THE VAŠKAI HOARD

ALGIMANTAS MERKEVIČIUS

Abstract

The article describes the Vaškai hoard, found in the 19th century. The hoard consists of a Mälar-type axe, a shaft-hole axe and a miniature dagger. At present, the Vaškai hoard is kept in the State Historical Museum in Stockholm and can be dated to the beginning of the first milennium BC or the Bronze Age V (Montelius – period IV).

Key words: Vaškai hoard, axe, dagger, Lithuania, Stockholm, Bronze Age.

Introduction

Not many hoards dating from the Bronze Age have been found in Lithuania; therefore, each of them is of particular importance. Archaeological publications refer most commonly to three hoards from the period, found at Pabaliai, Baudėjos and Vaškai (Gimbutienė 1985: 62; Grigalavičienė 1980: 4; Grigalavičienė 1995: 155-156, Fig. 90, 177, Fig. 102, 103, etc). Some more hoards may have been found, though. Besides the three hoards mentioned above, Puzinas also describes a fourth hoard found in the village of Miežaičiai (Puzinas 1938: 202-204), while Kulikauskas mentions six hoards in *Lietuvos archeologijos bruožai* (Features of Lithuanian Archaeology). He adds the hoards from Gedminai and the Telšiai and Raseiniai areas, though he dates the Pabaliai and Baudėjai hoards to the Early Iron Age (*LAB* 1961: 107). As most of the hoards were found before the Second World War, and the circumstances are rather ambiguous, the number of hoards is not clear either. Some of the finds might have come from deteriorated burials, or artificially arranged collections of finds, rather than true hoards, due to which the number of hoards indicated by archaeological publications differs.

The present article describes the Vaškai hoard, found in the 19th century. The circumstances of the discovery of this hoard are even more obscure than in the case of the other hoards. Some scholars even doubt if it is a true hoard, as they suggest rather different dates for some of the finds (*LAB* 1961: 107). Puzinas is even more categorical. He says that "probably we are dealing with individual finds, and not a hoard" (Puzinas 1938: 202). The fact that the shaft-hole axe should be attributed to an earlier period was also pointed out by Gimbutienė (Gimbutienė 1985: 62). If this is a hoard, the important thing is to know how it turned up in northern Lithuania. The present article reviews a number of problems related to this hoard.

Review of investigations

The earliest known reference to this hoard can be found in Carl von Schmith's *Necrolituanica*, written in 1863. Drawings of finds from the hoard are presented on page 22, Fig. 129, 131 and 132 (Fig. 1). This means that the hoard was found before 1863, but we know almost nothing about the circumstances. Later, in 1880, the manuscript of *Necrolituanica* and some finds from von Schmith's collection, as well as finds from the Konstantinovo-Vaškai hoard, were bought in Kaunas by Montelius (Janse 1929: 176; Nerman 1933: 238; Lamm 1997: 12). At present, finds from the Vaškai hoard are kept at the State Historical Museum in Stockholm (Nos. 6565:14–16). The museum has filled out find cards for the Vaškai hoard, which, in line with *Necrolituanica*, indicate that the hoard was found in the locality of Konstantinovo, Panevėžys "Kr." The hoard was referred to as Konstantinovo or Constantinovo by scholars in the first half of the 20th century, while Lithuanian archaeologists, starting with Puzinas, call it the Vaškai hoard. It is most likely that the locality of Konstantinovo had already disappeared before the Second World War.

The K(C)onstantinovo-Vaškai hoard has been mentioned by a number of archaeologists, but these are mainly short presentations of information. Usually, they include a description of the composition of the hoard, its chronology and the place of storage. In his short article Janse describes simply the Mälar-type axe and the circumstances under which the hoard appeared in Stockholm (Janse 1929: 176-177, Fig. 73). A short description of the hoard, accompanied by a photograph of the finds, was published by Ebert. He also discusses the dating of finds in the hoard. He attributes the Mälar-type axe to period IV, and shifts the dating of the shaft-hole axe to 1800–1200 BC with reference to Tallgren (Ebert 1929: 7, Fig. 4: d, e, f). A short description of the Konstantinovo hoard and the circumstances

