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EARRINGS – SYMBOL OF FEMININITY OF ROMAN LADIES OF VIMINACIUM

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Abstract: *Stylistic and typological analysis of Roman earrings from Viminacium necropolises belong to a standard form of Roman jewelry. These are general Roman-provincial forms but there was certainly some import of higher quality from Greece and Syria. Workshop in Viminacium is no archaeological date but we suppose that there existed during the 2nd and in the beginning of the 3rd century. The chronological determination is based on analogous specimens from the neighboring provinces (Upper Moesia, Lower Moesia, Thracia, Upper and Lower Pannonia and Dalmatia)*

Earrings (*inuares*) originating from the East were accepted by Romans with delight thus continuing Hellenistic tradition enriched through time with new style. Expansion of the Empire, autochthonous elements and establishing of local workshops in the provinces certainly had significant impact on occurrence of the new shapes of earrings. Polychromatic style (*uniones*) became popular in the 2nd and 3rd centuries especially emphasizing social position of Roman ladies who from generation to generation passed on and treasured these precious objects.

Stylistic and typological analysis of Roman earrings from Viminacium¹ is based on the material that is mostly from closed grave associations discovered at Viminacium necropolises (*Više globalja, Pećine, Kod bresta, Rudine – lanci,...*) while smaller number of earrings are chance finds from the territory of this town (Pl.1). In the course of many years of archaeological excavations (from 1977 until today) more than 13000 graves have been investigated. Material is housed in the National Museum in Požarevac.

Total amount of 261 earrings has been studied (148 of gold, 42 of silver and 71 of bronze). According to the fastening method they are classified into two main groups. First group includes earrings – hoops of closed or open shape (**TYPE I-IV**) denoted by Roman numerals and **VARIANTS** denoted by alphabet and **Subvariants** denoted by Arabic numerals. Second group includes earrings with S-shaped hook used for fastening (**TYPE V** with **VARIANTS a-e**). The chronological determination is based on analogous specimens from the neighboring provinces and typological and statistical study by Lj. Zotović (Pl.2).²

¹ Viminacium was the capital town of the Roman province of Upper Moesia, formed at the confluence of the river Mlava and the Danube, near by present-day Kostolac in Serbia. About this town you can see in : M.Mirković, *Inscriptiones de la Mesie Superieure, Vol.II, Viminacium et Margum*, Beograd, 1986., M. Mirković, *Rimski gradovi na Dunavu u Gornjoj Meziji*, Beograd, 1968., D. Spasić-Đurić , *Viminacium glavni grad rimske provincije Gornje Mezije/ Viminacium the capital of the Roman province of Upper Moesia*, Požarevac, 2002 and Lj. Zotović, Č. Jordović, *Viminacium I, Nekropola Više Globalja*, Beograd, 1990.

² Zotović 1995,233-241.

TPOLOGY

TYPE I – earrings-hoops with open ends, cast or made of wire. Ends are tapering into a tip or they are cut straight, with or without pendant.

VARIANT Ia – hoops of thin wire with ends tapering into a tip. There are ten earrings of this type (7 of bronze, 2 of silver and one of gold, from necropoles Pećine and Više grobalja). Lj. Zotović dates them from the end of 3rd to the end of 5th century AD. ³Analogous specimens are known from Emona (beginning of the 2nd c.)⁴, Intercisa⁵ Lazar Stanevo (Lovech region) and Botevgrad region (1st-2nd c.)⁶.

VARIANT Ib – hoops of circular or square section with straight cut ends. There are 7 of this type (6 of bronze and one of silver, necropoles Pećine and Više grobalja). On one bronze hoop was suspended another smaller hoop of closed type and biconical bead made of cast silver. Silver earring of square section is known from Doclea.⁷ They could be chronologically associated with previous variant according to suggestion of Lj. Zotović.⁸

VARIANT Ic – hoops of crescent shape, cast. There is 5 of this type (3 of bronze and 2 of silver, necropoles Više grobalja and Više burdelja). According to Lj. Zotović this variant of cast earrings dates from Late Roman period, i.e. 5th century.⁹ Analogous specimens from Novi Banovci (Burgenae)¹⁰ and Belgrade (Singidunum)¹¹ corroborate this date.

VARIANT Id – hoops of bronze wire with overlapping ends. There is only two of this type (one from necropolis Više grobalja and another from Pećine). Identical silver hoop is known from Scupi (2nd/3rd c.)¹².

TYPE II – earrings – hoops of wire with fastening mechanism shaped as eye-and-hook clasp. They could be with or without pendant.

VARIANT Iia – hoops of type II without pendant (Pl.4,a). There are 28 specimens (10 of gold, 6 of silver and 12 of bronze from necropoles Više grobalja, Pećine, Kod bresta, Nad lugom, Kod groblja and from the site Velika kapija). These specimens are dated from the 2nd to the 4th century.¹³ Extensive distribution of this type justifies such a long chronological span. There is one earring of this variant from the site Čair at Viminacium.¹⁴ Analogous specimens are known from National Museum in Belgrade (2nd-4th c.)¹⁵, Cyprus (2nd-3rd c.)¹⁶, Radomir (middle of the 2nd c.)¹⁷,

³ Ibid.,233-234, Type I

⁴ Petru 1972, T.XXI, 7-8; T. LI, 23-23a; Mihovilić 1979, 229-230.

