

## A NEW (OLD) TYPE OF SWORD SCABBARD FROM THE EARLY ROMAN PERIOD<sup>1</sup>

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*Kľúčové slová: pošva, keltský import, mladšia doba predrimska/raná doba rímska*

A copper-alloy scabbard with roughly executed open work plate from grave 108 in Zemplin, preserved in two pieces. It has a semicircular chape and on the back plate probably was a long rib, going along the whole length, which function was to strengthen. Scabbards of similar construction are known from Bulgaria (Meričleri, Sofia Podueni, maybe Belozem) and the Przeworsk culture (Witaszewice, grave 147/1937). Similar form, but without such long rib represent finds from. Some badly preserved pieces of scabbards from Zaguminki, Lučka and Tucno could be recognised as possibly specimens of similar type. They are dated to the very beginning of the early Roman Period, are known from Eastern Europe.

A special type of metal scabbards decorated with open work plates, originated from Celtic tradition and dated to the turn of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, that is a very end of the phase A3 and beginning of the phase B1 of the Roman Period, were a subject of many analysis and discussion (Böhme-Schönberger 1998; 2002; Bochnak/Czarnecka 2006; Czarnecka 2002; Haffner 1995; Istenič 2010; Tackenberg 1970; Werner 1977). All of them focused mostly on the characteristic ornament: separately mounted plates with open work decoration, made mostly of bronze, rarely silver and exceptionally iron. These ornamental plates were divided into groups and variants based on the differences in details of construction, separate motifs and the way of arranging them. Most of the mentioned above authors distinguished two main groups of these specimens: scabbards decorated with fine elaborated bronze *opus interasile* and scabbards decorated with simple iron grid pattern.<sup>2</sup> There are also some forms which could not be assigned to any of these groups – honeycomb pattern, or zones of small rectangles (Czarnecka, *in print*). Most of the studies concerning these specimens focused on decorative plates, the sheaths, on which they were placed, were less important. The scabbards, however, differ in their construction, used material (bronze, iron), form of chapes and suspending loops. Decorative plates could have been produced separately, and added later, because they were mounted on various types of scabbards.

Most of known specimens, as far as it was possible to establish, are scabbards made of two iron sheets, often with additional bronze sheet in front, and a high, ladder-form chape reaching to *circa* 2/3 of the whole length. Some of them end in boat-form chape (Fig. 1: 1; Badenheim, Kr. Mainz-Bingen, grave 67; Böhme-Schönberger 1998, attach. 4; Lamadelaine, dist. Luxemburg, grave 3; Metzler-Zens/Méniel 1999, fig. 20; 21; Giubiasco, dist. Bellinzona, grave 326, Pernet *et al.* 2006, pl. 16), others with spur-like chape, which could be combined with all sorts of decorative plates; fine *opus interasile* (Fig. 1: 3; Kamieńczyk, dist. Wyszaków, grave 301, Dąbrowska 1997, pl. CXXXVIII: 4; Wesółki, dist. Kalisz, grave 3 and 50, Dąbrowscy 1967, fig. 7: 8; 57: 1, 8; Ciecierzyn, dist. Kluczbork, grave 118, Martyniak/Pastwiński/Pazda 1997, pl. CXVII: 1, 2), honeycomb-pattern (Rządź, former Rondsens, dist. Grudziądz, Czarnecka 2007a, fig. 4; Mutin, dist. Sumy, grave 3, Terpilovskij 2013, fig. 6: 3), or simple grid pattern (Fig. 1: 4; Oblin, dist. Garwolin, Czarnecka 2007b, pl. CCXXXI: 1; CCXLI: 5; CCXLIV: 6; Troszyn, dist. Kamień Pomorski, Machajewski 2006, fig. 15; Gross Romsted, Kreis Apolda,

<sup>1</sup> The article is revised version of report which was presented on 9th protohistoric conference in Bratislava in 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Scabbards with simple grid pattern are known from the area outside the La Tène culture, and were treated by J. Werner (1977, 383) as a cheap local imitation of more sophisticated Celtic *opus interasile*, but most probably they should be treated as simultaneously used other type of decoration (Czarnecka 2002, 96; *in print*).

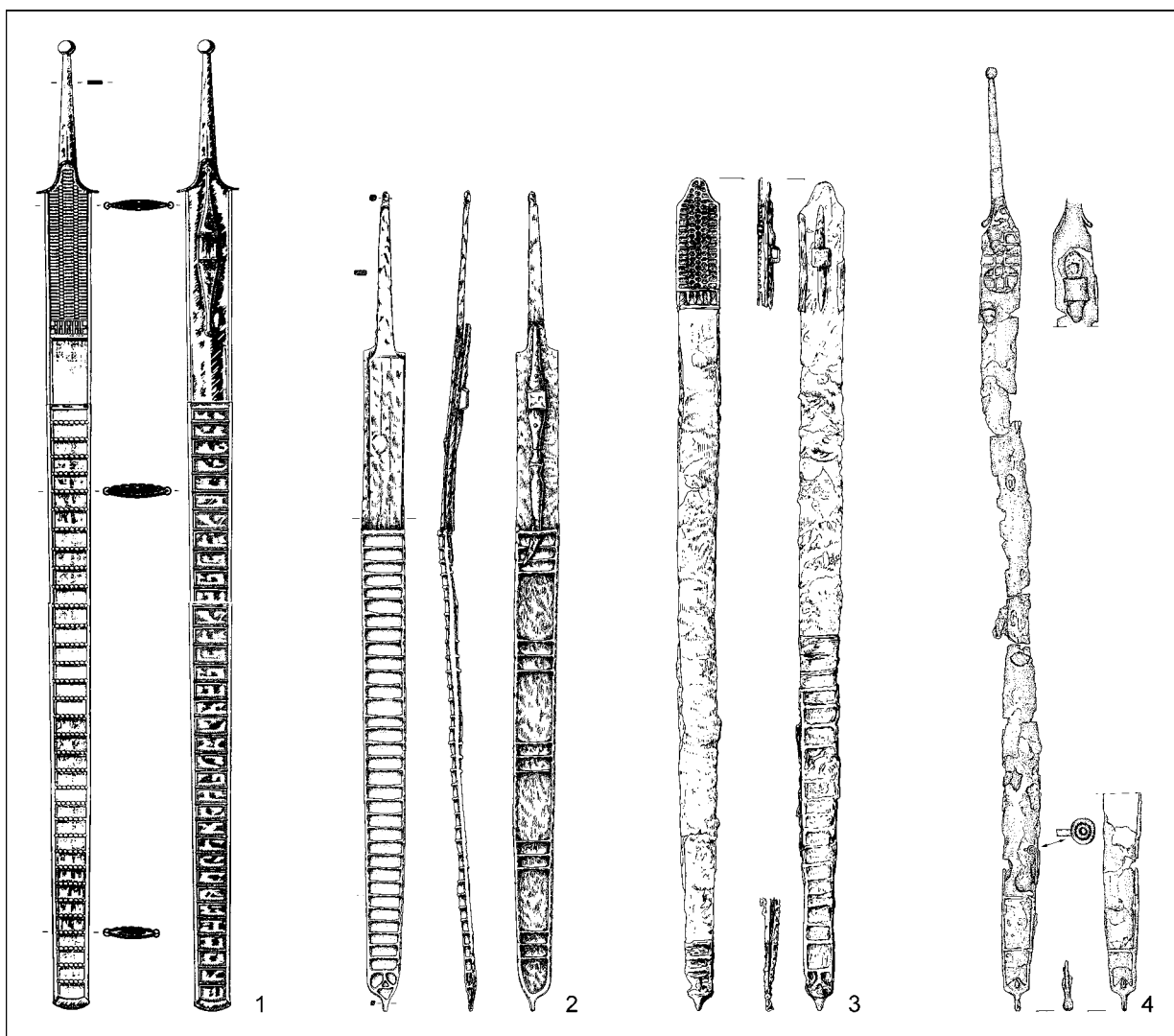


Fig. 1. Scabbards with *opus interasile* decorative plates. 1 – Badenheim, Kr. Mainz-Bingen (after *Böhme-Schönberger* 1998, app. 4); 2 – Verdun, Nove Mesto, grave 37 (after *Šmit/Istenič/Perovšek* 2010, fig. 4); 3 – Kamieńczyk, dist. Wyszaków, grave 301 (after *Dąbrowska* 1997, pl. CXXXVIII: 4); 4 – Oblin, dist. Garwolin, grave 282 (after *Czarnecka* 2007, pl. CCXXXI: 1).

