

The spearheads.

The typological classification of the spearheads rely partially on the socket, and partially on the blade. Regarding the socket we consider the length and thickness, jagged or round cross section, ornamentation by forged lines or furrows, or by metal inlays, and finally if there is protrusions on it, or it is smooth and even for its entire length. Regarding the blade, we similarly look at thickness and length, and further more the thickness, as well as whether the greatest width is closer or further from the socket. Additional meanings of the typological distinguishing marks will become apparent during our following examination of the types. It must be noted that the chronological order isn't completely consistent with the order in which the types are arranged.

Type A

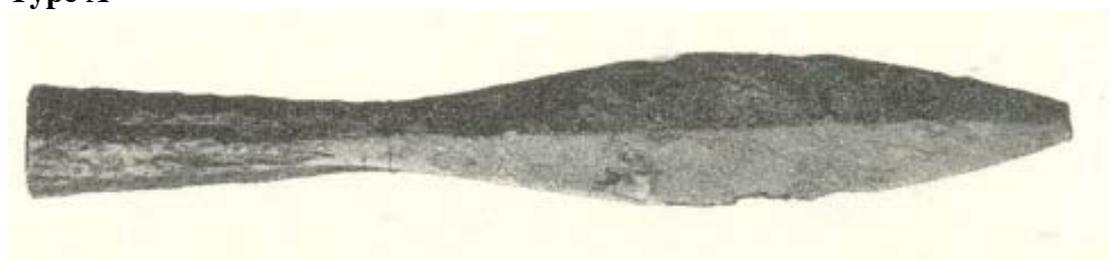


Fig. 7. Kvarberg, Vaage, Krist. $\frac{2}{5}$.

The blade is flat, with a slightly raised back, broadest around the middle, evenly rounded edges on both sides, thick neck, short socket. (See R522). The socket can have the same ornamentation as types B and C. In a find from Skåne (Lunds museum Inv.nr 3753-58) which might date back to late migration era, the spearhead has this ornamentation on the socket.

Spearheads of this type are found with single edge swords without guards, axeheads of the A-type, also swords of the B, C and H-type. It must be dated mainly to the 7th period [of the iron age], but probably carries on into the Viking age. One specimen, that is less typical than R522, is found of a sword of special type 5, and type B noicemaker.

Type B



Fig. 8. Uthus, Hol, Busk. $\frac{2}{5}$.

Blade and socket of a similar main shape as the previous type, but apparently can be longer, and vertical furrows are forming on the socket. At the bottom of the socket, there are quite short protrusions, or "wings". The blade does in most cases have the same blunt appearance as the previous type.

Appears with single edged swords without guards, swords of the H, B and C-types, Axes of the B and D-type. In one find, from Romfjohellen, Sundal, Romsdal,

there is, in addition to spearheads and many other items, a oval bronze clasp, like R648, which dates the find to very early Viking age.

Over all, it quite clear that the spearheads form is connected to the previous type, and the weapon combinations show that they are roughly contemporary. It might go on a bit further in time. It might also be noted that the furrows on the socket are of the same kind as the ones on the back of the scramasax; Likewise, it shows similarities to the specifically western Norwegian spearhead type. (Schetelig, Nye jernalderfunn s. 79 fig. 104; see also the spearhead from S. Skjønne, Nore, Busk, C 19810, on page 64, fig 55 d).

Type C

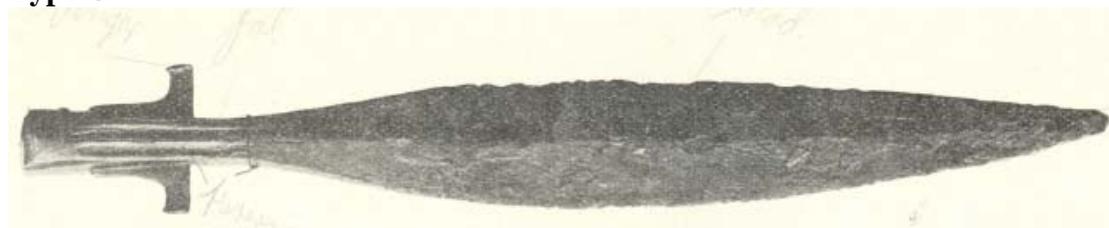


Fig. 9. Asla, Ringsaker, Hed. 2/5.

