

THE CERAMIC HUMAN HEAD FROM DETA (TIMIȘ COUNTY). ABOUT THE LA TÈNE VESSELS WITH ANTHROPOMORPHIC DECORATION FROM THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

*In memoriam Florin Medeț**

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(Abstract)

The ceramic human head discussed in this article was discovered in 1904 at Deta by B. Milleker, being now preserved in the Museum of Vrșac. The main aim of this article is to identify the context of discovery, as well as the chronology and the type of this artefact. At the same time the analysis is taking into consideration the wider cultural significance of the vessels decorated with anthropomorphic elements within the Late Iron Age context in the Carpathian Basin, as well as in connection with the relationships between Celtic communities and the eastern Mediterranean area. The human head from Deta belonged to a vessel having anthropomorphic handles, a beaker or more probably a kantharos. The artefact must have come from a destroyed grave. According to its context of discovery and taking into consideration other analogies, the piece can be dated to the La Tène C1, more precisely to the second half of the 3rd century BC.

The vessels with anthropomorphic handles are the result of the contacts between Celtic communities from the Carpathian Basin and the eastern Mediterranean region. The appearance of these vessels with anthropomorphic details fulfilled certain demands related to particular rituals and convivial practices, specific to the Carpathian Basin. The contacts with the eastern Mediterranean area, their transmission through Macedonian and northern Balkans filters, as well as the local interpretation of these impulses lead to the appearance of certain aspects of culture and civilization specific to the eastern Celtic world, having certain inner Carpathians nuances.

The ceramic human head which is the subject of this article was found in 1904 in Deta by B. Milleker and is now preserved in the Museum of Vrșac (Inv. No. 13056). The artefact was mentioned in specialist literature shortly after its discovery¹. B. Milleker dated it in the

Hallstatt period², whereas V. Pârvan later ascribed it to prehistory³. Its correct chronological and cultural identification was made only in 1933 by L. Márton. He wrote that the artefact is a fragment belonging to a kantharos decorated on the handle with anthropomorphic elements, similarly to the finds from Rozvány or Kakasd, discovered in the Celtic environment from Hungary⁴. Afterwards M. Szabó included the ceramic human head from Deta amongst the Celtic vessels (kantharoi or beakers) decorated with human figures on their handles. Although the Hungarian authors had no information about the fate of this piece, he wrongly

* Florin Medeț (1943–2005) was an emblematic archaeologist of Banat. Although the number of his published works is not large, his contributions to the study of prehistory and proto-history of Banat remain important due to their scientific amplitude and historical vision (see for example the studies regarding some prehistoric sites from Banat, the archaeological repertoires or the articles focusing on some particular archaeological and historical features). His largest work, regarding the La Tène period in Banat (representing his doctoral dissertation), unfortunately remained unfinished and unpublished. He started this ample investigation in the 1980s, the work continuing for about 20 years during which new information has been added, and included a vast archaeological repertoire of Banat in the Late Iron Age. The majority of the information included in the manuscript is still relevant for various aspects of the local or regional archaeology and history. Aside from the scientific activity, Florin Medeț was an exceptional man and professor, decisively marking the intellectual and professional development of many young researchers, amongst whom is also the author of this study.

Since 1980, when I had the pleasure of meeting him for the first time, Florin Medeț was my magister, a true guide through the scientific paths and life, and an outstanding friend. I am convinced that most of his ideas are continued by his disciples.

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¹ Milleker 1905, 90, with fig.; Hampel 1906, 80.

² Milleker 1906, 31.

³ Pârvan 1926, 408.

⁴ Márton 1933, 79, 111–112, fig. 20, in which the images published by Milleker 1905 and Milleker 1906 are included.

considered that it was part of the collections of the National Hungarian Museum⁵. F. Medeleț “rediscovered” the artefact in the Museum of Vrșac, correctly noting that it is a fragment belonging to a kantharos or beaker dated to the Late Iron Age, a unique piece in Banat but having analogies amongst the vessels coming from Celtic cemeteries from other areas in the Carpathian Basin, listing as example the kantharos from Blandiana alongside other items already mentioned by M. Szabó. His notes are also important for the identification of the context of discovery⁶. Lastly, recent analyses concerning certain ceramic categories coming from the La Tène environment in the Carpathian Basin, and especially about the kantharoi⁷, are allowing a new and comprehensive discussion of the ceramic human head from Deta.

Thus the first objective of this study is to identify more precisely the context of discovery, the dating and the typological classification of the mentioned artefact. Secondly, the wider cultural significance of these vessels decorated with anthropomorphic elements will be discussed, both in the Late Iron Age context of the Carpathian Basin and as concerning the connections between local Celtic communities and the eastern Mediterranean region.

The investigations of Florin Medeleț, who took into consideration documentary evidence from the beginning of the 20th century and also his own field research, lead to the identification of the context of discovery of the mentioned piece. The find-spot has been known as “Căramidării”, an important archaeological site which was completely destroyed due to industrial activity (Pl. I). His field notes are very clear and are reproduced below, since they are important for understanding both the sheer dimensions of the site and the circumstances of its destruction:

“To the north-eastern limit of the locality, in the corner between the Timișoara-Stamora Moravița-Vrșac railway and the road connecting Deta with Opațița, eastward of the railway, southward of the road and northward of the Birda creek and Bârzava river, the upper terrace of the latter was, since the last century (the 19th century – AR), a source of clay for manufacturing bricks. From 1901 to 1908 B. Milleker, custodian of the Museum of Vrșac, intermittently supervised the gradual destruction of an archaeological site due to clay extraction, partially recovering the resulting archaeological material. At the beginning of the century

(the 20th century – AR) on this area functioned the “Rudolf și compania” brick factory, established in 1904 close to the railway, and eastward, next to that it was the communal brickyard established in 1880, and another brickyard belonging to Alois Buchmann, established in 1892. The latter one alone covered 11 Joch (6.3 ha), of which more than 4 Joch (1.8 ha) were already exploited until 1906. Nearly similar situations and areas for exploiting clay also characterised the remaining enterprises. During my field surveys from 1970 to 1982 I have noted that the area exploited for clay on the zone supervised by Milleker at the beginning of the century already covered over 25 ha, so the terrace’s promontory, on which the archaeological structures producing numerous finds brought to the Museum of Vrșac by Milleker must have been located, was completely destroyed. The archaeological material from the Museum of Vrșac, as well as the descriptions of Milleker, indicate that the terrace’s promontory, which is missing nowadays, was used for a settlement or a cemetery starting from the Neolithic and up to at least the 3rd – 4th century AD.”⁸

In his analysis of the archaeological material belonging to the Late Iron Age, recovered by B. Milleker and preserved in the Museum of Vrșac, F. Medeleț considered that a large late La Tène settlement probably similar to the one from Pecica was destroyed on the “Căramidării” site⁹. A Celtic cemetery dated earlier, to the La Tène C, was probably located on the same place. Its dating is supported by the presence of some ceramic forms belonging to this phase and mostly by the discovery of an iron sword-chain specific to the La Tène C1.¹⁰ Thus F. Medeleț suggested that the ceramic human head from Deta might have come from a grave belonging to the 3rd century BC.¹¹

As concerning the mentioned artefact, here it is the description of B. Milleker shortly after discovery (see Pl. II/1):

⁸ Medeleț ms., s.v. Deta, 118–119. English translation by Mariana Egri.

