

# Iron Age Danube Route Association, Vol. 3

---

## Other document types / Ostale vrste dokumenata

Publication year / Godina izdavanja: **2023**

Permanent link / Trajna poveznica: <https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:300:236815>

Rights / Prava: [In copyright](#) / [Zaštićeno autorskim pravom.](#)

Download date / Datum preuzimanja: **2025-02-05**



Repository / Repozitorij:

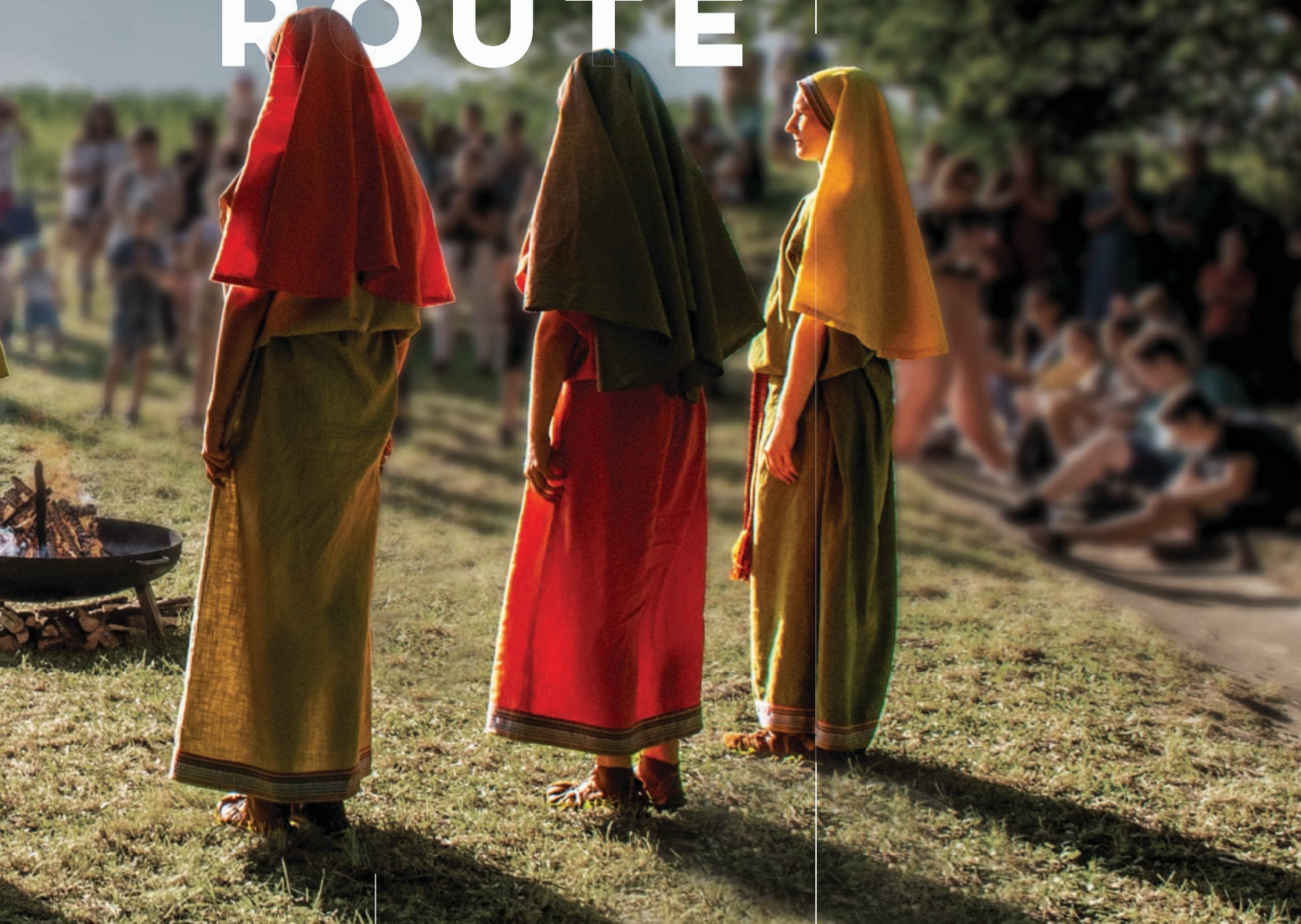
[AMZdepo - Repository of the Archaeological  
Museum in Zagreb](#)

# IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE

2023

ISSN 2718-5400

MAGAZINE



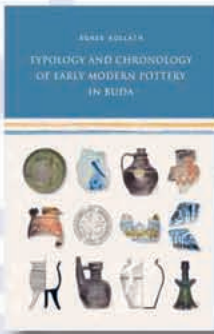
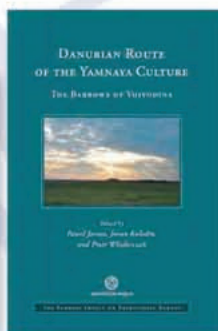
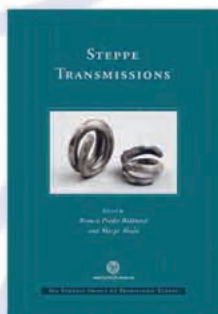
JOIN  
THE  
IADR  
Protect  
our  
common  
heritage

FOLLOW  
THE  
ROUTE  
Become  
a part of  
our joint  
narrative





# ARCHAEOLOGUA



For more information on **Archaeolingua publications**,  
**research activities** and **book ordering** please visit

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

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

or contact us at [kovacs@archaeolingua.hu](mailto:kovacs@archaeolingua.hu)

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

Iron Age Danube Route Magazine

Vol.3

2023

PUBLISHER

Iron Age Danube Route Association

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Sanjin Mihelić

EDITORIAL BOARD

Erzsébet Jerem

Jacqueline Balen

Karl Peitler

Katalin Wollák

Matija Črešnar

Petra Stipančić

Sarah Kiszter

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Porin Šćukanec Reznicek

ART DIRECTION AND DESIGN

Sensus Design Factory

Nedjeljko Špoljar

Kristina Špoljar

ADVERTISING DESIGN

Srećko Škrinjaric

MAP DESIGN

Martin Fera

PRINT

Tiskara Zelina

PRINT RUN

1000

ISSN 2718-5400



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



# CONTENTS

5	Editorial Letter
6	Public Archaeology
14	Map
16	Follow the Route
24	Iron Age News
32	Iron Age Publication
34	Iron Age Stories
36	Hallstatt — New Grave of the Early Iron Age Discovered
38	The Heuneburg — A Celtic and Nature Experience
40	Praznik Situl — Situlae Festival
42	Iron Age Cooking
44	Greek Food in Starogradsko Polje
48	Archaeological Heritage and Branding of Local Products
52	When Science Meets Practice and Promotion — Contribution of Experimental Archaeology to the Understanding and Promotion of Past Dietary Practices
56	Iron Age Youth
58	Young Archaeologists Explore Black Corcyra (Corcyra Melaina)
60	Tablet Weaving
62	Junior Researchers at Heuneburg
64	Iron Age Events
68	Iron Age Exhibitions
74	Object of the Year — The Golden Deer of Zöldhalompuszta



ABOVE:  
The Golden Deer  
of Zöldhalompuszta.  
(PAGE 74)

COVER:  
Situle Festival  
in Novo mesto, 2022  
© Rajko Grimšič

PAGE 1:  
Novo mesto,  
Kapiteljska njiva and Kandija,  
different graves.  
© Borut Križ/DM NM

**AUTHORS:**

Gábor Bakos  
 Jacqueline Balen  
 Lucia Benediková  
 Anja Bertol Stipetić  
 Matija Črešnar  
 Anja Črešnar Vintar  
 Nejc Dolinar  
 Szilvia Fábíán  
 Andreas Heckenberger  
 Polona Janežič  
 Marta Kalebota  
 Annika Keybach  
 Sarah Kiszter  
 Borut Križ  
 Jure Kusetič  
 Boštjan Laharnar  
 Jutta Leskovar  
 Janja Mavrović Mokos  
 Attila Mrenka  
 Gabriella Németh  
 Ivana Ožanić Roguljić  
 Daša Pavlovič  
 Domagoj Perkić  
 Iva Pranjić  
 Tibor Ákos Rác  
 Marta Rakvin  
 Johann Rudorfer  
 Kristina Rupert  
 Bence Soós  
 Petra Stipančić  
 Gábor Szabó  
 Porin Šćukanec Rezniček  
 Krisztián Tóth  
 Manca Vinazza  
 Elisabeth Wimmer  
 Katalin Wollák

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

**Gábor Bakos**  
 Hungarian National Museum,  
 Budapest

**Jacqueline Balen**  
 Archaeological Museum in Zagreb

**Lucia Benediková**  
 Institute of Archaeology,  
 Slovak Academy of Sciences

**Anja Bertol Stipetić**  
 Archaeological Museum in Zagreb

**Matija Črešnar**  
 University of Ljubljana,  
 Faculty of Arts,  
 Department of Archaeology

**Anja Črešnar Vintar**  
 National Archive of Slovenia

**Nejc Dolinar**  
 Institute for the Protection  
 of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia

**Szilvia Fábíán**  
 Hungarian National Museum,  
 Budapest

**Martin Fera**  
 University of Vienna

**Andreas Heckenberger**  
 Association Heuneburg,  
 Herbertingen

**Polona Janežič**  
 Den Gyldne Svane,  
 Nykøbing

**Marta Kalebota**  
 Korčula City Museum

**Annika Keybach**  
 State Palaces and Gardens  
 of Baden-Wuerttemberg

**Sarah Kiszter**  
 Universalmuseum Joanneum

**Borut Križ**  
 Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto

**Jure Kusetič**  
 National Museum of Slovenia

**Boštjan Laharnar**  
 National Museum of Slovenia

**Jutta Leskovar**  
 Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum,  
 Linz

**Janja Mavrović Mokos**  
 University of Zagreb,  
 Faculty of Humanities  
 and Social Sciences,  
 Department of Archaeology

**Sanjin Mihelić**  
 Archaeological Museum in Zagreb

**Attila Mrenka**  
 Soproni Múzeum

**Gabriella Németh**  
 "Matrica" Múzeum Százhalombatta  
 Hungary

**Ivana Ožanić Roguljić**  
 Institute of Archaeology  
 Zagreb

**Daša Pavlovič**  
 National Museum of Slovenia

**Domagoj Perkić**  
 Archaeological Museum,  
 Dubrovnik Museums

**Iva Pranjić**  
 Castrum  
 Kaptol

**Tibor Ákos Rác**  
 Ferenczy Museum  
 Szentendre

**Marta Rakvin**  
 Faculty of Humanities  
 and Social Sciences,  
 University of Zagreb

**Johann Rudorfer**  
 Prehistory Department  
 NHM Vienna

**Kristina Rupert**  
 TZ Zlatni Papuk,  
 Velika

**Bence Soós**  
 Hungarian National Museum  
 Budapest

**Gábor Szabó**  
 Eötvös Loránd University,  
 Institute of Archaeological Sciences,  
 Budapest

**Petra Stipančić**  
 Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto

**Porin Šćukanec Rezniček**  
 Archaeological Museum in Zagreb

**Krisztián Tóth**  
 Dornyay Béla Museum,  
 Salgótarján

**Manca Vinazza**  
 University of Ljubljana  
 Faculty of Arts  
 Department of Archaeology

**Elisabeth Wimmer**  
 Mamuz Museum Mistelbach

**Katalin Wollák**  
 Archaeolingua Foundation,  
 Budapest

# EDITORIAL BOARD'S LETTER

Dear reader,

Greetings from the heart of the Iron Age (Danube Route)! It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome you to the newest issue of the Iron Age Danube Route Magazine. As we embark on this journey through time and discovery, we are thrilled to share with you the diverse and enriching content we have curated for this edition.

Although the third issue also commemorates the third year of the Iron Age Danube Route, and while certification by the Council of Europe seems deciduous, our dedication to exploring the rich history of our (favourite) period has not been diminished in the slightest. This fervour can be seen in our feature article, where we delve into the fascinating realm of public and community archaeology, exploring how these dynamic fields contribute to our understanding of the Iron Age, fantastically represented by our cover image.

Avid readers will most likely note a novel section in the midst. There you can learn about our latest publications revolving around the Iron Age, ranging from digital standards to exploring the captivating tales of the Mazin hoard or an intriguing historical novel Salzberggöttin.

Furthermore, dive into the vibrant stories that grace these pages — from the lively Situlae festival to the discovery of a new grave in Hallstatt from the Early Iron Age. Our exploration of iron age cooking takes you on a culinary journey, from Greek Food in Stari Grad to the intriguing fusion of Archaeological Heritage and the branding of local products. Also, discover how science meets practice, i.e. how can experimental archaeology enable us to understand and promote past dietary practices.

The events section invites you to mark your calendars for not to be missed next year events such as the Hallstatt Days, European Days of Archaeology, Kelten Festival Asparn, and similar Iron Age treats. The world of exhibitions also offered a number of fascinating topics, from Slovenian Archaeology in Frankfurt to Sv. Križ and Gračec, or one of the top highlights still being presented in the USA — First Kings of Europe, and beyond. These pages are filled with insights, stories, and discoveries that illuminate the collaborative efforts shaping the narrative of our prehistoric past, to say the least.

We extend our sincere gratitude towards the support provided by various colleagues, researchers, friends and authorities who have helped and made sure this third issue comes to life.

The Editorial Board extends a hearty invitation to step into the world of the Iron Age. May you find joy and enlightenment as you explore the pages of our magazine. Happy reading!

Best regards,  
**Editorial Board**





# PUBLIC

# AE O LOGY

A blurred background of a museum gallery. The scene shows several display cases and wall-mounted exhibits. On the left, there are vertical panels with numerous small images or photographs. In the center, a larger display case contains several dark, rectangular objects, possibly artifacts or documents. To the right, there are more display cases, some with text and others with images. The overall lighting is soft and even, typical of a museum environment. The word "ARCHA" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

# ARCHA

ARCHAEOLOGY AS A DISCIPLINE is largely unknown to the general public. As such it is often perceived by public as a mystified branch of science, for which a large part of the public does not know what it actually deals with and why it is important, or that it is a remnant of the elitist past from which it originates.

The popularization of archaeology is a growing sector of the entire discipline that most archaeological museums and other institutions strive to achieve. This is not surprising if we consider the fact that it is a discipline that is practiced by a relatively small number of people, but it concerns each of us.

One of the main goals of Public Archaeology is providing education about the past to the wider public. The focus is on reaching out to every community regardless of its affiliation to a particular site, to grant them knowledge about archaeology in general.

Public archaeology influences the way scientists and experts think, which is a precondition for ensuring public access and inclusion as an important step in learning democracy. In any event, public archaeology is an indispensable field because it enables modern society to accept archaeological heritage not only as its right but also as an asset of an original, local environment, and to feel the need to preserve and protect it.

by Petra Stipančić  
Sarah Kiszter  
Jacqueline Balen  
Katalin Wollák



## Slovenia

Public archaeology can be seen at work in many fields, but is still under-represented in Slovenia's modern, fast-moving society. It appears as a subject in the undergraduate archaeology studies together with museum science, and within the Archaeological Heritage Management course at the master's level. *Muzeologija in arheologija za javnost: Muzej Krasa* (2014) by V. Perko and *Upravljanje arheološke dediščine* (2022) by J. Pirkovič are two notable publications that can serve as manuals, or even textbooks, for the field.

