

THE TURNING POINT: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF UNDERWATER RESEARCH OF THE FORMER HERRN-SEE AT THE VILLAGE OF LUBANOWO (WESTERN POMERANIA, POLAND)

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Abstract

In October 2014 and June 2015, a team of scholars and students from the Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw featuring the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, made an underwater survey in the unnamed lake (formerly Herrn-See) in the village of Lubanowo (formerly Liebenow) in Western Pomerania. During the underwater research, weapons, tools and horse harness parts (including chain reins) were found. They are dated mainly to the Roman Period, but also to the Middle Ages. Some items bear traces of ritual destruction. Parallels may be pointed out with weapons in Przeworsk culture, and to some extent also in Scandinavia. The site should be attributed to sacrificial military deposits. Its extraordinary character lies in the fact that so far it is the only site of its type which is still in its 'lake stage', i.e. not a marsh or bog. Most probably it was used by local inhabitants, the people of the Lubusz group.

Key words: Herrn-See, Lubanowo village, underwater research, weapon deposit, Roman Period.

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Discovery

The main topic of this paper is the preliminary results of the investigations at the newly discovered site in the waters of a lake near the village of Lubanowo, in the Gryfino district (formerly Liebenow, Kreis Greifenhagen). This site is located in Western Pomerania, about 16 kilometres east of the Polish-German border (Fig. 1). The village is situated in the valley of the small River Tywa, running from south to north. Until last year, Lubanowo was known in archaeological records for an outstanding find in 1865, when a bronze, silver-plated, 32.9-centimetre-tall Roman statuette of Bacchus (Fig. 2)¹ was found in the village (Baltische Studien 27/1877, 39; Jahresbericht..., 80, Pl. XI; Eggers, Stary 2001, 92, Pl. 267).

In 2014, Tomasz Nowakiewicz received information about an accidental find of several iron artefacts, mainly pieces of shafted weapons, which had been found in the lake near Lubanowo (Fig. 3).² Nowadays the lake has no name, its former name (before 1945) was Herrn-

See, so we chose to use this old designation. In October 2014, we decided to verify the location and the archaeological context of these finds, as well as of the find of the Bacchus figurine. The project was conducted by a team of researchers and students from the Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw featuring the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences. Archive sources allowed us to narrow down the area of the Bacchus find to the vicinity of two old water-mills at Lubanowo. The figurine was found in a mire during the drainage of the swamps, probably next to a water-mill called 'upper mill', near a local road going from the village of Sosnowo (formerly Gebersdorf) to Banie (formerly Bahn).³ As regards the micro-regional settlement context, we should note that not only the former Herrn-See, but also the neighbouring waters, could have played a special role in Antiquity and/or in the Middle Ages, i.e. Lake Święte (formerly Heilige See, which means Holy Lake). Unfortunately, there has been no chance for the more accurate verification of the bottom of the Tywa valley, because it is still overgrown with vegetation and partially swampy.

¹ It was acquired by the Prussian Royal Museum in Berlin in 1877. At present, it is displayed in the Neues Museum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. The silver-plated brass statuette is fragmentarily preserved, missing the left arm, left leg and skullcap (Niemeyer 2011).

² For this information, the authors are indebted to discoverer of the site to Dawid Rembecki.

³ „Eine metallene antike Figur, mit Silberblech überzogen (Nachbildung eines Mercur?), ein Arm und ein Fuß fehlen, gefunden in einem Pfuhl beim Aufräumen des Morastes unweit der Liebenower Mühle bei Bahn am Gerbersdorfer Wege. Geschenk des Mühlenbesitzer Herrn Pehlow auf der Liebenowschen Obermühle" (Baltische Studien 22/1868, 34. Jahresbericht..., 22).

The Turning Point:
 Preliminary Results of
 Underwater Research of
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Fig. 1. The position of Lubanowo, Banie comm., voiv. zachodniopomorskie, Poland.

