

# On One Type of Baltic Sword of the Viking Period

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Over a long period of time, Baltic swords were subject to significant changes. They underwent a long process of development from simple single-edged swords shaped like a huge knife with a wooden hilt to double-edged patterned steel specimens with luxurious hilts, inlaid with non-ferrous and precious metals. Being a prestige weapon, the sword was subject to continuous refinement and it was in the production of swords that technological innovations and artistic achievements of weaponsmiths were first manifested. Swords therefore constitute a perfect reflection of the general tendencies of the development of arms of the Late Iron Age and contribute to a better understanding thereof.

In contrast with other arms of close combat, the sword served not merely as a weapon for close combat from the earliest times to Late Middle Ages, but also as a symbol of power and domination. It is due to this reason that in the Baltic lands swords are usually found in the burials of rich individuals as well as chieftains and warriors distinguished in action. They are not frequent finds in cemeteries, and are seldom encountered in hoards, hillforts and settlements. The presence of swords in graves was governed by the beliefs, religious perceptions and traditions of the European tribes and nations. The Balts followed these traditions as well.

Baltic weaponsmiths also made a significant contribution to the development of European swords which is revealed in sword types produced in the Baltic lands as well as their hilt decorations.

Modern archaeological research shows that the most widespread sword types in the eastern Baltic, e.g. *antennal*, *T* and *Z* (according to J. Petersen's classification) were local products, i.e. they represent an invention of local armourers. As a matter of fact, local armourers also manufactured other sword-types. The latter, though, were widespread all over Europe, while Baltic weaponsmiths took over their hilt forms and successfully manufactured these swords to satisfy local needs. Such sword-types as H, X, Y and M were also well known to the Baltic warriors (Kazakevičius V., 1996).

The present article surveys one of the sword-types which reflects the invention of Baltic armourers, and reviews its origin, distribution and chronology.

Sword characterization and the Question of Terminology. These swords are characterized by five- or even seven-lobed pommels and narrow, straight or slightly down-turned bronze cross-bars (Fig. 1). The swords are 96-99.5 cm



Fig. 1. Curonian-type sword from Apuolė, Skuodas District.

long, with double-edged blades, 4 to 5.7 cm wide and usually narrower than the “classical” blades of various types widespread in Europe. They are lighter and have narrow blades.

The decoration of hilt pommels and cross-bars is unique, tracing back to local traditions and is common not only in decorations of weapons but also on ornaments. The decoration of this sword-type can be divided into 2 groups: the first group has circles with small crosses inside (Fig. 2). In some cases, one of the cross-bars bears no decoration, e.g. the upper hilt cross-bar on the sword from Žašinas, Šilalė District, or the lower cross-bar on the sword from Gurkovičiai, Vileika region, Belorussia (Fig. 3). In rare cases the decoration motifs are different. A well-known sword from Apuolė, Skuodas District, for instance, had a decoration of rows of small rhombuses (Fig. 4a), while the sword from the Talsu Vilikumuiža lake, Talsu District, had a hilt cross-bar decorated with double eyes (Šturms 1936, fig. 3:c). A different decoration was found on sword hilts from Užava Sīmalciems, Venspils District and Andulīai, Kretinga District, cremation burial No. 18. The cross-bars of these swords are decorated with rows of double meandering lines (Šturms 1936,

Fig. 4:a). In addition to that, the pommel of Andulīai sword had a zoomorphic decoration resembling the features of a human face or an animal snout (Fig. 5). Parallel decorations have been found on pommels of swords from Užava Sīmalciems (Šturms 1936, fig. 4:a, c) and Kandava, Tukumis District (Šturms 1936, fig. 7:b). More diversities are visible on a cross-bar detail from

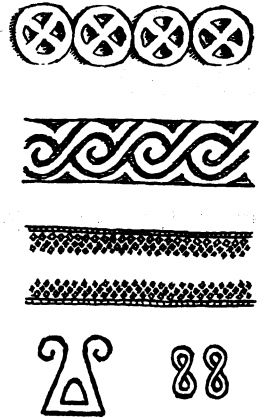


Fig. 2. Decoration motifs on pommels and cross-bars of sword hilts.



Fig. 3. Sword hilt from Gurkoviči, Vileika area, Belorussia.

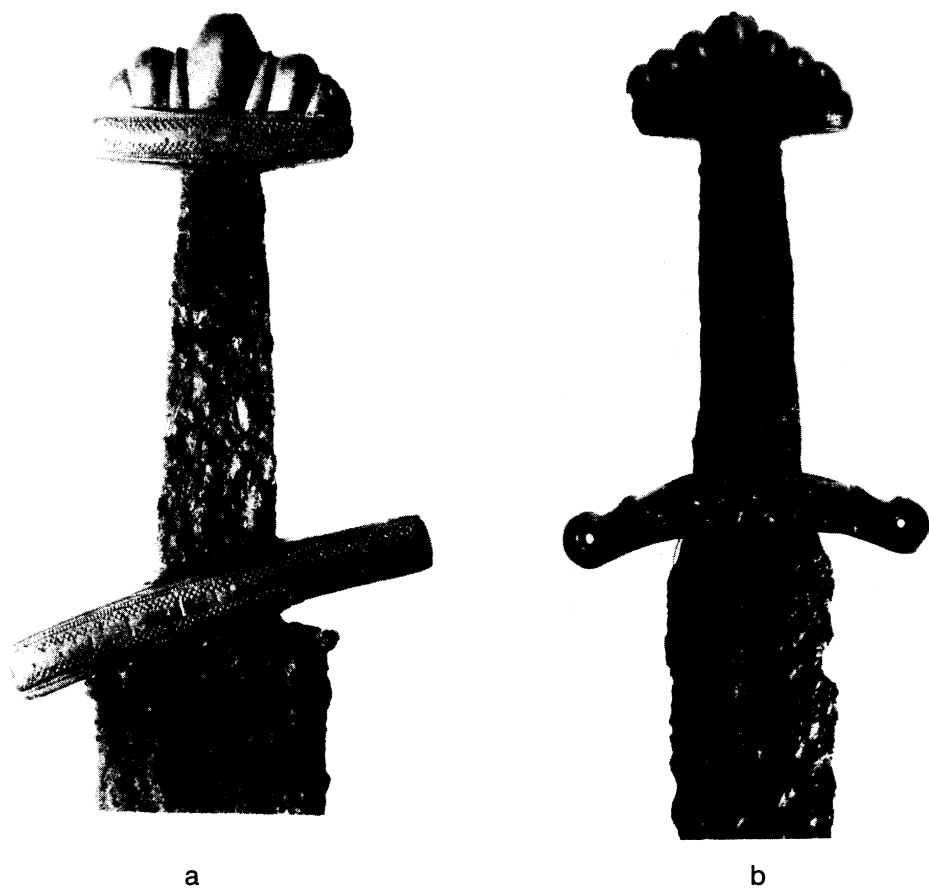


Fig. 4. Sword hilt of a stray from the burial ground of Apuolė, Skuodas district (a), and Žašinas, Šilalė district (b)

