

Scabbard Accessories found in a tomb of the Early Migration Period on Pácin–Szenna-hill¹

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The site situated on Pácin–Szenna-hill, in Bodrogeköz, Northern-Eastern Hungary, was excavated during the construction of an overflow sill which was to prevent floods along the Tisza River (Fig. 1). The construction work started in November 2005, when a tomb was discovered at the depth of 60 cm while removing the ammunition from the surface. The emergency excavation was carried out by István Ringer. The rescue excavation of the site of the size of 12,800 m² was led by



FIGURE 1.

¹ I would like to express my thanks to Mária Wolf for ceding a right to publishing of the finds, and I would like to express Mária Wolf's, Ágnes B. Tóth's and Valéria Kulcsár's thanks for their advices. In addition I would like to give thanks to László Haraszti for doing of illustration.

Mária Wolf in the period of 2 May–27 July, 2007. During this excavation 41 houses, 38 ovens, 150 pits as well as 16 cremation tombs have been found. The majority of the objects found at the settlement site and the tombs of cremation rites can be dated to the seventh–ninth centuries. Apart from these, there were also objects to be found from the Age of the Arpad Dynasty at the site.²

In November 2005, the bomb-disposal squad observed the tomb to be discussed in this paper; they tampered with the iron sword and its scabbard mouth mounts that were buried next to the deceased (the blade of sword was bent almost in a right angle). The outline of the tomb, as a result of the tampering, was only discerned at the depth of 55 cm during the rescue excavation. The irregular,

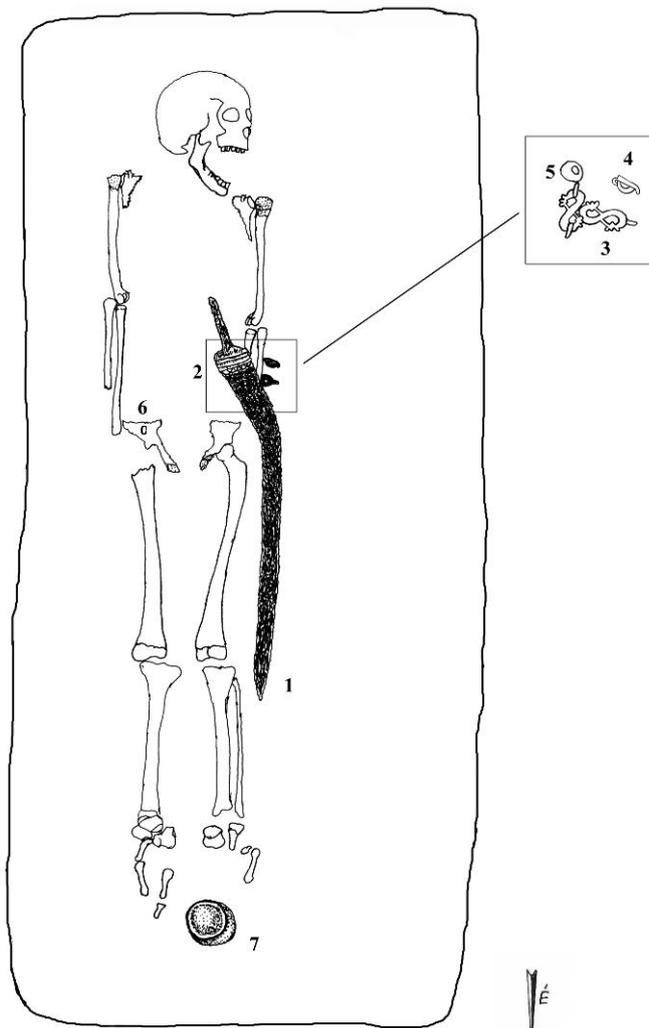


FIGURE 2.

² The finds are in the Collection of Archaeology of Herman Ottó Museum.

SCABBARD ACCESSORIES FOUND IN A TOMB OF THE EARLY MIGRATION PERIOD ...

rectangular grave was 225 cm long 120 cm wide and 60 cm deep. The stretched-out, supine body of South-North orientation was buried with its arms placed tightly next to it and its legs were also placed next to each other very tightly. The artifacts found around the corpse were a long, double-edged iron sword, a silver scabbard mouth, double bronze mounts of a scabbard suspension, a glass sword bead, a silver buckle, a bronze buckle and a small-sized, grey mug (Fig. 2).