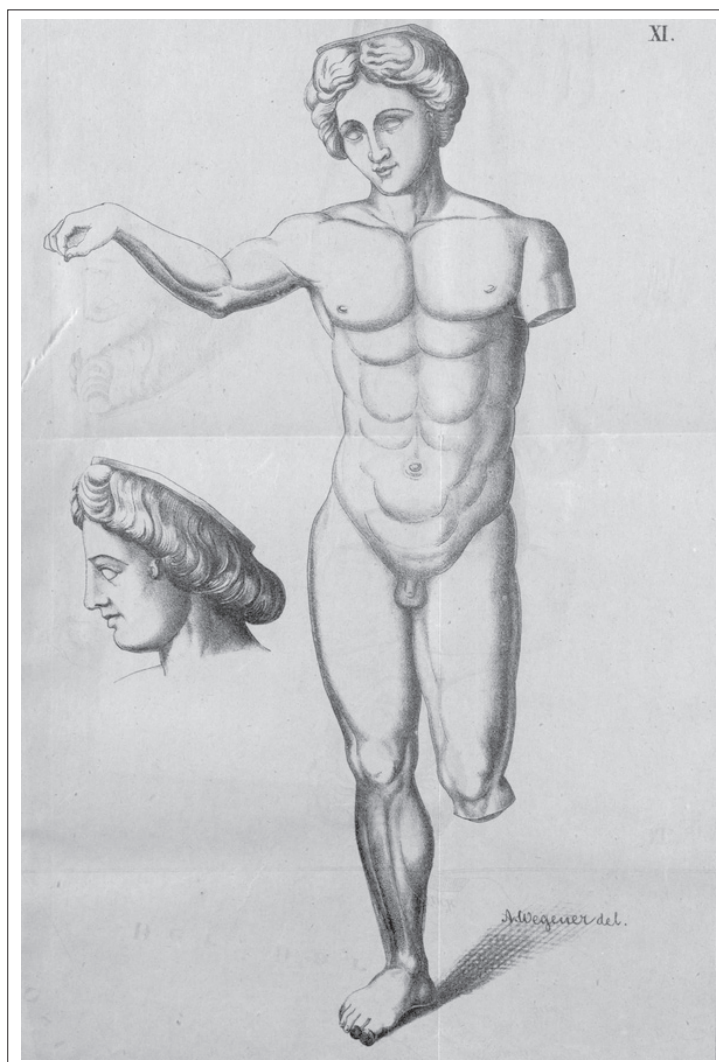


Fig. 2. The statuette of Bacchus from Lubanowo (Baltische Studien 1877, 39. Jahres-Bericht, Pl. XI).



Fig. 3. The lake at Lubanowo, formerly Herrn-See: the view from the north (photograph by T. Nowakiewicz).



Fig. 4. The survey in the former Herrn-See (photograph by M. Golisz).



Fig. 5. The survey in the former Herrn-See 1 (photograph by M. Golisz).



Fig. 6. Researchers studying newly found artefacts (photograph by M. Golisz).

The underwater research with metal-detectors and a preliminary sonar-scanning of the bottom of Herrn-See was performed by a diving team from the Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw⁴ in October 2014, and at the beginning of June 2015 (Figs. 4–5). During the prospection, numerous weapons and tools were found dating mostly from the Roman Period, and a few from the Middle Ages, as well as some contemporary artefacts (Fig. 6).

Roman Period finds

Some of the most interesting objects found in the former Herrn-See are seven artefacts that should be attributed to a horse harness. The most characteristic one is a half-preserved specimen, cast in bronze, broken off on one side, which appears to be a *Kehlberge*, which is part of the bridle going under the horse's head. The preserved part of the *Kehlberge* ends with a round flat plate with a circular opening. The broken end of the hoop (triangular in cross-section) is bent inwards into the loop. Between the plate and the hoop, there is a crest with three grooves of purely ornamental function. Originally, the plate was silver-plated, and additionally the grooves of the crest were inlaid with silver wire. Traces of this decoration are visible in the form of a melted lump of silver (Fig. 7.1). The *Kehlberge* bears traces of intensive use: parts of the hoop and the opening at the end of the plate are heavily worn.

This element has the closest analogy in terms both of type and size in the deposit of a horse bridle found at Mödring in Lower Austria (Niederösterreich), in a boggy area of a local river (Friesinger et al. 2000/2001, 260ff., Fig. 2.7–8, Pl. 3). The Mödring *Kehlberge* is completely preserved: in the middle, it has an opening for attaching a part of the reins. The two decorative crests are less carefully crafted, with double grooves inlaid with silver wires. This kind of *Kehlberge* is classified as Type KB1dd, according to Susanne Wilbers-Rost (1994), or type 9A1 after Mogens Ørsnes (1993). Generally, *Kehlbergen* of type KB1 according to S. Wilbers-Rost are parts of horse bridles of types Kirpehnen I, Kirpehnen II, Kirpehnen III, transitional Type Kirpehnen/Vimose and Vimose I (Lau 2014, 25, Fig. 18). The complete horse bridle from Mödring can be attributed to Type Vimose I, although some of its elements are situated between the older Type Kirpehnen II and Type Vimose III (Lau 2014, 44ff., 280, Fig. 34). The chronology of these bridles covers the time from Phase B_{2b} to B₂/C₁–C_{1a} of the Roman Period

(Lau 2014, 42–48, Figs. 32, 50). The time of production of the specimen from the former Herrn-See should be connected more with Phase B₂, due to the proportions and the precise execution of the decorative crest, which is more characteristic of the style of the Early Roman Period.

Visible traces of wear indicate that the artefact was used for quite a long time. The secondary loop in the broken end of the *Kehlberge* is probably not a sign of ritual destruction but of a repair intended to restore its function. Thanks to this repair, this part could still have been used, this time in a similar way as the two-piece *Kehlbergen* Type KB3 according to S. Wilbers-Rost (1994; or Type 9A2 according to M. Ørsnes 1993), parts of later variants of Vimose Type bridles (Lau 2014, 301, Fig. 18). Unfortunately, the missing part of the specimen from former Herrn-See has not been found.

The second group of parts found in the waters of the former Herrn-See are two partly preserved links of chain reins (one of them still connected with an iron ring separator), forged in iron. The unornamented links have the shape of 'double acorns' (*German Doppeleichelförmig*) with elongated ends, hammered into spikes (Fig. 7.2). Similar chain reins made of iron are characteristic of horse bridles type Illerup, for example, the specimen from the bog site in Thorsberg, Set 9 (Lau 2014, 318ff., Fig. 12). Generally, they correspond to Type Z5 according to S. Wilbers-Rost (1994; Lau 2014, 20ff., 301). In this case, the diagnosis is based on the material, namely iron. Iron chain reins are rarer than the specimens cast in bronze, and they are later. They have more parallels in finds from Scandinavian sacrificial bog sites (Illerup Ådal, Thorsberg, Nydam), i.e. horse bridles of Illerup Type, dated to Phases C_{1b}–C₂ (von Carnap-Bornheim, Ilkjær 1996a; 1996b; Lau 2014, 54ff., 60, Fig. 50).

