

## BARBARIAN STRONGLY PROFILED BROOCHES OF TYPE ALMGREN 80, THE “VOJTENKI” VARIANT, FROM ROMANIA

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31577/szausav.2025.suppl.3.12>

Keywords: Dacia, Barbaricum, Vojtenki, Przeworsk culture, brooches, moulds

**Abstract:** We attempt below to analyse brooches of type Almgren 80, the Vojtenki variant, on the basis of the archaeological finds from Romania. Six bronze specimens originating from the territory of Roman Dacia (three items) and the Barbarian environment of the east-Carpathian region (three items) are discussed. The authors conclude that chronologically, the strongly profiled brooches, the Vojtenki variant from Romania frames in the chronological span comprised between the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (phases C1a–C1b). Furthermore, the authors conclude that this brooch variant originates from the eastern area of the Przeworsk culture and that they represent a marker (beside other artefacts) of the entry and settlement of Germanic populace groups in the east-Carpathian space and the territories in the vicinity of the province of Dacia beginning with late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The Vojtenki brooches from territories east of the Dnieper are, according to the authors, the most evolved and late form. The presence of these items in the forest steppes between the Dnieper and Severskij Donets indicates, beside other artefacts, the arrival and settlement in this space, starting with phase C1b, of Germanic populace groups from the area of the Upper Dniester, the Southern Bug and the neighbouring territories located to the north and north-west.

### VOJTENKI BROOCH FINDINGS IN THE ROMAN WORLD AND BARBARICUM

The publishing in the academic literature of the last three decades of numerous studies addressing different versions of Barbarian strongly profiled brooches in the Roman world (Cociş 2002; 2004, 62, type 8a15b; Opreanu/Cociş 2002; Schmid 2010, 26) or the Barbaricum (Andrzejowski 2001; 2009; 2020; Dąbrowska 1995; 1998; Iván 2015; Levada 2007) provides us today the opportunity to re-examine type Almgren 80 from Roman Dacia and the Barbarian world on the territory of Romania.

The features of the type include the following: they are two-piece (the proper piece and separately, the spring); the head is widened in trumpet shape (Almgren 1923, 34); the body is decorated with flattened oblique incisions; the triangular section foot ends in a stepped massive knob; the catchplate is commonly rectangular and vertical: the spring attachment mechanism is characterised by the insertion of the chord through the support (Cociş 2002; Levada 2007). Just one intact specimen published in the academic literature is double sprung (Căpitanu 1975a, 68, fig. 11: 1; 26: 6; 1975b, 307, fig. 1: 7). Their length varies approximately between 3.2 cm and 5.4 cm. We chose to frame this brooch type as type Almgren 80, version Vojtenki<sup>1</sup> precisely because their above features, despite the fact that other specialists had classified these into a different type (Iván 2015, 91).

O. Almgren included discussed type in group IV, the second series (Almgren 1923, 40–42). Debates concerning exemplars in series II of group Almgren IV are resumed by I. Kovrig (Kovrig 1937, 15–17, pl. XIII: 133–136) and E. Patek (Patek 1942, 40–42, pl. XXII: 1–4), without yet a straightforward classification (owing to the small number of exemplars, respectively variants) of the brooch typologies from Pannonia. The most relevant conclusion of the two scholars was they were of Germanic origin (Kovrig 1937, 17; Patek 1942, 40–42).

Such brooches were re-discussed a few decades later by certain Polish researchers. Thus, T. Liana, in the study addressing the relative chronology of the Przeworsk culture during the early Roman period, establishes chronological sequences also with the aid of the strongly profiled Barbarian brooch type (Liana 1970, 440–444, pl. III).

<sup>1</sup> The introduction of the term of Vojtenki type brooches for the items discussed here belongs to M. E. Levada (Levada 2007, 243).

The issue of the late strongly profiled brooches from Poland is also resumed in detail by T. Dąbrowska (*Dąbrowska 1995*, 3–34; 1998, 149–156). The scholar establishes a number of three main types for the territory of her native country:

1. Type Almgren 84 and related forms (*Dąbrowska 1995*, 6, 7, fig. 1–2);
2. Trumpet-shaped type variant 5 (*Dąbrowska 1995*, 710, fig. 3);
3. Late Mazowsze (Mazovia) type, series II group IV with two subvariants, 1 and 2. The first subvariant of the late Mazowsze type, subdivided into type 1A and type 1B comprises one-piece metal exemplars (*Dąbrowska 1995*, 10–13, fig. 4), while the second subvariant includes two-piece examples (*Dąbrowska 1995*, 10–14, fig. 5).

The analysis of both local Mazowsze brooch subtypes evidences they massively diffused in the eastern region of the Przeworsk culture area (*Dąbrowska 1995*, 25; 1998, 153). Chronologically, they are dated to phases B2/C1–C1a (AD 150/160–210/220; *Dąbrowska 1995*, 24, 25; 1998, 151). The single brooch close to type Almgren 80, the Wojtenki variant is the specimen yielded by burial 158 at Zdżarow (*Dąbrowska 1995*, 13, fig. 5: g).

J. Andrzejowski further discusses the strongly profiled brooches in several studies that look at the eastern area of the Przeworsk culture (*Andrzejowski 2001; 2009; 2020*). In a recent article on the area, for the B2/C1–C1a time interval, the Polish scholar analyses two brooch groups (*Andrzejowski 2020*, 21–30). The first group is composed of strongly profiled brooches specific to the eastern region of the Przeworsk culture area – the Mazowsze variant and the later variant – Topornica (*Andrzejowski 2009*, 252–254, 259; 2020, 15, 20, fig. 6; 11; 12). The Polish scholar infers that the many recent finds of the Topornica variant in south-eastern Poland and western Ukraine represent a solid argument which proves that groups from the eastern area of the Przeworsk culture existed in this area. Topornica brooches are believed the forms out of which the local variant of strongly profiled brooches later developed – the Wojtenki type (*Andrzejowski 2020*, 22). Surprisingly, type A 80, the Wojtenki variant is missing from the current territory of Poland (amicable information dr. Jacek Andrzejowski). The second analysed group concerns brooches A 43 and A 129 (*Andrzejowski 2020*, 23–26). The author's conclusion, although still requiring many clarifications, is that part of the eastern Przeworsk culture bearers migrated southwards and eastwards, similarly to the bearers of the Wielbark culture (*Andrzejowski 2020*, 21, 23, 26).

#### VOJTENKI BROOCH FINDINGS IN EASTERN EUROPE BARBARICUM

In 2001, M. V. Lyubichev and V. V. Didyk published the brooches in group VII Almgren, series I from the area east of the Dnieper (*Lyubichev/Didyk 2001–2002*, 335–342), also including the Wojtenki type specimen of Kovraj (*Lyubichev/Didyk 2001–2002*, fig. 4: 8). The same scholars correlated A. K. Ambroz's classification with that in E. L. Gorokhovskij's doctoral thesis and examined some variants of this brooch group in the forest steppe between the Dnieper and Severskij Donets dated to the late Roman period, noting, based on their find, that a group of populaces migrated from the region of the Upper Dniester to the Dnieper – Severskij Donets forest steppe (*Lyubichev/Didyk 2001–2002*, 335–342).

