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Two bronze objects of Western origin in the Saharna microregion,
Rezina district, Republic of Moldova

Aurel ZANOCI¹

Abstract: *In the Saharna microregion (Rezina district, Republic of Moldova), four settlements and one burial attributed to the Holercani-Hansca culture are currently known. In the settlements Saharna Mare / "Dealul Mănăstirii" and Saharna "Rude", a bronze hairpin of Ösennadel type and a crescent pendant with vertically perforated shank were recently discovered. Both objects have many analogies in Transylvania as well as in Central Europe, being dated within the period Bz D - Ha A₁. Along with the finds from Saharna microregion, in the area of the Holercani-Hansca culture, in the sites of Calfa, Holercani, Coșnița and others, other bronze artifacts are known, also of Western origin and having the same chronological markers. Thus, the presence of these objects denotes the connections of the communities from the Prut-Dniester area with Transylvania and Central Europe.*

Rezumat: *În microzona Saharna, raionul Rezina, Republica Moldova sunt cunoscute la momentul de față patru așezări și un mormânt, atribuite culturii Holercani-Hansca. În așezările de la Saharna Mare / „Dealul Mănăstirii” și Saharna „Rude” au fost descoperite, recent, un ac pentru păr din bronz de tipul Ösennadel și un pandantiv semilunar ajurat cu tija perforată vertical. Ambele piese au numeroase similitudini în Transilvania, precum și în Europa Centrală, încadrându-se în perioada Bz D - Ha A₁. Deopotrivă cu descoperirile de la Saharna, în arealul culturii Holercani-Hansca, în siturile de la Calfa, Holercani, Coșnița etc., sunt cunoscute și alte artefacte din bronz, care sunt, de asemenea, de origine vestică și au aceeași încadrare cronologică. Astfel, prezența acestor piese denotă legăturile comunităților din spațiul pruto-nistean atât cu Transilvania, cât și cu Europa Centrală.*

Keywords: *Prut-Dniester area, Bz D - Ha A₁ period, Holercani-Hansca culture, bronze objects, imports.*

The Saharna microregion is located in the central part of the Middle Dniester River basin and occupies the territory of the present-day Saharna Nouă commune, Rezina district, Republic of Moldova (Fig. 1/2). It is on the right bank of the Dniester, between the villages of Stohnaia in the north and Buciușca in the south, and extends over an area about 2.0-4.5 km wide and about 8.5 km long. From a geomorphological point of view, the microregion belongs to the Dniester Plateau, being located on its eastern façade. The average height of the relief in this space is 158.5 m, the heights range from 23.1 m in the Dniester valley to 253.1 m in the western part of the microzone².

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² REVENCO, CASTRAVEȚ, NICU 2016, 9.

The first traces of habitation in the Saharna microregion date back to the Upper Paleolithic, the period to which the archaeological site located near the village belongs³. This was followed by a gap in the continuity of archaeological sites until the Late Bronze Age - the Early Iron Age – the time to which four settlements belong (Fig. 1/3), attributed to the Holercani-Hansca culture⁴. During the following centuries (10th-3rd centuries BC) in the Saharna microzone, several sites belonging to the cultures of Cozia-Saharna, Basarabi-Șoldănești and the Getic culture alternated in succession⁵.

Among the artifacts found in this area, two bronze objects from the Holercani-Hansca habitation layer at the Saharna Mare / “Dealul Mănăstirii” and Saharna “Rude” sites are of interest.

The **Saharna Mare / “Dealul Mănăstirii”** settlement, attributed to the Holercani-Hansca horizon, occupies the western part of a promontory, delimited to the north, east and south by a gorge, called by the locals “Valea Crac” (Fig. 1/2). So far, three pits have been excavated on the analyzed territory of the settlement, which contained pottery shards characteristic of the Holercani-Hansca culture⁶.

In one of these pits (Pit 177⁷; Fig. 2/1) a bronze hairpin (Ösennadel type) was found (Fig. 2/7, 8). It is of circular cross-section (D = 0.4 cm), one of its ends is sharp, and the opposite, curved, ends with a mushroom-shaped protome. In the upper part, where the bend of the hairpin begins, there is an eyelet with a hole on the side. The length of the straight part of the hairpin is 11.5 cm, and the bent part is 1.3 cm.

There are very few hairpins that are almost identical to the items from Saharna microregion. They are known in the settlements at Petrușeni “La Cigoreanu” (Râșcani district, Republic of Moldova)⁸, Rotbav “La Pârâuț” (Brașov County, Romania)⁹, as well as a fortuitous find¹⁰. This type of hairpins probably belongs an object with a side eyelet, but with a broken end, found in the settlement at Ostrovets “Olechina” (Ivano-

³ CERNYSH 1949, 21.

⁴ NICULIȚĂ, ZANOCI, BĂȚ 2016a; NICULIȚĂ, ZANOCI, BĂȚ 2016b, 377-379.

⁵ NICULIȚĂ, ZANOCI, BĂȚ 2016b, 379-396; ZANOCI, NICULIȚĂ, BĂȚ 2019, 317-320.

⁶ NICULIȚĂ, ZANOCI, BĂȚ 2016b, 40-45, fig. 23-25; NICULIȚĂ *et al.* 2019, 256-257, fig. 5.

