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The Complex of Archeological Sites on the Litmanovská Hill in Jarabina (Northern Slovakia)
Komplex archeologických lokalít v Jarabine – poloha Litmanovská (severné Slovensko)
(Slov. Arch. 61/1, 2013, 1 – 20)

In this article the new archaeological finds from Jarabina, a village situated about four kilometers to the northwest of Stará Lúbovňa, were discussed. It is very probable that the complex of sites located on the Litmanovská hill, which was discovered several years ago as a result of the field survey, gives next evidences of Late Palaeolithic settlement in the region of Lúbovňianska Vrchovina as well as the whole Poprad basin in the territory of present Slovakia. Among 216 stone artifacts from Jarabina-Litmanovská the specimens made of local radiolarite, especially its red variety, prevailed over the others and the products of siliceous limestone as well as few flint artifacts accompanied them. The products of every stage of the stone knapping can be observed: from a pre-core across the cores, flakes, crested blades, common blades and chips to the tools. In the assemblages of the Jarabina-Litmanovská 1 and 2, which created well-defined concentrations on the surface, the presence of blade technique is clearly noticeable. The inventory of the Jarabina-Litmanovská 3 was consisted of only one object: an atypical massive macroburin. Aside from the mentioned sites, on the Litmanovská hill 27 stone artifacts were gathered. They were mainly flakes made of raw material of low quality. The collection of not knapped small nodules of green radiolarite is also worth attention. Among all finds some elements of late Pleistocene Świderian and Magdalenian cultures were distinguished, what results in the fact that the sites on the Litmanovská hill may correspond with the inventory from Stará Lúbovňa–Pod Štokom II.

Key words: Slovakia, Spiš, Late Palaeolithic, Magdalenian technocomplex, Świderian (Masovian) culture, chipped stone industry, typology, chronology.

Zdeněk Farkaš

Osídlenie jaskyne Dzeravá skala v období epilengyelského kultúrneho okruhu
Ansiedlung der Höhle Dzeravá skala in der Zeit des epilengyelischen Kulturkreises
(Slov. Arch. 61/1, 2013, 21 – 91)

The Settlement of the Dzeravá Skala Cave in the Period of the Epilengyel Cultural Circle.
Approximately 26 m deep and 10 m high cavity of the Dzeravá skala cave, situated at Plavecký Mikuláš in the Low Carpathians’ Plavecký kras in western Slovakia, has ranked among significant Palaeolithic sites of a central European importance already since the beginning of the 20th century. However, all of the archaeological explorations carried out so far have not brought any important knowledge concerning also the post-palaeological settlement, especially in the period of the late Lengyel culture. In 2005 in Holocene sediments damaged by unprofessional interventions three probes detected marked traces of settlement activities of the creators of the Ludanice group (with sporadic preservations of almost 0.6 m thick cultural layer). The north-eastern corner of the cave, irregularly modelled through erosion, as well as the cave corridor with sinter decoration intentionally closed already during the Eneolithic, were explored on the area C/05 reaching almost 22 m². The opening to the underground was laid over by a massive stone and partially also by a flat stone board. Originally probably an outlet corridor, itled to the surface on the bottom of the 1/C object, which was of an irregular shape, from three sides adapted to the curving of stone walls. From the west, the only side open to the cave, the pit was bounded three times by an edge bent almost to the right angle, bordered by three column pits and marked traces of burnt wood. From the filling mixed with a large amount of stones there were collected 1876 fragments of ceramics, 10 fragments of copper objects, an unfinished stone polished instrument, fragments of partially burnt or burnt animal bones, and 9 bone and horn instruments. Just 0.7 m from the object 1/C was situated another intervention to original Pleistocene layers, marked as object 2/C. The typological scale of pottery products is characteristic, first of all, for the Ludanice group (Lengyel IV overlapping to Lengyel IVc), with marked influences from the circle of the Jordanów group, the Bisamberg-Oberpullendorf group, or the Balaton I-Lasinja culture. To the nine fragments of copper objects from 2002 were added 21 newly invented pieces. All metal objects were in a fragmentary state, often with marked traces after breaking or other violent division of the original wholes. Most of them may be classified as garniture or parts of clothing. So far the only copper object belonging to work instruments or weapons is a flat blade with saddle-shaped bent back.

