

## THE REMARKABLE BURIAL OF A FEMALE WITH SIGNS OF MEDICAL CARE AT THE CEMETERY OF PALÁRIKOVO<sup>1</sup>

Anna Gardelková-Vrtelová – Peter C. Ramsi



*Key words: Slovakia, Nitra Region, Cemetery, La Tène period, Female Grave, Medical Object*

The material presented in this study comes from one of the most interesting funerary complexes in the Palárikovo cemetery. Objects used for medical purposes are not frequent find from the La Tène period. This study explores social standing indicated by the variability in the burial rite. Is there a connection between this object and the social status of the buried individual (richness of the grave)? The object of Palárikovo represents the first findings from the Carpathian Basin.

### INTRODUCTION



Fig. 1. Location of the site (Central Europe).

The cemetery of Palárikovo (Fig. 1) is located some 7 km from the village of the same name. Several Celtic sites have been discovered in the village (for example, the second Celtic cemetery on Kopcová remíza. From the position Palárikovo I-Dolné Križovany, located 1.5 km to the north-east). We will focus on a large cemetery excavated at the Dolný Kerestrúr or Dolné Križovany site, in the area of former tobacco dryers and the local agricultural cooperative. In the past, the village of Palárikovo was called Slovenský Meder. The village Palárikovo is located in the district of Nové Zámky, one of the largest districts in Slovakia. The southeastern boundary of the district is formed by the Danube and Ipeľ rivers. The districts belongs to the Nitra Region.

In our attempt to interpret the circular shaped object from grave 35, we depart from the picture of the find situation as original documentation by Emil Rejholec. With high probability, the woman

<sup>1</sup> This study was supported by research project 1/0243/17 of the Scientific Grant Agency of the Slovak Republic and SASPRO project „Male identities in La Tène period cemeteries“.

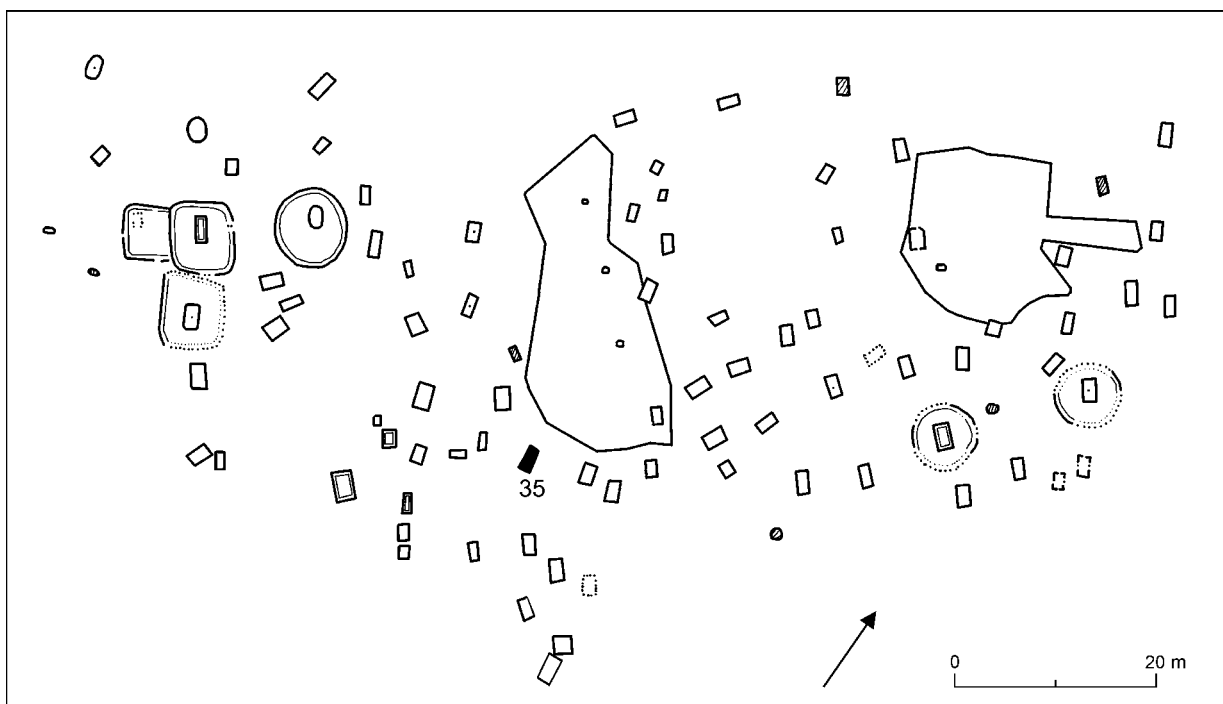


Fig. 2. Palárikovo. Plan of cemetery. Graphics A. Gardelková-Vrtelová (*Benadik/Rejholec 1974; Benadik 1975a, fig. 1*).

buried in the grave was a member of a higher social class of the Celtic society. The object was recorded in only one grave at Palárikovo.

#### THE SITE (AND THE SURROUNDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE)

The analysed La Tène period cemetery is located at the northwest edge of the town of Palárikovo. A total of 95 graves (inhumation and cremation) were uncovered here in 1969–1973 over an area of nearly 1 ha (*Benadik 1975a, 22, 23; 1975b*). The large number of its graves ranks the La Tène burial ground Palárikovo among the largest Celtic cemeteries in Slovakia. The first find from the site date back to the year 1969, when the first archaeological site inspection was also conducted by the teacher Jozef Šilhavík from Nové Zámky. Rescue excavations started in 1970 under the supervision of Blažej Benadik from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Archaeology in Nitra. In cooperation with Emil Rejholec (an excavation technician), 32 graves were excavated and documented during the first stage of the excavations. During the following campaigns 1971–1974, the number of graves increased by another 63 tombs. The excavated area reached 1 ha in total, with all graves dated to the La Tène sub periods LTB2–LTC.

In terms of broader geographic relationships, the locality is situated in the landscape of the Danube lowland, the Danubian plain, which is characterized by a minimum of rugged terrain (*Lukniš a kol. 1972, 126*). A long channel runs through the village. The cadastral municipality has an area of 5129 ha, and the land is flat with an altitude of 110–121 m above sea level. The area has good soil quality for agricultural use and is located on the alluvial terrace of the river. There are wide and wet terrains called „salt marshes“. Despite this, the cadastre of Palárikovo holds a total of five sand dunes, the relief of which originated in the Quaternary Period (*Nemeš 2012, 224*).

Next to the described burial ground, the La Tène settlement Palárikovo I was also discovered on the land of K. Vitek (*Szabó 1997, 38*). In this village, another La Tène necropolis was also registered at a place called Kopcová remíza, this cemetery was named Palárikovo II and is located approximately 1.5 kilometres northeast of the first cemetery. It is the highest point (119.07 m above sea level) of the slightly elevated dunes south of railway line 130 in the direction of Bratislava-Budapest (*Paulík/Zachar 1975, 283*).

