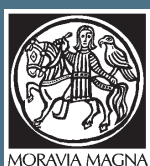
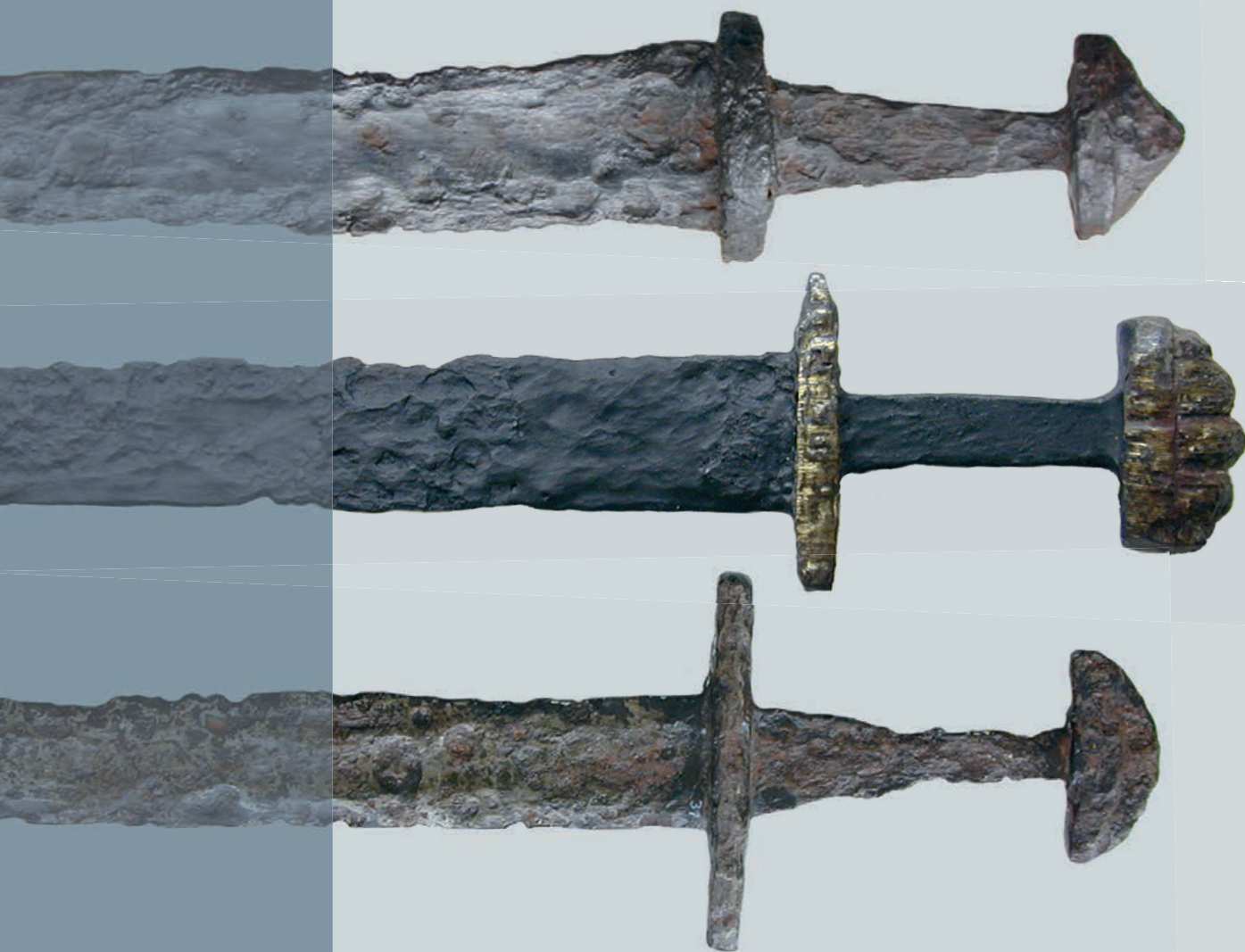


IX

INTERNATIONALE TAGUNGEN IN MIKULČICE



ARCHÄOLOGISCHES  
INSTITUT AV ČR  
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BEWAFFNUNG UND REITERAUSRÜSTUNG  
DES 8. BIS 10. JAHRHUNDERTS  
IN MITTELEUROPA

Waffenform und Waffenbeigaben bei den  
mährischen Slawen und in den Nachbarländern

Lumír Poláček – Pavel Kouřil (Hrsg.)

Bewaffnung und Reiterausrüstung des 8. bis 10. Jahrhunderts in Mitteleuropa  
Waffenform und Waffenbeigaben bei den mährischen Slawen und in den Nachbarländern

SPIŠY ARCHEOLOGICKÉHO ÚSTAVU AV ČR BRNO

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INTERNATIONALE TAGUNGEN IN MIKULČICE  
(ITM)

herausgegeben von

Lumír Poláček

**PROJET MORAVIA MAGNA**



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(*C.I.P.S.H. - U.N.E.S.C.O*)**

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BRNO 2019

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## VORWORT

Der vorliegende Band enthält Beiträge, die während der gleichnamigen Internationalen Tagung in Mikulčice im Mai 2011 vorgetragen wurden. Wie schon die vorausgegangenen ITM-Kolloquien so war auch diese Tagung einem ausgewählten aktuellen Aspekt der mitteleuropäischen Frühgeschichtsforschung gewidmet, und zwar dem Thema der Bewaffnung und Reiterausrüstung. Damit wurde ein breites Spektrum von Fragen behandelt, beginnend mit Typologie, Chronologie und Technologie einzelner Sorten von Artefakten über allgemeine Probleme der frühmittelalterlichen Bewaffnung und Reiterausrüstung bis hin zum archäologischen Experiment. Der gegebene Themenkreis wird im Buch nicht nur aus Sicht der Archäologie, sondern auch der historischen Wissenschaft erörtert, und zwar mit einer beträchtlichen Gelehrsamkeit und dem Streben nach einer komplexen oder analytischen Darstellung. Die vorliegenden 25 auf ganz unterschiedlichen Quellenbeständen fußenden, oft innovativen Beiträge von Forschern aus Polen, der Slowakei, Tschechien, Ungarn, Kroatien, Österreich und Deutschland bieten ein kompaktes Bild der Bewaffnung und Reiterausrüstung der Westslawen und Teilen der Südslawen, aber auch der Awaren und Ungarn vor dem Hintergrund der gesellschaftlichen, kulturellen und politischen Entwicklung Ostmitteleuropas in den letzten drei Jahrhunderten des ersten Jahrtausends.

