

Luristan Swords

IMAS 10

Note: The "Luristan Sword" page 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 personal notes:

Object:	Luristan Double Ring Pommel Iron Dagger Not an “IMAS” but related and included in the collection	
Origin:	Bought from Hermann Historica; One out of 3 items in a batch (see below)	Dec. 2020
Provenance:	“Aus dem Nachlaß eines westdeutschen Sammlers”	
Price:	€ 340.- for all 3	
Description	Drei Scheibenknaufdolche, Eisen, Luristan 9 – 8 Jhd. v. Chr.	
Notes:	<p>Zwei Dolche mit zum Griff quergestellter Klinge. Davon einer mit zwei Widdermasken am Scheibenknauft 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.</p> <p>Here I only deal with the one on the right</p>	
Pictures:	<p>The one on the right is the Double Ring Pommel Iron Dagger</p> 	
	<p>Extra document for the two on the left (ImaS 5 and 6).</p> <p>Double disc pommel or cotton reel pommel daggers are claimed to be well-known. There are indeed several in bronze, a very few in bi-metal, and so far, only one in iron</p> <p>This one!</p> <p>See the ISS Hyperscript module in chapter 11</p> <p>As far as I can tell there is also only one iron weapon from around 1000 BC – 700 BC with remains of a gold decorations:</p> <p>This one!</p> <p>Blade faults are “repaired” very well in modern times with black goo; not completely removed.</p> <p>Probably not Luristan, Triangular blade typical for Hasanlu</p>	



Details:

This is a rather unusual object for 3 reasons:

1. It was made from iron, and that seems to be very rare.
2. It had some gold "inlay" (?)
3. It is very relatively well preserved.

There are several similar ones made from bronze; see below.

Close to the hilt the iron looks hardly corroded and is covered by some blackish layer that looks like paint (actually is paint: see below). In fact, as found out later, the black stuff is bulky and was used to replace parts that have been corroded away completely.

In other words: Close to the hilt large parts of the iron are missing; preservation is not a good as it looks at a first glance. The dagger was investigated for bronze covering by putting a small part of the black "paint" (see below). No bronze. Done by Fr. Szillus, Prof. Kienle's group, Technical Faculty Kiel



The remains of a gold inlay. Can only be gold after 3000 years. Bronze would be corroded

It looks like the shallow depression for taking the ornamentation was completely filled with gold but more investigations are needed to ascertain this point. We must assume that somebody ripped off the precious gold. Why no gold traces were left in the remaining three depressions is not clear.

If it really was the case, it would prove beyond doubt that this dagger (and by inference all IMAS) were extremely precious objects.

How do you fix a piece of gold in those not very deep depressions? My guess is by pouring molten gold into the cavity. On an uneven surface the gold might stick well enough to need no further fixing like crimping.

A first check of the literature (Arms and Armor Khorasani), Iranica (Overlaet), Munich Luristan booklet, ...) produced some similar daggers but mostly made from bronze. Browsing the Internet also produced some results. Some examples selected at random follow.

There are many names for this kind of Pommel / vessel:

Ring pommel, double ring pommel, double disc knot, wheel pommel, cotton reel pommel, ...

Some examples of other double-disc pommel swords:



Lot 609 | Bronze dagger with wheel pommel, Northern Iran, Luristan, 1000 before Christ

The blade and the handle worked separately. Wide, to the blade root supplies eiterndes dagger blade with a pronounced Central ridge. Maximum blade width of 6.3 cm. In the upper half of the blade on both sides of the Mittelgrats four parallel ridges. The Pliers of the booklet, include the short, but wide-sweeping area of the blade root. The issue in the area of the Pliers and at the Transition to the handle with line decor. Handle with a richly decorated double-disc knob. Between the panes, geometric groove decoration. The lower disc with a small outbreak, the final disc is broken and glued. Minimal Nicks in the Cutting edges, otherwise intact. Nice Patina with some dark green oxides on Kupritschicht. Length 42.5 cm. Dagger with exceptional design. Provenance: From a German collection, to the art market, acquired prior to 1990. Condition: II -

Auction date:

