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CHURCH LIGHTING DEVICES FROM HARALA FORTRESS IN THE EDİRNE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Edirne Arkeoloji Müzesindeki Harala Kalesi'nden Kilise Aydınlatma Araçları

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ABSTRACT: Harala / Garella Fortress is located in the modern-day village of Altınyazı, 25 km southwest of Uzunköprü in the province of Edirne, Eastern Thrace. The Fortress was in the territory of Plotinopolis / Pamphylon (Uzunköprü) during the Roman and Byzantine periods.

In 1974, during some work for the construction of a water channel, a group of metal objects are said to have been found in the church ruins of Harala Fortress. The metal objects are all copper alloy (bronze) lighting devices and are now stored in Edirne Archaeological Museum. They were probably part of a larger group of lighting devices associated with the episcopal complex during the MidByzantine period.

Keywords: Harala, Altınyazı, Church, Lighting,Mid-Byzantine

ÖZ: Harala / Garella Kalesi, Doğu Trakya'nın Edirne ilinde, Uzunköprü'nün 25 km güneybatısında, günümüz Altınyazı köyünde yer almaktadır. Kale, Roma ve Bizans dönemlerinde Plotinopolis / Pamphylon (Uzunköprü) topraklarındaydı. 1974 yılında, bir su kanalı inşaatı için yapılan çalışmalar sırasında, Harala Kalesi'ndeki kilise kalıntılarında bir grup metal nesnenin bulunduğu söyleniyor. Metal nesnelerin tamamı bakır alaşımlı (bronz) aydınlatma araçlarıdır ve şimdi Edirne Arkeoloji Müzesi'nde saklanmaktadır. Muhtemelen Orta Bizans döneminde piskoposluk kompleksi ile ilişkili daha büyük bir aydınlatma araç grubunun parçasıydılar.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Harala, Altınyazı, Kilise, Aydınlatma, Orta Bizans

Introduction

Harala / Garella Fortress is located in the modern-day village of Altınyazı, 25 km southwest of Uzunköprü in the province of Edirne, Eastern Thrace (Figure 1) In the 19th century,Muslims from Bulgaria were settled in the village of Altınyazı. The Fortress was declared a First Degree

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Archaeological Site by Edirne Cultural Heritage Preservation Regional Board in 1993. Harala / Garella was in the territory of Plotinopolis / Pamphylon (Uzunköprü) during the Roman and Byzantine periods. Plotinopolis was founded by Emperor Trajan on behalf of his wife, Pompeia Plotina (Soustal, 1991:333,240-244).

Our information about the city is quite limited. However, the city is included in ancient road maps and is mentioned in the texts of Ptolemy and Procopius (De Pury-Gysel, 2019:313). Byzantine Garella was located on a branch of Via Egnatia from Bera /Vira (Pherrai/Ferecik) that passed through Kypsella (İpsala) up to Pamphylon in a northeastly direction (Kulzer, 2011; 179-201). Garella is an archbishopric since the 8th century and appears in the synodal lists in the 11th-12th centuries. In the 13th century, the Latin emperor of Constantinople, Henry I of Hainaut, grants the fortress of Garella to the order of Saint Samson. Garella became a metropolis in the 14th century (Pitarakis, 2016:440)

In the region, during the archaeological surveys carried out by Dr. Şahin Yıldırım in 2007, many pottery sherds dated to the Middle and Late Byzantine Periods were found in Kilise Bayır (the village of Alıç) and Kumluk (the village of Balaban). Archaeological surveys carried out by Dr. Ergün Karaca in 2017 indicate that there were many settlements connected with the road networks in the region in Late Antiquity.In addition, the Kaletepe settlement located in the Dereköy locality in the region has similar characteristics to the Harala Fortress (Karaca, 2019: 126).

