



from the borders of the Carolingian monarchy, played an important role in the formation of particular models. The role of the last factor could be reduced, to a certain extent, by the preceding ones, however, some limitations may be noticed. Carolingian influences cover a more or less meridian stripe of land only about 250 km wide. The finds do not become scarcer if one moves away from the Carolingian border. Dense concentrations of ornamental elements appear mainly in the regions where the formation of supratribal organisms took place.

The Carolingian influences concerning the production of hooked spurs cannot be fully included into any of the above mentioned models. Although a mutual dependence between the intensiveness of contacts and the Carolingian features of hooked spurs may be stated, the latter frequently appear on the territories where no Carolingian imports have been discovered so far. The above mentioned territories, namely Northern Great Poland and the district of Chełmno, may have constituted the hooked spurs production centre. Where did the Carolingian influences manifested in artistic ornaments and certain forms of hooked spurs' prick points visible in this region come from? J. Żak, fascinated by the discoveries made on the territory of Croatia, speaks in favour of southern influences. A considerable distance between Croatia and Great Poland, the lack of any contacts with the North as far as other spheres of life are concerned, as well as lack of any items decorated with artistic ornaments on the territories dividing the discussed territories, especially in Great Moravia, seem to refute this thesis. The objects decorated with the characteristic artistic ornamentation, which appear in nearer Lower Silesia (the spur with holes in the plate for passing the strap found in Kamieńsk, the province of Wałbrzych), are scarce. No hooked spurs can be found on this territory, the Tornow-Klenica zone being an exception here. This fact eliminates the possibility of any close relations between contemporary Silesia and Great Poland. An indirect influence from Scandinavia can hardly be the case, as in the Carolingian period the role of spurs was a minor one there. In addition, the articles decorated with artistic ornaments and classified as Early Carolingian finds are scarcely present on Scandinavian territories.

The spurs decorated with artistic ornaments are quite common on Frisian territories. As some close relations between the West Slavs of the Baltic zone and the Frisian region developed at that time, an indirect influence of Carolingian elements on the hooked spurs of Great Poland might be the case here.

However, all the attempts at a more precise specification of the circumstances in which the Carolingian "imports" appeared on the territories inhabited by the West Slavs seem to be untimely. Although different events such as armed conflicts, political meetings, trade relations and others which could result in the penetration of Carolingian goods into Slavonic territories are known from the written sources, it is still too early to match the finds with particular historical events. It may only be added that the bans imposed on weapon trade

appeared to be extremely ineffective, as they recur in the capitularies of successive Carolingian rulers.

In a retrospective view the effect of the Carolingian influences exerted on the West Slavs appears to be a transitory one, devoid of any considerable importance for their cultural development in the following centuries. Great Moravia is the most striking example here. Although in the 10th century the culture of a given territory seems to be related to that of the preceding period, but this is the effect of Ottonian influences that is the case here. The death of the last representative of the Carolingian dynasty at the beginning of the 10th century did not result in a decline of Carolingian culture. The Ottonian Empire took over and, in many spheres of life, carefully cultivated Carolingian traditions. It is not accidental that the new-formed West-Slavonic states borrow from Carolingian tradition via the Ottonian Empire.

*Translated by Zuzanna Poklewska-Parra*