

Diese Vorsichtswarnungen gelten auch, falls die eine oder andere der beiden sich widersprechenden Hypothesen zutrifft. In dem äußerst vielfältigen und komplizierten Prozess der Neolithisierung sollte man alle verfügbaren Quellen und Informationen gemeinsam interpretieren. Dazu gehören auch die Ergebnisse zu Siedlungssystemen und Netzwerken und die – aus der aDNA-Analyse und Stabilisotopenforschung gewonnenen – Daten über Herkunft, familiäre Beziehungen, Ernährung und Mobilität, um nur einige Beispiele hervorzuheben. Wenn das alles zusammengetragen wurde, kann dies zu einer „Herkunftsgeschichte“ führen, die zwar ein gutes Ergebnis liefert, aber noch immer nicht mehr als ein – plausibles – Narrativ ist und keine Gewissheit bietet. Eine solche Gesamtanalyse ist nach Aussage von Peter Stadler im Vorwort jedoch nicht unbedingt nötig: Auf die Frage von Nadezhda, woher die Brunner Bevölkerung gekommen sein mag: „I pointed spontaneously to the southeast“ (S. 6). Wir wissen heute jedoch viel mehr über die Herkunft oder eher über die komplexe Zusammensetzung der frühen Bandkeramiker.

Eine der wichtigsten Fragen über die Formierung der LBK, zu der die Siedlung Brunn 2 grundsätzliche neue Informationen liefert ist: Beeinflusst der Anteil der lokalen Jäger und Sammler die Genese der Siedlung? Aus den bisherigen archäologischen und aDNA-Daten kann man auf eine zunehmende zeitliche und räumliche Intensität der genetischen Mischung zwischen Neolithikern und Mesolithikern schließen. Es wäre nicht überraschend, wenn die U-Haplotypen, typisch für europäische Jäger und Sammler, z. B. in Brunn zunehmend häufiger vorkommen.

Für detailliertes Wissen spielt der Doppelband über Brunn 2 aber schon jetzt eine wichtige Rolle, vor allem dank der vielen minutiös beschriebenen und gezeichneten Keramikfragmente, anderen Funden aus Ton und der ersthändigen Informationen über den Fundort, der als eine der bedeutendsten frühneolithischen Siedlungen Mitteleuropas gilt. Die Bände sind schön ausgestattet, den englischen Texten werden auch deutsche Zusammenfassungen beigelegt. Die große Menge von neuen und wichtigen Daten aus Brunn am Gebirge wird die Forschung noch für lange Zeit beschäftigen.

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EVA LENNEIS (ed.), Erste Bauerndörfer – älteste Kultbauten. Die frühe und mittlere Jungsteinzeit in Niederösterreich. Archäologie Niederösterreichs volume 1. Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien 2018. € 39.00. ISBN 978-3-7001-8220-7. 479 pages with numerous illustrations.

This impressive volume of 479 pages is to be understood not only as a follow-up work but as the start of a grand initiation. It will also be the first volume of a monographic series planned to be published on the past of Lower Austria from the Palaeolithic to the Modern Era and shall consist of eleven volumes in total. For each of the planned volumes, the intention is to bring together a large group of authors because, as the series editors premised, the time for “lone delinquents” has passed (p. 11). This declaration is certainly true for the present volume that has contributions by 16 authors. The first statement refers to an apparent continuation of the book published in Sankt Pölten / Wien in 1995, titled “Jungsteinzeit im Osten Österreichs” by Eva LENNEIS, who is also the editor of the present volume, Elisabeth RUTTKAY, and Christine NEUGEBAUER-MARESC. While the concordances in the structure of the two books are apparent, there are certainly new facets and approaches in the more recent volume. The development of research into both the details and

overarching questions is reflected by the fact that the smaller 1995 publication involves chapters from the beginning to the very end of the Neolithic in Central European terms (i. e. involving the Baden period cultural area), from the mid-6th to mid-3rd millennium cal BC, whereas the current volume, that is at least four times larger, only encompasses the Early Neolithic (Bandkeramik, LBK) period and the Middle Neolithic (Lengyel and Stichband) cultures, from the mid-6th to mid-5th millennium cal BC.

