

4.2.4.20 Bag handles



Edited by Tomáš Vlasatý, based on:

F. WESTPHAL. *Die Holzfunde von Haithabu, (Die Ausgrabungen in Haithabu 11)*, Neumünster 2007: 80.

Fourteen finds were discovered in the harbour of Haithabu, whose function had not been known for a long time (OG 119; Taf. 59: 1-4). They are elongated and flat objects with a length of 181-496 mm, thickness of 7-13 mm and width of 29-52 mm in the middle part. Their semi-circular ends have a diameter of 31-61 mm and are drilled through in the centre (these holes have a diameter of 7-10 mm). The upper side is wavy (Taf. 59: 1), or has notches (Taf. 59: 2-3), while the lower one is almost straight. All objects have oblong holes by the lower straight side that were used to fix a textile to them, according to documents made during excavations.¹²⁶ Used wood include ash (5 pieces) and maple (5 pieces).

Sami ethnographic material makes it clear that these objects are probably bag handles.¹²⁷ A preserved Sami bag is attached to two identical antler handles (Abb. 67). Handles from Haithabu could be used in the same way. The bag was fixed into the oblong holes. A rope or cord, which served as a shoulder strap, was stretched through holes at the ends of handles. Two curved handles from Haithabu¹²⁸ formed a pair couple, so it is possible that other finds could be initially paired as well.

126 Fabric remnants have not survived to the present day.

127 See the exhibition „Sapmi - Das Land der Jäger, Fischer und Rentierzüchter“ (Sapmi - *The Land of Hunters, fishermen and reindeer breeders*), which was held in the Archaeological State Museum in Schleswig. In this regard, I thank to Dr. I. Gabriel from Schleswig.

128 HbH.119.001-002.

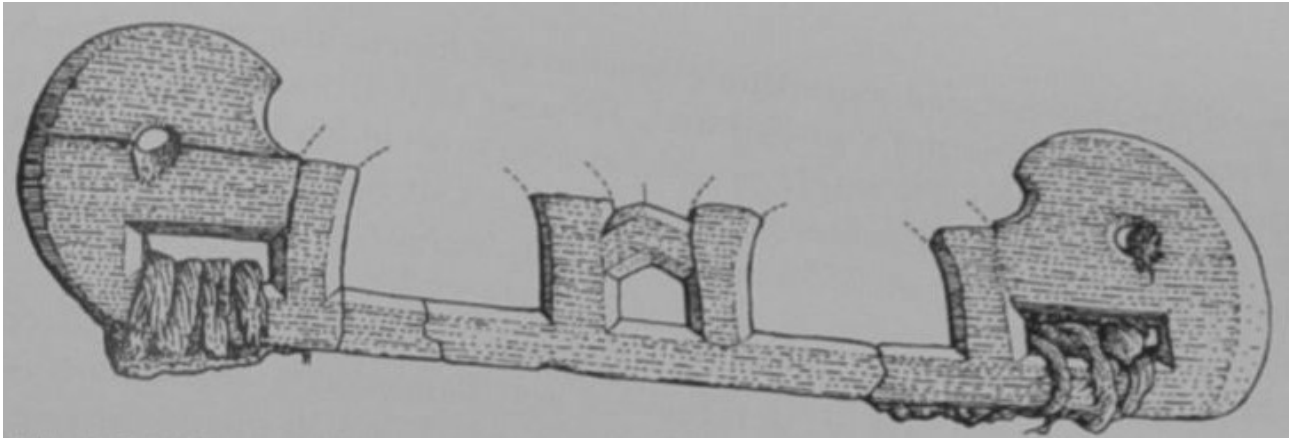


Abb. 66. Haithabu. Reconstruction of the handle with fabric remnants (HbH.119.003).