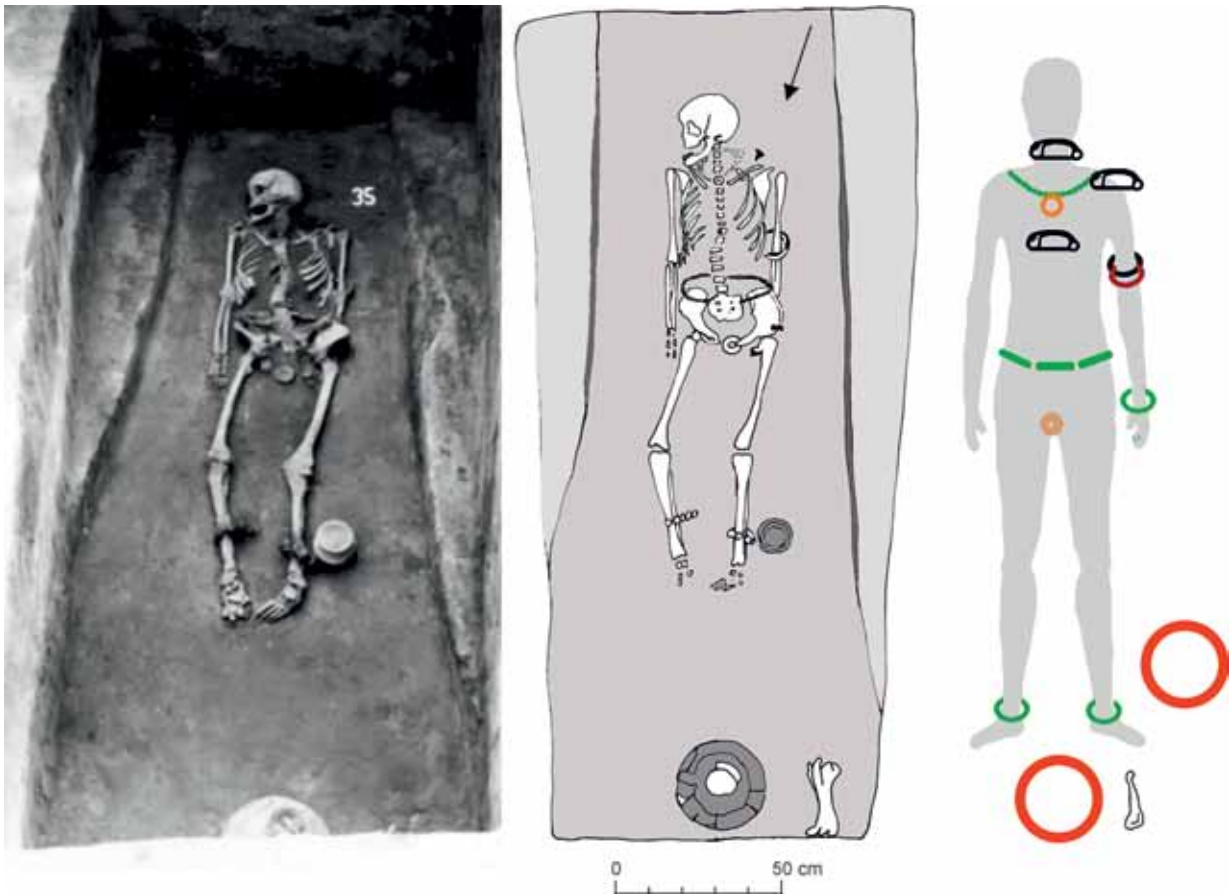


Fig. 3. Palárikovo. Photo, Plan and schematically graphic of grave 35. Red – ceramic vessels; green – bronze; black – iron; orange – amber; brown – clay ring; dark red – saponite. Photo E. Rejholec (archive AU SAV), Plan E. Rejholec (archive AU SAV and A. Gardelková-Vrtelová – plan) and P. C. Ramsl, Graphic P. C. Ramsl.

The archaeological sections of the Palárikovo I site can be described as follows: on top of the surface a thin layer of topsoil, beneath a layer of sand, respectively yellow clay-sandy subsoil. At the foothills of raised (higher) areas the topsoil raises from 30 to 70 cm and can be described as sandy clay soil of a dark colour (Benadik/Janek 1976, 5). A different situation occurred on the parcel of K. Vitek, where the humus layer reached 80 cm. The humus layer gradually floated down the hill to a depth of 250 cm (Benadik/Rejholec 1974, 1). Apparently this was a sand dune, which are from the village of Palárikovo towards Nové Zámky and Moča (Šomšák et al. 2002). Some other La Tène cemeteries from Slovakia have also been situated on a sand dune, for example in Horný Jatov, Hurbanovo or Holiare (Benadik/Vlček/Ambros 1957, 11, 44).

Although the significant area of the cemetery named Palárikovo I was excavated (Fig. 2), the area beneath the drying building (in the northeast part of the site) could not be investigated. An experimental garden was built at this place in the past destroying the finds below it. The neighbouring parcel of Karol Anđel was also investigated (Benadik 1975b, 23).

### Grave 35, position and evidence

Grave 35/71 was discovered in the third trench in the southern part of the necropolis (Fig. 3). Graves 33/71 and 34/71 were also discovered in this section.

A woman, 50 to 60 years (Jakab 2016, 106) of age was buried in grave 35 in Palárikovo. The woman's remains were resting at the bottom of a 175 cm, deep grave pit lined with wooden planks (under two visible grey bands). The grave pit became visible only at the level of -160 cm. The dimensions were 260 x 100 to 120 x 175 cm (bottom of the grave pit). The shape of the pit was rectangular, and