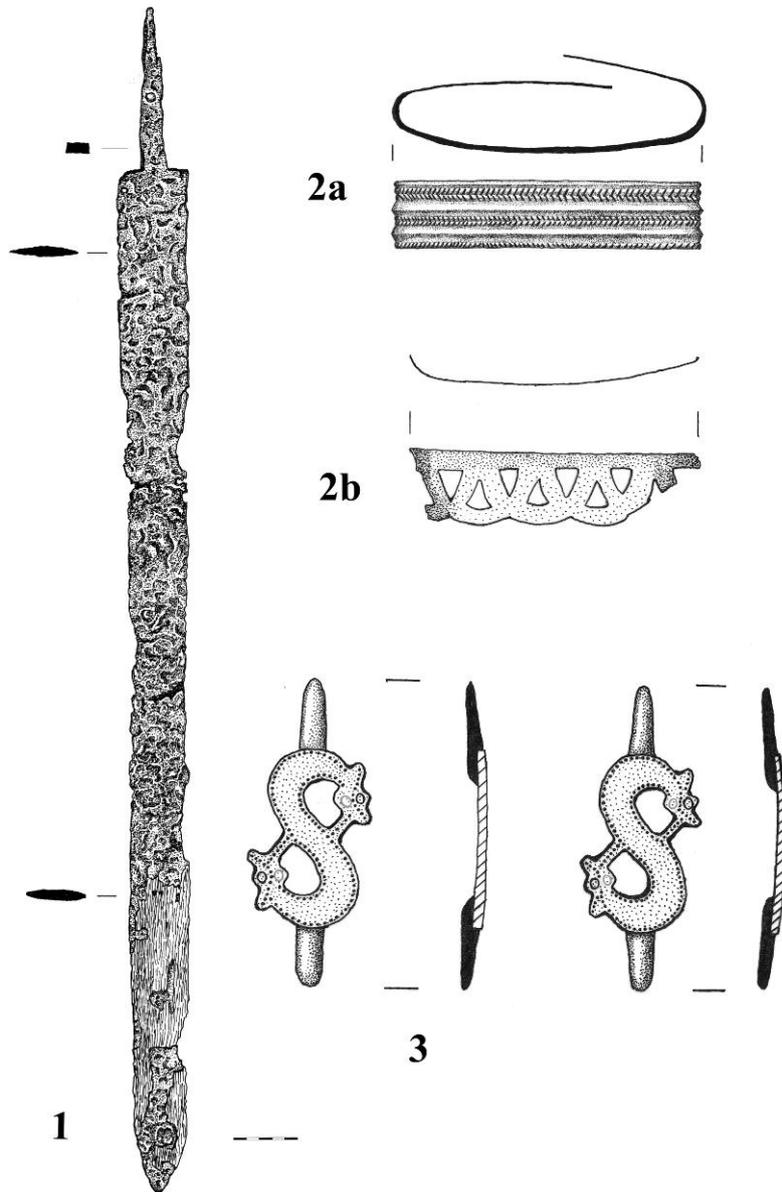


FIGURE 3.

The long, double-edged iron sword lay on the left side of the skeleton, right next to the arm and thigh bones. The stay of the hilt was hammered into one with the blade and there was no cross-guard. On the lower third of the double-edged blade that narrowed gradually, the wooden impression of the scabbard can be seen. The total length of the sword is 93 cm (Fig. 3. 1). The silver scabbard mouth was found on the blade of the iron sword and it consisted of two parts (Fig. 3, 2). The upper part of the silver scabbard mouth entirely covered the crosswise circumference of the scabbard and the ends of the plate were folded onto each other, they were not riveted. Only the front of the upper part of the scabbard mouth is

