

NOŽIČ Z ZAVOJKOMA S STAROSLOVANSKEGA GROBIŠČA DLESC PRI BODEŠČAH

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Na staroslovanskem grobišču Dlesc pri Bodeščah smo leta 1980 našli v grobu 42 neobičajen železen predmet. Zaradi rjaste skorje in delne ohranjenosti ni bilo mogoče spoznati njegove nekdanje oblike; tam, kjer se je pri prvem čiščenju odkrušil drobec rje, se je na železni površini pokazal vrezan okras.¹ Ko je bila odstranjena vsa rjasta skorja, se je iz nje izluščil železen nožič z zavojkoma in okrašenim držajem.² Ker nova podoba predmeta še ni bila objavljena, s tem prispevkom dopolnjujem arheološko poročilo o grobišču Dlesc.

Pogrebci so za pokojnika, ki je nosil nožič z zavojkoma, grob (42) izkopali na temenu ledeniške gomile. Napravili so grobno jamo ovalne oblike (dolgo 2,06 m in široko 0,53 m, dandanašnji je segala 0,56 m pod rušo). Kopali niso le do peščenih tal, ampak tudi vanje (do 0,28 m globoko). Truplo odraslega moškega so položili v grob (dolžina dobro ohranjenega okostja 1,83 m) z obrazom proti jutranjemu soncu (odklon od severa 125°). Roki sta bili iztegnjeni ob telesu; levica je počivala deloma pod trupom (sl. 1).

Pod levo podlahtjo in kolčnico je imel pokojnik železen nožič z zavojkoma (sl. 1: mesto najdbe je označeno s krožcem; 2: a—d); ležal je z rezilom proti glavi. Nožič se ni ohranil v celoti (dolžina 9,0 cm). Del rezila je v minulih stoletjih in pri izkopu razpadel, tako da je ostal le štrcelj (dolžina 1,6 cm, širina 0,8 cm, debelina 0,2 cm). Rezilo prehaja pri ostrini, ki je le na eni strani, v držaj poševno, pri hrbtu pa ravno. Ker je tanjše od držaja, prehaja vanj stopničasto. Prehod je na eni strani označen tudi z okrasno črto (sl. 2: b). Držaj (dolžina 7,4 cm) je pravokotnega prereza (širina 0,9 cm, debelina 0,3 cm). Zaključuje se zavojkasto. Tudi zavojkasti zaključek je oddeljen od držaja z okrasno črto (sl. 2: b, d).

Nožič je skovan iz enega kosa. Zavojka sta bila narejena s tanjenjem. Na obeh širših stranicah je bil v površino s kolescem vrezan okras (sl. 2: b, d; T. 1), na ožjih stranicah pa je bil vpiljen (sl. 2: a, c). V nastale žlebiče so bile vložene in zakovane srebrne niti. Ohranjene so na ožji stranici držaja (sl. 2: a) in na posameznih mestih širših stranic (T. 1: a, b, e; označeno s krožci). Pri kovanju so srebrne niti zlezle, ponekod bolj, drugod manj, čez rob žlebičev.

Ožji stranici držala sta okrašeni s poševnimi črticami: na hrbtni strani ptekajo v cikcaku (sl. 2: a), proti rezilu pa si enakomerno sledijo (sl. 2: c). Na širših stranicah je okras v obliki prepleta. Na eni je trakasta pletenina s krogi, ki objemajo sečišča trakov (sl. 2: b; T. 1: a—c; 2: a), na drugi stranici pa se trakova razcepljata in se skozi razcepe valovito prepletata (sl. 2: d; T. 1: d—f; 2: b).

Vse naštete značilnosti — oblika, izdelava in okras — okvirno določajo kulturno in časovno mesto nožiča z grobišča Dlesc pri Bodeščah. Po obliki in



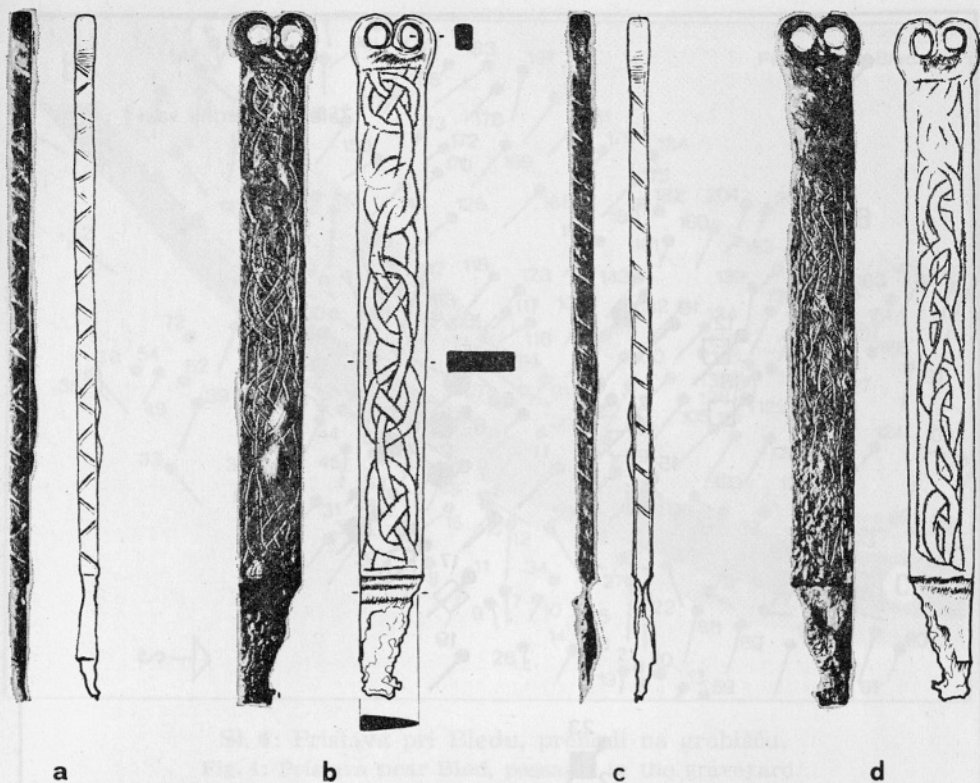
Sl. 1: Dlesc pri Bodeščah, grobova 42 in 34 (s krožcem je označena lega nožiča z zavojkoma).