⁹ F. Medeleț was a longtime collaborator of I. H. Crișan from the Institute of Archaeology Cluj Napoca, so they carried out several archaeological excavations together, amongst them being the one from Pecica (Arad County), which probably influenced his interpretation of the settlement from Deta. For the settlement from Pecica see Crișan 1978.

¹⁰ According to the sketch made by F. Medeleț in the Museum of Vrșac, the artefact is a short segment of a sword-chain, made of double twisted iron wire. According to the typology and chronology proposed by A. Rapin, such chains were used in the LT C1: see Rapin 1995, 288, fig. 10/F1.

¹¹ Medeleț ms., s.v. Deta, 119–120, 128.

⁵ Szabó 1972, 385, n. 2/d.

⁶ Medeleț ms., s.v. Deta.

⁷ Rustoiu-Egri 2010; 2011.

“A fragment of a terracotta statue representing a human head... Height of the piece: 0.030–0.035 m. The nose and one of its ears were damaged during discovery (being probably hit by a spade – AR). The fabric is black. The facial features indicate a young man, bald and without moustache or beard. The eyes consist of hemispheres having a cavity in the middle. The lower eye-lashes are suggested by a row of narrow arch-like knobs. The eye-brows are not depicted. The nose is straight. The mouth's corners are bent downward, whereas the lips are represented by a row of knobs (similar to the above mentioned ones). The chin is narrow and pointed”¹². Aside from that F. Medeleţ also observed that the ceramic fabric is similar to that of some La Tène fragments discovered on the same site¹³. Lastly, it has to be also noted that the severed part of the head is hollow, suggesting that the fragment was removed from a handle having a tubular shape.

From a functional point of view, as previously mentioned by other specialists, the human head from Deta belongs to a handle of a vessel. In the Carpathian Basin human representations appear on three types of vessels during the La Tène period: kantharoi, beakers and in a single case on a pseudo-kernos (see Table 1).

The so-called “Danubian kantharoi”¹⁴ represent a ceramic category taken over and then adapted from a range of vessels specific to the Mediterranean region. Three main types of Danubian kantharoi appeared during the La Tène B2 – C1: the first type includes close copies of Hellenistic prototypes, the second type consists of kantharoi resembling certain local bowls to which two handles were added and the third type includes large bi-truncated vessels, again with two added handles¹⁵ (Pl. III). Anthropomorphic elements appear on the handles of certain kantharoi belonging to the last two mentioned types. In a single case it is possible that a kantharos belonging to the first type might have had such ornaments. This is the vessel discovered in the grave no. 34 from Belgrade-Karaburma¹⁶ (Pl. IV/4). Unlike other kantharoi which were almost exclusively placed in graves as ceramic offerings, the vessel from Belgrade-Karaburma was re-used as urn. In this particular case it was necessary to “transform” the vessel by severing the heads, thus

being removed from the initial symbolic structure and placed into a different one¹⁷. It has to be also noted that the vessel from Belgrade-Karaburma, as well as another kantharos discovered at Blandiana, has tubular handles, and this was probably also the case of the vessel from Deta.

The vessels with one handle decorated with human figures are usually of local origin (coming from the indigenous substratum prior to the Celtic colonization¹⁸ – Pl. IV/3), but in a few situations bowls of La Tène type also have a handle, for example the piece from the grave 42 from Kósd¹⁹ (Pl. IV/2).

Lastly, amongst the vessels decorated with human details is also a pseudo-kernos recovered from a dwelling from the settlement at Tiszafüred-Morotvapart²⁰ (Pl. IV/5).

In general two evolutive series can be identified, both showing the manner in which anthropomorphic details were conceived and placed on the vessels²¹ (Pl. V). These series do not necessarily have chronological relevance, but explain the origin of these ornaments.

The first series consists of human figures placed on the handles and oriented towards the exterior of the vessels. The list includes vessels having the handles modelled as masculine or feminine characters, bent backward and having the arms raised (for example the vessels from Kakasd, Kósd, Csepel Island, Rozvágy), or vessels on which the human figures make different gestures (at Levice and Blandiana, both having the handles modelled as a masculine and a feminine character respectively, shown in various positions, or at Nyékládháza); finally these representations are reduced to a human head (on a beaker from Kósd).

The second series of anthropomorphic decorations consists of elements placed on the rim, on the insertion point of the handles, and oriented towards the interior. This series is also opened by the kantharos from Blandiana, which besides the elements characteristic to the first series is also decorated on

¹² Milleker 1906, 31. Translated from Hungarian by David Petruţ (Cluj-Napoca), to whom I thank.

¹³ Medeleţ ms., s.v. Deta, 122.

¹⁴ Kruta-Szabó 1982; see also Rustoiu-Egri 2010, 217–218.

¹⁵ See further Rustoiu-Egri 2010, 218–223, pl. 2; 2011, 20–51, fig. 4.

¹⁶ Todorović 1972, 20.

¹⁷ Rustoiu 1999, 189; Rustoiu-Egri 2011, 24, n. 5.

¹⁸ It is significant that the vessels having one handle are mainly present on the Great Hungarian Plain and in Transylvania, two regions in which they were traditionally used prior to the Celtic colonization (see Teleagă 2008a, 120–122, fig. 18), whereas the kantharoi are mainly present in region inhabited by “Illyrian” tribes, who used two-handled vessels since prehistoric times (vezi Rustoiu – Egri 2010, 236; 2011, 101).

¹⁹ Szabó 1972, 386, no. 2, pl. 36/2, 37/1.

²⁰ Kull 1997, 358–359, fig. 76/1–2.

²¹ Rustoiu-Egri 2010, 224–225, pl. 20; 2011, 53–60, fig. 24.

the interior, on the upper part of the handles, with two other human heads placed back-to-back with the main characters and forming a type of “Janus-like” composition. As it was mentioned on another occasion, the vessel from Blandiana is stylistically a hybrid of the two main types of decorations²². The second series is also including the kantharos from Balatonederics, the beaker of local origin from Körösszegapáti and a kantharos, displaying much stylised human figures, discovered at Zalakomár.

The human head from Deta was very probably placed on a vessel, having a single handle or perhaps two handles, which belongs to the second series of decorations.

These two series of anthropomorphic decorations on the vessels with handles from the Carpathian Basin indicate the existence of different prototypes²³. For the vessels belonging to the first series the closest morphological analogies are the “kouros” figures decorating bronze vessels from the Mediterranean area, dated to the 6th – 5th centuries BC (Pl. VI/1–4). Such figures are mainly decorating the handles of certain hydriae, oenochoai, paterae etc, of different manufacturing origins: Laconian, Corinthian, Etruscan, southern Italic etc.²⁴.

The second series of decorations was very probably inspired by Greek bronze vessels (oenochoai) having a feminine or a Silenus head (Pl. VI/5–6) oriented towards the interior, on the upper part of the handles. Such pieces are also known from northern Balkans and the northern Pontic region during the second half of the 4th century and the beginning of the 3rd century BC²⁵.

The vessels having anthropomorphic decoration discovered in the La Tène environment from the Carpathian Basin are mainly coming from contexts dated to the La Tène C1, being thus used from the middle of the 3rd century BC onwards (see Table 1 and Pl. VII). Despite the chronological gap between the Greek bronze prototypes and the Celtic ceramic vessels, a direct filiation was still possible.

