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By Anna Bitner-Wróblewska


The question of the contacts between Scandinavia and the south-eastern Baltic zone in the Early Migration Period has so far received scant attention in the literature. The present paper seeks to demonstrate the striking proximity of stylistic affinities between these areas. A case in point is the impact of the Sösdala style on the formation of the West Baltic star ornamentation. In turn, the Baltic star and spade-footed fibulae decorated in this style furnished inspiration for the shaping of the foot in certain cruciform fibulae. This traffic in stylistic ideas, often immediately modified to suit local tastes and traditions is particularly evident in the case of crossbow brooches with a long, narrow foot. Other interesting observations are prompted by the study of drinking horn mountings in the case of which the existing chronological gap between the source area in Gotland and the secondary centre in the Baltic lands did not interfere with the survival of stylistic traditions.

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Foreword. Remarks on chronology

Before embarking on the analysis proper, the term “Early Migration Period” used in the title needs to be explained; even more necessary is an attempt to synchronize different systems of chronology (Fig. 1). The period of transition between 375—the conventional starting point of the Migration Period—and 450, roughly coincident with the appearance of the horizon of ranked burial cemeteries in western Europe functions in the literature as stadium I of this civilisation or “phase D” of the Migration Period, otherwise called the Early Migration Period (Schlette 1975, pp. 181–183). The term phase D was introduced by O. Tischler (Tischler & Kemke 1902, pp. 10–13) to describe phenomena occurring in certain areas of central Europe—including the Balt lands—in the period between the second half of 4th to around mid-5th c. (Godlowski 1970, idem 1974, idem 1980). Unlike in other areas, the relatively consistent horizon of artefacts from the Balt lands precludes the introduction of further subdivisions of phase D. At most, it is possible to set apart forms having a slightly later chronological position, yet still predating materials typical of the Late Migration Period—phase E (Bitner-Wróblewska 1991b).

Tischler’s phase D was used by J. Reichstein in his analysis of north and north-western, European cruciform brooches (Reichstein 1975). Separation of his material into older, younger and later forms prompted him to introduce a further subdivision of phase D. U. Lund Hansen in her discussion of trade
centres in Denmark during the Roman and Migration Periods also uses the term “older Migration Period”, coincident with phase D (Lund Hansen 1988, pp. 161–162, Fig. 3). In general, particularly with regard to eastern regions, Scandinavian archaeology utilizes B. Nerman’s period VI (1935) thought to have lasted until c. mid-6th c. according to the latest chronological definitions (Nerman 1969, idem 1975), and thus can be synchronized with Central European phase D and with the beginning of phase E. Currently, there are suggestions to redefine the chronology of the Migration Period on the basis of new evidence from Gotland (Näsman 1984 a, p. 71). In Scandinavia, the system of division of the Migration Period is seriously affected by the question of periodisation of specific ornamental styles. One tendency is to take the evolutionary approach (Bakka 1973, idem 1977), another, to note a partial overlap of individual motifs, often coincident in a single specimen (Näsman 1984 a, pp. 60–62, 70–71, Fig. 1).

Introduction

Starting from the younger phase of the Late Roman Period and primarily throughout the Migration Period Barbarian territory witnessed the departure of populations headed south for the limes. Tribes long settled along the limes as well as those from the distant north (the Nordic countries and what is now Poland) were drawn towards the disintegrating Empire by the promise of easy plunder. The appearance of Huns on the Black Sea, their progress into central Europe and the establishment of a poly-ethnic state with a centre in the Carpathian Basin added to the intensity of migrations in this part of the Barbaricum. One example of these displacements may be the Rugii, thought to have previously been settled on the southern coast of the Baltic, who in Attila’s time put in an appearance along the middle Danube as a satellite people of the Huns (Schmidt 1934, p. 119). Population shifts in the opposite direction are also recorded, such as the return of the Heruli to their homeland, mentioned by Procopius of Cesarea (Bell. Goth. II, 15, 1–2).

