

AN EVALUATION OF THE BUCKLES FOUND AT ZERZEVAN CASTLE

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ABSTRACT

This study presents a detailed analysis of fourteen previously unpublished buckles recovered during the excavations conducted at Zerzevan Castle, one of the eastern frontier garrisons of the Roman Empire and inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in 2020. The buckles were unearthed between 2014 and 2025 through excavations, surface surveys, and site-cleaning activities and are evaluated as objects of personal adornment and everyday use. They are examined within the framework of a catalogue, typology, and archaeological context. As part of the metal assemblage from Zerzevan Castle a frontier fortress that witnessed the long-standing conflicts between the Roman Empire and the Parthian and Sasanian Empires these buckles provide valuable evidence not only for the study of daily material culture but also for understanding aspects of both civilian and military life. They further offer important insights into the socio-cultural structure and economic conditions of the community inhabiting the fortress. The primary aim of this study is to evaluate the production techniques, typological development, distribution, and functional use of the buckles while reassessing the evidence from Zerzevan Castle in light of current archaeological scholarship. Furthermore, by comparing existing typological classifications and proposed chronologies with the archaeological evidence, the study seeks to contribute to ongoing discussions concerning the regional development, functional diversity, and chronology of buckle types.

Keywords: Zerzevan, Castle, Garrison, Roman, Belt Buckle, Buckle, Military

1. Introduction

Zerzevan Castle (Castrum Zerzevan) is a Roman frontier garrison of the Eastern Roman Empire located within the boundaries of Demirölçek Neighborhood, approximately 13 km southeast of Çınar District, Diyarbakır, Türkiye. Due to its strategic location, it witnessed numerous conflicts between the two major powers of the period, namely the Roman Empire and the Parthian/Sasanian Empires (Figure 1,2). In antiquity, the military settlement occupied

a strategic position between Amida (Diyarbakır) and Dara (Mardin) and is thought to have played an active role along the ancient route extending from Edessa (Şanlıurfa) to Nisibis (Nusaybin) (Dillemann 1962: 290; Coşkun 2019: 21). The fortress, which is believed to have been first occupied during the Neo-Assyrian Period (9th–7th centuries BC), remained in active use until the arrival of the Islamic armies in the region in AD 639. Zerzevan, one of the well-preserved legionary garrisons protected by its strong fortification system, is also of particular importance because many of its architectural remains have survived with minimal later intervention (Coşkun 2023: 2–3; Coşkun & Oğuz Kırca 2023: 48).

The metal finds recovered from the excavations at Zerzevan Castle comprise a remarkably rich assemblage, including arrowheads, spearheads, shield bosses, weighing implements, medical instruments, fittings, appliquéés, chains, locks, rings, bracelets, necklaces, pins, tweezers, fibulae, bells, and crotal bells. The metal assemblage from Zerzevan consists predominantly of bronze and iron objects. Numerically, arrowheads constitute the largest group of finds and are almost entirely made of iron. Personal items, such as rings, bracelets, necklaces, buckles, fibulae, pins, and tweezers, are predominantly manufactured from bronze. The metal finds are distributed across the entire fortress and were recovered during archaeological excavations, as well as from surface collections, cleaning activities, and roadwork. During the 2025 excavation season, metal finds were recovered mainly from the restoration and excavation works carried out in the South Tower, where the assemblage consisted primarily of arrowheads, shield bosses, a sledgehammer, a chisel, and a helmet applique.

As a result of the archaeological excavations initiated at Zerzevan Castle in 2014, the buckles were recovered from various structures, including the Church, the Underground Structure within the Mithraeum, the Upper Area of the Mithraeum, and the top of Bastion No. 9 on the eastern fortification wall. In addition, several examples were recovered from the surface during cleaning and roadworks, including the North Slope, the area east of Structures C–D, the area west of Structure I (Sanctuary), and the area east of the Arsenal. Of the fourteen specimens examined in this study, Cat. No. 12 is made of iron, whereas the remaining thirteen examples are made of bronze.

