

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

artefact categories comprising pottery and flint objects. J. A. Bakker and A. L. Brindley stand as key figures in defining the pottery based chronology sequence of the West Group. After brief accounts for the research into the human impact on the local environment during the 4th millennium BC and the definition of house types we proceed with a review of various grave types and cult / mortuary houses related to the TRB West Group. Enclosures on the other hand seem to be missing in the work area. The altogether 20 pages long chapter 2 makes a good all round introduction to the present situation and *Stand der Forschung* within the work area.

The next chapter (chapter 3, pp. 35–56) concerns the methodology of the following settlement study in northwestern Germany and we are introduced to the method applied in the remaining main chapters of the book (chapters 4–5). The finds are of course central as they, together with new radiocarbon dates, give a verification of the typo-chronological model put forward for the region by A. L. BRINDLEY in 1986 (The typo-chronology of TRB West Group pottery. *Palaeohistoria* 28, 93–132). Thus, definitions of various artefact typologies are given in the beginning of chapter 3, starting with the flint artefacts followed by the pottery where the use of relevant classification registers are discussed, first of all NoNek (*Nordmitteleuropäische Neolithische Keramik* / North Central European Neolithic Pottery). The finds are the key to the identification of activity zones on the settlements through GIS analyses, the use of which is discussed in chapter 3. Furthermore, source critical reflections on the applied radiocarbon dates and the calibration thereof are discussed. The chapter ends with a description of the applied classification of house plans including the definition of relevant measurements.

Chapter 4 (pp. 57–90) describes the work area in detail. The TRB West Group covers three main landscapes consisting of old moraine, mainly shaped during the Saale glaciation. The first is the Elbe-Weser-triangle, an area bounded by the Elbe River to the East, the Weser River to the West, and the rivers Wümme and Este to the South. The Weser and the Ems rivers define the second landscape whereas the third landscape is defined as the Netherlands. The Lippe and the Rhine rivers delimit the two last mentioned areas to the south. After a brief introduction to the landscapes related to the work area and their geological formation, Moritz Mennenga continues to a review of the selected smaller regions: Lavenstedt, Wildeshausener Geest, and Flögeln / Sievern. Relevant sites are introduced for each of the three smaller regions, which are all located within the geest – a slightly raised type of landscape characterising the glacial outwashed plains seen in the northern part of the Netherlands, in northern Germany, and in southwestern Denmark. The presentation of the three selected regions is followed by a review of TRB sites containing house structures from northwestern Germany and the Netherlands in general. Finishing chapter 4, the reader has been equipped with a good all-round knowledge on the relevant sites and the present data, which is to be analysed in the next chapter.

With chapter 5 (pp. 91–290), we have reached the book's absolute main chapter counting no less than 200 pages simply named 'Ergebnisse' (Results). This extensive part is subdivided into five subsections, some of which could have deserved a chapter of their own; this goes e.g. for section 5.2 on the settlement sites from the TRB West Group (60 pages) or section 5.3, which deals with the finds from the TRB settlements (107 pages). A splitting of chapter 5 would have created a better and more easily accessible overview of the structure of the book and thus facilitated the reading. As it appears from the page numbers referred above, chapter 5 comprises two large chunks and three minor subsections.

However, we begin with a fixation of the absolute chronology of the TRB West Group (section 5.1, pp. 91–95) based on new radiocarbon dates. This is a very important section as M. Mennenga is able to prove that A. L. Brindley's chronology from 1986 is still valid even though the beginning of the TRB can now be dated 50–110 years before what is usually assumed (radiocarbon

interval is 3510–3450 cal BC against the traditional 3400 cal BC). In addition, the end of the TRB is adjusted from the traditional 2850 cal BC to c. 2760 cal BC.

As mentioned above, section 5.2 (pp. 96–155) takes us through the TRB settlements in the work area site after site. It is a thorough presentation richly illustrated by photos (colour as well as black / white), diagrams, charts, elevation models, phosphate mappings, site plans, drawings of profiles and house layouts, etc. – all very illustrative and inviting. The analysed sites include Lavenstedt, Flögeln, Pennigbüttel and Visbek-Uhlenkamp. All sites contain house structures, of which several have clearly demarcated partitioning, as well as a series of other features, such as graves, pits, wells, stone pavements, etc.

With section 5.3 (pp. 156–262), we are introduced to the finds from the four sites analysed in section 5.2 in order to place the settlement sites chronologically and culturally. Again, a detailed and thorough analysis is supported by a series of illustrative and high quality tables, charts, photos, drawings, diagrams etc. The rich pottery material takes up the largest part of the section and is analysed according to temper, production technique, vessel shape, rim shape, surface treatment, ornamentation elements and techniques, etc. The pottery analyses lead to a typologically based reconstruction of the site development within the four settlement areas with references to A. L. Brindley's chronology (phases 1–7). The pottery section is first followed by an analysis of the various types of flint artefacts from the respective sites then by analyses of the stone and amber material in addition to botanical macrofossils. Finally, phosphate mapping and artefact distribution analyses are used for defining activity zones within the settlements. Section 5.3 is followed by a short two page long evaluation of the impact the settlements had on the natural landscape (section 5.4, pp. 263–264). This includes opening of the landscape with woodland clearances, erosions and sand drift.

