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Editor's Address:
Sławkowska street 17, 31-016 Cracow, Poland
Home page: www.archeo.pan.krakow.pl/AAC.htm

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REVIEWS

Rastko Vasic, *Die Halsringe im Zentralbalkan. Vojvodina, Serbien, Kosovo und Mazedonien*, *Prähistorische Bronzefunde* 11:7, Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2010, 70 Seiten, 44 Tafeln; ISBN 978-3-515-09678-2.

The monograph *Die Halsringe im Zentralbalkan* by Rastko Vasic is already his fourth scholarly contribution, published in the now respected *Prähistorische Bronzefunde* (PBF) series. His earlier studies addressed the subject of sickles¹, brooches² and dress pins³. Every one of them was the first monographic study of a given type of object in the central Balkans. This is true also of the study made by Rastko Vasic of neckrings from Vojvodina, Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia. Given the extremely complicated political situation in the region and the fact that the materials, even if analysed, were published in different countries and languages, the study of neckrings must have run into quite a few obstacles. If only for this reason, the great labour put in by Rastko Vasic only to assemble his materials to this and to earlier monographs is worthy of recognition.

Incidentally, the study under review is the seventh to be published in the PBF series dedicated to neckrings and neck ornaments. The earlier works concerned addressed the materials from south-western Germany⁴, Greece⁵, Slovakia⁶ and Poland⁷.

Still, as noted earlier, this is the first work to discuss the materials from central Balkans. It might be more accurate to stress that this is the first contribution on some regions of the Balkans which have been overlooked here so far.

In its arrangement the study does not depart significantly from earlier volumes published in the series. In the introduction the author discusses the scope of his work. He goes on to describe the availability of his materials, dispersed in many different

¹ R. Vasic, *Die Sicheln im Zentralbalkan. Vojvodina, Serbien, Kosovo und Mazedonien*, PBF 18:5, Stuttgart 1994.

² R. Vasic, *Die Fibeln im Zentralbalkan. Vojvodina, Serbien, Kosovo und Makedonien*, PBF 14:12, Stuttgart 1999.

³ R. Vasic, *Die Nadeln im Zentralbalkan. Vojvodina, Serbien, Kosovo und Makedonien*, PBF 13:2, Stuttgart 2003.

⁴ U. Wels-Weyrauch, *Die Anhänger und Halsringe in Südwestdeutschland und Nordbayern*, PBF 11:1, München 1978; U. Wels-Weyrauch, *Die Anhänger in Südbayern*, PBF 11:5, Stuttgart 1991.

⁵ I. Kilian-Dirlmeier, *Anhänger in Griechenland von der mykenischen bis zur geometrischen Zeit (griechisches Festland, Ionische Inseln, dazu Albanien und Jugoslawisch Mazedonien)*, PBF 11:2, München 1979.

⁶ V. Furmanek, *Die Anhänger in der Slowakei*, PBF 11:3, München 1980; M. Navotná, *Halsringe und Diademe in der Slowakei*, PBF 11:4, München 1984.

⁷ M. Gedl, *Die Halsringe und Halskragen in Polen I (Frühe bis jüngere Bronzezeit)*, PBF 11:6, Stuttgart 2002.

museums and earlier publications concerned with them, of which, we are told, there is only a very small number. Later on in the same chapter we are given an overview of archaeological cultures and the chronology of the Bronze Age and the Early Bronze Age in Vojvodina, Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia illustrated with chronological tables for the individual regions.

As in every study, its main element is an inventory of the finds, presented in the form of a catalogue. It includes 235 complete neckrings and their fragments. The author also notes that his list may not be complete, and there may be more of these finds, in museum storage rooms and private collections. While this is quite likely we cannot hold this against him as this is a complaint one could make about nearly every study of this sort.

In his study Rastko Vasic distinguished four main neckring forms: plain and unornamented, plain and ornamented, twisted, neckrings with t-shaped terminals. Almost each of these four main groups is subdivided further into types, e.g., plain neckrings are distinguished into: forms with loop terminals, round of section with tapering terminals, D-sectioned with tapering terminals, with spiral terminals and with hook terminals. Ornamented neckrings are distinguished into round-sectioned forms, neckrings with a flat section and with flat-ended terminals. The twisted neckrings are separated into two sub-types: forms with loop terminals (in addition, we have here two smaller groups: a twisted neckring with smooth terminals and without smooth terminals) and pseudo-twisted forms. Finally, there are the neckrings with T-shaped terminals. The main criterion of classification used is the shape of the terminals and of the rod, and this is reflected in the terminology. In case of each of these types a brief description is given of its form, followed by a list of finds and their distribution range, interpretation of its possible function, chronology and culture attribution. Where possible, the neckrings from the study area are compared with forms known from outside the region, especially, areas bordering on it, but also from Central Europe.

It is notable that the author himself admits that his typology could have been made even more detailed but he did not want to obscure the picture or distinguish separate types on the basis only of a single find. Instead, the more exceptional forms were accorded more attention in the descriptive part.

This scope for developing a much more detailed typology is apparent particularly when it comes to the neckrings with T-shaped terminals. This is a relatively small group, represented here by 13 specimens. Next to the pseudo-twisted forms, which are the most dominant, there are also two plain forms (Nos. 219 and 226); a remarkable form with pendants attached to the rod (No. 224); also, a form with round-shaped thickenings on the rod (No. 225). Moreover, there are also neckrings with diamond-sectioned terminals and a round-sectioned body (Nos. 223, 230), one of them decorated on the terminals with engraved lines, the other lacking this ornament, which would give us two additional subgroups. With such an approach the resulting picture would really be obscure and lose some of its value. Not to mention that with each new find a further group could be distinguished, threatening to soon make the whole work outdated. We can only applaud the author's decision to significantly simplify his typology.

Next to the typological tables, in this section the author also discusses the representations of neckrings on anthropomorphic figurines from his study area. Here his approach is similar as in the case of the neckrings themselves: first the author gives a brief description of this type of figurine, their distribution in the area under analysis, and chronology (which coincides with the middle period of the Bronze Age). In the next section he focuses on the neckring forms which could be represented on the figurines and the function of figurines of this type in the society and on analogies with Central European finds.

After the descriptive section the author presents a rich selection of illustrations of the specimens discussed in his study. One minor shortcoming is that there are no illustrations of neckrings Nos. 117, 118, 119, specimens classified to the group of round-sectioned decorated neckrings. It is explained in the descriptive section that these neckrings are now missing and this amply explains the absence of their images. However, there is no change in the numbering of the figures to accommodate this fact and this may cause some confusion. On the other hand, it would have been hard to leave out information about these neckrings altogether, even if they are not longer available for study.

The section with the illustrations of the neckrings is followed by another, equally pertinent — the cartographic section where the author presents first, the distribution of all the discussed neckrings, followed by five maps presenting the distribution of key neckring forms in the study area.

At the end of the volume we find a table presenting the chronological position of all the finds and information about the region their origin. The table significantly contributes to organizing what is known at present about the neckrings and also makes it easy to identify relatively quickly forms that are characteristic for individual regions and time-periods. Which, given the considerable chronological span and scope of the study under review, makes it significantly easier to become acquainted with objects analysed in the study.

This may be a good place as any to present in brief one of the major achievements of this contribution, namely, the ranging of the neckrings by their chronology and culture attribution.

The earliest forms recorded in the region, dating to Br A1/2 - plain neckrings with loop terminals — are known only from Vojvodina. Their number is relatively small.