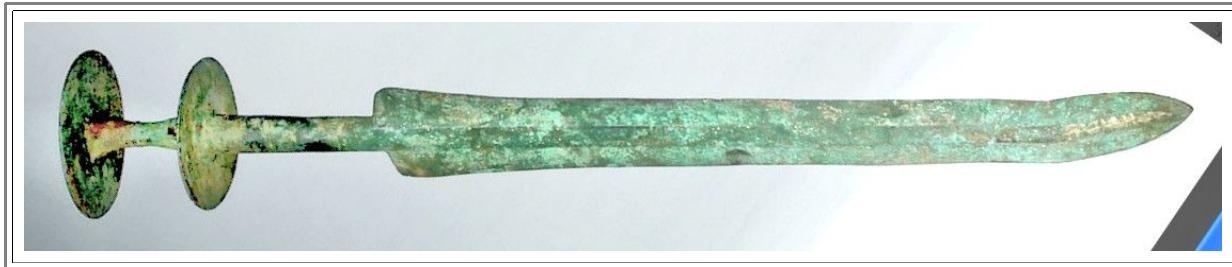
25.05.2020 10:00

Similar, but bronze.

Note that their dagger like many others had the structures for insetting some gold or whatever but no traces of gold or something else has been found in all cases known to me.

Following some more bronze spines found at auctions_

	<p>394 MARLIK BRONZE SHORT SWORD 14th-10th century BC</p> <p>A cast bronze short sword with flat-section triangular blade and median rib; the guard elliptical-section and D-shaped in profile; the grip square-section with ribbed median panel; the pommel D-shaped with recesses to accept organic inserts. Cf. Khorasani M. M. <i>Arms and Armour from Iran - The Bronze Age to the End of the Qajar Period</i>, cat. 402. 798 grams, 48 cm (18¾"). Fine condition.</p> <p>£650 - 850 EUR 750 - 980 USD 1,020 - 1,330</p> <p><i>Ex Lord McAlpine collection.</i></p>
	<p>395 BRONZE SWORD WITH EAR-LOBED POMMEL 10th-9th century BC</p> <p>A cast bronze narrow-bladed rapier with elliptical-section blade, round-section grip with incised zigzag designs, heavy pommel with two pierced D-shaped plates and ribbed panel between. Cf. Khorasani M. M. <i>Arms and Armour from Iran - The Bronze Age to the End of the Qajar Period</i>, cat. 403. 765 grams, 64 cm (25"). Fine condition, edges notched.</p> <p>£600 - 800 EUR 690 - 930 USD 940 - 1,250</p>
	<p>396 LURISTAN BRONZE SHORT SWORD Bronze Age, 1250-650 BC</p> <p>A cast bronze short sword with broad triangular blade; the hilt formed with round-section grip and double-disc pommel; the guard rectangular; the blade with median rib extending to the point, flanking 'blood' grooves to the upper blade. 569 grams, 53 cm (21"). Fine condition, edges nicked.</p> <p>£600 - 800 EUR 690 - 930 USD 940 - 1,250</p> <p><i>UK art market, acquired prior to 1980.</i></p>
	<p>397 LURISTAN BRONZE SPEARHEAD Bronze Age, 1250-650 BC</p> <p>A large spearhead with broad leaf-shaped blade and tapering tubular socket with vertical split and two holes for attachment. Cf. Spearhead from Marlik in Khorasani, M. M. <i>Arms and Armour from Iran. The Bronze Age to the End of the Qajar Period</i>, item 271. 413 grams, 41 cm (16¼"). Fine condition. [No Reserve]</p> <p>£200 - 300 EUR 230 - 350 USD 310 - 470</p>



Lot Description

Ancient Near East, northwestern Iran, Luristan, ca. 1000 to 700 BCE. A large example of a classic double disc pommel sword, made using the lost wax bronze casting technique. The blade is wide, with a broad, flat ridge down its tapering length. The handle is long and cylindrical, with a large disc in the middle of it, an hour-glass-shaped tubular section above it, and a larger disc topped by a round boss forming the hilt. The handle would once have had a wrapped leather, bone, wood, antler, or even ivory handle covering over its handle. Size: 3.3" W x 21.3" H (8.4 cm x 54.1 cm)

It seems that swords like this were not just made to be used in battle, but instead to show status or as votive weapons. There is a strong tradition in the ancient Near East of swords and other weapons being associated with the gods. For example, there is a rock carving dating to ca. 1300 BCE from this region that shows a scene of the gods of the Underworld, including one who is holding a sword similar to this one. Similarly, a golden bowl excavated at Hasanlu (northwestern Iran) shows three swords of similar form to this one that are associated with three deities from the Hittite pantheon. Whatever its original function, this would have been a spectacular weapon to behold, with a deep, shining surface when polished. Whoever commissioned this sword must have been a high status individual, perhaps seeking to honor their gods by handling such a weapon.