Four years later, within a large scale study addressing Roman date brooches from territories in the upper part of rivers Vorskla and Severskij Donets, K. I. Bakumenko, G. V. Bejdin, M. N. Grigor'yants and V. V. Didyk (*Bakumenko et al. 2006*), also examined the specimen identified in the Wojtenki 1 settlement, which they believed a derivative of the “Monstruoso” brooch version of group Almgren VII (*Bakumenko et al. 2006*, 86, 87, fig. VII: 17). The same authors conclude that the Wojtenki 1 item is the most western find of brooches in the “Monstruoso” variation in the Chernyakhov antiquities' area (*Bakumentko et al. 2006*, 86, 87).

In 2008, M. V. Lyubichev returns to examining the distribution of brooches in group Almgren VII in the territory east of the Dnieper (*Lyubichev 2008*, 36–47). The study discusses a number of forty-four intact and fragmentary brooches, yet also of two half-finished items originating from twenty-three sites in the region east of the Dnieper. The analysis also extends to the Wojtenki type brooches with vertical catchplate of Kovraj and Wojtenki 1, deemed derivatives of the “Monstruoso” brooches and closer to specimens of type Almgren 212 and 220 (*Lyubichev 2008*, 36–39, fig. 2: 1–2).

Concluding the analysis of these brooch types, M. V. Lyubichev surmises that the emergence of group VII brooches in O. Almgren's classification in the area east of the Dnieper is related to the arrival in the region of the bearers of Demyanov-Cherepin type cultures located in the region of the Upper Dniester, which in the area east of the Dnieper are equivalent with the Boromlya horizon (*Lyubichev 2008*, 44), yet which do not

correspond to criteria defining Chernyakhov monuments (*Lyubichev 2008*, 44). The author further concludes that very likely, Germanic peoples also enter during phases C1b–C2 the region east of the Dnieper, beside the Boromlya horizon bearers (*Lyubichev 2008*, 45).

Still in this period is published M. E. Levada's study on the types of Barbarian brooches with two holes in the spring attachment support, the second hole being used to insert the spring chord (*Levada 2007*). The author mentions that the present additional hole in the spring support for chord insertion is also known with some brooch types from the east-German tribes area, further recording the brooch types where such design system is present and the fact it emerged during the late period of phase B2 and remained in use until phase C2, in some cases even in C3 included (*Levada 2007*, 239–245). M. E. Levada documents the diffusion of the brooch types with such design system, mentioning as well two exemplars from the province of Dacia (*Levada 2007*, 243), without yet referencing the study which discusses all brooch types with the spring attachment mechanism characterised by the chord insertion through the support from the territory of Dacia and their distribution in the Roman empire (*Cociş 2002*). While referring to the Vojtenki type brooches, the same scholar concludes that during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (late phase B2) in the Eastern Europe Barbaricum, owing to the wide distribution of different brooch types with vertical and long chord, there emerged an unusual design innovation – an additional hole in the spring support, through which the chord was inserted. According to M. E. Levada, this chord attachment mechanism was used on a large scale on different brooch types in the Wielbark culture environment, however in particular with those in the Mazowsze variant of the second series of late Almgren IV brooches. The latter, once reaching phase B2/C1–C1a in the Dniester River Basin area and the upper course of the Southern Bug, transformed into type Vojtenki (*Levada 2007*, 244, 245). The use of the spring attachment mechanism characterised by the insertion of the chord through the second orifice on the support in the case of Almgren group VII a brooch could have been caused, according to the same author, either by influences arriving from the Vojtenki type brooches or subsequent to a parallel and independent process (*Levada 2007*, 245).

One last reference to the Vojtenki type brooches is found in the work addressing the history of the forest steppe between the Dnieper and the Donetsk during the 1<sup>st</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> century AD authored by M. V. Lyubichev (*Lyubichev 2019*, 91). The scholar believes that Vojtenki type brooches originate in the Mazowsze variant of the second series of group Almgren IV, with possible influences from Almgren VII group brooches in what the vertical catchplate is concerned. The second hole on the spring support is according to M. V. Lyubichev, a design innovation. Furthermore, the author agrees that during phase B2/C1–C1a the Mazowsze variant brooches reached the area of the Dniester River Basin and the upper course of the Southern Bug, where these were transformed into Vojtenki type brooches (*Lyubichev 2019*, 91).

According to M. V. Lyubichev, a series of circumstances plead in the favour of the connection of Vojtenki type brooches from the forest steppe region between the Dnieper and Donetsk with the chronological horizon of the C1b–C2 phase archaeological sites (*Lyubichev 2019*, 91), with the mention that brooches are known in the Vojtenki 1 settlement only in sector A, with features that yielded Almgren 157 brooches, Shelov D amphorae type fragments and pottery specific to site, as well as that brooches in group Almgren VII were identified only in sector A layer and area. Last but not least, M. V. Lyubicev mentions that such brooches lacked in phases C3 and C3/D1 Chernyakhov cemeteries and phase B2, B2/C1 and C1a post – Zarubinetsk horizon settlements.

Exemplars of type Almgren 80 variant Vojtenki are diffused, if also taking into account the items discovered by detection, mainly in the western territories of Ukraine, in the Upper Dniester River Basin area and the upper course of Southern Bug. The academic literature of Ukraine records to date only eight brooches, of which one fragmentary *Bakumenko et al. 2004*, 86; *Levada 2007*, 243–246, pl. 8: 3, 4, 7, 9, 10; *Lyubichev 2008*, 36, 38, 39, fig. 2: 1–2; *2019*, 91, fig. 57/I: 1–4) and a bronze mould (Pl. I: 2–9). The latter (Pl. I: 2) was discovered by chance within the range of the place of Dunaevtsy, Dunaevets'kij district, the Khmel'nitskij region (*Levada 2007*, 246, pl. 8: 6), being the most eloquent artefact, especially in what the production area is concerned. The Dunaevtsy mould could have been used either directly to cast bronze objects (*Drescher 1978*, 90) or to cast wax or lead models (printing models; *Bayley/Butcher 2004*, 28–30; *Cociş 2019*, 38; *Drescher 1973*, 48–62; *Natuniewicz-Sekuła 2017*, 204, 205). Noteworthy in the case of the mould is that it was provided with two holes in the support for the making of certain items (Pl. I: 2). The half-finished brooch of Semaki (Pl. I: 3), Khmil'nitsk district, Vinnitsa region (*Levada 2007*, 244, 246, pl. 8: 9), a place located very close to the site where the mould was found, proves once more that workshops making such brooch types were in existence in the western territories of Ukraine.

In the eastern territories of Ukraine, such brooches were yielded by the settlements at Kovraj (Pl. I: 5), Khvorostovo (Pl. I: 6) and Baranovo 1 (Pl. I: 7). To these add items yielded by sector A of the Vojtenki1 settlement, where an intact specimen missing the spring and chord (Pl. I: 6) and the upper part of another brooch (Lyubichev 2019, 91, fig. 57/I: 1–4) were found.

