

Arms and Armour of Bagratid Armenian Noblemen (late-9th – mid-11th centuries)

Dmytro Dymydyuk (PhD student, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine))

Introduction or how to read this poster?

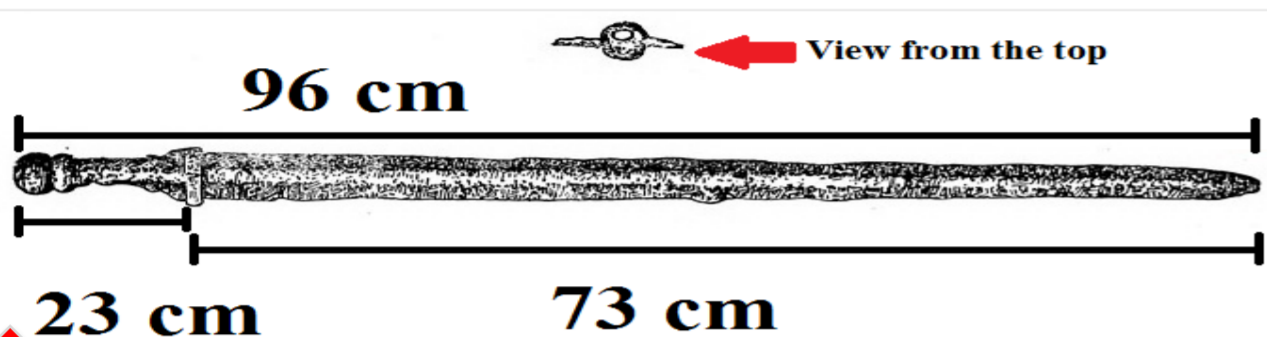
The aim of this poster is to present different types of body armor and weapons (which could be popular in Armenia) based on miniatures, reliefs and archeological sources.

Central position of this poster takes a relief of David and Goliath from Gagik church. Based on this relief we try to analyze other sources in order to reconstruct general overview of military equipment of the Armenian soldier.



Picture 1. A relief of David and Goliath from the relief of The Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Aghtamar Island, in Lake Van (915–921).

1. The straight double-edged sword. Quillons (cross-guard) are turned down towards the blade (see picture 2–4).
2. In my opinion it's a part of spear which wasn't noticed before by any historian. Different types of spears can be found in the picture 5–7, 12–13. Also other types of weapons were popular (see picture 5–11).
3. Round shield (see picture 7, 9). Also, in Armenia was popular kite-shaped shield (see picture 12–13).
4. Mail coif (hood). Unfortunately, we found only one picture of helmet which has cone form (see picture 9). Other miniatures related to Byzantine history (see picture 12).
5. Lamellar armor (see picture 12, 15).
6. Scale armor. Armenian warriors often used less expensive mail (see picture 14).
7. Vambrace (written and other sources don't give any detailed description of this type of armour).
8. This relief doesn't show us how boots looked. Only greave is briefly mentioned in written sources (see summary).
9. Sling (rarely used by Armenians).



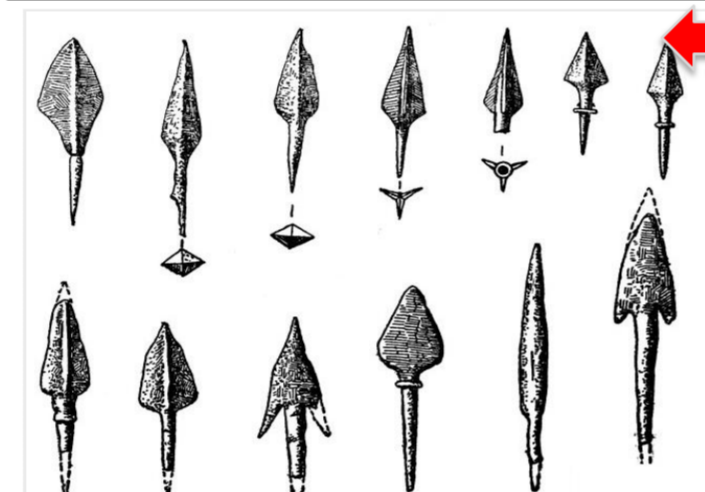
Picture 2. One-handed sword from Ani (10 c.) which has non-tapering blade and rounded end – Abrahamian V. *Medieval Armenian types of weapons.* – P. 51. (in Arm.).



