

Siedlungsstrukturen, Planungsprozesse und eine zunehmende sozialhierarchische Differenzierung wider.

Auf Siziliens befestigte und unbefestigte Siedlungen des 6. bis 11. Jahrhunderts blickt Alessandra Molinari (Rom), wo sich drei Beschleunigungsphasen erkennen lassen: im 8., im 10. (Araber) und im 12. Jahrhundert (Normannen) (S. 320–332). Die wechselnden politischen Herrschaften scheinen die ländliche Besiedlung dagegen nicht wesentlich beeinflusst zu haben.

Der hier vorgestellte Band präsentiert zahlreiche und vielfältige Beobachtungen sowie Interpretationen – darin liegt sein besonderer Wert und fast handbuchartiger Charakter. Im überblickshafte Vergleich wird einerseits deutlich, dass der Blick in andere Regionen das Verständnis für die eigene zu schärfen hilft. Andererseits lässt sich erkennen, wie verschieden und komplex Formen, Funktionen und Kontexte gewesen waren, auch wenn sie nicht immer im Detail zu ermitteln sind. Außerdem unterscheiden sich Forschungsansätze und -interessen nicht unerheblich, was sowohl gewisse Fehlstellen als auch Schwerpunkte erklärt. Man kann für die eigenen Forschungen also in doppelter Weise Anregungen gewinnen: für die Intensivierung bisheriger Themen sowie für die Erweiterung durch neue Fragestellungen.

Sämtliche Beiträge enthalten hilfreiche Zusammenfassungen, die eine schnelle Übersicht erlauben und das Wesentliche rasch erschließen lassen. Deshalb wird das Buch seine (von den Herausgebern allerdings nicht ausgesprochene) Aufgabe erfüllen, eine Art Übersicht über aktuelle Forschungen zu den für das 8. bis 10. Jahrhundert so ‚typischen‘ befestigten Siedlungen zu liefern – auf parallele wichtige Publikationen weist die Einführung hin. Eine anregende Zwischenbilanz ist damit vorgelegt: „this volume is as much about understanding how, when and why these fortified sites emerged in the Early Middle Ages as understanding how they were put together, the nature of their buildings inside and what we can learn of the social groups living and working within (and without) them“ (S. xix). Allerdings handelt es sich nicht um einen systematischen Überblick, denn die einzelnen Beiträge betreffen mal diesen und mal jenen Aspekt – (erst) in der Gegenüberstellung zeigt sich der Gewinn. Dem deutschsprachigen Leser bietet sich der Vorteil, in *einer* Sprache Einblicke aus fast ganz Europa zu erhalten.

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ANNE KLAMMT, Die Standorte unbefestigter Siedlungen der nördlichen Elbslawen. Zwischen Klimaveränderung und politischem Wandel. Universitätsforschungen zur prähistorischen Archäologie volume 277. Dr. Rudolf Habelt, Bonn 2015. € 65.00. ISBN 978-3-7749-4004-8. 294 pages with 128 in b/w-illustrations, 128 tables, 12 survey maps in colour, CD-ROM with catalogue, lists and maps.

The publication presents an edited version of the author's dissertation submitted in 2011 at the University of Regensburg. The study centres on unfortified settlements in the north-western part of the Elbe-Slavic region in the period from the 7th/8th to 12th centuries, its aim being to identify locational patterns and determine the significance of environmental changes caused by climatic developments for the choice of settlement location. Moreover, the author targets the question of

whether a correlation can be observed between overarching socio-political developments and changes in the natural environment.

Following an introduction (pp. 3–10), chapters 2 (pp. 11–34) and 3 (pp. 35–82) present a survey of the natural and historical background and the archaeological evidence. Chapter 4 (pp. 83–90) deals with the geographical / environmental characteristics of the region and identification of sub-regions, while chapter 5 (p. 91) describes the methodology of the analysis. Chapter 6, the main section of the publication (pp. 93–190), presents an analysis of Slavic settlement patterns and a comparison with the earlier Iron-Age settlement. A synthesis of the results and a comparison with the Scandinavian and Saxon evidence are found in chapters 7 (pp. 191–200) and 8 (pp. 201–244). A short section on medieval settlement (chapter 9; pp. 245–246) and closing remarks (chapter 10; pp. 247–250) conclude the study. A summary is provided in chapter 11 (pp. 251–252) followed by an extensive bibliography (pp. 253–294). Volume 2 (a CD-ROM) contains the catalogue covering the cities, “Kreise” and “Landkreise” in the defined area, various lists, including hoards, sites and burial communities, and finally dendrochronological data, key regions and data on climate and soil types (“Bodeneinheiten”).