In many cases prestige goods, including bronze vessels, were used during a longer period after the ceasing of their production. This situation

is demonstrated by the presence of some earlier dated vessels in later archaeological contexts (graves, hoards etc), or by the accumulation of some prestige goods in different pan-communal sanctuaries during a longer period. It has to be noted that the first half of the 3rd century BC was characterised by a wide mobility across large areas of the Celtic communities from the Carpathian Basin, being mainly marked by invasions in the Balkans and Greece in 280–277 BC. Despite the plunders, these expeditions also lead to some diplomatic agreements with various local rulers, the exchange of prestige goods being common in such cases. Sometimes these alliances were enforced by matrimonial agreements, which were also occasions to exchange various goods. This mobility was also facilitated by the activity of some groups of mercenaries hired by Hellenistic rulers from eastern Mediterranean²⁶. From this point of view it is significant the episode of 274 BC, when the Celtic mercenaries of Pyrrhus plundered (during the campaign against Antigonos Gonatas), presumably with the approval of the King of Epirus, the Macedonian royal cemetery at Aegae (Vergina)²⁷.

Thus, some individuals belonging to the communities from the Carpathian Basin could have had the opportunity to get in contact with prestige goods, including earlier made bronze vessels (still in use or amassed in the mentioned conditions), bringing back new ideas and knowledge in their territory of origin. In the Carpathian Basin such motifs were re-interpreted and adapted to the local iconography long time after the ceasing of production of the Hellenistic prototypes. Moreover this phenomenon is not unusual. The glass beads with human mask of “Janus” type, coming from the Greek colonies on the Black Sea coast during the end of the 4th century and the beginning of the 3rd century BC (La Tène B2a), were used and then copied in the Carpathian Basin mainly in the second half of the 3rd century BC (La Tène C1), more than half of a century after the ceasing of their production in the Greek workshops²⁸.

Returning to the human head from Deta, the figure displays quite elaborated details. Bald heads having a nearly similar aspect are also known on the two vessels discovered at Kósd (Pl. IV/2–3). Still the latter characters are slightly simpler modelled and in a rather naïve manner.

²² Rustoiu 1999, 189.

²³ Szabó 1971, 61–62; 1972, 386–390 etc considered that the vessels belonging to the first series of decorations had Etruscan or north Italic prototypes. See the arguments against this opinion in Rustoiu-Egri 2010, 223–226; 2011, 53, 62.

²⁴ Tarditi 1996, 155–158, 172–179, 189–190; Stibbe 2000, 22–26; Graells i Fabregat 2008, 201–204; Popović et al. 1969, 73–74, no. 42 etc.

²⁵ See Teleagă 2008b, 258; Boltryk-Treister-Fialko 2009.

²⁶ Rustoiu 2006; 2008a, 37–49, 101–103.

²⁷ See Plutarch, *Pyrrh.* 26; Griffith 1968, 63.

²⁸ Rustoiu 2008a, 57–62; 2008b; 2011, 96–98, all with previous bibliography.

The artistic sources of inspiration should again be sought in the southern Hellenistic space. A gold Janus-like pendant from the Museum of Schumen, in eastern Bulgaria (Pl. II/2), dated to the end of the 4th or the beginning of the 3rd century BC, offers a good stylistic analogy²⁹. At the same time a ceramic human head (dated to the same period), having the height of 12 cm and a rather unclear functionality (antefix or appliqué?), made in a nearly similar manner, was found at Seuthopolis³⁰. A human head cut from a limestone stele and buried in a tumulus discovered at Ciulnița³¹ (Pl. II/5) can be added to these examples. This tumulus is dated to the 6th century BC, but the burial of the human head is later dated, probably in the 4th – 3rd century BC.³²

Unlike the piece from Deta, all these representations of human heads have different features: the eyes are usually oval and not round, whereas the mouth is horizontally drawn and not curved downward. These differences may result from a local interpretation of certain somatic features. Moreover there is no coincidence that the shape of the mouth of the head from Deta is also encountered on the characters modelled on the vessels from Kósd, Blandiana, Balatonederics or Novo mesto.

The same Greek environment, albeit from western Mediterranean, probably determined the appearance of some nearly similar human representations in the opposite part of the Continent. The pillar with bifrons heads from Roquepertuse (Pl. II/3) is a significant example in this case³³. In this context should be also mentioned the metal fittings of the famous wooden vessel from Brno-Maloměřice (Pl. II/4), showing two human heads face to face (dated to 3rd century BC)³⁴. Stylistically they are close to the figure from Deta, an unsurprising fact given that the source of inspiration of the piece from Moravia should be sought in the fittings of the Greek *situlae* having a Perseus or

Athena head³⁵. It has to be also noted the face to face placing of these two figures³⁶, similarly to the piece from Deta, if the latter fragment is coming from a *kantharos*. The adoption and stylistic interpretation of the figures from the Mediterranean environment was probably facilitated by the prior existence of a typical iconographic repertoire of the local communities, for whom these representations had a clearly defined symbolic meaning.

As concerning the functionality and significance of the vessels having the handles decorated with anthropomorphic elements, it has to be noted that they are exclusively present in the Carpathian Basin³⁷ (Pl. VII).

According to the contexts of discovery (see Table 1), the majority of these vessels come from graves (with or without weapons), being usually intact, apart from two exceptions. Amongst the latter are the already mentioned *kantharos* from Belgrade-Karaburma, on which the upper parts of the handles were severed, and the fragment from Rozvagy (Pl. IV/1), which is not coming from a grave, being discovered on the area of the cemetery (perhaps belonging to a vessel coming from a destroyed burial). The head from Deta seems to have been detached from the vessel accidentally, during the extraction of clay, since it is displaying recent traces of deterioration, but the remaining ceramic fragments were not recovered. The examples discovered in settlements are scarce and usually fragmentary (with the exception of the pseudo-kernos which will be discussed below). Thus it might be considered that such vessels did not belong to the regular household inventory.

These vessels were commonly used for liquids, probably for alcoholic beverages, both in the case of the large *kantharoi* used as containers destined to collective consumption, and in that of the smaller vessels for collective (*kantharoi*) or individual drinking (beakers).

The figures depicted on vessels are characterised by a certain degree of diversity. However, they

²⁹ Tonkova 2006, 266–267, pl. I/5; Rustoiu 2008a, 59–60, fig. 24/4–5; 2008b, 10, fig. 1–2.

³⁰ Ogenova-Marinova 1984, 213, no. 398, fig. 91.

³¹ Marinescu-Bîlcu – Rența – Matei 2000, 152, fig. 12; Teleagă 2008b, 14, no. 48, pl. 134/1–2.

³² The limestone head was found at a depth of 0.40 m in the tumulus cover, pointing to a secondary intervention. The character wears an amphora-shaped ear-ring on the right ear, such jewellery being known from northern Balkans graves dated to the 4th – 3rd centuries BC. See Marinescu-Bîlcu – Rența – Matei 2000, 152–153, fig. 10/4, and fig. 12.

³³ Lescuré 1991, 363; Megaw 1970, 143, no. 235; Megaw-Megaw 2001, 168, fig. 271.

³⁴ Meduna 1991, 377; Meduna-Peškař 1992, 191–193, fig. 6/1, pl. 36/1–2.

³⁵ Gebhard 1989; see also Frey 1992, 258–259.

