

Early medieval waterscapes  
Risks and opportunities for (im)material  
cultural exchange



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Early medieval waterscapes  
Risks and opportunities for (im)material cultural exchange

herausgegeben von  
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## Migration Period Jewellery from Høvlbakke, Northeastern Zealand

Morten Axboe and Tim Grønnegaard

Høvlbakke is a hill a few kilometres east of Helsingør in northeastern Zealand (Fig. 1). The find which is the subject of the present paper, was made on its southeastern outskirts.<sup>1</sup> This site is not a prominent feature of the gently undulating landscape, apart from its position as a sort of promontory where the rivulet Hesse-mose Å is joined from the west by a brook without a name. A map from 1813 also indicates bog/meadow north of the find spot, so it has formerly appeared as a dry islet in wetlands (GRØNNEGAARD 2015, fig. 28).

No prehistoric finds were known from Høvlbakke or its surroundings until the neophyte metal detector enthusiast Bjørn Schamaitat, who was acquainted with the landowner, began searching it in November 2014. He soon found a gold bracteate and contacted his metal-detecting mentor David Buhrkall as well as Museum Nordsjælland, which is in charge of the archaeology of the area. In an intense search the two men found a circular gold pendant and five fragments of a silver-gilt square-headed brooch. The finds were promptly delivered to the museum, which decided to keep the site secret to avoid unauthorized detecting until a proper excavation could take place.

The excavation was directed by the second author and took place over two days in September 2015, when c. 900 m<sup>2</sup> were examined in thin layers with the two finders participating with their detectors. They found another fragment of the brooch, as well as a few objects of Medieval and later

date. The only archaeological features encountered were two undatable pits. Subsequent metal detecting in 2016 has brought to light one more gold bracteate and some brooch fragments, and more may follow. At the time of writing the find consists of two gold bracteates, one circular gold pendant and 9 brooch fragments; in all likelihood we are dealing with a scattered hoard.

Although the Migration Period finds were located within the limited area covered by the excavation, no indication of the exact place of deposition was found, nor any trace of occupation or other activities on the hillock. The objects may have been buried by a tree or a stone which has now disappeared, or they may have been deposited in one of the streams and brought into the field by dredging. This may have been taken place between 1813, when only Hesse-mose Å east of Høvlbakke is marked as a stream on the earliest map of the area, while the brook to the west is shown only as wetland, and 1842, when both streams are clearly marked on the 1:20,000 topographical map.

### Bracteates

The first bracteate (C 41228) was folded into a cornet shape when found, so the pictorial motif was difficult to ascertain.



Figure 1. The excavation seen from NNE. Photo M. Axboe. Map after Fund og Fortidsminder©. In the map top right Høvlbakke and Uppåkra are marked.



It was therefore decided to straighten it out at the National Museum's conservation department (Fig. 2). The earth found within it was ordinary field soil with numerous grains of sand, offering no substantiation of wetland deposition. In its present state it measures 2.54 cm in diameter and weighs 2.7 g. An XRF analysis revealed that the gold content was c. 860‰; the remainder was mostly silver with a small percentage of copper.<sup>2</sup> The loop, the flan and the beaded rim wire are much worn. On the obverse there are five golden beads under the loop, while the loop on the reverse is soldered to a small gold patch.

The second bracteate (C 42493) is less bent, so no straightening was undertaken (Fig. 2). The loop is bent backwards and much worn, as are the beaded rim wire and the bracteate flan. Below the loop there are three beads on the obverse. The greatest width of the flan in its present state is 2.37 cm, while the weight is 2.55 g.

Both bracteates are die-identical to the C-bracteate IK 625, 1 found in 2008 at Uppåkra in Scania (Fig. 2), and their IK number will be 625, 2. The die features the classic C-bracteate motif of a human head above a quadruped, both seen from the left. The runic inscription at the left edge of the picture field reads **uplIII**. The inscription cannot be interpreted in itself, but may be considered as a garbled version of the

'formulaic word' **laþu** (AxBOE 2011b, 987 with refs; comp. HEIZMANN 2011, 544-560).

