

IV. WARRIORS AND ARMAMENTS FROM THE VISTULA TO THE DAUGUVA

A WIELBARK CULTURE PIECE OF WEAPONRY? REMARKS CONCERNING THE ASTONISHING FIND FROM THE CEMETERY AT KROSNO (CROSSEN)

BARTOSZ KONTNY AND MAGDALENA NATUNIEWICZ-SEKULA

Abstract

The authors recall their reconstruction of the Wielbark Culture cemetery at Krosno grave 27 furnishing. One of the most interesting elements in the grave is a boat-shaped fitting, probably the pommel of a sword typical of Scandinavia. The chronology of the grave corresponds to the dating of such boat-shaped pommels.

Key words: the Roman Period, Wielbark Culture, weapon, sword-pommel.

Introduction

The recent years of increased interest in Prussian antiquities have given rise to a vividly developing “archive” archaeology (ie Andrzejowski and Bursche 1987; Gedl 1999; Kolendo and Nowakowski 2000). Archive studies of private records of archaeologists active in the interwar period and of archives and museum collections discovered since the Cold War are a rich base of source material, with so-called “new” discoveries concerning the Iron Age, especially from the areas occupied by the Balts, but also from Wielbark Culture (eg Cieśliński 2000, pp.89-97; 2001, pp.47-63). A particularly important source is a large part of the materials and records from the *Prussia Museum* now stored in the *Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte* in Berlin, among them the collection from the former *Ostpreußische Provinzial-Museum* (further OPM) in Königsberg, included in the collection of the Prussia Museum in 1905 (Reich 2003, p. 110). Besides the finds, it consists of a great number of metrices, catalogue cards and other archive materials¹.

During archive studies on the *Prussia Museum* collection at present stored in the *Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte*, we came across a box with Wielbark Culture artefacts. Some of them had original sheets of paper with the OPM inventory number and had been signed “Crossen” or “Krossen, Kr. Pr. Holland” (nowadays Krosno, Pasłęk district). Most of the artefacts had

sheets with inventory numbers attached to them. Luckily, also separate metrices with inventory numbers and numbers of graves were preserved for part of the finds which allowed for their further identification. Thanks to the information from the sheets, it was possible to associate part of the finds with actual burial assemblages. Furthermore, in some cases it was possible to identify the finds which did not have an OPM number. The artefacts come from several graves, of which the furnishing of grave 27 from the cemetery at Krosno deserves particular attention².

Grave 27 from Krosno and its furnishings

Grave 27 is one of the objects from Krosno that is most frequently mentioned in literature. The first reliable information about the goods from that burial were issued in Blume’s works (1912, p.107 and 121, Fig. 150, Plate 58a; 1915, pp.41, 46-47 and 53). Single finds from the burial were mentioned in various monographs (Ebert 1926, p.72; Gaerte 1929, p.185, Fig. 136: e; Schindler 1940, p.144, No. 184; Eggers 1951, p.102, No. 586; Madyda 1977, pp.382-383; 1987, p.150; Lund Hansen

² The cemetery at Krosno, Site 1, Pasłęk district, Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship, is a biritual cemetery of Wielbark Culture. Part of the materials from the necropolis with an exact history of the research at the site have been presented several times recently (Andrzejowski, Bursche 1987; Chowaniec 2005; Bursche, Chowaniec 2001; Cieśliński 2001; Okulicz, Bursche 1987). To avoid repetition, this issue shall not be dealt with in this paper.

¹ For more on the history of the collection see: Reich (2003, 2005).

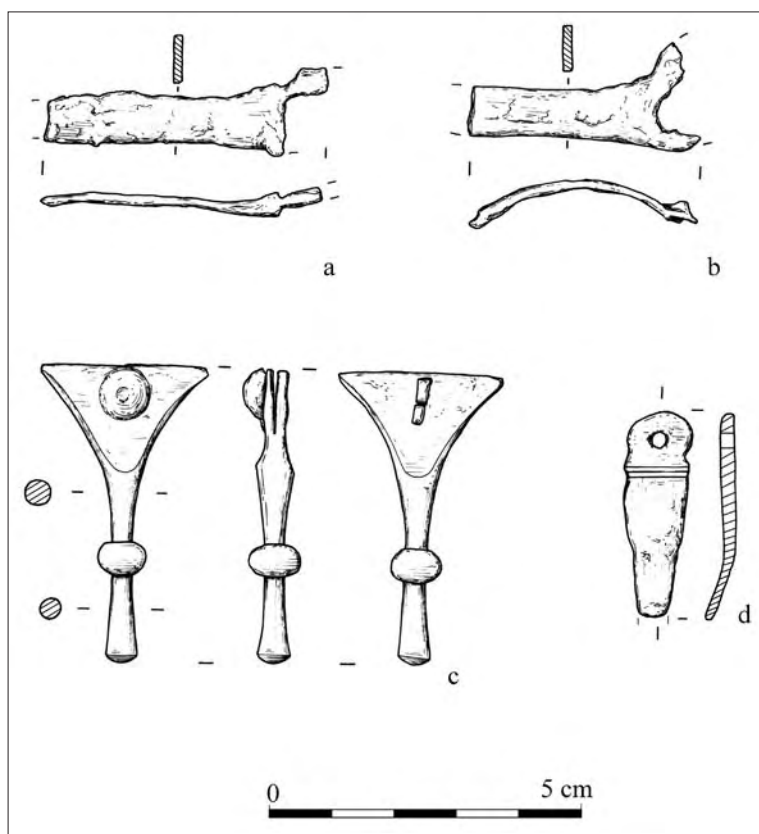


Fig. 1. Part of the equipment of grave 27 at Krosno, found in the collection of the former *Prussia Museum* kept nowadays in the *Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte*: a–d bronze. Drawn by E. Pazyna, M. Rudnicki.

