Session 2

How far is near enough?

Middle Bronze Age Copper Raw Material Networks Between Central Europe, Italy and the Balkans

Mario Gavranović

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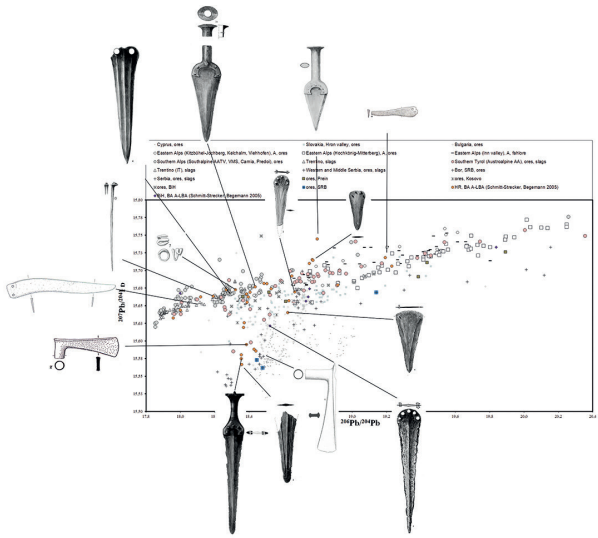
Over the past decades, a substantial increase in archaeometallurgical research has greatly enhanced our understanding of Bronze Age copper supply networks. Although lead isotope analysis has become the most widely applied and robust method for tracing copper provenance, significant challenges remain. The mixing of ores from different deposits during production and the isotopic similarity of geologically related ore fields often hinder precise source attribution. These limitations underscore the need to integrate additional lines of evidence, including chemical composition, chronological alignment, and archaeological context in order to reconstruct copper circulation more reliably.

From the Middle Bronze Age onward, rising demand for metal objects contributed to expanding connectivity between copper-producing and copper-consuming regions across the Alps, the Apennine Peninsula, the Carpathian Basin, and the Balkans. As we are still in the process of reconstruction of possible routes of raw material between mining and smelting areas and the places of final processing (alloying) of copper, current data point to the emergence of major copper production districts in the Alpine region, particularly Hochkönig–Mitterberg and the Southeastern Italian Alps. At the same time, local production in copper-rich regions such as eastern Serbia and Slovakia declined markedly between the 17th and 15th centuries BCE. The apparent "disregard" for nearby ore sources and the growing reliance on distant raw materials reflect profound socio-economic transformations, technological advances in mining and smelting, and the formation of stable long-distance exchange networks.

Even with the ideological and social changes that accompanied the rise of the Urnfield phenomena in the 14th–13th centuries BCE, these

long-established copper supply systems not only persisted but intensified, highlighting their structural resilience and the increasingly integrating character of Bronze Age societies in Europe.



Lead isotope values of selected objects from the western Balkans (modified by Alberta Arena)

Notes

Archaeometallurgical Analyses of Metal Objects from the Tumulus Period: Case Studies from the Danube–Sava–Drina Region

Gábor Sánta[1,2], Mario Gavranović[2,3], Emília Pásztor[4], Evelin Papp[4], Alberta Arena[2], Mathias Mehofer[5], Nicole Mittermair[2]

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In this paper we will present results of recent archaeometallurgical analyses (chemical composition and lead isotope analyses) on metal objects from sites in southern Hungary (Sükösd-Árpás-dűlő, Érsekcsanád), northern Croatia (Vinkovci area) and eastern Bosnia along the Drina River (cemeteries of Jezero and Pađine). Based on typological assessment most of the discussed finds date to the 16th and 15th centuries BC and are in general regarded as indicative of Tumulus culture and its regional groups. In terms of chemical composition and alloy practices (tin concentration), we will compare different object groups (trapezoidal hilt-plate daggers, bi-conical headed pins, bracelets) and focus on possible typological, chronological and regional patterns.

Considering copper provenance, the beginning of the Tumulus period (c. 1600 BC) is marked by restructuring of Bronze Age metal supply in Carpathians Basin and all adjacent regions of central- and south-east Europe. During this period, the copper production in north-eastern Serbia (Bor area) ceased and the presence of copper from Slovakia (Hron valley) significantly decreased, while the first analytic results point to influx of copper raw material from the Alps (Mitterberg area and Trentino). Although the presence of Alpine copper in some MBA objects coincides with the spread of Tumulus culture, suggesting a possible link between metal supply and cultural expansion, the number of analyses is still not sufficient for such general conclusions.

Türr István Museum, Baja; Museum of Vinkovci; Tuzla and Tolisa; ÖAW – Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut (photo: Gábor Sánta, Mario Gavranović)

Chemical composition of objects from the Szeged region suggests additional copper sources that cannot yet be identified due to the lack of lead isotope analyses; similarly, some objects from the Kelebia hoard show compositions comparable to copper deposits in north-eastern Serbia (Bor, Majdanpek), although lead isotope analyses are also lacking.

Based on preliminary results, we hypothesize that during the 16th and 15th centuries BC different regional groups within the southern Carpathian Basin and northern Balkans obtained copper from various sources, reflecting distinct exchange networks between different communities within a broadly shared cultural horizon. Some of them appear to be relied more on supply from Mitterberg area, while other were more oriented toward supply routes coming from southwestern direction (Trentino).

