

Elżbieta Małgorzata Kłosińska*

Contribution to identification of the Lublin region links with the East Baltic milieu in the Bronze Age

In recent years, significant discoveries of single axes of the Tautušiai type have been made in the Lublin region. A metallurgical center, where these objects were made in the Bronze Age, was located in the eastern Baltic territory. Northern influences in the basins of the Vistula and Bug rivers also refer to the Nordic region.

KEY WORDS: axe, Tautušiai type, Bronze Age, eastern Baltic territory, Lublin region

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The subject of this paper is one more axe (Fig. 1; 2) discovered accidentally in the Lublin region and remaining in private hands. According to the owner, the artefact was found 6–7 years ago near the city of Lublin. Unfortunately, precise determination of the location where the item was

found turned out to be impossible. However, due to the fact that the object has not been thoroughly cleaned and hence on some of its surfaces a layer of compact, light yellowish soil remained, we can assume that it was found within loess areas. Therefore, the discovery could have taken place to the north or east of Lublin, where lessivé soils developed on loess are present (cf. R. Turski, S. Uziak, S. Zawadzki 1993, map).

The axe is a very massive tool (with a total length of 14 cm and weight of 43,84 dkg), which seems to consist of two elements: a narrow butt and a wide working blade. The poll (with the length of 7 cm) is made of a bar with a thickness of approximately 0,4 cm. Its width at the butt-end is 2 cm, while at the base of the working blade it is 3 cm. This part of the axe had flanges, straight in plan and arched in profile. The width of the flanges, on both sides of the core of the poll, is as follows: at the butt-end – 0,7 cm, at the widest point – 2,6 cm, and at the base of the working blade – 2,2 cm. In this way the side faces of the poll are leaf shaped. The thickness of the flanges from the centre of the core of the poll reached up to 0,5 cm. The butt-end itself was formed laterally. The second element of the artefact is a rounded, spade-shaped blade with working edge of a U-shaped outline. The height of the blades is 7 cm, the width – 7,8 cm, and thickness in the central part – 1,5 cm. On both front surfaces of the blade, along its working edge arched flat surfaces were formed, on which dense marks of grinding running roughly parallel to the edge of the blade are preserved. The length of the grinding marks is usually around 0,5 cm, which means that this treatment was performed using short strokes.

The axe in several places shows signs of explicit asymmetry most probably resulting from a mismatch of two parts of the casting mould. This metallurgical defect caused a difference in the two front surfaces of the working blade, viz. the flat zones

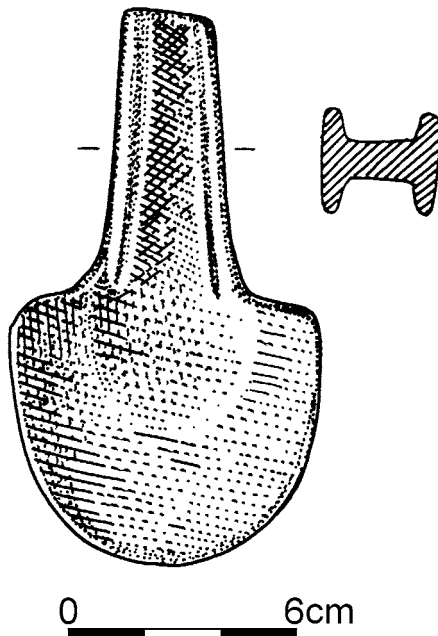


Fig. 1. Axe from the vicinity of Lublin (Fig. E.M. Kłosińska; redrawn by T. Demidziuk)

Ryc. 1. Siekiera z okolic Lublina (rys. E.M. Kłosińska; przerys T. Demidziuk)

* Instytut Archeologii UMCS, Plac M. Curie-Skłodowskiej 4, 20-031 Lublin; e-klosinska@o2.pl



Fig. 2. Axe from the vicinity of Lublin (photography by S. Sadowski)
Ryc. 2. Siekiera z okolic Lublina (fot. S. Sadowski)

formed next to the edge have different width: one – 2 cm at the sides and 2,5 cm at the centre of the blade, while the second – 2,4 cm on the sides and 3 cm at the centre of the blade.

Traces of metallurgical activities appear on the lateral planes of the axe poll. These are not only the remnants of filed moulding flashings, but also very clear traces of forging. The width of the blade of a chisel used for this was 0,3 cm. Traces of grinding were already mentioned above.

There are no signs of utilitarian use of this axe as a tool that can be seen using an unaided eye. The blunt working edge of the blade is rather a result of post-depositional processes. The same processes are also responsible for evident multidirectional scratches and “dents” that are visible on as well as under the patina. The only damages resulting from the use of this item are vertical scratches visible on the front surfaces of the poll that probably are the outcome of shafting of this axe head in a handle. Also modern mechanical damage is visible: damaged raised flanges of the butt and notches on the working edge of the axe blade.

