





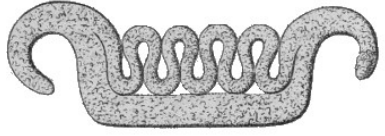






Typology of Fire Strikers From the Viking Age Norway

Tomáš Vlasatý, 2016, <http://sagy.vikingove.cz>



	<p>Type 1</p> <p>more than 100 finds, for example: C3463; Søndre Marstein, Oppland</p> <p>The most common type of Norwegian fire strikers, so called Rygh 426. This type occurs in many graves from 700-1000 AD (almost one third of all finds comes from the 10th century). Made from iron. Some of them have a higher (triangular or rounded) middle part, but not so significant as Type 1.1.1.</p>
	<p>Type 1.1.1</p> <p>1 find: deposited in Tromsø Museum</p> <p>A variation of R 426 with a high rounded middle part. Petersen does not mention the period of usage; we can guess that the 9th or 10th centuries are probable.</p>
	<p>Type 1.1.2</p> <p>1 find: C6780; Berge, Sogn og Fjordane</p> <p>A variation of R 426 with a high rounded middle part, formed by a rod with open space between. Petersen does not mention the period of usage; we can guess that the 9th or 10th centuries are probable.</p>
	<p>Type 1.2.1</p> <p>"only a few finds", for example: B78331; Myklebost, Sogn og Fjordane B7894n; Gutdalen, Sogn og Fjordane C6731; Bø, Oppland C201681; Torshov, Akershus T7707; Stor-Skomo, Nord-Trøndelag</p> <p>A variation of R 426 with a high (triangular or rounded) middle part and short, curved ends. In the case of C201681, the "body" (middle part) is decorated with a twisted iron wire. Petersen does not mention the period of usage; we can say that the 9th and the 10th centuries are sure.</p>
	<p>Type 1.2.2</p> <p>1 find: C32205/220; (Dokka,) Oppland</p> <p>A variation of R 426 with a high rounded middle part and short, curved and pointed ends. The "body" (middle part) has a hole inside. We can guess that the 9th or 10th centuries are probable.</p>

	<p>Type 1.2.3</p> <p>"some finds" (at least 2): B6300k; Uglum, Sogn og Fjordane C24193f; Nedre Bakkene, Oppland</p> <p>A variation of R 426 with a high rounded middle section formed by 2 or more narrow smooth / twisted rods with open spaces between them. This type has short, curved and pointed ends. We can guess that the 9th or 10th centuries are probable.</p>
	<p>Type 1.2.4</p> <p>1 find: C21986f; Åsland, Vest-Agder</p> <p>A variation of R 426 with a very high rounded middle section formed by a loop from a metal band with open space between. This type has short, curved and pointed ends. We can guess that the 9th or 10th centuries are probable.</p>
	<p>Type 2</p> <p>1 find: C32114; an unknown farmstead in Vågå, Oppland</p> <p>A simple iron fire striker with open ends curved to inside. It is surprising there are no more examples of this type. We can guess that the 9th or 10th centuries are probable.</p>
	<p>Type 3</p> <p>3 finds: T10295; Drøydalen, Sør-Trøndelag T12723f; Nedre Mossigan, Nord-Trøndelag T13758h; Setnan, Nord-Trøndelag</p> <p>A very simple iron fire striker with open ends and enlarged middle part. Petersen dated examples of this type to 700-950 AD. One example comes from man's, others from women's graves. This type is typical for Trøndelag regions.</p>
	<p>Type 4</p> <p>1 find: B5161; Nes, Nordland</p> <p>An interesting type belonging to the first half of the 10th century, 8 cm long.</p>

	<p>Type 5</p> <p>4 finds: B4488a-b; Tjentland, Rogaland B4830; Stamnes, Hordaland B6146e; Torblå, Hordaland B7080m; Himle, Hordaland</p> <p>A rectangular iron fire striker with twisted ends, similar to a belt buckle. Petersen dated this type to the 2nd part of the 10th century. All examples come from men's graves. This type is typical for Rogaland and Hordaland regions.</p>
	<p>Type 6</p> <p>4 finds: B4336b; Åse, Nordland B13137a; Omenås, Møre og Romsdal T4144; Hanset, Møre og Romsdal T13145k; Flemma, Møre og Romsdal</p> <p>A fire striker with an iron base and a bronze handle, shaped to two riders facing each other. Petersen dated this type to the 2nd part of the 10th century. 3 examples come from men's graves. This type is considered to be an eastern import, since the closest analogies come from Germany-Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Gotland, Latvia, Russia, Hungary and Bulgaria (see the page 3).</p>
	<p>Type 7</p> <p>7 finds: B4610y; Eide, Sogn og Fjordane B7132; Æri, Sogn og Fjordane C15215; Kaupang, Vestfold C15981; Fonbæk, Akershus C21437b; Nordkvelle, Vestfold K/1953 grav VI, Bjørholberget, Kaupang, Vestfold S2312a; Kjosavik, Rogaland</p> <p>A V-shaped (so called "tongue-shaped") fire striker with a central two-pieced handle casted in bronze. Petersen dated this type to the 9th century. Some examples come from men's, others from women's graves. This type is considered to be an eastern import, since the closest analogies come from Sweden (Helgö and Birka), Finland, Poland and Estonia.</p>
	<p>Type 8</p> <p>1 find: T20362; Egge, Nord-Trøndelag</p> <p>An iron oval shaped fire striker with central handle made in openwork. RTG showed traces of copper alloy coating. Length: 11,7 cm, width: 3 cm, thickness: 0,5 cm. 10th century.</p>

Unknown types



[B11470ap;](#)
[Fyling, Sogn og Fjordane](#)

A bronze handle similar to the type 6.