³⁶ The same face to face position of the human masks can be noted on the early La Tène brooch from Slovenské Pravno. It is significant that the brooch, produced by a western European workshop in the 5th century BC, remained in use (initially as brooch, later as apotropaic pendant) a long period, being discovered in a context belonging to the Púchov Culture of the 2nd century AD (Pietá 2000, 337, fig. 14/3). Such a long “life” was determined by the symbolic role of the human heads and of their position on the brooch, even if during this long period the meaning could have been modified several times, according to the perception of those who used this artefact.

³⁷ See a comprehensive discussion of these aspects in Rustoiu-Egri 2010 and 2011.

correspond to a coherent, well-structured ideological code, so they are not simple ornaments.

Taking into consideration all these observations, it can be presumed that the mentioned vessels were used for the collective consumption of alcoholic beverages during certain public ceremonial practices. Such communal convivial practices were used by different communities and social groups as powerful social, political and economic instruments. The main scope was to underline the exclusiveness of these groups and at the same time to confirm and consolidate the relationships established between the members of these groups. Similar convivial practices were identified within different cultural environments³⁸, including the Scordiscian space³⁹.

The use of such vessels was probably restricted to certain consecrated individuals (men and women), masters of the sacred, capable of understanding the significance of the symbols represented on the vessels, and of conveying it to the participants in the ceremony. This feature may explain their placing in graves as personal belongings, which could not have been transmitted to others who were uninitiated. The presence of a few fragmentary vessels in settlements can be explained by their occasional deterioration during the ceremonies. The single complete vessel decorated with human figures comes from a dwelling at Tiszafüred-Morotvapart. According to its inventory the structure seems to belong to the domain of ritual practices (Pl. IV/5). Inside were placed iron agricultural tools (three coulter and three sickles) together with the mentioned vessel having three masks on the rim. The three small vessels communicating with the main container facilitated the mixing of some liquids inside it. Perhaps the constant repeating of the number three might have had a particular meaning, while the general character of the assemblage points to some agrarian ceremonies⁴⁰.

In conclusion the human head from Deta belonged to a vessel having anthropomorphic handles, a beaker or more likely a kantharos. The artefact is very probably coming from a destroyed grave. Other finds recovered from the same site, as well as the analogies from the Carpathian Basin, corresponding to this human representation, suggests a dating during the La Tène C1, more precisely in the second half of the 3rd century BC. Although other Celtic funerary discoveries

from Banat, for example the cemeteries from Aradu Nou and Remetea Mare, were dated during the La Tène B2, the grave from Deta, from which the vessel decorated with a human head must have come, has to be dated later.

The vessels with anthropomorphic handles resulted from the contacts between Celtic communities from the Carpathian Basin and the eastern Mediterranean area. The appearance of such ceramic vessels in the Celtic environment was inspired by the existence of similar representations on Greek bronze vessels, but they were not taken over mechanically, the images being interpreted in a particular manner and according to local ideological and symbolic principles. This particularity is visible in the morphological displaying scheme of the decorative details, as suggested by the two evolutive series of human representations, as well as in the stylistic modelling.

Lastly, the creation of the vessels with anthropomorphic decoration served precise scopes related to certain rituals and convivial practices specific to the communities from the Carpathian Basin. The contacts with the eastern Mediterranean area, the Macedonian and northern Balkans filters, as well as the local interpretation of the mentioned impulses lead to the appearance of certain aspects of culture and civilization which characterised the eastern Celtic world, with some nuances specific to the Carpathian Basin.

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³⁸ Dietler 1996; 2001, 65–74; Hayden 2001; Poux 2004, 222–226.

³⁹ Egri-Rustoiu 2008.

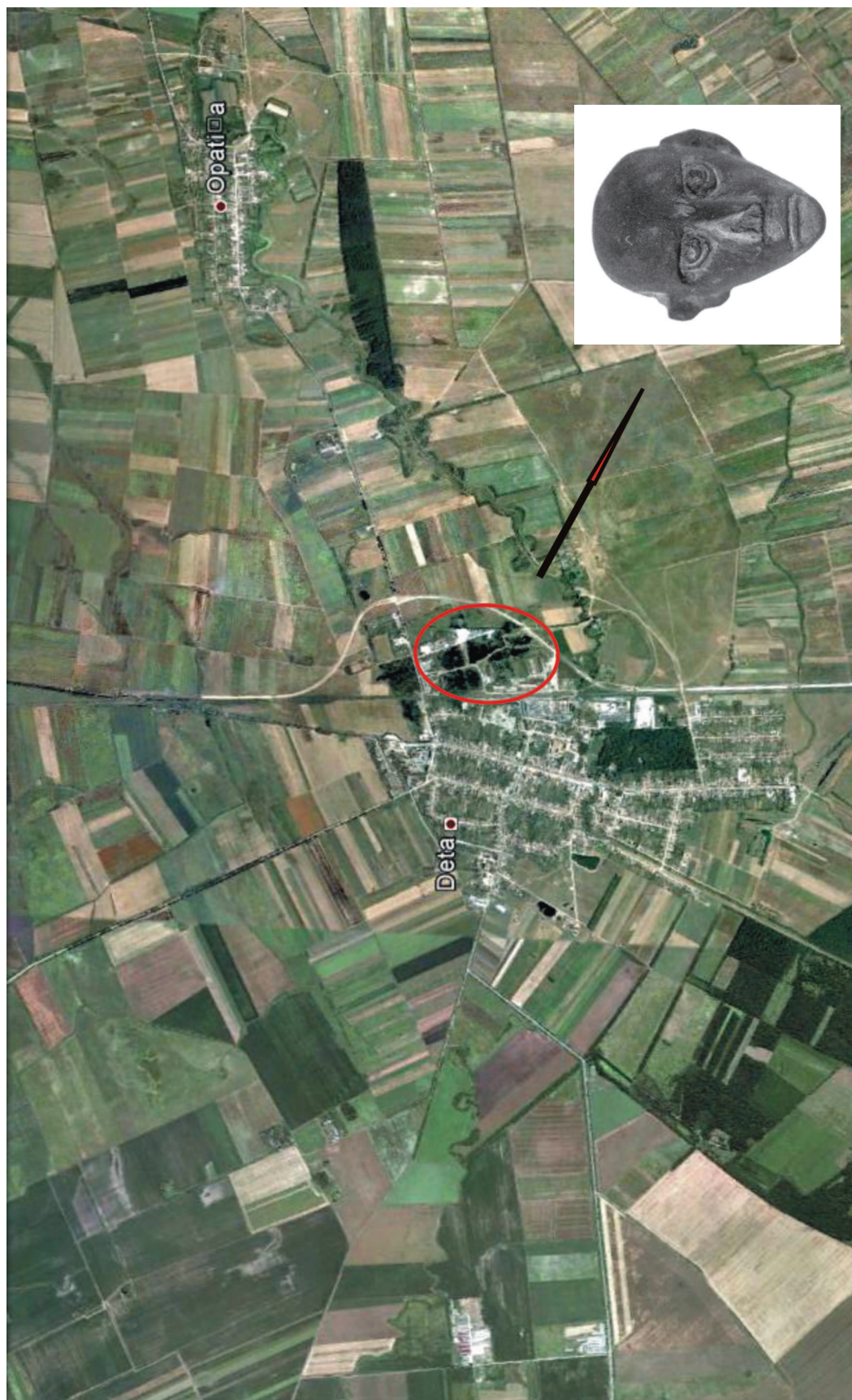
⁴⁰ See also Kull 1997, 358–359.

