

DIGGING UP THE ARCHIVES: A REASSESSMENT OF BURIAL PRACTICES IN THE CEMETERIES FROM THE *EXTRA MUROS BASILICA* SECTOR AT HISTRIA

In memoriam Nubar Hamparțumian

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Abstract: The article is based on the recovery and reinterpretation of archaeological data from the Nubar Hamparțumian archival fonds found at the "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest. The documents contain information about 74 burials discovered by the archaeologist during the 1961–1964 excavations at the "Extra muros basilica" sector from Histria. By gathering information on each grave, a more systematic and detailed analysis was possible. All osteological material was anthropologically analysed in order to increase the amount of meaningful information on which our analysis is based. A necessary historical narrative was provided in an attempt to discuss the changes that took place in the topography of the city and the way in which the funerary space is organized. Based on our observations, a grave typology comprising five types was constructed. Different possible relationships between variables were explored (e.g. between funerary structures and grave goods, sex, age and grave goods) as a means to gain knowledge about burial practices during Late Antiquity (from the 4th to the 7th century AD) at the ancient city of Histria.

Cuvinte-cheie: arheologie funerară, Scythia Minor, Antichitate târzie, documente de arhivă

Rezumat: Articolul de față se bazează pe redescoperirea și reinterpretarea informațiilor din fondul de arhivă Nubar Hamparțumian aflat la Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan” al Academiei Române din București. Documentele de arhivă conțin informații cu privire la 74 de morminte descoperite în campaniile de cercetare arheologică desfășurate în intervalul 1961–1964 în Sectorul „Basilica extra muros” de la Histria. Prin colectarea și organizarea informațiilor referitoare la fiecare mormânt în parte a fost posibilă o analiză sistematică și detaliată. Urmărind același scop, toate scheletele au fost analizate antropologic. În prima parte a articolelui este construită o narativă istorică pentru a surprinde schimbările ce au loc la nivelul topografiei cetății și modul în care acestea determină organizarea spațiului funerar. În urma analizei descoperirilor este elaborată o tipologie a mormintelor, care cuprinde cinci tipuri. Sunt discutate și interpretate relațiile între seturi de variabile (între amenajări funerare și inventare, între sexul sau vîrstă individelor și inventare funerare etc.) în încercarea de a contura un discurs cât mai complex cu privire la practicile funerare identificate în necropolele histriene în intervalul cuprins între secolul al IV-lea și secolul al VII-lea p.Chr.

INTRODUCTION

The year 1961 marked the beginning of one of the most important archaeological excavations from the ancient site at Histria (Constanța County, Romania) in terms of discoveries concerning burial practices in the Late Roman period. Between 1961 and 1964, under the coordination of Nubar Hamparțumian¹, archaeological research was carried on the so-called *Basilica extra muros*

sector². This area is located ca. 200 m south-west of the Main Gate of the Late Roman precinct (see Pl. 2). Archaeological excavations carried out on this sector led to the discovery of 74 graves³, spanning from the end of the 3rd century to the beginning of the 7th century⁴. However, only 69 graves (further number of reference) were considered in the database, given the absence of any information concerning the other five discoveries in either published material or the archival fond. Out of the total

¹ Nubar Hamparțumian (1927–2013). Even though the surname of the Romanian archaeologist (of Armenian origin) was Hamparțumian he signed all his major contributions using his first name and only the initial of his family name (Nubar H.). This situation has to be understood within the context of the Communist regime repression in Romania, as an attempt to mask the foreign origin of the author's family name. In light of these circumstances we find appropriate to cite his work using the name with which the authorship was indicated – Nubar H.

² The *extra muros basilica* had been identified at the beginning of the 20th

century by Vasile Pârvan, who managed to publish only brief information about it, given the circumstances surrounding the outbreak of the First World War (see Pârvan 1915a, p. 118–119; Pârvan 1915b, p. 258–269; Pârvan 1924, p. 152). Research in this area would be resumed at the beginning of the second half of the 20th century (in 1955–1956) by Emilian Popescu (see Condurachi *et alii* 1957, p. 16–24; Pippidi *et alii* 1959, p. 291–296; Popescu 1994, p. 308–313).

³ Nubar 1971a, p. 200.

⁴ All dates and years are AD, unless specified otherwise.

number of Roman Age graves discovered at Histria (no. = 211)⁵, the ones documented on the *Extra muros basilica* sector make 35%, therefore representing the most important group of funerary discoveries (at least from a quantitative perspective) from this site. Besides the 74 burials discovered by N. Hamparțumian, the total number of graves from this area amounts to 129, if we add the ones discovered earlier or later: 13 graves discovered in 1956 by E. Popescu, and another 42 documented by M. Dabica and V. Rusu-Bolindeț during archaeological excavations starting from the 2010's⁶.

N. Hamparțumian's research had two main objectives: establishing the general stratigraphy in the area outside the Late Roman defence wall in order to determine the topographical evolution and change of the city in different periods of its existence, and identifying the phases of the flat Roman necropolis, as well as its chronological framework and relation with the neighbouring Christian basilica⁷.

With regard to the first research aim, based on the analysis of the stratigraphic record, the following sequence of four layers has been established: 1. Late Hellenistic; 2. Roman (1st to 3rd centuries); 3. Late Roman (4th century, this is the level associated with most of the identified graves); 4. Late Roman (from the 5th to the 7th century, layer associated with the graves that were contemporary with the *extra muros basilica*)⁸.

Any analysis and interpretation of the funerary discoveries from the *Extra muros basilica* sector became available only with the knowledge gained from the database we constructed with information from the full records kept in the archives of the "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest. In his previously published work Nubar Hamparțumian offered just a general overview based on the archaeological record, without elaborating any kind of quantitative and qualitative analysis, or even basic statistics relative to the discoveries⁹.

HISTRIA'S TOPOGRAPHY IN LATE ANTIQUITY

The archaeological record for the residential area indicates that towards the end of the 3rd century it was reconfigured into a cemetery. Archaeologists concluded that this phenomenon happened sometimes at the end of the 3rd century and the beginning of the 4th. Within this time frame a new defence system with walls was constructed, creating a new smaller precinct that would be used for sheltering public institutions buildings and Early Christian basilicas, as well as for dwelling¹⁰.

The development of a historical narrative is a necessary step in assessing the changes that occurred in the topography of the city directly influencing the layout of both – the space destined for the living and the one reserved for the dead. Apart for providing historical background, a discussion concerning these changes would also account for the extramural character of the 4th century cemetery.

Starting with the second half of the 2nd century the period of relative peace on the northern border of the Roman Empire (as part of a late *Pax Romana*) begins to crumble. The outbreak of a series of conflicts within the so-called "Marcomannic Wars" (166–180) led the Empire into a serious period of crisis. The main theatre of war with the *Marcomanni* (together with other Germanic tribes and allied armies), was the Noricum and Pannonia area, on both sides of the Danube¹¹. The conflict in the north called for the relocation of some troops. As a consequence, *Legio V Macedonica*, recently returned from a campaign against the Parthians, moves its headquarters from Troesmis (in Lower Moesia), to Potaissa, in the province of Dacia Porolissensis, to defend it from the danger of the amalgam of tribes turned against the Romans¹². As one can note, even though the province of Moesia Inferior was not directly involved in this conflict, it would also be impacted by the movement of troops.

The Costoboci took full advantage of this situation, being tempted by the weak defence of the Roman province as a consequence of the dislocation of troops. They cross the Danube causing significant damage to many settlements in the region, probably between 170

⁵ This number of graves amounts for the sum of entries in the database the first author of this article constructed for his PhD dissertation (not defended yet). The database entries are limited to burials discovered before 2019 (included). Only those discoveries for which we had sufficient information both in qualitative and quantitative terms were included in the database.

⁶ Pippidi et alii 1959, p. 293–295; Dabica 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013a; 2013b; 2017; Rusu-Bolindeț et alii 2014. To these one, we can add at least 30 graves discovered in the 1950's and mentioned by C. Preda and A. Doicescu (1966). The layer where the graves were excavated was heavily disturbed in the past, possibly due to leveling the ground. As a consequence, most graves were destroyed. Besides noting that

according to the grave-goods found in some burials the cemetery dates from the 4th century, there is no further information concerning these discoveries (see Preda, Doicescu 1966, p. 331–332).

⁷ Condurachi et alii 1970, p. 193.

⁸ Condurachi et alii 1970, p. 195–196, fig. 13.

⁹ Nubar 1971a; 1971b.

¹⁰ See Condurachi et alii 1954, p. 66–95; Nubar 1971a, p. 200; Stefan 1975, p. 51, 62; Nubar, Sion 1980, p. 30; Domăneanțu, Sion 1982, p. 379–382.

¹¹ For the Marcomannic Wars see Böhme 1975; Kovács 2009, p. 201–250; Gabler 2017.

¹² Aricescu 1980, p. 11, 46; Bărbulescu 1997, p. 7–8.

and 171¹³. The reign of Marcus Aurelius (161–180) is marked by barbarian invasions in the area of the Roman *limes*, even in the most remote provinces of the Empire from the European continent.

From the beginning of the 3rd century a large number of people of northern Germanic origin began to migrate constantly to the west and south, in the Black Sea area¹⁴, causing major disturbances in both the outlying parts of the Roman Empire and major centres. Successive invasions of peoples coming from the *Barbaricum* from the middle of the 3rd century onwards have caused serious damage to Roman domination over a wide area, in Dacia and Moesia and throughout the Balkan Peninsula, in a long-lasting conflict termed *bellum Scythicum*.

By far the most significant of the new arrivals is that of the Goths – a large confederation of Germanic people that is to be placed in the territories of southern Ukraine no later than the 230's¹⁵. The first documented raid in the territories of the Empire probably took place in 238, the unstable year of the six emperors, when the Goths attacked and devastated either Histria or Olbia¹⁶.

From the *Historia Augusta* we find that during the very brief reigns of Pupienus Maximus and Balbinus (in the year 238), [...] *pugnatum est a Carpis contra Moesos. fuit et Scythici belli principium, fuit et Istriae excidium eo tempore*¹⁷. In exchange for the withdrawal of the army and the release of prisoners the imperial authority offers the Goths annual payments and the latter release the captives and return to their territories. On this point, however, there are other opinions that postpone it for almost two decades. Scarlat Lambrino believed that the destruction of Histria – the *excidium Histriæ* – should be considered in the wider

context of the crisis on the entire Danube border, placing it sometime between the years 248 and 251¹⁸.

A series of important victories in the Balkans against barbarian populations put an end to the *bellum Scythicum*. In his brief reign of only two years, the second Illyrian emperor, Claudius II (268–270), wins an important victory against the Goths near *Naissus*. After this defeat, the barbarians take refuge in the *Haemus* Mountains, between Thrace and Moesia, where they are again surrounded and defeated. Some of the Goths who do not retreat beyond the borders of the empire are either taken prisoners, integrated into the Roman army, or they are settled as *coloni* south of the Danube¹⁹. Following this success, the emperor receives the title of *Gothicus Maximus* marking the beginning in holding such a *cognomina victoriarum*²⁰. To the victory of Claudius II from *Naissus* a successfully conducted campaign by the emperor Aurelian (270–275) must be added.

At this point we are coming closer to the events that are the main concern for the present paper. In the complicated context following the destruction of Histria the most important moment in the evolution of the settlement is, as already noted, the construction of a new fortification. This would reduce the city's area to less than half of its initial size²¹ (See Pl. 1). Some Romanian archaeologists believe that the new enclosure was built in the second half of the 3rd century, most likely sometime during the reign of Aurelian (270–275) or Probus (276–282) with a series of subsequent repairs in the following centuries²². The victories of these two emperors against the barbarians, as well as their program of fortifying

¹³ Scheidel 1990; Cortés 1995. See Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, p. 33; Suceveanu, Rădulescu 2001, p. 299, for destructions caused by the Costoboci in the area. See also Gerov 1977 for an account of barbarians' attacks in the province of Moesia Inferior during the Principate. The epigraphic evidence attests to some settlements building precinct walls after the attacks of the Costoboci: Callatis (ISM III, 97), Philippopolis (IGB III-1, 878), Serdica (IGB IV, 1902), and Nicopolis ad Istrum (Slokoska *et alii* 2002, p. 91).

¹⁴ Wolfram 1988, p. 42–49; Christensen 2002, p. 40. For chronologies of these events see Watson 1999, p. 215–225; Zahariade 2010, p. 168–169.

¹⁵ Baran 1964; Magomedov 2001, p. 287–289; Kokowski 2013, p. 70.

¹⁶ Some historians believe that it was the city of Histria that got sacked (Wolfram 1988, p. 44; Heather, Matthews 1991, p. 2; Kulikowski 2007, p. 18). The French historian Émilienne Demougeot on the other hand, writes that the visit of emperor Gordian III at Histria in 240 is an argument against the destruction of the city by the Goths. Instead, since the monetary issues from both Olbia and neighbouring Tyras disappear after the period 235–238, she argues that the barbarian attack must have targeted the city of Olbia (Demougeot 1969, p. 256, 393–395). A potential presence or planned visit of Gordian III in the province of Lower Moesia could be linked with a series of renovations and improvements of the road infrastructure organized directly by imperial initiative. The situation in Upper Moesia and Thrace is different, where following the study of milestones (*miliaria*) it was

established that the initiative was possibly a local one, coming from the governor and having the cities as executors and dedicators. This scenario is only applicable if the construction of milestones could be used as an indication for the existence of some interventions for maintenance or repair of the road network, in opposition to the idea that *miliaria* are just some monuments affirming loyalty towards the Imperial office. For Moesia Inferior, the first scenario seems the most valid, since in one dedicatory inscription from Carsium (in present-day Hârșova, some 80 km west of Histria) Gordian III is mentioned as the initiator of the building program who *pontes et vilas restituit* (CIL III, 7606a = ISM V, 98a; see Bartels 2014). It is worth mentioning that the events and the dates surrounding the potential destruction of Histria by the Goths were highly debated in Romanian scholarship. Various different moments were proposed for this event, from the years 238, 248, to 250–251 and 259–267 (besides the already mentioned references see Doruțiu 1964; Poenaru-Bordea 1971; Preda, Nubar 1973, p. 67–69; Iliescu 1982; Doruțiu-Boilă 1985).

¹⁷ *Hist. Aug., Maximus et Balbinus*, 21. 16. 3 (Magie 1924, p. 478–480).

¹⁸ Lambrino 1933.

¹⁹ For an overview of the historical context see Brauer 1975, p. 162–187; Odahl 2004, p. 15–41; Hartmann 2008.

²⁰ Kienast *et alii* 2017, p. 222–223.

²¹ Sion, Suceveanu 1974, p. 5.

²² Domăneanu, Sion 1982, p. 379.

several settlements on the Danubian *limes* are well known²³.

The phenomenon of reducing the inhabited space of fortresses by building new defence walls in the 3rd century is not unique to Histria. Similar situations were documented at Athens, Miletus, and Thessalonica²⁴. German historian and archaeologist Wolfgang Müller-Wiener refers to this change using the phrase “*von der Polis zum Kastron*” through which he wants to capture the replacement of classical urban ideas with a new concept having defence as main purpose, thus establishing the city walls as the central point of reference²⁵.

Some findings from Histria support the idea of continuity in living in the area outside the newly built walls towards the last decades of the 3rd century. One of the buildings identified by archaeological means in 1953 is a large structure whose function still remains unknown²⁶. For the period in question it seems that the area reserved for burials remains confined on the western plateau, with the now-abandoned line of the defence wall functioning as a boundary between the space for the dead and the space of the living.

In the area close to the Early Roman walls, on the western side, 45 burials were unearthed during excavations on the Z and Z₂ sectors since the 1950's²⁷. The stratigraphic succession consists of several layers: starting from the archaic period (6th and 5th century BC), Hellenistic period (four strata spanning from the 4th to the 1st century BC) and finally a thin layer of grey soil, corresponding to the Roman cemetery²⁸.

LATE ROMAN CEMETERIES FORM THE EXTRA MUROS AREA AT HISTRIA

As already noted above, at the end of the 3rd century and the beginning of the next, a new area for burying the dead becomes available, outside the Late Roman defence walls. A number of 42 graves discovered during archaeological excavations carried on under the coordination of Nubar Hamparjumian on the *Extra muros basilica* sector between 1961 and 1964, belong to the 4th century. Another 19 burials were dated very broadly in the

4th and the 5th centuries. Archaeologists consider that this group, accounting for 61 graves, belongs to the “first horizon of burials”, the “first cemetery” or “necropolis I”²⁹. A group consisting only of ten graves belongs to the 6th century (or to a later date, in the 7th century). This is the smallest group, termed “necropolis II” or “the second necropolis” and most probably belongs to the funerary area developed in the immediate proximity of the church after its construction. Taking into account the aforementioned situation we consider that a separate discussion for each group is more suitable. Considering the established chronology, we distinguish between the first cemetery dating from the beginning of the 4th century to the first half of the 5th century and the second cemetery, that is to say the one emerging from the 6th century on³⁰.

1) The first cemetery (Pl. 3, 7–17)

The first group to be discussed comprises 61 graves excavated in the former Early Roman residential area abandoned after the construction of a new defence wall at the end of the 3rd century. The record consists of 55 single burials, and four double burials.

Double burials

In Grave 23 had been identified the skeleton of a 17 years old female, extended on the back with the arms extended along the sides of the body, with the hands placed over the pelvic area. The second skeleton, found below the first one, belongs also to a young female, 20 years of age, and has a similar position, with the right forearm flexed, hand resting on the chest. Both skeletons are oriented along a N–S alignment. The extended legs with knees tight together along with the position of the arms may suggest that the corpses were shrouded. The bodies were laid in a niche grave whose entrance on the right side was covered with stones slabs.

The second double burial comes from Grave 29, contains the body of a 14 years old female and, above it, the skull of 4 years old subadult (probably female). The body was laid on back, oriented S–N. The grave was covered with tiles (*tegulae*). In the area from the northern

²³ Van't Dack 1973; Kettenhofen 1986a; 1986b; Wolfram 1988, p. 56; Watson 1999, p. 54–56; Kienast *et alii* 2017, p. 226.

²⁴ Frantz 1988, p. 5–6; Dunn 1994; Kirilov 2007.

²⁵ Müller-Wiener 1986.

²⁶ Condurachi *et alii* 1970, p. 199–200; Nubar 1971a, p. 200, 209–210.

²⁷ Condurachi *et alii* 1957, p. 48–55; Condurachi *et alii* 1959, p. 288; Pippidi *et alii* 1959, p. 300–303; Condurachi *et alii* 1962, p. 412–413. In a paper from 2010, L. Ota writes about 126 burials dated from the 1st to the 3rd century, gathering data from both the published and the unpublished materials (Ota, Domăneanțu 2010, p. 393) and probably from all the excavated areas (including the X sector, and the one from

the southern part of the plateau; see Pl. 1). With the exception of the Nubar Hamparjumian archival fond from the “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology, our database relies exclusively on published information.

²⁸ Condurachi *et alii* 1957, pl. VIII.

²⁹ Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2010, p. 88; Achim 2015, p. 293–295.

³⁰ The total number of discoveries discussed in this paper amounts for 71 graves. N. Hamparjumian discovered 74 burials, but some of them were not excavated or we weren't able to find any information about them neither in the published materials, nor in the original excavation notes from the archives.

end of the pit, at the feet, a ceramic jug with a trilobate mouth was deposited.

The skeleton of a 28 years old female, oriented NW–SE, was identified in Grave 57. Hamparčumian notes the existence of a second skeleton, in the area near the lower left leg of the adult female. The anthropological analysis revealed that it belongs to a 9 years old subadult. The only artifact found within the burial was a bronze fibula on the female's right shoulder³¹. The fourth double burial, in Grave 73 is that of a 15 years old female and a 5 years old subadult oriented NW–SE.

All double graves belong to females, next to whom was laid either the body of another woman or that of a child. In the cemeteries from Ibida, Sucidava-Celei and Viminacium 1 – Više grobalja a similar situation was documented in the available archaeological record. At Ibida there are at least four double burials in which the skeleton of a woman and one belonging to a child were found³². In the cemetery of Viminacium 1 – Više grobalja (starting at an earlier date, in the 2nd century), at least eight double burials with a female and a child (predominantly newborns) were discovered³³. Even though for Sucidava-Celei no formal anthropological analyses were performed it seems probable that the only double graves attested are those of women. The sex of the skeletons was assigned by reference to specific grave goods such as a bracelet worn on the arm or earrings³⁴.

The special situation encountered in Grave 18 is worth mentioning. Hamparčumian documented the existence of one adult skeleton and of one skull considered to be a reburial. However, anthropological analysis established that two bodies (50 years old male and 5 years old subadult) were deposited in this grave, having a lateral niche covered with tiles arranged in two rows. In the filling of the pit, just below the *tegulae* covering the entrance, the aforementioned skull of a 4 years old subadult was identified. Among other objects (an iron bracelet in the filling, a bead and one fragment from a ring), a coin dating from the reign of Theodosius I (379–395) was recovered.

³¹ Nubar 1971a, p. 206, fig. 5/5.

³² In two graves (noted M 25 and M 29) a woman and a new-born child were identified in each burial. In a similar manner, in other three graves the remains of female and children have been found. However, these contexts were disturbed, thus rendering impossible a clear association of each two individuals (Soficaru et alii 2004, p. 329).

