

**AESTIORUM GLADIUS. SWORDS IN THE WEST BALT CIRCLE IN THE ROMAN PERIOD**

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**Abstract**

In the mid-1990s the finds from the West Balt Circle, whose peoples could be identified as the *Aestii* of Tacitus, included only ten swords dating back to the Roman Period. Excavations conducted in the following years and the retrieved part of the Prussia Museum in Königsberg, as well as numerous other archive materials, have not significantly increased this number. Therefore, it must be assumed that the *Aestii* rarely used this weapon, regardless of its great appreciation by other barbarians. This might be presumed to have been related to the specific techniques of mounted combat, in which, apart from spears, axes and long battle-knives were used.

Key words: swords, *Aestii*, West Balt Culture Circle.

**Introduction**

At the 1994 Marburg conference, devoted to Roman and barbarian weaponry in the Roman Period (Carnap-Bornheim 1994), a group of archaeologists arrived from the newly independent Lithuania. The main role was played by Vytautas Kazakevičius, a leading expert on Baltic weapons. At this conference, its participants were presented with research findings on swords from the Roman Period in the southwest of the territory then occupied by Balts, the West Balt Circle, ie in Masuria, on the Samland Peninsula, including Natangia and Nadrovia, in other words in former East Prussia, and also in Suvalkia, in the northeast of Poland. At the conclusion it was asserted that swords, weapons extremely valued by other barbarians as well, were rarely used in the West Balt Circle, and, apart from spears, long knives and battle axes were the basic weaponry (Nowakowski 1994). *Let us note that Vytautas Kazakevičius had come to similar conclusions while investigating finds of weaponry in Lithuania (Kazakevičius 1988, pp.93-104; cf Atgāzis 2002).*


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**The spread and value of swords in the West Balt Culture Circle**

A weak point of the aforementioned thesis was its limited source of references. At that time, only ten artefacts found within the discussed area and dated to the Roman Period were known of (Nowakowski 1994, pp.382-386, Fig. 2), only half of which had been published as having been documented. First of all, there was a single-edged D/1-type sword from the cemetery at Mojtymy (formerly Mochtienen) in Masuria (Fig. 1: 6), found in a cremation grave along with a pair of spurs and an Almgren 80 fibula from the B2 phase (Hollack, Peiser 1904, pp.47-48, pl. V: 27; cf Biborski 1978, pp.125-128, Fig. 70; Nowakowski 1994, p.383). Likewise, we may date the loose find from the cemetery at Grunajki (formerly Gruneyken) (Tischler 1879, pp.253-255; Stadie 1919) in the northeast of Masuria (Fig. 1: 2). The sword had a narrow and short, only 39-centimetre-long, blade (Stadie 1919, p.415, Fig. 187; Jahn 1916, p.128), which makes it resemble items of Biborski II-type existing in Przeworsk Culture during the B phase and at the beginning of the B1 phase (Biborski 1978, pp.62-63, Fig. 7-8; Godłowski 1992, p.81). Another completely documented and published find came from the cemetery at Khrustal’noe (formerly Wiekau), on the Sambian Peninsula (Fig. 1: 3), where a Roman *gladius* alongside a decorative harness was discovered in a rich grave. Its blade was short, with deep fullers running to the point (Bujack 1889, p.281; Heydeck 1909, Pl. XXXVIII; Gaerte 1929, Abb. 159: e): a pattern such as this indicates beyond doubt that the blade had originally been longer and that it might have been broken and later repaired by sharpening. The Almgren 129 and 130 fibulae accompanying the sword make the whole grave complex date back to the B/C Phase.
In the Roman Period available within the West Balt Circle, which was available in the mid-1990s, comes in the form of short writings and illustrations without any formal documentation allowing precise classification or dating.

Over a span of 12 years since the conference in Rastenburg, no new finds of swords have been recorded at the excavated sites; however, revolutionary progress has been made as far as the source of references to the Roman Period in East Prussia is concerned. Namely, archaeologists have been given access to part of the collection and archive materials of the Prussia Museum, found in Berlin and Kaliningrad, and, within the international scientific data exchange, to scientific records of archaeologists investigating Prussian collections in museums before 1945. The enlarged sources have provided information on thousands of grave complexes as well as tens of thousands of finds. These circumstances cause the necessity for the reinvestigation.

