

# Zgodnj srednjeveški pozlačeni predmeti z Gradišča nad Bašljem (Slovenija)

## *Early Mediaeval Gilded Artefacts from Gradišče nad Bašljem (Slovenia)*

Izvorni znanstveni rad  
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*Severno od Kranja se dviga v pobočju gore Storžič prepadna vzpetina Gradišče nad Bašljem. Na njenem koničastem vrhu so razvaline poznoantične naselbine. Te so ponekod prekrte z debelo žganinsko plastjo, ki vsebuje ostaline iz zgodnjega srednjega veka. Največ jih pripada vojaški opravi in konjski opremi; med množico železnih, pogosto pokositernih predmetov te vrste, je tudi nekaj bronastih in pozlačenih izdelkov: jermenski razdelilec, jermenski zaključek, obroč pasne sponse, obešalnik z zanko in del ostroge. Trije predmeti z Gradišča nad Bašljem so glede na slogovne značilnosti in uporabne lastnosti pripadali luksuzni garnituri, bodisi jermenskemu oglavju konja ali pasu za obešanje meča. Pozlačene najdbe z Gradišča nad Bašljem po navedenih arheoloških primerjavah kažejo karolinški vpliv in so nedvomno pripadale vladajočemu sloju v zgodnj srednjeveški Karnioli oz. Kranjski ob koncu 8. in v 9. st. Zgodnj srednjeveški pozlačeni predmeti so bili najdeni tudi na drugih najdiščih v Sloveniji. Na ključnih položajih so tamkajšnje postojanke, podobno kot drugod v slovanskem svetu 9. st., tudi na ozemlju sedanje Slovenije vojaškemu plemstvu zagotavljale oblast.*

*Ključne riječi: zgodnji srednji vek, vojaška oprava, konjska oprema, karolinški vpliv, vladajoči sloj*

*North of Kranj, on the slope of the mount Storžič, there rises the steep elevation of Gradišče nad Bašljem. On its conical summit is the location of the ruins of a late antiquity settlement which are in some places covered with a thick layer of ashes, which contains remains dating from the Early Middle Ages. Most of these remains are elements of military equipment and horse gear. Among many items of this kind which were made of iron, and often tinned, there are also several bronze and gilded artefacts: a strap separator, a strap end, a belt buckle ring, a hanger with a suspension loop and fragment of a spur. Judging by their stylistic characteristics and their functional features, three items from Gradišče nad Bašljem belong to a luxury set – either to a horse's headgear made of straps, or to a belt used as a sword hanger. Based on the analogies, the gilded finds from Gradišče nad Bašljem indicate Carolingian influence, and there is no doubt that they belonged to the ruling class in early mediaeval Carniola, i.e. Kranjska, in the late 8<sup>th</sup> and in the 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. Early Mediaeval gilded items have also been found at other sites in Slovenia. The strongholds that were located in the key positions secured the power of the military aristocracy in the territory of present-day Slovenia, similarly to the way in which they functioned in other parts of the 9th century Slavic world.*

*Key words: Early Middle Ages, military equipment, horse gear, Carolingian influence, aristocracy*

Severno od Kranja se dviga v pobočju gore Storžič prepadna vzpetina Gradišče nad Bašljem. Na njenem koničastem vrhu, ki doseže nadmorsko višino 873 m, so razvaline poznoantične naselbine. Te so ponekod prekrte z debelo žganinsko plastjo, ki vsebuje ostaline iz zgodnjega srednjega veka (Knific 1999; Knific 1999a). Največ jih pripada vojaški opravi in konjski opremi (Bitenc, Knific 2001, 96-101, kat. 315-329); med množico železnih, pogosto pokositernih predmetov te vrste (Karo, Knific, Milič 2001), je tudi nekaj bronastih in pozlačenih izdelkov: jermenski razdelilec, jermenski zaključek, obroč pasne sponse, obešalnik z zanko in del ostroge (sl. 1).

North of Kranj, on the slope of the mount Storžič, there rises the steep elevation of Gradišče nad Bašljem. Its conical summit reaches an altitude of 873 m above sea level, and it is the location of the ruins of a late antiquity settlement. In some places the ruins are covered with a thick layer of ashes, which contains remains dating from the early Middle Ages (Knific 1999; Knific 1999a). Most of these remains are elements of military equipment and horse gear (Bitenc, Knific 2001, 96-101, Cat. 315-329). Among many items of this kind which were made of iron, and often tinned (Karo, Knific, Milič 2001), there are also several bronze and gilded artefacts: a strap separator, a strap end, a belt buckle ring, a hanger with a suspension loop and fragment of a spur (Fig. 1).



Sl. 1 1-5 Pozlačeni bronasti predmeti z Gradišča nad Bašljem (foto: T. Lauko)  
 Fig. 1 1-5 Gilded bronze artefacts from Gradišče nad Bašljem (photo by T. Lauko)

Trije predmeti z Gradišča nad Bašljem (sl. 1,1-3, sl. 2,1-3, kat. 1-3) so glede na slogovne značilnosti in uporabne lastnosti pripadali luksuzni garnituri, bodisi jermenskemu oglavju konja ali pasu za obešanje meča. Zob časa je najbolj načel pasno spono, pri kateri je bilo sledove pozlate mogoče ugotoviti le s specialnimi meritvami.<sup>1</sup> Spono z razdelilcem in zaključkom povezuje okras lovorovega venca, simbolnega znanilca zmage in večnosti. Okras je izveden z globokimi in natančnimi klinastimi vrezi, pri razdelilcu je s kombinacijo ploskovne pozlate in rebrastega srebrenja poudarjena križna oblika predmeta.

