

Martina Blečić, Matija Črešnar, Bernhard Hänsel, Anja Hellmuth, Elke Kaiser and Carola Metzner-Nebelsick (eds.): *Scripta praehistorica in honorem Biba Teržan*. Situla 44. Narodni muzej Slovenije, Ljubljana 2007. ISBN 978-961-6169-53-0. 902pp., numerous figs.

Some years ago I was preparing a collection of essays for my former teacher, Stuart Piggott, described by a Cambridge contemporary as one of “the three wise men of British prehistoric studies”. When approached with an invitation to contribute, the same individual declined, stating that in his opinion such publications were an outmoded convention of dubious value. A few years later he was a co-editor of a *Festschrift* in honour of his own Professor. But far from becoming outmoded, it seems that hardly a day goes by but a *Festschrift* appears for someone, somewhere.

Biba Teržan, who has for much of her professional life commuted between Berlin and Ljubljana, has been honoured by something of a Guinness Book of Records of a volume – such a pity then that the binding probably will fail with use and that the paper stock and general quality of the offset printing has resulted in half-tone illustrations which in several cases surely cannot do justice to the originals. But let us not start with negatives, the more particularly since most contributions are concerned not just with description but with approaching their material in the holistic and analytical manner of what my Cambridge colleague has labelled “cognitive archaeology”.

As is only proper, the joint German, Slovene and Croatian editorial team, assisted by the finance from all three regions, without which so weighty a publication (3kg.) would not have been possible, have assembled some 70 authors from – in addition to all parts of the former Yugoslavia – Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Moldova, Slovakia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, with only Hungary and Romania surprisingly not represented. On the other hand, a particularly pleasing feature is the number of the honorand's students as well as teachers who have contributed. The *European Journal of Archaeology* has recently devoted a whole issue to the topic of communication in archaeology (*EJA* 10:2-3, 2007); in a Europe rapidly becoming a linguistic closed shop, another plus with the volume under review is the fact that all articles are provided, if not with complete texts in English or German, then with abstracts in the main European languages. This will surely be welcomed by many of the present generation of scholars as it will be by all future generations.

To begin with, there are two introductions, the first in Slovene marking Biba's sixty years, by Stane Gabrovec, Biba's teacher and the Grand Old Man of Slovene Iron Age studies, and the second in German by Bernhard Hänsel, her senior colleague in Berlin. In what follows, the editors have obviously been at some pains to obtain contributions which in the main deal with aspects of the later Bronze and earlier Iron Age of Central Europe and the Balkans, and particularly the role of women in prehistory. These are Biba Teržan's own particular areas of interest concerning which some 120 publications offer evidence of her productivity over 35 years. Geographically the papers extend from Iran to Italy with the majority – as might be expected – being centred on the Balkans. The sequence of contributions

appears to be largely chronological and to a lesser degree topical, thus allowing the reader to dip into various themes often finding one's way down paths which one never knew existed – like the effects of Googling or rather of dipping into the best sort of encyclopaedia.

With so overflowing a cauldron of plenty as this volume provides, one cannot do justice to every single contribution. What follows is very much a personal selection which inevitably omits much of interest.

Beginning at the beginning, in the first of a trio of papers Darko Komšo relates changes in body ornaments from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic in Istria, relating these to changes in subsistence patterns and belief systems (pp.31-40). This is followed by Mihael Budja on “The dawn of ceramics” (pp.41-55) in Europe and Asia in which it is suggested that, rather than forming part of “competitive feasting”, following the earliest uses of ceramics in the production of figurines as part of rituals associated with domestic and funerary activities, pot making correlates with the collapse of previous practices. Brunislav Marijanović describes the find of a fragmentary four-legged early Neolithic cult rhyton from Crno vrilo near Zadar and its possible cultic significance (pp.57-68). This is followed by “Who were the Cyclopes?”, an ingenious comparison by Dimitrij Mlekuž of archaeological evidence from the east Adriatic coast and the Dinaric Alps and Book 9 of *The Odyssey* as ethnography (pp.69-82). Mlekuž concludes that far better analogies for the specialised pastoralism found in the archaeological record occur in Homer than seeking them in contemporary pastoral practices.

The ever-active Paul Gleirscher introduces a number of studies dealing with early metal ages (pp.93-110). He discusses copper mining and copper production in the south-eastern Alpine and upper Italian regions, a topic which recalls Biba's own earlier work on the copper sulphide ores of north-eastern Slovenia. Gleirscher presents the evidence for the beginning of copper metallurgy as commencing already in the fifth millennium BC, a thousand years earlier than has been thought and coming via the Caput Adriae.