The IK 625 die is closely related to Pesch's *Formularfamilie* C12, and with the quadruped's four comma- or scroll-shaped feet it must be included in her *Bastardgruppe* C12a, the bracteates of FF C12 proper having only one such foot each (PESCH 2007, 210-15). Like the rest of these bracteates IK 625 will belong to my Group H3 with a tentative dating to the decades around or after c. 500 AD (AxBOE 2004; comp. AxBOE 2011a, 280f).

The bracteates of Pesch's *Formularfamilie* C12 have been found in Funen, Scania, Bornholm and northern Poland, while the 'bastards' are more widely dispersed to northern Jutland, Schleswig(?), northeastern Zealand, Bornholm, Gotland and Västergötland. A recently auctioned 'bastard' specimen is said to come from western Ukraine (IK 665 Ufo-C; BRUUN RASMUSSEN 2016), a provenance which has not been substantiated in any way. Both the Høvlbakke bracteates and IK 625(,1) Uppåkra-C, which came too late to be included in Pesch's survey, fit well into this distribution. Besides, they provide the first secure die-link across the Øresund, remarkably enough to the 'central place' of Uppåkra, where IK 625(,1) was found in the burnt-down hall 'House B' just east of the 'cult house' (pers. comm. L. Larsson 8.1.2009 and



Figure 2. Upper row: Bracteate C 41228 before and after straightening. Lower row: Bracteate C 42493, front and back, and IK 625 Uppåkra-C. All 2:1. Photo S. Greve and A. Mikkelsen, Nationalmuseet ©. Drawing P. Wöhliche.

6.2.2009; LARSSON AND SÖDERBERG 2013). Thus the Høvlbakke finds add to the far-reaching connections of the bracteate production of northeastern Zealand, which also includes a die-link to western Poland (AXBOE 2017).

### Pendant

The circular pendant (Fig. 3) consists of two beaded gold wires and a fluted loop. It is 2.56 cm in height, measures 2.14 cm across and weighs 4.01 g. The pendant is slightly bent, and both the loop and the beaded wires are much worn. The centre is open, and there are no traces suggesting that it was ever filled out with a cross or scrolls; on the contrary the interior edge of the inner beaded wire also seems to show traces of wear.

The number of circular golden pendants found in Denmark is increasing as a result of the metal detector finds of recent decades. There are several variants. The framing may consist of one or more beaded wires, sometimes combined with smooth wire(s); or it may be flat, cut from a gold disc. The interior filling also varies. It may consist of a beaded-wire cross with straight or curved arms or a cross of flat gold bands. Quite a few have 2-3 open wire volutes as infill, a few have a spiral or even a snake at the centre, and some – like the Høvlbakke pendant – appear to have had no filling at all, simply an open centre. Examples of the different variants can be seen MACKEPFRANG 1952, pl. 23,9, 24,19, 28,5-8; LAMM and AXBOE 1989, Taf. XXVII; AXBOE 2009, 37-39; CLEMMENSEN 2014, 120, 129f.

Many of the pendants are single finds, but some occur in datable contexts, often as parts of bracteate hoards. A really 'closed find' is the rolled up silver disc from Fuglsang/Sorte Muld II with its golden content of eight gold filigree beads, six looped solidi, five C-bracteates (IK 592-593) and two wheel-cross-shaped pendants (AXBOE 2009). Other bracteate hoards also include circular pendants: The Norwegian hoard from Simonnes in Telemark has two pendants with interior crosses (MACKEPFRANG 1952, 142; IK 335 etc.), and the bracteate IK 238 Ejby-C was found with a pendant with an oblique cross (MACKEPFRANG 1952, 114; IK 238). The gold finds from Slipshavn Skov on Funen include a pendant with curved cross-arms (JØRGENSEN and VANG PETERSEN 1998, 195f; IK 394-396). A pendant with an interior cross and three gold bracteates were found at Uppåkra in a



Figure 3. Pendant, front and back, 1:1. Photo S. Greve, Nationalmuseet ©.