The next group of finds is composed of four bronze mounts/appliqués. They bear the remnants of silver plating, as well as marks of fire destruction. They seem to be parts of one set, consisting of a wide rectangular mount (found in October 2014; Fig. 7.5), two narrow rectangular ones (Fig. 7.3–4), and one round mount (found in June 2015; Fig. 7.6). All of them were made from the same copper alloy⁵ and in the same hammering technique. They have corresponding dimensions: the diameter of the round plate is identical to the length of the rectangular mounts. Moreover, the width of the wider rectangular plate is twice the widths of the narrower rectangular mounts. Fragmentarily

⁴ Researchers: Artur Brzóska MA, Dr habil. Bartosz Kontny, Magdalena Nowakowska MA, Piotr Prejs MA, and students. The photographic underwater documentation was made by Monika Golisz MA.

⁵ The alloy investigations were performed by Dr Aneta Gójska and Ewelina Mišta MA, both from the National Centre for Nuclear Research in Świerk, Poland.

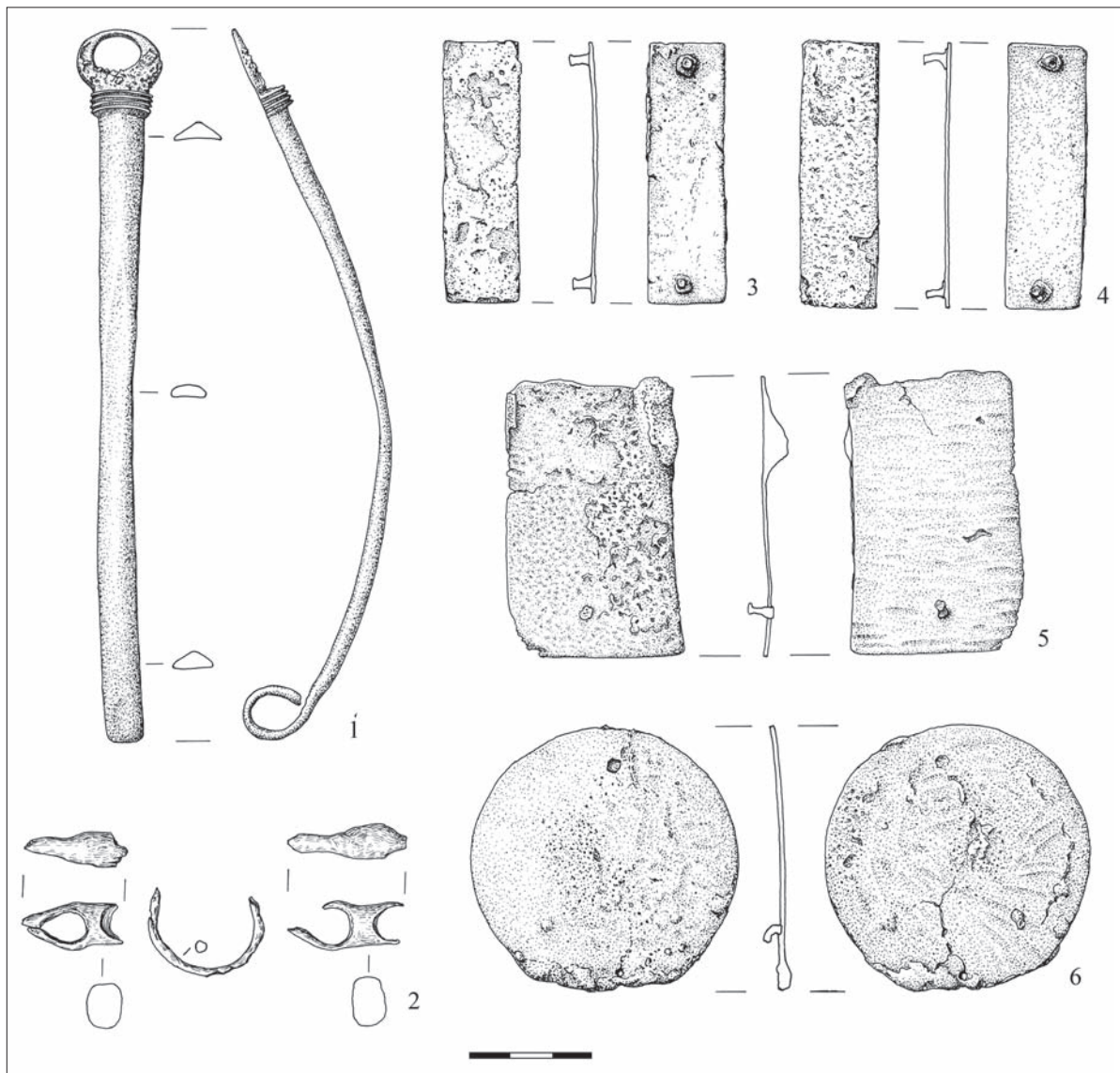


Fig. 7. Lubanowo, Banie commune. Finds from the former Herrn-See: 1 the *Kehlberge*; 2 links of chain reins; 3-5 rectangular mounts; 6 round mount (drawings by B. Karch).

