The crescent-shaped and semi-circular pectorals from Thrace, 5th century BC: origin and distribution

Desislava Lyubenova [a]

[a] *Department of Thracian archaeology, National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 2 Saborna Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria; dljubenova@abv.bg*

ABSTRACT

This study is focused on the origin, development and distribution of the crescent-shaped and semicircular form of pectorals, widely spread on the territory of Asia Minor, ancient Thrace, Scythia and single examples from ancient Macedonia and Etruria.

The crescent-shaped pectorals on the territory of Thrace are presented only of two gold example – Golyamata mound, from the necropolis of Duvanli, Plovdiv region and Yakimova mound, near the village Krushare, Sliven, from the middle of the 5th c. BC. Later this form passes or is replaced by the semicircular pectorals, that are found in the graves from Bashova mound, from the necropolis of Duvanli, burial mound near the village Dalboki, Stara Zagora and Tumulus no. 1, near Chernozem, Kaloyanovo, from the second half or the end of the 5th c. BC. These small groups of crescent-shaped and semicircular pectorals are found in graves together with weaponry (probably graves of warriors) in the Odrysian territories and can be defined as a part of ceremonial armor in Thrace. The similarities in their forms suggest that they are influenced by a common prototype. Iv. Venedikov is the first one that traces possible influences and connections between Thracian pectorals and that of Asia Minor.

The origin and development of crescent-shaped pectorals is very well attested in different parts of Asia Minor. They are made of gold, silver or bronze plates. The main part of crescent-shaped or semicircular pectorals comes from the territory of Urartu, dated in 8th–7th c. BC. At the same time are dated the pectorals from the territory of Etruria, which are probably influenced by some eastern motifs. Pectorals from Assyria are rare, and according to the researches, they may be also associated with the culture of Urartu. Probably the crescent-shaped pectorals are accepted in the territory of Scythia no later than the second half of the 7th c. BC, due to some earlier contacts with different parts of Asia Minor, and are used to the 4th c. BC. On the territory of ancient Macedonia there is only one example of crescent-shaped or semicircular form – the gold pectoral from Trebenishte, from the second half of 6th c. BC.

KEYWORDS

Crescent-shaped Pectorals, ancient Thrace, Asia Minor, Scythia.

Introduction

On the territory of ancient Thrace during the period of the beginning of 5th and the first half of the 3rd c. BC, have been found many plates made of gold and silver mainly in rich burials. Due to their position, mainly on the breasts of the deceased, they are called pectorals. They were made in different shapes: oval, rhomboid, crescent-shaped, semicircular, hexagonal, rectangular and irregular. This study is focused on the origin, development and distribution of the crescent-shaped and semicircular pectorals, widely spread on the territory of Asia Minor, ancient Thrace, Scythia and single examples from ancient Macedonia and Etruria.

We can trace a strong tradition in these territories of distribution of crescent-shaped



Fig. 1. Crescent-shaped pectorals (1-2) and semicircular pectorals (3-5) from Thrace – second half of 5th c. BC: 1.Golyamata Mogila, Duvanli (after Ancient Gold 1998, 195, fig. 135); 2. Yakimova Mogila, Krushare (after Димитрова 2009, 292, Обр. 2); 3. Tumulus No. 1, Chernozem (after Кисьов 2005, 145, Табло/Plate XII); 4. Dalboki, Stara Zagora (after http://www.museum.starazagora.net/sites/default/files/1_8.jpg, available 27.2.2017); 5. Bashova mound, Duvanli (after Ancient gold 1998, 197, Fig. 136)

Обр. 1. Луновдни (1-2) и полукръгли (3-5) нагръдници от територията на Тракия – втората половина на V в. пр. Хр.: 1. Голямата могила, Дуванли (по Ancient Gold 1998,, 195, fig. 135); 2. Якимова могила, край с. Крушаре, Сливенско (по Димитрова 2008, 292, Обр. 2); 3. Могила № 1, край Чернозем (по Кисьов 2005, 145, Табло/Plate XII); 4. Дълбоки, Стара Загора (по http://www.museum.starazagora.net/sites/default/files/1_8.jpg, достъпен 27.2.2017); 5.Башова могила, Дуванли (по Ancient gold 1998, 197, Fig. 136)

and semicircular pectorals. It is interesting the fact that exactly this shape is used every time as a pectoral, which was laid direct on the chest or in the case of Thrace sometimes on the armor, while the other plates of oval or rhomboid shape vary in their function. Tracing the

origin of crescent-shaped pectorals, their distribution in different parts of the ancient world and most of their entire context, would allow clarifying the semantic of these plates, as well as possible influences between them.

Description of the pectorals from Thrace

The crescent-shaped pectorals from Thrace are represented by two examples – Golyamata Mogila[1], from the necropolis of Duvanli, Plovdiv region (fig. 1.1) and Yakimova Mogila, near the village Krushare, Sliven district (fig. 1.2), from the middle of the 5th c. BC. Initially largest breastplate of Golyamata Mogila in Duvanli was defined by Bogdan Filov as "crescent-shaped" (Филов 1934, 105). Later it was referred by Ivan Venedikov to the type of semicircular breastplates (Венедиков 1969, 25-26). In his latest studies he notes that the breastplate keeps the crescent shape and later this form proceeds to a semicircular (Венедиков, Герасимов 1973, 104). This form is accepted in the studies of M. Krasteva (Кръстева 1982, 182). With the finding of the breastplate from Yakimova Mogila (Димитрова 2008, 222) the two pectorals can be grouped in a separate type – those of crescent-shaped.

The pectoral from Golyamata Mogila is made of thin gold sheet, while that from Krushare is made of two layers of gold (Димитрова 2008, 222-223). They are with semicircular bottom part and elongated shape. The upper end of Golyamata Mogila is with a deep arc-like cut-in, while that from Krushare is formed in a different way – with three semicircles. It is interesting to note that in the case of Yakimova Mogila it was previously damaged (Димитрова 2008, 291). The pectorals are approximately equal in their size – with length of about 38 cm.