The Harala / Garella Fortress is located on a rocky hill that dominates the region. In its immediate vicinity is the Harala Stream, which has now become a dam lake (Figure 2). The rocky hill was significantly damaged as it was used as a quarry during the dam's construction (Figure 3). When the Fortress was created, the topography of the area was considered the walls surrounding the rocky hill show a rectangular ground plan.

Three towers (east, west and southeast) remain from the fortress to the present day (Akgün, 2019: 33). No more architectural remains have been identified (Figure 4) The building was constructed with a technique based on the brick and stone masonry (Figure 5) This technique (concealed course) was frequently used in the construction of buildings in the Lascarid Period-Mid-Byzantine. Although roughly executed, the technique can be dated to between the 11th and 13th century AD (Ötüken and Ousterhout, 1989:121-149).

Metal Finds (Church lighting devices)

In 1974, during some work for the construction of a water channel, a group of metal objects are said to have been found in the church ruins of Harala Fortress. Today, there are no Byzantine architectural ruins from the church to be found in the Fortress. The exact location of the discovery was, unfortunately, not recorder. Almost 50 years have passed since their discovery, therefore today the only information we have on their discovery context comes from the inventory register.

The person who announced the existence of these objects for the first time is Dr. Sümer Atasoy (Atasoy,2005: 87; Atasoy, 2008b: 109- 114). In 2007 and 2021 Ş. Yıldırım and S. Atasoy examined the objects in the Edirne Museum and worked in the Harala Fortress. The plan of the fortress was drawn, and photos were taken.[1] The metal objects are all copper alloy (bronze) lighting devices and are now stored in Edirne Archaeological Museum. They have not been analysed yet. It should be understood that the term "bronze" is used here to describe a variety of copper alloy with basically a similar visual appearance.

Conclusion

The metal objects were composed of two candelabra bases, two table discs, six baluster shafts, one bell, three forearms, one suspension strap with a disc, one open work disc, one rectangular fixing support, four solid bands, four open work bands, four solid bands –arch-shaped- of a choroi or lamna, and one lead seal.[2] The lead seal, and lead sarcophagus lid that have been found together with the other pieces have been dated to 11th-13th century AD.

These metal objects were probably part of a larger group of lighting devices associated with the episcopal complex during the Mid-Byzantine period. Pitarakis' suggestion: hand-shaped holders, openwork and solid bands were attached to the epistyle of a templon in the church (Pitarakis,

[1] I wish to thank all our colleagues in Edirne Museum for their assistance in providing us with the facilities to study their objects; Topographical Enginer Doğan Savran , Günay Karakaş, Ergün Karaca in 2007; director Ş.Kırçın, E.Kırçın and U.Doğan in 2021. I also wish to thank Mr. Turhan Birgili who took the photos of the objects again in 2021.

[2] Some of the lighting devices were published: **Forearms**, Pitarakis ,2016:435-452. She interprets the function of lighting devices – hand shaped lampholders-and lighting system of around the templon in her article; same article with new comments in Turkish, Pitarakis,2022:429-451; **Bell**, Baş, 2021:10, fig.9; **lead seal**, Elam, 2019:8-10. Germanos III Markoutzas (1265-1266), Patriarch of Constantinopolis, Obv.Virgin and Child, Rev.8 lines inscription; **Lead sarcophagus lid**, Büktel, 2012: 868-871.

2022: 434). I agree with this suggestion. Although it is not certain, we can accept this idea.

Church lighting devices were used in mid and late Byzantine times during the mass or burial rites, but also for home prayer in front of icons. The forms and ornamentation of the items in the Edirne Archaeological Museum are the Byzantine traditions.

There are bronze lamp holders in the shape of arms in various museums:

İstanbul Archaeological Museum: There are nine samples. Two pieces were purchased in 1943, and the find spots are in Eastern Thrace. Others were purchased in 1971 and 1975. Nothing is known of their find spots. It is said that they were most of Eastern Thrace manufacture (Atasoy, 2005:87-91).

München Praehistorischen Statsammlung: There are 14 samples. Purchased in 1991 and find spots are in Asia Minor (Rom und Byzanz 1998:2004-2005, 102-107, no.139).

Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe: There are 10 samples. Purchased from Zakos in 1994 and 1996 (Kirchhainer 2017: 90-93, pl.55-59)

Museum of Art and History, Geneva: Two samples from the Zakos collection (Martiniani-Reber, 2015: 160-163, no.55).

İstanbul Sadberk Hanım Museum and İstanbul Tufan Karasu Collection: Both have one sample. Purchased from an antique dealer (Atasoy, 2005: 87-88, no.148).

We cannot be sure that all of these lamp holders were produced in Constantinople, even if they were undoubtedly imported to the Balkans and the Black Sea area. Certainly, they were produced in more than one Byzantine workshop.

Their form and manufacturing technique indicate that they were produced in unknown local workshops probably situated in Eastern Thrace. Workshops making cast-metal objects must have existed in Serbia and Thessaloniki (Pitarakis, 2016: 446)

The fact that objects similar to these lamp holders in the shape of arms have not been found in Asia Minor yet. A small fragmentary hand discovered

during the excavations of Byzantine Amorium.[3] The church lighting devices from Desyatynna Church and Pereyaslav Southern (Crimea), and Gortyn St.Titus Church (Crete) are similar to Harala objects.[4]

During the Mid-Byzantine period there were close cultural relations existing between Constantinople and Balkans and North Black Sea. This similarity may be related for this reason.

Church Lighting Devices from Harala Fortress in the Edirne Archaeological Museum

Catalogue (According to the museum inventory numbers)

1. 677 a-b. Two tripod-bases of Candelabra / lampstand (Figures 6-9)

a) D.0.28m, H. 0.07m, b) D. 0.26m H. 0.09m

Shallow hemispherical bases with floral motifs on the edges. Low circular plinth for the shaft. The feet (lost) should has been soldered to the bases.

Corrosion on the surfaces.

2. 678.Table disc / Lamp tray /pan of a lampstand (Figures 10-11)

D. of disc. 0.255m, D. of circles. 0.0146m

Thickness. 0.04m, partially broken. Corrosion on the surface.

On upper side of the disc, two incised concentric circles. The other side is flat.

3. 679.Table disc / Lamp tray /pan of a lampstand (Figures 12-13)

D. of disc. 0.20m, Thickness. 0.05m, D. of circles. 0.063m

Thickness. 0.05m, Corrosion on the surface.

Disc with beaded rim. On upper side of the disc, three incised concentric circles. The other side is flat.

[3] Lightfoot 2019,132. According to Lightfoot's opinion; "Similar examples of hand-shaped lamp holders in the İstanbul Archaeological Museum have been published and attributed to a provenance in Turkish Thrace. If correct, then the Amorium examples would be the only examples definitely known to have been found in Byzantine Anatolia".

[4] See for similarity: Arhipova 2019, 16-29, pl. 1-9; Ksanthopoulou 1998, 103-119.

4. 680. Baluster shaft of a candelabra (Figure 14)

L. 0.80m. D. of the top. 0.045m

Hollow cast. Corrosion on the surface. Poligonal in section. The shaft which terminates top and bottom in vase-shaped members with globular bodies. It also has a knob in the middle of the shaft.

5. 681.Baluster shaft / stem of a candelabra (Figure 15)

H.0.41m, D. 0.05m, Corrosion on the surface. Similar to the no.683

Hollow cast. The baluster shaft of candelabra is furnished with vase-shaped members.

Parallel: Ksanthopoulou 1998,114, figs. 27-28 (MidByzantine); See examples like this one: Bilotto 2012, 384-386, nos.377-379, (Fatimid, 11th-12th cent.AD).

6. 682.Fragment of a baluster shaft (Figure 16)

H. 0.228m, D. 0.073m, Corrosion on the surface.

Hollow cast. The bioconical baluster shaft of candelabra has incised horizontal lines.

7. 683. Fragment of a baluster shaft (Figure 17)

H. 0.17m, D. 0.053m

Corrosion on the surface. Similar to the previous no.681 Hollow cast. The bioconical baluster shaft of candelabra has

incised horizontal lines. Baluster flanked by circular vase-shape. Parallel: Ksanthopoulou 1998,114, fig.27 (MidByzantine),

8. 684. Baluster shaft of a candelabra (Figure 18)

H. 0.42m, D. 0.035m

Hollow cast. The baluster shaft has a circular member above and a vase- shaped member with biconical body below. Corrosion on the surface.

9. 685. Baluster shaft of a candelabra (Figure 19)

H. 0.408m, D. 0.035m. Corrosion on the surface.

Hollow cast. The baluster shaft has a vase-shaped member with globular body above and a vase-shaped member with biconical body below.

10. 686. Baluster shaft of a candelabra (Figure 20)

H. 0.28m, D. 0.035m (base). Corrosion on the surface.

Hollow cast. The baluster shaft is composed of knobs and has two handles.

11. 687. Bell (Figure 21)

H. 0.081m (with loop). D. 0.08m Corrosion on the surface. Missing clapper.

Hollow cast. Hemispherical bell. Incised circular lines on the body. Parallel: See; Baş 2021,10, fig.9

12. 688 a-b. Lamp stands in the shape of right / left arms (Figures 22-24)

b) L.0.385m (total), 0.061m (hand), 0.161m (arm), 0.163 (wall pin), D. of the hand hollow. 0.02m (right arm)

c) L.0.385m (total), 0.068 (hand), 0.152m (arm), 0.165m(wall-pin), D. of the hand hollow. 0.02m (left arm)

Cast. Corrosion on the surface. Arms with fist-shaped hands.

Parallel: Atasoy 2005, 87-91/146-154 (Mid-Byzantine); Atasoy 2008a; Atasoy 2008b, 109-114; Horst 2017, 93, pl.60/2 (Late Byzantine); Ryzhov-Yashaeva 2019, 141, fig.7/3,4 (Mid- Byzantine, Byzantine Cherson); Yashaeva et al. 2011,216,504, no. 168-169)

13. 689. Lamp stands in the shape of a left hand (Figures 25-26)

L. 0.162m (present). D.of the hand hollow. 0.022m

Part of the arm and wall -pin broken and missing. Corrosion on the surface. Cast. Fist-shaped hand.

Parallel: Atasoy 2005, 88/148 (MidByzantine); Atasoy 2008a; Atasoy 2008b, 119-114; Kirchhainer 2017, 59, 59/1-4 (Mid-late Byzantine); Ryzhov- Yashaeva 2019, 141, fig.7/3 (Mid- Byzantine, Byzantine Cherson)

14. 690. Suspension-strap with a disc / lamp hanger (Figures 27-28)

L. 0.27m (total). W. 0.019m Thickness. 0.05m. D. of disc. 0.068m

Broken and missing. Corrosion on the surface.

Part of suspension strap for a polycandelon. Such objects are well-known

from 10th-12th cent. and later.On both sides of the disc in the middle there are projections with concentric circles around them.

Parallel: Ryzhov-Yashaeva 2019, 143, fig.9/2,3 (Mid Byzantine, Byzantine Cherson); Arhipova 2019, pl.I (MidByzantine, Desyatynna Church,Kiev); Ksanthopoulou 1998,115, figs. 33-34 (Mid- Byzantine,Saint-Tıtus Basilica- Gortyn,Crete).

15. 691. Open work disc. Fragment of a choros (?) (Figures 29-31)

D. of disc. 0.30m. Thickness. 0. 01m Corrosion on the surface.

Open work disc in the center of which is a small disc with six arms. There are six projecting along the outer edge of the disc.

16. 692. One side of a fixing support (Figures 32-34)

Dimensions. 0.074m x 0.079m. Thickness. 0.06m

L.0.071m (fixing pin/ vertical tenon). Corrosion on the surface. One side missing.