preserved rivets, made of the same alloy and soldered to the surface of the plates, can be seen on the reverse of the mounts. The silver plating of the outer surfaces of the mounts has survived fire destruction to varying degrees. Still, it is possible to state that these rectangular mounts are of the same kind and size as the horse harness mounts found in Illerup Ådal, concentration of finds no 6/60 (von Carnap-Bornheim, Ilkjær 1996a, 25ff., 1996b; Pls. 7–8). The size of these rectangular mounts differed, depending on where they were placed on the leather straps of the harness, e.g. as in the set from the Sambian cemetery in the former Wiekau (today: Hrusal'noe, in Russia), dated to Phases C_{1b}–C₂. Slightly narrower mounts of this kind belong to a chronologically earlier horse bridle from Mödring (Phases B_{2b} to B₂/C₁). The function of the round mount (originally with three rivets) may be specified as a separator of harness straps, based on its size and comparing it to the T-shaped strap separator from Mödring. A

round mount was originally also part of the bridle Type Vimose I from Wiekau (Lau 2014, 41).

Another possible interpretation of the function of the round plate is that it is a part of the chape of a scabbard; its size is identical to one of the chapes found in Illerup Ådal, concentration of finds no 88/109 (von Carnap-Bornheim, Ilkjær 1996a, 177ff., Fig. 141, 1996b, Pl. 183) or Thorsberg (Matešić 2015, 362ff., Pls. 30–31:M.221-225). The preliminary interpretation is that mounting plates from the former Herrn-See could have been inspired by mounts produced in the style known from Jutland. Therefore, at this stage of the research, it is difficult to determine ultimately whether we are dealing with one horse harness used for a long time and repaired several times, or parts of more sets of a slightly different chronology. If this was one set, it cannot be excluded that some parts of it were used longer than others, and repaired, for example, the *Kehlberge*.

The chronology of all seven elements spans Phase B₂ and Phases C_{1b}–C₂.

Such horse bridles of Type Vimose I were characteristic of the northern Barbaricum, especially Jutland. Less frequent finds of this type were made in the territories of Przeworsk culture, in central and southern Poland (see Lau 2014). A concentration of parallel finds has been registered in the region to the north of the middle River Danube, in Lower Austria and southern Moravia (e.g. Mödring find), dated to the end of the Early Roman Period, and showing connections with the northern Barbaricum possibly during the Marcomanic Wars.

Among the weapons found at Lubanowo, the heads of shafted weapons prevail. They represent mostly forms typical of Przeworsk culture, e.g. Type Kaczanowski V, but they also possess local equivalents.⁶ The same refers to the other 'Przeworsk culture' types from Lubanowo, such as Kaczanowski II⁷ or VI, the latter fragmentarily preserved (Fig. 8.1-2).⁸ These lance heads have been dated to the Early Roman Period, some of them, however, may be dated both to the late stage of Phase B₂ and to the beginning of the Younger Roman Period (C_{1a}) (Kaczanowski 1995, 14ff., Table XX). Apart from Type II and occasionally VI, this also refers to the lance heads Type Kaczanowski XIV (Fig. 8.3) and XV (Fig. 8.4), known also from Lake Lubanowo; however, in these cases, theoretically the chronology may be prolonged until Subphase C_{1b}

⁶ Górzycza, Grave 3 (Socha, Sójkowska-Socha 2011, 225, Fig. 10.1, wrongly identified as Type Kaczanowski II.2.2), Kostrzyn, stray finds (collection of the MfVFB, inventory nos If8719, If8384, If8385), Stare Łysogórki, Grave 3 (Hauptmann 2001, 267, Pl. 1.d) and two stray finds (Hauptmann 2001, 273, Pl. 9.f, g). We would like to express our gratitude to Professor Matthias Wemhoff, the director of the museum, for the possibility to study materials from its collection.

⁷ Local parallels: Hohenwutzen (Bohnsack 1940, p. 1087, pl. 448), Czelin, Feature 9 (Rogalski 2013, Fig. 4.3), Górzycza, Grave 2 (Socha, Sójkowska-Socha 2011, 224f., Fig. 5.1, incorrectly attributed to Type Kaczanowski I.3), Kłósów, Grave (Wołagiewiczowie 1963, 118; MfVFB, inv. no If3248), Kostrzyn, stray find (MfVFB, inv. no If2404), Stare Łysogórki, Grave 36 (Hauptmann 2001, 272, Pl. 8.f)

⁸ Indigenous analogies: Hohenwutzen (Götze 1897, Fig. 86; Bohnsack 1940, 1088, Pl. 450.3; Kontny 2008a, 147), the specimens from the River Rędowna in the vicinity of Krackow (Kunkel 1931, Pl. on page 78.15; Wołagiewiczowie 1963, 119, Pl. XXXII.7; Eggers, Stary 2001, 33, Pl. 122.11; Kontny 2008a, 146ff.; Jahn's legacy), Kłósów, Grave (Wołagiewiczowie 1963, 118; MfVFB, inv. no If3246), Kurzycko, stray find (Jahn 1916, 92, 248; von Müller 1957, 61, 118; Wołagiewiczowie 1963, 118; Kontny 2008a, 147; Jahn's heritage), Kostrzyn, stray finds (MfVFB, inv. no If6959, If6962, MM II23835), Czelin, Features 13 and 31 (Rogalski 2013, Fig. 4.2, 4), Stare Łysogórki, Grave 14 (Hauptmann 2001, 268, Pl. 4.a) and stray find (Hauptmann 2001, 272, Pl. 9.e), Tramstow (Wołagiewiczowie 1963, Pl. XXVIII.5).

