

ZIRIDAVA  
STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

36

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MUSEUM ARAD

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**Editura MEGA**  
Cluj-Napoca  
2022

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# A sword discovered in the boundary between Horia and Sântana (Arad County)

Florin Mărginean

**Abstract:** The sword discussed below, has been donated to the Arad Museum during 2021. According to the finders, the sword was discovered somewhere in the boundary between the Horia village and the Sântana town. According to parallels, this sword may be chronologically framed to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Keywords:** stray find; sword; medieval weapons; Arad County.

The find of weaponry items has almost always drawn attention, given both their role and symbolism. We wish here to only report the discovery of a sword in less clear conditions and regardless, not yielded by archaeological excavations. However, we believe the exemplar is worth entering scientific circulation because finds of the sort are so rare in general. In the case here, in the micro-region between the Mureş and Crişuri rivers, just one more such sword is reported, still a stray find<sup>1</sup>.

## The find context

The sword discussed below, has been delivered/donated to the Arad Museum by Alexandru Puşcău in 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The exemplar was taken over and registered in the museum's collection under inventory number 18000.

According to the finders<sup>2</sup>, the sword was discovered somewhere in the boundary between the Horia village and the Sântana town. No further indication on the circumstances which led to its find was provided, except the fact it would have surfaced during farming works.

## Sword description

Though corroded, all imperishable parts of the sword have luckily survived in good condition, the sword itself measuring a total length of 103.6 cm. The polygonal pommel is pierced by the grip tang. The grip tang is 17 cm long, which compelled us to place it among "hand-and-a-half" swords. The guard consists of a bar fixed between the blade and grip, 19.8 cm long and of rectangular section. The straight, two-edged blade has survived intact, measuring 85 cm and a maximum width of 5.5 cm, tapering to the tip. Midway, there is a groove/fuller.

## Sword proportions

$L_{\text{total sword}} = 103.6$  cm;  $L_{\text{blade}} = 85$  cm, width near the guard = 5.5 cm,  $\text{weight}_{\text{blade}} = 0.2/0.3$  kg. From the grip tang towards the blade tip starts a middle groove/fuller;  $L_{\text{handle rod}} = 17$  cm, width near blade = 2.7 cm, width near pommel = 1.6 cm, weight = 0.7 kg; the pommel attached to the tang extremity, apparently hexagonal, with bevelled edges  $4 \times 4$  cm, weight = 3.5 kg;  $L_{\text{guard}} = 19.7$  cm,  $0.7 \times 0.7$  cm thickness; weight = 1.05 kg.

## Discussion

This class of weaponry items has been the focus of several specialists, a number of syntheses providing today an image on the medieval swords' development in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

<sup>1</sup> Mărginean 2015, 83–85.

<sup>2</sup> Delivery protocol registered with the Arad Museum Complex under no. 1092/11.11.2021.

Those we examined in order to chronologically and typologically frame the sword here have been devised by Alexander Ruttikay, R. Ewart Oakeshott, Zeno K. Pinter or Marko Aleksic, beside other relevant studies.

According to parallels, this sword may be chronologically framed to the 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

It may be concluded that the exemplar discussed here completes the repertory of sword finds from a region rather rich in medieval finds, like the area between the Mureş, Crişuri Rivers and the Tisa.

**Florin Mărginean**

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Plate 1. A sword discovered in the boundary between Horia and Sântana (Arad county). Drawing: Daniel Preda; Photo by: Ioan Scripciuc.