*Eichhorn* 1927, 141; Schkopau, Kr. Merseburg, *Schmidt/Nitzschke* 1989, pl. 79: 6) and quite often are on the scabbards without any decorative plate, e. g. Dębczyno, dist. Białogard (*Machajewski/Sikorski* 1985, pl. 323: 2), Oblin, dist. Garwolin, grave 45a (*Czarnecka* 2007b, pl. XLVI: 2). Chapes of this type were treated as a Germanic element, not Celtic (*Dąbrowska* 1997, 90; *Frey* 1986, 45; *Jahn* 1916, 105), and in fact they were much more often mounted on the specimens found on the Germanic territory, but such endings are also known from the undisputed Celtic area – Verdun, dist. Nové Mesto, grave 37, (Fig. 1: 2; *Šmit/Istenič/Perovšek* 2010, fig. 4), and provided with fine *opus interasile* plates – Büchel, Kr. Cochem (*Böhme-Schönberger* 2002, fig. 7: 6) and also on scabbards without decorative plates (Bad Nauheim, Kr. Wetterau, *Quilling* 1903, pl. XI: 134), so it could not be treated as an culture or ethnic indicator (*Böhme-Schönberger* 2002, 206, fig. 6; 7; *Łuczkiwicz* 2006, map 33).

Beside these well-known types, another form of scabbard, also provided with *opus interasile* plate, can be distinguished. Scabbards of this type were made of two bronze sheets (not iron with additional bronze, which was most popular type), without side mountings of any kind. Lower sheet was overlapping the upper one forming a narrow margin. A chape was formed in the same way – lower plate overlapping the upper one, forming a semi-circular chape. There is no high ladder-chape, no cross rungs. This specific group was mentioned by *J. Istenič* (2010, 139), who, however, has omitted one very characteristic feature of this type; on the back plate is a long, narrow rib, U-shaped in cross section, with small round widening in place, when it is riveted to the plate.

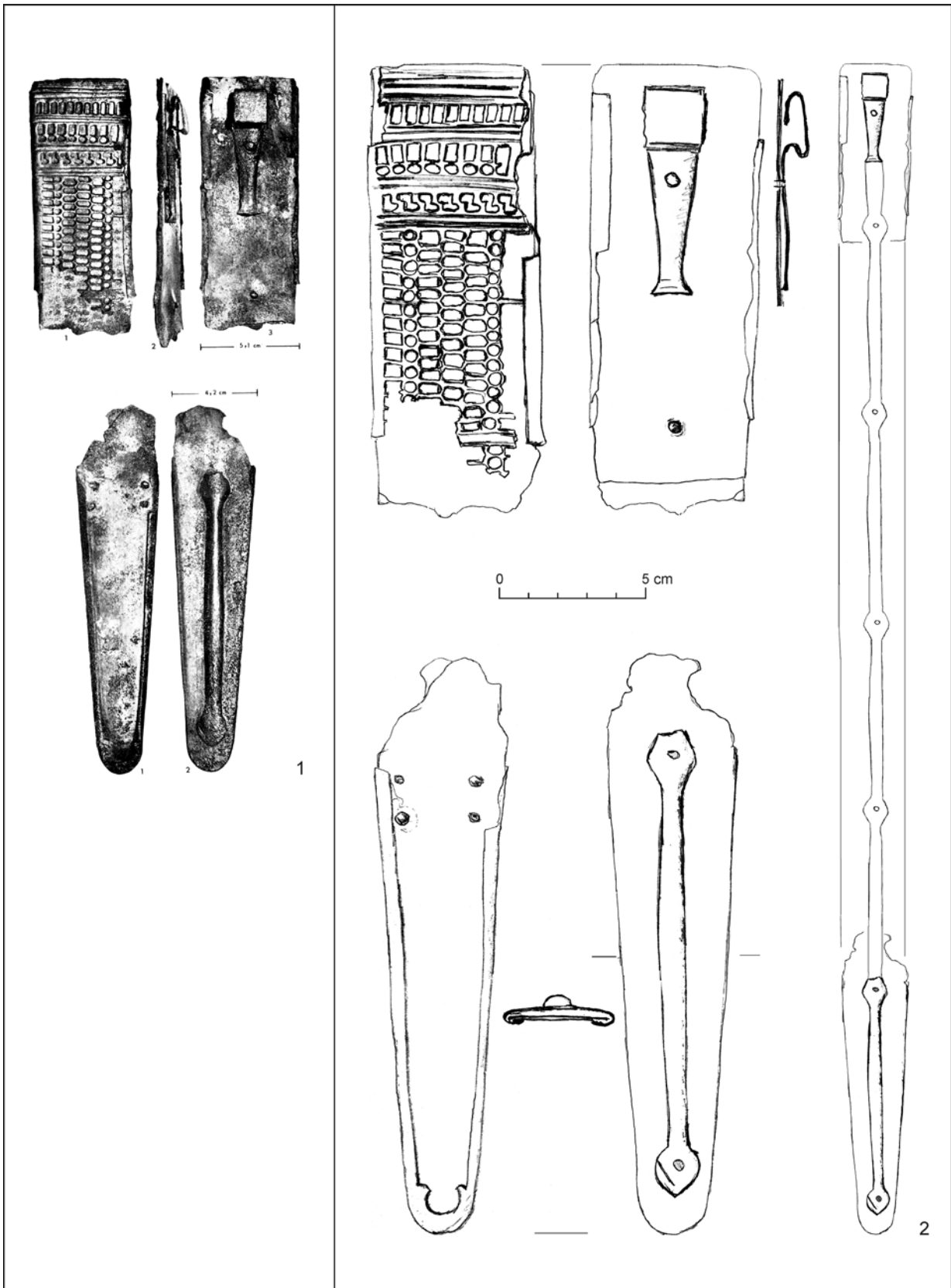


Fig. 2. Scabbard with opus interasile decorative plate and long rib on the back side. Zemplin, dist. Trebišov, grave 108. 1 – Photo (after *Cosack 1977*, fig. 1; 2); 2 – reconstruction. Drawn by K. Czarnecka.

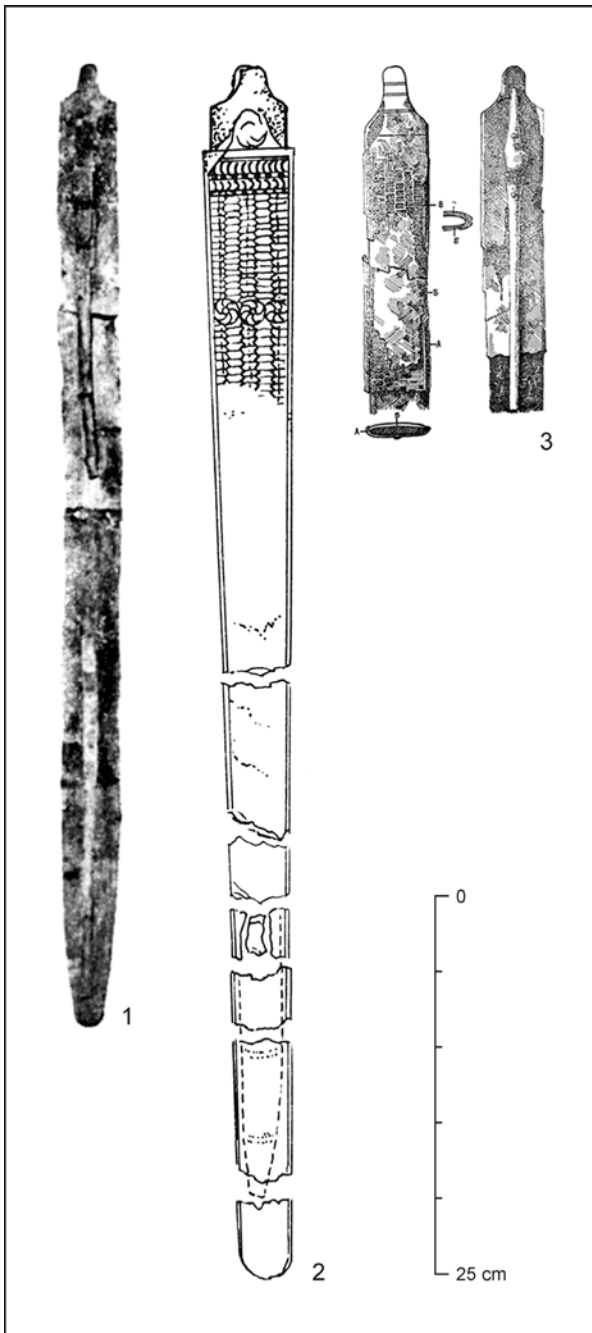


Fig. 3. Scabbard with long rib on the back side. 1 – Meričleri, dist. Haskovo, grave 7, tumulus 1 (after Aladžov 1965, fig. 7); 2 – Belozem, dist. Plovdiv (after Péév 1926, fig. 12); 3 – Sofia Podueni, barrow 3 (after Popov 1921, fig. 34; 35).

