

werden konnte. Die durchgehend in schwarz-weiß gehaltenen Abbildungen sind von recht bescheidener Qualität, so dass man vielleicht auf die wenig aussagekräftigen Fotos zugunsten von mehr Zeichnungen hätte verzichten können. Grundsätzlich nützlich, aber ein wenig zu knapp geraten ist der allgemeine Index, der den Sammelband abschließt. In der Summe haben wir es mit einem anregenden Buch zu tun, das seinen Wert aus der geographischen Vielfalt der im Fach auf internationaler Ebene noch recht wenig beleuchteten Untersuchungsgebiete bezieht. Liebhaber aktueller Theoriedebatten werden von einigen Beiträgen vielleicht angeregt werden, möglicherweise nur zum Widerspruch. In jedem Fall ist der Band durchaus empfehlenswert für diejenigen, die sich mit den Rändern des *Imperium Romanum* beschäftigen.

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**MARZENA J. PRZYBYŁA, Pressblechverzierte spätkaiserzeitliche Trachtbestandteile in Südsandinavien.** Nordiske Fortidsminder series B 28. University Press of Southern Denmark, Copenhagen 2018. DKK 478.00. ISBN 978-87-408-3126-9. 893 pages, richly illustrated in colour.

The monograph is a revised version of Marzena Przybyła's PhD dissertation, submitted to Jagiellonian University Krakow in 2008. The author studies dress elements decorated with embossed-foil ornaments in southern Scandinavia during the late Roman period. The main aim of the author is to reconstruct the political network that existed from the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century to the third quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Her research is essentially based on typological analyses of luxurious, mostly female, dress elements in the context of their geographical distribution.

The introduction (pp. 13–18) is followed by a short section on the history of previous research on embossed-foil decorations: this and the classification of the decorative elements are summarised in chapter 2 (pp. 19–27). The definitions of the individual motifs – divided into geometric, anthropomorphic, and zoomorphic motifs – are based on the author's modification of previous, well-known classification systems. It is not clear how many examples of each motif exist; especially in the case of the anthropomorphic motifs. These are only known from exceptional objects with embossed-foil ornaments that could be unique phenomena: for example, motif B2, which only occurs on the curved plate found in the Thorsberg bog. The use of the terms “realistic” and “schematic” anthropomorphic motifs, especially for the B1–B3 motifs, is certainly worth discussing.

The following chapters, 3–15 (pp. 29–507), undoubtedly form the main body of the study as they deal with the classification of the various objects with embossed-foil ornaments and the definition of the different groups of objects, variants, and types. The organisation of the monograph could have been more structured, especially with a view to the excellent later chapters on embossed-foil decorations (chapter 16, pp. 509–578) and the differentiation between the various dress elements with embossed-foil decorations (chapter 17, pp. 579–652), which form the concluding synthesis of the monograph. These two chapters refer back to the mainly descriptive chapters 3–15 and summarise the results.

Chapters 3–15 all follow the same pattern: after a short outline of the history of earlier research, the basic forms and the construction of the objects are described before they are classified typologically into groups and variants. These are followed by descriptions of the decoration on the embossed foils. The objects described in chapters 3–15 are different types of brooches (chapters 3–10, pp. 29–388), needles (chapter 11, pp. 389–406), rings (chapter 12, pp. 407–411), pendants

(chapter 13, pp. 413–417), knife sheaths (chapter 14, pp. 419–424), elements of waist belts and sword belts (chapter 15, pp. 425–507).

The descriptions of the forms, their construction, and their ornamentation are very precise and include meticulous drawings by the author of the construction of the objects. There are numerous photographs of the, sometimes unpublished, finds and detailed illustrations of the embossed-foil motifs, all of which underline the enormous amount of work that went into the monograph. The chapters are accompanied by additional lists of decorative motifs and motif combinations, with references to the numerous find lists in chapter 18 (pp. 653–683).

The author has classified the objects into very detailed categories with groups, variants, and types based on the previous descriptions and has mapped them by category as well as by material, construction features, and other criteria. These distribution maps form the basis for the conclusions drawn in chapter 17 (pp. 579–652). It would have been useful if the find contexts – for example, graves, sacrificed war booty, settlements, etc. – had been indicated by means of different symbols as their interpretive value is closely linked with the provenance of the finds. Offerings of war booty, for example, indicate a non-local provenance of the sacrificed military equipment; their undifferentiated mapping together with single finds and grave finds falsifies the distribution pattern of the various objects. However, the author does rectify this omission later, in chapter 17 (pp. 579–652), with the use of specific symbols. Distribution maps showing concentrations of the types of objects found in graves primarily reflect burial customs: the absence of finds that are typical grave goods – for example, luxurious dress elements – does not mean their actual absence in these areas.

