

The work radically questions the basis of Iron-Age social archaeology, submitting it to a systematic analysis. The results, above all the conclusion that prestige clearly played a much greater role than status, will have a lasting impact on social archaeology. When Schumann concludes his remarkable study with the words that we are only at the start of our investigation of the social structures of the Hallstatt period, this is surely a realistic assessment, with which we can only agree. It is to be hoped that it will be continued with the same systematic approach, care and open-mindedness that characterises Schumann's work.

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GEORG TIEFENGRABER / KARIN WILTSCHKE-SCHROTTA, Der Dürrenberg bei Hallein. Die Gräbergruppe Hexenwandfeld. With a contribution by Mona Abd El Karem. Dürrenberg-Forschungen volume 7. Verlag Marie Leidorf, Rahden / Westf. 2014. € 54.80. ISBN 978-3-89646-757-7. 260 pages with 102 (primarily coloured) illustrations, 16 tables, 43 plans incl. 53 plates, and 7 inserts.

The publication of the “Hexenwandfeld” is the seventh of ten volumes of “Dürrenberg-Forschungen” (Dürrenberg Studies) issued by now. It belongs to the section “Grave Studies” (“Gräberkunde”) – one of four sections, next to “Mining”, “Natural sciences” and “Settlement” – which also incorporates the grave groups of “Kammelhöhe” and “Sonneben” (published in 2012), “Moserfeld-Osthang” (published in 2012), “Lettenbühl” and “Friedhof” (published in 2015) and “Römersteig” (published in 2015).

The introduction (pp. 9–15) by Georg Tiefengraber already shows clearly that the “Hexenwandfeld” has a long and inhomogeneous research history. Therefore, volume 7 of “Dürrenberg-Forschungen” pursues two major aims: On the one hand, it focuses on the revision of the eastern grave group situated in the forest – the “Hexenwandwald” –, excavated early on and published in “Dürrenberg-Forschungen” 1 and 2. Further information is added by new excavations as well as by the results of physical anthropology and archaeozoology. On the other hand, the volume focuses on the 22 graves excavated in the 1990s in a meadow area, the so-called “Hexenwandwiese”. For reasons of manageability, both areas are united under the term “Hexenwandfeld”. Altogether, 29 graves with at least 72 burials are known by now, including the old finds from the 19th century.

None of the persons involved in the writing of this volume took part in the excavations – however, one has to agree with Tiefengraber that this distance also permits a more neutral, critical scrutinisation of the documentation. The participation of the anthropologist Karin Wiltschke-Schrotta on all volumes of the section “grave studies” is supposed to direct the different authors to a compatible “*modus operandi*” (p. 13).

Chapter 2 (pp. 16–21) deals with “Methodical and Source-critical Preliminary Notes”. Due to the chequered excavation history of the “Hexenwandfeld”, we are dealing with an inhomogeneous documentation. There are descriptions of the archaeological record from the early excavations conducted by Olivier Klose 1928–1932, but no drawings exist. During the excavation of grave XVI (later grave 112), the one with the famous bronze beak-spouted jug (“Schnabelkanne”), photo-

graphs were taken on-site, but the archaeological record is represented only to a limited extent. The same has to be stated for the photographical documentation by Ernst Penninger in 1953 and 1959, which, however, was more extensive and has been combined with drawings of the archaeological record.

Penninger's handling of grave plans is portrayed instructively by using grave 50 as an example. He produced predominantly simple ballpen outlines, "field drawings" ("Feldzeichnungen") that were re-drawn schematically and supplemented with comments in a second step. In a third step, further notes by Penninger were integrated into the preparation of so-called "clean plans" ("Reinpläne"). The same applies to the fourth step, the scaled implementation of these plans on millimetre paper. For the fifth and last step, the plans were drawn in ink and made more 'visually attractive'. I don't want to judge on the intention of such a "prettification" ("Behübschung", p. 16) or 'clearing up of plans' ("Planbereinigung", p. 17), but it is to be considered positive that Tiefengraber unveils the procedure and thus helps to assess the published drawings.