The turbulent developments taking place between the Baltic and Black seas seem to have had little impact on the Western Baltic territories which are widely recognized by scholars as the most stable settlement area, unique in Central Europe in its continued development from the Roman Period well into the Early Middle Ages (Godłowski 1989, p. 38). The process of formation of the West Baltic culture circle in the territory extending from the Samland Peninsula and the Mazurian Lakeland to western and central Lithuania was complete in the late 1st c. AD (phase B₂₅) (Okulicz 1989, pp. 69, 85–86; Nowakowski 1989 a, p. 145). Significant in this process was the role played by the strong economic and cultural centre in the Samland Peninsula which maintained far-flung commercial and cultural links, and functioned as intermediary in the dissemination of interregional civilizational and stylistic novelties in the eastern Baltic zone. Samland’s special position was bolstered by its rich amber deposits which had even led to the establishment of close, possibly direct, contacts with the Roman Empire. The existence of such contacts is confirmed by a mentioned in Pliny (Naturalis Historia XXXVII, 3/11/, 45) of a state Roman expedition for amber late in Nero’s reign, which reached the Baltic sea, and probably Samland as well (Kolendo 1981).

Following a period of decline during the younger phase of the Late Roman Period the Samland centre once again begins to flourish during the Migration Period. Certainly, the correct view on the considerable settlement stability in the Baltic lands quoted in this paper should nevertheless not overshadow the evidence of cultural changes at work in the region during the period in question. A certain westward expansion of the Samland population (identified by some with the Aestii, known to Jordanes (Getica, 36) and Cassiodorus (Variae, V,2)) to the lower course of the Vistula, areas settled earlier by the Wielbark Culture people and their successors, associated with Jordanes’s Vidivarii (Jordanes, Getica 96) precipitated a demographic crisis in the Peninsula in late phase D and early phase E, evidenced by a large number of abandoned burial
grounds. A similar phenomenon is recorded on the western Lithuanian coast where the decline in the number of sites dated to phase D can possibly be linked to a partial inland migration of the population. However, the area by far the most affected, was the Mazurian Lakeland, settled in the Roman Period by the Bogaczewo Culture (Nowakowski 1991), a component of the West Baltic Culture Circle identified with the Galindai mentioned by Ptolemy (Ptol. Geogr. III, 5, 8). The Bogaczewo Culture became extinct at the turn of the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods. In the second half of the 5th or early 6th c. it was succeeded by a new culture unit, full-fledged from its inception—the Olsztyn Group (“masurgermanische” Kultur) (Okulicz 1973, pp. 476–491). The inventory of the Olsztyn Group, which is unique for this part of Europe, features a wealth of artefacts with characteristics common to the interregional Germanic culture, Gepid and Ostrogoth in particular. While a tempting hypothesis that the Olsztyn Group was formed by a splinter of the Galindai who returned to their homeland after migrating south with the Goths could be an ideal explanation for this phenomenon, it still awaits fuller documentation (Nowakowski 1989, pp. 120–123, earlier literature ibid.).

None of the changes in the West Baltic lands were overly rapid in appreciably altering the cultural set-up in the area. In contrast, the neighbouring territories of the Wielbark and Przeworsk Cultures experienced at the turn of the 4th and 5th c. a speedy decline in the intensity of settlement and a breakdown of cultural development (Gołowski 1985, pp. 112–125; idem 1989, pp. 26–32). Only in Pomerania was this process less violent; there, the relic settlement of populations linked to the traditions of the Roman Period languished until the 520’s, still maintaining stable contacts with interregional Germanic culture during the Migration Period.

The existence of such lively relations is evident in hoards of gold coins and ornaments found in Pomerania, having a wide distribution elsewhere in the south-western part of

Fig. 1. Chronological scheme.
Fig. 2. Gold coin finds from 395–518 (acc. to Knapke 1941, Godłowski 1980).
the Baltic basin (Knapke 1941; Werner 1949; Fagerlie 1967; Godłowski 1980; Herschend 1980a, idem 1980b; Kyhlberg 1980). This phenomenon of circulation and thersaurization of gold in the 5th and the first half of 6th c. probably reflects processes of integration of social and political systems as well as of beliefs and customs occurring in this part of Europe. The impressive number of finds of gold coins in Pomerania, Gotland, Öland and Bornholm, and, to a lesser degree, Jutland, the Danish islands, the Scandinavian Peninsula and north-eastern Germany stands in obvious contrast to their absence in the north-eastern zone of the Baltic (Fig. 2). The dividing line is particularly marked in the second half of the 5th and early 6th c., running through the regions east of lower Vistula (Fig. 3), i.e. the zone directly adjoining the Balt Aestii and the presumably Germanic Vidivarii. Material remains of their occupation fit into widely different categories of archaeological evidence: of the Vidivarii—hoards of solidi remain—and of the Aestii—cremation burial grounds survive in an area with a record of coin finds dated to as late as the first half of the 5th c. The dividing line, undoubtedly ethnic in nature, probably also reflects differences in customs and religious beliefs (Godłowski 1989, pp. 34–35). Admittedly processes of integration affecting the Baltic region in the Migration Period seem to have bypassed the BALT territories and the entire eastern zone of the Baltic sea. It would be far from correct, however, to assume that the BALT lands were in those days on the periphery. On the contrary, they functioned in close association with other regions of the Baltic coast and only the plane of these relations was widely different.

