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BRONZE DRINKING HORN TERMINALS FROM KAŠUČIAI CEMETERY  
IN THE WESTERN LITHUANIA AS A PART OF LIVELY CONNECTIONS  
BETWEEN SOUTHERN CURONIA AND CENTRAL SCANDINAVIA  
(PL. 1-6)

Introduction

Kalučiai (Kretinga dist.) cemetery in the western part of Lithuania is one of the more important Curonian sites, which has its roots in the West Lithuanian Stone Circles Grave Culture. Kalučiai cemetery is located on the right bank of the river Akmena/Dane (Fig. 1). In the surroundings between Kalučiai and Dubasiai villages is an unfortified settlement of the 1st-3rd centuries and the biggest system of fossil fields in Lithuania. Fossil fields are located on the both banks of the river Akmena/Dane. Two stone walkways running through the river Akmena/Dane facilitated better communication through this watercourse (JABLONSKIS 1988: 5, fig. 1). According to the data we have today the Curonian site Kalučiai appeared only circa the 7th c. AD.

In 1969 Efrosinija Radzvilovaite excavated 22 graves from the 7th-9th c. and three additional graves were attributed to the West Lithuanian Stone Circles Grave Culture of the end of the 2nd c. and 3rd c. (RADZVILOVAITE 1969). Small scale excavations at Kalučiai cemetery was pursued by Ignas Jablonskis in 1975, where four graves of the 2nd and 3rd c. were found inside the stone circles (JABLONSKIS 1975). In 1978 Jablonski once again investigated Kalučiai in order to make the location of the Roman Iron Age graves and burials of the later periods perspicuous (JABLONSKIS 1978). Only two inhumation graves of the 10th c. were found during the 1978 excavation (JABLONSKIS 1978: 2-10). Viking Age graves were dug into the stone circles, which as typically surround graves of the Roman Period (JABLONSKIS 1978: 2-19).

Most of the unique and rare artefacts from archaeological sites come to museums as loose finds. This unfortunate and sad fact is the rule rather than an exception. It is no different in this case. The bronze drinking horn terminals from Kalučiai cemetery were found accidentally, after damage and disruption of the graves (Fig. 2; 3-4). These, as of yet, unpublished drinking horn terminals from Kalučiai enable us once again look at the chronology of the Curonian heritage and understand that relationships between central Scandinavia, Gotland and Eastern Baltic Sea coast has wide spectrum of diverse aspects.

The bronze openwork drinking horn terminals from Kalučiai is the second pair of artefacts known from the southern Curonian lands or so-called Meguva land (cf. Fig. 1). A pair of stylistically similar bronze drinking horn terminals are documented at Eglėkiai-Andulai (former – Andulai (further Anduliai, Kretinga dist.) cemetery grave CCCXXVIII (Fig. 3 c-d) (BITNER-WROBLEWSKA, WROBLEWSKI 2001: 20-26, ryc. 5). One more openwork drinking horn terminal is registered at Andulai cemetery in the grave 487 (Fig. 4 e) (BITNER-WROBLEWSKA, WROBLEWSKI 2001: 20-26, ryc. 4). Kalučiai and Andulai are located quite near each other on the banks of the river Dane/Akmena (Fig. 1).

1 Name of the river Akmena came from Lithuanian word akmuo – stone (PETERAITIS 1992: 61, 234). There are huge amount of stones at the surroundings of Kalučiai and Dubasiai villages. The stones were used to set up fossil fields (cairns, boulders and stone walls; cf. JABLONSKIS 1981).
2 To the phase CI-II belongs the bronze neck-ring with conical terminals (II group; Kr.M 5291) (MICHELBERTAS 1986: 92-94). Archaeological material from the excavations at Kalučiai cemetery and loose finds are under custody of Kretinga Museum.
3 Four graves have been found inside the stone circles. The bronze eye fibulae similar to Prussian series (A. 59), profiled fibula (A. 92) and fibula with ladder (A. 98) allows the dating of these graves to the phase B2/C1.
Drinking horns as a significant part of Curonian culture