layer covering a burned-down hall (LARSSON and SÖDERBERG 2013, 240f; pers. comm. Lars Larsson 8.1.2009 and 6.2.2009; IK 591,2, 610). Recent Danish detector finds, not yet inventoried at the time of writing, combine circular pendants with gold bracteates: Hvorslevgård in Central Jutland with one Drei-Götter-Bracteate (IK 675) and four D-bracteates (IK 670, 676), and Magletving Holme on Lolland with the C-bracteate IK 672. The hoard allegedly from Western Norway has four pendants with three volutes each (MACKEPFRANG 1952, 138; IK 564), the Scanian Kläggeröd hoard has one similar pendant (MACKEPFRANG 1952, 165; IK 96,1, 97). Combinations with other gold artefacts occur as well: the hoard from Kirkemosegård in eastern Jutland combines a golden brooch with six pelta-shaped and four circular pendants with 2-3 volutes each (CLEMMENSEN 2014), and at Ökne in Värmland four pendants with open centres were tied together with bullion rings and a gold-wire scabbard mouthpiece (LAMM 1993, 72; the interpretation as unfinished pendants is not convincing in the light of other finds with an open centre).

Thus the Scandinavian openwork pendants seem to be broadly contemporary with the gold bracteates and fall within the time frame c. 450 – 540 AD.

If we look outside Scandinavia, the finds from Suchań in north-west Poland must be mentioned. Three circular pendants have been found there, two of them with three concentric beaded wires around an open centre and the third with a beaded, a smooth and a beaded wire around a beaded wire cross. At least one open pendant was found close to the C-bracteate IK 619,1 and a piece of bullion ring-gold, while the cross pendant was found elsewhere in the field. From the same field comes another C-bracteate IK 153,2, a cruciform brooch, a brooch of Thuringian type and a denarius, and a third bracteate is said to have been found and melted down some decades ago. Both the preserved bracteates are die-linked with Scandinavia (BURSCHE 2014; AXBOE 2017). After the Suchań finds two golden circular pendants have been found in the Kujawy region (pers. com. A. Bursche and M. Rudnicki Febr. 2017).

In Thuringia openwork pendants with four internal volutes were found in Weimar Nordfriedhof graves 56 and 58, each grave containing two pendants<sup>3</sup> (SCHMIDT 1970, 84f). Hansen dates both graves to phase MD 4 (c. 530 – 560/70; HANSEN 2004, 122, 185), but an earlier date may be argued for the rich grave 56 with its cloisonné bird brooch – comp. MÜSSEMEIER ET AL. 2003 Phase 3 (460/80 – 510/25) and KOCH 2001 Stufe SD4 (510 – 530). Hansen's date for grave 58 relies on the *Hackmesser* only. MENGHIN 2007 dates both graves to the first half of/mid-6<sup>th</sup> cent.

The graves at Hüfingen 'Auf Hohen' in Baden include several variants of filigree pendants, inter alia in graves 53 and 321 with 2, resp. 6 pendants with openwork volutes (CHRISTLEIN 1978, 152 with refs. and Taf. 58). In the published plan of the cemetery, grave 53 is dated to the middle of the



Figure 4. Relief brooch, front and back, 1:1. Photo A. Mikkelsen, Nationalmuseet ©.

6<sup>th</sup> cent., grave 321 to the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> cent. (FIN-GERLIN 1986, 417). Ursula Koch assigns a later date to grave 53, including it in her list of SD7/SD8 graves and thus dating it c. 580 – 620 (KOCH 2001, 59f).

A circular pendant with 3 openwork volutes was found in cremation pit 18 at Bad Salzuflen, Lippe (SPRINGHORN 1989, 31). It has some resemblance to the Scandinavian pendants, but a surprisingly early date, as the inventory of the grave included both local pottery, including *Drehscheibenkeramik*, and terra sigillata of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. (pers. comm. M. Zelle 7.4.2017).

