochon garnets. There are peripheral attachment-rivets in cylindrical collars.

End of 4th–first half of 5th century. Pontic. Hunnic era. (Probably Hunnic-Alanic) Gold, garnet, silver Prov.: unknown Inv. no. 1923,7-16,110 and 111 Old cat. no. unknown (These are the only pieces which appear on the archival photograph, but are not listed on R. Smith’s list of the objects purchased in 1923.) Percentage of gold: 99

Size: no. 110: 28 x 25 mm Weight: 14.36g
no. 111: 26.5 x 23 mm Weight: 12.44g
Published: Dalton 1924a, 262, pl. XXXVII:7 and 10 reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Tait 1976, 130 1926 pl. 192; Tait 1986, 103, 247, ill. 226b

The base-plate consists of a trefoil sheet to which three individual collets are soldered, with their walls soldered to each other where they touch. The settings are oval and arranged in a trefoil. Two of the cells are conjoined along their length, with the third one lying across the two shorter ends at the top. The upper edges of the collets are folded in around the settings, which are oval cabochon garnets of semicircular section. A plain silver foil survives beneath one of them, but no backing paste survives. (Size of settings: W: 9mm; L: 13mm; one of no. 1923,7-16, 111 is smaller: L: 11mm; H: 8-10mm; collet: H: 4mm; thickness: 1mm).

There is a circular perforation in the base-plate, directly at the centre of each setting, beneath the stone. The base-plate of no. 1923,7-16,110 has two small perforations at its centre, between the conjoined collets, while no. 1923,7-16,111 has only one. The edges of each hole show that it was perforated from the upper surface of the plate (i.e. from inside the mount). (Perforations at the centre: D: 0.7mm).

There are three cylindrical collars soldered to the walls of the oval collets where they join. Each contains a gold attachment-rivet with a hemispherical head. The rivets extend c. 2mm beyond the depth of the collar, and the end of each is flattened and slightly bent. (Size of rivet collars: H: 4.5–5.5mm; thickness: 0.8mm; D: 2.5mm; D of rivet-heads: 3mm; L of rivets: 9mm).

The holes through the base-plate behind the stones were made for pushing the cabochons up to the top of the settings, after the tops of the collets had been hammered over to secure the inlays. This idea is supported by the fact that the silver foil underlay also bears traces of perforation.

A similar mount has been found at Kerch, but there is no information regarding its use. There are three buckles from Kerch with trefoil arrangements of oval cabochons on the attachment-plates which have attachment-rivets similar to those of the mounts in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection. It is conceivable that the latter might have formed the counter-plates of similar buckles. Fettich calls this technique of stone-setting ‘Persian style’ and considers that these objects represent Hunnic-Alanic craftsmanship. There is also a buckle, but with only one oval cabochon on the attachment-plate and three similar dome-headed rivets from Normandy.

There is a gold buckle from Beja (Portugal) in the Museu Nacional de Arqueologia e Etnologia, Lisbon, with a similar oval cabochon garnet on its plate and three peripheral dome-headed in cylindrical collars. Its inlaid loop and tongue and the method of attachment are comparable with the buckles from Regöly (Hungary), Kerch (Ukraine; found 24 June 1904). Both buckles are dated to the Hunnic era. There is a bronze buckle in the British Museum from Er Rastan (Syria) also decorated with a large oval cabochon (glass) and peripheral cylinders for the attachment-rivets. These parallels suggest that the Berthier-Delagarde ‘mounts’ belonged to a similar type of buckle, which shows the characteristic loop and tongue of the buckles worn by the military aristocracy associated with the Hunnic empire (see also cat. no. 70).

Mounts of much smaller size and with flat base-plates containing garnet-disc inlays in a trefoil arrangement also occur on sword or dagger handles, and a pair of this kind was found at Taman (south Russia). A similar mount was found at Pěčínszó (Hungary), six at Szeged-Nagyszéksős (Hungary) (two of them with four circular
inlays),

11 two at Gühlingen (Germany) and two at Landriano (Italy).

12 All the parallels above—except Landriano—are dated to the Hunnic period, that is, to the end of the 4th–5th century. Landriano is considered to be Ostrogothic by Bierbrauer.14

Comparative Bibliography

1 Fettich 1953, pl. XX:2
2 Fettich 1953, pls XXI:5; 6; XX:11; also in: Salin 1904, p.115 ill. 302 and Alibab 1990, pl. 22:20
3 Fettich op. cit. 77–8
4 Salin 1904, ill. 205
5 Schlunk and Hauschild 1978, 158, pl. 51b
6 Mészáros 1970, 74–75, pl. I:9–10; Bóna 1993, ill. 13
7 Zasetskaya 1979, ill. 361
8 Inv. no. P&E 1926,10–14,1
9 Damm 1988, 192, Ills 210–11
10 Alfsöld 1932, 76, pls IV:13 and VII:7
11 Fettich 1953, pl. I:11–14, 16, 17
12 Quast 1993, 60; 92; pls 12:35; 36; 26:35; 36
13 Bierbrauer 1975, 285–6, pl. XXV, 44, 5, 5a
14 Bierbrauer op. cfr.

24 Mounts (Pls 14–16, Colour Pl. 4)

Three single pieces of composite construction. Three flat rectangular mounts with all-over cloisonné garnet inlays, two of which are in the form of a bird’s head in profile and one square.

Late 4th/5th century. Bosporan.

Gold, silver, garnet

Prov.: Kech, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893

Inv. No: 1923,7-16,12 Old cat. no. 146

Percentage of gold: 86 strips

Size: right-facing bird L: 19.5mm; W: 14mm Weight: 2.43g

The two bird-headed mounts are almost identical in form, one facing left (A), the other, which is slightly smaller, to the right (B). Both are decorated with all-over garnet inlays. The heads are formed of single garnet discs, each within a silver ring. An inner circle representing an eye has been ground out of each garnet and inlaid with a gold ring. The necks are formed by T-shaped settings, each containing a pair of settings beneath which are two rectangular cells one above the other. (Sides of rectangles directly below the circle: 4.7mm; 3.3mm; 2.2mm; 4mm; sides of the two other rectangles: 6.8mm; 2.5mm; the left bird-mount’s: 2.8mm; D of eye and head: 3mm; 8mm).

The rectangular mount (C) contains a central square with its corners to the centres of the sides of the frame, creating a triangle in each corner of the rectangle. The frame of the mount and the collet of the central inlay are each made of single strips. There is a ground ring in the middle of the garnet plate of the rectangular mount, very likely for the same kind of gold ring-inlay as on mounts A and B. (Sides of inner square: 6.5mm; W of gold frame: 1mm).

The bird-headed and rectangular mounts were made in the same technique: the outer wall and those of the cells are of silver with a thin strip of gold soldered to the top (W 0.5mm). The garnets are roughly edged and probably all had a silver backing, since there are the remains of a grid-patterned silver foil behind the head of one of the bird-headed mounts. There is a white backing paste surviving beneath the foils and garnets (calcite, CaCO3).

See Pl. 14, and Pls 15–16 for construction.

Two gold ring-inlays are missing: one from the middle of the square (C), the other from one of the birds’ eyes. The left-facing bird’s eye (A) is reshaped from a straight-sides stone.

On the original photograph they are fastened to a modern cloth together with the sub-triangular mount (cat. no. 25 below), although the latter may not belong with the other three mounts and is perhaps a strap-end (see cat. no. 25 below).

There are no signs of attachment-fittings on either the bird-headed or square mounts. The gold sheet overlay extends regularly beyond the edges of the outer wall, suggesting that there was originally an outer frame which has not survived. Iron corrosion products cover the backs of these mounts, suggesting that they were buried close to an iron object such as, perhaps, a purse-fastening, or possibly sword-mounts.

There are comparable examples of purse-mounts or sword mounts of broadly similar construction with two opposed birds’ heads, including a very similar sword-sheath mount from Kerch, grave no. 163. It has an iron base and gold frame containing garnet and red glass inlays and the bird’s eyes are formed in the same way as on the Berthier-Delagarde mounts. A buckle from Kerch also has the same arrangement of rectangular and bird-headed mounts attached to an iron base and both the sword-sheath mount and the buckle date to the late 4th/first half of the 5th century. A purse from Basel-Kleinhünigen, grave 212 (Switzerland), from a Merovingian context of the first half of the 6th century, has mounts fixed onto an iron base with gold cell walls containing almandine and glass plate inlays with patterned gold foils beneath them. Between the two birds’ heads is a rectangular cell containing a green glass inlay. A similar arrangement of two bird-headed mounts with a rectangular one on a purse was found at Flonheim (Germany). They are considered as Frankish, still preserving Hunnic characteristics, by Fettich. A bronze bird-headed mount of similar shape was found near Lake Borovoe (Kazakhstan), but the inlays are not preserved and there is a perforation behind the eye for an attachment-rivet. It is dated to the Hunnic period by Zasetskaya,1 but to the end of the 5th/beginning of the 6th century by Bóna,13 and to the 7th century by Ambroz.11 There are similar bird-headed decorations on the head-plates of a pair of brooches found at Desana (Italy), which are considered to be Ostrogothic, of the beginning of the 6th century, by Bierbrauer.12 A pair of gold disc brooches, each with six projecting birds’ heads, from Imola (Italy) are dated to the first half of the 6th century and are also considered to be Ostrogothic.12 Their base-plates are each made of a single sheet with flat emerald, ivory and garnet inlays. The eyes are formed by disc settings in gold strip collets. There are two buckles and two belt-mounts in the Dumbarton Oaks collection, which are said to have been found in Germany.15 Each is decorated with a central, stepped, red glass inlay with a circle ground out and inlaid with a central gold ring. According to Ross these objects were purchased with the expertise of Otto von Falke, who stated that this type of jewellery was made in Constantinople during the 5th century, often as official gifts for Germanic princes.11 Ross, however, observed that it originated in south Russia and spread across Europe to North Africa.12

Comparative Bibliography

1 Zasetskaya 1993, 80, pl. 52:260; I Goti 1994, (A. I. Alibab) 128–30, pl. II:0a
2 Zasetskaya 1993, 81, pl. 52:271
3 Moorbrieger-Leu 1971, Band A, 169–76; Band B, pl. 43; Giesler- Müller 1992, 186, pl. 45:7a–f; 82:1a
4 Ament 1970, 68–70, pl. 12:3; 28; 30:7; Fettich 1953, 53–4, pl. XXXII:9–11
5 Zasetskaya 1975, 43 no. 14; Zasetskaya 1994, 124–5, ills 26:9, 28
6 Bóna 1986b, 102–3
8 Bierbrauer 1975, pl. VI:12
9 Imola dall’Ead ... 1979, 23:24; 86, pl. IX:1; 3
10 Ross 1965, 119–120 no. 167, pl. LXXXIII

25 Mount (Pl. 17, Colour Pl. 4)

Single piece of composite construction.

Sub-triangular, box-shaped mount (probably a strap-end) with all-over cloisonné garnet inlays. Two silver attachment-rivets on the back.

Late 4th/5th century. Bosporan.

Gold, silver, garnet

Prov.: Kech, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893

Inv. No: 1923,7-16,12 Old cat. no. 146

Percentage of gold: 87

Size: L: 22mm W: 10mm Weight: 3.45g

Published (together with mounts no. 24 above): Dalton 1924a, p.262, pl. XXXVII:3 reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Moss 1935, p.xiv, pl. III B upper; Tait 1986, 103, 247, ill. 226a; GHA 1987, (Kidd) 97, 112, pl. 116.1.

The base-plate is a sub-triangular gold sheet with a double-lobed end. The outer wall and possibly the cell walls are soldered onto it. The wall is possibly formed of a single strip by complex folding. It is decorated with all-over cloisonné garnet inlays: one sub-rectangular divided by a saltire into four triangles and a sub-trapezoid above that. There are plain gold foils beneath the garnets. Two silver attachment-rivets project through the base-plate with their heads in the interior of the mount. The ends of the rivets are missing. (Sides of the sub-rectangular
A gold strap-attachment with a circular opening was found in the Crimea, in the South Russia—1894 (Inv. no. 1923,7-16,98). Its shape has parallels in the Hunnic treasure of Szeged-Nagyszéksós (Hungary).1

Comparative Bibliography
1 Fettich 1953, pl. II:2–4; GHA 1987, (B. Kürti) pl. 4; 5

26 Strap-attachment (Pl. 18, Colour Pl. 1)


Gold, gilt-silver, silver.

Inv. no. 1923.7-16.108a Old cat. no. 154

Percentage of gold: 79

Size: 21 x 10.5mm Weight: 3.63g

South Russia—1894 Published: Tait 1986, 103, 247, ill. 226f

The gold attachment-plate is circular and of composite construction. The top forms a frame for a kidney-shaped inlay, with a plain gold foil set into it as a backing for the garnet (?) now lost. There is no access to any backing material behind the foil. Beneath is a kidney-shaped base-plate which is attached to the top by a 2mm wide strip soldered between them around the edges. (Size of attachment plate: D: 10mm; thickness: 0.8mm.

The top and back-piece of the attachment-plate are made from the same sheet, linked at the base by a short strip folded to form a loop securing the ring. (D of loop: 3mm; D of ring: 7mm).

The base- and back-plates are linked together by a central silver rivet, which is secured behind the base-plate so that its head lies inside the composite plate.

The ring is made of a circular-section gilt-silver rod which narrows (from 3mm to 2mm) to each end, where it is soldered to form a closed ring.

See Pl. 18 for construction.

The original inlay is missing.

The original photograph shows a heart-shaped garnet set in a collet (cat. no. 28) fixed with wax over the empty kidney-shaped setting in modern times.

This type of strap-attachment has been found in the Crimea, in the Danube region and as far west as France. They are dated to the Hunnic period, i.e. to the end of the 4th—mid-5th century. Two buckles with very similar composite plates containing kidney-shaped inlays were found in Kerch on 24 June 1904,1 and there is another identical one, also from Kerch, in the Ashmolean Museum.2 A similar buckle, from the Béhague collection, was auctioned by Sotheby’s in Monaco in December 1952.2 A gold strap-attachment with a circular opening was also found near Kerch.3 There is a strap-attachment with a kidney-shaped opening and another with a beaded-wire border and circular stone inlay from Szeged-Nagyszéksós (Hungary).4 A strap-attachment with a circular red stone inlay and three peripheral rivets was found in Lébény (Hungary),5 while the piece from Untersiebenbrunn (Austria) has a circular garnet inlay.6 Another from Pouan (France) is very similar, but has a beaded-wire border.7 According to Damm a garnet inlaid gold strap-attachment with a gold foil beneath the garnet and beaded-wire decoration in the Römisch-Germanisches Museum, Cologne, has a Danubian origin.8 Bóna shows the distribution of this type of gold and silver strap-attachment alongside that of some similar buckles.9

Comparative Bibliography
1 Zasetskaya 1979, ill. 3:55, 56 (one is gilt-silver with garnet, the other silver with gold setting and glass inlay); 1993, 57–8, pl. 26:106, 107
2 Inv. no. 1909,798
3 Sale Cat. Monaco 1987, 29, no. 44
4 Werner 1956, pl. 59:28; OIAK za 1900 (1902), ill. 220
5 Alföldi 1932, 57; ill. 15; Fettich 1937, 117, pl. 17, 7a, 8, 8a
6 Pusztai 1966, 108, pl. 6:3
7 Keller 1967, 111–13; ill. 111; GHA 1987, (P. Stadler) pl. 344; pl. 48:VII, 33; Kubitschek 1911, 42; pl. 1,3
8 Salin and France-Lanord 1956, 72; ill. 17; Keller 1967, 113, ill. 13
9 Damm 1988, 102, footnote 1

27 Mount (Pl. 19)

Single piece of composite construction. Circular gilt-copper-alloy mount decorated with a cruciform pattern of green glass, with oval red glass inlays in between. There is a central attachment shank on the back.


Gilt-copper-alloy, copper-alloy, green glass, red glass, decayed glass

Prov.: Kuban area—1912

Inv. no. 1923.7-16.98 Old cat. no. 289

Size: D: 31mm H: 6.5mm Weight: 10.3g

Unpublished

The base-plate is a disc of copper alloy with a collet of gilt-copper-alloy strip soldered onto it slightly in from the edge. The internal cell walls consist of four conjoined open rings of copper-alloy strip with their ends joining the frame of the mount. The surface is decorated with four oval glass inlays, two of which contain red glass. Two of them have decayed to a yellowish colour. The spaces between them are filled with green glass plates: one rectangular in the centre and four triangular around the edge, forming an equal-armed cross with expanded ends. (D of top: 30mm; D of base: 31mm; thickness: 0.5mm; size of inlays: oval: 2 x 9.5mm; rectangular: 5 x 6.6mm; triangles: 6mm x 2 x 4.5mm; thickness of collots: 1mm).

There is an attachment-shank of circular section in the centre of the base. Its end has been filed down from two sides giving it a sharp median edge. (D: 2.5mm; H: 2mm).

The base-plate is damaged.

From a horse-harness or belt?

Two mounts from Kerch are decorated with a similar arrangement of green glass and kidney-shaped garnet plates.1 They are considered to be Hunnic and are dated to the end of the 4th/first half of the 5th century by Zasetskaya,2 but to the 5th century by Damm3 and Aibabin.4 A similar mount from the same period with three oval amber inlays has been found at Muslyumovo (Russia).5

According to these parallels the mount could be dated to the 5th century, but, in view of its green glass-inlaid cross-pattern, it may possibly be related to some 6th–7th century Byzantine material. There are more general parallels from Bône (now Annaba, Algeria) in this volume 00 below.

Comparative Bibliography
1 Spitsin 1905, p. 118, ill. 17; Damm 1988, 190–1, ill. 204; 205—In the Diergardt Collection; Zasetskaya 1979, 10, pl. 5:18, 1993, 65—In the Hermitage
2 Zasetskaya 1979, 5–17
3 Damm 1988, 191
4 Aibabin below
5 Zasetskaya 1975, p. 57 no. 3; 1994, 191, pl. 43:5

28 Garnet in setting (Pl. 19)

Single piece of composite construction.

Heart-shaped, three-dimensional garnet in a setting, enriched with granulation.

Antique? Bosporan?

Gold, garnet

Inv. no. 1923.7-16.108b Old cat. no. 154

Percentage of gold: 81

Size: 8 x 8.5mm Weight: 0.43g

Published: as the strap-attachment (no. 26) above.