Notes

Social Interaction, Traditions and Trade in the Tumulus Period: Compositional Analyses of Ceramics, Glass Beads and Stone Axes from the Maklár Cemeteries (NE Hungary)

Ákos Mengyán[1,2], Zita Hrabák[3,4], Bernadett Bajnóczi[5], Veronika Szilágyi[6], Zsolt Kasztovszky[6], Ferenc Kristály[1]

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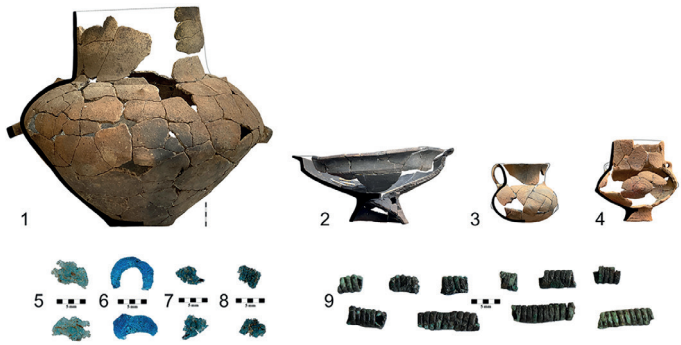
Located on the northern Great Hungarian Plain of Northeastern Hungary, two partially excavated cemeteries have been identified in the vicinity of Maklár. The sites are Maklár-Koszpérium (121 burials) and Maklár-Nagyrét II (210 graves), and date primarily to the Tumulus period, roughly between 1600/1500 and 1300/1200 cal BC. However, radiocarbon dating indicates a minor chronological difference between the sites. In this period, the research area was a contact zone between Tumulus and Piliny communities, an interaction reflected slightly in the stylistic variations of the ceramic assemblages. Both cemeteries consist exclusively of cremation burials, including urn graves and scattered cremation graves. Most burials contained multiple vessels, forming diverse ceramic sets. Among the finds, thirty-four blue glass beads were unearthed in the Nagyrét II, and two stone axes were found, one from each site.

This research examines the composition and provenance of ceramics, glass beads and stone axes, in order to analyse the networks and traditions of communities. The raw material procurement and tempering practices of the two ceramic assemblages were studied by thin-section petrography. The primary objective is to define the technological traits

of pottery production and to identify similarities and differences in manufacturing processes. Furthermore, the study explores how technological traditions relate across the two cemeteries and how vessels found within the same grave are technologically associated. By employing the *chaîne opératoire* approach, this study provides insights into social and cultural boundaries.

The stone axes were analysed by non-destructive PGAA and XRD analyses, indicating both local and imported raw materials. The glass beads were studied by SEM-EDS and LA-ICP-MS. Their provenance sheds light on complex social relations and long-distance trade networks between Central Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.



Grave assemblage of burial 49 from Maklár-Nagyrét II: 1–4 ceramics, 5–8: glass beads, 9: bronze spiral-tubes (photos: Zita Hrabák, László György, Ákos Mengyán)

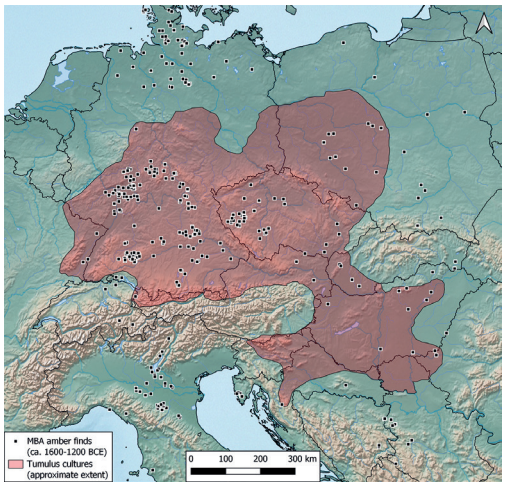
Notes

A Close Relationship: The Role of Amber in the Tumulus Culture

Mateusz Cwaliński
Institute of Archaeology, University of Gdańsk, Poland

The Early Bronze Age witnessed the first large-scale dissemination of amber in Europe beyond the zone of its natural occurrence. During the Middle Bronze Age – here understood as the developmental phase of the Tumulus culture – this process intensified further. Among the clearest signs of this trend is the widening of amber's distribution range to include regions that had previously received the material only sporadically, if at all. Another clear marker is a shift in stylistic conventions, discernible in the appearance of new forms of amber artefacts, most notably biconical beads. At this time, practices of amber utilisation became increasingly standardised, particularly with regard to its role within dress assemblages as observed in funerary contexts. Amber ceases to co-occur with weapons and is instead ever more closely associated with items of personal adornment. Closely tied to this development is a growing homogenisation in the social attribution of amber, which became a resource allocated almost exclusively to women and children. Amber also serves as a first-rate proxy for reconstructing mobility. Initially procured from the Baltic and the North Sea coastal zones, it was subsequently transported over long distances before eventually reaching its consumers. This raises a series of further questions: which areas supplied raw amber; where, and by whom, was it worked; and along which routes did it circulate? To date, no amber workshop securely dated to this phase has been identified, making it plausible that itinerant craftsmen were responsible for both the processing and distribution of the material. Moreover, in light of recent advances in provenance analyses, it appears increasingly credible that this period saw the progressive commodification of amber as a trade good exchanged for other raw materials, including copper and tin. Taken together, these considerations suggest that the significance of amber within the Tumulus culture should not be underestimated; indeed, it may be regarded as one of the material hallmarks of this phenomenon.

