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This volume is dedicated to the memory of Egon Dörner (1925–1993)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Egon Dörner".





# Șiclău (hung.: Sikló) “Gropoaie” (Arad County). A Burial Ground Section from the Mid–10<sup>th</sup> Century in the Basin of Lower Crișul Alb (hung.: Fehér Körös)<sup>1</sup>

Erwin Gáll, Florin Mărginean

**Abstract:** The present article aims at presenting the results of the archaeological discoveries made in Șiclău “Gropoaie” more than half a century ago. The censorship of those times did not allow the authors of the discovery (M. Rusu and E. Dörner) to publish more than a brief report; for this reason we believe it is useful to take up again, in a new and complete manner, all the data and inventory numbers resulted from those researches.

The discoveries in Șiclău can be included among those from small cemeteries, typical to areas in the close proximity of the Great Plain plain. The analysis of the inventory items discovered in the tombs allows for their dating during the tenth century.

**Keywords:** burial ground, ‘hungarian conquerors’, burial customs, material culture, Lower Crișul Alb.

In the autumn of 1958 a gold lock ring and a stirrup was donated to the collection of the Archaeological Institute in Cluj. According to those who reported the finds, they were found in a place called “Gropoaie” near Șiclău.

The site is situated approximately 300 m to the south-west of the end of the village, near a well (it is not known whether the well still exists) (Fig. 1).

The published article<sup>2</sup> of the report of the excavation does not make clear what was the stratigraphy of the investigated sector. We only know that locals used the place to extract earth and sand needed at constructions.

It was reported that eight graves<sup>3</sup> were found during the extraction of the clay, some of them were richly furnished, however, only the gold lock ring and the stirrup was given to the museum.

According to E. Dörner’s report, these finds were happened upon in three pits: two skeletons were found in Pit I (Pit I – Point A – the skeletons disappeared), a gold lock ring (Pit I – Point B), another skeleton and three bronze knobs (Pit I – Point C), a ‘rider’ with a gold lock ring, a square-shaped ornament and an iron stirrup (Pit I – Point D), and another iron stirrup (Pit I Point E), two bronze knobs (Pit I – Point H), a human skull (Pit II – Point F), and the remains of a human skeleton (Pit III – Point G) (see Plate 1/1; Plate 2/1).

All this led to a rescue research, a work that was needed to be carried out at the site. Thus, in April of 1959 a team of specialists from the Institute of History and Archaeology from Cluj – led by Mircea Rusu – and from the museum in Arad – E. Dörner, N. Kiss and A. Girauschek – conducted a rescue excavation at the point “Gropoaie” and has done even more research work at different parts of the town<sup>4</sup>.

Following the report, in April 1959 and a little later in August, Egon Dörner managed to excavate other 12 graves in the site.

It seems that the burial ground has been located in an area slightly elevated above the surrounding lands, which otherwise is understandable because it is located in an area where there is a real risk of flooding. The area in question has an oval form and it also could be distinguished

<sup>1</sup> English translation: László Oláh. Dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the Romanian Academy.

<sup>2</sup> Rusu, Dörner 1962.

<sup>3</sup> There are small differences in the number of tombs between the typed excavation report and the published article; the report mentions ca. 8 tombs, while the article mentions ca. 7 (see Rusu, Dörner 1962, 705).

<sup>4</sup> The informations were taken from the excavation report found at the museum of Arad and respectively from the article published by the authors of these archaeological researches (see: Rusu, Dörner 1962, Oța *et al.* 2006, 77, Plate 10–13; Cosma 2002, 228–231, Plate 238–252; Mărginean 2007; Gáll 2013, Vol. I: 444–457, Vol. II: Pl. 230–248.).



Fig. 1. Geographical location of the settlement of Șiclău in the lower basin of River Crișul Alb; 2. Localization of the discoveries on the third Hapsburg military survey (1869-1887) – taken from [http://mapire.eu/en/map/hkf\\_75e/?zoom=12&lat=46.45932&lon=21.42435](http://mapire.eu/en/map/hkf_75e/?zoom=12&lat=46.45932&lon=21.42435); 3. Localization of the discoveries on a satellite map (taken from Google Earth 2015).

in the north-west, north and southwest. Because this part of this territory was covered with corn crop, the research started from the ENE part of pit area no. 2. In this big pit there were discovered 12 other graves.

The published article of the report of the excavation does not make clear what was the stratigraphy of the investigated sector. We only know that locals used the place to extract earth and sand needed at constructions. The depth of the graves where the deceased were deposited varies between 0.90–1.15 m, with one exception, the Grave 3, which was buried 1.90 m in the ground.

### **The collection where the finds are kept**

Archaeological finds: Arad County Museum (A.C.M.), Romanian National Museum in București (R. N. M. B.).

Anthropological materials: unknown place. The human and horse bones found in Grave 3 constitute the only exceptions as they can be found in the Arad County Museum (A.C.M.) under registration number 13498.

## The description of the graves and finds

Registered stray finds:

1. A gold lock ring of Type 1a. Diameter:  $2.4 \times 2.4$  cm; thickness of string: 0.3 gram; weight: 3.0 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13529 (Plate 3/1).
2. Forged shoulder-handled iron stirrup, fragmentary (F type 2). Height: 16.2 cm; widest point: 13.2 cm; height of the handle: 2.8 cm; width of handle: 5.0 cm; diameter of the opening for strap leather: 1.9 cm; width of the handles: 1.4 cm; width of the sole: 3.0 cm; weight: 103 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13530 (I. D. point) (Plate 3/3).
3. The fragment of a bronze bracelet with clasp (Type 1a). Width: 1.5 cm; weight: 6.0 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13527 (Plate 3/2).
3. Sharpening stone, now it cannot be identified. A.C.M. Registry number: 13527.

### Grave 1 (Plate 4).

Height: No information. Orientation: W–E. According to the furnishing it is a female skeleton. The stretched skeleton has been preserved in a bad condition. According to the excavating expert the spinal column, the pelvis and the shin bones were preserved. The length of the remains of the skeleton is 120 cm. It could have been an adult. Traces of cremated earth were found near the skull. In the grave a burial with horse of type Bálint II was documented. The skull of the horse was found at the end of the legs of the skeleton to the left, the shin bones were registered under the skull. The horse was a small sized mare.

Its furnishing:

- 1.1–16. 16 pcs of rosette-shaped harness ornaments were found on the skull of the horse and next to it (Type c) (Plate 4; Plate 7).
- 1.1. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 7.7 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/a (Plate 4/1).
- 1.2. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 4.3 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/b (Plate 4/2).
- 1.3. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 5.5 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/c (Plate 4/3).
- 1.4. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 6.7 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/d (Plate 4/4).
- 1.5. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 5.4 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/e (Plate 4/5).
- 1.6. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 3.9 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/f (Plate 4/6).
- 1.7. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 6.7 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/g (Plate 5/7).
- 1.8. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 5.5 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/h (Plate 5/8).
- 1.9. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 3.9 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/i (Plate 5/9).
- 1.10. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 4.0 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/j (Plate 5/10).
- 1.11. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 5.6 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/k (Plate 5/11).
- 1.12. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 6.3 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/l (Plate 5/12).
- 1.13. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 3.4 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/m (Plate 5/13).
- 1.14. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 5.5 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/n (Plate 5/14).
- 1.15. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 3.0 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/o (Plate 5/15).
- 1.16. Diameter:  $2.3 \times 2.7$  cm; weight: 5.9 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/p (Plate 5/16).
- 2.1–2. The strap ends of a rosette-shaped harness: two pieces were found on the horse skull (Type 4a).
- 2.1. Length: 2.8 cm; width: 2.0 cm; thickness: 0.2 cm; weight: 7.5 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/a (Plate 5/17; Plate 7/1).
- 2.2. Length: 2.8 cm; width: 2.0 cm; thickness: 0.2 cm; weight: 5.8 grams A.C.M. Registry number: 13478/b (Plate 5/18; Plate 7/4).
- 3.1–2. Two stirrups, one of them is next to the right shin bone, the other was left of the left shin bone and the horse skull.
- 3.1. Pear-shaped iron stirrup (Pe1a4b). Height: 13.0 cm; widest point: 11.5 cm; height of the handles: 2.2 cm; width of handles: 3.6 cm; diameter of the opening for strap:  $1.2 \times 0.4$  cm; width of handles: 0.8 cm; weight: 61.7 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13480 (Plate 6/19).
- 3.2. Fragmentary pear-shaped iron stirrup (Type 1c7). Supposed height: 14.0 cm; supposed width: 11.3 cm; width of the handles: 0.7 cm; width of the sole: 2.0 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13481 (Plate 6/20).
4. Iron bit with sidebar (Type 3c) a little north of the horse skull. Length: 9.5–13.5 cm; Length of the handles: I. 9.5 cm; II. 13.4 cm; length of sidebar: I. 13.0 cm; II. 12.0 cm; diameter of the rings: I. 2.4 cm; II. 3.2 cm; weight: 139 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13483 (Plate 6/22).
5. A strap buckle to the left of the feet of the skeleton, together with the stirrups and the bit (Type 2). Length: 7.6 cm; width: 5.3 cm; weight: 28.3 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13482 (Plate 6/21).

**Grave 2 (Plate 8).**

8 m to the south of Grave 1. Height: 100 cm. Orientation: W–E. According to its furnishing, it is a male skeleton. It has been well preserved. The left arm of the skeleton is stretched alongside the body, the right hand is placed on the pelvis at right angle (90°) (Position III<sup>5</sup>). Length of the skeleton: 150 cm. There is a sheep bone near the end of the left foot. A symbolical horse burial of type Bálint I. a.

Its furnishings:

1. A silver lock ring of Type 1a. under the skull. Diameter: 2,4 × 2,4 cm; Thickness of the wire: 0.3 cm; weight: 3.0 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13489 (Plate 8/1).
- 2.1–2. One eye bead and one glass bead under the skull.
- 2.1. Flower eye bead of Type 1.6. (Type Szilágyi 1994: type 60). Diameter: 1.4 × 1.3 cm; weight: 2.4 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13491 (Plate 8/2a–b).
- 2.2. An eye bead decorated with brown stripes and white eyes (Type Szilágyi 1994: type 9/1.5.). Diameter: 1.2 × 0.7 cm; weight: 1.6 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13490 (Plate 8/3).
- 3.1–2. Two bronze knobs on the chest and in the place of the ear.
- 3.1. A knob of Type 1a1. Height: 1.5 cm; Diameter: 0.9 cm; weight: 4.0 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13492 (Plate 8/4).
- 3.2. Unknown type. Unidentifiable.
- 4.1–2. Thin bronze bracelets with clasp on the forearms.
- 4.1. Six fragments of a bracelet with clasp. Diameter: 6.7 × 7.2 cm; Thickness of wire: 0.5 cm; weight: 8.2 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13484 (Plate 8/13).
- 4.2. Seven fragments of a bracelet with clasp. Wire thickness: 1.0 cm; weight: 5.2 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13485 (Plate 9/14).
- 5.1–6. Six iron arrowheads on the left shoulder bone.
- 5.1. A big deltoid arrowhead with long cutting edge (Type 2a.). Length: 10.0 cm (with pin); Length (without pin): 7.5 cm; width: 3.5 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13493/a (Plate 8/5).
- 5.2. Rhomboid arrowhead (Type 3a.). Length: 7.1 cm (with pin); Length: 4.5 cm (without pin); width: 2.4 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13493/b (Plate 8/6).
- 5.3. Rhomboid arrowhead with arc-shaped cutting edge (Type 3c). Length: 6.2 cm (with pin); Length: 3.3 cm (without pin); width: 2.5 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13493/c (Plate 8/7).
- 5.4. Simple rhomboid arrowhead (Type 3a.). Length: 6.7 cm (with pin); Length: 4.5 cm (without pin); width: 3.1 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13493/d (Plate 8/8).
- 5.5. Simple deltoid arrowhead with short cutting edge (Type 1a.). Length: 5.2 cm (with pin); Length: 4.2 cm (without pin); width: 1.9 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13493/e (Plate 8/9).
- 5.6. One of the arrowhead mentioned by Dörner cannot be identified in the museum in Arad. A.C.M. Registry number: 13493/f.
- 6.1–3. Bronze quiver rings. Their position in the grave is unknown.
- 6.1. Bronze quiver ring (Type 5.1). Diameter: 2.6 cm; weight: 6.3 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13486 (Plate 8/10).
- 6.2. Bronze quiver ring (Type 5.1). Diameter: 2.6 cm; weight: 5.0 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13487 (Plate 8/11).
- 6.3. Bronze quiver ring (Type 5.1), broken in half. Diameter: 2.4 cm; weight: 4.3 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13488 (Plate 8/12).
- 7.1–2. Stirrups next to the left leg of the skeleton.
- 7.1. Fragmentary pear-shaped iron stirrup (Type 1c1). Height: 16.0 cm; height of the ears: 2.4 cm; width of the ears: 3.4 cm; diameter of the opening for the strap: 1.5 × 0.2 cm; width of the handles: 1.6 cm; width of the sole: 2.9 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13495 (Plate 9/16).
- 7.2. Fragmentary pear-shaped iron stirrup (Type 1g3.). Height: 15.9 cm; height of the ears: 3.0 cm; width of the ears: 4.2 cm; diameter of the opening for the strap: 1.4 × 0.4 cm; width of the handles: 1.6 cm; width of the sole: 2.9 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13496 (Plate 9/15).
8. A big foal bit with ring to the left of the leg of the skeleton, together with the stirrups (Type 1b). Seven fragments are mentioned in the inventory, but only the two rings and the mouth iron piece could be identified. Diameter of rings: I. 6.7 cm; II. 6.0 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13495 (Plate 9/17).
9. A round strap buckle to the left of the leg of the skeleton, together with the stirrups and the bit (Type 4). Length: 3.5 cm; width: 3.0 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: Unidentifiable.

<sup>5</sup> After: Gáll 2004–2005, 369, fig. 8; Gáll 2011, 25, Figure 13; Gáll 2013, 607–610, Fig. 175–178.



**Grave 3 (Plate 10).**

1.6 m to the north of Grave 1. Height: 80–190 cm. Orientation: W–E. The shape of the grave: oval. Length of the grave: 110 cm; width of the grave: 60 cm. According to the furnishing it is a male grave. A 4–5-cm thick layer of soot and charcoal was found at a depth of 130 cm, which covered the whole surface of the grave. Under this layer, human bones mixed with horse and sheep bones were found and the furnishings (a sabre, a bit, stirrup fragments) were damaged. The grave was 190 cm deep and human bones were found 140, 165 and 190 cm deep. The grave was disturbed beyond doubt. Unfortunately, the type of this burial with horse cannot be identified.

Its furnishings:

1. Fragments of a sabre. Width: 3.0 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13497.a.
2. Fragments of a bit. Diameter of the ring: 5.0 cm; Lengths of the pieces: I. 8.0 cm; II. 5.5 cm (fragmentary). A.C.M. Registry number: 13497.b (Plate 10/1).

The anthropological, archaeozoological and the archaeological materials can be found under registry number 13498 in the museum.

**Grave 4 (Plate 10).**

Height: 95 cm. Orientation: W–E. The grave was mostly raided. Apart from the two shin bones nothing else was found. There was no furnishing.

**Grave 5 (Plate 10).**

In the northern part of the excavated cemetery section. Height: 60 cm. Orientation: W–E. Length of the grave: 102 cm. A stretched child skeleton of unknown gender. The skull fell to the right, the left hand was folded on the pelvis, the right hand was stretched (Position II). Length of the skeleton: 103 cm. There was no furnishing.

**Grave 6 (Plate 11).**

In the northern part of the excavated cemetery section, next to Grave 5. Height: 45 cm. Orientation: S–N. Length of the grave: 102 cm. The stretched skeleton of a little girl. Her skull fell to the right, her left hand was folded on the pelvis, her right hand was stretched (Position II). Length of the skeleton: 132 cm.

Its furnishing:

1. A bronze knob to the left of the skeleton (Type 1b1). Height: 1.7 cm; width: 1.0 cm; weight: 2.4 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13499 (Plate 11/1).

**Grave 7 (Plate 12).**

It was in the same line as Grave 1, approximately 3 m to the south- south-east of Grave 2. Height: 90 cm. Orientation: W–e. A well preserved stretched female skeleton. The skull of the skeleton fell to the right, the left hand is folded on the pelvis, the right is also placed on the pelvis of the skeleton (Position XIV). Length of the skeleton: 143 cm. There is a sheep bone near the end of the left leg. A symbolical horse burial of type Bálint I. b.

Its furnishings:

- 1.1–23. 23 rhombus-shaped silver ornaments on the neck of the skeleton. (Type 3b) (only 22 is registered in the inventory book).
- 1.1. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.9 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/a (Plate 12/1).
- 1.2. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament with its ears missing. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.8 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/b (Plate 12/2).
- 1.3. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament with its ears missing, and there is a hole in the middle. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/c (Plate 12/3).
- 1.4. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.9 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/d (Plate 12/4).
- 1.5. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.9 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/e (Plate 12/5).
- 1.6. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/f (Plate 12/6).
- 1.7. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.9 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/g (Plate 12/7).
- 1.8. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.8 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/h (Plate 12/8).

- 1.9. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 1.0 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/i (Plate 12/9).
- 1.10. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.9 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/j (Plate 12/10).
- 1.11. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 1.1 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/k (Plate 12/11).
- 1.12. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.2 cm; weight: 0.9 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/l (Plate 12/12).
- 1.13. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.6 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/m (Plate 12/13).
- 1.14. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/n (Plate 12/14).
- 1.15. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament, its middle is partly missing. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.6 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/o (Plate 12/15).
- 1.16. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament, broken in half. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/p (Plate 12/16).
- 1.17. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament, broken in half. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/r (Plate 12/17).
- 1.18. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament, broken in half. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.2 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/s (Plate 12/18).
- 1.19. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament, fragmentary. Length: 2.6 cm; width: 1.2 cm; weight: 0.5 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/ş (Plate 12/19).
- 1.20. A small fragment of a rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.6 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.7 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/t (Plate 12/20).
- 1.21. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.4 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/ț (Plate 12/21).
- 1.22. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. Length: 2.5 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.2 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13501/v (Plate 12/22).
- 1.23. Rhombus-shaped silver ornament. We could not identify it in the Arad museum.
2. A bronze lock ring of type 1a. at the right temple. Diameter: 2.8 cm; Wire thickness: 0.3 cm; weight: 2.2 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13503 (Plate 12/23).
3. A fragmentary bronze knob without its ear on the right side of the chest. Diameter: 1.3 cm; weight: 2.3 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13502 (Plate 12/24).
4. A small silver plate on the chest, maybe a coin. The inventory mentions it (although it was not registered), but it cannot be identified in the Arad museum.
5. A bronze wire bracelet on the right wrist (Type 2a). Diameter: 6.9 × 6.9 cm; Thickness of wire: 0.4 cm; weight: 20.8 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13500 (Plate 13/25).
6. A bit to the left of the legs. Only one of its rings has been preserved. Diameter: 4.5 × 4.5 cm; weight: 12.6 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13504 (Plate 13/26).
7. A strap buckle to the left of the legs. It cannot be identified, although it is mentioned in the inventory book. A.C.M. Registry number: 13505.

