

## VIII. ARMAMENTS AND DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS

### THE MAIN TENDENCIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TENTH TO 13TH CENTURY BLADE WEAPONS IN BELARUS

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#### Abstract

The article is devoted to the history of tenth to 13th-century blade weapons in Belarus. The main tendencies in the evolution of blade weapons and the most important directions in military-technical contacts of the population of Belarus are defined.

Key words: blade weapons, sword, sword chape, sabre, Belarus, Medieval Period.

#### Introduction

In the tenth century the largest part of the territory of Belarus was already populated by Slavs. The Baltic population, bearers of East Lithuanian Barrow Culture and Jatvingians lived just in the northwest, in the basin of the middle Nioman/Nemunas river. **Slavs and Balts** had different military-technical traditions that are in a certain way revealed in the types of blade weapons they were using during the tenth to 13th centuries.

The period can be divided into two sub-periods, which coincide with large epochs in the region's history. The first sub-period dates from the end of the ninth to the beginning of the 11th century, or the Viking Age. The second sub-period dates from the middle of the 11th to the 13th century, or Old Russian time.

The main kinds of blade weapons in Belarus in the tenth to 13th centuries were the sword and sabre.

#### Viking Period swords

The first swords in Belarus could have appeared as far back as the sixth century (Plavinski 2006, p.4). However, the wide use of swords started only in the Viking Period and is observed since the end of the ninth century.

Nine finds belong to the end of the ninth or the first half of the 11th century. Seven types of them can be defined: three belong to type H, three to type V, and one to type Y after Jan Petersen (Petersen 1919). Type

H swords originate from the hoard found on Bryleuskae field, from Vitebsk and from its neighborhood (see catalogue 1, № 1–3). There is a blade inscription on the sword from Vitebsk that can be read as VLFBERH+.

Type V swords were found in Polatsk and in barrow cemeteries Garadzilava and Gurkovichy (see catalogue 1, № 4–6). The Polatsk sword has the inscription ULFBERHT on the blade. The possibility of the use of type V swords is indirectly proven by graffiti on fragments of dirhams from Kazjankauski (940s) and Garaulianski 2 (the middle of the 11th century) hoards (Dobrovolskij *et al.* 1991, catalogue № 29 and 48).

A fragment of a type Y sword has been found in Hrodna/Grodno. A horseshoe-like mark was revealed on its blade (see Catalogue 1, № 7). Most likely it is just part of an inscription which consisted of a cross and two horseshoes. Apart from swords, two cross-guards from the middle of the tenth and the first half of the 11th century have been found (see catalogue 1, № 8-9).

Thus, the sword's appearance in the complex of weapons of the population of the territory of Belarus is observed since the late ninth century. In the tenth century the sword was already a common weapon in military, trade and retinue circles. Sword finds are concentrated in the key points along main river military-trade routes such as the Western Dzvina/Dauguva (Fig. 1).

All the types that were found in Belarus were widespread in Eastern Europe. Three partly or wholly preserved blades are marked with inscriptions: two ULFBERHT and one horseshoe-like mark. Swords

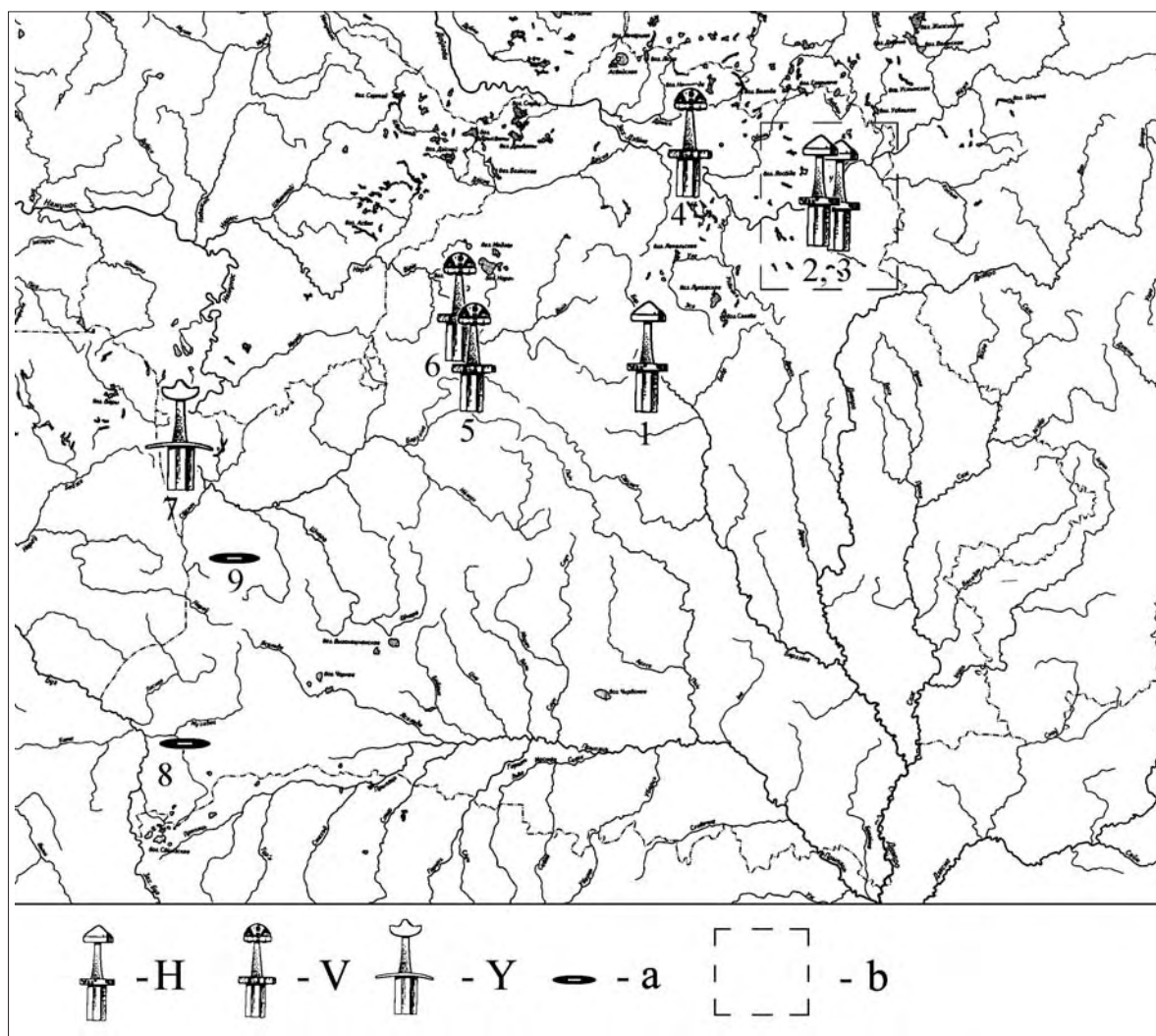


Fig. 1. Distribution of Viking Period swords in Belarus (numbers on map correspond to numbers in the catalogue 1): H type H sword; V type V sword; Y type Y sword; a sword cross-guard; b possible area of find.

with the ULFBERHT, blade inscription were possibly produced in the Middle Rhine area (Kirpichnikov 1966, p.38f.). Judging by the presence of fine vertical copper and silver ornamentation on the pommel and the cross-guard, the sword from Bryleuskæ field was probably also made by Carolingian armourers, possibly at the same workshop of ULFBERHT (Kirpichnikov *et al.* 2000, p.109ff.). Finally, the sword from Vitebsk can be attributed to Carolingian manufacturing because of the pattern-welding of its blade.