⁷ The numbering belongs to the authors of the research. The pit had a cylindrical shape with a diameter of 1.9 m and a depth of 1.1 m (NICULIȚĂ, ZANOCI, BĂȚ 2016b, 41, fig. 24/1).

⁸ LEVITSCKII, SAVA 1993, 126, fig. 3/9; SAVA 1994, 152, fig. 5/31; SAVA 1998, 296, Abb. 24/6; DERGAČEV 2002, Taf. 46/D5; SAVA 2014, 91, fig. 49/12; SÎRBU *et al.* 2020, 82, fig. 5/2.

⁹ DIETRICH, DIETRICH 2007, 90, Taf. II/2; DIETRICH 2014, 142, Taf. 164/2.

¹⁰ The location of this pin is unknown. It appeared on an antique website (<https://www.ancientworld.de/nadeln-der-bronzezeit>), where it is indicated that it is in a private collection and belongs to the Noua-Sabatinovka culture.

Frankivsk region, Ukraine)¹¹. The mentioned hairpins a priori were related to the settlements of the Noua culture. However, it should be noted that none of them¹² was found in closed contexts. At the same time, we mention that at Petrușeni “La Cigoreanu” an occupation layer belonging to the Chișinău-Corlăteni culture was identified¹³, and at Rotbav “La Pârâuț” that belonging to the Gáva culture were found¹⁴. So, we cannot exclude that these hairpins could originate from later horizons. Belonging to the Noua culture was dictated by their chronological classification, which was made on the basis of analogies with type B Majków variant hairpins¹⁵ found in Poland and dated by M. Gedl to the end of period II – the beginning of period III of the Bronze Age¹⁶, which corresponds to Bz C₂-D.

However, the hairpin from Saharna Mare / “Dealul Mănăstirii” cannot in any way be connected with any Noua habitation layer. As already mentioned, there were no Bronze Age sites in the Saharna microregion, and the nearest settlements of the Noua culture are located at a distance of about 20-30 km¹⁷. Moreover, a hairpin was found in a pit along with ceramic fragments characteristic of the Holercani-Hansca culture (Fig. 2/2-6, 9)¹⁸, with various analogies in the sites of this culture at Rașcov XI¹⁹, Saharna Mică²⁰, Coșnița²¹, Hansca “La Matcă”²², etc..

The second bronze object comes from the occupation layer attributed to the Holercani-Hansca culture²³ at **Saharna “Rude”** settlement, located opposite the Saharna Mare / “Dealul Mănăstirii” site, just 0.4 km to the southwest (Fig. 1/2). It was found at the bottom of a ditch, at a depth of 0.7 m from the current ground surface (Fig. 3/1). It is a crescent pendant (Fig. 3/2, 3) with vertically perforated shank, with

¹¹ LYSENKO 2021, 272, ris. 47/6.

¹² The Rotbav hairpin was found at a depth of 0.3 m, in the lower part of the layer affected by plowing (DIETRICH, DIETRICH 2008, 90). The context of the discovery of the item from Petrușeni is unknown.

¹³ LEVIȚKI 1994a, 54.

¹⁴ DIETRICH 2014, 211-218.

¹⁵ GEDL 1983, 85-86, Taf. 26/386-394.

¹⁶ GEDL 1983, 15.

¹⁷ SAVA 2014, fig. 2.

¹⁸ NICULIȚĂ, ZANOCI, BĂȚ 2016b, 43, fig. 24/2-6.

¹⁹ KASHUBA, FIDELSKY 2007, ris. 4/5.

²⁰ NICULIȚĂ, ZANOCI, ARNĂUT 2008, fig. 32/5, 13; NICULIȚĂ *et al.* 2016, fig. 174/4, 5.

²¹ LEVIȚKI 1994b, pl. 8/2.

²² NICULIȚĂ 1981, ris. 5/5.

²³ On the “Rude” plateau, traces of habitation characteristic of Cozia-Saharna and Getic cultures have also been documented (NICULIȚĂ, ZANOCI, BĂȚ 2016b, 361; ZANOCI *et al.* 2020; ZANOCI, BĂȚ, DULGHER 2021).

an opening in each of the two arms. The pendant is 2.9 cm high and 2.2 cm wide. The length of the shank is 0.7 cm, the diameter is 0.6×0.4 cm, the diameter of the perforation is 0.3 cm.

Pendants of this type²⁴ are quite numerous and spread over large areas. At the moment, about 66 points / locations are known where such objects were found²⁵. To the west, they reach Baden-Württemberg (the Gammertingen grave²⁶), to the northwest – to Saxony-Anhalt (the Kloschwitz hoard of bronze objects²⁷), to the north – to Lower Silesia (the Wrocław-Ksiezka Male grave²⁸). To the southwest, they spread to northern Italy (the Peschiera (I) settlement²⁹), and to the south – to Croatia (the Brodski-Varoš hoard³⁰). The easternmost find of a crescent pendant with a vertically perforated shank, with the exception of the pendant from Saharna microregion, was attested in the Bikaz I hoard of bronze objects³¹. However, most of the places (about 30) where such objects were found are concentrated in the space between the Mureş River basin and the upper reaches of the Tisza³².

Throughout the distribution area of these pendants, most of them were found in hoards of bronze objects (about 44 hoards), in which there are from 1 to 10 items. However, in some cases, their number can be quite large: Giula (113 intact and fragmentary pendants)³³, Peştera Ungurului I (50 specimens)³⁴, Cioclovina (87 specimens)³⁵, etc..

