



**The Carpathian Basin of the 9th c. in the aims and goals of the First Bulgarian State. Overview of some newly published hypotheses and remarks**

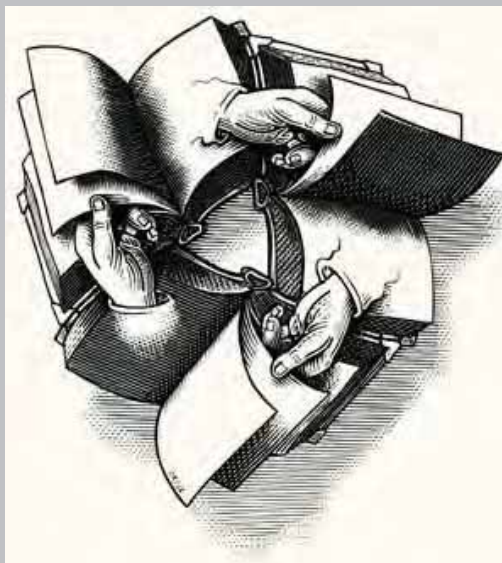
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The main question of the research of the presence of the I. Bulgarian State in the Carpathian Basin of the 9th c. was and is its territorial extension.

Three solutions were formulated:

1. Optimistic approach
2. Modest approach
3. Precautious approach



## The optimistic approach



(from: Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simeon\\_I\\_of\\_Bulgaria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simeon_I_of_Bulgaria))

## The formulation of the optimistic approach



Melich János  
(1872-1963)  
**A honfoglalás kori Magyarország.**  
Budapest, 1929.

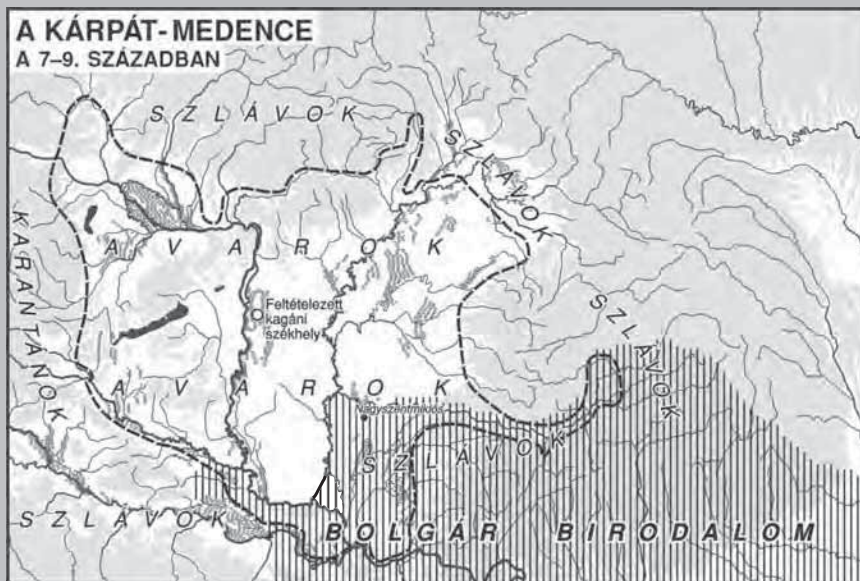


Vasil Nikolov Zlatarski  
(1866-1935)  
**История на Българската държава през сръднитѣ вѣкове.**  
София 1918