³³ Zotović, Jordović 1990, p. 61, 67, 101–103.

³⁴ Popilian, Bondoc 2012, p. 27, 39. The shortcomings and problematic aspects of such an approach as assessing the sex or gender of an individual based on the objects found in the grave are well known (see Effros 2000; Crass 2001; Sofaer, Stig Sørensen 2013).

³⁵ We were not able to identify in the archives a detailed context sheet for G 47. The grave was discovered in the southern profile of the trench. Only the lower part of the spinal column, the left iliac, femur,

Anthropological data (Pl. 5/a)

The age-at-death estimation was possible for all 64 individuals. 70.3% of them are adults (no. = 45), while 29.6% are sub-adults (no. = 19). The assessment of sex was possible for 61 individuals³⁵. The great number of females is especially noteworthy accounting for 55.7% (no. = 34) of the total of analysed skeletons. Males represent 26.2% (no. = 16) and 18% (no. = 11) are individuals with indeterminate sex.

In this paper the anthropological data obtained through analysis that established the age-at-death of individuals was translated in terms of social age. This approach implies a brief discussion of how Romans conceptualized the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Defining an individual as subadult (lat. *infans*) or child in a narrative dealing with an archaeological population from the Roman age can pose some problematic aspects³⁶. Most often scholars agree that *infans* simply refers to the lack of ability to speak and that this term could be used to describe children up to 7 years old³⁷. A variety of terms are used for older children, and the precise meaning can only be determined from the context. A longer discussion on the vocabulary employed by the Romans in order to refer to children does not find its place in the present paper. However, some aspects are worth mentioning. Legal sources have a negative or contrasting implicit component when mentioning children assimilated to the category of "non-adults". Therefore, the legal concepts of *impuberis* (those who did not reach puberty) and *minores* (for those under 25 years old) are based on the existence of some contrasts, highlighting what a person is not, rather than what the traits of an individual are or should be in order to be called a person.

The opinions of Roman jurists vary slightly in terms of selecting and measuring the criteria that must be met in order to consider that an individual has reached the age of puberty. Sextus Pomponius, a jurist of the 2nd century, notes that the age of twelve should be the basic criterion in establishing the legal threshold for marriage. This

tibia and fibula were visible in a drawing, without further details. For the subadults only the age was estimated, without assessing the sex for this category.

³⁶ For a broad discussion on dividing life into stages in Roman thought see the work of Laes (2011), especially the third chapter, on the various ways in which ancient authors divided the stages of children's lives (Laes 2011, p. 77–99).

³⁷ See Harlow, Laurence 2002, p. 37; Parkin 2010, p. 97–101. Quintilianus (c. 35–100 AD) indicates the age of seven as the end of this period when, at least theoretically, formal education began (*Inst. 1. 1. 18–19*). The same age appears as the starting point for formal education as well as with reference to other rights in Late Antiquity, according to *Cod. Theod. 8. 18. 8.* (Pharr 1952, p. 221).

aspect has a special significance, since the birth of an heir was the main purpose of a marriage in the Greek and Roman worlds. Gaius, another Roman jurist of the 2nd century, noted: “*The authorities of the other school think that puberty must be judged by age, that is, they hold someone to be pubes, who has completed his fourteenth year*”³⁸. The other school that Gaius recounts actually refers to the Proculians – another body of jurists during the Early Roman Principate that held a different view regarding the legal age for puberty. This group believed that one reaches puberty (including the capacity to procreate) at 14 years; whereas the other school of thought, the Sabinians of which Gaius was a member, considered that a person must have the physical capabilities necessary to procreate, regardless of age, a situation that requires a physical inspection³⁹. As a consequence, in this study the authors decided to define what a “child” is with reference to the chronological and social dimension. More specifically, childhood is the period between birth and puberty, legally defined as 12 years for a girl and 14 for a boy⁴⁰.

Grave typology

a) Methodology. Issues and difficulties in creating categories

From a typological perspective we use as a starting point the already-established typology of A. Soficaru with some necessary modifications according to the nature and diversity of the archaeological record (*i.e.* the occurrence and the absence of certain types). This typology is based on the analysis of over 900 graves (dated from the 4th to the 6th century) documented on the territory of the Roman province Scythia⁴¹. The need for developing a synthesis typology, meaning one that accounts for Roman period graves regardless of their archaeological site of origin was a necessity. This fact appears as obvious when the typologies created by several Romanian archaeologists over time are being observed. As can be seen from the analysis of the types that make up the typologies their creation is by far the result of a uniform approach⁴². It can be said that the diversity of existing typologies testifies for the variety of funeral practices in a

particular cemetery or region. However, this can only be true to some extent, given that the main purpose of a typology is to sort and classify entities. The development and use of a typology are not an automatic process in the same way that does not necessarily describe an objective reality. Types of tombs are not discovered, but created as such by archaeologists, just as graves do not belong *a priori* to one type but are placed in classification schemes designed by scholars⁴³. Therefore, the archaeologist's choices to proceed in one way or another determine the nature and composition of typologies to a greater extent than the “reality” identified in the archaeological record.

While working towards elaborating a typology any specialist should be aware that all types are to a degree natural and to a degree artificial, which means also that they are partly discovered and partly invented.⁴⁴

Another issue related to archaeological typologies is the lack of consistency and intersubjective agreement in the field of Roman funerary archaeology in Romania⁴⁵. In order to provide evidence in support of this claim it is enough to observe and compare the typology of V. Barbu developed to suite the funerary discoveries of Callatis and A. Soficaru's typology. Each typology emerged as a result of particular and different approaches to the archaeological record.

The first typology is built taking into account, first of all, the two possibilities for the treatment of the corpse: cremation and inhumation. An evolutionary scheme of various types and variants from simple to complex was considered (what Barbu calls “typological criterion”), as opposed to a chronological approach⁴⁶. For graves with cremated remains there are two criteria according to which the four types were constructed. The first criterion refers to the shape of the pit while the second describes the presence or absence of a structure to shelter and protect the grave goods. For the inhumation graves the author does not explicitly provide the criteria according to which the classification was made.

A. Soficaru defines “type 4” as follows: cist grave with walls built of stones or bricks bonded together with clay or mortar and covered with two or more limestone blocks. Based on the definition of type 4 as offered by Soficaru, it is possible to establish the correspondence with the types from V. Barbu's typology. This type from A.

³⁸ Gai. *Inst.* 1, 196: *sed diversae scholae auctores annis putant pubertatem aestimandam, id est eum puberem esse existimant, qui XLI annos explevit* (in Leesen 2010, p. 46).

³⁹ For the two schools of thought, the Sabinians and the Proculians, see Stein 1972; Tellegen-Couperus 1993; Leesen 2010, p. 46–57 (particularly for a discussion on puberty).

⁴⁰ See Kosior 2016; Laes, Strubbe 2014, p. 23–40.

⁴¹ Soficaru 2007.

⁴² The typology created by V. Barbu for the graves discovered at Tomis has 18 types with a total of 14 subtypes (Barbu 1971); the one for

Callatis has seven types with no further subtypes (Preda 1980, p. 15–22); for Beroe-Piatra Frecătei A. Petre constructed a grave typology consisting of four types with 12 subtypes (Petre 1987).

⁴³ Brew 1971, p. 76–77; Adams, Adams 1991, p. xvi, 258–259.

⁴⁴ Adams, Adams 1991, p. 68.

⁴⁵ By intersubjective agreement we understand “*the consistency with which two or more sorters will make the same type attributions; that is, they will identify the same or closely similar entities as members of the same types*” (Adams, Adams 1991, p. 347).

⁴⁶ Barbu 1971, p. 48.

Soficaru's typology does not match with one other type from the typology of Barbu, but with no less than six different types: type IX (tomb made with bricks), type X (single-room tomb constructed with limestone slabs), type XI (two-room tomb constructed with limestone slabs), type XII (tomb carved from limestone block), type XIII (sarcophagus burial) and type XIV (tomb made with bricks with sarcophagus lid).

Moreover, an additional comparison between two typologies from the same field poses the same issue. The typology from L. Ota's book on Early Roman graves from Lower Moesia type I (from the cremation grave category) incorporates the first four types from Tomis identified by V. Barbu⁴⁷. Each typology emerged as a result of particular and different approaches to the archaeological record. As previously stated, archaeologists choose to handle and sort the available data in different manners. Based on the available data one creates six grave types, while the other does exactly the same thing but the result is one single type.

b) Typology of the graves from the Extra muros Basilica area (Pl. 5/c)

The funerary discoveries from the *extra muros basilica* sector at Histria present a lower degree of diversity than those from Callatis or Berœ⁴⁸. As a consequence, a slightly modified typology is used in the present paper, in concordance with the occurrence of certain types of graves. Different variables were considered in this typology. Many graves had structures made of tiles or stones above them in order to mark the final resting place of the dead. These elements are known as external features. A disposal container refers to any container used in transporting or holding the body, such as a shroud or a coffin. The typology (that is to say its main types and subtypes) is based on the relationship of occurrence or lack of certain variable elements stated above. One difference between types is provided by the occurrence or absence of what we termed external structure. On a similar note, as one can see below, for the first main type for example, its two variants are determined by the occurrence of a specific kind of container for the deceased body. In this case the container could be either a shroud or a wooden coffin.

Five main types of funerary structures were

encountered at the Late Roman necropolis from the *extra muros basilica* at Histria:

Type 1 (Pl. 7/a; 9/a–b) – simple rectangular pit of variable size with no external features. This type has two variants (1a and 1b) determined by the disposal container used. In most cases the dead body was wrapped in a textile shroud and deposited in the grave. The other form of burial involves placing the individual in a wooden coffin. The use of shrouds is suggested by skeletal positions. Wrapping a corpse in a shroud limits the movement of bones as the cadaver decomposes, and thus affects the position of the excavated skeleton. Coffins can be demonstrated as being used either from the nails used or by the stains in the soil that represent the decomposed wood⁴⁹. However, it seems that for burials in a simple pit with no external features only shrouds were used since no clues for the use of coffins were documented (neither iron nails nor traces of wood). With 23 discoveries the graves belonging to this type form the second largest category at Histria (See Pl. 5/c).

Type 2 – simple pit with external features, that is to say with a rectangular pit which has a structure made of tiles (or stone) or a lid from the same materials above the actual burial. There are two main forms for the lid: gable roof made of tiles (the so-called *alla cappuccina*; see Pl. 8/c; Pl. 17/a) or a roof made from horizontally placed tiles (Pl. 9/c). This type includes 8 discoveries.

In the initial typology **Type 3** was defined as a burial in a rectangular pit with stones, tiles or fragments of *dolia* (large storage vessels) placed at the lower or upper extremity of the dead body, or on the side of the pit. In his paper from 1971, Hampartumian regarded this type of graves as being defined by a row of tiles and/or stones that are arranged obliquely on one side of the pit⁵⁰. After observing several typologies dealing with (Late) Roman burials we arrived at the conclusion that a type conceptualized as such does not occur in the available archaeological literature⁵¹. Instead, it is suggested that these are burials with a vertical shaft and a lateral niche at the bottom. After the corpse was deposited the niche was covered with tiles or stones.

Grave 5 from the Roman age cemetery at Kavarna (Dobrich district in northeastern Bulgaria) dated in the 4th century AD, belongs to this type, within the typology constructed by Getov that deals with funerary discoveries

⁴⁷ Ota 2013, p. 13.

⁴⁸ The number of burials from Histria is also much smaller than those at Callatis and Berœ where more than 500 graves were discovered.

⁴⁹ For different views regarding nails besides the utilitarian interpretation see Dungworth 1998; Alfayé Villa 2009.

⁵⁰ Nubar 1971a, p. 203.

⁵¹ For comparison we observed ten typologies dealing with (Late Roman) burials: Barbu 1971 (for the graves in the necropolises of Tomis); Gatev

2010 (*Byzone-Kavarna*, in Bulgaria); Jovanović 1984, p. 126–129 (Noricum, Pannonia Inferior and Moesia Superior, on the territory of former Yugoslavia); Kraskovská 1976 (*Gerulata Rusovce*, in Slovakia); Kurilić, Serventi 2018, p. 452–453 (Dalmatia); Petković *et alii* 2005, p. 129–133 (*Timacum Minus-Ravna*, in Serbia); Petre 1987 (for Berœ-Piatra Frecătei); Preda 1980 (Callatis); Stamenković *et alii* 2016 (Mala Kopašnica, in Serbia); Rusev 212, table II/6, p. 390.

from this particular site. The bottom of the niche was dug at a lower level than the floor of the shaft and has its entrance blocked by six *tegulae* arranged longwise to the skeleton⁵². Grave 20 from Histria is a very similar burial, as can be seen in Pl. 6. Only in this case Hamparțumian called this type not a niche grave, but a burial with a row of tiles placed on one side of the body⁵³.

Two similar discoveries from Histria are of a more recent date. In 2008 and 2009 two graves (Grave 4/2008 and Grave 14/2009) with side niche were documented on the *extra muros basilica* sector. The side niche had been sealed with several large tiles. Grave 14/2009 had bovine bones deposited as food offerings on the bottom of the pit excavated for the niche, near the legs⁵⁴.

With 24 discoveries, niche graves form the largest category of burials from the *extra muros basilica* sector at Histria (Pl. 10/a; 11/a). This practice should be explained on the account of some influences from peoples outside the borders of the Roman Empire north of the Danube, either of Sarmatian, Scythian or Gothic origins. During the Late Sarmatian period (second half of the 2nd century-4th century AD), the number of niche graves increases even becoming the majority in some regions between the mouths of the Don and the Danube⁵⁵.

With regard to a plausible Sarmatian or Gothic influence in matter of burial practices another connection is worth exploring. 24 graves from the cemetery have animal offerings placed either near the head or at the lower extremity of the pit. A number of 13 discoveries (56%) out of the 23 niche graves have such offerings⁵⁶. Most of the faunal material is represented by cattle (*Bos taurus*) bones, followed by bones from domestic horses (*Equus caballus*) and pigs (*Sus domesticus*), sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goats (*Capra hircus*)⁵⁷.

The deposition of animal body parts in graves was a widespread practice documented in several cemeteries belonging to the Sântana de Mureș – Chernyakhov groups⁵⁸ from the historical regions of Moldova and Muntenia in eastern and southeastern Romania (for example at Independența, Spanțov, Târgșor, Lunca and others)⁵⁹.

On the same note, animal offerings are found more frequently than any other remains of the burial practices in Sarmatian graves as early as 4th century BC and until the 4th century AD. Most commonly they are represented by

bones from cattle, sheep and horses. However, the practice of placing animal offerings is rare in the North and northwest Pontic area in the Late Sarmatian graves (from the second half of the 2nd century to the 4th century AD). Only in the Volga area the number of graves with animal offerings is still significant during this period⁶⁰.

The presence *per se* of a population of Alanic origins has been previously discussed. However, the conclusion of Dardu Nicolaescu-Plopșor after he analysed the osteological material from the *extra muros basilica* sector at Histria is highly debatable due to the faulty approaches and procedures available at the time. In order to assess the ethnicity of individuals under study the Romanian anthropologist employed the craniological analysis of the phenotypic structural groups, a method that relies heavily on the facial skeleton traits. Based on the result of his analysis analogies were found in two cemeteries assigned to Alans from the ex-Soviet Union territory (dated between the 11th and the 13th centuries AD!)⁶¹.

The assignment of ethnic identity to a group from the past identified in the archaeological record is highly problematic. In the same time, an extended discussion on this topic falls outside the scope of the present paper. Nevertheless, at least from an archaeological point of view, the occurrence of niche graves and of graves with animal offerings has to be explained with references to burial practices from outside the Roman Empire to the north, beyond the border of the Lower Danube.

Type 4 – Graves with cist-like structure made of stones and/or bricks. Only one grave of this type (Grave 30; Pl. 15/a) from the cemetery belongs in this category⁶².

Type 5 – *Enchytrismos* burial. Subadult (new-born) either interred in a ceramic container such as *amphorae* and *dolia* or covered with large fragments from the body of such vessel. This type is represented only by one discovery from the old excavations at the *extra muros basilica* sector (Grave 69). Another grave of this kind was discovered in 2010 in the same area. In Grave 20/2010 the body of a new-born was placed on top of a large tile, covered by three amphora sherds while tile fragments were placed around the amphora⁶³. Four other *enchytrismoi* were documented a short distance west of the previously mentioned sector, during excavations of the Early Roman baths (on the so-called *Terme II* sector)⁶⁴.

⁵² Gatev 2010, p. 231, fig. 3.

⁵³ Nubar 1971a, p. 201, fig. 2/c.

⁵⁴ Rusu-Bolindet et alii 2014, p. 204, 216–217, pl. VIII–IX.

⁵⁵ Bârcă 2012, p. 144. For burial practices among the Scythians see Rolle 1979, especially p. 6–13 for the typology of graves with niches and catacombs.

⁵⁶ The total amount of burials with animal offerings mentioned in Nubar 1971a, p. 203 is 27, including three discoveries from the later sample (from the churchyard cemetery) which are to be considered in a separate analysis in the present paper.

⁵⁷ See Bolomey 1969; Stanc 2006, p. 217–218.

⁵⁸ See Magomedov 2001, p. 15–24, fig. 1.

⁵⁹ See Haimovici 2005; Stanc, Bejenaru 2004; Stanc 2006, p. 209–220.

⁶⁰ See Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, p. 46–47, 108, 218.

⁶¹ See Nicolaescu-Plopșor 1969; Soficaru 2006–2007, p. 11–12 for a critique of Nicolăescu-Plopșor.

⁶² Six graves of this type belong to the later cemetery (see pl. 18/b–c; 19/c; 20/a).

⁶³ Rusu-Bolindet et alii 2014, p. 204–205, pl. X/1.

⁶⁴ Suceveanu 1982, p. 36–37.

Due to its unique features and the lack of sufficient information Grave 50 (Pl. 16/d) falls outside the defined types. Hamparjumian noted that the skull was placed almost vertically and bones appear to be bundled probably indicating a reburial. No grave goods were documented.

In summary, as already noticed, the most common burials are those in niche graves with the entrance covered with stones or tiles (Type 3) followed by graves with simple pits with no external features (Type 1). Only a few graves have external features such as structure made of tiles (or stone) or a lid from the same materials above the actual burial. Depositions of subadults in amphorae (or covered with large ceramic sherds) and graves with cist-like structures made of stones and/or bricks are rather rare occurrences.

Alignment of graves and body deposition

Most graves (84%) are aligned on a W–E axis (with NW–SE and SW–NE variants; see Pl. 5/e). The second largest category is represented by five burials aligned S–N. In two graves placed in this manner the individuals were deposited in crouched position. Grave 28 belongs to a 12 years old subadult (probably female). Both forearms were heavily bent, with the right hand under the head and the left hand near the nose; knees tight to the pelvic region and tibias and fibulas perpendicular to the ribs. In Grave 54 the skeleton is that of a young woman, 18 years of age found with the proximal end of the humerus near the mastoid and with strongly flexed legs. Only three graves were aligned E–W. The 2 months old subadult buried in an amphora is the only documented discovery that seems to be aligned on a N–S axis.

Most of the dead, with few exceptions, were placed in extended dorsal position (50 out of 58, or 86%). Two bodies were laid in lateral decubitus, one on the left and the other on the right side. Two individuals were interred in a crouched position; both are aligned S–N.

Grave goods

Grave goods have been discovered in more than half of the graves (33 out of 58). The most common category of artifacts is represented by adornments (56%) such as bronze bracelets, beads and earrings. Even though the majority of objects from this category were found in female graves it seems that the use of adornments was not restricted based on the biological sex of the deceased individuals. Beads have been found in four male graves. One adult male was buried wearing a bronze ring. Earrings

are the only adornments that were exclusively found in five female burials.

On the same note, another interesting situation is worth mentioning. The only two artifacts that could be listed as weapon parts were found in female burials. In Grave 13, belonging to a 20 years old woman, a spearhead was found near the left humerus. Another one has been identified near the right shoulder of the older female (40 y/o) from Grave 22. Both individuals were buried in niche graves covered with stone slabs and have animal offerings.

Blade fragments (most probably from knives) have been discovered only in two graves. In Grave 20 the body was accompanied by a necklace made with glass beads (25 pieces), a rectangular bronze plate, one unidentified bronze object with a spiral end, together with an iron blade. Grave 10 has four coins and a fragment from a blade. The individual from Grave 20 is a young female, age 20, while Grave 10 belongs also to a female subadult (11 years old). Only two other burials had knives as grave goods. The triple grave Grave 5/1955 (21 years old female together with two subadults), found on the Z Sector west of the Early Roman wall, had a fragment from a blade placed near the head⁶⁵. The pit for Grave 3/1955, found on the *Roman Necropolis – Southern Plateau* sector, extended half a meter beyond the lower extremity of the skeleton. In this area a rectangular bronze buckle and a 16 cm long iron knife with wooden hilt fastened with bronze rivets were found⁶⁶. Counting the last burial for which there is no anthropological analysis of the skeleton, it seems that knives were usually deposited in female graves.

Other categories of objects placed in graves are coins deposited in 12 graves, while seven bronze brooches have been found mainly in male burials. A fragment from a writing instrument (*stylus*) was discovered accompanying a young female (22 years old) in Grave 25.