Elke Kaiser opens out the cultural horizons with a paper which would have certainly been approved of by my Edinburgh teacher, Stuart Piggott – an essay reviewing the current state of knowledge for wagons with disc wheels (pp.130-49). The 250 wagon graves clustered in seven regional groups are dated within the third millennium BC centred on the Yamnaya Culture spreading from the Urals and the lower Danube. Despite a lack of adequate publication, it remains clear that these are workers of high social status and as such commence a tradition which was to extend in Central and Western Europe into the early period of the Roman Empire.

Bernhard Hänsel, a moving light in this as in so many other publishing projects, discusses finds of Bronze Age moulds, mainly on the basis of those discovered over half-a-century ago in a settlement near Soltvadkert, Bács-Kiskun m. in southern Hungary (pp.169-81). Rather than the normal ascription to a founder's or merchant's hoard, this find – to be placed at the beginning of the Middle Bronze (BA B1 = MD II after Hänsel) – seems better interpreted as ritual offerings perhaps by the metalwork-

ers themselves. While the evocation of ritual practices is often overdone – usually when no better explanation can be thought of – Hänsel's argument seems to be a rule-proving one. Peter Turk, in one of several papers for which a complete English version is provided, discusses the chance discovery in a reservoir near the castle of Jablje of a complete Early Bronze age (BA A2) solid-hilted short sword. Rather than the Apa-Hajdusámson swords of the eastern Carpathians, the Jablje find seems to belong to a local but parallel tradition. And once more the deposition of what once more must be regarded as a high status object invites use of the "r" word – ritual. This theme is taken further in Anthony Harding's essay on weaponry deposition in the Balkans in the Later Bronze and earlier Iron Ages (pp.249-58). Using the finds from the Mušja jama, Škocjan in Slovenia as a test case, but mentioning other cave deposits from as far afield as the Trou de Han, Han-sur-Lesse in the Belgian Ardennes and Heathery Burn Cave in Co. Durham and the cave of Polis on Ithaca, Harding notes the contrast between hoarding – indeed hiding – of weapons in central and northern Europe with the careful placing of particularly swords in the Mycenaean area. Around 1200BC, however, smiths start producing local versions of Type II swords when, despite continuity of the varying depositional customs, there was a shift towards more functional weapons.

Gerhard Tomedi also covers a wide geographical range in picking another test case, that of the Late Bronze age hoard found at Moosbruckschrofen am Piller to return to Biba's systematic study of the true nature of "hoards", not least with regard to their chronology (pp.259-65), noting – as many more Continental colleagues might – Richard Bradley's discussion of the topic (Bradley 1998 is to be preferred to Bradley "1900" as cited here!). Tomedi's paper is followed by Louis Nebelsick on more ritual activity, this time the later Bronze Age in the Elbe-Saale region (pp.267-300). In what is termed "the highly organized as well as extremely unstable "Culture of Salt"" Nebelsick draws attention to the deposition of human remains in settlements and their boundary ditches – in one of the very few translation errors I have noted for "boarder" read "border" (p.268). Of course this is a theme which could be explored further in the Iron Age. The ritual theme continues – if with a more domestic flavour when Margarita Primas discusses the occurrence of spindle-whorls in graves notably in Italy, Croatia and Slovenia during the Bronze Age – Iron Age transition (pp.301-20). She suggests that, far from just being gender markers, spindle-whorls may have on occasion indicated high status and indeed the attributes of female deities.

Of several papers devoted to aspects of settlement archaeology, that by Matija Črešnar on wooden house construction types in Slovenia is a model of the kind of ethno-archaeology which can still be practised in much of Central Europe and the Balkans (pp.321-39). Phil Mason, that bastion of Englishness in Slovenia, widens the focus with a case study of how rescue excavations within present-day Črnomelj have revealed, that in addition to the Late Bronze and Iron Age cemetery sites surrounding the town, it is now clear that the historic town centre overlies an important major settlement (pp.357-68).

With Fritz Eckart Barth and Otto Urban's new take on the famous early La Tène sword and its engraved scabbard from Grave 994 of the eponymous Hallstatt cemetery we are in intriguing territory (pp.391-404). More recently the local affinities of both the weapon and its decoration – rather than evoking for the latter the art of the situla – has been persuasively argued (Egg, Hauschied and Schönfelder 2006). Here, Barth reads the iconography of the scabbard as representing the three aspects of Celtic warfare – chariotry, cavalry and infantry. Urban, more speculatively, in pointing to the groupings of four, cites the late Iron Age mass grave below the oppidum of Gondole (Puy-de-Dôme). Here were buried eight horses and eight men.