Fig. 1: Dlesc near Bodešče, the graves 42 and 34 (the circle indicates the finding place of the knife with two volutes).

velikosti spada med številne podobne železne nožiče, katerih uporaba ni znana, ki so bili razširjeni — največkrat na slovanskih najdiščih — od 6. do 11. stoletja na obsežnem ozemlju od Poljske do Urala in do Črnega morja; dleški primerek je najzahodnejši.³ Od drugih nožičev se loči po zavojkih, ki so praviloma skovani navzven, drug od drugega. Po njuni zavitosti se nožič z Dlesca približuje tankemu srebrnemu nožiču iz bogatega langobardskega groba v Civezzanu,⁴ ki ga zlati križ z medaljonom, na katerem se v dveh krogih prepleta pletenina, datira okoli leta 600.⁵

Krašenje predmetov z vstavljanjem mehkih kovin (zlato, srebro, medenina) v bronasto ali železno osnovo je starodavna obrtna veščina,⁶ ki se je v času preseljevanja ljudstev ponovno razcvetela, posebno še v zvezi z živalskim stilom II.⁷ V mnogo manjši meri in tehnično okrnjeno — podobno kot na nožiču z Dlesca — se je uveljavila med Slovani konec 8. in v 9. stoletju.⁸

Pri nožiču z Dlesca so zanimivi tudi okrasni motivi. Za razcepljeni preplet (T. 2: b) mi primerjave niso poznane. Analiza ornamenta dopušča, da v njem vidimo enakomerno tekočo (T. 2: c) in ritmično se ponavljajočo pletenino (T. 2: d). Možni so tudi vozlasti motivi (T. 2: e), kakršni so krasili irske nagrobnike in iluminirane rokopise že v 7. stoletju;⁹ na kamniti cerkveni opremi so bili v Italiji vklesani v 8. stoletju.¹⁰ V obravnavanem ornamentu se lahko skriva tudi preplet med seboj grizočih se živali (T. 2: f, g); takšni motivi so značilni za živalski stil II, ki se je v drugi polovici 6. in v 7. stoletju razširil v kontinentalnem germanskem svetu.¹¹ Vozlasti motivi in živalski preplet se pojavljajo tudi skupaj, na predmetih, okrašenih v insularnem stilu, ki se je z irsko-anglosaškim misijonarstvom širil na celini v drugi polovici 8. stoletja.¹² Mislim, da je razcepljeni preplet na nožičku z Dlesca (T. 2: b) prav poenostavljeni, s trakom zarisani živalski preplet insularnega okrasnega stila (T. 3: a—e).¹³ V razcepljeni preplet namreč lahko vrišemo v vseh podrobnostih okras (T. 3: a—c) npr. s fragmenta knjige evangelijev iz Cambrida (T. 3: e) in pasnega

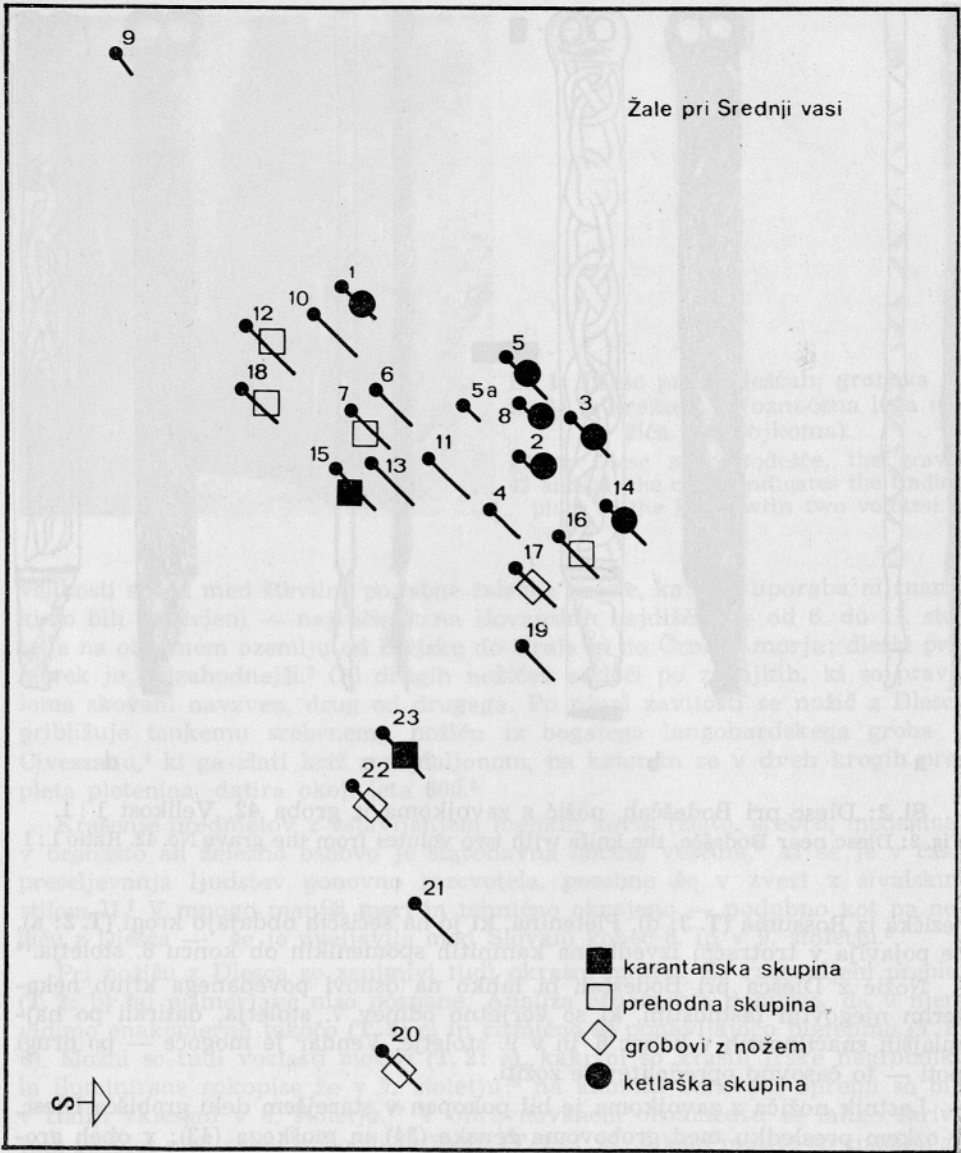


Sl. 2: Dlesc pri Bodeščah, nožič z zavojkoma iz groba 42. Velikost 1 : 1.
Fig. 2: Dlesc near Bodešče, the knife with two volutes from the grave No. 42. Ratio 1 : 1