Starting from Br B, these neckrings start to appear in the western part of Serbia. Nevertheless the largest number of their finds in this region date only to Br C1/2. At this time they are no longer rare and are recorded in a larger number. Starting from the mature phase of the Middle Bronze the first ornamented neckrings make their appearance, their ornamentation imitating the style known from Central Europe. A form which appears for the first time during this period is a highly distinctive neckring with curving out spiral terminals. A form introduced during Br D is a neckring with a D-sectioned body, this modification introduced arguably to making the neckring flatter to make more room for the decoration.

Starting from late Br D we observe the return to Vojvodina (there are no neckrings in this region throughout the entire middle period of the Bronze Age) of plain neckrings with loop terminals. What is interesting is that this new popularity of neckrings in Vojvodina does not always go hand in hand with quality, and quite a few of these specimens are very slender and bent forms, not likely to be too attractive. However, both here and everywhere in western Serbia we see appear large and heavy neckrings.

During Ha1/2 in western Serbia twisted neckrings enter the archaeological record, and pseudo-twisted forms as well. At first they are not too large but with time they become more chunky. Starting from Ha B this form becomes especially popular in eastern Serbia, where previously neckrings were not in use, and from this area they spread farther afield, to southern Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia.

The youngest form are neckrings with T-shaped terminals, very diverse and very chunky forms. Also, the neckrings with loop terminals may be seen to become more chunky and continue in this form until the sixth century BC

The next indisputable strong point of Rastko Vasic's study is the sub-chapter on anthropomorphic figurines, which are dated here mostly to the middle period of the

Bronze Age. The author ponders the function of this type of figurine and suggests that they may be representations of deities 'Idol of Klicevac'. A rather important question which is addressed here is the form of the neckrings worn by the deities: were they chunky neckrings with loop terminals or a form with spiral terminals? What makes this matter of particular interest is that — in contrast to the analysed region, where no finds of heavy neckrings with spiral terminals are recorded — these were popular in central Germany, where they supposedly were a symbol of high social status⁸. But, equally well, this could have been a form with spiral terminals and outcurving terminals, which are noted in the study area. Discussing the neckring represented on the Idol of Kličevac Rastko Vasic is inclined to interpret it as the latter form.

Some discussion is also given to the styles of ornamentation of the neckrings and the change in the manner of decoration, and regional differences. It is interesting also that the author identifies a clear link between the style of decoration of neckrings and bracelets.

Another question addressed in the study is that of the existence of local centres of production. This is intimated by the purely local forms as the round-sectioned neckrings with tapering or flat-ended terminals, and neckrings with a D-sectioned body and flat-ended terminals. Nevertheless while he points to the possibility of the local production of some of these ornaments the author does little to investigate their raw material. The reader is not told whether it was local or had to be sourced elsewhere. There is no mention either whether the local resources could have supplied the necessary raw materials. There is no analysis of the chemical composition of the neckrings, which could help provide answers to some of these questions. Addressing this issue would be extremely interesting, not least because it might help in reconstructing the trade routes. What is also omitted is a discussion of the purely technological issues associated with the manufacture of this type of ornament.

In sum, the volume under review is an important source publication and represents a good point of departure for future research. Also, it is a valuable supplement to the sources pertaining to the Balkans region, which up to now used to be a blank spot. In a future perspective it is obviously advisable to extend the study area to other Balkan regions, e.g. Romania and Bulgaria. There is also evident need for a more extensive study of purely technological issues like the process of manufacture of the neckrings or the sourcing of the raw material needed for their production.

Wojciech Rajpold

Address of the Author
Instytut Archeologii
Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego
St. Moniuszki 10
35-015 Rzeszów, Polska
e-mail: wojtek-rajpold@wp.pl

⁸ A. Hänsel, B. Hänsel, *Herrscherinsignien der älteren Urnenfelderzeit. Ein Gefäßdepot aus dem Saalegebiet Mitteldeutschlands*, *Acta Praehistorica et Archaeologica*, 29 (1997), p. 39–68.

Nina Lau, *Pilgramsdorf/Pielgrzymowo. Ein Fundplatz der römischen Kaiserzeit in Nordmasowien. Eine Studie zu Archivalien, Grabsitten und Fundbestand*, Studien zur Siedlungsgeschichte und Archäologie der Ostseegebiete 11, Wachholtz Verlag, Neumünster 2012, 219 Seiten; ISBN 978-3529013713.

Die kaiserzeitlichen Prunkgräber sind wichtige Quellen für die Kontakte zwischen dem Römischen Reich und den Eliten im Barbaricum. Sie geben auch Zeugnis darüber, welche Veränderungen und Wechselwirkungen jenseits des Limes stattfanden. Darauf deuten jene Veränderungen bei manchen Völkern bzw. in manchen Gebieten, die sich im archäologischen Fundmaterial widerspiegeln. Sie manifestieren sich in den Bestattungssitten und in der Zusammensetzung der Beigaben, welche bei der vergleichenden Betrachtung anderer Gräber und Gräberfelder wichtige Informationen für die Erforschung dieser Epoche bieten können. Die Prunkgräberforschung erhielt ab den 1990er Jahren durch die Entdeckung der Gräber von Mušov (Tschechische Republik) und Gommern (Deutschland) neue Impulse. Die Analyse und Interpretation dieser Gräber und ihrer Beigaben führte unvermeidlich zu einer neuen kritischen Aufarbeitung jener Prunkgräber, die vor dem Zweiten Weltkrieg, hauptsächlich aber im 19. Jahrhundert, entdeckt worden waren. Dazu gehören zum Beispiel die Gräber von Sackrau/Zakrzów (Polen) und Stráže (Slowakei)¹. Diese Arbeiten wurden durch die Zerstörungen des Zweiten Weltkrieges deutlich erschwert. Bei der Neuaufnahme steht man oft vor dem Problem, dass der Großteil der Funde und oft auch alle Beigaben nicht mehr zur Verfügung stehen. In dieser Hinsicht kann der Ausgrabungsdokumentation, also Berichten, Fotos und Zeichnungen, eine wichtige Bedeutung zugemessen werden. Leider gehört zu diesen zerstörten Grabinventaren auch die Bestattung von Pilgramsdorf (Pielgrzymowo, Polen), deren kritische Bearbeitung und Veröffentlichung Nina Lau unternahm.

Obwohl das Grab von Pilgramsdorf/Pielgrzymowo in Masowien das östlichste Prunkgrab der jüngeren römischen Kaiserzeit ist, liefert seine wissenschaftliche Bearbeitung — insbesondere der Bestattungssitten und der erhaltenen Beigaben — wichtige neue Informationen und Ergänzungen über die mitteldonauländischen Bestattungen. Der Rezensent des Buches weist darauf hin, wie eng die Kontakte zwischen dem Karpatenbecken und Nordeuropa in der Römerzeit waren.

Die Publikation von Nina Lau geht auf ihre Magisterarbeit von 2003 zurück, die erst fast ein Jahrzehnt später, mit neuen Funden und Literaturangaben ergänzt, veröffentlicht wurde. Die Autorin bearbeitete darin nicht nur das Prunkgrab und seine Beigaben, sondern beschäftigte sich auch mit den Ausgrabungen, die nach der Freilegung des ersten Hügels durchgeführt wurden. Ihre Arbeit wurde dadurch erschwert,

¹ Siehe dazu den Vorbericht: D. Quast, *Wanderer zwischen den Welten. Die germanischen Prunkgräber von Stráže und Zakrzów*, Mainz 2009.

dass die Funde und die Überreste der Kammer im Zweiten Weltkrieg verloren gingen. Glücklicherweise kam die Grabungsdokumentationen bei der Inventur des Prussia-Archivs in Berlin zum Vorschein, so dass die Autorin diese Angaben in ihre Arbeit einarbeiten konnte. Dank der Archivalien war so — wie auch bei anderen Fundstellen — eine kritische Neubearbeitung der Hügelgräber und ihrer Beigaben möglich².