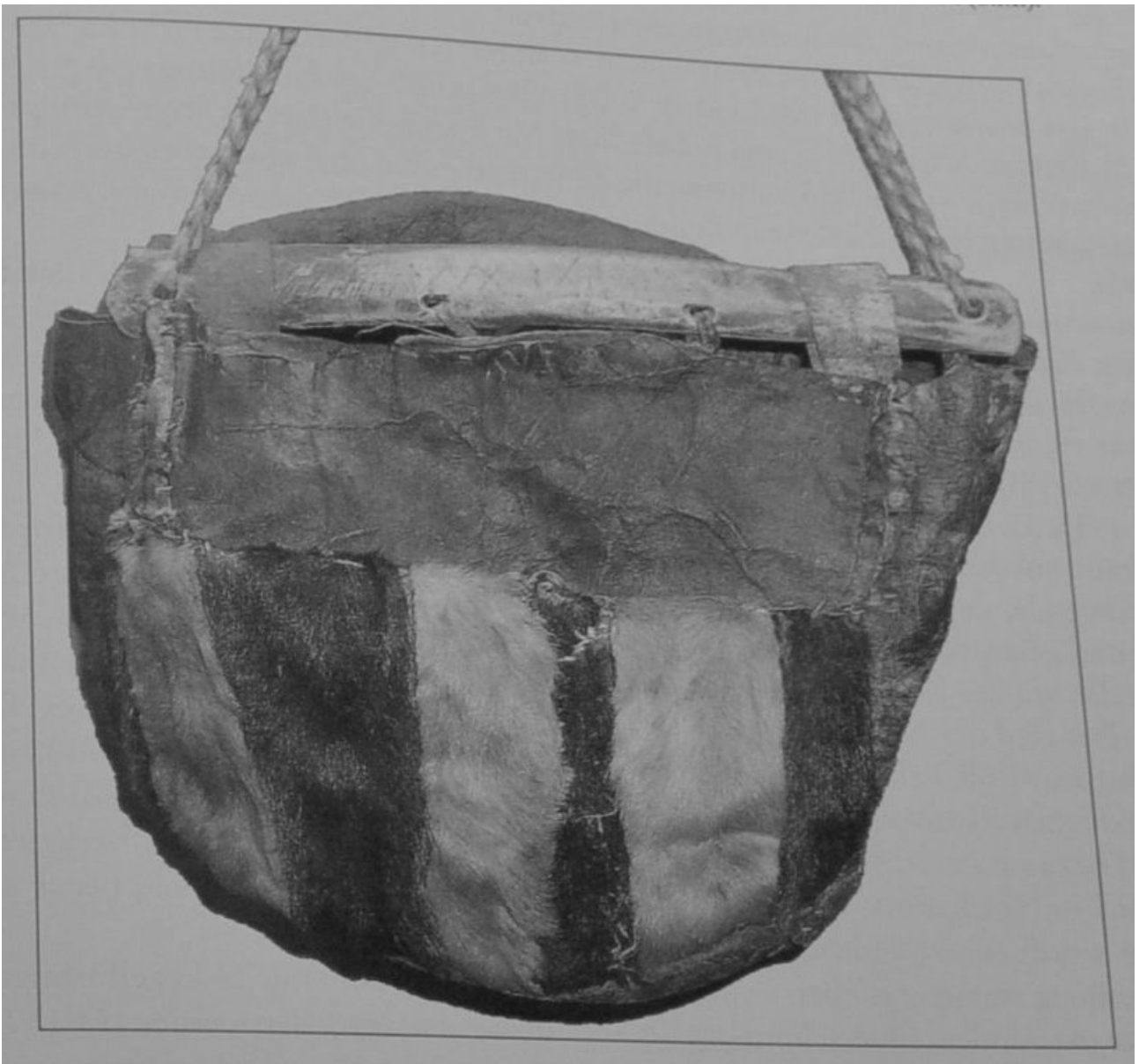
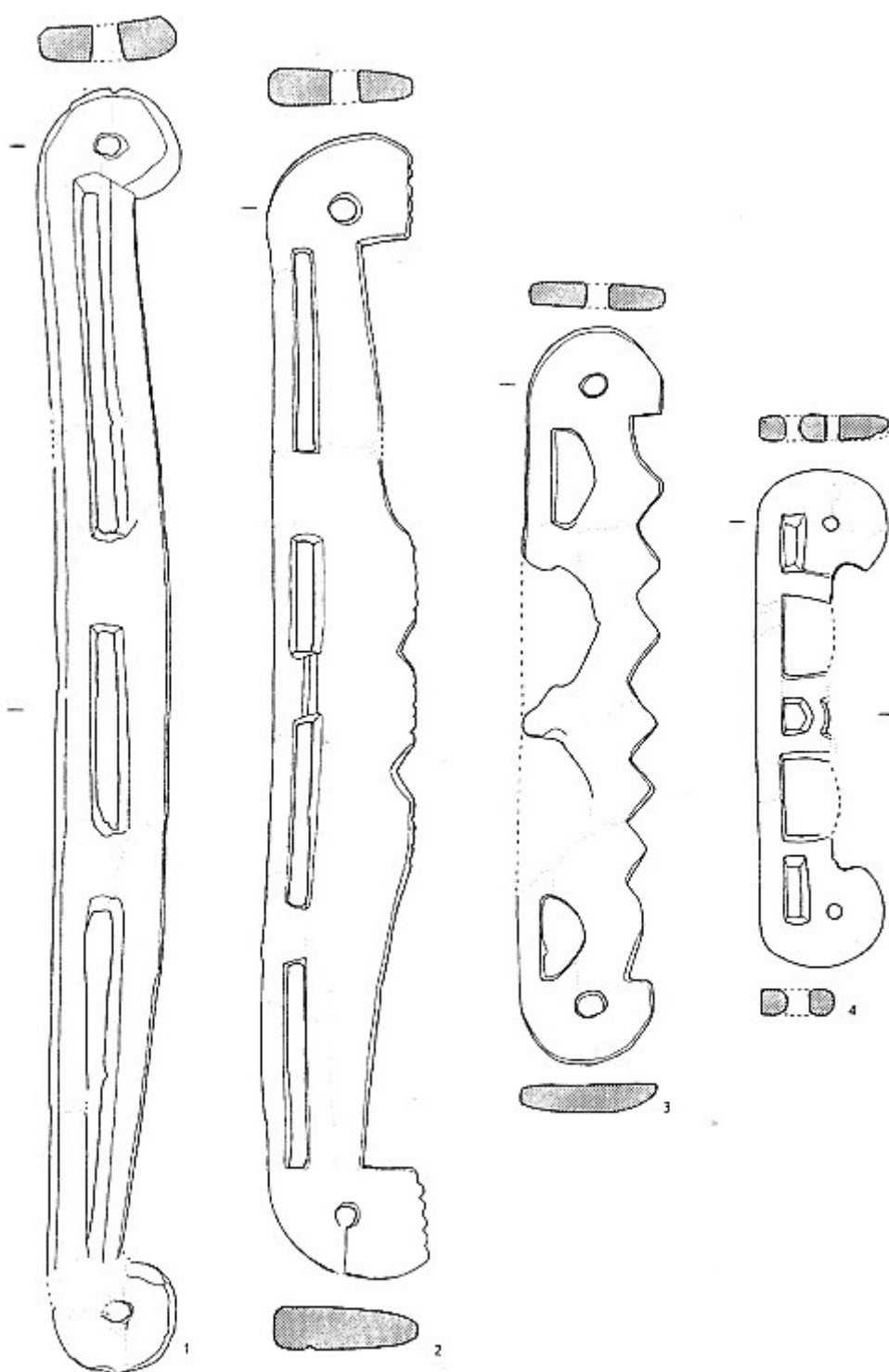
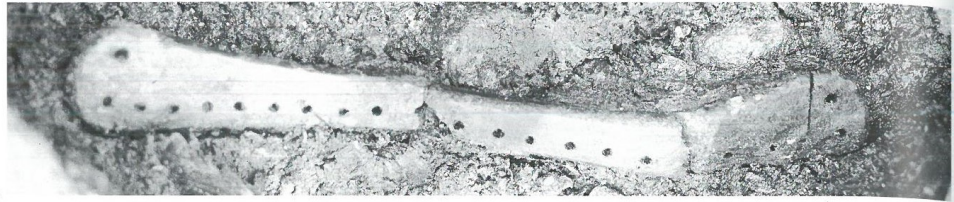