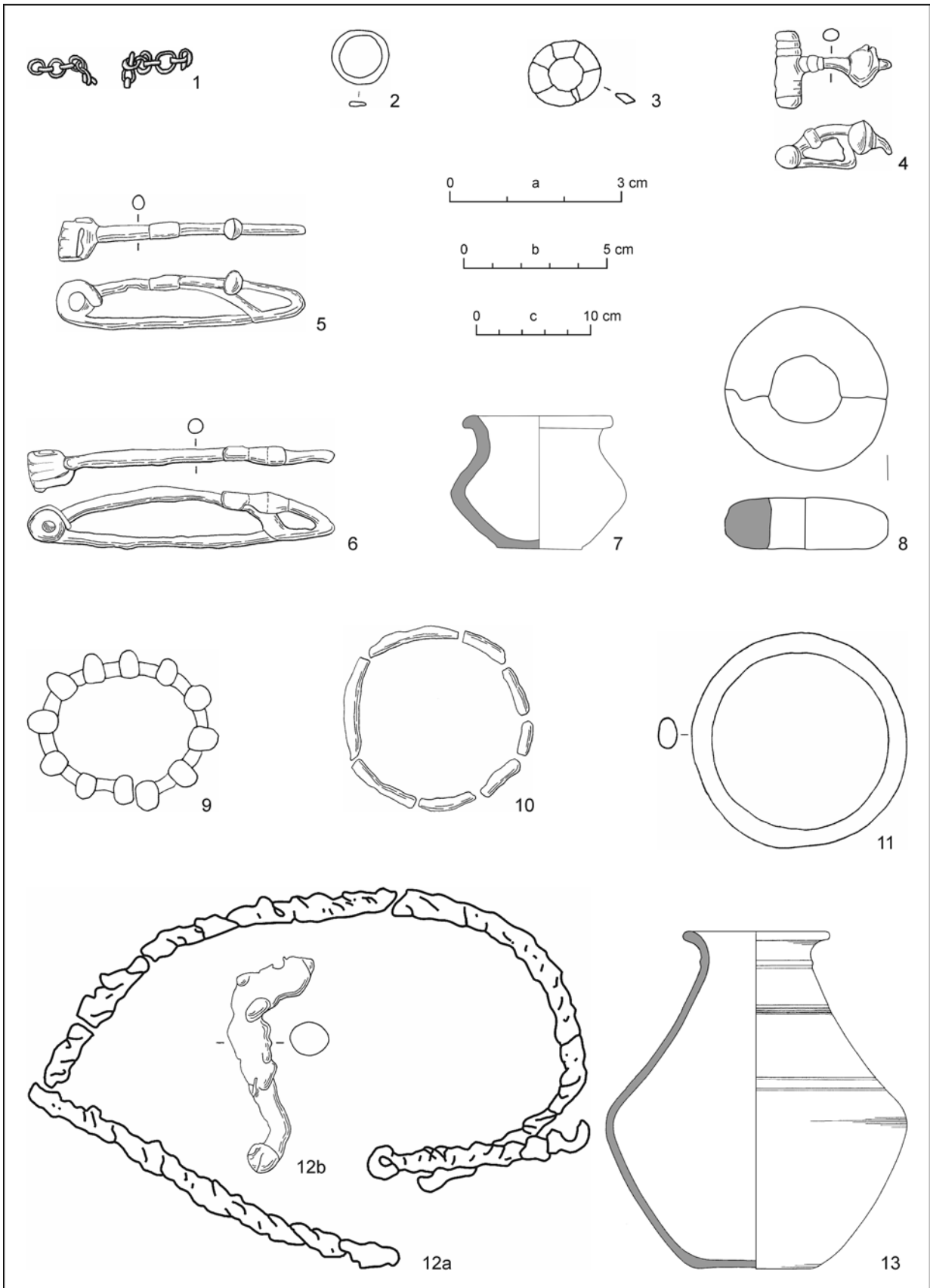


Fig. 4. Palárikovo. Grave goods from grave 35. Graphics A. Gardelková-Vrtelová, J. Gajdošíková, P. C. Ramsel. Scale: a – 1; b – 2–12b; c – 12a, 13.

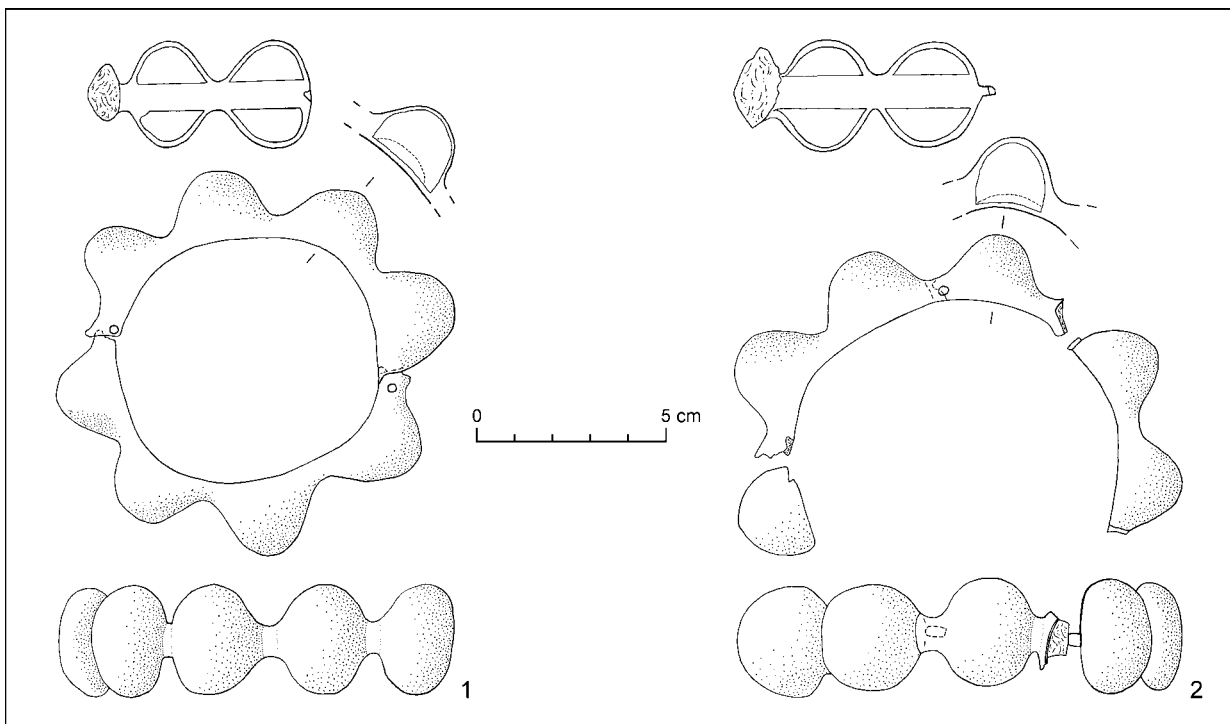


Fig. 5. Palárikovo. Grave goods from grave 35. Graphics A. Gardelková-Vrtelová, J. Gajdošíková, P. C. Ramsl.

the bottom was flat (*Benadik/Rejholec 1974*). The wooden panelling on the long the sides of the grave pit (at the Palárikovo necropolis) reached a height of 5–15 cm. Maturus females were buried in graves prepared in this manner.

The skeleton of an adult female (*Jakab 2016, 106*) was deposited in a bent position on its back, with the left hand under the left side of the pelvis. Both legs were slightly bent at the knees, the right one more than the left. The skeleton as well as the burial pit were oriented NNW-SSE (*Benadik/Rejholec 1974*).

The height of the female skeletons was calculated by the anthropologist at 151.4 cm. Among pathological changes the premature loss of molars and second premolars was interesting (*Jakab 2016, 106*).