1987, p.77; Wołagiewicz 1993, p. 177). An attempt at collecting the scattered information about this and other graves from the cemetery at Krosno was made by Andrzejowski and Bursche (1987, pp.233-277). Later on, finds from grave 27 were mentioned several times, often without the full data on the furnishing known from the literature (Stawiarska 1999, p.266).

On the basis of the above mentioned data as well as the surviving artefacts, we tried to reconstruct the furnishings of the grave (Kontny, Natuniewicz-Sekuła 2006). Altogether, the assemblage from grave 27 may be reconstructed as follows:

1. Clay vessel – bowl VIA after Wołagiewicz (1993); missing (OPM 20840).
2. Bronze spur, close to Subgroup G1 after Ginalski (1991) (Fig. 1: a); fragmentarily preserved; preserved length: 4.6 cm, maximum width of a bow 0.8 cm (OPM 20841).
3. Bronze spur, close to Subgroup G1 after Ginalski (1991) (Fig. 1: b); fragmentarily preserved; preserved length: 3.8 cm, maximum width of a bow 0.7 cm (OPM 20842).
4. Belt buckle, bronze Type D 29 after Madyda-Legutko (1987); missing (OPM 20843).

5. Belt-end fitting, bronze, Type O15 after Raddatz (1957) (Fig. 1: c); length 4.8 cm (OPM 20844).

6. Glass goblet Type 216 after Eggers (1951); missing (OPM 20845).

7. Boat-shaped fitting, bronze (Fig. 2: a-c); a detailed description is presented below (OPM 20846).

8. Fragment of a bronze sheet, which was probably part of a strap-end Type JII3? after Raddatz (1957) (Fig. 1: d); length 3.3 cm (OPM 20847).

9. Fragments of a bone or antler comb Type I after Thomas (1960); missing (OPM 20848).

10. Plate of a bronze buckle and bronze belt hanger (?); missing (OPM 20849).

The assemblage of finds presented above was most probably discovered in an inhumation grave³. The deceased, probably a man, had two belts, which is suggested by the elements of sets of the belt fittings. The presence of two belts seems to indicate the social role played by the deceased: one of the belts was probably on his hips, whereas the second one might have served as a *balteus*, ie a belt worn across the shoulder and used for suspending a sword⁴.

Based on the dating of particular elements of the furnishing, we established the chronology of the grave to Phase C₂, perhaps in its earlier stage (for a detailed chronological analysis, see: Kontny, Natuniewicz-Sekuła 2006, p.311).

Reconstruction of the sword-pommel

Among the grave goods from grave 27, particular attention should be devoted to the object described as a bronze boat-shaped fitting (Fig. 2: a-c). This mysterious bronze object is lenticular in plan. It has an edge

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³ This is indicated by the lack of traces of burning on the preserved artefacts. Even though when describing the graves from Krosno, Blume occasionally mentions the burial rite (only for graves 83, 121, 145 does he mention that these were urn burials) we may assume that in the case of the other burial features he meant inhumation (Andrzejowski and Bursche 1987, p.234).

⁴ This interpretation was proposed by Madyda-Legutko for Przeworsk Culture in a slightly earlier period of time. She saw an evident correlation between the presence of pairs of buckles (including one with a double tongue) and high-quality swords imported from Rome (Madyda-Legutko 1990).

