



ATTILA

HUN MOUNTED WARRIOR

RECONSTRUCTION BY THE HUNGARIAN TURAN FOUNDATION

The reconstruction on display is based on the types of armour and helmets commonly used on the Eurasian steppe—in Central and Inner Asia—at the time of the Huns' arrival in Europe (c. 370) and in the preceding period.

East of Europe, lamellar armour—constructed from tessellated, laced plates—was characteristic of the period. In addition to the sporadically surviving archaeological finds, modern understanding of complete armour sets is derived primarily from contemporary representations.

The Orlat bone plates, decorated with incised battle scenes, were belt ornaments found in a grave. Orlat is located near Samarkand, in present-day Uzbekistan.

The find can probably be dated to the first half of the 4th century, when the Huns subjugated the Sogdian Empire during their Central Asian campaigns and thus reappeared in written sources. The ethnic identity of the warriors depicted on the plates is uncertain; however, the battle scene probably includes Hun warriors.

The armour and helmet forms visible on the figures depicted on the Orlat plates belong to a single type, yet the patterns formed by the armour plates are almost always different, and no two helmets are exactly alike. This suggests that, in the manufacture of these high-value armours commissioned and worn by armed elites, attention was paid not only to functionality but also to aesthetic effect and formal variety.

For the peoples of the Carpathian Basin, attire can be inferred only from the durable elements of clothing that have survived. As a result, the fashion of the European Huns is scarcely known. Even cautious reconstruction is possible only on the basis of finds from drier regions of Eurasia. Given that nomadic clothing and the materials clothes were made of changed only very conservatively, the present reconstruction limits itself to presenting characteristic features of dress, based on the small number of finds and depictions spanning wide temporal and geographical ranges—especially for areas where no specific find was available.

The cut of the robe (overgarment) was widespread across Eurasia, and parallels can be found in grave finds attributed to the Huns.

The narrow-legged boot following the line of the foot, together with the strap fastening around the foot and ankle, appears on the Orlat plates (see armour). The combination of buckle and strap-end has been recovered from the ankle area in numerous Hun Period burial assemblages.

The weapons displayed follow in all respects the characteristics detailed above for Hun weaponry. The method of suspension of the sword cannot be reconstructed on the basis of finds from the Carpathian Basin, and the horse harness only partially so. For this reason, the method of sword suspension and the placement of harness fittings follow Caucasian parallels.

HUN MOUNTED WARRIOR

(last third of the 4th century – mid-5th century)

HUN FACIAL RECONSTRUCTION

Scientific facial reconstruction based on a 5th-century Hun skull

Based on finds from Maroszentgyörgy (Sângeorgiu de Mureș, Transylvania, Romania)

Reconstruction by anthropologist Ágnes Kustár; lifelike colouring by Zsuzsanna Herceg

REPLICA OF A GILDED SADDLE

Original materials: wood and metals

Based on finds from Pécs–Üszögpuszta (Hungary) and Melitopol (Ukraine)

Reconstruction by Zengő Nyíl/Hissing Arrow Hungarian Historical Archery Association

REPLICA OF A GILDED BRIDLE

Original materials: gilded bronze, leather, gemstone inlays, steel

Based on finds from the Caucasus region

HUN-STYLE GOLD BELT WITH GARNET INLAYS, REPLICA

Original materials: gilded bronze, gemstones

Based on finds from Szeged–Nagyszéksós (Hungary)

Fittings made by Csaba Bíró

LAMELLAR ARMOUR AND HELMET based on parallels from Central Asia

Original materials: steel and leather

Based on bone-plate scenes from the Orlat tablets (Uzbekistan)

Made by Csaba Bíró

REPLICA OF A GOLD SHOE BUCKLE

Original material: gilded silver

Based on finds from Keszthely–Téglagyár (Hungary)

Made by Csaba Bíró

GILDED DAGGER

based on contemporary parallels from the Carpathian Basin

Materials: gilded copper, steel, leather, wood

Reconstruction by Attila Páli and Gábor Páli

GILDED SWORD

based on contemporary parallels from the Carpathian Basin

Based on the Hun princely find assemblage from Szeged–Nagyszéksós (Hungary) and other contemporary finds

Materials: marble, gilded bronze sheet, ash wood, vegetable-tanned goatskin coloured with iron oxide

Reconstruction by Attila Páli and Gábor Páli

ARROW AND BOW QUIVER

based on parallels from Central Asia

Material: leather

Reconstruction by Spearhead Armory

BOW

based on parallels from Central Asia

Original materials: wood, leather, bone, and glue

Based on bone-plate scenes from the Orlat tablets (Uzbekistan)

REPLICA OF A SPEARHEAD

Original material: iron

Based on finds from Pécs–Üszögpuszta (Hungary)

LEAF-SHAPED GILDED HORSE-HARNESS ORNAMENT, replica

Original material: gold

Based on finds from Pécs–Üszögpuszta (Hungary)

The complete collection of Hun and Hungarian Conquest Period object reconstructions by the Hungarian Turan Foundation will be on display at



KURULTAJ – HUNGARIAN TRIBAL ASSEMBLY ON 14–16 AUGUST 2026.



MAGYAR NEMZETI MÚZEUM