### Swords from the mid-11th to 13th centuries

The second half of the 11th to the 13th centuries are defined as the Romanesque Period in the history of the considered regions' swords (Fig. 2). For the systematization of swords of this period, we use Anatolii Kirpichnikov's typology (Kirpichnikov 1966, p. 49ff.)

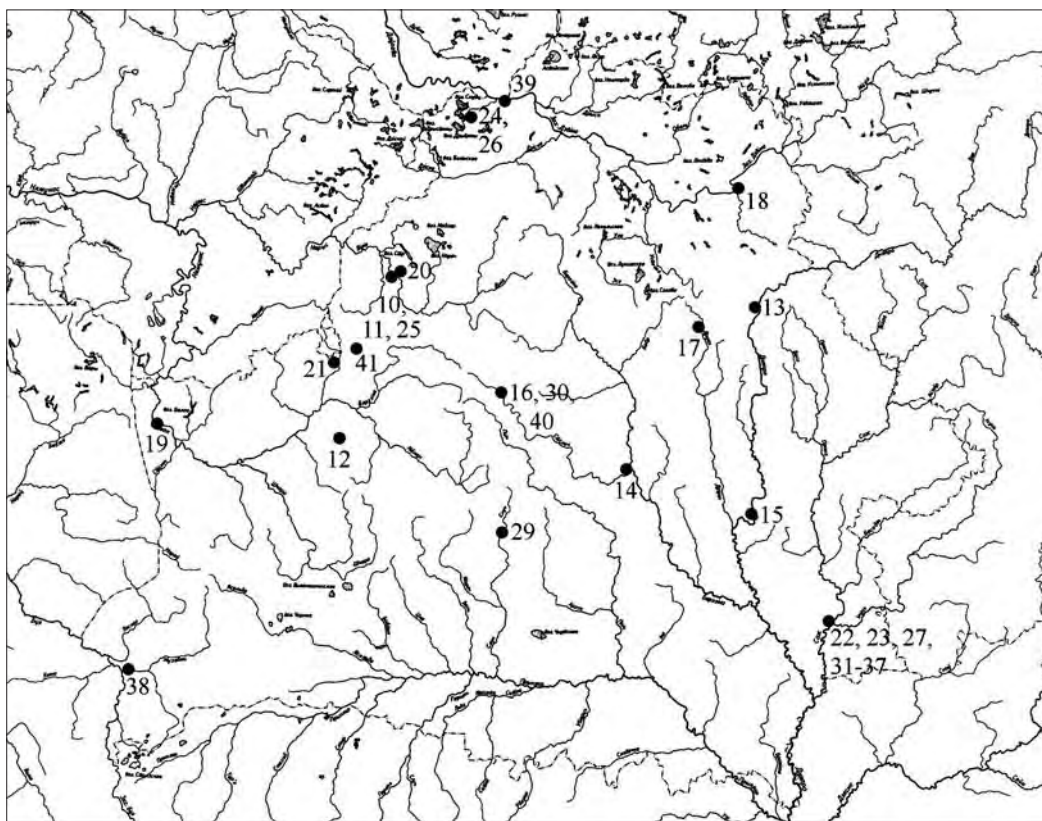
considering Vytautas Kazakevičius' type scheme developed for Baltic swords (Kazakevičius 1996)<sup>1</sup>.

Swords of type I after A. Kirpichnikov or type T1 Curonian after V. Kazakevičius are represented on the territory of Belarus by six finds (see catalogue 1, № 10-15). The most interesting of them is a half-finished cross-guard from **roundabout the town of Navagrudak**, which was found in a jeweller's workshop of the first half of the 12th century. Nowadays, the opinion of the Baltic, namely Curonian, origin of T1 Curonian type is commonly accepted (Šturms 1936; Paulsen 1956, p.133; Kazakevičius 1997).

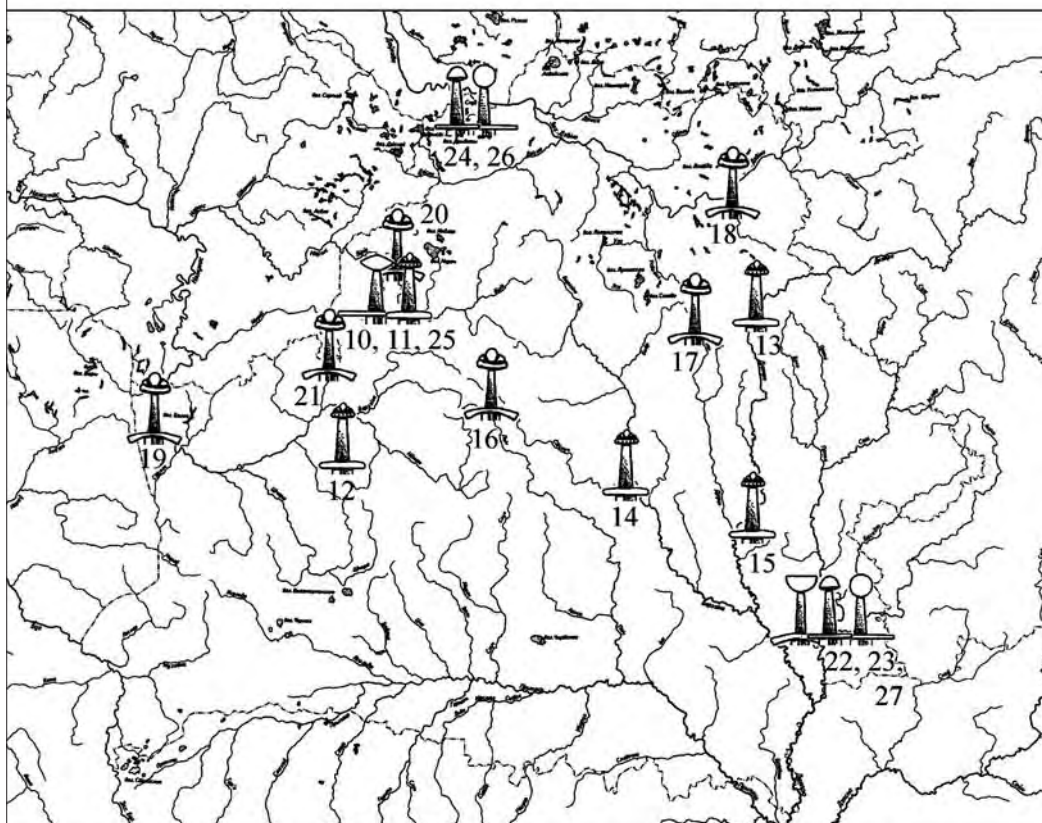
Type II most likely also has an Eastern Baltic origin (Kirpichnikov 1966, p.34; Kazakevičius 1996, p.159).

<sup>1</sup> It should be mentioned that sword types suggested by Vytautas Kazakevičius correspond to Anatolii Kirpichnikov's types (type I corresponds to type T1 Curonian, type II – type Z, type III – swords with saddle-shaped pommels, type IV – swords with oval pommels, type V – swords with rhomboidal pommels, type VI – swords with spherical pommels).





1



2



Fig. 2.  
Distribution  
of mid-11th  
to 13th-  
century swords  
in Belarus:  
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tion of  
mid-11th  
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2 (numbers  
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logue 1):  
T1 Curon-  
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II sword;  
III type  
III sword;  
IV type  
IV sword;  
V type  
V sword;  
VI type  
VI sword.

Six swords and fragments of them belong to this type (see catalogue 1, № 16-21). On the blade of the Hrodna sword there is an inscription consisting of several marks, among which is a cross.

Type III is represented by one half-finished pommel from the Homel/Gomel armour workshop. Two pommels belong to type IV. Type V is represented by one sword from Gurkovichy. Three finds belong to type VI (see catalogue 1, № 22-28).