Leider erscheint die Sammelchrift mit beträchtlicher Verspätung, wofür wir die Autoren und Leser gleichermaßen um Entschuldigung bitten. Hauptursache der Verzögerung waren die nach dem tragischen Brand der Arbeitsstätte in Mikulčice 2007 zu bewältigenden Aufgaben: die Errichtung und Inbetriebnahme der neuen archäologischen Basis Mikulčice-Trapíkovo und die parallel hierzu gebotenen Sicherungsarbeiten

an dem umfangreichen, durch den Brand beschädigten Fundmaterial von der Fundstelle Mikulčice-Valy, das nach und nach konservatorisch behandelt und identifiziert werden musste.

Trotz der Verspätung erlauben wir uns, der wissenschaftlichen Fachwelt diesen Konferenzband zu unterbreiten, in der Überzeugung, dass alle Beiträge ihre Relevanz und Aktualität behalten haben. Mögen sie als nützliches Hilfsmittel und Studienmaterial für weitere Forschungen auf dem betreffenden Fachgebiet dienen! Ergänzt sei, dass die letzten Autorenkorrekturen der meisten Beiträge im Jahre 2016 erfolgten und der Inhalt seither nicht mehr aktualisiert wurde.

Es ist uns eine angenehme Pflicht, uns bei allen Autoren der in der Sammelchrift präsentierten Beiträge sowie bei dem Kollektiv der Mitarbeiter, die sich an der Vorbereitung dieses Bandes beteiligten, recht herzlich zu bedanken. Für Übersetzungen und sprachliche Korrekturen sind wir Frau Pavla Seitlová und Frau Tereza Bartošková und sowie den Herren Torsten Kempke und Paul Maddocks verbunden. Für Redaktionsarbeiten gebührt unser Dank Herrn Petr Luňák und Frau Zdeňka Pavková, die auch den Satz des Buches übernahm.

Das Buch erscheint in einem Jahr, in dem das Archäologische Institut der Akademie der Wissenschaften der Tschechischen Republik des 100. Gründungstags seines Vorgängers, des Staatlichen Archäologischen Instituts, gedenkt, der ersten professionellen archäologisch-wissenschaftlichen Arbeitsstätte in der damals eben erst gegründeten Tschechoslowakei.

Erscheinen konnte die Publikation dank der finanziellen Förderung seitens des Editionsrats der Akademie der Wissenschaften der Tschechischen Republik, dem dafür unser Dank gilt.

Lumír Poláček – Pavel Kouřil



## The Military Finds from Bojná III and Klátova Nová Ves near Topoľčany, Slovakia

KAROL PIETA – ZBIGNIEW ROBAK

**The Military Finds from Bojná III and Klátova Nová Ves near Topoľčany, Slovakia.** *The article presents recent early medieval military finds from the area of Považský Inovec and Tribeč, with an attempt to establish their chronology as well as their significance for dating the sites from which they originate. According to them the settlement site Bojná III – Žihľavník could generally be dated to the 7th–8th centuries with the youngest finds dated to the turn of the 8th and 9th centuries or beginning of the 9th century. Based on the field finds of Late Avar bronzes and other items, the chronology of the hillfort Šance (near Klátova Nová Ves) and its surrounding area was preliminarily determined to the second half of the 8th century. A hooked spur find in Rybník near Levice is published here as an additional find.*

Keywords: pre-Great Moravian period – weaponry – hooked spurs – Avar bronzes – Byzantine buckle

The Bojná III site is located on the low hill ridge of Žihľavník, spanning Hradná Dolina (“Hillfort Valley”) and the valley of the Bojnianka rivulet, in a southern part of the Považský Inovec massive. On a top of the hill, in a centre of the ridge called Vartovka (“Guard site”) a system of fortifications, running across the Žihľavník massif has recently been discovered and documented.

Preserved fortifications, in the shape of a double horseshoe, enclose the western part of a plateau. The fortifications have not yet been investigated. Only one prospection of an inward courtyard was carried out. Additionally, there was one survey excavation. In the frame of those preliminary excavations a rubbish pit was explored, where several pieces of early medieval pottery dated to the 8th–9th centuries was found. During the field prospection near the fortifications, a relatively small number of finds was gathered. Among the iron items there is a preponderance of small knives, nails and parts of keys, which may indicate a settlement function of the site. Still however, we are unable to provide any closer chronology of those items. Among the weapons, a small hatchet, arrowheads with burrs and a fragment of chain mail were found. Among the other finds there is also a piece of a bronze belt mount or

a pendant and fragment of a bronze bracelet with bolded ends, probably from the Avar Period. There is also an older horizon marked at the ramparts by finds of bridle, probably from the Roman Period (PIETA 2007, 180–183).

On the south-eastern part of the slope, about 500 m from the fortifications described, there are early medieval burial mounds dated to the 9th century and probably a slightly older settlement, dated, on the basis of pottery finds, from the 7th to the turn of the 8th and 9th centuries; this was confirmed by the finds of metal items described below. From 2009 at the site regular excavations, combined with a systematic field research and geophysical surveys<sup>1</sup>, have been being carried out. In addition to research into the burial mounds, in their surroundings a number of survey trenches have been laid out. The archaeological material found in these trenches consists mainly of early medieval pottery as well as of nails and knives. A vast number of small fishing hooks present something of a surprise. Almost identical material occurred in the layers of mound number 1.

<sup>1</sup> PIETA et al. 2013, 2015.

