



LATE BRONZE AGE MORTUARY PRACTICES AND SOCIETY IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

# LATE BRONZE AGE MORTUARY PRACTICES AND SOCIETY IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

— Proceedings of  
the International  
conference in Zagreb  
February 9—10, 2017  
**Zagreb, 2019**

cijena: 100 kn



ZBORNIK INSTITUTA ZA ARHEOLOGIJU  
SERTA INSTITUTI ARCHAEOLOGICI

KNJIGA  
VOLUME **11**

6	INTRODUCTION <b>Daria Ložnjak Dizdar, Marko Dizdar</b>
8	VELEBIT, TUMULUS CULTURE ( <i>HÜGELGRÄBER</i> ) NECROPOLIS IN THE SOUTH OF THE CARPATHIAN BASIN <b>Aleksandar Kapuran, Raško Ramadanski</b>
24	DIE TEXTILIENRESTE AUS DEM SPÄTBRONZEZEITLICHEN HÜGELGRAB (BZ D1) VON JÁNOSHÁZA IN WESTTRANS DANUBIEN <b>Katalin Jankovits</b>
38	ÄNDERNDE RITEN – UNTERSUCHUNGEN IM SPÄTBRONZEZEITLICHEN GRÄBERFELD VON ZAGYVAPÁLFALVA (UNGARN) <b>Szilvia Guba</b>
54	SEARCHING FOR THE BURYING COMMUNITAS IN THE LATE BRONZE AGE URN FIELD AT MÜLLROSE (EAST BRANDENBURG) <b>Verena Tiedtke, Susanne Storch</b>
88	DIVERSITY OF LATE BRONZE AGE MORTUARY RITUAL PRACTICES IN THE SOUTHERN CARPATHIAN BASIN <b>Daria Ložnjak Dizdar, Petra Rajić Šikanjić, Marko Dizdar, Stašo Forenbaher, Siniša Radović, Zrinka Premužić</b>
118	THE TALE OF THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST <b>Boris Kavur, Martina Blečić Kavur</b>
128	CHILDREN IN LATE BRONZE AGE CEMETERIES IN NORTHERN CROATIA <b>Petra Rajić Šikanjić, Daria Ložnjak Dizdar</b>
136	WHY ME? A STORY ABOUT FUNERALS AND FEASTING FROM ANIMAL PERSPECTIVE <b>Siniša Radović</b>
150	ON THE FUNERARY RITE OF THE BOSUT CULTURE <b>Jovan Koledin</b>
164	LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

## INTRODUCTION

There is an exceptionally long tradition of research on Late Bronze Age mortuary practices and societies in the Carpathian Basin. The first cemeteries from the period between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> centuries BC were excavated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when it was noticed that the Late Bronze Age period was marked by a particularly widespread burial method — the cremated remains of the dead were laid into urns in flat graves. It was the burial method that gave the name to the characteristically rich material heritage of the period: the *Urnfield culture*. The results of the numerous excavations have shown that the Carpathian Basin was the meeting place of two cultural spheres with characteristic but different material heritages, which were determined by the communication networks of the time: the western one (the middle Danube sphere of the Urnfield culture) and the eastern one (the eastern Carpathian fluted pottery community). But the entire Carpathian Basin shared the mortuary practice of cremating the dead and laying their remains in an urn or a grave pit. It was only at the end of the Late Bronze Age, during the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC, that the northeastern and southern Carpathian Basin started to use skeletal burials. The position of northern Croatia — in the center of the southern Carpathian Basin, at the crossroads of the communication lines following river valleys — determined the exchange of goods, ideas and customs between eastern and western communities, as testified by the preserved archaeological traces, which are the starting point of any scientific discussion.

The exchange of current scientific knowledge about Late Bronze Age mortuary practices in the Carpathian Basin was made possible by the implementation of the installation research project of the Croatian Science Foundation: *Late Bronze Age mortuary practice and society in the southern Carpathian Basin* (IRP 11-2013-5327). As part of the project, an international scientific conference called *Late Bronze Age mortuary practice and society in the Carpathian Basin* was held in the HAZU Library in Zagreb from 9 to 10 February 2017. The participants in the conference were 41 scientists from Croatia, Germany, United Kingdom, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia. At the two-day event, the invited

lecture was held by Prof. L. D. Nebesick (Germany), followed by 22 lectures about the state of research of Late Bronze Age mortuary practices in different parts of the Carpathian Basin, with particular emphasis on the topics related to mortuary practices from archaeological and anthropological aspects. The final thoughts were given by Prof. Marie Louise Stig Sørensen (University of Cambridge) and Prof. Carola Metzner-Nebelsick (Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich).

The event showed how justified it was to organise a scientific dialogue between scientists researching subjects related to Late Bronze Age mortuary practices. This was confirmed by the numerous and prolonged discussions after each lecture. The final thoughts presented the current state of research, but special importance was given to defining future directions in mortuary practice research, with a crucial role played by the discussions on the development of the current research methodology. The diverse topics discussed at the conference clearly showed the challenges of our time: the numerous Late Bronze Age cemeteries that are known in the Carpathian Basin have been researched and published since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with noticeably different research methods; there are both regional and chronological variations in mortuary practices within the Urnfield culture; a further development of interdisciplinary approaches through anthropological, archaeozoological, radiocarbon and anthracological analyses; the collection of large quantities of data obtained through research and their interpretation on several levels. The fact that a scientific conference organised within a project of the Croatian Science Foundation gathered so many researchers working on Late Bronze Age mortuary practices in the Carpathian Basin in regional and European contexts showed the relevance of the research undertaken within the project.

This volume of the *Proceedings of the Institute of Archaeology/Serta Instituti Archaeologici* contains some of the papers presented at the conference, as it publishes the results of the implementation of the project *Late Bronze Age mortuary practices and society in southern Carpathian Basin*, and the papers of the scientists who made case studies about specific cemeteries. Since the conference and the proceedings were partly financed by the Croatian Science Foundation within the project IRP 11-2013-5327, we offer our heartfelt thanks to the Croatian Science Foundation for giving their support and making the event possible.