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Abteilung für Alte Geschichte, Altertumskunde und
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**DIE MITTELLATÈNEZEIT
ZWISCHEN DEN ALPEN, DER ADRIA UND DER DONAU
ENTWICKLUNG DER SIEDLUNGS-, VERKEHRS- UND
WIRTSCHAFTSSTRUKTUREN IM MITTELEUROPÄISCHEN KONTEXT**

**SREDNJA LATENSKA DOBA
MED ALPAMI, JADRANOM IN DONAVO
RAZVOJ NASELBINSKIH, PROMETNIH IN GOSPODARSKIH
STRUKTUR V POVEZAVI S SREDNJO EVROPO**

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THE MIDDLE LA TÈNE PHASE OF THE MOKRONOG GROUP. THE STATE OF RESEARCH

Dragan Božič

An extensive overview of the Mokronog Group was published in 1999 in a paper on the research on the Late Iron Age in Slovenia, printed in *Arheološki vestnik* 50. Since then, if we limit ourselves to the Middle La Tène period of this group, further important graves were excavated in several campaigns on Kapiteljska njiva near Novo mesto and in 2010–2011 on Sejmišče in Brežice. In 2002 at the Turjaška palača site in Ljubljana the remains of two Middle La Tène warrior graves were discovered. The most eastern site of the Mokronog group is the Zvonimirovo cemetery in the Drava region in Croatia, where excavations carried out mostly from 1998 to 2013 yielded no less than 101 cremation graves. Alike the case of the Slatina v Rožni dolini cemetery near Celje, they can all be dated to the LT C2 phase.

Several smaller settlements came to our attention in the Prekmurje region and in Lower Styria. In 2008 at the site of Tribuna in Ljubljana remains of what was very likely a cult place were discovered, which continued to be in use during the Late La Tène period. The rare Middle La Tène finds from the Ljubljanica river were analyzed in the dissertation of Andrej Gaspari (Ljubljana 2002) and partly presented at the exhibition of the archaeological finds from this river in 2009 at the Narodni muzej Slovenije in Ljubljana (*The Ljubljanica: a river and its past*).

Several other exhibitions were organized: one in 2001–2002 in Novo mesto on the Celts in the Novo mesto territory, one in 2006 in Brežice on the Celts at the confluence of the Sava and Krka rivers, and one in January 2014 in Ljubljana on the Celtic cemeteries in Ptuj and its surroundings.

The most important publications are volume 6 of the series *Carniola Archaeologica* (Novo mesto 2005) in which Borut Križ presented more than 100 mostly Middle La Tène graves from Kapiteljska njiva, the monograph *The Eastern Celts* (Koper, Beograd 2011), *Lexikon zur keltischen Archäologie* (Wien 2012) in two volumes with *lemmata* on the Mokronog group and its most important sites, and some synthetic papers of Marko Dizdar (like those on the glass bracelets and the Zvonimirovo LT 6 type iron belts) as well as his book on the Zvonimirovo cemetery, published at the end of 2013.

IT'S A MAN'S WORLD! THE MIDDLE LA TÈNE PERIOD IN THE SLOVENIAN DRAVA REGION

Boris Kavur

An overview of the initial Celtic occupation of the Slovenian Drava region demonstrated that according to grave goods the most likely origins of these “Eastern Celtic” populations should be sought in the region of southern Slovakia and northern Hungary around the bend of the Danube.

With the beginning of the Middle La Tène period the number of sites in the region increased, but the cemeteries discovered still yielded smaller numbers of graves. The only exception was the cemetery from Formin which, although unfortunately not excavated but rather collected in the last century from the sandpit, demonstrated a larger number of graves dated to LT C and the Roman period.

The largest proportion of artefacts collected can be attributed to male burials – a situation that differs from all other smaller cemeteries in the region, where female burials or burials without weapons predominate. Is the impression just a consequence of the selective collection of finds by amateurs or is the composition a reflection of the special status of those buried at Formin? Some of the decorated scabbards indicate that the producers were masters of the highest artistic skills and

that the visual composition and execution of scabbards includes them among the most important examples of artistic expression of the Eastern Celts and the “Hungarian” sword style.