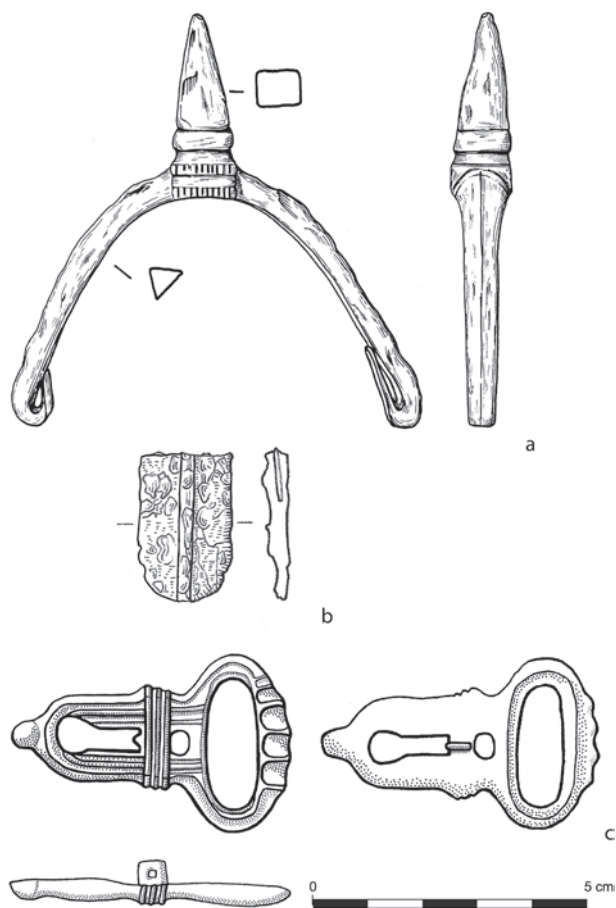


Fig. 1. Bojná III Žihlavník. Metal finds.

A spur was found with a metal detector approx. 30 m to the south of mound 1, at a depth of about 30 cm. At the point, where the signal was detected, a survey trench measuring 15 × 1 m was laid out. Apart from the spur in the trench only three pieces of undecorated early medieval pottery were found, not suitable to provide a precise date, so the chronology of the spur should be approximated based on its formal features.

The spur is a very well-preserved specimen of a spur with hooks, forged from an iron bar and with a riveted spike (Fig. 1:a). It is 7.5 cm in height, and its yoke is 6.7 cm wide, with an inner height of 4.2 cm and a 2.8 cm-long spike. The hooks are folded inwards and hammered with a yoke, which allows us to define the specimen as quasi-looped. The yoke is triangular in cross section, with rounded edges. The massive spike is formed in the shape of a pointed pyramid, undercut at the base. The edge of the yoke below the base of the spike is ornamented with double ribbing.

The spur can be classified as IA–IB type, according to D. Bialeková (it exhibits characteristics of both types – BIALEKOVÁ 1977, 120), variant B of techno-type II:2 according to J. Žak (ŽAK/MAČKOWIAK-KOTKOWSKA 1988, 29–30) and varieties B–C in the

classification of K. WACHOWSKI (1991, 86–87), which is a modification of J. Žak's system<sup>2</sup>. The spur shows the closest formal similarity with specimens from Zauschwitz near Leipzig, Bruszczewo and Połupin<sup>3</sup> in Greater Poland, Mellingen near Erfurt and a spur from Fröslunda in Sweden, all of which have similar decorations of spikes or yokes (ŽAK/MAČKOWIAK-KOTKOWSKA 1988, Tab.VI:3, 6, 7, 8; Tab.VII:2). These similarities, due to the geographical distance, should be treated as accidental. The spur, however, shows a very close similarity with bronze and iron specimens from pre-Great Moravian sites from Moravia (especially from Mikulčice and Uherské Hradiště-Ostrov sv. Jiří) and also from the Czech Basin due to a relatively diligent execution. The closest stylistic parallels to the spur from Bojná III are bronze and iron specimens with a short wide yoke from Brno-Líšeň and Rubín-Dolánky (KAVÁNOVÁ 1976, 11–12, 104, Tab.I:8, 11; PROFANTOVÁ 1994, 60–69) as well as decorated bronze specimens with a polygonal spike from Kersko near Sadská, Mikulčice and Uherské Hradiště-Ostrov sv. Jiří (KAVÁNOVÁ 1976, Tab.I:7.10; PROFANTOVÁ 1994, 68–69; MEŘÍNSKÝ 2002, 266). As an analogy from older phases of the Late Avar period, we can also cite a spur with a massive pyramidal spike from grave 116 in Devínska Nová Ves (EISNER 1952, 38–39, Obr. 17:10; ZÁBOJNÍK 2009, 43–45). Its hooks are unfortunately broken off (Fig. 2, 3).

It is currently accepted amongst researchers that spurs with inwardly folded hooks did not appear in the west Slavic environment before the mid-7th century<sup>4</sup> and probably only under the influence of the Merovingian cultural circle, at the crossroads of three cultures – Slavs, Avars and Franks. However, spurs with folded hooks cannot be precise daters. The chronology of their usage by the Slavs can be determined generally as lying between the second half of 7th or the beginning of the 8th century and the turn of the 10th and

2 The typological systems of J. Žak and K. Wachowski have been widely criticised in the literature (JANOWSKI 2010, 176–177, here one can find some older literature).

3 An iron specimen of a spur from Połupin (KARA 2009, Ryc. 71:1) is very similar to the item from Žihlavník, but smaller (Fig. 2:c). In the last stages of the younger phase of the stronghold in Połupin, J. Žak observed the coexistence of hooked spurs of A and B types with artefacts that have analogies in Middle and Late Avar culture (7th–8th century) and Merovingian culture (turn of the 7th and 8th century). A similar situation was observed at Biskupin, site 4-5 (KARA 2009, 215–217).

4 SZYMAŃSKI 1987, 350–359; PARCZEWSKI 1988, 96–101; PROFANTOVÁ 1994, 62; KARA 2009, 214. See also the standpoint of I. GABRIEL (1984, 123–126; GABRIEL 1988, 113–116), who considers that the earliest Slavic specimens appeared in the second half of the 8th century.

