

PREFACE

The eighth volume of *Archaeologia Baltica*, “Weapons, Weaponry and Man”, is a diverse collection of articles on complex themes, devoted to the examination of weapons, armament, the evolution of the military, and the armed person’s status in various periods and communities. The publication’s subject matter is reflected through the very evolution of weapons and armament, fortifications, and their significance in the expansion of a region and its military. The individual’s relationship with weapons in prehistory is best reflected in the constantly changing funeral customs, in the analysis of which both the individual’s specific relationship with the military and his social status within the community can be considered. Victims of arms, armament, and the spoils of war, and even certain elements of landscape, reflect entire communities’ ties with the military and the ideology formed by their world-view.

In this publication, scholars from 12 different countries discuss arms, armaments, and what connects them to man. Thus, the theme is examined by invoking material across a huge territory, from Finland in the north to Jutland and the United Kingdom in the southwest, to the central Danube and the Balkan Peninsula in the south, and the forest belt sites of northeast Europe in the east. The publication’s wide chronological span, from the Late Neolithic to the Early Middle Ages, has allowed the compilation of a collection of reviewed academic articles in which the chosen theme is discussed in a variety of ways. This is the first collection of articles of its kind in the English language in Lithuania, and in the countries of the east Baltic Sea region.

The appearance of the eighth volume of *Archaeologia Baltica* is associated with an enormous loss. On 7 September 2005, Lithuania lost its eminent scholar, the Baltic weapons and armament researcher, and one of *Archaeologia Baltica*’s conceivers, as well as its main editor, Vytautas Kazakevičius. Thus, the conference “Weapons, Weaponry and Man” has a second, painful side: *in memoriam Vytautas Kazakevičius (1951–2005)*. In honouring Vytautas Kazakevičius, a scholar, a colleague and a friend, well-known European scholars gathered to give presentations and articles to the conference organized by Klaipėda University’s Institute of Baltic Sea Region History and Archaeology that took place at Klaipėda University on 11–15 October 2006, not only to honour their deceased colleague, but also to present their latest research results in this subject.

The eighth volume of *Archaeologia Baltica* consists of ten chapters. In the first, the authors focus on the search for the warrior’s identity in earlier prehistory. The investigated burial rite features allow an elucidation of the different forms of identity of men and warriors in Europe from the end of the Late Neolithic to the Bronze Age (Jakob Westermann). Importantly, the situation in the East Baltic in the Bronze Age was different. This is emphasized by the merely single attributes of the warrior found in the region, which show that the warrior’s identity was not differentiated here, and perhaps was not even known by this region’s communities (Agnė Čivilytė). On the other hand, the appearance of hill-forts and defensive structures, and the concentration of East Baltic bronze processing centres in them in the Bronze Age, would affirm that the region was gradually becoming closer to northeast Europe (Andrejs Vasks).

A long chapter is devoted to the Roman Period’s barbarians’ weapons, armament and military in the immense barbarian part of the world between the Baltic Sea and the Danube. This chapter consists of two parts: the first covers the free Germanic peoples of the northwestern part of the *barbaricum*, while the second is oriented toward the northernmost territory of the barbarians that extended beyond the Vistula. However, the chapter begins with earlier Hallstatt and La Tène times and one of the aspects of burial rites associated with armament and that period’s reflections of the social structure: graves with double or even triple sets of weapons, or “brothers-in-arms” graves (Katarzyna Czarnecka).

The Roman Period’s Germanic people’s arms, armament and military in the Mecklenburg area, Jutland, the southwestern part of Scandinavia, the lower Elbe, regions of the central Danube, and Przeworsk Culture had many things in common. On the other hand, due to various contacts with the Roman Empire, the arms and armament of the Germanic tribes were similar to those of the Romans (Hans-Ulrich Voß). However, the very custom of placing weapons in graves, in the opinion of the eminent arms and armament researcher Jan Bemmann, is not in itself a reliable criterion in the investigation and reconstruction of the social relationships of that period’s communities.

Approaching the cultures of the West Balts, where, according to Tacitus “... the *Suebian Sea*, on its eastern shore, washes the tribes of the *Aestii*, whose rites and fashions and style of dress are those of the *Suebi*, while



The conference's participants (photograph by V. Vaitkevičius).

their language is more like the British ...”, on the one hand it is noticeable that the West Baltic cultures’ arms, armament, military and social processes had common aspects or certain cultural similarities with the northern Germanic peoples. On the other hand, Aistian tribes repeated the processes that occurred in the vast barbaric lands only as an “echo” and in their own very unique way (Wojciech Nowakowski, Audronė Bliujienė, Donatas Butkus and Bartosz Kontny).