Later excavations were of course accompanied by a considerable improvement in documentation standards which permits assessment also for the old excavations. Nevertheless, sometimes it was hard to place single graves in the established coordinate system, which was only possible by including all documentation levels. Since 1990, numerous new graves were discovered in the area of the three conspicuous "grave terraces" ("Gräberterrassen") of the "Hexenwandfeld" and already known complexes were re-examined on-site. What characterises the graves of the Dürrenberg *in toto* are complex and sometimes secondary burial practices mirrored in diverse overlappings of grave structures, the subsequent heightening and possibly sharing of barrows.

The grave group "Hexenwandfeld" is discussed in greater detail in chapter 3 (pp. 22–206). Following the general description of the topography Tiefengraber clarifies that the separation of grave groups around the Moserstein is due to analytical or practical reasons rather than to historical ones – some of the (separately published) Dürrenberg grave groups might have been coherent areas. While the following outline of the history of excavation and research completes the picture, it also repeats information already given. The text of chapters 1 and 3 in particular could have been condensed more strongly in order to avoid redundancies.

The highlight of the early excavations by Klose – this again becomes evident – is represented by the opening of one of the greatest tumuli of the Dürrenberg in 1932. Besides the remains of a two-wheeled chariot, the already mentioned beak-spouted jug was found in this antequely disturbed grave (number 112). A detailed report was published posthumous. With Klose's death in 1933 the first phase of the investigation of the "Hexenwandfeld" ended. Only twenty years later, between 1953 and 1979, field work was continued by Penninger and later by Fritz Moosleitner. This second phase of the excavations is characterised by additional investigations showing that only sectors or higher levels of graves had been recorded throughout the previous excavations. The third phase of the examination of the "Hexenwandfeld" comprises the years 1990–1994. In five campaigns under the direction of Kurt W. Zeller 22 new graves were discovered and two previously excavated graves were re-examined. Although the "Hexenwandfeld" is very likely still not excavated completely, it nevertheless is one of the best known grave groups on the Dürrenberg.

The "Remarks on Plates, Plans and Catalogue" (pp. 26–27) are helpful to comprehend grave numbers or 'grave complexes' ("Grabkomplexe") and the structure of the following "Grave Catalogue" (pp. 33–206) assembled by Tiefengraber and Wiltshcke-Schrotta. Descriptions of the earlier excavations were supplemented by the outcome of further archaeological digs, while for graves which were not opened up for a second time former results and osteological analyses were revised. A complete graphical revision of the find material was left undone for financial reasons, but all

existing drawings were checked and completed, if necessary. According to this, a complete evaluation of results from the archaeological record including all available information was done.

Indeed, the grave catalogue is the ‘heart’ of this volume of “Dürrnberg-Forschungen”. It is designed very transparently: Next to detailed grave descriptions with both old and current photographs of the archaeological record as well as fine-drawings of lost field drawings and both already published and modern georeferenced plans, the reader finds a catalogue of the archaeological material (with corresponding plates) in which both the metal and ceramic finds are described in detail.

The anthropological catalogue is part of the grave catalogue. The results of the initial diagnosis by Hella Pösch from 1932 and the analyses of Ilse Schwidetzky from 1978 are mentioned here as well as observations from Olivier Klose’s and Ludwig Pauli’s excavations. This is followed by a systematic listing of the results of the new anthropological examinations on age of death, sex, preservation, the state of teeth and jaw, as well as pathologies and discolorations (particularly metal oxide discolorations referring to metal elements of the costume). The teeth, bones or bone elements extant are represented in schemes and shaded in grey. In the category “Remarks” diverse information can be found, for example on observations from the old excavations, on external analyses of human remains, etc. Furthermore, there is a category called “Animal Bone Finds” in the catalogue, an overview of the animal species found in the graves is carried out in chapter 6, though. It would have been more practicable, if the various information were added the catalogue.

The following chapter 4 (p. 207) with “Remarks on the Archaeological Material” is less than a page long and represents no independent part – it should better have been allocated to other chapters.

The “Anthropological Analysis of the Grave Group Dürrnberg Hexenwandfeld” was carried out by Karin Wiltshcke-Schrotta (chapter 5, pp. 208–235). She emphasises that the graves not only show traces of follow-up burials, grave robbery and modifications on a regular basis, but that there is no good bone preservation in general due to the soil conditions. Therefore, the recorded skeleton material was strongly fragmented, incomplete and affected. All data from the new anthropological analyses is entered into a data pool to finally assess the prehistoric population.