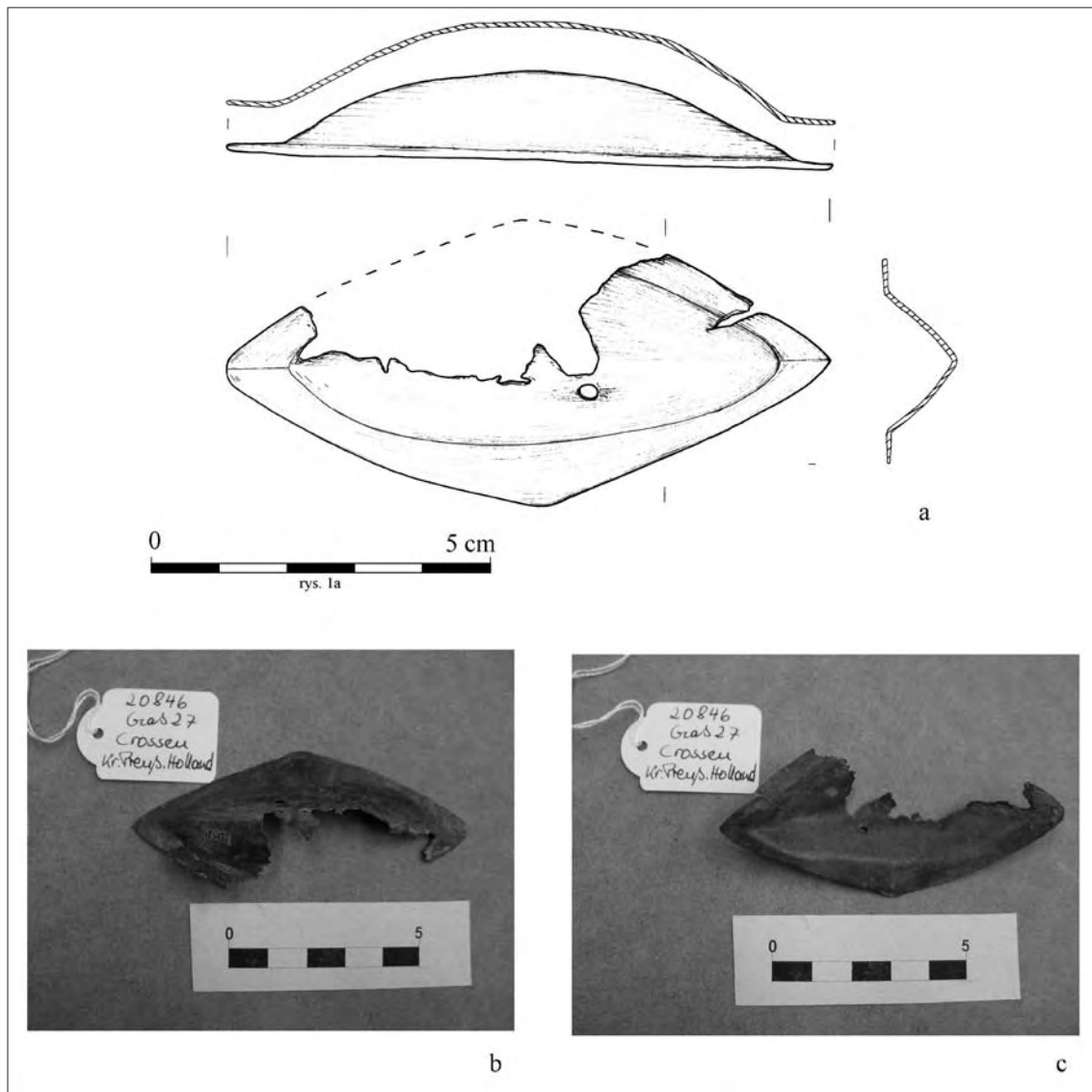


Fig. 2. A bronze boat-shaped fitting, probably an element of a sword pommel from grave 27 at Krosno, from the collection of the *Prussia Museum*: a drawn by M. Natuniewicz-Sekuła, E. Pazyna; b photograph by M. Natuniewicz-Sekuła.

and a protuberance also lenticular in plan. Its culmination is clearly linearly distinguished (the broken line follows the long axis of the object). The item is 8.8 centimetres long, 1.4 centimetres high and originally it was probably around 3.5 centimetres wide. The width of the edge oscillates between 0.2 and 0.8 centimetres, reaching the greatest values in the top parts of the object. No traces of fixing in the form of rivets or nails can be seen on the surface of the artefact. It is worth noticing the pronounced top parts of the edge, which may have served to fasten the object in a casing. It should, however, be remarked that among the finds from the grave there are no elements of the supposed casing. Almost half of the artefact has not been preserved, which, as the irregularities of the edge suggest, was probably due to corrosion. In one place at a small distance from the top, a deformation of the edge is visible: the bronze sheet is broken and slightly bent. This

may have been done when the object was pulled off the surface to which it was fixed.

The object has its closest analogies as to shape and proportions among so-called boat-shaped pommels⁵ (Fig. 3), which were elements of double-edged sword casing (Bemmann and Hahne 1994, pp.376-377). Boat-shaped pommels were usually part of an hour-glass hilt and had two versions. The earlier one had thicker proportions (the proportion of the length to the width was around 2:1) and was slightly shorter. They appeared together with indicators of so-called Group By of weapon-graves from Norway dated to Phases C_{1b}-C₂ (Bemmann and Hahne 1994, p.307), and Group Vøien, dated to Phase C₃ (Bemmann and Hahne 1994, p.312)⁶. The later version of boat-shaped pommels embraced slimmer and longer items with proportions ap-

⁵ German: *bootsförmige Knäufe*.

⁶ The issue of reconstruction of the hilts of the swords from the Roman Period was taken up by Biborski (1978, p.135-