The base-plate of the setting consists of a thin, heart-shaped sheet of gold. The collet is soldered onto the base-plate and is formed of a single strip of sheet gold folded round the garnet, with a small slice cut out to allow a close fit round the top. The garnet is heart-shaped and three-dimensional with two lobes and a central ridge projecting between them. It may represent two eyes and a beak. The setting is bordered by granulation soldered to the base-plate and collet. (L: 7mm; W: 6mm;
A similarly-shaped red glass inlay was found in Kerch (on 24 June 1904) and is dated to the second half of the 4th-beginning of the 5th century by Zasetskaya. A necklace from Kerch in Berlin with two similar heart-shaped pendants, each with a granulated border, is dated to the 1st-2nd century by Stefanelli and Petinina. A heart-shaped gold setting containing a garnet inlay similar to the Berthier-Delagarde one, but without a granulated border, was found in Olbia (Mikolayiv, Ukraine), forming the head of a butterfly-shaped pendant. A diadem from the Atryukhov kurgan in the Hermitage has pendants with similar settings, but also lacks bordering granules. Both of the above-mentioned pieces are dated to the 2nd century bc by Maksimova and to the 3rd–2nd century bc by Hoffmann and Davidson. There is also a necklace from the Atryukhov kurgan with its ends attached to a similar three-dimensional setting. A pair of earrings from Syria in the British Museum and another pair from Palaiokastro (Greece) in the Museum of Hamburg are both decorated with similar garnet inlays. The latter is dated to the 3rd–2nd century bc by Hoffmann and von Claer. The Herakles-knot diadem from Thessaly (Greece) in the Benaki Museum (USA) has pendants with three-dimensional garnet inlays of this type. It is dated to the 2nd century bc by Bromberg.

**Comparative Bibliography**

1. Zasetskaya 1993, 66, pl. 35:1578
2. Stefanelli and Petinina 157, no. 164, cat. no. 118; ill. 164
3. Hoffmann and Davidson 1965, 142, 143 ill. 51 – in the collection of Mr and Mrs E. Kofler-Truninger, Inv. no. 728A
4. Maksimova 1979, 25 ill. 1, 44–8, ill. 6; Hoffmann and Davidson 1965, 55, ill. 1, f. Inv. no. Art I
5. Maksimova op. cit.
6. Hoffmann and Davidson op. cit.
7. Maksimova 1979, 29, ill. 6
9. Hoffmann and von Claer 1968, 106–8, no. 68
11. Bromberg 1991, 52, pl. 29

### 29 Studs or Appliqués (Pls 19–20, Colour Pl. 3)

Eleven, each of composite construction

Seven circular, two lozenge- and two tear-shaped stones, each set in a gold or gilt-silver collet with an attachment-rivet through the base-plate.

#### End of 4th–6th century.

Gold, gilt-silver, garnet, glass, carnelian

Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894

From a buckle, dagger-sheath, cloth, leather, etc.?

Inv. no. 1923.7–16.32 Old cat. no. 153

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A: Flat garnet in a tear-shaped collet.</th>
<th>Size: 12.5 x 8.5mm; H: 2.5mm; collet thickness: 0.5mm</th>
<th>Weight: 0.75g</th>
<th>Percentage of gold: 86</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B: Flat garnet in a tear-shaped collet with beaded-wire border.</td>
<td>Size: 6.5 x 8.5mm; H: 3mm; collet H: 1mm</td>
<td>Weight: 0.36g</td>
<td>Percentage of gold: 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: Flat garnet in a lozenge-shaped collet.</td>
<td>Size: 14 x 8.5mm; H: 2.3mm; Garnet: 9.5 x 4.5mm; collet thickness: 0.3mm; W of beaded wire: 1mm</td>
<td>Weight: 0.06g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D: Flat garnet in a lozenge-shaped collet with beaded-wire border.</td>
<td>Size: 9 x 6mm; sides: 6mm; H: 3mm</td>
<td>Weight: 0.52g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E: Cabochon garnet in an oval collet.</td>
<td>Size: 13 x 9mm; H: 2.5mm; Garnet: 10 x 5.5mm; H: 0.77g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: Cabochon garnet in a circular collet.</td>
<td>Size: 7.8 x 4mm; H: 4mm; collet H: 2mm</td>
<td>Weight: 0.6g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**H: Green glass cabochon in an oval coller with granulated border.**

The base-plate consists of a gilt-silver circular sheet and the collet of a bent gold strip soldered to the base-plate. There is no access by which to examine whether there is any foil beneath the garnet. The granulated border is made of individual granules soldered onto the base-plate all around the edge.

There are two silver (?) attachment-rivets in the base-plate which are attached from behind the upper surface of the latter. There are no traces of hard solder on the back of the base-plate.

Percentage of gold: 71

**G: Cabochon garnet in a circular coller, with granulated border.**

The base-plate consists of a gilt-silver circular sheet and the collet of a bent gold strip soldered to the base-plate. There is no access by which to examine whether there is any foil beneath the garnet. The granulated border is made of individual granules soldered onto the base-plate all around the edge.

There are two silver (?) attachment-rivets in the base-plate which are attached from behind the upper surface of the latter. There are no traces of hard solder on the back of the base-plate.
There is a silver (?) rivet in the centre of the base-plate. It is attached from behind the upper surface of the latter, so that its head is in the interior. The end of the rivet has been chiselled down.

Percentage of gold: 95
Size: D: 11mm; H: 4.5mm; D of glass: 8mm; H of collet: 2mm; W of beaded wire: 1mm Weight: 0.85g

J. Brownish-red carnelian cabochon in a circular collet, with beaded-wire border.

The base-plate consists of a circular gold sheet and the collet of the cabochon of a gold strip soldered to the base-plate. A beaded-wire border is soldered onto the base-plate all around the edge. The wire is beaded on one side only (as on I and K).

There is a copper rivet in the centre of the base-plate which is attached from behind the upper surface of the latter, so that its head is in the interior. The end of the rivet has been chiselled down.

Stud ‘J’ has the letters like ‘kerk’ written directly on the back (Cyrillic for Kerch, but without the soft sign at the end of the word).

Percentage of gold: 94
Size: D: 11mm; H: 5.2mm; D of glass: 8mm; H of collet: 2.5mm; W of beaded wire: 0.5mm Weight: 1g

K. Brownish-red carnelian cabochon in a circular collet, with beaded-wire border.

The base-plate consists of a circular gold sheet and the collet of the cabochon of a gold strip soldered to the base-plate. A beaded-wire border is soldered onto the base-plate all around the edge. The wire is beaded on one side only (as on I and J above).

There is a copper rivet in the centre of the base-plate. It is attached from behind the upper surface of the latter, so that its head is in the interior. The end of the rivet has been chiselled down.

Percentage of gold: 96
Size: D: 10.5mm; H: 6mm; D of glass: 8mm; H of collet: 2.3mm; W of beaded wire: 1mm Weight: 0.9g

The beaded wire of I, J and K is of a distinctive type, beaded on one side only, similar to that on the spacers of necklace (cat. no. 9) and on the earring (cat. no. 8).

It was possible in only a few cases to analyse the metal of the rivet without also encountering significant interference from the surrounding gold backing of the stud.

The original photograph shows all of the studs fastened to the same piece of modern cloth. They are almost certainly not of the same period and origin (G and F form one group; I, J and K may form another).

Appliqués like these were used for decorating various kinds of object. He is possibly a later type, while the rest may be dated to the Hunnic period or to the post-Attila era; a selection of similar appliqués follows:

The Hunnic find of Szeged-Nagyszéksós (Hungary) contains gold studs like B, but with bluish-grey cabochon inlays. A Germanic buckle from Zmajevó (former Yugoslavia) is decorated with four tear-shaped studs like A, but with a cabochon inlay in each setting and a central circular inlay similar to F and G. A similar silver buckle from Lán na Thaya (Austria) is decorated with tear-shaped and circular garnet cabochons, each with a beaded-wire border around the setting, similar to I, J and K. Two gold studs with sard inlays from Cherson are also similar. Appliqués from Kerch with beaded-wire borders and two silver attachment-rivets are similar to C and E, but have red glass inlays. There are gold appliqués of various shapes in the Diergardt Collection which have garnet inlays and chiselled-down rivet-ends. They are dated to the first half of the 5th century by Damm. The mounts below (cat. no. 92) have similar inlays to H. The rich early-Avar graves of Bócsa and Kungabó can also contain similar appliqués. They are dated to the first half of the 7th century.

Comparative Bibliography
1. Alföldi 1932, 70, pl. XVI:35, 36, good colour photographs in: GHA 1987, (Kürti) pl. III.38
2. Dimitrijević et al. 1962, 64–5
3. GHA 1987, (P. Stadler) pl. VII:37, b
4. Zasetskaya 1975, 64 no. 64
5. Zasetskaya 1993, 65–6, pl. 35:157k
6. Damm 1988, 98
7. op. cit.
8. Fettich 1951, pl. LI:8, 9

30 Studs (Pl. 20)
Two, each is of composite construction.
Gilt-copper-alloy (brass), copper-alloy, brown glass.
Inv. no. 1923.7–16.99 and 100 Old cat. no. 289
Size: D: 13mm Weight no. 923.7–16.99: 2.67g; no. 923.7–16.100: 1.73g
Unpublished.

Each stud has a circular copper-alloy base-plate to which is soldered a collet of a gill-copper-alloy (brass) strip containing a circular cabochon of brown glass. An attachment-shank with a flattened end has been soldered onto the back of each base-plate. (D of cabochons: 11mm; H: 6mm; collet H: 5mm; L of attachment-shanks: 8mm; D: 2mm).

No. 923.7–16.100 is in poor condition. The base-plate is damaged and the attachment-shank has been broken off.

Horse harness fittings
31 Pendant-mount (Pls 21, 22)
One piece, composite.
Circular pendant, constructed of a copper base with a gilt-silver sheet overlay and silver back-plate. It is decorated with blue glass cabochons and repoussé ornaments.

4th century.
Gilt-silver, silver, impure copper, copper-alloy, blue glass Prov.: probably Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894
Inv. no. 1923.7–16.16 Old cat. no. 150
Percentage of silver: back-plate: 81
Size: 54 x 65.2mm Weight: 11.7g
Published: GHA 1987, (Kidd) p.112, III. 1.16 k

The pendant is circular with a rectangular tongue projecting from the top for suspension. (D: 51mm; tongue: 17 x 14mm).

It is constructed in the following way: a repoussé–decorated gilt-silver (mercury-gilded) sheet is pressed onto a patterned base of impure copper. The edge of the sheet overlay is wrapped around that of the base. The circular part has a plain silver back-plate. There is a strip of impure copper behind the top of the tongue where two rivets are attached.

The pendant is decorated with five blue glass cabochons in collets: a circular one at the centre and four tear-shaped ones in a cruciform pattern around it. The collet of each is created by turning up the patterned copper base and its gilt-silver sheet overlay around the stone with the inner edge of the sheet bent in. The pendant is further decorated with a repoussé pattern of pseudo-filigree wire in a border along the edge and around the collet of each inlay. The pendant is bordered by a zigzag line of linked V-shapes with a repoussé pseudo-granule at the base of each alternate V. By the border of each tear-shaped collet there are two similar granules linked by a semicircle. There are triangles of pseudo-granulation between the tear-shaped cabochons. The projecting rectangular tongue is decorated with a central pseudo-granule within a circle. (Size of cabochons: H: 5mm, D of circular one: 11mm, tear-shaped ones: 9.5 x 5mm, W of beaded wire: 1.5mm, D of granules: 0.9mm, D of circle at the top: 2.5mm).

There are copper-alloy attachment-rivets in three of the fields between the tear-shaped cabochons, but there is no trace that a fourth one existed, as might be expected from the symmetry of their arrangement. The rivet-ends are burried over securing the silver back-plate. There are two similar rivets at the top of the tongue-shaped projection, except their ends are not burried over. There are traces of a washer at the end of one of them. They were possibly for attachment to the strip from which the pendant was suspended. All five rivet-heads are covered with gilt-silver foil. (D of rivet-heads: 4mm, L of rivets at the top: 4.8mm).

The object is in poor condition and is heavily restored. Two of the glass inlays and pieces of the back-plate are missing. The flat tear-shaped stone is not original (museum replacement). The object is heavily corroded behind the silver back-plate.

From a horse-harness?

This mount and those below (nos 32–43) possibly belong to the same horse-harness, except for no. 40 which is slightly different and is therefore probably from another set, though from the same cultural circle.
The closest parallels are the mounts from a grave at Kishpek (north Caucasus) which have copper-alloy base-plates with stamped gold sheet overlays. They are all decorated with glass and/or sard inlays, and have copper-alloy, dome-headed attachment-rivets with gold sheet overlays on the heads. There were two pairs of variants of this type of mount in the grave: one is similar to our cat. no. 31, the other to cat. nos 41–43. The grave is considered to be Hunnic by both Betrovov1 and Bóna.2 According to Betrovov the mounts can be dated to the 4th century, while Bóna dates them to the beginning of the 5th century. The gold mounts of the horse-harness found near the town of Azov3 are considered to be the 1st-century antecedents of the Kishpek type by Alibibina4 although they are slightly different in shape and construction. According to his theory the mounts from Kishpek such as the Berthier-Delagarde pieces are Sarmatian from the end of the 3rd/beginning of the 4th century. A similar rectangular mount in the Museum of Saint-Germain-en-Laye may also be considered an earlier prototype of the mounts in the British Museum.5 It has a similar pattern of decoration, but this is achieved by applied granules and wires. A whole set of rectangular gold harness-mounts inlaid with carnelian, and a similar oval box-shaped one, were found at Kerch-Glinishche and dated to the 3rd–4th century by Rostovtsev,6 and by Kondakov, Tolstoi and Reinach.7 There is a gold harness-set (stone-inlaid mounts, buckles, strap-distributor and plain strip-mounts) from the Adzimushkaya catacomb in the Black Sea region published by Shkorpil, who refers to another similar set kept in Kerch Museum. There are a buckle and a harness-mount in the Diergardt Collection, each with a copper-alloy base with a gilt-silver plate on the top and an oval carnelian inlay, which are dated to the 4th century by Damm.8 A very similar buckle of copper alloy with a repoussé-decorated gold foil overlay was found at Timoshchvskaya-Stanitsa in the Kuban region, and according to Pósta the decorative technique is 3rd–4th-century barbarian work.9 A polychrome bracelet and a buckle-plate from Chernaya Rechka (Crimea) are considered to be of the 3rd century by Babenchikov.10 A circular silver pendant-fragment from Cherson with thin gold sheet overlay, a rectangular sard inlay and punched decoration was published in 1903.11 There are helmets of the Late-Roman period decorated in the same technique, having an iron base overlaid with gilt-silver or silver foil, decorated with repoussé patterns and coloured glass or semi-precious stone inlays. In most cases the foil overlay has a very similar repoussé pattern to that of the mounts in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection, and it is also fixed to the base by dome-headed attachment-rivets. According to Hampel the technique of an iron base overlaid with gilt-silver or silver sheet, the use of glass inlays and geometric repoussé decoration are all characteristics of barbarian technique and design in the Late-Roman period.12 Therefore the helmets from Budapest, Pffersse (near Augsburg, Germany – two helmets) and from south Russia were worn by barbarian auxiliary troops in the 2nd–3rd century. Klumbach dated the Budapest helmet to the 3rd–4th century and a similar helmet from Berkasovo (former Yugoslavia) to the 4th–5th century.13 It is worth mentioning that mounts of this type were often found together with buckles, strap-attachments and mounts like cat. nos 44–49 and 60–67 in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection. They are made of silver or copper alloy and have dome-headed attachment-rivets, often with gold or silver sheet overlay on the heads (e.g. Kerch-Glinishche and Kishpek). It is therefore possible that all of these mounts from the collection are part of the same horse-harness set, or at least belong to the same cultural circle (possibly the buckle-loops cat. nos 50–59 as well).

**Comparative Bibliography**

1 Betrovov 1980, 113–22, ill. 3:1, 1a, 3  
2 Bóna 1991, 264–5 no. 70; 1993, 238 no. 70.  
3 Bespalyi 1992, 177 ill. 2; 179 ill. 4; 181 ill. 5/6  
4 Alibibin below  
5 Musée des Antiquités Nationales, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Inv. no. 4000; said to have been bought in Paris – I wish to thank Niamh Whitfield for the information and photographs.  
6 Rostovtsev 1923a, p.24  
7 Kondakov et al. 1891, 313–14  
8 Shkorpil 1908, 33, ills 13–15  
9 Damm 1988, 156–7, ills 145–6; 176–7 ills 179–82  
10 Pósta 1905, 383–5, ill. 224:6  
11 Babenchikov 1963, 94, pl. VI:15, 100, pl. XII:1  
12 OIAK 1993, 47 ill. 93  
13 Hampel 1900, 361–74  
14 Klumbach 1973, 15–51, pls 1–5, 12–18

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### 32 Mount (Pls 21, 22)

One piece, composite.

Circular mount, constructed of a copper base with a gilt-silver overlay. It is decorated with a carnelian cabochon and repoussé ornaments.

**4th century?**

Gilt-silver, silver, copper, carnelian, Prov.: probably Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,20 Old cat. no. 150

Size: D: 44mm H: 4mm (without rivets)  Weight: 7.85g  Unpublished

The mount is circular. It is constructed as follows: a repoussé-decorated gilt-silver (mercury-gilded) sheet is pressed onto a patterned copper base. There is a plain copper sheet beneath the latter. The edge of the gilt-silver overlay is wrapped around the second layer of copper.

The mount is decorated with a central circular carnelian cabochon. The collet of the inlay is created by turning up the edge of the patterned copper-alloy base and its gilt-silver overlay around the stone with the inner edge of the overlay bent in. The mount is further decorated with a border and central cruciform pattern of repoussé pseudo-beaded wire. Each arm of the cross is formed by two pseudo-beaded wires 6.5mm apart flanking three X’s. Between the arms of the cross the front plate is decorated with a ring-and-dot motif. (Size of cabochon: D: 10mm, H: 4mm. H of collet: 1.5mm. W of beaded wire border: 2.2mm, W of beaded wire creating the cruciform pattern: 1.9mm, size of X’s: 3mm, D of ring-and-dot: 2mm, 0.8mm).