It is a bit difficult to get an overview of the German finds of openwork pendants of the types known in Scandinavia and their dates. In chronological studies they are often lumped together with filigree pendants of other types and shapes and even with filigree beads. The resulting groups of filigree jewellery are generally dated to the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> cent. and the early 7<sup>th</sup> cent. (ROTH and THEUNE 1988, 24f, 31f; SIEGMUND 1998, 78; KOCH 2001, Code X18, 57-61; TRIER 2002, 58ff; MÜSSEMEIER et al. 2003, Type S-Per6.1, 39; HANSEN 2004, 60f); that is, later than the Scandinavian pendants. The emergence of filigree jewellery in southern Ger-

many has been attributed to influence from Lombard Italy after 568, but this, as C. Grünewald and M. Blaich have pointed out, has been proved wrong by finds like the ‘princess’ grave in Cologne Cathedral and Eltville grave 459, which are both of an earlier date (GRÜNEWALD 1988, 93f; BLAICH 2006, 112f). As Grünewald points out, the strong Scandinavian tradition for filigree work should be taken into account. As regards the openwork pendants, it might be worthwhile considering them as subject to ultimately Scandinavian influences together with the runes of Alemannia, the square-headed brooches (HØILUND NIELSEN 2009) and the gold bracteates which occur as imports and imitations in the same areas (comp. MÖLLENBERG 2011).

Circular pendants with varying types of openwork ornamentation are also known from England, in numbers steadily increasing as a result of metal detecting. Although many are single finds, cross-in-ring pendants have been found in graves in Kent (Gilton grave 27, Chartham Down Barrow A) and East Anglia (Harford Farm grave 28), dating them to HINES and BAYLISS Phase AS-FE, roughly the second and third quarters of the 7<sup>th</sup> cent. (2013, 213, 485, 568). A pendant





Figure 5. The back of the brooch with ornaments marked. Photo A. Mikkelsen, Nationalmuseet ©. Drawing by the authors, redrawn by Th. H. Bredsdorff.

without central filling was found in Buckland Dover grave 391B, also dated to the 7<sup>th</sup> cent. (PARFITT and ANDERSSON 2012). Thus the datable English specimens are later than most of the German finds and definitely later than their Scandinavian

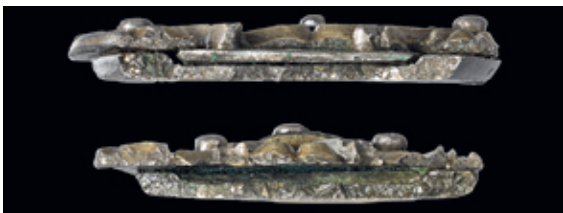


Figure 6. The two surfaces of the fracture in the footplate with three layers visible, 2:1. Photo A. Mikkelsen, Nationalmuseet ©.



Figure 7. The brooch from Hove Mølle/Vedstrup, 1:1. Photo A. Mikkelsen, Nationalmuseet ©.

counterparts. One can only speculate on the date of the single finds and a possible connection with the gold bracteates.

This applies to the finds from the Netherlands, too. Two severely worn pendants with openwork volutes have appeared there as single finds at Wijk bij Duurstede-‘De Geer’ (NICOLAY 2014, 125f), as well as more remotely related pendants at Boer (ibidem, 84) and Brittenburg (ibidem, 130). Nicolay considers them to be of Frankish type and dates them accordingly to the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup>/early 7<sup>th</sup> cent., but the two Duurstede pendants at least would fit well into an earlier Scandinavian context, as do the rather numerous gold bracteates from the Netherlands (see NICOLAY 2014, 74f, 81f, 109f).

Finally it can be mentioned that at least two openwork pendants with 3, resp. 4 volutes, found at Breny and D’Arcy-Ste. Restitue (Aisne), appear in MOREAU’s volumes (1877-

1908) on finds from eastern France – the same region which yielded the lightweight gold bracteate IK 398 Sablonnière-D.

#### Square-headed brooch

The body of the silver-gilt brooch (Fig. 4) is rather fragmented, most likely as a result of agricultural work. At the time of writing eight fragments have been found, while at least five are still missing. The original total length can be judged at 13.5 – 14 cm.