The decoration of this type of pectorals is made in the same way. Only horizontal bands[2] of rosettes, palmettos and almond-shaped motifs are used in the decoration. Geometric motives consist only of line of dots on the periphery of breastplates. Chronologically this type of pectorals was used in or shortly after the middle of 5th c. BC and is found in the up streams of Tundja and Maritsa rivers.

In literature as semicircular pectorals with inside arc-like cut-in are determined the pectoral from Golyamata Mogila, Bashova Mogila and Dalboki (Димитров 1949, 233; Венедиков 1969, 25-26; Кръстева 1985, 155; Krasteva 2002). In this study the group of semicircular pectorals is represented by that from Bashova Mogila, Duvanli (fig. 1.5) (Филов 1934, 62), Tumulus No. 1 near Chernozem (fig. 1.3) (Кисьов 2005, 40-51) and from Dalboki, Stara Zagora (fig. 1.4) (Димитров 1949, 233). The three breastplates are reffered to 5th c. BC and more precisely to the second half of 5th c. BC. They are made of thin gold sheet with similar form. A special feature of these pectorals is the semicircular shape and arc-like cut-in in the upper end (Венедиков 1969, 26). The pectorals from Dalboki (35 x 22.5 cm) and Chernozem (31 x 27 cm) are approximately equal in size, while that from Bashova mound is smaller (13.8 x 9 cm). If we summarize the decorative motifs of these pectorals we can conclude that it can be seen a visible preference of the use of zoomorphic images. Most preferred is the depiction of a lion. In Bashova Mogila borders are decorated with shield-like motifs. In its centre is presented a central figure of lion with a bent head, elongated ears, and a long muzzle is presented (fig. 2.1). The mane of the lion is stylized and covered

1 In Bulgarian "Mogila" means tumulus.

2 The organization of horizontal bands is typical for the decoration of Thracian pectorals.



1



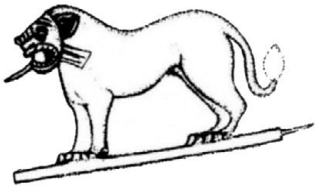
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Fig. 2. Zoomorphic and mythological images from the pectorals of Thrace and their parallels:1. Figure of a lion from Bashova Mogila, Duvanli (after Archibald 1998, fig. 8.2); 2. A silver applique from Brezovo (after Венедиков, Герасимов 1973, Ил. 263); 3.Gold applique from Maikop treasure, second half of 5th c. BC (after Harper 1973-1974, 157, fig. 5); 4. Gold appliques from Tolstoya Mogila, Scythia, 4th c. BC (after Мазолевский 1979, 64, рис. 47); 5. Figure of a lion from the pectoral of Tumulus No.1, Chernozem (after Кисьов 2005, 49, Обр. 29); 6. Gold rhyton with protome of a lion from Hamadan, Iran, first haf of 5th c. BC (after Wilkinson 1955, 222); 7. Figure of Medusa Gorgon from the pectoral of Tumulus No. 1, Chernozem (after Кисьов 2005, 49, Обр. 29); 8. Bronze plate with image of Medusa Gorgon and bronze lunate pectoral from kurgan Sedemte Bratya (after Черненко 1968, 48, рис. 26, 2); 9. Bronze armour from Tumulus No.1, Chernozem with a silver-gilt attachment with an image of Gorgon Medusa (after Кисьов 2005, Табло XIV); 10. Reconstruction of the leather cuirass with bronze pectoral and the attachment of Gorgon Medusa from the kurgan Sedemte Bratya (after Черненко 1968, 51, рис. 27)
Обр. 2. Зооморфни и митологични изображения върху нагръдниците от Тракия и техни паралели: 1. фигура на лъв, нагръдник от Башова могила, Дуванли (по Archibald 1998, fig. 8.2); 2. сребърна апликация от Брезово, Пловдивско, краят на 5 – нач. на 4 в. пр. Хр. (по Венедиков, Герасимов 1973, Ил. 263); 3. златна апликация от т.н. Майкопско съкровище, втора половина на 5 в. пр. Хр. (по Harper 1973-1974, 157, fig. 5); 4. златни ажурни апликации от Толстая могила, Скития, 4 в. пр. Хр. (по Мазолевский 1979, 64, рис. 47); 5. фигура на лъв, от нагръдника в Могила №1, Чернозем (по Кисьов 2005, 49, Обр. 29); 6. златен ритон с протоме на лъв от Хамада, Иран, първа половина на 5 в. пр. Хр. (по Wilkinson 1955, 222); 7. изображения на Горгона Медуза от нагръдника в Могила №1, Чернозем (по Кисьов 2005, 49, Обр.29); 8. бронзова апликация на Горгона Медуза и бронзов луновиден нагръдник от курган Седемте Братя, Скития (по Черненко 1968, 48, рис. 26, 2); 9. бронзова броня със сребърна апликация с позлата с изображение на Горгона Медуза (по Кисьов 2005, 49, Обр. 29); 10. реконструкция на кожена ризница с бронзовия луновиден нагръдник и апликацията от курган Седемте Братя (по Черненко 1968, 51, рис. 27)

with rhombs (Филов 1934, 62, обр. 1; Огненова-Маринова 1975, 128-129). In literature, this image has been widely discussed. Typical for this depiction is the flat representation which does not search a plastic volume (Огненова-Маринова 1975, 129). The head of the lion from Bashova mound is very similar to the masks of the lions stamped on that form Dalboki. Such lions are depicted on the appliques from Golyamata Mogila, Duvanli (Филов 1934, 113-114). On four gold appliqués, found during the excavations of Mound IV in Kurgan Sedemte Bratya (a Scythian complex from the second quarter of 4th c. BC), are depicted a lion and a winged lioness which are treated similarly as that from Bashova Mogila. The head of the lion is represented triangular and the ears are small. The mane covers the whole neck and back, but it is represented by squares not with rhombs (Огненова-Маринова 1975, 131-132). Similar way of depicting the lion's head can be seen in the appliques from the so called Maikop treasure (second half of 5th c. BC), the head is facing the viewer and has small pointed ears (fig. 2.3) (Harper 1973-1974, 157, fig. 5). On the bronze appliques from Tolstaya Mogila can be seen similar depictions of lions/panthers – facing the viewer, with elongated muzzle and pointed ears (fig. 2.4). They are later examples from the 4th c. BC (Мазолевский 1979, 64, рис. 47). L. Ognenova-Marionova tends the Scythian treatment of the lion. According to Ivan Venedikov it shows achaemenid influences. Attention is paid in the treatment of the shoulder of the lion. This way of stylization is character for the achaemenid art in the end of 5th and the beginning of 4th c. BC (Венедиков 1969, 32). This motive