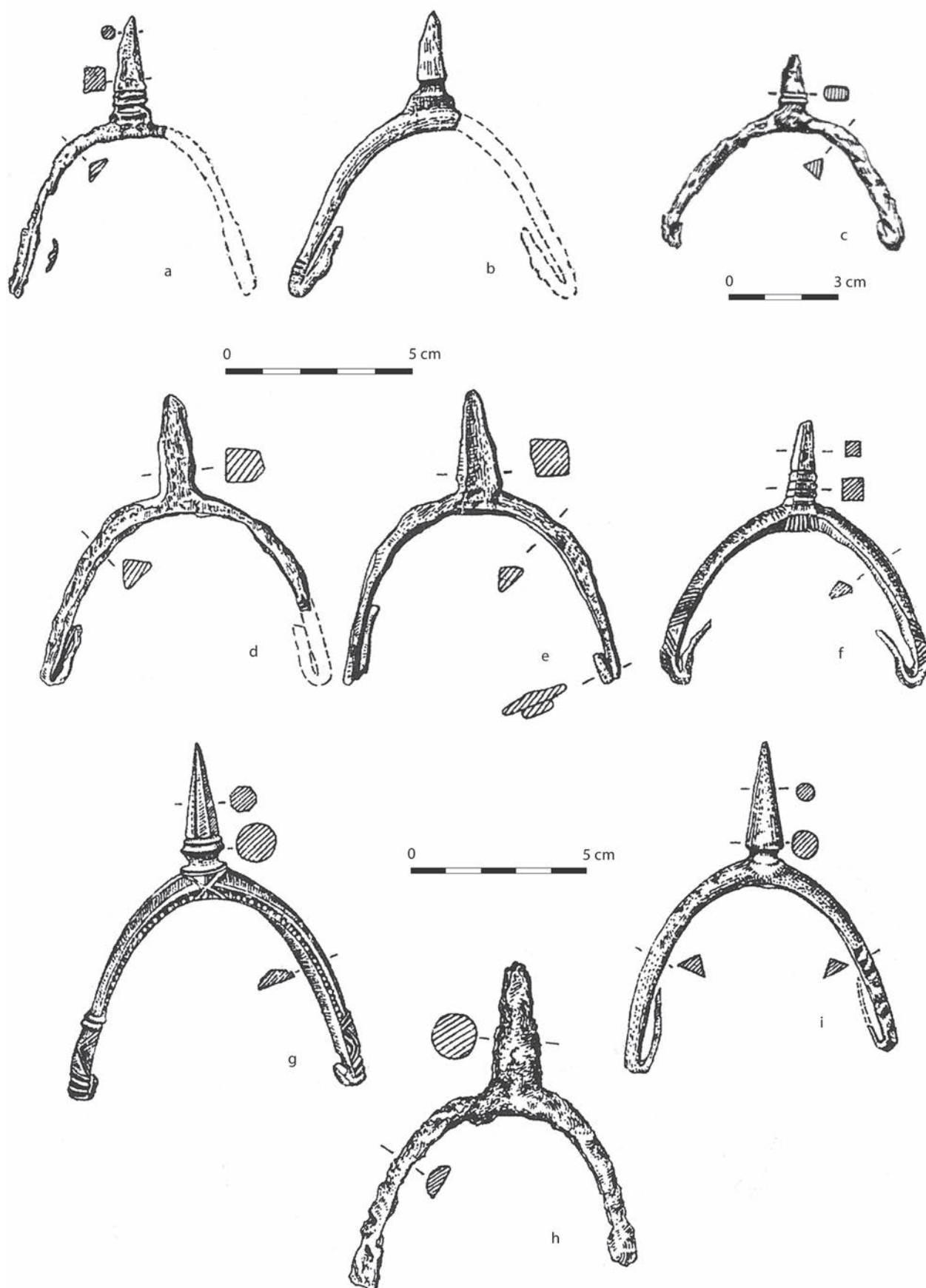


Fig. 2. Hooked spurs: a – Zauschwitz; b – Bruszczewo; c – Połupin; d, e – Mellingen; f – Fröslunda; g – Kersko u Sadské; h – Brno-Líšeň; i – Rubín-Dolánky (ŽAK/MAČKOWIAK-KOTKOWSKA 1988, Tab. VI:3, 6, 7, 8; Tab. VII:2; Tab. X:1, 2, 3; KARA 2009, Obr. 71:1). Material: iron (a–e), bronze (f–h).

11th centuries (PARCZEWSKI 1988, 96–101; POLESKI 1992, 20–24). Still, however, it does seem to be possible to narrow down the chronology of the type of spurs including the spur from Bojná III. The recognition of the pre-Great Moravian horizon in Mikulčice, where a collection of about 50 specimens of hooked spurs comes from, might be helpful in that. Some of them can be equated with the spur from Bojná. The chronology of that horizon can be narrowed down to between the end of the 7th and the end of the 8th centuries<sup>5</sup>; likewise there is a framework dating the site at Rubín to the 7th–9th centuries, where in addition to hooked spurs (13 pieces), also Late Avar and Early Carolingian finds were discovered, while the absence of 9th-century finds, including spurs with plates, was stated (BUBENÍK 1996; 1997; PROFANTOVÁ/STOLZ 2006). The situation at the settlement at Ostrov Sv Jiří is similar, where late Avar bronze items were also found; this can also be related to the pre-Great Moravian period (GALUŠKA 2001; Měřínský 2002, 264–266). D. Bialeková dates the spurs of IB type to the second half of the 7th–8th centuries, whereas K. Wachowski puts the B–C varieties within the interval of about 725–800 AD (BIALEKOVÁ 1977, 120; WACHOWSKI 1991, 91). This type of spur, from the late 8th century, was replaced by the Carolingian loop spur, but above all by the plate spur – the most distinctive of the Great Moravian horizon in present Western Slovakia and Moravia. On Polish territories, the B type of hooked spur could be used much longer – until the first half of the 10th century (KARA 2009, 215).

