ARTISTIC INFLUENCE OR CLOSE TRADING CONTACTS? LATGALLIAN PENANNULAR BROOCHES AND GOTLAND (THE NINTH TO ELEVENTH CENTURY)

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Abstract

Penannular brooches with rolled terminals are known in Latgallian areas from the eighth century, and brooches with polygonal (faceted and funnel-shaped) terminals from the middle of the ninth century. At the same time, they were widespread in a large area, including Scandinavia. Penannular brooches on Gotland have been analysed, and these are very similar to those of the Latgallians. Although the origin of the polygonal terminals of brooches is unclear, the same ornamentation can be found on Gotland, and in a broader context in the Scandinavian Vendel Period patterns of ornamentation. The new ideas appeared in the form of Latgallian penannular brooches at the same time or a little later than on Gotland. The new pattern of ornamentation also influenced the ornamentation of bracelets, or vice versa. The contacts between Latgallians and Gotland or Scandinavia were possibly long-standing, lasting about three centuries. If Latgallian artisans were themselves producing this kind of penannular brooch, then they were not creating new forms, but imitating existing ones.

Key words: penannular brooches, polygonal, faceted, funnel-shaped and star-shaped terminals, ornamentation of the hoop of the brooch, Gotland, Latgallians.

In the Viking Age, penannular brooches were widespread in a large area around the Baltic Sea. We can see common traits in the form and ornamentation of these brooches in several countries, including Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland and Scandinavia, where there is a long history of investigation (Thunmark-Nylén 2006, 97). Such brooches have also been found in northern Russia (Sedova 1981, 86). A typology for Viking Age penannular brooches has been developed on Gotland by Anders Carlsson (1988) and Lena Thunmark-Nylén (2006, 96-116). The ornamentation of penannular brooches in Estonia has been analysed by Marika Mägi-Lõugas (1994, 465-484), while Curonian examples have been studied by Audronė Bliujienė (1999, 128ff.). In Lithuania, penannular brooches were more common in the west of the country (Kulikauskas et al. 1961, 477; Vaitkunskienė 1978, 52ff., Map 34). In Latvia, penannular brooches specifically from the Medieval period have been analysed by Armands Vijups (1998), and I have examined Curonian brooches of the post-Viking period (Vaska 2008, 105-128).

The typology of Anders Carlsson is based on the shape of the terminals and the cross-section of the brooch hoop (Carlsson 1988, 15ff.), and has been given a more rational structure by Lena Tunmark-Nylén (2006, 97). Viking Age penannular brooches in Latvia and Scandinavia are so similar that it is not necessary to develop a new typology especially for brooches from Latvia. For the analysis of Latgallian penannular brooches, the typology developed by L. Thunmark-Nylén was used. In the current article the term 'polygonal' is used for the whole group of brooches analysed; therefore, the direct polygonal terminals of penannular brooches are distinguished as faceted (type 2 after Thunmark-Nylén), while the quadrangular terminals are termed funnel-shaped (type 3 after Thunmark-Nylén), as in A. Carlsson's work (Carlsson 1988).

The first penannular brooches in present-day Latvia, only two examples, are encountered in the fourth or fifth century AD, when they appear among Roman Iron Age enamelled ornaments. But this was only an isolated episode. After this, a few examples with rolled terminals occur in east Latvia. Such brooches, made of iron or bronze, were common from the third century BC in the area of Zarubinec culture (Pobol' 1971, 105ff.), from the third or fourth century AD in Djakovo culture (Rozenfel'dt 1982, 75), and later in a vast area east of Latvia. In the eighth century, small iron penannular brooches with rolled terminals appear in Latgallian cemeteries, occurring in male graves together with the crossbow poppy-end fibula and an early type of warrior bracelet, or with the bracelet forms preceding them (Šnore 1987, 15). From this time onwards, such brooches became common in Latvia, and remained so up to and including the 16th century (Vijups 1996).

But things look different when we consider brooches with polygonal-faceted and funnel-shaped terminals. It