Fig. 3. Distribution of the crescent-shaped and semicircular pectorals in the ancient world 10th–4th c. BC. Greece: 1. Lefkandi, 950-900 BC; Asia Minor: 2. Hasanlu Tepe, 1st millennium BC; 3. Ziwiye, 7th–6th c. BC; 4. Toprak-Kale, 8th–7th c. BC; 5. Erebuni, 5th–4th c. BC; Etruria: 6. Cerveteri, 8th c. BC; Macedonia: 7. Trebenishte, 6th c. BC; Thrace:8. Golyamata mogila, Duvanli, mid. of 6th c. BC; 9. Yakimova mound, Krushare, second half of 5th c. BC; 10. Tumulus No.1, Chernozem; 11. Dalboki, Stara Zagora, second half of 5th c. BC; 12. Bashova Mogila, Duvanli, end of 5th c. BC; Scythia: 13. Ilinetski kurgan; 14. Tolstoya Mogila, 4th c. BC; 15. Bolshaya Bliznitsa, 4th c. BC; 16. Maikop, 5th c. BC; 17. Kosika, Astrahan region, 4th c. BC

Обр. 3. Разпространение на луновидната и полукръглата форма при нагръдниците в Античния свят X–IV в. пр. Хр.: Гърция: 1. Лефканди, 950-900 г. пр. Хр.; Мала Азия: 2. Хасанлу тепе, I хил. пр. Хр.; 3. Зивие, VII–VI в. пр. Хр.; 4. Топрак кале, VIII–VII в. пр. Хр.; 5. Еребуни, V–IV в. пр. Хр.; Етрурия: 6. Черветери, 8 в. пр. Хр.; Македония: 7. Требенище, VI в. пр. Хр.; Тракия: 8. Голямата могила, Дуванли, средата на V в. пр. Хр.; 9. Якимова могила, с. Крушаре, вт. половина на V в. пр. Хр.; 10. Дълбоки, Стара Загора, втора половина на V в. пр. Хр. 11. Могила №1, Чернозем, втора половина/краят на V в. пр. Хр.; 12. Башова могила, Дуванли, краят на V в. пр. Хр.; Скития: 13. Илинецки курган; 14. Толстая могила, IV в. пр. Хр.; 15. Болшая близница, IV в. пр. Хр.; 16. Майкоп, V в. пр. Хр.; 17. Косика, Астрахан, IV в. пр. Хр.

can be seen two more times on the territory of Thrace: on the silver applique from a horse ammunition from Brezovo, Plovdiv district (fig.2.2) (Филов 1916/18, 7-8, обр. 3) and a pair of appliques from Raduvene, Lovech district from the end of 5th and the beginning of 4th c. BC (Венедиков, Герасимов 1973, 380, обр. 264 и 265).

In the pectoral from Chernozem[3] is shown a lion attacking a gazelle, while on this from

3 One of the evidences for the manufacturing of the pectoral exactly before the funeral is the unfinished decoration (Кисьов 2005, 48).

Dalboki there are vertical bands filled with lion heads, combined with bands of geometric and floral motifs. In Chernozem the whole field of the pectoral is filled with the images of five animals – three of lions and two of does. The lions are standing on the ground – marked with a line in low relief (fig. 2.5) (Кисьов 2005, 48-50). The depiction of lions, with tongues hang out, is typical for the Archaemenid rhytons. One example is that from Hamadan, Iran, dated in the first half of 5th c. BC (fig. 2.6) (Treister 2010, 224). The scene of fighting between animals is character for the Thracian art. Very often is shown a lion attacking a deer – appliqués from the Lukovit, Letnitsa, Dolna Koznitca treasures (Венедиков 1996; Чичикова 1980; Стайкова 1997, 30-35). Only zoomorphic depictions of breastplate from Chernozem are combined with the image of Medusa Gorgon, which so far is the only example from the pectorals of Thrace (fig. 2.7). The central part of the ornamental field is occupied by the image of Medusa Gorgon, it was stamped in low relief, with hung out tongue and parted in the middle hair in plaits (Кисьов 2005, 50). The image of Medusa can be found one more time in the grave – a silver gilded appliqué from the bronze armor (fig. 2.9) (Кисьов 2005, 147, табл. XIII). Very close parallels of the image of Gorgon can be found in some silver gilded appliqués from Golyamata Mogila, Duvanli (Филов 1934, 216-217). The three images are from the so called "softened" type of the image of Medusa Gorgon – without protruding teeth and the snakes. This type of image is referred to the middle or second half of 5th c. BC and it is connected with the Odrysian aristocracy around Duvanli (Тачева 2005, 46). On the territory of ancient Thrace images of Medusa Gorgon can be found on different parts from toreutics from the end of 6th and the beginning of 5th c. BC – bronze hydrias from Staro selo, Sliven (Венедиков 1964, 97-99, обр. 25) and Dukova Mogila, near village of Pastusha (Венедиков 1964, 95). Coin emissions of type "head of Gorgon/concave square" were found very often in the territories of Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Haskovo and Yambol. They are determined as hemidrachm coins from the mint at Parion, but in recent studies they are defined as imitations, minted under the control of Odrysian rulers in their own or dependent mint (Тачева 2005, 46).

