

MACES FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY WITH MUSEUM IN SOFIA, BULGARIA

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Annotation: *The present work discusses 30 medieval maces, kept in NIAM-Sofia. The weapons are classified according to the typology of S. Popov. They refer to 8 types with 11 subtypes and 3 variants of subtypes and date back to the period 11th – 17th c. AD.*

Key words: *Medieval weaponry, blunt weapons, maces.*

The mace is emblematic weapon for the European Middle Ages. That is because of the fact that its widest spreading in the space and time is in that Age. Together with that the maces show exceptional variety in the developing of their forms.

There is considerable number of exemplars of that weapon in the depots of the Bulgarian museums. Some of them already published, some not. Here presented work has for an object 30 of the mediaeval maces kept in the National Institute of Archaeology with Museum in Sofia, Bulgaria (NIAM-Sofia).¹ The weapons are classified according the typology developed by the author of these lines.² Here presented exemplars cannot be associated with a particular archaeological context. Most of them are voluntary donations to the Museum. In general, their dating

has been grounded on dated parallels as well as on data of some other historical sources such as mural paintings or manuscript illustrations.

The first exemplar here presented has the earliest dating among the others (ill. 1. Cat. №1). It belongs to type XI-Spiral-shaped (after Popov).³

The maces of type XI are distinguished for the spiral-like oblique arrangement of their sharp or rounded flanges. Depending on the subtype, their common shape is spherical, barrel-like, or comparatively seldom – cylindrical. In certain cases, sleeves appear at both round openings in the upper and lower sectors of the body. The inner side of the maces is cylindrical or a bit concave, once again depending on the type. Here presented exemplar is from sub-type XIB-Spherical; variant XIB1-Spherical with sleeves and sharp flanges. The collection of the World Museum of Man, Florida contains a mace of sub-type XIB1 found in the Balkan region. It has been

¹ I do express my gratitude to the Directors of NIAM-Sofia for the opportunity to work with and release the maces they house.

² S. ПОПОВ, *Maces from the present Bulgarian lands (10th – 17th c. AD)* Vatevi collection, Sofia 2015.

³ S. ПОПОВ, *Maces from the present Bulgarian lands*, 49 – 52.

dated from the 11th – 12th c. AD on the grounds of an inaccurate parallel with a mace from the settlement near Dyadovo.⁴ The same collection houses two maces of variant XIB2- Spherical with sharp flanges and without sleeves, dated from the 9th – 14th and 11th – 12th c. AD respectively, once again on the grounds of inaccurate parallels. The first one comes probably from Germany, and the second one – from the Balkan region.⁵ Weapons of variant XIB3 have been discovered in the fortress near Zhelad village, Shumen region (9th – 14th c. AD), and also in the Medieval settlement near Dyadovo village, Stara Zagora region (11th – 12th c. AD).⁶ Similar maces (variant XIB3) have been depicted on the wall mosaic in the Cathedral Church of Santa Maria Nuova in Monreale, Italy (Fig. 36). The date is 1180 – 1190.⁷ This sub-type corresponds to type 1, variant D of the typology of V. Yotov, as he is dating the type from the 10th – 12th c. AD.⁸

Weapons of type XI have not been presented in the works of A. Kirpichnikov and A. Ruttkay. Most probably their territory of spreading was the Balkan Peninsula and probably in Southern Italy. In my view, the date of the type covers the late 11th – 12th c. AD.

Next four maces (ill. 2 – 5. Cat. №№2 – 5) belong to type XIII-Star-shaped maces with

⁴ R. D'АМАТО, Σιδηροράβδιον, βαρδοῦκιον, ματζοῦκιον, κορύνη: the war-mace of Byzantium, the 9th – 15th c. AD. New evidence from the Balkans in the collection of the World Museum of Man, Florida, *Acta Militaria Medievalia*, VII (2011), fig. 25:2; 41, ref.# 587.

⁵ R. D'АМАТО, Σιδηροράβδιον, βαρδοῦκιον, ματζοῦκιον, κορύνη: the war-mace, fig. 25:1,3; p. 41, ref.# 327, ref. # 588.

⁶ Б. БОРИСОВ, Средновековното селище и некропол върху селищната могила до с. Дядово, *Expediitio Thracica*, 3. София 1982, 34, Pl. 22d 2; В. BORISOV, *Dyadovo. Vol. 1. Mediaeval settlement and necropolis (11th – 12th century)*, Tokyo 1989, p. 115, fig. 125a, cat. N 1.

⁷ www.01varvara.wordpress.com/?s=Santa+Maria+Nueva+in+Monreale#jp-carousel-21970. Visited on 22 February 2017.

⁸ В. ЙОТОВ, *Въоръжението и снаряжението от българското средновековие (VII – XI век)*, Велико Търново 2004, 109, 113, Pl. 19.

12 knobs (after Popov).⁹ It seems they were the most popular weapons of the kind used in the course of 12th – 14th c. AD.

The type is featured for its spherical or cubic outline of the body. Three rows containing four knobs each are arranged one above the other on its surface. The knobs in the central row are four-side pyramids, and in both side rows – three-side ones. The inner side of the maces of type XIII is usually spherically or bi-conically concave. Often there are short sleeves at the openings in the shape of a truncated cone. In some variants these sleeves are missing. Here presented exemplars are representatives of the most numerous of that type: sub-type XIII B-Iron maces.

Two weapons from the Museum of History in Pleven can be pointed to as exact parallels of the maces of sub-type XIII B. They have been dated from the 12th – first half of the 13th c. AD.¹⁰ according to the typology of Kirpichnikov. Two more pieces are in the collection of Dobrich Museum,¹¹ two maces are housed in the Museum in Preslav,¹² and one is housed in Varna Museum of Archaeology.¹³ Five maces are known from the collection of the World Museum of Man, Florida, USA, coming generally from the eastern Balkans and the Lower Danube.¹⁴ According to the classification of A. Kirpichnikov

⁹ S. ПОПОВ, *Maces from the present Bulgarian lands*, 54 – 59.

¹⁰ М. АСПАРУХОВ, Средновековно въоръжение от сбирката на историческия музей в Плевен, *Известия на музеите в Северозападна България*, т. 18 (1992), 57, fig. 3A and Б. In the text these maces are erroneously noted as 3B and Г.

¹¹ В. ПАРУШЕВ, Боздугани от музея в Добрич, *Археология*, 3 – 4 (1998), 70; fig. 10 – 11; cat. NN 10 – 11. Here V. Parushev lists the star-shaped maces known to him.

¹² С. ВИТЛЯНОВ, Боздугани от музеите в Плиска, Мада-ра и Преслав, *Военноисторически сборник (=ВИСБ.)*, 4 (1990), 171 – 172; Pl. I, fig. 4 and 7; cat. NN 11 – 12.

¹³ Х. КУЗОВ, Боздугани от Варненския археологически музей. – В: *Acta Musei Varnaensis*, v. I. Варна, 2002, Pl. II: 14, 183.

¹⁴ R. D'АМАТО, Σιδηροράβδιον, βαρδοῦκιον, ματζοῦκιον, κορύνη: the war-mace, fig. 23:1 – 5; pp. 36, 38, 40; ref. NN 11, 364, 389, 675, 890.

ov, the star-shaped maces belong to type IV and are dating from the 12th – first half of the 13th c. AD.¹⁵ A. Ruttkay informs that such maces are not known from the territory of Slovakia.¹⁶

I do entirely accept the view of V. Parushev that the maces of type XIII were broadly in use during the 13th – 14th c. AD.¹⁷ They were gradually replaced by the weapons with vertical flanges and iron shaft, and remained in use, in my opinion, till about the mid 14th c. AD.

