

Archeological evidence for Prussian and Saxon buckles for Säbelgehenk (Säbelkoppel)



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Special thanks to prof. [Grzegorz Podruczny](#) leading the archeological excavation at battlefield of Kunersdorf (12 VIII 1759) and [Konik Sławek](#) leading the archeological excavation at the battlefield of Wagram (5-6 VII 1809) from Novetus GmbH.



Photo G. Podruczny from excavation Kunersdorf's battlefield.

I. Prussian buckles

Prussians belts for sabre (Infanteriesäbel) were specific made. The construction were based on hook and eye mechanism, which made them very comfortable to put on and off by the soldier. Middle clapper were use to adjust the size for individual soldier. Before the excavation we known a little about the size of it. C. Kling (1902, p. 86) mention the width of the leibriemen - leather part of the belt should have 50 mm, although A. Menzel draw that the belt should have 2 Zoll (inches) of width. Prussian Zoll should have 261 mm, but apparently smaller size were in use (248 mm - compare with size of the tornister buckles). Below we present infantry buckle from Kunersdorf. Even less precise was Schmettau (1773, p. 213) describing as width as 3 strong fingers.

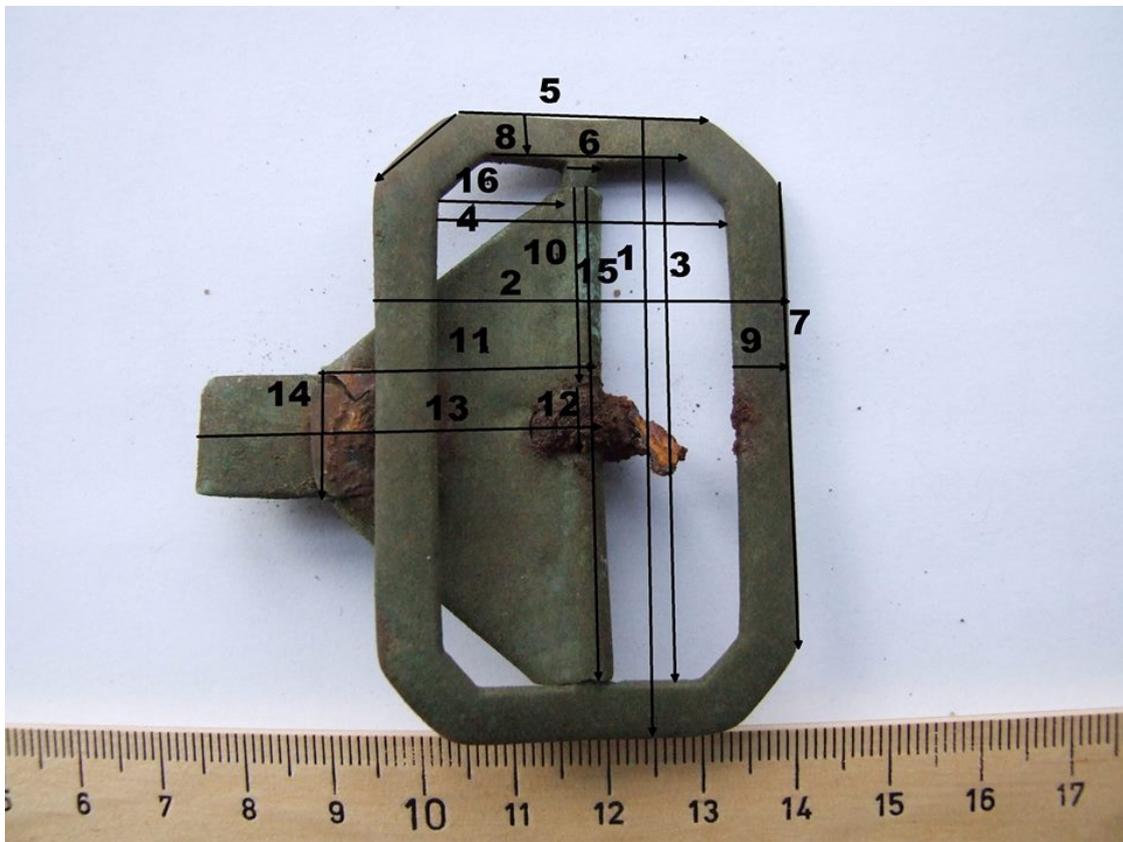


Photo & measurement G. Podruczny, Kunersdorf.