The spur should probably be placed in the interval of about 700–800 AD, relating it to something older than the Bojná I-Valy hillfort settlement in that area, perhaps associated with the fortification located on the top of the hill of Žihlavník.

At the settlement of Bojná III-Žihlavník, no material has so far been found that would allow us to extend the chronology of the site into the Great Moravian period. The youngest early medieval find is a Carolingian type U-shaped strap end mount with a vertical rib (Fig. 1:b). Unfortunately, its simple form does not allow for a precise dating; furthermore, the item was found in a forest bed layer. A similar mount, but additionally decorated with diagonal notches, was found in grave 221 in Borovce, Piešťany district, along with a set of buckle-spurs, which were dated to within the end of the 8th–1st half of the 9th centuries (STAŠŠÍKOVÁ-ŠTUKOVSKÁ 1996, Abb. 7; STAŠŠÍKOVÁ-ŠTUKOVSKÁ 2001; KOUŘIL 2001). The dating of the mount from Bojná III to the 1st half of the 9th century (ROBAK 2013,

68–69) does not conflict with the general dating of the Žihlavník's settlement phase, though the item might, of course, be younger and might come from the Great Moravian period. A similar find, along with spurs with plates, was found in grave 67 at an older graveyard, Nechvalín I (KLANICA 2006, Tab. 8:67.18), which can be dated to the 1st half of the 9th century (KLANICA 2006, 36). Such a type of Carolingian strap-end is also known from Domburg in the Netherlands (CAPELLE 1976, Taf. 18:307).

One find which can probably be dated earlier, to the 7th century, is a Byzantine-type bronze buckle (Fig. 1:c). The buckle was found accidentally, in the roots of an overturned tree, approximately 100 m to the west of the graveyard. The item is 4.8 cm long and 3.1 cm high. The openwork upper side of the mount is decorated with a double groove and a transverse rib, also with a double groove. The frame is oval-shaped and its front is decorated with three notches. On the bottom side, in the middle of the buckle, there is one attaching mesh. The needle is lacking. The end of the buckle is decorated with a knob-tip. Research into the analogical type of the buckle has as yet been unsuccessful. It should probably be attributed to buckles in the shape of animal heads (Tierkopfschnallen) with different types of mounts, distinguished by E. GARAM (2001, 104–105, Taf. 72). Formally, the nearest Byzantine-type buckles, known from Hungary and Slovakia (the so-called Pannonian group), are dated to the 7th century and could have been manufactured in Pannonia (VARSIK 1992, 85–89, Taf. IV–V. GARAM 2001, 107, Taf. 56–58, 70–72).

Slovak finds of Byzantine-type belt parts are concentrated in the southern part of the country. Most of them come from the grave equipment at Avar or mixed Avar-Slavic cemeteries, dated to the time of the Khaganate (ZÁBOJNÍK 2007, 13, 22–25). The buckle from Bojná-Žihlavník would therefore be the northernmost discovery of this kind to come from Slovakia,<sup>6</sup> but not too distant from the increased prevalence area and still located within the direct influence of the Khaganate, although definitely beyond its area. How and when the buckle got there still remains a mystery, unfortunately. In this case, it seems to be more important to compare the finding with Czech findings. From the area of Moravia and the Bohemian Basin come far fewer specimens of Byzantine-type belt-parts (PROFANTOVÁ 2007), but in all cases they come from the areas of tribal, pre-Great Moravian political-military centres (Mikulčice, Mutěnice, Praha, Rubín), where Avar bronzes, Early Carolingian products and also hooked spurs were