The next weapon (ill. 6. Cat. №6) from the collection of NIAM-Sofia is representative of type XIV-Star-shaped maces with more than 12 knobs; sub-type XIVA-Iron maces with a high barrel-like shape (after Popov).¹⁸ The maces have a barrel-like or cylindrical shape of the body. It is covered with three- or four-side pyramidal knobs of number greater than 12. They are arranged in 3 to 6 horizontal rows. Maces similar to type XIV have been discovered in the territory of Russia, Western Ukraine and Hungary. They have been dated within the broad chronological borders of 13th – 14th c. AD. My opinion is that the weapons of the present type have widest spreading in the period 13th – the beginning-first half of 14th c. AD concerning present day Bulgaria.

Type XVI-Barrel-shaped maces with vertical flanges; sub-type XVID-The corpus is covered with vertical flanges of a trapezium-shaped or rectangular section, with a distance between them and conic sleeves above the flanges, after the typology of Popov,¹⁹ is presented by one exemplar in the collection of NIAM-Sofia (ill. 7. Cat. №7).

¹⁵ А. Н. КИРПИЧНИКОВ, *Древнерусское оружие. Vol. 2. Копья, сулицы, боевые топоры, булавы, кистени IX – XIII вв.* Москва-Ленинград 1966, 48 – 52.

¹⁶ A. RUTKAY, *Waffen und Reiterausrüstung des 9. bis zur ersten Hälfte des 14. Jahrhunderts in der Slowakei (II)*, *Slovenska archeologia (Bratislava)*, ročník 24 (1976), 316.

¹⁷ В. ПАРУШЕВ, *Боздугани от музея*, 70.

¹⁸ S. ПОПОВ, *Maces from the present Bulgarian lands*, 59 – 61.

¹⁹ S. ПОПОВ, *Maces from the present Bulgarian lands*, 62 – 68.

The weapons of type XVI belong to type V of A. Kirpichnikov's typology. He records they were in use during the period of the 12th – 13th c. AD.²⁰ The existence of weapons similar to the one from grave № 295 in the necropolis in Vodocha in Macedonia,²¹ dating from the first half of the 15th c. AD suggests the development of an independent type line in use alongside the maces with sleeves different in length the latter developing as weapons with long iron shaft. I believe that the chronological frame of the 12th – 13th c. AD. A. Kirpichnikov has determined regarding this type is completely reasonable, but we have to raise the upper border. The grounds are the find from Vodocha mentioned above, as well as the depiction of a similar weapon on a mural in the narthex in St. George Monastery Church in Kremikovtsi. The donor's inscription in the church records that it was rebuilt in 1493 AD.²² The painting was accomplished perhaps about or a bit later than this date. Therefore, we have to extend the upper chronological border these maces were in use on the Balkans to the late 15th – early 16th c. AD.

The next mace (ill. 8. Cat. №8) from here presented collection belongs, according the typology of Popov, to type XVII-Polygonal vertical flanges with a short sleeve; sub-type XVIIA-With polygonal vertical flanges and a sleeve, short; variant XVIIA1-With triangular flanges.²³ The maces of the type are featured for a cylindrical silhouette in general. They have a short cylindrical sleeve of a round section of the opening. The fighting sector of weapon comes above it

²⁰ А. Н. КИРПИЧНИКОВ, *Древнерусское оружие. Vol. 2*, 54.

²¹ J. АНАНИЕВ, М. ИВАНОВСКИ. *Средновековно оружје од комплексот Водочка црква кај Струмица, Macedonia Acta Archaeologica*, 14 (1993 – 1995), 225 – 227; МАНЕВА, Е. Кој бил носител на боздоганот шестопер од Водоча?, *Годишен Зборник на Филозофскиот факултет*, Vol. LXI (2008), Скопје, 349 – 360.

²² Г. ЧАВРЬКОВ, *Българските манастири*, София 1978, 186 – 191.

²³ S. ПОПОВ, *Maces from the present Bulgarian lands*, 68 – 73.

composed mostly of 6 – 8 vertical flanges of a polygonal (3 to 5 angles) shape. The representatives of the sub-type to which here presented weapon belongs are characteristic of their short cylindrical body, short sleeve, and polygonal vertical flanges. The sleeve takes almost half of the entire height of the fighting head. The variant's characteristics are the 6 vertical flanges of a triangular (or close to triangular) shape. The cap closing the opening in the upper sector above the flanges lies at the same level with their upper side.

Another mace from the depot of NIAM-Sofia (ill. 9. Cat. №9) is from the same type XVII, but from sub-type XVIIIB-With polygonal vertical flanges and a short sleeve, high; variant XVIIIB1-With rounded flanges.

The maces of the sub-type have a higher body compared to sub-type 1 and a cylindrical shape. The sleeve is short taking up to 1/3 of the height of the fighting head. The variant is characteristic of a cylindrical shape in general. The mace is composed of a cylindrical sleeve, a striking sector with 6 vertical flanges, and a flat cap closing the upper opening of the cylindrical sleeve at the upper sector of the flanges. The flanges are of a rounded half-drop silhouette.

Two maces of type XVII in general come from Shumen Fortress.²⁴ A mace of sub-type XVIIIA1 has been discovered in Popska Mahala (Quarter) of Batoshevo village, Gabrovo region. The publication on it does not point to any date of the weapon.²⁵ V. Parushev relates this type of maces to the period of mid 14th – 15th c. AD.²⁶ They gradually replaced the star-shaped weapons of types XIII and XIV. There are some mu-

ral depictions of maces resembling this type and dating from the very close of the 13th – the first decades of the 14th c. AD, known from various places on the Balkans.²⁷ On the grounds of these representations we can presume that type XVII appeared at that time reaching its widest spreading after the mid 14th and the following century.

Type XVIII-Cylindrical shaft with 6 vertical flanges or a spherical striking sector (after the typology of Popov)²⁸ is represented in the NIAM-Sofia's collection by two exemplars (ill. 10 – 11. Cat. №10 – 11). They belong to sub-type XVIIIIB-Cylindrical shaft, a striking sector with 6 flat trapezium-like or triangular vertical flanges, and a cylindrical and cupola-like part above the striking one. There is a semi-spherical bud over the top of the cupola.

I do subscribe to V. Parushev's opinion that the maces with features corresponding to type XVIII are in use in the end of 14th – 15th c. AD.²⁹

Next 4 weapons are of type XX-Maces with a long shaft terminating in a compact fighting head (after Popov).³⁰ Three of them (ill. 12 – 14. Cat. №12 – 14) are representatives of sub-type XXA-Bulb-shaped, compact fighting head. In most of the cases it is polygonal from outside (6 – 10 sides). The surface of the walls is smooth. Often they have a decoration of inlaid copper, brass or golden fillings running along the middle of their entire height, forming various geometrical figures: rhombs, herringbone pattern etc. The mace has openings from above and below. The sector around the opening is flatter at the more flattened side. The inner side of the walls is more or less concave. We have to note that still another characteristic feature of these weapons is the metal shaft separated from the fighting head.

²⁴ В. АНТОНОВА, *Шумен и Шуменската крепост*, Шумен 1995, fig. 107: 17 – 18.

²⁵ К. КОЙЧЕВА, Материали за археологическата карта на Габровски окръг. Старините в землището на село Батосево. *Годишник на музеите в Северна България*, XII (1986), 76; fig. 116.

²⁶ В. ПАРУШЕВ, Няколко паметника на средновековното въоръжение от Североизточна България, *Добруджа*, 17 – 18 (2000), 91.

²⁷ R. D'AMATO, Σιδηροράβδιον, βαρδούκιον, ματζούκιον, κορύνη: the war-mace..., figs. 5, 6, 7, 8: 2 – 3, 9.

