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ROMAN SILVER TABLEWARE SET: THE DUAL PURPOSE VESSELS AND INSTRUMENTS FROM SERBIA

Abstract: Some forms of Roman silver dishes for eating and drinking, as well as accompanying furniture, thanks to their specific shape, had a dual purpose in the context of table services. Finds from sites in Serbia show that this phenomenon was known from the beginning of the 1st to the end of the 4th century. In the group of finds from Jabučje, dated into the period during the reign of Octavian Augustus, egg containers were used for serving them, but when heated up to 180 degrees, they could also have been used as coasters on which to place other containers. Spoons from this group of finds (type *cochlearia*) were in use throughout the 1st century and later. During meals, they were used for eating shellfish and eggs. The handle with a pointed tip was used to remove snails and clams from their shells, but also to break the eggshell, and the rounded receptacle was used for eating eggs. Inventories of Late Antique silver tableware from western provinces often include instruments whose one, heart-shaped end was adapted for cleaning teeth, and the other for cleaning ears, having the shape of a small spatula. One instrument of this type from an unknown location in Serbia is kept at the National Museum of Serbia. Chalices on a high foot with lids and conical handles belong to a table service from *Viminacium*, dated into the period between the end of 4th and the very beginning of the 5th century. Uncovered, they were used for drinking wine or water, and when covered, they were used to preserve the heat of semi-liquid dishes and sauces. The lids, placed on the handles, could have been used as shallow bowls.

Key words: Roman period, silver tableware, dual purpose vessels and instruments, Jabučje, *Viminacium*

Some forms of Roman silver dishes for eating and drinking, as well as accompanying furniture, thanks to their specific shape, had a dual purpose in the context of table services. Finds from sites in Serbia show that this phenomenon was known from the beginning of the 1st to the end of the 4th century. A good example is provided by some silver vessels belonging to a group of finds discovered in the area of the village of

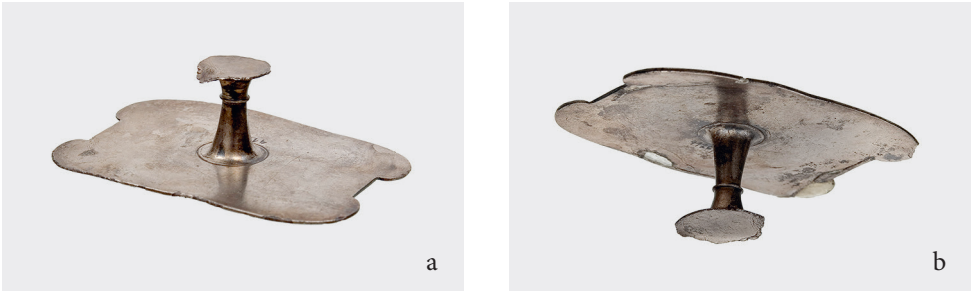


Fig. 1 Egg cup / pedestal: a) used as an egg cup; b) turned 180 degrees, to be used as a pedestal, Jabučje, first half of the 1st century (Documentation of the National Museum of Serbia)

Сл. 1 Посуда за јаја / подметач: а) употребљена као посуда за јаја; b) окренута за 180 степени да би била употребљена као подметач, Јабучје, прва половина I века (документација Народног музеја Србије)

Jabučje (north-western Serbia, about 70 km south-west of Belgrade) during the extraction of gravel in the alluvium of the Kolubara's right riverbank. The National Museum of Serbia bought the found silver items from the finders in 1972 and 1974. The origin of the silver vessels from this assemblage is dated into the 1st century, the largest number of them during the reign of Octavian Augustus (Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 10, 163–164). The objects found represent parts of Roman table service set (*ministerium*), although the composition of the set is incomplete, and the ancient definition of the contents of the *ministerium* is not known (Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 126–128). For the topic discussed here, the most interesting items found at Jabučje are four vessels of a specific shape, generally interpreted as having a dual purpose; one, as egg cups and the other – as small pedestals for displaying vessels. Small in size, they consist of a flat quadrangular base, rounded at the corners and notched on the shorter sides. In the middle, a tubular bed was added in the form of two hemmed cups, joined by their narrow sides and separated by a small ring, and on the top there is a cup (the receptacle in which the egg would be placed), which cannot be described more precisely since none of these vessels has been completely preserved (fig. 1). However, it can be concluded that the cup was spherical/ellipsoidal in shape, with an opening with blunt edges to allow the vessel, turned 180 degrees, to serve as a pedestal for some other element of tableware set. Confirmation of the dual purpose of these vessels is provided by an example from Boscoreale, the back of the base of which is decorated with palmettes, showing that this side was also supposed to be visible (Héron de Villefosse 1899: 102). Analogous objects for the egg cups from Jabučje appear at three other sites, in *Pompeii* and its immediate surroundings: in the *balneum* of the Sarno thermal baths (Guzzo 2006: 134, n° 152-1), as well as in hoards from the House of Menander (Painter 2001: 71, M110–113, Pl. 24, fig. 6; Guzzo 2006: 216, n° 361–364) and from Boscoreale (Héron de Villefosse 1899: 101–102, n° 41–42, Pl. XXII, 4–5; n° 108; Baratte 1986: 25, 994). These examples show that egg cups, like other items in silver crockery sets, are most often represented in groups of four. Only three examples are known from Boscoreale: the graffiti on the back of one of them suggest that they could easily