Today the surface of the axe is covered with a thick layer of patina in a beautiful dark green colour (only within the butt area there appear traces of a greyish-green malignant patina). It seems that for many centuries the axe had to be deposited within a dry environment, which favoured the development of this kind of corrosion. Despite some mechanical damages the artefact survived in a very good overall condition. However, it was not made diligently (mismatched moulds, bevelled butt, uneven edges and the planes at the cutting edge of the blade), which reflects rather poor skills of the metallurgist. Probably we are dealing here with a “new” item used only a little, or not at all. In the context of this assumption, a conclusion might be reached that the axe could have been merely a determinant of the high status of the owner and not a working tool.

Determination of the provenance of the item found in the vicinity of Lublin does not raise a slightest doubt. This is an axe of the late variety of the east Baltic type, also known as the variety C, or variety with a spade-like blade (J. Dąbrowski 1968, pp. 109, 110, table 7). In the archaeological literature similar items originating from northern and north-western regions of Poland are also referred to as the variant A of the Dębowiec type (A. Szpunar 1987, pp. 71–73, table 24: 425–438; table 37). Recently, for the entire set of the axes of the east Baltic type the term “Tautušiai type” was adopted (J. Dąbrowski 1997, p. 47). The specimen from the vicinity of Lublin can be attributed to the C variety of this type.

The distribution range of these axes is quite compact (Fig. 3) and it covers the territory of south-eastern Baltic coast, river basins of the: Daugava River, Venta River, Neman, Pregolya River, as well as Warmian and Masurian Lakeland (J. Dąbrowski 1968, map 6; 1997, map 12; E. Kłosińska 2005, fig. 2; A. Čivilytė 2014, table 5, p. 93). Axes of the Tautušiai type, C variety are found in Gdańsk Pomerania, and a single specimen was found also in Kuyavia – in Łuszczewo, dist. Skulsk (A. Szpunar, 1987, p. 72, table 24: 431).

Observations of the spatial concentration of these items lead to the conclusion that most of the workshops producing model with spade-like blade were located by the lower Neman, although it can not be ruled out that some specimens originated from workshops located in Warmia and Masuria (J. Dąbrowski 1997, p. 47). Probably entire bronze production in the area of south-eastern Baltic coast was based on the raw material imported via the so-called north-eastern copper route from the copper outcrops that existed in the river basin of the lower Kama and central Volga rivers (Ł. Okulicz 1976, pp. 88–98, 130–132), and the axes of the Tautušiai type appear to be a local design, developed in the local metallurgical workshops.