⁵ Alföldi 1957, Taf. LXXIX,11.

⁶ Ruseva – Slokoska 1991, Cat.No.1 and 2 (Type I, Variant 1)

⁷ Cermanović-Kuzmanović et al. 1975,234, Grave 322.

⁸ Zotović 1995, 233-234, Type I

⁹ Ibidem.

¹⁰ Popović 1996, 16,Cat.1, Type II.

¹¹ Petrović 1997, 93,Cat.154 and 155, Type I

¹² Mikulčić 1975, 89-100, T.XII,68, Grave 23.

¹³ Zotović 1995, 234, Type II

¹⁴ Spasić 1994,79, Cat. 11.

¹⁵ Popović 1996, 16-17, Cat.5-10, Type I 2.

¹⁶ BMCJ,pl.LIII, 2464-2485.

¹⁷ Ljubenova 1985,35, fig.13.

Medulin-Burle (2nd-4th c.)¹⁸, Duklja (Doclea, 3rd c.)¹⁹, Osijek (Mursa, 4th c.)²⁰, Šarkamen²¹, Intercisa and Gerulata (Bratislava-Rusovce, 4th c.)²².

VARIANT Iib – hoop of the Iia type with pendant of thin wire could have been twisted and terminating with one or more beads of glass paste (Pl.4,b). There are 17 of this type (5 of gold, 6 of silver and 6 of bronze from the necropoles Više grobalja and Pećine). Only one pair of silver earrings has the pendant of twisted wire like the specimens from Scupi (4th century)²³, Aquincum²⁴ and Sopianae.²⁵ Beads of glass paste are preserved on seven earrings (spherical shape of blue or white color, combination of globular beads with cylindrical one of green color, one has in addition to the bead also perforated snail shell as pendant). There are specimens from National Museum in Belgrade (2nd-4th c.)²⁶, Boljevac on Ibar, Niš (Naissus), and Siscia²⁷ dating from the third and fourth centuries. Of earlier date are earrings from Roman-German Central Museum (1st-2nd c.)²⁸ and also those from Sopianae and Intercisa.²⁹ To this group belongs also a pair of golden earrings, which instead of wire pendant had drop-like bedding with granulated setting where carnelian was inlaid. Under this luxurious pendant are three beads of glass paste. Direct analogies are unknown to us.

VARIANT Iic – hoops with conical pendant of embossed thin sheet and bead of glass paste at the end. There are 8 specimens of this variant (2 of gold, 2 of silver and 4 of bronze from necropoles Pećine and Više grobalja). Conical pendants on one silver pair are decorated with thin twisted gilded wire. Identical specimens are known already from the 2nd century.³⁰ Specimens from Bela Palanka (Remesiana) are dated into the 4th century.³¹ Simple conical pendants also date from this long chronological span from the 2nd to the 4th century.³²

VARIANT Iid – hoops with pendant of thin sheet leaf attached directly to the earring hoop. One is of silver with bronze biconical sheet while another is made of bronze with deformed square pendant (necropolis Više grobalja). There is an analogous earring in the National Museum in Belgrade (2nd-4th c.).³³ To this subvariant could be added two fragmented earrings with perforated coin and animal tooth used as pendants (necropolis Pećine). Lj. Zotović classified the mentioned type with subvariants as type IV and dates it from the 2nd to the 4th century.³⁴

TYPE III – earrings – hoops of closed type with ends spirally wound around shoulders, with or without pendants.

VARIANT IIIa – hoops with overlapping ends, which terminate in coils on opposite shoulder. There are 9 of them (2 of gold, 2 of silver and 5 of bronze, from necropoles Pećine and Više

¹⁸ Girardi – Jurkić and Đžin 2003, 150, Cat.192 – 193.

¹⁹ Cermanović – Kuzmanović et al. 1975, 234, Grave 51.

²⁰ Bulat 1989, 284-286, fig.1. 7.

²¹ Popović and Tomović 1998, 295, fig.8a,b.

²² Alföldi 1957, Taf. LXXIX, 12 –15; Barköczi and Erdelyi 1954, Taf. XIX, 17-18 and Taf. XXI, 19-20.; Schätze der Vor-und Fruhgesc hichte der Slowakei, 1988, 56. C.1.22. and C.1.23.

²³ Jovanović 1978, 35, Cat.19, fig.69.

²⁴ Szilágyi 1956, Taf.XXVII

²⁵ Fülep 1977, pl.37, 2a,b.

²⁶ Popović 1996, 17, Cat.11 – 13 and 15, Type I 2a.

²⁷ Jovanović 1978, 35, Cat. 11-12, fig.6.; Košćević 1995, 20, Pl. 41, fig.416.

²⁸ Deppert – Lippitz 1985, Taf.27, 61 – 63.

²⁹ Fülep 1977, pl.34, 3; Alföldi 1957, Taf. LXXIX, 26-27.

