

*Arkadiusz Michalak
Stanisław Sinkowski*

AN OTTONIAN SPUR FROM THE EARLY MEDIEVAL CEMETERY IN SANTOK IN WESTERN POLAND

Abstract:

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The spur with buckle which is the subject of this paper was discovered near an inhumation grave (Grave 1) in Santok. It can be classified as type I:1 according to Hilmcerówna, and dated to the period between the end of the 10th – 11th century. The whole spur was covered with some kind of interlace pattern, which forms elongated rhombic-like cells with slightly rounded or hard angled corners. This decoration is unique and has no exact analogies in European materials. Attention must be however paid to later artefacts (from the 12th century) from Germany, adorned with zigzag pattern which form rhombuses.

Key words: Early Middle Ages, grave with equestrian equipment, Santok, spur

Among graves from Early Medieval necropoles, those containing weapons are of greatest interests for scholars. It is a consequence of a belief that the burial rite, including grave goods, reflected the social position of the buried individual and there is no doubt that warriors in that time belonged to elites of then society. And even though this idea is recently often criticised by many scholars, who point out that the memory of the deceased may have been created by mourners (Härke 1990; Williams 2006; Sayer, Williams 2009; Sikora 2014), it is still deeply grounded in the literature (Pedersen 1997a; 1997b; 2014; Malinowski 2005; Kara 2013). Graves with weaponry in the area of today's Poland mainly appear in entire Greater Poland, within and at the borders of the Piasts' State. This is directly connected with the presence of members of the 'druzhina' (retinue), who stationed in strongholds of different significance (Kara 1991). Due to the very size of strongholds, it was physically impossible to deploy inside them warriors necessary for reinforcing the state. This resulted in deployment of men-at-arms in close surroundings of strongholds, however in different 'vicinia' (Kurnatowska 1991, 86-87). Although most recent publications underline that although the stronghold system of the early Piast state was very developed, there are very few graves with weaponry (Sikora 2014). Furthermore, there are regions where burials like these generally do not appear.

This problem also concerns the western frontiers of the first Piasts' state, which also included the territory of today's Lubuskie Voivodeship. In this area only a low number of graves containing finds of armament has been discovered so far. Furthermore, not all weapons from grave pits can be considered as intentional deposits. An arrowhead discovered within the burial pit of a grave from the stronghold in the Międzyrzecz suburbium (dated to the end of the 11th century), should be considered as being related to the individual's injuries (Gładykowska-Rzeczycka 2015; Kozłowski 2015). Axes were among grave goods in burials in Lasocin and Bukowiec (Wachowski 1975, 38, 91, tab. 10, ryc. 9:1, t. I:4; Kotowicz 2014, kat. 253; Michalak, Kotowicz 2014). Weaponry and equestrian equipment (a javelin head, a spur, a 'dagger') were also found in graves which were discovered accidentally during ground works in Santok in the area of a new cemetery and at the railway bank (Hensel, Hilmcer-Kurnatowska 1987, 34). Insignificant occurrence of graves with weapons and equestrian equipment or, in a broader sense, dense settlement in this area is explained by considering this part of the Piast state as a buffer zone, which protected the centre of the domain from invasions from the West. Large spaces of high plains, difficult to pass due to dense forests, were reinforced with natural obstacles (rivers and lakes) and were supposed to play a defensive role (Kurnatowsky 2006, 92). We should also

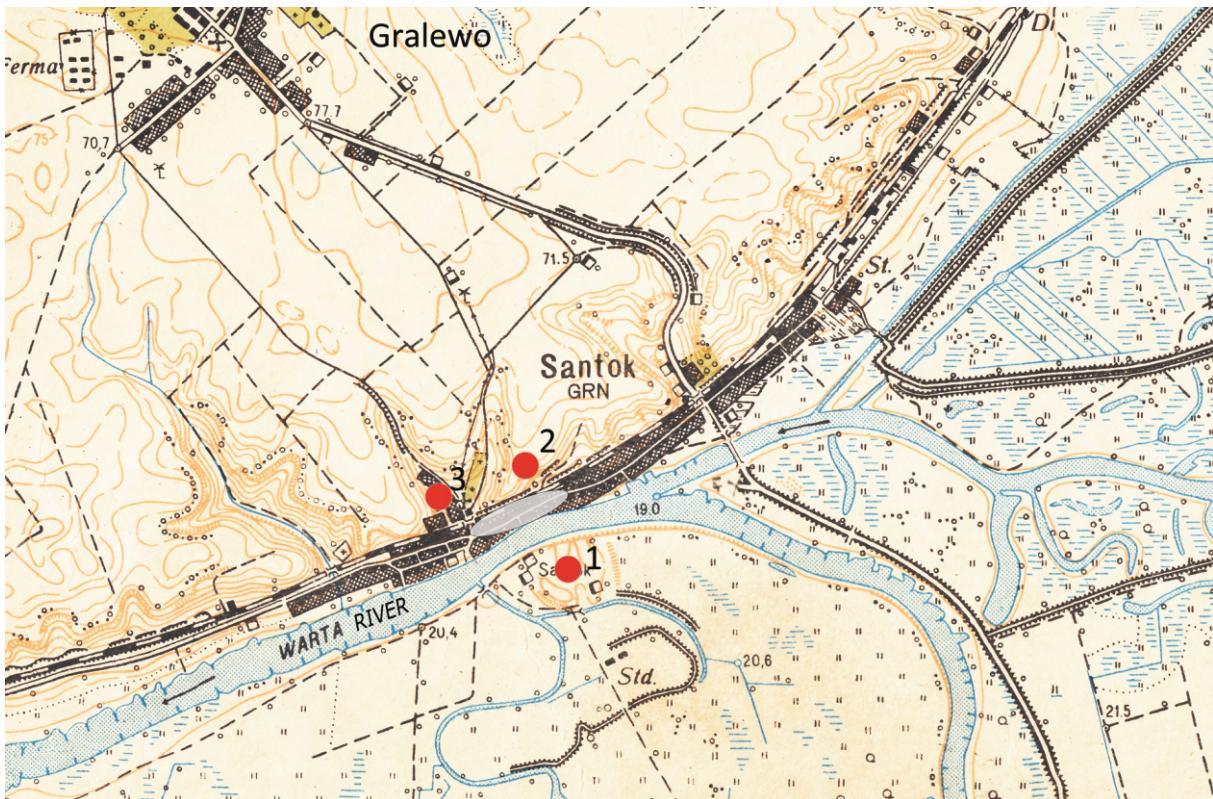


Fig. 1. Location of the grave 1 with analysed spur against the map of Santok: 1 – Piast stronghold; 2 – Pomeranian stronghold; 3 – grave 1 (with grey colour the range of cemetery discovered during the supervision was marked). Drawing by A. Michalak, S. Sinkowski.

