# THE CSENGELE-FEKETEHALOM CEMETERY

# Gyula Török

# I. EXCAVATION AND SITE

# 1. The excavation of the cemetery

On the N of the town Szeged, in the Csengele fields Benjamin Kasza, a farmer, in 1935–36 discovered three graves in his plot. His neighbour, Mózes Lackó resident in Csengele No. 98, while turning the soil to prepare it for the planting of vine in 1936 opened up five graves (1–5). From the finds discovered in grave 1 twelve glass beads and an iron buckle were delivered to the Szeged City Museum in 1937. On March 31, 1936 the landowner donated the objects discovered in graves 2–5 to the Museum. The Director of the Museum charged Author to start rescue excavations.¹ On the same day when the finds were taken in the possession of the Museum graves 6,7 and 8 disturbed in course of agricultural works, could be excavated. At the same time we came to the conclusion that these graves belong to a larger cemetery wich had been disturbed before the excavation started. By April 29, 1936 the rescue excavation yielded 83 graves (9–92). To the numbers stated above we added three graves found to be earliest, in the land of Benjamin Kasza (93–95). Because of the agricultural works started on the end of April our activities could not be continued earlier than in autumn. This time near the NE and SW limits of the excavated area ten more graves (96–105) came to light.

finds yielded by graves (109-123?) disturbed that time reached the Museum.

In 1942 József Korek with Author's consent started processing the Csengele finds yet World War II having broken out meanwhile prevented the publication of the finds. Yet, from the photos of the graves and their surroundings, their descriptions collated with the initial information of Author's laid down in his inventory book, the material of graves 2–108 sorely messed up during the war could nevertheless be identified. The pictures taken of the finds coming from graves 109–123 (?) could not be found and without them the identification of the grave-goods in these graves was impossible. Therefore they can be discussed here only as stray finds.<sup>2</sup>

The documentation of the excavativons was transferred to the Documentation Department of the Szeged Városi Múzeum (Móra Ferenc Múzeum), where they are registered under inventory

Nos 12936/16 and 53, 30-1-139.3

The skeletal material of the cemetery is now in the Collection of the Szeged University, Institute of Anthropology.<sup>4</sup>

## 2. The site

The cemetery (Fig. 1) is situated to the NE of the village Csengele, on the dunes between Feketehalom and a S tongue of Péteri tó (Fig. 2). This one-time faraway district of the town Szeged has become and independent village under the name Csengele.

The graves excavated belong to a burial ground of larger size on whose extension there is

no reliable information.

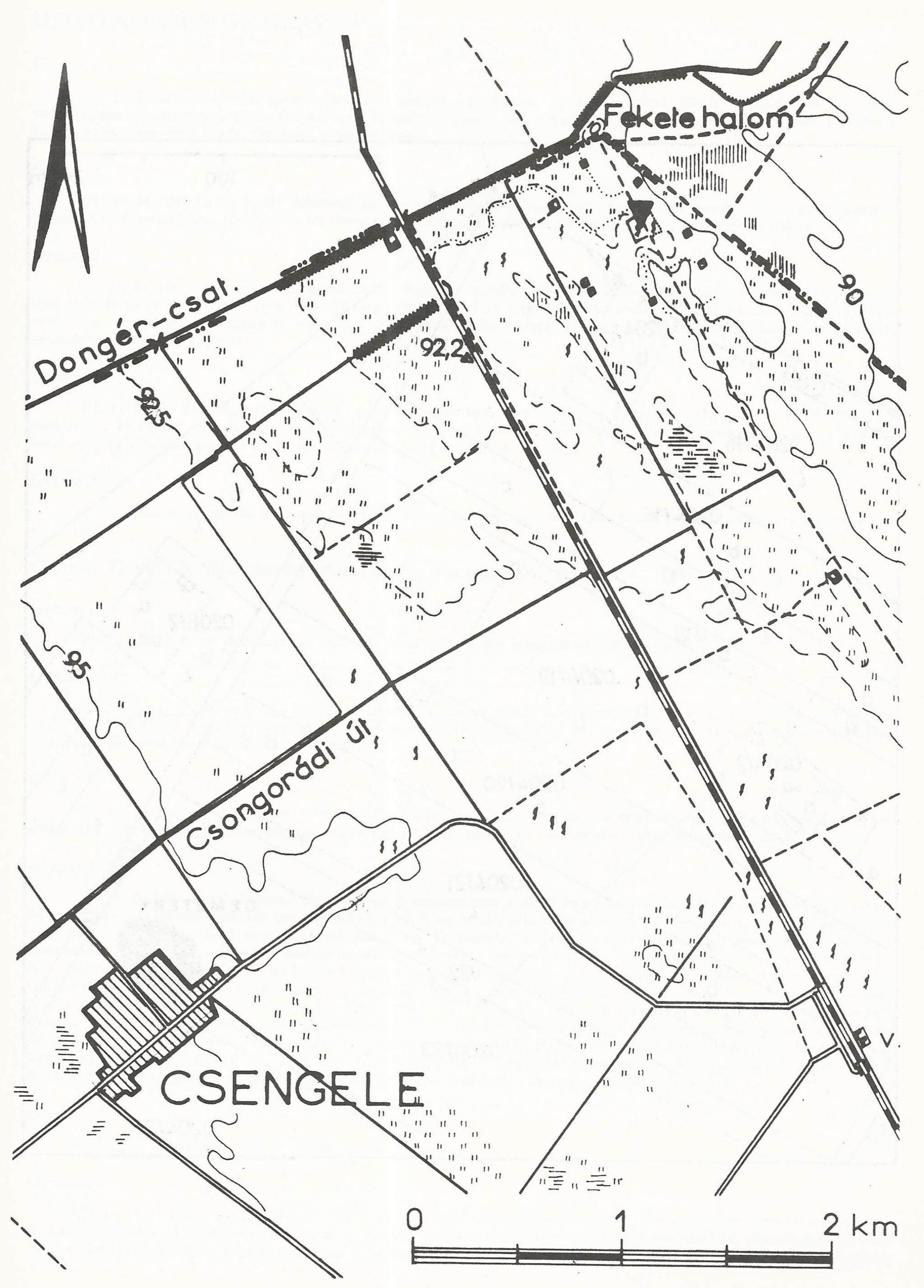


Fig. 1. Csengele-Feketehalom. Map of the area

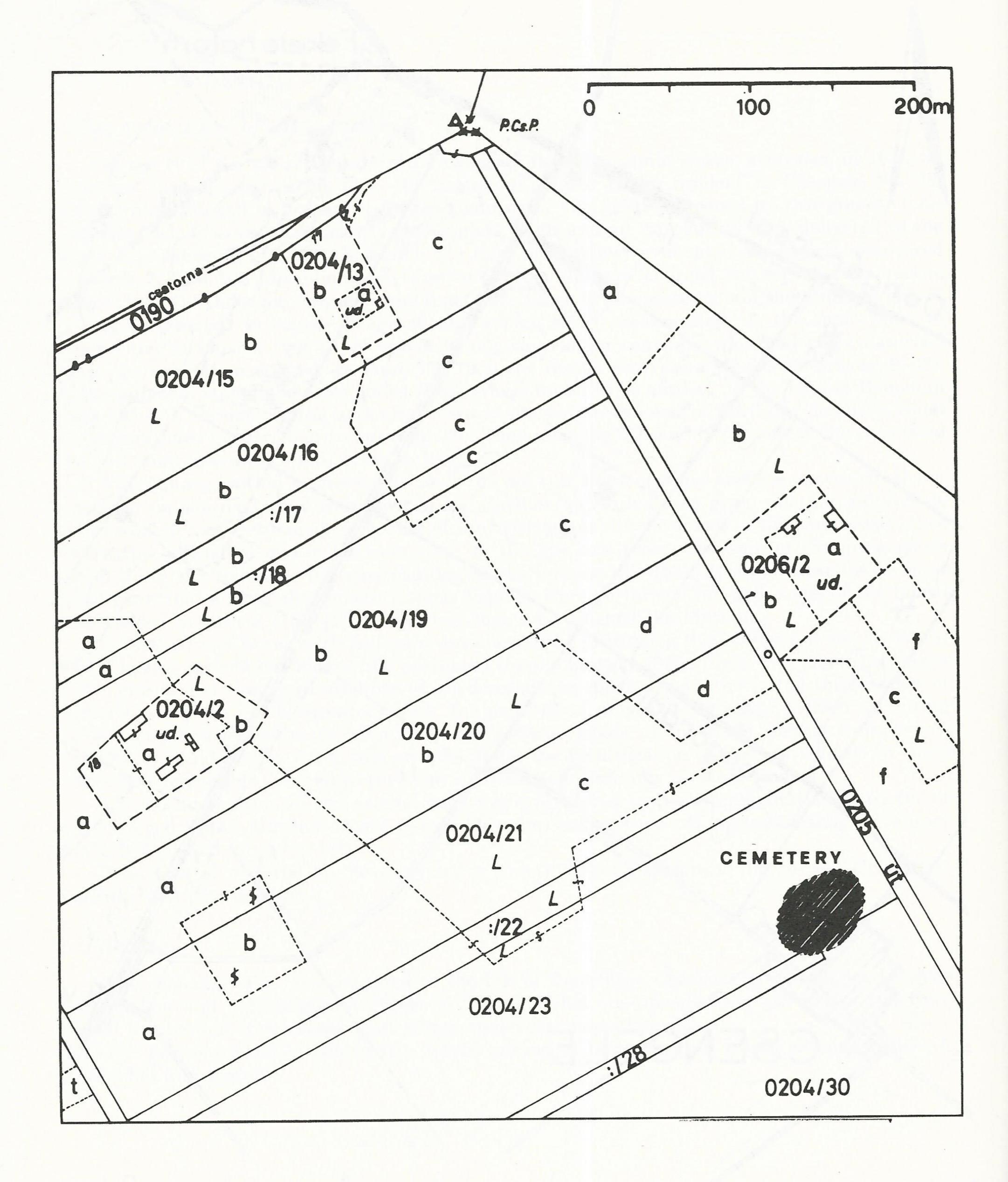


Fig. 2. Csengele-Feketehalom. The site marked on the cadastral map

# II. CATALOGUE OF GRAVES

#### Grave 1

(Pl. 1). F. Db. Only four glass beads (1-4) and an iron buckle (+) were rescued. Black barrel-shaped bead with white bosses, a flattened globe-shaped one bossed in green and bearing white relief trails, and two polychrom (white-blue-green-red) beads, flattened globe in shape.

## Grave 2

(Pl. 1). M. Db. Grave-goods delivered to the museum: iron knife, trapezoidal iron buckle (1), corroded mass of trilateral iron arrowhedas (2-4). Two fragmentary clench-nails for the coffin (5; only one specimen survived).

#### Grave 3

(Pl. 1). M. Db. Grave-goods delivered to the museum: quadrangular iron buckle (6); oval iron buckle (3); trilateral iron arrowhead (4); iron knife, iron ring (5); large strap-end of br. plate (1) decorated with plant pattern of multi-foliated scroll type in repoussé; fragmentary belt-mount of bad-quality silver plate (2), backed with a thin br. plate, decorated with geometrical design in repoussé.

## Grave 4

(Pl. 1). F. Db. Grave-goods delivered to the museum: iron buckle (3); iron ring (2); iron knife; seven beads (1), a conical one of amber and six glass beads of various types; a biconical bead in blue, three bossed one in red, a globular bead with polychrom inly and a green transparent bead snail shall in shape.

#### Grave 5

(Pl. 1). Db. Grave-goods delivered to the museum: fragmentary iron clench-nail for the coffin (+) and two iron rings (1-2).

Grave 6. D: 60. Ch. Ill-preserved skeleton. No grave-goods.

## Grave 7

(Pl. 1). D: 82. L. of skeleton: 120. Ch. Db. Oval iron buckle lying on one of the ilia.

## Grave 8

(Pl. 1). D: 173. Db: only the leg-bones and the bones of the l. arm were found in situ. Iron clench-nail for the coffin (1) above the l. leg. Cattle bone in the same position. Iron clench-nail (+) above the former place of the r. shoulder. Narrow-bladed iron knife in place of the pelvis.

#### Grave 9

(Pl. 1). D: 130. L. of skeleton: 119. Ch. Br. staining on both sides of the skull. Badly preserved iron needle (+) within the pelvic area. Biconical clay spindle-whorl (1) decorated with two incised zigzag lines, near the l. knee.

#### Grave 10

(Pl. 1). D: 184. L. of skeleton: 168. M. Iron fragments and animal bones in the grave-filling, in a depth of about 80 cm. Four iron clench-nails for the coffin (+), each lying in the following position: by thedome of the cranium, to the r. of the skull, outside the l. arm and near the r. leg. Trapezoidal iron buckle (11) under the r. ilium. Belt-ornaments, recovered from underground water rushed up when uncovering the grave, in the region of the pelvis. Five quadrangular belt-mounts of silver plate (3–7) with lobed edges; each with four rivet-holes, one in each corner; decoration (22–23): cut-out design in the middle backed with a gold plate (one of the mounts backed with bronze). Cast br. propeller-shaped mount (9) with beaded border. Large strap-end (8): only a flooted silver band with projecting strap-fasteners has survived. Fragmentary br. plate (17). Horseshoe-shaped belt-hole guard (2) cast in br., with three rivets. Fragmentary small strap-end of br. plate (15) decorated with plant pattern in repoussé; back-plate badly corroded. Iron knife under the one of the ilia. Trilateral iron arrowhead (10) by the l. foot. Iron fittings for a quiver (16) in the region of the arrowhead. Bone fittings for bow (18–19): fragmentary stiffener from the terminals and from the grip.

#### Grave 11

D: 122. L. of skeleton: 153. No grave-goods.

## Grave 12

(Pl. 1). D: 163. Ch. Db. Large-sized grave-pit with four small pits deepenedinto the grave-floor, one in each corner: probably remnants of a timber-construction associated with the ritual. Creases piece of gold-leaf (2; ornament for a cap?) on the skull. Fragmentary iron knife to the r. of the skull. Quadrangular iron buckle with belt-plate (1), a fragmentary

one, near the vertebral column, between the thorax and the pelvis. Fragments of an iron knife found in a secondary position outside the grave-pit, in a depth of 30 cm.

#### Grave 13

(Pl. 1). D: 100. A small-sized pit had been deepened into the grave-floor at the head-end of the grave (behind the skull). L. of skeleton: 158. F. Iron knife near theinner side of the r. femur.

#### Grave 14

(Pl. 1). D: 135. L. of skeleton: 162. F. Fragmentary earring of bad-quality silver (1) with large hollow globe-pendant; on the l. side of the skull. Fragmentary iron knife within the pelvic area.

## Grave 15

(Pl. 1). D: 155. Two quadrangular iron buckles (1-2) within the pelvic area.

## Grave 16

(Pl. 1). D: 175. L. of skeleton: 156. F. Underground water rushed up when uncovering the grave. Three iron clench-nails for the coffin (1-2), lying one by one in the corners of the grave-pit (two of them have survived). Quadrangular iron buckle (3) within the pelvic area. Barrel-shaped clay spindle-whorl (4), grey in colour, decorated with girth-grooves; under the bones of the l. hand. Two iron knives by the l. femur.

## Grave 17

(Pl. 1). D: 140. Db: skull and some skeletal bones lying haphazard in the pelvic region. Quadrangular iron buckle (1) between the knees. Two fragments of iron knives in the region of the pelvis.

#### Grave 18

(Pl. 1). D: 150. Db. Glass bead (1) near the cervical vertebrae; flattened globe-shaped bead in white decorated with a green wavy line. Trapezoidal iron buckle (2) and an iron knife of larger size in place of the pelvis. Piece of iron in the grave-filling.

## Grave 19

(Pl. 1). D: 140; W: 145. Ch. String of beads (3) around the cervical vertebrae; surviving beads: a flattened globe-shaped coral beadin pink and three glass beads, two prismatic ones in brown and a cylindrical one in red. Gilt-bronze ornamental plate (1), oblong in shape, decorated with an intended interlace pattern; from the same position as the beads (it may have been stringed). Fragments of an iron knife within the pelvic area. Disc-shaped spindle-whorl (2) cut out of a grey pottery sherd, decorated with incised radial pattern; within the pelvic area.

### Grave 20

D: 155. Db: completely plundered.

#### Grave 21..

D: 60. L. of skeleton: 90. Ch. No grave-goods.

#### Grave 22

(Pl. 1): D: 70. L. of skeleton: about 92. Ch. Glass beads (1) around the cervical vertebrae; six dark green melonseed-shaped beads, a cylindrical and an oval one in light green. Pottery vessel (2) near the l. hand; small hand-made pot, defectively fired; h: 8; rd: 6,5; bd: 4.

## Grave 23

(Pl. 2): D: 100. L. of skeleton: 148. F (Ch?). Necklace consisting of glass beads (1) and br. pendants (2-4), around the cervical vertebrae; some segmented beads in green and brown, two flattened globe-shaped ones in light green and four small beads in blue; two of the looped pendants are showel-like in shape and they show perforation (one specimen perforated with seven holes the other with two holes), the third pendant is a tweezers-shaped specimen. Oblong iron buckle with incurved sides (5), on the sternum. Deformed iron buckle (6) from the same position. Small piece of iron by the r. hand.

## Grave 24

(Pl. 2). D: 150. Db. Quadrangular iron buckle (1). Animal bones (chicken and cattle) in the region of the ankles.

#### Grave 25

(Pl. 2). D: 175. F. Db. Biconical clay spindle-whorl (1), greyish-black in colour, decorated with two zones of incised zigzag lines; among the disturbed skeletal bones.

## Grave 26

(Pl. 2). D: 75. L. of skeleton: 107. Ch. Db. Small iron knife by the l. hand.

#### Grave 27

(Pl. 2). D: 130. L. of skeleton: 149. F. Two circular br. earrings (1-2) each with pendant made up of cone-frustom type setting and globular glass bead in blue; one on the l. temple bone theotherinside the mouth cavity. Disc-shaped spindle-whorl (4) cut out of a grey pottery sherd; on the l. edge of the l. ilium. Trapezoidal iron buckle (3) on the r. edge of the r. ilium.

## Grave 28

(Pl. 2). D: 170. M. Db. Badly shattered remains of a br. penannular earning onplace of the skull. Two iron knives by the r. hand. Pieces of iron rust and fragments of a strap-end of br. plate (1-3); beside the knives; the fragmentary strap-end shows imprint of textile. Fragmentary iron ring (4) above the knives. Fragmentary metal plate (4; fragment of a mirror?) between the knives. Trilateral iron arrowhead (5) by the l. hand. Egg-shells and chicken bones occuring scattered in the grave-filling.

## Grave 29

(Pl. 2). D: 160. Ch (?). Db. Shattered remains of a pottery vessel between the knees; coarse pot of smaller size with body bulging about in the middle; decoration: zones of incised wavy lines; h: 11,5; rd: 11,5; bd: 7,5.

#### Grave 30

(Pl. 2; Pl. XXVIII. 1-4). D: 180. L. of skeleton: 168. M. Two silver hairplait-ornaments (1-2) of "bar type" plastered up by lead, fasteners made of br. wire; in the region of the l. shoulder. Byzantine br. buckle with iron tongue (3) on the l. ilium; oval loop cast in one piece with its rounded belt-plate bearing grooved decoration; reverse with two projecting flangs pierced for fastening the plate to the belt. Three discoid belt-mounts of silver plate (4-6), each with a large dome-headed rivet; one by one on the edges of the ilia and under the sacrum. The latter mount was found lying between two oblong mounts (8; only one of them survived). Oblong iron buckle (7) on the r. ilium. Iron ring (10) by the r. hand. Iron knife bearing remnants of a wooden sheath, on the r. femur. Iron strike-a-light (9) and flint (10) on the outer edge of the l. ilium. Chicken bone outside the r. arm.

## Grave 31

(Pl. 2). D: 100. Db: Two fragmentary iron buckles and fragment from an iron knive in the grave-filling.

## Grave 32

(Pl. 2; Pl. XXVIII. 8-9). D: 153. L. of skeleton: 172. M. Two oval br. earrings (1-2) with hollow globe-pendants showing traces of leaf-gilding; the hoops were found beside the skull, one on either side, one of the pendants, separated, occured on the ribs of the r. part of the chest, the other on the r. caput femoris. Quadrangular iron buckle of larger size (2) on the r. ilium. Trapezoidal iron buckle (8) near the upper edge of the sacrum. Five silver belt-mounts of repoussé (4-7) plastered up with lead: rosette type mounts decorated with beading inside a beaded border; the mounts were found lying to the l. and to the r. of the trapezoidal buckle and under the vertebral column; one of them disintegrated on being lifted. Two quadrangular belt-ornaments of silver plate (9) plastered upwith lead, front-plate with folded edges and decorated with two zones of fluting; one of them disintegrated on being lifted. Both types of belt-ornaments had been fixed by menas of rivets to the leather strap. Iron knife near the r. knee.

## Grave 33

D: 80. Ch. Db. No grave-goods.

#### Grave 34

(Pl. 2). D: 82. L. of skeleton: 75. Ch. Seven tiney glass beads, black in colour; in the region of the cervical vertebrae.

#### Grave 35

D: 130. Ch. (babe). No grave-goods.

#### Grave 36

(Pl. 2). D: 170. F. Db. Two fragmentary br. earrings (1-2) with globular glass bead-pendants; in place of the skull. Two melonseed-shaped glass beads (3) in the region of the cervical vertebrae. Oblong iron buckle with slightly incurved sides(5). Iron ring (4). Iron knife.

#### Grave 37

(Pl. 2). D: 220. M. Decayed skeletal remains recovered from underground water rushed up when uncovering the grave. Iron clench-nails for the coffing (10–12(, 45 cm higher than the skeleton: four of them occured on the r. of the skeleton, two others to the l. of it, one specimen was found behind the skull (four clench-nails have not survived). Layers of the filling observed during the excavation: yellow and just below the clench-nails, disturbed soil at the level of the skeleton and blueish mud in the pelvic region. Fragmentary earring with globular glass bead-pendant (1), by the r. temple bone. Trapezoidal iron buckle (3) within the pelvic area. Fragment of a strap-end of silver plate (2) with a fluted stripe at its upper edge; beside the iron buckle. Br. tweezers (9), only one half of it survived; by the lower edge of the pelvis. Iron knife by the r. hand. Five trilateral iron arrowheads (4–8) joined together by rust, with tangs missing; by the l. femur.

## Grave 38

(Pl. 2). D: 140. L. of skeleton: 171. Two oval br. earrings (1-2) with small hollow globe-pendants; one on either side of the skull. Tiny yellow glass beads (3) in the region of the cervical vertebrae. Iron chain-links (4) among the beads. Biconical clay spindle-whorl (7), dark grey in colour, with a blurred decoration consisting of girth-grooves; by the phalanges of the l. hand. Trapezoidal iron buckle (5) within the pelvic area. Fragments from an iron knife near the l. arm. Iron ring (6) beside the knife-fragments. Cattle bones (vertebrae) on the femora.

## Grave 39

(Pl. 2). D: 180. F. Db: only the bone of the legs were found in situ. Glass bead (1) and iron buckle (+) in place of the trunk. Two fragmentary iron bracelets (+) in place of the forearms. Iron knife and disintegrated clay spindle-whorl (+).

## Grave 40

(Pl. 3). D: 125. L. of skeleton: 145. Two iron buckles (1-2), an oval one and an oblong buckle with incurved sides, within the pelvic are; they lay 5 cm apart. Trilateral iron arrowhead(3). Small iron ring (+) adhered by rust to the arrowhead. Cattle bone lying on the bones of the feet.

#### Grave 41

(Pl. 3). D: 100. Ch. Pottery vessel near the feet; small hand-made potof coarse grained texture, with everted rim' h: 12,8; rd: 10; bd: 7,5.

#### Grave 42

(Pl. 3). D: 100. L. of skeleton: 118. Ch. Disc-shaped clay spindle-whorl, brick-red in colour, by the l. arm.

## Grave 43

(Pl. 3). D: 140. F. Db: the skull was found 50 cm higher than the skeletal bones and it was separated by a distance of 100 cm from the cercival vertebrae. Two glass beads (1) in the region of the cercival vertebrae; a melonseed-shaped bead and an elliptical one. Oval iron buckle (2) within the pelvic area. Biconical clay spindle-whorl (3), yellowish-brown in colour, decorated with grith-grooves; near the l. humerus.

#### Grave 44

(Pl. 3). D: 100. L. of skeleton: 151. F. Circular br. earring (1), quadrangular in section, with globular glass bead-pendant; by the r. temporal bone. Glass bead-pendant of an earringof similar type (2), by the l. temporal bone. Quadrangular iron buckle (3) within the pelvic area. Ill-preserved clay spindle-whorl (+) by the l. hand. Iron knife by the r. hand. Cattle bone near the l. foot.

## Grave 45

D: 110. L. of skeleton: 88. Ch. No grave-goods.

### Grave 46

(Pl. 3). D: 45. Ch. Skeleton crumbled to dust. Three glass beads in the region of the cervical vertebrae; to melonseed-shaped beads in green (1-2) and a yellowish bed, cylindrical in shape (3). Two small br. plates (4-5), each perforated by a hole, in the same position; the beads and the br. plates belong to the same necklace.

## Grave 47

(Pl. 3; Pl. XXIX. 4). D: 140. M. Db. by sinking a shaft of which contours occured in the region of the l. shoulder. Two oblong hairplait-ornaments of br. plate (6-7) decorated with geometrical pattern in repoussé; in the region of the l. shoulder. Five quadrangular br. belt-mounts of repoussé (1-5), each decorated with a crouching griffin inside a beaded border; four of them were found within the pelvic area the fifth mount occured in a secondary position outside the l. femur. Iron knife by the r. femur. Two trilateral iron arrowheads (11-12) near the l. leg. Iron ring(9) bearing traces of textile, to the l. of the vertebral column. Bone fittings for bow (13-14) by the l. arm; stiffeners from the terminals and

plates from the grip. "Double disc" of bronze (10) by the toe-bones of the r. foot; the larger disc in furnished with eight rivets along its periphery. Fragments of an iron buckle within the pelvic area.