²⁴ These objects are also interpreted by some researchers as “needle protectors” (Nadelschützer) (PAULÍK 1986, Abb. 9-10), others suggest that they could be used both as pendants and as needle protectors (JANKOVITS 2015, 248). They are also interpreted as abstract symbols of horns, considered sacred signs (SCHAUER 1995, 306; KREUTLE 2007, 208). More information about the functionality of these objects see: KACSÓ 2009, 170 and footnote 46; JANKOVITS 2015, 247-248.

²⁵ HANSEN 1994, 261, Abb. 165; KACSÓ 1995, 115-116, Liste 4; KACSÓ 2009, 168; JANKOVITS 2015, 246-247, Abb. 6.

²⁶ REIM 1981, Abb. 5/2; 11/4; KREUTLE 2007, 207, 552, Taf. 136.

²⁷ BRUNN 1968, Taf. 94/7.

²⁸ PFÜTZENREITER 1931, Abb. 4.

²⁹ JANKOVITS 2015, Abb. 5/1, 2; JANKOVITS 2020, Fig. 3/C1.

³⁰ VINSKI-GASPARINI 1973, Taf. 52. 48-49.

³¹ KACSÓ 1980, 296; KACSÓ 1995, Liste 4/3.

³² KACSÓ 1995, 115-116, Liste 4; KACSÓ 2009, 168; JANKOVITS 2015, 246-247, Abb. 6.

³³ KACSÓ 1995, Liste 4/22; KACSÓ 2009, 168.

³⁴ DUMITRAŞCU, CRIŞAN 1989; KACSÓ 2009, 169.

³⁵ COMŞA 1966; EMÖDI 1978; KACSÓ 2009, 169.

Less frequently (14 cases), the pendants come from graves, most of which are concentrated on the western and northern periphery of the distribution area of these objects³⁶.

Very rarely pendants of this type are found in settlements. Thus, at present, such objects have been found at Curtici (Transylvania)³⁷, at Keszhely-Apátdomb³⁸ (Transdanubia), at Peschiera³⁹ (Northern Italy). To these is added the item discovered at Saharna “Rude” settlement, in the Middle Dniester region.

Although these pendants are a unitary type, there are some differences in their design. Thus, pendants are known with an opening at each of the two arms (Saharna “Rude”, Oradea IV⁴⁰, Sânnicolau de Munte⁴¹, Răbăgani⁴², Gammertingen⁴³, Dedinka⁴⁴, Căuaș-Sighetiu⁴⁵ etc.) and with two openings (Arpășel⁴⁶, Giula⁴⁷, Pécs-Jakabhegy III⁴⁸, Cubulcut⁴⁹, Deva III⁵⁰ etc.). The shank is also different, both in length and decoration applied to it. Thus, the shank of these pendants is between 1.2 cm and 4.5 cm long⁵¹ and is decorated with several ribs along the entire length (Sânnicolau de Munte⁵², Peschiera⁵³, Răbăgani⁵⁴, Galoșpetrău⁵⁵, Blučina V⁵⁶ etc.), or only at the end (Sânnicolau

³⁶ JANKOVITS 2015, Abb. 6.

³⁷ POSTA 1899, Abb. 4E; KACSÓ 1995, Liste 4/9.

³⁸ SÁGI 1909, Abb. 7/3; KACSÓ 1995, Liste 4/28.

³⁹ JANKOVITS 2020, fig. 3/C1.

⁴⁰ KACSÓ 1995, Liste 4/36, Abb. 5/15, 16

⁴¹ KACSÓ 2009, Pl. 1/1.

⁴² KACSÓ 1995, Abb. 7/3, 4.

⁴³ REIM 1981, Abb. 5/2; 11/4.

⁴⁴ PAULÍK 1986, Abb. 8/3, 4, 7, 8.

⁴⁵ MARTA, KIENLIN, RUNG 2021, Fig. 27/1.

⁴⁶ KACSÓ 1995, Abb. 3/6-8.

⁴⁷ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1978, Taf. 102/B1-4.

⁴⁸ JANKOVITS 2015, Abb. 5/3.

⁴⁹ KACSÓ 1995, Abb. 8/3.

⁵⁰ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1978, Taf. 92/C23.

⁵¹ According to published drawings.

⁵² KACSÓ 2009, Pl. 1/1, 2, 6-13.

⁵³ JANKOVITS 2015, Abb. 5/1.

⁵⁴ KACSÓ 1995, Abb. 7/2-4.

⁵⁵ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1978, Taf. 102/A43.

⁵⁶ ŘLHOVSKÝ 1979, Taf. 80/B4.

de Munte⁵⁷, Frâncenii de Piatră⁵⁸ Oradea IV⁵⁹, Cioclovina⁶⁰, Sântana “Cetatea Veche”⁶¹ etc.). Unlike the mentioned items, the object from Saharna “Rude” has a shorter shank (only 0.7 cm) and is decorated with a single rib at the end (Fig. 3/2, 3).

According to C. Kacsó⁶², the crescent pendants with vertically perforated shanks were the creations of the metallurgical center in western Transylvania, starting from the Bz D period, and their prototype was perforated horseshoe pendants that came to this region following Pilyiny influences. And later, in Ha A₁, the crescent pendants spread to other territories. Probably, the object found at Saharna “Rude” can be attributed to this period.

