

# Iron Age Danube Route Magazine, Vol. 2

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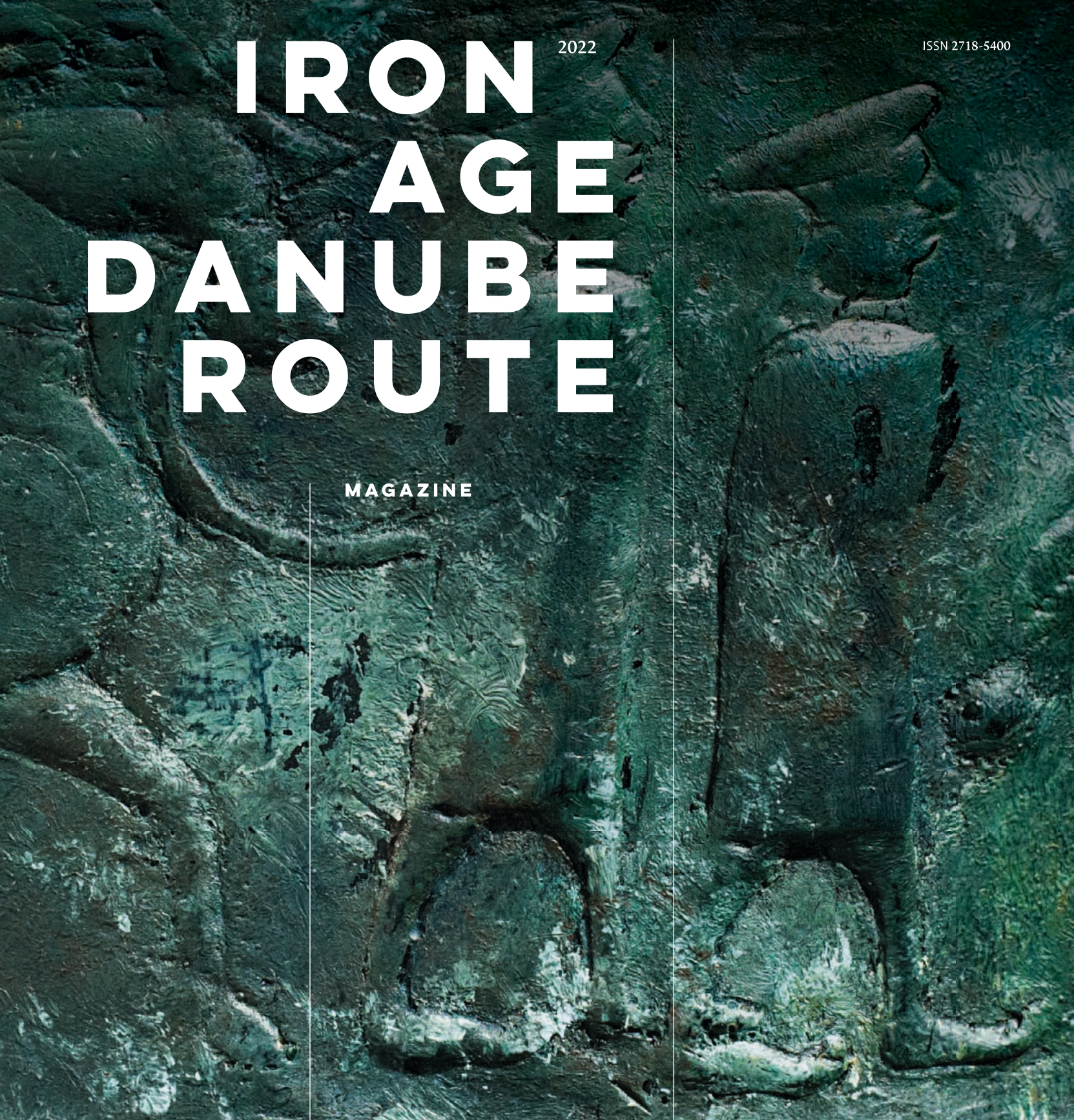
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# IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE

2022

ISSN 2718-5400

MAGAZINE

JOIN  
THE  
IADR  
Protect  
our  
common  
heritage

FOLLOW  
THE  
ROUTE  
Become  
a part of  
our joint  
narrative



**IRON AGE  
DANUBE**  
*route*

Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



**Interreg**



Danube Transnational Programme  
**Danube's Archaeological  
eLandscapes**

&

**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

*Join us at the*

**CERTIFICATION  
CEREMONY**

of the  
**IRON AGE  
DANUBE ROUTE**

*and at the*

**CLOSING  
EVENT**

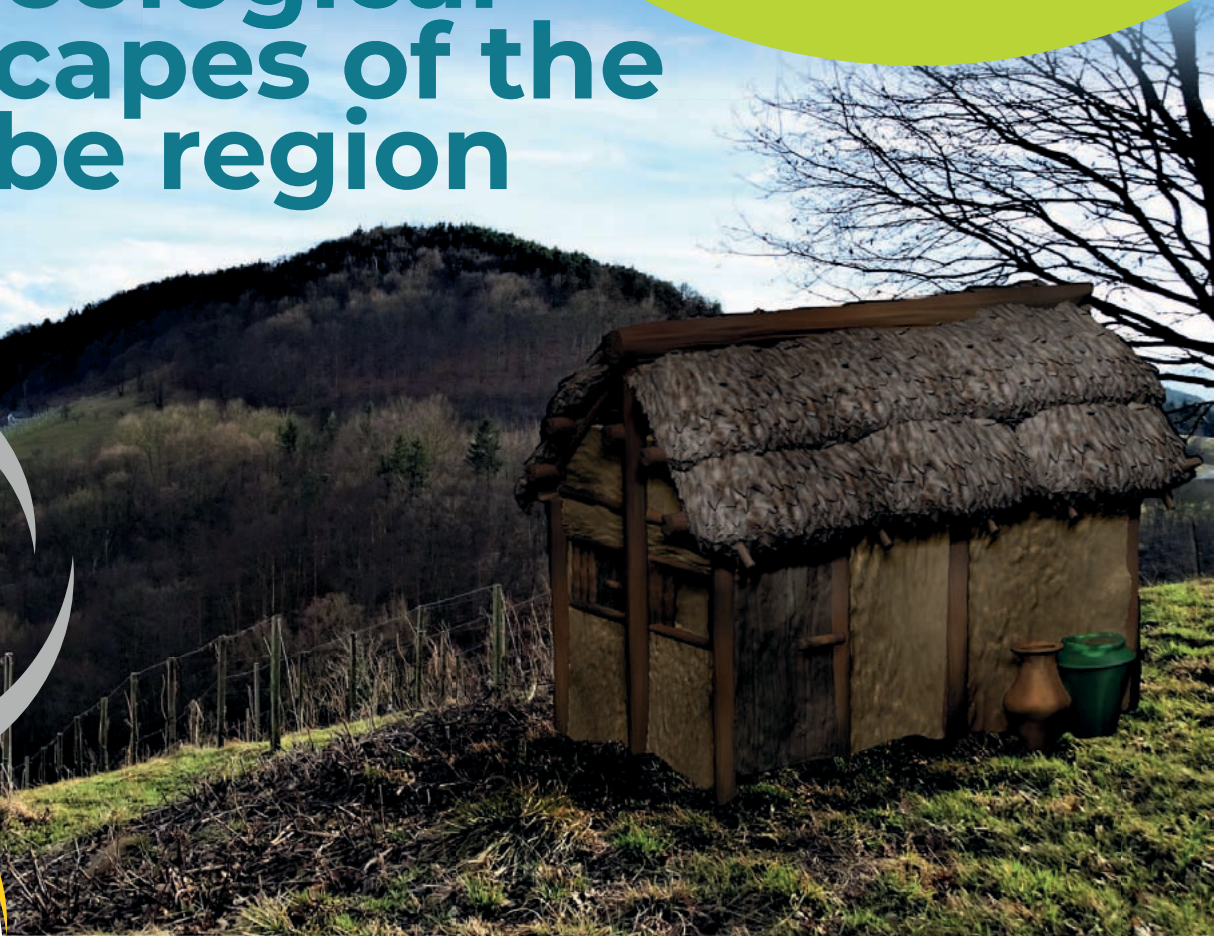
of the  
**DANUBE'S  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
eLANDSCAPES**

**3-4 November 2022**

**ZAGREB, CROATIA**

Danube's  
Archaeological eLandscapes

# Virtual archaeological landscapes of the Danube region



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Iron Age Danube Route Association

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Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
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Bronze vessel  
with decoration  
from Großklein  
(UMI)

← COVER PHOTO:

The pack horse that  
two men lead by the reins  
carries salt or liquid in skins  
(5<sup>th</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century BC).  
Novo Mesto, Kandija, grave IV/3, Situla 2.  
(© DMNM)

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## EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear reader,

on behalf of our prehistoric ancestors, I wish to extend kind greetings from the Iron Age: we are all pleased to welcome you to the pages of the second issue of the Iron Age Danube Route Magazine! Stay with us for a brief while, browsing through its contents, and then hopefully you may also decide to dig a bit deeper — *archaeological pun intended* — and yourself at one point embark on a discovery of exhibitions, museums, sites and vistas we bring to you on this occasion.

Iron Age Danube Route is now two years old. At the same time, it marks the first anniversary of a supreme recognition of its significance, namely, the certification by the Council of Europe, received in May 2021. By this act, the IADR was elevated to the rank of a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe — the highest and most prestigious such recognition in the world of cultural routes. And while we did celebrate this achievement on many an occasion over the past year, this was all merely a preparation for the 'mother of all celebrations': the official Certification Ceremony, to take place in Zagreb on 3-4 November 2022 — to which you are of course cordially invited! Should you forget the details, don't worry, just leaf back to the inside front cover for another visual reminder. There you will also no doubt spot that alongside the certification we will then celebrate also another important event: the completion of the project 'Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes', financed through the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, which has in many ways for the past couple of years been a lifeblood of the Route. There, now you know the basics; for specifics, contact us or simply come to Zagreb in early November!

In this second issue we followed the basic structure we introduced in the initial one. You will soon see that from the very front cover of the magazine, through several feature articles and images scattered — or better

said, strategically placed — all over the publication, we decided to focus in detail on the phenomenon of IRON AGE ART or, to be more precise, its most exquisite manifestation, at least when Central and South-East Europe are concerned, which is known as the *Situla Art*. Study these images and delve into these texts to join bygone processions, revel in festivities and indulge in sports games or ritual feasts!

FOLLOW THE ROUTE to meet the new IADR partners, which come from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Hungary and Slovenia. Take a look at the MAP to see how IADR is distributed over a total of seven different countries. We are happy to say that the Route now has 38 members — and counting!

In this magazine you will find fresh NEWS, interesting STORIES, challenging — but ultimately undeniably rewarding — recipees in the COOKING section; ideas how to engage and interest our YOUTH in various activities. We will draw your attention to EVENTS to take part in and EXHIBITIONS to visit. As always, we conclude by singling out an outstanding Iron Age object — and to do that, this time we lead you to the National History Museum of Romania to show you the famous Bujoru Chariot.

At the end, let it be known that the printing of this second issue was generously funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary in line with the objectives of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), for which we wish to extend our sincere gratitude.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, we wish you a warm welcome to the Iron Age and hope you will enjoy reading our magazine!

Sincerely,

**Sanjin Mihelić**

President

Iron Age Danube Route Association



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials 'SM' followed by a surname.





Situlae from Novo mesto  
(DMNM)

by Marko Mele  
Petra Stipančić  
Matija Črešnar

# IRON AGE

IMAGES CAPTURED

IN BRONZE

# ART

ART, MORE THAN OTHER CHARACTERISTICS, separates humans from other living beings on this planet and is an integral part of modern human's life since its beginnings. Also in the Early Iron Age (8<sup>th</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century BC), people developed their creativity and artistic expression, which reached its peak in Central and South-Eastern Europe as *Situla Art*. The term *Situla Art* describes artistically decorated bronze objects, from simple belt buckles or earrings to richly decorated bronze vessels. Among the vessels, bronze buckets with a movable handle stand out — the so-called *Situlae* — which also gave the name to this kind of decoration of bronze objects. A *Situla*, which is considered a part of the drinking service, consists of a conical cylinder made of sheet metal and fastened with rivets and with a clamped flat bottom. A semi-circular handle made of bronze wire is attached to the shoulders of the vessel with attachés. At the mouth of the *situla* the bronze sheet is wrapped around a wire of round cross-section.

The decoration was made on a thinned metal sheet before being rolled into a conical cylinder. The motifs were drawn on the inside before the decoration was made with the help of chisels and spikes. By embossing from the inside, they created a shallow relief that, together with the dots or lines, further emphasized the image.

All figures are shown in profile and in motion. The event takes place in horizontal bands separated by a plastic rib. Some bands have figural decoration of animals and people, others with stylized plant and geometric patterns.

The narrative is illustrated with depictions of human and animal characters and seems to run in sequence, e.g. animals or people walking in a procession. The pictorial *Situla* narrative complemented the life stories of the deceased, while at the same time connecting them with the heroes and gods of the Greco-Etruscan world, which mythologically formed a single European space. The *Situla* narrative depicts ceremonial processions, sports and music competitions, feasts, fishing, hunting, duels, sex scenes...

The area of *Situla Art* is limited to northern Italy, Slovenia, Istria and part of Austria. The origin of *Situla Art* can be traced to the Middle East at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC, where we find the oldest decorated metal objects. During the Early Iron Age, the knowledge of decorating bronze objects was combined with a range of motifs from Central and Eastern Europe, and resulted in a flourish of designs, in particular in modern Dolenjska.

ART IS NOT  
A MIRROR  
HELD UP  
TO REALITY,  
BUT A HAMMER  
WITH WHICH  
TO SHAPE IT.

— BERTHOLD  
BRECHT

### Bronze *Situlae* from Novo Mesto

In the Early Iron Age, Novo Mesto was one of the largest centres in Central and South-Eastern Europe. So far, sixteen bronze *Situlae* originate from Novo Mesto, nine of which are decorated. There are good reasons why Novo Mesto is called the “city of *Situlae*”. The rich and vivid *Situlae* narrative complements our knowledge of the life of a highly stratified prehistoric society. The upper class, the elite of the time, was represented by eminent individuals who combined political, military, economic, spiritual and social power in their hands. Richly decorated bronze *Situlae* were used as prestigious tableware and protocol vessels. From them, possibly alcoholic beverages were served to guests at celebrations.

Novo Mesto *Situlae* date back to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. Their number testifies to the great economic power of the Iron Age inhabitants of Novo Mesto. They are found in rich graves of individuals who belonged to the elite of society at the time.

This time we present in more detail the bronze, figurally decorated *Situla* 2 from grave IV/3 from Kandija in Novo Mesto. The *Situla* is decorated with three bands, the central one is figural, and the rest are decorated with a geometric motif. The central belt shows a procession of horses, riders and men leading the horses on leashes. One of the horses is lined with sacks or bellows. We can say that it is a display of a trade caravan or a celebration with participants bearing gifts. →



Situlae from Novo mesto  
(DMNM)

### Elements of *Situla Art* in Großklein

The richest Early Iron Age burial mounds in Styria were also particularly splendidly furnished with bronze vessels. A selection from an extraordinary ensemble of 27 bronze vessels from the Kröllkogel, a princely burial mound in Kleinklein near Großklein in southern Styria, which can still be identified today, is on display in the Archaeology Museum in Graz. The bronze ensemble of this prince, who lived at the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> cent. BC, includes an almost 80 cm high bucket, three smaller undecorated *Situlæ*, several decorated oval vessels made of one piece of bronze sheet, so-called *cists*, which are sometimes covered with a lid, some smaller handle cups, three vases with a double conical body and a wide rim and a ladle with a twisted stick handle.

Some vessels were probably in use during the deceased's lifetime, others may have been specially made for the burial. The large buckets, small *Situlæ*, handled cups and scoops are interpreted through parallels in Greece, Italy and especially in the *Situla Art* of northern Italy and Slovenia, as a drinking service used for mixing, pouring and enjoying various drinks at celebrations. The bronze *cists* in the tomb probably played a different role. According to current knowledge, these vessels had no bottom and were not part of a vessel made of organic material. However, the *cists* were decorated in great detail using the punch boss technique, which suggests their interpretation as display vessels, that are supposed to show the history, the world of belief and the wealth of the deceased. The representations on the bronze vessels from the Kröllkogel are very varied, from simple geometric patterns to symbolic representations and figural scenes. The figural ornamental patterns show representations of people and animals, hunting scenes, sporting and musical competitions and ritual acts. The depiction of giant fish devouring people is unique, which is a rather atypical motif for the Alpine world. Despite the old technique of bronze decorations used on the *cists*, the motifs depicted resemble the motifs from the bronze *Situlæ* in Novo Mesto and beyond.



Bronze vessels  
with decoration  
from Großklein  
(UM)



### The Situla from Vače

The famous situla from Vače near Litija in central Slovenia is one of the finest examples of the Iron Age Situla Art. It was crafted in the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. This was an era of fearless warriors and women wearing stunning jewellery, as well as the time when some of the most beautiful and valuable archaeological finds from the modern day territory of Slovenia were created. It is exhibited in the National Museum of Slovenia, but it can be found in every wallet of Slovenian citizens, as it is depicted on their identity cards as well as passports.

This situla, an almost 24 cm high vessel made of bronze sheet, was excavated in 1882 at the Reber archaeological site above Klenik near Vače by a local man named Janez Grilc near a warrior's grave, along with a helmet, two spears, battle axe, a bracelet and a military belt. Because of the turbulent excavation history most of the finds, except for the situla and the bracelet, i.e. the skull of the warrior and its equipment are kept in the Natural History Museum in Vienna.

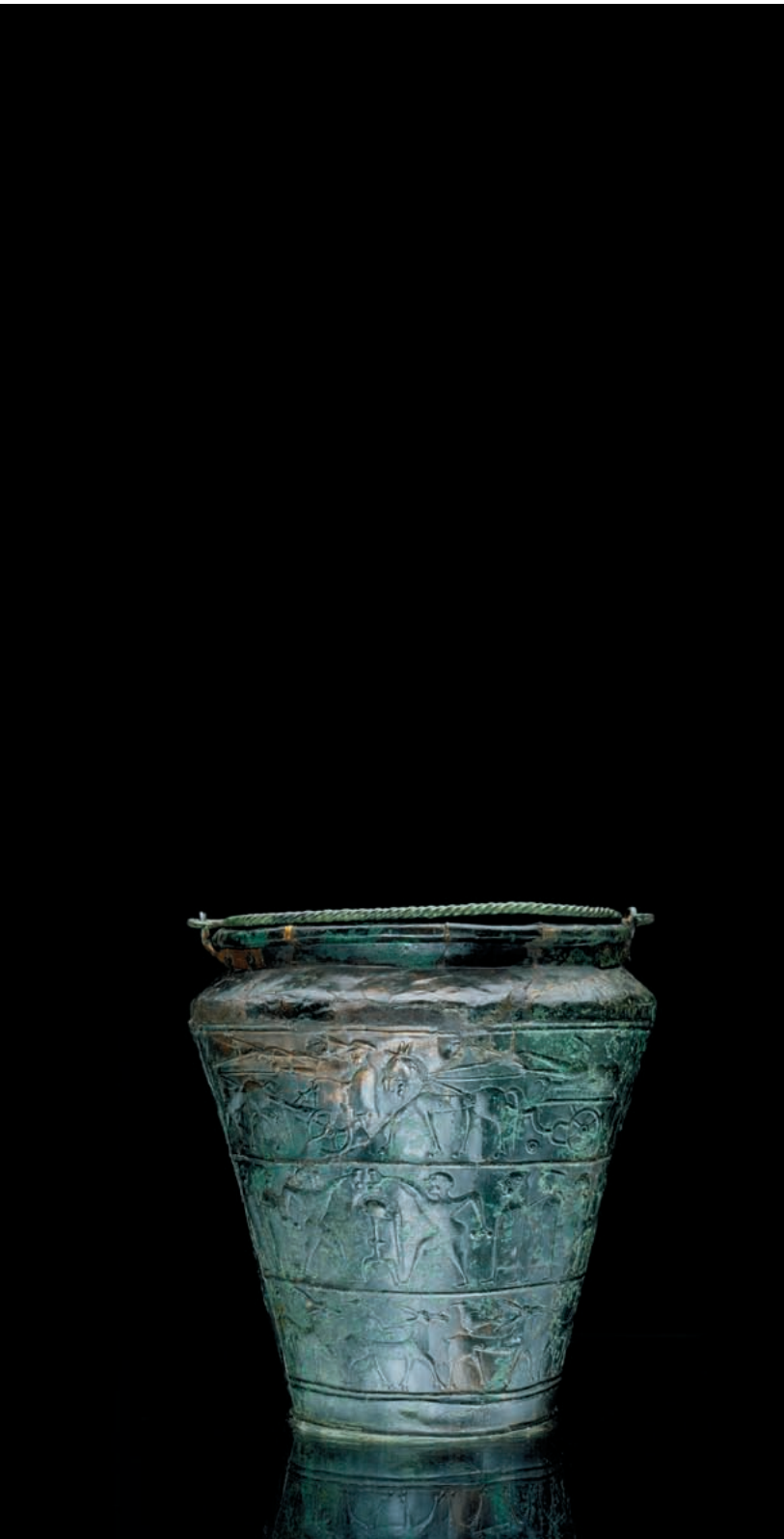
The situla is decorated with three horizontal bands—friezes—showing human and animal figures. The scenes, which can be read in as a sequence of events, tell the story of important events from the nobleman's life or even mythological scenes. The scenes depicted indicate a distinct social stratification of Iron Age society and that members of the upper social classes enjoyed gathering for food and drink, sports, musical competitions, and hunting.