#### Grave 48

(Pl. 3; XXVIII. 5-7). D: 135. M. Db: only the bones of the legs were found in situ. Earth lumps showing bronze staining above the grave floor in place of the pelvical bones found in secondary position; shield-shaped double-plate silver belt-mount of repoussé (4), with leaf-gilding front-plate with folded rim and decorated with a scene enclosed by beaded border: two confronted pigeons picking a plant (tree of life motif) depicted at the center; the mount, covered by a thin layer of disturbed soil, occured just below the br. staining mentioned above. Large strap-end (1) and two small strap-ends (2-3) on the grave-floor. Repoussé large strap-end of silver with leaf-gilding; decoration surrounded by beaded border: two main fields, one quadrangular the other shield-like on shape, filled with geometrical pattern and framed with "running spirals"; the object got into the grave in a slightly fragmentary state. Silver small strap-ends of repoussé decorated with geometrical pattern arranged symmetrically; one specimen with beaded border the other framed with a beading-like motif. Two iron buckles (10-11) on one of the femora; a trapezoidal one with slightly incurved sides and a quadrangular buckle of larger size. Fragmentary iron knife from the disturbed area of the grave. Two trilateral iron arrowheads (5-6), one near the l. knee, the other in the pelvic region. Br. fragment and iron fragments on the r. caput femoris. Bone fittings for bow (7-9) in a secondary position, in the region of the r. shoulder; stiffeners from the terminals and plate from the grip.

## Grave 49

(Pl. 3). D: 165. F. Db. Oblong iron buckle (2) under the pelvis. Iron knife by the l. hand. Biconical clay spindle-whorl (1), yellowish-grey in colour, decorated with four girth-grooves; by the point of the knife. Animal bones (chicken and cattle) near the feet.

## Grave 50

D: 120. L. of skeleton: 168. M. No grave-goods.

#### Grave 51

(Pl. 4). D: 80. L. of skeleton: 100. Ch. Two circular earrings(1-2) with globular glass bead-pendants, by the r. temple bone.

#### Grave 52

D: 60. Ch. Disintegrated skeletal remains of a babe. No grave-goods.

#### Grave 53

D: 60. L. of skeleton: 78. Ch. No grave-goods.

### Grave 54

D: 70. L. of skeleton: 91. Ch. No grave-goods.

## Grave 55

D: 75. L. of skeleton: 71. Ch. No grave-goods.

## Grave 56

(Pl. 4). D: 75. L. of skeleton: 122. F. Skeleton lying in contracted position (?). Two perforated br. coins of Maximianus Herculius (2), in the region of the cervical vertebrae. Iron knife outside the r. arm. Pottery vessel (1) near the feet; hand-made pot of small size, greyish-black with brown spots on its surface; h: 10,3; rd: 8,2; bd: 7.

## Grave 57

(Pl. 4). D: 130. L. of skeleton: 124. Ch. Crane bone (?) with both ends perforated (1), inside the r. arm. Disc-shaped spindle-whorl (2) cut out of a yellowish-red pottery sherd; by the r. hand. Chicken bones.

## Grave 58

(Pl. 4). D: 135. L. of skeleton: 156. F. Two circular br. earrings(1-2) each with a pendant consisting of a cone-frustom type setting and a hemisherical part; one on either side of the skull. Quadrangular iron buckle (+) between the femora. Iron knife near the buckle.

## Grave 59

(Pl. 4; Pl. XXVIII. 10-11). D: 130. L. of skeleton: 175. M. Two oval br. earrings (1-2) with small hollow globe-pendants; one on either side of the skull. Strap-end of silvered br. plate (10) backed with br. plate, front-plate with folded rim; by the l. elbow. Strap-end of the same type (11) on the r. ilium. Small strap-end(12) near the upper edge of the sacrum, under the vertebral column; double-plate strap-end of silver with front-plate decorated with a plain field surrounded by

beading and two grooves. Trapezoidal iron buckle (9) with belt-plate consisting of two iron stripes; with the pelvic area. Trapezoidal iron buckle (8) in the same position. Fragmentary iron strike-a-light (+) and flint (3) on the r. caput femoris. Large iron knife and iron ring near the l. forearm. Iron fittings for a quiver (?) under the pelvis; iron band with a large-headed rivet (13). Two trilateral iron arrowheads (4–5) and iron awl (?; 6) in the region of the knees.

## Grave 60

(Pl. 4). D: 180. M. Db. Br. staining, occurring here and there in the soil of the grave-floor, suggesting some fragmentary back-plates of belt-ornaments which seem to have dissapeared when the grave was plundered. Quadrangular iron buckle (3). Iron ring (2). Fragmentary iron knife. Trilateral iron arrowhead (1).

## Grave 61

(Pl. 4). D: 140. F. Db. Two circular br. earrings (1-2) each with a pendant made up of a cone-frustom type setting and beads of lead and glass (one of the earrings disentegrated). Fragmentary iron knife.

## Grave 62

D: 146. L. of skeleton: 100. Ch. No grave-goods.

#### Grave 63

(Pl. 4). D: 132. Ch. Large iron knife.

#### Grave 64

(Pl. 4). L. of skeleton: 100. Ch. Necklace consisting various objects: tiny yellow glass beads (disintegrated), some small iron chain-links (6-7), a looped br. pendant (5), saw-like in shape, and an earring with globe-pendant (1). Ill-preserved iron buckle within the pelvic area. Small fragment of an iron knife by the r. hand. Three trefoil-shaped repoussé belt-mounts of silver gilt (2-4); one on each ilium and under the vertebrae column.

## Grave 65

(Pl. 4). D: 150. M. Db. Br. buckle showing traces of gilding, to the r. of the vertebral column; oval loop cast in one piece with its frame-like belt-plate, with tangue made of iron. Two repoussé br. belt-mounts of rosette type (2-3); one on either side of the buckle. Double plate br. belt-mount (5), quadrangular in shape, decorated with a row of chased dots along its edges; by the end of the phalanges of the l. hand. Oval iron buckle (4) by the r. hand. Iron knife under the iron buckle. Iron knife by the point of the former knife. Two br. rivets, one near the l. hand the other separated by a distance of 4 cm from the latter knife. Trilateral iron arrowhead (6) near the l. leg. Animal bones near the feet.

#### Grave 66

(Pl. 4). D: 85. L. of skeleton: 133. F. Iron knife by the l. hand. Fowl bones near the feet.

## Grave 67

D: 110. L. of skeleton: 156. F. No grave-goods.

## Grave 68

(Pl. 4). D: 150. Db. Iron buckle (+) on the r. femur. Fragmentary iron knife in place of the r. hand.

## Grave 69

D: 65. Ch. Decayed skeleton of a babe. No grave-goods.

## Grave 70

(Pl. 4). D: 150. L. of skeleton: 120. Ch. Incomplete penannular br. earring (2) on the r. side of the skull. Oblong iron buckle (1) within the pelvic area. Iron knife by the r. hand.

## Grave 71

(Pl. 4). D: 156. L. of skeleton: 143. Ch. Trapezoidal iron buckle (1) within the pelvic area. Small iron knife near the l. hand.

## Grave 72

(Pl. 4). D: 110. L. of skeleton: 168. M. Oval iron buckle (1) within the pelvic area. Remains of two disintegrated belt-mounts, quadrangular in shape; one on either side of the iron buckle. Iron knife by the l. hand. Animal bones between the feet.

beading and two grooves. Trapezoidal iron buckle (9) with belt-plate consisting of two iron stripes; with the pelvic area. Trapezoidal iron buckle (8) in the same position. Fragmentary iron strike-a-light (+) and flint (3) on the r. caput femoris. Large iron knife and iron ring near the l. forearm. Iron fittings for a quiver (?) under the pelvis; iron band with a large-headed rivet (13). Two trilateral iron arrowheads (4–5) and iron awl (?; 6) in the region of the knees.

## Grave 60

(Pl. 4). D: 180. M. Db. Br. staining, occurring here and there in the soil of the grave-floor, suggesting some fragmentary back-plates of belt-ornaments which seem to have dissapeared when the grave was plundered. Quadrangular iron buckle (3). Iron ring (2). Fragmentary iron knife. Trilateral iron arrowhead (1).

## Grave 61

(Pl. 4). D: 140. F. Db. Two circular br. earrings (1-2) each with a pendant made up of a cone-frustom type setting and beads of lead and glass (one of the earrings disentegrated). Fragmentary iron knife.

## Grave 62

D: 146. L. of skeleton: 100. Ch. No grave-goods.

#### Grave 63

(Pl. 4). D: 132. Ch. Large iron knife.

#### Grave 64

(Pl. 4). L. of skeleton: 100. Ch. Necklace consisting various objects: tiny yellow glass beads (disintegrated), some small iron chain-links (6-7), a looped br. pendant (5), saw-like in shape, and an earring with globe-pendant (1). Ill-preserved iron buckle within the pelvic area. Small fragment of an iron knife by the r. hand. Three trefoil-shaped repoussé belt-mounts of silver gilt (2-4); one on each ilium and under the vertebrae column.

## Grave 65

(Pl. 4). D: 150. M. Db. Br. buckle showing traces of gilding, to the r. of the vertebral column; oval loop cast in one piece with its frame-like belt-plate, with tangue made of iron. Two repoussé br. belt-mounts of rosette type (2-3); one on either side of the buckle. Double plate br. belt-mount (5), quadrangular in shape, decorated with a row of chased dots along its edges; by the end of the phalanges of the l. hand. Oval iron buckle (4) by the r. hand. Iron knife under the iron buckle. Iron knife by the point of the former knife. Two br. rivets, one near the l. hand the other separated by a distance of 4 cm from the latter knife. Trilateral iron arrowhead (6) near the l. leg. Animal bones near the feet.

#### Grave 66

(Pl. 4). D: 85. L. of skeleton: 133. F. Iron knife by the l. hand. Fowl bones near the feet.

## Grave 67

D: 110. L. of skeleton: 156. F. No grave-goods.

## Grave 68

(Pl. 4). D: 150. Db. Iron buckle (+) on the r. femur. Fragmentary iron knife in place of the r. hand.

## Grave 69

D: 65. Ch. Decayed skeleton of a babe. No grave-goods.

## Grave 70

(Pl. 4). D: 150. L. of skeleton: 120. Ch. Incomplete penannular br. earring (2) on the r. side of the skull. Oblong iron buckle (1) within the pelvic area. Iron knife by the r. hand.

## Grave 71

(Pl. 4). D: 156. L. of skeleton: 143. Ch. Trapezoidal iron buckle (1) within the pelvic area. Small iron knife near the l. hand.

## Grave 72

(Pl. 4). D: 110. L. of skeleton: 168. M. Oval iron buckle (1) within the pelvic area. Remains of two disintegrated belt-mounts, quadrangular in shape; one on either side of the iron buckle. Iron knife by the l. hand. Animal bones between the feet.

## Grave 86

(Pl. 5). D: 160. M. Db: skull missing (traces of red colouring matter in place of the skull). Two oval iron buckles (1-2) within the pelvic area. Three hemispherical buttons of metal plate (4-6) plastered up with lead; two of them within the pelvic area, one fragmentary specimen under the vertebral column. Iron knife by the l. arm. Trilateral iron arrowhead(+) in the region of the feet.

## Grave 87

(Pl. 6). D: 120. L. of skeleton: 103. Ch. Small iron buckle (1), oval in shape, within the pelvic area. Br. rivet (+) from the same position. Oval iron buckle (2) by the r. hand. Iron knife from the same position.

#### Grave 88

D: 110. Db. No grave-goods.

## Grave 89

(Pl. 5). D: 132. F. Db: traces of disturbances in a depth of 50 cm below the original level of the grave-floor. Penannular br. earring (1) in place of the r. hand. Glass beads (2) occurring here and there in the soil of the grave-floor; melonseed-shaped beads, a large bead with many-coloured inlay an a tiny bead in brown. Flattened globe-shaped clay spindle-whorl (4) by the l. hand. Iron knife under the bones of the l. hand. Quadrangular iron buckle (3) in the disturbed soil, so about under the pelvis.

## Grave 90

(Pl. 6). D: 120. L. of skeleton: 134. Ch. Two oval earrings (1-2) with glass bead-pendants missing, hoops decorated with plain "muffs"; by the skull. Disc-shaped spindle-whorl (3) cut out of a grey pottery body-sherd; above the pelvis.

## Grave 91

(Pl. 6). D: 140. L. of skeleton: 168. M. Grave-goods recovered from underground water. Oblong iron buckle (1) within the pelvic area. Trilateral iron arrowhead (2) near the l. leg.

## Grave 92

D: 130. Ch. Db. No grave-goods.

## Grave 93

(Pl. 5; Pl. XXVIII. 15; Pl. XXIX. 1-3). M. Db. Socketed iron spearhead (4); 1:20. Iron horse-bit (1). Two iron stirrups(2-3) with oblong loops, foot-rest with midrib; h: 16, 4: w: 11,4; l. of the loop: 4,5 and 5.

## Grave 94

(Pl. 6. 1-2; Pl. XXVIII. 16; Pl. XXIX. 5). M. Db. Iron stirrup (2) with oblong loop; h: 17,5; l. of the loop: 5,6. Fragmentary iron horse-bit (1).

## Grave 95

(Pl. 6; Pl. XXIX. 6). M. Db. Iron stirrup with oblong loop; h: 14; l. of the loop: 3.

## Grave 96

(Pl. 6). D: 200. L. of skeleton: 156. F. Underground water rushed up when uncovering the grave. Two silver earrings (1-2) with large hollow globe-pendants, each with a soldered ringlet consisting of four globulae between hoop and pendant; one on either side of the skull. Two iron bracelets (7-8), one on either forearm, near the lower epiphyses of the radius and ulna. Br. finger-ring (3) on one of the phalanges of the middle finger of the r. hand; type: simple wire hoop with a repoussé slightly convex bezel circular in shape. Fragmentary quadrangular buckle of iron. Iron knife and a discoidal lead object (ornamental piece for a purse) consisting of two plates (5), perforated with a hole; the objects were found lying one upon the other, near the l. femur. Incomplete br. strainer of spoon type (4) on the l. humerus. Piece of iron (fragment of a knife?) under the pelvis.

### Grave 97

(Pl. 6). D: 160. L. of skeleton: 167. F. Two oval br. earrings (2-3) with green glass bead-pendants, one oval the other inverse drop in shape; one by either temple bone. Glass beads (1) on the ribs; two dark green melonseed-shaped beads, a prismatic one in blue, a cylindrical bead in light green and a small globular bead in blue. Quadrangular iron buckle (4) within the pelvic area. Biconical clay spindle-whorl (5), blackish in colour, decorated with girth-grooves; on the l. femur.

#### Grave 98

(Pl. 6). D: 110. L. of skeleton: 168. F. Two oval br. earrings(2-3) with glass bead-pendants in light green, one longish the other inverse drop in shape hoops decorated with "muffs"; one on either side of the skull. Biconical clay spindle-whorl (4), grey in colour, near the l. eye-pit. Trapezoidal iron buckle (1) under the pelvis.

## Grave 99

(Pl. 6). D: 120. L. of skeleton: 160. F. Circular br. earring (1) with pendant missing; on the r. side of the skull. Oval iron buckle (2) within the pelvic area. Quadrangular iron buckle of large size (3) under the skull.

## Grave 100-101

(Pl. 6). D: 120. Double burial: F. and Ch. L. of skeleton: 154 and 95. Trapezoidal iron buckle (1) within the pelvic area. Br. staining on the on the bones of the r. leg. Small iron clanch-nail for the coffin (3). Grave-goods belonging to the child burial: biconical clay spindle-whorl (2), grey in colour, decorated with girth-grooves; within the pelvic area.

## Grave 102

(Pl. 7). D: 130. L. of skeleton: 168. F. Two fragmentary br. earrings (1-2) with ellipsoidal glass bead-pendants; one by either temple bone. Br. earring (3) with small hollow globe-pendant, use as a pendant; in the region of the cervical vertebrae. Oval iron buckle (4) by the lower edge of the pelvis. Quadrangular iron buckle (5) by the l. hand. Iron knife under the latter object. Biconical clay spindle-whorl (6), grey in colour, by the r. hand.

## Grave 103

(Pl. 7). D: 130. Shape of the grave: oblong pit with a section, about in the region of the upper extremities, widening into a circular part. L. of skeleton: 154. F. Db. Oval br. earring 81) with br. pendant of "cornless cube" type, hoop decorated with plain "muffs"; by one of the temple bones. Dark green melonseed-shaped glass bead (2) by the cervical vertebrae. Fragmentary iron buckle (+) within the pelvic area. Iron knife lying on the l. humerus; silvered br. ring (3) beside the tang of the knife. Egg-shell between the knees.

#### Grave 104

(Pl. 7). D: 140. L. of skeleton: 168. F. Fragmentary oval earring (1) with glass bead-pendant missing, hoop decorated with plain "muffs"; on the l. side of the skull. Cylindrical glass bead (2), light green in colour, lying on one of the cervical vertebrae. Quadrangular iron buckle (3) within the pelvic area. Grey spindle-whorl of clay (4), slightly flattened globe in shape, in the region of the l. shoulder.

#### Grave 105

(Pl. 7). D: 110. L. of skeleton: 75. Ch. Br. staining on the skull. Oval iron buckle (2) on the bones of the l. shoulder. Cylindrical bone needle-case (1) and a disc-shaped clay spindle-whorl (4), brick-red in colour, beside the buckle. Iron knife in the region of the r. shoulder. Iron ring or circular buckle (3) above the knife.

The grave-goods coming from graves 106-108 were delivered by the office attendant into the museum.

## Grave 106

(Pl. 7). F. Glass beads (1): melonseed-shaped beads, a flattened globe-shaped one in red, and a biconical bead. Iron knife.

### Grave 107

(Pl. 7). F. Fragmentary penannular br. earring (1). Oblong iron buckle (2). Biconical clay spindle-whorl (3), brick-red in colour.

#### Grave 108

(Pl. 7). M. Two trilateral iron arrowheads (1) joined together by rust. Four small flints (2-5). Three pieces of pigment in red (6-8).

## Grave

excavated on a spot between the graves 79 and 80. D: 30. Crudely shaped pottery vessel (Pl. 7.), greyish-black in colour; h: 8,8; rd: 9,4; bd: 7,4.

# Stray-finds

## Pl. 7; Pl. XXVIII. 12-14

- 1 Two trilateral iron arrowheads (1–2)
- 2 Quadrangular iron buckle(3).

- 3 Two silver earrings (4) with hoops missing; type: earring with large hollow globe-pendant, a soldered ring consisting of four small globulae between hoop and pendant.
- 4 Glass beads (5): six tiny yellow beads, four larger globular ones in brown, one twisted green had of cone-frustom type.
  - 5 Br. buckle (6), slightly trapezoidal in shape, decorated with imitation of beading.
- 6-9 Iron buckles (7-10): besides a fragmentary buckle two trapezoidal ones, an oblong and an oval specimen.
  - 10 Iron clench-nail for the coffin (11).
  - 11 Fragmentary iron knives.
- 12 Double plate cast br. small strap-end (12) decorated with flat-leaf tendril in open work; each panel with two projecting strap-fasteners in form of confronting animal heads.
  - 13 Cast br. belt-mount with hinged pendant missing (13), decorated with tendril pattern.
  - 14 Fragmentary cast br. belt-hole guard (14), a strongly worn specimen.

# III. BURIAL CUSTOMS

# 1. The grave pit

(a) The *shapes* of the grave pits. In the loose, sandy soil the contours of the grave pits often got indistinct and in many cases we could ascertain the grave pits only at the levels of the skeletons. At such depths that is to say near the grave-floor the pits were found to have definite oblong shapes.

With grave 96, a rather early burial, the slightly trapezoidal shape (widening towards the feet of the dead) might be the result of the richess of the grave-furnishings. We could find no explanation why grave 103 widened to become of circular section about in the middle of the pit.

(b) The *lengths* of the graves of the adults and of particularly honourable persons were longer than 200 cm. The width of the grave pits reached 110 cm in a single case: grave 28.

(c) The depths of the graves varied from 140 to 180 cm. The deepest was grave 37: 220 cm. The lengths and widths of the shallow children's graves are uncertain because of earlier and present agricultural works and old-time grave disturbances.

# 2. The deposition of the dead

(a) The corpses were placed in the graves supine, with the arms stretched.

- (b) A singe exception was found in grave 56 where the dead was deposited in a *contracted* position. In disturbed graves even the single bones were found in ways indicating that the corpses had been deposited supine and extended. Stratigrafically superimposed graves cannot be imagined, not even in case graves 100–101: it was more likely the simultaneous burial of a mother and her child.
- (c) Iron clench-nails (hook-nails) indicating the presence of *coffin* burials were found in graves 2, 5, 8, 10, 16, 37, 101. With single exception (grave 37), these graves occured near the W limit of the excavated area of the cemetery. This suggests their being more or less contemporary. From the irregular shapes of the clench-nails for coffins their numbers per grave (1 to 4) and their being applied opposite each other we may infer that the coffins were tree-trunk coffins and the function of the clench-nails was to hold the two half-cylinders of the coffins together.<sup>5</sup> In grave 37 seven clench-nails came to light. Their situation in grave indicate the presence of a horizontal coffin lid. Also the soil under the coffin lid showed horizontal stratification. The grave yielded the largest number of arrowheads (five). Also grave 12, of unusually large size (of a child) might have sheltered a coffin. This was also suggested by the small-sized pits occuring in the corners of the pit for a tumber-construction. In spite of the grave having been plundered some remnants of gold foils have survived. This is another indication that the burial took place under exceptional care. In grave 74 the dead was probably wrappedin a rug or in rush matting. This was also suggested by the unusual compression of the bones of the upper extremities and thorax.
- (d) A double grave or, more precisely speaking, a double burial was found in a single case (burials 100–101). A woman and a child were buried together.

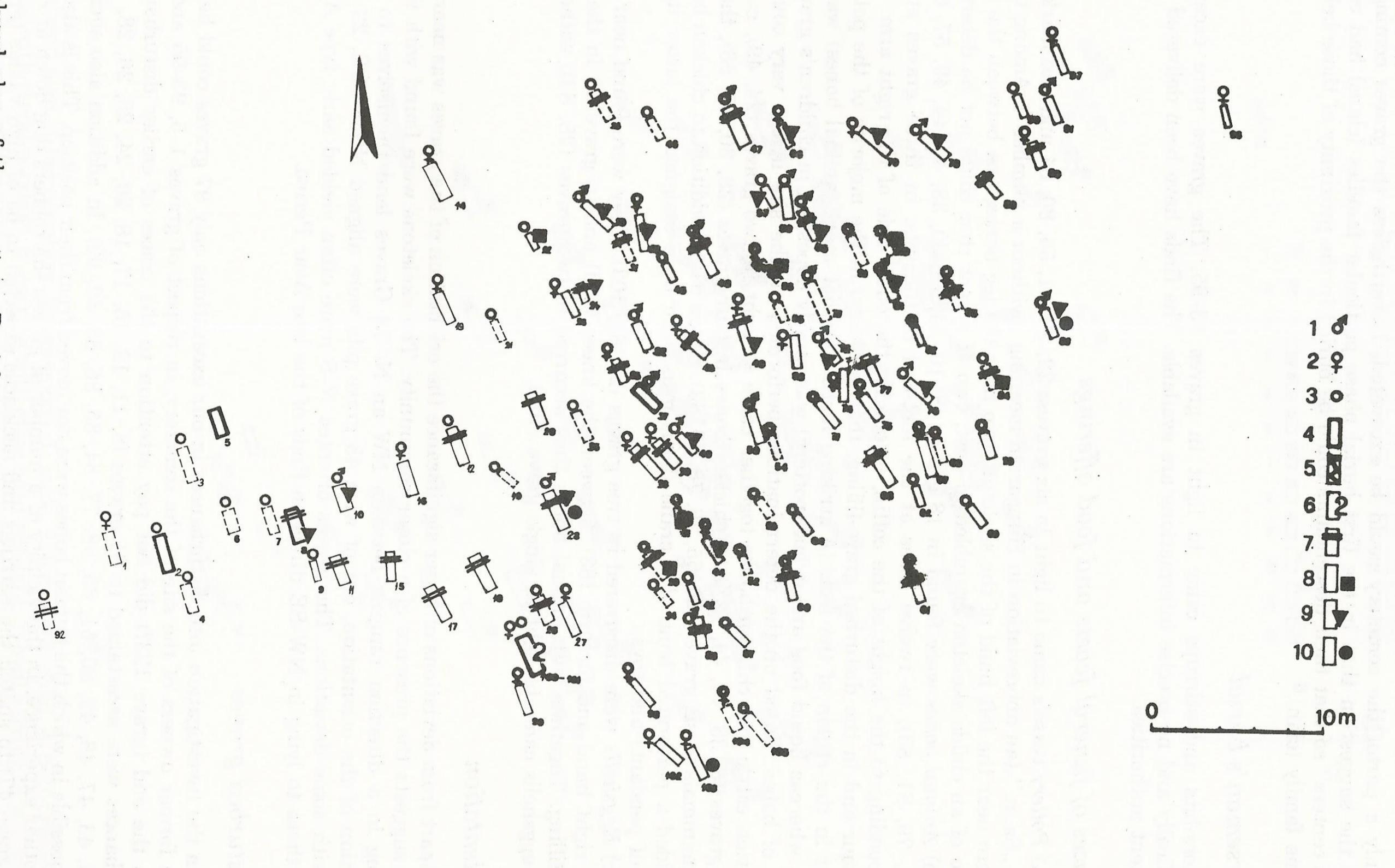


Fig. 3. Analysed plan of the cemetery. Burial customs. 1: male, 2: female, 3: child, 4: coffin, 5: contracted burial, 6: double burial, 7: disturbed grave, 8: pottery, 9: animal bones, 10: egghells.

(e) The marking of the graves — besides the thoroughness of the disturbances — was indicated in grave 13 by a small pit behind the skull of the skeleton: the place of a wooden headboard.

×

Only a partof the cemetery could be excavated. Nevertheless the graves coming to light include the suggestion that in the first burial phase particular families (clans) had established "burial centers" so that their descendants could be buried in the proximity of those belonging to the same family (clan).<sup>6</sup>

# 3. Horseman's burial

Hors-bits and stirrups came to light in graves 93–95. The graves were excavated not scientifically and no precise informations are available. The finds have been delivered up to the competent authorities.

# 4. Traces of funeral feasts and food offerings

(a) *Pottery vessels* came to light in six graves: 22, 29, 41, 56, 80, 84 and one marked by the letters "Sz. n." (an abbreviation in Hungarian meaning "without a number"). Among the vessels two were near the left hand of the skeleton, two near the leg bones, one between the knees and beacuse of an childe skeleton crumbled to dust, two at a spot that could not be determined.

(b) Animal bones were found in 18 graves (8, 10, 24, 28, 30, 38, 40, 44, 49, 57, 65, 66, 72, 76, 78, 79, 81, 83), in twelve cases at the foot-end of the pits, in three graves at a height corresponding to the height of the coffin, in one on the outer side of the right arm, outside of the femur and in the disturbed grave-filling, that is to sey, in the majority of the pottery came to light in the region of the feet. (A striking feature is that meat (animal bones) was given to adults, whereas liquid food and drink (pottery) was mostly deposited in children's graves and in graves of babes. Based on the determinations performed on the site in the very course of the excavation cattle and chicken bones together came to light in two graves (24, 49), cattle bones in six graves (8, 38, 40, 44, 72, 81), chicken bones in four graves (28, 30, 57, 66), the bones of other mammals in six graves (10, 65, 76, 78, 79, 83). Grave 57, in addition to chicken bones grave 57 yielded a perforated bone of a crane (Grus grus). We have assigned the latter item to the group of pendants and toys.

