

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE LATE ANTIQUE
TREASURES SOUTHERN OF THE LOWER DANUBE (4–6 CC.)
COMMON DIRECTIONS**

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The contemporary archaeology under the term “treasure” makes out an assembly find of objects, hidden together, because of reasons of different kind. The composition of the treasures is varied in their nature artifacts – luxury objects (adornments, precious vessels), coins, ingots, but also arms and tools, made of iron, copper or bronze. The questions that one treasure poses are of different kind. At first place this is the problem, connected with the concealing. It may be necessitate because of circumstances, which for the late antique period are mainly political.

The territories of the Eastern and Western Empire and their neighboring lands are strewn with treasures, hidden during the different periods of political uncertainty. Their composition is varied – there are treasures of silver vessels only or adornments. Treasures of mixed composition are also known. In many cases their origin is from the big imperial seats or local production. Adornments with high artistic value and undoubted metropolitan manufacture are discovered in many finds from the lands of the Germans and other barbarians and contrariwise – elements of precious metal, typical for the barbarian dress, are collected in treasures from the lands of the Roman Empire. It is not possibly to give a simple answer of the question about the owners of these assembly finds. Usually, it is approved that they are representatives of the noble societies from the imperial seats or barbarian aristocracy. There are also treasures, possession of the Church.

The dispersion of treasures over wide areas shows, that in their entirety, the rich owners do not descent from the great metropolises as Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria or Thessalonica only, but also from smaller settlements, where the concentration of such large wealth should be unlikely in first sight¹. The direct indications about the owner of a treasure are uncommon. For the period of the Early

¹ Painter 1983, 105.

Roman age, for example, it is found out that the large treasure from Boscoreale (1 c.) was a possession of Cecilius Iucundus – a rich banker. The owner of the Casa del Menandro treasure was connected with the senatorial family of Popeus Sabinus². Similar evidence from fourth c. are known about the Kaiseraugst treasure, possession of a high military officer from the court of Magnentius and the Mildenhall find (East England), whose first owner was Lupicinus – *magister militum per Gallias* and later *praepositus sacri cubiculi* of emperor Julian³. Inscriptions with the names of the donors are known from silver church vessels, as in the case of the large part of the Kaphar Koraon treasure (Siria)⁴. Another direct information, received from the inscriptions is about the places of manufacture. Such stamps over the vessels from the “München” and Kaiseraugst treasures indicate the workshops in Antioch, Nikomedia, Thessalonica, Naissus, Chrysopolis, Mogontiacum⁵. The cautious analysis and comparison of the uninscribed objects with these, facilitates the determining of their workshops, which is a serious contribution to the problem of the importance of each center and the duration of its activity.

Another aspect of the investigation of the treasures is the designation of their collecting. Doubtless, the Pietroassa treasure, was hidden to be taken out later and the objects, used in their really function. That could be said, also about the larger part of the rest of the treasures with adornments, as the finds from Assiûd (Upper Egypt) and Ténès (Algeria)⁶. There are also treasures, which were collected to be taken out and used for another purposes. Such is the case of the Traprain Law treasure (Scotland) containing over one hundred fifty silver objects, most of them strongly damaged and cut into pieces⁷.

An answer of these questions could be given through the analysis of the primary and the secondary archaeological context of the treasure finds. The primary context represents the immediate circumstances of the treasure's detecting – its geographical position, way of concealing, relation to the nearby archaeological sites. The objects, composing the treasure contain the secondary context. According to their reciprocal connection, the detected together artifacts submit information, concerning their function and continuity of use; the common and the single weight indicates the economical possibilities of the owners; the quality of forming and decoration points out the aesthetical taste of the owner and the technical opportunities of the supposed workshops; the ornamentation itself reflects the owner's culture and social status. The vessels offer additional and more complete information: the control stamps specify the date and

² Baratte 1986, 25; 1998, 5.

³ Baratte 1998, 5; Lethbridge 1997, 721; Painter 1988, 105.

⁴ Mundel Mango 1988, 172–175.

⁵ Painter 1983, 108.

