

MEDIEVAL JEWELRY AT THE “PALACE CENTER – EAST” SITE IN PLISKA

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents jewelry falling into two categories, divided by their material composition – a group of metal items, and a group made from glass. They were found during archaeological excavations of the “Palace Center – East” site in Pliska. The metal jewelry group comprises seven rings, one earring, two pendants, three bracelets, two metal buttons, and one fibula. The second large group of jewelry is comprised of glass bracelets, where 24 fragments are presented, illustrating their typological diversity.

The systematization of the stratigraphic data allowed us to group the finds into three chronological periods. In the earliest stratigraphic horizon, horizon I (ca. 900 – 976), a small number of metal jewelry items were found, and the absence of glass bracelets is noticeable. The largest number of finds are from stratigraphic horizons II (970 – 1030/35) and III (1030/35 – ca. 1064), the peak being in horizon II.

A quantitative analysis of the materials by stratigraphic levels complements the picture of life during different periods from the development of post-metropolitan Pliska. The results show that in horizon I, defined as the “Bulgarian” post-metropolitan period, the number of finds is relatively small. The most significant increase in the quantity of jewelry is in horizon II, defined as the “Byzantine” period of Pliska – this is the time of the most significant demographic growth of the city. The number of finds in the last horizon, III, is also relatively high, and it is defined as “post-Byzantine” or “Pecheneg” period in Pliska, but it should be noted here that the majority of the finds were probably crafted in the earlier period and used in the following two-three decades.

Keywords: Pliska, medieval jewelry, rings, earrings, pendants, bracelets

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to present metal and glass jewelry found during the archaeological excavations of the “Palace Center – East” site in Pliska (fig. 1). One of the main priorities of the excavations in this part of the Inner City is to clarify the stratigraphy and chronology in post-metropolitan Pliska (10th – middle of the 11th c.), which have been reviewed in detail in several preliminary publications (Григоров, Тодорова 2014, 5; Григоров 2016, 256 – 293; Григоров 2017, 193 – 194, 197 – 199). Here the author will note only the basic information. The cultural layer is between 0.80 and 1.20 m thick, and three stratigraphic horizons can be distinguished within it. The main chronological indicator used for separating the stratigraphic horizons are the anonymous Byzantine folles of class A1 (970 – 976), A2 (976 – 1030/35) and class B (1030/35 – 1042), which serve as *terminus post quem*. Horizon I contains materials from the 10th c. – pottery thrown on a slow potter’s wheel. A coin of Leo VI (886 – 912) (Григоров 2017, 210, кат. No. 3) and a seal of “Theoktistos, Patrician and Logothete of the Drome”, dated to the second third of the 10th c., were also found in the layer (Григоров, Жекова 2015, 158, табло XIX: 1 – 2). The lack of anonymous folles is an indication for dating the first horizon before the 970s. In the second stratigraphic horizon, a sig-



Fig. 1. Satellite image of the Inner City of Pliska with the location of the "Palace Center – East" site

Обр. 1. Сателитна снимка на Вътрешния град на Плиска, отбелязано е мястото на обект „Дворцов център – изток“

nificant number of folles of class A2 were found, and in the third stratigraphic horizon, folles of class B appear. The latest coin found on site is of class D (1050 – 1060), which ends the chronology of the medieval layer.

All jewelry was found in well-documented stratigraphic environments, and the context in which the objects appeared determines their *terminus ante quem*, fixing the end date of their use. Taking into account the relatively fragile nature of most of the items, and the risks of frequent damage and loss during everyday activities, it can be assumed that this jewelry was among the objects which were used only for a short time. This facilitates the opportunities to reconstruct, with a high degree of reliability, the chronology of their use before they were incorporated in a specific stratigraphic context.

Metal jewelry

The metal jewelry group comprises seven rings, one earring, two pendants, three bracelets, two metal buttons, and one fibula (fig. 2). The finds selected are indicative, relatively well-preserved and have secure typological characteristics.

Rings (Cat. Nos. 1 – 7)

I will begin their presentation with an entirely preserved ring (Cat. No. 1) found on the floor of a burnt-down room (Structure XX-306/1). A conical cassette is soldered on a hoop, decorated with granules, with a bud in the middle (fig. 2: 1). The base of the hoop, on both sides of the cassette, is also decorated with three granules each, in the form of a raceme. During the conservation of the ring, it was established that the surface is smoked and scorched by the high temperature, but traces of silver plating or tinning are preserved in a few places. The thermal damage of the ring is an indication that the jewelry was in the room during the fire. The large number of datable finds uncovered in the burnt-down building allows us to date the fire to somewhere around the 1030s. After the 1040s, the building no longer existed, and the ground was leveled.

Under the classification of Early Medieval jewelry developed in Bulgaria, the ring is type IX (Григоров 2007, 62 – 63, 199, обр. 69: 10 – 12). The genesis of this type of ring springs from the Byzantine jewelry tradition, and the earliest finds are from the second half of the 9th and 10th c. To the north of the Stara Planina Mountain, such rings appeared as late as the middle of the 10th and beginning of the 11th c. Close analogues of the ring are known from the production center near the

village of Novosel (Бонев, Дончева 2011, 293, таблица LI₅₁₉), the Odartsi necropolis (Дончева-Петкова 2005, 284, табло XXXIV₃₂₆) the necropolis next to the Eastern gate in Pliska (Димитров 1998, 79, обр. 3r).