(c) Eggshells were discovered in tree graves (28, 83, 103). They were found near the bones of the right hand and forearm (83), between the knees (103) and in grave 28 in the disturbed grave-filling. Together with animal bones they occurred in two graves (28, 83), without animal

bones eggshells came to light in single grave (103).

## 5. Orientation

Apart from deviations of lesser significance the orientation of the graves was nearly uniform which suggests the presence of a closer community. The skeletons were found with their skulls pointing in a direction ranging between NW an N. 78 Graves lend themselves to the closer inspection of the orientation, out of wich 48 grave pits were aligned NNW–SSE, 22 NW–SE, 5 N–S with some deviations. The graves oriented N–S more often yielded early type Avar Period finds, those to lying in NW–SE direction finds of the late Avar Period.

# 6. Disturbed graves

In the investigation into disturbances in our excavations only 97 graves could be examined, as the former owners of the site of the cemetery, in respect of graves 1–5, 93–95 and from 106 on, to the end (grave 123?) did not pay attention to the traces of earlier disturbances. Early disturbances were ascertained in 31 graves (8, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 36, 39, 43, 47, 48, 49, 60, 61, 65, 68, 77, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 92). In addition also such robberies were possible in which the human bones were not moved from their position. This is also suggested by another experience: in the vicinity of a number of graves the robbers dug down at right angles (e. g. grave 47) to snatch the earrings and necklaces expected to be of high values (grave 43). In

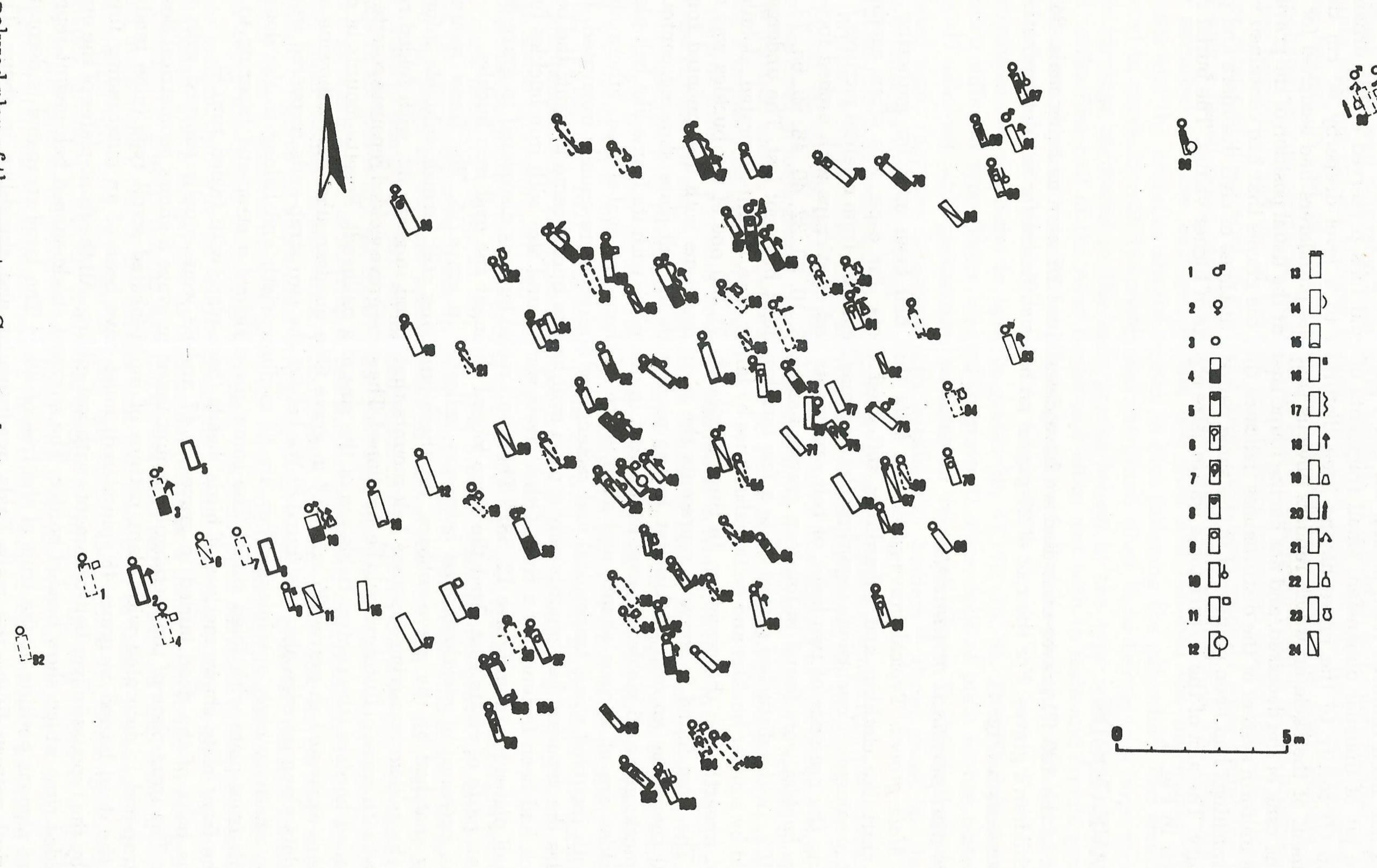


Fig. 16: needle-case, 1 24: unfurnished. 4. Analysed plan of the cemetery. Grave-goods. 1: male, 2: female, 3: child, 4: belt-ornament, 5: earring with metal-pendant, 6: earring with glass bead-pendant, 7: oval earring, 8: earring with pendant made up of granules, 9: penannular earrings, 10: melonseed-shaped bead, 11: other sorts of beads, 12: bracelet, 13: hairplait-ornaments, 14: iron strike-a-light, 15: spindle-whorl, 16: needle-case, 17: bow, 18: arrow, 19: quiver, 20: spear, 21: horse-bit, 22: stirrup, 23: pottery,

grave 86 the graves of red paint preserved in the position of the skull indicate that a painted headdress had been removed from among the grave-goods. In grave 12, of a child, in addition to the grave pit of unusual dimension, small fragments of gold foils preserved of the ornament of a fur cap (?) testify to the grave having been disturbed to a level deeperby 50 cm than the emplacement of the skeleton which renders obvious that ehe plunderers had searched for objects suiting the rank of the deceased, and not having found them at the usual position of the grave-goods.

The uniform system of the disturbances indicates that the graves that had contained valuable grave-furnishings had been plundered in the same periods, at times of civil disorders and political uncertainty. The aim of the disturbances was to seize objects of higher values. The burial customs

are shown in Fig. 3.

# IV. GRAVE-GOODS

Out of the 123 (?) graves excavated we have determined 26 were as being male, 34 female and 36 children's graves. For the rest of 27 graves no bases sufficient for sex determination came in our possession (Fig. 4).

# 1. Dress and personal ornaments

(a) Male graves. Typical grave-goods are belts that had been used for gathering up and holding shirt-like clothing and gabardines; soft-soled boots; fur caps; less often earrings and hairplait ornaments. Conclusions regarding clothing may be drawn from oriental pictures, buckles suggesting the presence of two belts, of belt ornaments and of stirrups with arched foot-rests.

Two buckles were found in fourteen graves, namely 3, 10, 30, 32, 40, 48, 59, 65, 73, 76, 83, 86, 99, 102. In the disturbed graves quite a few buckles might have got lost. The undergarments were hold by smaller buckles and belts, gabardines by larger ones. Mount-decorated "dobule belts" were not unearthed in the cemetery. In three graves (3, 30, 65) one of the buckles was made of bronze. The item found in grave 3 represents the plain oval type with a segmented tongue; in grave 30 there was an oval buckle cast in one piece with its belt-plate showing contours of a human mask; grave 65 yielded an oval buckle cast in one piece with its frame-like belt-plate. The iron buckles are of various shapes and sizes, some of them are oval-shaped, others oblong in shape with incurved sides; trapezoidal and rectangular buckles were equally excavated. In grave 78 besides the repoussé belt-mounts only a plain oval bronze buckle came to light; the belt-strap bent back had been fastened by a rivet. Other rivets were found also with iron buckles furnished with small plates for them (grave 12, 58). The small metal buttons discovered in grave 86 might have been parts of rivets that fixed the strap looped throught the oval iron buckles.

The presence of *metal-mounted belts* was indicated in grave 15. The finest mounts were probably snatched by the grave robbers, yet those surviving still furnish valuable information. Among the seldom occurring repoussé belt-mounts that found in grave 32, with folded rims and decorated with zones of fluting should be mentioned. The same grave yielded repoussé rosette-mounts with beaded borders (the central fields are of the size of a nailhead). Rosette-mounts of different types were excavated in graves 65 and 78,9 in grave 65 a quadrangular mountshowing a row of chased dots along its edge also was found. We believe the two strap-ends recovered from grave 59 to be relatively early specimens. They are of medium width and belong to the double-plate type with front-plate with foled rim. The same grave yielded a strap-end tapering to make a

peak; the front-plate shows motives of birds' heads (back-plate with folded rim).12

The belts of the dead buried in graves 3, 47 and 68 were equally adorned with repoussé mounts. The front-plate of the rectangular mount found in grave 3 shows geometrical design; the large strap-end is decorated with plant pattern of multi-foliated scroll type (vine tendril). The belt of the dead buried in grave 48 (plundered) must have been of an outstanding fineness as proved by the repoussé silver belt-ornaments with leaf-gilding. All the front-plates of the ornaments have folded rims which show beaded border. The survived shield-shaped belt-mount represents a couple of pigeons pecking at the fruit of the tree of life. The large strap-end is decorated with geometrical pattern filling the main fields quadrangular and shield-like in shape. The items mentioned last are of importance to ascertain the chronology of the burials even in their mutilated condition. The griffin-decorated mounts and those bearing geometrical pattern are repoussé specimens.

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The belt-set recovered from grave 10 may have been produced at the same time with the griffin decorated mounts of repoussé; the incomplete belt-set of grave 10 has among others a bronze small strap-end decorated with plant pattern in repoussé and quadrangular silver plate belt-mounts showing cut-out designs backed with gold plates; <sup>14</sup> the propeller-shaped mount of the same belt-set in cast in bronze and bears a beaded border. The plate mounts and cast propeller-shaped mount recovered in grave 10 give a convincing picture of the progress in time toward the production and use of the cast belt mounts recovered among the stray finds (117?). The large strap-end discovered in grave 10 must have been made of some crumbling material whereas only a fluted silver band with projecting strap-fastener survived. The repoussé mounts may be surmized to have belonged to the belt that had fastened the underwear, the plate belt-mounts and the propeller shaped mount to that fastening the gabardine. The small bronze plate found in grave 37 with two rivets and the fluted silver band belong to a large strap-end.

The earrings recovered in the male graves belong to the type with large globe-pendant assigned to the first half of the Avar Period and often met with in male and female graves, yet of smallersizes and plainer executions. Earrings with small globe-pendants were found in grave

37 and 81, fragments of a penannular earring in grave 28.

Hairplait-ornaments came to light in graves 30, 47, 73, 76, 81. Every hairplait-ornament represents a different type. Those rescued in grave 81 were made of plain bronze plates, those in grave 47 adorned with geometrical patterns in repoussé. Grave 73 yielded specimens of silver-plated lead, they are decorated with beading-like borders. From grave 30 "bar-type" hairplait-ornaments were recovered.

(b) The female graves yielded fey grave-goods that could be connected with clothing. Belt buckles (bronze or iron buckles) have survived in twenty-one graves (4, 16, 21, 23, 36, 38, 43, 44, 49, 58, 74, 89, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103, 104, 107). The shapes of the buckles were similar to those recovered in male graves. Six graves (4, 23, 36, 38, 99, 102) yielded a second buckle each of oval or circular shape, to suspend a knife or some other tool. In grave 103 at the end of a

knife tang a bronze ring came to light.

As regards jewellery a greater diversity was found in female than in male graves. The earliest earrings are circular in shape, their pendants consist of hollow metal globe-pendants (graves 14, 38, 96). The earrings with pendants of cone-frustom type settings tipped with semispherical parts (grave 58) belong to a later period. This type of earring was succeeded by the type the pendant of which was made up a cone-frustom type setting and globular glass bead-pendant (graves 27, 36, 44, 61, 79, 98, 102, 107). The latest items are oval in shape, their hoops are decorated by "muffs" and beaded wire; the glass bead-pendants joined by pseudogranulation to the hoop are longish in shape (graves 75, 97, 98, 103, 104). <sup>16</sup>

Indications suggesting the existence of strings of beads were found in thirteen graves: old-type coloured glass beads in graves 23, 39, 104, 106; bronze beads in one grave (4); amber beads in one grave (4); multi-coloured beads in three graves (1, 4, 96); snail shall-shaped large bead in one grave (4); small brown and yellow beads in four graves (23, 38, 89, 97); large beads with coloured inlays in one grave (89); segmented beads in two graves (23, 43); and melonseed-shaped glass beads in six graves (36, 43, 89, 97, 103, 106) were discovered. Some other objects than beads were worn as making part of a string of beads, as components of a necklace. Grave 56 yielded a perforated small Roman bronze coin (Maximianus I).<sup>17</sup> In grave 102 an earring with small globe-pendant in grave 38 chain-links strung between beads; in grave 23 reduced imitations of the pieces of toilet appliances came to light. The latter will be discussed together with the pendants of similar types unearthed in children's graves. Bracelets have survived in two graves (39, 96); they were madeof iron wire by fashioned simple bending. A finger-ring with a slightly convex bezel of repoussé and a leaden disc as ornamental piece for a purse were found in one grave (96).

(c) Children's graves. Among the thirthy-six children's graves of the cemetery fourteen were found unfurnished. Out of the buckles that had been used to fasten pieces of clothing three were oval-shaped (graves 7, 87, two in 106); one trapezoidal (grave 71), three quadrangular or oblong-shaped (graves 12, 64, 70). A circular buckle or an iron ring was found in a single grave (105). One of the buckles of grave 87 was fixed with a bronze rivet to the belt. A mount-decorated belt was deposited in grave 64; from grave 12 three trefoil-shaped repoussé belt-mounts of silver-gilt have survived. The fragments of the gold foils brought to light in grave 12 might have been ornaments to a fur cap.

In spite of the graet number the children's graves they yielded few jewels. Earrings with glass bead-pendants were found in grave 51; grave 70 yielded a penannular earring; the oval items excavated in grave 90 have pendants made of longish glass beads; these earrings belong to a later burial phase within the cemetery. In grave 105 traces of bronze patina observed on the skull of the skeleton indicated the presence of oxidized plain earrings.

The string of beads found in these graves were equally poorish. In grave 19 Sarmatian beads in grave 34 tiny brown beads, in grave 22 melonseed-shaped beads a light green Sarmatian bead

were recovered; grave 46 yielded melonseed-shape beads.

Among the finds which may have been stringed an ornamental gilt-bronze plate was yielded by grave 19. The repoussé plate bearing indented interlace pattern represents the stylized ribbon-stile animal ornament of the Germanic (?) world. Together with the old-type beads this find dates the grave to the early Avar Period. In grave 64 an earring with globe-pendant was found among the beads; the same necklace also contained iron chain-links. Further items of interest are the small pendants imitating part of toilet appliances and tools came to light in femal grave 23 (a girl?) and in two child graves (46, 64). Grave 23 yielded a rectangular and a showel-like filter spoon with perforations, together with a pair of tweezers reminding those used in cosmetics for epilation, and earring pendants made of narrow metal plates bent back. A small bronze plate with scalloped border together with an oblong and a shield-shaped piece were excavated in grave 46 and a small bronze pendant, sawlike in shape was decovered in grave 64. The use of such ornamental pendants was by no menas a local (Csengele) custom, but deeply rooted and widespread in this period.

A perforated crane (?) bone for wear in the neck was discovered in grave 57 inside the right arm of the skeleton. The position of the object suggests the idea that it might have been used for the "skeleton" of human figure ("puppet" like our pesant-art "dressed wooden spools"); considering the lenght of the bone item it may be surmized to be the surviving part of a toy. Cs. Bálint holds it to be a talisman — an ongon averting evil. 19

# 2. Tools, implements

(a) Male graves. They were poorly furnished with tools. Knives came to light in twenty graves, pairs of them in four graves (28, 59, 65, 78). The only grave from wich no knife was recovered was no. 40, and no knife was delivered to the Museums by the ownersof the plots who opened up graves on their own, either. The knives were of the straight-edge type; some of them were large enough alternatively to be used as weapons (graves 2, 32, 59, 81, 83). All of them were fit for use in wood and bone carving as well as at meals.

Irons strike-a-light and flints were recovered in grave 30, fragments of an iron strike-a-light

in grave 48, flints alone in graves 59 and 108.

(b) Female graves. In spite of the many disturbances knives came to light in nineteen graves (4, 13, 14, 16, 34, 38, 39, 44, 49, 56, 58, 61, 66, 74, 85, 89, 96, 102, 103). Two knives were unearthed in each of two graves. The types of the knives were like those recovered from male graves, yet, as a rule, somewhat smaller. Four graves still yielded large-sized knives (13, 16, 36, 96).

Spindle-whorls were everyday tools of women and girls engaged in spinning. Such items came to light in numerous graves. In those of females (graves 16, 25, 38, 39, 43, 44, 49, 79, 85, 89, 97, 98, 100, 102, 104, 107) invariably spindle-whorls, in the grave of a girls (27) a disc-shaped spindle-whorl were deposited. Based on those expounded above the spindle-whorl discovered in grave 100-101 had belonged to the mother, not to the child. Some of the spindle-whorls are undecorated, the majority are decorated with girth-grooves; only a single of them (25) was adorned with zones of wavy lines.

(c) Children's graves. Knives, naturally, were less often deposited with children than with adults. This is the probable reason why knives were found in nine children's graves only, where the dead child had been versed in the use of a knife, at least to a certain extent (graves 12, 19, 26, 63, 64, 70, 71, 87, 105). Out of the knives recovered only that found in grave 63 was of a somewhat larger size.

Clay spindle-whorls were deposited in graves 19, 42, 57, 90, 105 and 27. Except the biconical specimen found in grave 9 the are discoid in shape; the spindle-whorl coming from grave 27 is already mentioned in the discussion of the femal graves. The biconical spindle-whorl was decorated

with two incised wavy lines, the disc-shaped one coming from grave 19 shows an incised radial pattern; the rest were plain earthenware discs. A badly preserved iron needle came to light in

grave 9, a bone needle-case in grave 105.

(d) Finds coming from graves with skeletons of unknown sex and stray finds. The grave-goods of graves 5, 8, 11, 15, 17, 18, 20, 24, 31, 68, 77 and 88 were assigned to the first group. Their characteristic features included that every grave had been disturbed, and the grave-goods may be belong to male and female dead alike. Out ofthe twelve graves three (11, 20, 88) were found completely plundered. Two iron buckles turned up in boths graves 15 and 31, one in each of the graves 17, 18, 24, 68 and 77, the latter oval-shaped. Two iron rings or circular buckles have survived in grave 5; two knives in graves 17 and 77 (one of the knives large-sized); one in each of graves 8, 18, 31, 68. In the discussion of coffins the fragments of hook-nails unearthed in graves 5, 8, and in connection with food offerings animal bones of grave 24 have been mentioned. The coloured single bead made of some hard material recovered in grave 18 might equally have belonged to the string of beads of a woman, and like numerous early Avar finds in which a bow or a sword made part among other grave-goods they might have come from a male or a female grave equally well.<sup>20</sup>

As to the numbers of male and female graves in which the sex of the dead could be determined the number of male graves (26) was smaller than those of female ones (34). This is why we believe that among the 12 skeletons of unknown sex there were probably more males than females. This assumption has also been confirmed by the primary objective of the disturbances having

been the recovery of weapons and belt-sets concealed in the graves.

As mentioned in the introductory part the finds of graves 109–123 (?) came to light while the owners of the plots did agricultural works. In the course of our data processing operations it turned out that the bone bow-plates registered among the grave-goods of grave belonged 114 to the published material of another cemetery. Therefore also the rest of the incomplete assemblace of the said graves had to be classed as stray-finds. The cast bronze small strap-end might have been recovered from grave 177 (?) with a belt-mount and a belt-hole guards. Considering the decoration by flat-leaf tendrils and, the incomplete belt-set, these items, together with the grave-goods of grave 83 should be handled as belonging to the last burials within the cemetery. The knife of grave 113 (?) and the fragments of a knife fall in line with the similar grave-goods of the cemetery. The earrings with large globe-pendants, the strings of beads composed of tiny yellow and brown beads had belonged to a female grave each.

From the probable time of the interment of the earrings with large globe-pendants compared with that of the incomplete belt-sets and stray finds we may obtain starting paints regarding the burial phases within the cemetery and the assumption that another "burial centre" could be

located on the third plot of ground.

# 3. Weapons

Bone fittings for bows were rescued in graves 10, 47, and 48. The stiffeners from the terminals are of the slightly widening type. Besides iron rings objects suggesting the presence of quivers came only from graves 10, 59 and 81, and they were no typical pieces either, some small iron fittings and iron rivets. In sixteen graves arrowheads indicating the belonging of the late owners to the archers were found. Five arrowheads were recovered in grave 37; three in graves 2, 59; two in graves 47, 48, 83, 108; one in graves 3, 10, 23, 40, 60, 65, 81, 86, 91, plus two among the stray finds. Only two of the arrowheads excavated in grave 83 were of the late socketed and barbed type items the rest was trilateral.<sup>21</sup>

A socketed iron spearhead came to light in grave 93. The stirrups found in the same grave are of the early oriental type. The bladeof the spearhead is widened in the middle, the socket is

broad in section; this type of spearheads often occures among the Gepid weapons.

# 4. Harness

The graves of the earliest burial phase within the cemetery were probably those 93–95 yielding weapons. This is substantiated by the presence of the early type stirrups and of a socketed iron spearhead. From the grave-goods handed over to the Museum as yielded by the said graves there were two *horse bits* and four *stirrups*, three of the latter have oblong loops.<sup>22</sup>

# 5. Pottery

All vessels are hand-made specimens of refined clay. They are classed as coarse Avar pottery. They do not suggest the precence of a potter in the community that had used the site as burial ground.

Pottery did not came to light in male graves at all, and out of the female graves only in grave 56 (a young girl). As it was a single piece that came to light, it will be discussed here. Within the excavated area of the cemetery the number of vessels turned up totalled seven (graves 22, 29, 41, 56, 80, 84) and that marked "Sz. n." as that of an child. Those discovered in graves 22, 41 and 56 are hand made pots of coarse material, bulging in their upper parts. The vessels found in grave 80 and in the grave marked "Sz. n." are squat, their mouth is wide. Vessels of the same type keep turning up, though not so often, also in other Avar Period cemeteries. The type of the narrow-mouthed pot recovered from grave 84, with body narrowing towards the base occurs in the Kiskőrös–Tisza Region rareley. Grave 29 yielded a wide-mouthed pot decorated with zones of incised wavy lines, it belong to the typical pottery vessels of the second half of the Avar Period.

## V. SUMMARY

The comparative chronologic sequence of the graves of the cemetery — additionally taking the finds excavated in other Avar cemeteries into consideration — has been fixed as follow. The burials of the earliest burial phase within the cemetery are represented by male graves yielding stirrups with oblong loop (graves 93, 94),23 as well as by female graves that preserved earrings with large-globe pendants for which the attachment-bits are composed of small globulae and bossed beads were excavated (grave 96 and stray finds 3). The continuity in time of the burials is substantiated by the male graves containing earrings with large globe-pendants (32, 59), repousssé belt-mounts showing fluted borders (32), plate mounts decorated with rows of chases dots along their edges (65) and rosette-mounts of repoussé (graves 32, 65, 78), as well as by female graves yielding earrings with large globe-pendants of plainer construction (14, 38), amber and bossed glass beads (4). The next burials are the male graves having hairplait-ornaments of repoussé (47, 73), plain earrings with glass bead-pendants (37, 81), repoussé belt-mounts decorated with geometrical pattern (3, 48) or with animal figures (47, 48), bone plates for bow-terminals of slightly widening type (47, 48); among the female graves those having yielded earrings with pendants of cone-frustom type setting tipped with a hemispherical part (58); earrings with glass bead-pendants imitating the type with small globe-pendant (36, 44, 51) or old-type glass beads (19). The next period of burials is characterized by the male graves containing repoussé belt-ornaments or plate-mounts of other type (10, 64: child) and hairplait-ornaments of "bar-type" (30, 76) plus female or children's graves that preserved a great variety of large-sized earrings with glass bead-pendants (27, 36, 61, 102).

Late Avar Period graves common knowledge are those in which socketed arrowheads (83) and cast belt-ornaments decorated with flat-leaf tendrils (stray finds) were dicovered, and female graves yielding oval earrings with glass pendants (75, 90, 97, 98, 107) equally belong here.

Follow those said above in the cemetery plan (Fig 4). It appears that in the area where stirrups with oblong loops where unearthed (graves 93, 94) the owner of the land discovered an early part of the cemetery. The W limit of this part is marked by female grave 96. In the NW part of the excavated area the earlier graves (12, 19, 30, 32, 37, 38, 47, 48, 59, 65, 73, 78, 81) are surrounded on the S, SE and NE by a semicircle of later graves (75, 76, 83, 89, 90, 97, 98, 103, 104). The farthest graves on the W (1–4, 92) may have belonged to the parts not yet excavated, to a third clan and the graves 109–123 (grave-goods of which are discussed were as stray finds) might have completed this third group.

The stirrups recovered in graves 93–94 might have been deposited at some date in the first decades after 600, whereas the latest burials took place in the second half of the VIIIth century. These graves may harbour the dead of the Avar population on the way of pauperization, as well

as those of the recently arrived waves of peoples.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> At the time of the excavations Author was a junior official in the Szeged Városi Múzeum.

<sup>2</sup> Author was unaware of graves 109–123/2, and J. Korek does not mention them in the descriptions of the objects. The notes were made in 1942.

<sup>3</sup> In Csallány's Register of Sites the cemetery is enterded under No. 160.

- <sup>4</sup> According to information received from Prof. Pál Lipták, Head of the Department of Anthropology of the Szeged József Attila University. After the second World War the skeletal material of not more than three graves (14, 38, 50) could be identified.
- <sup>5</sup> Similar clench-nails for the coffin had been known of earlier Gepid graves: Török (1936) Dolg. pp. 35–36, Pl. LI, XIX, graves 27 and 367.
- <sup>6</sup> Burials in groups of graves are reflected also by the late (griffin-and-tendril) period of the Halimba Avar cemetery: Cf. Török (1976) Festschrift für Pittioni pp. 351–365.