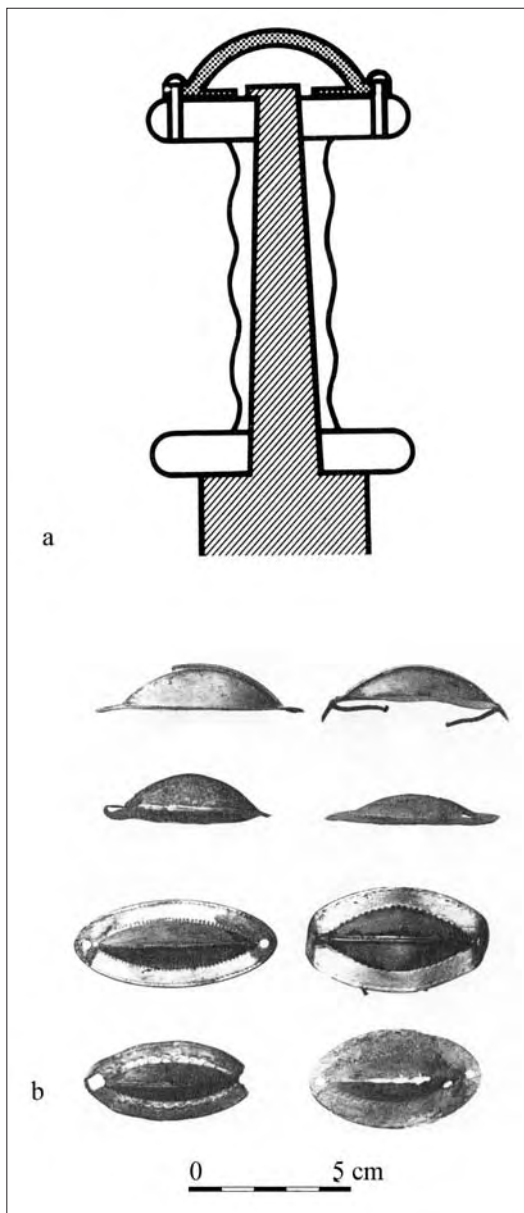


Fig. 3. Examples of boat-shaped pommels and ways of fastening them: a according to Menghin (1983, Fig. 28), no scale; b according to Ørsnes (1988, plates 94: 1-2, 4-5, 7-8 and 10-11).

proximately 3:1. They appeared with objects included in Group Mollestad, placed in the second half of the fourth century, ie in the developed and late part of Phase C₃ and in Phase D₁ (Bemmann and Hahne 1994, p.316)⁷.

138); however, his conclusions can be used for the problems analyzed in this paper only to a very small extent.

⁷ A different concept was presented by Menghin, who distinguished two types of boat-shaped pommels according to different criteria. In his proposal the Snartemo-Blučina Type is composed of pommels made of silver, gold or gilded silver on which stylised animal figures are represented; this kind of pommel was part of the most intricate swords of the period, ie Group A, dated after Menghin to ca 450–480 AD (Menghin 1983, pp.58 and 135, Fig. 25). Type Simris, grave 54-Krefeld-Gellep, grave from 1812, in turn, was simpler in form and less decorative or not

The find from Krosno resembles the first group. This kind of pommel (both silver and bronze ones) were discovered, besides Norway, in other areas of Scandinavia. We may mention here the finds from the bog site Ejsbøl Nord in East Jutland, dated to the late stage of Phase C₂ (Ørsnes 1988, pp.52-54, Plates 89: 3, 90: 2, 94: 1-12). A silver example was also found during the new research concerning the area of deposit Ejsbølgård D, contemporary to Ejsbøl Nord (Andersen 2003, pp.251-252, Fig. 8: 739). Thicker boat-shaped pommels are also known from bog sites at Thorsberg (Behmer 1939, Plate III: 2; Raddatz 1987, Fig. 3, Plate 77: 4)⁸ and Nydam in Schleswig. In the last-mentioned case, during the verification excavations of the 1990s, an hour-glass hilt with silver fittings (including a boat-shaped pommel) was uncovered in the context of a pine boat (Horizon Nydam Ib) (Jørgensen and Petersen 2003, pp.269-270, Fig. 13)⁹. The boat was put in the bog probably around 300 AD, which has been indicated by the dendrochronological analysis of a plank from one of the shields originally deposited in the bottom of the mentioned boat (the date obtained was 296 AD) (Ilkjær 2003, p.55; Rieck 2003, p.301). Further items come from the site at Vimose (Engelhardt 1869, Plate 6: 19; Behmer 1939, Plate XV: 1-3)¹⁰ and Kragehul in Fyn (Boye 1860, p.51, Plate I: 1; Engelhardt 1867, Fig. b, Plate I: 2; Behmer 1939, Plate XIX: 3). The last mentioned ones, however, represent the later, slim variant, and are dated to Phases C₃-D₁ together with swords with hour-glass hilts (Ilkjær 2003, p.57). Of the slim Scandinavian boat-shaped pommels, we may also mention the items from a rich burial at Sætrang (Slomann 1959, p.48, Plate V) and from a man's grave from Foss (Straume 1961, p.80, Fig. 6; Lund Hansen 1987, p.441), both from Norway; they are dated to Phase C₃ (Group 11 of weapon-graves) (Ilkjær 1990, pp.353 and 387)¹¹. Bronze, undecorated pommels of that kind are also known from Finland, from Nokia

decorated at all (Menghin 1983, pp. 63-64 and 306-307; Fig. 29), matching the criteria for the boat-shaped pommels adopted by Bemmann and Hahne (1994). The criteria put forward by the latter are used in this paper.

⁸ According to Behmer, it is not entirely clear if the pommel from Thorsberg belongs to the same sword as the remaining part of the hilt (Behmer 1939, p.41).

⁹ In the catalogue of the exhibition "The Spoils of Victory" two silver boat-shaped pommels from the same horizon are presented: a more slender one and a thicker one (*The Spoils of...* p.420, Cat. 6.5). This seems to indicate that the borderline between the two versions of the two boat-shaped pommels is not sharp.

¹⁰ One of them has small projections in the central part of the sides of the pommel (Engelhardt 1869, Plate 6: 19; Menghin 1983, p.307) similar to the ones noticeable on the pommel from Krosno.

¹¹ Bemmann and Hahne also noticed an identically dated, late variant of a boat-shaped pommel from the Danish water find at Næssund (1994, pp.376-377, Footnote 368).

(Kivikoski 1955, Fig. 5: 2; Menghin 1983, p. 306) and Keho (Behmer 1939, Plate XXXI: 7a; Menghin 1983, p.306)¹².

Boat-shaped pommels have been also found on the areas occupied by the Franks (Krefeld-Gellep, grave from 1812 (Pirling 1974, Plate 55: 1)¹³. According to Menghin, the late forms derived from the Scandinavian model and appeared sporadically until the late Phase C after Menghin (1983, p.135, Fig. 77), ie till the late first half of the fourth century (Menghin 1983, p.59, Fig. 25), yet they may have been parts of hilts other than hour-glass shaped ones (eg Krefeld-Gellep, grave from 1812).

