

hole which is the varying and not always easily identifiable deposit systems which have been devised by our universities. Thus, this Master's thesis by Katrin Ludwig – now studying for a PhD dealing with the Rhein-Neckar estuary during the Late Hallstatt and Early La Tène period – supervised in Bonn by Hans-Eckhart Joachim and presented in 2007 makes a welcome addition to the main publication series of the Landesamt für Denkmalpflege in the Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart.

The site of the Herrnbrunnenbuckel, north-west of Bretten-Bauerbach, is situated on the Kraichgau and lies in an area of a Triassic mudstone stratum between Odenwald and Black Forest and bordered by the Upper Rhine and Neckar. After a summary of the region's geomorphology and geology, Ludwig reviews the archaeological history of the area beginning with the excavation by Dean Karl Wilhelmi in 1827–1828 of the multi-period barrow cemetery ›Drei Bückel‹, Sinsheim. The end of the nineteenth century saw a marked concentration in settlement archaeology in the region followed by a period of reorganisation of archaeology in Baden culminating in 1939 with the refurbishing of the Landesamt für Ur- und Frühgeschichte in the Castle of Karlsruhe. A major set-back was the destruction of the Castle in September 1944. The subsequent post-war period in north Baden was largely one of stagnation while, as Ludwig notes, in contrast, in the southern part of Baden-Württemberg investigations of Hallstatt barrows took place both before and after the war. Hartwig Zürn's research stands out notably as regards the transition between the late Hallstatt and the La Tène A period. From 1950 the still-continuing investigations of the Heuneburg and the surrounding area have been followed by other investigations of hill-top settlements of late Hallstatt and early La Tène and have in recent years been augmented by the excavation of a number of sites in the north-eastern Black Forest.

As for burial evidence, 1959 saw the excavation of the important – but hardly ›large‹ as Ludwig describes it – early La Tène flat cemetery of Nebringen while the sixties saw the publication of important overviews both by Franz Fischer and Christa Liebschwager – the latter, alas, an unpublished Freiburg dissertation. Perhaps a possible solution to the ›invisible thesis‹ problem is Frieder Klein's 1985 dissertation on the late Hallstatt and early La Tène settlement material (Siedlungsfunde der ausgehenden Späthallstatt- und frühen Latènezeit in Württemberg, Diss. Tübingen, published on the web 2004) including the first in-depth study of the pottery of the Stuttgart and Tübingen area. This thesis was available on the web in 2004 but the URL quoted by Ludwig is no longer active. For the later La Tène phases Ludwig notes the identification of Viereckschanzen in the Kraichgau by aerial survey and the overview of the area between the Black Forest and Nördlinger Ries in Gunter Wieland's – published! – thesis of 1996. Ludwig closes her survey with the observation that, unlike other regions Kraichgau and north-west Baden lack a comprehensive overview for the late Hallstatt and La Tène periods – indeed the area

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Compared with many other disciplines, in addition to the seemingly ever-expanding periodical literature, archaeology is well provided with publication outlets. However, the increase in popularity in Germany of the Master's degree in place of the Doctorate due as much as anything to economic pressures has resulted in an increase of the number of projects in search of a publisher. Thanks to British Archaeological Reports – very much more than British in its coverage – Habelt's ›Universitätsforschungen zur prähistorischen Archäologie‹ and the many series published by Marie Leidorf at least mean that some theses are saved from being buried in that black

is dealt with in three separate volumes of the ›Führer zu archäologischen Denkmälern in Deutschland‹.

The remaining eight sections of the volume describe the excavations of 1995–1997 on the southern slopes of the Herrnbrunnenbuckel including a very detailed catalogue of more than a hundred features and finds supported by – mainly – line drawings; one section expatiates on animal bones and on plant remains which give evidence of extensive agricultural activity. The main feature of the excavations was a late Hallstatt and early La Tène settlement with a ditch of 270 metres and some forty-six pits with a single pit-house. As one might expect, pottery finds predominate, with only a handful of bronzes, a situation typical of southwestern Germany. The pottery already shows features of early La Tène forms. As Ludwig notes, the association of the latter with two Hallstatt D_{2/3} Paukenfibeln and four Hallstatt D₃ Fußzierfibeln offers a text-book example of the problems of establishing typologies in the transitional period between the end of Hallstatt and the beginning of La Tène. Otherwise, the site produced a fairly typical range of domestic material – loom-weights and spindle whorls and a fragment of a millstone; an odd-one-out was an iron socketed arrow-head which, as Ludwig comments, is difficult to place chronologically with any certainty.

A later, La Tène C₂/D₁, settlement was detected on the Herrnbrunnenbuckel, and amongst the finds the handle of a Dressel 1a amphora can be related to the distribution of such southern imports along the Neckar, evidence of the long-distance trading routes in the period which extended from the Mediterranean to southern Britain.