Am Anfang des Jahres 1937 begann der Grundbesitzer mit dem Abbau von Steinen auf dem Hügel in Pilgramsdorf. Diesen ließ der damalige Assistent der vorgeschichtlichen Abteilung des Prussia-Museums Dieter Bohnsack, der in der Nähe eine Ausgrabung leitete, jedoch schnell einstellen. Im Sommer legte er den mit Steinen bedeckten Hügel frei, der bereits in der Antike beraubt worden war, worauf ein sekundärer Schacht hindeutete. Trotz der Beraubung befanden sich einige Beigaben im Grab, darunter ein schwerer Goldarmring mit Kolbenenden, der neben der Holzkammer die herausragende Stellung der bestatteten Person anzeigt. Neben den Beigaben widmete sich Lau auch der Dokumentation des Kammergrabes und der Rettung der Archivalien. Über das Grab und seine Beigaben standen nur die Artikel von Bohnsack zur Verfügung, weil eine gründliche Bearbeitung wegen des Krieges unterblieb³. Die Entdeckung des Prunkgrabes führte dazu, dass Bohnsack noch zwei weitere Hügel erforschen musste und dann später W. Hülle im Auftrag des Reichsamtes für Vorgeschichte der NSDAP ein weiteres Hügelgrab freilegte. Die sensationellen Funde blieben dort jedoch aus⁴. Die Grabkammer wurde als Totenhaus rekonstruiert⁵. Diese Rekonstruktion, die Überreste der Kammer und die Beigaben wurden im Grenzlandmuseum von Neidenburg (Nidzica, Polen) ausgestellt⁶. Über die Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen standen die Beiträge zur Verfügung, die bei der Bearbeitung der Fundstelle von der Verfasserin mit der Grabungsdokumentation aus dem Archiv der Prussia-Sammlung ergänzt wurden. Der erste Teil ihres Buches enthält die Darstellung der Hügel und ihrer Funde, sowie die Untersuchung von Grabsitten, Beigaben und Befunden. Der zweite Teil umfasst einen Katalog über die Hügelgräber und Beigaben. In der Einführung wird die Topographie und Lage der Fundstelle (S. 11–14) sowie die Forschungsgeschichte dargelegt (S. 14–16). Hier unterstreicht die Verfasserin, welche politische Bedeutung das Prunkgrab hatte, da die bestattete Person für einen „germanischen Gaufürst[en]“ gehalten wurde (S. 15). Weil die Funde seit dem Zweiten Weltkrieg verschollen sind, kommt der Grabungsdokumentation aus dem Archiv der Prussia-Sammlung eine sehr wichtige Rolle zu. Die Verfasserin behandelt die Geschichte des Archivs im Abschnitt über die Quellen ausführlich (S. 17–20). Hier müssen wir aber eine quellenkritische Anmerkung anführen. Es wäre gut gewesen, wenn sie ausführlich und nachvollziehbar jene Einzelheiten dargestellt hätte, welche neuen Angaben die Archivalien im Vergleich zu den früheren, bekanntesten Beiträgen beinhalten (S. 21–22). Hier wäre auch genug Platz für die Veröffentlichung

² Über die Möglichkeiten der Archivforschung: P. Prohászka, *Das vandalische Königsgrab von Osztrópataka (Ostrovany, SK)*, Monumenta Germanorum archaeologica Hungariae: Monumenta Vandalica 3, Budapest 2006.

³ D. Bohnsack, *Ein ostgermanisches Fürstengrab bei Pilgramsdorf in Ostpreußen*, Germanenerbe 2 (1937), S. 258–261; mit etwas ausführlicherer Beschreibung: D. Bohnsack, *Neue Germanengräber in Pilgramsdorf, Kr. Neidenburg*, Nachrichtenblatt für Deutsche Vorzeit 15 (1939), S. 291–296. Seine grundlegendste Arbeit mit Fotos der kleinen Beigaben: *Die Germanen im Kreise Neidenburg unter Berücksichtigung der neuesten Funde*, Alt-Preussen 3 (1938), S. 75–79.

⁴ W. Hülle, *Ein ostgermanisches Hügelgrab bei Pilgramsdorf*, Mannus 32 (1940), S. 154–165.

⁵ H. Phleps, *Die Bauart des Totenhauses eines gotischen Gaufürsten in Pilgramsdorf bei Neidenburg*, Mannus 31 (1939), S. 399–411.

⁶ W. La Baume, *Das Grenzlandmuseum in Neidenburg*. Alt-Preussen 8 (1943), S. 63–64.

dieser Berichte gewesen. Immerhin liefern die Zeichnungen und Fotos im Tafelteil wichtige und neue Informationen über die Hügelgräber und ihre Beigaben.

Die Einführung folgen jene Abschnitte über die Hügelgräber und die Analyse der Funde. Dem Hügelgrab HG 1 mit dem Prunkgrab widmet die Autorin dabei die größte Aufmerksamkeit. In der Mitte des Hügels mit 27 m Durchmesser und einer ungefähren Höhe von 2 m deutete eine trichterförmige Eintiefung auf eine sekundäre Öffnung des Grabes. Nach dem Abtragen der Erde kam eine 2,5 m mächtige und 1 m hohe Steinpackung in Zentrum zum Vorschein. In der Mitte des Hügels, 1,25 m unter dem ehemaligen Lauffhorizont, stießen die Ausgräber auf den vollständig erhaltenen Grundrahmen einer hölzernen Grabkammer, die bis auf eine Höhe von etwa 20 cm erhalten geblieben war. Die Kammer mit Nord-Süd-Orientierung hatte eine Länge von 2,84 m und eine Breite von 1,96 m. Sie wurde von Phleps als Hausform rekonstruiert⁷. In der Kammer wurde der Tote auf einer hölzernen Liege oder in einem Brettsarg bestattet. Zu den Umständen und dem Zeitpunkt der Graböffnung bringt die Verfasserin mehrere Interpretationsmöglichkeiten, aber ob der goldene Armring absichtlich oder zufällig von den Räubern zurückgelassen wurde, lässt sich nur schwerlich entscheiden (S. 27–30). Im Anschluss an die Auswertung der Befunde beschäftigt sie sich ausführlich mit den Beigaben. Ihre Analysen stützen sich auf die veröffentlichten Fotos und die Zeichnungen aus der Grabungsdokumentation. Ein Keramikbruchstück aus dem Grab gehört zu einer weitmundigen Schale, von der Art, wie sie in der Stufe C2 in der Wielbark-Kultur verwendet wurde (S. 31–32). Das Bodenteil eines Glasgefäßes gehört zu einer dünnwandigen Glasschale mit Facettenschliff der sogenannten Variante Hågerup (Typ E 216), einem in der Stufe C2 verbreiteten Typ. Hier müssen wir aber auf die Arbeiten von László Barkóczy über diese Schalen hinweisen, die von der Verfasserin nicht zitiert wurden⁸. Im Grab befand sich ein vollständig erhaltener Holzdeckel mit einem Durchmesser von 35 cm. Holzgefäße kommen oft zwischen den Beigaben der jungkaiserzeitlichen und frühvölkerwanderungszeitlichen Prunkgräber (s. Gommern) vor. Nach der originalen Fundzeichnung befand sich im Grab eine bogenförmige Fibel mit einer nicht geradlinig auf die Nadel weisende, sondern in einem flachen Winkel zum Bügel hin verlaufenden Nadelrast, was auf einer falschen Rekonstruktion gründet. Die Verfasserin schlägt eine andere Rekonstruktion vor, nach der die Fibel die charakteristische geschweifte Bügelform von Fibeln mit umgeschlagenen Fuß der ebenfalls eingliedrigen Fibeltypen Almgren VI, 158, 159, und 166 zeigt, die typisch für die jüngere Kaiserzeit in Nordmasowien im Verbreitungsgebiet der Przeworsk-Kultur sind (39 und Taf. 13, 2b). Hinsichtlich der Datierung des Grabes spielen die Gürtelzubehöre (drei silberne Schnallen, eine bronzene und eine eiserne Schnalle sowie drei silberne Riemenbeschläge) eine besonders wichtige Rolle (S. 46–50). Nach Auffassung der Verfasserin befanden sich zwei Gürtelgarnituren im Grab, deren silberne Bestandteile mit Stempelornamentik des Sösdala-Stils verziert waren, und deswegen wurde das Grab an die Wende von Stufe D1 zu D2 datiert⁹. Die Verfasserin bringt manche Parallelen dafür, dass alle Motive des Sösdala-Stils schon bei skandinavischen Metallarbeiten in der jüngeren römischen Kaiserzeit vertreten sind (S. 54–55), damit sie eine spätere Datierung wider-