### High tech research of the Situla Art

Traditionally Situla Art was documented and presented with the help of photographs and drawings, which are still the fundamentals of their research. However, novel technologies which evolved recently, opened some new possibilities for their documentation, research as well as presentation. A number of these novel approaches were tested in the framework of the HERA founded ENTRANS project (2013–2016), led by Ian Armit.

One of the principal applications of digital 3D data capture is still in the visualisation and presentation of objects, for example in museum displays or via various online platforms. However, high-resolution scanning also produces accurate data, which allow, for example, for detailed analysis of the tools and processes used in the manufacturing and decoration of these artefacts.

Without going into detail, we can say, that these high resolution digital capture technologies have the potential to complement traditional approaches to understanding the Situla Art and are adding perspectives, which were not within reach before the arrival of these modern technological aids. ■



Situla Vače  
© NMS

# QUO VADIS

by Marko Mele

## IRON AGE HERITAGE IN THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

THE LANDSCAPES CREATED BY MAN in the Danube region during the Iron Age were characterised by monumental structures such as burial mound necropolises, flat grave fields and fortified settlements with their associated fields and farmlands. These landscapes are joined by an extraordinary wealth of objects in numerous museums where the rich material heritage of this epoch is documented and exhibited. They were found in regions that were once part of a common network that stretched from southern France to Bulgaria. The Iron Age Danube Route is an attempt to reconnect these regions and present them together.

The Iron Age Danube Route has long passed its baby-steps made in the Interreg project Iron-Age-Danube, which was co-financed by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) of the European Union and has become a fully operational endeavour by project partners from eight European countries of the Danube region. Its maturity was confirmed by a certificate issued by the Council of Europe in 2021, which raised the bar for future goals much higher. This certification is the highest award for cultural routes in Europe that connect sites with significant historical heritage in several countries.





**IRON  
AGE  
DANUBE  
ROUTE ?**



## Who are the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe?

The Cultural Routes programme was launched by the Council of Europe in 1987 with the Declaration of Santiago de Compostela. The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are an invitation to travel and discover the rich and diverse heritage of Europe by bringing people and places together in networks of shared history and heritage. They put into practice the values of the Council of Europe: human rights, cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and mutual exchanges across borders.

Over 48 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe provide a wealth of leisure and educational activities for all citizens across Europe and beyond and are key resources for responsible tourism and sustainable development. They cover a range of different themes, from architecture and landscape to religious influences, from gastronomy and intangible heritage to the major figures of European art, music and literature.

The certification “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” is a guarantee of excellence. Networks implement innovative activities and projects pertaining to five main priority fields of action: co-operation in research and development; enhancement of memory, history and European heritage; cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans; contemporary cultural and artistic practice; cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development.

Visit the programme:

Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe —  
Homepage

(<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes>)



## Get to know the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

48 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are covering very different themes that illustrate European memory, history and heritage and contribute to an interpretation of the diversity of present-day Europe. The first certified Route was the famous Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Route in 1987. Since then different themes were certified, some covering famous pilgrimage routes, like the via Francigena, some are connected by famous saints or persons, like the Emperor Charles V or Napoleon, and some connected by the architecture or art styles, like Art Nouveau or Impressionism Route. Archaeological heritage is also present among the routes, sometimes as a major element, like in the European Route of Megalithic Culture or the Prehistoric Rock Art Trails, and sometimes as one of the different sources, like in the Viking Route.

Want to know more? Visit the database and find your favourite place to go: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/cultural-routes-database-main-page>

## Where will we go?

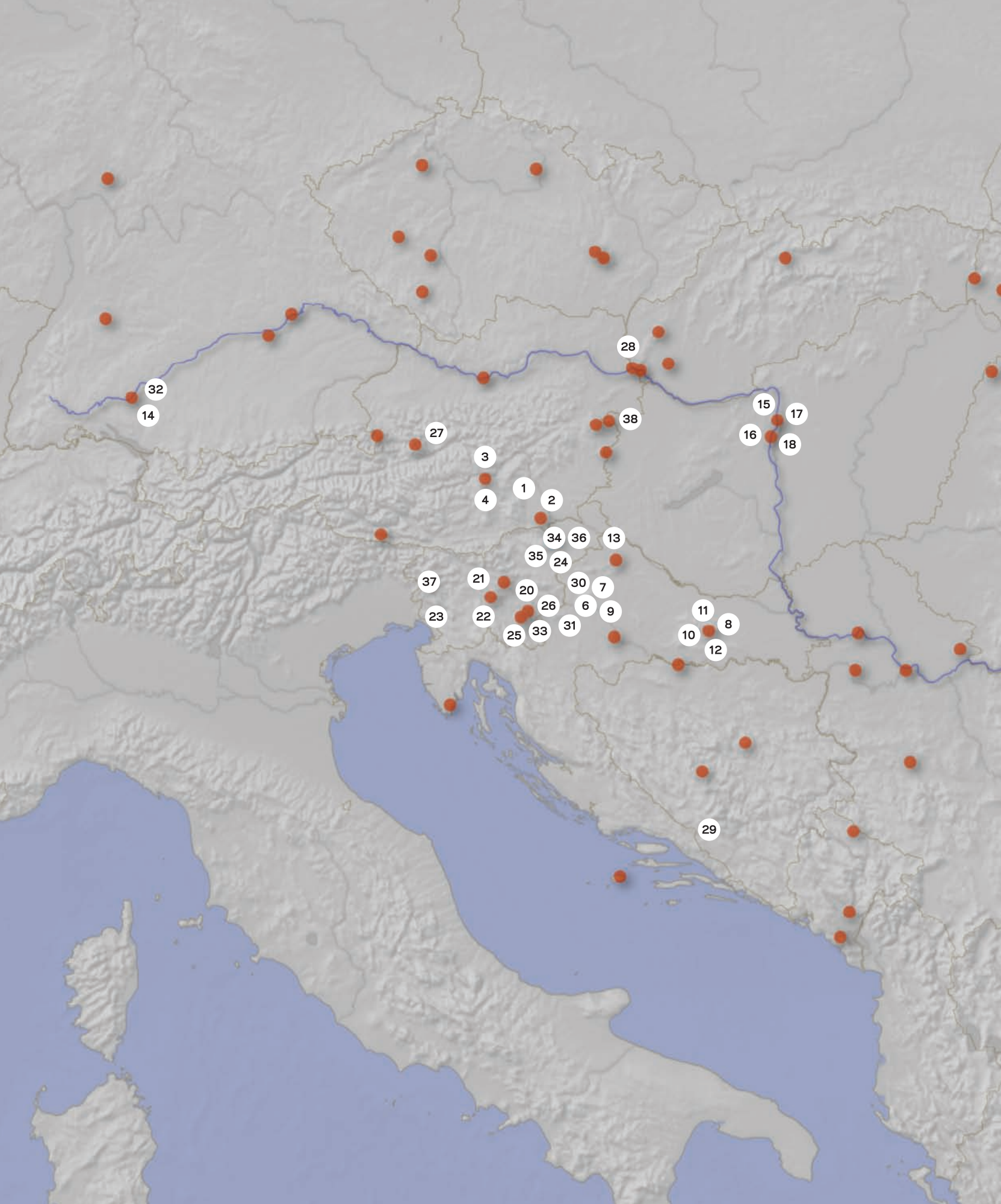
The certification of the Iron Age Danube Route as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe sets new standards for the activities of its members. Taking care of our Iron Age heritage on a highest possible level is one of the main tasks. Securing protection, research and creating joint promotion activities show an active network, which will be able to secure recertification after the three year period.

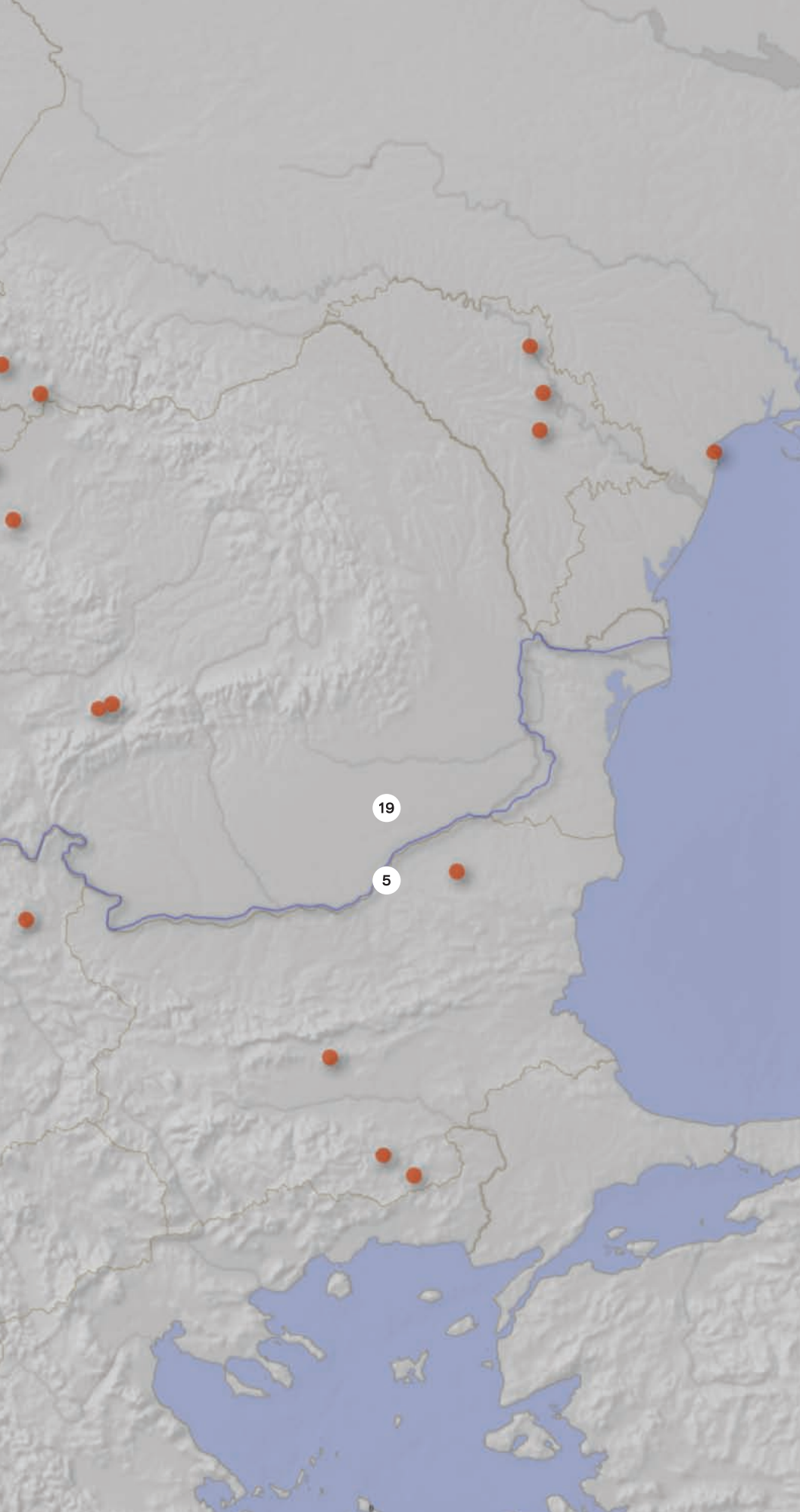
## Do you want to be part of the journey?

Since July 2020, the Iron Age Danube Route has been managed by an Association based in Zagreb (Croatia), to which institutions from the fields of archaeology, tourism, monument and nature conservation as well as from regional administration and various interest groups have joined forces.

Is Iron Age heritage also present in your region? Do you want to take it to the next level by using a Europe-wide network? By becoming a member of the Iron Age Danube Route Association, you will be joining a strong partnership dedicated to promotion, protection, research and sustainable development of the Iron Age heritage. Connect with a wide range of experts specialized in heritage management, research and education, sustainable tourism and heritage presentation to help you find the best way to promote and care for the Iron Age heritage in your region. Find out more on [www.ironagedanuberoute.com](http://www.ironagedanuberoute.com)!

Join us and let us make the Iron Age heritage visible, tangible and alive together! You can find the IADR Application Form on back cover (p. 89).





#### IADRA partners

- 1 Universalmuseum Joanneum  
Archaeology Museum  
at Castle Eggenberg
- 2 Municipality of Großklein with hamuG  
(Hallstattzeitliches Museum Großklein)
- 3 Museum Murtal
- 4 Historischer Arbeitskreis  
Neumarkter Hochtal
- 5 Rouse Regional Museum of History,  
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- 6 Archaeological Museum in Zagreb
- 7 Centre for Prehistoric Research
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- 9 University of Zagreb  
Faculty of Humanities  
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- 10 Papuk Nature Park  
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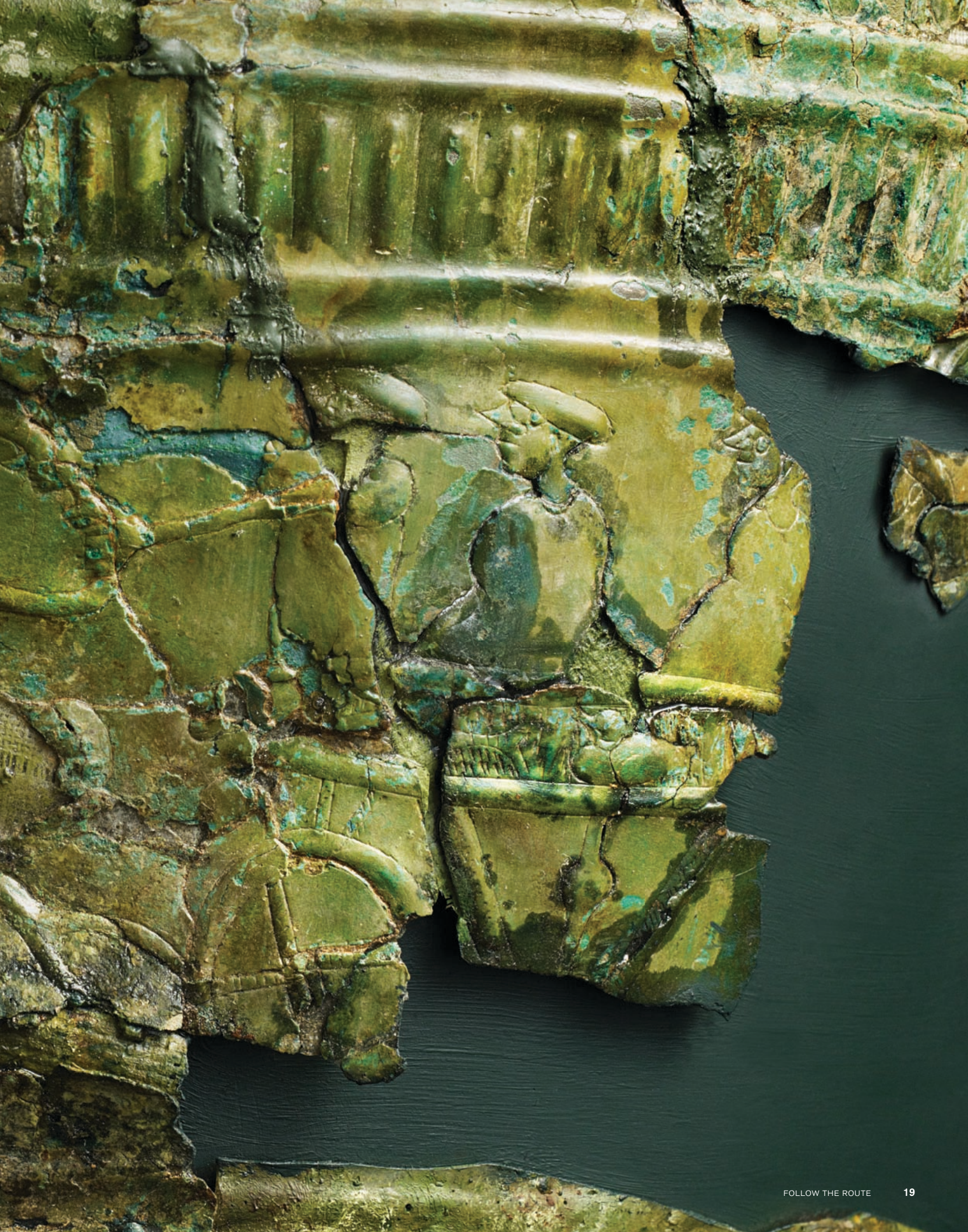
● POTENTIAL DESTINATIONS  
OF THE IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE



# FOLLOW

# THE ROUTE

Situlae from Novo mesto  
(DMNM)





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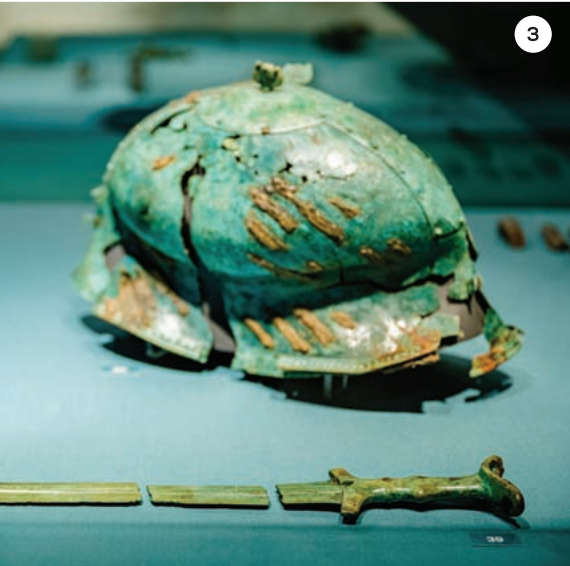
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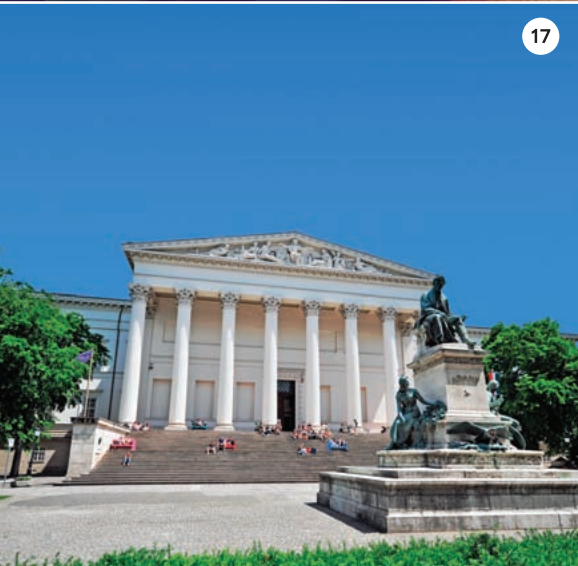
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## Natural History Museum Vienna Prehistoric Department, Hallstatt branch

### UNESCO World Heritage Hallstatt- Dachstein/Salzkammergut

Field Office Hallstatt "Alte Schmiede"  
Am Salzberg, 4830 Hallstatt, Austria  
[www.nhm-wien.ac.at/hallstatt](http://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/hallstatt)  
[www.salzwellen.at/en/hallstatt/discover-experience](http://www.salzwellen.at/en/hallstatt/discover-experience)

At Hallstatt "Alte Schmiede" in the Salzberg valley, together with the mining company Salinen Austria AG und Salzwelten GmbH, a research- and dissemination centre concerning the archaeology of the site, the historical landscape and the history of salt has been established as a branch of the Natural History Museum Vienna.