2) The second cemetery and the extra muros basilica

(Pl. 4; 18–19)

As already mentioned, a part of the area outside the Late Roman precinct wall westward to the now-abandoned early defence wall changed its function sometimes during the last quarter of the 4th century AD from a residential area to a place where the remains of dead people are buried, while another part retained its function as space for dwelling.

Towards the end of the 5th century AD the topography of the area outside the walls has been enriched with the construction of a new building with religious function – a basilica. Although it was discovered more than a century

⁶⁵ Condurachi *et alii* 1957, p. 48.

⁶⁶ Condurachi *et alii* 1957, p. 34.

ago, the basilica has been extensively researched by archaeological means starting from 2001. The chronology of the building has three phases. The first phase marks the actual construction of the building sometime between the end of the 5th century and in the first half of the 6th century AD. The second phase spans from the middle to the end of the 6th century. The final phase of the building ends in the first half of the 7th century AD⁶⁷.

During the second phase, in the immediate proximity of the basilica a cemetery developed and functioned as such until the beginning of the 7th century. A group of ten graves (including two double burials) has been dated in the period between the 6th and the 7th century AD being contemporary with the basilica. In Grave 55 the remains of two individuals were found: a 50 years old male and a 9 years old subadult (probably also male). Grave 38 belongs to a 50 years old male found together with a two months subadult. Out of 12 individuals, anthropological analysis was possible for 11, with the exception of Grave 58, due to the lack of sufficient osteological material⁶⁸. Seven individuals were adult males⁶⁹. The only skeleton of an adult female was discovered in Grave 49. Three individuals were subadults (including the one from the double burial) (Pl. 5/b).

In terms related to the grave architecture most burials belong to type 4 featuring a cist-like structure made of bricks and stones (6 out of 10). Three are burials in a simple pit, with no external features (type 1), while in only one case (Grave 43) the deceased was laid in a niche grave with the entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs (Type 3) (Pl. 5/d).

The bodies were deposited in extended dorsal position either with both arms alongside the body or with the hands resting on the pelvis. The individual from Grave 08 has a peculiar position: on his back, with the left arm extended alongside the body, right forearm flexed with the distal area of the radius and ulna near the left clavicle. The left leg is bent at the knee at a right angle, while the right leg, whose femur falls below the femur of the left limb, is also flexed. The shoulders are more elevated than the rest of the body as if the deceased had been deposited

in such a manner that the head was forced down and shoulders were raised.

The graves are aligned on a W–E axis, with only three individuals having a secondary orientation towards NE and SW (Pl. 5/f).

Only three burials had grave goods accompanying the deceased. Grave 33 (6 years old subadult) had beads around the neck, a flat bronze square object, probably an amulet, a comb near the head, and two shells (Pl. 15/b). Grave 43 (55 years old adult male) had a Syracuse-type belt buckle (or Schulze-Dörrlamm Type 12D) on the right side of the lumbar region (Pl. 16/b). The production of this particular type of buckles took off close to the time when the Empire was losing control of the Danube frontier, as most typical of Mediterranean assemblages of the first half of the 7th century⁷⁰.

The largest density of Syracuse buckles is to be found in the region of Crimea. For this reason, Gândilă notes that they might not have originated from the Lower Danube region but most probably from Crimea, where the cultural and political influence of the Avars is clearly visible in the archaeological record⁷¹. Apart from Crimea, this type of artifact has a wide-spread distribution reaching as far as Serbia, Hungary or Greece⁷².

Grave 58 (Pl. 20/a–b) is the third and last burial in which grave goods were accompanying the deceased. Unfortunately, performing anthropological analysis on the individual was not possible due to the lack of skeletal material (destroyed while excavating and probably never recovered from the site)⁷³. On the bottom of the pit a bed made of square bricks was arranged. The walls of the tomb were built using irregularly shaped stone blocks bonded together with clay. The body was probably placed in a wooden coffin (not preserved) in light of the fact that numerous iron nails as well as traces of wood were discovered⁷⁴. He was positioned in extended dorsal position with arms and legs extended.

The position of Grave 58 within the funerary landscape stands out by being located in a courtyard that extends eastwards from the apse of the basilica. The burial was placed 1.2 m east of the apse, following the

⁶⁷ The chronology of the first phase was established based on numismatic evidence: the earliest coins discovered on the floor of the basilica date from the reign of Emperor Anastasius I (AD 491–518) (see Pippidi et alii 1959, p. 294; Rusu-Bolindet, Bădescu 2003–2005, p. 107–108, 111).

⁶⁸ Hampartumian notes from the archives state that the skeleton suffered serious damage when the external structure with bricks and tiles collapsed during excavation.

⁶⁹ With the individual from Grave 58, whose sex was assessed based on the observation of the grave goods.

⁷⁰ For the distribution of Syracuse-type buckles in the Lower Danube area see Gândilă 2018, p. 95, fig. 14. For their chronology see Garam 2001, p. 95; Schulze-Dörrlamm 2002, p. 179.

⁷¹ Gândilă 2018, p. 99.

⁷² Nadă 1959, pl. I/5 for Aradac, in Serbia; Török 1980–1981, pl. IV/13 for Csengele, Hungary; Travlos, Frantz 1965, pl. 43/a for Athens, and Pallas 1981, fig. 5/b for Corinth, Greece.

⁷³ The osteological material is stored at the “Francisc I. Rainer” Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest. Only a few fragments from Grave 58 were identified. Achim wrote that according to N. Hampartumian the anthropological analysis confirmed that the bones found in the grave belonged to a female (Achim 2015, p. 293). In his 1971 paper about this burial Hampartumian (Nubar 1971b) did not provide any information regarding the sex of the individual.

⁷⁴ Nubar 1971b, p. 338.

direction of its longitudinal axis. Such a privileged position was usually connected with the custom of burying the dead in the proximity of saints' tombs and other holy sites believing that their souls would derive spiritual benefits from the placement of their physical remains⁷⁵.

R. Born believes that the existence of the northern annex of the basilica together with the "privileged" burials in the immediate vicinity of the basilica on the east side (Grave 58 in particular) are clues for relics sheltering inside the religious edifice⁷⁶. Apart from the interpretation offered by Born based on the architecture of the basilica and the location of certain burials, there is no other element to support such hypothesis.

Without denying the privileged status of the tombs, they were most probably positioned in the area to be in the vicinity of the basilica. The building with an important religious function was a special place bearing meaning in itself. These features should not be seen as dependent and necessarily determined by sheltering of relics inside. Even though the relics of the martyr in the church facilitate the connection of this world with the heavenly paradise making out of the building a space where two worlds meet, as Peter Brown puts it, we must not forget that the church is primarily a place where people meet⁷⁷. The phenomenon of burials in the vicinity of Christian basilicas can be most easily understood by considering the desire of an individual to be deposited after death in such a place, its fulfilment being of course conditioned by some interdependent variables such as the status and social role of the person in question or the powers that the individual holds. Considering such an interpretative framework it can be suggested that the graves that were "attracted" around a basilica are not only funerary monuments in themselves but are instead integrated into the structure of the building and the surrounding landscape by their constant visual presence in the eyes of the community members who frequented the place.

A somehow similar situation was documented at the Episcopal Basilica where a group of three graves were discovered in a lateral position to the south-east between the apse and an annex, unlike Grave 58 which was placed following the longitudinal axe of the building. Another difference is that the Episcopal Basilica is located *intra muros*, within the walls of the city. Out of the three graves

only one had a belt buckle dated in the second half of the 6th century, according to A. Suceveanu⁷⁸.

Grave 58 distinguishes itself also because of the particular nature of the grave goods found together with the skeleton: a set of gold footwear items (*goldenen Schuhgarnitur*; see Pl. 20/c for a possible reconstruction) with two strap ends, two buckles, and two rectangular fittings decorated with incised crosses (Pl. 20/b). Furthermore, remains of golden threads from a costume's embroidery were found around the neck and the wrist of the body⁷⁹. It has been asserted that the grave goods from this burial belong to a group of similar discoveries in the Lower Danube region and Thracia⁸⁰. However, to the extent of our knowledge and understanding, we regard these items as unique for three reasons. The first argument involves the precious material used (gold). The technological process of production due to the nature of the material is also different (gold sheet). Most items with a similar function from footwear sets are bronze casts. A third feature that renders the buckles unique is related to the stylistic motifs.

Hampartumian notes that although the artifacts were found in a Byzantine city, the style of the buckle stems from a culture that lies outside of the Byzantine world. As already suggested, there are no direct or formal analogies for the buckles anywhere in Crimea or the Balkans. From a stylistic perspective the closest similarities we were able to find are with a harness mount from the treasure found at Martinovka, in Ukraine. Even though the item belongs to a set with a different function we believe that the decorative motifs are comparable (Pl. 20/d)⁸¹.

Bronze strap ends that hold a certain degree of similarity with the ones from Grave 58 were discovered in two graves (no. 17 and 102) from the cemetery in Noşlac (Alba County, Romania) dated from the 6th to the 7th century AD (Pl. 20/e)⁸². Another similar strap end, dated in the middle of the 6th century AD, was found in northeastern Bulgaria during excavations from the Varna motorway and published by Traykova in her book on belts south of the Lower Danube from the 3rd to the 7th century AD (Pl. 20/f)⁸³. One last discovery worth mentioning comes from Kecel, in southern Hungary. The strap end is part of a group of artifacts discovered in the area on the outskirts of the city without a clear context (in unknown

⁷⁵ Duval 1988.

⁷⁶ Born 2012, p. 83; Popescu refers to the annex as "chapel" noting that it was probably built to house the remains of a martyr or a founder (Popescu 1994, p. 309).

⁷⁷ Brown 1981, p. 3.

⁷⁸ Suceveanu 2007, p. 37–38; pl. LXXXII/13.

⁷⁹ Nubar 1971b, p. 339, fig. 7–8; p. 340–341, fig. 10–11.

⁸⁰ Kazanski notes (1991, p. 193) that such items are common for the

Goths settled as *foederati*; followed by Achim 2015, p. 297.

⁸¹ Kidd, Pekarskaya 1995, p. 360, pl. 5/d. The authors erroneously note that the buckle "said to be from Histria" (sic!) is made from copper alloy (See Kidd, Pekarskaya 1995, p. 354–355). It seems that they were not aware that Hampartumian already published a paper on this particular grave in 1971 (Nubar 1971b).

⁸² Rusu 1962, p. 272, pl. 2/39; Rusu 1965, p. 37, pl. I/23.

⁸³ Traykova 2017, p. 349; p. 512, pl. 149/1882.

circumstances) which are now in the collection of the Viski Károlyi Museum in Kalocsa⁸⁴ (Pl. 20/g).

For the golden threads found around the neck and the wrist of the body the only parallel is to be found in the very rich grave no. 2 from Keszthely, in western Hungary. Among many other golden objects (pendants, belt fittings, beads, and a ring) threads made of gold have been found inside the grave, probably from a veil⁸⁵.

A possible chronological framework for Grave 58 could be provided in relation with the basilica, given its position along the longitudinal axis of the building. The grave is placed at a very short distance east of the apse which dates from the second phase of the basilica, in the second half of the 6th century AD. In the same area further to the east at least three graves have been oriented in the same exact manner. The construction of the courtyard is an event from the first half of the 7th century, during the last phase of the basilica⁸⁶. In other words, it was the orientation of the apse and not that of the enclosure that people took as reference point when they buried the dead.

There is no doubt that the individual buried in Grave 58 was a very important person. Unfortunately, with most parts of the skeleton missing, further analysis and attempts to obtain more data beyond the information provided by the elements of material culture are not possible. With regards to the objects discussed above and considering the historical circumstances and relations between Byzantium and Barbaricum we could suggest that craftsmen from the Empire are adapting to a new reality. They are increasingly considering the demand and existence of new tastes among the barbarian clientele consisting of leaders of barbarian tribes, both inside and outside the Empire. Due to the impossibility of performing further analysis on the skeleton and considering the uniqueness of the grave goods, any discussion relating to the identity of the individual buried in Grave 58 is problematic.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the numismatic evidence the earliest burials that had coins deposited as grave goods could be dated at the end of the 3rd century or beginning of the 4th century. At least one coin from Diocletian's reign (284–305) has been found in three graves⁸⁷. Grave 11, belonging to a 9 years old child, has two coins; Grave 14, containing the

skeleton of a 40 years old female, includes a coin, found near the left tibia, and a hair pin made of bone; in Grave 32, also belonging to an adult female 38 years of age, a coin has been identified in the area around the maxilla, an indication that perhaps the coin was placed inside the mouth of the deceased⁸⁸. Grave 26 has one Keller 1 type crossbow brooch, dated between 290 and 320⁸⁹. In the Nubar Hampartumian archival fond this grave is recorded as not excavated yet, but in the 1971 paper, Hampartumian published the illustration of brooches that are part of the grave goods, including one found in Grave 26⁹⁰.

By gathering and discussing all the available data from the Nubar Hampartumian archival fond our main purpose was to offer a more detailed insight into the burial practices of the people inhabiting the city of Histria from the 4th to the 7th century AD. By re-discovering and systematically re-evaluating the archaeological record through the materials found in the archives we were able to maximize our knowledge about the Late Roman graves beyond the limited information provided by Hampartumian in his two papers that were written almost half a century ago. With the systematic analysis from this paper and the complete catalogue of graves that we offer below, the discoveries that N. Hampartumian made more than half a century ago could be fully integrated and discussed together with findings of a more recent date as well as with future research.

GRAVE CATALOGUE

The catalogue only includes the 74 graves discovered by N. Hampartumian between 1961 and 1964. The descriptions are based on the available data from both the archives and the two papers that the author published (Nubar 1971a; 1971b). In certain cases, we added our own interpretation by way of observing the data, including drawings and photos. All anthropological analyses were performed by A. Soficaru.

The catalogue is divided in two sections corresponding to the two cemeteries, following the already-established framework and chronology that are also discussed in the present paper. In order to avoid further confusion, we kept the original number of the graves registered as such by the archaeologist coordinating the excavation – N. Hampartumian.

In describing the graves we use the following scheme: **Grave No.** (Illustration); **Type** (with details concerning the pit and other architectural elements of the grave, such as the traits of internal or external features); **Individual** (anthropological analysis – sex and age, and other information when available – the missing of certain parts of the skeleton for example); **Skeleton position and alignment** (by position we understand the relationship of the body parts to each other; the points of the body of concern are the trunk of the body to the thighs or hip joint, the thighs to the lower leg or knee joint, the position of the

⁸⁴ Balogh 2004, p. 275, fig. 1/12; p. 276, fig. 2/12.

⁸⁵ Müller 2002. The authors would like to thank Dr. Florin Curta (University of Florida) for providing the bibliographical material upon which the discussion of the grave goods from Grave 58 rests.

⁸⁶ Rusu-Bolindet, Bădescu 2003–2005, p. 111.

⁸⁷ We are aware that the dates provided by coins found within the graves

are a *terminus post quem* for dating the beginnings of the cemetery.

⁸⁸ For this custom in ancient funerary rituals see Stevens 1991; Alföldy-Gäzdar, Găzdar 2013; Brown 2013.

⁸⁹ Keller 1971, p. 32–35 (see also Pröttel 1988, p. 349–352).

⁹⁰ Nubar 1971a, p. 206, fig. 5/3.

arms in relation to the trunk, and the head to the trunk of the body at the neck joint. Alignment is concerned with two directions – NW–SE – as used for a grave or container); **Grave goods** (including animal bones, considering that they have been deposited as funerary offerings); **Other relevant information**; **Chronology** (when no datable grave goods were discovered, the chronology was established either by stratigraphic references or by observing the type of the grave; in most cases we followed the dates established by N. Hampatjumian, recorded as such in the excavation notes found in the archives); **References** (when applicable).

I. The first cemetery

G 1 (Pl. 7/a)

- Type 1.
- ♀, 22 y.o.; right arm missing; metatarsals and phalanges missing/destroyed.
- Extended dorsal position; left forearm flexed with the hand resting on the chest; aligned SW–NE.
- Animal offerings at the lower extremity of the skeleton (head and another animal bone).
- 4th century AD.

G 2 (Pl. 7/b)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 19 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right forearm flexed with the hand resting in the area of the left humerus; legs extended; aligned SW–NE.
- Animal offerings at the lower extremity of the skeleton (head and another animal bone).
- The head rests on a flat stone.
- 4th century AD.

G 3 (Pl. 7/d)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- ♂, 40 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; the upper part of the body (from the pelvis up) slightly turned to the left side; head rotation to the left side, with displacement of the mandible; legs extended, crossed just above the ankles; aligned SW–NE.
- Iron buckle in the area near the last lumbar vertebrae. Animal offerings at the lower extremity of the skeleton (mandible or maxilla of large animal).
- 4th century AD.

G 4 (Pl. 7/c)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- ♂, 26 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; head rotation to the right side; legs bent at the knees with the right one resting above the left; aligned SW–NE.
- Animal offering near the head.
- 4th century AD (?)

G 5 (Pl. 7/e)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- Subadult, 9 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; after being deposited in the pit, the body moved to the left side (the deviation of the vertebral column towards this position is observed); skull lying on the left; mandible near the left clavicle; femurs bent to the left, in a parallel position; aligned SW–NE.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD (?)

G 6 (Pl. 8/a)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 15 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right arm alongside the body; left forearm flexed on the pelvis, reaching the proximal area of the right femur; pelvic region deviated to the right from the initial position with femurs parallel in the same direction; aligned SW–NE.
- Crossbow brooch (Keller type 4, variant C; dated AD 350–380). Animal offerings near the left tibia and fibula.
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 206, fig. 5/8; Keller 1971, p. 35–36.

G 7 (Pl. 8/b)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 30 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right arm alongside the body; left forearm flexed on the pelvis; legs extended, parallel; aligned SW–NE.
- Animal offerings (maxilla) on the left side near the skull.
- 4th century AD.

G 9 (Pl. 9/a)

- Type 1.
- ♀, 12 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; body slightly tilted to the right side, especially from the pelvis up; left arm extended with the metacarpals in the iliac region from the same side; right arm, preserved only fragmentary, is in a similar position; left leg slightly bent at the knee, as it is the case with the right leg also, with a slight rotation of the metatarsals towards the right side; aligned SW–NE.
- three coins discovered below the level of the interment (of which one is dated during the reign of Constantius Chlorus, AD 293–306). To the left of the skull, a group of stones of various sizes was documented; above the left iliac there are two large stone slabs; under the human skeleton (to the left of the shoulders) the remains of a small animal were found.
- 4th century AD.

G 10 (Pl. 8/c)

- Type 2; simple pit; "*alla cappuccina*" grave (covered with *tegulae* which were arranged to create a slanted roof in form of an inverted V over the deceased's remains). The roof consists of four large tiles of the same size 64 × 40 cm; at the crossing of the tiles there are two barrel tiles (*imbrices*) forming a cross.
- ♀, 11 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; head rotation to the right side; the flexed right forearm resting on the left iliac; the left forearm is also flexed, reaching the area of the last lumbar vertebrae; the left hand may have initially had the same position as the right one but would have slipped afterwards; parallel legs, with external rotation of the tarsals; aligned SW–NE.
- four coins (one dating from the reign of Constantine the Great, AD 306–337 was found below the left scapula); knife blade on the left side of the pelvic region.
- The external structure (the roof) collapsed at some point in the past.
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 202, fig. 2/f.

G 11 (Pl. 9/b)

- Type 1.
- Subadult, 8 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; head rotation to the left side; left forearm strongly flexed, with the metacarpals reaching up to the mandible; right arm extended alongside the body; bones of the lower limbs were disturbed: the right leg is stretched and the left leg is slightly bent inward (internal rotation); aligned SW–NE.
- two coins from Diocletian's reign, AD 284–305.
- 4th century AD.

G 12 (Pl. 9/c)

- Type 2; simple pit; lid made of horizontally placed tiles.
- ♂, 38 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; skull bended with the chin towards the sternum; the alignment of the vertebral column is disturbed due to the collapse of the external structure; right forearm flexed with the hand on the pelvis; left arm in a similar position, was displaced towards the exterior, most probably as a consequence of the pressure exerted from the same collapse of the tiles; extended legs, parallel to each other; aligned SW-NE.
- Crossbow brooch (Keller 6 type; dated AD 400–450); three coins (unknown); Hampartumian notes that on the left side of the left femur a “four century jug” was discovered. Animal offerings (mandible) as well as other fragments of animal bones in the pit.
- 5th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 201, fig. 2/d, p. 206, fig. 5/9; Keller 1971, p. 35–36.

G 13 (Pl. 10/a)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 20 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right forearm bent over the abdomen; left forearmed flexed, with the metacarpals reaching the area of the sternum; legs slightly bent; aligned SW-NE.
- Bronze bracelet on the left forearm; beads; spearhead near the left humerus. Animal offerings.
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 201, fig. 2/a, p. 207, fig. 6/1.

G 14 (Pl. 10/b)

- Type 1.
- ♀, 40 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; head rotation to the left side, with displacement of the mandible near the left clavicle; right forearm flexed, with metacarpals on the right clavicle; left forearm flexed on the chest, with metacarpals below the mandible; right leg extended in normal position; left leg bent outward at the knee; oriented SW-NE.
- A bone hair-pin (in the pit filling); coin from the reign of Diocletian found near the left tibia.
- 4th century AD.

