

A PARADE SHIELD FROM THE PRZEWORSK CULTURE CEMETERY IN CZERSK, NEAR WARSAW, POLAND: AN INTERNATIONAL SIGN OF STATUS IN THE EARLY ROMAN PERIOD

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Abstract

A shield boss and a shield grip with silver decoration were recently found in the Przeworsk culture cemetery at Czersk in the Piaseczno district in central Poland. The shield boss, type J.7, has three times three bronze thimble-headed rivets, covered with silver. The bronze shield grip has silvered rivet plates with thimble-headed rivets, decorative filigree studs, and openwork decoration. The technique that was used to produce this specimen is not clear, despite metallographic analysis. The shield has analogies in Scandinavia (Hunn, Radved, Brostorp) and the northern Elbian circle (Hamfelde). It was probably a parade shield, an international sign of the warrior elite in the Early Roman Period in the *barbaricum*.

Key words: Roman Period, elite graves, parade weaponry, Przeworsk culture.

Warrior societies of the Early Roman Period

In the *barbaricum*, that is, Magna Germania, during the Early Roman Period, finds of graves furnished with weapons are not rare. Among them, Przeworsk culture cemeteries with burial customs requiring the deposition in graves of weapons of all sorts, often complete sets, are a privileged field of studies concerning arms and armaments (Kontny 2003; 2008). A weapon in a grave, besides being a part of the burial equipment needed in the other world, must also have been a clear sign of the social status and military rank of the deceased. The amount and variety of items found enable a cautious attempt at determining the military rank (leader, warrior) and the kind of fighter (cavalry or infantry, that is, a warrior on horseback or on foot), and also the social position in the group which looked after the burial (Czarnecka, forthcoming).

In warrior societies, weapons were a status symbol, and their appearance was very important. Detailed studies of huge amounts of arms from bog finds mostly dated to the Late Roman Period have proven that the special decoration of all sorts of fighting equipment (shields, scabbards, riding equipment) can be treated as a sign of military rank (von Carnap Bornheim, Ilkjær 1996, p.484; Pauli Jensen *et al.* 2003, p.312ff; Lund Hansen 2007, p.122). Bog finds, however, create a unique possibility for such studies, and it is not easy to adapt the results of these studies to more random finds from cemeteries in the *barbaricum*.

According to Tacitus, the Germans transacted no business, public or private, without being armed.¹ Arms were the most important attribute of a free man, a warrior. However, there is no display in the arms. Decoration is rare, and unostentatious; shields are only ornamented with distinguishing colours: '*Nulla cultus iactatio; scuta tantum lectissimis coloribus distinguunt...*' (Tacitus, Germ. §6).²

A shield was also a sign of the status of a free warrior. Tacitus wrote that the greatest disgrace that could befall them was to have abandoned their shields. A person branded with this ignominy was not permitted to join in religious rites or gatherings: '*Scutum reliquisse praecipuum flagitium, nec aut sacris adesse aut concilium inire ignominioso fas*' (Tacitus, Germ. §6). According to this, shields should be treated as an important marker of social position. That is why richly

¹ *Nihil autem neque publicae neque privatae rei nisi armati agunt* (Tac. Germ. § 13).

² All information from the text by Tacitus should be treated with caution: this is also not quite accurate, which is, however, easy to explain. There are a lot of examples from Przeworsk culture, the Elbian circle or Scandinavia of swords and lance heads decorated with inlaid or incised ornaments (Kaczanowski 1986; Biborski 1986; 1994; Vang Petersen 2003), but this decoration was not so easy to notice, as it was not prominent. Maybe this is why this information did not reach Tacitus. The shield is simply bigger, there is more space for clearly visible ornamentation. There is also archaeological evidence of such decoration. Traces of paint survived on shields from bog finds, e.g. Nydam (Jørgensen, Vang Petersen 2003, p.268, Fig. 10) and Illerup, (Ilkjær 2001, p.96, Fig. 113b), Bornholm (Lund Hansen 2007, p.122).