⁶ Dennison 1918; Heurgon 1958.

⁷ Cabrol, Leclercq 1936, 1484.

sometimes the place of manufacture; the language and the way of structuring the inscriptions represent the initial and subsequent phases in the use of the object⁸.

The treasures, found south of the Lower Danube, in the dioceses of Thracia and Dacia, also pose the question about the owners, the workshops and the aesthetics. Twelve assembly finds of objects, made of precious metal are published until now (Map 1). Seven originate from Moesia Inferior (Odessos, Durostorum, Nigrianis-Kandidiana, Sadovets (2) and Cherven briag) one from Dacia Ripaensis (Ratiaria), one from Moesia Superior (Šarkamen), two finds from Skythia Minor (Sucidava, Histria), also two from Thracia (Svirkovo, Nova Nadežda, district of Haskovo). The higher percent of finds from the boundary provinces is notable – a fact unquestionably connected with the greater political uncertainty in these lands. In this indicator, the treasure finds separate three groups – such finds, hidden because of events from the first decades of 4th c., most probably the civil war between Constantine the Great and Licinius (Cherven briag, Svirkovo), the invasions of the Huns from the middle of 5th c. (Ratiaria) and the greatest group – treasures, hidden in connection with the barbarian raids south of Danube in 6th and 7th cc. (Odessos, Durostorum, Nigrianis-Kandidiana, Sadovets, Sucidava, Histria, Nova Nadežda). The find from the complex of Šarkamen (Eastern Serbia) remains isolated in this indication – it was found in a bay near to the crypt of the supposed imperial mausoleum, hidden most possibly in the beginning of the second decade of 4th c.⁹ The position of the adornments in the bay was connected with the funeral of the noblewoman from the imperial circles in the age of the Tetrarchs and is not caused by circumstances similar to these of the other treasures from the region.

Excluding the Šarkamen find, the rest of the treasures from Thracia and Dacia, must be classified on functional indication, and within these groups – on their chronology. So, the finds separate four groups – adornment treasures (Ratiaria, Nigrianis-Candidiana, Sadovets, Odessos, Histria and Durostorum), treasures of secular silver vessels (Cherven briag and Svirkovo), ecclesiastical treasures (Sucidava) and mixed finds (Nova Nadežda).

The earliest of the first group finds is the Ratiaria treasure, found in the northeastern part of the town¹⁰. Its composition is from four fingerings, a pair of earrings, a hairpin, a golden bracelet, two necklaces, and four silver spoons. The objects were in a burned building. As the observations over the place showed, they were collected in a wooden casket, which the owner had not managed to hide, because the falling roof caused his death. The fire caused his doom, must be connected with the great raid of the Huns from the year of 442 or 443¹¹. As a whole, the adornments

⁸ Mundell Mango 1998, 208.

⁹ Popović, Tomović 1998, 287–312.

¹⁰ Georgetti 1988, 30–38.

¹¹ Georgetti 1988, 30, 37; Velkov 1977, 21.

are remarkable with the diversity of the used techniques and decorative methods. Incrustations are put in the fingerings, as in both cases these are gems. Another technique of incrustation – *cloisonnée* is demonstrated in the decoration of the pinhead, which is cross like shaped, filled with red glass paste. The couple of the necklaces are conservative in their type – *isthmion* and the other one is with several techniques, combined – *repusée* on the beads and granulation on the clasp. The golden bracelet is with the name PAUL(US), engraved. Some of the adornments, in their form, have close analogies to pieces from the 2–3rd c. Others, as the earrings show the development of the types, typical for this early period – the enriches of the decoration with more precious stones and pearls. The newest tendencies of the period are at the decoration of the hairpin with *cloisonnée*. These differences in the collection of adornments, the conservative forms of some, and the most modern features of others, indicate that the treasure must be considered as a set of earlier, but left in use adornments from the second half of the fourth c. and more contemporary ones, made short time before their collecting as a treasure. Since, the most of them are female, it could not be said, that the engraved name Paulus is the owner's name. The bracelet also belongs to the earlier adornments and its keeping with the name of its eventual previous owner, allows the supposition, the Ratiaria find is a family treasure, collected in several generations. The metal purity of the golden objects varies between 22 and 23 carats, only the beads of the necklace are of 20,5 carat gold, and the total weight is 176,78 gr.¹² The possession of such large amount, artistic treated precious metal by the citizen of a provincial center, submits him/her as one of the well-off representatives of the population of Ratiaria. The well-known definition of Priscus for Ratiaria as “a rich and populous town” is well illustrated by this find¹³. The technique of the workmanship and decoration indicates a local origin, even may be from Ratiaria, where is located one of the old jewellery workshops, south of the Lower Danube¹⁴. The features of the adornments show, that there is a continuity in the workshops with the traditions of the earlier period and in the same time, that they are open for the new, fashionable tendencies