⁷ H. Phleps, *Die Bauart des Totenhauses...*, 404, Abb. 8–10.

⁸ L. Barkóczy, *Pannonische Glasfunde in Ungarn*, Studia Archaeologica 9, Budapest 1988, 64. Auch zu ihrer Chronologie und Verbreitung in Pannonien: L. Barkóczy, *A 3. század első feléből származó vésett díszű üvegek Pannoniában*, *AE* 113 (1986), S. 166–189.

⁹ A. Kokowski, *Die Masłomęcz-Gruppe. Ihre Chronologie und Beziehungen innerhalb des gotischen Kulturkreises — Ein Beispiel für den kulturellen Wandel der Goten im Verlauf ihrer Wanderungen*, *BRGK* 78 (1997), S. 641–833, hier 730.

legen kann. Die wichtigste Beigabe des Grabes ist der massive, goldene Kolbenarmring, der mit seinem Gewicht von 235 g als der schwerste dieser Epoche gilt. Obwohl solche Armringe mit kolbenförmigen Enden schon in den sarmatischen Gräbern des 1. Jahrhunderts auftreten, verschwinden sie aus dem Fundmaterial des Barbaricums bis zum 3. Jahrhundert¹⁰. Die Verfasserin versucht das erneute Erscheinen der Kolbenarmringe bzw. die Rolle der Armringe darzulegen, deren Ursprünge höchstwahrscheinlich im Römischen Reich liegen (55–60)¹¹. Die germanischen Eliten erhielten als Auszeichnung goldene Schmuckstücke, darunter Arm- und Halsringe (s. die beiden Ringe im Grab von Osztrópataka), die sich im Barbaricum als Statussymbol etablierten. Den Katalogteil der Arbeit müssen wir jedoch etwas korrigieren (S. 125–127). Der Armring aus dem sogenannten Hort von Moigrad (jud. Salaj, Ro; S. 126, Nr. 41)¹² ist Teil eines kupferzeitlichen Hortes¹³. Zu ergänzen wären noch die Exemplare aus Baja¹⁴ oder das Stück von Kiskörös Csonthalom-dűlő, die beide in die frühe Völkerwanderungszeit zu datieren sind¹⁵. Im Grab fanden sich auch die Überreste eines Spielbrettes sowie ein Spielstein, wie sie auch in anderen Prunkgräbern Europas vorkommen. Glücklicherweise waren die Textilien aus dem Grab damals untersucht worden, so dass der Bericht darüber zur Verfügung stand. Anhand der Beigaben ordnete die Verfasserin das Grab in die Reihe der jungkaiserzeitlichen (C2) Prunkgräber, was aufgrund ihrer gründlichen Fundanalyse akzeptiert werden kann (S. 66–68).

Die Autorin untersucht darüber hinaus auch die anderen freigelegten Hügel, die aber keine so reichen Funde enthielten wie das Hügelgrab 1. Das etwa 50 m östlich vom ersten gelegene Hügelgrab 2 war ebenfalls beraubt. Es blieben nur einige Keramikscherben und mehrere Glasfragmente erhalten, die zu einem dickwandigen konischen Glasbecher mit Facettenschliff gehörten, der in die Stufe C3 datiert wird, was auch die Datierung des Grabes in die Stufe C3/D1 belegt (S. 68–71). Das dritte Hügelgrab befand sich etwa 500 m von den beiden zuvor genannten Hügelgräbern entfernt am Ufer der Neide (Nida, Polen; S. 71–73). Bei der Freilegung kamen auch hier eine Steinpackung und ein kreisrunder Steinkranz zum Vorschein, Spuren einer Grabgrube wurden hingegen nicht festgestellt. Stattdessen fand sich ohne Befundzusammenhang zwischen dem Nordost- und Nordwestquadranten auf dem Hügelboden eine Leichenbrandkonzentration, eine weitere wurde in der Nähe des Steinkranzes beobachtet. Innerhalb der ersten Leichenbrandkonzentration kamen zwei Fragmente eines Knochenkammes und eine kleine schwarzgraue Scherbe ans Tageslicht. Die Fragmente gehören zu einem zweiteiligen, einlagigen Knochenkamm, einem in den Stufen B2/C1–C1 verbreiteten Kammtyp. Das vierte Hügelgrab lag 24 m östlich vom Hügelgrab I und besaß ebenfalls eine Steinpackung. Zu den Funden stehen nur kurze Beschreibungen zur Verfügung, nach denen das Grab in das 3. und 4. Jahrhundert datierbar ist (S. 73–74). Der Abschnitt wird durch eine regionale kulturgeschichtliche Einordnung der Hügel-

¹⁰ P. Prohászka, *Das vandalische Königsgrab von Osztrópataka...*, 68.

¹¹ V. A. Maxfield, *The military decorations of the roman army*, London 1981, 236–251.

¹² N. Fettich, *La Trouvaille de Tombe princière Hunique a Szeged-Nagyszéksós*, *Archaeologia Hungarica* 32, Budapest 195, 161, 164, Taf. 46:1–2.

¹³ Siehe darüber detailliert: I. Bóna, *Gepida fejedelmi sír Tiszaszőlősen? A moigrádi kincs hamis népvándorláskori aranyairól*, *A Veszprém Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei* 18 (1986), S. 95–112, hier 107.

¹⁴ A. Kiss, *Régészeti és numizmatikai adatok a Duna-Tisza-köz 5. század második felének és a 6. század első felének településtörténetéhez*, Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve. *Studia Archaeologica* 4 (1998), S. 189–193, bes. S. 191, 193, Abb. 2.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, Abb. 3.

gräber abgeschlossen (S. 74–82). Anhand von Aufbau und Struktur gehören sie in die Reihe der Hügelgräber der Wielbark-Kultur. Besonders interessant ist jener Teil der Arbeit, in dem sich die Autorin mit dem Kammergrab im überregionalen Vergleich beschäftigt, weil für die Prunkgräber die Errichtung einer Kammer charakteristisch ist. In dieser Hinsicht ist das von Archäologen freigelegte Kammergrab von Poprad besonders wichtig, weil dort die Holzbalken vollständig erhalten geblieben sind¹⁶. Anhand der Kammer und Beigaben gehört das Hügelgrab 1 zu den Prunkgräbern des 3. Jahrhunderts.

