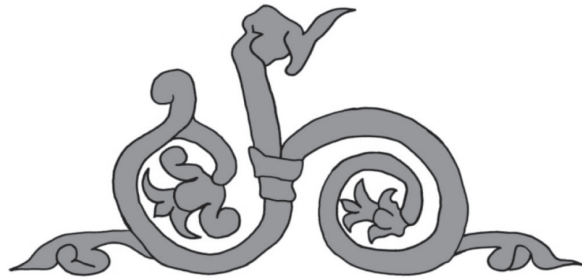


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Two 10–11th century arrow-heads from the environs of Kotori/Cattaro – Herceg Novi/Castelnuovo. Archaeology (?) and art-dealing in the Balkans

Erwin Gáll

Abstract: In September 2012, during a visit to some Dalmatian towns, in Budva/Budua (it.), we bought two deltoid-shaped arrow heads from the antique vendors near the museum, which can be categorized as 10–11th century finds and have been found in the microregion of Kotor/Cattaro – Herceg Novi/Castelnuovo.

Keywords: Balkans, Byzantine Empire, Bulgaria, Kotori/Cattaro–Herceg Novi/Castelnuovo region, arrow-heads, 10–11th centuries.

The acquisition of the objects and suppositions about their places of provenience

In September 2012, during a visit to some Dalmatian towns (Split/Spalato, Dubrovnik/Raguzza, Kotori/Cattaro, Budva/Budua, after visiting the exhibitions of several museums, we had the chance to glance through the archaeological and ethnographical collection of the museum of Budva.

After visiting the museum, in the courtyard nearby the museum, we found antique dealers selling their goods, mainly modern objects. At one of them nevertheless we could find fibulas from the 2–3th and 5–6th centuries, while at another collector a medieval spear could be bought. Among the objects exhibited on the stand, we noticed two arrow-heads, whose parallels can often be seen among the 10–11th century archaeological finds of the Carpathian Basin. After informing the art collector that the objects do not come from Roman time, but are part of the early-medieval armament, he told us to our question that he had got them from the environs of Kotor/Cattaro, 60 km from Budva, using the equivocal expression: „*on the plain*” since on the basis of the context he thought unambiguously of a plough-land and not lowlands. Nevertheless, if the objects were found 60 km from Budva, it could not have been the environs of Kotor/Cattaro, since the town of the Kotor/Cattaro bay is found no more than 10–15 air kilometres from Budva. On the other hand, if we count exactly 60 km in the north-west direction of Kotor/Cattaro, there we will find high mountains, on the seaside then, it is the microregion of Konavle belonging today to Croatia (the environs of Dubrovnik/Raguzza, Zvekovica, Močići, Vitaljina). This latter possibility is very likely to be excluded because of the today political border. Therefore, the place of provenience of the finds can be put into the microregion of Kotor/Cattaro – Herceg Novi/Castelnuovo, in a circle 15–30 km from Budva (Fig. 1).

The description of the objects

1. Short, curved-edged deltoid arrow-head from iron. A small piece is broken from the lower part of the edge. 1. Length: 7.0 cm (with mandrel); 2. Length (without mandrel): 5.4 cm; 3. Width: 2.8 cm. Weight: 10.0 gramm. The collection of the Department of Archaeology of Szeged University, Hungary (Fig. 2. A, Fig. 3. A).

2. Long-edged (perhaps curved on the bottom), simple, deltoid arrow-head, with fragmental mandrel. 1. Length: 8.0 cm (with mandrel); 2. Length (without mandrel): 5.4 cm; 3. Width: 2.8 cm. Weight: 8.0 gramm. The collection of the Department of Archaeology of Szeged University, Hungary (Fig. 2. B, Fig. 3. B).

The chronological determination of objects

The two objects are arrow-heads applied specifically with reflex-bow used in early-medieval strategy¹. Among the archaeological finds of the Carpathian Basin they turned up in the graves of

¹ Sebestyén 1932, 167–180; A.H. 1996, 38.

the conquering Hungarians. Since in case of the 10th century burial customs, it was in fashion to put weapons into the graves, and this type of weapon in whole Europe is mostly known from this region, it became so to say classic to attach them to the population of this politico-military structure, generally known as „the conquering Hungarians”.