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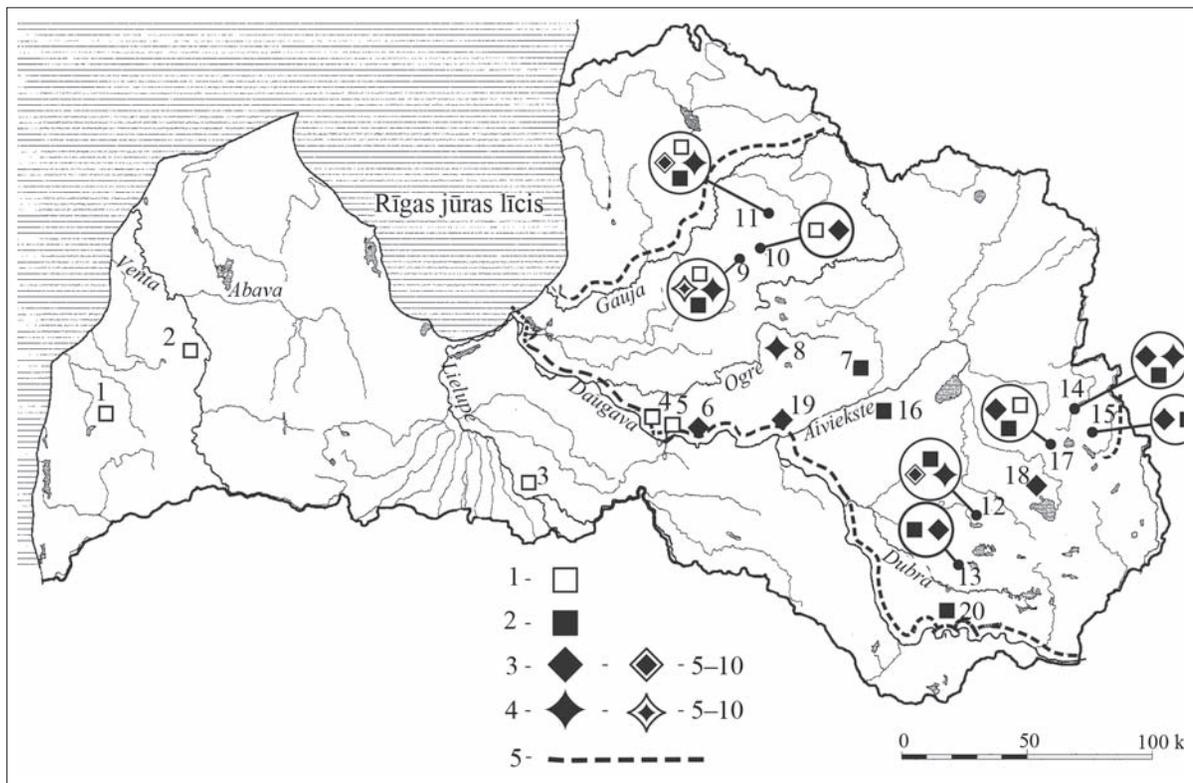
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Fig. 1. The distribution of Latgallian penannular brooches with faceted and funnel-shaped terminals, and the find locations of ninth-century Scandinavian brooches: 1 faceted type 2a; 2 type 2b; 3 3a; 4 3b. List of find locations: 1 Grobiņas Smukumi; 2 Kuldīgas Lapsas; 3 Mežotne hoard; 4 Aizkraukles Lejasbitēni; 5 Kokneses Aizelkšņi; 6 Koknese; 7 Viesienas Tropeles; 8 Ērgļu Jaunāķēni; 9 Priekuļu Gūgeri; 10 Priekuļu Kampi; 11 Drabešu Liepiņas; 12 Kapiņu Kristapiņi; 13 Aizkalnes centrs; 14 Ludzas Odukalns; 16 Sāvienas Joksti; 17 Zvirgzdenes Kivti; 18 Andrupenes Skrabi; 19 Pļaviņu Radzes; 20 Višķu Maskava.

is likely that these brooches came into use in the Latgallian area only in the middle (?) of the ninth century, and disappeared after the eleventh. Penannular brooches are so common in the lands of the Balts that for a long time nobody realised that some of them cannot be of Baltic origin. The older-generation Latvian archaeologist Elvīra Šnore wrote in 1987 that 'the massive penannular brooches of the tenth century, with polygonal terminals and a hoop of equal width, hexagonal in cross-section, were typical of the eastern part of Latvia, and rare in neighbouring countries' (Šnore 1987, 16). Only in 1999 did the Latvian archaeologist Arnis Radiņš note that it is possible to find parallels for the penannular brooches of the Latgallians: and that these parallels can be seen on Gotland (Radiņš 1999, 91). In 2000, Ināra Kuniga concluded that one brooch from grave 108 at the Kristapiņi burial site is very similar to a brooch from the Birka burial site, grave 495 (Kuniga 2000, 58, Fig. XII. 4; see: Arbman 1940, Pl. 55). A year earlier, Audronė Bliujienė concluded that a similarity may be seen between one section of Curonian and Scandinavian penannular brooches with quadrangular terminals, especially the brooches from Gotland (Bliujienė 1999, 130). In Lithuania, penannular brooches with polygonal terminals have been divided into five groups (Vaitkunskienė 1978, 52ff., Map 34).

In present-day Latvia, penannular brooches with rolled and faceted terminals first occur in Scandinavian burials in Grobiņa (Fig. 1.1). The decoration of a brooch with rolled terminals consists of little stamped crescents with pellets inside (burial 80; Fig. 2.1,3), while a brooch with faceted terminals has rows of pellets (burial 79; Fig 3.1,2). Birger Nerman points out that this kind of decoration is known on Gotland (1958, 136, 140, Figs. 201, 204). The presence of Viking Age Scandinavians in northern Curonia is well known in Latvian archaeology, but recently a new Viking Age Scandinavian burial site was found near the town of Kuldīga (Fig. 1.2.). The grave goods included penannular brooches with polygonal or faceted terminals, and typical Gotland women's ornaments: bear's head brooches (Lūsēns 2016, forthcoming).