jezička iz Rossuma (T. 3: d). Pletenina, ki jo na sečiščih obdajajo krogi (T. 2: a), se pojavlja v trotračni izvedbi na kamnitih spomenikih ob koncu 8. stoletja.¹⁴

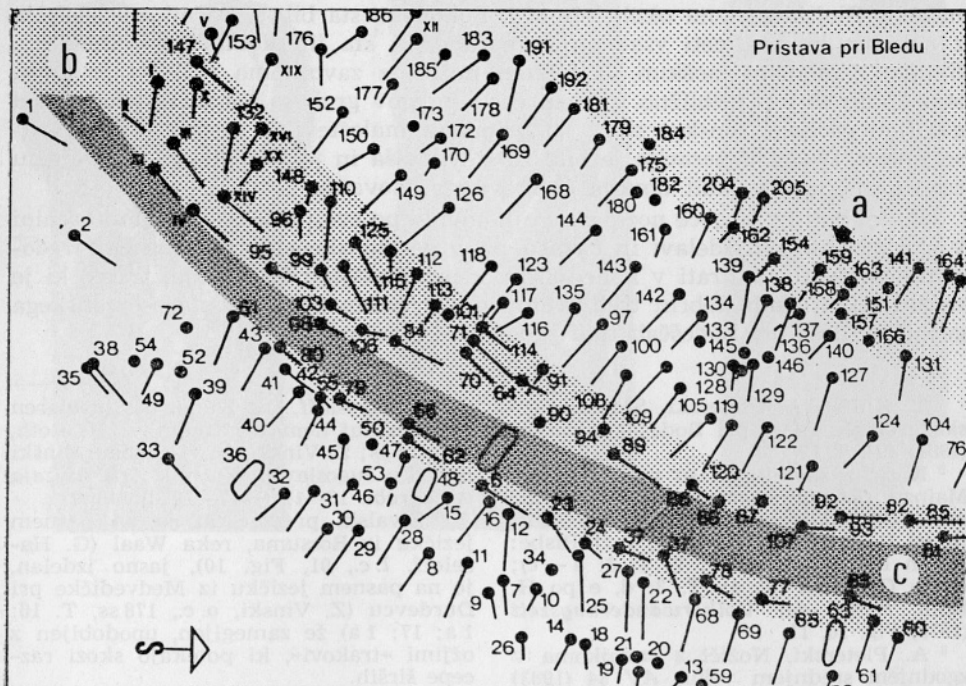
Nožič z Dlesca pri Bodeščah bi lahko na osnovi povedanega kljub nekaterim njegovim lastnostim, ki so verjetno odmev 7. stoletja, datirali po najmlajših značilnostih v konec 8. in v 9. stoletje. Vendar je mogoče — po drugi poti — to časovno opredelitev še zožiti.

Lastnik nožiča z zavojkoma je bil pokopan v starejšem delu grobišča Dlesc, v ozkem presledku med grobovoma ženske (34) in moškega (43); v obeh grobovih so bili bogati pridatki (T. 4: 1—15).¹⁵ Za srebrni prstan s čelno razširitvijo iz ženskega groba (T. 4: 1) poznamo primerjavo v otroškem grobu (159) na Pristavi pri Bledu (T. 4: 23),¹⁶ za obsenčnike iz srebrnih prepletenih žičk (T. 4: 4, 5) pa v grobu z Žal pri Srednji vasi v Bohinju (grob 15, T. 4: 16, 17); tu najdemo v grobu moškega (22) tudi primerjavo (T. 4: 22) za kresilo z Dlesca (T. 3: 14).¹⁷ Omenjena grobova sta na Žalah, ležala v starejšem delu grobišča, za katerega so še značilni pridatki karantanske skupine ter grobovi z noži (grob 22) in ki sega (grob 15) do grobov z gradivom prehodne skupine tvarne kulture



Sl. 3: Žale pri Srednji vasi v Bohinju, razporeditev pridatkov na grobišču.

Fig. 3: Žale near the village of Srednja vas in the Bohinj valley, the distribution of articles in the graveyard.



Sl. 4: Pristava pri Bledu, prehodi na grobišču.

Fig. 4: Pristava near Bled, passages in the graveyard.

alpskih Slovanov (sl. 3).¹⁸ Grob s Pristave (159) pa je bil vkopan med staroslovanskimi grobovi zunaj urejenih vrst.¹⁹ Ležal je na prehodu, ki je v splošnem — z izjemo staroselskih grobov 223, 231, 232 — ločeval grobišče iz obdobja preseljevanja ljudstev od staroslovanskega.²⁰ Ta prehod so v slovanskem obdobju zaradi utesnenosti pokopališkega prostora začeli zoževati (sl. 4: a), podobno kot prehod skozi grobišče v petih vrstah. Le-ta je bil prvotno široko odmerjen (sl. 4: b), sčasoma pa so ga grobovi z neobičajno severno smerjo občutno zožili, a ga niso prekrili (sl. 4: c).²¹ Otroški grob (159) spada na konec starejšega — slovanskega — obdobja pokopavanja na Pristavi, v sredino 8. stoletja, ko se začne tudi v njegovi bližini pojavljati nakit s S-zankami. Pridatke iz obeh grobov (34, 43) z Dlesca lahko po naštetih primerjavah datiramo v sredino 8. stoletja. Ostalo gradivo z Dlesca pa je mlajše, saj sodi — razen lončka iz groba 45 — v ketlaško skupino stvarne kulture alpskih Slovanov 9. in 10. stoletja: med starejšim in mlajšim gradivom je bila torej vrzel, ki jo označuje odsotnost nakita s S-zankami, značilnega za prehodno skupino iz druge polovice 8. stoletja.²²

