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HISAR IN LESKOVAC AT THE END OF THE EARLY IRON AGE

Abstract. – All parts of the site Hisar in Leskovac provided material from Iron Age III, according to the division by M. Garašanin (mainly from the 5th century BC). Four or perhaps five habitations from this period, in relation to the excavated surface (app. 15 000 m²), indicate a settlement with a larger number of dwelling places. Its architecture - wattle and daub huts and dug outs – has no particular characteristics, and is similar to habitations from previous periods in the Morava valley. Archaeological material from Iron Age III includes pottery made on the wheel of Greek style, hand made pottery and decorative silver and bronze objects.

Key words. – 5th century, habitations, pottery on wheel, decorative objects.

All parts of the site Hisar in Leskovac provided material from Iron Age III, but no stratigraphically clearly visible layer from this period was uncovered at the site.¹ Four, or perhaps five, habitations from this period, in relation to the investigated area (app. 15 000 m²) indicate a settlement with a larger number of dwelling constructions. Its architecture – wattle huts and dug outs – has no

particular characteristics, and is similarly constructed as habitations in the previous prehistoric periods in the valley of Morava.

¹ After the periodisation by M. Garašanin. Garašanin 1973, 404, 496-516 (end of the 6th/4th century B.C.).



Figs. 1–2. Remains of a habitation on the plateau (amphitheatre), Object 01/05
Сл. 1–2. Осѳаци сѳамбеноѳ објекѳа на ѳлаѳиѳу (амѳиѳеатѳар), Објекѳи 01/05

On the site plateau, in the part, marked as amphitheatre (on account of its appearance), considerable remains of a wattle and daub hut of rectangular plan (Figs. 1–2) were investigated. Several jugs made on the wheel were found there. On the opposite part of the plateau, the most protruded part of the site in the direction of the South Morava valley, remains of a large habitation construction were found, which, however, was seriously damaged by the digging of the Roman rampart foundation (Fig. 3). In the remains of this habitation a vessel and pottery fragments, made on the wheel, were found. Other investigated parts of the plateau also provided sporadically, pottery from pre-hellenistic period (fragments of bowls and skyphoi).

Most of the material from Iron Age III was found on the Southeast terrace of the site, where excavations were mainly carried out up to now. Two habitations were investigated here, a dug out and a rectangular construction with walls of wattle (Figs. 4–6), similar to those on the plateau. The dug out was uncovered only partly with a cutting (cutting I/2006), while the habitation construction was completely investigated. At the same section of the site several pits were investigated (objects: 16/06, 20/06, 22/06, 23/06), with material from the same period. Part of a larger dug out (object 40/06) was also partly investigated, which, however, was not defined architectonically. A large fragmented goblet, made on the wheel was found here. In the cultural layer, outside the habitations,



Fig. 3. Goblet, Object 11a/06

Сл. 3. Пехар, Објектѝ 11а/06

pottery fragments of Greek type, made on the wheel, were sporadically found, of grey and ochre colour, some of which had painted geometric motifs.



Figs. 4–5. Remains of a building construction in the suburb

Сл. 4–5. Остѝаци стѝамбеноѝ објектѝа у њогѝрађу



Fig. 6. Dug-out in the suburb

Сл. 6. Земунџа у њогџрађу

Catalogue

Object 02a/05. (habitation) amphitheatre

Two slightly S profiled goblets with accentuated foot, with two handles, made on the wheel, ochre colour (Figs. 7–8). There is a workshop stamp on the foot of one goblet (Fig. 9).



Figs. 7–8. Two goblets from the habitation on the plateau (amphitheatre), Object 01/05

Сл. 7–8. Два њџара из сџамбеноџ објекџа на њлаџџу (амфџџеаџџар), Објекџџ 01/05

Object 03a/06.

S profiled goblet with one handle, made on the wheel (Fig. 10), fragment of blackvarnished conic bowl (import?)-(Figs. 11–12), black goblet fragment with very thin walls, well baked and polished surface (import?) and S profiled goblet fragment, with plastically accentuated shoulder, decorated with vertical grooves (goblet type usually having handles, decorated with stylised protomes).

Dug out (Object 2/07.)