Only the conical bezel and the "shoulders" to which the missing hoop was soldered have been preserved from the next ring (Cat. No. 2) (fig. 2: 2). The ring was found between two dug-in dwellings close to each other, which belong to stratigraphic layer II. The stratigraphic level of the ring is immediately under the ground level formed between the two dwellings. This is a definite indication for the find to be dated before the 970s.

Under the classification of Early Medieval jewelry, the ring is type VI.2 (Григоров 2007, 60, 197, обр. 67). A similar ring was found in the production center near the village of Novosel, dated to the middle of the 10th c. (Бонев, Дончева 2011, 292, табло L₅₇₃). Rings of the same type are known from the necropoleis at Durankulak (Меламед 1989, 137, табл. V₇), Nikolovo, Batin-2 (Станчев 2004, табл. XVIII), Tabachka train station (Станчев 1984, обр. 4a), in graves dated to the end of the 9th and 10th c., as well as in the fortresses Odartsi (Дончева-Петкова и др. 1999, табло XLVII₆₃₁), Silistra, Okorsh, Ruino-Kartal kale, Balik, Skala (Йотов, Атанасов 1999, 114, 158, 306, табло CVII₃₇₅), in layers from the 10th and the first half of the 11th c.

The third ring (Cat. No. 3) is also fragmented. An empty bezel setting for a stone or glass inset, and part of the hoop have been preserved (fig. 2: 3). The ring was found immediately next to a dwelling (Structure XX-343/1), in the layer which leveled the terrain of the dwelling. The stratigraphic position determines the end date of the ring (976 – 1030/35).

Under the classification of Early Medieval jewelry, the ring is closest to type VII.2 (Григоров 2007, 61, 198, обр. 68: 15). Similar rings are known from the fortresses Skala (Йотов, Атанасов 1999, 116, 159, 307, табло CVIII_{390,391}), Odartsi (Дончева-Петкова и др. 1999, табло XLVIII₆₃₂), and Pernik (Чангова 1992, 131, обр. 122: 5). A close analogue was also found in the production center near the village of Novosel, Shumen district (Бонев, Дончева 2011, 293, таблица LI₅₁₉), and dated to the middle of the 10th c.

The next ring (Cat. No. 4) is entirely preserved. The hoop and the bezel were cast together, and a X-shaped sign was engraved on the square bezel (fig. 2: 4). The ring was found in a pit (Structure XX-322/1), which belongs to the second stratigraphic horizon (976 – 1030/35). A ring with an identical shape is known from Odartsi (Дончева-Петкова и др. 1999, 284, табло XXXIV₃₅₇), dated to the second half of the 11th c.

The next ring (Cat. No. 5) also is entirely preserved, but the hoop is deformed. The ring is cast, and a pentagram is engraved on the elliptical bezel (fig. 2: 5). Dots are engraved in the central field of the pentagram and the fields between the rays. The ring was found in a dug-in dwelling (Structure XX-302/2), which was used in the first third of the 11th c. Around the 1030s/1040s, the dwelling was filled in and the terrain was leveled and a stone pavement, which formed a new ground level, was laid on top.

Under the classification of Early Medieval jewelry, the ring belongs to type III.4 (Григоров 2007, 54 – 55, 192, обр. 62). This type of ring was widespread on the Balkans at the end of the 9th – 11th c. Numerous finds are known from the necropoleis at Batin-1 (Станчев 1985, табл. VI, обр. 1a, 26), Devnia-2 (Димитров 1970, 30, обр. 13: 1), Galiche (Въжарова 1976, 242, обр. 151: 2), Yakimovo (Милчев 1963, 31, обр. 10), Nova Cherna (Милчев, Ангелова 1971, 204, табл. XLII₂), Odartsi (Дончева-Петкова 2005, 283, табло XXXIII₂₈₆), Durankulak (Меламед 1989, 137, табл. V₂₃, 146), Kragulevo (Бобчева 1984, 54), as well as from a number of fortresses, like Skala (Йотов, Атанасов 1999, 114, 158, 306, табло CVII₃₇₂), Păcuiul lui Soare (Diaconu, Vilceanu 1972, 140, fig. 56: 3), Odartsi (Дончева-Петкова и др. 1999, табло XLII₆₁₆₋₆₂₀) and from the city center of Pliska (Балабанов 1992, 161, табл. VIII_{A2}) and Veliki Preslav (Чангова 1969, обр. 20). Rings



Fig. 2. Metal jewelry from the "Palace Center – East" site (Cat. Nos. 1 – 16): 1 – 7. Finger rings; 8. Earring; 9. Crescent moon pendant; 10. Conically shaped pendant; 11 – 12. Buttons; 13. Fibula; 14 – 16. Bracelets

Обр. 2. Метални накити от обект „Дворцов център – изток“ (Кат. № 1 – 16): 1–7. Пръстени; 8. Обеща; 9. Висулка-луница; 10. Висулка с конусовидна форма; 11 – 12. Копчета; 13. Фибула; 14 – 16. Гривни

with an engraved pentagram were also crafted in the production center near the village of Novosel (Бонев, Дончева 2011, 290, таблица L₅₇₆).

The next ring (Cat. No. 6) is fragmented, only the bezel and part of the hoop have been preserved. The ring is cast, and a bird (pheasant), in profile to the left, is engraved on the elliptical bezel (fig. 2: 6). The body of the bird is dotted. The ring was found in Grid square XX-361, in a stratigraphic context which contains materials from the latest stratigraphic horizon (1040s – 1060s).