Chronologically next are the treasures of adornments, connected with the events from the sixth c., especially the Avar raids after the year of 584¹⁵. A small treasure originates from the fortress of Nigrianis-Candidiana. It was found in a burned premises to the northwestern tower. The fire and the destruction of the castrum must be connected with the prolonged war against the Avars in 585, when as Theophylactus Simocatta testifies, fell the most of the larger towns in Moesia Inferior¹⁶. The find consists of

¹² Georgetti 1988, 30–35.

¹³ Priscus, *Fragmenta Historicum Graecorum*, III, 8, Velkov 1977, 86.

¹⁴ Dimitrova 1982, 37.

¹⁵ Pohl 1988, 77.

¹⁶ Theophylacti Simocattae *Historiae*, I, 8, Velkov 1977, 55; Pohl 1988, 83.

five golden objects – necklace with biconical beads, two earrings and two fingerings¹⁷. The necklace is not in original entirety. In form it is too closed to the necklace from the Ratiaria treasure, but the fastening laces and the clasp are missing. The ear-rigs are not a pair, but they differ in form and decoration. Male names in monograms are engraved on the shields of the both fingerings. The one is a stamp and the name Bonos could be read in the inscription. The other one is with Greek letters and its sense is unclear¹⁸. The technique of workmanship is similar to the other adornments with possible local origin. The material of the incrustations of the earrings is glass, but the their metal is of highest purity (according to the publication of V. Dimova, the gold is of 24 carats purity)¹⁹. The common weight is 33,57 gr, as it could be supposed that it is an occasional assembly of objects. The names on the fingerings have not any matter as information about the owner of the adornments, because beyond of the fact that they are two pieces, their male names are in opposition of the female adornments. Even, it is too possible, that an inhabitant of the captured fortress did not hide this treasure, but an attacker, who had stolen the adornments. Similar is the case of the Traprain Law treasure, which is hidden, to be sold just as metal later²⁰.

Another small treasure was found in 1953 in the southwestern part of Histria. It consists of two golden earrings with green enamel and two small golden crosses²¹. The similarity of the earrings with this one from Candidiana, determines the date in the second half of the 6th c. The treasure itself was hidden in connection with Avar raid after the rule of Mauricius. The burned levels in Histria are with coins, among which the latest one is of Phocas²². The adornments are of gold with high purity. The earrings are decorated with filigree, and the crosses with incrustations of garnets. The common weight is 37,6 gr.

Undoubtedly the most considerable in size and artistic value is the Odessos treasure. The find consists of a pair of golden bracelets, decorated with enamel, a diadem, three necklaces, a golden cross with *cloisonnée* decoration and two belt elements²³. The objects were hidden in the Eastern necropolis of Odessos, 500 meters about from the northeastern corner of the fortress wall and most probably this is connected with some of the Avar raids from the last decades of the sixth c. or the first half of the seventh. It is ascertained, that Odessos outlived the Avar raids of the sixth c. and fell in the time of Heracleus, which is approved by the thick burned level with

¹⁷ Dimova 1973, 18–20.

¹⁸ Dimova 1973, 20, оѡр. 4; 5.

¹⁹ Dimova 1973, 18.

²⁰ Cabrol, Leclercq 1936, 1484.