At the annual conference of archaeologists active across various different fields of archaeology, the Slovenian Archaeological Society organised a 'Public Archaeology' meeting at which fieldwork over the last 12 months was presented to experts and the general public.

Experimental archaeology is undoubtedly a very effective and, with the public, extremely popular way of interpreting and getting to know the past. However, only a handful of individuals and archaeology enthusiasts are involved in it in Slovenia. It is most often seen at archaeological history festivals or as part of museums' themed days and at archaeological parks. The Festival of Iron Age Life and Cooking, or 'Situlae festival', which is a unique event in Slovenia, is worthy of special mention as one festival that addresses and presents archaeological heritage or interpretation.

The Situlae Festival, a festival of Iron Age life and culinary arts is organized since 2016 in cooperation with the Municipality of Novo mesto and Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto, is dedicated to situlae monuments, which undoubtedly testify to the life of the Hallstatt people in this region. With various activities, it offers visitors an all-day experience and understanding of the rich archaeological heritage of Dolenjska. At the Situlae Festival you can observe the elements of everyday life during the Early Iron Age in Dolenjska, learn about customs and watch local and foreign craftsmen performing handicrafts. The Situlae Festival involves a different profile of local communities and it prepares for them by collaborating in great lengths with the local museum.

Our main work and role is to develop common consciousness of the meaning of heritage, on which our national identity is standing and to help a growing museum public from the beginning.





## Croatia

In Croatia, public archaeology has not yet come to life in its full form. A certain part of the problem lies in the fact that there is no established methodology, and many archaeologists do not know how to use tools that belong to, at least to them, completely unknown disciplines, such as management, marketing, tourism industry, etc. What perfectly exemplifies the need to open up archaeology to the public as much as possible is confirmed by the fact that a course *Public and community archaeology* has been created at the University of Pula. Also, archaeological museums in Croatia, as well as the Institute of Archaeology in Zagreb, are quite active in designing programs for the popularization of archaeology.

Revived history is one of the key factors in attracting audiences to events and archaeological parks throughout Europe, and apart from popularizing archaeology as a science, it is almost unique as an aid in conducting archaeological experiments. In Croatia, since the beginning of 2000, we can increasingly follow manifestations of revived history, which are carried out and organized by scientific and educational institutions, but also by citizens' associations in a significantly larger number.

Only two manifestations popularize the Iron Age. Since 2005, the "Millennium of Culinary Arts" event has been held in the area of the Budinjak archaeological park, which is organized by the Žumberak Nature Park—Samoborsko gorje. In addition to the workshop itself, visitors visit the "Path of the Princes" and learn more about the Iron Age and Antiquity. The other one is Hallstatt days, held in the small town Kaptol in Požega Valley, and organized by the Kaptol Municipality, which started as a part of the Iron Age Danube Interreg project in 2016 and continued its life through the Iron Age Danube Route.



AMZ u Požegi

© I. Horvat, FOTOSOFIA16

A major part of the Nature Park is protected as one of the largest cultural goods in Croatia

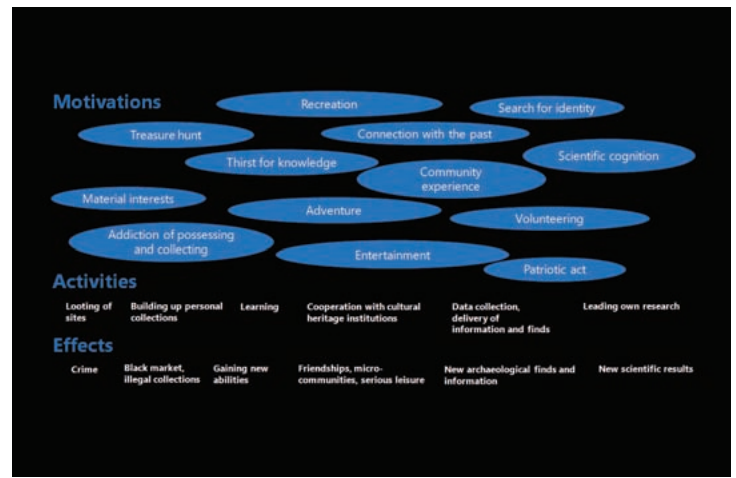
© R. Ibrišević

## Hungary

Metal detecting is a central element of community archaeology in Hungary. Just as in the neighbouring countries, this device gained more popularity after the 1989 regime change. Metal detecting was still illegal in this period; site survey is part of archaeological interventions, for which special permits were required, and only qualified archaeologists were allowed to be involved. Following the Estonian example, the use of metal detectors started to be regulated from January 2015. Accordingly, authorities of heritage protection may issue a permit for metal detecting outside of registered archaeological sites, on the condition that the metal detectorist must have a Cooperation Agreement with the local responsible museum. The permit is valid for one year, the exact location of research must be specified, and all property owners must give consent, which entails considerable administrative tasks as well.

Volunteering for museums has a well-established tradition in Hungary. However, organized forms of volunteer work started to gain impetus only in the mid-2010s. Museum friendly metal detectorists were usually the first people to cooperate with museums, but volunteers participate in a wide range of community archaeology projects, at almost all institutions. The Szentendre Museum offered an opportunity for volunteers to take part in planned and rescue excavations from the 2010s onwards, while the Orosháza Museum aimed to convey a better understanding of local history to a wider audience, and give them a glimpse into how the museum's collections work. As part of their project and with the help of law abiding metal detectorists, ca. 20,000 artefacts were taken to the museum in 2015–2018. An important milestone was the founding of the Association for Community Archaeology in Szentendre in 2019, supported by the county museum. The Association provides a platform for people without qualification but with an ardent interest in archaeology, and also launches scientific programmes in which the volunteers can participate under the supervision of professional archaeologists. The Hungarian National Museum established its Community Archaeology Department in 2022. Many museums view this process as a means to get volunteers involved in real research, however, community archaeology is also a pivotal form of social engagement.

The Hungarian practice and results of community archaeology have been discussed in previous issues of the online journal *Hungarian Archaeology*, especially in the section dedicated to community archaeology, launched in 2020. In 2021 and 2023, volunteers joined professional archaeologists at conferences where recent results were presented and methodological and theoretical lectures were also given. Moreover, a number of museums organized comprehensive exhibitions to present the research conducted with the involvement of volunteers, and these results also made their way into academic publications. Community archaeology projects include research into several periods; important information and artefacts have been collected from the Iron Age as well. Recent results from Hungary are addressed in the News section of the online journal.



Motivations table  
© Tibor Ákos Rácz

Photo of the  
Hungarian Association's members  
© Association for Community Archaeology

## Austria

Community archaeology can be divided into several branches. As examples for Austria and especially for Styria, two different approaches should be mentioned here, in which archaeologists and the local community experience their archaeological heritage together.

First to be mentioned are festivals and events, where the local community is actively involved in their archaeological heritage and made aware of it. One example is the “Keltenrunde” (“Celtic Tour”) in the municipality of Großklein, which is a one-day event where, for several years already, on Whit Monday, visitors have been taking a historical-culinary route along display boards through the history of the Hallstatt period and to the replica houses of the Burgstallkogel in the Sulmtal-Sausal region. During the hike with guided tours and thematic entertainment program, culinary delights are also offered. In addition to the Hallstatt period Ritschert, local producers have the opportunity to offer their products along the hike.



Another example is the “Fest der ArchaeRegion Südweststeiermark” (Festival of the ArchaeRegion Southwest-Styria) which has already taken place for the second time. Archaeological museums, associations and local actors have joined forces to hold a one-day event. At numerous information stands, workshops and demonstrations, visitors can learn more about the archaeology of the region.

In addition to such events, however, several private groups have also formed in recent years to actively support and protect the archaeological heritage of their community. Three very good examples of networks, cooperation between private associations and scientists can be found in this subject area.

The Historical Working Group Neumarkter Hochtal (HistAK Neumarkt), an archaeological association funded by private funds established in 2015, researches the settlement history of the Neumarkt pass landscape. With a variety of events such as exhibitions, art projects, lectures, destination days and historical walks, they want to involve locals and tourists in their activities. In addition, private donations and support have enabled archaeological research in the region to be promoted. The aim is to achieve a broader interest and more acceptance for (archaeological) research work.

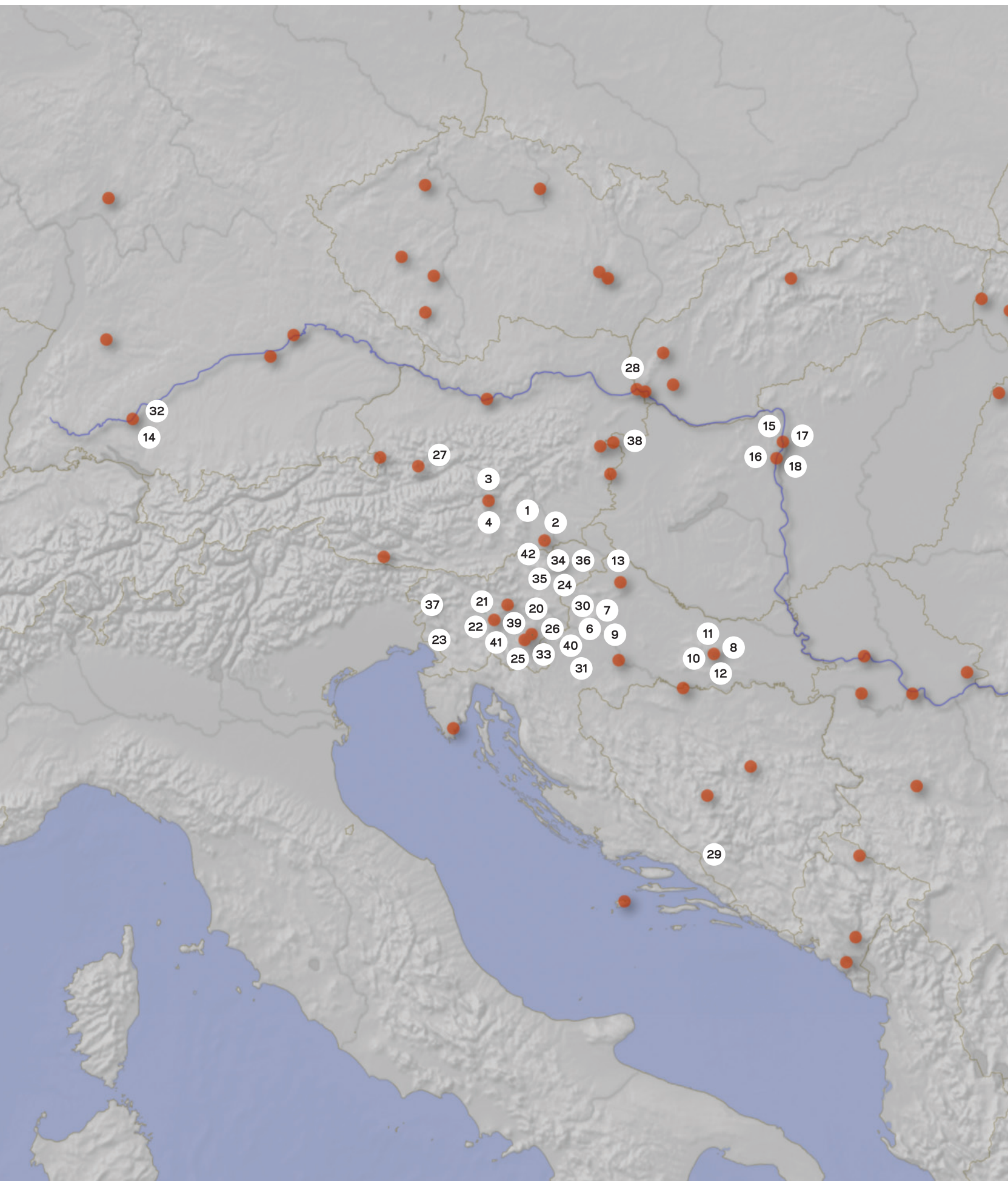
The Arbeitskreis Falkenberg has the same goal. With the help of donations, the AKF not only supported the sixth excavations at Falkenberg, but also made the 1st prospection possible. Funding from the municipality of Judenburg, the state and the federal government as well as the EU, numerous sponsors and members of the association finally financed a further 5 prospections, 4 excavations, which were freely accessible to the public, restorations and the construction of the “Museum Murtal — Archaeology of the Region” (2017–2019). At the same time, the networking of archaeological associations in the districts of Murau-Murtal began in the last two years. In total, more than € 2 million has been invested in 11 years, numerous publications have been published, lectures, exhibitions and conferences have been held.

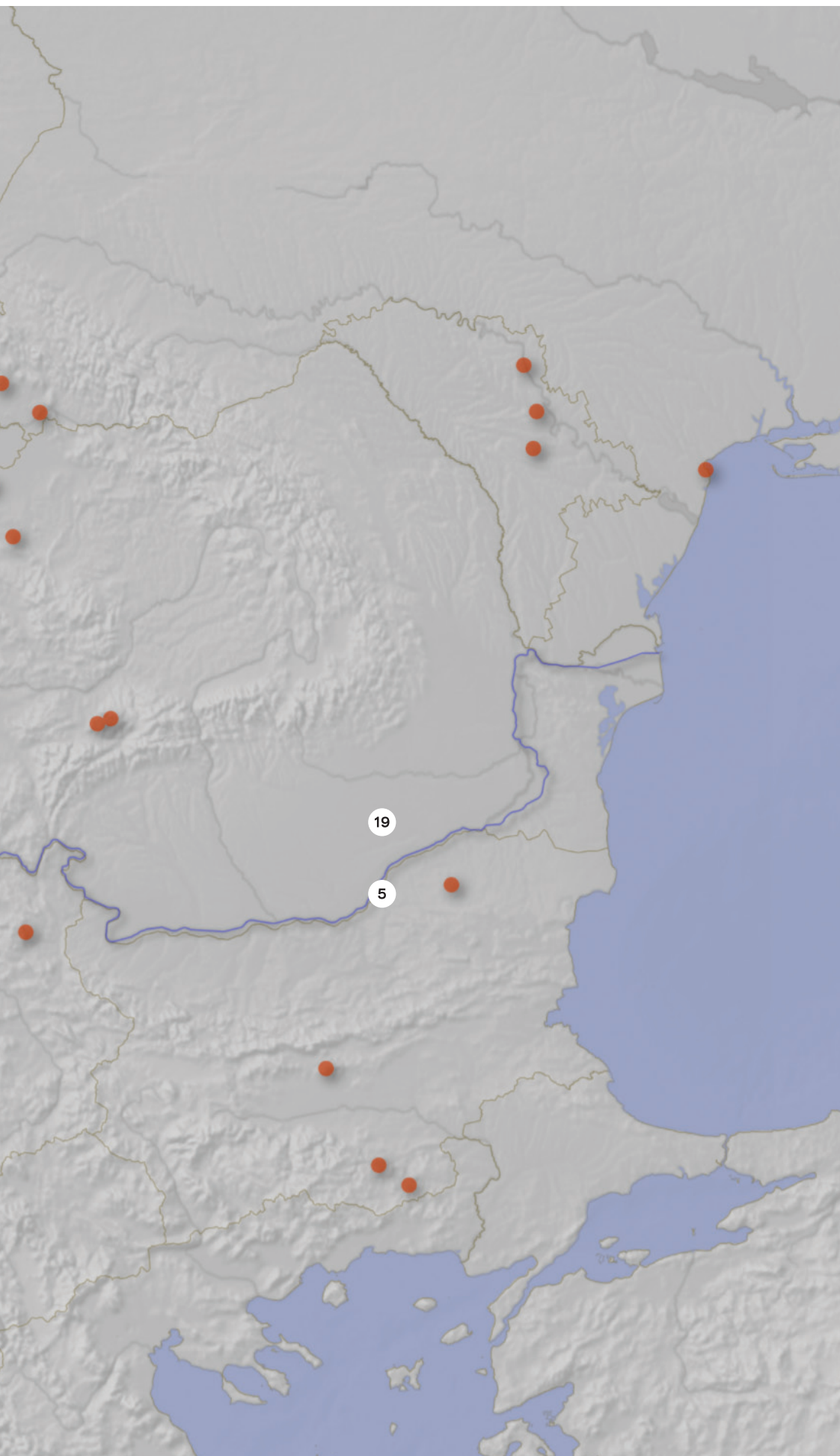
The voluntary commitment of the board, the advisory board and the 195 members of the association also led to a partial restoration and revitalization of the Minorite Franciscan monastery in the middle of the city and to a redetermination of the region to its archaeological heritage.