All published items originating from Ukraine are bronze-made and have a double-holed support. The first hole was made in order to insert the spring, while the second to cross the chord. The nineinsofar published artefacts are numerically exceeded (approximately twenty-one exemplars) by those sold on the online auction site Violity, identified by detecting mainly in the western territories of Ukraine (<https://auction.violity.com>; status 06.2019). The analysis of the twenty-one identified examples brings forward also new, unknown aspects. The first note is related to the existence of a variant with a single orifice on the support, which means that the chord was passed alongside the support (Pl. IV: 2, 3). The second note is the existing silver items with the spring chord inserted through the support (Pl. IV: 5). The catchplate becomes increasingly vertical under the influence of Almgren type brooches group VII, series I. The emergence of this variant of strongly profiled brooch (derived from the Topornica variant) in western Ukraine is related to the movement of Germanic populace groups (the Przeworsk and Wielbark cultural environments; Andrzejowski 2020, 20–26) during the chronological frame of the C1a–C1b phases.

In the Middle Danube area, the discussed type is extremely rare, the single known exemplar being that of Drösing (Pl. I: 1; *Allerbauer/Jedlicka 2000*, 841, no. 534; *Iván 2015*, 91, pl. 104: 1269).

#### VOJTENKI BROOCH FINDINGS FROM ROMANIA

Returning to the specimens from Romania, they are discovered in both Roman Dacia (cat. no. 1–3) and the territory east of the Carpathians (cat. no. 4–6; Fig. 1). The three items from Roman Dacia have been classified as strongly profiled brooches of type 8a15b (Pl. I: 10–12; *Cociș 2004*, 62, pl. XXIII: 338, 339; cat. no. 338, 339; *Cociș/Gaiu 2018*, 55, 56 fig. 1: 4; pl. I: 4). The find context is unknown for the items at Apulum (Pl. I: 10) and Gherla (Pl. I: 11). The exemplar of Gherla, although exhibiting a more marked knob on the body, belongs to this variant on the basis of the remaining elements. The brooch of Stupini (Pl. I: 12) was yielded by a civil settlement from northern Dacia, whose beginnings are dated in the Marcomannic Wars' aftermath (*Gaiu 2018*, 65). The archaeological investigations conducted there revealed several inhabitancy levels datable to the 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century AD (*Gaiu 2018*, 65), respectively a first habitation level that widely corresponds to phases B2b–C1 in the Central-European chronology and a level from the chronological interval of phases C3–D1 (amicable information C. Gaiu). The brooch was yielded by the earlier settlement, being accompanied in various features by other northern elements (spurs, brooches, comb; *Gaiu 2018*, 66, pl. I: 1; II: 1–3), which may be dated to this phase. Based on the item of Stupini and the new finds from the European Barbaricum area (*Levada 2007*), we date the specimens in Roman Dacia to the period comprised between AD 180/190–250/260 (phases C1a–C1b).

The three brooches were circulated in Dacia similarly to other Barbarian brooch types (*Bârcă/Cociș 2022; 2023; Cociș 2002; 2004*, 449, tab. 8; *Cociș/Bârcă 2013; 2014; Cociș/Opreanu 1998; Opreanu 1998*, 105–108; *Opreanu/Cociș 2002*, 232–235; *Opreanu/Cociș/Lăzărescu 2020*) or other artefact classes (*Opreanu 1998*, 108–114, *Opreanu/Cociș 2002*, 236–238) via the Germanic peoples from the area of the Przeworsk culture, who had reached the frontiers of Roman Dacia (*Godlowski 1994; Opreanu 1998*, 64–75).

In the Barbarian world from eastern Romania were identified, as mentioned above, still three examples (cat. no. 4–6; Fig. 1).

The first exemplar (Pl. I: 13; II: 2) comes from the settlement at Cucorăni (*Levada 2007*, 246, cat. no. 6, pl. 8: 5; *Teodor 1975*, 145, fig. 48: 2). The item was discovered in house no. 1 beside a few pottery fragments (Pl. II: 1, 3, 4; *Teodor 1975*, fig. 42: 6; 47: 1; 49: 1, 9) and two bronze objects, a file and a “piercer” (Pl. II: 5, 6; *Teodor 1975*, 144, 145, fig. 48: 7, 8). The settlement was ascribed to the Carpien culture and dated especially on the basis of the brooches<sup>2</sup> and an iron spur to the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century – first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (*Teodor 1975*, 149, 150), although the settlement's beginning may be placed, according to the archaeological materials, prior to mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The chronological framing of the Cucorăni settlement is widely supported also by the fragmentary amphorae discovered within the settlement's area and in the closed features. These belong to types

<sup>2</sup> For the analysis and framing of the brooches in the Cucorăni settlement see *Cociș/Bârcă 2020*, 140–142, 145, 153, 154, pl. 1: 1, 4; 2: 14.

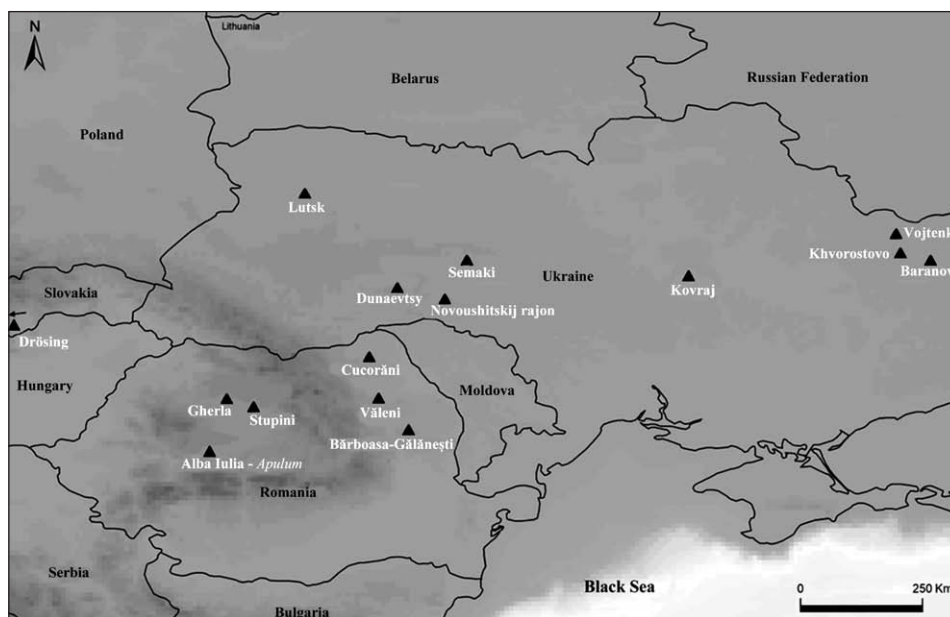


Fig. 1. Diffusion area of Vojtenki type brooches with known findspot.

