Megalithgräber, die oft auf fruchtbaren Böden in Gegenden mit guten anderen Rohstoffquellen wie z. B. Flintvorkommen lägen, seien keine Begräbnisstätten bestimmter sozialer Gruppen. Auch eine Bedeutung als territoriale Marker sei aufgrund der oft auch in Clustern vorkommenden Gräber eher auszuschließen. Vielmehr seien sie eher als gemeinschaftliche Plätze, rituelle Bezugspunkte und Versammlungsstätten in der Sphäre einer rituellen Ökonomie zu verstehen und damit auch veränderliche materielle Marker eines fortlaufenden gesellschaftlichen Diskurses, der durch wiederholte Handlungen an den Gräbern aufrecht erhalten wurde.

Es ist Maria Wunderlich gelungen, einen theoretisch und methodisch innovativen, fachlich umfassenden und in sich „runden", erfrischenden Ansatz zur Megalithforschung zu präsentieren. Ein wichtiges Ergebnis ist, neben der umfassenden Dokumentation und Methodenentwicklung zur Erfassung von rezenten Anlagen, vor allem die Vielfalt der sozialen Bedeutung materieller Kultur, welche auch in Zukunft ganz neue Impulse zum Verständnis der Megalithanlagen in der nördlichen Trichterbecherkultur und darüber hinaus geben kann.

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Stefanie Berg / Carola Metzner-Nebelsick (eds), Eine einmalige Zinnperlentracht der Frühbronzezeit aus Bayern. „Powerdressing" vor 4000 Jahren. Schriftenreihe des Bayerischen Landesamtes für Denkmalpflege volume 23. Kunstverlag Josef Fink, Lindenberg 2021. € 17.90. ISBN 978-3-95976-342-2. 156 pages with 230 figures.

In this 155-page A4 volume in glossy print quality, ten multidisciplinary articles deal with the highly remarkable find of an Early Bronze Age female burial in Bavaria. The book focuses on the systematic scientific examination of the extraordinary adornment of a deceased woman with about 4000 tin beads. Stefanie Berg outlines the archaeological excavation and block recovery of the find (pp. 11–16). The grave, the human remains and the grave goods are outlined in terms of the restoration measures involved by Jörg Stolz, who also deals with the reconstruction of the tin beads (pp. 17–52). Ken Massy explains the burials' role in the regional archaeological context (pp. 53–76) and Carola Metzner-Nebelsick discusses their place in the Early Bronze Age world (pp. 77–100). Anja Hobmaier reconstructs how the woman might have worn the jewellery while alive (pp. 101–104), while the surviving human remains are examined anthropologically by Anja Staskiewicz. Andreas Rott and Gisela Grupe describe the analysis of the stable strontium isotopes, which can indicate the place of the origin of the deceased (pp. 111–116). Daniel Berger, Gerhard Brügmann, Ernst Pernicka, and Jörg Stolz take new steps in the determination of the origin of tin and the identification of tin deposits on the basis of chemical analyses and share their interpretation of the salvaged tin beads (pp. 117–140). Franz Herzig analyses the origin of the small amount of plant remains found (pp. 141–142). The analyses are put into perspective by reference samples. The German-language papers by these authors, prominent international specialists in their field, are supplemented by numerous photos, graphics and tables and subsequently summarised in English. The papers are extensively footnoted.

The reader is introduced to the subject matter gradually and drawn into the interesting questions surrounding this finds complex: How was it possible to produce such a large number of these

miniature beads so precisely? How were the beads arranged? What makes them so valuable? And finally: Why does it matter where this young woman came from and where the tin deposits were located?

But first, let's take things one step at a time: The grave was uncovered during a regular archaeological excavation in Schwabmünchen-Mittelstetten (Augsburg County in Bavarian Swabia, DE) in the immediate vicinity of two other contemporaneous graves in December 2009 and, as organic remains were thought to be preserved, was divided into six blocks and recovered en bloc in January 2010 at optimal low temperature conditions. They were deep-frozen in the restoration department of the Bavarian State Office for the Preservation of Monuments for further examination. This was undertaken by J. Stolz, who was surprised to discover through a routine X-ray that there were countless very small metal objects in the earth surrounding the remains. In order to preserve the original finds situation of this extraordinary discovery, it was decided not to uncover it entirely.

The examination of the recovered blocks was now carried out under laboratory conditions using macro- and micro-photographs, X-ray and computed tomography, illuminated for the reader by numerous illustrations. This meticulous documentation was necessary due to the poor state of preservation of the metal objects. The result was a complete record of the burial and of the objects found as far as the conditions of preservation allowed. The skeleton lay in an anatomically undisturbed position (p. 55 fig. 2). About 4000 tin beads, each 1–2 mm in size, were found in the skull and chest area alongside copper ornaments such as two decorated discs, two spiral tutulas, short copper tubes, and also a cockle and a bone ring. Two copper spiral rings were identified as leg jewellery (p. 57 fig. 5).