In 1846, Johann Georg Ramsauer was the first to systematically examine the grave remains of the cemetery that was occupied in the Hallstatt and Early La Tène periods. It is precisely because of his documentations and the remarkable artefacts that gave the Early Iron Age in Central Europe its common name — the Hallstatt period.

There is a long tradition for the Natural History Museum in Vienna to carry out excavations in the area of the cemetery and the salt mine. Also, during modern construction work, more and more archaeologically relevant structures have been identified in recent years. For example, well-preserved components of a wooden construction from the Late Bronze Age have been uncovered.

Inside the prehistoric mining areas, thousands of objects and tools made of organic material have been perfectly preserved and provide extremely detailed insights into the living and working conditions of the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age mining communities. Hallstatt is thus a key site for understanding and researching prehistoric communities. Landscape archaeological research has focused on the reconstruction of the networks surrounding the salt mines, tracing routes and material flows. The investigation of environmental archives allows ever deepening insights into the co-evolution of the human-environment system. Questions of vulnerability and resilience can also be investigated.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Visit us during our excavation-campaigns from the beginning of July to the end of September or join one of the prehistoric tours, guided by an archaeologist.

#### VISIT US IN 2022:

17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> September

"Archäologie am Berg" event at Hallstatt

## Natural History Museum Vienna Department of Prehistory

Burgring 7  
1010 Vienna, Austria  
[www.nhm-wien.ac.at/forschung/praehistorie](http://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/forschung/praehistorie)

The Natural History Museum Vienna is one of the largest museums and non-university research institutions in Austria. It is home to more than 30 million objects from botany, zoology, physical anthropology, mineralogy, palaeontology, and archaeology. More than 100,000 of them are presented in the exhibition rooms covering 8.460 m<sup>2</sup>.

The Department of Prehistory with its focus on humanities represents the completion in the evolutionary main-concept of the NHM. Current research of the department implicates a strong intradisciplinary focus, e.g. on significant Austrian sites such as Hallstatt (mines and cemetery, Bronze and Iron Ages), Grub Kranawetberg, and Willendorf (Palaeolithic), Roseldorf (Late Iron Age) and Brunn am Gebirge (Neolithic and Migration Period). The Prehistoric Collection holds a considerable share of objects from the former Habsburg Monarchy territory, but also from recent research in Austria (over 120,000 inventory numbers, consisting of ca. 800,000 individual objects). They illustrate the important cultural flows and groups that inhabited Central Europe over the last few thousand years or came in from other regions.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

The Iron Ages are represented in the collection with outstanding finds from famous sites, e.g. the Býčí Skála cave (Cz) with its bronze bull, the bronze chariot from Glasinac (BiH), from Magdalenska Gora, Vače, Most na Soči and Mihovo (Sl), Prozor (Hr), Sopron and Győr (Hu), Stradonice and Duchcov (Cz) as well as from the eponymous site Hallstatt, from Frög, Gemeinlebarn, Kuffern, Oberleiser Berg and Roseldorf (A).



Fra Grge Martića 30  
88240 Posušje, Bosnia Herzegovina  
[www.opcina-posusje.ba](http://www.opcina-posusje.ba)  
—



The municipality of Posušje with a little above 20,000 inhabitants is situated in the West Herzegovina Canton, a federal unit of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Posušje also has its own natural beauties, such as the high mountain Čvrsnica (2,228 m a.s.l.) with its impressive slopes and endemics, Blidinje lake (1,200 m a.s.l.), Masna Luka with several clear mountain springs and a beautiful fir and pine forest, Tribistovo reservoir, an interesting karst Brina and the until recently inaccessible Ričina canyon and the source of Žukovica in Zagorje. Franciscan museum 'U kući oca mojega/In my Father's House' is certainly an unmissable place for all those who come to the municipality of Posušje or pass through. From the Iron Age in the Posušje municipality area there are a huge number of ruins. The typical settlement of the Dalmatae, Posušje and Vir, were considered to be an important trade route that connected the commercial port Naronā (Vid near Metković) with the town of Delminium (today Tomislavgrad in the Duvno Plain) — the main centre of Illyrian tribes, as borne out by a drachma of Dyrrachium found in Vir. Prominent archaeologist Zdravko Marić claimed that Vir was one of the most important cultural sites in the territory of the Dalmatae. Borivoj Čović, another prominent archaeologist, classified the area of Posušje as belonging in the "central Illyrian territory".

## Sveti Ivan Zelina Museum

Trg Ante Starčevića 13  
10380 Sveti Ivan Zelina, Croatia  
[www.muzej-zelina.hr](http://www.muzej-zelina.hr)

Sveti Ivan Zelina Museum was founded in 1988 as the County Museum, today the Sveti Ivan Zelina Museum. The museum is located in the centre of the town of Sveti Ivan Zelina in a building designed in 1951 by the famous Croatian architect Stjepan Planić. The museum has over 15,000 artefacts located in 17 collections. Among them the most significant are: Collection of historical documents with documents from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Archaeological collection with finds from the Eneolithic period to the medieval artefacts collected during archaeological research in the area of St. Ivan Zelina, the Numismatic collection with coins from the Late Iron Age to the present day, the Ethnographic collection containing objects from the daily life of the inhabitants of St. Ivan Zelina and its surroundings from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Sveti Ivan Zelina Museum conducts archaeological research on two sites: medieval castrum Zelingrad; 13<sup>th</sup> century fortress located on the eastern slopes of the Medvednica mountain, as well as a multi-layered site Graci-Topolnjak. Research on this site has been ongoing for the past 15 years and so far we discovered a Late Bronze Age Urn-field culture settlement with large amounts of ceramic material. On the site we have not found any remains of Late Iron Age settlement buildings but dozens of metal artefacts such as several fibulae and a piece of a bronze belt, as well as Tauriscan coins. Roman period on the site is also represented with numismatic and metal artefacts. You can discover more details about this archaeological site <https://www.muzej-zelina.hr/hr/virtualna-izlozba/graci-od-prapovijesti-do-antike/>



## Žumberak – Samobor Hills Nature Park

Slani Dol 1  
10430 Samobor, Croatia  
[www.pp-zumberak-samoborsko-gorje.hr](http://www.pp-zumberak-samoborsko-gorje.hr)



In the western part of central Croatia, along the border with Slovenia, between the Kupa and Sava rivers, in the northeast-southwest direction, there is a mountain intersected by deep valleys of numerous rivers and mountain streams. This area represents one of the most valuable natural and cultural areas of the continental part of Croatia, characterized by a unique mixture of natural and semi-natural forests and vast grasslands that alternate in patches with the cultivated landscape such as meadows, pastures, vineyards, orchards and arable fields. In this hilly and mountainous area, which includes the southern side of Žumberak mountain and the entire Samobor hills, with a total area of 344 sq. km, you can find picturesque rural settlements at a height of up to 800 m above sea level.

Around 3,000 years ago, the first known Žumberak settlers made their home in Budinjak, at the similar height. It was then when people started to open forest areas and indirectly create new habitats needed for the amount of biodiversity we have here today. The richness of biological, landscape and geological diversity found here is a product of thousands of years of harmonious coexistence of Nature and Man. In 1999 this area was declared a protected natural value: a Nature Park, managed by the Public Institution “Žumberak Nature Park — Samoborsko Gorje”, established later in 2001.

Holzgasse 6  
88518 Herbertingen, Germany  
[www.herbertingen.de](http://www.herbertingen.de)  
—

Herbertingen lies at the centre of the Bodensee-Oberschwaben region. The village with its 5,000 inhabitants started out as a market town and has over time become a centre for culture and recreational activities. European recognition comes through the “Heuneburg” — an early Iron Age site only a few kilometres north of Herbertingen. Another highlight around Herbertingen are the Schwarzsachtal lakes — a centre for leisure and recreation. Herbertingen is perfect as a starting point for trips, with the Schwäbische Alb and the Lake Constance in close vicinity.



The Public Institution today works on protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the area, implementing EU projects, organizing events, workshops, volunteering activities, educational programs for children, guided tours and other activities that promote scientific, cultural, educational and recreational uses of the Nature Park.



# HUNGARY

## Sopron Museum

Fő tér 8  
9400 Sopron, Hungary  
[www.sopronimuzeum.hu](http://www.sopronimuzeum.hu)



Appreciating antiquities is a several centuries-old tradition in the community of Sopron. The Roman-period remains of *Scarbantia* have been considered worth preserving since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1867, the Society for History and Art in Sopron issued a call to announce its establishment and ask for donations or loans of artefacts and works of art for a local museum. The united museum of Sopron County and the town of Sopron were provided with five rooms on the second floor of the new town hall in 1898. From 1913 on, the institution was housed in the Lenck Villa, called “Palace of Culture” at the time, on Deák Square. The first major development of the museum started after World War II, after it reopened as the first of similar institutions in the country on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1947. In 1952, it took the name Ferenc Liszt, after a renowned Hungarian composer. Parallel with the expanding its collections, the museum also gained new buildings, such as the *Lábasház* (“footed”, meaning arcaded house) in the city centre in 1954 and the Fabricius House in 1962. Most exhibitions were located in the city centre. Finally, in 1986, the museum’s centre was moved to Storno House on the Main Square. In 1988, the institution’s name was changed to Sopron Museum, and the former network of exhibition areas became a real town museum with different units: the Fire Tower, exhibition areas in the Storno House and the Fabricius House, the Pharmacy House, the Old Synagogue, the Bakery House, the Memorial House of Mining in Brennbergbánya, the Arcaded House, later the *Macskakő*/Cobblestone Children’s Museum, the Central Museum of Mining, and the Lenck Villa that reopened in 2021.

### HIGHLIGHTS

The ongoing Museum Quarter development project is a significant milestone in the museum’s history. As a result, a complex museum unit with several new exhibitions will be created on the Main Square by combining the Fabricius House, the Storno House, and the General’s House, a former residential building.

# SLOVENIA



## Bela Krajina Museum Metlika

Trg svobode 4  
8330, Metlika, Slovenia  
www.belokranjski-muzej.si

It has been seventy years since the Bela Krajina Museum in Metlika first started fulfilling its important mission. It has now evolved into a distinguished institution, the only one of its kind in Bela Krajina. Through diligent documentation and engaging presentation of local heritage, it strives to command respect for this culturally diverse and historically significant space.

As a link between the past and the present, the museum helps bolster national consciousness and regional identity through educational processes of its permanent and temporary exhibitions, publishing activity, and pedagogic and andragogic popularization programmes. Its location on the border further increases its responsibility to preserve heritage.

The Bela Krajina Museum's strategies are centred on people and based on the awareness that the museum is an important nexus of cultural life, which enriches the quality of life. This is why we have thus far focused much of our attention on updating our permanent exhibitions in the Oton Župančič Memorial House in Vinica, the Museum House in Semič, and Kambič Gallery in Metlika. As for right now, the museum's employees are faced with perhaps their greatest challenge of simultaneously concluding the renovation of the Metlika Castle and developing an updated and expanded permanent exhibition *Reflections of Bela Krajina Across Seven Millennia*, which will also include a new exhibition titled *The Archaeological Treasures of Bela Krajina*.

### HIGHLIGHTS

The treasury of the Bela Krajina Museum increases the national collection of movable cultural heritage with its gold coin from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE, ancient Roman tombstones, a guild book from 16<sup>th</sup>-century Metlika, Bela Krajina's *pisanice* painted Easter eggs, works by sculptor Alojz Gangl, and more than 25,000 other artefacts.

### VISIT US IN 2022

27<sup>th</sup> September

The opening of a new permanent exhibition:  
*The Archaeological Treasures of Bela krajina*

## University of Maribor Botanic Garden

FKBV, Pivola 10  
2311 Hoče, Slovenia  
botanicnivr.um.si

University of Maribor Botanical Garden invites visitors to explore the world of plants and history. Authentic and foreign flora is presented here, especially some floristic rarities of the Pohorje Mountain range and other parts of North Eastern Slovenia. It also holds many horticultural collections, provides places for meetings, relaxation, learning and playing. The garden is a scientific and research institution, open to the public. Visitors can also learn about the history and archaeology of the region by taking the Archaeological trail leading through an Early Iron Age burial mound cemetery or visit the archaeological exhibition, both located within the garden grounds.

University of Maribor Botanical Garden spreads over an area of about 16 hectares and is a part of a larger agricultural estate maintained by the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The first steps towards planting a botanic garden were made in 1994 and many plant collections were added since 1996. Since 1999, the garden has been a member of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International society. The garden has been opened for visitors for the first time on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2002, celebrating the European Parks Day.

The garden is divided into seven bigger units, each one of them presenting a plant collection or a special kind of habitat. The best time to visit botanic garden is in the spring: a collection of over one hundred different daffodils are in bloom in April; collections of *Iris* and *Rhododendron* bloom in May and in June, when the garden is the most colourful. In the summer the garden invites you in the cool shade of trees and offers many magnificent roses. Autumn time invites to see flowers, fruits and colourful autumn leaves. For prebooked groups it is possible to visit the garden all year around, but for individual visits, the garden is open from 21<sup>st</sup> of March till the end of November.



### HIGHLIGHTS

The Botanical garden offers its visitors an intensive archaeological experience. There are dozens of well-preserved burial mounds, dating to the Early Iron Age, in the forested south side of the garden, which can be visited with the help of information boards. Furthermore, there is also the archaeological exhibition, entitled "How they lived...", which presents the region and its development from the Neolithic period to the Middle Ages, but with a clear focus on the Early Iron Age. Your visit of the archaeological trail and exhibition in the Botanic garden is however just one of the locations of the archaeological trail, connecting archaeologically and historically important sites of the city of Maribor and its surroundings.

### VISIT US IN 2022

15 October, 2022

'Življenje, običaji in kulinarika'

'Life, Folk Customs and Gastronomy'

## Municipality of Zreče

Cesta na Roglo 13b  
3214 Zreče, Slovenia  
www.zrece.si



Zreče Municipality, with a surface area of 67 km<sup>2</sup> and 6,500 inhabitants, is listed as a medium-sized Slovenian municipality. It is highly oriented on tourism and industry and offers 4000 jobs.

Numerous archaeological findings discovered at Brinjeva Gora and Gračič testify to the first settlements in the area of Zreče, while the first written sources appeared as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> century in the Early Middle Ages, when Zreče was divided into several church and secular farms. When it comes to towns, the most important was the town of Freudenberg, located on a hill below Brinjeva Gora.

In Zreče, sawmills, mills, glassworks, wood industry, small mines and especially blacksmithing began to sprout very early, and after the First World War, a real blacksmithing industry was developed. Nowadays, Zreče is known for its developed economy thanks to the activities of the companies Unior d.d., Unitur d.o.o., Weiler abrasives d.o.o. and GKN Driveline Slovenija d.o.o., as well as for its agriculture, while the development of small businesses is an important factor in the overall economic growth of the municipality. In recent decades, tourism has become the most important industry in Zreče Municipality. Rogla Climate and Tourist Resort, located at an altitude of 1,500 meters, as well as the Zreče Thermal Spa have been developed there, but the municipality also boasts a rich cultural and private tourism offer, which complements the overall tourism offer of the municipality with private hotels, picnic and tourist farms and apartments.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Brinjeva gora hilltop settlement is the most important archaeological site in the municipality of Zreče and the wider region. It was a regional centre in the Late Bronze and the Iron Ages, but it was settled also before and after that. Visitors can learn more about the (pre)history of Brinjeva gora by visiting the archaeological trail, equipped with information boards on most interesting locations, which was set up as part of the *Prehistory Adventure* project (Interreg SI-HR).

### VISIT US IN 2022

27/8/2022

Time travel on Brinjeva gora

## Maribor Regional Museum

Grajska ulica 2  
2000 Maribor, Slovenija  
www.museum-mb.si

The first museum in Maribor was opened in 1903 by the Museum Association, which, after the First World War, merged its collections with the collections of the Historical Association and the collection of the Diocese of Lavant Museum. In 1938, the collections were moved to Maribor Castle, where they are kept until today. After more than a century, the number of collected museum objects exceeds 100,000 items. The museum objects from the fields of archaeology, ethnology, art and general cultural history were collected mainly in the northeast of Slovenia, but some collections also contain exhibits from the entire territory of Slovenia. The permanent exhibition displays those objects that best represent the cultural and historical identity of the region from the Neolithic to the present day.

The permanent archaeological exhibition First Touch is located in the northern part of the ground floor of the western part of the castle. The content of the exhibition is based on a brief outline of the historical development of archaeological research, followed by a chronological presentation of individual prehistoric and historical periods with all the phenomena represented by material remains in the area under consideration.



### HIGHLIGHTS

The exhibition First Touch features many interesting artefacts from the rich archaeological heritage of the Maribor area and its surroundings. Among them, the confessional metal and ceramic finds from the late Bronze and early Iron Age stand out in terms of number and quality. The permanent archaeological exhibition also presents the historical remains of the Iron Age settlement on Poštela and the Early Iron Age Cemetery in the Maribor University Botanic Garden in Pivola.

## Tolmin Museum

Mestni trg 4  
5220 Tolmin, Slovenia  
www.tol-muzej.si  
—

The rich archaeological, ethnological, historical, artistic and cultural heritage of the upper Soča region is on display at the permanent and occasional exhibitions in the Tolmin Museum, which is domiciled at the Coronini Manor in the centre of Tolmin since 1950. In addition to the collections and exhibitions in the main building the Tolmin Museum also maintains several external collections and monuments. It operates in the municipalities of Tolmin, Kobarid and Bovec.

The main Museums exhibition is *The Soča region and its historical deposits*. Archaeological presentation shows the Soča region in the period from the Early Stone Age to the arrival of the Slavs who finalize the ethnic semblance of the area. The narrative of the historical and ethnological part is based on the architectural and ethnological traditions of the region, its traditional farming practice on mountain pastures and cheese-making tradition. Among the historically significant events are the Tolmin Peasant Uprising of 1713, and the rise of national consciousness at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. What follows is an original presentation of living in The Upper Soča Valley throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, and a collection of local art.

### HIGHLIGHTS

The extensive permanent archaeological exhibition presents the rich material finds of the Sveta Lucija Early Iron Age Culture with a special emphasis on the “capital” site of Most na Soči (Sveta Lucija). In addition to local finds, several imported items were discovered at the Iron Age sites in the region. As it is exceptionally well preserved, and due to its aesthetic value, among imported finds the Greek owl skyphos from the end of 5<sup>th</sup> century BC stands out. It depicts an owl between two olive branches. In Greek mythology, the owl is a patron both of cemeteries and the city of Athens, as well as the sacred bird of the goddess Athena.