The paper was prepared and presented within the framework of the scientific project *Amber and copper in the Early and Middle Bronze Age in Polish lands: acquisition, processing, circulation and use* (no. 2023/51/D/HS3/00778), financed by the National Science Centre of Poland.

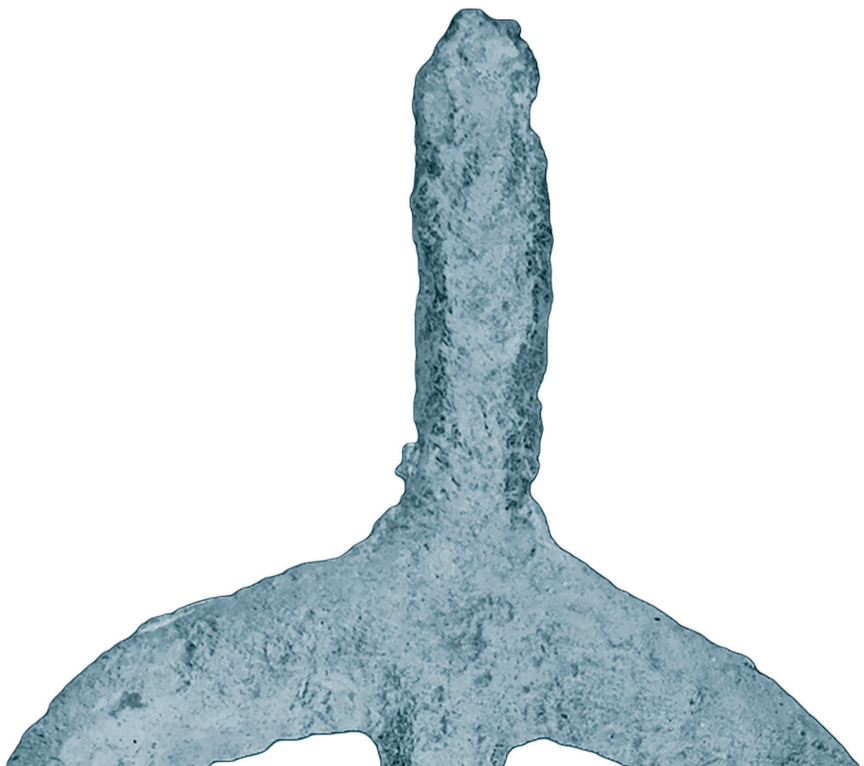


Distribution of amber finds dated to the Br B–Br D phases (ca. 1600–1200 BCE) in Central Europe (map: Mateusz Cwaliński)

Notes

Session 3

What makes a place worth living?



A Climate of Plenty? Comparing Landscape–Community–Climate Intersections in the Plains of the Carpathian Basin 1550–1200 BC

Barry Molloy
University College Dublin, Ireland

There was a major disruption in settlement systems in the mid-second millennium BC in the Carpathian Basin. The most visible marker of this is what was lost – central places and cemeteries were abandoned in many areas. Around the same time, new cultural traditions emerged, broadly punctuated by the adoption of Tumulus culture ceramics in the central and north plains and Belegiš and LBA Pannonian encrusted wares in the south. These new ceramic traditions did not emerge in isolation; they were associated with new settlements that contrasted in organisation and preferred location with those of centuries before the disjuncture. Something had materially changed that impacted on the performance of lifeways, enabling and enabled by new relationships with the landscape. We might point to climate change as a factor – often viewed as catastrophic, we may also ask whether one person's difficulty was another's opportunity? Old ideas may be challenged alongside old certainties when structuring conditions shift, paving the way for new ideas of community organisation and the distribution of resources, potentially influenced by shifts in demographics or articulations of power. Beginning with a brief overview of climate data, I will then consider what topography and settlement design can tell us about some physical and environmental factors influencing how communities structured their social landscapes. I argue that while people showed resilience – evident in material culture and social practices – defining elements of how societies were organised changed fundamentally from the late 16th century BC, demonstrating reactive and innovative decisions by community leaders. The scale at which we choose to view social units will impact on how we measure the political and economic dimensions of change, which I will address in the context of shifting social networks and mobility patterns.

Grave 12 at Iđoš-Budžak Livade (Molloy et al. 2023, fig. 3)

Notes

Middle Bronze Age Humidity and Temperature Variations, and Societal Consequences in East-Central Europe

Attila Demény[1], Zoltán Kern[1], György Czuppon[1], Szabolcs Leél-Őssy[2], Bernadett Bajnóczi[1], Viktória Kiss[3], Gabriella Kulcsár[3], Mária Bondár[3]