Confirmation of this dating is a clay cup (Fig. 3/4, 5), found together with the pendant at the same depth (-0.7 m). The closest analogues of this cup are known in the settlements of the Holercani-Hansca culture at Saharna Mică⁶³, Raşcov XI⁶⁴, Coşniţa⁶⁵. Similar vessels were also found at Saharna Mare / “Dealul Mănăstirii”⁶⁶ settlement, including in pit No. 177, together with the Ösennadel-type hairpin (Fig. 2/2, 9). A similar cup was recently discovered in a double burial at Saharna “Ţiglău” settlement⁶⁷.

Bronze objects of western origin found in the Saharna microregion are no exception in the Holercani-Hansca cultural area (Fig. 1/3), as they are also attested in other sites, such as the settlements of Holercani, Calfa, Coşniţa and burials from Hansca and Maşcăuţi “Zaverna”⁶⁸.

For example, a pin with a truncated biconical head and a round cross-section, decorated with stripes of parallel incised lines (Fig. 4/1, 7), was found in Holercani⁶⁹. For such pins in German literature, the following names are used: *Nadeln mit verdicktem*

⁵⁷ KACSÓ 2009, Pl. 1/3-5.

⁵⁸ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIŢA 1978, Taf. 99/C2.

⁵⁹ KACSÓ 1995, Abb. 5/16.

⁶⁰ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIŢA 1978, Taf. 90/B16.

⁶¹ GOGĂLTAN, SAVA, MERCEA 2013, Pl. 5/2a.

⁶² KACSÓ 1995, 100-101; KACSÓ 2009, 168.

⁶³ NICULIŢĂ, ZANOCI, ARNĂUT 2008, Fig. 8/8; et al. 2016, Fig. 176/4.

⁶⁴ KASHUBA, FIDELSKY 2007, ris. 4/5.

⁶⁵ LEVIŢKI 1994B, Pl. 8/2.

⁶⁶ NICULIŢĂ, ZANOCI, BĂŢI 2016b, Fig. 25/1, 2.

⁶⁷ BĂŢI, SIMALCSIK 2021, Fig. 1/6. For this burial we have two radiocarbon data made in the Poznań Laboratory (Poland): 2860±35 BP = 1126-919 Cal BC and 2810±35 BP = 1055-892 Cal BC. *Unpublished data.*

⁶⁸ LEVIŢKI 1994B, 229-230, Pl. 6/2-7, 12/1; 13/1-4; NICIC 2008, 101-105; AGULNIKOV 2016, 189-190, ris. 2/5.

⁶⁹ PASSEK 1956, 24; LEVIŢKI 1994b, Pl. 12/1.

*Kopf*⁷⁰, *Nadeln mit Tonnenförmigem Kopf*⁷¹, *Nadeln mit einfachem, doppelkonischem Kopf*⁷², etc. In the Eastern Carpathian area, objects similar to the Holercani pin are known in the collection of the National Museum of Bukovina (Suceava) (an item)⁷³, in grave 9 of the Vaslui “Curțile Domnești” cemetery belonging to the Chișinău-Corlăteni culture⁷⁴, and in the settlement of Horga⁷⁵. In Transylvania, a similar pin was found in a hoard from the Tășad settlement⁷⁶. All of them are usually dated to the Ha A₁ period⁷⁷. They are more widespread in Central Europe, where they are attributed to the period Bz D - Ha A₁. For example, such pins are known in Czechia (Dubicko⁷⁸), Slovakia (Slizké⁷⁹, L'uborča⁸⁰), Germany (Kronsberg, Ramelsloh, etc.)⁸¹, Northern Croatia (Brodski-Varoš⁸²), etc..

Among the bronze objects from the Holercani-Hansca culture area there is a crook-shaped pin (German: *Hirtenstabnadeln*) found at Calfa settlement⁸³ (Fig. 4/2, 8), as well as a fragment from Coșnița⁸⁴. In Transylvania, such pins are known at Ciulpăș “Peștera Bulgărelu”⁸⁵, Porț “Corău”⁸⁶, and, probably, in the hoard of bronze objects from Uioara de Sus⁸⁷. The finds from Ciulpăș and Porț are attributed to the Bz D period⁸⁸, while the Uioara de Sus hoard is attributed to the Ha A₁ period⁸⁹. The pins of this type, which are often found in Central Europe, is also dated to the period between Bz D and Ha A₁; in

⁷⁰ DERGAČEV 2002, 161-162.

⁷¹ LAUX 1976, 79.

⁷² ŘÍHOVSKÝ 1979, 116-121.

⁷³ After DERGAČEV 2002, 162, Taf. 74/A472.

⁷⁴ ANDRONIC 1981-1982, Fig. 5/6.

⁷⁵ This settlement is attributed by T. Udrescu to the noua culture (UDRESCU 1974, FIG. 8/5), and by A. László to the Chișinău-Corlăteni culture (LÁSZLÓ 1994, 150).

⁷⁶ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 112-113, Pl. 213/5.

⁷⁷ LEVIȚKI 2016, 92.

⁷⁸ ŘÍHOVSKÝ 1979, 117, Taf. 34/647.

⁷⁹ NOVOTNÁ 1980, Taf. 40/866, 867.

