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# The Súl'ov-Hradná II: Military deposit of Lusatian culture from Western Slovakia

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## SHORT COMMUNICATION



### ABSTRACT

The Final Bronze Age (ca. 1080–725 BC) in the Western Carpathians is characterized by increased cross-cultural militarization, which culminated in the collapse horizon era in Ha C1a. Here, the Lusatian culture introduced a series of investments in defensive infrastructure in the Ha A2–B1 period, many of which were maintained and reinforced over the following centuries. Spectacular finds of deposited weapons, including bronze swords (Komjatná, Martinček, Liptovské Sliache), which are rarely found in graves of that time, are known from the Váh river valley. The Final Bronze Age hoard of Súl'ov-Hradná II, Bytča dist. (Ha B1; 1080–960 BC), newly represents a multi-typic find of 9 bronze swords (*reine Schwerthort*) and magnificently illustrates the recurring codified behaviour of votive weapon deposition in the aquatic and mountain environment of the Western Carpathians. As the Old Germanic toponym of Žibrid hill (867 m; germ. Sivrit/Sieg-fried = victorious peace) suggests, the knowledge of the deposition event may have survived to the present day, and it recalls the old Celto-Germanic rule of sacrificing the weapons of the defeated party, and provides a powerful addition to the understanding some characteristic and strikingly recurring patterns in the bronze archaeological record in Central Europe.

### KEYWORDS

hoard, swords, Lusatian culture, Urnfields, Western Carpathians, Final Bronze Age

### ABSZTRAKT

A késő bronzkor (kb. Kr. e. 1080–725) a Nyugati-Kárpátokban a kultúrák közötti fegyveres konfliktusok jellemzik, amelyek a bronzkor követő Ha C1a periódusban érik el a csúcspontjukat. A Lausitz-kultúra Ha A2–B1 fázisában építik ki azt a védelmi infrastruktúrát, melynek részei a következő évszázadokban is megtartják és megerősítik. Ebből az időszakból származnak a Vág völgyéből előkerült, fegyvereket – többek között a korabeli sírokban csak elvétve előforduló bronz kardokat – tartalmazó kincsleletek, fegyverdepók (Komjatná, Martinček, Liptovské Sliache). A késő bronzkori Súl'ov-Hradná II (Bytča körzet) lelőhelyről (Kr. e. 1080–960) egy 9 bronzkardból álló lelet (*reine Schwerthort*) került elő, amely ismételt illusztrálja a Nyugati-Kárpátok vizes és hegyi környezetében jellemző, rendszeres, votív fegyverdeponálási szokást. Amint azt a Žibrid-hegy (867 m t.f.m.; germán Sivrit/Sieg-fried = győzelembéke) ógermán eredetű neve is jelzi, a deponálási szokás ismerete a mai napig megőrződhetett a terület toponimiájában. A legyőzött fél fegyvereinek ősi kelta–germán feláldozási szokása fontos adalékot jelent a közép-európai bronzkor néhány ismétlődő jelenségének megértésében.

### KULCSSZAVAK

kincslelet, kardok, Lausitz-kultúra, urnamezős kultúra, Nyugati-Kárpátok, késő bronzkor vége

### ABSTRAKT

Neskorá doba bronzová (ca. 1080–725 pr. Kr.) je v Západných Karpatoch charakteristická zvýšenou medzikultúrnou militarizáciou, ktorá vyvrcholila érou zánikového horizontu v Ha C1a. Lužická kultúra tu v období Ha A2–B1 zaviedla sériu investícií do obrannej infraštruktúry, z ktorých mnohé boli udržiavané a zosilnené počas nasledujúcich storočí. Práve z tohto obdobia sú z údolia rieky Váh známe veľkolepé nálezy deponovaných zbraní vrátane bronzových mečov (Komjatná, Martinček, Liptovské Sliache), ktoré sa v hrobch tej doby vyskytujú zriedkavo. Neskorobronzové depozitum Súl'ov-Hradná II, okr. Bytča (1080–960 pr. Kr.) novo reprezentuje homogénny nález 9 bronzových mečov (*reine Schwerthort*) a ilustruje opakujúce sa kodifikované správanie votívneho ukladania zbraní vo vodnom a

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vysokohorském prostredí Západných Karpát. Ako uvádza aj starogermánske toponymum vrchu Žibrid (867 m; germ. Sivrit/Sieg-fried = víťazný mier), znalosť udalosti deponovania mohla pretrvať až do súčasnosti, a pripomína staré keltsko-germánske pravidlo obetovania zbraní porazenej strany, a poskytuje silný doplnok v pochopení niektorých charakteristických a nápadne sa opakujúcich vzorcov v archeologickom zázname bronzu v strednej Európe.

## KLÚČOVÉ SLOVÁ

depot, meče, lužická kultúra, popolnicové polia, Západné Karpaty, neskorá doba bronzová

## INTRODUCTION

Lusatian military systems in the western part of the Carpathians are insufficiently documented from a technological point of view. As evidenced by the numerous monumental fortified hillforts (Selec, Nitrianska Blatnica),<sup>1</sup> in the more recent period of the Urnfields, war in the sense of armed conflict between communities reached a previously unknown quality, often aimed at the physical liquidation of the population.<sup>2</sup> Mass finds of weaponry and armour, often in dozens of pieces, strongly indicate a shift towards the creation of organized permanent units of professional soldiers under the control of the ruling Lusatian elites.<sup>3</sup> Functional evidence, such as traces of combat on bronze weapons, injuries on skeletons, burnt and destroyed fortifications (Zemianske Podhradie),<sup>4</sup> convincingly prove that violence and war were indeed an integral part of the life of these communities, which in this period they developed the concept of lightly equipped runners with small spears and bows, or heavy-footed warriors armed with full armour: helmet, shield, greaves and sword.<sup>5</sup>

Rich warrior equipment and specific weapons in connection with cosmological symbols are the focus of attention in the Late Bronze Age ensembles of the Western Carpathians.<sup>6</sup> The engraved and hammered decoration of the Ha A1–B1 period suggests that there was a connection between war, warriors and religious belief, alluded to by established symbols of the celestial world associated with the sun: water fowl, bird-boat (*Vogelbarke*), wheeled cross, concentric circles, free-standing spiral and spirals arranged in a vortex network.<sup>7</sup> The warriors and soldiers of the Urnfields were clearly aware that death was always a likely outcome of war and territorial control, which was one of the reasons why weapons were most often imbued with ritual and religiosity.<sup>8</sup> The “Urnfield package” included customary items such as personal weapons, tinware, drinking sets, horse harnesses, wheeled vehicles, and needs to be placed in a militarization process driven by competition between communities in Central Europe.<sup>9</sup> It is

archaeologically observable that the first bronze defensive equipment appears precisely in the northeast of the Carpathian Basin at the beginning of the Urnfields civilization.<sup>10</sup>

## CARPATHIAN SWORD HOARDS

Mass finds of bronze swords are a regionally delimited, pan-Carpathian structural feature of the Bz D–Ha B1 period (*reine Schwerthorte*), and include their deposition with a greater (Martinček)<sup>11</sup> or lesser degree of fragmentation (Zvolen),<sup>12</sup> a wide range of types, often combined with tin vessels or tin armour.<sup>13</sup> The number of deposited swords varies from two to more than 20 specimens (Komjatná).<sup>14</sup> It is noteworthy that in about a third of the cases three swords were deposited. Multiples of three are also represented,<sup>15</sup> namely the nine and twelve of swords. Quite often seven or 14 swords are deposited.<sup>16</sup> In the Early and Middle Urnfields (Bz D–Ha A), this type of hoards is almost without exception spread over the territory of Slovakia and northern Hungary, in the Ha B1 phase it is concentrated in approximately the same area, but now also extends to Transylvania.<sup>17</sup> The tradition of depositing a large number of bronze swords disappears in the Carpathian Basin almost exactly in Ha B1, but this is followed by the area of northern Europe and the Rhine–Main area, where this phenomenon appears with a completely new intensity at the beginning of Ha B2/3.<sup>18</sup>

The circumstances of the finds reveal their irreversible deposition: swords from Liptovské Sliache were found in a travertine crack, specimens from Recsk were found in an andesite quarry under a large block and lay next to each other in the same direction. This finding situation is also reported by Martinček and Krasznokvajda.<sup>19</sup> The main revelation of a careful examination of such hoards is that they are associated with various landscape features and that the deposition places were certainly accompanied by

<sup>1</sup>Veličik (1983).

<sup>2</sup>Kristiansen (2002); Harding (2007) 89–97.

<sup>3</sup>Ondrkál (2022).

<sup>4</sup>Veličik and Romsauer (1998) 233.

<sup>5</sup>Mödlinger (2012); Tarbay (2015).

<sup>6</sup>Bouzek (1981).

<sup>7</sup>Furmánek (1980); Harrison (2004).

<sup>8</sup>Vandkilde (2011).

<sup>9</sup>Primas (2008).

<sup>10</sup>Paulík (1963).

<sup>11</sup>Kubinyi (1890).

<sup>12</sup>Novák and Váczi (2010) 100.

<sup>13</sup>Vachta (2007) 48.

<sup>14</sup>Kubinyi (1887).

<sup>15</sup>Tarbay (2018) 315.

<sup>16</sup>Hansen (1994) 63–64.

<sup>17</sup>Hansen (1994) 64.

<sup>18</sup>Born and Hansen (1991).