5 KLANICA 1968a, 639; KLANICA 1984, 141–149, KLANICA 1986, 95–102; MEŘÍNSKÝ 2002, 406–407.

6 The second find of the Byzantine type buckle comes from nearby Radošina.

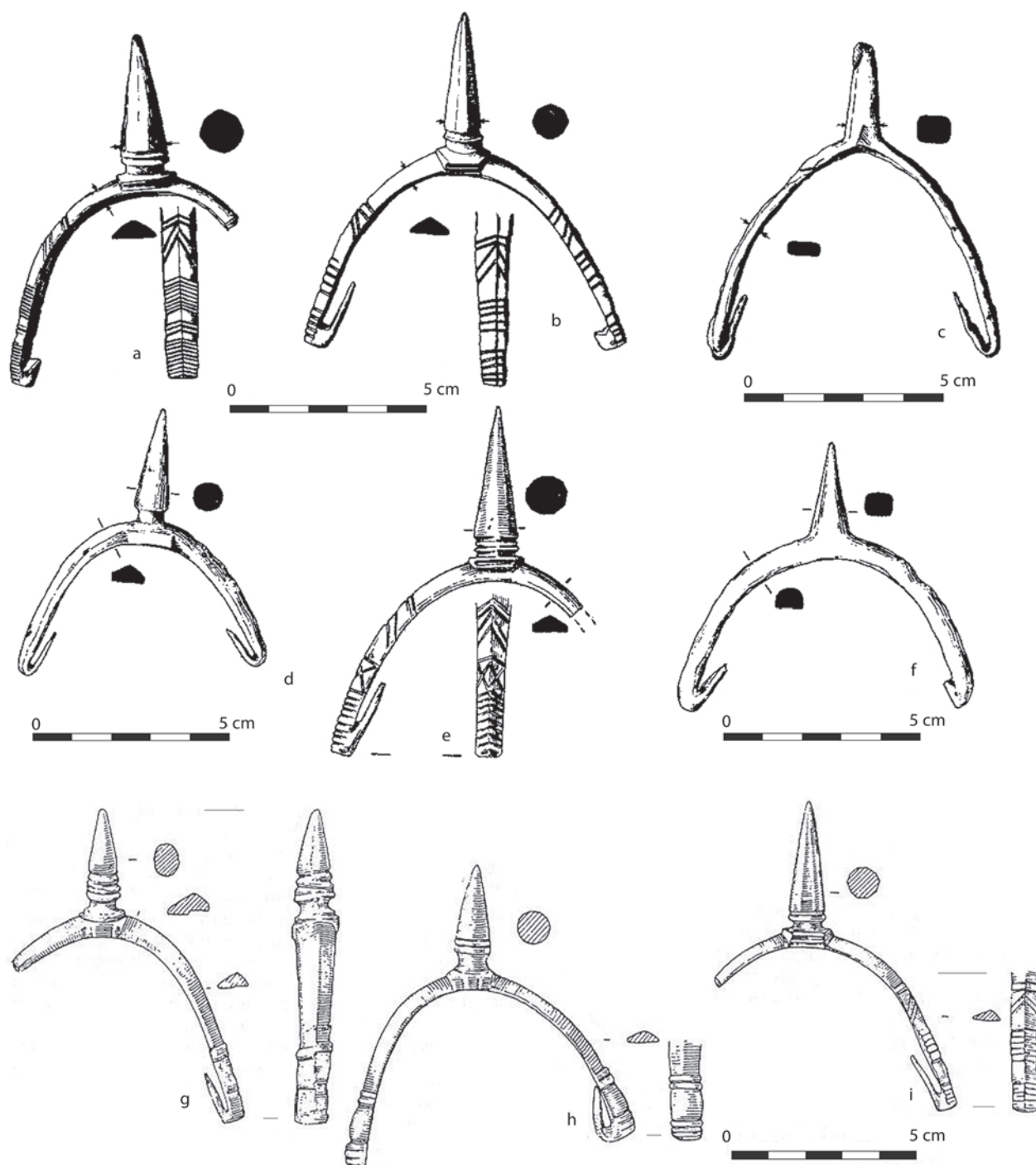


Fig. 3. Hooked spurs: a–f – Mikulčice (KLANICA 1986, Obr. 28:4, 6; Obr. 31:6; Obr. 33:2, 4; Obr. 34:1); g–i – Uherské Hradiště-Ostrov sv. Jiří (MĚŘÍNSKÝ 2002, 266). Material: iron (c, d, f); bronze (others).

found. Further research will show whether Bojná III Žihlavník is a centre of this kind.

In April 2011, a collection of a finds from a field prospection in the area near the hillfort of Šance, in Klátova Nová Ves, Partizánske district was passed on to the Institute of Archaeology in Nitra. The aim of the research into them was to verify reports about the discoveries of early medieval metal items in the area of the fortifications as well as to undertake photographic

documentation of the ramparts. Within the research, the field prospection of the area, with a metal detector and GPS station, was carried out.

In the cadastre of the village there are at least five early medieval sites, located during field prospection (BIALEKOVÁ 1989, 331–333); among them, the most important is the hillfort of Šance, situated on the hill south of the village, next to Hradský stream. The second fortification (called Čížík) is located in the hamlet of

Sádok, west of the village, near Vyčoma stream. This is probably the remnant of a magnate's fortalice. Today there is a Romanesque church and the remains of an early medieval cemetery inside the fortification. The site is generally dated to the 11th–13th centuries. A further three settlement sites in the village area are also dated to the 11th–13th centuries.

The hillfort of Šance (546 m) is located in the Tribeč mountains, between the hills of Sivý Kameň (418 m) and Javorový Vrch (730 m) on a hill rising between Hradský stream and its right tributary. It is triangular in shape and about 9.3 ha in area. At least two gates led to the interior (a third was artificially breached much later). An old gorge located on the north-eastern side leads to one of them. The fortification was probably founded in the Late Bronze Age, but in the inner space as well as inside the ramparts fragments of prehistoric pottery, including Late Bronze Age pottery, a bronze hatchet as well as some early medieval pottery fragments, dated generally to the 9th–10th centuries, were found (BIALEKOVÁ 1988, 37–46; VELIAČIK/ROMSAUER 1994, 77–79). The inner part of the hillfort was explored on the surface only, without a metal detector.

Prospecting with a metal detector was carried out on the slope, north of the ramparts, between an old way leading to the northern gate of the stronghold, and the north-eastern ridge of the hill. Among metal items, most of which were arrowheads, agricultural tools and parts of household appliances, there was a hooked iron spur, a spearhead decorated with openwork, a smaller spearhead, a volute knife, a damaged stirrup, an S-shaped bridle-bit and an unfinished product – the bronze spike from a spur, as well as two fragments of tin applications in the shape of a boar's head, a Late Avar miniature strap end, a fragment of a Late Avar belt mount in the shape of a propeller and seven bronze pendants-jingle bells.

The spur is a well-preserved specimen of a hooked spur. It is 8.2 cm high, 7.9 cm wide; its inner height equals 5.5 cm inside the yoke and it has a 2.7 cm-long spike. The yoke is flattened and rectangular in cross-section. One of the hooks, 2.2 cm long, has been carefully folded parallel to the yoke; the second hook has not been preserved. The spike is in the shape of a prism with a square base with side length 1 cm. The base of the spike is decorated with double ribbing. The spur should be classified as type I B according to D. BIALEKOVÁ (1977, 120–121), variety C of technotype III:2 according to J. Žak (ŽAK/MAČKOWIAK-KOTKOWSKA 1988, 31–32) and varieties B–C in the classification of K. WACHOWSKI (1991, 86–87).

The spur does not have special features that allow us to find an exact analogy. Its form and the decoration

of the spike are both widespread among hooked spurs (ŽAK/MAČKOWIAK-KOTKOWSKA 1988, Tab. IV–XII; KAVÁNOVÁ 1976, Tab. II; KARA 2009, Ryc. 67). Here also apply findings concerning the spur from Bojná-Žihlavník. The archaeological site in Klátova Nová Ves has not yet been investigated, and the find comes from the surface, hence there is no chance of determining the precise chronology of the spur with other daters (Fig. 4).

