

**JULIA MENNE, Keramik aus Megalithgräbern in Nordwestdeutschland. Interaktionen und Netzwerke der Trichterbecherwestgruppe.** Frühe Monumentalität und Soziale Differenzierung Band 16. Verlag Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn 2018. € 80.00. ISBN 978-3-7749-4140-3. 472 pages with numerous figures, 39 tables, and 66 plates.

The book to be discussed here is the dissertation of Julia Menne, which she wrote between 2013–2016 as a member of the Graduate School Human Development in Landscapes in Kiel. The work was included in the publication series of the DFG-funded priority programme SPP 1400 “Early Monumentality and Social Differentiation” as volume 16.

The author is dedicated to the typo-chronological analysis of ceramic inventories of the micro-region Emsland county within the distribution area of the Western Group of the Funnel Beaker Culture. Within this region, the focus lies on the landscape of the Sögeler Geest, which is also called “Hümmeling”. The area of 150 × 40 km is characterised by several ridges of the Geest, a special landform in the North European plain, marked by sandy soils and a weakly undulating terrain structured by small valleys and lying 20–40 m above sea level. On top of the ridges the megalithic graves are situated. The monuments are today heavily damaged. The river Ems forms the western border of the study area. The three villages Meppen in the south, Papenburg in the north, and Cloppenburg in the east mark the cornerstones of this area (p. 23 fig. 2).

The pottery finds result from excavations by Elisabeth Schlicht in the 1950s. The missing or incomplete documentation had a negative effect on the analysis, but recently some of the old records were found by chance and could be integrated in Menne’s research (p. 68). In addition, the find material cannot be assigned to any features or stratigraphic units and must therefore be regarded as a collective find per grave or per site. Menne was able to take advantage of the preliminary studies of Schlicht, who had already reconstructed the vessel units which form the basis for the recording and evaluation of the grave inventories. Not all of the pot sherds were investigated: for Emmeln 2, Menne states that 1.2 t of ceramics and more than 100 000 pieces of sherds in the magazines are still documented only cursorily – here it remains unclear whether this information refers to Schlicht or the author.

The aim of the new inventory of pottery from Schlicht’s excavations is a standardised description using the digital recording system NoNeK (“Nordmitteleuropäische Neolithische Keramik”, D. MISCHKA, NoNeK – ein Aufnahmesystem für steinzeitliche Keramik Nordmitteleuropas. Ber. RGK 89, 2008 [2011] 47–57. <https://docplayer.org/131256945-Nonek-ein-aufnahmesystem-fuer-steinzeitliche-keramik-nordmitteleuropas.html> [last access: 27.04.2021]) which was developed as part of the above-mentioned priority programme. Based on this, Menne compares the inventories between the different burial clusters, which she interprets as referring to the settlement areas of different communities. Menne does not even try to set up her own typo-chronological system because of the stray find character of her finds but assigns her vessels to phases 2–7 according to Anna L. BRINDLEY (The typo-chronology of TRB West Group pottery. *Palaeohistoria* 28, 1986, 93–132. <https://ugp.rug.nl/Palaeohistoria/article/view/25025> [last access: 27.04.2021]). She adopts the dating of these steps from Moritz MENNENGA (Zwischen Elbe und Ems. Die Siedlungen der Trichterbecherkultur in Nordwestdeutschland. Frühe Monumentalität u. Soziale Differenzierung 13 [Bonn 2017]. [https://www.monument.ufg.uni-kiel.de/fileadmin/projekte/common/fmsd13/FMSD\\_13.pdf](https://www.monument.ufg.uni-kiel.de/fileadmin/projekte/common/fmsd13/FMSD_13.pdf)). Even though she tries to obtain an absolute age by radiocarbon dating charcoal samples and bone fragments from two graves, this does not help to date the inventories due to the plateau in the <sup>14</sup>C curve between 3300–3000 BC nor the missing connection of the dated samples to features or finds. In summary, she considers the period of the burial construction and use spanning between 3500–2800 BC.

Although Menne mentions the relationship of the burials to the landscape and the reconstruction of the environmental changes as further objectives of her thesis, she does not pursue these goals further apart from a chapter summarising the state of research on the natural environment (pp. 21–25) and a chapter on visibility analyses (pp. 130–134).