Shelov C and D or Vnukov C IVC and C IVD, those of type Shelov D – Vnukov C IVD being less frequent within the settlement. Amphorae in type C in the typology drafted by D. B. Shelov (Shelov 1978, 18, fig. 6) and C IVC in that most recent of S. Yu. Vnukov (Vnukov 2003, 202; 2006, 166, 167, fig. 1: 9, 10) were dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (Shelov 1978, 18) or the chronological interval comprised between the second quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (?) (Vnukov 2003, 202; 2006, 167, fig. 10; 2016, 41, 43, 44). Within the type have been identified two subvariants, C IVC1 and C IVC2, the exemplars of the first subvariant being larger-volume and more massive, while those in subvariant C IVC2 are smaller in size and of a smaller volume (Naumenko 2017, 25, fig. 4: 4C1, 4C2; Vnukov 2016, 43, fig. 4: 3–10). The amphorae in the second subvariant (C IVC2) are later than those in subvariant C IVC1 (Naumenko 2017, 25; Vnukov 2016, 43). According to the research, the replacement of the amphorae in subvariant C IVC2 with those in variant Shelov D – Vnukov C IVD occurred sometime by the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century – early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (Vnukov 2016, 43) or by the boundary between the 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (Naumenko 2017, 25). In what the Shelov D type (Shelov 1978, 18, 19, fig. 7) – Vnukov C IVD (Vnukov 2006, 166–168, fig. 1: 10; 2016, 43, 44, fig. 1: 13, 4: 11–18) amphorae are concerned, it is believed they emerge in the last quarter/late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and were produced until sometime the second/third quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (Naumenko 2017, 25, fig. 4: 4D1, 4D2; Vnukov 2006, 166–168; 2016, 43, 44).<sup>3</sup>

The second exemplar (Pl. I: 14; III: 33) comes from the cremation in lidded urn Gr. 574 in the cemetery at Văleni (Ioniță 1982, fig. 14: 3; Ioniță/Ursachi 1988, 52, 150, 175, fig. 48: 33; 73: 34; Levada 2007, 246, cat. no. 10, pl. 8: 8). A grey fabric, wheel-turned pot was used as urn (Pl. III: 37), on top of which lay a bowl made in the same technique, placed mouth downwards. In the urn were identified several charred bones, cleaned of ash, as well as many grave goods consisting of the following objects: three brooches, of which one in bronze (Pl. III: 33) and two of iron (Pl. III: 34, 35), one gilded silver earring, made in the filigree technique, its decoration being composed of conical projections and grains (Pl. III: 36), six coral beads (Pl. III: 1–3, 6, 7, 13), two dull white glass cylindrical beads (Pl. III: 9, 14), nineteen dull red glass flat beads, some deformed by fire (Pl. III: 4, 5, 8, 10–12, 16–23, 26–29, 32) and five spheroid chalcedony beads (Pl. III: 15, 24, 25, 30, 31; Ioniță/Ursachi 1988, 52, fig. 48). The biritual cemetery of Văleni is dated to the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century – until mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, with two unclearly defined phases. The cemetery is ascribed entirely to the Free Dacians (Ioniță/Ursachi 1988, 97). Based on the typological series incidence chart, cremation Gr. 574 is ascribed to the cemetery's second phase (Ioniță/Ursachi 1988, 76, tab. 1). This observation framed the grave (otherwise also visible via the metal items among the grave goods) to late 2<sup>nd</sup> century – first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (Ioniță/

<sup>3</sup> S. Yu. Vnukov believes that amphorae in this type were produced at Heraclea Pontica at least until the town was destroyed by the Goths in 264 AD, while S. A. Naumenko argues they were produced throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

*Ursachi* 1988, 77, 83), although the view that it dates to phase C2 (*Levada* 2007, 244) has been also expressed. For instance, crossbow brooches like the exemplar from the grave at Văleni<sup>4</sup> (Pl. III: 35) emerged only by late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, in the Przeworsk culture area and the Middle Danube area (*Cociș* 2004, 139–142; *Schulze* 1977, 168), being framed by most scholars to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (*Cociș* 2004, 139–141, type 36a1, 36a2, 36b1, 36b2). Their diffusion area encompassed mainly the Barbarian world and the Danube provinces, including Dacia and its border regions (*Cociș* 2004, 139–142 with complete bibliography).

Silver filigree earrings similar to the exemplar of Văleni are found as well in burials of cemeteries from the east-Carpathian territories like those at Butnărești, Dămieneni, Gabăra, Gura Nișcovului, Oncești-Cioara, Pădureni, Poieniști, Săucești or Vârteșcoiu, and the cemeteries of Locusteni, Obreja or Sopor de Câmpie on the territory of the province of Dacia (*Babeș* 1971, 36, no. 74; *Bichir* 1973, 113, pl. 175: 5–6; 176, 177, 181; *Opreanu* 1997, 119, 121, 122, pl. I: 6–8; 1998, 98, 99, 101, 102, fig. 14; *Popilian* 1980, 91, 92; *Protase* 1966, fig. 24: 7; 2002, pl. 59: 68; pl. 66: Gr. 171; *Sonoc* 2007; *Spânu* 2019, 52, 53, 167–170, pl. 5: 5–6; 6: 3–4; 15: 8–9; 22: 4; 31: 3–4; 39: 5). In fact, it must be mentioned that all earrings and almost all silver jewellery made in the filigree technique in the area east of the Carpathians were mainly yielded by cremations, the latest exceeding the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

The third exemplar (Pl. I: 15; II: 8) comes from the cremation in lidded urn Gr. 5 from the cemetery of Bărboasa-Gălănești (*Căpitanu* 1975a, 68, fig. 11: 1; 26: 6; 1975b, 307, fig. 1: 7) ascribed to the Carps and dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (*Căpitanu* 1975a, 66), although some of the grave goods evidence that the beginning of the cemetery must be placed prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The orange urn (Pl. II: 9) was covered with a grey dish (Pl. II: 10), both pots being wheel-thrown. Beside the bronze brooch of type Almgren 80, the Vojtenki variant (Pl. I: 15; II: 8), inside the pot was discovered a mobile oval bronze buckle provided with three rives for attachment to the belt (Pl. II: 7; *Căpitanu* 1975a, 68, fig. 2: 2; 10: 7; 11: 1, 8). The brooch in Gr. 5 at Bărboasa-Gălănești differentiates from the other five brooches of the type from the territory of Romania by an existing double iron spring and respectively the iron pin. These iron elements very clearly indicate that we are dealing with a repair of the item. The procedure of using iron to repair some brooches is well documented in both the Roman Empire (especially in the case of hinged brooches) as well as the Barbarian world.

The addition of the double spring is in fact the duplication of Barbarian bronze or silver brooches contemporary to the artefact here, originally made in this manner. It is certain that currently, there is no known intact exemplar of brooches in the Vojtenki variant with a double spring. In what the bronze buckle is concerned, we mention that identical items with that in Gr. 5 at Bărboasa-Gălănești are frequently present in the cultural environments of the territories from the north of the Black Sea and Northern Caucasus (*Abramova* 1993, 165, fig. 42: 5–6; 46: 8; 66: 18–22; *Bărcă/Symonenko* 2009, 237, 238, fig. 95: 10–14, 19; *Bezuglov/Glebov/Parusimov* 2009, 51, fig. 28: 13; *Malashev* 2000, 195, 198, 199, group I, fig. 2: P1; 3: A/2, B/4, G/2–4, D/1–2, E/1, V/4; *Trufanov* 2009, 218, 221, fig. 60: 18, 21, 24, 28; 61: 1, 8–9, 15) of the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century – first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, although they emerged prior to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (cf. *Abramova* 1993, 149, fig. 58: 16–20; *Gushchina/Zasetskaya* 1994, 45, no. 65, 54, no. 202, 54, 55, no. 212, pl. 6: 65; 21: 202; 22: 212). Chronologically, Gr. 5 at Bărboasa-Gălănești may be dated to the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