Fig. 1. The archaeological sites of the West Balt Culture Circle with the swords from the Roman Period mentioned in this paper: 1 Fedotovo, Pravdinsk district; formerly Plauen, Kreis Wehlau; 2 Grunajki, Goldap district; formerly Grunteken (Grunieken), Kreis Darkehmen; 3 Khresta, Novgorodsk district; formerly Wiekau, Kreis Fischhausen; 4 Koczek, Pisz district; formerly Koziek (Kotzeck; Waldseck), Kreis Johannisburg; 5 Lazne, Olecko district; formerly Haasznen, Kreis Oletzko (Marggrabow); 6 Mojzyno, Mragowo district, grave 27; formerly Mothienen, Kreis Sensburg; 7 Parusnoje, Zelenogradsk district; formerly Gaffken, Kreis Fischhausen; 8 Sibirskoe, Polesk district; formerly Moritten, Kr. Labiau; 9 Skomack, Elk district; formerly Skomatzko, Kreis Lyck; 10 Szurpiły, Suwałki district; 11 Szwajcaria, Suwałki district; 12 Wólka, Kętrzyn district; formerly Wölka, Kreis Rastenburg.
of former research findings and opinions. Therefore, it appears indispensable to check whether the thesis on the rare use of swords adhere to pre-historical reality or whether it could have been concluded only on the basis of research data available in the early 1990s. Moreover, it is essential to find whether the description details of particular finds or their initial dating do not need to be changed in the light of new data records.

**Swords recently found in the West Balt Culture Circle**

The new archive data gained in recent decades has first of all allowed for completing the documentation of the existing finds. This can be exemplified by the case of the sword from Sibirskoe (formerly Moritten), on the River Pregel (Fig. 1: 8). This artefact was originally known exclusively from an illustration in the collection catalogue of the Königsberg Prussia Museum and from short reference notes determining the place of its origin as an inhumation grave (Bezzenberger 1897, p.7, Fig. 11); in this illustration it had an artistically reconstructed hilt. Owing to a sketch which survived the Second World War in Martin Jahn’s records, we can recreate the original arrangement of the grave goods – there were two spearheads next to the head of the dead, a fibula was found under the lower jaw, another fibula lay on the chest accompanied by fire steel and a single-edged sword (M. Jahn Archive; cf. Nowakowski 1996, pl. 90: 1-6). Drawings in the scientific archives of Herbert Jankuhn and Marta Schmiedehelm allow for determining precisely that the two aforementioned fibulae are of Almgren 60 and Almgren 77 types, dating the whole grave complex to B2a phase (H. Jankuhn Archive and M. Schmiedehelm Archive 7.25). It was also possible to determine the measurements of the discussed sword: its preserved part was 45 centimetres long, which allows us to conclude that its original length might have been 50 centimetres. Finally, a drawing and a photograph from Rudolf Grenz’s (1929–2000) legacy (Grenz Archive), determining what the sword of Sibirskoe looked like, its long and narrow blade (Fig. 2: 1), as opposed to its image in the sketch from M. Jahn’s records, makes it possible to indicate that it is of the B/1-type existing in Przeworsk Culture during the B1 phase and at the beginning of the B2 phase (Biborski 1978, pp.119-122, Fig. 64: a-e), which is in accordance with the dating of the Sibirskoe grave complex.

A lot more can be said on another single-edged sword found at the Koczek cemetery in Masuria (Fig. 1: 4). The find was originally known on the basis of a blurred drawing from M. Jahn’s archive (cf. Nowakowski 2001b). However, only much better sketches from H. Jankuhn’s records made it possible to determine its shape, and on the basis of that to identify it among other nameless objects in the former Prussia Museum (Prussia-Sammlung) collections. The shape and measurements of the sword, which can be reestablished despite the fact that the blade is bent in a U-shape (Fig. 2: 4), references: cf. Nowakowski 1986; Kolendo, Nowakowski 2000, pp.5-8; Reich 2003.
3), indicate that it can be classified under D/2-type, and, what is more, the double-edged foible indicates its usefulness for stabbing. Items of D/2-type occurred in Przeworsk Culture during the B phase and at the beginning of the Late Roman Period (Biborski 1978, pp.125-128, 132, Figs. 71-72). The presence of an Almgren 133-fibula and a Madyda-Legutko G 36-buckle within the Koczek (Pisz district) grave-complex is in accordance with the above way of dating (cf Almgren 1923, pp.68-69, pl. VI:133; Madyda-Legutko 1987, pp.52-53, pl. 16; 1990, p.554, Fig. 2: 2).