<sup>19</sup>Vachta (2007) 118.



symbolic events. For example, the deep sacrificial pit in Stoboru was apparently dug 1–2 m from the watercourse, the swords were carefully placed point-up, and the pit was gradually filled with earth and finally covered with stones.<sup>20</sup> The special deposition of swords in a vertical position can also be observed in the multi-typological hoard of swords from Buzica.<sup>21</sup> Bronze swords from Bošáca were also buried near a water source under ca. 30 cm layer of medium-sized stones.<sup>22</sup> The selective deposition of swords in rivers and lakes suggests a very specific affinity between weapons and flowing bodies of water, among which the Liptov region stands out, rich in travertine and mineral springs. The focus of the ideological construct here was apparently the belief in the reviving power of warm and cold springs, the healing properties of which were undoubtedly known in prehistoric times.<sup>23</sup>

## SÚĽOV-HRADNÁ II: MACROCONTEXT

The Súľov Mountains are a mountain complex in the north-western part of the Fatra-Tatra region between the Váh and Rajčanka valleys, geomorphologically falling under the Strážov hills and the jurisdiction of the towns of Bytča, Žilina and Rajec.<sup>24</sup> The Central Váh valley is one of the most populated areas in Carpathian prehistory, with geographical connections extending south from the Danube Plain, north to the Lesser Poland Plain and northeast deep into the Tatra region and the source of the Váh (Liptov), making it an important centre of communication networks in the Carpathian Basin. In the investigated period (Ha A2–B1), this territory is inhabited by the population of the Lusatian ceramic zone (middle phase), belonging to the cultural area of the Urnfields. All known fortified hilltops in Central Váh region have their origin in this horizon.<sup>25</sup>

The ubiquitous nature of defensive militarization in the Central Váh region means that hostilities and war campaigns, although not necessarily ongoing, acted as a structuring principle of Lusatian society.<sup>26</sup> The organization of the early Lusatian centres, their institutions and configuration was the basis for a highly sustainable settlement that lasted for more than a millennium, since the Bz C phase.<sup>27</sup> During Ha A, some of the social groups moved to elevated, somewhat defensible locations along the western edge of the studied region (Považská Teplá–“Malý Manín”; Ovčiarsko–“Háj”).<sup>28</sup> This development is concentrated on the main

river routes leading from the centres of capital accumulation and large-scale trade, but also allowing access to mountainous areas where the Western Carpathian copper ores were concentrated (Divinka–“Velký vrch”, Žilina–“Zástranie”),<sup>29</sup> strategically significant for Urnfield economies.<sup>30</sup> Settlement strategies and population density here allow us to assume segmental tribal communities,<sup>31</sup> in which armed conflicts were conducted for self-defense and revenge, for looting and gaining prestige, but not as a tool of political control.<sup>32</sup> Rivalry and disputes over land, livestock, succession or spouses could develop into bloody conflicts even within one’s own ethnic group. Military involvement in disputes or raids could have fatal consequences for individual communities,<sup>33</sup> but it remained local, as the characteristics of the Urnfield societies were a widely developed warrior class, but a lack of regulatory central authorities.<sup>34</sup>

## SÚĽOV-HRADNÁ II: MICROCONTEXT

The Final Bronze Age deposit of Súľov-Hradná II/2012, Bytča district (Figs. 2–3), was discovered by random subculture “hunters” of the WW2 militaries with the help of a metal detector, near the top of Žibrid hill (867 m; Fig. 1, A, B). The artefacts were almost immediately transferred to a private collection in Prague and further distributed on the territory of Western Europe – currently it is not known where they are physically located, but they appear sporadically at antiquities auctions in Germany and United Kingdom. The authentic statement of one of the finders provided information about the basic spatial arrangement of this unit; the classification of the hoard was based on its stratigraphic uniformity, which is relevant here – the nine swords were carefully deposited on the flat side, relatively shallow, compact, about 15 cm below the present surface with a thin organic layer and were deposited over an area of about 2 m<sup>2</sup>, without accompanying finds in the micro-/macro- context, with a mention of an earlier subcultural find of the Súľov-Hradná I hoard, which contained about 25 small bronze appliques (*phalerae*) with a diameter of about 1 cm. Simple photographic documentation is available for nine swords (Fig. 2, 1–9).

### Sword of the Rankweil-Ehring type (Ha A2–B1)

A full-hilted bronze sword (Fig. 2, 1), provided with three raised ridges (*Dreiwulstschwert*), corresponding to the typological groups of Rankweil<sup>35</sup> and Ehring/München.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>20</sup>Soroceanu (1995) 37; Metzner-Nebelsick (2002) 65.

<sup>21</sup>Novotná (2014) 12.

<sup>22</sup>Ondrkál (2018).

<sup>23</sup>Novotná (2014) 14.

<sup>24</sup>Mello (2011).

<sup>25</sup>Hornák (2016) 464.

<sup>26</sup>Milner (1999) 198.

<sup>27</sup>Gediga (1989).

<sup>28</sup>Hutyrová (1962) 133–136.

<sup>29</sup>Moravčík (1980).

<sup>30</sup>O’Brien (2015).

<sup>31</sup>Hornák (2016).

<sup>32</sup>Bouzek (2007).

<sup>33</sup>Uhlíř et al. (2019).

<sup>34</sup>Kovács (1975); Primas (2008) 76–78.

<sup>35</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) 47–48.

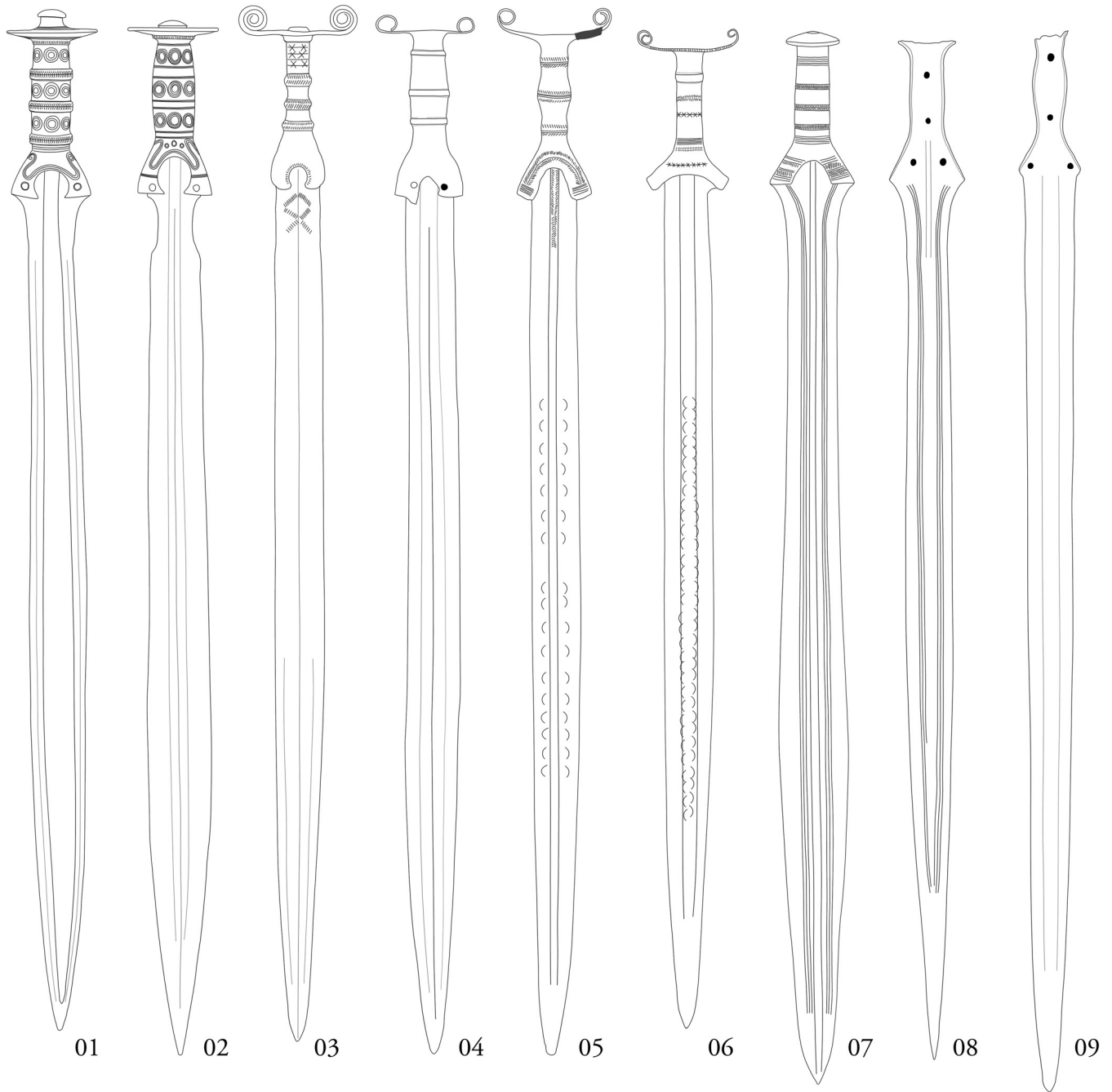
<sup>36</sup>Quillfeldt (1995) Nr. 166A.





**Fig. 1.** Súl'ov-Hradná, Žibrid site. A: Location map (zbgis.sk); B: Žibrid hill (by Jozef Sádecký); C: Budzogán rock formation (by Peter Remeň). D: LiDAR frame (zbgis.sk)

**1. kép.** Súl'ov-Hradná, Žibrid lelőhely. A: Domborzati kép (zbgis.sk); B: Žibrid-hegy (foot: Jozef Sádecký); C: Buzogány-szikla (foot: Peter Remeň); D: LiDAR felmérés (zbgis.sk)

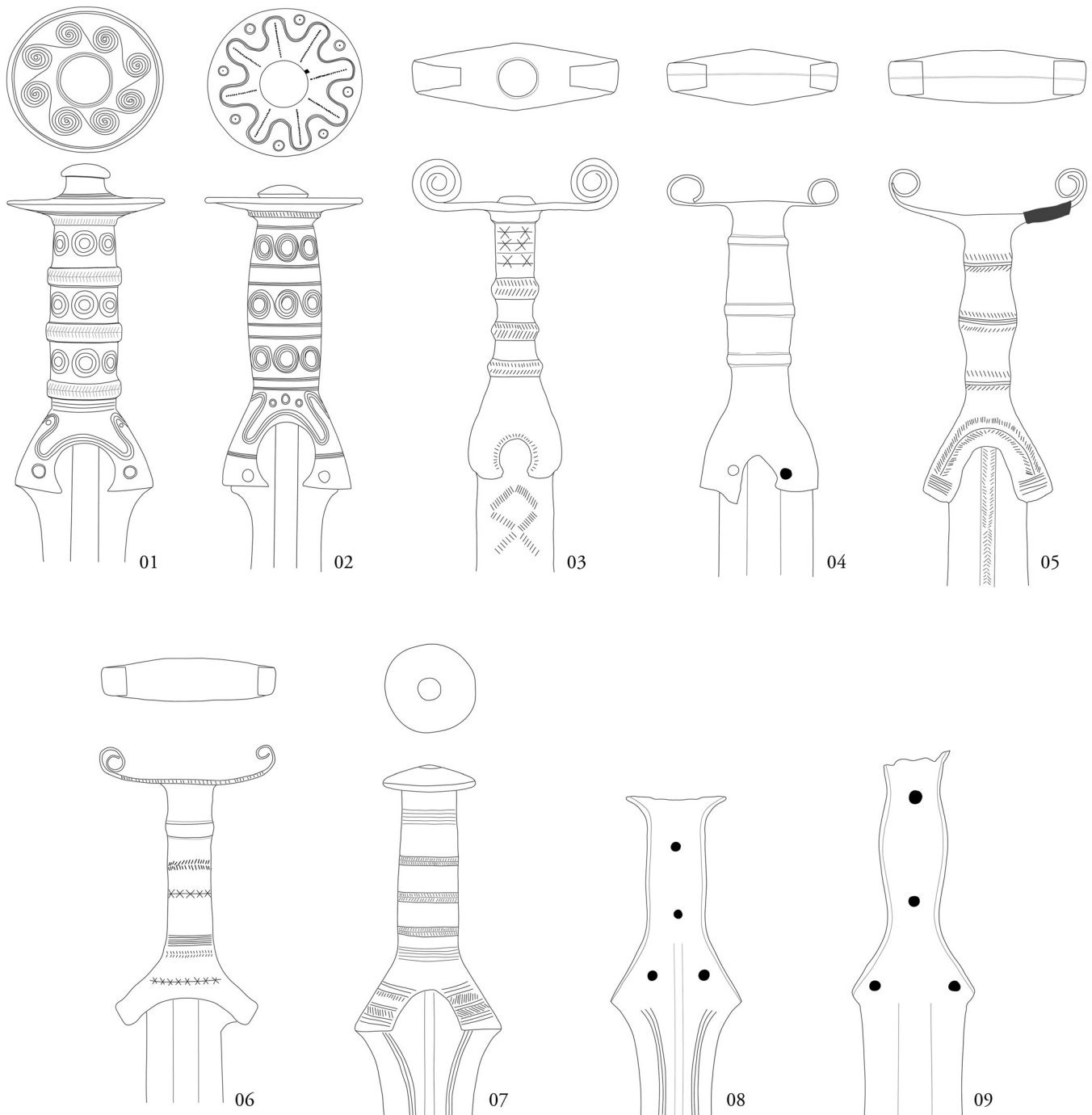


**Fig. 2.** Sűfov-Hradná II hoard. (Artefacts were reconstructed via digital images and may contain distorted/invalid morphometric and visual data!)