As a final example, *The ArchaeoRegion — Networked Archaeology in Southwest Styria* can be mentioned here. This project has set itself the goal of jointly presenting the archaeological heritage of the region to residents and guests and promoting activities between museums and archaeological initiatives. The archaeological initiatives of southwestern Styria have been dealing with the visualization of the archaeological heritage for over 15 years. Under the name “Archaeology Platform”, extensive basic information was collected and developed years ago, but for a long time there was a lack of a coordinating body and the financial resources. For this reason, in recent years the focus has been on the safeguarding and processing of sites as well as the easily understandable provision of information at the individual site level. With the help of regular network meetings, excursions, active monument preservation in the region as well as public relations/events, the project hopes to create considerable economic added value for the region.









#### 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,  
Roman Fort of Sexaginta Prista
- 6 Archaeological Museum in Zagreb
- 7 Centre for Prehistoric Research
- 8 Municipality of Kaptol
- 9 University of Zagreb  
Faculty of Humanities  
and Social Sciences  
Department of Archaeology
- 10 Papuk Nature Park  
Unesco Geopark Papuk
- 11 Požega-Slavonia County  
Tourist Board
- 12 Zlatni Papuk Tourist Board
- 13 The Varaždin County Tourist Board
- 14 Heuneburg — Stadt Pyrene
- 15 Archaeolingua Foundation
- 16 Hungarian National Museum
- 17 Banner János  
Archaeological Foundation
- 18 Budapest University  
of Technology and Economics  
Faculty of Architecture  
Department of History of Architecture  
and Monument Preservation
- 19 National History Museum of Romania
- 20 Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto
- 21 National Museum of Slovenia  
Institute for the Protection of  
Cultural Heritage of Slovenia
- 23 Institute Beautiful Karst
- 24 Municipality of Hoče-Slivnica
- 25 Municipality of Novo mesto
- 26 Zavod Situla  
Institute for Cultural Heritage,  
Tourism and Culture
- 27 Natural History Museum Vienna  
Prehistoric Department, Hallstatt branch
- 28 Natural History Museum Vienna  
Department of Prehistory
- 29 Municipality of Posušje
- 30 Sveti Ivan Zelina Museum
- 31 Žumberak-Samobor Hills Nature Park
- 32 Municipality Herbertingen
- 33 Bela Krajina Museum Metlika
- 34 University of Maribor Botanic Garden
- 35 Municipality of Zreče
- 36 Maribor Regional Museum
- 37 Tolmin Museum
- 38 Sopron Museum

#### New partners represented in this issue

- 39 Faculty of Arts  
University of Ljubljana
- 40 Posavje Museum Brežice
- 41 Association Fran Govekar Ig
- 42 Guild of Blacksmiths of Slovenia

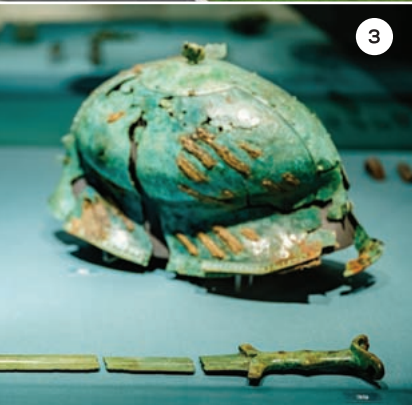
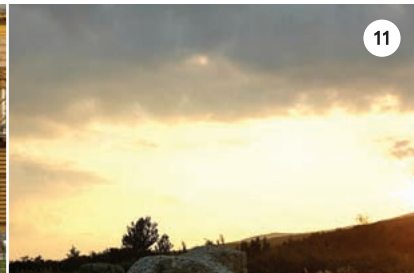
 POTENTIAL DESTINATIONS  
OF THE IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE

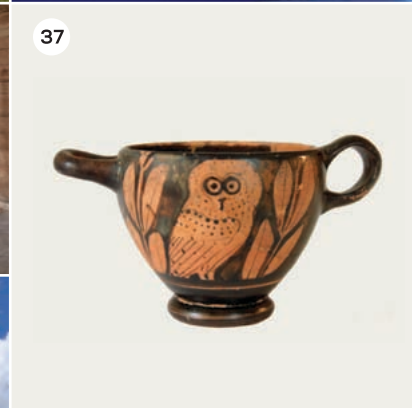
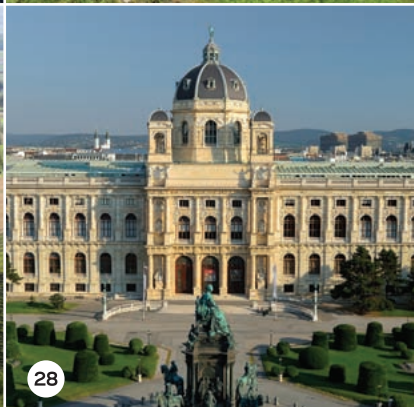
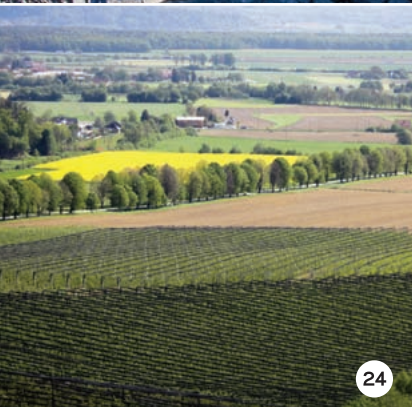
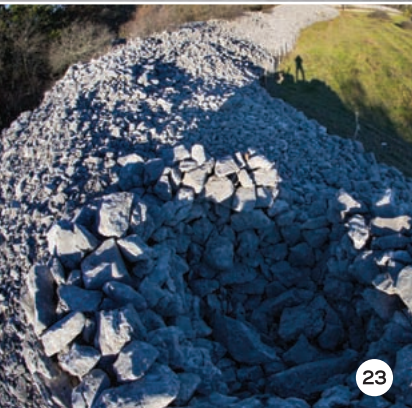
# FOLLOW

Novo mesto,  
Kapiteljska njiva,  
grave VII/28.  
© Saša Fuis



# THE ROUTE





**Faculty of Arts,  
University  
of Ljubljana**

Aškerčeva cesta 2  
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
[www.ff.uni-lj.si](http://www.ff.uni-lj.si)  
—



The Faculty of Arts is the largest and one of the oldest members of the University of Ljubljana. It was founded in 1919, primarily with the intention of bringing together the basic Slovenian humanities and social sciences — an aim that was of national importance. It continues to fulfil this mission today, as it is the leading research and teaching institution in Slovenia for most of the disciplines developed at the Faculty. At the same time, the Faculty of Arts is central to most of these disciplines. Today, the Faculty offers 34 Bachelor's and 42 Master's degree programmes, with the flexibility to combine subjects. The Doctorate of Science can be obtained in the interdisciplinary Humanities and Social Sciences programme, which the Faculty of Arts runs jointly with other members of the University of Ljubljana. The Faculty has nearly 5000 students and 700 staff and is the most important national university institution for education and research in the humanities and social sciences. It educates students and creates superior intellectuals with open and critical thinking in the field of humanities and social sciences and in teacher education in this field. It creates an environment of equality, coexistence and mutual respect, its activities contribute to the solution of social issues and to the intellectual and spiritual development of Slovenian, European and world societies.

The study of Archaeology at the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Arts is comprehensive and highly interdisciplinary. It offers a high-quality, internationally recognised education that encompasses the entirety of contemporary archaeological knowledge and skills. There is a strong emphasis on practical training, which includes both archaeological fieldwork and laboratory techniques. The curriculum includes a blend of theoretical, methodological, and specialist courses drawn from Archaeology and its affiliated disciplines within the Humanities, Technical Sciences, and Natural Sciences. This holistic approach equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively engage in professional and research activities in the field of archaeology. Graduates acquire a variety of skills and knowledge that equip them for a wide spectrum of tasks, from field archaeology to laboratory analyses, from the preservation and promotion of archaeological heritage to careful scientific investigation and interpretation.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In our numerous research and promotion projects, we have cooperated with various museums, municipalities and other institutions and helped to create a series of archaeological trails, e.g. Cvinger near Dolenjske Toplice, Poštela, Pivola, Novine, which promote the archaeological heritage of the Early Iron Age and are mostly also a part of the Iron Age Danube Route. So when you visit these places, you also visit us!

**Posavje  
Museum  
Brežice**

Cesta prvih borcev 1  
8250 Brežice, Slovenia  
[www.pmb.si](http://www.pmb.si)  
—

Posavje Museum Brežice is housed in Brežice Castle, near the Slovenia-Croatia border. Transformed after the 1515 Slovene Peasant Revolt, the 16<sup>th</sup> century castle was turned into a Baroque mansion with captivating frescoes in the Knight's Hall — Slovenia's grandest fully frescoed Baroque hall.

Exhibits cover archaeology, ethnology, history, Baroque, and contemporary art. An important part of the exhibition section is dedicated to the four elements (water, fire, earth and air): Harmony of the Four Elements associated with the castle frescoes. Since 2022, the museum has included the Brežice Water Tower, a symbol of the town and a monument to water, which presents the stories about technical advances, love and integration of nature and culture.

Engaging the community, the museum collaborates on exhibitions like fruit-growing at the Ban Homestead, Kreutz Barbershop, and the Old School in Črneča vas. Heritage awareness extends through street exhibits and interdisciplinary projects.

**VISIT US IN 2023**

Witness an exhibition unveiling insights from archaeological research at the Sejmišče site. Discover over 160 Late Iron Age graves, deepening understanding of Posavje's history. Only three Iron Age chariot burials are known in Slovenia, all of them at Sejmišče, where ceremonies damaged the artefacts. The exhibition employs data, comparisons, and visualizations, including a reconstructed war chariot and digital tech, to illuminate the concealed Iron Age heritage. Its purpose is to encourage efforts in protecting this partially explored, urban-threatened site.





**Association  
Fran Govekar  
Ig**

Troštova ulica 5  
1292 Ig pri Ljubljani, Slovenia  
drustvo-frangovekar.si  
—

The association is named after the writer, playwright and cultural worker Fran Govekar who was born in Ig. His father was a teacher in Ig. The association works in the field of amateur culture, presentation of cultural heritage and tourism. It includes three choirs, a puppet group, the young and adult theatre group, a group of painters, a literary-musical group and tourist research group. We perform in the local community, in Slovenia and abroad.

The tourist research group deals with the history of Ljubljana Marshes (Ljubljansko barje), especially with the heritage of the pile-dwellings. We have organized lectures titled *Barje, do I know you (Barje, ali te poznam)* for 20 years. Archaeologist dr. Anton Velušček works professionally with us. We organized the exhibition “The Pile-dwellers from the Great Lake” in 2010 aided by EU funds, which about 2500 to 3000 schoolchildren visit every year, along with some groups of adults. We organize *The Pile-dwellers’ Day* every year where the visitors discover the life of the pile-dwellers. It takes place with the slogan *The Pile-dwellers Day — entertainment for the whole family*.

Recent investigations upon the Pungrt Hill above Ig have unearthed the remains of an Iron Age hillfort that has surprised everyone with its protourban inner structure and long-lasting occupation. Although the research has not yet been completed, it has already become a new important heritage landmark, the promotion of which we have included into our programme.



## Guild of Blacksmiths of Slovenia

Cesta Graške gore 5  
2341 Limbuš, Slovenia  
[www.facebook.com/  
CehovskodrustvoKovacevSlovenije/](https://www.facebook.com/CehovskodrustvoKovacevSlovenije/)  
—



The COKS (Cehovsko društvo kovačev Slovenije) is the Guild of Slovenian blacksmiths, founded in 2017 and currently has 45 individual members. We are located all over the country, mainly in the Slovenian countryside.

Many of our older members date back to the Yugoslavian era with the title of Master Blacksmith, but on the other hand, we have many young talented blacksmiths in our ranks.

As a group, we organise several blacksmithing events throughout the year. These usually revolve around a historical artefact, which we then replicate, or just a day or two of forging and enjoying good company.

Blacksmithing in general, making everything from nails, blades, horseshoes, ornaments, etc., has gone out of fashion. That is why most of us specialise in one branch of this craft. Our members make iron fences, gates and ornamental work. Some make horseshoes, and many of the younger members make axes, knives, swords and other tools with wooden edges.

We offer a wide variety of blacksmithing and blade shaping courses, each blacksmith in his own forge. In the last few years, we have established cooperation with the Hungarian Blacksmith Guild and are planning joint cross-border blacksmithing events to spread knowledge and, as mentioned, have fun.

Our members also do much more than just forging, from smelting Slovenian iron ore, which is rooted in the archaeological Iron Age heritage (also in cooperation with archaeologists from the University of Ljubljana and metallurgists from the Institute of Metals and Technology, both from Slovenia) to making Wootz Damascus and producing sheet metal for armoury, restoration and conservation projects.

We invite you to join our guild as a blacksmith, perhaps as a supporting member, and definitely come and see one of our live blacksmithing events listed on our Facebook profile throughout the year.

## The Certification Ceremony of the Iron Age Danube route



On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022, the Iron Age Danube Route was awarded the certificate as a “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” at an award ceremony in Zagreb, Croatia. The Cultural Route gathers 30 members from 7 countries of the Danube region: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary and Slovenia. It focuses on the promotion, presentation, research and sustainable development of the Iron Age heritage of the Danube region.

The certification ceremony was held in the Dverce palace under the aegis of the City of Zagreb. The certificate to the Iron Age Danube Route was awarded by Mr. Stefano Dominioni, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe together with the Minister of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, Mrs. Nina Obuljen Koržinek to Mr. Sanjin Mihelić, President of the Iron Age Danube Route Association and Director of the Archaeological Museum of Zagreb.