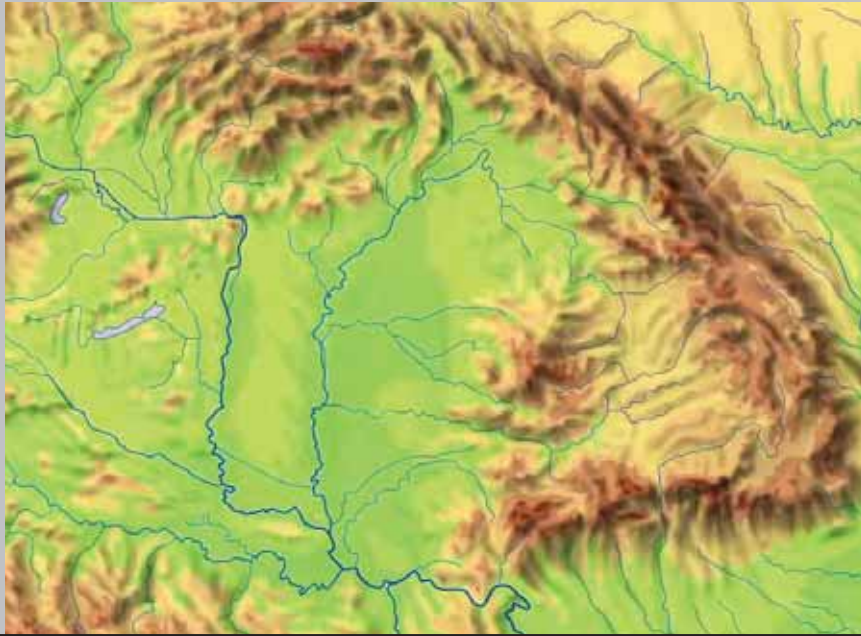
Localisation of Bulgarian power centres according to the linguistical analysis of the toponimy



The modest approach



## The precautionary approach



## Konstantin Josef Jireček (1854-1918)

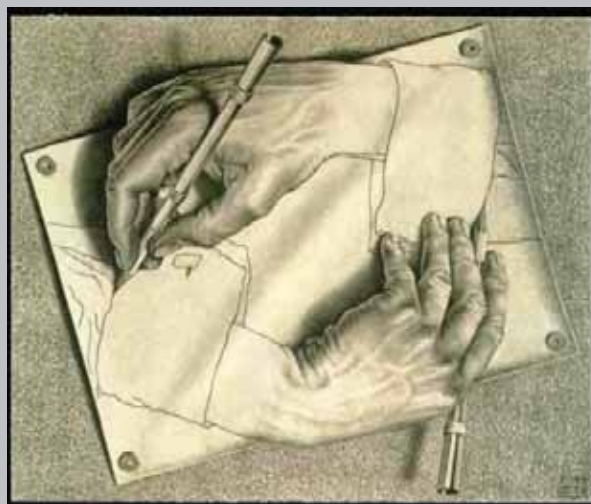


[http://openlibrary.org/authors/OL159611A/Josef\\_Konstantin\\_Jireček](http://openlibrary.org/authors/OL159611A/Josef_Konstantin_Jireček)