Boat-shaped pommels were made both of silver and bronze sheets. Very often they had a stamped ornament on the part near the edge and at the edge near the culmination of the convexity. It should, however, be remarked that some of them were undecorated (Behmer 1939, Plate XXI: 7a; Ørsnes 1988, p.52, Plate 94: 5-6, 12), both the bronze and the silver ones. The fittings from Scandinavia usually have a hole at either end for long rivets connecting the pommel with an oval plate (Ørsnes 1988, Plate 90: 2; Raddatz 1987, Fig. 3). The space between the pommel and plate and the bronze band holding them together was filled with organic material (eg wood) which was the basic part of the hilt (Menghin 1983, Fig. 28: 2; Raddatz 1987, Fig. 3; Jørgensen and Petersen 2003, p.270, Fig. 13). There are also items the wooden part of the pommel of which is not reinforced with a bronze band. Particularly important in this case is the item from grave 54 at Simris in Scania (Fig. 4: a). The silver boat-shaped pommel found in it differs from the ones mentioned above: according to the author of the publication, it was fixed directly to the wooden part by means of a long rivet (two longer fragments of it have been preserved). Originally, it was probably bow-shaped and ran along the inside of the convexity of the pommel. The ends of the rivet

¹² They appeared together with scabbard suspensions (Kivikoski 1955, Fig. 5: 3; Behmer 1939, Plate XXI: 7b), included in Type Indre Kvarøy, decorated with heads of birds. Suspensions of this kind are associated with Group Mollestad (late stage of Phase C₃ and Phase D₁) (Bemann and Hahne 1994, p.316 and 393).

¹³ Menghin includes in this group also the items from Wageningen, grave 144 (Holland) and Westerwanna, grave 535 in Lower Saxony (1983, p.307, Map 1), but in reality they resemble Scandinavian boat-shaped pommels only very slightly: the item from Westerwanna is disc-shaped in plan but is entirely flat (Zimmer-Linnfeld 1960, p.32, Plate 72: b), and the find from Wageningen refers to Type Snartemo-Blučina to a greater extent due to the pattern of animal heads on the blunt sides (van Es 1964, p.227, Fig. 71: 2). The latter concerns also the sword from Nummedal in Norway (Behmer 1939, Plate XIX: 2) included by Menghin to Type Simris, grave 54-Krefeld-Gellep, grave from 1812 (Menghin 1983, p.306).

were bent at the edge of the pommel at right angles to it (Stjernquist 1955, pp.21-22, 115, Plates XXII: 1-4 and 9-10). The item from Simris may not be treated as a typical hour-glass hilt because its shape refers to the hilt of an earlier type. Besides, there are no decorative reinforcements to the construction in the form of oval plaques on which the rivets were resting and horizontal bands wrapped around pommel and guard. It thus seems probable that we are dealing with a prototype of the later hour-glass hilt in which only some of the solutions characteristic of the typical construction were used. This supposition is confirmed by the chronology of grave 54 from Simris, placed within Phases C_{1b}-C₂ (Ilkjær 1990, pp.379-380), and thus slightly earlier or at most contemporary to the first "model" of boat-shaped pommels and hour-glass hilts. A similar location of the rivets, fixed inside the convexity at a certain distance from the tops of the pommel, can be found in items from the bog site at Vimose in Fyn (Fig. 4: b) (Engelhardt 1869, Plate 6: 19; Behmer 1939, Plate XV: 2-3); it should, however, be added that their chronology is not clearly determined (the finds from Vimose are a random collection which was not recorded in context during the excavations)¹⁴. In both cases, the rivets were soldered to the inside part of the pommel¹⁵. Curiously enough, a very similar method of attaching the rivets to the inside part of the convexity of the pommel without making holes has been discovered in the item from grave 144 at Wagenigen in Holland (Fig. 4: c) (van Es 1964, Fig. 71: 2) mentioned above. There arises the question, however, if the above method of attaching the pommel was durable? The small surface at which the rivet meets the inner part of the pommel suggests that it was not. Perhaps for that reason it was found in few items in comparison to the total number of boat-

¹⁴ In Vimose one more boat-shaped pommel was found. It also did not have rivet holes in its upper part (the rivets themselves have not been preserved); (Behmer 1939, Plate XV: 1).

¹⁵ The pommel from Vimose published by Engelhardt is known to us from personal inspection. It is worth noting that it is thick, much thicker than the pommels from Simris. The rivets, however, were soldered without any additional manipulations such as excavating the base and fixing them in the hole (we would like to thank Xenia Pauli Jensen, who is investigating the materials from Vimose, for making them available to us). It is also possible that the item from Simris was fixed in a similar way and the reconstruction suggested by Stjernquist (1955, Plate XXII: 4) requires correction (reproducing the way in which the pommel was fixed, she based herself only on two fragments of the supposed long rivet, which in fact could have been attached in the same way as in the items from Vimose mentioned above). It should, however, be stressed that the item from Vimose was made from a solid piece of silver, only a little concave, thus in this respect it differs entirely from the item from Krosno and from the majority of boat-shaped pommels.