Apart from the swords and their fragments, the types of which can be defined, several cross-guards of Romanesque style were found (see catalogue 1, № 29–30, 32–36). Several cross-guards such as the sword from Vysokae cannot be typologically defined yet (Fig. 1:1) (see catalogue 1, № 37-41). Types III–VI include swords of common European Romanesque style.

It is likely that on the territory of Belarus swords of type T1 Curonian appeared as early as the 11th century, probably at first in the middle River Nemunas region settled by the Balts. In the 12 and 13th centuries they spread on the lands of Western Russ. Type II can be widely dated back to the 11th to 13th centuries. The earliest find of a fragment of a Romanesque-style sword dates back to the beginning of the 12th century (Table 1).

Types of swords are not represented uniformly. Among 18 swords and their fragments which can be attributed, 12 relate to types that have an Eastern Baltic origin. Among five swords found in the Nemunas region, four belong to the Baltic type and only one to Romanesque (Fig. 1:2).

In the lands of Western Russ the ratio of swords of Baltic and Romanesque types is 8:5 (Table 2) (hilt details from the Homel armour workshop are not taken into account because of their multiplicity, which can deeply influence the whole picture (Plavinski 2006, p.19f.). On average, on Old Russian territory in the second half of the 11th to 13th centuries, against one sword of Baltic origin there are approximately 2.5 swords of Romanesque types (Kirpichnikov 1966, Tabl. 4).

There is no information about the existence of local blade manufacturing in the mid-11th to 13th centuries. Sword blades were imported from Western Europe as well as some finished swords with hilts. Nevertheless, it is likely that some swords were imported into territory of Belarus not directly but via Curonian armour workshops, where local hilts were attached to them. Other blades were made ready for use by craftsmen of Western Russ, who could produce hilts in a common European style, as well as in a southeast Baltic style. Local manufacturing of hilt details on the territory of Belarus is observed from the first half of the 12th century. The find of a half-finished bronze cross-guard in a jeweller's workshop in Navagrudak proves that jewellers were able to produce details of hilts along with other jewellery. From jewellers and blacksmiths, hilt details were sent to special armourers. Judging by finds from the Homel workshop, such armourers were mainly metalworkers who accomplished the fitting of separate details and assembled different kinds of weapons (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, p.204ff.).

Table 1. Dating and statistics of mid-11th to 13th-century swords from Belarus

Type	T1 Curonian	II	III	IV	V	VI	Romanesque-type cross-guards
Possible dating according to typological descriptions of individual finds	11–13th	11–13th	12–13th	the second half of the 11–13th	11–13th	11–13th	early 12–30s of the 13th
Narrow stratigraphic dating	12–13th	mid 12–13th	the 30s of the 13th	the 30s of the 13th	–	the 30s of the 13th	early 12–30s of the 13th
Number of finds	6	6	1	2	1	2	

Table 2. The ratio of swords from the mid-11th to the 13th centuries in the Western Russ and Belarusian Nemunas region

Type	Swords of Baltic types			Swords of Romanesque types		
	T1 Curonian	II	IV	V	VI	Cross-guards
Western Russ						
Quantity of finds	4	4	1	–	2	2
and Belarusian Nemunas region						
Quantity of finds	2	2	–	1	–	–



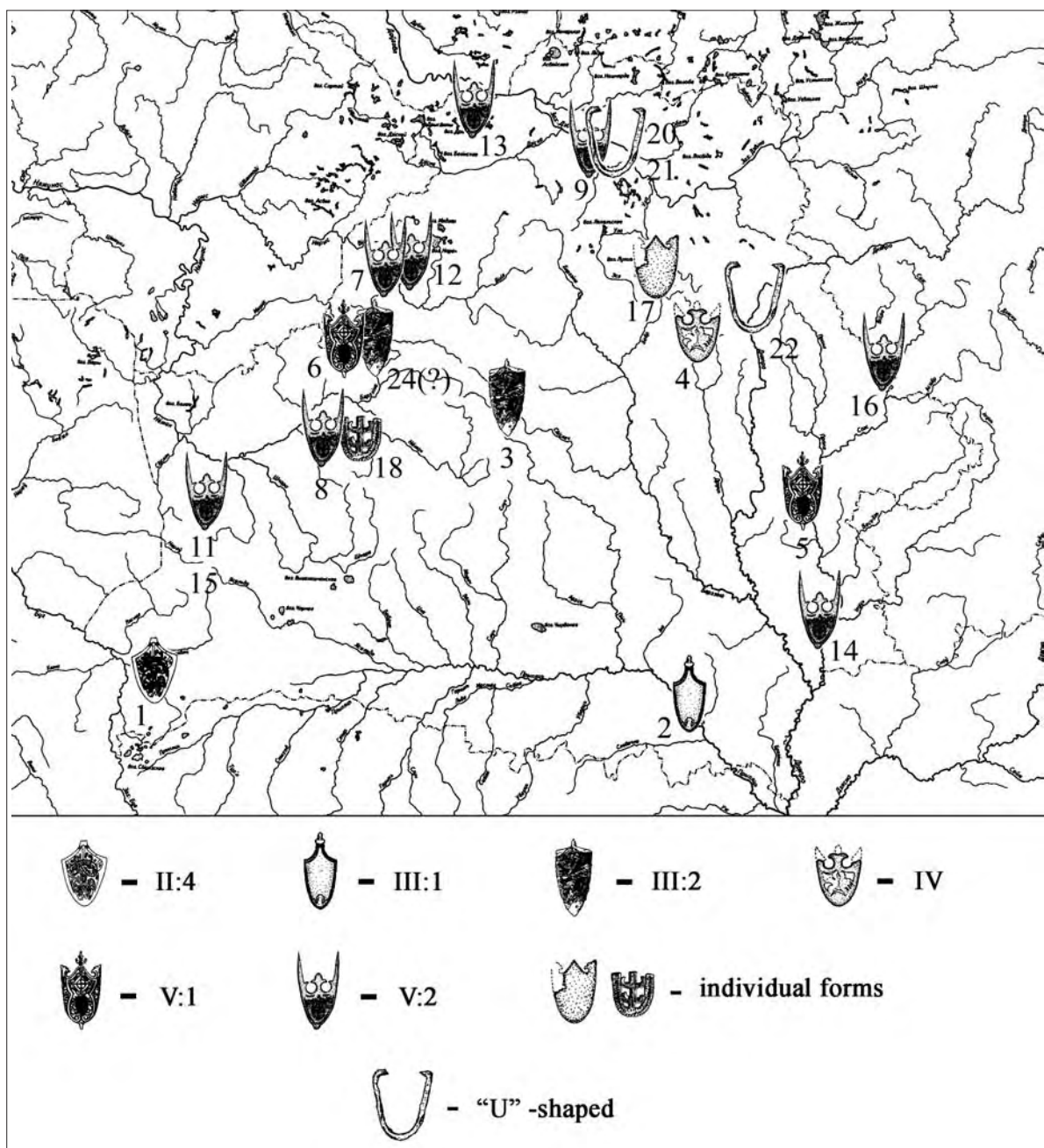


Fig. 3. Distribution of tenth to 13th-century sword chapes in Belarus (numbers on map correspond to numbers in the catalogue 2): II: 4 type II: 4 sword chape; III: 1 type III: 1 sword chape; III: 2 type III: 2 sword chape; IV type IV sword chape; V: 1 – type V: 1 sword chape; V: 2 type V: 2 sword chape; individual forms – sword chape of individual form; «U»-shaped «U»-shaped sword chape.