There are four silver dome-headed attachment-rivets in a rectangular arrangement on the front, each covering the outermost of the three repoussé X’s. The shanks of the rivets are hammered to a rectangular section and the ends are bent over. (D of rivet-heads: 4mm, thickness of shank: 2mm, distance between the base-plate and the bent-over rivet-ends: c. 2.5mm).

By comparing the peculiarities of the three similar mounts (cat. nos 32–34), such as the details of the pseudo-beaded wires or the small characteristics like the single ‘head’ beside one of the ring-and-dots (features which appear on all of them), it is possible to find out the technique of decoration. The broken back-plate of cat. no. 32 shows that the copper base has the same pattern as the gilt-silver overlay. Therefore it is to be presumed that the bases of all three mounts were pressed on the same mould and then a plain gilt-silver sheet overlay was pressed onto each of them.

The base-plate is missing and the stone is possibly not original.

From a horse-harness? The distance between the back-plate and the bent-over rivet-ends shows the possible thickness of the leather they were attached to (2.5mm comparable in thickness with the width of the slots of the mounts cat. nos 41–43 below).

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### 33 Mount (Pls 21, 22)

One piece, composite.

Similar to cat. no. 32 above, but with central blue glass cabochon.

**4th century?**

Gilt-silver (mercury-gilded), silver, copper, blue glass  
Prov.: probably Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,21 Old cat. no. 150

Percentage of silver: 97 showing through base-plate

Size: D: 44mm H: 6mm (without rivets)  Weight: 9.02g  
Published: GHA 1987, (Kidd) 112, ill. I,16.k

The construction, shape and decoration are the same as for cat. no. 32 above, except that it has a blue glass cabochon in the centre (H: 4mm) which is irregularly shaped and much smaller (8 x 10mm) than the collet (D: 13mm) round it. It is possibly a secondary inlay. For the size, construction and decoration see the description of cat. no. 32 above.

Fragmentary base-plate. Blue glass cabochon possibly not original. From horse-harness?

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### 34 Mount (Pls 21, 22)

One piece, composite.

Similar to cat. no. 33 above.

**4th century?**

Gilt-silver (mercury-gilded), silver, copper, blue glass  
Prov.: probably Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of silver: 97 showing through base-plate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size: D: 44mm H: 6mm (without rivets)  Weight: 9.02g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published: GHA 1987, (Kidd) 112, ill. I,16.k</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The construction, shape and decoration are the same as for cat. no. 33 above, except that it has a blue glass cabochon in the centre (H: 4mm) which is irregularly shaped and much smaller (8 x 10mm) than the collet (D: 13mm) round it. It is possibly a secondary inlay. For the size, construction and decoration see the description of cat. no. 33 above.

Fragmentary base-plate. Blue glass cabochon possibly not original. From horse-harness?
35 Mount (Pls 21, 23)

One piece, composite.
Rectangular mount, constructed in the same way as cat. nos 32–34 above. It is decorated with a carnelian cabochon and repoussé ornaments.
4th century?

Gilt-silver, silver, copper, carnelian

Prov: probably Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894
Inv. no. 1923,7-16,23 Old cat. no. 150
Percentage of silver: base-plate: 54 inner layer: 98
Size: 28 x 38.5mm H: 5.5mm (without rivets) Weight: 5.58g
Published: GHA 1987, (Kidd) 112, ill. I.16.k

The mount is rectangular. It is constructed as follows: a repoussé-decorated gilt-silver sheet is pressed onto a patterned copper base. There is plain copper sheet beneath the latter. The edge of the gilt-silver overlay is wrapped around the second layer of copper.

The mount is decorated with a central, rectangular, faceted carnelian cabochon set in the same way as cat. nos 31–34 above. The mount is further decorated with a repoussé pseudo-beaded wire border and a line of repoussé X's along the longer sides of the rectangle. Along each shorter side are two repoussé arcs with dots at the ends. There are two opposed pairs of half ring-and-dot patterns along the shorter sides of the central collet. (Size of inlay: 9.5 x 11.5mm, H: 5.2mm, H of collet: 2mm, W of beaded wire: 2.5mm, X's: 3mm, D of arcs: 3mm, dots: 0.8mm, semicircles: 3mm)

There are four silver dome-shaped attachment-rivets: one on each corner of the front plate covering parts of its decoration. The shanks of the rivets are hammered to a rectangular section and the ends are bent over. (D of rivet-heads: 4mm, thickness of shank: 2mm, distance between the base-plate and the bent-over rivet-ends: c. 2.5mm).

By comparing the peculiarities of the three similar mounts (cat. nos 35–37), such as the details of the pseudo-beaded wire or the characteristic small line beside one of the X's (features which appear on both of them), it is possible to tell that the technique of decoration (of cat. no. 37 as well) is the same as for the circular mounts (cat. nos 32–34 above), i.e. the copper base of each was pressed on the same mould.

The similarities to the mounts (cat. nos 32–34) in terms of the pseudo-beaded wire and the X-pattern suggest that a similar tool might have been used for the decoration of the mould.

It is in poor condition: the base-plate is missing and also a piece of silver alloy (now present) was pressed onto a patterned copper-alloy base, and the edge was wrapped around a second layer of copper alloy.

The mount is decorated with a central, oval, milky quartz cabochon which is possibly a re-used intaglio depicting a seated female. The method of setting is the same as cat. nos 31–37 above. The mount is further decorated with a repoussé pseudo-beaded wire border and a line of repoussé pseudo-granulation around the collet. (Size of cabochon: 17 x 12mm, H: 4mm, collet H: 1mm, W of beaded wire: 2mm, D of granules: 3mm)

There are four perforations for attachment-rivets; one at each corner of the rectangle. (D of perforations: 1.8mm).

By comparing the peculiarities of the two similar mounts (cat. nos 38 and 39), such as the details of the pseudo-beaded wire or the number of granules (features which correspond on both of them), it is possible to tell that the technique of decoration is the same as for the mounts (cat. nos 32–37 above) and the method of setting is the same as for the mount (cat. nos 32–37 above): i.e. each copper-alloy base was made with the same mould.

The back-plate and rivets are missing. The milky quartz inlay is possibly not original. The thickness of the stone shows that it was set in after the mount had lost its copper-alloy base and the back-plate.
40  Mount (Pls 21, 24)
One piece, composite.
Rectangular mount, constructed of a copper-alloy base with a gilt-silver overlay and a base silver backplate. It is decorated with a blue glass cabochon and repoussé ornaments. Gilt-silver, base silver, copper alloy, blue glass
Prov.: probably Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894
Inv. no. 1923.7-16.26 Old cat. no. 150
Percentage of silver: 73
Size: 42 x 25mm H: 5.5mm (without rivets) Weight: 6.54g
Unpublished
The mount is rectangular. It is constructed as follows: a repoussé-decorated gilt-silver sheet is pressed onto a copper-alloy base. It is impossible to tell if it had a double (i.e. a patterned and a plain) copper-alloy layer behind the overlay as in the case of the mounts above. The edge of the sheet overlay is wrapped around the base, behind which is another copper-alloy plate with a thin base silver back-plate. The edges of the latter are turned up to create the sides of the mount. (Size of gilt-silver overlay: 24 x 42mm, thickness of all layers: 3.5mm).

The mount is decorated with a central, oval, blue glass cabochon set in the same way as cat. nos 31-39 above and cat. nos 41-43 below. The mount is further decorated with a repoussé pseudo-beaded wire border and repoussé pseudo-granulation forming two pairs of opposed triangles on the shorter sides. The groups of granules are framed by repoussé lines. (Size of cabochon: 12 x 15mm, H: 5mm, collét H: 2.5mm, W of beaded wire: 1.5mm, D of granules: 1mm, L of lines framing them: 10mm).

There are four circular-section silver attachment-rivets in the corners of the rectangle with mushroom-shaped heads, waisted beneath, each with a collar above the point where it meets the front plate. The ends are flattened and burr over and two have traces of a washer or other attachment surviving. (The rivets are very different from those of the mounts cat. nos 32-37 above). (D of rivet-heads: 2.3mm, D of shanks: 1.3mm, D of collar: 2mm, L of rivets: 9mm, distance between the silver back-sheet and washer (i.e. possible thickness of the leather: 2--3mm)).

It is in poor condition and part of the back-plate is missing.

From a horse-harness? The distance between the silver back-sheet and the rivet washer indicates the possible thickness of the leather.

The slight differences in terms of construction, decoration and rivets suggest that this mount may not belong to the same group of horse-harness fittings as the mounts above.

41  Mount (Pls 21, 25)
One piece, composite.
The mount is in the shape of an oval box with two pairs of rectangular slots in the sides. It is decorated with a carnelian cabochon and repoussé ornaments.
4th century?
Gilt-silver alloy (mercury-gilded), silver, copper alloy, carnelian
Prov: probably Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894
Inv. no. 1923.7-16.18 Old cat. no. 150
Percentage of silver: 72 (remains of back-plate)
Size: 40 x 36.5mm H: 13mm Weight: 14.9g
Unpublished
The mount is in the form of an oval box. It is constructed similarly to cat. no. 42 below, but with two pairs of opposed rectangular slots. (W of side strip: 9mm, 1mm is turned in over the front plate – the difference from cat. no. 42 is due to the different pattern of decoration; slots: 17 x 2.5mm).

The mount is decorated with a central, oval, carnelian cabochon set in the same way as cat. nos 31-40 above. It is further decorated with a border of a repoussé, undulating line and a very broad, repoussé pseudo-twisted wire encircling a broad groove. (Size of cabochon: 13 x 12mm, H: 4mm, H of collet:1mm, W of undulating line: 2mm, W of pseudo-twisted wire: 5.5mm, W of broad groove around the inlay: 3mm).

The side of the mount is damaged.
Cat. nos 42 and 43 below are very similar, as is the decorative technique of cat. nos 31-43.

From a horse-harness? The difference from cat. no. 42 in terms of decoration, number and size of slots in the side may be due to the different position of these mounts on the harness with cat. no. 41 at the crossing of wider straps, though of the same thickness.

42  Mount (Pls 21, 25)
One piece, composite.
Similar to cat. no. 41 above, but with only one pair of rectangular slots in the sides and different pattern of decoration.
4th century
Gilt-silver alloy, silver, copper alloy, carnelian
Prov: probably Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894
Inv. no. 1923.7-16.17 Old cat. no. 150
Percentage of silver: 61 (remains of back-plate)
Size: 39 x 35mm H: 15mm Weight: 21.05g
Published: Dalton 1924a, 262, pl. XXXVII.6 reproduced from Dalton 1924b
The mount is in the form of an oval box. It is constructed as follows: a repoussé-decorated gilt-silver-alloy (mercury-gilded) sheet is pressed onto a patterned copper-alloy base behind which is another, plain copper-alloy base-plate. The side of the mount is a copper-alloy strip soldered along the edge with a gilt-silver-alloy sheet overlay. The two ends are soldered together and overlap over where a large blob of solder is visible. The upper edge of the overlay is turned in over the front plate.
There are two rectangular slots in the sides, one at each end. The edges of the gilt-silver-alloy sheet overlay along these cuts are tucked into the slots.

There are remains of a silver sheet back-plate soldered to the bottom of the side strip with its edge folded over the gilt-silver overlay. (W of side-strip: 9mm, 1.5mm is turned in over the front plate; size of slots: 2.5 x 12mm; 2mm of the silver back-plate is folded over the gilt-silver overlay).

The mount is decorated with a central, oval, carnelian cabochon set in the same way as cat. nos 31-41 above. The mount is further decorated with a border of repoussé pseudo-beaded wire round a line of conjoined X's framing the collet of the cabochon. (Size of cabochon: 20 x 15mm, H: 6mm, H of collet: 2.5mm, W of beaded wire: 2mm; X's: 2mm).

From a horse-harness?
For comparative material and bibliography see the description of cat. no. 31 above.

43  Mount (Pls 21, 26)
One piece, composite.
Similar to the box-shaped mount (cat. no. 42) above, but with a different pattern of decoration.
4th century?
Gilt-silver alloy, silver, impure copper, carnelian
Prov.: probably Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894
Inv. no. 1923.7-16.19 Old cat. no. 150
Percentage of silver: 54 (gilded side strip) 81 (remains of back-plate)
Size: 44 x 37mm H: 17mm Weight: 11.77g
Unpublished
The mount is in the form of an oval box with two slots in the sides. It is constructed in the same way as cat. nos 41 and 42 above. (W of side strip: 9mm, 1.5mm is turned over the front plate, size of slots: 14 x 2.5mm, 1.5mm of the silver back-plate is folded over the gilt-silver (mercury-gilded) overlay).

The mount is decorated with a central, oval, carnelian cabochon set in the same way as cat. nos 31-42 above. It is further decorated with a border of repoussé pseudo-beaded wire round a line of repoussé pseudo-granules. (Size of cabochon: 15.5 x 18mm, H: 6.5mm, W of beaded wire: 3mm, D of granules: 1mm).

The object is in poor condition.

From a horse-harness. Its slots are of the same width as, but of different length from, those of mounts cat. nos 41 and 42 above, which may show the different width of the same kind of strap that they were decorating.

44  Buckle (Pls 21, 26)
In three pieces, one of which is composite.
Base silver buckle with a semicircular attachment-plate with a flanged edge. Oval, faceted loop and faceted tongue.
End of 4th/first half of 5th century
Base silver
Prov.: unknown
Inv. no. 1923.7-16.123 Old cat. no. unknown
Percentage of silver: 90 (rivets) 75 (loop)
Size: 28 x 26mm H: 7mm Weight: 10.2g
The Berthier-Delagarde Collection of Crimean Jewellery in the British Museum and Related Material

The Catalogue

Published: GHA 1987, (Kidd) 113, ill. l,18.d.

The semicircular attachment-plate is base silver.

The front plate has a flanged edge projecting from the back. The flange is deeper at the centre and narrows towards the loop.

The front and back-plates are linked by the folded flap attachment and made from the same sheet. The folded flap attachment is rectangular with a slot cut into the centre to accommodate the buckle-tongue.

The back-plate is formed by hammering and cutting to the same size and shape as the front. (Thickness of the plate: 1mm; H: 2.5mm; D: 22.5mm; W: 13.5mm; H of flange: 2-3mm; D of folded flap attachment: 5mm; thickness of back-plate: 0.5mm).

There are three silver dome-headed attachment-rivets on the front, the ends of which are flattened to fasten the back-plate, thereby gripping the leather (D of rivet-heads: 5mm; rivet-ends: 2mm).

The loop is oval with a faceted, octagonal section. It narrows from the centre towards the ends, where it is secured by the folded flap attachment. (Size of loop: 25 x 18.5mm; thickness: 4.5 to 3mm).

The tongue is faceted and has a trapezoidal section. Its pointed end bends over the loop and there is a plain rectangle at the base, where it is attached by folding its base around the loop. (Size of tongue: L: 15mm; W: 4.5mm; H: 2mm).

The back-plate is imperfect.

The original photograph of the collection does not show this object.

From a horse-harness, or shoe?

The buckles (cat. nos 45–47) in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection belong to the same basic type, although they differ slightly from each other. The main characteristics are the semicircular attachment-plate, dome-headed rivets with sheet overlay in some cases, and oval loops.

Small buckles with dome-headed rivets, but with oval attachment-plates, are very typical of the Late-Roman period. It is possible that the Berthier-Delagarde buckles represent a special variant within the same main type.

Similar buckles with oval attachment-plates have been found in the Kishpek chamber graves (North Caucasus), and are considered by Albabin to be Sarmatian of the end of the 3rd/beginning of the 4th century. Petrozov and Böna regard them as Hunnic, Petrozov dating them to the 4th–5th century and Böna to the beginning of the 5th.

Similar buckles of copper alloy and silver have been found in the Tauraeo cemetery (Kama region) and are dated to the end of the 4th–5th century by Gening, as are those from the Ural region (Brodovsk) by Goldina and Vodolago. Quast gives a similar dating and regards them as shoe-buckles. Silver buckles of this type from a disturbed grave at Timoshevskaya-Stanitsa (Kuban region) are dated to the 3rd–4th century by Pósta on the basis of an associated, repoussé-decorated Turaevo cemetery (Kama region) and are dated to the end of the 4th–5th century by Gening, as are those from the Ural region (Brodovsk) by Goldina and Vodolago. Quast gives a similar dating and regards them as shoe-buckles. Silver buckles of this type from a disturbed grave at Timoshevskaya-Stanitsa (Kuban region) are dated to the 3rd–4th century by Pósta on the basis of an associated, repoussé-decorated buckle. Similar silver buckles from the Black Sea region are published as part of a horse-harness set by Shkorpiol, who refers to another similar set in the Museum of Kerch.

The above-mentioned buckles from Kishpek and the Black Sea region form parts of horse-harness sets with similar mounts to cat. nos 31–43; the buckle from the Kuban region can also be related to this cultural circle. It is therefore possible that our buckles belong to a similar horse-harness set, or to be more precise, to the mounts (cat. nos 31–43) in the collection. Further, the strap-distributor (cat. no. 60) and the mounts (cat. nos 63–67) could also be parts of the same set, since there are some similarities in their techniques of manufacture. The similarities with the strap-distributor and mounts from the horse-harness set published by Shkorpiol also make this possible.

Comparative Bibliography

1. Albabin below
4. Gening 1976, 77, ill. 27 and 32; Gening 1979, 96–106
5. Goldina and Vodolago 1990, 10–13; 20; pls XXV:13; LVX:1;8;16;25
6. Quast 1993, 83–4, 86; ill. 48a-c
7. Pósta 1905, 383–4, ill. 224;3
8. Shkorpiol 1910b, 33, ill. 15

45 Buckle (Pls 21, 26, 27)

In three pieces, one of which is composite.

Silver buckle with a semicircular attachment-plate with a flanged edge. Oval, faceted loop.

4th–5th century.

Gold, silver, copper alloy

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,125 Old cat. no. unknown

Percentage of gold: sheet overlay on rivet-heads: 61.1

Percentage of silver: rivets: 37 loop: 91

Size: 22 x 25mm Weight: 4.28g

Unpublished

The front plate is silver, semicircular with a flanged edge projecting from the back. The folded flap attachment is made from the same piece as the front plate and is rectangular with a slot cut into the centre to accommodate the buckle-tongue.

There are two copper-alloy dome-headed attachment-rivets with gold sheet overlays in the centre.

The loop is oval with a faceted, octagonal section. It narrows from the centre towards the ends where it is secured by the folded flap attachment.