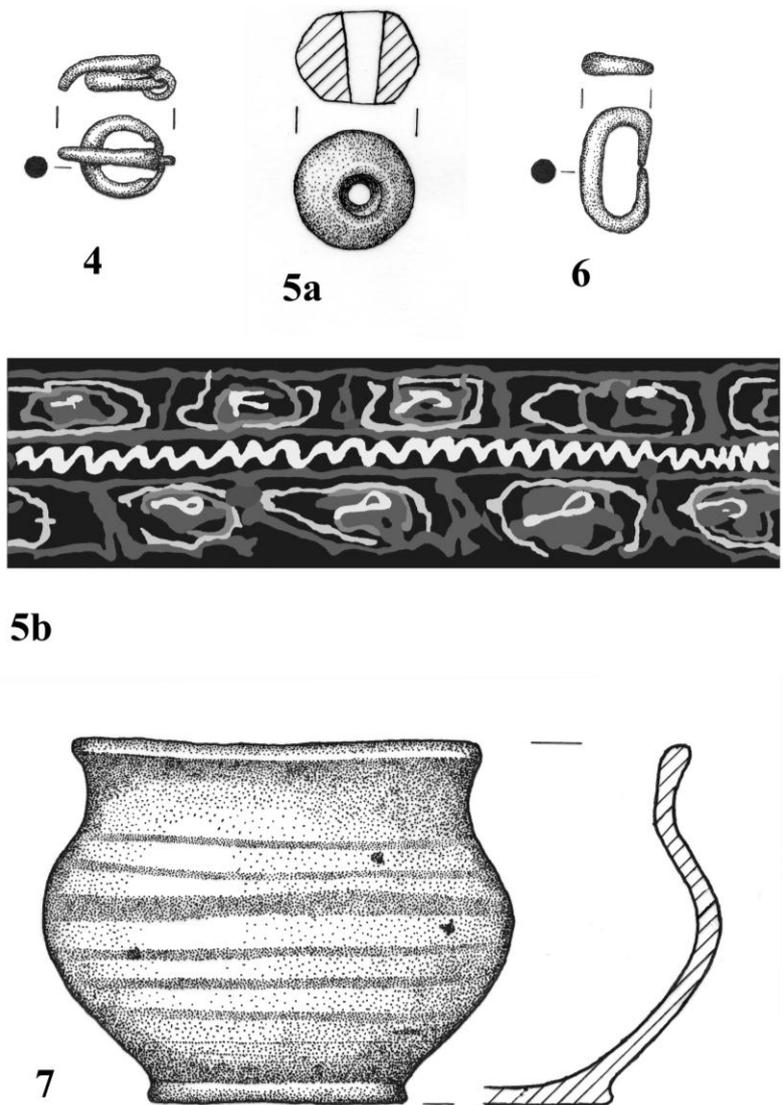


FIGURE 4.

decorated: lengthwise, three parallel wedge-shaped corrugations split the surface into three parts. Between the corrugations, there are three lengthwise ornamentation of herringbone pattern chiselled into the scabbard mouth (Fig. 3, 2a). The lower part of the scabbard mouth was soldered onto the upper part – which did not cover the scabbard all around, it only decorated the front of the scabbard. This lower part is made of silver plate and has an all carved and triangular ornamentation (Fig. 3, 2b). The total width of the scabbard mouth is 2,5 cm. The double bronze mounts of the scabbard suspension can be localized under the upper third of the blade of the sword. The two mountings were placed at right angles to each other in the tomb. The double, cast, bronze mounts of the scabbard suspension are equipped with identical animal heads that lean in opposite directions from a shared central point in an S-shape. A pointillist decoration runs all along the edges of the mounts; the animal heads are meticulously crafted, the lines of the ears, the eyes and the nose can clearly be seen. To this middle part depicting the animals toggles were soldered, which narrowed at the two ends, with the help of which these parts were fixed to the scabbard. The full length of these objects is 6,5 cm and their largest width is 2,2 cm (Fig. 3, 3). A small-sized silver buckle was also found next to the mounts of the scabbard suspension under the upper third of the blade of the sword. The size of the buckle is 1,7×1,7 cm (Fig. 4, 4). The sword bead was found right next to the double mounts of the scabbard suspension. The middle part of the body of the dark blue, biconic, glass bead was decorated with a thread of white rickrack, and a multicolored (red, yellow, white, blue) marbling can be seen on the entire surface of the bead. The height of the bead is 1,9 cm and it is 2,3 cm in diameter (Fig. 4, 5). Above all this, a bronze buckle and a small-sized (Fig. 4, 6), grey mug was found placed at the feet of the body in the tomb (Fig. 4, 7).

During the 2007 rescue excavation of Pácín-Szena-hill, no further skeletal graves were found on the site; despite of this fact, it cannot be stated clearly that it was an isolated burial since the Eastern and the Western sides of the Szena-hill have not been excavated. The South–North orientation of the tomb on Pácín-Szena-hill can be viewed as usual and customary in the Sarmatian territories of the Carpathian Basin.³ The majority of the tombs of the Tiszadob region⁴ – at the

³ V. Kulcsár, *A kárpát-medencei szarmaták temetkezési szokásai*. [Burial customs of the Sarmatians in the Carpathian basin] Múzeumi Füzetek 49. Aszód 1998, 16.

⁴ Tiszadob–Sziget (E. Istvánovits, "Das Gräberfeld aus dem 4.–5. Jahrhundert von Tiszadob–Sziget," *Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 45 (1993), 139–141); Tiszavalk–Kenderföldek (É. Garam–A. Vaday, "Sarmatische Siedlung und Begräbnisstätte in Tiszavalk," *Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae* (1990), 175–197); Tiszakarád–Inasa (E. Lovász, "Tiszakarád–Inasa," *A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve* 21 (1982), 124; E. Lovász, "Tiszakarád–Inasa," *A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve* 21–23:1983–1985 (1985), 88; E. Lovász, "A tiszakarádi temető," [The Tiszakarád graveyard] *A Miskolci Herman Ottó Múzeum Közleményei* 24 (1986), 10–11); Mezőszemere–Kismarifenék (A. Vaday – L. Domboróczki, "Mezőszemere, Kismari-fenek. Spätkaiser-, frühvölkerwanderungszeitliches Gräberfeldsdetail," *Agria* 37 (2001), 8–34); Szihalom–Palmény–Szihalom ("A Váradi, Szihalom–Palmény-tábla. Késő szarmata – kora nép-