²⁸ S. ПОПОВ, *Maces from the present Bulgarian lands*, 73 – 76.

²⁹ В. ПАРУШЕВ, Боздугани от музея, 70.

³⁰ S. ПОПОВ, *Maces from the present Bulgarian lands*, 78 – 82.

Some of the maces have lost it, with some others it has survived.

One is the representative of sub-type XXC-Sphero-conical, compact fighting head (ill. 15. Cat. №15). The sub-type's characteristic is the sphero-conical shape of the fighting sector easily passing into the cylindrical shaft. There is a low cylindrical bud or a cap at the top of the sphero-cone.

The maces of type XX are dating from the very late 14th – 15th c. AD. Many weapons of sub-type XXA are known from the depots of the museums in Bulgaria. For examples I can point to the artifacts of Veliko Tarnovo Museum.³¹ In his work D. Rabovyanov relates the maces of sub-types XXA and XXC to the broad chronological period of the 15th – 17th c. AD. In my view, the weapons of sub-type XXA might be associated with both narrower and earlier date, the early 15th c. AD. I ground my hypothesis on the observation that all the maces of this sub-type known so far have their fighting head fixed to the wooden base of the shaft separately from the iron facing. This circumstance comes to be the reason for the absence of this iron facing on most of the weapons we know today. Having in mind the fact that most of the known maces have only their fighting heads preserved, and their metal shafts are missing, I think we have to acknowledge that the probable reason comes to be their usage in combats as then the risk of damage is much greater compared to their service mainly as authority insignia.

Alongside the described technological characteristics, to precise the chronology of the maces of sub-type XXC we can point also to a scene in the altar of the church of St. Lambrecht Monastery in Graz, dating from the mid 15th c. (ill. 16).

It represents a fight between Hungarians and Bulgarians; one of the Bulgarian warriors holds in his hand a weapon its characteristic

³¹ Д. РАБОВЯНОВ, Средновековни боздугани от фонда на Регионален исторически музей – Велико Търново, *Известия на Регионалния исторически музей-Велико Търново*, XXIV – XXV (2009 – 2010), 189 – 190, 193.

shape resembling this sub-type.³² In my view we have to accept this date as a lower chronological border of production of these weapons.

As a whole I consider reasonable dating the maces of type XX from ca. 15th – first half of the 16th c. AD.

Next group of maces from the collection of NIAM-Sofia is most numerous. It includes 15 exemplars which belong, after the typology of Popov, to type XXI-With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges. The weapons of the type are latest in date, and we can find them in the depots of almost all museums of historical and archaeological profile in Bulgaria.³³ As a rule they have been produced entirely of iron. The maces have a long cylindrical shaft made of a whole flat iron sheet bent and soldered. The fighting head is of a rounded shape – spherical, bi-conical, pear-like or bulb-like. It is composed of vertical flanges soldered to the cylindrical shaft. It seems interesting to note that the bases of the flanges on some of the weapons display copper oxidation. According to some scholars they come as a product of welding with copper employed to fix the flanges to the cylindrical shaft.³⁴ Above the flanges, the upper opening for the shaft is closed with a cap mostly of a low conical shape and

³² W. MEYER, E. LESSING. *Deutsche Ritter-Deutsche Burgen*, München, 1976, 52 – 53.

³³ М. АСПАРУХОВ, Средновековно въоръжение от сбирката, 57; Д. Момчилов, Средновековни оръжия във фонда на Градския исторически музей – Карнобат. *Археология*, 3 – 4, 1994, 56 – 57, cat. N 38 – 39; Д. РАБОВЯНОВ, Късносредновековно въоръжение от фонда на Регионален исторически музей – Габрово. – В: „България, земя на блажени...“. *In memoriam professoris Iordani Andreevi*, Велико Търново 2009, 569 – 571; Д. РАБОВЯНОВ, Средновековни боздугани от фонда, 190 – 192; I. BAKRADZE, Fighting Maces with Saber-Openwork Decoration, *Bulletin of the Georgian National Museum. Series of Social Sciences V (50-B)* (2014), 239 – 258 (in Georgian, with a resume in English). S. POPOV, *Maces from the present Bulgarian lands*, 82 – 85.

³⁴ М. АСПАРУХОВ, Средновековно въоръжение от сбирката, 57.

terminating in a spherical or bi-conical bud. The maces are often decorated with straight lines in various combinations. The decoration covers the head, the cap, and the shaft. It has been laid by means of hammering in copper or brass wire into grooves incised beforehand into the surface of the weapon.

14 of the here presented maces belong to sub-type XXIA-A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above (ill. 17 – 30. Cat. №16 – 29). 1 is of sub-type XXIB-Large, with a pear-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged sparsely, and a cap with a bud on the top (ill. 31. Cat. №30).

The greatest number of preserved maces of the type now discussed coming from the today's Bulgarian territories belongs to sub-type XXIA. There are a couple of published pieces from Macedonia related to the broad chronological frames of the 14th – 19th c. AD³⁵. D. Momchilov releases two maces of sub-type XXIA housed in the Museum in Karnobat and relates them to the period of the 11th – 13th c. AD³⁶ over-trusting to the dates in the rather obsolete today study of L. Bobcheva.³⁷ Initially D. Rabovyanov had dated the weapons of this sub-type he explored from the 15th – 17th c. AD³⁸ but later he corrected himself believing that the date of the 16th – 17th c. AD is more authentic.³⁹ I tend to accept the date of the very close of the 15th – 17th c. AD. The reason to take an earlier lower chronological frame lies upon the fact that in the Central and

Western Europe similar maces were already spread in the 15th c. AD.⁴⁰

I know two representatives of sub-type XXIB. A mace in very good condition is housed in the National Museum of Archaeology in Sofia. Another one, (the largest part of its shaft is broken) from the Museum in Bjelovar, Croatia, dating from the 16th c. AD after Hungarian parallels.⁴¹ I subscribe to this date and think that the weapons of the same measures and head shape are characteristic of the 16th c. AD. Here presented maces are an illustrative example for the wide chronological spreading of that weapon, but also are a depiction of the large diversity of its physical shapes.

³⁵ С. ПИПЕРКОВСКИ, Топузи и буздовани от збирките на Музејот на Македонија и Музејот на град Скопје, *Гласник Институт за национална историја*, XXVIII, 1 – 2 (1984), 198 – 202.

³⁶ Д. МОМЧИЛОВ, Средновековни оружја във фонда, 55.

³⁷ Л. БОБЧЕВА, Вџорџението на българската войска от втората половина на IX в. до падането на България под турско робство, *ВИСб*, 2, 1958, 66.

³⁸ Д. РАБОВЯНОВ, Късносредновековно вџорџение от фонда, 569 – 571.

³⁹ Д. РАБОВЯНОВ, Средновековни боздугани от фонда, 190 – 192.

⁴⁰ E. OAKESHOTT, *European Weapons and Armour*. Woodbridge, 2000, 65 – 67.

⁴¹ G. JAKOVLJEVIČ, Srednjovjekovna konjanička oprema I naoružanje s područja Bilogore, *Opuscula archaeologica*, 32 (2008), 104, cat. N 1; 113, pl. 1; 120.

1. Inv. N 1136. Iron. Extended barrel-like shape of the body. 5 flanges running spirally along the perpendicular between both openings. The mace has a round opening from above and below. A sleeve at each of the openings. The edges of one of them have been bent inwards. The inner side of the opening is slightly concave. Traces of blows on the flanges.

H. 6,8 cm; d 6,2 cm; spiral flanges H. x base 1,7 – 2,3 x 0,8 – 1,7 cm; d openings 3 x 1,7 – 2,4 cm bent sleeve; H. sleeves 0,8 x 1 cm.