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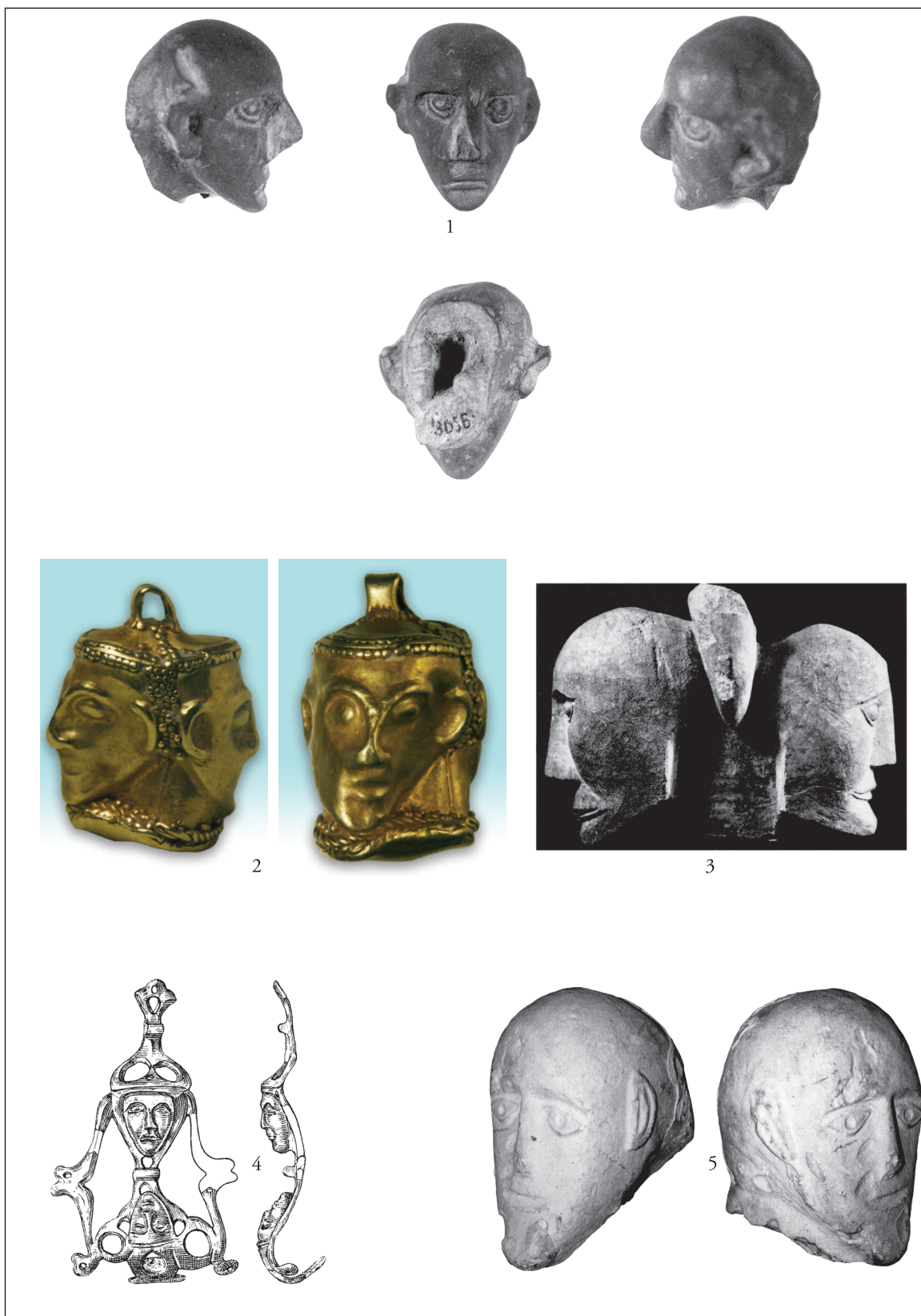
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Table 1: List of vessels with anthropomorphic decoration