Northern edge of the Great Plains – is also of South-North orientation and they can be dated to the late fourth–early fifth centuries. According to Eszter Istvánovits, the population associated with the tombs of the Tiszadob region was probably a newly-immigrated group from the East. Concerning its rituals and assemblage, it reveals an Iranian influence but there are also German aspects to be found.⁵ However, during the fifth century, the West–East orientation became dominant one in contrast to the South–North and the North–South ones within the Carpathian Basin.⁶ The burial ritual of placing one or two pieces of pottery next to the feet of the deceased is also a typical funerary custom of the tombs of the Tiszadob region as well as the Sarmatian burials of the Carpathian Basin.⁷ Juts as well, the majority of the burial pits of the tombs of the Tiszadob region are very similar to the tomb of Pácín–Szenna-hill under discussion because they are long and wide.⁸ During the rescue excavation, there were no signs of a coffin

vándorlaskori telep és temető a IV.–V. századból,” [Late Sarmatian–early transhumance-age site and graveyard from the fourth–fifth centuries] in *Utak a múltba. Az M3-as autópálya régészeti leletmentései*, ed. P. Raczky, T. Kovács, A. Anders, Budapest 1997, 117), Szihalom–Budaszög (L. Fodor, “Szihalom–Budaszög. Késő szarmata – kora nép-vándorlaskori temető a IV.–V. századból,” [Szihalom–Budaszög. Late Sarmatian–early transhumance-age site and graveyard from the fourth–fifth centuries] in *Utak a múltba. Az M3-as autópálya régészeti leletmentései*, ed. P. Raczky, T. Kovács, A. Anders, Budapest 1997, 121). See also to Tiszadob region: Vaday – Domboróczki, *Mezőszemere, Kismari-fenek*, 110–114.

- ⁵ E. Istvánovits, “Adatok az Észak-Alföld 4. század végi – 5. század elejei lakosságának etnikai meghatározásához,” [Data to the ethnic reconstruction of the population of the North Plain in the late fourth– early fifth centuries] *A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve – Studia Archaeologica* 4 (1998), 309–311.
- ⁶ Á. B. Tóth, *Gepidische Siedlungen im Theissgebiet*. Monumenta Germanorum Archaeologica Hungariae 4. Budapest 2006, 287; P. Tomka, “Az árpási 5. századi sír,” [The fifth century grave of Árpás] *Arrabona* 39 (2001), 165, 173; K. Ottományi, “‘Hunkori’ sírok a pátyi temetőben,” [‘Hun-age’ graves in the Páty graveyard] *Archaeológiai Értesítő* 126 (2001), 44–45; M. Nagy, “A hódmezővásárhely-kishomoki gepida temető (elemzés),” [The Hódmezővásárhely–Kishomok Gepid graveyard (an analysis)] *A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve – Studia Archaeologica* 10 (2004), 132; K. Ottományi, “Hunnenzeitliche Gräber in Budakalász und Páty,” *Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae* 2008, 237. There are very few South–North orientation burials in the Gepidic row cemeteries. For example Hódmezővásárhely–Kishomok grave 38. (I. Bóna – M. Nagy, *Gepidische Gräberfelder am Theissgebiet 1*. Monumenta Germanorum Archaeologica Hungariae 1. Budapest 2002, 50–51; Nagy, *A hódmezővásárhely-kishomoki gepida temető (elemzés)*, 132–133); four burials of Viminacium (L. Zotović, “Die gepidische Nekropole bei Viminacium,” *Starinar* 43–44 (1992–1993) (published in 1994), 183).
- ⁷ Istvánovits, *Adatok az Észak-Alföld 4. század végi – 5. század elejei lakosságának etnikai meghatározásához*, 312; E. Istvánovits, “Néhány gondolat a 4. század végi – 5. század eleji új észak-alföldi leletekről,” [Some thoughts on the new, late fourth-, early fifth-century findings in the North Plain] in *A Kárpát-medence és a steppe*, ed. A. Márton, Magyar Őstörténeti Könyvtár 14, Szeged 2001, 16.
- ⁸ Istvánovits, *Adatok az Észak-Alföld 4. század végi – 5. század elejei lakosságának etnikai meghatározásához*, 311.

found. Nevertheless, on the basis of the position of the limbs – the arm bones closely placed to the body and the leg bones tightly placed right next to each other – it can be rendered probable that the deceased was covered with matting or linen. In connection with the food and drink providing rituals of the tomb of Pácin–Szenna-hill, we can draw the conclusion only on the basis of the small, grey mug, yet, not even after the levigation of the amount of earth that the mug contained was any trace of food found. The long, double-edged sword and its (scabbard) accessories were not placed where they were generally worn, in the case of the deceased in Pácin–Szenna-hill, instead they were laid down between the left shoulder and the middle of the thighbone. This custom was a frequent phenomenon in the case of the tombs of the fifth–sixth centuries.⁹