The rectangular headplate measures c. 6.7 x 3.8 cm. On the three sides it has a frame of triangles crowned by circles, an ornament also found on other brooches as well as on Theoderic's mausoleum in Ravenna. The upper corners are filled with saltire-like chip-carving, while the lower border had two crouching Style I animals, only one of which is preserved. The main panel of the headplate is framed by a list inlaid with niello. As a continuation of the bow there is a full-face animal head with ribbed neck/brow, oval eyes and transverse lines on the cheeks, comparable to the so-called 'Vimose heads' (BAKKA 1958,36f; HASELOFF 1981, 90ff). Taken separately, the eyes, the transverse lines and the filling of the lower part of the cheeks may also be interpreted as small profile heads with slightly open beaks (comp. LEIGH 1984). The snout is conical, inlaid with blue glass at the centre. On each side this central head is framed by an animal head in profile with a curved neck, a hatched 'mane' and long, open jaws. The remaining parts of the headplate are occupied by two pairs of animals with U-shaped heads with interlaced jaws and with transversely ribbed bodies. The two halves of the headplate are not strictly symmetrical in their details.

The bow has nielloed lists at the edges and a central list broken by a roundel, also with niello, at the top. The four panels between the lists are filled with animal ornamentation. Above the roundel an animal seems to be lying with its head turned to the left and its thigh and hind leg to the right of the central ridge. The panels below the roundel are not symmetrical and it is difficult to decide whether they are meant to connect with the ornamentation above the roundel or possibly with the ornamentation of the footplate.

The upper part of the plane footplate is partly missing, and does not yet fit with the bow fragment. Below the bow the footplate has a full-face animal head flanked by two drooping heads in profile with hatched 'manes'. Most likely each had an open mouth with long jaws. Inside the best preserved neck lies a smaller animal head with closed beak/jaws. The lower part of the footplate still lacks a direct connection with the bow and the drooping heads. The central panel is lozenge-shaped, filled with two upward-looking animals with hatched bodies lying back to back and framing a small roundel with niello inlay. Below the central panel is a full-face animal head framed by downward-facing lower marginal animals. The terminal lobe holds an upward-looking human

mask. The footplate had side lobes, too, but only a fragment of the border list of the left lobe has been preserved.

The animal ornament was designed and executed by an experienced hand, and the relief of the chip-carving indicates that this was basically achieved in a negative version of the final brooch; that is, in the casting mould or (more likely) in a proto-mould for making the wax model for the final casting *à cire perdue* (see AXBOE 1984). Some details like the crossing of the jaws on the headplate and possibly the 'ribs' of the animals seem to have been touched up in a positive version (the wax model). The brooch was cast in one piece, including the spring lug and the pin catch, but most likely the wax model was assembled from several parts: headplate, bow and footplate, spring lug and pin catch.

The brooch was used for some time before its deposition. The edges of the headplate are worn and its upper corners rounded by wear, the lists on the top and side of the bow are visibly worn, and so to a lesser degree are the ridges of the chip-carving. When found, the brooch had been fragmented by ploughing. It had, however, been broken before. This is revealed by six rivets in the footplate. They are symmetrically placed, but obviously secondary, and the reason for them is revealed on the reverse, where they secure a patch covering the central part of the foot (Fig. 4-5). And there is more to be learned from scrutiny of the back of the brooch.

Pin and spring coil were made from iron, and remains of the latter are preserved on the left side of the spring lug (as seen from the reverse), but not on its right side, where there is a circular imprint around the hole for the spring, and it seems reasonable to suggest that the end of the spring (or a spring spindle) was secured by the silver-gilt stud, which was later found separately by the detectorists. It has a longitudinal hole, and its base diameter fits well with the imprint on the spring lug.