Rectangular fixing support with a vertical tenon.

It has a decorative projection in the middle with incised concentric circles around it. These fixing supports have been found in the various places and they either carried an icon or a small flag (see; Orlandos 1926, 325)

Parallel: Ksanthopoulou 1998,107, figs. 8-9 (MidByzantine); For similar decoration of fixing support see, Atasoy 2005, 87, no.146 (İstanbul Arch. Museum, East Thrace, MidByzantine).

Ryzhov-Yashaeva 2019, 141, fig.7/3 (Mid Byzantine, Byzantine Cherson); Yashaeva et al. 2011,216, no.168

17. 693. Four solid bands of a choros / lamna (Figure 35)

W. 0.069m. Thickness. 0.021m. Projecting element on the band. H. 0.015 m

Corrosion on the surface. Solid bands of an arch-shaped central part of a lamna with projecting elements for candles which extended over the screen epistyles. Solid bands were connected by rivets.

Parallel: Ryzhov-Yashaeva 2019, 141, fig.7(Mid Byzantine, Byzantine Cherson); Yashaeva et al. 2011,504, no.168).

The lamna was attached the wall by means of two holders which were

designed in the shape of a hand holding a rectangular fixting support. According to the researchers' observations the lamnai could frame epistyles or icons in the Byzantine places of worship or could be positioned above the altar barrier. In 1891 during the excavation of a chapel on the Eastbank, fragments of a lamnai were found directly on a wooden altar (Ryzhov-Yashaeva 2019, 141-142)

18. 694. Four solid bands of a choros / lamna (Figure 36)

L. 1.43m (total), a. 0.26m, b.0.415m, c.0.235m, d.0.52m

Thickness. 0.011m. W. 0.08m, projecting element. H. 0.012m

Attached to the top of the bands are projecting elements for candles. Solid bands were connected by rivets. Corrosion on the surface.

Parallel: Horst 2017, 93, pl. 60/2 (B. Landesmuseum Karlsruhe, MidByzantine); Ryzhov-Yashaeva 2019, 141, fig.7/6 (Mid -Byzantine, Byzantine Cherson)

19. 695. Four openwork bands of a choros / lamna (Figures 37-38)

L. 2.06m (total), a. 0.53m, b.0.53m, c.0.48m, d.0.52m

W. 0.06m. Thickness. 0.011m

Projecting element. H. 0.014 m. Cast. Corrosion on the surface.

The openwork band decorated with flowers was probably set the polycandelon. Attached to the top of the bands are projecting elements for candles. Bands were connected by rivets.

The openwork decoration is closely linked both in ornament and technique to the Saint-Titus's candelabra trays (Gortyn-Crete) (see:Ksanthopoulou 1998, 110, figs.12-17).

Parallel: Papadopoulou 2005, 263, figs.21-22 (11th cent.AD); Arhipova 2008, 246, fig.1 and 250, fig.2; Arhipova 2019, pl.5/7,8 (11th-13th cent.AD, Byzantine Cherson); Rom und Byzanz 1998, 97-100, (13th-14th cent.AD, München Prahistorische Staatssammlung); Ballian 2004, 125, no.60 (13th-14th cent.AD)

20. 679. Disk/tray + 681 shaft + 677 bases. Candelabra (Figure 39)

Probably three items (679+681+677) seem to belong to this candelabra. They are in a position that match together.

Hollow cast. A cylindrical shaft which terminates top and bottom in vase-shaped members with globular bodies. It has a flat tray and rests on a shallow, hemispherical base. Corrosion on the surface.

We can compare this kind of candelabra with similar Byzantine and Islamic examples.