The attachment-hook of the tongue survives folded around the loop. Size of plate: L: 20mm; W: 11mm; thickness: 0.3mm; H of flange: 2mm; loop: 22 x 14mm; thickness: 2.8–3.1mm; D of rivet-heads: 4mm; H: 1.5mm.

The back-plate is missing, the tongue is fragmentary and the folded flap attachment is broken.

The original photograph of the collection does not show this object.

Cat. nos 44 and 46 are similar, but with slightly different rivets (silver or with silver sheet overlay on the head).

Shoe-buckle, or from a horse-harness?

46 Buckle (Pls 21, 28)

In two pieces, one of which is composite.

Silver buckle with a semicircular attachment-plate with a flanged edge. Oval, faceted loop.

4th–5th century.

Silver, copper alloy

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,126 Old cat. no. unknown

Percentage of silver: rivets: 96 loop: 91

Size: 19 x 22.5mm Weight: 3.61g

Unpublished

The front plate is silver, semicircular with a flanged edge projecting from the back. The folded flap attachment is made from the same piece as the front plate and is rectangular with a slot cut into the centre to accommodate the buckle-tongue.

There are two copper-alloy dome-headed attachment-rivets with silver sheet overlay on the heads.

The loop is oval with a faceted, octagonal section. It narrows from the centre towards the ends where it is secured by the folded flap attachment.

Size of plate: L: 19mm; W: 9mm; thickness: 0.2mm; H of flange: 2.2mm; loop: 19 x 13mm; thickness: 2.4mm; D of rivet-heads: 5mm; H: 2mm.

The back-plate and tongue are missing and the folded flap attachment is imperfect.

The original photograph of the collection does not show this object.

Cat. no. 44 is similar, but has three dome-headed attachment-rivets.

Cat. no. 45 is also similar, but the two rivet-heads have gold sheet overlays.

Shoe-buckle, or from a horse-harness?

47 Buckle (Pls 21, 28)

In three pieces, one of which is composite.

Copper buckle, with semicircular attachment-plate with a flanged edge. Oval loop and semicircular-section tongue.

4th–5th century.

Silver, copper.

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,124 Old cat. no. unknown

Size: 28 x 23mm Weight: 7.11g

Unpublished

The semicircular attachment-plate is of copper. The front plate has a flanged edge projecting from the back. The front and back-plates are linked by a folded flap attachment and were made from the same sheet. The folded flap attachment is rectangular with a slot cut into the sheet to accommodate the buckle-tongue.

The back-plate is cut to the same size and shape as the front.

There are three copper dome-headed attachment-rivets on the front plate, each with a silver sheet overlay on the head. The ends of the rivets are flattened to fasten the back-plate and grip the leather. The
loop is oval with a circular section. It narrows from the centre towards the ends, where it is secured by the folded flap attachment.

The tongue is semicircular in section with a pointed end bent over the loop and a plain base. It is attached by folding the base around the loop.

Size of plate: L: 21mm; W: 11mm; thickness: 0.2mm; H of flange: 2.8mm; D of folded flap attachment: 0.4mm; D of rivet-heads: 4mm; H: 2mm; size of loop: 23 x 16mm; thickness: 2.5–4.5mm; tongue: L: 21mm; W: 4mm.

The back-plate is imperfect. The original photograph of the collection does not show this object. Cat. nos 44–46 are similar buckles, but made of silver and with loops of octagonal section.

Shoe-buckle, or from a horse-harness?

### 48 Buckle-loop (Pls 21, 28)

In two pieces.

Silver, oval, faceted loop with faceted tongue decorated with incised, geometric pattern on its basal cube.

4th–5th century.

Silver.

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,131 Old cat. no. unknown

Copper alloy (bronze).

4th–5th century

Size of plate: L: 16mm; W: 9mm; thickness: 0.3–0.5mm; L of tongue: 23mm; W: 4mm; H: 1.5mm.

The plate is missing.

A buckle from Kishpek has a similar pattern incised on its tongue and a similarly shaped loop. The attachment-plate is the type of cat. nos 44 and 47 in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection. It is therefore possible that this loop and tongue also belonged to a horse-harness, possibly to the same set as the mounts (cat. nos 31–43) above.

Comparative Bibliography

1 Betrozov 1980, 118 ill. 3-6, 7; Bóna 1991, 183 ill. 70b, 264 no. 70; 1993, 157 ill. 70b, 238 no. 70

49 Buckle (Pls 21, 28)

In three pieces, one of which is composite.

Miniature copper-alloy buckle with rectangular plate, oval loop and tongue.

4th–5th century.

Copper alloy (brass).

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,130 Old cat. no. unknown

Size: 25 x 16mm Weight: 3.05g

Unpublished.

The attachment-plate is rectangular. The front and back-plates and the folded flap attachment are made from the same thin, rectangular strip folded in the middle. The front and back-plates are therefore of the same size. They are secured by a dome-headed attachment-rivet. The end of the rivet is burred over. The folded flap attachment has a rectangular slot cut in the centre to accommodate the buckle-tongue.

The tongue is plain with the pointed end bent over the loop. It is attached by folding the base around the loop.

The loop is oval in shape and made from an oval-section rod. It narrows from the centre towards the ends.

Size of plate: 16 x 9mm; loop: 12 x 16mm; thickness: 2-3mm; tongue: L: 21mm; W: 2.5mm; D of rivet-head: 4mm; H: 2mm.

Shoe-buckle, or from a horse-harness?

Similar buckles were found attached to a horse-harness from Kerch and also amongst the mounts in the Kishpek chamber grave (Kabardino-Balkaria, south Russia). It is therefore possible that this buckle was part of the same horse-harness set as cat. nos 31–43 above. Buckles of this type were also found in a Sarmatian kurgan in the North Azov region (Ukraine), dated to the second half of the 2nd/early 3rd century, and in the 4th–5th century burials at Brodovsk (Ural region).

50 Buckle-loops (Pls 21, 29)

Two.

4th–5th century?

Silver.

Prov.: unknown

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,138 and 139 Old cat. no. unknown

Percentage of silver: no. 138: 78 no. 139: 93

Size: no. 138: 21 x 30.5mm Weight: 7.08g

no. 139: L: 30mm Weight: 5.94g

Unpublished

Oval, faceted loops of octagonal section. Thickness: 3 to 5.5mm. Both are imperfect.

51 Buckle-loops (Pls 21, 29)

Two.

4th–5th century?

Silver.

Prov.: unknown

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,143 and 144 Old cat. no. unknown

Percentage of silver: no. 143: 93 no. 144: 94

Size: each: 12.5 x 10mm Weight: no. 143: 1.1g no. 144: 1g

Unpublished

Oval, faceted loop of octagonal section. Thickness: 1.5–3mm.

52 Buckle-loop (Pls 21, 29)

Single piece.

4th–5th century?

Silver.

Prov.: unknown

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,142 Old cat. no. unknown

Percentage of silver: 95

Size: 16 x 12mm Weight: 1.32g

Unpublished

Oval, faceted loop of octagonal section. Thickness: 3 to 2mm. Imperfect.

53 Buckle-loops (Pls 21, 29)

Two.

4th–5th century?

Silver.

Prov.: unknown

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,140 and 141 Old cat. no. unknown

Percentage of silver: no. 140: 93 no. 141: 90 folded flap attachment: 93

Size: each: 13 x 22mm Weight: no. 140: 2.18g no. 141: 2.08g

Unpublished

Oval, faceted loops of octagonal section. No. 923,7-16,141 has fragments of a folded flap attachment. Thickness: 1.5–3mm.

54 Buckle-loop (Pls 21, 29)

In two pieces.

Copper-alloy, oval, faceted loop with a semicircular-section tongue.

4th–5th century?

Copper alloy (bronze).

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,133 Old cat. no. unknown

Size: 23 x 30mm Weight: 6.8g

Unpublished

The loop is oval with a faceted octagonal section and narrows from the centre towards the ends. The tongue is of semicircular section with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base around the loop. Size of loop: 22 x 30mm; thickness: 3–4.5mm; tongue: L: 23mm; W: 4mm; H: 1.5mm.

The plate is missing.

Cat. no. 55 below is the same type.
In two pieces. Copper-alloy, oval, faceted loop with a faceted tongue. 4th–5th century. Copper alloy (bronze). Inv. no. 1923,7-16,132 Old cat. no. unknown Size: 35 x 25mm Weight: 14.11g Unpublished

The loop is oval with a faceted octagonal section and narrows from the centre towards the ends. The tongue is faceted with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base around the loop. Size of loop: 22 x 35mm; thickness: 3–5.5mm; tongue: L: 25mm; W: 5.5mm; H: 3mm

The plate is missing.

cat. no. 54 above is similar.

56 Buckle-loop (Pls 21, 29)

In two pieces. Copper alloy. 4th–5th century? Copper alloy Prov.: unknown Inv. no. 1923,7-16,136 Old cat. no. unknown Size: 36 x 27mm Weight: 7.55g Unpublished

The loop is oval with a faceted octagonal section and narrows from the centre towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base.

57 Buckle-loop (Pls 21, 29)

In two pieces. Copper, oval, faceted loop with a club-shaped tongue. 4th–5th century? Copper Inv. no. 1923,7-16,134 Old cat. no. unknown Size: 37.5 x 23mm Weight: 11.12g Unpublished

The loop is oval with a faceted octagonal section and narrows from the centre towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base around the loop. Size of loop: 22 x 37.5mm; thickness: 3–4.5mm; tongue: L: 25mm; W: 5.5mm; H: 3mm

The plate is missing.

cat. no. 58 below is similar.

58 Buckle-loop (Pls 21, 29)

In two pieces. Copper, oval, faceted loop with a club-shaped tongue. 4th–5th century? Copper Inv. no. 1923,7-16,135 Old cat. no. unknown Size: 37 x 24mm Weight: 11.05g Unpublished

The loop is oval with a faceted octagonal section and narrows from the centre towards the ends. The tongue is club-shaped with a plain base. Its pointed end bends over the loop. It is attached by folding the base around the loop. Size of loop: 21 x 37.5mm; thickness: 3–4.5mm; tongue: L: 24mm; W: 4.5mm; H: 3mm

The plate is missing.

cat. no. 57 above.

59 Buckle-loop (Pls 21, 29)

Single piece. Copper alloy (bronze). Prov.: unknown Inv. no. 1923,7-16,137 Old cat. no. unknown Size: 35 x 20mm Weight: 6.93g Unpublished

Oval loop of oval section. Section: 4 x 2mm. Type as cat. nos 57 and 58 above. Damaged.

60 Strap-distributor with two attachment-fittings (Pls 21, 30)

Copper-alloy distributor ring with two silver strap-attachments. End of 4th/first half of 5th century. Gilt-silver, silver, copper alloy Inv. nos 1923,7-16,122 (the copper-alloy ring and one of the attachment-fittings) and 1923,7-16,127 (the other attachment-fitting) Percentage of silver: no. 122 attachment: 91 no. 127: 83 Size: Ring: 54 x 44mm Weight: Ring: 45.77g Strap-attachments: no. 122: 24 x 16mm Weight: 5.46g no. 127: 23 x 15mm Weight: 5.47g Unpublished

The copper-alloy (gunmetal) ring is slightly oval and made from a rod of solid circular section. (D: 7mm). Each of the two strap-attachments is made from a single, thick strip of rectangular-sectioned silver. It is in the shape of two discs of equal size linked by a long strip. This is bent to form a loop linking the front and back-plates. They are attached by their loops to the copper-alloy (gunmetal) ring. (D of front and back-plates: 15mm; thickness of them: 0.8mm; D of loop: 12mm; 13.5mm; thickness of loop: 2mm).

The front and back-plates are connected by two silver, dome-headed attachment-rivets, each with a gilt-silver sheet overlay folded around the head. The end of each rivet is burred over to secure the back-plate. (D of rivet-heads: 4mm; D of their ends: 2mm). The copper-alloy ring is broken and distorted; it was originally closed. One or two other attachment-fittings are probably missing.

From a horse-harness?

The original photograph of the collection does not show this object.

A silver horse-harness set found in the Crimea contained a similar strap-distributor, but with three attachment fittings. Snaffles with similar fittings of bronze and iron, but with only one central attachment-rivet, have been found in a grave at Kislovodsk (north Caucasus), which Ruchin considers it to be a chieftain’s burial of the end of the 4th/beginning of the 5th century. A silver horse-harness set found in the Crimea contained a similar strap-distributor, but with three attachment fittings. Snaffles with similar fittings of bronze and iron, but with only one central attachment-rivet, have been found in a grave at Kislovodsk (north Caucasus), which Ruchin considers it to be a chieftain’s burial of the end of the 4th/beginning of the 5th century. A silver horse-harness set found in the Crimea contained a similar strap-distributor, but with three attachment fittings. Snaffles with similar fittings of bronze and iron, but with only one central attachment-rivet, have been found in a grave at Kislovodsk (north Caucasus), which Ruchin considers it to be a chieftain’s burial of the end of the 4th/beginning of the 5th century. A silver horse-harness set found in the Crimea contained a similar strap-distributor, but with three attachment fittings. Snaffles with similar fittings of bronze and iron, but with only one central attachment-rivet, have been found in a grave at Kislovodsk (north Caucasus), which Ruchin considers it to be a chieftain’s burial of the end of the 4th/beginning of the 5th century. A silver horse-harness set found in the Crimea contained a similar strap-distributor, but with three attachment fittings. Snaffles with similar fittings of bronze and iron, but with only one central attachment-rivet, have been found in a grave at Kislovodsk (north Caucasus), which Ruchin considers it to be a chieftain’s burial of the end of the 4th/beginning of the 5th century. A silver horse-harness set found in the Crimea contained a similar strap-distributor, but with three attachment fittings. Snaffles with similar fittings of bronze and iron, but with only one central attachment-rivet, have been found in a grave at Kislovodsk (north Caucasus), which Ruchin considers it to be a chieftain’s burial of the end of the 4th/beginning of the 5th century. A silver horse-harness set found in the Crimea contained a similar strap-distributor, but with three attachment fittings. Snaffles with similar fittings of bronze and iron, but with only one central attachment-rivet, have been found in a grave at Kislovodsk (north Caucasus), which Ruchin considers it to be a chieftain’s burial of the end of the 4th/beginning of the 5th century. A silver horse-harness set found in the Crimea contained a similar strap-distributor, but with three attachment fittings. Snaffles with similar fittings of bronze and iron, but with only one central attachment-rivet, have been found in a grave at Kislovodsk (north Caucasus), which Ruchin considers it to be a chieftain’s burial of the end of the 4th/beginning of the 5th century.
63 Mount, or strap-end (Pls 21, 31)

One piece composite.

A silver strip sheet with folded loop.

4th–5th century.

Silver

Prov.: ‘An-Kache (Sourcil Blanc)’ in the register (i.e. ‘White Brow’); see above, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,105 Old cat. no. 311?

Percentage of silver: 91

Size: 49 x 10mm  Weight: 3.78g

Unpublished

A strip of silver sheet folded at the centre to form a prominent loop end. There are two dome-headed attachment-rivets with flattened ends along the centre. (Thickness of strip: 0.3mm; distance between front and back-plate: 2mm; D of loop: 4mm; D of rivet-heads: 4mm; distance between the rivets: 32mm).

Imperfect.

Cat. no. 65 below is similar; no. 64 is similar, but thinner and narrower.

64 Mount, or strap-end (Pls 21, 31)

One piece composite.

Similar to cat. no. 63 above, but slightly thinner and narrower.

4th–5th century.

Silver

Prov.: ‘An-Kache (Sourcil Blanc)’ in the register (i.e. ‘White Brow’); see above, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,106 Old cat. no. 311?

Percentage of silver: 91

Size: 34 x 8mm  Weight: 1.33g

Unpublished

A strip of silver sheet folded at the centre to form a loop end. There are two dome-headed attachment-rivets with flattened ends along the centre. (Thickness of strip: 0.2mm; distance between front and back-plate: 2.5mm – slightly larger than at cat. no. 63 above; D of rivet-heads: 4mm; distance between the rivets: 15mm).

Imperfect.

Cat. nos 63–65 are similar, but wider and thicker.

65 Mount, or strap-end (Pls 21, 31)

One piece composite.

Similar to cat. no. 63 above.

4th–5th century.

Silver

Prov.: ‘An-Kache (Sourcil Blanc)’ in the register (i.e. ‘White Brow’); see above, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,107 Old cat. no. 311?

Percentage of silver: 88

Size: 31 x 10mm  Weight: 1.75g

Unpublished

Type as cat. no. 63 above, but shorter and with only one rivet.

Thickness of strip: 0.5mm, distance between front and back-plate: 2mm, D of loop: 4mm, D of rivet-heads: 4mm

Imperfect.

66 Mount (Pls 21, 31)

Single piece of composite construction.

A strip sheet of base silver with an applied gilt-silver strip.

4th–5th century (?)

Gilt-silver, base silver

Prov.: ‘An-Kache (Sourcil Blanc)’ in the register (i.e. ‘White Brow’); see above, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,103  Old cat. no. 311?

Percentage of silver: 61

Size: 115 x 13mm  Weight: 3.66g

Unpublished

A strip of base silver sheet with a gilt-silver strip attached to its top by bending each longitudinal edge of the latter around the edge of the sheet beneath (2mm is bent in).

Along the centre are six circular perforations for attachment. There are three dome-headed attachment-rivets with flattened ends. (L of rivets: 7mm; D of rivet-heads: 4mm; distance between the rivets: 15 to 28mm).

Imperfect. The rivets are missing from three of the rivet-holes.

Cat. no. 67 below is similar.

From a horse-harness?

67 Mount (Pls 21, 32)

Single piece of composite construction.

A silver strip sheet with an applied gilt-silver strip.

4th–5th century?

Gilt-silver, silver

Prov.: ‘An-Kache (Sourcil Blanc)’ in the register (i.e. ‘White Brow’); see above, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,104 Old cat. no. 311?

Percentage of silver: 96

Size: 40 x 13mm  Weight: 4.6g

Unpublished

A strip of silver sheet with a gilt-silver strip attached to its top by bending each longitudinal edge of the latter around the edge of the sheet below (similar to no. 923,7-16,103 above). (Approx. 1.5mm is bent in).

A fragment of a silver sheet strip which acted as a backing is attached by the central rivet, its width virtually the same as that of the composite strip above. (Distance between strips i.e. thickness of original strip: 3.5–4mm).