### Sword chapes

A necessary accessory of a sword was a scabbard. Finds of intact scabbards are not known. The main evidence for scabbard use is their metal chapes. Like swords, sword chapes are divided into two groups. To the first one belong Viking Period chapes and their Baltic successors of the 11th to 13th centuries. For their systematization, Peter Paulsen's typology is used (Paulsen 1953, p.17-142). The second group unites «U»-shaped chapes of the Romanesque epoch.

The three most ancient chapes found in Belarus can be dated back to the second half of the tenth to the beginning of the 11th century. They belong to types I: 2-c, II: 4, III: 1 (see catalogue 2, № 1-3), which have a North European origin (Paulsen 1953, pp.22-34, 54-57 and 59-67).

Types III: 2, IV, V: 1 and VII: 2 are represented by six finds (see catalogue 2, № 4-8 and 25). It is considered that sword chapes of these types were manufactured in the southeast Baltic or on Gotland (Korzukhina 1950, p.66f.; Paulsen 1953, pp.92-96 and 136-139).

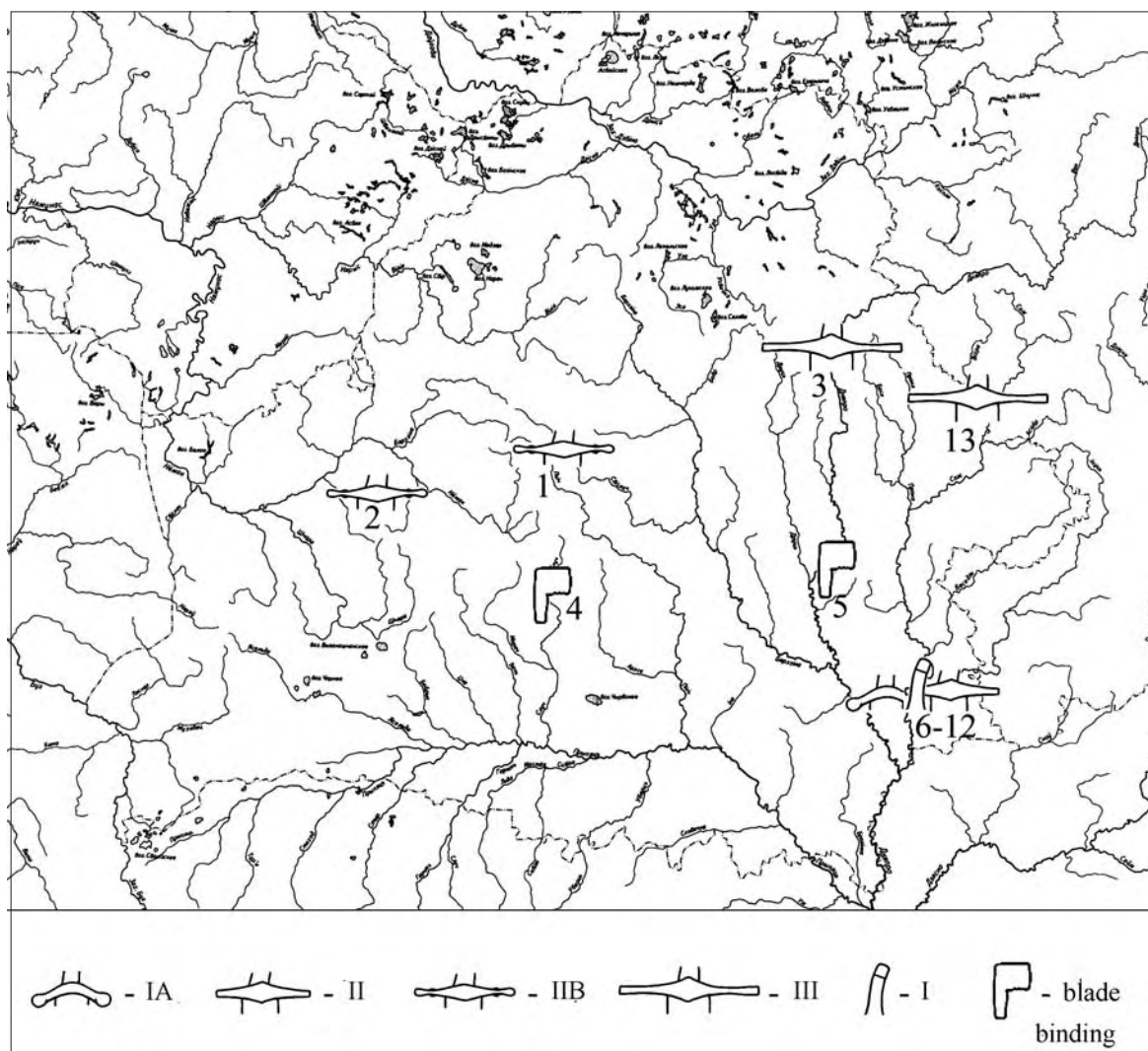


Fig. 4. Distribution of mid-12th to 13th-century sabres in Belarus (numbers on map correspond to numbers in the catalogue 3): IA type IA sabre cross-guard; II type II sabre cross-guard; IIБ type IIБ sabre cross-guard; III type III sabre cross-guard; I type I sabre pommel; blade binding, sabre blade binding.

Type V: 2 counts ten chapes of two subgroups which differ in their ornamentation (see Catalogue 2, № 9-18). The main manufacturing centres of type V: 2 chapes were on lands settled by the Curonians (Paulsen 1953, p.124). However, a find from a jewellery workshop dated to the end of the 12th or beginning of the 13th century in the vicinity of the town of Homel shows the possibility of their local manufacture (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, p.209f.). It is noticeable that the ornamentation of the chape has its own peculiarities: the central ornamentation motif is a rhombus that has no direct analogies in any variants of type V: 2 (Plavinski 2006, p.28).

Two chapes of individual forms and one fragment of a chape are also ascribed to the Baltic group (see Catalogue 2, № 19-21). The group of “U”-shaped chapes is represented just by three finds from Polatsk and Orsha, and are dated to the 12th and 13th centuries (see catalogue 2, № 22-24).

Thus, chapes from the second half of the tenth and the beginning of the 11th centuries from the territory of Belarus were of North European origin and were possibly brought to the region together with Carolingian swords. Among 22 chapes from the 11th to 13th centuries, 18 can be attributed to Baltic craftsmen’s production. The Homel chape was made by Old Russian craftsmen who succeeded to Baltic patterns. “U”-shaped Romanesque chapes are represented just by three finds (Fig. 3). So, to one “U”-shaped chape there are six Baltic ones. The cited numbers can be compared to the appropriate ratio of scabbard chapes from Iziaslavl at Valyn, where to 14 “U”-shaped examples there are only two Baltic patterns (Kirpichnikov 1975, p.32f.).

The chape from the jewellery workshop in the vicinity of the town of Homel proves that jewellery craftsmen could manufacture not only details of hilts of swords but also scabbard chapes for them.