From the settlements and burials in eastern Romania with brooch finds in the Vojtenki variant come also other northern origin items: brooches in Almgren group VII series I, the headknob variant (*Bărcă/Cociș* 2023; *Cociș/Bărcă* 2020) and the variant without headknob (*Ioniță/Ursachi* 1988, fig. 32: 43; *Teodor* 1975, fig. 46: 3), iron crossbow brooches (*Căpitanu* 1975a, fig. 11: 3; *Ioniță/Ursachi* 1988, fig. 21: 7; 25: 6; 34: 19; 48: 35; 51: 31; 55: 4), returned foot brooches (*Ioniță/Ursachi* 1988, fig. 45: 5; 50: 75; 55: 7), buckles (*Căpitanu* 1975a, fig. 11: 8; *Ioniță/Ursachi* 1988, 62, fig. 45: 5), spurs (*Andrzejowski* 2017, note 7, the Ostrogothic type G; *Ginalski* 1991, 68–70, pl. 15: 1–7; *Teodor* 1975, fig. 53: 7), glass vessels (*Căpitanu* 1975a, 64; *Ioniță/Ursachi* 1988, 66, graves 186 and 354), chalcedony, amber and coral beads (*Ioniță/Ursachi* 1988, 66, tip 7–9, 66), ring-shaped pendant (*Andrzejowski* 2017, 423, 427, cat. no. 13; *Teodor* 1975, 143, fig. 46: 7), barrel-shaped pendants made in the filigree technique (*Căpitanu* 1975b, 299, *Ioniță/Ursachi* 1988, 66, types 1–2, fig. 60: 3–4; *Opreanu* 1998, 102), as well as silver earrings made in the filigree technique (*Căpitanu* 1975a, 64; *Ioniță/Ursachi* 1988, 65, type 2, fig. 60: 2; *Natuniewicz-Sekuła* 2017, 189–192, 210–212, fig. 1; *Opreanu* 1998, 102). In fact, artefacts of Germanic origin are frequently present in a good part of the settlements and cemeteries in the eastern Carpathian area of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The presence of northern origin items is recorded in a significant number also in the

<sup>4</sup> For the features and specificities of this brooch type see *Cociș* 2004, 139–142.

territory of the province of Dacia beginning with the Marcomannic Wars' aftermath period (*Cociş/Opreanu 1998; Opreanu 1998, 96–119; Opreanu/Cociş 2002; Opreanu/Cociş/Lăzărescu 2020*).

It is certain that, in the current state of knowledge, the results of our research allow us to infer the following:

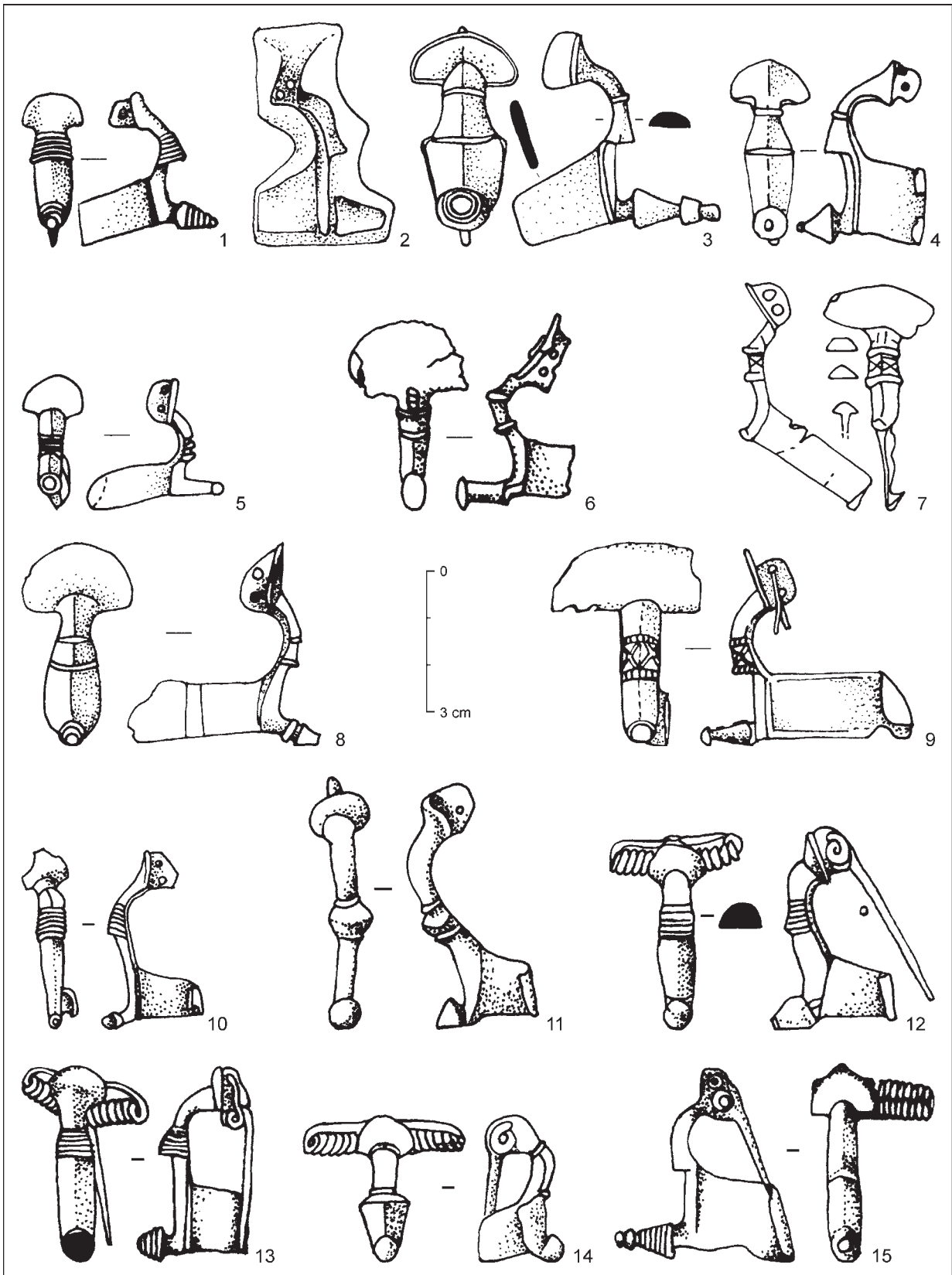
1. The diffusion area of Almgren 80, the Vojtenki variant brooches clearly clusters in the Barbarian world, mainly Germanic or in close connection with it.
2. The Dunaevtsy mould and the half-finished brooch of Semaki prove the existence of workshops making such brooches in the Barbarian environment of Germanic origin from the region in the upper sector of the Dniester and the upper course of the Southern Bug.
3. According to the finds of Almgren 80 type brooches, the Vojtenki variant, it may be cautiously concluded that this version was formed in the eastern area of the Przeworsk culture (the upper Dniester River Basin and the upper course of the Southern Bug) where we have in fact most finds of such items.<sup>5</sup> From there, they diffused southwards and eastwards.
4. The brooches in this variant from the eastern-Carpathian space of Romania are, in our view, beside other artefact classes, a good indicator of the arrival and settlement in the given territory, starting with late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, of Germanic populace groups from the upper sector of the Dniester and its north and north-west territories.
5. The presence of brooches in the Vojtenki variant from the territory of Dacia evidence the activity of Germanic origin Barbarian artisans in the territories nearby the province, an existing extensive trade between the Romans and the Germanic populations (the Przeworsk culture bearers) by the northern border of Dacia, as well as their inhabitation in territories from the northern and north-eastern vicinity of the province once with late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.
6. Chronologically, the strongly profiled brooches, Vojtenki variant from Romania may be framed in the time interval comprised between late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (phases C1a–C1b).
7. Vojtenki type brooches in the territories east of the Dnieper represent the most evolved and latest form. Their presence in the forest steppe between the Dnieper and Severskij Donets represents, beside other artefact classes, a marker of the entry and settlement in this area, likely starting with phase C1b, of certain Germanic populace groups from the region of the Upper Dniester, the upper Southern Bug River course and territories located north and north-west of these.
8. Brooches in the Vojtenki variant are artefacts indicative, besides other item classes, of the existing contacts and cultural and economic interferences between different populaces, yet also very clearly evidencing the movement pathway of certain groups of Germanic peoples beginning with the last quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