The introduction (chapter 1) outlines the background, the geographical and chronological framework, the status of archaeological research and the structure of the publication. The main emphasis is on the north-western part of the Elbe-Slavic region, an area of c. 28,190 square kilometres, in the 7th/8th to 10th centuries. Archaeological research into West-Slavic settlement, particularly fortified settlements and the socio-political development, has a long tradition. The effect of the natural environment on human existence in the 1st millennium has likewise attracted much attention. However, as argued by the author, focus has often been directed towards natural, life-changing catastrophes, whereas the influence of gradual, long-term climatic change on the development of settlement patterns has been less intensively studied. Environmental change can be deduced from changes in ground water levels from the early to late Slavic period. Recent studies of the early Mediaeval use of islands in Mecklenburg and Schleswig-Holstein suggest especially low water levels in the late 9th and 10th centuries followed by rising levels in the 11th and 12th centuries, which led to the abandonment of fortified island sites. The consequences of this development for unfortified settlements, the focus of the present publication, is less apparent.

Like the natural environment, the contemporary political environment also changed over time. The chronological frame of the study covers the political, economic, religious and cultural (historical) development of the Elbe-Slavs, beginning with the establishment of Slavic communities. These were grouped into many small alliances (“Teilverbände”) which towards the late 8th and early 9th centuries, in part under Frankish influence, merged into larger political units that found their way into the written sources. The late 9th and 10th centuries saw the development of many regional lordships and political alliances such as the joining of the Obotrites, although often of less stable nature. After a period of close political relations between the Elbe-Slavs and the Ottonians, large and more persistent lordships developed in the 11th and 12th centuries, a time when material culture attests to increased craft professionalisation and outreach.

The environmental and climatic background, and the historical framework and landscape of communication are discussed in greater detail in chapter 2 beginning with a description of the general landscape and soil types that shaped the preconditions for human settlement and subsistence (ch. 2.1; p. 11). The area of study covers parts of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Lower Saxony, and it comprises several distinct types of landscape, ranging from marshlands to the west, the great Elbe and lesser river valleys, the sandy ground and end moraines of the Elster glaciation, and clayey young moraines formed during the Weichselian glaciation. Modern records show that the area can be divided into distinct climate zones with variations

in temperature and precipitation (ch. 2.2; pp. 15–21). Moreover, numerous studies indicate that both climate and water levels have changed over time. As stressed by the author, the identification of climate changes and their short and long-term consequences, particularly at a regional or local level, is much debated, the evidence deriving from the natural sciences, dendrochronology and contemporary written sources. Trends in the over-all development in the 1st millennium AD are apparent and provide the data for the applied reconstruction of the climate. Temperature, precipitation and lake / sea water levels were significant factors for settlement and subsistence but, as observed by the author, also stability of climate or lack thereof as indicated for the 10th century (pp. 19–22).

The second half of chapter 2 is devoted to the historical background as a prelude to the question of the possible influence of shifting political rulership and organisation on settlement structures. Significant changes include settlement expansion (“Landesausbau”), increased functional, social, economic or juridical differentiation (apart from rural settlements, for instance, estates, fortified settlements, subordinate settlements), and site continuity (“Platzkonstanz”). Using the written evidence, the author provides a useful survey of the political development, internally and externally, from the 8th to 12th centuries, emphasising *inter alia* the role of the neighbouring empire to the west and the areas to the north and east which like the Slavic region were influenced by the Carolingian expansion and the eastward shift of power during the Ottonians. The chapter concludes with a description of the supra-regional land and water routes which were determined by the environment but also subject to political and economic development and shifts.

