

Abstract: In this article, four medieval axes from the Park-museum “Vladislav Varnenchik”, a branch of the National Museum of Military History, are published. The first specimen can be classified as type 6 according to the classification of V. Yotov. It dates back to the 10th – 12th century. The second specimen belongs to type 4C according to the classification of A. Nadolski. It dates from the 11th – 14th century. The third find is of the axe-hammer type. Such weapons have been found in different geographical areas of Russia and date back to the 14th – 15th century. According to the available information, the find was found in the area of the Mihalich fortress. In the autumn of 1444, this fortress was captured by the crusaders of King Vladislav Varnenchik on their way to Varna and also was on their route during the retreat after the defeat of the Ottomans on November 10. In view of the location and dating of the find, without having a strong conviction for that, it can be related to the events of the autumn of 1444. The last artifact is from the group of heavy axes. It has a non-standard shape and has two blades, one longer and the other shorter. Such an axe is kept in the Archaeological Museum in Plovdiv and is defined as a metal agricultural tool from the 12th – 13th century. Another axe was found in the Krichim fortress and is kept in the National Museum of Military History. It has been identified as a double-edged axe from the 13th – 14th century. Such specimens were probably used both as agricultural tools and as combat weapons in the Middle Ages. The presented artifacts are interesting examples of medieval axes. They enrich the known quantity and supplement our knowledge of the finds found in the Bulgarian lands.

Keywords: Medieval axes, Park-museum “Vladislav Varnenchik”