²¹ Burda 1979, 70, k.n. 51 a; Barnea 1979, 94, 228, Pl. 96.

²² Velkov 1977, 108, 231.

²³ Dimitrov 1963a, 57–60; 1963b, 18–21; 1963c, 35–40; 1984; Deppert, Rudolf 1999, 275–282; Dumanov 1997, 51–56.

coins of this emperor²⁴. The connection of this fire with the great Avar raid and siege of Constantinople in 626, when many other fortresses fell, is too possible²⁵. At other site the concealing of the treasure could be not connected by all means with these events. According to Theophylactus and Theophanes, during the expedition in 594, the brother of emperor Mauricius, Pethros settled his headquarters in Odessos. The military operations were in the district of Zaldapa, Akisos and Scopis²⁶. The owner of the adornments could hide the treasure because of the growing uncertainty, and not before the immediate threat.

The objects, composing the find, contain almost all of the techniques, known of the Late Antiquity. The diadem is with rare by the quality of the *opus interrasile* and the incrustations of pearls and opals. Both of the bracelets and a necklace are with fine granulation. The massive bracelets are decorated with enamel, pearls, glass and filigree, and the band is in *ajour*. The material for the *cloisonnée* is also various – garnet, malachite and glass. The date of the adornments is from the second half the of 5th c. (the diadem) to the end of the 6th – the beginning of the 7th (the bracelets). At the same time, their completeness is remarkable. Ichnographically it could be seen in the figures of the patricians on the San Apolinare Nuovo mosaics in Ravenna and the Holy Virgin from Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome²⁷. In relation with the possession of such set of expensive adornments, the figure of a young lady on the mural paintings from her own tomb in San Gennaro, near Naples is quite fascinating. She is represented with diadem, massive necklace, a pair of bracelets and a belt with large *cloisonnée* incrustations²⁸. Her parents attend the lady and it is too probably, that these are the family adornments. The adornments of the Odessos treasure are also family valuables. The both of the necklaces are seriously damaged, but kept by the owner. The most of the images with diadems with structure, similar to the Odessos adornment are from middle and the second half of the 5th c. At other side the bracelets have their analogies in other treasures from the end of the 6th – the beginning of the 7th c., like the finds from Cirenija (Cyprus), Pantalica (Sicily) and Naron (Dalmatia)²⁹. So, if the diadem is the oldest adornment and the bracelets are the last ones and the treasure was hidden in the time of Heracleus, its collection is a deed of several generations of owners. The bracelets are the only pieces of this type, found in the European provinces of the Roman Empire. The rest of the similar adornments are with proved or supposed eastern origin. This fact supposes also an eastern origin for the greater part of the treasure,

²⁴ Kuzev 1981, 293.

²⁵ Pohl 1988, 253–255.

²⁶ Theophylacti Simocatae Historiae, VII, 1; Theophanes Confessor, Chronographia, 6088, Pohl 1988, 141, Anm. 15.

²⁷ Karpp 1966, n.13.

²⁸ Quast 1999, 239, fig. 10, 2.

²⁹ Dalton 1911, 542.

most probably from Asia Minor. The question, whether the owner of the treasure is one of the numerous settlers from Asia Minor in Odessos in the 6th c.³⁰ or the adornments were acquired by the way of trade is very fascinating. The common weight of the adornments is 417 gr or about one pound and a quarter. The supposed monetary value (as far as possible to calculate it) must be about 90 solids. This fact makes the Odessos find the largest among the treasures of adornments from the Balkan provinces. On the base of this treasure, it is possible a partial reconstruction of the official female dress of the noble population in this part of the diocese, which in many directions is similar to the costume of the aristocracy in the east Mediterranean circle.