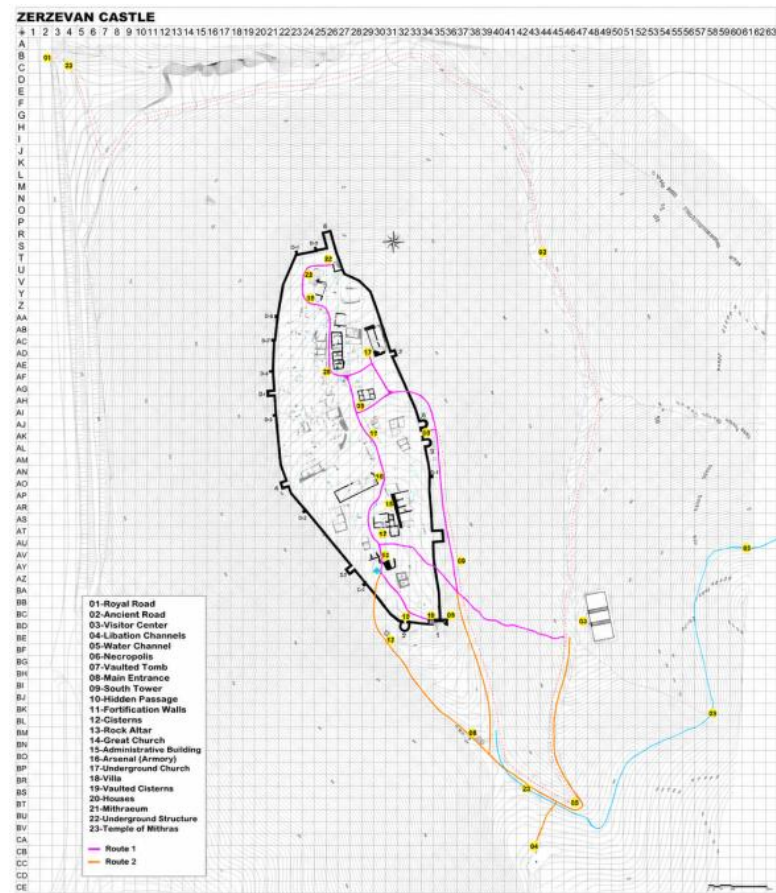


Figure 1. Topographic plan of Zerzevan Castle (Zerzevan Castle Excavation Archive)



Figure 2. Aerial View of Zerzevan Castle (Zerzevan Castle Excavation Archive)

2. The Historical Development and Functional Characteristics of Buckles

Buckles, consisting of a loop through which a belt or strap passes and a fastening tongue used to secure certain parts of clothing, became another type of fastening device following the fibulae (Çelikbaş 2016: 163). Belts were generally made of leather or textile, fitted with buckles, and varied according to social status. During the Byzantine period, high-ranking clergymen wore silk belts. With the exception of gold marriage belts, belts made entirely of metal are not known (Kazhdan 1991: 280). Beyond their function as personal accessories, buckles were used by both civilian and military authorities not only as clothing accessories but also as fastening elements on armour, horse harnesses, and weapon equipment. They thus became one of the symbols of social status and, from the Late Hellenistic period onward, replaced fibulae and brooches (Demirer 2013: 37). Buckles also provide important information regarding production and trade, while the type of metal used, as well as their size, weight, form, and the richness of their decoration, reflected the social status of their owners. Plain iron belt buckles represented the lowest social level, whereas bronze, gilded bronze, and silver buckles were associated with the middle strata of society. Gold buckles and those decorated with precious stones belonged to the highest social level, while gold buckles ornamented with emeralds and pearls were used exclusively by emperors (Schulze-Dörrlamm 2020: 125). As can be understood from this classification, the value of the metal also reflected the owner's social status and economic standing.

During the Greek and Roman periods, buckles were generally simple in form, whereas in later periods they came to be decorated with rich ornamental motifs as well as monograms (Çelikbaş 2016: 163). In the early period of the Roman Empire, belt buckles formed part of military dress; however, by the fourth century AD, they had become a distinctive feature of male attire and a symbol of manliness. In the Byzantine army, belts became a characteristic element of military dress and one of the most important components of clothing. In addition to being part of the attire of men from all levels of Byzantine society, belt buckles also carried particular significance for high-ranking officials, members of the aristocracy, and clergymen (Parani 2015: 421). Although belts held considerable significance for men, information concerning their use by women is relatively limited. As a result of the reforms introduced by Diocletian and Constantine I, the wearing of belts became an official practice; however, empresses were exempt from this regulation because they were not regarded as state officials (Çakmakçı 2017: 49–50; Kazhdan 1991: 280). In her study of Byzantine representations, Parani notes that belts were used as complementary accessories in women's clothing and that

women were depicted wearing loosely fastened garments (Çakmakçı 2017: 49; Parani 2003: 77). Following these reforms, the fashion for wearing belts became widespread, although in AD 382 the state began to restrict the use of belts by civilians (Kazhdan 1991: 280).

In her catalogue study of Byzantine belt buckles and accessories in the collections of the Roman-Germanic Central Museum, Mechthild Schulze-Dörrlamm established 92 typological groups based on the morphological characteristics of 224 buckles (Schulze-Dörrlamm 2009: 5). This typological study is of particular importance, as it provides answers to many archaeological and typological questions.

Of the fourteen specimens examined in the present study, one is distinguished by its stylized human face/mask decoration. Regarding the distribution of the buckles within the settlement, six examples were recovered from the Mithraeum Sacred Area (the Underground Structure and the Upper Area), two from Structures M and N (residential buildings), one from Bastion No. 9 on the eastern fortification wall, one from the Church, and four from surface contexts (the North Slope, the area east of Structures C–D, the area west of Structure I, and the area east of the Arsenal). In total, fourteen buckles are examined and evaluated in this study.

