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MEDIEVAL ARMOUR FROM THE ROYAL PALACE IN THE BULGARIAN CAPITAL TARNOVGRAD

Abstract:

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In the article are discussed the pieces of armour found in Royal Palace in the third medieval Bulgarian capital – Tarnovgrad. This rare find was wrongly presented in the 1970's as an iron shield. The analyze indicate that it is a part of brigandine with Western European origin, dated to the 14th c.

Keywords: medieval armour, medieval Bulgarian warfare, medieval archaeology

Finds of weaponry, especially wholly preserved specimens of defensive armour at archeological sites are rare events in studying the medieval warfare. Such finds are especially rare for the period before the 15th c. in Southeastern Europe. For this reason, the reconstruction of the armour of Medieval Bulgaria, as well as that of Byzantium, encounters numerous difficulties. The main sources of information so far are occasional finds, mural paintings, icons and miniatures. However, these types of sources cannot provide us with all the necessary details. The ecclesiastical art followed strict rules in depicting human beings, it often repeated late antique military models and fashion, and was influenced by the medieval interpretation or misinterpretation. In the miniatures, on the other hand, the schematism of the image goes before the realistic representation. This is why it is crucially important that we compare these images with actual specimens of weaponry.

Having in mind all these facts, a find of iron plates from the Royal palace of Tarnovgrad gains significant importance. Its location and the surrounding area link this find to soldiers closely related to the Bulgarian rulers of the 2nd half of the 14th c.

Location and preliminary interpretation

The plates were found in Building II, located in the south-eastern part of the royal palace (Fig. 1).

The convenient location of the eastern slope, the numerous premises that were built over the cellars, as well as the nature of the finds testify to the fact that the building was a chamber of the Royal family (Георгиева, Николова, Ангелов 1973, 105). This building was destroyed in the conflagration set during the capture of Tarnovgrad by the Ottoman Turks in 1393. This fact is proved by the traces of a great fire and the coins found there (*ibidem*, 65). The iron plates were listed into the Medieval Department of the museum collection in a fragmented condition. They were listed under numbers 2942, 2943, 2946a, 2947, 2948, 2949, 2952, 2953, 2954, and 2955¹. They were found in Premises 1 and 4 of Building II (Fig. 1). The most numerous part of the find (145 fragments) was found fallen down on the clay-loamed floor next to the eastern wall of Room 4 (Fig. 2) (*ibidem*, 301).

Their shape doubtlessly proves that these plates were integral parts of an object that had fallen there together with other items from the upper floor. The find comprised a broken part of a sword (the grip and a half of the blade), two padlocks, a couple of iron bucket hoops, the bucket's iron ear-plates and its brass lid (*ibidem*, 101-102). A plate, most obviously part of the above find was found in Room 1, Building II, situated to the north of Room 4.

Because of the fragmented condition of the finds and their belated restoration as well, the

¹ We would like to express our gratitude to Assistant Professor Evgeni Dermendjiev PhD from the Regional Historical Museum of Veliko Tynovo for his kind permission to examine this interesting artefact.

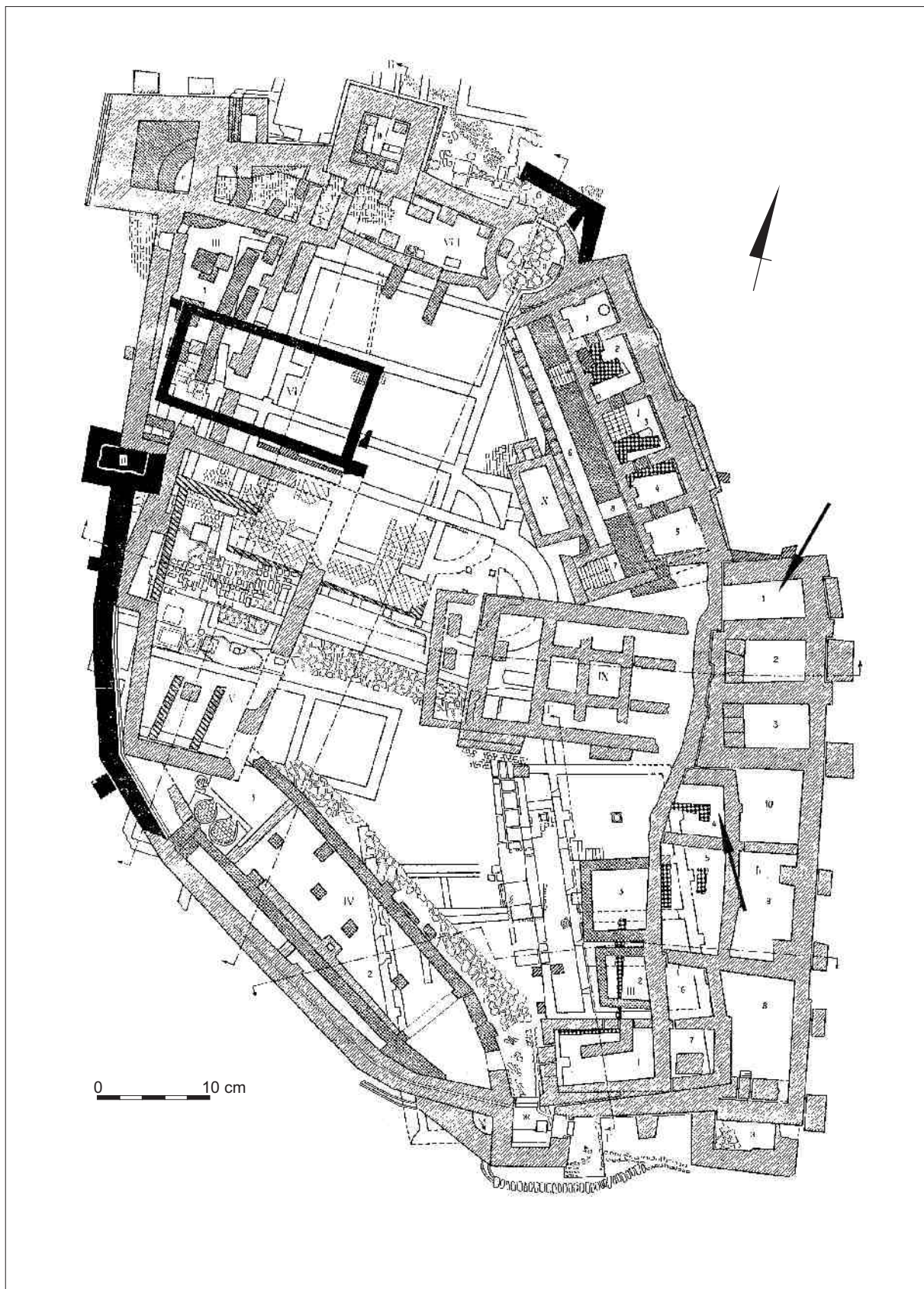


Fig. 1. Veliko Tarnovo, Tsarevets. Map of the Royal Palace (after Георгиева, Николова, Ангелов 1973, прил. 1). The findspots of the plates are shown with arrows.