[1]Institute for Geological and Geochemical Research, HUN-REN Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Hungary
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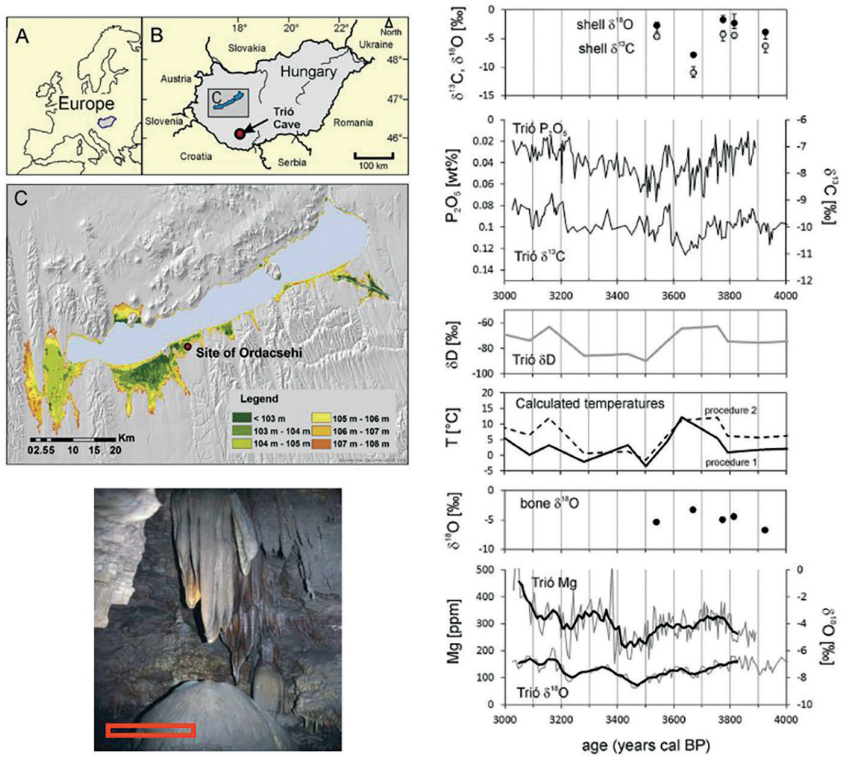
Archaeological evidence points to substantial changes in Bronze Age societies in the European- Mediterranean region, which were investigated in this study using stable isotopic and trace element multiproxy analyses of a speleothem, bivalve shells, and human skeleton remains. The data indicate warm and humid conditions with elevated summer precipitation around 3.7 cal ka BP, followed by a short-term deterioration in environmental conditions at about 3.5 cal ka BP due to a major volcanic event, most probably the Thera eruption. The environment became humid and cold with winter precipitation dominance around 3.5 to 3.4 cal ka BP, then gradually changed to drier conditions at ~3.2 cal ka BP. The most straightforward consequences of environmental variations have been found in changes of settlement structure in the Carpathian basin. The paleoclimatological picture agrees with other East-Central European climate records, indicating that the climate fluctuations took place on a regional scale.



Locations of the studied shells (Ordacsehi) and speleothem (Trió cave), the picture of the speleothem with the drill core location (red box), and the geochemical compositions used as paleoclimate proxies (modified after Demény et al. 2019)

Notes

No Tumuli in the Tumulus Culture?

Boris Kavur, Martina Blečić Kavur
University of Primorska Koper, Slovenia

Over the past three decades, our understanding of the Bronze Age in eastern Slovenia has changed significantly. This is due not only to the highway construction project that cut through the landscape and revealed a much denser prehistoric settlement pattern than previously expected, but also to a shift in research focus. Attention has moved from individual sites to entire landscapes and from the artefacts themselves to questions of their dating and chemical composition. Today, with a detailed absolute chronology, we can document the increase in the number of sites in eastern Slovenia, observe shifts in settlement patterns and changes in settlement structures, analyse the regional variability of pottery forms and decoration, and study practices such as pottery fragmentation and hoarding.

We can reconstruct when, where, and what the people of the Tumulus Culture were doing – but where are these people? Where and how did they bury their dead? The tumuli are simply missing. Consequently, one of the major questions today is the discrepancy between the number of settlement sites and the very few known tumuli, which are located on the foothills of Pohorje, on the western edge of eastern Slovenia.

Our paper presents the history and current state of debate in Bronze Age research and highlights the major research questions that need to be addressed in the future.

Notes

Choosing Space, Managing Storage: Settlement Location and Everyday Economy in the Tumulus Culture

Nóra Szabó

Institute of Archaeology, ELTE Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungary

Understanding changes in settlement organization, and economic strategies between the Middle and Late Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin is essential for interpreting broader social transformations. The Middle Bronze Age is generally associated with relatively stable settlement systems, including fortified sites, tells, and extensive open settlements. In contrast, the Late Bronze Age has often been interpreted as a time of increased mobility and shifting economic priorities. However, recent archaeological evidence suggests that this transition may have been more complex.

This paper examines changes in everyday life through settlement structure, storage capacity, and ceramic production. These elements offer insight into economic organization and the scale of community integration. One key question is whether these transformations reflect a restructuring of local economies and social relations: did settlements become smaller and less integrated, with more household-based subsistence strategies?

Ceramic assemblages from the transition show notable stylistic continuity, indicating that traditions were not abruptly abandoned. At the same time, shifts in vessel quality and production emphasis suggest changes in daily practices and consumption patterns.

Settlement evidence also reveals both continuity and change. Some sites show long-term occupation across the Middle and the very beginning of the Tumulus period, while others demonstrate clear shifts in spatial organization and territorial use. Earlier interpretations connected the Tumulus period with a more mobile lifestyle and greater emphasis on animal husbandry. Yet recent discoveries complicate this view: large settlements are now known not only from the Middle Bronze Age but also from the Tumulus period, including examples from the Budapest region.

To explore these questions, the paper investigates these processes through two extensive Bronze Age settlements in the Budapest area, examining how changes in settlement structure, storage practices, and material culture reflect broader transformations.