The discovery situation and fund make it possible to assume a unique, perhaps “sacral” function of the 1/C object, resulting from a tradition of cult pit “thankful” or “bidding” presents for the “representatives of higher power”.

Key words: Eneolithic, cave, Jordanów group, Balaton I – Lasinja culture, Ludanice group, Lengyel culture, copper industry, ritual space, Bisamberg-Oberpullendorf group.
Ernst Lauermann – Doris Pany-Kucera
Grab 3 aus dem Aunjetitzer Gräberfeld von Geitzendorf
Der Erste Nachweis einer Metallverarbeiterin in der Frühbronzezeit Niederösterreichs
Hrob 3 z únětického pohrebiska v Geitzendorfe
Prvý dôkaz spracovateľky kovu zo včasnej doby bronzovej v Dolnom Rakúsku
(Slov. Arch. 61/1, 2013, 93 – 106)

Grave 3 from the Únětice Culture Cemetery of Geitzendorf. The First Evidence for a Female Metal Worker in the Early Bronze Age in Lower Austria. The cemetery of Geitzendorf with 15 documented graves provides an important contribution to the knowledge of Únětice Culture in Lower Austria. Among the grave group, the female grave V3 certainly represents the most important one. In a depth of 70 cm below the actual surface the grave shaft was clearly visible. It was oriented from NE to SW. In a depth of 120 cm a brown layer with an extension of 160 x 58 cm can be interpreted as wooden coffin. In a depth of 145 cm the bottom of the grave was reached. The skeleton was severely disturbed in the pelvis and the thorax regions. Like all graves from Geitzendorf, this burial was robbed in ancient times. Besides the preserved jewellery like rings or spiral tubes, two amber beads were found as well. Among the ceramic finds the imitation of a leather poach is worth to be mentioned. Four cushion stones could have been used as tools for metal working. The stones ST20, ST21 and ST23 were found dispersed in the back of the burial, outside the dark layer. Stone ST22 was covered by a small cup, immediately behind the skull. Anthropological examination of the skull – the pelvis is not preserved – pointed to a woman who died at the age of 45 – 60 years. Arthrotic transformations were visible at the right temporomandibular joint as well as at the corresponding Fossa mandibularis of the skull. The right clavicle shows a severe, but healed fracture. The female goldsmith buried in Geitzendorf seems to be a unique phenomenon and raises new questions regarding the role of women in the Early Bronze Age society. It is not quite sure whether the stone tools in the burial represent the complete tool set of a goldsmith. The objects could also be regarded as a pars pro toto. In the Early Bronze Age area of study, nonambigous burials of metal workers have been rarely found. Overall, the badly preserved finds from the cemetery, consisting mainly of ceramics, can be dated into the classic phase BA2 of the Únětice Culture.

Key words: Lower Austria, Early Bronze Age, Únětice Culture, Burials of Metalworkers.

Gertrúda Březinová – Natalie Venclová – Jaroslav Frána – Marek Fikrle
Early Blue Glass Bracelets in the Middle Danube Region
Včasné modré sklené náramky zo stredného Podunajska
(Slov. Arch. 61/1, 2013, 107 – 142)