Picture 12. The defeat of the Georgians in the war against Basil II (1021). Picture shows long spears, lamellar armor and different types of helmets. Synopsis of Histories by John Skylitze (11 c.). [in:] *Biblioteca Nacional de España* (Madrid). – f. 195v. Available at: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>



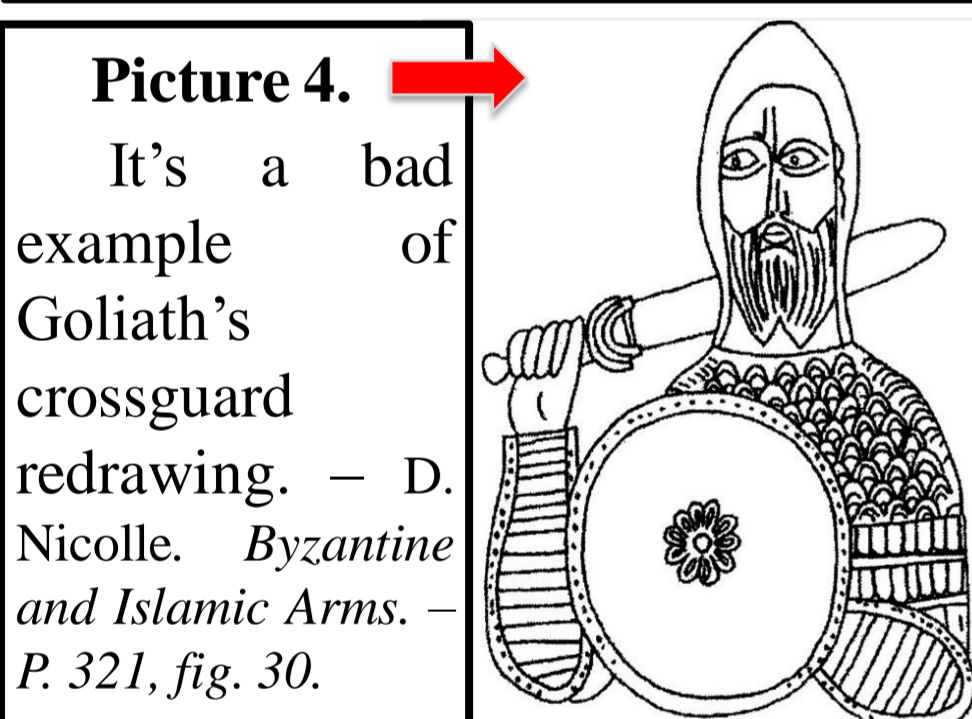
Picture 3. The sword from Khevsureti, Georgia (11–12 c.). Guard of this sword is similar to Goliath's from Aghtamar church. – *Tsurtsumia M. Medieval sword and sabre from the Georgian National Museum.* – P. 160.



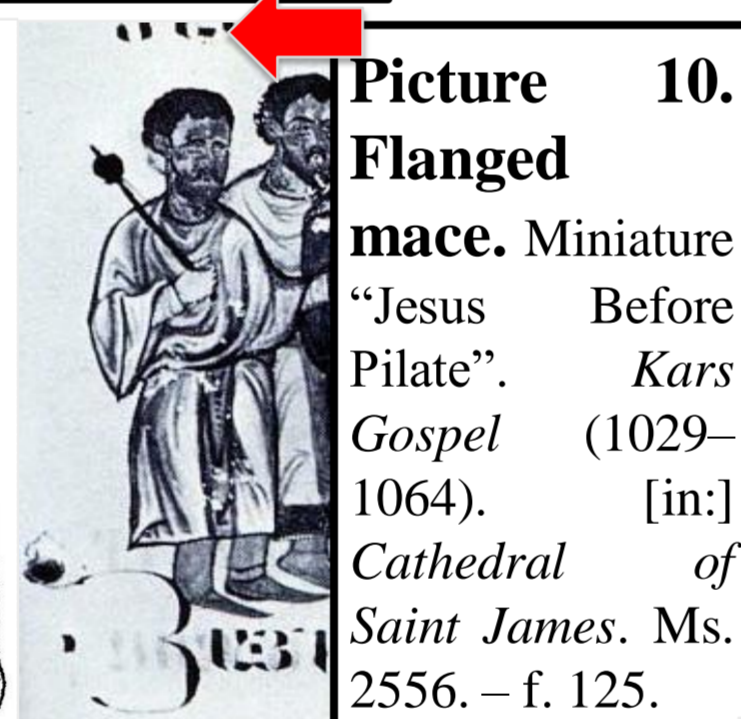
Picture 11. Arrowheads (Dvin). – *Arakelyan B. Cities and Crafts in Armenia 9–13 cc.* (in Arm.). Available at: <http://rma.zorakn.org/24>