The ceremony was attended by Ms. Laura Topolovšek, envoy of the mayor of the City of Zagreb, as well as a number of members of the diplomatic corps of the network countries, members and stakeholders from all partner countries and other distinguished guests. The formal award ceremony of the certificate was the highlight of a two-day Closing Event of the international project “Virtual archaeological landscapes of the Danube region project” (acronym: Danube’s archaeological eLandscapes). The project is carried out as a part of the Interreg Danube Transnational program and is co-funded by the European Union through the ERDF and IPA II. Croatia is a member State of the EPA since 2016. Mrs. Tatjana Horvatić from the Ministry of Culture and Media and Mrs. Vlasta Klarić from the Ministry of Tourism and Sport are Croatia’s Representatives to the EPA Governing Board.

M. R.

## First Kings of Europe: Leadership and Inequality in Prehistoric Southeast Europe – International Archaeological Symposium

The spectacular archaeological conference took place between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the Hungarian National Museum and was an official academic side event of the ambitious exhibition *First Kings of Europe* (presented by the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago). The conference gathered the most prominent European and American archaeologists, focusing on the evolution of inequality and leadership in Southeast Europe over about 5,500 years, from the Neolithic to the Iron Age. The papers centred around four topics: (1) Theories and Models of Inequality, (2) Early Forms of Inequalities, (3) Technologies and Economies of Wealth, and (4) Eras of Chiefs and Warriors. More than 200 attendees from 13 countries took part in the symposium. After the official opening speeches, given by Gábor Virágos, Director of the National Institute of Archaeology of the Hungarian National Museum, Susan Neill, Exhibition planning director at the Field Museum of Natural History, William A. Parkinson (Field Museum of Natural History) and Attila Gyucha (University of Georgia) — the archaeologists who dreamed up and created the *First Kings of Europe* exhibition — presented the richly and beautifully illustrated exhibition's Catalogue and the Book of Essays. The keynote speech was centred around the “crazy idea” which led to this unprecedented collaboration, that is the *First Kings of Europe* exhibition. The three-day conference included presentations on Neolithic settlements organization, the social significance of metalworking in the Copper Age, Bronze Age fortifications, the composition of Late Bronze Age metal hoards and the strengthening and expansion of trade and communication networks in the Iron Age. Among the many distinguished invited speakers at the conference, Hrvoje Potrebica (University of Zagreb) and Matija Črešnar (University of Ljubljana) — members of the Iron Age Danube Route Association Boards — presented fascinating papers on the emergence of the Early Iron Age chiefs and power structures in various regions of Central and Southeast Europe.

S. F.



## International conference Early Iron Age in Central Europe 2022 took place in Nitra, Slovakia

On 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022 the 4<sup>th</sup> international conference *Early Iron Age in Central Europe 2022* took place in the pleasant surroundings of the Small Seminary on the foothills of Nitra Castle hill in Nitra (southwestern Slovakia). The tradition of biennial meetings was started by researchers on the Early Iron Age in 2015 in Hradec Králové (Czech Republic), the second edition took place in 2017 in Nuremberg (Germany), the third in 2019 in Wrocław (Poland) and the fourth — after a forced “pandemic break” in 2021 — in 2022 in Nitra. The main organiser of the conference was the Institute of Archaeology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the Loránd Eötvös University in Budapest and the Slovak Archaeological Society at the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The event was attended by 51 researchers from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Poland, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, and Switzerland. On 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 30 presentations were given and 6 posters were displayed. The papers were presented in the following thematic blocks:

- (1) Focused on the artefacts;
- (2) Burial customs — Southern perspective;
- (3) Burial customs — Middle Danubian perspective;
- (4) Burial customs — Northern perspective;
- (5) Eastern Alpine Iron Age;
- (6) Network and exchange;
- (7) Iron Age landscapes and (micro)regions;
- (8) Hallstatt/La Tène period transition.

The posters were the subject of a separate afternoon session on the first conference day. The book of abstracts of the conference with the complete programme (including the excursion programme) can be downloaded here:

[https://www.academia.edu/83138651/Early\\_Iron\\_Age\\_in\\_Central\\_Europe\\_2022\\_Book\\_of\\_Abstracts](https://www.academia.edu/83138651/Early_Iron_Age_in_Central_Europe_2022_Book_of_Abstracts)

The conference included an excursion that took place on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and led to the Bronze and Iron Age hillfort on the Zobor hill — southern promontory of Tribeč mountains above Nitra, to the ruins of the medieval monastery at the foothills of Zobor, to the Ponitrianske Museum in Nitra and to the Nitra Castle. The participants of the event spent Friday evening in a social gathering in the premises of the Small Seminary. The conference was rich in discussions in the lecture hall and the backstage. Selection of the papers and posters presented on the conference is going to be published in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Supplement volume of journal *Študijné zvesti AÚ SAV* (<http://archeol.sav.sk/index.php/en/publications/the-studijne-zvesti-au-sav-journal/>) at the beginning of 2024 and will be available online as well as a printed volume to the participants of the upcoming meeting in summer 2024.

L. B.



## Stories of the past – An exhibition goes on tour

As part of the “Danube’s Archaeological eLandscapes” project, the project partners prepared visualisations of selected Danube archaeological sites in virtual reality (VR). The visualisations are presented as temporary exhibitions or set up as part of the permanent exhibitions of the participating museums. The National Museum of Slovenia added a mobile unit — a traveling exhibition. An essential, but often neglected part of exhibitions, is their promotion. To better promote the permanent virtual exhibition, the National Museum of Slovenia designed and produced a mobile exhibition with the same theme, but presented it in a much shorter format, a *teaser* if you prefer. The goal was not a mobile exhibition as a complete stand-alone product, but a permanent joint promotion of the most prominent archaeological landscapes of the Danube region.

The museum planned and carried out mobile exhibition hosting at strategically selected locations. This means that the exhibition was on display in various institutions, where it directed visitors not only to the National Museum of Slovenia but also to the archaeological landscape. It also indirectly led visitors to other museums that participated in the project. At the same time, the exhibition also provided a good starting point for the implementation of various programs and workshops both within the framework of the NMS and the visiting institution.

The mobile exhibition was till now hosted in the Park of Military History Pivka, Snežnik Castle, and the Faculty of Computer and Information Science of the University of Ljubljana. The response of the visitors was positive, and the purpose of the mobile exhibition was fully achieved.

J. K.





The Hungarian Archaeology Day (June 2–3), organized by the Hungarian Association of Archaeologists, was one of the notable recent events. This annual programme gained popularity in the past years; in 2023, its motto was “Maintaining the Community”, and several associated events were centred on the Iron Age. In the Százhalombatta Archaeological Park, participants visited the tumuli, some of which are still clearly visible while others are no longer perceptible in modern times; visitors were informed about their history and about various types of burial monuments, and they also had a chance to prepare hand-made copies of Iron Age animal figurines.

Members of the Association for Community Archaeology participated in site surveys at a number of locations in Pest County and in research into the protected archaeological sites of the Pilis region and the Szentendre Island. During field walks and site survey around Pilisvörösvár, metal artefacts (bronze rings, iron spearhead) were found that suggested the presence of a so far unknown Celtic cemetery. Objects were also collected from another multiperiod site, where traces of a yet unknown late Celtic settlement were brought to light.

At the early Iron Age fortified settlement at Dédestapolcsány (Borsod–Abaúj–Zemplén County), which has been intensively researched in the past few years, volunteers from the Hungarian National Museum — National Institute of Archaeology joined the research team of the Institute of Archaeology at Eötvös Loránd University. This was the second excavation season in a project that focuses on early Iron Age forts and their destruction in the North Hungarian Mountains. The team continued the excavation of a burnt building that was discovered in 2022, and started exposing other buildings as well. Artefacts that can potentially reveal information on the late 7<sup>th</sup>-century siege of the fort and contribute to its reconstruction, were also collected.

## Hungarian Archaeology Day and further community archaeology activities in Hungary

The target area of the community archaeology research programme at the National Institute of Archaeology is the Somló Hill, a site of outstanding importance in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age, where a regional bronze-making workshop operated and where the nobility of the period probably resided. Systematic research had not been carried out before, but rather accidental discoveries led researchers to the site. Nearly 150 years after the excavation of the Doba site, which concealed an iron sword and bronze coins, and nearly 100 years after the discovery of the famous tumulus at Somlóvásárhely, researchers are looking into how Late Bronze and Early Iron Age communities used the area, and how the hypothesised settlement was formed on the basalt plateaus of the hill.

Volunteers also joined the staff of the Dornyay Béla Museum in Salgótarján in an archaeological excavation, and found the remains of a Celtic settlement. The excavation took place after the county's archaeology experts and local historians started to compile the archaeological topography of Legénd on the basis of field walks and metal detector surveys. A few Late Iron Age structures (pottery, kilns, remains of houses) were uncovered during the excavation, as well as other artefacts indicating economic activity (such as iron slag). A roof structure is being planned to preserve the site, and the mayor of the town hopes that the discovery will help to develop local tourism in the future.

At the end of 2017, the Sopron Museum launched a community archaeology programme aimed at a comprehensive survey of archaeological sites in the region. Planned excavations began at Sopron-Várhely in 2021, with the involvement and, later, funding of a local sports club. The aim was to gain a better understanding of the fortified settlement in the Late Bronze and Iron Age. Since then, small trenches have been opened at different points of the site, providing valuable data on the earliest period of the Iron Age settlement. The first trench, opened in 2023, revealed a dry stone wall belonging to a large building that yielded pottery from the transition period between the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age. The first golden treasure from the site were brought to light in the second trench.

K. W., G. N., T. Á. R., G. SZ., G. B., B. S., A. M.



“Interpreted Iron Ages — case studies, method, theory. Linzer Gespräche zur interpretativen Eisenzeitarchäologie” is a series of conferences which started in 2004 as a cooperation project of the Upper Austrian State Museum and Raimund Karl (formerly Bangor University, UK). Last Autumn — 17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> of November — the tenth congress took place in Linz and hosted a densely packed three-day programme. This was even more pleasing, since the pandemic did not cause a break in the series, but the “Covid Congress” of 2020 had had to take place on a much smaller (and much less comfortable) scale than participants are used to.

As usual, a lot of colleagues from Austria and abroad answered the call to present and discuss their research about all kinds of aspects of the Iron Age. The format of “Interpreted Iron Ages” offers the ideal setting for intensive discussion in the conference room and beyond.

The range of topics included overviews such as the debate about (“Celtic” or “Germanic”) ethnicity or the interpretation of grave goods from different angles, as well as the discussion of case studies of certain sites, regions or material culture groups. One special part of the congress was dedicated to the multifaceted UNESCO World Heritage Site Hallstatt — old and new graves, salt mine, research on the surface, regional studies — as befits an Iron Age congress which takes place in Upper Austria. All of the contributions will be published, as usual, in the “Studien zur Kulturgeschichte von Oberösterreich”.

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

J. L.



## The NEXT ROUTES project

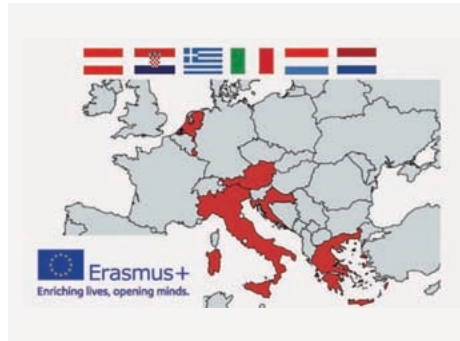
The NEXT ROUTES project, funded by the EU Erasmus+ programme, focuses on an innovative approach to heritage management. During the next two years (September 2023–September 2025) several diverse groups of activities will be implemented. They will reinforce Cultural Routes staff skills and knowledge related to digital and creative competencies, support Cultural Routes in the digital transition and help them manage and disseminate Cultural Routes contents in an engaging and effective way by promoting their cultural heritage through innovative gamification approaches. The project represents a great opportunity for the staff of the Cultural Routes involved, and will provide them with an easy-to-use tool and manual for the enhancement of the presentation of cultural heritage on their respective territories, thus making it accessible to all interested members and stakeholders.

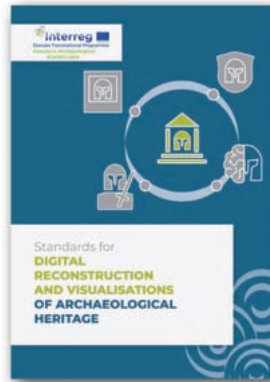
In this way the project promotes priorities of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, which are perfectly aligned with the horizontal priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme: cooperation in research and development, enhancement of European memory, history and heritage, as well as promoting the social and educational value of Europe's cultural heritage.

The project partnership, consisting of 8 partners from 6 countries and led by the Phoenician's Route, brings together Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (the Phoenicians' Route (Italy), the European Route of Jewish Heritage (Luxemburg), the European Mozart Ways (Austria), the Routes of the Olive Tree (Greece), the ATRIUM — Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century In Europe's Urban Memory (Italy) and the Iron Age Danube Route (Croatia)) with the Mobile Idea Srl (Italy), which is one of the leading private companies in the EU specialized in technological innovation applied to the cultural and tourism sector, and the Breda University of Applied Sciences (the Netherlands).

The project will represent a great added value not only on the level of Cultural Routes involved in the project, but on the European Union level as well, as it will have a positive impact on all of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, through the capitalization of the toolkit and the NEXT ROUTES user manual.

M. R.





## A new publication by the Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes project – Standards for Digital Reconstruction and Visualisations of Archaeological Heritage

IN THE LAST PHASE of the DTP's Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes project, in December 2022, the one of final project publication was published. Titled *Standards for Digital Reconstruction and Visualisations of Archaeological Heritage*, the publication is a follow-up of the 2021's strategy publication *Sustainable Touristic Value from Digitization of Archaeological Heritage*. Containing input from all the project partners, the Standards contain four parts. The presentation of the most current framework and legal guidelines of the use of digital technologies in cultural heritage are followed by guidelines for using and documenting various technical, research and visualisation methods. In it, practical guidelines for the workflow for creating digital visualisations of archaeological heritage, proposed in the project's strategy publication are compiled. The third part is a collection of best practice examples from the partners' work on digital visualisations. The final part contains recommendations and lessons learned by the project partnership through the creation of reconstructions and visualisations of various archaeological landscapes.

The two mentioned publications form a well-rounded proposal for creating digital reconstructions and visualisations of archaeological heritage. The workflow presented in the first publication was thoroughly tested and the lessons learned from the implementation of the workflow during project activities are presented in the *Standards*. Both publications are freely accessible online.

Links to the publications:

Standards:

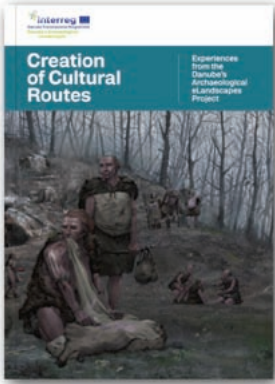
[https://issuu.com/danubes\\_archaeological\\_elandscapes/docs/standards\\_a4\\_12\\_2022](https://issuu.com/danubes_archaeological_elandscapes/docs/standards_a4_12_2022)

Strategy:

[https://issuu.com/danubes\\_archaeological\\_elandscapes/docs/strategy\\_sustainable\\_touristic\\_value\\_archaeological](https://issuu.com/danubes_archaeological_elandscapes/docs/strategy_sustainable_touristic_value_archaeological)

N. D.

## “Creation of Cultural Routes – Experiences from the Danube’s Archaeological eLandscapes Project” publication



ONE OF THE LAST OUTPUTS of the EU project “Danube’s Archaeological eLandscapes” was the “Creation of Cultural Routes” publication. The issue, divided into two parts, focuses on the invaluable experience gained from the project on the one hand, while on the other exploring the question of how to create a cultural route. Thus, in the first part the interested reader is presented with the unique process spanning from the project itself to creating a sustainable tourist product. This process is based on best practice examples from the project, the theoretical framework (definition, creation, recommendations) and the presentation of cultural routes of the Council of Europe, with a particular emphasis on the Iron Age Danube Route. Furthermore, the second part utilizes the example of the European Cultural Route of Neanderthals to illustrate the specific process of creating parts of the route such as: how the initiative to create such a route came to be, a historical and archaeological overview backed up by Neanderthal museums in Mettmann (Germany) and Krapina (Croatia) and the development phase through the iNEAL project. The publication sums up with a conclusion and the need to create a long-lasting bond of cooperation between researchers in order to create an inter- and multi-disciplinary inclusive framework that can be utilized by all interested in Neanderthals (and creating cultural routes). The publication can be freely downloaded at the website of the Archaeological Museum of Zagreb.