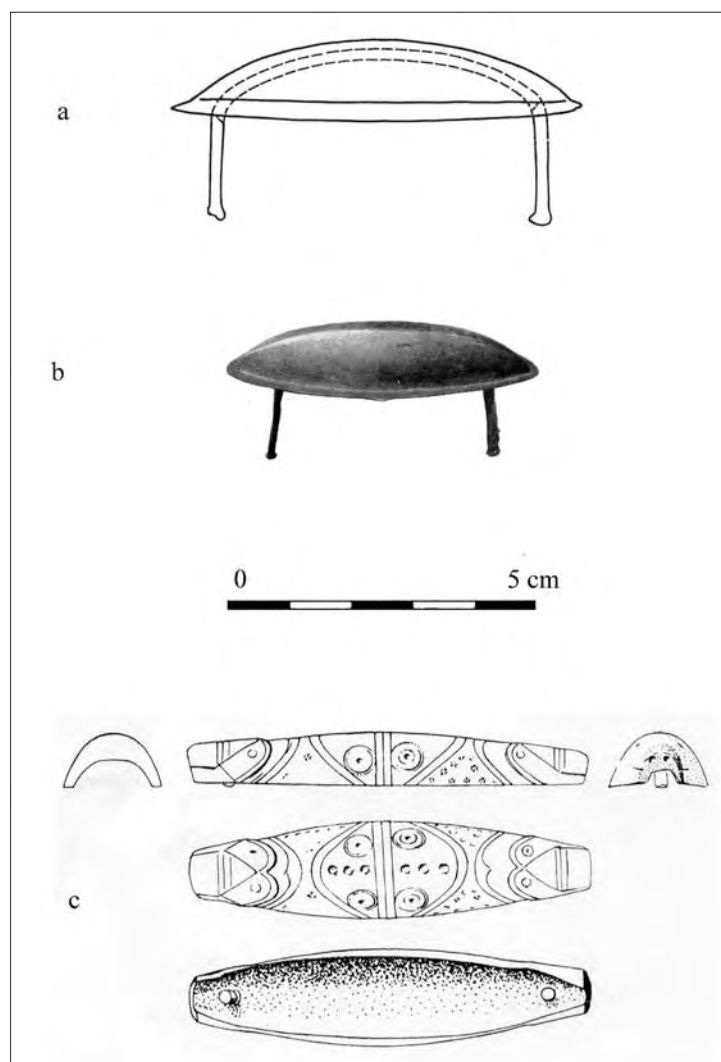


Fig. 4. Non-typical methods of fastening boat-shaped pommels: a Simris, grave 54, according to Stjernquist (1955, plate XXII:4); b Vimose, according to Behmer (1939, plate XV: 3); c Wageningen, grave 144, according to van Es (1964, Fig. 71: 2).

shaped pommels. It may seem that this was a prototype and less perfect method than the later (?) one, but to confirm this hypothesis a greater set of artefacts than the one now available is necessary.

In the light of the above, the lack of rivet holes in the item from Krosno is not surprising and does not undermine the determined function of the artefact. What is, however, remarkable is the similar chronology of the finds from Simris and Krosno. The lack of rivet holes on the pommel from Krosno may be in this case associated with its early chronology and justified by using a not very efficient (prototype) method of using a very long rivet going inside the pommel or a pair of rivets soldered inside the convexity of the boat-shaped pommel. The use of a relatively thin sheet of metal, unlike in the majority of later applications¹⁶, was probably

¹⁶ *Nota bene* the find from Simris was made from a very thin sheet of metal (Stjernquist 1955, Plate XXII: 4).

caused by a lack of experience of the craftsmen, and only after some time was it made more carefully, decorated and securely fixed. The find from Krosno is perhaps a “trial” item which was not tested, and that is why it was also slightly larger than the other examples of boat-shaped pommels.

Theoretically, it is also possible that the analysed object is a mounting of the belt Type Sætrang¹⁷. Ornamental mountings, attached horizontally to the belt, had a shape similar to a boat, being in agreement with the decoration style of the epoch (following the shape of the fire stones carried inside). The mountings were richly decorated: they were made of bronze and covered with silver gilded foil and encrusted with pieces of glass or with enamel. An analysis of their form and context allows us to assume that they may have been covers of wooden boxes for tinder attached to the belt (Bemmann and Hahne 1994, p.489; Christensen 2005, p.60). Mountings of this kind were found at Sætrang (Slomann 1959, p.55, Plates V-VI) and Nydam (in a pine boat deposited in the bog around 300 AD) (Jørgensen, Petersen 2003, pp.267-268, Fig. 8). The find from Krosno, however, should not be interpreted as an ornamental belt mounting¹⁸. This is due to the form (belt mountings are flatter and have straighter sides than boat-shaped pommels) and the method used to make it: the mysterious object from Krosno cannot in any way be treated as an element

of a parade belt indicating a very high standing in the milieu of the north European Barbarians. The chronological discrepancies are also important. The discussed belt mountings appeared in assemblages assigned to Group Mollestad, and thus in the developed and late part of Phase C₃ and in Phase D₁ (Bemmann and Hahne 1994, pp.316 and 489), whereas the late forms, characterised by some special details, appeared in burials determined as Group Kvamme, perhaps even until Group Snartemo (Bemmann and Hahne 1994, p.497), ie from around 400 AD till the early sixth century (Bemmann, Hahne 1994, p.318 and 329). This differs considerably from the chronology established for the burial at Kros-

¹⁷ We would like to express our gratitude for this suggestion to Marcin Biborski PhD from the Institute of Archaeology at Jagiellonian University.

