The Main Stylistic Features of the Baltic Crossbow Brooches in the Migration Period

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Introduction. In the complicated situation of the Great Migration Period in Europe Baltic culture and the territory are recognized by researchers as a most stable area in Central Europe in its permanent development from Roman Iron Age into the Early Middle Ages (Godlewski 1970; Okulicz 1973; Michelbertas 1986; Tautavičius 1996). However in the middle of the first millennium the Baltic people experienced changes in territory and in their social – economical life, mostly related to the processes of the Great Migration period in Europe. All of the Baltic tribes later mentioned in written sources emerged in the late fourth and fifth centuries (Tautavičius 1986: 44–45, fig. 1). In the middle of the first millennium, the changing population size transformed the network of settlements and domestic intertribal trade routes in the existing ethnic-cultural areas.

In the great changes of the Migration period the Baltic tribes which were living in the huge territory from Samland Peninsula and the Mazurian Lakeland to western and central Lithuania and, as the last year data show, eastern part of Lithuania was involved in this process. Samland Peninsula and Olsztyn culture unit (“mazur-germanische” Kultur) had the most special position in the Migration period. Olsztyn culture unit was unique for this part of Europe because of the wealth of their artifacts, which had features typical to the interregional Germanic culture. Perhaps the hypothesis that Olsztyn group was formed by Galindai, who returned to their homeland, after migrating with the Goths and other tribes, has a real background (Šturm 1950: 22; Nowakowski 1989b: 120–123). The fact that some written sources of the beginning of the sixth century mention Baltic and Scandinavian people together among the Goths is an ideal explanation for this phenomenon (Wolfram 1990: 59–83). Samland Peninsula had rich amber deposits and since Roman Iron Age was trading in amber and had close and possible direct contact with Roman Empire. Olsztyn group was involved in amber trade and this was one of the factors of their wealth. During Early Migration Period Samland and Olsztyn group were flourishing areas. Intermediate merchants from western Lithuania and perhaps lower reaches of the Nemunas region were drawn into amber trade. A considerably higher number of amber artifacts occur in the burials of the Lithuanian cemeteries, which belong to the fifth – sixth centuries (Bliujiene 2001b: 171–186). The types of different artifacts and amber beads found in the graves of the fifth – sixth centuries
could evidence an intensive long distance trade in raw materials between the merchants of the coastal area with southern regions.

**Geometrical patterns of the fifth–sixth centuries.** In the Roman Iron Age Baltic tribes used abundant geometrical patterns as well as open work designs in adorns and embellish their ornaments. In the middle of the fifth century a lot of changes in the geometrical style of Baltic ornaments took place. In the middle of the fifth century some new, never used before geometrical patterns, such as semicircle, triangular and rhombus filled by notches, dots and others additions were especially often used for decoration of ornaments (Fig. 1: 1–2, 2: 2–3, 4). “X” motif started to be used to adorned crossbow fibulae with triangular, bent or narrow feet (Fig. 2: 2). Such geometrical designs as a motif of “linden leaves”, spirals similar to letter “S” and reverse “S” scrolls, broken lines resembling meander, swastikas, tiresles were introduced into decoration of the ornaments. Engraved notches resembling zigzag line, stamped like a wave semicircles were pretty often used to adorn ornaments: belt – buckle plates, scabbard – mounts, horse trappings and other artifacts. Geometrical ornamentation patterns of Baltic tribes in the fifth – sixth centuries are characterized by use of the “star” motif, which came from Scandinavia with Södsala style. In Baltic lands the “star” motif has its special Baltic expression (Åberg 1919: 45, Abb. 43; Biter-Wróblewska 1991: 49–81; Blüjmen 2000: 103–104; Blüjmen 2001: 14–16, fig. 9). Most of the numerous mentioned geometrical motifs of the Baltic decoration system disappeared at the end of the sixth century. Only a triangular, dot, circle, notches, “X” motifs of the Migration Period geometrical patterns did not lose their position in the latest decoration systems.