The study applies a quantitative, GIS-supported investigation of the situational preferences reflected in the Slavic sites, followed by a geographical and chronological comparative analysis. To create as valid a comparison as possible, the centuries before the Slavic period (the “Römische Kaiserzeit”) were selected as similar means were available for soil treatment and traffic through the landscape in this period; likewise a similar selection of agricultural products, meaning that settlement had roughly the same natural parameters. Thus, the populations would have been sensitive (or not) to comparable natural circumstances in their choice of site. The archaeological evidence is introduced in chapter 3 beginning with a survey of the regional chronology and source categories (ch. 3.1; pp. 35–58). The status and documentation of the archaeological finds is mainly good as regards both the individual sites and surveys and the attention shown towards the relation of site to natural environment (cf. ch. 1.4, p. 7), yet there is considerable variation in find distribution and status of research (ch. 3.2.2–3; pp. 61–74; fig. 26). Apart from issues relating to the status of research, forest cover is a significant source-critical issue for the identification of settlements and cemeteries in some areas.

For the quantitative analysis the sites are classified chronologically and according to find categories. Chronologically, the Iron Age (“Römische Kaiserzeit” to “Völkerwanderungszeit”) is subdivided into early (1st to 2nd centuries) and late (3rd to 5th/6th centuries), the majority of the 2045 find locations (“Fundplätze”) falling in the early period (“ältere Kaiserzeit”). Likewise, the Mediaeval period in the Elbe-Slavic region is subdivided into two phases (“alt-” and “jungslawisch”) corresponding to the 7th/8th to 10th and the 11th to early 13th centuries. The early period can be further subdivided into two phases (“früh-” and “mittelslawisch”). A useful overview of phases and diagnostic ceramic types is provided in table 6 (p. 47). The study includes a total of 1831 Slavic sites in Mecklenburg, Schleswig-Holstein and the Hanoverian Wendland. In addition to the settlements, cemeteries and hoards included for the early periods, sites with ceramics (usually a few sherds, presumably from settlements of unknown date and nature), fortified sites, trading places and technical sites / workshops are considered for the Mediaeval, Slavic period. The author has chosen a broad approach to cope with the diverse nature and research status of the source groups, periods

and regions. Single find spots (within a maximum distance of 300 metres and provided they are contemporary and belong to the same category) and presumed complexes related to a fortified site (“Burg-Siedlungskomplexe” within a radius of 500 metres) have been joined to facilitate the quantitative analysis and to create a more meaningful and homogeneous foundation for comparison (pp. 75–79). Within each period, key areas with a high density of finds have been identified.

Three basic geological parameters are identified for the statistical analysis of the relationship between settlement and natural setting (chapter 4; pp. 83–90): soil and position in the vertical landscape relief (the two main parameters) and distance to water. In addition, although not suitable as a parameter for the location of ancient settlement, recent or current land use is discussed as a source filter. A significant issue in the geological survey is resolution. To achieve a scale large enough to show area characteristics and tendencies, the author has selected the “Bodenübersichtskarte” scale 1 : 200 000 (BÜK 200) available for most of the study area rather than maps with a scale of 1 : 25 000 ideal for a precise analysis of a specific site (pp. 84–85). The many categories are grouped into six main classes based on the substrata and ground water conditions, the six classes reflecting agricultural use potential. The vertical landscape relief is likewise divided into six positions (“Hanglagen”) and the slope position index of each find location calculated by means of a digital landscape model (DGM 25; pp. 86–88; colour maps of the landscape relief and sites are given at the back of the publication and can also be accessed on the CD-ROM for a more detailed view).

As the focus of the analysis is the relation to local landscapes (“Kleinlandschaften”) rather than a study of micro-topographical parameters of individual settlements and cemeteries, the immediate surroundings of a site, whether defined within a given radius or by landscape features, are not considered by the author. Instead, land use potential, slope and elevation, and in some instances distance to water are defined in relation to the centre coordinates of a given find location (cf. the methodology of the statistical analysis described in chapter 5; p. 91). The values for each find are included in the catalogue.

Chapter 6 (pp. 93–190) forms the main section of the publication, in which each of the eleven identified natural landscapes (“Naturräume”) are described in detail, followed by a statistical analysis and comparison of the location of earlier Iron Age sites and Slavic sites according to the main source categories defined for each period. The results of the analyses are given in the text and accompanied by numerous tables and distribution maps. Maps have fortunately been included in the text which would otherwise have been difficult to follow, particularly for a reader unfamiliar with northern Germany. An additional map depicting the distribution of the landscapes in the general area of study would have been useful. The text contains a wealth of detail and information which is drawn together in the closing paragraphs (“Statistik”) of each section. A difference in the distribution of Slavic versus the early and to a lesser extent later sites of the “Römische Kaiserzeit” and “Völkerwanderungszeit” is evident in each of the eleven areas.