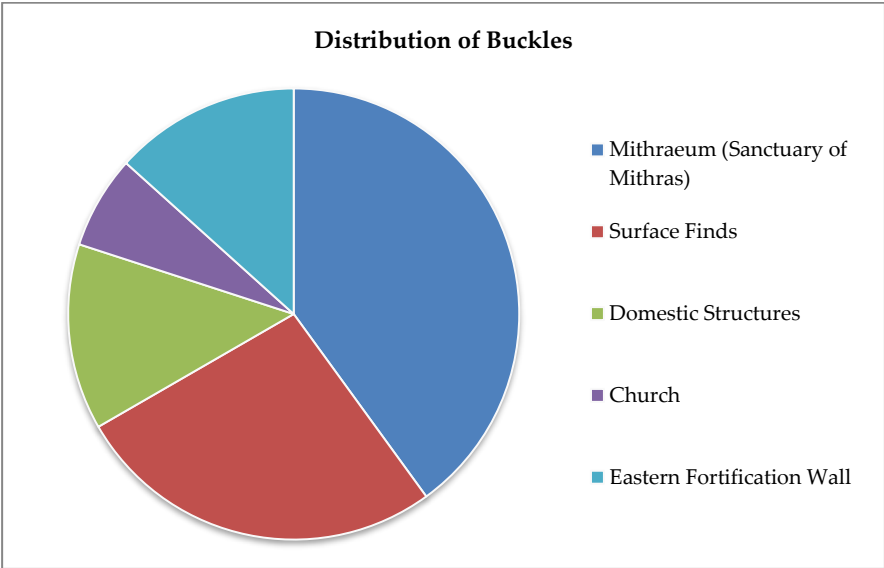


Table 1. Distribution of the buckles recovered from Zerzevan Castle

3. Catalogue, Typological Classification and Evaluation of the Buckles from Zerzevan Castle

The buckles from Zerzevan Castle, which are among the objects of daily use, are evaluated as buckles in a general sense rather than being defined specifically as belt buckles or hangers, since they were used not only as accessories attached to clothing but also as fastening elements on armour, horse harness decorations, and weapon equipment. These buckles were sometimes used as indicators of social status and, at other times, as religious objects.

Public buildings are located in the elevated southern part of the settlement. The church, which is one of the best-preserved structures within the settlement, extends in an east–west direction and consists of four spaces. Cat. No. 1, recovered from the outer courtyard of the church, is cross-shaped and has perforations at the terminal part and in the centre, with two broken pins on the reverse side. A concentric circular motif is located at the exact centre of the cross, while the hook part was recovered in a broken condition. The object was found during the restoration and excavation works carried out in the church. Its discovery within the church suggests that it may have belonged to individuals who visited the church for worship or to members of the clergy. Since no similar example has been identified, the object can be dated to the 5th–7th centuries AD based on its archaeological context.

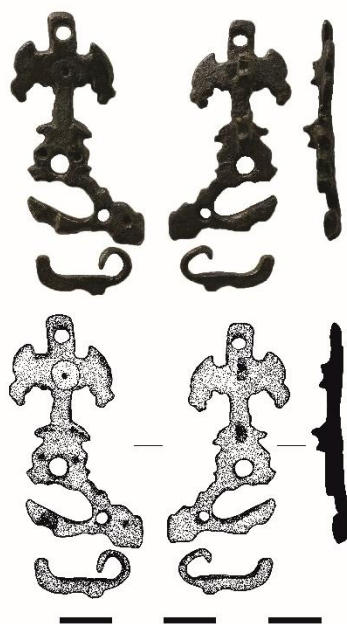


Figure 3. Cat.No.1

Cat. No. 2, located outside the Mithraeum structure, consists of a square frame formed by four semi-crescents, within which a perforated star motif is surrounded by four circular eyes or concentric circles. In her studies, Schulze-Dörrlamm classified this type as B16 and defined it as a kidney-shaped buckle with a perforated rectangular plate. She emphasized that objects of this type are not widely recognized and noted that examples have been found in Asia Minor and the Amlash region in northwestern Iran, dating them to the 6th–7th centuries AD (Schulze-Dörrlamm 2009: 73–76). Based on the similar examples and contextual evaluation, this object can be dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD.

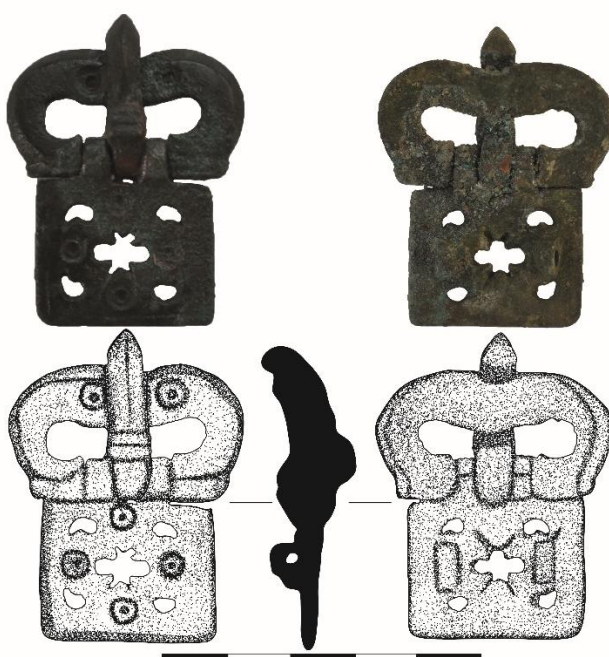


Figure 4. Cat.No.2

Cat. No. 3, found in Structure M (Residential Building), is missing its pin, which originally extended from the central part. The front surface of the buckle is decorated with four vertically inclined lines, while two rivets are preserved on the reverse side. A similar example recovered as a grave find from Apamea (Syria) has been dated to the second half of the 7th century AD (Schulze-Dörrlamm 2009: 208), whereas the example from Sardis has been dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD (Waldbaum 1983: 118). Based on the similar examples and contextual evaluation, this buckle can be dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD.