The custom of providing several drinking horns for the afterlife began in Curonian culture at the 5th c. (BEBRE 2003: 21). However, during the 7th-9th c. drinking horns hadn’t been very usual to Curonians. The custom of providing drinking horns in the graves started to increase at the end of the 8th and during the 9th c. Drinking horns were a common feature of Curonian culture till the first half of the 13th c. (SIMNIŠKYTE 1998: 216-220, fig. 55-57; BEBRE 2003: 21, 25, 31-33, fig. 3). Usually from one to two or even six drinking horns were placed into male, female and children’s graves. Drinking horns usually were placed over the head or in both corners of a coffin or, very rarely, by the side of the deceased. The great majority of drinking horns found in the cremation graves are not burnt (SIMNIŠKYTE 1998: 195-196; BEBRE 2003: 31-33).

The majority of Curonian horns have been found only with a rim of cylindrical or angular section bent around the top, without any ornamentation (SIMNIŠKYTE 1998: 201-209, fig. 25-50; BEBRE 2003: 31-33, fig. 3; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WROBLEWSKI 2001: 29-30). All drinking horn terminals found in the Eastern Baltic Sea basin during the Late Migration Period and Early Viking Age have otherwise shape or are without metal binding at the end of the horn (SIMNIŠKYTE 1998: 207-209, fig. 44-50; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WROBLEWSKI 2001: 23, appendix; BEBRE 2003: 24-25, fig. 1). Therefore, bronze openwork drinking horn terminals are unusual for Curonians and in general for Baltic material culture of the Late Migration Period and Early Viking Age.

In looking for the origin of openwork drinking horn terminals from Kalažiai and Anduliai we should look to the other Curonian artefacts in which openwork pattern were used. Since the 7th-9th c. particularly Curonians used considerably many different items with varied openwork design (Fig. 5: 6-7; 6: 13). The first openwork artefacts in the southern Curonian lands appeared during the 7th c. Still extremely rare to Curonian environment, openwork belt plates were found at Landinskai (Kalininkai) cemetery in the grave 73 dated to the first half of the 7th c. (BLIJUJIENE, BUTKUS 2002: 88-90, fig. 4).

Plenty of flat openwork fibulae should be mentioned among the most famous Curonian ornaments of the 8th-9th centuries (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 219-222; BLIJUJIENE 1999: 112-123, fig. 44-46, 50-52). The bronze openwork three part belt spacer isn’t common to Curonians, but such kind of belt spacers are known from several Curonian sites of the 7th-9th c. (Fig. 5: 6-7). The bronze saddle-like openwork spurs are known from a few Curonian cemeteries (Laiviai, Kretinga dist.; graves 171 and 317 and Palanga, grave 193). The bronze saddle-like spurs are known from the graves of the 9th-11th c. (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 155; GINTAUTAITE-BUTENIENE, BUTENAS 2002: 53-54). A bronze saddle-like spur similar to the one from Kalažiai grave 25, was found at Laiviai cemetery in the grave 171 dated to the 9th-10th centuries (Fig. 6: 13) (GINTAUTAITE-BUTENIENE, BUTENAS 2002: 53-54, fig. 46: 8). The authors of this article are of the opinion, that the saddle-like spur might have appear during the 8th c., along with the crossbow animal-head fibulae of type III (Fig. 6: 1, 9, 13).

Openwork drinking horn terminals from Valsgärde and southern Curonian sites

Openwork drinking horn terminals found at Anduliai (grave CCCXXVIII), Kalažiai cemeteries and Valsgärde boat grave 7 are close stylistically (Fig. 2: 3-4).
Bronze Drinking Horn Terminals from Kašućiai Cemetery in the Western Lithuania

3c-d; 4: 1-3). However, it should be mentioned, that drinking horn terminals from Valsgärde are much more elaborate. The drinking horns terminals from Andulaii grave CCXXVIII were dated to the mid-7th c. or a bit later (BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 23-26; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, BLIUJENÉ, WRÓBLEWSKI 2003: 195-199, Abb. 10-12).