Another sword whose documentation has been completed in the last few years was found in the 1930s at the Skomack Wieki (formerly Skomatzko) cemetery in eastern Masuria (Fig. 1: 9). A contemporary report from the excavations was limited to listing the finds in the so-called “horseman’s grave”: in the urn there was a silver pendant with a bronze loop, and a pair of spurs; under the urn lay a bit, a pair of shears, a 48-centimetre-long sword, a knife and two buckles, at a close distance there was the bronze loop of another pendant (Kotzan 1936, p.90). A few years later, already during the war, Wolfgang La Baume published a photograph of a wooden replica of the sword from Skomack Wieki, which was made for educational purposes. In this photograph we can see fuller-like grooves on the blade (La Baume 1941a, Fig. 6: c-d), which indicate that the blade was made of crucible steel damascene, which in turn became the basis for classifying this sword as a Roman *gladius* (Nowakowski 2001a, pp.97-98, Fig. 10; cf Kaczanowski 1992, pp.24-26, Fig. 1). The same find looks different in a photograph from Rudolf Grenz’s archive (Fig. 2: 2): we cannot see any grooves on the flat surface of the blade; therefore, the replica published by La Baume does not seem to have been particularly accurate. Any doubts are finally dispelled by the sword from Skomack Wielki itself, which has been luckily discovered in the preserved part of the Prussia Museum collection (Fig. 2: 3). It is very short, its blade is merely 36 centimetres long and has a rhombus-shaped cross-section, the hilt has an 11.2-centimetre-long tang and a small bronze knob (Prussia-Sammlung, № VIII. 84. 521). The shape of the sword from Skomack Wielki allows us classify it under “group VIII” distinguished by M. Biborski; swords of this group occurred in the Early Roman Period on both sides of the Roman *limes*, although they were markedly more common in the *barbaricum* (Biborski 1994, p.98, Fig. 11).

Interestingly, the interpretation of the find from Skomack Wielki could be enhanced by a photograph taken during the excavations and found at the preserved part of the so-called Fundarchiv, of the Königsberg Prussia Museum (Fundarchiv, shelfmark PM-IXd1.802, Bd. 3/5). The photograph depicts an urn with a pair of clearly visible spurs inside (Fig. 4), whose image allows us to classify them under Ginalski C1-type, which

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*Grenz Archive. This photograph was originally intended for publication in volume 2 of Carl Engel’s *Vorgeschichte der altpreußischen Stämme* (Engel 1935), as “Abb. 83”*
was common in Przeworsk Culture mainly during the B₁ phase (Ginalska 1991, pp.57-58, Fig. 7). Such early dating suggests that the sword from Skomack Wielki might have reached Masuria at the beginning of the Roman Period with the earliest wave of imports, which also embraced items such as fibulae of Jezerine-type or a Raethian hefty bronze bracelet from the nearby cemetery in Romoty (formerly Romotten) (Nowakowski 2006).

The list of swords, knowledge of which was enhanced by the retrieved archive materials, ends with an artefact from Parussnoe (formerly Gaffken), on the Sambian Peninsula (Fig. 1: 7). It was known exclusively on the basis of one drawing, published several times (Gaerte 1929, Abb. 197: c). A drawing and notes from Rudolf Grenz’s archive (Fig. 2: 4) enable us to assert that the sword was 75 to 80 centimetres long, with the blade’s width less than five centimetres, and that the cross-section of the blade was clearly rhombus-shaped (Grenz Archive). The discussed sword corresponds to V-type, dated to B₂ phase and the beginning of the Late Roman Period (Biborski 1978, pp.72-75, Figs. 22-25).

According to vague information contained in Marta Schmiedehelm’s records, the sword from Parussnoe might have been accompanied by a Jahn 7a-shield-boss, which would adhere to the general chronology of V-type specimens (cf Godłowski 1970, p.51, pl. X:16).