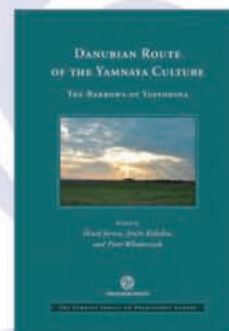
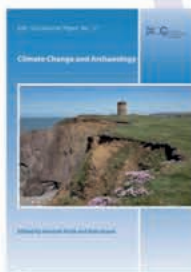
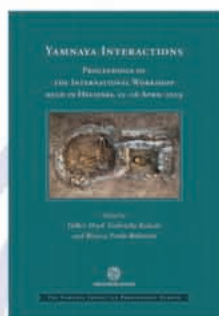
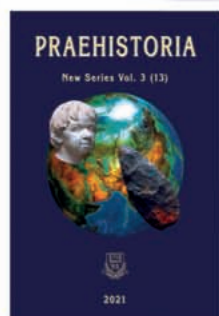
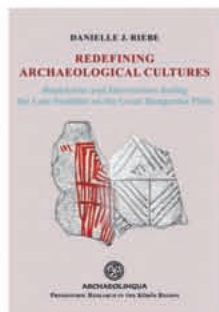
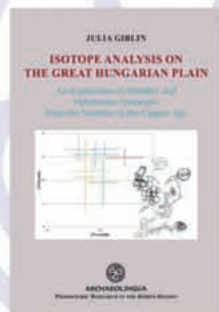
### VISIT US IN 2022

29 September  
European Heritage Days  
(Sustainable Heritage),  
Tolmin Museum Open Day





# ARCHAEOLOGIA



# MUSEUM MURTAL

Archäologie  
der Region



## ABOUT

Visitors at *Museum Murtal* explore the Hallstatt-period almost 3000 years ago and get to see treasures from **Strettweg**, home of the famous "Kultwagen".

The excavations of four hill graves in 2012 revealed artful pottery, iron weapons and jewellery from bronze, amber and gold.

The visitors are taken on a time travel to this mysterious period and learn about the fascinating methods of modern archaeology.

## Opening hours

Wednesday to Sunday: 10-17

## Museum Murtal

Herrngasse 12, A-8750 Judenburg

T: +43 (0)3572 20388

M: +43 (0)676 5708710

info@museum-murtal.at

www.museum-murtal.at

## CONTACT

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H-1067 Budapest, Teréz krt. 13., Tel.: +361 3758939

I FEEL SLOVENTA

DOLENJSKA #VisitDolenjska

# Secrets of Dolenjska

## Skrivnosti Dolenjske



Explore Dolenjska through virtual tours of a free mobile app.

You can now get to know a part of the rich heritage of Dolenjska with the help of two mobile applications that take you to three extremely interesting locations. In Novo mesto, the virtual experience focuses on visiting the sights in the old part of town, in Base 20 in the mysterious Kočevski Rog Forest it reveals details of life during World War II, and in Vinji vrh, it leads the traveler back to prehistoric times.



download it - visit it - experience it

VINJI VRH  
experience

Exploring the  
SECRET BASE 20

NOVO MESTO  
adventure



Scan the code and download the apps check:

[www.visitdolenjska.eu/secrets-of-dolenjska.html](http://www.visitdolenjska.eu/secrets-of-dolenjska.html)



razvojni center novo mesto

DOLENJSKI MUZEJ



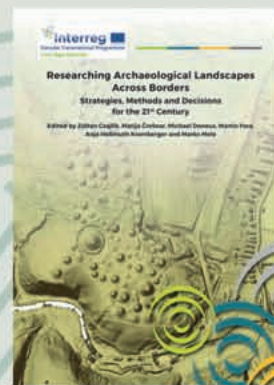
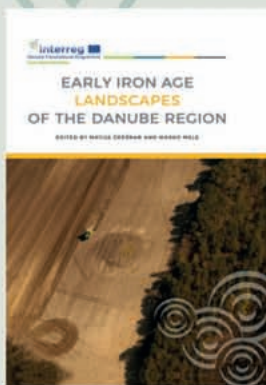
# IRON AGE DANUBE route



Cultural route of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel du Conseil de l'Europe



[www.ironagedanuberoute.com](http://www.ironagedanuberoute.com)



## ARCHAEOLINGUA

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[www.hungarianarchaeology.hu](http://www.hungarianarchaeology.hu)

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Mobility Action Slovenia.  
E-Heritage.  
*Everything else is the Past.***

From 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021, a mobility action with a variety of events took place throughout Slovenia as part of the Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes project. The rich programme aimed primarily at strengthening cooperation in the fields of digital agendas, museology, archaeological landscapes, tourism, cultural routes and related content. The hybrid event *Cultural Routes and Digitization of Cultural Heritage and their Role in (Sustainable) Tourism* brought together experts in digitization in cultural heritage, cultural routes, agriculture and especially tourism. The full-day event *Use of modern didactic approaches, digital tools and equipment in state-of-the-art presentations* gave a good insight into learning, experiencing and using digital tools in the context of cultural heritage and tourism. Visits to the depots of the National Museum of Slovenia and two days of visits to the regions of Notranjska (Pivka Military History Park and Prem Castle) and Štajerska (Botanical Garden UM Pivola and RTS Septarija Šentilj), as well as visits to examples of good practise, provided participants with a wonderful learning experience.

The Iron Age Danube route was present at the mobility action with its own new format, the *Iron Age Danube Route TALKS*. The topic of the first *TALKS* organised in form of a round table was *Digital Paths Along the Iron Age Danube Route. Integrated Approach in Presentation of Archaeological Heritage*. The very well attended event, connected all topics and enabled a fruitful discussion between the experts of the different fields involved.

A. V., J. K., B. L.

**Collaboration Agreement  
between the Phoenicians' Route  
and Iron Age Danube Route signed**

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the two Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe "The Phoenicians' Route" and the "Iron Age Danube Route" signed a relevant collaboration agreement, with the aim of promoting and disseminating the tangible and intangible cultural heritage connected to products, places, traditions, civilizations at the basis of European values. The agreement supports the exchange between two Cultural Routes, that discover and present history from three millenniums ago. The two Routes' topics perfectly intertwine, since they deal with contemporary historical periods in different geographical areas. The cultures of this historic period (Iron Age in the Danube Region and the Mediterranean area) exchanged goods, ideas, knowledge and technologies, solved conflicts, migrated and interacted with other cultures beyond Europe, becoming a part of a bigger European cultural phenomena. The awareness that modern states' borders and European unity of today have emerged after millennia of interactions between the ancient civilizations is the main message that the Iron Age Danube Route and the Phoenicians' Route seek to transmit.

The Phoenicians' Route and the Iron Age Danube Route will work together on the development of marketing, study and analysis activities; organization of events, exhibitions, seminars, training activities, meetings involving civil society; promotion of exchanges between young people from their respective countries; collaboration for international projects; organization of joint communication actions, promotional campaigns, promotional tours and more. Furthermore, both Routes support common transnational approaches to the protection, presentation and research of archaeological landscapes and heritage.

M. R.

## A home, a stable, a smithy: prehistoric lifeways at the proto-urban hillfort of Pungrt above Ig

Since the development-led excavation in 2020 and 2021, the proto-urban hillfort of Pungrt above Ig, located in the vicinity of the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana, has rapidly been gaining reputation as one of the most significant Early Iron Age sites in Slovenia. The ongoing laboratory analyses of Pungrt settlement deposits and micro-artefact assemblages — undertaken within a research project funded by the Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS, J6-3126) — are part of the first high resolution study of the structured use of space at any hillfort site in Slovenia. As such, they are propelling the development of Slovenian archaeological science in general and Iron Age settlement studies in particular.

The two core methods employed in this research project include soil micromorphology and micro-refuse analysis. The former examines archaeological deposits under a microscope to detect formation processes and distinct depositional events that cannot be identified in the field with the naked eye. When applied to the analysis of the Late Hallstatt floor sequence in Building 21, constructed on the hillfort's lowermost terrace, it has revealed the nature of subsequent floors and accumulated occupation residues. Throughout the building's life-cycle, three types of earthen floors were used, including constructed, clay-rich floors, calcareous mortars, and beaten floors. In addition to longer-term cycles associated with these deposit types, the microstratigraphic sequence in Building 21 contains records of various seasonal and daily activities. These include cyclical re-plastering of floor surfaces with finishing coatings and "red wash"; re-deposited rake-outs in the vicinity of the hearths; and micro-laminations of occupational debris. In its final phase, the nature of the building changed and the structure, originally employed as a dwelling, became a stable.

The micro-refuse analysis of the nearby Late Hallstatt Building 24 has been, likewise, concerned with the reconstruction of daily activities within the structure. By examining minute pieces of refuse measuring 2–6 mm which would, due to their size, have evaded regular cleaning and maintenance practices and become unintentionally trampled into the floor surface, we were able to reconstruct distinct activity areas within the building. Most notably, the seemingly inconspicuous southern room which provided no hints of its use during the excavation itself was identified as a smithy. A significant number of different types of hammerscale suggest that the room was used by a blacksmith forging iron. The hammerscale distribution within the room that had an exit onto a wide street next to the stone rampart also indicated where the smithing hearth and anvil would have stood. In addition, micro-artefacts indicate ore-roasting activity at the hearth and the presence of large furniture in the corner of this workshop. The northern room behind the smithy was, meanwhile, used for domestic activities, including food preparation. To follow the most recent updates on the ongoing analyses, visit the project's home page: <https://www.ff.uni-lj.si/en/proto-urban-hillfort-pungrt-above-ig-10-hectares-10-microns>

A. P., L. G.



## IADR on the Place2GO International Touristic Fair

Iron Age Danube Route was presented at the international touristic fair Place2GO held in Zagreb from 8–10 April 2022. It was a great opportunity for our members to be introduced to the wider public that visited the fair. For two days the public could get information about the Iron Age sites and get acquainted with our members' work. The highlight of the stand was the visit of the Iron Age re-enactment group from Novo mesto.

Iron Age Danube Route stand was one of the platforms presenting Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Croatia and it was fully supported by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia.

M. R.



## Sustainable touristic value from digitization of archaeological heritage. Digital approaches to the promotion of archaeological landscapes in the Danube region.

Virtual Archaeological Landscapes of the Danube Region (Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes) is a project co-funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DTP). The main objective of the project is to increase the visibility of the cultural heritage and in particular the archaeological landscapes of the Danube Region at a regional, national and international level, making them more attractive for integration into the region's tourism offer. To achieve this goal, the project uses new technologies. Within the project, a strategy was developed and adopted by the partners from 10 countries of the Danube Region.

The strategy approaches the issue of archaeological heritage from archaeological, social and technological perspectives. By outlining the challenges related to the digital visualisation and promotion of archaeological landscapes, clear, specific strategic objectives were carefully defined and stakeholders and target groups were selected.

Based on the swot (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analyses carried out by the working groups, the main challenges of the sector were defined, resulting in two main strategic units. The first unit focuses on the working processes from archaeological discovery to virtual visualisation, the second on the potential of archaeological heritage in the digital world.

To support the further adaptation and development of new technologies for the archaeological sector, the strategy concludes with 12 recommendations for archaeological heritage stakeholders. Priority lists for the implementation of the recommendations at national level are adopted for each participating country. You can browse through the online publication on iussu. To get your own PDF, write to your national Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes project partner or to *michaela.zingerle@museum-joanneum.at*.

M. ME.

## Interpretation Centre of Hallstatt Culture

One of the strategic projects of the Požega-Slavonia County is the Interpretation Centre of Hallstatt Culture in Kaptol. It is going to be a place of research and learning about the rich historical heritage that puts Kaptol and Požega-Slavonia County on the map of important and attractive archaeological sites in the national and European context. The conceptual design was made by one of the most famous Croatian architects, Andrija Rusan, Požega-Slavonia County is an investor and The Regional Coordinator PANORA provides technical assistance in the project development. The conceptual design of the Interpretation Centre of Hallstatt Culture is planned near the village of Kaptol in the Požega Valley. Systematic archaeological excavations in the area of Kaptol began in 1965. From then until today, a number of archaeological sites with numerous archaeological artefacts have been excavated, which indicate the exceptional value of this location.

This Interpretation centre of Hallstatt culture with a visitor centre, intends to provide space for further research of this exceptional site, adequate archaeological processing of the found material, as well as the possibility of presenting the processed material and educating visitors. The micro-location of the interpretation centre of the Hallstatt culture is located on the shores of a small lake, next to the archaeological site Kaptol-Čemernica. From the centre there is a view of the southern slopes of Papuk and the archeological site Kaptol-Gradca, also a witness of life in the Early Iron Age of this area.

M. L.



## Recent Community Archaeology programs at Iron Age sites in Hungary

In recent years, community archaeology has gained ground in Hungary, and in addition to the central institutions, programmes have been launched in a number of rural museums with the involvement of interested citizens. In 2019 a Community Archaeology Association was also established (<http://www.kozossegiregeszet.hu/>)

Certain programmes aimed at exploring Iron Age sites, such as the Sopron Museum's civilian-funded research programme. One of the aims of this programme, which was launched in the fortified settlement in Sopron-Várhely, is to build value conscious micro-communities. Field survey, metal detecting survey and small-scale excavation were carried out with the participation of local high school students, students from the Department of Archaeology of the University of Pécs and the Faculty of Forest Engineering of the University of Sopron, taking into account the relationship between the archaeological site and the sustainable use of the forest. The fortified settlement, which has been under research for a long time, was represented by artefacts from both the Early Iron Age and the Celtic period.



The archaeologists of the Ferenczy Museum Centre, Szentendre and the Eötvös Loránd University Institute of Archaeological Sciences, Budapest (ELTE) together with volunteers from the Community Archaeology Association, carried out a field walk and a non-destructive survey in the Pilis Mountains. The aim of the research was verification and condition assessment of previously known archaeological sites. Each Community Archaeology Programme started with a scientific presentation followed by fieldwork using a metal detector. An important result of the research was the confirmation of the extent of a poorly known late Iron Age fortified settlement. In the frame of the Community archaeology programme of the Hungarian National Museum and the Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt., with the voluntary participation of experts from several museums and civil volunteers, a rescue excavation was conducted on a hilltop of the Cserhát Mountains, in the vicinity of Kisbárkány. Beside the Middle (Árpadian) Age cemetery 4 features of a Scythian Age (6<sup>th</sup> century BC) settlement were also unearthed. From the features an unusually large and diverse assemblage of finds came to light, over a thousand ceramic sherds, including fine, decorated table ware, 23 spindle whorls, the torso of a ceramic horse figurine, bronze fragments, and a wide range of animal bones, including an almost complete skeleton of a rabbit, two fox skulls and antler fragments. The observed phenomena and finds can be interpreted as a sequence of structured depositions with a ritual background.

The ELTE in cooperation with civil archaeological communities in north-eastern Hungary, conducted research on early and middle Iron Age fortified settlements. At the site of Dédestapolcsány-Verebce-tető, traces of a 7<sup>th</sup> century BC siege were found and one of the most exciting Scythian artefacts of the wider region was collected, while at two other fortified settlements dozens of arrowheads were recorded, demonstrating an 8<sup>th</sup> century siege horizon.

A. M., K. T., T. R., Z. H., G. S., K. W.

## **New arrivals in historic landscapes – Archaeological heritage tourism and smart landscape management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

The conference *New arrivals in historic landscapes* was organized on May 3–4, 2022, by the Hungarian National Museum, Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture, and the Iron Age Danube Route Association. It was also a part of the Mobility Action Hungary which was held within the scope of the Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes project. It was a special event for the Iron Age Danube Route where local stakeholders, policy makers and tourist agencies gathered to discuss two major topics: archaeological cycling tourism and smart landscape use. Besides the interesting lectures and lively discussions at round tables, the conference participants made a joint cycling tour to the archaeological park at Roman villa Baláca. At the site a tour and a VR-experience, developed in the frame of the Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes project, could be enjoyed. We would, once again, like to express our gratitude to the organizers, speakers, and the participants with hopes that everyone had as great a time as we did!

A. P., S. C., S. F.

## **Interpreted Iron Age conference**

For the 10<sup>th</sup> time this fall — 17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 — the conference “Interpreted Iron Age: case studies, methods, theory — Linz Talks on Interpretative Iron Age Archaeology” takes place. Colleagues from Austria and abroad will come together again in The Upper Austrian Provincial Museum to discuss various aspects of current Iron Age research during three conference days. Experience has shown that this conference format offers the ideal setting for intensive discussions. As usual, the conference papers will be published in the year following the conference.

<https://eisenzeiten.oekultur.at/>

J. L.





# IRON

# AGE

Gamula in Martijanec  
during cleaning  
from wild vegetation.  
© K. D. Majdak



# STORIES

by Ian Armit  
Lindsey Büster  
Claire-Elise Fischer  
David Reich

# D

# N



**Map of sampled sites**  
This map shows all of the sites from which we obtained DNA samples (some sites yielded many individuals). Our newly analysed sites are marked in black circles, while previously published sites are indicated in gold (drawn by Helen Goodchild). Base maps made with Natural Earth, and elevation data with Copernicus, European Digital Elevation Model v1.1).

● REPORTED SAMPLES  
● NEW SAMPLES

**USING**

**ANCIENT  
DNA**

**TO**

**DETECT**

**BRONZE  
AGE**

**POPULATION  
MOVEMENT**

**INTO  
BRITAIN**



IT IS NO EXAGGERATION to suggest that new developments in the extraction and sequencing of ancient DNA have revolutionised our understanding of Europe's population history over the last few years. In a recent study, we reported genome-wide data from 793 prehistoric individuals, focusing on Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age Britain. This sample size would have been unthinkable only a few years ago, yet it is with datasets of this kind that we can begin to answer new questions about prehistoric population history. In this case, our study revealed a previously unknown migration into southern Britain towards the end of the Bronze Age.

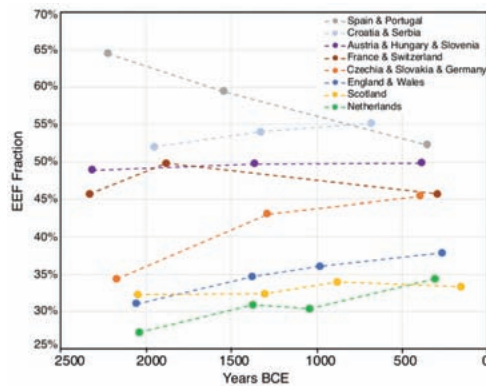
### Defining ancestry

To understand the population history of this period it is important to be aware of earlier developments that affected much of the genetic structure of prehistoric Europe. The first comprised the expansion across Europe, between around 6500–4000 BC, of the first farming communities, descended from earlier Anatolian populations. This Early European Farmer (EEF) ancestry dominated the genetic profile of Neolithic communities in Britain. Around a millennium later, a further major genetic change affected Europe, with the expansion of nomadic pastoralists, such as the Yamnaya Culture, from the Pontic-Caspian steppe around 3000 BC. This steppe ancestry arrived in Britain in a quite dramatic way from around 2450 BC, when migrants associated with Beaker Culture came to account for more than 90% of the genome of Early Bronze Age communities. From around 2000 BC, communities across the whole of Britain shared a very similar balance of EEF and steppe ancestry, with the latter being overwhelmingly dominant.

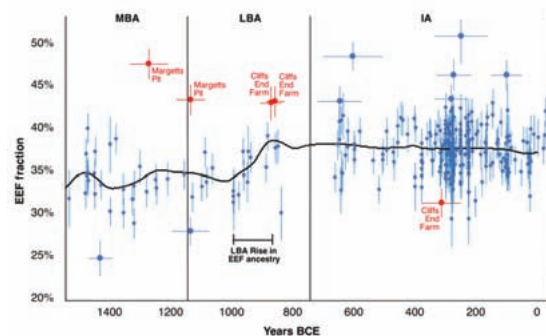
Yet modern-day populations in England and Wales have higher levels of EEF ancestry than their Early Bronze Age counterparts. So how did this change happen? And why only in England and Wales, and not Scotland? At some point, incomers with higher levels of EEF must have arrived in southern Britain, but had less impact in the north. So when and how did this occur?

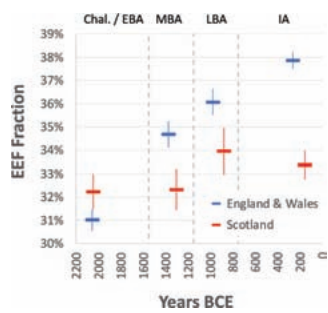
→ **Graph of EEF increase**  
This graph shows the marked increase in EEF ancestry in England and Wales relative to Scotland.

