

Additional Pictures

Illustration

Here are bronze daggers similar to the Nebra type. They were found in the larger Würzburg area / South Germany and dated to the "middle bronze age", i.e. 1600 BC - 1300 BC.



Here is the advertisement to the ["weird" Luristani swords](#):

A group of Luristan Arms



A group of Luristan Arms
Iran, 1st Millennium BC

comprising an iron sword with tapering blade and ribbed hilt with tear-shaped pommel; a bronze sword with tapering blade and raised mid-rib, the hilt with winged pommel; two bronze dagger blades; a bronze dagger with tapering blade and short hilt; a bronze dagger, the ribbed grip with crescentic pommel; this lot also includes A Luristan bronze Belt, with split-palmette terminals, repoussé decoration consisting of dot, circular and geometric motifs

sword 91 cm. long max.; dagger 57.3 cm. long max.; belt 22.3 cm. diam. max.

source: Bonhams Auction, England [1]

Bonhams is a privately owned British auction house and one of the world's oldest and largest auctioneers of fine art and antiques. It is highly respected and would never offer doubtful objects. Nevertheless - the long sword on the left does not fit into any category from 1000 BC that I know of.

Here are a few more Luristani objects:



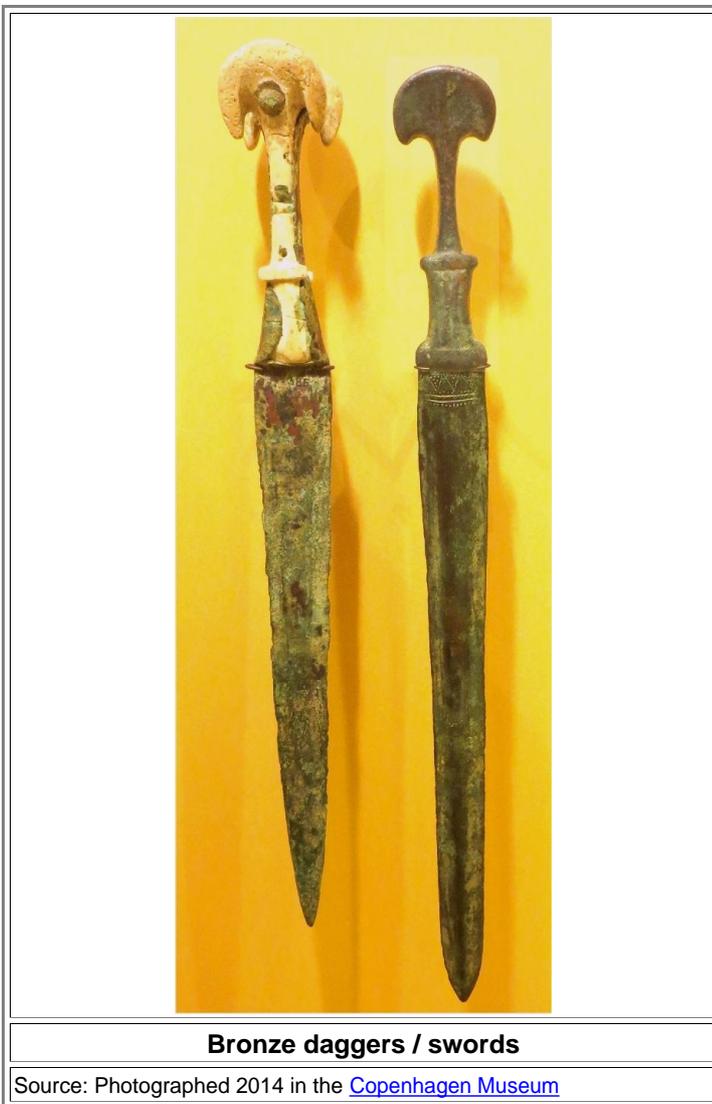
Horse bit with cheek pieces

Source: Photographed 2014 in the [Copenhagen Museum](#)



Luristan "Master of Animals" bronze standarts

Source: Photographed 2015 in the [Neues Museum., Berlin](#)



- ▶ The Greek "[kopsis](#)" is i) an especially interesting sword because it seems to have made the transition from bronze to iron without changing its appearance, and ii) lived on as [falcata](#) in Spain and around there for quite a while . Neither of the two statements is trivial. A bronze kopsis could be cast in one piece, an iron kopsis had to be forged; not an easy thing to do. Then we have an unclear relationship in space and time between the Greek kopsis and the falcata in Spain. We also might ask why the Romans didn't go for the kopsis?
 - Unfortunately, what one finds with respect to this topic is not much, and what there is tends to be very confusing. There is, however, a good paper from Janet Lang of the British Museum that gives details including some metallurgy [1](#).
- First lets look at two (allegedly) Greek Kopsis', photographed in the NYC Metropolitan Museum:





Greek Kopsis' (photographed from different angles) in the Metropolitan. Obviously iron, allegedly from the 4th - 5th century BC

Source: General Internet source without reliable reference to the origin of these pictures that was obviously taken in a museum.

▶ The [Metropolitan](#) offers one picture, evidently the front one of the two shown above:



**The text to this picture is:
Iron **machaira** (sword)
Period: Classical
Date: 5th–4th century B.C.
Culture: Greek**

Source: Metropolitan, Internet

▶ In June 2016 a kind of kopsis came up in an auction:



"Greek Iron Kopsis Dagger, Ex-J. Piscopo"

Source: [liveauctioneers](#); Internet, June 2016

● The text given is:

Greece, ca. 5th century BCE. This is the iron blade of a Greek dagger, known as a kopsis. It has decorative inscribed lines along one curved edge of its blade and includes a slight guard and extended tang. The word kopsis comes from the Greek "to cut, to strike" and describes a heavy knife with a forward-curving blade. It was used for the ritual slaughter of animal sacrifices. Size: 9.8" L x 1.2" W (24.9 cm x 3 cm). Provenance: Ex-Estate of John Piscopo. Mr. Piscopo was one of the largest collectors of ancient weapons in the US with a collection that spanned all cultures, all ages. Ex-Andrew Bistak.

▶ Then we have a well-preserved Kopsis / falcata in the "[Neues Museum](#)", Berlin, all but identical in shape to the Metropolitan ones. The Neues Museum counts this sword just under: "Weapons from Spain; 3rd - 5th century BC":



[Large picture](#)

Source: Photographed 2015 in the "Neues Museum", Berlin

The National Museum in Budapest, Hungary, has a well-hidden falcata in its collections. It is kept in the dark and partially behind other stuff. With luck, a picture shows more than you can see in-situ. It is described as "iron sword from Penc".



[Large picture](#)

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

Finally, there is a good kopis / machaira on a gold vessel showing a scene from the "Seven against Thebae" myth:



Figural fries, amphora - rhyton; gold. 2nd half of the 4th century BC; Plovdiv, Museum of Archaeology.

Source: "Thracian treasures from Bulgaria"; Maria Reho, Pavluna Ilieva, Bulgarian Academy of Science (ISBN 954-500-162-3); p. 111

¹⁾ Janet Lang: Iberian Falcata in the British Museum, (2014), Proc. Int. Symposium SMEA 2019 p. 49, ,