Zato sklepam, da sta bila moški (43), ki je umrl v visoki starosti nad 60 let, in ženska (34), ki je umrla v zreli življenjski dobi med 40. in 60. letom, najstarejša prebivalca novega selišča (Bodešče), ki je nastalo z notranjo kolo-

nizacijo Blejskega kota okoli leta 800. Pokopana sta bila v začetku 9. stoletja z nakitom in predmeti vsakdanje uporabe, ki sta jih dobila že v mladosti. Skupaj z mlajšim moškim, lastnikom nožiča z zavojkoma (42), ki je umrl, star 25 do 40 let, približno v istem času (njegov grob so izkopali deloma nad globljim grobom ženske; sl. 1), so pripadali maloštevilni prvi generaciji naseljencev. Druga generacija je bila že številnejša in je tudi nosila — svojemu času primerno — nakit novega oblikovnega snovanja.

Po tej poti je mogoče nožič z zavojkoma, ki po svoji obliki verjetno korenini v slovanskem, po izdelavi in okrasu pa v germanskem in romanskem sredozemskem svetu, datirati v konec 8. in v prvo tretjino 9. stoletja, v čas, ki je za zlitje kulturnih dobrin treh svetov na drobnem nožiču s staroslovanskega grobišča Dlesc pri Bodeščah tudi zgodovinsko razumljiv.

¹ T. Knific, A. Pleterški, Staroslovansko grobišče Dlesc pri Bodeščah. AV 32 (1981) 494, T. 13.

² Nožič z zavojkoma so restavrirali v Mainzu (*Römisch-germanisches Zentralmuseum*), ZR Nemčija. — Foto: T. Knific (sl. 1); Marijan Grm (sl. 2; T. 1). Risbe: Miran Pflaum (sl. 2—4; T. 2; 3: a—c); Darja Grosman (T. 4). T. 3: d, e po H. Roth, *Kunst der Völkerwanderungszeit* (1979) Fig. 10, 11.

³ A. Pleterški, Nožiči z zavojkoma v zgodnjem srednjem veku, AV 34 (1983) 375 ff.

⁴ L. de Campi, Tombe longobarde di Civezzano. JÖAI 12 (1909) 121 ss, sl. 92.

⁵ H. Roth, Die Ornamentik der Langobarden in Italien, *Antiquitas* 15, 1973, 131 s, 274 s.

⁶ J. Filip, *Enzyklopädisches Handbuch zur Ur- und Frühgeschichte Europas* 2 (1969) 1438 s.

⁷ H. Roth, *Kunst der Völkerwanderungszeit*, Propyläen Kunstgeschichte Supplbd 4, 1979, 74.

⁸ D. Bialeková, Dávne slovanské kováčstvo, *Ars slovacca antiqua* 11, 1981, 77.

⁹ U. Roth, Studien zur Ornamentik frühchristlicher Handschriften des insularen Bereiches, *BRGK* 60 (1980) 96 ss.

¹⁰ N. Åberg, The Occident and the Orient in the art of the seventh century, *Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens*, Handl. 56: 2, 1945, 18 ss, Fig. 28.

¹¹ H. Roth, o. c., 71 ss.

¹² G. Haseloff, Die Kunst der insularen Mission auf dem Kontinent v: H. Roth, o. c., 85 ss; Z. Vinski, Novi ranokarolinški nalazi u Jugoslaviji, *Vjesnik Arh. muzeja u Zagrebu* 10—11 (1977—1978) 143 ss.

¹³ Zivalski preplet, ki je na pasnem jeziku iz Rossuma, reka Waal (G. Haseloff, l. c., 91, Fig. 10), jasno izdelan, je na pasnem jeziku iz Medvedičke pri Đurđevcu (Z. Vinski, o. c., 178 ss, T. 16: 1a; 17: 1a) že zamegljen, upodobljen z ožjimi »trakovi«, ki potekajo skozi razcepe širših.

¹⁴ M. Sagadin, Plastika s pletenasto ornamentiko v Sloveniji, *ZUZ* 17 (1981) 48, T. 3: 3d2.

¹⁵ T. Knific, A. Pleterški, o. c., 492 ss, T. 12—15.

¹⁶ P. Korošec, *Zgodnjesrednjeveška arheološka slika karantanskih Slovanov*, Dela 1. razr. SAZU 22, 1979, 72 s, sl. 5.

¹⁷ W. Schmid, Alt-slovenische Gräber Krains, *Carniola* 1 (1909) 20 s, T. 2: 10; 3: 22; P. Korošec, o. c., 74 (1. del), 15, 17, T. 15: 2; 17: 4.

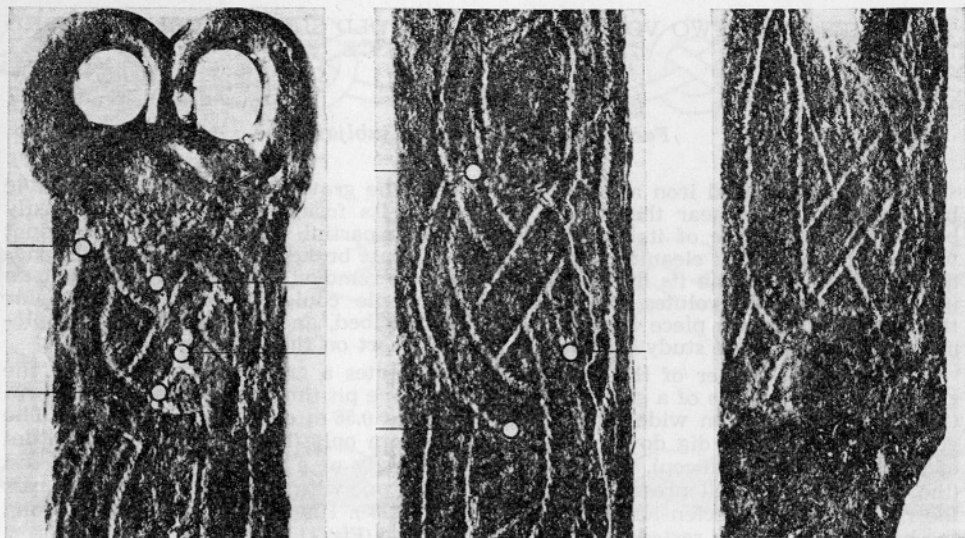
¹⁸ P. Korošec, o. c., passim.