Analyses of the chronology of the objects accompany the descriptive chapters – based on the author's own investigations of grave complexes and chronologies mentioned in other publications. The grave complexes are listed in chapters 3–15 (pp. 29–507). Przybyła uses the chronological phases C1a, C1b1, C1b2, C2a, C2b, C3a, and C3b, which are taken – as is made clear in the introduction – from her study published after the book reviewed here (M. J. PRZYBYŁA, *Dress Diversity as a Source for Studies on Interregional Connections: Regional and chronological diversity of simple variants of fibulae with a high catch-plate from Northern Europe*. *Bonner Beitr. Vor- u. Frühgesch. Arch.* 20 [Bonn 2018]).

The distribution maps show regional differences in the various groups, variants, and types as well as in the combinations of motifs on the embossed foils used as female dress ornaments; whereas the elements of male dress and weaponry indicate supra-regional distributions. Finally, coloured distribution maps illustrate the regional differences between the various types of object: the maps are interpreted later in the conclusions drawn in chapter 17.

Chapter 16 (pp. 509–578) gives an overview of the embossed-foil decorations on metal objects in Scandinavia during the late Roman Iron Age. The distribution maps do not link the motifs, and the arrangement of the motifs on the objects, with specific object types; it is therefore unclear whether certain motifs or motif combinations are connected with particular types of object. The distribution maps in chapters 3–15 (pp. 29–507) and the find lists in chapter 18 (pp. 653–683) include objects like sword accessories or horse harnesses with embossed-foil decorations – primarily as sacrificed war booty – alongside the dress elements. It is a pity that publications on sites such as the Thorsberg bog were only taken into consideration up to the year 2012, despite the fact that the monograph was not published until 2018; this was presumably due to the time needed for the editorial work. Since 2014, new information has been published on the finds and the reconstruction of personal equipment, weaponry, and horse equipment (C. VON CARNAP-BORNHEIM [ed.], *Das Thorsberger Moor 1–4* [Schleswig 2014–2015]) – in many cases with embossed-foil decorations; moreover, most objects can now be assigned to specific offerings. This means more precise

data are available for the objects from Thorsberg bog than those mentioned in the earlier research publications.

The chapter on embossed-foil decorations, with a detailed overview of the individual motifs and their arrangement on the objects, together with a discussion of the silver smiths and their production areas, does not include a discussion of the highly specialised production processes themselves.

