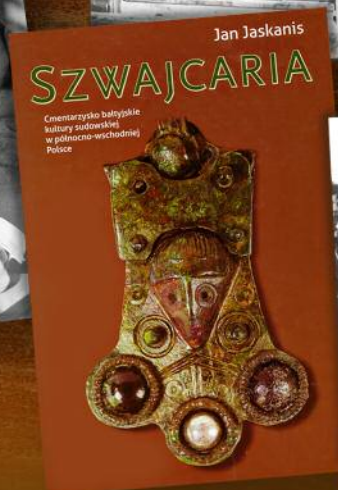
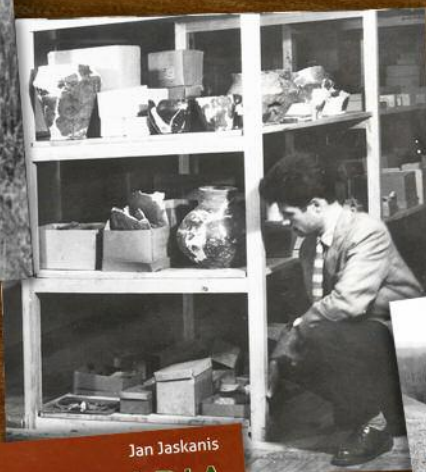
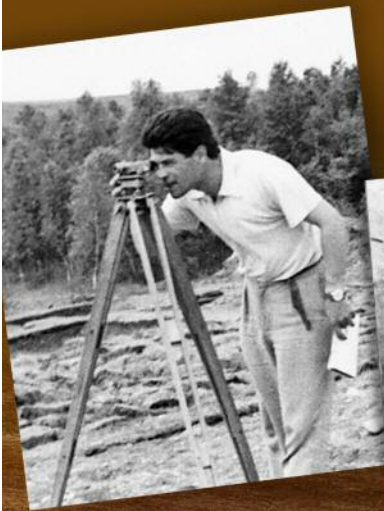


Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne

# Różne oblicza archeologii



## Pamięci Jana Jaskanisa

Warszawa 2021



Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne w Warszawie

Różne oblicza archeologii  
Pamięci Jana Jaskanisa

pod redakcją  
Anny Bitner-Wróblewskiej,  
Barbary Sałacińskiej,  
Sławomira Sałacińskiego

Warszawa 2021

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## A brooch from Gibaičiai cemetery – designed on the crossroad between Eastern Baltic areas

### Introduction

The works of Jan Jaskanis have always provided a fundamental basis for research into Balt archaeology of the Roman Period and for the interpretation of data in the background of cultural processes which took place in the European *Barbaricum*. It is impossible to mention every publication and its value in this short text, but it is necessary to stress that burial customs are impossible to discuss without acknowledging Jan Jaskanis' publications on human burial with horses and on the entire components of burial rites which are relevant and important not only for the studies of Balt archeology (J. Jaskanis 1966; 1974). The monograph on material from the Szwałczaria burial site in Suwałki presented for academic society not only the unique material of this cemetery in full but also many important insights (J. Jaskanis 2013). Barrow cemeteries of Wielbark Culture in Podlasie, the area where various cultural interactions took place, have provided material for studies of the elite of the Late Roman Period. The book of J. Jaskanis provides important analysis and inspirations for comparison with Balt material (J. Jaskanis 2012). Another study on a burial site of Wielbark Culture in Eastern Poland – Cecele – is a gift

for researchers looking at the possibilities to synchronize the cultural processes of Balt cultures and Wielbark Culture (J. Jaskanis 1996). Therefore this short text devoted to the memory of Jan Jaskanis also discusses artefacts which testify to mutual connections between cultures in the Baltic Region.

This article is devoted to one bronze brooch of unique shape found in Gibaičiai cemetery during excavations in 1932. Gibaičiai cemetery is located to the North-East of the city of Šiauliai and its administrative address today is: Meškuičiai seniūnija (former valsčius), Šiauliai rajonas. This cemetery was excavated in 1932 by the Šiauliai Local History Society (Šiaulių Kraštotyros Draugija). The team was under the guidance of Balys Tarvydas (1897–1980; see about personality and his activity: A. Tautavičius, V. Vaitekūnas 1982, p. 59–62; P. Kulikauskas, G. Zabiela 1999, p. 209–212). Soon after the excavations of 1932 were completed, a preliminary publication appeared. Linkaičiai cemetery (Joniškis rajonas) was also excavated in 1932 and therefore B. Tarvydas devoted his article to both burial sites (Gibaičiai and Linkaičiai; B. Tarvydas<sup>1</sup> 1933).

---

<sup>1</sup> This publication was signed with a version of surname Tarvidas.

Reading the text, it is clear that the first aim of this publication was to propagate the idea of archaeological excavation in a professional way and to present shortly features of burial customs and most interesting grave goods. Gibaičiai cemetery is located in the area which usually associated with culture of North Lithuanian and Žemaitijan barrows. Although Gibaičiai was omitted somehow from Eugenijus Jovaiša's list, Linkaičiai cemetery was included in the area of Barrows Culture as one also excavated by B. Tarvydas (E. Jovaiša 1997, p. 60). It seems that the tradition of barrows gradually was replaced by flat individual graves from the Late Roman Period. A similar process can be noticed in Žemaitijan burial sites and as examples of perhaps later cemeteries in the Upper Jūra region (Žviliai, Šarkai and other) or cemeteries around Kelmė (such as Maudžiorai, Paprūdžiai and others; see publications of those cemeteries: B. Tautavičienė 1984; V. Valatka 1984; L. Vaitkūnskienė 1999; M. Michelbertas 2017). Gibaičiai and Linkaičiai cemeteries are examples of such changes in burial traditions in the Šiauliai and Joniškis regions of Northern Lithuania. Most probably the construction of barrows began to disappear under cultural influences from West and Central Lithuanian areas where burials in flat cemeteries were most typical from the Early Roman Period (R. Banytė-Rowell 2007, p. 55–56). Vaitiekūnai and Upytė cemeteries in Central Northern Lithuania which contained material of the Late Roman Period also contained flat burials. Vaitiekūnai burial site (Radviliškis rajonas) presents barrows and flat burials in proximity to one another (A. Varnas 1984, p. 26–27). Upytė cemetery (Panevėžys rajonas) also provided flat burials from the Late Roman Period (see publication of material – P. Kulikauskas 1998). Burial customs in Upytė were similar to those in the cemeteries of Central Lithuania and this feature was stressed by M. Michelbertas (1986, p. 44).

