

The Torsioned and Knitted Bracelets (the Xth – XVth centuries)

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This paper analyses the torsioned bracelets, and the knitted bracelets, with plaques at the ends. The first part synthesizes the stage of the research in Romania. The catalogue of the discoveries, systematized on provinces, type of the findings, materials and techniques used for bracelets are the following parts. According to the execution techniques used for the bracelets, and to the shapes and ornaments of the plaques it was proposed a typology of the items for the present-day territory of Romania. The relative and absolute chronology of this type of bracelets is also discussed, taking into account the discoveries from Bulgaria and eastern Serbia, too. The bracelets were divided into torsioned items, and knitted items. The torsioned bracelets are divided in three main types and some sub-types. The typology of the knitted bracelets includes three types. Finally, the chronological and the diffusion areas were determined for the south-eastern Europe. Several diffusion areas of the torsioned bracelets could be defined. The first group (Dinogetia) was dated in the 10th – 11th centuries in Dobruja, with analogies in Bulgaria and the Russian territory. The next bracelet (Mihail Kogălniceanu) is characteristic to the eastern Balkans, and it is dated in the second half of the 13th century and the beginning of the following century. The third group includes the items found in Moldavia, in Oțeleni and Voinești, dated in the second half of the 13th century. Another group is formed by the items from different regions of Romania (Transilvania, Dobruja, Moldavia), dated between the second half of the 13th century until the middle of the 14th century. (Păcuiul lui Soare, Amnaș, Voinești). The bracelets from Basarabi, Jiana Mare and those found in Banat are the latest group, dated late 14th and perhaps early 15th century. Bracelets without direct analogies, such as Runcu (13th century) and Schela Cladovei (cca 1325–1420) are also discussed. Bracelets made of knitted wires, less used, are concentrated in Oltenia, at Gogoșu (end 14th – early 15th century) and Șușița (late 14th century), and only one found in Moldavia, at Voinești (second half of the 13th century).