The blade here becomes broader and thinner, and more pointed, greatest width further down, socket still short, but the wings longer. The furrows remain. The type also found without wings, like the A type can be seen as the B type without wings. A special group of 3 spearheads have small square knots on either side of the socket in place of wings.

This type appears with swords of the H-type, additionally the M type, and L type. Axeblades especially of the E-type, shieldbosses like R 562. One find with a Arabic coin from about 800 AD.

This type must apparently be younger than the previous. It is not found with single edged swords without guards, or swords of the B or C type; Axeheads of the E-type, a further development of the D-type, must be counted as belonging to the last half of the 9th century. The coin is worn, and might not have gotten into the earth before past mid-century. Overall, I am partial to place this types lifespan to the last half of the 9th century. It might go a bit further back in time.

Type D

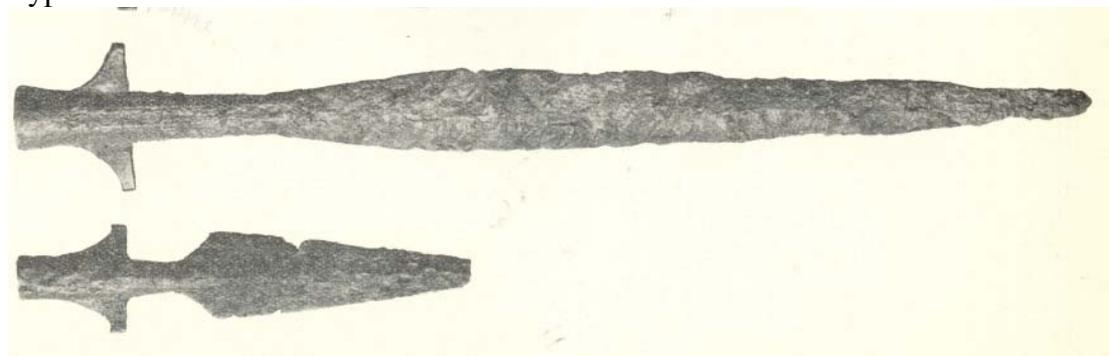


Fig. 10. Hammerstad, Stange, Hed. 2/5.

Fig. 11. Møli, Tinn, Brb. 2/5.

Two groups. The first group (fig. 10) has a narrower blade, and is longer, the width still greatest at the bottom, the edge lines straighter towards the point than the two previous types. The wings at the bottom of the socket seems similar to those of

the C type. The narrow blade seems to be an influence from the slender blades on other types that are becoming fashionable; the socket also seems to grow longer. The other group (fig 11.) has wings in the same way, but here the balde and socket is a lot closer to the H-type, wide at the bottom, forming the transition from blade to socket with straight, outgoing lines, and often have a thicker ridge, as a continuation of the socket. It is clear that these two groups are new types, which have only retained the wings on the socket. These two groups are found with swords of the S-type, Q-type, Special type 20, and one specimen of the H-type. The axeheads are I-K type. Finally a couple of shield bosses of the R 565 type.

This shows that the type belongs to the 10th century, and is on a decidedly later stage than the two previous types. It is thus not certain that a spearhead with wings belongs to the 9th century. Axeheads of the E-type are missing, swords of the S-type, Q-type, and the axeheads are clearly younger, similarly the shield bosses. The spearhead C15917, with its ornamentation, the broad circle that goes partially over, partially under, the ribbons and tie these together, is almost reminiscent of Vangsten, but regardless of this I do not dare to pull this type as far down in time as this stone. The pure exterior typological conditions contradicts it.