Weight: 235 gr.

Type: *XI. Spiral-shaped*. Sub-type: *XIB. Spherical*.

Variant: *XIB1. Spherical with sleeves and sharp flanges*.

Date: 12th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM – Sofia. Provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

2. Inv. N 490, roll 811, serial number 1516. Iron. The body is covered with three rows one above the other each containing pyramidal knobs. The middle row is composed of four-wall pyramids their size bigger than the measures of the pyramids of both side rows. Both side rows contain three-side pyramids. The mace has a round opening from above and below. A sleeve shaped as a truncated cone comes above the three-wall knobs. The other opening has not any sleeve.

H. 2,7 cm; d 8,4 cm; pyramids in the middle row square base 1,8 x 1,8 cm, H. 2 – 2,2 cm; pyramids in side rows base as an isosceles triangle thigh 1,4 cm and base 1,5 – 1,7 cm; H. knobs 0,8 – 1,2 cm; d openings 2,5 cm.

Weight: 340 gr.

Type: *XIII. Star-shaped maces with 12 knobs*. Sub-type: *XIIIB. Iron*.

Date: 13th – 14th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance Vidin.

3. Inv. N 1072, roll 1004, serial N 57. Iron. The body is covered with three rows one above the other each containing 4 pyramidal knobs. The middle row is composed of four-wall pyramids their size bigger than the measures of the pyramids of both side rows. Both side rows contain three-side pyramids. The mace has a round opening from above and below. A sleeve shaped as a truncated cone comes above the three-wall knobs. The inner side of the walls is concave.

Total H. 5,4 cm; total W. 6,9 cm; base of the 4-wall pyramid 3 cm, H. 2,2 cm; three-wall pyramid its base an isosceles triangle with thighs 2 cm and base 2,5 cm. H. of pyramid 1,2 cm. H. sleeve 0,8 cm. D. opening for shaft 3,1 cm.

Weight: 385 gr.

Type: *XIII. Star-shaped maces with 12 knobs*. Sub-type: *XIIIB. Iron*.

Date: 13th – 14th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

4. Inv. N 1072, roll 102, serial N 371. Iron. The body is covered with three rows one above the other each containing 4 pyramidal knobs. The middle row is composed of four-wall pyramids their size bigger than the measures of the pyramids of both side rows. Both side rows contain three-side pyramids. The mace has a round opening from above and below. A sleeve shaped as a truncated cone comes above the three-wall knobs.

Total H. 6,5 cm; total W. 7,8 cm; pyramids in the middle row base 2,5 – 2,8 cm, H. 1,8 – 2 cm; pyramids in side rows base 1,5 – 2,8 cm, H. 1,6 – 2 cm; d opening 2,6 – 2,7 cm; H. sleeves 0,8 and 1 cm.

Weight: 500 gr.

Type: *XIII. Star-shaped maces with 12 knobs*. Sub-type: *XIIIB. Iron*.

Date: late 13th – 14th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

5. Inv. N 3447. Iron. The body is covered with three rows one above the other each containing 4 pyramidal knobs. The middle row is composed of four-wall pyramids their size bigger than the measures of the pyramids of both side rows. Both side rows contain three-side pyramids. The mace has a round opening from above and below. A sleeve shaped as a truncated cone comes above the three-wall knobs. The inner side of the walls is concave.

H. 4,5 cm; d 7,2 cm; pyramids in the middle row H. x base 2,5 – 2,7 x 2 – 2,7 cm; pyramids in side rows H. x base 1,2 x 1,6 – 2,6 cm; d opening 2,9 – 3 and 3 – 3,2 cm; H. sleeves 0,5 – 0,6 cm.

Weight: 295 gr.

Type: *XIII. Star-shaped maces with 12 knobs*. Sub-type: *XIIIB. Iron*.

Date: 13th – 14th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

6. Inv. N 1497, roll 811, serial N 1511. Iron. Extended barrel-shaped. The body is covered with 18 pyramidal knobs arranged in three rows of 6 pieces each. The knobs are shaped as four-wall pyramids. The ones of the central row are more solid than the figures of both side rows. The points of the knobs of both side rows are extended and sharp. The field with knobs has been shaped obliquely to the axis of the shaft. A sleeve shaped as a truncated cone appears at both sides terminating in an oval opening for the shaft.

H. 7,7 cm; d 8,7 cm; pyramids in the middle row H. x base 1,2 – 1,9 x 1 – 1,6 cm; pyramids in side rows H. x base 0,9 – 1,7 x 0,6 – 2,3 cm; d openings 3 – 3,4 cm; H. sleeves 0,5 – 1,5 cm.

Weight: 305 gr.

Type: *XIV. Star-shaped with more than 12 knobs.*

Sub-type: *XIVA. Iron with a high barrel-like shape.*

Date: 13th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

7. Inv. N 796, roll 811, serial N 794. Iron. Barrel-shaped with 7 vertical flanges. Vertical bulbs have been formed in the spaces between them, parallel to the flanges and with an edge running through their middle sector. The flanges are of rounded points and of width 0,6 – 0,9 cm equal at the base and point. Their height is up to 1,5 cm. Cylindrical sleeves come from above and below the head terminating in a round opening. A part from one of the sleeves is broken.

H. 6,4 cm; d 8,2 cm; d opening for the shaft 2,4 cm.

Weight: 485 gr.

Type: *XVI. Barrel-shaped with vertical flanges.*

Sub-type: *XVID. The corpus is covered with vertical flanges of a trapezium-shaped or rectangular section, with a distance between them and conic sleeves above the flanges.*

Date: mid 14th – 15th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance: Village of Zguri Grad. A donation by S. Georgiev. The mace entered the Museum depot on 31. 12. 1908 on the grounds of protocol XXXV-861-63.

8. Inv. N 4384, roll 102, serial N 379. Iron. Cylindrical shape composed of a cylindrical sleeve, a blowing sector with 6 rounded vertical flanges one of their sides extended, and a flat cap closing the upper opening of the cylindrical sleeve above the flanges. A round opening from below. The sleeve has been broken at one of its sides. There is a hole for a nail 0,3 cm in diameter above the broken part.

H. 5,6 cm; d 5,5 cm; L. cylindrical sleeve 2,5 cm; d sleeve at the opening 2,6 cm; H. flanges 1,2 cm; W. flanges above 0,4 cm; L. flanges 2,6 – 3 cm; d x W. flat cap 2,5 x 0,2 cm; d opening 2,1 cm.

Weight: 160 gr.

Type: *XVII. Polygonal vertical flanges with a short sleeve.* Sub-type: *XVIIA. With polygonal vertical flanges and a short sleeve, short.* Variant: *XVIIA1. With triangular flanges.*

Date: mid 14th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

9. Inv. N 1073, roll 811, serial number 798. Iron.

Much corroded. A pear-like shape. 11 vertical flanges have been soldered around the cylinder forming the opening for the wooden shaft as they broaden in the upper sector of the head.

H. 7 cm; d max 7,1 cm; H max of the flanges ca. 2,2 cm; d opening for the shaft 2,2 cm. A part from the wooden shaft is preserved 9 cm long.

Weight: 485 gr; the soil between the flanges has not been removed.

Type: *XVII. Polygonal vertical flanges with a short sleeve.* Sub-type: *XVIIIB. With polygonal vertical flanges and a short sleeve, high.* Variant: *XVIIIB1. With rounded flanges.*

Date: 14th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. The provenance, the context of discovery and the date the mace entered the Museum depot are not known.