**2. kép.** Sűfov-Hradná II kincs. (A műtárgyakat digitális képek alapján rekonstruálták, és torz/hibás morfometriai és vizuális adatokat tartalmazhatnak!)

The handle bar is divided into intermediate fields by three distinctly angular ridges, another (narrower) ridge was created directly under the disc. The engraved decoration of the intermediate fields and the circular disc consists of a strongly engraved spiral pattern (concentric circles), applied with a high degree of thoroughness. The sides of the handle have a parallel course, they are oval in cross-section, slightly convex when viewed from the side. The hilt of the sword

bears ornamentation in the form of a stylized bird barge (*Vogelbarke*), outlined by two loops composed of two parallel lines. The button of the disc takes on a strongly mushroom-like shape. Two small round rivets hold a wide leaf-like blade that has been pre-drilled for this purpose. There is a serrated *ricasso* separated from the cutting edge by a small pointy jut. The entire specimen is covered in a shiny deep green shiny patina.



**Fig. 3.** Súľov-Hradná II hoard. (Artefacts were reconstructed via digital images and may contain distorted/invalid morphometric and visual data!)

**3. kép.** Súľov-Hradná II kincse. (A műtárgyakat digitális képek alapján rekonstruálták, és torz/hibás morfometriai és vizuális adatokat tartalmazhatnak!)

The formal closeness to the Rankweil and Ehring/München type swords is defined by the strongly mushroom-shaped knob and the circular disc-like pommel. The relief ridges are angular in cross-section and the fields take on highly embossed circular patterns. The leaf-like blade has a rhombic to lenticular cross-section, and is richly ridged longitudinally. The decorative analogies of the disc-shaped pommel of the Súľov-Hradná specimen reveal close relationships with late

*Dreiwulstschwerter* (Ehring),<sup>37</sup> but also with swords with a bowl-pommel handle (Oradea).<sup>38</sup> Although the number of comparable swords is currently too small to provide a satisfactory overview of the provenance relationships of these

<sup>37</sup>Quillfeldt (1995) Nr. 166A.

<sup>38</sup>Bader (1991) Nr. 339, 339A.



variants, it is nevertheless clear that there are remarkable connections in the arms trade between west and east of Central Europe in the distribution of swords of this shape family.<sup>39</sup> It is unlikely that this specimen was made before the end of the Middle (Ha A2) period, or perhaps as late as the Late Urnfields phase (Ha B1). The Rankweil and Ehring/München type includes individual specimens that are distributed from Transylvania through northern Italy and Upper Bavaria to Westphalia. The production may have taken place in metallurgical workshops in southern Germany or in the western Alps<sup>40</sup> and formed the final form of three-ridged swords with a disc-shaped pommel and is already close to bowl-pommel swords (Oradea). In any case, the decoration with deeply engraved spirals differs significantly in its technique from the lightly engraved ornaments common on swords of this period.<sup>41</sup>

### Sword of the Aldrans type (Ha A2–B1)

An example of a full-hilted sword (*Fig. 2, 2*) with three slightly raised ridges (*Dreiwulstschwert*), derived from the Aldrans type,<sup>42</sup> which is defined by finely engraved spiral patterns in the fields of the ridges, and on a circular disc-shaped pommel three-line wave (sinusoidal) pattern with groups of circles (empty *Würfelaußen*) in the outer windings and radial lines of dots (*pointillé*) in the inner windings. The handle of the Súľov-Hradná specimen is symmetrically convex when viewed from the front, with a slightly bowl-shaped disc-shaped pommel with a square perforation, while the button of the pommel takes on a mushroom-like, retracted and strongly concave profile. The lower side of the pommel is undecorated. The guard of the blade in the area of the rivets carries an engraved ornamentation in the form of a bird barge outlined by a multiple double loop with three circular *transportierte Elemente* with a cross. The wide leaf-shaped blade with a narrow convex central ridge is defined by longitudinal linear decoration and an unserrated *ricasso* at the base of the blade. The specimen is patinated with a shiny dark green oxidation.

The Aldrans-type sword has the character of a supra-regional distribution and appears sporadically evenly from the north of the Carpathian Basin to central Germany. The eponymous Aldrans grave (Innsbruck) is dated to the middle period of the Urnfields on the basis of a tanged knife and a pin with an alternately twisted neck.<sup>43</sup> Earlier variant of the Aldrans type was found in the Komjatná II hoard together with numerous specimens of Liptov type swords, var. II, datable by the Ha A2 period according to Müller-Karpe.<sup>44</sup> The variant with circles with an inner cross on the guard, as found on the specimens from Košice-Barca and

Zvolen, is rarer.<sup>45</sup> The slightly bowl-shaped pommel and some decorative elements (circles with an inner cross on the guard) indicate that the Súľov-Hradná specimen belongs to the subsequent type of the middle or late period of the Urnfields (Ha A2–B1) as a transitional variant between the Aldrans type and the beginning development of bowl-pommel swords (*Schalenknaufschwerter*).<sup>46</sup> Specimens from the Carpathian Basin represent a geographically independent group, which is incorporated by M. Novotná as a separate metallurgical zone of north Hungary–Slovakian production workshops.<sup>47</sup>

### Antennae sword, var. Súľov-Hradná A (Ha B1)

A unique example of a full-hilted sword (*Fig. 2, 3*) belonging to the typological development series of variants with an antenna-style pommel, which is fundamentally defined by three ridges on a narrow, cylindrical handle bar. The pommel was created by a symmetrically twisted massive rod with 2 or 3 threads, and attached to a narrow straight handle by means of a perforated centre and a protruding circular rivet. The narrow and convexly curved guard without rivets creates an internal cut-out arch with radial dashed decoration. Three ridges on the handle with rounded edges are highlighted in relief and decorated with engraved elements in the form of a twig-like pattern. The fields of the hilt remain encased in a light brown clay crust, but the first field shows signs of rich engraved decoration in the form of tiered 'X' designs. The flat, straight to slightly convex blade with a rhombus profile has a slightly pronounced, plastically protruding central ridge, bordered by a double line along the entire length. The heel of the blade bears ornamentation in the form of bundles of grooves arranged in two rhombuses touching at the top – *ricasso* is absent. The specimen is covered in a uniform dark green patina.

The morphology of the artefact is characterized by some features that evolutionarily link it to the Wien-Leopoldsberg type – above all, a straight handle with three wide ridges located in the central part.<sup>48</sup> Specimen from cremation grave no. 15 from Leopoldsberg comes from a single context,<sup>49</sup> where it is accompanied by a tanged knife of the same type, datable to the Ha B1 or Ha B2 period.<sup>50</sup> This type also includes the geographically related Horní Lideč variant from the Lusatian cultural area, which was first identified in the original literature as close to the Mainz type<sup>51</sup> and Flörsheim,<sup>52</sup> primarily on the basis of corresponding ribbon antennae (*Fig. 6*). The Súľov-Hradná A specimen and the only known antennae sword from Slovakia – Poprad-Velká,

<sup>39</sup>Bianco Peroni (1970) 102; Krämer (1985) 31.

<sup>40</sup>Quillfeldt (1995) 172.

<sup>41</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) 48.

<sup>42</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) 30.

<sup>43</sup>Krämer (1985) Nr. 85.

<sup>44</sup>Müller-Karpe (1959) 172, 197.

<sup>45</sup>Novotná (2014) 48.

<sup>46</sup>Říhový (2000) 151.

<sup>47</sup>Novotná (2014) 48.

<sup>48</sup>Krämer (1985) 35.

<sup>49</sup>Kerchler (1962) 49.

<sup>50</sup>Pare (1999) 385; Jiráň (2002) 56.

<sup>51</sup>Quillfeldt (1995) 205.

<sup>52</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) 55.

representing the earliest form of this type in Central Europe, are associated with them.<sup>53</sup> Antennae swords with ribbon-style volutes are widespread from the Rhine to Mecklenburg and Slovakia, while a uniform production zone cannot be assumed.<sup>54</sup> The correspondence between the spatially adjacent swords Wien-Leopoldsberg, Horní Lideč, Poprad-Velká and Súľov-Hradná A–D communicates the common origin and origin of the antennae swords precisely in this geographical area of the Ha A2–B1 period.<sup>55</sup> That such swords were produced in a specific metallurgical workshop in the eastern part of Central Europe is shown by the similar decoration of the blade of the antennae sword from Poprad-Velká and eastern swords with a bowl-shaped pommel (*Schalenknaufschwerter*).<sup>56</sup>

### Antennae sword, var. Súľov-Hradná B (Ha B1)

An undecorated sword with an antenna-style handle and three raised ridges (*Fig. 2, 4*) (*Fig. 4*). Handle without engraved ornamentation is made by separate casting, and attached to the upper part of the blade by pressing two rivets, one of which is absent. Volutes of the antennae pommel are twisted asymmetrically (one volute more open) into a single thread; on the outside of the pommel a low longitudinal central ridge (remains of a casting seam?) is present. The handle is oval in cross-section, in front view with biconvex course, expanding into a sub-triangular guard, showing slight imperfections and asymmetry, which may be a sign of less skill or willingness of the metallurgist. The long, wide, flat leaf-shaped blade carries an elegant plastic central ridge, flanked on both sides by a pair of smaller relief ridges. In the first third of the sword, a deep patinated notch can be observed, running from the edge to the central ridge – probably a contemporary trace of an intensive cut (*Fig. 5, 4*). The shiny grey patina (original metal surface) indicates that, from a material point of view, this may be a specimen with a greater admixture of tin – *ricasso* is absent.