P. Š. R.

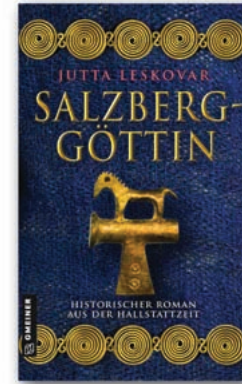
## The Mazin hoard



THE HOARD OF MAZIN, a village located in modern Republic of Croatia, is the result of a chance find in 1896. It contained *aes rude*, *aes formatum* and ‘*ramo secco*’ specimens, Roman Republican objects which include ‘*aes signatum*’ and *aes grave*, Romano-Campanian coinage along with Republican asses. Also found in the Mazin hoard was coinage of Sicily, Apulia, Carthage, Numidia, Ptolemaic Egypt and the Achaean League, with fragments of utility and decorative objects, fragments that may have been part of a mould for making specimens of *aes formatum*, and items with bubbles that are probably remnants of smelting and slag. Besides the Mazin hoard, at least ten or more hoards of similar composition are known, found in the area between the rivers Una and Zrmanja, i.e. in the area inhabited during the Iron Age by the population known to Strabo’s contemporaries as Iapodes. The monograph *The Mazin hoard* presents a total of 1560 Mazin objects from the rich collection of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb. All objects are classified, typologically sorted and processed in accordance with modern numismatic methodology. They are also presented in relation to the entire horizon of the Mazin-type hoards. For the first time, analysis has been done of the composition of the oldest segment of the Mazin hoard, more precisely some *aes rude* and *aes formatum* objects. The results of that analysis are published here, which makes a significant contribution to the knowledge of these hitherto insufficiently researched objects.

A. B. S.

## „Salzberggöttin“ – Prehistoric Fiction



THIS SPRING SAW the release of the novel “Salzberggöttin”, which was published by Gmeiner Verlag. The subtitle translates as “Historical Novel from the Hallstatt Period”. The story takes place about 600 BC; the protagonists live in the valley above Hallstatt (“Hochtal”) and are part of the salt mining community. As the title suggests, religious worldviews are of the utmost importance — the salt mountain goddess dictates the rules for mining and distributing salt. This distribution takes place during an annual mountain festival, which is also attended by people from far-off regions such as Bavaria, Bohemia or Slovenia. At this year’s festival something unexpected happens. Certain events are set in motion which will change the valley and the mining community with enduring effect. The novel is an attempt to tell the existing evidence about graveyard, salt mine, region, the site Hallstatt, and Hallstatt Culture as a plausible story. At least there should be no contradictions — or so the author hopes — with what is actually known about Hallstatt and the Early Iron Age. This is of course not much, keeping in mind how much uncertainty still persists about the specific social structures, belief systems or exchange relationships in the Iron Age and Hallstatt. This offers a lot of freedom to tell a story which could have happened like that — or completely differently. <https://www.jutta-leskovar.at/>

J. L.

# IRON

# AGE



# STORIES

# HALLSTATT

by Johann Rudorfer

## NEW GRAVE

THE CEMETERY in the high valley above Hallstatt is one of the most important prehistoric burial sites in Europe. More than 1,500 graves have already been uncovered and documented. Numerous grave goods have been found, some of them impressive vessels, weapons, and jewellery, which testify to the prosperity and far-reaching trade relations created by salt mining and trade.

In the area investigated in 2023 by the Prehistoric Department of the Natural History Museum Vienna in the high valley of Hallstatt, many new finds came to light. The most remarkable of these is a cremation grave with bronze goods that are still very well preserved. During the archaeological excavation of the metal finds, even sensationally well-preserved textile remains were found.

But it is not only the good state of preservation of the costume and jewellery pieces placed in the grave that is remarkable, but also the fact that a clearly recognisable burial pit could still be found. The area investigated today was already extensively archaeologically examined in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but little attention was paid to certain details, such as the grave construction, by the excavators at that time.

When, in the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first systematic excavations of the salt mine company and later by the Imperial and Royal Court Museum (today the NHM Vienna) were carried out, the field of archaeology was still largely in its infancy. Efforts to understand the context of finds in the soil, let alone to document them, were still in a poor state. It is therefore all the more astonishing that Johann Georg Ramsauer, who was then the manager of the salt mine in Hallstatt and leader of the largest campaign in the history of excavations of the Early Iron Age burial ground, which was occupied between 800 and 370 BC, already attached such great importance to precise graphic documentation. Based on the location, the archaeologists can conclude that it was an unrecognised grave, which was unexcavated and undisturbed. Therefore it could be preserved in situ. The grave finds include a massive, ribbed arm bracelet that was probably worn on the upper arm. Furthermore, also made of bronze,



three spirals of thin wire lay above the pile of cremated remains (the burnt bones), which probably represent parts of fibulae. The blade of a bronze knife with traces of a wooden handle still adhering to the tang and a sheet of iron that can possibly be seen as part of a belt fitting as well as an animal bone as the remains of a meal complete the assemblage of finds. All objects were probably intentionally broken or bent, which can probably be attributed to the burial rites of the time. Perhaps it was considered appropriate to ritually destroy the artefacts in order to be able to use them as grave goods for the realm of the dead, because the body was also destroyed by burning?

But the real sensation became apparent when the finds were recovered. Each piece was meticulously detached from the densely packed complex. In the process, clearly recognisable imprints of a fabric, probably woven in a coarse tabby weave, became visible on the back of the spiral discs. They were preserved in the soil due to mineralisation processes in connection with the copper salts dissolving from the bronze discs by corrosion. This is probably the first evidence of an organic container into which the cremated remains had been placed when they were deposited into the ground. In contrast to other cemeteries of the Hallstatt and Early La Tène periods that were used at the same time, urns have only rarely been found in Hallstatt. In most cases, only a small pile with bone fragments and some ashes was found, which appeared to be so compact that one could always assume small sacks made of cloth or leather. Now the evidence for this has been found. Although the small-scale excavation meant that less than one percent of the total area cleared by a necessary building project for a rockfall protection net had to be directly archaeologically investigated, very valuable scientific results could be reported. For example, we now know that the old excavations by Ramsauer and his successors did not record all the grave features by far. The handling of finds that were not transported to the museum also becomes clear through the encounter of numerous stray finds and individual human bone piles that originate from inhumation burials. These were simply removed from the graves after the graphic documentation and deposited in their immediate vicinity. Up to now, it has been estimated that there were 5,000 burials in the lower part of the high valley on the Salzberg. This estimate is likely to increase considerably due to an even higher density of burials, which was discovered during the most recent excavations.



# OF THE EARLY IRON AGE DISCOVERED

## Further Information:

„Archäologie am Berg-Forschung einst und heute“  
16<sup>th</sup> und 17<sup>th</sup> September in Hallstatt:

[https://www.salzweiten.at/Medien/Hallstatt/Veranstaltungen/Arch%C3%A4ologie\\_am\\_Berg/SW\\_HT\\_2023\\_Einladung\\_zur\\_Arch%C3%A4ologie\\_am\\_Berg.pdf](https://www.salzweiten.at/Medien/Hallstatt/Veranstaltungen/Arch%C3%A4ologie_am_Berg/SW_HT_2023_Einladung_zur_Arch%C3%A4ologie_am_Berg.pdf)

„Der Archäonaut“ —

the monthly radio broadcast of the NHM Vienna:

<https://de.cba.fro.at/podcast/der-archaeonaut>

Hallstatt-Homepage

<https://hallstatt-research.com/>

TOP  
Bronze spiral disc  
with inprints of a fabric.

LEFT  
Research area  
in the High Valley.

© Andreas W. Rausch



by Annika Keybach



SITUATED CLOSE to the source of the Danube in modern day Southern Germany resided one of the biggest Celtic settlements of the Hallstatt period — the Heuneburg, also known as *polis pyrene*. The formerly Celtic princely seat is now open to the public as an archaeological park where visitors, consisting of tourists, children and students, as well as the local community of Herbertingen, can explore the site with its reconstructions and emerge themselves in the world of the Hallstatt Celts. Operated by the State Palaces and Gardens of Baden-Württemberg, the archaeological park “Heuneburg — Stadt Pyrene” will be transformed into a *Celtic and Nature Experience World* within the next few years. With the goal to become a place of education and extracurricular learning for children and pupils, the project will entail new educational programs complemented by digital formats and extended into the digital world. The visitor’s analogue and digital journey will start at the new planned visitor centre at the base of the archaeological park, where new exhibitions will present different aspects of Celtic life at the Heuneburg.

# THE HEUNEBURG

---

## A CELTIC

## AND

## NATURE

## EXPERIENCE

© Clemens Bader  
State Palaces  
and Gardens  
Baden-Württemberg

### A link between culture and nature

As an extracurricular place of learning, the Heuneburg not only strives to educate its community and especially young people about the Hallstatt Celts and their cultural heritage preserved in the land, but also aims to create connections to other relevant topics and areas of life: nature study, the care of our environment as well as the challenges of progressing climate change. Yet, those challenges also pertain to cultural heritage sites, historical monuments and archaeological parks: the consequences of climate change affect our cultural assets as the declining biodiversity and extreme weather events induce deterioration of the structure and quality of the soil, in which the Celtic heritage is preserved. A mindful and sustainable handling of nature within the archaeological park is thus an important task which goes hand in hand with generating awareness and promoting sustainability and biodiversity. The Heuneburg's educational program thus aims to link cultural and nature topics and to establish a "green classroom" on its site.

Linking cultural experience with the natural experience, the Heuneburg has already implemented initiatives which will support wildlife conservation and biodiversity. In cooperation with local associations and young students, a lizard habitat and wild bee nesting aids were constructed at the Heuneburg. Bees are of particular importance, not only for today's environment and biodiversity, but also for the Celts at Heuneburg: Beeswax and honey were valuable raw materials at the time of the Celts. Honey was probably the only sweetener for food and played an important role in the production of alcoholic beverages. Beeswax is also a very versatile material: it is suitable for medical purposes, as a preservative, a care product and lubricant. Moreover, it played an important role in the processing of non-ferrous metals in the Celtic period. Unfortunately, the ways and methods of the Celtic beekeeping are lost to us. Yet the methods of beekeeping in the periods before and after the Celts might give us some clues and are used in the *archaeo-beekeeping* conducted at the Heuneburg which aims to understand the importance and the ways of beekeeping during the time of the Celts.

### A Nature Experience World

Adjacent to the archaeological park Heuneburg is an area of 60-hectare, which was formerly used intensively for agricultural purposes and will now become a *Nature Experience World* in which visitors can learn about ecological topics: sustainable agriculture, the use and endangerment of natural resources, biodiversity and the consequences of climate change. In cooperation with the local community and municipality, the Heuneburg was able to obtain funds for developing this project. Together, the municipality of Herberlingen and the Heuneburg, will create a *Nature Experience World* in this area. In order to do that, the soil of this area has to undergo a process of affluence and detoxification. Various projects will then aim to re-establish a biodiversity, consisting of different biotopes: pastures, orchards, wetlands and flowering meadows. These biotopes will provide various animals such as bees, skylarks or the yellowbellied toads with necessary habitats. The restoration of biodiversity in this area will thus support the preservation of the archaeological remains of the Hallstatt Celts. Within *Nature Experience World* there will also be space for archaeological testing sites, where it will be possible to conduct field trials in order to understand the landscape history and the usage of lands by the Celts.



# WORLD

by Petra Stipančić

# PRAZNIK SITUL

# SITULAE

**A Festival of Iron Age Life and Cooking**  
Museums have a great deal of important archaeological information that they can use, in the form of public archaeology, to establish a partnership with the local community in order to foster a better understanding of archaeological heritage and to protect and preserve that heritage in its original environment, which is the basis for understanding the past.

In collaboration with the City of Novo Mesto and Svitar Association, the Dolenjski muzej Novo Mesto has created a Festival of Iron Age Life and Cooking (Situlae Festival), which offers visitors a full-day experience of Dolenjska's rich archaeological heritage. The reconstructions of the clothing culture, equipment, customs, cooking, handicrafts and life generally during the Early Iron Age in Dolenjska that are on display at the festival are based on the results of a great deal of archaeological research at home and abroad and on experimental archaeology.





### Expert background of the festival

The Early Iron Age, which got its name from the most important raw material of the time, lasted between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. It is also called the Hallstatt Period, after the major archaeological site at Halstatt in Austria. During this period one of the most important centres in central Europe evolved in the Novo Mesto area. The rich and developed culture is evident for example also in the elaborately ornamented bronze vessels, called situlae, which for us today represent prehistoric Europe's highest and most important artistic achievement.

Sixteen situlae originate from Novo Mesto alone, nine decorated and seven undecorated. It is because of these wonderful Iron Age creations that Novo Mesto is known as the 'Town of Situlae'. Situlae are bronze containers for storing and serving drinks. They are made of a thin, shiny metal and decorated with mythical and heroic scenes. These rich and colourful scenes add to our understanding of the life of socially highly stratified prehistoric societies, as we have no contemporary written sources from this area. The upper class, the 'elite' of their time, comprised prominent individuals who embodied a combination of political, military, economic, spiritual and social power. They used the richly decorated bronze situlae as prestigious tableware and as vessels that could be used for protocol purposes. They used them to serve prized mead to their guests at celebrations.

The Situlae Festival festival is devoted to these exceptional objects, which undoubtedly shine a light on the life of the Hallstatt inhabitants of Novo Mesto, who were the equal of the exceptional civilisations of continental and Mediterranean Europe.

### Importance of the festival

The festival signals Novo Mesto's surefooted arrival on the national and international events map, helping to bring a lively pulse to the town, develop cultural tourism, and create a pleasant atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Situlae Festival is an event imbued with Dolenjska's cultural and natural heritage, complemented by a new urban perspective. The Festival of Iron Age Life and Cooking has taken place every June since 2016. In the future we expect the festival programme to enrich that of the Situla Archaeological Park, which is being created at the site of the Marof archaeological monument. A variety of ancient crafts, recreated by local and international master craftsmen and women are on show at the festival, and there are culinary workshops for adults and children, demonstrations of martial arts and dance, and a select range of food and drink. The main event focuses on the prince and his family and entourage. With the aim of capturing the pulse of the Iron Age life, it shows the clothing, equipment, mystical music and dance of the time. The festival is enriched by expert guided tours of the wealth of archaeological heritage preserved by Dolenjska Museum Novo Mesto, and an evening concert of music inspired by the Iron Age.