(Kaczanowski 1995, 22ff.),⁹ and so it is in the case of a single find of Type Kaczanowski XVIII, which is more typical of Phase C₁ (Kaczanowski 1995, 24). There are doubts as to the typological attribution of another element of a shafted weapon, i.e. the blade of a spearhead. It could be attributed to Type Kaczanowski L.3 from Phase B_{2b} (Kaczanowski 1995, 34), but most probably it can be linked with Type Simris from Subphase C_{1b}, which is a Central European equivalent of early C_{1a} (Bemmann, Hahne 1994, 301ff.). Type Simris is characteristic of Scandinavian territory (Bemmann, Hahne 1994, 435, Fig. 70); however, good parallels are known from the vicinity of Lubanowo; see: Tantow, in the lower Odra basin (Bemmann 2007, 80, Fig. 11.6, with further examples from the Elbe region), or Lüdersdorf in Mecklenburg (Bemmann 2007, 80, Fig. 11.5; see Bohnsack 1940, Pl. 452.7; Wołagiewiczowie 1963, 62, 121; collection of the MfVFB, inv. no MM II23010). Another spearhead from Lubanowo (Fig. 8.5) could be assigned to Type Kaczanowski D (Phase B₁), which is poorly defined and extremely rare (Kaczanowski 1995, 30ff.). A better analogy is the Scandinavian Type Hval, dated identically as Type Simris (Bemmann, Hahne 1994, 433ff., Fig. 70). It also has a local equivalent from the cemetery at Czelin, stray find (Rogalski 2013, 17, Fig. 4.8).

Some lance heads, so poorly preserved that their typological attribution was impossible, possessed remnants of wooden shafts in their sockets. They were dated by C14 isotope method, which proved that they come most probably from the first century AD, and so should be linked with the main Early Roman Period deposit.

The samples of wood were also studied to find the species which had been used to make the shafts. The analyses revealed that we are dealing with oak (*Quercus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The latter has parallels in Scandinavia, where almost all the investigated shafts were made of ash; see the finds from bog sites at Nydam and Thorsberg (Engelhardt 1866, 56), Nydam III and IV (Bemmann, Bemmann 1998a, 251, 262, 1998b, 145ff.) and Kragehul (Iversen 2010, 64). Ash was also used in the Middle Ages to make shafts (Tokarski 2000, 85; Wilke 2014, 97, 119). Oak, in turn, seems rarely to have been used for such purposes, although it has been proved to be the only material used for making shafts from the Balt sacrificial bog site at Czaszkowo (Nowakiewicz, Rzeszotarska-Nowakiewicz 2012, 57). Another analysis of Balt shafts was made for two lance heads from the Bogaczewo culture cemetery at Paprotki Kolonia Grave 517 where hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and alder (*Alnus*) were used (Cywa 2015).

⁹ Local parallel to Type XIV: Hohenselchow, stray find (Wołagiewiczowie 1963, 121, Pl. XXIX.1) and to Type XV, Hohenselchow, stray find (Wołagiewiczowie 1963, 121, Pl. XXIX.2).