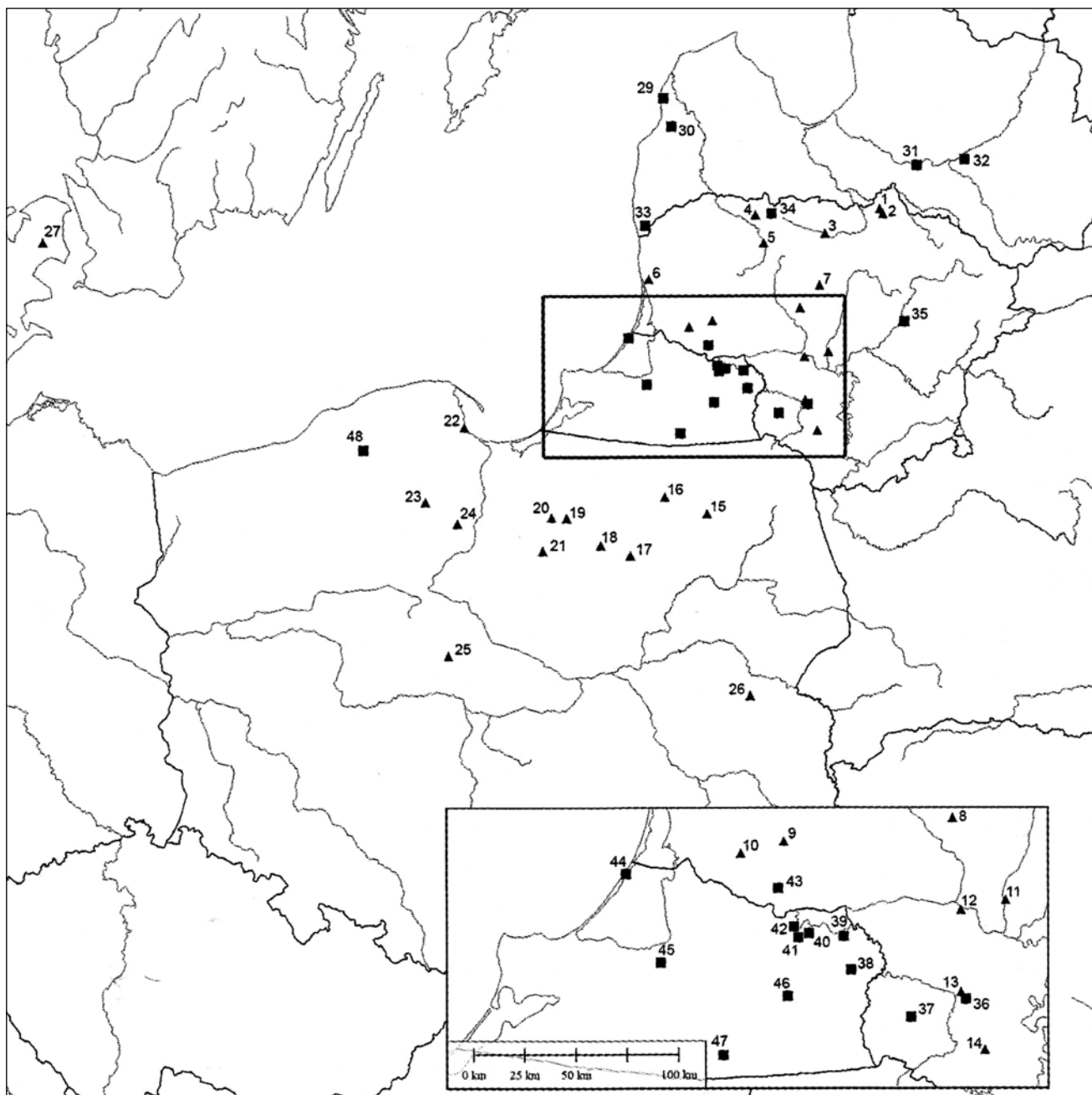


Fig. 3. Distribution range of the east Baltic axes (according to A. Čivilytė 2014)

Ryc. 3. Rozmieszczenie siekier wschodniobałtyjskich (wg A. Čivilytė 2014)

Discoveries made in the recent years extended the range of the axes with spade-like blade in southerly direction – into the area between the Vistula and Bug rivers (Fig. 4). However, the find from the vicinity of Lublin is not the only specimen discovered here. In the 1960s information about an axe from Pióry Wielkie, distr. Siedlce, entered scientific circulation (A. Kempisty 1969, pp. 455–456, fig. 2). Although bearing traces of use, the axe was overall preserved in good condition. Another specimen was disclosed in Horodyszczce, distr. Biała Podlaska, site 8 (M. Bienia 2003, pp. 48, 49, 51, photo 20, fig. 21). This axe, as can be judged on the basis of the published illustration thereof, was either a semi-product (unground blade and flashings) or a severely damaged item. An axe from Kock, distr. Lubartów whereabouts was relatively a most in depth described specimen, in the case of which the attention was

drawn to its similarity to the item from Pióry Wielkie and to the fact that there is a possibility that this item was not used at all (E. Kłosińska 2005). Quite recently an axe from Radzic Stary, dist. Łęczna was published (G. Mączka 2012, p. 298, table III). This interesting specimen had the edges of the blade hammered out to form „horns” that is a feature encountered in many east Baltic axes (cf. Ę. Ęrigdavičėne, A. Markavičius 1980, tables III: 2, 4; IV: 1, 2, 4; V: 4). The artefact from the vicinity of Lublin is already the fifth axe of the Tautušiai type found in the area between the Vistula and Bug rivers¹. All these

¹ Very recently information was revealed about another, sixth, find of an east Baltic axe in Żółtańce Kolonia, south of the city of Chełm. The artefact is currently under study by Andrzej Bronicki from Museum of Chełm.