G 15 (Pl. 10/c)

- Type 1.
- ♂, 45 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; skeleton slightly inclined to the left; both forearms are flexed, with hands on the pelvis; the right leg bent to the left, with the right femur touching the left one; the left leg bent from the knee towards the central axis of the body; the left tibia and fibula fall below those of the lower right limb; aligned SW-NE.
- Iron brooch; unidentified iron object near the shoulder; a bead.
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 206, fig. 2/7.

G 16

- Type 2; simple pit; “alla cappuccina” grave; unlike G 10, G 16 has *imbrices* only on the midline.
- ♂, 50 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; both forearms flexed on the pelvis; extended parallel legs; displacement of the mandible; aligned SW-NE.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 17 (Pl. 11/a)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs; the pit is precisely delimited in the mortar layer it pierces.
- ♂, 38 y.o.

- Extended dorsal position; head rotation to the right side; both forearms flexed on the pelvis; extended parallel legs; external rotation of the tarsals and metatarsals; oriented SW-NE.
- Coin (unidentified); grey fragment with polished decoration from the body of a ceramic vessel dated in the 5th century AD. Animal offerings.
- 5th century AD.

G 18 (Pl. 11/b-c)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with two rows of tiles (56 × 63 cm).
- Triple grave (?); ♂, 50 y.o. (18a); Subadult, 4 y.o. (18b); Subadult, 5 y.o. (18c). In the filling of the pit, below the tiles, a skull from a previously disturbed grave was discovered (noted 18c). Hampartumian notes as a question that this could be a secondary burial or re-inhumation. The other two individuals – an adult male and a child, lying next to each other, were both placed in extended dorsal position; their heads are tilted in order to face one another; arms and legs extended, parallel.
- Iron bracelet (in the pit); fragment of a bronze ring; bronze coin dated during the time of emperor Theodosius (AD 379–395); a bead.
- Animal offerings in the filling around the tiles.
- 4th century AD.

G 19 (Pl. 11/d)

- Type 1.
- Subadult, 10 y.o.
- Right lateral decubitus position (either the body was displaced as a consequence of taphonomic processes); right forearm flexed, with phalanges on the left clavicle; left forearm bent in a right angle above the pelvic region; slightly bent and joined legs; aligned SW-NE.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 20 (Pl. 12/a)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with tiles (56 × 33 cm)
- ♀, 20 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right forearm flexed on the pelvis; left forearm bent with hand on the sternum; extended parallel legs; aligned W-E.
- 25 glass beads around the neck (from a necklace); a bronze blade; a rectangular bronze plate; an unidentified bronze object, bent, with a spiral end (under tiles). Animal offerings at the lower extremity of the grave.
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 201, fig. 2/c.

G 21 (Pl. 12/b)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 25 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; head rotation to the left side; right forearm bent at a right angle reaching the proximal area of the left radius and ulna; extended parallel legs; aligned SW-NE.
- Two bronze bracelets on the left forearm; fragmentary bronze ring on the left hand; unidentified coin found between the legs.
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 201, fig. 2/b, p. 207, fig. 6/2, 11.

G 22

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 40 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended, parallel; aligned SW-NE.
- Two bronze earrings (destroyed); arrowhead near the right shoulder. Animal offerings at the lower extremity of the grave; animal horn placed on a large stone slab.
- 4th century AD.

G 23 (Pl. 13/a)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- Double burial: ♀, 17 y.o (23a); ♀, 20 y.o (23b). 23a is above 23b.
- Extended dorsal position; 23a: forearms flexed on the pelvis; legs extended, coming close to each other at the knees. 23b: similar position to 23a; right forearm flexed on the chest, with the hand on the left humerus; from the left arm only the humerus was preserved aligned with the body; both skeletons are aligned S-N.
- Earring at the left ear (23a); bronze bracelet and bone bracelet (in three fragments) on the right hand; beads (23b).
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 207, fig. 6/4, 6, 8, p. 212, fig. 9/1.

G 24 (Pl. 13/b)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 40 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; displacement of the mandible near the sternum; forearms flexed on the pelvis; extended, parallel legs; aligned SW-NE.
- Beads; fragments of bronze earrings. Animal offerings near the head, placed on a stone and at the lower extremity of the pit.
- 4th century AD.

G 25 (Pl. 13/c)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 22 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; forearms flexed on the pelvis.
- Bronze *stylus* found under the skull; bone bracelet riveted with bronze; three unidentified iron objects.
- 4th century AD.

G 26

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- No available details about the individual.
- Crossbow brooch (Keller type 1).
- 4th century AD.
- Keller 1971, p. 35–36.

G 27 (Pl. 14/a)

- Type 1.
- ♀, 22 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; skeleton tilted to the right side; legs slightly flexed and close to each other; right arm alongside the body, with the hand on the right iliac; left arm bent on the pelvis; aligned W-E.
- 12 beads around the neck; two bronze rods along the legs; bronze earring near the sternum; bronze plate near the head; unidentified bronze and iron objects; a coin in the pit; a fragment from an oil lamp in the area near the femurs.
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 207, fig. 6/12.

G 28 (Pl. 14/b)

- Type 1.
- Subadult (probably ♀), 12 y.o.
- Flexed on the right side; both forearms heavily bent, with the right hand under the head and the left hand near the nose; knees tight to the pelvic region; tibias and fibulas perpendicular to the ribs of the thorax; aligned S-N.
- Three perforated shells; the bones of the skull are oxidized around the ears possibly indicating the presence of destroyed earrings. Animal offerings
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 212, fig. 9/3–5.

G 29 (Pl. 14/c)

- Type 2; simple pit; lid made of horizontally placed tiles.
- Subadult (probably ♀), 11 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended; aligned SW-NE.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD.

G 30 (Pl. 15/a)

- Type 4; simple pit; stone-lined cist grave covered with horizontally placed tiles.
- Subadult (probably ♀), 11 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended; aligned SW-NE.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD.

G 31 – not excavated

G 32

- Type 1; disturbed by the pit and the stone cist of G 33.
- ♀, 38 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position.
- 45 polyhedral blue beads scattered around the neck; coin (issued during Diocletian's reign) near the maxilla, probably in the mouth.
- 4th century AD.

G 34

- Type 1.
- ♀, 25 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended; aligned W-E.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 35

- Type 1.
- Subadult (probably ♀), 6 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right forearm bent on the pelvis; left forearm flexed in a right angle; extended legs, cut from the knee down by the pit of G 36; aligned NW-SE.
- A large shell on the left shoulder.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 36

- Type 1.
- Subadult (probably ♂), 11 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended; aligned W-E.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 37

- Type 1.
- ♀, 40 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms flexed on the pelvis; extended legs; aligned W-E.
- Bone comb with bronze rivets (and a brooch near the pit). Animal offerings.
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 207, fig. 6/13.

G 39 (Pl. 15/b)

- Type 1; the body may have been placed in a wooden coffin (not preserved), in light of the fact that iron nails as well as traces of wood were discovered.
- ♀, 50 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms slightly bended on the pelvis; legs extended (the right leg rotated internally), coming close to each other at the knees; aligned W-E.
- Coin (unidentified) on the left side of the pelvis.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 40 (Pl. 15/c)

- Type 1.
- ♀, 40 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; the right arm extended; the left arm flexed with the hand resting on the pelvis; legs extended coming close to each other at the knees; aligned W–E.
- Animal offerings: a mandible deposited near the left shoulder; a long animal bone near the right femur.
- 4th century AD.

G 41 (Pl. 15/d)

- Type 1; pit clearly delimited in the mortar and debris layers it pierced.
- ♀, 22 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; slightly elevated head resting on small fragments of stone (probably from the debris layer); displacement of the mandible; arms flexed with hands on the pelvis; extended legs diverted to the left side; aligned NW–SE.
- Fragmentary bronze bracelet; bronze ring.
- 4th century AD.

G 42 – not excavated.

G 44 (Pl. 16/a)

- Type 1.
- ♀, 50 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms extended; extended legs, they crossed above the ankles; aligned W–E.
- No grave goods.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 45 (Pl. 16/b)

- Type 1.
- Simple pit.
- ♀, 65 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; displacement of the mandible; arms extended alongside the body; extended parallel legs, with the right foot turned inward (possibly due to a constricted environment, causing a "wall effect"); aligned NW–SE.
- No grave goods.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 47 – identified in the southern profile of the section, near G 46; no further details.

G 48⁹¹ (Pl. 16/c)

- Type 1.
- Subadult, 2 y.o.
- Left lateral decubitus position (either the body was displaced as a consequence of taphonomic processes); displacement of the mandible (near one of the scapulae); arms seem to be extended alongside the body; legs extended, with tibia and fibula crossed; aligned SW–NE.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 50 (Pl. 16/d)

- Type 1; (covered with stones?)
- ♀, 55 y.o.
- Skull placed almost vertically; bones appear to be bundled probably indicating a reburial.
- Animal offerings.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 51 (Pl. 16/e)

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs and tiles.

G 52 (Pl. 17/a)

- Subadult, 2 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; skeleton inclined to the right side; the right humerus is perpendicular to the axis of the vertebral column, while the right forearm is parallel to the same axis; left arm crosses the chest joining the right one; legs with knees turned to the right side; aligned W–E.
- Unidentified iron item in the left shoulder area. Animal offerings (a large animal's shoulder blade).
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 53 (Pl. 17/b)

- Type 2; double-sloped roof made of tiles (*alla cappuccina*); a row of barrel tiles (*imbrices*) on the edge. A tile was placed perpendicularly at the upper extremity of the structure, "sealing" the grave. To the roof made of tiles were added fragments of unworked stone, to ensure a better protection of the skeleton.
- ♀, 30 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right arm extended; left forearm flexed on the pelvis; legs crossed just above the ankles; aligned SW–NE.
- No grave goods.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 54 (Pl. 17/c)

- Type 1. The shape and small size of the pit is explained by its location (occupying the space between the southwestern end of G 53 and the southeastern corner of another grave).
- ♀, 18 y.o.
- Flexed on the left side; right arm with the proximal end of the humerus near the mastoid; strongly flexed legs (the right leg forms an 80-degree angle, and the right one a 35–40-degree angle); aligned S–N.
- No grave goods.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 56

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- ♂, 65 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; head rotation to the left side; displacement of the mandible; arms and legs extended, parallel; aligned W–E.
- Animal offerings.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 57

- Type 1.
- Double burial: ♀, 28 y.o.; subadult, 9 y.o.
- The adult individual placed in extended dorsal position; right forearm flexed with the hand on the sacrum; aligned NW–SE.
- Iron brooch on the right shoulder.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 59

- Type 1.
- ♂, 40 y.o.
- Only the skull, the left scapula and humerus, and some cervical vertebrae were identified; probably in extended dorsal position; aligned NW–SE.
- Above the skull a large fragment from the body of an amphora.
- Cut and disturbed by G 58.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

⁹¹ Has no context sheet. Description made according to the drawing and the general plan of the excavation.

G 62

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- Adult, 50 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right forearm flexed with the hand on the right elbow; left forearm on the pelvis; extended legs; aligned W–E.
- A bronze bracelet (not in the grave; probably in the filling of the pit; no additional information from the context sheet); bronze brooch.
- 4th century AD.

G 63

- Type 2; lid made of horizontally placed tiles.
- ♂, 15 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; forearms flexed on the abdomen; extended legs; aligned NW–SE.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD.

G 64

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- Skeleton not identified; the tomb is cut and very disturbed by G 58.
- No grave goods.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 65

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- ♂, 50 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; forearms flexed on the pelvis; extended legs; aligned W–E.
- No grave goods (at the western end of the stone row, at its upper level, at 50 cm from the skull, a broken amphora was discovered).
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 66

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- ♂, 35 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; crushed facial skeleton, with displacement of the mandible; arms and legs extended, parallel; aligned S–N.
- Iron brooch on the chest; bead; coin at the feet.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)
- Nubar 1971a, p. 206, fig. 5/6.

G 67

- Type 1.
- Subadult, 6 y/o.
- Extended dorsal position; right forearm flexed inwards on the chest, towards the neck; left forearm strongly bended with the hand on the proximal end of the humerus; legs extended, crossed just above the ankles; disturbed and displaced tarsal, metatarsal, and phalanges were found near the knees; aligned E–W.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD. (?)

G 68

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the right side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 18 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended, parallel; aligned E–W.
- Bronze brooch near the neck.
- 4th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 206, fig. 5/1.

G 69

- *Enchytrismos* (burial in amphora).
- Subadult, 2 m.o.
- According to the general plan, the grave seems to be aligned N–S.
- No grave goods.
- 4th century AD. (?)
- Nubar 1971a, p. 203.

G 70

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 15 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right arm extended; left forearm flexed on the pelvis; lower limbs were not found because they were destroyed by the foundation wall of the basilica; aligned E–W.
- Spherical bead.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 71

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- Adult, 50 y.o.
- Poorly preserved skeleton; extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended, parallel; aligned W–E.
- No grave goods.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 72

- Type 3; niche grave with entrance on the left side covered with stone slabs.
- ♀, 22 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended, parallel; aligned W–E.
- No grave goods.
- 4th–5th century AD. (?)

G 73

- Type 1.
- Double burial: ♀, 15 y.o.; subadult, 5 y.o.
- The adult individual placed in extended dorsal position; aligned NW–SE.
- Bone bracelet and earrings.
- 4th century AD. (?)
- Nubar 1971a, p. 207, fig. 6/5, 7, 9.

G 74 – Type 1; Possibly a reburial (no further information about this grave).

II. The second cemetery

G 8 (Pl. 18/a)

- Type 1.
- ♀, 22 y.o.
- Dorsal position; left arm extended alongside the body; right forearm flexed with the distal area of the radius and ulna near the left clavicle; left leg is bent at the knee at a right angle; the right leg, whose femur falls below the femur of the left limb, is also flexed; the shoulders are more elevated than the rest of the body, as if the deceased had been deposited in such a manner that the head was forced down and shoulders were raised; aligned NE–SW.
- Animal offerings identified in the area to the left of the skull, outside the pit, at a distance of ca. 40 cm, which leads to the hypothesis that it does not belong to this grave. The body was placed on a mortar layer.
- 6th–7th century AD. (?)

G 33 (Pl. 18/b)

- Type 4; cist grave with simple pit.

- Subadult, 6 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended; aligned SW-NE.
- Beads around the neck, flat bronze square object (amulet?); comb near the head; two shells.
- 5th-6th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 208, fig. 7/2.

G 38 (Pl. 18/c)

- Type 4; cist grave with simple pit.
- Double burial (following the anthropological analysis; recorded as single grave by Hampartumian): ♂, 50 y.o.; subadult, 4 m.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right arm flexed on the abdomen; left arm extended; extended legs; aligned SW-NE.
- Animal offerings (animal long bone and mandible at the upper extremity). Placed between G 29, which partially overlaps, G 35 and G 36?
- 6th century AD.

G 43 (Pl. 19/a)

- Probably type 3; from the knees of the individual to the lower extremity of the pit, it is protected by an arrangement of large stones on the left side.
- ♂, 55 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; head slightly turned to the left; a piece of stone over the mandible, probably from the filling of the pit; right forearm flexed on the pelvis; left arm extended; legs extended; aligned W-E.
- Syracuse-type belt buckle on the right side of the lumbar region.
- 7th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 208, fig. 7/1.

G 46 (Pl. 19/b)

- Type 1.
- ♂, 60 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; head rotation to the right side; extended arms; extended parallel legs; aligned W-E.
- No grave goods.
- 6th century AD (?)

G 49 (Pl. 19/c)

- Type 4; simple pit; stone cist with double-sloped roof made of tiles (*alla cappuccina*); a row of barrel tiles (*imbrices*) on the edge. The structure collapsed. The body may have been placed in a wooden coffin (not preserved), in light of the fact that iron nails were discovered (two near the head, another one at the feet).
- ♀, 40 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; right forearm flexed with the hand on the left iliac; left forearm bent in a right angle, reaching the medial surface of the right forearm; aligned W-E.
- No grave goods
- 6th century AD.
- Nubar 1971a, p. 202, fig. 2/g, p. 204, fig. 3/2.

G 55

- Type 1.
- Double burial: ♂, 50 y.o.; subadult, 9 y.o. (probably ♂).
- The adult individual placed in extended dorsal position; displacement of the mandible; forearms flexed with hands on the left side of the pelvis; extended parallel legs.
- No grave goods.
- 6th century AD. (?)

G 58 (Pl. 20/a-b)

- Type 4; on the bottom of the pit a bed made of square bricks (17 x 17 cm) was arranged; the walls of the tomb were built of irregularly shaped stone blocks bonded together with clay; covered with bricks placed horizontally. The body may have been placed in a wooden coffin

(not preserved), in light of the fact that numerous iron nails as well as traces of wood were discovered.

- Adult (unknown sex and age).
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended, parallel; during the excavation process the outer structure collapsed causing damage to the skeleton, especially to the skull); aligned W-E.
- Golden buckles, belt fittings, and plaques found at the feet; remains of golden threads, possibly from the costume's embroidery.
- 6th century AD.
- Nubar 1971b; Oanță-Marghitu 2013, p. 639-640.

G 60

- Type 4; tomb with a rectangular box built with flat bricks; along the length of the pit the structure was built with six vertically placed bricks; on the upper extremity the wall consists of two bricks (square and rectangular in shape); on the lower end a single square brick was placed.
- Adult, 38 y.o.
- Extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended, parallel; aligned W-E.
- No grave goods.
- 6th century AD. (?)
- Nubar 1971a, p. 204, fig. 3/1.

G 61

- Type 4.
- Adult, 60 y.o.
- Poorly preserved skeleton; extended dorsal position; arms and legs extended, parallel; aligned W-E.
- No grave goods (Early-Byzantine ceramic fragments discovered in the filling of the pit).
- 5th-6th century AD. (?)

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* Unless specified otherwise, all drawings and photos from the present paper have been processed by Ciprian Crețu based on the materials from the Nubar Hampartumian archival fonds kept at the “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest. A few drawings and photographs were already published in Nubar 1971a and 1971b. We indicated as such in the reference section of the catalogue for each discovery (where applicable).

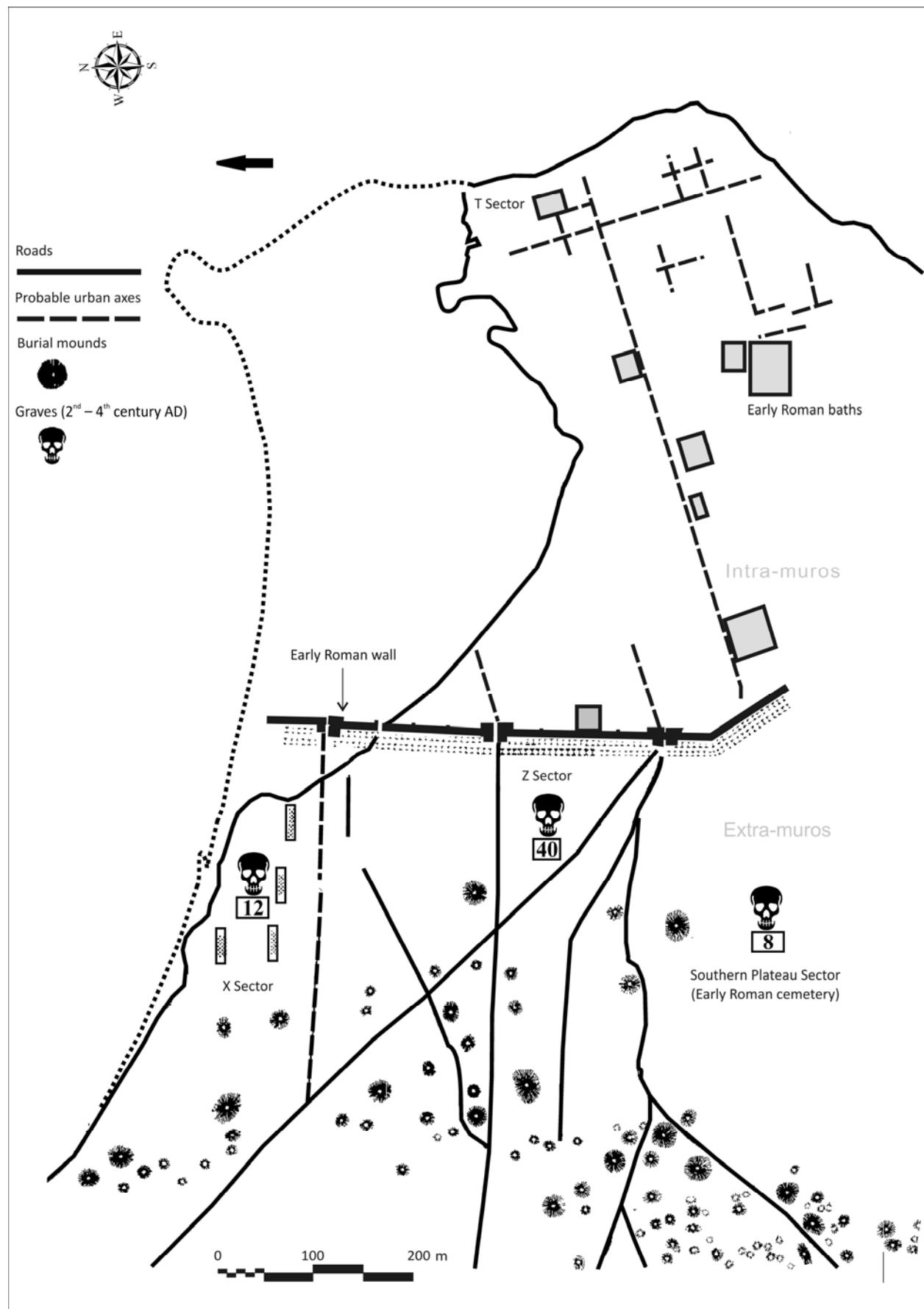


Plate 1. Early Roman Histria, until the 3rd century AD (after Štefan 1971, fig. 7; modified).