Kazdanga, and a well-preserved hilt cross-bar of a sword from the Piltenes Pasilciems cemetery, found during excavations in 1895 by Vladimir Sizov. The central part of the five-lobed pommel of the latter was decorated with two figure eight shaped plaits on the sides, the upper cross-bar was straight and had a characteristic motif of encircled crosses. The lower cross-bar resembles a truncated pyramid the ends of the base of which have stylized heads of birds with eyes-perforations. The decoration is specific: it suggests an imitation of the plaited pattern with inserted motifs of the above mentioned Curonian decoration. There are swords, hilt cross-bars of which have no decorations whatsoever. These swords include a chance find from Alsungas Kalnini, Kuldīga District (Šturms 1936, fig. 5:a), the cemetery of Pavirvytė-Gudai, Akmenė District, grave 65 (Fig. 6) and Kovrovo (former Dollkeim, Kr. Fischhausen), Zelenogradsk District (Mühlen 1975, table 13:2). A sword cross-bar found by chance in Zemaičių Kalvarija had a decoration on only one side of the cross-bar (Fig. 7). Special notice should be made of lower hilt cross-bars which terminate with stylized bird heads with eyes. Such cross-bars belong to swords from Kazdanga Roni, Liepāja District, Ranku Kapenieki, Kuldīga District, Ivande (Lielivande), Kuldīga District and Žašinas, Šilalė District.

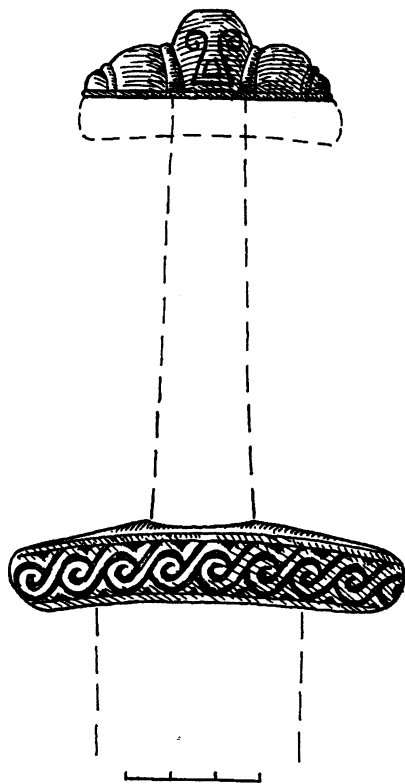


Fig. 5. Sword hilt pieces from the burial ground of Anduliai, Kretinga District, cremation grave 18.

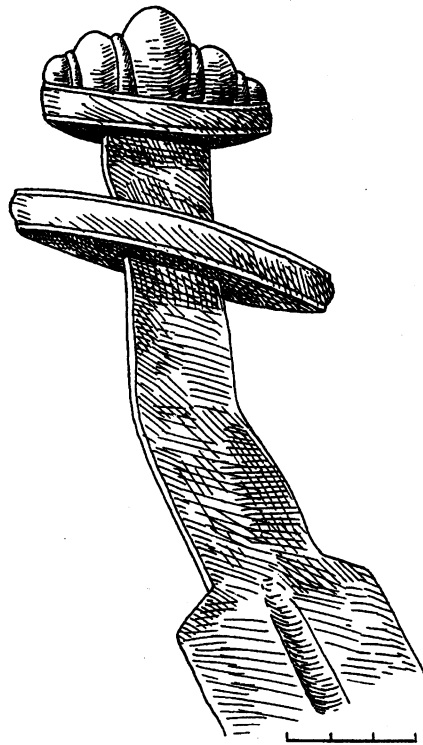


Fig. 6. Hilt of a sword found at the burial ground of Pavirvytė-Gudai, Akmenė District, grave 65.

Different names are given to swords of this type in archaeological studies. In his description of swords found on the Latvian coastline, for example, the famous Latvian archaeologist Eduard Šturms calls them "Curonian" (Šturms 1936, p. 109-112, fig. 3-5). A study prepared by a German archaeologist Bernt von zur Mühlen before the war and published only in 1975, labels these weapons as Curonian swords (Kurländische Swertform) (Mühlen B., 1975, p. 36). This name, however, did not gain a general acceptance and a Russian archaeologist Anatolij Kirpicnikov attributed the same sword-type to type-I, a name that he himself invented (Kirpicnikov A.H. 1966, p. 53, 84). His lead was followed by an Estonian weapons-researcher Mati Mandel (Mandel M. 1991, p. 120). R.Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė did not single them out into a separate type at all and placed them in type-T (Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė R. 1964, p.). I believe that these swords should retain the Curonian (Kurische) name put forward by E.Šturms which would help to avoid misunderstandings in calling the same sword-type by different names.

Investigations of the origin and development of these swords inevitably lead to the consideration of type-T swords, which are doubtlessly genetically related to the latter. Type-T swords represent one of the most frequent forms over the eastern Baltic in the 9th 12th - centuries (Jakobsson M. 1992, map p. 226; Kazakevičius V. 1996, p. 44-53, fig.43). These were products of Baltic

weaponsmiths which were renowned not only in eastern Europe, but also reached northern Europe when, were accepted and competed with the popular swords of types M, X, Y and S.

## Distribution, Chronology and Origin

Data on 64 swords of the Curonian type or parts thereof, which come from 40 find places in eastern Europe, are presently available (Fig. 8). These include 23 intact swords while other have survived only as blade fragments, hilt pommels, cross-bars or their scorched pieces.