↓ **European trends**  
This graph shows the changes in levels of EEF ancestry during the Bronze and Iron Ages. EEF levels decline markedly in Iberia while rising significantly in England, Wales, the Netherlands and Central Europe.



↓ **Genetic outliers**  
This image shows the level of EEF ancestry in sampled individuals from southern Britain for the period from the Middle Bronze Age to the end of the Iron Age. Genetic outliers are indicated in red.





### A newly recognised Bronze Age migration into Britain

To examine this question, we generated new genome-wide data from 793 individuals (including 416 from Britain) in the largest ancient DNA study carried out to date. The resulting data showed a clear rise in EEF ancestry for southern Britain during the last few centuries of the Bronze Age, and especially in the period 1000–875 BC, but no corresponding rise in Scotland. We have few samples in the northernmost parts of England due to the poor preservation of burials in that region, but most likely, there was simply a gradual decrease in EEF ancestry from south to north. Statistical analysis shows that this new mix of ancestries in southern Britain appears to derive from a combination of Early Bronze Age populations in Britain and their contemporaries in mainland Europe, most likely in what is now France, who carried a higher genetic EEF component.

This newly detected migration had a substantial impact, accounting for around 50% of the ancestry of subsequent Iron Age communities in southern Britain. So how did it happen? It is clear that both men and women moved, so this was no warrior invasion. It also seems that it happened over a period of several centuries. We can identify two mature adult women as genetic outliers, with unusually high EEF ancestry, at the site of Margetts Pit, Kent, dating to 1391–1129 cal BC and 1214–1052 cal BC, while other outliers, from the mortuary complex at Cliffs End Farm, also in Kent, include the remains of an adult male dated to 912–808 cal BC. His strontium isotope signature suggests a childhood spent in the Alps. Kent is an obvious place for contacts between Britain and France, and it is possible that it was a particularly significant entry point for Bronze Age migrants over a significant period of time.

### Integrating archaeology and genetics

Although the scale of population movement into Britain during the Late Bronze Age was previously unknown, archaeologists had nonetheless previously identified close cultural contacts between regions across Europe at this time. Intensified trade and communications had developed as part of the bronze-using economies that linked regions from Ireland to Hungary and Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. Bronze objects ranging from swords to cauldrons occur over wide geographical areas, highlighting the existence of communications networks across the Continent. In this context, there are many ways in which people might move, for example as traders, mercenaries, brigands, adventurers, itinerant crafts-workers, entertainers, or slaves. Perhaps most importantly in explaining the genetic shift we see in southern Britain, they may have moved as marriage partners, through networks of kinship and collaboration that stretched across the Channel.

Although our samples focus on Britain, we now have enough data to see that other regions were also changing. Indeed, when we look at proportions of EEF ancestry across Europe, we detect a degree of homogenisation, with EEF ancestry increasing in Central Europe while decreasing in Iberia. Future studies which successfully integrate genetic and archaeological data will allow for more nuanced understandings of these dynamic periods of social and economic change.

### Endnotes

The project received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It also received funding from the National Institute of Health; the John Templeton Foundation, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Allen Discovery Center program, a Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group advised program of the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, and a range of other organisations.



The burial chamber  
of the Tomb of Sveshtari.  
[WikiCommons/Interact-Bulgaria](#)

**IRON  
AGE**

**IN BULGARIA**



**THE  
THRACIANS**





The Golden Treasure  
of Panagyurishte.  
Photo by S. Mihelić

THE HISTORY OF THE INHABITANTS in present-day Bulgaria during the Iron Age — the Thracians — is full of both mystery and high achievements. Acknowledged as superior warriors and brilliant craftsmen, the Thracian culture is strongly influenced by their famous neighbours — the Greek city-states along the coasts of the Black and the Aegean seas.

The main puzzle pieces of our knowledge about the Thracians history come from writing of ancient Greek historians and archaeological excavations. Homer mentions the Thracians in the context of the Trojan War, and Herodotus describes them as strong, large in numbers and divided in different tribes. The earliest specimens of Thracian coinage discovered so far are dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, and reveal strong influence from the Greek colonies and the neighbouring Persian Empire.

During the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, the territory of present-day Bulgaria, North-eastern Greece and North-western Turkey was organized as a unified Thracian state bearing the name of the ruling tribe — the Odrysian Kingdom. Due to the specific structure of Thracian society, the kings of the Odrysians had several fortified capital residencies, one of which — Seuthopolis — was excavated during the 1950s in relation to the construction of the Koprinka dam. The Thracian Kingdom was conquered by Phillip II of Macedonia and Alexander the Great during the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.

One of the most prominent elements of Thracian heritage are related to their burial practices. The rich funerals of the members of Thracian aristocracy were often conducted within monumental tombs, shaped as large-scale mounds. It is believed that the number of Thracian burial mounds in present-day Bulgaria varies between 10,000 and 60,000.

In the early months of 1944, in the north-eastern part of the town of Kazanlak in the Balkan Mountains, a mound, of 7 m in height, was excavated. A massive brick-and-stone tomb was discovered inside, consisting of a long corridor and a domed burial chamber. The frescoes inside the chamber are among the best-preserved Early Hellenistic paintings. They represent moments from the earthly, military and after-life of the

Thracian warlord, buried inside the tomb. The structure is dated to the late 4<sup>th</sup>–early 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and belongs to what is popularly called “The valley of the Thracian Kings”.

The gold and silver objects are another element that is very popular from Thracian heritage. An emblematic example is the Treasure of Panagyurishte, discovered in 1949 close to a town with the same name, to the south of the Balkan Mountains. The set consists of 9 vessels — rhytons, a phiale, and amphorae, made from gold and its decorations depict deities, mythological creatures and sacred animals of the Classical mythology. The treasure is dated to the late 4<sup>th</sup>–early 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and it presumably belonged to the Odrysian royal family, where it was used for ceremonial practices.

The large archaeological reserve of “Sboryanovo” in North-eastern Bulgaria preserves emblematic manifestations of Thracian heritage. A royal burial tomb was discovered on the site in the early 1980s, which became known as the Tomb of Sveshtari. Dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, the burial structure reflects the fundamental principles of Thracian cult buildings and is famous for its interior sculpture decoration. The burial chamber is surrounded by ten female figures in high relief, which also act as supporting pillars — caryatids. According to one of the hypothesis, the people buried inside the tomb were King Dromichaetes of the Thracian tribe of Getae, and his wife — the daughter of King Lysimachus. In proximity to the tomb is the Thracian town of Helis, considered to be the capital of the Getae state.

Following the division of Alexander the Great’s empire, the eastern territories of the Balkans became part of the realm of King Lysimachus. The reign of the diadochi was soon overthrown, bringing independence to the Thracian tribes, who continued their development as a part of the Hellenistic world and culture. The last remnants of the once glorious Odrysian Kingdom ceased to exist in the early decades of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, when its territory was incorporated into the Roman Empire, forming the Province of Thrace.

Nowadays, the Thracian heritage is widely acknowledged and appreciated by Bulgarians, providing an opportunity for national pride. The finest examples of Thracian burial rites — the Tombs of Kazanlak and Sveshtari are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites, and the mobile exhibition “The Gold of the Thracians” is hosted by the most famous museums around the world.

# SECRETS

by Matija Črešnar  
Zoltán Czajlik  
Branko Mušič



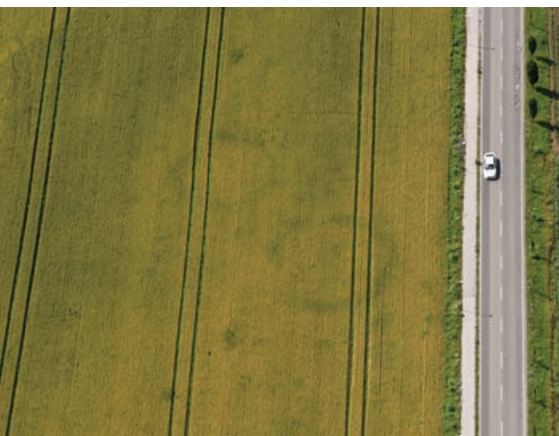
## OF

MOST PEOPLE associate archaeology primarily (and often exclusively) with archaeological excavations and finds displayed in museum showcases. This is more than understandable, as archaeological excavations have been and still are by far the most commonly used method, often yielding very straightforward and generally understandable results. However, archaeology has long ago, but increasingly in recent decades, moved to the use of remote sensing methods and geophysics, which allow for (mostly) non-invasive research, covering not only known archaeological sites, but extending far beyond that, into the surrounding landscapes. These methods are often the basis for further investigation, which may include archaeological excavation as a final step in field research, but also build on interdisciplinary knowledge and expertise, often resulting in more reliable data sets and consistent interpretations.

One of the projects that uses the above methods and combines them in an interdisciplinary approach is currently investigating the archaeologically rich cultural landscapes of the area between the south-eastern Alps and the Danube, focusing mainly on the Early Iron Age, i.e., the Hallstatt period (8<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> centuries BC). It is carried out by the teams from the

Google Earth-imagery of the Süttő-plateau with the magnetometer-map of the tumuli-groups and possible old roads. (Figure by S. Pusztai, Z. Czajlik, ELTE, 2019)

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON THE EARLY IRON AGE IS MOVING FROM INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS AND SITES TO ENTIRE LANDSCAPES AND FROM EXCAVATIONS TO NON-/LESS-INVASIVE RESEARCH



University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Eötvös Loránd University from Budapest (Hungary). Building on previous collaboration within the Iron-Age-Danube Project (2017–2019; DTP Interreg), which explored a large number of Iron Age archaeological sites, we were able to select two exceptional archaeological complexes that promise the greatest archaeological potential for further investigation.

We are therefore surveying some of the most spectacular archaeological sites in the region, namely Poštela on the fringes of the Pohorje massif above the Drave River valley (Slovenia) and Süttő, located on the right bank of the Danube River (Hungary). Both share many similarities and provide key data for understanding the formation of Early Iron Age cultural landscapes in the region. While fortified hilltop settlements acted as focal points in the cultural landscapes at that time, they also included extensive burial mounds and flat grave cemeteries. Already during the previous research campaigns, which included geophysics at both sites as well as Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS) at Poštela and aerial archaeological surveys at Süttő, we discovered traces of numerous burial mounds, ancient communication routes and open lowland settlements in the surveyed areas.

Aerial photography of the newly documented ring ditches, possible remains of plough-out Iron Age burial mounds, at Spodnje Radvanje to the north-east of the Poštela hillfort. (Photo by Z. Czajlik, ELTE, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022)

On this basis, we are now attempting to further investigate these landscapes using non/semi-invasive methods to better understand the temporal and spatial structuring of the two sites and their surrounding landscapes.

In addition to the aforementioned similarities of the two sites, we are also encountering differences that will require a combination of our teams and their expertise in order to explore both areas in their integrity with more pronounced/detailed insights into specific archaeological remains using a combination of non-traditional, innovative approaches.

The structure of the known burial mounds in Poštela is, due to their location in forested areas, largely preserved, while most of the burial mounds at Süttő are located in an area that is heavily cultivated. This difference is also the key factor for the selection of appropriate types of remote sensing and geophysical methods and/or their combination. So far, magnetometer prospections and aerial archaeological surveys have been successful at Süttő, while at Poštela a combination of ALS and magnetometry, ground penetrating radar (GPR) and electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) provided the best results.

Some of the completely new results of the project can already be presented here. Thus far our first aerial archaeological survey around Poštela brought an unexpected success, possibly showing remains of an unknown burial mound cemetery. Of course, this is just the first research step, which will be

followed by a selection of further site-specific non-destructive methods. However, the identification of a new archaeological site is always an extraordinary occasion!

In addition, we have deepened our knowledge of some of the largest standing burial mounds at the Pivola cemetery under the Poštela hillfort, where an intensive ERT investigation resulted in a very detailed 3D model of a stone made burial chamber covered by an earthen mantle.

Our research includes extensive fieldwalking, geomorphological drilling, small-scale excavations, and the use of archaeological and radiocarbon dating methods along with geoarchaeological analyses of soils, sediments, and archaeological deposits to describe environmental settings and the dynamics of past human activities. In addition, by analysing sediment cores from Lake Balaton and comparing them with regional paleoecological and archaeological data, we aim to investigate and possibly reconstruct the paleoecological changes that are thought to have occurred during the period under study. With such a complex project, we also have high expectations and look forward to presenting new and important results in the near future.

*(The research is funded by the National Research Development and Innovation Office (Hungary), grant number SNN 134635, and the Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS), grant number N6-0168).*

# IRON AGE

# LANDSCAPES

# GOMILA

by Saša Kovačević

# IN JALŽABET



Gomila in Jalžabet during rescue excavation.  
(Photo by K. Sobat)

## A MONUMENTAL LANDSCAPE OF THE EARLY IRON AGE

IN THE EARLY IRON AGE, the territory from the Atlantic to the Danube was enveloped by the phenomenon of Hallstatt culture, the “early form of European unity”. The area along the Drava and Mura rivers belonged to the Eastern Hallstatt zone. One of the best-preserved and most important Early Iron Age landscapes in Central Europe is located south of the Drava River in Jalžabet and nearby Martijanec. Two large, almost unexplored settlements from the Hallstatt period can still be seen even after two thousand years both in Jalžabet and Martijanec.

The area east of the prehistoric settlement in Jalžabet was dominated by several burial mounds (tumulus 1, i.e., Gomila, tumulus 2, and Ptičji breg). The last resting places of Hallstatt aristocracy are located in the monumental tombs made out of wood and stone with a square floor plan with ceremonial access corridors.

Gomila is one of the largest explored prehistoric monuments of its kind in Europe, and it can be assumed that it belonged to the last in a series of rulers of the Eastern Hallstatt culture (middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE). Today, Gomila in Jalžabet is elliptical in shape, 65×55 meters, and 8 m in height. Gamula in Martijanec is slightly smaller. In the past, the southwestern part of Gomila in Jalžabet was remodelled into a ramp and the top was flattened. Gomila originally had a rounded top and was around 12 m in height. After the burial chamber was built on the prepared plateau, a huge circular ditch was dug around Gomila. At the base of Gomila, on the artificially-levelled plateau, stood a monumental stone crepidoma or base, approximately 25 m in diameter. A burial chamber with a dromos, a long ceremonial corridor, was built in the centre of the stone base. The size of the chamber measured 11.5×11.5 m, with a height of around 1.4 to 1.5 m. The burial chamber had a square layout with rounded corners and 1.7 m thick walls made from wood, stone, and interspaces filled with charcoal and rocks (burial chamber inside the burial chamber). Densely arranged thin vertical stakes were driven deep into the ground and formed the outer face of the chamber’s walls. The spacious, but low-sitting chamber had a dromos, with a ceremonial approach from the east. The passage of the dromos was 2.20 m wide and at least 18 m long.



Part of an inverted rim of a large pot from the burial chamber in Gomila. (Photo by S. Kovačević)

The entire floor of the chamber was paved with split sandstone tiles and additionally completely covered with wood. In the centre of the chamber stood a timber frame, measuring around 5×5 m. The structure rested on horizontal wooden beams placed on the floor, with vertical posts supporting the horizontal roof. Structures made from wood were found in the dromos as well, e.g., traces of wooden wall lining and flooring. The architecture of the burial chamber (with several “outer” and “inner” burial chambers or “chambers inside other burial chambers”) seems similar to the examples found in the Western Hallstatt culture area. Thick layers of loose sterile charcoal were thrown on the outer side of the finished burial chamber and dromos. Afterwards, the entire structure was covered with pebbles, stones, and, finally, a huge mound of clay and loess. The tombs contained magnificent finds made out of various materials that most likely came from areas far away from upper Podravina: from delicate, masterfully crafted gold, amber, and bone jewellery decorated with fine details, to decorative metal parts of horse equipment, armour, weapons, and utensils, as well as bone and bronze animal miniatures.

Although very different in size, both burial mound 2 and Gomila in Jalžabet are built similarly; with square burial chambers and dromoi towards the east, on a carefully prepared and paved plateau. Some movable finds from both burial mounds in Jalžabet are closely comparable as well. For example, some bronze horse equipment pieces and lamellas from bi-metal scale armours from Gomila and tumulus 2 are practically identical. It would not be surprising if it were determined that the finds originated from the same workshop.

Gomila was erected in a time when warriors immersed in cults, traditions and legends became heroes, and rulers became kings, through the grace of the gods. After being shrouded in layers of oblivion and tons of sandy Podravina soil for thousands of years, we are faced with the scientific challenge of thoroughly exploring a prehistoric society, ancient lives, and beliefs with one event at the centre — a funeral of a ruler for whom one of the largest tombs of its kind in Europe, the Gomila tumulus in Jalžabet, was erected.

The interdisciplinary research of the Jalžabet Gomila is led by the Institute of Archaeology in cooperation with numerous institutions from Croatia and abroad, and the conservation of the finds has been entrusted to the Croatian Conservation Institute. The work is funded by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia and the Interreg DTP project *Monumental Landscapes of the Early Iron Age in the Danube Basin*. The importance of this site prompted the design of its presentation and sustainable use in cooperation with the Municipality of Jalžabet and Varaždin County, in order to present one of the most important landscapes of the Early Iron Age in Central Europe.

Part of the bi-metal scale armor from Gomila in Jalžabet. (Photo by S. Kovačević)



# TRAVEL

by Sarah Kizster



# WITH US

VISIT THE  
SETTLEMENT  
AT GROSSKLEIN  
IN AUSTRIA!



# INTO THE IRON AGE

TIME TRAVEL is a dream of mankind, whether into the past or into the future. The project partners of Danube's Archaeological Landscapes have now made this possible for you — at least virtually with the help of VR glasses. The Archaeology Museum of the Universalmuseum Joanneum in Graz has set itself the task of creating a digital visualization from an Iron Age landscape in Styria, Austria. The world famous site of Burgstallkogel near Großklein, close to present-day Leibnitz, was selected.

At the Sulm and Saggau river valley intersection, the Styrian municipality of Großklein is now home to one of the best-known Iron Age cultural landscapes: a prehistoric hilltop settlement on the Burgstallkogel, which is over 450 m high, and numerous tumulus cemeteries at the foot of the mountain. Almost 700 burial mounds are still visible today in what is known as the Sulmtal necropolis. There were probably up to 2000 burial mounds there at one time.

#### The visualisation

The digital visualization depicts everyday activities in an easily understandable, self-exploratory way. Since the total area of the site is very large, you can visit selected locations and plots which provide an insight into the settlement and burial grounds. You can run through individual scenes one after the other and learn about different topics such as architecture, crafts, burial rituals and everyday life in the early Iron Age. The goal is to make you feel part of the story.

Careful attention was paid to making a distinction between the landscapes shown in the visualizations, the architecture and artefacts, and the story that is told to the user. People you meet on your journey back in time in the digital visualisations were drawn by an illustrator in black and white and two-dimensional, which creates a strong contrast to the realistic and scientifically based landscape models. Further attention was paid to the details of the clothing and jewellery. For the clothing of the people shown in the visualization, comparative examples from the salt mines in Hallstatt were cited.

The digital visualization of Großklein was created as touch versions as well as an application for VR glasses. Additionally, all information and dialogues were translated into 10 languages and also recorded in a recording studio in order to offer the users of the VR glasses the best possible experience.



**Let's start the time travel!**

But before we travel to the Iron Age, we make a short stopover in 1933. Initially, we are in the office of the former state archaeologist of Styria, Walter Schmid. His research covered all archaeological epochs from the Copper Age to the early Middle Ages. He carried out numerous excavations in Slovenia and Styria, including in Großklein. His notes in the office give us a first insight into the Hallstatt settlement and the associated necropolis.

We already have a first task to do here: In order to get a better overview of the landscape of the Sulm and Saggau valleys, you need to assign the artefacts on his worktable to the corresponding sites in Styria on a map. You can select the individual finds from pre-history and also view them from all sides.