There are three dome-headed attachment-rivets with flattened ends along the centre. (L of rivets: 7mm; D of rivet-heads: 4mm, distance between the rivets: 13mm; 16mm).

Fragmentary.

Cat. no. 66 above is similar, but with no back-sheet.

68 Mount (Pls 21, 32)

Single piece.

A strip sheet of copper-silver-alloy with two perforations.

4th–5th century?

Copper-silver-alloy.

Prov.: ‘An-Kache (Sourcil Blanc)’ in the register (i.e. ‘White Brow’); see above, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,102 Old cat. no. 311?

Percentage of silver: 49

Size: 84 x 20mm  Weight: 2.18g

Unpublished

A strip of thin copper-silver-alloy sheet with two holes for attachment-rivets. Both ends are (?) cut straight. (One hole is 2.5mm from the end of the strip, the other is 30mm from the other end. D of holes: 4–5mm; 40mm between two holes.)

Fragmentary. It is damaged above one of the perforations (a small part of the strip is missing here).

Cat. no. 69 below is very similar.

Similar foils made of gold, and found in the Don region are considered as funerary horse-harness fittings by Guguev and Bezuglov1.  

Comparative Bibliography

1 Guguev and Bezuglov 1990, 172, 173, ill. 4

69 Mount (Pls 21, 32)

Single piece.

A strip sheet of copper-silver-alloy, perforated in the centre.

4th–5th century?

Copper-silver alloy

Prov.: ‘An-Kache Sourcil Blanc’ in the register (i.e. ‘White Brow’); Krym (Crimea), Ukraine

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,101 Old cat. no. 311?

Percentage of silver: 44

Size: 40 x 28mm  Weight: 1.4g

Unpublished

A strip of thin copper-silver-alloy sheet with two holes for attachment-rivets. Both ends are (?) cut straight. (One hole is 2.5mm from the end of the strip, the other is 30mm from the other end. D of holes: 4–5mm; 40mm between two holes.)

Fragmentary. It is damaged above one of the perforations (a small part of the strip is missing here).

Cat. no. 69 below is very similar.
A strip of thin copper-silver-alloy sheet with a hole for an attachment-rivet in the centre. There are traces of another perforation at the broken end. The other end is (?) cut straight.

Distance between the two perforations: 36mm, D of perforation: 4.5mm

Imperfect.

Cat. no. 68 above is similar.

From a horse-harness?

Comments see cat. no. 68 above.

Buckles

70  Buckle (Pl. 33, Colour Pl. 4)

In three pieces, one of which is composite.

The gold buckle has a rectangular plate with all-over cloisonné garnet inlays, an oval loop and faceted tongue.

End of 4th/first half of 5th century. Hunnic

Gold, garnet

Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,29  Old cat. no. 151

Percentage of gold: loop: 89% side of cell: 88

Size: L: 38.7mm  W: 21.1mm  Weight: 24.14g

Published: Damm, 1988, 124; pl. 4:7a-b

The attachment-plate is rectangular and composite, with four levels of construction. Its top is the same size as the base-plate and they are joined round the edges by a 1mm wide, rectangular gold strip soldered between them. The top consists of a frame divided by a saltire into four triangular cells. The frame is recessed into the triangular garnet inlay at the point where the tongue is hinged to the plate. There are plain gold foils beneath the garnets, which are moderately well cut, but chipped. The tops of the cell walls are burred over to secure the garnets, which has obscured any joins. (Size of attachment-plate: 14 x 12.4mm; thickness: 2.7mm; size of cells: bases of triangle: 10mm; 9.2mm which are the sides of the rectangle as well; sides of the triangles: c. 7mm; collet thickness: 1.3mm; between the triangles: 0.5mm).

The top and the back-plate are linked by the folded flap attachment and were made from the same gold sheet. There is a 2mm wide slot in the centre of the folded flap attachment to accommodate the buckle-tongue.

The back-plate of the buckle is rectangular, the same size as the top. It is fastened to the base-plate with rivets which are secured behind the base-plate, so that each rivet-head lies inside the composite unit.

(Thickness of top and flap attachment: 1mm; thickness of back-plate: 0.7mm, D of rivet-heads: 0.8mm; distance between them: 11.2mm).

The loop is oval of solid gold and octagonal in section. It is thickest at the centre and narrows towards the ends where it is secured by the folded flap attachment. It is not possible to tell from surface examination to what extent the loop was cast to shape. It has a butt joint concealed by the tongue, so it could have been entirely worked.

(Size of loop: W: 18.7mm; L: 21mm; D from 5.5mm to 3mm).

The tongue is club-shaped, heptagonal in section and faceted. Its end is sharply hooked about 4mm over the loop. The base is cut off where the attachment-hook of the tongue is connected; there are two engraved lines here. This hook is in the form of a rectangular-section strip narrowing towards the end and is formed from the same piece as the tongue. The tongue gives no surface indication of its techniques of manufacture. (Size of tongue: L: 25.5mm; point D: 2.5mm; base D: 6mm; thickness: from 2mm to 1.3mm).

See Pl. 33 for construction.

It is in good condition.

Shoe-, sword-, or belt-buckle.

Many similar buckles have been found in the region of the Hunnic empire. According to Bóna they were worn during a single generation in the second third of the 5th century (425–455) in Pannonia and its neighbourhood by the military aristocracy associated with the Hunnic empire. They functioned as belt-, sword-, or shoe-buckles. There is a wide range of buckles of this type varying in the exact shape of the attachment-plate, garnet inlays, loop and tongue, number of attachment-rivets, etc. The closest parallels are the gold examples with rectangular buckle-plates and flat garnet inlays such as that from Novgorigrorskvea (Ukraine) in the Hermitage. Its tongue is missing. These buckles from Kerch (find of 24 June 1904) with a similar feature of the frame recessed into the garnet inlay where the tongue is hinged to the plate. Zasetskaya and Kovalevskaya dated these buckles to the end of the 4th/first half of the 5th century. But in Aibabin’s opinion, according to the comparative pieces from Kerch, the buckle from the Berthier-Delagarde Collection cannot be dated earlier than the 7th century. There is a buckle with a flat, rectangular garnet inlay from Kerch in the Massoneau Collection, Cologne, dated to the first half of the 7th century by Damm. The buckle from Jedrzychowice (Höckricht, Poland) has triangular settings, while the one from Wolfsheim (Germany) is decorated with a different sort of rectangular inlay. A buckle in the Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum (Budapest) has four square settings.

In most cases similar buckles with rectangular attachment-plates belonged to women according to Bóna.20

Comparative Bibliography

1  Bóna 1991, 100–1, 252–4; ill.39 has a distribution map of the Pannonian pieces

2  Minaeva 1927 91–123; 1993, 90–1, 228–9, ill. 39; Alföldi 1932, 62, 78; pl. XXII:20

3  Spitsin 1905, 118, ill.12, 16 (silver with gold settings); Zasetskaya 1979, 5–17; pl.3:62, 63, 6; 1993, 56–7, pl. 26:103; 1994, 165, pl. 5:10

4  Kovalevskaya 1979, 16; pl. II:3

5  Alföldi below

6  Damm 1888, 101; ill.31–2

7  Werner 1956, pl. 27:3, 64:9

8  Werner 1956, 124; pl. 4:7-a-b

9  Inv. no. 5.1886.2; Alföldi 1932, 85–8; pl. XXXIV:12; Bóna 1991, 100–1, ill. 39, 253 no. 14; 1993, 90–1–ill. 39, 228 no. 4

10  Bóna 1991, 291; 1993, 261

71  Buckle-tongue (Pl. 34)

Single piece, of composite construction. Cast, gold, club-shaped tongue.

End of 4th/first half of the 5th century. Hunnic

Gold

Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,4  Old cat. no. 81

Percentage of gold: 92

Iridium, osmium and ruthenium inclusions in the metal indicate the use of alluvial gold.

Size: L: 22.5mm; with hook: 25mm  Weight: 6.55g

Unpublished

The tongue is cast with some working, and is of circular section, narrowing towards the end where it is bent at a sharp angle to fit over the loop. Its terminal is obliquely cut off, and is decorated with three oblique engraved lines on each side meeting at the centre in a V-shape. At its base the tongue is flattened to a semicircular-section where the attachment-hook is soldered on. The base is decorated across the top with a line of seven small, faceted triangles which interlock between two pairs of semicircular moulded ribs. The decoration was cast in but has been accentuated with an abrading tool. (D of base: 5.5mm; end: 3.5mm).

The attachment-hook is a U-shaped strip with a rectangular section. It has been shaped by hammering and has a deliberately cut end. (W of attachment-hook: 2mm).

The loop is missing.

The original photographs of the collection do not show this object.

This tongue belongs to a Hunnic type of gold buckle, typical of the first half of the 5th century, which functioned as belt-, sword- or shoe-buckles. The main characteristics of this type are: a garnet-inlaid attachment-plate; a loop which is slightly oval or circular, with a faceted or circular section; and a tongue which is club-shaped with a circular or faceted section and with its end bent over the loop at a sharp angle. The tongue is often decorated at its end and at its base with various engraved or faceted ornaments like the present piece.

According to Zasetskaya similar buckles from Kerch can be dated from the end of the 4th to the beginning of the 5th century. Kovalevskaya gives a similar dating. But according to Aibabin the Kerch graves must be dated from the beginning of the 5th century. In Bóna’s opinion, in Pannonia and in its neighbourhood, such buckles were worn during a single generation (425–455) by the military aristocracy associated with the Hunnic empire. Damm dates the parallels in the Diegardt
Collection to the first half of the 5th century. Buckles of this type from different findspots are also published by Alföldi, Werner and Bakay.

**Comparative Bibliography**

1. Zasetskaya 1979, 5–17
2. Kovalevskaya 1979, 15–16, pls I:6–9, II:2, 3
3. Aibabin below
4. Böna 1991, 100–102, 252–4, ill. 39 gives a distribution map of Pannonian examples; Böna 1993, 90–1, 228–9, ill. 39
7. Werner 1956, 124, pls 4:11a, b; 7a, b; 27:3, 64:9
8. Bakay 1978, 149–72, IIs 3:12–4, 4:2–4

**72. Buckle (Pls 34–35, Colour Pl. 1)**

In three pieces, one of which is composite. Miniature gold buckle has a semicircular plate decorated with a flat garnet, an oval loop and tongue.


Inv. no. 1923,7:16,58 Old cat. no. 223

Percentage of gold: 84

Size: L: 16mm W: 15mm Weight: 2.64g

Published: Tait 1986, 103, 247, ill. 226d; GHA 1987, (Kidd) 112, ill. 1, 16.0; Kazanski 1994, 144, pl. 5:9

The attachment-plate is semicircular and of composite construction. A single strip forming a semicircular collet is soldered onto the top of the base-plate and contains a flat garnet filling the surface area of the plate. The top of the collet is folded inwards to secure the garnet. There is no foil visible beneath the garnet. (Size of garnet plate: H: 10.4mm; W: 6.8mm; collet H: 2.7mm; thickness: 0.7mm).

The base-plate and the back-plate are linked by the folded flap attachment and were made from the same sheet gold. The folded flap attachment is 9mm wide with a 2.2mm slot cut in the centre to accommodate the attachment-hook of the buckle-tongue.

The back-plate is almost rectangular in shape with the end rounded off to match the end of the base-plate. The base-plate and the back-plate are held together by a central attachment-rivet. The rivet is secured behind the base-plate, so that the head lies inside the composite unit. (Size of base-plate: L: 8mm; W: 6mm; thickness: 0.2mm).

The loop is oval in shape and made from a circular-section wire. It is stepped at each end to fit within the folded flap attachment (L: 15mm; W: 7mm; thickness: 1.7mm).

The tongue is of gold strip with a flattened D-shaped section which becomes narrower inside the flap attachment. The point of the tongue is bent over the loop. The other end is bent to form an attachment-hook underneath. Its base is grooved crosswise. (Size of tongue: L: 9mm; W: 2.5mm).

It is in good condition.

Purse-, sword- or shoe-buckle.

There is a small buckle with its plate forming a kidney-shaped setting and with a slightly differently shaped loop and tongue in the Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, Budapest. Buckles like this were possibly the Hunnic antecedents of the type in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection.

There is a similar miniature buckle from Flonheim (Germany), but with a kidney-shaped plate and setting. According to Ament this is a component part of a purse-mount with two opposed birds' heads, which also very much resembles the garnet-inlaid mounts mentioned in no. 24 A–C. The buckle from Flonheim is said to be Frankish still preserving Hunnic characteristics by Fettich. A similar purse-fitting from Schwarzzeindorf (Germany) has similar birds' heads and a semicircular inlay above the buckle. It is therefore possible that the Berthier-Delagarde buckle also belonged to a purse, decorated with inlaid mounts similar to cat. no. 24 A–C. Ament dates this type of inlaid purse-mount to the early Merovingian period (first half of the 6th century).

There is also a miniature buckle with a semicircular plate and setting from Kudnitov (Bylum, south Russia, Black Sea region), but with a rectangular loop. It is dated to the Hunnic period by Fettich. Aibabin also dates this type of buckle to the 5th century.

**Comparative Bibliography**

1. Alföldi 1932, 88, pl. XXXIV:45 Diner 1890 – Catalog 9, no. 12, pl. 11:7; Böna 1993, 256 no. 3, pl. XXVI:3
3. Fettich 1953, 53–4, pl. XXXII:5
4. Ament op. cit., ill. 6
5. Ament op. cit., 69
6. Fettich 1953, 45, 72, pl. XXXVIII:8
7. Aibabin below

**73. Buckle (Pl. 36)**

In three pieces, one of which is composite. The gilt-silver buckle has a heart-shaped plate with a bird's head terminal in profile. The loop is kidney-shaped. The tongue has a basal cube and animal-head terminal.


Inv. no. 1923,7:16,52 Old cat. no. 213

Percentage of silver: 93: back

Size (overall): L: 47mm Weight: (total): 18.57g

W: 33mm Loop and tongue: 14.32g Plate: 4.25g

Published: Dalton 1924a, 262, pl. XXXII:2 reproduced from Dalton 1924b

The attachment-plate is gilt-silver, cast, flat and heart-shaped, with a bird's head terminal in profile. The neck of the bird is formed by multiple moulded ribs. The eye is represented by a perforation containing an orange carnelian cabochon secured by a silver strip around it, visible only from the back. There are small incisions in the metal which radiate from the inlay. There is a perforation directly below the bird's head, perhaps for an attachment-rivet.

The folded flap attachment is made from the same sheet as the attachment-plate. Fragments of the folded flap attachment are fastened to the loop. (Size of attachment-plate: 24 x 23mm; thickness: 2.5mm; D of inlay: 3mm; D of perforation for rivet: 2mm; remains of folded flap attachment: two 2mm wide and 0.5mm thick strips).

The loop is kidney-shaped with a plain tongue-rest and is gilded all over, including the back. The ends of the loop are stepped and joined by a thick rod to secure the folded flap attachment. (Tongue-rest: 32 x 23.5mm; rod: from 9 to 7mm; under the folded flap attachment: 3mm).

The tongue has a solid cast curb at the base, then a triangular section, and ends in an animal-head terminal which bends over the loop. The attachment-hook of the tongue, cast in one with it, is of rectangular section and hammered to shape. (Tongue: L: 22.5mm; W: 7.5mm; thickness: 5mm; attachment-hook: W: 2.5mm).

The folded flap attachment is broken and incomplete, and the backplate is missing.

On the original photograph the folded flap attachment is still connected to the attachment-plate.

This type of buckle shows Byzantine and Germanic influences. The loop is of Byzantine type, while the plate and tongue show Germanic characteristics. Similar buckles have been found in the Crimea, mostly in Kerch.1 A loop and tongue with similar features were found in Cherson, but there is no evidence for the shape of the attachment-plate. In Zasetskaya's chronological system it is grouped amongst the buckles of the late 5th/early 6th century.2 A silver buckle with a similar bird-head terminal was found in south Russia and is now in the collection of F.L. von Gans, in Berlin.3 According to the typology of Kovalevskaya they were made in the 5th–6th centuries.4 Aibabin dates them to the first half of the 6th century,5 but according to Ambroz's chronology these buckles belong to the 6th–7th century.6

**Comparative Bibliography**

1. Aibabin 1990, 37, 218 ill. 305 (Kerch 1907, grave 78); same in: Shkoripil 1904, p. 33 ill. 10; Aibabin 1982, 177; Kovalevskaya 1979, 43, pl. XX:18 (Kerch); Ambroz 1970, 70–4; 72 ill. 21:3 (I said to be from Simferopol, but possibly from Kerch; 3 from Kerch)
2. Zasetskaya 1990, 97–106 ill. 1:40
4. Kovalevskaya op. cit., pl. 5
5. Aibabin 1990, 37, 218 ill. 305
6. Ambroz op. cit., 71

**74. Buckle (Pl. 36)**

In two pieces. The gilded base silver buckle has an oval attachment-plate with chip-carved scrolwork, and an oval loop with ribbed decoration.
The cast, oval front plate is of gilded base silver. It has a rebate, kidney-shaped panel decorated with chip-carved scrollwork within a grooved border. The scrollwork consists of two groups of four confronted spirals in a cruciform pattern, symmetrically arranged, one in either lobe of the kidney. The two groups are separated by a chip-carved rectangle in the centre of the plate. There is a double-grooved line which is transparently notched to resemble beaded wire forming a rib all around the edge of the kidney-shaped. (Size of top plate: 40 x 23mm).

There is a flange, 3.5mm high and 2mm wide, projecting all around the edge of the back, which is otherwise flat.

The front and the back plate are linked by the folded flap attachment and made out of the same piece of metal. The folded flap attachment is a 20mm wide strip with a 4.5mm wide slot to accommodate the buckle-tongue.

The back-plate has an irregular shape with the end of the broken end of a copper-ally (? rivet going through the centre of the front plate. (Size of back-plate: 12 x 21mm; 1.8mm thick).

Three peripheral attachment-lugs are cast on the edge of the plate. One contains a copper-ally attachment-rivet. (D: 3.2mm; H of lug the same as the flange of the plate).