According to the morphological analysis of the human remains, the deceased was a 16 to 18-year-old woman who was 165 or 162–163 cm tall. A sample of a permanent molar was used to determine her place of origin by means of strontium isotopes $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ and its enamel homogenised. The result of the comparison with local values and with two potential tin mining areas, the Erzgebirge in Saxony / Bohemia and Cornwall in southern England, was not unambiguous, i. e. the young woman could have been of local origin or an immigrant.

The metallurgical analysis of the tin beads from Schwabmünchen is one of the central parts of this volume, since a meaningful method for determining the origin of tin is one of the most exciting research issues in recent years with implications for mobility and trade network of the Early Bronze Age, especially as we now know about prehistoric extraction at Schellerhau in Saxony. Despite extensive efforts by scientific teams of international researchers, it is currently not possible to distinguish European tin deposits from each other by the known methods (tin isotopy, lead isotopy, age determination by means of isochrone), but a non-European origin of the Schwabmünchner beads can be clearly excluded. The detailed description of the chemical analyses, the employing photos, diagrams and tables to introduce the interested reader to this research question, are very much recommended.

The production of the small beads, on the other hand, was surprisingly simple since tin assumes a round shape when melted in small amounts, due to surface tension. The resulting small ball can easily be pierced with a wooden stick when hot (p. 43 fig. 98–103). It has been experimentally proven that the production of 6000 beads took about 34 hours (p. 43).

Based on the distribution of the beads, which can be seen dimly in the X-ray image (p. 42 fig. 96–97; p. 44 fig. 108), it can be assumed that they were threaded onto strings, which were fixed in uniform rows on the supporting material (p. 51 fig. 122).

The poor state of preservation of the beads also made a reconstruction drawing difficult (p. 102 fig. 2), but the following costume can be suggested all the same: The woman wore a headband on

which the two spiral tutulas, the tin tubes and the tin beads were attached. The stand-up collar of her dress was edged with a band of tin beads. A similar ribbon adorned the ear area. Her neck was encircled by a small chain with copper tubes. The chest area was covered with geometrically arranged rows of pearls. Her shoulders were covered by a cape-like garment on which the two large ornamented copper discs were fixed at chest level. The cockle hung from a necklace at about the same height. The bone disc was used to fasten a skirt belt. The woman's ankles were each enclosed by a copper spiral hoop.

The copper jewellery, the shell and the bone disc are well-known accessories in this region, the area associated with the Lechtal group of the Straubing culture, although this burial community usually refrains from providing food for the journey to the afterlife in ceramic vessels. The position of the skeleton on its right side with the head to the south corresponds to the gender-appropriate burial tradition for women of the Straubing culture, as does the inclusion of sunken posts in the grave, which is supported by well-documented parallel features. The grave is dated both typologically by relative chronology (Bz A1) and absolutely by ^{14}C dates (between the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 18th century BC, p. 149 fig. 13) and supported by reference features. The two decorated copper discs attest to a contact with the Aunjetitz culture, where comparable specimens are known from depot finds.

As extraordinary as this woman's tin bead jewellery may be, this raw material is not unknown an ornament in southern Germany, although it is surprising that despite the fact that copper and tin were traded and processed, the magic power of tin to transform copper into hardwearing "gold" was not yet practised in this region.

When also taking account of the segmented tin bead from Buxheim and the handle with a tin pin decoration, Bavaria can now be recognised as a new focus point, accompanying several sites in the Czech and Slovakian area, in the Netherlands, and in the British Isles (p. 78 fig. 1). The necklace from the Dutch site of Odoorn-Exloërmond particularly resembles a European travel guide, as it consists of amber from the Baltic coast, of elongated and round segmented tin beads, indicating a connection to England, furthermore of a cylindrical bronze or copper plate metal sheath and finally of four bluish-green segmented faience beads, indicating technology transfer from the eastern Mediterranean region, Egypt or Mesopotamia. Mention should also be made of other extremely interesting and unusual parallel finds, which impressively demonstrate the singular jewellery design of Early Bronze Age craftsmanship. With her tin bead jewellery, the young woman from Schwabmünchen was thus part of a wide-ranging trade network that served to supply tin from the few and isolated sources of raw material (p. 80 fig. 2). Our present incomplete knowledge about tin distribution is probably due above all to the problematic preservation of the metal in the soil. A moist environment seems to be conducive, as the tin ingot find from Sursee-Gammainseli (CH) and various shipwreck finds prove.

A discovery in humic burial pits requires great powers of observation and very definitively the use of technical aids, since the easy erodibility of the metal makes it extremely difficult to recognise with the naked eye (p. 25 fig. 34; p. 28 figs 41–43).