Type E

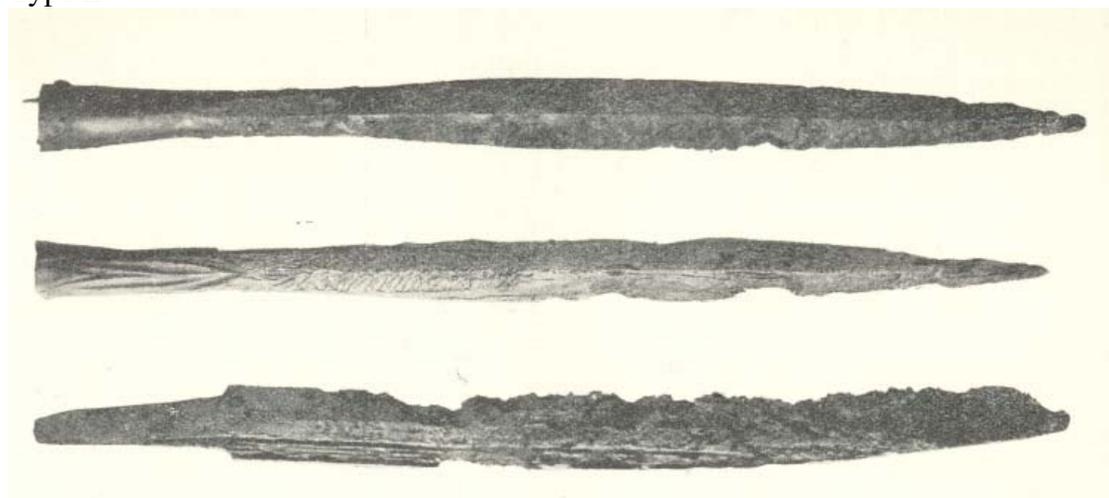


Fig. 12. Koll, Vardal, Krist. $\frac{2}{5}$ a.
 Fig. 13. Holvik, Gloppen, N. B. Ca. $\frac{1}{3}$ a.
 Fig. 14. Holvik, Gloppen, N. B. Ca. $\frac{1}{11}$ a.

The socket is stil short, with a very subtle transition to the blade; this in turn is long and slender, of almost even width, not especially pointed, and with no pronounced elevated ridge. The socket often has ellipse-like figured forged in on all four sides. The socket can also be without ornamentation, but the type still remains sure. On a few examples, the socket has the same kind of ornamentation, but the blade is large and wide.

This type is found with swords of the C, D, E and H type, further more 1 find of the B-type, and 2 finds with single edged swords without guards. (fig 14). The shield bosses are purely R 564. The axeheads are A-type or its developments, further more the D type, and one specimen of the C type. The noice makers are always of the older type.

Finally, one should mention one that one sword of is of type M and one of special type 7. (B 5795, Bolseter, Jølster) In the same find, the axehead is of the D type, high

shield boss, and a oval bronze clasp of the R 648 type. In another find (C 3034-37, from Vestre By, Hole Buskerud) the spearhead has a broader blade than usual, the find also contains a broze clasp of the R648 type.

Based on this, the dating of this type should be quite clear. Single edged sword without guards and type B swords belong mostly to the 7th period [of the iron age]; the other types are all native to the older Viking age, the youngest being the sword of the M type, but this type dates back to alt least the middle of the 9th century. This spearhead should thus appear in this country in the end of the 8th century, and be used mostly in the beginning of the 9th century. The typological development that H. Schetelig proposes in "New iron age finds in western Norway" page 68, namely that R 522, my A-type, fits well with my dating. Also fitting is the find in Grave VIII from Vendel, where the spearhead is found with a fitting piece ornamented in style 2. This is in correspondence with another Swedish find, namely the one discussed by B. Schnittger in *Förnvannen* 1912 p 25-27, where the spearhead is found with a sword of the D-type, which in my view also belong to the older part of the 9th century. Here the find is however dated to about 900. Harder to explain is a find from Jämtlands läns fornminneforening's newsletter, where the spearhead is found with a ring clasp with ornamentation from about 900; As curious is that the axehead also is of an older type, with a faceted trunk. Similarly, in the newsletter of 1915 B 6 h 2 a spearhead like this is found with a shield boss that does not belong to the oldest part of the Viking age. This might be explained with that this kind of spearhead, as well as the axes, persisted longer up in Jemtland.