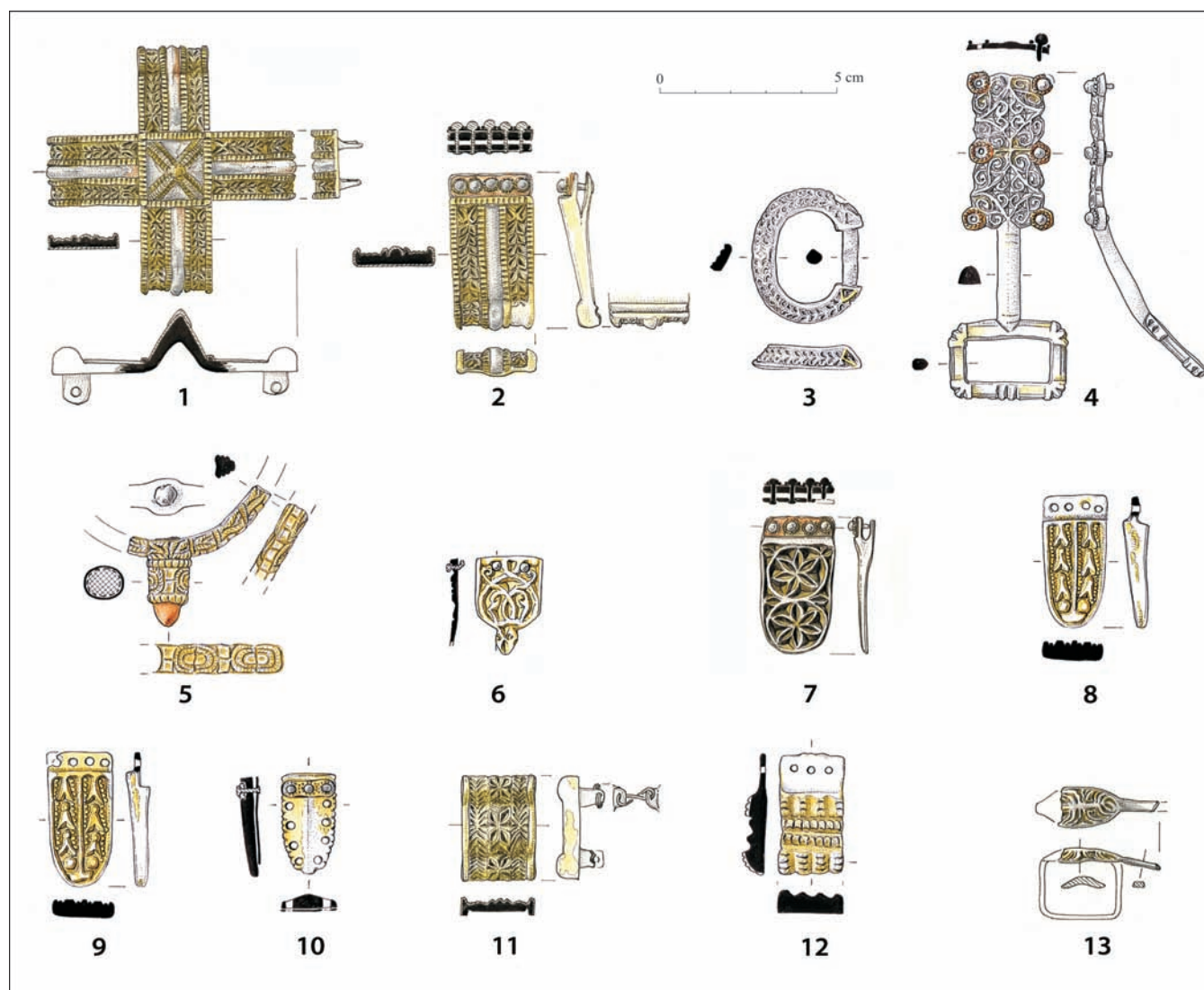
Po videzu ima bašeljski križni razdelilec primerjavi med kovinskimi deli jermenske oprave v grobu slovanskega kneza, pokopanega v Blatnici na Slovaškem na začetku 9. st. Križna razdelilca pripisujejo konjski opremi (Garam 2000, 146, kat. 06.01.01g), zaradi najdenega dragocenega meča

<sup>1</sup> Analizo kovin z metodo EDS XRF je pri vseh pozlačenih predmetov iz Slovenije opravil ing. Zoran Milić v laboratoriju Narodnega muzeja Slovenije v Ljubljani.

Judging by their stylistic characteristics and their functional features, three items from Gradišče nad Bašljem (Fig. 1,1-3, Fig. 2,1-3, Cat. 1-3) belong to a luxury set – either to a horse's headgear made of straps, or to a belt used as a sword hanger. The ravages of time have inflicted the greatest damage to the belt buckle, so the traces of gilt could only be established by special measurements<sup>1</sup>. The element that links the buckle with the separator and strap end is ornamentation in the shape of a laurel wreath, a symbolic sign of victory and eternity. The ornamentation is made with deep, thin, wedge-shaped incisions, and on the separator a combination of surface gilt and wavy silver-coating emphasises the object's cruciform shape.

Based on its appearance, the Bašelj cross-shaped separator can be compared to metal elements of the strap gear found in the grave of a Slavonic prince buried at Blatnica in Slovakia in the early 9<sup>th</sup> century. The cross-shaped separator has been interpreted as an element of horse gear (Garam 2000, 146, Cat.

<sup>1</sup> The EDS XRF analysis of all gilded artefacts from Slovenia was carried out by Zoran Milić B.S.E., in the Laboratory of the National Museum of Slovenia in Ljubljana.



Sl. 2 Pozlačeni predmeti z najdišč v Sloveniji: 1-5 Gradišče nad Bašljem, 6 Tonovcov grad pri Kobaridu, 7 Gradišče nad Sotesko, 8-13 Ljubična nad Zbelovsko Goro, merilo 1: 2 (risba D. Knific Lunder)

Fig. 2 Gilded artefacts from sites in Slovenia: 1-5 Gradišče nad Bašljem, 6 Tonovcov grad near Kobarid, 7 Gradišče above Soteska, 8-13 Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora, Scale 1:2 (drawing by D. Knific Lunder)

in slabo poznanih okoliščin najdbe v Blatnici pa se zanju domneva tudi, da sta skupaj z obešalnima zanko in pravokotnimi okovi pripadala dvema pasnima garniturama za obešanje meča (Wachowski 1992, 12-17, tip I 2). Na Gradišču nad Bašljem je bilo v naselbinski plasti posamično najdenih tudi več križnih razdelilcev iz železa, med njimi dva enaka primerka (Bitenc, Knific, 97, kat. 317, na desni). Kot par bi lahko bila pritrjena na jermenje uzde, kar bi govorilo v prid njuni pripadnosti konjski opremi (Karo 2003, 102-103).

Bašeljka pasna spona bi lahko bila uporabljena pri uzdi ali pasu za meč. Zapenjala se je s trnom ali pa je bila že prvotno narejena kot zanka za privezovanje jermenov. Med podobnimi pozlačenimi sponami se pojavljata oba načina uporabe, prvi npr. v Kolínu, drugi v Mikulčicah na Češkem (prim. Wiczorek, Hinz 2000, 203, 219, kat. 08.02.10b, 09.01.01b). Oblikovne primerjave ima bašeljka spona tudi v zakladni najdbi z najdišča Deusminde na danskem otoku Lollandu, med frankovskimi sponami iz srednje tretjine 9. st. (Wamers 2005, 135, kat. 36e.1). Bašeljski pravokotni jer-

06.01.01g), but due to the find of a precious sword and the little-known circumstances of the Blatnica discovery, there are also those who believe that, together with hangers with loops and rectangular metal mounts, it belonged to two belt sword-hanger sets (Wachowski 1992, 12-17, type I 2). At Gradišče nad Bašljem, in the settlement layer, there were also several separate finds of cross-shaped separators made of iron, and two of them were identical (Bitenc, Knific, 97, Cat. 317, on the right-hand side). As a pair they could have been fixed to leather reins, which would confirm that they were indeed elements of horse gear (Karo 2003, 102-103).