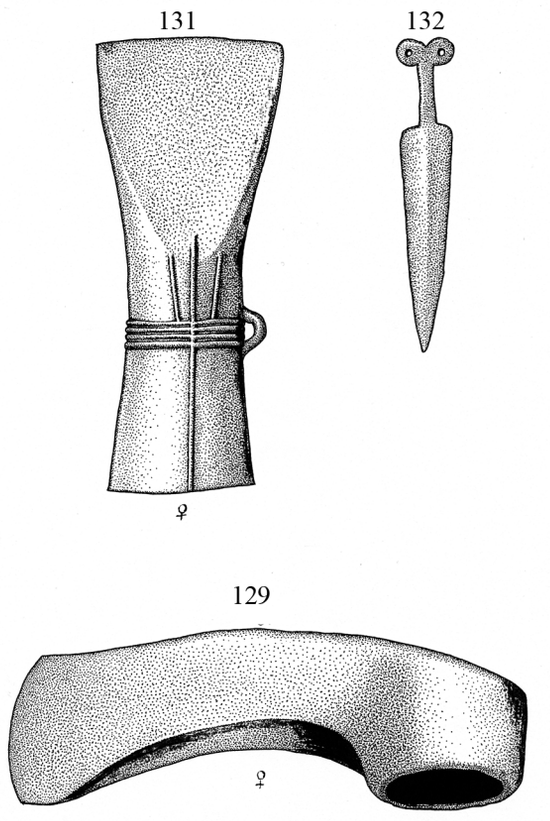

Fig. 1. Drawings of the artefacts in the Konstantinovo-Vaškai hoard, from Carl von Schmith's *Necrolituanica*: 129 the shaft-hole axe; 131 the Mälar-type axe; 132 the miniature dagger

of its discovery was also published by Nerman (Nerman 1933: 238, Fig. 1–2). He attributes the hoard to period IV, and claims that it comes from one single pot (Nerman 1933: 238). Ebert also claims that the hoard was found at Konstantinovo, Kr., Panevėžys (Ebert 1929: 7). Puzinas, however, indicates that the hoard was found at Vaškai (Biržai county), in a clay pot. He attributes the Mälar-type axe to period IV, and derives it from central Sweden, while the shaft-hole axe is attributed to a much earlier period (Puzinas 1938: 202). Subsequent archaeological publications already mention Vaškai instead of the locality of Konstantinovo. The hoard is also mentioned in articles and books by Grigalavičienė. In *Lietuvos TSR archeologijos atlasas* she attributes the hoard to the Bronze Age period IV-V, and claims that all the artefacts were found in one clay pot. (Grigalavičienė 1974: 208, 221). She also describes the hoard in a book on the earliest metal artefacts found in Lithuania, which was published in Russian (Grigalavičienė, Merkevičius 1980: 4, 39, 43, 46, 68-69), as well as a further book on the Bronze and Early Iron ages in Lithuania (Grigalavičienė 1995: 155, 159, 162, Fig. 89:1, 90), which briefly mentions the finds from the Vaškai hoard. She dates the Mälar-type axe from the Vaškai hoard to period IV. Grigalavičienė has discussed the distribution and chronological placement

Fig. 2. The Vaškai hoard, kept at the Stockholm State Historical Museum

of Mälar-type axes, as well as the typology, chronology and distribution of the shaft-hole axe (Grigalavičienė 1995: 155–156, 159, Fig. 89:1, 90). The Vaškai hoard is also mentioned by Gimbutienė (Gimbutienė 1985: 62). She underlines that the shaft-hole axe should be dated to a period earlier than that of the socketed axe, and therefore questions the contemporaneity of the axe (Gimbutienė 1985: 62). The Vaškai hoard is also mentioned by Okulicz (Okulicz 1976: 103, 143, Fig. 36:1) and Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė (Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė 1986: 36).

Composition of the hoard

The hoard consists of three finds, namely a Mälar-type axe, a shaft-hole axe (Galich type) and a miniature dagger (Fig. 2) (Puzinas 1938: 202, etc). All the artefacts are kept at the State Historical Museum in Stockholm (Nos. 6565:14-16).

The Mälar-type axe (SHM 6565:15) has been cleaned and conserved, it is in excellent condition, and light yellow in colour. The lower part of the socket displays five horizontal rollers. One roller stretches from the top of the socket to the beginning of the blade. Two further rollers run from the bottom of the horizontal rollers to the beginning of the blade. The overall length of the axe is 12.2 centimetres. The length of the socket until the horizontal notches is 3.5 centimetres, the diameter of the socket 2.9 centimetres, and the thickness of the socket 0.3 centimetres. The blade is 5.5 centimetres long and 4.6 centimetres wide. The loop is 1.3 centimetres long and 0.4 centimetres thick.