Ryc. 1. Lokalizacja grobu nr 1 z omawianą ostrogą na mapie Santoka: 1 – gród piastowski; 2 – gród pomorski; 3 – grób nr 1 (szarym kolorem oznaczono zasięg odkrytego w trakcie nadzoru cmentarzyska). Rys. A. Michalak, S. Sinkowski.

consider, as it has recently been underlined by J. Sikora (2014, 306), that the distribution of graves with weaponry might have been a result of regional differences in burial customs, rather than differences in the deployment of troops.

Some of these questions may be answered thanks to the excavations carried out recently in Santok, Gorzów District, Lubuskie Voivodeship. The site is located upon the confluence of the rivers Warta and Noteć, with modern structures built on the right (northern) banks of both rivers. In the Early Middle Ages two hillforts were located there (Fig. 1). One of them belonged to the Piasts' state and was situated in the fork of the rivers Warta and Noteć. According to Gallus Anonymous, it was *regni custodiam et clavem* (*Galla Kronika* 1864, 429-430). In this hillfort there were seats of a castellan and a provost. The other stronghold – Pomeranian, was situated on the northern edge of the Warta river valley. Archaeological excavations were carried out at both sites, and they have continued (with some breaks) at the Piast stronghold until now (Zamelska-Monczak 2010, 47-48, 51;

Sinkowski 2015, 39, 50, 55; Michalak, Zamelska-Monczak 2016, 199). The development of right-bank Santok located at the foot of the highland has been recognised so far only in occasional archaeological watching briefs (Sinkowski 2010).

In 2014-2015 archaeological excavations were carried out in the area of right-bank Santok. They accompanied the construction of a sanitation system (Sinkowski 2016). The length of sanitation tranches which were archaeologically supervised during this two-year municipal investment was ca. 5.7 km. As a result of these excavations over 200 settlement-related features and 196 inhumation graves were documented. Finds included several completely preserved ceramic vessels, a dozen thousands of shards and several thousands of zoological, botanic and ichtiological remains from every distinguished settlement phase, from the Stone Age till the Modern Period.

A necropolis was discovered near the area of the Early Medieval settlement (settlements?) (two burials in Szkolna Street, the rest in Gorzowska Street). These were part of a cemetery used in the time of the Piasts' state. Part of graves contained finds of jewellery, coins, weaponry and daily life

tools. The excavated part of the necropolis, located on the northern side of the river near the Piasts' stronghold, was probably used in the period between the 10th/11th and the mid-13th century.

The spur which is the subject of this paper was discovered near an inhumation grave (Grave 1) in Santok, in Szkolna Street, close to the entrance to a 19th-century church (Fig. 2).¹ This burial was located almost entirely beyond the line of trenches under supervision. Only the foot of the left leg was located within the sanitation ditch. In result of it, it was cut off (probably with another spur) by excavator and its further fate is unknown. A slight outline of a cut, most likely a grave pit, appeared in the section of the trench. Before commencing the exploration of Grave 1, a strongly corroded item was removed from the southern Wall 2. Its shape indicated a spur. A strongly damaged and incomplete skeleton was unearthed at the depth of 110 cm, after removing the earth capping. The deceased lay in a straight position in east-west alignment with the head toward the west (Fig. 3:1).

Remains of deceased from Grave 1 were anthropologically examined. Unfortunately, the unearthed skeleton was incomplete and badly damaged. As a result of denudation processes the remains were strongly fragmentised and significantly deformed. The poor state of preservation of the bones rendered it impossible to determine their morphological characteristics by reliable macroscopic examinations (Dąbrowski, Hałuszko 2015, 1). As the skeletal remains were incomplete and poorly preserved, the sex of the deceased was determined as probably female. However, traits which were described as female could have also appeared in this form in the case of gracile adult males (*ibid.*, 3). The estimated age of the individual was ca. 40-50 years ('maturus'). The grave contained the above-mentioned spur, placed near the right leg, and presumably another one 'taken' by the excavator. By the individual's right side, at pelvic level, there was a small iron knife with a wooden handle of circular cross-section, decorated at the bottom part with two parallel engraved lines (Fig. 3:2). The knife has a straight tang which is pronounced on both sides. An arched line of the blade tapers to the point. Overall length of the knife – 15.0 cm, length of the blade – 9.0 cm,

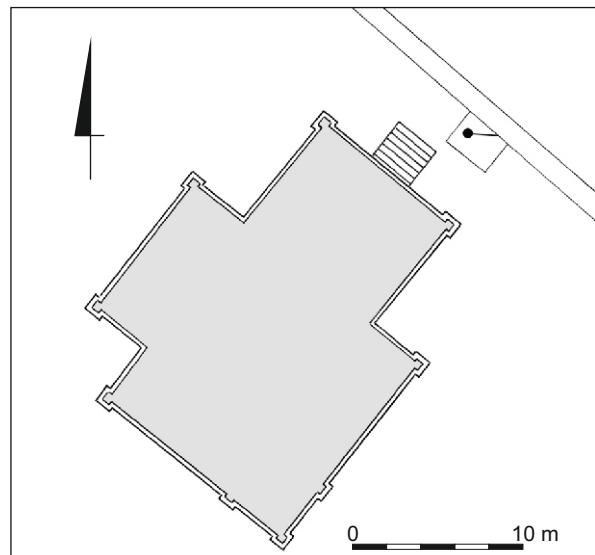


Fig. 2. Santok. Location of the grave 1 near the 19th-century church. Drawing by S. Sinkowski.

Ryc. 2. Santok. Lokalizacja grobu nr 1 w pobliżu XIX-wiecznego kościoła. Rys. S. Sinkowski.

width of the blade – 1.3 cm, thickness of the back – 0.5 cm, weight – 12 g. Knives of this form appear frequently at sepulchral sites of today's Poland and they do not provide grounds for chronological conclusions (Wrzesiński 2000).