³⁰ Higgins 1961, pl.54A; BMCJ, pl.LII,2421-2422.; Deppert – Lippitz 1985, Taf.18, 45; Alföldi 1957, Taf.LXXX,8.

³¹ Jovanović 1978, 35, Cat.14, fig.67.

³² Popović 1996, 17,Cat.14, subvariant I 2a/2; Petru 1972, T.XLVII, 12a; Mihovilić 1979, 229-230; Vágó and Bóna 1976, Taf.XXVI,2-3.; Jovanović 1978, 35, Cat.15, fig.67a; Popović 2001, 128, Cat.44.

³³ Popović 1996, 17, Cat.13, Subvariant I 2a/1.

³⁴ Zotović 1995, 235, Type IV

grobalja). Lj. Zotovic also attributes them to type III (1st-3rd century).³⁵ Specimens from National Museum in Belgrade as well as those from Obrouchishte, Stara Zagora region,³⁶ are dated in the same period. Finds from Gradina, Mogorjelo, Mala Kopašnica, Duklja, Niška Banja and Niš are of somewhat later date, 3rd-4th century.³⁷

Subvariant IIIa1 – hoops like variant IIIa but enhanced with pendant directly attached to the hoop. There are 8 of this subvariant (3 of silver and 5 of bronze, necropoles Pećine and Više grobalja). Animal teeth, snail shell, coins or thick silver sheet of triangular shape are used as pendants. They are dated in the 2nd-3rd century while they are rarely used in the first half of the 4th century.³⁸

VARIANT IIIb – hoop of closed type where one end of the wire makes a loop and it is wound in dense coils around the hoop or it forms a spiral that represents the head of an earring of the pseudo shield type while other end terminates in a hook (Pl.4, c and d). There is 70 specimens (47 of gold, 10 of silver, including 4 damaged pieces that most probably belong to this variant and 13 of bronze, from necropoles Više grobalja, Pećine, Velika kapija, Kod bresta and Na rupi). As we can see they are most numerous and hence most popular type of earrings at the necropoles of Viminacium. They are dated into 2nd-3rd century but there are also some later specimens (National Museum in Belgrade, Bugojno, Mala Kopašnica, Botevgrad region, Sviloš, Beška, Kolovrat and Osijek/Mursa, 3rd-4th c.).³⁹

Subvariant IIIb1 – hoops identical to the variant IIIb but made of twisted wire. There are 5 gold specimens from the necropolis Više grobalja. Golden earring from Durostorum dated into the middle of the 2nd century is identical to our specimens.⁴⁰

Subvariant IIIb2 – hoops identical to the variant IIIb but with pendant (Pl.4,e,f,g and h). There are 26 specimens (22 of gold, 2 of silver and 2 of bronze from the necropoles Pećine, Više grobalja and Na rupi). Pendants made of glass paste are shaped as one or more beads and there are also pendants made of twisted wire with solid cast drop on the end. Earring from cremation burial G1 196 is dated by the coin of Caracalla (AD 198-217), while one of them is not grave find but it was a chance find from the territory of Viminacium.⁴¹ Analogous specimens are known from the National Museum in Belgrade, City Museum of Belgrade, Mala Kopašnica, Aquincum, Intercisa, Serdica, Svilengrad and Kovachevo, Sliven region and they are dated from the 2nd to the 4th century.⁴²

TYPE IV earrings – hoops with soldered ornamental head, with or without pendant.

VARIANT IVa – hoop with hook-and-eye clasp and with soldered shield like head. There are 3 of the kind (2 of gold and one of silver, necropolis Pećine). Each of these three specimens has differently shaped head – like a palmette, granules like grape or calotte shaped like hexagonal

³⁵ Ibid., 234, Type III and IIIA

³⁶ Popović 1996, 17-18, Cat.16-19, variant I 3; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, Cat.3a (Type I, Variant 2)

³⁷ Miletić 1963, Cat. 51 and 120; Pešić 1995, Cat.1, fig.1, Type I, variant 1; Cermanović – Kuzmanović et al. 1975, Grave 121; Jovanović 1978, Cat.20 and 21, fig.69.

³⁸ Petru 1972, T.LXIV, 20-21, Grave 8942.

³⁹ Zotović 1995, 234, Type IIA; Popović 1996, 19, Cat. 20-26, Type I 4; Miletić 1963, 21, Cat.16; Pešić 1995, fig. 2, Type I, variant 2a; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, Cat. 16 and 17 (Type I, Variant 4B); Dautova-Ruševljan 1995, 243 – 244, T.I,fig.3 and 5; Cermanović-Kuzmanović 1995, fig.12, Grave 87B; Bulat 1989, 284-286, fig.1. 5-6.

⁴⁰ Popović and Donevski 1999, 21, Cat.1, fig.1.

⁴¹ Zotović and Jordović 1990, T.CLXIII, fig.7; Spasić 1994, 74, Cat.3.