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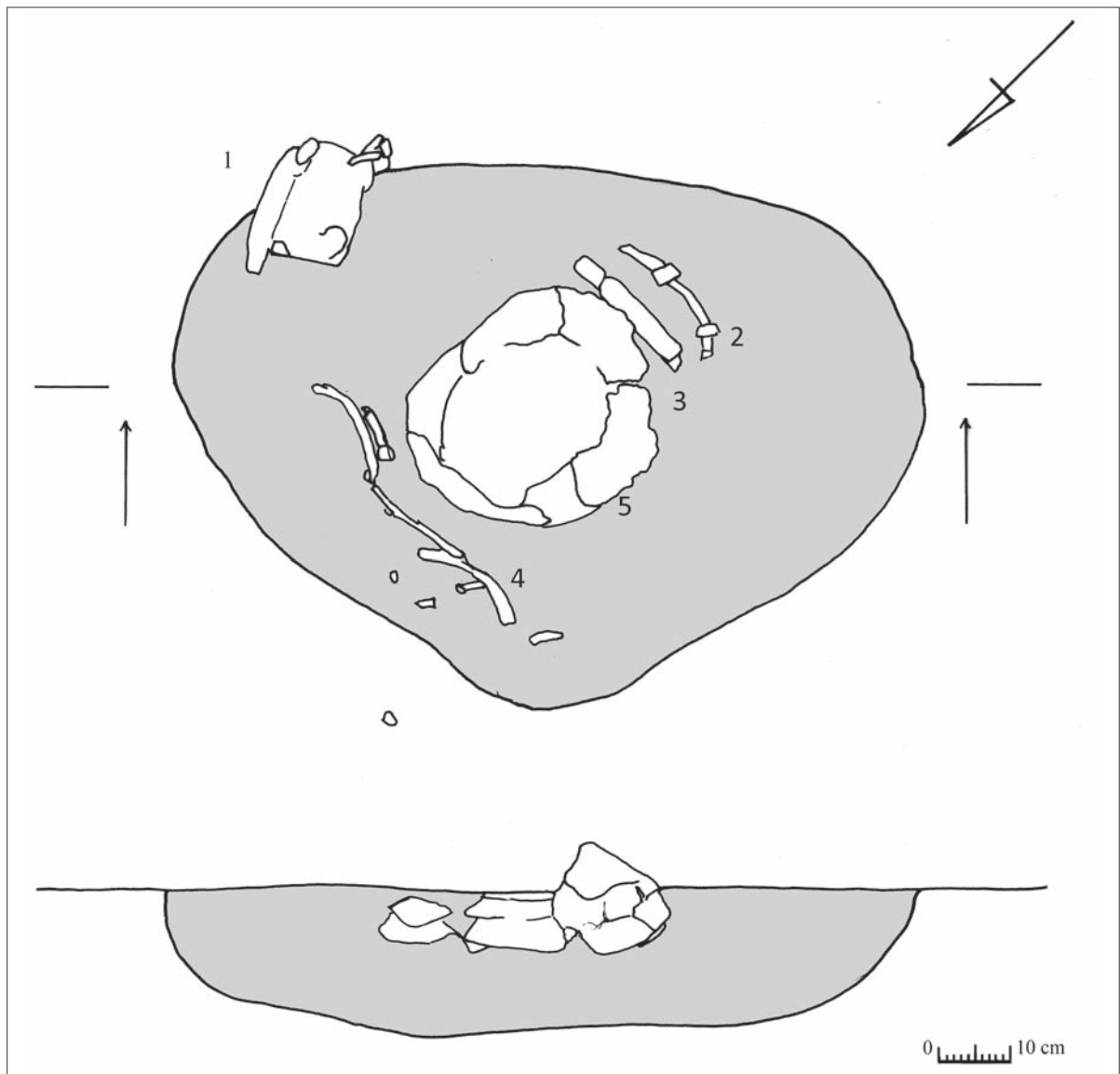


Fig. 1. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: 1 shield boss; 2 shield grip; 3 sword; 4 spearheads; 5 urn (drawings by A. Wiśniewska, G. Nowakowska).

decorated specimens (sometimes even using precious metals like silver) should be treated as artefacts with a special meaning, and not only as evidence that the owner was a prosperous man.

A new find of parade shield

Recent excavations in the Przeworsk culture cemetery in Czersk in the Piaseczno district produced shield mounts which, in the richness of the material and the ornamentation used, surpass all such finds already known from Poland. The cemetery is located in the flood plain of the River Vistula. The location is rather unusual: most Przeworsk culture cemeteries are located on elevated sandy dunes. The big river probably enabled long-distance contact with other regions. There are only cremation graves, according to the Przeworsk

culture burial custom, both urn and pit graves, richly furnished with weapons, tools, and also personal ornaments. The oldest finds are dated to phase A₂, the youngest to phase B₂/C₁.

Urn grave number 93 was probably a burial of a male, aged 40 to 50 (Fig. 1). The grave was furnished with an opulent set of arms: a double-edged sword, three spearheads, all ritually bent according to the burial custom of Przeworsk culture, and shield fittings: a boss, grip and edge mountings. Other finds form personal equipment, like a razor and whetstone. The iron objects are so badly corroded that a more detailed description or classification is impossible. All these finds show no traces of fire, so they were not put on a pyre, but were deposited directly in the grave pit. For the same reason, the bronze and silver pieces survived in relatively good condition. The shield was disfigured before depositing



Fig. 2. Czarsk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: shield edge mountings, iron (photograph by R. Soffel).

it in the grave. The shield boss was more than 30 centimetres from the grip. The edge mountings were irregularly dispersed in the grave pit, some pieces were inside the shield boss. This is hard to explain, as all these mountings bear no traces of fire. They must have been torn off the planks of the shield before the burial. The absence of brooches and belt buckles in this rich furnishing is striking. It could, however, be a local custom, because another grave from this cemetery, number 98, also dated to phase B₂, was furnished with a very similar abundant set of weaponry, consisting of a double-edged sword with a well-preserved antler hilt, a shield boss and shield grip, of the same type as in grave 93, but made entirely of iron, two spearheads, a single-edged sword blade, and a whetstone. No brooch, or any other part of a costume, was found in this assemblage.

A large number (more than 40 pieces) of iron U-shaped edge mountings allows a cautious reconstruction of a shield form (Fig. 2). All of them are straight, some with preserved small bronze rivets. A few are bent, forming an obtuse angle. The shield must have had a rectangular, or more probably, a hexagonal form. Evidence that shields of such a shape were used in Przeworsk culture could be finds of miniature shields (such as Siemiechów, grave 46, or Nadkole, grave 141b, Andrzejowski 2000, p.30, Pl. 2.1, 4). The diameter of the shield boss is 16 centimetres, and the height is ten centimetres. It is probably of type Jahn 7 (B2 according to N. Zieling) (Fig. 3). A more detailed typological distinction is impossible, because the spike is broken. The brim edge was mounted with bronze U-shaped fittings, of which only fragments have survived (Fig. 4). On the

brim, thimble-like rivets were placed, grouped in three times three. The bronze rivet heads, coated with silver, are two centimetres high. They are bigger than similar studs usually used on shield bosses. Most of them were destroyed, flattened, according to the burial custom of Przeworsk culture. Inside the boss were small objects, now, due to corrosion, seen only on an X-ray photograph (Fig. 5). Among them are thimble-like rivets and U-shaped edge mountings, and, probably, burnt bones. In Przeworsk culture cemeteries, shield bosses quite often served as containers for small artefacts, or as a sort of urn (Czarnecka 2005, p.68).