The sword of the tomb on Pácin–Szenna-hill can be ranked with the specific type of double-edged, long swords (*spatha*). Swords of similar size without a cross-guard are known from the whole Carpathian Basin, from the fifth–sixth centuries.¹⁰ The upper part of the scabbard mouth of Pácin–Szenna-hill, according to the typology of Wilfried Menghin, can be ranked with the type of Entringen–Sindelfingen. These finds were mostly made of gilded silver or silver and they were decorated with several longitudinal cordoned ornaments.¹¹ A similar piece (similar to the decoration of the scabbard mouth of Pácin) was found in tomb no. 204 in Finglesham (England), where the space between the longitudinal cordons of the silver plate was decorated with a lineation of short, vertical lines engraved densely next to each other.¹² From the territory of the Carpathian Basin of the early Middle Ages, only a few scabbard mouths are known. Scabbard mouths were only found in territories that were under Gepid control: from Rakovac (Serbia),¹³

⁹ Nagy, *A hódmezővásárhely-kishomoki gepida temető (elemzés)*, 151–152. This incident is noticeable in the burials of the Tiszadob region (Istvánovits, *Adatok az Észak-Alföld 4. század végi – 5. század eleji lakosságának etnikai meghatározásához*, 313).

¹⁰ A. Kiss, “Völkerwanderungszeitliches, germanisches Langschwert von Dunapentele/Dunaújváros,” *Alba Regia* 19 (1981), 145–165; J. Cseh, “Adatok az V–VII. századi gepida emléktanyag egységéhez,” [Data to the unity of the Gepid] *A Szolnok Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve* 7 (1984–1988) (published in 1990), 38–39; A. Kiss, “Germanen im awarenzeitlichen Karpatenbecken,” in *Awarenforschungen* 2, ed. F. Daim, Wien 1992, 65–66, 97; A. Kiss, *Das awarenzeitlich gepidische Gräberfeld von Kölked–Feketekapu*. A. Monographien zur Frühgeschichte und Mittelalterarchäologie 2. Studien zur Archäologie der Awaren 5. Innsbruck 1996, 230; Nagy, *A hódmezővásárhely-kishomoki gepida temető (elemzés)*, 187.

¹¹ W. Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter. Chronologisch-typologische Untersuchungen zu Langschwertern aus germanischen Gräbern des 5. bis 7. Jahrhunderts n. Chr.* Wissenschaftliche Beibände zum Anzeiger des Germanischen Nationalmuseums 1. Nürnberg 1983, 138, 336.

¹² Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 222, 336.

¹³ D. Csallány, *Archäologische Denkmäler der Gebiden im Mitteldonaubecken (454–589 u. Z.)*. Archaeologia Hungarica 38. Budapest 1961, 242; Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 336.

from tomb no. 64 at Szőreg-Téglagyár¹⁴ and from tomb no. 64 at Hódmezővásárhely-Kishomok.¹⁵ Among these finds, the gilded silver specimen of Rakovac bears similar longitudinal cordoned ornamentation as the one of Pácin-Szenna. From the territories of the Carpathian Basin to the West of the Danube, among the sword finds dated to the fifth–sixth centuries, there are only the specimens of Felpéc and Dunapentele/Dunaújváros the scabbard mouths of which are to be mentioned, but they are different from the one of Pácin.¹⁶ The scabbard mouth of the type of Entringen-Sindelfingen is most frequently found in the South-Western Germany of today, some specimens are also known in the Southern part of Scandinavia and the Eastern part of England; its easternmost finding place, however, is Pácin-Szenna. The use of the finds belonging to this type can be dated to the second half of the fifth century and the beginning of the sixth century.¹⁷ Parallels or similarities with the lower part of the scabbard mouth of Pácin-Szenna are not known. Similar decoration, however, is known on piece of harness from Illerup (Denmark).¹⁸

Wilfried Menghin created two separate groups concerning the double suspension mounts of a scabbard mouth that can be considered a German specificity reflecting Western origin:¹⁹ a specimen with toggles at both ends and the riveted one.²⁰ The find of Pácin-Szenna belongs to the former one considering these two versions. Menghin further created six types within the group of suspension mounts with toggles, and although, there is not a parallel to be found with the middle part of the finds of Pácin-Szenna, still, considering their material, crafting and ornamentation it is closest to the mounts of the Nydam-Porskaer type. The finds of this type – similarly to the mounts of Pácin – were made of bronze, are flat and their most frequent mode of ornamentation is the pointillist decoration; yet, in contrast to the specimens of Pácin, their middle part was usually made in a geometrical shape. The length of the suspension mounts belonging to this group

¹⁴ Csallány, *Archäologische Denkmäler der Gebiden im Mitteldonaubecken (454–589 u. Z.)*, 161; M. Nagy, Szőreg-Téglagyár, in *Gepidische Gräberfelder im Theissgebiet 2*, ed. I. Bóna, É. Garam, T. Vida, Monumenta Germanorum Archaeologica Hungariae 2, Budapest 2005, 131.