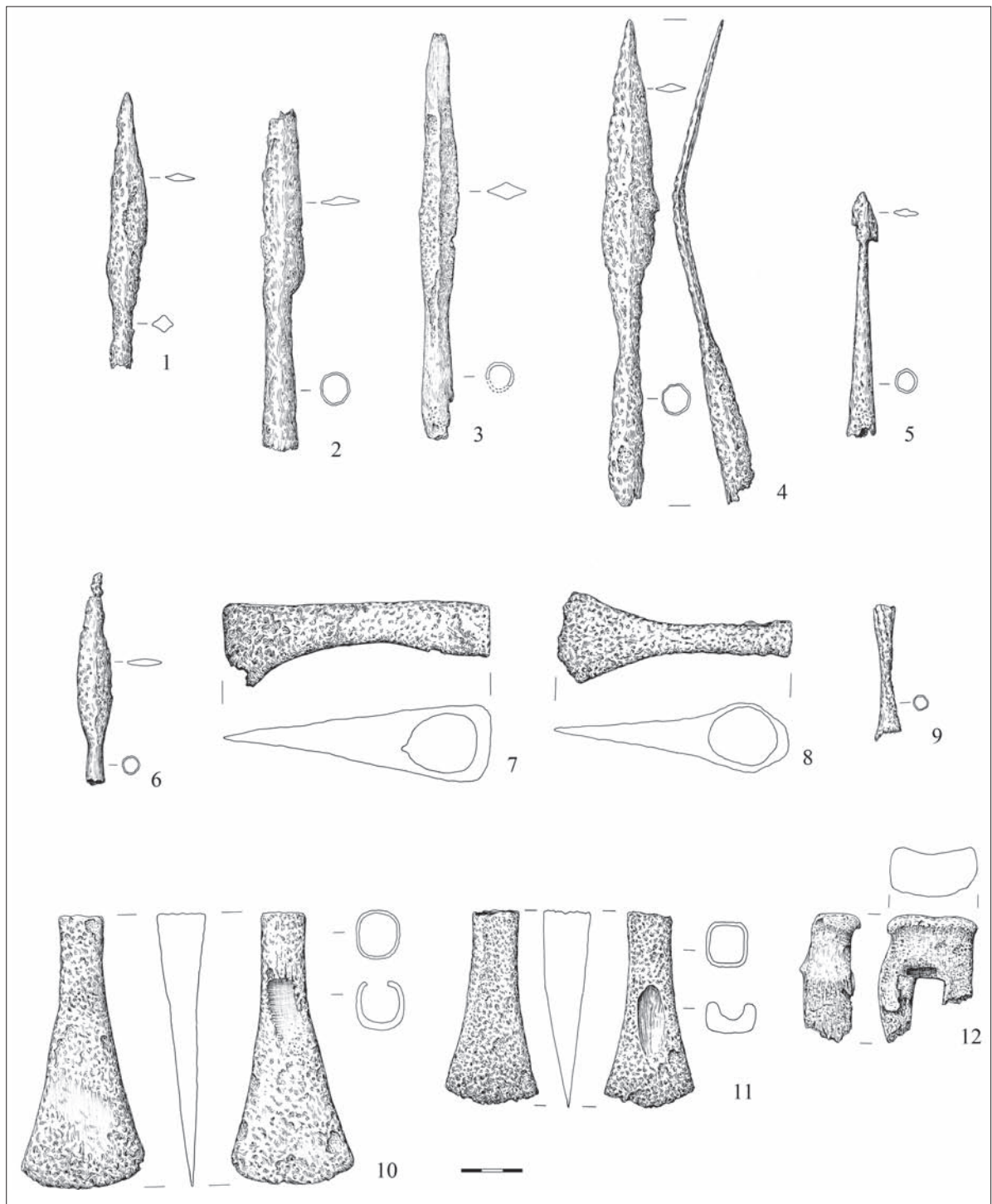


Fig. 8. Lubanowo, Banie commune: weapons and tools from the former Herrn-See: 1–4 lance heads; 5 a spearhead; 6 an arrowhead; 7–8 axes; 9 the apex of a shield boss; 10–11 adzes; 12 a hammer.

Arrowheads were also recorded at Czaszkowo. Some of them were barbed: they are very simple, and without good parallels; nevertheless, the barbs are quite short here, so they resemble miniatures of the spearheads from Czelin and Lubanowo. Therefore, they may be of local origin, and may stem from the Roman Period. Another type has a leaf-shaped blade (Fig. 8:6). It may be described as Type IA2 after Pauli Jensen and

Nørbach (2009), very popular especially in the central European Barbaricum (that area is obviously under-represented on the map compiled by Pauli Jensen and Nørbach 2009, Fig. 38). Local parallels are also known (see Kostrzyn, stray find, collection of MfVFB, inv. no If8586). Such forms appeared in a wide chronological range from the Late Pre-Roman Period until the Early Migration Period (Kontny 2002, 60ff.; Bochnak 2005,

93ff.), but their dating value is rather low; nonetheless, they were probably slightly more popular in the Younger and Late Roman Period, at least as regards the finds from funerary contexts (Kontny 2008b, 130, Diagram 13). Generally, it was a hunting weapon (Kontny 2008b, 127, 130; Pauli Jensen, Nørbach 2009, 126ff., Fig. 118).

Two axes were discovered in Lake Lubanowo. One (Fig. 8.7) has protrusions under the eye and an asymmetrical blade (small beard). It represents Type Oder-Elbe after Kieferling (1994, 339, Fig. 4), very popular in Luboszyce culture, the Elbian Circle and in Bohemia in the Younger and Late Roman Period. The other one represents Type Żarnowiec (Fig. 8.8); it is double bevelled, and has a wide blade. Such forms were not very frequent, but widespread, documented in Przeworsk culture, Scandinavia, Luboszyce culture and the Elbian Circle, the Balt area and even in Černâhov culture and the Pontic zone (Kieferling 1994, 341ff.; Kontny 2006, 148, Fig. 1.f, 2, 3); they may be compared with particular finds from the West Balt circle (see Nowakowski 1995, 37). They are dated to the late stage of the Early Roman Period, but they gained most popularity in the Younger Roman Period (Kontny 2006, 148ff.). Although weapons found at Lubanowo fit well into the scheme of Barbarian weapons, they seem to represent slightly smaller versions, which seems to be a local trait.

One of the iron fragments is probably the blunt apex of a shield boss (Fig. 8.9) Type Jahn 7a (1916), later Variety Liana 2 (1970), characteristic more of the earlier stage of Phase C_{1a} (Godłowski 1994, Fig. 1). Such shield bosses were popular in the whole of Barbaricum, including the local cultural unit (Lubusz group), see: Dębno, Meichow, Friedland (Wołagiewiczowie 1963, 66, 118, 120, 123, 124, Pl. XXXII.3, with further literature), and three items from the necropolis at Czeulin, Site 23, including Feature 3 and 9 (Rogalski 2013, 18, Fig. 4.9, 11).