Along with the new geometrical designs of Baltic tribes, animal motifs appeared at the end of the fifth century. These geometrical as well as animal motifs were cultural wave of the Great Migration Period. The decoration of Baltic ornaments was much influenced by Södsala, Sjörup, Nydam, Untersiebenbrunn and other more local styles of the middle of the forth–the first half of the fifth centuries (Forsander 1937: 163–272; Voss 1954: 171–230; Lunde, Hansen 1989: 63–102; Blüjmen 2000a: 104–107).

Schemes of geometrical ornamentation of the Roman Iron Age were quite different from those that started to be used in the middle of the fifth century. Ornamentation schemes of the early Migration Period are much more simply, sometimes only the edges or the ends of the ornament were embellished by stamped geometrical pattern (Fig. 2: 3, 4).

Some previously unused by Baltic jewellers metalwork techniques appeared at the same time. They were chip–carving, nielloing, gliding, and covering of ornaments with embossed white metal plates. At the same time stamped decoration started to be the main way of covering of ornaments surface. All these new technologies were methods universally used across Europe. A lot of ornaments made from silver, gilded silver, bronze and iron or only iron appeared in the fifth–sixth centuries. It should be mentioned that rather often ornaments of the Migration Period are made of silver, or iron.

**Imports as cultural ideas.** Different types of crossbow brooches, bindings for drinking horns, belt buckles and their mounts as well as turned and semi-turned amber beads are known from Lithuanian cemeteries of the fifth–sixth centuries. A lot of these artifacts were imported from the Middle Danube area, Scandinavia, lower Vistula region, Mazurian Lakeland. Some of artifacts mentioned above, according to the imported examples, were manufactured somewhere in Baltic lands. Jaunėkiai, Plinkagalis, Kališkiai, Taugliai, Vidiūnai, Marvaičiai, Žviliai, Balsiai, Pavajaunys – Rękuciai, Taurapilis should be mentioned as famous sites of the fifth–sixth centuries of Lithuania. Many imported artifacts are known from these burial grounds. These imports indicate contacts with Middle Europe, Scandinavia and other regions. Some of the imports should be mentioned especially. They are – a silver cicada-shaped brooch dated by the fifth–early sixth century – a stray find of Sauginais burial ground (LNM AR 507: 60; Merkevičius 1984: 56, fig. 18: 2). The silver brooch with plates at its terminals, dated the fifth – early sixth century found...
in the male grave 144, Plinkaigalas cemetery (Kazakevičius 1993: 113–114). However, it should be mentioned that silver brooches with plates at its terminals have been worn in pairs only by Germanic and Hunnish women. The brooches — finds of Plinkaigalas and Sauginiai — are imports from the territory of present Hungary. Such fibulae are characteristic Hunnish artifacts (Böna 1993, fig. 34).

Only two “Raupenfibel” type brooches are known from a boy’s grave 261 at Žvillai cemetery from the present Lithuania territory (Fig. 1: 3, 5). Grave 261 from Žvillai belongs to the beginning of the fifth century. The fibulae from Žvillai are exact copies of “Raupenfibel” of group I: 1 A (Tuszyńska 1998: 179, ryś: 1, 3: 1, 4: 1). Brooches of such type are known in the Wielbark culture area of the lower Vistula region and the Samland Peninsula (Tuszyńska 1998: 177–187). The brooches found at Žvillai grave 261, as well as a necklace of amber beads–pendants shaped as figure eight or brioque must have been imported from lower Vistula region.

For Baltic jewellers a “Raupenfibel” was one of the factors which give an idea for making relief surfaces of an artifacts (Fig. 1: 7; 2: 1, 8: 1–3; 9: 12). Baltic jewellers using horizontal cord like incisions, strokes leaning right or left and other geometrical patterns started to achieve the effect of illusion or deeper relief as well (Fig. 1: 1–2; 8: 4; 11). In most cases, often as an experiment they used this for crossbow brooches with long narrow foot and cast–catch plate. Another huge cultural impact for Baltic jewellers to cover all the surface of the artifact by geometrical patterns was Sósđala, Sńępren, Nydama, Unterseibenbrunn styles of the middle of the forth–the first half of the fifth centuries and later Germanic animal style I and, perhaps, style II. All these influences were soon modified and adopted to satisfy the geometrical pattern taste of the Baltic tribes.