¹⁵ Bóna-Nagy, *Gepidische Gräberfelder am Theissgebiet 1*, 60.

¹⁶ Kiss, *Völkerwanderungszeitliches, germanisches Langschwert von Dunapentele/Dunaújváros*, 148. The scabbard mouth of Felpéc belongs to the type of Högom-Selmeston, and the scabbard mouth of Dunapentele/Dunaújváros belongs to the type of Samson-Abingdon (Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 138, 333–334).

¹⁷ Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 138, 336, 184–222, 11. térkép, W. Menghin, “Schwerter des Goldgriffspathenhorizonts im Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Berlin,” *Acta Praehistorica et Archaeologica* 26–27:1994–1995 (1995), 144.

¹⁸ C. Carnap-Bornheim – J. Ilkjær, *Illerup Ådal 7. Die Prachtausrüstungen*. Jutland Archaeological Society Publications 25.7. 1996, Taf. 212.

¹⁹ J. Werner, Zu fränkischen Schwertern des 5. Jahrhunderts, *Germania* 31 (1953), 31; Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 109–11.

²⁰ Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 109–111.

ranges between 6 and 10 cm.²¹ The double suspension mounts of a scabbard mouth are considered to be rare findings in the Carpathian Basin. The double suspension mounts were found in the two find places in the Carpathian Basin (Zsitvabesenyő and Epöl). The specimens found in Zsitvabesenyő (Bešeňov, Slovakia) are different from the finds of Pácin concerning their material, their shape as well as their decoration.²² The specimens found in Epöl-Kókkúti-dűlő I. (Hungary) are similar to the finds of Pácin concerning their material, crafting. But the specimens found in Epöl are different from the finds of Pácin concerning their shape. The finds of Epöl belong to the Nydam-Porskaer type.²³ The suspension mounts found in two sites at the Western border of the Carpathian Mountains (Blučina-Cezavy, Brno-Brněnke Ivanovce, Czech Republic) also greatly differ from the ones at Pácin-Szenna.²⁴ The mounts of the Nydam-Porskaer type are most frequently excavated in the Southern part of the Scandinavian Peninsula, the Denmark and North-Western Germany; their use can be dated to the fifth century.²⁵

The small silver buckle found next to the suspension mounts of the scabbard mouth is of Eastern origin and this type of buckle appeared in the Carpathian Ba-

²¹ E. Behmer, *Das zweischneidige Schwert der germanischen Völkerwanderungszeit 1–2*. Stockholm 1939, Table 25. 8., Table 23. 5., Table 28. 7. 8; Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 139, 340–341; Bemann, *Eine völkerwanderungszeitliche Bestattung aus Epöl, Kom. Esztergom, mit Schwertriemendurchzügen skandinavischer Form*, 220; Wilfried Menghin thought that the forefather of the others double mounts of scabbard suspension belong to the mounts of the Nydam-Porskaer type (Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 111).

²² T. Kolník, *Römische und germanische Kunst in der Slowakei*. Bratislava 1984, 199, Picture 189; K. Pieta, "Die Völkerwanderungszeit in der Slowakei," in *Germanen, Hunnen und Awaren. Schätze der Völkerwanderungszeit, Die Archäologie des 5. und 6. Jahrhunderts an der mittleren Donau und der östlich-merowingische Reihengräberkreis*. Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg 12. Dezember 1987 bis 21. Februar 1988, ed. W. Menghin, T. Springer, E. Wamers, Nürnberg 1987, 404, 415–416; Menghin, "Schwerter des Goldgriffspathenhorizonts im Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Berlin," 165.

²³ J. Bemann, "Eine völkerwanderungszeitliche Bestattung aus Epöl, Kom. Esztergom, mit Schwertriemendurchzügen skandinavischer Form," in *Miscellanea Romano-Barbarica in honorem septagenarii magistri Ion Ioniță oblata*, ed. V. Mihailescu-Bîrliaba, C. Hriban, L. Munteanu, Iași 2006, 217–217; I. Horváth-M. H. Kelemen-I. Toma, *Komárom megye régészeti topográfiája. Esztergom és a Dorogi járás*. Magyarország Régészeti Topográfiája 5. Budapest 1979, 74–76.

²⁴ Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 184; T. Tejral, "Mähren im 5. Jahrhundert," in *Germanen, Hunnen und Awaren. Schätze der Völkerwanderungszeit, Die Archäologie des 5. und 6. Jahrhunderts an der mittleren Donau und der östlich-merowingische Reihengräberkreis*. Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg 12. Dezember 1987 bis 21. Februar 1988. ed. W. Menghin, T. Springer, E. Wamers, Nürnberg 1987, 354, 362, 374–375; Menghin, *Schwerter des Goldgriffspathenhorizonts im Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Berlin*, 164–165.