10. Inv. N 598, roll 1004, serial N 729. Iron. Cylindrical extended shape. Six flat flanges have been welded to the cylindrical shaft. They are of nearly a triangular shape – an isosceles triangle with a rounded apex. There is a cupola-shaped sector above the flanges terminating in a spherical bud. An ornament on the flanges made by means of wires of copper or silver mixed with much copper. Six flat fields between the flanges. Four of them are decorated with the same pattern of two inscribed rectangles alternating with figures shaped as the characters of B and 3, and two display patterns of two inscribed rectangles with ornaments shaped as the character of D. The walls of the flanges display spirals around vertical lines. This pattern is encircled by a frame of two inscribed triangles. There is a horizontal band above the flanges made of wire ca. 0,2 cm wide, and an ornament above it preserved partially.

Total H. 15,7 cm; flanges H. 1,6 – 1,7 cm, W. at the base 0,6 – 0,7 cm, at the point 0,4 – 0,5 cm; cupola total H. 5 cm; d spherical bud 1,1 cm; sleeve below flanges H. 4 cm, inner d 2,6 cm; four of the fields W. 1,1 cm, two of them H. 0,7 – 0,8 cm.

Weight: 440 gr.

Type: *XVIII. Cylindrical shaft with 6 vertical flanges or a spherical striking sector.* Sub-type: *XVIIIIB. Cylindrical shaft, a striking sector with 6 flat trapezium-like or triangular vertical flanges, and a cylindrical and cupola-like part above the striking one, a semi-spherical bud over the top of the cupola.*

Date: 14th – first half of 15th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance – Eler (Elen?) village, Haskovo region; discovered by D. Rusev. Donated to the Museum by the Haskovo regional police prefecture. Ent. numb. 195/1902. Recieved in 1902.

11. Inv. N 4488, roll 102, serial N 86. Iron. Cylindrical extended shape. Six flat vertical flanges have been welded to the cylindrical shaft, one of them now missing. They are of a pentagonal shape. There is a cupola-shaped sector above the flanges; the spherical bud has been broken. The flanges display an ornament composed of wires of copper or silver mixed with much copper. There are remains of inlay of copper or silver wire on the flat walls of the flanges and on the fields between them. The ornaments are not to be clearly read for the strong corrosion. Some missing parts from the wall at the base of the sleeve.

Total H. 14,8 cm; total W. 6,4 cm; cylindrical sleeve d inside 2,3 cm, outside 3 cm; the flanges begin 4 cm away from the base; they are up to 2 cm high; L. flanges 6,5 cm; W. at the base 0,7 cm; W. at the point 0,4 cm; fields between the flanges W. 1 cm.

Weight: 565 gr.

Type: XVIII. *Cylindrical shaft with 6 vertical flanges or a spherical striking sector.* Sub-type: XVIII.B. *Cylindrical shaft, a striking sector with 6 flat trapezium-like or triangular vertical flanges, and a cylindrical and cupola-like part above the striking one, a semi-spherical bud over the top of the cupola.*

Date: 14th – first half of 15th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. The provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot are not known.

12. Inv. N 752, roll 811, serial N 1039. Iron. Bulb-shaped head, 8-wall, with 8 edges. A copper wire has been inlaid along the length of the fighting head, on the flat walls, at the base of the edges. The walls of the edges are decorated with oblique incised lines, rather poorly preserved and still visible, as they come close to one another at the edge point to form V.

Total H. 4.8 cm; total W. 6 cm; d opening for the shaft 2,2 cm.

Weight: 560 gr including the shaft of a contemporary wood.

Type: XX. *Maces with a long shaft terminating in a compact fighting head.* Sub-type: XXA. *Bulb-shaped, compact fighting head.*

Date: 15th – 16th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance Preslav. Purchased from Altabanov, entered the Museum depot on November 13th 1907, XXXII-793-41.

13. Inv. N 830, roll 102, serial N 7957. Iron. Bulb-shaped head, 8-wall, with 8 edges. Poorly visible vertical incised lines delimiting the edges.

Total H. 4.8 cm; total W. 5,6 cm; d opening for the shaft in the narrow sector of the head 1,8 cm; d opening for the shaft in the broad sector of the head 1,3 cm.

Weight: 445 gr.

Type: XX. *Maces with a long shaft terminating in a compact fighting head.* Sub-type: XXA. *Bulb-shaped, compact fighting head.*

Date: 15th – 16th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance unknown. Donated from Stavri Georgiev, entered the Museum depot on August 15th 1909, XXXVI-886-58.

14. Inv. N 940, roll 811, serial N 1510. Iron. Bulb-shaped head, 8-wall, with 8 edges. The mace displays decoration of vertical and oblique incised lines. A horizontal incised line runs along the upper sector. A cylinder 2,5 cm in diameter made of a copper sheet 0,1 cm wide has been inserted in the opening for the shaft 2,5 cm in diameter in the upper sector of the head. Lead has been poured out in the opening. The cylinder is 1,5 cm high. Still another cylinder comes out from the lower narrower sector of the mace. It has been made of brass?, decorated with many pits. A ring about 0,2 cm wide has been formed by means of incised horizontal lines next to the iron sector of the mace head. The ring is decorated with oblique notches. The opening of the brass cylinder 1,8 cm in diameter holds wood probably contemporary.

Total H. 9 cm; total W. 7,6 cm.

Weight: 945 gr.

Type: XX. *Maces with a long shaft terminating in a compact fighting head.* Sub-type: XXA. *Bulb-shaped, compact fighting head.*

Date: 15th – 16th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance Staro Selo village, Vratsa region. Purchased from Stavri Georgiev, entered the Museum depot on October 14th 1910, XXX-VIII-29-18.

15. Inv. N 1068, roll 811, serial N 793. Iron. The shaft and the fighting head make a whole. Broadening gradually, the sleeve transforms into a bi-conical head with a horizontal edge in the middle sector. Above, it terminates in a cylindrical small bud in the centre, with a groove in the middle. The shaft has been made of a flat hammered sheet of metal, bent and welded. The upper part of the shaft becomes narrower to transform gradually into the blowing sector. There is a hole for a nail 0,4 cm in diameter 0,6 cm away from the base of the shaft. Now the iron sleeve holds a wooden part with a nail hammered in.

Total H. 17,5 cm; d blowing sector 5,2 cm; H. cylindrical bud 0,3 cm; d cylindrical bud 0,8 – 0,9 cm; sleeve – shaft d inside 1,8 cm, outside 2,2 cm; above the shaft becomes narrower to d 1,8 cm.

Weight: 610 gr.

Type: XX. *Maces with a long shaft terminating in a compact fighting head.* Sub-type: XXC. *Sphero-conical, compact fighting head.*

Date: 15th – 16th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. The provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot are not known.

16. Inv. N 29, roll 811, serial N 1039. Iron. Cylindrical shaft made of a bent and welded iron sheet. There are 4 pairs of horizontal incised lines on the shaft. The first one is 4,4 cm away from the shaft base; the second one – 7,6 cm; the third one – 12 cm; and the fourth one – 15,5 cm away from the shaft base. The head is of a pear-like shape. There are 14 vertical flanges. Their upper sector forms a cylinder. Down at the shaft they begin above a cylinder, a part from the base they have been welded on. The cap appears above the upper cylinder. Its lower part is a disc. A bud has been formed above it. It looks like a truncated cone transforming into a segment of a sphere at the top.

Total H. 26,5 cm. Shaft L. till the ring below the flanges 17,3 cm. D opening next to the ring below the flanges outside 2,7 cm, inside 2 cm. 0,5 cm from the shaft base there is a hole 0,3 cm in diameter. D head 7,3 cm. Flanges W. at the base 0,4 – 0,6 cm; W. edge 0,7-1 cm. Cylinder in their upper sector H. 0,5 cm. Disc at the lower part of the cap 2,9 cm in diameter. Truncated cone turned upside down of the bud d down 1 cm; transformed into a segment of a sphere at the cone base 1,9 cm in diameter.