Summing up it can be said even if an archaeological source appears diffuse, increased effort in evaluating it is nevertheless justified, especially when it leads to such a fundamental result as that presented in this volume.

Multidisciplinary cooperation enables the best possible evaluation of sources and the reciprocative improvement of the findings. In this case, the archaeological analysis in particular shows how protracted the transformation of tin and copper into a reproducible, high-performance alloy was. The Bavarian site of this elaborate pewter decoration impressively demonstrates on the one hand

an efficient trade and communication network reaching from the periphery to the heart of central Europe, and on the other an appreciation of the role of women in a burial community at around 2000 BC.

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Tobias L. Kienlin, Bronze Age Tell Communities in Context. An Exploration into Culture, Society, and the Study of European Prehistory. Part 1: Critique. Europe and the Mediterranean. Archaeopress, Oxford 2015. £ 38,00. ISBN 978-1-78491-147-8 (Paperback). Open Access: https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/download/9781784911478 [letzter Zugriff: 20.03.2023]. ISBN 978-1-78491-148-5 (e-PDF). v + 167 Seiten mit 71 Abbildungen. Part 2: Practice. The Social, Space, and Materiality. Archaeopress, Oxford 2020. £ 45,00. ISBN 978-1-78969-750-6 (Paperback). Open Access: https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/download/9781789697506 [letzter Zugriff: 20.03.2023]. ISBN 978-1-78969-751-3 (e-PDF). 250 Seiten mit 169 Abbildungen.

Fünf Jahre nach dem Erscheinen des ersten Teils liegt nun auch der zweite Band einer Studie von Tobias L. Kienlin zu bronzezeitlichen Tellsiedlungen im Karpatenbecken vor, die aus dem von ihm zusammen mit Klára P. Fischl geleiteten Projekt „Borsod Region Bronze Age Settlement (BORBAS)“ hervorgingen. Die zwei Bände widmen sich den in der Neolithikums- und Bronzezeitforschung weitgehend getrennten Wegen der Interpretation von Siedlungshügeln in einer forschungsgeschichtlichen Perspektive (Bd. 1) sowie T. Kienlins eigenen Deutungsansätzen bronzezeitlicher Siedlungen im Rahmen praxistheoretischer Ansätze (Bd. 2). Sie reihen sich neben die 2018 publizierte Befundvorlage (T. L. Kienlin et al., Borsod Region Bronze Age Settlement [BORBAS]. Catalogue of the Early to Middle Bronze Age Tell Sites Covered by Magnetometry and Surface Survey. Universitätsforsch. Prähist. Arch. 317 [Bonn 2018]), einen Sammelband zum Otomani-Füzesabony-Phänomen (K. P. Fischl / T. L. Kienlin [Hrsg.], Beyond Divides – The Otomani-Füzesabony Phenomenon. Current Approaches to Settlement and Burial in the North-Eastern Carpathian Basin and Adjacent Areas. Universitätsforsch. Prähist. Arch. 345 [Bonn 2019]) sowie einer Vielzahl von Aufsatzpublikationen zum BORBAS-Projekt ein. Darüber hinaus hat Kienlin einen Sammelband zu vorgeschichtlichen Tellsiedlungen mitherausgegeben (A. Blanco-González / T. L. Kienlin [Hrsg.], Current Approaches to Tells in the Prehistoric Old World: A Cross-cultural Comparison from Early Neolithic to the Iron Age [Oxford 2020]. doi: https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv13pk5j9); nicht nur dessen Mitherausgeber Antonio Blanco-González widmete dem ersten Band der vorliegenden Studie bereits eine Buchbesprechung (European Journal Arch. 20,2, 2017, 383–387. doi: https://doi.org/10.1017/eaa.2017.7), sondern auch Timothy Earle (Arch. Austriaca 101, 2017, 315–319. doi: https://doi.org/10.1553/archaeologia101s315).

In Band 1 führt Kienlin die Interpretation von Siedlungshügeln des Neolithikums bzw. der Bronzezeit als Schauplatz ein, auf dem sich die unterschiedlichen Fachdiskurse in den beiden Perioden besonders deutlich zeigen (Bd. 1: S. 3–6). Während als Ursachen für die Entstehung von Tellsiedlungen in der Neolithikumsforschung überwiegend Taphonomie, Subsistenz und Mensch-Umwelt-Beziehungen diskutiert werden, werden in der Bronzezeitforschung v. a. Urbanisierung, Metallurgie und soziopolitische Hierarchien hinter der Tellbildung vermutet. Auf einen Überblick über Schlüsselfundstellen des Spätneolithikums und der Bronzezeit des Karpatenbeckens und ihre Interpretation in der Literatur (Bd. 1: S. 7–67) folgt der zweite Hauptteil, in dem derzeit gängige