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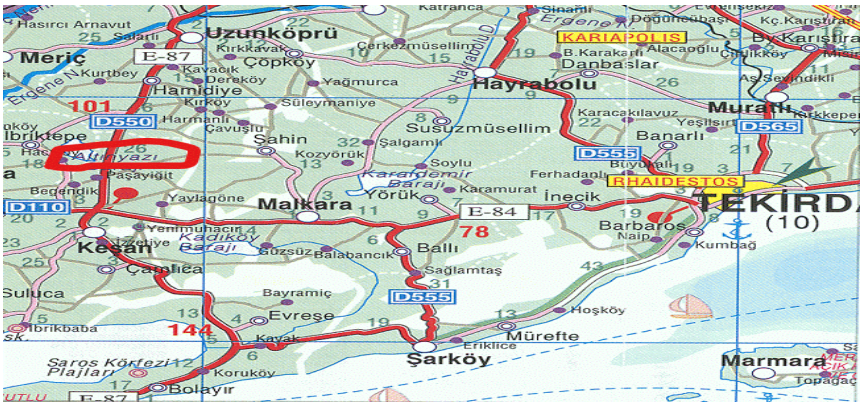

Figure 1: The Location of Harala (Altınyazı)


Figure 2: Harala from Google Earth


Figure 3: The Rock hill of Harala

Figure 4: Southeast Tower of the Fortress

Figure 5: The concealed Course Technique on the Fortress Wall

Figure 6: Tripod Base of Candelabra (677a)

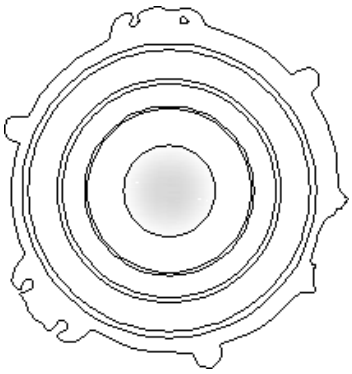

Figure 7: Tripod Base of Candelabra (677a-drawing)

Figure 8: Tripod Base of Candelabra (677b)

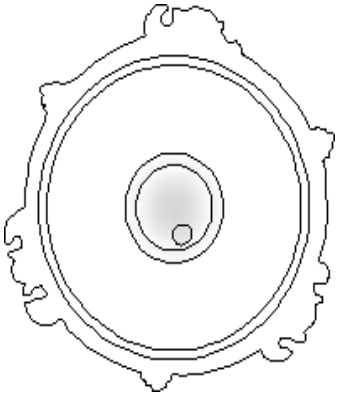

Figure 9: Tripod Base of Candelabra (677b-drawing)

Figure 10: Upper side of Table Disc (678)

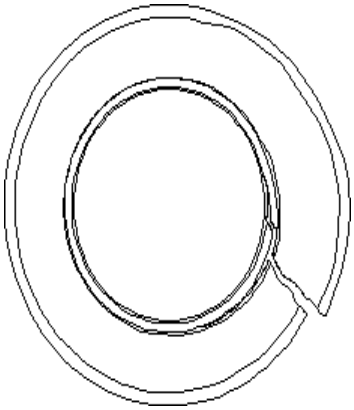

Figure 11: Upper side of Table Disc (678-drawing)

Figure 12: Upper side of Table Disc (679)

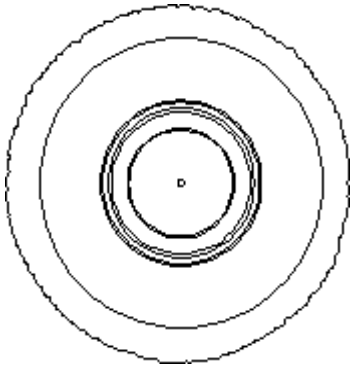

Figure 13: Upper side of Table Disc (679-drawing)

Figure 14: Baluster Shaft of a Candelabra (680)

Figure 15: Baluster Shaft of a Candelabra (681)

Figure 16: Fragment of a Baluster Shaft (682)

Figure 17: Fragment of a Baluster Shaft (683)

Figure 18: Baluster Shaft of a Candelabra (684)

Figure 19: Baluster Shaft of a Candelabra (685)