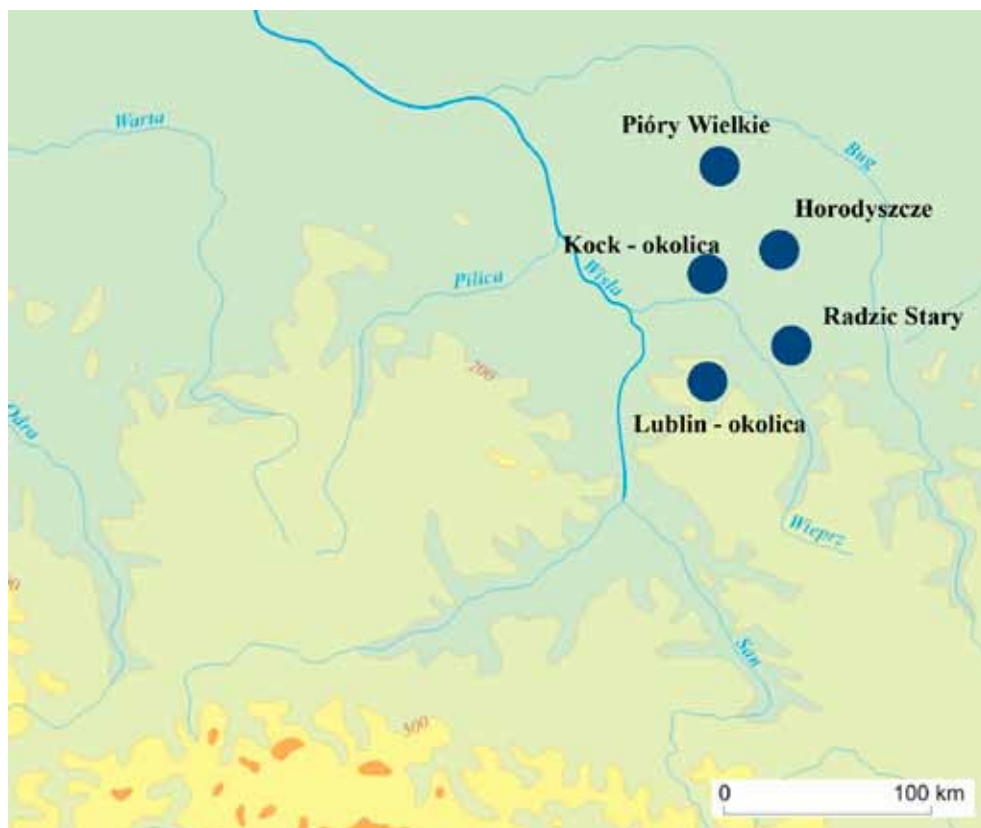


Fig. 4. Distribution range of the east Baltic axes in the area between the Vistula and Bug rivers (Fig. H. Taras on the map by M. Juran)

Ryc. 4. Rozmieszczenie siekier wschodniobałtyjskich w międzyrzeczu Wisły i Bugu (rys. H. Taras, w oparciu o mapę M. Juran)

items are similar to one another, but not identical (Fig. 5). The specimens from Pióry Wielkie, Kock whereabouts, and from the vicinity of Lublin are the most similar considering the size, proportions and shape of the cutting blade. It is difficult to state unambiguously whether they were manufactured by a single craftsman, or were owned by a merchant who distributed uniform “range” of goods.

Specimens of axes with spade-shaped working edge found at southern locations are undoubtedly imports coming from the workshops located in the aforementioned areas. It is believed that tools (including axes) produced in the metal casting workshops of the east Baltic zone were intended for exchange that was carried out by the people of this area with the communities living in their hinterland (Ł. Okulicz 1976, p. 130). However, the exchange reached far beyond these neighbouring areas, as evidenced by the specimens of axes of the Tautušiai type discovered in the land spreading between the Vistula and the Bug rivers. Still, the fact that these items were distributed within a limited territory, mainly in the area of Western Polesie and Volhynian Polesie should attract our attention. The distance between the finds having similar appearance is rather small and equals to approximately 50 km. These circumstances provide plausible grounds to form an assumption of the presence and local activity of a craftsman and merchant originating from the east Baltic areas or the area of Warmia and Masuria. In the context of these findings the question should be asked about the nature, intensity and importance of the links between the Lublin region and the east Baltic coast. This topic is slowly finding its place in the scientific studies on the spread of metals (E. Kłosińska 2005; H. Taras, H. Dziewickiewicz 2016, in print). Until now, general issues regarding the relationship of the Lusatian culture with

the cultural entity developed in the east Baltic territories were clearly and repeatedly emphasised (e.g. J. Kostrzewski 1956; J. Dąbrowski 1961, p. 35; Ł. Okulicz 1976, *passim*). For instance, the existence of trade exchange was stressed (J. Kostrzewski 1956, p. 53; Ł. Okulicz 1976, p. 132), and the spread of bronze axes with spade-shaped working edge within the Lusatian culture territory was explained by their practical functionality (J. Kostrzewski 1956, p. 11).

Considering the dating of the axes of the C variety of the Tautušiai type no significant progress has been made so far. Most of these finds are, in fact, individual finds, and even the nature of the few complexes within which individual specimens were found, does not specify explicitly the time of their use (cf. J. Dąbrowski 1997, p. 47). The presence of the moulding flashings on the sides signals the change in the casting technology used for production of bronze axes with flanges, since during the I period of the Bronze Age mostly waste mould casting was used. This change, which entailed the dissemination of two-piece moulds, took place starting from the II period of the Bronze Age (A. Szpunar 1985, p. 195, 197). Until now, it has been believed that the axes with spade-shaped working edge were in use not earlier than in the III period of the Bronze Age, and the time of their greatest popularity and maximum spread coincided with the III and IV periods of this era (J. Dąbrowski 1968, pp. 109, 110; Ł. Okulicz 1976, p. 131).