Ninth-century penannular brooches with polygonal terminals in Latvia occur not only in the Latgallian territories. In the Mežotne hoard, in Semigallia, they were found together with a crossbow fibula with animal head terminals (Fig. 1.3). The hoard is traditionally dated to the beginning of the ninth century (Brīvkalne 2009; Urtāns 1977, 163). The penannular brooches from the hoard with polygonal or faceted terminals both correspond to type 2a (Thunmark-Nylén 2006, 97). One of these is ornamented with little triangles, and another
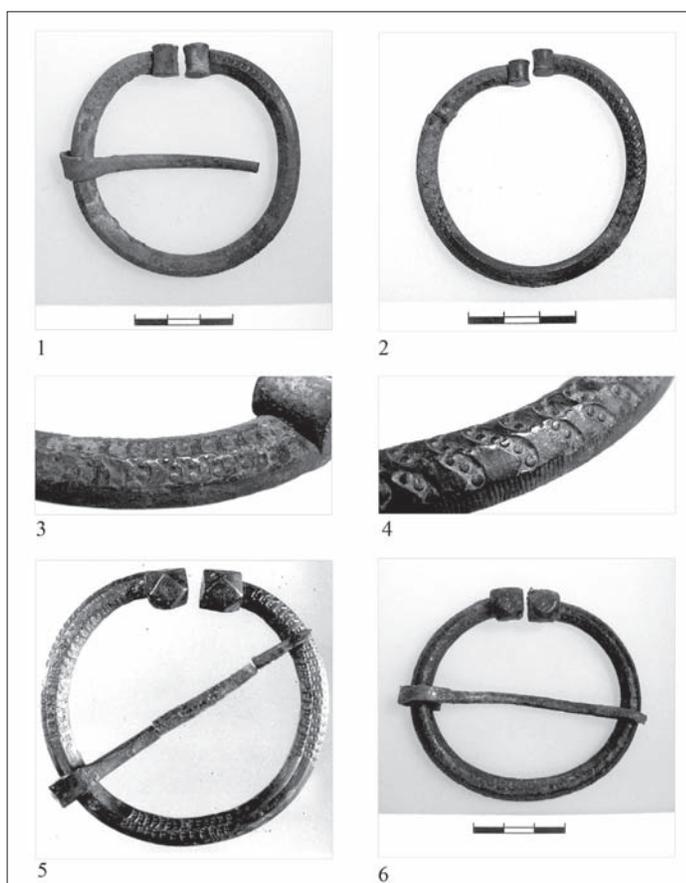
Fig. 2. Penannular brooches with ornamentation of little crescents with pellets inside and details of brooches. Rolled terminals: 1, 2 Grobinas Smukumi, burial 80; 3, 4 Mežotne hoard (Latvian National History Museum inv. No. A11429: 110), faceted terminals; 5 Mežotne hoard (after Brīvkalne 2009); 6 Kivti cemetery, burial 25.
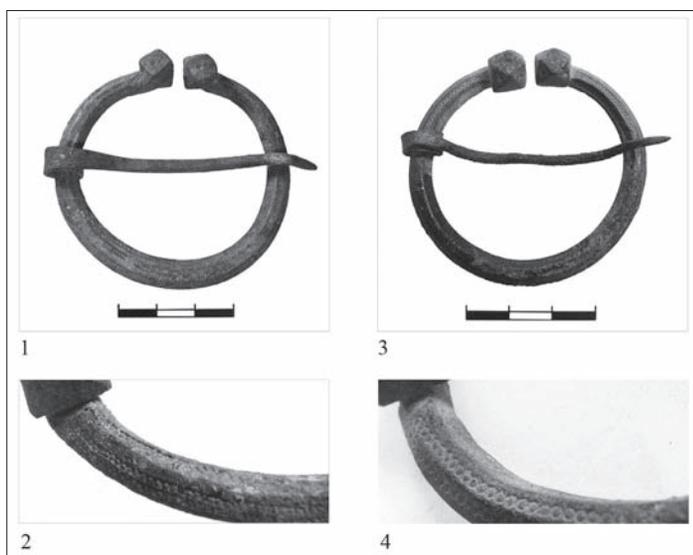

Fig. 3. Penannular brooches with faceted terminals and ornamentation of rows of pellets, and details of brooches: 1, 2 Grobiņas Smukumi, burial 79; 3, 4 Kokneses Aizelkšņi, burial 2.

with small stamped crescents (Fig. 2.5). The third penannular brooch, the only one surviving after the Second World War, has rolled terminals, and is likewise decorated with small stamped crescents (Fig. 2.2,4). Such crescents can be seen on the famous Iron Age Scandinavian gold neck-ring from the Tureholm hoard (Lamm 1994, 33), but they are not common in present-day Latvia. Such decoration can be found on some brooches from Gotland and Estonia (Group B after Mägi-Lõugas [Marika Mägi]). This type of decoration on Estonian penannular brooches is present from the beginning to the end of the ninth century (Mägi-Lõugas 1994, 473, 483). This rare pattern of decoration cannot be found later. In only one case is it possible to discern traces of little stamped crescents on a Latgallian penannular brooch: a brooch with faceted terminals and a damaged surface from Zvirgzdenes Kivti cemetery, burial 25 (Fig. 2.6) (Šnore 1987, Pl. 1.16).