<sup>7</sup> Sarre (1923) Die Kunst des alten Persien, pp. 107-108, fig. 112.

<sup>8</sup> Csallány (1939) FA pp. 142, 170, Pl. VII, 30.

<sup>9</sup> Szeged-Csengele grave 1: op. cit. pp. 127, 159. Pl. VII 15–17; Török (1954) Arch. Ért. p. 56; graves 21 and 25: Salamon (1969) Acta Arch. Hung. p. 295, fig. 8.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. Garam (1976) FA pp. 140-162.

<sup>11</sup> Csallány (1939) FA pp. 126, 157, Pl. III, 4.

12 For the Byzantine origin of the decoration of the strap-end cf. Csallány (1955) AntTan p. 107, Pl. III, 9.

13 For the explanation of similar mounts cf. László (1967) Acta II. Congr. Intern. Hist. Salisburgo-Ratisbonensis pp. 142–152.

<sup>14</sup> Horváth (1935) Üllő und Kiskőrös pp. 31, 33, Pl. XXI, 40–44.

<sup>15</sup> Together with the cast belts-ornaments of "griffin-and-tendril-type": Török (1975) Kiskőrös-Pohibuj Macko pp. 287–288, fig. 2, 3.

16 Čilinská (1966) Nové Zámky types III b and III c, pp. 142, 145.

<sup>17</sup> Maximianus Herculius (286–305) Coh. 2 VI 62 PB 6f.

18 Characteristic for the earlier occurence of the motive are the belst mounts of Keszthely-Fenékpuszta grave 15, also decorated with "dot-and-comma" motifs: Barkóczi (1968) Acta Arch. Hung. p. 283, Pl. LXIII, 1–16.

<sup>19</sup> Bálint (1975) Arch. Ért. pp. 52–53.

<sup>20</sup> Török (1954) Arch. Ért. p. 56, Pl. XI, 16; Jánoshida grave 26: Erdélyi (1958) Jánoshida p. 10, Pl. XII, 8.

21 Similar arrowheads turned up among the finds of the Sopronköhida-type cemeteries and in the closing graves of four grave groups of the Halimba cemetery: Török (1973) Fontes Arch. Hung. pp. 44.

<sup>22</sup> The Csengele antecedences of the stirrups with oblong loops were presented by Csallány (1939) FA pp. 147, Pl. VIII, 4,

5.

<sup>23</sup> Kovrig (1955) Acta Arch. Hung. pp. 163-192.

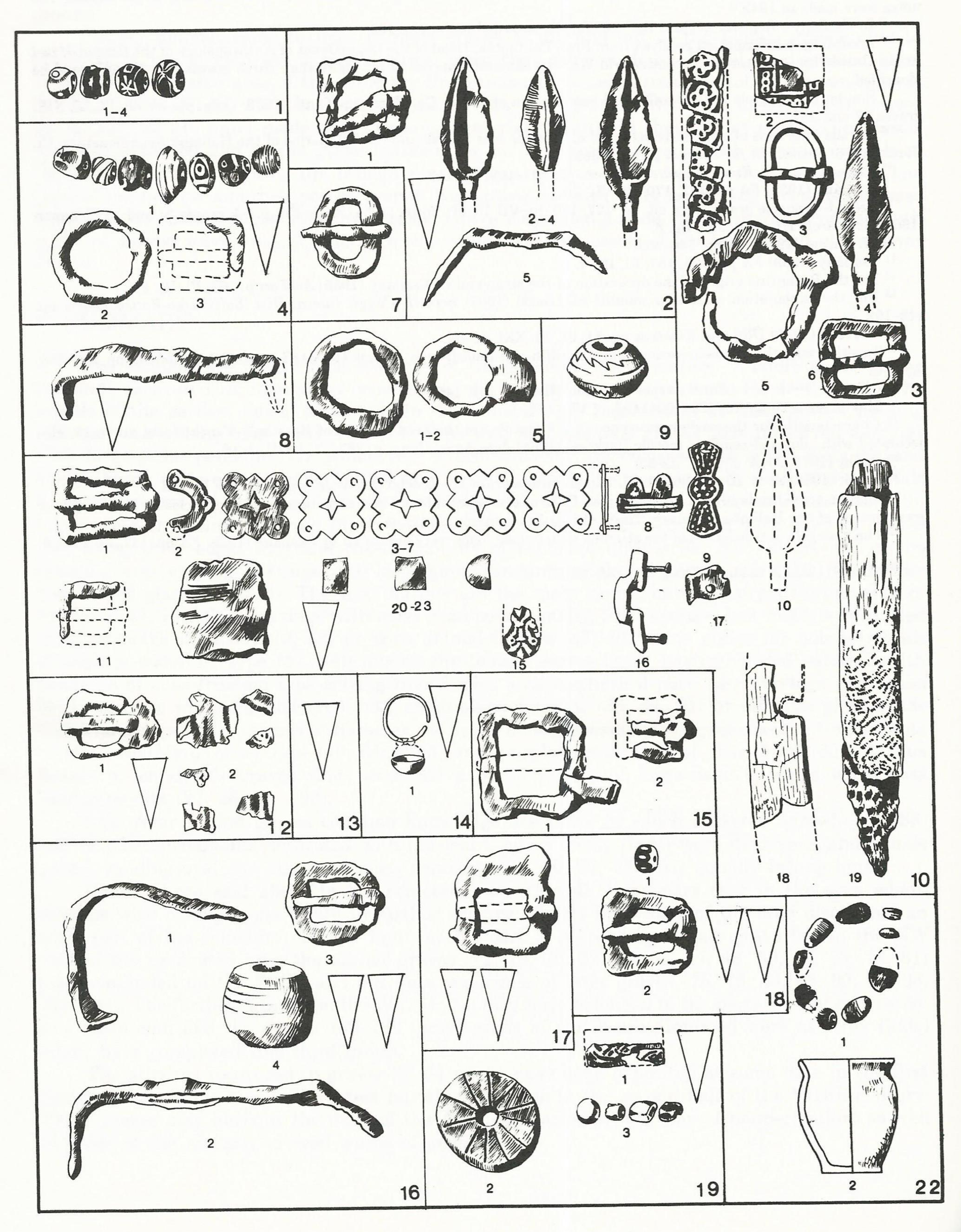


Plate 1. Csengele-Feketehalom. Graves 1-5, 12-19, 22

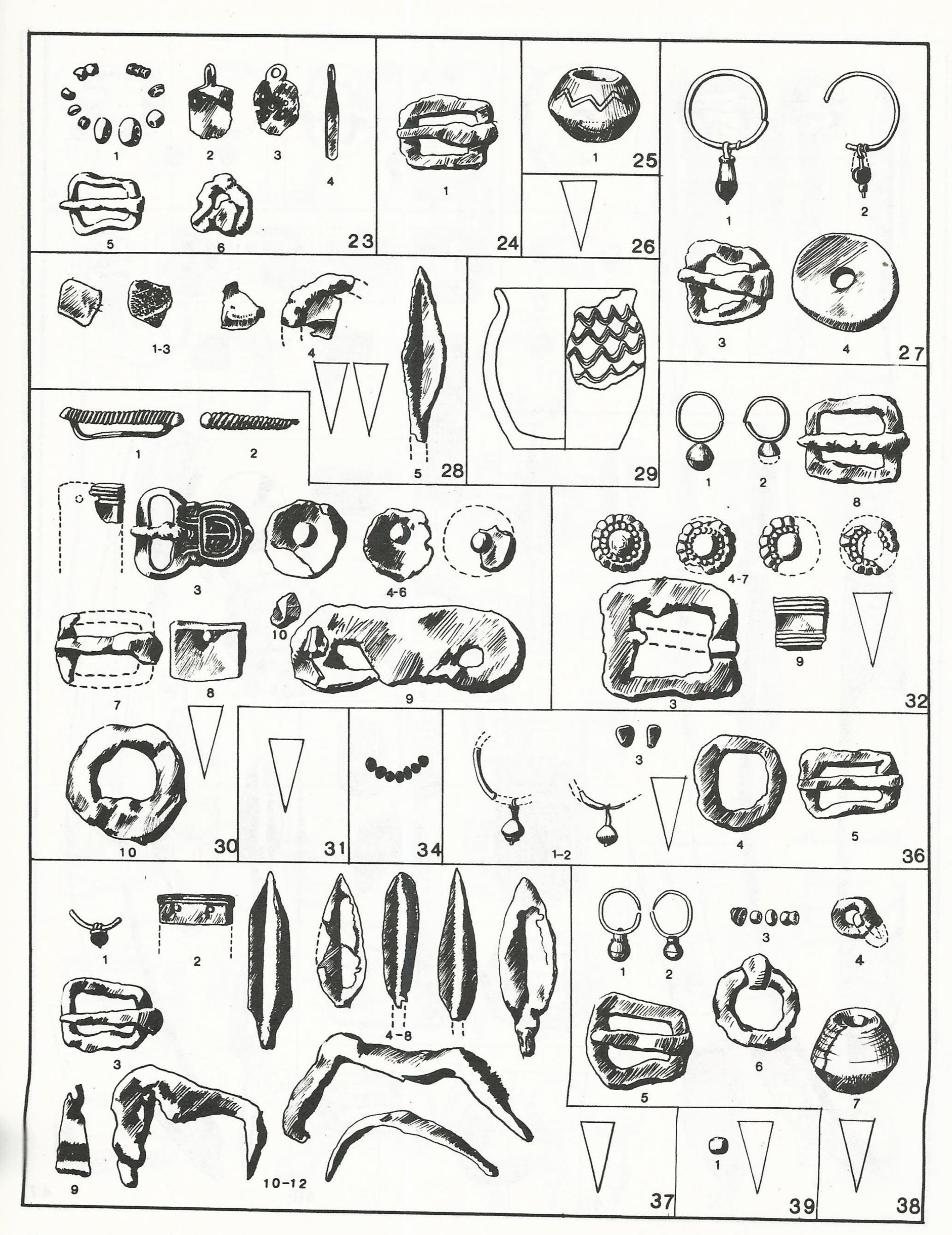


Plate 2. Csengele-Feketehalom. Graves 23-32, 34, 36-39

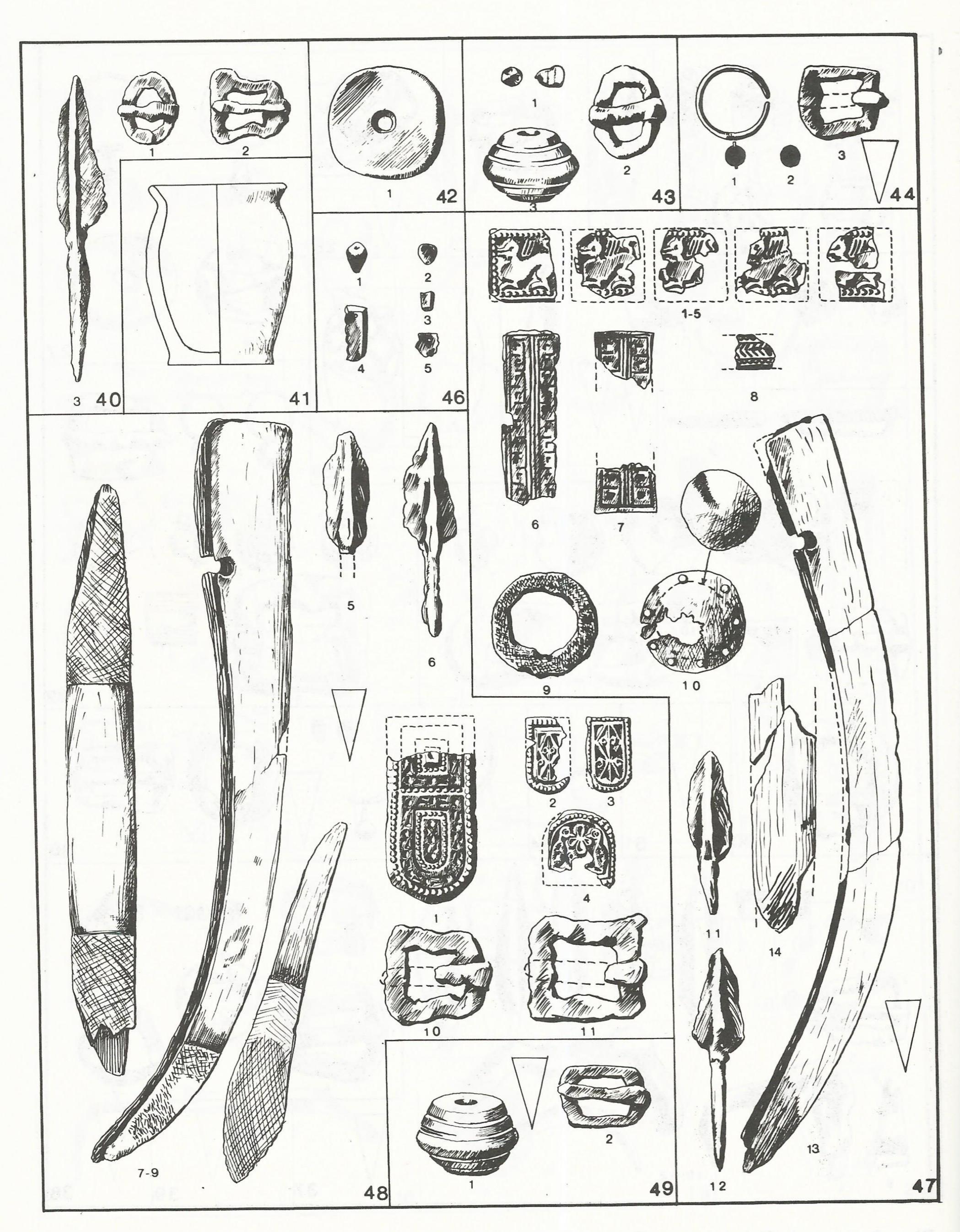


Plate 3. Csengele-Feketehalom. Graves 40-44, 46-49

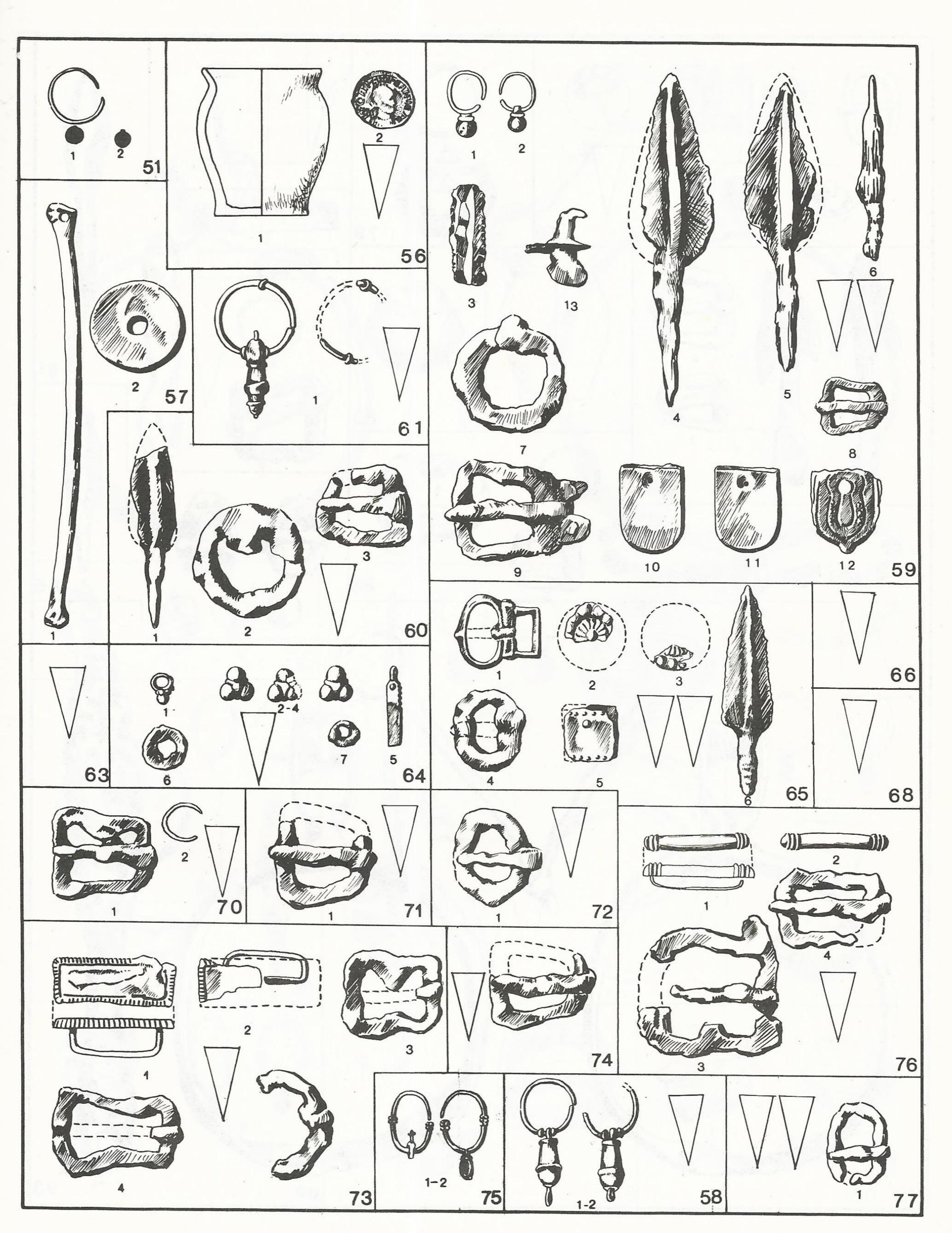


Plate 4. Csengele–Feketehalom. Graves 51, 56–61, 63–68, 70–73, 75–77

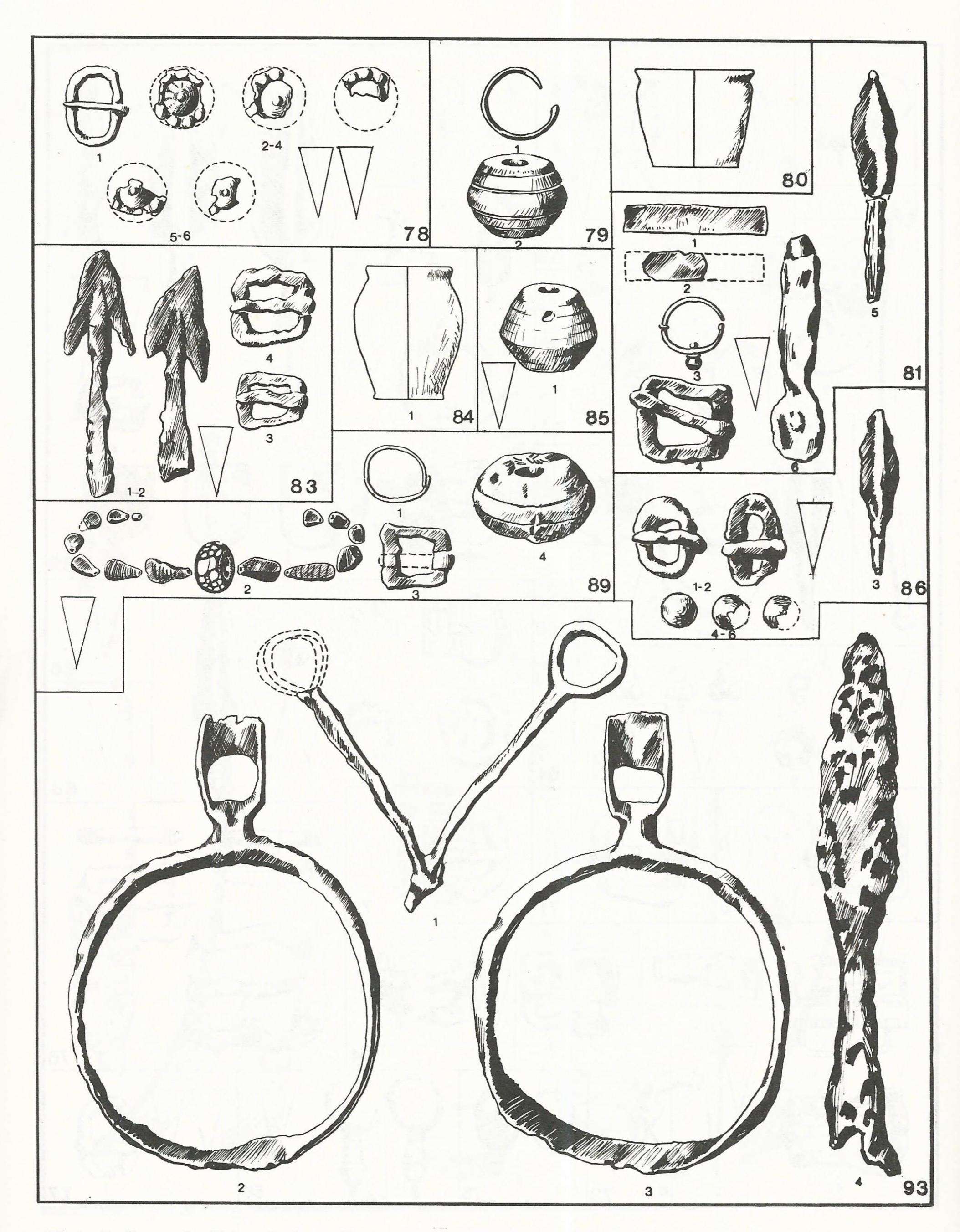


Plate 5. Csengele-Feketehalom. Graves 78-81, 83-86, 89, 93

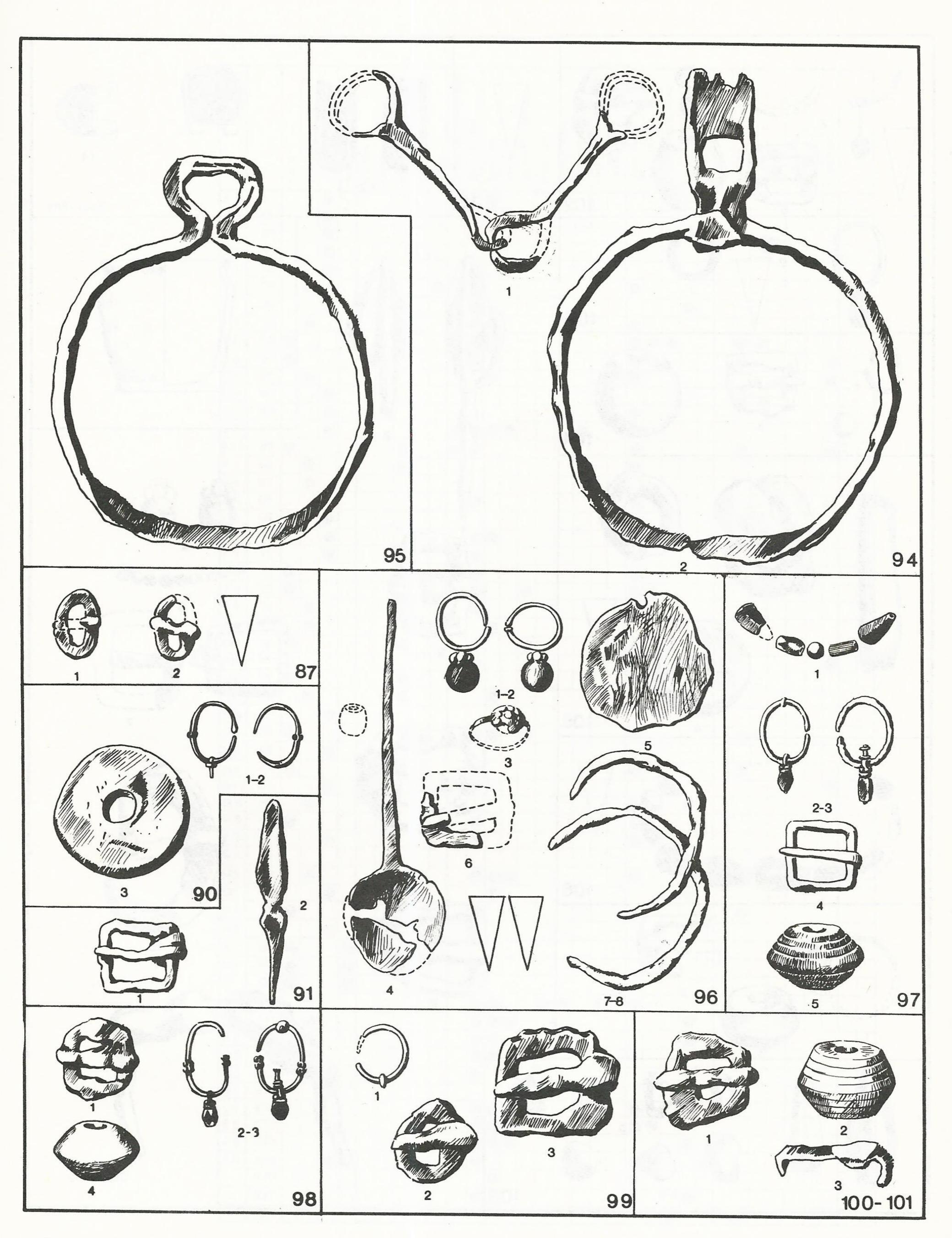


Plate 6. Csengele-Feketehalom. Graves 87, 90-91, 94-101

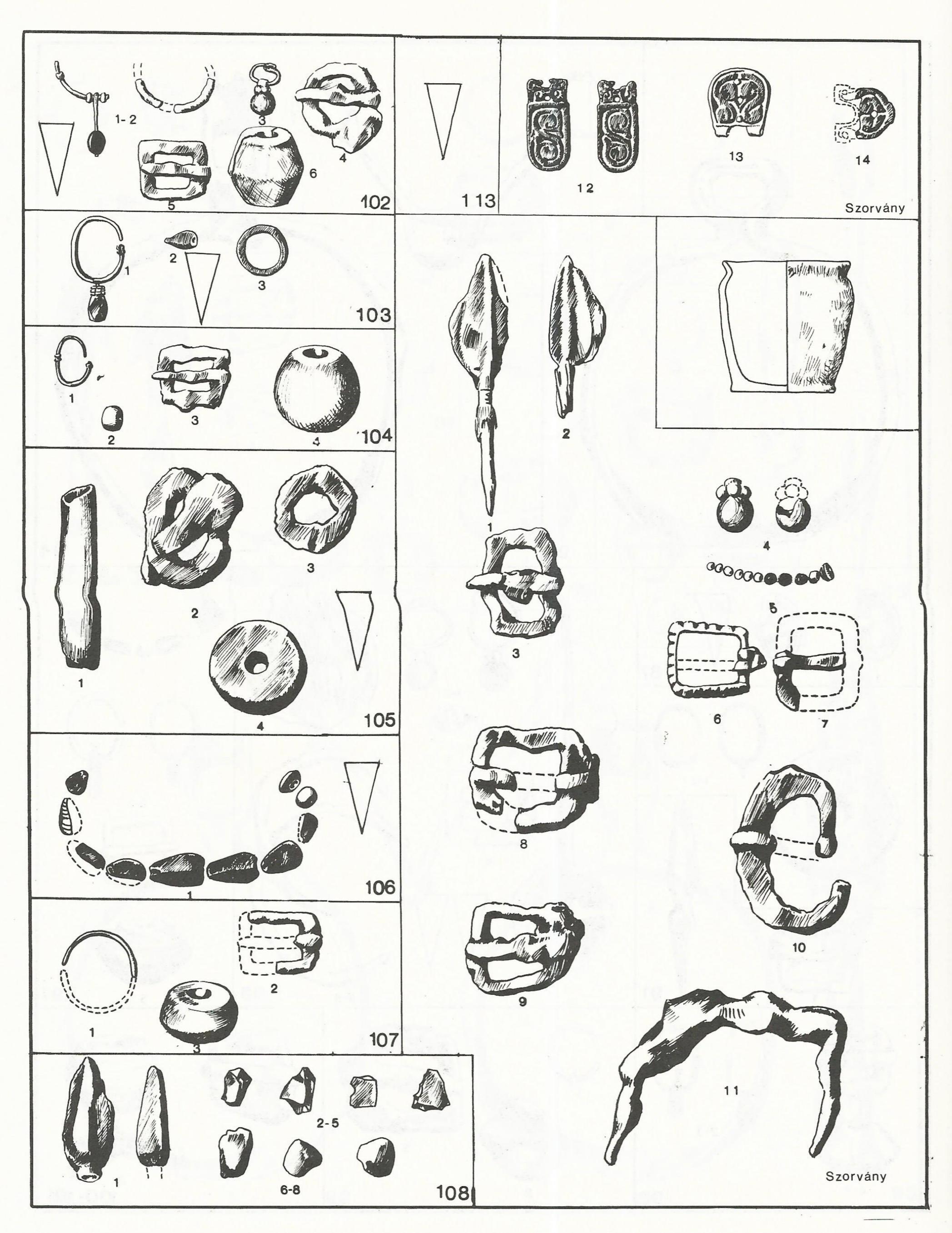


Plate 7. Csengele-Feketehalom. Graves 102-108; grave without number; stray finds.