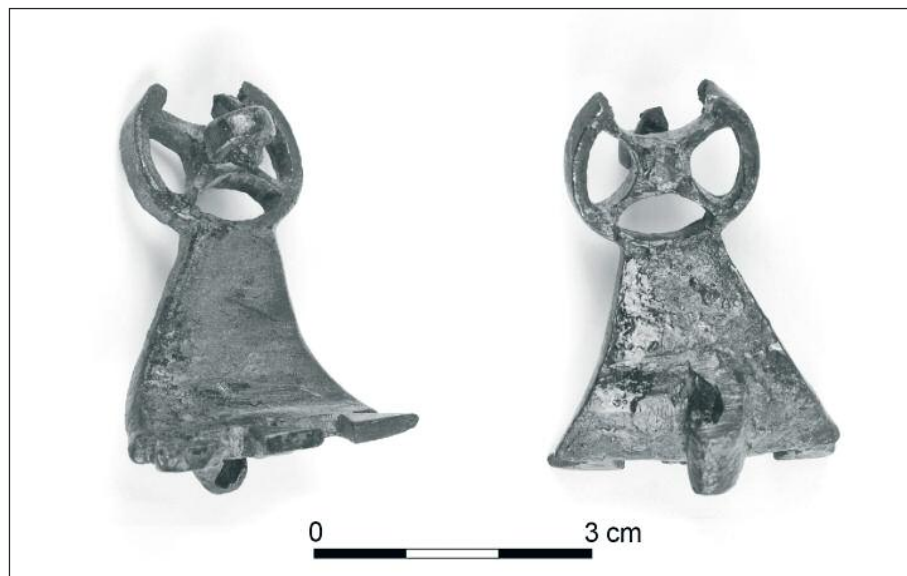
## Main results of excavations 1932 in Gibaičiai cemetery

B. Tarvydas in his publication of 1933 stressed not only professional methods of archaeological excavation but also the importance of field records – sketches of plans of trenches and graves, notes and field cataloguing of the finds, and taking site photographs *in situ* (B. Tarvydas 1933, p. 16–17). Finds from Gibaičiai were given to the Šiauliai “Aušra” Museum. The head of this museum, Česlovas Liutikas, also took part in the 1932 excavations. The “Aušra” Museum was owned by Šiauliai Kraštotyros Draugija from 1927 (P. Kulikauskas, G. Zabiela 1999, p. 238). Tarvydas at that time also was invited to take care of archaeological artefacts in the “Aušra” Museum (A. Tautavičius, V. Vaitiekūnas 1982, p. 59, 61; P. Kulikauskas, G. Zabiela 1999, p. 209). Unfortunately, after the Second World War B. Tarvydas worked at the Museum for only a very short time – he was forced to leave his position in the museum like he earlier left a grammar school because his Catholic worldview did not suit to Soviet Government. However during his retirement in 1968–1975 B. Tarvydas once again was accepted to work at Šiauliai “Aušra” Museum on idealistic grounds – two months on salary and ten months as a volunteer every year (A. Tautavičius, V. Vaitiekūnas 1982, p. 60). It is very sad that despite methodical excavations in Gibaičiai no field records survive today in the “Aušra” Museum. Maybe they were lost during the Second World War, when the city of Šiauliai was heavily destroyed.

B. Tarvydas' publication of 1933 summarises the results of excavations in 1932. There is no mention of grave numbers, also illustrations lack such references. Material from Gibaičiai cemetery lost its main data. Tarvydas' article still provides important information. The excavations of the eastern part of cemetery revealed graves dating to the Late Roman Period (3–4 cent. AD). Tarvydas stressed that the latter graves represent

Fig. 1. Brooch with a wheel-shaped motif from Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Bronze. ŠAM I-A 102/125. Photograph by M. Pocienė

Ryc. 1. Zapinka z motywem wielosprychowego koła z Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Brąz. ŠAM I-A 102/125. Fot. M. Pocienė



two stylistic groups. The first one belongs to 3 cent. and those grave-goods are similar to artefacts from Noruišiai cemetery (Kelmė rajonas), which were kept in Kaunas Town Museum (Kauno miesto muziejus, now kept in Vytauto Didžiojo karo muziejus in Kaunas). The second group is marked by brooches of so-called gothic style according to B. Tarvydas – big crossbow brooches with a bent foot and round brooch with tutulus (*Scheibenfibel* acc. to B. Tarvydas 1933, p. 9–11, figs 6–11, 14–15). A brooch with triangular foot and wheel-shaped head, which will be discussed in this article, was found undoubtedly in the eastern part of cemetery where graves of the Roman Iron Age were unearthed. Western and South Western parts of Gibaičiai cemetery were used during the Late Migration Period, 9–10 cent. and even during the 17–18 cent. (B. Tarvydas 1933, p. 11–13; P. Kulikauskas, G. Zabiela 1999, p. 211).

Despite the fact that we have very modest material of field records from Gibaičiai, some finds from this cemetery are of rare types and broadly known in archaeological literature. Bronze bindings and a point for a drinking horn with a chain belt are among them (B. Tarvydas 1933, p. 11, figs 10–11; M. Michelbertas 1968, p. 42; J. Andrzejowski 1991, p. 33, 59; A. Simniškytė 1998, p. 207, 209, 223, fig. 44:8).

Another important find from the Roman Period is a crossbow brooch with high catch plate and double spiral, decorated with ringlets (similar to Almgren<sup>2</sup> types 210–211 – *zweigliedriger Armbrustfibel mit hohem Nadelhalter*: B. Tarvydas 1933, figs 10, 14; M. Michelbertas 1986, p. 120–121). A rare find in a Lithuanian context are the scissors found in foot area of one female grave of Roman Period at Gibaičiai. There was a pin with wheel-shaped head (*ratelinis smeigtukas*, Beckmann type K) of Michelbertas group II among the grave-goods in the latter burial (B. Tarvydas 1933, p. 10, fig. 7; B. Beckmann 1969, p. 111, fig. 1:k; M. Michelbertas 1986, p. 129, 167–168; A. Juga-Szymańska 2014, p. 339). Already in the 1930s B. Tarvydas' article was used in important works of archaeology such as those of Harri Moora (1938; about the later pin see p. 187). To this day this article is relevant for drawing out all impossible data about Gibaičiai cemetery and finds from 1932. Unfortunately, it is not enough to help us understand the context of particular finds. A brooch with a wheel-shaped part and triangular foot found at Gibaičiai cemetery in 1932 also should be regarded as a valuable, uncommon and non-standard item (Fig. 1).

<sup>2</sup> See O. Almgren 1923.