⁴² Popović 1996, 20,Cat.30-36, Type I 4a; Muzej grada Beograda 1981, Cat.126; Pešić 1995, fig.3-8, Type I, variant 2a; Szilágyi 1956, Taf.XXVII; Alföldi 1957, Taf.LXXIX,21; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, Cat. 9a, 10, 11, and 12a, (Type I, Variant 3c and 3d).

prism. Lj. Zotovic classifies them in type V and dates them in the 2nd-3rd century.⁴³ Earring with grape-shape granules on the hoop is known from Irig (Srem)⁴⁴ and is dated into the 4th century. There are many analogies for the earring with conical head on the hoop: Oescus (Pleven region), Lisets (Lovech region), Nicolaevo treasure and Sadovets (Pleven region)-1st-3rd c., Intercisa,⁴⁵ Medulin-Burle, Mala Kopašnica and specimens from the National Museum in Belgrade-2nd-3rd c.⁴⁶

Subvariant IVa1 – 3 hoops (one of gold and 2 of silver, Više grobalja). The hoop itself is decorated with entwined chains made of linked loops while a pair of silver earrings is additionally reinforced next to the loop with dense coils of wire. One such specimen is known from Kolovrat and the others from Emona and Siscia (no later than the second century).⁴⁷

VARIANT IVb – hoops with calotte-shaped head and pendant (Pl.4, i). There are 7 specimens made of gold (Pećine and Više grobalja). Pair from grave G1-193 is dated by the coins of Antoninus Pius (138-161).⁴⁸ Analogous specimens from the National Museum in Belgrade, Cyprus and the Pleven region are dated into the 2nd-3rd century.⁴⁹

VARIANT IV c – hoops with square bedding of golden foil for glass paste inlay and with pendant terminating with a bead (Pl.4, j). There are 19 golden specimens (Više grobalja, Pećine, Na rupi, Čair). One pair of earrings has pendant of sheet metal shaped as pine cone. They occurred in the 2nd century and lasted through the entire 3rd century.⁵⁰ There are analogous specimens in the National Museum in Belgrade, Roman-German Central Museum and in Intercisa.⁵¹

Subvariant IVc1 – one golden earring (Pećine). Square head of golden foil is soldered to the hoop head and decorated with floral motif (rosette with four petals) by embossing. Bead on the pendant is missing. On the basis of analogous specimens it is dated in the 2nd-3rd century.⁵²

TYPE V – earrings with S-shaped hook for fastening and diversely modeled head soldered to the hoop. This type could have pendants attached directly to the setting or via trapezoid bar.

VARIANT Va – earrings with S-shaped hook and circular flat head made of thin foil. Head could have serrated edges or could be decorated with rosette motif in embossing technique. There are 7 specimens (2 of gold, 1 of silver and 4 of bronze, Pećine, Više grobalja and Velika kapija). They date from the 2nd to the 4th century. There are analogous pins from Siscia with pelta-shaped heads. This shape is almost unknown outside Siscia and dated to the second and third centuries.⁵³

VARIANT Vb – earring with S-shaped hook and calotte-shaped head soldered to the hoop (Pl.4, k). There are 7 golden specimens of this variant (Pećine, Više grobalja). One earring has the head shaped as hexagonal pyramid while one pair had on the calottes a setting for the stone, which is

⁴³ Zotović 1995, 236, Type V

⁴⁴ Popo-Lazić 1972, Cat.129.

⁴⁵ Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, Cat.8a and b (Type I, Variant 3B) and Cat.21-24 (Type I, Variant 4C); Alföldi 1957, Taf.LXXIX, 22 and 24.

⁴⁶ Girardi-Jurkić and Đžin 2003, 150, Cat.191; Pešić 1995, 28-29, Cat.11-12, fig.11; Popović 1996, 20, Cat.37-43, Type II 1/1; Popović 2001, 125, Cat.39.

⁴⁷ Cermanović-Kuzmanović 1995,227-230,fig.13, Grave290; Petru 1972, T.XLV, 1a, Grave 664.; Košćević 1995, 20, Pl.41, fig.414.

⁴⁸ Zotović and Jordović, 1990, T.CLXII,fig.5; Zotović 1995, 236, Type V

⁴⁹ Popović 1996, 21, Cat.44-45, Type II 1a; Higgins 1961, 1183-1186, pl.54B; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, Cat.13a and 13b (Type I, Variant 3E).

⁵⁰ Zotović 1995, 236, Type VA; Viminacium 1980, Cat.4; Spasić 1994, 73-74, Cat.2.

⁵¹ Popović 1996, 21,Cat.46-49, Type II 2; Deppert-Lippitz 1985, Taf.19, fig. 47; Alföldi 1957, Taf.LXXIX,23

⁵² Ibid., Cat.50-51, Type II3; Ibid., Taf.28,fig.68.