A technically less sophisticated variant without decorative elements, referring to phylogenetic connections in the spread of existing Zurich, Mainz and Wien-Leopoldsberg (Ha B1) sword technology, especially regarding the coiled terminals of the antenna. The main characteristic is the volutes of the pommel on both sides of the ribbon, which are slightly narrowed at the terminals, and the horseshoe-shaped guard, which are characteristic of the earliest antennae swords of the Middle Danubian region to date.<sup>57</sup> In a later period, in the area of southern Germany, the handle developed further in such a way that the three ridges disappeared, instead of the central one a pointed oval was formed, which grew into a pressed spherical knob, while the adjacent,

previously conical parts became cylindrical.<sup>58</sup> The Mainz type can thus be considered a direct predecessor of the Corcelettes type.<sup>59</sup> Regarding the later form and types (Ha B2/B3), it should be noted that the specimens from Italy are mostly classic antennae swords of the Tarquinia type and derivatives of this type (ca. 30 specimens). In addition, several Corcelettes swords (8 specimens), one Zurich type sword and one Lipovka type sword were also found within this area.<sup>60</sup> South German specimens define mostly swords of the Corcelettes type (7 pieces), additionally Zurich (3 pieces) and Mainz (5 pieces) and one Tarquinia sword with a very unusual blade.<sup>61</sup> Tarquinia (9 specimens) and Corcelettes (7 specimens) dominate among the Swiss–Austrian finds of antennae swords. The remaining sword is of the Mainz type and two swords of the Zurich type,<sup>62</sup> are also known from the Romanian Carpathians and Șimleu Silvaniei hoard.<sup>63</sup>

### Antennae sword, var. Súľov-Hradná C (Ha B1)

A single-cast bronze sword with an antenna-style hilt (*Fig. 2, 5*) with two oppositely coiled volutes (1–2 threads). A characteristic feature is a narrow rod-shaped handle with an oval profile and a central bulge. Evolutionarily extinct three raised ridges (*Wulsten*) are indicated by engraved lines in 2–3 rows and the corresponding branch-like pattern. The horseshoe-shaped guard of the handle without rivets carry a parallel semicircular pattern of a bird's feather (analogous to the sword of Liptov III),<sup>64</sup> which also continues on the blade's central ridge, where it was applied significantly deeply and with a certain amount of thoroughness. A relatively long, wide and heavy leaf-shaped blade with a significantly offset central ridge tapers sharply to the tip in the terminal part. The cross-section of the blade is highly variable, but is characterized by a distinctive angular central ridge, which is defined by a sharp groove with a bevelled edge. A serrated *ricasso* is present. The right coiled helix bears a rather unusual imperfection (manufacturing defect) in the form of a thickened edge, which may indicate secondary manipulation (correction of the break?), probably a built-in socket, integrally connected to the corpus of the sword by the thermal bridging process. The condition is generally good, the surface is smooth, with the exception of some clay-sand incrustations. Dark green patina with metal elements.

The source situation makes it possible to choose the Poprad-Velká sword (Ha A2)<sup>65</sup> as the most related specimen in the typological development line, using less common

<sup>53</sup>Novotná (2014) 88.

<sup>54</sup>Baur (2019).

<sup>55</sup>Metzner-Nebelsick (1994) 415.

<sup>56</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) Taf. 36. 4, Taf. 38. 1, 8, 9, Taf. 39. 5.

<sup>57</sup>Quillfeldt (1995) 205.

<sup>58</sup>Baur (2019) 71.

<sup>59</sup>Bentini and Di Lorenzo (2015) Nr. 1–3.

<sup>60</sup>Bianco Peroni (1970).

<sup>61</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) 52–63.

<sup>62</sup>Krämer (1985).

<sup>63</sup>Alexandrescu (1966) 129.

<sup>64</sup>Novotná (2014) Nr. 79–83.

<sup>65</sup>Novotná (2014) 88.





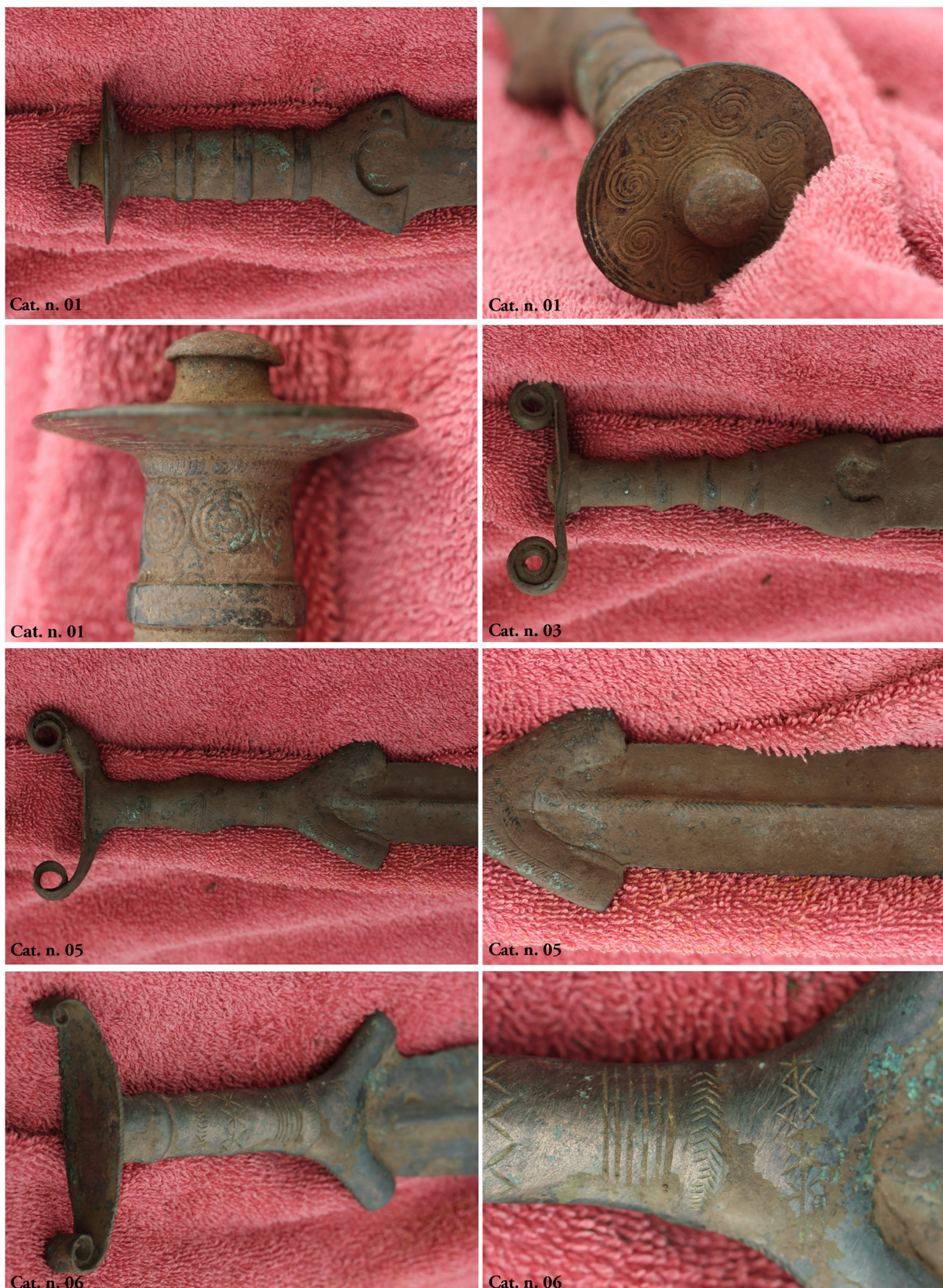


Fig. 4. Súfövd-Hradná II hoard. Amateur, original photographic documentation (2012)  
 4. kép. Súfövd-Hradná II kincs. Amatőr, eredeti fotódokumentáció (2012)



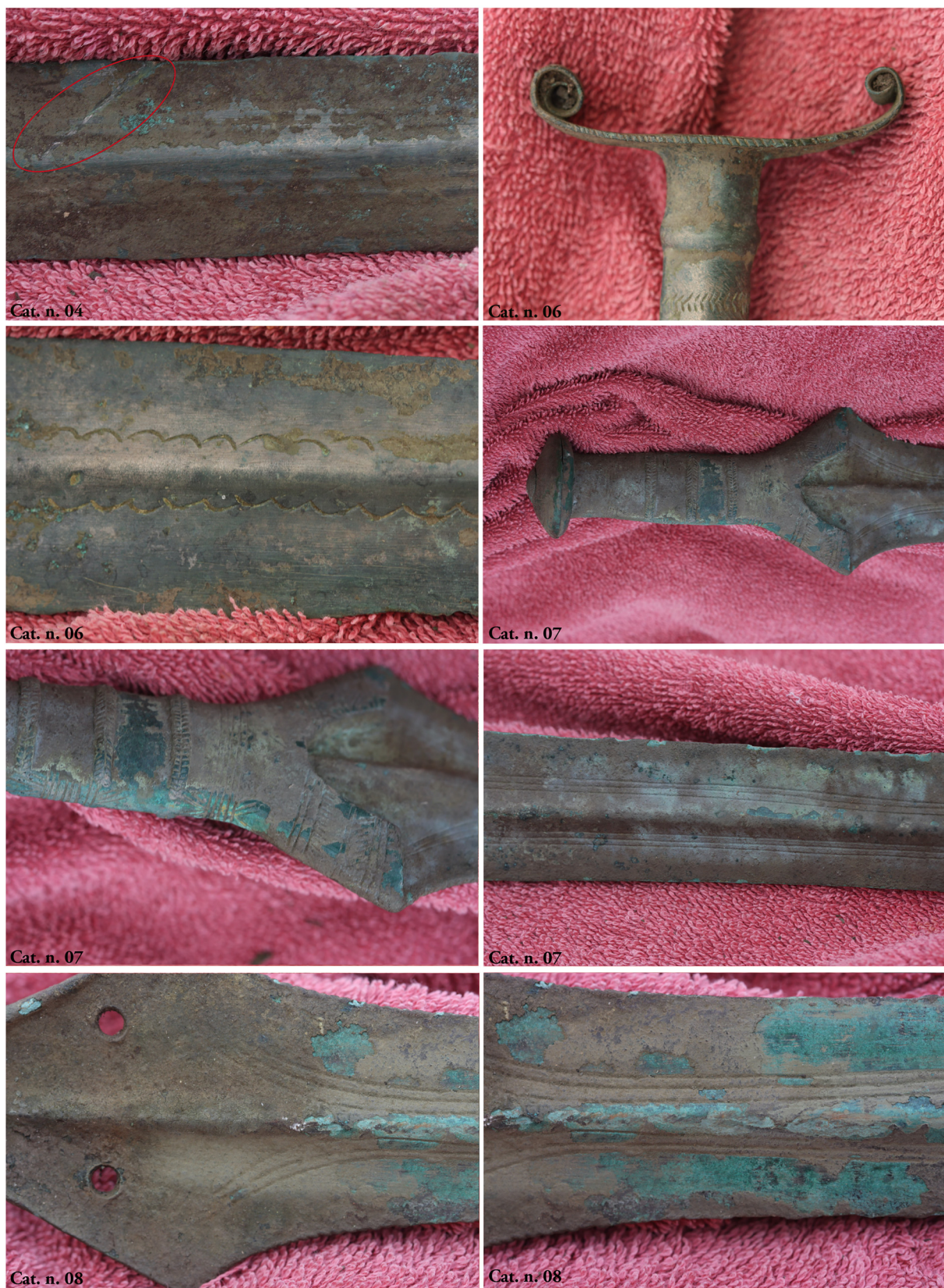
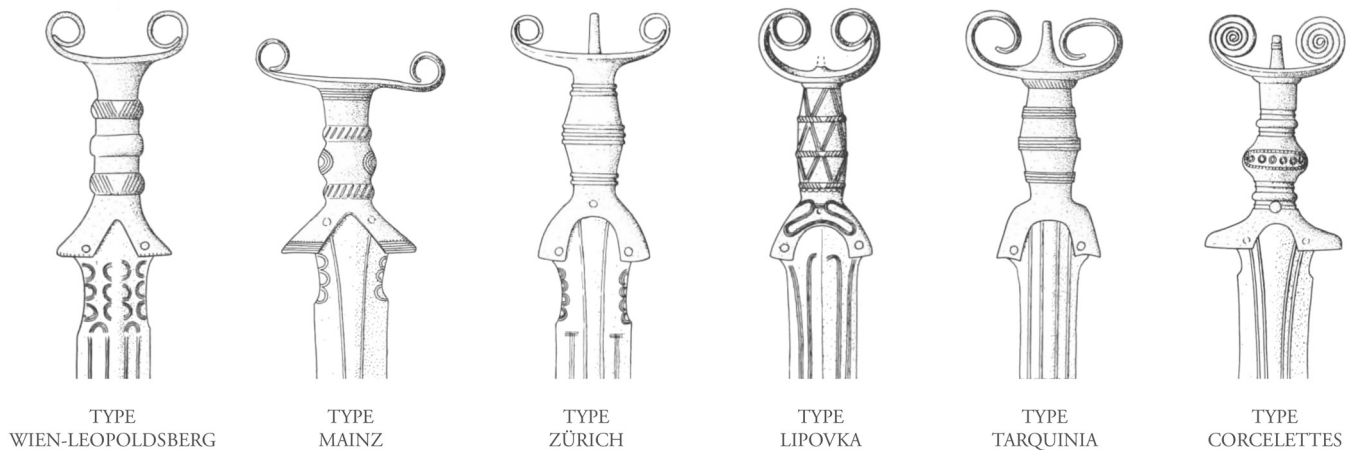


