

Synopsis of the doctoral dissertation

Jewellery of the Sarmatian period in the Crimea - typological-chronological classification¹

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Doctoral dissertation written at the Institute of Archaeology of Rzeszów University, under the supervision of prof. dr hab. Sylwester Czopek and auxiliary supervisor dr hab. Tomasz Bochnak, professor at the Rzeszów University.

Jewellery is an interesting type of archaeological sources. It does not only indicate the level of the technological development of a given society, its aesthetics and spiritual beliefs, but it can also evidence maintaining intercultural contacts. The adornments from the Sarmatian period Crimea (2nd century BC – 4th century AD) constitute a numerous group represented by a wide range of forms whose great majority were not previously researched or published. Here, we are referring especially to earrings, bracelets, finger rings, and band rings from sites linked with the so-called *barbarian* population.

The aim of this paper is to discuss issues associated with such adornments found in the funerary and settlement materials of the Late Scythian and Sarmatian cultures, including sites with Germanic elements. To this end, artefacts yielded by 1140 graves from 38 necropolises were catalogued. Sources discovered at three settlements were also taken into account.

In the first part of this paper, the collected adornments were categorised and previous theories (based on older typologies) were verified. The mentioned classifications are incomplete, since they are based on materials from single sites and thus they can be applied only in part to the total corpus the Crimean jewellery. When categorising the analysed adornments, the whole material was divided into three essential groups: earrings, bracelets, and finger adornments (finger rings and band rings). It was proposed to subdivide the selected categories based on the characteristic features of particular sets.

Solving the research problem of this paper was not limited to systematising jewellery forms. When presenting the selected types, the typological-chronological transformations and provenances of particular artefacts were also discussed. The dissertation presents the diversity of the used raw materials and the question of recycling damaged jewellery. The occurrences of adornments in funerary features (taking into account the location of a given artefact in

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regard to the body, as well as the sexes and ages of the inhumed persons) were also reviewed. These observations made it possible to establish the types of jewellery preferred by women, men, and children. The ways of wearing them were also determined.

The last part of this paper discussed the roles of jewellery which, as it turned out, had been diverse. The obtained results based on the morphologies of particular adornments, information provided by written sources, and the methods of using such artefacts today.

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