### **Grave 8 (Plate 11).**

It was found in the southern part of the cemetery. Height: 85 cm. Orientation: W–E. A skeleton of unknown gender. The grave has been disturbed, the skeleton was destroyed, therefore only the two stirrups, the bit and the sheep bone remained in their original position. The sheep bone is near the end of the left leg. A symbolical horse burial of type Bálint I. a.

Its furnishings:

1.1–2. Stirrups *in situ*.

1.1. A 'Révész' type stirrup. It is connected to the handles with small ears, hardly perceptible. Its sole may have been flat originally, hammered into an arc, but it broke and the pieces were fitted together by two nails again. Height: 13.9 cm; widest part: 11.3 cm; height of the ears: 2.8 cm; width of the ears: 2.5 cm; diameter of the opening for the strap: 0.5 × 0.4 cm; width of the handles: 0.6 cm; width of the sole: 2.4 cm; weight: 51.7 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13506 (Plate 11/1).

A pear-shaped stirrup of Type 1.2. 3b. Originally, it had a straight sole. Its ear is joined to the handle by long handles. Height: 15.0 cm; widest point: 12 cm; height of the ears: 2.8 cm; width of the ear: 3.0 cm; diameter of the opening for the strap: 1.3 × 0.5 cm; width of the handles: 0.5 cm; width of the sole: 2.2 cm; weight: 60.0 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13507 (Plate 11/2).

2. A bit *in situ*. Only its big ring has been preserved. Diameter: 6.5 × 6.3 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13508 (Plate 11/3).

### Grave 9 (Plate 15).

It was found in the southern part of the cemetery, approximately 1 m to the north of the previous grave. Height: 105 cm. Orientation: W–E. According to the furnishing it was an adult female. The well preserved skeleton was buried in a crouched position. The arms were folded at an angle bigger than 90° and they were folded on her chest (Position XIII). Length of the skeleton: 156 cm. A Bálint I. c. type, symbolical horse burial (stirrup, strap buckle).

Its furnishings:

1.1–15. There are 15 heart-shaped small ornaments with open-works in the middle, manufactured by chill casting on the chest. (type 2b). It is extremely worn.

1.1. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.3 cm; weight: 0.9 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/a (Plate 15/1).

1.2. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.3 cm; weight: 0.6 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/b (Plate 15/2).

1.3. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. It is fragmentary in the middle. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.3 cm; weight: 0.7 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/c (Plate 15/3).

1.4. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.4 cm; weight: 0.6 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/d (Plate 15/4).

1.5. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.4 cm; weight: 0.5 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/e (Plate 15/5).

1.6. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.4 cm; weight: 0.6 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/f (Plate 15/6).

1.7. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.3 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/g (Plate 15/7).

1.8. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.3 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/h (Plate 15/8).

1.9. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.4 cm; weight: 0.8 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/i (Plate 15/9).

1.10. A bronze small ornament with a heart-shaped open-work in the middle and decorating beads. Diameter: 1.5 × 1.4 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/j (Plate 15/10).

1.11–15. Fragments of small bronze ornaments. A.C.M. Registry number: 13509/k–o. They cannot be identified.

2.1–4. Four ornaments with pendants on the neck, together with the small ornaments. (Type 10c1–10c2). They are in a weathered condition. The ornament on the last piece is fragmentary.

2.1. Ornament with pendant, with round ornament, with a heart-shaped pendant with beaded frame. The ornament is round, with open-work and beaded in the middle. There is a heart-shaped open-work on the pendant (Type 10c1). Height: 3.4 cm; height of the ornament: 1.4 cm; width of the ornament: 1.3 cm; height of the pendant: 1.9 cm; width of the pendant: 1.6 cm; weight: 1.4 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13510/a (Plate 15/11).

2.2. Ornament with pendant, with round ornament, with a heart-shaped pendant with beaded frame. The ornament is round, with open-work and beaded in the middle. There is a heart-shaped open-work on the pendant (Type 10c1). Height: 3.5 cm; height of the ornament: 1.4 cm; width of the pendant: 1.3 cm; height of the pendant: 1.9 cm; width of the pendant: 1.6 cm; weight: 1.5 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13510/b (Plate 15/12).

2.3. Ornament with pendant, with round ornament, with a heart-shaped pendant with beaded frame. The ornament is round, with open-work and beaded in the middle. There is a heart-shaped open-work on the pendant (Type 10c1). Height: 3.4 cm; height of the ornament: 1.4 cm; width of the pendant: 1.3 cm; height of the pendant: 1.9 cm; width of the pendant: 1.6 cm; weight: 1.7 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13510/c (Plate 16/13).

2.4. Ornament with pendant, with round ornament, with a heart-shaped pendant with beaded frame. The ornament is round, with open-work and beaded in the middle, it is fragmentary. There is a heart-shaped open-work on the pendant (Type 10c2). It is also fragmentary. Height: 3.4 cm; height of the ornament: 1.4 cm; width of the ornament: 1.3 cm; height of the pendant: 1.9 cm; width of the pendant: 1.6 cm; weight: 1.5 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13510/d (Plate 16/14).

3. The pendant of a cast bronze earring with bead-row pendant near the skull (Type 4a2). Height: 4.4 cm; diameter of the beads: 0.9 cm; weight: 3.3 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13512 (Plate 16/16).

4. A small sized, unidentifiable round ornament on the neck, it is pierced on the edges, fragmentary. Diameter: 2.5 cm; weight: 0.6 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13511 (Plate 16/15).

5.1–2. Under the left elbow there are two round silver plates, perhaps coins. They cannot be identified, they are not in the inventory of the Arad museum.

6.1–3. Three bronze knobs at the bones of the forearms, under the left elbow.

6.1. Cast round bronze knob (Type 1b1.). Height: 1.8 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 3.3 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13513 (Plate 16/17).

6.2. Cast round bronze knob (Type 1b1.). Height: 1.8 cm; width: 1.0 cm; weight: 5.4 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13514 (Plate 16/18).

6.3. Cast round bronze knob (Type 1a1.). Height: 1.5 cm; width: 0.8 cm; weight: 3.7 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13515 (Plate 16/19).

7.1–6. Six bronze knobs on the chest (Type 1b1.).

7.1. Height: 1.8 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.9 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13516 (Plate 16/20).

7.2. Height: 1.9 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 1.0 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13517 (Plate 16/21).

7.3. Height: 1.8 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 1.0 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13518 (Plate 16/22).

7.4. Height: 1.9 cm; width: 1.2 cm; weight: 1.1 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13519 (Plate 16/23).

7.5. Height: 1.6 cm; width: 1.0 cm; weight: 0.9 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13520 (Plate 16/24).

7.6. Height: 1.8 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.7 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13521 (Plate 16/25).

7.6. Bronze knob without ears. Height: 1.7 cm; width: 1.1 cm; weight: 0.9 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13522 (Plate 16/26).

8. Perhaps the fragments of a forged shoulder-handled stirrup. A.C.M. Registry number: 13523 (Plate 16/28).

9. The fragments of a round strap buckle (Type 4), to the north of the left knee (half of the ring and its pin has been preserved). Diameter: 3.7 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13524 (Plate 16/27).

### Grave 10 (Plate 13).

It was situated approximately 5 m to the west of Grave 5. Height: 115 cm. Orientation: W–E. According to the furnishing, it was a male grave. The skull of the well preserved skeleton fell to the left. The left hand was stretched alongside the body, the right hand was slightly folded towards the pelvis (Position VI). Length of the skeleton: 153 cm (without the ends of the legs). To the left and to the right of the pelvis there are the knee bones of a sheep. A symbolical horse burial of type Bálint I. b. (stirrup, bit).

#### Furnishings:

1.1–5. Parts of a quiver on the right side of the skeleton.

1.1. The iron ring of a quiver on the right collar-bone (Type 5.1.). Diameter: 2.9 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13548 (Plate 13/1).

1.2. Parts of a quiver holder on the bones of the upper and the lower arms (Type 4). I. Length: 3.9 cm; width: 2.1–0.7 cm. II. Length: 4.1 cm; width: 1.4 cm; III. Length: 2.1 cm; width: 1.1 cm; IV. Length: 13.1 cm; width: 1.4 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13550.b., 13552.a–e, 13553.a–b (Plate 13/4–6; Plate 14/7–9).

1.3. 'Fibula' (in Dörner's article), in fact it was the bronze ear of the quiver on the chest. Length: 4.3 cm; width: 0.4 cm; weight: 1.0 gram. A.C.M. Registry number: 13550.a (Plate 13/2).

1.4. The iron hinges of the quiver neck, 4 pcs. Length: I. 4.3 cm; II. 4.0 cm; III. 3.5 cm; IV. 2.6 cm; width: I. 1.4 cm; II. 1.6 cm; III. 1.9 cm; IV. 1.5 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13549 (Plate 14/10–13).

1.5. An iron quiver buckle on the right hand bone (Type 5.3). Length: 5.5 cm; width: 4.0 cm; weight: 17.7 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13547 (Plate 13/3).

2.1–5. Five arrowheads in the quiver.

2.1. A long deltoid iron arrowhead with arc-shaped cutting edge (Type 2b). Length: 6.7 cm; width: 2.9 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13551 (Plate 14/14).

2. 2–5. Four iron arrowhead, they cannot be identified in the Arad museum. A.C.M. Registry number: 13552/a–d.

3.1–2. Stirrups at the feet of the skeleton.

3.1. Pear-shaped iron stirrup (Type 3c), with grooved sole, square-shaped handles, which are connected to the ear by a little neck. Height: 14.9 cm; widest point: 13.2 cm; height of the ear: 2.9 cm; width of the ear: 3.6 cm; diameter of the hole for the opening for the strap: 2.2 × 1.1 cm; width of the handles: 0.8 cm; width of the sole: 2.4 cm; weight: 115.6 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13544 (Plate 14/16).

3.2. Pear-shaped iron stirrup (Type 3a4) with square-shaped handles and smooth sole without grooves. Height: 15.8 cm; widest point: 12.4 cm; height of the ear: 2.4 cm; width of the ear: 5.2 cm; diameter of the opening for the strap: 2.0 × 1.1 cm; width of the handles: 0.8 cm; width of the sole: 2.4 cm; weight: 97.0 grams. A.C.M. Registry number: 13545 (Plate 14/17).

4. The bit of a foal at the feet of the skeleton. Its fragments could be identified in the Arad museum. Supposed Diameter: 5.2 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13546 (Plate 14/15).

In the inventory book certain 'iron plates' are mentioned (4 pcs) that are mentioned as bracelets. In fact they can be considered parts of the above mentioned quiver. A.C.M. Registry number: 13549.



### Grave 11 (Plate 17).

It was situated approximately 6 m to the east-north-east of Grave 5. Height: 95 cm. Orientation: W-E. According to the furnishing, it must have been a female. The stretched skeleton has been preserved well. The right and the left arms of the skeleton were found stretched alongside the body (Position I). Length of the skeleton: 185 cm (?). It is doubtful whether the length of the unusually tall female skeleton was measured correctly. There are two bones and the jaw of a weasel on the right side of the chest. A symbolical horse burial of type Bálint I. a. (stirrups, bit, strap buckle).

Its furnishings:

1.1–16. 16 rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments on the neck of the skeleton forming a V shape (Type 3c). The inventory book of the Arad museum mentions 14 pcs, so in 1954 only 14 were registered.

1.1. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.95 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.92 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.1 (Plate 17/1).

1.2. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.69 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.2 (Plate 17/2).

1.3. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.61 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.3 (Plate 17/3).

1.4. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.75 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.4 (Plate 17/4).

1.5. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.55 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.5 (Plate 17/5).

1.6. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.42 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.6 (Plate 17/6).

1.7. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.64 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.7 (Plate 17/7).

1.8. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.64 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.8 (Plate 17/8).

1.9. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.72 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.9 (Plate 17/9).

1.10. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.61 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.10 (Plate 17/10).

1.11. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.61 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.11 (Plate 17/11).

1.12. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.55 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.12 (Plate 17/12).

1.13. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.57 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.13 (Plate 17/13).

1.14. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.58 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.14 (Plate 17/14).

1.15. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.24 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.15 (Plate 17/15).

1.16. Rhombus-shaped silver collar ornaments. Height: 2.9 cm; width: 1.4 cm; weight: 1.97 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72647.16 (Plate 17/16).

2.1–12. Twelve round chill cast bronze ornaments on the chest (Type 4). Unfortunately, some of them, to be more exact 6, could not have been identified either in the Arad or in the București museum. The inventory book of the Arad museum mentions 9 pieces, so in 1959 only 9 pieces were registered here.

2.1. A silver ornament with decorating meanders on its surface, with a beaded frame in the middle. Diameter: 4.2 × 3.2 cm; weight: 2.57 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72648.3 (Plate 18/17).

2.2. A silver ornament with decorating meanders on its surface, with a beaded frame in the middle. Diameter: 3.5 × 2.2 cm; weight: 1.33 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72648.2 (Plate 18/18).

2.3. A silver ornament with decorating meanders on its surface, with a beaded frame in the middle. Diameter: 3.9 × 2.9 cm; weight: 1.92 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72648.1 (Plate 18/19).

2.4. A silver ornament with decorating meanders on its surface, with a beaded frame in the middle. Diameter: 4.1 × 3.6 cm; weight: 2.70 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72648.4 (Plate 18/22).

2.5. A silver ornament with decorating meanders on its surface, with a beaded frame in the middle. Diameter: 4.0 × 3.6 cm; weight: 2.42 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72648.5 (Plate 18/21).

2.6. A silver ornament with decorating meanders on its surface, with a beaded frame in the middle. Diameter: 3.9 × 3.4 cm; weight: 2.06 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72648.6 (Plate 18/20).

3. A bronze bracelet with clasp on the right forearm of the skeleton (Type 1a). It is not registered in the Arad Museum.

4. A bronze knob of unknown type in the middle of the chest. A.C.M. Registry number: 13561.

5.1–2. Stirrups on the left side of the feet of the skeleton.

5.1. Fragmentary pear-shaped iron stirrup (Type 4.2). Height: 12.0 cm; height of the ear: 2.8 cm; width of the ear: 3.5 cm; diameter of the opening for the strap:  $2.0 \times 1.1$  cm; width of the handles: 0.7 cm; weight: 64.0 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72650 (Plate 18/25).

5.2. Pear-shaped iron stirrup (Type 1a4a). Height: 15.0 cm; height of the ear: 2.8 cm; width of the ear: 3.5 cm; diameter of the opening for the strap:  $2.0 \times 1.1$  cm; width of the handles: 0.7 cm; width of the sole: 2.4 cm; weight: 49.81 grams. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72651 (Plate 18/24).

6. Foal bit on the left side of the feet of the skeleton (Type 1a). Length: 16.0 cm; lengths of the pieces: I. 9.2 cm. II. 7.8 cm; diameter of its rings folded back: I. ring of the longer handle: 1.6 cm. II. ring of the shorter handle: 1.5 cm. B.R.N.M. Registry number: 72649 (Plate 18/23).

7. A D-shaped iron strap buckle on the left side of the feet of the skeleton (Type 3). Length: 3.5 cm; width: 3.0 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13556 (Plate 18/26).

### Grave 12

It was situated approximately four m to the south of Grave 11. Height: 100 cm. Orientation: W–E. According to its furnishing, it is an adult male skeleton. Both arms of the well preserved skeleton were stretched alongside the body (Position I). On the right and the left side of the pelvis there are the knee bones of a sheep. A symbolical horse burial of type Bálint I. b. (stirrup, bit).

Its furnishings:

1.1–2. Parts of a quiver on the left side of the skeleton.

1.1. The hang-on ear of the quiver was on the right forearm. Length: 4.2 cm; width: 3.2 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13567 (Plate 19/4).

1.2. The iron strengthening plate of the quiver. Length: 8.6 cm; width: 1.0 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13566.a–b (Plate 19/3).

2.1–9. Nine iron arrowheads in the quiver, on the left shoulder.

2.1. An arced deltoid arrowhead with short cutting edge (Type 1b). Length: 6.4 cm (with pin); Length: 4.0 cm (without pin); width: 2.4 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13565/a (Plate 19/1).

2.2. Simple, rhombus-shaped arrowhead (Type 3a). Length: 7.7 cm (with pin); Length: 7.0 cm (without pin); width: 3.3 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13565/b (Plate 19/2).

2.3–9. Fragments of arrow heads. A.C.M. Registry number: 13566.

3.1–2. Stirrups at the feet of the skeleton.

3.1. Pear-shaped, not grooved stirrup with flat handles and square-shaped ears without a neck (Type 1a1). Height: 15.7 cm; widest part: 12.3 cm; height of the ear: 2.2 cm; width of the ear: 3.4 cm; diameter of the opening for the strap:  $1.4 \times 0.9$  cm; width of the handles: 1.0 cm; width of the sole: 2.2 cm; weight: 126.0 grams. A.C.M. 13563 (Plate 19/6).

3.2. A fragmentary pear-shaped stirrup with trapeze-shaped ears and handles with square-shaped cross-section, without a neck (Type 1c5). Height: 14.3 cm; height of the ear: 2.2 cm; width of the ear: 3.8 cm; diameter of the opening for the strap:  $1.3 \times 0.6$  cm; width of the handles: 1.0 cm; width of the sole: 1.1 cm; weight: 59.6 grams. A.C.M. 13564 (Plate 19/7).

4. A foal bit at the feet of the skeleton (Type 1a). Length: 16.0 cm; lengths of the pieces: I. 9.2 cm; II. 7.8 cm; diameter of its rings: I. ring of the longer handle: 5.4 cm; II. ring of the shorter handle: 5.9–6.0 cm. A.C.M. Registry number: 13562 (Plate 19/5).

**The area of the cemetery.** According to the cemetery map available for us, Egon Dörner must have excavated the south-eastern part of the 10<sup>th</sup> century cemetery as it is a fact that some graves were disturbed north of the excavated ones and it allows us to suppose that the cemetery covered a much larger area (see Plate 1/1). However, it remains a question whether the graves were found in the western part of the hill. There must have been graves between the disturbed graves excavated in the northern part of the hill and those excavated by Dörner, which allows us to suppose that approximately 33% of the graves may have been excavated by the Arad archaeologist. In connection with Grave 8 we can be quite certain that a part of the cemetery must have been disturbed in the far distant past (Plate 2/1–2).

**Burial customs.** The burial customs mainly reflect the emotional reactions of the family

members, relatives and the community when someone passes away<sup>6</sup>. The most important condition defining the quality and the quantity of grave furnishings was the wealth of the individual, the family or the community, certainly in most cases it was closely related to the social status of the deceased. It is clearly expressed with the quality and quantity of the ritual sacrifices, weapons, clothes and jewelry placed in the grave.

The various aspects of burial customs and the quality and quantity of the furnishing are in close connection with the way the mourners' grief is shown as the relationship of the deceased person with the mourners was differentiated during their lifetime and it stayed the same at the moment of death. Burial customs are the materialization of this psychological situation that can be seen in the graves, and the quality and quantity of grave furnishings connected to them. Therefore, one cannot talk about the grief of the mourners in general as it was different from time to time. Just to mention an example, the community's grief and reaction must have been different in the case when an old man died from those cases when young ones passed away, although we are aware of the fact that the issue of life and death in the old societies could have been quite different from that of present day society. In the first case, the prestige of the deceased person could have been illustrated more concretely attested by the quantity of the furnishing too, whereas in the second case the feeling of pain and care could have played a bigger role. Consequently, what type of furnishing was placed in the grave was affected by the age of the deceased person.

