Csanád Bálint. *Der Schatz von Nagyszentmiklós, Archäologische Studien zur frühmittelalterlichen Metallgefäßkunst des Orients, Byzanz' und der Steppe*

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- 1 A hoard of 23 gold vessels, presently kept in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, was discovered in 1799 at Nagyszentmiklós/Sânnicolau Mare (in Romania). These vessels display a mixture of styles and images, some bearing inscriptions in the Greek alphabet, others in another script. Several scholars have placed this widely discussed treasure in the complicated early medieval ethnic context of the Carpathian basin. Central Asian and Perso-Sasanian iconographic elements and themes can be recognized on some of the vessels. A chapter is devoted to placing this treasure in the context of the Avar khanate (p. 153-260: "Eurasian steppe, T'ang, Sasanian and early Islamic metalware and iconography"). Instead of proposing a direct Sasanian connection, the author argues in favor of elements from Eurasian steppe cultures and the intermediary role of Byzantium.

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