### Grave inventory

1. Bronze necklace (chain) – found at the cervical vertebrae, a chain of loosely closed oval sections of circular cross-section. The original length was 12.0 to 13.0 cm, The length of each section from 0.3 to 0.4 cm (Fig. 4: 1).
2. Amber pendant ring – found at the cervical vertebrae, probably placed at the necklace. The cross section is lenticular, the outer diameter is 3.2 cm (Fig. 4: 3).
3. Iron fibula – deposited in the area of the skull. Middle La Tène construction. The brooch has a slightly curved bow and nodular formed foot, inner cord and two windings. Length 8.5 cm, LTC (Fig. 4: 5).
4. Iron fibula – located next to the left collarbone. Middle La Tène construction. Brooch with high arched bow and a large ball as foot decoration, which is attached to the top of the bow by a clasp: the winding consists of 10 turns. Outer chord, length of 4.3 cm. According to *J. Bujna (2005)*, this brooch belongs to type EF-H/L1-B, which dates to LTB2/C1 (Fig. 4: 4).
5. Iron fibula – lying between the ribs. Middle La Tène construction. Brooch with a slightly arched bow and a foot clasped to it; winding with two threads, inner chord. Length 10.5 cm. According to *J. Bujna (2005)*, it is a type EF-C9-A, which dates to LTB2c (Fig. 4: 6).
6. Iron bracelet – discovered on the left upper arm bone. The artefact is formed from a twisted bar with a circular cross-section of 0.5 cm outer diameter about of c 7.0 cm. Using the systém of *J. Bujna (2011)*, this upper bracelet can be classified as an ER-U type, dated to LTB2/C1 (Fig. 4: 10).
7. Sapropelite bracelet – placed on the upper arm. It has oval cross-section with an outer diameter of 7.5 cm. It is an early variety of type SR-ER-2 (Fig. 4: 11; *Bujna 2011*).
8. Iron chain belt – located at the waist, double twisted iron segments, one short and one long part with a simple hook. The preserved length was 57.0 cm. Imprints of textiles were visible on the fragment. Belts constructed of bronze

rings connected by iron brackets were found in Palárikovo in two burials (grave 35 and 48). This type of belt is fit with a bronze circle hook finished in the shape of an animal head (often a horse; *Repka 2015*, 88). But a belt ending of this type was not found in the Palárikovo cemetery. Similar belts are known from the cemeteries of Bajč-Vlkanovo (*Benadik 1960*, 399, 421, 442) and Vác (*Hellebrandt 1999*, 134). *J. Bujna (2011, 95, 137)* date them to LTB2c (Fig. 4: 12a); hook (Fig. 4: 12b).

9. Bronze bracelet – found on the wrist of the left hand with an outer diameter of 6.0 cm. Cast open ring with massive knots and stamp-shaped ends. This bracelet could be assigned to the BR-D4 type, which can be dated to LTB2c/C1 (Fig. 4: 9; *Bujna 2011*).
10. Bronze ring – discovered on the finger phalanges of the left hand. Its diameter was 2.3 to 2.5 cm. This is a late type of BR-J5 saddle ring dated to LT B2/C1–C1a (Fig. 4: 2; *Bujna 2011*).
11. Ring shaped object – lying between the bones of the pelvis. It was made of burned clay with a circular cross section. Its internal diameter is 2.2 cm, outside 5.8 cm. The weight is 57.2 grams (Fig. 4: 8; 6).
- 12.–13. Bronze hollow-cast ankle rings – the foot rings with hollow cast buckles were located at the right and left leg. The buckles were filled with clay. The external diameter was 10.5 cm, the height of the individual buckles up to 1.8 cm, width 3.8 cm. *J. Bujna (2011)* labelled this type of foot ring BR-F3-A, dated to LT B2/C1–C1a (Fig. 5: 1, 2). Measurements with a spectrometer were performed of both bronze rings and produced the following values: Sn (10.19 and 19.07), Cu (86.68 and 66.46), to a small extent also lead Pb (0.942 and 4.93).
14. Ceramic pot – an open-mouth pot was placed next to the left tibia. The surface has a grey-brown colour. Its height is 9.0 cm, diameter of the mouth 9.5 cm, bottom diameter 5.7 cm. The artefact was made on a fast-rotating potter's wheel (Fig. 4: 7).
15. Ceramic vessel – located at the end of the legs (northern part of the grave pit). Bottle-shaped. The vase was decorated at the top with a relief ring around the perimeter, and, above the neck it is divided by two shallow grooves. The height is 28.5 cm, the diameter of mouth is 13.0 cm and the bottom diameter 10.0 cm (Fig. 4: 13).
16. Animal bones – the remains of bovine bones (*Bos taurus* L.) were placed in the northwest corner of the grave pit, i. e. the right humerus of a mature individual. The bone dimensions are almost identical to those of the humerus from grave 34, so it is possible that they are from a single individual (*Ambros 1977*).

### The clay ring (no. 11) at the pelvis and it's probable medical meaning

A clay ring of this dimension and in this particular position is very unusual in La Tène period cemeteries and in all prehistoric burials in Europe. But there are several burials in which an artefact of this kind has been found (Table 1).

Some examples have been recognized especially in southwest Germany and eastern France. The question remains is how to interpret such an artefact.

Starting with the burial of Stuttgart-Mühlhausen Viesenhäuser Hof, Diane Scherzler published an important paper about this topic (*Scherzler 1998*). As she mentioned in her article, knowledge of medical supplies and the health status of prehistoric populations, in this special case, the Iron Age

Table 1. Iron Age burials with clayrings.

| Site                  | District     | Country | Grave No. | Dating          | Literatur                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|--|
| Abenheim              | Worms        | Ger     | –         | Early LT        | <i>Koehl 1904</i> , 350                        |
| Bargen                | Konstanz     | Ger     | E/6       | LT A            | <i>Wamser 1972</i> , 74 ff.                    |
| Böblingen, Stadtwald  | Böblingen    | Ger     | 16_2      | Ha D (?)        | <i>Zürn 1979</i> , 66, 91, fig. 37             |
| Bürstadt              | Bergstraße   | Ger     | VII/1     | Ha C/D–LT A     | <i>Rech/Prüssing 1973</i> , 101, fig. 3g       |
| Dannstadt             | Ludwigshafen | Ger     | 133       | Ha D            | <i>Kilian 1974</i> , 37f., fig. 29, 30         |
| Haguenau              | Bas-Rhin     | F       | 7/IV      | Late Ha         | <i>Schaefer 1930</i> , 56–58, fig. 51c         |
| Heidolsheim           | Bas-Rhin     | F       | –         | Early LT        | <i>Forrer 1912</i> , 321–323, fig. 232.I       |
| Königsheim            | Tuttlingen   | Ger     | –         | Late Ha (?)     | <i>Zürn 1987</i> , tab. 432/16                 |
| La Veuve              | Marne        | F       | –         | Marnien I/LT Ia | <i>Schmit 1926</i> , 56–58                     |
| Palárikovo            | Nové Zámky   | SK      | 35        | LT B2/C1–C1a    | –  |
| Stuttgart-Mühlhausen  | Stuttgart    | Ger     | 8         | Ha D/LT A       | unpubl., <i>Scherzler 1998</i> , 294, Anm. 310 |
| Villeneuve-Renneville | Marne        | F       | 39        | LT Ia           | <i>Bretz-Mahler 1971</i> , tab. 175, 1         |



Fig. 6. Palárikovo. Photo of the clay ring 11. Photo A. Gardelková-Vrtelová.

population, is very limited. From an archaeological perspective, interest in medical topics in prehistory has grown in the recent decades, as can be seen in several studies and projects about diet (e. g. Richards 2006) and medical care in ancient times (Künzl 1979–1981) or the study course for „Forensic Science“ at the Medical University of Vienna, for example (Müller 2017).

