



No (E)SCAPE?

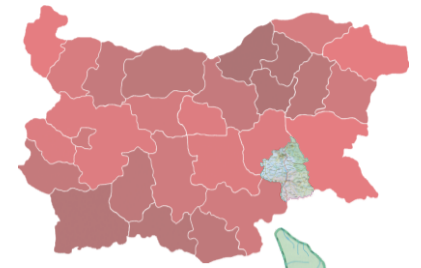
RELATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE AEGEAN BRONZE AGE

ONLINE EVENT

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BREAKING BOUNDARIES: NEGOTIATING CHANGE IN THE AEGEAN BRONZE AGE

РЕГИОНАЛЕН
ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ
МУЗЕЙ-ЯМБОЛ



THE MARBLE PENDANT FROM THE PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT MOUND MALEVA MOGILA NEAR THE VILLAGE OF VESELINOVO, YAMBOL MUNICIPALITY, BULGARIA

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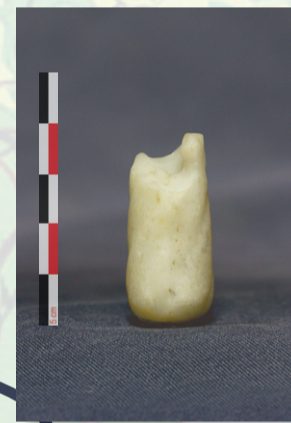
People have always tried to differ from one another. Prehistoric people wear different adornments made from stones, bones or shells to appear more impressive. Other than their aesthetic beauty, these adornments were also symbols of social differentiation and represent the position of their owner in society.

The prehistoric settlement mound Maleva mogila is situated approximately 2 km south-west from the village of Veselinovo, Yambol municipality. It is situated on the left bank of the Tundzha River – left tributary of the Maritza River which flow into Aegean Sea. The archaeological site is 5.30 m in height with a diameter of 80.00 x 120.00 m at the base. The settlement mound was inhabited during the Late Neolithic – Karanovo III, Karanovo III – IV and Karanovo IV cultures (5500 – 4900 BC) and Early Bronze Age (3500 – 2100 BC).

In 2014, during the archaeological excavation at the prehistoric settlement mound Maleva mogila, a marble pendant was found (I 4254). It was found in the last culture layer, dated in the 3rd phase of the Early Bronze Age.

The pendant measurements are 4.0 cm in height, 1.8 cm wide in the base, and 1.4 cm wide at the top. On the top has a hole with 0.4 cm in diameter. The pendant weighs 19 g.

Pendant has a cylindrical form and spiral decorations (Fig. 1). It is a real master-piece of the Early Bronze Age stone-cutting.



(Fig. 1)

(Fig. 2)

After being broken, the marble pendant has had at least one successful repair, which prolonged its 'life' as a jewel. The presented marble pendant was worn on one of the most visible area of the human body (Fig. 2). It was a symbol of social position of it owner.

The marble (from the ancient Greek μάρμαρος - „shining stone“) is a metamorphic rock composed of is recrystallized carbonate minerals, usually calcite (CaCO_3) or dolomite ($\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$) (Fig. 3). Pure white marble is the result of metamorphism of a very pure (silicate-poor) limestone or dolomite protolith. The white marble is preferred for the production of sculptures and ornamental objects. It is soft and easier to carve, while also being relatively resistance to shattering. The low index of refraction of calcite allows light to penetrate several millimeters into the stone before being scattered out to produce a soft „glow“. This results in a characteristic waxy look which brings a lifelike luster to marble objects. The white marble comes from the area of Attica, North and South Aegean Islands, and Marmara Island.



(Fig. 3)



During the Early Bronze Age, Tundzha River's valley represented a peculiar passage which connects the North Aegean coast with the inner lands of the Balkan Peninsula. It was a natural passage for cultural influences from the developed civilizations of the East Mediterranean Sea.