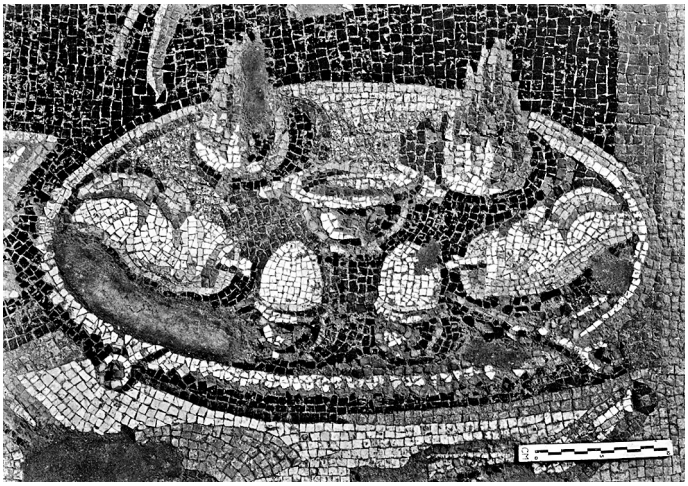


Fig. 2 Mosaic *From the set table*, House of the Buffet Supper, Antioch 2nd–3rd century (after: Hobbs 2016: 276, fig. 411)

Сл. 2 Мозаик *Са постављеног стола*, Кућа бифеа за вечеру, Антиохија, II–III век (према: Hobbs 2016: 276, fig. 411)

fulfil their purpose even in groups of three (Héron de Villefosse 1899: 192). Represented in Pompeian silver tableware sets, these egg cups can be dated into the 1st century AD. However, the mosaic *From the set table* from Antioch, House of the Buffet Supper (Hobbs 2016: 276, fig. 411), shows that these vessels remained in use during the 2nd–3rd century (Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 80–83). This representation also shows the use of these vessels, placed on a flat surface, for the insertion of eggs (fig. 2), although there are opinions that their small spherical/ellipsoidal receptacles could also have been used for sauces and spices (Guzzo 2006: 34).

Cochlearia type of spoons, represented by three examples in the assemblage of Jabučje (fig. 3), are also shown near the egg cups on the mosaic *From the set table* from Antioch, House of the Buffet Supper. Ancient texts, sometimes very explicit, such as one of Martial's epigrams (Martial: XIV, 121),[1] but also artistic representations, make it

Fig. 3 *Cochlear*, Jabučje, first half of the 1st century (Documentation of the National Museum of Serbia)
Сл. 3 Кохлеара, Јабучје, прва половина I века (документација Народног музеја Србије)

1 *Sum cocleis habilis, sed nec minus utilis ouis. / Numquid scis, potius cur cocleare uocer? = I am handy with snails, but you are no less useful. / Do you know, rather, why I call you a spoon?*

Fig. 4 *Young man and courtesan*, banquet scene, fresco, *Herculaneum*, second half of the 1st century (Documentation of the Archaeological Museum in Naples)

Сл. 4 *Младић и куртизана*, сцена банкета, Херкуланеум, друга половина I века (документација Археолошког музеја у Напуљу)

possible to form a picture of the way these spoons were used. The handle with a pointed tip was used to remove snails and clams from their shells, but also to break eggshell, and the rounded receptacle was used for eating eggs (Petronius: 33). At the site of Augst, one *cochlear* was found with eggshell remains in the receptacle (Riha and Stern 1982: 10–11). We see spoons of this type next to goblets (fig. 4), suggesting their widespread use both on the table and in the preparation of cosmetic and pharmaceutical products. The multifunctionality of similar instruments is also confirmed by one from the Tekija hoard, which, on the opposite side from the pointed top, had a sphere on which an ellipsoid plate was applied (fig. 5a). There is an unclear relief representation on this plate (a male figure with his left arm bent on his stomach, holding a spear in his right, raised,

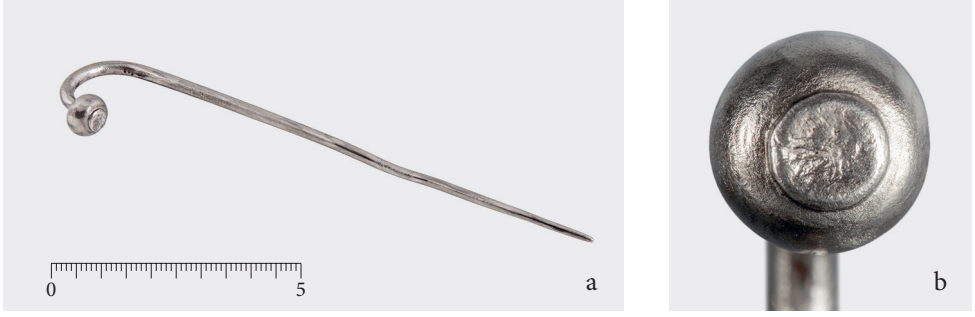


Fig. 5 Mixing and pressing instrument, Tekija, second half of the 1st century: a) appearance; b) relief representation on the top (Documentation of the National Museum of Serbia)

Сл. 5 Инструмент за мешање и пресовање хране, Текија, друга половина I века: а) изглед; b) рељефна представа на врху (документација Народног музеја Србије)

Fig. 6 *Cochlearia*, Tekija, second half of the 1st century (Documentation of the National Museum of Serbia)

Сл. 6 Кохлеаре, Текија, друга половина I века (документација Народног музеја Србије)

hand, pointing it at a running animal?, fig. 5b). Although it was originally identified as a hairpin (Mano-Zisi 1957: 27, 88, Pl. XVIII, 27), it could have been used to mix eggs or molluscs with crushed herbs or spices.