The shield grip, of type Jahn 8 (II, according to N. Zieling), has rectangular bronze plates, covered with a thin layer of silver (Plate III. 1). The high crests separating the rivet plates from the handle are covered with silver, and decorated on the top with filigree plait (Fig. 6). The handle has a triangular cross-section, and no visible decoration. The plates are 6.5 centimetres long, 2.6 centimetres wide, and the middle handle is 10.2 centimetres long (Fig. 7). The rivets have high thimble-shaped heads, coated with silver, matched by tutulus-shaped bronze rivets, called '*Gegenniete*', and decorated with a double-bead wire ring (Fig. 8). Between the two main rivets (now only rivet holes) are beautifully made small studs in a conical shape, made of silver filigree, one centimetre in diameter, and 0.6 centimetres high. They were purely decorative, not functional. An additional ornament, openwork rosettes, were placed on the plates (Fig. 9). A preliminary dating of the grave specimen, based mostly on the shield elements, could be phase B₂ of the Roman Period.

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Fig. 3. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: shield boss (iron, bronze, silver) (photograph by R. Soffel).



Fig. 4. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: shield boss, detail (photograph by R. Soffel).

Metallographic analysis

The technique used to make this grip is not clear. The plates are covered with a very thin layer of silver on both sides, as is the bottom (Fig. 10). Traces of silver can also be seen in the rivet holes. The surface of these plates is not smooth, but rough and uneven. This cannot be a result of fire, because the attached elements, silver rivets and foil on the crests, were not melted; in fact, there are no traces of damage. A chemical analysis of the surface carried out at the Central Laboratory of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Pol-

ish Academy of Sciences revealed a high percentage of silver (77.32%), with the addition of tin (8.03%) and copper (7.71%) (Table 1). The middle part of the grip, the handle, has a different composition, with a prevailing amount of copper (83.32%) and zinc (13.8%). Such a clear difference is quite strange, and hard to interpret. The differences between these two parts were confirmed by other metallographic analyses, carried out by using another method;³ however, the proportion

³ The analysis was made at the National Centre for Nuclear Research, using LA-ICP-MS (Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry).

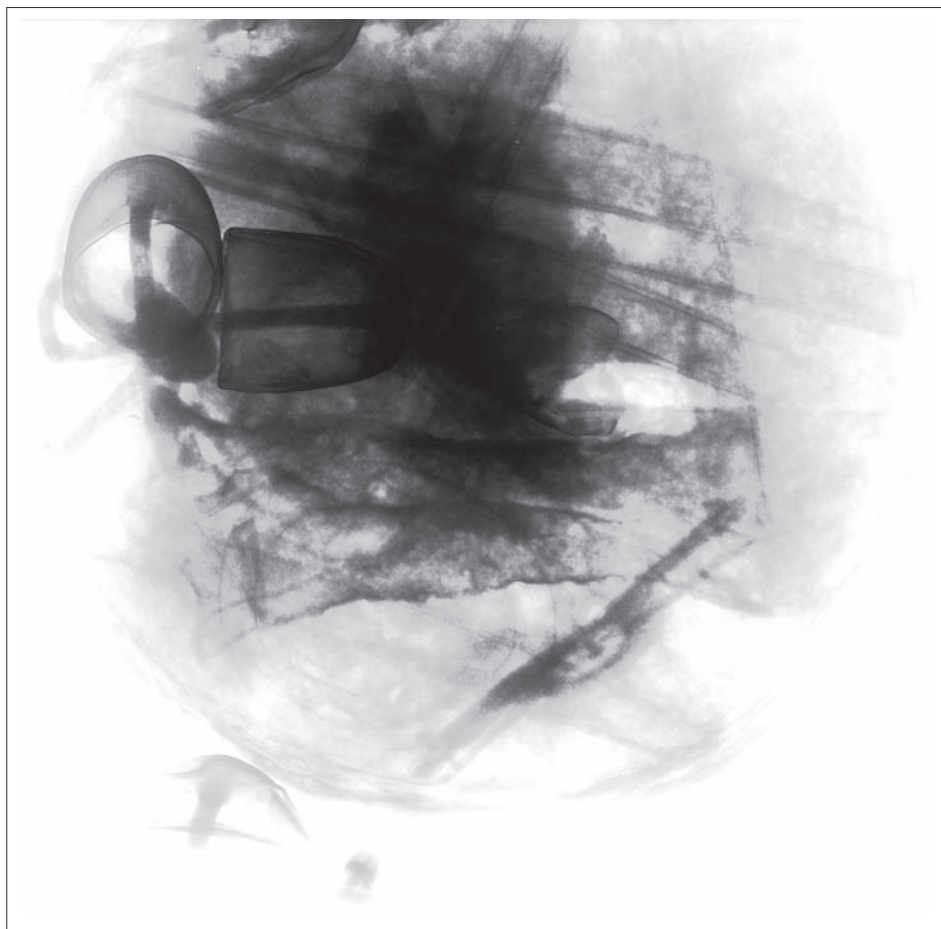


Fig. 5. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: shield boss, X-ray photograph (photograph by W. Weker).

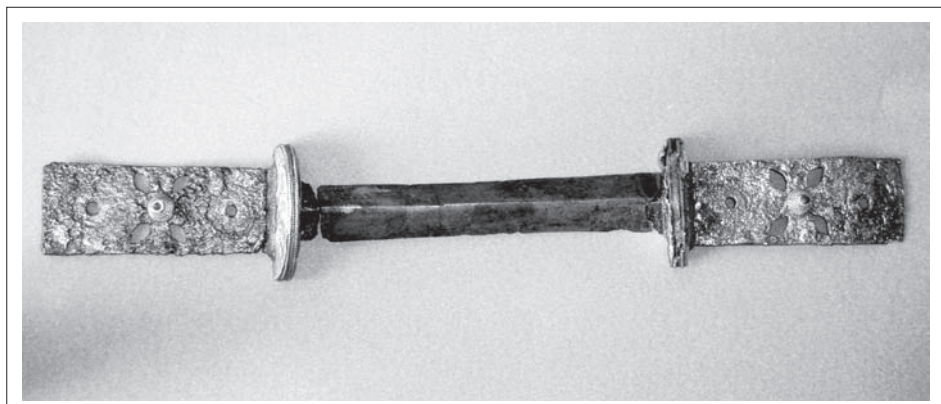


Fig. 6. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: shield grip after restoration (bronze, silver) (photograph by R. Sofuł).