Picture 13. Warrior keep spear and kite-shaped shield (11 c.). – *Nicolle D. The Armies of Islam 7–11 centuries.* – P. 19, 30.



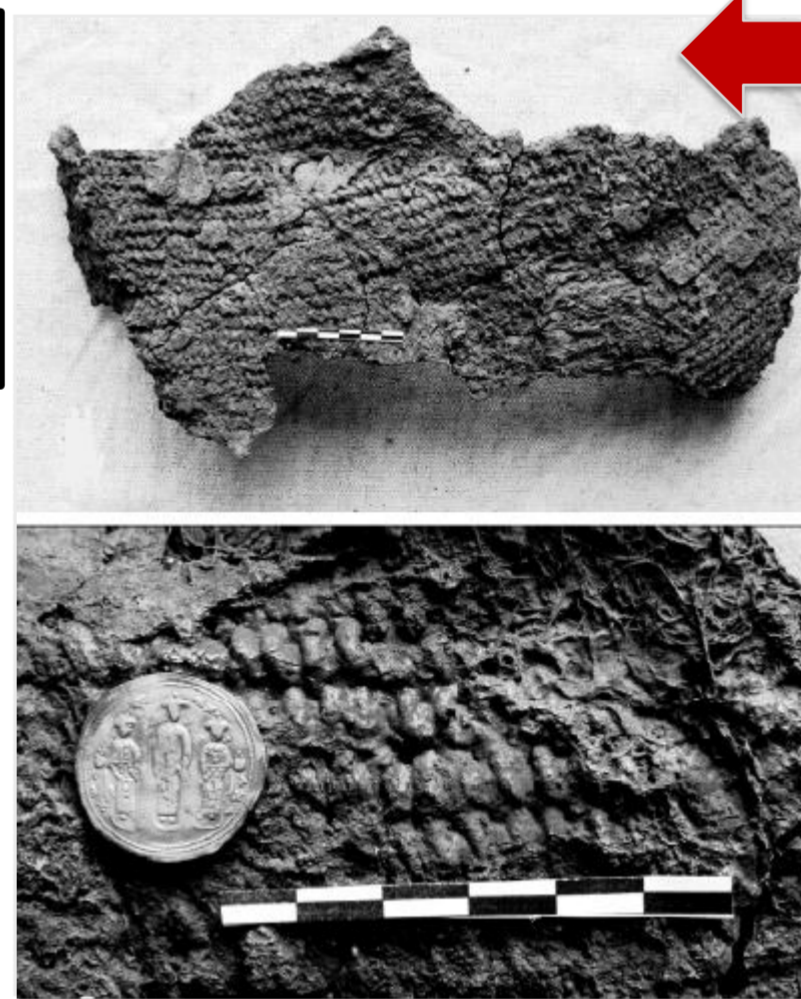
Picture 4. It's a bad example of Goliath's crossguard redrawing. – D. Nicolle. *Byzantine and Islamic Arms.* – P. 321, fig. 30.