Numerous finds of La Tène glass bracelets have come to light recently in south-west Slovakia. Attention has been focused on the dark blue bracelets of Haevernick Groups 3 and 2. Up to now, these bracelets were considered to belong to the very late types, including the blue specimens, with their occurrence limited to LTD. It seems however that in the case of the blue bracelets, new groups (or sub-groups) may be defined, based on the decoration of figure-of-eight coils (Group 3b/1, 2b/1) or wavy lines (Group 3b/2, 2b/2), with a distribution in the Middle Danube region, namely in south-west Slovakia, Lower Austria and Moravia. According to find contexts as well as visual characteristics of glass and its decoration, the decorated sub-groups were manufactured in this part of Europe as early as in LTC1, or LTC1b at the latest, the undecorated sub-group 3a in LTC2. In LTD1 the production of bracelets of Groups 3 and 2, undecorated or with a wavy line, continued, but probably in other, most likely western European workshops. Chemical analysis (INAA) of ten samples from Slovakia has placed the analysed bracelets into two groups which had been previously identified in the collection of LTC1 – LTC2 glasses from Němčice in Moravia. It is significant that the blue bracelets, undecorated or with a wavy line, cannot be considered diagnostic artefacts of the LTD phase, and it is not possible, at least in the Middle Danube region, to date find contexts in LTD based on their occurrence, as has been commonly the case. The identification of earlier and later specimens within Groups 3 and 2 will perhaps be possible in the future as the result of the application of more precise methods of chemical analysis.

Key words: Middle Danube region, La Tène period, glass bracelets, chronology, chemical analysis.

Peter Šalkovský
Sídelný vývoj v povodí hornjej Nitry v starších fázach stredoveku
Siedlungsentwicklung im oberen Nitratal in älteren Stufen des Mittelalters
(Slov. Arch. 61/1, 2013, 143 – 175)

The Settlement Development in the Upper Nitra River Basin in the Older Phases of the Middle Ages. The paper discusses settlement development of the upper Nitra River basin during the period of the Middle Ages’ older phases, its chronological, spatial and ecoparametric analyses using the methods of settlement archaeology, their interpretation and reconstruction of the processes of settlement and development of residential structure with
regard to main historical trends in the central Danube area from the 6th up to the mid-13th cent. In the processes of settlement a significant role was played by landscape parameters – altitude, morphology and type of relief. Most open settlements were established in the lowest hypsometric belts of the region, on the terraces of the Nitra and Nitrica Rivers and their tributaries, in the belts of potentially most fertile agricultural land, climactically just moderately warm, even with cool or cold winter, and humid. However, colonisation did not avoid lower quality soils in the land of hillsides and uplands, where especially prospector and production settlements were originating, or the mountains where hill-forts were being established. The beginnings of Slavonic settlement in the upper Nitra River basin as early as in the younger early-Slavonic and pre-Great Moravian period are represented by the seeds of the three sites – situated in the vicinity of the present Partizánske, Diviaky nad Nitricou and Prievidza. There gradually came new settlement activities in the period of Great Moravia as a result of demographic pressure as well as thorough the efforts to provide for additional raw materials for the state.

After the collapse of Great Moravia the territories did not probably find themselves under an immediate military occupation by “ancient Magyar” tribes. In the 10th cent. the population responded to a new situation with a decentralisation of power, reconstruction of the existing and building of new fortifications, partially also with the shifts of population deeper into the mountains. After a temporary unstable situation and decisive military and military-political events during the 10th cent. up to the first third of the 11th cent., the territories were permanently connected to the Kingdom of Hungary. Older fortifications lost their significance and were abandoned or changed into small family castles. The representatives of new power built for themselves new fortified headquarters, and as part of the Nitra appanage principality they were involved in numerous conflicts between the emerging new states – the Hungarian, Czech and Polish kingdoms, as well as intra-dynastic conflicts of the Arpads. After the stabilisation of the situation during the 11th cent., there continued the settling of old noble families within newly-established royal counties, committas, as well as new royal donations. The picture of the settlement of the upper Nitra River basin in the 12th – 13th cent., enriched by many new residential components, already gives, in broad outlines, a situation which has not significantly changed, in spite of certain local changes, up to the modern times, and makes up a core of the present residential net.

Key words: central Slovakia, upper Nitra river basin, Middle Ages, 7th – 13th cent., residences, settlement.
Ján Tirpák: Vladimír Hašek – Josef Unger: Religious Architecture in the Czech Republic in the Light of Geophysical Prospection and Archaeological Excavation
(Slov. Arch. 61/1, 2013, 199, 200)