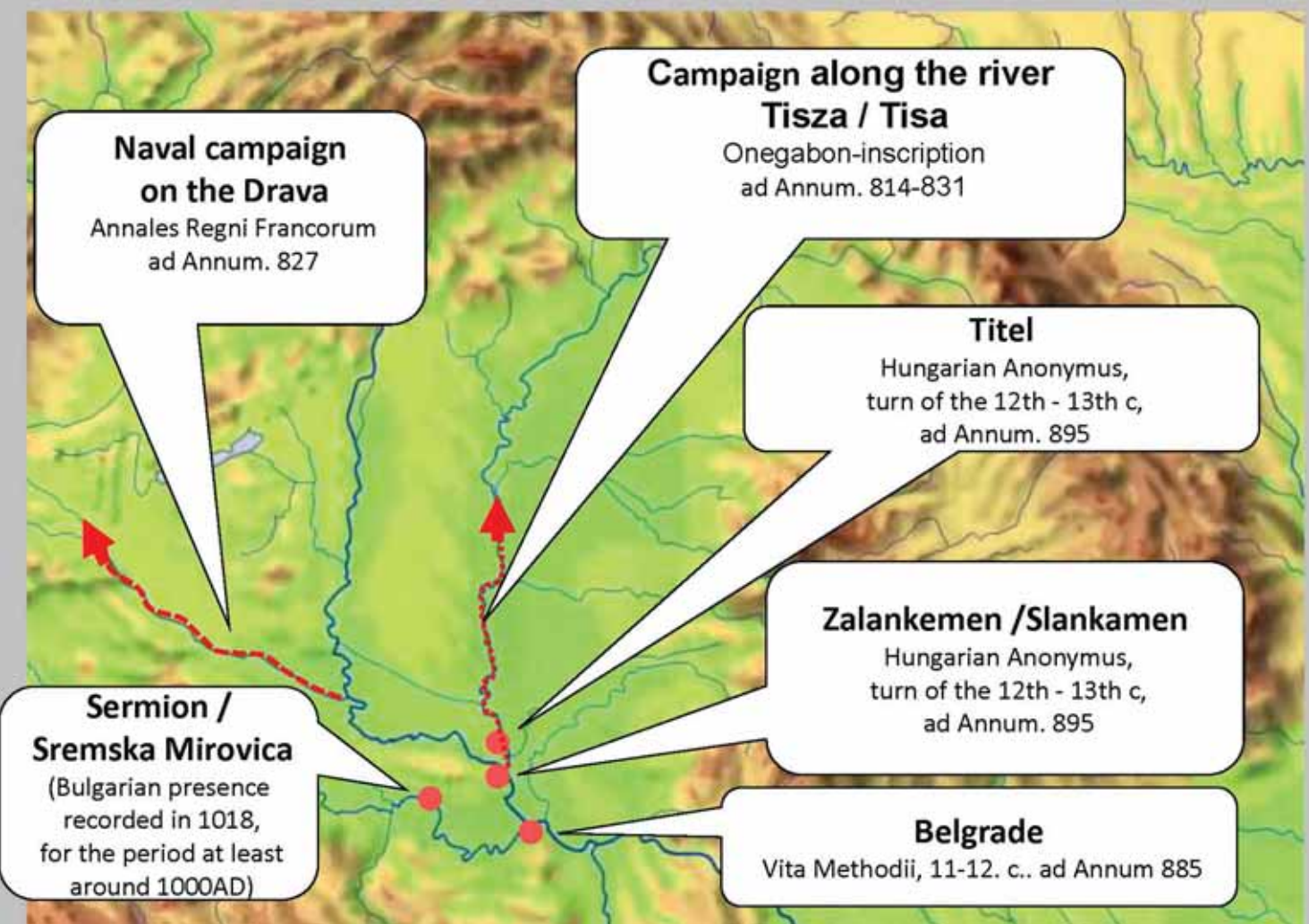
Reprint, paperback 2010  
<http://www.amazon.com/Geschichte-Der-Bulgaren-German-Edition/dp/114302091X>

The testimony of the written sources in the analysis of the territorial extension of the I. Bulgarian state in the 9th c. AD



(Maurits Cornelis Escher: Drawing hands (1948))

## Localisation of Bulgarian power centres and field campaigns in the Carpathian basin, attested in written sources



## The Carpathian Basin in the 9th century according to István Bóna



The localisation of Bulgarian power centres and field campaigns attested in written sources underlines the importance of the rivers



The testimony of the archaeological material in the analysis of the territorial extension of the I. Bulgarian state in the 9th c. AD



*Sculpting hands*

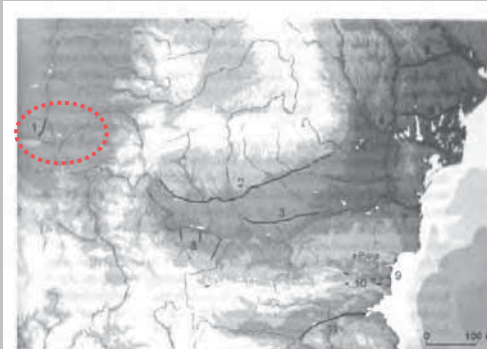
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Josh Sommers, 'Sculpturing hands', hommage a M. C. Escher