The Bašelj belt buckle could easily have been used on a rein or on a sword belt. It was fixed with a thorn, or it was originally made as a loop for fastening straps. Both uses are present among similar gilded buckles, the former in Kolín, for example, and the latter in Mikulčice in the Czech Republic (e.g. Wiczorek, Hinz 2000, 203, 219, Cat. 08.02.10b, 09.01.01b). The shape analogous to the Bašelj buckle also exists in the hoard discovered in Deusminde on the Danish island of Lolland, among Frankish buckles dating from the middle third of the 9<sup>th</sup> cen-

menski zaključek (2) pa je mogoče primerjati - tudi po valjasto odebeljenem krajšem robu - s srebrnim primerkom iz zakladne najdbe v Marsumu na Nizozemskem, ki je opredeljen kot sestavni del pasne garniture za meč severnofrankovskega izvora, datirane v zadnjo tretjino 9. st. (Wamers 2005, 120-122, kat. 35b).

Nezanesljiva je tudi funkcionalna opredelitev bašeljskega obešalnika z zanko (sl. 1,4, sl. 2,4, kat. 4), ki je bil najden naključno zunaj naselbinskega območja, nekoliko pod vrhom Gradišča. Okrašen je z natančno izrisanim vitičevjem, ki je sestavljeno iz enakih ornamentalnih delcev kot vzorci okrasja na jermenskih zaključkih in objemkah iz grobov, odkritih v razvalinah cerkve sv. Marije v Biskupiji pri Kninu na Hrvaškem (Jelovina 1986, 22-23, T. 6,67,74-75,78-79), datiranih v prvo polovico 9. st. (Milošević 2000, kat. IV 53 b2-3; Petrinc 2000, 226-227, kat. IV 54 b1). Oblikovni primerjavi ima v že omenjenem knežjem grobu v Blatnici, v paru pozlačenih bronastih obešalnikov, ki sta opredeljena kod sestavna dela konjske opreme (Garam 2000, 146, kat. 06.01.01h). Po drugi interpretaciji naj bi pripadala pasnima garnituro za obešanje meča: v tipološki shemi sestavljajo garniture za obešanje meča s takšnim obešalnikom posebno skupino, datirano v glavnem v prvo polovico 9. st. (Wachowski 1992, 12-17, tip I 2).

Veliko številnejši kot bronasti so železni obešalniki z zanko, najdeni pogosto kot posamične najdbe, pojavljajo pa se tudi v grobovih oborožencev z mečem, npr. v Závadi (Bialeková 1982, 132-134, 149-154, T. 23: grob 23, obr. 13-14,16-18). Na Gradišču nad Bašljem je bilo najdenih več železnih obešalnikov, ki jih je po izrazitih oblikovnih in okrasnih značilnostih mogoče povezati s drugimi kovinskimi deli v garniture (Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97-98, kat. 317, 320). Med njimi so tudi značilni dvojni oziroma simetrični okovi, s katerimi je bilo jermenje pritrjeno na nožnico meča, kot to prikazujejo upodobitve mečenoscev pred vladarskim prestolom na sočasnih iluminiranih rokopisih (Wamers 2005, 52-55, Abb. 7-11,18).

Zadnji predmet z Gradišča nad Bašljem, ki odlično dopolnjuje zbirko insignij gosposkega sloja, je delno ohranjena pozlačena ostroga z masivnim trnom in na polja razčlenjenim "vrvičastim" okrasom (sl. 1,5, sl. 2,5, kat. 5). Oblikovni primerjavi zanjo sta par ostrog z grobišča pri rotundi (2. cerkev) v Mikulčicah, ki imata podobno "vrvičasto" obrobo okrasnih polj, v tipologiji ostrog prehodno formo (tip III B in IVA) in sta datirani v sredino 9. st. (Profantová, Kavánová 2003, 22, 61, obr. 36,7-8, grob 50). Sorodnost bašeljskih najdb, tudi številnih železnih ostrog (Bitenc, Knific 2001, 96-97, kat. 315-317), z najdbami na velikomoravskem ozemlju potrjujejo še v zadnjem času odkriti predmeti z najdišča Bojná na Slovaškem (Pieta, Ruttkay, Ruttkay 2006).

Zgodnjesrednjeveški pozlačeni predmeti so bili najdeni tudi na drugih najdiščih v Sloveniji (Karta 1), tako na Tonovcovem gradu pri Kobaridu, Gradišču nad Sotesko in Ljubični nad Zbelovsko Goro (sl. 2,6-13). Jermenski zaključek s Tonovcovega gradu (sl. 2,6, kat. 6) oblikovno in po okrasu spada med karolinške izdelke druge polovice 8. st., med predmete, okrašene z anglosaško živalsko ornamen-

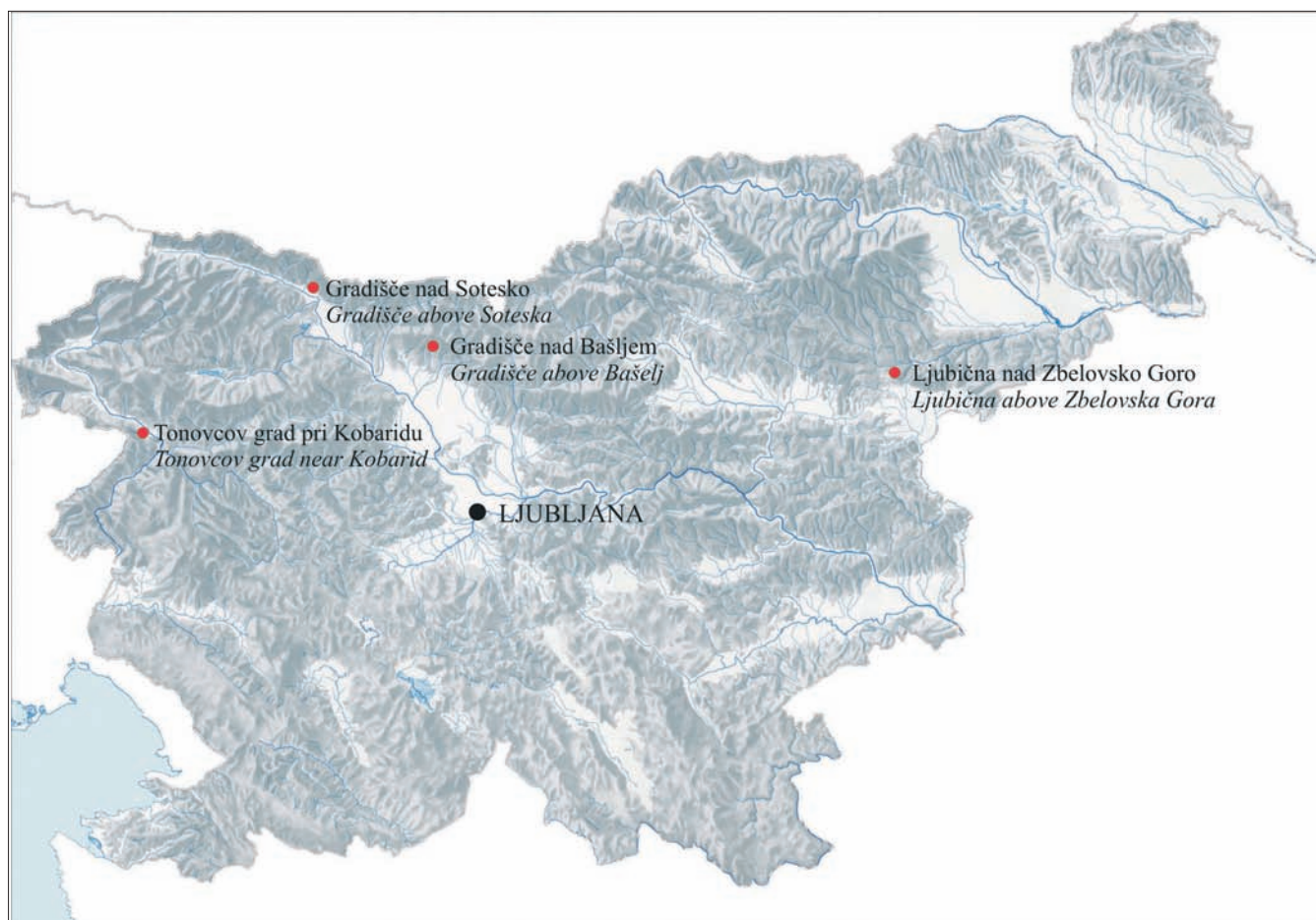
tury (Wamers 2005, 135, Cat. 36e.1). The Bašelj rectangular strap end (2) can be compared - also by its cylindrically thickened shorter end - to the silver strap end from the hoard in Marsum, the Netherlands, which has been identified as an element of a sword belt set of north Frankish origin, and dated to the last third of the 9<sup>th</sup> century (Wamers 2005, 120-122, Cat. 35b).