The loop is gilded base silver and cast in one piece. It is oval in shape with a flattened rectangular section. The tongue-rest is plain and of rectangular section and on either side of it is a sunken panel extending around the loop, which is decorated with a double-grooved rib running along it. The ribs are transversely notched in a dense pattern matching those bordering the attachment-plate. Each panel has a high border all round it, with forming a rectangular shoulder at each end. The ends are stepped down to a circular-section hinge-bar through the folded flap attachment. The bar is slightly thicker in the centre, where the tongue was attached. (Size of loop: 39 x 19mm; W at sunken panels: 6.5mm; H: 3mm; tongue-rest: 7 x 4.5; H: 2mm; rod: L: 21mm; D: 2mm; D in the centre: 3mm).

There are traces of heavy wear on the inner edge of the loop, particularly on one side.

One of the attachment-lugs is broken; the loop is damaged and the tongue is missing. Only the rebated panels preserve the gilding now, and it is probable that the whole buckle was originally gilded. The attachment-rivet through the centre of the front plate may be secondary.

An early 20th-century photograph from the Simferopol Archives (Dalton 1924b, 262, pl. XXXVII:21 and the register show the buckle associated with a tongue presumably of gilt-silver with two rectangular inlays (possibly garnets) on the cube at its base. The present location of this tongue is unknown. However the buckle is now associated with a non-matching tongue which is of copper alloy (now no. 79; former Inv. no. 1923,7-16, 47b; new Inv. no. OA 16065).

According to Ambroz similar buckles were made by Germanic tribes of the Danube region and further west in the late 5th/first half of the 6th century who adopted the technique of chip-carving from the Late-Danubian region and further west in the late 5th/first half of the 6th century. 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The Berthier-Delagarde Collection of Crimean Jewellery in the British Museum and Related Material

Andrási

76 Buckle (Pl. 38)

Consists of two pieces. Gilt-copper-alloy buckle has a circular plate decorated with chip-carved, punched and incised, geometric ornament. D-shaped loop. Mid-4th to mid-5th century. Late-Roman. Gilt copper alloy, leaded gunmetal, traces of iron Inv. no. 1923,7-16,112 Old cat. no. 272 Size: 74 x 52.5mm Weight: 62.77g Unpublished

The attachment-plate is gilt copper-alloy (mercury-gilded) and circular. The front plate consists of a cast disc decorated in the centre south-west carved, the peripheral traces of proof, axial point with five six punched dots in the middle. There are stamped triangles between each petal with all-rolling inside them. The central motif is surrounded by concentric lines of decoration forming a broad zone around it. The flower-motif is surrounded by six of the same kind of petal-pattern. This motif can also be seen as six conjoined triangles in a hexagonal arrangement with the petals as the sides of each triangle. There are similar ribbed triangles around this outer petal-pattern, which are surrounded by stamped ring-and-dots. Around it is a line of punched double-triangles which is surrounded by another row of ring-and-dots (the same as the one above). The decoration is framed by an incised line all around the edge. (Size of front plate: D: 46mm; thickness: 2mm; size of petals: 8 x 3mm; sides of stamped triangles: 2mm; D of stamped rings: 1.7mm).

The front and back-plates are linked by the folded flap attachment and were made from the same sheet. The folded flap attachment is rectangular with a slot cut in the centre to accommodate the buckle-tongue, and folded over. It is decorated with punched dots. (Size of folded flap attachment: W: 19mm; slot W: 6.5mm; D:8mm).

The back-plate is made by hammering and cutting to shape, thereby obtaining a thin sheet of the same size and shape as the buckle-plate.

Both the front and back-plates are perforated for attachment-rivers through the centre, and at three points around the edge in a triangular arrangement. A copper-alloy attachment-rivert survives in one of the four holes. (D of perforations: 1.5mm; rivet D: 1mm; L: 6mm).

The buckle-loop is D-shaped and made from a solid copper-alloy rod which is a leaded gunmetal. There are iron fragments on its surface in the slot of the folded flap attachment which represent the remains of an iron tongue. (Size of loop: 52 x 20mm; D of rod: 6mm).

There are traces of corrosion on the back-plate. The tongue is missing. The gilding is imperfect. Most of the attachment-riverts are missing.

The buckle has a rectangular loop ribbed and moulded as two confronted birds’ heads with garnet inlays. The tongue has a garnet-inlaid basal cube and animal-head terminal. 5th–6th century. Ponric–Byzantine. Gold, gilt copper alloy, garnet Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1894 Inv. no. 1923,7-16,45 Old cat. no. 164 Size: 39 x 43mm Weight: 38.03g Published: Dalton 1924a, 262, pl. XXXVII:ii, reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Werner 1974a, 652, Abb. 3; 2; Aibabin 1990, pl. 22:9

The cast loop is rectangular and of D-shaped section, the back being flat. There is a cabochon garnet inlay in a heavy cast circular collet in each corner, and cast ribbed decoration across the two shorter sides. From each of the two collets at the front projects a cast lunate setting containing a flat garnet, so forming two confronted birds’ heads. There is a gold foil beneath these garnets. (Size of loop: 38.5 x 43mm; D of cabochon settings: 10mm; D of garnets: 7mm; W of ribs: 1mm. Size of garnet plates: L: 6mm; W: 4mm).

The tongue has a cast basal cube inlaid with a flat, rectangular garnet and a tip cast in the form of an animal head. The animal’s ears are formed by two lentoid hollows, originally inlaid with traces of a gold foil, which remains in one of them. The eyes were originally represented by two cylindrical holes set with cabochon garnets, but these are now missing. The nose is emphasised by a finely engraved s-shape on the end. (Size of tongue: L: 35mm; W: 10mm; sides of basal cube: 8mm; 8.5mm; rectangular garnet: 15x 5.5mm; lentoid settings: 3.5 x 7.5mm; D of cylindrical settings: 2.7mm).

The attachment-hook is cast in one with the tongue and is situated beneath the basal cube. (L: 12mm; thickness: 4mm).

The tongue is imperfect, the garnets of the terminal are missing and the gilding is imperfect. One side of the loop is broken.

The two cabochon eyes of the animal-headed terminal, which appear on the original photograph of the museum, are now missing. According to Werner this is an early Byzantine type of buckle of the first half of the 6th century. A buckle from Wachendorf (Germany) is also made of copper alloy and has traces of gilding, but the inlays are all missing. There is a similar buckle from Syria in the Kofer-Truniger Collection, Lucerne (Switzerland), which is also made of copper-alloy and has inlays with gilt-bronze foils beneath them. There is a similar copper-alloy buckle from Kalna (Slovakia) and another from an unknown provenance with a Christian symbol on its plate in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. A gilt-copper-alloy buckle-tongue of the same type was found in Pilisszart (Hungary). A similar buckle, but with a circular base to its tongue, was found in a chamber grave at Kerch on 24 June, 1904. It is dated to the end of the 4th/first half of the 5th century by Zasetskaya. In 1991 a very similar buckle was found by chance near the river Kuban in Krasnodar (Russia). It is of copper alloy and decorated with red inlays (possibly garnets). It is of particular importance as its attachment-plate survives, which is cross-shaped with a folded flap attachment at one end. The arms of the cross are ribbed and there is a central, rectangular inlay at the crossing. The attachment-plate is further decorated with three kidney-shaped settings, one at the end of each arm of the cross. The buckle is dated to the second half of the 5th century by Pryanov. There are two similar copper-alloy buckles with traces of gilding and garnet plate inlays in private collections in New York: one in the Ariadne Galleries and the other in the Phillips Family Collection. According to Bálint this type of bird-headed decoration is of Byzantine origin. The motif of two opposed birds’ heads appears also on the upper part of some Late-Avar belt-fittings and is rooted in the Late-Antique art of the 5th–6th century. Iron buckles with the same features from the Alamanic region at Mengen (Germany) and Basel-Kleinhenninghausen, grave 199 (Switzerland) are local imitations of the original early Byzantine ones according to Werner.

Comparative Bibliography

1 Werner 1974a, 654, 656–7, with references to the parallel pieces
2 Werner op. cit., ill. 2:1
3 Werner op. cit., ills 2:3, 3:1
4 Werner op. cit., ills 2:4
5 Werner op. cit., ill. 3:3
6 Werner op. cit., ill. 3:4
7 Zasetskaya 1979, pl. 3:64; 1990, 97–106; ill. 1:27; 1993, 58–9, pl. 77

Comparative bibliography

1 Aibabin 1990, ill. 38:22; 23
2 Bóna 1993, 262–3, pl. XXX
3 Inv. no. 1909,803
4 Zasetskaya 1979, pl. 3:64; 1990, 97–106; ill. 1:27; 1993, 58–9, pl. 3:3
5 Werner 1974a, 652, Abb. 3; 2; Aibabin 1990, pl. 22:9
6 Werner 1974a, 654, 656–7, with references to the parallel pieces
17 Böhme 1974, 77; 250; 251, pls 41:1; 40:1-6
18 Madyda-Legutko 1978, 3–16 – with list of related literature
19 Dalston 1924a, 262, pl. XXXVII:ii, reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Werner 1974a, 652, Abb. 3; 2; Aibabin 1990, pl. 22:9
20 Werner 1974a, 654, 656–7, with references to the parallel pieces
21 Werner op. cit., ill. 2:1
22 Werner op. cit., ills 2:3, 3:1
23 Werner op. cit., ills 2:4
24 Werner op. cit., ill. 3:3
25 Werner op. cit., ill. 3:4
26 Werner op. cit., ill. 3:4
27 Zasetskaya 1979, pl. 3:64; 1990, 97–106; ill. 1:27; 1993, 58–9, pl.
In three pieces, one of which is composite.

Copper-alloy buckle has an oval plate with red and green glass inlays and punched decoration. The loop is oval and the tongue club-shaped. 6th-7th century. Provincial Byzantine.

Copper alloy (brass), copper, red glass, green glass.
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1900
Inv. no. 1923.7-16,60 Old cat. no. 225
Size: 45 x 38.5mm
Weight: 38.37g
Published: Aibain 1979, 31, fig. 213; Aibain 1990, 37, pl. 37:17; Kazan 1994, p.155, pl. 15:4

The buckle has been chemically stripped at some time in its history, leaving the surface clean of any plating or corrosion products.

The inlays and back-plate are damaged.

Very similar buckles with oval plates and glass inlays in cruciform patterns have been found in south Russia. They are products of provincial Byzantine workshops. Aibain dates them to the 6th/first half of the 7th century.

There are similar buckles from the Caucasus region: one from Baital-Chapkan, grave no. 20, is considered to be Alanic and dated to the 5th century by Minaeva. She dates the buckle to the 6th century by Voronov, to the second half of the 6th/first half of the 7th century, and Ambroz to the 7th century. According to Afanas'ev the buckle is a similar buckle from Mokraya Balka (Caucasus) can be dated to the second half of the 5th/first half of the 6th century.

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Comparative bibliography
1 Ambroz 1971, ill. 6:9, Koivaleska 1979, 10; pl. IV:4; 1993, 112; pl. 1:21; Voronov 1975, 28 ill. 21:3; Afanas'ev 1979, 180 ill. 102; 1986, ill. 1:22; Greifenhagen 1975, pl. 79–7 – Collection of F.L. von Gans
2 Aibain 1979, 31; 1990, 37
3 Voronov 1975, 78–9
4 Ambroz 1971, 110
around it. The tongue-rest is plain, 11.5mm wide, with a rectangular-section shoulder on either side of it. The loop is decorated with a pattern of cast, longitudinal ribbing with a line of S-scrolls beneath it. Two cylindrical collets, possibly for glass inlays, are cast on each end of the loop. (Size of loop: 60 x 42mm; 10mm thick; 5mm high; rod L: 28mm; D: 2.8mm; remains of attachment to the plate: 0.3mm thick; 6mm and 4mm wide silver strips).

The tongue is cast, with a hollow V-shaped section, and multiple ribbing at the base. It has moulded features at the terminal representing a stylised animal-head. (Tongue, L: 48W: 9.5mm).

The folded flap attachment is broken, three of the glass inlays are missing and the tongue is damaged.

The original photograph of the collection does not show this object.

There is a wide range of eagle-headed buckles from the Crimea and the Danube region, which may be divided into three different groups: 1) the Danubian type made by Gepid workshops. They have a square plate with a large inlay in the centre surrounded by smaller settings; the neck of the bird-shaped terminal is semicircular and the folded flap attachment is very small; 2) the south Crimean type. They are usually quite large with a large folded flap attachment and neck section. Aibabin and Ambroz distinguish further variants within this type according to the length of the folded flap attachment, those with the shortest and widest attachment being the earliest variants; 3) the Bosporan type. This type is smaller than the south Crimean variants, and the loop has only a single row of decoration. The Berthier-Delagarde buckle belongs to the third group, examples of which have been found in Kerch, Eski-Kermen and Huruzu (Guruzu). Another from Iatrus (Krivina, Bulgaria) probably also belongs to this group and there is a buckle of the type in the Ashmolean Museum from Kerch. Salin published an unprovenanced example from the Crimea.

The earliest literature does not distinguish between the different types: Shkorpil dated them to the 3rd–4th century. But according to Götz’s typology the buckles from Kerch and Suuk-Su (south Crimea) belong to the same group and should be dated to the end of the 6th/ beginning of the 7th century. There is a basic disagreement now over the chronology of the eagle-headed buckles. According to one theory they were manufactured and used from the mid-5th century. Bôna dates the Crimean pieces between the mid-5th and the early 7th century, but mainly to the second half of the 6th. Only a few Crimean-type buckles are found outside of the Crimea (Fundâtura [Kijeniș], Romania; and Kovín and Sîrma, former Yugoslavia). They served as a model for the Gepid workshops during the Ostrogothic era. According to a second theory, the Crimean pieces copied Danubian prototypes. Its proponents, Aibabin and Ambroz, date both Crimean types to the end of the 6th–7th century and the south Crimean ones from the mid-6th up to the end of the 7th. According to Pudovin the buckles from Kerch should be dated earlier, to the end of the 7th/beginning of the 6th century, while the south Crimean ones should be later, in the second half of the 6th/first half of the 7th century. Matsulevich’s chronology is very similar: he considers the pieces from Kerch as 5th-century products based on Greco-Sarmatian, Scythian tradition, and used as prototypes for the 6th–7th-century south Crimean variants. According to M. Rusu most of the eagle-headed buckles were made in Kerch from the beginning of the 6th century. Therefore the buckles found in Kerch would be the earliest pieces.

A large number of eagle-headed buckles are published by Repnikov.

Comparative bibliography

1 Aibabin 1990, 33–4; also mentions Ambroz’s Doct. Diss. 1974, 225, 226, 265, 279.
2 Götz 1913, pl. IX; Matsulevich 1933, pl. II; Aibabin 1990, 214, pl. 35-4
3 Aibabin 1990, 214, pl. 35; 1
4 Huruzu?, Götz 1907, pl. X, 1, 2
5 Gomelska 1966, no. 7, 300, 340; pl. X, 7–2 according to his theory the buckle from Iatrus was made by a Bosporan workshop. Goryunov and Kazanski 1983, 199; ill. 1:18— they consider it as Gepid type, made before the end of the 6th century.
6 Inv. no. 100.970—Kerch 1886, Sir John Evans Collection, presented to the Ashmolean by Sir Arthur Evans in 1909
7 Salin 1904, 197; ill. 477
8 Shkorpil 1907, 1-2
9 Götz 1913, 33; pls. VIII—XI
10 Bôna 1974, 50-51; pls 13-15
11 Rusu 1959, 491, ill. 5; Roth 1979, ill. 53b
12 Rusu 1959, 38; ill. 12
13 Rusu 1959, 495; ill. 7:1
15 Ambroz 1968, 10–17
16 Pudovin 1961, 184; ill. 1; 1962, 146
17 Matsulevich 1926, 41–53
18 Rusu 1959, 485–523 (with illustrations of buckles from Koreiz, Nikopol, Suuk-Su, Artëk, Chufut-Kale)
19 Repnikov 1906, pl. VIII:1; 3; 4; 5; pl. IX:2; 5; 7; 8; 9; 50 ill. 34; 70 ill. 48; Repnikov 1907, pl. III: 2; 3; 5

81 Buckle (Pl. 42)

Originally in three pieces, two of which are composite.

The silver buckle has a rectangular plate with a bird’s-head terminal in profile, scrollwork decoration and garnet inlays. The loop is oval, the tongue is hollow and has an animal-head terminal. End of the 6th—beginning of the 7th century. Ostrogothic.

Silver, copper, copper alloy, garnet.

Inv. no. 1923, 7-16, 113 Old cat. no. 315
Percentage of silver: tongue: 74 main part: 82
Size: originally possibly 127 x 60mm Weight: 37.35g

Unpublished

The rectangular, silver attachment-plate is cast and then cleaned up. It may originally have been gilded and some additional tooling of the cast relief design may have been done at this stage. It is decorated with concentric zones forming a frame around the centre. There are four cast, cylindrical collets, each containing a circular cabochon garnet inlay, one in each corner. There are traces of a copper-alloy base or foil beneath two of the garnets. The plate has small perforations beneath the other two inlays. The collets are connected by a double-grooved line along the edge of the rectangle, which borders a frame of cast scrollwork containing conjoined, confronted spirals. It has a double, incised line border on the inside edge framing the central panel, which is now missing. There are silver attachment-rivets at each corner of the scrollwork frame, three of which are missing. The plate has a terminal in the form of a bird’s head in profile with an incised, ‘herring-bone’ pattern on the neck and a cabochon garnet in a cast, cylindrical collet forming the eye. The garnet has no base or foil. There is a perforation in the plate next to the eye, perhaps for a rivet attachment. (Size of the plate originally possibly: 42 x 49mm; D of garnets: 5mm; H: 1-2mm; collet H: 2mm; D of perforation: 2.5mm).

Two silver rivets fix a separate, copper, folded flap attachment to the plate, which consists of a rectangular sheet with a slot cut in the centre to accommodate the buckle-tongue. (W of folded flap attachment under the plate: 26mm; W of its loop: 10mm).

The back of the attachment-plate is plain with a flanged edge all round, except for a 2.5mm section where the loop-attachment was connected to it. (Size of flange: W: 1.5mm; H: 3.5mm).

The oval buckle-loop is cast in one piece and is of broad, rectangular section, stepped at each end to form an integral, thin, circular-section rod for attachment to the plate. The decoration of the loop starts at a rectangular-section shoulder on either side of the tongue-rest and consists of a cast border of longitudinal ribbing with a cast, foliate, tendril ornament beneath it and an animal-head terminal at each end. The eye of each head is formed by a cabochon garnet in a cast, cylindrical collet (sizes are the same as above), and the nose (or bead?) is suggested by V-shaped engravings. The tongue-rest is plain. (Size of loop: 58 x 39mm; W: 10mm; H: 2mm; D of rod: 2.5mm; tongue-rest: 9.5 x 11mm; H: 1.5mm).