Reconstructed activity zones of the Tumulus Culture settlement at Budapest-Rákoscsaba-Majorhegy (Szabó 2024)

Notes

Settlement-structural Changes during the Tumulus Culture Period in the Area of Budapest

Gábor Szilas
Budapest History Museum, Hungary

In the region forming part of the Carpathian Tumulus cultural sphere, the presence of the Tumulus Culture can be demonstrated from the Koszider period onward (settlement: Budapest District XVII, Rákoscsaba-Majorhegy; cemetery: Budapest District XXIII, Nagytétény-Érdliget). A key assemblage of the classical period (Reinecke BB2–C) is the vessel hoard from Budapest District XI, Október 23 Street, which suggests a local concentration of political power within the culture.

Our knowledge of settlement conditions during the final phase of the culture (late Reinecke BBC–D) has increased significantly due to excavations carried out since the 2000s.

Late Tumulus Culture settlements – primarily on the Pest side – have been outlined through large-scale excavations (Dunakeszi-Székesdűlő) or through the investigation of several adjacent smaller areas (Budapest District XI, Egressy Road; I. Fischer Road). In contrast, on the Buda side, remains typically came to light in small, topographically isolated areas (Budapest District II, Bokor Street; District III, Bojtár Street; Királyok Road). Overall, these sites were established in similar geomorphological and palaeohydrological settings, and they lack earlier Tumulus Culture antecedents.

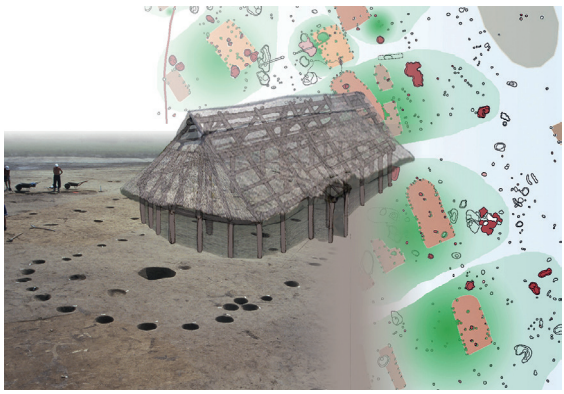
However, the novel structural characteristics of the settlements (ground-level buildings, settlement units, space-dividing elements) raise several questions.

To what earlier architectural traditions can the physical characteristics of the documented building remains be traced? Were the designs of these structures shaped by practical or more abstract considerations? Did the observed building types emerge from cultural traditions, from contacts with more distant regions, or from local innovations? Can

functional distinctions be identified within the clearly defined typological groups?

The lecture also seeks to determine whether the distinct settlement-structural phenomena can be interpreted as independent economic units, and if so, whether their development reflects continuous internal evolution or the adaptation of an already established economic structure.

To address these questions, the study aims to combine the analysis of settlement structures with statistical and scientific examination of the associated artefact assemblages.



Remains, reconstruction, and spatial context of a semi-circular ended post-frame building at the Dunakeszi-Székesdűlő site of the Tumulus Culture (graphic: Orsolya Kangyal, Gábor Szilas)

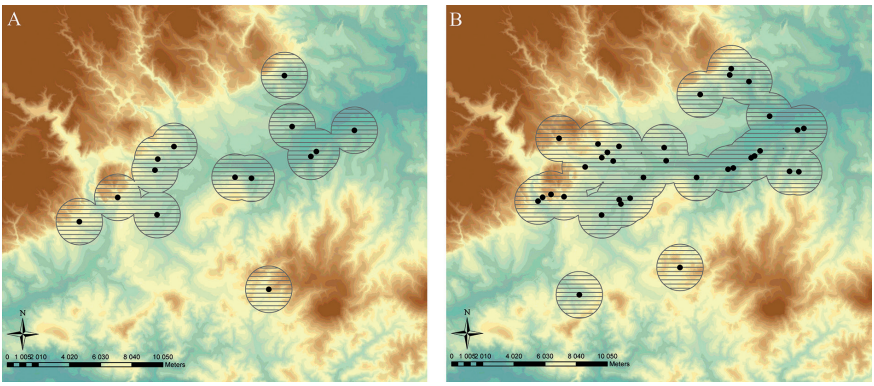
Notes

Settlement Networks of the Middle Bronze Age in Moravia (Czech Republic)

David Parma

Archaeological Heritage Institute Brno, Czech Republic

Thanks to long-term rescue excavations, it is now possible to describe the basic units of the settlement network, which are archaeologically manifested in very different forms. Often these are only individual sunken features or units of them, accompanied by finds from cultural layers, but we also know settlements with dozens of sunken features of various types and with house plans. Most of them can be linked to the distinctive ceramic style of the classic Tumulus culture, with only a few dating back to the early Middle Bronze Age. Typologically indistinct finds from this period (16th century BC) need to be dated absolutely to confirm their age. Settlements with pottery from the end of the Middle Bronze Age and the beginning of the Late Bronze Age can be clearly distinguished on the basis of distinctive pottery styles (late Tumulus and early Urnfields), but it seems that they are in fact at least partly contemporary. So far, we know of only one case of a fen enclosed site from the early Middle Bronze Age, whereas enclosed sites appear relatively frequently at the turn of the Middle and Late Bronze Age in the 14th century BC, but rather in connection with the ceramic style of the early Urnfield period. A typical phenomenon in Middle Bronze Age settlements is the deposition of whole pieces or large fragments of vessels and the occurrence of fragments of copper ingots and individual bronze items in the settlement layers. In a long-term comparison, it is clear that the basic settlement units of the Middle Bronze Age are much less prominent archaeologically than settlements in the previous and subsequent periods and are therefore more difficult to find. However, rather than a real difference in the size of settlement units and the density of the settlement network, this is due to different customs regarding the digging of pits and the storage of grain.