Crossbow fibulae with a lofty bow and short foot and a full cast–catch plates appeared mostly in eastern Lithuanian barrow cemeteries and burial grounds of central Lithuania in the graves of the fifth century (Fig. 3). These brooches were divided into two the so-called “Vilkonis” (Balulliai, barrow 5, cremation 3; Diktari, grave 1; Degnė–Labotikšės, barrow 6; Eglia burial ground; Masiejiškės, barrow 14, cremation 1; Plinkaigalas, grave 335; Rūkikai, LNM AR 499: 86; Taurapilis, barrow 5; Kalniškių, grave 191 and stray find; Zabieliškės, barrow, 3 grave 2; Vilkonis, barrow 6) and “Plivinai” (Aukštadarvinis in cultural layer of the hill – fort; Veršvai, graves 29, 74, 113–114; Poškai, barrow 2; Skersabailiai, barrow) types (Gavrilov 1968: 78–85; Tautavičius 1998: 193). Vytautas Kazakevičius called this type of brooches as “Rūkikai” type (Kazakevičius 1998: 199). The brooches of both types in most cases were made of iron. They are only 5–7 cm long with a foot only 1.5–1.8 cm long. The brooches of the “Plivinai” type have torqued or twisted bow (Fig. 3: 2). The brooches of the “Vilkonis” type have a bow of different cross – section (Fig. 3: 1). Sometimes the bow of the fibulae is decorated with small notches. The bronze brooches of “Vilkonis” type from Rūkikai, barrow 13, (LNM AR 499: 86) have rectangular plates at the middle of the bow and the end of the foot. These plates are decorated with geometrical motif – notches leaning to the left (Fig. 1: 4). Bronze crossbow fibula from Taurapilis chieftain grave in barrow 5 should be attributed to the “Vilkonis” type. Assemblage of this grave – sword scabbard bindings, sword belt buckles – a pendant – amulet, drinking horn bindings – are not only unique in Lithuania, but were manufactured in a middle Danubian and Scandinavian workshops (Tautavičius 1981: 18–43; Gimbutienė 1985: 125; Biljužienė 2000a: 105).

The prototypes of “Vilkonis” and “Plivinai” brooches are known from provincial Roman art. Such type of the fibulae is known from Jetvingis barrows, Mazurian Lakeland, western part of Byelorussia. Some such fibulae are known from Latvia and Estonia (Moora 1938: 159–151). Both fibula types are known from the middle Danube region, central European sites of south – western territory of Slovakia, Dnieper and its tributary, Western Bug till Vistula. Vistula was a direct route to the middle Danubian region (Gavrilov 1968: 78–85; Blažek 1997: Abb. 3: 1–5; Szaumel 1997: Tafel 5: 9–10). Lithuania is the northern territory with huge and compact enough concentration of fibulae of this type. However at the end of the fifth century this type of the fibulae disappeared without noticeable traces in shapes of ornaments and decoration.

Some crossbow bronze or silver brooches are known with a flat, wide and long bow in eastern Lithuanian barrow cemeteries of the fifth–sixth century. Such fibulae are with a bent foot. The end of the foot in such fibula is not bent around the bow but terminated by decorated rectangular plate (Fig. 4). Such terminating of the crossbow brooches is atypical to Baltic tribes. The crossbow brooches with long, flat and wide bow are about 11–15 cm long. In Lithuania such brooches are known from Ballulai, barrow 11, grave 1; Pavajuonys – Rūkukai, barrow 11, grave 2; Laukininkai, stray find (LNM AR 152: 1). Brooches of this type were found in rich inhumations along with other imports (Ballulai, barrow 11, grave 1; necklace of 24 glass beads; Kliaugaite 2000: 177). A high-ranking woman was buried in Pavajuonys – Rūkukai barrow 11, grave 2 (fig. 4: 2). Not only a neck ring, but a string of 91 different colour glass beads and bronze spirals as well was found on the neck of the deceased woman. Two silver bracelets with thickened terminals, a spiral finger ring and two finger rings with flattened middle part were found in this high-ranking woman’s grave. The awl with wooden handle was fixed.
perhaps to the deceased woman's sauk.

