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Łódź, 11–12 June 2026

**Book of
Abstracts**



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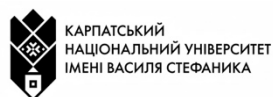
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Предмети озброєння з Рідківського археологічного комплексу VIII–XI ст.

Weapons from the Ridkivtsi archaeological complex (eighth–eleventh centuries)

Weapons constitute one of the most striking and important categories of archaeological finds from the Middle Ages. They serve as a valuable source for studying various aspects of the history of the population of Central and Southeastern Europe. Furthermore, weapons are a crucial chronological indicator; their typological characteristics and associated artefacts provide insights into the military-political history of populations across different regions.

A substantial collection of weapons, encompassing both close-combat and long-range types, as well as equestrian equipment, was unearthed during excavations at the Rydkivtsi archaeological complex. These finds include over 100 arrowheads, parts of quivers, darts, axes, spurs, elements of horse equipment, and fragments of chain mail, among others. Collectively, the weapons from the settlement are vital for reconstructing the military and political history of the region during the 9th–10th centuries. They attest to the developed military culture of the local populace and suggest the presence of a nomadic substratum within the settlement's structure.

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‘Hethenesse’ як простір для реалізації „хрестової обітниці” англійськими рицарями XIV ст.

‘Hethenesse’ as a space for the fulfilment of the “crusading vow” by English knights in the fourteenth century.

This paper proposes a reinterpretation of the concept of 'heathenness' as a specific frontier space in which English knights of the fourteenth century fulfilled and actualised the crusading vow after the loss of the Holy Land. Focusing on English participation in the Preußenreisen — the seasonal crusading expeditions of the Teutonic Order against Lithuania — the paper argues that 'heathenness' functioned not merely as a geographical boundary between Christendom and pagan territories, but as a multidimensional frontier of chivalric experience.

The Baltic crusading frontier operated as a space where the boundaries between the sacred and the secular, warfare and ritual, and pilgrimage and military service were constantly negotiated and redefined. For English knights, participation in these 'reysen' offered a way to perform the