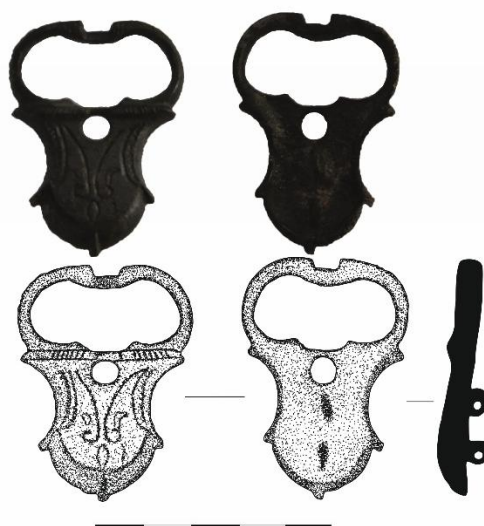


Figure 5. Cat.No.3

Cat. No. 4 and Cat. No. 5, recovered from the Underground Structure within the Mithraeum Sacred Area, are evaluated together due to their similar morphological characteristics. The buckles, which are missing their pins extending from the central part, have three circular decorations with a dot-shaped centre on the upper surface, while two rivets are preserved on the reverse side. Similar examples from Ephesus have been dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD (Pülz 2020: 12), while examples from Bulgaria have been dated from the second half of the 6th century to the beginning of the 7th century AD (Traykova 2017: 270). Based on the similar examples and contextual evaluation, these buckles can be dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD.

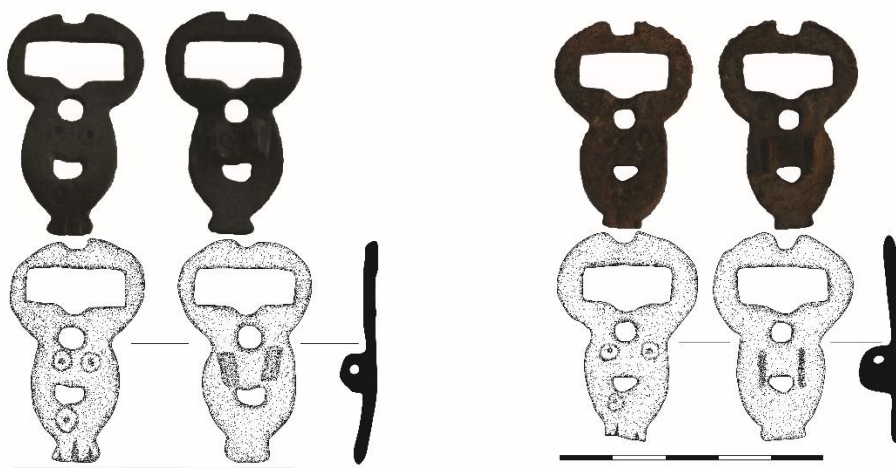


Figure 6. Cat.No.4 and Cat No. 5

Cat. No. 6, located in the Underground Structure within the Mithraeum Sacred Area, is a smiling mask-shaped buckle. On the reverse side of the buckle, three semi-circular loops are preserved, which were used for attaching the pins. The pin inserted into the hole on the

forehead is missing. Known as the “Maskenschnallen” type (Lightfoot 2003: 122), this type of buckle is named due to its resemblance to a mask, and one example is represented in the present study. Schulze-Dörrlamm classified this type as D2 and dated the emergence of these buckles to the first quarter of the 6th century AD. Three examples from Anatolia and Azerbaijan are preserved in the RGZM collection (Schulze-Dörrlamm 2009: 152–154). Examples from Kibyra have been dated to the 5th–6th centuries AD (Demirer 2013: 197), while the examples from Varna Aksakova (Bulgaria) have been dated from the second quarter of the 6th century AD to the beginning of the 7th century AD (Traykova 2017: 262). Based on the similar examples and contextual evaluations, this buckle can be dated to the 5th–6th centuries AD.

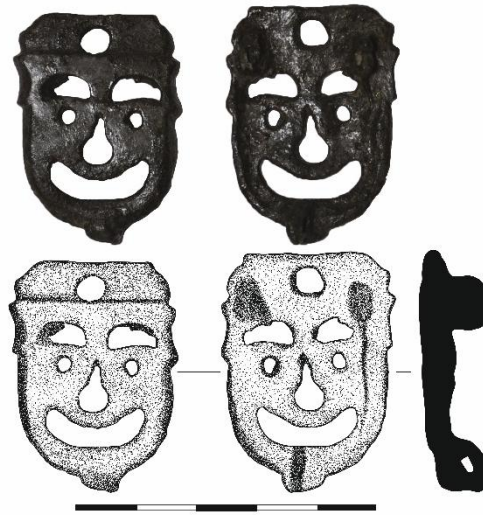


Figure 7. Cat.No.6

Cat. No. 7, recovered from the Upper Area of the Mithraeum, has an oval upper section decorated with a concentric circular motif at both corners, while two opposite projections on the sides were used to attach the metal tongue to the buckle. In her studies, Schulze-Dörrlamm classified this type as B16 and described it as kidney-shaped, noting that objects of this type are not widely recognized. The upper part of this buckle resembles that of Cat. No. 2. This form, which was widely used throughout the Byzantine world, has been dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD at Elaiussa Sebaste, with similarities to examples from Sicily being noted (Ferrazzoli 2012: 294), while examples from Amorium have been dated to the 7th–11th centuries AD (Yıldırım 2017: 118). Based on similar examples and the evaluation of Cat. No. 2, this buckle can be dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD.