The great surprise when the brooch was first turned over was finding ornamentation on the reverse (Fig. 5). It is not cast, but scratched into the surface of the brooch. The headplate has strictly geometrical ornamentation in the shape of squares with cross and chevron lines, possibly made using a ruler and to some degree reminiscent of the corner fields on the front of the headplate. The ornamentation of the footplate is partly covered by the repair patch. It consists mainly of free-hand-drawn curved lines and was most likely intended to represent animals. Heads may be suggested on the terminal lobe, at the right-hand edge of the foot, and on the fragment with the drooping head in profile.<sup>4</sup>

It seems that from the outset the footplate was considered too fragile. To the right of the cast pin catch (looking at the reverse), part of a silver plate which was soldered to the footplate is preserved, and below it and to the left of the pin catch there are solder marks. On the upper fragment of the main footplate this reinforcement patch is preserved for most of the width of the foot, and is in turn covered by the repair patch. The repair patch was designed with a cavity to fit the reinforcement patch, as can also be seen in the fracture across

the footplate, where there are definitely three layers: the original footplate, the reinforcement, and the repair (Fig. 6). Neither this fracture nor the one below the full-face animal head extending the length of the bow is a clean cut; in both places the layers overlap to some degree. The reinforcement patch reached from the top of the footplate, where it had a notch to make room for the pin catch, to somewhere a little below the break secured by the final repair. It shares the animal ornamentation with the rest of the reverse of the footplate and thus belongs to an early stage of the brooch's history.

The closest parallel to the Høvlbakke brooch is the brooch from Hove Mølle/Vedstrup, found in 1849 c. 32 km south of Høvlbakke (Fig. 7).<sup>5</sup> It is a little broader than its Høvlbakke counterpart, measuring 13.93 cm in length with a 7.35 cm wide headplate. The two brooches have the same shape, and both have Style I ornamentation in Haseloff's *Stilphase* B (HASELOFF 1981, 180-196). The two brooches also share the basic layout of the design, and vary the same stylistic and motivic elements: Animals with hatched bodies and interlaced jaws; headplates with 'Theoderic borders' and ambiguous full-face animal heads framed by heads in profile with open jaws; bows with a top roundel; plane footplates with drooping head profiles, a lozenge-shaped centre, side lobes, downward-facing lower marginal animals and a terminal lobe with a human mask. Bosses with glass inlays are also a shared feature. But the motivic details differ, and neither of the brooches copies the other.

There are technical differences, too. The Hove Mølle brooch seems more robust, with thicker material, and it was cast in two separate parts, where the bow is prolonged on the reverse and riveted and soldered to the headplate.<sup>6</sup> Bow and footplate may also be separate parts soldered together. Pin, spring coil and spring spindle, all of silver, are preserved, and the spring coil is placed symmetrically on the spring lug. Hove Mølle thus appears to be more traditional or less experimental than the Høvlbakke brooch.

KAREN HØJLUND NIELSEN has worked out a seriation with five phases of large square-headed brooches (2009, 55-60). The brooch from Hove Mølle ('Vedstrup') falls in Phase SBS-2. The seriation spans the stylistic development between the Nydam Style and the beginning of Style II, giving a time frame starting c. 410-40 and ending in the second quarter or middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> cent., and is considered 'most likely a chronological sequence'. This seems to indicate a date for Hove Mølle in the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> cent., perhaps even in its third quarter, and the same date will apply to the Høvlbakke brooch.

It has not been possible to examine the Danish relief brooches for ornamentation on the reverse – a preliminary archive search only revealed that the brooch with a semi-circular footplate from Skerne (NM C 288) has elaborate compass-made ornaments – but it might prove worthwhile to do so, as such ornaments are known from other countries. Eldrid STRAUME (2005) has published 18 Norwegian relief brooches

with some sort of ornament on the reverse. Some only have grooves, which may have served a practical function during the casting of the brooches by giving a more uniform thickness to the metal. More relevant to the Høvlbakke brooch are brooches with scratched ornaments, which may be geometrical as on the Høvlbakke headplate (STRAUME 2005, fig. 6) and include stylized or almost naturalistic animal representations (op. cit. fig. 9-11) and even inscriptions (op. cit. fig. 12-13). For Sweden and Finland, Bente Magnus has kindly informed us that she knows of c. 20 relief brooches with engraved decoration on the reverse (pers. comm. 13.12.16). A special example is the brooch fragment from Hällan with gilt D-bracteate-like animals on the reverse of the lobes (RUNDKVIST 2004).