Under the classification of Early Medieval jewelry, the ring belongs to type III.6 (Григоров 2007, 56 – 57, 194, обр. 64), which spread widely in the Eastern Balkans in the 10th – 11th c. Numerous finds are known from the necropoleis of Mishevsko (Евтимова 1992, 300, табло I, обр. 4 – 6) and Yakimovo (Милчев 1963, 31, обр. 11), from the fortresses of Okorsh, Ruino-Kartal kale (Григоров 2007, 56), Odartsi (Дончева-Петкова 1986, 167, обр. 3), Vetren (Атанасов, Йорданов 1994, 23, 56, табл. IV₄₅), Skala (Йотов, Атанасов 1999, 114, 158, 306, табло CVII₃₇₃), and from Veliki Preslav (Тотев 2004, 239, обр. 8 – 16).

The last ring (Cat. No. 7) is fragmented, only part of the silver hoop decorated with granular, small wires, has been preserved (fig. 2: 7). The ring was found in the arable layer, where materials from the third stratigraphic horizon (1040s – 1060s) were scattered.

Earring (Cat. No. 8)

During the excavations an earring was found, which is a "racemose" pendant cast together with the lower part of the hoop (fig. 2: 8). On one end, the hoop for fastening has been preserved. The earring was found on the floor of a dug-in dwelling (Structure XX-381/1), which is dated to the 10th c. The stratigraphic position of the earring determines its dating before the 970s.

Under the classification of Early Medieval jewelry, the earring belongs to type II.4 (Григоров 2007, 19 – 20, 143, обр. 6), which is among the most widely spread on the Balkans from the middle of the 9th to the second half of the 11th c. The origin of the earrings is sought in the Byzantine production tradition (Dostal 1966, 36), which introduced the technology of casting jewelry in two-sided moulds. Identical earrings were crafted in the middle of the 10th c. in the production center near the village of Novosel (Бонев, Дончева 2011, 291, таблица XLIX_{556 – 558}).

Crescent moon pendant (Cat. No. 9)

One crescent moon pendant was found on the site. It was cast in a one-sided mould, and the obverse is adorned with three rows of pseudo-beaded wire (fig. 2: 9). The crescent moon pendant was found in a dwelling (Structure XX-342/2), which is dated to horizon I (before the 970s). Identical dating (mid-10th c.) can be ascribed to a similar crescent moon pendant, found in the production center near the village of Novosel (Бонев, Дончева 2011, 295, таблица LIII₆₃₀).

Crescent moon pendants are relatively rare finds during archaeological excavations, which is why any new find in an archaeological context is especially valuable not only for the clarification of chronology, but also for acquiring a better understanding of the function and significance of this specific piece of jewelry/amulet. A limited number of crescent moon pendants originate from pagan and Christian necropoleis dated to the 9th – first half of the 11th c., but most finds are accidental and without a clarified archaeological context (Григоров 2007, 85 – 86).

Conically shaped pendant (Cat. No. 10)

A conically shaped pendant also originates from the site (fig. 2: 10). It is made of copper alloy, and the individual elements are welded without any attempt to hide the joints. The body is decorated with a circle made from thin, curved wire, and hooks for suspension are soldered on both

ends. The pendant was found in the leveled layer which is immediately above a dug-in dwelling (Structure XX-302/2), which belongs to stratigraphic layer II. This provides a certain *terminus post quem* for the find – after the 1030s.

Pendants, even if single finds, have been uncovered at many archaeological sites (Григоров 2007, 85, 251, обр. 132, 252, обр. 133). In publications, the information about them is still limited and incomplete. Pendants do not have a special standardization, a diversity of shapes and decoration is observed, they were used independently or as a component of necklaces, diadems, or earrings. The significance of pendants is to enhance the aesthetic impact of the jewelry, and in some cases it can be assumed that they were also used as amulets.

Buttons (Cat. Nos. 11 – 12)

Two halves of buttons were found on the site (fig. 2: 11 – 12). The first one (Cat. No. 11) was cast, with an incised decoration, and the second button (Cat. No. 12) was made by stamping. Both buttons were found in a stratigraphic context which is dated to the period from the 970s to the 1030s.

Fibula (Cat. No. 13)

The discovery of a piece of a Roman fibula is of special interest, only part of the bow with a bud in one end, has been preserved from it (fig. 2: 13). The fibula was found in a stratigraphic context which contains materials from the 970s to the 1030s. Under the classification of E. Gencheva, the fibula belongs to the so-called “bulbous” fibulae (crossbow fibulae with finials), whose origin and dissemination began from the Balkans in the 3rd and the 4th c. (Генчева 2004, 61 – 64).

The discovery of single finds from the Late Roman era in medieval layers is not a precedent for Pliska. Late Antique objects have been found during archaeological excavations in various sections of the medieval city (Станчев 1960, 29, обр. 3 A16), as well as a significant number of Roman coins (Йорданов 2000, 136 – 137; Григоров 2017, 193 – 208). It is unclear whether the medieval people found the objects in nearby Late Antique fortresses and settlements by accident, and whether they used them as they were meant to be used. In this regard, two Late Antique fibulae found in the pagan necropolis at Blaskovo are of interest (Пашев 2008, 168, 539, табло LXXXVI_{46–47}). In Pliska in particular, all well-documented Late Antique finds and coins originate from stratigraphic contexts dated to the end of the 10th and the first half of the 11th c. This is an important indication that the objects were probably not discovered in the vicinity, but were probably brought as family relics by the Byzantine administration and garrison that came to Pliska at that time.

