

CINGULUM MILITARE FROM THE PRZEWORSK CULTURE AREA

New Finds of Roman Imports from South-Eastern Poland

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Abstract: Archaeological excavations at a cremation cemetery of the Przeworsk culture at Ostrów, site 21, Podkarpackie Voivodeship, located in the San River basin, yielded metal elements of a Roman military belt, so-called *cingulum*, found in a warrior's grave. The feature from which the artefact was recovered dates to the Marcomannic wars. As can be observed, during the 2nd century, the Przeworsk culture population moved south to the basin of the Tisza River. These migrations coincide with the first appearance of the Vandal tribe of Hasdingi, attested by written sources, which originated, as is generally assumed, in the area encompassed by the Przeworsk culture.

Metal parts of Roman military belts, the so-called *cingulum militare*, are found in all areas that came under the domination of the Roman state. This dress accessory was intended to distinguish soldiers from the civilian population (cf. *Darenberg/Saglio 1918*, 1178–1182; *Fischer 2012*; *Hoss 2014*; *2017*) and, thus, played both a prestigious and a symbolic role. In the Przeworsk culture area, despite the steady increase in the number of discovered artefacts of Roman origin (recently, cf. *Lasota-Kuś/Madyda-Legutko 2023*), elements of Roman belt fittings are still unique finds.

Until recently, the only known artefact of this category has been a fragment of an openwork enamelled plate discovered at a settlement at Zagórzycze, Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, in the material dated to phase B2b (*Madyda-Legutko 2016*, 608, footnote 31, fig. 2: 13a, b). In its shape, it resembles enamelled buckle plates of Oldenstein type 827–831, known from the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes area (*Oldenstein 1976*, 197, 198, pl. 64: 827–831).

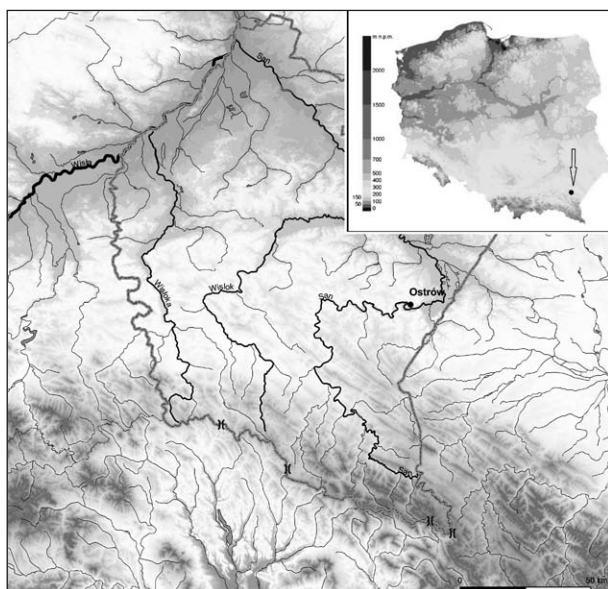


Fig. 1. Ostrów, Przemyśl District, Podkarpackie Voivodeship, site 21. Location of the site.

In recent years, fragments of two bronze buckles have been discovered in the Kujawy region of central Poland, in the village of Gąski-Wierzbiczany.¹ The first one can be dated to the 1st century or the first half of the 2nd century AD (*Kontny/Rudnicki 2020*, 506, fig. 14.2: 1). The fragment of the second one is possibly of Roman origin; however, it cannot be excluded that it is a local imitation of Roman specimens (*Kontny/Rudnicki 2020*, 506, 507, fig. 14.2: 2). Other elements of belt fittings, pieces of weaponry, equestrian equipment – among which there are also Roman specimens – that were discovered at Gąski-Wierzbiczany are dated to the second half of the 4th century and the beginning of the 5th century (*Kontny/Rudnicki 2016*, 307–318; *2020*, 500–538).

The conducted analysis of the archival material has also revealed openwork elements of belt fittings of Roman origin recovered before 1910 from a Przeworsk culture cemetery in the locality of Lubogoszcz-Dąb, Wschowa District, Lubuskie Voivodeship. The artefacts in question

¹ Inowrocław District, Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship.