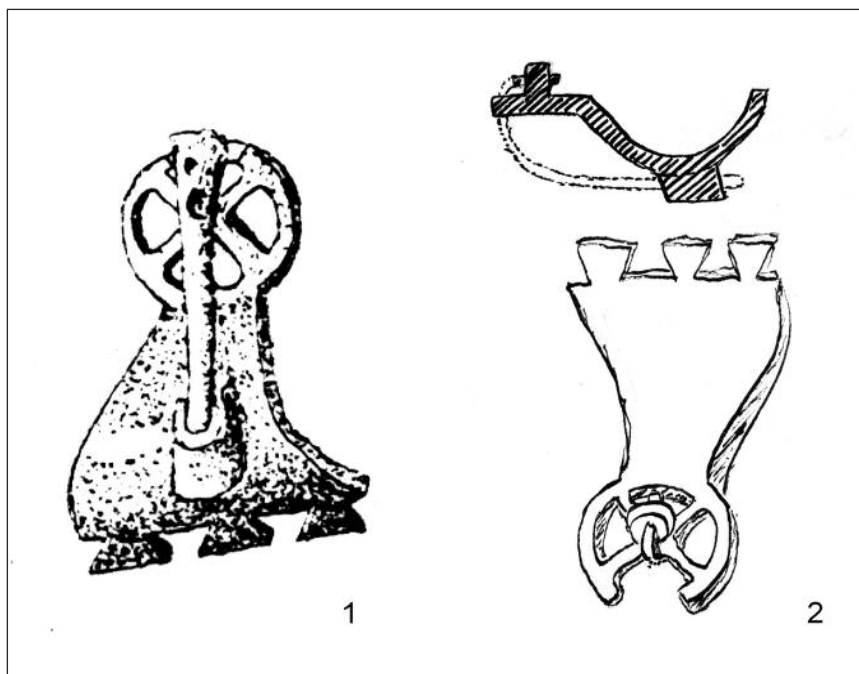


Fig. 2. The pre-war drawings of the Gibaičiai brooch with a wheel-shaped motif. 1 – a drawing published by B. Tarvydas (B. Tarvydas 1933, fig. 3); 2 – depiction of the brooch on the card-catalogue of SKPAV. Without scale

Ryc. 2. Przedwojenne rysunki zapinki z motywem wieloszprychowego koła z Gibaičiai. 1 – rysunek opublikowany przez B. Tarvydasa (B. Tarvydas 1933, ryc. 3); 2 – rysunek zapinki na karcie katalogowej SKPAV. Bez skali

Tarvydas did not mention it in his text but provided a drawing (Fig. 2:1; B. Tarvydas 1933, fig. 3 left).

Some important additional data may be extracted from another source kept in “Aušra” Museum. This is the card-catalogue of Gibaičiai finds compiled on a cardboard table compiled by the Senovės Kultūros Paminklų Apsaugos Valdyba [SKPAV] (an institution for heritage protection from before the Second World War). The descriptions given there are very short and drawings of finds very schematically made. Nevertheless, these cards provide valuable additions to the information provided by Tarvydas in his article of 1933. Some data may provide a possible context of other finds for the brooch discussed here.

### Brooch with a wheel-shaped head and triangular foot and possible context of other finds

The cards devoted to the brooch in discussion (ŠAM inv. Nr. GEK 331/I-A 102:125), like other cards of Gibaičiai finds do not contain much information (see Fig. 2:2). It is noted that

a brooch is kept on exhibition in showcase 8. The account of the circumstances surrounding the find are very laconic: “Excavations of 1932”. Undoubtedly another important source was the excavation catalogue, which is cited shortly on the card. Unfortunately, the Gibaičiai cemetery excavation catalogue does not survive. A short inscription on the card informs us very abruptly that the brooch in question was given the number 119 in the excavation catalogue. Summarising this poor data on the SKPAV card, we should acknowledge that it is unclear whether the brooch was an accidental find or was unearthed as a grave-good *in situ*. It is possible to presuppose that items whose number in the excavation catalogue is close probably were found close to one another in a particular area of cemetery. Two full bracelets and some fragments with a semi-circular cross-section of Michelbertas Group VII were recorded as Nr. 116, 117 in the excavations catalogue, as is noted on the SKPAV card. Today these bracelets have inv. Nr. GEK 253, 253a/I-A 102–103, 102–145. Bracelets of this type are not good chronological indicators. According to Mykolas Michelbertas, the earliest narrow

examples of group VII appeared in graves at the end of phase B2. The broader versions were in use from the end of C1a until phase C3, or even during phase D (M. Michelbertas 1986, p. 143, fig. 55:7–8). Bracelets with a semi-circular cross-section of Michelbertas Group VII were typical for phases I and II of finds from Žviliai cemetery in the Upper Jūra region according to corresponding analysis. Their time of use is connected with interregional phases C1b – beginning of phase C2 (R. Banytė-Rowell 2011, p. 42–45, 65, fig. 2). In West Lithuania the bracelets in discussion appeared in the horizon of neckrings with coiled wire terminals and a box-shaped clasp and during the time Roman coins were placed in graves. This period is associated with the end of phase C1a – phase C1b (statistical approach to the material of so called *Memelkultur* was presented in R. Banytė-Rowell 2019). It is noted on the card that bracelets inv. Nr. GEK 253, 253a were found in trench V, grids 18–19 of excavations in Gibaičiai cemetery carried out during the 1932 season. However, close numbers given in the excavation-catalogue did not reflect in every case the close special neighbourhood of the finds. Two bracelets with a triangular cross-section of Michelbertas Group I (inv. Nr. GEK 259/I-A 102:95; GEK 259a/I-A 102:94) were numbered 111 in the excavation catalogue. It is noted on the card that they were found in Trench III, grid 6 of Gibaičiai cemetery (1932). It seems the distance between bracelets of Nr. 116, 117 and bracelets of Nr. 111 (numbers given according to the excavation catalogue) were found *in situ* at a distance of more than 10 metres. Bracelets with a triangular cross-section of Michelbertas Group I appeared in the end of phase C1a and were most popular during phases C1b–C3 acc. to M. Michelbertas (1986, p. 145, fig. 57:1). Most probably such a long use of the latter type of bracelet should be reconsidered. The database of Šarkai and Žviliai cemeteries shows that bracelets with a tri-

angular cross-section were typical only for the horizon of neckrings with cone-shaped terminals and may be dated from the end of phase C1a till the beginning of C2 (R. Banytė-Rowell 2011, p. 41–42, 45, fig. 2). The chronology of bracelets with a semi-circular cross-section of Group VII and the ones with a triangular cross-section of Group I coincides, and therefore it is possible to presume that they originated from the same horizon of Gibaičiai cemetery.