A 14.5 cm long bronze fibula with a bent foot and a wide flat bow was found as an additional grave good (Seménas 1998: 150–152). The surface of this fibula was covered with white metal plate that was decorated in stamped semicircles (Fig. 4: 2). The crossbow brooches with bent foot and wide flat bow are large and have pure stamped or engraved decora-
tion at the edges of the ornament (semicircles, notches). These fibulae as well as their geometrical decoration are characteristic only of the graves of the fifth–sixth centuries. Similar brooches with wide flat bow and cast catchplate are known from the middle Danube in the Early Migration Period.

Some atypical brooches are known in Lithuanian archaeological material of the Migration Period. They must have been imported to Lithuania or manufactured locally according to their foreign prototypes. One of such brooches was found at Sudata I barrow cemetery 30, in a high-ranking warriors' cremation grave 4 (Fig. 5). Not only the mentioned iron crossbow fibula with a long narrow foot belongs to this grave of the second half of the sixth century. Scabbard bindings decorated in animal motives and spirals, silver necklace, spearhead, axe, and shield boss were found here as well. The spring axle of the brooch instead of the end knobs has covering by bronze boxes. One bronze brooch terminate the foot of the fibula. The surface of the ornament is executed in low relief (Fig. 5). The scabbard bindings found in Sudata I, grave 4 is decorated in spirals, resembling scrolls. Animal head with almond eyes terminates the end of the bindings. Ornamental motifs of scabbard bindings are known from the second half of the fifth century. They are presented in fingered brooches, belt buckles plates, household items found in middle Europe, middle Danube territory, Mazurian Lakeland (Artman 1945: fig. 1–10; Csallányi 1961: fig. 10: 1–3, 6; plates CCXXV–VIII, CCL: 1; CLXXXII: 7; CLXXIV: Okulina, 1973, fig. 245, 249, Náman 1964, Tafel 16: 1–5).

A bronze crossbow fibula with cast-catch plate beside a shoulder strap, two belt buckles, one more crossbow decorated with rings brooch, battle knife – dagger, spearhead, axe were found at the Kaliņķiškis high-ranking warrior's grave 39. Two horses and ritual horse offering (head of the horse) as well were buried with the warrior deceased at Kaliņķiškis' grave 39. A metope plate on the spring is specific for the decoration of brooch with cast-catch plate (Fig. 1: 6). However, plate of the fibula from Kaliņķiškis is almost round. The next round plate adorned the middle of the bow and the third atypical plate terminated the end of the foot of the artifact (Fig. 1: 6). Perhaps the Smerenge variant brooches from Bornholm, which had a high profiled knob, influenced these atypical plates (Bilter-Wróblewska 2000: 184, fig. 1: b). Trapeza – like metope plates on the springs of the fibulae became typical features for crossbow animal headed and long footed brooches of Curonians, Scalvians, Lettgalians, Semigallians in the sixth–ninth centuries.

Fibulae mentioned above mostly have been found in the cemeteries of central and eastern Lithuania since the fifth–sixth centuries. Only few of the specimens come from western part of Lithuania (fig. 1: 3, 5, 7).

Abstract animal motifs. At the end of the fifth and the beginning of the sixth centuries Baltic tribes started to wear crossbow zoomorphic or animal headed brooches. In eastern Baltic area as well as in the Germanic world zoomorphic brooches held a special position. Also it should be mentioned that in Baltic society animal designs, especially in brooches were associated with high-ranking persons. Lithuanian archaeological material of the Migration Period shows that only high-ranking warriors and chieftains (an exception, Vidgiriai, woman grave 11) wore zoomorphic brooches.

Many scholars attempted to find out the origin of Baltic animal-headed brooches with the intention to describe and classify them (Aberg 1919: 93–97; Öxenstierna 1940: 219–252; Sturms 1950: 20–22; Werner 1970: 78–81; Kazakevičius 1983: 189–196; 1993: 106–109; Kulakov 1990: 204–215; 43). The last classification of crossbow animal-headed brooches based on stylistic development and chronology was proposed by a well-known Polish researcher Anna Biltner-Wróblewska (Bilter-Wróblewska 2000: 181–197; 2001: 77–88, 195–197). The author divided crossbow animal-headed brooches into Sensburg/Mragowo type and its variants. Specimens without relief decoration were attributed to this type. The chronology of this type covers the last few decades of the fourth century and the first half of the fifth century (Bilter-Wróblewska 2000: 189–191). According to A. Biltner-Wróblewska's classification the Daumen/Tumiany type brooches have relief decoration. The variant of these fibulae belongs to the second half of the fifth and the sixth century (Bilter-Wróblewska 2000: 191). However, in Lithuania and Latvia there were not found any artifacts decorated with animal motifs which should be ascribed to the end of the fourth and the first half of the fifth century. The first crossbow animal-headed fibulae appeared in Baltic lands at the end of the fifth – the beginning of the sixth century. Precise enough dating for these artifacts was given by grave goods of Plinkaligis, grave 106, Vidgiriai, grave 2, 30, 32; Geistauta; grave 2. From the point of view of decoration brooches mentioned above are different. In the classification scheme proposed by A. Biltner-Wróblewska the crossbow animal-headed fibulae from the seventh–ninth centuries included to Sensburg/Mragowo Letto – Lithuanian type and it's imitates. Fibulae are a part of the Baltic animal style (Jurgačiai, graves 5, 22; Lazdiniškiai, graves 27, 38, 116; Osi Dobele, stray find; Biltner-Wróblewska 2000: 193–194). Crossbow fibula of the sixth century from Pagryžiai (stray find; VDKM 709: 26) is attributed to the Sensburg/Mragowo Letto – Lithuanian variant as well. Brooches from Plinkaligis (grave 107); Rubokai (grave 41); Vidgiriai (grave 11) involve into the Sensburg/Mragowo variant have expressive relief surface. As the author notes, brooches of Daumen/Tumiany type have relief surface, but the decoration of the artifacts is different. This means that in the same type there are artifacts of a different cultural phenomenon.

It is possible propose a simple classification of the animal-headed crossbow brooches based upon three development stages of decoration and chronology (Magnus, Blümel, in print). These stages (groups) of development of ornamentation are characterized, first, by spiral ornament, second, by animal motifs in Style I or its variations, third, by Baltic interpretation of interregional animal style. The first two fibulae groups have typical relief surfaces. Most of the brooches of these
groups were manufactured of silver or gilded silver. The main matter is that animal motifs of the first two groups are based on Germanic styles. The zoomorphic crossbow brooches of the third group (Baltic variations) in most cases have a flat surface and this makes them different from prototypes. However, as it was mentioned above Baltic jewellers following interregional examples tried to make relief surface of fibulae, or a relief was imitated by geometrical patterns and bosses (Fig. 8–12: 1). Only a few zoomorphic fibulae of the period have really more or less a relief surface (Fig. 8: 1–3; 9, 12: 1).

The chronology of zoomorphic crossbow fibulae in the most cases is not simple. Some of these brooches are stray finds, others appear together with artifacts impossible to attach to any precise period. It means that borders between the groups are negotiable but the sequence of the decoration development is obvious: spirals ornament – Germanic animal styles – Baltic variation of the first two types of ornamentation. The first locally manufactured animal-headed brooches of the periods D2/D3 have not only an interregional character of ornamentation, but a lot of local variations. All artifacts found from this period are unique items and bear an impress of different influences. It makes difficult to set up exact typological series (Magnus, Bluijjen in print).

The crossbow brooches decorated with animal motifs and spirals. The spirals, which adorned the first group of the brooches, are different. Some of them are similar to “S” and reverse “S”, others are like the so-called “running dog”. Some of the spirals resemble scrolls or trumpets. Brooch from Vidgiriai, grave 2 has stylistic features resembling Sôdasala style. The fibula from Plinkaigalis, grave 106 is attributed to the stage of Style I, the early stage of Stage I (Kozakkevičius 1983: 195). Fibulae of this type have crossbow or “Armburstfibel” construction.