⁵³ Zotović 1995, 236, Type VI; Popović 1996, 24, Cat.63, Type VI 1/2.; Košćević 1995, 21, Pl.41, fig. 417-431.

now missing. Specimens from the National Museum in Belgrade and Durostorum are dated from the 1st to the 3rd century.⁵⁴ There are also analogous specimens from Mala Kopašnica, Medulin-Burle, Oescus and Sexaginta-Prista.⁵⁵

VARIANT Vc – earrings with S-shaped hook and with circular or square head with a setting for stone or glass paste (Pl.4, land m, n, o and p). There are 8 specimens (6 of gold, 1 of silver and 1 of bronze, Više grobalja, Pećine and unknown site). Three earrings have simply modeled head consisting of one hexagonal bead. Heads of two earrings are shaped as hexagonal rosettes made by hammering in a die while hexagonal bead is in the center. They are dated into 2nd-3rd century.⁵⁶ There are analogies for this type in the National Museum in Belgrade, Šarkamen, Intercisa and Roman-German Central Museum.⁵⁷

VARIANT Vd – earrings with S-shaped hook and shield like setting of circular or square shape with precious or semi-precious stone (Pl. 5, q, r and s). Setting is usually decorated with twisted gold wire and on it pendants (2 or 3) with beads at the end were suspended on hoops. There are 6 gold specimens (Pećine, Rudine-Lanci, Administration building of IEK Kostolac). Pair of earrings has at all four corners pendants of wire probably for beads that are now missing. They date from the 2nd to the 3rd century.⁵⁸ There are numerous analogies with this variant: National Museum in Belgrade, City Museum of Belgrade, Belgrade (Singidunum), Dobri Do, Mala Kopašnica, Arčar (Ratiaria), British Museum and Intercisa.⁵⁹

VARIANT Ve – one gold earring (site Pajića salaš, legacy of V. Radojčić) with elliptical setting of twisted wire with two-layered cameo of agate. Under the setting is trapezoid transversal bar with 4 hoops with pendants shaped as solid cast dolphins (one is missing) and a pearl bead (Pl. 5, t). This motif followed a tradition of Hellenistic models that were very popular. There are analogies specimens from Stara Zagora (Augusta Trajana). In the white layer of the cameo is a male profile turned to the right. Stylistic attributes of the portrait as well as the shape of the earring suggest dating in the end of the 3rd century.⁶⁰

CONCLUSION

From the chronological point of view the earliest are earrings of Type IIIa with overlapping ends terminating on the opposite shoulder in spiral coils. This jewelry shape originates from Egypt and had been in use in Rome from the 1st to the 4th century.⁶¹ Besides earrings the bracelets, finger rings or hoops of this type had also been produced. Great popularity of this jewelry type is confirmed by the hoards from Tekija and Bare.⁶²

Hoops with eye-and-hook clasp, with or without pendants (Type IIa, b) appeared in the middle of the 2nd century and existed until the middle of the 4th century. Namely they are contemporary with

⁵⁴ Popović 1996, 24, Cat. 58-62, Type VI 1/1; Popović and Donevski 1999, 65, fig. 4.

⁵⁵ Pešić 1995, 29, Cat. 13, fig. 13; Girardi-Jurkić and Đžin 2003, 151, Cat. 196; Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, Cat. 43a, b, 44 and 45a, b (Type II, Variant 1).

⁵⁶ Zotović 1995, 236, Type VI; Viminacium 1980, Cat. 7; Spasić 1994, 76, Cat. 6.

⁵⁷ Popović 1996, 24, Cat. 67-68, Type VII; Popović and Tomović 1998, 295, fig. 8c-d; Alföldi 1957, Taf. LXXIX, fig. 1-9.; Deppert-Lippitz 1985, Taf. 29, fig. 71.

⁵⁸ Zotović 1995, 237, Type VI A; Viminacium 1980, Cat. 16 and 18; Spasić 1996, 154-155, Cat. 1 and 4; Spasić 1994, 75, Cat. 4 and 5.

⁵⁹ Popović 1996, Cat. 76-79, Type VIII 2a/1 and Cat. 81, Type VIII 2a/3; Muzej grada Beograda 1981, Cat. 116 and 118; Pop-Lazić 2002, 67-68, fig. 1, Grave 227.; Vučković-Todorović 1957, 296, fig. 11; Pešić 1995, 33, fig. 16-18.; Aleksova 1956, fig. 11. 5, 6.; BMCJ, pl. LV, 2650, 2655.; Vágó and Bóna 1976, Taf. XXV, fig. 4, 5.

⁶⁰ Ruseva-Slokoska 1991, Cat. 14 (Type I, Variant 3E); Spasić – Đurić 2002, 91.; Popović 1991, 57, Cat. 8.

⁶¹ Pešić 1995, 26.

⁶² Popović and Borić-Brešković 1994; Mano – Zisi 1957.

type IIIb and b1, also with eye-and-hook clasp. However, with this type the end, which makes the loop (eye) also forms the pseudo shield of spiral coils on the shoulder. They are of East Mediterranean provenance and date from the 2nd-3rd century while they are not confirmed in the 4th century. Type IIIb2 in addition to hook-and-eye and pseudo shield also has wire pendant with a glass paste bead. This type is also dated in the 2nd and 3rd century although specimen from the National Museum in Belgrade (Ritopek) suggests that they were in use even in the 4th century.

Earrings of Type IVb with calotte-shaped head on the hoop and with pendant were made exclusively of gold. One pair of earrings discovered in a grave is dated by the coin of Antoninus Pius. They are synchronous with already mentioned types (2nd-3rd c.). Type IVc appeared in the beginning of the 2nd century, i.e. it is of slightly earlier date than the others are. This type also includes only specimens of gold (19 pieces).