After you have accomplished this task and you got an overview of the site, the time travel can continue... In just a few seconds we travel further into the past. However, now over 2,500 in the past to the year 580 BC.



### Welcome to the Iron Age!

We find ourselves now in the Iron Age settlement on the elevated Burgstallkogel. The settlement extended over an area of approximately 15 to 20 hectares. Over three stations you can explore a small part of this settlement and watch the former inhabitants in their work, the house construction, and the construction of the settlement terraces.

You also have the possibility to enter one of the houses. Here you can see a woman working on a loom that is leaning against the wall. This vertical, 3.70-meter-wide loom was discovered during archaeological excavations and is of particular interest. It is the largest vertical loom from the Hallstatt period (c. 800–450 BC) in Central Europe, which enabled the weavers to manufacture textiles of approximately three meters in width. Your task is to bring a finished shawl as a grave good to the funeral, which takes place at the foot of the settlement in today's area of Kleinklein. Take the cloth and let's go to the funeral!

We are now at the foot of the Burgstallkogel in the area of the "princely tumuli" in Kleinklein, where a burial is currently taking place. These so-called "princely tumuli" contained particularly imposing grave furnishings, with numerous bronze vessels and armour.

The burial mound for the deceased prince is currently being built. In the immediate vicinity, other princely graves are recognizable. Here you can attend the ceremonial burning of the prince and be part of the mourning society. In addition, you have another task to do. The blacksmith has not yet completed the decoration of a bronze vessel, which is to be placed as an addition to the burial chamber. Help him to complement the pattern. This technique is called hallmarking. With a hammer and chisel, the pattern is hit into the bronze sheet. After the pattern is complete, you can bring the shawl from the settlement and a bronze vessel to the burial chamber.

There you will find lots of exciting objects. Feel free to take a look, but then put them back in their place!

All the objects are grave goods that were found in the so-called Kröllkogel, a princely grave in Kleinklein. These include, for example, the mask of Kleinklein as well as the associated bronze hands, armour, situlae and cists as well as many other vessels. The rich grave goods attest to the prosperity of the "princes", along with their links to distant regions such as today's northern and central Italy. If you want to admire the originals, you can do so in the Archaeology Museum in Graz.



Finally, you have the opportunity to see the change of the landscape of the area around the princely tumuli in three different epochs: the Iron Age, the Middle Ages and today.

But now it's time to travel back to the present and visit the Archaeology Museum in Graz or any of the other locations of the exhibition "Stories of the past"!



Situla Vače  
© NMS

# FEASTING

# IN THE IRON AGE

ACCORDING TO  
DEPICTIONS  
ON SITULA ART

by Hrvoje Potrebica



Situla Vače  
© NMS

**FEASTING IS A UNIVERSAL PHENOMENON** found all over the world. It started probably sometime in the Eneolithic and gradually became more and more significant, having some sort of climax during the Iron Age. Although traces can be found in almost all communities of that time, the most complex or highly formalized variants of such customs are found in highly developed civilizations such as the Etruscans and the Greeks. However, for us, the most important source for this topic is certainly Situla art.

Feasting almost always had a dual role: social and competitive as well as religious or sacrificial. Feasts were extremely important in establishing and maintaining the stability of the social structure. Among other things, the feasts provided a social framework, a kind of stage on which the exchange of gifts took place.

We can see the feast as a formalized event, like a play in which a certain group of people participate. Although in Situla art women serve men in feasting scenes, their costumes are in all specific details the same as the costumes of women depicted in contexts in which they undoubtedly have a high status. Therefore, despite the fact that there are no clearly depicted women participating equally in the feasts, one gets the impression that the Hallstatt space is in this sense closer to the Italian than to the Greek form of the symposium. In the same way, seated men are served by other men at these feasts, and the different costumes of these men, as well as the headdresses, certainly point to a certain hierarchy.

Depictions from Situla art suggest that at least some of the feasts took place indoors — probably in the houses of the elites or perhaps in buildings built specifically for that purpose.

Situlae from  
Novo mesto  
(© DMNM)

In addition to the space for the feast, an important part of the scenography for such events was adequate furniture. In various depictions of Situla art, people of high status, including women, are depicted on such thrones, and in Situla depictions of feasts we mostly find chairs, and in rare cases deckchairs, which is more similar to the Italic concept.

It is difficult to say with certainty to what extent the actual dish was a formal part of the feasts from the eastern Hallstatt circle, the scenes of hunting and the transport of killed game certainly indicate that food was served along with drink on such occasions.

Drinking alcoholic beverages together is the central part of every feast, and for Hallstatt feasts we can state that, unlike the Greek or Etruscan customs of that era, drinking is done in a sitting position. Although feast sets had a pronounced characteristic of prestigious goods, we must not ignore their functional dimension, which was often connected with the type of alcoholic drink consumed at the feast and the way it was prepared. While in Greece and Italy wine certainly dominated, in the area of central Europe different types of beer and mead were much more common, while wine was considered a luxury and in some way a prestigious good in itself. In the area of the eastern Hallstatt circle, we cannot be sure what drinks were served at feasts, but plates and cups are used as vessels for drinking drinks, which are often found in graves. Among the other parts of the drinking set we should mention the raking ladles, which are often seen in depictions on stilts in combination with large mixing bowls on high legs or tripods. It seems that the drink was prepared in situlas or other vessels, and it was in situlas that it was carried from one feast participant to another. Drinks were taken from the common vessel with cups or spoons. In this way, the situla (or its equivalent) continuously circulated among the participants of the feast and thus, as the central element of serving, was in the centre of attention. The drink was drunk directly from the decanter or from plates and cups.



Unlike some Mediterranean settings, there are no luxurious goblets and serving dishes that could belong to individual guests and thus enable them to enter into a kind of luxury competition with the host of the feast. There are also frequent depictions of people serving drinks from communal vessels to seated feast participants, which would mean that the activities at the feast are largely managed by the organizer, while the guests play a much more passive role.

The amount and dynamics of drinking remains unknown and probably depends, to a large degree, on which drinks were served. The scant knowledge we have at our disposal points to the wide range, from various assortments of beer to highly valued wine. We must not forget the mead either, and it is not excluded that other alcoholic beverages were also consumed at such feasts, some of which may have included plants that in themselves had stupefying or hallucinogenic properties.

In almost all Situla depictions, we also find scenes of musicians playing various stringed and wind instruments — mostly lyres and syringas. Although lyres, and conditionally also syringes, are very suitable for following a story or recital, the scenes give us the impression that the players are participants in the feast of the highest status, because they are shown with luxurious headgear (from hats to helmets), they are most often seated on chairs or deckchairs, and are often shown being offered drinks. Except for the rare scenes when they are in a procession, in most cases it looks as if they are competing in a musical contest. This is also indicated by examples when a prize in the form of a luxurious container is visible between them.

All recent research of prehistoric musical instruments and music starts from the fact that at the time the perception of music was far different from today's view and that the melodiousness of sounds, as well as the function of entertainment, were probably not the focal point. Rather aspects related to religious ideas were much more emphasized. The same can be said about dancing that appears in Situla art, such as one example of a female couple dancing between two musicians. The special status of these women is certainly emphasized by their unusual clothes, i.e. skirts cut from the front, which appears only on this situla. The answer to why there are no finds of musical instruments in the area of the Hallstatt cultural complex, although they were obviously an important part of the material context and content of the feast itself, almost certainly lies in the material from which they were made. Wood was probably used to the

greatest extent, with very few metal parts, and probably only wire.

Competitiveness as an important dimension of the feast, apart from the music, was certainly enhanced by various sports games. The best example and one of the universal sequences in Situla art is the fighting scene between boxers with weights in the form of dumbbells. They are almost always shown naked, with the exception of a belt, and bareheaded, fighting for a luxurious dish or a helmet. Some believe that it wasn't about hitting in the narrowest sense, rather the goal was to knock the dumbbells out of the opponent's hands. As with musicians, the question of the identity of these contestants is interesting. For example, on the situla from Providence, in the fighting scene, we see complex set of clothes with headdresses that are identical to those worn by the musicians on the same situla.

The depictions of intercourse that appear in Situla art are highly formalized and, although they often take place in public, even in contexts that could refer to a feast, they probably have a much more religious than social function. One gets the impression that these women are by no means hetaires or servants who serve to entertain the participants of the feast, but rather women who are of the same social status as men, so it is more likely a fertility ritual that is performed perhaps during a ritual feast. Although this interpretation is entirely speculative, the scene of the ploughman, which is often found on the same sites, could also refer to it, which is, however, a topic for another discussion. In any case, if such an act is a part of a ritual feast, then we can discuss the fact that in the area of the Hallstatt circle, the presence of high-status women at feasts (at least the highly formalized ones) was not only permitted and desirable, but in some way indispensable.

Drinking alcoholic beverages, which by definition lowers inhibitions, ritualized hospitality with ancestor worship and customs of gift exchange, make feasting a perfect arena for negotiations, exchange of goods and ideas. These are probably focal points of cultural transfer between individual groups that do not have to be in direct geographical contact. The entry of the Iron Age communities of continental Europe, primarily the Hallstatt cultural complex, into the cultural space of the Mediterranean, which shares the basic settings of feasting rituals, opens up a huge potential for the establishment of a far wider and more vigorous network of contacts and exchange, which will certainly mark and initiate the research of cultural dynamics of the Early Iron Age era.



Situlae from  
Novo mesto  
(© DMNM)



Gathering mint  
on the Trail of the Princes  
© Anja Klanfar

# THE IRON AGE

**NEVER  
SMELLED  
BETTER**

SINCE 2005, ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK BUDINJAK WITHIN “ŽUMBERAK-SAMOBOR HILLS” NATURE PARK, HAS A UNIQUE SMELL OF PAST TIMES. YOU ARE MISTAKENLY THINKING ABOUT EXCAVATIONS AND MUSTY OLD ARCHIVES — IT HAS TO DO WITH THE BEST INTERPRETATIONAL LEARNING METHOD: COOKING. “CULINARY MILLENNIA” IS A TWO-DAY EVENT HELD EACH SEPTEMBER, JUST AN HOUR’S DRIVE FROM ZAGREB.

by Marko Trupković





## Archaeological Park Budinjak

Today's small village of Budinjak in the central part of Žumberak must have been one of the largest and the most influential regional centres in the early Iron Age (end of 10<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> century BC). Owing to its extraordinary preservation, as well as to the abundance of unearthed remains of material culture, this complex site, which in its full scope includes both aspects of the early Iron Age society (settlement and necropolis), made it to the Register of Cultural Goods of the Republic of Croatia. Not far from Budinjak, in the village of Bratelji, there is a cemetery of the members of the Romanized Celtic tribe Latobik from the early Roman imperial period (1<sup>st</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> century AD). The cemetery in Bratelji was entirely archaeologically researched during the 1990s, while the researches of the early Iron Age site in Budinjak, which are more extensive in scope, that began in 1984 continue to this day. The Public Institution "Žumberak-Samoborsko gorje Nature Park" recognized the archaeological heritage as one of the distinctive riches of the area and in September 2004 opened the Budinjak visitor centre as well as the educational trail "The Trail of Princes" establishing the Archaeological Park Budinjak. The trail stretches on both archaeological sites, giving archaeological, ethnological, geological, zoological and botanical interpretations of this area on ten interpretational panels.

### "Culinary Millennia" program

In 2005 the activities in the Budinjak Archaeological Park were supplemented by an event called "Culinary Millennia" — workshops of Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and traditional Žumberak cuisine. This cultural and touristic program has been designed to make the Archaeological Park more popular and to give the visitors the opportunity to actively participate in the program's activities. The basic idea of the program was to enable a thorough overview of the past which values culinary customs from various time periods with equal attention. Although the sites located in the Archaeological Park in Budinjak belong to the periods of Prehistoric and Roman age, the third main archaeological period, the Middle Ages, was able to be included in the program

thanks to the archaeological remains found on other parts of Žumberak (for instance, in the Old town of Tušćak and Žumberak). Reflections on the totality of the area's cultural heritage, of which archaeology is only a part, required the inclusion of a more recent culinary past in the program's content — traditional customs of the Žumberak inhabitants were largely influenced by demographic changes of this area during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Organized resettlement of soldiers and their families which marked the formation of the Military Frontier left a mark on all aspects of life in Žumberak, including culinary customs. According to the main archaeological and historical periods, each workshop offers recipes for preparing at least one vegetarian and meat dish, some sweets and drinks. Due to ethnological research and still a vivid practice of traditional cuisine, chronologically the latest period was easily transformed into a menu, but for other workshops, employees of the Nature Park used foreign literature (e.g. Apicius, Zambrini, Wood) to re-create food preparation technology and try out some of the recipes, based on (archaeo)botanic literature, research on wild edible plants and crop cultivation in the past.

### How to cook Iron Age style?

Grasping historic techniques of fish and meat preparation in clay moulds as suggested in literature, as well as cooking in water, whose boiling is achieved by throwing in heated stones, showed to be demanding at first. Mastering the menu before the first event, and today, almost 20 years of practice later, those methods became quite usual for the employees of the Nature Park. Most of the herbs and wild edible plants used in the menu are gathered by the participants during the guided tour on the "Trail of the princes" before cooking next to open flames in the vicinity of the visitor centre.

Menu from the prehistoric food workshop in Culinary Millennia consist of the following recipes/dishes: wheat sprouts, fish with thyme baked in a clay mould, lamb with mint baked in a clay mould, broad beans and cumin, nettle dumplings, autumn fruit bread, fruit yeast bread, strong beer and nettle beer.

To have an at-home experience of our Culinary Millennia, try these two recipes while reading the new Iron Age Danube Route magazine:

### FRUIT YEAST BREAD

- 1.5 kg coarsely ground flour
- 1 bowl of fresh elderberry fruits (Sambucus nigra)
- 500 g honey
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- water

Mix all the ingredients and leave the dough on a warm place for three hours. Knead and form two loaves, place on a tray and leave for two hours. Bake in an oven on a mild temperature for one hour. Serve with butter. Note: fermentation of the bread happens from the fruit yeast found in elderberries.

### STRONG BEER

- 4 litres of water
- 500 g barley malt
- 500 g honey
- 2 handfuls of hops (*Humulus lupulus*)
- half a cup of fresh yeast or 30 g of dry yeast

Heat two liters of water until it is hot (not boiling), add barley malt and honey. Use the rest of the water to pour over hops and boil for 10 minutes. Filter both liquids and cool them down to a mild temperature then place it in a barrel with yeast on a warm place. Leave covered with fabric for three days. The liquid will ferment strongly so place the liquid in a big container and mix once-twice per day. After three days the beer can be consumed or poured into strong glass bottles.

top  
Baking trout  
in clay mould  
(JUPPZSG archives)

left  
Fruit yeast bread  
(JUPPZSG archives)

right  
Strong beer  
is best consumed  
from replicas  
of prehistoric cups  
(JUPPZSG archives)

**A PREHISTORIC  
FEAST AND  
GASTRO-  
EXPERIENCE**

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by Anna Priskin  
Vajk Szeverényi

**WHEN  
EXPERIMENTAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
MEETS  
MODERN  
CULINARY  
ARTS**



photo: © Déri Múzeum Debrecen / Zsolt Koroknai



photo: © Déri Múzeum Debrecen / Zsolt Koroknai

THE PRESENT DAY TRENDS of gastronomy prefer numerous foodstuffs and ingredients whose origins lie in the deep past. The use of a prehistoric wheat species, spice, vegetable or fruit can reorient customs of food preparation and may open up new perspectives. However, the rediscovery and use of the food ingredients of the past raises the interest not only of the general public, but also of archaeologists. The latter are in the lucky position of being able to examine with various methods the zoological and botanical remains collected during archaeological excavations; as a result, the plant and animal species used in the various periods can be determined, and some of the dishes prepared from them can be reconstructed.

During the biannual conference of prehistoric archaeologists in Hungary in May 2022, beyond the numerous presentations concerning prehistoric foodways, a prehistoric feast was also organized for the participants of the conference. The menu was planned based on the available archaeological data, and encompassed all prehistoric phases between the Neolithic and the Iron Age.

The preparation of the menu represents the type of experimental archaeology where the end result (here the reconstructed food) can be connected to the given archaeological period, but modern implements are also used. The dishes of the Neolithic, the Copper and Iron Ages were prepared by a professional chef (Károly Tóth), partly with modern food preparation technologies, while the Bronze Age dish was prepared on site, with replicas of Bronze Age vessels and portable ovens.

The compilation of the menu was a real group work: the archaeologist told stories about the various phases of prehistory, the social and economic changes of those periods, and how they manifest in the archaeological record (including finds connected to subsistence), and the chef based on this information and his decades of gastronomic knowledge and experience, created the dishes. The aim was to be able to follow the changes of the periods through the food reconstructions as well. Botanical data were grouped into cereals, vegetables, spice and fruits, and those most characteristic for each period were chosen as the basis of the dishes. This method was also used for meat. The concept was to decrease the amount of cereal and increase the ratio of meat as we move from older to younger periods, and to include characteristic vegetables, fruits and spices to demonstrate the developments.

The main feature of the Neolithic is the emergence food production, the spread of the growing of cereals and the breeding of first small ungulates. Thus, the Neolithic dish was a spelt-based porridge with mutton and vegetables (lentil) and spices (oregano and dill). In the Copper Age, the so-called secondary products revolution, the use of milk and dairy products, and the dominance of cattle served as basis for the selected dish, which was beef stew with vegetables (wild carrot, broad bean) and spices (wild garlic and oregano). This was accompanied by a demonstration of traditional cheese making practices (by Gergely Bolya, cheesemaker, Sajtmágus), where the participants could also make cottage cheese and so-called gomolya (a cheese lump made of sheep milk).

The Bronze Age dish was prepared under more authentic conditions. Its ingredients were based primarily on the botanical and faunal remains identified at the Late Bronze Age fortified settlement of Csanádpalota, southeast Hungary. It contained pork, vegetables (chickpeas, wild cabbage and mushrooms) and spices (summer savory and wild garlic). For cooking we used reconstructed Bronze Age cooking pots (made by Ádám Balázs archaeologist and potter), and cooked the dish on an open fire and on a reconstructed portable oven. During cooking we could record the behaviour of the components and the changes of the ceramic containers.

In the Iron Age dish we wanted to show the developments throughout prehistory, thus 'Asterix's feast' was roasted venison with fruits (wild apple, wild strawberry) and unleavened flatbread (seasoned with special bread spices). For the preparation of the Iron Age menu, we used a special Iron Age spice mix based on archaeobotanical data (thanks to Dorka Fűszerháza).

A real prehistoric and modern feast cannot be complete without dessert. The pastry made of einkorn flower was mixed with elderberry, present in all prehistoric periods (created by Archeoukrsázat — Anna Priskin).

To sum up the final conclusions of the prehistoric feast, we can say that to some extent it was created as an experimental archaeology project, but the knowledge of the archaeologist has to be complemented by the knowledge of those professional in food preparation. It is not enough to know the list of used animal and plant species; we have to know what flavours harmonize with each other. If we approach the preparation of prehistoric food reconstructions from this perspective, we can not only eat prehistoric dishes, but also participate in a real gastronomical treat.

# IRON AGE



# YOUTH





YOU WANT  
TO TRAVEL  
BACK IN TIME,  
BUT YOU HAVE  
NO TIME  
TO VISIT  
A MUSEUM?

by Sarah Kiszter

# “STORIES THE PAST”

# OF

# GOES TO SCHOOL

SOMETIMES A VISIT TO A MUSEUM is difficult or not possible at all. With the “History in a Box — Virtual Time Travel” the kids in Austrian Styria can get a time travel experience in their classrooms. Archaeology Museum in Graz (Austria) also offers, in addition to a unique virtual experience in the museum, workshops at schools with mobile VR-units. An archaeologist comes directly to the school on an agreed date, with a total of nine VR glasses. The pupils can virtually travel back in time and visit an archaeological site from the corresponding era, as it used to look in the past. Additionally, a short introduction of the work of the archaeologists and the archaeological research is integrated in the package.