[C25592; Søndre Vågen, Telemark](#)

A damaged striker similar to the type 1.2 or 3.

This typology is based on Petersen's book *Vikingetidens redskaper* (pp. 433-438), the project UNIMUS and some new finds. The size of fire strikers varies from 4 cm to 14.2 cm. The most common length is between 7-9 cm. Strikers have been found mainly in men's graves (81.5% to 18.5%). Sometimes, they were found together with flints.

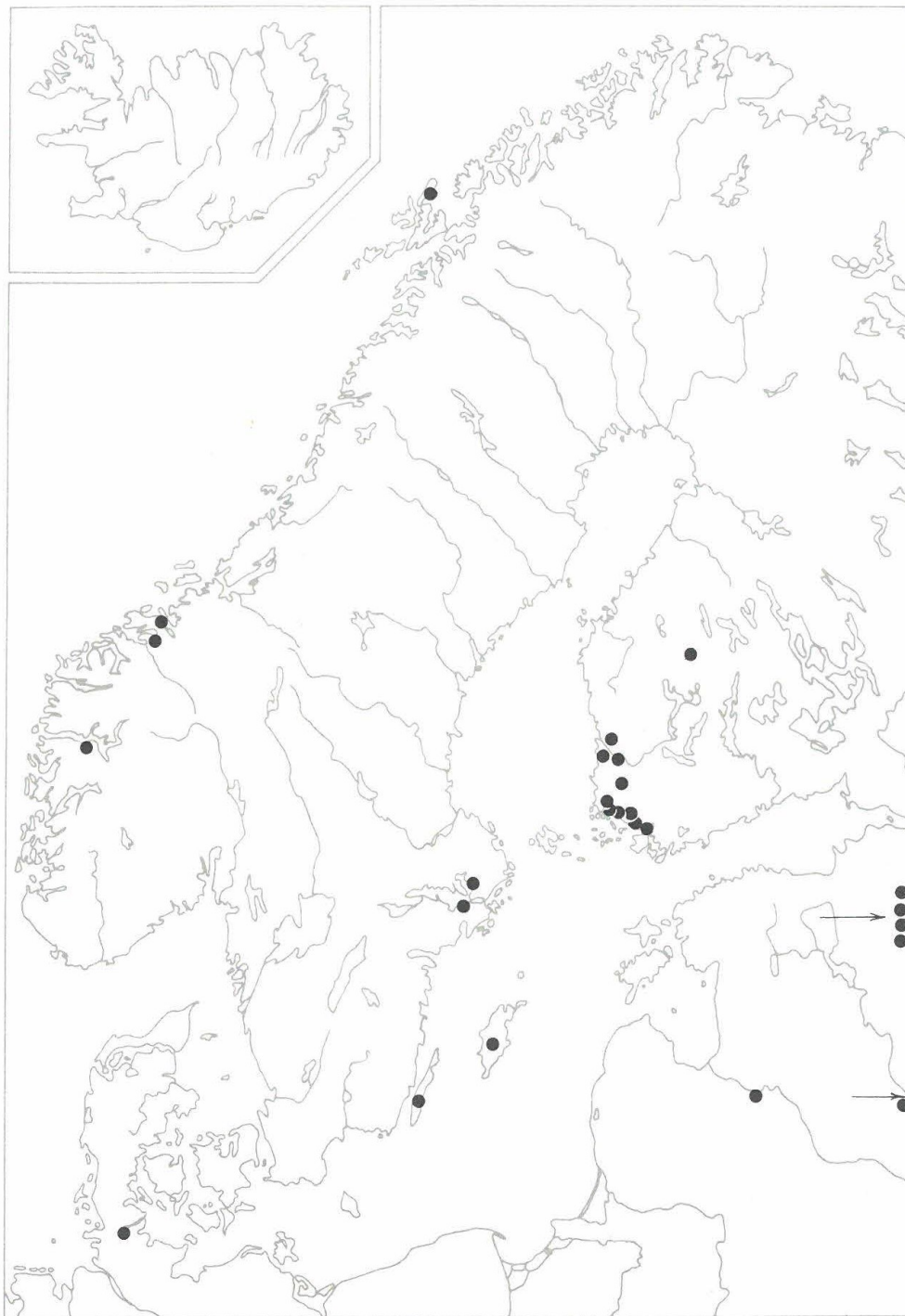
There were found several amulets of fire striker shape in Norway, at least 6:

B6657c; Trå, Hordaland
[C3907; Ringnes, Hedmark](#)
C5358; Haugen, Vestfold
C1671; Nomeland, Aust-Agder
[S4023d; Litland av Tau, Rogaland](#)
T12338; Høislo, Nord-Trøndelag

These amulets are made from silver ornated with punched decoration and were found in hoards and women's graves of the 10th and the 11th century. The shape of amulets corresponds to the type 1.



The amulet found in the woman's grave in Trå, Hordaland (B6657c).



Feuerstahl (Typ Taf. 17, 2)

Distribution of the type 6 in Scandinavia. Taken from Thorsten Capelle (1968), *Der Metallschmuck von Haithabu - Studien zur wikingischen Metallkunst*. Die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu, Band 5, Neumünster : Wachholtz Verlag, Karte 29.