Fragmented conic blackvarnished bowl (diluted varnish) with slightly inverted rim (Fig. 13) fragmented skyphos (Fig. 14) and two dozen pottery fragments made on the wheel. Among them there are parts of a big grey conic bowl with inverted, plastically accentuated and rounded rim; fragment of an ochre S profiled recipient, with thin walls, medium fabric; fragment of a recipient of S profiled goblet (these goblets have handles with protomes), decorated on the shoulder with slight vertical channels; fragments of a vessel with everted rim, funnel-like neck, thin walls, fine fabric; fragment of a ring-like basis and the belly of a big grey vessel (crater ?), with thick walls. Among hand made pottery fragments, there are parts of a conic recipient with inverted rim, and densely perforated bottom and pot fragments decorated with horseshoe ribs (so-called pseudo-handles).

Object 15/06.

Several pottery fragments, among which fragments of the belly and bottom of a large vessel (crater?) with a miniature stamp X in the centre of the bottom.

Object 16/06.

This is a small pit, in which a fragment of a large conic vessel was found, made on the wheel, with inverted, plastically accentuated and rounded rim, medium fabric, grey colour.

Object 20/06.

This is also a small pit, where many pottery fragments, hand made and made on the wheel were found. There are: part of a conic recipient with plastically accentuated and levelled rim, thin walls, fine fabric, darkgrey in colour, polished surface; upper part of an S profiled vessel (possibly with handles decorated with protomes), extremely thin walls, fine fabric, black varnished; fragment of bandlike goblet handle, decorated with protomes in the upper part, fine fabric, ochre and grey colour, and a fragment of



Fig. 9. Incised mark on the bottom, Object 01/05

Сл. 9. Урезани знак на дну, Објектѝ 01/05



Fig. 10. Goblet from the habitation on the plateau, Object 11a/06

Сл. 10. Пехар из сѝамбеноѝ објектѝа на ѝлайѝоу, Објектѝ 11a/06

the upper part of an S profiled vessel, thin walls, fine fabric, black varnished. Fragments of two conical bowls, of thick walls, fine fabric, ochre colour, with slanted grooves on the rim, were also found here.

Object 9a/06 (habitation on the Southeast slope of the site)

Four complete vessels (partly reconstructed), made on the wheel and three hand made vessels. An S profiled goblet with accentuated foot and two handles (Fig. 15), globular skyphos (Fig. 18), an S profiled goblet with one handle on the ringlike foot (Fig. 16) and a large S profiled goblet with one handle (Fig. 17) were made on the wheel, while two small conical bowls with twisted rim (Figs. 19,20), of which one has an accentuated foot, and a conical cup with twisted rim and enlarged foot (Fig. 21) are hand-made.

Object 40/06

An S profiled goblet with two handles having protomes on the upper part, which was decorated on the shoulder with vertical channels, thin wall, fine fabric, grey colour, polished surface (Fig. 22) and a conic vessel with perforated walls and a bottom which has a large circular opening in the middle (Fig. 23).

Object 23/06, cutting 1

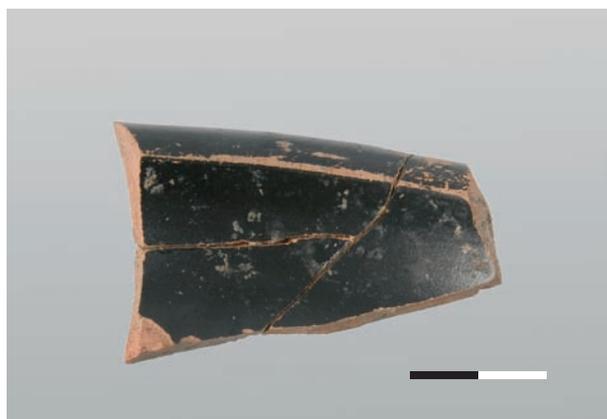
In a small pit several pottery fragments made on the wheel, a hand made conic goblet and a double shank pin with the head in the form of the letter **Ω** (Figs. 24–25) were found.

The cultural layer contained a large amount of pottery fragments made on the wheel, of which only a small number could be identified typologically. These are big conical bowls with inverted, plastically accentuated and rounded rim, S profiled goblets, decorated with slight short vertical channels on the shoulder (these goblets have handles with protomes on the upper part); goblet handles with protomes on the upper part, handles with double plastic decorations on the upper part of the goblets; handles and recipient parts of skyphoi, among which one is of extremely fine fabric, with thin walls, ochre colour, polished surface, and also fragments of grey craters (Fig. 26).

Shallow cups with triangular enlargements on the rim near the handle (Figs. 27, 28) belong also to this period.

