

# “MIRROR, MIRROR... IN MY HAND”. ABOUT A TOILET ARTICLE OF THE GETO-DACIANS

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**Abstract:** Starting from the finds uncovered in the Getic *Dava* from Radovanu-Gorgana a Doua (moulds for casting mirrors, as well as fragmentary mirrors), we took an insight into the aspects connected with this adornment objects discovered on the territory inhabited by the Geto-Dacians. There are mentioned the most interesting older and more recent discoveries. There are also added some considerations regarding their production places, about the problem of the imported ware or local workshops and about their dating.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** Situri arheologice geto-dacice, oglinzi de bronz, importuri, producții autohtone.

**Rezumat:** Pornind de la descoperirile făcute în *dava* getică de la Radovanu-Gorgana a Doua (tipare de turnat oglinzi și fragmente de oglinzi), se face o incursiune în problematica acestui tip de obiect de podoabă descoperit pe teritoriul ocupat de geto-daci. Sunt amintite cele mai interesante descoperiri, atât unele mai vechi cât și altele recente. Se fac aprecieri cu privire la locurile de producție, la problema importurilor sau atelierelor locale, la datarea oglinzilor.

The specialists are unanimous in considering that the mirrors occurred on the territory of Romania even beginning with the Late Hallstatt period<sup>1</sup>. Valentin Vasiliev identified three types for the space of Transylvania: A – “with a small central handle”<sup>2</sup>, B – “with channelled, elongated handle, with animal ornaments”<sup>3</sup>, C – “with a simple, elongated handle, made of iron and applied upon the disk, by rivets”<sup>4</sup>. Type A would have had a Scythian origin, Type B a Greek North-Pontic one, while Type C would have likely come from the nomads in Eastern Europe<sup>5</sup>.

The first mirrors of the Getic space are those

documented in the sites from Dobroudja. Thus, at Cernavodă-Coada Zăvoiuului, in the cremation *Burial no. 1* of the 5<sup>th</sup> c. BC, a “Greek mirror” was discovered, made entirely of bronze, being disk-shaped (diameter = 13.8 cm), and with an iron handle (Fig. 5/3)<sup>1</sup>. Dumitru Berciu did not exclude the possibility that this object could have been produced at Olbia. On the other side, it could not be also excluded the hypothesis that the item could have been a “Scythian” one, especially when considering that the original handle had been broken in the past and replaced with a new one, made of iron.

In the necropolis from Enisala, four mirrors were discovered<sup>2</sup>. One of them is a Greek one, with a bronze handle (Fig. 5/6)<sup>3</sup>; another one is of the same type, but with the disk decorated with dots and strongly fragmented<sup>4</sup>, being dated between

<sup>1</sup> Vasiliev 1980, 113-117 with lit.; Babeș 2000, 225; A. Vulpe 2001, 411. For the sites on the left side of the Pruth River, in the Republic of Moldavia, see, for instance, the Scythian mirror from the Thracian settlement from Saharna Mare (Niculiță *et alii* 2011, 199 with lit., fig. 5/13).

<sup>2</sup> Vasiliev 1980, 113, pl. 24/1-2: discoveries at Aiud, Cipău – fig. VI/3, Fântânele.

<sup>3</sup> Vasiliev 1980, 113, figs. 24/3-5, 25/1-2: Ghindari, Turda, Jacu – fig. VI/1, Păuca, Răscruți, Feiurdeni.

<sup>4</sup> Vasiliev 1980, 114, pls. 25/3-4, 26/1-3: Ciumbrud, Comorod – fig. VI/2, Fântânele, Coșșa Mică.

<sup>5</sup> Vasiliev 1980, 114-117.

<sup>1</sup> Berciu 1957, 283-284, figs. 9-10.

<sup>2</sup> Simion 1977, 55.

<sup>3</sup> Simion 1977, pl. XI/f; Simion 2003, 314 with fig. 14/4, 328 with pl. 2/7.

<sup>4</sup> Simion 1971, 118, fig. 31/e.