Bracelets (Cat. Nos. 14 – 16)

Fragments from three metal bracelets were found on the site. Two of the bracelets are the same type, with open, zoomorphically shaped ends (fig. 2: 14 – 15). In the first case, the end resembles a snake's head, or the head of a seahorse; and in the second, a stylized animal with a long muzzle and small ears protruding upwards. One of the bracelets (Cat. No. 14) was found in a pit (Structure XX-303/2) which belongs to stratigraphic layer III. The second bracelet (Cat. No. 15) was found in a burnt room (Structure XX-304/2) which was destroyed around the 1030s/1040s.

Under the classification of Early Medieval jewelry, the two bracelets belong to type II.4 (Григоров 2007, 69, 218, обр. 92). This type of bracelet is widespread to the south of the Stara Planina Mountain (Григоров 2007, 236, обр. 116), but they are a common find in Pliska (Димитров 1995, 57, обр. 8 – 13, 59, обр. 9: 14 – 16) and Odartsi (Дончева-Петкова 2005, 109, обр. 11, 113, обр. 13 – 327), in graves dated to the second half of the 11th c.

The third bracelet (Cat. No. 16) is cast, with open, flattened, widened ends, adorned with a "circle with a dot" pattern (fig. 2: 16). The bracelet was discovered in the arable layer, in Grid square XX-286, with materials which belong to horizon III (1040s – 1060s). The bracelet belongs to type III (Григоров 2007, 70 – 71, 220, обр. 94), widespread on the Balkans in the 11th – 12th c. A similar bracelet was found in Grave No. 42, in the necropolis next to the Eastern gate in Pliska (Димитров 1995, 57, обр. 8 – 13) and in the Odartsi necropolis (Дончева-Петкова 2005, 113, обр. 13 – 327), where the finds are dated to the second half of the 11th c.

Glass bracelets

Glass bracelets are among the most common finds in a number of medieval necropoleis and settlements. The data from the necropoleis, where the bracelets are better preserved, are especially informative. A large number of glass bracelets are known from settlement sites as well, but due to their fragmented state, they are usually viewed as mass archaeological material and are rarely subject of similar publications.

During the excavations of the "Palace Center – East" site, about 50 fragments of glass bracelets were discovered. In most cases, these are small pieces, from which we selected 24 more informative specimens (Cat. Nos. 17 – 40) illustrating the typological diversity of this type of jewelry.

Glass bracelets were usually crafted with a stick, which was heated, stretched and bent until the desired shape and size were obtained, after which the two ends were pressed and stuck together. Depending on the cross-section, glass bracelets can be classified into several types: with a square one (fig. 3: 17), with a rectangular one (fig. 3: 18 – 22), with an elliptical one (fig. 3: 23), and with a round section (fig. 3: 24 – 28). There are also twisted bracelets (fig. 3: 29 – 33), bracelets with painted decoration (fig. 3: 34 – 38) and bracelets with a fluted profile (fig. 3: 39 – 40). Most often, the bracelets are of one color, the preferred one being blue, with different shades of dark blue and navy blue. There are individual cases of bluish purple or brownish red.

Numerous exact analogues have been found during excavations in various areas in Pliska: in the Palace center (Станчев 1960, 27, обр. 2), along the Southern fortress wall (Плетнёва 1992, 61, обр. 32: 2 – 3), south of the grave of Karel Škorpil (Григоров 2013, 62, обр. 5: 10 – 11, 64, обр. 7: 4 – 8, 69), in the necropolis near the Western fortress wall (Дончева-Петкова 1984, 184, обр. 4, 185, обр. 5, 186, обр. 6, 187, обр. 7), and in the necropolis near the Eastern gate in Pliska (Димитров 1995, 54). Close analogues are also known from Odartsi (Дончева-Петкова и др. 1999, табло XLVI₆₀₉; Дончева-Петкова 2005, 279, табло XXIX, 280, табло XXX), Veliki Preslav (Манолова-Войкова 2013, 225 – 236), Skala (Йотов, Атанасов 1999, 117, табл. CXVII), Kovachevo (Гатев 1977, 41; Гатев 1985, 127 – 128, фиг. 11 – 16, 147, таблица 9, 149, обр. 65), the medieval settlement above the Thracian city of Seuthopolis (Чангова 1972, 122 – 125, обр. 98), and in the Lovech fortress (Чангова 2006, 145, обр. 159).

Painted bracelets are of special interest in archaeological literature, with a variety of motifs observed: spiral, wavy lines, pearl row, "pseudo-kufic". In older studies, the production of glass bracelets, and painted ones in particular, is connected to the Byzantine Empire and they are mainly dated to the 11th c. (Чангова 1961, 185; Михайлова 1992, 176). P. Gatev also believes that painted bracelets are characteristic of the 11th c. and are rare in the 12th c., which he attributes to the change in the trade and markets in the Byzantine Empire (Гатев 1977, 41; Гатев 1985, 147). The dating of the bracelets with painted decoration from the "Palace Center – East" site, which were found in the second and third stratigraphic horizon and dated to the end of the 10th c. – middle of the 11th c., also supports the above.