²⁵ Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 340, Map 13; Bemann, *Eine völkerwanderungszeitliche Bestattung aus Epöl, Kom. Esztergom, mit Schwertriemendurchzügen skandinavischer Form*, 220, 224.

sin with the Hun invasion. This round-shaped, silver buckle with incurved toggle can typically be considered a form belonging to the time of the Huns that was not solely worn by the Huns but it was widely-used. Buckles of this type were still used after the end of the Hunnic Empire.²⁶

Thus, we can draw conclusions concerning the construction of the scabbard found in the tomb of Pácin-Szenna-hill on the basis of: the scabbard mouth, the double suspension mounts, and the wooden impression on the lower third of the blade and the small-sized silver buckle. The suspension mounts were always fastened in pairs under the scabbard mouth, onto the upper third of the scabbard.²⁷ It can be stated on the basis of Western European parallels that the toggles at both ends of these mounts were inserted through narrow openings between the two layers of the scabbard: the outer cover made of leather while the inner one was made of wood; in addition, its suspension belt was fastened all the way under the middle part of the suspension mounts. Hence, the remaining free space between the two toggles in the middle part provided the maximum possible width of the suspension belt. This made possible only a relatively thin width for the belt (0,5 and 2 cm).²⁸ Thus, the width of the suspension belt of the suspension mounts of Pácin could not be more than 2,1 cm. However, if the suspension mounts had merely been fastened this way, without riveting, they would have not been able to hold the weapon. Quite probably, the suspension belt was riveted or made into a loop crosswise on the back side of the scabbard in order to relieve the suspension mounts; this way, its main function was to stop the belt of the sword from sliding.²⁹ The small-sized silver buckle found next to the double suspension mounts, due to its position, probably belonged to the suspension belt, which was pinned down by the suspension mounts, or maybe, it was part of the lower suspension belt of the scabbard.

The use of the sword bead with its Eastern, namely Iranian origin, appeared with the Hunnic Invasion in Central and Western Europe, and even after the end of the Hunnic Empire it was widely-used.³⁰ Although, on the basis of the find-

²⁶ A. Alföldi, "Leletek a hun korszakból és etnikai szétválasztásuk," *Archaeologia Hungarica* 9 (1932), 61-63; I. Bóna, *A hunok és nagy királyaik*. [The Huns and their great kings] Budapest 1993, 90, Fig. 39; Ottományi, "'Hunkori' sírok a pátyi temetőben," 55-57. The buckle of Pácin-Szenna-hill belong to the type of II.2/a of Zaszceckaja's typology (И. П. Засецкая, *Культура кочевников южнорусских степей в гуннскую эпоху (конец IV - V. вв.)*. Санкт-Петербург 1994, 87, Figure 19b. 18.

²⁷ Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 102.

²⁸ Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 102-104.

²⁹ H. Ament, *Fränkische Adelsgräber von Flonheim*. Germanische Denkmäler der Völkerwanderungszeit. Die Fränkischen Altertümer des Rheinlandes 5. Berlin 1970, 57-61; Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 104.

³⁰ J. Werner, *Beiträge zur Archaeologie des Attila-Reiches*. Die Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaft. Abhandlungen. A Philosophische-philologische und Historische Klasse 38. München 1956, 27; Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 143-144; B. Anke, *Studien zur reiternomadischen Kultur des 4. bis 5. Jahrhunderts 1-2*. Beiträge zur Ur- und Frühgeschichte Mitteleuropas 8. Weissbach 1998, 99-100; B. Anke, "Kulturelle Verbin-

circumstances, it is evident that they belonged to the swords, their function and role are not obvious.³¹ Beads of this type were made of various kinds of materials; there are known specimens made of amber, rock crystal, chalcedony, glass, cornelian and limestone, as well. During the time of the Hunnic Empire, beads made of glass were rare. However during the early Merovingian period, the glass beads became more frequent type of finds in Western Europe.³² The double conic shape found in relation to the specimen of Pácin-Szena either made of glass or of any other material is very rare in the case of beads.³³ Both modes of decoration that are typical in the case of glass sword beads (thread inlay, marbling) can be seen on the bead of Pácin-Szena. The thread inlay of wavy line or rickrack pattern was very frequent during the early Merovingian period.³⁴ The greatest amount of specimens of this type of object made of glass originates from the England, and similar finds in the present-day North France, Belgium, South-Western Germany and Rhine-Hessen are known.³⁵ In the Carpathian Basin, however, the use of glass beads as sword beads was still not typical, not even after the end of the Hunnic Empire.³⁶ Within Europe, the use of glass sword beads was most frequent

dungen zwischen den Nordpontischen Steppengebieten und Skandinavien in der römischen Kaiser- und Völkerwanderungszeit aufgrund archäologischer Quellen," in *Kontakte zwischen Iran, Byzanz und der Steppe im 6.-7. Jahrhundert*, ed. Cs. Bálint, *Varia Archaeologica* 9, Budapest-Napoli-Roma 2000, 87-97, 88; H. Schwerin von Krosigk, "Über 'Magische Schwertperlen' bei Sarmaten, Alanen und Abchasen," *Prähistorische Zeitschrift* 80:1 (2005), 132.