Buried women in childbearing age have often been a topic of interest in prehistoric research (Ramsl 2011, 250; Rebay-Salisbury 2015). In German-speaking archaeology, buried women that show signs of dying during childbirth were often part of the „Sonderbestattungen“ (Pauli 1975; Schwidetzky 1965).

Looking at Iron Age cemeteries, most of the cases (with such rings in the pelvis position) have been found in eastern France and west Germany (Scherzler 1998, fig. 1). The first case in the Carpathian Basin is from Palárikovo (Fig. 6).

### Medical aspect

Due to massive physical stress due to several births, the female sex organs can be lowered or also discharged through the pelvic floor. One of the therapeutic possibilities for avoiding this is to use a ring-shaped pessary (Scherzler 1998, 270–275).

It is therefore possible that these ring-shaped artefacts were used as pessaries in a medical way. A distant analogy can be seen in the diaphragms of today's modern gynaecology.

When originally assessing the burial ground it was identified as a clay whorl placed in the lap of the deceased. In the territory of Slovakia, earthen whorls were found in the pelvis at two locations:

- a) Palárikovo cemetery (aforementioned grave 35; Benadik/Rejholec 1974);
- b) Hurbanovo-Bacherov major cemetery (grave 9; Benadik/Vlček/Ambros 1957, 64).

Both objects (from burials at Palárikovo and Hurbanovo-Bacherov major) were found in the pelvic area. However, their shape was different. The clay object from Hurbanovo-Bacherov major had a conical shape and smaller dimensions (outside diameter of 34 mm). Therefore, medical use can be ruled out.

The clay object from Palárikovo had an annular shape, and its dimensions (outer diameter 58 mm, inner diameter 22 mm, weight 57.2 g) was closer to analogous objects published by D. Scherzler (1998). Moreover the surface of the object from Palárikovo was smooth.

These objects, used as medical devices, have a ring shape with smooth undecorated surface. The outer diameter is 55–86 mm and their weight is about 100 g (Scherzler 1998).

### The position of woman 35, spatial analysis, ring costume, social identity and gender role

Aforementioned grave 35 is located in the central part of the cemetery (Fig. 7). Next to it were grave 8 (female, *senilis*), grave 9 (male, 40–50 years), grave 33 (male, 40–50 years) and grave 34 (child, 7 years). Hence, our described person is also mostly surrounded by persons of a mature age.

Persons in a similar category as the individual in grave 35, i. e. female and at least *maturus*, with anklets (and with a „rich grave“ inventory) are grave 8, 20, 36, 38, 53, 62a, 67, 74a and 78 (Fig. 7). Rich grave goods were also seen in graves 43 and 58, but without bracelets. A special case may be grave 62a which is defined as male by J. Jakab (Jakab 2016, 106).

The term „rich“ should be used carefully, as it is very relative in archaeology. All societies have different ways of showing some kind of „richness“ in burials, and sometimes a person with very high social rank is also buried in a very „poor“ way.



As is well known and mentioned above, we must use the term „rich“ in a very careful way, because death rites show a processual character – with the occurrence of death – that involves not only the dead but also the whole community in an often long-lasting process of transition (Veit 2008, 26).

The dead corpse is only the lifeless image of the living person, so grave goods are mere indications of the former practical function that they performed (Veit 2008, 26). Nevertheless, grave goods are closely related to the deceased. More specifically, the grave goods belong to the worldly property of the dead and are identified, in the imagination of the burying community, with the deceased person. The grave goods may be traces of the burial rites, participating in its conspicuous qualities or documenting its identity (Jung 2008, 274).

As such, there are three participants in the burial rite: the deceased, the family and the local society (Brather 2008, 153). The deceased individual may be characterized by their status and prestige. The family is very interested in emphasizing the social rank and prestige of the deceased through the adequacy of ritual, and thus reflect on itself. The local society, of which the family is a member, requires the expectations of public ceremony (Fig. 8). The excavated image is often an idealized view that does not reflect social reality but a retrospective view of the identity of the deceased. Therefore it can be seen as the result of a transition process.

Upper arm bracelets seems to have a special meaning in the ring costumes of La Tène burials. The mentioned rings (as in grave 35) are also seen in grave 20 (iron and bronze), 62A (glass), 74a (iron) and probably 78 (bronze) from Palárikovo. As shown in several publications (Bujna 2005; Furman 2012; 2014; Rams 2012), these artefacts are part of some female ring ornament would fit with M. Furman's type 9–2 of (Furman 2009, 110). Returning to the women with advanced age and rich grave inventories at the Palárikovo cemetery the following is a ranking of this group (Rams 2011, 239 ff.):

1. anklets, wrist bracelets and (maybe) necklace: grave 36;
2. anklets and bracelets on both wrists: grave 8, 36, 53, 78;
3. anklets and left wrist bracelets and left upper arm bracelets: grave 20, 35, 62A, 74A;
4. anklets wrist bracelets on both sides and a left side upper arm bracelet: grave 78.

As seen in the La Tène period cemeteries in Slovakia (Bujna 2005), in „Celtic“ Europe (Furman 2009) as well as at Mannersdorf (Rams 2011), the discovered ornaments (anklets and bracelets) can be described as follows:

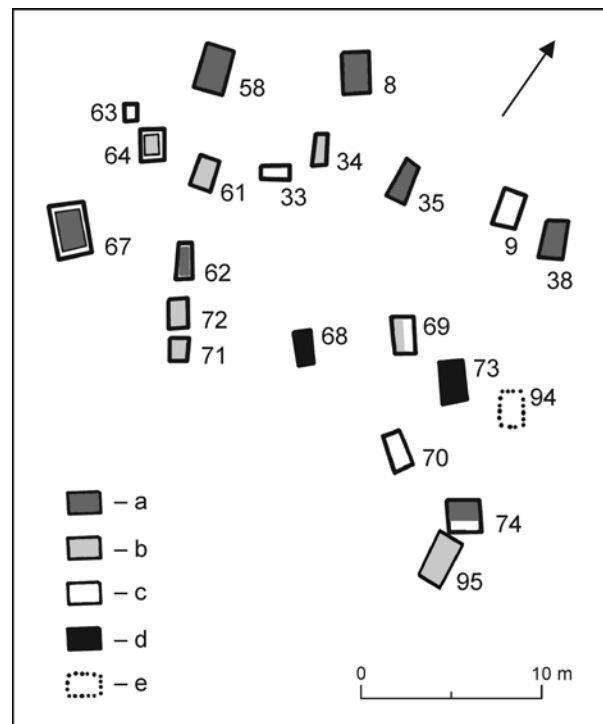


Fig. 7. Palárikovo. Plan of a segment of the cemetery with grave 35 and the mentioned graves. Graphics P. C. Rams, A. Gardelková-Vrtelová (after Benadik 1975, fig. 1). Legend: a – female, matusus, rich; b – children; c – sex not definable, non female; d – without bracelets and anklets; e – uncertain grave.