The two main parts are preceded by a thorough introduction (chapter 1, pp. 16–53) written by Joris Coolen, Michael Doneus, Elisabeth Rammer, Franz Pieler, Christoph Blesl, and Eva Lenneis. They introduce the reader to the specific geographical situation, soils, and changing settlement patterns of Lower Austria along the Danube Valley in between the Carpathian Basin and western Central Europe. Besides the excellent work by J. Coolen, three case studies (at Horn, Melk, and St. Pölten) allow an in-depth insight into 21st century archaeology, including non-invasive diagnostics, large-scale excavations, geographic data, and GIS interpretations. The research history follows precisely the division of the main chapters, i. e. the Early Neolithic LBK and the Middle Neolithic Stichband-Lengyel phases. The description of the early state of research is followed by new results from a slowly increasing number of sites and investigated micro-regions, each richly illustrated with distribution maps and site maps, aerial photos, and graphs. It would have required an editorial intervening to reconcile a statement on the old, now clearly mistaken concept of the existence of pit houses, which was rightly refuted in the LBK part of the introduction (pp. 18–19), all the while regarding these as existing in the case of a Lengyel site (p. 21). Likewise, when describing different divisions within the Lengyel chronology, some reference points of the area lying east of Lower Austria would have been useful, not just because the eponymous site and long-standing intensive research is located in Transdanubia, but because cultural changes are hardly understandable without at least a brief reference to this region. When involving West Hungary, it is also important to avoid mistakes like confusing the 6th millennium cal BC Bicske-Bíňa LBK horizon with the 5th millennium Sopot-Bicske horizon that participated in the formation of the Lengyel culture (p. 22).

Chapter 2 (pp. 54–257) is devoted to the Early Neolithic in Lower Austria and the heritage of the first farmers, generally called the Linearbandkeramik (LBK). This single-authored first part on settlement and burials is an excellent summary by its most renowned researcher, Eva Lenneis. The overarching summary of the current knowledge of this group begins with the settlements (chapter 2.1, pp. 54–89) in terms of settlement patterns, with central places and accompanying peripheral or satellite settlements. The ample examples include the famous Asparn / Schletz or Brunn am Gebirge settlements and others, like Mold, which has been published in a monographic form by E. LENNEIS (*Die bandkeramische Siedlung von Mold bei Horn in Niederösterreich 1. Naturwissenschaftliche Beiträge und Einzelanalysen. Internat. Arch. 115 [Rahden / Westf. 2010]*). Zooming in on the settlements, the reader is introduced to the intra-site spatial structure and possible temporal distinction, and finally to the LBK longhouses in the region. This part is again based much on her own excavations and publications, including her experimental archaeological experiences, such as the longhouse found in Schwechat which was built for the open-air museum of Asparn. Further features presented are wells, a feature that comes to light more and more frequently these days in the (late) LBK orbit, ovens and fireplaces, and the earliest circular ditches, which are given a detailed typology, including both earthworks and the various types of sectioned ditches.

The second part of the chapter (pp. 90–107) summarises the current information on the LBK graves and burial rites, starting with the statement that there was no unified system of burial customs. The rather randomly compiled early LBK settlement burials in the later phases turn, in some cases, into regular cemeteries adjacent of the active settlement areas. Again, examples like Kleinhadersdorf can be presented from a grand and recently published volume with the co-

authorship of Eva Lenneis (s. B. RAMMINGER [Review of]: Ch. Neugebauer-Maresch et al., *Das linearbandkeramische Gräberfeld von Kleinhadersdorf*. Mitt. Prähist. Komm. Österreich. Akad. Wiss. 82 [Wien 2015]. *Germania* 95, 2017, 236–239), but old sites like Eggenburg, found in the first part of the 20th century, are also discussed. Despite the lack of well-established burial rites and grave goods, some remarkable observations, such as skeletons supplied with bracelets and beads made from exotic spondylus shells or red deer canine necklaces, belong to the most spectacular pages of this chapter (pp. 102–105). A concise detour to the morphological anthropological and palaeopathological analyses as well as to the role of the stable isotope investigation in tracking the diet and mobility of the individuals in the graves is highly adequate (pp. 106–107).