A vessel fragment, made on the wheel, decorated with two painted parallel narrow bands, with a row of small painted circles in between (Fig. 29), belong also to this period.

Metal finds include an arched silver fibula with rectangular catch-plate (Figs. 30, 31), two damaged



Figs. 11–12. Fragment of black-varnished conical bowl from the habitation on the plateau, damaged by the foundation of a Roman wall, Object 11a/06

Сл. 11–12. Фрагменти црно фирнисоване коничне зделе из сѣамбеног објекта на платоу, Објект 11а/06



Fig. 13. Black-varnished bowl, Object 2/07

Сл. 13. Црнофирнисована здела, Објект 2/07



Fig. 14. Skyphos, Object 2/07

Сл. 14. Скифос, Објект 2/07



Fig. 15. Goblet from a building construction in the suburb

Сл. 15. Пехар из надземног сѣамбеног објекта



Fig. 16. Goblet from a building construction in the suburb

Сл. 16. Пехар из надземног сѣамбеног објекта



Fig. 17. Goblet from a building construction in the suburb

Сл. 17. Пехар из сѝамбене консѝрукије у њогѝрађу



Fig. 18. Skyphos from a building construction in the suburb

Сл. 18. Скифос из сѝамбене консѝрукије у њогѝрађу



Figs. 19/20. Bowls from a building construction in the suburb

Сл. 19/20. Зделе из сѝамбене консѝрукије у њогѝрађу



Fig. 21. Cup from a building construction in the suburb

Сл. 21. Шоља из сѝамбене консѝрукије у њогѝрађу



Fig. 22. Goblet, Object 23/06.

Сл. 22. Пехар, Објектѝ 23/06

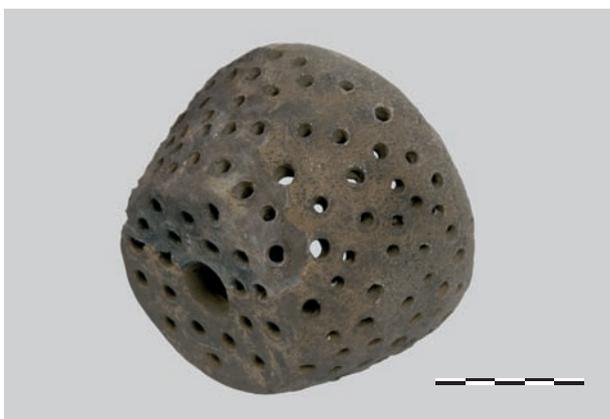


Fig. 23. Vessel with perforated walls and bottom,
Object 40/06

Сл. 23. Посуда са перфорираним зидовима и дном,
Објектџ 40/06



Fig. 24. Goblet, Object 23/06

Сл. 24. Пехар, Објектџ 23/06



Fig. 25. Two-shank bronze pin, Object 23/06

Сл. 25. Двојна бронзана игла, Објектџ 23/06



Fig. 26. Pottery fragments

Сл. 26. Керамички фрагменти

double shank pins (Fig. 32) and two bronze tweezers, one complete and one fragmented (Figs. 33, 34).

The fibula is without pin. The head is in the form of a stylised palmette (or snake head). There are ribs along the arch. The catch-plate is saddle-like, with characteristic button ornament, and decorated with rows of miniature U and o incised motifs.

One double shank pin with ω (or M) head has damaged ends, while the other is seriously deformed.

A complete tweezers is decorated on both trapezoid sides with three globular protrusions, connected with lines, containing short slanted incisions (tremolo lines as on the catch-plate of the fibula). A fragmented tweezers is, besides globular protrusions, decorated with punctuation along the edge.

Analogies

The material from the site Hisar in Leskovac does not have many analogies in the Morava Valley, to which it belongs geographically. The silver fibula has a direct analogy in Guča.² There are no analogies for the black varnished pottery. The conical bowl from the dug out in the suburb, judging by its fabric and the way it was varnished (diluted varnish), can not be compared with the varnished pottery from the plateau and should be considered as a local imitation of Greek pottery. There are also no analogies for the goblets

² Vasić 1999, 86, 88 f, Nr.656.