Recently, the axes with spade-shaped working edge are attributed with an early dating (until the III period of the Bronze Age), while dating to later periods is supposedly appropriate only for the specimens originating from Lithuania and Latvia (J. Dąbrowski 1997, p. 47). However, this assumption finds no justification in the archaeological materials, especially

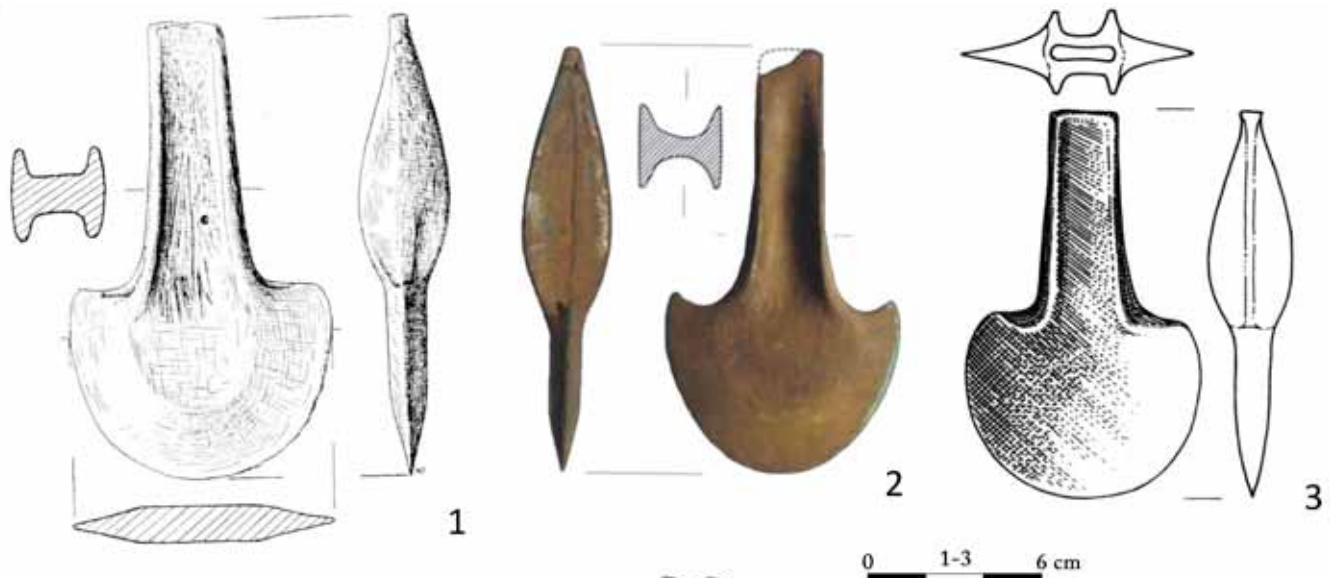
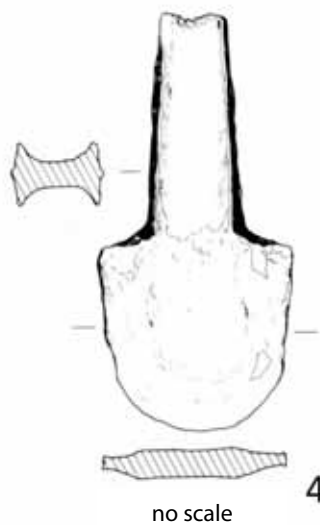


Fig. 5. East Baltic axes from the area between the Vistula and Bug rivers: Pióry Wielkie, dist. Siedlce – 1 (according to A. Kempisty 1969); Radzic Stary, dist. Łęczna – 2 (according to G. Mączka 2012); vicinity of Kock, dist. Lubartów – 3 (according to E. Kłosińska 2005); Horodyszczce, dist. Biała Podlaska – 4 (according to M. Bienia 2003)

Ryc. 5. Siekiery wschodniobałtyjskie z międzyrzecza Wisły i Bugu: Pióry Wielkie, pow. Siedlce – 1 (wg A. Kempisty 1969); Radzic Stary, pow. Łęczna – 2 (wg G. Mączka 2012); okolice Kocka, pow. Lubartów – 3 (wg E. Kłosińska 2005); Horodyszczce, pow. Biała Podlaska – 4 (wg M. Bienia 2003)



considering the absence of new assemblages of finds that could narrow down the dating of the analysed axes.