The smallest find of dress elements originates from Sadovsko kale, district of Pleven. These are a couple of large silver brooches, found under the entrance of premises N 3 to the fortress wall, tucked with textile material³¹. The typical elements of the form and ornamentation make these adornments unique, out of close analogies among this type. The workmanship is of high quality. It is too probably, that these brooches were local production, made in a workshop with high technical and artistic skills. The brooches were of high value for the owner, which is also certified by the fact, that they were worn out and repaired. The date in the end of the fifth c. is too possible³², which compared with the date of the destruction of the fortress in the times of Mauricius and the most probable concealing, submit the objects as a possession of more than one generation. It could be supposed anyway, that in the time of the concealing, they are treated as precious metal, than as adornments. This pair of *fibulae* is a typical element of the east German female costume and it is one of the direct indications about the attendance of German *foederati* in the both of the Sadovets fortresses.

The second group of treasures is composed of secular silver vessels. There are two finds, south of the Lower Danube – the treasures, found near the town of Cherven briag and the village Svirkovo, district Haskovo. The Cherven briag treasure was found under the supposed door-sill in the ruins of a building with unclear function. It is composed of three *missoria* with medallions of Licinius, dedicated to his *decennalium* as Augustus. The third vessel is a *phiale*, with engraved rosette³³. The practice of producing such anniversary dishes is regular by the East Roman emperors. The largest find, containing such kind of *donativa* is a treasure of nine dishes, as three pieces are dedicated to the *quinquennialium* of Licinius the Second as Caesar. A couple of them were produced in Nicomedia, one piece is from Antioch³⁴. A fact of interest is that both of the Cherven briag dishes are with identical form, but the one is larger, so the

³⁰ Velkov 1977, 271.

³¹ Uenze 1992, 139; about the find see more: Velkov 1937, 490; Mihaylov 1961, 37–39; Haralambieva 1984, 49, fig. 6.

³² Uenze 1992, 160–161.

³³ Ognenova 1955, 233–243.

other one could be put in it and there is a great possibility, that they were given to the earned officer in this way. Another important information is the producer's name. The inscriptions on the outer side approved that the vessels were a production of the Flavius Nicanus *officina*. In connection with this find is the other treasure from Svirkovo. It was found in 1942, collected in two pots – three pieces in each. Parts of three missoria are kept. The inner sides of their bottoms are with inscriptions, dedicated to the *decenallium* of Licinius³⁵. There are also two silver ingots in the treasure, with inscriptions of Maximus, a silversmith from Sirmium. The common weight of the find is 5 kg (15 pounds), and this one from Cherven briag – 1,51 kg (7,6 pounds)³⁶. The dishes from Cherven briag are 620, 635 and 1260 gr weighty or two or four pounds each. Compared to the weight of the ingots (620, 635 gr), it is clearly, that one dish with medallion of Licinius has been produced from one ingot, with weight and purity, certified and warranted with the signature of a silversmith from the respective *officina*. The purity of the alloy of the ingots from Svirkovo is 97%, and this one of the Cherven briag dishes – 91 %. The *donativa* dishes are under a strict control. The ligature MBN (*magister bisellarius nummulariorum*) after the name of Nicanus, which indicates that the imperial mints guarantee the quality of the dishes, also approves that. Similar is the situation with the Licinius dishes in the "München" treasure. L. Ogenova supposed that the Cherven briag dishes were produced in Ratiaria, because of the old traditions of this workshop. It is a fact, as T. Ivanov and the inscriptions from Svirkovo and München suppose, that the dishes with imperial medallions, could be a production of the mints only. It is opinion of Ivanov, this workshop was Sirmium, where an imperial mint has been located. This mint is mentioned in the inscriptions on the ingots from Svirkovo and also on the ingots from a treasure, found in the vicinity of Šabac with the name of Nicanus and another one, inscribed by Adimus, a silversmith from Sirmium³⁷. There are not direct evidences, that the dishes from Cherven briag originate from Sirmium. The type of the coins, represented in the medallions on the vessels is similar to emissions of the mint of Heraclea (Perinthus), cut in 316³⁸. So, it is too possible that Flavius Nicanus was a *monetarius* and silversmith from Heraclea, and the ingots with his name got into Sirmium by the trade ways.

The dishes from the both treasures were produced in 318 and given to the merited persons in connection to the *decenallium* of Licinius as Augustus. The owner of the Cherven briag treasure is known – his name is Geronius, an officer of Licinius from Moesia. After the defeat in 324, the name of Licinius was a subject of *damnatio*

³⁴ Overbeck 1998, 100–114.