The circumstances under which the drinking horn terminals from Kašućiai cemetery were found and their uncommonness to the Curonian environment make it complicated and difficult to place them chronologically. However, the only one found at Kašućiai cemetery in 1967 allow us to suppose that they were found in the same part of the cemetery and are chronologically close. Therefore, it is possible to attribute the loose finds of 1967 to the two suppositional male and to the three female graves (Appendix 1). The authors of this paper categorised the artefacts after analysing archaeological materials and records of the earlier excavations at Kašućiai cemetery. The authors believe that such categorisation of the frequency of appearance of the artefacts and their re-occurrence in other Curonian male and female graves of the 7th-9th c. is not correct.

In our opinion, fibulae are one of the best chronological indicators of Curonian material culture. Though, fibulae attributed to the 7th c. were not found during the routine removing of gravel at Kašućiai cemetery in 1967. Only excavations of 1969 provide all artefacts which indicate coming from the 7th century (graves 8, 11, 21, 22, 23 and loose finds 9) (Fig. 7: 5). A concentration of graves with material of the 7th c. and early 8th c. were excavated between in the plots 7 and 8 in 1969 (RADZVILOVÁ, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 23; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, BLIUJENÉ, WRÓBLEWSKI 2003: 193-199, Abb. 10-12). In all respects, the appearance of the drinking horn terminals in both above mentioned graves, might belong to the phase F according to Adalbert Bezzenberger, which is synchronised with a horizon of very rich Scandinavian graves containing weapons (610/620 – 680 AD) (BEZZENBERGER 1904, 1: 14; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 25).

The authors believe that the following items belong to the suppositional male grave 1/1967: two bronze openwork drinking horn terminals, a bronze cylindrical binding of a drinking horn orifice, a bronze trapezium shaped pendant and a small fragment of an iron knife (Fig. 2: 1-2: Appendix 1: 1-5). The bronze cylindrical drinking horn orifice binding belongs to one of the drinking horns. The bronze comb shaped pendant from suppositional grave I/1967 is still unique in the Curonian material culture (Fig. 2: 1; Appendix 1: 4). This bronze pendant shares common features in shape, ornamentation and even measurement with the Gotlandic antler or bone combs of the VI: 1 period (550-600 AD) (NEMAN 1969, Taf. 37: 394). The bronze pendant from Kašućiai seems an enough good copy of the trapezium shaped antler combs. The authors believe that perhaps the antler combs in bronze were adjusted and even transformed into specifically shaped amber pendant amulets in the Curonian culture having been influenced by cultural ideas coming from Gotland and central Scandinavia during the 7th c. (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996, 276). It is important to note that the bronze comb shaped pendant-amulets were produced in the Curonian culture in greater quantities only in the 10th-11th c. (GÖTZE 1908: 493-496, 498-500, fig. 12: d-k; NAKAIČIÉ 1964: 64, fig. 8: 1-6; TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 278).

Grave goods of the suppositional male grave U1967 from Kašućiai allow us to conclude that openwork drinking horn terminals were placed in the grave between the second quarter of the 7th c. – mid of the 7th c. (Fig. 2; Appendix 1: 1-5). There are close parallels between the Kašućiai drinking horn terminals and the two similar terminals that were placed into Andulaii grave CCCXXVIII around the same time or a bit later (Fig. 3: c-d).

Valgärde boat grave 7 has recently been dated to the end of the 7th c. – the first half of the 8th c. (680 – 740/750 – Nordische Stufe IV) (ARRHENIUS 1983: 63-67, fig. 6; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 23; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, BLIUJENÉ, WRÓBLEWSKI 2003: 193-199, Abb. 10-12). In all respects, the appearance of the drinking horn terminals in both above mentioned graves, might belong to the phase F according to Adalbert Bezzenberger, which is synchronised with a horizon of very rich Scandinavian graves containing weapons (610/620 – ca 680) (BEZ­ZENBERGER 1904, 1: 14; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 25).

Bone combs haven’t been usual item in the Baltic environment (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 275-276, figs. 134-135). Therefore each combs found in the Eastern Baltic region have rank of significant items. Antler combs with bronze sheaths recently were found at Kreivienai (Šiauliai dist.) cemetery in the rich equipped female grave 18 (ŠIMENAS 1998: 215-216, fig. 24). The combs from Kreivienai have close parallels between Gotlandic material of the end of the 6th c. – first half of the 7th c.