⁸⁰ FURMÁNEK et al. 1999, Taf. 39/3.

⁸¹ LAUX 1976, 79, Taf. 32/439, 440, 442.

⁸² VINSKI-GASPARINI 1973, Tab. 52/30, 31.

⁸³ LEVIȚKI 1994B, Pl. 13/1.

⁸⁴ DERGACEV 2002, Taf. 52/V4.

⁸⁵ ROMAN, DIACONESCU 2004, 91, foto 1-2.

⁸⁶ BEJINARIU 2005, 9, 24 (foto).

⁸⁷ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, Pl. 258/6.

⁸⁸ POPA, TOTOIANU 2010, 239, nota 1469; BEJINARIU 2005, 9, 24.

⁸⁹ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 80, 114-117.

Switzerland (Auvernier, Grandson, Portalblan)⁹⁰, Germany (Großseutersdorf, Nierstein)⁹¹, Czechia (Jabloňany, Ohrozim)⁹², Poland (Kiertz, Motarzyno, Renice)⁹³, etc..

We also note the presence in the area of the Holercani-Hansca culture of two bracelets (one intact and one fragmentary), discovered at the settlement from Coșnița⁹⁴.

The first (Fig. 4/3, 9), without decor, was made of a thin bronze plate (thickness = 0.15 cm) and had overlapping ends. This artifact can be classified as *Armbänder aus dünnem Bleich mit flachem Querschnitt* type, the *unverzirte* variant⁹⁵. Two similar intact objects⁹⁶ come from the hoard of bronze objects from Suseni⁹⁷, they are attributed to Ha A₁. Probably, fragments from the hoards from Suseni, Uioara de Sus and Hărău⁹⁸, dated to the same period, could be of such bracelets.

Also of interest is a fragment (Fig. 4/4) of an undecorated bracelet⁹⁹ with a round section and thin ends¹⁰⁰. These objects are widespread both in territorial and temporal terms. For example, they are found in the Transylvanian hoards of bronze objects from Lăpuș (Bz D)¹⁰¹, Popești (Ha A₁)¹⁰², Șpălnaca II (Ha A₁)¹⁰³, Căpușu de Câmpie (Ha A₂)¹⁰⁴, etc.. Such bracelets are also well known during this period in Central Europe¹⁰⁵.

Among the objects that have analogies in the western regions there are also five temple rings (Fig. 5), found in a double burial at Hansca¹⁰⁶. Three of them (Fig. 5/1-3,

⁹⁰ BECK 1980, 142-143, Taf. 48/2, 3, 7, 9, 10.

⁹¹ MÜLLER-KARPE 1980, Taf. 389/D1; 440/D4.

⁹² ŘÍHOVSKÝ 1979, 71, Taf. 17/306, 307.

⁹³ ESSEN 1985, 34-35, Taf. 8/152-159.

⁹⁴ LEVIȚKI 1994B, 29, Pl. 13/2, 3.

⁹⁵ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1998, 180.

⁹⁶ One (No. 2210) has the ends not overlapping, they being only close. And the second one (No. 2211) was changed in shape, being unbent (PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1998, Taf. 156).

⁹⁷ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1998, 180, Taf. 156/2210, 2211.

⁹⁸ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1998, 180, Taf. 156/2209, 2212, 2216-2218, 2224. M. Petescu-Dîmbovița also included in this variant two fragments (No. 2207, 2208) from the hoard from Bandul de Câmpie, which, however, T. Soroceanu, B. Rezi and R.E. Németh interpret only as a raw material for bracelets (SOROCEANU, REZI, NÉMETH 2017, 26, note 109).

⁹⁹ LEVIȚKI 1994b, 29, pl. 13/3.

¹⁰⁰ In the German-language literature they are called *unverzirte Armringe mit rundem Querschnitt* (RICHTER 1970, 84-85).

¹⁰¹ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1998, 45, Taf. 28/244.

¹⁰² PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1998, 45, Taf. 28/248.

¹⁰³ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1998, 45, Taf. 28/249, 250.

¹⁰⁴ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1998, 44, Taf. 27/235, 236.

¹⁰⁵ RICHTER 1970, Taf. 30/494, 499, 502; 31/506, 507.

¹⁰⁶ LEVIȚKI 1985, 126, ris. 1/2, 4, 5.

6-8) are made of bronze wire, bent in two, twisted and curled into a spiral (1.5 turns). The closest analogy with such rings is known in the hoard of bronze objects from Milostea “Sacoți” in Oltenia, which is dated Ha A₁¹⁰⁷. In Central Europe such rings are attested starting with Bz A₂¹⁰⁸, and perpetuating up to Ha B₁-B₂¹⁰⁹.

The other two rings (Fig. 5/4-5, 9-10) are simple, twisted in 1.25 and 1.5 turns. They also have analogies in the Milostea “Sacoți” hoard¹¹⁰.

It should also be noted the presence in the area of the Holercani-Hansca culture of two bronze buttons (German: *Ösenknöpfen*) (Fig. 4/5, 6), found in burials from Hansca¹¹¹ and Mașcăuți “Zaverna”¹¹². The closest analogy to these objects is known in the settlement of the Chișinău-Corlăteni culture from Seliște¹¹³. They are also attested in hoards of bronze objects from Ulmi (Bz D), Tășad (Ha A), Uioara de Sus (Ha A)¹¹⁴, etc. in Transylvania. Such buttons were used later, in the Ha B period. For example, in the Eastern Carpathian area they are often found both in settlements (Solonceni “Hlinaia”¹¹⁵), and in cemeteries (Saharna “Țiglău”, Saharna “Gura Hulboacei”)¹¹⁶ of the Cozia-Saharna culture.