Returning to the Latgallians, we find that the Latgallian burial sites of the tenth to the 12th century contain large numbers of penannular brooches, found in both male and female graves. Many of them have rolled terminals, but one section of the brooches, about 20%, with polygonal terminals, were found only with male burials (Fig. 5). Penannular brooches with polygonal terminals have been analysed, from Latgallian cemeteries such as Kokneses Aizelkšņi, Koknese, Drabešu Liepiņas, Priekuļu Ģūgeri, Priekuļu Kampi, Sāvienas Joksti, Pļaviņu Radzes, Ludzas Odukalns, Zvirgzdenes Kivti, Pildas Nukši, Kapiņu Kristapiņi, Mērdzenes Dzērves, Daugavpils Aizkalne and Andrupenes Liepušku Skrabi.

The last form is often connected with 'warrior bracelets' (Fig. 5.1-3). There exists a comprehensive typology of warrior bracelets (Daiga 1974, 174-197) and their decoration (Vaska 2000, 113-126). This permits us to arrange Latgallian penannular brooches on a timeline (Fig. 4). Penannular brooches with polygonal terminals are not connected with the precursors of Latgallian warrior bracelets, namely hollow and massive profiled bracelets, or with the early type of warrior bracelet (Šnore 1987, 33-57). If the dating of

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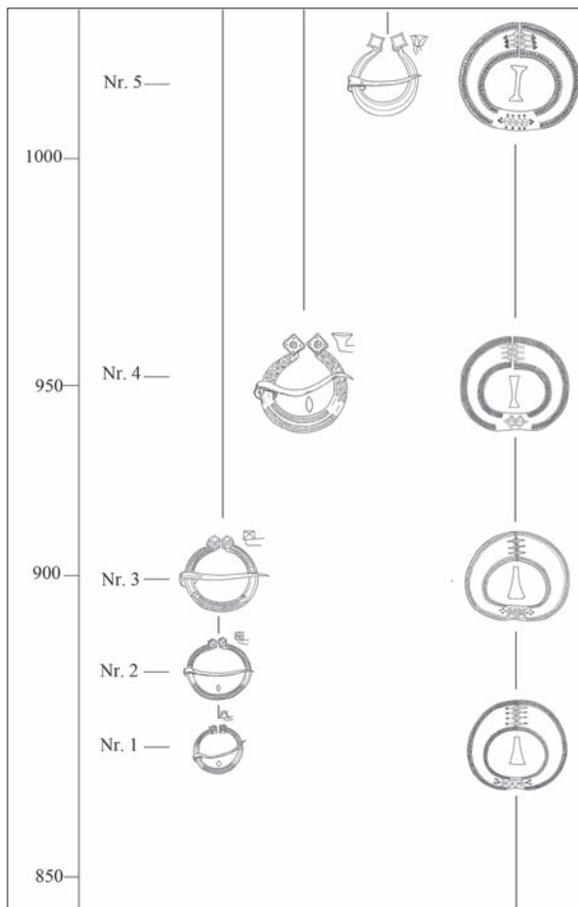Brooches and Gotland (the Ninth
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Fig. 4. The chronology of Latgallian penannular brooches with faceted and funnel-shaped terminals compared with warrior bracelets.

warrior bracelets is correct, then the first Latgallian penannular brooches with polygonal terminals appear no earlier than the middle, or, more probably, the end of the ninth century. In the following text, warrior bracelet types distinguished by J. Daiga are used.

Brooches with polygonal (faceted) terminals, of which 24 examples have been analysed (compared to about 190 found on Gotland), are found in burials together with type 2 warrior bracelets with type A2 ornamentation (Fig. 5.1). This type of penannular brooch first appeared in areas near the River Daugava, but later spread in the Vidzeme and Ludza districts, in northeast Latvia (Fig. 1). They correspond to type 2 of Thunmark-Nylén (2006, 99). This type is divided into two variants, according to the diameter of the brooch (Thunmark-Nylén 2006, 99). An example of type 2a has been found near the River Daugava (Kokneses Aizelkšņi, Latvian National Museum, inv. No. RDM 1120 A), a brooch measuring 57 millimetres in diameter, while from the Ludza district there are brooches of type 2b, with a diameter of 70 to 100 millimetres (Figs.3.3,4; 4.1), The latter were found together with slightly later forms of warrior bracelets, with ornamentation of types B and C1. We can divide Latgal-