In 2023, for the first time, we created an additional day of the festival for fifth and sixth grade primary school from Novo Mesto. This was a cultural and technical day, with pupils taking an active role in getting to learn about life in the Early Iron Age at six different themed locations, examining topics ranging from sport to dance, food, crafts and the prince's palace.

### Promotion of Situlae Festival

The promotion and marketing of the festival are as important as its organisation. Situlae Festival is an international festival as, every year, it features guests from abroad from the fields of experimental archaeology, the interpretation of archaeological heritage and ancient handicrafts.

We invite visitors from the whole of Slovenia using jumbo and citylight posters, radio announcements and posts on social media.

The Festival of Iron Age Life and Cooking (Situlae Festival) is a festival that celebrates Dolenjska's rich archaeological heritage.

We have trademarked the festival and its visual and substantive content.

### Conclusion

Situlae Festival is an example of active cooperation between the profession, the political sphere and the local community. As a method of experiential interpretation ('living story'), it allows us to relive the past with the help of play and costumes.

With events such as this, it is important that the organiser makes it clear to active participants and visitors that we cannot recreate the past and that, despite great advances in science, we will never be able to truly know how people lived, thought and felt at the time.

# FESTIVAL

TOP  
Situlae Festival  
in Novo Mesto, 2022.  
© Rajko Grimšič

LEFT  
Situlae Festival  
in Novo Mesto, 2023.  
© Boštjan Pucelj

# AGE



# IRON



# COOKING

# GR E

IN



POLJE

EK

STAROGRADSKO

FOOD





THE PROJECT “Greek Food in the Starigrad Field” was created on the initiative of Vinko Tarbušković from the Public Institution Agency for the Management of the Starigrad field and was financed by Split-Dalmatia County. The project’s first phase studied the sources of eating habits from the time of classical Greece and the possible acceptance of culinary customs in the Greek colony of Pharos. Ivana Ožanić Roguljić, from the Institute of Archaeology, interpreted the data and the possible appearance of the recipes.

Studying ancient Greek culinary customs proved to be a greater challenge than interpreting Roman food. We have Roman recipes preserved in a specific cookbook from the author Apicius and various books on agriculture and nature (Cato, Pliny the Elder, Columella). Apicius gives us at least lists of ingredients in his recipes, and Cato is very precise, and it is easy to prepare a delicious dish from his notes even today. We learn about the diet of the ancient Greeks by reading epics, comedies, medical books, and even poems. Greeks certainly brought new food habits with them when they arrived on Hvar, and they probably also adopted some customs of the population they encountered upon arrival. Most of the information on how to eat correctly and properly can be found in the cookbook, which is now fragmentarily preserved and is known to us only transferred from the text of another author — *Athenaeus*. The poem in question is the “Pleasant Life” by *Arhestratus* (320 BC).



His advice is sometimes harsh in expression and sometimes extremely simple, which enables us to reconstruct the dish. The translations by Jelena Polaček Gajer were extremely useful. In addition to the sources themselves, we have reached out to the interpretations provided by modern experts in the history of ancient cuisine, such as Arthur Dalby, Eugenia Salza Prina Riccotti and Farrel Monaco.

Simple “country dishes” still cooked on modern “hearths” could be found on the Greek table on an ordinary day. Peas and vegetables (the ones we have at home) boiled in water with spices that could have been found nearby or brought to the Greek era from some distant country represent one of the first dishes known since prehistoric times.

In addition, we looked at some culinary — Mediterranean traditions of the island of Hvar. On the holiday of St. Barbara (December 4<sup>th</sup>), the traditional kitchen in Dol prepares *Varina* as a mixture of four types of legumes. According to the traditional recipe, *Varina* also contains beans, which were unknown to the Greeks. *Varina* is associated with the island’s early history (and prehistory) as the idea of cooking legumes in water. According to the “Greek way”, there should not be beans in the dish, but there are also grass peas *Lathyrus sativus* in *Varina*, one of the oldest European legumes. Another dish associated with ancient traditions is “*Pećica na tećicu*”. Caramelized sugar with goat’s cheese prepared by Hvar’s grandmothers can be connected with the honey cheese that the ancient Greeks also adored. *Athenaeus* tells us about the dish *Amorites*, which consists of honey and cheese, and is originally from Sicily.

Professors Viktorija Čolić Serdar, Andrej Petrić and children from the High School Hvar — location Jelsa joined the project in this intertwining of traditions. A workshop with a presentation for a wide audience was arranged for children and teachers, during which the children, under the supervision of the teacher and the author of this text, prepared a dozen dishes that were presented on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2022, in the Starigrad. The professors and children tried (and improved some) recipes in collaboration with a photographer Nikola Radovani, and ten recipes were presented. The project’s first phase ended with the booklet “Greek Food in Starigradsko polje”. In the booklet, you can read an overview of the presence of the goddess *Demeter Starigradsko polje* by Vinko Tarbušković. A short history of Greek food with recipes comes from the pen of Ivana Ožanić Roguljić.

On this occasion, we recommend the simplest recipe that won the hearts of the people of Starigrad because it reminded many of them of their childhood.

#### AMORBITES OR “PEĆICA NA TEĆICU”

- 500 g of goat cheese
- 150 g of honey

Fry slices of goat cheese in well-heated honey in a pan. You can serve it with meat and as a dessert.

FAR LEFT  
Amorbites or “Pećica na tećicu”

LEFT  
Publication cover.

TITLE PAGE LEFT  
Traditional *Varina* dish.

TITLE PAGE RIGHT  
Veal in mint sauce.

© N. Radovani

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
HERITAGE**

**AND**

**BRANDING**



**OF**

**LOCAL  
PRODUCTS**

by Iva Pranjić

All photos:  
© Ivica Džambo  
Džambo Film

KAPTOL, a small town at the foot of Papuk, became a distillery richer in November 2021. Craft spirits was founded by a young couple, Iva and Mihovil Pranjić, who replaced the hustle and bustle of Zagreb with peace offered by their hometown. Having left jobs in the field of digital marketing and law, Iva and Mihovil turned towards the production of spirits, nurturing tradition in a modern way.



The first product was marketed in May 2021, Castrum London dry gin. It is a gin that consists of 14 spices and natural spring water from Papuk, and the branding of which was perfectly backed up by all previous archaeological research at the Kaptol-Čemernica site and the generally rich history of Kaptol.

The hexagonal shape of the label represents the ground plan of the Old Town fortress, a medieval fortress that dominates Kaptol. Since the name of such a medieval fortress is precisely castrum, it was only logical to name the gin “Castrum”. The label is dominated by three falers, horse rein ornaments, fully shining thanks to the bronze folio print. Since everything reaches back to the Early Iron Age, by moving the bottle in the light, the phalers irresistibly resemble iron in colour.

The same thought was followed when, in March 2022, Barrel aged gin, a gin aged in Slavonian oak barrels for over a year, was launched on the market. Although it has the same name as London dry gin — Castrum, the label is black and as such it perfectly matched the brown colour of the gin, which it received thanks to the barrel.

The distillery also offers gift packages with gins, and when designing their names, they were also guided by archaeological knowledge. Therefore, packages are named after ritual drinking vessels — “Askos” and “Kernos” and the curved sword — “Mahajra”.

Their new product took a step forward — Planinkovac, which saw the light of day in April 2023. The black ceramic bottle with a bronze screen print conveys power just as the warrior aristocracy once did with its appearance. The ceramic bottle was chosen because of the known widespread use of ceramics in the Early Iron Age above Kaptol, exemplified by rich excavations. Several motifs are visible on the bottle — a warrior on a horse, representing a Hallstatt warrior. Below him is the sea, which represents the Pannonian Sea, under which the entire basin used to be. A mountain can be seen above the warrior, representing Papuk. The last motif are the stars. They don't have a historical aspect, but they certainly have an emotional one. Namely, many tourists have visited the distillery in just over two years since its inception, and all of those who came to visit during the summer and sat for a while in the evening in the gin garden, came to the same conclusion — they had not seen so many stars and such a clear sky anywhere for a long time. After all, the name Planinkovac also came from the play of two words — pelinkovac and mountain.

Using an abundance of archaeological knowledge, Iva and Mihovil present the small town of Kaptol and its archaeological site to entire Croatia and the world through their products. For example, in addition to all over Croatia, Castrum gins and Planinkovac can also be found in Switzerland and Australia.

In little more than two years, work, quality and the combination of knowledge, creativity and persistence have really borne fruit. The young Pranjić family received an award for best young entrepreneurs in 2021, although at that time they had only been out with their first product for a little over half a year. This was followed by winning gold for their London dry gin at the Brandy and Liqueur Quality Assessment in Osijek, and then an even greater success — at the London spirits competition, Castrum London dry gin won the gold medal and was the best-rated spirit that arrived from Croatia. It is included among top 10 gins in the world and in the top 100 spirits worldwide. At the same competition, Castrum Barrel aged gin won silver, the award being that much more valuable because it is awarded on the basis of three criteria — drink quality, design and price-quality ratio.

The rewards didn't stop there. Just a few months later, Castrum Barrel aged returned from the Berlin International Spirits Competition with a gold medal and was the best rated barrel aged gin in the entire competition. At the end of the year, at the International Grading of Brandy and Liqueur in Zagreb, it was declared a champion of gins, while Castrum London dry gin won the gold medal. The last medal, this time silver, came from London, from the International Wine and Spirits Competition.

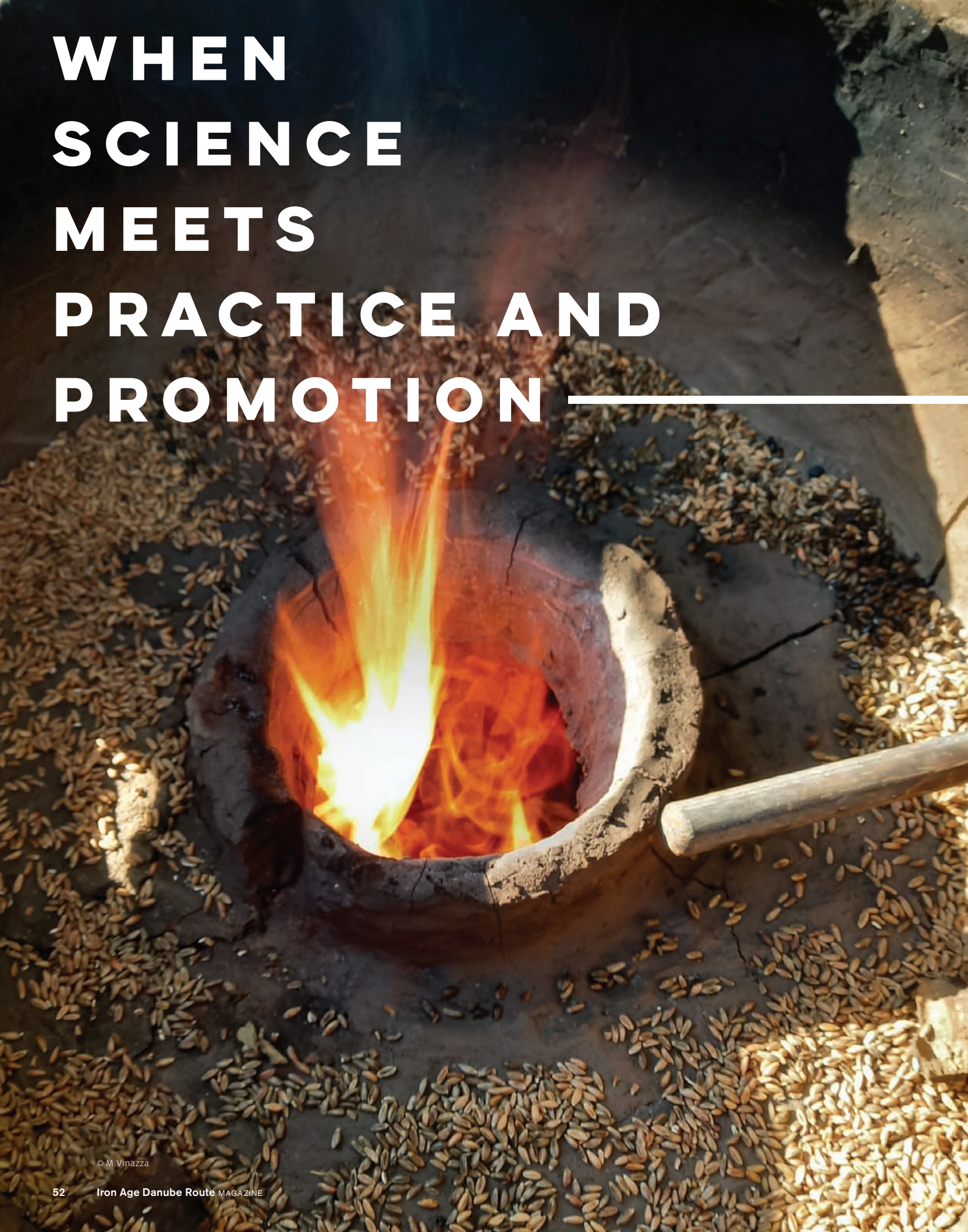
Although the very term “branding” can give some people headaches, it is a truly complex process, but it represents everything that we want a product and/or service to represent, and that's why it should be given a lot of attention. During the branding process itself, it is important to take care of how we want to present our product to the world, and what we are all increasingly convinced of is that people love when products and services have something special — when they have a story. Colours, logo, historical aspect, packaging, these are all components that should complement each other and create a story.

The great successes of this small distillery with a big heart are a sign that combining a good and quality product, carefully designed branding and their good presentation and marketing can really write a great story from a small, historically rich town.



# WHEN SCIENCE MEETS PRACTICE AND PROMOTION

---



**CONTRIBUTION OF  
EXPERIMENTAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
TO THE  
UNDERSTANDING  
AND PROMOTION  
OF PAST  
DIETARY  
PRACTICES**





ARCHAEOLOGISTS USE different methods to obtain information about the past diet. Sometimes the remains are so well preserved that archaeobotanists and archaeozoologists, for example, can identify plant or animal species already at the macroscopic level. At the same time, in recent decades we have been using a variety of scientific methods to uncover past dietary habits, based on the results of analyses of, for example, stable isotopes, lipids, DNA, and environmental studies. It is to the credit of projects such as PalaeoDiversiStyria (Interreg SI-AT) and Iron-Age-Danube (Interreg DTP) that such data have been collected in one place.

The range of archaeological finds provides partial information about past cooking and eating habits. However, since archaeological finds are only silent witnesses of the past, they are supplemented by the field of experimental archaeology. To facilitate the interpretation of archaeological data, in 2020, we started experiments in the courtyard of the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. We focused on three main aspects, the usability of the vessels, the functionality of the structures, and the way food was prepared. To this end, we used archaeological data to make replicas of vessels — objects interpreted as kitchen utensils, and structures such as hearths or ovens with mobile elements. The entire forming process was documented according to the guidelines of experimental archaeology to further the scientific analysis of the data. If we look more closely at the individual spectra of our work, we see the complexity of every single one. For example, the entire *chaîne opératoire* required for the manufacture of the vessels alone is very long. This is because the potter must know how to start the process from collecting and preparing the clay for manufacture to the firing structure, whether it be fired in a bonfire or in a pottery kiln.