Ryc. 1. Wielkie Tyrnowo, Carewec. Plan Pałacu Królewskiego (wg Георгиева, Николова, Ангелов 1973, прил. 1). Miejsca odkrycia zbrojników oznaczono strzałkami.

plates were described in a brief way only. The description mentioned the presence of decorative rivets, half-spherically shaped or with six-leaved rosette heads by which they were fixed to a wooden construction. Of significant importance in this description is the observation that on their inner sides there are traces of broad-pored leather. Besides, there is an 1.5 cm wide edge at the border fragments (Николова 1974, 301).

The right angles of one of the fragments, the straight outer edges of others and the fragmented condition of this burnt material gave grounds to the researcher Y. Nikolova to define this plates as being part of a rectangular metal shield. A similar one, consisting of single elements is presented in Fig. 110a in her publication (*ibidem*, 301).

In order to justify her observation, the expert points out that the same shields are present on the images of warrior saints in the southern corridor of Church 8 in the Trapezitza fortress. The final conclusion is that, most probably, these shields were typical for the Tarnovo region and also that the shape of the shields and of the rest of the fragments is impossible to be defined, owing to their bad condition. However, Y. Nikolova supposes that some of them were round and others were heart-shaped (*ibidem*, 301).

Description of the find

After the conservation the plates were more or less reconstructed. The initial numbers they had been given lost their adequacy and that is how fragments with different numbers occurred in one and the same plate. In order to facilitate our work we will use the numbers given by us during the investigation of the fragments – from 1 to 19.

The reconstruction of the shape of the plates gave us new information, which went unnoticed by the previous experts working with this material. The plates which were kept in the Veliko Tarnovo's museum fund can be classified into three groups.

The first one consists of Plates 14 and 15 (Fig. 5:6-7)². One of their characteristics is a solid rivet with a half spherical head. The whole rivet's length is 1,25 cm and goes through both plates. The flattening at the end shows that the rivet fixed a material c. 2 or 3 mm thick to the plate. The gauge of the two plates³ is about 0.35 cm. The shape of an irregular rectangle of Plate 15



Fig. 2. Veliko Tarnovo. The context of the find (after Георгиева, Николова, Ангелов 1973, 102, обр. 53).

Рис. 2. Wielkie Tyrnowo. Kontekst znaleziska (wg Георгиева, Николова, Ангелов 1973, 102, обр. 53).

(Fig. 5:7) is partly preserved. The longitudinal profile of the plate resembles a concave curve.

The second group comprises the most numerous part of the plates. Ten plates of this group (Nos. 1-10 – Figs 4-5; 6:1-2) are large and wholly preserved, while six others are smaller fragments (Nos. 11-13, 17-19 – Fig. 6:3-5, 9-11). The latter are broken parts of large plates and this is why we will discuss the wholly preserved plates only.

The plates have the shape of shortened rectangles with concave profiles. The concave is better pronounced on the longer sides which most probably owes to the fact that at these places the connecting bands were hammered in. The sizes vary depending on the condition of each one – the height of most of them is 16-17 cm, generally varying between 15.5 and 19 cm. The width, without the connective band is about 13.5-14.5 cm and the gauge is between 0.3 and 0.4 cm.

A characteristic of this group are copper rivets with six-leaved rosette-shaped heads of 1 cm in diameter. They functioned as fixers of the tissue which covered the upper part of the plates. Traces of the tissue can be seen on most larger plates, in between the rivets (Figs. 3-4).

The rivets are particularly arranged, as it can be seen on all the plates. At one of the short sides, and in the middle, we have three rivets in a row standing at 4-4.5 cm from one another. The distance between the two rows is 6.5-7 cm.

² The plates of the find are numbered with Arabic numbers according to the officially accepted experts' numeration.

³ The gauges that we give refer to the present condition of the plates, taking into consideration the corrosion, the restoration and conservation processes which influenced their original sizes. Probably, the original width was not more than 0.2 cm.