The majority of swords of the Curonian type have been found along the coastline of Latvia and Lithuania which was the territory of the Curonian tribe. They have the following geographical distribution: 26 come from Latvia, 20 have been found in Lithuania, 3 in what was formerly East Prussia (now the Kaliningrad Region, of the Russian Federation) and 3 in Belorussia. Thus a total of 52 Curonian-type swords are known in Baltic territory. The largest number of swords or their parts found at a single cemetery, comes from the burial ground of Piltenes Pasilciems, Venspils District, where five swords of this type were found. Four swords were retrieved from the bottom of lake Talsu Vilkuņģis. The great majority of swords were found in cemeteries. Only one sword pommel comes from the Mežuotnē hillfort in Bauskas District. In Lithuania, swords of this type have been found in cemeteries as well. During the recent years, just after the burial ground of Varsēdžiai II was found in Šilalė District, the collection of swords of this type was complemented by fragments of 2 swords and 4 hilt pommels (Dakanis B., Škimelis A., 1994, p. 147, fig. 14) (Fig. 9). Two five-lobed pommels from swords of this type have been found at the Griežė cemetery, Mažeikiai District. Two Curonian-type swords excavated at the burial ground of Dollkeim, Kr.Fischhausen (now Kovrovo, Zelenogradsk District) have five-lobed pommels (Mühlen B., 1975, table 13:1,2). Two swords of this type have been found in Belorussia, at Gurkoviči, Vileika parish (Fig. 3), one of which is intact, while the other survives only as a pommel and the lower hilt cross-bar. Both are preserved in the Lithuanian National Museum in Vilnius.

These swords can be dated by reference to a sword from the burial ground of Pavirvytė-Gudai, Akmenė District, cremation grave 65, which was found along with a helmet, harpoon, adze, pennanular brooch with multangular knobs, 2 cruciform pins, a knife and a bronze string (Fig. 10). The sword is dated to the 11th century.

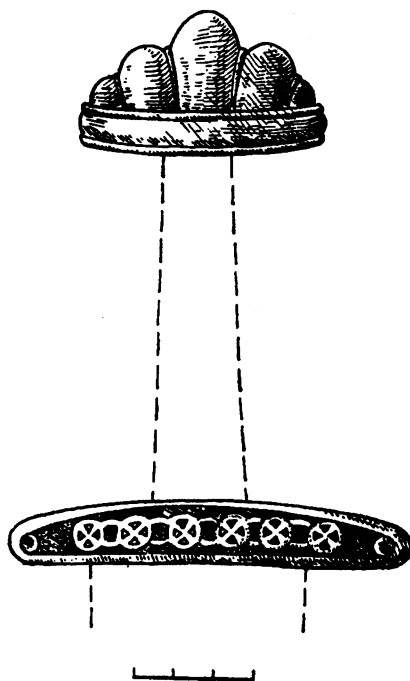


Fig. 7. Sword hilt pieces from Žemaičių Kalvarija, Telšiai District.

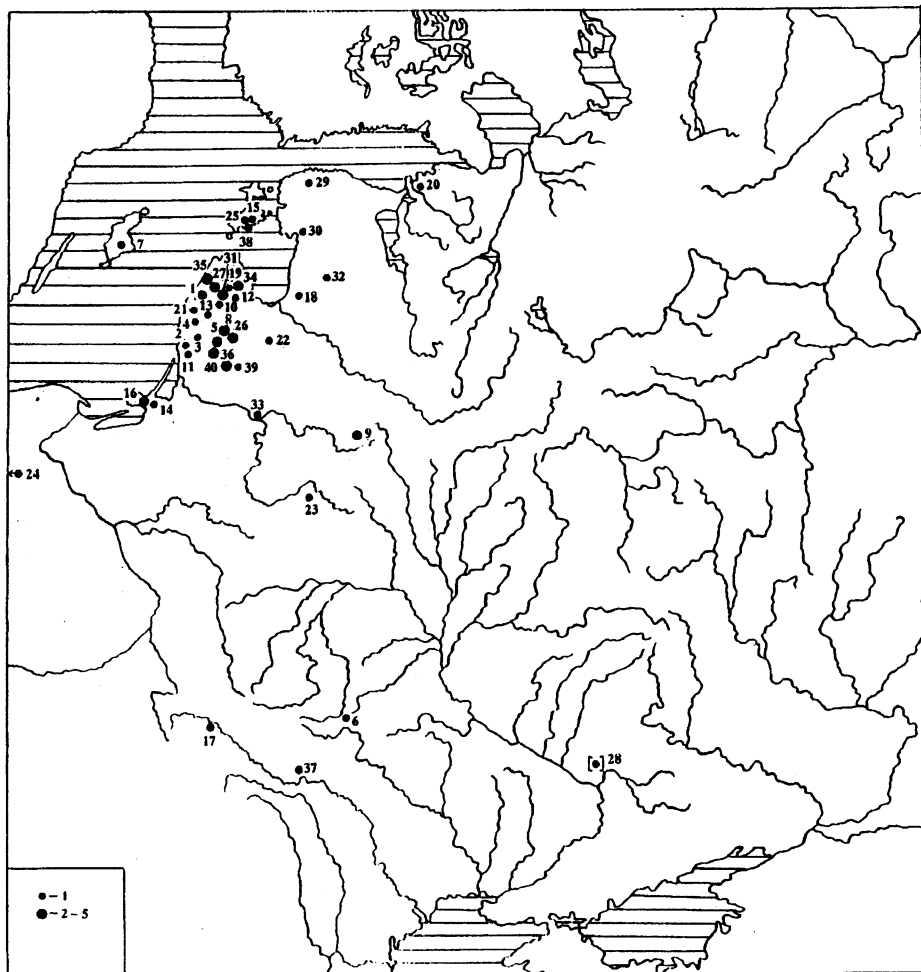


Fig. 8. Distribution of the Curonian-type sword in eastern Europe.