A more sure account is woven by Tereza Belanová, Radoslav Čambal and Susanne Stegmann-Rajtár (pp.419-34) in a contribution particularly well suited to Biba's concerns with the role of women in prehistory, as are several others in the second half of the book. Nové Košariská has long been known for its East Hallstatt burial mounds and the associated spectacular anthropomorphic pots; one of the barrows contained in addition to a woman's body that of several children and no less than 17 loom weights. Now, with the recent discovery of a settlement contemporary with the graves the question as to where the woman and her companions had lived can be answered since one pit-hut contained evidence of two warp-weighted looms. The high status of these weavers seems certain.

Alexandrine Eibner continues what has become an overlapping series of studies on Iron Age iconography – including spinning and the role of women (for example Eibner 2005) – with special attention to situla art, this time images of thrones and footstools (pp.434-51) (add to several bibliographies in this volume the excellent catalogue of situla art in Slovenia: Turk 2005). She argues that, together with sceptres, these formed part of a widespread pattern of gift-exchange.

Next is a sequence of no less than five papers from both sides of the Adriatic dealing with female ornaments and rich burials. These include offerings from what may be regarded as the home team. Mitja Guštin and Borut Križ consider what may be deduced as to status and ritual from the excavation of a rich woman's grave found near Družinska vas (pp.491-503). There follows a fascinating – and beautifully illustrated – article by Christiano Iaia on elements of female jewellery in Latium and southern Etruria (pp.519-31). Rastko Vasić strikes a male blow for women's rights in the Iron Age of the Central Balkans when he presents evidence not of "princely graves" but of those of high status women (pp.557-62), which is followed by Dragi Mitrevski on Iron Age priestess burials in Macedonia (pp.563-82). Jutta Kneisel presents a northern aspect of women's fashions through a reconstruction based on the well-known Pomeranian "face urns" (pp.583-96).

Macedonia – either side of that troubled modern border; Greek readers should be warned from looking at the map on p.658! – is well-served in this wide-ranging survey of current research. Sabine Pabst-Dörrer surveys spectacle brooches as found in the famous barrow cemetery of Vergina, and proposes four separate groupings of female dress reflecting both age and status (pp.643-56). Serena

Vitri and colleagues discuss the affinities of a sixth-century brooch with solar pendent found in women's grave 6 in a large cremation cemetery at Paularo-Misincinis; once again a symbolism, both religious and gender specific, is postulated (pp.695-706).

Brooches and gender-specific fashion are also centre stage in a major production by Carola Metzner-Nebelsick (pp.707-35) – no less than a thorough survey of Hallstatt/early La Tène horse fibulae (a minor addition to her bibliography is Megaw and Megaw 1988). Beginning in Italy in the eighth century, the horse brooch became a fashionable accompaniment of women's graves over a wide area from the Rhineland to the eastern Alps. Once more, associations with weaving and rich grave goods are noted, while the reference to horses suggests not just secular status but the association of women with horses in classical mythology.

The transalpine theme is at the centre of Otto-Herman Frey's essay on the art of Este and the early La Tène area (pp.777-88). A starting-point for the doyen of early Celtic art studies is of course to be found in his Marburg *Habilitationsschrift* published some 40 years ago (Frey 1969). A new impetus has come with the unparalleled discoveries of the rich LT A graves of the Glauberg-bei-Glauburg (Wetteraukreis) (Baitinger and PINSKER 2002). While, in the absence of any relevant imports, the direct influence of Este must remain likely rather than certain, there seems little doubt that, as with other influences, a link there may well have been; the how and why remain unanswered questions. Personally, I feel – particularly in the case of animals in early Celtic art – that the ability of local craftsmen to take themes from the natural world around them has been underrated, just even as the influence of situla art may have been over-emphasised as in the case of the sword from Hallstatt grave 994.

We are back in what might be termed main-stream La Tène territory with the republication by Nives Majnarić Pandžić of bronzes from an unknown location and the now destroyed group of women's graves at Vukovar (pp.797-811). Typical of the so-called "false" or "pseudo-filigree" cast bronze arm-and foot-rings and brooches dated to LT B2/C1 and studied over the years by Miklós Szabó, the Vukovar finds may indeed represent the finery of settlers from Central Europe.

