

Auxiliary belt Thracian /Roman I century A.D. Karanovo model.

I've been inspired by finds from Village Karanovo -Municipality of Nova Zagora.Thracian Tomb in Bulgaria's archeological complex "East Hill" I century A.D. Including the Thracian Auxiliary belt from the red leather (partially preserved leather) with a big double buckle (which is very,very rarely) and unique plates applications. There is one more very similar buckle and it is from the same region.

This is the only one complete auxiliary Roman warrior belt proven accurate on archaeological sites and exactly dated (I century A.D.) with the numismatic material .The latest coin is a Aureus from Imp.Tiberivs. The other coins are silver republican denarius.



This finding will change the standards of the Roman re-enacting on the Thracian auxiliary. The findings are from ritual burial of an aristocrat and military chief of the early I century AD. which was laid in the mound with his chariot, horses, military equipment and unique glassware. The total number of the findings is 72 items.



In the excavation and restoration were involved archaeologist Vesselin Ignatov, art restorer Silvia Borisova, Evgeni Dimitrov - Chairman of Association "Cultural Project", Prof. Barbara Ferdehirt, Markus Scholz of the Roman-German Museum (Mainz,)

Nice video but only on Bulgarian language.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VV4XzIYDVOA>

For my research I got many useful tips from publication "Eine reiche Bestattung eines thrakischen Aristokraten aus dem 1. Jh.n.Chr. bei Karanovo" Veselin IGNATOV / Konstantin GOSPODINOV

Waxy work on this model was difficult, although at first sight it seemed to be not a complex project. Particularly difficult me the four swan heads.



Mythology here is leading. Swan is a symbol of Zeus.

Swan is one of Zeus favorite birds in which he incarnates (mythological stories).

As a comparison our rings replica with gorgeous image which depicts mythological story of Leda and the Swan (reincarnate Zeus).The original that inspire us is from Thessaly, 2nd c. BC. Benaki Museum, Athens.



http://legio-iii-scythica.com/images/th_pdf/Ritual_objects_rings_and_buckles.pdf

But let's get back to the creative waxwork topic:



Nice publication on this topic but only on Bulgarian language.

<http://www.blitz.bg/news/article/114496...>

The buckles are processed and ready for hammering on silver wires with inlay technology.



This picture shows better reverse corner that must be formed. Otherwise, the silver material will not be fixed well. Therefore so many silver missing from the antique original models. Eyes also are carved.

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Finally after lot of work buckle is assembled.



Silver was hammering in the brass channels.



“Watch discs” are mounted on the axle! The similarity with the contemporary detail is big. This are the first “watch disc” that I’ve seen for setting the time and date on antique buckle!





A prepared set of auxiliary belt I century A.D. ready for assembly.



From archaeological finds with which I met personally by my visit to the exhibition Village Karanovo mound burial I concluded that belts plate applications are most likely 6 pieces- 2 big (different from each other) and 4 small in size. With additional 3 rivets in the rear end of the belt. A metal hoop is also described to whole this set, this is something specific as the whole belt itself is unique.



All plates from this model ,for this belt have a carved channel in the frame. Which I was able to recreate in my latest kits. I saw this specificity once I had the opportunity to see the originals from very close distance

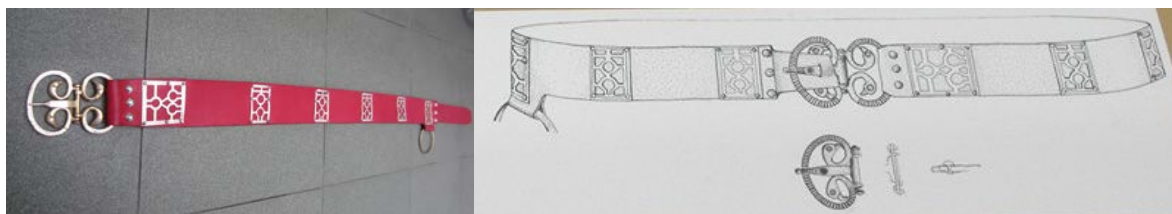


So that all plates should have parallel lines. Hit with a sharp cutter in length of 4th sides on each plate.

The tongue of the buckle I'm twisted like the original for a better lock.



I prepare for our club needs for our upcoming festival events several new belt peces of this Auxiliary Thracian belt I century A.D. All these models are with small differences in the assembly because I found in internet more (new) information. Based on the reconstruction which is refracted through the eyes of scientists.



As you can see plate (over the brass ring) must be larger in size than other plates. So it is by the information from the sketch! Currently I am not familiar with the detail with the idea of this ring.. But at this stage these are drawings with which I will comply. I have several such belt assembled with a different configuration of the plates and ring brass. But they all follow this sketch.



Backside and method of attachment.



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Of course the belt are proven as a very handy in action In our festival events in Römerfest Augusta Raurica Switzerland :



As well as in Britain in the Thracian auxiliary reenacting troops there:



and in ALBA IULIA APVLV Romania

Roman Festival Apulum APVLVM ROMAN FESTIVAL (28,29,30 April 2017)



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http://legio-iii-scythica.com/images/roman_pdf/Auxiliary_belt_Thracian_Roman_Chattalka.pdf

Surely these two belts models were distributed and well known among Thracian Auxiliary for this period. Given that the Thracian cohorts and cavalry Ala has been placed on all limes of the Roman Empire. Also inside the empire by performing gendarmerie functions on roads, castels, and other security points. So that these two models are very suitable to be used in the Thracian renaissance in events in all over Europe.