However it seems that the dating of the grave may be assessed on the basis of the chronology of the spur discovered near the feet of the deceased individual. It was forged from iron and was incrusted with silver and copper (Fig. 4-5). The only preserved terminal is four-sided (dimensions: 1.75 x 1.1 x 0.4-0.5 cm) to accommodate 4 rivets for attaching leather straps. It is decorated only with a copper plate, ornamented around its edge with small dots. The heel band is U-shaped and elongated. The goad is club-like and fragmented, with oval cross-section. It terminated with a small ball. The heel band's arms and the goad lie in the same plan. The overall length of the spur is 16.0 cm, while the length of the goad is 6.2 cm. It has circular cross-section with a diameter of 1.0 cm. The arms of the heel band are of semi-oval profile with a diameter of 1.0 x 1.0 cm. The artefact's present weight is 56 g. Unfortunately this spur is fragmentarily preserved. The right terminal

¹ This site is located at the bottom part of the Warta river valley edge. A Pomeranian hillfort was built on it. During excavations in 1934 inhumation graves were registered there. These graves were dated to the second half of the 10th and the first half of the 11th century (Brzeżycki 1997, 10, 12, 18). Presumably, near this location, *bones from a spine, a javelin head and, on the depth of 1 m, an iron spur were discovered at a new cemetery* during digging of a grave in 1925 (Hensel, Hilczer-Kurnatowska 1987, 34). According to the information published in a local newspaper 'Landsberger General Anzeiger' on October 7th, 1925, this discovery is surely from the time of Polish-Pomeranian struggles. In 2014 in Szkolna Street, beside the mentioned Grave 1 which contained the spur, Grave 2 was also excavated. It contained remains of a 30-35 years old female (Dąbrowski, Hałuszko 2015, 5-7). This burial did not contain any grave goods, which is why it is impossible to determine its chronology.



Fig. 3. Santok. 1 – Layout of the grave 1 with spur; 2 – knife discovered in grave 1. Photo by S. Sinkowski and A. Michalak.

Ryc. 3. Santok. 1 – Układ grobu nr 1 z ostrogą; 2 – nóż odkryty w grobie 1. Fot. S. Sinkowski i A. Michalak.

is missing; considerable damages can also be seen at the arms' junction and at the left terminal. The spur's surface is strongly corroded, which makes the recognition of the whole decoration impossible. Due to the corrosion processes, the left arm of the spur underwent remedial conservation, which makes the decoration visible in only few places. Decoration can be seen only on the outside parts of the spur.

A small D-shaped bronze buckle from the spur strap has also survived. Its outer surface is decorated with engraved rhombic ornaments, which clearly corresponds to the spur's design. Its height is 2.0 cm, its width – 1.8 cm, while the prong's length (fragmentarily preserved) is 0.5 cm. The diameter of the frame is 0.3 cm, and the artefact's weight is 4 g. Its cross-section is semi-oval. Products of corrosion also appear on the rear part of the buckle. They seem to be remains

of a chape which was not integrated with the buckle and connected the buckle with the terminal of the spur.

This kind of spurs was classified by Zofia Hilczerówna (1956) as her Type I, Subtype 1. Due to the form of their terminals, these spurs were also called plate-rivet ones. They appear for the first time in Central Europe at the end of the 9th century, as a successor of late Carolingian-Great Moravian plate spurs (Kavánová 1976, 54-60). According to Z. Hilczerówna they originated in the 10th century (more probably, in the second half of this century) and were in use till the mid-11th century. This assumption was based on the dating of finds from archaeological contexts, mainly from Greater Poland and Kuyavia. Three specimens of this type were discovered at the stronghold in Biskupin (Rajewski 1938, tabl. LXVII:5; Hilczerówna 1956, tab. 1). However, the

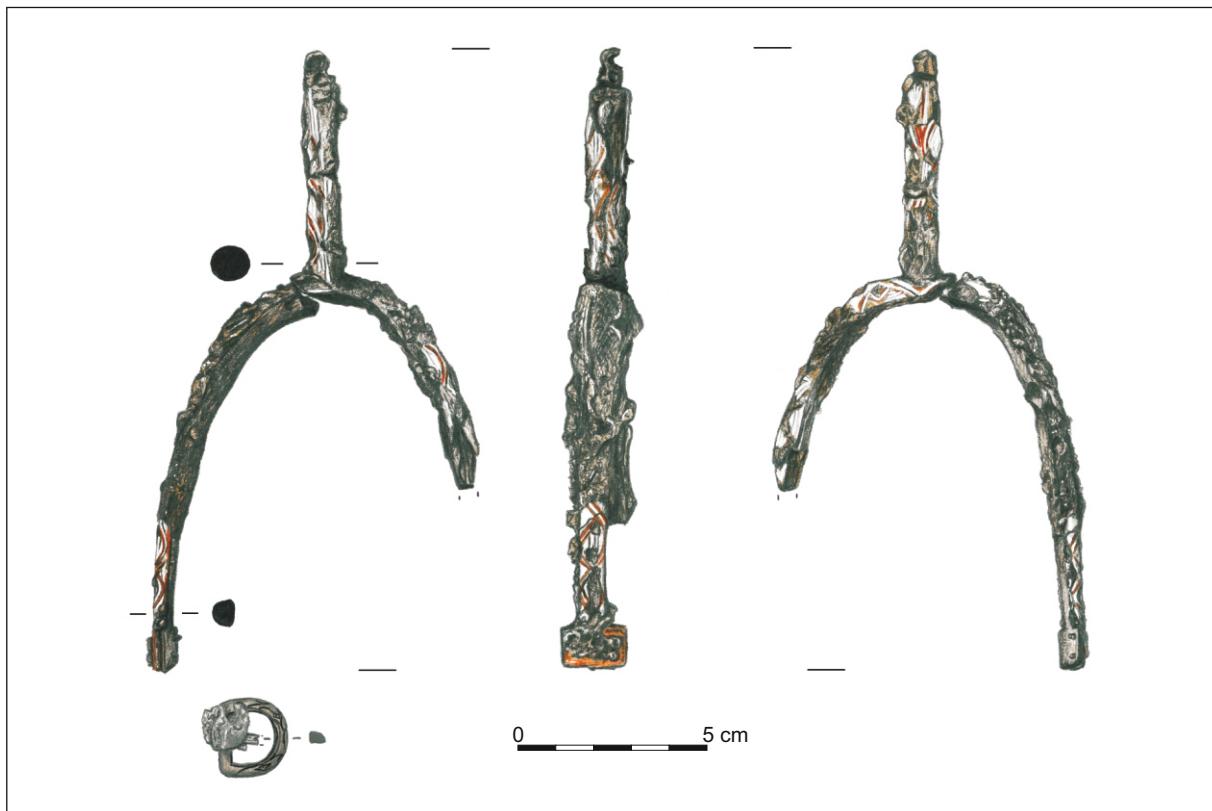


Fig. 4. Spur from grave 1 from Santok. Drawing by J. Sójkowska-Socha.