Fig. 1. The region of Kotor/Cattaro and Herceg Novi/Castelnuovo

The arrowheads found in graves dating from the time of the Hungarian conquest were collected, grouped and categorised by Károly Cs. Sebestyén and his work is still used: he distinguished 6 basic types (types A–F), and in the case of the first three types he distinguished several variants². He discussed the material, the weight and the cross-section of the arrow, the morphology of the parts of the arrow the method of its making and its rules. According to him, the bigger the difference is between the weight of the arrowhead and that of the shaft, i. e. the easier the shaft and the heavier

² A–1–5, B–5, C–4. Sebestyén 1932, Fig. 13.

the arrowhead, the faster the arrow will fly and the more reliable trajectory it will have. The arrow must be straight, therefore, according to Cs. Sebestyén, only reed (*Phragmites vulgaris*) could have been used, which was strengthened by a method unknown to us. The arrowhead was glued into the pipe of the reed with resin or wax, and it was completely wrapped around in the whole length of the spine. The fletching was attached with fish glue at about 8 cm from the end of the shaft. The ends of the feathers were bound with phloem strings and the proper size of the fletching was also highly important because if the fletching was too big or too strong, it could reduce the speed of the arrow. An arrow was supposed to be 60–70 cm long and the diameter of the reed had to be at least 0.8–1 cm.

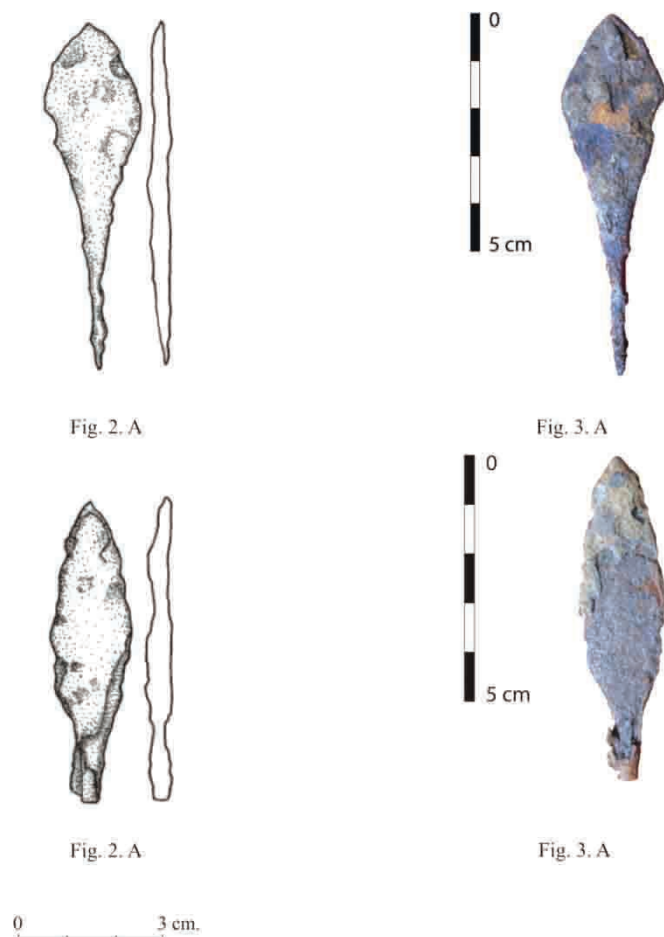


Fig. 2–3. Arrowheads: A–B

Recent researches have confirmed other facts (too). Arrows were not made of reed but wood. According to László Kovács they were made of poplar, birch or willow wickers, and these arguments have been supported with folklore analogies by Károly Mesterházy³. In the '20s of the last century Sebestyén didn't know that *long bladed, deltoid and spiked arrowheads* were in use in the 10th century (too), and they were present, although in a lower percentage, in the graves from the time of the Hungarian conquest.

Tips with short blades and rhomboid arrowheads were the most common, but long bladed tips have also been found in considerable number. The arrowheads (more than 100 of them have been weighed) have been found to weigh between 4.5–16.7 gr in the Transylvanian Basin, the Partium and the Banat⁴. However, the researches of Levente Igaz show that some of them weigh even more⁵. The items found in Kotor belong to the group weighed by us. According to our researches, there is no weight difference between the various types only among single items.

³ Kovács 2004, 311; Mesterházy 1994, 322.

⁴ Gáll 2008, 333.

⁵ Igaz 2010, 280.



Fig. 4. Arrowheads from Opaka (Bulgaria), after Jahn et al. 2001, 68

The two arrowheads found near Kotor/Cattaro in September 2012 may give rise to numerous historical assumptions that the writer would prefer to avoid. Being sceptic towards this kind of attitude, I would not like to commence such interpretations.

Nevertheless, it should be noted that the rhomboid, short and long deltoid variants of the 10th century arrowheads cannot only be connected to the finds from the time of the Hungarian conquest in the Carpathian Basin. More and more of them are found in Bulgaria (Fig. 4)⁶ and in the Byzantine fortifications from Dobrudja (dating after 971)⁷. The stray finds in Western Europe are traditionally connected to the Hungarian raids, but this is not the case as has been proved with concrete examples by Péter Langó⁸. As far as we could check the finds ranging from Kotor/Cattaro through Dubrovnik, Split to Zadar, among the finds from the 9th–11th centuries no such arrowhead has been found so far⁹. The weapons dating from this era are mainly swords, lances, and axes.