Southern parts of Transylvania



## Southern parts of Transylvania

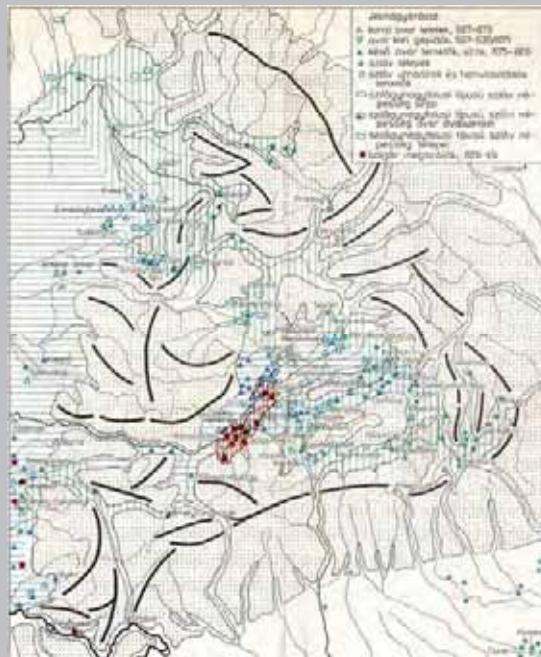


(From Uwe FIEDLER, "Bulgars in the Lower Danube region. A survey of the archaeological evidence and of the state of current research," in *The Other Europe in the Middle Ages. Avars, Bulgars, Khazars, and Cumans*, ed. by Florin Curta (Leiden/Boston, 2008), pp. 151-236 , fig. 1, 2,)

## Southern parts of Transylvania

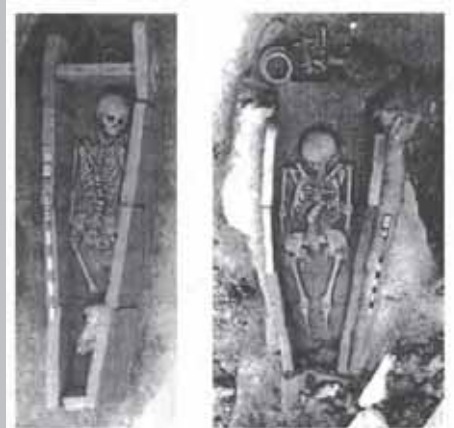
Main sites:

- Alba Iulia / Gyulafehérvár / Българград
- Blandiana / Maroskarna – Теліград
- Ciumburd /Csombord
- Sebeş / Szászsebes



(From BÓNA István: Daciától Erdőlvéig. A népvándorlás kora Erdélyben (271-896). Erdély a magyar honfoglalás és államalapítás korában. In: Erdély története I. Bp.1988, 107-234.)

**Alba Iulia / Gyula-  
fehérvár – Stația de  
salvare**



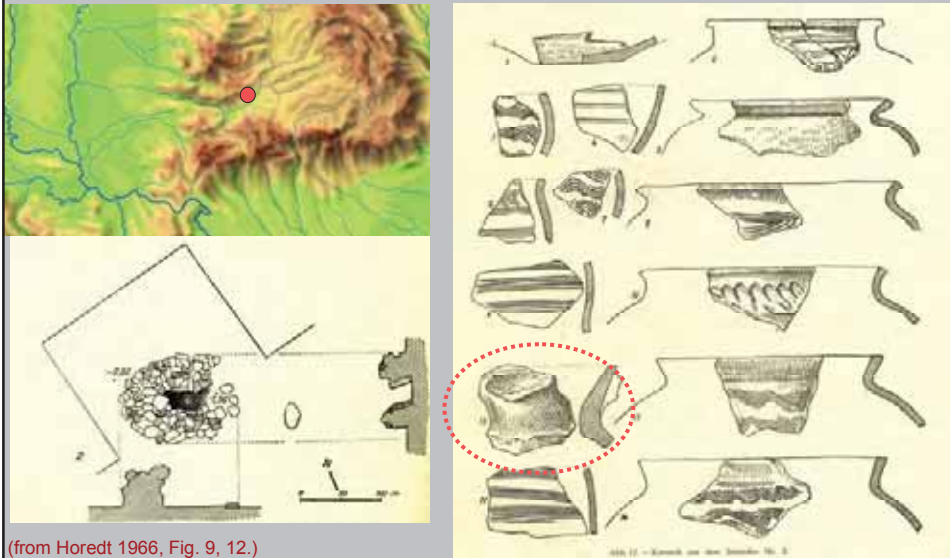
(H. CIUGUDEAN – A. DRAGOTĂ: *Civilizația medievală timpurie din Transilvania: rit și ritual funerar (secolele IX - XI)*. Catalogul expoziției, Alba Iulia, 2002.)