The functional classification of the Bašelj hanger with suspension loop is also unreliable (Fig. 1,4, Fig. 2,4, Cat. 4). It was found accidentally within the settlement area, some distance below the summit of Gradišče. It is decorated with a precisely drawn tendril motif, composed of the same ornamental parts as the decoration patterns on the strap ends and clamps from the graves that were found in the ruins of the church of St. Mary in Biskupija near Knin in Croatia (Jelovina 1986, 22-23, Pl. 6,67,74-75,78-79), dated to the first half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century (Milošević 2000, Cat. IV 53 b2-3; Petrinc 2000, 226-227, Cat. IV 54 b1). An analogous shape can be found in the previously mentioned princely grave in Blatnica, in a pair of gilded bronze hangers that have been identified as elements of horse gear (Garam 2000, 146, Cat. 06.01.01h). According to another interpretation, these hangers belonged to belt sets used to hang swords: in the typology, sword-hanging sets with such hangers are identified as a separate group, dated mostly to the first half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century (Wachowski 1992, 12-17, type I 2).

Much more numerous than bronze hangers with suspension loops are iron ones, which have often been discovered as individual finds, but they also appear in swordsmen's graves, such as, for example, those in Závada (Bialeková 1982, 132-134, 149-154, Pl. 23: grave 23, Fig. 13-14,16-18). In Gradišče nad Bašljem several iron hangers have been discovered, and by their pronounced shape and decorative features they can be linked to other metal items and thus separated into sets (Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97-98, Cat. 317, 320). Among them, particularly important are the dual or symmetrical clamps that were used to fasten the belt to the sword sheath, as can be seen on representations of swordsmen standing in front of the sovereign's throne in contemporary illuminated manuscripts (Wamers 2005, 52-55, Abb. 7-11,18).

The last find from Gradišče nad Bašljem, which excellently completes the collection of aristocratic insignia, is a partially preserved gilded spur with a massive thorn and "ribbon-like" decoration divided into several fields (Fig. 1,5, Fig. 2,5, Cat. 5). The shape of the spur can be compared to the pair of spurs found in the cemetery by the rotund church (the 2<sup>nd</sup> church) in Mikulčice, which display a similar "ribbon-like" border on the decorative fields; according to the spur typology they belong to the transitional form (type III B and IV A) and they have been dated to the middle of the 9<sup>th</sup> century (Profantová, Kavánová 2003, 22, 61, Fig. 36,7-8, grave 50). The affinity of the Bašelj finds, including the numerous iron spurs (Bitenc, Knific 2001, 96-97, Cat. 315-317), to the finds from the region of the Great Moravian Empire has also been confirmed by the items recently discovered at the site of Bojná in Slovakia (Pieta, Ruttkay, Ruttkay 2006).

Early Mediaeval gilded items have also been found at other sites in Slovenia (Map 1); for example, at Tonovcov grad near Kobarid, Gradišče above Soteska and Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora (Fig. 2,6-13). Based on its shape and decoration, the strap end from Tonovcov grad (Fig. 2,6, Cat. 6) belongs to the Carolingian artefacts from the second half of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, decorated with Anglo-Saxon animal ornaments (e.g. Giesler



Karta 1 Najdišča s pozlačenimi predmeti v Sloveniji: 1 Tonovcov grad pri Kobaridu, 2 Gradišče nad Sotesko 3 Gradišče nad Bašljem, 4 Ljubična nad Zbelovsko Goro (karta Roman Hribar)

Map 1 Sites with gilded finds in Slovenia: 1 Tonovcov grad near Kobarid, 2 Gradišče above Soteska, 3 Gradišče nad Bašljem, 4 Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora (Map by Roman Hribar)

tiko (prim. Giesler 1974). Iz zgodnjega karolinškega obdobja so z najdišč v zahodni Sloveniji še ostroga z jermensko garnituro iz Gojač v Vipavski dolini (Svoljšak, Knific 1976, 13-14, 54-55, T. 2; 53) in bronasta objemka iz Kopra (Cunja 1996, 65-66, 144, T. 2,25), iz notranosti Slovenije pa drobni jermenski zaključki s Sv. Lamberta pri Pristavi nad Stično, iz struge Savinje v Celju in z Gradišča pri Dunaju (Bitenc, Knific 2001, 94, kat. 307-309), verjetno pa v ta sklop spada tudi pozlačen gladek jermenski zaključek z Ljubične nad Zbelovsko Goro (sl. 2,10, kat. 10). Ti predmeti so značilni za čas frankovskega prodora proti vzhodu v zadnji tretjini 8. st. in za obdobje vzpostavljanja novih političnih razmerij v Srednjem Podonavju, Posavju in ob jadranski obali v začetku 9. st. (prim. Tomičić 1997).

Mlajši so jermenski zaključki, okrašeni v tehniki klinaste-ga vreza. Zanimiv okras z rozetami ima jeziček z Gradišča nad Sotesko (sl. 2,7, kat. 7). Z motivom rozet je okrašen pozlačen jermenski zaključek iz Mogorjela pri Čapljini v Hercegovini (Milošević 2000a, datacija: začetek 9. st.), pa tudi ostroge in deli garniture za njihovo pritrnitev iz deškega groba, odkritega v Biskupiji pri Kninu (Jelovina 1986, 24, T. 7,82-89; 31; Petrinc, 2000, 220-221, kat. IV.50, datacija: prva polovica 9. st.). S šestrolistnimi rozetami v krogu so okrašeni številni kamniti spomeniki z ozemlja Hrvaške, datirani večinoma v drugo polovico 8. in prvo polovico 9. st. (npr.