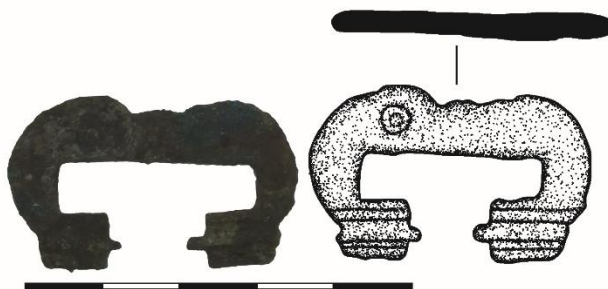


Figure 8. Cat. No.7

Cat. No. 8, found on the top of Bastion No. 9 on the Eastern Fortification Wall, is broken at the point where the belt passed through. The lower part consists of three large circular depressions and has wavy edges in the form of a stylized grape cluster, forming a triangular shape. On the reverse side, a pin attachment through which the pin passed is preserved. Schulze-Dörrlamm dated a similar example from Asia Minor to the 7th century AD (Schulze-Dörrlamm 2009: 404), while an example recovered as a grave gift from the Byzantine-period necropolis of Mount Mithridates (Crimea) was dated to the 7th century AD (Айбабин 2023: 29). Based on the similar examples and contextual evaluations, this buckle can be dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD.

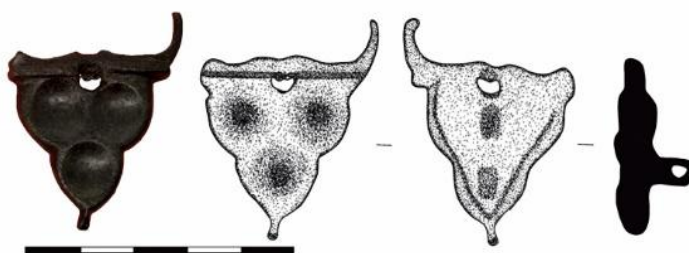


Figure 9. Cat.No.8

Cat. No. 9, recovered from the Underground Structure within the Mithraeum Sacred Area, is ring-shaped with a circular cross-section and becomes thinner at both corners before thickening again. One side of the object is broken. A similar example from Horbat ‘Uza (Israel) has been dated to the 13th century AD (Getzo et al. 2009: 186). Based on the similar example and contextual evaluations, this object can be dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD.

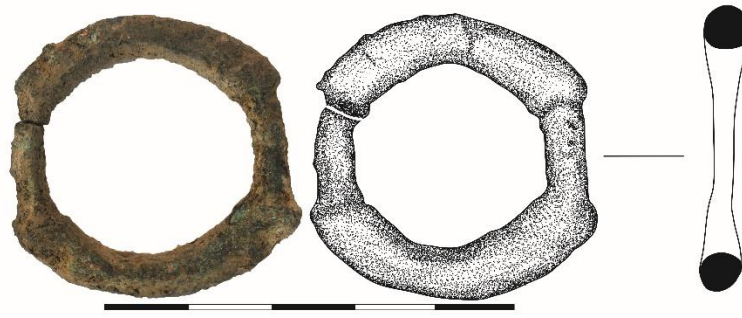


Figure 10. Cat.No.9

Cat. No. 10, recovered from the surface on the North Slope, has a pentagonal form with a circular opening in the upper part and a rectangular opening in the lower part. It was used as a connecting element for equipment such as a bridle or horse harness. Similar examples include a bronze object from the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Tehran, dated to the Early Islamic Period (Allan 1982: 67), and examples from Zeytinli Bahçe, dated to the 9th–13th centuries AD (Dell’era 2012: 399). Based on the similar examples and contextual evaluations, this object can be dated to the 7th–8th centuries AD.

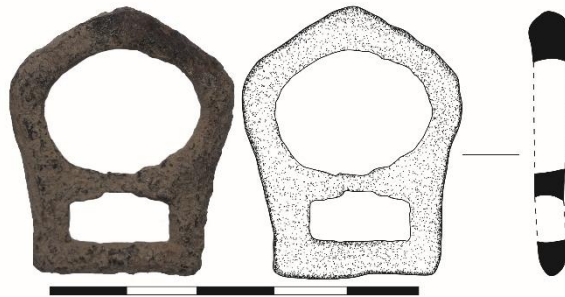


Figure 11. Cat.No.10

Cat. No. 11, which was found on the surface in the eastern area of Buildings C and D, is a bell-shaped belt buckle. The upper part of the buckle is rounded, while the lower section is formed in a semi-oval shape. A comparable example from the Amorium Excavations, housed in the Afyonkarahisar Museum, has been dated to the Eastern Roman period (AD 1000–1110) (Aynur 2023: 66). Since this find was not recovered from a defined architectural context, its precise dating remains difficult to determine. However, based on typological parallels and the historical chronology of the fortress, the object can be dated to the 7th–8th centuries AD.