I can however not find that these finds topple the other, numerous pieces of evidence showing that this kind of spearhead belongs to the older part of the Viking age.

The type is otherwise common outside Scandinavia as well, especially towards the east, in Finland as well as Russia.

Type F

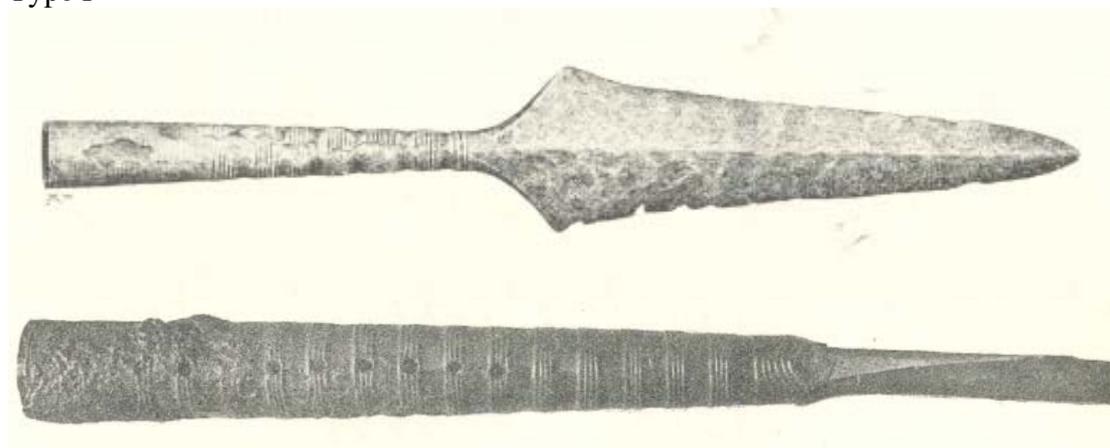


Fig. 15. Brevik, Lier, Busk. $\frac{1}{3}$.

Fig. 16. Bruhaugen, Vik N. B. $\frac{4}{5}$.

The shaft is here longer and more slender; Especially characteristic is the curious way in which it is ornamented with encircling ridges and depressions, the former with engraved lines.

Also a common mark of the type is that the greatest width of the blade is by the socket, and that there is a quite steep transition between socket and blade; the later is

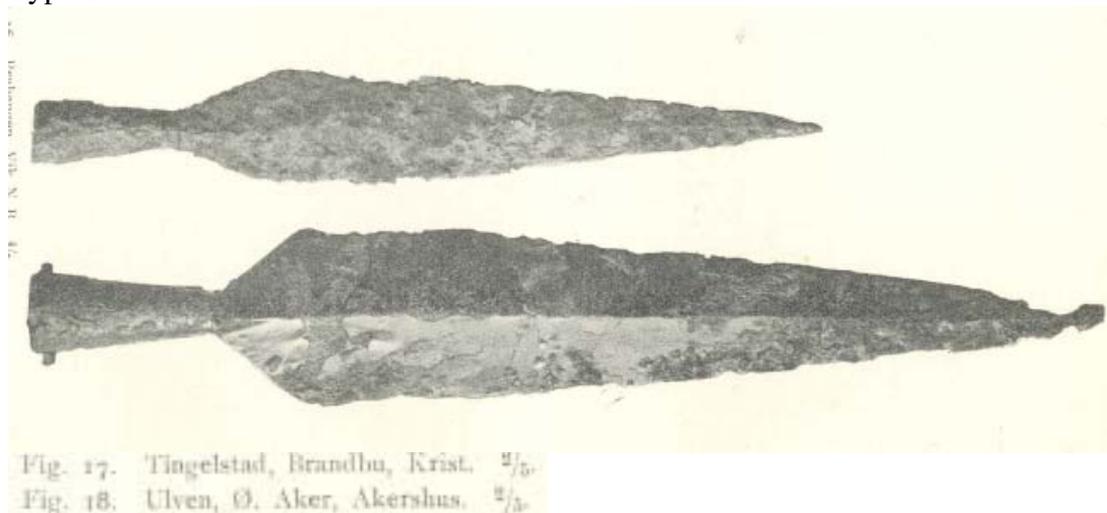
also quite thin. The transition can be straight and then more outstretched, or curved inwards, and more contracted. The later is the more common. The length of the specimens can vary greatly, from 30 to 50-60 cm; the later length the more typical. As such, the example of the type shown in Rygh (R 529) is not really typical.