Weight: 990 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA. *A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.*

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Found in Adzhaltso (?) village, Ihtiman region. Handed down in the family of Dimitar Tonev native in the village. He donated the mace to the Museum on July 30th 1896.

17. Inv. 454, roll 811, serial N 789. Iron. The shaft has been hammered of a bent flat sheet of iron. The head is bi-conical. A ring has been formed in the lower sector of the vertical flanges displaying some remains of copper facing. The flanges are 17 in number. Some of them are flattened in the middle sector probably as a result of blows. The cap in the upper part of the head has a conical base. The bud formed in its upper part is rounded.

Total H. 23,7 cm. L. shaft 18 cm. D of the shaft base outside 2,4 cm; inside 2 cm. D below the ring in the lower sector of the flanges 2,1 cm. About 1,5 cm from the base there is a hole d 0,4 cm. D head 5,6 cm. W. flanges 0,3 –

0,5 cm. H. cap 0,8 cm; conical base d 2,7 cm. H. bud in its upper part 0,2 cm; d 1 cm.

Weight: 585 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA. *A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.*

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Found in Brestovo village, Haskovo region. Donated to the Museum by Haskovo District Direction with Report 2269 dated March 31st 1899, incoming N 110.

18. Inv. 470, roll 811, serial N 790. Iron. The shaft has been hammered of a bent and welded sheet of iron. The head is pear-shaped. There are 16 vertical flanges; the 17th flange has been broken. The cap on the fighting head is missing. Remains of the wood have been preserved in both upper and lower openings.

Total H. 23,6 cm. D head 6,7 cm. Flanges W. at the base 0,4 – 0,6 cm; W. of the edge 0,7 – 0,9 cm. Their upper sector forms a cylinder H. 0,7 cm. L. shaft to the ring below the flanges 15,8 cm. D below the flanges 2,4 cm. D opening at the shaft base outside 2,5 cm; inside 2,1 cm. D opening at the head 1,5 cm. 0,7 cm from the shaft base there is a hole d 0,3 cm.

Weight: 890 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA. *A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.*

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Found in Brestovo village, Haskovo region. Purchased from Fidan Slavchev, native in the village, Report XII-302-7 dated May 16th 1899.

19. Inv. N 575, roll 811, serial N 792. Iron. The head is bi-conical separated into 17 vertical flanges. A ring has been formed in the lower sector of the flanges. The head terminates in a cap crowned with a 5-wall bud shaped as a turned upside down pyramid with a rounded base. The periphery of the cap has been decorated with concave dots, 6 pairs of parallel lines – rays of a rosette come out of its centre. The shaft has been hammered of a bent flat sheet of iron. There is a hole for a nail in the lower part of the shaft.

Total H. 21,2 cm. D head 6 cm. Flanges W. at the base 0,5 cm; at the highest point 0,9 cm. L. shaft 14 cm. A part of it is missing. D shaft base outside 2,7 cm; inside 2,3 cm. D below the ring at the lower sector of the flanges 1,6 cm. About 0,5 cm from the base there is a hole d 0,4 – 0,5 cm. D cap in the upper sector of the head 2 cm. D cap of the head 1,2 cm.

Weight: 545 gr.

Type: XXI. With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges. Sub-type: XXIA. A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance unknown. Donated by Sil. Georgiev together with antique coins. Entered the Museum depot on September 28th 1908, Report XVIII-459-9.

20. Inv. N 620, roll 811, serial N 786. Iron. The head is shaped as a flattened bulb with 18 vertical flanges. Their upper sector forms a cylinder, and the lower one – a ring. A cap has been welded in the upper part of the head composed of a disc, a cylindrical neck and a bud – turned upside down truncated cone. The cylindrical shaft has been hammered of a bent flat sheet of iron. There is a ring at the shaft base faced with a thin sheet of copper.

Total H. 19 cm. D head 8 cm. Vertical flanges on the head W. at the base 0,3 – 0,4 cm; W. of the edge 0,7 – 0,9 cm. Their upper sector forms a cylinder H. 0,5 cm. Cap at the head – disc in its lower part d 2 cm; cylindrical neck H. ca. 0,4 cm; d 0,9 cm. The bud is turned upside down truncated cone d below 1 cm; the base of the cone is transformed into a segment of a sphere d 1,9 cm. L. shaft to the ring below the flanges 10,6 cm. D below the flanges 2,2 cm. D opening at the shaft base outside 2,4 cm; inside 2 cm. Hole for a nail 0,9 cm from the shaft base d 0,2 cm. Still another hole 4 cm above the first one d ca. 0,4 cm. A third hole 7,6 cm above the shaft base d 0,3 cm. Ring at the shaft base W. 0,5 cm, H. 0,2 cm.

Weight: 845 gr.

Type: XXI. With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges. Sub-type: XXIA. A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance unknown. Donated by R. Isakov.

21. Inv. N 658, roll 811, serial N 1519. Iron. The head is shaped as a flattened sphere separated into 15 vertical flanges. A cap has been welded to its upper sector composed of a disc, a cylindrical neck and a disc-like top. The cylindrical shaft has been hammered of a bent flat sheet of iron. A hole for a nail above its lower edge.

Total H. 27 cm. D head 7,2 cm. Vertical flanges on the head W. of the edge 1 – 1,4 cm; H. 3 cm. Cap in the upper sector of the head total H. 1,7 cm; lower part – disc d 2,6 cm; cylindrical neck H. 0,4 cm; disc above the neck d 2,3 cm. L. to the ring below the flanges 21 cm. D below the flanges 2,4 cm. D opening at the shaft base outside 2,7 cm; inside 2,6 cm. Hole 0,7 cm above the shaft base d 0,3 cm.

Weight: 830 gr.

Type: XXI. With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges. Sub-type: XXIA. A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance unknown. Purchased from R. Isakov together with other artifacts. Entered the Museum depot with Report XXV – 612-18 dated June 14th 1904 AD.

22. Inv. 701, roll 811, serial N 791. Iron. The head is bi-conical with 18 vertical flanges. The flanges have been welded one to the other at the most bulging sector of the fighting head as the joint is about 1 cm wide forming an edge. A copper wire inlay runs horizontally across the centre of the edge. Three vertical lines of copper wire have been ingrained in each of the flanges, at the level of the lower part of the weld. They are perpendicular to the horizontal line on the edge. The vertical lines go upwards about 1 cm long. Three copper wires arranged horizontally 0,4 and 0,3 cm one from the other have been inlaid about 0,3 cm above the vertical lines on the flanges. Each of the flanges displays a decoration of two horizontal lines of copper wire inlay, arranged 0,4 – 0,5 cm one from the other. The flanges form rings from above and below. There is still another ring, flat and broader, below the lower one. This ring displays two horizontal lines of non-ferrous metal inlay (copper?), crossed by a vertical line. A cap composed of a lower part shaped as a disc, a neck and a bi-conical bud has been welded to the upper part of the head. There are two rectangles inscribed in each other made of copper wire inlay on the disc of the cap. The upper part of the bud displays two pairs of parallel lines of copper wire as the wire survived in one of them only. A cylindrical shaft made of bent and welded sheet of iron. It is decorated with a band of horizontal copper wire inlaid spirally. The wire is less than 0,1 cm wide. The coils are 19 in number. The band is 5,5 cm wide. Copper wire has been inlaid also in the vertical joint of the shaft as only some small fragments have survived. A hole for a nail above the edge of the shaft.

