

Abstract: The article is devoted to one of the lines of development of war hammers in the early Middle Ages. These are weapons in which two opposing beaks protrude from the sleeve. The present work introduces 5 more exemplars into scientific circulation. The new artifacts are stored in the Vatevi collection in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The information about their location is limited to the region of Northeastern Bulgaria. The weapons found in the Avar necropolises from Central Europe are the basis of the simplest type I and date back to the second half of 7th – early 9th century. Next are the representatives of type I, found on Bulgarian territory, but with more complicated structure (downward beaks and sleeves with vertical ears). They can be placed within the 9th– early 10th century. Next are the warhammers with intermediate characteristics of type I / II. Type II hammers have a larger curve of the beaks, several types of embossed ornaments and different shapes of the impact part of the beak. These additional characteristics are probably a further development of the Bulgarian type I. Based on a purely logical basis, the author assumes that type II war hammers can be attributed to the 10th century.

Keywords: blunt weapons, early mediaeval war hammers, double-beaked war hammers