The transition between socket and blade can also, if rarely, be rounded and or quite short. The type must be kept out of Type M, which is a lot younger, and has a definitely more pronounced ridge, has a steeper, straight transition in contour at the socket, and finally lacks the distinctive ornamentation of the F-type.

Of the weapons appearing with this type, the M type is especially worthy of note (several specimens), as is the L-type (3 specimens), K type, H and I type, the first especially in the western part of the country. The axeheads are especially E-type og G-type, in some instances the D-type.

The type is very numerous, and must thus be assumed to have been in use for a while; it presumably originates already in the middle 9th century, and has probably survived the turn of the century. A indication of this is a spearhead from the Linga grave area in Södermanland (Sweden). Here a spearhead of the transitional type between F and I types is securely dated to the first half of the 900's. The same is known from Norway. (Fig 16)

Type G



Short, thick socket, which commonly continues a bit onto the blade. This is wide at the base, the transition to the socket is formed by almost straight lines, more seldom with rounded. The blade quite flat.

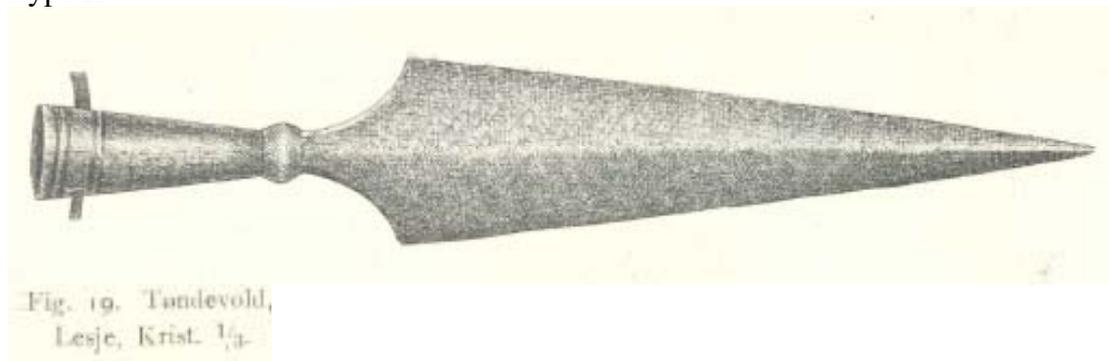
Of swords which appears with this type, one should mention the R and S type, subsequently 7 specimens of the Q-type, 2 of the Y type, 1 of the X type, and 1 of the Æ type. Of axeheads quite few, 1 of L, 1 of M, and 1 highly developed E-type.

One should believe that this was a quite old type, related to R 519, with the raised portion at the base of the blade, the wide blade and the greatest width at the base. This can however not be the case due to the quite different chronological position of these types.

The sword belongs to the youngest of the Viking age types, like the Q and Æ types; the axeheads of the L and M-types must likewise be counted among the youngest. There is thus every possibility that this spearhead type belong to the 10th century, preferably the later half, and that it continues on into the 11th; Four