Settlement network in Vyškov area in Middle Bronze Age (A) and Late Bronze Age (B) (Parma et. al. 2017, fig. 9–16)

Notes

Session 4

What connects and what divides us?

"From South-east to North-west? – From North-west to South-east?" The 'Spread' of the Middle Bronze Age Tumulus Culture Along the Danube: Archaeological Evidence and History of the Historical Interpretation of a Phenomenon

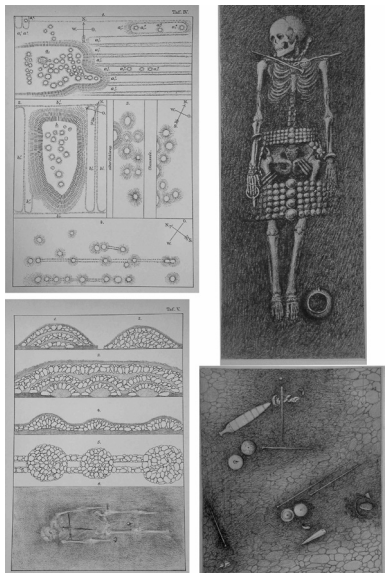
Wolfgang David
Archaeological Museum Frankfurt, Germany

For a long time, particularly intense influences from the Middle Danube region at the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (Reinecke B) have been held responsible for the emergence of the South German Tumulus culture. This idea essentially goes back to the work of Friedrich Holste in the late 1930s and early 1940s. At that time, due to the profound contrast between Early and Middle Bronze Age culture in terms of burial customs, settlement patterns and artefacts, he considered it impossible to view the Tumulus culture of southern Germany as the successor culture to the Early Bronze Age groups of Adlerberg and Straubing. In line with his historical conception of a continuing conflict between East and West and in keeping with the general tradition of the discipline, he attributed the cultural change to external influences. Research soon moved away from the idea of a violent end to the Straubing culture and saw the transition from the Early to the Middle Bronze Age, or rather the emergence of the South German Tumulus culture, as the result of a continuous process of change. However, the concept of the decisive role played by Middle Danube influences in this cultural change was not fundamentally questioned but merely referred to in more abstract terms with the assumption of a short-term 'innovation horizon'.

However, the idea of increased eastern influences from the Middle Danube region at the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age is inextricably linked to the view that these influences noticeably declined during the developed Bronze Age (Reinecke C) – in some respects even leading to the assumption that the decisive influences changed direction. While some researchers now assume a direct influence from central Europe on

the Carpathian Basin, pointing to burial mounds and warrior burials with specific grave goods, famous Hungarian researchers in particular (e.g., Amália Mozsolics, István Bóna, Tibor Kovács) have put forward the idea of a violent end to the large fortified tell settlements of the Carpathian Basin as a result of a warlike invasion by a population coming from the north-west, armed with long swords and buried in tumuli. This would have caused the end of the so-called autochthonous Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin and led to the formation of the several groups of Tumulus culture.

The now expanded archaeological source base and changes in chronology make it necessary to critically question traditional ideas.



Historical drawings documenting the excavations carried out by Julius Naue (1832–1907) at burial mounds south of Munich in southern Upper Bavaria: site plans of tumulus necropolises, cross-sectional and plan views of tumuli, and drawings of burials within the tumuli (Naue 1894, Taf. 4–7)

Notes

The Question of Tradition and Transformation on the Százhalombatta-Földvár Tell Settlement

Magdolna Vicze

National Institute of Archaeology,
Hungarian National Museum, HNM PCC, Hungary

Recent investigations at the Bronze Age tell settlement of Százhalombatta-Földvár have focused on the material signatures of settlement abandonment and the social processes underlying them. Rather than identifying a sudden destruction horizon or abrupt occupational break, this research highlights a sequence of gradual transformations that suggest an extended and potentially voluntary process of disengagement. Such findings invite a reconsideration of abandonment not as a singular event, but as an extended social trajectory embedded in everyday practice.

This paper examines the dynamic interplay between continuity and change as reflected in domestic architecture, settlement layout, craft production, and patterns of daily activity. Life on a tell is structured by accumulated deposits, inherited spatial arrangements, and long-standing architectural traditions. These material and social frameworks both constrain and stabilize community life: they reinforce collective memory and cohesion while simultaneously limiting flexibility and generating tensions. The durability of house forms, the persistence of spatial organization, and the conservatism of ceramic and craft traditions testify to the strength of these inherited norms.

At Százhalombatta-Földvár, however, close analysis reveals subtle but significant shifts in these domains. Modifications in building practices, alterations in the use of space, and changes in production routines point to a gradual loosening of the established "tell way of life." Rather than a simple rupture, the evidence suggests a negotiated transformation in which tradition and innovation coexisted for an extended period.

By foregrounding selected aspects of material culture and settlement organization, this study reconstructs a process through which incremental change ultimately culminated in the community's departure.

The abandonment of the tell thus appears not merely as a response to external pressures during a tumultuous period, but as the outcome of longer-term internal transformations that reshaped social practice and collective identity.