So the furnishings excavated in the graves were aimed to represent the prestige of the deceased people expressed by the mourners, thus playing an important but not exclusive role in emphasizing the social status of the family too<sup>7</sup>. Here those cases can be mentioned where the burials were carried out within communities connected by blood-relationship. Good examples of this can be seen in the lonely graves or small groups of graves common in the Great Plain. In these cases one cannot only talk about highlighting the prestige but also providing furnishings connected to the picture of the other world. This also warns us that the type of furnishing might also have depended upon the type of the community.

Placing furnishing into the grave was influenced by an outside factor too, as the quality and quantity of the items or sacrifices placed in the grave largely depended on the following factors: 1. the political-military-economic importance of that particular region, 2. the importance of the trade routes crossing it, 3. whether the particular (micro)region was situated in a central or peripheral position, 4. in the case of the elite and the military class, the possible foreign gifts,(!) which were related to the importance of the individual or the family or the spoils acquired in military raids (in the case of the 'conquering Hungarians' they consisted of coins or various clothes).

The burial ground section in Șiclău may be a good example of this.

Although the furnishings could only be seen temporarily by those left behind<sup>8</sup>, but their *mnemonic* role to refresh memories cannot be denied<sup>9</sup> and it can also be stated about the burials with horses and weapons from the time of the 'Hungarian conquest' (concerning both the length and the complexity of the ceremony and the wake such as killing horses or other animals or preparing meals, and the furnishings placed next to the deceased person), while the 'energy' spent on them was much more than that spent on simple funerals<sup>10</sup>.

So we come back to the basic question: is it possible that certain elements of the furnishing such as the burials with horses or certain categories of arms could have referred to a social status<sup>11</sup>, even if in an indirect way, within a bound social system or to the social status of a particular person more important than the other members of that micro-community? In our opinion, it is possible.

Although in most cases the finds broken down to graves in 10<sup>th</sup> century cemeteries tend to show considerable heterogeneity concerning gender and age, the 12 graves excavated in the Șiclău cemetery they show a much more unified, almost homogeneous picture.

<sup>6</sup> Brather 2008, 255, Fig. 5.

<sup>7</sup> On this topic see: Härke 2000; Parker Pearson 2001.

<sup>8</sup> Effros 2003, 175.

<sup>9</sup> Højilund Nielsen 1997, 129–148.

<sup>10</sup> Bede 2012, 190.

<sup>11</sup> In an abstract sense status, even in the early Middle Ages, meant a social position. Status in its abstract meaning is a position in a pattern, so each individual has several statuses as everyone is part of the materialization of several patterns. It is an important fact that society has created two types of statuses: the proprietary (e. g. sex, age) and the acquired status (e. g. warrior). Gilkeson 2010, 65; Linton 1964, 113–115.

According to the map of the cemetery section, the graves are clustered: Graves 1 and 3, Graves 2, 4 and 7, Graves 5 and 6, Graves 8 and 9, and Graves 11 and 12 constitute clearly discernible, gender-wise binary groups based upon the finds (male graves with weapons – female graves with jewellery and clothes ornaments). Grave 10 was found at the edge of the excavated cemetery section, according to the comprehensive map, it can be assumed that originally this grave belonged to another group of graves.

As no anthropological analysis has been done, nothing can be said about the sex of the people buried in the graves, however, based upon the relatively rich furnishings found in the graves we tried to infer the sex of those buried here. According to this, in Graves 1, 7, 9 and 11 women, whereas in Graves 2, 3, 10 and 12 men must have been buried. In Graves 5 and 6 little children rested, Graves 4 and 8 were raided and as their furnishings are missing, we cannot make uncertain guesses.

Unfortunately, the records by Dörner do not provide information concerning the shape of the graves, except for Grave 3, which the Arad archaeologist mentioned to be oval. Based upon the cemetery map shown in the publication, it can be supposed that the other graves could have been simple rectangular ones with curved angles. The average depth of the graves was 96 cm.

The graves in the Şiclău cemetery are mostly orientated W–E. The only exception is Grave 6, which is orientated N–S and this was supposed to have been connected to the fear of the dead coming back<sup>12</sup>, it seems to be a logical assumption in the case of this cemetery as the aforementioned grave contains the skeleton of a little child. Its only furnishing (a bronze button) does not allude to the different origin or social status of the child.

The deceased were placed in the graves lying on their backs, stretched out. Grave 9 constitutes the only exception. In this grave the deceased person was laid on his/her right side with the legs pulled up. The archaeological observations do not allow us to answer the question why this person was treated like that. The furnishings and the horse in the grave seems to show that a full member of the community was buried here.

According to our typological analysis of the arm positions<sup>13</sup>, apart from the arms stretched alongside the body (Position I: Graves 11 and 12), Position II (Graves 5 and 6), Position III (Grave 2), Position VI (Grave 10), Position XIII (Grave 9) and Position XIV (Grave 7) can also be observed.

The arm positions of those lying in the raided Graves 3, 4 and 8 are unknown and the position of the arms in Grave 1 was not documented either.

Although only 12 graves were excavated, it can be observed that the arms were in various positions. The arm position thought to show ‘Byzantine’ influence<sup>14</sup> was observed in 5 cases. Among these graves there is a male burial with horse and weapon (Grave 2), female graves with rich furnishing and a horse (Graves 7 and 9) and graves without any furnishing (Graves 5 and 6).

Concerning Byzantine christianity, unfortunately, no one has managed to explain the meaning of the word ‘influence’, i. e. what is meant by it. In some cases they were found in graves with horses and weapons, so it would be important to decide whether it meant that these communities were so moved by the *Byzantine religious* propaganda (in what way?) that the arms of the deceased were placed in various positions in a *Byzantine fashion*. As we see things, to judge this issue it would be necessary to carry out a statistical analysis of the arm positions in the Carpathian Basin, broken down to (micro) regions and placed in a timeline (for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries). Is it possible that it was only a (macro) funerary fashion in the 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> centuries, in which we saw some Byzantine influence without explaining the word ‘influence’?

A double burial or rather incorrectly excavated graves dug one upon the other can be registered in the case of Grave 3. Nobody has tried to interpret this special case so far. Based upon the finds in it so typical of the conquering Hungarians, the grave can be dated to the first half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. This grave was found 160 cm to the north of Grave 1 of a female with a rosette. The size of the grave could only be observed 80 cm deep. The size of the oval pit was 110 × 60 cm. A 4–5 cm thick layer of soot and charcoal was found at a depth of 130 cm, which covered the whole surface of the grave. Under this layer, human bones mixed with horse and sheep bones were found. The grave was 190 cm deep and human bones were found 140, 165 and 190 cm deep. The anthropological analysis done by professor I.

<sup>12</sup> Szabó 1964, 120–129; Kiss 1983, 158; A. H. 1996, 39.

<sup>13</sup> Gáll 2004–2005, 369, fig. 8; Gáll 2011, 25, Figure 13; Gáll 2013, 607–610, Fig. 175–178.

<sup>14</sup> This theory is championed by György János Szabó. Szabó 1984, 83–97.



G. Russu showed that the human bones in this grave must have belonged to a man and a woman. Only fragments of the furnishings of the grave have been preserved.

Unfortunately, it cannot be clarified whether the bones belonging to the two sexes and analysed by I. G. Russu were really found together in the layers 140, 165 and 190 cm deep or the two skeletons were somewhat separated (i. e. they were buried on top of each other). We don't know whether the excavation was just not documented correctly or it wasn't/couldn't be published<sup>15</sup>. It is also strange that no finds referring to female garment should have been found in the grave<sup>16</sup>. The possibility of superposition, as they are very rare in such cemeteries, can be crossed out theoretically, however, it cannot be excluded that the female grave of an earlier era was disturbed when the 10<sup>th</sup> century grave was dug, which was in turn disturbed later when a fire place was dug.

Such deep graves are very rare among the burials of the time of the Hungarian conquest, as the second deepest grave in the Șiclău cemetery was only 100 cm deep. We consider Grave 3 a 10<sup>th</sup> century male grave which was later disturbed, although with some reservation, as a very similar case was documented by Csanád Bálint in the case of Grave 4 in Pálliget, Szabadkígyós<sup>17</sup>.

In Graves 7 and 9 the old custom of giving obuluses common in the 10<sup>th</sup> century was registered. The coins, which have not been identified up to now, were found in the following positions:

1. On the chestbone: Grave 7

2. Under the left elbow: Grave 9. Certainly, it is doubted whether the aforementioned coin can be considered an *obulus*.

Burials with horses and their variants are specifically characteristic of the time of the Hungarian conquest. Burials with horses were classified by Csanád Bálint almost 40 years ago, in our analysis we make use of the categories set up by him. One characteristic feature of the cemetery section in Șiclău is the surprisingly great number of burials with horses and the symbolic burials with horses within them (Group Bálint I). Among the 12 excavated graves burials with horses were documented in 8 cases, which makes up 75% of the graves (Graves 1–3, 7–12), and two more burials with horses can be added to this number, based upon the stirrups found at points I. D and I. E. It is true that horse bones were only found in Grave 1, and in the rest of the graves only stirrups and bits were found, which were to indicate the harness. In some cases these objects were put in the graves together, in other cases separately. The saddles and the reins were placed together in Graves 2, 8, 10–12. The objects in Graves 2 and 10 were found at the end of the feet, whereas in Graves 11 and 12 they were happened upon at the middle of the left shin bone (Grave 8 was disturbed, so the objects were not found *in situ*). Probably only the saddle was placed into Grave 9, as only the two stirrups and a strap buckle were found at the end of the left foot. In Grave 7 only the bit and a strap buckle were registered.

As has been mentioned, horse bones were registered only in one burial and that was Grave 1. In this grave the horse skull was placed to the end of the toes on the right foot of the skeleton, and the shin bone was placed under it (Group Bálint II). According to the furnishing, a woman must have rested in the grave, and according to the analysis by I. G. Russu, the sacrificed horse was a small sized young mare. It is also important that according to I. G. Russu, the deceased person was also a child. Unlike such cemeteries as the one in Zápolya Street, Cluj-Napoca (germ.: Klausenburg; hung.: Kolozsvár), where in each male grave with horses a different type of horse burial was registered, in the case of the community in Șiclău, a very homogeneous system of customs can be observed.

In the Șiclău cemetery burials with horses can be found in both male and female graves. According to the furnishings, women rested in Graves 1, 7, 9, 11 and men lay in Graves 2, 3(?), 10 and 12, so both genders were treated like this.

In the end, one must try to answer why neither horse nor harness was put in Graves 4–6. Grave 4 was disturbed and raided so it cannot be excluded that it was also a burial with a horse, in Graves 5 and 6 children were buried. Therefore it can be stated that in the Șiclău cemetery every adult was buried in a grave with a horse except for maybe the person resting in the raided Grave 4 and the children. This aspect also goes to show how homogeneous this custom was.

<sup>15</sup> The cemeteries in Sălacea and Salonta provide good examples of this as there the graves were drawn but the drawings weren't published.

<sup>16</sup> The finds in the grave: fragments of a sabre (?), the fragment of a stirrup, a foal bit. The horse bones found in the grave seem to indicate a burial with a horse.

<sup>17</sup> Bálint 1971, 56.

Another characteristic feature of the cemetery in Șiclău is the high percentage of food furnishing meant to be food in the other world. In Graves 1–3, 7–8 and 11 sheep bones were found in the following positions:

1. The knee-caps of a sheep on the left and right sides of the pelvis: Grave 10
2. Near the end of the left foot: Grave 2 and 7–8.
3. In the filling of the grave at different levels: Grave 3.

It is not clear whether or not the weasel bones documented on the chest bone in Grave 11 belonged to the grave.

**The finds excavated in the cemetery.** Furnishing was found in almost each grave excavated in the cemetery section in Șiclău, only Graves 4 and 5, which did not contain any furnishing, are the exceptions, which means that some kind of archaeological find was excavated in ten graves altogether. Jewellery is one of the most common finds among them. The stray simple hairring of type 1a was made of gold, the one found in Grave 2 was made of silver, and the one in Grave 7 was made of bronze. Only one earring was found in the whole cemetery, a cast one with a bead-row pendant in Grave 9. This type of object was considered the sign of the 10<sup>th</sup> century migration and it remained in use until the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but this variant is dated to a later period by the researchers<sup>18</sup>.

Beads were only found in one grave, in Grave 2 with weapon. Here a big flattened bead with wavy ornaments (Type Szilágyi 9), and a flower eye bead (Type Szilágyi 60) were excavated. Both items were found under the skull of the skeleton, so it is not excluded that they were worn in the hair.

In the Șiclău cemetery a great number of rhombus-shaped collar ornaments were found, and two variants of this were documented.

The silver items found in Grave 7, on which the sphere decoration emerging from the plane of the background is also conspicuous besides the middle part separated by rhomboid decorations. 23 items were found in the aforementioned graves altogether<sup>19</sup>. The rims of the objects were decorated with incisions, and the quality of the way they were cast was poor.

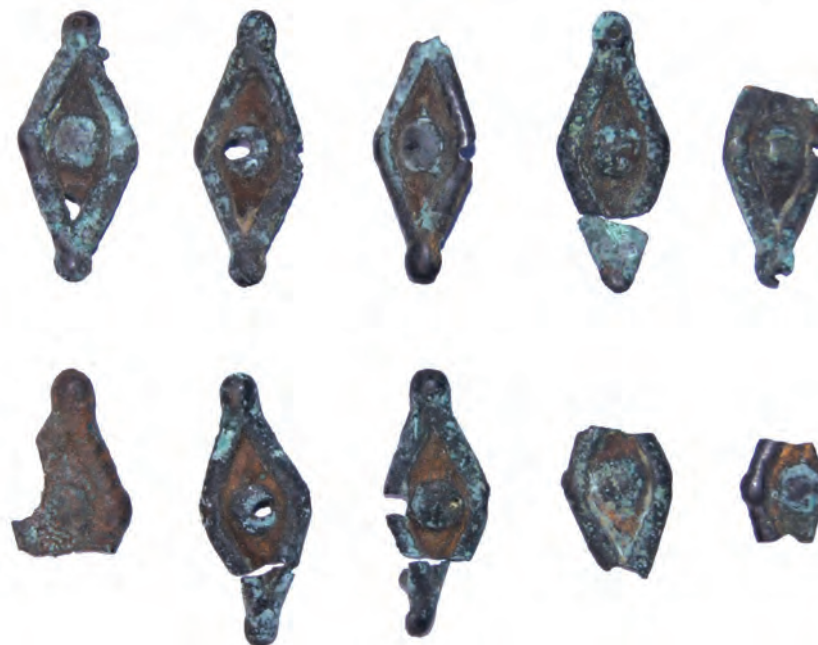


Fig. 2. Șiclău "Gropoiaie" Grave 7.

The 16 silver ornaments, on which the background formed drops showing upwards on the upper part of the objects and downwards on the lower part of them and they are separated by an inner frame

<sup>18</sup> Révész 1988, 141–159.

<sup>19</sup> Type 3c: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 314. With reservations it is categorized into Type 7 according to the typology set up by Ádám Bollók together with the items found in Sárrétudvari-Hizóföld Grave 255, and the items from Csongrád-Felgyő. Bollók 2015, 341, Fig. 104, note 1876.

similar to the one on the rim of the objects and the sphere decorations can be observed at the two ends of the objects, found in Grave 11 can be categorized into Type 3b.

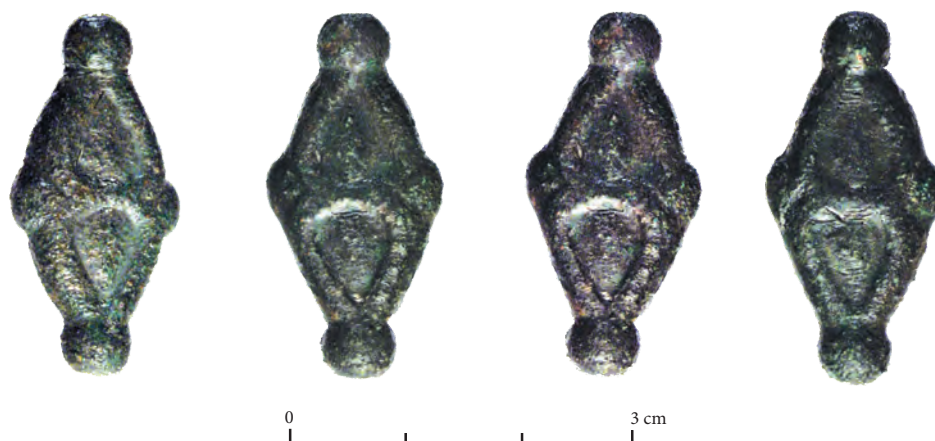


Fig. 3. Șiclău "Gropoaie" Grave 11, rhomboid collar ornaments.

It is classified into a variation of Type 10 with some reservation by Ádám Bollók, who set up the last typology of the rhomboid collar ornaments, but in our opinion<sup>20</sup>, based upon its characteristics, it should have been classified into a completely new type.

The drop shape or *pear shape* that can be seen on the ornaments found in Șiclău is a quite frequent decorating pattern of the 10<sup>th</sup> century finds. The perfect *drop-shape* or *pear-shape* can be observed in the case of the cut and hammered pear-shaped ornaments of inlaid stirrups<sup>21</sup>. The formal connection between the inlaid metal ornaments and the figurative ornaments on the cast objects has not been analysed yet. Here we try to give an abstract depiction of the drop-shaped or pear-shaped inlay of the stirrup found in Zăpolya Street, Cluj in an abstract way and compare it to the drop-shaped patterns on the Șiclău finds:

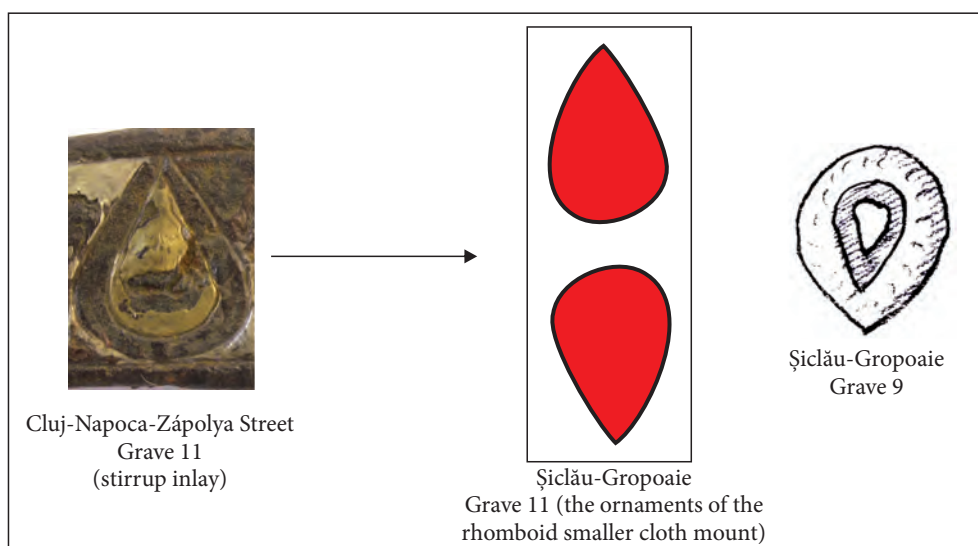


Fig. 4. The inlay on the stirrup found in Grave 11 Zăpolya Street, Cluj-Napoca and Șiclău "Gropoaie" Grave 11, the connection between the shapes of the pear-shaped and drop-shaped patterns on the rhomboid and round collar ornaments.