The real value of archive material and old archaeological collections

Indeed, the archive materials and archaeological collections which have been retrieved recently have provided new information on the already known finds; however, it must be noted that such a big enlargement of the source of references has not resulted in an equally substantial extension of the list of West Balt swords from the Roman Period. Interestingly, in reports from excavations conducted at the end of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century, found in the preserved parts of the Fundarchiv at the Königsberg Prussia Museum, there appear references to the so-called “Schwert” finds (cf Doliwy, Olecko district, object A; formerly Doliewen, Kreis Oletzko (Marggrabowa) – Fundarchiv, sygn. PM-IXd1.1559 (Haasznen), Bd. 1/13; Piaski-Onufryjewo, Mragowo district, grave 220; formerly Onufrygowen, Kreis Sensburg – Fundarchiv, shelfmark PM-IXd1.1162, Bd. 1/16), but the lack of a description of any kind, or a drawing, does not allow us to accept such references uncritically. We should also be distrusting of the fact that the alleged swords, arte-
facts extremely rare and valued in Ostpreußen at that time, are not mentioned in the records of archaeologists researching the collection of the Prussia Museum before 1945; most importantly, no references can be traced in the archive of M. Jahn, whose main interest was weaponry. It can be supposed, then, that these “swords” might have been just big knives or fragments of rusty long objects, erroneously interpreted by not fully professional researchers.

Nevertheless, some errors or ambiguities can also be encountered in archive materials left by renowned archaeologists. This can be exemplified by a record from H. Jankuhn’s files. Jankuhn was a great German archaeologist, and at the beginning of his career he conducted an extremely scrupulous search of finds dating back to the early Roman Period within the former Ostpreußen (Uslar 1990; cf Jankuhn 1933a; 1933b). Among the finds from the multi-phased cemetery in the village of Zelenodolskoe (formerly Preußisch Bahnau; Zelenodolskoe, Bagrationovsk district; formerly Preußisch Bahnau, Kreis Heiligenbeil; Hollack 1900; 1908, p. 122) Jankuhn recorded in his files a short, 56-centimetre-long, double-edged sword with a lenticular cross-section of the blade, which had been discovered by the so-called “beim Steinbrechen” (H. Jankuhn Archive; cf R. Grenz Archive, № 212). It can be assumed that Jankhun considered the find a barbarian imitation of a Roman gladius. Luckily, the sword from Zelenodolskoe has been found and identified among the objects that survived at the Prussia Museum (Prussia-Sammlung, № V 144, 7726°). Therefore, Jankuhn’s interpretation can now be verified and the sword can be dated correctly to the Early Middle Ages, which allows us to link it to the final stage of using the necropolis.

Likewise, difficulties also occur while interpreting finds of swords discovered during excavations conducted in the second half of the 1930s. Apparently, there was not enough time to include the results of these studies in the source of references; they were only mentioned in short notes, often printed in everyday newspapers, they were not used in research study papers or in the record files of scientific research. The retrieved part of the archive of the Prussia Museum provides little information on swords; besides, the data is unclear or simply erroneous. This can be exemplified by a press release on a discovery made at the cemetery in Prigorinok (formerly Karben, in Natangia (Prigorinok, Bagrationovsk district; formerly Karben (Carben), Kreis Heiligenbeil; cf Hollack 1908, p.21; Bezenberger 1914): according to the finds liaison officer (Kreispfleger der vorgeschichtlichen Bodenaltermänner), in the late spring of 1937 a destroyed grave was discovered at the local gravel pit. The grave goods comprised a short single-edged sword, a spearhead, a javelin head with barbs, a knife, a piece of fire steel, a buckle, a spur and a fibula with a high catch-plate (Fundarchiv, № PM-Ixd1.1688, Bd. 1/7; cf Gutzeit 1937). The official record of handling the finds down to the Prussia Museum does not mention a sword, whereas two knives, instead of one, are listed (Fundarchiv, № PM-Ixd1.1688, Bd. 1/9; cf Bohnsack 1938, p. 26). Thus, it must be assumed that an amateur archaeologist had made an erroneous assessment of the find, which later on was verified by professionals.

Similar ambiguities can also be encountered in texts whose authors were better-qualified researchers. In the introduction to his report of the excavations conducted in 1940 at the burial grounds from the Roman Period in Labapa (former Labab), in northern Masuria (Węgorzewo district; formerly Kreis Angerburg; La Baume 1939, p.285; 1941b, p.87, pl. 30), Fritz Jaensch, an experienced employee of the Prussia Museum and an active researcher in the second half of the 1930s, mentions a burial ground containing arms such as a spearhead, a short sword and spurs. The subsequent description of the finds discovered within that excavation season does not include a grave with the aforementioned equipment (cf Fundarchiv, № PM-Ixd1.1950, Bd. 2/1-9). Thus, it can be supposed that it was also a case of a preliminary assessment verified later on; nevertheless, the documenting records have never been corrected.