This type of small spoon is very widespread and appeared in various materials: bone, ivory, copper alloys and silver. Silver examples were very common in the 1st century, but they appeared in later periods as well. Such silver spoons were discovered in large numbers in *Pompeii* and in the cities of Campania, destroyed after the eruption of the Vesuvius volcano in 79 AD. These are hoards from the House of Menander (Painter 2001: 69, M71–78 and M79–82: 8) or from Boscoreale (Héron de Villefosse 1899: n° 88–93; Baratte 1986: 93), but we also find them a little further, e.g., in the Tivoli hoard (Oliver 1977: 98 and for 7 *cochlearia*: 109, n° 70) or the Tekija hoard (fig. 6), dated into the second half of the 1st century (Mano-Zisi 1957: n° 28–30; Popović 1994: 269–270, n° 166–168). Examples from the sites of Augst and Kaiseraugst in Switzerland, where they are particularly numerous (Riha and Stern 1982), were systematically studied, which established the existence of two series, separated by slightly different dimensions and by the method of joining the receptacle to the handle. It seems that all these spoons come from the same period, since the examples from the site of Augst, based on the archaeological context, were dated into the 1st century AD, thus obviously corresponding to the dating of the Pompeian spoons (Riha and Stern 1982: 24). Spoons of that shape remained in use even after the 1st century, only to gradually disappear in the 2nd, and then in the 3rd century and in the Late Antiquity, new types of *cochlearia* came into fashion (Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 84–87).

The composition of Roman silver tableware changed over time, so that during the Late Antiquity, forms of dual-purpose instruments and vessels appeared that were not represented in ensembles from the Early Empire period. The silver instrument, originally from an unknown site in Serbia, and kept at the National Museum of Serbia, had a working surface on both sides (fig. 7). Rectangular in shape, the instrument has a small spatula on one end, while the other is heart-shaped, with a curved sharp tip. The heart-shaped part of the instrument is decorated with an open and incised ornament. Similar dual instruments have been found on numerous sites, but their purpose has

Fig. 7 Tooth and ear cleaning instrument, unknown site in Serbia, 3rd–4th century (Documentation of the National Museum of Serbia)

Сл. 7 Инструмент за чишћење зуба и ушију, непознато налазиште у Србији, III–IV век (документација Народног музеја Србије)

remained unclear for a long time. After the finds in large hoards of silver vessels, it is been concluded that they were a part of a set of tableware and that their heart-shaped end was used for tooth cleaning, while the small spatula on the other end was used for ear cleaning (Popović 1997: 86). The utilisation of these instruments at the table was confirmed by the example from Kertch, on which the heart-shaped tip is combined with a spoon on the other end (Martin 1984: 126, Abb. 69). Judging by the example from the site of La Alcudia, the instruments for tooth and ear cleaning began to be used in the middle of the 3rd century (Martin 1984: 126, Abb. 68. 5), and were especially numerous during the 4th century, when they appeared in large tableware sets, like those of Kaiseraugst (Martin 1984: 122–123, cat. 38–40, Abb. 64–66), Hoxne treasury (Bland and Johns 1993: 28, cat. 145–153) or the site of Vienne (Baratte et al. 1990: 81–83, no. 21). The instrument for tooth and ear cleaning from the National Museum of Serbia represents the only example from the eastern parts of the Empire. Although there are no data on the finding place or the way in which this instrument was found, it could be assumed that it originated from the second half of the 3rd or the beginning of the 4th century. We do not know, unfortunately, whether this was an isolated find or it had belonged to a tableware set (Popović 1997: 87).

Five silver chalices on a foot from the National Museum of Serbia, four of which had lids (two lids are preserved today, while two went missing during the First World War) have become the subject of different approaches in solving the problem of their function and time of manufacture since their publishing in 1903. Their dating in the existing literature comprehends the time span from the year of 250 (Vassits 1903: 30) to the 5th–6th century (Кондић 1995: 184–185), and explanations of purpose vary from votive gifts to pagan gods (Vassits 1903: 28) to the liturgical vessels (Кондић 1995: 185). The chalices have been discovered in Kostolac (*Viminacium*), in a niche underneath the foundations of a building, which has never been explored. Together with the chalices, one cylindrical silver object decorated with a series of ellipsoid fields with motifs of impressed gems, and two small silver plates with representations of running animals and masks of Maenad and Satyr on the horizontal rims were also discovered (Vassits 1903: 17). These objects went missing during the evacuation of the treasures of the National Museum of Serbia in the First World War.

The chalices from *Viminacium* have hemispherical receptacles shaped as a rather deep bowl and a groove for the lid under the rim. They have a high trumpet-shaped foot with a ring-like enlargement at the top. Lids are slightly concave and have conical hoop-shaped handles (fig. 8). One of the important characteristics of these chalices is that they could be covered with lids, representing an innovation compared to early Roman tableware sets, where vessels with lids have not been recorded (Baratte et al. 2002: 45). They were almost certainly used for drinking, as they could be raised with one hand, unlike similar examples with a thicker leg. For the latter ones, two hands had to be used; because of that, they were not suitable for drinking, hence they were vessels used for storing liquid foods or sauces, and lids were used to keep their contents warm. However, taking into account that there was a groove for securing the lid under the rim of *Viminacium* chalices, the question remains open whether these vessels were also suitable for drinking or they were just used for storing warm liquid or half-liquid food (Aimone 2015: 131). On the other hand, lids of the chalices had a multifunctional character – when turned upside down and placed on their conical handles, they could have been used as coasters or shallow plates (fig. 9). The same question concerning the purpose of these chalices on a foot is asked for the analogous examples from the treasures of Carthage (Baratte et al. 2002) and Canoscio (Aimone 2015). Receptacles of these analogous chalices are somewhat deeper than those of the *Viminacium* vessels, and foots are conical and thicker in comparison with the *Viminacium* examples that are trumpet-shaped. In the hoard from *Viminacium*, there are five footed chalices with lids (only two lids are preserved) and the same number was discovered in the Carthage treasure (three examples are at the British Museum in London, one is lost and one is kept at the Louvre Museum in Paris). When it comes to chalices from *Viminaciu*m, those with preserved lids weigh 795–796 g, hence, the total weight of all five examples, with lids, would have been 3.980 g, while the total weight of chalices from Carthage, on the basis of dimensions of the examples from the British Museum, is 2.344 g and, considering the weight of the example from the Louvre, five chalices of that type would

Fig. 8 Chalice on a foot with a lid, *Viminacium*, 4th–5th century (Documentation of the National Museum of Serbia)

Сл. 8 Пехар на нози с поклопцем, Виминацијум, IV–V век (документација Народног музеја Србије)

Fig. 9 Lid: a) used to cover the chalice; b) mounted on a handle to be used as a coaster or a shallow plate; c) cursive inscription *matrona* on the inner surface, *Viminacium* 4th–5th century (Documentation of the National Museum of Serbia)

Сл. 9 Поклопац: а) употребљен да покрије пехар; b) окренут да би послужио као здела или плитак тањир; c) курзивни натпис *matrona* на унутрашњој површини, Виминацијум, IV–V век (документација Народног музеја Србије)

weigh 3.172 g (Baratte et al. 2002: 49). Hence, we came to the conclusion that chalices from *Viminacium* were heavier than those from Carthage, among which one example was bigger and heavier than the others. In the treasure from Canoscio, there were five footed chalices of various dimensions, also with lids (Aimone 2015: 82–86, no 8, 9–10, 12–13). These data suggest the conclusion that footed chalices with lids had been produced in the series of five, not always of identical size, and that a set of five chalices was part of the tableware set.

Inscription *TVR*, denoting the name of the owner of silver objects is engraved on the back side of the foot of two chalices and on the base of a cylindrical object (Vassits 1903: 24–25, no. XXI–XXIII). This identical inscription appears as a cognomen in Spanish provinces, and it also appears as a gentile name in Spanish provinces, in Gaul and in *Germania*, once in each, and four times in *Dalmatia* (*OPEL* IV: 133). This inscription could most probably be read as *Turus*. This name does not appear in the inscriptions from *Moesia*, but it was recorded four times in northern Italy, once in Spanish provinces and as many as 17 times in *Dalmatia* (*OPEL* IV: 134; Alföldy 1969: 315). On the other hand, on the back side of the foot of two chalices and one lid from this assemblage, inscription *Matrona* (fig. 9c) or *Matro* (Vassits 1903: 24, 28, nr. XVI, XVIII, XX) was engraved, leading to conclusion that those were dedications to the goddess *Dea*

Matrona, Celtic great mother of the gods venerated in parts of *Germania*, eastern Gaul and northern Italy and whose cult was spread to other parts of the Empire by the Roman army (Garmon 2008; Lindow 2001: 224). These data suggest the conclusion that the owner of the silverware set originated from the western provinces of the Empire, *Dalmatia*, northern Italy, Gaul or *Germania*. He was holding the office of a high military or civilian official in *Viminacium* and for him, silver objects served as a confirmation of his rank in the society. The treasure from *Viminacium* had most probably been hidden before the Hunnic destruction of the city in 441, when *Viminacium* was razed to the ground, as recorded in written sources (Mirković 1986: 25–27). Later material from the time of the Gothic domination and Germanic settling during Early Byzantine restoration of the city does not indicate the existence of valuable objects of Roman provenance. The dating of the silver chalices on a foot from the *Viminacium* treasury into the end of the 4th or the very beginning of the 5th century is confirmed by other objects from this find, which represent common elements of Late Roman tableware sets: small plates with a depiction of a Bacchic mask and animals in a race on the rim and a cylindrical object decorated with a gem pattern, which we assume is the shaft of a candelabrum (Popović 2020: 350–354). This type of table sets also included multifunctional chalices on a leg with concave lids.

