

# Remains of two Middle La Tène Warrior graves from the Auersperg Palace in Ljubljana

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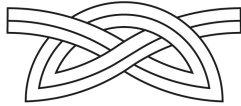
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na Salendrovo ulico. Kljub temu, da so bili vsi obravnavani predmeti najdeni v sekundarni legi, gre skoraj brez dvoma za ostanke manjšega srednjelatenskega grobišča, ki se je širilo na skrajno južnem delu ugotovljenega območja starejše nekropole s središčem na območju med stavbo NUK in dvoriščem SAZU (sl. 1). Glavnina izmed več kot 323 grobov te nekropole sodi v čas med 10. in 8. st. pr. n. št., ki mu je sledi izrazit upad pokopavanja v obdobju stopnje Stična in kačastih fibul, izpričanem le s par grobovi. Najmlajša izmed zanesljivih halštatskih grobnih celot (gr. 280) sodi glede na pridano certoško fibulo vrste Ib okvirno v drugo polovico 5. st. (Puš 1982: T. 8: 1–6), če ne upoštevamo poškodovanega konteksta gr. 132 s certoškimi fibulami mlajših različic in bistveno mlajšimi (zgodnesrednjeveškimi) lončki (Puš 1971: 32–33, 87, 89, 93, T. 18; T. 55; 1982: 78) ter številnih najdb iz t.i. sipa nad grobovi oziroma premetanih plasti. Po prepričanju Ivana Puša so zavarovalna izkopavanja do leta 1974 zadela le manjši del najmlajših predelov grobišča na vogalu Gosposke in Salendrove, glavnino mlajšehalštatskih grobov s pripadajočim sežigališčem pa je domneval še bolj jugozahodno v smeri Trga francoske revolucije (Puš 1982: 79).

Iz premešanih plasti na območju nekropole izvira tudi precejšnje število poznohalštatskih in latenskodobnih najdb, ki pa ne pripadajo vse nujno uničenim grobovom oziroma ostankom pogrebnega obredja. Pojav deformiranih in celih predmetov kot so certoške fibule, zapestnice, bradavičast obroček in del okrajka negovske čelade (Stare 1954: T. 63: 2–3, 10; T. 84: 7–8; Puš 1982: T. 41: 3–8; T. 46: 6...) pogojno dopušča sklepanje o obstoju žgalnega daritvenega mesta na območju starejšega grobišča, ki bi lahko bilo s prekinitvami v uporabi celo do prihoda Rimljanov. Poleg železne verige za obešanje meča vrste Mokronog in loka bronaste fibule zgodnje- ali srednjelatenske sheme o tem morda pričajo elementi obročastih pasnih garnitur, jermenska zaključka, ročaj bronaste zajemalke z račjo glavico, deformirana fibula različice Almgren 65c iz svetle zlitine, grafitna keramika in zlasti bronast kipec božanstva z peterokrakim naglavnim okrasom (Stare 1954: 110–111, T. 22: 7; T. 43: 3; T. 64: 9; T. 84: 9; Puš 1968; 1982: T. 46: 1–4, 7; T. 50: 6; Giumlia-Mair 1998: 243, sl. 1: 1; Horvat 2002: 59), ki jih je mogoče okvirno datirati v čas po sredini 2. st. pr. n. št. Domnevna prekinitvev obredja v času srednjega latena, kamor sodijo obravnavani ostanke domnevno dveh bojevniških grobov, ustreza kronološki dinamiki železnodobnih kulturnih mest vzhodnoalpskega in predalpskega prostora, ki kažejo viške v poznem halštatu, deloma zgodnjem latenu in predvsem izrazit vzpon v drugi polovici 2. st. pr. n. št. in prvi tretjini 1. st. pr. n. št. (LT D1a) (glej Gaspari 2007: 151–152; Božič 2011: 260–269). Na previdnost pri izvajanju o možnih izvornih kontekstih predmetov zunaj prepoznanih celot opozarja dinamika železnodobne poselitve jugovzhodnega vznožja Grajskega griča (območje Prul in Starega trga), ki kaže izrazito prekinitvev v stopnji Stična in ponovno oživitvev v poznem halštatu, kar okvirno ustreza trendom upada in porasta števila grobov na pripadajočih nekropolah na levem bregu Ljubljani (SAZU in Kongresni trg), ter vsaj štiri naselbinske faze iz obdobja med koncem 4. st. in prvo polovico 1. st. pr. n. št. (informacija Petre Vojaković), iz katerega doslej na ožjem območju Ljubljane ni bilo znanih grobov.

in cember 2002, in the north-east wing of the building, which is adjacent to the Salendrova street to the north. Despite the fact that all the objects presented here were found in a secondary position, there is almost no doubt that they are the remains of a small Middle La Tène graveyard, spreading across the southernmost part of the area of an older necropolis with its centre between the building of the National and University Library and the courtyard of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Fig. 1). The majority of more than 323 graves of the necropolis belongs to the period between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> cent. BC, which was followed by a prominent decrease in burials in the time of the Stična and the Serpentine fibulae phases, which are represented only by a few graves. The youngest among the reliable Hallstatt grave units (gr. 280) is roughly from the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> cent., as indicated by a Certosa Ib type fibula it contained (Puš 1982: Pl. 8: 1–6). This does not take into account the damaged context of gr. 132 with Certosa fibulae of later types and much later (early medieval) pots (Puš 1971: 32–33, 87, 89, 93, Pl. 18; Pl. 55; 1982: 78), nor the numerous finds from the mixed layers above the graves. According to the opinion of Ivan Puš, by the year 1974 rescue excavations only covered a small part of the youngest areas of the graveyard at the intersection of Gosposka and Salendrova streets, while the majority of Late Hallstatt graves and the associated cremation area supposedly lie further to the southwest, in the direction of the Trg Francoske revolucije (Puš 1982: 79).

The mixed layers in the area of the necropolis contained a considerable number of Late Hallstatt and La Tène finds and it is not necessary that all of them belonged to destroyed graves or were the remains of burial rituals. The presence of either deformed or undamaged objects such as Certosa fibulae, bracelets, a knobbed ring and a brim fragment of a Negova helmet (Stare 1954: Pl. 63: 2–3, 10; Pl. 84: 7–8; Puš 1982: Pl. 41: 3–8; Pl. 46: 6...) conditionally allows the speculation that there was a sacrificial cremation site on the location of an older necropolis, which might have been, with interruptions, used till the arrival of the Romans. The thesis on the cult place might be supported not only by a Mokronog type iron chain for sword suspension and by an arch of a bronze fibula of an Early or Middle La Tène scheme, but also by some elements of annular belt sets, two strap ends, the handle of a bronze ladle with a duck head terminal, a deformed fibula of the Almgren 65c type made of a bright alloy, graphite pottery, but above all by a bronze statuette of a deity with a five-pointed headdress (Stare 1954: 110–111, Pl. 22: 7; Pl. 43: 3; Pl. 64: 9; Pl. 84: 9; Puš 1968; 1982: Pl. 46: 1–4, 7; Pl. 50: 6; Giumlia-Mair 1998: 243, Fig. 1: 1; Horvat 2002: 59), all of which might be roughly dated to the time after the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BC. The alleged interruption of the rituals in the Middle La Tène period, to which the remains of two supposed warrior graves considered here belong, corresponds to the chronological dynamics of Iron Age ritual sites in the eastern Alpine and Prealpine areas, which indicates peaks in the Late Hallstatt period, partly in the Early La Tène period, and an especially prominent increase in the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BC and the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> cent. BC (LT D1a) (see Gaspari 2007: 151–152; Božič



Sl. 1 Ljubljana. Situacijski načrt območja med Križankami, stavbo Narodne in univerzitetne knjižnice (NUK) in Ljubljanico. 1: osrednje območje prazgodovinske nekropole; 2: grobova iz mlajše KŽG, odkrita med izkopavanji v Turjaški palači; 3: najdišče ostankov sred-njelatenskih grobov; 4: rimski jarek (izdelal: A. Gaspari)

Fig. 1 Ljubljana. Plan of the area between the Križanke monastery complex, the National and University Library (NUK) building and the Ljubljanica river. 1: central area of the Prehistoric necropolis; 2: two graves from the younger Urnfield period, discovered during the excavations in the Auersperg Palace; 3: location of the remains of the Middle La Tène graves; 4: Roman ditch (graphics: A. Gaspari)

### TERENSKI RAZVID

Stavbišče Turjaške palače leži v osi najožjega dela Ljubljanskih vrat med Grajskim gričem in Šišenskim hribom in sicer na mestu, kjer se skoraj ravna terasa z današnjo mestno četrtjo Gradišče prevesi v kratko in strmo ježo proti levemu bregu Ljubljanice. Geološka podlaga, ki jo tvorijo karbonatni sedimenti savskega vršaja, leži na območju ob stavbi Turjaške palače okoli 1,25 m pod današnjo hodno površino.

V sredini severnega trakta kletnih prostorov Turjaške palače (kvadrant D6) sta bila odkrita dva žgana grobova, okvirno datirana v mlajšo fazo KŽG. Vsebinski grobnih jam, ležečih

2011: 260–269). Caution is called for in speculating on the possible original contexts of the objects found outside the recognised units, as suggested by the dynamics of Iron Age settlement of the southeastern foot of the Ljubljana Castle hill (the area of Prule and Stari trg), which indicates a prominent interruption during the Stična phase and a revival in the Late Hallstatt period, roughly corresponding to the trends of a rise and fall in the number of the graves of the necropolises on the left bank of the Ljubljanica river (Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Kongresni trg), as well as by existence of at least four settlement phases in

nekaj metrov vsaka sebi, sta bili ugotovljeni na višini 295,22 m oziroma 295,08 m nm. v. Grobna inventarja, ki sta v obeh primerih vključevala trebušasto žaro z ročajem in stožčastim vratom, pokrito z latvico z držajem, sta bila ohranjena v celoti, če odštejemo zdobljenost oz. potlačenost posod zaradi pritiska nad grobom ležečih depozitov. Lijakasto oblikovani jami, ki sta segali skozi okoli 20 cm debel ostanek evtričnih rvjih tal v rečne naplavine, naj bi bili prvotno globoki okoli 60 cm, kar pomeni, da je hodna površina v času njunega izkopa ležala na okoli 295,5 m. To se ujema tudi s podatki iz izkopavanj sosednjega dela grobišča na Gosposki ul., Salendrovi ul. in na prostoru Neptunovega vodnjaka, kjer je bil "star" oz. "ilirski humus" na najbolj ohranjenih delih zemljišča ugotovljen v debelini do 1,2 m (Stare 1954: 12).