Sösdala style and its Balt variation
Balto-Scandinavian contacts can primarily be seen in the sphere of shared stylistic motifs, with a simultaneous frequent and immediate, remodelling of mutually intercepted “novelties” to suit local predilections. A good exemplification of this phenomenon is the impact of the Sösdala style on the emergence of the West Balt star ornament. The former

(Åberg 1918, Norberg 1931, Salin 1904, Forsander 1937, Lund Hansen 1969) is a local variation of the stamp ornamentation which was widespread in Europe in the Early Migration Period; it evolved from a younger Roman (Period V) Scandinavian tradition supplemented by stylistic influences from provincial Roman belt sets. Artefacts in Sösdala style appear in the last few decades of the 4th and become extinct before the mid 5th c. (Geisslinger 1961, pp. 175–180; Bakka 1973, pp. 60, 85; Näsman 1984a, p. 70, Fig. 1); they occur widely in Scandinavia, where they are concentrated in Scania, as well as sporadically in Schleswig-Holstein (axe-shaped harness pendant from Dahmker, Geisslinger 1961, p. 175, Fig. 1: 1, 1a) and Pomerania. Several fibulae ornamented in this style are known from the area—Trzebiatowo, Świelino and Kielpin hoards, and from the sunken hut no. 22 at Dębczyno, site 3 (Godłowski 1980, pp. 68–70, earlier literature ibid.).

Stamp ornamentation influenced by the Sösdala style is seen to flourish in the West Balt Circle (Fig. 4) in the form of “western Balt star ornament” (Åberg 1919, pp. 46–50; Godłowski 1970, pp. 97–98; idem 1974, p. 90; Madyda 1977, p. 387), which obviously shows a number of local traits somewhat di-

Fig. 5. Archaeological sites dated to the second half of the 5th and early 6th c. in the region around the Vistula estuary (acc. to Godłowski 1989). West Baltic Circle: a – burial grounds, b – treasure hoard. Widbark Culture: c – finds of solidi, d – ornament hoards, e – settlement.
Fig. 4. Sites with artefacts decorated in West Baltic star ornament (a). Selected sites with artefacts ornamented in the Sösdala style (b).
verging from the Scandinavian standard. One of them is the choice of items decorated by stamping; in Scandinavia this category includes elements of ceremonial horse trappings, strap mounts and, less frequently, sheet silver brooches with a rectangular head and rhomboid foot. (Cf. contents of Sösdala hoard, N. Mellby parish in the collection of Lunds Universitets Historiska Museum, inv. no. LUHM 25570; Salin 1904, Figs. 105–106; Lund Hansen 1969, Figs. 1–2.) Balt inventories feature exclusively elements of human attire such as brooches and belt sets. Furthermore, stamping is the sole decorative technique in evidence (the belt mounting from former Greibau, grave 272 is an exception, having additional transverse notches Åberg 1919, p. 46) in a Balt environment while in Scandinavia, it co-exists with other, less common techniques, such as niello, notching, and silver inlay. Stylized animal imagery frequently employed in the latter environment is not in evidence in Balt lands of the time.

The above differences tend to be local variations of two styles which are closely related in terms of stamp ornamentation motifs (Salin 1904, Figs. 358–361; Åberg 1919, Figs. 43–44). West Balt star-, spade- or trapeze footed crossbow fibulae, tongue-shaped strap ends and ferrules of oval buckles with a thickened bow display representations of stars, multiconcentric circles and semicircles as well as triangles filled with a combination of various decorative elements, typical of the Sösdala horizon (Tischler & Kemke 1902, Tabs. IV, XI). Stamp ornamentation frequently appears on silver sheet plaques used to inlay entire items or portions thereof, as in tongue-shaped belt fittings, fibulae feet, metopes on the uppermost part of the fibula bow or on its head.