Chapter 17 (pp. 579–652) evaluates the preceding chapters: its aim is to interpret the distribution maps for the groups, variants, and types of objects with embossed-foil decorations previously defined in chapters 3–15 (pp. 29–507). The evaluation is based on the various theoretical approaches cited by the author in order to discuss a dynamic picture of social processes on the basis of the archaeological finds (e.g. B. YORKE, *Kings and Kingdoms of Early Anglo-Saxon England* [London 1990]; R. WENSKUS, *Stammesbildung und Verfassung. Das Werden der frühmittelalterlichen gentes* [Köln 1961]; *ID.*, *Probleme der germanisch-deutschen Verfassungs- und Sozialgeschichte im Lichte der Ethnozoologie*. In: H. Beumann [ed.], *Historische Forschungen für Walter Schlesinger. Festschr. W. Schlesinger* [Köln, Wien 1974] 19–46; K. MODZELEWSKI, *Barbarzyńska Europa* [Warszawa 2004]). In the absence of contemporary written sources, these theoretical approaches are based on more recent descriptions of the social mechanisms of Angles, Jutes, and Saxons in eastern Britannia. Przybyła transposes these theories to Scandinavian societies in the late Roman Iron Age and attempts to apply them to questions concerning the nature of social stratification, the social position of silver smiths, and the way objects with embossed-foil decorations were distributed. According to Przybyła, society in southern Scandinavia during the late Roman Iron Age was structured as a stable hierarchy, while the political leadership was of a short-term nature and characterised by instability. Furthermore, she adopts the economic model of prestige goods that were purchased or acquired as gifts destined to strengthen the standing of the leader and his military retinue and legitimise political power. Female dress elements, a major topic in the monograph, are considered to have had an important function in social communication, as the most distinctive way of displaying social standing and status, but also to be worn at social events such as marriages – and in death. According to the author, female dress elements are mainly spread by female migration due to the phenomenon of exogamy. Female dress styles seem to be specific to particular regions; at the same time, they are more regionally differentiated than male dress. Przybyła accepts the theory that dress elements of a specific type found far from their original region can be explained by the practice of exogamy. However, as discussed above, it seems difficult to identify the original distribution of objects by means of graves, which are the most frequent source of these precious, elite objects. Przybyła postulates that the distribution maps of the different types of objects with embossed-foil decorations identify centres of power and indicate elite communication networks. She discusses this based on these prestigious objects, but the discussion should also include recent research on central places in Scandinavia and object groups less dependent on graves as a source (see among many others L. JØRGENSEN, *Gudme and Tissø. Two magnates' complexes in Denmark from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD*. In: B. Ludowici et al. [eds], *Trade and Communication Networks of the First Millennium AD in the Northern Part of Central Europe. Central Places, Beach Markets, Landing Places and Trading Centres*. *Neue Stud. Sachsenforsch.* 1 [Stuttgart 2010] 273–286; U. NÄSMAN, *Central places in South Scandinavia – A transformation twenty years after*. In: T. A. S. M. Panhuysen [ed.], *Transformations in North-Western Europe [AD 300–1000]. Proceedings of the 60<sup>th</sup> Sachsensymposium 19–23 September 2009 Maastricht*. *Neue Stud. Sachsenforsch.* 3 [Stuttgart 2011] 185–193; M. AXBOE, *Late Roman and Migration Period sites in southern Scandinavia with archaeological evidence of the activity of gold and silver smiths*. In: A. Pesch / R. Blankenfeldt [eds], *Goldsmith Mysteries. Archaeological, Pictorial and Documentary Evidence from the 1<sup>st</sup> Millennium AD in Northern Europe*. *Schr. Arch. Landesmus. Ergbd.* 8 [Neumünster 2012] 123–142; K. HØILUND NIELSEN, *Key issues*

concerning 'central places'. In: E. Stidsing et al. [eds], *Wealth and Complexity. Economically Specialised Sites in Late Iron Age Denmark*. East Jutland Mus. Publ. 1 [Aarhus 2014] 11–50).

She includes well-known research on, for example, gold ring jewellery, but these objects, too, mostly depend on sources such as graves or war-booty offerings, which are not particularly suitable objects for this discussion.

The author very accurately identifies characteristic features of female dress in different regions. The monograph is therefore of great value because the definition of different dress styles based on certain individual types of object demonstrates the diversity of regional dress in southern Scandinavia, and it is a very important basis for further studies. The author visualises detailed connections between different areas and suggests regional and supra-regional networks – in her opinion, marriage alliances mean family links and, furthermore, political contacts between elite centres of power, for example, between Zealand and the Limfjord or southwest Jutland. In these sections, the author refers to the detailed distribution maps in chapters 3–15. Based on these maps, which also include other European regions outside Scandinavia, she identifies elements of rich female dress in the Wielbark and Černjachov Cultures that are based on Scandinavian female dress styles. These complex and extensive networks of relationships between 34 different regions – defined by the occurrence of foreign elements in female dress and gold ring jewellery – are clearly shown on two network diagrams. Przybyła points out – in agreement with well-known earlier research on Roman imports and gold ring jewellery – that Zealand was a regional and political centre of power in Scandinavia during phases C1b and C2. She justifies this by referring to the large quantity of precious female dress elements and the huge number of richly ornamented brooches from Zealand as well as the imitations of Zealand-style elements of female dress in the central Baltic area, the territories of the Wielbark and Černjachov Cultures, Jutland, and in the northern Elb-Germanic area in what she calls a prestige-stimulated transmission of Scandinavian models. The reason given for the postulated dominant position of Zealand is based on the direct contacts between Zealand and the Roman Empire: trading on the one hand; diplomatic relations between the Empire and a client state on the other hand. Unfortunately, recent critical discussions of these theories were not taken into account (e. g. U. NÄSMAN, [Rev. of] B. Storgaard [ed.], *Military Aspects of the Aristocracy in Barbaricum in the Roman and Early Migration Periods*. Publ. Nat. Mus. Stud. Arch. and Hist. 5 [Copenhagen 2001]. *Kuml* 2002, 353–357 and A. RAU, *Das nördliche Barbaricum zur Zeit der Krise des 3. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. – Einige kritische Anmerkungen zur Diskussion über provinzialrömisch-nordeuropäische Verbindungen*. In: Th. Fischer [ed.], *Die Krise des 3. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. und das Gallische Sonderreich*. Akten des Interdisziplinären Kolloquiums Xanten 26. bis 28. Februar 2009. Schr. Lehr- u. Forschungszentrum Ant. Kulturen Mittelmeerraum – Centre for Mediterranean Cultures [ZAKMIRA] 8 [Wiesbaden 2012] 347–348; 379–381). These warn, among other things, against a historical interpretation of the archaeological find situation in these areas – especially when it is based on grave finds.