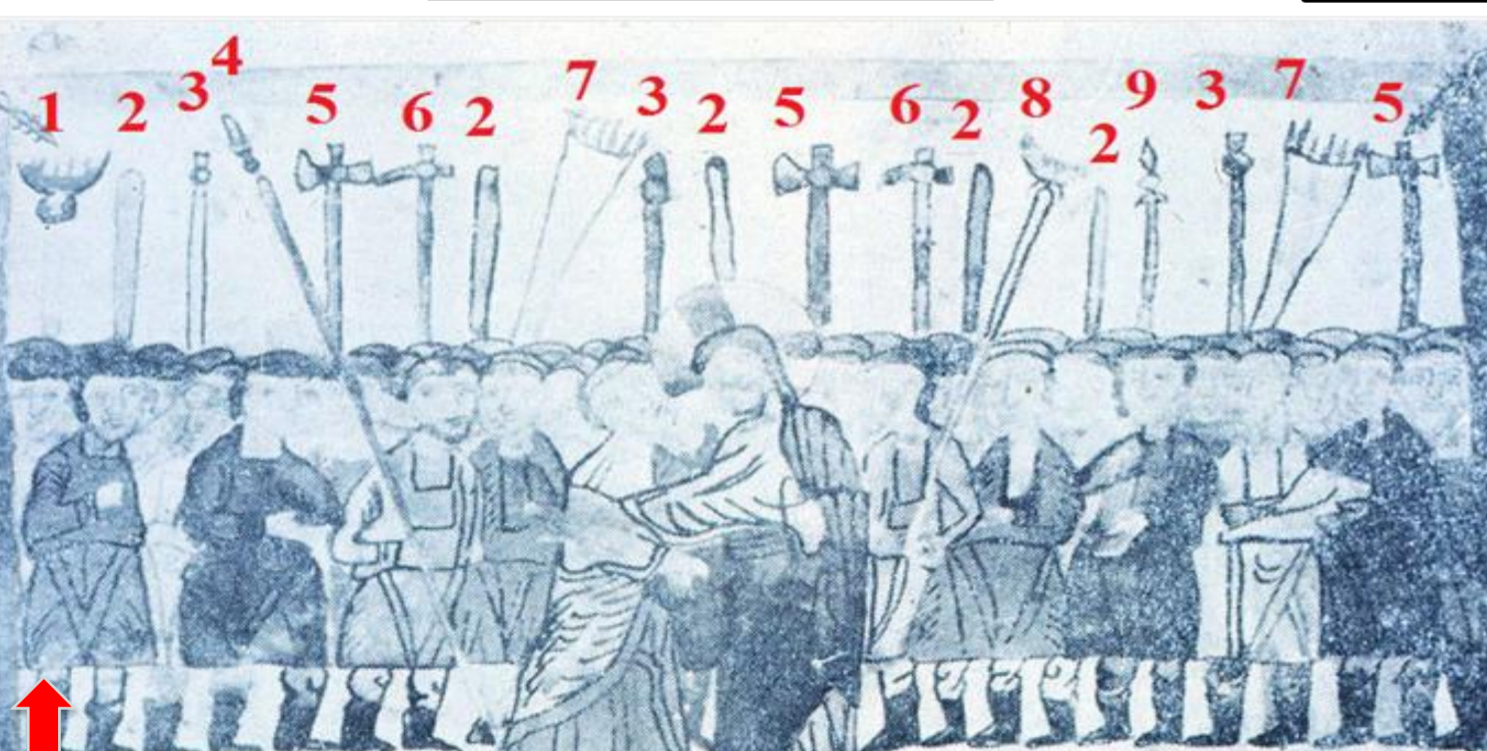
Picture 10. Flanged mace. Miniature "Jesus Before Pilate". *Kars Gospel* (1029–1064). [in:] *Cathedral of Saint James.* Ms. 2556. – f. 125.



Picture 9. Cone helmets, rounded shields, single-bit axe and straight double-edged sword. Miniature "Betrayal and seizing of Jesus". *The Vehapar Gospel* (10–11 c.). [in:] *Matenadaran*. Ms. 10780. – f. 71.