¹⁹ T. Knific, Horizontalna stratigrafija grobišča Bled-Pristava II, *Situla* 14—15 (1974) 315 ss.

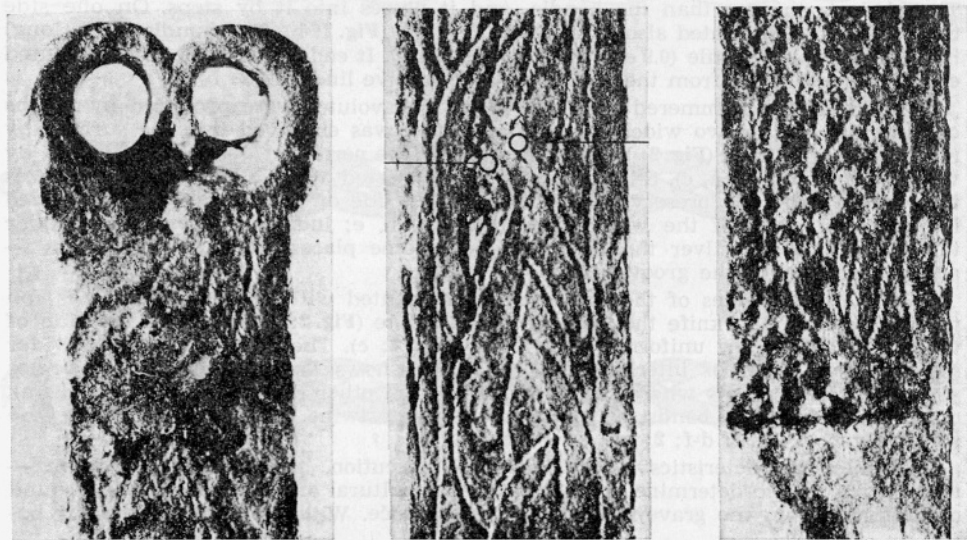
²⁰ J. Kastelic, *Staroslovanska nekropola na Bledu*, Dela 1. razr. SAZU 13, 1962, 7, načrt grobišča; cf. tudi J. Werner, *Die Langobarden in Pannonien*, AbhMünch., N. F. 55, 1962, 127 s.

²¹ T. Knific, *Bled v zgodnjem srednjem veku* (tipkopisna disertacija 1983).

²² P. Korošec, o. c., 187 ss, 305 s.



An iron knife with two volutes is under the left breast and a hip-bone of the deceased (Fig. 1) in the leading place is indicated with a circle. The cutting blade was turned towards the head. The knife is not completely preserved (its length is 10 cm). A part of the cutting blade illustrated shows the part containing the remains of the silver threads. (Fig. 1)



T. 1: Dlesc pri Bodeščah, povečani izseki nožiča z zavojkoma iz groba 42 (s krožci so označeni ostanki srebrnih niti).

Pl. 1: Dlesc near Bodešče, enlarged segments of the knife with two volutes from the grave No. 42 (the circles indicate the remains of the silver threads).

THE KNIFE WITH TWO VOLUTES FROM THE OLD SLAVIC BURIAL-GROUND
DLESC NEAR BODEŠČE

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In 1980 an unusual iron article was found in the grave No. 42 of the Old Slavic burial-ground Dlesc near the village of Bodešče. Its former form could not easily be recognized because of its rusty crust and only partial preservation; at the spot where during the first cleaning a small piece of crust broke away an engraved ornament became visible on its iron surface.¹ After the removal of all the rusty crust an iron knife with two volutes and an adorned handle could be recognized.² So far the new form, of this piece has not yet been described, and so we wish to complement with the present study the archaeological report on the burial-ground Dlesc.

For the dead owner of the knife with two volutes a grave (42) was dug by the gravediggers at the top of a glacial mound. The grave pit thus made was of oval form (2.06 m long and 0.53 m wide, at present it reaches 0.56 m deep under the sod). The grave-diggers did not dig down to the sandy bottom only, but also into the stratum of sand (up to 0.28 m deep). Into this grave the body of a grown up man was laid (the length of the well preserved skeleton is 1.83 m), with his face turned towards the rising sun (the declension from the north is 125°). His arms lay stretched along the body; the left arm rested partly under the body (**Fig. 1**).

An iron knife with two volutes lay under the left forearm and the hip-bone of the deceased (**Fig. 1**: the finding place is indicated with a circle; **2**: a-d); its cutting blade was turned towards the head. The knife is not completely preserved (its length is 9.0 cm). A part of the cutting blade disintegrated during the past centuries and during the excavation work, so that only its stump has been preserved (1.6 cm long, 0.8 cm wide, and 0.2 cm thick). The blade has only one cutting side; at this cutting side the blade passes obliquely, and at the opposite side straight, into the handle. The blade is thinner than the handle, and it passes into it by steps. On one side the transition is indicated also by a decorative line (**Fig. 2**: b). The handle (7.4 cm long) has a rectangular profile (0.9 cm wide, 0.3 cm thick). It ends in volutes. The involuted end is also separated from the handle by a decorative line (**Fig. 2**: b, d).