In one of a number of contributions, which are in effect interim excavation reports, Petar Popović describes the Krševica site in south-eastern Serbia which reveals the remains of an urban settlement with an acropolis and defensive wall dating to the fourth- and early third-century BC (pp.813-20). Apart from typical "Thracian" brooches, there is a fragment of a glass *Gesichtspferle* that can be added to Popović's own survey of 1997 (see also Karwowski 2005, esp. 165-7 and List 4). Still further contributions on female ornaments are those by Boris Jovanović (pp.821-7) and Dragan Božić (pp.829-41) giving, respectively, a Serb what is termed an early La Tène and a Slovene Late La Tène slant, the latter involving a nice piece of antiquarian research that is otherwise missing from the volume. But it must be said that here as elsewhere the use of the term "La Tène" raises the old questions of identity, archaeology and ethnicity that might have had more of an airing even if not

to the extent taken by my old academic sparring partner, John Collis (see most recently Collis 2003).

Two articles on numismatics lead a final grouping of four on aspects of ancient Macedonia in the Hellenistic period. Ursula Brosseder has the last paper on whether foreign women can be identified in the large Late Iron Age cemetery of Ivolga in the trans-Baikal region of Russia on the northern periphery of the kingdom of Xiongu (pp.883-93). The final paper by Bojan Djurić is another study in iconography, this time a fragmentary Severian tombstone from Mrzlo Polje with a head which the author associates with the "têtes coupées" of the Celts (pp.895-902). I have to say that I find this a not entirely convincing thesis and the author fails to cite what might be regarded as some useful references (e.g. Lambrechts 1954; Megaw 2003). There are some object lessons in making too ready links between representations of the human head, ancient and modern. It is true that in the Lough Erne region of Northern Ireland "Celtic" heads, made today in concrete, continue a tradition extending back to the early centuries AD, due at least in part to geographical isolation (Hickey 1976). Whatever the cause, this is not the same as making a seemingly random selection of severed heads from across Europe.

It is natural that one may disagree in part or whole with the arguments presented by so widespread a selection of authors and topics; all the contributions to this major undertaking will be found to contain matters of interest. I have expressed some doubts as to the quality of the binding of *Scripta praehistorica*; after literally living with "Biba's book" for more than six months I am convinced that it will be frequently referred to, particularly wherever there is interest in the later prehistory of Central and Eastern Europe – which includes Australia. It is only a pity that, like many similar publications, it lacks an index which would greatly assist access to the many strands of information which this truly weighty tome contains.

The – unacknowledged – photo of Biba Teržan that forms the frontispiece shows her looking slightly askance, almost worried, as if she were contemplating both the past and the present of the Europe she has studied for so long. With research of the calibre demonstrated here she need have no such concerns. No, she should be smiling at the thought of how much of that research she herself has initiated and encouraged.

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J. V. S. MEGAW

Tudor Soroceanu: *Die vorskythenzeitlichen Metallgefäße im Gebiet des heutigen Rumänien / Vasele de metal prescitate de pe actualul teritoriu al României*. Bronzefunde aus Rumänien / Descoperiri de Bronzuri din România 3. Cluj-Napoca 2008. ISBN 978-973-84445-81-9. 452 strani, 43 slik, 82 + 7 tabel, 6 kart.

Suhoparna statistika pove, da pretežno dvojezična monografija – nemškemu besedilu sledi romunsko – obsega 452 strani. Po prvih straneh, ki so namenjene predgovoru in uvodu, je v osrednjem, kataložnem delu na 234 straneh opredeljeno zbrano gradivo. Sledi štirijezični povzetek ugotovitev, kjer se osnovnima jezicoma pridružita madžarsčina in poljščina. Sklepni del prinaša večji del slikovnega gradiva, table in karte.

Pričujoča monografija, ki obravnava 396 bronastih in zlatih predmetov, od katerih je 172 tipološko določljivih, je bila že pred desetletji načrtovana v okviru serije *Prähistorische Bronzefunde* (PBF), vendar se po skupni odločitvi obeh strani to nazadnje ni izšlo. Kljub temu je publikacija podobno sestavljena in od znanega formata občutno ne odstopa.

Po predgovoru, v katerem avtor poda svoje videnje nastajanja monografije, v uvodu s krajšim miselnim tokom osveži naš spomin o različnem dojemanju kovinskih posod pri raziskovalcih na eni in pri nekdanjih uporabnikih na drugi strani. Nadalje poda štiristopenjski pregled zgodovine raziskav romunskih kovinskih posod od začetkov v poznem 18. stoletju, ki je v enem izmed najstarejših primerov iz leta 1822 obogaten tudi s tedanjim pisnim zaznamkom, do današnjih dni. Prikaz pa je zanimiv tudi širše, saj ne našteva le objav gradiva, temveč komentira tudi splošne pregledne študije, ki so med drugim upoštevale in obdelovale tudi kovinsko posodje tega območja.