**Findings from the cemeteries of  
Alba Iulia – Stația de salvare and  
Blandiana – Țeligrad**



(From Ciugudean – Pinter – Rustoiu 2006, 107, 110.)

The site of Blandiana / Maroskarna – A.  
The first settlement with Bulgarian like ceramics in Southern Transylvania

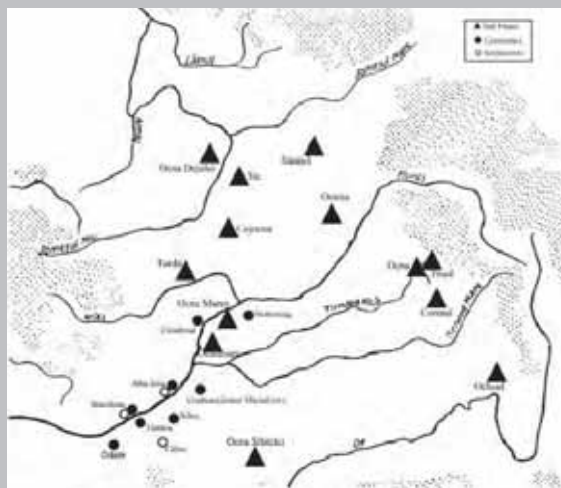


(from Horedt 1966, Fig. 9, 12.)

Name of the group and the purpose of its existence

Group Blandiana A  
Alba Iulia – Blandiana  
Alba Iulia – Ciumbrud  
Alba Iulia – Dridu

Proposal for its Bulgarian name according to the terms of the historical geography:  
Група Бълград – Цълград



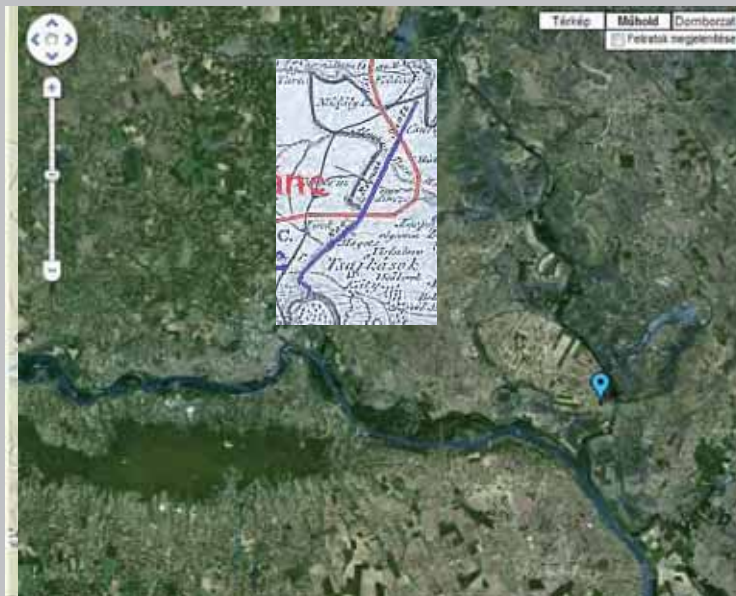
MADGEARU, Alexandru: *Salt Trade and Warfare: The Rise of Romanian-Slavic Military Organization in Early Medieval Transylvania*; in: Curta, Florin (Editor): *East Central and Eastern Europe in the Early Middle Ages*; The University of Michigan Press, 2005, fig 3.1, 3.5

Central and southern parts of the Carpathian Basin

(The central part of the Great Plain, as well as Bácska / Bačka / Бачка / Batschka, Bánát / Banat / Банат and Szerémség / Srijem / Срем / Срям / Sirmien)

Several doubtful sites or findings already interpreted in Early Bulgarian context

Bácskai Nagy- és Kissánc / Rimski Šančevi / Römerschantze  
(Earthen rampart in southeastern Bačka)



Bácskai Nagy- illetve Kissánc  
/ Rimski Šančevi /  
Römerschantze



Doubtful chronological and cultural context: there were till present no systematic archaeological campaigns to solve the time-scale of the creation of this rampart. There are some data from rescue excavations and field surveys mainly from the beginning of the 20th c. This rampart should has been built after the 3-4th c. and before the 13th c. AD.