© M. Vinazza

Experiments have been conducted over the years, mainly in the summer and autumn months. To better understand the annual cycle of nutrition, we created an 'archaeo-garden' where we grow plants known in different archaeological periods. The grains were provided by the University of Maribor Botanic Garden, a partner in both the PalaeoDiversiStyria and Iron-Age-Danube projects. Wild plants were also used for the preparation of the dishes, as gathering was one of the most important activities, as evidenced in particular by the macroscopic remains found through wet sieving and flotation. At the same time, we developed a sense of the time required for the different activities, from preparing the hearth to cooking a stew in a pot. We have prepared a variety of dishes. From baking fish in clay and kale leaves to roasting meat on skewers, portable ovens and stones. We made young cheese by using vinegar and baked bread on the stone, under the baking lid, and on a portable oven. Stews were prepared in replica pots, taking into account the results of the analysis of organic food residues (e.g. lipids), so some were based on vegetables and others on meat. Cereals were roasted and ground and used for preparing both bread and porridge, the latter working better.



© P. Janežič

The results of our experiments guided us in our final interpretation and remind us of the danger of generalised ideas about past practices. A good example is the replica of an oven with mobile elements, as we know it from the Most na Soči site, in which food can be baked and cooked and grain can be roasted, showing that it can be considered as a kind of prehistoric convectomat.

The experiences gained from the experiments contribute significantly to our understanding of the past and at the same time influence the nature of archaeological work, especially archaeological excavations. They contribute to becoming more aware of and attentive to the multiple traces we find in the archaeological record. In this way, archaeological science is developing in the direction of obtaining richer and historically overlooked data.

The past scientific and interdisciplinary approach to researching food habits and agricultural practices in the picturesque regions of Austrian Styria and northeastern Slovenia led to a groundbreaking partnership between six institutions, including archaeologists, botanists, universities, museums and municipalities. In 2013, this synergy led to HERITERA — From Nature to Human and Back, an initiative harmonizing history, science, gastronomy, and the promotion of the region's cultural and culinary heritage.



© M. Vinazza

As mentioned above, the PalaeoDiversiStyria project used modern scientific methods to study archaeological food remains, as well as uncover dietary habits and agricultural practices from prehistory to the time of the discovery of the New World. But it also made an important step further, it created the HERITERA brand that bridges the past and present, symbolising the scientific basis of the products, quality, regionality and historical diversity. It offers a range of products and services representing various archaeological sites and eras of the region, including food, artisanal products, cosmetics, wellness, agriculture and tourism. The carefully selected products meet strict criteria rooted in (pre)history, whether through archaeological finds and experiments, historical documents or bioarchaeological research.

HERITERA is not just about preserving the past, but reviving the flavours of millennia in ancient ingredients for the modern palate. It invites us to enjoy the flavours of a journey through time, where past and present coexist harmoniously, creating a unique and unforgettable gastronomic adventure.

# IRON

# AGE



# YOUTH



WITH ITS RICH, but rather unfamiliar, archaeological heritage Korčula attracts the attention of archaeologists from all over the world. Despite this, due to a long-term deficit of professional staff, archaeology and island sites are largely unknown to the local population. In order to encourage the education of the population, the City Museum of Korčula launched a program to popularize archaeology and archaeological heritage called the “Small Archaeological School of the Island of Korčula”. For two to three weeks, during autumn, residents of the island of Korčula have the opportunity to participate in archaeological workshops and excavations, and to listen to lectures on current research throughout the island. The practical part of the program is mainly intended for children and young people, while professional lectures are more interesting for adults. So far, around 300 people have participated in the project through lectures, workshops, field training and expert guidance.



Students from three island schools participated in archaeology popularization workshops that took place in cooperation with the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb. They were introduced to the basics of archaeology, excavation and the processing of archaeological artefacts after excavation through the workshops. The greatest impression on young people was made through field lessons at Iron Age sites, during which they participated in ongoing archaeological research. They received a direct insight into the excavation of a prehistoric mound and a hillfort. They were familiarized with actions preceding research, the stratigraphic excavation method, documenting artefacts and layers, and they participated in defining an Iron Age necropolis under expert supervision. Through a series of lectures open to the public, the participants met renowned scientists who have been researching the prehistoric communities of Black Corcyra for a number of years. The entire project put a particular emphasis on the protection and preservation of archaeological heritage as a permanent asset of the local and wider Adriatic area.

During the first two seasons of the project, numerous goals were achieved: a considerable interest in archaeology and archaeological remains was sparked, along with a surge in valuing and the need to preserve heritage in one's immediate surroundings.

# YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS

## EXPLORE



## BLACK CORCYRA

### (CORCYRA MELAINA)

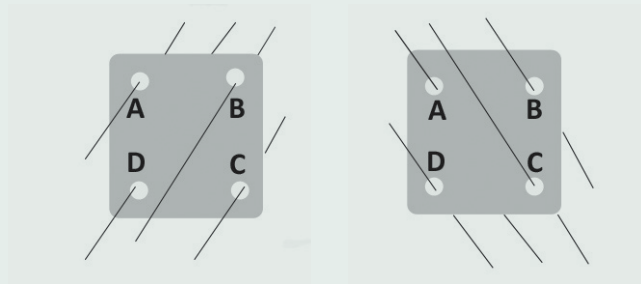
# T A B L E T

TABLET WEAVING has been known as a technique in Central Europe since the Late Bronze Age at the latest. The handling of tablet weaving is very easy, because you don't need a loom. Small wooden boards and two fixed attachment points are sufficient. You can also use solid cardboard instead of the wooden boards. With this technique you can make borders, belts or ribbons with a beautiful pattern yourself.

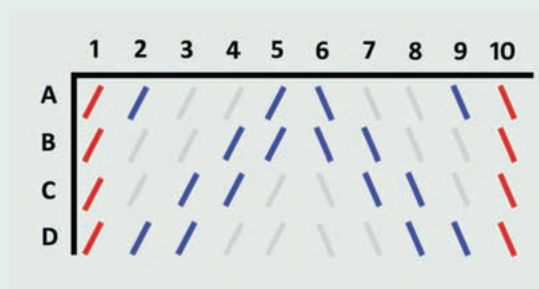
The pattern is created by threading the threads into the boards in a specific order and then turning the boards in a specific rhythm.

# W E A V I N G

- What you need...**
- Thick threads in three different colours: 8 red threads, 16 blue threads and 16 white threads (each ca. 1 m long)
  - A weft thread in red and a weaving fork that you can cut out of cardboard
  - 12 wooden boards or solid cardboard (approx. 5×5 cm) with a hole in each corner. Number the boards from 1–10 and each hole from A–D. You can also use old playing cards for the boards that you don't need anymore.



- Working steps:**
1. Knot all threads together at one end and tie them to a fixture (e.g., door handle or table leg)
  2. Now thread the individual threads through the holes in the boards: Four red threads through the holes on the first board. On the second board, a blue thread is pulled through hole A, a white thread through holes B and C, and a blue thread through hole D again... The threads from the board 1–5 are drawn in from the front, from board 6 onwards they are drawn in from the back. Use the sketch to get a nice pattern!



3. After you have pulled the threads through all the holes, you can arrange your boards: make sure that the numbered side of the boards is always on the right side and the top left hole is "A". Also, make sure the threads don't get tangled with others.
4. Now tie the end of the threads to another fastener or to your belt so that there is tension on the threads.
5. You can start weaving now: first pass the weft thread between the upper (A/B) and lower threads (C/D).
6. Now turn all the boards 90 degrees away from you and guide the weft thread back through the upper and lower threads of the board (see photo).



7. Take a pencil or an old popsicle stick and use it to press the weft thread firmly upwards. Then turn your boards again for 90 degrees and pass the weft thread between the top and bottom threads. Repeat this until you have the desired length for your band.

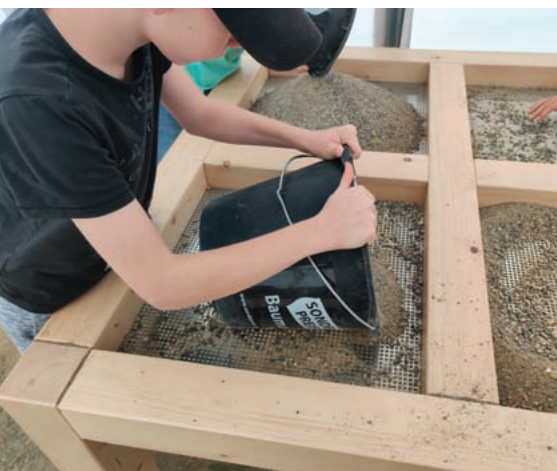




# JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

# AT HEUNEBURG

“DIE JUNIORFORSCHER” (junior researchers) is a project with a group of local children, carried out for several years in cooperation between the Heuneburg Celtic Museum of the municipality of Herbertingen and the Heuneburg Celtic City of Pyrene, an archaeological park operated by the State Palaces and Gardens of Baden-Württemberg on the site of the historic Heuneburg itself.



The junior researchers, currently consisting of eight to ten children between the ages of 8 and 13, meet twice a month in one of the two facilities to learn more about the Iron Age, the Heuneburg and the life of the Celts at the Danube. They are also given the opportunity to learn about and carry out archaeological methods and design educational formats in the museum. The projects program is primarily planned and carried out by the Celtic Museums educator Brigitte Steinacher and Andreas Heckenberger, museum educator and archaeologist of the Celtic town of Pyrene. Volunteers also occasionally support the museum educators in some parts of the programs. The aim of the project is to interest and educate local children in the historic Heuneburg, the Celts and in archaeology from an early age on.

The projects program aims to create an extracurricular place for children to acquire knowledge about these topics, to engage with them and to gain insight into museum and archaeological areas. This way, children can experience the historical dimension of the Celts at the Danube and the importance of the Iron Age Heuneburg.

The program carried out with the children is correspondingly diverse and covers all areas of the field. Among other things, the children were able to plan a guided tour through the Celtic Museum and carry it out as well as participate in the design of the exhibition.

The children are also currently building models of Celtic houses which will be presented in the museum's exhibition. The dedicated educational museum room of the Celtic town of Pyrene provides the junior researchers and the museum educators with all the relevant tools for building these house models.

In the Celtic town of Pyrene, the children can also practice some of the working techniques of the Celts: embossing bronze metal sheets, making fibulae, processing textiles

by weaving and felting as well as building and using ancient slingshots. The program was also accompanied by a tasty meal (including a stew), cooked by the children using products from the garden of the Celtic town. This garden only contains plants, which are archaeobotanical proven to have been used at the Iron Age Heuneburg.

An important part of the projects programs also includes the teaching of archaeological working techniques. In the so-called “Erlebnisausgrabung”, an experience excavation within the archaeological park of the Celtic town of Pyrene, the children can learn about measuring, excavation, documentation and restoration. The experience excavation consists of three artificial excavation sections and is equipped with replicas based on real finds. In addition to the preparation of excavation drawings and find reports, the children learn how to use pantographs and a cartomat. Moreover, they are also introduced to measuring with a levelling device and determining the age of wood by counting tree rings and applying the method of dendrochronology. Technically more complex methods such as taking aerial photos with a mini drone, point measurements with a lidar scanner, photogrammetry and examining botanical macro and micro samples under the microscope are further subjects the children were able to learn and carry out.

Such an insight into the versatility of the topic of the Celts motivates children to continue to study the Celts at the Iron Age Danube. It thus acts as a multiplier for their interest in their own cultural heritage. The contribution made by the cooperation between the Celtic Museum of the municipality of Herbertingen and the Heuneburg — Celtic City of Pyrene of the State Palaces and Gardens of Baden-Württemberg is priceless and clearly noticeable among the children and will hopefully find many imitators thanks to its radiance.

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

In the Early Iron Age (8<sup>th</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century BC), when European civilization and culture emerged in the Mediterranean, Novo mesto was one of the largest centres in Central Europe. Among the most important finds from this period are situlae, the bronze vessels for storing and serving drinks, sometimes richly decorated with figures.

No less than 16 situlae come from Novo mesto and after these exceptional artistic creations, the town of Novo mesto is called the city of the Situlae. The Situlae Festival, a festival of Iron Age life and culinary arts organized since 2016 in cooperation with the Municipality of Novo mesto and Dolenjska Museum, is dedicated to these remarkable monuments, which undoubtedly testify to the life of the Hallstatt people in this region.

With various activities, it offers visitors an all-day experience and understanding of the rich archaeological heritage of Dolenjska. At the Situlae Festival you can observe the elements of everyday life during the Early Iron Age in Dolenjska, learn about customs and watch local and foreign craftsmen creating handicrafts. You can take part in culinary workshops or watch animations of various martial arts and dances. You can also see reconstructions of attire. The central event highlights the prince and the princely family with their entourage. Everything you can see and taste is based on the results of experimental archaeology and numerous archaeological investigations at home and abroad. The celebration is enriched by a guided tour of the Museum's rich archaeological heritage and an evening concert with music with a touch of Iron Age.

Visit us on next Situlae Festival on Saturday, 8 June 2024 in Novo mesto!

P.S.

Photo: Boštjan Pucelj



**Diverse and Dynamic:  
The European Archaeology Days  
2023 in Slovenia**

EVROPSKI  
DNEVI  
ARHEOLOGIJE  
16 17 18 junij 2023



In June 2023, Slovenia for the fifth time hosted the European Archaeology Days (EDA) 2023, a dynamic three-day celebration of archaeology, bringing together archaeologists, scientists, locals, history enthusiasts, and curious tourists to celebrate Europe's and Slovenia's rich heritage. The program offered guided tours to explore archaeological sites such as prehistoric locations between Tolmin and Čadrg, the intriguing Šlemine site, the well-preserved Roman city of Emona, and the medieval village Otok pri Dobravi, showcasing the breadth of Slovenian history. EDA 2023 featured immersive workshops covering ancient crafts and techniques from the Neolithic era to the Roman and medieval periods. Participants could experience Neolithic life in Ajdovska jama, brew prehistoric beer with Skupina STIK, create mosaics in Metlika, indulge in Roman cuisine and music in Ljubljana, or even step into the shoes of a Roman for a day in Maribor. From archery and sword fighting to crafting medieval pottery, these hands-on experiences brought history to life, whether in Otok pri Dobravi's Medieval day or through uncovering archaeological mysteries in various museums like Loški muzej Škofja Loka, Mestni muzej Ljubljana, Dolenjski muzej Novo Mesto, Knjižnica Makse Samsa Ilirska Bistrica, and Belokranjski muzej Metlika. Lectures and discussions at various locations like Ig, Radovljica, and Slavina pri Pivki delved deep into Slovenian history, offering a comprehensive exploration of the region's archaeological heritage. The event showcased the power of preserving and celebrating our shared past. With knowledge exchange, hands-on experiences, and insightful discussions, EDA 2023 in Slovenia once again succeeded in making it an unforgettable event for all who attended. For more information, visit the official webpage: <https://arheoport.si/evropski-dnevi-arheologije2023/>

A. Č. V.

## Hallstatt days – a small festival that brings the Early Iron Age to life

As an integral part of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe “Iron Age Danube Route”, every year as part of the European Days of Archaeology and the Municipality of Kaptol Days, this small Slavonian town seeks to bring its visitors the scope of scientific research at the eponymous archaeological site, as well as the native inhabitant’s way of life during the Early Iron Age period. During a two-day event, which takes place every year on the third weekend in June, it is possible to attend lectures, visit exhibitions and the tourist-information trail “In the Footsteps of the Warriors” that takes us all the way to the research site, learn something new and get hands-on experience in workshops that present everyday activities of prehistoric man and taste products from local producers. Besides presenting the archaeological site “Kaptol”, which is indispensable every time, this year’s Hallstatt Days were thematically related to the Iron Age heritage of the Dolenjska region. Nurturing friendly relations with the Dolenjski Museum from Novo Mesto, the organizers of this event; the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, the Department of Archaeology of the University of Zagreb, the Municipality of Kaptol and the Zlatni Papuk Tourist Board have designed a program that presents Situla art through a series of activities. A lecture on Situla art of Novo Mesto was held on the first day, while on the next visitors could have fun in workshops making leather bracelets and miniature situlae. The highlight of the event was the ensemble show of the Prince’s Entourage from Novo Mesto, which depicted the arrival of the prince and princess with their entourage visiting Kaptol. A program rich in educational and entertaining content intended for a younger audience is complemented by activities for adults, such as a hike on the southern slopes of Papuk, a workshop on preparing Hallstatt food or tasting drinks from local producers who link their brand to the archaeological site of Kaptol. It was designed in such a way that while taking care of the cultural and historical heritage, it enables every visitor to have an authentic experience of this part of Slavonia.