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the drinking horn terminals found at Anduliai and Kalučiai cemeteries and in Valagje boat grave 7 are a separate phenomenon, the inspiration of which originated from the stylistic trends of the Late Germanic Iron Age. Therefore it can be presumed that the phenomenon which provoked the uprising of openwork similar shaped drinking horn terminals was significant and valuable to the Baltic and Scandinavian societies for a good amount of time. This paradigm is a provocation to wonder if the design of these drinking horn terminals had the same meaning in Uppland as it did in the southern Curonian lands. It might be, that the drinking horn terminals for the jeweller of Uppland were just a pretty and unusual design seen somewhere far away. Perhaps the openwork pattern adapted in Curonian drinking horn terminals has a yet unknown symbolic meaning or, for instance, was the manner of showing a schematised boat and crew. There is a huge probability that such openwork design was just an interesting pattern implemented by only two skilful Curonian handicraftsmen. As of today, we don’t have a definite answer to these considerations. On the basis of different stylistic expression we presume that two handicraftsmen manufactured drinking horn terminals found at Kalučiai and Anduliai grave CCCXVII. However, our ideas about the drinking horn terminals from Anduliai grave CCCXVII come only from the Katalogblätter of Museum für Vor- und Frügeschichte in Berlin (Fig. 3: c-d).

The stylistic inspiration the Curonians and Upplanders received from other cultures was adapted to the drinking horn terminals in Kalučiai, grave 1/1967, Anduliai, grave CCCXVII and Valagje boat grave 7, but did not continue into the 8th c. (Fig. 2: 3-4; Fig. 3: c-d). However, these drinking horn terminals once again allow to presume a close and lively contact between southern Curonian lands and Uppland, and Gotland during the 7th c. (NerMan 1958: 174-182; Petrenko, Urtaňs 1995: 16-19; BITNER-WróbleWSka, WróbleWSKi 2001: 20-27; Bliujiene, Butkus 2002: 83-96; Mickeyvičius 2004: 105-107).

One more atypical bronze openwork drinking horn terminal was found in Anduliai, grave 487 (Fig. 4: l). Grave goods from Anduliai grave 487 were widely discussed and dated to the mid of the 8th or a bit later (BITNER-WróbleWSka, WróbleWSki 2001: 22-27; Butners-WróbleWSka, Bliujiene, WróbleWSki 2003: 195-198). The drinking horn terminals from Kalučiai provide an opportunity once again to evaluate chronological and stylistic aspects of the openwork drinking horn terminals found in grave 487.

The grave goods of Anduliai grave 487 include crossbow animal-headed fibulae (type III or Gabelfibeln after E.C. Graf Oxenstierna) among other artefacts (OXENSTRIERNA 1940: 238; BITNER-WróbleWSka, WróbleWSki 2001: 25, fig. 4: c; BITNER-WróbleWSka, Bliujiene, WróbleWSki 2003: 198, Abb. 11: c). This type of crossbow animal-headed fibulae had been wide spread in the southern Curonian lands during the 8-9th c. (VAITKUNSKIEŅE 1978: 44-45, map 31: 1; TAUTAVICIUS 1996: 206-210; Bliujiene 1999: 104, figs. 34, 35: 2, 36). The biggest concentration of this fibulae type is from Anduliai, Genčai, 1st site, and Palanga 2nd cemeteries (OXENSTRIERNA 1940: 252). To a lesser degree such fibulae are found in male’s graves of the 8th-9th c. in other southern Curonian cemeteries (Kiauleikiai, Kalučiai, Girkaliai, Laviai and Lazdiniukai).