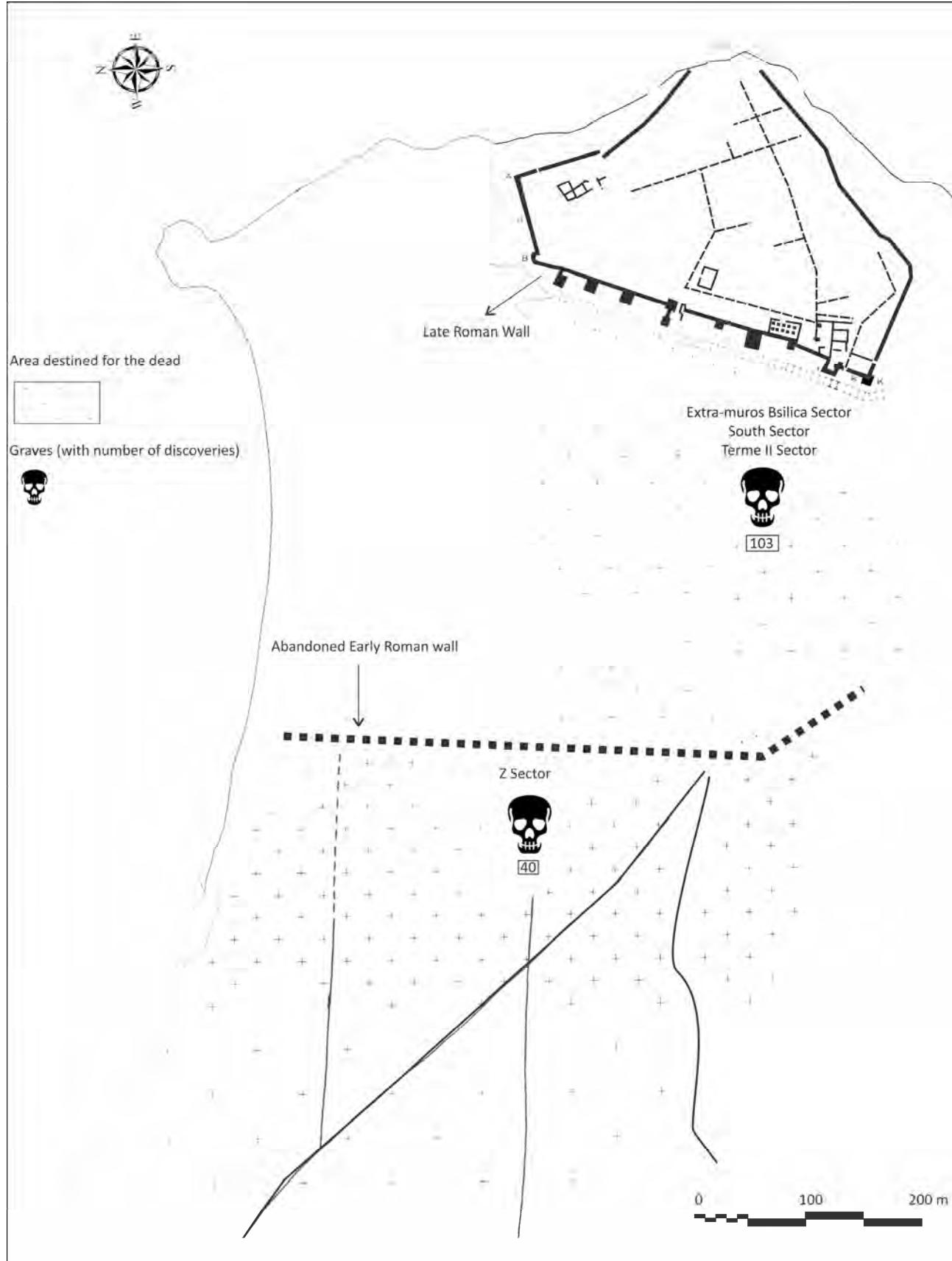


Plate 2. Late Roman Histria (after Ștefan 1975, fig. 5; modified).

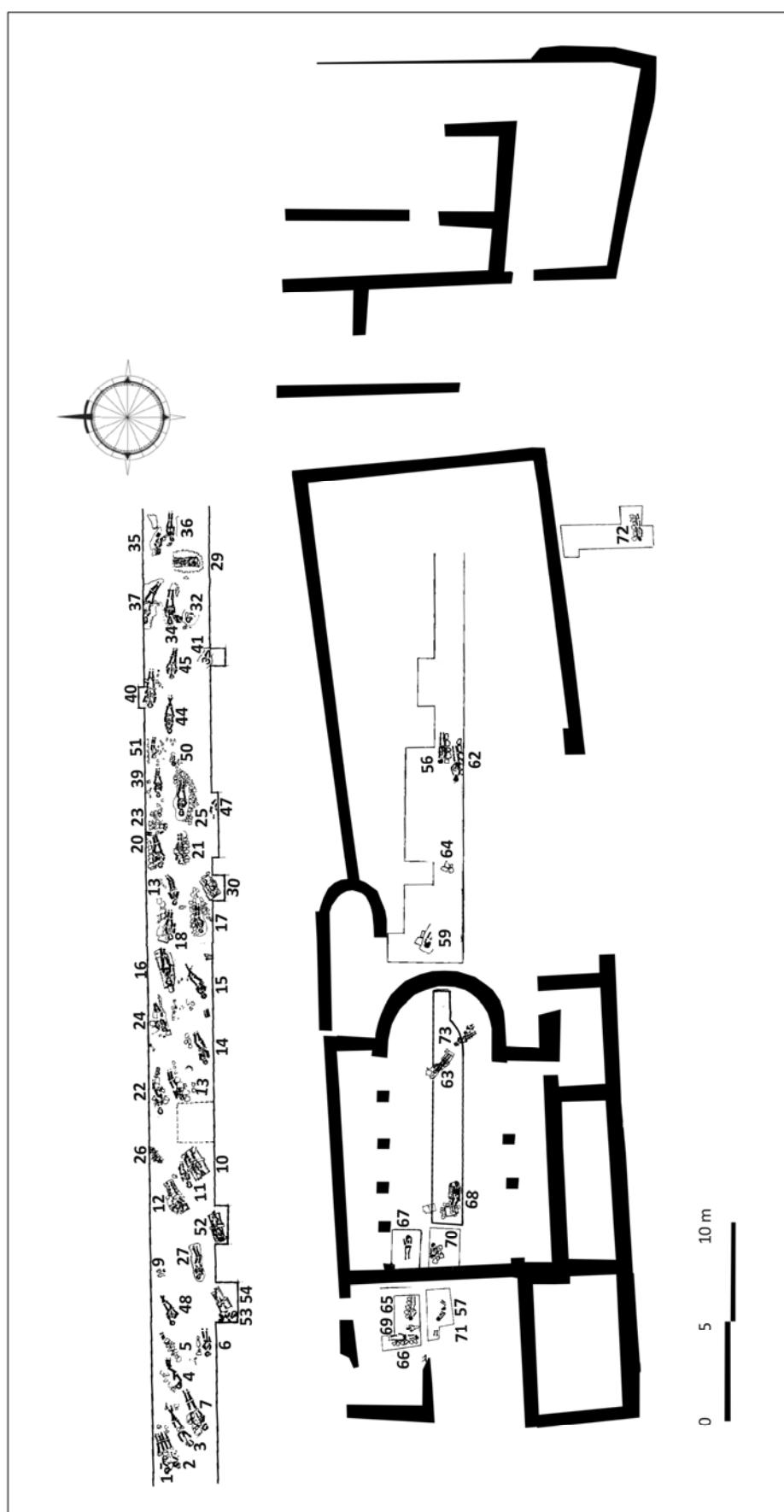


Plate 3. Burials belonging to the first cemetery (4th–5th century AD). After Nubar 1971a, fig. 1; modified.

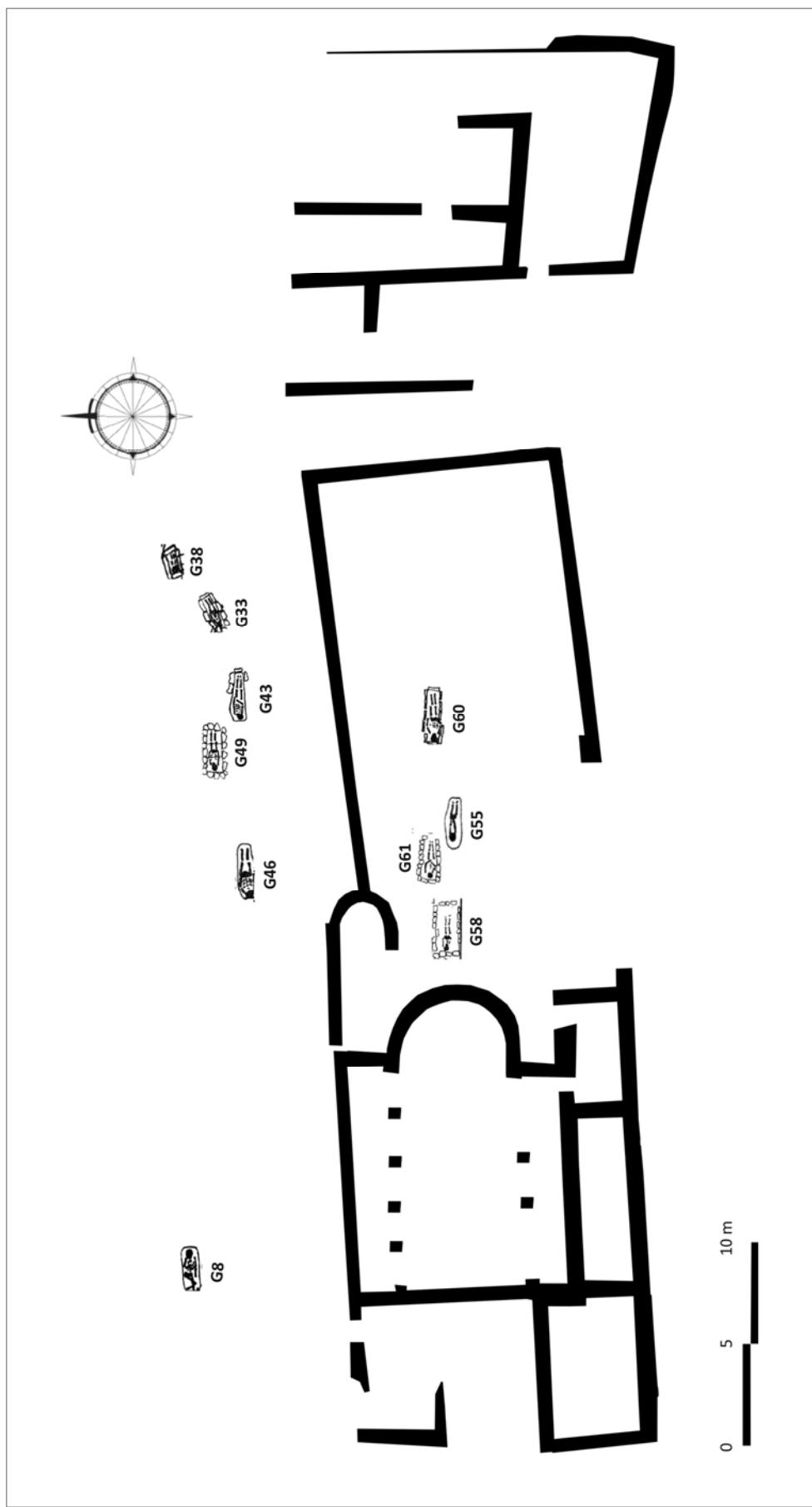


Plate 4. Extra muros basilica and burials from the 6th and 7th century AD (After Nubar 1971a, fig. 1, modified).

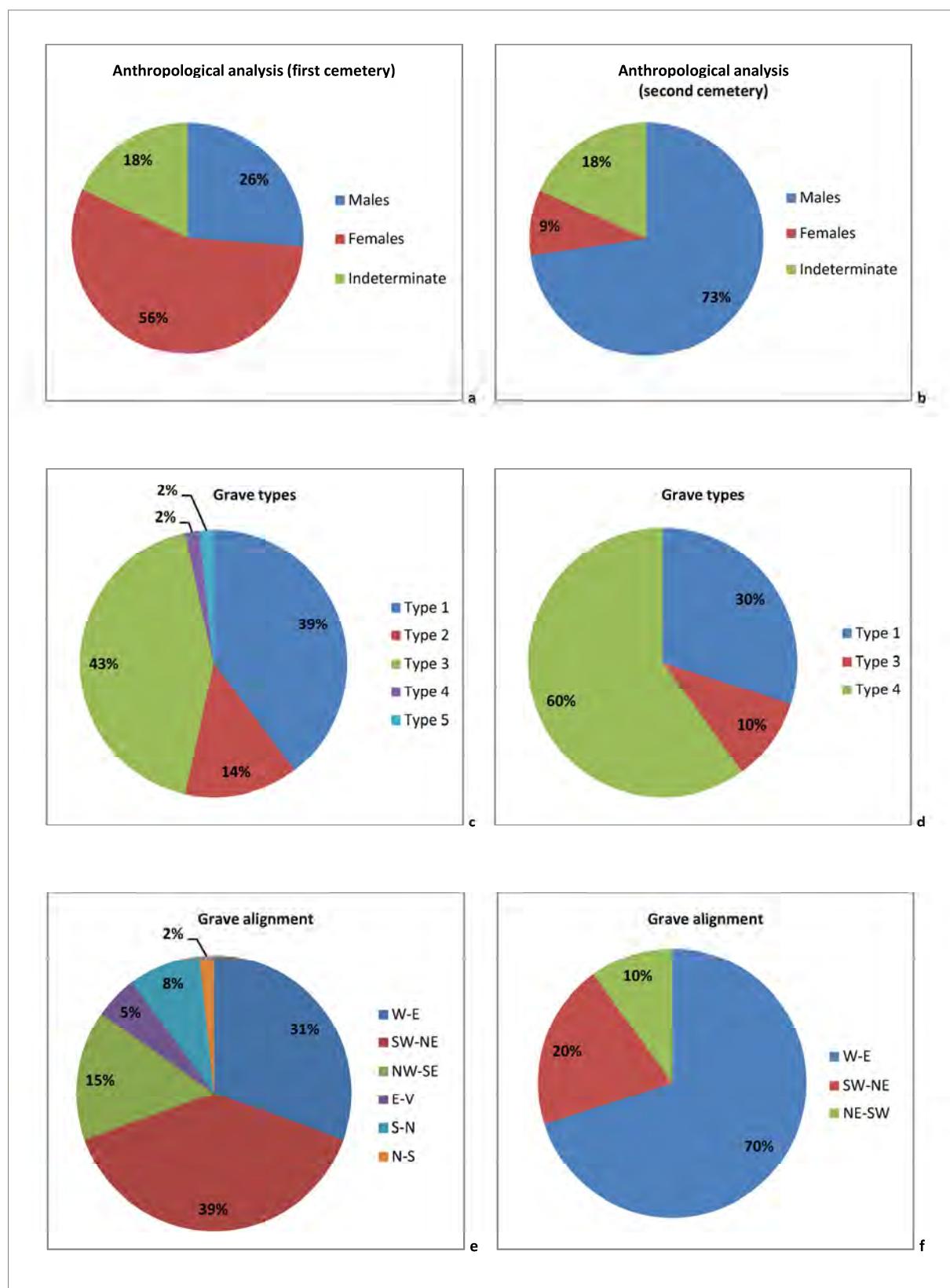


Plate 5. a. Anthropological analysis (first cemetery); b. Anthropological analysis (second cemetery); c. Graves types (first cemetery); d. Grave types (second cemetery); e. Grave alignment (first cemetery); f. Grave alignment (second cemetery).

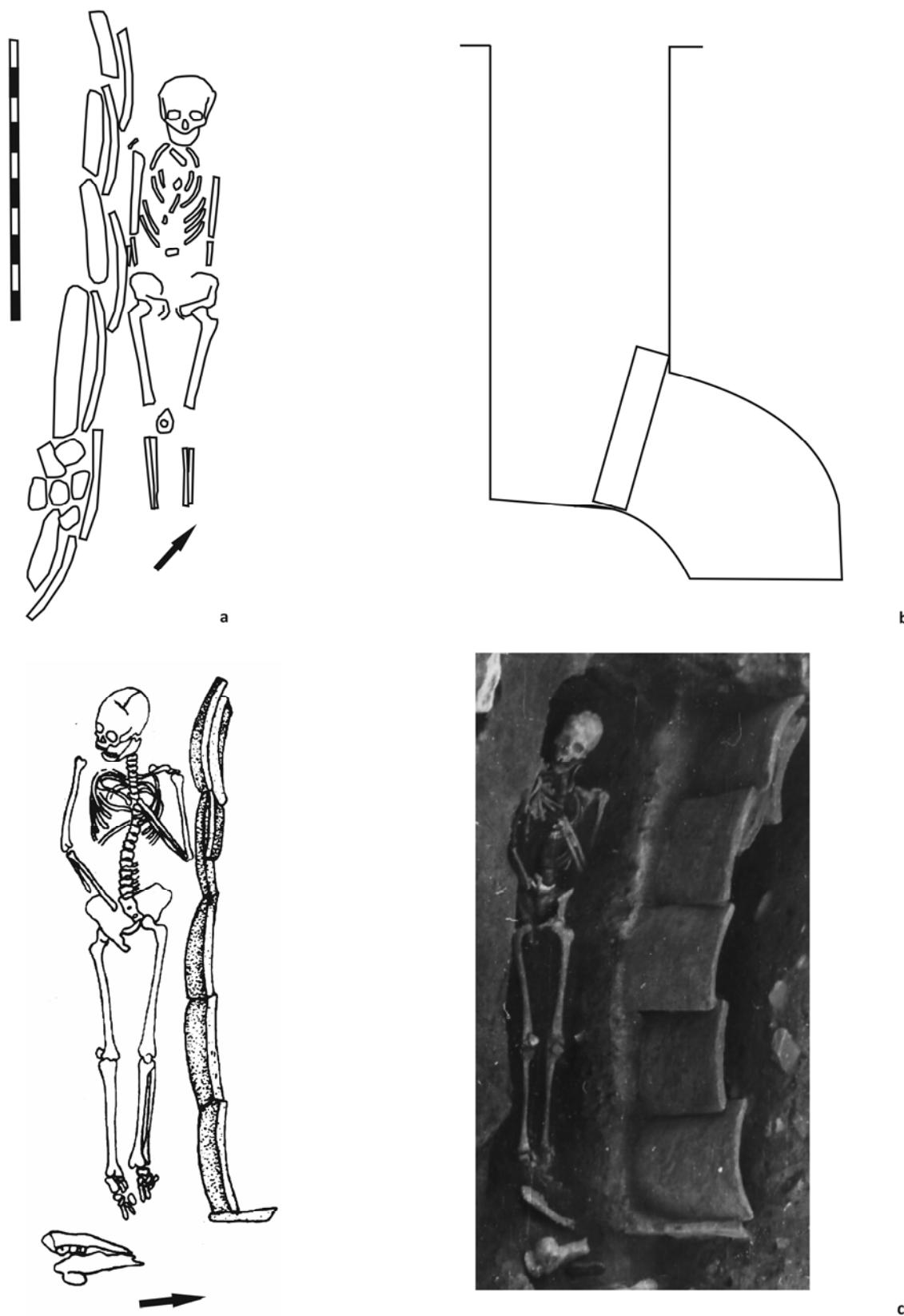


Plate 6. a. Niche grave from the Roman age cemetery at Kavarna, Bulgaria (after Gatev 2010, fig. 3). b. Graphic representation of a niche grave with the entrance covered with tiles (profile view); c. Grave 20.