*Translated by Gabriela Balica*

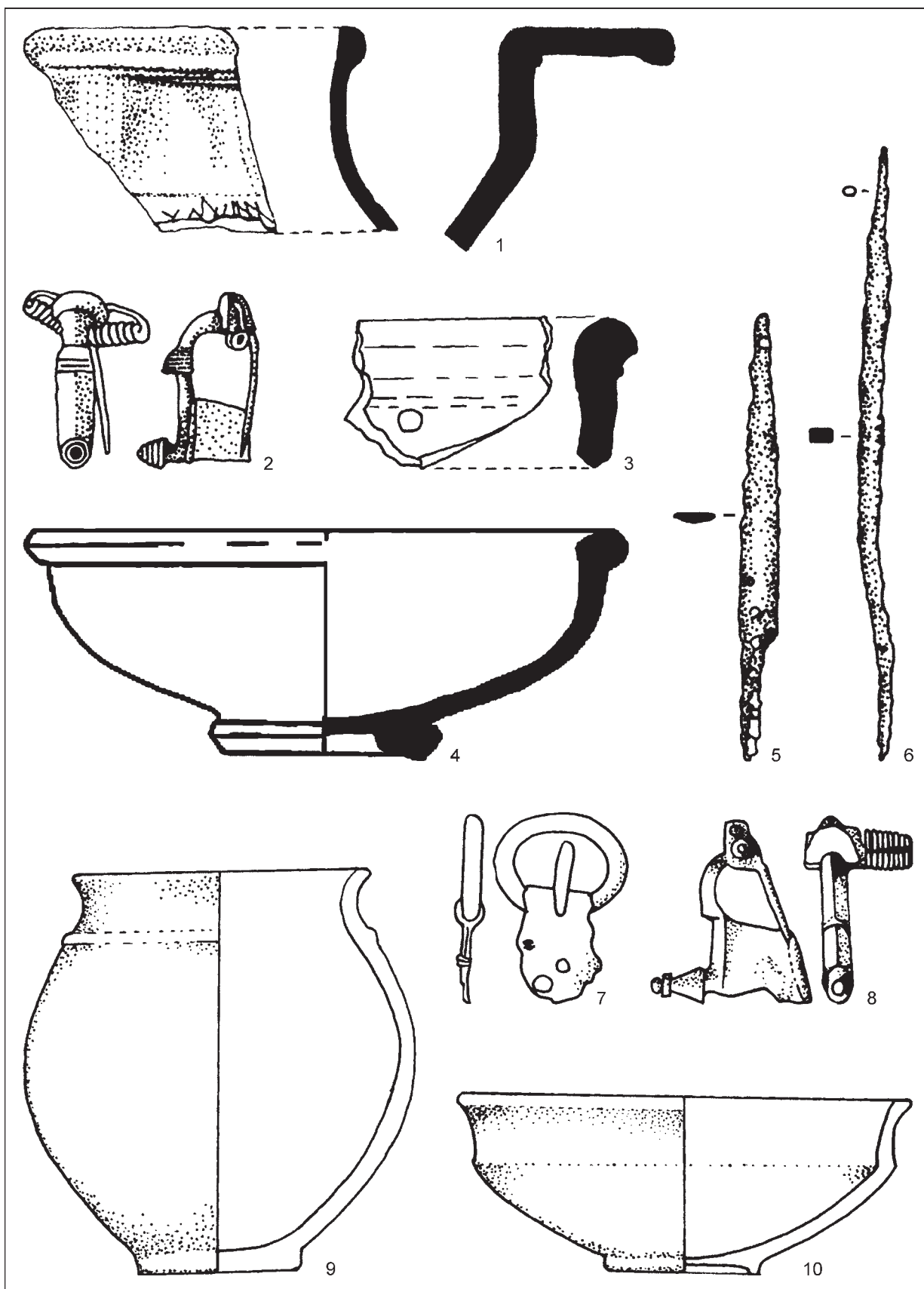
## CATALOGUE

1. **Apulum (Alba-Iulia):** One specimen. Bronze. Sizes: length – 3.8 cm. Findspot: unknown.  
Bibliography: Pl. I: 10; *Cociş 2002, 77, fig. 3: 8; 2004, 62, 63, cat. no. 339, pl. XII: 339; Levada 2007, pl. 8: 2; Moga et al. 1997, 538, cat. no. 25, pl. III: 25).*
2. **Gherla:** One specimen. Bronze. Sizes: length – 5.4 cm. Findspot: unknown.  
Bibliography: Pl. I: 11; *Cociş et al. 1992, 326, cat. no. 10, pl. I: 10; 2002, 77, fig. 3: 8; 2004, cat. no. 338, pl. XII: 338; Levada 2007, pl. 8: 1.*
3. **Stupini:** One specimen. Bronze. Sizes: length – 4.4 cm. Findspot: settlement. Sizes: length – 4.4 cm.  
Bibliography: Pl. I: 12; *Cociş/Gaiu 2018, 60, fig. 1: 4.*
4. **Cucorăni:** One specimen. Bronze. Sizes: length – 4.2 cm. Findspot: settlement, house no. 1.  
Bibliography: Pl. I: 13; *Levada 2007, pl. 8: 5; Teodor 1975, 145, fig. 48: 2).*
5. **Văleni:** One specimen. Bronze. Sizes: length – approximately 3.2 cm (?). Findpost: cemetery, cremation, Gr. 574.  
Bibliography: Pl. I: 14; *Ioniţă 1982, fig. 14: 3; Ioniţă/Ursachi 1988, 61, fig. 48: 33; 73: 34; Levada 2007, pl. 8: 8.*
6. **Bărboasa-Gălăneşti:** One specimen. Bronze. Sizes: length – approximately 4.2 cm (?). Findspot: cemetery, cremation, Gr. 5.  
Bibliography: Pl. I: 15; *Căpitanu 1975a, 68, fig. 11: 1; 26: 6; 1975b, 307, fig. 1: 7.*