V zgodnjem rimskem obdobju, vsekakor pa pred gradnjo cestišča javne ceste *Emona – Neviodunum*, ki je vodila od vzhodnih emonskih vrat proti mostu čez Ljubljanico v osi južnega dela stavbišča Turjaške palače, je bil velik del pobočja odkopan do sterilne podlage, s čimer so bile plasti s starejšimi ostalinami popolnoma odstranjene oziroma preložene. Rimskodobni depoziti so se tako na večjem delu raziskanega območja nahajali neposredno nad pleistocenskimi sedimenti, tudi več kot 2 m nižje od omenjenih grobov iz mlajše faze KŽG.

Med raziskavami prostora v severovzhodnem delu trakta, kjer se danes nahaja dvigalo, je bilo v kvadrantu C4 med 9. in 13. decembrom 2002 delno izkopanih več zgodnjem rimskih nasutij, pri čemer je bilo prepoznavanje stratigrafske sekvence močno otežkočeno zaradi omejenosti izkopenega polja in neugodne osvetlitve globokega kletnega prostora. Sterilni sedimenti v tem prostoru niso bili doseženi. V nadaljevanju opisane najdbe so bile odkrite v rjavi "ilovnati" plasti z manjšimi in večjimi kamni, na višinah med 293,06 in 283,12 m nm. v. (SE 8204=8209; SE – stratigrafska enota), ki je v izkopavalni dokumentaciji opisana kot polnilo vkopa (SE 8206). Pod njo je ležala plast gline (SE 8211), na kateri so se izkopavanja ustavila.

Iz pisne in grafične dokumentacije tega dela raziskovanega območja izhaja, da gre za sledove v tesnem časovnem zaporedju izvedenega zasipanja večjega izkopa v pobočju ježe. Najmlajše najdbe iz sočasnega nasutja (SE 0599; kv. A/LXXXV) vključujejo sigilatni pladenj (PN 2733; 293,67 m) oblike Consp. 12 s pravokotnim žigom z dvovrstičnim napisom HILARI/L TETTI (OCK 2113.2 ali OCK 2113.3) in ustje amfore tipa Dressel 6B ter omogočajo okvirno datiranje zemeljskega posega v avgustejsko obdobje oziroma na začetek 1. st. n. št. Starost posega nakazuje mogočo povezavo z velikim jarkom, ugotovljenim na dvorišču SAZU, ki je uničil prazgodovinske grobove v dolžini 32 m in širini 8 m. Globina jarka, ki ga je Ljudmila Plesničar Gec povezala z obrambo vpadnice proti vzhodnim emonskim vratom, se je povečevala proti jugu in je ob Salendrovi ul. preseгла 4 m (Plesničar Gec 1999: 50, sl. 41 in 51).

#### INVENTAR PLASTI SE 8204

Med kulturnimi ostanki iz plasti (SE) 8204 se je po izvedeni primarni konservaciji kot najzanimivejši izkazal spriemek predmetov, izluščen iz sprva neprepoznavne gmote

the period between the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> cent. and the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> cent. BC (information from Petra Vojaković), from which there were no graves known until now.

#### FIELD EVIDENCE

The Auersperg Palace lies in the axis of the narrowest part of the Ljubljana Gates, a passage between the Ljubljana Castle hill and the Šiška hill, in the spot where the almost flat terrace with the present Gradišče town quarter turns into a short and steep slope towards the left bank of the Ljubljanica river. In the area around the Auersperg Palace, the geological base, carbonate sediments of the Sava river alluvial fan, is approx. 1.25 m below the present surface.

Two cremation burials, roughly dated to the later phase of the Urnfield Culture, were discovered in the middle of the north wing of the basement (quadrant D6). The grave pits lay a few metres apart and their contents were discovered at the height of 295.22 m and 295.08 m asl. In both cases, the grave inventory included a spherical urn with a handle and a conical neck, as well as a closed bowl with a handle. The objects were fully preserved, aside from the fact that they were crushed and distorted under the pressure of the deposits above the grave. The two funnel-shaped pits reached through the approx. 20 cm deep remains of a layer of eutric brown soil into alluvium and are supposed to have been originally approx. 60 cm deep, which means that the surface at the time of their creation was at approx. 295.5 m. This corresponds to the data gained from the excavation of the neighbouring part of the graveyard, in the Gosposka and Salendrova streets and in the area of the Neptun fountain, where "old" or "Illyrian humus" was discovered in the best preserved parts of the terrain at a depth of up to 1.2 m (Stare 1954: 12).

In the Early Roman period, certainly before the public road *Emona – Neviodunum* was built, leading from the main eastern gates of Emona towards the bridge over the Ljubljanica river in the axis of the southern part of the Auersperg Palace, a large part of the slope was excavated to the sterile bed material, which means the layers with older (pre-Roman) remains were completely removed. In the larger part of the investigated area, the Roman-period deposits were thus directly above the Pleistocene sediments, even more than 2 m lower than the above-mentioned graves from the later phase of the Urnfield Culture.

Between 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2002, during the investigation of the northeastern part of the wing where the elevator is today, several Early Roman in-fill deposits were partly excavated in quadrant C4. Recognition of the stratigraphic sequence was made very difficult due to the limited excavation area and inadequate lighting in the deep basement. In this room, sterile sediments had not been reached. The finds described below were discovered in a brown layer of "clay" with smaller and larger stones, at a height ranging from 293.06 to 293.12 m asl (SU 8204=8209; SU – stratigraphic unit), described in the excavation documentation described as the fill of a pit (SU 8206). Underneath lay a layer of clay (SU 8211), where the excavation stopped.

It can be deduced from both the written and graphic

približnih dimenzij 40x30x30 cm (sl. 2–3). Jedro sprimka sestavljajo štirikrat prepognjen železen meč v nožnici, enkrat prepognjena železna ščitna grba in železna uhata sekira, korozijsko sprijeti z drobnimi prodniki in peskom. Sprimka se držijo kos lesa nepravilnega do ovalnega preseka brez sledov obdelave in sežiganja (ohranjena dolžina 16,5 cm, širina do 2,8 cm), več manjših kosov in drobcev sežganih človeških kosti ter več odlomkov keramične posode, ki pripada enemu ali obema loncema zelo podobne fature iz iste stratigrafske enote (sl. 4–5). Preliminarni pregled kostnega materiala sta opravila prof. Tatjana Tomazzo-Ravnik in Borut Toškan.



Sl. 2 Turjaška palača. Sprimek deformiranega orožja (foto: M. Paternoster; arhiv MGML)

Fig. 2 Auersperg Palace. The conglomerate of the distorted weapons (photo: M. Paternoster; MGML archive)

#### Sprimek / grob 1 (sl. 2–3)

1. Meč v nožnici. Železo. Štirikrat izmenično prepognjen na podobno dolžino; dodatno zakrivljena konica. Ročajni trn pravokotnega preseka; ostali detajli nerazpoznavni. Skupna dolžina: okoli 90,5 cm; dolžina trna: okoli 13 cm; širina nožnice: 4,3 cm. PN 4596 (inv. št. 510:LJU; 0046803)

2. Ščitna grba. Železo. Enkrat prepognjena. Razmeroma ozka kalota ima rahlo ovalno zaobljena stranska robova ter raven spodnji in zgornji rob; grba je višja oziroma širša od povsem pravokotnih kril. Luknje za pritrditev na ščitno ploščo niso vidne. Širina kril: 12,5 cm; širina kalote: okoli 9,4 cm; višina kalote: okoli 15,2 cm. PN 4596 (inv. št. 510:LJU; 0046803)

3. Uhata sekira. Železo. Izbočena ostrina simetrično prehaja v ozko steblo pravokotnega preseka, ki se konča v rahlo razširjenem ovalnem ušesu. Dolžina: 17 cm; širina rezila: 6 cm; dolžina odprtine ušesa 2,8 cm. PN 4596 (inv. št. 510:LJU; 0046803)

4. Obroček. Železo. Premer: okoli 4,8 cm. PN 4596 (inv. št. 510:LJU; 0046803)

5. Dva odlomka keramične posode, ki pripadata enemu ali obema loncema zelo podobne fature iz iste stratigrafske enote, glej zap. št. kataloga 10 in 11 (PN 3843)

6. Več manjših kosov in drobcev sežganih človeških kosti, vključno z odlomkom možganskega dela lobanje z nesprjetim šivom, ki je pripadal osebi, mlajši od 20 let.

documentation for this part of the investigated area, that these are traces of the filling of a larger cut in the slope of the terrace, which happened over a short period of time. The youngest finds from the contemporary deposit (SU 0599; quad. A/LXXXV) include a *terra sigillata* plate (PN 2733; 293.67 m) of the Consp. 12 form with a rectangular stamp with a two-line inscription HILARI/L TETTI (OCK 2113.2 or OCK 2113.3) and an amphora rim of the Dressel 6B type. This enables us to roughly date the intervention to the Augustan period, i.e. the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> cent. AD. The age of the earthwork intervention indicates a possible connection with a large ditch, which was recognized in the courtyard of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and which destroyed the prehistoric graves in an area 32 m long and 8 m wide. The depth of the ditch increased towards the south and near Salendrova street exceeded 4 m. According to Ljudmila Plesničar Gec, the ditch was connected with the defence of the road leading to the east gates of Emona (Plesničar Gec 1999: 50, Fig. 41 and 51).