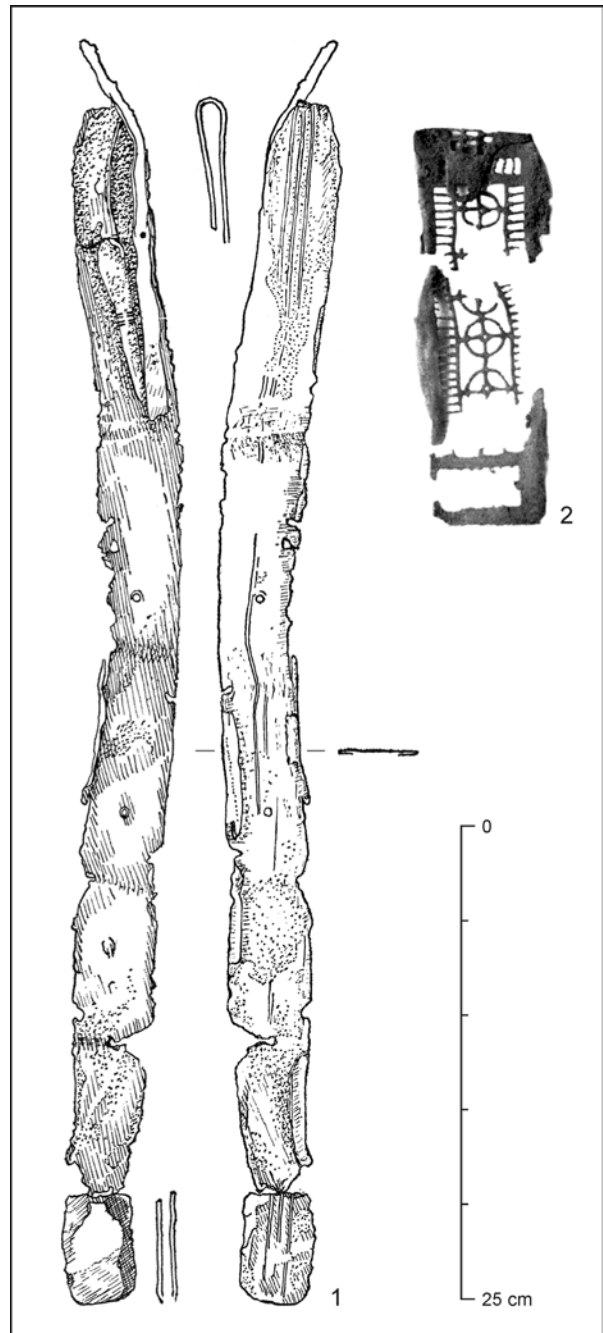


Fig. 4. Upper part of the scabbard with decorative plate. Witaszewice, dist. Łęczyca, grave 147/1937. 1 – scabbard plate (after Kaszewska 1973, pl. XVI; 1977, fig. 1); 2 – opus intersasile plate (after Werner 1977, fig. 18).

A good example of that type is a specimen from grave 108 in Zemplin, dist. Trebišov, (*Budinský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová* 1990, pl. XV: 30, 31; *Cosack* 1977, fig. 1; 2). Unfortunately preserved only upper and down parts, the central piece is missing, but it is enough to attempt a reconstruction (Fig. 2).

The scabbard was made of two bronze (or more probable) brass sheets<sup>3</sup>, the back one overlapping the front sheet, forming a chape, with two decorative cut (?) protrusions on the edge. On the back plate there is a part of well preserved, U-shaped in cross section, narrow rib. The upper part of the scab-

<sup>3</sup> No metallographic analysis were made, but a colour suggest brass.



Fig. 5. Fragment of scabbard plate. Witaszewice, dist. Łęczycza, grave 147/1937. Photo W. Siciński.

bard has straight ending. The front side is provided with an ornamental plate made in open work technique, which shows some similarity to the fine *opus interasile* known from so many other scabbards, but typical motifs, like arcades, are simplified, executed in a very rough way. Their coarse form suggest local imitation, however it is possible that they were made by less skilled craftsmen, or simply unfinished<sup>4</sup>. Why unfinished pieces were mounted on the scabbards is another question.<sup>5</sup> On the back plate there is a rectangular suspension loop of an unusual form. Upper rivet-plate is missing, maybe broken, but the loop is placed so close to the upper edge that there is hardly any place for it. The ending of the bronze band is bended twice to form the loop, and it looks more like repair than original production. However there still is a problem of functionality: the suspension loop is placed too high to allow practical use of it – carrying a sword in this scabbard. It is not impossible that the original sheath was a bit longer; maybe it had previously a typical bell shaped mouth, now broken. The lower rivet-plate, below the loop, is narrow, elongated and not complete. A rivet hole placed below the broken end shows the place, where the rib was fixed to the plate. This narrow rib matched in size and setting the rib preserved on the lower piece of the scabbard. Most probably it was going along the whole sheath plate (Fig. 2: 2). This hypothetic reconstruction of a junction, joining the pieces, may be confirmed by finds of such construction on other scabbards.

As a good example of such construction can serve completely preserved bronze scabbard from grave 7 in barrow 1 in Meričleri, dist. Haskovo, in Bulgaria (Fig. 3: 1; *Aladžov 1965*, fig. 8). It was made of two thin „copper” plates<sup>6</sup>, one overlapping the other – the same construction as in the specimen from grave 108 from Zemplin. Along the whole length of the back plate, in the middle part, there is attached a U-shaped rib which is flattened at the upper part, than bent twice at the right angle to form a suspension loop (*Aladžov 1965*, p. 84) – just like in the case of scabbard from Zemplin. The rib is decorated with incised grooves. The scabbard has bell shaped mouth. There is no decorative plate at the front sheet, but such plates could be made separately and added (or not) later (*Czarnecka 2016*, 29).

Similar construction could have another scabbard from Bulgaria, found in an urn grave from barrow 3 in Sofia Podueni (Fig. 3: 3; *Popov 1921*, fig. 34; 35). Unfortunately only upper part of the scabbard was found, with bell-shaped ending and, on the front, a decorative bronze *opus interasile* plate with simple pattern of small rectangles. Only fragments of the plate preserved, so it is hard to say if there were any additional decorative motifs. On the back plate

<sup>4</sup> *Böhme-Schönberger 1998*, 226, 234.

<sup>5</sup> Similar in form and execution is a bronze plate fixed on scabbard from grave VIII, on cemetery Harsefeld, Kr. Stade (*Wegewitz 1937*, pl. 16: VIII: 2246b).

<sup>6</sup> “Copper” according to publication (*Aladžov 1965*, 84), most probably it is bronze but no metallographic analysis were made.

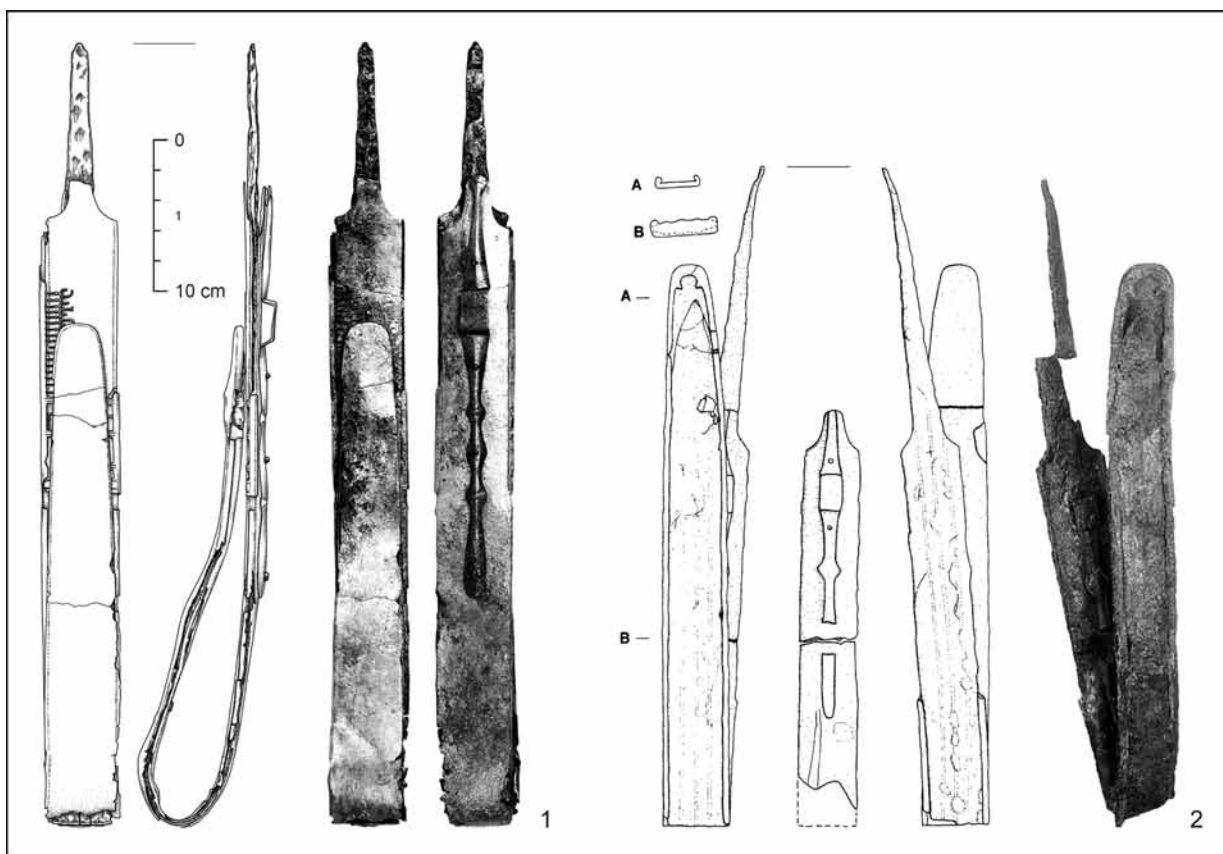


Fig. 6. Scabbards with long, profiled suspension-loop plate. 1 – Strmec Bela Cerkev, Dolenjska (after *Istenič* 2010, fig 4; 5); 2 – Rassach, Kr. Deutschlandsberg, barrow 1 (after *Fuchs* 2003, pl. 11; fig. 37).

there is a suspension loop with a long, narrow, U-shaped in cross section, lower plate, reaching to the end of the piece, and probably formerly continuing. The specimen is not complete, there is no chape and any firm conclusion is impossible, but it could have been a scabbard of the same type as mentioned above.