Additionally, the question who in the Polish lands could have been a user of bronze axes created in metallurgical workshops of the east Baltic zone remains open. It is assumed that in the III period of the Bronze Age it was the population of the Lusatian culture (J. Kostrzewski 1956, pp. 10, 11). For the areas between the Vistula and the Bug rivers, such determinations may raise justifiable doubts, and the population of the Trzciniec culture is also taken into the consideration as the potential buyer of these items (A. Kempisty 1969, p. 456; M. Bienia, 2003, p. 48). However, the analysis of the settlement in the area, where the majority of the axes of the C variant of the Tautušiai type was found show either no or little intensity of the Trzciniec culture inhabitation. At the same time, in the vicinity of Kock, Pióry Wielkie, Radzic Stary and Horodyszczce one can point the existence of regions inhabited by the Lusatian culture communities. It is most likely that within the range of this culture the axes with the spade-shaped working edge appeared. Only in the case of the specimen from the vicinity of Lublin can we point at the population of the Trzciniec culture as the potential users.

What was the function of these items? Without a doubt, the primary one was the function of a tool, but axes could fulfil

their utilitarian role well only if they were made of an alloy that was sufficiently hard. A specimen from Pióry Wielkie was made of bronze with small amount of tin, and the copper content was around 94% (A. Kempisty 1969, p. 456). Such an item could not perform well as a tool, because it was too soft for that purpose. It is thought that the axe from the vicinity of Kock was also unable to perform such a role and was rather of prestigious nature (E. Kłosińska 2005, p. 209).

Metallographic analysis of the axe from the vicinity of Lublin confirmed the assumption that this item was too soft to perform a function of a tool. This artefact was made of bronze with small amount of tin; the copper content here was 95,823%, and the tin just 3,881% (there were also trace amounts of iron – 0,296%)². Therefore, it can be assumed that this axe was also a prestigious item, indicating the status of the owner.

In the extensive literature of the topic of the Bronze Age, numerous metal products, including also those from the east Baltic workshops, were considered as products created, owned

² The analysis was carried out by Sebastian Skupiński, a PhD student at the Department of Radiochemistry and Colloid Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry, the UMCS in Lublin. An ED-XRF technique was applied and PANalytical spectrometer Epsilon 5 was used for the analysis.

and used by people. It is worth mentioning in this regard the quote by a Lithuanian researcher Agnė Čivilytė who referred to the habit of depositing single axes in the Baltic Sea area: "These axes reflect the status and power of the people depositing them, being an expression of exceptional rights in sacrificing rituals. Perhaps even the work performed with the use of an axe was worth the attention of the members of the community, being somehow like a ritual that showed the status of the individual performing (in it – note of the author of this paper). In other words, we can see the following features of a bronze axe, that transformed peoples' lives: the process of axe production (an important role of the master deciding the future use of the axe), its acquisition (social status indicator [as well as the material status indicator – note of the author of this paper]) and its use and deposition during a sacrifice (a form of human fulfilment, which confirms the social status of an individual)" (A. Čivilytė 2011, p. 379). It is quite likely that the analysed specimens from the area between the Vistula and Bug rivers, after a certain period of use, were subject to similar rituals like the axe heads in the east coast of the Baltic Sea. It is worth mentioning that the patina on the surface of as many as three of them (Pióry Wielkie, Kock whereabouts and Radzic Stary) indicates deposition in aquatic environment (regions where they were encountered were rich in water courses, pools of water and water reservoirs). Therefore, it cannot be excluded that the communities inhabiting this area did not only exchange contacts with the east Baltic population, but also shared with them common rituals.

The presence of the axes of the east Baltic origin in the lands between the Vistula and Bug rivers becomes a valid excuse to raise the question about the existence in the Bronze Age of relationships between this territory and the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea, and also – more generally – with broadly understood Northern Europe. Recently, in Masłomęcz, dist. Hrubieszów (E.M. Kłosińska 2006, pp. 309–310) and Hrebennie, dist. Tomaszów Lubelski (H. Taras, H. Dziewiczekiewicz 2016, in press) in the south-eastern fringes of the Lublin region two stray socketed axes were obtained. They are referring to the Littausdorf type, which is derived from the east Baltic zone and dated to the IV and V period of the Bronze Age (J. Dąbrowski 1968, p. 108; J. Kuśnierz 1998, p. 85, Fig. 682, 683). The earlier links, from the Early and Middle Bronze Age, with the broadly understood North may be indicated on the basis of other, also stray finds. A bronze spearhead from Ulów, dist. Tomaszów Lubelski displays correlation with the Seima-Turbino metallurgical centre in north-eastern Europe (B. Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska 2014, *passim*). This item was probably used by the population of the Trzciniec culture inhabiting Roztocze hills during the Early or Middle Bronze Age. Additionally, axes with arched butt appeared within the same time frame of the Early and Middle Bronze Age. The specimen from Przewodów, dist. Hrubieszów once referred to as axe of north German type (L. Kozłowski 1928, p. 137), and associated with the Lusatian culture (J. Dąbrowski 1972, p. 149) is currently regarded as a variant form of axes of the Kappeln type (A. Szpunar 2008, p. 80), originating from Nordic zone (J. Żychlińska 2008, p. 75). This axe, which differs considerably from the leading forms recorded mostly in northern Germany and southern Scandinavia (K. Kibbert 1980, pp. 201–213, Fig. 32: 483–485; 33; 34), in the Lublin region was most probably an imported item (cf. A. Szpunar