The second noteworthy discovery is a bronze fragment (a spike with an adjacent part of a yoke) of an unfinished spur. The spike was supposed to be an extended cone decorated with two ribs at the base. The item is about 4.3 cm in length. It is impossible, however, to determine on this basis the type and to establish the measurements of the spur from which it originates. However, the closest forms of spikes occurs among iron and bronze hooked spurs (also quasi-looped) and looped spurs (especially with a yoke decorated with bulges)<sup>7</sup>, that is, types commonly occurring up to the beginning of the 9th century. This fact, of course, does not exclude the possibility that such spikes were present on other types of spurs. A similar type of decoration on the spike appeared on the “poorer” iron spurs of the Biskupija-Crkvina type (JELOVINA 1986, Tab. IX:109), but this is an isolated case and, besides, the spikes on those spurs do not usually form an integral part of the spur, but are riveted on. It should be noted that such ornamentation for spurs is unlikely to occur on other types of spurs with plates. The closest territorial and stylistic analogy to the finding from Klátova Nová Ves is bronze hooked spurs from Uherské Hradiště (POULÍK 1997, Abb. 6:1, 2) and Olomouc (BLÁHA 1988, Obr. 7). Certainly, the finding of the unfinished/defective casting testifies to local spur production in the Early Middle Ages.

Another finding from Klátova Nová Ves is a spearhead. The item is 33.5 cm long and has an octagonal socket, evolving into a rib-spike. The head is rhomboidal and very narrow (up to 3 cm wide), and its widest point has openwork cut-outs in the shape of two triangles and a circle. The base of the leaf is undercut (Fig. 5).

The closest analogy to the spearhead from Klátova Nová Ves is an old find by Baron F. NOPCSA (1912, 198–199) that comes from Kalaja Dalmaces in Albania. Although the site of the find is connected with a graveyard of Komani culture and generally dated to the

<sup>7</sup> KAVÁNOVÁ 1976, Tab. I–II; ŽAK/MAČKOWIAK-KOTKOWSKA 1988, Tab. IV–XII; POULÍK 1997, Abb. 3., 6; MILOŠEVIĆ 2000, IV:131; MĚŘÍNSKÝ 2002, 211, 256, 266; KIND 2007, Abb. 1:2; 3; 6; VINSKI 1978/79, Tab. VI, VIII.



Fig. 4. Šance near Klátova Nová Ves, Partizánske district, metal finds. Material: iron (a, d, g), bronze (b, c, e, f).

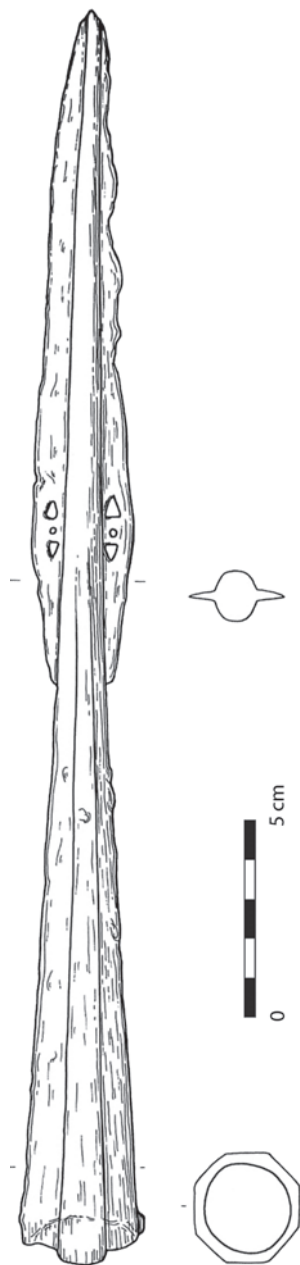


Fig. 5. Šance near Klátova Nová Ves, Partizánske district. Material: iron.

7th–8th centuries<sup>8</sup> (MILOŠEVIĆ 1995, 100; DZINO 2010, 85), the spearhead is an accidental find and cannot be assigned to any archaeological unit. A similar kind of spearhead also occurs in the context of Avar items from Transylvania (HOREDT 1958, Fig.17:13). In addition to the spearhead, stirrup and bridle, the burial number III from Teiuș contained also several belt fittings that could be dated to the Late Avar Period. The only

<sup>8</sup> Also known as Komani-Kruja or Arbër culture. The problem of the chronology and ethnicity of Komani culture is still unclear and being debated. In its wider chronology, Komani culture can be dated from the late 5th to the early 9th century (see DZINO 2010, 85–87).

distinguishing feature of the spearhead from Klátova Nová Ves is an octagonal socket, resembling 8th-century Frankish specimens of spearheads of the Egling-type (STEIN 1967, 16–17), although the leaf was formed in a different manner. Certainly, the item requires some further research.

Fragments of fittings representing an animal snout, probably a boar's, are interesting discoveries. This type of decoration occurs in two varieties – horse's and boar's heads – and is found in Avar and the Avar-Slavic environments (DEKAN 1972, 395–396). Single specimens are also known from sites outside the Khaganate – Mikulčice (KLANICA 1968b, Abb. 1, 4) and Rubín-Dolánky (BUBENÍK 1988, Tab. IV), i.e. the pre-Great Moravian local centres. Such forms are dated to Late Avar Period III (PROFANTOVÁ 1992, 618–619). In grave 821 from Mikulčice, in addition to the fitting in the shape of a horse's head, a bronze pendant-jingle bell was also found. Further examples come from accidental finds.

The finds of a hooked spur and of the intermediate product, along with the Late Avar bronzes, as well as an S-shaped bridle-bit (PROFANTOVÁ 1992, 636) indicate a secondary use of older fortifications by the Slavs and, furthermore, may indicate the presence at that place of some representatives of the elites, as well as the craftsmen who worked for them. In the light of these findings, the medieval chronology of Šance should be put back at least to the end of the 8th century. Certainly, the site to define its character, requires at least reconnaissance excavations.