Therefore, we would categorise these two items from Kotor, being aware of the relativity of the situation, and taking into consideration the growing number of Bulgarian and Byzantine finds in the Balkans, as the weapons of this cultural circle.

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⁶ For example: Vitljanov 2004, *Tabl.* 3–4; Jahn et al. 2001, 68.

⁷ Diaconu, Baranschi 1977, II. *Fig.* 104. 5, 7, 17; Ştefan et al. 1967, 343–344, *Fig.* 182. 30, 35; Stănică 2005, 85: second figure.

⁸ Langó 2010, 586–587.

⁹ For example: Cetinić 2010, 1–23; Jurčevrć 2007, 249–265; Perkić 2008, 63–122; Petrinec 2005a, 21–52; Petrinec 2005b, 173–212; Petrinec 2009, 71–129.

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Abbreviations

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| AAC | Acta Archaeologica Carpathica. Cracovia. |
| AARMSI | Analele Academiei Române. Memoriile Secțiunii Istorice. București. |
| ACSSTU | Annals. Computer Science Series Tibiscus University. Timișoara. |
| ActaArchHung | Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae. Budapest. |
| AÉ | Archaeologiai Értesítő. Budapest. |
| AGGH | Acta Geodaetica et Geophysica Hungarica. Budapest. |
| AIINC | Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională Cluj. Cluj-Napoca. |
| AISC | Anuarul Institutului de Studii Clasice. Sibiu. |
| AJPA | American Journal of Physical Anthropology. New York. |
| Alba Regia | Alba Regia. Annales Musei Stephani Regis. Az István Király Múzeum Közleményei. Székesfehérvár. |
| AMN | Acta Musei Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca. |
| AMP | Acta Musei Porolissensis. Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Artă Zalău. Zalău. |
| AnB S.N. | Analele Banatului, Serie nouă. Timișoara. |
| Analele ANTIM | Analele Asociației Naționale ale Tinerilor Istorici din Moldova. Chișinău. |
| Apulum | Apulum. Alba-Iulia. |
| ArchKorrbl | Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt. Urgeschichte, Römerzeit, Frühmittelalter. Mainz. |
| ArhMed | Arheologia Medievală. Brăila, Reșița, Cluj-Napoca. |
| AS | Acta Siculica. Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe. |
| ATS | Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis. Sibiu. |
| AUVT | Annales d'Université Valahia Targoviste, Section d'Archéologie et d'Histoire. Târgoviște. |
| BAM | Brvkenthal Acta Musei. Sibiu. |
| BAR International Series | British Archaeological Reports, International Series. Oxford. |
| Banatica | Banatica. Muzeul Banatului Montan. Reșița. |
| BÁMÉ | A Béri Balogh Ádám Múzeum Évkönyve. Szekszárd. |
| BCȘS | Buletinul Cercurilor Științifice Studentești. Istorie-Arheologie-Muzeologie. Alba Iulia. |
| BerRGK | Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Frankfurt a. M. - Berlin. |
| BHAB | Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Banatica. Timișoara. |
| BSNR | Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române. Societatea Numismatică Română. București. |
| Caietele CIVA | Caietele CIVA. Cercul de Istorie Veche și Arheologie. Alba Iulia. |
| CCA | Cronica cercetărilor arheologice. București. |
| CCDJ | Cultură și civilizație la Dunărea de Jos. Muzeul Dunării de Jos. Călărași. |
| CN | Cercetări Numismatice. Muzeul Național de Istorie a României. București. |
| CNA | Cronica Numismatică și Arheologică, Societatea Numismatică Română. București. |
| Corviniana | Corviniana. Acta Musei Corvinensis. Hunedoara. |
| Crisia | Crisia, Muzeul Țării Crișurilor, Oradea. |
| Cumania | Cumania. A Bács-Kiskun Megyei Önkormányzat Múzeumi Szervezetének Évkönyve. Kecskemét. |
| Dacia N.S. | Dacia. Recherches et Découvertes Archéologiques en Roumanie, București; seria nouă (N.S.): Dacia. Revue d'Archéologie et d'Histoire Ancienne. București. |
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| DolgSzeged | Dolgozatok a Szegedi Tudományegyetem Régiségtudományi Intézetéből. Szeged. |
| Drobeta | Drobeta. Muzeul Regiunii Porților de Fier. Drobeta Turnu-Severin. |
| EME | Erdélyi Múzeum Egyesület. Cluj-Napoca. |
| EphNap | Ephemeris Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca. |
| ETF | Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek – Erdélyi Múzeum Egyesület. Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca. |
| Fdi | File de istorie, Muzeul de Istorie. Bistrița. |
| FolArch | Folia Archaeologica. A Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Évkönyve. Annales Musei Nationalis Hungarici. Budapest. |
| Germania | Germania. Anzeiger der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts. Berlin. |
| História | História – történelmi folyóirat. Budapest. |
| HK | Hadtörténelmi Közlemények. Budapest. |
| HOMÉ | A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve. Miskolc. |
| Istros | Istros. Muzeul Brăilei. Brăila. |
| JAHC | Journal for the Association of History and Computing. Michigan University. |
| JahrbRGZM | Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums zu Mainz, Mainz. |
| JAMÉ | Janus Pannonius Múzeum Évkönyve. Pécs. |
| KL | Kartografické listy. Bratislava. |
| Korall | <i>Korall Társadalomtörténeti Folyóirat</i> . Budapest. |
| Közl | Közlemények az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából. Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca. |
| Lucrări | Lucrări Științifice. Istorie-Științe-Pedagogie, Institutul Pedagogic. Oradea. |
| GT | Geographia Technica. International Journal of Technical Geography. Cluj-Napoca. |
| Marisia | Marisia. Marisia. Studii și materiale. Arheologie – Istorie – Etnografie. Târgu-Mureș. |
| MCA | Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice. București. |
| MEKSB | A Miskolci Egyetem Közleménye. A sorozat, Bányászat. Miskolc. |
| MFMÉ StudArch | A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve. Studia Archaeologica. Szeged. |
| MFMÉ MonArch | A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve. Monumenta Archaeologica. Szeged. |
| MHB | Monumenta Historica Budapestinensia. Budapest. |
| MIM | Materiale de Istorie și Muzeografie, Muzeul de Istorie a Municipiului București. București. |
| MSW | Materialy Starozytne Wczesnosredniowieczne. Kraków. |
| MW | Materialy Wczesnosredniowieczne. Kraków-Wrocław-Warsawa. |
| NK | Numizmatikai Közöny, Magyar Numizmatikai Társulat. Budapest. |
| NNT | Norsk Numismatisk Tidsskrift. |
| NZ | Numismatische Zeitschrift, herausgegeben von der numismatischen Gesellschaft in Wien. Wien. |
| OJA | Oxford Journal of Archaeology, Oxford. |
| OpHung | Opuscula Hungarica. Budapest. |
| PBF | Praehistorische Bronzefunde. |
| Potaissa | Potaissa. Studii și comunicări. Turda. |
| PZ | Prähistorische Zeitschrift. Berlin. |
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| RM | Revista Muzeelor. Centrul pentru Formare, Educație Permanentă și Management în Domeniul Culturii. București. |
| RRH | Revue Roumaine d'Histoire, Academia Română. București. |
| Sargetia | Sargetia, Muzeul Civilizației Dacice și Romane Deva. |