View of the Százhalombatta-Földvár tell with the Danube from southeast (photo: SAX Project)

Notes

The Lower Körös: Home of the Reluctant Late Bronze Age

Györgyi Parditka[1], Paul R. Duffy[2]

[1]Independent researcher, Hungary
[2]Kiel University, Germany

This talk presents our key findings on Bronze Age developments in the Lower Körös Region and explores what they reveal about the Middle to Late Bronze Age (LBA) transition. The presentation draws on past projects and discusses our emerging research directions. Investigations by the Bronze Age Körös Off-Tell Archaeology (BAKOTA) project at the Békés 103 cemetery site (Eastern Hungary) have significantly reshaped our understanding of the Middle to Late Bronze Age (LBA) transition in the Lower Körös Region. The cemetery, primarily used between 1600 and 1300 BC, demonstrates a stronger persistence of Middle Bronze Age (MBA) ceramic traditions beyond 1500 BC than previously assumed. We discuss elements of the cemetery that indicate resistance to cultural change, alongside the potential social factors that may have contributed to these behaviors. These include newly recognized patterns of community connectivity and fragmentation across the broader region during the MBA. The patterns point to localized ceramic practices and a generally segmented social system – factors that likely promoted resilience and influenced the distinctive trajectory of the MBA to LBA transition in the Lower Körös area. We then outline ongoing and forthcoming research projects, including stable isotope analysis of cereals and bone from Middle and Late Bronze Age sites, and additional specific questions we seek to address concerning the period from 1600 to 1300 BC.

Vessels from the BAKOTA Project excavation at the Békés 103 cemetery (restoration and photo: László Gucsi; illustration: Györgyi Parditka)

Notes

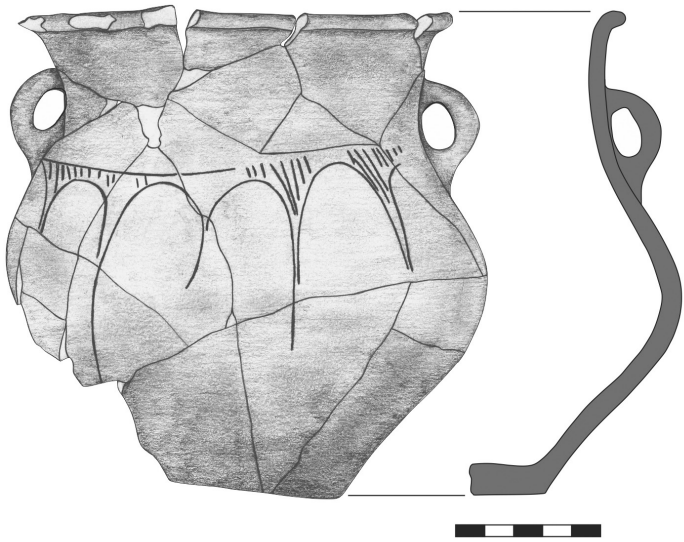
Hajdúbagos–Cehăluţ Pottery in Focus: Stylistic Characteristics and Social Dynamics

Orsolya Gyurka
Móra Ferenc Museum, Hungary

The Hajdúbagos–Cehăluţ pottery style represents a distinctive ceramic tradition in north-western Romania and north-eastern Hungary during the Late Bronze Age, approximately between 1600 and 1200/1150 BC. Emerging within the transitional phase from the Middle Bronze Age Otomani–Füzesabony cultural complex to the Late Bronze Age, this pottery style exhibits a remarkable hybridization of local and extralocal elements. Its assemblages demonstrate a deliberate reworking of established Middle Bronze Age vessel forms while incorporating new stylistic motifs, such as amphora-shaped vessels, spiral ornamentation, and geometric incisions, reflecting both continuity and innovation.

The chronological framework of Hajdúbagos–Cehăluţ ceramics is primarily established through typological analysis and radiocarbon dating from key sites. The coexistence of Otomani–Füzesabony traditions with the Tumulus culture's pottery features exemplifies a dynamic process of cultural negotiation, in which communities selectively adopted and adapted external influences to local aesthetic and functional norms. In addition to these influences, the material culture also incorporates characteristic features of Inner Transylvanian ceramic styles, attesting to far-reaching interaction networks within the eastern Carpathian Basin.

This phenomenon can be interpreted as a form of glocalization, where imported stylistic elements were reinterpreted within local ceramic repertoires, resulting in a hybridized tradition that bridges two major cultural spheres of the Carpathian Basin. The Upper Tisza region emerges as a key conduit for these exchanges, linking western and eastern communities and facilitating the diffusion of stylistic innovations. By focusing on the morphological and decorative traits of Hajdúbagos–Cehăluţ ceramics, this study highlights how material culture functions as a lens to explore social dynamics, and transformation during the Late Bronze Age.



Late Bronze Age vessel from Tasnád/Tășnad-Sere site (drawing: Orsolya Gyurka)

Notes

Not Yet, But not Anymore. Tumulus Phenomenon on the Cultural and Chronological Boundary

Péter Mali

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The beginning of the Tumulus Period is characterized by varied and unique structures and representations. This is most obvious on the fringes of the cultural territory. The presentation deals with the questions of cultural hybridization, local traditions and outside influences in two border areas, the Baranya and the Middle Tisza region.