# Abbreviations

AB	Analele Banatului, I-IV 1928–1931; S.N. I 1981-, The Museum of Banat/The National Museum of Banat, Timișoara.
ACTA	Yearbook of the Székely Museum in Csík and the Székely National Museum, Miercurea Ciuc – Sepsiszentgyörgy.
ActaArchHung	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest.
AÉ	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest.
Acta Historica	Acta Universitatis Szegediensis (Szeged).
ArchHung	Archaeologia Hungarica.
ArhMed	Arheologia Medievală.
AM	Mitteilungen des Kaiserlich Deutschen Archaeologischen Instituts, Athenische Abteilung (Athenische Mitteilungen), Athen, (1876-).
AMM	Acta Moldaviae Meridionalis (Vaslui).
AMN	Acta Musei Napocensis, The National History Museum of Transylvania, Cluj – Napoca.
AMP	Acta Musei Porolisensis, County History and Art Museum of Zalău.
ArhMold	Arheologia Moldovei, Iași.
BCH	Bulletin de Correspondence Hellénique, Paris, 1 (1877-).
BerRGK	Berichte der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission. Roman-Germanic Commission. Frankfurt am Main.
EphNap	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca.
CCA	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, Ministry of Culture.
CCCA I	M. J. Vermaseren, Corpus cultus Cybelae Attidisque (CCCA), I. Asia Minor, Leiden, New York, København, Köln, 1987.
CIG	Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum, I-IV, (ed. A. Boeckh), Berlin, 1828–1877.
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, consilio et auctoritate Academiae litterarum regiae Borussicae editum. (1863-).
Dacia	Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie, S.V. I-XII; N.S. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne, I. 1957 și urm., Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest.
DAGR	Dictionnaire des Antiquités grecques et romaines, I-X, sous la direction de Ch. Daremberg et E. Saglio, Paris, 1877–1929.
DolgSzeged	Dolgozatok a Szegedi Josef Tudományegyetem Archaeologiai Interzetbol (I, 1925...XIX, 1943).
IGB V	Inscriptiones Graecae in Bulgaria repertae, (ed. Georgi Mihailov), vol. V: Supplementum, addenda et corrigenda. Sofia, 1997.
IGDOP	Inscriptions grecques dialectales d'Olbia du Pont, (ed. L. Dubois), Genève, 1996.
IGRR IV	Inscriptiones Graecae ad Res Romanas Pertinentes, IV (ed. G. Lafaye), Paris, 1927.
ISM I, II	Inscriptiones Scythiae Minoris – Inscriptiile din Scythia Minor, I: Histria și împrejurimile (ed. D. M. Pippidi), Bucharest, 1983; II: Tomis și teritoriul său, (ed. Iorgu Stoian), Bucharest, 1987.
LIMC	Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae, I–VIII + index vol., (eds. J. Ch. Balty, E. Berger, J. Boardman, Ph. Bruneau, F. Canciani, L. Kahil, V. Lambrinoudakis, E. Simon), Zürich, München, Düsseldorf, 1981–1999.
LSJ	Liddell H. G., Scott R., Jones H. S., A Greek-English Lexicon, with a revised supplement. Oxford, 1996.
MAA	Monumenta Avarorum Archaeologica.
OM	<i>Orbis Mediaevalis</i> .
PBF	Prähistorische Bronzefunde, München.

RA	Revue Archéologique, Paris (1844-).
RAC	Rivista di archeologia cristiana, Rome (1924-).
RevBistr	Revista Bistriței, Bistrița-Năsăud Museum Complex, Bistrița.
RH	Revue historique, Paris, (1876-).
RIG	Recueil d'inscriptions grecques, par Ch. Michel, Bruxelles, 1900.
Sargetia	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva.
SCIV(A)	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche, tom 1–25, Bucharest, 1950–1974; începând din 1974 (tom 25): Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie, Bucharest.
SCN	Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică, Bucharest.
SEG	Supplementum epigraphicum graecum, Lugdunum Batavorum, Leiden, 1923–1971; Alphen aan den Rijn 1979–1980; Amsterdam, 1979–2005; Boston, 2006-.
StCl	Studii Clasice, Bucharest.
Syll <sup>3</sup>	Sylloge inscriptionum Graecarum, (3rd edition), (ed. W. Dittenberger), 1915–1924.
Terra Sebus	Terra Sebus, Sebeș.
ThesCRA	Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum, I–V + index vol., (eds. J. Ch. Balty, J. Boardman, Ph. Bruneau, R. G. A. Buxton, G. Camporeale, F. Canciani, F. Graf, T. Hölscher, V. Lambrinoudakis, E. Simon), Basel, Los Angeles, (2004–2006).
UPA	Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Institut für Ur-und Frühgeschichte der Universität Kiel.
ZSA	Ziridava. Studia Archaeologica, Arad Museum, Cluj-Napoca.