The horizon of objects ornamented with a stamped star motif is primarily in evidence in the Samland Peninsula where several score such finds (Fig. 4) were registered; from this area the tradition of stamping certain types of fibulae and belt sets spread to other Balt lands. Numerous specimens are known from the region to the south of Samland, as well as the western Lithuanian coast and the lower Neman. Isolated finds are known from the Mazurian Lakeland and central Lithuania and from the zone of mixed Balto-Livonian settlement at the mouth of the Daugava river, as well as from southern Finland. The West Balt horizon of star ornamented artefacts is an indicator of phase D (Godłowski 1970, pp. 97–98) and synchronous with the Sösdala style.

**Star- and spade-like footed brooches**

*Star- and spade-like footed brooches (Stern-, Schaufelfussfibeln) and variants of related cruciform brooches*

The star- and spade-footed brooches belong in the category of stamp ornamented artefacts. With a crossbow construction, type Almgren VI. 2, their foot features a semicircular plate with a serrated rim or row of perforations or points along the edge. A recent classification identifies seven types of this brooch depending on the shape of the foot (Bitner-Wróblewska 1991a). Basically, it is a chronological indicator of phase D, its particular variants appearing in its different stages, the latest being dated to early phase E. The star- or spade-footed brooch originated in Samland and surrounding areas whence it spread to other Balt territories as well as to Finnish lands (Fig. 5). In the course of its progress along the eastern coast of the Baltic the motif underwent local modifications, giving rise to local variations such as type III, almost exclusively characteristic of the western Lithuanian coast and the region along the lower Neman, or types VI and VII produced in areas of Finnish settlement, notably in Estonia and south-western Finland.

This group of brooches is also known from Öland and Gotland (Hackman 1905, p. 161, footnote 2; Åberg 1919, p. 42; Statens ... 1908, pp. 230–231, Fig. 75). Four specimens represent type II (classical—Algutsrum parish; Lundegård, Köpingsvik parish; Lenstad, Torslunda parish; Gårdfy parish); one type VII (with a spade-like foot—Övre Ålebäck, Gårdfy parish); and one is a local variant of type IIIA (with a markedly extended fan-like foot—a stray find from Gotland). Stylistic analysis of these brooches coupled with the study of the territorial distribution of types (Fig. 5) offers insight into the sources of ori-
origin and routes of transmission of the pattern (Bitner-Wróblewska 1991a, 1991b). Thus, type II specimens from Öland appear to be direct imports from the source in the Samland Peninsula or perhaps the centre in western Lithuania. Similarly, a damaged specimen presumably belonging to type VII may have been imported from an area of Finnish settlement. A type III specimen from Gotland is an interesting example of external influences from the lower Neman area or the western Lithuanian coast incorporated into local traditions.

While the fashion for crossbow fibulae with a star- or spade-like foot did not spread in the Scandinavian environment, this brooch inspired the shaping of the foot of certain cruciform specimens (Fig. 6), namely, the spade-footed types Søndre Gammelsrød, Ådland, Sagland and Feering, as well as the so-called isolated forms (Einzelformen)—several fibulae defying classification (Reichstein 1975, pp. 37–39, 44, Tabs. 21: 1, 3–4; 22: 5; 32: 3; 41: 7, 9; 107: 3, 7). The study of various morphological features demonstrates that the spade-like foot appears only in late forms of cruciform brooches. Reichstein dates all the quoted types of cruciform fibulae to his phase $D_3$, the youngest specimens even as late as $D_3/E_1$ (cf. Fig. 1). In absolute chronology this corresponds to the second half of the 5th and the early 6th cc., and the youngest Anglo-Saxon variants may be as late as the mid 6th c. (Reichstein 1975, pp. 70, 107–109). Stylistic similarities between star- or spade-footed brooches and Scandinavian cruciform specimens were observed in the past (inter alios Åberg 1919, pp. 31–44) occasionally prompting erroneous conclusions on the formation of Baltic fibulae under the impact of Scandinavian forms (Hackman 1905, pp. 159–162). The clearly older chronological position of Baltic and Finnish brooches obviously contradicts such an assumption.