The bronze objects of Central European tradition, specific to the period Br D - Ha A₁ (13th-12th centuries BC), attested in the Holercani-Hansca culture area, are not an exception for the Eastern Carpathian area. In addition to the above-mentioned finds, they are known in over 33 places, which are hoards of bronze objects, as well as isolated finds¹¹⁷.

Returning to the bronze pin and pendant from Saharna microregion, we note that they perfectly fit into the “wave” of Western imports to the Eastern Carpathian area in general and to the Middle Dniester region in particular. Their presence in the

¹⁰⁷ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1998, 20, Taf. 3/36.

¹⁰⁸ The burial from Branč, Slovakia (NOVOTNÁ 1980, 17, Taf. 56/C14, 16, 18).

¹⁰⁹ Malnice, Bohemia / Czechia – Bz B-C (PLESL 1954, 225-241, obr. 7/3, 4, 9); Kamýk nad Vltavou, Bohemia / Czechia – Bz D (KYTLICOVÁ 2007, 268-269, Taf. 25/8); Brodski-Varoš / Croatia – Bz D - Ha A1 (VINSKI-GASPARINI 1973, 196, Tab. 57/55); Bingula-Divoš / Croatia – Ha B1-B2 (VINSKI-GASPARINI 1973, 221, Tab. 86/18, 19).

¹¹⁰ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, pl. 283/8, 9.

¹¹¹ LEVIȚKI 1985, 126, ris. 1/3.

¹¹² AGULNIKOV 2016, ris. 2/5.

¹¹³ LEVIȚKI 1994a, 136, fig. 58/4.

¹¹⁴ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 77, 112-117, pl. 88/17; 213/33; 248/26, 28.

¹¹⁵ KASHUBA 2000, ris. LXXXVI/4, 5.

¹¹⁶ KASHUBA 2000, ris. LVII/20-22; LVIII/1-4; LXIV/1-3.

¹¹⁷ A summary of these findings can be found in LEVIȚKI 2016, 84-97, with bibliography.

settlements of Saharna Mare / “Dealul Mănăstirii” and Saharna “Rude” confirms the dating of these sites from the 12th century BC.

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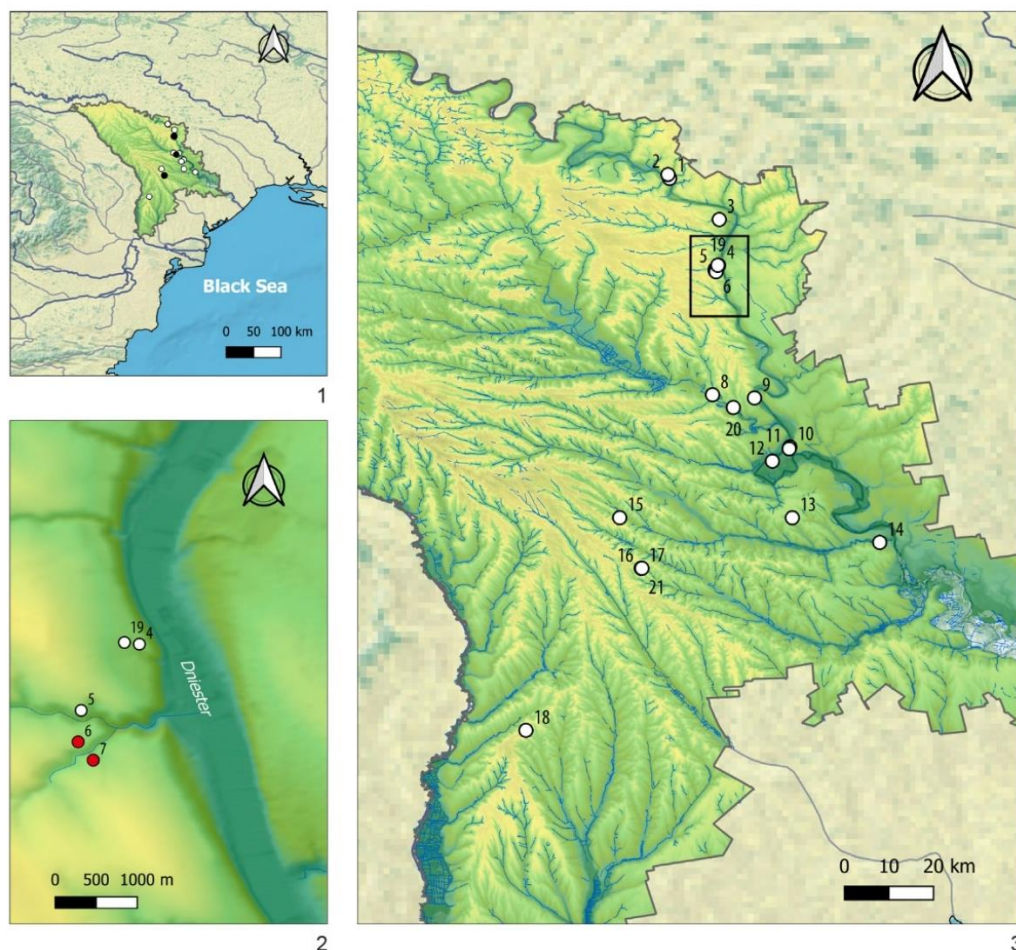