¹⁸ The same opinion was expressed by Prof. Jørgen Ilkjær from *Moesgård Museum*, whom we consulted on this problem, for which we would like to express our gratitude.

IV

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no¹⁹. Furthermore, the assemblage did not contain any other elements characteristic of belts of the Sætrang type, such as propeller-shaped pendants.

To sum up, we are dealing with a unique discovery for Wielbark Culture, which generally avoided including weapons and iron in grave goods. The few items of weapons from the area of that culture are mainly connected with the terminating traditions of Oksywie Culture. Knowledge about the weapons is enriched by stray finds and ones from places other than cemeteries. Also, information is often obtained from archive materials. The weapons are sometimes discovered in the contact zone between Wielbark and Przeworsk cultures. In such cases, the cultural affiliation of the discovered artefacts inspires many doubts (Kaczanowski and Zaborowski 1988). Finds of swords or parts of them are particularly rare. The “Wielbark” finds from the Early Roman Period include the ones from Warszkowo, Sławno district. In grave 2, besides a bronze brooch Type Almgren 12 (1923), dated to Phase B₁ (Grasselt 1998), a one-edged sword Type III after Wołagiewiczowie (1964) was discovered. Unfortunately, the preserved parts consisted only of hilt and a part placed just beneath the hilt, as well as two small fragments of the scabbard (Wołagiewiczowie 1964, p.102, Plate VIII: 2; Wołagiewicz 1965, p.182, Plate II; Eggers and Stary 2001, Plate 189: 4), which does not, however, allow for a complete reconstruction and establishing the dimensions of the weapon. In grave 13²⁰ a one-edged iron sword Type III after Wołagiewiczowie was found, and was accompanied by a bronze brooch from the turn of the Pre-Roman and Roman periods similar to eye-brooches²¹ and a glass bead (Wołagiewiczowie 1964, p.102; Wołagiewicz 1965, p.183; Eggers and Stary 2001, p.68, Plate 340: 3-5). The finds are missing, which makes verification impossible. In the group of swords from the Early Roman Period it is also necessary to mention a 75.5-centimetre-long two-edged one (stray find) from Gronowo Górne, Elbląg district. It became better known only thanks to Martin Jahn’s archives²² and it was dated, due to its similarity to Type I/2 after Biborski²³ (1978, pp.58-59), to Phase B₁ (Kac-

zanowski and Zaborowski 1988, p.224). The brief list of Wielbark Culture swords from the Early Roman Period should be completed with the stray find of a two-edged sword from the cemetery (?) at Piła, Piła district (Kontny 2006a, Fig. 1: a). On the basis of a drawing from Martin Jahn’s archives, it has been dated to Phase B₂ (Kaczanowski and Zaborowski 1988, pp.224-225)²⁴. Until now no parts of Wielbark Culture swords from the Late Roman Period have been known. It is worth stressing that we are dealing with a form which has analogies in Scandinavia²⁵. This confirms the supposition of the northern influence on the weapons used by the Wielbark Culture population clearly perceptible in the Late Roman Period (Kaczanowski, Zaborowski 1988, p. 227–228, 230–231, 236; Kontny 2006b).

Symbolic value of the pommel from grave 27 at Krosno

The exact function of the pommel from Krosno in the grave furnishings remains unclear. It might be assumed that it had a symbolic value, eg a talisman. Similar situations are confirmed in Przeworsk Culture: in grave 1186 at Opatów, Kłobuck district, dated analogically to the Krosno find, ie Phase C₂, a Roman box-like chape was found. Most probably it served as an amulet, which is proved by the existence of holes used to fasten the leather strap or string in order to hang it. It is worth noticing that the item appeared in the burial of a child in age *infans I*, who in no way could be counted in the group of warriors (Godłowski 1979, p.153-154, Fig. 3; Godłowski and Madyda 1975, p.154). Cases of the occurrence of scabbards without swords in grave assemblages are confirmed in Przeworsk Culture, although they are quite rare. Indeed, the percentage of such graves increases in the Younger and Late Roman Period, but still it remains scarce (not more than a few per cent of the weapon-graves with swords/scabbards) (Kontny 2003, p.136, diagram 4). The above situation might be accounted for in different ways, like putting organic imitations of swords stuck in scabbards on the funeral pyre. It let a precious weapon remain in the world of the living. Then we may presume the applica-

¹⁹ It can, however, be observed that belt fittings and late, slender, boat-shaped pommels frequently co-occurred.

²⁰ Kaczanowski and Zaborowski state erroneously that it was grave 19 (1988, p.223).

²¹ In the files of Eggers a “Late La Tène” brooch is mentioned (Eggers and Stary 2001, p.68), although it is presented together with a bead among the materials from the Roman Period (Eggers and Stary 2001, Plate 340: 3-5).

²² Martin Jahn’s files are stored at the Institute of Archaeology at Warsaw University. For the site at Gronowo Górne see also Lissauer (1887, p.151).

²³ It should, however, be remarked that the item has few analogies and Variant 2 Type I has been distinguished on the basis of one sword.

²⁴ More information about swords from the area of Wielbark Culture (including items erroneously assigned to that culture) has been presented in another publication (Kontny 2006a).