Fig. 3. Glass bracelets from the "Palace Center – East" site (Cat. Nos. 17 – 40)
 Обр. 3. Стъклени гривни от обект „Дворцов център – изток“ (Кат. № 17 – 40)

Conclusion

Jewelry is an important part of the culture of medieval Pliska, which is why one of the tasks of archaeological excavations is to systematize and promulgate all the information about the finds. Quite often, this material is ignored by researchers. One of the reasons is that the finds are often damaged or fragmented, which imposes the need for an additional costly and laborious conservation process. On the other hand, most finds are the product of serial production, and they rarely impress researchers with some special artistic features. Nevertheless, this material, even if "more ordinary", is part of the material culture of the population in Pliska and deserves due attention.

In contrast to the necropoleis, where the jewelry is found in its functional places and carries more specific information about the social status, symbolism, gender and age of the individuals, in settlements jewelry is found in diverse archaeological contexts, including as disposed waste. The advantage of settlement sites is that stratigraphic levels with a relatively "short chronology" of deposition can be differentiated in the cultural layer, which is important for precise dating of the jewelry. An important highlight in the excavations of the "Palace Center – East" site is the detailed clarification of stratigraphy in the Inner City of post-metropolitan Pliska. The modern methods of documenting and the microstratigraphic approach of excavating the archaeological contexts introduced in the past decade provide us with much more precise data for dating the finds "first-hand" and not by analogy with finds from other sites, which is a frequent practice in older studies.

The systematization of the stratigraphic data allowed us to group the finds in three chronological periods (fig. 4, fig. 5). In the earliest stratigraphic horizon I (ca. 900 – 976), a small number of metal jewelry items were found, and the absence of glass bracelets is noticeable. The largest number

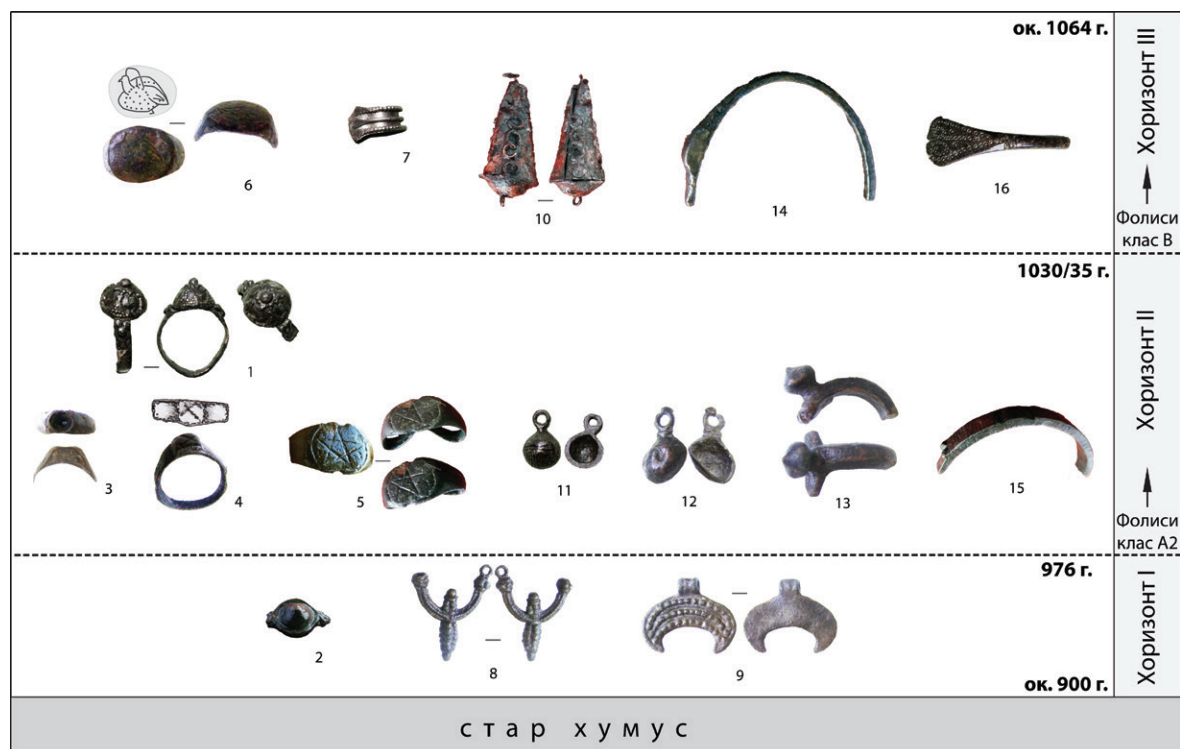


Fig. 4. Stratigraphy of the metal jewelry from the "Palace Center – East" site. Stratigraphic horizon I (ca. 900 – 976); stratigraphic horizon II (970 – 1030/35); stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – ca. 1064)

Обр. 4. Стратиграфия на металните накити от обект „Дворцов център – изток“. Стратиграфски хоризонт I (ок. 900 – 976); стратиграфски хоризонт II (970 – 1030/35); стратиграфски хоризонт III (1030/35 – ок. 1064)



Fig. 5. Stratigraphy of the glass bracelets from the “Palace Center – East” site. Stratigraphic horizon I (ca. 900 – 976); stratigraphic horizon II (970 – 1030/35); stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – ca. 1064)

Обр. 5. Стратиграфия на стъклениите гривни от обект „Дворцов център – изток“. Стратиграфски хоризонт I (ок. 900 – 976); стратиграфски хоризонт II (970 – 1030/35); стратиграфски хоризонт III (1030/35 – ок. 1064)

of finds is in stratigraphic horizons II (970 – 1030/35) and III (1030/35 – ca. 1064), the peak being in horizon II.