A unique sword with a seven-lobed pommel, a straight upper and downturned lower hilt cross-bar, decorated with crosses in circles, as is characteristic of the Curonians, was found by chance in Žašinas (fig. 4b). The ends of the lower cross-bar are turned up and resemble bird heads with cavities for the eyes (Vaitkunskienė L. 1981, table LXXIII). Analogous and similar pieces of sword cross-bars have been found both in Lithuania and Latvia, Curonia, e.g. a stray find from the burial ground of Ranku Kapenieki, Kuldīga District (Šturms E., 1936, fig. 7:1). A close parallel is a cross-bar piece from Ivande (Lielivande). Finds which show more differences include a cross-bar piece from Kazdanga, Liepāja District, as well as a cross-bar of a well preserved sword found by Vladimir Sizov at the burial ground of Piltenes Pasilciems in 1895. The latter had a five-lobed pommel, the sides of the central part of which were decorated with two figure eight plaits, while the upper pommel was straight and had a characteristic decoration of oblique crosses in circles. The profile of the lower cross-bar resembles

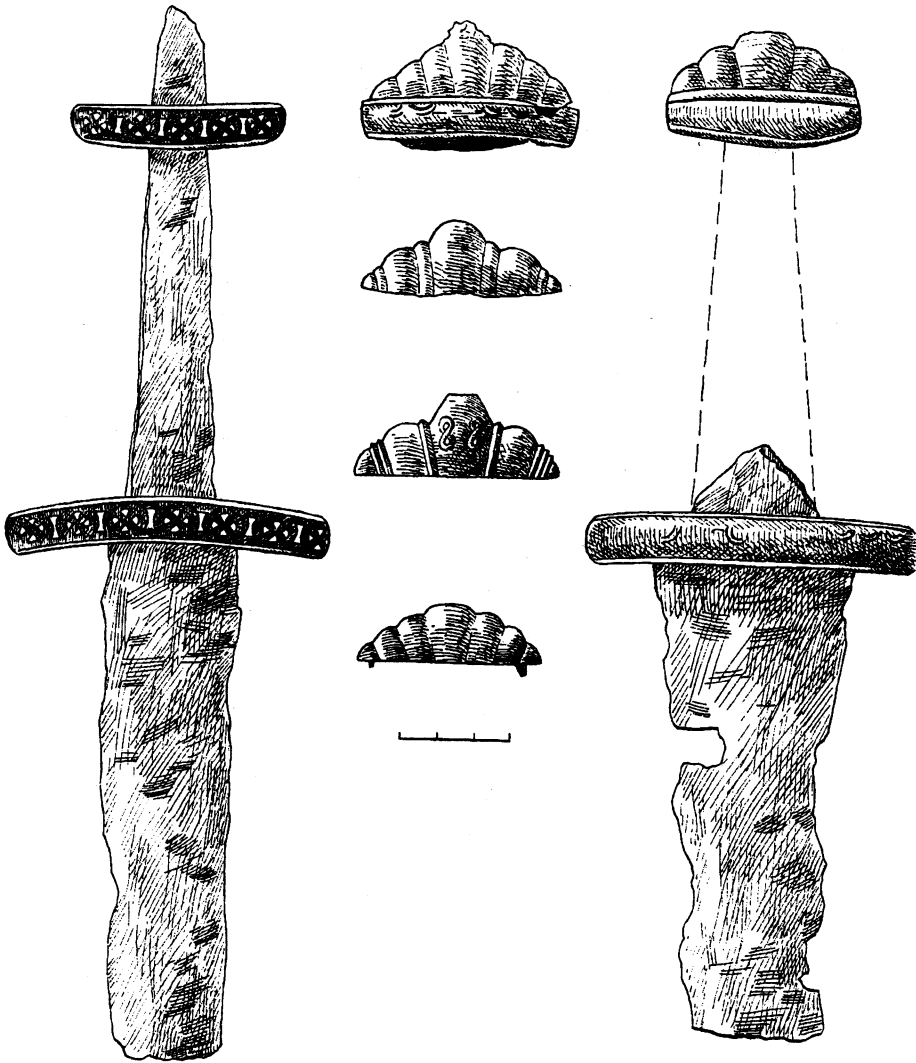


Fig. 9. Swords found by chance at the burial ground of Varsēdziai, Šilalē District, and their fragments.

a truncated pyramid decorated with stylized bird heads with cavities for eyes at its base. The decoration is exceptional. It implies an imitation of a foreign plaited pattern with insertions of the Curonian motif described above and, according to E.Šturms, testifies to the local origin of the weapon (Šturms E., p. 114).

A further set of grave goods which contributes to the dating of Curonian-type swords was found at the burial ground of Durbe Dīri, Liepāja District, at multiple burial pit II, cremation grave 3. It yielded a sword folded and broken for ritual purposes and a bronze chape, as well as a folded scythe, two scorched and disfigured stirrups, a spur, type-M (according to J.Petersen) battle axe and a spearhead with a triangular blade. The grave is dated to the 13th century (Stepinš P., 1967, p. 16).

Swords of this type are seldom found outside the territories inhabited by the Balts. The closest parallel comes from a Liv cemetery in Krimulda, Riga District,