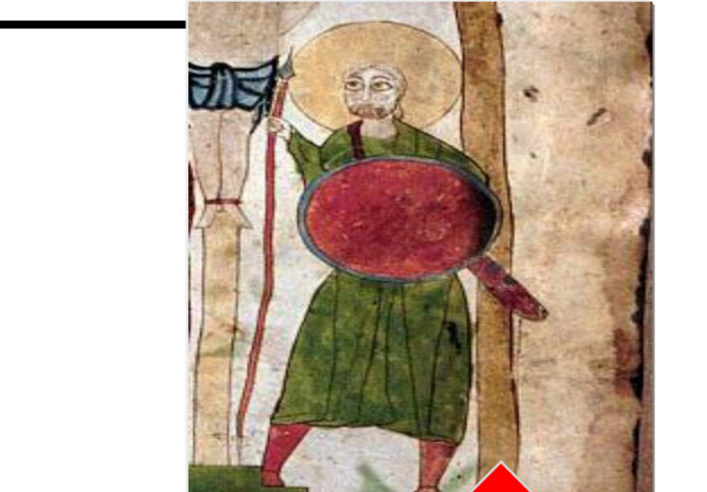


Picture 14. Chain mail from Zurtaket's tomb (Georgia, 10–11 c.). – *Bakradze I. Arms and armory of Georgian warriors during the 10th - 11th cc.* – P. 81, 97. (in Georgian).

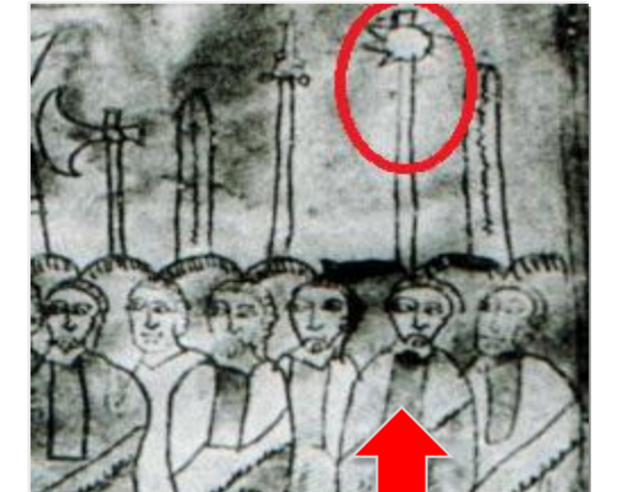


Picture 5. Miniature "Betrayal". *The Melitine Gospel* (1041). [in:] *Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate.* Ms. 3624. – XLVII, fig. 25.

- 1 and 8. – Battle fork or specific small crescent shaped blade
2. Some type of club (short staff or stick, usually made of wood) or sword's blade.
3. Club (wooden stick) that uses a heavy head on the end of a handle to deliver powerful blows (mace?)
4. Long spear (approximately 3 or more meters).
5. Double-bit axe
6. Type of war hammer that had a very long spike on the reverse of the hammer head, which was used by infantry in order to penetrate thick plate armor or mail
7. Flamethrower (it could be Byzantine or Arabic influences).
9. It's also a spear (like №4) but this one has specific ending with two "wings" on the spearsocket behind the blade preventing a spear thrust from going too far into a victim, thus making it easier to quickly withdraw.



Picture 7. Short spear and round shield. Miniature "Crucifixion". *Gospel from Taron* (11 c.). [in:] *Matenadaran.* Ms. 6201. – f. 7v.



Picture 8. Spiked mace. – Miniature "Betrayal". *Gospel of St. Grigor Monastery* (1057). [in:] *Matenadaran.* Ms. 3784. – XLVII, fig. 24.



Picture 6. Miniature "Betrayal". *Gospel from Melitene or Sebastia* (11 c.). [in:] *Matenadaran* (Yerevan). Ms. 974. – f. 2.

1. Curved head of spear like a hook.
2. Horseman's pick.
3. Spear with a rhomb-like head.
4. Double-bit axe.
5. Flamethrower.
6. Spade for pulling down wall (*Guevorkian A. The crafts and mode of life in Armenian miniatures.* – P. 67, 138. (in Arm.).



Picture 15. Lamellar armor. Miniature "Hovhannis Protospatharius presents the Gospel to the Virgin". – *Gospel of Adrianopolis* (1007). [in:] *Library of San-Lazzaro.* Ms. 887. – fol. 8.

Contacts:
 E-mail – dymydyuk_da@ukr.net
 Facebook – Dmytro Dymydyuk
 Dmytro Dymydyuk – PhD student at the Department of History of Middle Ages and Byzantine Studies (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine).