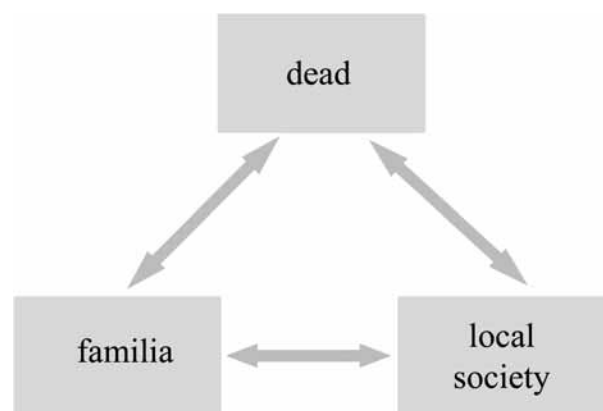


Fig. 8. Burial-triangle, the relationship between the dead, the family and the local society (P. C. Rams, after Brather 2008, 153).



Grave 35 with a necklace chain, two hollow cast anklets, two upper arm bracelets, one left wrist bracelet and a finger ring is mentioned as group BR-F3, type A by J. Bujna (2005, fig. 39) or, as mentioned, model 9–2 by M. Furman (2009, fig. 34).

### Upper arm bracelets

In graves in which biological males are buried, upper arm bracelets occur but may be rather rare. Remaining here are „special cases“ like Glauberg, tumulus 1, tomb 1 (Herrmann 2002, 100) or its comparable counterpart, the statue (Herrmann 2002, 106) with at least 3 bracelets or Pottenbrunn, tomb 562 (Ramsel 2002, tab. 64) wearing one iron upper arm bracelet with three small pendent rings. In graves with females, upper arm rings appear in La Tène B made of bronze at the left side as in Pottenbrunn, grave 1003 (Ramsel 2002, tab. 79) or in Brno-Chrilice, grave 7 (Čížmářová 2012, 255), or Casalecchio die Reno, grave 39 (Ortalli 1991, fig. 14: 1) and Svatobořice (Ludikovský 1964, fig. 13). Later, in La Tène C, this ring ornament, as a combination of glass, spropelite and iron/bronze rings, can be seen as a common development (Bujna 2005; Furman 2009). At this point it is appropriate to ask about the social roles the deceased had been played in their society.

The first approach should be, as mentioned above, the age class of the buried. Age is the one identity that changes over the lifetime of an individual. The role of material culture in the development of age categories is related to other identities such, as gender and status (Lucy 2005, 44). It should be noted that not all societies make the same divisions in life-stages and do not use all of them. In our case, we have a group of women in the *maturus* and *senilis* age groups. As also seen at other cemeteries (Ramsel 2011), women of this age have (most of the time) a high status with rich ring ornaments. Because they survived the delivery of children (as can also be seen by this specific ring-artefact), women in the La Tène period seem to be raised to a higher status. Moreover, there were no other signs (e. g. male markers) in grave 35, that the buried individual had a special gender-role inside the society.

## CONCLUSION

Grave 35 from the La Tène Period of Palárikovo in western Slovakia has been chosen for pre-publication because of its exceptional grave goods. A clay ring with a diameter of 5.8 cm seems to be a so-called pessary, a medical-therapeutic aid for gynaecological problems. The position of the woman over the age of 50 was also discussed, her status was determined by her advanced age and rich ornaments.

The woman from grave 35 stands out for her unusual grave goods. The exceptionality of this burial is shown by several factors. The status symbols and social position identified based on statistical methods include all kinds of prestigious items, not only the clay ring, but also other grave goods such as a chain belt, amber artefacts or the addition of animal bones (*Bos taurus*). Statistical analysis (the results are in the dissertation work of the first author) has shows that objects, especially those made of spropelites and amber are in direct connection with the richness of the burial and the presence of a clay ring (medical object).

As demonstrated by our article, it is important to devote attention to the place of discovery of small objects and their subsequent interpretation and evaluation using modern methods and analogies.

*Translated by the authors*

## LITERATURE

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>Ambros 1977</i>   | C. Ambros: Zvieracie zvyšky z laténskych hrobov v Hurbanove Bohatej. <i>Slovenská archeológia</i> 25, 1977, 77, 78.  |
| <i>Benadik 1960</i>  | B. Benadik: Keltské pohrebisko v Bajč-Vlkanove. <i>Slovenská archeológia</i> 8, 1960, 393–435.   |
| <i>Benadik 1975a</i> | B. Benadik: Keltské pohrebisko v Palárikove. <i>AVANS v roku 1974, 1975</i> , 22–25.   |
| <i>Benadik 1975b</i> | B. Benadik: Besonders angelegte Gräber auf latènezeitlichen Gräberfeldern der Slowakei und ihre gesellschaftliche Bedeutung. Ausgrabung des Gräberfeldes in Palárikovo und sein Charakter. <i>Alba Regia</i> 14, 1975, 97–106. |