Die Verfasserin setzt sich ferner mit den Gruben auseinander, die im Bereich der Hügelgräber entdeckt wurden. Sie werden von ihr in die jüngere und ältere Kaiserzeit datiert, aber nach den Keramikfunden bestätigen die meisten eine Besiedlung während der Przeworsk-Kultur (S. 87–96). Die Befunde mit Steinkreisstrukturen sind älter als die Hügelgräber und gehören höchstwahrscheinlich zu Gräberfeldern der Przeworsk-Kultur, die von der Verfasserin mit einigen Beispielen belegt werden (S. 97–100). Zum Schluss ordnet sie den Fundplatz in den kulturhistorischen Kontext ein und zeigt die Veränderungen und Einflüsse im Laufe der Kaiserzeit in diesem Raum auf. Ihrer Meinung nach wurden die ersten Bestattungen der Wielbark-Kultur in Pilgramsdorf in der Stufe B2–C1/C1a angelegt, aber das Gebiet noch bis in die Stufe C3 und D1 als Bestattungsplatz genutzt (S. 101–104). Im Anhang der Publikation finden sich neben den Fundlisten der Befund- und Fundkatalog (S. 147–161). Im Tafelteil des Buches bringt die Autorin neben den historischen Fotos aus den Artikeln der 1930er Jahre auch einige Archivalien aus dem Archiv des Prussia-Museums (wie bei Tafel 1 oder den Fotos zu den Ausgrabungen), sowie neue Karten der Fundstellen und Rekonstruktionen der Gräber und Funde.

Das Buch von Nina Lau ist eine willkommene und lang erwartete Bereicherung zur Aufarbeitung der Fundstelle und der Funde von Pilgramsdorf sowie zur Prunkgräberforschung allgemein. Der Verfasserin gelang es mit Hilfe der Archivalien, die Fundumstände zu rekonstruieren und dabei auch die problematischen Fragen hinsichtlich der Datierung zu klären.

Péter Prohászka

Anschrift des Verfassers

József Attila 2

2500 Esztergom, Magyarország

e-mail: prohaszkapeter1975@gmail.com

¹⁶ K. Pieta, *Das germanische Fürstengrab aus Poprad-Matejovce*, [in:] U. von Freedon, H. Friesinger, E. Warmers (eds.), *Glaube, Kult und Herrschaft. Phänomene des religiösen im 1. Jahrtausend n. Chr. in Mittel- und Nordeuropa. Akten des 59. Internationalen Sachsensymposium und der Grundprobleme der frühgeschichtlichen Entwicklung im Mitteldonauraum*, Kolloquien zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte 12, Bonn 2009, S. 107–122, hier 113.

Macht der Goldes, Gold der Macht. Herrschafts- und Jenseitsrepräsentation zwischen Antike und Frühmittelalter im mittleren Donaauraum, edited by Matthias Hardt, Orsolya Heinrich-Tamáska, *Forschungen zu Spätantike und Mittelalter* 2, Weinstadt 2013, pp. 544; ISBN 978-3-86705-071-5.

The second volume of the *Forschungen zu Spätantike und Mittelalter* series is the outcome of the 23rd conference: *Internationalen Symposium der Grundprobleme der frühgeschichtlichen Entwicklung im mittleren Donaauraum* held at Tengelic, Hungary, on November 16–19, 2011. The conference and the consecutive post-conference volumes published within a number of different series (e.g., *Spisy Archeologického Ústavu av ČR Brno*) for many years have been enriching our knowledge about the complex cultural situation in the region on the Middle Danube during the La Tène, Roman and Migration Periods. Each of the post-conference volumes had a certain leading theme. In the volume under review this themes are gold, as a symbol and emanation of power, and structures of power themselves. The authors who worked out the idea of the conference adopted a broad chronological framework, which was not a rule at the previous symposia but rather an intentional choice. The 28 articles in the volume present a broad gamut of subjects, embracing, i.a., the archaeological evidence of the formation of power structures, goldsmiths' workshops, symbols of power, gold as remuneration (a generally accepted equivalent), used also for paying tributes. Also the techniques used in goldsmithing as well as the manifestations of *imitatio imperii* have been analysed. It should be noted that the catchy title of this volume is not reflected by its contents, as they subjects addressed are not so much gold as precious metals. As the conference took place in Hungary, a considerable amount of space was devoted to the archaeology of that country. As is often the case, the volume presents new materials, many of them at an early stage of analysis, albeit a very competent one, but deserving quick publication. Unfortunately, not all the 'flagship' materials have been included: the famous Late Avarian assemblage of vessels from Nagyszentmiklós has been omitted. This assemblage was presented at the conference but as there were plans of presenting it in a separate publication it was not included in the present volume (which is a pity because a concise analysis would have made this publication more complete).

Least amount of space was devoted to the La Tène period. In the only article concerned with this period Jiří Militký and Maciej Karwowski discuss the coin minting activity of the Boii, evidenced in the Czech Basin and possibly, also in Slovakia. The analysis of the numismatic and archaeological evidence allowed the authors to conclude that the Boii mined their gold locally and next distributed it across their region but that their silver was imported. The production of heavy silver coins is documented for the borderland sites, which made the authors suppose that the Boii area, as the fore-

front of the eastern Celtic minting zone, in fact had a bi-metallic coinage. It is difficult to explain why precious metals were used exclusively to make coins: the authors assume that this was due to the special, possibly religious, meaning of gold in the Celtic Boii community.

Several articles focus on precious metal objects of Roman provincial manufacture. Thomas Fischer sums up the knowledge about Roman military belts, drawing attention to the use of belt fittings made of precious metals and, not less importantly, looks into the Barbarian influences. The finds of complete sets of fittings of military belts in inhumation and cremation burials in the Danubian provinces from the 2nd half of the 2nd century are connected to the adaptation of Germanic burial rites and also, the recruitment of the Germans into the Roman army. The author notes that during the 3rd century, next to silver cingulum fittings, belts with gold mounts are also in evidence. This may have been the result of the adoption of Barbarian techniques. This may have also caused changes in the construction of buckles inspired since the turn of the 3rd and 4th centuries by designs known in the northern Barbaricum.

The small and fairly random collection of Roman gold jewellery finds from antique Gerulata (Rusovce), mostly found in Roman sepulchral contexts, is discussed in the article by Miroslava Daňová. This is an introductory study and does not present, i.a., the results of archaeometry analyses. Zsolt Visy, in turn, takes up the subject of the hoard of Seuso (named after the inscription with such a name which is seen on one of the vessels) which 'appeared' at an auction house in 1991. The author tentatively indicates Kőszárhegy in Pannonia as the find spot, rounds off the hoard with earlier finds (the four-legged table from Polgárdi) and dates the assemblage to the 2nd half of the 4th century. This dating and the attempt to link the hoard to actual historical events seem premature however, since at the moment only a minor part of the hoard is available to researchers and the character of the discovery itself is unclear.

A separate group of papers deals with Barbarian-Roman contacts as seen from the Germanic perspective. Alois Stuppner revisits the well-known 4th–5th century Suebian centre of power in Oberleiserberg in Lower Austria, the site of discovery of residential and ceremonial architecture modelled on Roman solutions both in its design and function. These materials have already been presented by the author¹ in various publications, so the article included in this volume is of a secondary character and brings few new insights. Much more new information is contributed by the article of Vladimír Varsík and Titus Kolník (the Slovak version of this text — published in German in the reviewed volume — was published elsewhere²) about the Quadi elite residence at Cífer-Pác. The authors present a tentative summary and interpretation of long-term excavations of a settlement situated between Roman military bases. It is possible to identify at this site the alleged residence, complete with stone foundations and a heating system, and a separate stockade outside, with stone foundations of a smaller structure, pottery workshops and a loom. The collaboration of the Romans in building this residence is confirmed by i.a., the discovery of Roman stamps on the bricks; the authors mention many other indications of strong ties with the Romans suggesting that the latter supported the Quadi elites of the 4th century. The last article in this group is a study by Kristian Elschek of the Early Roman princely grave No. 6/2010 identified at Zohor.

¹ Cf. Footnote No. 1 in his paper.

² Cf. V. Varsík, T. Kolník, *Cífer-Pác. Nové poznatky o neskoroantickom sídle kvádskej elity*, [in:] B. Komoróczy (ed.), *Sociální diferenciacie barbarských komunit ve světle nových hrobových, sídlištních a sběrových nálezů*, Archeologie barbarů 2011, Spisy Arch. Ústavu AV ČR Brno 44, Brno 2014, p. 277–292.

Although the interpretation of this feature as a rich grave of the Lubieszewo horizon may raise some reservations³, the author has aptly presented not only the grave goods but also a broader settlement and historical background of the discovery, comparing these to similar finds made at Zohor, Vysoká pri Morave, and Neuruppersdorf. Certainly, in the future the assemblage should be analysed at a greater depth, all its elements discussed in more detail, but at the current stage of research the article provides a valid and competent introduction of some very important materials⁴. The finds associated with the Quadi are also the subject matter of the article by Ján Rajtár, who reports on gold artefacts discovered in the territory inhabited by this people. In the historical analysis, preceded by a discussion of the context, deposits of natural resources in Slovakia are presented, in the awareness that gold could have been imported from the Roman Empire in the form of coins, mechanisms of their influx are taken into account. Some of the better known finds are described, i.a., the snake-headed bracelet from grave No. 5 at Zohor (said to have been made in the Quadi environment during the Flavian period and deposited in the grave after extended use at the turn of the 1st and 2nd centuries)⁵, the pendant from Hurbanovo from the 1st century (with Sarmatian connotations indicated), gold and gilded brooches from the princely graves of the Zakrzów horizon at Krakovany-Straže or, a similarly dated, unique Quadi bracelet from Beckov. One new discovery is also presented: a gold Roman phalera from Biňa, decorated with a representation of a lion's head, attributed to the period of the Marcomannic wars (this interpretation, although seemingly obvious, has been overused). The author also presents gilded brooches, type Almgren 129, from various sites, in general explaining correctly their presence in terms of the influences from the Przeworsk culture, although the Wielbark culture, or even the West Balt cultures, are taken into account⁶. Nevertheless, he links these finds to women's burials, which does not seem to be plausible since in the Przeworsk culture these forms are seen also in graves containing weapons, and this applies to the West Balt cultures too, while in the region on the Middle Danube they are found in a military context⁷.

Finds of precious metals in rich grave assemblages of the Lubieszewo horizon are discussed by Jan Schuster who begins with a critique of M. Gebühr's definition of

³ Cf. J. Schuster's article, p. 153.

⁴ Finds from Zohor has been presented lately in another paper, i.e., K. Elschek, *Sekundäre Romanisierung der Germanen an der unteren March im Limesvorfeld von Carnuntum und ein neues germanisches Fürstengrab der Lübsow-Gruppe aus Zohor*, *Archaeologia Austriaca* 96 (2012), p. 71–94.

⁵ This culture attribution is somewhat dubious given the similarity of this find to forms known from the Wielbark culture and Scandinavia, (e.g., E. Blume, *Die germanischen Stämme und die Kulturen zwischen Oder und Passarge zur römischen Kaiserzeit*, Mannus-Bibliothek 8, Würzburg 1912, vol. I, *Text*, p. 64–65; T. Wójcik, *Pomorskie formy bransolet węzowatych z okresu rzymskiego*, *Materiały Zachodniopomorskie* 24 (1978 [1982]), p. 35–109), of which the author is aware. The northern influence is especially noticeable in the influx from the North to the central-European Barbaricum of objects made of precious metal (cf. J. Schuster's article in the reviewed volume), and in the Danubian areas they may have manifested themselves already before the Marcomannic wars, which is evidenced by a series of finds typical of the Przeworsk culture, which has been assigned, quite unjustifiably, the rank of a Danubian group of the Przeworsk culture (see M. Olędzki, *Naddunajska grupa kultury przeworskiej w świetle analizy materiałów archeologicznych*, *Acta Universitatis Lodzianensis – Folia Archaeologica* 20 (1996), p. 49–67).

⁶ See e.g. M. Mączyńska, *Der frühvölkerwanderungszeitliche Hortfund aus Łubiana, Kreis Köstlerzyna (Pommern)*, *BRGK* 90 (2009 [2011]), p. 62–63 (with a list of references).

⁷ See M. Mączyńska, *op. cit.*, p. 58–59, Fig. 25, list No. 15.

a horizon⁸, stressing the lack of consistent criteria of assessing which graves belong to it. A very detailed study of decorative motifs and construction details, with clever use made of the method of artefacts distribution analysis, allowed this author to indicate a number of connections with the North, e.g., the fact that the woman buried in grave A at Łęg Piekarski came from the western Baltic littoral, or that the woman buried at Profen in Central Germany and another, at Altengotten in Thuringia, came from the northern Barbaricum. The presence of precious metal artefacts made in the northern Barbaricum in graves of the Lubieszewo horizon (to some extent, this also applies to the 'royal' grave discovered at Mušov) may be explained by, e.g., the physical presence of women from the north. Unfortunately, the author has not suggested a more in-depth interpretation of this phenomenon.

Dieter Quast discusses the assemblage of gold objects from Černivci in western Ukraine. Next to a Germanic bracelet, the hoard included a Sarmatian pendant (the mixed character of this assemblage dated to Phase C₂ is understandable in the territory of the Cherniakhiv/Sintana-de-Mureş culture). The author surmises that rich graves are not known in this environment and that social status was expressed by hoarding, similarly as in Sweden where many artefacts were ritually destroyed before deposition. The second valuable part of this paper brings a discussion of gold bracelets, type *Kolbenarmring*. Dieter Quast analyses the weights, contexts, and chronology of these bracelets; he also notes that stamped and *punctim* inscriptions are seen on some of them (the latter indicate their value according to the Roman system of weights). Basing on the above data it may be assumed that in the times of Constantine, Roman officials were paying Barbarian military leaders not only with coins, but also in the way they liked better: with gold rings.

Péter Proszászka devotes his article to a single artefact: a gold brooch, decorated with filigree, discovered at Oláhpián in Transylvania. He claims that the brooch, now in the British Museum, is an analogy to the fibula from the rich grave of the Zakrzów horizon found at Ostrovany/Osztrópataka, but this need not necessarily be so: this specimen has a hinged construction, which identifies it as a probable Roman product. At the same time, similar forms (although not identical to the Ostrovany find) are known also from the Lubieszewo horizon (Lubieszewo, Sandberg 1⁹), i.e., they date to the Early Roman Period.