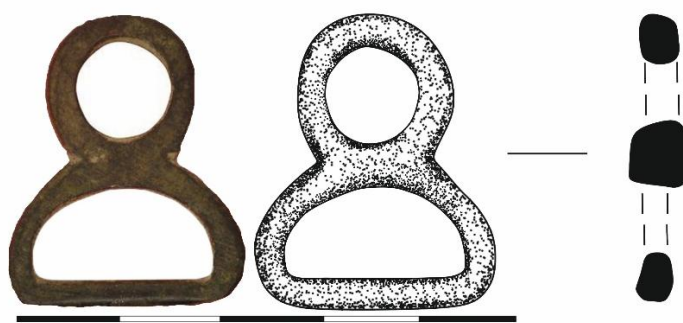


Figure 12. Cat.No.11

Cat. No. 12, which was found on the surface to the west of Building I (the place of worship), has an oval-shaped upper section that gradually narrows towards the lower part, with a central perforation. The surface of the object exhibits deterioration and breakage. Due to its recovery from the surface and the absence of comparable examples, establishing a precise date for the object remains difficult.

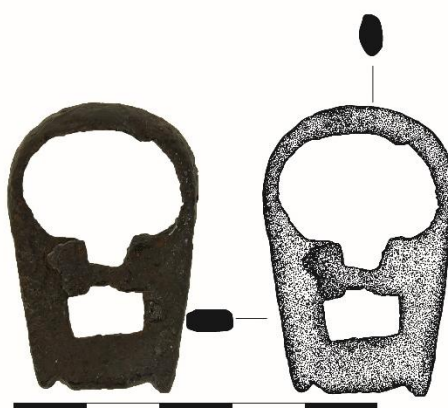


Figure 13. Cat.No.12

Cat. No. 13, which was found on the surface east of Arsenal, is a D-shaped belt buckle with a square cross-section. Comparable examples include an undated specimen from Dura-Europos (James 2004: 77) and examples from the early medieval assemblages of the Düsseldorf administrative region and the Heinsberg district in Germany, which have been dated to the Merovingian period (5th–8th centuries AD) (Siegmund 1998: Taf. 142). Although the absence of a defined archaeological context makes precise dating difficult, based on the evaluation of comparable examples, this object can be dated to the 6th–7th centuries AD.

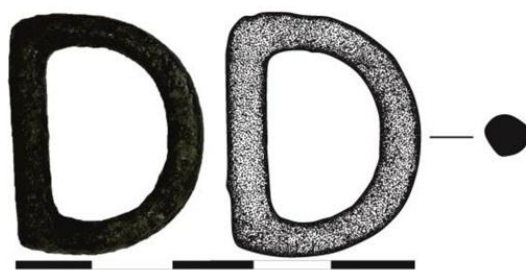


Figure 14. Cat.No.13

Cat. No. 14, which was found within Building N (Residential Building), is rectangular in form. The central section of the object features a turban motif executed in relief technique, with two crossed swords depicted beneath it. The presence of the turban, which represents an Islamic element, together with the fact that Zerzevan Fortress remained an active military and strategic site until its conquest by Islamic armies in AD 639, following the conflicts between the Roman and Sasanian Empires, suggests that this object should be evaluated within the Islamic period. The absence of comparable examples indicates that the buckle may represent local or regional production. Considering the political history of the fortress, the object can be dated to the 7th–8th centuries AD.

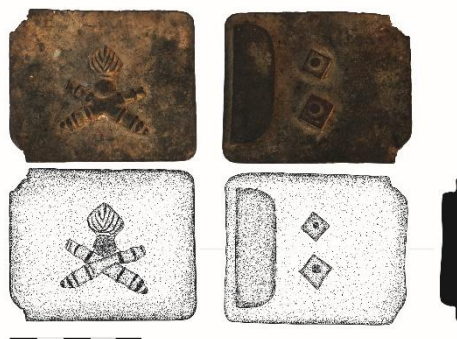


Figure 15. Cat.No.14

4. Discussion and Conclusion

This study evaluates belt buckles, which constitute a category of personal-use objects among the metal finds recovered during the excavations at Zerzevan Fortress. The 14 buckles examined in this study (Cat. No. 1–14), unearthed through archaeological excavations, provide significant evidence for understanding the fortress's chronological development from the Late Roman Period to the Early Islamic Period, as well as its socio-cultural structure.

The development of belt buckles provides important insights into technological knowledge, artistic production, and social structures within societies. The buckles recovered from Zerzevan Fortress, a military garrison, offer an opportunity to evaluate detailed information regarding the fortress's political and cultural interactions, as well as the mobility and transformations experienced throughout its historical development. While the majority of the examples can generally be dated to the 5th–7th centuries AD, two specimens are considered to belong to the Early Islamic Period and are dated to the 7th–8th centuries AD. This chronological range demonstrates that Zerzevan Fortress was one of the most strategic military installations located on the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire and reflects the active and dynamic character of its population during these periods.