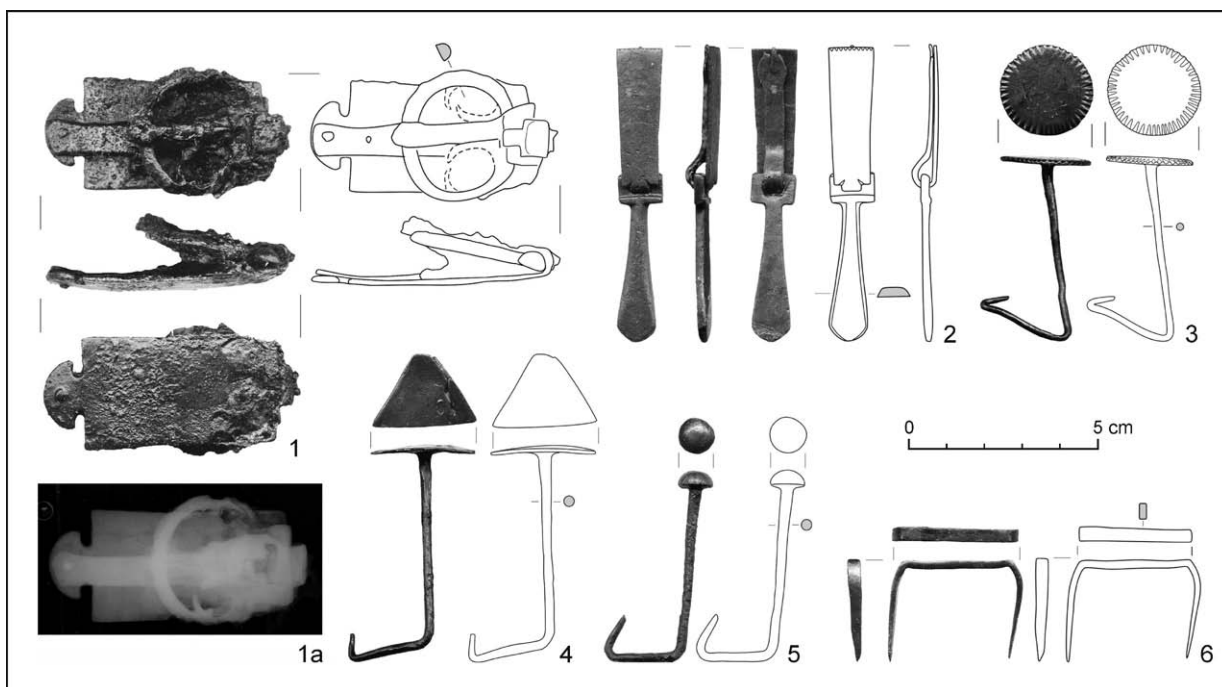


Fig. 2. Ostrów, Przemyśl District, Podkarpackie Voivodeship, site 21. Grave 9. 1, 2 – *cingulum militare*; 3–6 – chest fittings. All iron.

are a fragment of an openwork fitting of a *balteus*-type belt and a buckle. According to the author who studied the artefacts, the items came from grave no. 1, but it is uncertain whether they were actually part of a single assemblage (Bohr 2021, 49, 500, fig. 1: 3, 4).

In this article dedicated to Jubilarian, we would like to present the unique elements of a *cingulum militare* that were discovered at a Przeworsk culture cemetery at Ostrów, Przemyśl District, Podkarpackie Voivodeship, site 21, located on the Middle San River (Fig. 1), alluding in this manner to the Jubilarian's interest in Roman-Barbarian contacts in the areas north of the Middle Danube.

CEMETERY AT OSTRÓW

The Przeworsk culture cremation cemetery at Ostrów, site 21, was investigated in 2013–2014 by Anna Lasota-Kuś and Sabina Stempniak-Kusy. The excavations uncovered seventy-four urn and pit burials and two artefact clusters. The presence of both female and male burials has been confirmed at the cemetery; the former was furnished with, among other things, three fibulae, glass beads and spindle whorls, while the latter included warrior graves with so-called full weapon sets. Prominent among them is a burial containing a Roman sword of the *Ringknaufschwert* type (Lasota-Kuś/Stempniak-Kusy 2019, 77–89; Stempniak-Kusy/Lasota-Kuś 2021, 221–249).

A richly furnished urn grave of a warrior (no. 9) from phase B2b–C1a contained fittings of a Roman *cingulum militare*, including a destroyed iron *pelta*-type buckle with a rectangular buckle plate ending in a fan-shaped projection. On the underside of the plate, there is a narrow band bearing traces of rivets which were used to attach the fitting to the strap. The diameter of the buckle measures 25 mm, while the length and width of the buckle plate are 52 mm and 23 mm respectively (Fig. 2: 1).

The buckle was accompanied by a bipartite iron strap-end, so-called *pteryx* (cf. Oldenstein 1976, 142), consisting of an attachment end with plates joined with a flat-headed rivet and, suspended on it, a flat, tongue-shaped terminal with faceted edges.² The upper edge of the attachment end is finely decorated with a zigzag line. The length of the attachment end is 30 mm, while the lower part (pendant) measures 34 mm (Fig. 2: 2).

The design of the attachment plates of the buckle and strap-end as well as their size are typical of Roman specimens of this kind. Such artefacts are known from the Limes area and Roman provinces.

² In the literature, such belt terminals are usually referred to as “teardrop-shaped pendants” (Horváth 2018, 196; Radman-Livaja 2004, 96).

