

The World's Oldest Treasure! The Most Famous Artifact from the 6,500-Year-Old Varna Gold Treasure

Some of the most famous artifacts from the 6,500-year-old Varna Gold Treasure, part of the collection of the Varna Museum of Archaeology.



The Varna Gold Treasure is considered the oldest gold treasure in the world or the oldest human processed gold in the world dating back to the time of the Chalcolithic (Aeneolithic, Copper Age) Varna Culture – 4,550-4,320 BC.

The Varna Gold Treasure is just one of five or six prehistoric gold treasures, all from the 5th millennium BC, the Late Chalcolithic, and of them discovered in Bulgaria, that claim the title of “the oldest gold in the world”, that is, the oldest gold treasure or human processed gold. The other prehistoric gold treasures from the same time period are the Hotnitsa Gold Treasure, the Durankulak Gold Treasure, the gold artifacts from the Yunatsite Settlement Mound near Pazardzhik, the Sakar Gold Treasure as well as gold items such as beads and jewels found in the Provadiya – Solnitsata (“The Salt Pit”) Settlement Mound.

As it is the largest one of them, the Varna Gold Treasure is often preferred for the title of the “world’s oldest gold” treasure.

All of these treasures are the product of Europe’s first human civilization, which developed in the Neolithic and Chalcolithic in today’s Bulgaria and other parts of the Balkan Peninsula, along the Lower Danube and the Western Black Sea coast, a prehistoric civilization referred to by some American scholars as “Old Europe”.