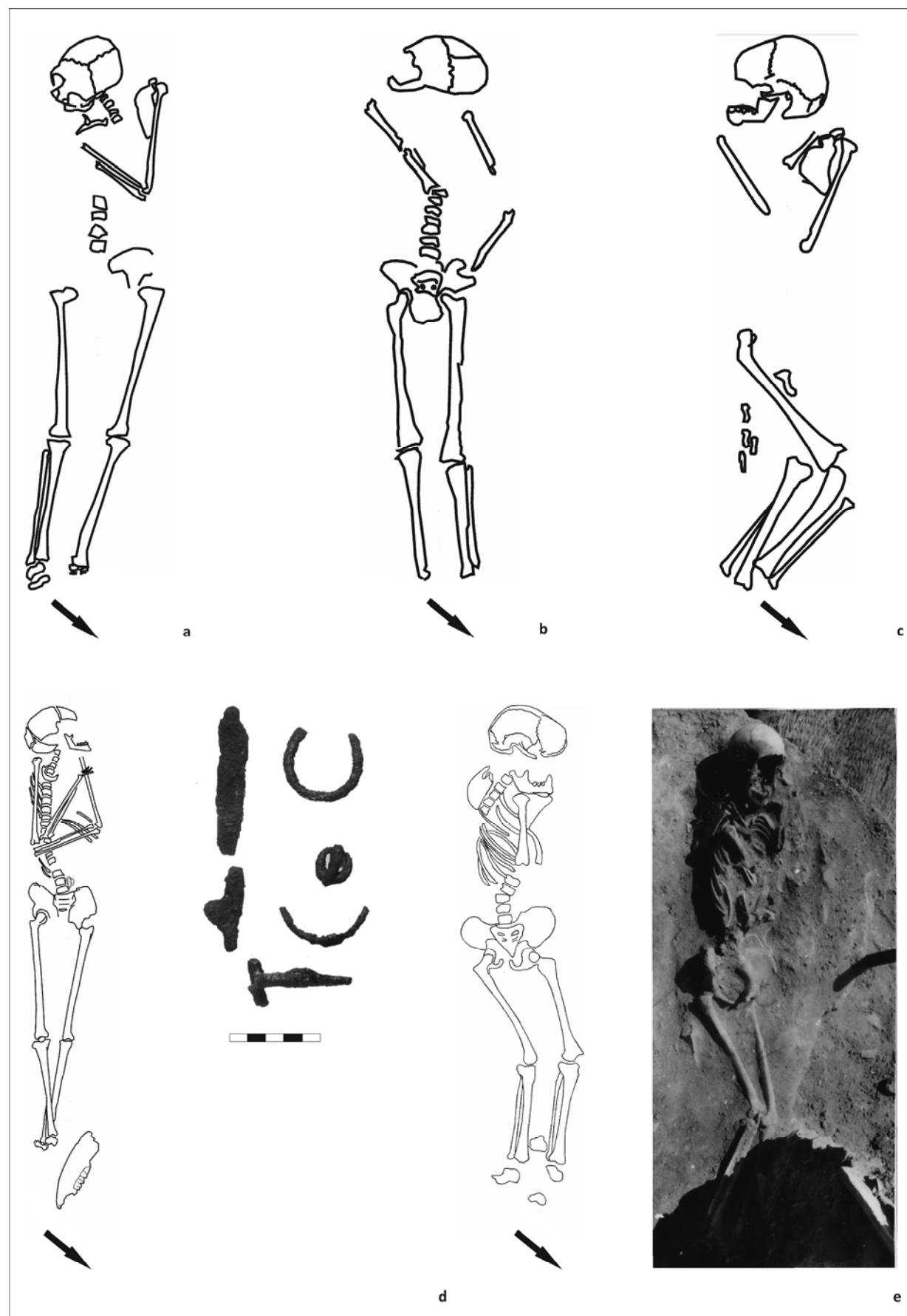


Plate 7. a. Grave 1; b. Grave 2; c. Grave 4; d. Grave 3; e. Grave 5.

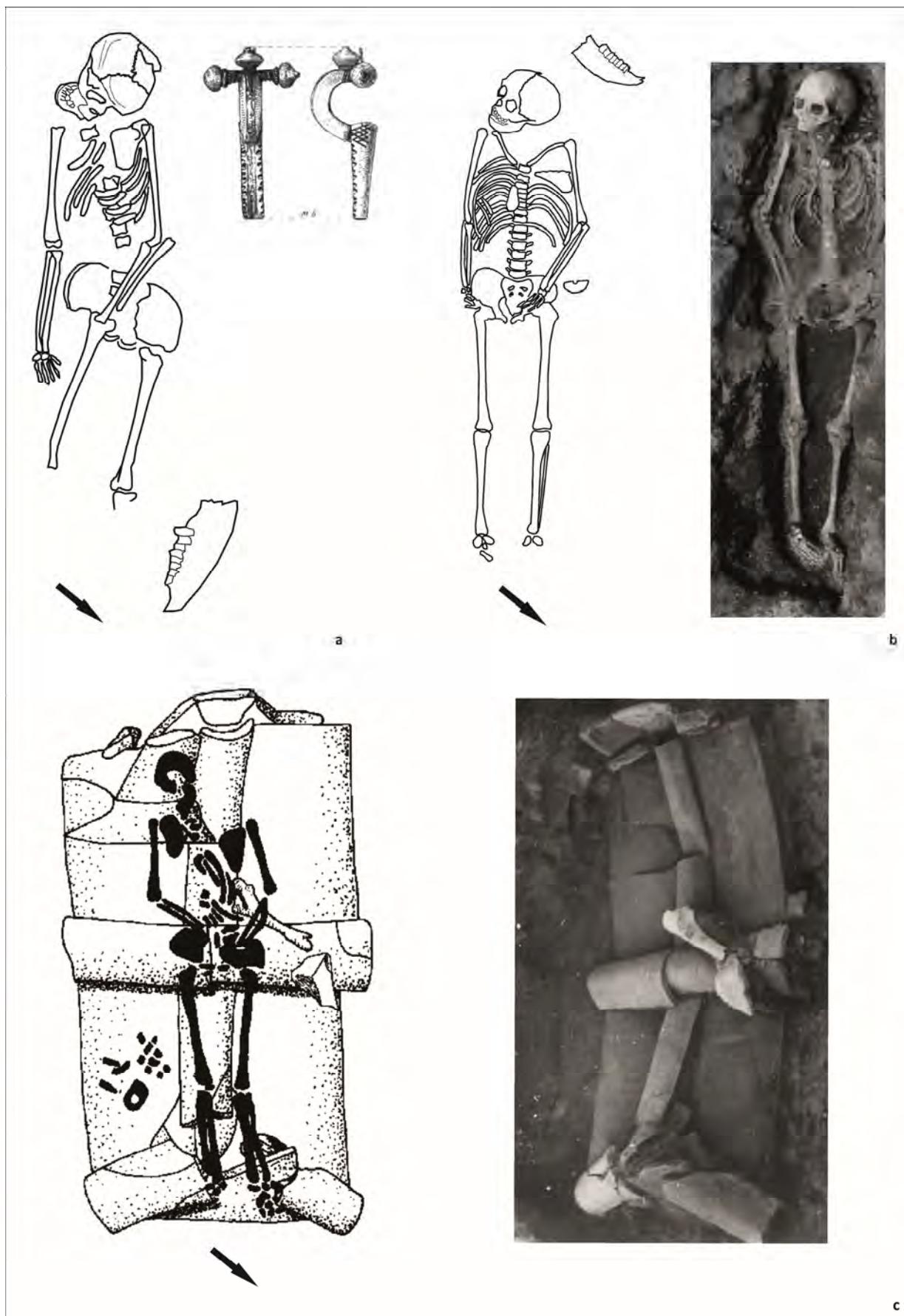


Plate 8. a. Grave 6; b. Grave 7; c. Grave 10.

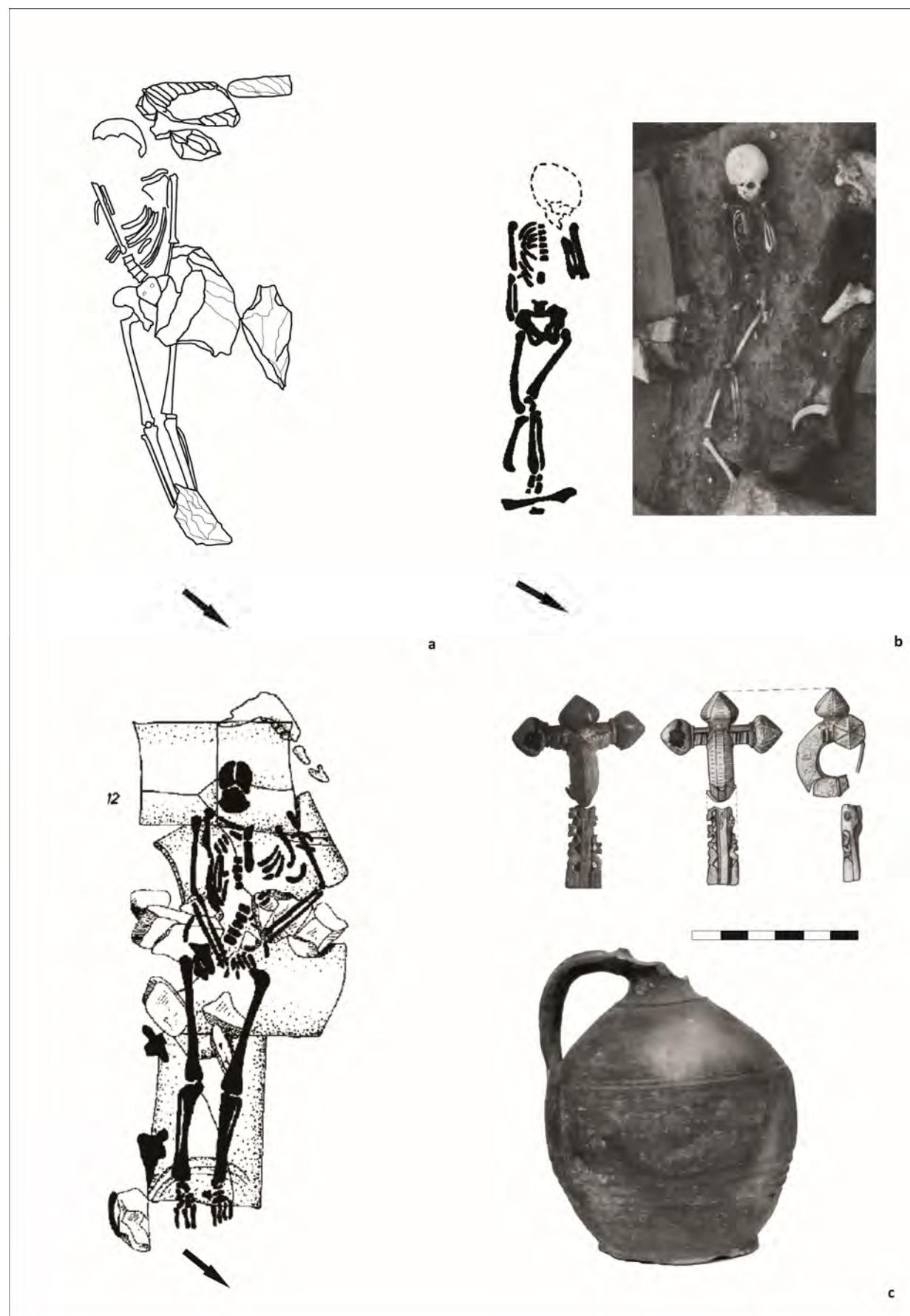
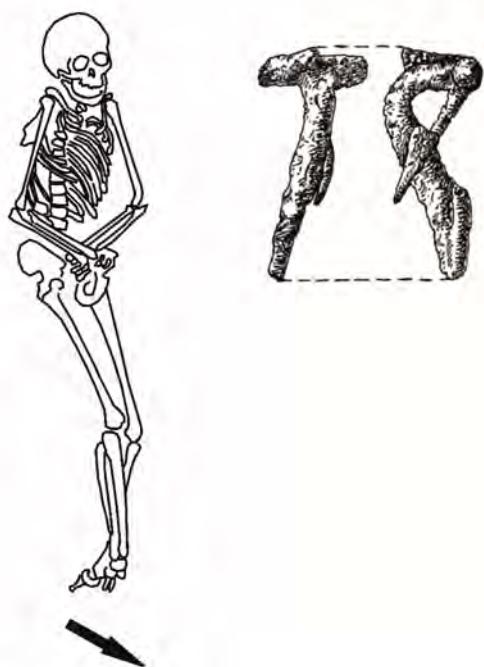
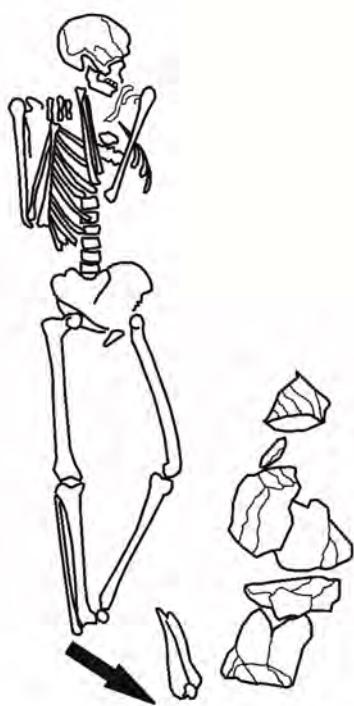


Plate 9. a. Grave 9; b. Grave 11; c. Grave 12.



a



b

c

Plate 10. a. Grave 13; b. Grave 14; c. Grave 15.

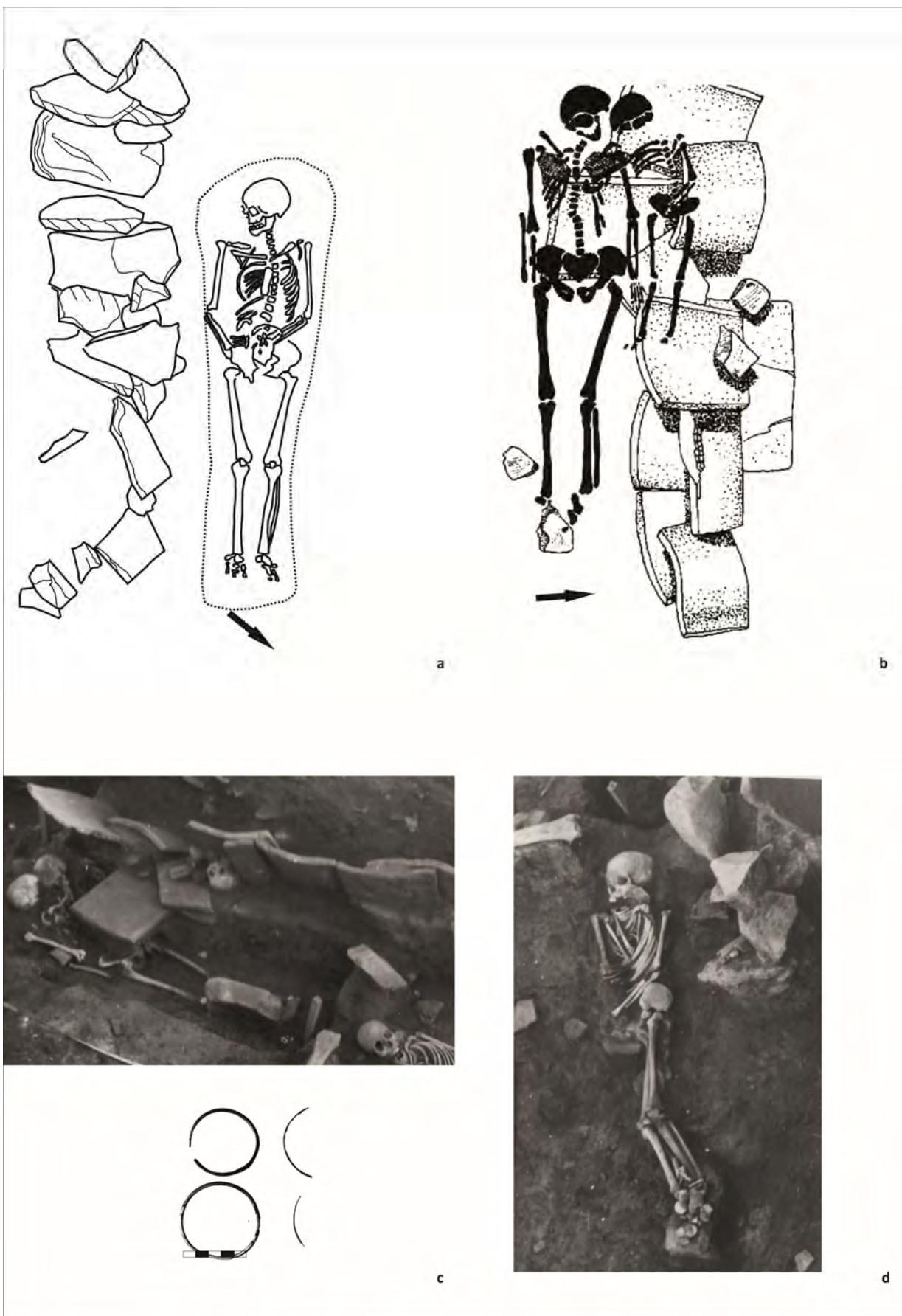


Plate 11. a. Grave 17; b-c. Grave 18; d. Grave 19.

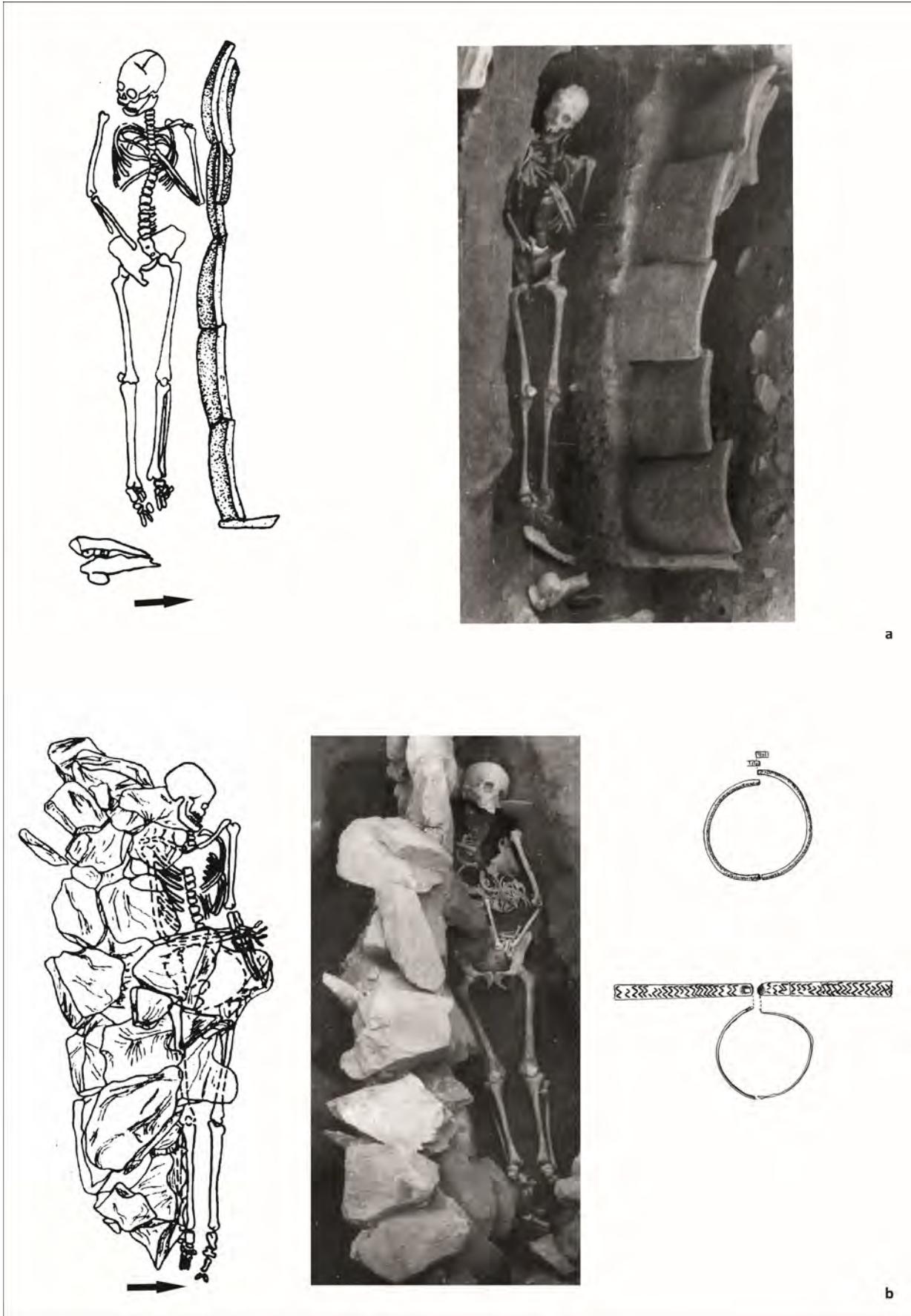


Plate 12. a. Grave 20; b. Grave 21.