For the first time, a total of 2068 vessel units from nine grave inventories and collection finds from four more sites were recorded in a comparable manner (8522 sherds; p. 39 tab. 5). Three inventories are very large with 321–800 vessel units, the others have partly delivered well under 100 vessels. Werpeloh 43 is listed in the table with 800 vessel units. However, this inventory was already taken up by Menne in her master's thesis. Obviously, she had not formed any vessel units at that time but had recorded individual fragments instead, which she corrected for the doctoral thesis (p. 99) so that the data set was reduced significantly from 775 (according to p. 99) to 188 vessel units. Therefore, the amount of 2068 vessel units is reduced to 1456. From 500 vessel units all attributes were registered, while for the other vessel units the attributes for colour, manufacturing, and metrics, except for the weight, were not listed. Form and ornamentation were recorded according to the standardised NoNeK procedure, which was also used by other researchers in the SPP 1400 "Early Monumentality and Social Differentiation", so that Menne was able to access data records recorded within the framework of other SPP projects for comparative evaluation with neighbouring regions. She herself notes in a source-critical and restrictive way that the neighbouring regions had only been recorded in NoNeK by means of illustrations and photos from the literature and not by authors' own autopsy. Published, non-standardised descriptions of other editors were not always reproducible (p. 137).

A descriptive analysis of the pots follows. The missing differentiation of the Brindley phases is to be criticised here. The finds are shown in 66 plates with photos of the frontal view, combined with drawn profiles. References to the plates are largely missing in the text. The inventory numbers, and unfortunately not the numbers of the vessel units, are provided in lists (pp. 163–170). The reviewer would have wished for an additional sorting according to the Brindley phases. Unfortunately, the phase indication is also missing in the published forms 1 and 2 (pp. 326–472). It is astonishing that in times of digitisation a catalogue of about 150 pages with the recorded attributes and values is printed, but this can still be considered the safest data archiving for now. The lists do not include the vessel unit number, and, instead, a connection has to be made between the two forms via the "individual number".

A correspondingly ordered description for the individual inventories follows on pp. 66–111. This part is actually a catalogue and could have been placed at the end of the work. Additionally, at the end of the book there is a list of 136 sites in the district of Emsland with information on the location, preservation, and burial number according to Ernst Sprockhoff. The illustration of the grave's ground plans would have been very helpful for a further study of the sites. In general, it is noticeable that a consideration of the pottery in relation to architectural details of the chamber is rather peripheral; there is also no reference to potential non-ceramic finds from the chambers.

Menne interprets, without further discussion, the duration and intensity of use of the graves according to the Brindley phases for lack of other information (pp. 127–129). In phases 2–3, there are only a few grave goods, the highest number of objects is found in phase 4 and declining in 5 before the number of finds decreases significantly again. Nonetheless, the author is aware that the deposition behaviour can change through time. A relationship between chamber size and ceramic quantity cannot be proven (p. 142). Menne's thoughts on phases 4 and 5 are interesting: she believes she can recognise an interregional pattern of the number of deposited vessel types and an increasing absolute number of the deposited vessels per phase. The number of decoration pattern types has also increased (p. 143). In sum, the proportion of decorated vessels is very high at 78%, but this could be caused by a pre-selection of the vessel units through Schlicht (p. 43).

Menne takes the analysis of decoration of vessels and its meaning a step further by first dividing the ornamentation into two groups: “singular pattern types” and “standard pattern types”. Here she can prove contacts between neighbouring graves and beyond by means of the singular pattern types across the inventories. The standard pattern types are formed from patterns that appear again and again in the region but are executed using different techniques. In this, Menne sees evidence for the intensive exchange of pottery between the grave regions (e. g. pp. 116–118). She also tries to analyse the inventories by means of a canonical correspondence analysis (presumably the coordinates of the sites are taken as independent factor, but this is not mentioned); yet she cannot make a distinction between the pattern types (pp. 122–125). In fig. 113 (p. 125), however, the inventories of the three large grave inventories differentiate quite well on the basis of the individual pattern types and decoration techniques used. Menne believes to be able to recognise the west-east contacts especially in the Drente. The inventory of Emmeln 2 is worked out as an “interface” between the regions and possibly lies near a ford over the Ems.

Energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence analyses (P-ED-RFA) on 123 samples cannot be clearly interpreted (pp. 58–63). Group formation is not successful. Thin sections indicate the use of heterogeneous raw materials, which were obtained either from heterogeneous deposits or from changing sources (pp. 64–65). Local raw material was probably used. Katrin Struckmeyer summarises her results on this on pp. 315–319.

Menne rejects the possibility to prove that sets of pots belong to individual funeral events because of the numerous manipulations of the inventories through time (p. 146).

At the end of the publication, Menne points to the different deposition types between her working area, the Western Group of the Funnel Beaker Culture, and the Scandinavian graves of the Northern Group. In the Western Group, large numbers of vessels (several 100) are deposited in the chambers. In Scandinavia, there are fewer vessels within the chambers and, instead, most of them are placed outside. The total number of vessels found in the Western Group is extremely high. Fig. 124 (p. 144) illustrates this very beautifully. The question arises as to whether the length of use of the burial monuments also plays a role here to the different deposition habits.

The present doctoral thesis is solidly and stringently structured and elaborated. Nowadays, only a few doctoral students are willing to deal with such an amount of finds, which increases the value of the data template and requires great respect. The consistent application of a comparable standardised recording allows an entire region to be investigated at a qualitatively and quantitatively new level, which clearly stands out from the orientation towards less objective descriptions. The good illustration with clear identification of the individual vessel units is exemplary and should especially become standard. Only the missing specification of the Brindley phases is to be regarded as a shortcoming.