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# ABBREVIATIONS USED IN BIBLIOGRAPHY

Acta Arch. Hung. =

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AR = BerRGK =

Dolg. =

EMÉ =

FA = F

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Acta Archeaologica Hungarica Academica Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest

Antik Tanulmányok -- Studia Antiqua Buda-

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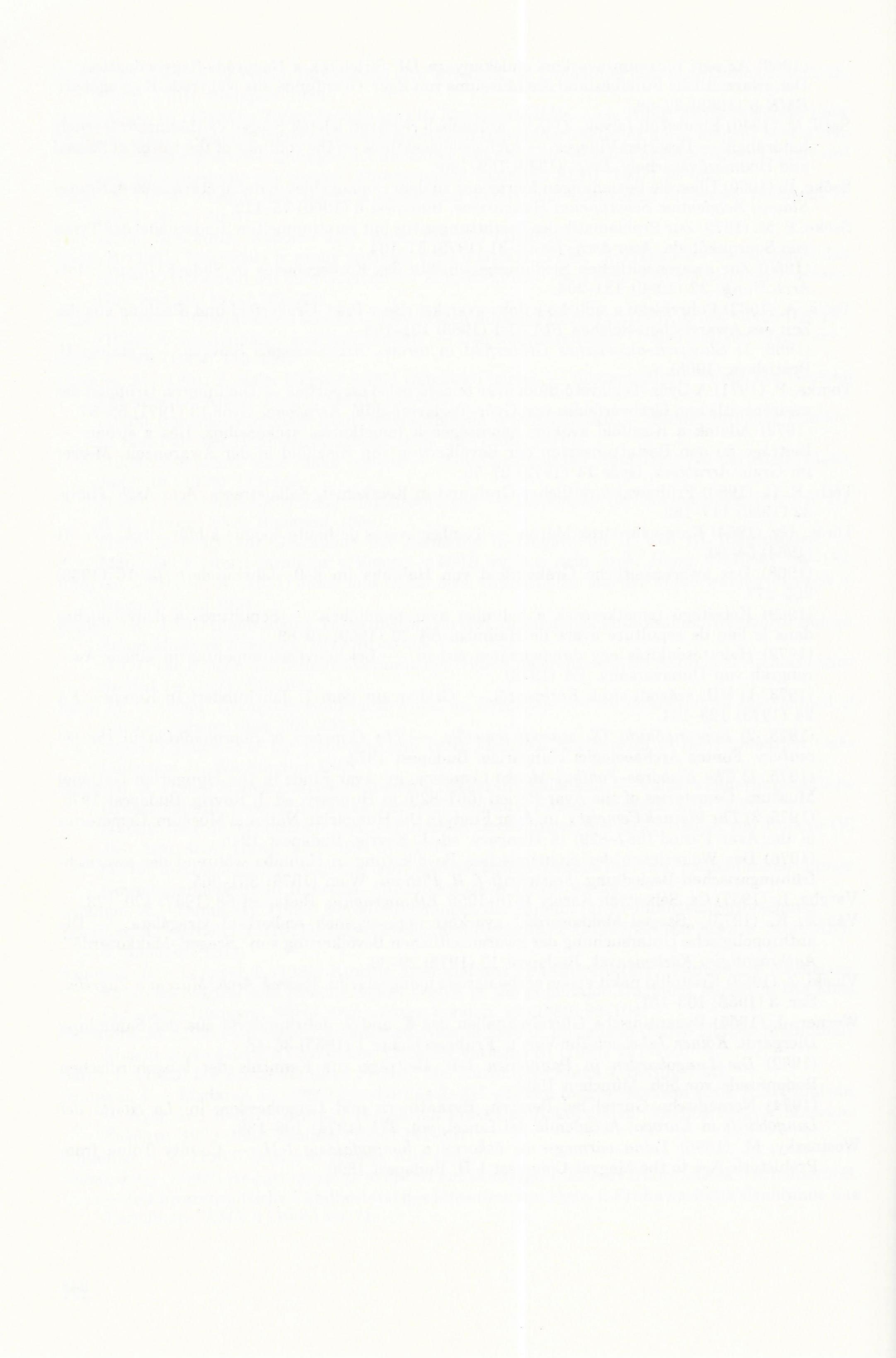
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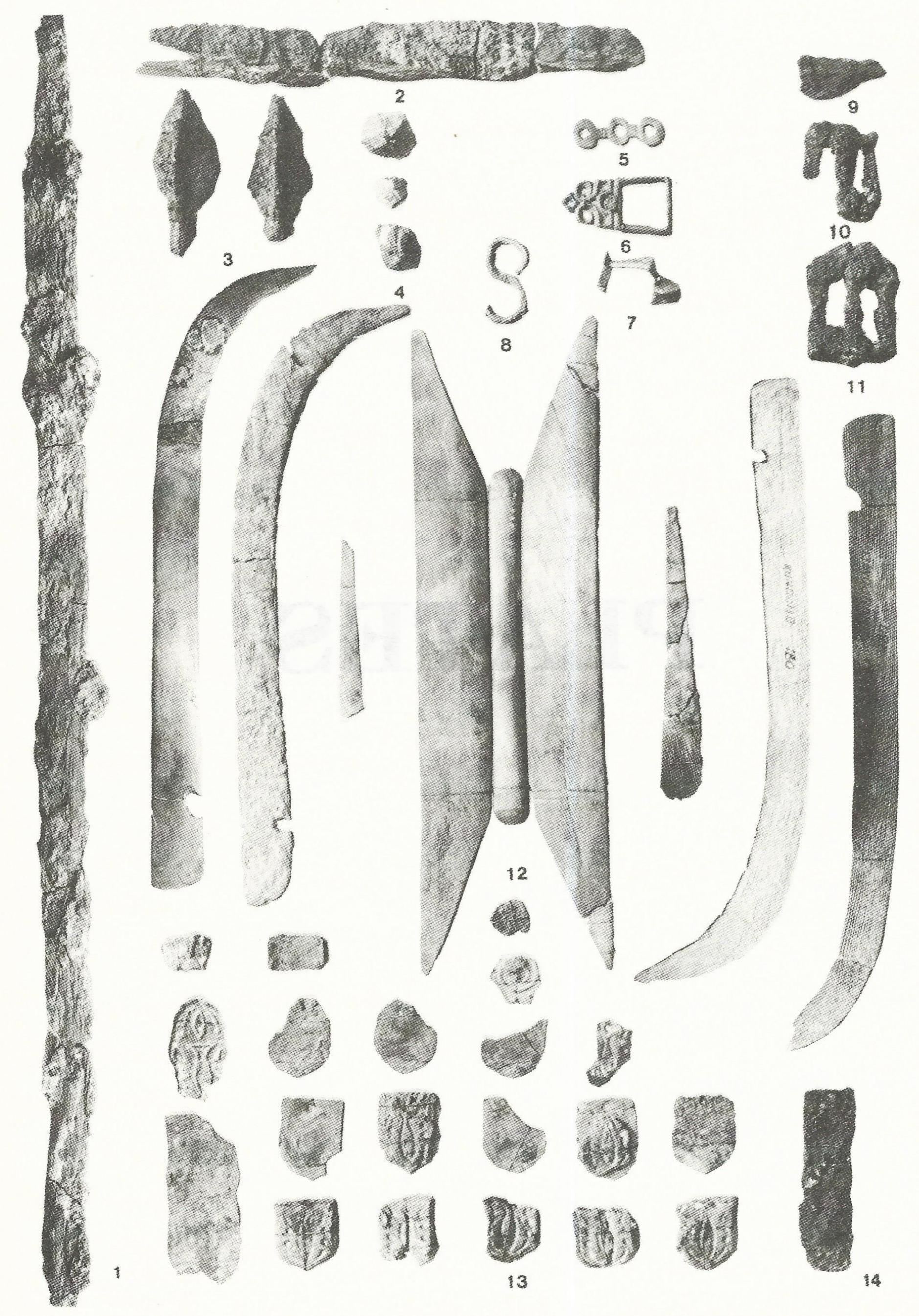
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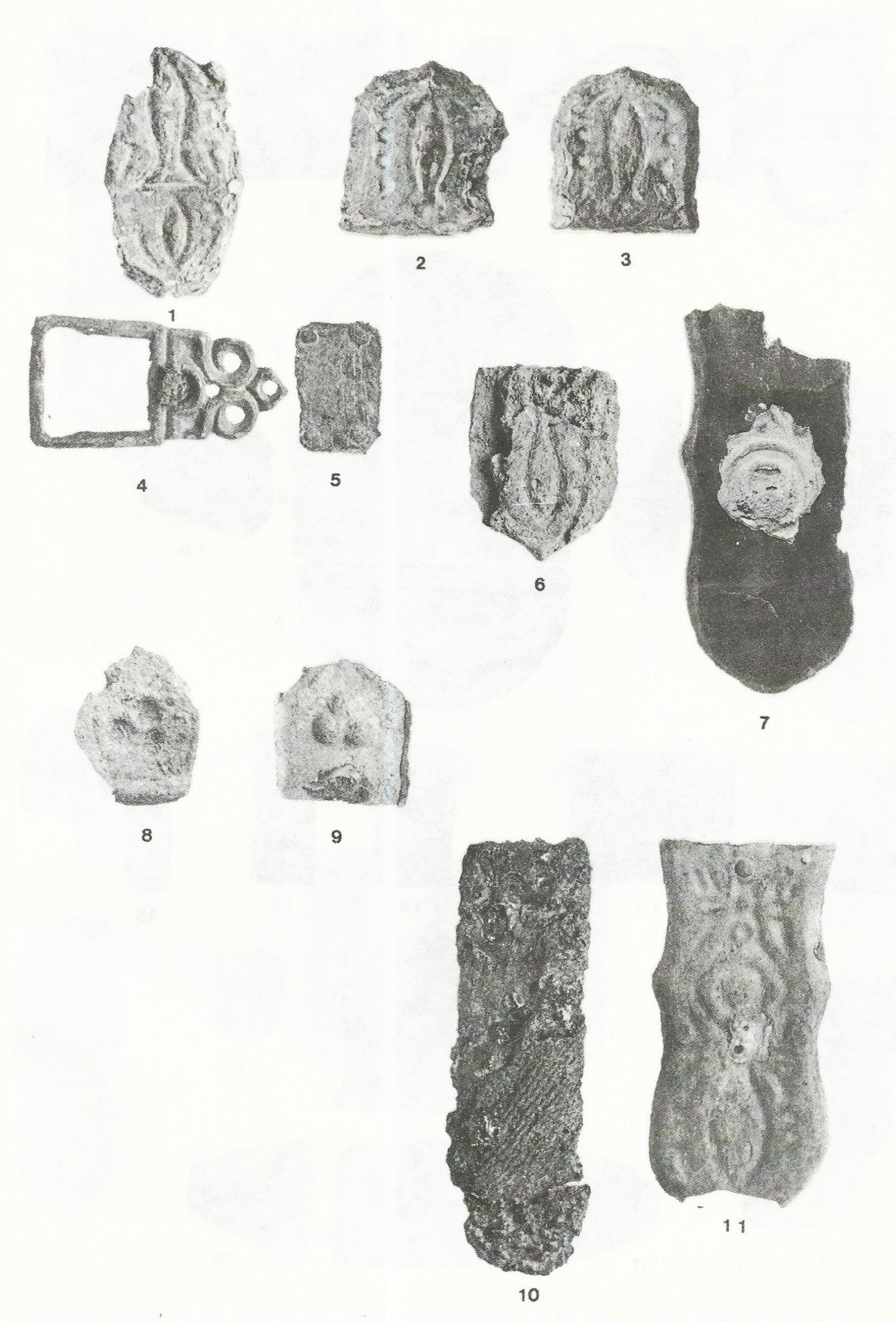
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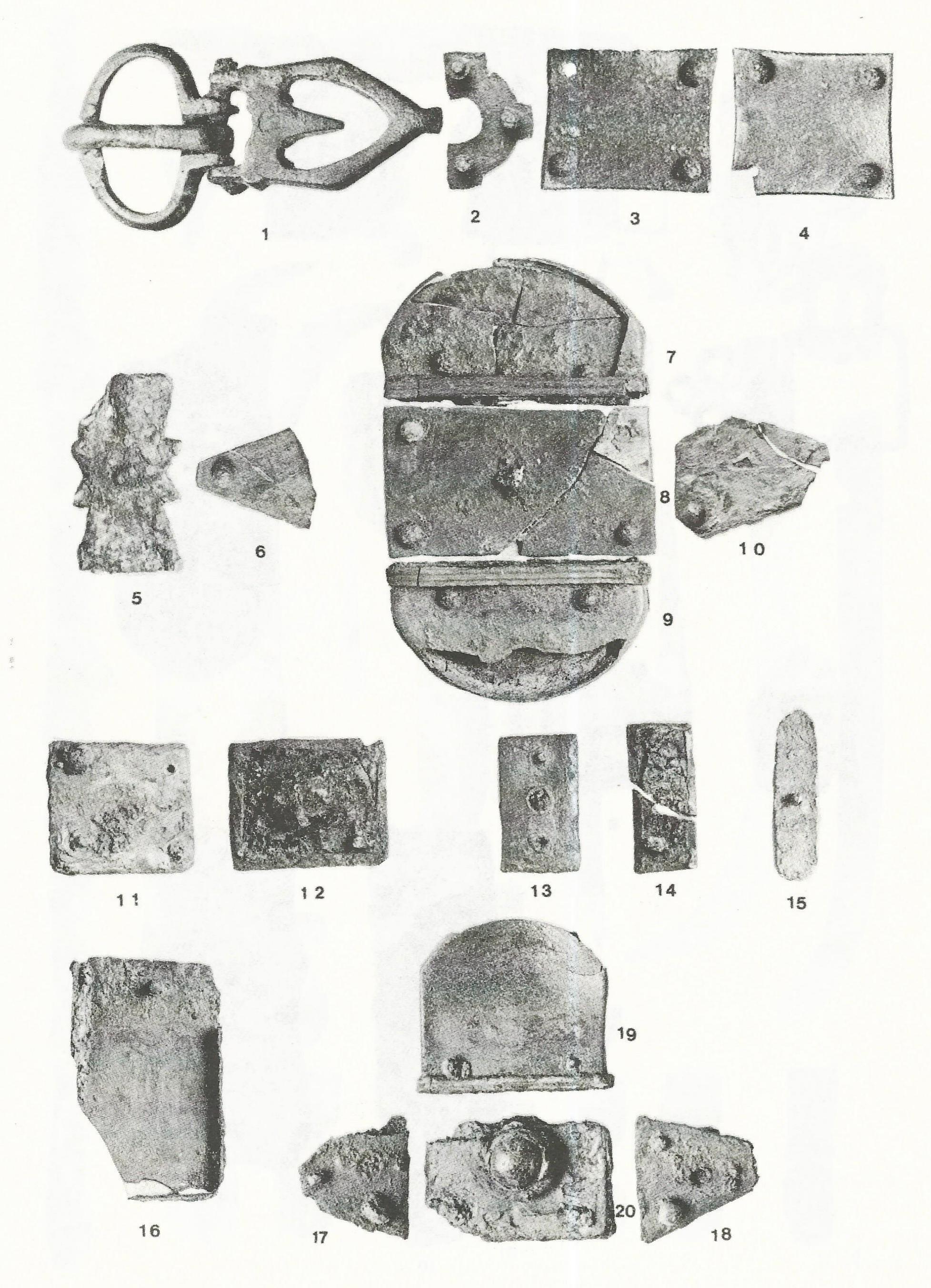
## PLATES



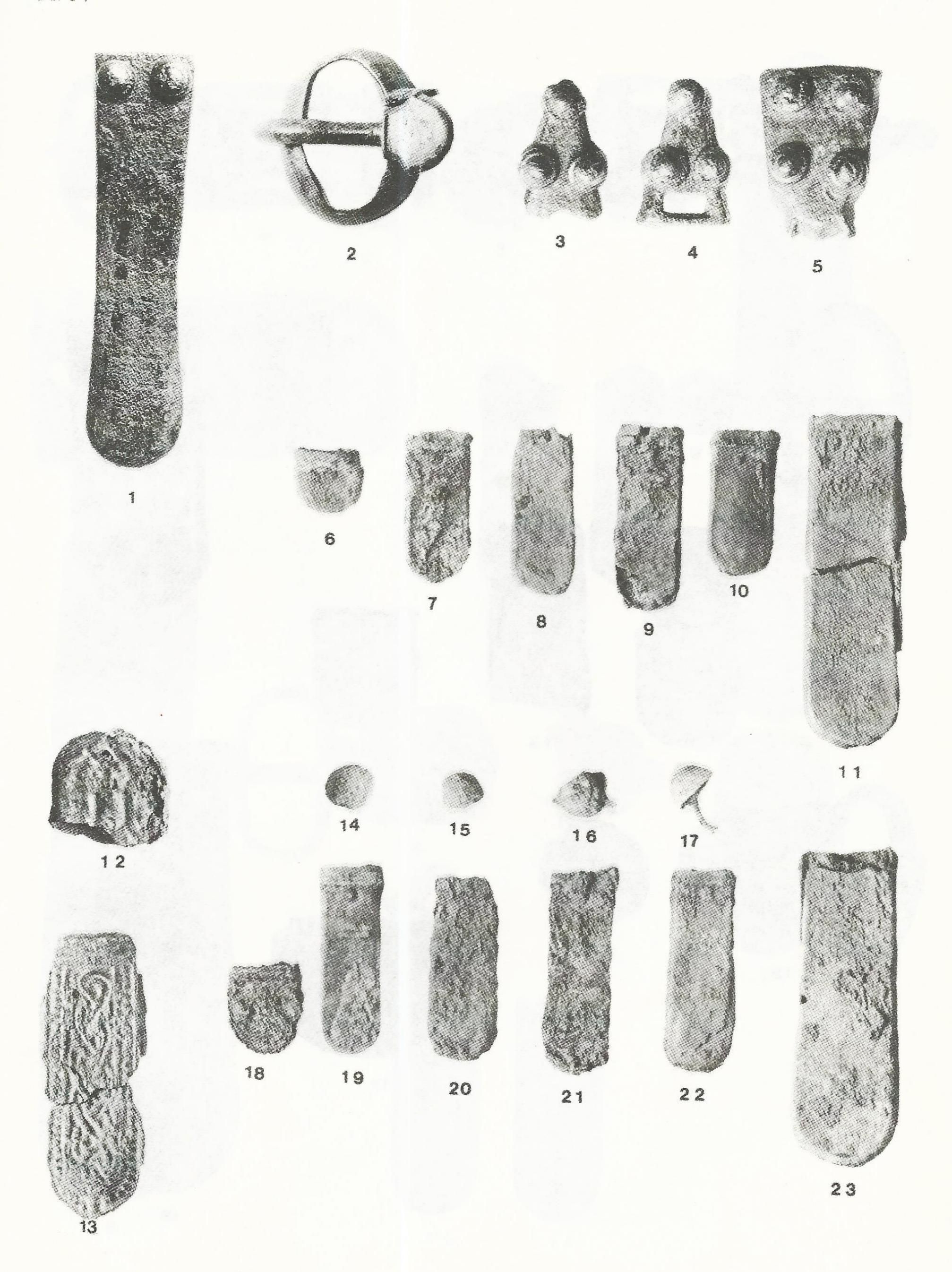
Szeged-Kundomb 180



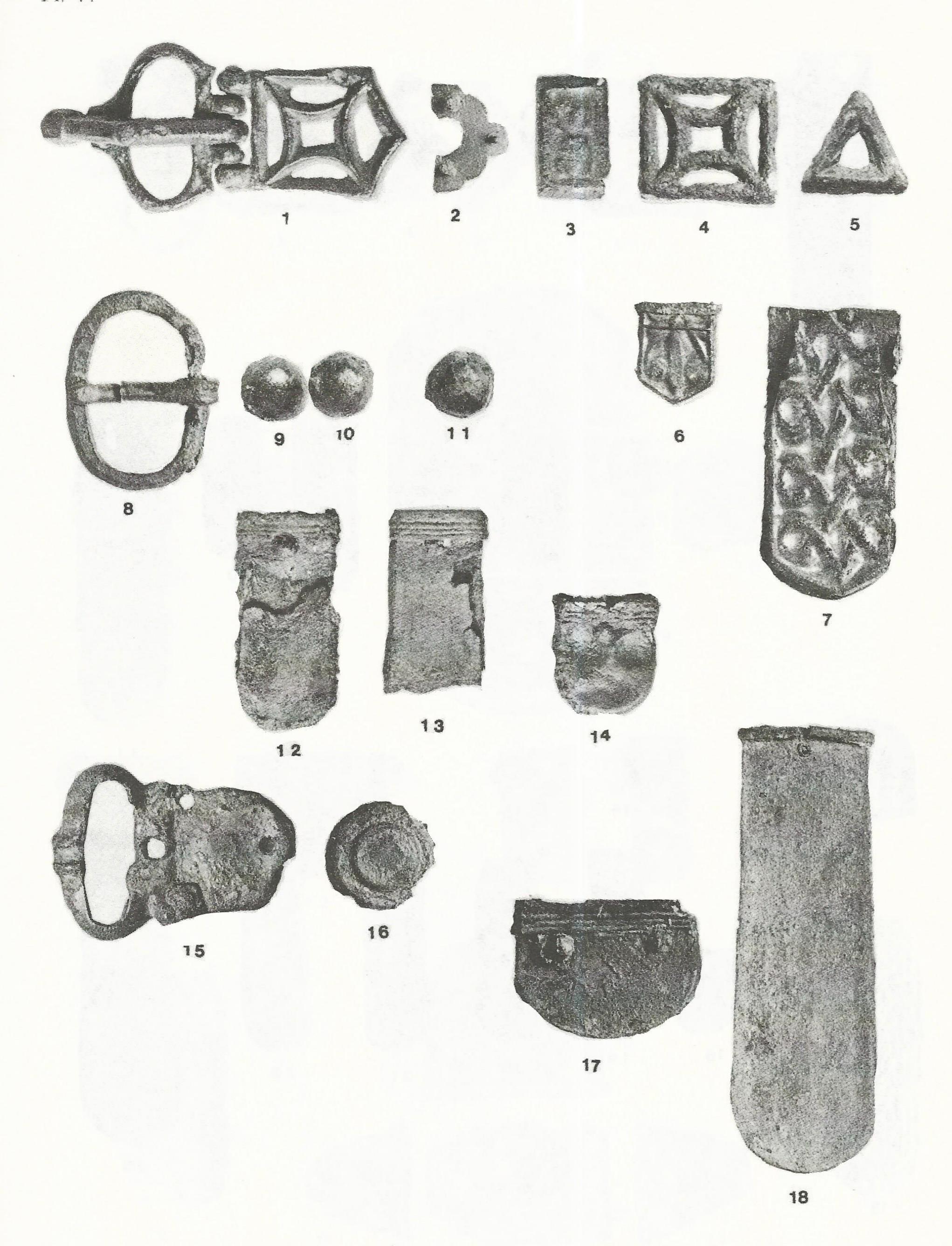
Szeged-Kundomb 1-7: grave 180; 8-11: grave 289.