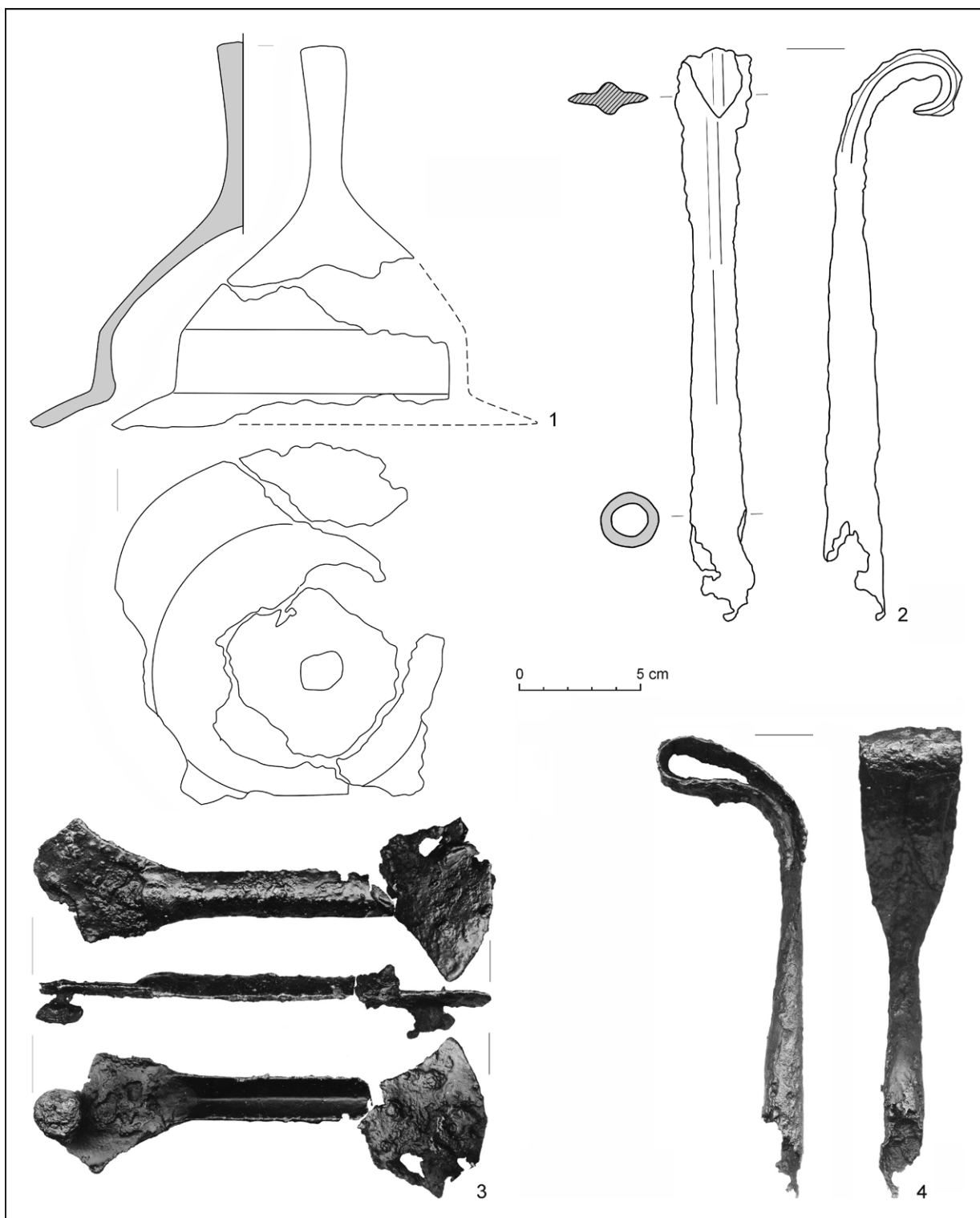


Fig. 3. Ostrów, Przemyśl District, Podkarpackie Voivodeship, site 21. Grave 9. 1 – shield boss; 2, 4 – spearheads; 3 – shield grip. All iron.

The grave goods of burial no. 9, in which the *cingulum* was discovered, also included shield fittings, i.e., a shield boss J7a (Fig. 3: 1)³ and shield grip J9 (Fig. 3: 3), two spearheads of types VI/1/2 and XII/1 (Fig. 3: 2, 4), two bow-shaped spurs of type E2, a rod-shaped fire striker, shears, a knife and a fragment of a perforator

³ Typologies used in this article: metal shield fittings – Jahn 1916; spearheads – Kaczanowski 1995; bow-shaped spurs – Ginalski 1991.



Fig. 4. Ostrów, Przemyśl District, Podkarpackie Voivodeship, site 21. Grave 9. *Terra sigillata* (samian ware).

or an awl. Moreover, grave 9 yielded numerous iron fittings of a large wooden chest⁴ (Fig. 2: 3–6). The rivets had very long shafts (7.8 to 8.7 cm) and heads of various shapes: flat, round, with a notched edge (three pieces, Fig. 2: 3); flat, triangular (two pieces, Fig. 2: 4); and round, domed (two pieces, Fig. 2: 5). In addition, potsherds with smooth, blackened surfaces, probably from an urn, and several burnt vessels have been preserved in the feature. It is noteworthy that, in addition to the *cingulum*, the burial contained a *terra sigillata* (samian ware) vessel from Lezoux, from the CINNAMUS workshop, dated to 150–170 AD (Fig. 4), representing most common Drag. 37 type. These objects of Roman origin indubitably accentuated the social position of the buried warrior.

ANALOGIES

The closest analogies to the *cingulum* from the Ostrów grave are Roman belt fittings from grave 4 from the Rankovce cemetery (Košice-okolie District), located in the Slanské vrchy/Slanské Hill zone, in the Western Carpathian region. This cemetery is linked to Przeworsk culture settlement developing in eastern Slovakia and is dated to phases B2b–C1a (*Luštková* 2019, 208; *Rákoš* 2019, 215–226). The metal belt parts discovered there consisted of a *pelta*-shaped buckle and three plates with fan-shaped terminals (Fig. 5). Like the *cingulum* fittings from Ostrów, they were made of iron (*Gašaj/Rákoš* 2015, 12; *Rákoš* 2019, 220). The *cingulum* fittings from Rankovce were accompanied by a sword of the *Ringknaufschwert* type and the fittings of its scabbard. The grave goods, as in grave 9 from Ostrów, included shield fittings (shield boss, grip), a pair of spearheads, a pair of spurs, a knife and a bucket pendant (*Rákoš* 2019, 220, fig. 3).



Fig. 5. Rankovce, Košice-okolie District. Grave 4. *Cingulum militare*. All iron (after *Gašaj/Rákoš* 2015; no scale).

⁴ A reconstruction of the size of selected large chests has recently been presented by *Katarzyna Czarnecka* (2020, 148, 149).

The distinguishing feature of the belt pieces from Rankovce and Ostrów is the raw material from which they were made. They were all iron, which is not typical of Roman objects, usually made from bronze. Only a few references in the literature suggest that iron specimens occurred sporadically in the provinces (*Busuladžić* 2022, 80). For example, such fittings were supposedly found at *Siscia* (*Radman-Livaja* 2004, 94). On the other hand, the presence of iron scabbard components at the camps of the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes confirms that this raw material was used to make other types of fittings (*Oldenstein* 1976, cat. no. 62, 66–100, 133–147; pl. 14: 62; 15: 66–76; 16: 77–88; 17: 89–100; 21: 133–137; 22: 138–140; 23: 141–143; 24: 144–147).