Fig. 5. Súfóv-Hradná II hoard. Amateur, original photographic documentation (2012)  
 5. kép. Súfóv-Hradná II kincs. Amatőr, eredeti fotódokumentáció (2012)





**Fig. 6.** Basic typological categorization of antennae swords in Central Europe  
**6. kép.** A közép-európai antennás kardok alapvető tipológiai kategorizálása

morphological elements such as a narrow flat handle without three ridges and a thickened centre, a flat handle guard without rivets, an almost identical horizontal branch-like pattern, or longitudinal decoration of the blade using hammered semi-circles. For a better grip and holding in the hand, a flat handle with a strongly convex bulge in the middle could serve here. H. Müller-Karpe assigned the Poprad specimen to his Flörsheim type<sup>66</sup> and I. von. Quillfeldt identified it as related to the newly named Mainz type.<sup>67</sup> It was found together with a bronze fibula of the Passamenterie type (*Possamenteriefibel*), which probably did not survive the period of the Middle Urnfields<sup>68</sup> and therefore probably represents the earliest form of antennae swords in Central Europe.<sup>69</sup> The semicircular pattern of the bird's feather mutually links this specimen to the Liptov III type swords.<sup>70</sup>

#### Antennae sword, var. Súľov-Hradná D (Ha B1)

An extravagant and unique example of a medium-sized one-piece sword with an antenna-style handle (Fig. 2, 6). The ribbon-like, symmetrically tapering oval band pommel of the sword is formed by two opposing, unevenly rolled volutes (1 vs. 2 threads) with a densely decorated edge. The narrow, straight rod-shaped handle with an oval cross-section is divided into horizontal fields by relief ridges and engraved ornamentation in the form of a six-fold line, joined six-pointed stars or a zigzag pattern (*fishbone*). The sword's horseshoe-shaped guard with rod-shaped arms, again decorated with star motifs, joins the blade unevenly. A simple leaf-shaped flat blade with a rhombus cross-section is decorated in the central part by a line of parallel hammered semicircles. *Ricasso* is not present. The surface of the sword

acquired an uneven dark green patina with the original metal surface with a golden hue, on which there are parallel grooves after intensive grinding.

The sword without related analogical features can be genetically assigned to the Súľov-Hradná C archetype (Fig. 2, 5). The type-defining features here are the rod-shaped flat hilt, the ribbon pommel of the sword without a central spike, and the simple wide-rolled volutes, again most closely related to the Wien-Leopoldsberg and Mainz types (see above). The rod-shaped handle and the characteristic guard without rivets are strikingly reminiscent of the specimens from Vojany<sup>71</sup> and Komjatná,<sup>72</sup> marked in the publication as “in einem Stück gegossenes Mehrwulstschwerter”. These morphological elements, which were used by metallurgical workshops, are typologically dependent on each other, so there is a direct dependence between them and a tradition in which the handle and blade are cast in one piece, which is a specialty established in the Upper Tisza region.<sup>73</sup> Since a whole range of workshops developed in the pre-Alps to Alps region, which used the motif of widely coiled volutes, according to the prevalence of finds, the expansion of the type probably occurred through processes of splitting off and relocation (“filiation”) from the workshop that produced the typologically earliest antennae swords (Ha A2–B1), with a probable location in the area of the Middle Danube region, apparently from the area of the archaeological culture of Kyjatice, Gáva<sup>74</sup> or Lusatia.<sup>75</sup> How these workshop traditions were spread can only be raised as an open question, but in this context it cannot yet be answered.

<sup>66</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) 55.

<sup>67</sup>Quillfeldt (1995) 204.

<sup>68</sup>Novotná (2001) 36.

<sup>69</sup>Novotná (2014) 88.

<sup>70</sup>Novotná (2014) Taf. 18.

<sup>71</sup>Novotná (2014) Nr. 115A.

<sup>72</sup>Novotná (2014) Nr. 116.

<sup>73</sup>Vachta (2007) 8.

<sup>74</sup>Furmánek (1984).

<sup>75</sup>Veličák (1983).

### Sword with a round knob (Rundknaufschwert; Ha B1)

A unique archetype of a single-cast bronze sword with a full hilt (Fig. 2, 7), falling into the typological category of specimens with a round knob (*Rundknaufschwerter*).<sup>76</sup> The handle in the rear part is protected by a dome-shaped knob made of two opposite bowl-shaped sheets, pressed together by a central rivet/spike with a circular cross-section, which complements the top of the conical knob. The wide, flat handle is divided by three slightly plastic ridges with a fishbone motif (*Fischgrätenmuster*). The decoration was applied quite deeply and with a certain degree of thoroughness. The basal and terminal intermediate fields are decorated with a group of five, resp. of seven parallel lines, which in the area of the guard is reduced to bundles of three, incorporated into zigzag patterns. The wide concave blade elegantly connects to the guard and forms a biconical pointed rhomboid, which is followed in the inner part by a group of three mirror-like converging parallel grooves. From a profile view, the blade is reinforced with a double-sided, diffused profiled central ridge, which is flanked on the sides by flat, evenly bevelled wings. The surface is considerably delaminated and covered with a brown corrosion product in some places of the blade. The surface corrosion has a pale to dark green patina with marginal areas of a multi-layered light brown clay crust. *Ricasso* is not present. In the terminal part, the edge/bevel of the blade appears to be dominantly grinded on one side.

Swords with a round knob represent an innovative link in the development of the Middle Urnfields, while formally and contextually they are connected to swords with an antenna-style pommel, with the earliest variants already appearing in the Ha A2 phase,<sup>77</sup> which relatively quickly established themselves in the large, but culturally connected area of South German and Italian Urnfields.<sup>78</sup> The bronze sword from Košice (“Gegend von Košice”) represents a Western Carpathian variant of this type, with analogous features such as a one-piece body, a flat straight handle with three ridges, or the carved decoration of the guard and blade,<sup>79</sup> but it does not come from the dated whole. Related specimens have a fishbone pattern on the three relief ridges, which is typical in the case of antennae swords of the Tarquinia type from central Italy.<sup>80</sup> The fact that the Súľov-Hradná sword has a conical bronze cap at the terminal of the pommel deserves attention, which is repeated in similar morphometrics in iron-bladed swords from Rivoli,<sup>81</sup> and Neudeck,<sup>82</sup> however, both swords are significantly later (Ha B2/3). Therefore, Hermann Müller-Karpe rightly pointed out the

problem of synchronizing these similar forms of swords south and north of the Alps,<sup>83</sup> which arose on a regional scale under special historical and technical-environmental circumstances.

### Flange-hilted sword of the Hemigkofen type (Ha A2-B1)

A flange-hilted bronze sword (*Griffzungenschwert*) with a *cut-and-thrust* function (Fig. 2, 8), corresponding to the Hemigkofen typological groups.<sup>84</sup> The characteristically long, wide and heavy leaf-shaped blade with a significantly offset central ridge gradually narrows to the tip in the terminal part. The cross-section of the blade is highly variable, but is characterized by a slightly raised central ridge, which is defined by a distinct groove and mirror-like converging triple lines. The flanged part of the hilt with reinforced edge mouldings contains two regular perforations for rivets, and is finished with sharp protrusions in the shape of a “fish tail”. In approximately 2/3 of the blade, a deep notch is noticeable, running from the edge to the central ridge. Straight arms of the guard with a symmetrical course join sharply to the blade – in front of this horizon there are two opposing perforations for rivets. *Ricasso* is not present. Without surviving rivets. Corrosion caused by deposition has gained a blue-green colour and a smooth surface patina over the entire surface.