Earrings with S-shaped hook (type Va – e) had been in fashion at the same time as the hoops with eye-and-hook clasp. They originate from Hellenistic models, which were much more luxurious while Roman goldsmiths made them more simple. Centers for production and distribution were in the eastern provinces. Type Vb with calotte-shaped head is more elaborate form of the type IVa although both types date from the same period (2nd-3rd c.). Type Vc is characterized by more simple specimens with hexagonal pendant of green glass paste directly attached to the S-shaped hook. Most of the earrings of this type have circular or square setting for semi-precious or precious stone. Also interesting is the specimen shaped as six-petaled rosette made by hammering in a matrix and with green hexagonal stone in the center. This type is characteristic for the 2nd and 3rd century. On a fresco painting from Viminacium could be seen young Roman lady with earrings of this type with green stone (Pl. 5, u). As this grave dates from the 4th century it suggests prolonged use of the type Vc earrings.⁶³ Circular or elliptical setting for the stone with wire pendants and pearls at the end are characteristic for the type Vd. Setting is usually twisted and pendants (two or three) are directly attached to it. Pair of earrings with rectangular setting and translucent red stone is embellished with four wire pendants on the corners. They probably contained pearls that are now missing. These earrings date from the 3rd/4th century. All specimens are made of gold. The most luxurious specimen is the earring with cameo in elliptical twisted setting and it certainly belonged to some respectable Roman lady.

As we have seen 2nd and 3rd century abound in various types and variants of earrings that had been produced of precious metals but at the same time also of bronze (Pl. 6). Namely, popular shapes were favored by women of different social standing so the Roman goldsmiths (*vascularii*) had to satisfy also their needs and their resources. Polychromatic style predominates in the mentioned period and it is the reflection of the fashion of wealthy population that by combining semi-precious and precious stones in twisted settings with pearls attempted to mark their social and economic status.

⁶³ Korać 1991, 118-119, fig.11.; Spasić-Đurić 2002,55,fig.34.

Earrings from Viminacium belong to a standard form of Roman jewelry that satisfied the needs of an average category of population. These are general Roman-provincial forms widely spread among Roman women throughout the Empire. There was certainly some import of higher quality pieces (type Vd-e), which arrived together with merchants and craftsmen from Greece, Syria and Italy that were introducing new fashion trends. Syrian diaspora in Viminacium is confirmed on many epigraphic monuments and within this population had certainly worked excellent craftsmen-goldsmiths that established their *officinae*.⁶⁴ High quantity of jewelry originating from the Viminacium necropoles, find of goldsmith's anvil and presence of *faber argentarius* in Viminacium could be understood as reliable evidence that there existed smelting workshops and smithies.⁶⁵ In spite the fact that there are no archaeological data we suppose that there existed one such workshop during the 2nd and in the beginning of the 3rd century. Namely, this period is related to the political and economic prosperity of Viminacium. Besides, it was the period of large exploitation of the silver-bearing, gold, copper and iron mines in the valleys of rivers Pek and Timok. Special mine coins had been minted in Picenum in the time of Hadrian (*Metalla Aeliana Picensia*).⁶⁶ These mines could certainly satisfy the needs of local jewelers and modest ladies of Viminacium.

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⁶⁴ Mirković 1968,69.

⁶⁵ Spasić 1994, 82.

⁶⁶ Popović 1994, 14 and 57.

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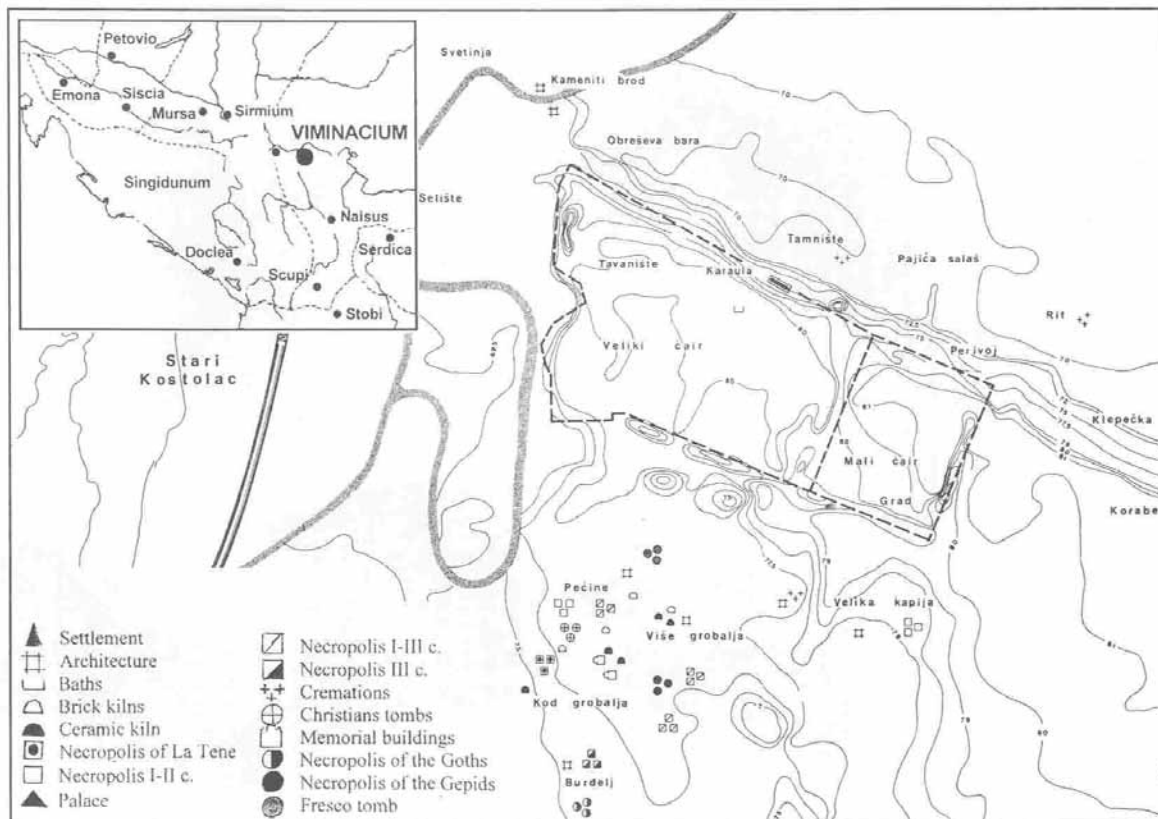