Apart from weapons, tools were also unearthed at Lubanowo. These were knives (mostly impossible to date precisely), a rare find of a hammer (Fig. 8.12), with a good parallel in the Nydam deposit (Rau 2010a, 457, Fig. 190; 2010b, 119, pl. 56:1), and five adzes (Fig. 8.10-11). Three of them represent specimens with asymmetrical blades and unfinished sockets, rectangular in cross-section. Similar forms of such adzes are known from different territories, e.g. Przeworsk culture, Luboszyce culture (Domański 1979, 64), the Dębczyno group (Niekursko, Kokowski 2006, 132, 133, Fig. 1; Jahn's heritage), the Elbe Circle, but also in the Early Iron Age and Pre-Roman Period, from Pomeranian culture, Jastorf culture, Puchov culture

(Michałowski 2011, 29ff.) or West Balt Barrows culture (Waluś 2014, 83ff.). They were very frequent in the West Balt Circle in the Roman Period (Kontny 2016a, forthcoming), but were found in the Wielbark culture/Oksywie culture settlement at Lipianki, Feature 921 (Strobin 2013, Fig. 32.7) and in Scandinavian bog sites, specifically at Vimose on Funen (Engelhardt 1869, Pl. 18.21–23; Christensen 2005, 62, Fig. 19, 21, 23), and also Illerup, inv. nos PIB, QPA (Nørbach 2009, 261, 274, 277, 279) and Nydam in Schleswig (Bemmann, Bemmann 1998a, 155ff., 1998b, 47, Pl. 28.372). Such an adze was discovered together with a third-century BC Brå cauldron (Klindt-Jensen 1953, 20, 62, Fig. 12), although it was probably deposited much later. Apart from the small adzes (Fig. 8.11), there were two big adzes (Fig. 8.10) in Lubanowo. They have parallels in the bog site at Żarnowiec (Kontny 2006, 150, Fig. 1.e, 2), and two tools from the Norwegian cemetery at Handemyren (Slomann 1971, Fig. 23).

Medieval finds

A separate research question is the presence of Viking Age materials in Lake Lubanowo. Such a dating can be assumed for nine lance heads, but not without some reservations (with one exception). This is due to the state of preservation, and the lack of the most significant typological features in the majority of cases. These difficulties make identification probable but not unquestionable. These doubts do not apply to the above-mentioned exception: a massive and completely preserved lance head, which differs from others by its size and method of production (visible traces of the Damascene technique¹⁰). It can be dated to the late phase of the Viking Age, or even the early stage of the Late Middle Ages. Among the other items, two lance heads, similar to Types E and K after J. Petersen (1919), can be indicated, but four others probably represent some local variants of lance heads (which points to similar finds made in the region). The Viking Age chronology might also be considered in the cases of two other lance heads, distant from Petersen's typology, but referring to some finds from Gotland.

Other aspects

The Lubanowo finds also included other categories of artefacts, some of them quite contemporary, or difficult to date more precisely. It is worth mentioning the bones of animals, mostly horses. One of them belongs to a species known from Ancient materials, but without precise dating it is hard to make judgments based on this find.

¹⁰ Analysis done by Dr habil. G. Żabiński.

Traces of scorching which preceded deposition in the lake were noticed on the shaft fragments. Together with traces of surface melting on certain copper alloy plates (horse harness parts), the fire patina on the hammer, and the bending of particular items (lance head Type Kaczanowski XIV, one of the knives), they prove ritual destruction. Fire treatment was performed here earlier than it is suggested for Scandinavia, i.e. Phase C₂ (Ilkjær 2003, 62). The weapons were most probably hurled into the water: they were found within the range of a throw. However, we cannot be sure of the original lake shoreline, so the reconstruction is partly hypothetical. Moreover, the central part of the lake basin should be checked in the future to search for other possible depositions made from a boat or through a blowhole.

Sacrificial site

Based on the accessible materials and contextual observations, we may conclude that we are dealing with a sacrificial site from the Roman Period where weapons (partly intentionally damaged) were placed. It is the only site known so far which is still in its 'lake stage', i.e. not a marsh or a bog. This phenomenon is unique, and we owe it to the slow process of eutrophication. However, we cannot exclude the possibility that there are many more sacrificial lake sites of this type, but it is extremely hard to find them under the thick layers of mud characteristic of the post-glacial lakes of the North European Lakeland. Therefore, the majority of weapon deposits were found in bogs while digging peat. In the case of northern Poland, this possibility is also problematic, as vast boggy areas were dried out by the Hauländers, i.e. the 16th and 17th-century farmers-newcomers from western Europe, with a knowledge of flood control and a well-developed agrarian culture. Apart from the Scandinavian sites, the best parallel with Lubanowo in Poland is a bog find from Żarnowiec in the territory of Wielbark culture. It also consisted of lance heads, an axe, an adze and a hammer, but there is no detailed information concerning the site (Kontny 2006, with further literature). Further parallels come from northeast Poland, i.e. the extraordinary find from Czaszkowo (Nowakiewicz, Rzeszotarska-Nowakiewicz 2012), and the bog site at Wólka/the former Wolka-See (Kontny 2015). However, at the moment, their contents are different: there are no swords at Lubanowo, and also precious mountings and ring-mail proven for Czaszkowo have not been discovered at Lubanowo yet. Nevertheless, the survey at Lubanowo will be continued, so we hope that more similarities with both Czaszkowo and Scandinavian bog sites will be established.