Total H. 31,5 cm. D head 7,3 cm. Cap H. 1,3 cm; d disc 1,4 cm; d neck 0,8 cm; d bi-conical bud 1 cm. L. cylindrical shaft to the ring below the flanges 24,5 cm. D below the flanges 2 cm. D opening at the shaft base outside 2,6 cm; inside 2,5 cm. A hole 1,7 cm from the shaft base, 0,3 cm in diameter. H. ring in the lower sector of the flanges 0,9 cm.

Weight: 715 gr.

Type: XXI. With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges. Sub-type: XXIA. A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Found in Vrachesh village, Orhanie (Botevgrad) region. Purchased from Y. Gergov from the same village. Entered NIAM with Report XXX – 736 – 24 dated November 13th 1906 AD.

23. Inv. N 784, roll 811, serial N 1036. Iron. The head is shaped as a flattened bulb with 16 vertical flanges forming a ring in its upper and lower sector. In the course of welding metal sheets ca. 0,5 cm high have been laid to cover the space between the flanges. Thus the flanges are joined at their bases. Some of them display traces of blows. A cap welded to the head upper sector composed of a disc and a bi-conical bud. A cylindrical shaft made of a bent and welded sheet of iron. A hole for a nail above the edge of the shaft.

Total H. 32,1 cm. D head 9,5 cm. Vertical flanges W. at the base 0,2 – 0,3 cm, W. edge 0,8 – 1 cm; H. 3 cm. Cap total H. 1,7 cm; d disc 2,5 cm; d bi-conical bud down 1,2 cm; d cone base 1,8 cm, d upper sector of the upper truncated cone 1,4 cm. L. shaft to the ring below the flanges 22,1 cm; d below the flanges 2,1 cm. D opening at the shaft base outside 2,3 cm; inside 1,7 cm. A hole 0,4 cm in diameter 1 cm above the shaft base.

Weight: 1385 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA. *A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.*

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Found in Samokov. Purchased from G. Alexiev. Entered the Museum depot with Report XXXIII – 827-43 dated July 10th 1908 AD.

24. Inv. N 788, roll 811, serial N 787. Iron. The head is of a bi-conical shape with 17 vertical flanges forming three rings in the lower sector and one above, below the cap. The cap has been welded to the upper sector of the head. Its lower part is conical, with a cylindrical neck above it, and a flat disc above the neck. A cylindrical shaft made of a bent and welded sheet of iron. A part from the shaft base about 3 cm long has been broken. Probably a hole ca. 0,2 cm in diameter 4 cm above the shaft base.

Total H. 31,5 cm. D head 8,3 cm. Vertical flanges W. at the base 0,5 – 0,6 cm; W. of the edge 0,7 – 0,9 cm; H. 2 cm. Cap H. 1,7 cm; d cone 2,7 cm; cylindrical neck H. 0,4 cm and d 1,3 cm; d flat disc 2 x 1,8 cm. Cylindrical shaft L. to the ring below the flanges 21,7 cm; d below the flanges 2,5 cm. D opening at the shaft base outside 2,5 cm; inside 2 cm.

Weight: 1205 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA.

A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance unknown. Purchased from G. Alexov. Entered the Museum depot with Report XXXIV – 835-34 dated September 27th 1908 AD.

25. Inv. N 1134, roll 811, serial N 797. Iron. The head is of a pear-like shape with 13 vertical flanges. Two of the flanges are missing, and their neighbouring ones are close to one another. A cap has been welded to the upper sector of the head. Its lower part is conical, with a bud above shaped as a turned upside down truncated cone. The shaft is missing, some remains of it are 1,5 cm long. Its terminations are bent outwards.

Preserved H. 13 cm. Vertical flanges W. at the base 0,2 – 0,3 cm; W. of the edge 0,5 – 0,8 cm; H. 3 cm. Two flanges are missing. D head 9 cm. Cap – cone down d 1 cm and H. 0,7 cm; cone above d base 1,4 cm and H. 1 cm. The cap is 1,7 cm high. Shaft d opening inside 2,7 cm.

Weight: 560 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA. *A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.*

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

26. Inv. N 1236, roll 811, serial N 788. Iron. The head is shaped as a flattened bulb with 18 vertical flanges. In its lower sector the flanges form a ring 0,9 cm high followed by still another ring 0,3 cm high. Two of the flanges are strongly bent as a result of blow. A cap welded to the upper sector of the head. Its lower part is a disc, above it a cylindrical neck bulging in the middle, and a bi-conical bud above the neck. A cylindrical shaft made of a bent and welded sheet of iron.

Total H. 23 cm. D head 8,7 cm. Vertical flanges W. 0,2 – 0,5 cm; H. 1,9 cm. Cap – lower part – disc d 2,4 cm; cylindrical neck H. 0,4 cm and d at the base 0,9 cm, d in the middle 1 cm, d above 0,7 cm; bi-conical bud H. 1 cm and d in the middle 1,4 cm. Shaft H. to the ring below the flanges 16 cm; d below the flanges 1,8 cm. D opening at the shaft base outside 2,2 cm, inside 1,8 cm. A hole for a nail d 0,2 cm 0,7 cm above the shaft base.

Weight: 465 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA. *A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.*

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Found in St. Theotokos Monastery in Eleshnitsa village, Sofia region. Purchased from V. Sprostranov from Sofia. Entered the Museum depot with Report XLI 7, 16 dated September 21st 1911 AD.

27. Inv. 1735, roll 811, serial N 1035. Iron. The head is of a flattened spherical shape with 15 vertical flanges, one of them is missing. One of the flanges neighbouring the missing one has been bent and drawn to next one. Oxidized copper wires are to be noticed between the flanges forming the ring in the lower sector of the head. In their upper and lower sector the flanges form rings broader and narrower ones respectively. A cap has been welded to the upper sector of the head. Its lower part is a disc, followed by a bi-conical bud. A cylindrical shaft made of a bent and welded sheet of iron. An opening for a nail, nor a nail itself appear in the shaft.

Total H. 30,5 cm. D head 7 cm. Vertical flanges W. at the base 0,4 – 0,5 cm, W. of the edge 0,4 – 0,7 cm; H. 2,5 cm. Cap – total H. 2 cm; disc d 2 cm; bi-conical bud d down 1,1 cm; d cones base 1,6 cm; d upper part of the upper truncated cone 0,7 cm. Shaft L. to the ring below the flanges 22,5 cm; d below the flanges 2,2 cm. D opening at the shaft base outside 2,7 cm; inside 2 cm.

Weight: 830 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA. *A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.*

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Found in Pernik. Purchased from Zah. Stefanov from Sofia. Entered the Museum depot on May 31st 1919 AD.

28. Inv. N 4487, roll 102, serial N 87. Iron. The head is of a pear-like shape with 16 vertical flanges, one of them is missing. Their upper sector forms a ring 0,5 cm high. The head is 9 cm in diameter. A cap has been welded to the upper sector of the head. Its lower part is a segment of a sphere, followed by a bud – turned upside down truncated cone and a segment of a sphere. The cylindrical shaft has been broken. Only the sector with the welded flanges has survived.

Total H. (preserved) 11,3 cm. Vertical flanges W. at the base 0,3 – 0,5 cm, W. of the edge 0,6 cm; H. 2,7 cm. Cap – lower part as a segment of a sphere d 2,4 cm; bud – turned upside down truncated cone and segment of a sphere d down 1 cm, above 1,7 cm. Shaft d opening below the flanges outside 2,5 cm; inside 2 cm.

Weight: 875 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA.