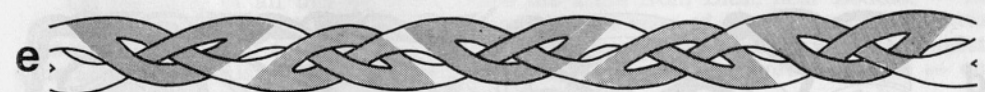
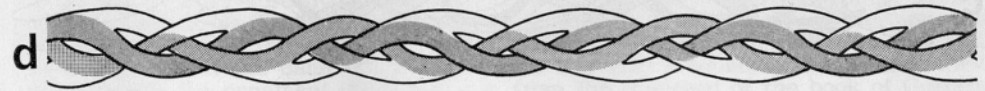
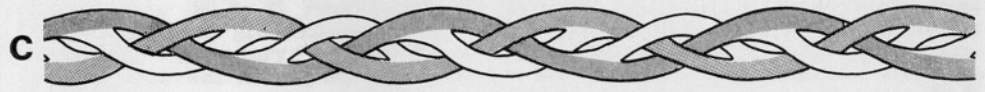
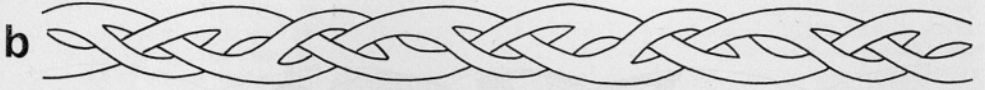
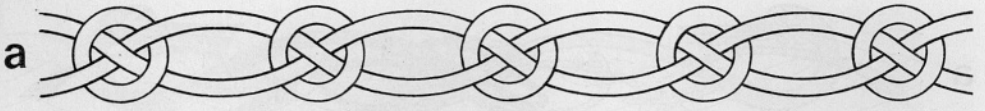
The knife was hammered from one piece. The volutes were produced by means of thinning. At the two wider sides an ornament was engraved into the surface by means of a small disk (**Fig. 2**: b, d; **Pl. 1**), while at the narrower sides it was incised by way of filing (**Fig. 2**: a, c). Silver threads were inserted and welded into the grooves thus made. They are preserved on the narrower side of the handle (**Fig. 2**: a) and in individual spots of the wider sides (**Pl. 1**: a, b, e; indicated by circles). Under the hammering the silver threads crept — in some places more, in others less — across the edges of the grooves.

The narrower sides of the handle are ornamented with short oblique lines: on the back side of the knife they run in a zigzag line (**Fig. 2**: a), while on the side of the blade they follow uniformly each other (**Fig. 2**: c). The ornament on the wider sides has the form of interlacement. One side shows knitted bands with circles surrounding the points where the bands cross each other (**Fig. 2**: b; **Pl. 1**: a-c; **2**: a), on the other side the bands are split and they intertwine undulating through these splits (**Fig. 2**: d; **Pl. 1**: d-f; **2**: b).

All these characteristics — the form, the execution, and the ornamentation — make it possible to determine approximately the cultural and geographic background of the knife from the graveyard Dlesc near Bodešče. With its form and size it be-

T. 2: Dlesc pri Bodeščah, analiza okrasa na nožiču z zavojkoma iz groba 42.

Pl. 2: Dlesc near Bodešče, an analysis of the decoration preserved on the knife with two volutes from the grave No. 42.





longs to the group of numerous similar iron knives, whose usage is unknown, that were spread — most frequently in Slavic finding places — from the 6th to the 11th century over the wide territory from Poland to the Ural mountains and to the Black Sea; the specimen from Dlesc is their westernmost representative.³ It differs from other knives with its two volutes which are, as a rule, hammered outwards, one away from the other. With the form of its volutes the knife from Dlesc comes closer to the thin silver knife found in the rich Langobardic grave at Civezzano,⁴ whose gold cross with medallion in which we find in two circles an interlaced pattern enables us to date it around the year 600.⁵

The ornamentation of articles by means of softer metals (gold, silver, brass) inset into a bronze or iron basis is an ancient skill of artisans⁶ which began again to flourish during the period of the migration of nations, especially in connection with the animal style II.⁷ It was adopted to a much smaller extent and technically curtailed by the Slavic tribes towards the end of 8th and in the 9th centuries,⁸ as this can be seen also in the knife from Dlesc.

In the knife from Dlesc the ornamentation motifs are also interesting. I know no comparative material for the split interlacement (PI. 2: b). The analysis of ornament allows us to see in it a uniformly running (PI. 2: c) and rhythmically repeating interlacement (PI. 2: d). Possible are also knot-like motifs (PI. 2: e), similar to those with which Irish gravestones and illuminated manuscripts were decorated already during the 7th century;⁹ in Italy we can find them engraved into the stony equipment of churches during the 8th century.¹⁰ The ornament here discussed may also be a stylized representation of the interlacement of animals biting each other (PI. 2: f, g); such motifs are typical of the animal style II which during the second half of the 6th century and in the 7th century spread across the continental area inhabited by Germanic tribes.¹¹ The knot-like motifs and interlaced animals occur also together, on articles adorned in the insular style which during the second half of the 8th century spread on the continent parallel to the work of the Irish-Anglo-Saxon missionaries.¹² I believe that in the knife from Dlesc the split interlacement (PI. 2: b) is indeed the simplified animal interlacement of the insular ornamental style drawn with the band (PI. 3: a-e).¹³ Into this split interlacement we may draw in all details the ornament (PI. 3: a-c) e. g. from the fragment of the book of Gospels from Cambridge (PI. 3: e) and from the tongue of the girdle from Rossum (PI. 3: d). The interlacement where the intersections are surrounded by circles (PI. 2: a) appears executed in the form of three bands on the stony monuments at the end of the 8th century.¹⁴

On the basis of all this we could place the knife from Dlesc near Bodešče — in spite of some characteristics which are probably an echo of the 7th century — into the end of the 8th or into the 9th century, taking here into consideration its youngest characteristics. This determination of the time of its origin, however, can be — on the basis of other criteria — even further narrowed.

The owner of the knife with two volutes was buried in the older part of the graveyard Dlesc, in the narrow space between the grave of a woman (34) and of a man (43); both these graves contained rich accessories (PI. 4: 1—15).¹⁵ The silver ring with broadened front found in the grave of the woman (PI. 4: 1) has its parallel in the grave of the child (159) from Pristava near Bled (PI. 4: 23);¹⁶ for the two temple pieces made of interwoven silver threads (PI. 4: 4, 5) we know a parallel from Zale near the village of Srednja vas in the Bohinj valley (grave No. 15, PI. 4: 16, 17); here

T. 3: Dlesc pri Bodeščah, analiza okrasa na nožiču z zavojkoma iz groba 42 (a—c). Cambridge, okras na fragmentu knjige z evangeliji (e). Rossum, reka Waal, okras na pasnem jezičku (d). T. 3: d, e: po H. Roth, *Kunst der Völkerwanderungszeit* (1979) 91, Fig. 10, 11.