Provenance: private New York, USA collection; ex Dr. George Wald collection, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, acquired in the 1960s (Dr. Wald was the recipient of the 1967 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on the retina)



bonhams.com

A Luristan bronze sword Iran, circa 9th-8th Century B.C. The tubular hilt with horizontal ribs, terminating with a double disc pommel, the triangular blade with elaborate midrib, incised geometric... **Mehr**



Stonefinder
67,3Tsd. Follower

Folgen

Fotos **Kommentare**

Hast du diesen Pin ausprobiert?
Füg ein Foto hinzu, um zu zeigen, wie es gelaufen ist.

Foto hinzufügen



Auktion 252 - 13.12.2017 10:00

Kunst der Antike: Eine bedeutende Sammlung griechischer Vasen und Teile der Sammlung S. Moussaieff

»»

OBJEKTE | ALTER ORIENT | diverse



Los 567



Bronzeschwert mit Scheibenknauf.

Luristan, spätes 2. Jt. - frühes 1. Jt. v.Chr. L 53,5cm. Lanzettförmige Klinge mit drei profilierten Mittelrippen und zwei Längsrillen. Griff aus einem Rundstab mit zwei Scheiben, der Griff zwischen den Scheiben konisch eingezogen, die Klinge wird vom Griffende klammerartig umschlossen.



Provenienz: Ex Sammlung H.Z., Norddeutschland, 1970er/1980er Jahre.

Bronze sword with a handle with wheel heads. Luristan, late 2nd to early 1st millennium B.C. Green patina, blade broken and reattached.

Erhaltung: Grüne Patina, Blatt in der Mitte gebrochen und wieder zusammengesetzt.