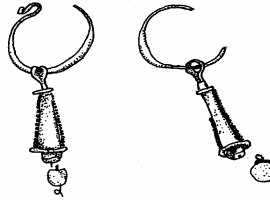







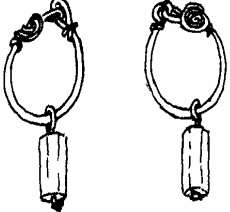




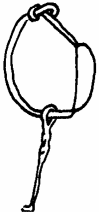





Plate 1: *The maps of Viminacium and its necropolis*

Ia 	Ib 	Ic 	Id 	
IIa  	IIb 	IIc 	IId 	
IIIa 	IIIa1 	IIIb  	IIIb1  	IIIb2 
IVa  	IVa1  	IVb  	IVc 	IVc1 

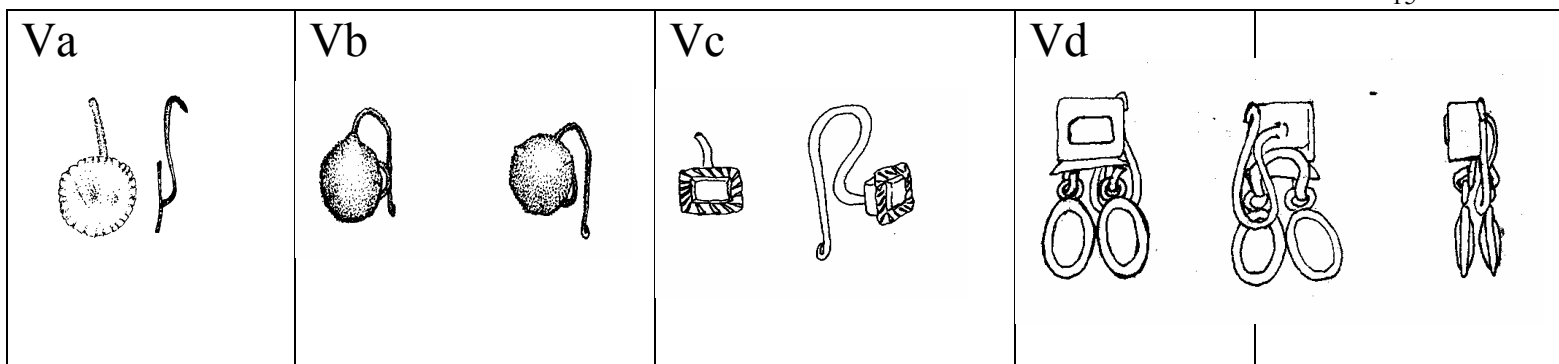


Plate 2: *Typological analysis of Roman earrings from Viminacium: types, variants and subvariants*

CENTURY: I II III IV V
 TYPE:

Ia			**	****	****
Ib			*	****	****
Ic					****
Id		**	**		
IIa		****	****	****	
IIb		****	****	****	
IIc		****	****	****	
IId		****	****	****	
IIIa	**	****	****		
IIIa1		****	****	**	
IIIb		****	****		
IIIb1		**			
IIIb2		**	**		
IVa		****	****		
IVa1		****	****		
IVb		**	****		
IVc		****	****		
IVc1		****	****		
Va		****	****	****	
Vb	**	****	****		
Vc		****	****		
Vd		****	****	**	
Ve			**		

Plate 3: *Chronological analysis of Roman earrings from Viminacium*



a

Type II a, 2nd-4th c.

b

Type II b, 2nd-4th c.

c

Type III b, 2nd-3rd c.

d

Type III b, the middle of the 2nd c.

