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THE BRONZE PIN FROM HAAMSTEDDE (PROVINCE OF ZEELAND, NETHERLANDS)

(fig. 16)

The bronze pin illustrated (fig. 16) was found in the sand dune district near Haamstede, on the island of Schouwen in the province of Zeeland. It is one of the very few Bronze Age objects known to have been found in this province.*

The pin, 9.5 cm in length, has a conical head 1 cm in diameter, and a tapering shaft slightly oval in cross-section below the head, becoming somewhat rectangular in cross-section in its lower half. A bulge on one side of the shaft contains a horizontal round perforation, approximately 2.5 mm wide. The shaft is slightly bent below the swelling.

The pin has a black patina, with a slight encrustation over most of the surface, tinged red in places, suggesting that it had been lying in sandy peat. The original bronze-coloured surface shows through in places; no decoration is visible at these points. Apart from the surface encrustation, the pin is in a perfect state of preservation.

The Haamstede pin is similar in form to the well-known example from the Smedrov hoard in Bohemia,¹ dating from the transition from the Early to the Middle Bronze Age in that region. The Haamstede pin is smaller than the Smedrov specimen, and lacks the incised decoration of the latter. Other Central European finds of pins of the Smedrov type, with conical head and perforated eccentric swelling,

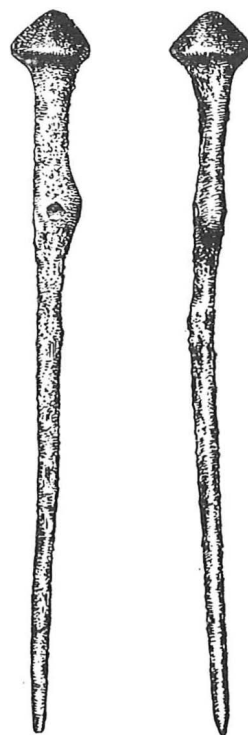


Fig. 16. Actual size

* The pin, hitherto unpublished, is in the collection of the Zeeuwsch Genootschap der Wetenschappen (Zeeland Society of Sciences) at Middelburg (bequest of J. A. Hubregtse). Dr. W. J. de Boone called the pin to the attention of Professor W. Glasbergen, who in turn invited the present writer to comment upon it. We are grateful to Mr. P. J. van der Feen Jr., conservator of the archaeological department of the Middelburg Museum, for permission to publish the pin here, and concurrently in *Westerheem* (publication of the Archaeologische Werkgemeenschap voor Westelijk Nederland) VII, 1957, pp. 14 ff.

have been listed by Holste.² They are comparatively rare – Holste could list only six examples in Central Europe. They occur in Hungary, Slovakia, Bavaria and Württemberg, in Late Unětice and Tumulus Bronze Age contexts.

Pins of the Smedrov type were exported to Northern Europe. One is known from Poland (Baranów, pow. kepinski).³ Another was found in a grave of the 'Sögel' phase (late Montelius I- early II) at Baven, Kr. Celle, in Hanover.⁴ A pin of the same form, but smaller, illustrated by Kersten,⁵ is from a Montelius III grave at Warringholz, Kr. Rendsburg, in Schleswig-Holstein. (Janssen⁶ quotes a list compiled by Kersten of nine other pins with conical or biconical head and sideloop from Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein, all of which were assigned by Kersten to Montelius III; it is not stated whether the side-loops of these pins are of the perforated-swelling type).

It appears that the life-time of the pins of Smedrov-Haamstede type extends from the end of the Early Bronze Age (in the Central European sense) throughout the Middle Bronze Age, and that the Haamstede pin must be considered as an import from Central Europe to Zeeland somewhere within that span of time. Presumably it came down the Rhine, as an incident of travel or trade. It is at present the only example of a pin of the Smedrov type known to have been found in Western Europe.

The relationship between the bronze pins of Smedrov type and the bone side-looped pins associated with certain Neolithic cultures in western and Northern Europe⁷ is problematical. Some authorities have regarded the side-looped bone pins in (*inter alia*) the Rinyo-Clacton culture of Britain and the Boat-axe culture in Sweden as copies of the bronze pins, while other authorities hold this to be chronologically impossible. For those who incline toward the former view, the Haamstede pin would seem to suggest a possible direct metallic source for the Rinyo-Clacton pins without having to postulate contact with the Baltic area.

It is likewise unclear whether the Haamstede pin should be grouped with the Unětice exportation of pins to Western Europe — best documented in the graves of the Wessex Culture in South England⁸ — or with the Middle Bronze Age wave of Tumulus pins which reached Atlantic Europe. Bronze pins of Tumulus Bronze Age origin are among the most frequent of the bronze objects found in barrow graves in the Netherlands, when such graves are provided with bronze objects at all. Imported bronze pins also appear in several of the more important hoards of Late Early or Middle Bronze Age in the Netherlands; as in the hoards from Overloon, Limburg, and Lisse, Zuid-Holland (the Veenenburg hoard).⁹

The Veenenburg pins appear to come from a Tumulus Bronze Age source parallel to that which provides the prototypes for the 'Picardy Pin' group identified by Hawkes in Picardy and Southeast England.¹⁰ Some of the Picardy Pins have side-loops; a feature found also on the disc-headed pins of Marzahne type in East

Germany and the identical pins in Britain and Ireland, typified by the example in the Glentool hoard in Scotland.¹¹ These, and the distinctively British varieties of sidelooped pins discussed by C. M. Piggott,¹² though only very indirectly related to the Haamstede pin, serve to illustrate the partial penetration into North-western Europe of the Central European habit of wearing bronze pins as part of the costume.