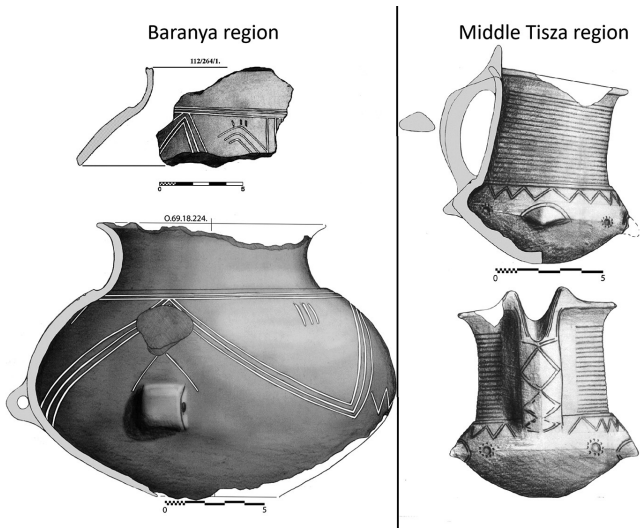
These regions provide a good sampling of the underlying processes. They are opposite to each other but still show the high innovation of the formative period of the Tumulus culture. The source material available to us is different from each region, the Baranya region is known from the settlements found there, while the Rákóczifalva group is mostly known from cemeteries. But they have in common that the underlying materials are less known, the Baranya region is a new area in the research except for vague mentions about Siklós-Téglagyár, while the Rákóczifalva group is widely known since the 1960s, but the materials it is based on are still unpublished.

The Baranya region is an open, border region where the Tumulus culture and the surrounding Belegis–Cruceni culture, Szeremle–Dalj Brdo Pottery and *Litzenkeramik* bleed into each other with an underlying Transdanubian Incrusted Pottery tradition. This resulted in highly innovative and open community with a unique pottery style with a Tumulus base and using all the traditions and influences of the surrounding areas seen in the settlements.

The Rákóczifalva group is the opposite, a geographically closed unit in the middle of Great Hungarian Plain where the previous era's cultural traditions mix to bring a new style into the picture that is heavily influenced by the Tumulus style and cultural innovations. The large cemeteries of the area are known for the highly decorated vessels that accompany the biritual graves. The vessels bear Tumulus, Vatya, Füzesabony,

Gyulavarsánd and Maros cultural attributes. Here the hybridization is not about open borders and strong connections but a closed community of old local traditions in a new era.

The presentation aims to look at the underlying causes, processes and the final representation of the irregular interactions on the fringes of the Tumulus culture.



Characteristic decorated vessels from the Baranya region and the Rákóczifalva group (drawing: Péter Mali)

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Foreigners and Locals in the Southeastern Carpathian Basin: Insights from an Older Funerary Discovery at Mokrin

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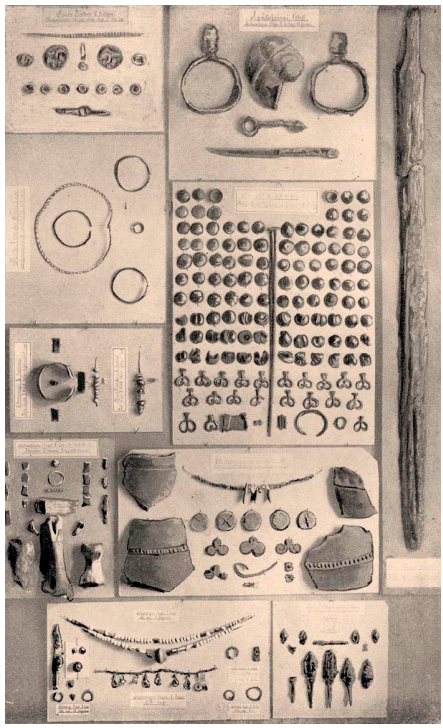
The collections of the Banat Museum in Timişoara preserve the inventory of a rich burial discovered at the end of the 19th century or the beginning of the 20th century in a sand quarry on the outskirts of Mokrin, in the northern Serbian Banat.

This find entered the collection of the amateur archaeologist Gyula Kisléghi Nagy (1861–1918), who received it as a gift from engineer Viktor Marghita. In 1911, he recorded it – together with other archaeological discoveries – in the monograph of Torontal County edited by Samu Borovsky. On that occasion, he listed 110 thin bronze discs with two perforations (2.3–2.8 cm in diameter), 21 heart-shaped pendants, a fragmentary open bracelet with a square cross-section decorated with incised lines, a disc-headed pin 38.5 cm long (with 5 cm missing from the lower end), and a ring or piece made of rolled wire. The illustration accompanying this discovery also shows a bronze plate with a rolled end, probably three saltaleoni, and two small bronze fragments.

In the collections of the Timişoara museum, I was able to document 107 bronze sheet appliqués, 21 complete and fragmentary heart-shaped pendants, as well as three additional fragments that most likely come from the broken pieces; a decorated bracelet with a quadrangular section; a pin with a seal-shaped head; a bronze plate with a rolled end, decorated with repoussé dots; and a fragmentary ring made of bronze sheet decorated with ribs.

Starting from analogies within the Central European Tumulus Culture, I will discuss the cultural features of the Late Bronze Age on the southeastern periphery of this cultural milieu.



Mokrin. Bronze Age finds (in the center of the image) from the former collection of Gyula Kisléghi Nagy (1911, 319)

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