DIE CHRONOLOGIE DES KELITISCHEN GRÄBERFELDES VON DOBOVA, SLOWENIEN

Mitja Guštin

Zu dem Thema „*Die Mittellatènezeit zwischen den Alpen, der Adria und der Donau. Entwicklung der Siedlungs-, Verkehrs- und Wirtschaftsstrukturen im mitteleuropäischen Kontext*“ bietet der Vortrag über die keltische Nekropole von Dobova sowohl eine chronologische Übersicht als auch eine Darstellung des Lebensraumes am Rande des »Brežice-Eingangs«, des engen Durchgangs aus der hügeligen Dolenjska in Richtung Westbalkan.

Das Gräberfeld in Dobova mit 28 Grabinventaren ermöglicht einen guten Einblick in die klassischen Befunde der Latènezeit an breiter Ebene, aber auch in die Bestattungsbräuche und die lokalen Tracht- und Produktionselemente. Der zeitliche Rahmen der Bestattungen umfasst die Mittellatènezeit und den Beginn der Spätlatènezeit, sodass das Gräberfeld ein gutes Beispiel für die keltischen Siedler – *Taurisci* – an den Flussterrassen der Drau und Save darstellt.

A MIDDLE LA TÈNE CEMETERY IN BREŽICE IN THE SAVA VALLEY

Alenka Jovanović

The town of Brežice is situated in south-eastern Slovenia, in the lowlands of the Krško – Brežice Plain, next to a former curve of the Sava River, in the territory of ancient traffic connections between the Pannonian and the Pre-Alpine regions. The Middle La Tène cemetery lies on the southern edge of Brežice, on the left bank of the Sava River, less than 200 metres from the current riverbank.

The site has been known since 1948, when the first finds were discovered by chance while laying the foundation of the local veterinary clinic. The existence of a Middle La Tène cemetery was confirmed by archaeological excavations in 1981–82, 1997 and 2010–11. So far, the excavations have only taken place on a part of the cemetery surface: the southern and northern borders have been identified; the location of the western and eastern borders remains undetermined. In total 106 graves have been discovered to date. They date to the LT C1 and C2 phases, with the exception of several female graves, where the grave goods place them in the LT D1 phase (grave 15 with knobbed rings and grave 31 with a cast fibula).

The Middle La Tène cemetery in Brežice is a flat cemetery comprised exclusively of cremation graves. The graves lie separately or in loose groups spread unevenly across the ground; which suggests that the cemetery did not develop according to a predetermined layout. The graves are round, oval, or square shaped pits of different sizes: the round pits range from 40–100 cm in diameter; the oval and the square ones from 50 x 37 cm to 165 x 120 cm. The grave inventory comprises cremated human remains and grave goods, which are composed of sets or individual pieces of standard Middle La Tène warrior equipment, personal items, jewellery and pottery. Usually, a single person is buried in each grave; however, few double graves were discovered as well. Animal bones were found in some of the graves, which suggests that ceremonies of food-offering took place. Analyses show that the bones were mostly the remains of pigs (mandible or femur; the latter suggests that ham was a part of the food-offering); however, poultry remains are also present.

Instances of a complete animal skeleton are very rare; therefore young pig in grave 46 (perhaps even in grave 86) may indicate an important social status of the deceased.

In a third of the graves weapons were found. The richest graves with weapons included both offensive and defensive weapons (a sword, a spear and a shield); in the others only individual items were found: a sword and a spear, a sword and a shield, a spear and a shield or only a sword or a spear. In two graves the remnants of a battle chariot were even discovered. In the graves with weapons personal items like iron razors, scissors, and knives, as well as iron fibulae were found. Jewellery was also present, mostly various iron bracelets (usually one per grave, in some instances a pair of bracelets), and more rarely, a bronze bracelet or a ring.