The Hemigkofen type sword from Súľov-Hradná is a late archetype of flange-hilted swords, genetically originating from the largest Central European typological group of the Ha A period – the straight arms of the hilt of this sword resemble a more western type. The starting point for establishing a more precise dating in the chronological development series is the low raised edge mouldings of the handle, the low number of rivets in the 2:2 formula, the absence of a *ricasso*, and the prominent central ridge, which indicates a more advanced shape.<sup>85</sup> Also worth mentioning are two classic examples of this type from the Liptovské Sliache hoard, with accompanying swords of the Liptov type, var. I and II<sup>86</sup> with reliable indications for chronological inclusion in the Middle/Late Urnfields.<sup>87</sup> J. D. Cowen classified these swords as one type despite the considerable range of variation and concluded that the Hemigkofen type was post-Nenzingen type and appeared at the same time as the Erbenheim and Letten types.<sup>88</sup> According to the distribution map published by P. Schauer, they are divided into one main type and two variants. Swords of the main type are distributed mainly from the Rhine valley to the Thames estuary, swords of the Uffhofen variant mainly in the countries between the mouth of the Main and Lake Geneva,

<sup>76</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) 68.

<sup>77</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) 68.

<sup>78</sup>Bianco Perioni (1970) 106.

<sup>79</sup>Novotná (2014) Nr. 102.

<sup>80</sup>Bianco Peroni (1970) 43.

<sup>81</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) Taf. 62. 2.

<sup>82</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) Taf. 62. 10.

<sup>83</sup>Müller-Karpe (1961) 57.

<sup>84</sup>Cowen (1955); Novák (1975); Schauer (1971).

<sup>85</sup>Cowen (1955) 79–85.

<sup>86</sup>Uhlár (1959).

<sup>87</sup>Novotná (2014) 58.

<sup>88</sup>Cowen (1955) 80.





and swords of the Elsenfeld variant mainly in southern Germany and northern Switzerland.<sup>89</sup> A more advanced specimen of the Hemigkofen type from the Lusatian tumulus grave of Ladtorf (Anhalt), published in detail by E. Sprockhoff, contains an accompanying funerary inventory that indisputably does not allow its overall anchoring before the Ha B phase and is a great representative of a more advanced type – there are few rivet holes, the edges of the hilt are so low, that they almost do not protrude at all, while completely disappearing through the handle.<sup>90</sup>

### Flange-hilted sword of the late Reutlingen/Hemigkofen type (Ha A–B1)

A flange-hilted bronze sword (*Fig. 2, 9; Griffzungenschwert*), formally belonging to the category with the typological groups of Sprockhoff IIa,<sup>91</sup> Nenzingen,<sup>92</sup> Reutlingen<sup>93</sup> and Cetona.<sup>94</sup> A moderately long and flat tapering blade with a slight central ridge tapers continuously towards the tip in the terminal part. The cross-section of the blade is highly variable (lenticular), but typical with a slightly concave central ridge. The flanged part of the convex hilt with reinforced edge strips contains four regular perforations for rivets (formula 2:2), and the butt shows irregular projections in the shape of a wave. The arms of the guard with a symmetrically convex course are sharply connected to the blade; expansion is irregular – *ricasso* is absent. The rivets were not preserved. It has been preserved in fairly good condition with an even green shiny patina. Without decoration.

A technically and typologically less sophisticated variant of the flange-hilted sword, genetically related to the archetypal Reutlingen group, which, according to its affiliation, survived in an unchanged form in the Súlöv-Hradná II hoard until the period of the Late Urnfields. The chronology of the Reutlingen swords was discussed at length by P. Schauer, who demonstrated that the type appeared as early as Bz D in the Riegsee period (Topolnica),<sup>95</sup> but was still in use in Ha A (Reutlingen, Grave 4 and 12).<sup>96</sup> According to Schauer's assumption, it is possible to locate some of the sword workshop centres of the Reutlingen type to the region of north-eastern Hungary and Transylvania.<sup>97</sup> According to the prevalence of these finds, it is clear that the functional emergence of swords with wide leaf-shaped blades took place in this area and spread westward from there.<sup>98</sup>

## CHRONOLOGICAL TRAITS

The Somotor–Lúčky horizon (Ha B1; DFS IV), corr. Hajdúböszörmény/Rohod-Szentes (Hungary), Křenůvky (Moravia), Moigrad-Tăuteu (Romania), and Podgorjany I (Ukraine) is represented on most of the territory of the Carpathian Basin and forms a homogeneous hoard horizon,<sup>99</sup> which represents the culmination of depositional activity in the monitored area,<sup>100</sup> but also in the adjacent countries. The most common bronzes in hoards are axes and sickles (and a combination of these two types), which are the basis of most hoards.<sup>101</sup> Another phenomenon typical of this period is the frequent occurrence of tin vessels deposited next to weapons (swords, helmets) – unlike the horizon of Trenčianske Bohuslavice (Ha A2),<sup>102</sup> they mostly do not show fragmentation. It is worth noting that compared to the previous phases, bracelets in the Ha B1 hoards in the Carpathian Basin no longer play such a significant role,<sup>103</sup> but treasures consisting of decorative sets with fibulae or torcs are a typical phenomenon.<sup>104</sup>

The eponymous hoard of the Lusatian hoard horizon of Lúčky (Ha B1) in western Slovakia<sup>105</sup> fundamentally defines the sheet metal inventory in the form of a bronze helmet of the Lúčky/Oranienburg type, bucket of the Hajdúböszörmény type and a cauldron with cross-shaped attachment of the B1 type.<sup>106</sup> The hoard from Podkonice (Banská Bystrica district) was also stored in a bronze cauldron of B1 type and contained a large number of socketed axes (15 pieces), four spearheads and a bronze sickle.<sup>107</sup> Within western Slovakia, the Domaniža assemblage also stands out,<sup>108</sup> with the presence of three Passanterie A3b type fibulae, a two-part leaf-shaped brooches (*Blattbügelfibel*), two sickles and an axe with a significantly offset blade.<sup>109</sup> The Nitrianska Blatnica I mixed hoard comes from the Lusatian culture site of Marhát, and combines nine torcs, two sickles, two axes and three bracelets.<sup>110</sup> The Lusatian deposit of Bošáca I (Ha A2/B1), already strikingly reminiscent of the more advanced Hajdúböszörmény group (combination of swords and vessels), showed three complete bronze swords of the Liptov II and III type, Högl type and a cup with bull's horns.<sup>111</sup>

<sup>89</sup>Pare (1999) 359; Novotná (2001); Mozsolics (2000); Petrescu-Dimbovița (1961); Kobaľ (2000).

<sup>100</sup>Vácz (2013) 216.

<sup>101</sup>Novotná (1970).

<sup>102</sup>Vácz (2014) 49–50.

<sup>103</sup>Vachta (2007) 106.

<sup>104</sup>Paulík (1959); Tarbay (2012).

<sup>105</sup>Petrikovich (1910).

<sup>106</sup>Mozsolics (1955) 44.

<sup>107</sup>Novotná and Kvietok (2018).

<sup>108</sup>Hampel (1902) 422.

<sup>109</sup>Novotná (1970) Taf. 50.

<sup>110</sup>Ožďáni (2018).

<sup>111</sup>Ondrkál (2018).

<sup>89</sup>Schauer (1971) 157.

<sup>90</sup>Sprockhoff (1931) 109.

<sup>91</sup>Sprockhoff (1931).

<sup>92</sup>Cowen (1955); Novák (1975).

<sup>93</sup>Schauer (1971).

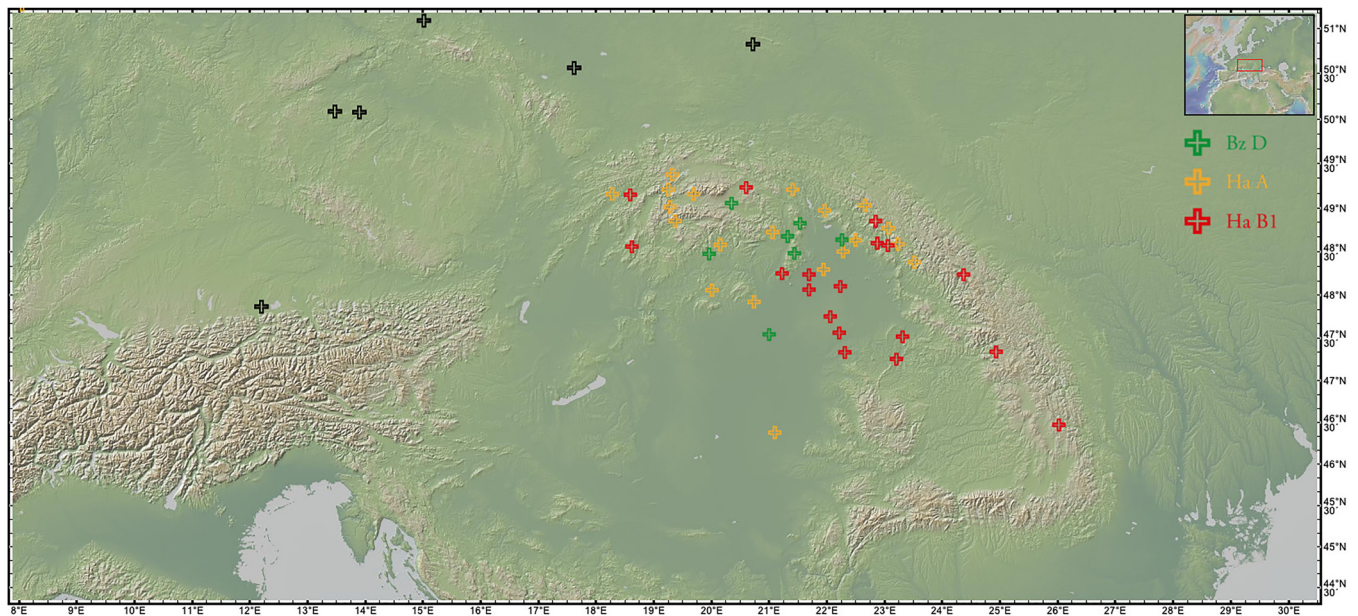
<sup>94</sup>Bianco Peroni (1970).

<sup>95</sup>Harding (1995) Taf. 56–58.

<sup>96</sup>Schauer (1971) 135.

<sup>97</sup>Schauer (1971) 132–136.

<sup>98</sup>Stockhammer (2004) 68.