Figs. 27–28. Cups from the layer

Сл. 27–28. Шоље из слоја



Fig. 29. Vessel fragment decorated with painted motifs

*Сл. 29. Фрагментни њосуде украшен сликаним
мотивима*



Figs. 30–31. Silver fibula from the layer

Сл. 30–31. Сребрна фибула из слоја



Fig. 32. Damaged double-shank pin from the layer

Сл. 32. Ошћећена двојна игла из слоја



Figs. 33–34. Bronze tweezers from the layer.

Сл. 33–34. Бронзане њинције из слоја

with one handle, found on the plateau and in the suburb. The goblets with two handles, similar to those from the wattle and daub huts on the plateau and in the suburb, were found in geographically close Krševica.³ In the Morava valley several skyphos fragments, mainly handles, were found.⁴

In the neighbouring regions one can find analogies for the pottery from Iron Age III on Hisar in Kosovo and Metohija, Macedonia and Northwest Bulgaria, and for pottery decorated with protomes on the handles in the lower Morava valley (the Great Morava basin), then in the Sava valley (Sanski Most group), in the area where the Kupa joins the Sava (Banija and Kordun – hillforts Klinac and Kiringrad), the region of Styria and the Drava valley⁵ (Martijanec-Kaptol group), the Soca valley (Santa Lucia group) and in Transdanubia (the necropolis in Beremend, the lower Drava valley). The meander, whose origin is connected with the lower Danube valley and East Mediterranean, is a relatively frequent ornament on the Martijanec-Kaptol pottery.⁶ The same ornament is characteristic of the horizon with pottery decorated with protomes in the Morava valley. It appears exclusively on funnel-like goblets – rhyta and urn type vessels and particularly on the big silver belts of the Mramorac type.⁷ Thus, one can say that objects used in the cult of the dead, in the Martijanec-Kaptol group and in a particular phase of Iron Age III in the Morava valley, have the same »decorative« motifs: protomes and meanders.

In Kosovo, there are analogies in pottery in Gadimlje, Teneš Dol and Romaja. The fragment of a cantharos from Gadimlje, with handles immediately under the rim, is similar to the vessel, found in a habitation in the suburb in Hisar.⁸ The goblet with one handle from a habitation on the plateau is almost identical to a goblet from Teneš Dol, the site situated at the opposite end of the route, which connects Kosovo with the Leskovac region.⁹ In Romaja there are analogies for hand made pottery: bowls with grooved rim and a goblet with foot.¹⁰

³ Popović 2005, T. II/11,13; Antić, Babić 2005, 216, T. II/15-16.

⁴ Stojić 1986, T. 35/6, 10; Stojić, Jocić 2006, 115, T. XLII/8; 194, T.LXXVII/232-235; 227, T.XCVII/17-18.

⁵ Stojić 1986, T.36/10-11; Stojić, Jacanović 2008, in print; Fiala 1896, fig. 22,59,62,68, 80, 101; Marić 1964, T.XII/8,10, XVI/4; Majnarić-Pandžić 1986, 34, Sl.13/1; Balen-Letunić 1987, T. 7/1-2,4-5; Dular 1982, Sl.24/9, T-22/197,199, T.23/203; on the group Martijanec-Kaptol: Vinski-Gasparini 1987, 204-208, Jerem 1973, 74, 83, Abb. 8/21, T.XIX/3;

⁶ Vinski-Gasparini 1987, 204.

⁷ Stojić 1986, T.35/2,7-9T.XIII/5.

⁸ Shukriu 1988, T. IX/1.

⁹ Shukriu 1988, T.LIX/7.

¹⁰ Đurić, Glišić, Todorović 1975, 44, 59-60, 82, T.III/8, T. XII/9, T.XV/2, T.XX/2.

In Macedonia, there are analogies for »cantharoi« and painted pottery, and to a certain extent, for cups and for the extremely large goblet with one handle.

A cantharos from Vardarski rid is, for example, very similar to the goblet from the suburb, with handles placed directly under the rim. A goblet from Vardarski rid is very similar to the goblet from the suburb, with the upper part of handles placed under the rim.¹¹ Cantharoi from Radolište and Trebenište are similar to those from the habitation in the amphitheatre.¹² A conical goblet on a conical foot was found in Negotino (site Gradište).¹³ Conical goblets on a high foot and hand made conical cups from Trebenište are similar to the Leskovac goblet and the conical cup from the site Hisar.¹⁴ A skyphos in fragments, decorated with black circles in a row from the same necropolis, is similar to that from Hisar.¹⁵ There are analogies for a big slightly profiled goblet with one handle (»olpe«), which surpasses the rim, in a fragmented example from Pilovo (except for the handle section).¹⁶ A cup with triangular plastic decoration on the rim near the handle was found on the site Knežje.¹⁷