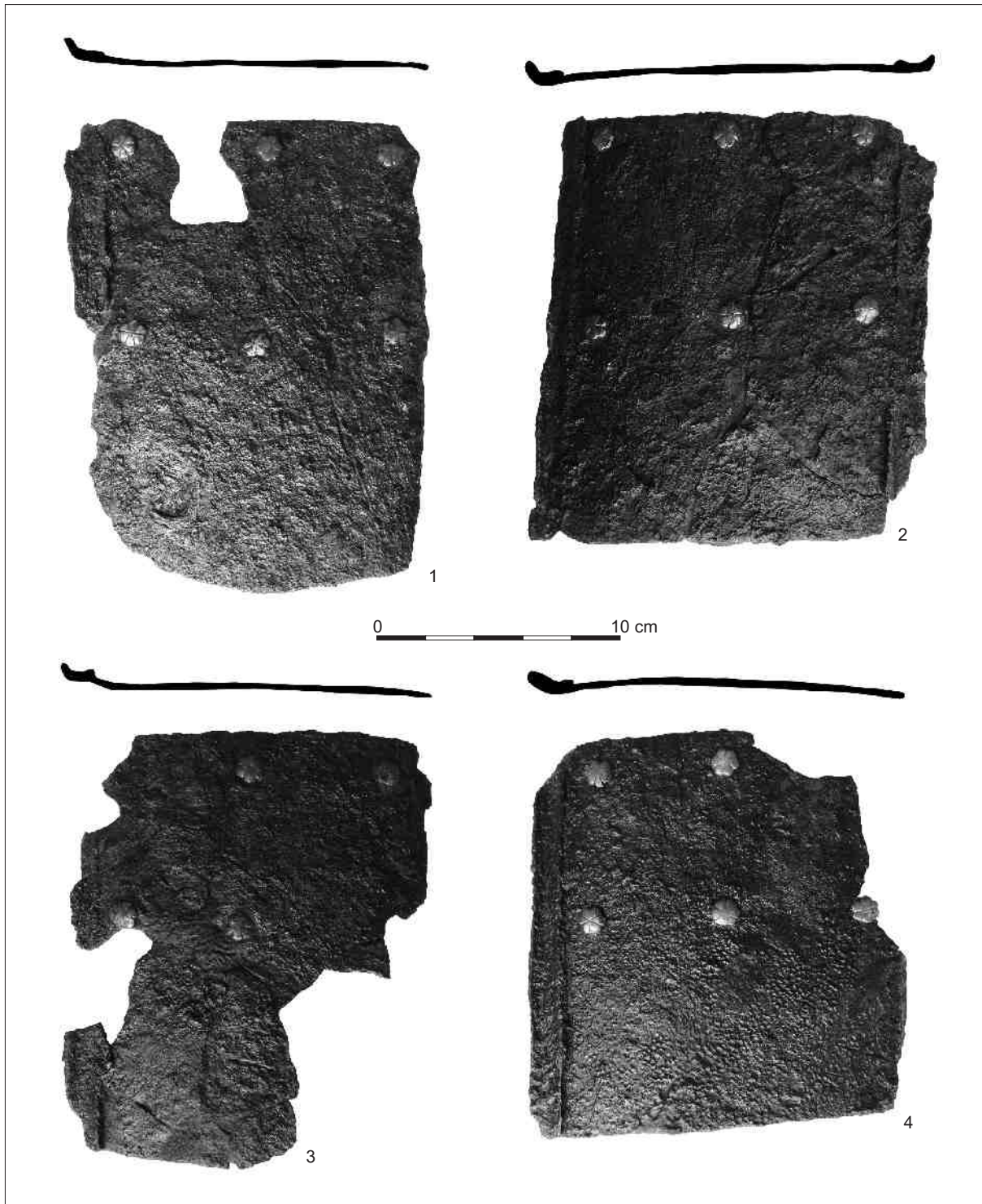


Fig. 3. Veliko Tarnovo. 1-4 – plates Nos. 1-4. *Photo by D. Rabovyanov.*

Ryc. 3. Veliko Tarnovo. 1-4 – zbrojniki nr 1-4. *Fot. D. Rabovyanov.*

The decorative function of this pattern is obvious. Today the rivet heads step on the top of the iron plates. Considering restoration and conservation we can assume that between the rivet head and the iron plate less than 1 mm was left, so the

only function of the rivets was to hold the fabric covering iron plates.

Traces of leather, mentioned by Y. Nikolova, are present only on Plate 8 (Fig. 4:4) – it is a patch of grey material.