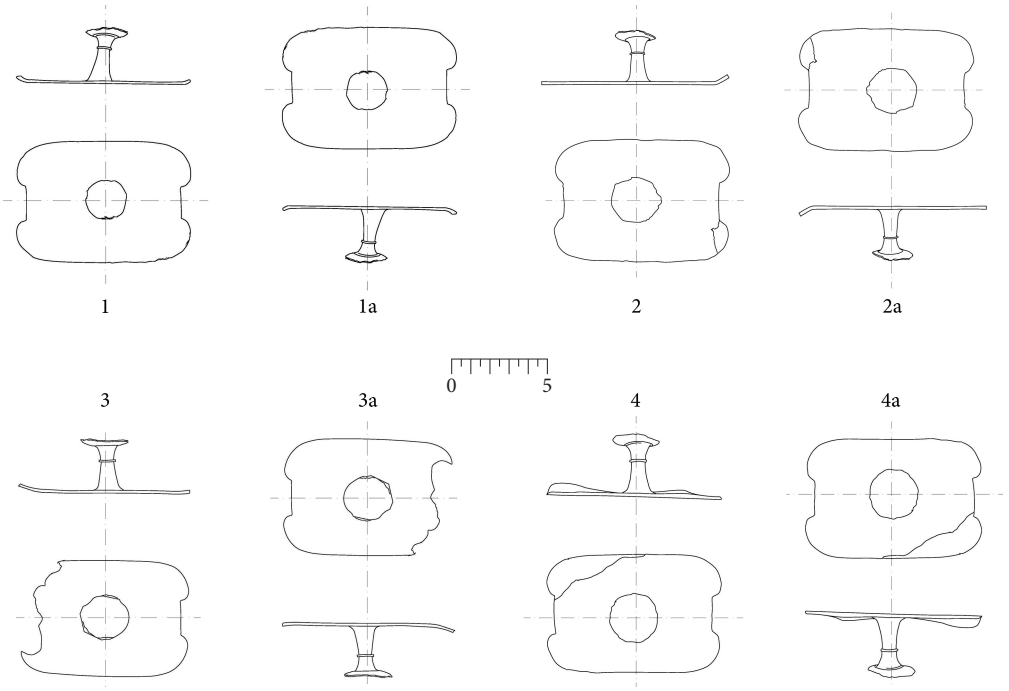
The selection of Roman silver vessels with dual purposes from Serbia shows that during the entire Roman period, craftsmen took care not only of the aesthetic impression they left, but also of functionality and practicality. This phenomenon is also known in other parts of the Empire. Early Roman egg cups / pedestals from the Pompeian finds have already been mentioned (Sarno thermal baths, House of Menander, Boscoreale, cf. *supra*). The largest number of tooth and ear cleaning instruments comes from the 4th century sites of silverware from *Gallia* and *Britannia* (Kaiseraugst, Vienne, Hoxne, cf. *supra*). Two Late Antiquity hoards, from Mildenhall (Hobbs 2016: 198–203) and from Traprain Law in Scotland (Baratte 2022: 119–123), contain objects that probably also had a dual purpose; a large goblet for holding liquid or perhaps salt from Traprain Law, the inside of which was gilded to prevent corrosion, has a base which, when the vessel was turned, could have been used to place other objects. This overview of the vessels is based on the shape that indicates their dual purpose. However, the multiple function of these vessels can also be indicated by the inscriptions on them, showing the name of the owner or the deity he revered, that is, determining the ownership and iconic role of a functional vessel. Such a case has already been observed on the mentioned chalices on a foot from *Viminacium*, whose owner was *Turus*, a worshipper of the goddess *Dea Matrona* (cf. *supra*). This is even more clearly emphasised in the case of the silver plates from the site of Branetići on the mountain of Rudnik in Serbia, on which the owner's name is written in three ways on six plates (*Simplicius*, *Sim* and *Si*), and *Epone*, the deity he revered (Vassits 1903: 20–22, nr. V, VII–XI, fig. 6, 8–13; Popović 1994: 291–293; 356, cat. 204–208; 333–334; Popović 2014: 219–221), is engraved on the seventh vessel. However, the custom of inscriptions marking the owner of the tableware and the cult he revered is a topic that requires a separate analysis in a future paper.

CATALOGUE

Abbreviations: D = diameter; H = height; L = length, P = weight

1. Egg cup / pedestal, National Museum of Serbia, inv. 4125/III, Pl. I, 1
silver
D = 9.20 cm; H = 2.70 cm; P = 90 g
The vessel consists of a flat quadrangular base, rounded at the corners and notched on the shorter sides. In the middle, a tubular bed was added in the form of two compartments, one against the other with wider sides and separated by a small ring. There is a cup at the top (receptacle for placing eggs), partially preserved.
Bibliography: Popović 1994: cat. 154; Ratković 2007: cat. 172; Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 28–29, cat. 3.

2. Egg cup / pedestal, National Museum of Serbia, inv. 4126/III, Pl. I, 2
Jabučje; silver
D = 9.30 cm; H = 2.90 cm; P = 88.50 g
Object identical to the previous one. The base is damaged.
Bibliography: Popović 1994: cat. 155; Ratković 2007: cat. 173; Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 28–29, cat. 4.



Pl. I, 1–4: Egg cup / pedestal, inv. 4125/III (1), 4126/III (2), 4127/III (3), 4128/III (4) (drawings: D. Radovanović)

Т. I, 1–4: Посуда за јаја / подметач, инв. 4125/III (1), 4126/III (2), 4127/III (3), 4128/III (4) (цртежи: Д. Радовановић)

3. Egg cup / pedestal, National Museum of Serbia, inv. 4127/III, Pl. I, 3
Jabučje; silver
D = 9.10 cm; H = 3.10 cm; P = 73.75 g
Object identical to the previous one. The base is damaged.
Bibliography: Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 28–29, cat. 5.

4. Egg cup / pedestal, National Museum of Serbia, inv. 4128/III, Pl. I, 4
Jabučje; silver
D = 9.10 cm; H = 2.29 cm; P = 73.80 g
Object identical to the previous one. The base is damaged.
Bibliography: Popović 1994: cat. 156; Ratković 2007: cat. 174; Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 28–29, cat. 6.