The two sets were found in a similar position on the neck. According to the not too exact drawing of the grave, they could have decorated a V-shaped collar (see Plate 12, Plate 17).

<sup>20</sup> Bollók 2015, 342, Note 1881, 104. kép.

<sup>21</sup> On the pear-shaped stirrups with drop- or pear-shape inlay: Gáll 2015, 378–382.

The rhombus-shaped collar ornaments were in rage mainly in the first two thirds of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, but they were used until the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, although in many cases in a secondary role. They were mostly found in the region surrounded by the River Mureş/Maros, Criş/Körös and Tisa/Tisza and between the Danube and the Tisa/Tisza<sup>22</sup>.

15 more collar ornaments were found in Grave 9, however, they were of a different type: they were heart-shaped, with heart-shaped open-works in the middle<sup>23</sup>, and they were found near the neck and a little lower with four collar ornaments with pendants similarly patterned on their upper halves<sup>24</sup>. We couldn't find any exact counterpart of these objects, but concerning its shape, the ornament found in Grave 144 in Sárrétudvari-Hízófold is similar but there is no open-work in the middle of it<sup>25</sup>. The beaded decoration of the heart-shaped pendants on the open-worked ornaments found in Grave 9 can also be observed on the stray ornament excavated near Hajdúböszörmény and on the pendants on the items found in Jászárokszállás, Pap and in Grave 207 Sárrétudvari-Hízófold. The ornaments found in Grave 3 Szeged-Bojárhalom<sup>26</sup>, which can be dated to the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup> century by the bracelets with spun ends and animal heads also fall in this category<sup>27</sup>. There is another analogy, which is much more important. The find in Grave 3 in Orosháza Görbics tanya: beside the small collar ornament a braided bracelet and two *solidi* coined by Basilides II and Constantine VIII (976–1025) were found, which undoubtedly date the find to the second half or the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century<sup>28</sup>.

The exact counterpart of the only item without open-work is known from Grave 6 in Hódegyháza, which can be dated to the second third of that century by the pressed discs. There is another analogy, but the site where it was found is not known<sup>29</sup>. According to these analogies, the ornaments in Grave 9 Şiclău could have been buried in the second third of the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

On the chest of the skeleton in Grave 1, 12 round chill-cast silver ornaments were found (Type 4). The surface of the objects is decorated by meanders and running-dog patterns, in the middle of them a beaded framework can be observed<sup>30</sup>.



Figure 5. Round silver ornaments from Grave 11.

The exact parallels of these objects were excavated in Grave 2 in the cemetery near the farm of Ignácné Pusztai in Orosháza<sup>31</sup>. The latter cemetery was also raided, but in Grave 3 two coins issued by Basilides II and Constantine VIII (976–1025) were found. The chronological relation of Grave 2 and

<sup>22</sup> Szőke 1962, 26, 76–77; Bálint 1991, 136; Révész 1996, 94.

<sup>23</sup> Type 2b after Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 314.

<sup>24</sup> 3 of them are of Type 10c1, one of them is of Type 10c2: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 315.

<sup>25</sup> M. Nepper 2002, Table 284. 1–2.

<sup>26</sup> Bálint 1991, Taf. XXXVIII. 22.

<sup>27</sup> Kovács 1994, 134.

<sup>28</sup> Révész 2006, 189–210.

<sup>29</sup> Bálint 1991, Taf. XXXIX. 6, Taf. XXXVIII. 15, Taf. LVII. b. 1–11, 13–21.

<sup>30</sup> Other examples of 'running-dog patterns' on other objects are cited by Ádám Bollók: Bollók 2015, 326, Fig. 97. 1–3.

<sup>31</sup> Dienes 1965, 142–151.



Grave 3 is very important as the small collar ornament found in Grave 9 in Șiclău is identical to the one found in Grave 3 in Orosháza, which is dated to the end of the century by the pierced Byzantine coin, therefore we can find to connections between the find from the two cemeteries. These facts seems to show that the round clothes ornaments with meander and running-dog patterns were buried in the middle or the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Out of the durable elements of the garment, buttons were found in great number: 9 buttons are known from Grave 9: one of them is solid<sup>32</sup>, but the others were hollow (Type 1b1)<sup>33</sup>. It is possible that the latter ones were originally coupled. One button of Type 1a1 was found in Grave 6 and another one in Grave 7. Unfortunately, the one found in Grave eleven has been lost.

Bracelets are known from three graves: in Grave 2 with a weapon, two narrow bracelets with clasps cut out of sheet metal were found, and in Grave 7 a bracelet made of wire. Both types were characteristic of that era. Bracelets with clasps were common in the first two thirds of the 10<sup>th</sup> century<sup>34</sup>, whereas the second type already appeared in the first half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, but it remained in use well into the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century<sup>35</sup>.

Weapons are the furnishing characteristic of the 10<sup>th</sup> century male graves. In the Șiclău cemetery only some tools of archery were found: quivers and arrowheads were documented in Graves 2, 10 and 12.

In the three graves containing arrowheads the following types were excavated:

1. Simple deltoid iron arrowhead with short cutting edge<sup>36</sup>: Grave 2 (1 item).
2. Short deltoid arrowhead with an arced cutting edge<sup>37</sup>: Grave 12 (1 item).
3. Simple deltoid iron arrowhead with long cutting edge<sup>38</sup>: Grave 2 (1 item).
4. Deltoid arrowhead with long cutting edge and an arced lower edge<sup>39</sup>: Grave 10 (1 item).
5. Simple rhomboid iron arrowhead<sup>40</sup>: Grave 2 (2 items) and Grave 12 (1 item).
6. Rhombus-shaped iron arrowhead with an arced lower edge<sup>41</sup>: Grave 2 (1 item).

9 arrowheads were found in one grave (Grave 12), 6 were found in another (Grave 2), and 5 items were found in a third grave (Grave 10). Another stray arrowhead found in the cemetery makes it likely that another burial with weapon could have been there.

Quivers were found in the above mentioned graves. In Grave 10 it can be observed that the quiver was stretching from the collar-bone of the skeleton downwards on the right arm, approximately 70cm, so the object was placed on the right side of the deceased person. In Grave 2 only the quiver rings were preserved, whereas we have no information on the quiver found in Grave 12, apart from that this quiver was found near the left shoulder with 5 arrowheads in it.

Unfortunately, the sabre (?) excavated in Grave 3 of this cemetery section has crumbled completely, therefore we didn't manage to research it. As it was not properly documented in the site, today it cannot even be judged whether or not the unrecognisable shreds kept in the Arad Museum belonged to a sabre at all (even the cross-section of the edge cannot be recognised). If it was a sabre, the situation is similar to the phenomenon observed in the cemeteries in the Great Plain: in these cemeteries only one or two sabres were found.

It is important to note that no everyday tool was found in the cemetery in Șiclău.

As opposed to this, harnesses were registered in great numbers in the burials with horses mentioned above: in Graves 1–3, and 7–12 different types of harness ornaments with rosettes, stirrups, bits and strap buckles were found.

In Grave 1 16 small silver drop-shaped rosettes with four petals were registered on a horse skull found at the feet of the skeleton<sup>42</sup>. According to the photo in the publication and the written docu-

<sup>32</sup> Type 1a1: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 313.

<sup>33</sup> Type 1b1: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 313.

<sup>34</sup> Révész 1996, 90.

<sup>35</sup> Szabó 1978–1979, 66, 70. kép; Révész 1996, 91.

<sup>36</sup> Type 1a: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 318.

<sup>37</sup> Type 1b: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 318.

<sup>38</sup> Type 2a: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 318.

<sup>39</sup> Type 2b: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 318.

<sup>40</sup> Type 3a: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 318.

<sup>41</sup> Type 3c: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 318.

<sup>42</sup> Type 1c: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 324.

mentation of the grave, it seems clear that only the rein was decorated with ornaments among the straps of the harness. No exact counterpart of the rosettes is known among the 10<sup>th</sup> century harness ornaments with rosettes, but the shape of the drop is very similar to that of the drop-shaped chill cast collar ornaments found in Grave 9!

In Graves 3, 7, and 10–12 foal bits with small rings<sup>43</sup> were found, in Graves 2 and 8 foal bits with big rings were registered<sup>44</sup>, and in Grave 1 a bit with round cross-section and with an iron sidebar was found<sup>45</sup>. Although these were probably female burials, in Graves 7 and 11 foal bits with small rings were registered. However, to some extent it is in contradiction with the observations made by the researchers<sup>46</sup>. The bit with sidebar found in female Grave 1 can be considered a counterpart of the items observed in the graves from the period of the Hungarian conquest.

Most of the stirrups can be classified in the category of pear-shaped stirrups, whose typological analysis has been conducted by us recently<sup>47</sup>. Stirrups of this type were found in Grave 1 (1 item, which is so fragmentary that it cannot be analysed – Type Pe1a4b), Grave 2 (2 items – Types Pe1c1 and Pe1g3), Grave 8 (1 item – Pe3b), Grave 10 (2 items – Types Pe3a4 and Pe3c), Grave 11 (2 items – Types Pe1a4a and Pe4.2) and in Grave 12 (2 items – Types Pe1a1 and Pe1c5). So 11 items belong to the category of pear-shaped stirrups. A stirrup found in Grave 8 can be classified into the category of stirrups with straight foot plate, curved arches and strap loop with neck, also called ‘Révész’s’ type<sup>48</sup>, and one forged shoulder-handled stirrup was found on Point I. D and another one in Grave 9<sup>49</sup>. Nonetheless, the stirrup found at Point I. E is of unknown type. The lack of trapeze-shaped stirrups is conspicuous.

All types of these stirrups are dated to the first two thirds of the 10<sup>th</sup> century by the researchers, but it can be observed that they were used later too<sup>50</sup>. It is important to note that trapeze-shaped stirrups, which were so characteristic of the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century are not known<sup>51</sup>.

Strap buckles of different types were found in Graves 1, 2, 9 and 11. In Grave 1 a rectangular strap buckle was registered<sup>52</sup>, in Graves 2 and 9 round strap buckles (Type 4)<sup>53</sup>, and in Grave 11 a D-shaped one was documented<sup>54</sup>.

All in all, we can make several observations on the finds from the cemetery section in Șiclău:

1. According to the grave furnishings, the Șiclău cemetery is characterised by a binary system, men with weapons – women with jewellery.

2. The elements of clothing are integrated in the fashion elements of the 10<sup>th</sup> century Great Plain, we can say that their close parallels are only known from here.

3. Some of them have analogies known only from this micro-region, which warns us that it cannot be crossed out that in connection with some fashion elements worn in a region, one can talk about the network of masters who: a. only worked in this region in the Carpathian Basin; b. or the merchants distributing a particular product only appeared in this micro-region. Their knowledge can clearly be observed, they did not only produce the classic patterns used on the objects of the 10<sup>th</sup> century elite, but much more variations can be seen (*‘running-dog’ pattern/meander*), drop-shaped decorations on the objects). At the same time it is also important to note that these artefacts of goldsmithery were of much poorer quality, much less elaborated.

**The dating of the cemetery** (Pl. 2/2). The cemetery section in Șiclău, which is relatively rich in furnishings, has not been completely excavated, as is shown on our map of the cemetery. We suppose that the earliest graves could have been situated to the north-west of the excavated ones, it may have been the ‘core’ of the cemetery. Among the excavated graves, Graves 1, 3 and 10 could be the oldest

<sup>43</sup> Type 1a: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 324.

<sup>44</sup> Type 1b: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 324.

<sup>45</sup> Type 3c: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 324.

<sup>46</sup> Dienes 1966, 210; Révész 1996, 41–43.

<sup>47</sup> Gáll 2015, 360–371, Pl. 1.

<sup>48</sup> Gáll 2015, 375, Pl. 3/3.

<sup>49</sup> Gáll 2015, 371, Pl. 3/1.

<sup>50</sup> Révész 1996, 43–44; Révész 1999, 267–299.

<sup>51</sup> On the trapeze-shaped stirrups, see: Kovács 1986, 204–225; Gáll 2015, 373–377.

<sup>52</sup> Type 2: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 324.

<sup>53</sup> Type 4: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 324.

<sup>54</sup> Type 3: Gáll 2013, Vol. II, Pl. 324.

ones, which could be followed by Graves 2, 4 and 7 in time, whereas Graves 8–9 and 11–12 were dug even later. Relying on the grave in Orosháza, which can be its parallel and is dated by a coin, Grave 9 can be dated to the end of the second third of the 10<sup>th</sup> century or to the last third of the century. Certainly, the time difference between the finds in Graves 1 and 3 and the finds in Grave 9 cannot be exactly calculated, but it could not have been more than thirty years. If Grave 9 is dated to the second third of the century, then these graves could not have been dug earlier than the end of the first third or the beginning of the second third of the century. In our opinion, these 12 graves must have been dug approximately between 930 and 970. The lack of trapeze-shaped stirrups is an interesting observation worth further consideration in connection with the chronological researches.

At the same time we have to draw attention to the fact that the cemetery must cover a much larger area and on top of that, according to our map, the graves that may be dated to an earlier time period than those mentioned above are situated in an area not excavated so far. It is very important to note: at the moment neither the time when the cemetery was started to be used nor the date of its abandonment can be defined.

**Conclusions** (Fig. 6). Earlier the cemetery section in Șiclău was thought to have been the remains of a big family or a noble community participating in the military raids abroad<sup>55</sup>. The archaeological finds excavated in the cemetery are characteristic of the Great Plain: these cemeteries are characterised by the small number of sabres, the male graves with arrowheads and quivers, the relative richness of the female graves and the small number of graves with horse bones. The graves without furnishings or with poor furnishings were child graves (Graves 5 and 6).

Silver objects were only found in female graves, except for the hairring in Grave 2, and they were found in great number compared to other cemeteries. However, it must be noted that the total weight of the silverwares found in the three female graves falling in this category is smaller than the weight of the silver found in the rich female grave in Teremia Mare (germ.: Marienfeld; hung.: Nagyteremia). Divided among the 13 graves, 11.65 gr of silver per grave were found.

Graves	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Grave (Point I. D.)	3.0 grams		
Grave 1		96.6 grams	
Grave 2		3.0 grams	17.4 grams
Grave 3			
Grave 4			
Grave 5			
Grave 6			2.4 grams
Grave 7		16.3 grams	25.3 grams
Grave 8			
Grave 9			41.9 grams
Grave 10			
Grave 11		38.56 grams	
Grave 12			
In all	3.0 grams	151.46 grams	90.0 grams
Broken down to graves	0.23 grams	11.65 grams	6.92 grams

Fig. 6. The metal content of the Șiclău cemetery in every single grave.

The burials are classified into groups, the male graves with weapons and the female graves with various furnishings form small groups, providing a very exact picture of the binary system. The question of whether there was a genetic relationship between the individuals who formed the group cannot be answered. As the skeletons have not been identified, this question remains unanswered in the future too. However, the common custom of burials with horses indicate their common value system and beliefs. At the same time the various arm positions may indicate some heterogeneity.

Moreover, we don't know how many generations could have used this cemetery. According to the graves found in the northern part of the cemetery, we can suppose at least two generations. According

<sup>55</sup> Bóna 1988, 211.

to the cemetery map drawn by E. Dörner, it is highly likely that the two edges of the cemetery were excavated and the central part of it was destroyed. Despite these deficiencies, it can firmly be stated that, according to the burial customs and the finds, in connection with the excavation site in Şiclău we can talk about a pagan community typical of the two first thirds of the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Concerning its time and characteristics, it is the cemetery in Szabadkigyós-Pálliget that shows the nearest resemblance to the Şiclău cemetery, which was found in the flood area of the River Criş/Körös<sup>56</sup>, but other graves containing harnesses with rosettes, hair discs and rhombus-shaped or round collar ornaments have been excavated in Mezőmegyer, Békéscsaba and Sarkad too<sup>57</sup>. By archaeological means we cannot give a sound interpretation of this phenomenon. The most we can do is come up with some hypotheses: 1. it is the remain of a particular era and fashion which affected the better-off micro-communities in this micro-region too?; 2. These communities were in genetic or blood or sociologically relationship; 3. The people who lay in these cemeteries were the members of communities that were related and led a mobile lifestyle in this micro-region in the valley of the River Criş/Körös.

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<sup>56</sup> Bálint 1971, 49–88.

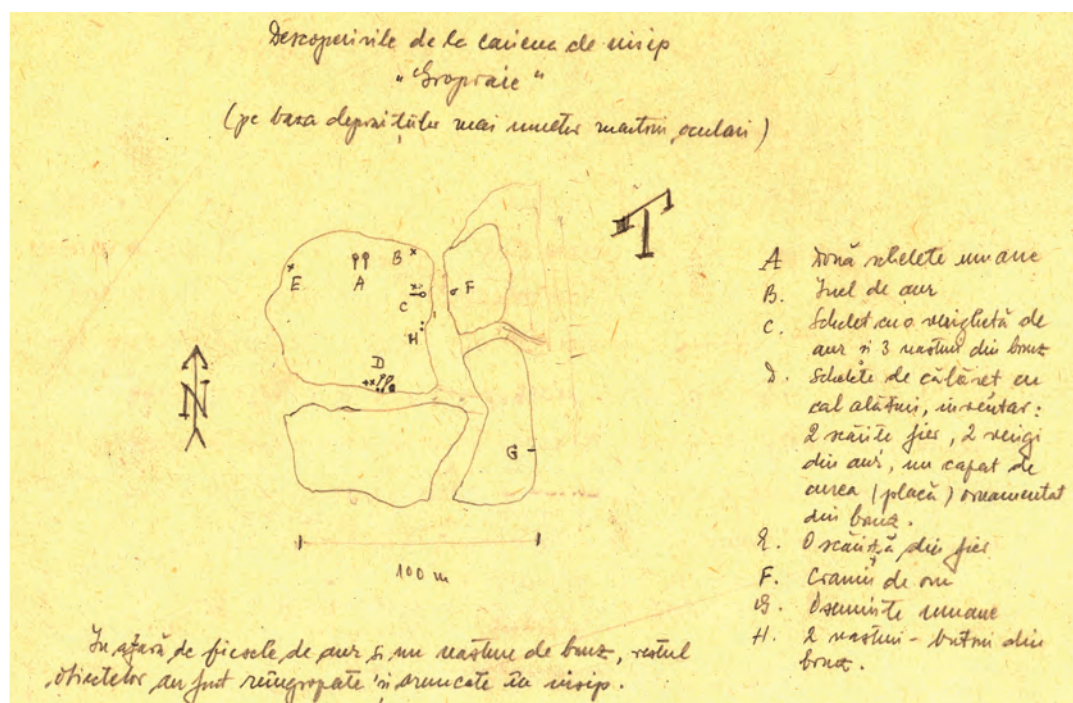
<sup>57</sup> Révész 1997, 183.