2008, p. 86)³. Dating of the axes of the Kappeln type to the 2nd half of the II period and the 1st half of the III period of the Bronze Age (W. Blajer 1999, p. 25; A. Szpunar 2008, p. 88; J. Żychlińska 2008, p. 75) in the case of the Lublin area places the item in question within the Trzciniec culture milieu. However, it might also be worth to consider correlating this axe from Przewodów with a slightly later period in this area (perhaps with the Lusatian culture). The presence of an axe of the Kappeln type in an alleged complex dated to the HaA1-HaA2 period encourages to make such a suggestion (cf. W. Blajer 1999, p. 178, table 80: 5; 2001, p. 332).

Undoubtedly, also the following artefacts from the area of the Lublin region are of northern origin. Spearhead from Bochothnica, dist. Puławy with a long slender leaf and short socket in various studies was associated with the Nordic zone of the northern Europe (Dąbrowski 1972, p. 149) and dated to the Younger Bronze Age (J. Kostrzewski 1964, p. 14; J. Fogel 1979, map IV; W. Blajer 2001, p. 139, map 45). This item refers to a large group of spearheads of "west Baltic type", typically decorated within the socket zone. They are local, Nordic model, especially popular in Denmark and the Danish islands (G. Jacob-Friesen 1967, p. 252, Taf. 141, Karte 16; Z. Bukowski 1998, pp. 281, 284, 285, fig. 127). Specimens analogous to the one from Bochothnica were also present in northern Germany, as elements of sets (together with spearheads of the west Baltic type and Saxony-Thuringian type – G. Jacob-Friesen, 1967, Figs. 140: 6; 141: 2) or as stray finds (*ibid*, Fig. 178: 1). A few specimens with similar shape come from the Polish lands, and especially from Pomerania, northern Greater Poland and Masovia (M. Gedl 2009, p. 61, Fig. 18; 19). Such range of their distribution indicates a generally "northern" origin of these artefacts⁴.

A spearhead from Stary Machnów, dist. Tomaszów Lubelski seems to be a particularly interesting artefact of northern provenance. It is characterized by a short socket, laurel-shaped and hollow inside leaf, with embossed ornaments consisting of circles and ribs. This is probably the only such spearhead in the Polish lands (E.M. Kłosińska 2009, pp. 247–251; Figs. 1, 2). Spearheads with hollow leaf should be associated with the Nordic circle, where in the IV period of the Bronze Age they were among the leading forms⁵. The majority of finds, known under the name of the Borbjerg type, came from Denmark and southern Sweden, and there were also some scattered in Mecklenburg (E. Baudou 1960, p. 13, map 5; G. Jacob-Friesen 1967, pp. 226–227, map 14). These artefacts had a ceremonial or cult function and were virtually unsuitable for combat (G. Jacob-Friesen, 1967, p. 232; J. Fogel, 1979, p. 97). The spearhead from Stary Machnów displays many characteristics that are identical with those of specimens from the aforementioned territories, hence we can certainly regard it as

³ The specimen found in an unidentified place in Ukraine is the furthest to the east located find of this type (E.M. Kłosińska 2010, p. 500, Fig. 2: 3).

⁴ Also items of similar shape that occasionally appear within the Hungarian-Transylvanian zone were pointed out (cf. E. [M.] Kłosińska 2000, p. 29; 2007, p. 274).

⁵ In addition, it is worth noting that in Scandinavia spearheads with leaves hollow or partially hollow inside were also in use into the Early Iron Age (U. Salo 1962, Figs. 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21).

a Nordic import. Besides the analogous construction features (specific proportions, leaf hollow inside, thinness of the walls, parallel ribs, indentations [hole], as well as the ornament on the leaf consisting of concentric circles, groove on the socket together with the absence of holes on it), one may point out yet another surprising similarity: on the surface of the leaf of the specimen from Stary Machnów appeared traces of some substance, like in the case of some Danish specimens, for example from the hoard found in Borbjerg (G. Jacob-Friesen 1967, pp. 226, 227–228). The above-mentioned features were typical for numerous specimens of polearms throughout the entire Nordic zone, but the most exact counterparts of this artefact are to be found in Mecklenburg (ibid, p. 362, 363, Figs. 116: 6, 7). It can not be excluded that the spearhead found in Stary Machnów was the product of one of the local metallurgical workshops there that were active in the IV period of the Bronze Age.