Apart from a few Medieval items, the chronological range of the deposits embraces mostly the Early Roman Period, possibly also the beginning of the Younger Roman Period (Phases B₁-C₁); however, the exact number of deposits is hard to establish at the moment; possibly there were more than one.

Cultural context and interpretation

Its cultural context is connected with the small borderline cultural unit, i.e. the Lubusz group from the Early Roman Period. Weapons found here are typical of Przeworsk culture (Rogalski 2013, 16ff.; see Wołagiewicz 1981; Czarnecka 1995; Socha, Sojkowska-Socha 2011), but Scandinavian elements are noticeable, especially in the later chronological stage, i.e. the beginning of the Younger Roman Period. This mixed image may characterize local weaponry, but also the Wielbark culture one in the Roman Period (Kontny 2006, 152; see also the remark concerning military belts in Madyda-Legutko 2015).

An interpretation of the weapon deposit from Lubanowo is not easy. There has been a long scientific discussion as to understanding Scandinavian bog sites, and so it is generally accepted that weapons won from defeated foreign invaders were deposited there for the deities of war (Ilkjær 2003, 60ff.; Lund Hansen 2003, 84ff.). Nonetheless, this interpretation may not be valid for the south Baltic Sea region. The items found at Lubanowo may be explained as deposits of local armoury, i.e. the Lubusz group, but we may equally well be dealing with weapons of Przeworsk culture, or even Wielbark culture (utensils like adzes and a hammer, although not being cultural denominators, are proven for the possibly Wielbark culture offering at Żarnowiec). The Younger Roman Period offering may be of Scandinavian origin (spearheads of Type Simris and Hval), but theoretically we can attribute it to the Wielbark culture area, but also to inhabitants of the lower Odra basin or Mecklenburg (see late finds from Lüdersdorf). We cannot exclude the Elbe region for the Early Roman Period deposit, as well as the later one (axes), although it seems not so probable, as weapons evidently originating from the Elbe circle are not frequent. To complicate the interpretation, we have to remember that combat retinues may have had a multi-ethnic character (Pauli Jensen 2011, 40ff.; Blankenfeldt 2013, 32; Kontny 2013, 2016b, forthcoming). Further surveys at the site may help to answer the question.

We have to remember that the lower Odra region was of great importance in the Early Roman Period, see the princely cemeteries at Lubieszewo (Schuster 2010, 258ff.). We should remember the numerous deposits

of bronze Roman figurines from bogs (the above-mentioned find from Lubanowo), so other sacred zones are also known in the area. Moreover, Roman goods were shipped along the River Odra (Wołągiewicz 1970), so maybe the Lubanowo find documents the attacks aimed at the Odra basin to control the trade route? Is the deposit from Lubanowo evidence of military success over invaders, i.e. the offering made by local warriors, a retinue securing trade routes? The vision is tantalising, but far from proven.

Another problem is the scientific importance of the Medieval lance heads from Lubanowo, primarily due to their discovery context. This leads to the question why this lake was chosen (if we accept the claim that it was a Medieval deposit). In other words, is the Lubanowo discovery evidence of the secondary adaptation of an ancient Germanic cult site to the needs of the Early Medieval Slavic inhabitants of this land? At the present stage of research, the finds and the former traditional name of the lake, Herrn-See, do not allow us to exclude this extraordinary and surprising claim.

Abbreviation

MfVFB – Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Berlin.

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LŪŽIS. PIRMIEJI BUVUSIO HERRNO EŽERO PRIE LUBANOVO KAIMO (VAKARŲ PAMARIO VAIVADIJA) POVANDENINIŲ TYRIMŲ REZULTATAI

**BARTOSZ KONTNY, TOMASZ
NOWAKIEWICZ, ALEKSANDRA
RZESZOTARSKA-NOWAKIEWICZ**

Santrauka

2014 m. spalio ir 2015 m. birželio mėnesiais Varšuvos universiteto Archeologijos instituto mokslininkų ir studentų grupė, remiama Lenkijos mokslų akademijos Archeologijos ir etnologijos instituto, atliko povandeninius Vakarų Pamario vaivadijos bevardžio ežero (anksčiau žinomo kaip Herrno ežeras) Lubanovo kaimo (buv. *Liebenow*) tyrimus (1, 3 – 6 pav.). Povandeninių tyrimų metu rasta ginklų, įrankių ir arklio pakinktų elementų (tarp jų pavadžio grandžių). Didžioji dalis radinių datuojama romėniškoju laikotarpiu, tik kai kurie priklauso viduramžiams. Ant kai kurių radinių matoma ritualinio gadinimo pėdsakų. Ginklų atitikmenų galima rasti Pševorsko kultūroje, kai kurių jų kilmė skandinaviška. Radvietę reikėtų priskirti karo aukų depozitams. Išskirtinė radvietės vertė yra ta, kad ji iki šiol vis dar yra ežere, t. y. ne liūne ar pelkėje. Labiausiai tikėtina, kad čia aukojo vietiniai gyventojai, t. y. Lubušo (*Lubusz*) grupės žmonės (2, 7, 8 pav.).