The treasure of Nagyszentmiklós / Sânnicolau Mare (Ru.)



Doubtful context: the experts in Central and Eastern Europe are usually treating this treasure as a part of the Avar heritage which was hidden on the turn of the 8th-9th c. in the times when the Avar Khaganate was destroyed by the military campaigns of the Franks and Bulgars

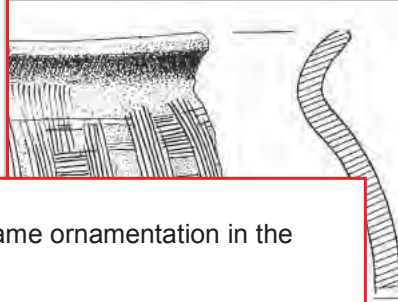
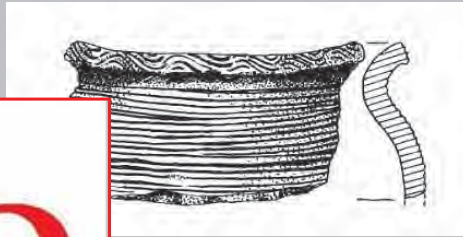
(Source: Lessing archive)

The ceramic shards from Ópusztaszer – Szermonostora



Doubtful context and chronology: till present no feature of the 9th c. was found, all these shards were found in secondary position.

The shards from Debrecen  
– Baromvásártér and  
Egyek – Külsőohat –  
Kissziget

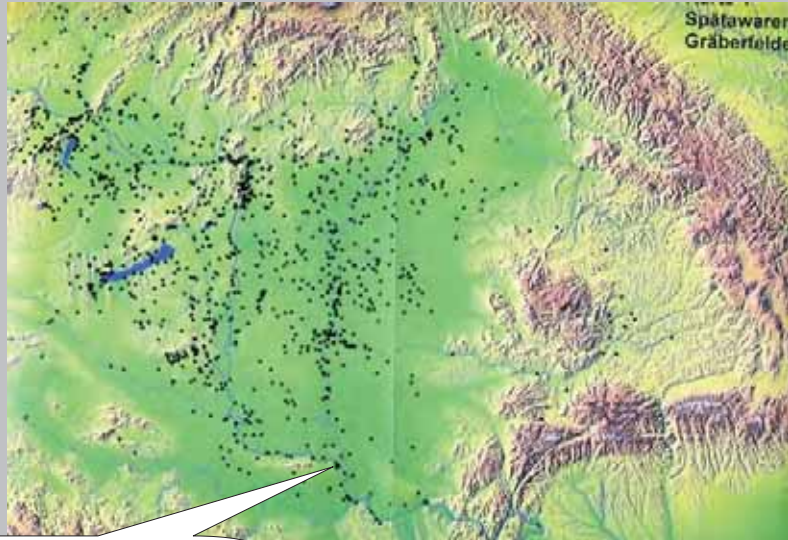


Duobtful context: one can find shards with same ornamentation in the material of the Late Avar Age Settlements

In the Carpathian basin is the archaeology of cemeteries and settlements of the 2nd part of the Migration Era is marked by the fact, that the sites of the Late Avar Phase have often their continuation in the 9th c. There are only few traces pointing on an appearance of newly settled groups. This trend is especially characteristic for the Southern of the Carpathian basin (see the Late Avar cemeteries of Horgoš / Horgos – Ördöglyuk, Čelarevo / Dunacséb – Ciglana, Novi Slankamen – Čarevci, etc.)