It is possible that another specimen from Thracian area could also belong to this group.<sup>7</sup> In barrow-grave in Belozem, dist. Plovdiv, Bulgaria, a scabbard was found provided with silver decorative plate made in fine, elaborated *opus interasile* technique (Fig. 3: 2). The scabbard itself was made of two bronze sheets; the back one is overlapping the front one, forming a narrow margin. A chape has simple semi-circular form (*Péev* 1926, fig. 11; 12; *Werner* 1977, fig. 3: 1). Unfortunately there is no information concerning the suspension loop, no picture of the back side, but the general form (without any ladder-shaped mountings) and used material (exclusively bronze) suggest that it may be another example of the same construction. A silver scabbard from unknown place in Bulgaria, known from the Axel Guttman collection, also has a semicircular chape and no horizontal rungs. This specimen is known only from a photograph<sup>8</sup> of the front, and there is no information about the back plate and form of a suspension loop, so it is not quite certain that it should be enlisted to the discussed group.

As a type of scabbard similar to find from Zemplin can be recognised, also already published, specimen from grave 147/1937 from Witaszewice, dist. Łęczycza, in central Poland (Fig. 4: 1; 5; *Kaszewska* 1973, pl. XVI; 1977, fig. 1). The sheath is partly destroyed – preserved only an *opus interasile* decorative plate and a back scabbard-plate without chape. The decoration motifs include typical arcades but also motif of wheels – just like in the find from Belozem (Fig. 4: 2). The sheath is made of copper alloy, probably brass<sup>9</sup>, side edges are bent, so they were put overlapping on the front plate, which now is

<sup>7</sup> *J. Istenič* (2010, 139) included this specimen to the group of pure copper alloy scabbards with semicircular chape.

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.christies.com/LotFinder/lot\\_details.aspx?pos8&intObjectID=4265305&sid](http://www.christies.com/LotFinder/lot_details.aspx?pos8&intObjectID=4265305&sid) [Okt. 2010].

<sup>9</sup> No analysis were made.

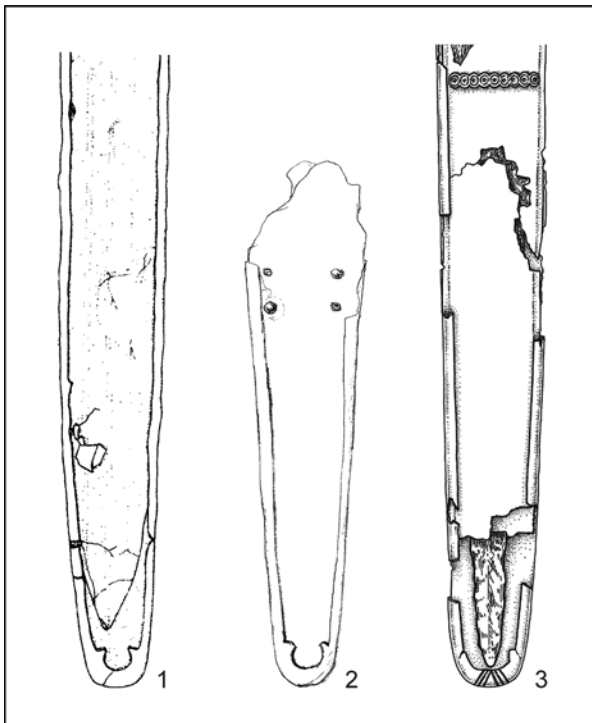


Fig. 7. Semicircular chape with small protrusions. 1 – Ras-sach, Kr. Deutschlandsberg, barrow 1 (after *Fuchs* 2003, pl. 11); 2 – Zemplin, okr. Trebišov, grave 108; 3 – Strmec Bela Cerkev, Dolenjska (after *Šmit/Istenič/Perovšek* 2010, fig. 2).

only; Fig. 6: 1; *Istenič* 2010, 127–131, fig. 4; 5). Back plate is overlapping the front one. Semi-circular chape is formed in the same way, and has, clearly visible on the X-ray photograph, small protrusions, similar to the Zemplin find (*Istenič* 2010, fig. 7; *Šmit/Istenič/Perovšek* 2010, fig. 2). There is no rib. The 23.7 cm long suspension loop has elongated, decoratively moulded plate with circular rivet plates, reaching only 1/3 of the whole length of the plate. The mouth is bell shaped. On the upper part is mounted an *opus interasile* plate with typical fine decoration of arcades and vase-shaped forms. In the lower part is riveted a narrow horizontal band (about 0.5 cm high), decorated with a line of concentric circular grooves with central holes. On the scabbard from Zemplin, grave 108, preserved rivets placed by the sides on the lower part of the front plate. Probably previously similar decorative band was fixed there.

Very similar form has scabbard from the grave in barrow 1 from Rassach, Kr. Deutschlandsberg in south Austria (Fig. 6: 2; *Fuchs* 2003, pl. 11). The chape is exactly like in Zemplin, grave 108, (and probably Strmec Bela Cerkev) with similar decorative<sup>12</sup> protrusions on the front (Fig. 7). The plates of suspension loop looks similar to scabbard from Strmec above Bela Cerkev – 22 cm long, with circular plates, reaching about 1/3 of the whole length of the scabbard. The front plate is missing, so it is now impossible to say if there previously was a decorative open work plate or not, but as almost all other scabbards of that type have such ornament it is quite probable.<sup>13</sup>

missing<sup>10</sup>. Small pieces of iron sword preserved corroded to it. The upper part is damaged, as a badly corroded bent iron sword-grip laid on it covering the suspension loop. The lower part of the suspension loop plate formed a U-shaped narrow rib (the preserved length is more than 32 cm), now torn off from the scabbard plate and bent upwards. Maybe that's why no one has properly recognised the original construction of this sheath. The rib has small circular widening round the rivet- holes. State of preservation of this find is rather poor and it is far from being a complete set, but characteristic rib, no traces of ladder chape, bronze plate with bent edges strongly suggest that it was a scabbard of Zemplin type. A copper alloy scabbard of similar construction – a back-plate rib, and an *opus interasile* decorative plate was recently found on the Przeworsk culture cemetery in Orenice, dist. Łęczycza, close to Witaszewice cemetery. This specimen was provided with different type of chape – with a knob (*Czarnecka/Siciński* 2015, fig. 5; 6).

There are also a few finds of scabbards corresponding to this type, but forming a variant without long rib going along the whole length of a back plate. A good example can be an almost completely preserved sheath from Strmec above Bela Cerkev<sup>11</sup>, in Dolenjska region Slovenia, made entirely of brass, (with iron rivets

<sup>10</sup> A suggestion of *E. Kaszewska* (1973, 55) that a front part of the scabbard was made of an organic material – leather – seems rather unconvincing.

<sup>11</sup> This find was former published as *Šmarjeta* (*Werner* 1977, fig. 1: 2, and others).

<sup>12</sup> It is possible that these protrusions have some technical explanation – as a way to hide a surplus of the sheet, emerged in bending the straight edge to the semicircular form, hammered to such form.

<sup>13</sup> Similar in shape – decorative moulding – is a lower plate of the suspension loop from grave 20, from the Przeworsk culture cemetery in Wesółki, dist. Kalisz (*Dąbrowscy* 1967, fig. 23: 7). It could not be excluded that also in this grave a sword with *Allius Pa* inscription could have similar scabbard. On the surface of the blade preserved traces of brass sheet (*Dąbrowski/Kolendo* 1967, 391). The state of preservation does not allow any more firm statement.