Abb. 67. Sami leather bag with antler handles.



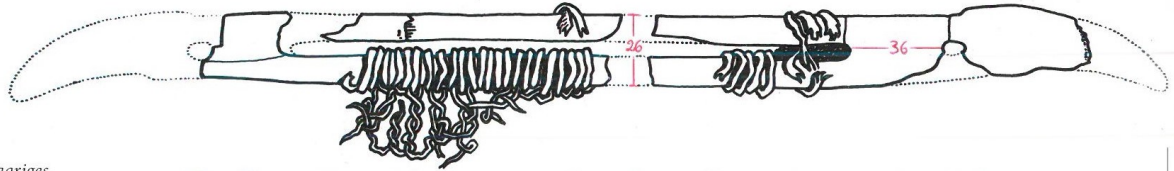
Taf. 59. Handles from Haithabu.

1 HbH.119.014; 2 HbH.119.013; 3 HbH.119.012; 4 HbH.119.003



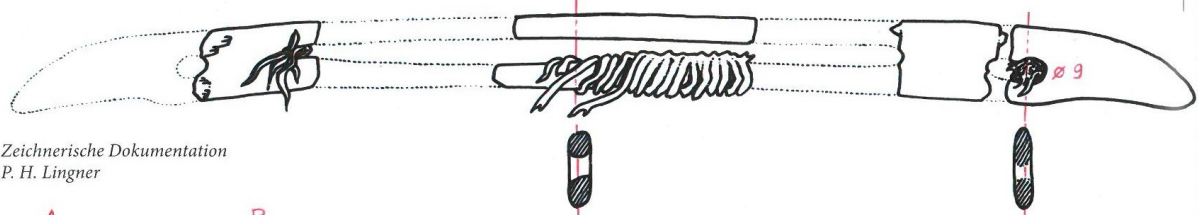
Bachbett [1935]

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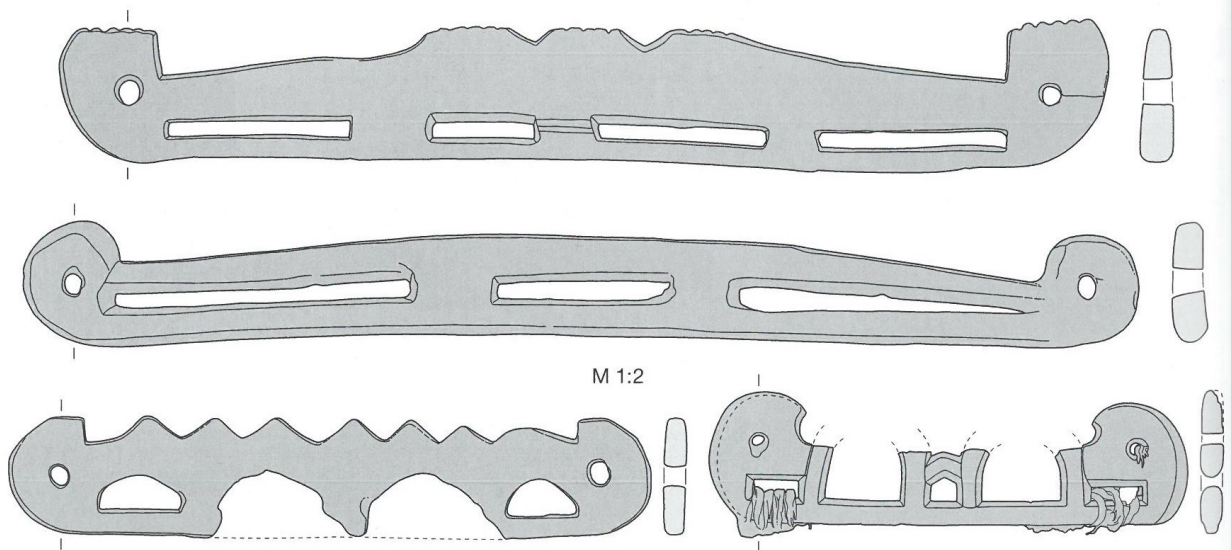
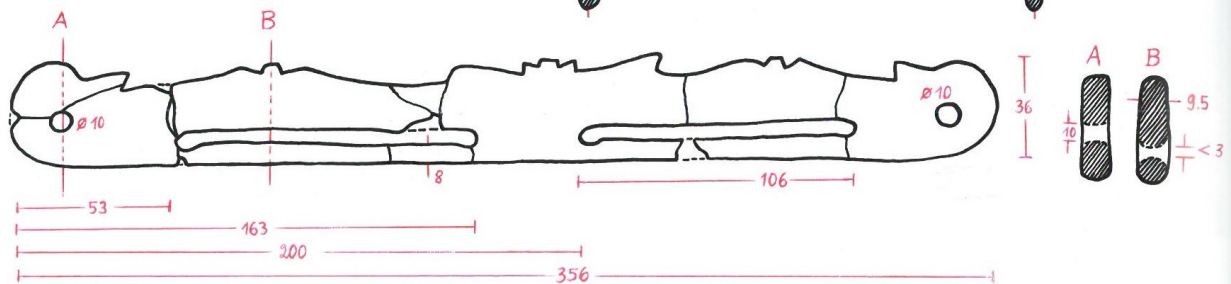


Paariges
Exemplar

Die Gesamtlänge ist nicht zu ermitteln, da nur Fragmente vorhanden sind.