One of this publication’s chapters is devoted to the examination of the arms and armament in the Thorsberg and Nydham bogs. The abundant offerings of things associated with the military suggest that war, and undoubtedly the military, was one of the most important areas of social activity in southern Scandinavia. From famous battleships to the armament and personal accoutrement details of cavalry and infantry, bog finds provide important information about contacts with the Roman Empire in the first to fourth centuries, as well as their uninterrupted development. The latest research regarding the Roman armament found in the Thorsberg and Nydam bogs allows us to perceive the “interactive nature” of Roman and barbarian armament, as well as the most diverse adaptations and imitations of Roman arms and armament created by the Germanic peoples (Claus von Carnap-Bornheim, Suzana Matešić and Andreas Rau). With the associative reverberating correlations of southern Scandinavia’s originality of offer-

ing places in this chapter, a distinctive note is sounded by the article which examines not only the Taurapilis duke’s grave of the second half of the fifth to sixth centuries, but also the Taurapilis site complex’s surroundings, which suggest that it is impossible to solve the meaning of this complex without an investigation of the meanings of mythology hidden within the landscape there (Vykintas Vaitkevičius).

The authors of the chapter “Warriors and Armaments from the Vistula to the Daugava” analyse both the arms and armament of various periods, as well as the social processes that occurred in this region, based on the specific material of the sites, or even individual graves they have investigated (Bartosz Kontny, Magdalena Natuniewicz-Sekuła, Ludwika Sawicka, Rasa Banytė-Rowell, Christine Reich, Ugnius Budvydas and Ilona Vaškevičiūtė).

The chapter about the developing significance of arms and armament for a region’s political and military potential from the Migration Period to the Early Middle Ages is what prompted and led to the rise of the individual highest-ranking persons and regions in the East Baltic, northeast Europe’s forest belt sites, and Britain. Despite the territorial and chronological differences, arms and armament, as well as warriors’ graves with riding gear, by their importance in funeral customs, bear witness to their significance in the development of

social life as well (John Hines, Mindaugas Bertasius, Michel Kazanski). East Baltic society considered warriors to be people with a high social status, while weapons became symbols of their social status both in life and in the afterlife. Military operations during the Early Middle Ages had a socio-political context: military operations were a means to strengthen power (Andris Šnė, Marika Māgi and Antonija Vilcāne).

One of the chapters in this collection of articles is devoted to a discussion on the meaning and symbolism of arms. Weapons in women's graves suggest that under certain circumstances women were allowed "to enter the man's domain", although a woman's contact with the man's world was apparently not of her own volition, it was rather an obligation formed by tradition and social norms (Andra Simniškytė). Many symbolic graves without human remains are found in East Lithuania's barrows that essentially do not differ in their construction from synchronous inhumation or cremation burials. The absolute majority of symbolic graves' grave goods is comprised of weapons, thus it is possible that symbolically such a burial ritual particularly endeavours to emphasize the man's gender and a certain aspect of his social status: a warrior's membership (Laurynas Kurila).

A special and usually symbolic significance was imparted to the battle-axe and sword throughout time. The battle-axes and swords found in only a few graves of Finland's Crusader Period (1050–1200) allow researchers to newly interpret the reasons for these weapons' placement in graves, and to search for the symbolic meaning of such a custom (Sari Mäntylä).

Just as in the investigation of the Roman Period, in the examination of the Viking Age, the authors return to a discussion of the geographically expansive territory between the Baltic Sea and the Balkan Peninsula, because only in this way can the weapons, armament, military, trade routes, the trade process itself, usually organized by armed merchants, and, undoubtedly, the hoards of silver wares and alloys found in certain territories drawn into the geopolitical area of the Viking Age, be evaluated (Valery Yotov and Jan Peder Lamm). The rivers of the Baltic Sea region, including the Nemunas, were important trade routes (Vladas Žulkus).

The end of the Viking Age and the Early Middle Ages brought huge changes to the East Baltic. They are reflected in transformations in weapons and certain armaments, as well as in the appearance of new weapons (Mikalai Plavinski). Defence installations (Rėkučiai) were built to ensure the developing Lithuanian state's defensive needs; and natural environmental obstacles were connected to their defensive area, thus consider-

ably enhancing the utilization possibilities of such defensive installations (Algirdas Girininkas).

The traumatic injuries of several people buried in lower Daugava cemeteries in the seventh to 17th centuries are discussed in Guntis Gerhards' article. Based on the archaeological excavations undertaken at the Virbaliūnai settlement, an effort is made to reconstruct furnace construction from the end of the Roman Period to the Migration Period, as well as to explain iron smelting technology (Algirdas Žalnierius, Dainius Balčiūnas, Aušra Selskienė and Jonas Navasaitis).

The eighth volume of *Archaeologia Baltica*, "Weapons, Weaponry and Man", is yet another step in the investigation of social development. Only this time, the relationships are examined invoking arms, armament and the military. Meanwhile, the conference's sad *in memoriam V. Kazakevičius* reminds us "... and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls ..." It tolls for each one of us.

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Translated by Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs