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**NEW MATERIALS FROM THE MIGRATION PERIOD
DISCOVERED IN ZAMIECHÓW,
SITE NO. 1 IN SOUTH-EASTERN POLAND**

ABSTRACT

A. Pŭlpánová-Reszczyńska 2016. *New materials from the Migration Period discovered in Zamiechów, site No. 1 in south-eastern Poland*, AAC 51, 145–167.

The paper discusses two iron artefacts — a sword guard and a cheek-piece discovered within a cultural layer at multicultural site No. 1 in Zamiechów, powiat Jarosław. A typolo-chronological analysis of analogous artefacts was made. It showed that both of these items should be correlated with the Migration Period, even though no features dated to that period were found at the site. These items are probably to be associated with the Huns milieu and the communities cooperating with it. Also, the possibility of penetration of these items into the inventory of the Przeworsk culture as the result of various kinds of interactions between the peoples living in the areas of not only Central European *Barbaricum* but also of Eastern Europe, Pontic zone or even Caucasian one cannot be excluded.

Key words: Migration Period; south-eastern Poland; elements of arms and weaponry; bits

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In the course of the pre-investment excavations in the years 2009–2010 at the construction site of the A4 motorway from Rzeszów towards the Ukrainian border at multicultural site No. 1 in Zamiechów two iron objects were registered within a runoff layer. After preservation works it turned out that these are: a fragment of a bit, and more precisely a cheek-piece, and a sword guard.

The above-mentioned finds were discovered at the site located in the eastern part of the Chłopice commune about 6 km south-west of Radymno (Czopek 2011, 92; Reszczyńska *et al.* 2013b, 135-137). It is located on the south sloping bank of the valley of the Olszyna — Rudka creek, which is a left tributary of the Rada brook, and lies between the villages of Zamiechów, Kaszyce and Zablotce (Fig. 1). The original area of the site designated on the basis of previous surface surveys and test excavations was defined as having the extent of roughly 5 hectares. When staking the area intended for the pre-investment excavations a significantly smaller area of the site was definite, due to the peat cover as well as wetlands located in the southern side of the site and considering a strong erosion of the slope. During the four months of the fieldwork the total area of 168.67 ares was examined. All together 692 features were discovered together with archaeological

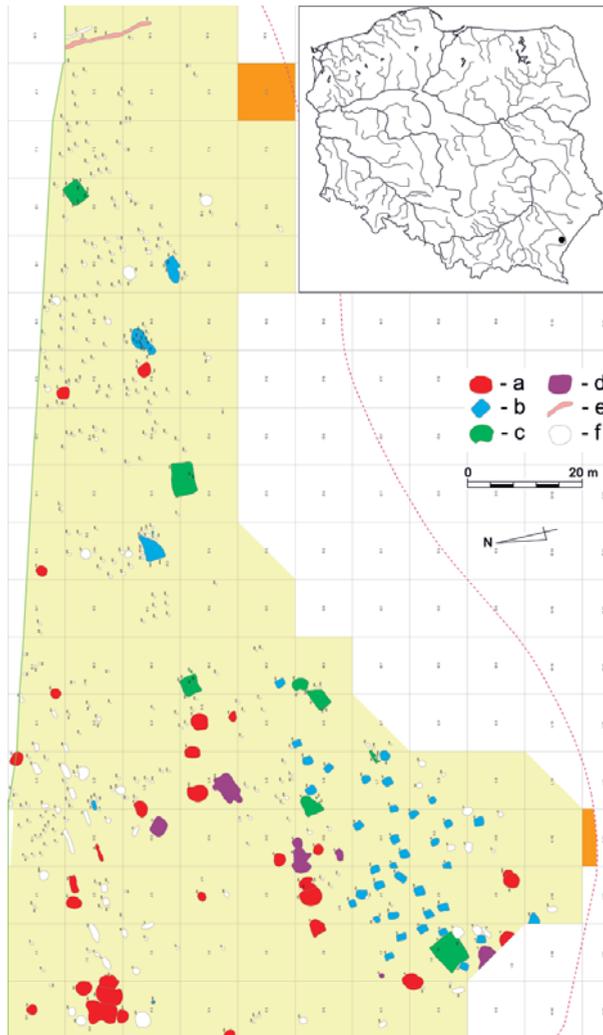


Fig. 1. Zamiechów, województwo podkarpackie, powiat Jarosław, site No. 1.
 Location of the site and plan depicting spatial distribution of individual features
 from subsequent chronological horizons; drawn by I. Florkiewicz.

a — Mierzanowice culture; b — Przeworsk culture; c — early Slavonic horizon; d — the period between the 10th and 13th c.; e — finds dated to the Migration Period.

material that included: pottery finds and items made of stone, clay, iron, bronze and silver, as well as human and animal bones. The analysis of portable finds allowed to distinguish four chronological horizons at this site that are associated with the functioning of settlements of populations identified as: the Mierzanowice culture, Przeworsk culture, early Slavonic, and belonging to the period between the 10th and 13th c. Additionally, a cremation burial dated to the Roman Period was recorded (Reszczyńska *et al.* 2013b), and an accumulation (cultural)

layer with pottery sherds representing of settlement horizons apart from the early Slavonic one. The cultural layer was confirmed only within a small area in the central part of the site. Its thickness reached up to 80 cm. Another cultural layer was detected in the south-eastern fringe of the site. In this case, however, it turned out that it is a runoff layer containing archaeological material only within its upper part (level of 40–60 cm). Moreover, from the level of 60–80 cm water began to appear in the excavation area preventing further exploration (Kędzierska 2010; Reszczyńska *et al.* 2013a, 12).

The first of the artefacts examined in this study — an iron sword guard — was discovered on the eastern edge of the site within the runoff layer spreading over areas U4 and U5, at the level of 40–60 cm below the ground surface (Fig. 1). Only small holes and pits devoid of historical material were discovered at a short distance from this find. Within the layer itself there were only sparse daub fragments, animal bones and fragmented pottery of the Mierzanowice culture.

The iron guard from Zamiechów is of simple bar-like form. It widens up at the tang and has a lenticular hole for it. The dimensions of the item are: length — 100 mm, width — 24 mm, thickness — 22 mm, hole dimension: 40 × 18 mm. The state of preservation of the find is rather good, though even after the conservation work the hole for a tang remained partly filled, probably as the outcome of corrosion (Fig. 2:2; 4).

The guard shows clear resemblance to the forms coming from double-edged swords with straight guards discovered among the materials associated with the Hunnic, Alanian, and East Germanic milieus (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 121; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 245). In the case of the Polish lands we can cite similar examples from the rich burial in Jakuszowice, powiat Kazimierza Wielka (Nosek 1959, Table 15:25; Godłowski 1995, 155, Fig. 1:1) or from the grave in Juszkowo, site 10, powiat Gdańsk (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, Fig. 11; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, Fig. 6). Possibly a sword fragment discovered in Hrebenne, powiat Tomaszów Lubelski, should also be included in the set of the analogous type of swords, but considering the state of preservation its identification is not unambiguous (Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska 2009, 202, Fig. 23:1; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 248). The latest analysis of this category of finds was carried out by the authors of the study on the grave from Juszkowo (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 121–124; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 245, 247, 248). Referring to the earlier works (Werner 1956) they indicate a clear reference to the Persian and Central Asian forms as well as the Late Sarmatian ones from the Volga river region (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 121; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 245). After B. Anke (1998, 73) they point to their distinct nomadic origins, with the production site being located with the steppes of Eurasia and the onset of production dated already to the end of the 1st millennium BC (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 121; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 245). Guards of bar-like type were characteristic of Sarmatian swords and daggers with ring-pommel and of Roman swords as well as the barbarian imitations thereof, created under the influence of the Sarmatian specimens (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 121; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 245 [detailed literature there]).

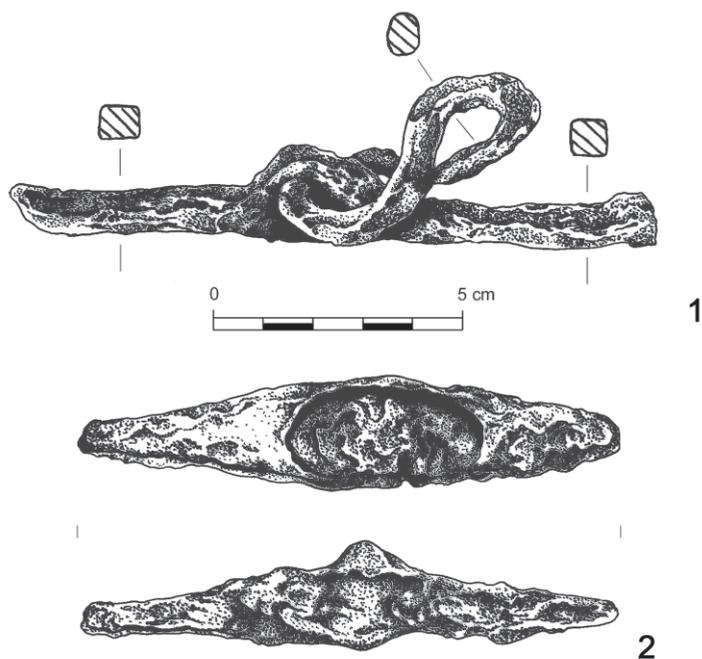


Fig. 2. Zamiechów, województwo podkarpackie, powiat Jarosław, site No. 1.
Cheek-piece and sword guard; drawn by J. Nawrot-Bukowiec.

1 — iron cheek-piece from the accumulation layer (are: K11); 2 — iron sword guard from the accumulation layer (are: U5).

What is important this type of sword — eastern European *spatha* with straight guard, at the final stages of the Roman period and during the early stages of the Migration Period was introduced and spread in Europe by the Huns and the societies associated with them (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 122 [further literature there]). Therefore, the sword guard from Zamiechów should probably be associated with the materials from this chronological horizon¹. Similarly to the specimen from Juskowo it ought to be assigned to the first type of swords as distinguished by J. Werner, viz specimens with iron sword guard (Werner 1956, 40–41, 43; Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 122). At the same time, it also meets the criteria of the variant characterised by P. Kaczanowski viz with bar-like form and rhomboid, lenticular, or elliptical cross-section (Kaczanowski 1994, 144; Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 144; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 245). As stated by the authors of the study on the grave from Juskowo in other publications this type of swords function as *spathae* of an “Asian” type (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 144; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 245; cf. Menghin 1995, 165–175; Miks 2007, 106, 133–134).

¹ At this point I would like to express my gratitude to M. Biborski (Cracow), for the suggestion of such chronological position of this artefact and comments on the analogies.

Both the older compilations of the swords with bar-like guard by B. Anke (1998, 206, 216, Map 6), as well as the analysis of the specimen from Juszkowo that includes more recent finds (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 122–124; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 245, 247, 248) clearly show that in Europe they form an obvious accumulation in the basin of the middle Danube River and its tributaries, reaching even to the lower course of the Danube River (Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, Fig. 8). They were discovered at sites associated with the Huns (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 122; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 247), such as: Bátaszék-Iskola, Komitat Tolna (Bóna 1991, 279, Pl. 56–57; Anke 1998, Pl. 106:10), Lengyeltóti, Komitat Somogy (Bakay 1978, 154, Fig. 5; Anke 1998, Pl. 92:15), Pannonhalma-Széldomb, Komitat Győr-Moson-Sopron (Tomka 1986, 435, Figs. 14–16; Bóna 1991, 279, Pl. XVIII:59; Anke 1998, Pl. 94), or Szirmabesenyő-Hátsófold, Komitat Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén (Bóna 1991, 260–261, Fig. 61; Anke 1998, Pl. 91:2). Similar specimens are found also within the neighbouring area associated with the Gepidic settlement (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 122; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 247). Swords with a bar-like guard were registered, for example, in grave No. 28 at the cemetery in Ártánd-Kisfarkasdomb, Komitat Hajdú-Bihar (Istvánovits *et al.* 1996, 115–116, Fig. 4:193; Tejral 2007, 82, Fig. 15:3), in Horgoš, opština Kanjiža (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 122; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 247), or in the grave in Tarnaméra, Komitat Heves (Tejral 2007, 92, 96, Fig. 23:1). Additionally, the same type of swords is known from the sites attributed to Germanic tribes located in the basin of the middle Danube River such as: Katzeldorf im Dorf, Bezirk Wiener Neustadt-Land (Anke 1998, Pl. 40:1), Wien-Leopoldau, grave No. 3 (Friesinger 1984, 130, Fig. 12: 9; Anke 1998, Pl. 50:1).

Individual finds are also known from Western Europe (Anke 1998, map 6; Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 123; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, Fig. 8). It might be exemplified by incidental or discovered in the river in unclear circumstances finds in the vicinity of Dijon, department Côte d'Or (Anke 1998, Pl. 56:1–4). These swords are unique in these areas, and they are attributed to the Burgundians or Alans (Anke 1998, 82; Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 123; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 247). Also, the discovery of a similar sword in grave No. 2/2006 in Singidunum (modern-day Belgrade) should probably be linked not with the Huns themselves, but rather with a representative of the local population, who joined the Huns in their activities in the middle of the 5th c. This is evidenced by the elements of arms and armours that are not found in the native Hunnic environment (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 123; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 248). Probably the same situation had place in the case of the discovery from Juszkowo (*cf.* Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 128–129).

Furthermore, there are quite numerous swords with bar-like guard that are recorded in the area of the northern Pontic region and in the steppe zone of Eastern Europe (Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 247–248). Here one may mention the specimens discovered in grave No. 50 at the cemetery in Phanagoria near Sennoy village, Temryuk raion, Krasnodar krai (Anke 1998, Pl. 40: 3, 105: 5), in grave No. 181 from year 1902 and No. 179 from year 1904 in Kerch-Glinishche, Kerch raion, Crimea (Anke 1998, Pl. 40: 4; Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 123), in

grave No. 9 at the site in Novogryhorivka, Huliaipole raion, Zaporizhia oblast (Zaseckaja 1996, 74, 76, Fig. 4:7), and in Kruglitsa (Porshnino), Uritsky raion, Oryol obsat (Anke 1998, 77, Pl. 48:4). Sparse *spathae* swords of Asian type are also known from the Caucasian zone of the Tsebelda culture. At the cemetery in Tsibilium, in grave No. 155 a specimen of this type was recorded (VoronoV 2007, 42, Pl. 76:10; Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 123). These eastern finds are usually associated with the Alans/Sarmatians (Kazanski 2002 145; Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 123, Footnote No. 20).

Chronological analysis undertaken by the researchers investigating *spathae* swords of Asian type indicate that these artefacts are recorded within the materials dated to the early phase of the Migration Period. They are essentially dated to phases D2 and D2/D3 (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 124; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 248). Some authors perceive that their onset ought to be placed earlier, already at the final stage of phase D1 (Anke 1998, 83; Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 124; Kontny, Mączyńska 2015, 248).

As emphasized by the authors of the study on the material from Juszkowo this type of swords cannot be associated explicitly with any particular ethnic group. Presumably, their occurrence should be correlated with the subsequent areas occupied by the Huns. Apart from the Huns, they were used also by the Alans, Gepidians and other Germanic tribes generally referred to as Danubian East Germanic tribes (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 124).

The second of the metal relics discovered in the settlement layer at the site in Zamiechów was a fragment of iron bit, and more specifically the cheek-piece (bit ring). Generally, the snaffle bits are divided into two types: with rings at terminals and full-cheek ones. The specimen of Zamiechów is of the latter variety. Only a cheek fragment with a small ring and arms with both ends thickened and slightly curved inwards. The length of the cheek-piece is 125 mm. The arms have a square cross-section measuring about 6 × 7 mm. The height of the lug is about 20 mm and the hole is about 10 mm in diameter. A chain, of which two figure 8 chain links with the dimensions of 50 × 20 mm survived, was attached to the ring. One link was attached to the cheek-piece, the other was located close to it (Fig. 2:1; 3). This second chain link is fractured and twisted. It is difficult to determine its original shape. Moreover, it cannot even be ruled out that, in fact, these are two smaller chain links joint together. The item was discovered within the runoff layer that covered the southern edge of the site (are K11). Within the same are — archaeological unit — also chunks of daub, animal bones, and pottery sherds of the Mierzanowice culture, Przeworsk culture, and ones dated to the period between the 10th and 12th c. were discovered (Reszczyńska *et al.* 2013, 16). The closest to this find and located at some distance from the edge of the site were: production zone of the Przeworsk culture, early Slavonic semi-subterranean structure and settlement pit from the period between the 10th and 12th c. (Fig. 1).

Due to the fact that this artefact occurred within the run-off layer and not in the fill of a feature, it was difficult to determine its chronological and cultural affiliation. When attempting to correlate the part of the cheek-piece to one of

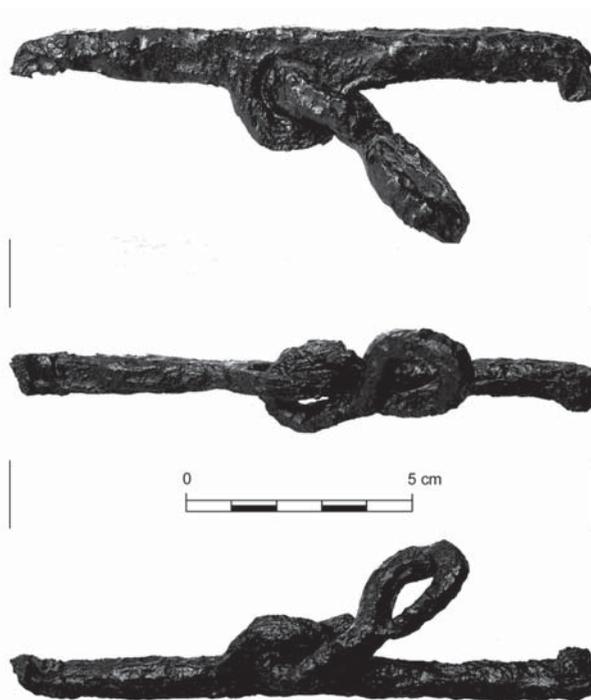


Fig. 3. Zamiechów, województwo podkarpackie, powiat Jarosław, site No. 1. Iron cheek-piece;
 Photo by T. Bochnak.

the chronological horizons distinguished at the site it was necessary to trace the origins and occurrence of this category of items. The use of cheek-pieces, which originally were made of horn or bone and placed in a metal ring, allowed for better handling of the horse. Bits are among the oldest and most common elements of horse tack found among archaeological assemblages. The oldest finds of bone cheek-pieces are known in Central Europe from the end of the Neolithic Period, and the first metal elements of horse tack are registered in the inventories dated to the Bronze Age (Jelínková 1959; Cabalska 1970, 17). In Central Europe they were disseminated at the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Hallstatt Period. The emergence of particular elements of horse tack — including the cheek-pieces — in Central Europe is associated with the Cimmerian horizon (Podborský 1970, 163–170; Chochorowski 1993; Metzner-Nebelsick, 2002). The greatest typological diversity both among bronze and iron cheek-pieces can be observed during the Hallstatt Period (Kossack 1954; 1959; Hüttel 1981; Werner 1988; Pare 1991; 1999; Brosseder 2004; Trachsel 2004).

During the La Tène Period and Roman Period mouthpieces with cheek-pieces were used commonly in Thracia. Such simple types of bits with S-shaped arms with thickened terminals similar to the specimen from Zamiechów, are known from the La Tène Period from the inventories of the Padea-Panagjurski Kolonii group

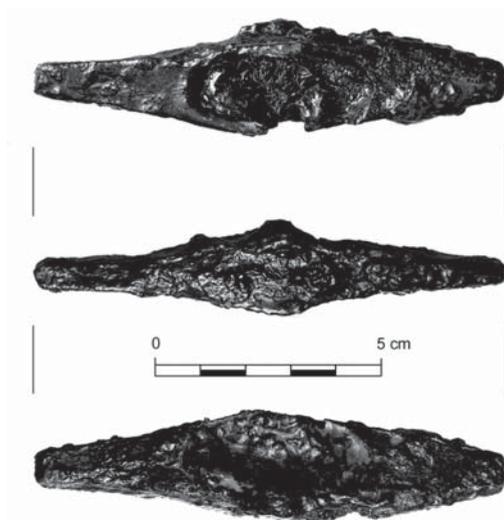


Fig. 4. Zamiechów, województwo podkarpackie, powiat Jarosław, site No. 1. Iron sword guard;
 Photo by T. Bochnak.

but also from the area of Transylvania, and Celtic oppida in Manching, Landkreis Pfaffenhofen an der Ilm and Stradonice, okres Kladno (Woźniak 1974, 112). They are a variation of the Late Hallstatt bits and they are encountered also with rings in the central part that connects two of the arms (Woźniak 1974, Fig. 11:11–12). In the Polish lands a mouthpiece from Malkowice, powiat Staszów, discovered in a grave dated to the 1st c. AD (Baranowski 1973, 454, Fig. 30; Woźniak 1974, 113; Kontny 2009, Fig. 10; Bochnak, Warowna 2015, Fig. 2) correspond to this type of finds, although with more sophisticated construction. However, these cheek-pieces in the middle of the length had a bulge in the shape of an elongated rectangle with two holes. To the bottom the mouthpiece was attached, and thanks to the upper one it was possible to move the mouthpiece (Baranowski 1973, 454). Reins were attached to the lower terminals of the cheek-pieces. Z. Woźniak pointed out the similarity of this find to the bits frequently encountered in the areas located south of the Danube River. He perceived it as the proof of the contacts between the societies inhabiting the Polish lands with the population of Central Moesia and the North-Western Thrace (Woźniak 1974, 113, 114, 116; Werner 1984, 149; Bochnak, Warowna 2015, 84). A mouthpiece of similar design was found also in the area inhabited during the Roman Period by the people of the Baltic circle, in grave No. 23 at the site in Poles'e, Gvardeysk raion, Kaliningrad oblast (=Klein Ottenhagen Kreis Fischhausen; cf. Nowakowski 1996, Fig. 95). Additionally, from the same area, i.e. of the Doilkeim-Kovrovo culture, a cheek-piece with an S-shaped shank and a rectangular lug was recorded in grave No. 3 at the cemetery in Tengen, Kreis Heiligenbeil (Nowakowski 1996, Fig. 66:7). This complex is dated to the II phase of the functioning of this culture, which is

correlated with the periods C₂-D according to the Central European chronology (Nowakowski 1996, 37-38). There are iron mouthpieces known from the West Baltic areas as well. They were probably used together with cheek-pieces made of organic materials (*cf.* Kontny *et al.* 2009, 171–172, 181, Fig. 12; Rudnicki 2011, Fig. 9). The remaining specimens discovered in the Polish territory and dated to the Roman Period come from snaffle bridles with jointed mouthpieces (Baranowski 1973, 391; Kontny 2009, 104-105).

In the literature on the materials younger than from the Roman Period there is a common opinion that snaffle bits with full cheek from the Polish lands are correlated to the nomad finds from the Danube River area from the Hunnic-Alanian (4th to 5th c.), through the Avar dated to the period between the 7th to 8th c., to the Early Magyar from the period between the 9th and 10th c. (Szymanski 1967, 41–42). In Lesser Poland complete absence of finds of weapons and horse riding equipment can be observed during the early Slavonic Period (Poleski 2013, 124). However, a similar type of bit with the cheek-piece in the form of a rod was discovered at the cemetery of the Olsztyn group in Tumiany in grave No. VI, where it is considered to be a testimony of the Avar influences (Rudnicki 2011, 121, Fig. 10:1). Exact analogies to this find can be found at the Avar cemeteries in Hungary, for example in Gyód, Komitat Baranya (Rudnicki 2011, Fig. 10: 8). Finds of cheek-pieces from such sites as, for instance: Kraków “Okól” (Żaki 1974, 287, Fig. 226), stronghold in Chełmiec, powiat Nowy Sącz (Cabalska 1966, 3, Fig. 1), or from grave No. 5 in Lutomiersk, powiat Pabianice (Cabalska 1966, 5, Fig. 5), to mention a few can be correlated with the later chronological horizon distinguished at the settlement in Zamiechów *viz* with the period between the 10th and 12th c. However the medieval items are of slightly different shape than the specimen from Zamiechów. They have rectangular plates with two holes for fastening the reins and bridle (Cabalska 1966, 4–5). According to M. Cabalska such refinement of the construction took place probably within the Avar cultural circle towards the end of the 6th and the beginnings of the 7th c. In contrast, rods provided with plates are characteristic of the specimens dated to the period between the 8th and 10th c., and they survived even up to the 11th c. (Cabalska 1966, 5).

The above data show that none of the bits with cheek pieces from the chronological horizons represented by the archaeological features recognized within the settlement in Zamiechów resembles the specimen discovered within the runoff layer. Hence, pursuing the lead of the previously described iron sword guard, inventories from Europe consisting bits with rod cheek-pieces and dated to the Migration Period were subject to source query. The detailed query of the material sources dated to that period showed that only specimen of a cheek-piece almost identical to the find from Zamiechów was discovered at a settlement in Drslavice, okres Uherské Hradiště in Moravia (Tejral 1985a, 329, Fig. 7: 9; 1988, 229–230, Pl. 4:7; 1999, 245, 248, Pl. 37:1). The only elements differentiating the two specimens are the rod terminals that are bent in opposite direction (Fig. 5:1). In that feature studied in 1974 together with the cheek-piece there were also

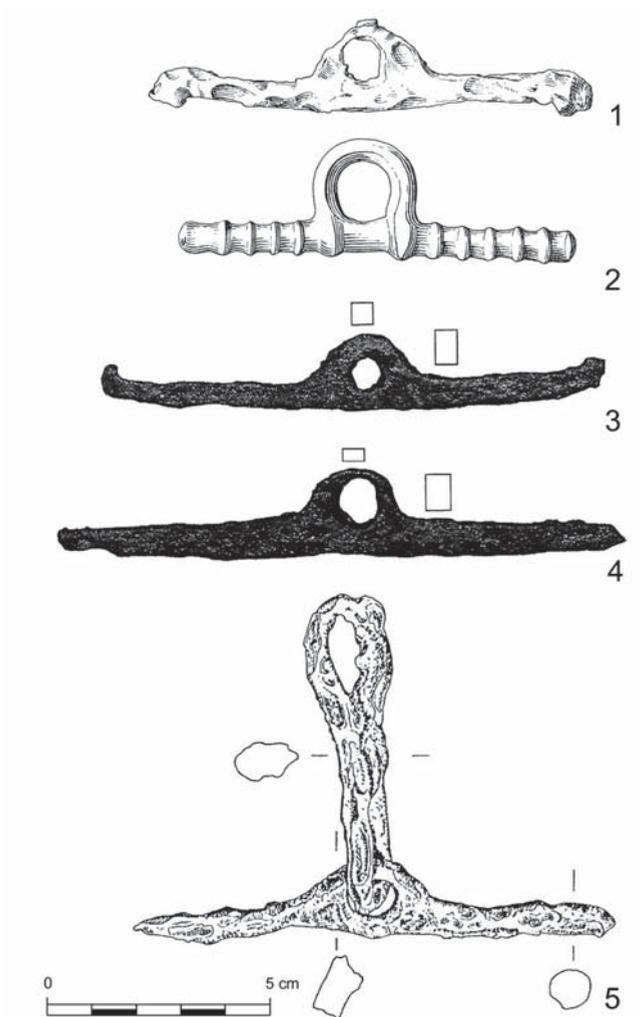


Fig. 5. Selected cheek-pieces; computer design A. PŪlpánová-Reszczyńska.

1 — Drslavice, okres Uherské Hradiště, Czech Republic; after J. Tejral (1985a, Fig. 7:9); 2 — Břıza, okres Litoměřice, Czech Republic; after J. Tejral (1985a, Fig. 36); 3–4 — Engelhartstetten, Kreis Gänserndorf, Austria; after S. Groh, H. Sedlmayer (2015, Fig. 31:33–34); 5 — Haltern, Kreis Recklinghausen, Germany; after J. Harnecker (1997, Fig. 69: 750).

discovered: a comb with bell-shaped handle (Tejral 1985a, Fig. 7:12), fragments of hand formed and wheel thrown pottery, and sherds of Roman pottery of the *mortaria* type. On this basis the feature was dated to the transition phase between the Late Roman Period and the Migration Period — D1 (380/400 — 410/420; cf. Tejral 1988, Fig. 4:1, 4, 7, 11; Droberjar 2002, 60). According to J. Tejral analogies to that cheek-piece can be found among the elements of horse tack typical of the Sarmatian-Alanian environment from the Caucasus, and in slightly

richer form found also in graves with the inventories characteristic of nomadic horsemen from the phase D2 (Fig. 5:2). As an example an item from Bříza, okres Litoměřice in the Czech Republic is mentioned (Svoboda 1965, Pl. XXI: 10–11; Tejral 1985a, 329, Fig. 36). The material discovered within this settlement horizon in Moravia consists of many elements which have analogies in the post-Chernyakhov horizon in the areas of Eastern Europe stretching all the way to the Danubian zone (Tejral 1985a, 329).

At this point it has to be mentioned that in the literature of the subject the find from Drslavice is interpreted also in a manner different from the one presented by J. Tejral. E. Droberjar in *Encyklopedie římské a germánské archeologie v Čechách a na Moravě* placed this find in the description of and in the caption under the illustration exemplifying the term purse (czes. kapsáře/kabelky). By referring to similar finds discovered in assemblages dated to the entire Migration Period he interprets the find as a metal trim of a purse (Droberjar 2002, 115–116). The author cites Merovingian finds, in which such metal elements with folded terminals and a hole in the middle supposedly acted as a buckle frame. Also a flap strap could have passed through the hole. In the literature of the subject such items were also often interpreted as sharpening steel (Droberjar 2002, 115; cf. Čižmář *et al.* 1985, 298, Fig. 3:4).

However, it is clearly visible that the finds mentioned by E. Droberjar differ significantly from one another, both in terms of the shape and the dimensions. Certainly, some of them might be defined in this way, but in the case of the specimen from Drslavice such interpretation seems to be incorrect. This might be corroborated by other finds coming from a nearby site in Engelhartstetten, Bezirk Gänserngorf in Lower Austria (Fig. 5:3–4). Numerous fragments associated with horse tack were found there, and among them there are mouthpieces terminated with rings and cheek-pieces of the same shape as the artefact from Zamiechów and resembling the one from Drslavice. In this case we are dealing with specimens having bar-shaped rods with terminals either straight or bent upwards (Groh, Sedlmayer 2015, 51, Fig. 31:32–34). Both the dimensions as well as the cross section of these finds correspond to the characteristics of the find from Zamiechów. Unfortunately, also in their case the chronology is ambiguous. They were discovered on the surface of a site, at which a Roman camp remains were unearthed in the course of archaeological excavations. Basing on distant analogies, the authors of the publication in which they were presented, associate these finds also with the Roman period, though they clearly anticipate the possibility of younger chronology of the said finds (Groh, Sedlmayer 2015, 52). When referring to the Roman period finds, they primarily mention the finds from Haltern, Kreis Recklinghausen (Fig. 5:5), where cheek-pieces with semi-circular lug joined with a chain link, but oval in cross-section and with straight terminals were found (Harnecker 1997, 28, 86, Pl. 69:748, 750; Groh, Sedlmayer 2015, 52). Furthermore, additional similar artefacts from Roman camps from sites like *Aventicum*, *Intercisa* or *Novaesium* are also recounted by them (Groh, Sedlmayer 2015, 52, Footnote No. 124 [further literature there]).

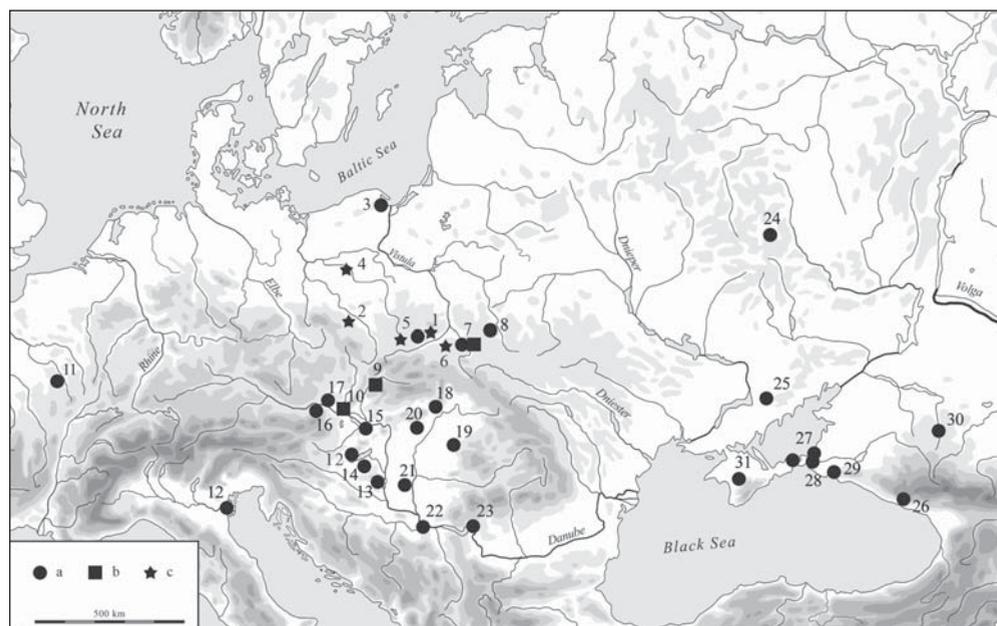


Fig. 6. Spatial distribution of *spathae* sword of Eastern European type and cheek-pieces representing type similar to the find from Zamiechów; based on B. Anke (1998, map 6), B. Kontny, M. Mączyńska (2015, Fig. 8), P. Kaczanowski, J. Rodzińska-Nowak (2012) with amendments by the author; computer design I. Jordan and A. Pŭlpánová-Reszczyńska (K. — Komitat; p. — powiat; H — Hungary; PL — Poland; R — Russia).

a — materials in the Polish lands associated with the Hunnic milieu; b — finds of *spathae* swords of Asian type; c — bits with cheek-pieces. 1 — Jakuszowice, p. Kazimierza Wielka, PL; 2 — Jędrzychowice, p. Olawa, PL; 3 — Juszkowo, p. Gdańsk, PL; 4 — Podłoziny, p. Poznań, PL; 5 — Przemęczany, p. Proszowice, PL; 6 — Świlcza, p. Rzeszów, PL; 7 — Zamiechów, p. Jarosław, PL; 8 — Hrebennie, p. Tomaszów Lubelski, PL; 9 — Drslavice, okres Uherské Hradiště, Czech Republic; 10 — Engelhartstetten, Bezirk Gänserndorf, Austria; 11 — Dijon, département Côte d'Or, France; 12 — Arzignano, provincia di Vicenza, Italy; 13 — Bátaszék-Iskola, K. Tolna, H.; 14 — Lengyeltóti, K. Somogy, H.; 15 — Pannonhalma-Szédomb, K. Győr-Moson-Sopron, H.; 16 — Katzeldorf im Dorf, Bezirk Wiener Neustadt-Land, Austria; 17 — Wien-Leopoldau, Bezirk Wiener, Austria; 18 — Szirmabesenyő-Hátsófold, K. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, H.; 19 — Ártánd-Kisfarkasdomb, K. Hajdú-Bihar, H.; 20 — Tarnaméra, K. Heves, H.; 21 — Horgoš, opština Kanjiža, Serbia; 22 — Singidunum (Belgrade), Serbia; 23 — Tekija, opština Kladovo, Serbia; 24 — Kruglitsa (Porshnino), Uritsky rajon, Oryol oblast, Russia; 25 — Novogyhorivka, Huliiapole rajon, Zaporizhia oblast, Ukraine; 26 — Cibilium (Tsibilium), Gulripshi rejon, Abkhazia; 27 — Kerch-Glinishche, city of Kerch, Crimea, Ukraine; 28 — Phanagoria, Sennyoy, Temryuk rajon, Krasnodar krai, Russia; 29 — Dyursoy, Novorossiysk, Krasnodar krai, Russia; 30 — Lermontovskaya skala, Kislovodsk, Stavropol krai, Russia; 31 — Ust'-Al'ma, Bakhchysarai rajon, Crimea, Ukraine.

The specimens mentioned by J. Tejral (1985a, 329) originating from the Sarmatian-Alanian environment were recently comprehensively analysed (Akhmedov 2001; 2005; 2007). These items are not identical to the forms from Zamiechów and Drslavice but, indeed, have many common features with them. All the cheek-pieces examined by I.R. Akhmedov come from joint two-piece bits and differ mainly with regard to the shape and size of the rod of the arms and the size of the ring (Akhmedov 2001, Figs. 2–4, 6–7). The closest to the specimens from Zamiechów and Drslavice are bridle bits included in group I, type

1 — rod-shaped and type 5 — straight with thickened ends (Akhmedov 2001, 377–378). The most similar are bridle bits marked as No. 18 of the type 5 that have little lugs coming out directly from the-cheek piece (Akhmedov 2001, 378, Fig. 7:11). The main difference between these specimens and the one from Zamiechów analysed in this paper can be seen in the cross-section of the cheek-piece, which in type 5 is clearly circular.

The bits of type 1 being the basic type of this category of items are found in the Caucasian area, in the area of the Tsebelda culture (Tsebelda valley), in the Oka river basin and in the area of the modern-day Hungary (Akhmedov 2001, 379, Fig. 10). They are widely spread from Abkhazia, through Central Russia all the way to the areas by the Danube River. Clearly they all share a common prototype, from which local forms diverged. I.R. Akhmedov believes that the archetype could have come from Iran, from where it was borrowed in the second half of the 4th c. (Akhmedov 2001, 382; 2007, 69). The largest range of local varieties was observed in the Pontic region, i.e. from Crimea to the Caucasian coast of the Black Sea (Akhmedov 2007, 69). Type 5 is characteristic of sites located in the Tsebelda valley and in the northern part of the Caucasus (Akhmedov 2001, 379). For example, it was recorded in horse burial No. 55 at the cemetery in Tsibilium-1 (Voronov, Shenkao 1982, Fig. 6:25; Akhmedov 2005, Fig. 2:4; Voronov 2007, 21, Fig. 25: 4). At Tsibilium-1 the finds of bits both of type 1 and 5 are correlated with chronological stage III of the functioning of this cemetery (Voronov 2007, 21, 72). The said stage is dated to the period 360/370 to 440/450, which can be synchronized with the phases D1 and D2 in the chronology of the areas of Central and Eastern Europe (Kazanski, Mastykova 2007, 21).

Typical bits associated with the Hunnic environment, referenced to by J. Tejral (1985a, 329) have the rod of the cheek-piece permanently combined with the ring (large lug) placed on a hook of the shank. On this ring thongs of rein and bridle were attached, which resulted in better abilities for a strong hold of the horse while riding (Cabalska 1966, 7). These bits are subtypes of type 1, or those with a very large ring of type 2, which is a modification of type 1 (Akhmedov 2001, 377–379). Very often the cheek-pieces themselves have the shape of simple rods ribbed horizontally and additionally decorated. Besides the mentioned earlier find from Bříza, okres Litoměřice (Fig. 5:2), specimens of this type were recorded in Hungary at the following sites: Pannonhalma, Komitat Győr-Moson-Sopron (Bóna 1991, 280, Pl. 64:XX; Tomka 1986, 426–427, Figs. 3–4, Pl. 45; Anke 1998, Pl. 96:1–2); Kesztyel-Gátidomb-Steinbruch, Komitat Zala, where bronze item of this type was discovered (Bóna 1991, 280, Pl. 66; Anke 1998, Pl. 122:1), or Pécs-Üszögpuszta, Komitat Baranya, where iron gilded cheek-piece was found (Tomka 1986, Fig. 21:5; Bóna 1991, 277, Pl. 45:XX; Anke 1998, Pl. 118: 13). Bit of type 2 was also reported at the graveyard in Mertvye Soli, near Boevaya Gora village, Sol-Iletsk raion, Orenburg oblast in the Urals. In this case, the bit had an iron cheek-piece with a bronze lug for reins attachment (Bóna 1991, 258, Fig. 49; Akhmedov 2001, Fig. 21). According to I.R. Akhmedov the bits of type 1 probably appeared at the beginning of the

phase D1 and were still in use during phase D2 as defined by J. Tejral, perhaps to the second quarter of the 5th c. AD (Akhmedov 2001, 379). By contrast, the specimens of type 5 are dated from the end of phase C3 to the beginning of phase D1 (Akhmedov 2001, 380).

In the case of the cheek-piece discovered in Zamiechów a fragment of the metal chain attached to the lug is a very unusual, yet very interesting addition. None of the specimens described above had such an element. However, the chains with figure 8 chain links themselves are known from the Sarmatian-Alanian zone. Chain with identical links, but made of bronze, is a constituent of grave goods in horse burial No. 313 at the cemetery in Tsibilium-2, in which it was discovered together with a cheek-piece of type 1 with one terminal rounded and the other thickened and with square cross-section (VoronoV 2007, Fig. 146: 23). The author of the cited study associates the function of this element with a saddle (VoronoV 2007, 72). In the case of the specimen from Zamiechów the chain was either a part of a metal rein, or it was a link between the cheek-piece and the rein made from other material. Chain reins are known from the area of Central Europe from the inventories dated to the Roman Period (Baranowski 1973; Wilbers-Rost 1994; Kontny 2009, 104-105). However, their links differ from those coming from the Sarmatian-Alanian inventories. They consist of alternately arranged elongated links with two holes and connecting them ring links. The rings of the bits passed through the holes in the first set of elongated links of such chain (Baranowski 1973, 404, Fig. 1). As it was already mentioned, chain links attached to lugs of cheek-pieces are also known from Roman camps. In Haltern they were recorded together with other elements of horse tack as oval or figure 8 chain links made of double wire. Chains with single figure 8 chain links resembling the finds from Zamiechów were discovered there as well (Harnecker 1997, 28, Pl. 69:746-750). Moreover, similar finds are known also from the surface of the aforementioned site in Engelhartstetten (Groh, Sedlmayer 2015, 52). Other chains identical to the one from Zamiechów, but made of bronze were, for example, recorded at Dyurso cemetery near Novorossiysk on the northern Black Sea coast in grave No. 300 (Anke 1998, Pl. 47: 1; Kazanski 2002, Fig. 2: 21), as well as in the grave where a skeleton with a deformed skull was buried in Rakšice, okres Znojmo in Moravia. The latter is dated to the mid-5th c. (Tejral 1982 213, Fig. 91; Anke 1998, Pl. 6: 8). Chain links of figure 8 shape were also present in the Hunnic context in the assemblage from Lengyeltóti, Komitat Somogy. In this case they were found together with mouthpieces terminated with rings (Bóna 1991, Fig. 70).

Considering the items analysed in this paper, it seems interesting is that there are neither features nor any other materials found at this site having the same chronology as the finds in question. The finds originating from the settlement of the Przeworsk culture are of the closest age. They are dated at the end of the Early and the beginning of the Younger Roman Period (Reszczyńska *et al.* 2013b). Chronologically subsequent are materials already related to the early Slavonic horizon (Kędzierska 2010; Reszczyńska *et al.* 2013). However, at the localities spread in the vicinity of the discussed here site No. 1 artefacts were

discovered that are dated to the final stage of the Przeworsk culture. At site 18 in Zamiechów settlement materials dated to the Younger and Late Roman Period were discovered, including a hearth with fragments of large storage pots (Czopek *et al.* 2015, 160). Similarly, in the nearby Chłopice, powiat Jarosław, site No. 16, not only pottery sherds but also metal items that could be dated to the Younger and Late Roman Period were found (Jędrzejewska, Wilk 2015, 165–166). In the case of the materials representing the final stage of the development of the Przeworsk culture it must be remembered that in most cases there are either no metal material at the settlements, or they are not good chronological determinants. Hence, the common wide bracket dating to phases C2-D or, in general, to the Younger and Later Roman Period is based solemnly only the pottery finds. Until now it is not possible to distinguish a more extensive group of types of pottery vessels that would be characteristic only of the final stage of the Przeworsk culture (Mańczyńska 1998, 25). Therefore, the functioning of the settlements at the nearby sites also in the early phase of the Migration Period cannot be excluded. Then, in the case of the finds from the Migration Period at site No. 1 in Zamiechów one should probably need to consider rather a short-term presence of a small group of people.

When attempting to explain the presence of the guard from a *spathae* sword of Asian type at this site one certainly must refer to similar finds from the Polish lands. Their interpretation is much easier as they come from grave inventories. Still, it does not offer an unambiguous answer. In the case of Jakuszowice we are dealing with the burial of a person of high social status — a representative of the local elite, who was a leader of a centre in some way associated with the Huns (*cf.* Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2012, 374–376 [further literature there]). The other materials from the Polish lands characteristic of the Hunnic environment such as: a burial of a warrior with the deformed skull, seax and gold earring from Przemęczany, powiat Proszowice (Godłowski 1995, 161–162, Fig. 13; Mańczyńska 1998, 26; Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2012, 373); the set of an offering nature from Jędrzychowice, powiat Zgorzelec (Werner 1956, 58, 123, Pl. 26: 64; Bóna 1991, 140; Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2012, 373); two earrings discovered in a hoard at the Przeworsk culture settlement in Świlcza near Rzeszów (Gruszczyńska 1999, 296; Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2012, 374), or an iron loop-shaped buckle also from the Przeworsk culture settlement in Podłoziny, powiat Poznań in Greater Poland (Makiewicz 2003, Fig. 3:13; Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2012, 374) might be associated either with the movement of Hunnic warriors in the course of their military expansion to the areas in the Oder and the Vistula river basins (Bóna 1991, map 1), or with some sort of Hunnic sovereignty over the southern zone of the Przeworsk culture (Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2012, 375–376). Either of these interpretations might also help to explain the find from Zamiechów. If, like some of the researchers, we accept the routes of the Hunnic warriors movement to be true, than the site in Zamiechów could have been on their way (*cf.* Bóna 1991, map 1). However, the

interpretation similar to the one accepted for the burial in Juszkowo might be just as credible. In this case the authors who investigated the burial describe the deceased interred there with the *spathae* sword of Asian type as a representative of the east Germanic tribe, who under the Hunnic command took part in battles against the Roman Empire (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 128–129).

In the case of the second of the items examined in this article again few interpretations might be taken into account. On the one hand, referring to the nearest analogy that is the cheek-piece from Drslavice and the specimen from Engelhartstetten, it can be said that both in the materials from Jakuszowice and Juszkowo, in addition to the Hunnic elements there are also perceptible connections with the Danubian zone. In the warrior burial from Jakuszowice there were items discovered that had been decorated in stylistics characteristic of the horizon Untersiebenbrunn-Sösdala (Godłowski 1995, Figs. 1–4; Mączyńska 1998, 26; Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2012, 371–372). In Juszkowo, besides the sword of nomadic type there was also a buckle discovered of Strzegocice-Tiszaládány-Kerch type. Artefacts of this type are clustering mainly by the middle Danube. They are also known from the Pontic region (Dyrda *et al.* 2014, 126–127). Of course, it cannot be determined whether the sword guard and the bit cheek-piece from Zamiechów are contemporaneous and whether they arrived at the site in the same circumstances. Basing on the previously described analogies one can broadly determine their chronology to the period between the end of the 4th and the first half of the 5th c. However, it cannot be ruled out that the cheek-piece is slightly older than the guard, i.e. it should be dated to the Roman Period, especially if we consider the dating of the specimens from Engelhartstetten. Undoubtedly, however, both of these items are specific of warriors-nomads and they are known from identical sets, for instance, from the areas associated with Alans/Sarmatians, as, for example, identical sword and similar cheek-piece from horse burial No. 12 in Dyurso-Novorossiysk (Anke 1998, Pl. 43: 1–2).

On the other hand, the analysed objects could have entered the Przeworsk culture environment as the result of various types of contacts and not during the presence of the Huns or representatives of the societies cooperating with them. In order to interpret the finds from Zamiechów, site 1, it is important to recognise the fact of greater cultural diversity that can be observed in the Carpathian area. The main direction of the colonization by the population of the Przeworsk culture ran from the north along the valleys on the right bank of the Vistula River (Madyda-Legutko 2004, 73–74). During the Late Roman Period it included also areas with worse soil conditions and less developed hydrological network as compared with earlier phases. In phases C1b-D especially intense settlement can be noticed in the zone of the Polish Carpathians and also by the upper San river, where there were areas inhabited that render no materials dated to earlier phases of the Roman Period (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 67). Additionally, numerous finds of coins dated to the 4th c. are known that were found at the foregrounds of the Dukla Pass, Kurovske Sedlo and Łupków Pass (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 67–69, maps 4–6, 8; Mączyńska 1998, 25, maps 1, 3).

Furthermore, settlement is confirmed in the parts of the Beskid Sądecki range higher than those unoccupied until then. What is important for our considerations, among the ceramic materials discovered at the Przeworsk culture settlements there are singular examples of pitchers, vases, and amphorae made on potter's wheel that confirm the relationships with the areas to the south and south-east — such as Slovakia (North Carpathian group), as well as the Carpathian Basin, where at that time the Hunnic tribes under the leadership of Bleda and Attila were of primary importance (Madyda-Legutko 2004, 76). The forms of pottery vessels discovered at the settlement in Rytro have their analogies dated to the early phase of the Migration period at the cemeteries of Dobrodzień type, in the Chernyakhov culture and in the Carpathian Basin (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 80). For example, a small bowl made on potter's wheel decorated with two parallel incised lines is presumably an imitation of glass vessels that occur in the second half of the 4th and the beginning of the 5th c. in Pannonia (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 79 [further literature there]). It is quite similar in the case of the globular pitchers with cylindrical neck, handle bent at right angle and with groove in the middle. In the 3rd and 4th c. forms of this type are among main types of vessels used on the northern shores of the Black Sea. They are also occasionally found in Central Europe, especially in the Danubian area. Commonly they are associated with the emergence of the so-called eastern elements — Hunnic and Sarmatian — in the Carpathian Basin at the beginning of the Migration Period (Tejral 1985b, 126–130; Bóna 1991, 263–264; Madyda-Legutko 1996, 82 [further literature there]).

Similar processes to those in the Western Carpathian Mountains also took place by the upper San river. In the Younger and Late Roman Period settlement entered the areas previously uninhabited (Madyda-Legutko 2004, 79). There are settlements recorded here with pottery materials that refer to Dacian groups, which were inhabiting areas located within the outer arc of the Eastern Carpathian Mountains (Madyda-Legutko 2004, 80), as well as settlements of the Przeworsk culture with materials typical of its younger phases of development. They might be exemplified, for instance, by the extensive settlement in Lesko (Barłowska 1984). Just as importantly for us, at this site two fragments of glass vessels were discovered that evidence the connections during the 3rd c. between the lands by the San river and the north Pontic zone (Madyda-Legutko 2004, 81).

At this point, it is also worth to mention the settlement in Jakuszowice, where finds were reported that confirm the presence of multicultural contacts of the inhabitants of this settlement, among others, also with the areas of the middle Danube basin (Kaczanowski, Rodzińska-Nowak 2012, 373).

The mentioned above settlements in Jakuszowice, Rytro, Świlcza, and perhaps also the one in Lesko, were functioning till about the 5th c. On the last three ones there were traces of damage and fires recorded, which probably confirm some violent events that changed the existing settlement structure (Mączyńska 1998, 31). Perhaps the discovery of the discussed here finds at the site in Zamiechów might also be correlated with these circumstances.

As it seems from the chrono-typological analysis both of these initially inconspicuous finds that were discovered on the edge of the site may provide new information not only beneficial for the understanding of the early phase of the Migration Period in the south-eastern Poland, but also for the Polish lands in general.

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