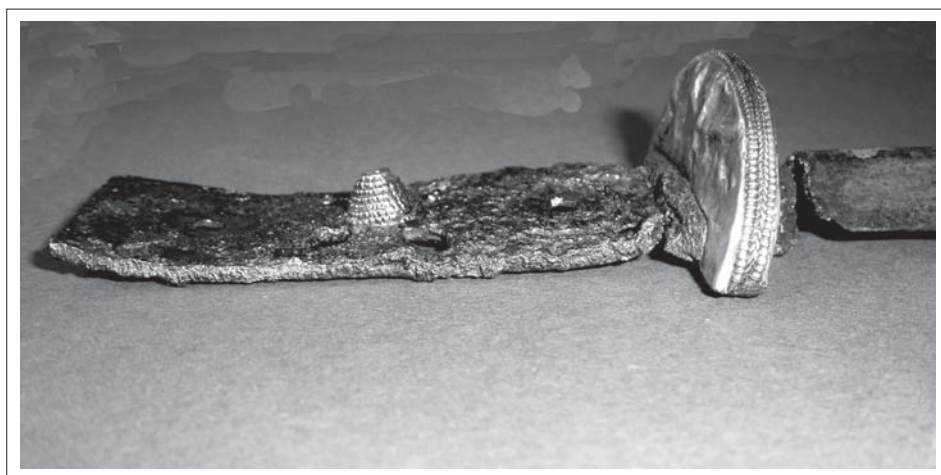


Fig. 7. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: detail of the shield grip after restoration (bronze, silver) (photograph by R. Sofuł).

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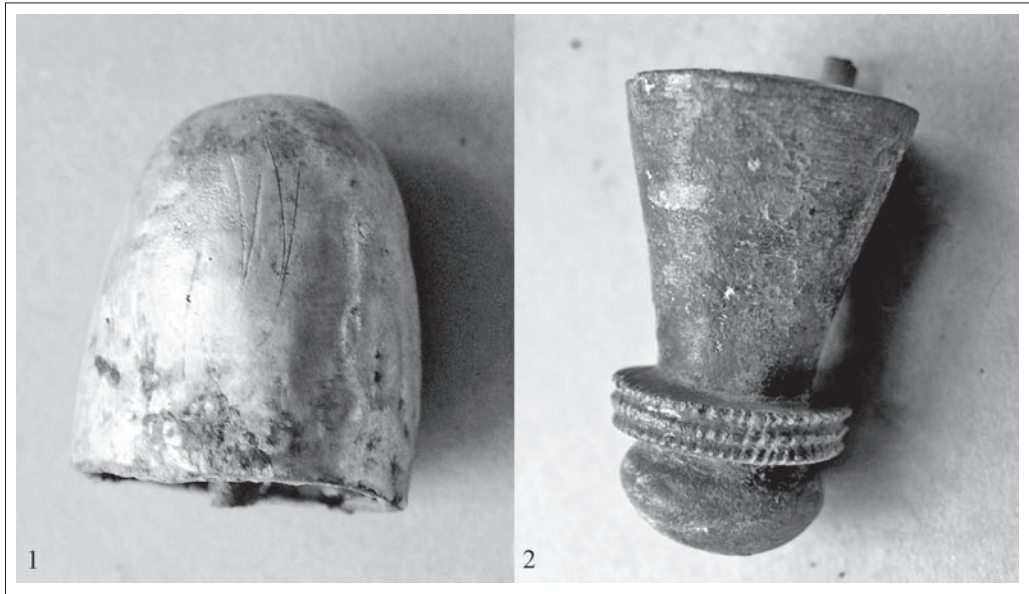


Fig. 8. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93, shield grip rivets: 1 bronze, silver; 2 bronze (photograph by A. Rowińska).

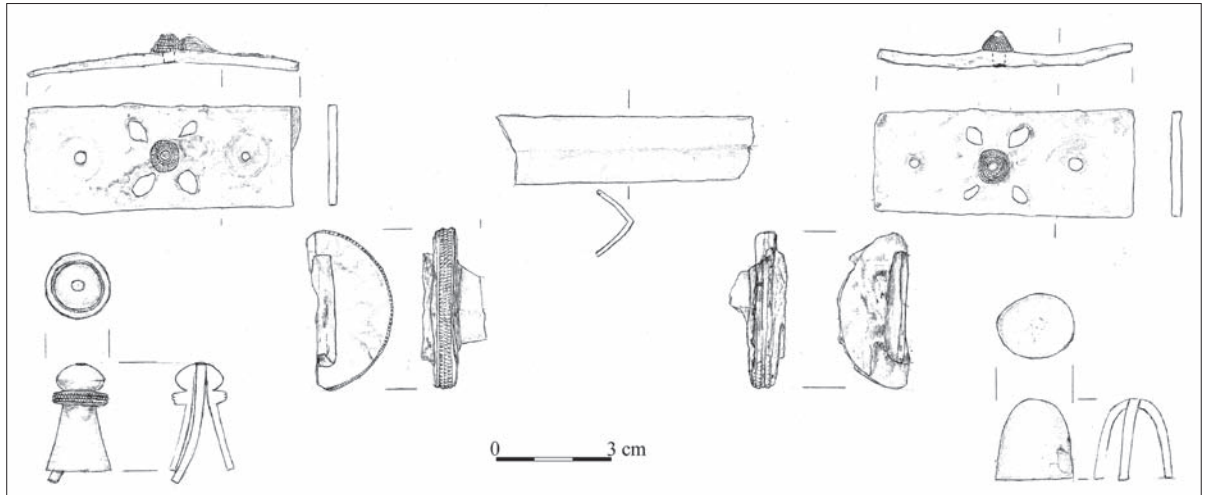


Fig. 9. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: shield grip (drawing by G. Nowakowska).