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1



2

Plate 1. Șiclău. 1. The topographical position of the burial ground in Șiclău-Gropoiaie;  
2. Sketch for the reconstruction of the place of discovery of the first inventory items  
at the sand quarry of "Gropoiaie" (taken from M. Rusu, E. Dörner – 1959).

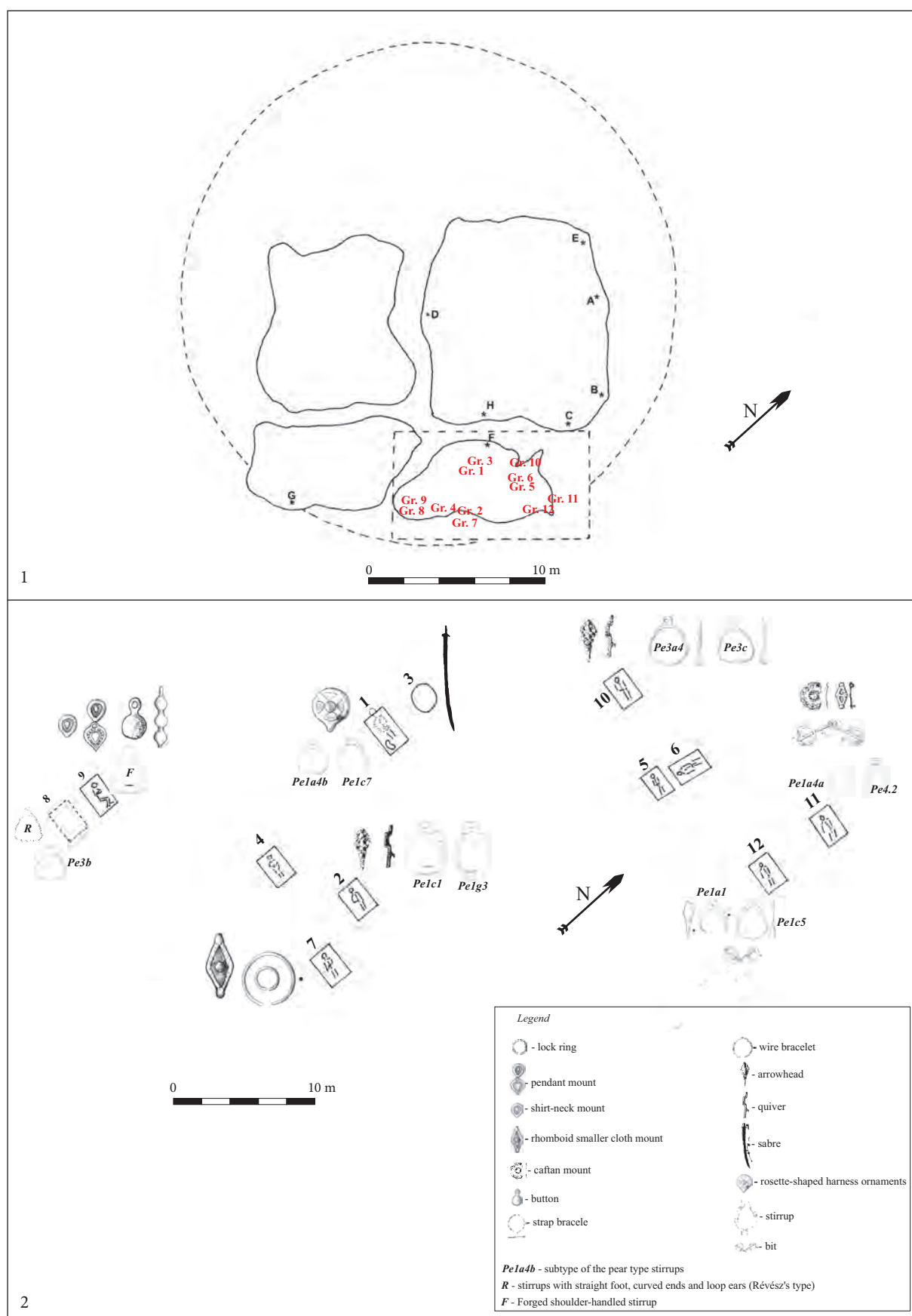


Plate 2. 1. Situation ground plan with the localization of the first stray finds and of the tombs; 2. General ground plan of the researched tombs that contained items of funerary inventory (taken from M. Rusu, E. Dörner – 1959).

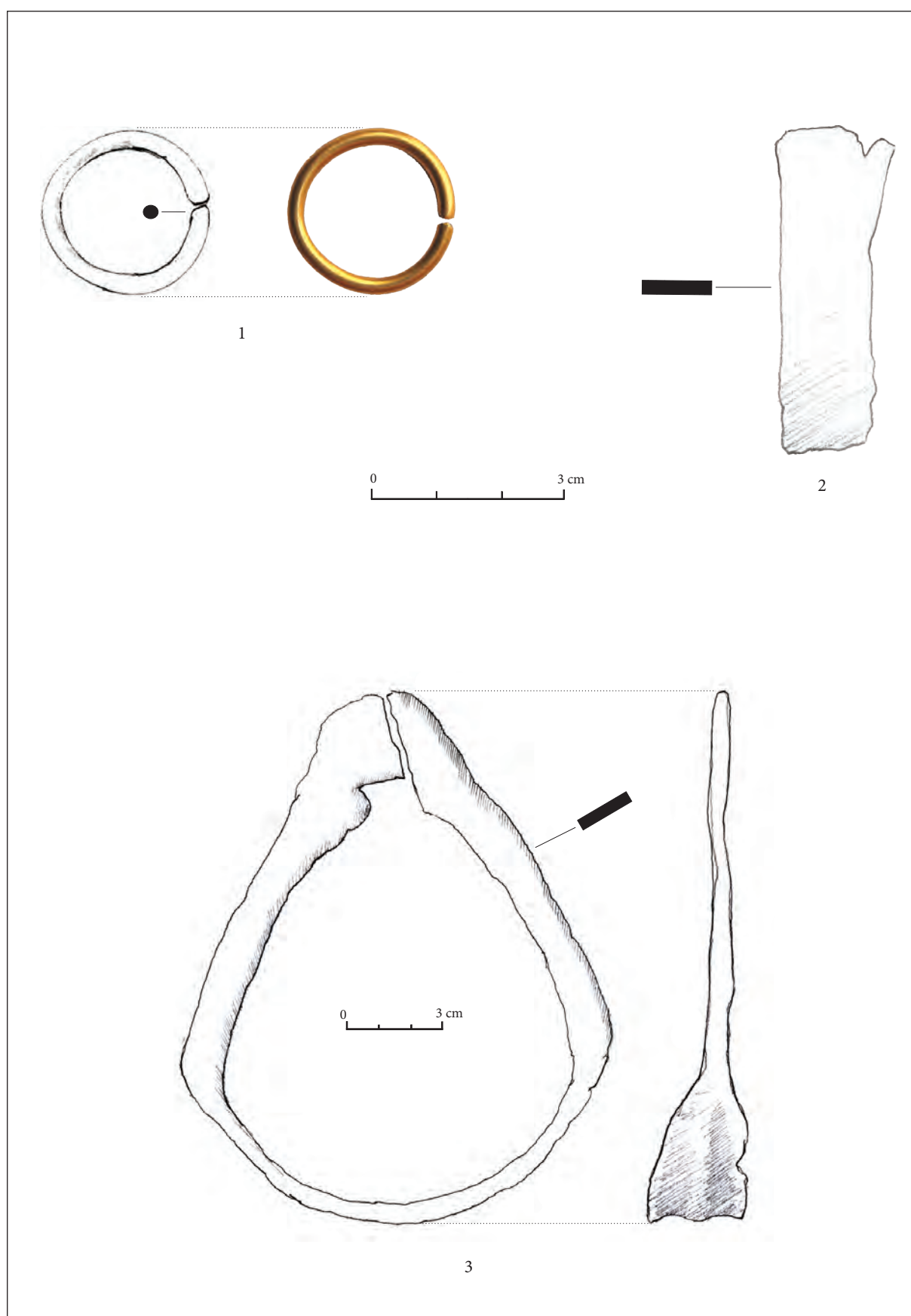


Plate 3. Siclău-Gropoaie, Point I. B (destroyed grave): 1; point I. D (destroyed grave ): 3; stray find: 2.



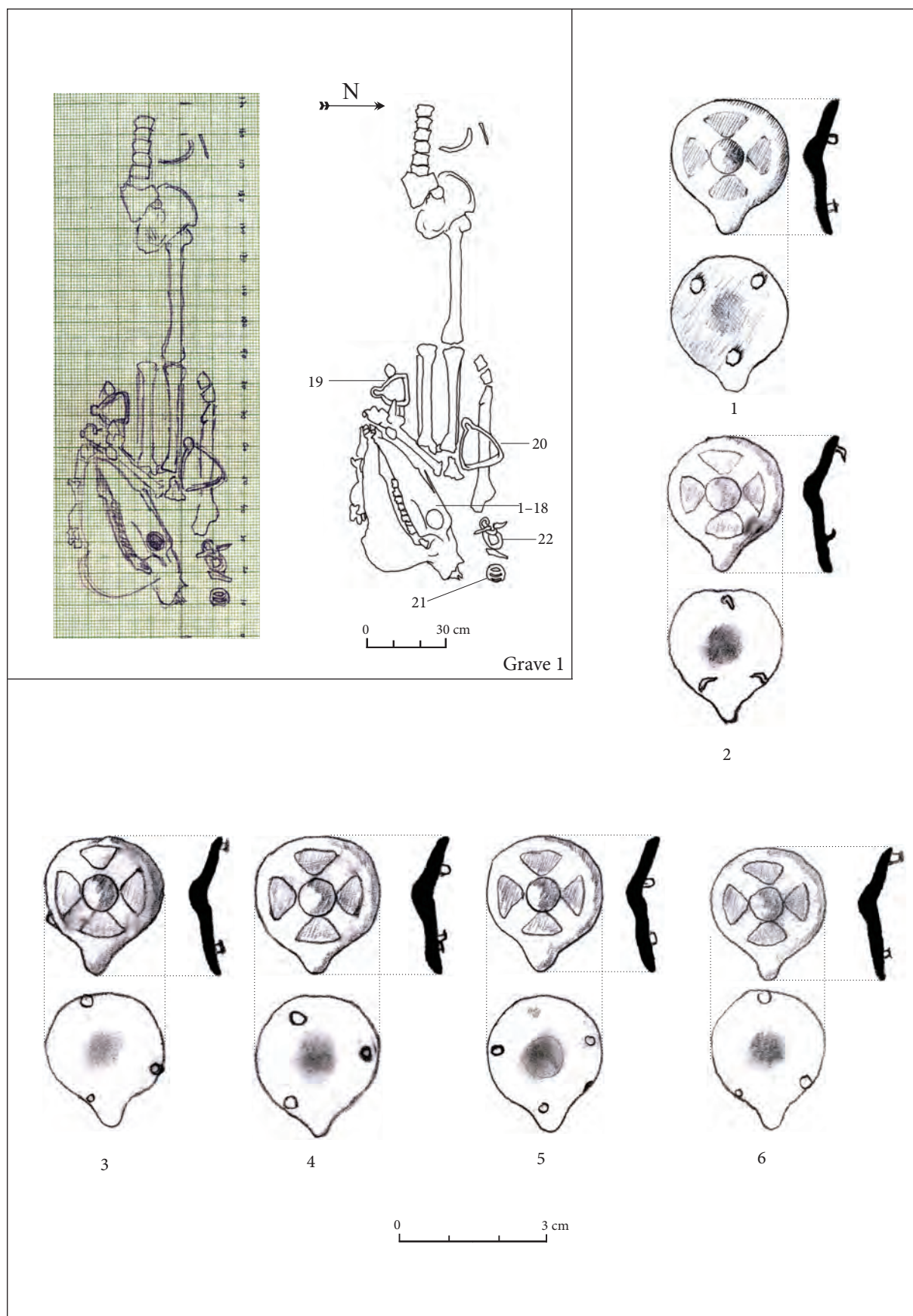


Plate 4. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 1: 1-6.

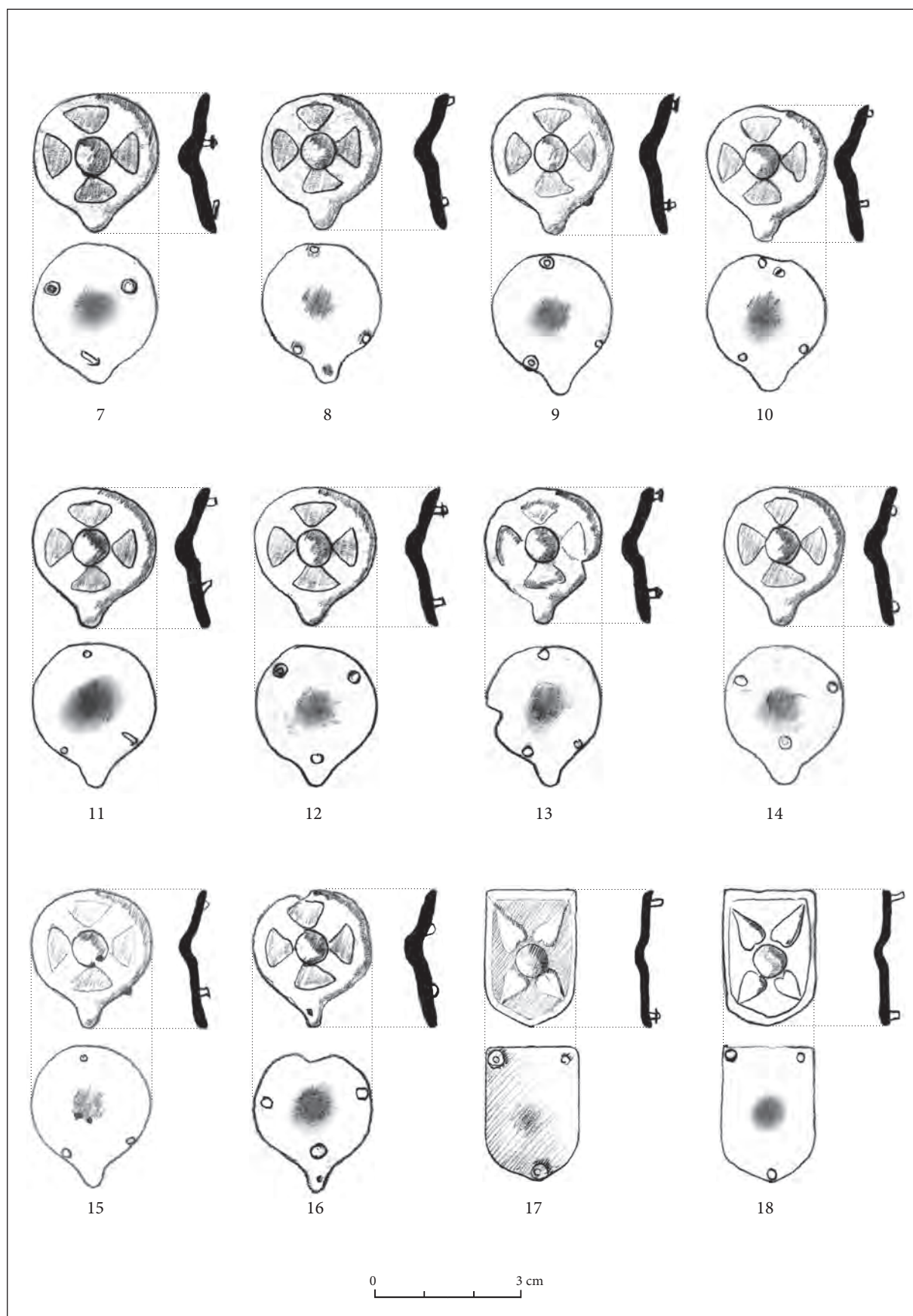


Plate 5. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 1: 7–18.

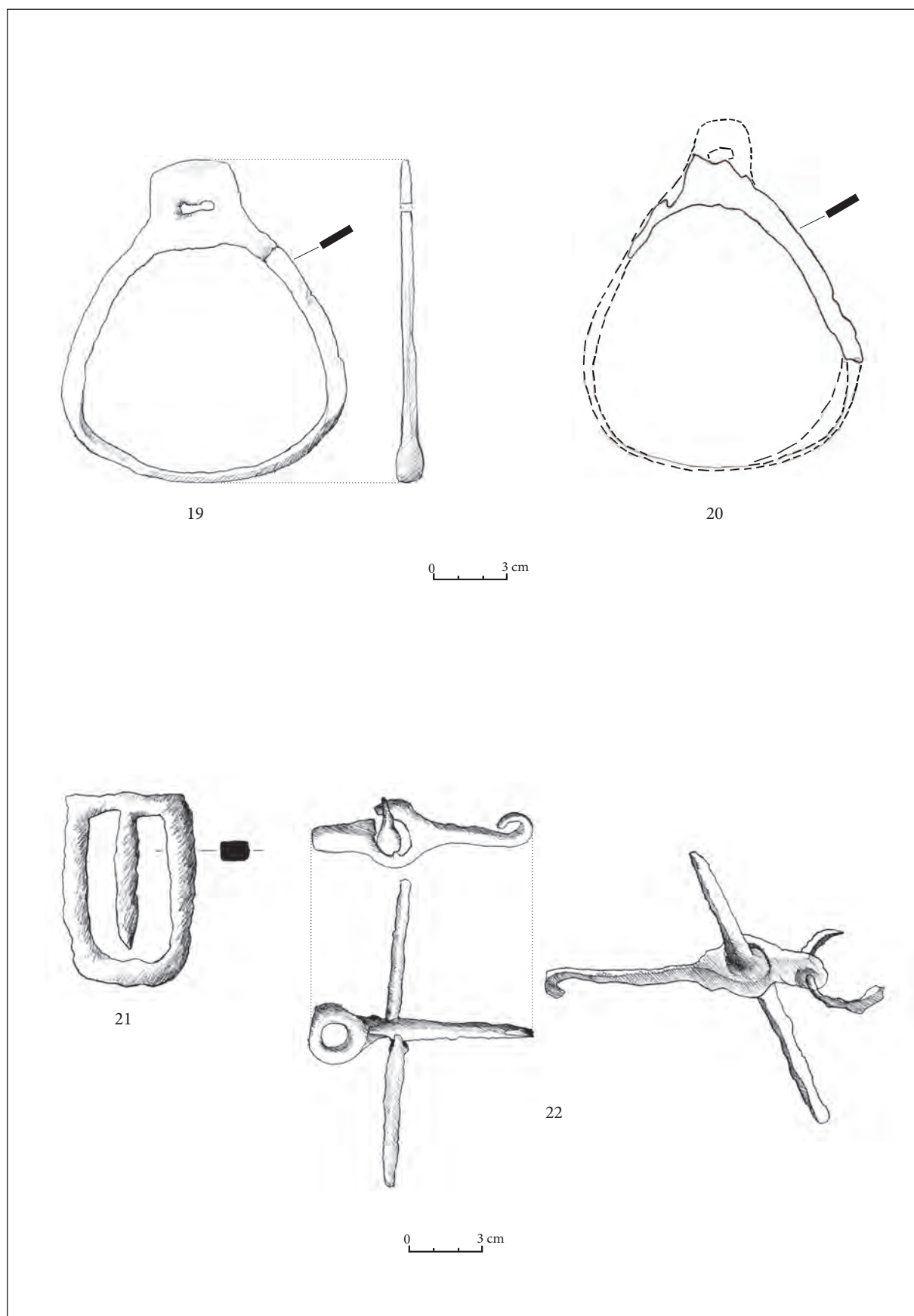


Plate 6. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 1: 19–22.