1974). Several other finds discovered at sites in western Slovenia also belong to the early Carolingian era: a spur with a strap set from Gojače in the Vipava Valley (Svoljšak, Knific 1976, 13-14, 54-55, Pl. 2,53) and a bronze clamp from Koper (Cunja 1996, 65-66, 144, Pl. 2,25). Finds from the same period discovered in central Slovenia include small strap ends from Sv. Lambert near Pristava nad Stično, from the Savinja river bed in Celje and from Gradišče near Dunaj (Bitenc, Knific 2001, 94, Cat. 307-309). Even a gilded smooth strap end from Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora probably belongs to the same group (Fig. 2,10, Cat. 10). These items are significant for the period of the Frankish penetration to the west in the last third of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, and for the period of establishment of new political circumstances in the Central Danubian region and the areas along the Sava River and the Adriatic coast in the early 9<sup>th</sup> century (e.g. Tomičić 1997).

The strap ends decorated with wedge-shaped incisions are somewhat younger. An interesting ornament with a rosette is present on a strap end from Gradišče above Soteska (Fig. 2,7, Cat.7). With rosettes is decorated the gilded strap end from Mogorjelo near Čapljina in Herzegovina (Milošević 2000a, dating: early 9<sup>th</sup> century), and also on the spurs and parts of the set used to fasten them from a boy's grave discovered in Biskupija near Knin (Jelovina 1986, 24, Pl. 7,82-89; 31; Petrinc 2000, 220-221, Cat. IV.50, dating: first half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century). Numerous stone monuments from the territory of Croatia were decorated with sixfoil rosettes placed within a circle, and most of them have been dated to the second half of the 8<sup>th</sup> century

Burić 2000; Jakšić 2000; Jurković 2000). Jermenski zaključek z Gradišča nad Sotesko je naključna najdba tako kot večina od obravnavanih pozlačenih predmetov iz Slovenije, ki so bili nestrokovno odkriti v zgodnjih devetdesetih letih prejšnjega stoletja z iskalnikom kovin, pozneje pa so nekateri prišli v muzejsko hrambo. Arheološko neraziskano Gradišče nad Sotesko leži pod Ajdno nad Potoki, najvišjo znano poznoantično višinsko naselbino v Sloveniji (1048 m), kjer so bile leta 2003 med starejšimi razvalinami odkrite tudi številne in bogate najdbe iz 9. st. (Vidrih Perko, Sagadin 2004, 219-221, sl. 7-8).

Pasna jezičasta zaključka z Ljubične nad Zbelovsko Goro (sl. 2, 8-9, kat. 8 in 9) sta okrašena s cikadami, starim in priljubljenim motivom v zgodnjem obdobju preseljevanja ljudstev, v 9. st. pa so takšni predmeti izjemni. Pravokotni okov s tega najdišča (sl. 2,11, kat. 11) je po primerjavi z okovom iz zakladne najdbe iz nizozemskega Marsuma pripadal garnituri za meč (Wamers 2005, 122, kat. 35b, št. A6). Za pravokotni jermenski zaključek z Ljubične nad Zbelovsko Goro (sl. 2,12, kat. 12) pa je značilna groba izdelava okrasa.

Med pozlačenimi predmeti iz Slovenije je le eden, ki je bil ulit v srebru: poškodovana in deformirana objemka (del garniture za pripenjanje ostroge) z Ljubične nad Zbelovsko Goro (sl. 2,13). Po neizrazitem palmetastem okrasu spominja na objemko iz češkega Kolína, datirano v začetek 9. st. (Wieczorek, Hinz 2000, 221, kat. 09.01.01e). Pozlačeni srebrni predmeti so pogosti na evropskem severu, v frankovskem in tudi vikinškem svetu, raznovrstnost predmetov pa dobro ilustrira zakladna najdba iz Duesmindeja na Danskem, kjer sta bili najdeni tudi garnituri za pripenjanje ostroge (Wamers 2005, 133, kat. 35c).

Pozlačene najdbe z Gradišča nad Bašljem po navedenih arheoloških primerjavah kažejo na karolinški vpliv in so nedvomno pripadale vladajočemu sloju v zgodnjersrednjeveški Karnioli oz. Kranjski ob koncu 8. in v 9. st. (Knific 1999, 67). Deželo Pavel Diakon pozna kot domovino Slovanov (*Carniola Sclavorum patria*), frankovski anali v letu 820 omenjajo njene prebivalce, živeče ob Savi (*Carniolenses, qui circa Savum fluvium habitant*), ob zatonu karolinškega obdobja pa je na tem ozemlju leta 895 nastala *Marchia iuxta Souwam*, frankovska grofija, ki se je verjetno navezovala na tradicijo plemenske kneževine Karniolcev (Štih 1966). Gradišče nad Bašljem je blizu pokrajinskega središča Kranj (antični *Carnium*, zgodnjersrednjeveška *Creina*), ob poti čez gorske prelaze med Kranjsko in Koroško. Na izrazito geografsko mejnih območjih so razporejena tudi druga najdišča pozlačenih predmetov v Sloveniji: Tonovcov grad pri Kobaridu in Gradišče nad Sotesko na vstopu iz širokih alpskih dolin v ozki soteski ob Soči oziroma Savi, Ljubična nad Zbelovsko Goro pa na prehodu iz hribovitega v ravninski svet Podravja. Na ključnih položajih so torej tamkajšnje postojanke podobno kot drugod v slovanskem svetu 9. st., npr. na Velkomoravskem (Profantová 1997; Ruttkay 2002) in Hrvaškem (Milošević 2000b), tudi na ozemlju sedanje Slovenije vojaškemu plemstvu zagotavljale oblast.

and the first half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century (e.g. Burić 2000; Jakšić 2000; Jurković 2000). The strap end from Gradišče above Soteska is an accidental find, as are most of the gilded items from Slovenia here analysed, which were discovered unprofessionally during the early 1990s with metal-detectors, and some of which were later stored in museums. Gradišče above Soteska, which has still not been explored archaeologically, is located below Ajdno nad Potoki, the highest known late antiquity highland settlement in Slovenia (at 1048 m above sea level), where in 2003 numerous and abundant finds from the 9<sup>th</sup> century were discovered among some older ruins (Vidrih Perko, Sagadin 2004, 219-221, Fig. 7-8).

The tongue-shaped belt ends from Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora (Fig 2,8-9, Cat. 8 and 9) are decorated with cicadas, an old and much-loved motif in the early Migration Period mount, while in the 9<sup>th</sup> century such items were exceptional. Based on its comparison to the mount from the hoard found in Marsum, the rectangular reinforcement from Ljubična (Fig. 2,11, Cat. 11) belonged to a sword set (Wamers 2005, 122, Cat. 35b, No. A6). The rectangular strap end from Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora (Fig. 2,12, Cat. 12) is characterised by rough shaping of the decoration.

