

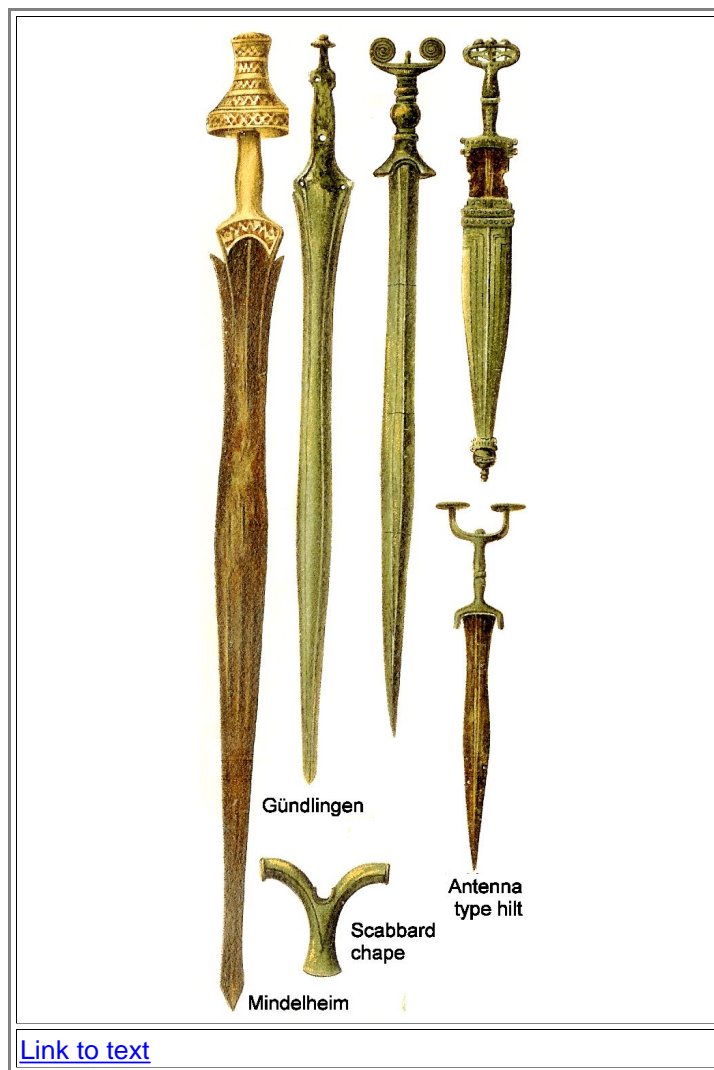
Additional Pictures - Chapter 11.1

Here are Gündlingen type bronze swords from Holland.