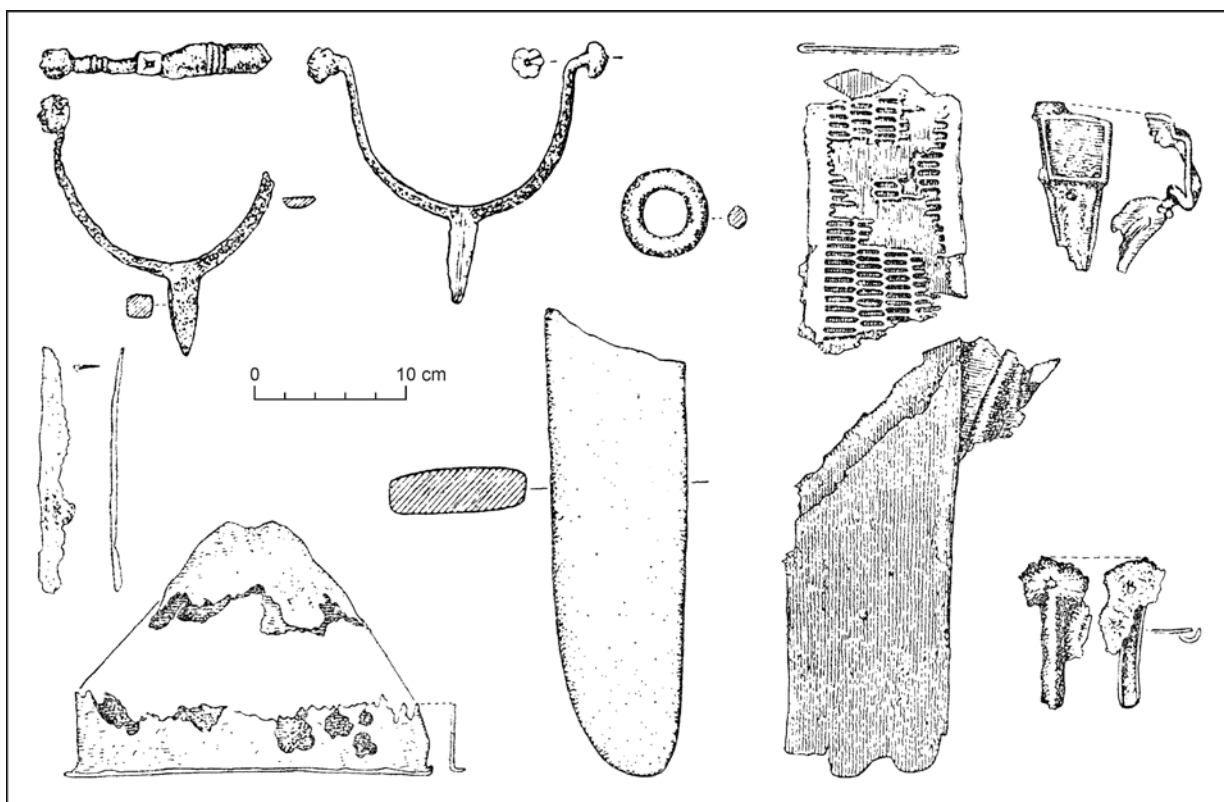


Fig. 8. Grave furniture with fragments of scabbard. Zaguminki, dist. Lviv (after Svešnikov 1957, fig. 21).

It is possible that more scabbards of this type were used, only they have no good fortune to stay in good condition. Some pieces of sheaths, described as “undistinguished fragments”, have characteristic however small or incomplete elements, and can be recognised as this very type. Of course it is always only a suggested possibility, not a quite positive statement.

Such can be the case of finds from another grave in Zemplin cemetery. In the grave 128, a sword was found and small pieces of scabbard – an upper part of the bronze decorative *opus interasile* plate, and also a part of bronze semicircular chape<sup>14</sup> and a very tiny piece of a bronze suspension loop<sup>15</sup>.

With high caution may be suggested that preserved in fragments scabbard from Zaguminki-Zvenigorod, dist. Lviv, Ukraine, a cemetery of Lipica culture (Kokowski 1999, fig. 6; Svešnikov 1957, fig. 21: 1) could also have such construction. In grave 7 preserved bronze decorative plate, pieces of bronze sheet, most probably a back plate of a scabbard, and some other small bronze elements (Fig. 8). Detailed observation of these fragments allows recognising a typical, rectangular suspension loop with an elongated lower plate and a piece of U-shaped rib with a circular widening around rivet hole with grooved decoration. Most probably it is a part of a long rib<sup>16</sup>, and the whole scabbard could have been of Zemplin type (Fig. 9). Similar is a case of the Przeworsk culture grave from Lučka, also in dist. Lviv, (Fig. 10; Kieferling 2002, fig. 9; 10; Śmiszko 1932, pl. V: 16, 16a, b). A bronze scabbard preserved in pieces with only a small fragment of decorative open work-plate. A chape is semicircular, most probably made in the same way, as in the scabbards mentioned before. There are no traces of horizontal rungs and an edge of the sheet is bent forming a margin, previously overlapping the other plate. The construction is the same as in other specimens of the discussed group. A small fragment of a probably U-shaped rib can be distinguished stuck to the fragment of a bronze plate, what can be confirmed by two rivet holes placed 5,2 cm apart

<sup>14</sup> Budínský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990, pl. XVIII. 13.

<sup>15</sup> Budínský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990, pl. XVIII. 14.

<sup>16</sup> In the first publication of grave 7 from Zaguminki I. K. Svešnikov (1957, fig. 21) omitted a long fragment of a U-shaped rib, published later by A. Kokowski (1999, fig. 6e). New publication of E. Tkač (2012, 54, fig. 3: 5) also included this specimen. Probably I. K. Svešnikov presented only a choice of more characteristic finds in his preliminary report.



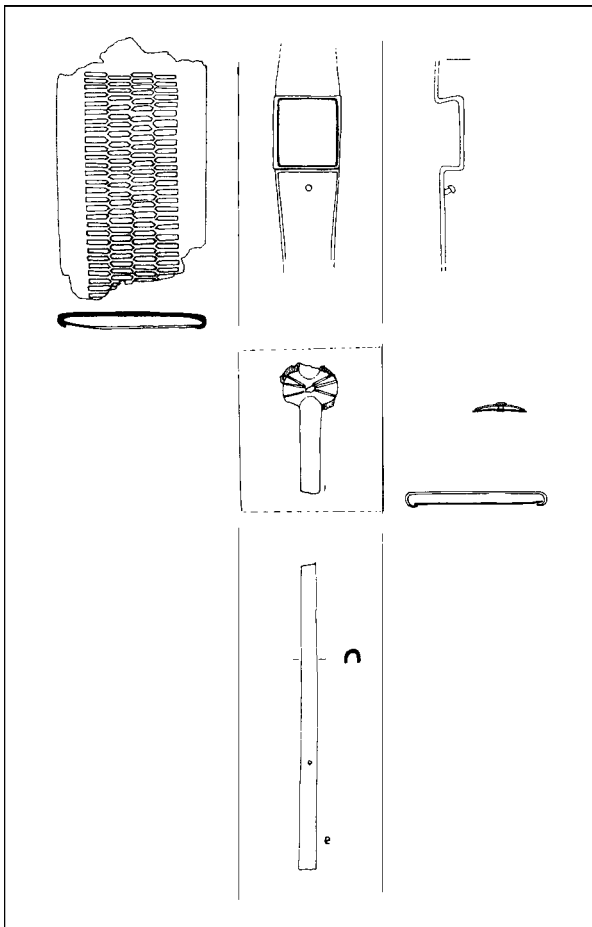


Fig. 9. Zaguminki, dist. Lviv, reconstruction (after Kokowski 1999, fig. 6).

0.5 cm) margin. They have no ladder-shape mountings, or any side mountings, which function was to stabilize and strengthen the construction. Such function can probably have a specific element – a long U-shaped rib riveted to the back plate, what was already suggested by E. Cosack (1977, 42, 43) for Zemplin scabbard. All of them (excluding Zemplin, grave 108) have bell-shaped mouth and *opus interasile* plates (excluding Meričleri); however types of open work decoration could be different: fine elaborated *opus interasile* or more simple forms.

The chronology of all these finds is similar – end of the Pre Roman and beginning of the early Roman Period, the phase B1. For the scabbard from Strmec Bela Cerkev the latest archive studies let to identify the grave assemblage (Istenič 2010, 128), what allows dating the find to the late La Tène phase D2. In that case the scabbard from Strmec Bela Cerkev would be one of the oldest of these specimens. The chronology of grave 108 from Zemplin needs some discussion.<sup>20</sup> The grave furniture must have been mixed, because in the grave were found specimens of various chronologies. A belt buckle (Budinský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990, pl. XV: 34) of type D 30, according to R. Madyda-Legutko (1987, pl. 10), must be

on a central axis of the plate fragment (Kieferling 2002, 36, fig. 9: 1e)<sup>17</sup>.

It can not be excluded that preserved in fragments bronze scabbard from grave 61 from the Lipica culture cemetery in Bolotnia, dist. Lviv, could also belong to the same group (Fig. 11; Cigilik 2003, fig. 14: 6). There is a fragment of narrow band with a circular plate with rivet, which could be a damaged rib. Small fragment of the open work ornament has no close analogies in the other *opus interasile* plates from this region<sup>18</sup>, but still it is the same idea of decoration of the scabbard.

Old finds from the Przeworsk culture cemetery in Tuczno, dist. Inowrocław, (Kostrzewski 1919, fig. 88)<sup>19</sup> could be, with some caution, recognised as fragments of scabbard of discussed here type (Fig. 12). It is a piece of bronze open work decorative plate and a fragment of bronze scabbard plate, on which is riveted a U-shaped rib with a circular rivet-plate with incised decoration – very similar to finds from Zaguminki. These are only fragments, but very characteristic form of long rib riveted to the plate allows treating this find as possible element of the same group.