Zoomorphic crossbow brooches decorated in various spirals are known in eastern Baltic area from Waldeck and Rombinusberg stray finds, Vidgiriai, grave 2, Plinkaigalis, grave 106. One brooch was found in central Lithuania, two in the lower basin of river Nemunas and river Jūra mouth regions, and one in eastern Prussia. These brooches are made of gilded silver or bronze. The surface of these fibulae is executed in low relief. All intact fibulae have hemispherical knobs at the ends of the spring axis. The bow and the foot are executed with spirals in niello inlays. The feet of the brooches are more realistic or have rather abstract heads of forward-looking animals. Decoration ideas of this group of artifacts came from Scandinavia or from middle Europe through Scandinavia. Brooches of this group could be products from southern part of East Baltic area and, perhaps, not of one workshop. Brooches of this group should belong to the end of the fifth — the beginning of the sixth century.

The crossbow brooches decorated in Germanic Style I (second group). Such fibulae were found at Geistauti, grave 2, Odžirze, stray find, Vidgiriai, grave 32, Daumen (Tumiany), grave 38 and stray find, Popeln, grave 6, Schlesaken, grave 25 and Angerburg, stray find. Characteristic features of style I are partition of animal bodies, fragmentation and schematization of animal figurines. Addition of geometrical motifs along with animal motifs is characteristic of the Baltic variation of this group. The crossbow zoomorphic brooch from Vidgiriai, grave 30 also should be ascribed to this group (Fig. 6). However, there is no analogue found for this fibula.

The crossbow brooches decorated in Germanic animal Style I, and found in Baltic lands, have a separate chord, spring – axe, end knobs and attachment. Such brooches are called “Kragenfibel” crossbow fibulae (Oxenstierna 1940: 245, Nowakowski 1998: 127). All parts of these brooches were cast in separate moulds. In fact Baltic animal-headed brooches of the sixth century with such technological innovation are known only as exceptions (Jaunskiai, grave 381; Miklas Kalns, number of the grave – unpublished; Pietrzyk and Stacična, stray finds). Only at the end of the seventh – the tenth centuries Baltic jewellers separated chord, spring and attachment of the brooches.

The zoomorphic crossbow brooches of the second group are known from several areas: south – west Latvia, the lower Nemunas and Jūra mouth regions, Samland Peninsula, and the Mazurian Lakeland. The brooches of the second group should have been imported to Lithuania and Latvia from Scandinavia or Mazurian Lakeland. Due to huge mutual relations of Olszyn group people with middle Europe and Scandinavia it is possible that such brooches were produced somewhere in Mazurian Lakeland. One of such brooches was found at Gorny (Oland), another only as a casting mould is known from Helgo settlement (Werner 1970: 78–80, Tafel 8: 1). Quite possible, that such fashionable fibulae were made in workshops, located in different areas. However, such designs, as well as technology are not typical to the Baltic ornamentation system of this period.

Baltic crossbow zoomorphic brooches made according to Germanic prototypes (third group). These fibulae were manufactured in eastern Baltic region and Lithuania by local handicraftsmen Baltic jewellers of several different workshops trained in very close stylistic trends produced artifacts adorned with animal motifs. However, local handicraftsmen applied different artistic and technical standards and produced their own version of current fashion, without maintaining any direct contacts with each other. This tendency is well illustrated by Baltic crossbow zoomorphic brooches. All of them are quite different (Fig. 8–12: 1). It is possible to indicate a workshop in Semigallians land, between rivers Mūša and Lielupe.