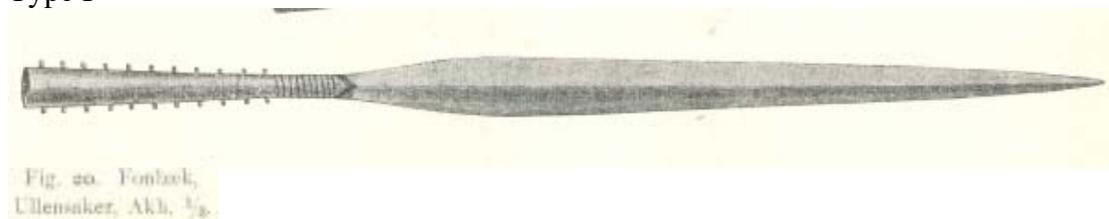
spearheads of this type is placed at the beginning of this century by M. Ebert. The type is occasionally, though mostly in the Swedish and Baltic finds, ornamented with silver inlays. In Norway, we have R 531 from Alvø in Nesna, Nordland, though here the ornamentation only consists of band weaves, and is otherwise quite geometrical. Clearly related, however, is C15917 of the D-type; It seems that this in this specimen only the protruding wings are a reminiscence of the older type.

Type H



Quite few specimens. Is distinguished by a thickened at, or close to the transition between socket and blade. Otherwise similar to the previous type, though the socket commonly is a bit longer, and the transition more inwardly curved. Found with axeheads of K-type, should belong to roughly the same period as the previous type.

Type I



Long socket and slender blade, high ridged. The transition between socket and blade rounded, even. The socket commonly has a number of bronze rivets, going all the way through. Commonly about 11, though the number can reach 15. Commonly the rivets are gone, and only the holes on the socket shows the type.

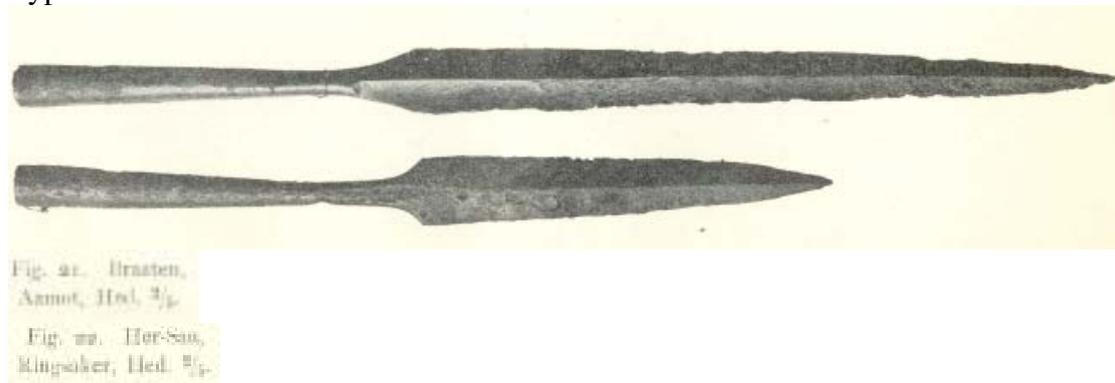
On a couple of specimens there is a tight stripe ornament with inlays of silver or bronze, A couple are as previously mentioned a mixed form between type F and I. Another, T 6236 from Forset, Melhus, Sør-Trøndelag, has a broad blade as the previous type, tight silver stripes on the socket, but 4 rivets going through. Similarly we should note C 4423 from Øvre Hov, Gran, Kristiansand, of the C-type, but in the place of wings fixed iron rivets on the socket, possibly a mixed form. 2 of the spearheads of the I type are quite small, only 30 cm long.

These spearheads are found with swords of the O-type, Q type, L type, S type, I type, Y type, and V-type. The axeheads are H and K type, also E type, the shield bosses are low, the noise makers young.

As with the other slender, high ridged spearheads, these also belong to the late Viking age. But it belongs to the older of the slender spears of the 10th century. It originates around 900 AD, indicated by the swords of L and I type, and the mixed forms with the F-type (Alternately C type) spearheads. Thus it probably belongs to the

first half of the 10th century. It's not numerous enough to believe it had a very long lifespan.