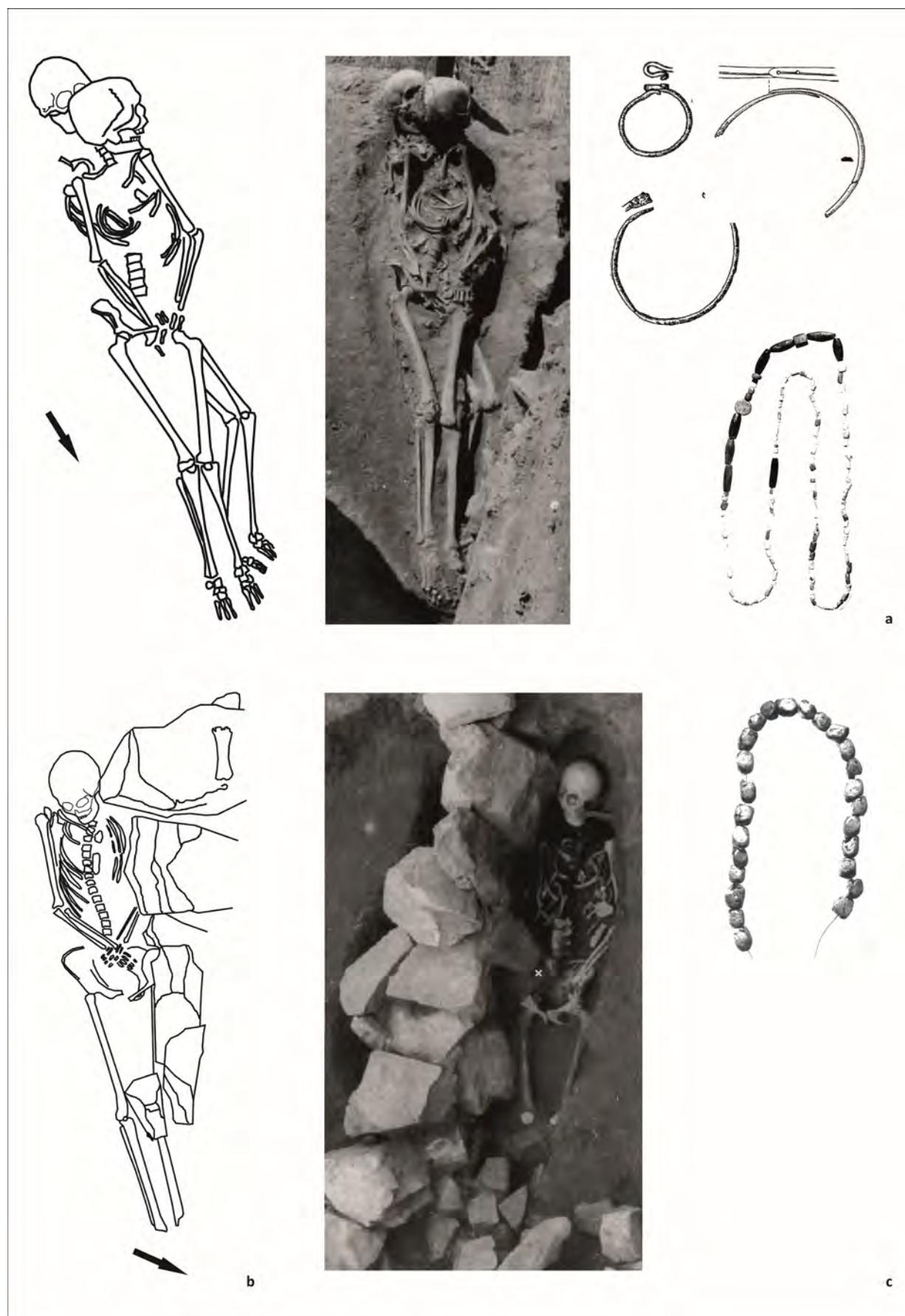


Plate 13. a. Grave 23; b. Grave 24; c. Grave 25.

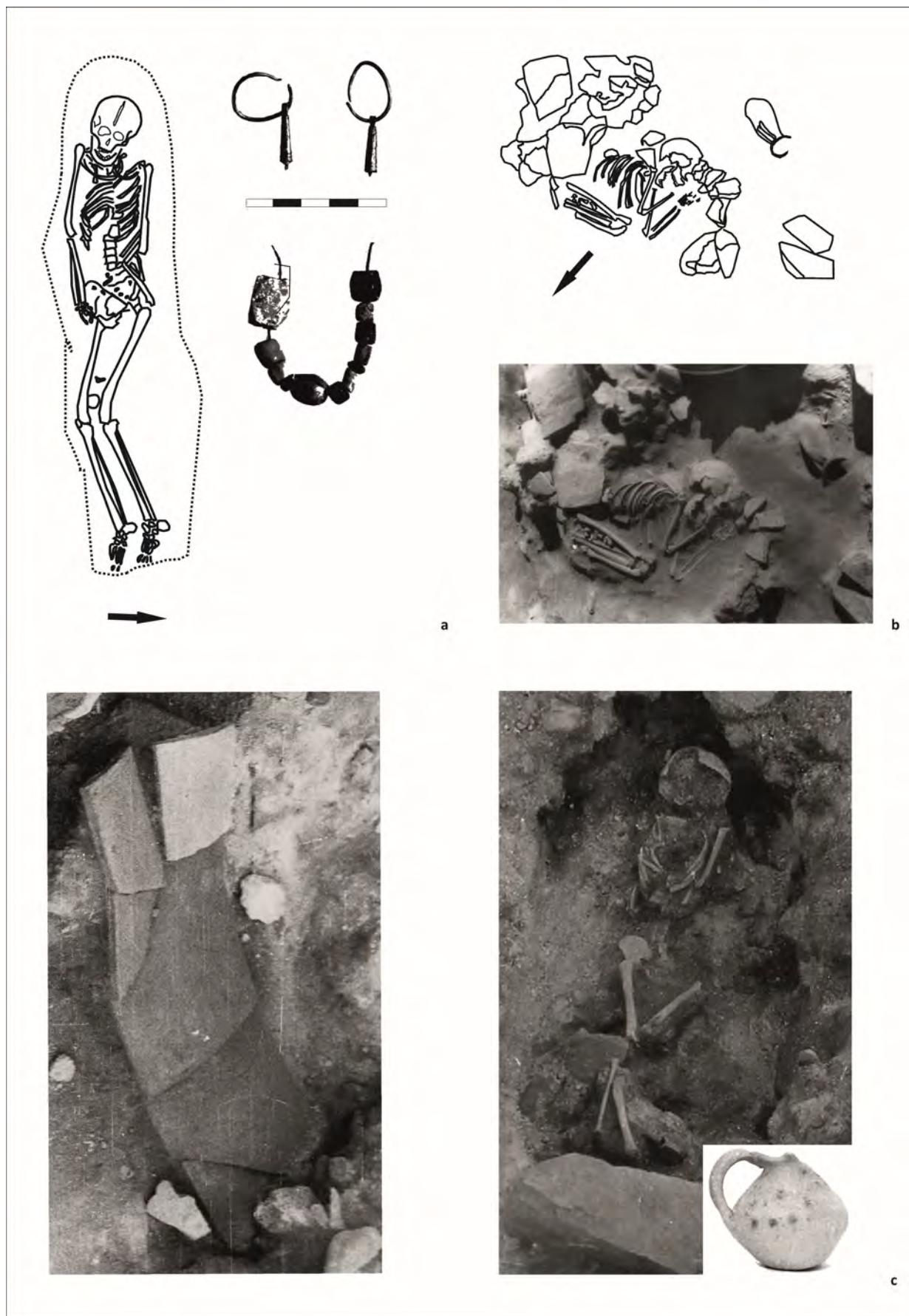


Plate 14. a. Grave 27; b. Grave 28; c. Grave 29.

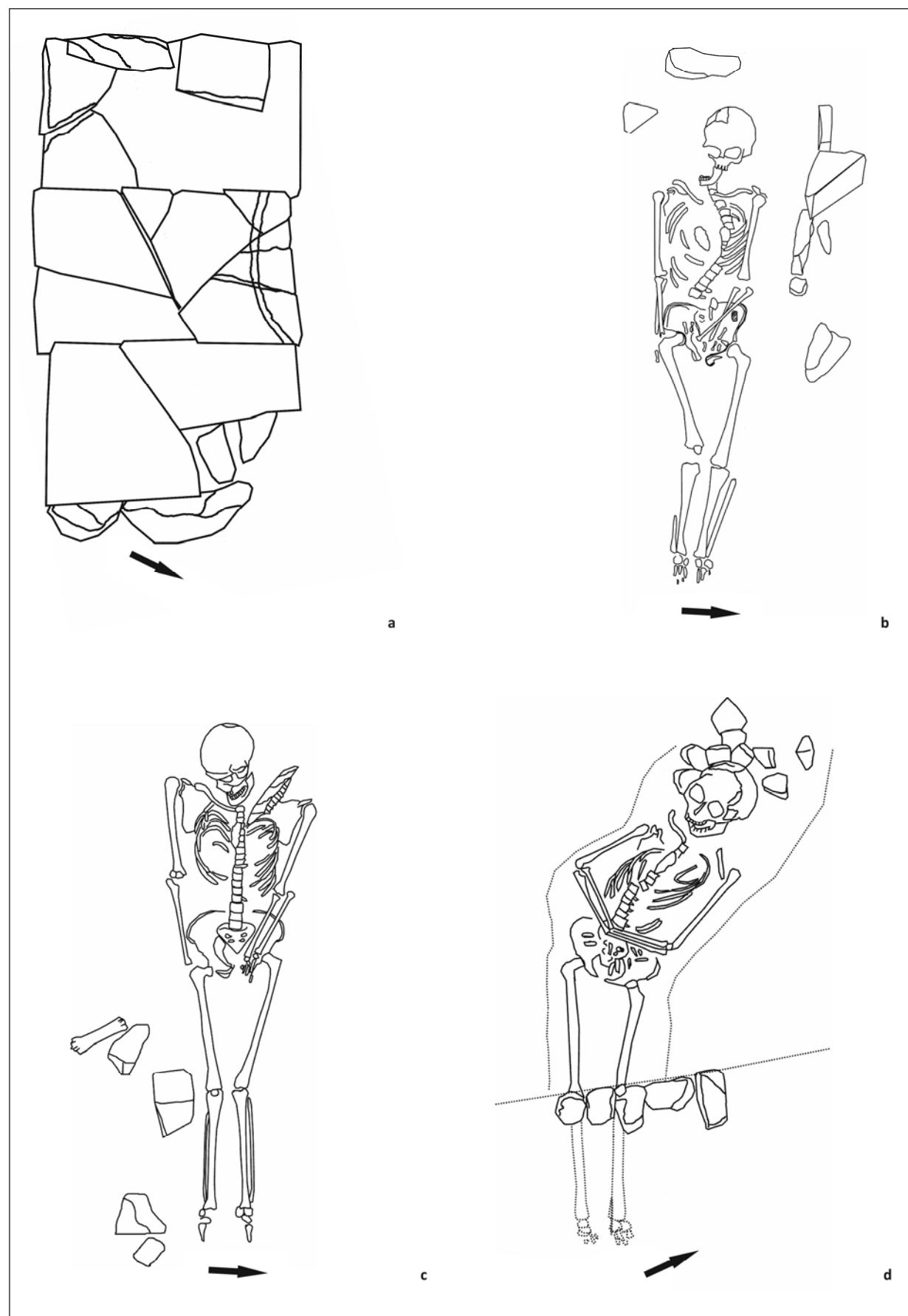


Plate 15. a. Grave 30; b. Grave 39; c. Grave 40; d. Grave 41.

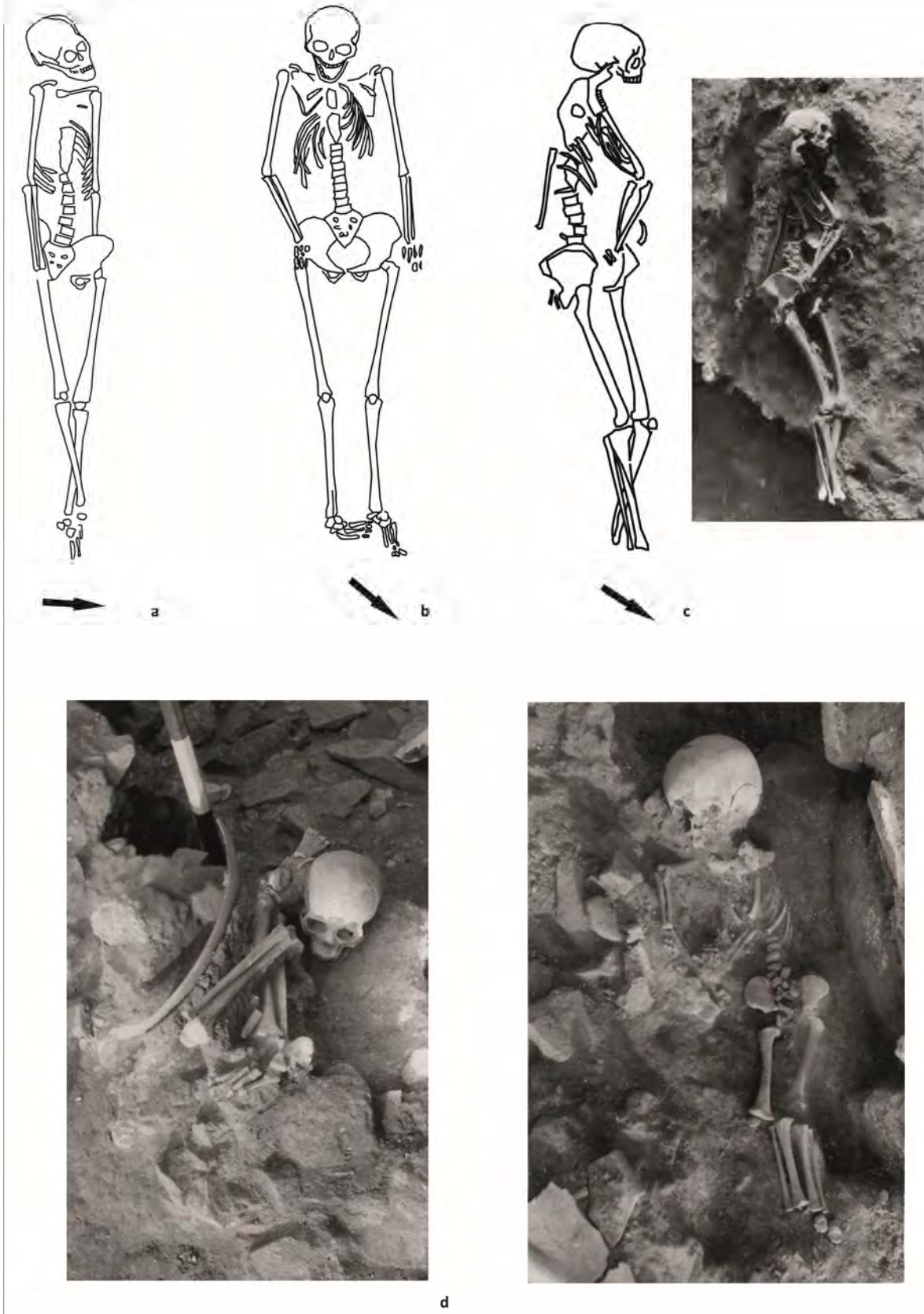


Plate 16. a. Grave 44; b. Grave 45; c. Grave 48; d. Grave 50; e. Grave 51.

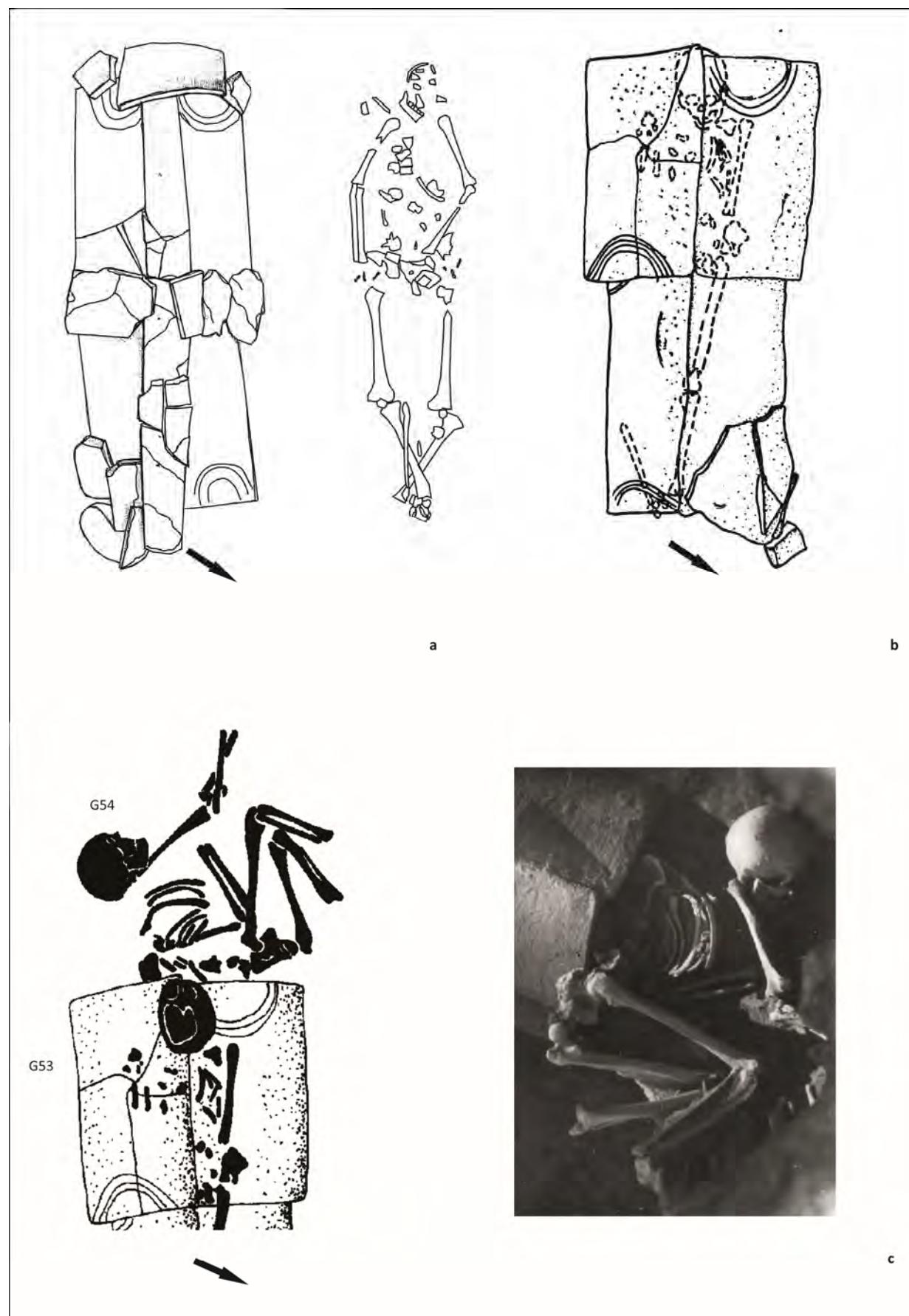


Plate 17. a. Grave 52; b. Grave 53; c. Grave 54.

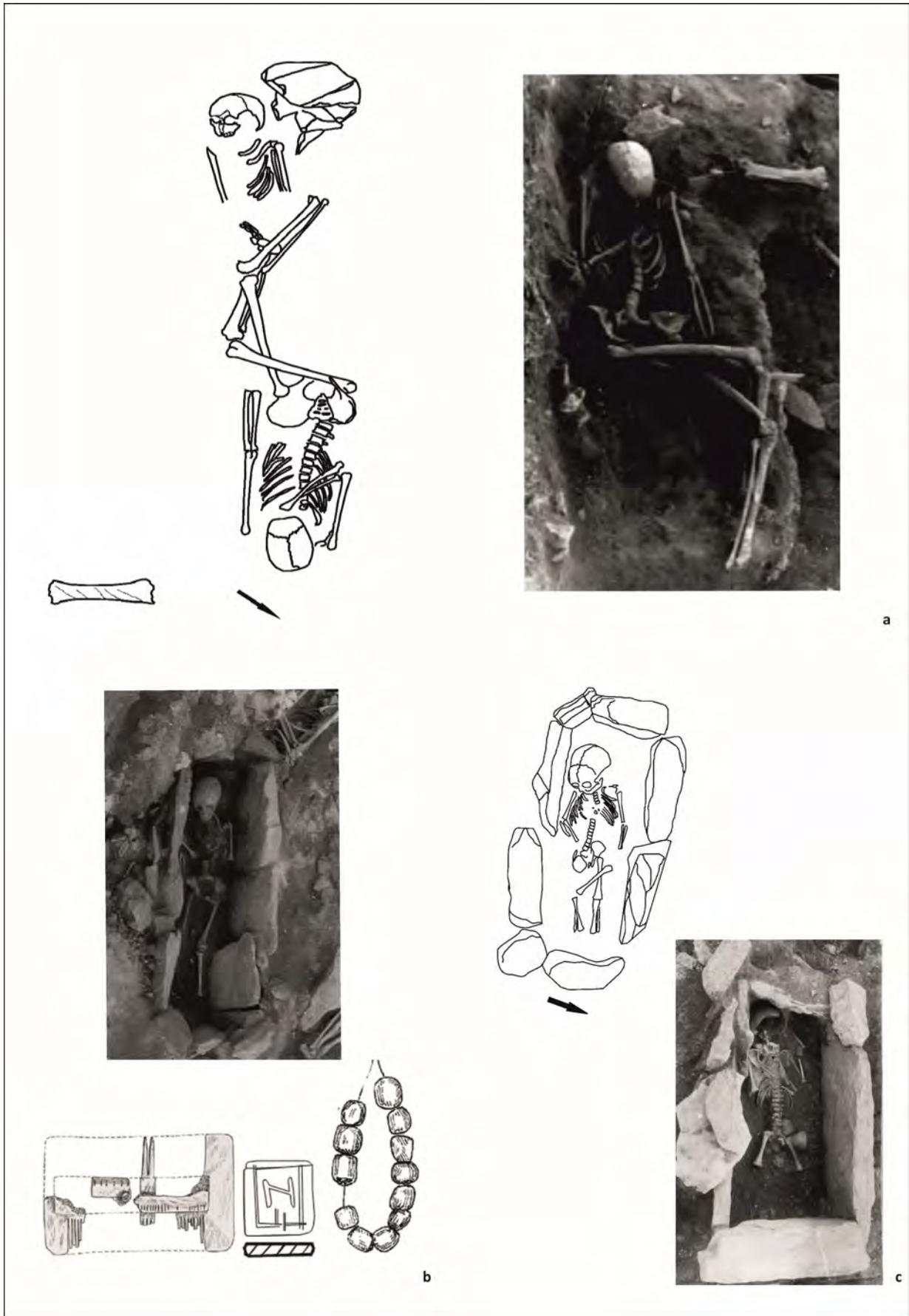


Plate 18. a. Grave 8; b. Grave 33; c. Grave 38.

