

east Europe and is in the private collection of the anonymous Croatian collector (cat. no. 353).

Another sword of Type Na, Xa?, 1 comes



Fig. 20 – Sword from the Murtensee lake near the mouth of the Broye river, Bern, western Switzerland. Schweizerisches Museum in Zürich, inv. no. LM-16347. On photography: Schweizerisches Museum in Zürich, NEG-22982. Without scale.

from the site Prackendorf, northeastern Bavaria.¹³⁸ The third specimen is the sword discovered in the Murtensee lake (Lac de Morat) near the mouth of the Broye river, about twenty kilometers southwest of Bern, western Switzerland, and it also has the pommel of subtype Na (Fig. 20).¹³⁹ And while all parts of the swords in private collection in Croatia and from the northeastern Bavaria are very similar in shape and size to the other specimens of this type, the sword from western Switzerland has totally atypical blade and cross-guard in comparison with other swords in this group. The pommel is typical specimen of its subtype

with height identical to almost a millimeter (2.8 cm) to all other specimens of subtype Na. On the other hand, the Type Xa blade with inscription + INIOMINICII + suggests more extensive time interval, around the transition from the 11th to the 12th century and short hilt for one hand and short straight cross-guard are in accordance with that date. Nevertheless, it could be noticed on the photograph of this sword that pommel is made of different kind of iron and that it is of conspicuously darker color than other parts of the sword.¹⁴⁰ It seems that this is rather good example how new pommel had been mounted on the sword used and retained for almost a century.

The swords with Type N pommels have similar blades, which generally have the transitional characteristics of Types Xa and XIII. All the swords with subtype Na pommels have Type Xa blades, which are according to some features close to Type XIII (slightly more rounded point and squatter outline). Their dimensions are also uniform (BL= ca 95 cm) especially maximum width (BW= ca 5.1 cm). No signs nor ornaments have been encountered on the blades of all these swords while, on the other hand, all three specimens of subtype Na with slightly more slender pommels have decorated blades. Specimens with subtype Nb pommels have either identical blades (possibly cat. nos. 98, Pl. 3:3, 176)¹⁴¹ or blades with slightly prevailing characteristics of Type XIII (squatter outline and more rounded point).¹⁴² The cross-guards of all Type N swords are of Type 1 and they are slender and exceptionally long specimens. The exceptions are two swords with earlier blades from Switzerland. All the specimens of both subtypes have the hand-and-a-half hilt of uniform length (ca 17 ± 1 cm). Such typological and metrological uniformity of almost all nowadays known specimens indicates that all parts of swords of this type are of the same or similar origin and that period of their manufacture was not very long.

If we connect the repaired sword from the

¹³⁸ Schwarzsachtaler Heimatmuseum, Neunburg vorm Wald, http://www.neunburgvormwald.de/tourist/html/raum_2.html (26.01.2007).

¹³⁹ Bruhn-Hoffmeyer 1954, 41, 114, pl. IX-d, kat. II-31.

¹⁴⁰ I wish to express once again my deepest gratitude to Mrs Angelica Condrau from Schweizerisches Museum in Zürich who was kind enough to provide me with high quality photographs of this sword.

¹⁴¹ Also sword from unknown finding place, west Germany, Geibig 1991, cat. no 65, pl. 47.

¹⁴² Seehausen, southern Germany, Geibig 1991, Kat.-Nr. 47, pl. 33.