Type K

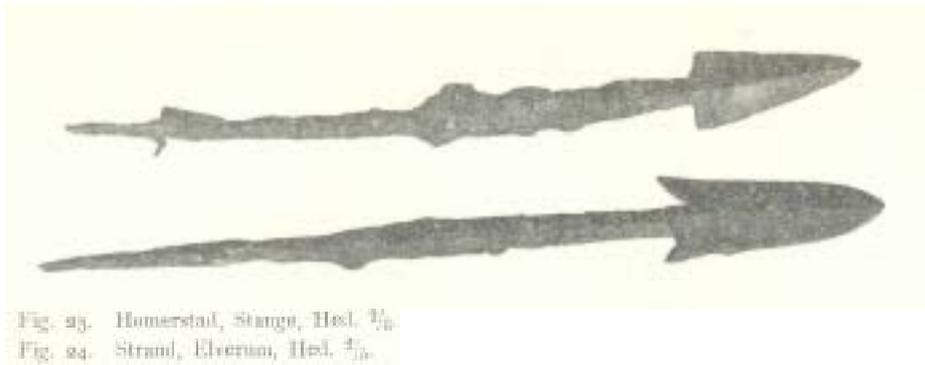


In this type we gather a number of slender, long, high ridged spearheads, with slender, long sockets, where the transition between blade and socket generally is not as long and rounded as the previous type, and lacks that types rivets. The transition between socket and blade is here formed by shorter, straight lines, can also be curved inwards, or more sloped and protracted.

Most common is the group represented by R 542, where there often is ornate inlays on the socket, and the transition can be quite protracted. Typical of this kind is C 10663 from Bråten, Åmot, (fig 21) where the socket is without ornamentation, which is the most common. Often we see a flatter section on the lower portion of the blade, which goes onto the socket. A typical specimen of this otherwise normal K-type is C 11301 from Hovin, Nes, Hedemark, while C 658 from Her-sau, Ringsaker, (fig 22) at the same time represents a new subgroup of the type, which should possibly be included as a new type. Here the width of the blade is pronouncedly widest at the base, from where it tapers evenly towards the point. Likewise the blade is shorter in relation to the socket. Even more pronounced is the width of the blade in a spearhead like C 19823 from Dalene in Kvitseid, where the length of the socket is nearly the only thing distinguishing it from the G-type.

All these spearheads do, according to the combination of finds, belong to the late Viking age. They are found with swords of the P, Q, S, X, U, V, O, I, Y, Z and Æ types, similarly native L-type, and, rarer, with the H-type. The axeheads are of the H-K type, as well as the M type. The shield bosses are low, the noise makers of late design. It is not easy to distinguish between the older and newer specimens. However, the smaller kind seems to belong to the later period, though I would not say that the long type could not have lasted longer. There are several cases of this kind of spearhead appearing in the latest days of the Viking age, in the most common [longer] form. Similarly, the spearhead in the find St 3667 from Hove in Lund, which is found with swords of late Q-type, and a axehead with strong outward curvature, and a sloped edge, almost of the M-type.

Type L



Curious type. The blade quite small and with short barbs; Instead of a socket it has a long, most commonly square, tang, which can have a ledge on the middle, similar to the arrowheads.

The type is found with different kinds of weapons, and is separated into two groups by this, and its form. The smallest of these groups (Fig 23.) does not have proper barbs, but is cut clean. It is this type that has the ledge on the tang.

The first, most numerous group (Fig 24) is found with axeheads of the A-type, or developments thereof, or axeheads of the D-type. The swords are C-type, and in 1 find the I type. In another find, where there is a axehead of the A-type, and a sword of the B or C type, there is also a sword knife of older form. Over all, there is only 4 specimens that has been found in combination with other items, but there are more single finds.

The main characteristic of the older type seems to be that there is no ledge on the on the tang; the blade otherwise has real tangs, but otherwise the blade is more or less elongated.

In one find from Dalarna, in Sweden, there is a spearhead of this main type, with a long blade, like the spearhead form Strand in Elverum, and further more a ledge on the tang; Here we also find a ring clasp from the 10th century. From Jämtland we also find the type similar to R528, without the ledge on the tang, and with small barbs. A axehead of late A-type, and a spearhead of the E-type was found with this spearhead. There seems to be little doubt that this group belongs to the 9th century, and most commonly its fist half. A find like the one from Strand in Elverum does however seem to originate from the last half of the century.