Zuschlag

1.200 €

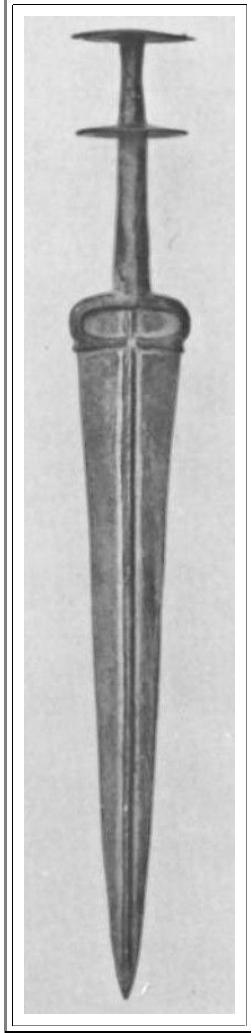
Mein Gebot

Schätzpreis

1.000 €

GORNY & MOSCH
ESSENER MÜNZHANDELUNG GMBH

Here is a good one (bromze) shwon and discussed in Muscarella's book



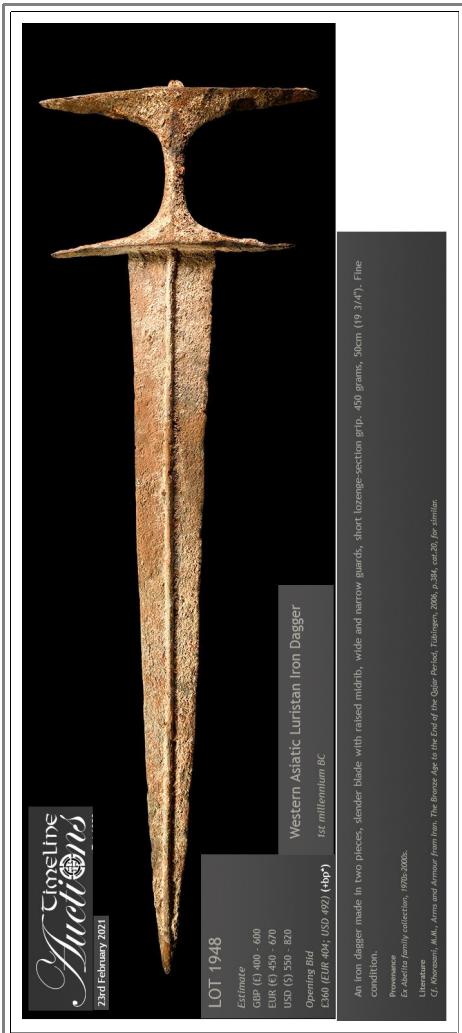
166. Sword with Disk Pommel

60.82.1; purchase; Rogers Fund, 1960
Bronze; length 52.7 cm

IT IS POSSIBLE that the hilt and blade were not cast as one unit (cf. Calmeyer 1962, 220), but rather that the hilt was cast onto the blade (Birmingham, Kennon, Malin 1964; Maxwell-Hyslop and Hodges 1964; cf. No. 168). The hilt is tubular and plain, tapering toward the disk pommel; five centimeters down the hilt is another disk. The pommel was certainly made and added separately; the other disk probably was too. The thick guard reminds us of the crescent type (see Nos. 169, 170), but here it is almost rectangular, albeit with rounded shoulders; the ends touch the thick, prominent midrib. The blade tapers with a slight concave curve to a sharp point.

This sword also has a northern background, judging from the excavated evidence. Similar or closely related examples occur at Tomadjan and Ghalekuti in the south Caspian region (Samadi 1959a, 36, 38, figs. 34d, 36; Egami, Fukai, Masuda 1965, 54, fig. 7 in the Japanese section; Fukai and Ikeda 1971, 13, pls. XXVII:4, XLIV:1), and the Iranian Talish region (Schaeffer 1948, fig. 232:1, 11). These examples are made all of bronze, all of iron, or of bronze and iron, the last examples surely employing the cast-on technique. The presence of iron suggests an Iron II date, rather than earlier, for some examples of this type. Thus, Moorey's (1971a, 79) suggested date of ninth–eighth century seems generally correct (see also Calmeyer 1964a, 37ff.). An almost exact duplicate to the present example is in the Ashmolean Museum; it was published by Moorey (1971a, no. 58) and was at one time in the collection of Bach (1973, no. 51); see also Calmeyer 1962, 220f., no. 5, pl. 10:5.

Next, some iron ones:(all O could find so far)



Iron but simpler construction. Similar one in Khorasamis book shown on the right

Cat. 20 Iron dagger from Luristan

Attribution: Luristan. Probably 1000 B.C.

Provenance: National Museum of Iran in Tehran.

Museum inventory number: 1680

Type: This is an iron dagger with an I-shaped handle.

Excavation site: Not excavated; confiscated.

Method of making: Made of two different pieces; the iron handle was cast onto the blade .

Total length: 25.2 cm

Width of the quillon at the base: 10 cm

Width of the pommel end close to the blade: 13.8 cm

Width of the blade at the base: 2.6 cm

Width of the blade in the middle: 2.1 cm

Weight: 200 grams

From Khorasani's book (p- 384) Iron; dated to around 000 BC

Here is another one from Khorasani's book. Iron in this case and heavily corroded. Dated to 300 – 400 BC but that could be questioned.



Where does all that leave us?

We may conclude that double disc dagger or swords enjoyed some prominence for hundreds of years. Their popularity carried over from the bronze age to the iron age.

But why? What is the use of the “double discs” dividing the hilt into two parts? Maybe it was just fashionable.

Pondering this question we need to consider that the hilt must have been container some enlargement for a proper grip. The thin metal rod connecting the discs just does not allow for a firm hold. For the dagger discussed here, the actual “handle” would have been on the lower part of the divided hilt. The upper part then might have been decorated in some fancy way. We have an example for that:



Persian Sword - size 61cm. Luristan, 1st Millennium B.C.E. [1800x1196]

Pininterest picture. No details given

What the decorative “egg” consists of and how it could be placed between the discs, I don’t know.