lian brooches of type 2b into two groups: more slender examples, with a diameter of around 70 to 80 millimetres and the width of the hoop around seven millimetres (2a/b)band brooches with a diameter of 70 to 100 millimetres and the width of the hoop around eight to 12 millimetres (Fig. 4.2,3), Brooches of the former kind occur in the Vidzeme part of the Latgallian area, and in Semigallia. At Kivti cemetery and at Priekuļu Ģūģeri, in two cases, they have been found together with warrior bracelets of type 2 (after Daiga) with type 2A ornamentation (Fig. 5.1); therefore, they are earlier than the more massive ones, and date from the ninth century. The situation seems to be similar on Gotland, only L. Thunmark-Nylén has not separated the brooches (Thunmark-Nylén 1995, Fig. 82.3a-b, 4a-b).

Penannular brooches with quadrangular or funnel-shaped terminals, numbering 38, are found together with warrior bracelets of type 3 with type B ornamentation (Figs. 4.4; 5.2), mostly occurring in the Ludza district (Fig. 1.14,15,17). They correspond to the third type distinguished by Thunmark-Nylén. On Gotland, about 300 examples of brooches with funnel-shaped terminals have been found. The third type identified by L. Thunmark-Nylén is divided into variants according to the shape of the terminals: the terminals of type 3A have rectilinear edges, while those of type 3B have concave edges (Thunmark-Nylén 2006, 100).

Terminals of the latter form are called star-shaped terminals in Baltic archaeological literature, or *rēdžu gali* in Latvian. These constitute the main form of Curonian penannular brooch in the 11th and 12th centuries (Bliujienė 1999, 128ff.), but the Latgallian brooches are different: most of them are hexagonal in cross-section. Only eight examples of brooches with star-shaped terminals appear together with warrior bracelets of type 3/4 or 4, with type B/C or C ornamentation) (Figs. 4.5; 5.3), both in the Ludza district and in the environs of Cēsis in the Vidzeme region, but in this case Vidzeme stands out (Fig. 1. 9,11).

Only two Latgallian brooches belong to type 2/3 of Thunmark-Nylén. One of these is from Nukši cemetery, burial 49 (Shnore 1957, Fig. VIII.3), the other from Kristapini, burial 13 (Kuniga 2000, Pl. XIII.10). A few such brooches are known from Semigallia.

Ornamentation

The ornamentation of Latgallian penannular brooches with polygonal (faceted and funnel-shaped) terminals is the same as that of the examples from Gotland analysed by L. Thunmark-Nylén (2006, 99, 100), and possibly also the Curonian examples (Bliujienė 1999, 128ff.).

Fig. 5. Penannular brooches and warrior bracelets: 1 ninth/tenth century, Ģūģeri, burial 46; 2 tenth century, Kristapiņi, burial 216; 3 eleventh century Ģūģeri, burial 42. The main forms of terminals: 4 faceted; 5, 6 funnel-shaped.
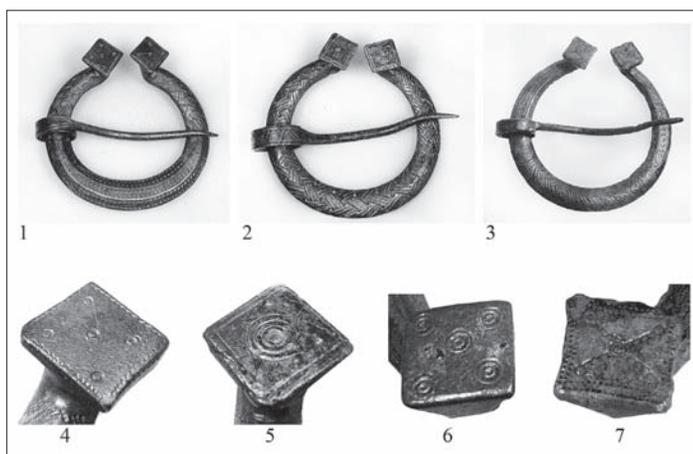

Fig. 6. The arrangement of ornamentation on brooches with funnel-shaped terminals divided into three parts: 1, 2 brooches from Kristapiņi burial site, burials 216, 108; 3 Priekuļu Kampi, burial 3; 4–6 the main patterns of ornamentation on funnel-shaped terminals.

The ornamentation of the brooches consists of two parts: ornamentation of the terminals and ornamentation of the hoop. The hoop is usually divided into three sections (Fig. 5). Two of the sections, with matching ornamentation, are nearest to the terminals, and the third is on the central part of the hoop. The ornamentation of the sections can differ, but this is not always the case. Rows of stamped ornamentation are most common: rows of very small pellets, a net or waffle motif, little triangles, little triangles with one or three pellets inside, and an interlace or plait motif (Fig. 7.1-6). The variants have been created by combining two or three

of these (Fig. 7.5, 6). Such patterns of ornamentation offer very wide possibilities for creating variants. The number of variants used on Gotland penannular brooches with polygonal or faceted terminals is higher than that of the Latgallian brooches. Rows of small pellets are more common on Latgallian brooches with faceted terminals (ten examples). Only a few brooches are different. One brooch has a waffle motif, one has rows of small triangles, and on one brooch two sections are covered with rows of pellets, while the third has triangles with three pellets inside. I found interlace, as represented on Gotland, only on two of the Latgallian brooches with faceted terminals; however, I have analysed only brooches from the largest excavated burial sites.