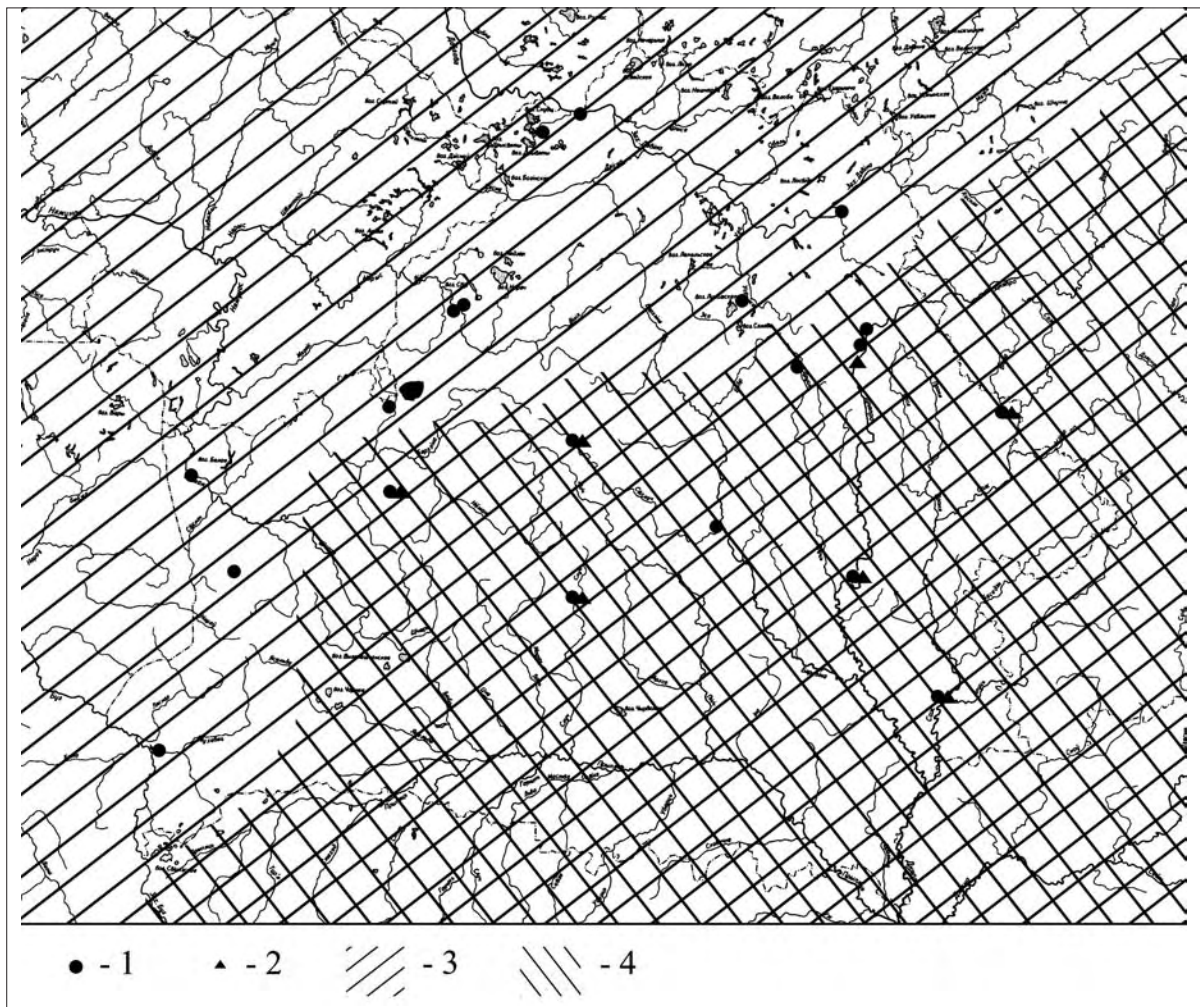


Fig. 5. Areas of distribution of 12th to 13th-century swords and sabres in Belarus and in bordering regions (1 sword finds; 2 sabre finds; 3 area of sword distribution; 4 area of sabre distribution).

### Sabres

In Belarus no wholly or partly saved sabre blade from the considered period has been found. We have just a series of hilt details. For their systematization, Anatolii Kirpichnikov's typology is used (Kirpichnikov 1966, pp.61-72).

Sabres appeared in the Old Russian complex of weapons as early as the ninth to tenth centuries (Kirpichnikov 1966, p.61). However, in Belarus they appeared much later. The oldest detail of a sabre is dated to the middle of the 12th century. Yet, the use of sabres in the southeast of Belarus as early as the second half of the tenth century is quite possible (Plavinski 2006, p.34, 36).

In Belarus cross-guards of types IA, II, IIB and III, a pommel of type IA and blade bindings have been found (see catalogue 3). Sabres, as well as swords, were carried in scabbards. Up to now, only two metal bindings of scabbards are known (see catalogue 3).

Thus, on the territory of Belarus sabres appeared in the middle of the 12th century and were in use up to the end of the considered period. Fragments of sabre cross-guards and pommels belong to types widespread in Old Russ. Finds of sabre fragments are not spread evenly (Fig. 4). Single finds are known in the Nyman region and in central Belarus. At the same time in the Dnieper region ten fragments of sabres were found. They originate from four different places, and seven of them are from the Homel armour workshop. It is obvious that in the second half of the 12th and 13th centuries sabres became widely used in the Dnieper region, and their quantity almost reached the number of swords in the weapons complex.

In contrast to the Dnieper region, no finds of sabres were made in the Western Dzvina region, so it is possible that it was not used much there. Finds of sabre cross-guards from Navagrudak, Minsk and Kopyts mark a section of the border of sabres distribution in Old Russ and Eastern Europe in general (Fig. 5). This border was not closed, as became obvious after the find of a cross-guard in Salaspils Laukskolas cemetery

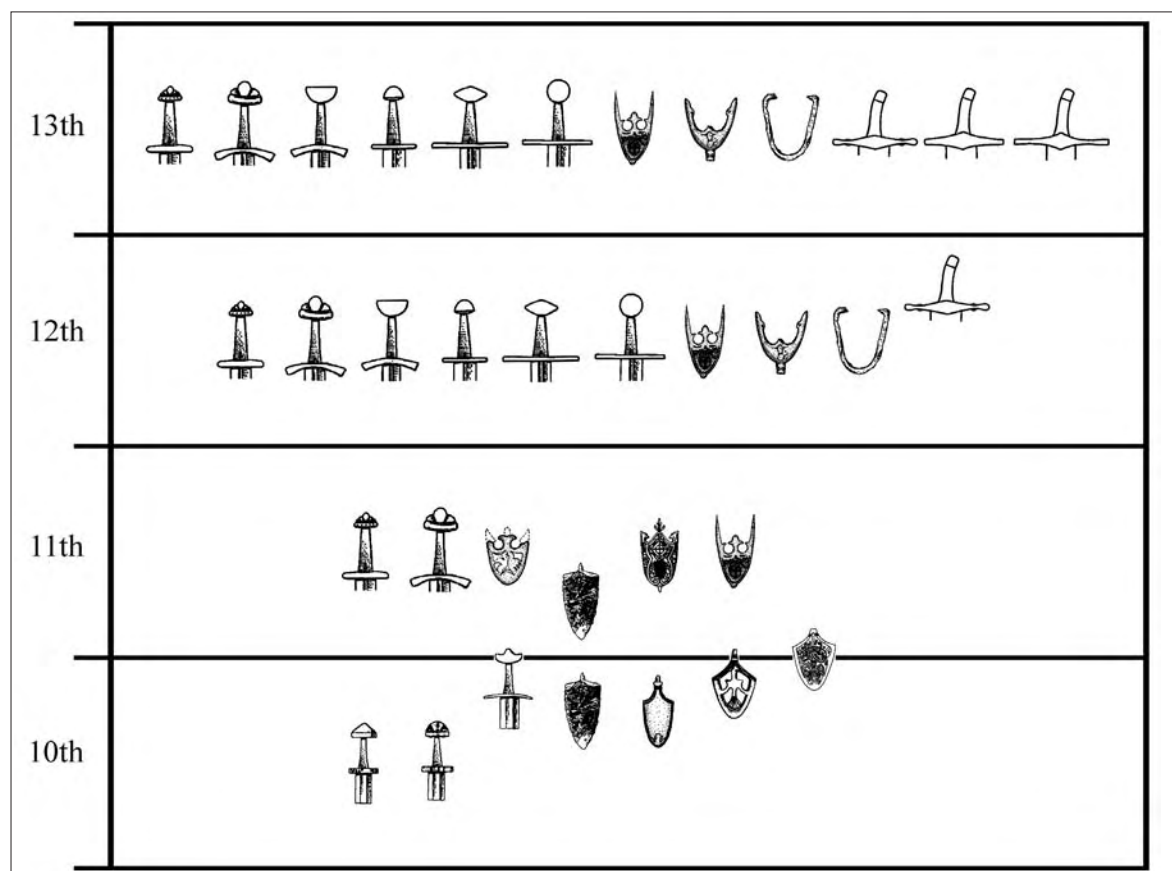


Fig. 6. Type-chronological table of blade weapon evolution in Belarus in the tenth to 13th centuries.

