Where was Situated the Principal Source of Obsidian in Prehistory of Central Europe?

Carpathian obsidian represented one of the most important raw materials in prehistoric times of Central Europe. According to the distribution maps, the Slovakian source (Carpathian 1) played the decisive role not only in Slovakia but in the whole Central Europe as well. The provenance of this obsidian was supposed near the village Viničky at the southern margin of the Zemplínske vrchy Mts. But the natural obsidian from the surroundings of Viničky (no sculpture, polyhedral shape, almost non-translucent glassy mass, dimensions of pieces usually up to 3 – 4 cm) has absolutely different properties comparing the appearance of prevalent part of obsidian artefacts (conspicuous sculpture on relics of original surface, a good translucence, common dimensions of pieces above 6 cm and more). We found the occurrence of such shortly transported and sculptured natural obsidians in lenses of probably deluviofluvial gravels in air-borne sands situated in central to NE parts of the Zemplínske vrchy Mts., i. e. in the surroundings of Brehov. In recent time these deluviofluvial or fluvial rocks with obsidian are probably partly covered by younger flood loams or air-borne sands. Our finding shows the mentioned area with about 6 km² could be the principal source supporting by obsidian Central and SE Europe from the Middle Palaeolithic.

Key words: Slovakia, Zemplínske vrchy, source of obsidian.
Neolithic. A total of 22 skeletal graves were excavated. Within the research excavation the northern, southern and western borders of ce-metery were located. The eastern part could not be unearthed. Graves in the central part of the cemetery were arranged in a line, in the direction of NE-SW. North and south parts consisted of only few graves. Burial pits had a more or less regular rectangular ground plan with rounded corners, but also oval and elongated shape and trapezoidal ground plan. The largest graves belonged to adults. In two female graves traces of coffins were detected. Female graves and graves of girls were oriented in the direction of E-W with a deviation in the primary direction. Orientation of male graves is variable, as E-W, W-E, and NNW-SSE. Graves of boys were oriented in the direction of W-E, one of them in the direction of NE-SW. Women and girls were buried in a crouched position on the left side, while men and boys on the right side. Within the burial rite several particularities have occurred. It is primarily the absence of parts of bodies or whole ske-leton. In one grave lacking a skeleton, beads were found on the bottom of the burial pit. It is remarkable that the absence of parts of bodies or grave disruption is observed only in children’s graves. From the nine identified children’s graves in Zohor, in eight of them skeletons were evidently disrupted, eventually some bones absented. Only in one grave the disrupted body belonged to an adult woman. In connection with disruptions of children’s graves ritual reasons are considered primarily, although it is not excluded that some displacements in a burial pit could have occurred due to activities of animals. Grave inventory represented bone and antler beads, which were placed only in graves of women and girls. Round head ornaments in the shape of a willow leaf were also found only in female graves. At the cemetery a bone awl, chipped stone industry, a semi-finished artefact probably of stone crusher and few pottery shards were also included. To determinate the chronological position of the graves particularly head ornaments in the shape of a willow leaf with a slight central rib contributed. These appear in the burial grounds of the Nitra culture in the earlier stage.

Key words: Early Bronze Age, Age, inhumation cemetery, grave units.

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Antropologická analýza pohrebiska nitrianskej kultúry zo Zohora, okr. Malacky
Anthropologische Analyse des Gräberfeldes der Nitra-Kultur von Zohor
(Slov. Arch. 62/2, 2014, 293–314)

**Anthropological Analysis of the Nitra Culture Cemetery at Zohor (dpt. Malacky, Slovakia).** During the analysis of 23 graves, 19 individuals were identified (10 non-adults and 8 adults – including four women, three men, one adult and one unspecified individual). Most of them, nine skeletal remains belonged to children aged 0.6 – 15 years and eight to older adults aged 30 – 59 years. Women died younger than men and all adults are older than 30 years. Their skulls appear to be long to very long, and narrow to very narrow, while they are similar to the Early Bronze Age skulls from other sites. Five women and a man have moderately robust arm bones, robust radii and moderately robust femora. According to the height calculated for six adults, they were all, except two women, tall. Cribra orbitalia occurred in three non-adult individuals. One child had injured skull, another one had deformed the left elbow joint and shortened the right femur. An increased number of dental caries (at least four) occurred in seven adult individuals. Even on the skulls of two adults, there were visible injuries. Other abnormalities or pathological changes occur only sporadically.

Key words: Early Bronze Age, cemetery, skeletal remains, paleodemography, anthropometric data, paleopathology, Nitra culture, Central Europe.

**Rastislav Rusnák**

Vývoj mestskej domovej parcely na príklade Mäsiarskej 57/A v Košiciach
Entwicklung der städtischen Hausparzelle am Beispiel von Mäsiarska 57/A in Košice
(Slov. Arch. 62/2, 2014, 315–398)

**The Development of Municipal Houselot through the Example of Mäsiarska 57/A in Košice.** Two seasons of archaeological excavation in Mäsiarska 57/A Street in Košice are a great contribution in the exploration of the development of municipal houselot. The explored area offered a possibility of relatively extensive view, both from the spatial as well as chronological aspect on a lot which (as far as its location in municipal built-up area is concerned) was one of rather peripheral lots, and, as regards the settlement intensity, the less exposed ones. The archaeological excavation detected features of various nature. In addition to simple sunken features – the pits of undoubtedly short duration, there were detected also ground features of regular shape, sometimes also with indications of building (wooden, or wood-earthen) construction, where the ambition of their longer duration has to be counted with. Even longer duration must be expected in the case of features with solid wooden building construction, which could be functional for one or two generations. The most durable are stone walled features, specifically the more extensive buildings with solid and deep foundations. As regards the chronological aspect, it may be stated that thin settlement in the High Middle Ages (13th – 14th cent.) became significantly more intensive in Late Middle Ages (15th cent.), and culminated in the older Postmedieval Period (16th – 17th cent.). In the younger Postmedieval Period (18th – 19th cent.) the settlement function of the lot gradually perishes and changes only to an un-built area, originally with a garden arrangement. Later on, this
function is degraded as well. The study also discusses the finds obtained from individual settlement features and situations.

Key words: Slovakia, Košice, city, lot, 13th – 19th cent.

Jubileá
Jozef Bátor: Životné jubileum prof. PhDr. Jozefa Vladára, DrSc.
(Slov. Arch. 62/2, 2014, 399–401)

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(Slov. Arch. 62/2, 2014, 410–414)