Fig. 10. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: shield grip rivet plate, bottom (photograph by A. Rowińska).

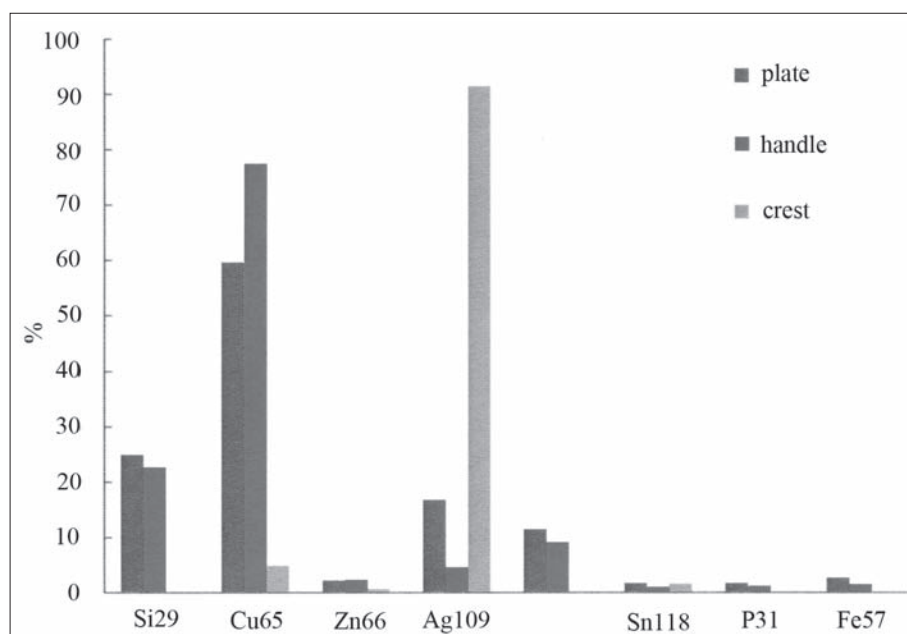


Fig. 11. A preliminary summary of the results of the LA-ICP-MS analysis of the shield grip.

Table 1

	Ag	Cu	Al	Si	Cr	Mn	Fe	Ni	Zn	As	Sn	Au	Pb	S	Mg
rivet plate	77,32	7,71	0,11	0,64	0,51	0	1,37	0,24	1,12	0,21	8,03	0	2,24	0	0,49
handle	0,63	83,32	0,19	0	0,05	0	0,18	0	13,18	0	2,24	0	0	0,16	0
rivet wire	89,94	2,88	0	0,81	0	0	0,12	0	0	0	1,29	0	4,45	0	0,51

of zinc and tin in the middle grip were a little different (Fig. 11; Plate III.2a-b). This may suggest the possibility that the rivet plates were made separately, and joined to the middle part, the handle. The joining point would have been covered by a crest. Some traces of soldering (?) can be seen in this place (Fig. 12). This way of producing a shield grip is rather unusual and not very practical, as the main function of this mounting was to strengthen the wooden part, the real handle. It is more probable that the structure of the plates' surfaces was changed in the process of 'silvering'. Exactly what technique was used is not easy to establish.

Bronze or brass objects could be tinned or gilded relatively easily; silvering is more complicated (Hammer 1999, p.194). One of the possibilities is fire silvering. The use of this rather sophisticated method, based on an amalgam with mercury, is theoretically possible; however, it is hard to prove. No traces of Hg were found in the analysis of the grip from Czersk.

The other possibility is by using silver chloride. The method is quite simple: cover the plate with silver chloride, and, after heating, chlorine is isolated as a gas and vanishes, leaving the artefact covered with a thin layer of pure silver. Silver chloride can be obtained from bog iron ore, and the whole process required no specific equipment and could be performed in an open fireplace. However, the method is not confirmed in the ancient *barbaricum*. Another possibility,

that the artefact was in fact tinned, but using an alloy of tin and silver with a high percentage of silver, also cannot be excluded. Tinning was highly popular in the Roman Empire, most artefacts were tinned. There is evidence of tinning and soldering from the *barbaricum* in the Late Roman Period (Hammer 1999, p.196; Voss 1999, Tab. 39), but the technique could have been used in earlier times. None of these methods explains the traces of silver in the rivet holes and on the bottom attached to the shield, because normally only parts of objects which can be seen were silvered.

Dipping into molten silver should reach all sides and holes, but it is hard to get an even surface without lumps. It is more probable that the effect that was observed on the rivet plates from Czersk could be the result of using the diffusion bonding method (Hammer 1999, p.194). When a copper object and silver are heated together under a charcoal fire, parts of the silver diffuse into copper. Using this method takes a lot of experience, as the crucial factor is getting an eutectic temperature, no more and no less. All the above possibilities mentioned are only suggestions. The question how this specimen was made is, until now, without a definite answer. More analysis is needed.

The most interesting question is why parts of this one artefact were made using various methods. The crests between the rivet plate and the handle were covered in foil made of almost pure silver (more than 90%,



Fig. 12. Czersk, Piaseczno district, grave 93: shield grip crest (photograph by A. Rowińska).



Fig.13. Kuny, Turek district, grave 73 (after Skowron 2004, Fig. 6.24).

Fig. 12), which was soldered to the surface. It is hard to explain why the rivet plates were not made in the same way. The plates looked rough, but they were finished, provided with decorative silver⁴ filigree studs, and thimble- and tutulus-head rivets.