- Benadik/Rejholec 1974 B. Benadik/E. Rejholec: *Palárikovo 1971*. Výskumná správa 6968/74. Dokumentácia AÚ SAV v Nitre. Nitra 1974. Unpublished.
- Benadik/Janek 1976 B. Benadik/D. Janek: *Palárikovo 1973*. Výskumná správa 7645/76. Dokumentácia AÚ SAV v Nitre. Nitra 1976. Unpublished.
- Benadik/Vlček/Ambros 1957 B. Benadik/E. Vlček/C. Ambros: *Keltské pohrebiská na juhozápadnom Slovensku*. Bratislava 1957.
- Brather 2008 S. Brather: Bestattungsrituale zur Merowingerzeit – Frühe Mittelalterliche Reihengräber und der Umgang mit dem Tod. In: Chr. Kümmel/B. Schweizer/U. Veit (Hrsg.): *Körperinszenierung – Objektsammlung – Monumentalisierung. Totenritual und Grabkult in frühen Gesellschaften*. Tübinger Archäologische Taschenbücher 6. Münster 2008, 151–177.
- Bujna 2005 J. Bujna: *Kruhový šperk z laténských ženských hrobov na Slovensku*. Nitra 2005.
- Bujna 2011 J. Bujna: *Opasky ženského odevu z doby laténskej*. Nitra 2011.
- Čižmářová 2012 J. Čižmářová: Brno-Chrlice. In: S. Siever/O. H. Urban/P. C. Rams (eds.): *Lexikon zur Keltischen Archäologie*. Mitteilungen der Prähistorischen Kommission. Wien 2012, 254, 255.
- Furman 2009 M. Furman: *Kruhový šperk ako prameň archeologicky postihnutelného kroja, distribučných aktivít a mobility keltských komunit v stredodunajskom priestore*. Nitra 2009.
- Furman 2012 M. Furman: The annular Ring forms in female fashion in the East Celtic region and its impact in the West Celtic and Cisalpine areas. In: Ph. Barral/J. P. Guillaumont/M. J. Roulière-Lambert/M. Saracino/D. Vitali (eds.): *Les Celtes et le Nord de l'Italie Premier et Second Âges du fer*. Actes du XXXVI<sup>e</sup> colloque international de l'AFEAF Vérone, 17–20 mai 2012. Dijon 2012, 251–258.
- Furman 2014 M. Furman: A Central European Form of La Tène Ornament: Rings with Three and Four Large Hollow Knobs from Slovakia. In: S. Berecki (ed.): *Iron Age Crafts and Craftsmen in the Carpathian Basin*. Cluj 2014, 183–190.
- Hellebrandt 1999 M. Hellebrandt: *Corpus of Celtic Finds in Hungary III. Celtic finds from Northern Hungary*. Budapest 1999.
- Herrmann 2002 J. Herrmann: Der Glauberg – Fürstensitz, Fürstengräber und Heiligtum. In: *Das Rätsel der Kelten vom Glauberg. Katalog*. Stuttgart 2002, 90–107.
- Jakab 2016 J. Jakab: Antropologická analýza birituálneho laténskeho pohrebiska v Palárikove. *Študijné zvesti AÚ SAV* 60, 2016, 97–147.
- Jung 2008 M. Jung: Zur Überdeterminiertheit von Grabausstattungen – eine Exemplifikation anhand des späthallstattzeitlichen Grabbefundes von Eberdingen-Hochdorf. In: Ch. Kümmel/B. Schweizer/U. Veit (Hrsg.): *Körperinszenierung – Objektsammlung – Monumentalisierung*. Tübinger Archäologische Taschenbücher 6. Münster 2008, 271–286.
- Kilian 1974 L. Kilian: Untersuchungen aus dem Mehrperiodengräberfeld von Dannstadt, Kreis Ludwigshafen. *Mitteilungen des Historischen Vereins Pfalz* 71, 1974, 11–52.
- Koehl 1904 K. Koehl: Abenheim. *Westdeutsche Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Kunst* 23, 1904, 350.
- Künzl 1979–1981 E. Künzl: Medizinische Instrumente aus dem römischen Altertum im Städtischen Museum Worms. *Der Wormsgau* 13, 1979–1981, 49–63.
- Ludikovský 1964 K. Ludikovský: Akeramický horizont bohatých hrobů žen na Moravě. *Památky archeologické* 55, 1964, 321–349.
- Lucy 2005 S. Lucy. The archaeology of age. In: M. Díaz-Andreu/S. Lucy/S. Babić/D. N. Edwards (eds.): *The Archaeology of Identity*. London – New York 2005, 43–66.
- Lukniš a kol. 1972 M. Lukniš a kol.: *Slovensko. Príroda*. Bratislava 1972.
- Müller 2017 M. Müller: MedUniWien. ac. at. <https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/hp/postgraduate/universitaetslehrgaenge/master-studien-msc-mph/forensische-wissenschaften/> [2017-11-06]
- Nemeš 2012 J. Nemeš: Pohnuté osudy troch obcí v časoch tureckej nadvlády. Sonda do dejin katastra Palárikova. *Acta Historica Neosoliensia* 15, 2012, 223–253.
- Ortalli 1991 J. Ortalli: La necropoli celtica della zona „A“ die Casalecchio die Reno (Bologna). In: J.-J. Charpy (dir.): *L'Europe celtique du Ve au III<sup>e</sup> siècle avant J.-C.* Epernay 1991, 189–238.
- Pauli 1975 J. Pauli: *Keltischer Volksglaube*. Münchner Beiträge zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte 28. München 1975.
- Paulík/Zachar 1975 J. Paulík/L. Zachar: Kultový objekt a hroby z doby laténskej v Palárikove. *Slovenská archeológia* 23, 1975, 283–327.
- Ramsl 2002 P. C. Rams: *Das eisenzeitliche Gräberfeld von Pottenbrunn*. Fundberichte aus Österreich Materialhefte A 11. Wien 2002.
- Ramsl 2011 P. C. Rams: *Das latènezeitliche Gräberfeld von Mannersdorf am Leithagebirge*. Mitteilungen der Prähistorischen Kommission 74. Wien 2011.

- Ramsl 2012 P. C. Ramsl: The relationship between Austrian and Northern Italian sites in the Iron Age. In: Ph. Barral/J. P. Guillaumont/M. J. Roulière-Lamber/M. Saracino/D. Vitali (eds.): *Les Celtes et le Nord de l'Italie Premier et Second ges du fer*. Actes du XXXVI<sup>e</sup> colloque international de l'AFEAF Vrone, 17–20 mai 2012. Dijon 2012, 179–188.
- Rebay-Salisbury 2015 K. Rebay-Salisbury: The social status of motherhood in Bronze Age Europe. *The European Archaeologist* 45, 2015, 45–46.
- Rech/Prissing 1973 M. Rech/P. Prissing: Ein hallstatt-/latnezeitliches Grberfeld bei Burstadt, Kreis Bergstrae. *Fundberichte aus Hessen* 13, 1973, 97–125.
- Repka 2015 D. Repka: *Odras historickch udalost starej doby latnskej v hrovevej vbave na keltskch pohrebiskch v karpatskej kotline*. Nitra 2015.
- Richards 2006 M. Richards: Diet in the Iron Age cemetery population at Wetwang Slack, East Yorkshire, UK: carbon and nitrogen stable isotope evidence. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 33/5, 2006, 653–662.
- Schaefer 1930 F. A. Schaefer: *Les Tertres funraires prhistoriques dans la Fort de Haguenau II. Les Tumulus de l'Age du Fer*. Haguenau 1930.
- Scherzler 1998 D. Scherzler: Der tnerne Ring vom Viesenhuser Hof. Ein Hinweis auf medizinische Versorgung in der Vorrmischen Eisenzeit? *Fundberichte aus Baden-Wrttemberg* 22, 1998, 237–294.
- Schmit 1926 E. Schmit: Dcouverte d'un Pessaire dans une Spulture d'un cimetire  facies Hallstattien-Champenois  La Veuve (Marne). *Bulletin de la Societe Archeologique Champenoise* 20, 1926, 56–58.
- Schwidetzky 1965 I. Schwidetzky: Sonderbestattungen und ihre palodemographische Bedeutung. *Homo* 16, 1965, 230–247.
- omak et al. 2002 L. omak et al: *Vypracovanie fytocenologickej mapy ľavostrannej inundcie Dunaja v úseku Dobrohof*. Sap, Sprievodn sprva. Konzultan skupina Podzemn voda. Bratislava 2002.
- Szab 1997 M. Szab: *Kulturn minulosť Palarikova*. Nov Zmky 1997.
- Veit 2008 U. Veit: Zur Einfhrung. In: Ch. Kummel/B. Schweizer/U. Veit (Hrsg.): *Krperinszenierung – Objektsammlung – Monumentalisierung*. Tbinger Archologische Taschenbcher 6. Mnster 2008, 17–30.
- Wamser 1972 L. Wamser: *Mauenheim und Bargaen – Zwei Grabhgelfelder der Hallstatt- und Frhlatnezeit aus dem nrdlichen Hegau*. Dissertation Freiburg im Breisgau 1972.
- Zrn 1979 H. Zrn: Grabhgel bei Bblingen. *Fundberichte aus Baden-Wrttemberg* 4, 1979, 54–117.
- Zrn 1987 H. Zrn: *Hallstattzeitliche Grabfunde in Wrttemberg und Hohenzollern*. Forschungen und Berichte zur Vor- und Frhgeschichte in Baden-Wrttemberg 25. Stuttgart 1987.