In addition to the graves with weapons, which form the most distinct group, there is also a group of graves without weapons in the cemetery. Male graves without weapons are defined by an inventory, such as a razor, a whetstone, a massive knife, and an iron bracelet, while bronze and glass jewellery was typical for female graves and distinctively separated them from the male graves. Female graves from Brežice mostly contained glass bracelets of transparent glass with a yellow inlay (all extremely badly preserved due to the cremation of the bodies), massive bronze anklets (also heavily damaged by the fire), iron belt chains with rod-shaped pendants as well as numerous iron and bronze fibulae, mostly worn in pairs. In some of the graves amber beads, amber and glass rings, knobbed rings, finger-rings, and ceramic spindle whorls appeared; one of the graves contained a bronze belt chain.

Pottery can be found in male and female graves. With the exception of a pot in grave 97, all vessels were manufactured using a pottery wheel. Generally, the pots were made of refined clay and were not decorated. Vessels from graves 28 and 97 are exceptions to the rule. A small pot in grave 28 was decorated with a stamped ornament, composed of a combination of concentric circles and arch ornaments. The pot in grave 97 (not made on a pottery wheel) has a plastic horizontal rib, decorated with fingerprints.

Some of the graves could not be identified as male or female on the basis of their inventories; they contained only a few non-typical items. Some of the graves did not contain any items.

So far, excavations have probably covered a greater part of the cemetery area in Brežice; however, the graves also spread in the East-West direction, thus leaving the size of the cemetery, as well as the final number of the graves, undetermined.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE MIDDLE LA TÈNE GRAVES OF THE KAPITELJSKA NJIVA CEMETERY AT NOVO MESTO

Borut Križ

The archaeological site of Kapiteljska njiva in Novo mesto, where more than 700 Middle La Tène graves have been excavated so far, was one of the most important cemeteries in Central Europe.

Over a hundred long iron swords in iron scabbards and numerous other iron weapons found in flat graves were ritually bent and destroyed before burial. Female grave goods such as glass bracelets, glass necklaces, different types of bronze and iron fibulae, anklets, finger-rings and belt chains have been damaged and melted during cremation.

Most of the pottery vessels found on the Kapiteljska njiva were surprisingly handmade.

Rich grave goods found at Kapiteljska njiva, Kandija, and Beletov vrt, three Late Iron Age cemeteries known in Novo mesto, indicate the importance and economic power of the population during the last centuries of the first millennium BC.

THE LJUBLJANA GATES IN THE MIDDLE LA TÈNE PERIOD AND THE QUESTION OF THE TAURISCAN PREDECESSOR OF NAUपोर्टUS

Andrej Gaspari

The presentation will address the current knowledge of the Middle La Tène period in the wider area of the Ljubljana Gates, marked by the significant increase of archaeological evidence from the younger part of the LT C1 phase onwards, which at large coincides with the efforts of the Transalpine Celts to control the traffic through the Illyrian-Italic Gates (*Ocra* pass) as noted by the ancient literary sources as well as other indications.

The main part of the presentation will be devoted to the new settlement and grave finds from Ljubljana (the sites of Tribuna and Turjaška palača), weapons and attire from the Ljubljana River at the western part of the Ljubljana Moor as well their significance, and spatial analysis of the recently discovered hillfort Tičnica at Vrhnika, that could be regarded as the seat of the Tauriscan *portorium*, the predecessor of Early Roman *Nauportus*.

EVIDENCE OF THE MIDDLE LA TÈNE PERIOD IN THE NOTRANJSKA REGION (SW SLOVENIA)?

Boštjan Laharnar

The Late Iron Age of the Notranjska and Kras regions is characterised by the so-called Notranjska-Kras group. According to the archaeological evidence (local characteristics in the material culture) and ancient written sources (the Carni in the broad sense?) the Notranjska-Kras group was part of the north Adriatic indigenous communities and was positioned between the Veneti, Histri, Idrija group communities, Celtic Taurisci, Kvarner communities and Iapodes.

After the foundation of *colonia Latina* in Aquileia (183/181 BC) the Romans became an important force in the region. Contrary to well recognized archaeological evidence at fortified hilltop settlements and cemeteries proving the Late Hallstatt / Early La Tène and Late La Tène periods, the evidence for the Middle La Tène remains very scarce. According to small finds a few settlements along the route leading across the Razdrto / *Ocra* pass towards Ljubljana basin played a certain role. It seems that the site of Grad near Šmihel pod Nanosom remained the central settlement in the region at least until the end of the Middle La Tène period.