Parade shields in the *barbaricum*

Bronze shield grips and bronze shield boss rivets were rare in Przeworsk culture (Andrzejowski 1998, p.70).

⁴ Almost 90% silver; for this, see Table 1.

Silver specimens are quite unique. Silver-coated bronze rivet heads were found only on the shield boss from Kuny, in the Turek district, grave 73 (Skowron 2008, p.47, Pl. XXV.2) (Fig. 13). Traces of silver were observed on a rivet head on a bronze shield grip from Strobin, in the Wieluń district (Abramek 1982, Fig. 1).⁵ Silver-coated plates with such rich decoration as on the grip from Czersk are unknown in Przeworsk culture. However, there are analogies outside Przeworsk culture.

Thimble-headed or tutulus-form rivets and bronze shield grips are treated as imports, or at least as a result of influences from Scandinavia and the Elbe region, where such finds are more frequent (Andrzejowski 1998, p.70). Some of them are dated to phase B₁, the majority to the next phase, phase B₂. Bronze was quite common; however, silver elements are rare. Shield grips covered with silver are known from Radved in Jutland (Kjær 1900, p.114ff, Fig. 3; Watt 2003, Fig. 9b), grave 19 at Hunn, Ostfold in Norway (Gjøsstein Resi 1986, p.71, Pl. 9.3), and Brostrup on the island of Oland (Rasch 1991, pp.109, 151, 152) (Fig. 14). There are traces of silvering on finds from grave 366 at Hamfelde, Kreis Launeburg (Bantelman 1971, p.124, Pl. 54.a, b) (Fig. 15) and Egge, Nord Trøndelag, in Norway (Möllenhus 1964, p.149, Fig. 5). All of them were provided with silvered thimble-head rivets. Some of the mentioned shield grips have a more ornamented form, with additional elements like open-work rosettes (grave 366, Hamfelde) or small protrusions (Brostorp and Radved).

The shield grip from Czersk belongs to that group, chronologically and typologically. Three ‘silvered’ shield grips were

made of bronze, coated on the upper side with a silver sheet e.g. Radved, Skandergborg County (Kjær 1900, p.115, Fig. 3; Watt 2003, Fig. 9b), Hunn, Østfold (Gjøsstein Resi 1986, Pl. 9.3) and Brostorp, Oland (Rasch 1991, pp.109, 151, 152). This technique was known to the smith (or goldsmith) who made the grip from Czersk, because both crests and thimble-like rivet heads were produced in this way. The rectangular rivet plates were made in a different way, as is discussed above. The uneven surface and traces of ‘floating’

⁵ It is probably the grave of a goldsmith, furnished with a set of tools, but dated earlier, to phase B₁.

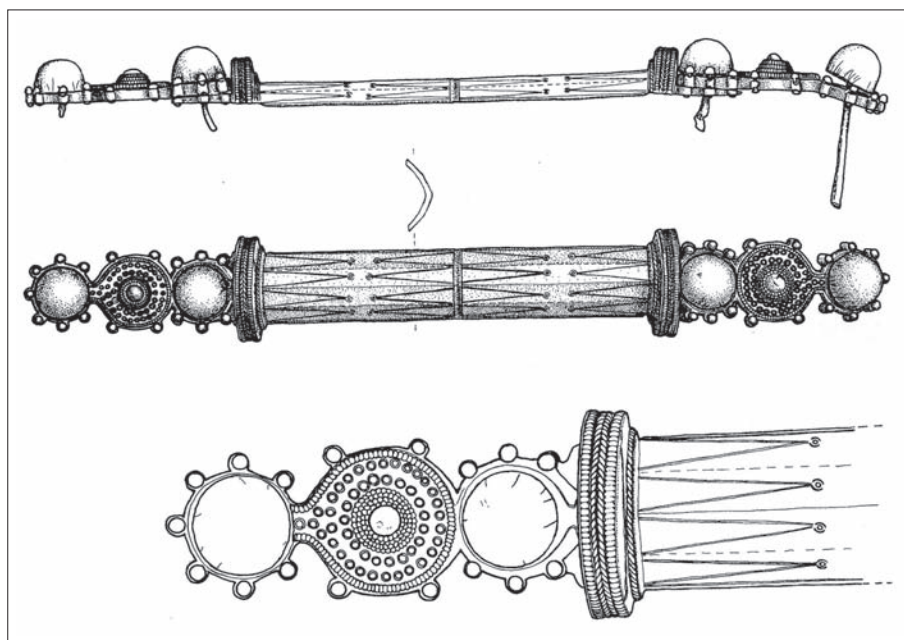


Fig. 14. Brostrop, Oland (after Rasch 1991, p.109).

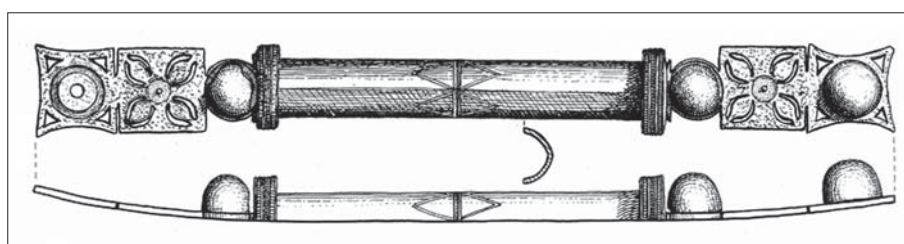


Fig. 15. Hamfelde, Kreis Launeburg (after Bantelman 1971, Pl. 54b).

silver seem similar to the analogous shield grip from grave 366 at Hamfelde, Kreis Launeburg, (Bantelman 1971, p.124, Pl. 54 a, b). Rough plates with traces of silver were also part of a shield grip from Egge. Both could have been made in the same way as the Czersk specimen. The exact method is, until now, not known.