Two articles focus on Sarmatian finds. Eszter Istvánovits and Valéria Kulcsár propose to identify Sarmatian elite graves in the Carpathian Basin, which is not easy as most of these have been plundered, which is something the authors themselves admit. However, it also seems possible to me, at least in theoretically, that the graves were reopened intentionally, for ritual purposes, and not only to be robbed. The graves (mostly women's) containing gold artefacts are dated almost invariably to the 'gold horizon', i.e., the earliest Sarmatian settlement phase. Other indications of wealth such as barrow burials, sometimes surrounded by a ditch, or with a wooden/stone burial chamber, have been discovered in eastern Hungary. Sceptres are thought to be, basing on written accounts, another indication of elite status. In the second, important article David Zs. Schwarcz discusses very competently the remains, unique in the Sarmatian environment, of bronze- and goldsmiths' workshops identified in the settlement site at Tiszaföldvár-Téglagyár. Having analysed in detail individual categories of archaeological sources

⁸ M. Gebühr, *Zur Definition älterkaiserzeitlicher Fürstengräber vom Lübsow-Typ*, *Prähistorische Zeitschrift* 49 (1974), p. 82–128.

⁹ J. Schuster, *Lübsow. Älterkaiserzeitliche Fürstengräber im nördlichen Mitteleuropa*, *Bonner Beiträge zur vor- und frühgeschichtlichen Archäologie* 12, Bonn 2010, p. 66–67, Pl. 56:1, 123:12.

this author has successfully identified workshops, storage and waste pits. He has also made some detailed reconstructions of the production methods, which were based on traditions different from those in use in the Roman provinces. Another of his findings is that Roman scrap metal was used in this environment. There is no discussion of metallography analyses in the article as they are to be made in the future.

Zsófia Masek takes up the important, and neglected, subject of pottery vessels from the Early Migration Period discovered in the eastern part of the Middle Danube basin. This category of finds links the grave goods discovered in elite burials with the population of lesser rank. The author presents a very useful typology and chronology of these vessels, developed basing on their morphological and technological attributes. Rejecting the assumption of a simple relationship between vessel forms and ethnic identity of the makers of this pottery, the same author concludes that the decline of mass production need not necessarily have resulted from ethnic change but rather, from the crash of the economy.

An article by Eszter Horváth, Zsolt Bendó and Zoltán May deals with the same period. The authors analyse pendants, beads, two brooches, and a buckle discovered during the early 20th century at Gáva and attributed, not wholly convincingly, to a Gepidic female aristocrat. The article reports in an exemplary manner on how archaeometric methods (here: XRF and SEM-EDS) may be used. The unique artefacts (i.e., the exceptionally large brooches) were analysed with the understanding of their construction and production process, taking into account the results of traseology studies and archaeological knowledge of the cultural context and attributes characteristic for the workshop, analysed using sufficient microscope magnification. There is no room here to present all of the principal results, but it is worth noting that garnets used in the gold and gilded inlaid jewellery from Gáva may be traced back to India, or possibly, Sri Lanka, which confirms the findings of earlier analyses of Migration Period garnets, e.g., in Merovingian cultures¹⁰.

Eduard Droberjar discusses 5th century materials from Bohemia. He reviews the chronology and settlement concentrations known from the area of the so-called Vinařice group and lists the finds of gold and gilded artefacts from sites attributed to this culture unit, classifying them and presenting analogies. However, as the number of these finds is small (most of the burials have been robbed) no far-reaching conclusions can be made.

Jaroslav Tejral also sets his sights on the Barbarian elites of the 5th century. For the area to the north of the Danube he first links them to the Unteresiebenbrunn group, which he redefines not only by listing the 'power insignia', i.e., artefacts found in male, female and infant burials indicating affiliation to the upper social stratum, but also by taking into account the relations with the Barbarian military leaders of various ethnic origin serving the Romans. His conclusion is that these elites became institutionalised.

¹⁰ E.g., F. Farges, *Mineralogy of the Louvres Merovingian garnet cloisonné jewelry: Origins of the gems of the first kings of France*, *American Mineralogist* 83 (1998), p. 323–330; T. Calligaro, P. Perin, F. Vallet, J.-P. Poirot, *Contribution à l'étude des grenats mérovingiens (Basilique de Saint-Denis et autres collections du musée d'Archéologie nationale, diverses collections publiques et objets de fouilles récentes)*. *Nouvelles analyses gemmologiques et géochimiques effectuées au Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France*, *Antiquités nationales* 38 (2006–2007), p. 111–144; F. Mathis, O. Vrielynck, K. Laclavetine, G. Chene, D. Strivay, *Study of the provenance of Belgian Merovingian garnets by PIXE at IPNAS cyclotron*, *Nuclear Instruments & Methods in Physics Research. Section B, Beam Interactions with Materials and Atoms* 266/10 (2008), p. 2348–2352.

These later elites manifested themselves, according to this author, by their rich furnished graves containing a *spatha*. An extensive discussion is made of the practice of deposition of swords in the region on the Middle Danube, with an analysis made of the inventory of the rich grave from Blučina-Cezavy, indicating its Late Antique, nomad and eastern Mediterranean features. Although the author invokes all of the key discoveries, including some more recent materials, his claims do not seem to be particularly insightful.

Lombard archaeology is discussed in two articles. Zuzana Loskotová presents grave-fields recently discovered at Mušov ('Roviny') and Kyjov, focusing mostly on the former, analysing this site in the context of Lombard settlement in Moravia. Her analysis is correct. Analogies invoked include the barrow from Žuráň; the author accepts the claim made by J. Tejral¹¹ that the woman buried at this location had been wounded with a Lombard ango (p. 335); my objection is that the ango was not typically used by the Lombards¹². In his contribution, Tidavar Vida reports on the male burial No. 5 excavated in the grave-field at Hegykő-Mező St., attributed to the Lombard settlement in Pannonia which had a brass bowl as one of its grave goods. A detailed analysis of the form and decoration of this specimen helped to identify it as a Byzantine import. The author notes that it may have been used as a serving dish, or possibly, a finger bowl, and suggests that the buried individual was a member of the tribal elite who were eager to imitate Byzantine eating customs.

Zsófia Rácz discusses Avar burials from the late 6th and 7th century containing goldsmith's tools. After a careful analysis of their context (the location of the graves within the grave-field, the burial rite and the wealth of the grave goods, the number of the tools to a set, use-wear, data from physical anthropology analysis) the author concludes that these need not be graves of actual goldsmiths and that the tools could identify the buried individual as a member of the elite.

In her article, Orsolya Heinrich-Tamáska deals with artefacts executed in the Animal Style from finds in the Carpathian Basin. After a brief review of the basic concept of Styles I and II, she gives a discussion of the artefacts decorated in Style I. Their attribution is to two cultures: Gepidic, in which northern stylistic ideas were copied, and Lombard (the area of Pannonia), here elements of the local style were added to the general-Germanic motifs. Artefacts representative of Style II, connected with the early Avar period, should not be linked only to the Germanic ethnos (the Gepids) because have also Avar features. As in other parts of the Barbaricum, artefacts in Style I mostly represent women's jewellery, those in Style II, items associated with the military sphere.

The medieval period archaeology is addressed by several authors. In their article, Pavel Kouřil and Lumír Poláček discuss finds from Mikulčice, the site which yielded one of the largest series of Great Moravian gold objects from the 9th and early 10th century (most of them from women's graves). Karol Pieta presents the materials from the fortified settlement Bójna I in western Slovakia, dated to the turn of the 9th and 10th centuries and the early 10th century, which he believes was an important power

¹¹ J. Tejral, *Langobardische Fürstengräber nördlich der mittleren Donau*, [in:] U. von Freeden, H. Friesinger, E. Warmers (eds.), *Glaube, Kult und Herrschaft. Phänomene des religiösen im 1. Jahrtausend n. Chr. in Mittel- und Nordeuropa. Akten des 59. Internationalen Sachsensymposium und der Grundprobleme der frühgeschichtlichen Entwicklung im Mitteldonauraum*, Kolloquien zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte 12, Bonn 2009, p. 123–162, here p. 138, Fig. 27.