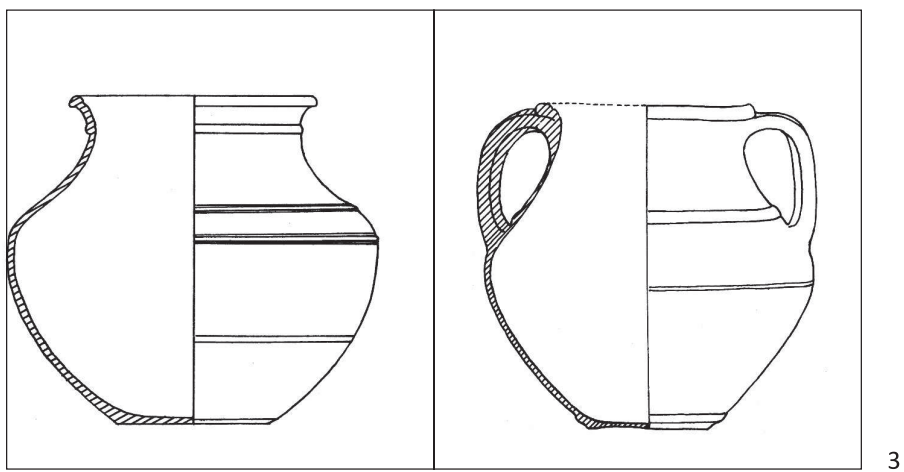
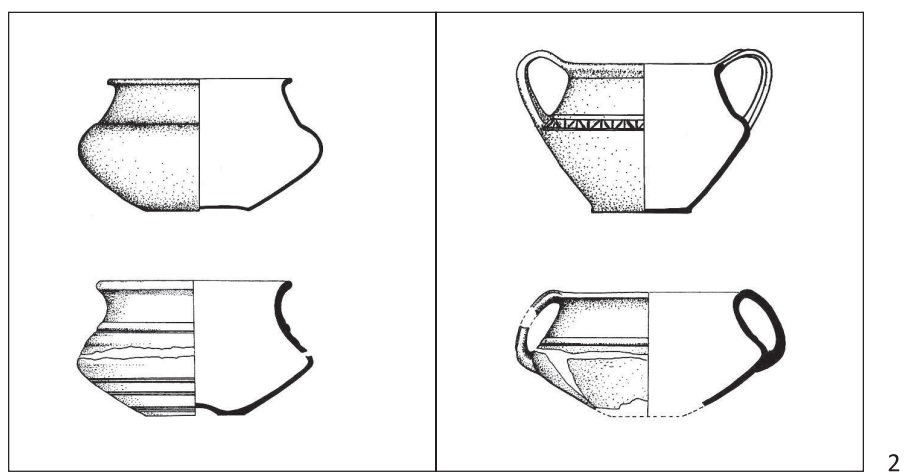
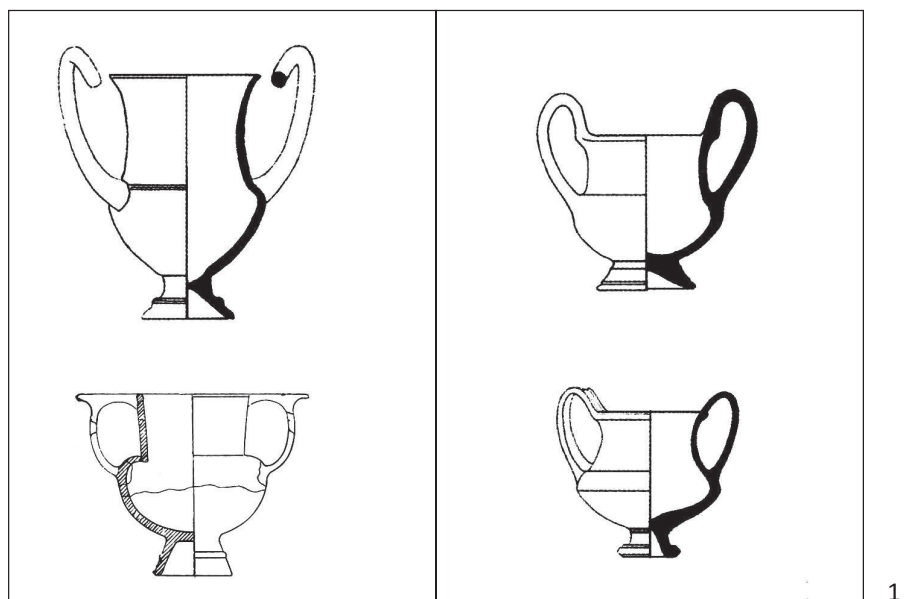
Site	Context	Dating	Type of vessel	Type of decoration	Bibliography	Observations
Balatonederics	funerary	LT C1	kantharos type 2	anthropomorphic handles, series 2	Horváth 1987, 66–68, fig. 2/3.	grave with weapons
Belgrade-Karaburma	funerary (M 34)	LT C1	kantharos type 1	anthropomorphic handles, series 2 (?)	Todorović 1972, 20, pl. XIV/1, LII/1.	used as urn
Blandiana	funerary	LT C1	kantharos type 3	anthropomorphic handles, series 1 + 2	Aldea–Ciugudean 1985, 37, fig. 1/1, 2/1, 3/1–2, 4/1–2; Rustoiu 1999, 189–190; 2008a, 35, fig. 15.	grave with weapons
Csepel	funerary	LT C1 (?)	kantharos type 3	anthropomorphic handles, series 1	Kincsek 2005	
Deta	Funerary (?)	LT C1 (?)	kantharos (?)	anthropomorphic head on a handle, series 2 (?)	Milleker 1905, 90; 1906, 31; Márton 1933, 79, fig. 20; Rustoiu–Egri 2010, pl. 19/4; 2011, fig. 23/4.	
Kakasd	funerary (?)	LT C1 (?)	kantharos type 2	one anthropomorphic handle, series 1	Szabó 1972, 385, pl. XXXVI/1, 3.	
Kósd	funerary (M 42)	LT C1 (?)	bowl with handle	anthropomorphic handle, series 1	Szabó 1972, 386, pl. XXXVI/2.	
Kósd	funerary (?)	LT C1 (?)	beaker	anthropomorphic handle, series 1	Szabó 1972, 386, pl. XXXVIII/3–4.	
Kőröszegapáti	funerary	LT C1 (?)	beaker	anthropomorphic handle, series 2	Nepper 1976, 24, fig. 22–23.	
Levice	funerary	LT C1	kantharos type 3	anthropomorphic handles series 1	Samuel 2007; Bujna 2005, III (title page); inf. G. Březinova.	
Novo mesto	funerary (M 40)	LT C1	kantharos type 3	zoomorphic handles and human masks on the body	Knez–Szabó 1980–1981, 82–83, fig. 1–6.	
Nyékldháza	settlement	LT C1	kantharos (?) type 3	anthropomorphic handle, series 1	Hellebrandt 2006, 105–106, fig. 4–5.	
Rozvány	funerary (?)	?	kantharos type 3	anthropomorphic handle, series 1	Szabó 1972, 386, pl. XXXVIII/2; Knez–Szabó 1980–1981, 85, fig. 11.	
Tiszafüred-Morotvapat	settlement	LT C2	pseudo-kernos	human masks oriented towards the interior	Kriveczky 1991; Szabó 1998, 67–68, fig. 66; 2003, 31, fig. 7–8; Kull 1997, 358–359, fig. 76/1–2.	
Zalakomár	settlement	LT C1	kantharos type 3	anthropomorphic handles, series 2	Horváth 2008, 113–114, fig. 2–7.	



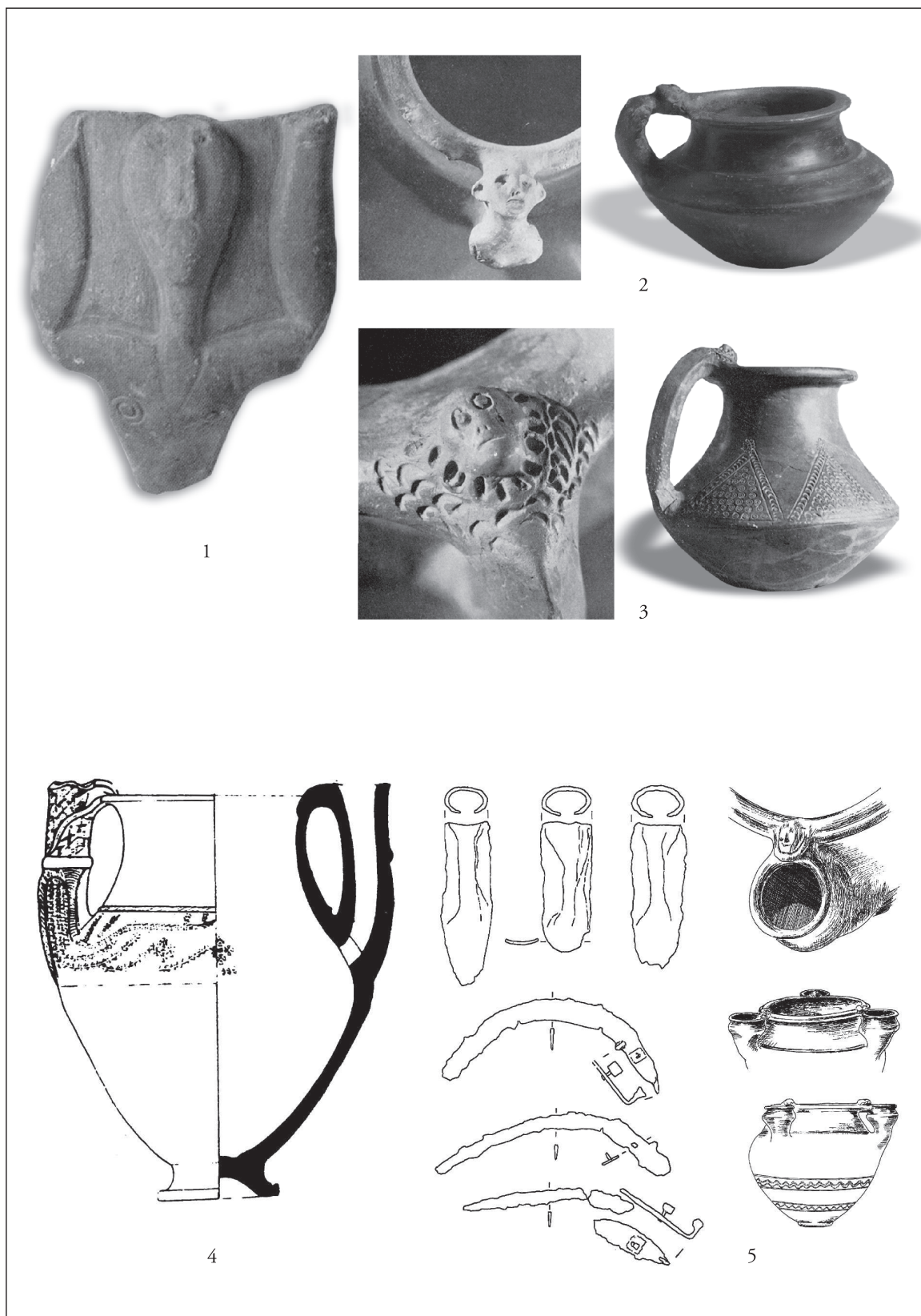
Pl. I. Location of the site (destroyed today) from which the ceramic human head from Denta was recovered (Google Earth image).