While it must be said that there is nothing out of the ordinary amongst the settlement finds, this is not the case with the burial evidence, scanty though this may be. Marking a period after the abandonment of the earlier settlement are two inhumation graves, dated by Ludwig to La Tène B₂ or possibly a little later although I would favour earlier rather than later. Both graves, considerably disturbed by subsequent agricultural activity, contained an iron sword and spear. Those in Grave 1 appear the better preserved, and the scabbard has a ›dragon-pair‹ identified by Ludwig as De Navarro's Type II – the earliest of the three identified – more recently subdivided by Nathalie Ginoux (*Le thème symbolique de ›la paire de dragons‹ sur les fourreaux celtiques [IVe–IIe siècles avant J.-C.]*. BAR International Series 1702 [Oxford 2007] esp. 90–102) into her ›Lyres zoomorphes‹ Type 1A and B and dated to La Tène B₁–2. Of a handful of dragon-pair swords of any form known so far from German locations this is only the second of this type. Turning to the spear from Grave 1 with its seven groups of three piercings through the blade, Ludwig's discussion shows that she agrees with our interpretation of these as symbolic items, standards rather than offensive weapons. To her citations one may add Nathalie Ginoux on the cemetery of Plessis-Gassot in the Val d'Oise (*Élites guerrières au nord de la Seine au début du IIIe siècle av. J.-C. La nécropole celtique du Plessis-Gassot [Val-*

d'Oise]. *Revue du Nord*, Hors série, Collection Art et Archéologie 15 [Lille 2009], esp. 91 and fig. 19) and Peter C. Ramsel (*Die durchbrochen gearbeitete Lanzenspitze aus Grab 180 von Mannersdorf/Lgb., Flur Reinthal Süd. Archäologisch-kunsthistorische Analyse*. *Pravěk N. R.* 16, 2006, 185–200) who confirms the links in the earlier La Tène phases between Champagne and Central Europe which are supported by the distributions of the fifteen or so known examples of spears with pierced blades.

Undoubtedly the chef d'oeuvre of the finds from the Bretten-Bauerbach excavations is however the Linsenflasche with decoration executed with tin foil, also from Grave 1. In contrast to the fairly mundane range of pottery from the settlement, this must be regarded as one of the finest examples of its form to have been brought to light (Taf. 33A). Ludwig gives a useful summary of what is known as to the distribution and dating of this largely Central European type to which one may add Markus Schussmann's study of the La Tène period in the southern part of central Franconia (*Die Latènezeit im südlichen Mittelfranken*. *Universitätsforsch. Prähist. Arch.* 161 [Bonn 2008], esp. 221–224); her dating to La Tène B₂ is reasonable and fits with the other objects in the grave. As to the tin-foil decoration Ludwig notes only three other examples in her second list – from Bad Nauheim-Uelvetersheim (Kr. Mainz-Bingen) and Alzey – with the Bretten-Bauerbach example being the earliest. (In passing, it must be observed that not to have included the publication details in her list was a mistake). As to the decoration, having had the opportunity to study the Linsenflasche – thanks to Karl Banghard and Rolf-Heiner Behrends – I can only repeat my previous impression that the lay-out fits into the vocabulary of the generally La Tène B₁ Vegetal/Waldalgesheim ›style‹, remembering that elements of the style can be seen in objects of the succeeding phase. And another caveat: the drawing reproduced by Ludwig gives a distinctly ›cleaned up‹ version of the original.

Perhaps it is too much to ask but I miss an, albeit subjective, concluding section which would have allowed Ludwig to muse on the history of the site and particularly the two graves. Why were these two isolated ›warriors‹ – or high status individuals – laid to rest with grave goods certainly foreign to the region?

There remain a few other points of detail. The line illustrations are serviceable but a little on the minimalist side; certainly, both selected aspects of the excavations and finds would have benefited from photographs, notably the Linsenflasche from Grave 1 which is limited to one line reconstruction of the decoration and one colour photo on the cover. Although I know from experience that this is not an easy task, good photographic images do exist. Also, the reconstruction of the ›dragon-pair‹ sword (fig. 31) would have been more believable with a detailed illustration of the actual conserved state of the scabbard.

Such relatively minor criticisms apart, Katrin Ludwig is to be congratulated for a task well done. As she herself comments, the excavations on the Herrnbrunnenbuckel

have allowed new insights into the nature of rural settlement in the late Hallstatt and early La Tène periods in an area previously largely known only from surface finds. Certainly, one hopes for further work on the Kraichgau which will extend the chronological overview of the area's settlement history.

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