The shaft-hole axe (SHM 6565:14) has been cleaned and conserved, it is in excellent condition, and of a reddish yellow "copper" colour. The composition of the metal of this axe is very different to that of the Mälar axe, as indicated by the dissimilarity of their colours. The overall length of the axe is 13 centimetres. The blade is slightly bent, ten centimetres long, 5.3 centimetres wide and 0.6 centimetres thick. The width of the blade at the socket is 3.8 centimetres. The thickness of the blade at the socket is 2.3 centimetres. The external diameter of the socket is 4.3 centimetres, the height of the socket is three centimetres.

The miniature dagger (SHM 6565:16) is partly cleaned, and dark green in colour. It has a flat pommel on the handle, a piece of which is broken. The overall length of the dagger is eight centimetres. The length of the blade is 5.7 centimetres. The width of the blade at the handle is 1.3 centimetres, and the thickness of the blade at the handle 0.3 centimetres. The handle with the pommel is 2.3 centimetres long, 0.5 centimetres wide, and 0.3 centimetres thick.

Is it really a hoard?

As mentioned above, archaeologists in the first half of the 20th century, as well as later authors who referred to them, claim that the hoard was found in one pot. Ebert writes that a shaft-hole axe, attributable to the Galich type according to Tallgren, a Mälar-type axe and a miniature dagger were found in a pot at Konstantinovo, Kr., Panevėžys (Ebert 1929: 7). Nerman holds a similar opinion that all the artefacts mentioned above were found in one pot (Nerman 1933: 238) or "in a clay pot" (Puzinas 1938: 202). Lithuanian postwar archaeological literature also indicates that the hoard was found "in a pot from the Neolithic period" (LAB 1961: 107), or that "all the items were found in a clay pot" (LAA 1974: 221). If we rely on the information from all the authors who are mentioned above, claiming that all the artefacts were found in one clay pot, the indisputable conclusion is that all three artefacts mentioned above come from one and the same hoard. The question, however, arises as to the arguments for such statements. The authors mentioned probably refer to Montelius himself, who had received the information from von Schmith, who must have known the circumstances of the discovery of these artefacts. Some uncertainty exists only due to the fact that most archaeologists believe the shaft-hole axe to be much earlier than the other two finds. If that is true, we can also question whether the information that all the artefacts were found in a single pot is correct.

The chronology and origin of the artefacts from the hoard

The majority of scholars attribute the Konstantinovo-Vaškai Mälar-type axe to Montelius' Bronze Age period IV (Nerman 1933: 238; Ebert 1929: 7; Puzinas 1938: 202; Grigalavičienė 1995: 155), and Janse to period IV-V (Janse 1929: 176). Most scholars attribute the Vaškai hoard Mälar-type axe to the area of central Sweden (Janse 1929: 176; Puzinas 1938: 202; Okulicz 1976: 103; Gimbutienė 1985: 62; Grigalavičienė 1995: 155), though Mälar axes of a similar type were cast in Lithuania as well. Excavations at the Narkūnai hillfort have yielded as many as 25 fragments of casting moulds used to manufacture Mälar-type bronze axes (Fig. 3) (Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė 1986: 33, Fig. 49). Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė has defined on the basis of the casting moulds that these axes used to be 8.5 to 9.5 centimetres long, their socket was 2.5 to three centimetres in diameter, and the blade 3.5 centimetres wide. She believes that these axes are very close to the Swedish Mälar axes. According to her, Mälar axes were basically used in the seventh to eighth centuries BC (ibid. 34, 36).

Miniature daggers seem not to have been manufactured in Lithuania. Four specimens have been found, including three chance finds and one from the Vaškai hoard. These artefacts are characteristic of Scandinavia, and present imitations of swords. Grigalavičienė attributes the Vaškai dagger to Bronze Age period IV, and believes that the dagger originates from Scandinavia (Grigalavičienė, Merkevičius 1980: 46; Grigalavičienė 1995: 162). A dagger comparable to the Vaškai one has been found on Gotland (Fig. 4). It is attributed to Montelius' period IV (Montelius 1986: Fig. 75). Thus, the Mälar axe and the miniature dagger are contemporaneous artefacts originating in central Sweden and Gotland. The contemporaneity of the Mälar-type axe and the dagger is indisputable.