The image of Medusa Gorgon is found in some Scythian burial complexes over a protective armor (Черненко 1968, 7-56). During the excavations of mound IV from the kurgan Sedemte Bratya, was found a round bronze appliqué with image of Medusa (fig. 2.8), which is the closest parallel of the image from the pectoral of Chernozem (Черненко 1968, 48, рис. 26, 2). This appliqué has holes on its border and probably it was sewn to a leather base with arc-like massive bronze plate to protect the neck (fig. 2.10) (Черненко 1968, 51, рис. 27). The grave is dated in 450 – 425 BC (Трейстер 2008, 124). Obviously the image of Gorgon on the parade protective armor can probably be regarded as apotropaic symbol which protected rulers, both in life and in the afterlife.

Due to the thinness of the gold plates they cannot be a part of the functional protective armor. Their position – on the armor from the grave shows that they are probably part of the ceremonial armor, but undoubtedly conceived as a form suitable for application to the cuirasses. These pectorals are concentrated in the region of Plovdiv and Stara Zagora, in necropolises connected with the Odryssian tribe (Тачева 1994, 146; Тонкова 2002, 496-500). They are dated in the second half of 5th c. BC or more precisely to the end of the century.

Description of the complexes in which were found pectorals

In Table 1 are included all possible data for a detail analyzes of the context that were found the pectorals. It can be assumed that the grave constructions are very similar – built

Complex	Grave construction	Burial rite	1.Gender 2.Place of the pectoral	Funeral offerings	Literature
1. Golyamata mound, Duvanli, mid. of 5th c. BC	Burial mound. Built grave with stone blocks	Cremation	1.Man 2.The big and the small plate were found over the cremation	**Weapons:** two iron spears, iron sword, leather and bronze parts of helmet **Metal vessels:** two silver kantharoi, bronze hydria, lekythoi **Jewellery:** gold ring, small rhomboid pectoral, gold appliqués **Other:** yellow textile	after Филов 1934, 98-118.
2. Yakimova mound, Krushare, mid. of 5th c. BC	Burial mound. Grave pit, covered with wooden beams	Inhumation	1.Man 2.In the area of the neck	**Weapons:**bi-metal armor, iron sword, spears, bronze frontlet, iron bridle **Import pottery:** three black-figured lekythoi **Jewellery:** gold ring	after Димитрова 2008, 221-225.
3. Bashova mound, Duvanli, the end of 5th c. BC	Burial mound. Built grave of stone slabs	Cremation	1.Man 2.On the armor	**Weapons:** bronze armor, bronze spears **Metal vessels:** silver phiala, silver rhyton, silver jug, silver cup, bronze hydria, bronze sithula, bronze luteria, bronze jug **Import pottery:** attic red-figured stamnos, red-figured pelike	after Филов 1934, 59-79.
4. Dalboki, Stara Zagora, the end of 5th c. BC	Burial mound. Sarcophagus-like tomb	Inhumation	1.Man 2.On the armor	**Weapons:** bronze armor, two iron spears **Metal vessels:** two silver goblets, silver jug, silver phiala, bronze hydria, bronze sithula, bronze luteria, iron candelabra **Import pottery:** blaclk-glazed attic amphorae, two black-glazed cups, without handles, black-glazed kylix	after Димитров 1949, 207-243.
5. Mound No.1 near Chernozem, the end of 5th c. BC	Burial mound. Sarcophagus-like tomb	Inhumation	1.A young man, between 20-25 years old 2.The pectoral was found in the area of the belly (due to the falling of the tomb's roof)	**Weapons:** bronze armor, leather belt, iron plating, a bunch of arrows and remains of two spears **Metal vessels:** silver kylix, silver patera, silver vessel, two silver spoons, bronze hydria **Import pottery:** red-figured lekythoi, red-figured hydria **Jewellery:** gold ring-scaraboid of chalcedony	after Кисьов 2005, 16-59.

Table 1. Context of finding of crescent-shaped and semicircular pectorals from Thrace (second half of 5th c. BC)

Таблица 1. Контекст на откриване при луновидните и полукръгли нагръдници в Тракия (втора половина на V в. пр. Хр.)

grave of stone blocks or slabs in the case of Bashova (Филов 1934, 60) and Golyamata Mogila, Duvanli (Филов 1934, 98-99); sarcophagus-like tomb in case of Dalboki (*Димитров* 1949, 209-210) and Tumulus No.1, Chernozem (Кисьов 2005, 16-23). Only the grave construction from Yakimova Mogila is different – a simple grave pit, covered with wooden beams

(*Димитрова* 2008, 221). All buried are defined as men[4]. The gold pectorals are found together with different elements of protective and offensive armor. In the literature they are determined as warrior or princely graves (Archibald 1998, 197; *Домарадски* 1986, 78). The weaponry is combined with silver, bronze and import pottery. In three cases we can see jewelry amongst the grave goods – gold rings in Golyamata Mogila, Yakimova Mogila and Tumulus No.1, Chernozem.

Having in mind the semantic purpose of the pectorals (or plates) very important is the place where they were found. In two cases – the gold pectorals with semicircular shape were found on the bronze armor in the grave (Dalboki and Bashova Mogila). In all other cases amongst the offerings there is a presence of bronze or leather armor. Probably their function is connected with the warrior status of the deceased

Origin and distribution of crescent-shaped and semicircular pectorals

In the following lines there is a brief trace of spatial (fig. 3) and chronological (fig. 4) distribution of the crescent shape of pectorals, which aims to track possible influnces and routes of interactions between Thrace and connected territories. Also are included the territories of Greece, Asia Minor, Etruria, Macedonia and Scythia. Synchronous contexts with those from Thrace from 5th–3rd c. BC are attested only in the territory of Asia Minor and Scythia.

Greece

On the territory of Greece gold plates in oval and rhomboid form are attested in Mycenaean shaft graves (Grave circle A) and it is thought that they are strongly influenced by some Egyptian examples (*Чичикова* 1969, 57). The rite of placing different in shape plates in graves pass through Cyprus, Rhodes, Asia Minor. It is very important to note that these gold plates from the territory of Greece were used more like diadems, not as pectorals. In the specialized literature the latest examples from this territory are from 8th c. BC (*Венедиков, Герасимов* 1973, 103). Diadems of oval shape of the territory of Cyprus were used in fact during the Archaic period, as well as in graves from Hellenistic ages. On them are depicted geometric, floral motives (rosettes), chariots and mythical creatures filled in the technique of repusé (Karageorghis 1960, 272, fig. 47; Karageorghis 1965, 249-276, fig. 92, fig. 67).