Among the gilded items discovered in Slovenia, there is also one that was cast in silver: a damaged and deformed clamp (a part of the set for fastening spurs) from Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora (Fig. 2,13). Its unpronounced palm-leaf decoration is reminiscent of a clamp from the Czech Kolín, dated to the early 9<sup>th</sup> century (Wieczorek, Hinz 2000, 221, Cat. 09.01.01e). Gilded silver objects are frequent in northern Europe, both in the Frankish and in the Viking regions, and the diversity of such items is well illustrated by the hoard from Deusminde in Denmark, which also included sets for fastening spurs (Wamers 2005, 133, Cat. 35c).

Based on the cited archaeological analogies, the gilded finds from Gradišče nad Bašljem indicate Carolingian influence, and there is no doubt that they belonged to the ruling class in early mediaeval Carniola, i.e. Kranjska, in the late 8<sup>th</sup> and in the 9<sup>th</sup> centuries (Knific 1999, 67). Paul the Deacon described this region as the homeland of the Slavs (*Carniola Sclavorum patria*), the Frankish chronicles from the year 820 make mention of its inhabitants who lived by the Sava River (*Carniolenses, qui circa Savum fluvium habitant*), and at the very end of the Carolingian era, in 895, the Frankish county *Marchia iuxta Souwam* was established in that region, probably continuing the tradition of the principality of the tribe of Carniolian (Štih 1966). Gradišče nad Bašljem is situated in the vicinity of the regional capital of Kranj (Roman *Carnium*, early medieval *Creina*), on the road leading through the mountain passes between Carniola and Carinthia. Some other sites in Slovenia in which gilded items have been discovered are also located in geographical borderlands: Tonovcov grad near Kobarid and Gradišče above Soteska at the entrance from the spacious Alpine valleys into the narrow gorges of the Soča or Sava River, Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora in the area between the mountainous region and the plains by the Drava River. Therefore, the strongholds that were located in the key positions secured the power of the military aristocracy, similarly to the way in which they functioned in other parts of the 9<sup>th</sup> century Slavic world, e.g. in the region of the Great Moravian Empire (Profantová 1997; Ruttkay 2002) and Croatia (Milošević 2000b), and in the territory of present-day Slovenia.

**KATALOG PREDMETOV:**

1. Bronast jermenski razdelilec, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza ter pozlačen in deloma posrebren (sl. 1,1, sl. 2,1). Najdišče: Gradišče nad Bašljem, naključna najdba na skalnatem vrhu (skupaj z jermenskim zaključkom št. 2). Na presečišču krakov razdelilca je piramida, ki ima robove okrašene s trojnimi zrnatimi nizi, vznožje je obrobjeno z narezanim rebrom, trikotna polja so gladka in posrebrena. Kraki križa so na koncu odebeljeni, vsak je z vzdolžnim rebrom polkrožnega preseka razdeljen na polji, ki sta okrašeni z lovorovima vencema, obrobjenima z narezanima rebroma. Trikotna polja piramide in vzdolžna rebra na krakih so bila posrebrena, vendar je ponekod srebro izginilo, drugod se je kapljasto nabralo. Na spodnji strani sta na koncu krakov po dve ušesci za pritrnitev, ki sta bili uliti hkrati z razdelilcem. Vel. 7,35 x 7,15 cm, viš. 2,7 cm, teža 93,6 g. Predmet hrani zasebnik. Objava: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97, kat. 318 (zgoraj).

2. Bronast pravokotni jermenski zaključek, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza ter pozlačen in deloma posrebren (sl. 1,2, sl. 2,2). Najdišče: Gradišče nad Bašljem, naključna najdba na skalnatem vrhu (skupaj z jermenskim razdelilcem št. 1). S posrebrenim vzdolžnim rebrom polkrožnega preseka je jermenski zaključek razdeljen na polji, okrašeni z lovorovim vencem med narezanima rebroma. Na delu, kjer je bil zaključek pritrjen na jermen, je pet srebrnih zakovic, obrobjenih z narebreno pozlačeno bronasto žico, na nasprotnem koncu je rob odebeljen. Vel. 4,6 x 2,46 cm, viš. 1,0 cm, teža 38,0 g. Predmet hrani zasebnik. Objava: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97, kat. 318 (levo).

3. Bronast ovalni obroč pasne sponse, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza, na površini so bili z XRF meritvami ugotovljeni sledovi pozlate (sl. 1,3, sl. 2,3). Najdišče: Gradišče nad Bašljem, naključna najdba pri terenskem pregledu najdišča, ki ga je leta 1992 opravil Inštitut za arheologijo ZRC SAZU iz Ljubljane. Obroč je okrašen s simetrično postavljenima lovorovima vencema. Sprednji del obroča je pravokotnega preseka, na delu, kjer je bil pritrjen trn, je okroglega preseka in gladek. Vel. 4,0 x 3,14 cm, viš. 0,65 cm, teža 14,3 g. Predmet hrani Narodni muzej Slovenije v Ljubljani, inv. št. S 2623. Objava: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97, kat. 318 (spodaj).

4. Bronast obešalnik z zanko, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza in pozlačen (sl. 1,4, sl. 2,4). Najdišče: Gradišče nad Bašljem, naključna najdba v strugi potoka na zahodni strani pod vrhom. Na robu pravokotnega okova obešalnika je bilo šest železnih zakovic (ohranjene so tri), obrobjenih z narebreno bakreno žico. Z dvignjenima romboma z usločenimi stranicami je razdeljen na osem trikotnih in dve rombasti polji, ki so zapolnjena s spiralnimi motivi. Okov je s pecljem zaobljeno trikotnega preseka povezan s pravokotno zanko, na zgornji strani razčlenjeno s širokimi prečnimi vrezji. Obešalnik je močno usločen. Dol. 9,35 cm, šir. do 3,4 cm, dol. trna 2,11 cm, teža 34,8 g. Predmet hrani Gorenjski muzej v Kranju. Objavi: Valič 1995; Bitenc, Knific 2001, 98, kat. 322.

5. Trn in del loka bakrene ostroge, ulite, okrašene v tehniki klinastega vreza ter posrebrene in nato pozlačene, le kopasta konica železnega trna je bila pobakrena in nato posrebrena (sl. 1,5, sl. 2,5). Najdišče: Gradišče nad Bašljem,

**CATALOGUE OF THE FINDS:**

1. Bronze strap separator, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions, gilded and partially silver-coated (Fig. 1,1, Fig. 2,1). Site: Gradišče nad Bašljem, accidental find on the rocky summit (together with the strap end, No. 2). At the intersection of the separator branches there is a pyramid, the edges of which are decorated with triple granulated lines, while at its foot there is an incised rib-like border, and its triangular sides are smooth and coated with silver. The branches of the cross are thickened at their ends, each of them divided by a rib of semi-circular cross-section in fields decorated with laurel wreaths and framed with an incised rib-like border. The pyramid's triangular sides and the longitudinal ribs on the separator branches used to be coated with silver, although the silver has disappeared from some places and in other places is corrugated in the shape of drops. On the reverse side, at the ends of the branches, there are two small loops for fastening, which were cast simultaneously with the separator. Dimensions: 7.35 x 7.15 cm, height 2.7 cm, weight 93.6 g. The item is stored privately. Publication: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97, Cat. 318 (above).