#### INVENTORY FROM LAYER SU 8204

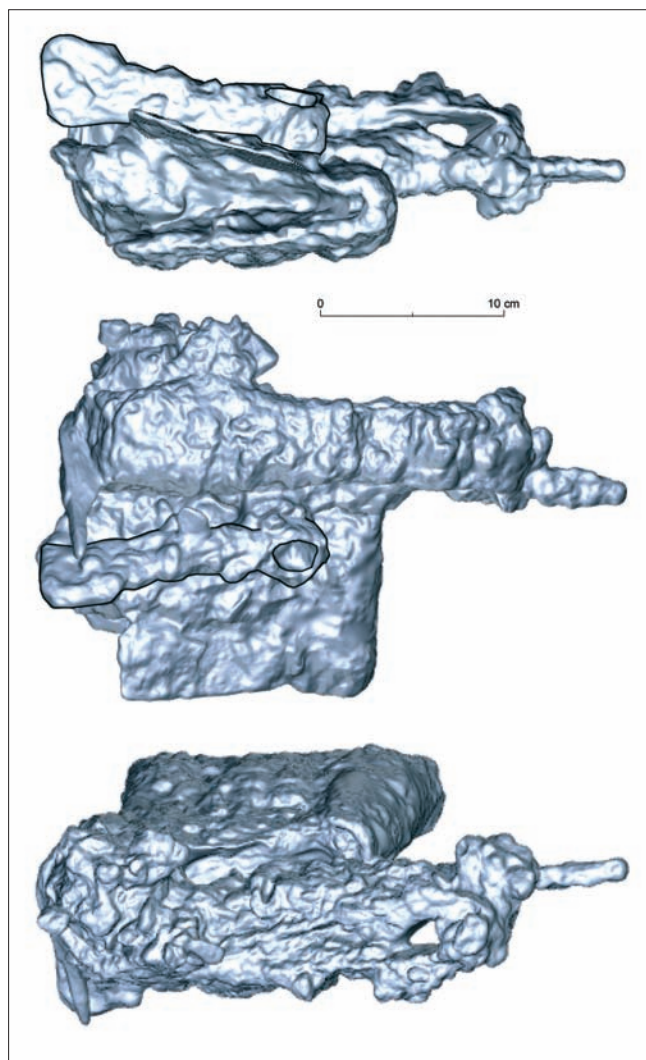
After the first conservation procedures, the most interesting among the cultural remains from layer (SU) 8204 proved to be a conglomerate of objects, extracted from the originally unrecognisable mass, with the approximate dimensions 40x30x30 cm (Fig. 2–3). In the core of the conglomerate there are a four times folded iron sword with a scabbard, a once folded iron shield boss and an iron shaft-hole axe, with attached fine pebbles and sand due to corrosion. Adhering to the conglomerate are also a piece of wood with an irregular/oval section and no traces of processing or burning (preserved length 16.5 cm, width up to 2.8 cm), several small pieces and fragments of burnt human bones, as well as several pottery fragments that belonged to either one or both pots with a very similar fabric from the same stratigraphic unit (Fig. 4–5). A preliminary inspection of the bones was conducted by Tatjana Tomazzo-Ravnik and Borut Toškan.

#### The conglomerate / Grave 1 (Fig. 2–3)

1. Sword in a scabbard. Iron. Four times alternately folded in parts of approximately the same length; additionally curved tip. Tang of rectangular section; other details unrecognisable. Total length: approx. 90.5 cm; tang length: approx. 13 cm; scabbard width: 4.3 cm. PN 4596 (inv. no. 510:LJU; 0046803).

2. Shield boss. Iron. Once folded. The relatively narrow dome is slightly rounded and has a straight lower and upper edge; the dome is higher and wider than the rectangular wings. Holes for fastening the boss to the shield board are not visible. Wings' width: 12.5 cm; dome width: approx. 9.4 cm; dome height: approx. 15.2 cm. PN 4596 (inv. no. 510:LJU; 0046803).

3. Shaft-hole axe. Iron. The convex cutting edge transits symmetrically into a narrow neck of rectangular section, which ends with a slightly widened oval shaft-hole. Length: 17 cm; blade width: 6 cm; shaft-hole length: 2.8 cm. PN 4596 (inv. no. 510:LJU; 0046803).



Sl. 3 Turjaška palača. Skenogram sprimka. M = ca 1:3 (RPS d.o.o.; arhiv MGML)

Fig. 3 Auersperg Palace. A scanned image of the conglomerate. Scale = ca 1:3 (RPS d. o. o.; MGML archive)

V SE 8204 so bili najdeni še naslednji predmeti:

7. Nožnica. Železo. Dvakrat prepognjena; ohranjena v treh delih. Ustje je zvončasto oblikovano. Robova sprednje platice sta zapognjena čez zadnjo. Po sredini sprednje platice poteka ozko rebro. Koničnik z masivnim zaključkom v obliki črke V in dvema koničastima izrastkoma ima na vrhu na sprednji strani dve okrogli objemki, na zadnji pa ravno prečko. Zanka za obešanje ima polkrožno zaobljeni ploščici in pravokoten mostiček. Tik pod ustjem je nameščena prečna okrepitev s polkroglastima rozetama in osrednjim kockastim gumbom, ki objema sprednjo platico in sega čez robova zadnje. Sprednja platica je pod ustjem okrašena s kakovostno izvedenim okrasom v tehniki tolčenja, graviranja in punciranja. Njegov osrednji del zakriva prečna okrepitev.

Dolžina: 71,5 cm; širina nožnice na ustju: 4,5 cm; dolžina koničnika 24,8 cm; dolžina zanke za obešanje: 3,3 cm; širina spodnje ploščice: 1,7 cm. PN 3843 (inv. št. 510:LJU;0046425) (sl. 6-7)

8. Tulasta sekira. Železo. Dolžina 22 cm; širina rezila: 5 cm; širina na sredini stebila: 2,5 cm. PN 3830 (S0059754)

9. Lonec. Keramika. Trebušast lonec z močno izvihanim

4. Ring. Iron. Diameter: approx. 4.8 cm. PN 4596 (inv. no. 510:LJU; 0046803).

5. Two pottery fragments belonging to one or both pots with a very similar fabric from the same stratigraphic unit, see catalogue nos. 10 and 11.

6. Several small pieces and fragments of burnt human bones, including a fragment of the cranial part of the skull with an unfused suture, which belonged to a person under 20 years of age.

The following objects were further found in SU 8204:

7. Scabbard. Iron. Folded two times, preserved in three parts. Normal campanulate-shaped mouth. The edges of the front plate are folded over the back one. A narrow rib runs down the middle of the front plate. The chape with a massive V-shaped end with two pointed protuberances has two round clamps with concentric ornamentation on the front side and a straight bridge on the back of the upper part. There is a rectangular suspension loop with two rounded or heart-shaped plates, riveted to the back plate of the scabbard. Just below the mouth, there is a transverse bar reinforcement with two rosettes with domed rivets and with a central cube-shaped knob, which embraces the front plate and reaches across the edges of the back plate. Below the mouth, the front plate is decorated with a masterfully executed decoration in the techniques of punching, engraving and chasing. The central part of the decoration is concealed by the transverse reinforcement.

Length: 71.5 cm; scabbard width at the mouth: 4.5 cm; chape length: 24.5 cm; loop length: 3.3 cm; loop-plates width: 1.7 cm. PN 3843 (inv. no. 510:LJU;0046425) (Fig. 6-7).

8. Socketed axe. Iron. Length: 22 cm; blade width: 5 cm; width in the middle of the neck: 2.5 cm. PN 3830 (S0059754).

9. Pot. Pottery. A spherical pot with a strongly everted rim with an oblique straight edge; maximum diameter in the upper half of the body; a series of alternating triangles made of three close incisions is carved on the slightly convex upper part of the body. The string of triangles lies between two horizontal lines, each made with three separate incisions. Hard fired, non-purified clay with quartz sand particles. Incomplete oxidation firing, dark grey interior and light brown outer surface. Remains of reddish-orange slip and of secondary black slip (resin?). On the outer surface, under the rim, there is residue of organic origin, that became adherent to the vessel in a fire. Rim diameter: 13.8 cm; maximum diameter: 21 cm; reconstructed height: 24 cm. PN 3843 (inv. no. 510:LJU;0046431) (Fig. 4; Fig. 5: 1)

10. Pot. Pottery. A small spherical pot - bulbous flask with a strongly everted rim; the edge of the rim is broken-off; maximum diameter in the middle of the body; a series of alternating triangles made of three close incisions is carved in the slightly convex upper part of the body. Hard fired, non-purified clay with quartz sand particles. Incomplete oxidation firing, dark grey interior and light brown outer surface. Remains of reddish-orange slip. Maximum diameter: 13.8 cm; preserved height: 13.6 cm. PN 3843 (inv. no. 510:LJU;0046431) (Fig. 5: 2).

11. Bead fragment of green-blue glass with blue and

ustjem s poševnim ravnim robom; največji obod nad polovico trupa; na rahlo izbočenem zgornjem delu trupa je vrezan niz izmenično postavljenih trikotnikov iz treh tesno skupaj potekajočih vrezov, ki ga obrobljata vodoravna snopa s po tremi razmaknjenimi vrezi. Trdo žgana, neprečiščena lončarska masa s primesmi kremenčevega peska. Nepopolno oksidacijsko žganje s temnosivo notranjostjo in svetlo rjavo površino. Ostanek rdečkasto oranžnega premaza in sekundarnega črnega premaza (smola?). Na zunanji strani pod ustjem v ognju sprijet ostanek organskega izvora. Premer ustja: 13,8 cm; premer največjega oboda: 21 cm; rekonstruirana višina: 24 cm. PN 3843 (inv. št. 510:LJU;0046431) (sl. 4; sl. 5: 1)

10. Lonec. Keramika. Manjši trebušast lonec-buča z močno izvihanim ustjem; rob ustja odlomljen; največji obod na sredini trupa; na rahlo izbočeni zgodnji polovici trupa je vrezan niz izmenično postavljenih trikotnikov iz dveh blizu potekajočih vrezov, ki ga obrobljata snopa s po dvema razmaknjena vrezoma. Trdo žgana, neprečiščena lončarska masa s primesmi kremenčevega peska. Nepopolno oksidacijsko žganje s temnosivo notranjostjo in svetlo rjavo površino. Ostanek rdečkasto oranžnega premaza. Premer največjega oboda: 13,8 cm; ohranjena višina: 13,6 cm. PN 3843 (inv. št. 510:LJU;0046431) (sl. 5: 2)

11. Odlomek jagode iz zelenomodrega stekla z modro belimi očesci (inv. št. 510:LJU;0046037 – založeno)

12. Jagoda iz zelenomodrega stekla (inv. št. 510:LJU;0046036 – založeno)

13. Odlomki jagode iz modrega stekla (S0059548 – založeno)

14. Odlomek bronca (S0045344)

15. Konica. Železo. Votel koničast predmet, ki se enakoverno oži. Ohr. d. 20,5 cm; največji premer okoli 1 cm (V08514)

16. Nепrepoznavni odlomki železa – 27 kosov (S0045337; S0045506; S0045531)

17. Odlomki prostoročno izdelane keramike – 76 kosov (510:LJU;0045884; S0047845; S0047847; S0047849; S0047873; S0047878; S0047890)

18. Odlomki živalskih kosti, v manjšem deležu sežgani – 43 kosov (S0044927). Seznam taksonomsko opredeljenih živalskih ostankov (Toškan 2013): *Sus sp.*: mandibula (1 fragm.), *Sus sp.*: pelvis (3 fragm.), *Sus sp.*: calcaneus (1 fragm.), *Sus sp.*: metapodium (1 fragm.), *Ovis aries*: dens inf. (1 M<sub>2</sub>), *Ovis aries*: femur, caput femoris (1 fragm.)