Ryc. 4. Ostroga z grobu nr 1 z Santoka. Rys. J. Sójkowska-Socha.

chronology of these finds is far from precise, due to a complex and unclear stratigraphic situation of this site (Kurnatowska 2010, 142). The case of two spurs from excavations of the Gniezno stronghold was similar (Łukasiewicz 1939, tabl. XLII:1-3; Hilczerówna 1956, tab. I) and the same concerns three other specimens from the rampart in Tum near Łęczyca (Hilczerówna 1956, tab. I; Stasiak, Grygiel 2014, 188-189). A spur of this kind was also found in the waters of Lake Miejskie near the stronghold on St Catherine's Peninsula in Pszczew and it seems that this artefact can be of a late 11th century date (Chudziak, Kaźmierczak, Niegowski 2011, 184, ryc. 152:f). A reliable archaeological chronology is available for a fragment of a Type I:1 spur from the stronghold in Międzyrzecz. It was discovered in a stratum from Phase VI, dated to the second half of the 11th century (Merda 2003; Banach 2015, 297-298). A piece of a previously unpublished spur of this kind was found during the excavations in Grodziszcze near Świebodzin. However, it is impossible to say whether it should be related to the first (second half of the 10th century) or the second (second half of the 11th - second half of the 12th centuries) phase of the stronghold's existence. Almost completely preserved spur was found

during underwater excavations in Chycina, near Międzyrzecz, in relics of bridges from the second half of the 10th- beginning of the 11th century (Chudziak, Kaźmierczak, Niegowski 2016, 39, ryc. 19:f). Yet another example from, nomen omen, Santok, which has already been considered as the earliest one from Poland, was discovered in a context from the first half of the 10th century (Dymaczewska, Dymaczewski 1967, 231, ryc. 30:7). New data on the absolute chronology (mainly radiocarbon dating with ¹⁴C and dendrochronology) of contexts of old and new finds of spurs (Tum, Gniezno, Santok) which are mentioned by M. Kara (2009, 257, ryc. 77) may suggest that this type appeared in Polish lands already in the second quarter of the 10th century (Kara 2009, 257, ryc. 77; Stasiak, Grygiel 2014, 188-189). However, caution is advised here, as these dates indicate only the time of use of such spurs using, i.e., from the second half of the 10th century. Finds of spurs of this type from grave complexes from Biernatki, Brześć Kujawski, Lubowo, Mielno, and Ostrowąż should be treated in a similar manner. According to M. Kara (1991, tab. I) these finds should be dated to the second half of the 10th – mid 11th century. It seems that there have not been any sufficient and reliable data considering such an early dating

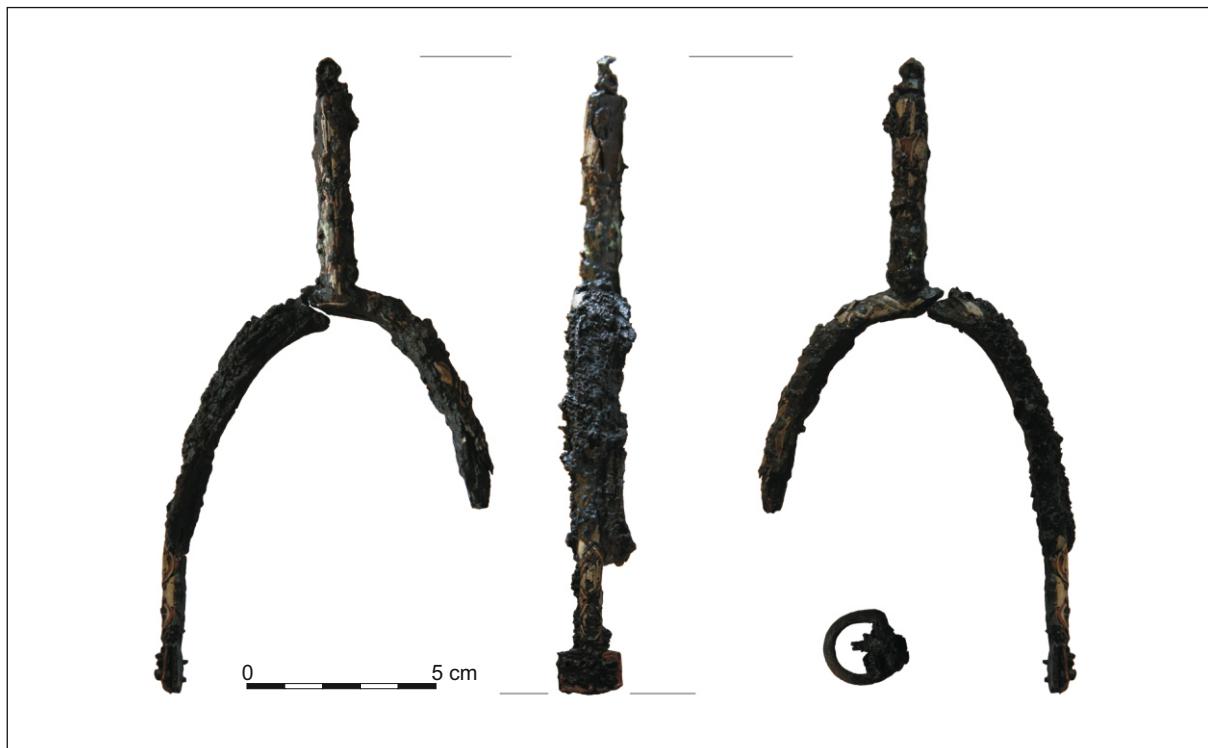


Fig. 5. Spur from grave 1 from Santok. Fot. A. Michalak.

Ryc. 5. Ostroga z grobu nr 1 z Santoka. Fot. A. Michalak.

of these burials and their chronology should be extended to the period between the end of the 10th – 11th century. Apparently this idea can be supported by the latest dating of the chamber grave (No. 151) from Sowinki, where spur of this type (together with the one of I:2 type) was discovered. This grave yielded the date 1090 ± 30 BP, and after calibration, it can be placed in the range 892–1014 AD (with the probability of 95.4%) (Krzyszowski, Błaszczyk 2016, 223, ryc. 6:3). The chronology of the cemetery in Lutomiersk, where spurs of this type were also found, is still uncertain. In the light of most recent independent radiocarbon dating with ^{14}C , it is dated to the first half of the 11th century (Grygiel 2014, 740, ryc. 23:2). However, we must assume its earlier chronology, that is, already the end of the 10th century (Nadolski, Abramowicz, Poklewski 1959, tabl. 5; Wołoszyn 2004, 255–257).