Pelta – shaped buckles are common in the areas of the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes (*Oldenstein* 1976, 214–216, cat. no. 1002–1025; pl. 75: 1002–1005; 76: 1006–1025) and the entire Danube Limes (*Farka/Jungwirth* 1990, 231, fig. 1089; *Kostromichyov* 2016, fig. 3; *Maspoli* 2014, cat. no. 81, 82; fig. 5; pl. 14: 81, 82, with earlier literature). They are also attested in the territory of Dacia Porolissensis (*Gudea* 1989, pl. CCXXII: 12–24). Outside the Limes zone, such buckles are also found in southern Pannonia, at *Sisca* (*Radman-Livaja* 2004, 94, pl. 41: 272, 273; 42: 274–276), and in Thrace (*Gencheva* 2009, fig. 8: 7). They are characteristic of the 2nd century, especially the second half of the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century (*Maspoli* 2014, 46; *Oldenstein* 1976, 215, 216, footnote 719; *Radman-Livaja* 2004, 94).

The above chronology is also confirmed by the finds of *pelta*-shaped buckles from the left bank of the Middle Danube, recovered from sites associated with Roman military activity during the Marcomannic wars (166–180). Such buckles are known from an earth-and-timber camp at Iža, Komárno District, destroyed by Germanic invasions during the aforementioned wars (*Rajtár* 1996, 93, fig. 8: 6–8). A small Roman cemetery at Radvaň nad Dunajom-Žitava also dates to the period of the Marcomannic wars. In the large collection of military equipment found there, there was also a fragment of a buckle, probably a *pelta*-shaped one (grave 4 – *Hüssen/Rajtár* 1994, 220, fig. 6: 4f; *Komoróczy et al.* 2020, 187, fig. 14: 4e).

Pelta-shaped buckles, commonly found at Roman sites, occur also in southern Moravia, where they are also linked to military activity during the Marcomannic wars. Worthy of mention here are the specimens from Mušov-Burgstall, with a fully preserved buckle plate (*Tejral* 1999, fig. 40: 13), and from a nearby temporary camp at Mušov-Na Pískách (*Komoróczy et al.* 2020, 232, fig. 58). The buckle from Mušov-Burgstall (Fig. 7: 6), albeit relatively massive, is stylistically similar to the specimen from Ostrów, site 21. A fragment of such a buckle is also known from the site Ostrožská Nová Ves, Uherské Hradiště District (*Zeman* 2017, 138, 141, fig. 38: 13).

Daniil Kostromichyov's full-range analysis of *pelta*-shaped buckles allowed distinguishing their four main variants (A to D) based on the details of their construction (*Kostromichyov* 2016, 144, fig. 4). The find from Ostrów most closely resembles subvariant C1 with a trapezoidal expanding base for attaching the pin and buckle plate (Fig. 2: 1).

Of note is one stylistic element of the buckle plate from Ostrów and the rectangular plates from Rankovce, namely, the fan-shaped projection at the narrower edge of the plate. At the sites of the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes, rectangular plates are usually decorated with openwork ornamentation made using the *in opus interrasile* technique; solid plates are only occasionally encountered. Fan-shaped projections are equally uncommon (*Hoss* 2014, 308, fig. XI.7; *Oldenstein* 1976, cat. no. 780; pl. 62: 780). Their presence has been attested in the case of openwork, *Neuburg*-type belt plates from the second half of the 2nd century (*Fischer* 2012, 124, fig. 139). At the same time, similar solid plates with a fan-shaped projection are known from Roman burials in Thrace (Fig. 6: 3; *Gencheva* 2009, 25, fig. 8: 6; *Kostromichyov* 2005, fig. 4: 3) and from a grave described as a "cremation site/1910" from *Chersonesus/Chersonesos* (Fig. 6: 4; *Kostromichyov* 2005, 105, 106, fig. 12: 1, 2).

Equally wide-ranging as the buckles are the bipartite strap-ends referred to as *pteryx*. Fittings of this type, usually flat, less often moulded, were suspended on the ends of narrow straps. They were usually worn in pairs. In addition to being fitted on the belt straps of Roman soldiers, they may occasionally have been used also by civilians (*Horváth* 2018, 196). They were probably also an element of a horse's harness (*Horváth* 2018, 196; *Cheben/Ruttkay* 2010, 320; *Maspoli* 2014, 53, footnote 615; *Oldenstein* 1976, 142; *Varsik* 1999, 631). They are dated analogously to the *pelta*-shaped buckles described above, i.e., from the early 2nd century to the mid-3rd century, and they were the most common during the reign of the Antonine dynasty (*Horváth* 2018, 196; *Oldenstein* 1976, 144; *Weber* 2007, 161, 162).

The strap-ends in question are found from Hadrian's Wall in Britain (*Bishop/Coulston* 2006, 144, fig. 88) through the sites of the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes to the entire Danubian Limes (*Fischer* 2012, 125, fig. 118; *Garbsch* 1985, 437, fig. 29: 9; *Gencheva* 2009, 22, fig. 3: 10, 11; *Grünwald* 1981, 25; pl. 17: 20; *Maspoli* 2014,