Scholars have had especially many reservations regarding the dating of the shaft-hole axe and the circumstances of its appearance in Lithuania. With reference to Tallgren, Ebert dates the shaft-hole axe to the period from 1800 to 1200 BC (Ebert 1929: 7). Puzinas also claims that the shaft-hole axe might be much earlier than the Mälar-type axe (Puzinas 1938: 202). Gimbutienė identifies this axe as an east Russian-type shaft-hole axe, and dates it to a period earlier than that of the Mälar-type axe, as a result of which she doubts the contemporaneity of the hoard (Gimbutienė 1985: 62). Grigalavičienė attributes the shaft-hole axe to the Catacomb culture and dates it to the 15th or 14th century BC (Grigalavičienė, Merkevičius 1980: 43; Grigalavičienė 1995: 159). This type of axe is charac-

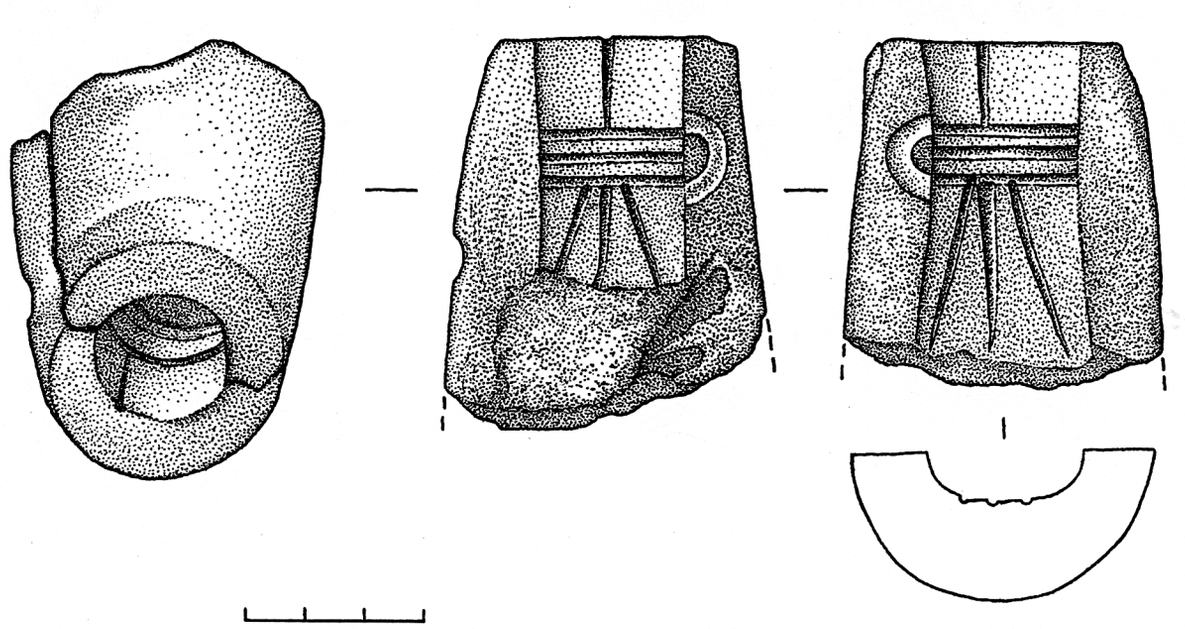

Fig. 3. A casting mould from the Narkūnai hill-fort, according to A. Luchtanas, 1981, Fig. 6