## Conclusions

The finds from Høvlbakke can be regarded as a hoard dispersed by ploughing and perhaps deposited in the wetland areas which previously surrounded the find spot. The combination of objects may represent a single woman's set of jewelry. No other finds are known from the immediate surroundings; the site appears much more as 'on the edge of The Other World' (AXBØE 2007, 112f with further refs.). Nor do the other bracteate finds from northeastern Zealand Esrum Sø, Stenholts Vang and Tulstrup (MACKEPFRANG 1952, 112f; IK 50, 179-80, 191) appear to have contemporary finds of any importance in their surroundings (GRØNNEGAARD 2015, 4). At present no 'central places' are known from this part of Zealand, though one candidate might be the site of the medieval castle and town of Søborg, where earlier finds have been made (GRØNNEGAARD 2011). The cultic place-names *Tibirke*, *Tisvilde*, and *Tikøb* might also hint at central functions, but so far these are not substantiated by archaeology.

Høvlbakke may thus fit well with both the general decentral structure of Migration Period finds in northeastern Zealand and the far-reaching connections of the area (AXBØE 2017), inasmuch as the brooch is closely related to the Hove Mølle brooch and the bracteates are die-identical to one of the bracteates from Uppåkra in Scania. The deposition will have taken place in the decades around 500 AD.

## Postscript February 2018

Metal detecting has continued at Høvlbakke after the completion of this paper and has brought two important finds to light.

October 2017 David Buhrkall found another fragment of the brooch (Fig. 8) in the same area as the previous fragments. It is the right side lobe with a small part of the adjacent footplate, the fragment measuring 1.31 x 1.37 cm. The lobe itself is almost circular. The front is ornamented with gilt and nielloed chip-carving. The reverse has line ornament: A wheel-like circle on the lobe, reminiscent of the ornament





Figure 8. Brooch fragment found 2017. Photos and drawing T. Grønnegaard.

on the top of the bow, and curved lines on the footplate proper, probably part of an animal.

January 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 Peter Bjørnholt found the third C-bracteate from Høvlbakke (Fig. 9). It is bent and the loop and the adjacent part of the flan are missing. The bracteate measures 3.79 cm across in its present state; the weight is 5.96 g. It represents a new die: IK 678 Høvlbakke-C. The human head and the quadruped are both seen from the right. The central motif is framed by a border of punched chevrons.

The human head has a hatched hair-style with double contour lines and a knot at the nape. The eye is pointed oval with a lower eye-lid, the ear is D-shaped and the mouth is open under a marked nose. The quadruped has ears and a pronounced mane, a pointed shoulder and a foreleg with a feather-shaped foot. Lines across the body may indicate harness. The thigh is pointed oval, the hind leg pointing forwards; the foot has one toe bent backwards while the rest of

the foot is broad, almost hand-shaped, touching the lower tip of the shoulder. The animal has a slightly upturned tail. A bird with a curved beak is seen in front of the human head, resting its legs on the nose. Behind the nape of the human head parts of a small stylized animal can be discerned.

In the space between the bird and the snout of the animal we find an inscription of five runes. Like the rest of the bracteate the runes are worn, but they can be read without reasonable doubt, the only problem being the second rune 'standing' on the ear of the animal. The runes are running from the right to the left and read **fupiz**.

Here attention must be drawn to the die IK 153, which is known from two finds: IK 153,(1) allegedly from Scania, and IK 153,2 from Suchań in Poland. It presents a C-bracteate motif with so peculiar a design that it could not be included in any of Pesch's *Formularfamilien*. It is of great interest to us, because it in many respects shows a mirrored version of IK 678 (Fig. 9). The shape of the human heads and the birds in front of it are almost identical. Also the quadrupeds are related, but IK 153 stands out in showing a human arm and hand resting on the neck and shoulder of the animal. This is not repeated on the Høvlbakke bracteate, although it is open to discussion whether the shape of the hind leg was meant to indicate a human arm/animal leg ambiguity.