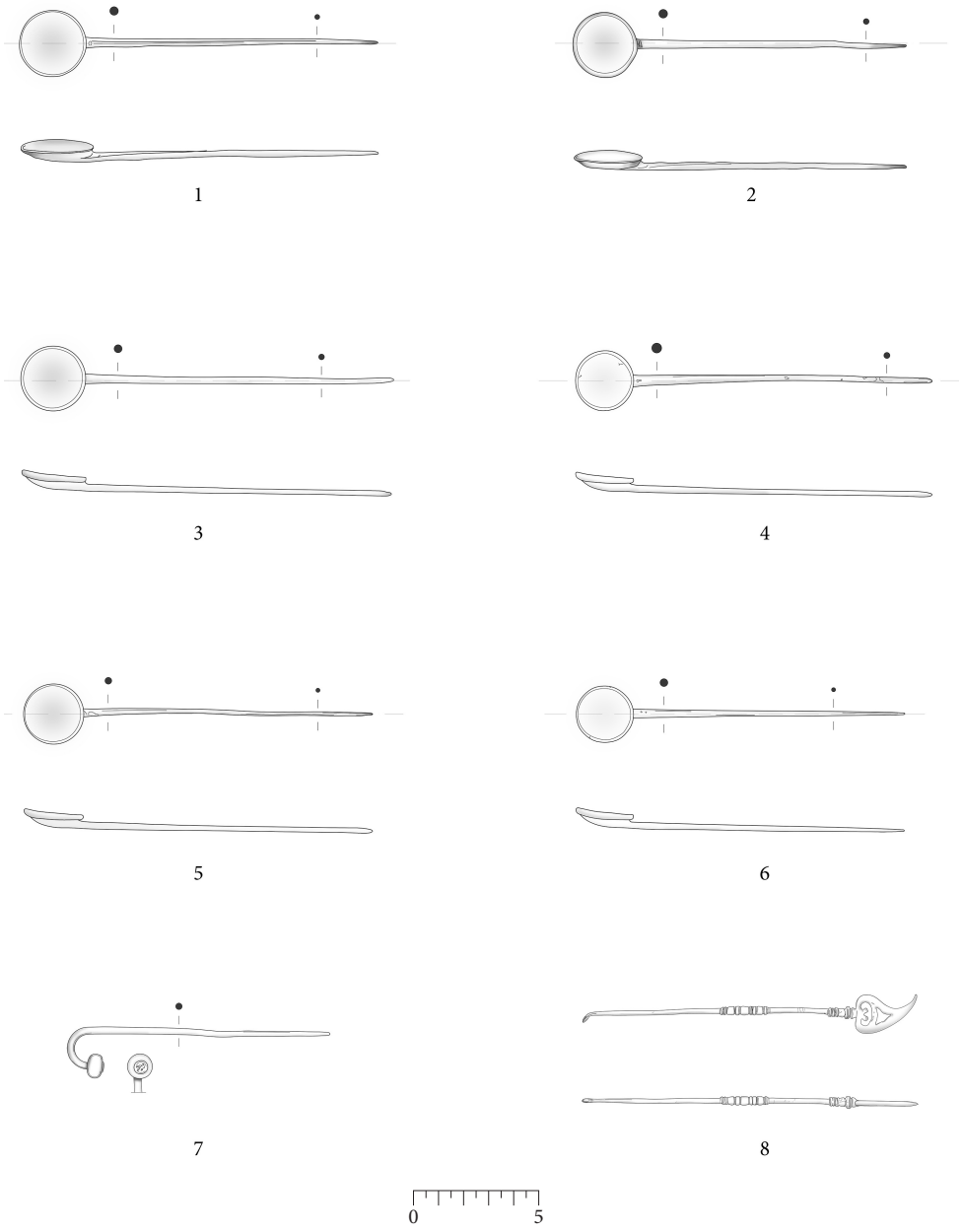
5. Spoon (*cochlear*), National Museum of Serbia, inv. 4124/III, Pl. II, 1
Jabučje; silver
L = 14.10 cm; P = 12.50 g
The spoon has a thin handle, pointed at the top, and a small circular receptacle.
Bibliography: Popović 1994: cat. 157; Ratković 2007: cat. 175; Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 30, cat. 7.

6. Spoon (*cochlear*), National Museum of Serbia, inv. 4150/III, Pl. II, 2
Jabučje; silver
L = 13.20 cm; P = 11.50 g
Object identical to the previous one.
Bibliography: Popović 1994: cat. 158; Ratković 2007: cat. 176; Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 30, cat. 8.

7. Spoon (*cochlear*), National Museum of Serbia, inv. 4151/III, Pl. II, 3
Jabučje; silver
L = 14.50 cm; P = 12.50 g
Object identical to the previous one.
Bibliography: Popović 1994: cat. 159; Ratković 2007: cat. 177; Popović, Baratte and Ratković 2024: 30, cat. 9.

8. Spoon (*cochlear*), National Museum of Serbia, inv. 813/II, Pl. II, 4
Tekija hoard; silver
L = 14.20 cm; P = 8.47 g
Object identical to the previous one.
Bibliography: Mano-Zisi 1957: no. 28; Popović 1994: cat. 166.