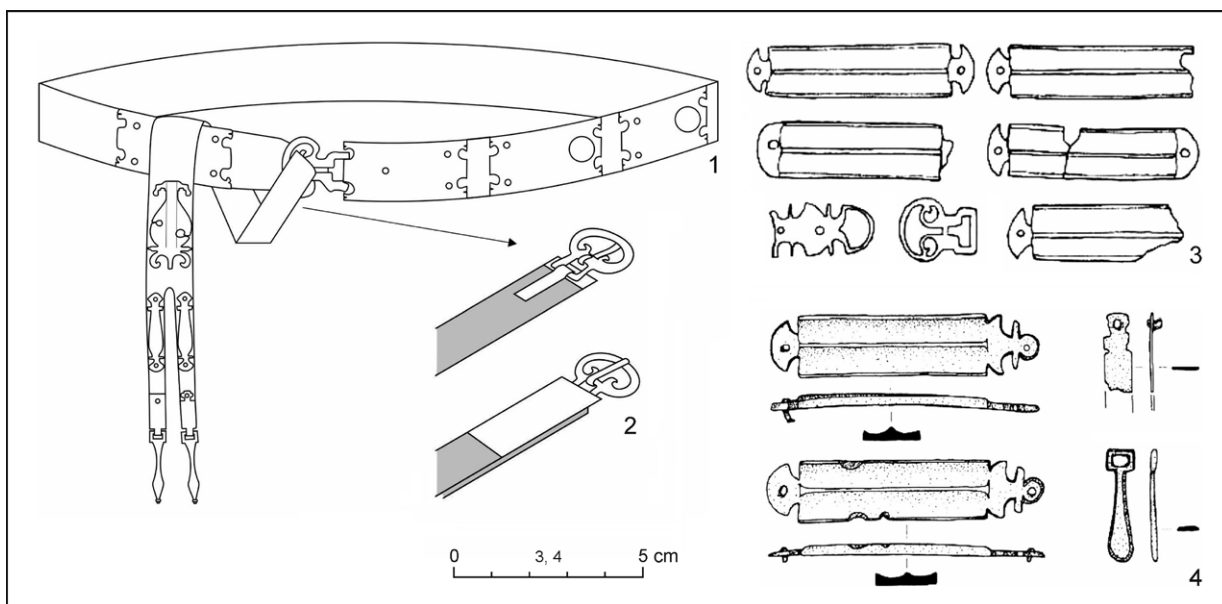


Fig. 6. *Cingulum militare*. 1 – belt reconstruction (Chersonesus/Chersonese, Barrow 93/1910, after Kostromichyov 2005); 2 – reconstruction of the attachment of the buckle to the strap (after Radman-Livaja 2004); 3 – Kabile, Yambol District, Barrow III, grave 34 (after Kostromichyov 2005); 4 – Chersonesus/Chersonese, so-called “cremation site/1910” (after Kostromichyov 2005). 3, 4 – bronze (1, 2 – no scale).

53, 54, cat. no. 114–120; pl. 16: 112–120; Oldenstein 1976, 142–147, cat. no. 291–304; pl. 36: 291–304; Weber 2007, 161, 162, pl. 12: M27, M28). They are also known from Dacia Porolissensis (Gudea 1989, pl. CCXIII: 14–18, 26–46; CCXIV: 1–32). They have also been attested at Dura Europos in Syria (James 2004, 85, fig. 40: 152–158) and in the Chersonesos area (Kostromichyov 2005). A large series of strap fittings of this type is also known from the province of Pannonia, including the town of Siscia (Radman-Livaja 2004, 96, cat. no. 313–343; pl. 46: 314–316; 47: 317–328; 48: 329–339; 49: 340–343; 2008, 298, 301, cat. no. 48–65), as well as from the Roman provinces of Thrace (Gencheva 2009, fig. 8: 4) and Dalmatia (Busuladžić 2022). A blank of such a strap-end was discovered at Siscia, indicating local production of this type of belt terminals (Radman-Livaja 2004, 96, cat. no. 313; pl. 46: 313).

Like *pelta*-shaped buckles, the strap-ends in question are known from Roman sites located in the Middle Danube zone, on the left bank of the river, e.g., from the aforementioned camp of Iža (Rajtár 1996, fig. 8: 4) and from temporary camps in south-western Slovakia (i.e., Hviezdoslavov, Cífer-Pác, Trnava District – Komoróczy et al. 2020, 197, 200 fig. 27: 7; 30: 25).

Strap-ends of this type were also used in the area of a settlement complex developing in the Middle Danube zone, on the right bank of the river, in the vicinity of the camp of Gerulata, where the *ala I Cannenefatium* was stationed from the early 2nd century (Krekovič 1994, 211). Grave 53 at Roman cemetery II at Gerulata, dated to the early 3rd century, contained a *pteryx*, found among the personal equipment of the deceased (Krekovič 1994, 217, fig. 5: 13; Pichlerová 1981, 316, pl. LXXXVIII: 2). To the south of the Gerulata camp, there was a settlement of indigenous people, dating to the 2nd century. The huts there contained various small fittings from a horse's harness and from military equipment, including two *pteryxes* (Varsik 1999, 631, fig. 9: 14, 15). According to Vladimir Varsik, the inhabitants of the settlement may have provided the Roman army with, e.g., horses or livestock and may have thus acquired these fine fittings (Varsik 1999, 631). Surveys carried out in the vicinity of the camp (now Bratislava-Rusovce) also yielded other finds of the strap-ends under discussion (Bratislava-Rusovce, site Nižné pole; Bratislava-Rusovce, site Lúčne polia – Bazovský 2002, 26, 28, pl. V: 13, 14).

Of note is also a set of metal belt parts from a cemetery at Chersonesus/Chersonesos in south-western Crimea, dating to the time when Roman troops were stationed in the city. One grave (93/1910) contained a set of fittings, which consisted of a buckle and eight Roman belt parts, and two knife or dagger scabbard fittings (Fig. 6: 1). Apart from the buckle, which is a local imitation, the other fittings are typical of Roman military equipment (Kostromichyov 2005, 100–105, fig. 8: 1–11; 11). The grave probably belonged to a person of high rank in the military hierarchy. Another burial (so-called “cremation site/1910”) also contained a *pteryx* and