## Pozoruhodn žensk hrob z Palarikova so znmkami lekrskeho zaopatrenia

Anna Gardelkov-Vrtelov – Peter C. Ramsl

### Shrn

V prspevku sa venujeme analze vybranch zloiek hrovevej vbavy hroveho celku 35 na keltskom pohrebisku v Palarikove. Poetnosť a skladba predmetov pohrebnho inventra jednoznane poukazuj na prslunosť pochovanej k vyej vrstve vtedajej spolonosti.

Pri dne obdlnikovej hrovevej jamy, ktor dosahovala znane rozmery (260 x 100–120 x 175 cm), sa zachovali zreteľne stopy po pvodnom vydreven. Pochovan žena, uloen v natiahnutej polohe na chrbte a s ľavou rukou pod panvou (obr. 3), patrila podľa antropologickho posudku J. Jakaba do vekovej kategrie maturus II.

Hrovev vbava (obr. 4; 5) obsahovala vysok poet perkov a sast odevu (tri spony, bronzov prsteň a nkrnk, jantarov privesok na retiazke, nramky zhotovene zo eleza, bronzu a sapropelitu, bronzove puklicove nnone kruhy,

---

**Acknowledges:** David Gaul (Prague) for correcting the English. The first author, Anna Gardelkov-Vrtelov, while working at this paper, was supported by project 1/0243/17 of the Scientific Grant Agency of the Slovak Republic. Peter C. Ramsl (second author) is head of the SASPRO project 1340/03/03 as a Marie Curie Fellow (financed by SAS, Marie Curie Actions and FP7 from the European Union) at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra.

železný reťazový opasok), dve keramické nádoby (hrniec, váza) a nezvyčajný malý hlinený krúžok. V severozápadnom kúte jamy sa nachádzali kosti hovädzieho dobytku (*Bos taurus L.*).

Hlinený krúžok, vyzdvihnutý z oblasti panvy (obr. 6), sa vyznačuje prstencovitým tvarom (vonkajší priemer 58 mm, vnútorný 22 mm) a dôkladne vyhladeným povrchom. Autori sa pri interpretácii tohto artefaktu prikláňajú k názoru, že ide o medicínsky predmet, pesar. Na podporu svojho tvrdenia uvádzajú viaceré priame analógie z nálezísk v juhozápadnom Nemecku (napr. Stuttgart-Mühlhausen. Viesenhäuser Hof, hrob 8) a vo východnom Francúzsku (podrobný prehľad, tabeľa 1). Všetky tieto lekársko-terapeutické pomôcky majú tvar vyhladeného krúžku s vonkajším priemerom 55–86 mm.

Krúžok z bohatého ženského hrobu 35 predstavuje prvý nález tohto druhu z doby laténskej v Karpatskej kotline. Z keltských pohrebísk na území Slovenska je evidovaný ďalší nález hlineného krúžku v oblasti panvy na lokalite Hurbanovo-Bacherov majer. Krúžok z hrobu 9 v Hurbanove sa však od medicínskych pomôcok odlišuje kónickým tvarom, menšími rozmermi (vonkajší priemer 34 mm) a neupraveným povrchom.

Obr. 1. Lokalizácia náleziska (stredná Európa).

Obr. 2. Palárikovo. Celkový plán pohrebiska. Grafická úprava A. Gardelková-Vrtelová (*Benadik/Rejholec 1974; Benadik 1975a*, obr. 1.).

Obr. 3. Palárikovo. Fotografická a kresbová dokumentácia, schematický náčrt hrobu 35. Červená – keramické nádoby; zelená – bronz; čierna – železo; oranžová – jantár; hnedá – hlinený krúžok; bordová – sapropelit. Foto E. Rejholec (archív AÚ SAV), plán E. Rejholec (archív AÚ SAV) a P. C. Ramsel, grafická úprava P. C. Ramsel.

Obr. 4. Palárikovo. Nálezy z hrobu 35. Grafická úprava A. Gardelková-Vrtelová, J. Gajdošíková, P. C. Ramsel. Mierka: a – 1; b – 2–12b; c – 12a, 13.

Obr. 5. Palárikovo. Nálezy z hrobu 35. Grafická úprava A. Gardelková-Vrtelová, J. Gajdošíková, P. C. Ramsel.

Obr. 6. Palárikovo. Fotografia hlineného krúžku 11. Foto A. Gardelková-Vrtelová.

Obr. 7. Palárikovo. Plán pohrebiska s vyznačením hrobu 35 a ďalších v texte uvádzaných hrobových celkov. Grafická úprava P. C. Ramsel, A. Gardelková-Vrtelová (podľa *Benadik 1975*, obr. 1.). Legenda: a – žena, maurus, bohatá; b – dieťa; c – neurčené pohlavie, zrejme sa nejedná o ženu; d – bez náramkov a náožníkov; e – neisté hroby.

Obr. 8. Pohrebný trojuholník, vzťahy medzi smrťou, rodinou a miestnou spoločnosťou. Grafická úprava P. C. Ramsel (podľa *Brather 2008*, 153).

Tabeľa 1. Hrobové celky z doby železnej s výskytom hlinených krúžkov.

Mgr. Anna Gardelková-Vrtelová, PhD.  
Archeologický ústav SAV  
Akademická 2  
SK – 949 21 Nitra  
annagardelkova@gmail.com

Privatdozent, Mag. phil, Dr. phil. Peter C. Ramsel  
Marie Curie Fellow, SASPRO 1340/03/03  
Akademická 2  
SK – 949 21 Nitra

Universität Wien  
Institut für Urgeschichte und Historische Archäologie  
Franz-Klein-Gasse 1  
A – 1190 Wien  
peter.ramsel@univie.ac.at