Even documents as accurate as inventory books are supposed to turn out not to be reliable enough. In the accession book of the Prussia Museum covering the years 1937 to 1938, kept in Kaliningrad, there is an interesting record: at number 1264 the blade of a short single-edged sword from Sosnovka (formerly Bledau; Sosnovka, Bledau district; formerly Kreis Königsberg; Bledau, № 1264) was registered, which suggests that it was a find discovered during the excavations conducted at this village in the late 1930s (Gaerte 1935, p. 40; Bohnsack 1939, p.28; La Baume 1939, p.286). However, the preserved documents at the Fundarchiv show that within this period the discussed artefact was only recorded in the inventory, whereas it had been donated to the museum by an accidental discoverer as early as in 1897 (Fundarchiv, № PM-Ixd1.150, Bd. 1/9). Thus, recording it under the date of 1938 was not a result of a new discovery but an attempt to administer some kind of “die preußische Ordnung” at the Prussia Museum. The sword managed to survive the dramatic history of the collection, which allows us to classify it today as the so-called Dolchs sweat with a characteristic, explicitly thickened back of the blade (Prus-
Considering all the aforementioned, the latest and most reliable discovery of a West Balt Circle sword is a part of a single-edged sword from Szurpily, in Suwałkia (see L. Sawicka’s article in this volume) (Fig. 1: 10). Although this item was “discovered” in 2006 not during excavations but while tidying the rooms of the Institute of Archaeology of Warsaw University, its relation to one of the Roman Period sites at Szurpily should remain beyond doubt. It comes from the collection of Tadeusz Żurowski, who conducted excavations at the place for several years nearly half a century ago (cf Żurowski 1961; 1963). The artefact “discovered” earlier this year is a small piece of the blade with the complete tang and hilt furniture, representing the D-type, dated to the B phase and the beginning of the Late Roman Period (Biborski 1978, pp.125-128).

**Conclusion**

What has been presented above, despite its anecdotal manner at some points, shows that the previous interpretation of the scarce number of finds of Roman Period swords within the West Balt Circle is still valid. It cannot be excluded though, that some of the numerous fragmentary pieces of blades retained in the collection of the Prussia Museum are fragments of Roman Period swords, but this fact does not put a new slant on the matter. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the reasons why the Aestii used these weapons so rarely.

A number of swords have been found in graves exceptionally rich in their equipment (Khrustal’noe and Szwajcaria), which can be interpreted as a basis to formulate the thesis that swords within the West Balt Circle were first of all used as “parade weapons” or “prestige weapons”, whose function was an expression of their owner’s prestige in society rather than being a tool for fighting. Without negating such claims, it is worth pointing out that at almost every grave complex a find of a sword has been accompanied by pieces of equestrian equipment: spurs or parts of a harness. Obviously, mounting a horse might also have been an indicator of high social rank; this, however, does not exclude the possibility that swords within the West Balt Circle belonged to the specialised weaponry of cavalry. Such an interpretation is acceptable in the case of the long Late Roman Period spatha, but it does not seem acceptable in the case of short gladius and single-edged swords dated to the first or second century AD; such swords are thought to have been infantry rather than cavalry weapons. Still, we have to bear in mind that ancient horsemen had neither stirrups nor a stable saddle, so the most effective use of a long sword – cutting from above, which had to be performed while standing in stirrups – was impossible. In such cases a more effective weapon could have been a short sword enabling quick forceful thrusts and deep penetration: a characteristically shaped point of a single-edged sword from Mojtyny/Moythienen (“a Finnish knife tip”), indicating its best usefulness for thrusting, was pointed out by Marcin Biborski nearly 30 years ago (Biborski 1978, p.132).

Today, we can add to this the similarly shaped single-edged sword from Sibirskoe.

An example of a similar use of the short sword, useful for thrusting, can be found within weaponry and combat ways of the nomadic Scythians (Grekov 1978, pp.81-84, Fig. 20-22), whose invasions terrorised Eastern and Central Europe in the middle of the first millennium BC. The most important weapon for a Scythian horseman was an exquisite bow, but for close-quarter combat he used an akinakes, a very short sword, whose length did not exceed the length of long knives found in male graves in the West Balt cemeteries (Nowakowski 1994, pp.386-387).