The crossbow animal-headed fibulae (type III) is a part of the Curonian animal style, which inspired the development of the so-called Baltic animal style [Bliujiene 2000: 131-138, figs. 7-18; 2001: 207-219, figs. 2-20]. The Baltic animal style incorporates the main Curonian achievements in developing various zoomorphic expressions of the transition times from the Late Migration Period into the Early Viking Age and link up stylistic ideas and trends of the Late Germanic Iron Age. The complete grave goods of each grave from Anduliai, Genčai – 1st site, Palanga and Anduliai cemeteries allow the dating of crossbow animal-headed fibulae (type III) not earlier than the 8th c. (Fig. 5-6). Animal-headed fibulae of this type vanished at the end of the 9th c. The location of the Anduliai, Genčai – 1st site, Palanga, Kiauleikiai and Kalučiai sites allows us to suppose that the manufacturing of stylistically close or identical animal-headed crossbow fibulae and another artefacts was concentrated at several places of different levels of subdivision and importance (Fig. 1).

Therefore it is possible to date Anduliai grave 487 not earlier as the first half of the 8th c. or a bit later. Such dating corresponds with the second part of Nordische Stufe IV (680-740/750). The elaborate openwork

4 Material from Genčai 1st site and Palanga cemeteries are still not published.

5 Most of the graves from Palanga cemetery, which includes crossbow animal head (type III) are enough uniform (Nos. 50, 52, 55, 58, 78th, 86, 129, 192, 209, 245, 243, 309 and 330).
Bronze Drinking Horn Terminals from Kasučiai Cemetery in the Western Lithuania

Drinking horn terminal from Andulai grave 487 is still unique in the Baltic cultural environment of the first half of the 8th c. (Fig. 4:1). Quadrangular openwork fibulae might have been the inspiration to adjust the pattern into this drinking horn-terminal (BITNER-WROBLEWSKA, WROBLEWSKI 2001: 22-23). The development of openwork patterns in the Eastern Baltic Region and in Curonian culture was related to impacts coming from the Continent and Scandinavia (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 219-221; BLIUJIENE 1999: 112-114). The Olstyn group made a big enough influence the development of the particular Curonian shaped open-work patterns. Relating to this, we should note graves 147, 177 from Tumiary (former Daumen, Olstyn distr, Poland) cemetery, which have similar design openwork spacer plates (KULAKOV 1990, figs. 52, 57: 2).

Diverse relationships between Scandinavia and the Eastern Baltic region according to the archaeological material and written sources during the 8th-9th c. were much more intensive then before (MICKEVICIUS 2004: 107-112). Archaeological material of Andulai allows us to suppose that this Curonian site together with Kaštuciai (Kalnalaukis) was the most important centre of Mežuva land. The role of Kaštuciai in this interchange still is not as evident. On the other hand, archaeological material in the southern Curonian lands allows us to maintain that distribution of different artefacts as well as interchange of cultural ideas and stylistic trends was intensive enough to spread along the river Dane/Akmena. (Fig. 1).

Conclusions

Kaštuciai cemetery in the western part of Lithuania is one of the more important Curonian sites, which has genesis in the West Lithuanian Stone Circles Grave Culture, is located on the right bank of the river Akmena/Dane. Curonian site Kaštuciai appeared circa the 7th c.

Bronze openwork drinking horn terminals along with twenty nine other artefacts from Kaštuciai cemetery were found as loose finds in 1967. The artefacts found at Kaštuciai cemetery can be attributed to the two suppositional male and three female graves. The bronze openwork drinking horn terminals are attributed to suppositional grave I/1967. Grave goods of the suppositional male grave I/1967 from Kaštuciai allow us to conclude that open worked drinking horn terminals were placed into the grave between the second quarter of the 7th c.-mid of the 7th c.

Drinking horn terminals from Kaštuciai are the second pair of artefacts known from southern Curonian lands or so-called Mežuva land. A pair of stylistically similar bronze drinking horn terminals from Andulai cemetery grave CCCXXVII exist and are dated to the mid-7th c. or a bit later. Unusual drinking horn terminals from two Curonian sites are located close to each other on the banks of the river Dane/Akmena.

Two stylistically similar openwork bronze drinking horn terminals are known from a rich male grave at Valsgärde boat grave 7 in Uppland, which was recently dated to the end of the 7th c. – the first half of the 8th c. (680-740/750 – Nordische Stufe IV). It may be that the drinking horn terminals from Kaštuciai and Andulai grave CCCXXVII have some stylistic inspiration to those found at Valsgärde in boat grave 7. On another hand, it might be that the drinking horn terminals found at Andulai and Kaštuciai cemeteries and in Valsgärde boat grave 7 are a separate phenomenon, but the origin of these items was inspired by similar stylistic trends of the Late Germanic Iron Age.