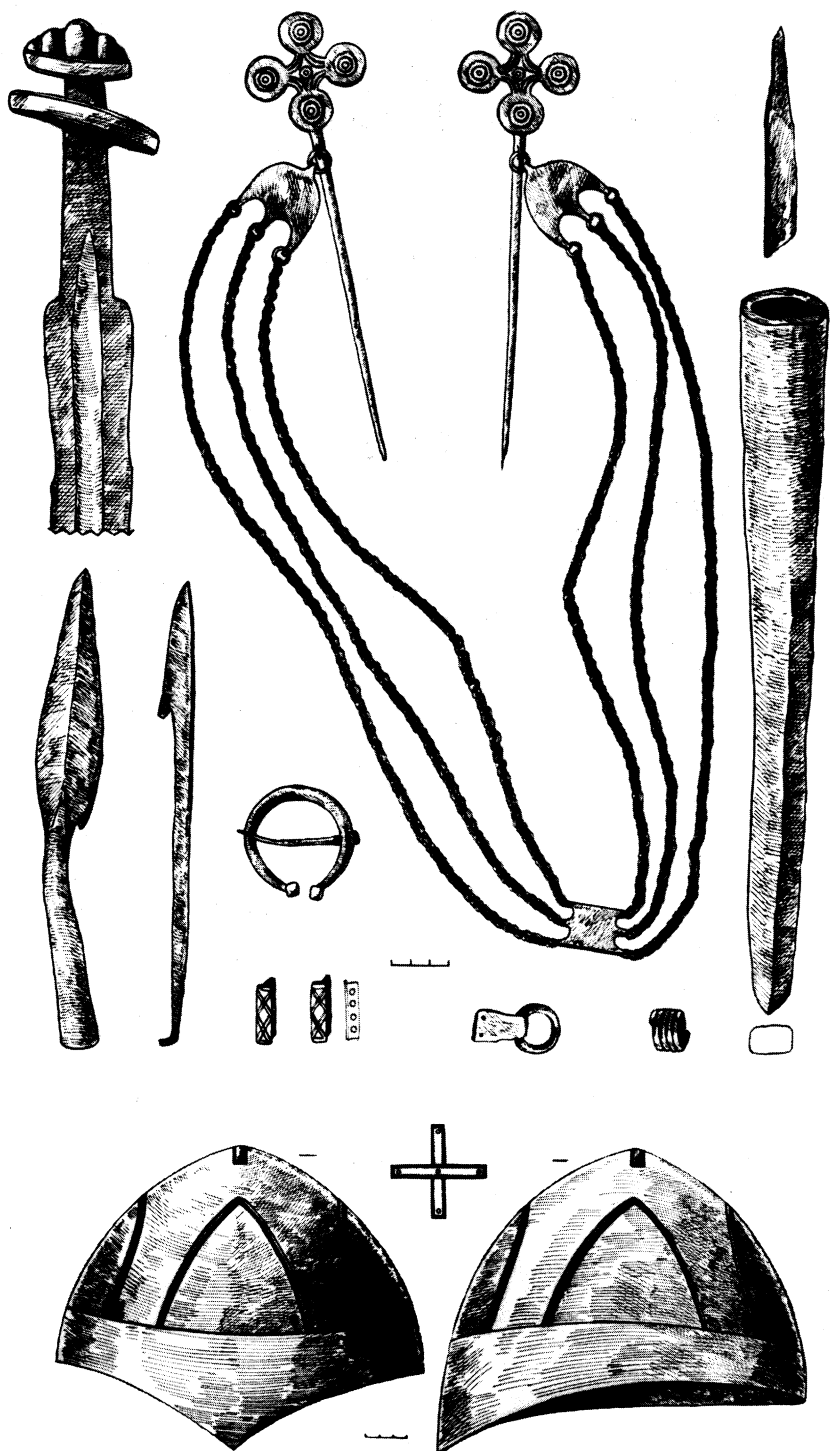


Fig. 10. Grave goods from burial No. 65, Pavirvytė-Gudai, Akmenė District.



Latvia. The ends of the lower cross-bar of a sword which was found there had holes with two rings threaded in, the purpose of which remains unclear (RK 1896, p. 77, table 24:2). A Curonian-type sword was fished out of the Odra river between Goclow and Szczecin in Poland (Sarnowska, 1955, p. 318-319). The author correctly notes that this sword was manufactured in the eastern Bal-

† H G R E N R O H R S N D E R 2 N

† H N R C I . . . . I . . . . I

Fig. 11. Inscription on the blade of a sword found by chance at the burial ground of Paviryte-Gudai, Akmenė District

tic. Another cross-bar of a sword of this type was published by B.Posta (Sarnowska, 1995, p. 318). Four swords of the type have been found in the Ukraine. It is of interest to note that three of them come from the cultural layer of hillforts. These include swords from Gorodishche and Verbiksna (both in Chmel'nitsk region) as well as Krily, Stanislavsk region. The circumstances surrounding the find of one more sword from the former Poltava province in the Ukraine, are not known. All these swords are dated to the 12th - 13th centuries (Kirpichnikov, 1966, p. 53, 84). One sword also comes from Manuilovo, Leningrad region, Russia and one from Rabavere, Piarnu District, Estonia (Mandel, 1991, p. 120, table XI:1). Other finds which can be doubtlessly attributed to this sword-type include hilt cross-bars and a pommel found at Paju, Kogula and Viltina (all in Kuresaare Distict, Estonia) and Raasiku, Harju District, Estonia (Mandel, 1991, table XII:3, 4, 9. 10).

On the basis of the close and direct connection between type-T and Curonian-type swords as well as their distribution over the Baltic lands, we must deduce that swords of the Curonian type were manufactured by Baltic weaponsmiths, with production centres located in the territory of the Curonian tribes on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea. In some cases they were produced, using imported blades with bore inscriptions. On the basis of grave goods, the Curonian-type swords, found in the territory of the Balts, should be attributed to the 11th-13th centuries. The development of these swords is a vivid manifestation of the skill of Baltic weaponsmiths and their indefatigable endeavours to perfect their art.

## Inscriptions on Sword Blades

Four blades of swords of the type bear inscriptions and marks. A chance find of a sword blade from Alsungas Kalnini, Kuldigas District, has traces of an illegible inscription. A fragment of an obscure inscription framed within a double cross was found on a sword blade from the Piltenes Pasilciems cemetery. Both sides of the blade have engravings of an analogous inscription, the letters of both sides coincide. This is quite an unusual case in the history of weaponry (Kirpichnikov 1966, p. 284, fig. 13:9, 15:1). Another sword with an inscription of non-ferrous metal was fished out from the bottom of the Talsu Vilkmuižas lake. Aleksis Anteins deciphered the inscription as DICTVS + and dated it to the 13th-14th century (Anteins A., 1964, p. 83, 84). His assessment was supported by Donat Drboglav, who attributed the said sword to the last quarter of the 13th century or the first half of the 14th century (Drboglav D. A., 1984, p. 89, 90).