Finds of spade-footed cruciform brooches are concentrated mainly in southern and south-western Norway, a region relatively distant from the source of stylistic inspiration (Fig. 6). The direction of its transmission remains an open question. It may well be that a land route existed, linking southern Finland with Norrland and the western Norwegian coast. Spade-footed cruciform brooches from Norway showing close affinities to Finnish type VII seen to confirm this line of argument (Moora 1938, Tab. IX, 11; Hackman 1905, Fig. 123, Tabs. 3: 6; 4: 1). Alternatively, the Baltic islands with participation of Scania could have been instrumental as a sui generis contact zone, which is evidenced by the presence of forms typical of both the western and the eastern Baltic basin, in the archaeological material from Gotland, Öland and Bornholm.

Crossbow brooches with a long, narrow foot
(Armbrustfibeln mit Nadelscheide oder mit kurzem Nadelhalter)

Such a category of artefacts linking the eastern Baltic zone with Gotland, Öland and Bornholm are crossbow brooches with a full catch-plate, type A. VI, 2 and a long, narrow foot (Näsman 1984b, map 12a). They fall into two groups: specimens with the foot visibly extended beyond the length of a short catch-plate (of type: Nerman 1935, Fig. 367; Tischler & Kemke 1902, Tab. V, 6, and those featuring a foot flush with the catch-plate (of type: Nerman 1935, Fig. 368; Tischler & Kemke 1902, Tab. V, 21). A slightly different local group is represented by fibulae from Bornholm, featuring a knob on the head projecting beyond the spring (type Klindt-Jensen 1957, Fig. 87:11). A number of specimens also show varying degrees of similarity to Rau- penfibeln (brooches with a caterpillar bow) (Tuszyńska 1988, pp. 177–187).

A recent study of crossbow fibulae viewed from within the two varieties quoted above (the short and the long catch-plate) reveals a number of interesting regularities in terms of both spatial and chronological distribution (Bitner-Wróblewska 1991b, references ibidem). The first variant occurs in concentrations primarily in Samland and Vistula Leman

Fig. 5. Distribution of star- and spade-footed fibulae: a – type II, b – type III, c – type VII, d – types I, IV–VI.
Fig. 6. Distribution of crossbow fibulae with a star- or spade-like foot (a) and of cruciform specimens with a spade-like foot (b – acc. to Reichstein 1975).
and the Mazurian Lakeland (Fig. 7). A distinct concentration is manifest in western Lithuania and Gotland, the latter being much smaller. Finally, a number of single, dispersed specimens are known from outside the area mentioned. In contrast, the spatial distribution of variant 2 shows other areas of concentration (Fig. 7), i.e. western and central Lithuania, Öland and Gotland; the Mazurian Lakeland and the area around the Vistula Leman contain fewer finds. Northern Estonia and south-west Finland report finds of variant 2. There, variant 1 is, with one exception, lacking.

Chronological relations obtaining between the variants 1 and 2 of crossbow fibulae when mapped provide a slightly different spatial distribution of the respective finds. Samland and Mazurian specimens of both variants are the oldest and most chronologically compact. They occur in assemblages with artefacts from phase D and can thus be synchronized with the Sösdala stamp ornamentation horizon. This would confine their chronology to the
mid 5th c. Both variants of crossbow brooches from other Baltic and Finnish lands occur within a much wider chronological framework. The youngest of them are found in assemblages dated to phase E (and in absolute chronology cover the second half of the 5th c.). It is noteworthy that while the chronological positions of the two variants partially overlap, variant 2 clearly persists in use longer. As far as brooches from Öland, Gotland and Bornholm are concerned, it is more difficult to draw the line between the chronologies of the variants. They appear to be contemporaneous and all fit within Period VI: 2, which started, according to the latest evidence around the mid 5th c.

The demonstrably earlier chronological position of brooches from Baltic territories suggests that the stylistic initiative had sprung from this area, namely Samland, very rapidly spreading over the eastern Baltic zone, also reaching the Islands of Gotland, Öland and Bornholm, often, as has already been said, modified to suit local tastes and tradition. (Isolated specimens also reached Scania from the Baltic islands—e.g. finds in XIX c. collection of antiquities at Lunds Universitets Historiska Museum, inv. no. LUHM 3614, LUHM 12771.) The variant from Bornholm could be a case in point. Morphological analysis of variant 1 reveals striking stylistic similarities between Scandinavian and Baltic specimens: the proportions are identical or very similar, although local features are also in evidence, such as stamp ornamentation on the bow and foot of Scandinavian brooches (Tischler & Kemke 1902, Tab. V, 6, 8–10; Nerman, 1935, Figs. 367, 373). Specimens belonging to variant 2 from Baltic environments show greater diversity, e.g.: Samland and Mazurian brooches are markedly more slender and lighter than their Lithuanian counterparts (Åberg 1919, Figs. 52, 57–59). In addition, certain of the latter feature large trapeze-shaped metopes at their top, occasionally in combination with a transverse projection at the base of the bow, at the point where it becomes the foot (Åberg 1919, Figs. 61–63)—stylistic features clearly indicative of a later chronological position as is confirmed by the construction of rung brooches (Armbrustsprossenfibeln) dated to phase E (Åberg 1919, Figs. 181–182). Specimens from Gotland and Öland tend to have pronounced elongation and occasionally, tapering of the foot (Nerman 1935, Figs. 371, 375). Another local feature there is the presence of a double cord and of stamp ornament, also present on the variant 1 of crossbow fibulae (Nerman 1935, Figs. 374–375). Some of these characteristics, such as stamp ornament or pronounced elongation of the foot, occur sporadically in Baltic and Finnish material—clear evidence of Scandinavian references and possibly of regular contacts between production centres.