Fig. 3. Brooch similar to type Almgren 211 from Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Bronze. ŠAM I-A 102/124. Photograph by T. Grigas

Рис. 3. Zapinka zbližona do typu Almgren 211 z Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Brąz. ŠAM I-A 102/124. Fot. T. Grigas

If we follow the presupposition that the excavation catalogue was compiled taking into account the neighbourhood of graves and finds, most probably a brooch with wheel-shaped head and triangular foot (Nr 119) was found in the same area as the Gibaičiai grave which was published by B. Tarvydas in fig. 14 (1933, fig. 14). This grave is most famous because of a brooch of unique construction. It is a crossbow brooch (but without a chord) decorated with ringlets, with high needle catch and double axis (Fig. 3; B. Tarvydas 1933, fig. 10 on the right below). It represents a mixture of Almgren types 210 and 211. The brooch was recorded as Nr. 125 in the excavation report. Other grave-goods represent the sequence of such numbering: Nr. 124 – two bronze pins with triangular openwork pendants-chain distributors joined

by two chains, Nr. 126 – a bent knife, Nr. 127 – a neckring, Nr. 123 – four bracelets. Figure 14 in B. Tarvydas' article depicts also an iron awl (?), which was not recorded on the SKPAV cards. Some of the latter contains a remark that grave-goods were unearthed on 13.08.1932. A neckring from the Gibaičiai grave in discussion was decorated with incisions imitating coiled wire terminals on the upper side. The clasp consisted of a hook and a round plate imitating a so-called box-shaped clasp (Fig. 4). This round plate was decorated with concentric circles of notched wire as it is possible to see in B. Tarvydas' Figure 14 and on the SKPAV card. The Gibaičiai neckring represents an imitation of a type with coiled wire terminals which is mostly associated with phase C1b (M. Michelbertas 1986, p. 97). This is



Fig. 4. Neckring with imitation of coiled wire terminals and a hook-and-plate clasp from Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Bronze. ŠAM I-A 102/141. Photograph by T. Grigas

Ryc. 4. Naszyjnik z imitacją owinięcia zakończeń drutem i zapięciem na tarczkę i haczyk z Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Brąz. ŠAM I-A 102/141. Fot. T. Grigas



Fig. 5. Two pins of B. Beckmann type I with openwork chain distributors and chains from Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Bronze. ŠAM I-A 102/140. Photograph by T. Grigas

Ryc. 5. Dwie szpile typu B. Beckmann I z łańcuszkami i ażurowymi rozdzielaczami łańcuszków z Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Brąz. ŠAM I-A 102/140. Fot. T. Grigas

confirmed by the Šarkai and Žviliai cemeteries' database (R. Banytė-Rowell 2011, p. 38, 45; fig. 2). Statistical analysis of the *Memelkultur* database also shows that the latter neckrings occurred in the horizon of placing of Roman coins – that is in the second half of phase C1a – phase C1b (R. Banytė-Rowell 2019, Annex). For this horizon various openwork ornaments were most characteristic. Therefore, two pins of Beckmann type I (*statinėliniai smeigtukai* of Michelbertas Group II) joined with openwork chain distributors in the Gibaičiai grave suit the chronological context very well (Fig. 5). The pins of this type were attributed to phases C1b–C2 by M. Michelbertas (1986, p. 128–

129). Almgren 211 brooches found in the Wielbark Culture area are dated to phase B2/C1–C1a. This type also was typical of some later burials (A. Cieśliński 2010, p. 66). The shape of the Gibaičiai brooch has more features of the Late Roman Period than such an early example like the brooch from Pruszcz Gdański, grave 206, pow. Gdańsk dated to phase B2/C1 (M. Pietrzak 1997, p. 35, pl. LXIX:5). In the West Balt area of Dollkeim-Kovrovo Culture the appearance of Almgren 211 brooches are also associated with phase B2/C1 and phase C1a. A find from Landskron, Kreis Bartenstein, grave 43 (Smolanka, pow. Bartoszyce) in Masuria which is stylistically



Fig. 6. Bracelet close to Michelbertas' Group VII of bracelets with a semi-circular cross-section from Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Bronze. ŠAM I-A 102/86. Photograph by M. Pocienė

Ryc. 6. Bransoleta zbliżona do grupy VII wg M. Michelbertasa, półkolistych w przekroju z Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Brąz. ŠAM I-A 102/86. Fot. M. Pocienė

close to the Gibaičiai brooch has been attributed to phase C1a (W. Nowakowski 1996, p. 50–51, 95, 159–160, pl. 107, map 7; 2013, p. 143, pl. 64:2). Jan Jaskanis held the opinion that brooches of Almgren 211 may be associated mainly with phase C1b. Such brooches found in Szwajcaria, barrow 14 grave 2 were dated to phases C1b–C2. It is noticeable that the latter burial also contained a silver neckring with coiled wire terminals and a hook-and-plate clasp which reflects the same style as neckring from the Gibaičiai burial with an Almgren 210/211 brooch (J. Jaskanis 2013, p. 86, 122–123, pl. CXLIII). The author of a special study on brooches with high needle catch, Lothar Schulte separated brooches of Almgren 211 as Form 25. It was associated mainly with the regional West Balt creation of this category which had “genetic connections” with crossbow brooches decorated with ringlets and with a bent foot of Almgren type 167. L. Schulte did not discuss separately the dating of Form 25, but only stressed its appearance with brooches of Almgren VI 1, Series 3. The Gibaičiai brooch with a double spiral also has features

of L. Schulte's Form 26a (L. Schulte 2011, p. 122–123, 162, 170, fig. 81, pl. 3–4). A cross-bow brooch with a high needle catch was found in Oberhof/Aukštkiemiai (Klaipėda rajons), grave 355 in the Lithuanian Coastland. It belongs to phase 1 of the cemetery which was associated with interregional phases B2/C1–C1 (W. Nowakowski 1996, p. 160; 1999, p. 111, table 1). The archival legacy of Marta Schmiedehelm testifies that Oberhof, grave 355 contained the same type of neckring as the Gibaičiai grave (M. Schmiedehelm Archive, see also Ch. Reich 2006, p. 89)<sup>3</sup>. The Gibaičiai grave also contained four bracelets but the illustration in B. Tarvydas's article does not allow us to identify their type (cf. B. Tarvydas 1933, fig. 14). It is possible only to presuppose that the four bracelets recorded on the pre-War cards as

<sup>3</sup> M. Schmiedehelm so described finds from Oberhof, grave 355: *Armbrustfibel m. hohem Nadelhalter u. vielfachen Ringen. Silber. Klein; Halsring m. Kapselverschluss. Die Enden umwickelt u. mit Perldrahtringen besetzt. Die Kapsel besteht aus mehreren Platen, die oberste mit gegesenem Ornament; Lanzenspitze.*



Nr. 123 in the excavation catalogue were connected to the Gibaičiai grave in discussion. Two of those bracelets are massive versions of semi-circular cross-section Group VII and one of triangular cross-section (Figs 6, 7). These types suit the chronological context of neckring and a brooch with a high needle catch. The fourth bracelet has a pronounced middle rib. Its special type and style of ornamentation causes some doubt as to whether this bracelet was connected with the latter grave.