## Addendum

The hillfort of Krivín (Pekná Skala) near Rybník (Levice district) is located in the region of Slovenská brána (the Slovak Gate) on the left bank of the River Hron. It has not been excavated except for a field prospection which resulted in the gathering of a collection of Bronze Age and early medieval pottery (BIALEKOVÁ 1989, 163–164. VELIAČIK/SRNKA/VALO 2002). However, this region was actively inhabited in the Early Middle Ages, especially in the Moravian period, and could have played an important strategic role. Besides Rybník, there are known neighbouring fortifications at Hrádze, Grác and Hronský Beňadik (BÁTORA 2009, 158–159) as well as a warrior burial find that comes from Malé Kozmálovce, with Carolingian-type sword and stirrups (RUTTKAY 1975, 157).

One item found at a hillfort area is a damaged specimen of a hooked spur. The spur could be classified as type IB according to D. BIALEKOVÁ (1977, 120–121) and variety B or C of technotype II:2 according to J. Žak (ŽAK/MAČKOWIAK-KOTKOWSKA 1988, 29–30). The item is 7.1 cm high, about 8–8.5 cm wide when



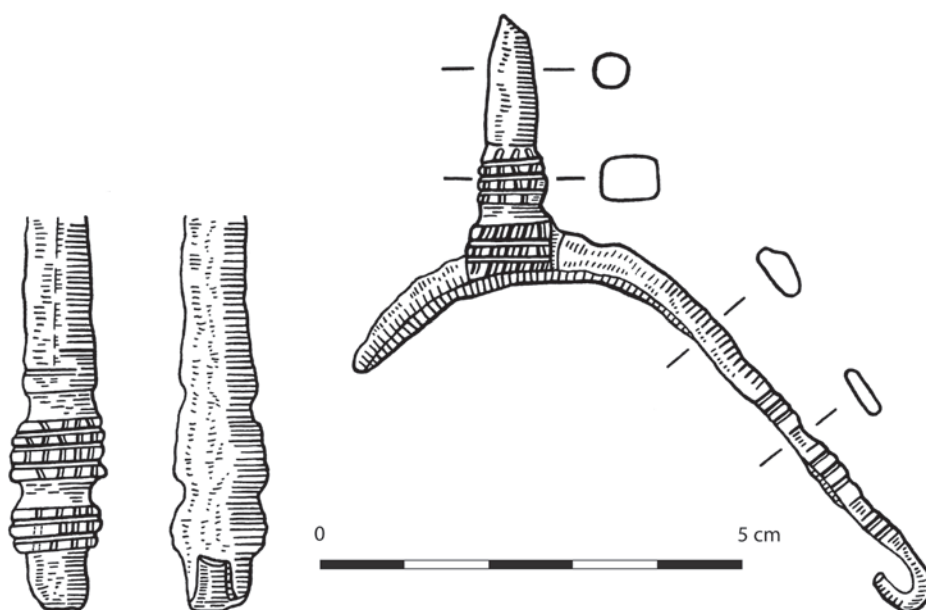


Fig. 6. Rybník, Levice district, Krivín hillfort. Material: iron.

reconstructed, 4.3 cm in the inner height of the yoke and has a 2.7 cm-long spike. The upper part of the yoke is triangular, but the lower is rectangular in cross-section. The spike, welded with a yoke, is profiled and decorated with a chequered pattern. The lower parts of the arms are flattened, and thus the end resembles a plate. The resulting plate was decorated with three groups of notches making a similar chequered pattern and separated with some profiling.

Spurs with poorly expanded, ornamented ends are known, for example, from the pre-Great Moravian

phase of Mikulčice and Brno-Líšeň (POULÍK 1967, 63; ŽAK/MAČKOWIAK-KOTKOWSKA 1988, Tab. XI:4), but none of the specimens is similar. The only close analogy that could be cited is an unpublished spur from the Víno hillfort, Bruntál district in Czech Silesia (Abb. 6).<sup>9,10</sup>

9 Information from doc. PhDr. P. Kouřil, CSc.

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## Souhrn

**Nálezy výzbroje z lokalit Bojná III a Klátova Nová Ves u Topolčan na Slovensku.** Lokalita Bojná III se jako součást raně středověké sídlištní aglomerace nachází v masívu Považského Inovce na horském hřebeni Žihlavník mezi Hradnou dolinou a údolím říčky Bojnianky. Na jeho zúženém místě v poloze Vartovka bylo objevené a zdokumentované raně středověké liniové opevnění v podobě valu s příkopem na jeho západní straně, která probíhá napříč hřebenem. V jihovýchodní části Žihlavníku, ve vzdálenosti přibližně 500 m směrem na jihovýchod, se geofyzikální prospekci zjistilo a sondáží potvrdilo sídliště datované rámcově od 7. do začátku 9. století. Je to nejstarší osada celé aglomerace, která možná souvisí se stopami těžby v nedaleké Železnej doline. Výzkum zjistil více významných nálezů, např. železnou ostruhu s háčky a bronzovou přezku byzantského typu. Všechny tyto předměty patří do období před začátkem 9. století, což potvrzuje i dosavadní datování lokality pomocí keramiky.

Na lokalitě byly prozkoumány i dva mohylové násypy. V jednom z nich byl zjištěn ženský kostrový hrob z 9. století.

Na svazích severovýchodního předpolí hradiště Šance, z pozdní doby bronzové a doby halštatské, při Klátové Nové Vsi okr. Partizánske, se při prospekci našel soubor raně středověkých artefaktů včetně železné ostruhy s háčky, nedokončený produkt – bodec bronzové ostruhy zřejmě stejného typu, oštěpy a kopí, třmen, zemědělské nářadí a lité bronzové ozdoby pozdně avarského typu. Uvnitř rozsáhlého valového opevnění se však kromě pravěkých nálezů našli doteď jen ojedinělé raně středověké střepy. Pozoruhodná koncentrace nálezů naznačuje využívání tohoto místa už v 8. století. Bez podrobnějšího výzkumu však není možné objasnit, jestli jde o příležitostné využití této polohy, nebo o doklad trvalejšího osídlení s doklady výrobní činnosti, jak to naznačuje nedohotovená bronzová ostruha.

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und in den Nachbarländern

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