Pred kataložnim prikazom gradiva sledi krajši diskurz o tipološki razdelitvi posod, ki so, roko na srce, unikatni izdelki. Tudi zato se avtor postavi na stališče, ki ga je predlagal

že von Merhart, da bi raje kot o posameznih tipih govorili o »linijah« (npr. linija Kirkendrup), kar je po njegovem mnenju predvsem pri skodelah precej bolj ustrezno. V nadaljevanju kljub vsemu uporablja standardizirano izrazje, ki ga v katalogu poveže z njegovimi utemeljitelji, ob tem pa priporoča uporabo tudi alternativnih izrazov, kot so »linija, družina in tendenca«. Svoj predlog ob obravnavi skodel tipov Kirkendrup-Jenišovice, Friedrichsruhe in Fuchsstadt tudi ilustrativno predstavi.

Katalog je sestavljen jasno in pregledno, kot je značilno za zvezke serije PBF. Opisu vsakega tipa in njegovih predstavnikov tako sledi razprava o najdiščinskih okoliščinah in uporabi ter njegovi časovni in prostorski razprostranjenosti.

V sklepu oz. »interpretativnem destilatu«, kot ga imenuje avtor, ponovno načne problematiko percepcije posod v časovno in kulturno ločenih okoljih, ki pa je tudi tokrat ne razvija naprej.

Sledi sinteza, iz katere izhaja, da gre pri kovinskem posodju praviloma za predmete iz depojev, le redko najdene v grobnih in naselbinskih kontekstih, ki so ob tem pogosto nezanesljivo opredeljeni. Območje raziskave je moč razdeliti na dva svetova, zahodnega in vzhodnega, mejo med njima pa predstavljajo Karpati. Da so bili Karpati več kot le omembe vredna naravna ovira, je razvidno že iz študij drugega arheološkega gradiva (npr. PBF IV/8, X/4, XIV/6, XVIII/1), tudi v tem primeru je bila na njihovih vzhodnih in južnih obronkih odkrita le peščica izmed predstavljenih predmetov. Ob tem gre za unikate, ki naj ne bi bili izdelki lokalne obrti.

Sledi pregled časovne dinamike, iz katerega izhaja, da se ob izjemnih in po avtorjevih besedah vprašljivih primerkih iz časa Bd D na območju raziskave v naslednji stopnji Ha A pojavijo prvi zanesljivi uvoženi primerki kovinskih posod. To pa je čas, ko so v sosednjih pokrajinah na severozahodu in predvsem v vzhodnomediterranskem svetu izdelavo takšnih predmetov že dalj časa poznali, tudi območja na obeh straneh Karpatov so se takrat že lahko ozirala na dolgo tradicijo obvladovanja metalurgije. Neposredni vplivi iz metalurških centrov na tleh današnjih Češke, Slovaške in Madžarske so vplivali na oblikovanje lokalnih središč v zgornjem Potisju in na Sedmograškem. Slednje pa je tudi območje, kjer so nato začeli izdelovati vedra tipa Kurd, ki imajo po avtorjevem mnenju predloge v kretskomikenskem svetu. Karpatski bazen je takrat v najkrajšem času postal eden izmed glavnih izdelovalcev kovinskega posodja, predvsem veder. Čas Ha B prinaša številčni skok kovinskih posod v depojih. Najprej je v stopnji Ha B1 prišlo do poenotenja obeh glavnih regij, Potisja in Sedmograške, značilno pa postane izdelovanje trojčka: skodele tipa Kirkendrup, kotla z dvojnokrižnima atašama (tipa B1) in vedra tipa Hajdúböszörmény. Obdobje Ha B2 nato pripelje do razcveta in hkrati vrhunca samostojne izdelave kovinskih posod predvsem na območju Sedmograške. To potrjuje po eni strani število kotlov s paroma križnih ataš (tip B2a), saj tukaj evidentirani primerki presegajo njihovo število v preostalih delih Evrope, po drugi strani pa tudi nastanek novih originalnih oblik, kot so skodele tipa Sängeorgiu de Pădure, skleda tipa Fizeşul Gherlei itn. S stopnjo Ha C se spremeni način deponiranja, predvsem če imamo v mislih kovinske posode. Prenehanje izdelave posod, ki se v drugih