Summing up all this fragmentary information allows an attempt to make an 'ideal' reconstruction of a scabbard of type Zemplin. It was made of exclusively bronze or brass plates, what is unusual as most of the scabbards with *opus interasile* plates were made of iron with additional bronze sheet on the front. The back plate was overlapping the front one forming a narrow (about

<sup>17</sup> The same distance is between rivets on the well-preserved rib on the scabbard from Witaszewice.

<sup>18</sup> Closest analogies in form and used motifs can be seen on the dagger-sheath from grave from – Pallau sur Indre (Bulard 1980, fig. 4: 2).

<sup>19</sup> More detailed and more informative drawings of these finds are known from the J. Kostrzewski files, stored in Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka (City Library) in Zielona Góra. My interpretation based on them.

<sup>20</sup> Unfortunately drawings in the publication of cemetery in Zemplin (Budinský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990) are not of the best quality, simplified, often without cross-sections. Thank to the kindness of Dr. M. Lamiová-Schmiedlová I have had the possibility to see the original finds and field documentation of these very interesting and important cemetery.

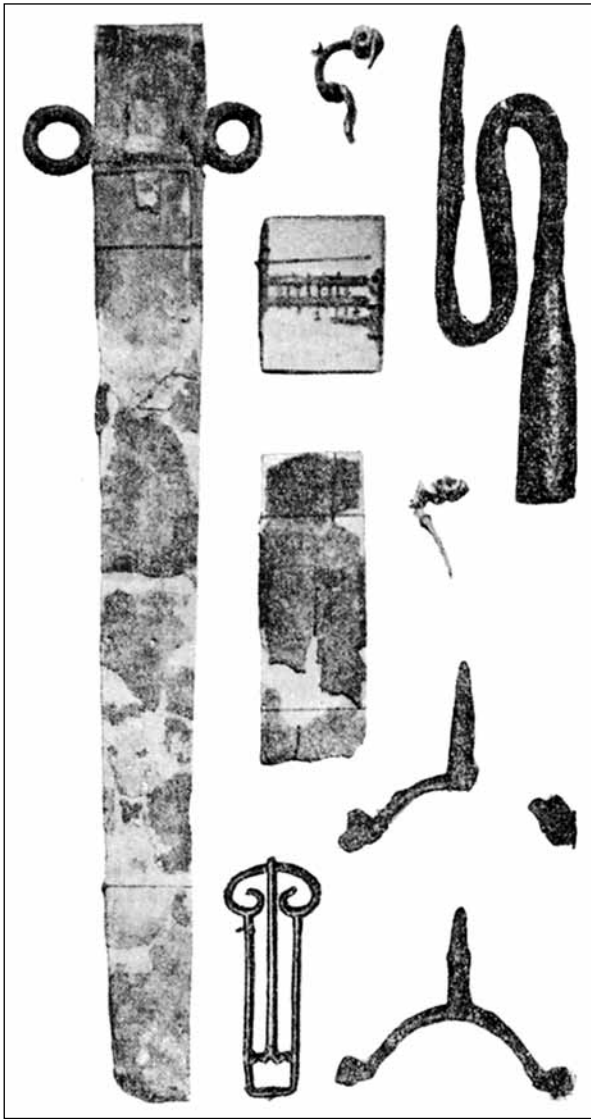


Fig. 10. Grave furniture with fragments of scabbard. Lučka, dist. Lviv (after Šmiško 1932, pl. V).

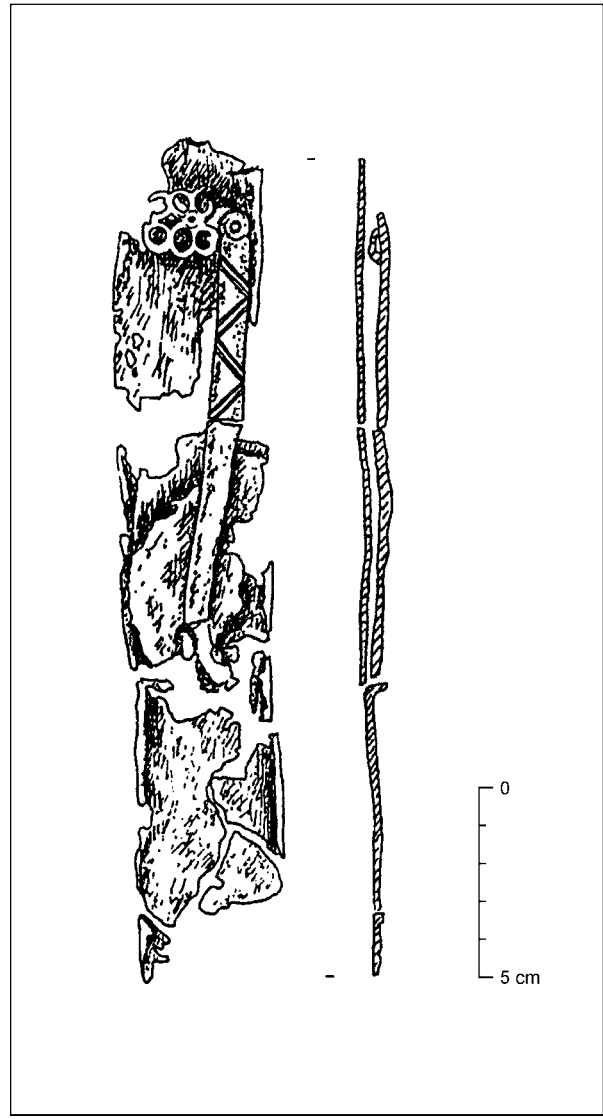


Fig. 11. Scabbard plate with fragment of opus intersasile decoration. Bolotnia, dist. Lviv (after Cigilik 2003, fig. 14: 6).

dated to final stage of the Early Roman Period or beginning of the Late Roman Period. Similar chronology can have a strike a light (*Budinský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990, pl. XV: 37*). Other finds: long, curved knife and a belt set consisting of clasp type Kostrzewski 49 (*Budinský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990, pl. XV: 32*) and rings, could be dated to late Pre Roman Period and can be related to the scabbard.

Most finds are dated to the early Roman Period. Grave from Witaszewice was furnished with two A.68 brooches and, probably, also an A.59 brooch (only fragment preserved). The grave from Meričleri is dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, the same chronology have finds from Belozem and Sofia Podueni furnished with Roman vessels. In barrow 1 from Rassach was brooch A.236c; it is dated to beg-

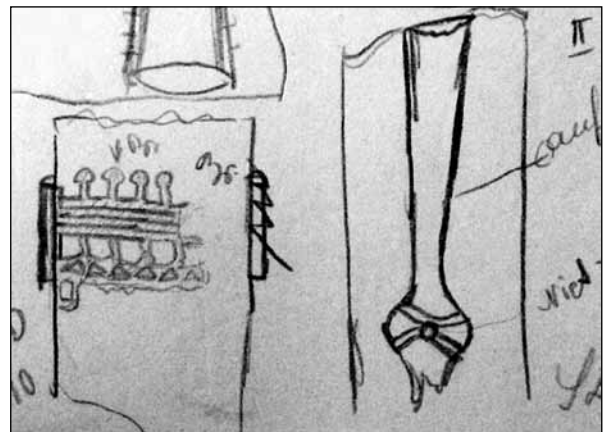


Fig. 12. Fragments of scabbard plates, with open work decoration on the front and long rib on the back. Tuczno, dist. Inowroclaw (after J. Kostrzewski files). Photo. T. Bochnak.