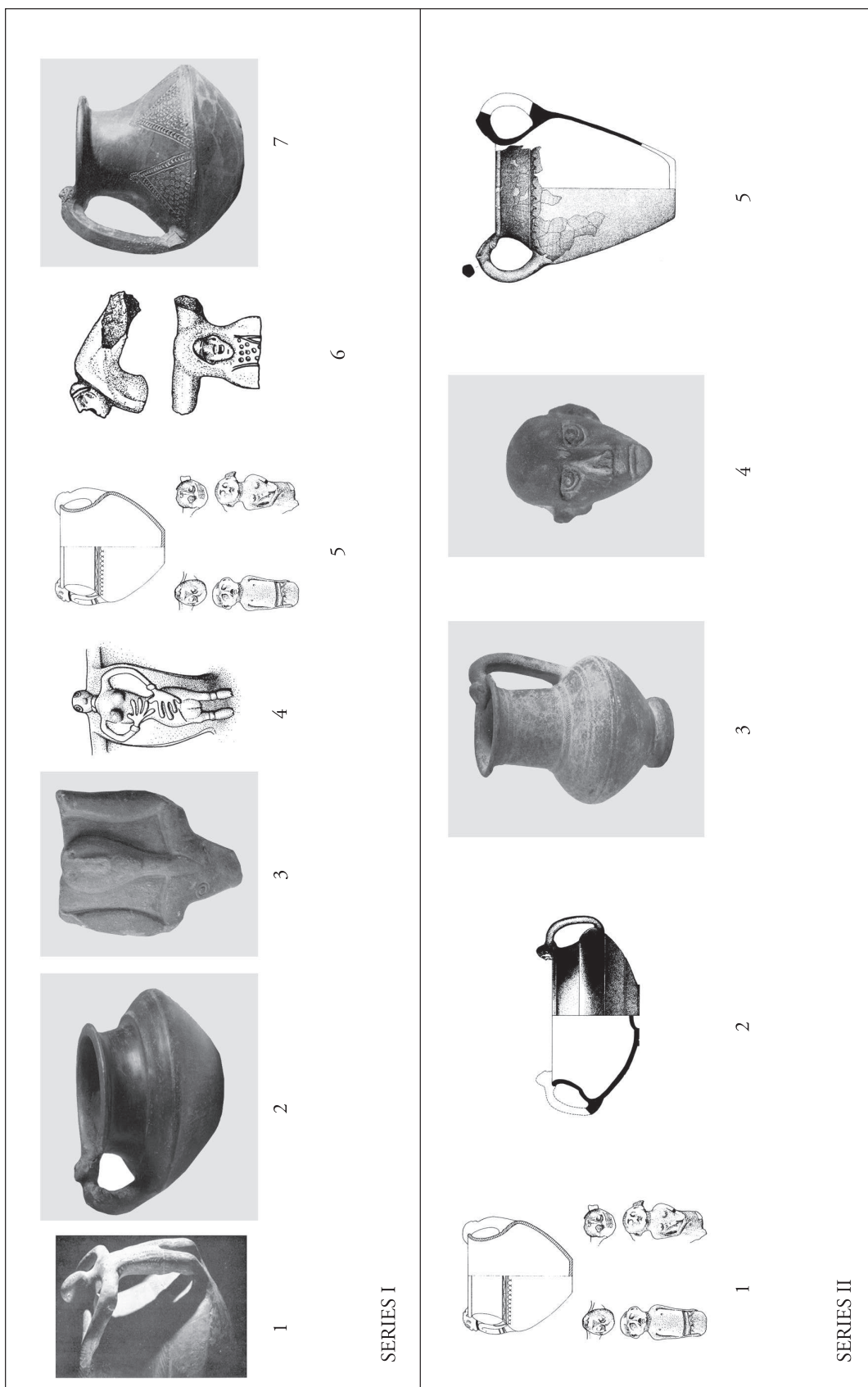
Pl. II. 1. Human head from Deta. Museum of Vršac – Inv. No. 13056 (photo F. Medeleț); 2. Gold pendant. Museum of Schumen (after Rustoiu 2008a; 2008b. Photo M. Tonkova); 3. Janus-like stone heads. Roquepertuse (after Megaw-Megaw 2001); 4. Bronze fittings of a wooden vessel. Brno-Maloměřice (after Meduna-Peškař 1992); 5. Limestone human head from Ciulnița (after Teleagă 2008b).