One more openwork drinking horn terminal is registered in Andulai cemetery in grave 487. The bronze openwork quadrangular fibulae might have been the stylistic inspiration to the drinking horn terminals found at Andulai grave 487. Therefore the openwork drinking horn terminal was placed in the grave 487 not earlier than the first half of the 8th c. or a bit later. Such dating corresponds with the later phase of Nordische Stufe IV (680-740/750).

Drinking horn terminals from Kaštuciai (grave I/1967) and Andulai graves CCCXXVIII and 487 once again demonstrate lively connections between southern Curonian lands and central Scandinavia and Gotland during the 7th-8th c.

Appendix 1. Loose finds found at Kaštuciai cemetery in 1967

Finds typical to males

Artefacts attributed to the suppositional male grave I/1967 (Fig. 2: 1-4)

1. Bronze openwork drinking horn terminal; length 6.1 cm, orifice diameter 1.1 cm (Kr.M GEK 5312).
2. Bronze openwork drinking horn terminal; length 6.0 cm, orifice diameter 1.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 5313).
3. Bronze cylindrical drinking horn orifice binding; diameter 6.2-7.4 cm (Kr.M GEK 5311).
4. Bronze comb shaped pendant; fragment, length 7.4 cm, height 4.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 20665).
5. Fragment of the knife; length 6.2 cm, blade width 2.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 5330).

Chronology: the second quarter of the 7th c.-mid of the 7th c.

Artefacts attributed to the suppositional male grave II/1967

6. Bronze crossbow fibula with poppyseed-shaped terminals, type Ia; length 15.1 cm, foot width 2.5 cm; broken (Kr.M GEK 5259; BLIUJIENE 1999: 108, fig. 38).
7. One-edged blade sword without cross guard;
length 79.0 cm, blade width 4.7 cm (Kr.M GEK 5317).

8. Fragment of iron riding bits with three-joined or two-joined mouthpiece; rings diameter 7.6–7.8 cm, middle part didn’t survived (Kr.M GEK 5322).

9. Fragment of socketed lance shaped spearhead; length of the fragment 20 cm, width 2.6 cm (Kr.M GEK 5318).

10. Fragments of two D shaped bronze belts buckles; length 3.5 cm and 3.6 cm (Kr.M GEK 5314-5315).

11. Socked axe, miniature; length 11.5 cm, blade width, ferrule diameter 2.7 cm (Kr.M GEK5319).

Chronology: the end of the 8th c.-9th c.

Finds typical to females

Artefacts attributed to the suppositional female grave III/1967

12. Bronze crossbow fibula with eight ringlets, covered with decorated silver plates; length 8.4 cm, width of spring axle 11.4 cm, foot width 3.2 cm (Kr.M GEK 5294; BLIUJIENE 1999: 83, fig. 15).

13. Bronze neck-ring with round thickened terminals; diameter 23 cm, terminals diameter 1.3 (Kr.M GEK 5292).

14. Bronze cruciform pin with hemispheric-shaped knobs (type II) and chain fragments. Head was covered with white metal plate (fragment); lengths of the fragment 16.7 cm, head width 10.2 cm (Kr.M GEK 5297).

15. Bronze semicircular shaped pendant was covered with white metal plate and embellished with inlays of two blue glasses; length 9.0 cm, height 6.8 cm (Kr.M GEK 5301).

Chronology: the 8th c.

Artefacts attributed to the suppositional female grave IV/1967

16. Fragment of bronze bronze pin with triangular head (type III) and system of the pendants. Semicircular shaped pendant; length 9.8 cm; width 6.4 cm. Rectangular shaped pendant; length 9.8 cm, width 5.0 cm. 17 rows of chains terminating with seven mapleseed-shaped pendants. Head of the pin and pendants were covered with white metal plates (except mapleseed pendants); pin length 10.8 cm, width of the head 6.7 cm (Kr.M GEK 5296, 5299, 5300, and 5302).