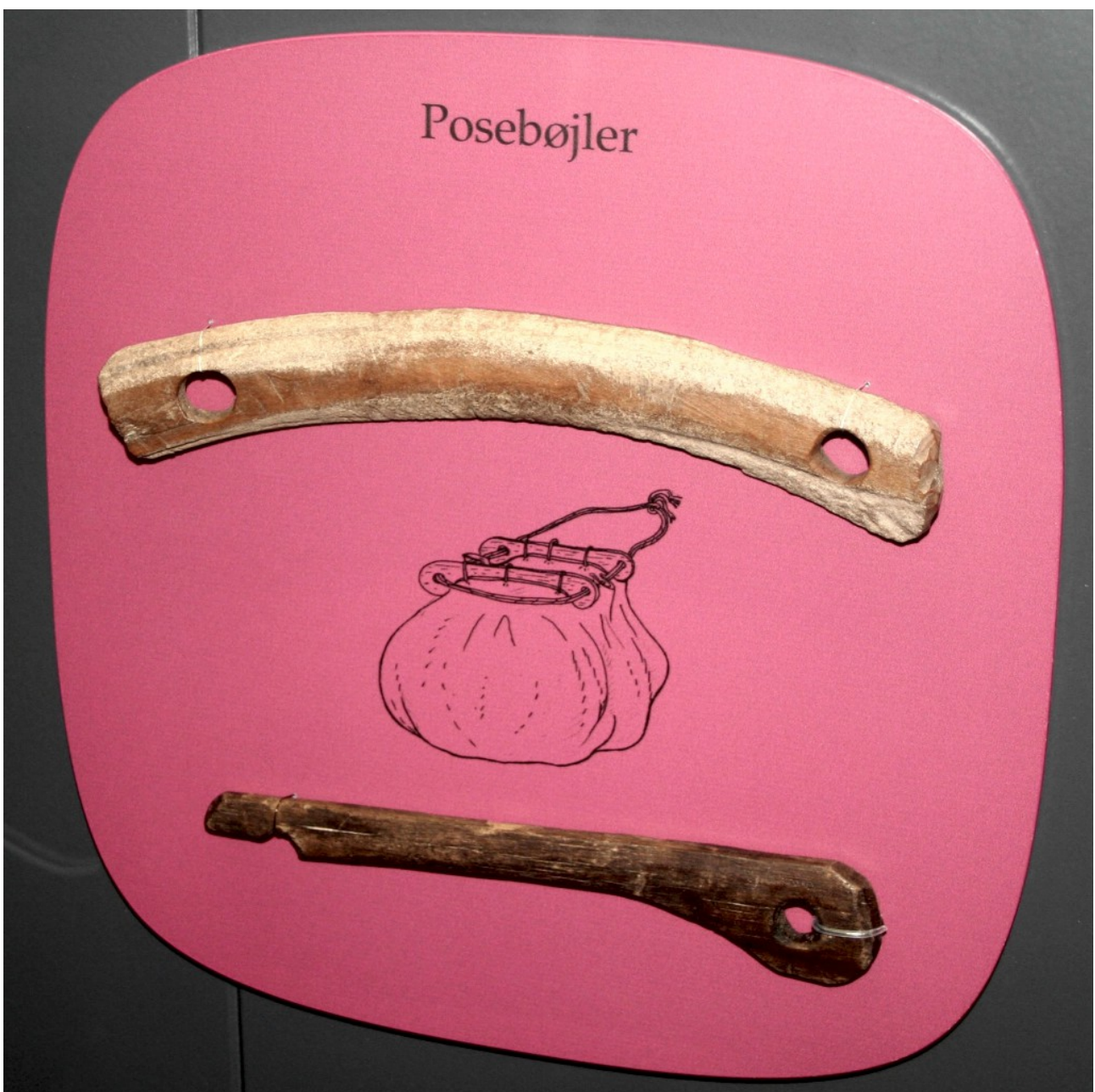
Zeichnerische Dokumentation
P. H. Lingner



All types of handles found in Haithabu. Some of them have not survived to the present day. Taken from: SCHIETZEL, Kurt (2014). *Spurensuche Haithabu*, Neumünster – Hamburg, p. 256.



Bag handle found in the harbour of Birka in august 2014. The shape is similar to shapes of handles from Haithabu.



Two handles from Viborg museum, Denmark. Source: Florian Eibeck, http://blog.eibeck.de/2013/wikinger-taschenbuegel.html/wikinger_taschenbuegel_viborg.



In Sweden, there are at least 5 Sami bone or antler handles from the 10th to 17th century (SHM 20415:7; SHM 15052:7; SHM 17684; SHM SHM 34358 (196); SHM 21682:VIII:628). Taken from the [cataloge of Historiska.se](http://cataloge.of.Historiska.se).



Selection of iconography from the 9th to 12th century: various forms of bags and satchels.