I would like to present a more comprehensive analysis of the inscription of a sword blade found accidentally at the cemetery of Pavirvytė-Gudai. The sword is especially well-preserved, 92 cm long, with a double-edged blade 4.7 cm wide and a lower hilt cross-bar 9 cm long and 1.5 cm wide. The cross-bar is decorated with a pattern characteristic of these swords, i.e. crosses in circles. Neither the pommel nor the upper cross-bar have been preserved. The inscription on one side of the blade consists of a Maltese cross, with its arms terminating in small "V" shaped caps. The Latin letters HGEROHRSDERN (Fig. 11) were engraved on the cross towards the tip. The inscription does not end in letter N, but is illegible beyond this. The other side of the blade has an engraving of an identical cross and a very indistinct inscription. Only letters HNRG and traces of some others can be discerned. Albertas Lisanka has dated the sword to the 10th-12th century (Lisanka A., 1975, p. 186-187, fig. 29). Investigating this inscription, D.Drboglav read it as follows: N(omine) re(demptoris) n(ostri) a(lphe) o(mege). N(omine) r(egis) s(alvatoris). N(omine) d(ei) e(terni) r(egis), t(er) n(omine). (In the name of our Redeemer, the alpha and the omega. In the name of the King, the Saviour. In the name of the thrice eternal Lord) + HERENAOHRSHD- \ERtN + (Drboglav D.A. 1984, p. 77-78). On the basis of the palaeographical analysis of the inscription, he dates the sword to the end of the 12th century or beginning of the 13th century. A number of other finds, which came to the museum together with the sword, i.e. a bronze penannular brooch with thickened terminals, one hafted harpoon-type, and one sash-like spearhead, 2 spearheads with narrow blades and pronounced midribs, and an axe with a wide blade and a blunt end show that the weapon must be attributed to no later than the 12th century. The blade of the Pavirvytė-Gudai sword is doubtless imported, brought in from western Europe, whereas the hilt was manufactured and attached locally.

## Conclusions

1. Swords which have different classifications in archaeological studies represent a product of Curonian weaponsmiths and should be referred to as the "Curonian-type".
2. The genesis of these swords is closely associated with type-T swords (according to J.Petersen), from which they actually developed.
3. Curonian swords were in use in the 11th - 3th centuries and reflect the craftsmanship and artistic skills of Baltic weaponsmiths, who had mastered the production of weapons perfectly.

## Catalogue of Swords

1. (1)\* . Alsungas Kalniņi, Kuldīga District, stray find. LVM, V 4156. 85.2 long, width of the blade 4.5 cm. The blade has traces of an inscription. Dated to the 11th century. References: Šturms E., 1936, fig. 5:a

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\* The first figure in the catalogue denotes the current number while the one in brackets shows the find place depicted on the map.

2. Alsungas Kalniņi, Kuldīga District, grave 32. LVM A11734:29. Scorched pieces of the cross-bar preserved. Dated to the 11th century.
  3. (2). Andulīai, Kretinga District, grave 18. KrKM. Preserved pieces, the blade is 5 cm wide. Dated to the 11th century.
  4. (3). Apuolē, Skuodas District, stray find. Lost during World War II. Dated to the 11th century.
- References: Nagevičius V., 1935, p. 28, fig. on page 28; Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė R., 1964, p. 208, 225; 1970, p. 195.
5. (4). Durbes Dīri, Liepāja District, grave 3 at fireplace II. The Liepāja Museum, No. 13139. 99cm long, blade 4.8 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
- References: Stepinš P., 1967, fig. 7.
6. (5). Gintališkē, Plungē District, stray find. ZAM 22582. Preserved as piece of the pommel. Dated to the 9th-12th century.
  7. Gintališkē, Plungē District, stray find. ZAM 21704. Piece of the cross-bar preserved. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
  8. Gintališkē, Plungē District, stray find. ZAM 22631. Two pieces of the cross-bar preserved.
  9. (6). Gorodiskhe, Khmel'nitsky District, the Ukraine. Found in the cultural layer of a hillfort. Preserved as a pommel and cross-bars. MKI St.Petersburg Division. Dated to the 12th century - first half of the 13th century.
- References: Kirpicnikov A.N. 1966, p. 84, 85.
10. (7) Gotland, Sweden, ausidental find. Guard. Forusal, 171. Dated to the 11th – 12th century.
  11. (8). Griezē, Mažeikiai District, stray find. LNM, AR 185: 718. Preserved pommel. Dated to the 11th - 12th century.
  12. Griezē, Mažeikiai District, stray find. LNM, AR 185:1112. Preserved pommel. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
  13. (9). Gurkovichi, Vileika area, Belarussia. LNM, AR 249:39, 44. 2 pieces preserved, 91.9 cm long, the blade 4.3 cm wide. Dated to the 11th century.
- References: Antoniewicz W., 1930, fig. 16; Kirpicnikov A.N. 1966, p. 84, 85.
14. Gurkovichi, Vileika area, Belarussia. LNM, AR 249:40, 41. Preserved as pommel and the lower cross-bar. Dated to the 11th century.
  15. (10). Īvandes Strazdiņi (Lielīvandes Muiža), Kuldīga District. LVM 732. Piece of the cross-bar preserved. Dated to the 11th - 12th century.
- References: Šturms E. 1936, p. 114, fig. 7:g.
16. (11). Jankišķiai, Klaipėda District, stray find. Kept at PM until 1945. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
- References: Hoffmann J., 1941, fig. 1:a.
17. (12). Kandava, Tukums District, stray find. JNM-KPM 179-180. Preserved as pommel and both cross-bars. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
- References: Aspelin J.R. 1884, p. 387, No. 2095; Šturms E. 1936, fig. 7 b - d. Sammlung 1918-1938. Rīga 1939, table 23:2, 3.
18. (13). Kazdangas Roņi (Radziņkalns), Liepāja District, LVM 13363. Preserved as piece of cross-bar. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
- References: Šturms E. 1936, p. 114, fig. 7:e.
19. (14). Kleinheide, Gurjevsk, grave 1. KIMM. Preserved as piece of the lower hilt cross-bar. Dated to the 11th century.
- References: Kulakov V., 1994, p. 116, fig. 5:1.
20. (15). Kogula, Kuresare District, Saarema, Estonia. Division of Archaeological Funds at the Estonian Institute of History, K 29:13, 14. Preserved pommel and lower hilt cross-bar. Dated to the 12th-13th century.
- References: Mandel, 1991, p. 120, table XII:4, 6.
21. (16). Kovrovo (former Dollkeim, Kr. Fischhausen), Zelenogradsk District. Unrecognizable length, blade 5.4 cm wide. Kept at PM, 11724 until 1945. Dated to the 11th century.