Summarising the reconstruction of the context of other finds that might have surrounded the site of the brooch with a wheel-shaped head and triangular foot, we may distinguish types such as a neckring with a coiled wire terminals and a box-shaped clasp, a brooch of Almgren type 210/211 decorated with ringlets, pins of Beckmann type I with openwork chain distributors, bracelets with semi-circular cross-section of Group VII and bracelets with a triangular cross-section of Group I. These finds undoubtedly originated from earlier graves which were unearthed in 1932 and attributed by B. Tarvydas to the 3rd cent. AD (B. Tarvydas 1933, p. 9). It is possible to precise such dating to the time around inter-regional phase C1.

### Analysis of a brooch with a wheel-shaped part and triangular foot

The construction of the Gibaičiai brooch with a wheel-shaped head and triangular foot is very original. It has elements for the fastening of pin on both sides. The front side has a bronze loop with the remains of an iron rod inside which is a part of centre of a wheel. The fragment of the iron rod is symmetrical to the body of brooch. The rear side of the brooch has a bronze catch plate attached to the middle part of foot. This element suggests that the brooch had a hinged construction but still it is difficult to understand in what way a pin was attached to the item in discussion. The drawing published in B. Tarvydas' article (1933, fig. 3 left) depicted a brooch from the rear side (Fig. 2:1). Unfortunately, this depiction is on one side. It is possible to state that according this drawing a pin reached the upper part of the head-wheel. The head itself was drawn as a whole wheel. Today the upper rim of the head is missing (see Fig. 1). The drawing in discussion suggests that the iron pin was flexible around the axis attached to the centre of the wheel on the rear side. However, investigating the brooch today it is impossible to find traces of such an

Fig. 7. Bracelet with triangular cross-section of Michelbertas Group I from Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Bronze. ŠAM I-A 102/114. Photograph by M. Pocienė  
Ryc. 7. Bransoleta trójkątna w przekroju typu M. Michelbertas grupa I z Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai. Brąz. ŠAM I-A 102/114. Fot. M. Pocienė



attachment on the rear side of wheel-shaped part. Another possible version of how the needle of the brooch might have been attached to it is depicted in the drawing of card catalogue in ŠAM (Fig. 2:2). According to this, the pin was made of iron. It was fastened in the bronze loop of the front part of head and ran through upper part of the wheel and then was bent on the rear side towards the bronze catch plate. A dash line which shows a needle in a drawing testify that such reconstruction was also a presupposition but not the real condition of the brooch at that time. This pre-war drawing also shows the open upper part of the wheel. Both drawings made by B. Tarvydas discussed above do not explain the construction of the brooch but they testify that it was found already broken and most probably without the upper part of the wheel, that is in the condition we have today. A bronze loop with iron remains on the front side of the brooch does not look very ornamental. Might the loop have had another purpose when it was produced by the jeweller? Or it was some mistake made during casting process?

The strangeness of the construction of the brooch may be connected with its rare shape. Both upper and lower parts of the brooch may be found as elements of ornaments in other types, but this item as a whole represents an original combination. An openwork wheel element is represented most purely in so-called bronze wheel-shaped pendants, which were found in Eastern Baltic during the Roman Period. They are not a frequent find and most of them hitherto are known from West Lithuanian areas, but they occurred also in Žemaitija, Northern and Central Lithuania, and also in areas of Tarand graves. More elaborate versions were typical also for West Balts in the Bogaczewo and Sudovian Cultures. The latter style also influenced parts of what is nowadays Eastern Lithuania (M. Michelbertas

1986, p. 106–107, fig. 30:2, 3; R. Banytė-Rowell 2004, p. 15, fig. 2:1–3; A. Bliujienė, R. Bračiulienė 2007, p. 53–54, figs 4:1–7; 6:3; 7; A. Bliujienė 2009, p. 250–253, 258; figs 4–5). An example of a simple wheel-shaped pendant which was also found in the Northern Lithuanian region to the east of Gibaičiai is a pendant from Pakalniškiai barrow cemetery (Panevėžys rajonas). It was found in barrow 11 grave 2 which contained grave-goods typical for mature phase B2 or the end of that period (L. Sawicka, G. Grižas 2007, p. 173–177, 188–189; figs 5–7). West Lithuanian examples of wheel-shaped pendant also appeared at the end of Early Roman Period (R. Banytė-Rowell 2019, p. 246–249, fig. 98, pls 29:1, 40:7). More elaborate examples with various offshoots found in Southern and Eastern regions of Lithuania were similar to pendants of the Bogaczewo and Sudovian Cultures where new derivatives (on a basis of earlier typical for phase B2) were created during phase B2/C1 (P. Szymański 2005, p. 48–52, figs 7–9; W. Nowakowski 2013, p. 164–165).

A wheel element became the main feature of so-called *rateliniai smeigtukai* according to the Lithuanian typology of M. Michelbertas (1986, p. 129–130, figs 45, 46:3–6) and type K according to the typology of B. Beckmann (1969, p. 111, fig. 1:K). This type of pin is one of the most known declaration of Balt art which was most typical for areas of barrows in Žemaitija, Northern Lithuania and Southern Latvia with some occurrences in Central and Western Lithuania and more distant West Balt areas in the South (see also R. Šnore 1930, p. 44–47, 97–98, pl. II:16, 23–24). It seems that pins with a wheel-shaped head appeared slightly later than the pendants discussed above. Such pins testify to the cultural interaction between groups of West Balts from phase B2/C1–C1a (M. Michelbertas 1986, p. 129; A. Juga-Szymańska 2014, p. 192).

Fig. 8. A brooch with a wheel motif from Nurmsi Tarand Cemetery in Estonia (acc. to A. Vassar 1943b, fig. 7:4). Without scale

Ryc. 8. Zapinka z motywem wieloszprychowego koła z cmentarzyska w Nurmsi w Estonii (A. Vassar 1943b, ryc. 7:4). Bez skali



A wheel motif was also introduced into the culture of Tarand graves in Northern Latvia and Estonia. Wheel-shaped pendants occurred also in Tarand graves in Northern Latvia (Raunas Mūsiņa, Slavēka; Katalog 1896, pl. 9:1; M. Shmidekhel'm 1955, fig. 42:4; Latvijas PSR 1974, fig. 53:1, 3). A wheel motive is known even more frequently the main element of disc brooches typical of Tarand grave areas (Katalog 1896, pl. 8:18, 21–22; H. Moora 1929, pl. VI:13–14; M. Shmidekhel'm 1955, fig. 40:7; Latvijas PSR 1974, pl. 34:5; Latvijas senākā 2001, fig. 173:12; S. Laul 2001, p. 108–110, fig. 4:1,4; M. Olli, M.A. Roxburgh 2018, p. 46–50, fig. 4:1.2, 2.1, 4.2). Interactions with northern areas of the Eastern Baltic Region was also remarked upon by H. Moora, who wrote a footnote devoted to the Gibaičiai brooch in discussion. He attributed it to the category of so-called *Schleifenfibeln*. The latter type was represented by a brooch from Slavēka (Smiltēnes novads) in Northern Latvia (H. Moora 1929, pl. V:6). H. Moora stressed that *Schleifenfibeln*