Typological analyses reveal that the belt buckles from Zerzevan Fortress share similarities with contemporary examples from a wide geographical area, including Amlash in Iran, Apamea in Syria, Ephesus, Sardis, Kibyra, and Amorium in the Aegean region, Elaiussa Sebaste in the Mediterranean, as well as sites in Crimea, the Balkans, and Europe, particularly those belonging to the Merovingian period. In particular, the mask-shaped “Maskenschnallen” buckle (Cat. No. 6) and the kidney-shaped buckles (Cat. No. 2 and 7) demonstrate that, in addition to its function as a military garrison, Zerzevan Fortress was also inhabited by a civilian population. These finds indicate that the inhabitants of the fortress closely followed contemporary trends in the Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds, particularly in terms of fashion, military equipment, and metalworking traditions.

These objects also provide evidence for traces of both military and religious life within the fortress. The cross-shaped buckle (Cat. No. 1), discovered in the outer courtyard of the church, reflects the presence of religious practices and indicates that clergy members or devoted visitors may have been present within these structures. In contrast, Cat. No. 10, a pentagonal buckle considered to have been used as a bridle or horse harness harness component, directly corresponds with the military identity of the fortress. The finds recovered from the Mithraeum and its surrounding area, particularly Cat. No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9, demonstrate that these spaces were not only associated with the Mithraic cult but also continued to function as integral elements of the fortress's broader occupational cycle over time.

Among the finds, Cat. No. 10 and Cat. No. 14, which bears a relief-decorated depiction of a turban and crossed swords, provide important evidence for the Early Islamic phase of Zerzevan Fortress during the 7th–8th centuries AD. Symbolizing the period following the conquest of the region by Islamic armies in AD 639, these objects demonstrate

that the history of the fortress was not limited solely to the Roman–Sasanian conflicts. They also indicate that, after the conquest, the fortress continued to witness human occupation by an Islamic community, including the use of temporary shelters within the site.

The belt buckles are significant in demonstrating, through small-scale craft objects, the cultural diversity resulting from the strategic location of Zerzevan Fortress and the administrative, religious, and military transformations that took place between the 5th and 8th centuries AD. These finds constitute valuable archaeological evidence reflecting the multifaceted character of the fortress. In light of these results, it can be argued that Zerzevan Fortress was not merely a military garrison but also a fundamental living space with a socio-cultural structure, where the civilian population actively participated in social life.

5. Catalog

Cat. No. 1

Excavation No: ZK'25 / ENV-177, CSM

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Church, 925.780 m / AT 31-4 D5

Dimensions: Length: 4.3 cm; Thickness: 0.2 cm; Hook width: 1.9 cm; Hook thickness: 0.1–0.2 cm

Description: Cross-shaped in form, the object has perforations at the terminal end and in the central section. Two broken pins are preserved on the reverse side, while the hook section is broken.

Comparative Examples:

Date: 5th–7th centuries AD

Cat. No. 2

Excavation No: ZK'17 ENV 6, AUK

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Building T (Mithraeum), 399 cm / T 26-4

Dimensions: Length: 4.8 cm; Lower thickness: 0.3–1 cm; Width: 2.8–3.7 cm

Description: The buckle consists of a folded rectangular plate with a pin attached to the belt. A pin extends from the central section of the plate. On the upper surface of the buckle, three circular dot motifs are present; two of these motifs are clearly visible, while the one on the right is indistinct due to corrosion. Surrounding these motifs are four drop-shaped decorative elements arranged above and below. On the reverse side, two circular loops are preserved, which were used for attaching the pins.

Comparative Examples: Schulze-Dörrlamm 2009: 62, O.40618, 73.

Date: 6th–7th centuries AD

Cat. No. 3

Excavation No: ZK'16/ENV 9, AIA

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Building M (Residential Building)

Dimensions: Length: 4.9 cm; Thickness: 0.6 cm; Width: 3.5 cm

Description: The buckle, which has a missing pin extending from the central section, bears four vertically arranged oblique incised lines on the front surface. Two rivets are preserved on the reverse side.

Comparative Examples: Schulze-Dörrlamm 2009: Abb. 75, 208; Waldbaum 1983: Pl. 44, 689–690.

Date: 6th–7th centuries AD

Cat. No. 4

Excavation No: ZK'16/ENV 10, AOH

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Underground Structure, 430 cm / V 25-3

Dimensions: Length: 4 cm; Thickness: 0.2–0.6 cm; Width: 2.4–1.7 cm

Description: The buckle has a missing pin extending from the central section. The upper surface of the buckle is decorated with three circular motifs featuring central dot impressions. Two rivets are preserved on the reverse side.

Comparative Examples: Pülz 2020: Farbtafel 2, T19; Traykova 2017: Cat. No. 738, 437.

Date: 6th–7th centuries AD

Cat. No. 5

Excavation No: ZK'16/ENV 11, AMI

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Underground Structure, 430 cm / V 25-3

Dimensions: Length: 4 cm; Thickness: 0.2–0.6 cm; Width: 2.4–1.7 cm

Description: The buckle has a missing pin extending from the central section. The upper surface of the buckle is decorated with three circular motifs featuring central dot impressions. Two rivets are preserved on the reverse side.

