

CLAUS DOBIAT, SUSANNE SIEVERS und THOMAS STÖLLNER (Hrsg.), **Dürrnberg und Manching: Wirtschaftsarchäologie im ostkeltischen Raum**. Römisch-Germanische Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Kolloquien zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Band 7. Dr. Rudolf Habelt, Bonn 2002. 382 Seiten, 187 Abbildungen, 6 Tafeln.

This attractive new volume presents 31 papers, with a concluding summary, from an international conference organized by the Vorgeschichtliches Seminar at Marburg University and by the Römisch-Germanische Kommission and held at Hallein, Austria, in October of 1998. Scholars from ten countries are represented among the authors. The plan of the conference was to use the results of recent fieldwork at the Dürrnberg and at Manching, two sites of great importance for any consideration of Late Iron Age economy, as points of departure for wide-ranging examinations of economic processes in Late Iron Age Europe. The geographical emphasis is on lands between the Rhine and Slovakia. Eight papers focus on the Dürrnberg and its environs, seven on Manching, and the rest concern other sites, other regions, and more general themes.

The papers address seven major topics. The first is textual evidence for trade and economy among the Iron Age Celts (G. Dobesch). A second theme concerns theoretical models for the Late Iron Age economy (O. H. Urban, N. Venclová). Third, three papers focus on environmental topics (H. Küster, M. Peters, D. Dreslerová). Fourth are studies of specific archaeological sites (papers by T. Stöllner and by W. Lobisser and K. Löcker on the Dürrnberg; S. Sievers with two papers on Manching; M. Leicht on Manching; A. Schäfer on iron at Manching, Kelheim, and Berching-Pollanten; P. Drda on Závist; and M. Čížmář on Staré Hradisko). A fifth group are studies of landscapes (O. Büchsenschütz on Gaul, C.-M. Hüssen on small sites around Manching, W. Irlinger on southern Bavaria, G. Wieland on Baden-Württemberg, J. Waldhauser on Bohemia, K. Pieta on Slovakia, and P. C. Ramsel on the Traisental). A sixth theme consists of papers on the analysis of specific materials (C. Brand on graphite-clay pottery and glass; W. Groenman-van Waateringe on skin and fur; H. Aspöck, H. Auer, O. Picher, and T. Stöllner on preserved excrement and on issues concerning health; E. Pucher on animal bones; I. Swidrak and A. Schmidl on plant

remains; N. Boenke on subsistence and on wood use; R. Gebhard and U. Wagner on pottery; and P. Sankot on bronze workshops). The seventh theme is the end of the oppida (papers by V. Salač and S. Rieckhoff). The volume concludes with a summary by H.-E. Joachim.

The papers present excellent, up-to-date information and interpretation about many key Late Iron Age sites in Europe, especially the Dürrnberg and Manching, but including a wide range of other places. Footnotes are extensive throughout the volume, and readers can easily find references to lead them to more detailed publications.

The articles about Late Iron Age settlement and economy in the various landscapes treated are especially valuable, because until recently information about small settlements has been difficult to compile and compare. Irlinger's paper on small settlements in southern Bavaria, Wieland's on southwest Germany, Waldhauser's on Bohemia, and Pieta's on Slovakia are very useful reviews of the available evidence. As these papers show, recent attention to the smaller sites is providing rich new information about the relationships between the much more numerous rural communities and those at the oppida that have long been the focus of research efforts.

Papers about special materials, such as pottery, glass, and skin and fur, include well-informed, current discussion of results of natural scientific studies about these substances. Those papers show how the results obtained through such analyses contribute to our understanding of cultural and historical questions regarding the Late Iron Age economy.

The debates about the reasons for the decline of the oppida around the middle of the first century BC, and about the character of the cultural landscape of southern Germany and neighboring regions after that decline, are well represented. Salač argues that disruption of trade networks was a major factor in the decline of the oppida. Drda suggests that trade may not have been such an important element in the economies of the oppida and that it may not have played such a decisive role. Rieckhoff proposes that epidemics may have been significant factors in the end of the oppida. On the much-discussed topic of the character of the cultural landscape of southern Bavaria after the decline of the oppida, Rieckhoff and Hüssen provide differing views. Rieckhoff argues that population of the region declined, and new groups moved in from the north and the east. Hüssen interprets the evidence to indicate persistence of local populations, with only limited immigration but with increased interaction between the local communities and other regions.

In the papers that deal with different parts of temperate Europe, several common themes emerge. From Gaul in the west to Slovakia in the east, major changes are apparent during La Tène C, including the rise of centers, intensification of economic activity, beginning of series production, and the appearance of coinage. Recent evidence shows that the oppida were not the only centers of manufacturing and trade. Excavations at sites

such as Levroux and Aulnat in France and at Berching-Pollanten and Stöffling in Bavaria show how widespread intensive manufacturing and commerce were at the end of the Iron Age. On the topic of specialized workshop quarters within the oppida, a number of papers show that compelling evidence for highly specialized industrial areas is still lacking. As more excavation results from different oppida are published, the spatial distributions of most craft activities seem to be similar to those documented by Čížmař at Staré Hradisko, though for Manching, Sievers calls attention to evidence that may suggest some areas of the settlement in which specialized manufacturing took place. In reading these papers, one is struck by how fundamentally similar the processes of change were across the whole central part of the European continent during the final two centuries BC.

The volume contains a large number of very good maps and site plans, as well as useful line drawings and photographs.

This book is an excellent addition to the literature on Late Iron Age Europe, for the new data presented, for the syntheses by experts, and for the thoughtful views about this dynamic and important period in European development.

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