are most typical for Estonia and Northern Latvia (cultural areas of Tarands), but also single finds were known from barrows in Southern Latvia and Northern Lithuania. Moora was of the opinion that the Gibaičiai brooch lacks the upper triangular part above the wheel. Therefore, he compared the Gibaičiai brooch with a brooch from Nurmsi, Ksp. Peetri in Estonia (nowadays Paide parish, Järva county in northern-central Estonia) which was described as *Scharnierfibel mit Dreieckfuss und Rad in Bügelmitte*. Unfortunately, H. Moora did not publish a drawing of the Nurmsi brooch (H. Moora 1938, p. 80–81, footnote 2 on page 81). Important remarks and photographs of the Nurmsi brooch were included in the dissertation of Artur Vassar which is accessible on-line (Fig. 8; A. Vassar 1943a, p. 66–67; 1943b, fig. 7:4)<sup>4</sup>. This work was devoted to the Nurmsi

<sup>4</sup> I thank sincerely Dr. Maarja Olli for the introduction to this work of A. Vassar and pointing out the main thesis on the Nurmsi brooch in it.

burial site and to the types of finds found there. The Nurmsi brooch with a wheel motif was compared with a similar brooch from Gibaičiai by A. Vassar, pointing out that the Nurmsi brooch may be older because it has a hole at the intersection of spokes of wheel. The Nurmsi brooch was associated with the 3 cent. AD. A. Vassar pointed out that brooches of a similar style were typical of Eastern Baltic areas from Finland to Lithuania and the wheel motif as a part of various categories of ornaments was also typical for this region. The Nurmsi brooch allows us to imagine the full shape of the Gibaičiai brooch which also should have a triangular upper part probably with hinged construction for the fastening of pin. It is necessary to stress that the Nurmsi brooch belongs to another type than symmetrical brooches (*Schleifenfibeln*). It is a brooch with hinge-like construction and triangular foot. The distribution of this type testifies to the communication on continental routes of the Eastern Baltic along the axis Central Lithuania-Northern Lithuania-Southern Lithuania and central parts of Estonia (R. Banytė-Rowell, A. Bitner-Wróblewska 2005, p. 115–116, fig. 8).

Another similar shape mentioned by H. Moora was a symmetrical brooch from a barrow in Īles Gailīši (Auces novads) in Southern Latvia. This brooch was published in H. Moora's article with a picture of it (H. Moora 1931, pl. V:174). It has a round plate with an opening in the middle. Both the triangular head and the foot have 5 small offshoots each. Īles Gailīši is a site belonging to an area of so-called collective barrows of Lithuania and Southern Latvia, which contains inhumations with grave-sets as units. Therefore, the context of other graves for the brooch in discussion may be given. It was found in Grave N ("Skelett N") together with a neckring with cone-shaped terminals, a bronze pin of Beckmann type H, a fragment of another bronze pin of unknown type, two massive

bronze bracelets with hexagonal cross-section decorated with lines of "eyes". Unfortunately, H. Moora did not provide drawings of originals with the exception of the brooch. Other grave-goods are detectable on the basis of description and references to the illustrations of analogies (H. Moora 1931, p. 174, fig. 6:141, pl. VI:116). It is possible to suppose that the neckring from Īles Gailīši barrow, grave N was of II or III group and the pin of H type represented Group III according to the typology of M. Michelbertas. The latter grave was dated to phase C1a by A. Juga-Szymańska, who analysed forms and distribution of pins throughout the Eastern Baltic region (A. Juga-Szymańska 2014, p. 341). Looking at such shapes of ornaments as those of pins and of massive bracelets, that represent a prolongation of the style of the Early Roman Period, Īles Gailīši, grave N presumably may be also attributed to phases B2/C1–C1a. This composition of types was somehow typical for collective barrows in Northern Lithuania and Southern Latvia. Finds from Muoriškiai barrow cemetery (Biržai rajonas) present a similar composition of jewellery, albeit more modest. A symmetrical brooch (*Schleifenfibeln*) similar in style together with a bracelet with a hexagonal cross-section decorated with "eyes" were found in Muoriškiai, barrow 5 grave 2 (K. Duderis 2017, p. 56, fig. on page 101). The Muoriškiai brooch had once an iron pin, traces of which are detectable on the surface of the catch plate. Thus the use of iron elements in the construction of such brooches also occurred. The Muoriškiai brooch is stylistically close to the Īles Gailīši find not only because of their common shape but also because they contain three offshoots-granules on the edges of their head and foot. The middle part of the Muoriškiai brooch is different – it has just a small ridge with a bronze loop on the left side. It was designed to attach some pendant or chain but such additions were not found *in situ*.

A *Pokonie*/Pakuonis/Pakunis brooch (most probably found in a site in what nowadays is the Kelmė rajonas, former Kovno Governorate<sup>5</sup>) may be presented as an example of such a joint ornament of brooch and openwork chain distributor, chains and pendants (M. Makarenko 1910, p. 104, pl. II; LLM 1958, p. 326, fig. 177). H. Moora attributed the *Pokonie* / Pakuonis brooch to the category of brooches of hinge-like construction with symmetrical endings (*Scharnierfibeln mit annähern symmetrisch gestalteten Enden*). According to H. Moora they represented a transitional shape in evolution towards the *Schleifenfibel* type. The genesis of the latter subtypes of symmetrical brooches was associated by Moora with the stylistic influences of Almgren type 133 (H. Moora 1938, p. 78–81, fig. 18:1–3). He also supposed that *Schleifenfibeln* originated in Lithuanian areas and spread northwards as far as Estonia. H. Moora's point of view about the “homeland” of symmetrical brooches was also accepted by J. Puzinas (1938, p. 224). M. Michelbertas interpreted a brooch from Gibaičiai as a fragment of a symmetrical brooch and compared it with the Muoriškiai find. He stressed that many more brooches of that type are known from Latvia and Estonia (M. Michelbertas 1986, p. 124). Therefore the Gibaičiai and Muoriškiai finds may be treated like brooches of hinge-like construction with triangular foot (symmetrical triangular endings) that are indicators of communication between Balts dwelling in Žemaitijan and Northern parts of Lithuania, Southern-South Eastern Latvia and the Finnic peoples of areas of Tarand graves (R. Banytė-Rowell, A. Bitner-Wróblewska 2005, p. 114–116, fig. 8).

<sup>5</sup> A. Tautavičius remarked that *Pokonie* of former Kovno Governorate described by M. Makarenko is mistakenly associated with Pakuonis in the Prienai rajonas (former Suwałki Governorate) in archaeological literature (see LAA III 1977, 80).