Drinking horn mountings

This category of artefacts testifies to more than just the enduring nature of contacts between production centres. A case in point may be drinking horn terminals of type D.5 and rim fittings of type k.6, in the classification by J. Andrzejowski (1991, ibid. bibliography). The former have two plates and an intervening bi-conical thickened junction; the latter are made of wide richly embossed band fittings. Both occur in two concentrations—one in Gotland, the other in the Baltic lands (Fig. 8). While type D.5 has a clearly earlier dating, all of the mountings dated from the Late Roman Period (period V), most of them to its earlier phase (inter alia Skällhorns, gr. 3; Havor, gr. 95, 223 a, 223 b). With few exceptions (Lublin, gr. 26; Gibaičiai), Balt specimens cannot be dated prior to phase D and E (Period VI and part of VII). The appearance of drinking horns (with mountings) in the eastern Baltic zone should doubtless be linked to influences from Gotland which in the local environment were transformed and enriched. This is best seen in the case of upper rim mountings. Specimens found in Gotland are exclusively made from bronze and rather modestly decorated (Almgren & Nerman 1923, pp. 96–99, nos. 297, 304–305, 324). Balt mountings on the other hand, particularly specimens from Lithuania, were partly or wholly made of silver and richly ornamented (Kazakevičius 1987). The custom of drinking from such ves-
sels reached the Balt lands from Gotland. The chronological gap between the source area in Gotland and the secondary centre of finds of drinking horn mountings in the Balt lands did not affect the survival of stylistic traditions. This gap is visible in particular in the case of band upper rim mountings, and filled by items conforming to the style but entirely distinct in term of function, the so-called tins from Babięta and Mojtyny (Hollack & Peiser 1904, Tab. VII, 41 b; Peiser 1921, Fig. 1), manufactured from embossed decorated sheet metal with ornamentation motifs similar to those present on upper rim mountings of drinking horns. Both these finds are dated to the earlier phase of the Late Roman Period. This sheds new light on the nature of inter-change as well as on the capacity for storage of foreign models and their latter assimilation in the local environment.

Conclusions

Studies of links between the West Balt territories with other lands of the Baltic sea cannot give too much attention to the question of Balto-Scandinavian contacts. To be sure, B. Nerman explored the subject in the past (1929), but, being primarily interested in ma-

Fig. 8. Distribution of drinking horn mountings (acc. to Andrzejowski 1991): a – terminal mounting type D.5; b – upper rim type k.6.
materials from phase E and, even to a greater extent, the Early Middle Ages, he largely ignored the interchanges between Scandinavian and south-eastern lands which occurred in the Early Migration Period. That the problem is indeed significant becomes evident when one begins to assemble and analyse facts heretofore overlooked or scattered in the literature. It is then obvious that the question is essential to the understanding of recent relations between areas bordering on the Baltic. Of course, phase D cannot be understood as a chronological watershed in Balto-Scandinavian contacts. Many issues addressed by the present paper have a much larger chronological range (being rooted in phase D they persist in the subsequent phase). The emphasis on the Early Migration Period is intended to draw the attention of scholars to the earlier origin of certain phenomena as well as to their scale in the period under discussion.