For a rather incomprehensible reason, the following large section devoted to ‘Material culture’ is preceded by chapter 2.3 (pp. 108–121), which discusses “Cult and religion – Figurines and vessels with anthropomorphic depictions”. This insert is all the more surprising, considering the discussion of pottery and other finds in chapter 2.4 (pp. 122–163), as some subchapters deal with land use, social networks, and related issues, and to which the ritual finds and cult life would fit fairly well. Human figurines are discussed by Nadezhda Kotova and Peter Stadler, who present a hypothesis on the origin of the LBK representations in a way that raises many questions (pp. 108–115). According to this, the LBK motives on figurines have no apparent parallels in the south-east European Early Neolithic and cannot be tied with some (not yet detected) Mesolithic traditions either, but they obviously must be connected in some way with Anatolia, and so the vision of the two authors is a saltatory, rapid migration. Needless to say, this idea contradicts both the abundantly available ¹⁴C and genetic data, without mentioning the broad archaeological evidence that encompasses a long row of features beyond decoration on figurines. At this place, the beginning of the LBK given in absolute terms is 5700 cal BC, while in chapter 2.6, in the part on the absolute chronology (p. 206), a date of 5650/5600 cal BC is given for the start of the formative phase, although convergent new results by no means speak for an earlier date than 5500 for the beginning of the LBK (J. JAKUCS ET AL., *Between the Vinča and Linearbandkeramik worlds: The diversity of practices and identities in the 54th–53rd centuries cal BC in southwest Hungary and beyond*. *Journal World Prehist.* 29, 2016, 267–336). A good summary of anthropomorphic vessels by Eva Lenneis follows (pp. 117–121); however, zoomorphic representations are not mentioned at all.

The next part (chapter 2.4, pp. 122–153) focuses on the typology and chronology of the finds. A useful table informs the reader about the relative chronological position of the LBK sites in Lower Austria (p. 122). Concerning the formative phase of the pottery, only recently the pottery of the largest site, Brunn am Gebirge, has been published but with doubtful conclusions on the typochronology of the formative and later phases (cf. review by E. BÁNFFY in this volume), so currently conclusions concerning the Starčevo origins must remain preliminary. As to the more developed phases, it becomes apparent that decorations like “Notenkopf” (music note) or the “Keszthely” type cannot be used for precise spatial or temporal distinctions because these motives are likely to occur mixed up in various proportions, even within a single LBK settlement. The end of the LBK is marked by transitional pottery types and decorations, and even if some of these are missing from Lower Austrian sites, the turn to the formative Lengyel and, in the northerly lying areas, to the Stichband culture leaves very little doubt.

Chapter 2.4.2 is devoted to the flints (by Inna Mateiciucová, pp. 144–150) encompassed in a rather broad discussion involving raw materials, typology, and experiments on the *chaîne opératoire*. The same holds true for presenting the polished tools (by Eva Lenneis, pp. 151–153) and the bone artefacts (by Daniela Fehlmann, pp. 154–163). The last two subchapters try to reconstruct the environment in LBK times with the help of botanical analyses (chapter 2.5.1, pp. 164–182, by Marianne Kohle-Schneider) and of the zooarchaeological evidence (chapter 2.5.2, pp. 183–197,

by Erich Pucher). This latter analysis, especially the part discussing domestic husbandry in LBK sites (pp. 188–193), is exciting for Neolithic specialists and is certainly of high scientific quality. However, it might be too specific and therefore, rather an outlier for this volume that is mainly meant for the broader public.

Chapter 3 (pp. 258–476), i. e. the second half of the volume, is devoted to the “Mittelneolithikum” in Lower Austria. Here again, one of the most knowledgeable experts in the Lengyel and Stichband phases, Eva Lenneis, took over the task of summarising much of the information including an introduction, presentation of settlements, circular ditches, burials, and some of the material culture. The Introduction places the cultures mentioned in a wider, European orbit, with a helpful distribution map of Lengyel, Hinkelstein, Oberlauterbach, Stichband, and Tisza cultures. Chapter 3.1 (pp. 258–275) discusses the settlement types, their internal structures, and the constructs of dwelling houses themselves. Like in the LBK chapter, high quality photos, drawings, and site maps along with the photo of a reconstructed Lengyel house from Heldenberg complete the information in the text. A special focus is given to the circular ditches that represent a highlight of these features in the entire Central European Neolithic. This part is written by a researcher of international experience, Wolfgang Neubauer. Beginning with a very informative geographical and topographical setting and the dynamics of the spread, the reader is guided among the many types of the circular ditches, from the simple, earliest ones following the LBK traditions to the three-concentric types with gate structures oriented at the main points of the compass. This latter issue is enlarged to astronomical perspectives (pp. 297–306), giving an inside view of the growing theme in contemporary archaeology – the “Skyscapes” (by Georg Zotti, pp. 297–306). Contemplation about the (possibly defensive?) function of the circular ditches completes chapter 3.2 (pp. 276–313).