The team of the Archaeology museum in Graz organised, during the Mobility Action in Austria in Mai 2022, a series of workshops in schools in Styria, like Leibnitz, Fohnsdorf, Semriach and Neumarkt in der Steiermark. The workshops offered the visualisations of the Iron Age site of Großklein and the Roman period site of Flavia Solva together with hands-on workshops, lectures and hikes to the archaeological sites. The team gathered important feedback on the usability of VR-technology for history teaching and tested the knowledge of the pupils about the past of their regions. But most important, it was also a lot of FUN!

# IN STYRIA





by Lavra Fabjan

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKSHOPS

## FOR

## YOUNG VISITORS

## IN DOLENJSKI MUZEJ

DOLENJSKI MUZEJ NOVO MESTO has had an education department for almost forty years. We systematically plan a number of educational programs with which we want to bring cultural heritage closer to young visitors. Because Novo mesto bears the title "The Town of Situlae", great emphasis is placed on the presentation of archaeological heritage, especially situlae.

We present situlae to young people at the permanent archaeological exhibition, *Archaeological Image of Dolenjska*. The tour is followed by workshops where they learn about Situla art through various activities:

— Younger pupils in elementary school draw a motif from their lives on a situla body made of metal foil and make two small situlae. They take one home as a souvenir. The other is donated to the mayor. In this way every year we take care of the Christmas/New Year's decoration of the town hall with hundreds of situlae.

— Older pupils make a drawing in situla art. The original motif from the situlae found in Novo mesto is traced onto metal foil according to the template and a relief drawing is made.

— In 2019 we developed two smartphone applications for high school students. With applications they explore the areas where archaeological excavations took place (Marof and Kapiteljska njiva) and part of the permanent archaeological exhibition. In addition to the text and photos, with the help of audio and video content, they solve the challenges we set for them. In this way they learn about the time of the Early Iron Age in Dolenjska region.

In the last decade, more than 15000 young visitors of Dolenjski muzej attended these educational programs.



BRIDGING  
THE GAP  
BETWEEN  
ANCIENT  
THRACIAN  
CULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
AND  
MODERN  
YOUTH  
THROUGH  
SERIOUS  
GAMES

by Desislava Paneva-Marinova  
Radoslav Pavlov  
Detelin Luchev  
Maxim Goynov  
Zsolt László Márkus  
Zsolt Weisz  
György Szántó  
Miklós Veres  
Tibor Szkaliczki

# THE THRACIANS

## A SERIOUS EDUCATIONAL GAME

MODERN TEACHING METHODS are increasingly important tools in improving the efficiency of education with particular respect to current young generations. A very delicate example of such approaches has been the project of the Institute for Computer Science and Control (SZTAKI, Hungary) and the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IMI-BAS). The key goals of the project included the implementation and testing of new strategies for teaching and learning, in order to assure better understanding, facilitate creative thinking and encourage active participation of learners during the perception of knowledge. The project resulted in the development of a web-based serious educational game, focusing on the life, beliefs and traditions of the Thracians, a group of Indo-European tribes inhabiting a large area in ancient Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The gaming environment comprises of a series of virtual rooms hosting items related to the architecture and artefacts unearthed during archaeological excavations completed beneath Ostrousha mound (in the Valley of Thracian Kings, near the town of Kazanlak, Bulgaria). The rooms are named according to the virtual items exhibited therein, i.e. Thrace (Thracian tribes, habitat, customs, costumes), Tombs (funeral traditions and artefacts of the Thracians), Armoury (clothing and weapons of the Thracians), Sanctuary (gods and goddesses), Treasury (Thracian funeral gifts and treasures) and Heroon (deification of Thracian rulers, heroes and protectors of the tribe).

The player can complete the game in a 360° virtual panorama environment of seven scenes, one of them is external, whereas the others are internal. The starting point of the game is located outside of the tomb, and you can enter through a door. The goal of the game is to solve all exercises and get into the Sanctuary. Each room presents several pictures and descriptions, which help to solve the interactive games. The doors are initially closed, and they can be opened by solving games assigned to the room; the players can only see the next room through the open door.

The first version of the game “The Thracians” was tested in real classroom conditions in Bulgaria, in classes with 9–11 years old students in third and fourth grades, respectively.

A 3-language demo (English, Bulgarian, Hungarian) with limited functionality and content is available at [http://thracians.math.bas.bg/demo/index\\_en.html](http://thracians.math.bas.bg/demo/index_en.html).



TIRED OF  
YOUR CHILD  
HANGING OUT  
AT THE COMPUTER?  
WHY NOT TRY  
SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT?  
IN DOING SO,  
YOUR CHILD  
CAN LEARN  
SOMETHING,  
HAVE FUN,  
AND CREATE  
SOMETHING  
USEFUL.

MAKE  
YOUR  
OWN

BOOKMARK



THE AIM IS to create a bookmark that imitates the graphitic decoration of Early Iron Age vessels.

#### Materials

Thick brown paper, beige pastel and black ink

#### Tools

Scissors and a pointed craft stick

#### Working steps

1. Take a thick brown paper and cut it in the form of a bookmark.
2. Colour the paper with beige pastel and then cover it with black ink.
3. After it has dried, incise Iron Age motifs with the pointed craft stick.

#### Archaeological background

Graphite is a substance which can be found in natural deposits, which was used for decorating Early Iron Age ceramic vessels. For decorating ceramic vessels, graphite was used in different ways:

1. Graphitisation is a process when the entire surface of a vessel was coated with graphite, giving the vessel a metallic sheen.
2. Graphitic painting is a technique for decorating ceramic vessels, when only certain motifs were made with graphite or graphitic paint. Black graphite colour is always combined with a red, white or brown base.
3. Graphite is mixed into the clay from which the vessels were made.

Game taken from:

“Iron Age Experience; Educational workshops and museum programs from the Iron-Age-Danube project”, published as part of the “Monumentalized Early Iron Age Landscapes in the Danube river basin” (acronym: Iron-Age-Danube) INTERREG project

## EVENTS

### Situlae Festival – the Festival of Iron Age Life and Culinary Arts



The most important finds from the Early Iron Age are bronze, figurally decorated situlae. Almost a quarter of all known situlae originate from Novo mesto. Therefore, after these extraordinary artistic creations of the Iron Age, Novo mesto is named the town of situlae. The Situlae monuments of Novo mesto undoubtedly belong to the treasury of world cultural heritage and are an indispensable contribution of Dolenjska in the creation of a common European cultural space. The Situlae festival is dedicated to these remarkable monuments, which bear witness to the life of the Hallstatt inhabitants of Novo mesto, who were equivalent to the extraordinary civilizations of continental and Mediterranean Europe. The Situlae Festival thus represents an event imbued with Dolenjska's cultural and natural heritage, complemented by a new, urban view. This year's "7th Situla Festival — A Festival of Iron Age Life and the Culinary Arts" was held on Saturday, 18th June from 16.00–21.00 in Novo mesto, Slovenia. Visitors saw the work of various craftsmen and their products made of wood, metal, glass, amber, leather, etc., at Marof and Kapiteljska njiva, two very important archaeological sites. The guests from Biskupin, Poland, and Budinjak, Croatia, contributed to the diverse events and gave the festival a special international touch. Children baked bread, painted their skin, competed in archery and boxing, made a leather bracelet or a miniature situla. Performances presented scenes from princely courts and spiritual life. Very rich culinary arts are based on ingredients known from Iron Age times. The festival ended at Dolenjska Museum with a rich guided tour to the permanent archaeological exhibition at 21.30.

P. S.

### International Prehistoric Conference in Budapest



A new international exhibition opens on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World in New York as the first venue organized by the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, in the United States. This ambitious enterprise, entitled 'First Kings of Europe' features the development of social inequality and displays hundreds of artefacts and assemblages of outstanding importance from eleven countries across Southeast Europe. This exhibition provides a unique opportunity to present to the North American and European public the archaeological record of societies that lived in the Balkans and the neighbouring regions from the Neolithic to the Iron Ages.

Parallel to this event, the prominent partner of the Field Museum, the Hungarian National Museum (Budapest), is organizing an international scientific conference to discuss an array of scientific questions centred around the main themes of the exhibition. The conference focuses on the evolution of inequality and leadership in Southeast Europe over the course of about 5,500 years, from the Neolithic to the Iron Age.

The papers will be centred around four topics (Session 1 — Theories and Models of Inequalities; Session 2 — Early Forms of Inequalities; Session 3 — Technologies and Economies of Wealth; and Session 4 — Eras of Chiefs and Warriors).

The "First Kings of Europe — Leadership and Inequality in Prehistoric Southeast Europe" symposium will take place at the Hungarian National Museum on 7–9 November 2022.

J. G. T., S. F.

## European Archaeology Days 2022

In 2010, the French Ministry of Culture entrusted the National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research (INRAP) to co-organise the National Days of Archaeology (Journées Nationales de l'Archéologie or JNA). In 2019, the desire to celebrate archaeology has crossed national borders and 16 European countries have joined. Thanks to the visitors, the organisers of the events and the coordination by the Slovenian Arheoportala, Slovenia was among the most successful!

The three-day Festival of Archaeology, now held in 30 countries every third weekend in June, brings together everyone involved in archaeology. Excavators, research organisations, universities, museums, open archaeological sites and parks, associations, archives, etc. prepare a date with archaeology. The well-attended and usually admission-free EAD events encourage the public to visit places dedicated to archaeology to connect with archaeological heritage, experts, secrets of the profession and research up close, as the main goal is a direct and positive encounter with archaeology. In June 2020, all plans were turned upside down by the Covid 19 pandemic, but controlled on-site events, new technologies, various online content and smart social media engagement, including the use of the hashtags #evropskidnevarheologije, #europeanarchaeologydays and #arheorama, enabled a wonderful celebration of archaeology for hundreds of visitors in 2021 and 2022, with exceptional prospects for the future as well.

A. V.



EVROPSKI  
DNEVI  
ARHEOLOGIJ 6.7  
17 18 19 junij 2022

## Public Archaeology in the Municipal Library in Marija Gorica

As part of the TRANS RIVERS project, funded by the Croatian Science Foundation, a lecture on the results of this year's archaeological research at the Iron Age site of Sveti Križ and the Bronze Age Gračec was held at the Ante Kovačić Municipal Library in Marija Gorica. The promotion of the documentary film "Who's Digging There" was also held, which deals with the archaeology of Prigorje and the mentioned sites. The film was shot by students of the Ivan Perkovac Elementary School from Šenkovec with history teacher Jelica Kauf and Miroslav Klarić, the head of the Photo Cinema Video Club from Zaprešić. After the lecture and promotion of the film, the owners of the restaurant Stari fenjeri from the Požega valley prepared dishes according to recipes from the Hallstatt cookbook [https://www.amz.hr/media/1yx1hiyk/kuharica\\_interreg\\_kaptol\\_amz\\_hr.pdf](https://www.amz.hr/media/1yx1hiyk/kuharica_interreg_kaptol_amz_hr.pdf). The cookbook was created in 2017 as a result of a prehistoric food preparation workshop based on the findings of archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological analysis of materials from graves from the Kaptol site as part of the INTERREG Iron-Age-Danube project. At that time, a group of archaeologists and enthusiasts tried to reconstruct the Old Iron Age diet and make one of the possible menus from that period in Stari fenjeri, after which the restaurant owners prepared such food at several archaeological events. The event in Marija Gorica was attended by about a hundred people.

J. M. M., M. Š., F. O.



## 40,000 BC: Mammoth hunters, Celts and Co.



On May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 the historical festival "40,000 BC: Mammoth Hunters, Celts and Co." took place for the very first time at MAMUZ Schloss Asparn/Zaya at the archaeological open-air site. On both days, visitors experienced 40,000 years of human history and explored the everyday life of our ancestors from the Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages. Historical battle displays, craft demonstrations, music and hands-on stations attracted numerous visitors.

Re-enactment performers such as mammoth hunters, Bronze Age craftsmen, Etruscans, Celts, Romans and early medieval warriors enlivened the archaeological open-air site and provided a glimpse into the everyday life of past times. Glass making, ceramics production, bow making, bronze casting and blacksmithing were demonstrated in the historical handicraft huts. The Roman Imperial period was also brought to life, while spectacular exhibition fights allowed visitors to observe early medieval martial arts with swords and lances.

Many hands-on stations also enabled visitors to actively experience our history. Among other things, visitors were able to try out weaving and flint knapping. Prehistoric drum sounds and medieval folklore songs transported visitors back in time. At stalls you could buy handicrafts, jewellery, leather goods, clothing and much more.

R. H.

## EVENTS

### Night of the Celtic Fires

On Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the “Night of Celtic fires” will be celebrated in the archaeological open-air site of MAMUZ Schloss Asparn/Zaya. Visitors will explore the mystical world of the Celts. At dusk, numerous torches will be lit in the archaeological open-air site of MAMUZ Schloss Asparn/Zaya, creating a mystical atmosphere. Brave warriors demonstrate the Celtic art of fighting with sword and spear. In the historic dwellings, craftspeople offer insights into the Celtic arts of pottery firing, birch pitch production, blacksmithing and wool dyeing. Talented storytellers, telling fantastic tales from Celtic mythology, will take you back to the Iron Age of Central Europe. “Ritschert”, a Celtic stew will be served. And Celtic folk will show music traditions of the Celtic people. Handicrafts, incense, jewelry, leather goods, clothing and much more will be offered at stalls.

R. H.



### The 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)



The 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) will be held in Budapest in 2022, from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September, in a hybrid format for the first time in its history. The meeting will be organized around 7 major themes: Archaeologists and Archaeology Here and Now, The Carpathian Basin: Integration, Mobility and Diversity, Polis, Empire, League and Beyond — Living in Interconnected Societies, Climate Change and Socioenvironmental Perspectives, A Decade after the ‘Third Science Revolution in Archaeology’. The motto of the conference is [Re]integration. The keynote speaker for the latter will be Matija Črešnar (University of Ljubljana), who is a board member of the Iron Age Danube Road Association. His presentation “Interdisciplinary Approaches and Their Integration into Early Iron Age Studies in SE Europe” will focus on the Early Iron Age between the Alps and the Danube and will highlight what the most important new interdisciplinary developments have contributed to our understanding of the region and how the results have been integrated into previously established interpretations. The conference’s scientific program will be hosted by Eötvös Loránd Science University and the Hungarian National Museum, where 200 sessions will feature presentations by 2000 participants on the latest issues in archaeology, heritage, and museology.

A. A., S. F.

## The “Hallstatt Days” – an Iron Age Festival in the Golden Valley



The Early Iron Age (8<sup>th</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century BC) is known as the period of the Hallstatt culture, a culture that was established as the dominant influence in central and western Europe, marking a clear transition from societies that relied primarily on bronze, to those that began to adopt iron as a material. In this period Kaptol was a significant princely center accompanied by elite burials and prestigious goods from distant areas, which puts the site on an important Iron Age communication route.

As part of a tradition, the festival “Hallstatt Days” was organized in present-day Kaptol on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022, in cooperation with the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, the Department of Archaeology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, the Center for Prehistoric Research, the Municipality of Kaptol, the Golden Papuk Tourist Board and the Iron Age Danube Route Association. The aim of the festival is to popularize the archaeological site of Kaptol and to present the lives of people who inhabited the Golden Valley about 2500 years ago. The two-day programme was opened on Saturday with a lecture by Dr. sc. Jacqueline Balen (Archaeological Museum in Zagreb) and Tomislav Hršak (Archaeological Museum in Osijek) on the topic “Požega Valley and Baranja — archaeological gems of the interfluvium”. The lecture was followed by the opening of the exhibition “Virtual Archae-

ological Landscapes of the Danube Region — Iron Age in the Digital World”. Visitors were able to undergo a unique experience using virtual reality technology and digital 3D presentations of Iron Age sites across the Danube region.

During the second day, visitors had the opportunity to see the already mentioned exhibition and to walk along the guided tourist trail “In the Footsteps of Warriors: Iron Age in the Golden Valley” that follows the prehistoric path from today’s village of Kaptol and leads past the Kaptol-Čemernica necropolis towards the settlement at Kaptol-Gradci. Also, at Vilim Korajac Square children were able to excavate archaeological findings, make their own amber necklaces and pottery, weave textile and assemble a wooden military camp. The workshops were accompanied by a demonstration of archaeological and biological methods of discovering Iron Age food products and by cooking food in the way that members of the Hallstatt culture did. This year’s program offered visitors a unique culinary, educational and fun family experience.

L. Š.

## HistAK Neumarkt – Guided Historical Walks *kult-UR-spuren*



The Neumarkt High Valley Historical Working Group (HistAK Neumarkt), founded in 2015, researches the settlement history of the Neumarkt Pass landscape. With a variety of events such as exhibitions, art projects, presentations, determination days and historical hikes, we would like to involve locals as well as tourists in our activities. Our goal is to achieve a broader interest and more acceptance for the (archaeological) research work.

Under the name of kult-UR-spuren, HistAK offers guided historical walks to the cultural highlights of the region. Thereby, a stroll from prehistory to modern times is undertaken as well as the latest (archaeological) research results are presented. On request, individual guided tours for groups of 10 people or more are possible (for particular routes also in English) — request at least 4 weeks before desired date:

office@histak.at / + 43 664 82 77 418

Christa Fürnkranz

St. Georgen/Greith

FROM THE ROMAN TEMPLE

TO THE MYSTICAL MEDIAEVAL AGES

Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> & August 26<sup>th</sup>, 14:00

St. Marein

ON THE TRACKS OF CELTS AND ROMANS

AROUND LINDER FIELD

Saturday, July 23 and August 20, both at 14:00

Mariahof

FROM THE ROMAN STATION

TO THE RELICS OF ST. BEATRIX

Friday, July 29 and September 2, both at 14:00

Further information:

Naturpark Zirbitzkogel-Grebenzen/

Veranstaltungen (natura.at)

Historischer Arbeitskreis Neumarkt | Facebook

C. F.





## BLADE AND MICROBLADE

The blades and microblades were made from flint and chert, which were struck with a hammer to create sharp edges. These tools were used for cutting and slicing, and were often found in archaeological sites. The blades were typically long and thin, while the microblades were much smaller and more delicate. Both types of tools were used by early humans and are considered some of the most important artifacts from the Stone Age.

## THE NEW STONE AGE - THE NEOLITHIC

The Neolithic period, also known as the New Stone Age, was a significant time in human history. It was characterized by the development of agriculture, the domestication of animals, and the construction of permanent settlements. This period saw the emergence of complex societies and the beginning of civilization. The Neolithic period is divided into several sub-periods, including the Neolithic I, II, and III, each with its own unique characteristics and artifacts.





## Bosnia and Herzegovina in Prehistory – permanent exhibition at the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo

In October 2021, a new permanent exhibition entitled *Bosnia and Herzegovina in Prehistory* was presented at the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo. The prehistoric collection is composed of approximately 100,000 inventory units, from which only a small number of original artefacts is chosen for display, around 3,000 of them. These are the most important, special and unique artefacts, which are important not only due to their meaning for the prehistory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also for the wider context of European prehistory.

The exhibition gives insight into the everyday life of prehistoric communities of this particular area — from how and where they lived or how their economy looked like, up to their beliefs, art achievements and social relations, covering a long period from Palaeolithic (300,000 BP) until Roman conquest (end of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BCE). Selected items include, for example, heavily decorated pottery and anthropomorphic figures of the Butmir culture, products from the earliest metallurgy of the Vučedol culture, the unique weaponry of Iron Age warriors or the prestigious jewellery of their women. Beside the original artefacts, the exhibition is enhanced through the presence of reconstructions (homes, tools, ovens, etc.), bilingual texts and accompanying illustrations. The special place within the exhibition is dedicated to a 12.4 metres long wooden monoxyl, one of the largest prehistoric dugout canoes ever found.

A. M.



## Kingdoms of the Iron Age Exhibition

The MAMUZ is Austria's largest Museum dedicated exclusively to Prehistory and Historical Archaeology. Besides our permanent exhibition at Asparn Castle we feature annually changing special exhibitions on archaeological topics at Mistelbach. For this year's exhibition project, focusing on the early Iron Age Hallstatt Culture, we closely cooperate with the NHM Vienna and the Johanneum of Graz.