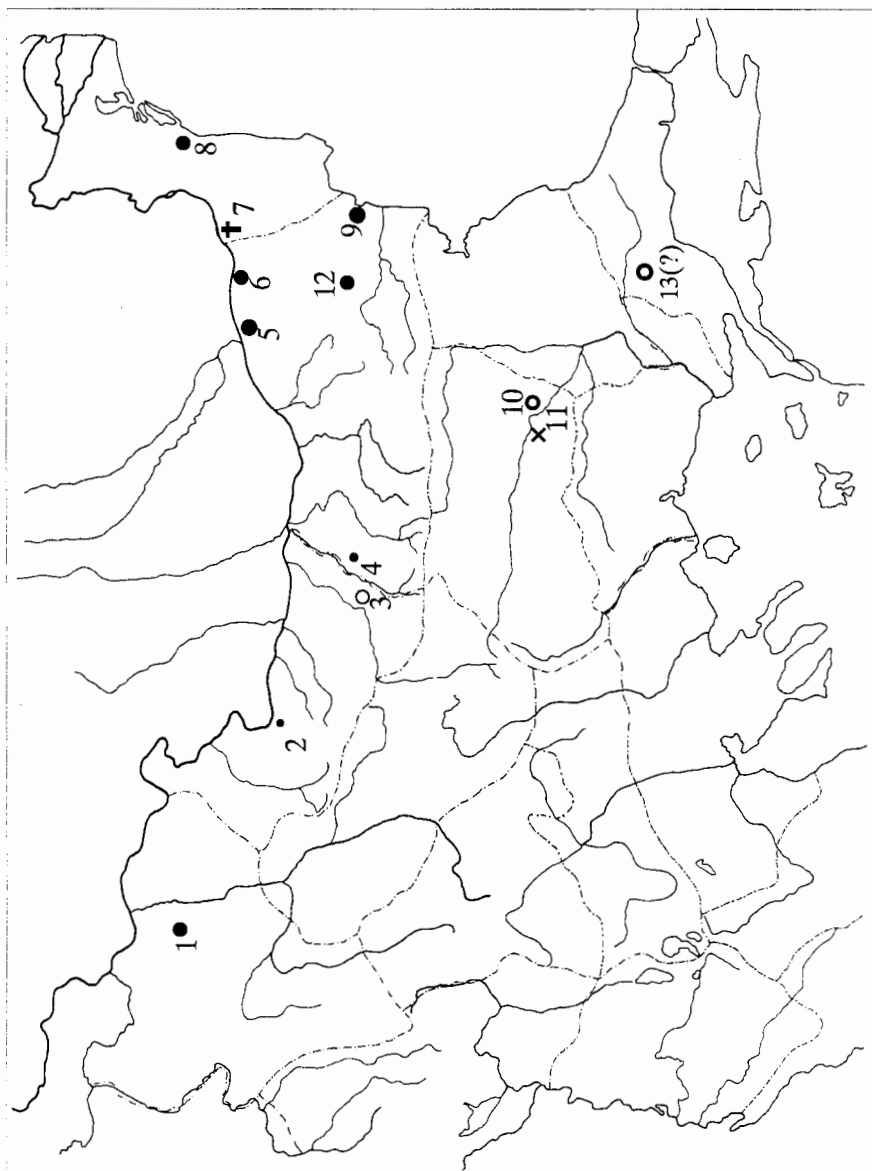
³⁵ Aladžov 1961, 48.

³⁶ Aladžov 1961, 50; Ogenova 1955, 233–235.

³⁷ Ivanov 1972, 231.

³⁸ Overbeck 1973, 52; Baratte 1975, 40; Velkov 1977, 120.