Specimens with club-like goads also appear in the territory of Bohemia. They are mainly known from 10th-century contexts. On the other hand, some scholars try to establish the chronology of some graves containing spurs (among others Kouřim, Libětice, Roztoky-Žalov II) as the end of

the 9th century (Profantová 2013, Tab. 2, Abb. 4–5). However, this does not affect the chronology of the examples from Greater Poland, even though some scholars connect artefacts from Silesia with 10th century (Langenheim 1936, Taf. XXX:4; Rzeźnik 2000, 142, ryc. 4).

This kind of spurs is even more common in the area of the Kingdom of Germany. This was apparently at the root of Thomas Kind's (2002) opinion, who referred to such spurs as Ottonian ones.² In the late Norbert Goßler's (1998) typology specimens with the above-mentioned traits were classified as Group A1a. It included spurs with long goads finished with ball-like finials (a), straight arms (A), and with plate-rivets (I). The earliest specimens from this group come from contexts dated to the end of the 10th century, while the latest ones are dated to the first half of the 12th century (*ibid.*, 513). Among the specimens from Germany, which were included in this group, good analogies to the artefact from Santok are offered by finds from the stronghold in Zehren, Meissen and a settlement in Fohrde, Brandenburg (Coblenz 1989, 14, Abb. 6:2, 7:4; Goßler 1998,

² Acknowledging the fact, that this kind of spurs appear in almost all parts of Europe, we have decided however to use this term, as in our opinion it reflects in the best possible way the close influences from the Empire, visible in form and decoration of this spur.

Taf. 1:8, 3:61). The first find is dated to the 10th century, while the other one to 1000 AD. Close parallels are also visible in the case of a medieval spur from Neusdorf in Ober-Franken (Gimperlein, Straub 1991/1992, Abb. 30:7).

Spurs with elongated, club-shaped goads are also known from Viking Age cemeteries in Denmark, where they appear in compact grave assemblages dated to the 10th century (Brøndsted 1936, Fig. 76:c; Pedersen 2014, cat. 142, 315, Pl. 19:3, 43:6). It is important, nevertheless, to point out that they were not very popular there and spurs of Type II.1 occur more often in this region.

Buckles of spur straps with shapes similar to the letter D which are similar to the find from Santok are known from the 8th-9th century Carolingian necropoles (Stein 1967, Taf. 6:3-4). Buckles of this form have not yet been discovered with spurs in Polish lands.³ This is probably the main reason why they have not been identified there as their parts so far (Wachowski 1984, 63; Świątkiewicz 2002, 87-88; Strzyż 2006, 120), even though they appear in graves (Grygiel 2014, ryc. 18). It was also a result of a broad use of buckles of such a shape (Wachowski 1984, 19-21, ryc. 7). They could have also been used as elements of horse riding gear (Brøndsted 1936, Fig. 21:e, 33:g; Goßler 1998, 588-589, footnote 418). Close parallels to the buckle from the spur strap excavated in Santok come from Northern Germany and Denmark. They were discovered with a spur of Type I:1 according to Hilczerówna and Type A1c according to Goßler in Grave 21 from the cemetery in Starigard/Oldenburg, Holstein, dated to circa mid-10th century (Gabriel 1976, 147; 1984, 126f, 147, Abb. 37; Gabriel, Kempke 1991, 145, Abb. 25:2; Goßler 2013, Abb. 13-14). Similar buckles were excavated from Graves 3 and 4 in the necropolis in Süderbrarup in Schleswig, used in the 10th or the first half of the 10th century (Müller-Wille 1974, 177, Abb. 4; Eisenschmidt 2004, 86, Taf. 115:8, 117:3-4; Pedersen 2014, cat. 388, Pl. 50:2, 51:3). They appeared with a spur of Type I:1 according to Hilczerówna and Type A1a according to Goßler. Interestingly, two D-shaped buckles were also found in Grave 4, however the purpose of the other one is still not identified (Goßler 1998, 588). A find of this shape was also discovered with a luxurious Type I:2 spur with a chalice-like goad in a stratum of Haithabu/Hedeby in Schleswig-Holstein. In the light of its analogies this artefact is dated to the second half of the 10th – beginning of the 11th century (Stavinoga

1991; Westphalen 2002, 249, 251, Taf. 93:8). We should also mention a buckle excavated in a Danish cemetery in Kjølvejen/Over Hornbæk, Jutland, together with spurs of Type I:2 according to Hilczerówna. This necropolis is generally dated to the Viking Age (Pedersen 2014, cat. 229, Pl. 33:7), although some scholars attribute graves with weaponry to the period between the late 10th and the beginning of the 11th century (Pedersen 1997a, 129). Buckles of this type also appear in graves from Bohemia. They were discovered, among others, in Grave G15 from the necropolis in Roztoky-Žalov, dated to the third quarter of the 9th or the turn of 9th and 10th century and Grave G184 from the cemetery in Kanín, which comes from the first half of the 10th century (Profantová 2013, Abb. 7:1, 8:3-4). To sum up, we can state that buckles of this type appear in graves dated to the period between the beginning of the 10th and the beginning of the 11th century.

A characteristic feature of the discussed spur is its decoration. It makes the spur unique of all other European ones. As a result of corrosion of iron, in some places the decoration is difficult to describe (Piasecka 2015). Presumably the whole spur was covered with some kind of interlace pattern, which forms elongated rhombic-like cells with slightly rounded or hard angled corners (Fig. 6). Particular cells are formed by double zigzag, copper lines, separated by silver intarsia. The inner and outer spaces of cells are inlaid with horizontally placed silver wire.

A sophisticated character of this decoration clearly indicates that its parallels should be sought primarily among luxury products intended for elites of then society. It should be however underlined that during the query we were not able to find spurs with an exactly parallel ornament. It is worth noting that interlace patterns were highly popular in Viking Art, however they are much more complex, composed mainly of many or even dozens of threads. Decoration of pairs of spurs and stirrups from the 10th-century graves from Longelse and Brandstrup can serve as a perfect example of this ornament (Pedersen 2014, Pl. 19:3, 29:4). On the other hand, there are known items from this milieu, whose decoration to a certain extent resembles the ornament from the discussed artefact. We should mention here stirrups from the cemeteries in Thumby-Bienebek, Ravnholz-Rabenholz, Quern-Scheersberg in Schleswig and Karlum Mark in North Frisia, dated to the 10th century (Müller-Wille 1977, 51, cat. 6, 26, Abb.