A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

29. Inv. N missing, roll 811, serial N 1591. Iron. The head is of a pear-like shape with 18 vertical flanges. Their upper sector forms rings, broader and lower ones respectively. A cap has been welded to the upper sector composed of a disc and a flat bud. A cylindrical shaft made of a bent and welded sheet of iron. The sleeve at the base is cracked and some parts are missing. A hole 0,4 cm in diameter 0,4 cm above the base.

Total H. 14 cm. D head 8 cm. Vertical flanges W. at the base 0,2 – 0,4 cm; W. of the edge 0,4 – 0,8 cm; H. 2,5 cm. Cap – d bud 1,5 cm and H. 0,5 cm; disc below it 1,9 cm. Shaft L. 5,9 cm; d below the flanges 2,4 cm; d opening inside 2,7 cm.

Weight: 560 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIA. *A bulb-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged densely and a cap with a bud from above.*

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

30. Inv. N 1066, roll 1004, serial N 730. Iron. The head is of a pear-like shape with 10 vertical flanges. They begin after a flat field at the shaft. A flattened sphere has been welded to the upper sector of the head. A cylindrical shaft made of a bent and welded sheet of iron.

Total H. 49,5 cm. Vertical flanges W. at the base 0,2 – 0,3 cm; H. 4,7 cm. D head 17 cm. D sphere of the cap 1 cm. L. shaft to the head 34,8 cm. D below the flanges 2,5 cm. D inner opening at the shaft base 2,5 cm. A hole 0,4 cm in diameter 1 cm above the shaft base. There is a crack 6,2 cm in the shaft beginning from the base.

Weight: 2450 gr.

Type: XXI. *With a long shaft terminating in a fighting head composed of vertical flanges.* Sub-type: XXIB. *Large, with a pear-shaped fighting head of vertical flanges arranged sparsely, and a cap with a bud on the top.*

Date: 16th – 17th c. AD.

Housed in NIAM Sofia. Provenance, context of discovery and date of entering the Museum depot unknown.

ABBREVIATIONS

ВИСб. – Военноисторически сборник



III. 1. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1136. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 2. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 490, roll 811, serial number 1516. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 3. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1072, roll 1004, serial N 57. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 5. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 3447. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 4. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1072, roll 102, serial N 371. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 6. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1497, roll 811, serial N 1511. Author's private foto-archive.



Ill. 8. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 4384, roll 102, serial N 379. Author's private foto-archive.



Ill. 7. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 796, roll 811, serial N 794. Author's private foto-archive.



Ill. 9. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1073, roll 811, serial number 798. Author's private foto-archive.

Ill. 10. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 598, roll 1004, serial N 729. Author's private foto-archive.



Ill. 11. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 4488, roll 102, serial N 86. Author's private foto-archive.



Ill. 12. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 752, roll 811, serial N 1039. Author's private foto-archive.



Ill. 13. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 830, roll 102, serial N 7957. Author's private foto-archive.



Ill. 14. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 940, roll 811, serial N 1510. Author's private foto-archive.



Ill. 15. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1068, roll 811, serial N 793. Author's private foto-archive.



Ill. 16. A scene in the altar of the church of St. Lambrecht Monastery in Graz, dating from the mid 15th c. After W. Meyer, E. Lessing (Meyer, W., E. Lessing 1976, pp. 52 – 53).



Ill. 17. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 29, roll 811, serial N 1039. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 18. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 454, roll 811, serial N 789. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 19. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 470, roll 811, serial N 790. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 20. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 575, roll 811, serial N 792. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 21. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 620, roll 811, serial N 786. Author's private foto-archive.





III. 22. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 658, roll 811, serial N 1519. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 23. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 701, roll 811, serial N 791. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 24. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 784, roll 811, serial N 1036. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 25. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 788, roll 811, serial N 787. Author's private foto-archive.





III. 26. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1134, roll 811, serial N 797. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 28. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1735, roll 811, serial N 1035. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 27. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1236, roll 811, serial N 788. Author's private foto-archive.





III. 29. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 4487, roll 102, serial N 87. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 30. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N missing, roll 811, serial N 1591. Author's private foto-archive.



III. 31. A mace from the depot of NIAM – Sofia, Inv. N 1066, roll 1004, serial N 730. Author's private foto-archive.

БОЗДУГАНИ ОТ НАЦИОНАЛНИЯ АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИ ИНСТИТУТ С МУЗЕЙ В СОФИЯ, БЪЛГАРИЯ

Стоян Попов

Резюме: Настоящата работа представя 30 средновековни боздугана, съхранявани в НАИМ-София. Оръжията са класифицирани според типологията на С. Попов. Те се отнасят към 8 типа с 11 подтипа и 3 варианта на подтиповете.

Първият екземпляр принадлежи на тип XI – Спираловидни, подтип XIB – Сферични, вариант XIB1 – Сферични с ръкави и остри ребра (по Попов). Типът се датира в края на XI – XII в.

Следващите 4 боздугана принадлежат към тип XIII – Звездовидни с 12 шипа, подтип XIIIВ – Железни (по Попов). Боздуганите от тип XIII са широко разпространени през XIII – XIV в. Постепенно са заменени от оръжията с вертикални ребра и железен ръкав-дръжка, като остават в употреба докъм средата на XIV в.

Следващото оръжие е представител на тип XIV – Звездовидни с повече от 12 шипа, подтип XIVА – Железни, с издължена бъчвовидна форма (по Попов). Оръжията от този тип имат най-широко разпространение в периода от XIII в. до началото и първата половина на XIV в., визирайки територията на днешна България.

Тип XVI – Бъчвовидни с вертикални ребра, подтип XVIД – Тялото е покрито с вертикални ребра с трапецовидно или правоъгълно сечение с разстояние между тях и конични ръкави над ребрата, представен от един екземпляр. Тези оръжия се употребяват в периода от XII в. до края на XV – началото на XVI в. (по Попов).

Следващият боздуган принадлежи на тип XVII – Многоъгълни вертикални ребра с втулка, подтип XVIIА – С многоъгълни вертикални ребра с къса втулка, вариант XVIIА1 – С триъгълни ребра (по Попов). Друг от разглежданите тук боздугани е от същия тип, но от подтип XVIIВ – С многоъгълни вертикални ребра с къса втулка, високи, вариант XVIIВ1 – Със заоблени ребра. Боздуганите от тип XVII се появяват в самия край на XIII – първите десетилетия на XIV в., достигайки най-широко разпространение след средата на XIV и през следващото столетие.

Тип XVIII – Цилиндрична втулка с 6 вертикални ребра или сферична ударна част (по Попов) е представен от 2 екземпляра. Те принадлежат на подтип XVIIIВ – Цилиндрична втулка, ударна част с 6 плоски трапецовидни или триъгълни вертикални ребра и цилиндрична и куполовидна част над ударната. На върха на куполчето има полусферична пъпка. Те са употребявани от края на XIV – XV в.

Следващите 4 оръжия са от тип XX – Боздугани с дълга втулка, завършващи с плътна бойна глава (по Попов). Три от тях са представители на подтип XXА – Луковицовидна плътна бойна глава. Един е от подтип XXС – Сфероколична плътна бойна глава. Боздуганите от тип XX се датират от XV – първа половина на XVI в.

Следващата група боздугани включва 15 екземпляра, принадлежащи към тип XXI – С дълга втулка, завършваща с бойна глава от вертикални ребра. От тях принадлежат към подтип XXIА – Луковицовидна бойна глава от гъсто подредени вертикални ребра и капаче, увенчано с пъпка. Датировката на подтип XXIА е самият край на XV – XVII в., а за подтип XXIВ – XVI в.

Ключови думи: средновековно въоръжение, ударни оръжия, боздугани.