²⁵ It does not matter if we are dealing with an import or a similar (slightly larger and attached in a specific way) imitation; we cannot settle this issue definitely. It is, however, worth noting that a similar situation concerns the area of Finland, located at the periphery of the Scandinavian cultural centre: hence also there simple, bronze items without ornament were found. Possibly in the two cases we are dealing with simplified imitations of originals known from the Jutland Peninsula, Scania or Norway.

tion of the *pars-pro-toto* principle: in that way a scabbard meant that the dead person owned the real sword. One cannot exclude the wish to keep a link with the dead, whose sword stood among the living, and a scabbard was put into the burial with the corpse (Kontny 2003, p.120). Such explanations are good for Przeworsk Culture but not for Wielbark, characterised by excluding the weapon from the grave furnishings. Also, it seems improbable that we are dealing with an amulet, as, what is confirmed by the character of the grave goods, in grave 27 at Krosno a man (warrior?), not a child or female was buried²⁶. The context is different from the Opatów case also because of the absence of any solutions aimed at hanging the amulet. Taking into consideration the possible traces of tearing the pommel off the surface, it seems that the act of destruction was somehow connected with funeral ceremonies. Then the pommel might have been put in intentionally as a grave good. If the presumption was right, it would be proof of the weapon's application during the funeral: maybe the family of the dead wanted to underline his position by giving him just a bronze element of a sword, not the whole iron (that means forbidden) sword itself. Nevertheless, we are aware that this is the time to stop here, to avoid becoming fantasy writers ...

Translated by S. Twardo, B. Kontny and
M. Natuniewicz-Sekuła

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²⁶ A symbolic significance is attributed for example to miniature shields (Andrzejowski 2000, p.38) and small fragments of chain-mail (Czarnecka 1994; Kontny 2004, p.155) found generally in female graves.

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Received: 9 January 2007; Revised: 25 May 2007

VIELBARKO KULTŪROS GINKLO DALIS? PASTABOS APIE STEBINANTĮ RADINĮ IŠ KROSNO (CROSSEN) KAPINYNŲ

**Bartosz Kontny,
Magdalena Natuniewicz-Sekula**

Santrauka

Pastaraisiais metais dėl išsiplėtusių „archyvinės archeologijos“ galimybių labai padidėjo domėjimas prūsų senienomis. Šioms studijoms ypač svarbus šaltinis yra išlikusi „Prussia“ muziejaus kolekcijos ir archyvo dalis, saugoma Proistorės muziejuje, Berlyne. Tarp išlikusių „Prussia“ muziejaus kolekcijos su Vielbarko kultūros medžiaga yra buvusio Rytų Prūsijos muziejaus (*Ostpreußische Provinzial-Museum*) rinkinio dalis su išlikusiais senaisiais šio muziejaus inventoriaus numeriais ir kitais įrašais. Tarp jų buvo rasta ir dalis Krosno (Paslęk gmina, buv. Crossen, Holland apskritis) kapinyno kapų aprašų, tarp kurių buvo išvardyti ir kai kurie kapo 27 radiniai, archeologinėje literatūroje minimi nuo seno (1 pav.).

Remiantis tarpukario publikacijomis ir rasta archyvine medžiaga pavyko rekonstruoti šio kapo įkapes, kurias sudarė: molinis indas (dubuo; VIB tipas, pagal R. Wołągiewicza tipologiją, neišliko (inv. OPM 20840), nedidelės dviejų bronzinių pentinų, artimų G 1 tipui, pagal J. Ginalskio tipologiją (inv. OPM 20841; 20842), dalys (1: a–b pav.), bronzinė diržo sagtis, tipas D 29, pagal R. Madyda-Legutko tipologiją, neišliko

IV

WARRIORS
AND
ARMAMENTS
FROM THE
VISTULA
TO THE
DAUGUVA

(inv. OPM 20843), bronzinis diržo galo apkalas, O 15 tipas, pagal K. Raddatzo tipologiją (inv. OPM 20844) (1: c pav.), stiklinė taurė, 216 tipas, pagal M. Eggerso tipologiją, neišliko (inv. OPM 20845), bronzinė laivo formos kalavijo buoželė (inv. OPM 20846) (2: a–c pav.), bronzinė plokštelė, matyt, diržo galo apkalas, JII 3(?) tipas, pagal K. Raddatzo tipologiją (inv. OPM 20847) (1: d pav.), kaulinių ar raginių šukų fragmentas, I tipas, pagal S. Thomaso tipologiją, neišliko (inv. OPM 20848), bronzinė sagties apkalo plokštelė ir bronzinis diržo laikiklis (?) neišliko (inv. OPM 20849). Remiantis išvardytais kapo 27 radiniais, šį palaidojimą galima datuoti C1b–C2 ar C1–C2 periodais pagal chronologiją, būdingą Europos *barbaricum*. Tačiau visų kapo 27 dirbinių analizė rodo, kad šis palaidojimas priklauso C2 periodo pradžiai.

Tarp kapo 27 radinių išsiskiria bronzinis laivo formos tuščiaaviduris dirbinys, galbūt dviašmenio kalavijo buoželė (3: b pav.). Tokios formos sidabrinių ar bronzinių dviašmenių kalavijų buoželių randama Norvegijoje ir kitose Skandinavijos vietose (pvz., Simris, kapas 54, datuojamas C1b–C2 periodais, Vimose pelkės aukos) (4: a–b pav.). Šio straipsnio autoriai taip pat neatmeta galimybės, kad Krosno kape 27 rastas laivo formos dirbinys gali būti *Sætrang* tipo diržo dekoratyvus apkalas. Taigi šio laivo formos dirbinio paskirtis lieka neaiški. Gali būti, kad dirbinys turėjo simbolinę reikšmę.