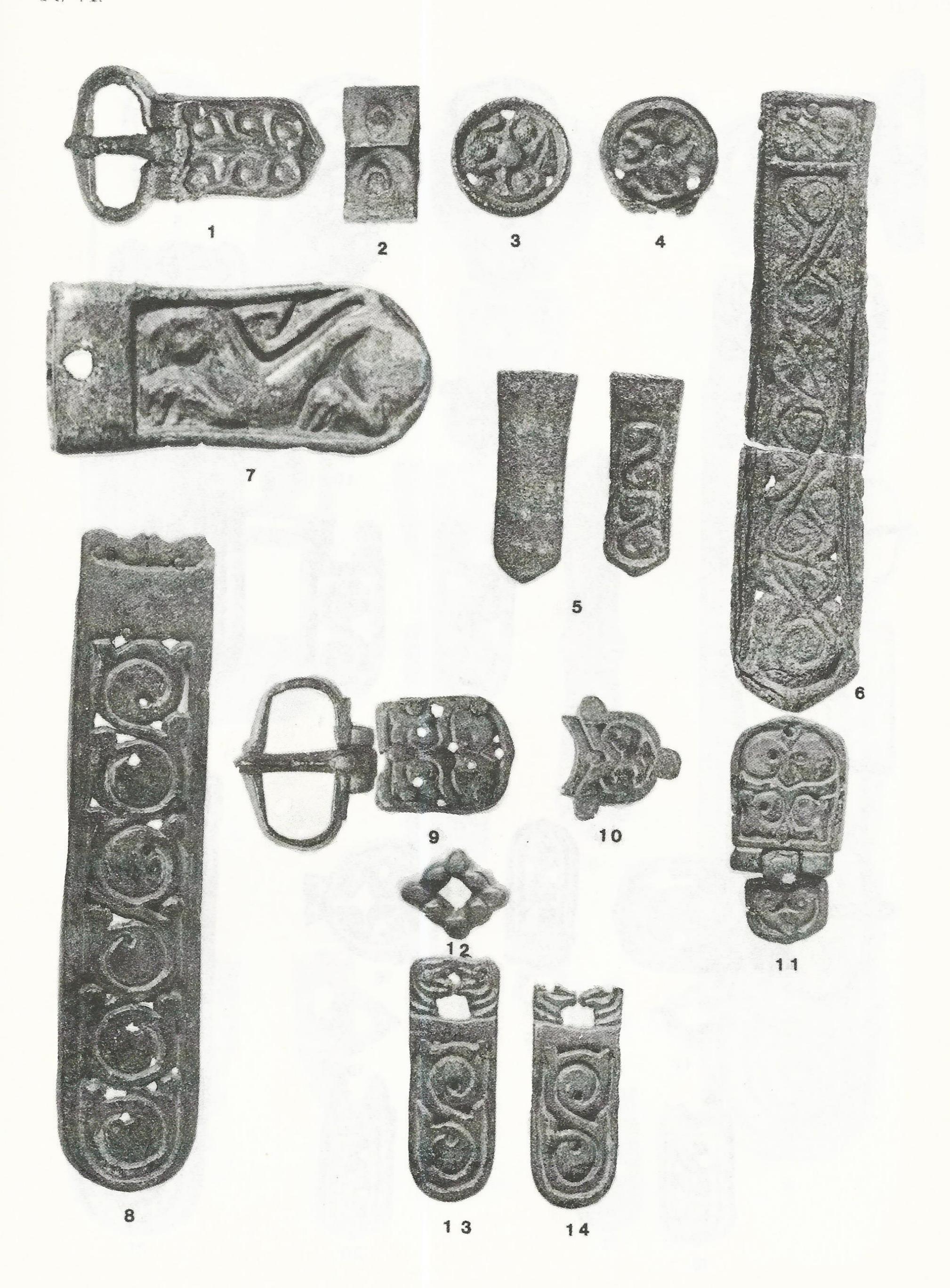
Szeged-Kundomb 1-10: grave 52; 11-20: grave 71.



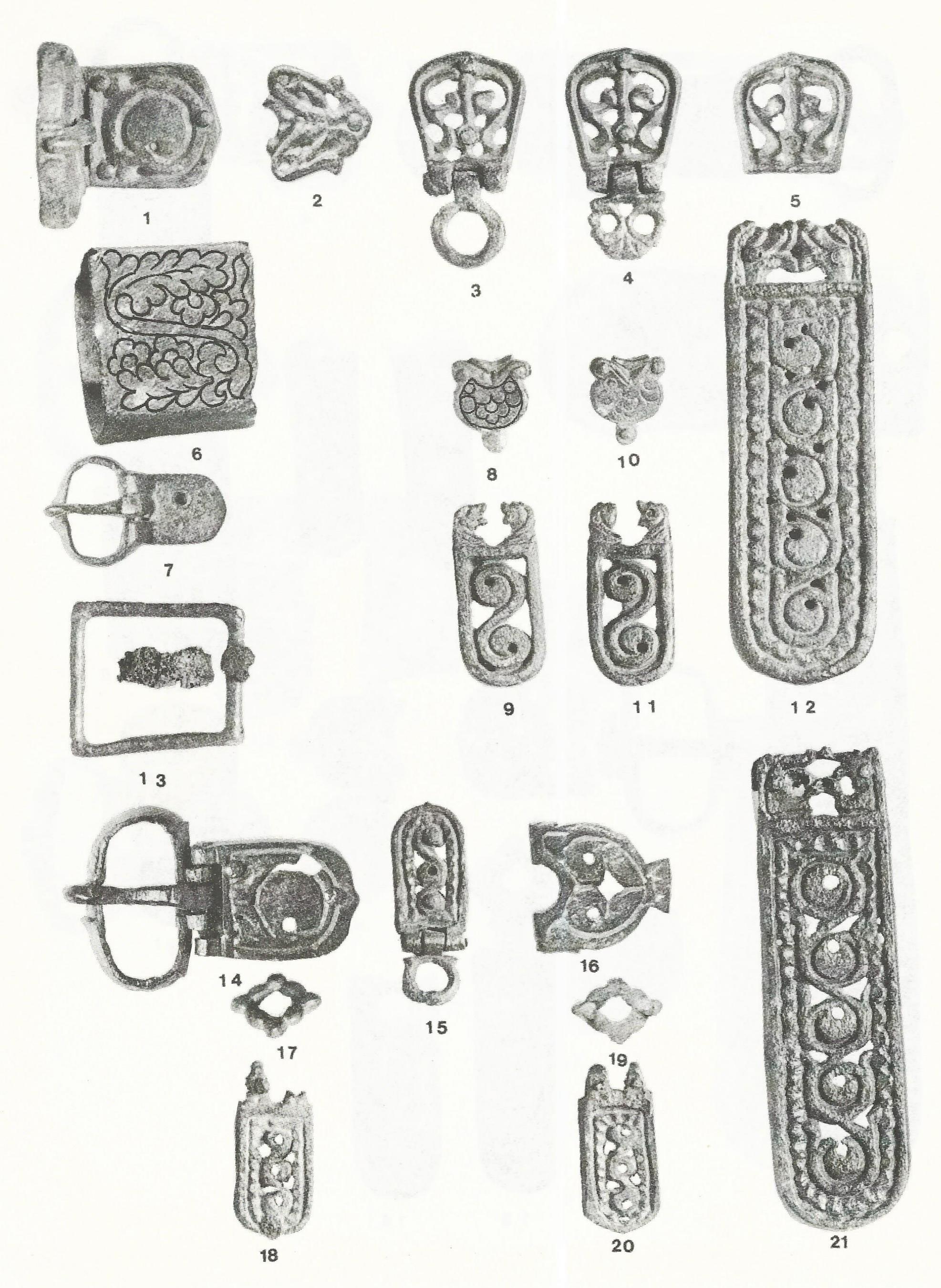
Szeged-Kundomb 1-5: grave 64; 6-11: grave 276; 12-17 grave 102; 18-23: grave 305.



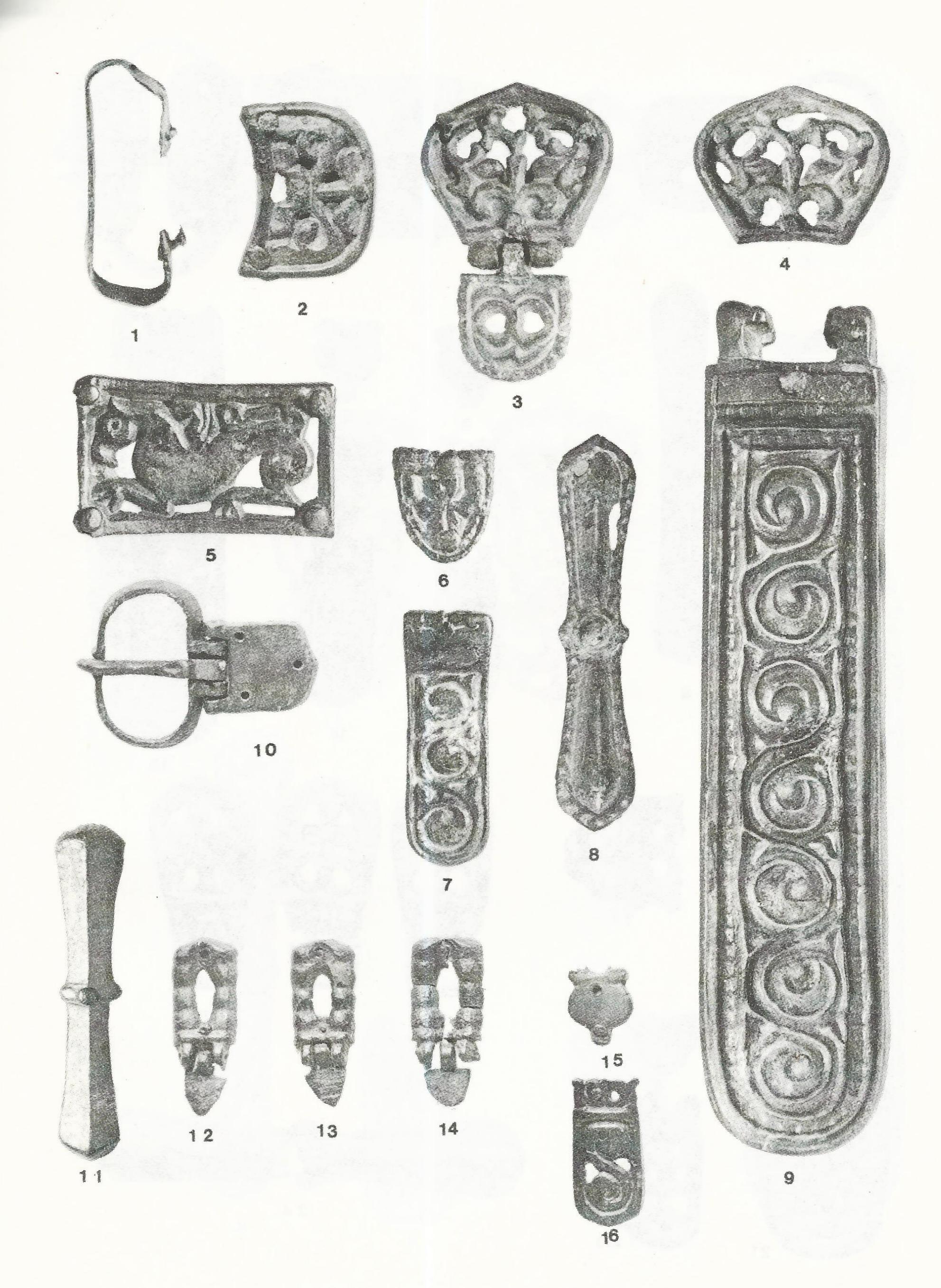
Szeged-Kundomb 1-7: grave 23; 8-14: grave 179; 15-18: grave 83.



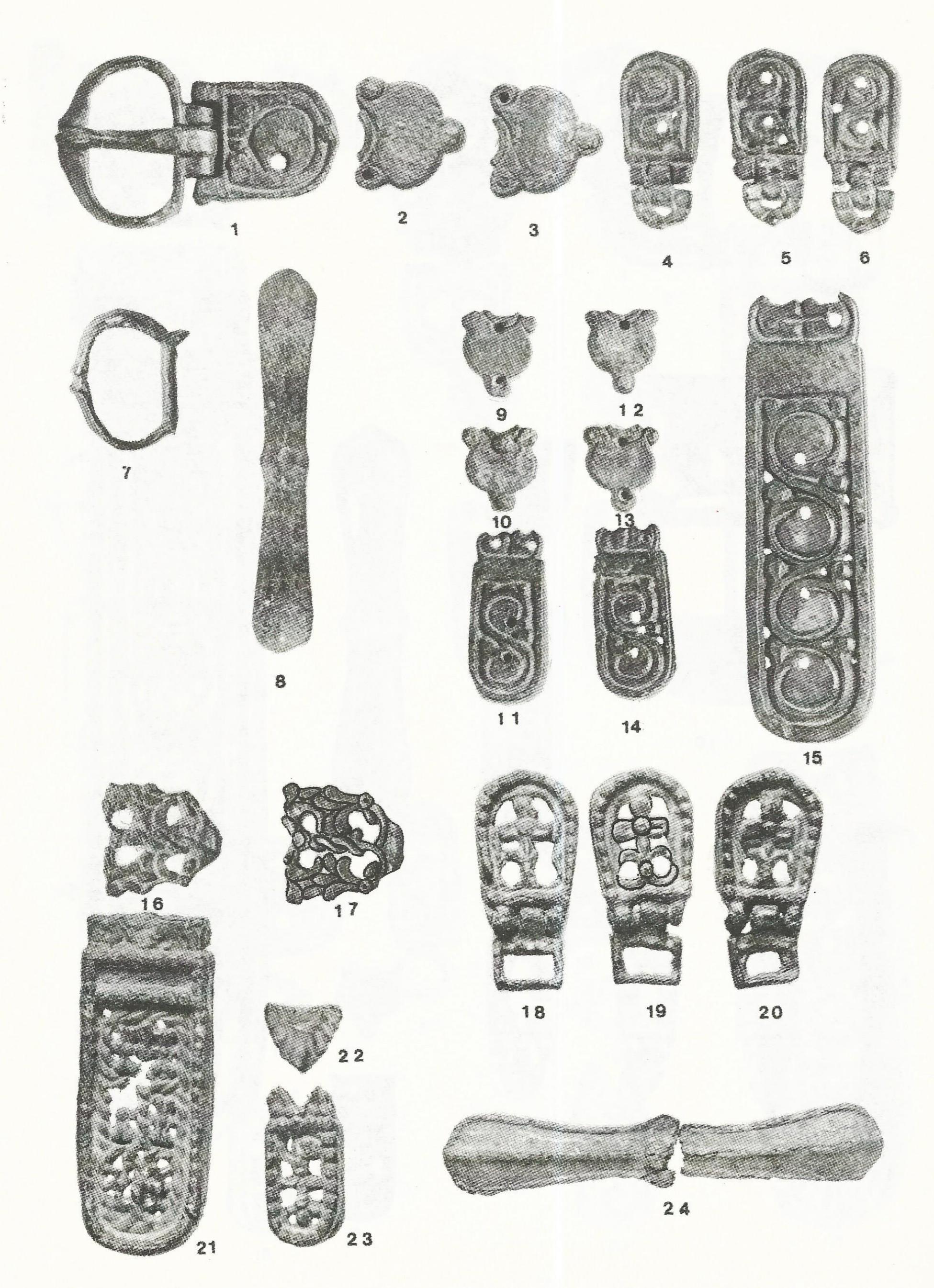
Szeged-Kundomb 1-6: grave 18; 7: grave 168; 8-14: grave 53.



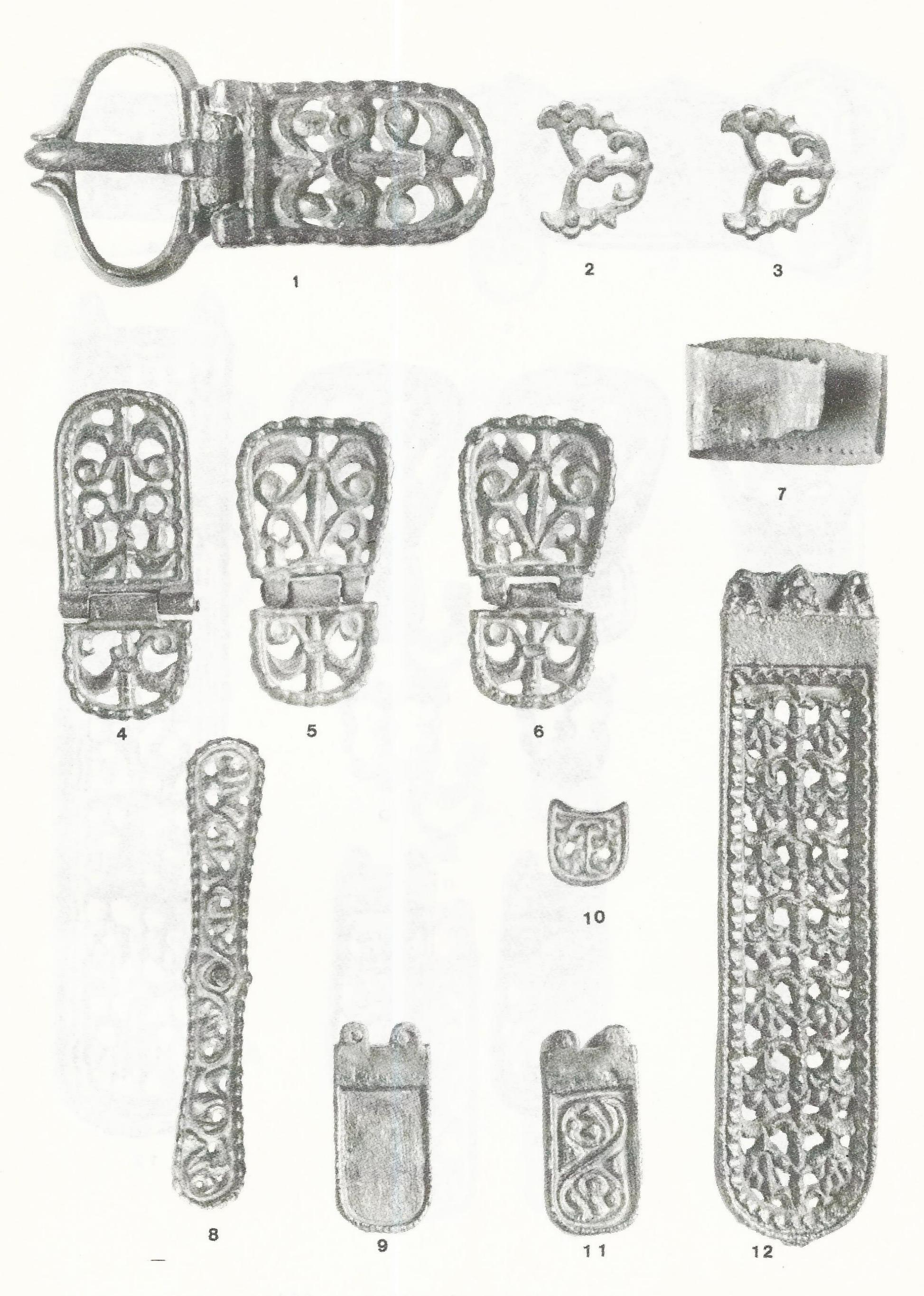
Szeged-Kundomb 1-12: grave152; 13-21: grave 35.



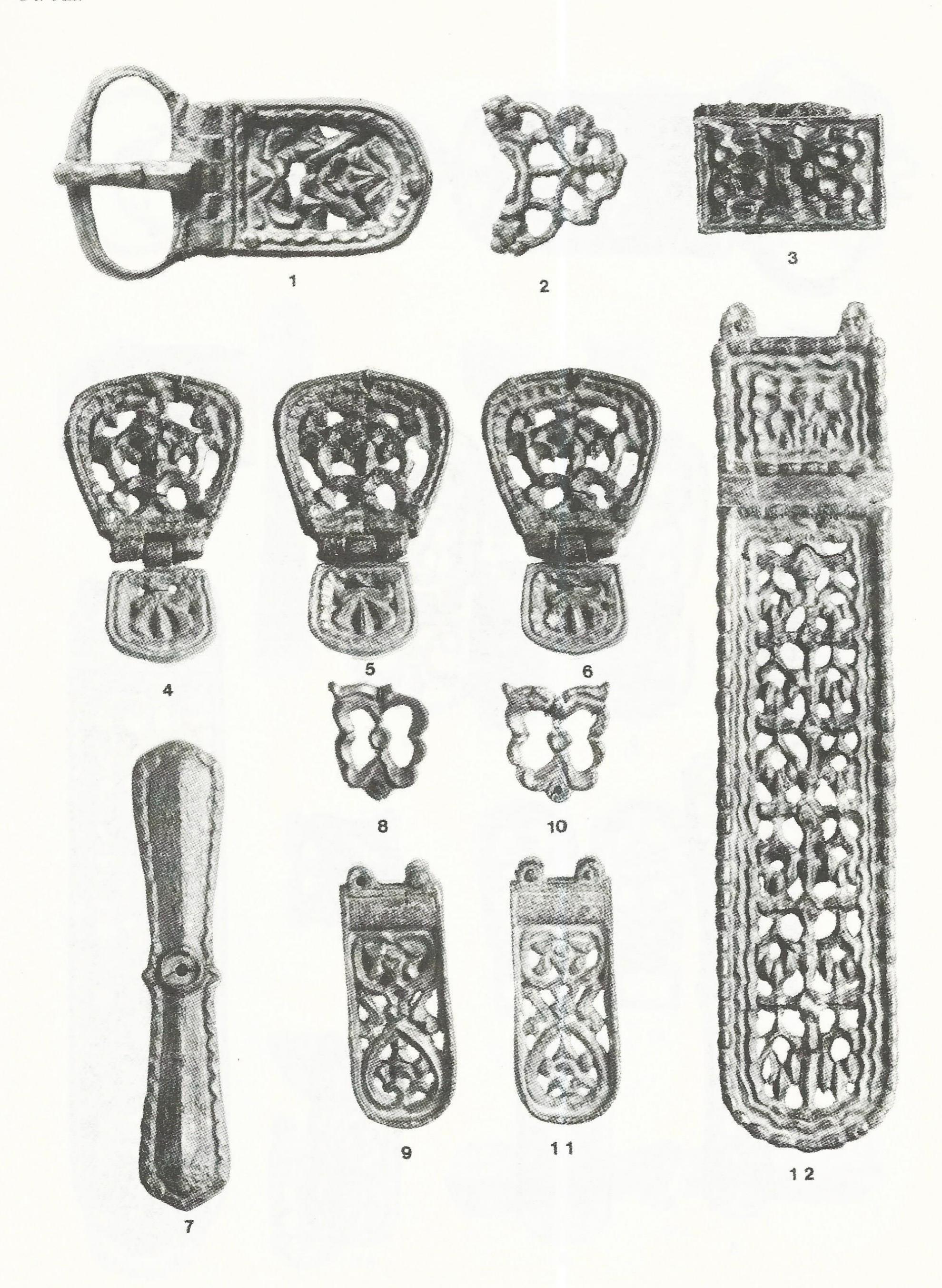
Szeged-Kundomb 1-9: grave 214; 10-16: grave 140.



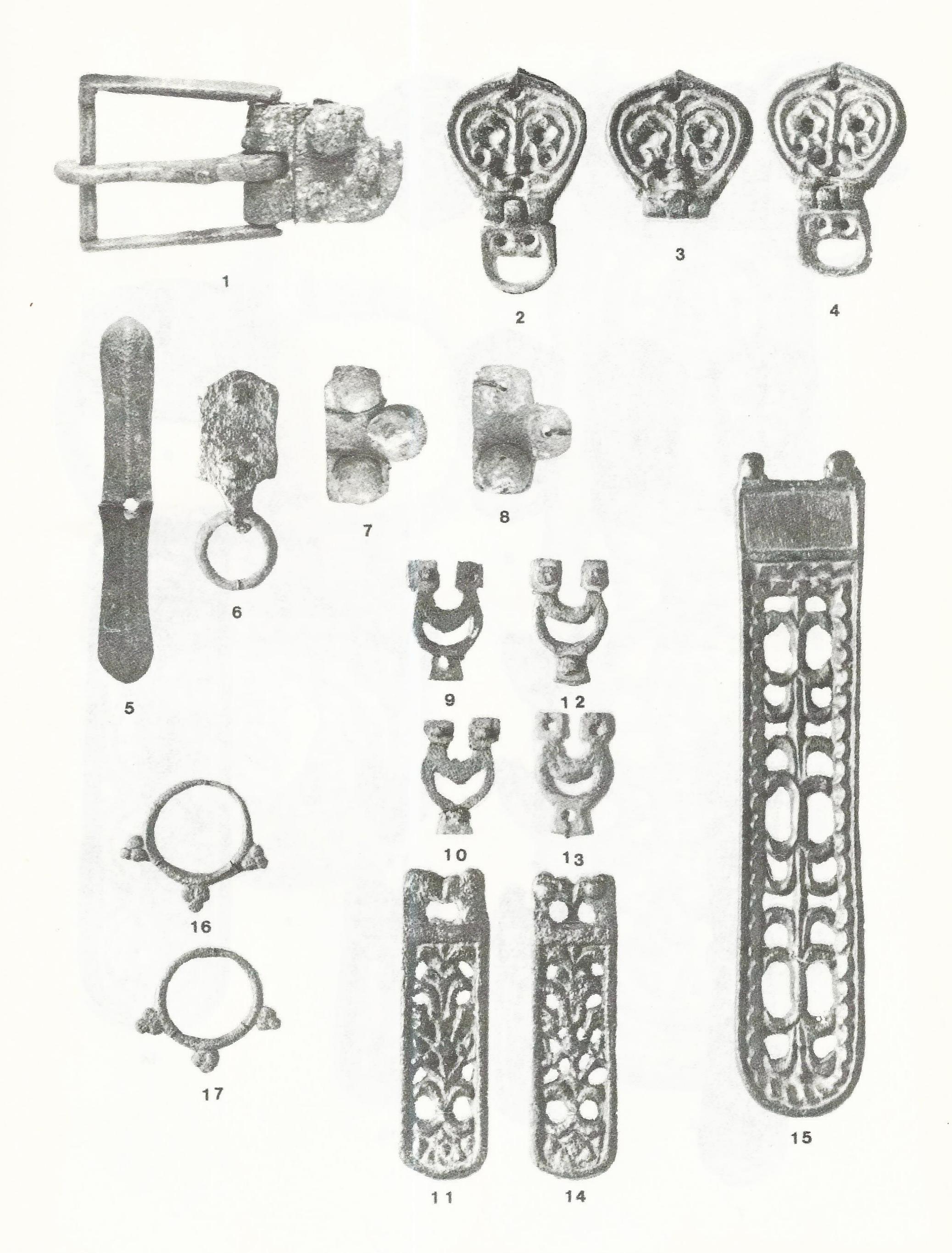
Szeged-Kundomb 1-15: grave 130; 16-24: grave 139.