e

Type III b2, 2nd-3rd c.

f



g

Type III b2, 2nd- 3rd c.

h



i

Type IV b, 2nd-3rd c.



j

Type IV c, 2nd-3rd c.
3rd c.



k

Type V b, 2nd-3rd c.



l



m

Type V c, 2nd-



n



o

Type V c, 2nd-3rd c.



p



q



r

Type V d, 2nd-4th c.



s

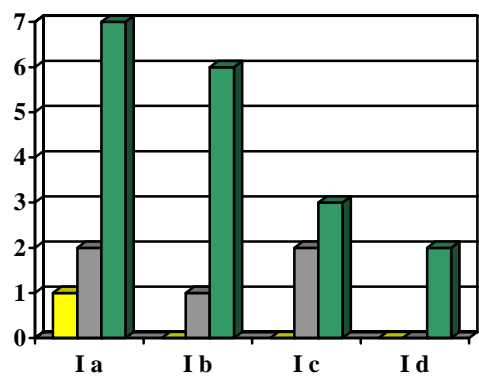


^t
Type V e, 3rd c

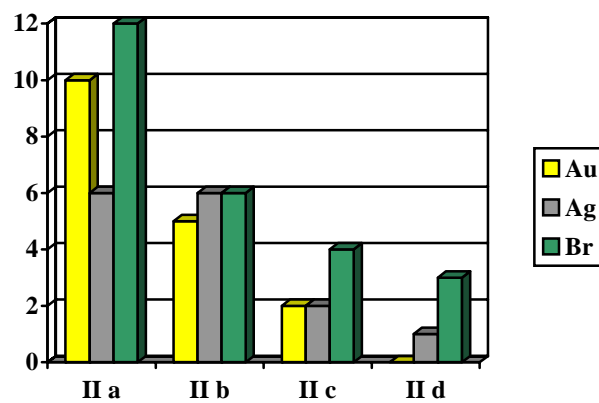


^u
Portrait of lady with earrings type V c.
Fresco tomb from Viminacium, 4th c.

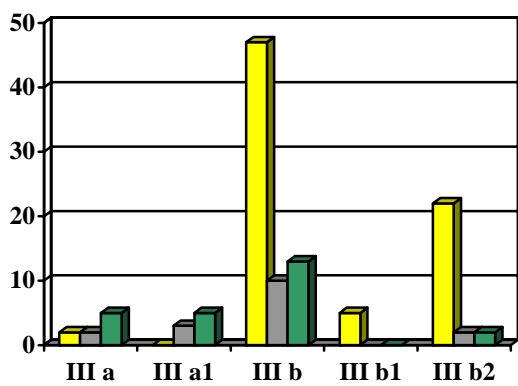
Plate 5: *Golden earrings from Viminacium*



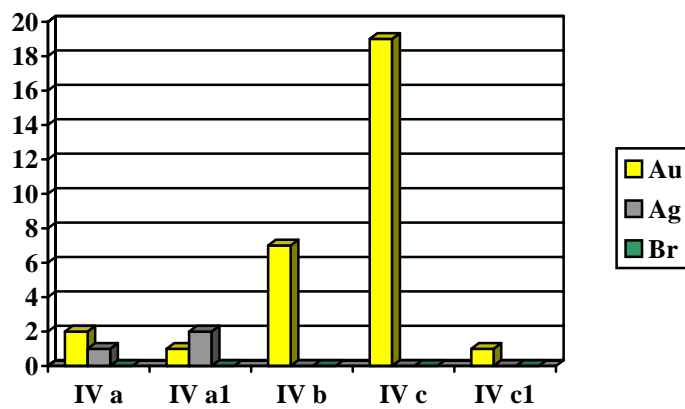
Type Ia-d



Type II a-d



Type IIIa-b2



Type IV a-c1

Type Va-e

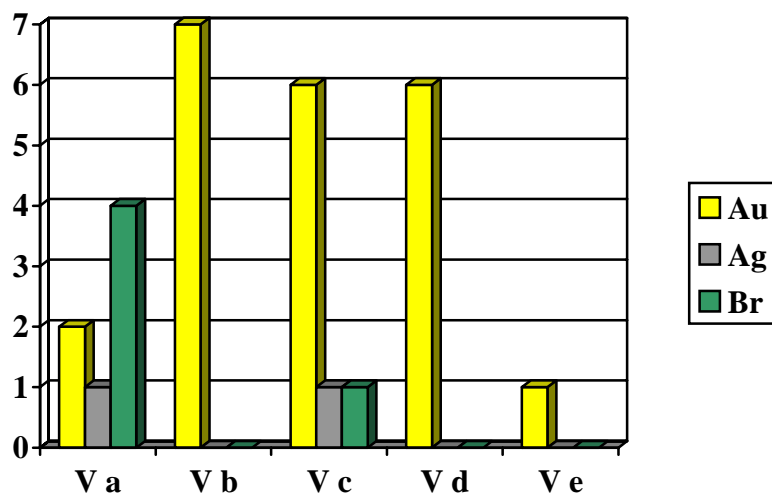


Plate 6: Graphic description of earrings according sort of metals