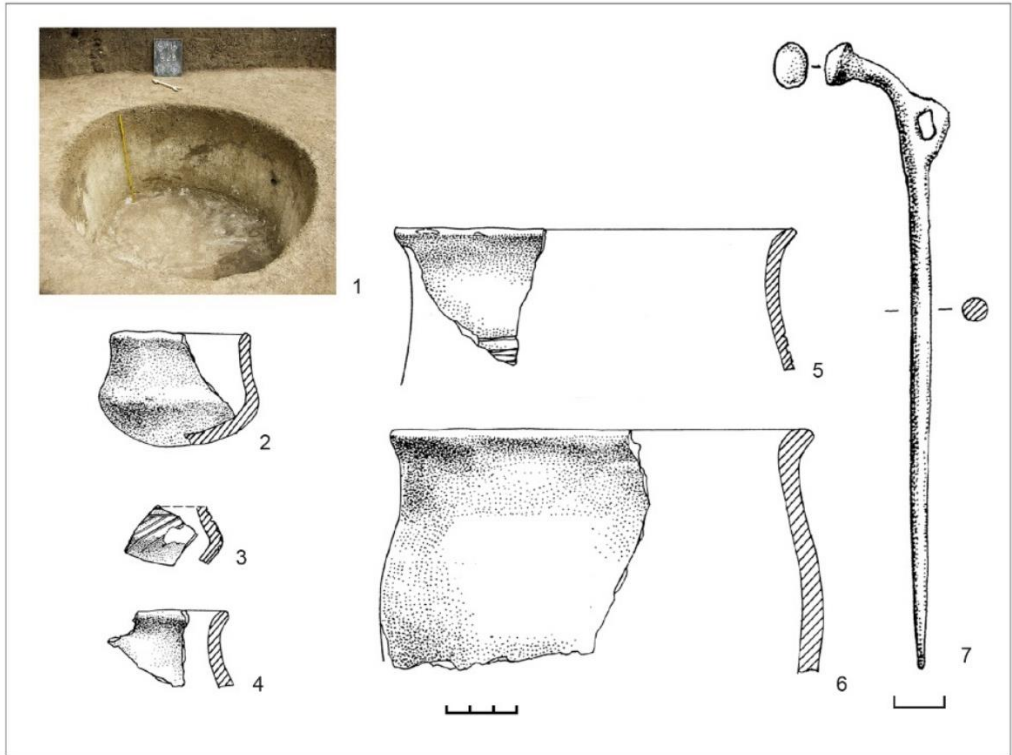
Fig. 1: Location of the Holercani-Hansca culture sites: **1** – in the Eastern Carpathian area; **2** – in the Saharna microregion; **3** – in the Prut-Dnister area (**Settlements:** **1.**

Rașcov XI;

2. Rașcov XII; **3.** Solonceni "Hlinaia"; **4.** Saharna "Țiglău"; **5.** Saharna Mică; **6.** Saharna Mare / "Dealul Mănăstirii"; **7.** Saharna "Rude"; **8.** Trebujeni "Potârca"; **9.** Holercani; **10.** Pohrebea III; **11.** Pohrebea V; **12.** Coșnița; **13.** Cobusca Veche; **14.** Calfa; **15.** Suruceni; **16.** Hansca "La Matcă"; **17.** Hansca "Limbari-Căprăria"; **18.** Cociulia;

Graves: **19.** Saharna "Țiglău";

20. Mascăuți "Zaverna"; **21.** Hansca).

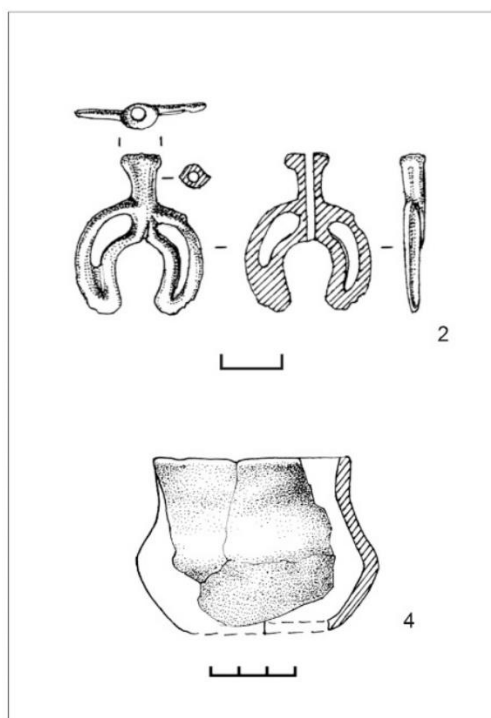


8-9

Fig. 2: Saharna Mare / "Dealul Mănăstirii", pit no. 177: 1 - view from south-west; 2-6, 9 - pottery finds; 7, 8 - bronze pin (1, 8, 9 - photo by M. Băţ; 2-7 - drawing by S. Burciu)