19. Drobcji sežganih kosti, med katerimi prevladujejo človeške – 65 kosov (S0044827)

## KOMENTAR

### Grobni inventar

Meč z nožnico v obstoječem stanju ne dopušča podrobnejše tipološke opredelitve; glede na metrične značilnosti ni dvoma, da gre za orožje srednjelatenske sheme. Z dolžino okoli 80 cm se nožnica še najbolj približuje skupinami Gournay-sur-Arondes (GSA) 5 ali 6, ki se v depozitih tega akvitsanskega svetišča pojavljata v II. (LT C1b – začetek LT C2) oz. III. fazi (LT C2) (Lejars 1994: 35–38, 49–53, 59).

Trakasta ščitna grba z razmeroma ozko kaloto z rahlo



Sl. 4 Turjaška palača. Zgornja polovica večje posode iz domnevne grobne celote (foto: M. Paternoster; arhiv MGML)

Fig. 4 Auersperg Palace. The upper half of the larger vessel from the assumed grave unit (photo: M. Paternoster; MGML archive)

white eyes (inv. no. 510:LJU;0046037 - misplaced).

12. Bead of green-blue glass (inv. no. 510:LJU;0046036 – misplaced).

13. Fragments of a blue glass bead (S0059548 – misplaced).

14. Bronze fragment (S0045344).

15. Point. Iron. A hollow, pointed, evenly tapering object. Preserved length 20.5 cm; maximum diameter approx. 1 cm (V08514).

16. Unrecognisable iron fragments – 27 pieces (S0045337; S0045506; S0045531).

17. Fragments of hand-built pottery – 76 pieces (510:LJU;0045884; S0047845; S0047847; S0047849; S0047873; S0047878; S0047890).

18. Fragments of animal bones, some of them (a small share) are burnt – 43 pieces (S0044927). The list of taxonomically identified animal remains (Toškan 2013): *Sus sp.*: mandible (1 fragm.), *Sus sp.*: pelvis (3 fragm.), *Sus sp.*: calcaneus (1 fragm.), *Sus sp.*: metapode (1 fragm.), *Ovis aries*: dens inf. (1 M<sub>2</sub>), *Ovis aries*: femur, caput femoris (1 fragm.). 19. Fragments of burnt bones, with human bones prevailing – 65 pieces (S0044827).

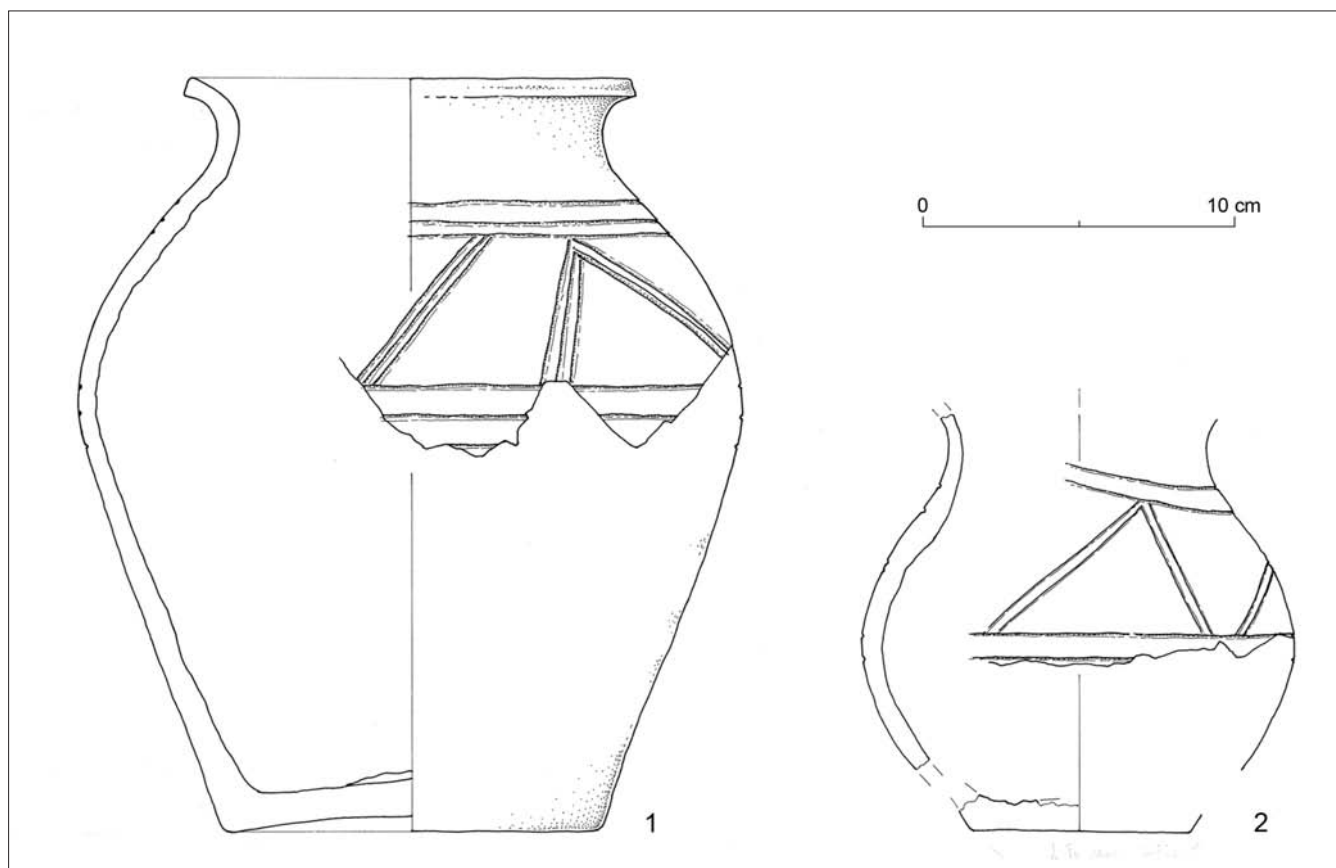
## COMMENTARY

### Grave contents

In its present state, the sword with the scabbard does not allow a more detailed typological determination; according to its dimensions, however, there can be no doubt that it is a weapon of the Middle La Tène scheme. Approx. 80 cm long, the scabbard seems closest to the Gournay-sur-Arondes (GSA) groups 5 or 6, which are represented in phases II (LT C1b – beginning of LT C2) and III (LT C2) of this Aquitanian sanctuary (Lejars 1994: 35–38, 49–53, 59).

The band-shaped shield boss with a relatively narrow dome with slightly convex sides and rectangular wings is





Sl. 5 Turjaška palača. Keramika. M = 1: 3 (risba: I. Murgelj; arhiv MGML)  
 Fig. 5 Auersperg Palace. Pottery. Scale = 1: 3 (drawing: I. Murgelj; MGML archive)

izbočenima stranicama in pravokotnima kriloma je blizu grbam tipa GSA I C, ki se na eponimnem najdišču pojavlja v depozitih iz II. faze (konec 3. st. ali začetek 2. st. pr. n. št.) in bi po Rapinu morda lahko predstavljal prehodno obliko k grbam s sodčasto kaloto in dolgimi pravokotnimi krili tipa GSA VI, značilnim za celotno stopnjo LT C2 (Brunaux, Rapin 1988: 79). O zgodnejšem položaju obravnavane ščitne grbe znotraj nakazanega časovnega okvira bi lahko pričala širina kalote, ki je z okoli 9,4 cm bližje tipu I C s težiščem vrednosti med 8,5 in 12, kot pa tipu GSA VI, ki ima razpon vrednosti 9–15,5 cm, težišče pa pri 13,5 cm. Na območju Mokronoške skupine so grbe podobnih oblik, dimenzij in razmerij med posameznimi deli (razmeroma ozka, pravokotna ali rahlo ovalna kalota z višino 12–15 cm, dolga, vendar ne ekstremno dolga pravokotna krila in skupna širina nad 28) znane npr. iz grobov 16, 19 in 27 iz Slatine v Rožni dolini pri Celju (Pirkmajer 1991: kat. št. 100, 110, 137) ter grobov 141, 521, 522 in 650 s Kapiteljske njive v Novem mestu (Križ 2005: T. 24: 3; T. 82: 4; T. 84: 7; T. 97: 3), ki sodijo med značilne inventarje stopnje LT C2, primerek iz Valične vasi (Teržan 1973: T. 23: 1) pa nima znane izvirne celote. Podobne grbe z razmeroma ozko kaloto iz nekropole Zvonimirovo v Podravini M. Dizdar uvrstil med zgodnejše v okviru najdb iz celotne faze LT C2 (Dizdar 2011: 105), starejšo časovno umestitev grbe iz obravnavanega sprimka pa bi lahko potrjeval tudi znamenit lesen ščit s sorodno grbo iz najdišča La Tène (Vouga 1923: T. 17), ki

similar to the bosses of the GSA I C type, which appear in the deposits of phase II (end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century or beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BC) of this eponymous site. According to Rapin, it might represent a transitional form towards the shield bosses with a barrel-shaped dome and long rectangular wings of the GSA VI type, which is typical for the entire LT C2 phase (Brunaux, Rapin 1988: 79). The width of the dome, 9.4 cm, is closer to the I C type with a mean value of between 8.5 and 12 cm, than to the GSA VI type with the range of values 9–15.5 cm and the mean value 13.5 cm. This means that our shield boss should be given an early date within the suggested time frame. In the territory of the Mokronog group, bosses of similar shapes, dimensions and ratios between different parts (relatively narrow, rectangular or a slightly oval dome with a height of 12–15 cm, long, but not extremely long rectangular wings and total width of above 28 cm) are known e.g. from graves 16, 19 and 27 at Slatina in Rožna dolina near Celje (Pirkmajer 1991: cat. nos. 100, 110, 137) and from graves 141, 521, 522 and 650 at Kapiteljska njiva in Novo mesto (Križ 2005: Pl. 24: 3; Pl. 82: 4; Pl. 84: 7; Pl. 97: 3), which are typical inventories of the LT C2 phase, while the original context of the specimen from Valična vas (Teržan 1973: Pl. 23: 1) is not known. M. Dizdar classified similar bosses with relatively narrow domes among the earlier finds within the frame of all the grave units from the Lt C2 phase of the Zvonimirovo necropolis in Podravina (Dizdar

je bil dendrokronološko datiran v leto 229. pr. n. št. (Kaenel 1990: 322–323).