2. Bronze rectangular strap end, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions, gilded and partially silver-coated (Fig. 1,2, Fig. 2,2). Site: Gradišče nad Bašljem, accidental find on the rocky summit (together with the strap separator, No. 1). The silver-coated longitudinal rib of semi-circular cross-section divides the strap end into fields, decorated with laurel wreaths and incised ribs. In the part where the strap end was attached to the strap, there are five silver rivets, trimmed with ribbed gilded bronze wire, while at the opposite end the edge is thickened. Dimensions: 4.6 x 2.46 cm, height 1.0 cm, weight 38.0 g. The item is stored privately. Publication: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97, Cat. 318 (left).

3. Bronze oval belt buckle ring, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions; the XRF measurements established traces of gilt on the surface (Fig. 1,3, Fig. 2,3). Site: Gradišče nad Bašljem, accidental find during the reconnaissance of the site carried out in the summer of 1992 by the Institute of Archaeology of the SRC of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Ljubljana. The ring is decorated with symmetrically set laurel wreaths. The front part of the ring is of rectangular cross-section, while the part where the thorn used to be is of circular cross-section, and smooth. Dimensions: 4.0 x 3.14 cm, height 0.65 cm, weight 14.3 g. The item is stored at the Narodni muzej Slovenije (National Museum of Slovenia) in Ljubljana, Inv. No. S 2623. Publication: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97, Cat. 318 (below).

4. Bronze hanger with a suspension loop, cast, decorated by wedge-shaped incisions and gilded (Fig. 1,4, Fig. 2,4). Site: Gradišče nad Bašljem, accidental find in the rivulet bed on the western side below the summit. On the edge of the rectangular reinforcement of the hanger there were six iron rivets (three have been preserved), trimmed with ribbed copper wire. The hanger is divided by raised rhombs with curved sides into eight triangular and two rhomboid fields filled with spiral motifs. The reinforcement is connected to the rectangular loop with a rod of a rounded triangular cross-section. The loop is divided on its upper side by wide transverse incisions. The hanger is strongly twisted. Length: 9.35 cm, width: up to 3.4 cm, length of the thorn 2.11 cm, weight 34.8 g. The item is stored at the Gorenjski muzej in Kranj. Publications: Valič 1995; Bitenc, Knific 2001, 98, Cat. 322.

5. Thorn and fragment of the arch of a copper spur, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions, silver-coated and

v nasebinski plasti na skalnatem pomolu na severni strani najdišča med izkopavanji, ki jih je leta 1939 opravil Rajko Ložar iz Narodnega muzeja v Ljubljani. Trn je bil vstavljen v ostrogo skozi odprtino na loku in zakovan s šilastim orodjem. Površina ostroge je okrašena z geometrijskimi in (stiliziranim) rastlinskimi motivi; ti so na loku razdeljeni na polja, na plašču trna pa obrobljeni z bisernima nizoma. Po obodu ostroge poteka razčlenjeno rebro. Vel. ohranjenega dela 4,0 x 3,8 cm, dol. trna 2,1 cm, teža 22,4 g. Predmet hrani Narodni muzej Slovenije, inv. št. S 2294. Objavi: Kastelic 1952-1953, 103-104, sl. 16; Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97, kat. 318 (desno).

6. Bronast jermenski zaključek, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza in pozlačen (sl. 2,6). Najdišče: Tonovcov grad pri Kobaridu, naključna najdba. Zaključek je okrašen s stiliziranim živalskim motivom. Spodnji rob zaključka je oblikovan v živalsko glavico. Ob zgornjem robu sta ohranjeni bakreni zakovici. Vel. 2,5 x 1,6 cm, teža 4,06 g. Predmet hrani Kobarški muzej v Kobaridu inv.št.22492. Objave: Ciglencečki 1994, 6, T. 1,26; Ciglencečki 1994a, 204, T. 1,14; Bitenc, Knific 2001, 94, kat. 305.

7. Bronast jermenski zaključek, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza ter pobakren in nato na zgornji strani pozlačen (sl. 2,7). Najdišče: Gradišče nad Sotesko, naključna najdba. Dvignjeni deli oblikujejo dotikajoča se kroga, zapolnjena z rozetama. Na robu, kjer je bil zaključek pritrjen na jermen, so štiri zakovice, obrobljene z narebreno žico. Vel. 4,07 x 2,2 cm, teža 12,9 g. Hrani ga Narodni muzej Slovenije v Ljubljani, inv. št. S 3114. Objava: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 95, kat. 313.

8. Bakren jermenski zaključek, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza, na prednji strani in po obodu pozlačen (sl. 2,8). Najdišče: Ljubična nad Zbelovsko Goro, naključna najdba. Z vzdolžnim, na koncu razcepljenim rebrom je razdeljen na okrasni polji, zapolnjeni s tremi škržati v vrsti in piko pod njimi. Vrsti škržatov sta obrobljeni z bisernim nizom. Na delu, kjer je bil zaključek pritrjen na jermen, so štiri luknjice za zakovice. Vel. 3,88 x 1,85 cm, deb. 0,8 cm, teža 21,4g. Predmet hrani Narodni muzej Slovenije v Ljubljani, inv. št. S 2537. Objava: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, kat. 336 (levi).

9. Bakren jermenski zaključek, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza, na prednji strani in po obodu pozlačen (sl. 2,9). Najdišče: Ljubična nad Zbelovsko Goro, naključna najdba. Z vzdolžnim, na koncu razcepljenim rebrom je razdeljen na okrasni polji, zapolnjeni s tremi škržati v vrsti in piko pod njimi. Vrsti škržatov sta obrobljeni z bisernim nizom. Na nekoliko poškodovanem delu, kjer je bil zaključek pritrjen na jermen, so štiri luknjice za zakovice. Vel. 4,0 x 1,80 cm, deb. 0,65 cm, teža 17,7 g. Predmet hrani Narodni muzej Slovenije v Ljubljani, inv. št. S 2538. Objava: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, kat. 336 (desni).

10. Bakren jermenski zaključek, ulit in pozlačen (sl. 2,10). Najdišče: Ljubična nad Zbelovsko Goro, naključna najdba. Ob valovitem robu zaključka je osem okroglih luknjic. Na jermen je bil pritrjen s tremi srebrnimi zakovicami, obrobljenimi z narebreno bakreno žico. Vel. 2,95 x 1,55 cm, deb. do 0,5 cm, teža 9,18 g. Predmet hrani Pokrajinski muzej v Celju inv.št. 1577. Objavi: Ciglencečki 1992, 84-85 (barvna sli-

then gilded; only the conical tip of the iron thorn was coated with copper and then silver (Fig. 1,5, Fig. 2,5). Site: Gradišče nad Bašljem, in the settlement layer on the rocky shelf on the northern side of the site during the excavations carried out in the summer of 1939 by Rajko Ložar of the Ljubljana National Museum. The thorn was fixed to the spur through a hole in the arch and hammered down with a pointed tool. The spur surface is decorated with geometrical and (stylised) vegetative motifs – on the arch they are divided into fields, while on the body of the thorn they are framed with lines of pearls. An articulated rib passes along the edge of the spur. Dimensions of the preserved part: 4.0 x 3.8 cm, length of the thorn 2.1 cm, weight 22.4 g. The item is stored at the Narodni muzej Slovenije (National Museum of Slovenia) in Ljubljana, Inv. No. S 2294. Publications: Kastelic 1952-1953, 103-104, Fig. 16; Bitenc, Knific 2001, 97, Cat. 318 (on the right).