Elaborating crossbow brooches with long narrow feet and cast-catch plates Baltic jewellers transformed the feet into more or less realistic animal heads (Fig. 8–12: 1). The animal on the foot brooch was given “eyes”, “nostrils” and “forehead” (Fig. 8: 1, 3–4, 9). Two small bars also adorned heads of this animal (Fig. 8–10). In rare cases not only the foot of the brooch, but even the terminal of the bow was transformed into more or less abstract head of animal (Fig. 8: 2, 4, 9). Some of a fibulae just only end of a feet mark out in abstract animal head without any more or less realistic details (Fig. 11). However, at the end of the sixth – the seventh century jewellers working in Baltic animal style changed the animal on the end of the bow into more or less rectangular plate, or trapeze – like metope.
Brooches from Budraičiai, Gibaičiai, Jauneikiai, Petraičiai, Spirakiai, Šukonys should be attributed to a several Semigallian workshops. Stylistically very close animal headed crossbow brooches were found at Jauneikiai (grave 381; fig. 8: 3) and Gibaičiai (stray find, ŠAM 248; fig. 9) cemeteries. The brooch from Jauneikiai is “Kragenfibel” type. The fibula found at Gibaičiai is “Armbrustfibel” type (Oxenstierna 1940: 245). The fibula from Jauneikiai grave 381 has a little more sharper relief. It is possible that both brooches are manufactured in the same Semigallian workshop. It should be mentioned, that brooch from Petraičiai (stray find; ŠAM 695) is a Baltic variant of such fibulae as found at Vidgiriai 32, Daumian (Tumianyje), grave 38, Gėista, grave 2. The brooch from Petraičiai is Baltic expression of interregional Germanic technology and stylistic features (Fig. 7: 8: 1). The sixth century fibula from Šukonys (stray find; ŠAM 623) is an early variant of a crossbow brooches with poppyseed knobs (Fig. 8: 2). The fibula from Spirakiai (stray find; ŠAM A – L 55: 3)
has close stylistic links with Curonians and Samogitians animal headed brooches with long narrow feet and warts (Fig. 10; Bilužienė 2000b: Fig. 6).

At the end of the fifth – the beginning of the sixth century there appeared a small subtype – third A group in lower reaches of the Nemunas and its tributaries Nevežis and Šešupė. Relief surfaces of the artifact and abstract animal motifs or the foot of the brooch are characteristic of brooches of the third A group (Fig. 12: 1). This subtype fibula found at Plinkaigalis, graves 353, should be attributed. However, the foot of these fibulae were not terminated with an abstract animal head (Fig. 12: 3). Some of fibulae of this subgroup have ribs, the so – called "cock-scombs" in the middle of the bow. Brooches of the third A group are found from Vidgirių, grave 11; Plinkaigalis, graves 107, 353; Rubokai, grave 41. The fibulae of this type demonstrate perfect interflow of decoration and transformation of Germanic animal styles to Baltic expression.

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Abbreviations

BC – Barrow cemetery
FB – Flat burial ground
HF – Hill-fort

Publications

ATL – Archeologiškai tyrimėjimai Lietuvoje, Vilnius.
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MAD,A – Lietuvos TSR mokslų akademinis darbai. Serija A. Vilnius

Museums and scientific institutions

LNM AR C – Lithuanian National Museum, Department of Archeology, Catalog. Vilnius.
ŠAM – Šiauliai Museum „Aušra“, Šiauliai.
VCDKM – Vytauto Didžiojo karu muziejus, Kaunas.
Literature


Didžiojo tautų kraustymosi laikmečio balų lankinių segių stilistiniai bruožai

AUDRONĖ BLIJNIENĖ

Santrauka

Didžiojo tautų kraustymosi laikais, kaip ir Senajame gelesėje amžiuje, balų genčių gyvena teritorijų ir kultūrų išlieka viena iš stabilių arčiausių Europos regiono. Tačiau iš tikslinės medynos balų genčių paletė Didžiojo tautų kraustymosi procesai ir jų atgimiai. Šiame laikotarpyje balų genčių patyrė nemažą socialinį, politinį ir kultūrinį pasikeitimų. Tuo metu dėl pasikeitės gyvenimo tinkle, pasikeitė tarptautinė prekybos sistema, susiformavo visos genčės, žinomas iš vėlesnių raštinėlių kalbų. Vakarų balų gyvenvietės pasiekiamybė ir išsvyra balų kultūrinė grupė dėl prekybos gintarų buvo vieni iš turtingiausių balų regionų. Intensyvios prekybos dėka iš tokių kultūrinės medynos balų teritorijos randama gana daug importūnų dirbinio, kurie buvo kultūrinis postūmas, sekant naujoms idėjoms kurti naujos stilistikos dirbinius.