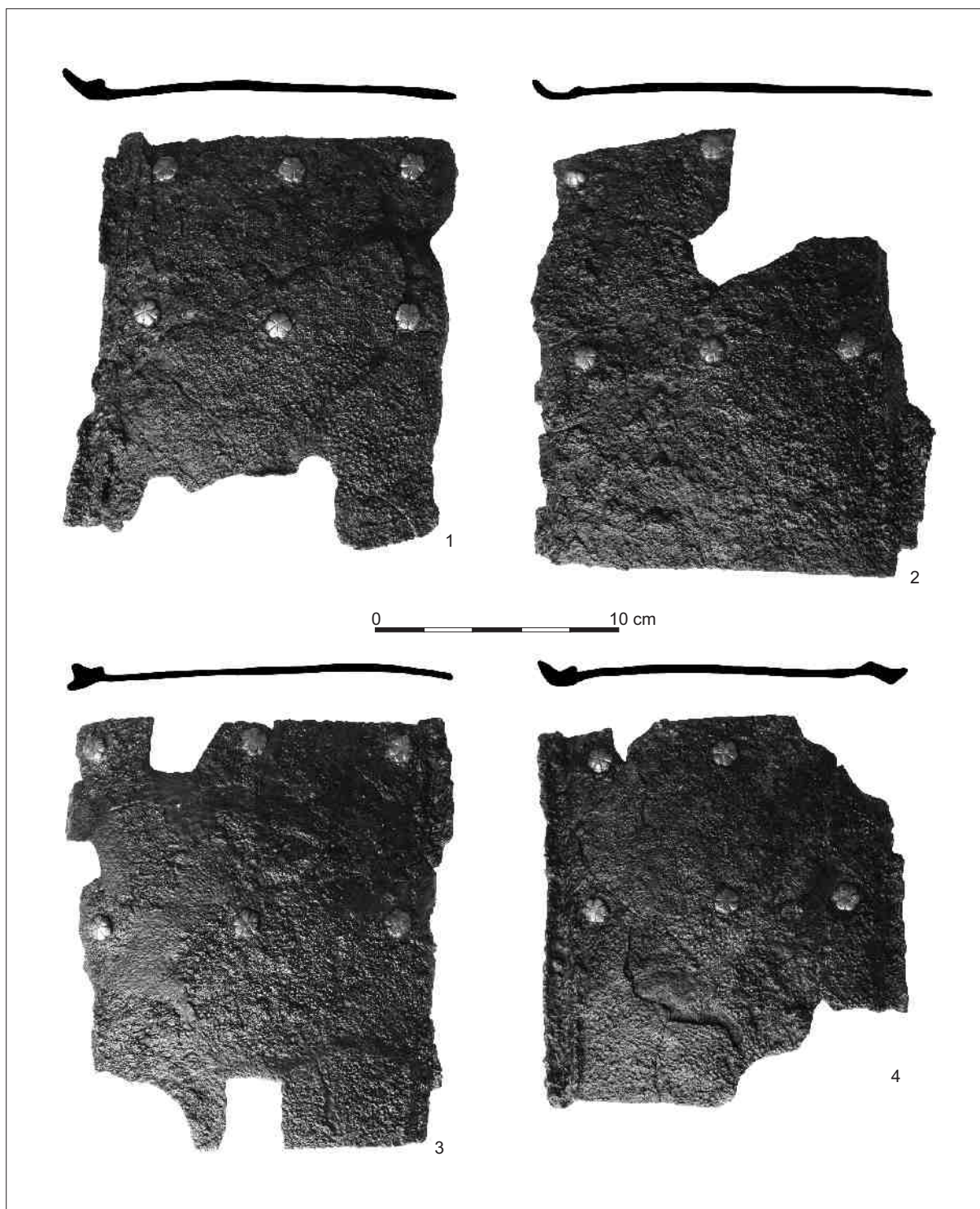


Fig. 4. Veliko Tarnovo. 1-4 – plates Nos. 5-8. *Photo by D. Rabovyanov.*

Ryc. 4. Veliko Tarnovo. 1-4 – zbrojniki nr 5-8. *Fot. D. Rabovyanov.*

Another important element is the presence of an iron band which connected the plates with each other, at their longer sides (Fig. 6). This band is approximately 1.5 cm wide, its middle part is sub-concave and its length varies depending on the

size of the plates it connects. This band is preserved in quite enough of the plates. If it is not present, there is a particular inward curve and thinning of the edge, demonstrating that the horizontal impassive fixation of the plates is obvious.

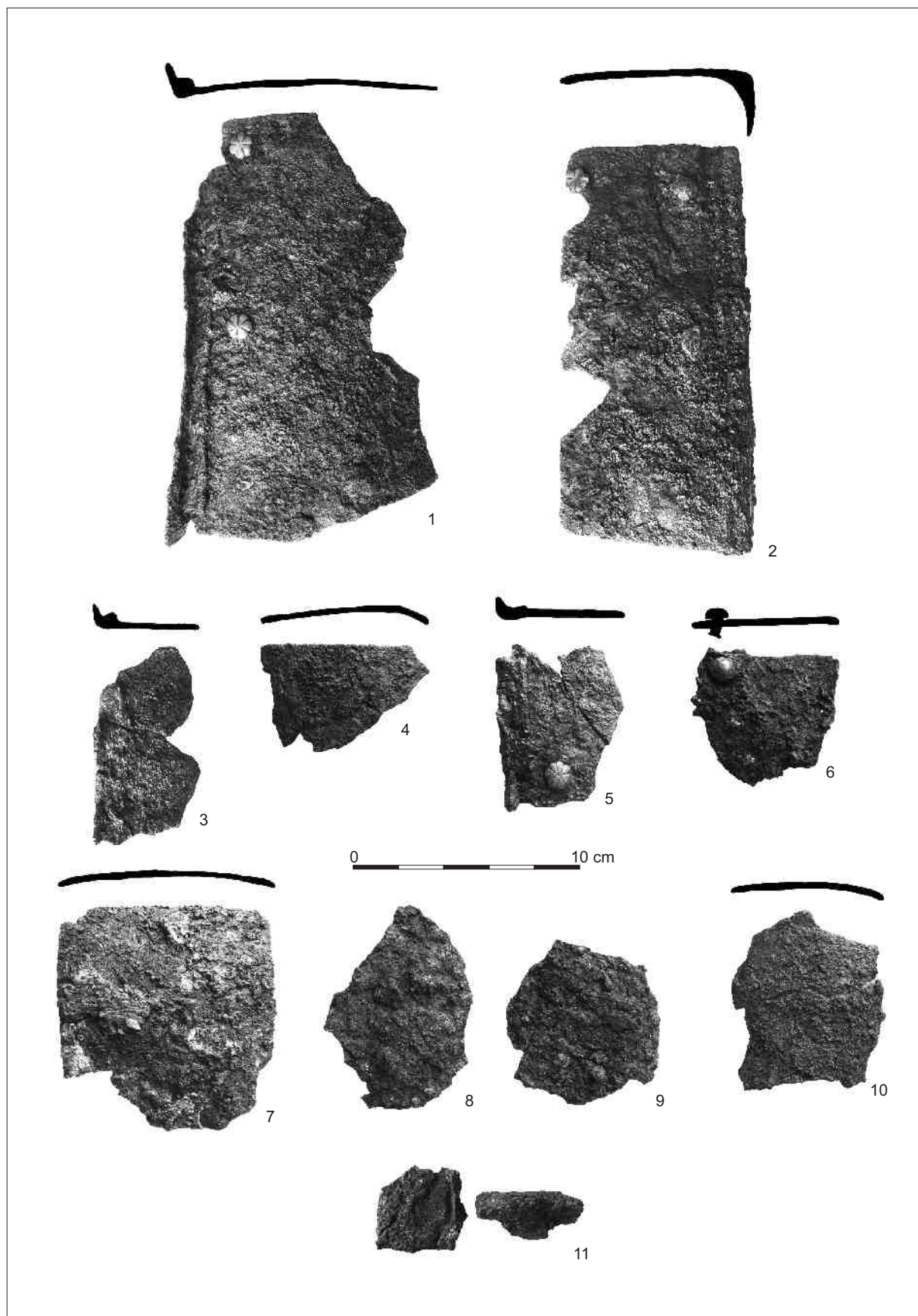


Fig. 5. Veliko Tarnovo. 1-11 – plates Nos. 9-19. Photo by D. Rabovyanov.

Ryc. 5. Veliko Tarnovo. 1-11 – zbrojniki nr 9-19. Fot. D. Rabovyanov.