³ Due to a poor state of preservation we cannot definitely consider as parallel form, the buckle found together with the spur in chamber grave from Sowinki, dated 1090±30 BP (Krzyszowski, Błaszczyk 2016, ryc. 6:4).

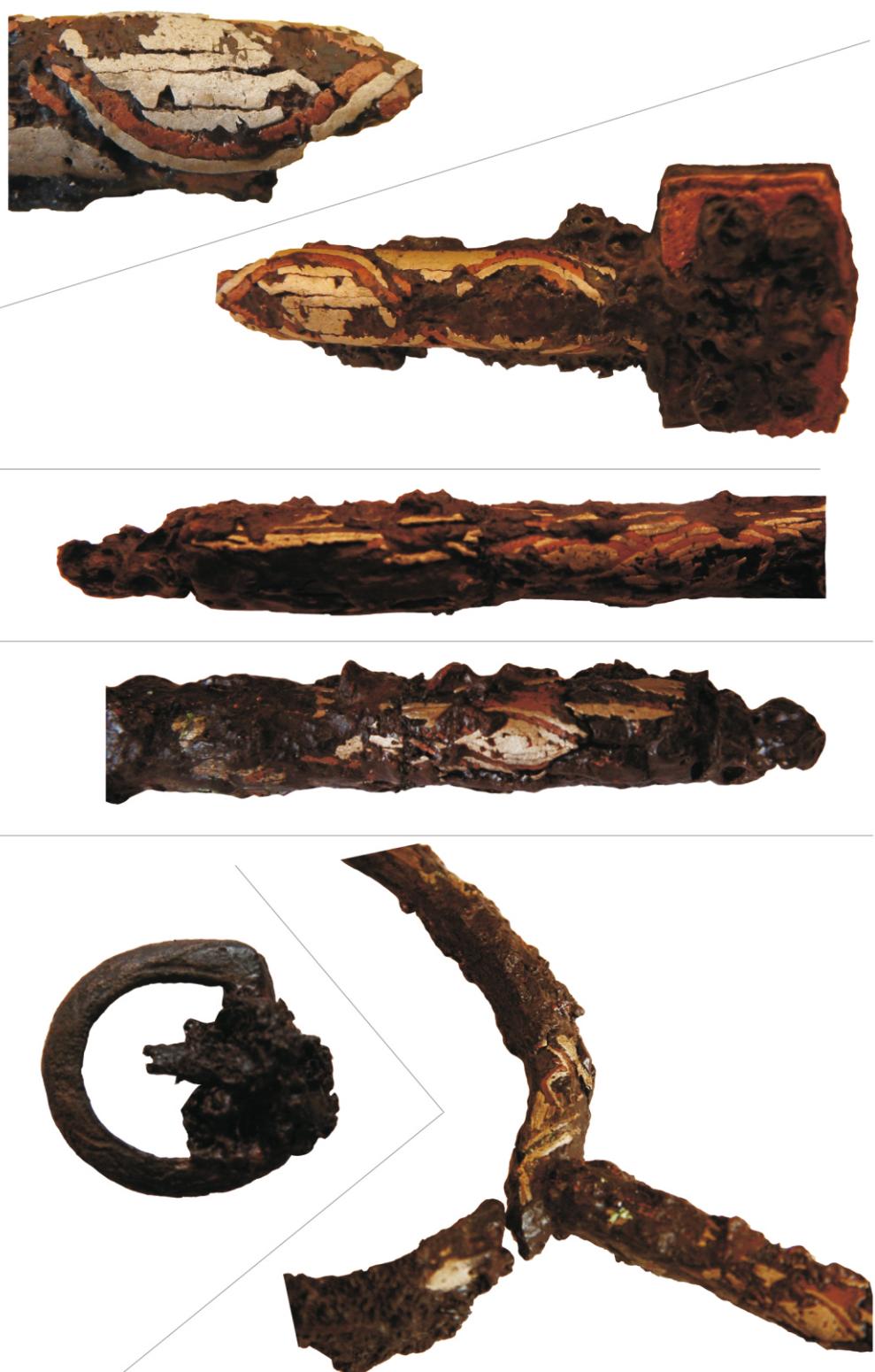


Fig. 6. Spur from grave 1 from Santok. Details of decoration. *Photo by A. Michalak and S. Sinkowski.*

Ryc. 6. Ostroga z grobu nr 1 z Santoka. Szczegóły dekoracji. *Fot. A. Michalak i S. Sinkowski.*

3:7-8, 8:1-2; Pedersen 2014, cat. 258, 359, 396, Pl. 38:3, 47:1, 54:3). There is no doubt that the spur from Santok corresponds to these products also with regard to its decoration technique, which was often employed in ornaments of 10th-century artefacts from this cultural circle (Müller-Wille 1977, 51, 20:1-2, 21:1-2,4). Some parallels regarding decoration technique and its form (triangles) can be traced in the I:1 type spur from the stronghold Babke in Mecklenburg, which most likely functioned in the 11th – beginning of the 12th century (Ulrich 2016, 33, Abb. 20-21). Attention must also be paid to later artefacts, adorned with zigzag pattern which form rhombuses. It should be however stressed that it is not fully parallel decoration (lower corners of diamonds are hard angled) although the main idea of it seems identical. We should first of all mention spurs from Dannenberg (Elbe), Lower Saxony and Lienden, Gelderland in the Netherlands,⁴ which unfortunately are finds without any archaeological context (Kind 2001, No. 117, 142, Abb. 6:5, 7). Fortunately, a spur fragment with parallel decoration was also unearthed from a stratum of Phase 6b2 during excavations in Berlin's neighbourhood – Spandau. It is well dated archaeologically by 24 coins from the last quarter of the 11th century (*terminus post quem* 1060); the subsequent Phase 7 has a numismatic *terminus post quem* 1079, which can be narrowed down by dendrochronological dating to 1106/1107 (von Müller 1999, 32, 39, Abb. 8:4; Kind 2001, 314, No. 115, Abb. 6:10). We should also mention a Type II:1 spur with zigzag pattern from Tum, which is related to Phase II of the use of the stronghold. This phase is dated to the 10th – beginning of the 12th century and the artefact itself is dated to the 11th century (Stasiak, Grygiel 2014, 190, ryc. 114:3). The arms of this find are made of a bar. It is triangular in cross-section, which makes its rhombic decoration less visible than in the case of the discussed spur. The

decoration technique is also slightly different. A unique character of the artefact from Santok is also underlined by a discovery of a pair of spurs which belong to a clearly later type and are dated to between the end of the 11th – beginning of the 12th century. However, they are decorated with analogous ornament. They were found in the grave of Henry V (born 1081, died 1125), the Holy Roman Emperor from the Salian dynasty. He was buried in the cathedral in Speyer (officially ‘the Imperial Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption and St Stephen’) (Goßler 1998, Taf. 8:176; Kind 2001, Abb. 5:2, Nr 127; Meier 2002, 92).