The only example of a crescent-shaped pectoral from Greece is the gold one that comes from the Toumba of Lefkandi (fig. 4.1), 950-900 BC (Kosma 2012, 60-69). It was found on the chests of a woman. It is made of a thin gold sheet. The embossed decoration is organized in two zones: an outer zone of triple spirals with a globule at their centre and an inner zone of ovoid leaves. Two oblique ovoid leaves decorate the tips (Kosma 2012, 65, fig. 2).

Asia Minor

In first millennium BC in Assyria were widely spread functional pectorals of rectangular and trapezoid shape. One such example is discovered during the excavations of building IVA in Hasanlu Tepe, North Iran. It is made of bronze with a semicircular shape

4 It is necessary to point out that the gender of the deceased very often is determined by the grave goods. Anthropological analyzes was made of the skeleton from mound No. 1 from the necropolis of Chernozem. The skeleton is of a young man, 20-25 years old (see *Кисьов* 2005, 25).

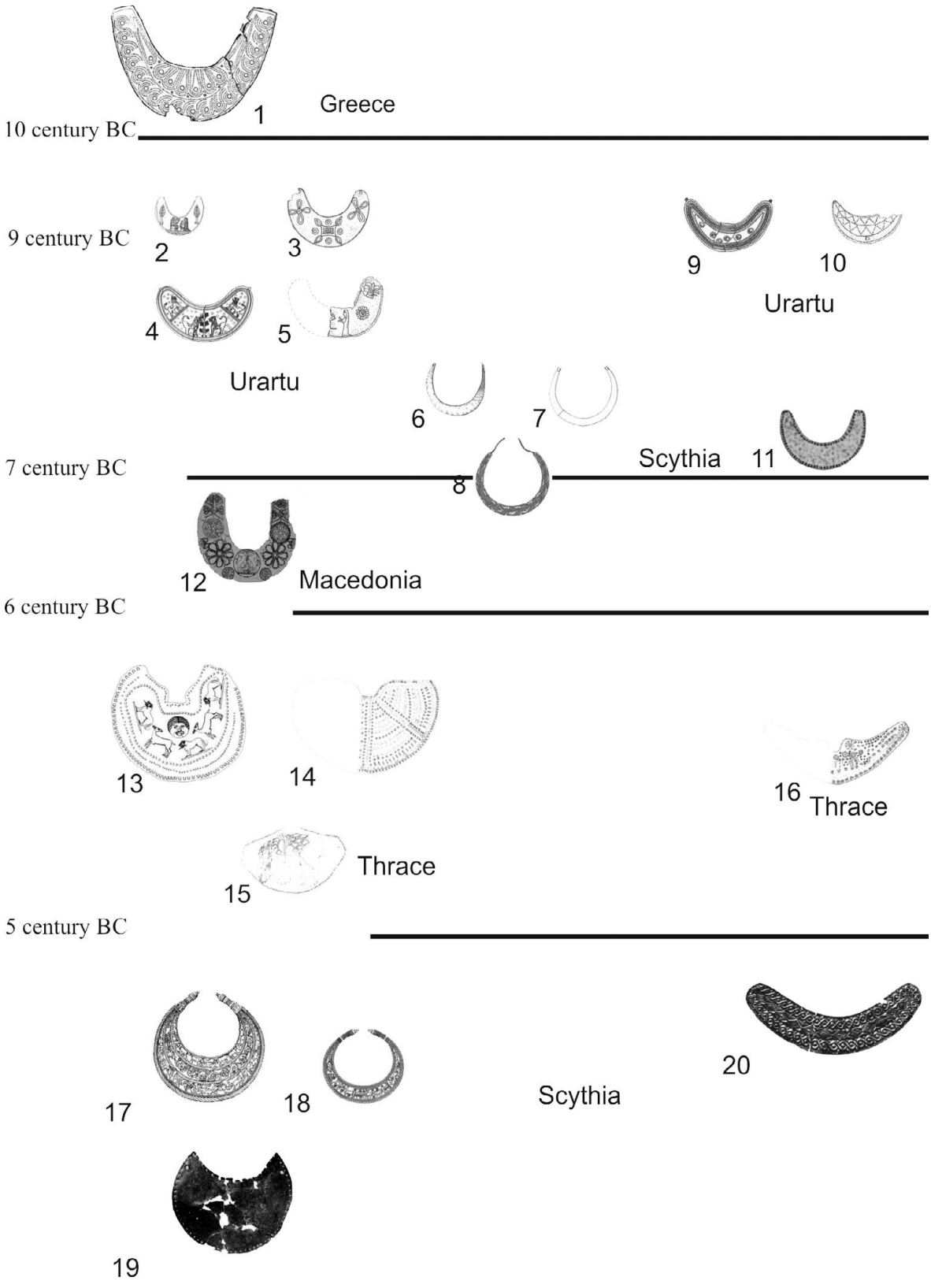

10 century BC
1
Greece
9 century BC
2
3
9
10
Urartu
4
5
Urartu
6
7
7 century BC
8
Scythia
11
12
Macedonia
6 century BC
13
14
16
Thrace
15
Thrace
5 century BC
17
18
20
Scythia
19