teristic of the Abashevo culture dating from the second and third quarters of the second millennium BC. Axes similar to the Vaškai specimen are typical of the late stage of this culture (Priachin, Chalikov 1987: 124-125, Fig. 60b, Fig. 63:12). They are also known in the Srubnaya culture (Klochko 1993: 58), as well as other cultures of southeast, northeast Europe and the Caucasus, in the basins of the Dniester, Bug, Volga, Don and adjacent areas, and dated to the second millennium BC. These axes disappeared at the end of the Bronze Age, and were already completely out of use during the Hallstatt period (Klochko 1993: 17). Many scholars call the shaft-hole axe from Vaškai a Galich-type axe, with reference to the Galich hoard found in 1835, not far from Kostroma, northeast of Moscow (Tallgren 1926: Abb. 77:1-18; Gimbutas 1965: 110-111, Fig. 73, 74). It is believed to have been discovered in a pot containing five copper idols of a human form, one small animal figurine, one plate terminating in animal heads, two daggers with handles of a snake-like form and with a small snake depicted on the handle, two small, flat, double-edged "knife-daggers" with backward-curved points, 11 round copper plates, one double spiral made of copper wire, three concave bracelets, small beads of copper, silver buttons, and silver beads, etc (Gimbutas 1965: 110). In terms of typology, the shaft-hole axe from the Galich hoard and the shaft-hole axe from the Vaškai hoard are not identical; therefore, the interpretation of the Vaškai shaft-hole axe as a Galich-type axe is not very accurate. A very similar axe was found in the Nikopol hoard (Fig. 5) (Müller-Karpe 1980: Fig. 534:B1).

Shaft-hole axes disappear at the beginning of the first millennium BC. The end of the late distribution period of these axes coincides with the beginning of the distribution period of Mälar-type axes and miniature daggers, which means that the chronological discrepancy of these finds is not as big as it might seem at first glance and as some archaeologists maintain. In terms of typology, the Vaškai hoard shaft-hole axe can be dated to the end of the second millennium BC or to the beginning of the first millennium BC.

This dating of the shaft-hole axe does not conflict with the hypothesis that artefacts of the Vaškai hoard are more or less contemporaneous. The shaft-hole axe could possibly have been placed in the clay pot at the same time as the Mälar-type axe and the miniature dagger. The opinion that the pot found at Vaškai really contained a hoard is indirectly supported by the fact that at that time it was customary to deposit and hide artefacts in clay pots. The Galich hoard, as well as some other hoards, were also found in one pot, as was the case at Vaškai. This is an indirect verification of the authenticity of the hoard.

Fig. 4. A miniature dagger from Gotland, according to O. Montelius, 1986, Fig. 75 (no scale)

Appearance of the hoard in Lithuania

The appearance of the Vaškai hoard in Lithuania is an intricate problem. As the artefacts of the hoard are not very remote from

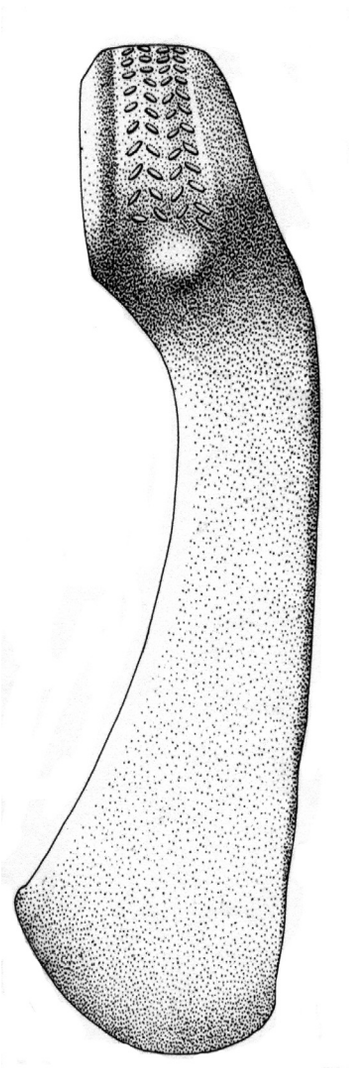

Fig. 5. A shaft-hole axe from the Nikopol hoard, according to H. Müller-Karpe, 1980, Fig. 534:B1. (no scale)