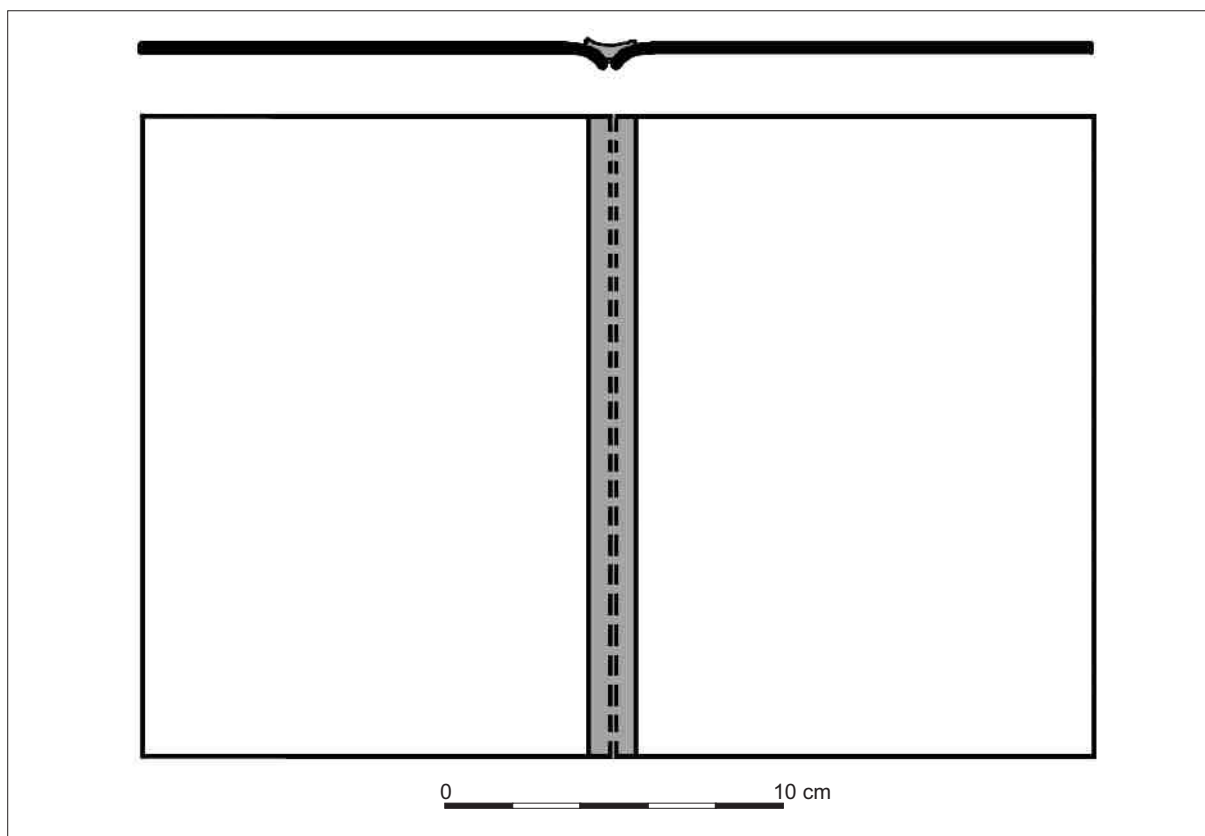


Fig. 6. Technical drawing showing the fixing of the plates. *Drawing by D. Rabovyanov.*

Ryc. 6. Schemat techniki wykonania zbrojników. *Rys. D. Rabovyanov.*

On the basis of the preserved material we can identify ten whole larger plates, while the presence of smaller ones implies that there were two other plates.

The third group includes two plates whose identification is uncertain. The poor condition of Plate 16 (Fig. 5:8) does not give many clues to its application. Besides, one of the five fragments which compose Plate 19 (fig. 5:11) is twice as thick than the others and most probably it was not part of the item.

The current weight of the plates was influenced by the corrosion process and its recent restoration. The total weight is 2565 g. The weight of the best preserved plate is 325 g.

Taking into consideration the processes to which the find was exposed – the fire, the fall from the upper floor, fragmentation and corrosion – we can conclude that some plates were lost. It is possible that the smaller ones were not identified as parts of this find due to their poor condition. In the publication we read *iron plates from a shield and many other iron parts of other objects* (Георгиева, Николова, Ангелов 1973, 101-102).

Doubtlessly, the description presents a complicated appliance with rows of plates

over a leather basis, covered by cloth fixed by decorative copper rivets. This whole description disproves the initial theory that the plates were parts of shields.

Interpretation, origin and dating

Taking into account the dating of the whole area, the *terminus ante quem* of the find is 1393. Even if we set the time within the period of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (the end of the 12th – 14th c.) we are sure that there are no such similar shields among those known in Europe, the Near East and the steppes.

The shields could be generally divided into two groups: of large size and various shapes, mostly oval or triangular ones, which are used either by the infantry or the cavalry. The latter used smaller ones. The other group is that of the “combat” or “fencing” shields which are more compact and were worn by the infantry.

In the first group we do not have shields covered with iron for this would have increased the cost and made them heavier. In the other group there are metal specimens, being usually quite small, i.e., 30-40 cm in diameter. Furthermore, they were not covered with cloth and were typical for



Fig. 7. Wienhausen Abbey, Germany. Warrior sleeping at the Holy Sepulchre, statue in the convent church (after Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 14, пус. 6).

Рис. 7. Опачтво Wienhausen, Niemcy. Śpiący strażnik przy Grobie Pańskim, rzeźba w kościele konwentualnym (wg Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 14, пус. 6).

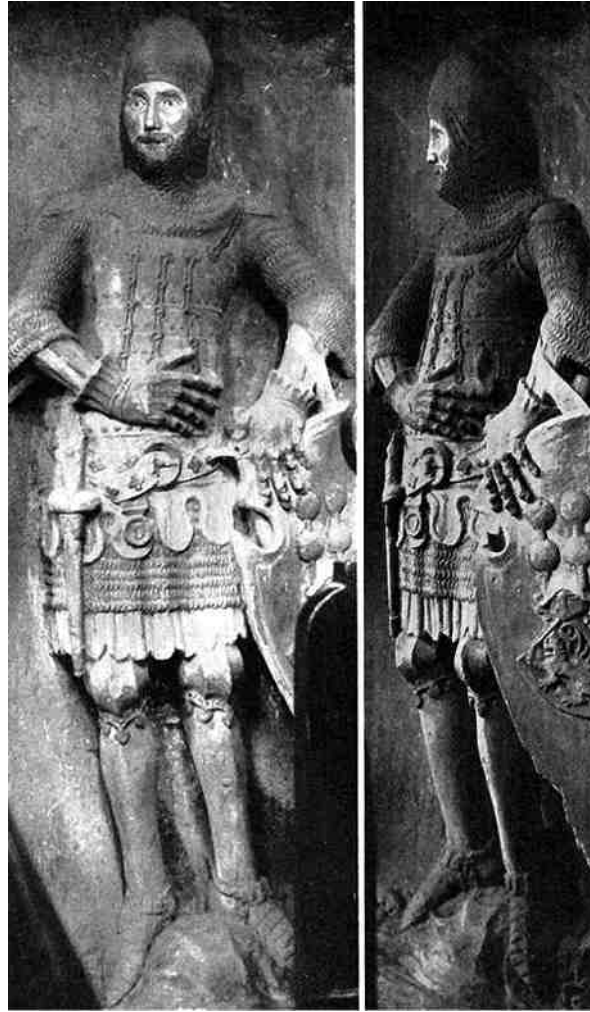


Fig. 8. The church at Himmelkron in Bavaria, Germany. The tombstone effigy of Otto von Orlamünde (after Thordeman 1939, 314, figs. 324-325).

