

**Nacre – Nature, Sources, and Use. Nacre Belt Buckles  
from the Fund of the Kardzhali Regional Museum of History**

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(Summary)

Known to man since time immemorial, nacre is one of the most popular and most highly valued material that are still in use nowadays in the creating of different pieces of jewelry and decorations. Subject of the study are some of the most attractive and beautiful belt buckles (*pafti*) which are property of the Regional Museum of History in the town of Kardzhali. Additionally, nacre is described as a raw material in regards with its composition and structure, its natural sources and the ways in which it is used. The article is an attempt to view the subject from an interdisciplinary perspective and give a complex picture, using the resources of different disciplines. Its goal is to interpret the messages encrypted in the images on the belt buckles, and also to answer a series of questions about the type, nature, biogeographic origins and the way of processing the raw nacre.

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