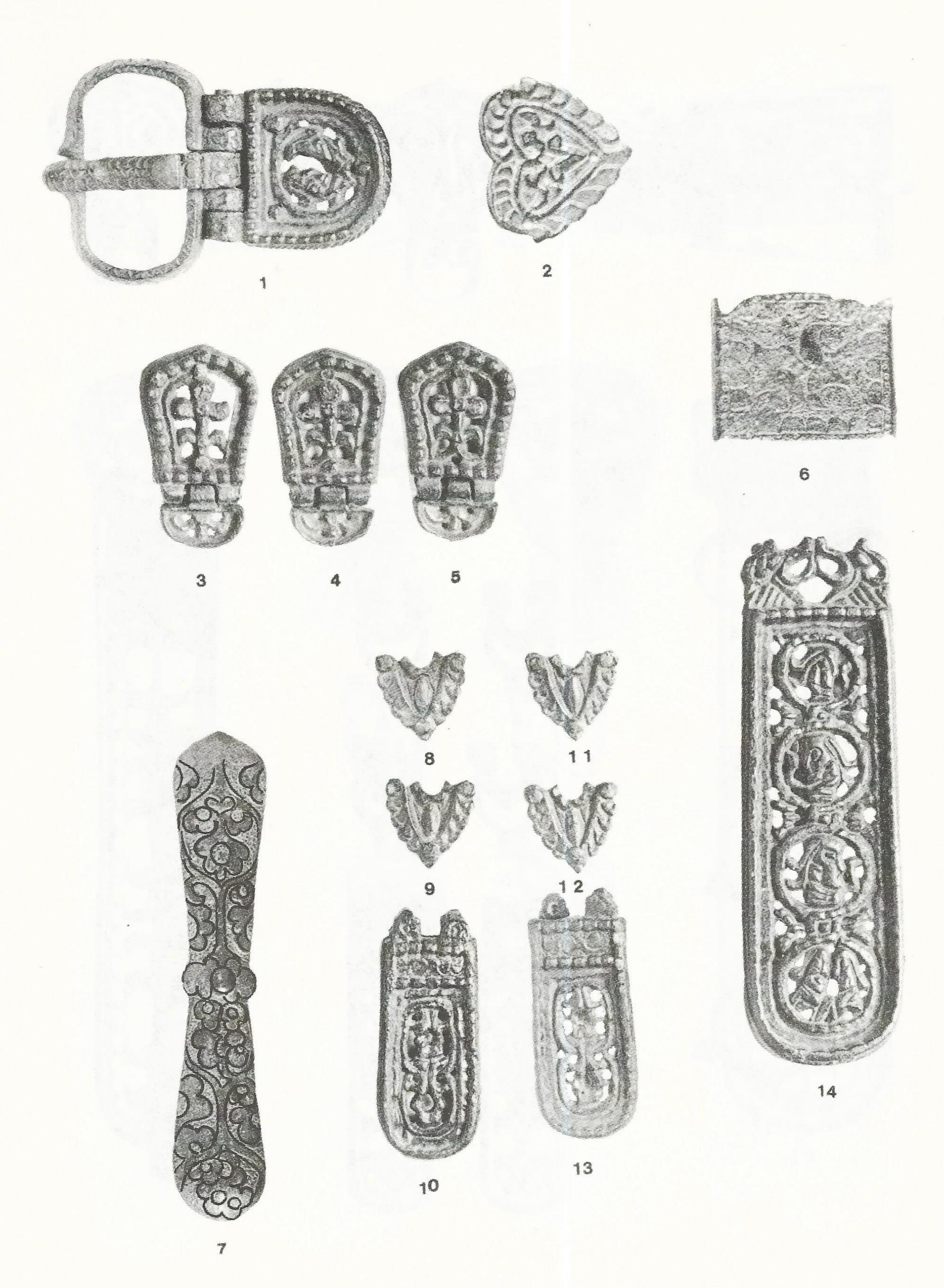
Szeged-Kundomb 1-12: grave 38.



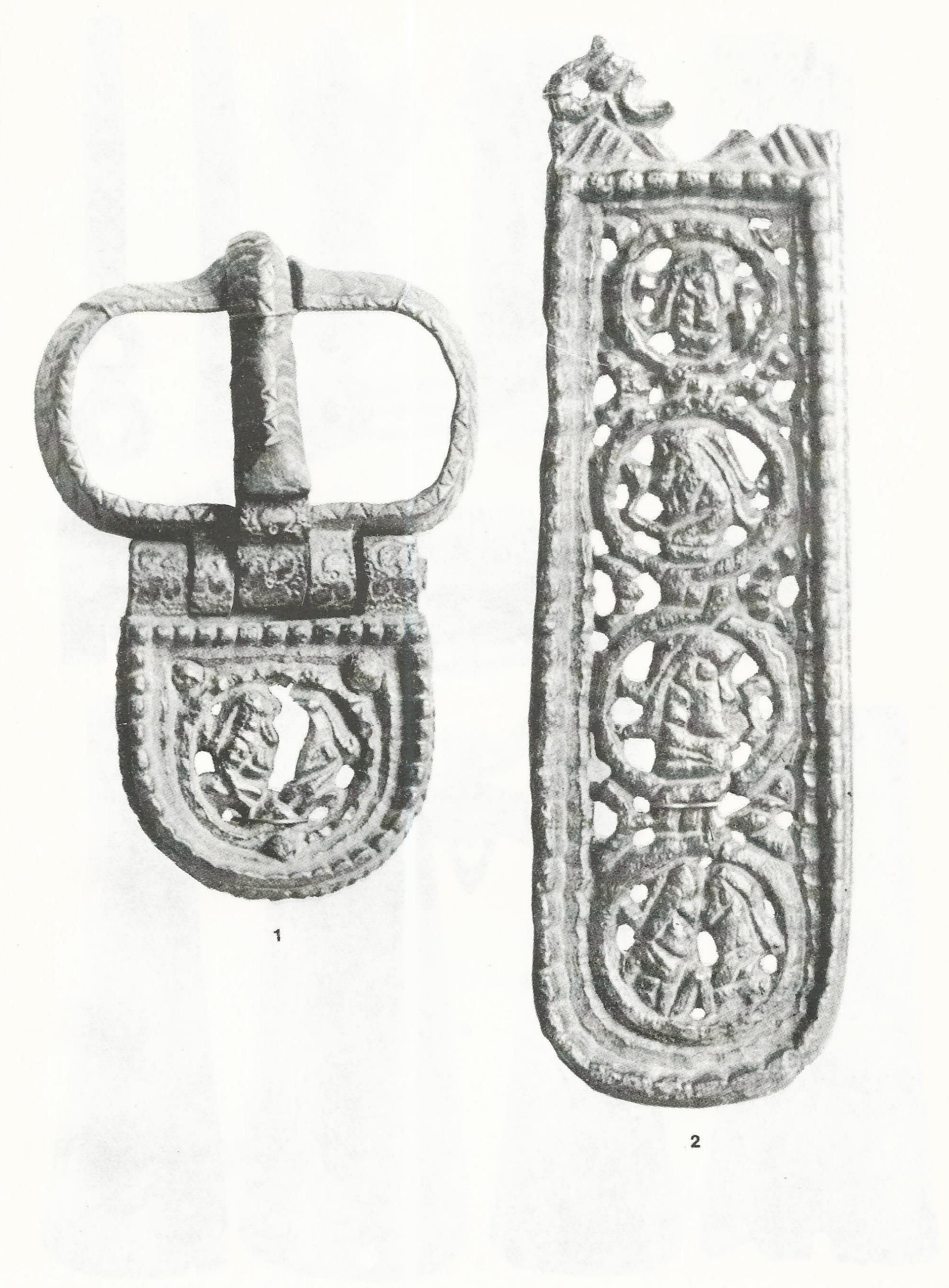
Szeged-Kundomb 1-12: grave 124.



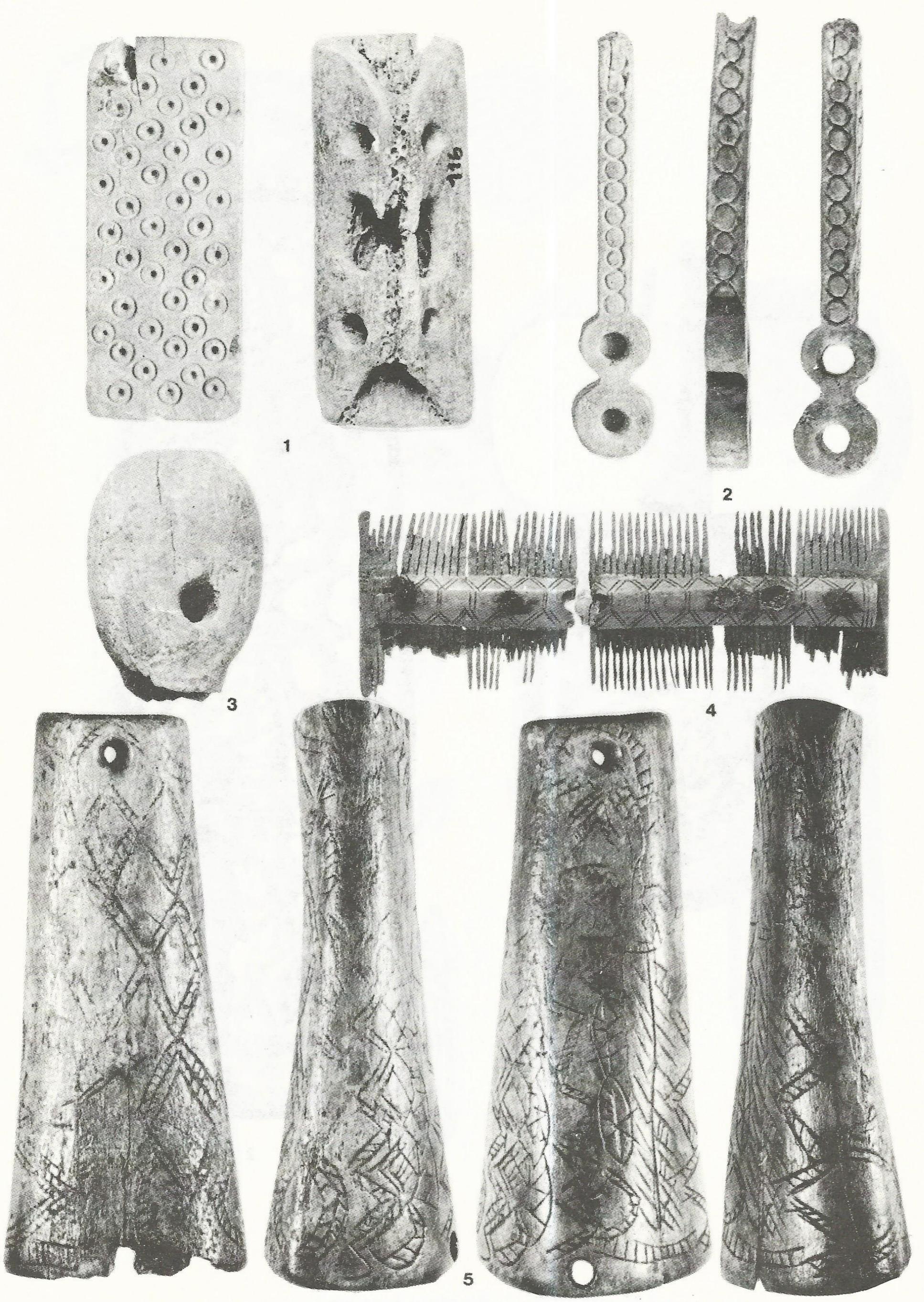
Szeged-Kundomb 1-15: grave 111.



Szeged-Kundomb 1-14: grave 285.



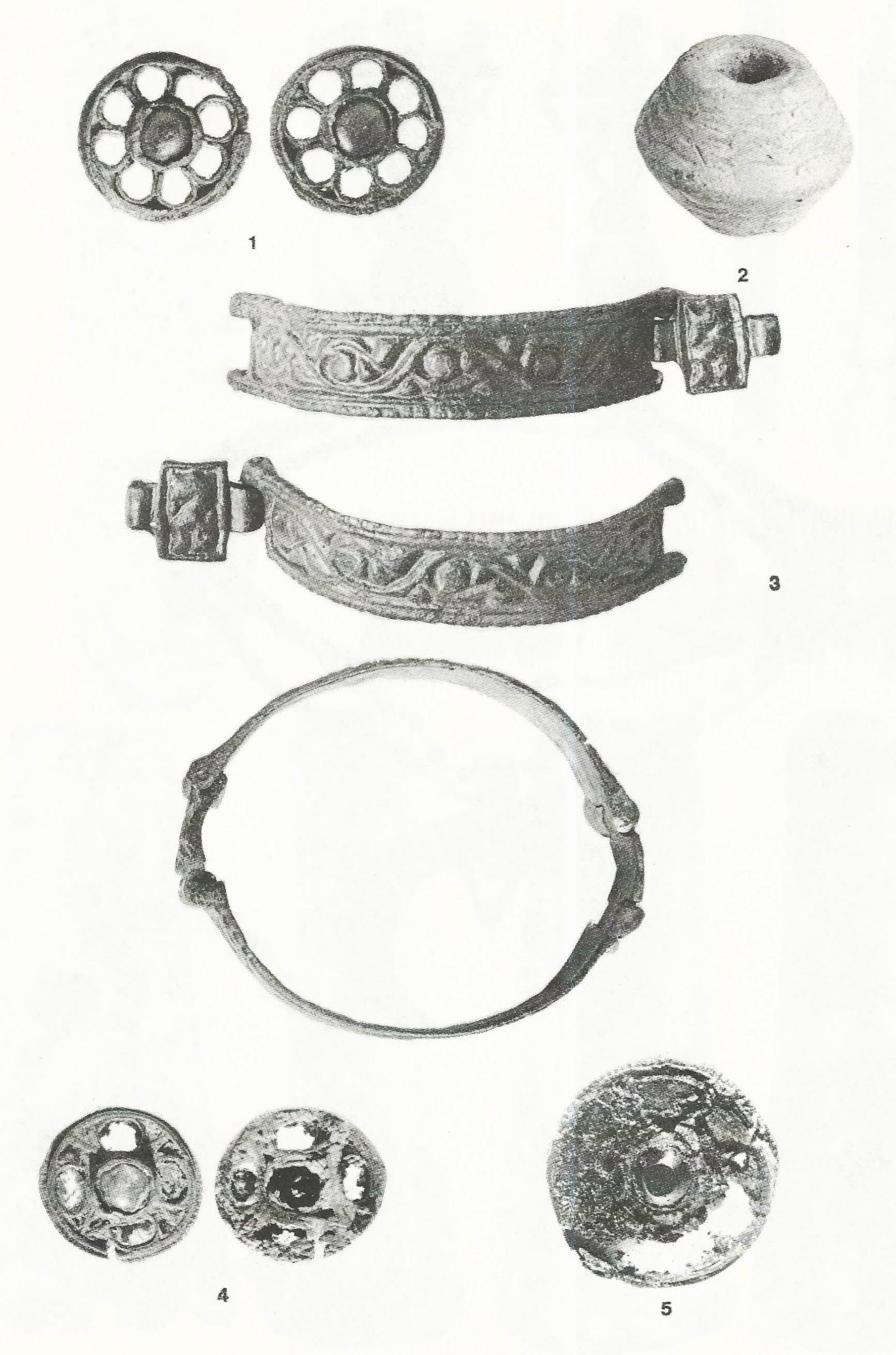
Szeged-Kundomb 1-2: grave 285.



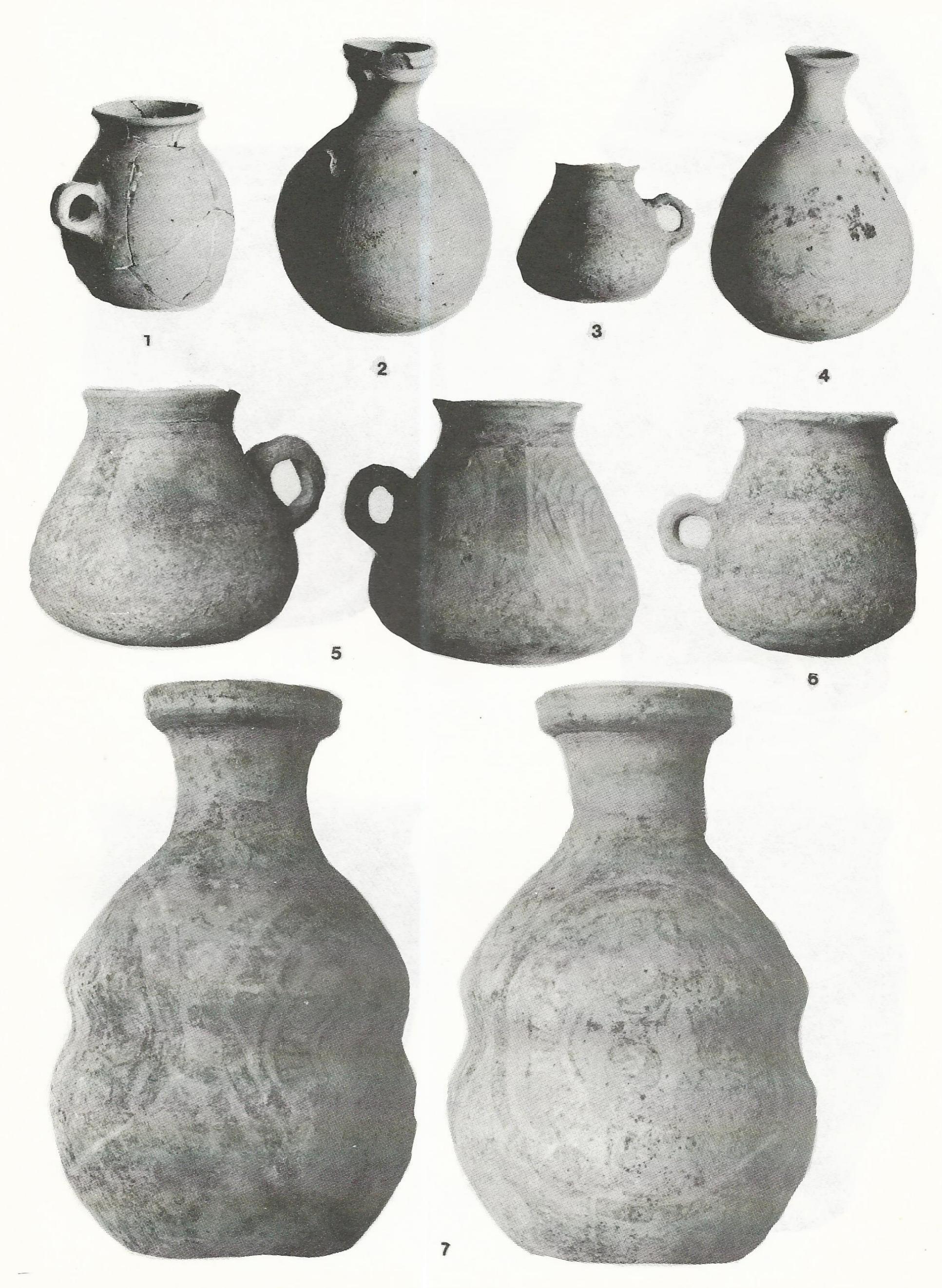
Szeged-Kundomb 1-3: grave 116; 4: grave 10; 5: grave 218.



Szeged-Kundomb 1-2: grave 262; 3: grave 17; 4. grave136; 5: grave 175.



Szeged-Kundomb 1-3: grave 108; 4-5: grave 270.



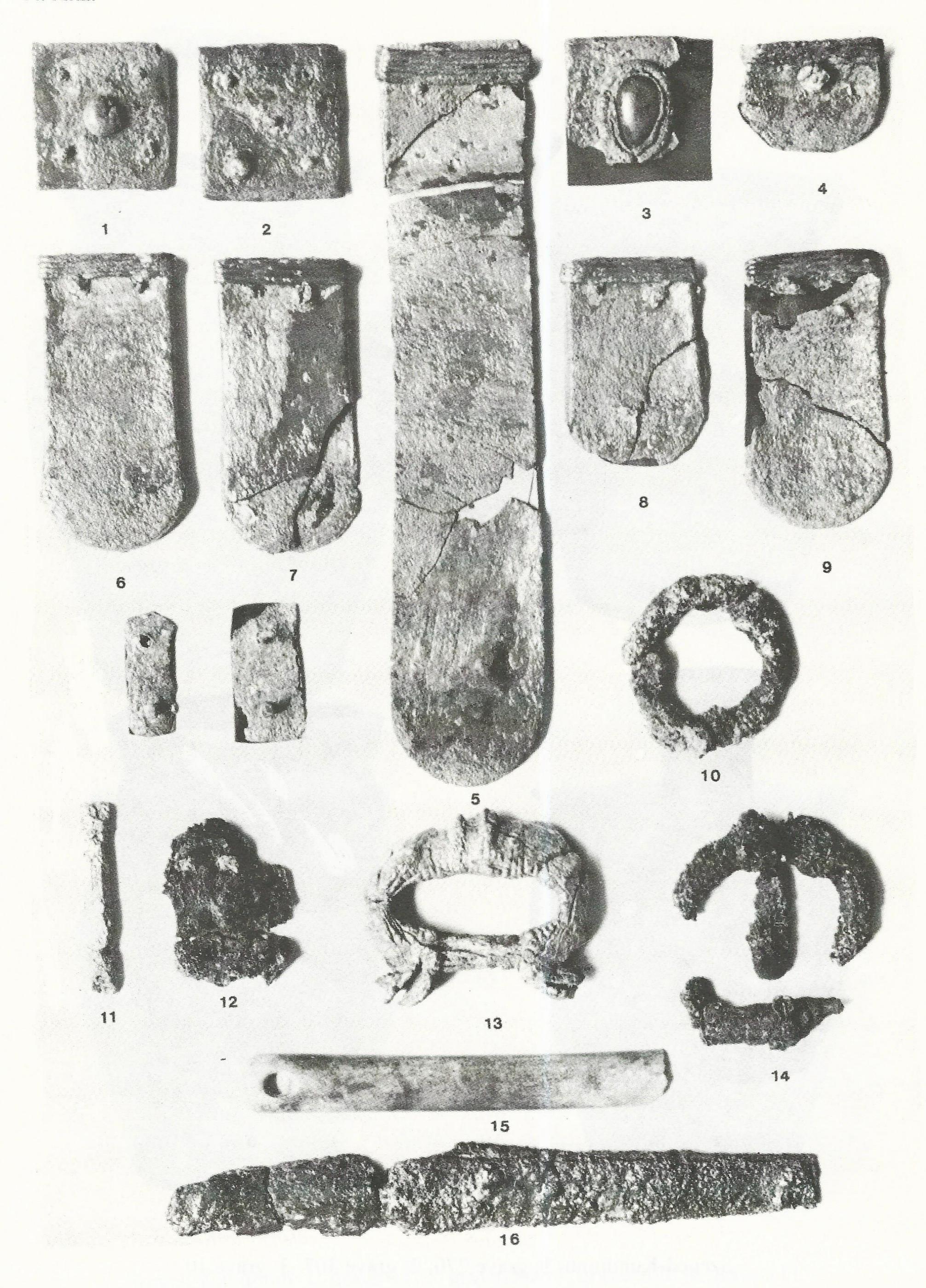
zeged-Kundomb 1-2: grave 143, 3: grave 169; 4: grave152; 5: grave 148; 6: grave 285; 7: grave130.



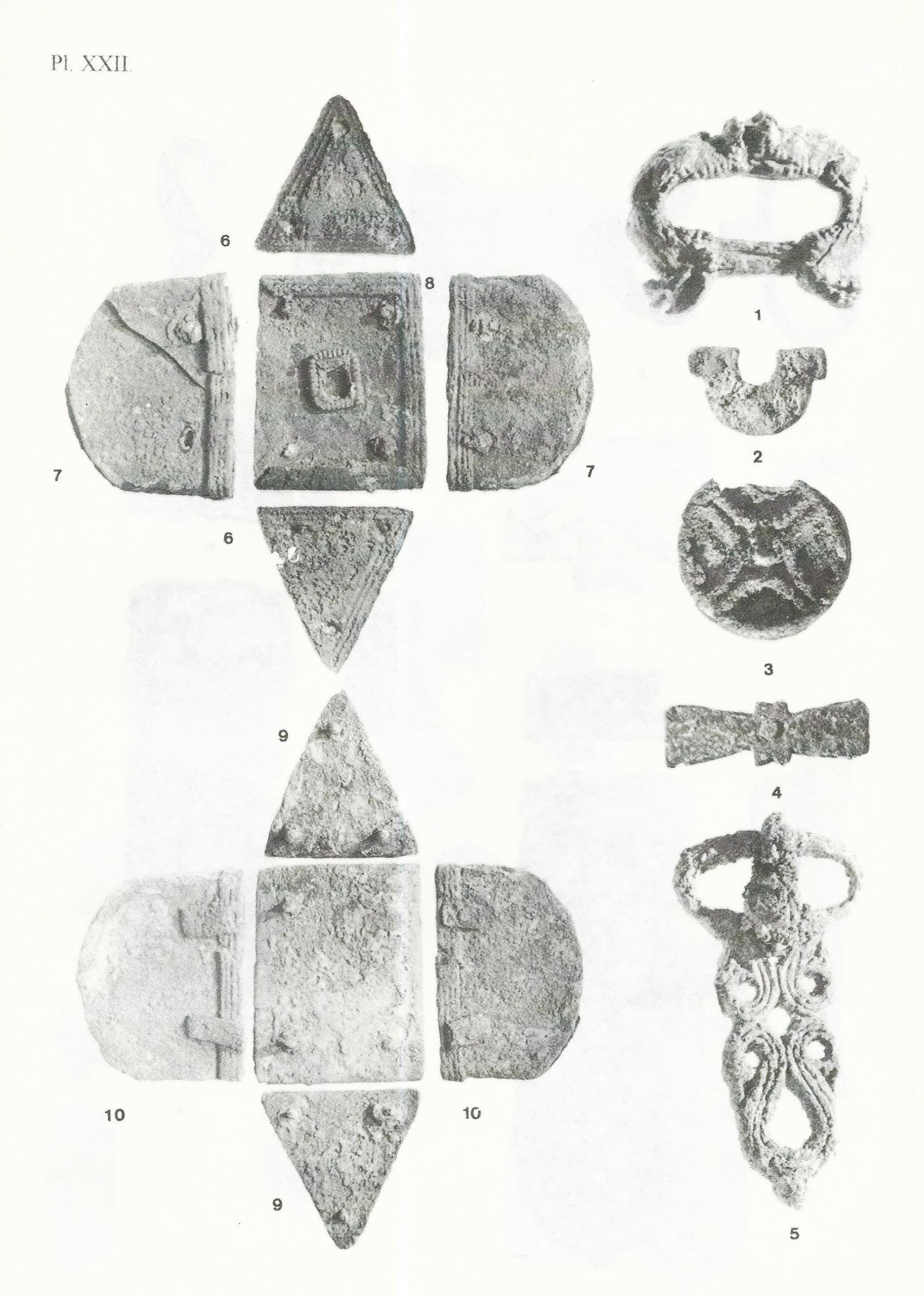
Szeged-Kundomb 1: grave 44; 2: grave 263; 3: grave 300; 4: grave 111.