17. Bronze bracelet with massive flaring terminals; end width 5.4 cm, diameter 7.2–8.3 cm (Kr.M GEK 5303).

18. Bronze spiral finger ring with flaring frontal part; diameter 2.1–2.7 cm (Kr.M GEK 5309).

Chronology: the 8th c.-beginning of the 9th c.

Artefacts attributed to suppositional female grave V/1967

19. Bronze neck-ring with round thickened terminals (fragment); one end is twist with wires (Kr.M GEK 5293).

20. Bronze cruciform pin (type IV, subtype A) with semicircular shaped pendant (length 6.5 cm, width 5.5 cm) and a chain fragment. Head of the pin and pendant were covered with white metal plates; pin length 30.8 cm, width of the head 11 cm (Kr.M GEK 5298).

Chronology: the end of the 8th c.-9th c.

Finds which impossible to determinate to males or females

Artefacts attributed to the suppositional female grave V/1967

21. Amber bead conical shaped; diameter 1.3–1.3 cm, h 1.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 5311).

22. Bronze spiral finger ring; diameter 2.2–2.8 cm (Kr.M GEK 5304).

23. Bronze spiral finger ring; diameter 2.1–2.5 cm (Kr.M GEK 5305).

24. Bronze spiral finger ring with flaring frontal part; diameter 2.1–2.6 cm (Kr.M GEK 5306).

25. Bronze spiral finger ring; fragment; diameter 2.1–2.5 cm (Kr.M GEK 5308).

26. Bronze spiral finger ring; fragment, diameter 2.6–2.8 cm (Kr.M GEK 5307).

27. Bronze spiral finger ring with flaring and thickened frontal part; diameter 2.2–3.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 5310).

28. Fragment of bronze spiral finger ring; diameter 1.9–2.4 cm (Kr.M GEK 5323).

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Bibliography

Abbreviations

Publications
AL — Archaeologia Lituana, Vilnius.
LA — Lietuvos archeologija

Museums
Kr.M – Kretinga Museum, Kretinga
LII R – Lithuanian institute of history, Archive, Vilnius.
LNM – Lithuanian National Museum, Department of Archaeology, Vilnius.
MVF – Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Berlin, Staatliche Museen Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz, dist. – district

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Brazowe okucia rogów do picia
znanione na cmentarzysku w Kaśuści w Zachodniej Litwie, jako świadectwo żywych kontaktów między południową Kuronią i Środkową Skandynawią
(Streszczenie)

Ciałopalne cmentarzysko w Kaśuści (północno-zachodnia Litwa), jest jednym z najważniejszych stanowisk kurońskich, sięgającym swojej grottą schyłkowych faz zachodniosłowiańskiej kultury cmentarzysk z grobami w ostawach ograbkowych. Położone jest na prawym brzegu rzeki Akmens/Dane. Cmentarzysko w Kaśuści zostało odkryte przypadkowo w latach 60-tych XX w. podczas eksploatacji żwirowni. Cmentarzysko w Kaśuści zostało odkryte prawdopodobnie w latach 60-tych XX w. podczas eksploatacji żwirowni.

W wyniku badań rątowych, prowadzonych w Kaśuści w 1967 r. odkryto (na terenie skrajnie zniesienia) dwadzieścia dziewięć zabytków wydzielonych, wśród których znajdowały się dwa dolne okucia rogów do picia, analizowane przez Autorów niniejszego artykułu.


Azurowe okucia rogów do picia z Kaśuści są drugą w tej grupie parą zabytków brązowych, znanych z południowej Kuroni (lub innymi mówiąc z rejonu tzw. Ziemii Męgwy). Inną parą zabytków, będącą najbliższą analogią dla okuc z Kaśuści została znaleziona jeszcze w XIX w. w grobie CCCXXXVIII w b. Andulnie/Anduliai – cmentarzysku zlokalizowanym także w dorzeczu Akmens/Dane. Datowane są one na połowę VII w., lub też na czasy nieco późniejsze. Warto podkreślić, że zarówno okucia rogów z Kaśuści, jak i z Andulni/Anduliai pochodzą z granic późniejszej, historycznej Ziemii Męgwy.