A basic assumption in the monograph is that the areas with the greatest concentrations of these dress elements are the areas of their original production and distribution. This combination of archaeological sources and basic assumptions is, however, loaded with methodological problems. The mainly grave-based concentrations do not automatically mean that the items were worn and produced in those areas to a greater extent than in other geographical areas but simply that these are the areas where they were buried as grave goods. Different burial customs – cremation graves / inhumation graves – in different regions can distort the picture. The distribution maps may not just mean the migration of women, with their dress elements, due to the custom of exogamy but – what I prefer – the migration of ideas concerning funeral customs and the appropriate form of burial attire for high-status women. The main areas of concentration of specific types of objects

must not necessarily indicate their production in those areas rather than in areas with a lesser occurrence of such types – regardless of the source. Examples are known of certain types of objects that were produced especially for export to distant regions but are rarely found in the areas where they were manufactured.

The final, summarising, chapter 17.3 (pp. 647–652) is unfortunately only in German; an additional English summary would have enhanced the visibility of this worthwhile monograph, especially in Scandinavia. It is followed by find lists, an extensive find catalogue, broken down into regions, and a bibliography. Given that a very large number of the analysed finds from Scandinavia have not – or only partially – been published before, one of Marzena Przybyła's great achievements, the result of several research journeys, is the precise documentation of the finds in depots and archives throughout Scandinavia as well as their publication for the information of the scientific community. The fact that the illustrations of the objects are included in the relevant chapters (3–15) facilitates the visual comprehension of the descriptions and classifications; additional plates are therefore not necessary.

The classification of specific types of dress element with embossed-foil decorations and the decorations on other metalwork with embossed-foil ornaments, the analyses of the combinations of motifs, the position of the embossed foils on the objects, and, in particular, the identification of certain female dress traditions in different parts of Scandinavia make this monograph an essential basic textbook for all further research on these objects. The distribution maps and the analyses of regional and supra-regional networks between different Scandinavian areas demonstrate the relationships and contacts that existed between Germanic elites during the late Roman Iron Age; the underlying reasons for these networks are certainly worth further discussion in view of the methodological criticism.

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**ALICE E. BLACKWELL / MARTIN GOLDBERG / FRASER HUNTER, Scotland's Early Silver. Transforming Roman Pay-offs to Pictish Treasures.** National Museums Scotland Enterprises Publishing Ltd, Edinburgh 2017. £ 19,99. ISBN: 978-1-910682-12-8. Paperback. 189 Seiten, 240 Abbildungen.

Das Schottische Nationalmuseum hat in den vergangenen Jahren durch eine Reihe von erworbenen Neufunden sowie durch Publikationen zu frühgeschichtlichen Silberobjekten einen bedeutenden Forschungsschwerpunkt aufgebaut. Zunächst ist hier die ausführliche Beschäftigung mit spätromischem Silber im Rahmen einer Neubewertung des bekannten, schon 1919 entdeckten Hortes von Traprain Law, East Lothian, zu nennen (F. HUNTER / K. PAINTER [Hrsg.], *Late Roman Silver. The Traprain Treasure in Context* [Edinburgh 2013]), dann die Wiederentdeckung des seit 1838 bekannten vorwikingerzeitlichen Hacksilberfundes von Gaulcross, Aberdeenshire (2013), der auch die Neubewertung eines weiteren Altfundes dieser Kategorie von Norrie's Law, Fife, unumgänglich machte (siehe G. NOBLE ET AL., (Re)discovering the Gaulcross hoard. *Antiquity* 90, 2016, 726–741). Der Neuentdeckung eines wohl bereits in das späte 3. oder frühe 4. Jahrhundert gehörenden Hortes „römischen“ Hacksilbers von Dairsie, Fife, folgte im gleichen Jahr (2014) der bislang einzigartige wikingerzeitliche Schatzfund von Galloway, Dumfries and Galloway.