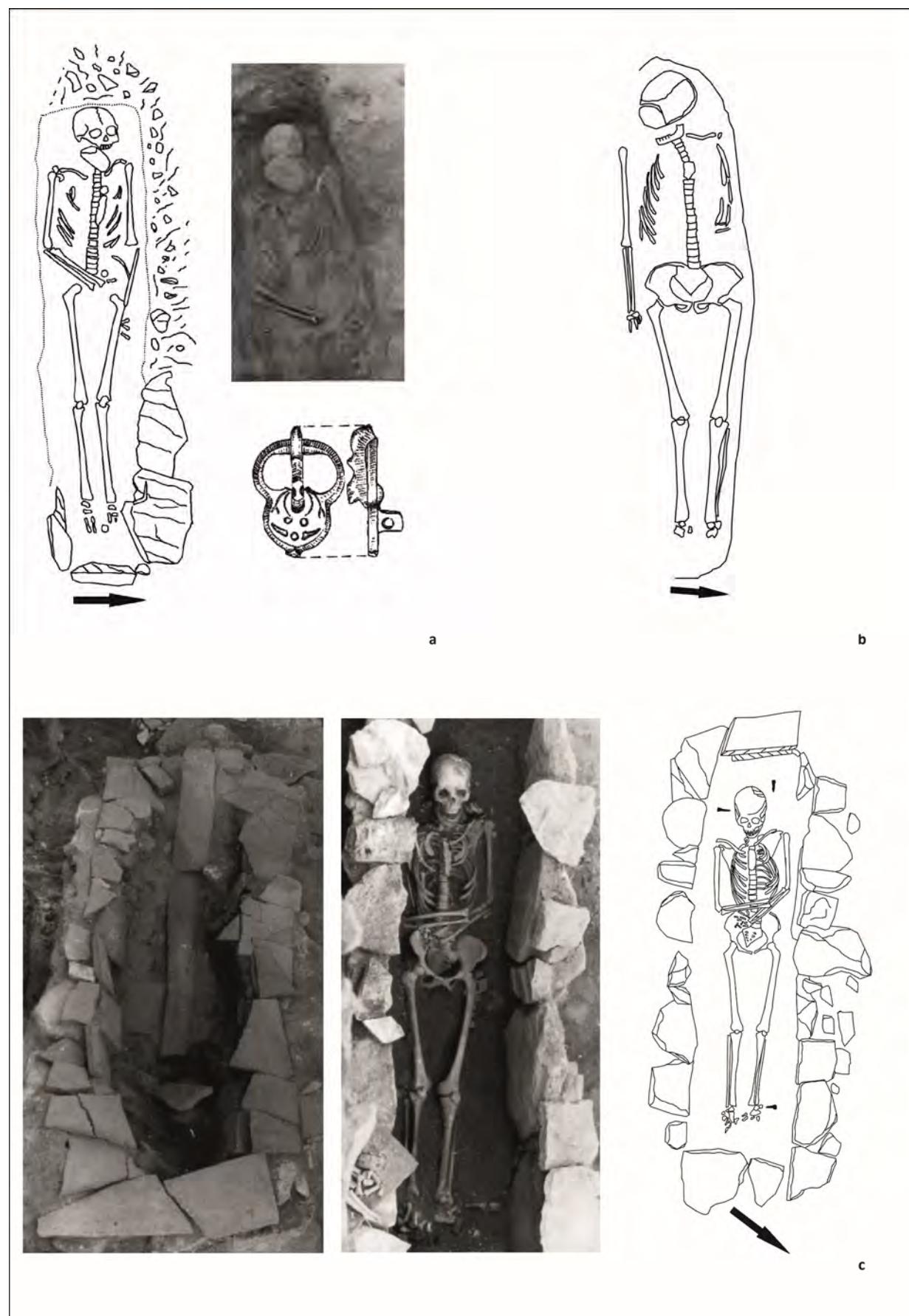


Plate 19. a. Grave 43; b. Grave 46; c. Grave 49.

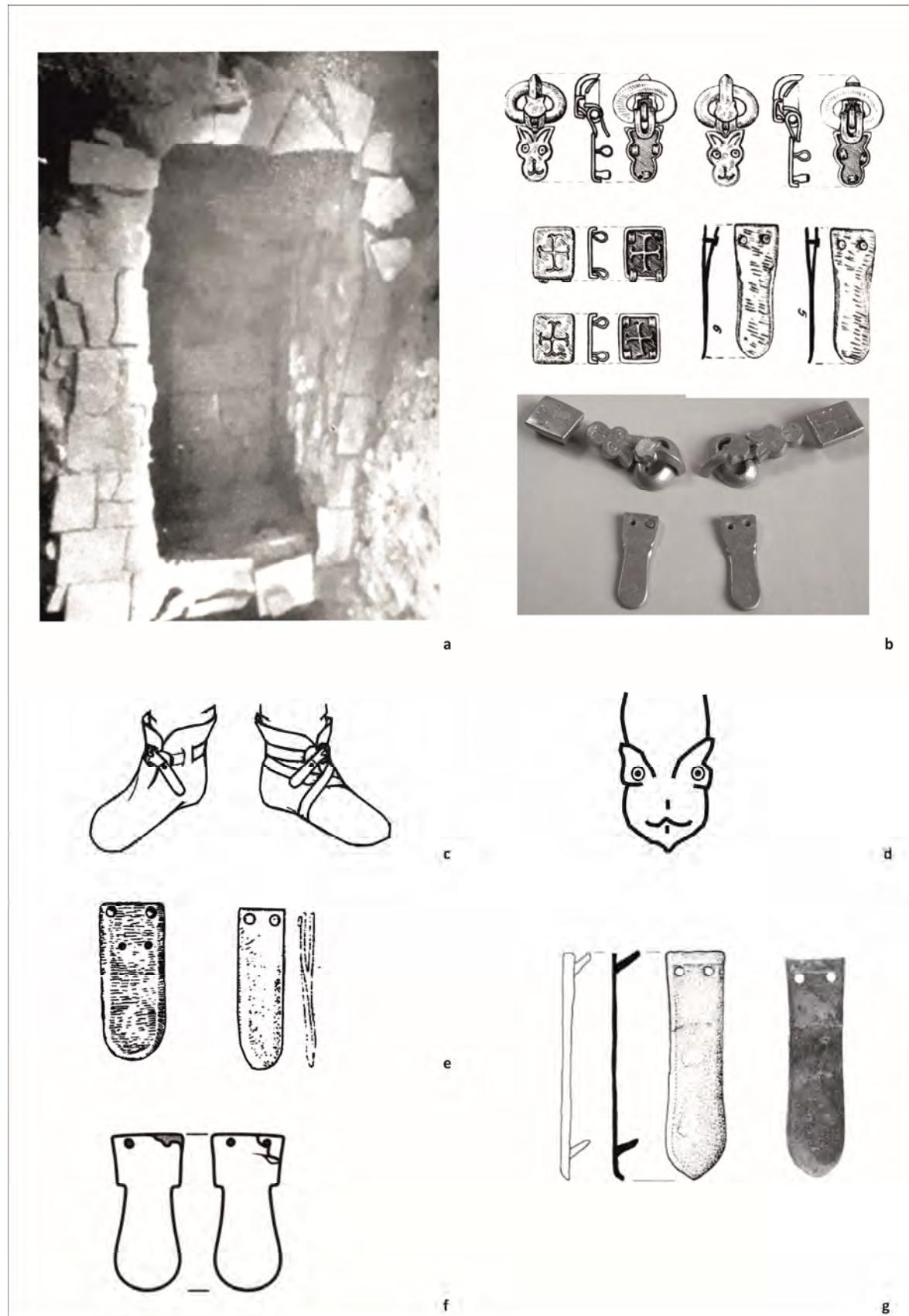


Plate 20. a. Grave 58; b. Grave 58 – grave goods (after Nubar 1971b, fig. 8; photo from Achim 2015, fig. 10/3); c. Reconstruction of footwear set with buckles and strap ends (after Komar 2010, fig. 2/IV); d. Stylistic motif from the Martinovka harness mount (after Kidd, Pekarskaya 1995, pl. 5/d); e. Strap ends from graves no. 17 and 102 at Noslac (after Rusu 1962, fig. 2/39 and Rusu 1965, pl. I/23); f. Strap ends from southeastern Bulgaria (after Traykova 2017, pl. 149/1882); g. Strap ends from Kecel, Hungary (after Balogh 2004, fig. 2/12).

ABREVIERI / ABRÉVIATIONS / ABBREVIATIONS

- AAC – Acta Archaeologica Carpatica, Kraków
ACMI – Anuarul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice, Bucureşti
ACSS – Ancient Civilisations from Scythia to Siberia, Leiden
ActaArch – Acta Archaeologica. København
ActaArchHung – Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
AJA – American Journal of Archaeology, Boston
Alba Regia – Alba Regia. Annales Musei Stephani regis, Székesferhérvar
Altertum – Das Altertum, Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin Sektion für Altertumswissenschaft Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR Zentralinstitut für Alte Geschichte und Archäologie, Berlin
Aluta – Aluta. Revista Muzeului Național Secuiesc Sfântu Gheorghe
AM – Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Athenische Abteilung, Berlin
AMI(T) – Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Iran (und Turan)
ANRW – *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt. Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung*, Berlin – New York, 1972–1998
Antaeus – Antaeus. Communicationes ex Instituto Archaeologico Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
Antiquity – Antiquity. A Review of World Archaeology, Durham, UK
Anuarul MJIAP – Anuarul Muzeului Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Prahova, Ploiești
AnUCraiova – Analele Universității din Craiova
AnUVT – Annales d'Université "Valahia" Târgoviște, Section d'Archéologie et d'Histoire
Apulum – Acta Musei Apulensis. Muzeul Național al Unirii, Alba Iulia
ARA – Annuaire Roumain d'Anthropologie
ArchBulg – Archaeologia Bulgarica, Sofia
ArchÉrt – Archaeologai Értesítő. A Magyar Régészeti és Művészettörténeti Társulat tudományos folyóirata, Budapest
ArchHist – Archeologia Historica, Brno
ArchKorr – Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt, Mainz
ArchRozhledy – Archeologické Rozhledy, Praha
Area – Area, Royal Geographical Society, London
ArheologijaSofia – Arheologija. Organ na Archeologičeskija Institut i Muzej, Sofia
ArhMold – Arheologia Moldovei, Iași
ArhVestLjubljana – Arheološki vestnik. Inštitut za arheologijo ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana
ASC – Archeologica Slovaca Catalogi, Bratislava
AVANS – Archeologické Vyskumy a Nálezy na Slovensku, Nitra
BARIntSer – British Archaeological Reports. International Series, Oxford
BARSupSer – British Archaeological Reports. Supplementum Series, Oxford
BASOR – Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research, University of Chicago
BCH – Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique, Athènes-Paris
BiblIstrPont-SA - Biblioteca Istro-Pontică. Seria Arheologie. Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale „Gavrilă Simion”, Tulcea
BiblMemAnt – Bibliotheca Memoriae Antiquitatis, Piatra-Neamț
BiblMusNap – Bibliotheca Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
BiblMuzNaț-SCP – Biblioteca Muzeului Național – Seria Cercetări Pluridisciplinare, Bucureşti
BiblThrac – Bibliotheca Thracologica, Bucureşti
BiEtud IFAO – Bibliothèque d'étude, Institut français d'archéologie orientale, le Caire
BMJT – Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman, Alexandria
Bonner Jarbücher – Bonner Jahrbücher des Rheinischen Landesmuseums in Bonn, Bonn
BSA – British School at Athens, Athens
BSNR – Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române, Bucureşti
CA – Cercetări arheologice, Bucureşti
Caiete ARA – Caietele ARA, Revistă de Arhitectură, Restaurare și Arheologie, Asociația ARA, Bucureşti
CAPH – Cemeteries of the Avar Period (567–829) in Hungary, Budapest
Carpica – Carpica. Complexul Muzeal „Iulian Antonescu” Bacău, Bacău

- CCA – Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, Bucureşti
- CCDJ – Cultură și Civilizație la Dunărea de Jos, Călărași
- ClAnt – Classical Antiquity, University of California, Berkeley
- Collegium Antropologicum – Collegium Antropologicum. Journal of the Croatian Anthropological Society
- Crisia – Crisia. Muzeului Ţării Crişurilor, Oradea
- Dacia – Dacia (Nouvelle Série). Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne. Académie Roumaine. Institut d'archéologie « V. Pârvan », Bucarest
- DMÉ – A Debreceni Déri Múzeum Évkönyve, Debrecen
- Documenta Praehistorica – Documenta Praehistorica, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology, Ljubljana
- Drobeta – Drobeta. Muzeul Regiunii Porțile de Fier, Drobeta-Turnu Severin
- EphemNap – Ephemeris Napocensis. Academia Română, Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei, Cluj-Napoca
- ERAUL – Études et Recherches archéologiques de l'Université de Liège
- eTopoi – Journal for Ancient Studies, Berlin
- EurAnt – Eurasia Antiqua. Deutsche Archäologisches Institut, Berlin
- Expedition – Expedition. The Magazine of Archaeology, Anthropology
- FAH – Fontes archaeologici Hungariae, Budapest
- FolArch – Folia Archaeologica. A Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Évkönyve. Annales Musei Nationalis Hungarici, Budapest
- Gallia – Gallia. Archéologie de la France antique
- Germania – Germania. Anzeiger der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Frankfurt
- Gladius – Gladius. Estudios sobre armas antiguas, armamento, arte militar y vida cultural en Oriente y Occidente, España
- GNMP – Glasnik Narodnog muzeja Pančevo, Pančevo
- GSAD – Glasnik Srpskog arheološkog društva, Beograd
- Gymnasium – Gymnasium. Zeitschrift für Kultur der Antike und humanistische Bildung
- Habis – Habis. Arqueología, filología clásica, Universidad de Sevilla
- Hesperia – Hesperia. Journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Cambridge
- Historia – Historia. Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte, Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart
- Histria archaeologica – Histria archaeologica. Časopis Arheološkog muzeja Istre, Pula, Croatia
- HMÉ – A Hajdúsági Múzeum Évkönyve, Hajdúbószörmény
- IAA Reports – Israel Antiquities Authority Publications, Israel
- Ialomița – Ialomița. Studii de cercetări de arheologie, istorie, etnografie și muzeologie, Slobozia
- IARPoTHP – International Association for Research on Pottery of the Hellenistic Period e. V.
- IJA – International Journal of Archaeology
- IJO – International Journal of Osteoarchaeology, Journal online
- Iran – Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies
- Istros – Istros, Muzeul Brăilei, Brăila
- IzvestijaSofia – Izvestija na Nacionalni Arheologičeski Institut, Sofia
- JAMÉ – A nyíregyházi Jósa András Múzeum Évkönyve, Nyíregyháza
- JAS – Journal of Archaeological Science
- JDAI – Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin
- JEMAHS – Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Pennsylvania State University
- JFA – Journal of Field Archaeology
- JHRE – Journal of Housing and Rural Environment, Iran
- JNES – Journal of Near Eastern Studies
- JPMÉ – A Janus Pannonius Múzeum Évkönyve, Pécs
- JRGZM – Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz, Mainz
- Klio – Klio. Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte, Berlin
- Kühn-Archiv – Kuhn-Archiv. Arbeiten aus dem Landwirtschaftlichen Institut der Universität Halle
- MAIASk – Materialy po arheologii i istorii antichnogo i srednevekovogo Kryma, Moskva – Tyumen – Nizhnevartovsk
- MAInstUngAK – Mitteilungen des Archäologischen Instituts der Ungarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Budapest
- MAN – MAN. Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institut, London
- Marisia – Marisia. Studii și materiale. Arheologie – Istorie – Etnografie. Târgu Mureș
- MCA – Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, Bucureşti
- MEFRA – Mélanges de l'Ecole française de Rome. Antiquité, Roma

- MFMÉ-SA – A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve – *Studia Archaeologica*, Szeged
- MHÁS – Magyarország honfoglalás kori és kora Árpád-kori sírleletei, Miskolc–Budapest–Szeged–Szombathely
- Minerva – *Minerva. Revista de filología clásica*, Universidad de Valladolid
- Monographie du CRA – *Monographie du Centre de Recherches archéologiques*, Valbonne
- MŐTK – Magyar Őstörténeti Témacsoport Kiadványok. Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Bölcsészettudományi Kutatóközpont, Budapest
- Mousaios – Mousaios. *Buletinul Științific al Muzeului Județean Buzău*
- MR – Magyar Régészeti Online Magazin (Archaeolingua)
- NM – Natura Montenegrina, Podgorica
- Oltenia – Oltenia. *Studii și Comunicări*, Craiova
- Padusa – Padusa. *Bulletino del Centro polesano di studi storici, archeologi et etnografici*, Rovigo
- PamArch – Památky Archeologické, Praha
- Peuce – Peuce, Studii și cercetări de istorie și arheologie, Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale, Tulcea
- Phoenix – Phoenix. *The Journal of the Classical Association of Canada*
- Pontica – Pontica. *Studii și materiale de istorie, arheologie și muzeografie*, Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța
- PZ – Prähistorische Zeitschrift, Berlin-Mainz
- Quaternary International – Quaternary International. The Journal of the International Union for Quaternary Research
- RA – Revue Archéologique, Paris
- Radiocarbon – An International Journal of Cosmogenic Isotope Research, Cambridge
- RÉL – Revue des études latines
- RMM.MIA – Revista Muzeelor și Monumentelor, seria Monumente Istorice și de Artă, București
- RMV – Rad muzeja Vojvodine, Novi Sad
- RT – Régészeti Tanulmányok. A Közép-Duna-medence honfoglalás- és kora Árpád-kori sírleletei, Budapest
- RVM – Rad vojvođanskih muzeja, Novi Sad
- SAM – *Studia Archaeologica et Mediaevalia*, Bratislava
- Sargetia – Sargetia. *Acta Musei Devensis*, Buletinul Muzeului județean Hunedoara, Deva
- SAP – *Studia ad Archaeologiam Pazmaniensia*. A PPKE BTK Régészeti Tanszékének kiadványai, Budapest
- SCA – Studii și Cercetări de Antropologie, București
- SCIV(A) – Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie), București
- SCN – Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică, București
- SlovArch – Slovenská Archeológia, Nitra
- SP – Studii de Preistorie, București
- Starinar – Starinar. Arheološki institut Beograd
- StCl – Studii Clasice, București
- Studia Hercynia – *Studia Hercynia*, Univerzita Karlova
- Studia praehistorica – *Studia praehistorica*, National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, Sofia
- Študijné zvesti – Študijné zvesti. Archeologického ústavu Slovenskej akadémie vied, Nitra
- Syria – Syria. *Revue d'art oriental et d'archéologie*
- Th-D – Thraco-Dacica, București
- Tisicum – A Jász – Nagykun – Szolnok Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve, Szolnok
- TNYSc – Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences, New York
- Transilvania – Transilvania. Centrul Cultural Interetnic Transilvania, Sibiu
- TRW – Transformation of the Roman World, Leiden
- TYCHE – TYCHE. Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte, Papyrologie und Epigraphik
- Tyragetia – Tyragetia. Anuarul Muzeului Național de Istorie a Moldovei, Chișinău
- VAH – Varia Archaeologica Hungarica V. Redigit Csanád Bálint. *Publicationes Instituti Archaeologici Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, Budapest
- Valachica – Valachica. Studii și cercetări de istorie și istoria culturii, Complexul Muzeal Național Curtea Domnească Târgoviște
- VAMZ – Vjesnik Arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu, Zagreb
- ŽA – Živa Antika / Antiquité Vivante. Društvo za antički studij na SRM, Seminar na klasična filologija, Filozofski fakultet, Skopje
- ZAM – Zeitschrift für Archäologie des Mittelalters, Bonn
- ZfA – Zeitschrift für Archäologie, Berlin
- Ziridava – Ziridava. *Studia Archaeologica*. Complexul Muzeal Arad

ZMS – Zbornik muzeja Srema, Sremska Mitrovica
ZNM Beograd – Zbornik Narodnog Muzeja, Beograd