PI. 3: Dlesc near Bodešče, an analysis of the decoration preserved on the knife with two volutes from the grave No. 42 (a—c). Cambridge, decoration on a fragment of the book of Gospel (e). Rossum, river Waal, decoration on the tongue of a girdle (d). PI. 3: d, e: after H. Roth, *Kunst der Völkerwanderungszeit* (1979), 91, Fig. 10, 11.

we can find in the grave of a man also a comparison (Pl. 4: 22) for the flint from Dlesc (Pl. 3: 14).¹⁷ These two graves from Žale lay in the older part of the graveyard which is characterized also by accessories representing the Caranthian group, and the graves with knives (grave No. 22); they reach (grave No. 15) up to the graves containing accessories which represent the transitional material culture of Alpine Slavs (Fig. 3).¹⁸ The grave from Pristava (159) was dug among the ancient Slavic graves outside of the regular rows.¹⁹ It lay at the transition which generally — with the exception of the graves of the indigenous inhabitants, Nos. 223, 231, 232 — separated the graveyard from the period of the migration of nations from the Old Slavic graves.²⁰ During the Slavic period this intermediate area as well as the passage through the graveyard with five rows began to be narrowed due to the limited space of the graveyard (Fig. 4: a). This passage was originally wide (Fig. 4: b), gradually, however, it was narrowed by graves dug in the unusual northern direction, yet it was never completely covered by them (Fig. 4: c).²¹ The grave of the child (159) belongs into the end of the older — Slavic — period of burials at Pristava, into the middle of the 8th century, when in its neighbourhood the jewelry with S-slings begins to emerge. On the basis of these comparisons can the accessories from the two graves (34, 43) from Dlesc be dated with the middle of the 8th century. The remaining material from Dlesc is younger, with the exception of the small pot from the grave No. 45: it belongs into the Köttlach group of the material culture of Alpine Slavs, the 9th and the 10th centuries. Thus there is a gap between the older and the younger material which is characterized by the absence of jewelry with S-slings, typical of the transitional group from the second half of the 8th century.²²

I therefore conclude that the man (43) who died at the high age of 60 years or more, and the woman (34) who died in her mature age, between 40 and 60 years old, were the oldest inhabitants of the new settlement (Bodešče) which emerged as a result of internal colonization of the Bled area around the year 800. They were buried at the beginning of the 9th century, together with jewelry and articles of daily usage which they had obtained already in their early youth. Together with the younger man, the owner of the knife with two volutes (42), who died, 25 to 40 years old, at about the same time (his grave is dug out partly above the deeper grave of the woman; Fig. 1), they belonged to the small generation of the first settlers. The second generation was already larger and it possessed — in accordance with its own time — the jewelry which shows new formal concepts.

In this way the knife with two volutes — whose form is rooted in the Slavic, the production and the ornamental elements in the Germanic and Romance Mediterranean world — can be placed into the end of the 8th or into the first third of the 9th century, thus into a period which is also historically understandable as the time of merging of the cultural elements of these three worlds, as this is embodied in the small knife from the Old Slavic graveyard Dlesc near Bodešče.

¹ T. Knific, A. Pleterski, Staroslovensko grobišče Dlesc pri Bodeščah (The Old Slavic burial-ground Dlesc near Bodešče), AV 32 (1981), 494, Pl. 13.

² The knife with two volutes was restored at Mainz (*Römisch-germanisches Zentralmuseum*), West Germany. — Photo: T. Knific (Fig. 1); Marijan Grm (Fig. 2; Pl. 1). Drawings: Miran Pflaum (Figs. 2—4; Pl. 2; 3: a—c); Darja Grosman (Pl. 4). Pl. 3: d, e after H. Roth, Kunst

der Völkerwanderungszeit (1979), Figs. 10, 11.

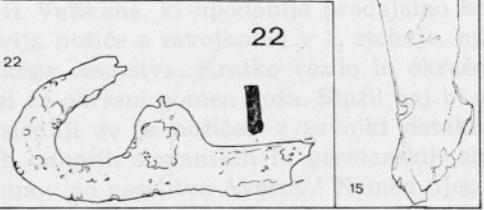
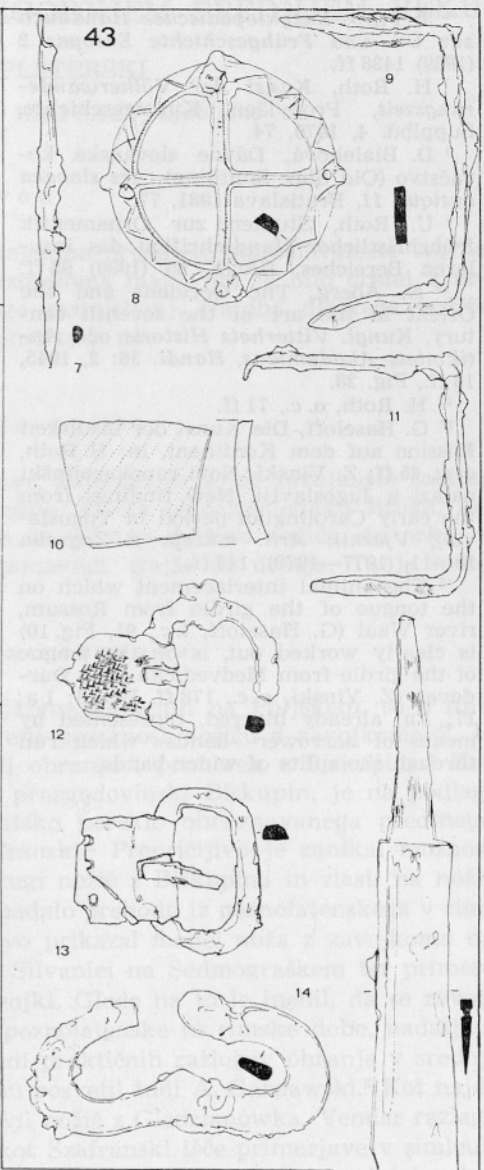
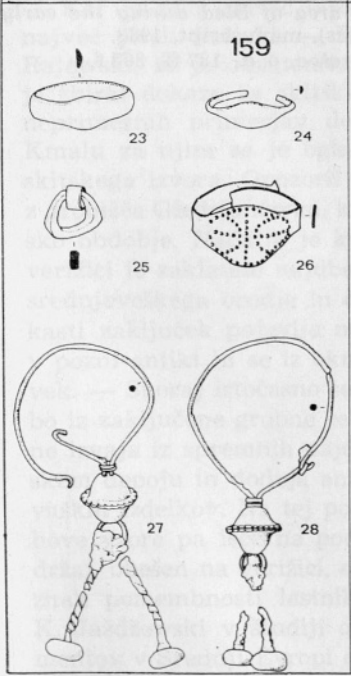
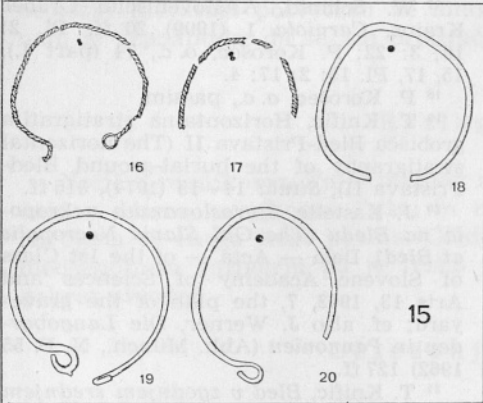
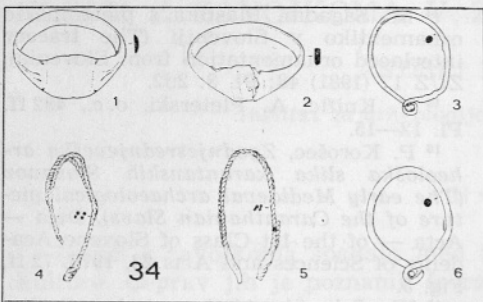
³ A. Pleterski, Nožiči z zavojkoma v zgodnjem srednjem veku (The knives with two volutes in the early Middle Ages), AV 34 (1983) 375 ff.