(Zariņa 2006, p.182, Fig. 110:1). Therefore, the possibility of finding sabres in the Belarusian Dzvina region cannot be excluded.

The finds from the Homel armour workshop prove the manufacture of local sabre hilts. Such hilts were attached to imported south Russian, Islamic and trans-Caucasian blades.

### Other types of blade weapons

The sword and the sabre were the main, but not the only, types of Old Russian blade weapons. Apart from them, several scramasaxes were also used, as well as daggers and long single-edged knives of Mongolian origin.

Most researchers agree that the regular use of battle-knives was not typical for the Old Russian military. It is considered that narrow single-edged knives longer than 20 to 25 centimetres can be called weapons. Such knives were found in Brest, David-Haradok, Homel and Vitebsk (Plavinski 2006, p.38f.).

### Conclusion

On the territory of Belarus, swords from the end of the ninth to the beginning of the 11th centuries are

represented by types H, V, Y (Fig. 6) widespread in Europe. Their blades were manufactured in Frankish workshops. In cases when we have information about archaeological complexes from which swords from the end of the ninth to the beginning of the 11th centuries originate, they were found together with artefacts of north European origin.

The usage of sword chapes is observed from the second half of the tenth century. Sword chapes had not so much a functional but more a representative purpose. They personify extremely well the preferences of the military-retinue circles. From the very beginning, the assortment of chapes shows not only the military-technical ties of the region with Scandinavia, but also demonstrates the first signs of Eastern Baltic influence on their shape and ornamentation. It is natural that in the Viking Age such manifestations in the decoration of elite weapons did not have any certain ethnic signs; on the contrary, they were of above ethnic Circum Baltic nature. However, in the light of the further development of the region's blade weapons and weapons complex in general, the manifestation of such impulses has an important meaning.

Blade weapons from the 11th century on the territory of Belarus are represented by swords as in the previous period. Carolingian swords of the Viking Age which went out of use approximately in the first third to first



half of the century were changed for swords with hilts of Eastern Baltic origin, type T1 Curonian and type II. Sword chapes from the 11th century are represented by types of Baltic origin. Most of them were brought from the southeast of the Baltic region, but certain ones could have been imported from Gotland.

Starting from the 12th century, alongside swords of Baltic origin, swords of, common for Europe, Romanesque types III–VI appeared in the complex of weapons of the region. Yet type T1 Curonian and II swords did not pass out of use. On the contrary, their popularity kept growing. The demand for swords of type T1 Curonian led to the organization of their local manufacturing, evidence of which was fixed in Navagrudak in the first half of the 12th century. It is worth recalling that under the term “manufacturing” we understand the production of hilt details and their attachment to imported blades. No evidence of local blade manufacturing on the territory of Belarus in the considered period was detected.

Along with Romanesque swords, “U”-shaped sword chapes appeared, but their number, compared to the sword chapes of Baltic types, remained insignificant during the 12th and 13th centuries. From the 11th till the 13th century, chapes of type V: 2 were the most popular. They made up two fifths of the whole number of finds. Akin to swords of type T1 Curonian, the demand for these objects caused the emergence of their local manufacture, which is traced in Homel at the end of the 12th and the beginning of the 13th centuries.

Approximately from the 11th century, we can speak about the existence of certain differences between the blade weapons of the Belarusian Nioman region and Western Russ. Blade weapons of the first region consisted of swords during the 11th and 13th centuries. Almost all these swords and all sword chapes were presented by types of Baltic origin. It proves that the Baltic population of the Belarusian Nioman region had close military-technical contacts with the population of the southeastern Baltic, besides, to a limited Old Russian or common European effect on the development of blade weapons. At the same time, the effect of Baltic traditions on the blade weapons of Western Russ was very noticeable. It can be considered as a distinctive feature of the region in comparison with other Old Russian lands.

Sabres emerged in the complex of weapons of Western Russ in the middle of the 12th century. In the Dzvinia region, there are no finds of sabres at all, while in the Nemunas region and Central Belarus there are some, yet they were not frequent. However, in the Dnieper region sabres were sufficiently widely used and their quantity could equal the number of swords in the com-

plex of weapons in the second half of the 12th and 13th centuries. The uneven use of sabres reveals the grade of activity of military-technical contacts of certain Western Russian regions with other Old Russian lands, and western and Baltic neighbours (Fig. 5).

In the second half of the 12th to the 13th century the complex of blade weapons of Western Russ comprised the greatest number of different types. There were swords of type T1 Curonian, II, III, IV, VI, various Baltic and “U”-shaped sword chapes. Alongside them, sabres with cross-guards of types II, IIB, III and pommels of type I were used (Fig. 6).

The number of finds from the territory of Belarus throws a light on the manufacture of blade weapons in the region. Craftsmen dealing with jewellery-making took part in the process of manufacturing blade weapons. They could make bronze cross-guards and pommels for swords, and also sword chapes. The production of these craftsmen went to armourers, who dealt primarily with metalwork and assembling operations: they attached hilt details to imported swords and sabres blades, and made scabbards for them.

The Mongol invasion had a considerable effect on the development of military technique and armour in southern and eastern regions of Russ. At the same time, materials from Belarus do not give any reason to speak about a noticeable influence of Mongol traditions on local military technique and blade weapons as well in the second half of the 13th century.

Translated by the author

## APPENDICES

**Catalogue 1.** Swords from the end of the ninth to the 13th centuries from the territory of Belarus (Fig. 1, 2)

1. **Bryli**, Barysau district. Hoard. Sword in fragments; ca 890–892; type H (Plavinski 2006, pp.8 and 53, map 3).
2. **Vitebsk**. A stray find. Sword. Type H. 10th century (Plavinski, Babenka 2006, pp.58–59, map 2).
3. **Vitebsk neighbourhood**. Fragment of a sword with a blade inscription VLFBERH+. Type H. 10th century (Plavinski 2006, pp.9 and 53, map 4).
4. **Polatsk**. Stray find from the probable territory of a barrow field. Sword with a blade inscription ULFBERHT. Type V. 10th century (Kirpichnikov 1966, p.32, catalogue № 63).
5. **Garadzilava**, Valozhyn district. Barrow field. Sword with a bent blade. Type V. 10th century (Pokrovskii 1892, Table XIV:1).