¹² N. Christie, *Longobard Weaponry and Warfare AD 1–800*, *Journal of Roman Military Equipment Studies* 2 (1991), p. 1–25.

centre, one that owed its significance to metallurgical production. Elisabeth Nowotny discusses materials from the 8th and 9th c. grave-field at Thunau am Kamp in Lower Austria. Having correctly analysed the layout of the cemetery, the grave goods and the physical anthropology data, the author notes that the site was divided into two parts, used by two clans of a different status, with different ways of manifesting their wealth, and also, that the cemetery was situated on the periphery of the Carolingian territory. Erwin Gáll discusses the possibility of identifying a 10th century power centre in the region of Cluj. He interprets the concentration of weapon graves, more notably, those containing sabres, as evidence of the existence of a group of professional warriors, and interprets the sabre finds (which rare in other areas) as a proof of relations with the power centre. The importance of the site would be due to its control over the trade routes and profits from salt mining. Although interesting, this article is not free from error, both editorial (many typos) and substantive (the overgeneralised and simplified theoretical section on the burial rite and imperfect block diagrams). Károly Meszterházy analyses Magyar gold finds from the 10th century, of which a surprisingly small number is known, contrary to the written accounts. This the author explains by the fact that the wealth was not manifested by the grave assemblages, but mainly by hoards, which are not recorded in the territory of Early Magyar settlement. Undine Ott focuses on the declining importance of gold as a status symbol after the adoption of a universalistic religion. Hers is an interesting historical study of the change of ways used to legitimise power using, as an example, the conversion to Christianity of the Arpads from the Carpathian Basin and the conversion to Islam of the Quarakhanids of Central Asia.

In his significant contribution Matthias Hardt sums up the topics discussed in the volume, using the historical approach. Basing on the sources from the age spanning the Roman Period and the Middle Ages he analyses the role played by gold, stored (as metal, made into weapons, ornaments and vessels) in the treasuries of the rulers and military leaders, as a political instrument. The ostentatious demonstration of gold increased the owner's prestige, which was augmented by a controlled distribution of this precious metal, made in order to win supporters. Power may have been legitimated by the use of special symbols, included in the decorations on the goldsmiths' wares made for the rulers. According to the author, this behaviour followed the models known back in the Roman world, where the emperors exerted a similar influence on the Barbarian elites.

In conclusion, the volume under review is definitely a significant compendium of up-to-date knowledge about the use of precious metals in building and sustaining the structures of power in the region on the Middle Danube during the period spanning Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Following the modern and unavoidable (but perhaps, not entirely appropriate) tendency to present the issues in a brief and clear way, it will probably serve not only as an evidence of a certain stage of development of knowledge but also will be a frequently quoted volume, at least during the dozen or so years to come.

Bartosz Kontny

Address of the Author
Instytut Archeologii
Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego
Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28
00-927 Warszawa, Polska
e-mail: bartosz.kontny@uw.edu.pl

Peter Milo, *Frühmittelalterliche Siedlungen in Mitteleuropa. Eine vergleichende Strukturanalyse durch Archäologie und Geophysik*, Studien zur Archäologie Europas 21, Habelt. Bonn 2014, 702 pp., 460 Figs., 31 maps, 12 graphs, 13 tables; ISBN 978-3-7749-3840-3.

This volume presents a large-scale overview of the archaeology of 6th-to 10th century AD unfortified rural settlements in the territories of present-day Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and Hungary. The main part of the book comprises a study of published sites from these regions (pp. 26–329), focusing on 183 rural settlements (18, Map No. 3), which were selected based on the size of the excavated area, the amount of early medieval finds and features and the quality of their documentation/publication, in order to ensure that the analysis is built on a well-founded dataset. For the analysis, the study area is divided into two large units, eastern and western central Europe, based on the border of the ‘Slavic’ and ‘Germanic’ settlement areas (e.g. 16, Map No. 2). 100 of the analysed sites are situated in the western part of central Europe, and 83 in the eastern part. Examined topics include remains of houses (pp. 27–60), features connected to craft production (pp. 61–85), features of agrarian character (pp. 86–141), and linear structures (rows of posts, ditches; pp. 142–154) as well as the size and internal structure of settlements (pp. 155–186; pp. 187–321). The main part of the volume finishes with a comparison of rural settlements in the eastern and western part of central Europe (pp. 322–329), followed by the catalogue of the studied sites (pp. 330–555). In addition, the book also includes a number of case studies of geophysical prospection carried out by the author at 18 sites in the study area, with the overall prospected area amounting to 524,464 sq m (pp. 556–635; for the location of sites see p. 565, Map No. 31). The volume closes with summaries in Slovak (pp. 689–695) and English (pp. 696–702).

The volume has a vast scope; for example, in terms of houses it includes longhouses with byres from north-western Germany and the Netherlands, longhouses without byres from more southern areas of Germany, houses in block-construction with irregular shallow pits in their centre from north-eastern Germany and Poland, as well as sunken-featured buildings, which are present in much of the study area, but are likely to have been used for different purposes in different regions. As mentioned above, the region of study is divided into two large units in the book, based on the border of the ‘Germanic’ and ‘Slavic’ settlement areas. The question of this border has been studied in the territory of present-day Germany, but the existence of such a border is far from clear in the southern parts of the study area (e.g. present-day Austria or Hungary). Also, while the identity and traditions of population groups, and their social structure, are definitely important factors, the widespread or limited use, or absence, of certain settlement features may be dependent on environmental parameters too. Future studies might provide the opportunity to investigate these questions further.

Concerning the size of settlements, the book concludes that settlements in western central Europe tend to be larger than those in the east. Their internal structure is usually also different. In the north-western parts of the study area, settlements are mostly focused on longhouses with byres which include many functions under one roof and the number of outbuildings is rather limited. Further south, but still in the western part of the study area, farmsteads consisting of a longhouse and a number of outbuildings, including sunken-featured as well as ground-level buildings, appear to be usual. Both the north-western and the south-western part of the study area include settlements that are made up of individual farmsteads, even though it is not always easy to reconstruct these, especially with regard to chronological changes within the settlements, and not all settlements in these areas exhibit a farmstead-based structure.

In the eastern part of the study area, it is far more complicated to reconstruct the internal structure of settlements. The buildings likely to have been used as dwellings are smaller than in west central Europe and it seems that no farmstead-like structures can be identified at early medieval unfortified rural settlements in this region (although they do appear at 9th–to 10th century high-status fortified sites here). If spatial separation can be seen in this region within unfortified rural settlements, it is usually the separation of functions (e.g. residential areas and/or areas for certain types of craft production). Based on the above, the book suggests that the social and economic organisation of early medieval west and east central Europe were different, the former being based on larger families and the private ownership of land, and the latter comprising smaller family units and practising what might be termed a communal-type of ownership. These issues are at the core of what most early medievalists would like to know about the economy and society of this period. It is important to establish patterns on a large scale, and future case studies focusing on smaller areas will no doubt highlight local differences and variations of these.

In summary, this is a very interesting and useful book for anyone wishing to obtain an overview of the archaeology of early medieval unfortified rural settlements in this part of Europe. The book collects, structures and analyses an immense amount of information and is thus destined to become a much-used reference work in this research field.

Hajnalka Herold

*Address of the Author
Department of Archaeology
University of Exeter
Laver Building, North Park Road
Exeter, EX4 4QE, United Kingdom
e-mail: h.herold@exeter.ac.uk*

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