Hypothetically, due to their poor state of preservation, we can add a spur from Szczecin-Podzamcze, Western Pomerania to the group of similarly decorated artefacts. It was found in Stratum XL, Trench VI and is dated to 1088-1110. In this context we can mention a lost (?) spur from Recz, Western Pomerania, with an initially riveted goad (Knorr 1936, 218; Świątkiewicz 2002, kat. 20, tabl. XIX:20). The whole surface of this artefact was decorated with parallel rhombic motif. The chronology of this artefact is debatable. Ernst Petersen (1939, 52, Abb. 73) included it in the group of items from the 6th-7th centuries. Andrzej Nadolski (1954, 206-207) dated it to the 11th century. Similarly, Z. Hilczerówna (1956, 105, tab. VIIa), identified it as Type II, Subtype 1 or 2, which are dated to 11th century. However P. Świątkiewicz (2002, tab. X:7, tabl. XVIII:1) returns to the previous concepts of dating, and establishes its chronology as 830-870. Unfortunately, the dating of this spur is hard to verify on the basis of independent indicators, due to the fact that the stronghold where the spur was presumably found has never been excavated. Furthermore, a pre-war recognition yielded materials generally dated to the 9th-11th centuries (Schuchardt 1919, 285-290).⁵

We can also refer to stirrups ornamented with an analogous motif on their bows. One of them,

⁴ A similar idea of decoration is also visible in the case of spurs from Kruszwica, Opole, Wolin and Vienna (Filipowiak 1962, 480, ryc. 273; Hensel-Moszczyńska 1983, 177, tabl. III:11; Wachowski 1984, ryc. 27:g; Kind 2001, No. 135, 137, Abb. 6:6, 9). A pair of spurs, today lost, part of Imperial Regalia, so-called spurs of Saint Maurice, which most likely came from the grave of Emperor Henry III (born 1016, died 1056) was decorated with this motif (Koch 1982, 77, Abb. 14; Schulze-Dörrlam 1995, 54-55, Abb. 24). The ornamental thread is definitely more dense, which resulted in formation of larger diamonds. Unfortunately, the chronological position of these artefacts is uncertain. The spur from Kruszwica was found in a secondary deposit in a stratum from the Modern Period. The specimen from Vienna-Lainzter Tiergarten is also dated to this period. The chronology of the spur from Wolin is not certain, either. Scholars completely differ in assessing its find place and chronology. T. Kind (2001, 314, No. 135, Abb. 6:8) claims that it was discovered in the area of the town, in a stratum which is clearly dated by coins to the second and third quarter of the 11th century. On the other hand, P. Świątkiewicz (2002, 83, tabl. XVIII:11) relates it to Silver Hill and Stratum XI, dated to the end of the 10th – beginning of the 11th century. However, according to him this data cannot be verified with certainty. In the recent publications of materials from Wolin, it was ascribed to Old Town, trench No. 5, stratum XI (Stanisławski 2013, 148, footnote 156, Fig. 31:b). B. Stanisławski considered this artefact as of Baltic origin. The Type II:2 spur from Ostrówek in Opole came from Stratum C, dated to 1090-1125 (Wachowski 1984, ryc. 27:g).

⁵ We are indebted to Dr hab. Andrzej Janowski from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Szczecin Branch for his help with establishing the chronology of this site.

found in Cologne, was a part of the Zsille collection (Zsille, Forrer 1896, Taf. II:8). Another specimen was found accidentally in Tyniec nad Ślęzą in Silesia (Langenheim 1936, 298-300, Taf. XXX:6). A stirrup with similar decoration, discovered in Cologne at Neumarkt Square, is archaeologically dated to the 1020s (Kind 2001, 314).

To sum up, we can state that on the basis of the decoration of the spur from Santok its chronology can be related to the period between the 10th and 12th centuries.

Since spurs in Polish lands appear solely in male graves (Miśkiewicz 1969, 275-284; Malinowski 2005, 474-475), it is tempting to consider that the user of the discussed spur was most likely a man, however it is certain that women also rode on horseback (Ellis 2004, 124), and there were some women-warriors among them (Gardeła 2013). The age of the deceased individual does not raise serious doubts, either. Archaeological and anthropological sources clearly confirm that elderly warriors lived in the Piasts' state, although their graves were documented only in the eastern borders of the domain (Kurasiński 2006). The location of such graves at some distance from other burials may indicate a higher rank of buried individuals.

Z. Hilczerówna (1956, 113-114) believed that richly decorated specimens were either imports from the West or local products, manufactured as a result of western or northern influences. This point

of view was strongly denied by M. Kara (1991, 105), whose opinion seems more probable. There is no doubt that the form of decoration clearly corresponds to the specimens from North Germany. Regarding the parallels from Western Pomerania, the discovered artefact bears some similarity to Pomeranian specimens. There is no doubt that due to its location, Western Pomerania had far closer contacts with Northern Germany than Greater Poland did (see Kara 2002). This makes even more sense in the light of analysis of written sources. An intense competition for Santok between Pomerania and Greater Poland resulted in building a competitive hillfort by the Pomeranians in the 11th century. It was located on the left bank of the river, almost in front of the Piast fortress (Rymar 1995, 49). The burial with the discussed spur was also discovered on this bank of the river Noteć. It is unfortunately not possible to establish whether the analysed burial is a grave of a Pomeranian high-rank noble (man or woman) or this artefact was a booty of a member of the Piasts' retinue (*druzhina*). Both ideas seem equally probable.