As an isolated find, the Haamstede pin contributes nothing definite toward establishing the existence of Bronze Age settlement in the Zeeland dune area, between the estuaries of the Rhine and the Scheldt. Indeed, the existence of Neolithic settlement in this district was discovered only in the spring of 1957;¹³ and evidence of Bronze Age habitation is now known from a number of places along the coastal dune belt in the adjacent province of Zuid-Holland. From the dune belt in Zuid-Holland come two of the largest Middle Bronze Age hoards in the Netherlands: the Voorhout hoard, consisting mostly of imported British axes, and the Veenenburg hoard, with mainly Continental types, including pins and sickles. And there are now four finds from this dune belt of sherds of urns of the Hilversum and Drakenstein types: at the Hague, Langeveld near Noordwijkerhout and Lisse in Zuid-Holland, and Driehuis-Velsen in Noord-Holland.¹³

The Hilversum and Drakenstein Urn folk are now regarded as settlers or the descendants of settlers in the Netherlands from Britain. On the basis of palynological correlations and C¹⁴ dates, the earliest of these settlers must have appeared on the Continental shores quite early in the Middle Bronze Age. They seem to have been in the habit of wearing pins. Bone pins have been found in their urns on both sides of the North Sea, and a storage urn found at Ramsgate in Kent, which is closely related to the Drakenstein Urns, contained three bronze pins of the Picardy type.

It does not, of course, necessarily follow from this that the Haamstede pin was worn by a man or woman of the Hilversum Urn culture; but on present evidence one of these folk would be the most likely candidate for the honour of having worn a good part of the known Bronze Age of Zeeland on his or her breast.

NOTES

¹ H. Richly, *Die Bronzezeit in Böhmen* (1894), pp. 131-3, *Tab.* XXXIII: 14.

² F. Holste, in *Germania* XXIV, 1940, pp. 10-11. Holste cites (with refs.) finds from Stolička near Gajary, Slovakia (stray find from a Unětice cemetery); Mannsdorf, Gem. Willenhofen, BA. Parsberg, *Hügel* 1; Hundersingen, OA. Munsingen, Weidenhang Grab 9 (both presumably Tumulus Bronze Age); Karlstein bei Reichenhall, *Wohngrube* 9; Neufeld a.d. Leitha (Lajta-Ujfalu) ('die Zusammengehörigkeit der Bronzen des Fundes vorausgesetzt . . . an die Wende von der frühen zur mittleren Bronzezeit zu setzen').

³ A. Knapowska-Mikolajczykowa, in *Fontes Arch. Posnanienses* VII, 1957, p. 34, *Ryc.* 3, with further refs.

⁴ *Nachrichten aus Niedersachsens Urgeschichte* XI, 1937, Taf. 17.

⁵ K. Kersten, *Zur älteren nordischen Bronzezeit* (1936), p. 23, Taf. XXIV:10.

⁶ H.-L. Janssen, 'Die Verbreitung der Bronzenadeln mit seitlicher Öse'. *Prähistorische Zeitschrift* XXVI, 1935, p. 214.

⁷ V. G. Childe, *Skara Brae, A Pictish Village in Orkney* (1931); Stuart Piggott, *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles* (1954), pp. 321 ff., with further references; most recent discussion, Lili Kaelas, 'Till datering av båtyxgraven från Linköping', *Fornvännen* LI, 1956, pp. 196-207, challenged by Mats P. Malmer, *Fornvännen* LII, 1957, pp. 17-30; answered by Kaelas, *ibid.*, pp. 31-7.

⁸ Stuart Piggott, 'The Early Bronze Age in Wessex', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* IV, 1938, pp. 85-6.

⁹ Overloon: F. C. Bursch, *Brabants Heem* IV, 1952, pp. 35-40, Afb. 4; Lisse: W. Pleyte, *Nederlandsche Oudheden, West-Friesland* (1902), pp. 14-5, Pl. VII:1-2, and R. Oppenheim, *De levende Natuur* XXXII, 1927, pp. 74-8, fig. 13-16, 18, 19. These hoards are to be republished in *Inventaria Archaeologica* sets, now in preparation.

¹⁰ C. F. C. Hawkes, 'The Deverel Urn and the Picardy Pin', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 1942, pp. 26-47.

¹¹ Janssen, *op. cit.* (note 6), p. 212 ff, Abb. 5, 7, 10; the Glentrool hoard, *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* LVII (1922-3), pp. 134 ff, fig. 3: 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 22-4.

¹² C. M. Piggott, in *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* XV, 1949, p. 112 (with further refs.), fig. 3 and 4.

¹³ Unpublished; brief mention *Nieuws-Bulletin Kon. Ned. Oudh. Bond*, 6de serie, X, 1957, afl. 8, column 184.

¹⁴ W. Glasbergen, 'Het Britse Cultuurmerk in de Bronstijd van Brabant en westelijk Nederland', *Westerheem* V, 1956, pp. 18-23, 34-9; Glasbergen, *Palaeohistoria* II and III (1954).