6. **Gurkovichy**, Smargon district. Barrow field. Two sword fragments. Type V. 10th century (Kazakevičius 1996, p.114, Fig. 67).
7. **Hrodna**. Fragment of a sword with a horseshoe-like mark on its blade. Type Y. Mid-10th to first half of the 11th century (Nikolaev 1983).
8. **Franopal**, Brest district. Hill-fort. Fragment of a cross-guard. Mid-10th to beginning of the 11th century (Iov 1991, Fig. 29:6).
9. **Vaukavysk**, “Shvedskaja gara” hill-fort. Cross-guard. End of the 10th to first half of the 11th century (Zverugo 1967, p.307).
10. **Gurkovichy**, Smargon district. Barrow field. Sword broken into two parts. Type T1 Curonian. 11th–13th centuries (Kazakevičius 1996, p. 112; Kirpichnikov 1966, p.84f.; catalogue №3).
11. **Gurkovichy**, Smargon district. Barrow cemetery. Cross-guard and pommel. Type T1 curonian. 11th–13th centuries (Kazakevičius 1996, p.112).
12. **Navagrudak**. Jeweller’s workshop on the round about town. Half finished cross-guard. Type T1 Curonian. First half of the 12th century (Gurevich 1981, Fig. 28:4; Plavinski 2006, pp.13-14 and 55, map 13:1).
13. **Vusce**, Orsha district. Hill-fort. Pommel. Type T1 Curonian. 12th century (Levko 1993, p.25f., Fig. 13).
14. **Svislach**, Asipovichy district. Hill-fort. Cross-guard and pommel. Type T1 Curonian. 12–13th centuries (Plavinski 2006, pp.14 and 55, map 13:3, 4).
15. **Vishchyn**, Ragachou district. Hill-fort. Cross-guard. Type T1 curonian. Mid-12th to mid-13th century (Zagorulskii 2004, p.214, Table VI:1, 2).
16. **Minsk**. Hill-fort. Pommel. Type II. Mid-12th century (Zagorulskii 1982: 214, Table VI:1, 2).
17. **Drutsk**, Talachyn district. Hill-fort. Pommel. Type II. 11th–13th centuries (Alekseev 1966, p.159, Fig. 72:1).
18. **Vitebsk neighbourhood**. Fragment of sword. Type II. 11th century (Plavinski, Babenka 2006, p.60, map 4).
19. **Hrodna**. Hoard of weapons. Sword in three parts with an inscription consisting of several marks among which is a cross. Type II. 13th century (Kraucevich 1992, p.41-44).
20. **Ashmianec**, Smargon district. Barrow field. Sword broken into two parts. Type II. 13th century (Zajkovskii 2001, p.413f., Fig. 2:2).
21. **Galshany**, Ashmiany district. A stray find from a burial. Upper cross-guard. Type II. 11th–13th centuries (Plavinski 2006, pp.15 and 56, map 14:1).
22. **Homel**. Armour workshop found near the town. Half-finished pommel. Type III. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 2:1, Fig. 3:4).
23. **Homel**. Armour workshop found near the town. Pommel. Type IV. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 2:4, Fig. 3:5).
24. **Maskavichy**, Braslau district. Hill-fort. Pommel. Type IV. 12th–13th century (Duchyc 1991, p.41).
25. **Gurkovichy**, Smargon district. Barrow field. Sword broken in two parts. Type V. 12th–13th centuries (Kazakevičius 1996, p.122, fig. 95:1).
26. **Maskavichy**, Braslau district. Hill-fort. Pommel. Type VI. 12th–13th centuries (Duchyc 1991, p.41).
27. **Homel**. Armour workshop found near the town. Half-finished pommel. Type VI (?). 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 2:2, Fig. 3:7).
28. **The territory of Belarus**. Sword. Type VI. Second half of the 13th century (Plavinski 2006, pp.16-17 and 57, map 20).
29. **Slutsk**. Hill-fort. Fragment of a cross-guard. Beginning of the 12th century (Kaliadzinski 1993, p.162, map 14:4).
30. **Minsk**. Hill-fort. Cross-guard. Mid-11th century (Zagorulskii 1982, p.215, Table VI:3).
31. **Homel**. Armour workshop found near the town. Cross-guard. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 1:1, Fig. 1:1).
32. **Homel**. Armour workshop found near the town. Cross-guard. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko. 2004, Table 1:2, Fig. 1:2).
33. **Homel**. Armour workshop found near the town. Half-finished cross-guard. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 1:3, Fig. 1:3).
34. **Homel**. Armour workshop found near the town. Cross-guard. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 1:4, Fig. 1:4).
35. **Homel**. Armour workshop found near the town. Half-finished cross-guard. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 1:7, Fig. 2:6).
36. **Homel**. Armour workshop found near the town. Cross-guard. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 1:14, Fig. 3:1).
37. **Homel**. Hill-fort. Cross-guard (?). 12th century (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, p.213, Fig. 3:2).



38. **Brest**. Cross-guard. 13th century (Lysenko 1985, p.218, Fig. 149).

39. **Prudniki**, Mijory district. Hill-fort. Horn cross-guard. 10th–13th centuries (Laskavyj 1993, p.23, Fig. 1:4).

40. **Minsk**. Horn cross-guard. End of the 11th–13th centuries (Plavinski 2006, pp.17 and 58, map 18:7).

41. **Vysokae**, Ashmiany district. Barrow cemetery. Sword. 11th–13th centuries (Jarocki 1901, p.47, Fig. 15).

**Catalogue 2.** Sword chapes from the 10th–13th centuries from the territory of Belarus (Fig. 3)

1. **The territory of Belarus**. Stray find. Type I: 2-c. Second half of the 10th to the beginning of the 11th century (Plavinski 2006, pp.29 and 61, map 27:2).

2. **Franopal**, Brest district. Hill-fort. Type II:4. End of the 10th to the beginning of the 11th century (Kulakov, Iov 2001, p.80f., Fig. 2:4).

3. **Iuravichy**, Kalinkavichy district. Stray find (?). Type III:1. Approximately the second half of the 10th century (Isaenka 1999, p.40).

4. **Garadzishcha on the river Menka**, Minsk district. Hill-fort. Type III: 2 (?). Approximately the first half of the 11th century (Plavinski 2006, pp.26 and 59, map 27:3).

5. **Galshany** (?), Ashmiany district. Stray find from a burial (?). Type III: 2. 10th–11th centuries (Plavinski 2006, pp.29 and 61, map 28:3).

6. **Drutsk**, Talachyn district. Hill-fort. Type IV. 11th century (Alekseev 1966, p.158f., Fig. 72:37).

7. **Litvinavichy**, Korma district. Stray find. Type V: 1. End of the 10th to the 11th century (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2003, p.109f., Fig. 2).

8. **Galshany**, Ashmiany district. Stray find. Type V: 1. 11th–13th centuries (Plavinski 2006, pp.26 and 59, map 28:2).

9. **Gurkovichy**, Smargon district. Barrow field. Type V: 2-a. 11th–13th centuries (Paulsen 1953, p.107, Abb. 147).

10. **Navagrudak**, vicinity of the town. Type V: 2-a. 12th century (Gurevich 1974, p.97, Fig. 33:3).

11. **Polatsk**, hill-fort “Verkhni Zamak”. Type V: 2-a. First half of the 13th century (Shtykhov 1975, p.71, Fig. 33:17).

12. **Minsk region** (?). Type V: 2-a. 11th–13th centuries (Plavinski 2006, pp.27 and 60, map 29:4).

13. **Vaukavysk**, hill-fort “Zamchyscha”. Type V: 2-c. 11th–13th centuries (Zverugo 1967, p.307, Fig. 2:1).

14. **Ashmianec**, Smargon district. Barrow field. Type V: 2-c. 13th century (Zajkovskii 2001, p.414, Fig. 2:3).

15. **Maskavichy**, Braslau district. Hill-fort. Type V: 2-c. 11th–13th centuries (Duchyc 1991, p.41, Fig. 22:1).

16. **Homel**. Jewellery workshop found near the town. Type V: 2. End of the 12th to the beginning of the 13th century (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, p.209f., Fig. 9).

17. **Vaukavysk**, “Shvedskaja gara” hill-fort. Type V: 2 (?). 11th–13th centuries (Tarasenko 1957, Table II:6).

