

ZBORNIK INSTITUTA ZA ARHEOLOGIJU SERTA INSTITUTI ARCHAEOLOGICI

KNJIGA VOLUME 9

THE LATE URNFIELD CULTURE BETWEEN THE EASTERN ALPS AND THE DANUBE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ZAGREB, NOVEMBER 7-8, 2013

Zagreb, 2017



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INTRODUCTION

Late Urnfield Culture between the Eastern Alps and the Danube was an international scientific conference held at the Institute of Archaeology in Zagreb on the 7th and 8th of November 2013 with the support of the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education. The conference was about the younger phase of the Urnfield culture in the area between the eastern Alps and the Danube. In recent years, excavations have been undertaken at numerous sites dating from the younger phase of the Urnfield culture (from the late 12th century to the late 9th century BC) in the wider area of the Carpathian Basin. The study of specific Late Bronze Age topics created the need for scientific discussions and exchanges of experiences from the wider geographic area. Conferences of this kind are a great opportunity to examine numerous problematic issues, but also to define future directions of study of what was a period of distinct regions and flourishing communications. The Danube was the eastern limit of expansion of this Central European cultural phenomenon, with northern Croatia being particularly interesting as a contact zone lying on three rivers – the Drava, the Sava, and the Danube – which had an important communication role in prehistory.

The conference gathered 37 researchers and included 17 lectures on topics from the Alpine sphere to the western Balkans. The lectures presented results of multidisciplinary studies of settlements, analyses of the use of cemeteries and hoards, and studies of networks of exchange of metal items. The final conference discussion pointed out the need to define regional distribution networks by shape and decoration of pottery as the greatest group of finds, to shed light on funerary rites – especially in the subsequent period of transition to the Early Iron Age – and to explore the paleo-environment that influenced the network and modes of exchange of knowledge and skills in the period.

The Serta Instituti archaeologici series, vol. 9, has published some of the conference lectures. They represent particular sites and regions, issues and insights, within the current research of the dynamic period between the second and the first millennium BC.

The cycle of scientific conferences on the Late Bronze Age started with *The Beginning of the Late Bronze Age between the Eastern Alps and the Danube*, a conference held in the Archaeological Museum in Osijek in 2011. Some lectures from that conference were published in the *Serta Instituti archaeologici* series, vol. 1. By organising *The Late Urnfield Culture between the Eastern Alps and the Danube* and publishing the conference proceedings in the *Serta Instituti archaeologici* series, vol. 9, the Institute of Archaeology gathered Late Bronze Age researchers from the southern Carpathian Basin and Central Europe, bringing contemporary challenges of Late Bronze Age studies into the focus of research. After a chronological overview of the state of research and open issues, the Institute of Archaeology has implemented scientific projects to study particular topics related to the Late Bronze Age, with the intention to keep initiating exchanges of knowledge, experience and practice among researchers.

Marko Dizdar