Trzeba także zaznaczyć, że kolejna para bardzo podobnych, dolnych brązowych zaokrągletów rogów do picia, wykonana w ornamentyce ażurowej, znana jest też ze szwedzkiego (Uppland – środkowa Szwecja) cmentarzyska kurhanowego w Valgaerde (grób nr 7). Ten niesmukły bóg pochętny łódziowy datowany jest ostatnio na drugą połowę VII w., bądź też na początki następnego stulecia (chronologia tożsama z tzw. skandynawską Nordische Stufe IV, wyznaczającą chronologię między latami 680 a 740/750).

Autorzy tego artykułu sądzą więc (wbrew ostatniej opinii A. Bitner-Wróblewskiej i W. Wróblewskiego 2001), że zarówno okucia rogów do picia z Kaśuści jak i z Andulni/Anduliai (grób CCCXXXVIIII) miały swoje wcześniejsze inspiracje w przedmiotach znalezionych w kurhanie łodziowym Valgaerde. Sądzą przy tym, że inspiracje te sięgają tzw. południowo-skadynawskiego Late Germanic Iron Age, który może być synchronizowany z wczesną fazą okresu Vendel, czyli VI-VII w. n.e.


Podsumowując swoje rozważania na temat analizowanych znalezisk Autorzy dochodzą do wniosku, że niezależnie od dotychczasowych dyskusji, zarówno dwa brązowe okucia rogów do picia z rekonstruowanego przez nich grobu 1/1967 z Kaśuści oraz dolne okucia rogów do picia z pobliskiego cmentarzyska w Andulni/Anduliai (groby: CCCXXXVIII i 487), stanowią niewątpliwie świadectwo intensywnych kontaktów między południową Kuronią a środkową Skandynawią w ciągu VII–VIII w.

(humorze W. Wróblewski)
Fig. 1. South-eastern Baltic region and Curonian territory between the rivers Dane/Akmena and Šventoji or so-called Mėgova land during the 7th and 8th c.: • - prior sites; ▲ - other sites 1 - Lazdininkai (Kalnalaikiai); 2 - Eglitiskiai-Anduliai; 3 - Palanga; 4 - Kriaulekiai; 5 - Genčiai 1st site; 6 - Kaltučiai (after A. Bitner-Wróblewska, W. Wróblewski 2001 and V. Žulkas 2004 with addition of A. Bluijienė)
Fig. 2. Loose finds from Kalučiai cemetery found in 1967 or artefacts attributed to suppositional male grave 1/1967 (bronze; drawings by N. Budžinskis (2-4) and V. Trulickas (1))
Fig. 3. Andulia grave CCCXXVII:
 a-d – bronze; e-g – iron; no scale
 (after MVF archive)

Fig. 4. Drinking horn terminals from
Andulia grave 487 (1) and Valsgärde boat grave 7 (2, 3) – bronze
(after A. Bitner-Wróblewska,
W. Wróblewski 2001)
Fig. 5. Palanga male grave 78b: 1, 2, 5-9 - bronze, 3, 3a - silver, blue inlay and iron; 4 - amber; 10 - clay; LNM AR 396: 584-587 (drawing by A. Ruzienė. A. Tautavičius in his excavation report mentioned iron bits and spur, these artefacts didn't survive)
Fig. 6. Kaulaiai male grave 25: 1, 9 – bronze, iron and wood; 2-7, 11-13 – bronze, 8, 10 – iron; Kr. M. GEK 10154/108-112, 20664 (after E. Radzvilovaitė 1969; drawings by N. Budžinskas (13) and V. Truklickas (1, 8). E. Radzvilovaitė in her excavation report mentioned a miniature cup and one edged sword, these artefacts didn’t survive)
Fig. 7. Kalučiai male grave 11: 1-4 – iron; 5 – bronze and iron; Kr.M GEK 10154/42-48 (after E. Račvilovaitė 1969; E. Račvilovaitė in her excavation report mentioned two bronze bindings of drinking horns orifice, miniature of socked axe and whetstone, these artefacts didn’t survive)