In Northwest Bulgaria, a region connected on many occasions to the Morava valley during the Metal Ages, two goblets with one handle and a goblet with conical recipient and accentuated foot were found, which have analogies among the Iron Age III pottery in Leskovac.¹⁸ The goblet with one handle and plastically accentuated shoulder from the village Comakovci has similarities with a goblet with one handle from the suburb, while another goblet from the same village is similar to the goblet from the Hisar plateau in Leskovac. A black varnished conical goblet with accentuated foot, made on the wheel, from the village Rakovo is form similar to the example from Leskovac.¹⁹

In hand made pottery from Iron Age III on the site Hisar in Leskovac, conical bowls with plastically accentuated foot and channelled rim dominate. These are very similar to bowls in the surrounding, but also in other Balkan regions, and were in use from the beginning of Iron Age I to the La Tene period. A high conical goblet with enlarged base is another hand made shape from the same period, which reminds one of goblets from the 6th/5th century BC, characteristic of the Morava valley.²⁰ There are several forms of these goblets in the Morava valley: some examples have a plastically accentuated enlarged round bottom (as in the case of the goblet from Leskovac), others have rhomboid foot, some have slightly biconic lower part. Several funnel-like goblets from the Morava

valley are decorated with incised meanders, the same motif, which we meet on the Martijanec-Kaptol pottery.²¹ In Greece too, funnel-like goblets were produced in the period, which corresponds to Iron Age III, but its base was not enlarged. The upper funnel-like part of our goblets reminds one of the upper part of rhyta – Greek horn vessels, which were also a favourite form with ancient Balkan tribes, especially the Thracians. Funnel-like goblets with trapezoid foot, and especially those with circularly enlarged foot and horn-like protuberances, are similar to simplified horns.²² Horn-like ornaments on these vessels, originally in the form of a bullhead, most probably symbolise this animal or its horns.

Goblets and cups made on the wheel, with handles with protomes on the upper part, were found at several sites in the Morava valley north of Leskovac: Stublina in Supska, Sarina Medja in Jagodina, Lugovi and Pećine in Stari Kostolac.²³ Apart from that, the handle with protomes in Sarina medja in Jagodina was found in the same layer with fragments of the funnel-like goblets, decorated with meanders.²⁴ As we said before, cups and goblets with protomes on handles were found in Sanski Most and Donja Dolina, then in the Banija-Kordun region, at the sites Klinac and Kiringrad, in Slovenia, at the sites Brusnica, Libna, Most na Soči and Novo Mesto, in Austria, at the site

¹¹ Mitrevski 2001, Fot. 34 (far right in lower row)

¹² Grako-ilirijski skrovišta of Jugoslavija 1979, kat. 152; Lahtov 1959, 54, T.XXVI/3

¹³ Sokolovska 1993, 142, Sl.2.

¹⁴ Lahtov, Kastelic 1957, T.VI/25, T.VIII/33, T.XIX/17–18 (Glasses from Trebenište, however, have no enlarged foot, as the example from Leskovac.

¹⁵ Lahtov, Kastelic 1957, 38, T.XV/14.

¹⁶ Atanasova, Karuzova 2001, 121, T.IX/3.

¹⁷ Mikulčić 1999, 115, Fig.12.

¹⁸ Nikolov 1972, 58–59, Fig. 5/a–b.

¹⁹ Nikolov 1972, 62, Fig.9

²⁰ Funnel-like jugs with enlarged base were found in: Atenica, Mrčajevci, Ljuljaci, Sarina Medja, Bagrdan, Rača, Novačka Čuprija and Stari Kostolac; Stojic 1986, 81–82, T. 35/2–3, 7–9, 11–12, T. XIII/4; Stojic 1994, 17–18.

²¹ Srejić 1990, 145, T.IV/2; Stojic 1986, T.35/2,7–9; Vasić 1987, 657, T.LXVII/1–2

²² Stojic 1986, T.15/11–12, T. XIII/4.

²³ Stojic 1986, T.36/10–11; Stojic, Jacanović 2008 (in print).

²⁴ Stojic 1986, T.35/2–3.

