

# The Spear from River Oise, France

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In 2011, a remarkable spear was found in a paleochannel of the River Oise in Picardie region, Northern France. The winged spear belongs to the Westphal winged spear type V (*Westphal 2002*: 260-1) and can be dated to circa 9th-10<sup>th</sup> century (*Fig. 1*). What makes the find extraordinary is a preserved piece of shaft and and sheath. The sheath covered almost the complete length of the spearhead and was originally made of wood, the leather cover is not detected. The tip of the sheath is covered with a chape made of lead sheet plate that was attached by a system of holes. The shaft smoothly fits to the socket. The dimensions can be seen in the *Table 1*.

At the moment, the spear is deposited in the Museum of Laon and is going to be published by Béline Pasquini and Pauline Bombled, PhD students from Sorbonne, Paris. In the depository, the spear is still lying on a bed of earth and for this reason, not all measurements could be taken.

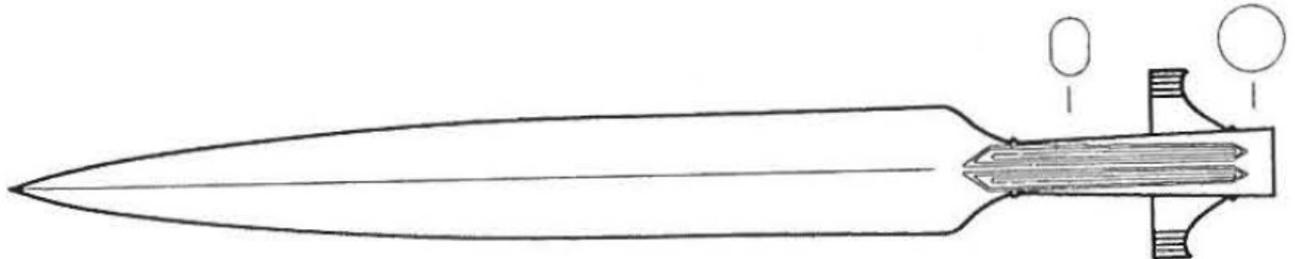


Fig. 1 : The photo of the spear from River Oise and the Westphal winged spear type V.  
*Westphal 2002*: 261, Textfigur 6.

Total length	80.5 cm
Length of the spearhead	51 cm
Length of the shaft	29 cm
Length of the blade	41.3 cm
Maximum blade width	5.2 cm
Blade thickness 26.5 cm from the socket base	1 cm
Socket length	9.5 cm
Minimum socket width	2.64 cm
Maximum socket width	3.55 cm
Diameter of socket base	3.58 cm
Height of rivet head	0.5 cm
Diameter of the rivet head	0.81 cm
Shaft diameter 7.47 cm from the socket base	2.78 cm
Shaft diameter 25.5 cm from the socket base	2.17 cm
Wings height	2.43 cm
Length of the wings at the socket	3.03 cm
Length of the wings at their end	0.95 cm
Wing thickness at base	0.78 cm
Wing thickness at the end	0.6 cm
Length of the sheath	Approx. 50 cm
Width of the sheath	Approx. 6 cm
Sheath thickness at the wings	0.4 cm
Chape length	8.19 cm
Thickness of sheet metal chape	0.11 cm
Diameter of the fixing holes of the chape	0.2 cm

Table 1: Measurements of the spear from River Oise. Measurements provided by Béline Pasquini.

## Bibliography

Westphal, Herbert (2002). *Franken oder Sachsen? Untersuchungen an frühmittelalterlichen Waffen*, Oldenburg.