According to the collected archaeological material of the 8-9th c., and concerning the territory of the Great Plain one may count only with a very limited immigration of groups from Balkan peninsula bearing new types of settlements or cemeteries.

The territorial spread of the late Avar cemeteries in the Carpathian Basin



Novi Slankamen – Čarevci (Ser.)

(From: Archäologische Denkmäler der Awarenzeit in Mitteleuropa. Ed. Szentpéteri J. Bp. 2002.)

Novi Slankamen – Čarevci (Ser.)



Grave Nr. 33.



Grave Nr. 20.



Grave Nr. 86.

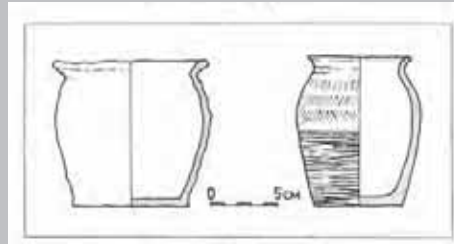
(From Јанковић, Ђ.: Чаревци, Нови Сланкамен, гробље IX столећа, Споменица Јована Ковачевића, ур. Р. Бунарџић – Ж.Микић, Београд, 97-108.



Novi Slankamen  
– Čarevci (Ser.)



Grave Nr.  
137.



Graves Nr. 102, 93.



Grave Nr.  
131.

Are there archaeological remains from the Bulgarian power centres of the 9th c. in the southern parts of the Carpathian Basin?

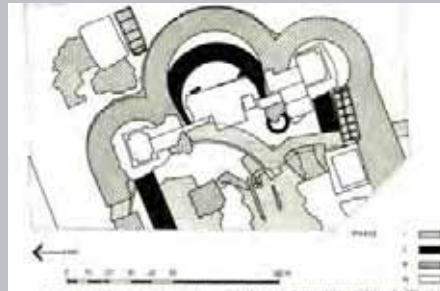


**Sirmium/Sermion**  
(=Szerémvár,  
Sremska Mitrovica,  
Mitrowitz,  
Srb. Vojvodina)



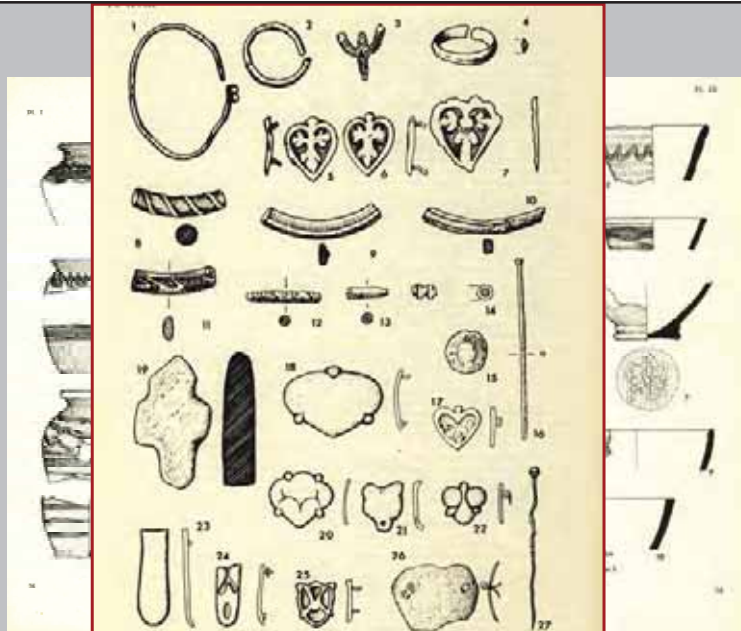
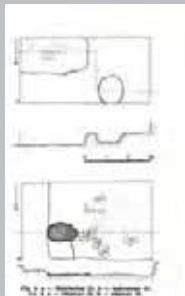
Monastery of  
St. Demetrius