a chronological point of view, they could have been used at the same time and could have turned up in one pot. All the artefacts represent luxury articles of the period. The Mälar-type axe could be attributed to local manufacture. A production point of these axes has been found on the Narkūnai hill-fort (Kulikauskienė 1986: 33-36, Fig. 49), though shaft-hole axes and miniature daggers were apparently not manufactured in Lithuania. According to Gimbutienė, the finds in the Vaškai hoard testify to relations with the north and the east (Gimbutienė 1985: 62). In the Bronze Age an amber trade route existed between the eastern Baltic area and the middle Volga (Fig. 6) (Gimbutienė 1985: Fig. 25). Besides amber, the route was used for the exchange of non-ferrous metals and manufactured articles. This is testified to by finds of Mälar-type axes and other artefacts all the way along the zone between central Sweden and the middle Volga. Contacts between the residents of various regions located close to this route were long-lasting and extensive. Artefacts from different regions were traded on this route. The manufacture of some artefacts, such as the Mälar-type axe, which originates in central Scandinavia, started at various locations along this trade route, including the Volga-Kama area, Lithuania, etc. The latter artefact became a symbol of this trade route. Residents of central Scandinavia, who had a lot of good ships, were probably the most active players on this trade route. Hundreds of images of their ships carved on rocks are found in central Sweden (Coles 2000). These travellers spread Scandinavian-type artefacts, such as axes, daggers and others, which were taken over and consequently even manufactured by other residents on the trade route. The skills, customs and ideas spread as well. The shaft-hole axes, which were widespread in the northeast of Russia, were included into the exchange system of the route, though at the time when the trade route functioned the use of shaft-hole axes was coming to an end, due to which their distribution failed, and only a few examples of these artefacts are known.

All three artefacts of the Vaškai hoard came to Lithuania via the trade route which ran between central Sweden, Gotland and northeast Russia at the beginning of the first millennium BC. The miniature dagger, and possibly even the Mälar-type axe, came from central Sweden, and the shaft-hole axe from northeast Russia. These artefacts belonged to an exceptional person, and were either hidden in the ground or sacrificed.

Final conclusions

The Vaškai hoard, containing a Mälar-type axe, a shaft-hole axe and a miniature dagger, was found under obscure circumstances before 1863, turned up somehow in the collection of Carl von Schmith, was purchased by Montelius in 1880, and donated to the Royal Academy of History and Letters in Stockholm. At present, the hoard is kept at the State Historical Museum in Stockholm.

The circumstances of the discovery of the hoard are not known, which raises the question, is it really a hoard? Nevertheless, our investigation leads us to the opinion that it is a hoard, whose artefacts were found in the same clay pot.

Mälar-type axes originate in central Sweden. They were manufactured and widespread in Scandinavia, the east Baltic region and northeast Russia. These axes are dated to the Bronze Age, Montelius' period IV-V. Miniature daggers comparable to the example found at Vaškai are also attributed to artefacts from central Sweden and Gotland, and are dated to the Bronze Age, Montelius' period IV. Shaft-hole axes were widespread between southeast Russia, Ukraine, the Caucasus and northeast Russia. These are dated to the second millennium BC. They disappeared at the beginning of the first millennium BC.

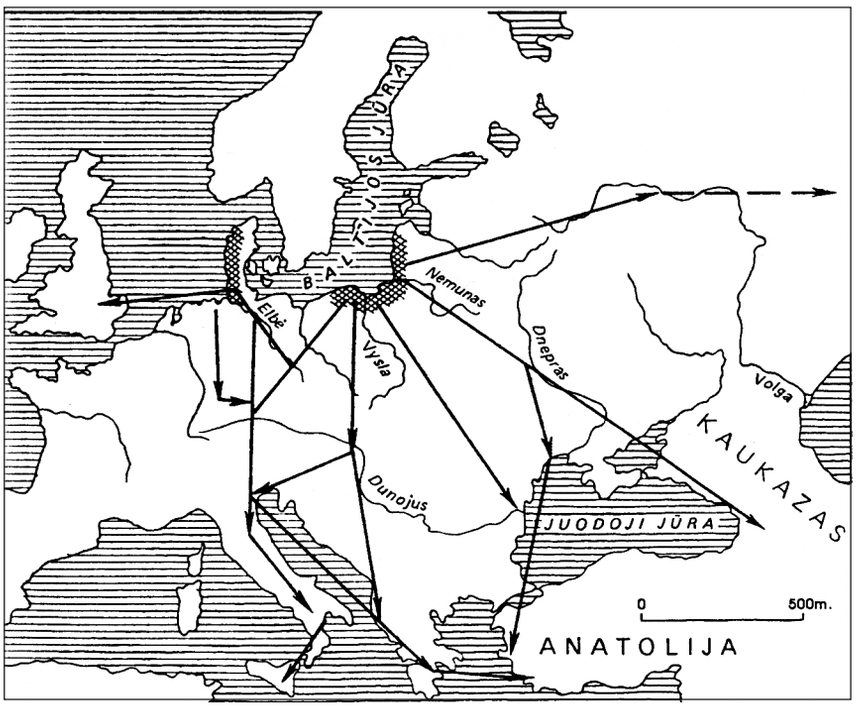

Fig. 6. Amber trade routes in the Bronze Age, according to M. Gimbutienė, 1985, Fig. 25

The Vaškai hoard is a hoard of prestigious artefacts which can be dated to the beginning of the first millennium BC or the Bronze Age, Montelius' period IV.