Interlace is more common on Latgallian brooches with quadrangular or funnel-shaped terminals, and covers two of three sections, or vice versa (Fig. 6.1-3). The third section is often covered with rows of little triangles. Interlace on the central section and rows of little triangles on two others are seen in three cases, but it seems that these brooches are a little later than the others. Two brooches are covered with interlace on all three sections. Rows of pellets are much more common on brooches with faceted terminals. Only one such brooch has funnel-shaped terminals. Rows of little triangles occur on five brooches with funnel-shaped terminals, and the waffle motif is likewise seen on five. The last motif was combined with little triangles (two cases), or with rows of pellets (one case). Only in one case does this motif entirely cover the hoop of the brooch. Fifteen brooches have no ornamentation. In some cases, the terminals are ornamented with little stamped concentric circles (one or five), with a dot in the centre, or border lines, or both combined (Fig. 6.4-7). This type of brooch does not show as many variations of ornamentation as the previously described type.

The great majority of ornamentation patterns seen on penannular brooches are common on Vendel Age Gotland (Thunmark-Nylén 2006, 407-417), but unknown among the Latgallians. The rows of pellets are common on Gotland (Nerman 1958, 136, 140, Figs. 201, 209), as is the interlace or plait motif (Nerman 1969). Triangles with a pellet inside are part of the ornamentation in Viking Age Scandinavia, as we can see in small

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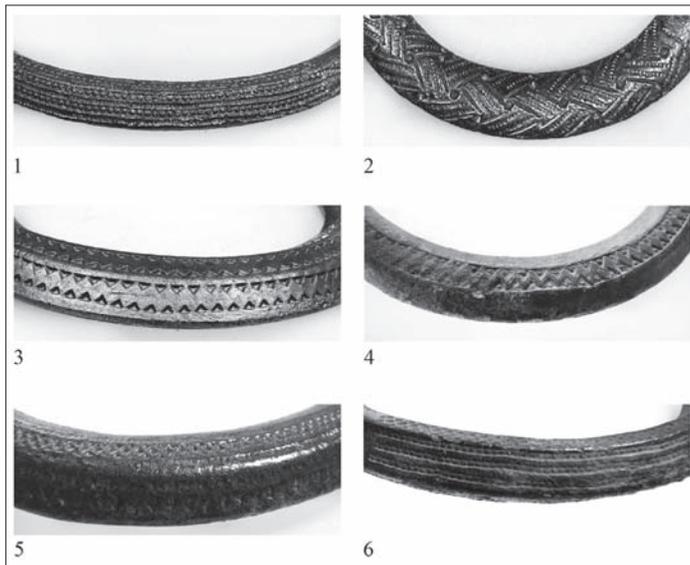Brooches and Gotland (the Ninth
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Fig. 7. Patterns of ornamentation: 1 pellets arranged in rows; 2 interlace or plait motif; 3 rows of small triangles; 4 rows of small triangles with a pellet inside. Combined decoration: 5 waffle motif and small triangles; 6 waffle motif and rows of pellets.

Fig. 8. Meander loops filled with rows of pellets and dotted lines on penannular brooches with faceted terminals and bracelets from the tenth century: 1–3 Ludzas Odukalns burial 49; 4 Nukši, burial 16; 5 a bracelet from Kivti, burial 107.

details on oval brooches (Jansson 1985, 114, Fig. 102). But such patterns were not common in Latgallian ornamentation of the seventh to ninth century, when men's bracelets had no ornamentation, while those worn by women were ornamented using the technique of tremolated lines. Stamped motifs are represented only by small circles with a dot inside, in addition to which the dotted line was used. From the beginning of the ninth century, the waffle motif appeared on early forms of warrior bracelets. The appearance of stamped ornamentation is connected with the use of new instruments.

When we try to analyse the ornamentation of Latgallian penannular brooches with faceted and funnel-shaped terminals, we can see that the patterns of ornamentation are not connected with any particular type of penannular brooch, but are distributed more widely: we see the same patterns on brooches with faceted, funnel-shaped and rolled terminals. The same is true of the ornamentation of penannular brooches in Estonia (Mägi-Lõugas 1994, 465-484) and Scandinavia, including Gotland (Thunmark-Nylén 2006, 98ff.).

Variants were created using rows of small stamped triangles, the stamped net or the 'waffle' motif. The same pattern can be seen on Scandinavian, especially Gotlandic, brooches and on Latgallian examples. It is obvious that there are no criteria for defining the differences. The same variations appear on Latgallian and Gotland brooches.