Section 5.5 (pp. 265–290) ends chapter 5 and thereby the book's body text. It constitutes a concluding review of the house plan typology and an evaluation of how they fit into an interregional house development. This is a very interesting section with many good observations and it would have been appropriate if this part had been given its own chapter, as it actually holds the discussion and major conclusions of the book. The houses are divided into three main types: houses without wall trenches showing clear parallels with the houses of the TRB North Group (type Mossby and type Dagstorp named after two South Swedish sites), houses with wall trenches (type Flögeln), and cult / pit houses (also referred to as 'special' buildings). One of the new and convincingly argued points is that the northwest German houses with wall trenches and compartmentalisation show clear parallels with Early Neolithic houses on the British Isles.

The houses with wall trenches are rectangular two-aisled constructions with a characteristic central row of roof carrying posts. Such houses occur mainly in Ireland during the Early Neolithic (early 4th millennium BC) and spread through Britain and northwestern Germany (TRB West Group) to southern Sweden and Bornholm (Limensgård type) in the Middle Neolithic (late 4th early 3rd millennium BC). From a south Scandinavian perspective, this is indeed interesting, as the Early Neolithic and early Middle Neolithic houses in Denmark have rounded gables. Middle Neolithic houses from the late TRB are generally lacking and those found on Bornholm are so far the best recorded examples of Middle Neolithic TRB houses in Denmark. According to the observations made in this section, these houses might in fact represent a certain development starting out on the British Isles and then passed on to the TRB West Group wherefrom it arrived in eastern south Scandinavia. Also the cult house found at Hainmühlen in the TRB West Group shows a northern connection as it resembles the cult houses found on the Jutland Peninsula belonging to the TRB North Group.

The book ends, somehow abruptly, with the extensive chapter 5, which is followed by summaries in German, English and Dutch (chapter 6, pp. 291–300), then comes the reference list (chapter 7, pp. 301–308). The final chapter (chapter 8, pp. 309–408) contains a voluminous 127 pages long appendix including: list of radiocarbon dates, metric data / measurements, catalogue, profile drawings, and find photos in addition to some short specialist analyses including soil, sediment and pottery analyses by Friederike Bungenstock, Stephan Schwank, and Katrin Stuckmayer respectively.

Having read Moritz Mennenga's book, I really feel updated on the settlement pattern of the TRB West Group. It is an impressive, well-illustrated, and thorough work fully documented with 270 figures, 27 tables, and 41 plates. Based on the review presented above I am happy to recommend Moritz Mennenga's contribution to the Funnel Beaker West Group to anyone interested in the TRB. That said, I do miss a discussion on the wider implication of this study and its key findings. As the book appears in the series *Frühe Monumentalität und soziale Differenzierung*, I certainly would have wished for some considerations regarding the social organisation and potential signs of hierarchisation or lack thereof. In this respect, the book appears rather empirical, and it could have benefited from incorporating some wider social and cultural perspectives. In this context, one could have wished for a stand regarding how we should understand the suggested connections between the British Isles and the TRB West Group seen in the house plans. How do these findings fit our current understanding of the cultural connections between these regions? It would have been great to have the author's thoughts on such questions. The book is, however, a very important contribution to our understanding of the TRB West Group, its settlement pattern, its houses and its connections, not only to the North Group but also to the British Isles.

Even though the current book was published in 2017, five more volumes have already been added to this impressive list of good solid publications on the north German Neolithic that have come out of the *Frühe Monumentalität und soziale Differenzierung* research programme in Kiel, and I certainly hope for many more studies in the years to come.

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JOHANNES MÜLLER, Großsteingräber, Grabenwerke, Langhügel. Frühe Monumentalbauten Europas. Archäologie in Deutschland Sonderheft 11. Konrad Theiss Verlag, Darmstadt 2017. € 24.95. ISBN 978-3-8062-3463-3. 112 pages, 121 illustrations.

This book is a popular presentation and summary of the research project “Frühe Monumentalität und soziale Differenzierung” (“Early Monumentality and Social Differentiation”, <http://www.monument.ufg.uni-kiel.de/>), which started in 2009 and is now in its closing phase. The project, supported by the DFG (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – Schwerpunktprogramm 1400*), involved researchers from 22 universities and other research institutions working within 16 different sub-projects covering various aspects of Funnel Beaker (TRB) societies in northern Germany. The project was conceived as an interdisciplinary endeavour, studying not only the monuments themselves but also aspects such as environment, climate, subsistence economy, settlement patterns, burial practices, material culture patterns, etc. Several new excavations were carried out, but older material was studied as well. The results from the project, largely in the form of doctoral theses, have been published in a series of monographs, edited volumes, and conference proceedings and now number at least 13, in addition to numerous peer-reviewed papers.