AN OUTLINE OF THE MIDDLE LA TÈNE PHASE IN THE SOČA REGION (NW SLOVENIA)

Teja Gerbec and Miha Mlinar

While we were presenting the Bizjakova hiša site at Kobarid at the scientific conference in Kobarid in November 2012 (*Latenization in the territory from the south-eastern Alps to the Croatian-Serbian Danube region*), we pointed out the problems of the Early La Tène period in the Soča region. The continuity of the settlement from the 4th to the 3rd centuries BC cannot be reliably determined because of the rare finds, and may be determined only on the basis of single finds from cult places and rare graves. Next to the finds of local production there are several finds of foreign origin.

A survey of the next phase LT C shows us an almost empty picture and therefore a rather unclear image of life in the Soča region. Middle La Tène period finds were found at the cult places on Tonovcov grad and probably also on Repelc at Most na Soči. A similar situation may also be found at the cemetery of Idrija pri Bači.

Parts of weapons and attire (fragments of swords, maybe spearheads, a belt hook, fibulae) belong to the Middle La Tène finds in the Soča region. In most cases the dating is problematic, while the finds are isolated or they come from contexts which can be dated only widely. This period of calm in the Soča region is followed by the rich prosperity in the LT D1 phase.

TYPE KASTAV, VARIANT KASTAV FIBULAE OF THE MIDDLE LA TÈNE SCHEME

Lara Orlić

In this paper the typology, chronology and distribution of the fibulae of the Kastav variant of the Kastav type are presented. Four variants of the Kastav type were defined (Kastav, Ribić, Nezakcij and Ulaka), while the Idrija variant determined by Guštin was excluded by Božič because of its typological differences. Formerly, the Kastav variant was dated to the phase LT C phase based on graves found in the Mišinci cemetery near Kastav. In 2002 M. Blečić wrote that these graves could not be considered closed contexts with certainty.

Therefore, the chronology of the Kastav variant is reconsidered based on finds from other graves. In grave 15 of the Ribić necropolis in the Una Valley a Kastav variant fibula was found together with a Middle La Tène scheme fibula, several amber beads, and one glass bead. Near the skeleton that was found on the talus cone at the bottom of the karstic entrance shaft of Gorenja jama at Povir, a Kastav variant fibula was found along with a solid undecorated torc bearing a double-spiral pendant, a small annular bracelet and a spiral bracelet.

Such torcs are common in the Notranjska VI cultural phase, where they were often found with the late Certosa fibulae and spiral bracelets. Because the Kastav variant is of Middle La Tène scheme it is clear that this variant could have appeared only later, in the LT C phase. The other variants (Ribić, Nezakcij and Ulaka) are even later and belong to the LT D phase.

The Kastav variant appears in a wide area of Friuli, the Soča region, the Karst, Inner Carniola, Istria, Kvarner Bay, the Una and the Kolpa Valley, but the later variants are restricted to specific regions. For example, the Nezakcij variant is most common in Istria, the Ribić variant appears at Vinica, in the Una Valley and around Zadar, and the Ulaka variant is restricted to Inner Carniola and the Upper Vipava Valley. Based on the several preserved graves it is concluded that the Kastav variant fibula was a part of female costume.

LA TÈNE FIBULAE WITH AN ENAMELLED PLATE – TYPOLOGICAL, CHRONOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL OUTLINE

Andrej Preložnik

Enamelled La Tène fibulae have been repeatedly receiving attention because of their interesting shapes and distinctive decoration, but the lack of reliable contexts has led to a variety of chronological and cultural affiliations. New finds and publications allow us to better understand their technology and to confirm their Middle La Tène origin.

At the same time their abundance already permits an attempt to establish a more precise typology, which may to some extent explain the development of enamel brooches, and in conjunction with their distribution allows the identification of geographically separated groups. Based on these, perhaps we can speculate about the dynamics of their spread, the cultural links and even the ethnic affiliation of these interesting brooches.