Mesurments

Messurmenst:

1. Total height - 64 mm
2. Total width - 42 mm
3. Height of the opening - 52,5 mm
4. Width of the opening - 29,5 mm
5. Outer length of the top part of the frame - 27 mm
6. Length of the inner, flat part of the frame - 20 mm
7. Height of the outer, flat part of the frame - 47 mm
8. Height of the top part of frame - 5,5 mm
9. Width of the frame- 5,5 mm
10. Height of the hook-base part to clapper - 21 mm
11. Length of the hook-base- 28 mm
12. Width of the clapper - 6 mm
13. Length of the whole hook - 42 mm
14. Height of the hook - 12 mm
15. Whole height of the hook-base part - 49,5 mm
16. Width between frame and the hook-holder - 13 mm

17. Length of the hook - 16 mm
18. 21,5 mm
19. 7,5 mm



- 20. Gape of the hook - 5 mm
- 21. Thickness of the hook- 1,5 mm
- 22. Thickness of the frame - 2,5 mm
- 23. Abberation of the buckle - 4 mm

Photo & messurment G. Podruczny, Kunersdorf.



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II. Saxon buckle

Saxon buckle preserved with complete - both part kit. Overall construction and concept are quite the same as well known prussian buckles and could be

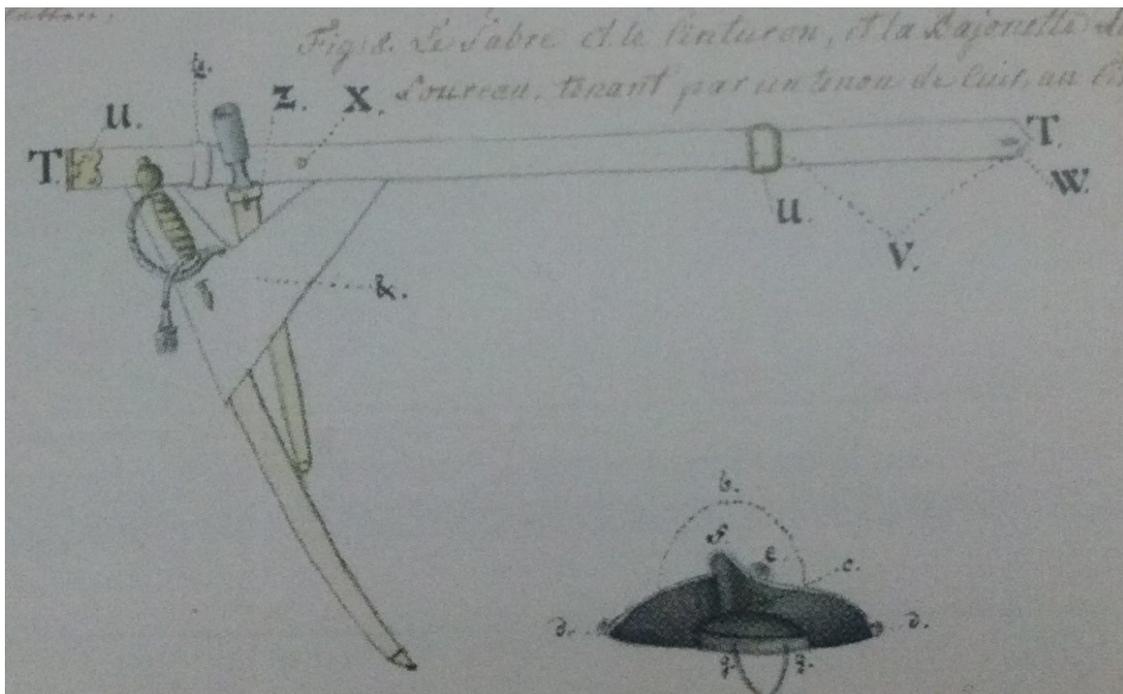
easily mistaken as one of them. Differences are subtle. The diagonal part of the frame seems to be more rounded and hook itself is longer. Because we have not enough pieces to make general judge. We stop on only this two slightly differentiations.



Archeological excavation of S8 executed by Novetus GmbH on the lead of Sławek Konik, Nr. Inw. 12026, Individuum 1, label 871, obiekt 455.

Messurments of the Saxon buckle:

1. Total height - 64,8 mm
2. Total width- 46,5 mm
3. Height of the opening - about 55 mm. .



Schmettau 1773, from Winter edition 2012.

III. Bibliography

Kling Constantin, *Allgemeine Geschichte der Bekleidung und Ausrüstung des altpreussischen Heeres, Erste theil: Die Infanterie-Regimenter im Jahre 1806*, Weimar 1902.

Schmettau Friderich Wilhelm Carl von, *Einrichtung des Krieges-Wesens für die Preußische Infanterie zu Friedens-Zeiten*, edited by M. Winter, Berlin 2012.