Monastery of  
St. Ireneus



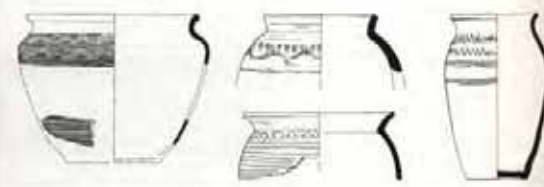
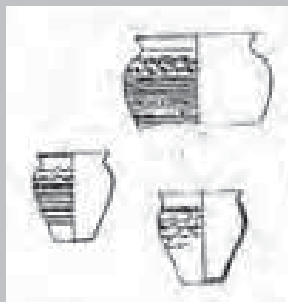
(From: **ERCEGOVIĆ-PAVLOVIĆ, S.**: Rimske i srednjovekovne nekropole u Mačvanskoj Mitrovici. (Les necropoles romaines et medievales de Mačvanska Mitrovica.) Sirmium 12, Beograd 1980. )

Mačvanska  
Mitrovica –  
Zidine, (Srb.,  
Vojvodina)



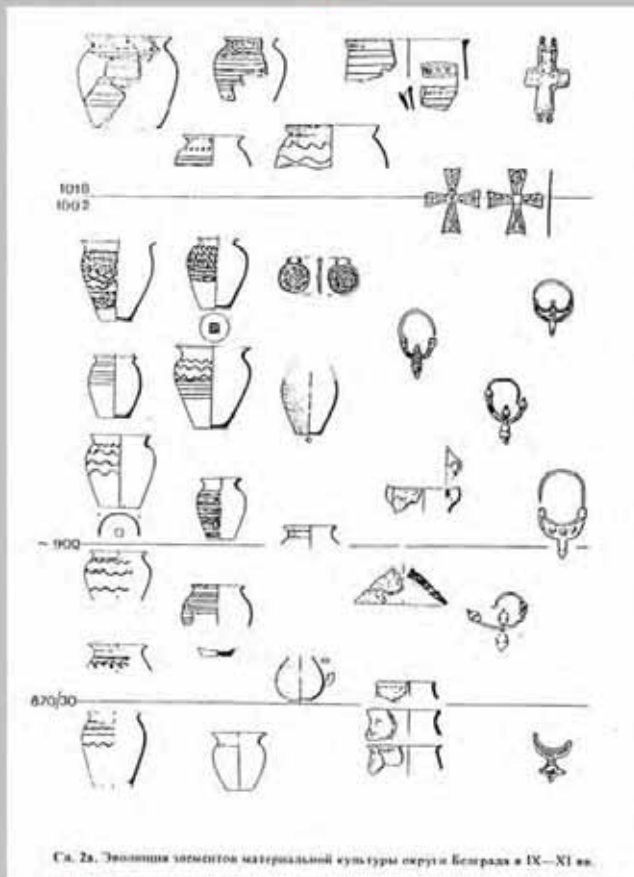
(From: **MINIĆ, D.**: Srednjovekovno naselje u Mačvanskoj Mitrovici. (Le site d'habitation médiéval de Mačvanska Mitrovica.) Sirmium 11, Beograd 1980. )

Belgrad (Beograd, Nándorfehérvár, Belgrád, Srb.)



(Popović, M.: Beogradska tvrđava, Bgd, 2006, fig. 19, 20.)

## Classification of 9-11th c. archaeological artefacts from Belgrade and its surroundings



**M. JANKOVIĆ:** Beograd i njegova okolina od IX do XI veka. In: Trudy VI Meždunarodnogo Kongressa slavjanskoj arheologii. Tom 1: Problemy slavjanskoj arheologii, str. 42-52, Moskva 1997.  
<http://www.rastko.rs/arheologija/djankovic/mjankovic-beograd.html>

## Conclusions

1. The firm data from written sources are underlining the possibility of the Bulgarian rule in the southern part of the Great Plain and in Southern Transylvania as well.
2. The archaeological evidence of the Bulgarian rule is only in Southern Transylvania firmly attestable.
3. Concerning the southern parts of the Great Plain there are several finding units with doubtful Bulgarian interpretation. The appearance of new findings is to be expected mainly from Vojvodina (=Northern Serbia) and Belgrade itself.



**Thank you for your kind attention!**