Both dies have runic inscriptions, though differently placed: IK 153 below the animal, IK 678 in front of animal and bird. Both inscriptions run from the right to the left. The inscription on IK 153 has previously been read **fupi** (IK vol. 1,2, 266) and **fupr** (in AXBOE 2011b, 910), dependent on whether or not the upper contour line should be included in the reading. In both cases the inscription was interpreted as an abbreviated *fupark*. On IK 678 the runes are free of disturbing contours, and the suspicion immediately arose that the inscriptions might be identical, if contour lines from the foreleg of the animal were included in the reading of IK 153 (Fig. 9).



Figure 9. 1: IK 678 Høvlbakke-C. Diam. 3.79 cm; photo M. Axboe. 2: IK 153 Scania-C with suggested reading. Diam. 2.7 cm; drawing after IK, revised by M. Axboe. 3: IK 153,2 Suchań-C. Diam. 2.8 cm; photo M. Bogacki and M. Dąbski. Not to scale.

I thank Klaus Düwel for making me aware that this possibility already has been discussed in a paper by Wolfgang Beck (BECK 2009; pers.comm. K. Düwel 16.2.2018). Beck reads the IK 153 inscription as **fupiz**, and this reading is now corroborated by IK 678 Høvlbakke-C. This word is well-known from later sources as a vulgar name for the female genitals (BECK 2009, 17: “Die Wortbedeutung ist in allen Einzelsprachen nun einhellig dem obszönen Wortschatz mit ‚*vulva, cunnus*‘ mithin ‚*Fotze*‘ zuzuordnen.“). This seems not an obvious inscription for gold bracteates, but we must bear in mind that **fupiz** should not necessarily be considered as ‘vulgar’. It may simply have been the commonly used name for the female genitals. And, as Beck points out, that showing the female genitals is recognized as a long-established gesture for warding-off evil powers. Likewise it seems difficult to establish any direct connection between words like **alu**, **laukaz**, **lapu** or **ota**, which have a general recognition as magic formulae, and the pictorial motifs of the bracteates where they occur. Especially **alu** occurs on other objects than bracteates and without any connection with an iconography. Thus it seems worthwhile considering **fupiz** as a powerful magic word in its own right (BECK 2009, 21: “als aggressiv-apotropäische Amulettinschrift zu charakterisieren“), adding an additional aspect to the bracteate’s amuletic power, largely independent of its pictorial representation.

The two dies IK 153 Scania-C/Suchań-C and IK 678 Høvlbakke cannot have been conceived independently from each other. Thus the new bracteate testifies to the aristocratic networks connecting Høvlbakke with Hove Mølle and Uppåkra/Scania, and Suchań with Southern Scandinavia (AXBOE 2017).

- 1 The site is registered as 010107-32 Høvlbakke in the Danish register of sites and monuments ‘Fund og Fortidsminder’. In the National Museum the finds have inv.no. C 41228-230 and C 42491-494 and journal no. 16/00830; the journal no. at Museum Nordsjælland is MNS 50137. In the IK catalogue the bracteates will appear as IK 625,2 Høvlbakke-C.
- 2 Analysis by hand-held XRF by Michelle Taube, The National Museum of Denmark.
- 3 Since 1945 the Weimar pendants have been in Moscow. SCHMIDT 1970 and HANSEN 2004, 60 only mention the gold pendants in Grave 56. All four pendants are depicted in MENGHIN 2007, 387, 390, where they can be identified through their original Berlin inventory numbers.
- 4 Taken separately the lines on this fragment might recall runes, but Lisbeth Imer has kindly ruled out this possibility.
- 5 The brooch is often called ‘Vedstrup’. It was found together with 14 beads during peat-digging near Hove Mølle in Smørum parish (020212-56). It was, however, sent to the National Museum by the vicar of Vedstrup.
- 6 A soldering between bow and footplate is a later repair, due to damage when the brooch was found.

## Abbreviations

IK: Catalogue numbers in M. Axboe, K. Düwel, K. Hauck and L. v. Padberg, *Die Goldbrakteaten der Völkerwanderungszeit. Ikonographischer Katalog 1-3, 1985-89*, and in the catalogue continuation AXBOE 2011b.

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