Рис. 8. Kościół w Himmelkron, Bawaria, Niemcy. Nagrobek Otto von Orlamünde (wg Thordeman 1939, 314, figs. 324-325).

the subsequent period: the 15th-16th c. Obviously, the plates from the Royal palace in Tzarevetz were not part of a shield, but rather parts of a plate armour.

The developing of the plate armour was long hindered by difficulties the armourers had with making big iron plates (Burgess 1953; Smith 1959; Borg 1979, 11; Price 2000, 319-322; Димитров 2008, 149). It was important as well that the chain mail fitted close to the wearer's body and did not hinder its owner's movements. Besides it was easier for maintenance and any tearing could be easily fixed.

However, the development of the offensive weapons led to improvements in the armour in the last decades of the 13th c. The evolution of the sword and the mass use of the crossbow

made the use of the chain-mail insufficient. This is why combatants started to wear plate armours known under the name of the coat of plates (Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 11). They consisted of rows of metal plates fixed to fabric or leather by rivets. In this way, the armour was protected from stains and the cloth on which it was fixed covered its rude structure. Furthermore the low cost and the promptness of their production were other advantages.

The initial idea of this type of armour must have originated in various ways. The new heroes on the battle field – the Mongols – used this kind of armour (Горелик 2002, 22; Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 11). Evidence of this can be found in a letter of Frederick II to the Pope in which the emperor describes armours made of



Fig. 9. The Künsnacht castle, Switzerland. Armor No. 1 (after *Thordeman 1939, 312, fig. 318*).

Рис. 9. Зameк Künsnacht, Szwajcaria. Zbroja nr 1 (wg *Thordeman 1939, 312, fig. 318*).

plates and covered with leather (Kalmar 1960, 226; Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 11).

Besides, scales and lamellar armour was frequently used in Southern and Southeastern Europe and partly in Southern Germany (Алексинский, Жуков, Бутягин, Коровкин 2005, 280). Before the appearance of the brigandine armour there were attempts at using defensive elements made of hard leather or whale bone. This made the adopting of the actual coat of plates easier. Further facilitation of the process was given by the knights' habit to wear heraldic tunics over their armours (Borg 1979, 11-12).

One of the first representations of the coat of plates was on the statue of St. Mauritius in the Magdeburg cathedral dating from 1250 (Thordeman 1939, 287; Blair 1959, 41; Nicolle 1999, 440; Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 11). Here the armour consists of plates covered with fabric on which there are rivets with large round heads. The armour covers the abdomen and the chest.

Another example is the soldier sleeping at the Christ's tomb depicted in the Winhausen church

(1260-1280) (Fig. 7). There, we can also see a coat of plates in its earlier version, consisting of three rows of rectangular plates covered by a long-skirt cloth (Thordeman 1939, 289; Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 11).

Despite its good defensive quality the coat of plates did not exist as independent panoply. Under it one usually wore a chain mail but in spite of this the new plate armour made a great difference. Unlike the scale and lamellar armours, the fastening ties of the plate armour were at the back, not at the side of its wearer's body (Nicolle 1999, 441, 455; Embleton 2000, Pl. 2). This protected the fastener during the battle and also ensured that the sleeves of the chain-mail shirt would not be entangled in it.

The idea of creating a monolith cuirass was reflected in the coat of plates having a large plate on the chest, which can be noticed around the third decade of the 14th c. Initially, this plate started at the middle of the throat, reaching the center of the chest, as it is depicted on the grave of Otto von Orlamünde in the Bavarian church of Himmelkron