**Fig. 7. Occurrence of homogen sword hoards (*reine Schwerthorte*) in Urnfield culture**  
**7. kép. Homogén kardkincsek (*reine Schwerthorte*) előfordulása az urnamezős kultúrában**

A separate sub-category of Ha B1 hoards in the Carpathian Basin are the so-called pure sword hoards (*reine Schwerthorte*). In Slovakia, they are known mainly from the Horná Ves (Žiar nad Hronom district; 2 pieces: Königsdorf, Dreiwulstschwert type) and Spišská Belá II (Kežmarok district; 3 pieces: Illertisen and Königsdorf type).<sup>112</sup> The large number of Slovak hoards of the Ha B1 level contrasts significantly with the overall small number of swords from the hoards, which may be caused by the decline or change of ideological constructs in the Western Carpathians – e.g. for Slovakia, P. Novák<sup>113</sup> does not mention a single flange-hilted sword from the Ha B1 period, although according to M. Novotná, general hoard finds in Slovakia reach their peak in this phase.<sup>114</sup> The eastern shift of the ideology (Fig. 7) is evidenced by the adjacent Transcarpathia (Ukraine), where there are three pure hoards of bowl-pommel swords within the six hoards of the Podgorjany I series (according to Kobaľ). The eponymous mass find of Podgorjany I (Ukraine) consisted of 14 swords, mainly with bowl-pommels and flanged hilts, which proves the substitutional character of individual types in Ha B1.<sup>115</sup> Antennae swords are represented only exceptionally, as in Romanian Șimlieu Silvaniei I hoard (2 pieces; Zurich type)<sup>116</sup> or Bunești.<sup>117</sup>

In the material within the Carpathian Basin, one group of hoards clearly stands out, referred to as the Hajdúböszörmény type.<sup>118</sup> The eponymous deposit contained at least four bronze vessels, two helmets and 21 swords. Some of the full-hilted swords were cast in one piece.<sup>119</sup> The bronze hoard of Mezőkövesd<sup>120</sup> also has a comparable sumptuous equipment. A special characteristic of this group is the combination of weaponry (swords, helmets) and tin vessels, mostly with a low degree of fragmentation, and with a limited range of types. P. Patay and S. Hansen pointed out that these hoards belong to a special entity,<sup>121</sup> which is newly complemented by the incipient exclusivity of spears, which can replace swords in deposited units. This also means that the weapon hoards suggest some indication of the number of warriors in battle, as well as their followers with spears, bows and arrows, as some hoards suggest, e.g. Bükkaranyos II,<sup>122</sup> with a small group of officers with a sword and a large group of soldiers with a spear.<sup>123</sup> In the case of Hajdúböszörmény type hoards, this tradition of deposition ends in Ha B1, when for the entire Carpathian Basin, the interruption of the deposition habit can be observed in the Ha B2/3 period.<sup>124</sup>

<sup>112</sup>Novotná (2014) Taf. 27–28.

<sup>113</sup>Novák (1975).

<sup>114</sup>Novotná (1970) 44.

<sup>115</sup>Kobaľ (2000) 25.

<sup>116</sup>Bader (1991) 158.

<sup>117</sup>Petrescu-Dîmbovița (1977) 140.

<sup>118</sup>Vachta (2007) 106.

<sup>119</sup>Mozsolics (2000) 43–47.

<sup>120</sup>Patay (1969).

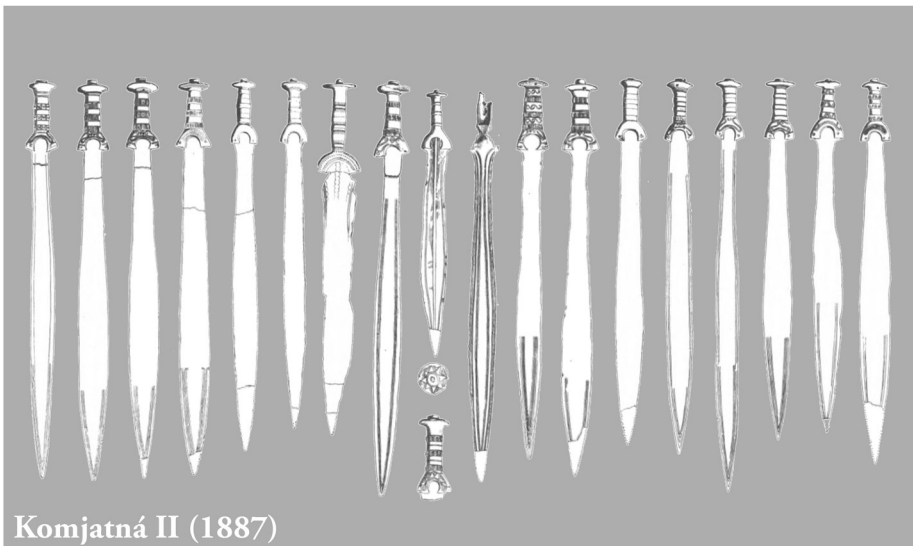
<sup>121</sup>Patay (1990) 16; Born and Hansen (1991) 347.

<sup>122</sup>Kemenczei (1984) 53; Mozsolics (1985) 106.

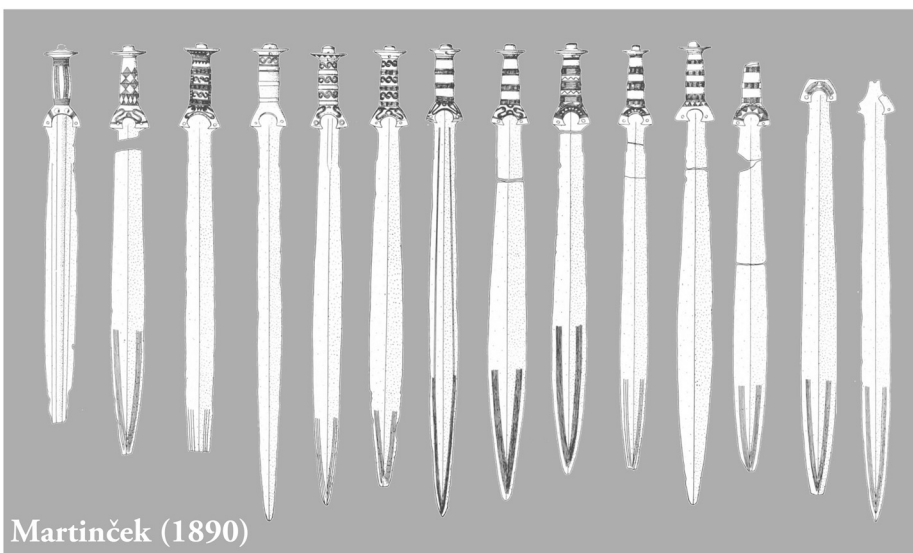
<sup>123</sup>Kristiansen (2002).

<sup>124</sup>Metzner-Nebelsick (2002) 56.

Miklós Kubinyi



Július Kürti



Vlado Uhlár

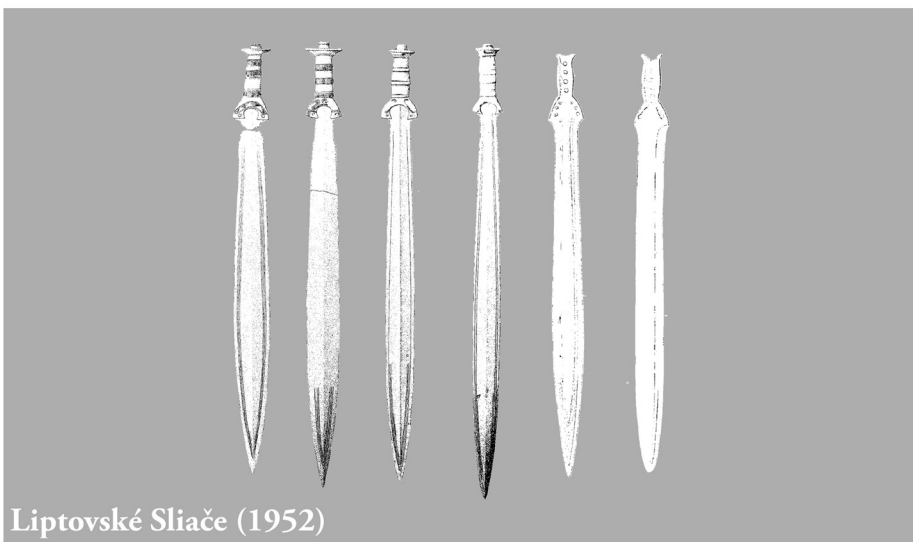


Fig. 8. Hoards of bronze swords from the Upper Váh region (Liptov Basin)  
 8. kép. Bronz kardokból álló kincsek a Felső-Vág mentén (Liptói medence)



## SYNTETHIC THOUGHTS

Multi-typological bronze hoard of Súľov-Hradná II, Bytča dist. (ca. 1080–960 BC) is due to the large number of weaponries a valuable source on practices related to the militarization of prehistoric societies in the Western Carpathians. It contains a typological combination, hitherto unknown in this geographical and temporal context, which clearly assigns the deposition incident to the Somotor–Lúčky horizon, corr. Hajdúböszörmény (Ha B1). Archaeological material is visibly categorized and allows both diachronic and synchronic views; assemblage encodes the relics of swords with three ridges and spirally decorated fields (*Dreiwulstschwerter*; Aldrans and Rankweil-Ehring type), the earliest type of sword with a round knob (*Rundknauflschwert*), swords with a flanged hilt of the Hemigkofen/late Reutlingen type, which have the character of a supra-regional distribution – and four unknown archetypes of antennae swords (*Antennenschwerter*) related to the Wien-Leopoldsberg and Mainz type; thereby filling the information gap and illuminating the complex and ambiguous circumstances of the genesis of swords with an antenna-style handle. The specimens here are cast in one piece (a specialty of the Upper Tisza metallurgical zone), they are decorated in a style reminiscent of the Liptov III type, and it seems more likely that the process of genesis took place in the foothills of the Carpathians with an unbroken workshop tradition since the Ha A period. The type then established itself relatively quickly in a large but culturally closely connected area of the Alpine region and the southern German Urnfields.

The study came to the conclusion that the Súľov-Hradná II high-altitude sacrifice was established as a memorial to those who fought, if not died, in the local conflict, whether the dead belonged to the victors or the vanquished. It could represent terminating a connection with the vengeful spirit of a slain enemy or otherworldly entities. While in the Ha A period sword hoards are characterized by destructive treatment and fragmentation (Komjatná, Martinček; *Fig. 8, A–B*), a special characteristic of the following Somotor–Lúčky horizon is their very good state of preservation (Bošáca, Liptovské Sliače; *Fig. 8, C*). Pure sword hoards (*reine Schwerthorte*) are accompanied by beautifully forged bronze dishes in the Carpathian Basin (the so-called Hajdúböszörmény type hoards) and are a very close phenomenon from the activities of the Bronze Age elites,<sup>125</sup> where valuable gifts were exchanged, alliances were formed, and hierarchies were confirmed or changed. The number of swords stored here may be related to the number of members in a basic military unit<sup>126</sup> – depictions on Nordic petroglyphs<sup>127</sup> illustrate canoes with 6–13 lines indicating

individual crew members and suggests that warriors in prehistoric battles could be counted in tens to hundreds of individuals.<sup>128</sup> Swords may also have been owned by a particular elite and collected over a longer period of time, after which they were stored in this symbolic event.