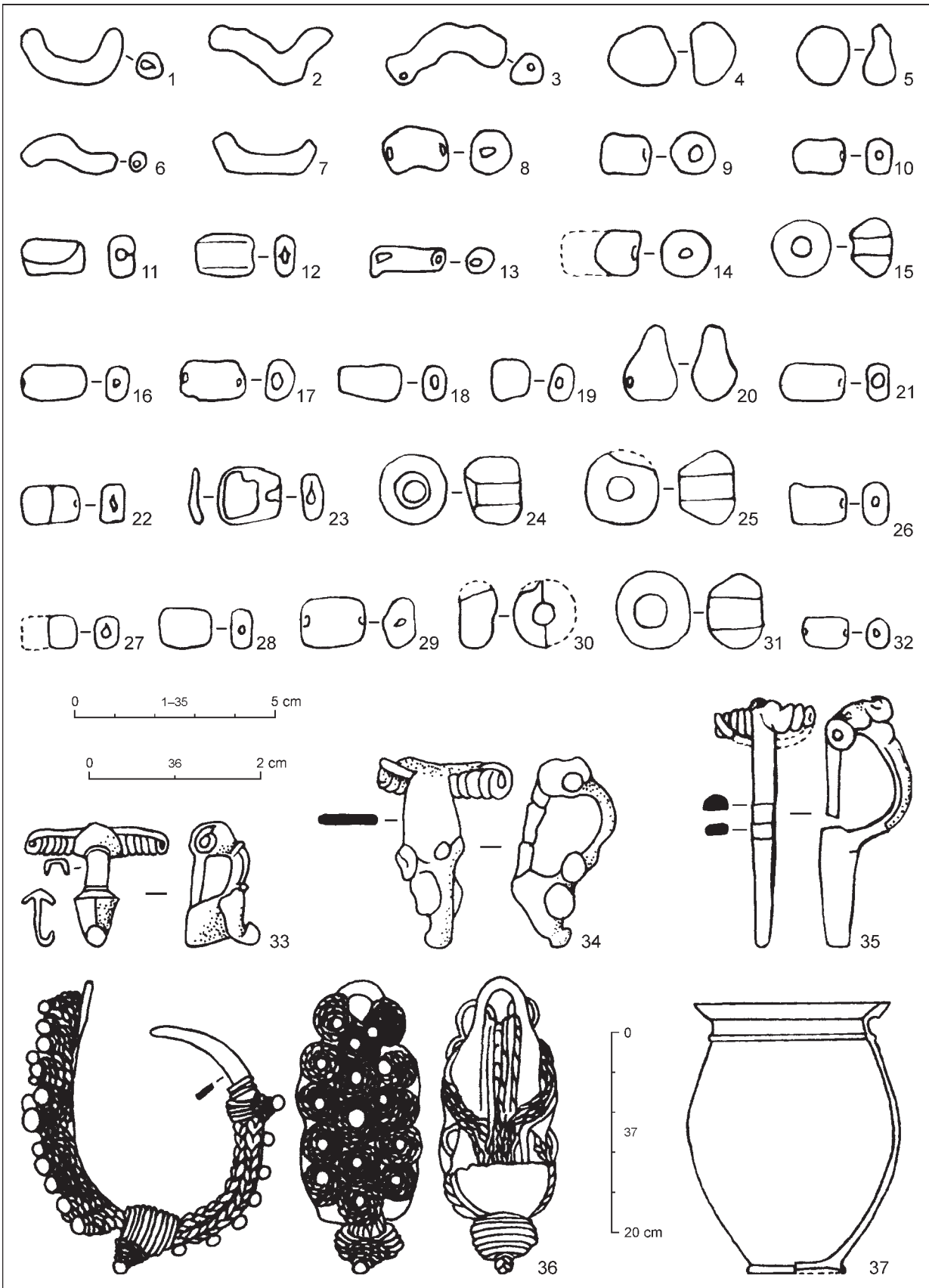
<sup>5</sup> The lack of these brooches from the Sarmatae Iazyges milieu of the Pannonian Plain, where other Germanic origin artefact classes are rather numerous, including brooches, represents further evidence that this brooch variant was formed in the upper Dniester River Basin and the upper course of the Southern Bug and not in the Przeworsk area of the territories located north the region inhabited by the Sarmatae Iazyges.



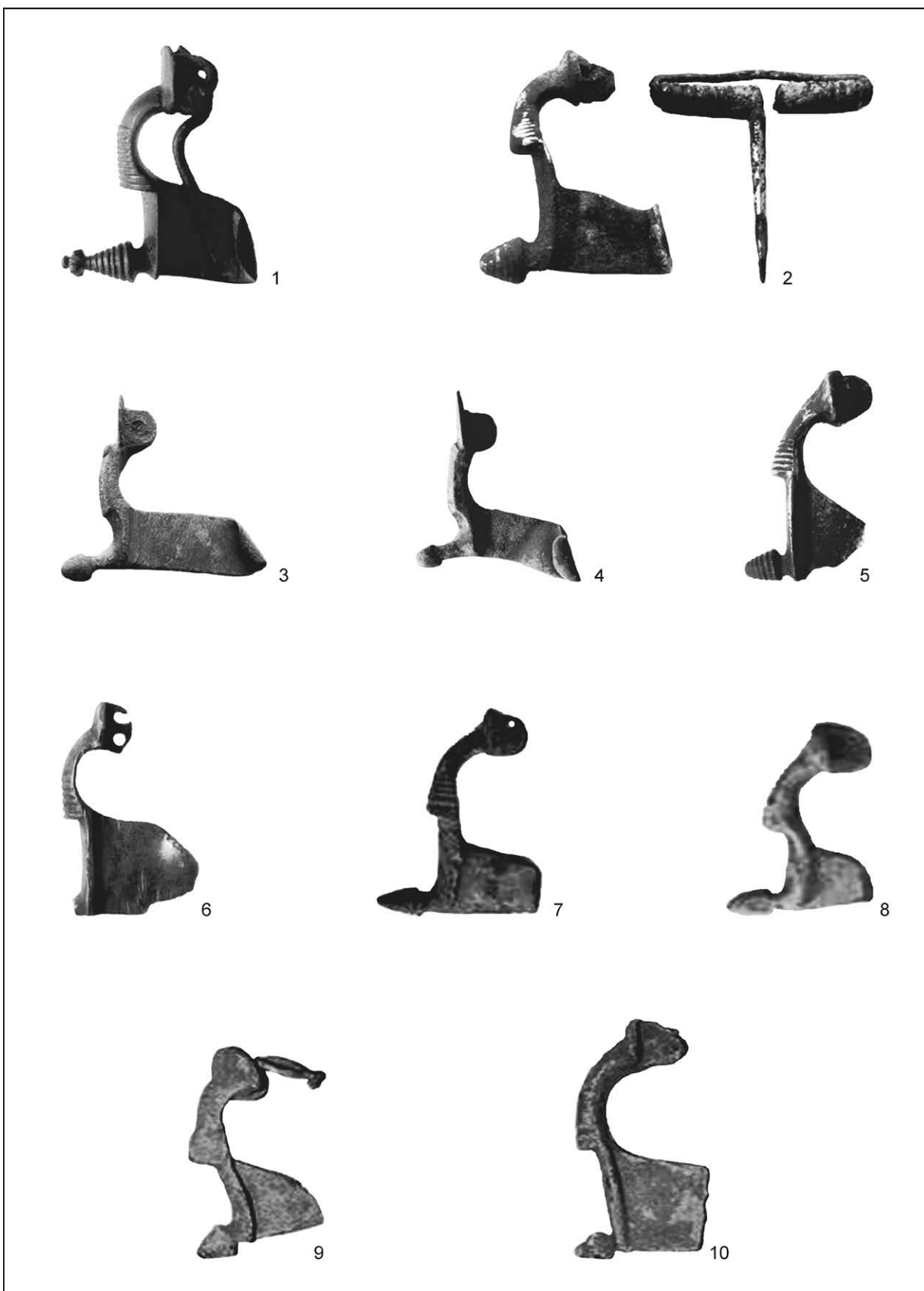
Pl. I. Vojtenki type brooches. 1 – Drösing (Austria); 2 – Dunaevtsy; 3 – Semaki; 4 – Lutsk; 5 – Kovraj; 6 – Khvorostovo; 7 – Baranovo (Mizyaki); 8 – Novoushitskij rajon; 9 – Vojtenki; 10 – Apulum (Alba-Iulia); 11 – Gherla; 12 – Stupini; 13 – Cucorăni; 14 – Văleni; 15 – Bărboasa-Gălănești (after: 1 – *Iván 2015*; 2–4, 8 – *Levada 2007*; 5 – *Lyubichev 2008*; 6, 7 – *Lyubichev 2019*; 9 – *Bakumenko et al. 2006*; 10, 11 – *Cociș 2004*; 12 – *Cociș/Gaiu 2018*; 13 – *Teodor 1975*; 14 – *Ioniță/Ursachi 1988*; 15 – *Căpitanu 1975a*).