9. Spoon (*cochlear*), National Museum of Serbia, inv. 814/II, Pl. II, 5
Tekija hoard; silver
L = 13.90 cm; P = 13.35 g
Object identical to the previous one.
Bibliography: Mano-Zisi 1957: no. 29; Popović 1994: cat. 167.



Pl. II, 1–3: *Cochlearia*, inv. 4124/III (1), 4150/III (2), 4151/III (3) (drawings: D. Radovanović); **4–6**: *cochlearia*, inv. 813/II (4), 814/II (5), 815 (6); **7**: mixing and pressing instrument, inv. 812/II; **8**: tooth and ear cleaning instrument, inv. 3235/III (drawings: B. Popović)

Т. II, 1–3: Кохлеаре, инв. 4124/III (1), 4150/III (2), 4151/III (3) (цртежи: Д. Радовановић); **4–6**: кохлеаре, инв. 813/II (4), 814/II (5), 815 (6); **7**: инструмент за мешање и пресовање, инв. 812/II; **8**: инструмент за чишћење зуба и ушију, инв. 3235/III (4) (цртежи: Б. Поповић)

10. Spoon (*cochlear*), National Museum of Serbia, inv. 814/II, Pl. II, 6
Tekija hoard; silver
L = 13 cm; P = 8.26 g
Object identical to the previous one.
Bibliography: Mano-Zisi 1957: no. 30; Popović 1994: cat. 168.

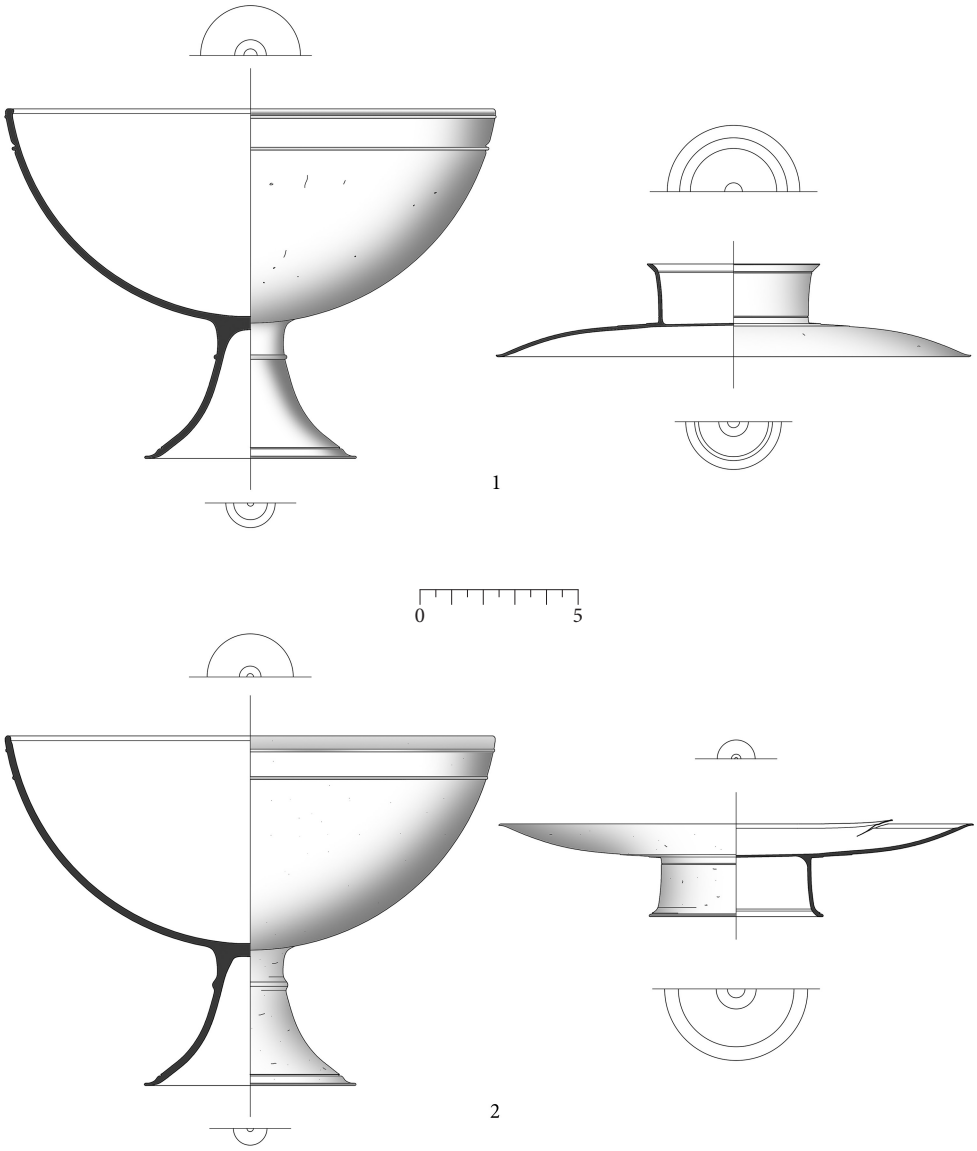
11. Mixing and pressing instrument, National Museum of Serbia, inv. 812/II, Pl. II, 7
Tekija hoard; silver
L = 11.50 cm; P = 11.40 g
The instrument has a thin handle, pointed at the top, and on the opposite end, a sphere on which an ellipsoid plate was applied.
Bibliography: Mano-Zisi 1957: no. 27; Popović 1994: cat. 165.