This is however not the case with the younger group, which I so far only know from two specimens. (C4983 from Hammerstad, Stange and ST 360-68, Hegre, Høiland.)

Particularly the fist of these must orginate from the 10th century, and probably from its middle; the other is found with a slender spearhead, which seems to be of a younger type, but otherwise the items in this find is so strongly corroded that the type can no be accurately determined.

The other group of spearheads with ledges on the tang, and clen cut lobes on the blade apparently belong ot the 10th century.

Type M



Fig. 25. Halsteinsbo, Lantes, Hist. 23.

Not particularly long spearheads, with high ridged blade, sloped and long transition from blade to socket, which means that the greatest width of the blade is greater than the K-type, and is further up.

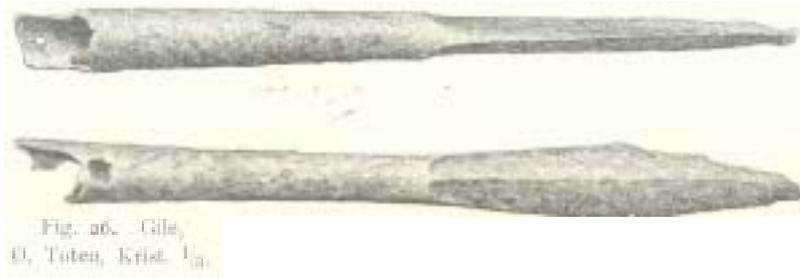
The Norwegian types does not have metal inlays, but this is common in the quite numerous Swedish ones.

The upper section of the socket is commonly faceted. This is also found on the K-type spearhead from the recent late Viking age find from Vesterhaug in Løten. (C 22138)

The type must, as previously mentioned, be separated from the F-type, as it has a high ridged blade, and lacks the characteristic ornamentation. Chronologically the two types are at quite different points.

This type appears with swords of the Æ-type, of the Z-type and U-type, as well as Special type 20. The axeheads are M and L types, the shield bosses R 565, the noise makers young. We are here dealing with the youngest of the Viking age spearheads, belonging mostly to the 11th century, which the ornamented Swedish spearheads also support. The type makes a overall eastern impression, and is common in Finland and Russian as well as Sweden.

Other types



In addition to these types there are spearheads who do not form large enough groups to be included as complete types. One such group is R530, with a small notched protrusion on both sides of the socket at the transition to the blade, which is high ridged. 3 specimens known. Appears in one find with a L-type axehead, and should as such be one of the late spearheads.

Then there is another type, typified by a spearhead from Gille, Østre Toten (C 5522-24, Fig 26). It has a thick, blunt blade, with little transition between blade and socket. It is found with swords of the Æ and Q type, and surely stands on the transition to the middle ages.

Finally I will mention a small group of slender spearheads with long sockets, but without the high ridged blade that is otherwise characteristic of the younger spearheads. They can be both wide and narrow at the base, always with rounded transition; If they are slender, they have a outline similar to the I-type. The type is probably a bit older than the I-type, and dates to the last half or end of the 9th century. Spearheads of this kind is commonly shorter than the regular I-K types.

This should conclude the presentation of the spearheads. They are included to be used in the later discussion of the swords. As one can see, the pure 7th period spearheads are not included, and neither is the “Vendel type” R 519, nor the broad

bladed R 520, or the type described by Schetelig's "New Iron age finds in Western Norway" page 79, fig 104, or the l. c Fig 80 type native to Valdres.

When Schetelig in the mentioned work, page 68 says that the spearheads of the 7th period are large and broad, this is also the case of the early Viking age. The small javelin heads, (R 524 and 526) are not typified either; they are very rare in the grave finds, and are often medieval. The Viking age material from Småland [in Sweden] consists of specimens of this type, and would probably be even more reduced, if these spearheads were no longer considered.