Železen obroček (zap. št. 4) je morda del pasne oprave za nošenje meča, ki je značilnost stopnje LT C2 (npr. grob 23 iz Dobove, grobova 9 in 13 iz Slatine v Rožni dolini) (Guštin, Egidi 2002: 78–79, sl. I: 74–76; Pirkmajer 1991: T. 8: 46–48; T. 13: 88–91).

Uhate sekire skupaj z enostranskimi plavutastimi sekirami predstavljajo posebnost jugovzhodnoalpskega območja, še posebej osrednje Slovenije, in so pogost pridelek v grobovih 4. st. pr. n. št. (Gabrovec 1964–1965: T. 17: 2; 1987: 73, sl. 6: 9; Teržan 1977: 14, sl. 3; Teržan, Trampuž 1973: 434, op. 67, sl. 4: karta 3; Tecco Hvala 2012: 119–121, sl. 46: 15–18). Na zahodnem Dolenjskem so uhate sekire značilne predvsem za grobove mlajše faze negovskega horizonta (Gabrovec 1991), enaka datacija pa pride v poštev tudi za primerke iz zaključenih celot v Posočju in na Notranjskem (Guštin 1973: 479–481, sl. 3: 8; 1991: 59, sl. 13: 1; T. 23: 7). Pojav v grobnem sprimku iz Turjaške palače ne preseneča, saj se uhate sekire pojavljajo npr. v dveh grobovih stopenj LT B2/C1 s Kapiteljske njive v Novem mestu (gr. 123 in 458) (Križ 2005: T. 13: 4; T. 77: 3), primerki iz Mokronoga (Gabrovec 1966: 183–184, 189, T. 8: 2, 6), Dobove (gr. 20) (informacija Mitje Guština) in Mihovega (Windl 1975) pa nakazujejo, da se uporaba tega tipa sekire obdrži še vsaj v 2. st. pr. n. št. Večina sekir iz latenskih celot, vključno s sekiro iz groba pod stavbo Turjaške palače, oblikovno ne odstopa od halštatskih primerkov, pri katerih znaša širina rezila med 4 in 5 cm, dolžina celotne sekire pa med 15 in 19 cm (npr. Križ 2005: T. 77: 4). Manj pogoste so nekoliko večje sekire dolžine med 18 in 21 cm, ki imajo 5 do 6,5 cm široko rezilo (npr. Gabrovec 1966: T. 8: 6; Križ 2001: 83), še redkejši pa okoli 16 cm dolgi primerki z rezilom širine okoli 6 cm (npr. Križ 2005: T. 13: 4).

V omenjenih grobovih iz Novega mesta, ki imata močno halštatsko obeležje, uhati sekiri nastopata kot prvo napadalno orožje, enkrat v kombinaciji z nožem, drugič pa z nožem in ščitno grbo. V grobu 2/42, vkopanem v halštatsko gomilo na Prelogah pri Zgornji Slivnici (kompleks Magdalenske gore), ki ga je izkopavalec Jernej Pečnik označil kot latenskega (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004: 41, T. 40: A), naj bi uhato sekiro spremljali dve sulični osti, od katerih ima ena sredinsko rebro trapezastega preseka, poznolatska ščitna grba tipa Mokronog (glej Guštin 1991: 57–58) in okvirno sočasen nož, vendar je Sneža Tecco Hvala opozorila na možnost kontaminacije (Tecco Hvala 2012: 135). Ta je sicer mogoča, vendar ne gre spregledati podobne kombinacije orožja v grobu 2/41 iz iste gomile (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004: 40–41, T. 38: A), v katerem so bili najdeni sekira z enostranskimi plavutmi, dve sulični osti mlajšehalštatskih oblik in ostanki poznolatske okrogle ščitne grbe tipa Novo mesto 169 (glej Gaspari, Masaryk, Novšak 2013). V Mihovem so uhate sekire sporočene tudi v grobovih z meči, vendar objavljene celote niso zanesljive. V kolikor kombinacija ščita, meča in sekire iz obravnavanega grobnega sprimka odraža bojni komplet, je ta narekoval posebno tehniko bojevanja.

Keramični posodi (sl. 4–5) sta narejeni na počasnem vretenu iz enake lončarske mase, povezuje pa ju tudi dokaj grob otip, končni premaz in zelo podoben okras, zato ju

2011: 105). The famous wooden shield with a similar boss from the La Tène site (Vouga 1923: Pl. 17), which was dendro-chronologically dated to the year 229 BC (Kaenel 1990: 322–323), could be another indication for an early date of the boss from the conglomerate presented here.

The iron ring (no. 4) might be a part of a belt set for sword suspension, which is a typical feature of the LT C2 phase (e.g. grave 23 from Dobova, graves 9 and 13 from Slatina in Rožna dolina) (Guštin, Egidi 2002: 78–79, Fig. I: 74–76; Pirkmajer 1991: Pl. 8: 46–48; Pl. 13: 88–91).

Shaft-hole axes, together with one-sided winged axes, are a characteristic feature of the southeast Alpine territory, especially Central Slovenia and are a common item in the 4<sup>th</sup> cent. BC graves (Gabrovec 1964–1965: Pl. 17: 2; 1987: 73, Fig. 6: 9; Teržan 1977: 14, Fig. 3; Teržan, Trampuž 1973: 434, Note 67, Fig. 4: map 3; Tecco Hvala 2012: 119–121, Fig. 46: 15–18). In the western Dolenjska region, shaft-hole axes are particularly characteristic of the graves of the later phase of the Negova horizon (Gabrovec 1991), and specimens from the complete grave units in the Posočje and Notranjska regions could be dated to the same time (Guštin 1973: 479–481, Fig. 3: 8; 1991: 59, Fig. 13: 1; Pl. 23: 7). That such an axe should appear in the conglomerate from the Auersperg Palace is not surprising, since shaft-hole axes were present e.g. in two graves of the LT B2/C1 phase from Kapiteljska njiva in Novo mesto (gr. 123 and 458) (Križ 2005: Pl. 13: 4; Pl. 77: 3), while specimens from Mokronog (Gabrovec 1966: 183–184, 189, Pl. 8: 2, 6), Dobova (gr. 20) (information by Mitja Guštin) and Mihovo (Windl 1975) indicate that this type of axe was still used at least as late as the 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BC. Axes from La Tène grave units, including the one from the grave under the Auersperg Palace, generally do not differ in shape from the Hallstatt axes, where blade width ranges between 4 and 5 cm and total length between 15 and 19 cm (e.g. Križ 2005: Pl. 77: 4). Somewhat less common are slightly larger axes, between 18 and 21 cm long and with blades 5 to 6.5 cm wide (e.g. Gabrovec 1966: Pl. 8: 6; Križ 2001: 83), while the approx. 16 cm long specimens with approx. 6 cm wide blades are even more rare (e.g. Križ 2005: Pl. 13: 4).

In the above-mentioned graves from Novo mesto, which display a strong Hallstatt character, shaft-hole axes are the primary assault weapon, in one case in combination with a knife, and in another together with a knife and a shield boss. Grave 2/42 from Preloge near Zgornja Slivnica (the Magdalenska gora complex) was dug into a Hallstatt period tumulus, but the excavator Jernej Pečnik labelled it as a La Tène grave (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004: 41, Pl. 40: A). In it, a shaft-hole axe was discovered, supposedly together with two spear heads, one with a central rib of trapezoidal section, a Late La Tène shield boss of the Mokronog type (see Guštin 1991: 57–58) and a roughly contemporary knife. Sneža Tecco Hvala, however, called attention to the possibility of contamination (Tecco Hvala 2012: 135). While contamination is indeed possible, it should not be overlooked that there is a similar combination of weapons in grave 2/41 from the same tumulus (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004: 40–41, Pl. 38: A), where a one-sided winged axe, two spear heads of younger Hallstatt forms, and the remains of a Late

lahko zanesljivo interpretiramo kot namensko izdelani par. Domnevo, da sta posodi del inventarja obravnavanega groba in ne morebitne neprepoznane halštatske celote (npr. s tulasto sekuro iz iste plasti), utemeljuje zlasti njuna faktura, saj se v prazgodovinskih naselbinskih depozitih na Prulah (lokacija Tribuna) in na območju Starega in Gornjega trga prostoročno izdelana keramika enakih značilnosti (primeroma tudi z enakim "smolnim" premazom) pojavlja izključno v latenskodobnih kontekstih (informacija Petre Vojaković). V naselbinskih plasteh 3. in 2. st. pr. n. št. na lokaciji Tribuna količina prostoročne keramike bistveno prekaša na vretenu izdelano keltsko posodje (Vojaković et al. 2011).

Dobra primerjava za vrezan niz trikotnikov med vodovarnimi črtami se pojavlja na odlomku ramena lonca, ki je bil najden med gradivom najstarejše naselitvene faze na lokaciji Gornji trg 30 pod Grajskim gričem v Ljubljani, okvirno datirane v prvo polovico 1. st. pr. n. št. oziroma čas pred leti 50./25. pr. n. št. (Vičič 1994: T. 1: 4). Lonec, izdelan iz slabo prečiščene, sivkasto rjavo žgane glinice, ima drugače od večjega lonca iz Turjaške palače širši obod, položnejše rame in ožji vrat.

Oblikovanost obravnavanega para posod spominja na nekatere prostoročno izdelane lonce iz latenskih grobišč zahodne Dolenjske, ki sodijo na prehod med srednjim in poznim latenom, vendar se po tehnoloških značilnostih jasno navezujejo na halštatsko lončarsko tradicijo. Med primerjavami za večjo posodo velja opozoriti na bikoničen lonec iz groba 17 v Podgorici pri Biču, ki verjetno sodi na prehod iz srednjega v pozni laten ali na začetek poznolatenškega obdobja (Šinkovec 2011: 39, 115, T. 11 B: 1). Lonec iz črno do temno sivkasto rjavo žgane glinice ima nekoliko nižje postavljen največji obod trupa, blago usločen, stožčast vrat in poševno izvihan rob ustja, ki je podobno kot pri obravnavanem loncu poševno odrezan. Ahac Šinkovec ga je primerjal z lonci, okrašenimi z bradavicami, iz moških grobov (131 in 286) stopnje LT C1 s Kapiteljske njive v Novem mestu (Križ 2005: T. 18: 2; T. 67: 2), in rdečkastorjavim loncem iz groba 42 v Rojah pri Moravčah (Knez 1977: T. 6: 7). Buča iz Turjaške palače ima v latenu približne primerjave v prostoročno izdelanih primerkih iz redukcijsko žgane glinice iz grobov v Rojah, ki sodijo v stopnjo Lt D1a (Knez 1977: T. 11: 14; T. 13: 10).