Fig. 4. Development of crescent-shaped pectorals in ancient world 10th–4th c. BC: 1. Lefkandi (after Popham, Touloupa, Sackett 1982, 169-194, fig. 5); 2-5. Pectorals from Urartu (after Musche 1992, LXXXIX, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4); 6-7. Pectorals from Urartu (after Musche 1992, XC, 4.5, 4.6); 8. Быстрянский могильник (after Чугунов 2014, Рис. 1,5); 9. Kopto, kurgan 2 (after Чугунов 2014, Рис. 1,2); 10. Arzhan 2 (after Чугунов, 2011, Рис. 4, 1); 11. Poltakov (after Чугунов 2014, Рис. 1, 6); 12. Grave No.7, Trebenishte (after Соколовска 1997, 143, Сл. 72); 13. Mound No.1, Chernozem (after Кисьов 2005, 49, Обр. 29); 14. Dalboki, Stara Zagora (after Archibald 1998, 200, Fig. 8.3.b); 15. Bashova Mogila, Duvanli (after Archibald 1998, 199, Fig. 8.2); 16. Golyamata Mogila, Duvanli (after Archibald 1998, 200, Fig. 8.3.a); 17. Tolstaya Mogila (after Мазолевский 1979, 75, рис. 57); 18. Bolshaya Bliznitsa (after Treister 2010, 556, рис. 30); 19. Ilinetski kurgan (after Манцевич 1980, 109, рис. 15); 20. Majkop treasure (after Harper 1973-1974, 157, fig. 3)
Обр. 4. Развитие на полукръглата форма при нагръдниците в Античния свят X–IV в. пр. Хр.: 1. Лефканди (по Popham, Touloupa, Sackett 1982, 169-194, fig. 5); 2-5. нагръдници от територията на Урарту (по Musche 1992, LXXXIX, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4); 6-7. нагръдници от територията на Урарту (по Musche 1992, XC, 4.5, 4.6); 8. Быстрянский могильник (по Чугунов 2014, Рис. 1.5); 9. Могила Копто, курган 2 (по Чугунов 2014, Рис. 1.2); 10. Аржан 2 (по Чугунов, 2011, Рис. 4.1); 11. Полтаков (по Чугунов 2014, Рис. 1.6); 12. гроб № 7, Требенище (по Соколовска 1997, 143, Сл. 72); 13. Могила №1, Чернозем (по Кисьов 2005, 49, Обр. 29); 14. Дълбоки, Стара Загора (по Archibald 1998, 200, Fig. 8.3.b); 15. Башова могила, Дуванли (по Archibald 1998, 199, Fig. 8.2); 16. Голямата могила, Дуванли (по Archibald 1998, 200, Fig. 8.3.a); 17. Толстая могила, Скития (по Мазолевский 1979, 75, рис. 57); 18. Болшая близница, Скития (по Treister 2010, 556, рис. 30); 19. Илинецки курган (по Манцевич 1980, 109, Рис. 15); 20. „Майкопско съкровище", Скития (по Harper 1973-1974, 157, fig. 3)

and rounded edges. On the periphery there are many holes and probably the pectoral was attached to leather (Winter 1980, 3). The decoration techniques are repusé and engraving. In the central field is depicted a man figure flanked by two bulls (Winter 1980, 5, fig. 15). The breastplate is dated in the beginning of the 9th c. BC (Winter 1980, 31).

The origin and development of crescent-shaped pectorals is very well attested in different parts of Asia Minor. They are made of gold, silver or bronze plates, and also of approximately equal size with length between 15 and 25 cm. Perhaps the key for understanding the semantic and place of these attributes is the art of the ancient near east civilizations. The vast majority of crescent-shaped pectorals come from the territory of Urartu. All of them are dated to 8th –7th c. BC. It has been suggested that gold, silver, and bronze pectorals connoted degrees of official rank in Urartian society (Merhav 1991, 164). Other authors are not convinced in this theory (Merhav 1991, 172). Amongst them can be defined two types of pectorals according their shape. The first one is that with a wider central part and almost semicircular shape (Typ 4 – 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 after Musche 1992, LXXXIX). Most of these pectorals are decorated with images of a goddess and a god, mythological creatures and zoomorphic images (fig. 4.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5). Very often is used the motive "tree of life". The second one is that with a narrower central part (Typ 4 – 4.5 and 4.6 after Musche 1992, XC). These pectorals have a simple decoration, consisting of geometric motives – lines of dots and pearls (fig. 4.9, 4.10).

There are known not only crescent-shaped ornaments but more importantly such items were depicted in bronze sculptures and figurines of people and mythical creatures

which is very rare in ancient world[5] (Чугунов 2014, 62). One of them is a bronze sculpture of a man in a long robe with a belt over his shoulders and a pectoral on his chests. It is believed that this was found in Toprak-Kale. A fragment of another sculpture with pectoral is in the exact same clothes (Ghirshman 1964, 308-309, fig. 370-371). It is interesting the observation of K. Chugunov that these images are always beardless men. In the Assyrian monuments, pectorals are rare and according to the researchers they may also be associated with the art and culture of Urartu. However amongst the Assyrian reliefs we can find compositions that include characters with pectorals. A beardless servant in a very similar dress with a pectoral on his chest and a belt over his shoulder is depicted on a relief from Nimrud. The same image is shown on another relief kept in the Louvre. On it is shown a welcoming of the king after a successful hunt (Чугунов 2014, 63-64, Рис. 2). As researchers point out, that images with pectorals are extremely rare for the Assyrian reliefs but it is not excluded that such ornaments are related to areas beyond the borders of Assyria. Nevertheless, we can say that these scenes demonstrate the presence of the pectoral in the Middle East in 9th c. BC. Perhaps they really were one of the attributes of a certain cult of priests. It would appear that both humans and non-human supernatural beings could be represented with this type of pectoral in Urartian art.

The latest pectoral from the territory of Iran is the gold one from the treasure of Ziwiye (northwest Iran), from the end of 7th and the beginning of the 6th c. BC (Ghirshman 1979, 20, Fig.10). The decoration of the pectoral is divided in two registers in which is depicted the motive "tree of life", flanked by ibex, winged bulls, sphinxes, lions, griffins, rams, bears and rabbits. The stylistic analysis of decorative motifs suggests that the craftsman was familiar with both Scythian and Urartian art (Maxwell-Hyslop 1971, 216).

According to Ivan Venedikov exactly these pectorals are the prototypes of semicircular and crescent-shaped plates from Thrace, but after the end of 6th c. BC they were no longer used on the territory of Iran and Asia Minor. Recent research gives some new data. During the excavations of the hill Armavir (Armenia) close to the northern wall was discovered golden pectoral with crescent-shape (Тирацян 1968, 190, рис. 1). At both ends are depicted two birds with bowed heads, in central area three trees and the bottom of breastplate is filled with lotus flowers. The pectoral is generally dated to 6th–4th c. BC. Decorative motifs define it as belonging to the Achaemenid art (Тирацян 1968, 197). Its finding in a settlement context can be a proof that it was worn during the life of hiw owner.