Map 1 Distribution of the treasures south of the Lower Danube



• - adornment treasures
○ - treasures of secular silver ware

† - ecclesiastical treasures
× - mixed treasures

memoriae, and his edicts – revoked³⁹. It is too possibly, that the owners of such *donativa*, which they received during their service, had been compelled to hide, as treasures and use the silver for other purposes later. Similar is the fortune of the “München” treasure. A silver bust of an emperor, who with great certainty could be recognized as Licinius is also a part of the find. The bust is intentionally damaged, which is in connection with the expounded events⁴⁰. The information in the both finds is of a great importance about the explanation the role and the significance of the workshops. They approved that the production of objects of precious metal in 4th c., has been in high degree, connected with the mints, where was the control of their purity and weight. The signature of Nicanus as *magister bisellarius nummulariorum* on the Cherven briag dishes and the Šabac ingot as *vascularius* proves: 1. masters, committed with coin production, were dialing with artistic work of metal; 2. the ingot silver, guaranteed by the mints was a material of the coin production, as well as the vessels; 3. the several times mentioned in the written sources fact, that the jewelers supplied themselves alone with precious metal, guaranteeing its quality. The unpreserved fragment of the Edict of Diocletianus Περὶ ἀργύρου, probably also as well as Περὶ χρυσοῦ, begins with the price of the metal with purity of coin silver, which is the highest one⁴¹.

The treasures of the 4th c., containing silver objects, illustrate in best way the production of silverware. Some of the finds are composed also of earlier objects. These are the examples with the Mildenhall, Traprain Law, Kaiseraugst and Esquiline treasures, as these are the most considerable finds of the fourth c.⁴² Similar, but smaller finds are known from Coleraine (Ireland), Gross Bodungen, Grünhagen (Germany), Høstentorp (Denmark). At the same way fourth c. objects were found in later treasures as the large dishes from Cesena and Risley, hidden in the 6th c.

Another large group, containing a great amount of silver objects are the church treasures. During the late antiquity, the old practice, large collections of silver ware to be concentrated in the temples was extended. According to the evidences of the ancient authors in the 1st c., in the Saturn temple in Rome were collected thirty five thousand pounds of silver⁴³. In comparison, according to the written sources, in 622 the citizens of Edessa gave a hundred twenty thousand pounds of silver, taken from the churches, as ransom to the Persians⁴⁴.

Theodoretos of Kyrrhos, Evagrius and Procopius of Kaisareia described the enormous church treasure in Antioch, established with gifts in the times of Constantine the Great and Constantius II and sold by Justin the Second⁴⁵. In 422 the bishop of

³⁹ Demandt 1998, 50.

⁴⁰ Overbeck 1998, 110, 118, n. 124.

⁴¹ Edictum Diocletiani 30, 1; 31, 1, Laufer 1971, 191.

⁴² Mundel Mango 1988, 182.

⁴³ Cabrol, Leclercq 1936, 2448.

Amida managed to ransom with the ecclesiastical silver, the freedom of seven thousand families, had been captured by the Persians⁴⁶. An example in the written sources for concealing a church treasure, aiming its protection was connected with the liturgical vessels and crosses, hidden by the monks in the church gardens in 614. Later, they did not managed to go back and the objects had fallen into the hands of the Persians⁴⁷.

A large number of the found as archaeological finds, church treasure are from the time of the 6th and the 7th c. From the territory of Europe, the largest finds are the Water Newton, Canoscio and Gallunianu treasures⁴⁸. The concentration of such finds in the district of the East Mediterranean is greater, as the many finds originate from Siria – Stuma, Riha, Hama and Antioch (now reconstructed as one large treasure from Kaper Koraon), Beth Misona, Phela, Ma'aret en-Noman, Marato tes Myrtes, Attarouthi⁴⁹.