The cast buckle-tongue is of hollow V-section. It is decorated with a line of seven interlocking, chip-carved triangles at the base and has an animal-head terminal with moulded features including very prominent domed eyes (L: 47mm; W: 15mm). The 1.6% of gold detected on the end of the tongue suggests that the buckle was originally gilded but has been heavily cleaned. Damaged, very fragmentary.

cat. no. 80 is a broadly similar eagle-headed buckle, but differs
82 Buckle (Pl. 43)

In three pieces, each of which is composite. Silver-copper-alloy buckle has a pentagonal plate decorated with clear glass cabochons, scrollwork and animal-head decoration. The loop is oval, the tongue is hollow.

Second half of the 6th/first half of the 7th century. Ostrogothic. Silver-copper alloy, copper alloy (brass), copper, glass, Prov.: Suuk-Su, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1899

Inv. no. 1923,7–16,71 Old cat. no. 286

The three main components were cast. The attachment-plate is of a silver-copper alloy, pentagonal and has a rounded end. Six high cylindrical collets have been cast on as part of the plate, their bases partly projecting from each angle as a lobe. They project from round the edge, three on each side, and each contains a clear glass cabochon. Calice was identified in the backing paste. The decoration of the plate consists of chip-carved scrollwork on the terminal, multiple incised ribsing in the centre and incised animal heads in profile at the sides. The scrollwork consists of four pairs of spirals, each forming a figure-of-three shape of two opposed scrolls. Two of the pairs are right at the rounded end of the terminal with an incised line between them. The other two are above them between two of the cylindrical collets and are framed by double grooves above and below, triple grooves on the left and four on the right. Between the upper and middle collets the buckle is decorated with transverse, multiple grooves and a stylised animal (bird?) head on each side, their eyes indicated by drop shapes and the jaws (beaks?) by curved multiple grooves side by side. Between the last two grooves is a wide rib which forms the neck of the animal (or bird). This continues as a frame for the zone of incised ribs between the lower and middle collets and the top of the scrollwork. There is another rib alongside the wider one which connects the two upper collets and separates the undecorated folded flap attachment from the plate.

These two ribs (a wide and a thin one) form the sides of a sub-rectangle in the centre of the plate which has all-over, transversely incised ribs. There is an applied quatrefoil of four conjoined tear-shaped collets on a separate base-plate at the centre. It is attached by two copper-alloy rivets and may be secondary since it covers the decoration underneath it. It probably contained four glass inlays. (Size of the plate: 134 x 65mm; thickness: 1.8mm; collet of inlays: H: 15mm; D: 11mm; cabochon H: 1.3mm).

The buckle-plate has a flanged edge creating a raised border around the back.

The folded flap attachment is formed of the same piece as the plate. It is extremely long and rectangular in shape with a rectangular slot in the middle. (Folded flap attachment: 28 x 33mm; W of slot: 4mm).

There are base silver and copper strip attachment-fittings on the back and four strips forming the sides of a square behind the upper half of the plate. The ends of the strips overlap behind the upper and middle cylindrical collets. A shorter (fragmentary?) copper strip is attached from behind to the strip on the left. There is a base silver strip attached to one of the upper corners behind the copper-alloy strip by using the same rivet as for the attachment to the plate. There is a base silver strip behind the terminal of the plate attached to three layers of strips: fragments of a copper-alloy strip; another copper-alloy strip of the same size as the silver strip, and a shorter base silver strip (broken-off end of the other base silver strip?) attached to its top. There are two circular perforations (rivet-holes?) at one end of the copper-alloy strip.

Two types of attachment-rivet were used in the whole construction. One is for holding the copper-alloy and silver strips together behind the terminal of the plate. The rivet-ends are turned in on the back and two of them survive inserted from the upper surface of the silver strip at its ends. The other type is used for fixing the strips to the plate. They are inserted from the upper surface of the plate, and the rivet-ends are bent round to form loops on the back. Four of them are attached to the upper half of the plate in a rectangular arrangement, one at each overlapping end of the loops. Another (fifth) rivet of this type fixes the ten strips to the terminal of the plate. (Size of the strips: W: 14–16mm; L: 49–57mm; D of rivet-heads: 5mm; thickness: 1.5mm).

The loop is oval with a tongue-rest in the middle. It is decorated with multiple, transverse grooves between two incised, longitudinal lines. There are four cylindrical collets (possibly for glass inlays), one on either side of the tongue-rest and one at each end. Here each collet forms the eye of a schematic animal head in profile, recognisable only from its earlier Late-Antique and Ostrogothic prototypes. One of the collets has been applied by an attachment-rivet, the others were cast in one with the loop. The two squared-off ends of the loop are connected by a copper-alloy (brass) bar which passes through the folded flap attachment. It has circular ends by means of which it is fastened to the loop by a copper rivet at each end. The rivet-ends are burred over. (Size of loop: 68 x 52,5mm; W: 8–14mm; H of collets: 6mm; D: 7mm; thickness of the bar for folded flap attachment: 3mm).

The hollow, profiled tongue is decorated with zones of all-over, transverse grooving separated by longitudinal ribs, and there are three incised, transverse lines on the point and 22mm away from it. There is a large, moulded projection on the base cast together with the tongue. The attachment-loop of the tongue consists of a separate, rectangular-section strip. One end of it passes through a perforation at the base of the tongue, and is filed across and hammered flat to butt it over for attachment. (Tongue L: 67mm; W: 7–13mm; thickness of the attachment-loop: 1.5mm; D of the rivet: 3,5mm).

The composition, decoration and technique of the buckle are very crude as may be seen from the fact that the rivet-holes were drilled through the incised decoration, while the quatrefoil collet covers the carving in the centre. It is in poor condition and only two of the inlays survive.

Similar buckles have been found in the Crimea: at Chufut-Kale (graves 7 and 98), at Skalistoe (grave 288), at Aromat (grave 1), and at Arket (two buckles). Their construction and the decoration of the loops and tongues are very similar to some of the south Crimean type of eagle-headed buckles, which Aibabin dates to the second half of the 7th century. He supports this idea by the fact that in Skalistoe one was found together with two bronze buckles of this period, and in Chufut-Kale grave 98, with a late 7th-century radiate-headed brooch. Kropotkin dates this grave to the 7th century. The buckle from Aromat is dated to the second half of the 6th/first half of the 7th century by Loboda. According to Ambroz they were made in the second half of the 7th century, after 6th-century Danubian Gepid prototypes, and decorated in a Crimean variant of animal Style I as one of the main ornaments of these buckles. There are many buckles from the Carpathian Basin, Bulgaria and Italy, which, on the basis of Ambroz’s theory, could have served as models for the Crimean ones. They are all slightly different from the south Crimean ones in construction and composition of decoration and are considered to be examples of the late 5th-century, Germanic fashion, combining both Late-Roman and Germanic influences.

Comparative bibliography
1 Kropotkin 1958, ill. 3, 1
2 Kropotkin 1965, ill. 45, 5
3 Veimarn and Ambroz 1980, ill. 3; Veimarn and Aibabin 1993, 57–8, ill. 371
4 Loboda 1976, ill. 4, 1
5 Repnikov 1906, 63; pl. VIII:2; 64; pl. VIII:6
6 Aibabin 1990, 35
7 Kropotkin 1965, 112
8 Loboda 1976, 142
9 Veimarn and Ambroz 1980, 247–62

83 Sword-bead fitting (?) (Pl. 44)


Inv. no. 1923,7–16,149 Old cat. no. 997

Percentage of silver: 46

Size: 31 x 22mm Weight: 14.93g

Unpublished

The chalcedony ball is drilled through the centre and secured by a long, dome-headed silver rivet which passes through it and is attached to the middle of the rectangular-sectioned silver strip. This is bent to form a sling around the upper part of the ball. At the ends it is bent to

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form a rectangle, probably for an attachment-slot. The ends overlap by 5mm and are secured by a single rivet flattened at each end. (Size of ball: H: 16mm; W: 20mm; D of perforation: 5–8mm; D of rivet-head: 4mm; D of rivet: 2mm; W of strip: 6.5mm; thickness: 1.5mm).

The corroded, central, transverse rivet is of heavily-worked silver wire. The end of the rivet is missing.

The original photograph of the collection does not show this object.

There is a chalcedony sword-bead fitting from Kerch, grave 145, excavated in 1904, which is considered by Zasetskaya to be from the Hunnic era, i.e. the end of the 4th/first half of the 5th century.

According to Aibabin there are similar bead fittings from Skalistoje, graves 422, 424, and 495, which were introduced in the Hunnic period and were still in use in the first half of the 7th century. He dates the chalcedony bead fitting from grave 434 to the first half of the 5th century, the amber bead from grave 405 to the first half of the 6th and the chalcedony bead from grave 422 to the first half of the 7th century.1

Comparative bibliography
1 Zasetskaya 1979, 15, pls 4:4; 5
2 Veimarn and Aibabin 1993, 102, ill. 75:17–18
3 op. cit., 107, ill. 77:10
4 op. cit., 126, ill. 92:15
5 Aibabin 1990, 59, pl. 2:33; Veimarn and Aibabin 1993, 181

Provincial Byzantine and related material

84 Earring (Pl. 45, Colour Pl. 1)

Single piece.
Lunate gold earring with punched, engraved and openwork decoration representing a peacock.

Gold
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1904
Inv. no. 1923,7-16,67 Old cat. no. 252
Percentage of gold: 95
Size: 32 x 28mm Weight: 4.779
Published: Entwistle 1994, 96, no. 101

It was manufactured in the same technique as the earring (cat. no. 85) below. The hoop consists of a circular-section wire, bent to form a hook at one end and a loop at the other. The two ends together form a hook-and-eye fastening and it is attached around the inner edge of the half-moon shape with gold solder and is flattened all along the soldering. (D of loop: 16mm; thickness: 1.5mm).

The half-moon shape is formed from a thin, flat sheet of gold which contains the openwork figure of a peacock with outstretched wings and punched and engraved features. The openwork was achieved by crudely cutting holes in the metal. There are punched dots all along the edges. The outer curved edge of the half moon is flattened and has a beaded-wire border soldered on. This was formed one bead at a time by rolling the wire under a single-edged tool. (Size of sheet: W: 12.5mm; L: 25mm; thickness: 0.5mm; thickness of beaded-wire border: 1mm).

The original photograph of the collection does not show this object.

Cat no. 85 is a lunate gold earring of the same type, but with slight differences: cat no. 84 is bigger and has a more easily distinguishable bird motif. The outer edge of the half moon is flattened for better attachment of the beaded wire. The loop is also flattened for a similar reason, where it is soldered to the inner edge.

85 Earring (Pl. 45, Colour Pl. 1)

Single piece.
Lunate gold earring with punched, engraved and openwork decoration representing two birds.

Gold
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1904
Inv. no. 1923,7-16,68 Old cat. no. 253
Percentage of gold: 90
Size: 20 x 26mm Weight: 2.8g
Published: Entwistle 1994, 97, no. 102

The hoop consists of a circular-section wire attached with gold solder around the inner edge of the half moon. It is bent to form a hook at one end and possibly had a corresponding loop at the other. (D of hoop: 12mm; thickness: 1.5mm).

The half-moon shape is formed from a thin, flat sheet of gold. It has openwork decoration representing two confronted birds, which was achieved by crudely cutting holes in the metal. There are punched and engraved dots and crescents in the middle. The outer curved edge of the half moon has a beaded-wire border soldered on. This was formed one bead at a time by rolling the wire under a single-edged tool. (Size of sheet: W: 9mm; L: 18mm; thickness: 0.5mm; thickness of beaded wire: 1mm).

The loop of the hoop has broken off. The gold solder of the beaded wire was overheated during manufacture and has damaged the lower edge of the earring.

The original photograph of the collection does not show this object. cat no. 84 is a lunate gold earring of the same type (for the differences see the description of cat. no. 84).

This is a very common type of earring, produced in the early Byzantine period and based on similar shape and motifs, appearing as far apart as southern Germany and the Crimea. The relatively poor technical quality and execution of this earring and of cat. no. 84 above, however, suggest that they were either made by provincial Byzantine craftsmen, or copies of pieces produced by central workshops.

86 Pendant cross (Pl. 45, Colour Pl. 1)

Single piece of composite construction.
Criciform gold pendant decorated with garnets and repoussé ornaments. There is an incised cruciform monogram on the back.
Gold, garnet.
Prov.: Kerch, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1900
Inv. no. 1923,7-16,66 Old cat. no. 235
Percentage of gold: 89
Size: 67 x 46mm Weight: 25.46g
Published: Dalton 1924c, 386–389, pl. 17; Oddy and La Niece 1986, 24 no., 26, ill. 10; Entwistle 1994, 96, no. 100

The cross consists of three main parts: the front, back and loop, all joined together with gold solder. The suspension-loop of the pendant is made of circular-section wire with the ends bent round and soldered together. The join is the point at which it is soldered to the pendant. It is slightly narrower where it is soldered. (D of loop: 13mm; thickness of wire: 3.2mm; 2.7mm).

The pendant is hollow and the cavity now appears to be empty, except for some sandy soil in the largest break. The front of the cross is decorated in the centre with four rectangular garnet plates in a cruciform pattern. They are set in wax and have no collets around them. The garnets are thick (approximately 2mm) with both well-cut and badly broken edges, suggesting that they are reused fragments. There are no foils beneath them and the back of the inside of the cross can be seen underneath. There is a repoussé palmette on the front, with dots and leaves. In Dalton’s words:

The patellae upon the arms are not modelled in relief, but rise from the sunk ground in such a way that their flat surfaces are in the same plane as that of the whole object. The details of the leaves are summarily rendered by deeply-incised dots associated with small comma-like or wedge-shaped cavities.

The back has similar almond-shaped panels, but with repoussé scale or feather-like ornament. The meaning of the Greek letters (κβδ/ζηθγ) of the incised central monogram is to be interpreted as: Light, Life. (Thickness of cross: 4.5mm; size of central cross: 11 x 10mm).

The lower arm of the cross is damaged.

Dalton (1924c, 389): ‘this object may have been a bishop’s pectoral cross’.

A very similar 6th–7th century cross with an associated breast-chain and openwork pendants was found at Mersin (Turkey) and is now in the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg. ‘Inlaid gold crosses of this type have also been found in Constantinople.’

Comparative bibliography
1 Kondakov 1896, pl. XVIII:12, same in: Brown 1984, 3, pl. 5
2 Ross 1965, 7–8, pls X:8; XII-B; XII-XIII

87 Temporal-ring (kol’t) (Pl. 46, Colour Pl. 2)

Single piece of composite construction.
Bifacial crescent-shaped, almost circular, gold sheet decorated with...
cloisonné garnets and granulation.
Gold, garnet
Prov.: Kerkh, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893 (register) – But in
Konradov 1896, 199–200, Kuban is given as the provenance
Inv. no. 1923,7,16,7 Old cat. no. 142
Percentage of gold: 97
Size: 42 x 35mm  H: 14.5mm  Weight: 33.46g
Published: Konradov 1896, 199–200, ill. 113; Dalton 1924a, 262, pl. XXXVII.20 reproduced from Dalton 1924b; Bálint 1978, 203–4, fig. 15:4
The two faces of the piece were made separately and then soldered
The outer strip: 4mm; D of granules: 1–2mm).
around its outer edge. The sheets are convex in the
The outer walls are soldered to the frame.
The surviving garnets are possibly replacements. The cell walls are
Squashed and seem to be forced around the present inlays. To judge
A lunate frame of garnet cloisons is soldered to the top of each face and each of these is made from a strip of gold soldered on edge. The
inner cell walls are made of separate gold strips (see further below).
The garnets are of irregular shape and have no foils beneath them. Some of the garnets have one well cut edge, but the shapes do not
follow any consistent pattern and the majority of the edges are badly
cut, all suggesting that the garnets were reused. They are fixed with
wash which does not appear to be original. The ends of the strips (i.e.
the ones around the sheet) are folded over each other on both faces.
Both faces are heavily enriched with zones of granulation in a three-
dimensional pattern almost covering the whole surface. The granules
appear to have been soldered on in one heating. (H of inner sheet:
4.5mm; Hof garnet setting: 2mm, thickness of garnets: c. 1mm, W of
outer strip: 4mm; D of granules: 1–2mm).
Around the outer edge between the two faces are the remains of a
strip of cloisonné garnet inlays, now damaged and largely missing. The
outer walls are soldered to the frame.
There are two suspension loops attached at each end of the top. Each consists of a curved strip of almost semicircular-section wire with
both ends within. (W: 2mm).
The surviving garnets are possibly replacements. The cell walls are
squared and seem to be forced around the present inlays. To judge
from the parallels, it is possible that originally the cells created a
pattern of S-shapes.
The cells around the outer edge are damaged.
A number of temporal-rings of this type have been found, mainly in
the Ukraine and Russia. They are all similar in shape, made of gold,
and have inlaid glass and granulated decoration.

Similar temporal-rings are published by Konakov as earrings.1
They come from the Kuban region (Anapa), from the south Urals area
(Simbir region) and Kaibul (Samara province, Russia). There is a
pair in Kiev in the collection of M. Botkine.2 Two were found by Ufa
(South Urals region, Russia) and are dated to the 6th–8th century by
Akhmerov.3 A very similar temporal-ring was acquired in the summer
of 1992 by Messrs Sothebys and is now in a private collection.
There is a piece with a ring attached to its loops and without inlays from the
Don region,4 while a pair of gold temporal-rings – also without inlaid
decoration – was found at Mezozisulas (Hungary), and is considered by
Bóna to be evidence for the Central Asian links of the Avars.5 He also
refers to close parallels from the Altai region (Kudyrge, grave no.) and
similar bronze variants from Odintzovka in the Upper Ob area. Bálint
dates them to the 6th–7th century,6 Alibain to the 7th century.7

Comparative bibliography
1  Konakov 1896, 199–203; ill. 115–19; the piece from Simbir also in:
  OIAK 1893b, 103; ill. 84
2  Coll. of Botkine 1911, pl. 92
3  Akhmerov 1951, 126–8; ill. 36:1-3
4  Phillips Family Collection
5  OIAK 1908, 101; ill. 134
6  Bóna 1971, 240; ill. 18
7  Bálint 1978, 203
8  Alibain below

88 Buckle (Pl. 46)
In two pieces.
'Syracuse' type copper-alloy buckle decorated with a palmette on the plate. Oval loop and rectangular-section tongue.
2nd half of the 7th century. Provincial Byzantine.
Copper alloy (brass), leaded gunmetal
Inv. no. 1923,7,16,82 Old cat. no. 320
Size: 51 x 32mm  Weight: 15.52g
Prov.: Olbia (Mikolayiv, Ukraine)
The plate is of leaded gunmetal and cast in one piece together with the
loop. It is shield-shaped with a rounded projection at the base and is
decorated in flat relief with two panels of foliate motifs. The back is flat
with the remains of two perforated attachment lugs cast on
The loop is oval with a rectangular opening with rounded corners. On either side of the tongue at the centre of the loop are two punched
dots.
The tongue is brass and has a rectangular section. It has two cast
lugs above the base and is hooked through a perforation in the plate.
The hook of the tongue is cast in one piece with it.