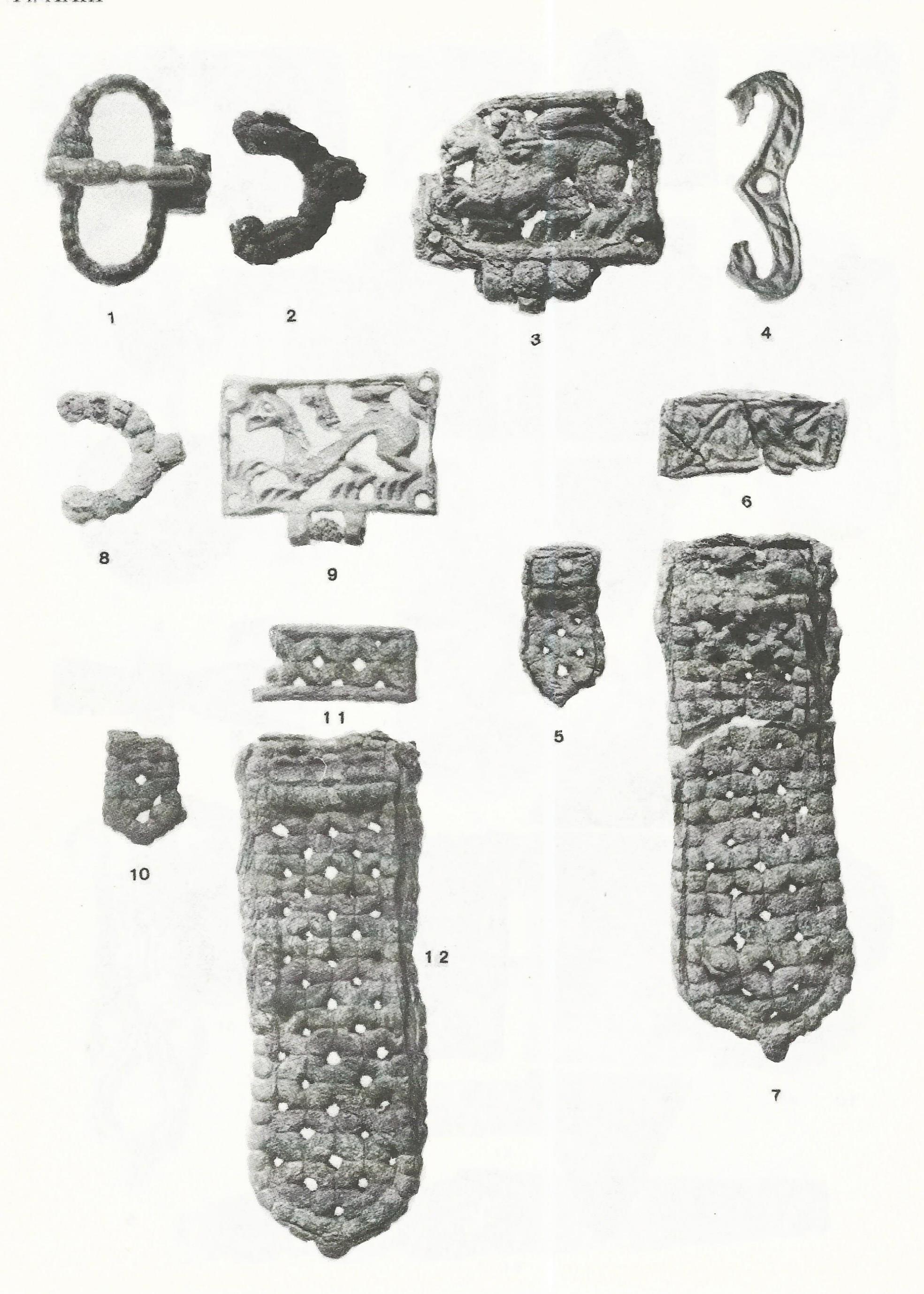
Szeged-Kundomb 1: grave 270; 2: grave 307; 3: grave 10.



Szeged-Makkoserdő 1-16: grave 24.



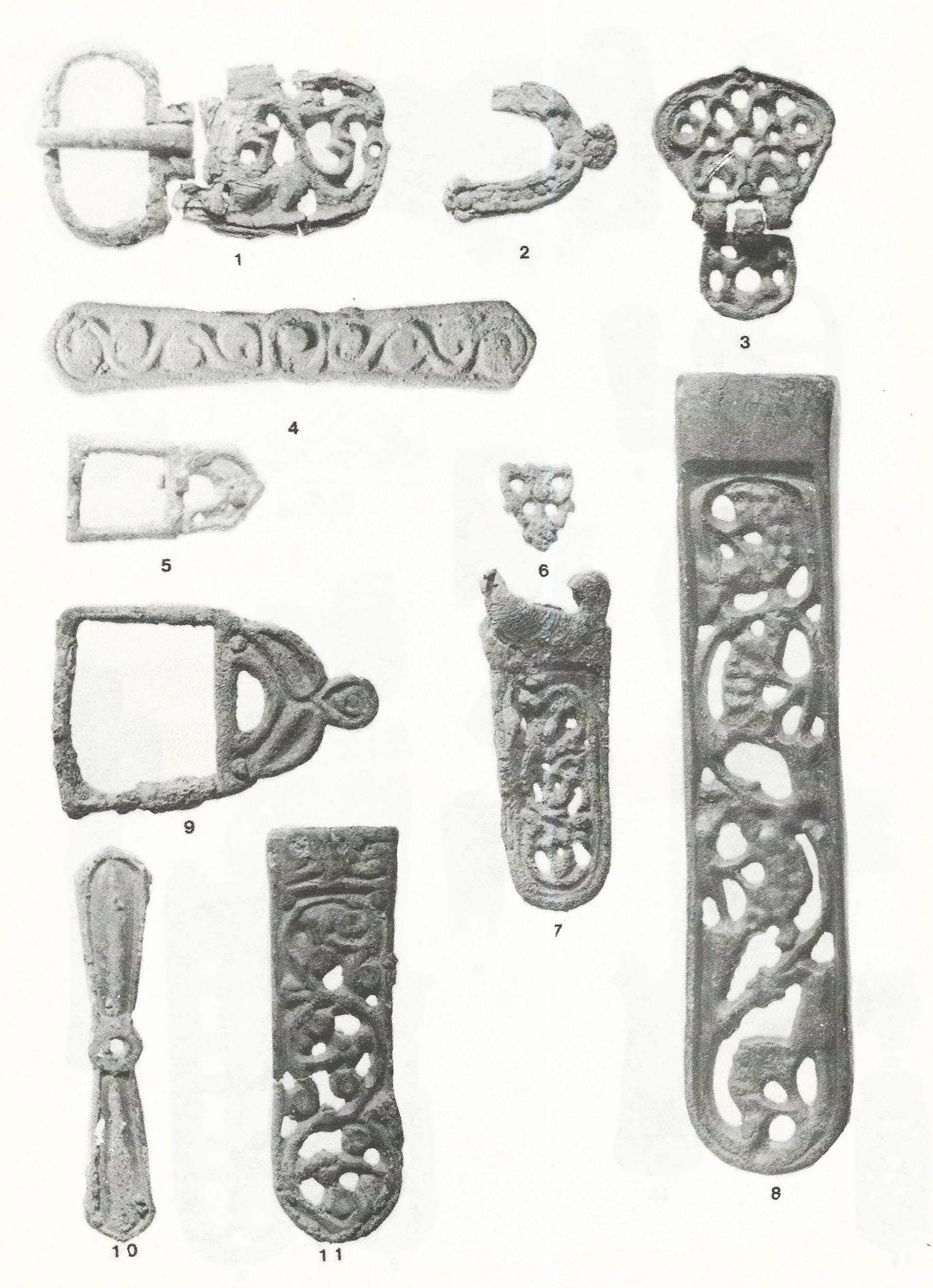
Szeged-Makkoserdő 1-10/b: grave 241.



Szeged-Makkoserdő 1-7: grave 205; 8-12. grave 229.



Szeged-Makkoserdő 1: grave 44; 2-5: grave 89; 6-11: grave 82;12-16: grave 311.



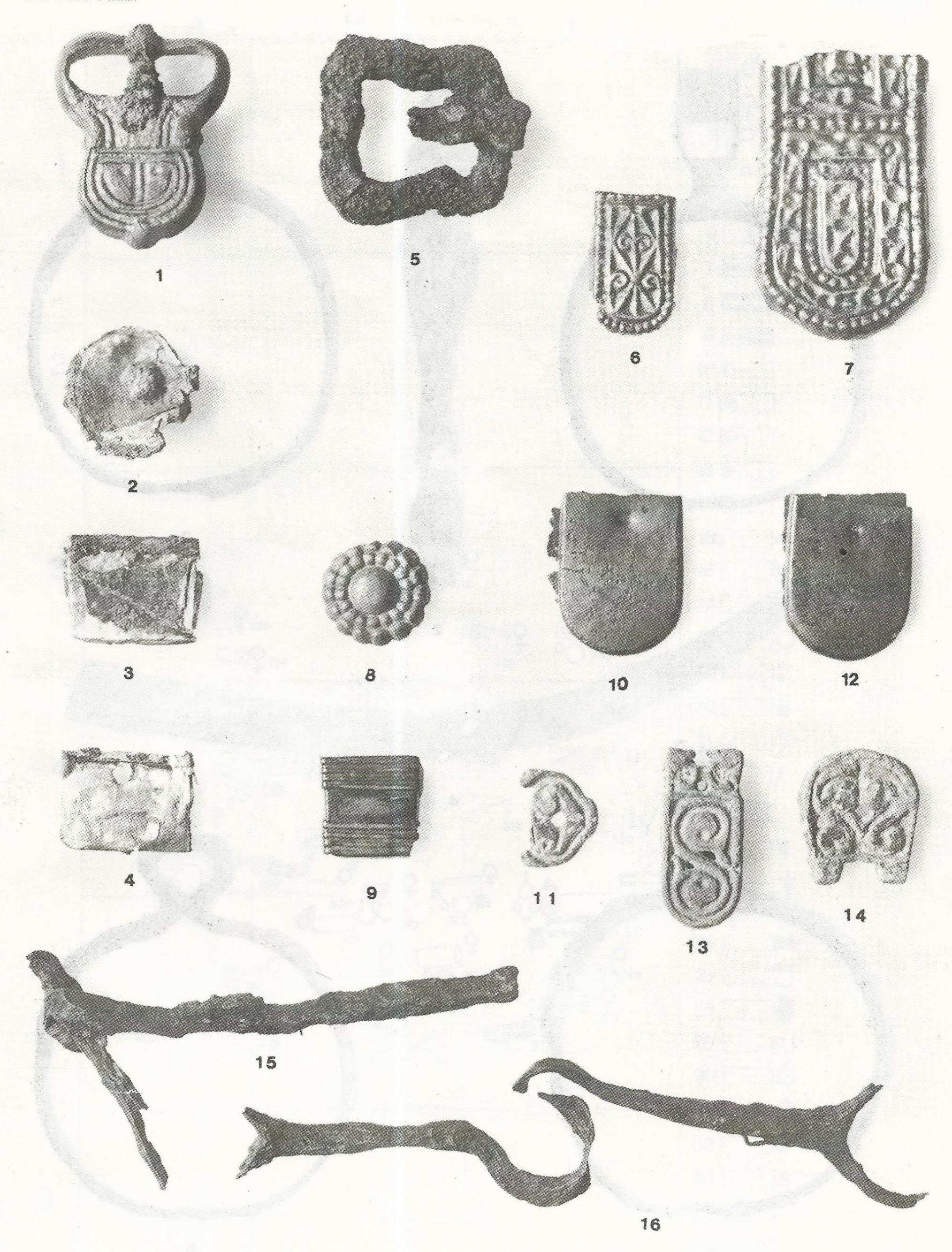
Szeged-Makkoserdő 1-8: grave 337; 9-11: grave 293.



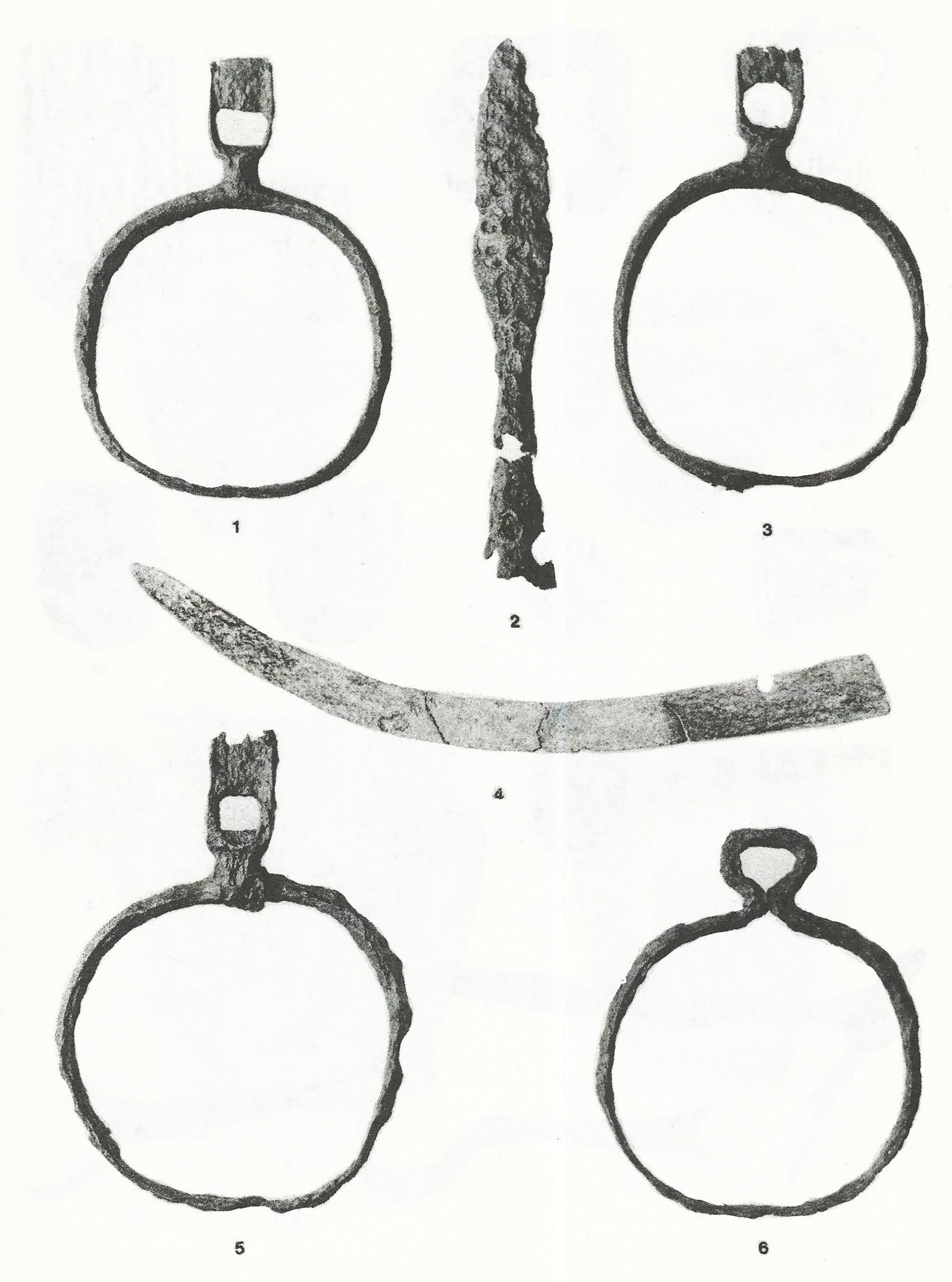
Szeged-Makkoserdő 1: grave 319; 2: grave 339; 3: grave 241; 4: grave 91; 5: grave 81.



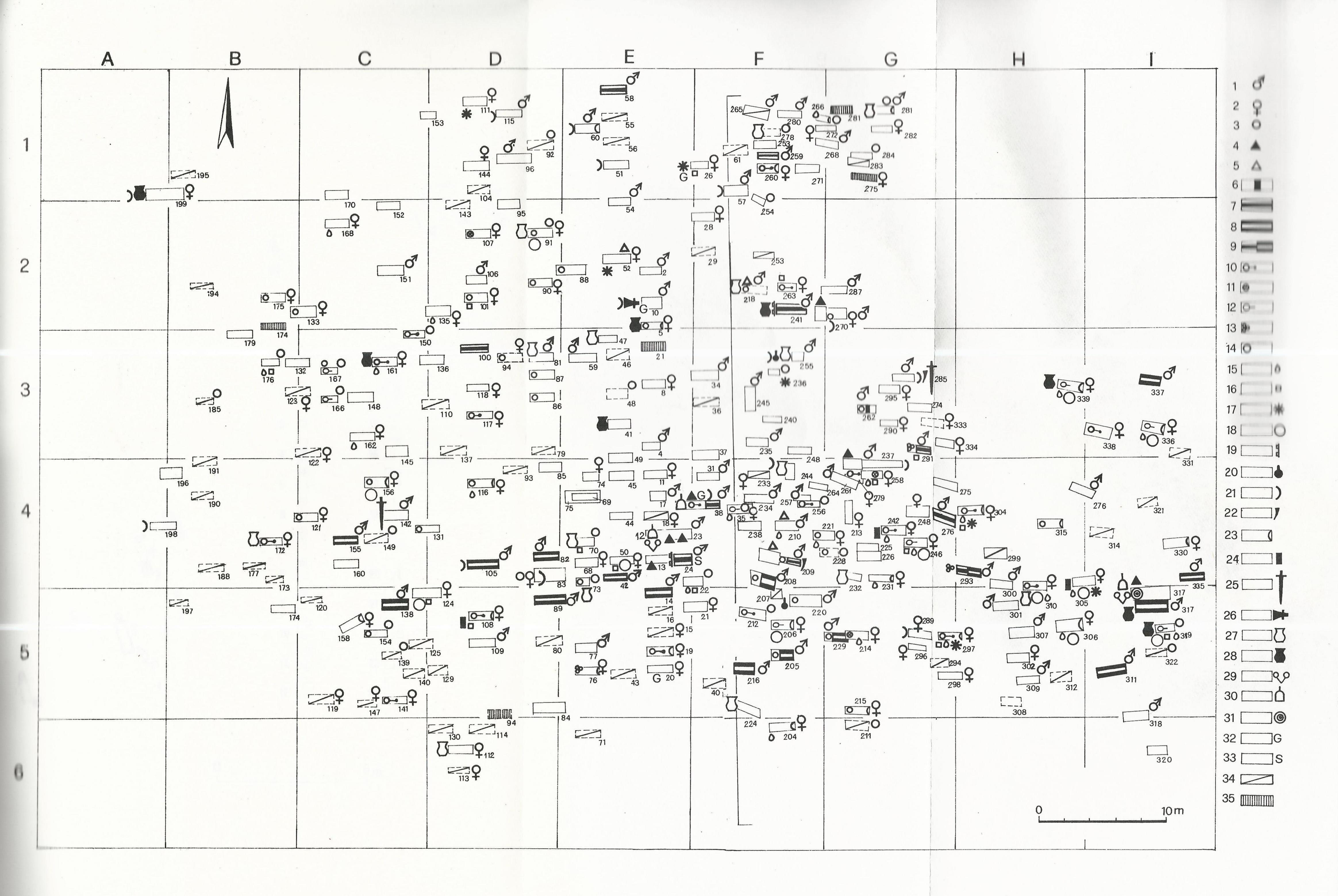
Szeged-Makkoserdő 1: grave 199; 2: grave 47; 3: grave 172; 4: grave 112.

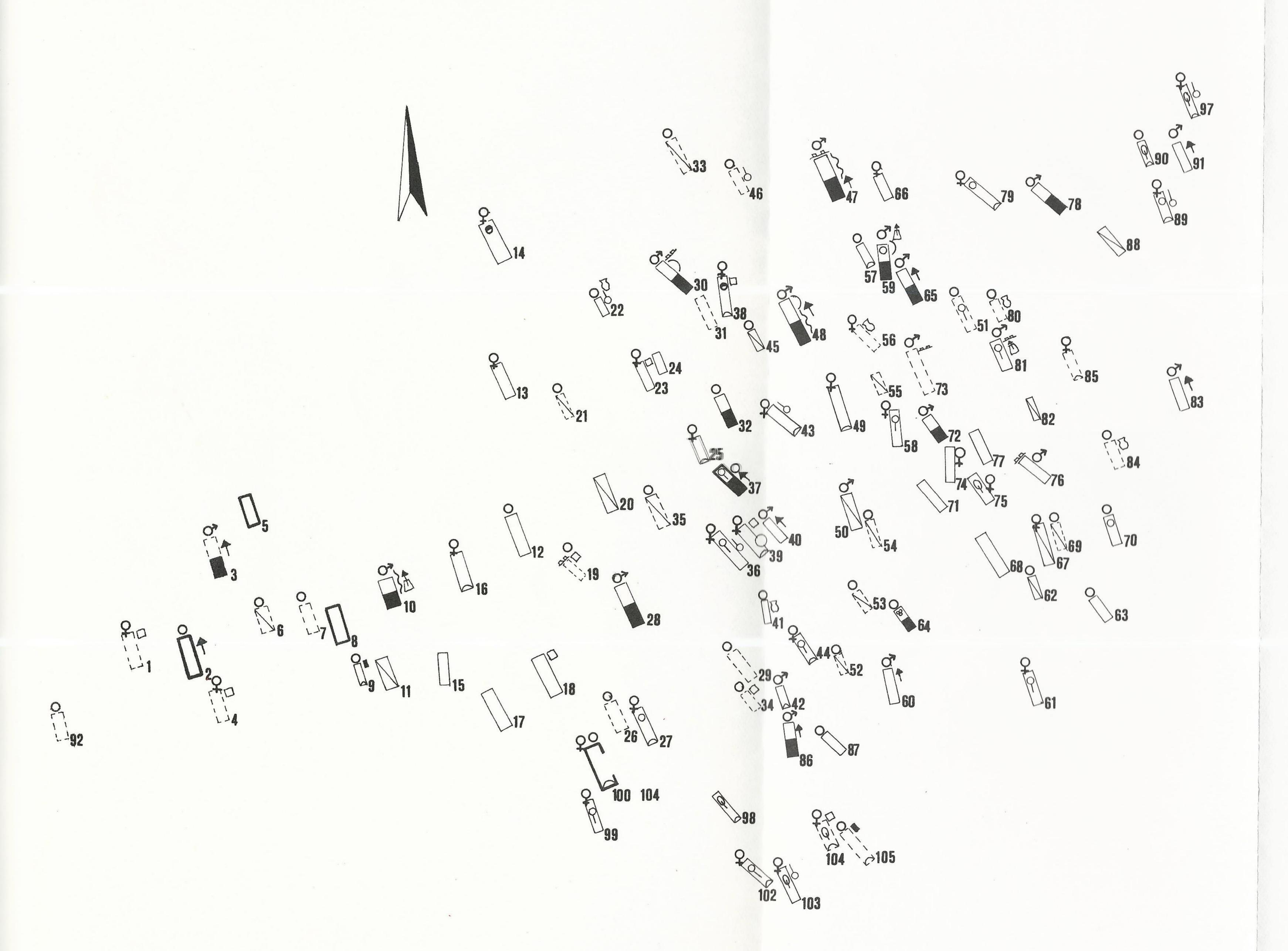


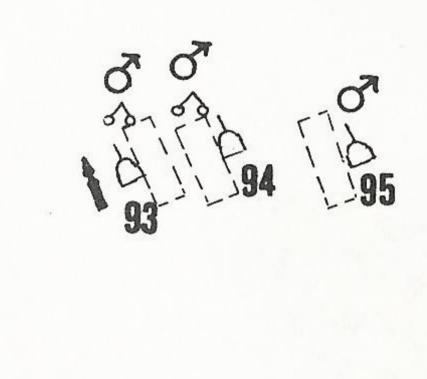
Csengele-Feketehalom 1-4: grave 30; 5-7: grave 48; 8-9: grave 32; 10-11: grave 59; 10-14: Stray finds; 15: grave 93; 16: grave 94.

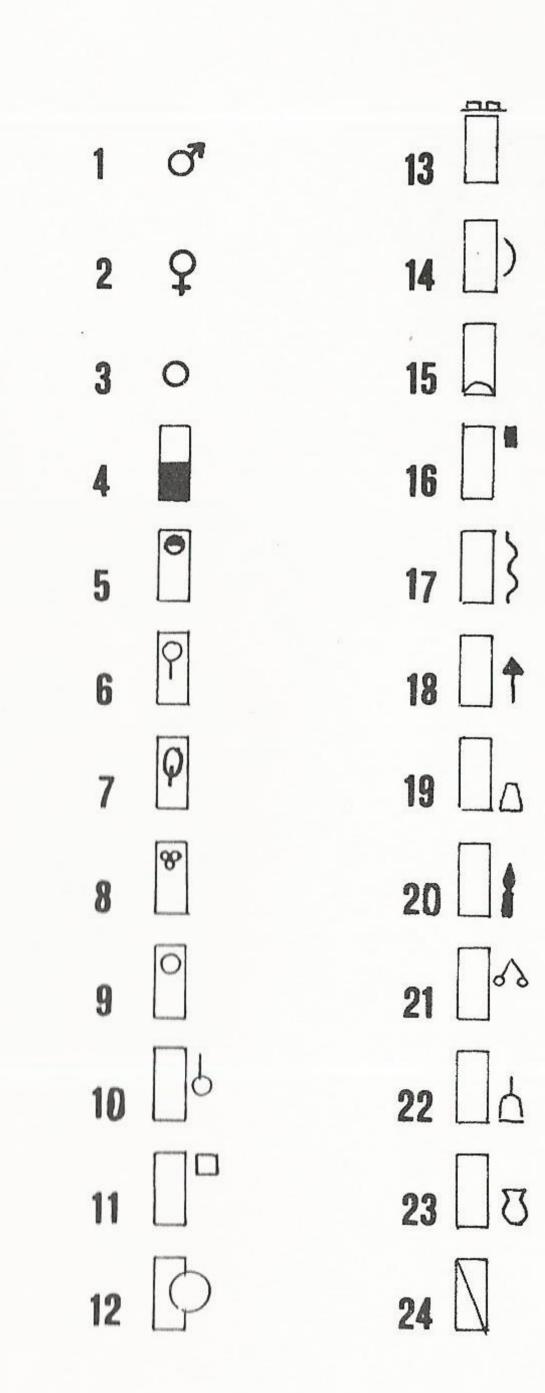


Csengele-Feketehalom 1-3: grave 93; 4: grave 47; 5: grave 94; 6: grave 95.









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Ágnes Salamon

THE SZEGED—MAKKOSERDŐ CEMETERY

Gyula Török

THE CSENGELE—FEKETEHALOM CEMETERY