Nožnico meča (sl. 6–7), ki je bila najdena v isti plasti in najverjetneje pripada drugi grobni celoti, je mogoče na podlagi kombinacije posameznih sestavnih delov in metričnih značilnosti zanesljivo uvrstiti v skupino GSA 5 po Lejarsu. O tem pričajo koničnik, soroden klasičnim primerom tipa 5B, zvončasto ustje, zanka za obešanje tipa 6 in prečna okrepitev tipa 8 na averju ozitoma 6 na reverju (Lejars 1994: 23–24, 35–37). Težišče uporabe nožnic tipa 5B je Lejars ugotovil v II. fazi GSA oziroma stopnji LT C1b, posamično pa naj bi se pojavljale še v času, ko so dvodelne pasne verige s sploščenimi členi, okrašenimi z jamicami, nadomestile obročaste garniture (LT C2).

Med geografsko najbližje primerke mečev z nožnicami tipa 5B sodijo najdba iz reke Ljubljanice pri Bevkah, ki so jo odkrili domačini pred drugo svetovno vojno (Gabrovce 1966: T. 29: 1)<sup>1</sup>, ter meči z nožnicami iz grobov 21, 30 in 33 iz keltske nekropole Brežice-Sejmišče. Čas uporabe nožnic skupine Brežice-Sejmišče 3 je Alenka Jovanović na podlagi grobnih inventarjev, zlasti prisotnosti mlajše različice pasne

La Tène round shield boss of the Novo mesto 169 type were found (see Gaspari, Masaryk, Novšak 2013). In Mihovo, shaft-hole axes have been reported also in graves with swords, but the published units are not reliable. In the case that the combination of a shield, a sword and an axe from Auersperg palace grave conglomerate reflects a warrior's panoply, it implies a special fighting technique.

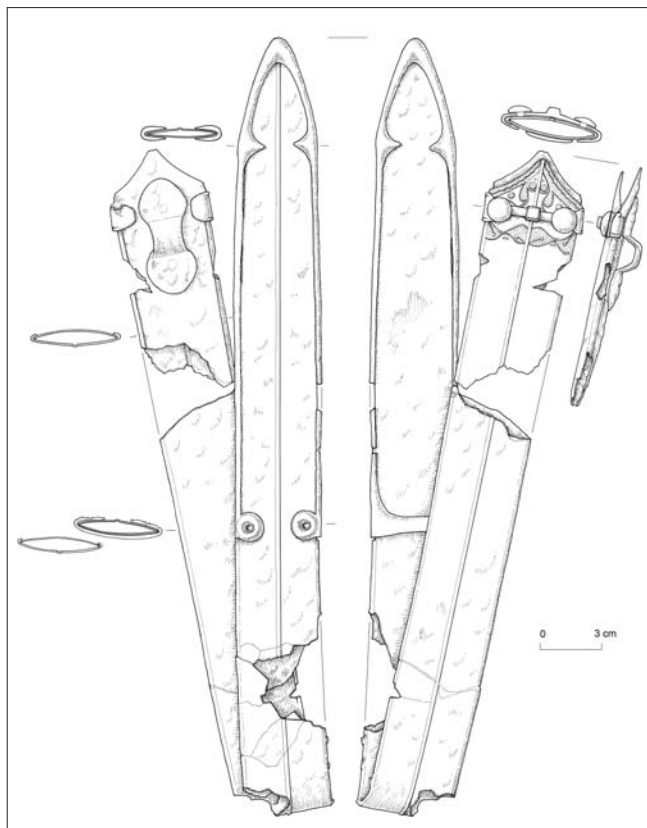
The two pottery vessels (Fig. 4–5) were made of the same fabric on a slow wheel. Other features they share are a rough surface, a slip, and very similar decoration. Therefore, they can be reliably interpreted as an intentionally manufactured pair. The assumption that the two vessels are part of the inventory of the grave and not of some unrecognised Hallstatt grave unit (e.g. the grave with a socketed axe from the same layer) is predominantly based on their fabric, for in the prehistoric settlement deposits at Prule (the Tribuna site) and in the areas of Stari trg and Gornji trg, hand-built pottery with the same characteristics (in some cases also with the same »resin« slip) appears exclusively in the La Tène contexts (information from Petra Vojaković). In settlement layers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. BC, the amount of hand-built pottery at the Tribuna site by far exceeds Celtic wheel-made pottery (Vojaković et al. 2011).

A good comparison for the series of incised triangles between horizontal lines can be found on a fragment of a pot shoulder, which was found among the material of the oldest settlement phase at the Gornji trg 30 site under the Ljubljana Castle hill, roughly dated to the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> cent. BC, i.e. the time before the years 50/25 BCE (Vičič 1994: Pl. 1: 4). This pot, made of poorly purified, greyish brown fired clay, has a larger diameter, a less steep shoulder and a narrower neck than the larger pot from the Auersperg Palace.

The forms of the pots considered here resemble some of the hand-built pots from La Tène graveyards of the western Dolenjska region, which belong to the transition between the Middle and Late La Tène periods, but their technological characteristics clearly show a connection to the Hallstatt pottery tradition. Among the analogies for the larger of the two vessels, a biconical pot from grave 17 in Podgorica near Bič should be mentioned. It is most likely from the transition between the Middle and Late La Tène or from the beginning of the Late La Tène period (Šinkovec 2011: 39, 115, Pl. 11 B: 1). The pot is made of black to dark greyish brown fired clay, with its greatest diameter a bit lower, and has a slightly concave, conical neck and an oblique everted rim, which, like in the case of the pot considered here, is obliquely cut. Ahac Šinkovec compared it to the knob-decorated pots found in the male graves (131 and 286) of the LT C1 phase at Kapiteljska njiva in Novo mesto (Križ 2005: Pl. 18: 2; Pl. 67: 2) and to the reddish-brown pot from grave 42 in Roje near Moravče (Knez 1977: Pl. 6: 7). Rough La Tène period comparisons for the bulbous flask from the Auersperg Palace can be found among the hand-built clay pots fired in a reduction atmosphere, that were found in graves at Roje, and which belong to the Lt D1a phase (Knez 1977: Pl. 11: 14; Pl. 13: 10).

Based on the combination of its different constituent

<sup>1</sup> Podatek o najdišču meča je prijazno posredoval Dragan Božič.



Sl. 6 Turjaška palača. Nožnica iz SE 8204. M = 1: 2 (risba: I. Murgelj; arhiv MGML)

Fig. 6 Auersperg Palace. Scabbard from SU 8204. Scale = 1: 2 (drawing: I. Murgelj; MGML archive)



Sl. 7 Turjaška palača. Detalj nožnice iz SE 8204. M = 1: 1 (risba: I. Murgelj; foto: A. Ogorelec; arhiv MGML)

Fig. 7 Auersperg Palace. Detail of the scabbard from SU 8204. Scale = 1: 1 (drawing: I. Murgelj; photo: A. Ogorelec; MGML archive)

parts as well as on its dimensions, the scabbard of a sword (Fig. 6–7), which was found in the same layer and which most likely belonged to another grave unit, can be reliably classified in group GSA 5, according to Lejars. This is supported by the chape, similar to the classic chapes of the 5B type, the campanulate mouth of normal variety, the type 6 suspension loop and the transverse reinforcement of type 8 on the front side and type 6 on the back side (Lejars 1994: 23–24, 35–37). Lejars noted that the majority of the 5B type scabbards occurs in GSA phase II, i.e. the LT C1b phase, but individual cases can be still found in the time when two-part, twisted sword chains with flattened and punched links were replaced by annular sets (LT C2).

Among the geographically closest specimens of swords with 5B type scabbards is the one found in the Ljubljana river near the village of Bevke, discovered by local inhabitants before the Second World War (Gabrovec 1966: Pl. 29: 1)<sup>1</sup>, as well as swords with scabbards from graves 21, 30 and 33 from the Celtic necropolis of Brežice-Sejmišče. Based on the grave inventories, especially the presence of the younger version of the twisted and punched sword chain in grave 33 and the occurrence of a bronze belt buckle in grave 30, A. Jovanović convincingly argued that the Brežice-Sejmišče group 3 scabbards were in use in the later part of the LT C1 phase (LT C1b) and at the transition into the LT C2 phase (Jovanović 2006: 202–105).

The mouth of the Auersperg Palace scabbard is decorated with a raised relief wavy line. Under the mouth, there is an engraved tripartite motif of a pair of fantastic animals and additional stylised head. The lower part of the symmetrical motif is characterized by the two animals, depicted from the side and facing each other. Each of the creatures is depicted with a concentric body and a pointed head with one eye, similar to a bird's head. The bodies of both animals are connected by a slightly convex edge underneath. A frontally depicted pointed-oval head with eyes and nasal openings, resembling the head of a snake or a lizard, emerges on the upper side, between the animals. Below, a simple engraved vegetative ornament with two tendrils leans on the main motif. The spaces between the engravings are partially filled with stippled dots, which emphasize the depth contrast of the decoration.

No direct analogies are known for the comprehensive composition of the ornament, which combines archaic features – such as filling empty spaces with stippling and the depiction of eyes – with the ornamental combination of the antithetic animal pair of dragons or gryphons and vegetative motifs from the repertoire of the so called Hungarian sword style (see Szabó, Petres 1992: 35; Ginoux 2002: 76–79; Lejars 2003: 29–33) and with the unique addition of the third head rounding up the upper part of the symmetric triangular motif of a fantastic creature. A similar combination of ornaments is most often found on scabbards from the southern border area of the Pannonian Plain, which were discovered in grave units from the later part of the LT C1 phase (Jovanović 2006: 101). All of the above, but especi-

<sup>1</sup> The information about the location where the sword was found was kindly given by Dragan Božič.

verige s sploščenimi členi v grobu 33 ter pojavu bronaste pasne sponje v grobu 30, prepričljivo datirala v mlajši del stopnje LT C1 (LT C1b) in na prehod v stopnjo LT C2 (Jovanović 2006: 202–105).