Meander loops filled with rows of pellets have been found on a brooch with faceted terminals from the Kristapiņi burial site, grave 283 (Kuniga 2000, Fig. XIII.13), and on a brooch from Hamra on Gotland (Thunmark-Nylén 1998, Fig. 83.4a, b).

However, in at least two cases, we are dealing with the work of local masters. On a penannular brooch with faceted terminals from Ludzas Odukalns, burial 49, the length of the meander loops is equal to those of Latgallian men's solid bracelets with ends of segmental cross-section (Fig. 8.1-3). The ornamentation

Fig. 9. The motif concluding the zone of ornamentation on the hoop of a penannular brooch: 1 ninth/tenth century; 2 tenth century.

Lund Hansen 2001, 158). The origin of the impressive motifs of the ornamentation on the ends of the warrior bracelet is unclear, but it was connected with Germanic Migration Period or Scandinavian Viking Age ornamentation (Fig. 10.1,4). This kind of sign or motif was discussed by Bernhard Salin in 1904 (Salin 1904, 158ff.). With time, the end-point at the top of the motif on Latgallian warrior bracelets was lost; but in the last stage it returned, possibly influenced by the ornamentation of penannular brooches. In some cases on penannular brooches, when the ornamentation of the hoop is divided, the bar is closed by a triangular sign with a little circle at the top (Fig. 9.1, 2). This little circle now appeared at the tops of the signs on warrior bracelets (Fig. 10.3,4). In that case, we can see how a marginal motif from one culture migrated to another culture, and become a major feature of ornamentation.

Conclusions

The place of penannular brooches with polygonal terminals in the set of ornaments of Latgallian warriors differs from that of warrior bracelets. The latter are connected with local group identity, ethnic, lineage or local elite, whereas the penannular brooches manifest the identity of the Viking Age stratum of warriors and merchants.

The overall course of development of penannular brooches with polygonal terminals (faceted and funnel-shaped) in the Latgallian area was the same as on Gotland. The origin of the polygonal form of the terminals is unclear both in the Latgallian area and on Gotland, but the ornamentation is connected with the patterns of the Scandinavian Vendel Period. Therefore, it is possible that either the Latgallian brooches were imported, or else we are dealing with what is, in the modern
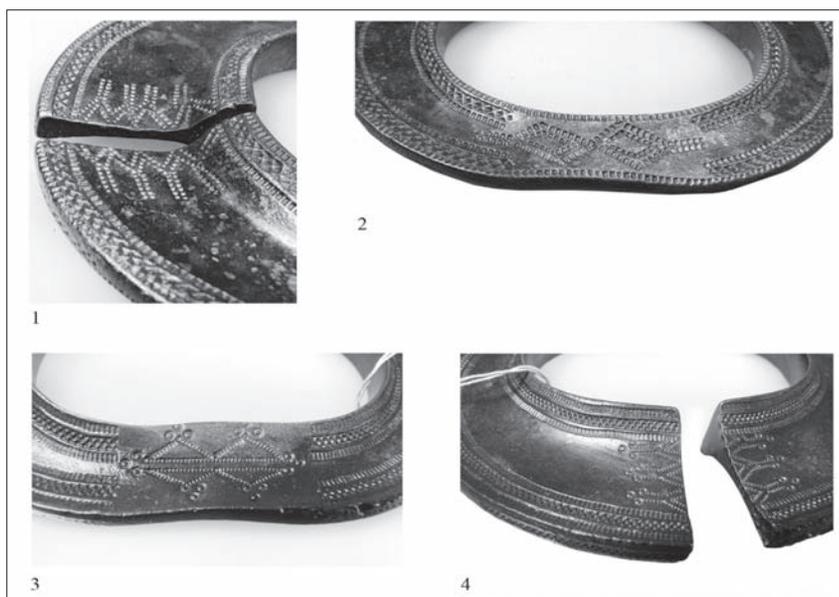
of this kind of bracelet recalls the simplified ornamentation of Scandinavian Vendel Period bracelets with thickened ends. It is only that the meander loops on the Latgallian examples are extended. In another case, on a brooch from Nukši burial site, the loops are filled with a stamped dotted line (Fig. 8.5), a very common pattern on Latgallian bracelets of this kind (Fig. 8.4).

In this case, we can observe that the influence is passing from brooches to bracelets, and returning from bracelets to brooches. Not only the rows of pellets, but also the interlace pattern influenced the ornamentation of bracelets. The same is seen in the case of warrior bracelets, only to a lesser extent, restricted to details of ornamentation. This local form of bracelet developed from the Migration Period *kolben* armlets (after

Fig. 10. Changes in the ornamentation of warrior bracelets, terminals and central parts.
1, 2 ninth century; 3, 4 eleventh century.