A MIDDLE LA TÈNE CEMETERY IN ZVONIMIROVO, CENTRAL DRAVA VALLEY (NORTHERN CROATIA)

Marko Dizdar

The first finds in Zvonimirovo were discovered during ploughing in 1992 and were attributed to the early medieval Bijelo Brdo culture. The rescue investigation was undertaken in 1993 and during the first phase (1993-1995), in addition to the more numerous inhumation graves of the Bijelo Brdo culture, three cremation graves attributed to the La Tène culture were discovered. The investigations recommenced in 1998 and are still in progress, yielding a large number of cremation graves of the La Tène culture.

The excavations have so far uncovered a surface of around 2.934 m² and brought to the light 101 cremation graves. The graves contained rich and varied objects of female costume and jewellery, as well as male warrior equipment and pottery vessels. Graves are dated from the end of the 3rd c. BC until the middle of the 2nd c. BC, that is, to the Mokronog IIb phase. Until now only one grave can be securely dated to the end of the Early La Tène.

THE MIDDLE LA TÈNE PHASE OF THE KUPINOVO CEMETERY IN SYRMIA, REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Ivan Drnić

During clay exploitation for the needs of V. Klemm's brickyard at the end of the 19th century, a La Tène cemetery, situated in the Syrmian village Kupinovo, was destroyed. Luckily, Mr. Klemm gathered around 200 artifacts from the devastated graves, and these were bought for the collection of the National Museum in Zagreb between 1909 and 1913.

Although grave units were destroyed, causing an irreversible loss of valuable burial rite data, the typological and chronological analysis allows for certain conclusions to be drawn. The long continuity of burial at this cemetery, carried out from the early La Tène until the end of the La Tène period in this area, is interesting and differentiates this site from other Scordiscian cemeteries.

After the analyses of the objects we can conclude that the majority of them belong to the Middle La Tène phase, more precisely to both sub-phases LT C1 and LT C2. A large group of artifacts is composed of warrior equipment: several swords with the parts of the scabbards, spearheads, battle knives, shield bosses and iron chain belts while another group is composed of bronze, iron and glass attire elements frequently found in female La Tène burials from the territory of the Carpathian Basin: fibulae, bracelets, belts and beads. Several ceramic vessels can also be dated to this period.

SOME REMARKS ON THE 3rd-2nd CENTURY BC FINDS IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE KUPA RIVER AND NORTHERN ADRIATIC

Asja Tonc

In the last centuries BC the area between the rivers Kupa and Una and the Adriatic coast stretching between the Kvarner Bay and north Dalmatia (Ravni kotari) was inhabited by different autochthonous communities, namely the Colapians, Iapodes and Liburni. The natural boundaries, i.e. the river valleys or mountain ranges, also served as places of contact and exchange.

The influences from the neighbouring La Tène communities can be observed in the appearance of certain types of jewellery, most of all brooches. These include imported pieces, like the filigree brooch from Kiringrad, as well as types inspired by, but not identical to foreign models.

Some grave finds from the Iapodic territory show us that contacts with the south were contemporary to influences from the north-west, evidenced in items such as the Hellenistic pottery found at Prozor. An overview of some of the types and contexts will be given to draw attention to different aspects of the local material culture. The imports also provide a good basis for the dating of different associated objects, bearing in mind that we cannot automatically assign the existing Middle La Tène chronology to the phases of autochthonous cultural development.

MATERIAL CULTURE OF THE MIDDLE LA TÈNE PERIOD IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Ana Marić

While the La Tène culture was flourishing in the neighbourhood during the second half of the 3rd and in 2nd century BC, the situation in the area of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina was a little bit different. Fibulae are almost the only material from that period, which mainly originate from the settlements or were found as chance finds.

In this presentation, the most important fibulae types will be presented, together with their typologies and the distribution maps. The main aim is to present new elements of the material culture, which connect the area of today's Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Croatian–Serbian Danube region and Central Europe. Also, some specific elements will be presented, showing how different cultural influences created an original decorative attire element.

The abstracts were proof-read by Adrienne Frie from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (USA).

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