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| SCIVA | Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie). București. |
| SCN | Studii și Cercetări Numismatice. Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”. București. |
| SCȘI | Studii și Cercetări Științifice. Istorie. |
| SIB | Studii de Istorie a Banatului. Universitatea de Vest Timișoara. |
| SlovArch | Slovenská Archeológia. Bratislava. |
| SMIM | Studii și Materiale de Istorie Medie. Institutul de Istorie „Nicolae Iorga”. București. |
| SMK | Somogyi Múzeumok Közleményei. Kaposvár. |
| SSCR | <i>Social Science Computer Review</i> . North Carolina State University. |
| Speculum | Speculum. Cambridge Journals Online. Cambridge. |
| StComCaransebeș | Studii și Comunicări. Etnografie. Istorie. Caransebeș. |
| StComSatuMare | Studii și Comunicări. Satu Mare. |
| Stratum plus | Stratum plus Journal. High Anthropological School University. Cultural Anthropology & Archaeology. |
| Studia Caroliensia | Studia Caroliensia. A Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem szakfolyóirata. Budapesta. |
| Studia Comitatus | Studia Comitatus. Tanulmányok Pest Megye Múzeumaiból. Szentendre. |
| Századok | Századok. A Magyar Történelmi Társulat Folyóirata. Budapest. |
| Terra Sebus | Terra Sebus. Acta Musei Sabesiensis. Sebeș. |
| Thraco-Dacica | Thraco-Dacica. București. |
| Transilvanian Review | Transilvanian Review/Revue de Transylvanie. Cluj-Napoca. |
| TS | Történelmi Szemle. A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Történettudományi Intézetének Értesítője. Budapest. |
| UPA | Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorische Archäologie. Bonn. |
| VAH | Varia Archaeologica Hungarica. Budapest. |
| VMMK | Veszprémi Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei. Veszprém. |
| World Archaeology | World Archaeology. London. |
| ZfA | Zeitschrift für Archäologie. Berlin. |
| Ziridava | Ziridava, Complexul Muzeal Arad. Arad. |
| ZMSW | Zeitschrift für Münz-, Siegel- und Wappenkunde. Berlin. |