Although no closed find inventories can be expected in megalithic tombs, the reviewer considers the handling of the overall inventories to be somewhat too simple; here it would be exciting to carry out the quantitative analyses separately, at least for the individual Brindley phases, in order to examine how the relationships develop diachronically. It would also be interesting to consider the grave architecture, only in fig. 118 (p. 132) and on p. 26 is the reader informed of different chamber types in the working area, including a special local type called “Emsländische Kammer” for very large, west-east oriented chambers with an even number of orthostates and capstones, a narrow side access, and kerbstones enclosing the whole monument.

Only some minor editorial errors have to be mentioned, such as repetitions in different chapters, a wrong illustration reference, or a missing scale of the red circles in fig. 124 (p. 144). Furthermore, it is difficult to find out from which sites the samples in tab. 4 were obtained, and the indications

BC and AD are also missing here. The significance of the individual illustrations A–E in fig. 119 (p. 133) is not apparent to the reader. It would have been better to have a short explanation of the “Emslandkultivierung” as a cultivation programme after the Second World War which was important for the circumstances of the finds at the beginning of the book. Instead, the reader has to extract the information from footnotes on pp. 23 and 82.

Overall, Julia Menne’s doctoral thesis offers a good basis for further studies of the enormous amounts of pots and the megalithic burial rites of the West Group of the Funnel Beaker Culture and should therefore not be missing in a good library.

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**MARTIN BARTELHEIM / PRIMITIVA BUENO RAMÍREZ / MICHAEL KUNST (Hrsg.), Key Resources and Sociocultural Developments in the Iberian Chalcolithic.** RessourcenKulturen Band 6. Tübingen Library Publishing, Tübingen 2017. € 46,80. ISBN 978-3-946552-12-3 (Hardcover). ISBN 978-3-946552-13-0 (PDF, Open Access). doi: <https://doi.org/10.15496/publikation-19737>. 312 Seiten mit zahlreichen farbigen Abbildungen.

Wie im einleitenden Beitrag der beiden Mitherausgeber Martin Bartelheim und Primitiva Bueno Ramírez ausgeführt, geht der hier zu besprechende Sammelband aus einem Kolloquium hervor, das vom 9. bis 11. April 2015 in Alcalá de Henares und Madrid stattfand, gemeinsam ausgerichtet von der Universität Alcalá de Henares, dem Deutschen Archäologischen Institut in Madrid und dem an der Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen angesiedelten Sonderforschungsbereich 1070 „RessourcenKulturen“ der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). Neben einer Darstellung der Genese des vorliegenden Bandes liefert das einleitende Kapitel einen kurzen Abriss des allgemeinen forschungsgeschichtlichen Hintergrundes zu den im Band behandelten Themen, listet die Leitfragen des zugrundeliegenden Kolloquiums auf (S. 10: Was wurde als Ressource wahrgenommen und wie wurden diese Ressourcen genutzt? Welche technologischen und logistischen Bedingungen müssen für die Nutzung von Ressourcen erfüllt sein, und welche Ressourcenkomplexe sind zu erkennen? Welche Verbindungen geben sich zwischen der Nutzung von Ressourcen und der soziokulturellen Dynamik auf der regionalen Ebene der behandelten Fallstudien zu erkennen? Erklären diese Verbindungen die seitens der Forschung unterstellten Unterschiede zwischen der soziokulturellen Entwicklung im Süden und im Zentrum der Iberischen Halbinsel?) und formuliert eine Reihe weiterführender Fragestellungen für die zukünftige Erforschung der Stein- und Kupferzeit in Südwesteuropa (S. 14). Die genannten Leitfragen dienen hier zugleich dem Zweck, den zentralen Begriff der Ressourcenkultur näher zu umschreiben. Letztlich geht es dabei um die enge Verschränkung von Ressourcennutzung und soziokultureller Dynamik, wobei letztere nicht zuletzt darüber entscheidet, welche materiellen und ideellen Gegebenheiten von den Mitgliedern einer Gesellschaft überhaupt erst als Ressource angesehen werden. Antworten auf einige weitere praktische Fragen, die für die Leserschaft ggf. von Interesse gewesen wären, etwa ob alle im vorliegenden Band zusammengefassten Beiträge auf im Rahmen des besagten Kolloquiums gehaltene Vorträge zurückgehen oder ob sämtliche Kolloquiumsvorträge auch Eingang in den hier zu besprechenden Band gefunden haben, bleiben ihr dagegen vorenthalten.

Außer dem Einführungskapitel enthält der vorliegende Band 14 weitere Beiträge, die sich überwiegend lokalen und regionalen Fallstudien widmen. Dabei setzt sich etwa die Hälfte dieser