Probably also from Scandinavia comes a set (probably owned by a metallurgist) that was recently discovered by the Sieniocha river, dist. Tomaszów Lubelski (E.M. Kłosińska,

S. Sadowski 2014a, s. 21–22; 2014b, s. 4; in print). In that assemblage, besides metal scrap and bronze raw material there was also a half of a bronze mould for casting axes of the Mälär-Akozino type (H. Taras 2014, passim; E. Banasiewicz-Szykuła, I. Gołub, W. Koman, G. Mączka, P. Zieniuk 2014, Fig. 21 [as Zubowice, dist. Zamość]; Wysyp skarbów... 2016, passim; in this volume, too). Axes of these types were produced in central Sweden in the IV and V period of the Bronze Age and in the metallurgical Volga-Kama centre from the 8th to the 6th century. At the current stage of the investigation the set seems to be of Scandinavian origin (E.M. Kłosińska, S. Sadowski in print; further literature therein).

The presence of the above-mentioned artefacts in the area of the Lublin region forces us to address the important issue of relationships and long distance contacts of central and eastern Poland with the north European zone. Of particular significance seems to be the answer to the question: What form did these contacts have in the various times of the Bronze Age?

Translated by Paweł Wit Zagórski

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Elżbieta Małgorzata Kłosińska

Przyczynek do rozpoznania wschodniobałtyjskich powiązań Lubelszczyzny w epoce brązu

Streszczenie

W ostatnich latach na Lubelszczyźnie odkryto kolejną siekierę typu Tautuśia. Natrafiono na nią przypadkowo w okolicach Lublina. Siekiera jest przedmiotem bardzo masywnym, złożonym, jak gdyby, z dwóch członów: wąskiego obucha z wysokimi brzegami i szerokiego łopатовatego ostrza. Ślady pracy metalurgicznej widnieją na płaszczyznach bocznych obucha siekiery. Są to nie tylko relikty spłowanych szwów odlewniczych, ale też bardzo wyraźne ślady kucia.

Brak jest śladów użytkowania siekiery jako narzędzia, które można by dostrzec nieuzbrojonym okiem. Stępiła krawędź ostrza to raczej wynik procesów podepozycyjnych. Ich wynikiem są też wyraźne wielokierunkowe rysy i „odgniecenia” widoczne na i pod patyną. Jedyne uszkodzenia powstałe w wyniku użytkowania przedmiotu to widoczne na płaszczyznach frontowych obucha pionowe rysy, które zapewne są relikdami osadzania siekiery na trzonku. Uwidaczniają się również me-

chaniczne zniszczenia poczynione współcześnie: uszkodzone podniesione brzegi obucha, czy nacięcia na krawędzi ostrza.

Powierzchnię siekiery pokrywa dziś gruba warstwa patyny w pięknym ciemnozielonym kolorze (tylko w obrębie obucha widnieją ślady szarozielonej patyny złośliwej). Wydaje się, iż przez wiele wieków siekiera spoczywać musiała w środowisku suchym, które sprzyjało wytwarzaniu się tego rodzaju korozji. Mimo uszkodzeń mechanicznych zabytek zachował się w bardzo dobrym stanie ogólnym. Prawdopodobnie mamy do czynienia z przedmiotem „nowym”, używanym mało albo wcale. W kontekście tego spostrzeżenia nasuwa się wniosek, że siekiera mogła być wyznacznikiem li tylko wysokiego statusu właściciela, a nie narzędziem pracy.

Określenie proveniencji analizowanego zabytku z okolic Lublina nie budzi najmniejszej wątpliwości. Jest to siekiera póź-

nej odmiany typu wschodniobałtyjskiego, zwanej też odmianą C lub odmianą o ostrzu łopатовatym. W literaturze archeologicznej, na określenie podobnych przedmiotów, pochodzących z północnych i północno-wschodnich rejonów Polski, pojawia się również pojęcie wariantu A typu Dębowiec. Ostatnio, dla całego zbioru siekier typu wschodniobałtyjskiego przyjęto określenie „typu Tautuśiai”, gdzie okaz z okolic Lublina można przypisać odmianie C. Zasięg występowania tych siekier jest dość zwarty. Siekiery typu Tautuśiai odmiany C spotykane są na terenie Pomorza Gdańskiego, a pojedynczy okaz znaleziono również na Kujawach. Znajdiska omawianych zabytków są też coraz częstsze w międzyrzeczu Wisły i Bugu. Przedmioty te mogły trafiać w środowisko ludności kultury trzcinieckiej lub łużyckiej w III i IV okresie epoki brązu.

