Additional Pictures

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 advertisment to the <u>"weird" Luristani swords</u>:



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.



Source: Photographed 2014 in the Copenhagen Museum





The Greek "kopis" 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 <u>falcata</u> in Spain and around there for quite a while . Neither of the two statements is trivial. A bronze kopis could be cast in one piece, an iron kopis had to be forged; not an easy thing to do. Then we have an unclear relationship in space and time between the Greek kopis and the falcata in Spain. We also might ask why the Romans didn't go for the kopis?

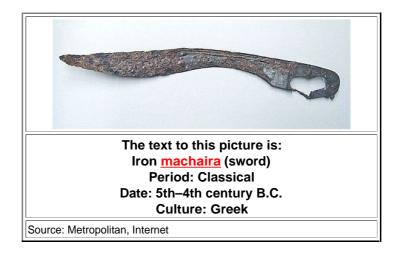
Unfortunately, what one finds with respect to this topic is not much, and what there is tends to be very confusing. There is, however, a good paper from Janet Lang of the British Museum that gives details including some metallurgy <u>1</u>.

First lets look at two (allegedly) Greek Kopis', photographed in the NYC Metropolitan Museum:

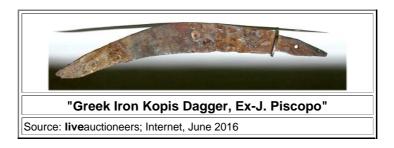




The <u>Metropolitan</u> offers one picture, evidently the front one of the two shown above:



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



The text given is:

Greece, ca. 5th century BCE. This is the iron blade of a Greek dagger, known as a kopis. It has decorative inscribed lines along one curved edge of its blade and includes a slight guard and extended tang. The word kopis 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 Kopis / falcata in the "<u>Neues Museum</u>", 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":



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 mire than you con see in-situ. It is described as "iron sword from Penc".



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



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