Arkadiusz Michalak, PhD
Archaeological Museum of Middle Oder River Area
in Zielona Góra

Stanisław Sinkowski, MA
Jan Dekert Lubusz Region Museum
in Gorzów Wielkopolski

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*Arkadiusz Michalak
Stanisław Sinkowski*

OSTROGA OTTOŃSKA Z WCZESNOŚREDNIOWIECZNEGO CMENTARZYSKA W SANTOKU W POLSCE ZACHODNIEJ

Streszczenie

Spośród grobów występujących na nekropolach wczesnośredniowiecznych największe zainteresowanie badaczy wzbudzają te zawierające elementy uzbrojenia. Pochówek z ostrogą będącą przedmiotem niniejszego opracowania odkryto w Santoku w Polsce Zachodniej w trakcie badań w l. 2014-2015 na terenie prawobrzeżnej części miasta. We wczesnym średniowieczu znajdowały się tam dwa grody (ryc. 1).

Ostroga odkryta została przy pochówku szkieletowym (grób nr 1) w Santoku na ulicy Szkolnej, obok wejścia do XIX-wiecznego kościoła (ryc. 2). Pochówek ten prawie w całości znajdował się poza linią wykopów prowadzonych w ramach realizowanej inwestycji. Zmarły leżał w pozycji wyprostowanej, na linii E-W, z głową ku W. Wyeksplorowany szkielet był niekompletny i silnie uszkodzony. Na skutek działania procesów podepozycyjnych kościec uległ silnemu rozdrobnieniu oraz znacznym odkształceniom. Z tych względów płeć badanego osobnika określono jako niepewną żeńską, z zastrzeżeniem, że cechy opisane jako żeńskie mogły pojawić się w takiej formie rów-

nież u mężczyzn o budowie gracylnej. Wiek zmarłego określono na ok. 40-50 lat (*maturus*). Przy prawym boku osobnika, na wysokości miednicy, natrafiono na mały nóż żelazny z zachowaną częściowo drewnianą rękojeścią o kolistym przekroju, zdobioną u swej nasady rytym ornamentem dwóch równoległych linii. Nóż ma obustronnie wyodrębniony długi i prosty trzpień, a linia ostrza łukowato zwęża się ku końcowi. Noże tej formy występują powszechnie na stanowiskach sepulkralnych na terenie całej Polski i nie dają podstaw do rozstrzygnięć chronologicznych.

Wydaje się, że metrykę grobu oprzeć można natomiast na datowaniu ostrogi odkrytej w pobliżu nóg zmarłego osobnika. Wykuto ją z żelaza oraz pokryto inkrustacją ze srebra i miedzi. Jedyny zachowany zaczep ma kształt czworobocznej płytki z przebitymi w niej czterema otworami, w której zachowały się nity mocujące skórzane paski wiązań. Na zaczepie występuje zdobienie wyłącznie blaszką brązową, a jej powierzchnia obwiedziona jest drobnym ornamentem punktowym. Kabłąk jest U-kształtny i zwieńczony

wydłużonym, maczugowatym, rozczłonkowanym bodźcem, o kolistym przekroju, zakończonym niewielką kulką. Niestety, interesująca nas ostroga zachowana jest w stanie fragmentarycznym. Zdobienie występuje wyłącznie na zewnętrznych partiach ostrogi.

Przy ostrodze zachowała się również D-kształtna, mała sprzączka z brązu pochodząca z garnituru ostrogi. Jej powierzchnia zewnętrzna jest ewidentnie zdobiona ornamentem rombów nawiązujących do dekoracji ostrogi. W partii przy kolcu występują na niej produkty korozji, które są prawdopodobnie pozostałością niezintegrowanej skuwki łączącej sprzączkę z zaczepem ostrogi.

Ostrogi tej charakterystyki Z. Hilczerówna zaliczyła do swojego typu I, podtypu 1. Ze względu na formę zaczepów ostrogi tego typu nazywane są również płytowo-nitowymi. Po raz pierwszy ostrogi tej formy miały pojawić się w Europie Środkowej w końcu IX w. jako kontynuacja późnokarolińsko-wielkomorawskich okazów płytowych. Z. Hilczerówna początki tego typu zabytków umieszcza w X w. (raczej w 2. połowie tego stulecia) i według niej były w użyciu do połowy XI w. Mają na to wskazywać przytoczone przykłady pochodzące z archeologicznych kontekstów, głównie z Wielkopolski i Kujaw. W świetle najnowszych odkryć chronologię umieszczać należy raczej w przedziale koniec X – XI w. W typologii N. Goßlera okazy takiej charakterystyki zaliczono do grupy Aia, datowanej na koniec X – 1. połowę XII w. Ostrogi z wydłużonym, maczugowatym bodźcem znane są również z wikińskich cmentarzyków z terenu Danii, gdzie występują w zwartych zespołach grobo-

wych z X w. Ścisłe analogie do sprzączki z garnituru ostróg egzemplarza z Santoka pochodzą natomiast z północnych Niemiec i Danii, gdzie występują w kontekstach grobowych od początku X do początku XI w.

Charakterystyczną cechą omawianej ostrogi jest jej dekoracja. Ona stanowi o jej wyjątkowości na tle europejskim. Przypuszczalnie cała ostroga pokryta była wątkiem plecionkowym, tworzącym komórki zbliżone kształtem do wydłużonych rombów o zaokrąglonych lub ostrych podstawach (ryc. 6). Poszczególne komórki tworzą podwójne, zygzakowe linie wykładane miedzią, przedzielone intarsją srebrną. Przestrzenie wewnętrz oraz na zewnątrz komórek wykładane są wklepanym poziomo w rowki srebrnym drutem. Podkreślić należy, że w trakcie kwerendy nie udało się odnaleźć ostróg o w pełni analogicznej formie zdobienia. Wskazać należy na dużą popularność motywów plecionkowych w sztuce wikińskiej, które jednak z reguły charakteryzują się dużo większym skomplikowaniem. Nie ulega wątpliwości, że ostroga z Santoka nawiązuje do tych wyrobów zastosowaną techniką zdobniczą, która używana jest w dekoracji X-wiecznych przedmiotów pochodzących z tego kręgu kulturowego. Zwrócić również uwagę na młodsze ostrogi zdobione motywem zygzakowatym tworzącym romby datowane na XI-XII w.

Niestety, nie da się rozstrzygnąć, czy w wypadku omawianego grobu mamy do czynienia z pochówkiem pomorskiego wielmoży, czy też zabytek ten stanowił lufę drużynika polskiego. Obie koncepcje wydają się równie prawdopodobne.