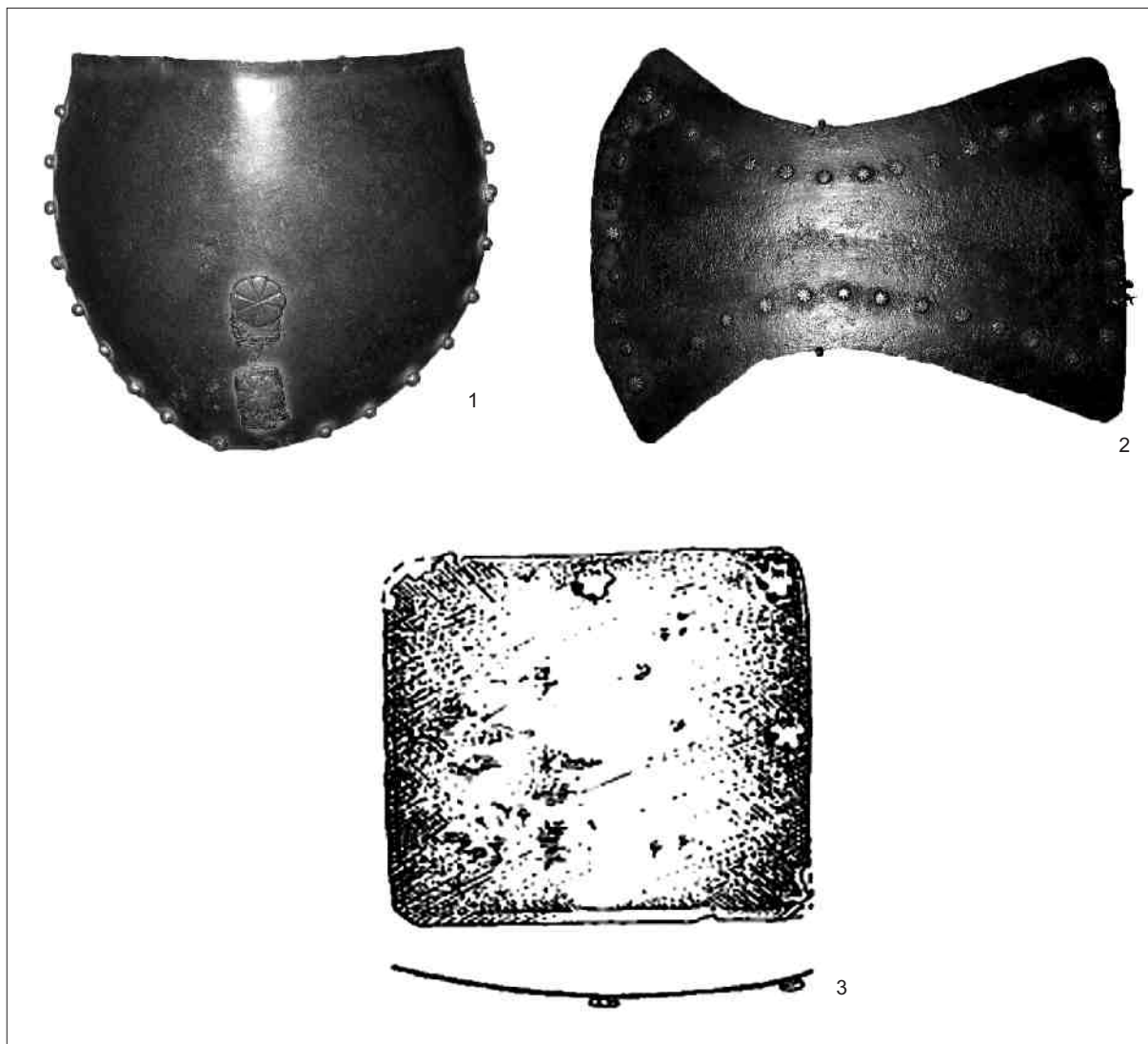


Fig. 10. Plates from coats of plates with decorative rivets: 1-2 – Chalcis (after *Ffoulkes 1911*); 3 – Szczerba (after *Francke 1990*).

Ryc. 10. Zbrojniki płytów z ornamentowanymi nitami: 1-2 – Chalcis (wg *Ffoulkes 1911*); 3 – Szczerba (wg *Francke 1990*).

(1340) (Fig. 8). But still, the older type of armour, made of separate plates was in use. An example of this are the finds from the mass graves at Wisby dated to 1361 (Thorderman 1939, 19). There we have 24 coats of plates which were a significant element for the reconstruction of the 14th c. European armour.

The remarkable way of manufacture of the armour found in the Royal palace of Tzarevetz gives us clear indications about its origin and dating. The use of large plates fixed together in rows was typical for the 14th c. European coat of plates. An important identification feature are the decorative rivets with six-leaved rosette head fixing the fabric. Rivets of the same or similar shape – the leaves on the head could be more numerous – can be seen on some western European

types of armours. Identical are the rivets in the Künsnacht castle in Switzerland (Fig. 9), which was burnt in 1352 (Gessler 1923) and also part of the plates of a coat of plates found in the Silesian castle of Szczerba (Fig. 10:3) dated to the 14th-15th c. (Francke 1990, 107, rys. 5; Marek 2008, Fig. 3:1-1a). To all these finds we should add another specimen – from Chalkis (Fig. 10:1-2) (Ffoulkes 1911). Furthermore, the shape of the six-leaved rosette of the chest's rivets is known from many brigandines (Prihoda 1929, 109; Thorderman 1939, Figs. 324-328; Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 20-22).

The examples we have mentioned so far contribute to the find's dating. Similar ones are unknown before the 14th c. and are in use until the beginning of the 15th c.



Fig. 11. The Churburg castle, Austria. Composite armor No. 13 from the armory of the castle (after Rossi 1990, fig. 11).

Рис. 11. Замек Чурбург, Австрия. Зброја нр 13 из збројовни замковей (wg Rossi 1990, fig. 11).



Fig. 12. Como, Italy. Warrior from the fresco in the St. Abbondio's Basilica (after Nicolle 1999, 478, fig. 651).

Рис. 12. Como, Влочы. Збројны з фреску в бazyлице St. Abbondio (wg Nicolle 1999, 478, fig. 651).

Especially important is the absence of traces of fastening chains in the upper part of the armour. They were attached to the knight's sword and dagger in order to prevent them from getting lost. This fashion appeared around 1340 (Nicolle 1999, 454). An important dating mark of the Tarnovo find is the way the plates are fixed. They are still fixed to one another, in rows, which does not occur in the armour earlier than the 14th c. At the same time the rows are not connected vertically thus not making a monolith cuirass which would be typical for the 4th decade of the 14th c. We can assume that the find from the Royal palace dates from 1320-1340.

It is highly probable that the armour was used for a longer period of time and most probably had been kept in the Palace until it was set on fire by the Ottomans in 1393. A similar example is the find of defensive armour in Chalkis (Ffoulkes 1911; Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 51), which includes parts of armour from the 2nd half of the 14th c. This is also the case with the knight's armour found in Azov. It consisted of two parts, one from the beginning and the other from the

end of the 14th c. (Горелик, Фомичев 1989; Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 60).

Preliminary reconstruction

Although the armour found in the Royal palace in Tzarevets is not entirely preserved we can attempt at reconstructing it based on the shape and the size of the plates, and also by comparing them with depictions on grave stones, frescoes and miniatures.

The front part of the armour covered two thirds of the body. It consisted of two rows of three large plates. In the row, the plates were made immovable by connecting them with a 1.5 cm wide band. The upper row was slightly tucked under the lower one which ensured a protection of the abdomen area. This is furthermore proven by the lack of a third row of rivets on the plates, which would have been inapplicable for the overlap of the rivets on the vertical. That is why the decorative rivet heads must have formed two parallel lines of two rows in the upper and the lower part of the armour.



Fig. 13. Coat of plates reconstruction (after *Embleton 2000, pl. II*).

Ryc. 13. Rekonstrukcja płałów (wg *Embleton 2000, pl. II*).



Fig. 14. Imaginary reconstruction of the armor from the Royal Palace according to the authors of this paper. *Drawing by A. Vachkov*.

Ryc. 14. Rekonstrukcja płałów z Pałacu Królewskiego w interpretacji autorów. *Rys. A. Vačkov*.