A quantitative analysis of the archaeological materials by stratigraphic levels complements the picture of life in different periods from the development of post-metropolitan Pliska. The results show that in horizon I, defined as “Bulgarian” post-metropolitan period, the number of finds is relatively small. The archaeological excavations of the “Palace Center – East” site in Pliska confirm that until the middle of the 10th c., the population in this part of the Inner City was small in number. The most significant quantitative increase of jewelry is in horizon II, defined as the “Byzantine” period of Pliska – this is the time of the most significant demographic growth of the city. The number of finds in the last horizon III is also relatively high, and it is defined as a “post-Byzantine” or “Pecheneg” period in Pliska, but it should be noted here that the majority of the finds was probably crafted in the earlier period and used in the following two to three decades.

CATALOGUE OF FINDS

1. Ring, bronze with silvering. A conical cassette is soldered onto a flat hoop, decorated with granules, with a bud in the middle. The base of the hoop, on both sides of the cassette, is decorated with three granules each, in the form of a raceme. The ring is scorched by the high temperature. Dimensions: Diameter – 1.9 cm, diameter of the bezel – 1.2 cm, total height – 3 cm. Location: Grid square XX-306, Structure XX-306/1 (burnt room), NE – 2.90 m, SE – 4.60 m, elevation 180.88 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35). FIN 14/68 (fig. 2: 1).
2. Ring, bronze, fragment. The bezel, which is in the shape of a cone, and the "shoulders" to which the missing hoop was soldered, are preserved. Dimensions: Bezel – 1.8 x 1.2 x 1.5 cm. Location: Grid square XX-385, SW – 1.90 m, SE – 4.70 m, elevation 180.86 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon I (ca. 900 – 976). FIN 12/71 (fig. 2: 2).
3. Ring, bronze, fragment. Preserved upper half – an empty bezel setting for a stone or glass 'gem', and part of the hoop remain. Dimensions: Bezel – 1.7 x 0.9 cm. Location: Grid square XX-343, S – 2.82 m, E – 1.48 m, elevation 181.38 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35). FIN 11/19 (fig. 2: 3).
4. Ring, bronze. Flat hoop with a small square bezel on which a X-shaped sign is engraved. Dimensions: Diameter of the hoop – 2.1 cm, thickness – 0.3 cm, bezel – 1.8 x 1.8 cm. Location: Grid square XX-322, Structure XX-322/1, Pit, N – 3.30 m, E – 1.40 m, elevation 180.45 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35). FIN 11/42 (fig. 2: 4).
5. Ring, bronze. Flat hoop, deformed, with an elliptical bezel. A pentagram is engraved on the bezel. Dots are engraved in the central field of the pentagram and the fields between the rays. Dimensions: Diameter of the hoop – 2.5 cm, thickness – 0.2 cm, bezel – 2.3 x 1.3 cm. Location: Grid square XX-302, Structure XX-302/2 (dwelling), NW – 2.85 m, NE – 4.76 m, elevation 181.05 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35). FIN 12/45 (fig. 2: 5).
6. Ring, bronze, fragment. Preserved bezel and part of the hoop. A bird (pheasant), in profile to the left, is engraved on the bezel. Dimensions: Diameter of the bezel – 2.3 x 1.4 cm, thickness – 0.3 cm. Location: Grid square XX-361, N – 1.65 m, E – 1.40 m, elevation 181.82 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064). FIN 11/7 (fig. 2: 6).
7. Ring, silver, fragment. Preserved part of a flat hoop adorned with beaded wires. Dimensions: Width of hoop – 0.7 cm. Location: Grid square XX-286, NE – 3.75 m, SE – 2.97 m, elevation 182.07 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064). FIN 14/32 (fig. 2: 7).
8. Earring, bronze. Cast together with the lower arc of the hoop and the "racemose" pendant. A small hoop for fastening is preserved on one end. Dimensions: 2.8 x 1.9 cm. Location: Grid square XX-381, Structure XX-381/1 (dwelling), S – 0.95 m, W – 0.50 m, elevation 181.30 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon I (ca. 900 – 976) FIN 11/50 (fig. 2: 8).
9. Crescent moon pendant, bronze. The crescent moon was cast in a one-sided mould, and the obverse is adorned with three rows of pseudo-beaded wire. Dimensions: 2.6 x 2 x 0.9 cm, thickness – 0.2 cm. Location: Grid square XX-342, Structure XX-342/2 (dwelling), N – 0.40 m, E – 2.15 m, elevation 181 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon I (ca. 900 – 976). FIN 11/44 (fig. 2: 9).
10. Pendant, copper. Pendant with a conical shape, the body is adorned with thin wires, curved in a circle. Dimensions: 4.4 x 1.6 cm. Location: Grid square XX-303, SE – 3.20 m, SW – 2.50 m, elevation 181.57 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064). FIN 12/13 (fig. 2: 10).
11. Button, bronze, half. The button was cast, the surface is decorated with incised lines. Dimensions: 1.6 x 1 cm. Location: Grid square XX-284, NE – 3.10 m, NW – 3.26 m, elevation 182.07 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35). FIN 14/19 (fig. 2: 11).
12. Button, copper, half. The button was stamped. Dimensions: 2.1 x 1.2 cm. Location: Grid square XX-321, N – 1.30 m, E – 0.30 m, elevation 181.63 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35). FIN 11/45 (fig. 2: 12).
13. Fibula, bronze, fragment. Only part of the bow, with a bud in one end, is preserved. Dimensions: Diameter of the bud – 1 cm, section – 0.6 x 0.8 cm. Location: Grid square XX-361, N – 2.70 m, E – 1.30 m, elevation 181.69 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35). FIN 11/8 (fig. 2: 13).
14. Bracelet, bronze, fragment. The section is rectangular, one of the ends is zoomorphically shaped (probably a snake's head or the head of a seahorse). Dimensions: Diameter of 5.7 cm, section – 0.4 cm. Location: Grid square XX-303, Structure XX-303/2 (pit). Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064). FIN 12/43 (fig. 2: 14).
15. Bracelet, bronze, fragment. The section is rectangular, one zoomorphically shaped end. Dimensions: Preserved length – 4 cm, section – 0.4 cm. Location: Grid square XX-304, Structure XX-304/2 (burnt room), elevation 181 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35). FIN 12/44 (fig. 2: 15).
16. Bracelet, bronze, fragment. The section is rectangular, rounded, one end is widened and adorned with a "circle with a dot" pattern. Dimensions: Preserved length – 4.6 cm, section – 0.5 cm, width – 1.5 cm. Location: Grid square XX-286, NE – 3.65 m, SW – 3.10 m, elevation 182.03 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064). FIN 14/31 (fig. 2: 16).
17. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Black, square section. Dimensions: Diameter – 6.3 cm, section – 0.7 cm. Location: Grid square XX-323, S – 0.25 m, W – 0.60 m, elevation 182.12 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064). FIN 11/1 (fig. 3: 17).

18. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, rectangular section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 4 cm, section – 0.3 x 0.4 cm. Location: Grid square XX-345, elevation 181.38 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 18).
19. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Patinated, rectangular section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 5 cm, section – 0.4 x 0.5 cm. Location: Grid square XX-286, SE – 1.60 m, NE – 4.40 m, elevation 181.83 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 19).
20. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Patinated, rectangular section. Dimensions: Diameter – 2.6 cm, section – 0.4 x 0.5 cm. Location: Grid square XX-305, Structure XX-304/2 (burnt room), N – 0.80 m, W – 0.10 m, elevation 181.30 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 20).
21. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Patinated, rectangular section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 3.1 cm, section – 0.5 x 0.6 cm. Location: Grid square XX-385, NE – 5.70 m, NW – 4.10 m, elevation 182 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064) (fig. 3: 21).
22. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Patinated, rectangular section. Dimensions: Diameter – 4.2 cm, section – 0.4 x 0.5 cm. Location: Grid square XX-286, layer 7. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 22).
23. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, elliptical section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 5.8 cm, section – 0.7 x 0.3 cm. Location: Grid square XX-303, Structure XX-303/1 (pit). Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064) (fig. 3: 23).
24. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, round section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 5.9 cm, section – 0.6 cm. Location: Grid square XX-344, layer 2. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064) (fig. 3: 24).
25. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, round section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 3.6 cm, section – 0.8 cm. Location: Grid square XX-286, Structure XX-286/1 (pit). Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 25).
26. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, patinated, round section. Dimensions: Diameter – 4 cm, section – 0.7 cm. Location: Grid square XX-344, Structure XX-344/1. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 26).
27. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, patinated, round section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 6.6 cm, section – 0.7 cm. Location: Grid square XX-344, Structure XX-344/1. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 27).
28. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, round section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 3 cm, section – 0.6 cm. Location: Grid square XX-305, Structure XX-304/2 (burnt room), layer 8. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 28).
29. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Patinated, twisted, round section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 5.9 cm, section – 0.9 cm. Location: Grid square XX-304, Structure XX-304/2 (burnt room). Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 29).
30. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, twisted, round section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 2.9 cm, section – 0.7 cm. Location: Grid square XX-344, Structure XX-344/1. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 30).
31. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, twisted, round section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 3 cm, section – 0.7 cm. Location: Grid square XX-344, layer 5. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 31).
32. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Patinated, twisted, round section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 3 cm, section – 0.8 cm. Location: Grid square XX-344, Structure XX-344/1. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 32).
33. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, twisted, round section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 3.9 cm, section – 0.6 cm. Location: Grid square XX-366, Structure XX-366/1 (dwelling), elevation 181.08 – 181.30 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 33).
34. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, round section, decorated with a yellow painting. Dimensions: Preserved length – 2.9 cm, section – 0.8 cm. Location: Grid square XX-344, Structure XX-344/1. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 34).
35. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Brownish-red, square section, decorated with a yellow painting. Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.7 cm. Location: Grid square XX-304, Structure XX-304/1 (pit). Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 35).
36. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Brownish-red, elliptical section, decorated with yellowish white painting. Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.6 cm. Location: Grid square XX-284, Structure XX-284/2 (pit), NW – 5.50 m, NE – 5.20 m, elevation 181.94 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064) (fig. 3: 36).
37. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Bluish-black, patinated, elliptical section, decorated with a yellow-white painting. Dimensions: Preserved length – 2.4 cm, section – 1 x 0.4 cm. Location: Grid square XX-325, Structure XX-304/2 (burnt room), N – 0.10 m, E – 1.64 m, elevation 181.39 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 37).
38. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Brownish-red, elliptical section, decorated with a yellow-white painting. Dimensions: Preserved length – 2 cm, section – 0.5 x 0.4 cm. Location: Grid square XX-342, Structure XX-362/3 (pit). Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064) (fig. 3: 38).
39. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Bluish-red, fluted section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 4.9 cm, section – 0.7 x 0.4 cm. Location: Grid square XX-323, layer 2. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon III (1030/35 – 1064) (fig. 3: 39).
40. Bracelet, glass, fragment. Blue, fluted section. Dimensions: Preserved length – 3.7 cm, section – 1.2 x 0.4 cm. Location: Grid square XX-305, Structure XX-304/2 (burnt room), elevation 180.86 m. Dating: Stratigraphic horizon II (976 – 1030/35) (fig. 3: 40).