Nožnica iz Turjaške palače je na ustju okrašena z iztolčeno valovnico, pod njim pa z graviranim trodelnim motivom para fantastičnih živali in stilizirane glave plazilca. Spodnji del simetričnega motiva označujeta nasproti si postavljeni živali, upodobljeni s strani. Posamezno žival ponazarja okroglo telo z notranjim koncentričnim poljem in koničasta glava z očesom, ki spominja na ptičjo. Telesi obeh živali na spodnji strani povezuje rahlo izbočen rob. Iz vmesnega prostora na zgornji strani izhaja frontalno upodobljena koničasto-ovalna glava z očesoma in nosnima odprtinama, ki spominja na glavo kače ali kuščarja. Spodaj se na glavni motiv naslanja preprost rastlinski okras z dvema viticama, izdelan z graviranjem. Polja med gravurami so deloma zapolnjena s punciranjem, ki poudarja globinski kontrast okrasa.

Celostna kompozicija okrasa, ki ji ne poznamo neposrednih primerjav, združuje arhaične značilnosti, kot sta zapolnjevanje praznih polj s punciranjem in upodabljanje oči, s kombinacijo okrasa nasproti postavljenega para zmajčkov oziroma grifonov in rastlinskih motivov iz repertoarja t.i. madžarskega sloga (glej Szabó, Petres 1992: 35; Ginoux 2002: 76–79; Lejars 2003: 29–33) ter unikatnim dodatkom v obliki tretje glave, ki zaokroža zgornji del simetričnega trikotnega motiva fantastičnega bitja. Podobna kombinacija okrasa se najpogosteje pojavlja na nožnicah iz južnega roba Panonske nižine, ki so bile praviloma odkrite v celotah iz mlajšega dela stopnje LT C1 (Jovanović 2006: 101). Navedeno, zlasti pa kompleksnost okrasa, značilna za najmlajšo fazo upodabljanja para zmajčkov, utemeljuje datiranje izdelave nožnice iz Turjaške palače v zadnjo tretjino 3. st. pr. n. št.

Kombinacijo obeh ornamentalnih motivov je mogoče primerjati z graviranim okrasom dveh nožnic iz Muzeja Krajine v Negotinu, ki se tam hranita brez natančnejših podatkov o kraju odkritja, vendar gre najverjetneje za grobni najdbi iz okoliškega območja v izteku soteske Železnih vrat. Od prve nožnice je avtorjema znana le risba okrasa pod ustjem, ki ga tvorijo par stiliziranih teles zmajčkov ter sredinsko postavljen rombast motiv in polovici tega motiva, preslikani ob stranska robova platic. Notranja polja so zapolnjena z graviranim okrasom ribjih mehurjev, spodnji rob okrasa pa zamejujejo rastlinski motivi (Todorović 1974, sl. 102). Druga nožnica je bila najdena skupaj z 89 cm dolgim mečem in sodi med značilne primerke tipa 5B. Okras pod ustjem sestavlja kombinacija para stiliziranih teles zmajčkov, ribjih mehurjev in rastlinskih motivov (Popović 1991: 166–167, sl. 2: 1–2), ki spominja na ornamentalne značilnosti nožnic iz grobov stopnje LT C1b iz širšega območja Panonske nižine, npr. na primerke iz groba 1 v Brestoviku (Božič 1981: 318, T. 7: 1), groba 29 na Karaburmi (Božič 1981: 318, T. 10: 4; detalj pri Todorović 1974, sl. 101) in groba 33 z nekropole Brežice-Sejmišče (Jovanović 2006: 104, T. 17: 3), ter na okras nožnice brez znane celote iz Ritopeka (Todorović 1967, 19, T. V: 15).

Sklepanje, da dodaten del ornamentalnega motiva na nožnici iz Turjaške palače prikazuje kačo, je podkrepjeno z reliefno upodobitvijo valovnice tik pod ustjem, ki morda ponazarja značilno gibanje teh plazilcev. Podoben okras je v gravirani izvedbi znan npr. z nožnice tipa 5A iz groba 394 na Kapiteljski njivi v Novem mestu (Križ 2005: 91–92, T. 71:

ally the complexity of the decoration, which is typical for the latest phase of the dragon pair depictions, reasonably supports the dating of the manufacture of the Auersperg Palace scabbard in the last third of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. BC.

The closest comparisons for this combination of ornamental motifs, known to the authors, include the engraved decoration of two scabbards from the Muzej Krajine (Krajina Museum) in Negotin. Although there are no exact data on the location of their discovery, they most likely originate from graves in the nearby area, at the end of the Iron Gates gorge. As to the first scabbard, only a drawing of the ornament under the mouth is known to the authors. The ornament is comprised of a pair of stylised bodies of small dragons and of a rhombic motif in the centre, together with two halves of the same motif, copied on the side edges of the plates. The inner space is filled with engraved decorations in the shape of fish bladders and the lower edge of the ornament is delimited by vegetable motifs (Todorović 1974: Fig. 102). The second scabbard was found together with a 89 cm long sword and is one of the typical examples of the 5B type. The decoration below the mouth is a combination of a pair of stylised bodies of small dragons, fish bladders and vegetable motifs (Popović 1991: 166–167, Fig. 2: 1–2), resembling the ornamental features of scabbards from the LT C1b phase graves in the broader area of the Pannonian Plain, e.g. from grave 1 in Brestovik (Božič 1981: 318, Pl. 7: 1), grave 29 at Karaburma (Božič 1981: 318, Pl. 10: 4; a detail in Todorović 1974, Fig. 101) and grave 33 from the Brežice-Sejmišče necropolis (Jovanović 2006: 104, Pl. 17: 3), and the ornaments of a scabbard without a known grave unit from Ritopek (Todorović 1967: 19, Pl. V: 15).

The relief wavy line right below the mouth, which resembles the typical movement of serpents, supports the conclusions on the additional part of the ornamental motif. Similar but engraved decoration is known also from a scabbard of the 5A type, found in grave 394 at Kapiteljska njiva in Novo mesto (Križ 2005: 91–92, Pl. 71: 3), which belongs to the latter phase of the LT C1 period, while mouths decorated with a wavy line appear throughout the Middle La Tène (see Lejars 2003: Fig. 16: 1; Fig. 17: 2; Fig. 20: 9, 11). Depictions of snakes, while common in the Greco-Etruscan iconographic repertoire, become more noticeable in Celtic art only from the 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. BC onwards, especially in the form of a mythological creature - a horned snake. The motif, known already from an Early La Tène helmet from Agris (ca. 350 BC), was common especially in the Late La Tène and Early Roman period of northwestern Gaul. Horned snakes appear on handle attachments of a kantharos from the Middle La Tène grave 40 at Kandija in Novo mesto (Knez, Szabó 1983), which is slightly older than the Auersperg Palace scabbard. According to M. Szabó, its date and geographical position confirm the conclusions made by J. De Vries about the eastern origin of this motif (Knez, Szabó 1983: 87, Note 32). The thesis that snake representations are tightly connected with the arrival of the Celts in the northern Balkan area and with the influences of Hellenistic art, is supported by the stylised serpent ornamentation on the silver jewellery found in hoards from the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> cent. BC in the middle and

3), ki sodi v mlajši del stopnje LT C1, čeprav se z valovnico okrašena ustja pojavljajo v teku celotnega srednjega latena (glej Lejars 2003: sl. 16: 1; sl. 17: 2; sl. 20: 9, 11).

Prikazi kač, običajni v grško-etrusčanskem ikonografskem repertoarju, se začnejo v keltski umetnosti opazneje pojavljati šele v 3. st. pr. n. št. in sicer predvsem v obliki mitološkega bitja kače z rogovi. Motiv, ki je znan že z naličnice zgodnjelatenske čelade iz Agrisa (okoli 350. pr. n. št.), v poznem latenu in rimskem obdobju pa je razširjen zlasti na severozahodu Galije, krasi tudi pripenjališča ročajev kantharosa iz srednjelatenskega groba 40 v Kandiji v Novem mestu (Knez, Szabó 1983). Datacija in geografski položaj novomeške celote, ki je nekoliko starejša od nožnice iz Turjaške palače, naj bi po M. Szabu potrjevala domneve J. De Vriesa o vzhodnem izvoru motiva kače z rogovi (Knez, Szabó 1983: 87, op. 32). Tezo, da je upodabljanje kač pri Keltih v tesni povezavi z njihovim prihodom na severni Balkan in vplivi Helenistične umetnosti, podpirajo tudi stilizirane upodobitve kač na srebrnem nakitu iz depojskih najdb iztekajočega 4. st. pr. n. št. iz srednjega in spodnjega Podonavja (Tonkova 2011: 191–192). Motiv kače naj bi bil povezan zlasti s temnimi silami podzemlja, čeprav je simbolno dojetje kače pri Keltih, podobno kot v klasični religiji, združevalo vlogo dobrega z negativnim (Green 2002: 224–230).

### Ritual

Onesposobitev orožja s sežiganjem in deformiranjem v okviru grobnega rituala je pri Keltih običajna za žgane grobove, označuje pa tudi del skeletnih pokopov (glej Brunaux, Rapin 1988: 47–53; Rapin 1993; Lejars 1994: 104–116). Podobno kot v drugih delih keltske Evrope so bili tudi na območju Mokronoške skupine meči najpogosteje priloženi enkrat ali večkrat zviti oziroma prepognjeni (v obliki črke U oziroma S ali V) skupaj z nožnico, manj pogosto delno izvlečeni ali pa ločeni in zviti vsak posebej (Božič 1987: 887; glej npr. Križ 2005: 24). Posebne obravnave je bila primeroma deležna konica, ki je močno zvita tudi pri meču iz obravnavanega skupka in ima analogije npr. v prepognjenih konicah mečev v nožnicah iz srednjelatenskih grobov 203 in 396 s Kapitelske njive v Novem mestu (Križ 2005: T. 61: 4; T. 73: 2) ali pri meču iz vasi Lauco v Karniji, ki je bil najden skupaj s pripadajočo nožnico, tremi suličnimi ostmi in nožem, okvirno datiranimi na konec 3. st. pr. n. št. Meč in nožnica iz Lauca sta bila zvita in še dodatno deformirana posebej (Righi 2001a: 105–106, T. 1: 1c), kar ustreza obredju, značilnemu predvsem za srednje- in poznolatenske svetiščne komplekse (za jugovzhodne Alpe glej npr. Righi 2001b: 114–115, sl. 7: 1; sl. 8–10).<sup>2</sup>

Oblika sprimka iz Turjaške palače nakazuje, da je bilo orožje stlačeno v razmeroma ozek in globok grobni jašek, ki odstopa od prevladujočih oblik in dimenzij grobov z območja Mokronoške skupine in ima primerjave le v cilindričnih jamah iz Mokronoga in s Kapitelske njive v Novem mestu (glej Božič 1987: 885, op. 103; Križ 2005: 13).