It becomes apparent that there is a striking stylistic similarity between, on the one hand, the south-east regions of the Baltic basin and, on the other, Gotland, Öland, Bornholm and Scania, well illustrated by the impact of the Sösdala style on the emergence of the West Balt star ornament. In turn, star or spade-footed brooches decorated with this ornament inspired the shaping of the foot of some cruciform fibulae. This exchange of stylistic novelties, often speedily modified to suit local taste and habit, is particularly well exemplified by crossbow brooches with a long, narrow foot. In this case the stylistic initiative can probably be traced to the Samland Peninsula, the rapidly spreading motif finding its way to eastern reaches of the Baltic basin as well as to Gotland, Öland and Bornholm. Furthermore, it is also worth noting that individual production centres seem to have been in regular touch (as confirmed by morphological study of the specimens). Finally, a study of drinking horn mountings offers an interesting insight into the travel of motifs. The chronological gap between the source area in Gotland and the secondary centre of finds of drinking horn mountings in the Balt lands did not affect the survival of stylistic traditions.

The cases of Balto-Scandinavian stylistic connections discussed in the present paper obviously do not exhaust the subject. The question of the influence of trapeze-footed brooches (Tischler & Kemke 1902, Tab. IV, 12–16, 18–20, 22–24) on similar specimens from Gotland (Nerman 1935, Figs. 47–48, Textfig. 6) and Öland (Åberg 1923, Fig. 215) still remains to be examined. The same is true of isolated finds of other Balt imports in Scandinavia—such as certain types of brooches, elements of belt sets, bracelets, etc. E.g. the unique finds of fragments of rhomboid-footed fibulae from Gotland (Nerman 1935, Textfig. 7) and Scania (Strömberg 1961, Tab. 53:3) which have no counterparts among the local fibulae types, yet are closely akin to the Baltic materials (Tischler & Kemke 1902, Tab. IV, 11). Similar sources need to be found for belt set components from Gotland (Nerman 1935, Figs. 484–485, Textfig. 186) and Scania (Strömberg 1961, Tab. 52:8). Oval buckles with a thickened frame and a rectangular ferrule as well as tongue-shaped strap-ends represent a cultural and ethnic indicator of Sambian costume in phase D, while the bow-curved strap end from Scania also has close analogies with Samland material (Bitner-Wróblewska 1989, pp. 165–175, eadem 1991b). Analogies for bracelets with widening, thickened extremities discovered in Gotland (Nerman 1935, Figs. 419–420) are to be found on the western Lithuanian coast (Åberg 1919, Figs. 184–193). However, the author feels that a complete study of all elements of exchange would have unnecessarily swelled the volume of the paper without contributing significantly to the conclusions.

Similarity of stylistic ideas testifies to the existence of a direct, lively interchange between West Balt workshops and their counterparts in Gotland, Öland and Scania. Such contacts between Scandinavia and often quite remote areas to the south during the Migration Period are evidenced by inter alia the manner of expansion of Animal Style I (Haseloff 1981, Fig. 512) or of the bird head frieze motif on fibulae and buckles (Näsman 1984a, pp. 71–73). The spread of stylistic ideas and of specimens was accelerated by migrations. Certainly, itinerant artisans whose presence is
discernible in archaeological material from the 5th and later c., must have participated in the transmission of novel patterns, ornaments and decorative motifs (Werner 1962, idem 1970). Intermarriage could have been another factor (Nässman 1984 b, p. 122). Last but not least was the exchange between economic and cultural centres. One of the partners of Samland could have been the centre in Scania, recently remarked by Ch. Fabech (1990), functioning alongside Öland, Gotland and Bornholm, in the lively contacts developing between the lands bordering on the Baltic sea.

Figs. 2–8 drawn by Monika Bajkowska

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Sammanfattning

Uppsatser behandlar under rubriken ”Från Skåne till Samland” stilhistoriska förbindelser över Östersjön under tidig folkvandringstid. Redan då och långt tidigare hade det nätverk av handelsförbindelser börjat byggas upp, som under vikingatiden så påfallande band samman stammar och stater i södra Östersjöområdet. Dessa förbindelser bröts inte ens under den oroliga folkvandringstiden då krigiska horder var i rörelse för att inte missa chansen till lättfånget byte i det sammanfallande romarriket. Tvärtom kan man konstatera de då t.ex. påfallande stilistiska överensstämmelser inom konsthanteriet mellan ena sidan områdena i sydöst och å andra sidan Gotland, Öland, Bornholm och Skåne. De etniska skillnaderna till trots synes kontakterna mellan dåtidens skandinaver och balter haft en fastare förankring än vad fallet varit under senare delen av 1900-talet.