⁴ L. de Campi, Tombe longobarde di Civezzano, *JÖAI* 12 (1909), 121 ff, Fig. 92.

⁵ H. Roth, Die Ornamentik der Langobarden in Italien, *Antiquitas* 15, 1973, 131 ff, 274 ff.

T. 4: 1—15 Dlesc pri Bodeščah, 16—22 Srednja vas v Bohinju, 23—28 Pristava pri Bledu (pomanjšano).

Pl. 4: Dlesc near Bodešče, 16—22 Srednja vas in the Bohinj valley, 23—28 Pristava near Bled (reduced scale).



⁶ J. Filip, *Enzyklopädisches Handbuch zur Ur- und Frühgeschichte Europas 2* (1969) 1438 ff.

⁷ H. Roth, *Kunst der Völkerwanderungszeit*, Propyläen Kunstgeschichte, Supplbd. 4, 1979, 74.

⁸ D. Bialeková, *Dávne slovanské kováčstvo* (Old Slav Smithing), *Ars slovacica antiqua 11*, Bratislava 1981, 77.

⁹ U. Roth, *Studien zur Ornamentik frühchristlicher Handschriften des insularen Bereiches*, BRGK 60 (1980) 96 ff.

¹⁰ N. Åberg, *The Occident and the Orient in the art of the seventh century*, *Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens, Handl.* 56: 2, 1945, 18 ff., Fig. 28.

¹¹ H. Roth, *o. c.*, 71 ff.

¹² G. Haseloff, *Die Kunst der insularen Mission auf dem Kontinent*, in: H. Roth, *o. c.*, 85 ff.; Z. Vinski, *Novi ranokarolinški nalazi u Jugoslaviji* (New findings from the early Carolingian period in Yugoslavia), *Vjesnik Arh. muzeja u Zagrebu* 10—11, (1977—1978), 143 ff.

¹³ The animal interlacement which on the tongue of the girdle from Rossum, river Waal (G. Haseloff, *l. c.*, 91, Fig. 10) is clearly worked out, is on the tongue of the girdle from Medvedička near Đurdevac (Z. Vinski, *o. c.*, 178 ff, Pl. 16: 1 a; 17: 1 a) already blurred, represented by means of narrower »bands« which run through the splits of wider bands.

¹⁴ M. Sagadin, *Plastika s pleteninasto ornamentiko v Sloveniji* (The tracery interlaced ornamentation from Slovenia), *ZUZ* 17 (1981) 48; Pl. 3: 2d2.

¹⁵ T. Knific, A. Pleterski, *o. c.*, 492 ff, Pl. 12—15.

¹⁶ P. Korošec, *Zgodnjesrednjeveška arheološka slika karantanskih Slovanov* (The early Mediaeval archaeological picture of the Caranthian Slavs), *Dela — Acta — of the 1st Class of Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts* 22, 1979, 72 ff, Fig. 5.

¹⁷ W. Schmid, *Altslovenische Gräber Krains, Carniola 1* (1909) 20 ff, Pl. 2: 10; 3: 22; P. Korošec, *o. c.*, 74 (part 1.), 15, 17, Pl. 15: 2; 17: 4.

¹⁸ P. Korošec, *o. c.*, passim.

¹⁹ T. Knific, *Horizontalna stratigrafija grobišča Bled-Pristava II* (The horizontal stratigraphy of the burial-ground Bled-Pristava II), *Situla* 14—15 (1974), 315 ff.

²⁰ J. Kastelic, *Staroslovanska nekropola na Bledu* (The Old Slavic Necropolis at Bled), *Dela — Acta — of the 1st Class of Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts* 13, 1962, 7, the plan of the graveyard; cf. also J. Werner, *Die Langobarden in Pannonien* (Abh. Münch., N. F. 55 1962) 127 ff.

²¹ T. Knific, *Bled v zgodnjem srednjem veku* (The area of Bled during the early Middle Ages), manuscript, 1983.

²² P. Korošec, *o. c.*, 187 ff, 305 f.