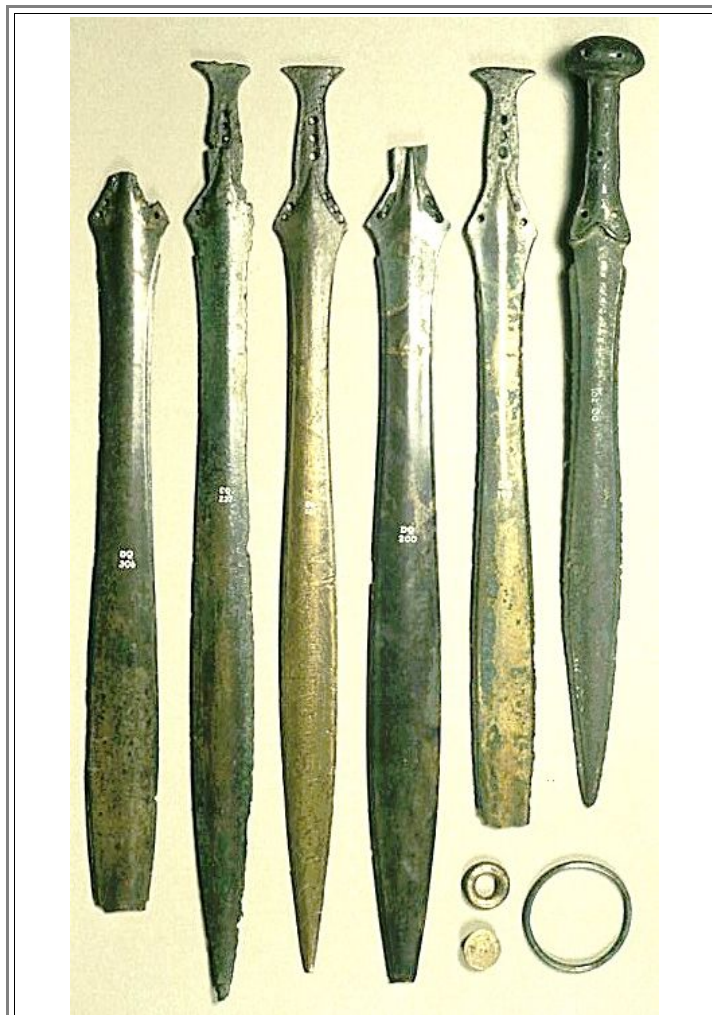
Illustration



This picture is a small section - in the original colors - of the [large color table](#) "Metal Age Culture (Early period) in Meyers Konversations-Lexikon from 1885, It shows the Mindelheim and Gündlingen type sword but also swords and daggers with "antenna" hilts. What the real thing looks like can be seen [here](#).



Bronze swords from a hoard, found in Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, Scotland. This hoard from the West End of Edinburgh forms part of a group of sword finds in Mid- and East Lothian. The swords are supposed to be from the "Late Bronze Age", i.e. 1200 BC - 800 BC, probably from the very end if not a bit later. They are of the "Gündlingen type" or at least rather close.



Bronze swords (Gündlingen type) from Edinburgh

Source: Scottish Archaeological Research Framework website;
Copyright NSA

[Link to main text](#)

▶ The guys below are presumably Celts, on top of so-called **anthropoid swords** or daggers. Only about 50 have been found; typically in rich graves from the 1st century BC. They are not very good for fights and thus might be just show-off or "magical" items for the well-to-do.

- Bronze or iron may have been used for the hilt / blade. There are bronze hilts with bronze blades, bronze hilts with iron blades (the most common combination) and iron hilts (rare) with iron blades. Sources are not always clear about that.
The Metropolitan sword is dated to 60 BC; the "Stuttgart exhibition" one to the middle of the 1st century BC.
- There is a big difference between bronze hilts and iron hilts! The first kind could be cast, the second kind needed to be forged. It is thus no surprise that the bronze figures are far more detailed (and less corroded) than the iron ones. And we have the old "[Luristan sword enigma](#)" again: how did the smith make fine sculptures from iron?
- Since I keep finding more and more Celtic anthropoid sword hilts, I dedicated a special module (that includes large pictures) to them

[Special
Module](#)

**Anthropoid
Swords**

Celtic Anthropoid Swords

(see [text](#) for details)



Stuttgart Exhibition



Metropolitan; New York City



Neuchatel



Source: "Pinterest; gepinnt by Olga Stroganova.



Iron hilt?

Source: Niels Provos (thanks!); photographed in the in the "Reichsmuseum Rothenburg"; Germany.



Source: Niels Provos (thanks!); photographed in the British Museum, London.



Front and back of anthropoid "Cu alloy" hilt, iron blade. Also in the British museum, dated to 300 - 100) BC
Source: British museum pages



"Ballyshannon Bay" Bronze hilt, dated to late 2nd / 1st century BC
 Source: Photographed 2015 in the Dublin museum



Iron hilt and blade
 Source: Hermann Historica 2015 catalogue.



Iron hilt and blade
 Source: Hermann Historica 2015 catalogue



The "North Grimston" hilt [once more](#).
 It is dated to (606 - 508) BC (???)

Source: Yorkshire World Collections objects



This beauty I found in 2017 in the Net (Pinterest) but (like almost always) without clear reference to the origin. Probably, in Russia, judging by the Cyrillic letters in parts of the page.



These two beauties are from Mouriès (Bouches-du-Rhône) and Tesson (Charente-Maritime), France

Source: balkancelts Journal of Celtic Studies in Eastern Europe and Asia-Minor; Internet

[Link to text](#)



Three early / primitive ones from Budapest.

Source: Photographed in the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest, 2015

[Link to text](#)

- Surprise! The iron sword on the left-hand side (up three) has a [pattern welded blade](#) involving [striped rods](#):



- Hermann Historica, a Munich-based auction house, attributes this sword to the 3rd century BC. It comes from a "South German private collection" and appears in the Oct. 2015 auction. The starting price is €2.500.-. [Here](#) is the full description of this sword and pictures of a second one.

▲ Like always, there are also "in-betweens" or proto-anthropoid swords. Here is one:



Forerunner of Celtic anthropoid sword

Source: Photographed 2014 in the Mainfränkisches Museum, Würzburg, Germany

● This short sword was found in Margetshöchheim (near to Würzburg, Germany) and dates to "middle Latène" (around 200 BC) and thus might be a bit older than the ones above.

▀ In the graves of the nobles, this kind of dagger replaced the sword around 600 BC. This one is from the "Magdalenenberg" grave cluster in South Germany



Celtic show-off dagger

[Link to text 1](#) [Link to text 2](#)

● Here are two more Celtic show-off daggers; see also [this one](#):



Celtic dagger from the "Roemerhuegel" near Ludwigsburg; South Germany
I could have walked to that place from my home town.