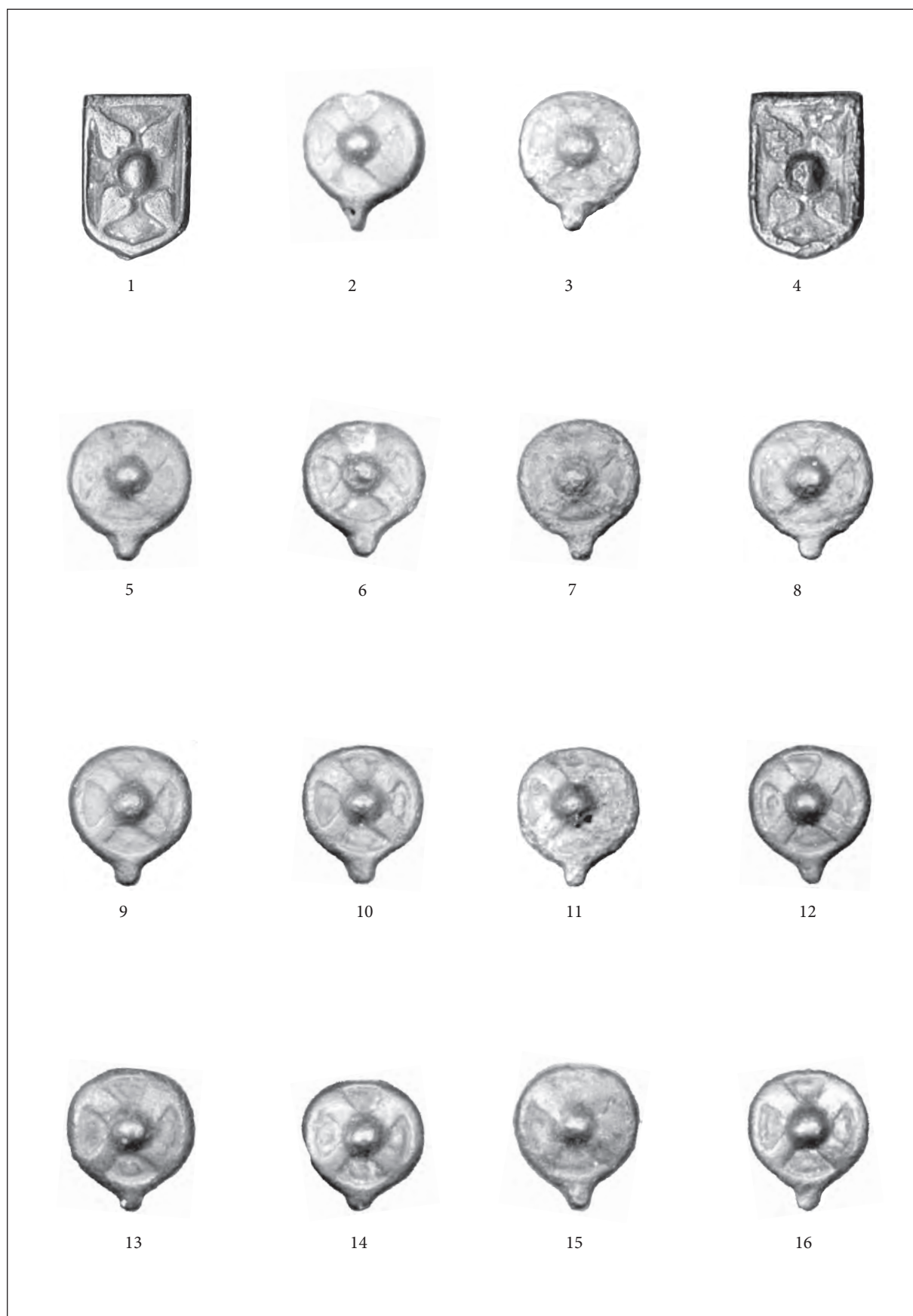


Plate 7. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 1: 1–16.



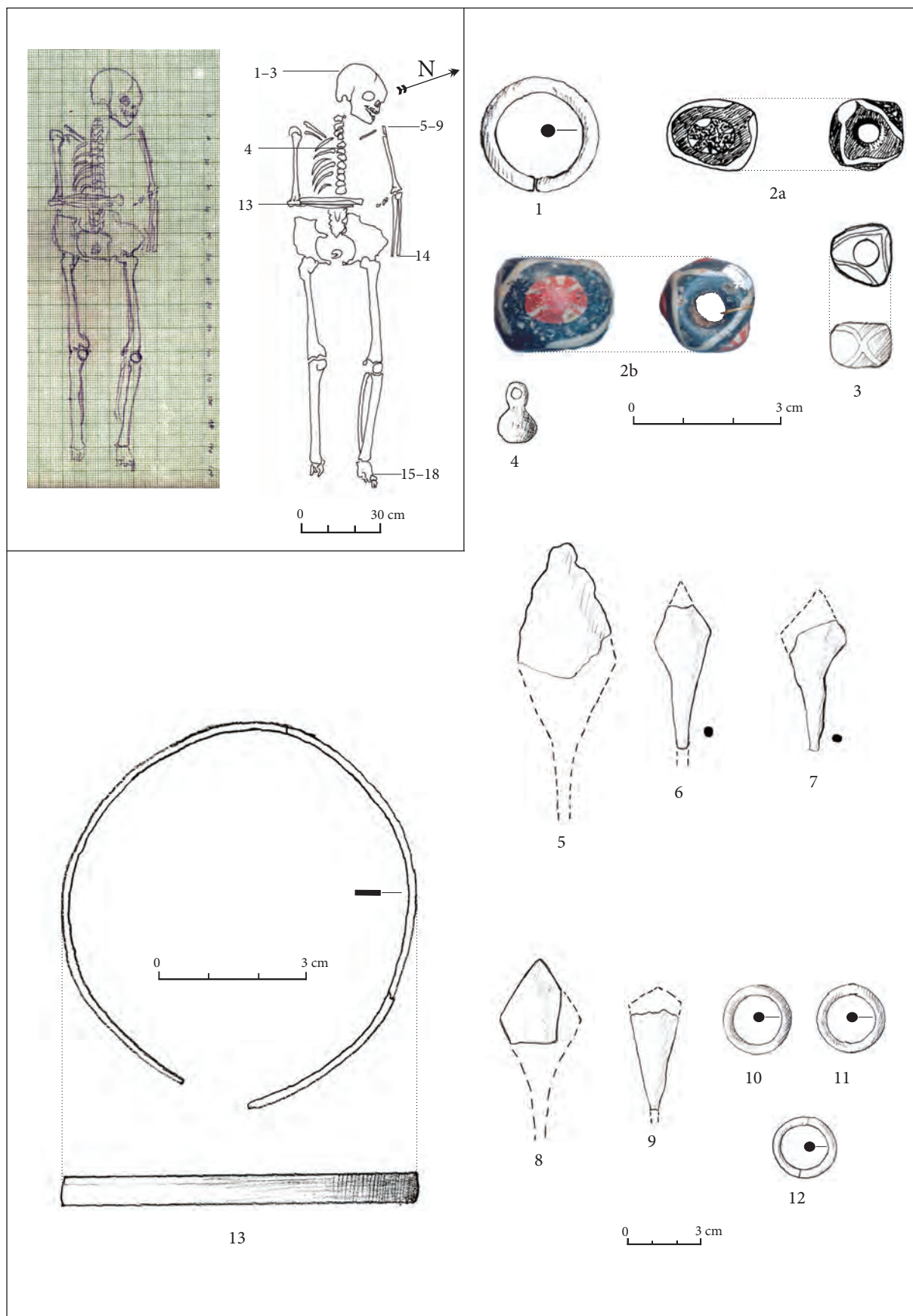


Plate 8. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 2: 1-13.



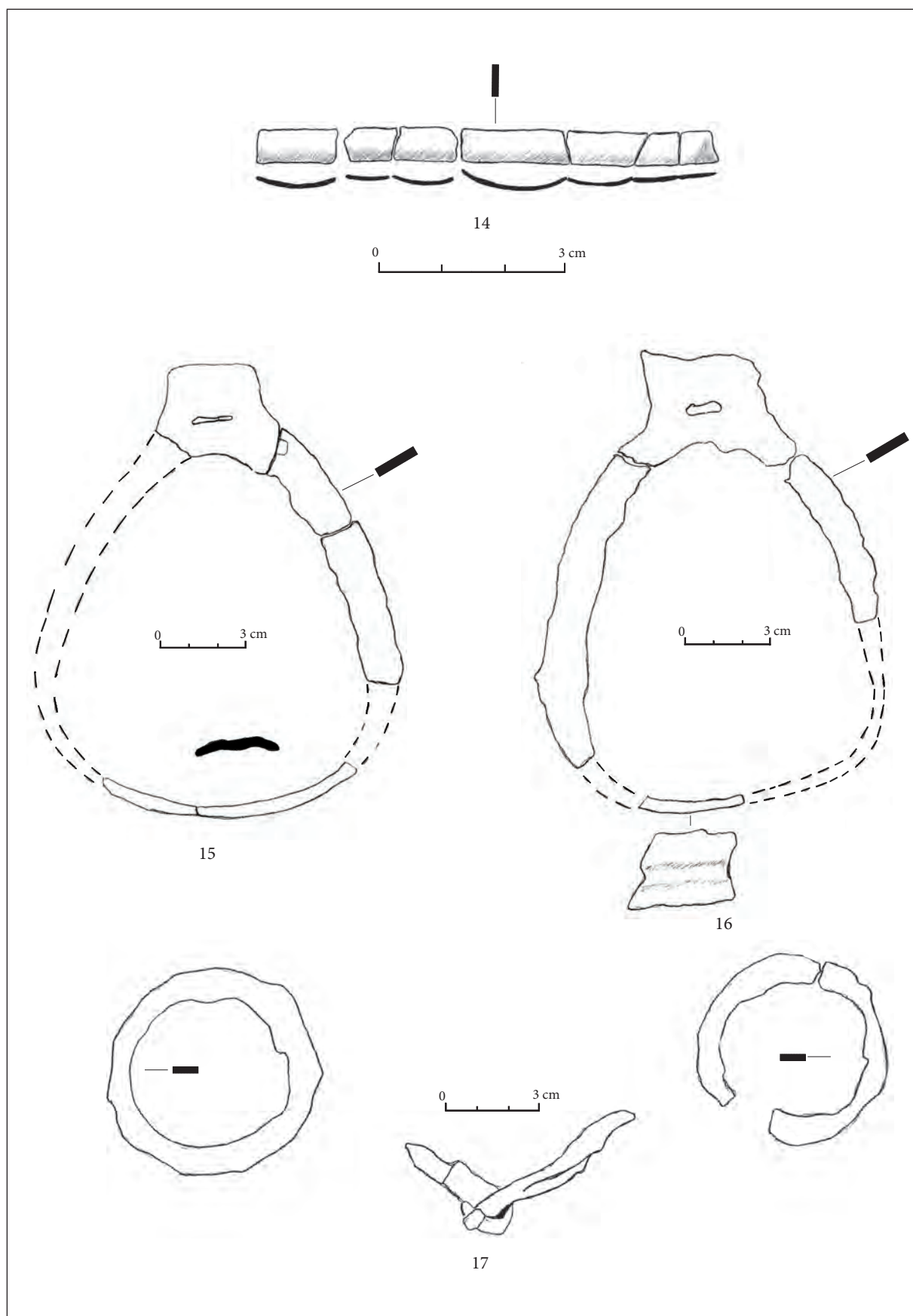
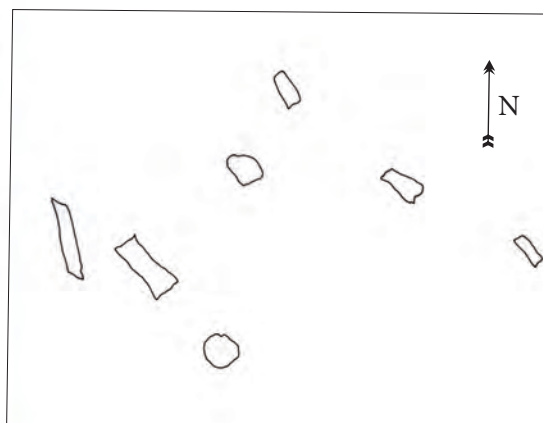
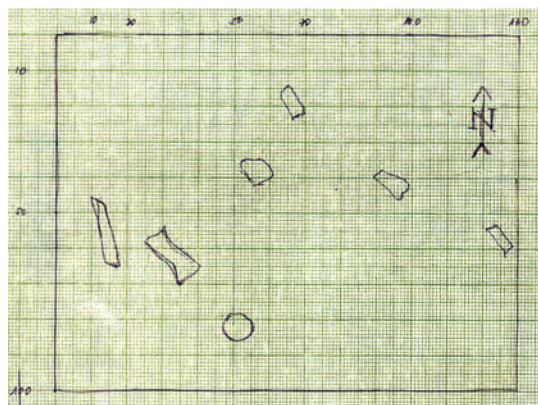


Plate 9. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 2: 14–17.

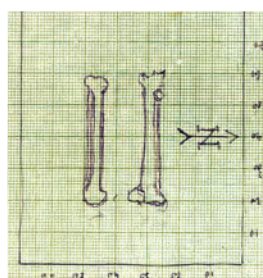


Grave 3

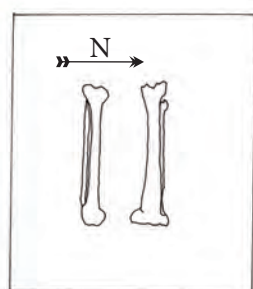


1

0 3 cm

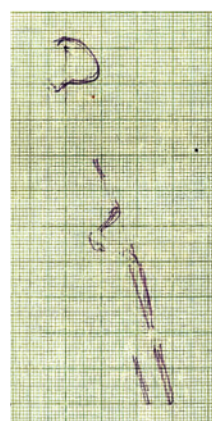


0 30 cm



0 30 cm

Grave 4



0 30 cm



0 30 cm

Grave 5

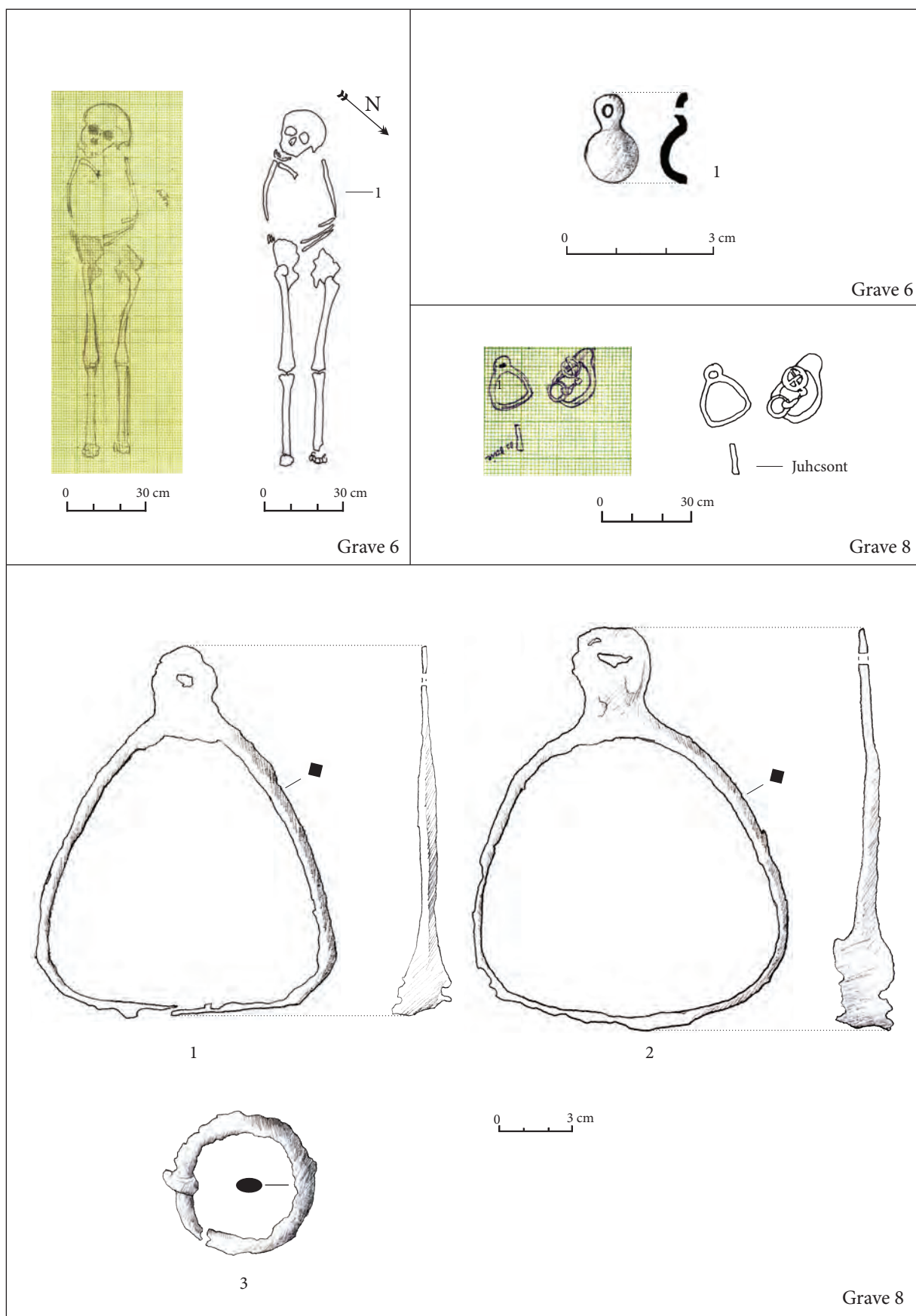


Plate 11. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 6: 1; Grave 8: 1-3.