Chapter 7 (pp. 191–200) presents a synthesis of the analysis and the location of Slavic settlements across the area of study. The chronological difference observed in chapter 6 appears to follow a common pattern reflected in the distance to water, the position in the landscape and the preferred soil types. This is evident in all eleven areas, irrespective of whether the area is dominated by moraine or geest. A characteristic feature of the Slavic settlement pattern is the number of settlements established on sandy ground on middle or lower slopes, whereas high-lying clay soils were hardly settled. The chronological differentiation of the Slavic settlement (cf. ch. 3; pp. 35–82) suggests that a change took place towards a standardisation in the choice of location in the middle Slavic period compared with the early Slavic period, where there seems to have been a greater variety despite the apparent preference for sandy soils on lower slopes. This development is in many

areas accompanied by a concentration of settlement areas in river valleys and at lakes, a process that continued in the following period.

The comparison within the Elbe-Slavic settlement area is followed by comparison with 9th and 10th century Saxon areas south of the Elbe and settlement areas in Schleswig north of the Elbe (Scandinavia, i. e. Angeln and Schwansen) in chapters 8 (pp. 201–244) and 9 (pp. 245–246). As mentioned above, a general map locating these areas of comparison would have been a useful addition. Climate and environmental conditions, and thus also the economic basis of local communities, were roughly similar in these areas to those in the Elbe-Slavic region. Moreover, there is a high archaeological site density. Settlement location was apparently not yet fixed as in the later Mediaeval period suggesting that adaptation to contemporary environmental and possibly climatic conditions would have played a role in the location of settlement. Despite source-critical issues and a less detailed chronology, the comparison indicates differences between Iron-Age and Mediaeval settlement patterns north and south of the Elbe which parallel the development in the Elbe-Slavic area. In the final chapter, the author argues in favour of a dual interpretation of the identified settlement patterns. Thus, the changes in locational preferences emerge as both a product of the political and economic development of Elbe-Slavic societies and an adaptation to climatically determined, changing environmental conditions.

As noted by the author in the preface, it was not possible within her given time frame to include several, more recent publications that focus upon related geographic and thematic subjects. This said, the publication offers a detailed and ambitious cross-disciplinary study of a complex issue, the adaptation of human settlement to environmental and climate change. The publication and catalogue offer a wealth of information and the approach of the author may serve as inspiration for future research.

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ESTER ORAS, Practices of Wealth Depositing in the 1st–9th Century AD Eastern Baltic. Sidestone, Leiden 2015. € 74,95. ISBN 978-90-8890-307-6. 354 Seiten, 35 s/w- und 160 Farbbildungen.

Bei der hier besprochenen Monographie handelt es sich um die publizierte Version der von Ester Oras 2014 am Wolfson College der University of Cambridge eingereichten PhD thesis.

Bereits der erste Satz der Einleitung: „Wealth deposits as intentional artefact deposits are one of the most controversial archaeological find groups“ (S. 25) lässt eine intensive Beschäftigung mit der grundsätzlichen Problematik von Deponierungen und deren Bedeutung als archäologische Quellengruppe vermuten. So geht E. Oras auch direkt zu Beginn auf die unterschiedliche Wahrnehmung von Horten in der Öffentlichkeit und der Wissenschaft sowie die große Bedrohung durch Raubgrabungen und illegalen Objekthandel ein, der eine große Herausforderung für den lokalen Denkmalschutz im Baltikum darstellt.

Die Dissertation unterteilt sich in zehn Kapitel, ergänzt um Anhänge sowie einen Katalog. Im Rahmen der Einleitung erläutert die Autorin zunächst ausführlich ihre Gründe für die Festlegung des zeitlichen Rahmens, den ihre Fragestellung umgrenzt. Das erste Jahrhundert respektive die Römische Eisenzeit werden als Beginn der Untersuchung des Forschungsgegenstandes definiert.