1



2

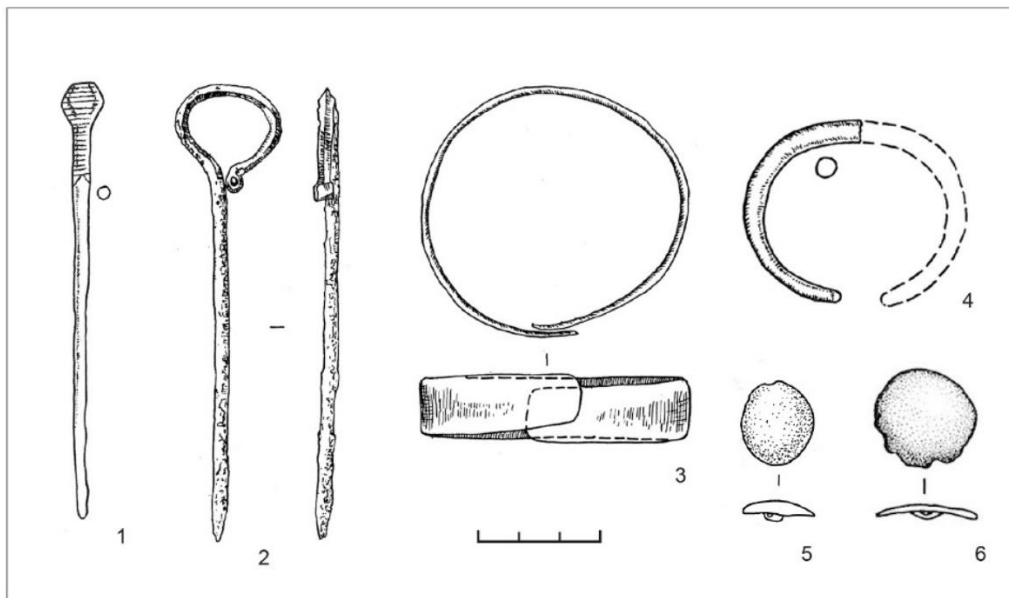
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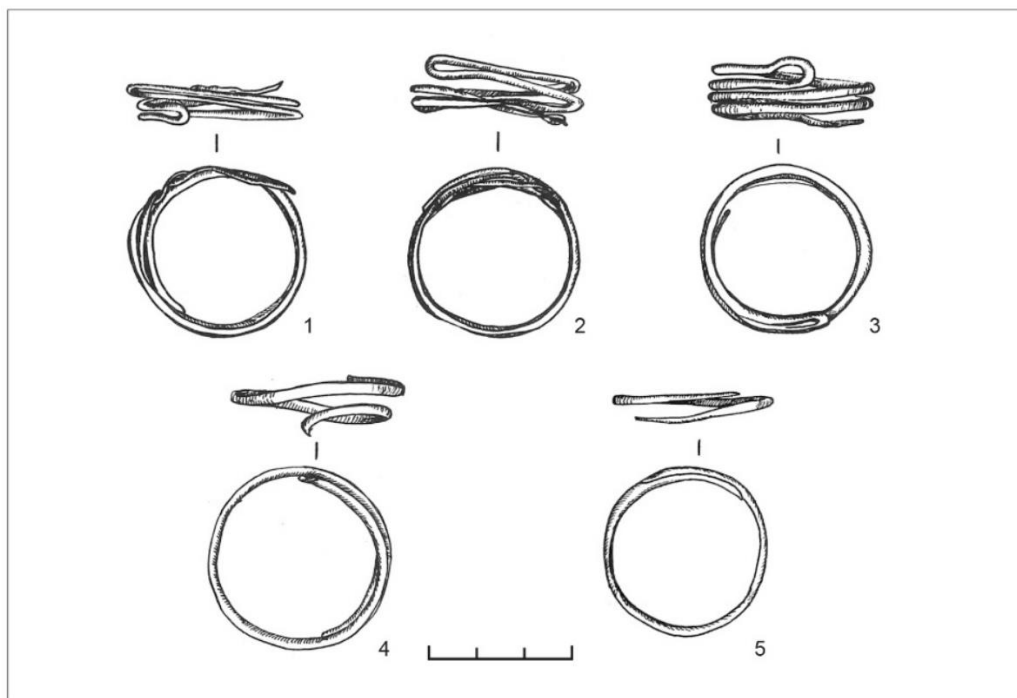
Fig. 3: Saharna "Rude": 1 – view of the ditch and the context of discovery of the pendant and the clay cup; 2, 3 – bronze pendant; 4, 5 – clay cup (1 – photo by A. Zanoci; 2, 3 – drawing by S. Burciu; 3, 5 – photo by M. Băţ).



7-9

Fig. 4: Bronze objects: 1, 7 – Holercani; 2, 8 – Calfa; 3, 4, 9 – Coșnița; 5 – Hansca;
6 – Mașcăuți "Zaverna"

(1-5 after Levițki 1994b, pl. 6/7; 12/1; 13/1-3; 6 – after Agulnikov 2016, ris. 2/5; 7-9 – NMHM: FB-27778-68, FB-27778-41, FB-27776-67; photo by I. Foca).



6-10

Fig. 5: Temple rings from Hansca
(1-5 after Levittki 1994b, pl. 6/2-6; 6-10 – NMHM: FB-27778-69, FB-27778-70, FB-27778-71, FB-27778-72, FB-27778-72A; photo by I. Foca)