It is interesting that the shield grip from Czersk has analogies in more than one area. Openwork decoration on rectangular plates is known only from Czersk and Hamfelde, grave 366 (Bantelman 1971, p.124, Pl. 54 a, b). Decorative, conical filigree rivets, with an additional glass element, were placed only on a richly ornamented shield grip covered with silver from Brostrop, Oland (Rasch 1991, p.151ff), and on the specimen from Czersk. Other motifs, a high crest with inlaid decoration, thimble-like rivet heads with tutulus-form *Gegenniete*, are more common. All these features are evidence of close contacts and mutual relations between military elites in the *barbaricum* of that time.

What was the nature of these relations: military alliances, common raids against the Roman Empire or other local enemies, or political alliances often connected with marriages between elites? On all these occasions, exchanges of gifts took place. A shield richly ornamented with bronze and silver could have been one of them. There are a lot of references in *Germania* about such gifts. In the passage concerning marriage,

Tacitus writes that a dowry included a shield, a sword, cattle and a harnessed horse.⁶ Orate shields fit very well here. That would explain the ‘interregional’ wandering of decorative motifs.

Some decorated pieces of weaponry were used in battle. A good example could be imported Roman swords with inlaid decoration, which were also of better quality, so they were both a status symbol and an effective weapon (Biborski 1994, p.130). The case of shields is different, as they could easily be damaged. Probably a shield with silver decoration was not a functional weapon, but parade equipment, a sign of status and military rank. What is interesting is that the most outstanding element is the grip, a part not visible from the outside. Rich ornamentation, in some cases with imprints of coins, was also placed on shield grips dated to the Late Roman Period, known from bog finds (von Carnap Bornheim, Ilkjaer 1996, p.420; Ilkjær 2001, p.298). Was it important only to someone who keeps it in the hand? Was the decoration made for the owner, or for others (enemies, to make an impression, or comrades, to show rank)?⁷

⁶ *Intersunt parentes et propinqui ac munera probant, munera non ad delicias muliebres quaesita nec quibus nova nupta comatur, sed boves et frenatum equum et scutum cum framea gladioque* (Tac. Germ. §18).

⁷ *Egil's Saga*, about Egil Skallagrimsson, gives some very interesting information about shields. In chapter 11, there

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Elite graves

In the very militarised societies of Roman Period Magna Germania, where free warriors were the basic social group and weapons constituted a status symbol, outstanding warriors or warlords should be distinguished by the set of weaponry in their graves. Besides the typical *Fürstengräber* of the Lubieszewo Horizon, rich and weaponless, there was a group of graves that in the richness of the outfit (gold, silver, imported vessels) were almost equal to them. The difference is in the burial rite (cremation versus inhumation), and in the presence of weaponry, often spectacular, outstanding in the grave goods (Schuster 2010, p.294ff). A good example from Przeworsk culture could be the grave at Sandomierz-Krakowka, in the Sandomierz district (Kokowski, Ścibior 1990), which is furnished with a full set of weapons (a sword, shield, lance and spearhead, a big [battle] knife, and bronze spurs), imported bronze vessels and silver, gilded decorative mountings; or Witaszewice, in the Łęczyca district, grave 22 (Kaszewska 1971), furnished with chain mail, spurs and bronze vessels. The most characteristic find of that sort outside Przeworsk culture are the graves at Hagenow in Mecklemburg (Voss 2005; 2007), with quite unique finds for *barbaricum*, like helmets and chain mail.

This clear distinction between the various ‘chieftain graves’ (with and without weapons) might answer the description known from *Germania* distinguishing kings (*reges*), and military leaders (*duces*).⁸ So we might suppose that typical Lubieszewo-type princely graves are burials of *reges*. Their attributes were not weaponry, but other prestigious items, and magic or symbolic objects referring to the sacred functions of these kings. The rich furnished graves with outstanding weaponry could be burials of *duces*, military leaders, who also had prestige and power, based more on military success and personal charisma (Czarnecka 2004, p.117).

In interpretations of Late Roman Period bog finds, silver and gold were a mark of chiefs/leaders (*principes*, according to Tacitus), bronze was a mark of members of the retinue (*comites*), and iron was a mark of ordinary warriors (*pedites*) (von Carnap Bornheim, Ilkjaer 1996, p.484; Pauli Jensen *et al.* 2003, p.312ff). At Illerup, the relation between shields with silver shield

is a description of the great hall of Thorolf, decorated with hanging shields. Also, in chapter 81, a parade shield, a gift from Einar to Egil, was hung in a hall. The Icelandic saga dates from much later, but the very idea of hanging parade shields may explain the rich decoration on the inside and outside (Egil 11; 81).

⁸ *Reges ex nobilitate, duces ex virtute sumunt* (Tac. *Germ.* §7).

bosses and shields with bronze bosses was 1:7, and with iron shield bosses it was 1:60.

The problem is, however, how to interpret graves furnished with only one outstanding item, namely a shield. Grave 93 at Czersk is such a case. The grave is, besides the shield, well furnished, but not really distinguished. The form of the grave, a not very big pit with an urn, and the burial rite, cremation, are typical of this cemetery. Other graves were furnished with similar or even richer sets of grave goods. This situation is not typical. Most graves from the *barbaricum* with decorated shields with silvered fittings are richly furnished; however, they lack elements distinguishing so-called *Fürstengräber*. There are no imports, bronze or glass vessels, but rich sets of weapons, swords, a few spearheads and lanceheads, but also decorated spurs and drinking horns (Hunn, Østfold, cf. Gjøstein Resi 1986, p.71, Pl. 6-9), a gold ring (in Brostrop, cf. Rasch 1991, p.108) or decorative belt (in Hamfelde, cf. Bantelman 1971, p.124, Pl. 54). It is hard to classify unequivocally grave 93 at Czersk as the burial of a local chief. On the other hand, a unique specimen such as a shield with rich silver decoration must be a clear sign of social status, and evidence of ‘interregional connections’, resulting in obtaining, probably as a ceremonial gift or exchange, this parade shield. It is possible that such a spectacular and unique grave good was enough to show clearly the social position of the deceased. It is also important to remember that we can find only fragments of grave goods. It is possible that even though the grave itself is not outstanding, the burial ceremony could have been: all organic specimens, wooden objects, expensive furs and textiles would totally disappear. Anyway, these finds from Czersk confirm the mutual connections of the military elites of the *barbaricum* in the Early Roman Period.