There is little to say about the burials, and the authors (Eva Lenneis, Christine Neugebauer-Maresch) rightly stress that apart from irregular burials including some special rite, partial, mutilated skeletons or multiple / mass burials, hardly anything is known about customs of burying the dead in the Lengyel culture. Among the possible pre-Neolithic or Middle Eastern forerunners and parallel traditions, it would be useful to note that this phenomenon is restricted to the “Western” Lengyel area including Moravia, Lower Austria, and West Transdanubia and contrasted with the “Eastern” Lengyel area that has large, regular cemeteries of often several hundred (or, as at the Alsónyék site, 2400) graves. Again, the figural art embedded in discussing cult and religion (chapter 3.4, pp. 320–331) precedes the part on material culture. This rather concise description does not contain issues, e. g., on the apparently imaginary nature of some creatures, or the extremely rich and important group of small altars (earlier considered to be “oil lamps”), which go back to the initial Neolithic and unfold in an amazing way, exactly like in the Lengyel culture.

In chapter 3.5, the ceramics and the typochronology are the cornerstone of this section (by Michael Doneus and Elisabeth Rammer, pp. 332–366); the details with photos and beautiful drawings are informative, while the reasons for the finer relative chronological subdivisions are not fully disclosed. Eva Lenneis summarises the occurrence of the Stichband pottery along the northerly lying regions of Lower Austria (chapter 3.5.1.2, pp. 347–351). The chipped stone industry is again presented by Inna Mateiciucová (chapter 3.5.2, pp. 352–354), followed by the polished stones (Gerhard Trnka, pp. 355–356) and bone instruments (Daniela Fehlmann, pp. 357–365), while the first two authors (with Michael Götzinger) draft a useful picture of the networks and long-distance contacts, based on the raw material types (pp. 386–395). Similar to the LBK chapter, the overarching description of the 5th millennium environment, written by the same authors (Marianne Kohle-Schneider and Erich Pucher, pp. 366–385), focuses on the botanical and zooarchaeological evidence. The nicely presented flora, the hints on agriculture and on proportions

between bones belonging to hunted species and domesticates give the reader a good insight into the Lengyel economy and subsistence.

The volume is supplied with a detailed reference list and an index containing all LBK and Middle Neolithic sites (pp. 206–256; 398–474). Here again, the high quality and extremely informative maps help the orientation in small scale, site-based, and landscape-scale data. All in all, this is an extremely meticulous and useful book, which could be beneficial for two types of readers: the wider public, including teachers and students, and Neolithic experts, as some facets might be of special interest.

It is to be noted that there are some inconsistencies among some of the individual authors' opinions – this might be the reason why the editor, Eva Lenneis, wrote an afterword of merely a few sentences at the end of the book (p. 477). In this short paragraph, she says that the missing pieces in the puzzle drove some of the authors to use their fantasy and imagination; therefore, she refrains from further personal judgments of her own, expressed in any kind of conclusion. Nevertheless, the main target is fully achieved: the Neolithic of Lower Austria will be broadly seen as a vivid, intensively researched and discussed period of the prehistory or perhaps the entire history of Lower Austria. Moreover, its results will also become a reference for Neolithic research in neighbouring regions.

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MORITZ MENNENGA, Zwischen Elbe und Ems. Die Siedlungen der Trichterbecherkultur in Nordwestdeutschland. Frühe Monumentalität und soziale Differenzierung volume 13. Verlag Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn 2017. € 90.00. ISBN 978-3-7749-4118-2 (printed version). € 68.00 (E-Book available on <https://www.habelt.de>). 437 pages with 270 illustrations, 27 tables, and 41 plates.

This book analyses the settlement remains of the Funnel Beaker (TRB) West Group and comprises the publication of a dissertation defended at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel in 2016. The study covers northwestern Germany and the Netherlands but focuses mainly on five smaller regions selected on the basis of their relatively high frequency of Neolithic finds. The regions are Sievern, Flögeln, Lavenstedt, Wildeshausener Geest, and Hümmling.

After forewords by the publisher, the project leader, and then by the author we reach a rather short, two pages long, introduction (chapter 1, pp. 13–14). The introduction places the current study in relation to larger research projects and relevant subprojects, which also included excavations on some of the sites that constitute the basis of this book. The aim of the current study is to examine the layout, development, and economy of the early TRB settlements in the work area in addition to societal changes in order to provide an overview of the TRB West Group and its settlement structure.

Chapter 2 (pp. 15–34) addresses the research history in wider terms. We begin with the TRB as such and its division in regional groups focusing on the West Group and its chronological stand and relation to e.g. the Swifterbant culture and the TRB North Group. This leads on to a short review of the subdivision of the West Group and its validity. Then we are guided through the northwest German research history as it appears from typo-chronological studies of various