One big plate was installed at each side of the torso, thus ensuring a protection of the armpits. Indication of this is given by the L-shaped curve of the connective iron rim of Plates 9 and 10 (Fig. 5:1-2). Thus, the change of the direction of the lower frontal row of plates whose rims were at its right and left sides was ensured.

Such a construction was still in use around 1370. This fact is verified by the find of a composite cuirass, part of Armour 13 from the armoury of the Churburg castle in Southern Tirol (Fig. 11) (Rossi 1990, 18; Wackernagel 1996, 34, 41).

Two small plates of pentagonal shapes were most probably set next to the armpits, at the sides of the chest. On the preserved plate (14 – Fig. 5:6) there is a big rivet with a half-spherical head, which served to fix the line of the big plates to the supportive leather under the cloth.

It is possible that the concave Plate 15 (fig. 5:7) with traces of a big rivet, together with similar ones covered the upper part of the chest, at the place of the conjunction with the shoulder and the collar-bone.

If we assume that the plates were slightly overlapping each other and six were in front, two at the sides and one at the back, this description is similar to the coat of plates worn by a warrior depicted on one of the frescoes in the St. Abondio church in Como, Italy. These frescoes date from 1330-1340 (Fig. 12) (Boccia, Coelho 1983, 12; Жуков, Коровкин 2005, 52). This timeframe suits the dating of the armour found in the palace.

The finds and the images demonstrate that colourful fabric or leather was fixed on the surface of the coat of plates. The preferred colours were bright (red or green) emphasizing the shiny heads of the rivets that fixed the fabric to the metal surface.

The reconstruction we have proposed here reveals the armour reaching to the waist. Two trapezium shaped plates attached to the shoulders fell down the back and their lower parts overlapped the sides of the armour. There, they were attached to each other with straps and buckles (Figs. 12-14). The traces of leather at the inside show that this leather under-garment had supportive and shock-absorbing functions.

Despite the corrosion and conservation we can suppose that each plate weighed c. 350 g. Taking into consideration this fact, as well as the presence of smaller plates, the leather under-cloth, and other elements, the total weight of the armour is about 5-6 kg.

The way this western armour got into Bulgaria is not quite clear. It may have been purchased or arrived with a mercenary or in any other way but it would raise a lot of speculations if we vex this question.

The find of brigandine armour in the burnt palace on the Tzarevetz hill is of great importance for the overall study of the military history of the Second Bulgarian kingdom (the 12th-14th c.). Together with other finds from other parts

of Bulgaria: the bascinet from Uzana, the bascinet's visor from Tarnovo, the helmet's visor from the Kurdzali museum and the mail chausses from Bratzigovo, they prove that the warfare was strongly influenced by Western Europe. Furthermore, we can see the image of the Bulgarian warrior from the elite parts of the army, who slightly differed from his western colleagues by wearing a chain-mail hauberk under his coat of plates.

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ŚREDNIOWIECZNY PANCERZ Z KRÓLEWSKIEGO PAŁACU BUŁGARSKIEJ STOLICY W WIELKIM TYRNOWIE

Streszczenie

W niniejszym artykule zanalizowano 19 żelaznych zbrojników pancerza, odkrytych w komnatach nr 1 i 4 budynku nr 2, na terenie Królewskiego Pałacu w średniowiecznej stolicy Bułgarii – Wielkim Tyrnowie (ryc. 1-2). Budynek ten służył jako siedziba królewskiej rodziny i został zniszczony w wyniku zdobycia miasta przez Turków w 1393 r. Data ta stanowi *terminus ante quem* dla omawianych zabytków. Ze względu na fragmentaryczność i stan zachowania oraz występowanie zdobionych nitów zostały one uznane przez odkrywców za fragmenty metalowej tarczy.

W trakcie konserwacji zrekonstruowano 10 niemal całych i dalszych dziewięć fragmentów zbrojników. Duże, zachowane niemal w całości zbrojniki (nr 1-10; ryc. 3-4, 5:1-2) są prostokątne i lekko wypukłe. Ich wymiary wynoszą 15,5-19,0 x 13,5-14,5 cm, a grubość 0,3-0,4 cm (pierwotna grubość wynosiła ok. 0,2 cm). Średnia waga każdego zbrojnika wynosi ok. 350 g. Na wewnętrznej stronie jednego z nich widoczne są ślady skóry. Zewnętrzną powierzchnię tych płytek zdobią nity z główkami w kształcie sześciolistej rozety, które mocowały zbrojniki do miękkiego podkładu. Dwa inne egzemplarze (nr 14-15; ryc. 5:6-7) zaopatrzone w nity o półokrągłych główkach, które mocowano do skórzanego podkładu. Kolejnym ważnym elementem tych zbrojników jest obecność szerokiej na 1,5 cm, żelaznej listwy, która łączyła dwa zbrojniki na sztywno wzdłuż ich dłuższej krawędzi (ryc. 6).

Na podstawie analogii i ikonografii (ryc. 7-8) można jednoznacznie stwierdzić, iż znaleziska z Pałacu Królewskiego są relikdami pancerza w typie brygantyny. Kształt zbrojników, specyfika konstrukcji i formy, a także obecność ozdobnych nitów wskazują na jej zachodnioeuropejską proveniencję (ryc. 9-10). Szczegóły konstrukcji, obecność dużych zbrojników i absencja dużych elementów płytowych (jak napierśnik, czy naplecznik – ryc. 11) pozwalają datować brygantynę z Wielkiego Tyrnowa w ramach l. 20.-40. XIV w. Podobnie jak analogiczne okazy z Chalcis czy Azowa zabytek ten mógł być używany przez dłuższy czas.

Podjmując się próby rekonstrukcji pancerza, można przyjąć, że składał się on z dwóch rzędów, w skład których wchodziły po trzy zbrojniki, których krawędzie nachodziły na siebie. Niewielkie zbrojniki z okrągłymi nitami mogły być umieszczone pod pachami i ramionami. Zbliżone rozwiązanie widoczne jest na fresku przedstawiającym zbrojnego z bazyliki St. Abbondio w Como, Włochy, datowanego na l. 1330-1340 (ryc. 12-14).

Znalezisko brygantyny z Wielkiego Tyrnowa i innych elementów średniowiecznego uzbrojenia ochronnego na terenie Bułgarii wskazują na silne wpływy zachodnioeuropejskie na sztukę wojenną II Królestwa Bułgarskiego.

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