Žibrid hill (867 m) is an environmental link between Central Váh and Rajec valleys. The highly stylized model of ideological strategies suggests that one of the reasons why the Carpathian Mountain populations developed a weapon sacrifice system was the road system in their respective regions. While the lowland area of the Middle Danube Urnfields offered many options for land routes, the Lusatians were directed into narrow valleys or squeezed along waterways,<sup>129</sup> and regularly passed through areas with a possible traumatic incident. Although the picture is now more nuanced, the settlement pattern of the West Carpathian Lusatian population still seems to reveal a concern for territorial control and defence. The work invested not only in the construction, but also in the maintenance of complex defence systems indicates that at least some form of defence was perceived as necessary.<sup>130</sup> Possession of swords also served as a warning, functioning as an intimidation mechanism that contributed to the strengthening or building of political power. It was a reminder of the ability of the dominant class to use violence if necessary, and their sacrifice would appear as a decisive confirmation of the autonomy and sovereignty of the local community and its elites,<sup>131</sup> which the local population kept in social memory for generations.

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<sup>125</sup>Vachta (2007) 106.

<sup>126</sup>Harding (2007).

<sup>127</sup>Ling (2008) 191.

<sup>128</sup>Harding (2007) 33.

<sup>129</sup>Ondrkál et al. (2020).

<sup>130</sup>Hornák (2016).

<sup>131</sup>Ondrkál (2022).





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## Súlov-Hradná II: a Lausitz-kultúra fegyverdepója Nyugat-Szlovákiából

Filip Ondrkál

A Súlov-Hradná II (Kr. e. 1080–960, Bytča körzet) lelőhelyen előkerült bronzkinc a fegyverek típusainak és nagy számának köszönhetően értékes forrása az őskori közösségek fegyverkezési gyakorlatainak a Nyugati-Kárpátokban. A tárgyaknak olyan tipológiai kombinációját tartalmazza, amely eddig ismeretlen ebben a földrajzi és időbeli keretben, s amely egyértelműen a Somotor–Lúčky, illetve Hajdúböszörmény (Ha B1) horizonthoz köti. A régészeti anyag jól láthatóan szelektált, így lehetővé teszi a szinkrón és diakrón betekintést egyaránt. A csoportokat hármass bordás markolatú kardok (*Dreiwulstschwerter*; Aldrans és Rankweil-Ehring típus), a legkorábbi kerek gombos kardtípus (*Rundknaufschwert*), a nyélnyúlványos markolatú kardok (Reutlingen/Hemigkofen-típus), valamint a Wien-Leopoldsberg- és Mainz-típushoz kapcsolódó négy ismeretlen antennakard archetípusa (*Antennenschwerter*) alkotják, ezzel kitöltve az információs hézagot és megvilágítva az antennaszerű nyéllal rendelkező kardok keletkezésének összetett körülményeit. Az előkerült példányok egy részes öntvények (a Felső-Tisza-vidék kohászati szokásainak megfelelően), a Liptó III-as típusra emlékeztető stílusúak, és valószínűnek tűnik, hogy a keletkezésük a Kárpátok lábánál a Ha A korszak óta töretlen műhelygyománnyal eredménye. Ez a típus ezután viszonylag gyorsan meghonosodott az alpi régióban és a dél-német urnamezős közösségek kiterjedt, de kulturálisan szorosan összefüggő területén.

A tanulmány arra a következtetésre jut, hogy a Súlov-Hradná II magaslati áldozatot azoknak emlékére helyezték el, akik harcoltak, függetlenül attól, hogy meghaltak vagy túléltek a konfliktust, illetve a győztesek vagy a legyőzöttek közé tartoztak. Szimbolizálhatja a legyőzött ellenség „bosszúvágyó szellemével” vagy más, túlvilági entitással való kapcsolat megszakítását. Míg a Ha A korszakban a kardkincsekre a tudatos rongálás és a töredezettség jellemző (Komjatná,

Martinček; *Fig. 8, A–B*), addig a rákövetkező Somotor–Lúčky horizont sajátossága a tárgyak nagyon jó állapota (Bošáca, Liptovské Sliace; *Fig. 8, A–B*). A kardkincsekhez (*reine Schwerthorte*) a Kárpát-medencében díszített bronzedények (ún. Hajdúböszörmény-típusú kincsek) társulnak, melyekhez hasonlóak a bronzkori elit csoportok közötti kapcsolattartásból ismertek, melynek során értékes ajándékok cseréltek gazdát, szövetségek kötöttek, illetve státuszok változtak, vagy erősítették meg. Az elhelyezett kardok száma összefügghet egy katonai egység létszámával – skandináv sziklarajzokon kenuk láthatók 6–13 vonallal, amelyek a legénység tagjait jelölik.

A Žibrid-hegy (867 m t.f.m.) egy természetes kapcsolat a Közép-Vág vidéke és a Rajec-völgy között. Az ideológiák egyik erősen stilizált modellje arra utal, hogy a Kárpátok hegyi népességének karddeponálási szokásait a környező régiók úthálózata inspirálhatta. Míg a Közép-Duna-vidék sík urnamezős területei számos útvonal-lehetőséget nyújtottak, addig a lausitzi területen szűk völgyekbe, illetve vízfolyások menti útvonalakba szorultak, ahol nagyobb eséllyel voltak kitéve traumatikus eseményeknek. Habár a kép ma már árnyaltabb, még mindig úgy tűnik, hogy a lausitzi populáció letelepedési mintázatát a terület feletti kontroll, illetve a védhetőség motiválhatta. A komplex védelmi rendszerek kiépítésére és karbantartására fordított energia azt jelzi, hogy a védekezés valamilyen formája elengedhetetlen része volt társadalmuk mindennapjainak. A kardok birtoklása figyelemzavaróként is szolgált, megfélemlítő eszközként működött, amely hozzájárult a politikai hatalom építéséhez és megerősítéséhez. Az uralkodó osztály erőszakot alkalmazni tudó képességére emlékeztetett, áldozati elhelyezésük pedig a helyi közösség és elitje autonómiájának és szuverenitásának megerősítése lehetett, amit a helyi lakosság generációkon keresztül megőrzött az emlékezetében.



## Súľov-Hradná II: Vojenské depozitum lužickej kultúry zo Západného Slovenska

Filip Ondrkál

Multi-typologické bronzové depozitum Súľov-Hradná II, okr. Bytča (ca. 1080–960 pr. Kr.) je kvôli veľkému počtu zbraní cenným zdrojom o praktikách súvisiacich s militarizáciou pravekých spoločností v Západných Karpatoch. Obsahuje typologickú kombináciu, doteraz neznámu v tomto geografickom a časovom kontexte, ktorá jednoznačne priraduje incident deponovania k horizontu Somotor–Lúčky, resp. Hajdúböszörmény (Ha B1). Archeologický materiál je viditeľne kategorizovaný a umožňuje diachrónne aj synchronne pohľady; zoskupenie kóduje relikty mečov s tromi vývalkami a špirálovite zdobenými medzipoliami (*Dreiwulstschwerter*; t. Aldrans a Rankweil-Ehring), najskorší typ meča s guľovitou hlavicou (*Rundknaufschwert*), meče s jazykovitou rukoväťou t. Hemigkofen/Reutlingen, ktoré majú charakter nadregionálneho rozšírenia – a štyri neznáme archetypy mečov s anténovitou rukoväťou (*Antennenschwerter*) príbuzných t. Wien-Leopoldsberg a Mainz; čím vyplňa informačnú medzeru a osvetľuje zložité a nejednoznačné okolnosti vzniku mečov s anténovitou rukoväťou. Exempláre sú tu odliate v jednom kuse (špecialita metalurgického prúdu hornej Tisy), sú zdobené štýlom pripomínajúcim t. Liptov var. III, a viac sa zdá, že proces genézy prebehol na úpätí Karpát s neprerušenu dielenskou tradíciou od obdobia Ha A. Typ sa potom pomerne rýchlo etabloval vo veľkej, no kultúrne úzko prepojenej oblasti alpského regiónu a juhonemeckých popolnicových polí.

V štúdiu bol priblížený záver, že vysokohorská obetina Súľov-Hradná II bola zostavená ako pamätihodnosť tým, ktorí bojovali, ak nie zomreli, v miestnom konflikte, či už mŕtvi patrili k víťazom alebo porazeným. Mohla predstavovať ukončenie spojenia s pomstychtivým duchom zabitého nepriateľa alebo entitami z iného sveta. Zatiaľ čo v období Ha A sú depoty mečov typické deštruktívnym zaobchádzaním a fragmentáciou (Komjatná, Martinček;

Fig. 8: A–B), tak zvláštnou charakteristikou nasledujúceho horizontu Somotor–Lúčky je uvádzaný ich veľmi dobrý stav zachovania (Bošáca, Liptovské Sliače; Fig. 8: C). Čisté depoty mečov (*reine Schwerthorte*) sú v Karpatskej kotline spre-vádzané nádherné kovaným bronzovým riadom (depoty t. Hajdúböszörmény) a sú veľmi blízkym javom z pôsobnosti elit doby bronzovej,<sup>132</sup> pri ktorom sa menili cenné dary, vznikali spojenectvá a potvrdzovali alebo menili sa hierarchie. Počet uložených mečov tu môže súvisieť s množstvom členov v základnej vojenskej jednotke – zobrazenia na nordických petroglyfoch<sup>133</sup> ilustrujú kanoe so 6–13 čiarami označujúcimi jednotlivých členov posádky.

Vrch Žibrid (867 m n. m.) je prirodzenou spojnicou medzi stredným Považím a Rajeckou dolinou. Vysoko štylizovaný model ideologických stratégií naznačuje, že jedným z dôvodov, prečo si karpatské horské populácie vyvinuli systém obetovania mečov, bol systém ciest v ich príslušných regiónoch. Zatiaľ čo nížinná oblasť stredodunajských popolnicových polí ponúkala veľa možností pozemných trás, tak Lužičania boli nasmerovaní do úzkych údolí alebo stlačené pozdĺž vodných tokov,<sup>134</sup> a pravidelne prechádzali oblasťami s možným traumatickým incidentom. Hoci je teraz obraz jemnejší, zdá sa, že vzor osídlenia západokarpatskej lužickej populácie stále odhaľuje záujem o územnú kontrolu a obranu. Práca investovaná nielen do výstavby, ale aj do údržby komplexných obranných systémov naznačuje, že aspoň určitá forma obrany bola vnímaná ako nevyhnutná.<sup>135</sup> Vlastníctvo mečov tiež slúžilo ako varovanie, fungujúce ako zastrešujúci mechanizmus, ktorý prispel k posilneniu či budovaniu politickej moci. Bolo pripomienkou schopnosti dominantnej triedy použiť v prípade potreby násilie a ich obetovanie by sa javilo ako rozhodné potvrdenie autonómie a suverenity miestnej komunity a jej elit,<sup>136</sup> ktorú si lokálna populácia uchovávala v sociálnej pamäti po celé generácie.

<sup>132</sup>Vachta (2007) 106.

<sup>133</sup>Ling (2008) 191.

<sup>134</sup>Ondrkál et al. (2020).

<sup>135</sup>Hornák (2016).

<sup>136</sup>Ondrkál (2022).