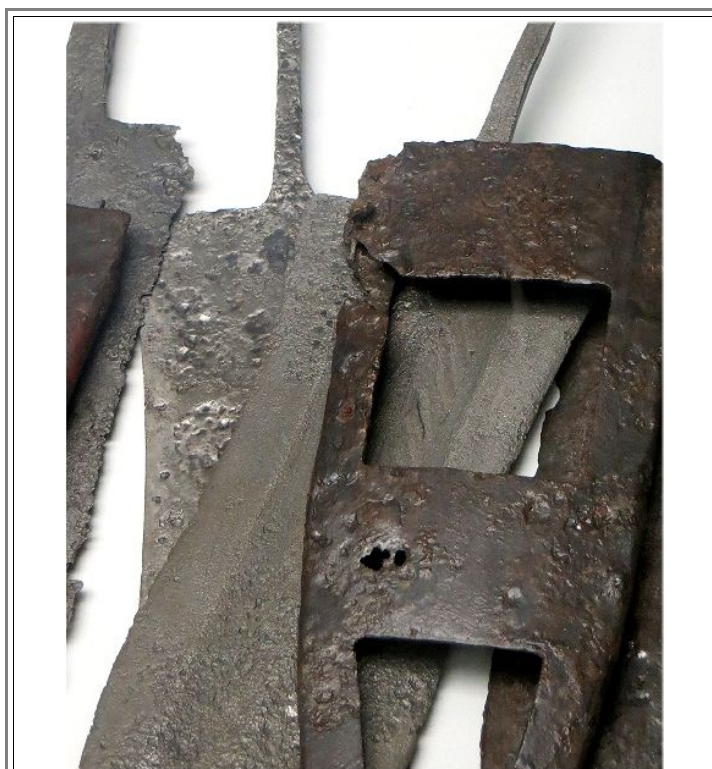
[Source](#); Städtische Museen, Freiburg, Germany; Photo M. Schreiner.



Celtic dagger from Estavayer-le-Lac; Switzerland

Source: "Special Exhibition dedicated to the Celts of the First Millennium BC"

▀ The [Munich Pugio](#) with a pattern welded core as it is presently displayed.



A pugio with a pattern welded core for sure

Source: Photographed (2014) in the Archäologischen Staatssammlung, München, Germany

- This pugio was part of the "Eisenhort von Künzing", a buried treasure containing many iron objects including weapons. Künzing in Bavaria was right at the [limes](#) in Roman times and the Romans had a fortress there that was taken and destroyed by [Alemannis](#) in 259 AD. One winner probably looted the place but was forced to bury his loot in a hurry. It was discovered in 1962. Well preserved if slightly "torched" iron objects weighing 82 kg were found, the by far largest collection of iron things from the third century AD. [Here are some large pictures](#) of the treasure; you can judge for yourself if there are more pattern welded objects

■ In April 2016, "Hermann Historica" a well-known auction house in Munich, offered the sword shown below. It was described as"

"Damaszierte Schwertklinge, Mittlere Latènezeit, 2. Jhdt. v. Chr. Lange, dünne Klinge mit konkav geschwungenem Übergang von Griffangel zu Klinge, der für das glockenförmige Heft latènezeitlicher Schwerter charakteristisch ist. Klinge sich nach unten zu leicht verjüngend und in abgerundete, seitlich leicht nach außen gewölbte Spitze übergehend. Mittig zweibahnige Damasizierung mit Fischgrätenmuster, außen die Fasen angesetzt. Elektrolytisch behandelt, was die Struktur der Damasizierung ausgesprochen klar zur Geltung gebracht hat. Scharten vor allem im Bereich der Fasen. Sehr aufwändig gearbeitete, keltische Schwertklinge. Länge 85,5 cm. Maximale Klingebreite 4,2 cm. Süddeutscher Privatbesitz, übernommen aus der Sammlung des Großvaters, von diesem erworben in den 1960er Jahren".

I don't need to translate that except for the dating: Middle La Tène, 2nd century BC. Everything of interest is visible below.



- The two twisted striped rods are expertly done and so is the ensemble. The smith who made this sword must have had some prior experience in pattern welding with twisted striped rods. I bet that one of the two steels is a phosphorous steel and that the materials have been [faggoted](#). If the sword is really from the 2nd century BC (you can never be totally sure with swords of unknown provenience from the antiquity trade), we must date complex pattern welding back to 200 BC or even earlier. A close investigation of this sword might help but that still needs to be done.