The Vaškai hoard is a product of the trade route which operated between central Sweden, Gotland, the east Baltic region and northeast Russia (the middle Volga) in the first half of the first millennium BC.

Translated by Dalė Merkevičienė

Abbreviations

LAA – *Lietuvos TSR archeologijos atlasas*. 1. 1974. Vilnius
LAB – Kulikauskas P., Kulikauskienė R., Tautavičius A. *Lietuvos archeologijos bruožai*. 1961. Vilnius

References

Coles, J. 2000. Patterns in a rocky land: Rock carvings in south-western Uppland, Sweden. In: *Aun* 27. Volume 1.
Ebert, M. 1929. *Reallexikon der vorgeschichte*. 13.
Gimbutienė, M. 1985. *Baltai priešistoriniais laikais*. Vilnius.
Gimbutas, M. 1965. *Bronze Age Cultures in Central and Eastern Europe*. Paris. The Hague. London.
Grigalavičienė, E. 1974. Žalvario amžiaus paminklai ir radiniai. In: *Lietuvos TSR archeologijos atlasas. Akmens ir žalvario amžiaus paminklai.* 1. Vilnius.
Grigalavičienė, E., Merkevičius A. 1980. *Drevneišie metaličeskije izdelija v Litve*. Vilnius.
Grigalavičienė, E. 1995. *Žalvario ir ankstyvasis geležies amžius Lietuvoje*. Vilnius.
Janse, O. 1929. En Lithauen funnen brons-celt av s. k. Malardalstyp. In: *Forvännen*. 24.
Klochko, V. 1993. Weapons of the tribes of the northern Pontic zone in the 16th-10th centuries B.C. In: *Baltic-Pontic studies* 1.
Kulikauskas P., Kulikauskienė R., Tautavičius A. 1961. *Lietuvos archeologijos bruožai*. Vilnius.
Lamm, J. P. 1997. Carl von Schmith and his *Necrolituanica*. In: *Archeologia Baltica*. 2.
Luchtanas, A. 1981. Žalvario apdirbimas ankstyvuosiuose rytų Lietuvos piliakalniuose. In: *Lietuvos archeologija*. 2, Vilnius.
Montelius, O. 1986. *Dating in the Bronze Age with special reference to Scandinavia*. Stockholm.
Müller-Karpe, H. 1980. *Handbuch der vorgeschichte*. Bronzezeit. 4/3. München.
Nerman, B. 1933. Miscellanea. In: *Acta Archaeologica*. 4.
Okulicz, L. 1976. *Osadnictwo strefy wschodniobaltyckiej w I tysiącleciu przed naszą erą*. Wroclaw. Warszawa. Krakow. Gdansk.
Priachin, A., Chalikov, A. 1987. Abashevskaja kultūra. Epocha bronzy lesnoj polosy SSSR. In: *Archeologija SSSR*. Moskva.
Puzinas, J. 1938. Naujausių proistorinių tyrinėjimų duomenys (1918–1938 metų Lietuvos proistorinių tyrinėjimų apžvalga). In: *Senovė*. T. 4, Kaunas.
Tallgren, A.M. 1926. *Eurasia septentrionalis antiqua*. 2.
Tallgren, A.M. 1937. The Arctic Bronze Age in Europe. In: *Eurasia Septentrionalis Antiqua*, 11.
Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė, R. 1986. Narkūnų didžiojo piliakalnio tyrinėjimų rezultatai (apatinis kultūrinis sluoksnis). In: *Lietuvos archeologija*, 5, Vilnius.

Algimantas Merkevičius
Department of Archaeology
Faculty of History
Vilnius University
Universiteto g. 7, LT-01513, Vilnius, Lithuania
e-mail: Algimantas.merkevicius@if.vu.lt

Received: 2002

VAŠKŲ LOBIS

ALGIMANTAS MERKEVIČIUS

Santrauka

Lietuvoje rasta nedaug žalvario amžiumi datuojamų lobių, todėl kiekvienas jų yra ypač svarbus.