- References: Mühlen B., 1975, p. 142, table 13:1.
22. Kovrovo (former Dollkeim, Kr.Fischhausen), Zelenogradsk District. Kept at PM until 1945, 11725. Unidentified length, blade 6 cm wide. Dated to the 11th century.  
References: Mühlen B., 1975, p. 142, table 13:2.
23. (17). Krilos, Stanislavskaja area, the Ukraine. From the cultural layer of a hillfort. Lvov Museum of History, 25144. Preserved pommel. Dated to the 12th-13th century.  
References: Kirpicnikov A.H. 1966, p. 84, 85.
24. (18). Krimulda, Riga District. From a barrow cemetery. Gelehrte Estnische Gesellschaft in Dorpat. Length 101 cm, width of the blade 5 cm. Dated to the 11th century.  
References: RK, 1891, p. 77, table 24:2.
25. (19). Libagu Saraji, Talsu District, grave No. 39. LVM, A 12820:430, 431. 99.5 cm long, the blade 5.7 cm wide. Dated to the 12th century.
26. (20). Manuilovo, Leningrad District, Russian Federation, stray find. Kuresaare Museum in Estonia. Preserved as a 45 cm long piece, the blade 4 cm wide. Dated to the 12th-13th century.  
References: Kirpicnikov A.N. 1966, p. 84, 85.
27. (21). Medzes Strautīni, Liepāja District, trench B, grave 1. LVM A 10791:1. Preserved pommel. Dated to the 12th century.
28. (22). Mežotne, Bauskas District. Stray find. LVM, 31. Preserved hilt pommel. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
29. (23). Naugardukas, Gardinas District, Belarussia, from a town cultural layer. Hilt cross-bar preserved. Dated to the 12th century.  
References: Kirpicnikov A.N. 1966, p. 84, 85.
30. (24) Odra (between Goclow and Szczecin), from a river bottom. State Museum at Szczecin, 3540.  
References: Sarnowska W. 1955, p.318.
31. (25). Paju, Kuresaare District, Saaremaa, Estonia. Division of Archaeological Funds at the Estonian Institute of History, K 12:8. Lower hilt cross-bar preserved. Dated to the 12th-13th century.  
References: Mandel, 1991, p. 120, table XII:3.
32. (26). Pavirvytė-Gudai, Akmenė District, grave 65. MM, 7561/A 1972. 95 cm long, blade 5.5 cm wide. Dated to the 11th century.  
References: Vaškevičiūtė I., 1989, p. 60.
33. Pavirvytė-Gudai, Akmenė District, stray find. LNM, AR 510:13. 92 cm long, the blade 4.7 cm wide. The blade has an illegible inscription and marks. Dated to the 12th century.  
References: Lisanka A., 1975, p. 186-188.
34. (27). Piltenes Pasilciems, Ventspils District, find circumstances unknown. VE (St. Petersburg), 890/1089. 59.5 cm long piece, the blade 4.4 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Kirpicnikov A.N. 1966 a, fig. 18:6.
35. Piltenes Pasilciems, Ventspils District, unknown find circumstances. VE (St. Petersburg), 890/1088. 34.5 cm long piece, the blade 5.2 cm wide. The blade bears marks and remnants of an inscription. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Kirpicnikov A.N. 1966 a, fig 13:9, 15:1.
36. Piltenes Pasilciems, Ventspils District, excavations by V.Sizov. Find circumstances unknown. VIM (Moscow), 35129. 70 cm long piece, the blade 4.6 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Kirpicnikov A.N., 1966 a, fig. 17:2.
37. Piltenes Pasilciems, Ventspils District, find circumstances unknown. LVM, RLB 139. 84 cm long piece, the blade 4.2 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
38. Piltenes Pasilciems, Ventspils District, find circumstances unknown. LVM, KPM, 1609. 71 cm long, blade 4.5 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Sammlung 1918-1938, table 24:4.

39. (28). Former Poltava province, Russia, stray find. Kiev Historical museum 20769. 98 cm long, the blade 4.5 cm wide. The blade has inscription INICINI. Dated to the 12-13th century.  
References: Kirpicnikov A.N. 1966, p. 84, 85.
40. (29). Raasiku, Kuresaare District, Saaremaa, Estonia. Division of Archaeological Funds at the Estonian Institute of History, 3748; 81. The lower hilt pommel preserved. Dated to the 12th-13th century.  
References: Mandel, 1991, p. 120, table XII:9.
41. (30). Rabavere, Piarnu District, Estonia. Found at a cemetery. Tallinn State Museum of History, A I 3570. 98.8 cm long, the blade 4.7 cm wide. Dated to the 12th - 13th century.  
References: EE, 1982, p. 396, fig. 252:5; Mandel M. 1991, p. 108, 120, table XI:1.
42. (31). Raņķu Kapenieki, Kuldīga District, grave 17. LVM, A 7436:3. Preserved as pommel and cross-bars. Dated to the 12th century.  
References: Šturms E., 1936, fig. 3:b; Paulsen P., 1953, p. 118, fig. 164.
43. Raņķu Kapenieki, Kuldīga District, LVM 7635:20. Preserved as cross-bar piece. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Šturms E., 1936, fig 7:f.
44. (32). Raunas Strante, Valka District, stray find. LVM (DM I 1754a). 89 cm long piece, blade 4.9 cm long. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Aspelin J.R., 1884, p. 389, No. 2115; Engel C., 1933, p. 67, fig. 8:20; Šturms E. 1936, fig. 5:b.
45. (33). Sargėnai, Kaunas. Comes from a hoard. VDKM, 1590: 831. Preserved hilt pommel. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė R., 1964, p. 225.
46. (34). Lake Talsu Vilkumuižas, Talsu District. LVM, A. 8527:4. 35.5 cm long piece, blade 4 cm long. Dated to the 12th century.
47. Lake Talsu Vilkumuižas, Talsu District. LVM, A. 9572:5. 56,5 cm long piece, blade 4.4 cm long. The pommel is not preserved. Dated to the 12th century.
48. Lake Talsu Vilkumuižas, Talsu District. LVM, A 8129:8. 44 cm long piece, blade 4.2 cm wide. The lower cross-bar is not preserved. Dated to the 12th century.  
References: Sturms E. 1936, fig. 3:c.
49. Lake Talsu Vilkumuižas, Talsu District. LVM, A 8129:9. 71.5 cm long piece, blade 4 cm wide. The blade has an inscription of non-ferrous metal. Dated to the 12th century.  
References: Sturms E., 1936, p. 75, fig. 3:a; Anteins A., 1960, p. 20, 22, fig. 52:2, 53:2; 1964, p. 83, 84.
50. Lake Talsu Vilkumuižas, Talsu District. LVM, A 10994: 1391. Preserved as piece of cross-bar. Dated to the 12th century.
51. (35). Užavas Silmalciems (Krauzes), Ventspils District, stray find. LVM, 7851:1. 96 cm long, blade 4.9 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Šturms E., 1936, p. 110, fig. 4:c; Paulsen P., 1953, fig. 159; LA 1974, table 47:14.
52. Užavas Silmalciems (Krauzes), Ventspils District, stray find. VVM, 6309. 91 cm long, blade 4.7 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Šturms E., 1936, fig. 4:a.
53. Užavas Silmalciems (Krauzes), Ventspils District, LVM 35129. Preserved as pommel and both hilt cross-bars. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
54. (36). Varsėdžiai II, Šilalė District, grave 6. LNM. Preserved pommel. Dated to the 12th century.
55. Varsėdžiai II, Šilalė District, stray find. LNM. 28 cm long piece, blade 4.5 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.  
References: Dakanis B., Skimelis A., 1994, p. 147, fig. 14.
56. Varsėdžiai II, Šilalė District, stray find. LNM. Preserved as hilt pieces and a blade fragment 16 cm long and 5 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
57. Varsėdžiai II, Šilalė District, stray find. Preserved pommel. Dated to the 11th-12th century.