As an introduction the exhibition gives an overview of the chronological development and the regional Hallstatt provinces. The then new iron technology proved to be the motor of technical and social innovation, as society greatly diversified during that period.

From archaeological evidences we know of distinct elites, who ruled over vast tracts of land and entertained close connections through trade, diplomacy and — probably — family bonds. Judging by preserved written sources from the Mediterranean world mentioning “kings” we can assume similar institutions in Middle Europe too. Our exhibition focuses on the elites of the Hallstatt Culture and their representation code, which was universally understood despite many regional differences. Besides various insignia of worldly power and spiritual authority, the central element seems to have been a banquet for and together with their retainers to secure their grip on power.

*19<sup>th</sup> March to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022*

*MAMUZ Museum Mistelbach*

*Waldstraße 44-46, 2130 Mistelbach, Austria*

More Information on [www.mamuz.at](http://www.mamuz.at)

F. P.



## “Gold to gold” – Gomila in Jalžabet – a monumental landscape of the Early Iron Age

The official presentation of the rescue excavation of Gomila in Jalžabet, one of the largest Early Iron Age burial mounds between the Alps and the Danube River was held at the Croatian Institute of History in the Upper town of Zagreb on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Although held under severe restrictions because of the Covid pandemic, the presentation was a success and attracted a lot of media interest. The research and excavation in Jalžabet were financially supported by the Ministry of culture and media of the Republic of Croatia and EU funds (Interreg DTP). The presentation was organized by the Institute of archaeology, Croatian Conservation Institute, and the Croatian Institute of History and attended by Prime Minister Plenković, minister of culture Obuljen Koržinek, Varaždin county prefect Stričak and other dignitaries. “Gold to gold” was opened by Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, who said the Gomila burial mound was one of the most valuable examples of prehistoric burial architecture of its kind in Europe. The region along the Drava and Mura rivers belonged to the east Hallstatt culture and it is part of our prehistoric cultural heritage, the prime minister added. He said that it was of special value to Croatia that one of the best-preserved and most important archaeological landscapes from the Early Iron Age in central Europe was south of the Drava River, in Jalžabet, and nearby Martijanec. He recalled that luxury finds made of various materials were discovered in the tombs. They are rare items of gold and amber, examples of supreme craftsmanship which show that the people who made them had developed many of the techniques and skills, he said. The Prime Minister stressed the burial mound also had tourism potential and that the presentation comprised everything archaeologists found in the last four years.

S. KO.



## Batina – an archaeological lighthouse on the Danube

In November 2021, the exhibition *Batina — An Archaeological Lighthouse on the Danube* was opened in the Archaeological Museum Osijek, which can be visited until September 2022. The exhibition was organized in collaboration between the Archaeological Museum Osijek, the Institute of Archaeology and the Archaeological Department of CASA and presents the results of research at one of the most prominent European archaeological sites located in the southern Carpathian Basin — BATINA (KISKŐSZEG). Otherwise, Batina is the only archaeological site in the Republic of Croatia, from which finds have been included in as many as nine European museum collections since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibition, which was accompanied by a printed bilingual catalogue, presented the results of research carried out in Batina since 2010, during which an extremely large number of prehistoric and Roman finds were found. In the same way, the finds collected during the rescue research carried out in Batina since the 60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are presented. In addition to the finds from the Gradac settlement, the oldest of which date in the Neolithic and where the *Ad Militare* fort was located during the Roman period, the largest part of the presented finds was found during the research of the Sredno cemetery. The investigated graves belong to the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age — 11<sup>th</sup> to beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC — which was marked by the community of the Dalj group. There are also numerous cremation and inhumation graves from the Roman period. The strategic position of Batina on the Danube was also confirmed during the Second World War, when the Battle of Batina between the Red Army and the German army took place on that position in November 1944.

The results of the conducted research, along with all finds found since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, testify that we are on the best way to present the settlement on Gradac in Batina as a lighthouse on the Danube at the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age, whose significance was not negligible even in other time periods.

T. H., M. D.



## From grave mound to tumulus

The Rómer Flóris Museum of Art and History in Győr opened a new temporary archaeological exhibition at the end of May, entitled “From grave mound to tumulus — A Selection of the Bronze Age and Iron Age burials from the Little Hungarian Plain (Kisalföld)”. The aim is to provide the general public with a general picture of the best of the Bronze Age and Iron Age burials excavated in the area of Győr-Moson-Sopron County (North-Western Hungary) in recent years, both in terms of funeral customs, attire and, of course, the period itself by presenting “in situ” burials, as well as their descriptions and reconstruction drawings. It also displays the typical grave-goods from graves of the period and briefly describes the recently discovered cemeteries that contain them.

The visitors are greeted by a representative grave, opening the exhibition in the hall. After that, entering Room 1, guests arrive in the Bronze Age, where they can see the excavated tombs of the Gáta-Wieselburg, Tumuli, and Urnfield cultures and the artefacts recovered from them. Room 2 is dedicated to the early Iron Age Hallstatt culture, showing both elite and common burials. In the last room, visitors can see the relics of the late Iron Age La Tène culture. Finally, visitors can learn about the methodology of cemetery excavation (mechanical excavation, fieldwork, geodesy, documentation, restoration). The exhibition is open until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

K. P., F. U.



## The Mysterious Path of Negova Helmets – The princes of Hallstatt between Kamnik and Novo mesto

An inter-institutional exhibition of three museums will be held in October 2022 at Medobčinski muzej Kamnik. Beside the named museum the other two participants are: Narodni muzej Slovenije and Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto. We will present three remarkably different stories of three helmets (Negova type) from three different archaeological locations.

In the first part of the exhibition, we will reveal their mysterious lives after their discovery. The first one (from Vrhpolje near Kamnik) was given to the president of former Yugoslavia as a gift. The second one (from Kopa-Kompolje) was nailed to a town well at Lukovica. The third one was found at Kandija in Novo mesto and was stolen during the exhibition in the 1975.

At the exhibition and in the catalogue we will reveal the place and time of the helmets' origins. Additionally, their bearers — Iron Age warriors of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC — and their world will be presented. We will also explain the following: how old the helmets are, where they originate from, where they can all be found, why they are named after the Negova site, how influential the Dolenjska Hallstatt group was and how we can prove that fact.

J. Ž.



## The Archaeological Treasures of Bela Krajina

Our new archaeological exhibition will be the first integral presentation of the Bela Krajina Museum's most eminent finds. The region's numerous archaeological sites are well known in the expert community with its wealth of archaeological finds featured in permanent archaeological collections at the National Museum of Slovenia in Ljubljana, the Museum of Natural History in Vienna, and the Joanneum in Graz, Austria. In setting up the Bela Krajina Museum's permanent archaeological exhibition, we adhered to three fundamental principles: **comprehensiveness** — the presentation of the region is chronologically and geographically comprehensive, **balance** — in the chronological framework of the three main archaeological periods (Stone Age, Metal Age, and Antiquity) we focus on the three most important archaeological sites which span all three of Bela Krajina's present-day municipalities or administrative units, and **originality** — the exhibition will consist exclusively of original finds from the museum's treasury. The archaeological treasures of Bela Krajina will be displayed in four exhibition spaces connected by a vaulted hallway, which will be dedicated to didactic content. The numerous archaeological riches on display will include lethal stone arrowheads from Bela Krajina's oldest village of Moverna Vas near Semič; an exceptional cowrie shells shaped bronze pectoral pendant which came to Metlika from southern Italy; the first bronze helmet found in Bela Krajina and the gold coin from Podzemelj; mysterious finds linked to the unique Mithraeum in Rožanec, as well as several never-before presented finds from Črnomelj, a town of some significance already in Late Antiquity as well as in the turbulent times of the Early Middle Ages.

A larger part of the exhibition space will be dedicated to the last millennium BCE, when the land by the Kolpa River on the sunny side of the Gorjanci hill range saw its greatest economic boom. The Podzemelj complex with its central settlement on the Kučar hillock (Municipality of Metlika) is indisputably one of the most important Iron-Age centres in the wider south-eastern Alpine space; a comprehensive overview of its development will be presented in the third exhibition space. Here, settlement finds will be displayed alongside bountiful finds from the recently discovered grave site at Pezdirčeva Njiva near Podzemelj. People buried their dead here in the early Hallstatt Period, when most of Bela Krajina is characterised by the material culture of the Vinica community or Colapiani. In addition to Hallstatt finds such as the earliest bronze helmet uncovered in Bela Krajina, the most eagerly awaited new discoveries come from the so-called Vinica graves (unpublished), since earlier finds from the eponymous site are presently kept at Harvard University's Peabody Museum in Cambridge, USA. One of these, a 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE grave of a young woman, included a Celtic gold coin, the oldest gold coin found in Slovenian space. The Kučar hillock was also an important administrative and religious centre in the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE, when a fortified Early Christian centre was erected there.

The updated archaeological exhibition also includes a variety of contents for the blind and visually and hearing impaired. The exhibited artefacts, which are derived from different sites, will be supplemented with links to assorted archaeological trails, parks, and other exhibition spaces, while the first exhibition space will also include a corner intended for temporary exhibitions titled *Museum's New Antiquities*.

L. G.



## New Iron Age discoveries below Mt Krn (north-western Slovenia)

The exhibition entitled 'In the land of Simon Rutar: archaeology of places under the mountain Krn' was on display in the Tolmin Museum, in Tolmin, until March 2022. It honoured the memory of Simon Rutar (1851–1903), geographer, historian and archaeologist born in the Krn village below the mountain of the same name. In his time, this area was believed to be devoid of archaeological remains, a belief changed with discoveries in the last two decades that astonish in what they reveal of the past.

Particularly prominent remnants are of the Iron Age settlement, observable through the exceptional goods from the cremation graves on the hill of Gradec near the Krn village. It was a collector of antiquities who discovered the site using his metal detector, unearthing Iron Age objects now kept in the Tolmin Museum and the National Museum of Slovenia. The objects include a bronze situla with figural decoration, dating to the late 5<sup>th</sup> or early 4<sup>th</sup> century BC; such finds are extremely rare in the Posočje region. The situla bears a stylised plant pattern on the bottom frieze that shows similarities with the situlae from Dolenjska, while the procession of men in the upper two friezes reveal even closer parallels from the cemeteries in the southern Alps (Pieve d'Alpago near Belluno and Caravaggio near Bergamo).

On the situla from Krn, the central figure in the procession is a man dressed in a short bell-shaped tunic with legs and feet larger than the others, as well as pronounced lips. Is it possible that the 'great man' wears a head mask and ritual footwear? Could the scene represent a male initiation or rite of passage from boyhood to adulthood reflected today in the carnivals very much alive in the villages below Krn?

M. ML.



## Geo Info Center New Visitor Centre of Papuk Unesco Geopark

Geo Info Centre is the newest visitor centre of the Papuk Nature Park opened in February 2022. The Centre has a multimedia character with many projections, interesting sculptures and interactive screens about the geology, biology and cultural heritage of Papuk. One of the most interesting features of the Centre is the 6D cinema where visitors can watch a film that sends them back to the past and introduces them to the ancient inhabitants of Papuk. The trip starts in the 19th century, goes to the Stone Age and even further into the geological past of the Papuk UNESCO Geopark.

The exhibition of historical heritage summarizes everything about the wealth of raw materials (there are many!) that Papuk provided to its inhabitants from the Neolithic period. Life on Papuk was especially interesting in the Early Iron Age when it was the intersection of important trade routes. At that time, Papuk was known for the Kaptol site — a settlement of the *Hallstatt culture*.

In the exhibition, visitors can explore everything that archaeologists have found in tumuli — from various weapons and tools to horse equipment. They can even try on a replica of a bowl-shaped helmet as found in one of the tumuli. On a special interactive screen visitors can find out what the settlement in Kaptol looked like, about the burial ritual and various other information about the daily life of *Hallstatt culture*, such as the daily diet of people in the Early Iron Age.

v. v.



## Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes: Exhibitions of digital archaeological landscapes

One of the main goals of the Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes Project (Interreg DTP) is the creation of modern and attractive digital presentations of archaeological heritage, mainly archaeological landscapes. In the framework of the project, various visualizations of archaeological landscapes from different periods and different parts of the Danube region were prepared. They were made by partners from eight different museums from Germany to Bulgaria and represent their respective heritage. Most of the visualizations are already completed and available to be seen in the partner museums. The main aim of the partnership is to share the visualizations between participating museums, so the visitors will be able to experience a series of past landscapes from different parts of the Danube region, with each visualization made in a slightly different way. They can mostly be watched using VR (virtual reality) glasses, which offer a unique and immersive experience.

Visualizations represent landscapes dating from the Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages with four of them representing landscapes from the Iron Age. The exhibitions are already on display in the Austrian Universalmuseum Joanneum in Graz, Croatian Archaeological museum in Zagreb, National museum of Slovenia in Ljubljana, Hungarian National museum in Budapest, Bulgarian Rousse regional Museum of History and National History Museum of Romania in Bucharest. Individual museums have different plans for showing their exhibition — for instance in the National museum of Slovenia it is integrated into the permanent exhibition, in some other museums the exhibition could be temporal, so visit the museums websites when you are planning a visit of their exhibition.

Official openings  
and visualised sites:

Austria: 7/4/2022

Joanneum Graz —  
Grossklein (Iron Age),  
Flavia Solva (Roman period)

Croatia: 12/4/2022

Archaeological museum, Zagreb —  
Vindija (Palaeolithic),  
Viškovci (Bronze Age),  
Kaptol (Iron Age)

Slovenia: 23/4/2022

National museum of Slovenia, Ljubljana —  
Ulaka (Iron Age)

Hungary: 25/4/2022

National museum, Budapest —  
Balácsa (Roman period),  
Vértesszőlős (Palaeolithic)

Bulgaria: 6/5/2022

Rousse regional museum of History, Rousse —  
Cherven (Medieval),  
Ivanovo (Medieval)

Romania: 12/5/2022

National museum, Bucharest —  
Cîrna — Grindu Tomii (Bronze Age),  
Nufăru (Medieval)

Serbia: 14/7/2022

Vršac city museum —  
At (Neolithic),  
Vatin — Bela Bara (Bronze Age)

Germany: 21/9/2022

CVJM Haus, Kiesstrasse 3–5,  
Esslingen am Neckar) —  
Hohmichele — Heuneburg (Iron Age)

N. D.



# THE VOTIVE MINIATURE IVE

by Corina Bors

THE MINIATURE BRONZE CHARIOT with a cauldron is a stray find discovered in spring 1974 during ploughing near the village of Bujoru in the Teleorman County, south-east Romania. In autumn of the same year, archaeologist Emil Moscalu from the Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest undertook a rescue excavation which confirmed that the find came from a destroyed tumulus inhumation burial.

The Bujoru discovery consisted of the miniature votive chariot, a zoomorphic figurine of a horse, a pendant in shape of a double axe (*labrys*) — probably part of the miniature chariot, an appliqué for the horse's forehead, four cross-shaped harness appliqués, two *phalerae*, three fragments of *saltaleoni*, a small bronze bar with two vertical orifices and a small iron knife, in addition to pottery fragments. During the rescue excavations in autumn 1974 additional fragments from an ewer — decorated with motifs typical for the Basarabi pottery style — and human remains were found. The funerary inventory would have contained also two pottery vessels, which were destroyed by the agricultural works. Except the miniature chariot, the rest of the recovered inventory is kept at the Teleorman County Museum in Alexandria.

The chariot consists of an oval recipient — a small cauldron — covered with a lid and placed on two iron axles. In the lower part of the recipient, four tubular perforations hold the wheels' axles. Four wheels with T-shaped spokes and an inner circle overcast with iron are attached on either end of the two axles. Two bird-shaped protomae protruding from the lid have elongated beaks from which are suspended rings with double-axe-shaped pendants. A vertical grip rising from the centre of the lid is topped with a fixed ring decorated with two water birds. Both ends of the small cauldron feature a pair of water-bird protomae with rings with pendants attached to their necks. All six large water birds are ornamented with small cylindrical protuberances. Five of the six double-axe-shaped pendants (*labrys*) are hung on the rings attached on the beak or neck.

The miniature votive chariot with the cauldron and water-bird protomae is a unique object from the typological point of view. The closest analogy is certainly the miniature votive chariot with a cauldron and water-bird protomae discovered in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as a stray find at Orăștie (Vaidei). According to certain authors this find belonged to a bronze hoard, while some others mention a destroyed funerary context situated in the Orăștie region, between Romos and Vaidei. This second miniature votive chariot is kept in the collections of the Museum of Natural History in Vienna.

The miniature votive chariot from Bujoru is preserved in the National History Museum of Romania in Bucharest as one of the iconic artefacts of its collection. Through the years, the object was exhibited in a series of international exhibitions.

IRON AGE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
FROM  
MUSEUMS  
IN THE  
DANUBE  
REGION



# CHARIOT

FROM  
BUJORU

Bujoru chariot  
(Romania, Teleorman County)  
© NHMR / M. Amarie

## „Prosperity through diversity“ in the Danube region

The European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), approved as a major outcome of the Hungarian EU Presidency in 2011, encompasses a population of around 115 million people from 9 EU Member States and 5 non-EU countries. This spatial development framework has a rotating Presidency, and Ukraine has become the first non-EU country to preside over the EUSDR from November 2021 to October 2022.

The common objectives are implemented through 12 Priority Areas (PAs) under 4 pillars. Within each Priority Area, the experts of the 14 Danube countries have been working together in Steering Groups in order to elaborate common projects for the economic, social and cultural prosperity of the region. In total, 85 objectives (Actions) have been identified by the Priority Area experts within the EUSDR Action Plan, renewed in 2020.

The promotion of the diverse cultural and natural heritage and the coordination of sustainable tourism in the Danube region is addressed by the EUSDR Culture and Tourism Priority Area (PA3). The complexity of this area is also reflected by several interdisciplinary projects, which have been implemented in the last 10 years in line with its dedicated Actions (e.g. creating a Danube Urban Brand, managing the Roman or the Art Nouveau heritage, developing the cycling or river cruise tourism along the Danube and in the whole region).

The EUSDR Action Plan also highlights the importance of regional cooperation related to the Iron Age cultural heritage, therefore both the Iron Age Danube project and the establishment of the Iron Age Danube Route have been supported by EUSDR PA3 since 2017.

For more information please visit the EUSDR website at <https://danube-region.eu/>



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FOLLOW THE IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE  
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All

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**Iron Age Danube Route Association**

Trg Nikole Šubića Zrinskog 19

HR-10000 Zagreb

ORGANISATION TYPE	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES			
	REGULAR MEMBERS		ASSOCIATED MEMBERS <sup>1</sup>	
	A countries <sup>2</sup>	B countries <sup>3</sup>	A countries	B countries
Monument protection institutions and museums	500 eur	350 eur	250 eur	175 eur
Municipalities	500 eur	350 eur	250 eur	175 eur
Non-governmental local initiatives (NGOs)	200 eur	100 eur	100 eur	50 eur
National and Nature parks	500 eur	350 eur	250 eur	175eur
Research organisations	500 eur	350 eur	250 eur	175 eur
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	200 eur	100 eur	100 eur	50 eur
Tourism stakeholders	200 eur	100 eur	100 eur	50 eur
State and regional administration	500 eur	350 eur	250 eur	175 eur

<sup>1</sup> All members have the right to participate in all activities of the Association, in all areas of its work, in order to achieve the goals of the Association. All members have the right to express their opinions, proposals and criticisms, have access to all documents and decisions of the Association, propose new programs, projects and activities of the Association and be informed about the activities of the Association. Members may terminate their membership at any time. Regular members have the right to elect and be elected into bodies of the Association (Art. 12 of the IADR Association Satute).

<sup>2</sup> A countries - Andorra, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR (China), Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea Rep., Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macao SAR (China), Monaco, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Singapore, Saint-Maarten (Dutch part), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Vatican City.

<sup>3</sup> B countries - any other country not listed in A category.



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