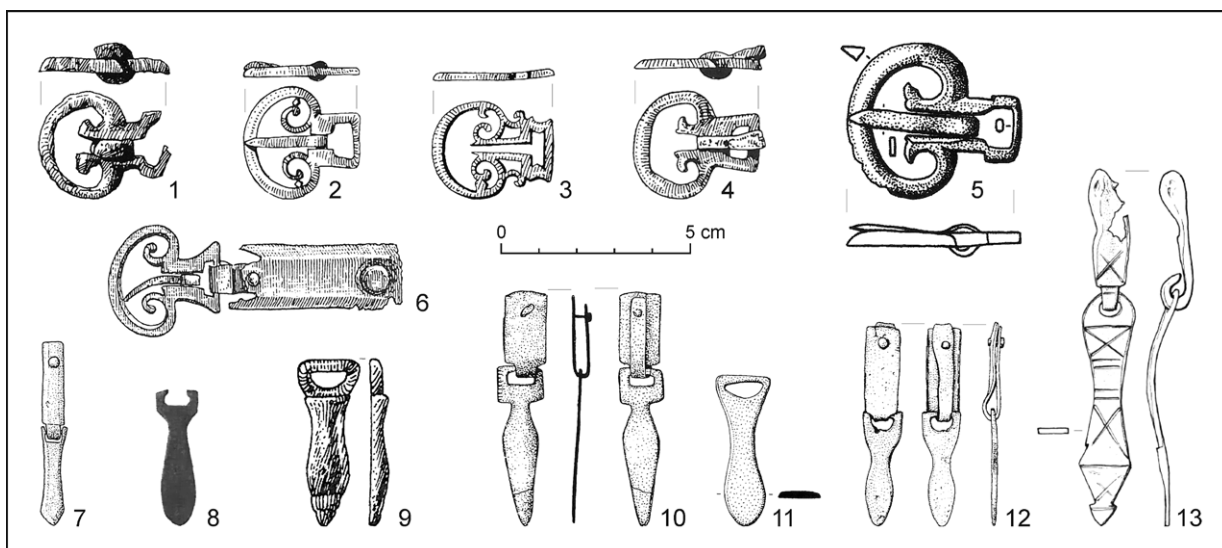


Fig. 7. Roman belt fittings (1–12) and their imitation (13). 1 – Pottenbrunn, SG St. Pölten (after Adler/Wallner 1990); 2 – Ringelsdorf, VB Gänserndorf (after Nebehay/Stuppner 1990a); 3 – Bernhardsthal, VB Mistelbach (after Adler 1994); 4 – Paltendorf, VB Gänserndorf (after Adler/Stuppner 1991); 5 – Blatnica, Martin District, Rémová site (after Pieta/Švihurová 2019); 6 – Mušov-Burgstall (after Tejral 1999); 7 – Mušov “royal grave” (after von Carnap-Bornheim 2002b); 8 – Šebetov I, Malá Haná area (after Droberjar 2020); 9 – Drösing, VB Gänserndorf (after Nebehay/Stuppner 1990b); 10 – Gelej, Kom. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén (after Hadházy-Vadai 1980); 11 – Cífer-Pác, Trnava District, Germanic settlement, feature 6 (after Hüssen/Rajtár 1994); 12 – Cífer-Pác, Trnava District, residential settlement (after Varsik/Kolník 2021a); 13 – Sekule, Senica District, grave 40/2017 (after Iván/Ölvecký/Rajtár 2019). All bronze.

the previously mentioned solid plates with fan-shaped projections (Fig. 6: 4). Both burials are dated to the second half of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 3rd century, i.e., to the peak period of Roman troops stationing in the Chersonesos area (Kostromichyov 2005, 106, fig. 12: 4).

Pelta-shaped buckles and pteryx strap-ends are also sporadically found in *Barbaricum*, north of the Middle Danube, in the areas where the Germanic tribes and Romans interacted during the 2nd century. They are observed, among others, at the Germanic settlements located in Lower Austria⁵ that were in operation during the Marcomannic wars. Together with the areas on the right bank of the Morava (March) River, these sites formed a zone in the foreground of *Carnuntum* of intensive movement of Roman troops and the establishment of temporary camps. The presence of Roman soldiers' equipment, including *cingulum* fittings, has been attested at settlements in that area (Fig. 7: 1–4, 9; Stuppner 2016, 878, fig. 22: 10, 11; Tejral 1999, 135–147).

Pteryx-type strap-ends are also known from Germanic sites in Moravia. Particularly noteworthy is the presence of such a strap-end in a “royal” grave from Mušov, located on the Dyje (Thaya) River (Fig. 7: 7; von Carnap-Bornheim 2002a, 222, 223; 2002b, 550, 551, pl. 63: C 41), in the neighbourhood of Roman military sites (Mušov-Burgstall) and temporary camps (Komoróczy et al. 2020, 203–212; Tejral 1994, 44–47; 1999). However, the context of the discovery of the artefact from the aforementioned “royal” tomb is not clear, and it is uncertain whether it belonged to the equipment of the deceased or whether it found itself there by accident (von Carnap-Bornheim 2002a, 223).

In Moravia, the remains of the temporary camp of Jevíčko XII and a Germanic settlement were found to the north of the aforementioned sites, in the Malá Haná area (Droberjar 2020). Among the numerous military objects discovered throughout the region, there was also a pteryx-type strap-end, found at the Germanic settlement of Šebetov I (Fig. 7: 8; Droberjar 2020, 492, fig. 7: 4).

Similarly, such belt fittings appear at Germanic settlements in south-western Slovakia, in the zone of Roman military activity or very strong Roman influence, with the camp of *Brigetio* and the camp of *Iža*, located on the opposite banks of the Danube, playing an important role in that regard. As an example,

⁵ Bernhardsthal, VB Mistelbach, buckle (Adler 1994, 555, fig. 621; Tejral 1999, fig. 43: 7); Drösing, VB Gänserndorf, pteryx (Madyda-Legutko 2016, 609, fig. 2: 19; Nebehay/Stuppner 1990b, 225, fig. 966); Paltendorf, VB Gänserndorf, buckle (Adler/Stuppner 1991, 245, fig. 1043); Pottenbrunn, SG St. Pölten, buckle (Adler/Wallner 1990, 236, fig. 1251); Ringelsdorf, VB Gänserndorf, buckle (Madyda-Legutko 2016, 609, fig. 2: 20; Nebehay/Stuppner 1990a, 240, fig. 1326).

the fill of a Germanic hut (no. 6) at the site of Cífer-Pác, situated between two Roman temporary camps, contained pieces of weaponry and various fittings, including a *pteryx* (Fig. 7: 11), dated to the second half of the 2nd century. Presumably, these items were looted during raids on the Roman camps (Hüssen/Rajtár 1994, 220, fig. 9: 9; Cheben/Ruttkay 2010, 313, fig. 4: 4; pl. II: 5).