The length of the broken brooch from Gibaičiai reaches 4.5 cm (Fig. 9). The diameter of the wheel is 2.2 cm. If the Gibaičiai brooch with the wheel motif had a triangular upper part of a similar size to the triangular foot, it should be ca 7–7.5 cm in height. For comparison, the symmetrical brooch from Muoriškiai was 7 cm long (K. Duderis 2017, p. 101). Such a possible size for the brooch is also supported by the unsuitable angle between the wheel-shaped part and catch plate on the foot when we look at the contemporary state of the brooch. If the Gibaičiai brooch was of similar profile to the Īles Gailiši or Nurmsi brooches, its catch plate could be in the line as upper fastening point for the pin (Fig. 9, right). A loop in the middle of the wheel-shaped part might have been designed primarily to hold chains or pendants. Could it be that the remains of the iron stick in this loop testifies to the secondary use of broken brooch? Triangular offshoots on the foot of the Gibaičiai brooch reflect the style of the Īles Gailiši and Muoriškiai brooches but are somehow heavier. May it be a sign of chronologically later version of symmetrical brooches that also gradually became bigger with time? All these questions may be answered only thanks to discoveries in the future. As was stressed above, the earliest other finds from Gibaičiai in 1933 might be associated with phase C1a<sup>6</sup>.

Finds from Gibaičiai cemetery (1933), despite losing their context as elements of particular grave-sets, are still relevant for further investigation. There are several types of grave-

<sup>6</sup> Gibaičiai cemetery may have been used as a burial site from the Early Roman Period. This presupposition may be supported by a bronze neckring with trumpet-shaped terminals which was found among other finds from Gibaičiai preserved in the Šiauliai “Aušra” Museum (Inv. Nr. GEK 134642, I-A 518/102). However, this neckring is associated with Gibaičiai by museum workers leaving a question mark on this association.

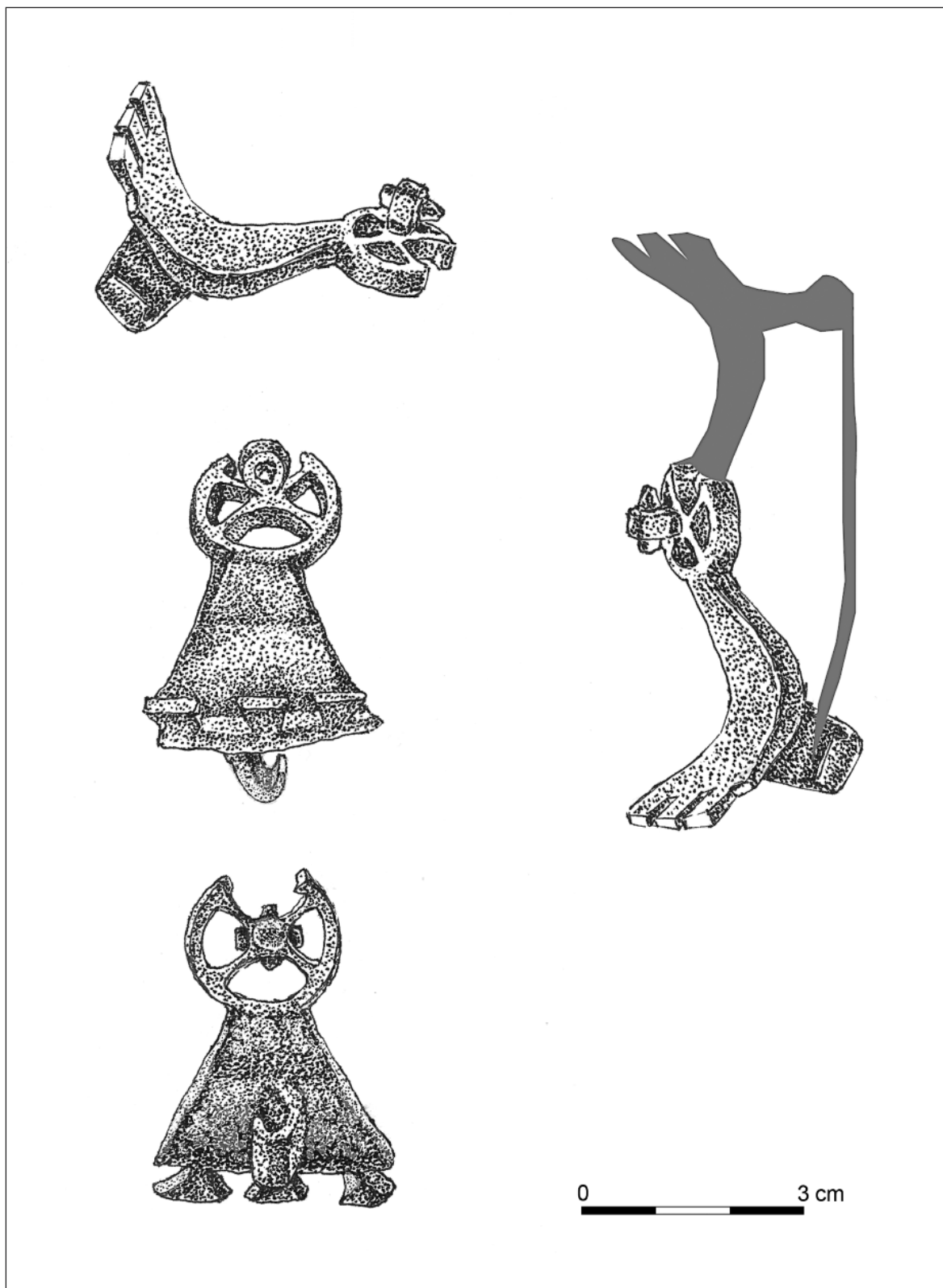


Fig. 9. A brooch with a wheel-shaped motif from Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai from various positions (drawing by H. Ostašenkovas) and the reconstruction of its possible full shape (on the right)