18. **Mscislau**. Hill-fort. Type V: 2 (?). 11th–13th centuries (Alekseev 1995, p.165, Fig. 19:6).

19. **Lukoml**, Chashniki district. 11th–13th centuries (Laskavyj 1993, p.25, Fig. 2:11).

20. **Navagrudak**, in the neighbourhood of the town. 11th–13th centuries (Gurevich 1981, p.107, Fig. 88:2).

21. **Drutsk**, Talachyn district. Hill-fort. 11th–13th centuries (Plavinski 2006, pp.29 and 61, map 31:7).

22. **Polatsk**, Zapalocce. “U”-shaped. 12th–13th centuries (Tarasov 1987, Fig. 25:1).

23. **Polatsk**, Zapalocce. Stray find. “U”-shaped. 12th–13th centuries (Tarasov 1987, Fig. 54:18).

24. **Orsha**. “U”-shaped. 12th–13th centuries (Dragun 1965, p.7, Fig. 23:3).

25. **The territory of Belarus**. Stray find. Type VII: 2. 12th–13th centuries (Plavinski 2006, pp.29 and 61, map 31:6).

**Catalogue 3.** Sabres from the mid-12th–13th centuries from the territory of Belarus

1. **Minsk**. Hill-fort. Cross-guard. Type IIB. Mid-12th century (Zagorulskii 1982, p.215, Table VI:4).

2. **Navagrudak**, near the town. Cross-guard. Type IIB. 12th–13th centuries (Gurevich 1981, p.107, Fig. 88:3).

3. **Kopys**, Orsha district. Type III. 13th century (Zagorulskii 1973, p.359).

4. **Slutsk**. Hill-fort. Blade binding. Circa the end of the 12th century (Kaliadzinski 1993, p.162, map 4:20).

5. **Vishchyn**, Ragachou district. Hill-fort. Cross-guard and blade binding. The end of the 12th to mid-13th century (Plavinski 2006, pp.35 and 62, map 35:4).

6. **Homel.** Armour workshop found near the town. Cross-guard. Type IA. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, p.204f., Table 1:8, Fig. 2:4).

7. **Homel.** Armour workshop found near the town. Cross-guard. Type II. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 1:10, Fig. 2:3).

8. **Homel.** Armour workshop found near the town. Cross-guard. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, p.205, Table 1:5, Fig. 1:5).

9. **Homel.** Armour workshop found near the town. Cross-guard. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 1:3, Fig. 2:5).

10. **Homel.** Armour workshop found near the town. Half-finished cross-guard (?). 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, p.204f., Table 1:11, Fig. 2:2).

11. **Homel.** Armour workshop found near the town. Half-finished cross-guard (?). 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, p.204f., Table 1:12, Fig. 3:3).

12. **Homel.** Armour workshop found near the town. Pommel. Type I. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, p.206, Fig. 4:4).

13. **Mscislau.** Hill-fort. Cross-guard. Type III. 1260–1270s (Aleksiev 1995, p.147f., Fig. 4:8).

Catalogue 4. Details of sabre scabbards from the mid-12th–13th centuries from the territory of Belarus

1. **Vishchyn,** Ragachou district. Hill-fort. Cross-guard and binding. Mid-12th to mid-13th century (Plavinski 2006; pp.37 and 64, map 36:2).

2. **Homel.** Armour workshop found near the town. Sabre chape. 1239 (Makushnikov, Lupinenko 2004, Table 2:3, Fig. 4:4).

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VIII

ARMAMENTS  
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## PAGRINDINĖS KERTAMŲJŲ GINKLŲ RAIDOS X–XIII A. BALTARUSIJOS TERITORIJOJE TENDENCIJOS

**Mikalai Plavinski**

### Santrauka

X a. didžioji Baltarusijos dalis buvo gyvenama slavų. Baltai gyveno tik Nemuno baseino regione. X–XIII a. slavai ir baltai laikėsi skirtingų karinės technikos tradicijų, kurios tam tikru būdu atsiskleidžia ir kertamuosiuose ginkluose (kalavijuose ir karduose – *sud. past.*).

Vikingų laikų kalavijai, rasti Baltarusijos teritorijoje, yra plačiai paplitę Europoje. Pagal tipologiją (J. Pe-

tersen – *sud. past.*) jie priklauso H, V ir Y tipams (1; 6 pav.). Jų geležtės buvo gamintos frankų dirbtuvėse. Nuo X a. antrosios pusės kalavijų makščių galai turi apkalus (3; 6 pav.). Nuo pat atsiradimo makščių apkalai rodo ne tik frankų karinius-techninius ryšius su Skandinavija, bet ir pirmuosius rytinių baltų įtakos požymius rytinio Baltijos jūros regiono ornamentikoje. XI a. pirmajame ketvirtyje ar pirmojoje pusėje vikingų laikų karolingų kalavijus pakeitė kalavijai su Rytų Pabaltijo kilmės rankenomis (T/1, arba kuršių, tipas ir II tipas). XI a. kalavijų makščių galų apkalai taip pat yra kilę Rytiniame Baltijos jūros regione.

Nuo XII amžiaus kartu su Rytų Baltijos jūros regiono kilmės kalavijais arealo ginklų komplektuose pasirodo romanikos stiliaus III–VI tipų kalavijų, kurie buvo paplitę Europoje. Kuršių (T/1 tipas) kalavijai taip pat dar tebebuvo populiarūs (2 pav.). Kartu su romanikos stiliaus kalavijais atsiranda U raidės formos makščių galų apkalai, bet jų skaičius, lyginant su baltiškųjų kalavijų tipų, XII–XIII a. buvo nedidelis (3; 6 pav.).

Maždaug nuo XI a. galima išvelgti tam tikrus Baltarusijos Nemuno baseino regiono ir Vakarų Rusijos kertamųjų ginklų skirtumus. XII a. viduryje Vakarų Rusijoje atsiranda kardai. Dauguvos aukštupio baseino regione kardų nerasta, tuo tarpu Nemuno vidurupio baseine ir Vidurio Baltarusijoje žinomi keli kardai, nors šie ginklai ir nebuvo paplitę (4 pav.). Tuo tarpu Dnepro baseino regione kardų randama gana dažnai, taigi XII a. antrojoje pusėje – XIII a. jų skaičius ginkluotėje buvo nemažas (5 pav.).

XII a. antrojoje pusėje – XIII a. Vakarų Rusijoje kertamieji ginklai buvo įvairesnių tipų: T/1 (kuršių tipas), II, III, IV ir VI, be to, randama įvairiausių U raidės formos kalavijų makščių galų apkalų. Tarp jų pasitaiko kalavijų su II, IIB, III tipų rankenomis ir I tipo buoželėmis (6 pav.).

Daugelis Baltarusijos teritorijoje aptiktų radinių rodo, kad juvelyrinius dirbinius gaminę amatininkai puošdavo ir kertamuosius ginklus. Juvelyrai gamino žalvarinius kalavijų rankenų skersinius ir buoželes, makščių galų apkalus, tvirtindavo žalvarines detales prie importuotų kalavijų ir kardų rankenų bei gamindavo šių ginklų makštis, prie kurių tvirtindavo ir žalvarinius apkalus.

Pietiniams ir rytiniams Senosios Rusijos regionams mongolų invazija padarė didžiulę įtaką karinės technikos ir ginkluotės gamybos srityse. Tuo tarpu šio laikotarpio Baltarusijos medžiaga rodo, kad nėra jokios akivaizdžios priežasties manyti, jog XIII a. antrojoje pusėje mongolų tradicijos padarė reikšmingą įtaką karinei technikai ir kertamųjų ginklų raidai.