Kleinklein on the Mura, in Hungary, in Beremend and at some other sites.²⁵

These analogies indicate cultural contacts between our community from Iron Age III and contemporary communities in other parts of the Morava valley, then in Kosovo and Metohija, Macedonia, Northwest Bulgaria, the Sava and Drava valleys. Pottery which imitates Greek forms, – goblets with one and two handles, shows contacts with Macedonia, Kosovo and Metohija and Bulgaria, while pottery with protomes on the handles speaks of contacts with the Great Morava Valley, then with the Sava and Drava valleys. This protom decoration is characteristic for the Hallstatt period in the East and Southeast Alps, represented by the Kalenderberg and Martijanec-Kaptol groups.²⁶ Analogies for the bronze tweezers were not found.

Chronology

Archaeological material, similar to that from Iron Age III in Leskovac, was variously dated in the literature. The silver fibula and the painted pottery of Greek type offer some chronological data for the settlement from Iron Age III on the site Hisar, but they do not provide a chronological frame for the entire settlement development. The silver fibula is dated to the 5th century BC, according to the finds in closed entities in the West Morava valley (Novi Pazar and Atenica), but also in grave 2 in Beremend.²⁷ R. Vasić, with some reserves, considers that »ornaments in the form of tremolo lines and circles on catch-plates of fibulae were older than lines of dots and semicircles«, as is the case on the example from Leskovac.²⁸ Grave goods in Beremend are relevant also for the chronology of pottery with protomes on the handle, because one such vessel was found in a grave together with silver fibulae with rectangular catch-plate, Certosa fibulae and an open-work belt piece.²⁹ A. Dular stated that the pottery with figural applications typologically developed from realistic towards stylised forms, which includes also protomes on handles.³⁰ According to that, pottery decorated with very stylised protomes on the handles, similar to that in Leskovac and the Morava valley in general, would correspond chronologically to horizon 3 of the Martijanec-Kaptol group, or the first half of the 6th century BC.³¹ B. Čović, however, dates subphase 3a-2 of the Donja Dolina – Sanski Most group, in which vessels decorated with animal head on handles were found, to 450–350 BC.³² Closed entities – the graves from the necropolis Pećine in Stari Kostolac, which also contained vessels with protomes and funnel-like

goblets (stylised rhyta) characteristic for the end of the 6th and the 5th century BC, as well as grave 2 in Beremend with a similar vessel and two fibulae with rectangular catch-plate – indicate that this pottery form belongs to the end of the 6th and the first half of the 5th century BC. Archaeological material from object 2/06 is very important when establishing the relative chronological relation between Greek type pottery and pottery decorated with protomes on handles, because both pottery features were found there.

Goblets with two handles from Krševica, similar to these in Leskovac, are dated to the 4th century BC.³³ D. Mitrevski dates a goblet from Vardarski Rid, where handles are placed directly under the rim, to the 4th century.³⁴ B. Nikolov, too, dated this type of goblet from the Vraca region to the 4th century BC.³⁵ It is characteristic, however, that at the site Hisar there were no pottery forms, which appear at the nearby site Krševica, and dated with certainty to the 4th century BC, such as figural painted skyphoi, Saint Valentine vases etc. One could conclude at this level of investigation that the settlement from Iron Age III at Hisar in Leskovac was founded earlier than that in Krševica, and that it existed probably from the end of the 6th century, through the entire 5th century, to an advanced date in the 4th century BC.

The grave group (so-called poor graves) from Trebenište, to which grave 27 belongs with a skyphos painted similarly to that in Leskovac, was dated with some reserves to the second half of the 6th century

²⁵ Fiala 1896, Fig. 22,59,62,68, 80, 101; Marić 1964, T.XII/8,10, XVI/4; Čović 1987, T.XXVI/19, T.XXXVIII/10; Majnarić-Pandžić 1986, 34, Sl. 13/1; Balen-Letunić 1987, T. 7/1–2,4–5; Dular 1982, Fig. 24/9, T–22/197,199, T.23/203; Vinski-Gasparini 1987,204–208, Jerem 1973, 74, 83, Abb. 8/21, T.XIX/3.

²⁶ Siegfried-Weiss 1979, 15.

²⁷ Đuknić, Jovanović 1966; Mano-Zisi, Popović 1969, Jerem 1973, 83–85; Vasić 1999, 87 dates the silver fibula from Guča, which is similar to the example from Hisar, to the second half of the 5th century BC.