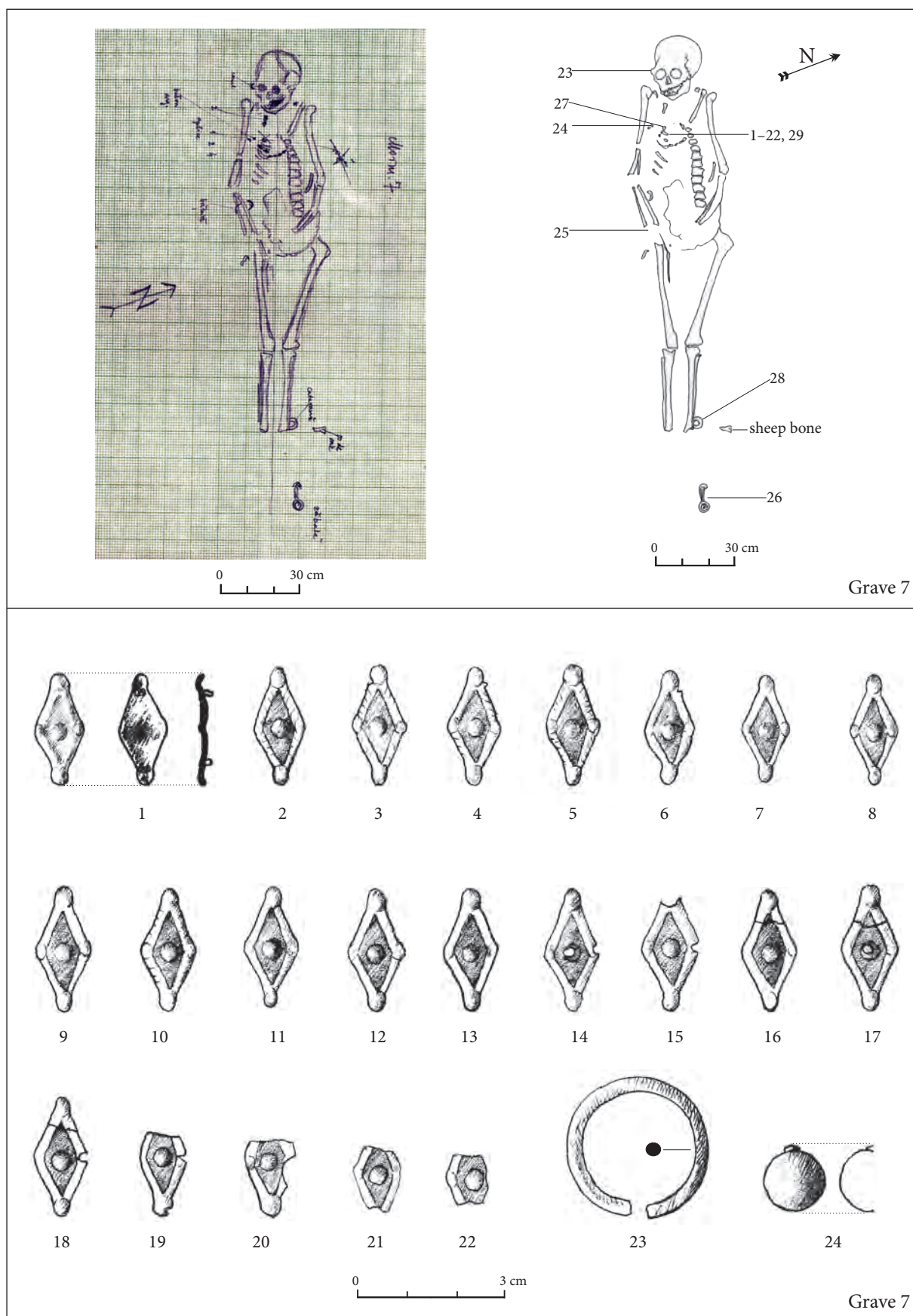


Plate 12. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 7: 1-24.



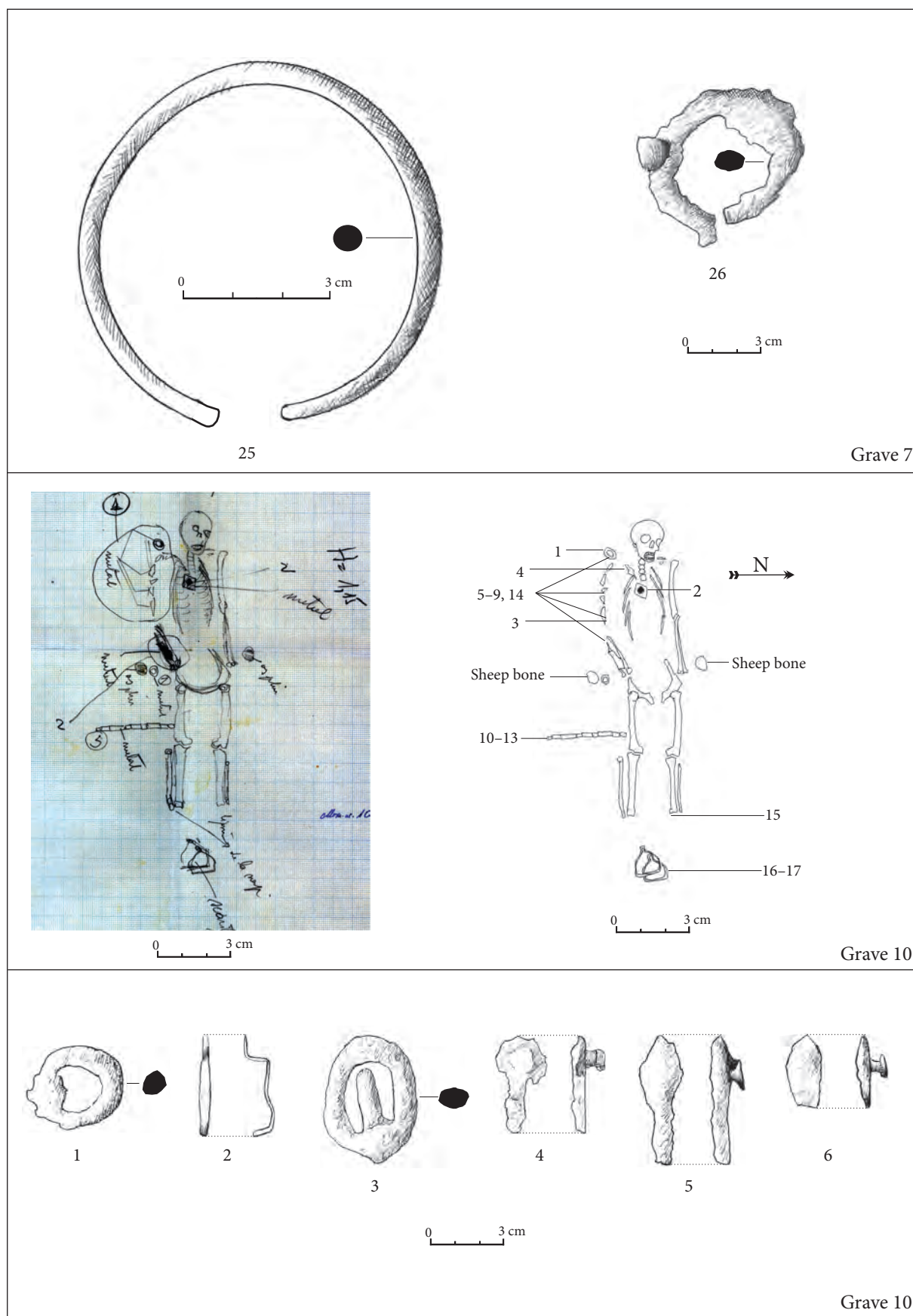


Plate 13. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 7: 25-26; Grave 10: 1-6.



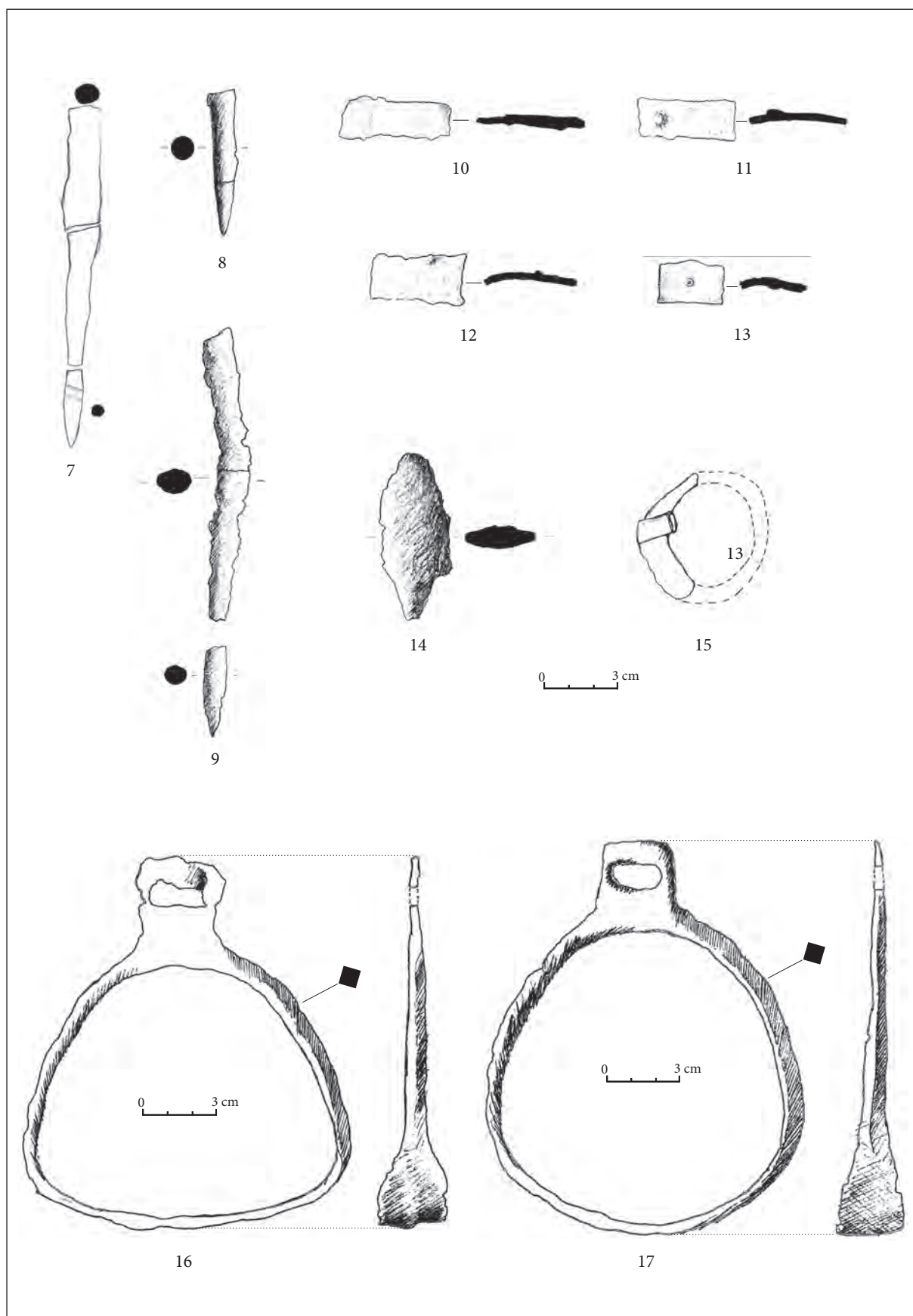


Plate 14. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 10: 7-17.

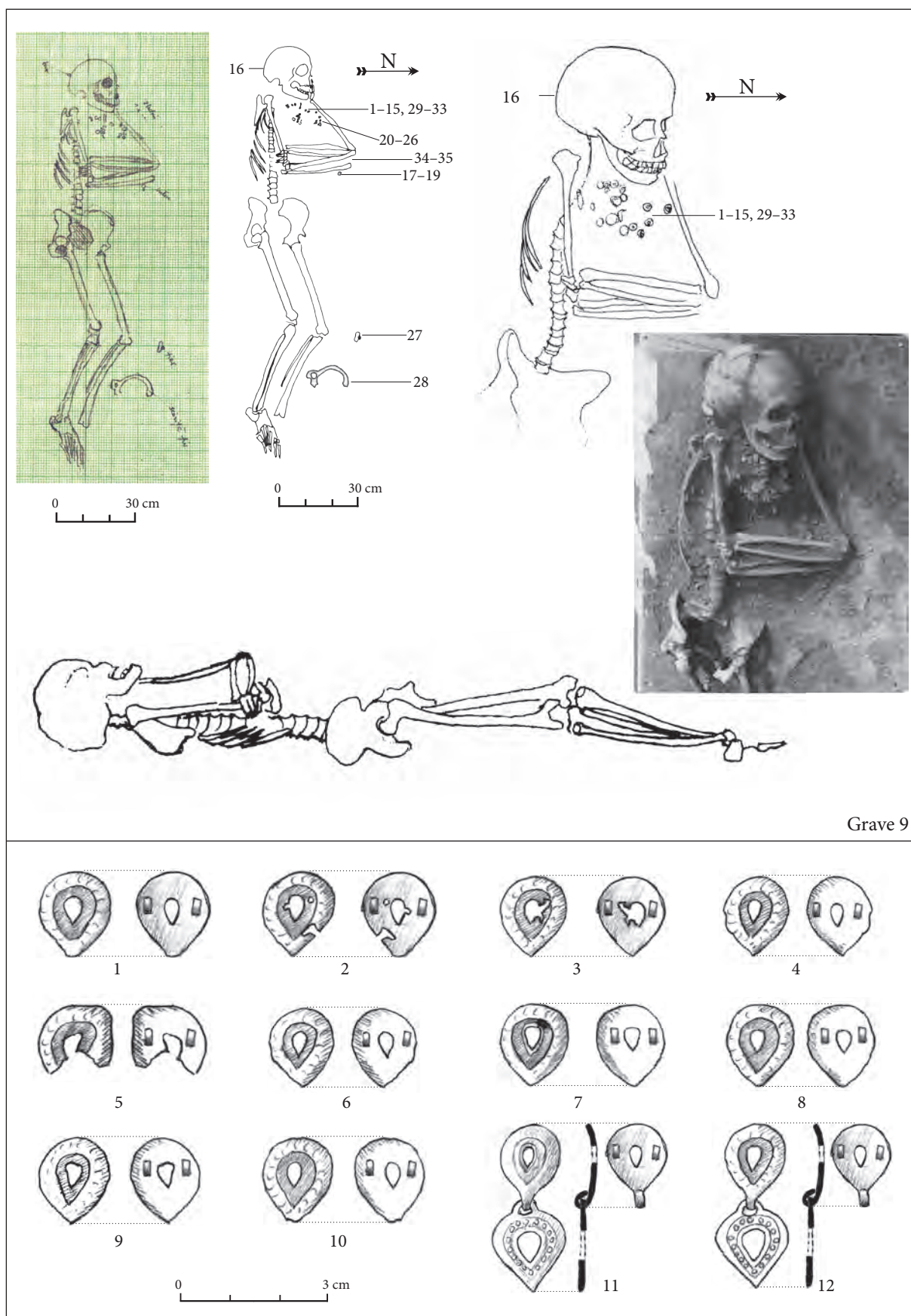


Plate 15. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 9: 1-12.

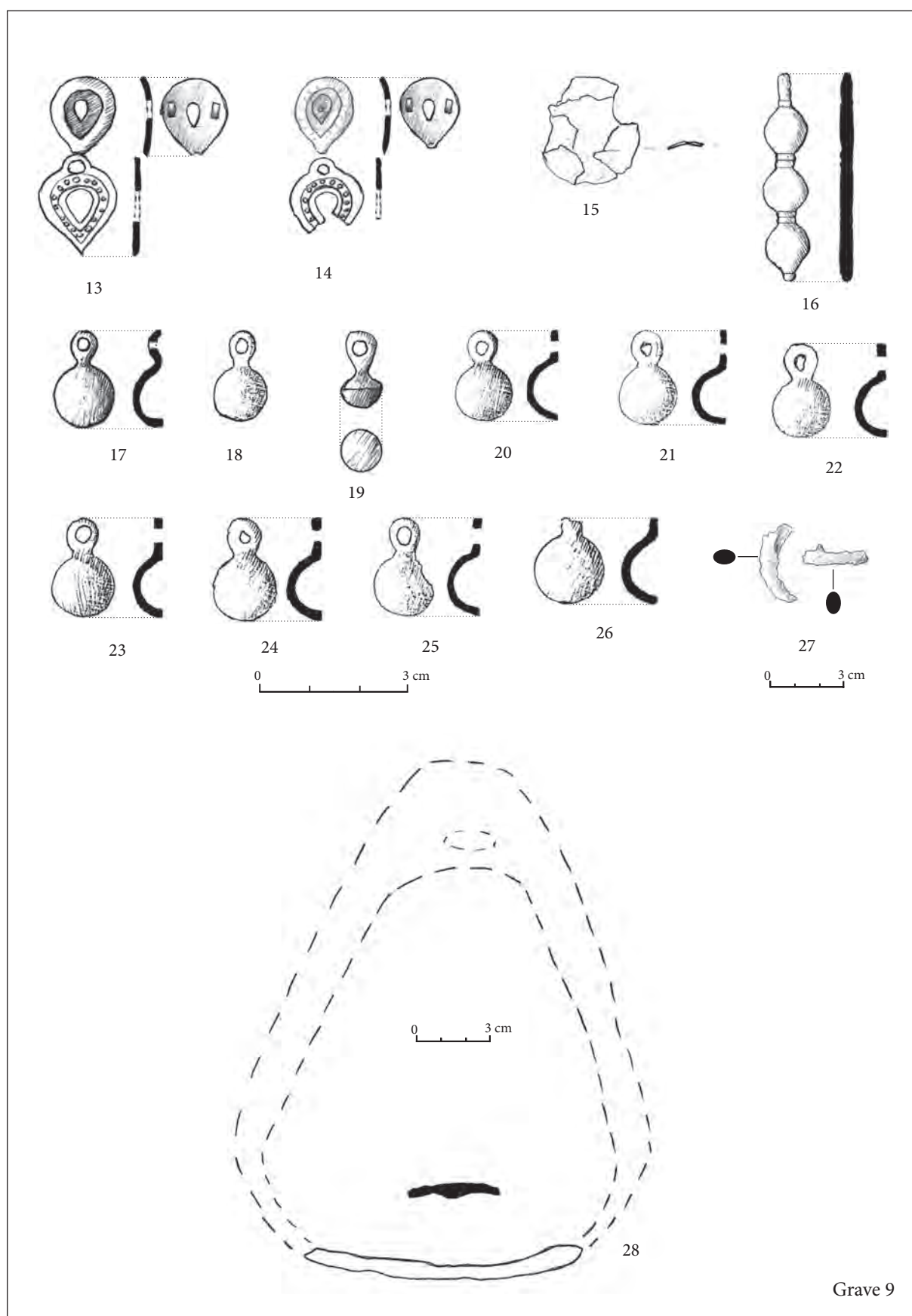


Plate 16. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 9: 13–28.