12. Tooth and ear cleaning instrument, National Museum of Serbia, inv. 3235/III, Pl. II, 8
Unknown site in Serbia; silver
L (total) = 13.50 cm, (spatula) = 5 cm, (heart-shaped end) = 3.20 cm; P = 5.05 g
The silver instrument had a working surface on both sides. Rectangular in shape, the instrument has a small spatula on one end, while the other end is heart-shaped with a curved and sharp tip. The heart-shaped part of the instrument is decorated with an open and incised ornament. The two endings with work surfaces are separated by a small facet, decorated with a grooved ornament.
Bibliography: Popović 1997: 86–87, fig. 15.

13. Chalice on a foot with a lid, National Museum of Serbia, inv. 845/II, Pl. III, 1
Viminacium; silver
D (rim) = 15.50 cm, (foot) = 6.80 cm; L = 11 cm; P = 796 g
The chalice has a hemispherical receptacle shaped as rather deep bowl and a groove for the lid under the rim. It has a high, trumpet-shaped foot with a ring-like enlargement at the top. The lid is slightly concave and has a conical hoop-shaped handle.
Bibliography: Vassits 1903: 23–25, nr. XIX, XIV; Baratte 1976: 38, T. II, 6; Popović 1994: 330, cat. 277; Кондић 1995: 184, сл. 5ц, д; Popović 2020: 348–349, fig. 1.

14. Chalice on a foot with a lid, National Museum of Serbia, inv. 846/II, Pl. III, 2
Viminacium; silver
D (rim) = 15.50 cm, (foot) = 6.80 cm; L = 11 cm; P = 795 g
Object identical to the previous one. On the lower surface of the foot, there are engraved inscriptions *TVR* on one side and *NA* on the other side. On the lower surface of the lid, there is the cursive inscription *matrona*. There is a narrow crack on the lid.
Bibliography: Vassits 1903: 24, nr. XXI, XVI; Baratte 1976: 38, T. II, 6; Popović 1994: 331, cat. 278; Кондић 1995: 184, сл. 5ц, д; Popović 2020: 348–349, fig. 1.

Translated by the author



Pl. III, 1–2: Chalices on a foot with a lid, inv. 845/II (1), 846/II (2) (drawings: B. Popović)
Т. III, 1–2: Пехари на нози с поклопцем, инв. 845/II (1), 846/II (2) (цртежи: Б. Поповић)

ABBREVIATIONS / СКРАЋЕНИЦЕ

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Petronius

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РИМСКИ СРЕБРНИ СТОНИ СЕРВИСИ: ПОСУДЕ И ИНСТРУМЕНТИ ДВОЈНЕ НАМЕНЕ ИЗ СРБИЈЕ

РЕЗИМЕ

Посуде за јело и пиће од сребра, као и пратећи мобилијар, у римским стоним сервисима спорадично су имали двоструку намену. Захваљујући свом специфичном облику, могли су током обеда да буду употребљени на различите начине. Налази са локалитета у Србији показују да је та појава позната од почетка I до краја IV века (сл. 1–7; Т. I–II). У налазу из Јабучја, датованом у доба владавине Октавијана Августа, посуде за јаја служиле су за њихову конзумацију, али су, окренуте за 180 степени, могле да се користе као подметачи на које су постављане друге посуде (сл. 1). Најближе аналогије за њих пружају примерци са помпејанских локалитета (терме Сарно, Кућа Менандра, Боскореале), а њихову употребу и током II–III века потврђује мозаик из Антиохије, назван *Са постављеног стола*, у Кући бифеа за вечеру (сл. 2). Кашичице из Јабучја (тип *cochlearia*) у употреби су биле током целог I века, али и касније. За време обеда коришћене су за конзумацију љускара и јаја. Дршка са зашиљеним врхом служила је да се изваде пужеви и шкољке из њихових љуштура, али и да се разбије љуска јаја, а заобљени реципијент за конзумацију јаја (сл. 3). На зидним сликама из Помпеја приказана је њихова употреба заједно с другим стоним посудама (сл. 4). Слични инструменти били су вишенаменски, као што показује и примерак за мешање и пресовање из оставе у Текији (сл. 5), нађен заједно са три кохлеаре (сл. 6). Инвентару касноантичких стоних сервиса од сребра из западних провинција често припадају и инструменти чији је један, срцолики крај прилагођен чишћењу зуба, а другим, у облику мале спатуле, одржавана је хигијена ушију. Инструмент тог типа, са непознатог локалитета у Србији, чува се у Народном музеју Србије (сл. 7). Пехари на нози, с поклопцима коничних дршки, припадају стоном сервису из Виминацијума, датованом у период између краја IV и самог почетка V века (сл. 8). Непоклопљени пехари служили су за испијање вина или воде, а поклопљени за очување топлоте полутечних јела и сосова. Поклопци, постављени на дршке, могли су да се користе као плитке зделе (сл. 9).

Овом приликом указано је на сребрне посуде и инструменте чији је облик омогућавао њихову вишеструку намену у оквиру стоних сервиса. Међутим, на неким посудама, као што су пехари на нози из Виминацијума, постоје натписи који су одређивали име њиховог власника (*Turus*) или божанства које је он поштовао (*matrona*) (сл. 9c). Та појава је уочена и у оквиру других налаза сребрног посуђа (Бранетићи на планини Руднику), но то је предмет неког будућег рада.