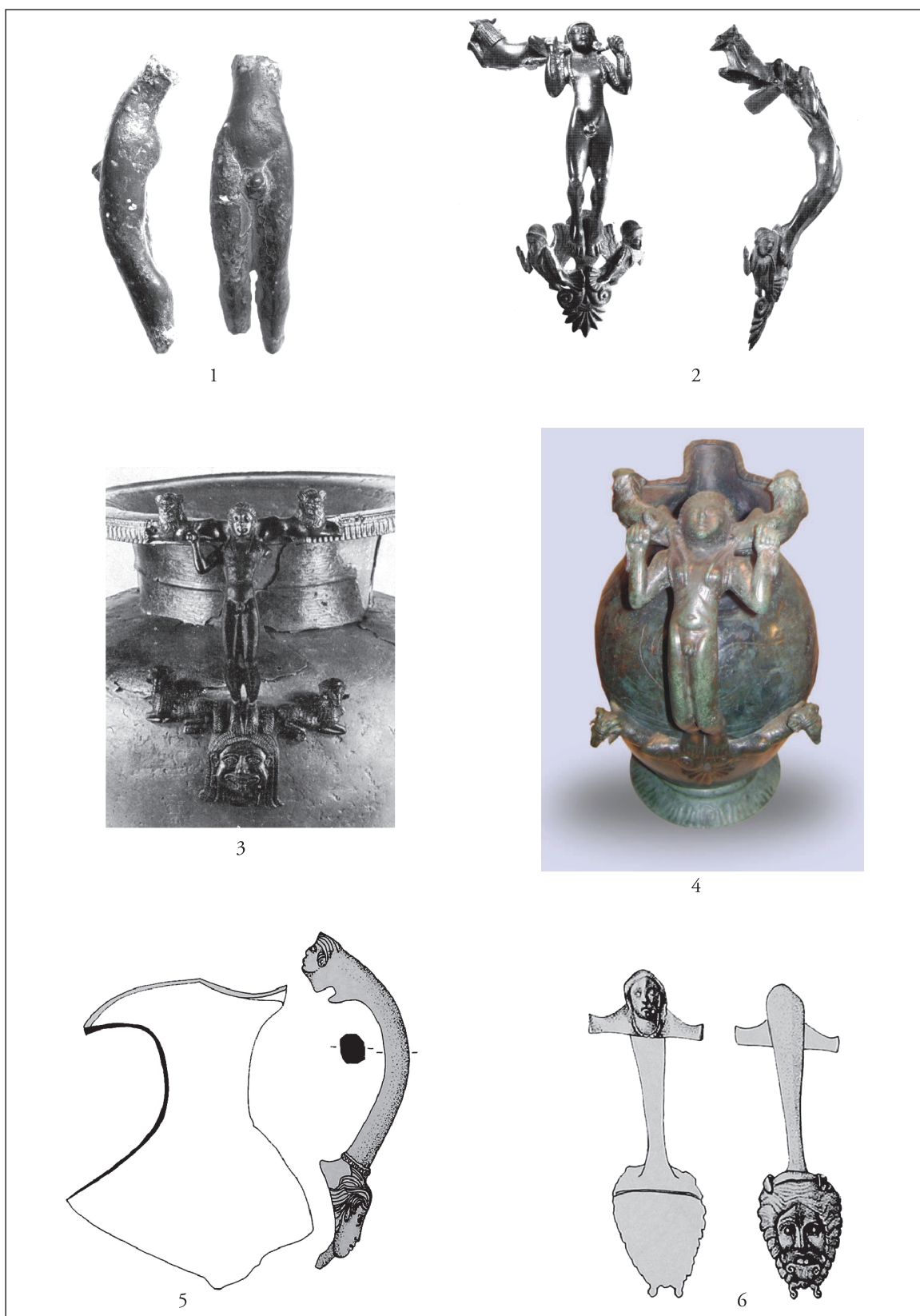
Pl. III. Typology of the Danubian kantharoi: 1. imitations of Hellenistic forms; 2. kantharoi deriving from local bowls; 3. kantharoi deriving from local tall vessels (after Rustoiu-Egri 2010; 2011).



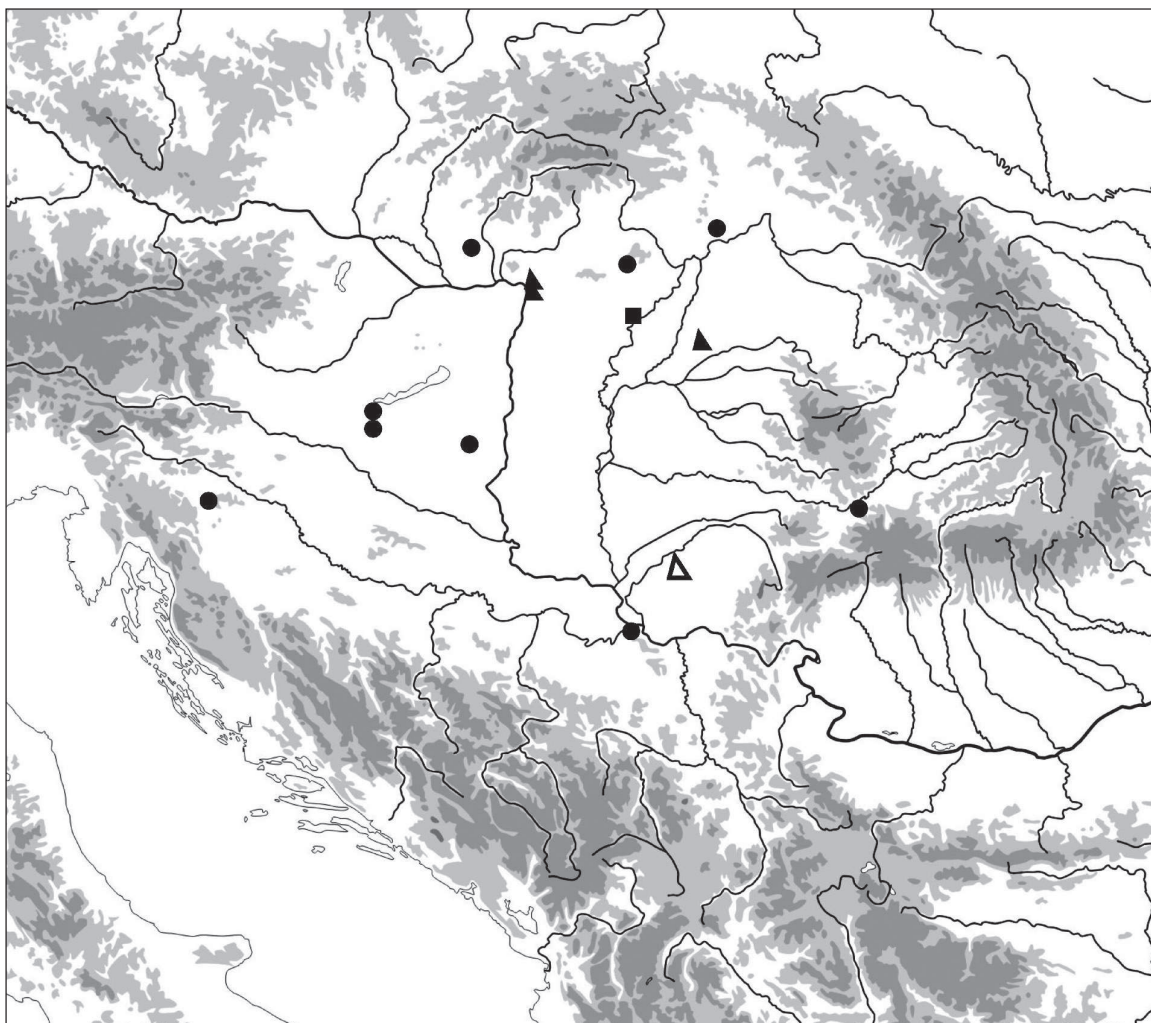
Pl. IV. 1. Fragmentary handle of a kantharos from Rozvány (after Szabó 1998); 2-3. Beakers from Kósd (after Szabó 1972); 4. Kantharos from the grave no. 34 at Belgrade-Karaburma (after Todorović 1972); 5. Iron tools and pseudo-kernos from Tiszafüred-Morotvaparát (after Kull 1997).



Pl. V. Typological series of the anthropomorphic decorations on vessels. Series no. I: 1. Kakasd; 2. Kósd; 3. Rozvány; 4. Levice; 5. Blandiana; 6. Nyékládháza; 7. Kósd. Series no. II: 1. Blandiana; 2. Balatonederics; 3. Körösszegapáti; 4. Dera; 5. Zalakomár (after Rustoiu-Egri 2010; 2011).



Pl. VI. Greek vessels and an Etruscan pitcher (4) with anthropomorphic elements: handles of kouros type (1-4); handles with human masks (5-6). 1. Spain-Cuenca Province; 2. Malaga (both after Graells i Fabregat 2008); 3. Novi Pazar (after Popović et alii 1969); 4. San Ginesio (Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe; photo A. Rustoiu); 5. Vălçitrăn; 6. Vărbica (both after Teleagă 2008b). Different scales.



Pl. VII. Distribution map of the vessels with anthropomorphic decoration: kantharoi (black dots); vessels with one handle (black triangles); pseudo-kernos (square); vessel from Deta (white triangle).