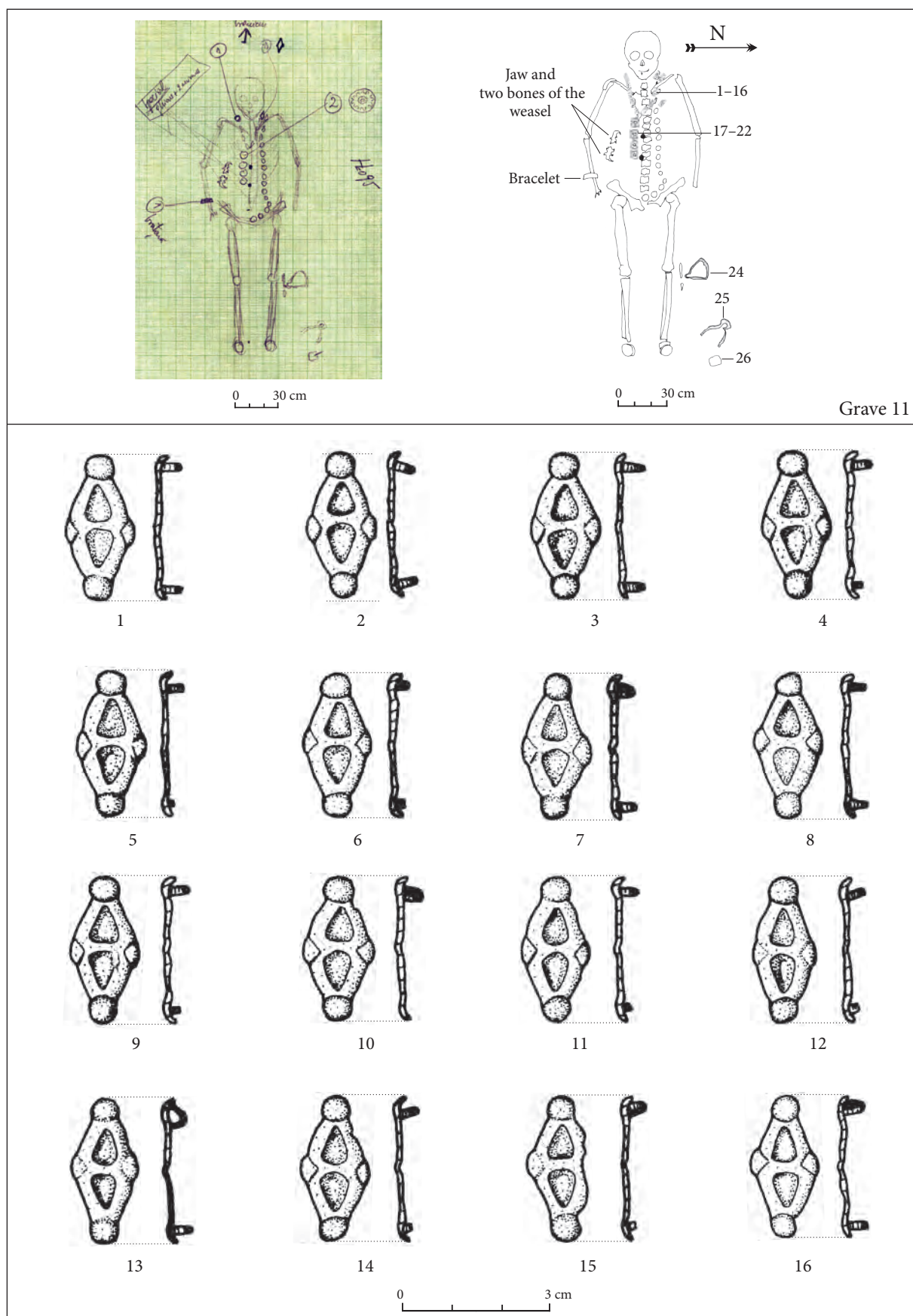


Plate 17. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 11: 1-16.



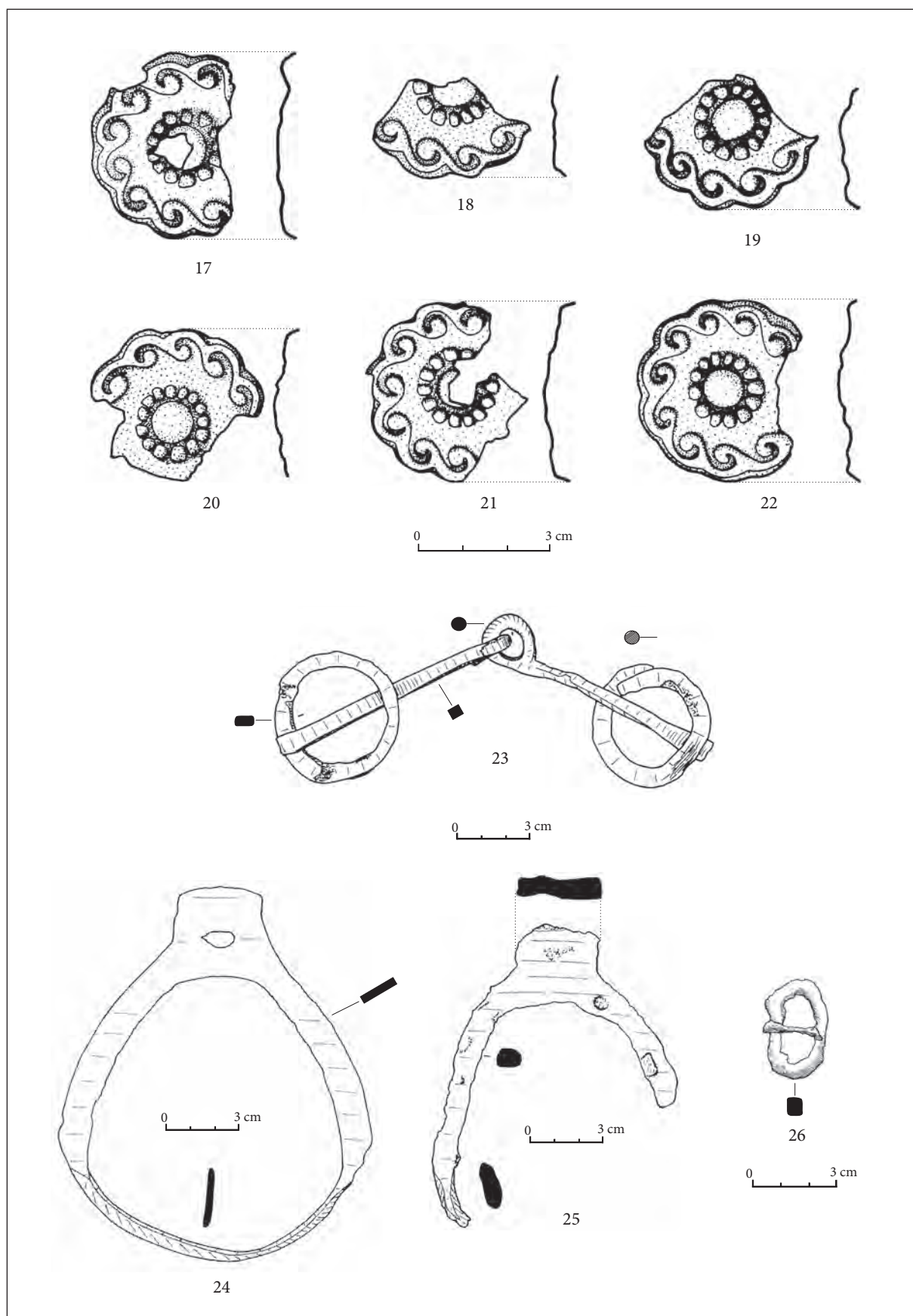


Plate 18. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 11: 17-26.



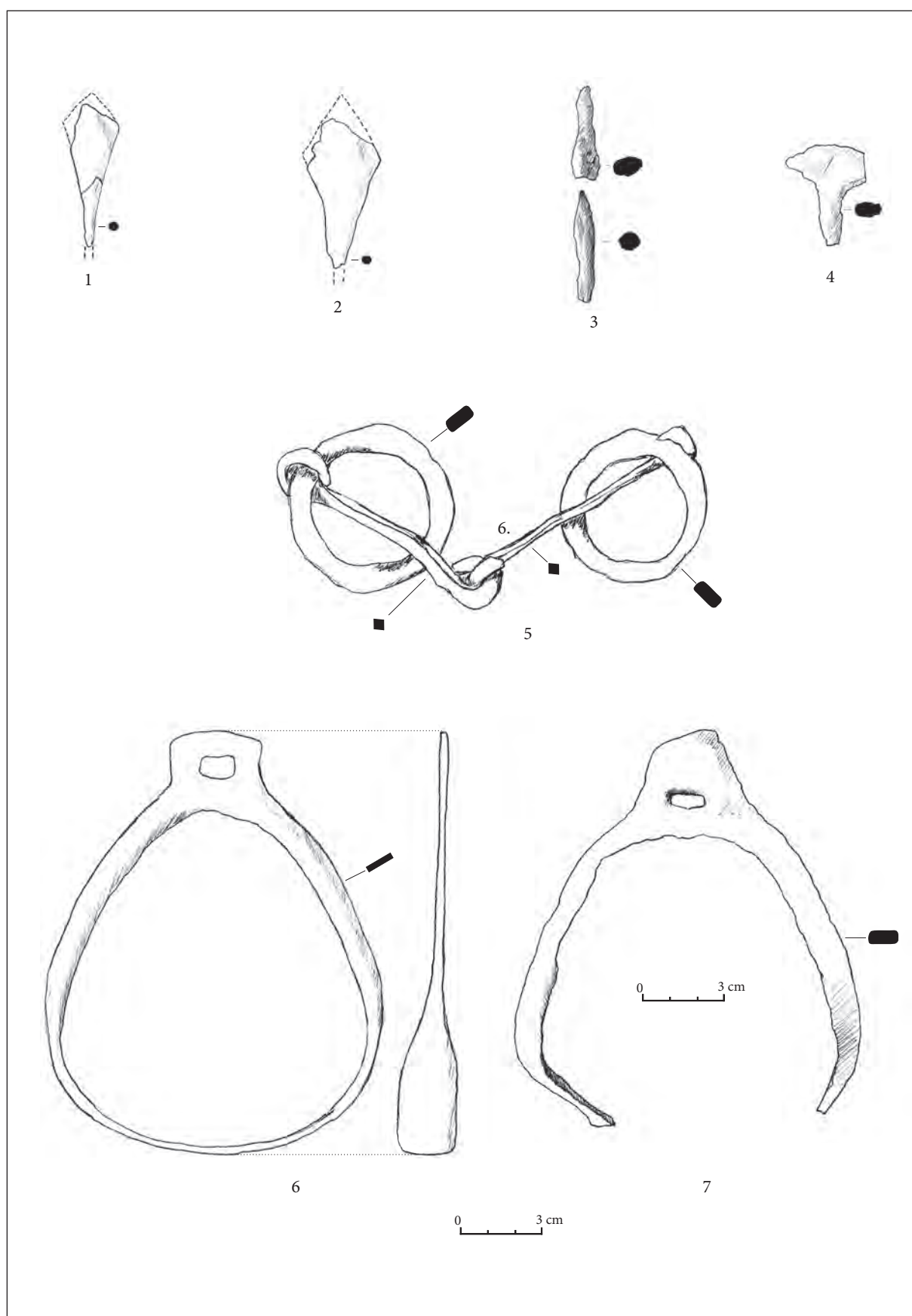


Plate 19. Șiclău-Gropoaie Grave 12: 1-7.

# Abbreviations

Acta Ant et Arch Suppl	Acta Antiqua et Archaeologica Supplementum. Szeged.
AAC	Acta Archaeologica Carpathica. Krakow.
ACMIT	Anuarul Comisiunii monumentelor istorice. Secția pentru Transilvania. Cluj.
ActaArchHung	ActaArchHung Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae. Budapest.
AEM	Archäologische Epigraphische Mitteilungen aus Österreich-Ungarn.
AIIA Cluj	Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie. Cluj.
AMP	Acta Musei Porolissensis. Zalău.
ATF	Acta Terrae Fogarasiensis. Făgăraș.
ATS	Acta Terrae Septemcastrenses. Sibiu.
Agria	<i>Agria. Annales Musei Agriensis</i> . Az egri Dobó István Vármúzeum évkönyve. Eger.
AnB S.N.	Analele Banatului. Timișoara.
ArchÉrt	Archaeologiai Értesítő. A Magyar Régészeti és Művészettörténeti Társulat tudományos folyóirata. Budapest.
Arh. Pregled	Arheološki Pregled. Arheološko Društvo Jugoslavije. Beograd.
AM	Arheologia Moldovei. Iași.
AMN	Acta Musei Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca.
ArchRozhl	Archeologické Rozhledy. Praga.
ASMB	Arheologia Satului Medieval din Banat. Reșița 1996.
BAM	Brvkenthal Acta Mvsei. Sibiu.
BAR Int. Ser.	British Archaeological Reports. International Series. Oxford.
BCMI	Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice.
BerRGK	Bericht der RömischGermanischen Kommission, Frankfurt a. Main.
BHAB	Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Banatica. Timișoara.
BMB. SH	Biblioteca Muzeului Bistrița. Seria Historica. Bistrița Năsăud.
BMI	Buletinul Monumentelor Istorice, București.
BMN	Bibliotheca Musei Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca.
BMMK	A Békés Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei. Békéscsaba.
BMMN	Buletinul Muzeului Militar Național, București.
BThr	Bibliotheca Thracologica. Institutul Român de Tracologie, București.
CAB	
CAH	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae. Budapest.
Carpica	Carpica. Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Bacău. Bacău.
CAMNI	Cercetări Arheologice. Muzeul de Istorie al R. S. România/Muzeul Național de Istorie. București.
CCA	<i>Cronica cercetărilor arheologice (din România)</i> , 1983–1992 <i>sqq.</i> (și în variantă electronică pe <a href="http://www.cimec.ro/scripts/arh/cronica/cercetariarh.asp">http://www.cimec.ro/scripts/arh/cronica/cercetariarh.asp</a> ).
CCA 1995 [1996]	C. Stoica (red. și coord.), CCA. <i>Campania 1995. A XXX-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Brăila, 2–5 mai 1996</i> . [București] [1996].
CCA 1996 [1997]	C. Stoica (red. și coord.), CCA. <i>Campania 1996. A XXXI-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, București, 12–15 iunie 1997</i> . [București] [1997].
CCA 1997 [1998]	C. Stoica (red. și coord.), CCA. <i>Campania 1997. A XXXII-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Călărași, 20–24 mai 1998</i> . [București] [1998].
CCA 1998 [1999]	C. Stoica (red. și coord.), CCA. <i>Campania 1998. A XXXIII-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Vaslui, 30 iunie–4 iulie 1999</i> . [București] [1999].
CCA 2000 (2001)	M. V. Angelescu, C. Borș, I. Oberländer-Târnoveau (Ed.), CCA. <i>Campania 2000. A XXXV-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Suceava, 23–27 mai 2001</i> . București 2001.

CCA 2001 (2002)	M. V. Angelescu, C. Borș, I. Oberländer-Târnoveanu, F. Vasilescu (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2001. A XXXVI-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Buziaș, 28 mai–1 iunie 2001</i> . București 2002.
CCA 2003 (2004)	M. V. Angelescu, I. Oberländer-Târnoveanu, F. Vasilescu (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2003. A XXXVIII-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Cluj-Napoca, 26–29 mai 2004</i> . București 2004.
CCA 2006 (2007)	M. V. Angelescu, F. Vasilescu (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2006. A XLI-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Tulcea, 29 mai – 1 iunie 2006</i> . București 2007.
CCA 2008 (2009)	M. V. Angelescu, I. Oberländer-Târnoveanu, F. Vasilescu, O. Cîrstina, G. Olteanu (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2008. A XLIII-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Târgoviște, 27–30 mai 2009 (= Valachica 21–22, 2008–2009)</i> . Târgoviște 2009.
CCA 2013 (2014)	Institutul Național al Patrimoniului (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2013. A XLVIII-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Oradea, 5–7 iunie 2014</i> . [București] 2014.
CCA 2014 (2015)	Institutul Național al Patrimoniului (Ed.), <i>CCA 2015. Campania 2014. A XLIX-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Pitești, 28–30 mai 2015, Muzeul județean Argeș</i> . [București] 2015.
CRSCRCR	Coins from Roman sites and collections of Roman coins from Romania. Cluj-Napoca.
Dacia N.S.	Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne. Nouvelle serie. București.
Danubius	Danubius – Revista Muzeului de Istorie Galați. Galați.
DDME	A Debreceni Déri Múzeum Évkönyve. Debrecen.
DolgCluj	Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Nemzeti Érem- és Régiségtárából, Klozsvár (Cluj).
DolgSzeg	Dolgozatok. Arbeiten des Archäologischen Instituts der Universität. Szeged.
EphNap	Ephemeris Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca.
FADDP/GMADP	Führer zu archäologischen Denkmälern in Dacia Porolissensis/Ghid al monumentelor arheologice din Dacia Porolissensis.
FolArch	Folia Archaeologica. Budapest.
Forsch. u. Ber. z. Vor- u. Frühgesch. BW	Forschungen und Berichte zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Baden-Württemberg.
GPSKV	Gradja za proučavanje spomenika kulture Vojvodine. Novi Sad.
GSAD	Glasnik Srpskog Arheološkog Društva. Beograd.
HOMÉ	A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve. Miskolc.
JAMÉ	A nyíregyházi Jós András Múzeum Évkönyve. Nyíregyháza.
JahrbuchRGZM	Jahrbuch des RömischGermanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz.
Lohanul	Lohanul. Revistă cultural științifică. Huși.
MCA	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice. București.
MCA-S.N.	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice-Serie Nouă. București.
MA	Memoria Antiquitatis. Complexul Muzeal Județean Neamț. Piatra Neamț.
MFMÉ	A Móra Ferenc Múz. Évkönyve. Szeged.
MFMÉ StudArch	A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Studia Archaeologica. Szeged.
MN	Muzeul Național. București.
Opuscula Hungarica	Opuscula Hungarica. Budapest.
PamArch	Památky Archeologické. Praha.
Past and Present	Past and Present. Oxford.
PIKS/PISC	Die Publikationen des Institutes für klassische Studien/ Publicațiile Institutului de studii clasice. Cluj-Napoca.
PBF	Praehistorische Bronzefunde. Berlin.
PZ	Prähistorische Zeitschrift. Berlin.
Rev. Muz.	Revista Muzeelor, București.
RIR	Revista Istorică Română.
RMM-MIA	Revista Muzeelor și Monumentelor. seria Monumente istorice și de artă. București.
RMMN	Revista Muzeului Militar Național. București.
Ruralia	Ruralia. Památky Archeologické – Supplementum. Praha.
RVM	Rad Vojvodjanskih Muzeja, Novi Sad.
SCIV(A)	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche. București.

SCN	Studii și Cercetări Numismatice. București.
SlovArch	Slovenská Archeológia. Nitra.
SIA	Studii de Istoria Artei. Cluj Napoca.
SIB	Studii de istorie a Banatului. Timișoara.
SKMÉ	A Szántó Kovács János Múzeum Évkönyve, Orosháza.
SMIM	Studii și Materiale de Istorie Medie. București.
SMMA	Szolnok Megyei Múzeumi Adattár. Szolnok.
SMMIM	Studii și Materiale de Muzeografie și Istorie Militară. București.
Starinar	Starinar. Arheološki Institut. Beograd.
StCl	Studii Clasice, București.
StComBrukenthal	<i>Studii și comunicări</i> . Sibiu.
StudArch	Studia Archaeologica. <i>Budapest</i> .
StudCom	Studia Comitatus. <i>Szentendre</i> .
StudUnivCib	Studia Universitatis Cibiniensis. Sibiu.
StudCom – Vrancea	Studii și Comunicări. Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Etnografie Vrancea. Focșani.
StudŽvest	Študijne Zvesti Arheologického Ústavu Slovenskej Akadémie Vied. Nitra.
Symp. Thrac.	Symposia Thracologica. București.
Tempora Obscura	Tempora Obscura. Békéscsaba 2012.
Tibiscus	Tibiscus. Timișoara.
VAH	Varia Archaeologica Hungarica. <i>Budapest</i> .
Ziridava	Ziridava. Arad.
ZSA	Ziridava Studia Archaeologica. Arad.