²⁸ Vasić 1987, 49.

²⁹ Jerem 1973, 65–86.

³⁰ Dular 1978, 85 ff.

³¹ Vinski-Gasparini 1987, 206–209.

³² Čović 1987, 257.

³³ Popović 2005.

³⁴ Mitrevski 2001, Fot. 34 (last illustration right in lower row).

³⁵ Nikolov 1972.

BC.³⁶ However, R. Vasić dates the same grave group to the second half of the 5th and the 4th century BC.³⁷

According to that one can conclude that there was a settlement at the site Hisar in Leskovac, which can be dated from the end of the 6th century to the first decades of the 4th century BC.

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At the site Hisar there are settlements from Iron Age I (all phases of the Brnjica group), Iron Age II c (Lanište II – Basarabi group, characterised mainly by tremolo pottery and pottery known from some parts of Macedonia in the 7th century – slightly biconical and conical bowls with large vertically perforated slanting handles), Iron Age III and Iron Age IV (La Tene period). In Leskovac itself, at the site Sastanci (app 2–3 km from Hisar) there was a multi-period settlement from the Iron Age, including a layer from Iron Age II b (Lanište I, characterised particularly by S stamped pottery). In the Leskovac area no pottery decorated with the cogwheel was found – such pottery characteristic for the 8th century was found in the South Morava basin, downstream from Grdelica, then in some parts of the Vardar valley, Kosovo and Metohija.

A settlement from Iron Age III was founded at the site Hisar after the last phase of the Iron Age II (Iron Age II c – phase Lanište – Basarabi and pottery such

as conical and slightly biconical bowls with large vertically perforated handles, which were found at some Macedonian sites). However, it is not clear if a new settlement was founded immediately following, the previous settlement or after a certain period of time.

Otherwise, the cultural development during Iron Age II (II a-c, ca 9th – 7th BC) in the South Morava basin, north of the Grdelica canyon, had the same characteristics as that in the West Morava basin (downstream the Ovčar-Kablar canyon) and the Great Morava basin. It is also characteristic that pottery decorated with the cogwheel was found nowhere in the regions mentioned, but on the other hand, was frequent in the South Morava basin, south of the Grdelica canyon, in Iron Age II, Kosovo and Metohija and some other areas.

As the example of the site Hisar shows, from the moment when the wheel was introduced in the production of pottery, pottery was no longer so relevant in the ethno-cultural identification of the community, as it was in previous periods. Yet, pottery forms made by hand in Iron Age III in the South Morava basin, north of the Grdelica canyon and in the West Morava and the Great Morava basins, e.g. funnel-like goblets – rhyta, shows that the inhabitants of the Leskovac region belonged to the same population as the inhabitants of the above mentioned parts of the Morava valley.

³⁶ Lahtov, Kastelic 1957, 51-52.

³⁷ Vasić 1987, 727.

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На свим деловима археолошког локалитета Хисар у Лесковцу налажена је грађа из гвозде-

Резиме:

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СТАРИЈЕ ГВОЗДЕНО ДОБА НА ЛОКАЛИТЕТУ ХИСАР У ЛЕСКОВЦУ

ног доба III (углавном, из V века пре н.е.). Четири или, можда, и пет станишта из тог периода у односу на истражену површину (приближно 15 000 м²) указује на насеље са већим бројем стамбених објеката. У погледу архитектуре – станишта од плетери и земунице – ти стамбени објекти немају одређену специфичност, изграђени су на исти начин као станишта у претходним периодима праисторије у Поморављу. Археолошку грађу из гвозденог доба III чине посуде рађене на витлу у грчком стилу, керамика рађена руком и украсни предмети од сребра и бронзе.

Највише грађе из гвозденог доба III нађено је на југоисточној тераси локалитета Хисар, где су, иначе, обављена и највећа археолошка ископавања. На том делу испитана су два ста-

ништа, земуница и надземни објекат са зидовима од плетери (Слика 4–6), правоугаоне основе. У културном слоју изван ових објеката спорадично су налажени фрагменти керамике грчког типа рађене на витлу, сиве или окер боје, од којих је неколико осликано геометријским мотивима.

Аналогије за предмете из гвозденог доба III из Лесковца, изузев осталих делова Поморавља, постоје у истовременој археолошкој грађи на Косову, Македонији, северозападној Бугарској, средњем Подунављу, Хрватској, Словенији, Аустрији и Мађарској.