

Luristan Swords

IMAS 5

Note: The "Luristn Sword" paged will be formatted somewhat differently (simpler) than the rest. As I grew older, my eyes deteriorated to a point where I can just barely type stuff in my html editor. I apologize for typos and perfectly spelled but wrong words produced by the erroe correction without me noticing.

My internal notes after buying the sword

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| Object: | Luristan mask swords IMaS 5 | | |
| Origin: | Bought from Hermann Historica in a pack of three | Dec. 2020 | |
| Provenance: | The other 2: IMaS 6 and double ring pommel sword 2disc 1 | | |
| Price: | Aus dem Nachlass eines westdeutschen Sammlers | | |
| Description/ | For all three. € 300,- | | |
| Notes | Drei Scheibenknaufdolche, Eisen, Luristan, 9. - 8. Jhd. v. Chr. | | |
| Seller: | Zwei Dolche mit zum Griff quergestellter Klinge. Davon einer mit zwei Widdermasken am Scheibenknau und Menschenmasken am Klingenansatz. Einer mit rundstabigem Griff und dreieckiger Klinge mit Mittelgrat. Oberflächen korrodiert. Ausbrüche an den Schneiden. Das Stück mit geraden Schneiden mit kleinen Ergänzungen aus Kunststoff. Länge 39 cm und 43 cm. | | |
| Pictures: | | | |
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|  | | <p>IMaS 5 is on the left.</p> <p>Best buy ever!</p> <p>IMaS 6 and 2disc 1 have their own pages</p> <p>The “double ring pommel sword” (2disc 1) is the only one known made from iron (there are just a few bronze ones) and it is the only early iron sword known to me that has a gold inlay!</p> <p>IMaS 6 (middle) has a rather well preserved part of the blade and seems to be an early one. An X-ray / metallographic investigation might be rewarding.</p> <p>IMAS 5 shows nicely how the animals were fixed.</p> <p>Needs more pictures.</p> | |
| IMaS 5 | | IMaS 6 | |
| 2disc 1 | | | |

Details

A Key to Crimping

One animal is missing; fell out of its **crimp plate**. This gives us a clear look at the crimping plate still left on the bulk of the hilt. If you look closely, you see a thin black line running around in the interior; a magnified view is below.

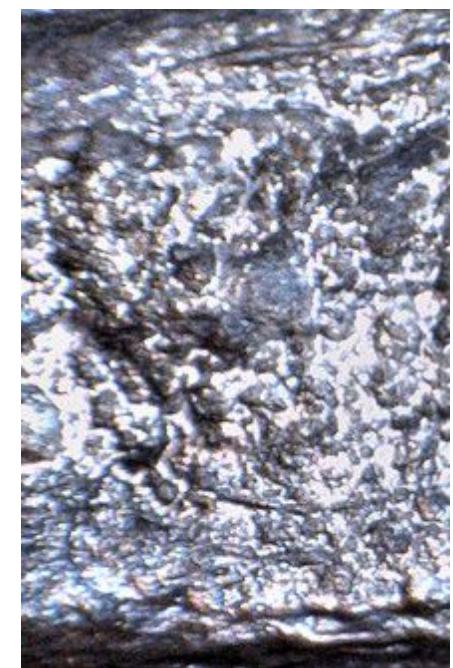
That might give an idea how the assembly was made.

First, the smith makes what I like to call a **crimping ring**.

The sketch below gives an idea of what I mean. The underside of the ring is then fire-welded to the bulk and the "black lines" in the picture denote the inside of the crimping ring.



Schematic drawing of the crimping ring



Enlargement of above. The faint black line denotes the edge of the crimping ring

Next you put the anal (or head) inside the ring, do the crimping, and then fire-weld the crimps to the inset. Next you do some smoothing and some carving (e.g. the animal legs). Far more to that in IMAS 1. The animal sits on the bottom of the crimp ring and that's why we often find that there is free space below the animals in X-rays or cuttings.

Rather tricky but if you think about it, the only way. Chiseling out the crimps from a solid bulk and then inserting the animal would be far more difficult if not impossible. The heads show some signs of attachment via a crimp plate, too.

The two **bands** were done with a crimping technique, too. This can be clearly seen in the picture.

The **underside of the pommel plate** has no decorations.



Remains of the band

The **blade** is heavily corroded with no particular remarkable feature on the corrosion pattern. There are hints of a layered structure but it is not conclusive.