Comparative bibliography
1  Inv. nos: 56,10–4,26; 1910,4,16,79
2  Inv. no. 1909.805. Acquired by Sir John Evans in 1886, and
  presented to the Ashmolean by Sir Arthur Evans
3  Yakobson 1959, 272–4
4  Werner 1955, 37
5  Całlany 1954a, 113–17, pls II:7–9; III:1–7; Całlany 1954b, 320–32,
  pls II:7–9; III:1–7
6  Pudovin 1961, 182, ill. 1
7  Vinski 1967, 24–5, pl. XVI
8  Alibain 1993, 167–8; 1994, 141
10  Ambroz 1971, 114,116;118, ill. 7,2; pl. II:29
11  Kovalevskaya 1979, 24, pl. VIII:11; Kovalevskaya 1993, 112; pl. I:32

89 Buckle (Pl. 46)

Consists of two pieces.
Copper-alloy buckle with an openwork palmette on the plate. Oval
loop and rectangular-section tongue.
7th–8th century. Provincial Byzantine.
Copper alloy.
Inv. no. 1923,7,16,81 Old cat. no. 320
Size: 40 x 35mm  Weight: 20.31g
Prov.: Olbia (Mikolayiv), Ukraine – 1909
The copper-alloy plate is cast in one piece together with the loop. It
consists of a semicircular frame of flat, rectangular section, with a
small rectangular projection at the end. The frame contains an
openwork, three-leaved palmette projecting from behind the tongue
into the centre. There is an incised line all along the outer edge of the
frame which interlocks with another such line below the tongue
running round the edge of the palmette. The back is flat with three
perforated, cast attachment lugs. (Size of plate: 26 x 27mm, size of lugs:
7 x 7mm; D of holes: 3mm).
The oval loop is rectangular in section, narrowing along both sides
and expanding towards the tongue-rest. There is a triangular panel on
each side of the tongue-rest, decorated with an incised triangle
containing transverse, incised lines. The loop is only slightly flattened
for the tongue-rest. (Size of loop: 18 x 35mm; W: 3mm at the sides; 6mm
at the top).
The tongue is rectangular in section with a cast lug above the base and
a similar, but smaller, lug towards the end of the tongue. The
tongue is hooked through a perforation in the top of the plate. The
hook of the tongue is cast in one piece with it. (Size of tongue: L: 26mm; W:
3mm; H: 4mm; D of circular cut on plate: 5mm).
The hook of the tongue is imperfect.
This buckle has been heavily cleaned, so nothing can be concluded
about the decoration.
According to Fettich, Byzantine, or so-called Provincial Byzantine, buckles of this type have been found at several places, such as Italy, Spain, Egypt, Hungary, Crimea and the North Caucasus. Yakobson dated them from the second half of the 6th to the first half of the 7th century, 9 Caślania from 620–660, 9 and Vinski to the mid-7th century. 10 In Deopik’s opinion they can be dated from the 7th to the 9th century. According to Bálint’s typology, they belong to the first half of the 8th century 11 and by Kovalevskaya’s classification to the 8th to 9th centuries. 12 Albain and Chajredinova give a reconstruction of a similar buckle and its associated belt-mounts found in Eski-Kermen, vauti 181 (Crimea). a

Comparative bibliography
1 Inv. no. 1995,5-20,317
2 Jakobson 1950, 273 ill. 139: 17; 18
3 Caślania 1954a, 125–6
4 Vinski 1967, 28, pl. XX:4
5 Deopik 1963, 125–7; 3
7 Kovalevskaya 1979, 23, pl. VII:12;13
8 Albain and Chajredinova 1995, 199

90 Strap-end (Pls 47–48)

Single piece of composite construction.

Tongue-shaped silver plate decorated with gold strip collets containing brown and green glass cloisons within a granulated border. 6th–7th century. Provincial Byzantine
Silver, gold, brown glass, red glass, glass.
Prov.: Kerkh, Krym (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893
Inv. no. 1923,7-16,33 Old cat. no. 159
Percentage of silver: 76
Size: 50 x 22mm H: 4mm Weight: 7.04g
Published: Albain 1985, 199, fig. 8:40; Albain 1990, 57; pl. 52:11;

Reconstruction of original design, see Pls 47, 48.

The silver base-plate is a flat, tongue-shaped frame with a large slot running down the centre, forming an elongated, U-shaped opening that contains a panel of gold and glass inlays. (W: 7–9mm).

The gold, tongue-shaped frame is fastened to the plate, though it is not possible to ascertain if it was soldered in place. It contains three gold strips, each of which is curved to form an ‘S’ within a ring. They contain brown and red glass cloisons. The strips do not reach to the full depth of the cell; they are about half the height of the tongue-shaped frame. Each ring is soldered to the gold frame which has a border of individual granules. Most of the inlays are of brownish glass with a layer of red ochre beneath them to imitate the colour of garnet (as on no. 91 below). The white paste beneath the setting, underneath the ochre, is of crushed calcite (calcite) full of microfossils. One inlay is of red glass, probably coloured by manganese, and has a foil beneath made of metallic tin. No ochre was used beneath this glass, probably because it was once a good colour. The corners of the gold frame are decorated with green glass inlays. (Size of tongue-shaped gold frame: 36 x 11mm; thickness: 0.5mm; D of rings: 9.5mm; 10mm; 12mm; D of granules: 1mm).

There is a tongue-shaped, grey-brown area beneath the decorative panel. The XRF analysis of this revealed silver with some copper, gold, chlorine and bromine. This analysis, and the appearance of the material, suggests that the area is probably a substantially corroded silver-copper alloy, perhaps originally a separate sheet acting as a material, suggests that the area is probably a substantially corroded silver-copper alloy, perhaps originally a separate sheet acting as a

There are two circular-section attachment-shanks on the back. It is hard to tell whether they are cast or soldered, but casting seems more likely. The end of each is burred over. (D: 2mm; L: 3.5mm).

The end of each is burred over. (D: 2mm; L: 3.5mm).

Each is cast in one piece. The shield-shaped frame has a pointed end and pointed corners. A horizontal groove is cast across its base. It has a bevelled, flanged edge projecting around the back. There is a semicircular opening in the centre containing a semicircular, brown glass plate in a gold setting. It has a silver base-plate. There is a layer of red ochre behind the setting, to imitate the colour of garnet (as on no. 90 above). The collet of no. 1923,7-16,36 is made of one gold strip, and that of no. 1923,7-16,37 of two. The edge of the strip is folded around the glass inlay and the collets are bordered by gold granulation. The granules and collet are applied to the base-plate with a silver solder which secures the inset as well. This appears to be an original feature. (Size of shield shape: 15.5 x 15.5mm; size of glass inlay; 6 x 4.5mm; D of granules: 1mm; H of edge: 2mm).

Beneath the shield shape there is a T-shaped projection with solid, hemispherical ends and two cast, longitudinal lines on top in the centre. The ‘neck’ of the T has a bevelled, flanged edge. (Size of T shape: W: 20mm; L: 12mm; D of hemispheres: 6mm; W of ‘neck’: 4.5mm; H of edge: 2mm).

There are two circular-section attachment-shanks on the back. It is hard to tell whether they are cast or soldered, but casting seems more likely. The end of each is burred over. (D: 2mm; L: 3.5mm).

The two mounts were probably cast using the same mould.

The glass inlay of no. 6 is missing. The gold setting is fragmentary. The glass inlay of no. 7 is fragmentary.

The original photograph of the collection does not show these mounts.

According to Bálint neither the origin of the shape, nor the function of these objects is clear. 13 It is unlikely that they served as suspension mounts. It is also possible, however, that they had no special function on the belt, and were only copying a particular shape. T-shaped mounts also appear among the Italian, Langobardic belt-sets, but usually with a single mount in each set.

The gold examples from Nocera Umbra (Italy) 14 and the cemetery of Cebelda 1a (Georgia) 15 were constructed in a special way: the horizontal part is a separate bar going through a hook below the shield-shaped part of each mount. Whether this feature on its own was of any
significance in terms of the function of this type of mount, we do not know. If there was the, the latest, cast-in-one variants like those in the Berthier-Delagarde Collection are presumably simply copying that type, and play a part only as a decorative element on each belt. That would also explain why these belts have more than one T-shaped mount.

This type of mount has been found at several places in the south Russian and Danubian regions. They vary in the size, shape and decoration of the shield-shaped part. Bálint surveyed a number of different kinds of T-shaped mount and considers the inlaid ones to be 6th–7th-century products manufactured under Byzantine influence. Belt-mounts from the Crimea, inlaid with enamel or glass, were made by Pontic Byzantine workshops, or by local workshops adopting Byzantine style. Áibabin established eight different variants of the same type, and dated them from the end of the 6th to the 7th century. According to him, both the Berthier-Delagarde pieces and the very similar ones from Portovoe (Crimea) are of the second half of the 7th century. Bálint dated the Portovoe grave to the period between the mid-6th century and the end of the 7th century, or rather to the first half/second third of the 7th century. Bálint surveyed a number of 6th–7th-century products manufactured under Byzantine influence. Different variants of this type of mount (from the Kama region; from Ufa, Turbasli, Bakhmutino and Urya) are dated to the first half of the 7th century by Gening.

There are similar, inlaid, T-shaped mounts from the rich, early-Avar graves of Bócsa6 and Kunbágony7 (Hungary) and also in the Fleissig Collection and from Mala Pereshechepina (Ukraine). They are made of gold and are related to the so-called pseudo-buckles which show the high rank of their owner. These probably represent a richer variant of the same type of belt-mount.

A belt-set from Vasilevka (Ukraine) has similar T-shaped mounts, but without inlays, and also belt-ends resembling cat. no. 90 in the collection, and appliqués similar to the inlays of the shield-shaped mounts (cat. no. 92) below.14

Different variants of this type of mount (from the Kama region; from Ufa, Turbasli, Bakhmutino and Urya) are dated to the first half of the 7th century by Gening.15

Silver mounts with semicircular openings have been found in the Caucasus and in Chufut-Kale, grave no. 1 (Crimea).17 There are further T-shaped mounts with semicircular or lunate openings from Kerch in the British Museum18 and a pair with rectangular openings is in the Ashmolean Museum.19

The relative chronology of this type of mount is discussed by Áibroz.20

Comparative bibliography

1 Bálint 1995, 442–3
2 Werner 1974b, pl. V:9
3 Bálint 1995, 143, pl. 38:14
5 Bálint 1995, 83
6 Áibabin 1990, 53; Áibabin 1985, 199, ill. 8:9
7 Seipel (ed.) 1993, 242–3 (good quality photographs)
8 Bálint 1995, 83, pl. 43:11
9 Ambroz 1971, 118
10 László 1955, pls XXXV:12; 14; XXXVI:12;14
11 Tóth and Horváth: 1992, 29–30; pl. IV:45
12 Kalmár 1943, pls XXII-XXIV
13 Bobrinsky 1914; Werner 1984
14 Bálint 1992, pl. 49
15 Gening 1979, 96–106
16 Sakkhaney 1914, 131 ill. 22:6
17 Kropotkin 1965, 112, pl. 44:13
18 Inv. no. P&E 56,10-4,40-52 – given by Dr D. McPherson, 1856
19 Inv. no. 1910.69C
20 Ambroz 1973, 294

92 Belt-mounts (Pl. 49, Colour Pl. 2)

Two, each of composite construction. Silver shield-shaped mounts, each with a gold strip collet containing a cabochon garnet, bordered by granulation. 6th–7th century. Provincial Byzantine

Silver, copper, gold, garnet

Pro. Kerch, Kryn (Crimea), Ukraine – 1893 according to the register, but possibly from the Dnieper region according to Fetich, 1933 (see below).

Inv. no. 1923,7-16,34 and 35

Old cat. no. 159

Percentage of silver: no. 34: 92

Size: 1923,7-16,34: 25 x 24mm

1923,7-16,35: 29 x 25mm

Weight: 3g

Weight: 4.4g

Published: Albain 1985, 199, fig. 8:32; Bálint 1992, 350, pl. 36:14,15; Bálint 1995, pl. 36:14,15

Each Hat, shield-shaped plate is pointed at the end and at the two top corners. There is a circular opening in the centre of the top which contains a cabochon garnet in a cylindrical collet bordered by gold granulation. There is no access by means of which to identify whether there is a foil present beneath the garnet. The collet of the cabochon consists of a curved gold strip, which is soldered to a silver disc together with the granulated border. (D of opening: 10mm; D of garnet: 5mm; H of garnet: 2mm; collet H: 2mm; D of granules: 1.5mm).

The mounts have bevelled, flanged edges projecting around the back. (H: 3mm).

There are three silver attachment-shanks cast on the back in a triangular arrangement. One copper attachment-shank is situated in the centre of the silver disc base-plate of the central inlay. The end of each is buried over. (D of disc shank: 2mm; L: 3mm; D of the other three shanks: 2mm; L: 4mm).

No. 1923,7-16,34 is fragmentary. One attachment-shank is missing.

The original photograph of the collection does not show these mounts. One photograph of the museum shows no. 1923,7-16,34 (complex, the left corner has been broken since).

An identical mount, published by Fetich, is said to be from the Dnieper region and is now in the Museum of Warsaw. It could possibly be a piece from the same set and its provenance therefore indicate the provenance of the Berthier-Delagarde pieces, too.

Shield-shaped gold mounts decorated with inlays and granulation have been found in the rich, early-Avar graves at Kunbágony and Bócsa (Hungary) and also appear in the grave of Mala Pereshechepina (Ukraine). They were found together with T-shaped mounts and an inlaid belt-end similar to cat. no. 90 in the collection. These graves can be dated to the first half of the 7th century and the mounts could be considered to be richer variants of the same type.

There are appliqués very similar to the inlay of our mounts from a belt-set found in Vasilevka (Ukraine), which also contains a T-shaped suspension mount and belt-ends decorated with gold foil and granulation.

There are further silver mounts with circular openings in the British Museum from Kerch, and a similar one from Chufut-Kale (Crimea), dated to the 6th century by Kropotkin. Similar mounts, made of bronze, have also been found at Kerch.

Comparative bibliography

1 Bálint 1992, 348–50
2 Áibabin 1985, 199, ill. 8:32; Áibabin 1990, 54; pl. 50:26–31
3 Bálint 1995, 85
4 Fetich 1953, pl. XXXI:9
5 Tóth and Horváth 1992, 29–30; pl. III:4
6 László 1955, pls XXXV:10; XXXVI:10
7 Bobrinsky 1914, pl. XVI:59, Werner 1984
8 Bálint 1992, pl. 49
9 Inv. no. P&E 56,10-4,40-52 – given by Dr D. McPherson, 1856
10 Kropotkin 1965, 112, ill. 44:11
11 Artamonov 1962, 60 ill.
Jewellery

Cat. No. 10

Cat. No. 11
Construction of Brooch Cat. No. 15
Jewellery

Cat. No. 16

Cat. No. 17

Cat. No. 18
Plate 11

Jewellery

Cat. No. 19
Jewellery

Cat. No. 20
Plate 14

Mounts

Cat. No. 23

Cat. No. 24a

Cat. No. 24b
Construction of Mount Cat. No. 24a
Mounts

Garnet Inlays

Gold Ring Inlay (now missing)

Silver Foil Underlay

Strip of Gold

Central Silver Collar

Strip of Gold

Silver Frame

2:1

Construction of Mount Cat. No. 24c
Construction of Mount Cat. No. 25
Construction of Mount Cat. No. 26
Plate 21

Horse Harness

All 1:2

Cat. No. 31 to 69
Legend - this also applies to Cat. Nos 31 to 43

- Overlay - Silver Gilt
- Patterned Base - Copper Alloy
- Plain Sheet - Copper Alloy
- Back Plate - Silver
- Possible Position of Leather Strapping

*Chabochons not shaded for clarity
Plate 23

Horse Harness

Cat. No. 35

Cat. No. 36

Stone (Carnelian)

Half Section

Side View

Cat. No. 37
Plate 29

Horse Harness

Cat. No. 50

Cat. No. 51

Cat. No. 52

Cat. No. 53

Cat. No. 54

All 1:1

Cat. No. 55

Cat. No. 56

Cat. No. 57

Cat. No. 58

Cat. No. 59
Horse Harness

Cat. No. 60

Cat. No. 61

Cat. No. 62
Horse Harness

Cat. No. 63

Cat. No. 64

Cat. No. 66

Cat. No. 65
Construction of Buckle Cat. No. 70
Buckles

Cat. No. 71

Cat. No. 72
Buckles

Tongue — Hook of Tongue

Loop

Garnet Inlay

Strip

Rivet

Base - plate

Back - plate

Folded Flap Attachment

Construction of Buckle Cat. No. 72
Buckles

Cat. No. 76
Plate 39

Buckles

Cat. No. 77
Plate 42

Buckles

Cat. No. 81
Plate 43

Buckles

Cat. No. 82
Buckles

Cat. No. 82 continued
Provincial Byzantine

Reconstruction of Original Design

Side View

Silver Base - plate
Border of Granules
Crushed Chalk
Red Glass Inlay
Tin Foil
Brown Glass Inlay
Red Ochre
Gold Strips
Gold Frame

Section to Illustrate Construction Layers

Cat. No. 90
Construction of Strap-end Cat. No. 90
Plate 49

Provincial Byzantine

Cat. No. 91

Cat. No. 92