Figure 20: Baluster Shaft of a Candelabra (686)

Figure 21: Bell (687)

Figure 22: Lampstand in the Shape of Right arm (688a)

Figure 23: Lampstand in the Shape of Left arm (688b)

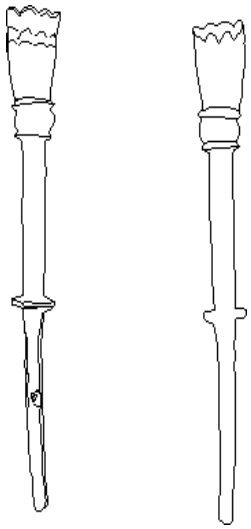

Figure 24: Lampstands in the Shape of right-left arms (688- drawing)

Figure 25: Lampstand in the Shape of Left hand (689)

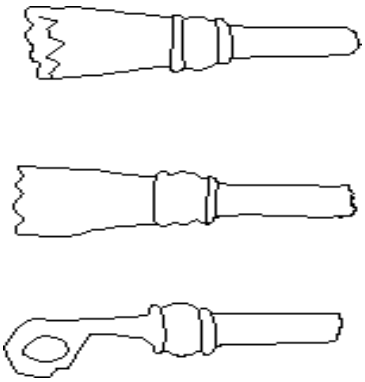

Figure 26: Lampstand in the Shape of Left hand (689-drawing)

Figure 27: Suspension Strap with a Disc (690)

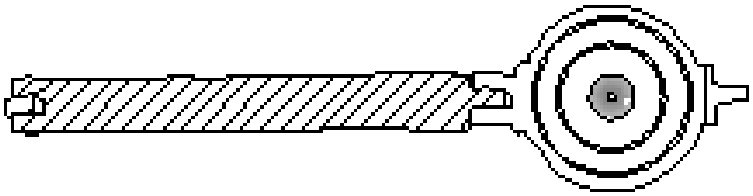

Figure 28: Suspension Strap with a Disc (690-drawing)

Figure 29: Upper side of Openwork Disc (691)

Figure 30: Back side of Openwork Disc (691)

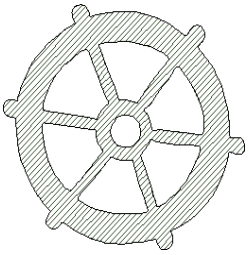

Figure 31: Back side of Openwork Disc (691-drawing)

Figure 32: Front side of a Fixing support (692)

Figure 33: Back side of a Fixing support (692)

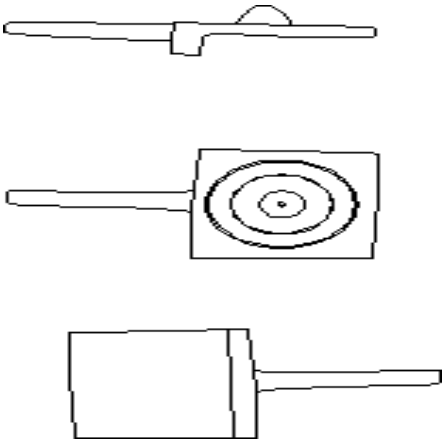

Figure 34: Fixing support (692-drawing)

Figure 35: Four Solid bands of a Choros (693)

Figure 36: Four Solid bands of a Choros (694)

Figure 37: Four Openwork bands of a Choros (695)

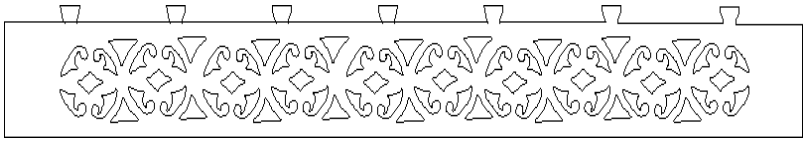

Figure 38: Four Openwork bands of a Choros (695-drawing)

Figure 39: Candelabra (679 +681+677)