A *pteryx* was also discovered at a Germanic residential settlement at Cífer-Pác, displaying a very strong Roman influence in terms of architecture and spatial organisation of the settlement. The oldest occupation phase of the settlement (feature 1), dating to the younger Roman period, also yielded a *pteryx* (Fig. 7: 12; Varsik/Kolník 2021a, 161, 353, fig. 130: 3; 240: 4; 2021b, 22, pl. 18: 3).

Deserving of closer note is the presence of a Roman *pelta*-shaped buckle (Fig. 7: 5), accompanied by various fittings of Roman provenance and other local finds, mainly dress accessories, at Blatnica, Martin District, site Rémová, in the Slovak Carpathian zone, relatively far north of the Danube Limes area (Pieta/Švihurová 2019, 118, fig. 5: 1–4). These artefacts are attributed to the Púchov culture and dated to phase B2/C1. According to Karol Pieta, they should perhaps be linked to a cult site or interpreted as grave furnishings. It cannot be ruled out that the presence of Roman *cingulum* fittings in the Slovak Carpathians is related to Roman military activity by the Váh (Waag, Vág) River, extending as far as *Laugaricio* (Trenčín).

In the context of Roman military finds, *pelta*-shaped buckles also appear in the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain (Istvánovits/Kulcsár 1994, fig. 5: 1). There, they are found relatively close to the Limes, in the area between the Danube and the Tisza rivers (Istvánovits/Kulcsár 1994, 413).

Although *pteryx*-type strap-ends are characteristic of Roman military equipment, they sometimes also appear in richly furnished female burials. For example, a Sarmatian burial at Gelej, Kom. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, in the Hungarian Lowlands contained intercultural grave goods consisting of, among other things, two provincial Roman knee-shaped brooches, a Pomeranian snake-headed bracelet and Roman military belt fittings, including a *pteryx* (Fig. 7: 10; Hadházy-Vaday 1980, 91, pl. I: 1–9; II: 1–12; Tejral 2003, 245, fig. 5: 10). The *pteryx* was located at the left knee of the deceased (Hadházy-Vaday 1980, pl. II: 1). The burial is dated to the third quarter of the 2nd century (Hadházy-Vaday 1980, 99). Moreover, grave 40/2017, dated to phase B2/C1, from the cemetery of Sekule, Senica District, located in south-western Slovakia, contained a bronze imitation of a Roman *pteryx* (Fig. 7: 13; Iván/Ölvecky/Rajtár 2019, 244, 245, 247, fig. 9: 16).

CONCLUSION

The analysed Roman belt fittings from the Przeworsk culture cemeteries at Ostrów, site 21, and at Rankovce in south-eastern Slovakia are characterised by a similar chronology falling on the period of the Marcomannic wars (years 166–180). During the 2nd century, there was a clear shift in the location of the Przeworsk culture population, which moved southwards into the Tisza River basin (Godłowski 1994, 65–89, fig. 2; Madyda-Legutko/Rodzińska-Nowak 2019, 247, 248; Soós 2019). As a result, Przeworsk culture sites extend as far as the Dacian Limes covering a section of the Meseş Mountains (Dubicki/Olędzki 2022, 323, fig. 6). The southbound movement of the Przeworsk culture population coincides with the emergence, attested by written sources, of the Vandal tribe of Hasdingi, originating, as is generally assumed, in the territory encompassed by the Przeworsk culture. The tribe in question appeared in the borderlands of Dacia in the early 170s, during the Marcomannic wars (Dio Cassius, LXXI, 12.1; Godłowski 1982, 48, 49; 1994, 65–89; 2000, 28). The cemeteries located on the San River, such as Ostrów, site 21, and Prusiek, site 25, Sanok District, as well as those in eastern Slovakia – at Rankovce and Kvakovce, Vranov District – have yielded Roman weapons, mainly swords. For example, swords with circular pommels, so-called *Ringknaufschwert*, were found at Ostrów and Rankovce, as mentioned previously. Moreover, swords with inlaid blades come from the cemeteries at Prusiek, site 25 (feature 42) and at Rankovce (grave 8; Madyda-Legutko/Rodzińska-Nowak/Zagórska-Telega 2008, 47–49, fig. 2–4; Rákoš 2019, 229, fig. 4). Additionally, from Prusiek, site 25, comes a sword with smithing stamps (feature 16; Madyda-Legutko/Rodzińska-Nowak/Zagórska-Telega 2007, 64, fig. 4). Roman provenance of a sword from Kvakovce is attested by its manufacturing technology (Lamiová-Schmiedlová/Máčala 1991, pl. I: 6, 7; Mihok/Lamiová-Schmiedlová/Máčala 1993, 41–51). The Rankovce cemetery also yielded a shield boss, unique in the area of central European *Barbaricum*, with a rectangular decorated flange (grave 8; Rákoš 2019, 220, fig. 8). The listed military objects were most likely also accompanied by *cingulum militare* fittings. Likely, the Germanic tribes would not have acquired all this military equipment during their invasions of the Limes zone or Roman provincial territory. At the same time, it cannot be ruled out that the items in question were Roman gifts to

the local military elite. Such offerings, it should be assumed, would have been related to the external policy of the Empire, supporting in some way the principle of *divide et impera*, as the Romans would take advantage of internal conflicts between tribes, especially those that arose close to the borders of the Roman state. It is possible that warriors from the Przeworsk culture, who may have served in the Roman army, brought individual elements of weapons, parts of clothing, or other objects of Roman origin to their headquarters (cf. Bazovský *et al.* 2021). In the burials of warriors in cemeteries located on the San River and in neighboring territories, there are also other objects of Roman origin, which are an expression of the prestige of the buried people. The existence of long-distance trade cannot be ruled out either.