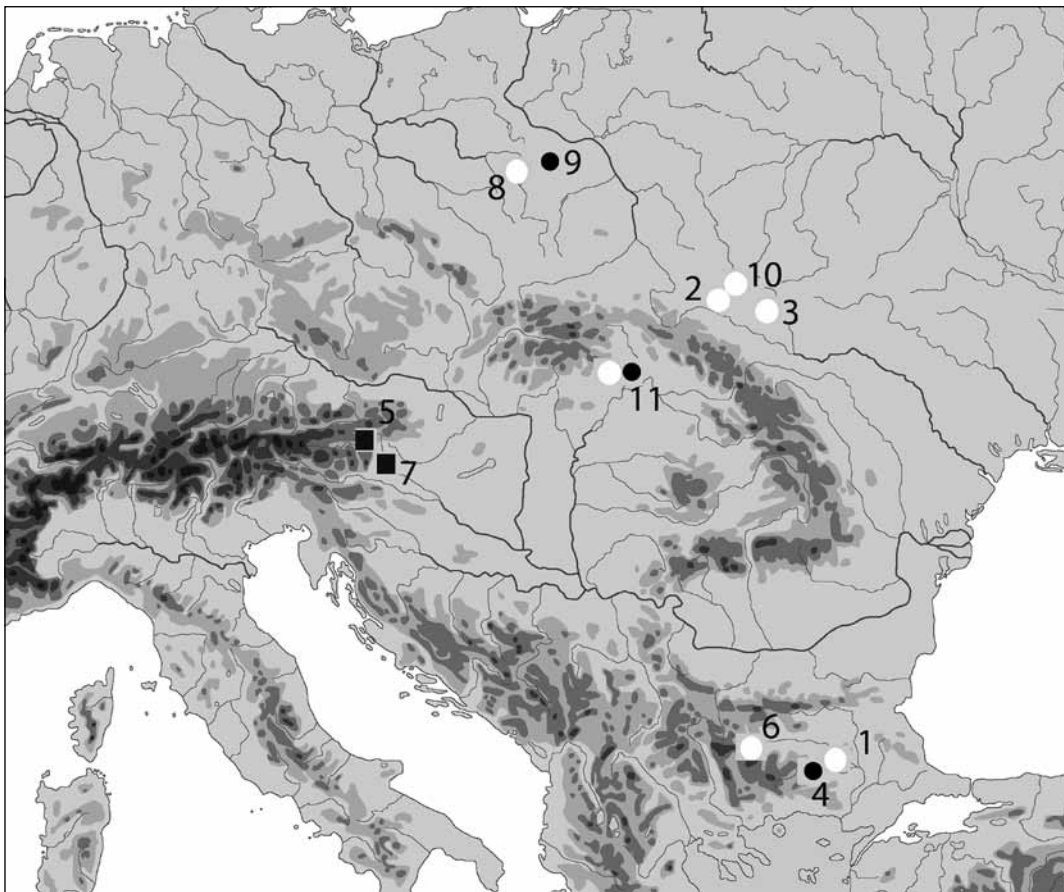


Fig. 13. Location of sites. 1 – Belozem; 2 – Bolotnia; 3 – Lučka; 4 – Meričleri; 5 – Rassach; 6 – Sofia-Podueni; 7 – Strmec Bela Cerkev; 8 – Tuczno; 9 – Witaszewice; 10 – Zaguminki; 11 – Zemplin. Dark circles – scabbards type Zemplin, with long rib; dark squares – scabbards without long rib; white circles – scabbards of probably type Zemplin.

ging of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.<sup>21</sup> Graves from Lučka and Zaguminki have similar set of objects. In the grave of the Przeworsk culture were found spurs of type B of *J. Ginalski* (1991, fig. 5; 19), brooches, one of them of type Kostrzewski O, and another type A.67, an eight-shaped belt buckle type A 17 according *R. Madyda-Legutko* (1987, pl. 10), and also, preserved in fragments, ring belt clasp (*Kieferling* 2002, fig. 9: 2)<sup>22</sup> with an additional ring – a typical set of Celtic sword belt (*Bochnak* 2005, 56–59)<sup>23</sup> and a long, bent lance-head. Similar is a grave assemblage from Zaguminki: two spurs of type C1 of *J. Ginalski* (1991, fig. 19), belt ring (clasp is missing), shield boss of type J. 5. All these finds are dated to the phase B1. It seems that all discussed scabbards are of relatively close chronology. Very similar could be grave furniture from Zemplin, grave 128 with shield boss, two spurs, of type Ginalski B (like in Lučka).<sup>24</sup>

What is interesting, all of these scabbards are known only from Eastern part of central Europe (Fig. 13). At least two (Meričleri, Sofia Podueni), maybe four (including Belozem and unknown place) were found

<sup>21</sup> However sword and scabbard were dated a bit earlier (*Fuchs* 2003, 144).

<sup>22</sup> In the publication of *M. Śmiszko* (1932, 5: 18) it is not clearly seen.

<sup>23</sup> This sword-belt was adapted by Germanic people of the Central Europe together with sword and scabbard and still in use in the beginning of the Roman Period.

<sup>24</sup> Finds from grave 128 were dispersed and the Authors were not sure if all of them belong to the same assemblage. In grave 136 (*Budinský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová* 1990, 265, pl. XVIII) were found tiny fragment of the *opus interasile* decorative plate, eight-shaped buckle, and a belt clasp Kostrzewski 49 with set of related rings. Graves 128 and 136 are set very close to each other, and it is not impossible that some elements of the grave assemblages were mixed. What is interesting some finds from both assemblages seem to complete each other e.g. fragments of *opus interasile* plate, but also sword-belt clasp with rings from grave 136 and a sword from grave 128 – just like in grave from Lučka and Zemplin 108. However it is only a possibility.

in Bulgaria – from the Thracian culture area. Two of such scabbards, variant without the long rib, that is Strmec Bela Cerkev and Rassach, were found in Styria – southern Austria and central Slovenia. Specimens from Ukraine (Zaguminki and Lučka) are connected with Dacian – Przeworsk culture horizon, just as Zemplin. Graves from Witaszewice and Tuczno are from the Przeworsk culture area. Motifs on *opus interasile* plates from Witaszewice and Belozem are wheels – known only from this part of Europe.<sup>25</sup>

Who produced these scabbards? Their general idea – metal sheets, bell shaped mouth, way of suspending, are undoubtedly in Celtic tradition. *Opus interasile* decoration is also connected with Celts. Such device as U-shaped rib is unknown from other types of scabbards and must be a local invention. Using of brass to produce at least some of them (other have no analysis) strongly suggests production in Roman workshops, but with references to earlier Celtic tradition (*Istenič 2010, 145*). Such production was lately confirmed by find, unfortunately from unknown place, a scabbard with very rare figurative representation (*Miks 2015*) corresponding in some motifs (eg. griffons and a rider) to unique scabbard plate from Griniv, dist. Lviv, Ukraine (*Kozak 1982, fig. 4–7*). Other motifs are changed to serve Roman state propaganda – there is a bust of an emperor. The plate from scabbard of unknown site (now in RGZM in Mainz) represents the very idea of combining Celtic tradition – somehow important to the potential owners of these artefacts – with Roman style and motifs. This scabbard was obviously made in Roman workshop but with regard to preferences of the future owner. They were produced, most probably in new Roman provinces, former Celtic regions like Noricum under Roman occupation (*Werner 1977*), or in Gallia Cisalpina, what was suggested by *J. Istenič (2010, 145)*. The Thracio-Dacian territory is also not excluded – with long tradition of high quality silver and bronze products.

Such bronze/brass or even silver<sup>26</sup> scabbards look like rather luxury goods, and could function as gifts, ceremonial gifts for allies or clients. It may concern both finds from the Taurisci region in Slovenia and the Thracian leaders from Bulgaria (*Istenič 2010, 142; Werner 1977, 379*). Some of them – like find from Belozem – were found in very rich graves furnished with many Roman goods, where the sword in scabbard was only one specimen of earlier Celtic tradition. Finds from the Przeworsk culture area or Zemplin and Zaguminki could not necessarily be an evidence of direct contacts and participation in events in Roman Empire, however it is not excluded. They could be a result of exchange of gifts, or trade.

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<sup>25</sup> Other finds with motif of wheels on the decorative plates are known from a cemetery Lugbichl by Magdalensberg (*Deimel 1987, pl. 69: 7, 8*) and Zemplin, grave 77 (*Budinský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990, pl. XI: 10, 11*).

<sup>26</sup> If we include into his group specimen from Axel Guttman collection.

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## Nový (starý) typ pošvy meča z ranej doby rímskej

Katarzyna Czarnecka

### Súhrn

Zvláštny typ kovových pošiev meča ozdobených prelamovanými platničkami, ktorý pochádzal z keltskej tradície a datuje sa na prelom 1. stor. n. l., bol predmetom mnohých analýz a diskusií. Väčšinou ide o pošvy vyrobené z dvoch prekrývajúcich sa železných plechov, často s pridaným bronzovým plechom vpredu a vysokým rebríkovitým nákončím s člnkovitým alebo ostrohovitým koncom (obr. 1).

Okrem tohto typu rozoznávame ďalšiu formu pošvy, takisto vybavenú platničkou, typu *opus interrasile*. Pošvy tohto typu boli vyrobené zo zliatiny medi, bez akéhokoľvek bočného kovania. Spodný plát prečnieval cez horný a vytváral úzky okraj. Rovnako bolo vyrobené aj polkruhovú nákončie. Priečky sa tu nenachádzajú. Na zadnom pláte je dlhé úzke rebro s prierezom tvaru U a s malým okrúhlym rozšírením na mieste, kde je pripevnené nitom k plátu. Príkladom tohto typu je exemplár z hrobu 108 z obce Zemplín, okr. Trebišov (*Budinský-Krička/Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990*, tab. XV: 30, 31; *Cosack 1977*, obr. 1; 2). Bohužiaľ, zachovala sa len vrchná a spodná časť. Prostredná časť chýba (obr. 2). Na prednej strane sa nachádza ozdobná platnička vyrobená technikou prelamovania, ale je zjednodušená alebo nedokončená. Úzke rebro sa najpravdepodobnejšie ťahalo po celej dĺžke plátu puzdra. Túto hypotetickú rekonštrukciu spájania jednotlivých kusov by mohli potvrdiť nálezy takejto konštrukcie na iných pošvách.