Etruria

Distinctive but possibly derivative pectorals in precious metals have been found in Etruscan tombs. It has been suggested that this type of ornament passed from the Etruscans to the Roman army (Ghirshman 1964, 310). There are three examples, dated to 8th c. BC. The first one comes from Cerveteri – tomb Regolini Galassi. The second one is kept in the collection of Metropolitan museum (von Bothmer 1966, 261). Both pectorals are made of gold and have a crescent shape. The entire surface is decorated with narrow lines with zoomorphic and floral motifs (von Bothmer 1966, 261-269). These objects are connected with the Orientalizing period in the art of Greece and Etruria. The similarities and decorative motives

5 The only depiction from the territory of Thrace of a semicircular pectoral cen be seen on one of the silver appliques from the Letnitsa treasure (Венедиков, Герасимов 1973, *Ил.* 286). Probably on the neck of the horseman is represented a functional pectoral.

suggest that they are made on the territory of Etruria by a craftsman who was familiar with eastern motifs and art (Maxwell-Hyslop 1971, 217).

Scythia

The rite of placing various plates in shape is established in the burials of scythians too. This tradition is attested from the beginning of the 7th c. BC and continued to 4th c. BC. They are made predominantly of gold and there are two types of shape: crescent and semicircular. The crescent shape is typical for the period between 7th and the end of 5th c. BC, when in the beginning of 4th c. BC was replaced by the semicircular form.

There are some early Scythian complexes from the end of 8th and the beginning of 7th c. BC, which shows repeated tradition in the repertoire of grave goods. Where pectorals were found in situ in closed complexes they are found in man's graves together with weapons. These pectorals are predominantly made of bronze plate, with a narrow central part and without any decoration (fig. 4.6, 4.7) and were discovered on the chests of the deceased (Чугунов 2014, 59-60, Рис. 1). Of course these complexes are very distant from the territory of ancient Thrace, but only here we can found crescent-shaped pectorals in men's graves together with weapons.

One of the earliest examples of pectorals on the territory of Scythia is found in the region of Altay, Tuva. In the so called kurgan Arzhan 2 in a rich burial complex was found gold pectoral with crescent shape (fig. 4.8). The main decorative motives are zoomorphic and floral. It is dated to the 7th c. BC. This pectoral was suspended in the corner of the main chamber of the tomb closer to the female skeleton, which correlated it with the garments of the "Queen". This is one of the cases that pectoral was found in a female grave on the territory of Scythia (Чугунов, Парцингер, Наглер 2004, 11).

A gold crescent-shaped pectoral (fig. 4.20) is amongst the objects of the so called "Maikop treasure" (from the region of Kuban). It has a relief geometric decoration and inlaid with blue and green glass paste. It is dated in the middle or in the second half of 5th c. BC (Harper 1973-1974, 156-160).

Very interesting is the case of a semicircular gold pectoral, found in a grave of a man near the village of Kosika (Astrahan region). It was made by two convex parts. This pectoral is dated to 4th c. BC and it was crafted by a master who was working for the Scythian aristocracy (Treister 1997, 49).

A little different case is the bronze semicircular pectoral found at Ilinetski kurgan (Kiev region). It is decorated with line of pearls on its periphery (fig. 4.19). According to the author this pectoral had a functional purpose, like functional pectoral from Mezek, Varbitsa and Yankovo discovered on the territory of Thrace (Манцевич 1980, Рис. 15).

Also worth mentioning is a superb gold openwork crescent pectoral (fig. 4.17) in the State Historical Museum in Kiev, clearly Greek in its artisanship and style, found in South Russian Scythian tomb of the 4th c. BC. The pectoral has a semicircular shape and it was made by a composite parts, located between four cords (Манцевич 1980, 97-121, Рис. 3, Рис. 4). Such semicircular pectoral was found in a tomb of a woman from Bolshaya Bliznitsa kurgan (fig. 4.18) (Манцевич 1980, Рис. 14). Both pectorals are dated to the 4th c. BC.

Figuring out the semantic purpose of crescent-shaped pectorals and ornaments in the culture of Asian nomads is an extremely difficult task. It is obvious that the pectorals were worn by special members of the ancient society who stood out in this way from the general status. Judging from the findings not only rich, but also in an ordinary complexes, as well

as making them in addition of gold, silver and bronze this status was not directly related to the property or the military situation of the person.

Macedonia

On the territory of ancient Macedonia the rite of placing different in shapes plates is very well attested from the beginning of 8th c. BC and continues until the 4th c. BC. We have to note that there the main form for this plates is oval or rhomboid. Very often they were placed on the mouth of the deceased and more rarely on the chests. There is only one example of a crescent shape form. This is the gold pectoral from the Trebenishte necropolis from Grave No. 7 (fig. 4.12*)* (Filow 1927, 14, Taf. II, III). It was made of thin gold sheet and decoration shows a heraldic group of two lions. Geometric motifs on the pectoral are probably inspired by Corinthian atelier (Bouzek 1997, 248). It was found in grave together with weapons. It was placed on the chest of the deceased. It is dated to the second half of 6th c. BC. The most interesting thing is the fact that Macedonian breastplate repeat the scheme of decoration used in Urartian pectorals – the entire composition is represented in medallions.

Conclusion

We can conclude that the semicircular and crescent-shaped pectorals were used in a short period of time on the territory of Thrace – the second half of 5th c. BC. Obviously at first there comes the crescent shape and after that it was replaced by a semicircular form. These pectorals were found in graves together with weaponry (probably graves of warriors) in the Odrysian territories and can be defined as a part of ceremonial armor in Thrace. In two cases they were placed direct on the armors (Dalboki and Bashova mound). The similarities in their forms suggest that they are influenced by a common prototype. Ivan Venedikov is the first one that traces possible influences and connections between Thracian pectorals and that of Asia Minor (Венедиков 1969, 27). Eastern influences can be presented not only in shape but also in the mode of decoration of above-mentioned objects. Maria Čičikova in a study on the pectorals from Thrace points out that the long chronological distance between the separate groups of pectoral plates in different parts of ancient world cannot directly connect them. But it is possible that each of the groups have developed separately and independently of each other (Чичикова 1969, 45). It can be seen similarities between Thrace, Macedonia and Scythia as regards not only the shape but also the used images that cover the pectorals (especially the image of a lion).