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Cingulum militare z oblasti przeworskiej kultury

Nové nálezy římských importov z juhovýchodného Poľska

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Súhrn

V článku venovanom jubilantovi sú prezentované unikátne kovania *cingulum militare* z oblasti osídlenia przeworskej kultúry, ktoré boli objavené v bohato vybavenom hrobe so súčasťami výzbroje a s terrou sigillatou z dielni Lezoux, na pohrebisku uvedenej kultúry v Ostrowie, okres Przemyśl, Podkarpatské vojvodstvo, lok. 21 (hrob 9), ležiacom v strednom toku rieky San (obr. 1–4). Tento hrob je datovaný do fázy B2b–C1a. Kovania *cingulum militare* pozostávajú z poškodenej peltovitej pracky a z dvojdielného kovaného nákončia opaska (*pteryx*; obr. 2: 1, 2). Najbližšou analógiou ku kovaniu *cingulum* z Ostrowa sú kovania z hrobu 4 na pohrebisku v Rankovciach (okres Košice-okolie), nachádzajúceho sa v oblasti Slanských vrchov (obr. 5). Toto pohrebisko patrí k osídleniu przeworskej kultúry na východnom Slovensku a je datované do fázy B2b–C1a. Obe súpravy kovaní *cingulum* boli vyrobené zo železa, čo nie je typické pre rímske výrobky, ktoré sa väčšinou vyrábali z bronzu. Len jednotlivé zmienky v literatúre naznačujú, že príležitostne sa v provinciách vyskytovali aj železné exempláre.

Peltovité pracky a dvojdielne kovania koncov opaska (*pteryx*), tzv. *pteryx*, sa vyskytujú na širokom území. Často sa objavujú na území hornogermánskeho-raetskeho limesu a celého dunajského limesu. Sú doložené aj na území rímskych provincií. Sú charakteristické hlavne pre 2. storočie, najmä pre druhú polovicu 2. storočia, za panovania dynastie Antoninovcov. Vyskytujú sa aj na náleziskách na ľavom brehu stredného Dunaja spojených s rímskou vojenskou aktivitou počas markomanských vojen (roky 166–180). Sú doložené v sídlach obývaných v tom čase autochtónnym obyvateľstvom.

Rímske kovania opaskov na przeworských pohrebiskách v Ostrowie, lok. 21, a v Rankovciach sú datované podobne, do obdobia markomanských vojen (roky 166–180). V priebehu 2. storočia možno pozorovať výrazný presun obyvateľstva przeworskej kultúry na juh, do povodia rieky Tisy. Tieto migrácie sa časovo zhodujú so správami antických autorov o objavení sa vandalského kmeňa Hasdingov, ktorí podľa všeobecného názoru pochádzali z územia spojeného s przeworskou kultúrou. Na pohrebiskách nachádzajúcich sa pri rieke San a na území východného Slovenska sa tiež objavujú rímske militárie, hlavne meče, spolu s ktorými sa tam pravdepodobne dostali aj kovania opaskov typu *cingulum militare*.

Obr. 1. Ostrów, okres Przemyśl, Podkarpatské vojvodstvo, lokalita 21. Poloha lokality.

Obr. 2. Ostrów, okres Przemyśl, Podkarpatské vojvodstvo, lokalita 21. Hrob 9. 1, 2 – *cingulum militare*; 3–6 – kovania truhlice. Všetko železo.

Obr. 3. Ostrów, okres Przemyśl, Podkarpatské vojvodstvo, lokalita 21. Hrob 9. 1 – umbo štítu; 2, 4 – hroty kopijí; 3 – drždlo štítu. Všetko železo.

Obr. 4. Ostrów, okres Przemyśl, Podkarpatské vojvodstvo, lokalita 21. Hrob 9. *Terra sigillata*.

Obr. 5. Rankovce, okres Košice-okolie. Hrob 4. *Cingulum militare*. Všetko železo (podľa Gašaj/Rákoš 2015; bez mierky).

Obr. 6. *Cingulum militare*. 1 – rekonštrukcia opasku (Chersonézos, kurhan 93/1910, podľa Kostromichyov 2005); 2 – rekonštrukcia upevnenia pracky k remeňu (podľa Radman-Livaja 2004); 3 – Kabile, okres Yambol, kurhan III, hrob 34 (podľa Kostromichyov 2005); 4 – Chersonézos, tzv. žiarovisko/1910 (podľa Kostromichyov 2005). 3, 4 – bronz (1, 2 – bez mierky).

Obr. 7. Rímske kovania opaskov (1–12) a ich imitácia (13). 1 – Pottenbrunn, SG St. Pölten (podľa Adler/Wallner 1990); 2 – Ringelsdorf, VB Gänserndorf (podľa Nebehay/Stuppner 1990a); 3 – Bernhardsthal, VB Mistelbach (podľa Adler 1994); 4 – Paltenndorf, VB Gänserndorf (podľa Adler/Stuppner 1991); 5 – Blatnica, okres Martin, poloha Rémová (podľa Pieta/Švihurová 2019); 6 – Mušov-Burgstall (podľa Tejral 1999); 7 – Mušov „kráľovský hrob“ (podľa von Carnap-Bornheim 2002b); 8 – Šebetov I, k. ú. Malá Haná (podľa Droberjar 2020); 9 – Drösing, VB Gänserndorf (podľa Nebehay/Stuppner 1990b); 10 – Gelej, kom. Borsod-Abauj-Zemplén (podľa Hadrázy-Vaday 1980); 11 – Cífer-Pác, okres Trnava, germánske sídlisko, objekt 6 (podľa Hüssen/Rajtár 1994); 12 – Cífer-Pác, okres Trnava, sídlisko (podľa Varsík/Kolník 2021a); 13 – Sekule, okres Senica, hrob 40/2017 (podľa Iván/Ólvecky/Rajtár 2019). Všetko bronz.

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