K. R.

Photo: Borut Križ / DM NM



## Kelten Festival Asparn



The MAMUZ is dedicated to topics of 40,000 years of humankind. Various exhibitions and an open air site give visitors the opportunity to experience history. At the archaeological open air site of MAMUZ Schloss Asparn/Zaya historical festivals take place yearly:

40.000 BC: Mammoth hunters, Celts and Co.:  
6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May

Hun Festival:  
26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of August

Celtic Fires:  
14<sup>th</sup> of October

The MAMUZ Museum Mistelbach is shining a light on an extraordinary culture with its CELTS exhibition in 2023.

The Celts are fascinating. Even today there is an abundance of tales about the Celts, but which ones are true and which ones can be consigned to the realm of mythology is the question.

Greeks and Romans used the terms “Celts” or “Gauls” for groups they considered to be “barbarians”. But were they really barbarians?

Focusing on everyday life, art and rituals, the show gives us an understanding of the world in which the Celts lived, tells individual life stories and refutes common clichés.

How were their settlements organised? What artefacts still bear witness to Celtic metalworking and glass production? How did they worship gods such as Teutates or Cernunnos at their sacred sites? And why did Julius Caesar describe the Celts as brave warriors? Visitors to the exhibition can look forward to the latest scientific knowledge and unique finds.

E. W.

## Lecture and Hallstatt cookbook

This year, at the end of June, after the season of archaeological excavation at the Sveti Križ and Gračec sites, a lecture was held in the Municipal Library of Ante Kovačić in Marija Gorica near Zagreb, in order to familiarize the general public with the results and finds. A part of the rampart from 1000 BC was investigated at the Gračec site, while on the Sveti Križ site, one house, a smithy and a ritual space dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries BC were investigated. Research and lectures were financed through the **Trans Rivers** project of the Croatian Science Foundation: <https://m.facebook.com/people/Project-Trans-Rivers/100067597014449/>

After the lecture, caterers from the Stari fenjeri restaurant near Požega cooked prehistoric dishes according to the Hallstatt cookbook, which was created as a result of the INTEREG Iron-Age-Danube project. They prepared bean, millet and nettle porridge with bacon, smoked trout, wheat millets baked on a stone, pork liver with apples baked on a stone and pork belly baked on a stone and coated with honey. The preparation of prehistoric food was financed by the Zagreb County. About eighty visitors enjoyed archaeology, food and pleasant company during the warm June night.


J. M. M.



300 pr. n. št. - 300 pr. n. št.

800 BC - 300 BC

Early iron age



-300

300

Bronasta doba

2.300 pr. n. št. - 800 pr. n. št.

Bronze age

Bronastodobna metalurška  
Bronze age me...





Neolitik  
Neolithic

Neolitikski lovci  
Neolithic hunters

Starejša kamena doba - paleolitik  
Old stone age - paleolithic

2,6 m







## Reconstructed Celtic war chariot in the Posavje Museum Brežice

The exhibition planned by the Posavje museum Brežice in 2023 will present the results of recent archaeological research at the eminent archaeological site of Sejmišče (fairground) in Brežice, where over 160 graves from the Late Iron Age (La Tène culture) have been discovered so far, dating from the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. The research has made an important contribution to the knowledge of the Late Iron Age in Posavje and in the wider region. The chariot burials known from the Iron Age are a rarity — only three have been discovered in Slovenia — all three in Brežice. Due to the funeral ritual, which involved burning and ritual destruction of the warrior's possessions, some artefacts are badly damaged and only partially preserved. Through interpretation, which draws on information from archaeological research and comparisons with similar sites, and includes various possibilities for visualising the Celtic heritage — from the central part of the exhibition, represented by reconstruction of a war chariot to the use of digital technologies — it is possible to bring the invisible and intangible part of the Iron Age heritage closer to the public and thus encourage a sympathetic attitude towards the protection of this exceptional site, which has not yet been fully excavated and is threatened by frequent building interventions due to its location in an urban area.

J. P.



## The Illyrian helmet from Zakotorac

On January 26<sup>th</sup> 2023, in the premises of the Revelin fortress in Dubrovnik, the Dubrovnik museums opened the exhibition “The Illyrian helmet from Zakotorac” authored by Domagoj Perkić. Exhibition presented a bronze Illyrian helmet of the III A2-a type to the public after long-term conservation and restoration. The exceptional find of the Illyrian helmet, as well as numerous other valuable grave items, are the result of archaeological investigations of a grave from the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC at „Gomile“ site, in the village of Zakotorac on the Pelješac peninsula. Archaeological site „Gomile“ is an exceptionally valuable site, a prehistoric cemetery under the tumuli and the drywall structures added to the tumuli. This recognizable funerary architecture is characteristic resting place of the dead that marked the landscape at the twilight of prehistory in the southern part of the eastern Adriatic coast. The research was carried out in the period from 2020 to 2022, and was coordinated by the Center for Prehistoric Research, with the participation of Dubrovnik Museums, the Institute of Archaeology and the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb. Fellow archaeologists from the Korčula City Museum and the Dolenjska Museum of Novo Mesto also occasionally participated.

D. P.

Slovenska arheologija skozi zvoke,  
simbole in prve zapisane besede.

# Čivki iz preteklosti

Arheološki muzej Frankfurt

13.10.2023

17.3.2024

ARCHAEOLOGISCHES  
MUSEUM FRANKFURT



Slovenian archaeology through  
sounds, symbols and first written words

# Tweets from the Past

Frankfurt Archaeological  
Museum

NARODNI  
MUZEJ  
SLOVENIJE

SLOVENIA  
NATIONAL MUSEUM

## Tweets from the Past: Slovenian Archaeology through Sounds, Symbols and First Written Words

The exhibition was created on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Frankfurter Buchmesse and the invitation extended to Slovenia as the Guest of Honour. The exhibition is a collaboration of ten Slovenian museums that contributed 110 original exhibits, five copies and one reconstruction. Its main aim is to offer a glimpse into the rich and diverse archaeological heritage of Slovenia while at the same time honouring the book — the *raison d'être* of the exhibition. Archaeological research only rarely leads to the discovery of books, but the material remains do shed light on the development of the human thought, which we strive to capture in printed books and their digital counterparts. Long before a printed book, long before a written word, there was speech, and before speech there was rhythmic movement and proto-musicality. Very early on, musicality or a form of music became an important part of the everyday life of our ancestors. It presumably also played a crucial role in their cognitive development and the development of the capacity for flexible social interactions. What may be even more important is that music supported the creation of the metaphoric realm and with it symbolic thinking. Only then was it possible to develop symbolic systems such as language, writing, weights and measures, money and many others.

These considerations inspired the exhibition subtitle, which announces three specific categories of exhibits. The first category comprises artefacts associated with sounds and music, the second category encompasses objects that are either vehicles for symbols or are symbols themselves, while the third category consists of archaeological finds bearing the earliest inscriptions recorded in Slovenia.

With their sounds, symbols and first written words, these artefacts illuminate a more profound dimension of the people in the past pertaining to their spirituality, entertainment and understanding of the world. They also demonstrate the innate human need to express the abstract, to create the symbolic and to permanently record stories, vows and even forbidden words. The artefacts are potent manifestations of the development of human creativity that finally led to one of its supreme achievements — the book.

D. P.



## Sites of Sveti Križ and Gračec

During December 2023, in the Municipal Library of Ante Kovačić in Marija Gorica near Zagreb, we plan to make an exhibition about the finds from the sites of Sveti Križ and Gračec. Sveti Križ has been excavated for many years, but unfortunately great finds from the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries BC were not presented to the general public. Since we are talking about finds from the settlement, we plan to exhibit ceramic and stone material that was used in everyday activities, whorls and loom weights that were used for textile production, and numerous metal finds that are not so common in other prehistoric settlements. Iron knives and awls, iron spearheads, slag that is a by-product of iron production, bronze fibulae of various types and bronze bracelets will be presented. From the Gračec site, we plan to exhibit ceramic and stone material and several different portable hearths that we found in an excavated house from 1000 BC. In addition to the exhibited material, the exhibition will be accompanied by additional textual and visual content on posters. The plan is also to print an accompanying catalogue that will complete the story of these two important sites.

J. M. M.



## Restoration of Metal Artefacts Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto

Artefacts decay over time in order to prevent complete destruction and at least prolong the existence of archaeological finds, professional conservation and restoration procedures are necessary.

**Restoration and conservation** of archaeological artefacts includes cleaning, damage repair, preservation, maintenance, addition, reconstruction and prevention of further deterioration.

Among the metal items that were in use in the second millennium BC, artefacts made of bronze and related copper alloys predominate, while iron appears in Dolenjska at the beginning of the first millennium BC. Both bronze and iron are the basic metals from which most of the metal items in the Iron Age are produced. In this period only rare items were made of tin, lead and gold. Metal artefacts found in the soil are brittle, crumbly and without any strength, bronze is mostly covered with a green patina and generally damaged, and iron is damaged beyond recognition, mostly preserved only in the form of corrosion. During archaeological excavations, artefacts are lifted together with the surrounding soil and transferred to the restoration workshop for further processing.

The exhibition held from June 9<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 at Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto, presented both procedures with metal archaeological items, as well as restoration processes on them. They are shown in photographs and with artefacts in various stages of processing.

B. K.



# FIRST KINGS OF EUROPE

## First Kings of Europe

The exhibition project First kings of Europe, organized by the Field museum in Chicago, authored by archaeologists Dr. William Parkinson and Dr. Attila Gyucha, describes the transformation of society from equal farmers from the Late Stone Age to the time of Iron Age rulers, which is extremely well documented archaeologically in the area of Southeastern Europe. The diverse archaeological material tells its story and reveals to the audience how in Southeast Europe a small number of individuals established enormous power and influence by accumulating wealth, controlling trade, rituals, ceremonies and warfare.

26 institutions from 11 countries (Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Kosovo) are participating in this exhibition project which is extremely special due to the fact that part of the material was seen for the first time outside the borders of its own country and so many objects (more than 700) were exhibited together for the first time. Some highlights of the exhibition are Bronze and Iron Age masterpieces of sword making and armour; the glimmering gold crown of a Thracian prince, featuring a wreath of gold leaves and the figure of Nike, the Goddess of victory; the famous "Borovo Treasure" of sphinx and horse-shaped drinking cups, part of a feasting set once owned by King Kotys I and multimedia video, audio, and soundscapes made to immerse you in ceremonial rituals of these eras.

J. B.

Dates and venues of the exhibition project "First Kings of Europe":

20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023

"Ritual and Memory"

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW)

New York University, USA

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

"The First Kings of Europe"

Field Museum, Chicago, USA

4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025

"The First Kings of Europe"

Canadian Museum of History  
Gatineau, Canada

## IRON AGE HIGHLIGHTS FROM MUSEUMS IN THE DANUBE REGION

by **Bence Soós**

The 'Golden Deer of Zöldhalompusztá', the most emblematic and enigmatic artefact from the Iron Age of the Carpathian Basin, was found on the outskirts of Mezőkeresztes in 1928. Workers were deepening a new grave pit in the centre of a mound, about 25 m in diameter, in a private graveyard of a local family when they came across the patch of admixed cremated bone fragments and gold objects. Originally, the hoard contained other objects (e.g. a rusty iron piece resembling a helmet) besides the 136 gold flitters, the gold chain adorned with lion figurines and the gold sheet deer figurine; however, they have since been lost.

The treasure — especially the golden deer figurine — quickly became the focus of research attention. Nándor Fettich proved shortly after the discovery that the style and technological details of the golden deer show close similarity with the so-called Scythian animal style, examples of which have been recovered from the kurgans hiding the burials of the Scythian elite and rulers in the northern coastal area of the Black Sea and the Kuban Region in the foreground of the Caucasus. In a larger context, the motifs and figurines of this style can be traced back to China, where they appeared on leather and textile artefacts and tools and weapons made from organic and inorganic materials of diverse horse-nomadic communities from the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC. However, the Golden Deer of Zöldhalompusztá was not made at the dawn of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC but reflects the tastes of the 7<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> century BC steppe world instead. A small design detail provides evidence of that: a bird of prey head, depicted by the neck of the deer figurine, meaning that the 'deer' is actually a scene with multiple characters. Representations with multiple characters only appeared in Scythian territory in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC.

According to the most widely cited hypothesis, these large gold sheet figurines adorned shields, but it is equally likely that they decorated bow quivers (*gorytoi* in Greek) or arrow quivers. The structure of the objects makes the quiver theory slightly more probable because the figurine could be fastened with small loops soldered onto the backside of the sheet. Scythian-style finds, with roots and cultural background in the steppe zone, appeared in the second half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC in the eastern part of the Carpathian Basin, partially simultaneously with the emergence of Scythia in the Pontic Region. The process culminated in the emergence of the so-called Vekerzug Culture at the end of the century. This is the period when free companies of eastern origin, probably led by warlords born back in the steppe, pillaged throughout several regions and settlements of Central Europe. The one-time owner of the Golden Deer of Zöldhalompusztá could have been one of these military leaders, who probably did his best to reproduce the ornate attire and insignia of rank known to us from the exceptionally lavish burials of the rulers of Crimea and the Kuban Region (e.g. the kurgans of Kostromskaya, Kul' Oba, and Kelermes) to resemble them when marching through the fields of the Great Hungarian Plain. The artefact itself was perhaps made by goldsmiths in the Pontic Region and had travelled hundreds of kilometres to reach its place of discovery by the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.



**GOLD**



**EN**

**DEER**

**OF ZÖLDHALOMPUSZTA**



Novo mesto,  
Kapiteljska njiva,  
different graves.  
© Borut Križ/DM NM



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



**FOLLOW THE IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE**  
**PROTECT OUR COMMON HERITAGE**  
All IADR Association's regular membership fees  
are available at the discounted rate of 20%  
until the end of 2021.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM FOR THE IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE ASSOCIATION

Name of the organization

Address

e-mail

Type of the organization

Membership Type

Date

Signature



Please fill, cut out, and send to:  
**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.