The 13th-century manuscript *Hirdskra*, a law code from Norway from approximately 1270 AD, claims: ‘Weapons in war are trust and protection, in peace honour and distinction, and they represent a good capital investment, available for whatever needs may arise in any emergency’ (cf. Foote, Wilson 1975, p.262). We can apply these words to Magna Germania in the first centuries AD.

Acknowledgements

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Abbreviations

Wandalowie – J. ANDRZEJOWSKI *et al.* eds. *Wandalowie, strażnicy bursztynowego szlaku*, Lublin-Warsaw, 2004
The Spoils of Victory – L. JØRGENSEN, *et al.* eds. *The Spoils of Victory. The North in the shadow of the Roman Empire*, National Museum, København, 2003

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PARADINIS SKYDAS IŠ PRZEWORSKO KULTŪROS KAPINYNO CZERSKE, NETOLI VARŠUVOS, LENKIJOJE, – TARPREGIONINIS STATUSO ŽENKLAS ANKSTYVUOJU ROMĖNIŠKŪOJU LAIKOTARPIU

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Santrauka

Tyrinėjimų Przeworsko kultūros kapinyne Czerske (Piaseczno apylinkės) metu buvo aptiktas unikalus radinys – žalvariniai ir sidabriniai skydo apkalai. Kape 93, kuriame urnoje buvo palaidotas greičiausiai 40–50 metų amžiaus vyras, buvo įdėtas dviašmenis kalavijas, trys ietigaliai (visi rituališkai sulankstyti pagal Przeworsko kultūrai būdingus laidojimo papročius) ir skydo detalės: umbas, rankena ir krašto apkalai (1–15 pav.; III iliustr.). Jie buvo smarkiai korodavę, be buvimo ugnyje požymių. Geležiniai U formos pakraščio apkalai leidžia padaryti spėjimą šešiakampio skydo rekonstrukciją. Umbas su nulaužtu smaigaliu, greičiausiai Jahno 7 tipo (pagal N. Zielingą, B2 tipo), yra 16 cm skersmens, 10 cm aukščio. Skydo pakraštyje buvo išdėstytos antpirščių formos kniedės, dengtos sidabro plokštele ir tris kartus sugrupuotos po tris. Umbo viduje buvo įdėti mažesnieji radiniai. Skydo rankena, Jahno 8 tipo (pagal N. Zielingą, II tipo), turėjo keturkampes žalvarines plokšteles, puoštas ažūrinėmis rozetėmis (6,5 cm ilgio, 2,6 cm pločio), dengtas plonu sidabro sluoksniu, su antpirščių formos kniedėmis, dengtomis sidabro plokštele; priderintas *tutulus* formos

žalvarines kniedes, vadinamąsias „Gegenniete“, o tarp jų – mažas kūgio formos kniedutes, padarytas iš sidabro filigrano. Viršutinės keteros, skiriančios kniedžių plokšteles nuo rankenos, buvo dengtos sidabro lakštu ir dekoruotos viršuje filigrano pyne. Rankena yra 10,2 cm ilgio, trikampio skerspjūvio. Šis radinys gali būti datuojamas romėniškojo laikotarpio B2 periodu.

Technika, naudota gaminant šią rankeną, yra neaiški. Plokštelės dengtos labai plonu sidabro sluoksniu abiejose pusėse, taip pat apatinėje ir kniedžių skylutėse. Keteros, išdėstytos tarp kniedžių plokštelės ir rankenos pagamintos kitokiu būdu, dengtos folija iš beveik gryno sidabro, prilituoto prie paviršiaus. Sunku pasakyti, kodėl kniedžių plokštelės nebuvo pagamintos tuo pačiu būdu.

Panašios kniedės ir žalvarinės skydų rankenos Przeworsko kultūros srityje yra vertinamos kaip importas ar įtakos iš Skandinavijos ar Elbės regiono, kur tokie radiniai dažnesni, pasekmė. Skydo rankenos, dengtos sidabru, yra žinomos iš Radved vietovės Jutlandijoje, kapo 19, iš Hunn (Ostfold apylinkės Norvegijoje) ir Brostrupo Olando saloje. Sidabro dangos žymių yra ant rankenos iš Hamfelde kapo 366 (Lauenbura apskritis, Vokietija) ir iš Egge (Nord Trøndelag regionas Norvegijoje). Visi šie bruožai yra artimų kontaktų ir to laikotarpio abipusių karinio elito ryšių *barbaricum* liudijimas.

Greičiausiai skydai su sidabro puošyba buvo ne funkciniai ginklai, o paradinė apranga, statuso ir karinio rango ženklas. Tai taip pat galėjo būti įgyta ceremoninio apsikeitimo dovanomis metu. Karinės ar politinės sąjungos ir santuokos tarp elito atstovų dažnai buvo susijusios su keitimusi dovanomis, o paradiniai skydai galėjo būti vieni iš jų.

Kapas iš Czersko, neskaitant skydo, neišsiskiria nei forma, nei įkapėmis. Sunku jį vertinti kaip vietinio vado kapą. Kita vertus, toks išskirtinis daiktas kaip skydas su turtinga sidabro puošyba turėjo būti aiškus socialinio statuso ženklas, patvirtinantis *barbaricum* karinio elito ryšius ankstyvuojų romėniškojo laikotarpio.

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