58. Varsédžiai II, Šilalé District, stray find. Preserved pommel. Dated to the 10th-12th century.
59. Varsédžiai II, Šilalé District, stray find. Preserved pommel. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
60. (37). Verbicno, Khmelnick area, the Ukraine, found in the cultural layer of a hillfort. Kept at the State Museum of Archaeology in Warsaw until 1939. Preserved as 42 cm long piece, the blade 4.5 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
- References: Sarnowska W. 1955, p. 318, fig. 37. Kirpicnikov A.N. 1966, p. 84, 85.
61. (38) Viltina, Kuresaare District, Saaremaa, Estonia. Division of Archaeological Funds at the Estonian Institute of History 3884:3540. Preserved as lower hilt cross-bar. Dated to the 12th-13th century.
- References: Mandel, 1991, p. 120, table XII:10.
62. (39). Žašinas, Šilalé District, stray find. LNM, AR 618:41. 69 cm long piece, the blade 4.3 cm wide. Dated to the 11th century.
- References: Vaitkunskienė L., 1981, table LXXIII.
63. (40). Žemaičių Kalvarija, Telšiai District, stray find. ŽZAM, 16103. 91.5 cm long, the blade 5 cm wide. Dated to the 11th-12th century.
64. Žemaičių Kalvarija, Telšiai District, stray find. ŽZAM, 16874. Preserved pommel. Dated to the 11th-12th century.

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## **Apie vieną Vikingų laikotarpio baltų kalavijų tipą**

**VYTAUTAS KAZAKEVIČIUS**

### **Santrauka**

Baltų kalavijai per daugelį amžių patyrė nemažų permainų, nuėjo ilgą raidos kelią nuo paprasčiausių vienašmenių didelio peilio su medine rankena pavidalo iki raštuoto (Damasko) plieno dviašmenių ginklų su puošnia rankena, inkrustuota spalvotaisiais ir brangiaisiais metalais. Kaip prestižinis ginklas kalavijas buvo nuolat tcbulinamas ir jo gamyboje pirmiausiai atsispindėjo technologinės naujovės bei meniniai kalvių sugebėjimai. Todėl kalavijai aiškiai rodo ir bendras vėlyvojo geležies amžiaus ginklų raidos tendencijas, padeda jas geriau suprasti.

Naujausi archeologiniai tyrimai rado, kad plačiai paplitę kalavijų tipai kaip antai Anteniniai, T ir Z (pagal J. Peterseną) yra vietinės gamybos. Baltų ginklakai kalė ir kitų tipų kalavijus plačiai paplitusius Europoje. Tokie tipai kaip pavyzdžiui: H, X, Y ir M buvo gerai žinomi baltų kariams. Šiame straipsnyje aptariamas vienas kalavijų tipas, išrastas baltų, nagrinėjama chronologija ir paplitimas.

Kalavijams būdingas penkių ar net septynių dalių buoželės ir abu siauri, tiesūs arba truputį žemyn lenkti variniai skersiniai (1, 10 pav.). Rankenų ornamenta motyvai yra unikalūs, aptinkami ne tik ginklų puošyboje, bet ir vietinių papuošalų ornamentuose (2-7 pav.). Tik vienas kalavijas iš Pavirvytės-Gudų, Akmenės raj., geležtėje turėjo įrašą (8 pav.).

Dabar turimais duomenimis žinomi 64 kalavijai aptikti 40 archeologijos paminklų (9 pav.). Iš jų 52 kalavijai ar jų dalys yra iš baltų teritorijos. Už baltų gyventų žemių jie randami retai. Keletas žinoma iš ugrų-suomių teritorijos Latvijoje ir Estijoje, slavų apgyventose žemėse Ukrainoje ir Lenkijoje, taip pat vieno kalavijo skersinis rastas Gotlande, Švedijoje (9 pav.).

Šis kalavijų tipas archeologinėje literatūroje vadinamas įvairiai. E. Šturmas dar 1936 metais juos pavadino kuršių kalavijais. Vokiečių archeologas B. von Miulenas 1975 metais išspausdintame darbe juos skyrė „Kurliandijos“ (Kurländische Swertform) tipui. Rusų tyrinėtojas A. Kirpičnikovas tuos pačius kalavijus skiria I tipui. Juo pasekė estų ginklų tyrinėtojas M. Mandelis. R. Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė, sekdama A. Nadolskiu, išskyrė a1 vietinį tipą, kuriame taip pat yra ir aptariamieji kalavijai. Mano nuomone juos derėtų vadinti kuršių vardu, nes pagrindinė paplitimo teritorija yra kuršių genčių žemės.

Pagal kapuose rastų įkapių komplektus (11 pav.), kuršių kalavijai datuoti XI-XIII a. Kuršių kalavijų tipui artimas baltų gamybos T tipas, todėl reikia manyti, kad pastarasis ir yra T tipo tolesnė raida.