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sense, forgery. If Latgallian artisans were themselves producing penannular brooches of this kind, then they were not creating new forms, but imitating existing ones. This is quite possible, because Latgallian artisans had a sufficient level of skill. In this case, there should be minor technical differences, but the identification of these requires a different approach to investigations. A third possibility is that they are the work of travelling artisans; however, such people were usually connected with trading centres. No Latgallian Viking Age trading centre is known in the Ludza district, only burial sites. The nearest one was Pskov in Russia.

Thus, in the case of penannular brooches, we can observe long-standing trading contacts. The new ideas appeared in the form of Latgallian penannular brooches at the same time or a little later than on Gotland. We can identify four different points in time when new types of penannular brooches appeared. (The first was the middle of the ninth century, when the faceted type 2a arrived. At the beginning of the tenth century type 2b appeared. The third is the funnel-shaped type 3a in the tenth century. And the fourth is the star-shaped type 3b at the beginning of the eleventh century.)

When the Latgallians lost the possibility for utilising one route, another was discovered. The Daugava route was lost by the Latgallians in the middle of the ninth century, when a mixed population including Scandinavians settled at the mouth of the River Daugava. The Ludza district was abandoned when it was affected by the activities of the Russian rulers to the northeast. And direct contacts via the River Gauja were closed off when the Gauja Livs arrived and settled there in the 11th century. The situation changed at the end of the 11th century, but this is another story (Radiņš 2006, 129-145).

Artistic influences usually spread from the centre to the periphery. Gotland in the Viking Age corresponds better to the concept of a centre than the sparsely populated Latgallian territory, without well-known trading centres.

The patterns of ornamentation used on penannular brooches become common on other Latgallian Viking Age ornaments, and some of them are still to be found centuries later.

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MENIŠKOJI ĮTAKA AR GLAUDŪS PREKYBINIAI RYŠIAI? LATGALIŲ PASAGINĖS SEGĖS IR GOTLANDAS (IX–XI A.)

BAIBA VASKA

Santrauka

Pasaginės segės vikingų laikotarpiu buvo plačiai paplitusios aplink Baltijos jūrą. Segės cilindriniais galais žinomos jau ikiromėniškajame geležies amžiuje vakarinėje Rusijos dalyje. Latgalių areale segės cilindriniais galais pasirodė VIII a., tuo pat metu jos būdingos Švedijai, ypač Gotlandui. Pasaginės segės su daugiakampiais – facetuotais ar piltuvėlio formos – galais atstovauja kitokiam atvejui. Šios atsiranda latgalių teritorijoje IX a. viduryje ar pabaigoje (2–3 pav.). Ankstyviausios tokios segės dabartinės Latvijos teritorijoje žinomos iš skandinaviškojo Gruobinios Smukumi plokštinio kapinyno. Vis dar neaišku, kaip atsirado šių segių ypatingi daugiakampiai galai tiek Latgaloje, tiek Gotlande.

Ilgą laiką buvo laikytasi nuomonės, kad segės su daugiakampiais facetuotais galais atstovauja grynai latgališkai formai arba bendru lygiu – baltiškajam pavidalui. Maždaug apie 2000 metus tapo aišku, kad kuršių, latgalių ir skandinaviškosios segės yra panašios. Iš tiesų latgališkosios ir Gotlando pasaginės segės yra tokios panašios, kad įmanoma naudoti Gotlando segių tipologiją, kurią sukūrė Andersas Carlssonas ir Lena Thunmark-Nylén. Tokių segių latgalių laidojimo paminkluose atsirado kartu su vadinamosiomis karių apyrankėmis (4 pav.). Remiantis dabartinę šių apyrankių tipologija ir paplitimo tyrinėjimus, pasagines seges galima suskirstyti pagal chronologiją. Be to, pasaginių segių paplitimą galima sieti su dabartinės Latvijos teritorijoje vikingų laikotarpio prekybiniais keliais, kurie keisdavosi priklausomai nuo istorinių aplinkybių.

Latgalos ir Gotlando segių ornamentika yra panaši. Ją sudaro du elementai: galų puošyba ir lankelio ornamentika. Lankelis paprastai padalintas į tris sekcijas. Dažniausiai pasitaiko štampuoto ornamento eilės: labai smulkių rutuliukų / akučių eilės, štampuotas tinklelio ar vaflinis motyvas, maži trikampėliai su dviem ar trimis rutuliukais / akutėmis viduje, perrišimo ar perpynimo motyvas. Variantai buvo kuriami derinant du ar tris motyvus. Variantų skaičius Gotlando pasaginėse segėse su daugiakampiais ar facetuotais galais yra didesnis nei latgalių segėse. Akivaizdu, kad nėra kriterijų jų skirtumams nustatyti. Ornamentai VIII a. latgalių papuošalams yra neįprasti, tačiau plačiai paplitę Skandinavijoje Vendelio laikotarpiu. Naujos idėjos atkeliavo per keturis kartus, ir jos visos susijusios su Gotlandu ar Skandinavija. Išvada yra tokia: kontaktai buvo artimi ir ilgalaikiai.