Comparative Examples: Pülz 2020: Farbtafel 2, T19; Traykova 2017: Cat. No. 738, 437.

Date: 6th–7th centuries AD

Cat. No. 6

Excavation No: ZK'16/ENV 12, ANB

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Underground Structure, 141 cm / V 25-3

Dimensions: Length: 3.9 cm; Thickness: 0.5 cm; Width: 2.7 cm

Description: The buckle is mask-shaped with a smiling facial expression. On the reverse side of the buckle, three semicircular loops are preserved, which were used for attaching the pins. The pin inserted into the perforation on the forehead is missing.

Comparative Examples: Schulze-Dörrlamm 2002: 152, Nos. 117–119; Waldbaum 1983: 119, Pl. 44, 696; Demirer 2013: 197, B9; Traykova 2017: Cat. Nos. 628–633, 429.

Date: 5th–6th centuries AD

Cat. No. 7

Excavation No: K1–T61, BGL

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Upper Area of the Mithraeum, 424 cm / V27-4

Dimensions: Length: 3.6 cm; Width: 0.6–0.8 cm; Thickness: 0.2–0.3 cm

Description: The upper oval section of the buckle is decorated with interlaced circular motifs at both corners. On the lateral sides, two opposing projections are preserved, which served to attach the metal tongue to the buckle frame.

Comparative Examples: Ferrazzoli 2012: Pl. 6–59, 305; Yıldırım 2017: Cat. No. 42, 118.

Date: 6th–7th centuries AD

Cat. No. 8

Excavation No: ZK'20/ENV 24, BOO

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Eastern Fortification Wall / Above the 9th Tower, 916.03 / AL 34-1

Dimensions: Length: 4.1 cm; Width: 0.5–3.1 cm; Thickness: 0.7–1.3 cm

Description: The section through which the belt passed is broken. The lower part is triangular in form and consists of three large circular depressions, with undulating edges resembling a stylized grape cluster. On the reverse side, a pin attachment for securing the pin is preserved.

Comparative Examples: Schulze-Dörrlamm 2009: 620, 404; Александр Айбабин 2023: Fig. 26–3, 28.

Date: 6th–7th centuries AD

Cat. No. 9

Excavation No.: ZK'16/ET 22, AOO

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Underground Structure, 545 cm / V 25-1

Dimensions: Diameter: 3.4 cm; Thickness: 0.6 cm; Width: 3.4 cm

Description: The object is circular in form with a ring-shaped body and a circular cross-section. The two corners gradually become thinner and then thicken again. A break is present on one side.

Comparative Examples: Getzo et al. 2009: Fig. 3.42, 18, 186.

Date: 5th–7th centuries AD

Cat. No. 10

Excavation No: ZK'18/ET 33, BBC

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Northern Slope, Surface / S 22-2

Dimensions: Length: 3.6 cm; Width: 2.7 cm; Thickness: 0.5 cm

Description: The object is pentagonal in form, with a circular opening in the upper section and a rectangular opening in the lower section.

Comparative Examples: Dell'era 2012: Fig. 5c, 398; Allan 1982: Cat. 37, 87.

Date: 7th–8th centuries AD

Cat. No. 11

Excavation No: ZK'20/ENV 23, BJY

Material: Bronze

Findspot: East of Buildings C and D (Residential Buildings), Surface / AK 33-2

Dimensions: Length: 2.9 cm; Width: 1.6–2.3 cm; Thickness: 0.4–0.8 cm

Description: The buckle is bell-shaped, with a rounded upper section and a semi-oval lower section.

Comparative Examples: Aynur 2023: Cat. No. 29, 66.

Date: 7th–8th centuries AD

Cat. No. 12

Excavation No.: ZK'23 ENV-10, CBM-2

Material: Iron

Findspot: West of Building I, Surface / AJ 28-4

Dimensions: Length: 5.4 cm; Handle length: 1.8 cm; Thickness: 0.2–0.9 cm

Description: The object has an oval-shaped upper section that gradually narrows towards the lower part, with a central perforation. Surface deterioration and fractures are observed.

Comparative Examples:-

Date: -

Cat. No. 13

Excavation No: ZK'24/ENV-42, CEA-2

Material: Bronze

Findspot: East of the Arsenal, Surface / AP 26-3

Dimensions: Length: 3.1 cm; Thickness: 0.4–0.6 cm

Description: The buckle is D-shaped with a square cross-section.

Comparative Examples: James 2004: Fig. 58, p. 77; Siegmund 1998: Grave 9, Taf. 142/2.

Date: 6th–7th centuries AD

Cat. No. 14

Excavation No: ZK'16/ENV 8, ALI

Material: Bronze

Findspot: Building N (Residential Building)

Dimensions: Length: 5.8 cm; Thickness: 0.2–1.2 cm; Width: 6.9 cm

Description: The front surface features a relief decoration arranged diagonally, with parallel grooves carved on its surface. A turban-like motif is depicted at the center of the relief. On the reverse side, two rivets and a slot for attaching the buckle to the belt are preserved.

Comparative Examples:-

Date: 7th–8th centuries AD

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