From 29 graves, there are remains of at least 72 individuals; 58 of them were analysed anthropologically. The bones from the other individuals were either not rescued during excavation or too badly preserved for cleaning and analysis. Moreover, some individuals were only reconstructed by odd grave goods. In the “Hexenwandfeld” both individual graves and “grave complexes” were discovered. The number of persons buried in one “grave complex” varies from one to up to eight individuals. Several burials show traces of disturbance that are said to be a “desecration of the graves” (p. 211) – the author, however, notices herself that only some of them were actually robbed; other mortal remains were shifted during the construction of new graves and in the course of follow-up burials. Apparently, this rather reflects an immanent part of the burial ritual than an ‘act against the dead’.

The collected anthropological data was then analysed in respect to demography, age of death and the sex of the deceased. There seems to be a balanced relation of sexes; however, not all burials could be examined. The same applies to the age of death. Burials of small children are attested, but no traces of infants / neonatals remained. So, as elsewhere, a deficit of subadults is to be noticed. For several individuals phenomena like enamel hypoplasia or *Cribra orbitalia* point to symptoms of nutrient deficiency. Furthermore, inflammatory disorders of the long bones as well as medium degenerative changes of the joints are documented. 16 % of the individuals show traumata – to the physical anthropologist this appears to be low for a “population working in the mining business and living in the alpine terrain” (p. 228).

18 of the 29 graves of the “Hexenwandfeld” contained animal bones. Mona Abd El Karem gave her attention to this group of finds in chapter 6 (pp. 236–242). Due to the repeatedly used burial chambers, it is frequently problematic to link the animal bones to a concrete human individual. Despite the high degree of fragmentation and the bad preservation conditions, it is noticeable that especially domestic animal species like cattle, pig, sheep and dog got into the graves. However, it has to be asked for every individual case if meat was an intended grave good or if the bones were found in graves for other reasons.

Chapter 7 revolves around the “Analysis” (pp. 243–246). It is subdivided into “Grave Customs and Grave Good Practices” and “Chronological Outlines”. Constructional details of the mounds were treated here first, and it is again grave 112, the one with the beak-spouted jug, that is eye-catching because of its complex chamber construction. A remarkable phenomenon of the grave group are the aforementioned “grave complexes” – here several (up to three) burial chambers were built on top of each other like storeys. They correspond in orientation and size or differ only very little. Dislocated human bones within the burial chambers might indicate grave robberies, but are probably more often the result of secondary burials. As far as reconstructable, elements of dress and weapons were given to the grave; in some cases, exceptional grave goods like chariots or bronze vessels as well as food were added.

The occupation of the “Hexenwandfeld” started in Ha D1/2. For the beginning of the Early Latène Period relevant material is missing – whether this is due to preservation conditions is hard to judge. The area is used more intensively again for funerals in LT A2, but after LT B2 burial activities actually broke off. It is remarkable that new graves were created while already existing ones were used simultaneously for secondary burials. That means there is no linear, directional occupation of the burial ground, but the decision who was buried where rather depends on other factors.

The shortness of this central chapter of not more than four pages is probably owed to the premise that only by the individual presentation of all Dürrenberg graves “a profound complete evaluation of the archaeological record and finds will be possible” (p. 13). That is comprehensible, but the ‘narrow perspective’ of the book that seldom exceeds the immediate site is a little regrettable as it stays a “Commented Catalogue” in the end. The book closes with a brief German and English summary, acknowledgements, the obligatory bibliography as well as ten coloured plates with pictures of selected items of dress and (detailed) pictures of the beak-spouted jug.

To sum up, it can be said that the volume convinces by the numerous colour photographs which show a nuanced picture of the terrain and the topography of the burial ground, while plans of the archaeological record, the sketches and details of the graphical documentation point to the changeful research history of the “Hexenwandfeld”. Information on the number of graves and deceased, single constructions and particularly on the research history is, however, repeated frequently – here the text could have been abbreviated a little. Nevertheless, this volume of “Dürrenberg-Forschungen” is a building brick for a complete overview of the Dürrenberg that surely contributes to consolidate the “base for further research”, as postulated in the preface.

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