Ryc. 9. Zapinka z motywem wielosprychowego koła z Gibaičiai, r. Šiauliai – widok z różnych stron (rys. H. Ostašenkovas) i jej prawdopodobna rekonstrukcja (po prawej)

goods from Gibaičiai that are very important when considering inner communication between various Eastern Baltic regions. The brooch with a wheel motif discussed here represents a type which may be seen in the light of mutual communication between Balts in Northern Lithuania and Southern Latvia and Finns in Northern Latvia and Estonia. The wheel motif was most typical for areas of West Lithuania during the mature Early Roman Period – beginning of phase B2/C1. In Žemaitija and Northern Lithuania during phase B2/C1 pins with a wheel-shaped head were very popular (type K acc. to B. Beckmann). It seems that Northern Lithuania was one of the possible regions via which the cultural interactions with Southern areas of West Balts were kept. The Gibaičiai brooch with a double spiral, which is similar to Almgren type 211 and features of Schulte's Form 26a, represents a style which was typical for the Dollkeim-Kovrovo, Bogaczewo, Sudovian and West Lithuanian Cultures of the Balts. Thus, the latter brooch indicates connections of inhabitants of Northern Lithuania with the S–SW. It is probably contemporary to the Gibaičiai brooch with a wheel motif. These connections remained important also during the mature Late Roman Period – the western Lithuanian fashion for pins and brooches with tutulus reached also Northern Lithuania (cf. the finds from Gibaičiai and Linkaičiai) and travelled further to the North (R. Banytė-Rowell 2004, p. 17–19, fig. 4; 2019, p. 193, figs 74–75). The Gibaičiai brooch discussed in this article was a sign of the “cultural autonomy” of Northern Lithuania during the Roman Period when continental communication lines going towards northern parts of the Eastern Baltic via Southern Latvia were very important for the

peoples that buried their dead in so-called collective barrows. It seems that by keeping their contacts with southern and western areas of the West Balts, the inhabitants of Northern Lithuania kept their own interests in communicating with Finnic areas of Tarand Culture and this is reflected in different stylistic ideas than those which were shared between West Lithuanian inhabitants and Baltic Finns (see R. Banytė-Rowell, A. Bitner-Wróblewska 2005). Symmetrical brooches found in Southern Latvia and Northern Lithuania testify to the close mutual contacts of both these areas during the Roman Period which constituted a cultural unit somehow at least slightly different from the neighbouring region.

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## Abbreviations

SKPAV – Senovės Kultūros Paminklų Apsaugos Valdyba [An institution for Heritage protection from before Second World War].

ŠAM – Šiaulių “Aušros” muziejus – Šiauliai “Aušra” Museum.

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## Rasa Banytė-Rowell

### Zapinka z cmentarzyska w Gibaičiai jako rezultat krzyżowania się wpływów kulturowych we wschodniej strefie Bałtyku

#### Streszczenie

Jan Jaskanis zawsze przedstawiał w swoich pracach szeroki i wnikliwy obraz materiałów archeologicznych z ziem bałtyjskich i sąsiednich. Celem niniejszego artykułu jest zaprezentowanie specyficznego typu zapinki, który powstał na skrzyżowaniu wpływów kulturowych w rejonie wschodniego Bałtyku. Ta unikatowa fibula została znaleziona w północnej Litwie, na cmentarzysku w Gibaičiai. Nekropola ta leży na północny wschód od miasta Šiauliai, w gminie Meškuičiai (*seniūnija*, dawniej *valsčius*), w rejonie Šiauliai (Szawle). Cmentarzysko to badane było w 1932 r. przez Stowarzyszenie Krajoznawcze Šiauliai (Šiaulių Kraštotyros draugija), a kierownikiem ekspedycji był Balys Tarvydas (1897–1980). Zabytki z Gibaičiai przechowywane są w Muzeum „Aušra“ w Šiauliai. Nie zachowała się dokumentacja z badań, a jedyne informacje pochodzą z krótkiego artykułu B. Tarvydasa/Tarvidasa (1933) oraz przed-

wojennych kart katalogowych. Niestety, ani w artykule Tarvydasa, ani na kartach nie ma informacji, z jakich zespołów grobowych pochodzą poszczególne zabytki. Nie jest jasne, czy omawiana zapinka z trójkątną nóżką i motywem ażurowego, wieloszprychowego koła była znaleziskiem luźnym, czy też pochodzi z konkretnego grobu (Ryc. 1, 2, 9). Analizując numerację katalogu można jedynie przypuszczać, że zapinka została znaleziona w rejonie odkrycia bogatego grobu kobiecego. W skład inwentarza tego pochówku wchodzi: naszyjnik z zakończeniami imitującymi owinięcie drutem (Ryc. 4), zapinka łącząca cechy typów Almgren 210 i 211 (Ryc. 3), dwie brązowe szpile typu Beckmann I z parą trójkątnych, ażurowych tarczek-rozdzielaczy połączonych dwoma łańcuszkami (Ryc. 5), cztery bransolety typu Michelbertas grupa VII (półkoliste w przekroju) i trójkątne w przekroju (Ryc. 6, 7), zgięty nóż

i prawdopodobnie szydło. Grób ten można datować na fazę C1. Najbardziej prawdopodobne, że zapinka z motywem wieloszprychowego koła została odkryta w strefie cmentarzyska użytkowanej w początkach późnego okresu wpływów rzymskich.

Harri Moora (1938) uważał zapinkę z Gibaičiai za typ symetryczny – tzw. *Schleifenfibeln* (Ryc. 9). Ten typ nawiązuje do form z północnej strefy wschodniego Bałtyku. Fibule takie zostały znalezione na cmentarzysku w Slavėka, nov. Smiltenes, w północnej Łotwie, i w grobie N w kurhanie w Īles Gailīši, nov. Auces, w południowej Łotwie, ponadto w grobie 2, w kurhanie 5 w Muoriškiai, r. Biržai w północnej Litwie oraz na cmentarzysku w Pokonie/Pakuonis/Pakunis, r. Kelmė (?) w dawnej gubernii kowieńskiej w środkowej Litwie (ten ostatni egzemplarz jest nieco inny, ma konstrukcję zawiaskową). H. Moora porównywał zapinkę z Gibaičiai do egzemplarza z cmentarzyska typu tarand z Nurmsi, r. Jārva w Estonii (Ryc. 8). Z kolei Artur Vassar (1943a; 1943b) zwrócił uwagę, że stylistycznie okaz z Litwy jest nieco późniejszy.

Wydaje się, iż północna Litwa była regionem krzyżowania się wpływów kulturowych, gdzie powstawały formy lokalne i hybrydowe. Zapinka z pierścieniami z Gibaičiai z podwójną sprężyną, zbliżona do typu Almgren 211 reprezentuje styl charakterystyczny dla znalezisk bałtyjskich z kultur Dollkeim-Kovrovo, bogaczewskiej, sudowskiej oraz grupy zachodnioliteńskiej. Jest rezultatem kontaktów mieszkańców północnej Litwy z południem i południowym zachodem. Tymczasem fibula z motywem wieloszprychowego koła ujawnia cechy typowe dla ozdób ze Żmudzi i północnej Litwy, południowej Łotwy oraz terenów kultury cmentarzysk typu tarand, w północnej Łotwie i w Estonii. To dowodzi, iż mieszkańcy północnej Litwy i południowej Łotwy tworzyli unikatową wspólnotę kulturową, nieco odmienną od sąsiednich ziem bałtyjskich. Północna Litwa była regionem krzyżowania się kontynentalnych szlaków w kierunku ziem Bałtyckich Finów.

*Tłumaczyła Anna Bitner-Wróblewska*