Straipsnyje aptariamas Vaškų lobis, rastas XIX a. Jo radimo aplinkybės labai neaiškios. Dalis autorių abejoja, ar tai lobis, nes pavieniai radiniai gana skirtingai datuojami. Ankstyviausias žinomas šio lobio paminėjimas yra Carlo von Schmitho „Necrolithuanicoje“, parašytoje 1863 m. Taigi lobis buvo rastas dar prieš 1863 metus ir apie jo radimo aplinkybes beveik nieko nežinome. Šiuo metu Vaškų lobio radiniai saugomi Valstybės istorijos muziejuje Stockholme (inventoriaus Nr. 6565:14-16). Vaškų-Konstantinovo lobį yra minėję nemaža archeologų, tačiau tai daugiausia trumpos informacijos apie jį. Dažniausiai aprašoma lobio sudėtis, jo chronologija ir lobio saugojimo vieta.

Lobį sudaro 3 dirbiniai: Meliaro tipo kirvis, (Haličo tipo) pentinis kirvis ir miniatiūrinis durklas. Meliaro kirvis (6565:15) yra apvalytas, konservuotas, labai geros būklės, šviesiai geltonos spalvos. Su ąsele. Įmovos apatinėje dalyje yra penki horizontalūs voleliai. Vienas volelis eina nuo įmovos viršaus iki ašmenų pradžios. Dar du voleliai išlieti nuo horizontalių volelių apačios iki ašmenų pradžios. Kirvio bendras ilgis – 12,2 cm. Įmovos ilgis iki horizontalių rumbelių – 3,5 cm, įmovos skersmuo – 2,9 cm, įmovos storis – 0,3 cm. Ašmenų ilgis – 5,5 cm, ašmenų plotis – 4,6 cm Ąselės ilgis – 1,3 cm, ąselės storis – 0,4 cm.

Pentinis kirvis (6565:14) yra apvalytas, konservuotas, labai geros būklės, rausvai gelsvos, „varinės“ spalvos. Šio kirvio metalo sudėtis gerokai skiriasi nuo Meliaro kirvio. Pentiniame kirvyje daugiau vario ir mažiau kitų spalvotųjų metalų. Bendras kirvio ilgis – 13 cm. Ašmenys truputį lenkti, 10 cm ilgio ir 5,3 cm pločio. Ašmenų plotis ties įmova – 3,8 cm. Ašmenų storis – 0,6 cm. Ašmenų storis ties įmova – 2,3 cm. Įmovos išorinis skersmuo – 4,3 cm, įmovos aukštis – 3 cm.

Miniatiūrinis durklas (6565:16) yra truputį apvalytas, tamsiai žalios spalvos. Durklo rankena yra su nedidele plokščia buožele, kuri yra su dviem nedidelėmis skylutėmis. Dalis buoželės nulūžusi. Bendras durklo ilgis – 8 cm. Ašmenų ilgis – 5,7 cm. Ašmenų plotis ties rankena – 1,3 cm, ašmenų storis ties rankena – 0,3 cm. Rankenos ilgis su buožele – 2,3 cm, plotis – 0,5 cm, storis – 0,3 cm.

Vaškų lobio atsiradimas Lietuvoje yra sunkiai išsprendžiama problema. Kadangi chronologiškai lobio dirbiniai nėra tolimi, jie vienu laiku galėjo būti naudojami ir vienu metu atsirasti Lietuvoje bei sudėti į vieną puodą. Visi dirbiniai – to meto prabangos daiktai. Meliaro kirvis galėjo būti ir vietoje gamintas, nes Narkūnų piliakalnyje rasta šių kirvių gamybos vieta, tačiau pentiniai kirviai ir miniatiūriniai durklai Lietuvoje greičiausiai nebuvo gaminami.

Visi trys Vaškų lobio dirbiniai atkeliavo į Lietuvą I tūkst. pr. Kr. pradžioje funkcionavusiu prekybos keliu tarp Centrinės Švedijos, Gotlando, Rytų Baltijos regiono ir Šiaurės rytų Rusijos. Meliaro tipo kirvis ir miniatiūrinis durklas buvo atgabenti iš Centrinės Švedijos, o pentinis kirvis – iš Šiaurės rytų Rusijos. Šie prestižiniai, mažai Lietuvoje naudoti dirbiniai buvo skirti išskirtiniam asmeniui ir buvo arba saugomi užkasti žemėje, arba galbūt net paaukoti.