Dobrym príkladom takejto konštrukcie je úplne zachované bronzové puzdro z hrobu 7 v mohyle 1 z Meričleri, v oblasti Haskovo, v Bulharsku (*Aladžov 1965*, obr. 8). Podobnú konštrukciu mohlo mať aj ďalšie puzdro z Bulharska, ktoré sa našlo v urnovom hrobe z mohyly 3 v Sofii Podueni (*Popov 1921*, obr. 34, 35). Žiaľ, zachovala sa len spodná časť puzdra. Na zadnom pláte je závesné očko s prierezom v tvare U, nižší plát siahajúci až na koniec kusa, ktorý pôvodne zrejme pokračoval. Je možné, že ďalší exemplár z tráckej oblasti patril tiež do tejto skupiny. V mohylovom hrobe v Belozemí v Plovdivskej oblasti v Bulharsku sa našlo puzdro so striebornou ozdobnou platničkou typu *opus interrasile*. Nákončie má polkruhový tvar (obr. 3; *Péev 1926*, obr. 11, 12). Ako typ puzdra podobný tomu, ktoré bolo nájdené v Zemplíne, možno označiť exemplár z hrobu 147/1937 z Witaszewic v okrese Łęczycza v strednom Poľsku (*Kaszewska 1973*, tab. XVI; 1977, obr. 1). Puzdro je čiastočne zničené, zachovala sa iba ozdobná platnička typu *opus interrasile* a zadný plát puzdra bez nákončia. Spodná časť závesného očka tvorila úzke rebro s prierezom v tvare U, ktoré sa odtrhlo z plátu puzdra a je vyhnuté dohora (obr. 4; 5).

Existuje aj niekoľko pošiev zodpovedajúcich tomuto typu, ktoré však tvoria variant bez dlhého rebra po celej dĺžke zadného plátu. Dobrym príkladom môže byť takmer úplne zachované puzdro s polkruhovým nákončím z lokality Strmec nad obcou Bela Cerkev<sup>27</sup> v slovinskom regióne Dolenjska, ktoré bolo vyrobené výlučne z mosadze (*Istenič 2010*, 127–131, obr. 4; 5). Závesné očko má predĺženú platničku s okrúhlymi nitmi dosahujúcu len tretinu celej dĺžky platničky. Podobnú formu má aj pošva z hrobu v mohyle 1, z lokality Rassach v Deutschlandsbergu v Rakúsku (obr. 6; 2; *Fuchs 2003*, tab. 11). Nákončie je rovnaké ako v Zemplíne v hrobe č. 108 (a zrejme aj z lokality Strmec nad Belou Cerkvou).

Niektoré kusky pošiev, opísané ako neurčené fragmenty, majú charakteristické, hoci malé alebo neúplné prvky a môžu byť zaradené k tomuto typu. V hrobe 128 v obci Zemplín sa našiel meč a malé kusky pošvy – horná časť bronzovej ozdobnej platničky typu *opus interrasile* a tiež časť polkruhového bronzového nákončia a drobný kúsok bronzového závesného očka. Detailné štúdium bronzových fragmentov z hrobu 7 z lokality Zaguminki-Zvenigorod vo Lvovskej oblasti na Ukrajine (*Kokowski 1991*, obr. 6; *Svešnikov 1957*, obr. 21: 1) nám umožňuje rozoznať štvorhranné závesné očko s predĺženým dolným plechom a kúsok rebra v tvare U s kruhovým rozšírením okolo dierky nitu so žliabkovou výzdobou. Podobným prípadom je hrob przeworskej kultúry z lokality Lučka vo Lvovskej oblasti na Ukrajine (*Kieferling 2002*, obr. 9; 10; *Šmiško 1932*, tab. V: 16). Bronzová pošva zachovaná len v zlomkoch z hrobu 61 na pohrebisku lipickej kultúry v Bolotnii vo Lvovskej oblasti by tiež mohla patriť to tej istej skupiny (*Cigilik 2003*, obr. 14: 6). Existuje fragment úzkeho pásika s okrúhlym plieskom s nitom, ktorý by mohol byť poškodeným rebrom. Staré nálezy z pohrebiska przeworskej kultúry v Tuczne, okr. Inowrocław (*Kostrzewski 1919*, obr. 88), by mohli byť s istou rezervou označené za fragmenty pošvy predmetného typu. Chronológia všetkých týchto nálezov je podobná – koniec doby predrímskej a začiatok ranej doby rímskej, fáza B1. Pošva z lokality Strmec Bela Cerkev (*Istenič 2010*, 128), ktorá je datovaná do neskorej doby laténskej, fázy D2, je jedným z najstarších exemplárov. Väčšina nálezov je datovaná do ranej doby rímskej. Všetky tieto pošvy sú známe len z východnej časti strednej Európy (obr. 13).

Základný koncept týchto pošiev, t. j. kovové plechy, zvoncovité ústie, spôsob zavesenia, vychádza nepochybne z keltskej tradície. Použitie mosadze na výrobu aspoň niektorých z nich (pri ostatných chýba analýza) výrazne

<sup>27</sup> Tento nález bol predtým publikovaný ako Šmarjeta (*Werner 1977*, obr. 1: 2 a iné).

naznačuje, že boli vyrobené v rímskych dielňach, ale odkazovali na staršiu keltskú tradíciu (*Istenič 2010*, 145). Najpravdepodobnejšie boli vyrobené v nových rímskych provinciách a bývalých keltských regiónoch ako Noricum (*Werner 1977*) alebo Gallia Cisalpina, čo naznačil *J. Istenič (2010, 145)*. Takisto nemôžeme vylúčiť ani trácko-dácke územie s dlhou tradíciou vysoko kvalitných strieborných a bronzových výrobkov.

Takéto bronzové/mosadzné alebo dokonca strieborné pošvy vyzerajú ako pomerne luxusný tovar a mohli sa používať ako dary, ceremoniálne dary pre spojencov alebo klientov.

- Obr. 1. Pošvy s ozdobnými platničkami *opus interrasile*. 1 – Badenheim, Kr. Mainz-Bingen (podľa *Böhme-Schönberger 1998*, obr. 4); 2 – Verdun, Nove Mesto, hrob 37 (podľa *Šmit/Istenič/Perovšek 2010*, obr. 4); 3 – Kamieńczyk, okr. Wyszaków, hrob 301 (podľa *Dąbrowska 1997*, tab. CXXXVIII: 4); 4 – Oblin, okr. Garwolin, hrob 282 (podľa *Czarnecka 2007*, tab. CCXXXI: 1).
- Obr. 2. Pošva s ozdobnou platničkou typu *opus interrasile* a dlhým rebrom na zadnej strane. Zemplín, okr. Trebišov, hrob 108. 1 – Foto (podľa *Cosack 1977*, obr. 1; 2); 2 – rekonštrukcia. Nákres K. Czarnecka.
- Obr. 3. Horná časť pošvy s ozdobnou platničkou. Witaszewice, okr. Łęczyca, hrob 147/1937. 1 – platnička pošvy (podľa *Kaszewska 1973*, tab. XVI; obr. 1); 2 – platnička typu *opus interrasile* (podľa *Werner 1977*, obr. 18).
- Obr. 5. Fragment platničky pošvy. Witaszewice, okr. Łęczyca, hrob 147/1937. Foto W. Siciński.
- Obr. 6. Pošvy s dlhými profilovanými platničkami so závesným uškom. 1 – Strmec Bela Cerkev, Doljenska (podľa *Istenič 2010*, obr. 4; 5); 2 – Rassach, Kr. Deutschlandsberg, mohyla 1 (podľa *Fuchs 2003*, tab. 11; obr. 37).
- Obr. 7. Polkruhové nákončie s malými výčnelkami. 1 – Rassach, Kr. Deutschlandsberg, mohyla 1 (podľa *Fuchs 2003*, tab. 11); 2 – Zemplín, okr. Trebišov, hrob 108; 3 – Strmec Bela Cerkev, Doljenska (podľa *Šmit/Istenič/Perovšek 2010*, obr. 2).
- Obr. 8. Hrobová výbava s úlomkami pošvy. Zaguminki, okr. Lvov (podľa *Svešnikov 1957*, obr. 21).
- Obr. 9. Zaguminki, okr. Lvov, rekonštrukcia (podľa *Kokowski 1999*, obr. 6).
- Obr. 10. Hrobová výbava s úlomkami pošvy. Lučka, okr. Lvov (podľa *Šmiško 1932*, tab. V).
- Obr. 11. Platnička pošvy s fragmentami výzdoby typu *opus interrasile*. Bolotnia, okr. Lvov (podľa *Cigilik 2003*, obr. 14: 6).
- Obr. 12. Fragменты platničiek z pošiev s prelamanou výzdobou vpredu a s dlhým rebrom vzadu. Tuczno, okr. Inowrocław (podľa súborov J. Kostrzewkseho). Foto T. Bochnak.
- Obr. 13. Poloha nálezísk. 1 – Belozem; 2 – Bolotnia; 3 – Lučka; 4 – Meričleri; 5 – Rassach; 6 – Sofia-Podueni; 7 – Strmec Bela Cerkev; 8 – Tuczno; 9 – Witaszewice; 10 – Zaguminki; 11 – Zemplín. Tmavé kruhy – pošvy typu Zemplín s dlhým rebrom; tmavé štvorce – pošvy bez dlhého rebra; biele kruhy – pošvy pravdepodobne typu Zemplín.

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