Pl. II. 1-6 - the inventory of house no. 1 in the Cucorăni settlement (after *Teodor 1975*); 7-10 - the grave goods of burial 5 in the Bărboasa-Gălănești cemetery (after *Căpitanu 1975a*). Without scale.



Pl. III. The grave goods of burial no. 574 in the Văleni cemetery (after Ioniță/Ursachi 1988).



Pl. IV. Brooches of type Vojtenki yielded by finds identified by detectorists in western Ukraine (photo after <https://auction.violity.com/>). Without scale.

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## Barbarské výrazne profilované spony typu Almgren 80, variant „Vojtenki“, z Rumunska

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### Súhrn

V tejto štúdií sa venujeme analýze spony typu Almgren 80, variant Vojtenki z Rumunska, na základe archeologických nálezov. Základom našej analýzy je šesť bronzových exemplárov pochádzajúcich z územia rímskej Dácie (tri exempláre) a barbarského prostredia východokarpatskej oblasti (tri exempláre) a v širšom kontexte aj exempláre tohto typu z územia Ukrajiny. Zhodnotili sme aj názory, ktoré vyslovil rad bádateľov v súvislosti s pôvodom, datovaním a rozšírením spôn typu Vojtenki.

Exempláre z Rumunska pochádzajú zo sídlisk (Stupini, Cucorâni) a pohrebísk (Văleni, Bărboasa-Gălănești), v prípade dvoch exemplárov (Apulum, Gherla) nie je známe miesto nálezu.

Na základe nálezov spôn typu Vojtenki usudzujeme, že oblasť ich rozšírenia sa jednoznačne sústreďuje v barbarskom svete, a to najmä germánskom alebo v tesnej súvislosti s ním, ako aj to, že tento variant spôn sa zrodil vo východnej oblasti rozšírenia przeworskej kultúry (povodie horného toku Dnestra a horného toku južného Bugu), kde sa sústreďuje najviac nálezov takýchto spôn a aj predmetov, ktoré dokazujú existenciu dielni na ich výrobu.

Spony tohto variantu z východokarpatskej oblasti Rumunska sú podľa autorov, popri iných skupinách artefaktov, indikátorom príchodu a osídlenia daného územia od konca 2. storočia germánskymi skupinami obyvateľstva z horného toku Dnestra a z jeho severného a severozápadného povodia.

Prítomnosť spôn typu Vojtenki na území Dácie dokumentuje prítomnosť barbarských remeselníkov germánskeho pôvodu z okolitých území provincie, existujúci rozsiahly obchod medzi Rimanmi a germánskym obyvateľstvom pri severnej hranici Dácie, ako aj osídlenie území v severnom a severovýchodnom okolí provincie týmito barbarmi od konca 2. storočia n. l.

Z chronologického hľadiska sú silne profilované spony typu Vojtenki z Rumunska zaradené do obdobia od konca 2. storočia n. l. do polovice 3. storočia n. l. (fázy C1a–C1b).

Autori sa domnievajú, že spony typu Vojtenki z územia východne od Dnepra sú ich najrozvinutejšou a najneskoršou formou. Ich prítomnosť v lesostepi medzi Dneprom a Siverskyjm Doncom predstavuje popri iných kategóriách artefaktov indikátor vstupu a osídlenia tejto oblasti, pravdepodobne počnúc fázou C1b, germánskymi skupinami obyvateľstva z oblasti horného toku Dnestra, horného toku južného Bugu a susedných území nachádzajúcich sa severne a severozápadne od nich.

V neposlednom rade spony typu Vojtenki sú artefaktmi, ktoré okrem iných tried predmetov svedčia o existujúcich kontaktoch a kultúrnych a hospodárskych interakciách medzi rôznymi populáciami, zároveň veľmi jasne ukazujú cestu pohybu určitých skupín germánskeho obyvateľstva od poslednej štvrtiny 2. storočia n. l.

Obr. 1. Rozšírenie spôn typu Vojtenki so známymi náleziskami.

Tab. I. Spony typu Vojtenki. 1 – Drösing (Rakúsko); 2 – Dunaevtsy; 3 – Semaki; 4 – Lutsk; 5 – Kovraj; 6 – Khvorostovo; 7 – Baranovo (Mizyaki); 8 – Novoushitskij rajon; 9 – Vojtenki; 10 – Apulum (Alba-Iulia); 11 – Gherla; 12 – Stupini; 13 – Cucorâni; 14 – Văleni; 15 – Bărboasa-Gălănești (podľa: 1 – *Iván 2015*; 2–4, 8 – *Levada 2007*; 5 – *Lyubichev 2008*; 6, 7 – *Lyubichev 2019*; 9 – *Bakumenko et al. 2006*; 10, 11 – *Cociș 2004*; 12 – *Cociș/Gaiu 2018*; 13 – *Teodor 1975*; 14 – *Ioniță/Ursachi 1988*; 15 – *Căpitanu 1975a*).

Tab. II. 1–6 – inventár z domu č. 1 na sídlisku Cucorâni (podľa *Teodora 1975*); 7–10 – hrobový materiál z hrobu 5 na pohrebisku Bărboasa-Gălănești (podľa *Căpitanu 1975a*). Bez mierky.

Tab. III. Hrobové príslušenstvo z hrobu č. 574 na pohrebisku vo Văleni (podľa *Ioniță/Ursachi 1988*).

Tab. IV. Spony typu Vojtenki získané z nálezov identifikovaných detektoristami na západnej Ukrajine (foto podľa <https://auction.violity.com/>). Bez mierky.

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