6. Bronze strap end, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions and gilded (Fig. 2,6). Site: Tonovcov grad near Kobarid, accidental find. The strap end is decorated with a stylised animal motif. The lower edge of the strap end is in the shape of an animal head. On the upper edge two copper rivets have been preserved. Dimensions: 2.5 x 1.6 cm, weight 4,06 g. The item is stored at the Kobarški muzej (Kobarid Museum) in Kobarid, Inv. No. 22492. Publications: Ciglencečki 1994, 6, Pl. 1,26; Ciglencečki 1994a, 204, Pl. 1,14; Bitenc, Knific 2001, 94, Cat. 305.

7. Bronze strap end, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions, coated with copper and then gilded on the upper side (Fig. 2,7). Site: Gradišče above Soteska, accidental find. The raised parts form adjoining circles, each filled with a rosette. On the edge used to fasten the end to the strap, there are four rivets, trimmed with ribbed wire. Dimensions: 4.07 x 2.2 cm, weight 12.9 g. The item is stored at the Narodni muzej Slovenije (National Museum of Slovenia) in Ljubljana, Inv. No. S 3114. Publication: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 95, Cat. 313.

8. Copper strap end, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions, gilded on the front side and along the edges (Fig. 2,8). Site: Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora, accidental find. A longitudinal rib, with split ends, divides the strap end into decorative fields, filled with three cicadas in a column and a dot under them. The rows of cicadas are framed with a line of pearls. The part which used to be fastened to the strap contains four rivet holes. Dimensions: 3.88 x 1.85 cm, thickness 0.8 cm, weight 21.4 g. The item is stored at the Narodni muzej Slovenije (National Museum of Slovenia) in Ljubljana, Inv. No. S 2537. Publication: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, Cat. 336 (on the left).

9. Copper strap end, cast, decorated by wedge-shaped incisions, gilded on the front side and along the edges (Fig. 2,9). Site: Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora, accidental find. A longitudinal rib, with split ends, divides the strap end in decorative fields, filled with three cicadas in a row and a dot under them. The rows of cicadas are framed with lines of pearls. The somewhat damaged end which used to be fastened to the strap contains four rivet holes. Dimensions: 4.0 x 1.80 cm, thickness 0.65 cm, weight 17.7 g. The item is stored at the Narodni muzej Slovenije (National Museum of Slovenia) in Ljubljana, Inv. No. S 2538. Publication: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, Cat. 336 (on the right).

10. Copper strap end, cast and gilded (Fig. 2,10). Site: Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora, accidental find. On the wavy edge of the strap end there are eight round holes. It was fastened to the strap with three silver rivets, trimmed with ribbed copper wire. Dimensions: 2.95 x 1.55 cm, thickness up to 0.5 cm, weight 9,18 g. The item is stored at the Pokrajinski muzej (Re-



ka); Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, kat. 337 (desni).

11. Bronast okov, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza in pozlačen (sl. 2,11). Najdišče: Ljubična nad Zbelovsko Goro, naključna najdba. Pravokoten okov je ob daljših robovih okrašen z (verjetno lovorovima) vencema. Srednji del okova krasijo večja in dve manjši rozeti. Krajša robova okova sta polkrožno odebeljena, daljša okrepljena z rebroma na hrbtni strani. Vel. 3,06 x 2,12 cm, deb. do 1,3 cm, teža 20,7 g. Predmet hrani zasebnik. Objava: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, kat. 337 (zgornji).

12. Bronast jermenski zaključek, ulit, okrašen v tehniki klinastega vreza in pozlačen (sl. 2,12). Najdišče: Ljubična nad Zbelovsko Goro, naključna najdba. Odebeljena robova okrašenega dela zaključka sta razčlenjena s po štirimi vzdolžnimi prečno narezanimi rebri, nižji srednji del pa s prečnima narezanima rebroma. Na stanjšanem delu, kjer je bil okov pritrjen na jermen, so tri luknjice. Vel. 3,5 x 1,85 cm, deb. do 0,6 cm, teža 14,81 g. Predmet hrani Pokrajinski muzej v Celju, inv.št. 2128. Objavi: Ciglencečki 1992a, 84-85, T. 2,5; Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, kat. 337 (levi).

13. Srebrna objemka, ulita, okrašena v tehniki klinastega vreza in pozlačena (sl. 2,13). Najdišče: Ljubična nad Zbelovsko Goro, naključna najdba. Delno ohranjena in deformirana objemka je okrašena s stiliziranim rastlinskim motivom. Vel. 2,7 cm x 1,2 cm, deb. 0,3 cm, teža 3,2 g. Predmet hrani zasebnik. Neobjavljena.

gional Museum) in Celje, Inv.No. 1577. Publications: Ciglencečki 1992, 84-85 (colour photograph); Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, Cat. 337 (on the right).

11. Bronze mount, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions and gilded (Fig. 2,11). Site: Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora, accidental find. This rectangular item is decorated on its longer edges with wreaths (probably laurel wreaths). Its central part is adorned with one larger and two smaller rosettes. The shorter edges are thickened, with a semi-circular cross-section, while the longer ones are reinforced by ribs on the reverse side. Dimensions: 3.06 x 2.12 cm, thickness up to 1.3 cm, weight 20.7 g. The item is stored privately. Publication: Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, Cat. 337 (above).

12. Bronze strap end, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions and gilded (Fig. 2,12). Site: Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora, accidental find. The thickened edges of the decorated part of the strap end are divided by four longitudinal ribs with cross cuts, while the lower central part is decorated with transverse ribs also containing cross cuts. In the thinned section, which was used to fasten the end to the strap, there are three holes. Dimensions: 3.5 x 1.85 cm, thickness up to 0.6 cm, weight 14,81 g. The item is stored at the Pokrajinski muzej (Regional Museum) in Celje, Inv.No. 2128. Publications: Ciglencečki 1992a, 84-85, Pl. 2,5; Bitenc, Knific 2001, 102, Cat. 337 (on the left).

13. Silver clamp, cast, decorated with wedge-shaped incisions and gilded (Fig. 2,13). Site: Ljubična above Zbelovska Gora, accidental find. This partially preserved and deformed clamp is decorated with stylized vegetative motif. Dimensions: 2.7 cm x 1.2 cm, thickness 0.3 cm, weight 3.2 g. The item is stored privately. Unpublished.

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