At this moment one church treasure has been discovered, south of the Lower Danube. It was buried in the left cost of Danube, not far from the east fortress wall of Sucidava (Izvoarele). Its composition is of six spoons, six bowls, an ewer, *oinohoe*, *pathera* and a reliquary⁵⁰. According to the authors of the main publication, the vessels of the treasure have analogies from the second half – the end of the 4th c. (the bowls), while the ewer and the reliquary have their analogies, among the objects from the end of the 4th – the beginning of 5th c., and the *pathera* – from the sixth c.⁵¹ All vessels are damaged. Four of the bowls are stamped with mark, representing cross and the name Ησ(υ)χιου. One is with the name Ευσέβιου, and one the last one are engraved the letters NAZ, which could be soon also on the spoons⁵². It is difficult to connect the concealing of the treasure with some precise date, since Sucidava is not mentioned among the captured fortresses. Based on the burned levels with coins of Mauricius, A. Rădulescu and T. Cliante made a conclusion that the treasure had been hidden in a connection of the raids from the end of 6th or the beginning of 7th c.⁵³ It is clearly, analyzing the objects, that they are almost a complete liturgical set for Eucharist with missing calyx, discus and more several elements. The reliquary does not belong to

⁴⁴ Michaelis Syri. Chronicon, II, 130, Mundel Mango 1988, 164.

⁴⁵ Mundel Mango 1988, 164.

⁴⁶ Σοκράτης, Εκκλησιαστική Ιστορία, VII, XXI, Mundel Mango 1988, 164.

⁴⁷ Hellenkemper 1992, 67.

⁴⁸ Painter 1977b; Giovagnoli 1935–36, 313.

⁴⁹ Cruickshank Dodd 1973, 13; Mundel Mango 1992b, 24; 1998, 214; Hellenkemper 1992, 66.

⁵⁰ Rădulescu, Cliante 1986, 127 – 159; Cliante, Rădulescu 1988, 357 – 369; Goldhelm, Schwert und Silberschätze 1994, 105.

⁵¹ Rădulescu, Cliante 1986, 133–143.

⁵² Rădulescu, Cliante 1986, 131, 135.

⁵³ Rădulescu, Cliante 1986, 156.

this kind of divine service, and probably it was laid under the altar. The common weight of the treasure is about 2,5 kg or seven pounds. Its value in gold, should be of twenty-eight solids, which approximates it to the church treasures of middle size. In comparison the Beth Misona, Phela and Water Newton treasures are respective with four, eleven and five pounds weight⁵⁴. The cases of such great treasures, like this one from Kaper Koraon (eighty-two pounds) are isolated.

Based on the analogies, the Sucidava treasure receives a more common date from the second half of 5th c. to the first half – the middle of the 7th.⁵⁵ It is not clearly, whether the bad condition of the vessels is due to their stay in the earth or to the prolonged use. The question is, whether until the moment of the concealing they have been in use. The number of the vessels is significant, that the Church of a small center as Sucidava could posses' riches, comparable to these of the largest towns. The way of stamping shows a provincial origin, as the question about the local production is open.

The research of the treasure objects, as combination and isolated cases could solve some of the problems in the investigation of the Late Antiquity. Firstly, they illustrate the wealth of the provincial population. Thanks to the Edict of emperor Diocletianus, it is possibly to calculate approximately the value of a object or the whole treasure, not only as contents of precious metal, but also as price of the workmanship and decoration. At the second place the amount of the concentrated jewels could give a partial answer of the question about the local workshops and the import. The finds demonstrate a homogenous character in respect of the quality of the workmanship of the objects, composing the treasures. The treasures from Cherven briag, Svirkovo, Sadovets, Šarkamen, Ratiaria and Candidiana demonstrate certain local origin or manufacture in Sirmium, in the neighboring province of Pannonia. It is possibly to suppose that the greater part of the adornments in the Odessos treasure was imported, because of their high quality and eastern analogies. The trade relationships and the settlement of new population are clearly indicated, which is of a great matter to clarify the pattern of the late antique material culture south of the Lower Danube. The concentration of treasures in the boundary provinces marcs the political uncertainty, typical for the last decades of the 6th and the beginning of the 7th c., but also their high price as pieces of precious metal, artistic products and family value. Not at the last place – the research of the treasures is important to take out the owners of full anonymity and clarifies their fortune in the false times of the age.

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⁵⁴ Mundel Mango 1992, 134.

⁵⁵ Rădulescu, Cliante 1986, 158; Cliante, Radulescu 1988, 368; Mundel Mango 1998, 212.

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