The rite of placing different in shape plates arose in the territory of Greece and the islands in the 13th c. BC and continued there until the end of 6th c. BC. It shows that this tradition was established there and was widely developed. From there it was spread on the territory of Asia Minor to Scythia and probably to Macedonia from 8th to 6th c. BC. It is possible that these objects influenced the crescent-shaped and semicircular pectorals from Thrace, although they are dated in the second half or in the end of 5th c. BC. Here they receive the greatest development by combining shapes characteristic for Asia Minor and decorative motives typical for the plates from Macedonia. Only on the territory of Asia Minor and later in different parts of Scythia we can see a strong tradition in using crescent-shaped and semicircular pectorals. It is clear that this tradition in some parts of Scythia was kept until the 4th c. BC.

It should be noted that in Greece and Islands, as in most cases of Macedonian plates

were used more frequently as diadems and mouth pieces and less frequently as pectorals. Only on the territory of Asia Minor, Etruria, Thrace, one example from Macedonia and Scythia these plates were directly laid on the chests of the deceased. This practice may have been determined by the differences in religious beliefs in different areas of the ancient world that show preferences to cover certain parts of the body with plates made of precious metals.

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Луновидните и полукръгли нагръдници в Тракия (V в. пр. Хр.): произход и разпространение

Десислава Любенова

(резюме)

Първоначално големият нагръдник от Голямата могила при Дуванли е определен от Б. Филов като луновиден („с форма на полумесец") (Филов 1934, 105). По-късно той е отнесен от И. Венедиков към типа на полукръглите нагръдници (Венедиков 1969, 25–26). В своето последно изследване същият автор отнася нагръдникът към луновидния тип, като отбелязва, че по-късно от тази форма се преминава към използването на полукръглата при нагръдниците в Тракия (Венедиков, Герасимов 1973, 104). Откриването на нагръдника от Якимова могила при с. Крушаре, Сливенско, както и екземплярът от Голямата могила, Дуванли позволява обособяването им в отделен тип – този на луновидните. Формата на този тип нагръдници се характеризира с по-голяма дължина и по-малка ширина, в сравнение с полукръглите нагръдници. При тях долната част на нагръдника е дъговидно извита, а в горната част дъгата е нарушена. Този тип нагръдници, както и полукръглите, се откриват единствено в гробове на мъже. В хронологическо отношение този тип нагръдници се използва в или малко след средата на V в. пр. Хр. Тук отново, както при полукръглите нагръдници, долната дъговидно извита част може отново да е свързана с дълбокото изрязване на броните, като такава е засвидетелствана и в Якимова могила (Димитрова 2008б, 292). Нагръдниците от този тип се откриват единствено в територите на юг от Стара планина, по горното течение на реките Марица и Тунджа.

Полукръглата форма при нагръдниците се среща през втората половина/края на V в. пр. Хр. и след този период не е засвидетелствана. Концентрират се единствено в района на Пловдив и Стара Загора. Характерна особеност при тези нагръдници е

полукръглата форма и задължително изработеното дъговидното изрязване в горния край, като при нагръдниците от могила № 1 при с. Чернозем и с. Дълбоки изрязването е дълбоко, а при този от Башова могила е по-плитко (Венедиков 1969, 26). По отношение на изображенията също се забелязва предпочитание към използването на зооморфни изображения. Най-предпочитана е фигурата на лъв като при Башова могила, Дуванли е представена една централна фигура на хищника, при нагръдника от Могила № 1 при Чернозем лъвът напада сърна, а при този от с. Дълбоки, Старозагорско виждаме вертикални пояси изпълнени с лъвски глави, комбинирани с пояси от геометрични и флорални мотиви. Единствено зооморфните изображения при нагръдника от могила № 1 при с. Чернозем са допълнени от изображението на Горгона Медуза, като това засега е единственият пример, засвидетелстван при нагръдниците от територията на Тракия.

Традицията за полагане на нагръдни пластини с луновидна или полукръгла форма е засвидетелствана на териториите на Гърция, Мала Азия и Скития. Известни са единични екземпляри от Македония и Етрурия. Интересен факт е, че именно пластините с тази форма във всеки един от случаите в тези територии, както и в Тракия, функционално са определени, като нагръдници, докато пластините с овална или ромбовидна форма са определени, като диадеми или наустни пластини. Най-голяма концентрация на луновидни нагръдници е засвидетелствана на територията на Урарту през VIII–VII в. пр. Хр. Изображенията върху бронзови статуетки и в някои асирийски релефи, показват че тези пластини вероятно са били носени от група хора със специален статус. Обредът да се поставят златни нагръдници с различни форми е установен и при погребения на скитски владетели. Златните нагръдници от територията на Скития се откриват от края на VIII/началото на VI–IV в. пр. Хр., като най-голям е броят им през IV в. пр. Хр. Те са изработени предимно от злато и се откриват в две основни форми: луновидна и полукръгла. Луновидната форма е характерна за периода VII–V в. пр. Хр., като в IV в. пр. Хр. тя е изместена от полукръглата форма. В някои ранни скитски гробни комплекси от VIII–VII в. пр. Хр. се наблюдава полагането на нагръдни пластини с луновидна форма в гробове на мъже, заедно с елементи на въоръжението. На територията на Скития засега традицията за полагане на нагръдници в гробните комплекси е засвидетелствана най-късно – IV в. пр. Хр. Тук отново се използва единствено полукръглата форма, но начинът на изработка, при някои от нагръдниците рязко ги отличава от нагръдниците в Гърция, Македония и Мала Азия.