³¹ Werner, *Beiträge zur Archaeologie des Attila-Reiches*, 31-35; Bóna, *A hunok és nagy királyai*, 165; Anke, *Studien zur reiternomadischen Kultur des 4. bis 5. Jahrhunderts* 1-2, 99-100; С. И. Безуглов, Воинское позднесарматское погребение близ Азова, В: *Историко-археологические исследования в Азове и на Нижнем Дону в 1994 г.*, Ред. В. Я. Кияшко, Азов 1997, 135; С. И. Безуглов, Позднесарматские мечи (по материалам Полонья), В: *Сарматы и их соседи на Дону. Материалы и исследования по археологии Дона*, Ред. Ю. К. Гугуев, Ростов-на-Дону 2000, 172.

³² Werner, *Beiträge zur Archaeologie des Attila-Reiches*, 35-36; Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 43-144, 355-357.

³³ For example there are the double conic shape beads in Karden-St. Kastor grave 71. (Germany) (Anke, *Studien zur reiternomadischen Kultur des 4. bis 5. Jahrhunderts* 1-2, 113), and Hammelburg (Germany) (Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 196). The shape of sword beads usually are cylinder, barrel and disk (Werner, *Beiträge zur Archaeologie des Attila-Reiches*, 35-36; Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 143-144, 355-357; Bóna, *A hunok és nagy királyai*, 165).

³⁴ V. Evison, The Dover Ring-sword and Other Sword-rings and Beads, *Archaeologia or Miscellaneous Tracts relating to Antiquity* 101 (1967), 81-84; Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 142-143; Anke, *Studien zur reiternomadischen Kultur des 4. bis 5. Jahrhunderts* 1-2, 106-107.

³⁵ Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 143-144, 355-357.

³⁶ Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, Map 19. In the Gepidic row cemeteries primarily there are limestone beads (Bóna -Nagy, *Gepidische Gräberfelder am Theissgebiet* 1, 213; Nagy, *A hódmezővásárhely-kishomoki gepida temető (elemzés)*, 152, 187; Nagy, *Szóreg-Téglagyár*, 126).

primarily in the second half of the fifth century, A.D. and at the beginning of the sixth century.³⁷

The ring foot of the small-sized, grey mug of Pácín-Szenna-hill was a frequent phenomenon during the late Sarmatian and Hun Period, however, the use of this type of pottery is not typical from the middle third of the fifth century on.³⁸

On the basis of the burial rituals of the tomb excavated on Pácín-Szenna-hill, it can be stated that it bears strong resemblance to the ones in the Tiszadob region (South-North orientation, placing one or two pieces of pottery next to the feet of the deceased, long and wide burial pits). On the assemblage of the tomb in question a double influence can be detected. The round-shaped, silver buckles with incurved toggle as well as the sword beads appeared in the Carpathian Basin with the invasion of the Huns. The silver buckle of the tomb of Pácín can be viewed as typical during the time of the Huns which was widely-used even after the end of the Hunnic Empire. However, the use of glass beads as sword beads became more frequent only after the end of the Hunnic Empire, yet, in the Carpathian Basin, this type of object is not characteristic, not even during this period. In addition, on the scabbard accessories of the double-edged sword, a German, early Merovingian influence can be seen. The silver scabbard mouth adorned by longitudinal cordoned ornaments as well as the double mounts of the scabbard suspension can be dated to the second half of the fifth century. This latter type of object was not a frequent find in the Carpathian Basin. The finds of Zsitvabesenyő (Bešeňov, Slovakia) are entirely different from the find of Pácín concerning its material, its crafting and its ornamentation, as well. The finds of Epöl are similar to the finds of Pácín concerning their material, crafting and ornamentation. The mounts of Epöl belongs to the Nydam-Porskaer type. The double suspension mounts of Pácín-Szenna are closest to the Nydam-Porskaer type. In addition, it can be claimed that the use of the small-sized, ring-footed mug found at the feet of the skeleton is not typical after the middle third of the fifth century. Thus, in spite of the fact that the tomb of Pácín bears strong resemblance to the ones in the Tiszadob region of the late fourth- to early fifth century concerning its burial rituals, on the basis of the assemblage, it can be dated later. Primarily on the basis of the scabbard accessories of the sword (scabbard mouth, double suspension mounts), the tomb of Pácín-Szenna-hill cannot be dated earlier than the end of the middle third of the fifth century.

³⁷ Menghin, *Das Schwert im frühen Mittelalter*, 142-143.

³⁸ Tóth, *Gepidische Siedlungen im Theissgebiet*, 107.