2 Med najnazornejše primere ritualnega uničevanja orožja negrobnega značaja iz jugovzhodnoalpskega prostora sodi zgornji del rezila poznolatenskega meča z Bleda na Gorenjskem, ki je bil verjetno najden na območju razgledne vzpetine Pecovca severovzhodno od jezera. Meč ima na eni ostrini tri izrazite in globoke zasekanine, nanizane ena ob drugi, rezilo pa naj bi po Alfonsu Müllnerju zlomil četrti udarec (Müllner 1894: 119, T. 10: 29; glej Knific 2011: sl. 12: b).

lower Danube Region (Tonkova 2011: 191–192). Although the snake motif is supposed to have been predominantly connected with the dark forces of the underworld, the symbolic perception of a serpent in the Celtic world combined, similarly to classical religion, the role of the good and the negative (Green 2002: 224–230).

### The ritual

To burn and distort weapons in order to disable them was common practice in Celtic cremation burial rituals, and the ritual also appears within the context of some inhumation burials (see Brunaux, Rapin 1988: 47–53; Rapin 1993; Lejars 1994: 104–116). In the territory of the Mokronog group, similarly to other parts of Celtic Europe, the swords placed in graves were most often bent or folded (in the shape of the letter U, S or V) once or several times, together with a scabbard, less often partly drawn or separated from scabbards and twisted separately (Božič 1987: 887; see e.g. Križ 2005: 24). In some cases, the tip received special treatment. Thus, it was heavily twisted in the case of the sword from the Auersperg Palace conglomerate. Comparisons can be found e.g. in the folded tips of swords in scabbards from the Middle La Tène graves 203 and 396 at Kapitelska njiva in Novo mesto (Križ 2005: Pl. 61: 4; Pl. 73: 2) or in the sword from the village of Lauco in Carnia, which was found together with its scabbard, three spear heads and a knife, all roughly dated to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. BC. The sword and scabbard from Lauco were separately twisted and additionally distorted (Righi 2001a: 105–106, Pl. 1: 1c). This corresponds to the rituals typical of the Middle and Late La Tène sanctuary complexes (for the southeastern Alps see e.g. Righi 2001b: 114–115, Fig. 7: 1; Fig. 8–10).<sup>2</sup>

The shape of the Auersperg Palace conglomerate indicates that the weapon was crammed in a relatively narrow and deep grave shaft, which is a departure from the prevailing forms and dimensions of graves in the territory of the Mokronog group, and has analogies only in the cylindrical pits at Mokronog and at Kapitelska njiva in Novo mesto (see Božič 1987: 885, note 103; Križ 2005: 13).

### CONCLUSION

The La Tène finds from layer (SU) 8204 considered here are probably parts of the inventories of at least two graves, destroyed in a large earthwork intervention in the Early Roman period. In addition to the fragments of pottery which originally belonged to graves of the later phase of the Urnföld Culture, and the narrow socketed axe from the Late Hallstatt period, which are not the subject of this discussion, the least problematic seems to be the interpretation of the conglomerated sword in a scabbard, a ring (from a belt set?), a shield boss and a shaft-hole axe, which are undoubtedly the

2 Among the most explicit cases of the ritual destruction of weapons outside burial contexts from the southeastern alpine area is the upper part of a late La Tène sword blade from Bled in the Gorenjska region, which was probably found in the area of Pecovca, an elevation with a good view, north-east of the lake. On one edge, the sword has a series of three prominent and deep chop marks and according to Alfons Müllner, the blade was broken by the fourth strike (Müllner 1894: 119, Pl. 10: 29; see Knific 2011: Fig. 12: b).

**SKLEP**

Obravnavane latenske najdbe iz plasti (SE) 8204 verjetno predstavljajo dele inventarjev vsaj dveh grobov, ki sta bila uničena z večjim zemeljskim posegom v zgodnjem rimskem obdobju. Poleg odlomkov keramičnih posod, prvotno pridanih v grobove mlajše faze KŽG, ter vitke tulaste sekire iz mlajšega halštata, ki niso predmet naše obravnave, se zdi še najmanj problematična interpretacija sprimka z mečem v nožnici, obročkom (pasne garniture?), ščitno grbo in uhato sekiro, ki nedvomno predstavlja vsebino bojevnškega groba. Sprimka se drži odlomek in več delcev sežganih človeških kosti, ki so bile v večjem številu zbrane tudi v plasti (SE) 8204, prvotno pa so bile morda nasute na dno grobne jame. Glede na obliko sprimka je verjetno šlo za cilindričen grobni jašek ali morda dvodelno jamo. To nakazujeta odlomka (ene od?) opisanih keramičnih posod, vključena v sprimek, ki sta bila glede na identične tehnološke in ornamentalne značilnosti ter stopnjo ohranjenosti najverjetneje, vendar ne nujno, položena na orožje oziroma v razširjen del grobne jame. Prvotna lega loncev in njuno stanje ob odložitvi ostajajo neznani, zato ni mogoče povsem izključiti možnosti, da so se odlomki ene oziroma obeh posod z železnimi deli inventarja sprijeli šele naknadno in da pripadata neki drugi (latenski) celoti. Nezanosljiv je tudi izvor fragmentiranih živalskih kosti, ki bi lahko pogojno predstavljale ostanke popotnice, priložene v grobno jamo. Na to napeljujeta njihova vrstna pripadnost (*Sus sp.*, *Ovis aries*) (glej Turk 1992; Hincak, Guštin 2011: 247, 249) in dejstvo, da je hrana živalskega izvora v grobovih starejšega dela nekropole dokumentirana le poredkoma (glej Puš 1972: 81–82; 1982: 166).

Tudi prepognjena nožnica iz plasti (SE) 8204 skoraj brez dvoma pripada moškemu grobu, ki je bil zelo verjetno uničen skupaj s prej obravnavano celoto. Zgostitev latenskih najdb v tem delu zgodnjem rimskega zasipa daje slutiti, da so bile plasti z ostanke grobov, okvirno datiranih v čas okoli leta 200. pr. n. št., nasuti sočasno in nedaleč od prvotnega položaja.

Glede na kombinacijo keltskega meča in ščitne grbe ter uhate sekire, značilnega elementa poznohalštatske oborožitve, tujega keltskemu načinu bojevanja, in pridanih keramičnih posod, ki po izdelavi, fakturi in okrasu kažejo jasno povezanost z lokalnim latenskim lončarstvom, moramo v pokojniku videti pripadnika staroselske populacije, ki je prevzela keltsko oborožitev in grobni ritual, ohranila pa svoje temeljno orožje in tradicionalno keramiko. Tej domnevi morda pritrjuje tudi izbira kraja pokopavanja na območju starejše nekropole, ki ima geografsko in kronološko najbližjo primerjavo v srednjelatenskem grobu, vkopanem v gomilo 3 na 8 km oddaljenem Molniku vzhodno od Ljubljane (Puš 1996: 61). Grob je poleg meča v nožnici srednjelatenske sheme vrste GSA 4 vseboval železno sulično ost z ozkim listom in poudarjenim rebrom trikotnega preseka, ki sodi med tipične halštatske oblike. Fenomen ponovne uporabe starega pokopališnega prostora zelo verjetno izpričuje tudi žgan avgustejski grob (gr. 1042) pripadnika pomožnih enot rimske vojske, domnevno domačina, ki je bil postavljen na rob halštatske gomile na severozahodnem delu Kongresnega trga v Ljubljani (Gaspari, Bekljanov Zidanšek, Masaryk, Novšak 2013).

contents of a warrior's grave. Adhering to the conglomerate is one piece and several small fragments of burnt human bones, which were present in larger numbers in layer (SU) 8204, while originally they might have been placed over the bottom of the grave pit. Considering the shape of the conglomerate, it was most likely a cylindrical shaft or perhaps a two-partite pit. This is implied by two fragments of (one of?) the described pottery vessels, which were part of the conglomerate and which, based on their identical technological and ornamental characteristics and the preservation state, were most likely – but not necessarily – laid onto the weapons or in the broadened part of the grave pit. The original position of the two pots and their condition at the time of deposition remain unknown. Therefore, the possibility cannot entirely be excluded that it was only later that the fragments of one or both vessels became adherent to the iron pieces, while originally they belonged to some other (La Tène period) grave unit. The origin of the fragmented animal bones is also unknown. They might be the remains of food placed in the grave pit. This is indicated by the kinds of species the bones belong to (*Sus sp.*, *Ovis aries*) (see Turk 1992; Hincak, Guštin 2011: 247, 249) and by the fact that food of animal origin is only rarely documented in the graves of the older part of the necropolis (see Puš 1972: 81–82; 1982: 166).

The folded scabbard from layer (SU) 8204 almost undoubtedly belongs to a male grave, which was very likely destroyed together with the grave unit discussed above. The concentration of La Tène finds in this part of the Early Roman backfill implies that all the layers that contain the remains of graves roughly dated to the time around the year 200 BC, were banked up at the same time and not far from their original position.

Considering the combination of the Celtic sword and shield boss and on the other side the shaft-hole axe, a typical element of Late Hallstatt armament and foreign to the Celtic fighting style, as well as the pottery vessels, which, based on their workmanship, fabric and ornaments, indicate a strong connection to the local La Tène pottery, the deceased should be seen as a member of the native population, which adopted Celtic armaments and grave rituals, but kept their basic weaponry and traditional pottery. This assumption might be supported by the fact that the location for burials was chosen in the area of an older necropolis, which has its geographically and chronologically closest analogy in the Middle La Tène grave dug into Tumulus 3 at the 8 km distant Molnik, east of Ljubljana (Puš 1996: 61). In addition to a sword in a scabbard of the GSA 4 type, that grave contained an iron spear head with a narrow blade and a pronounced rib of triangular section, which is a typical Hallstatt form. A grave from the Augustan period (gr. 1042), which belonged to a member of Roman auxiliary units, presumably a local inhabitant, and which was placed onto a Hallstatt tumulus in the northwestern part of the Kongresni trg in Ljubljana (Gaspari, Bekljanov Zidanšek, Masaryk, Novšak 2013) is probably a further indication of the phenomenon of the renewed use of the graveyard area.

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