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СРЕДНОВЕКОВНИ НАКИТИ ОТ ОБЕКТ „ДВОРЦОВ ЦЕНТЪР – ИЗТОК“ В ПЛИСКА

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РЕЗЮМЕ

В настоящата статия са представени две групи накити – метални и стъклени. Те са открити при археологическото проучване на обект „Дворцов център – изток“ в Плиска (обр. 1). Накитите са намерени в добре документирана стратиграфска среда. Контекстът, в който са попаднали предметите, определя техния *terminus ante quem*, фиксиращ крайната им дата на употреба. Имайки предвид сравнително „крехкия“ вид на повечето изделия и рисковете за често повреждане и загубване при ежедневни дейности може да се приеме, че накитите са сред предметите, които са използвани кратковременно. Това улеснява възможностите да реконструираме, с висока степен на достоверност, хронологията на тяхното използване преди попадането на предметите в конкретен стратиграфски контекст. Представени са две групи накити – метални и стъклени.

В групата на металните накити са включени 7 пръстена, 1 обеца, 2 висулки, 3 гривни, 2 метални копчета и 1 фибула (обр. 2). Дадена е подробна информация за стратиграфската среда на откриване на накитите и са анализирани тип-хронологическите им характеристики. Посочени са многобройни аналогии от близки като хронология селища и некрополи.

Втората голяма група накити са стъклените гривни. При разкопките на обект „Дворцов център – изток“ са открити над 50 фрагмента. В повечето случаи става въпрос за малки парченца, от които сме избрали 24 по-информативни фрагмента, илюстриращи типологическото разнообразие на този вид накит (обр. 3). В зависимост от сечението стъклените гривни могат да се класифицират в няколко типа: с квадратно (обр. 3: 1), с правоъгълно (обр. 3: 2 – 6), с елипсовидно (обр. 3: 7) и с кръгло сечение (обр. 3: 8 – 12). Откриват се също така усукани гривни (обр. 3: 13 – 17), гривни с рисувана украса (обр. 3: 18 – 22) и гривни с канелиран профил (обр. 3: 23 – 24). Най-често гривните са едноцветни, особено предпочитан е синият цвят, с различни нюанси на тъмносиньо и морско синьо. В отделни случаи се среща синьо-виолетов или кафяво-червен цвят.

За разлика от некрополите, в които накитите се намират на функционалните им места и носят по-конкретна социална, символна или полово-възрастова информация, то в селищните обекти накити се откриват в разнообразни археологически контексти, включително и като депониран отпадък. Предимството при селищните обекти е, че в културния пласт могат да се диференцират стратиграфски

нива със сравнително „къса хронология“, което е важно за прецизиране датировката на накитите. Въведените в последното десетилетие модерни методи на документиране и микростратиграфският подход на разкопаване на археологическите контексти ни предоставят много по-прецизни данни за датиране на находките от „първо лице“, а не по аналогии с находки от други обекти, каквато е честата практика.

Систематизирането на стратиграфските данни позволява да групираме находките в три хронологически периода (обр. 4, обр. 5). В най-ранния стратиграфски хоризонт I (ок. 900 – 976) са открити малък брой метални накити, прави впечатление липсата на стъклени гривни. Най-много находки присъстват в стратиграфски хоризонти II (970 – 1030/35) и III (1030/35 – ок. 1064), като пикът е в хоризонт II.

Количественият анализ на археологическите материали по стратиграфски нива допълва картината за динамиката на живот в различни периоди от развитието на следстолична Плиска. Резултатите показват, че в хоризонт I, определен като „български“ следстоличен период, находките са сравнително малобройни. Археологическите проучвания на обект „Дворцов център – изток“ в Плиска потвърждават, че до средата на X в. населението в тази част на Вътрешния град е било малобройно. Най-съществен е количественият ръст на накити в хоризонт II, определен като „византийски“ период на Плиска – това е времето на най-значимо демографско нарастване на града. Сравнително висок е броят на накитите и в последния хоризонт III, определен като „поствизантийски или печенежки“ период в Плиска, но тук трябва да се отбележи, че основна част от находките вероятно са били произведени в по-ранния период, а са използвани и в следващите две-три десетилетия.

Ключови думи: Плиска, средновековни накити, пръстени, обеци, висулки, гривни