Accepting the hypothesis that the main and intentionally chosen weapon of the Aestii in the first and second century AD was a short sword or a long knife opens up the possibility of further interpretations. Thus, it might well be considered whether the instance of shortening the sword from Khrustal’noe was in fact only the outcome of repairing its broken blade, or whether it might rather have been an intended act in adjusting its length to the requirements of the preferred way of combat. Such an approach could enable us to understand the puzzling presence of a dagger or a short double-edged sword with a mere 25-centimetre-long blade at the burial ground in Łaźne/Haaszzen (Fig. 1: 5), in the northeast of Masuria (Stadie 1919, 415, described as “Waffe (Dolch?)” ; Gaerte 1929, Fig. 197: a; cf Fundarchiv PM-IXd1.1559, Bd. 1/9 “Eisenmesser”). The list of very short double-edged swords can then be extended by the find from Fedotovo (formerly Plauen), in Nadrowia (Fig. 1: 1; cf Bezenberger 1900), known exclusively from a drawing from H. Jankuhn’s record files (Fig. 2: 5). The wide and flat blade of this “sword” was only 26 centimetres long (H. Jankuhn Archive). This sword was purchased in 1891 for the collection of the Prussia Museum (Nr IV,447.6297) with other accidentally discovered finds dated to the Roman Period and to the Early Middle Ages (Bezenberger 1892, p.221; 1900, p.124). The difference in size between the

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1 I would like to thank Ludwika Sawicka, who is researching materials from the settlement of Szurpily-Targowsko, Suwałki district, for this information.
two artefacts and West Balt combat knives, contemporary with them, is not particularly big (Szymański 2005, p. 67–68, pl. XXII: 4, XXIV: 6).

The view of first and second-century AD West Balt cavalry armed mainly with combat knives, similarly shaped single-edged swords, and very short double-edged swords or daggers, is based on weak and scarce premises. It can only be taken into consideration if an explanation is searched for in a particular situation when we can rarely find swords, weapons highly valued by other barbarians, in rich graves of warriors in Masuria, or on the Sambian Peninsula. Taking into account any doubts, we can support this hypothesis by referring to the most spectacular find of weapons within the West Balt Circle: the famous pugio in a silver-encrusted scabbard from the cemetery in Divnoe (formerly Ilischken; Gvardejsk district; formerly Kreis Wehlau; Bujack 1891, p. 12; Gaerte 1929, Abb. 159: g). It might well be that the dagger reached so far north because it was only there that it had been a more desired gift than, for example, an equally valuable and effective gladius with an ivory pommel on the hilt. Such a gladius would have had to be shortened, as the sword from Khrustal’noe had been, to fit the method of fighting applied by the Aestii. Regrettably, such deliberations, although much more enjoyable than investigating dusty archive materials, belong to fantasy stories.

Translated by Beata Maria Furga

Archive materials and archaeological collections

Fundarchiv – Archives of archaeological discoveries and finds in the Prussia Museum, Königsberg; currently at the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Berlin, shelfmark PM-I(D)1.

R. Grenz Archive – Scientific archives of Rudolf Grenz, currently stored at the Archäologisches Landesmuseum Schleswig.

M. Jahn Archive – Scientific archives of Martina Jahn, currently stored at the Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warsaw.

F. Jakobson Archive – Scientific archives of Felix Jakobson, currently stored at the Latvijas Nacionalās Vēstures Muzejs, Riga.

H. Jankuhn Archive – Scientific archives of Herbert Jankuhn, currently stored at the Archäologisches Landesmuseum Schleswig.

Prussia-Sammlung – Old collections of the Prussia Museum, Königsberg, currently stored at the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Berlin.


M. Schmiedehelm Archive – Scientific archives of Marta Schmiedehelm, currently stored at the Aiałoo Institut, Tallinn, Fond nr 22.

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AESTITORUM GLADIUS.
ROMENIŠKOJO LAIKOTARPIO VAKARŲ BALTŲ KULTŪRŲ RATO KALAVIJAII

Wojciech Nowakowski
Santrauka

Iki XIX a. 10-ojo dešimtmečio vidurio vakarų baltų kulturų rate (Możurija, Sembos pusiasalis, Natangija ir Nadrava), kitaip tariant, buvusi Rytų Prūsija bei


Rasta archyvinе medžiagо ar archeologинио muziejо rininkai suteikia naujo informacijos apie šи žinomо radinius. Tačiau pabrėžtina, kad gerokai pasipildžius duomenų bazė romenųskojo laikotarpio kalavijų paplitimo ribų vakarų baltų kultūrų rate nepraplečia, išsky­rus Šurpiлose (Szurpiły) rasto vienasnemio kalavijо dalį (1: 10 pav.). Šiо kalavijо žinomas iš Tadeuszo Żu­rowskio, kuris maždaug prieš 50 metų žvalgė Šurpiло apylinkęse, kolekcijos.