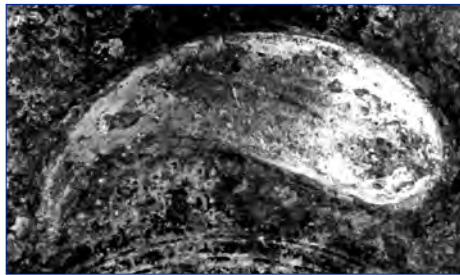


An einem Set aus vier runden Platten oder Tellern im Schatzfund von Boscoreale (Musée du Louvre, Dept. des Antiquités Grecques, Étrusques et Romaines Bj 1956-1959) sind jeweils vier delphinförmige Elemente beider Ausrichtungen von ca. 15 x 5,5 mm Größe als Griffe verwendet worden (Héron de Villefosse 1899, 120-122, Kat. 84-87; Oliver 1977, 136-137, Kat. 89-90). Ob dies die korrekt rekonstruierte Lage der delphinförmigen Elemente ist oder ob es sich nicht auch hier ursprünglich um die Plattenfüße gehandelt hat, muß auf Grund der Publikationslage offen bleiben. Allerdings sind in einem Papyrusfragment, in dem Silbergeschirrinventare aufgelistet werden, mandelförmige Griffe an vier Silberplatten erwähnt (Drexel 1921/22; Oliver, Oliver 1979, bes. 23 col. 3 Abs. 8).

Eine große, im Jahr 1990 in Orange, F gefundene Patera ⁽¹⁾ weist drei linksgerichtete delphinförmige Füße auf, die 66-69 mm lang und 24-25 mm breit sind (fig. 3). Die Patera hat einen Durchmesser von 31,8 cm, die Länge mit röhrenförmigem Griff beträgt 51,3 cm. Die Füße unterscheiden sich leicht und dürften daher nicht aus derselben Gussform stammen. Über die ‚Rückenmitte‘ der ‚Delphine‘ verläuft jeweils ein Grat. Diese Grate wurden an den höchsten Stellen abflacht, so dass ein guter Stand der Patera gewährleistet war. Die Kanten sind nach außen verbreitert, um ausreichende Flächen für die Weichlötung anzubieten. Auf dem Boden der Patera sind Lage, Größe und Form der Füße durch die Reste der Weichlötung erhalten, wie dies auch bei den drei ovalen Platten aus dem Hildesheimer Silberfund und der Muschelpyxis aus Petescia der Fall ist.

Von denen bei Feugère 2000 und Božič 2004 publizierten, beurteilbaren Füßchen sind 6 links- und eines rechtsgerichtet, die drei an der Muschelschale aus Petescia sind rechts-, die an der Patera aus Orange linksgerichtet. Bisher ist nur an den Plattensets aus Hildesheim und Boscoreale die gemeinsame Verwendung delphinförmiger Füßchen (oder Griffe) unterschiedlicher Ausrichtung zu beobachten. Der Vergleich der Gefäß- und Füßchenmaße zeigt, wie variabel Gefäßtypen und -größen sind, an denen delphinförmige Füße angebracht wurden. Alle diese Gefäße lassen sich zusammen mit dem Berliner Papyrus BGU III 781 ins 1. Jahrhundert datieren. Die besondere Erwähnung im Papyrus und die wenigen erhaltenen Beispiele deuten an, daß es sich bei den delphinförmigen Gefäßfüßchen um eine eher selten verwendete Form gehandelt haben dürfte.

Dr. Barbara Niemeyer M.A.
Antikensammlung Berlin
b.niemeyer@smb.spk-berlin.de



Anmerkungen :

(1) Die Patera wurde 1991 im Atelier de Restauration, Centre de Recherches et d'Études Archéologiques in Vienne, Dépt. Isère, F. von der Autorin restauriert.

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Fig. 3 — Lotrest eines delphinförmigen Füßchens auf der Patera aus Orange.

The early La Tène antler implement from Soběsuky, okr. Chomutov, Czech Republic

R. and V. Megaw

The discovery in an Iron Age settlement in western Bohemia of an antler implement carved with two antithetical animals — possibly dogs — has attracted considerable interest but as yet no detailed analysis (fig. 1a-b; Soběsuky 7' in Waldhauser 2001, 454 and ill.; Kruta et al. 2006, cat. no. 6/3; Megaw, Megaw, in press). The implement was found in a hut associated with a range of mainly early La Tène A pottery. The antler piece currently measures some 164 mm in length and has been carved from a single piece of fine-grained antler, both ends of which are missing; originally there was a 'Siamese twin', a second animal, the remaining features of which can be seen when the blade is turned through 180° — most of the body remains with its rear haunch and elongated leg and the tail doubles as the hind leg of the complete animal.

It is not the purpose of this note to discuss the stylistic affinities of the Soběsuky animal(s). Sufficient to note here are the animals — surely dogs again — on the handle mounts of the twin flacons from the Basse-Yutz, Moselle, find (Megaw, Megaw 1990, 54-59 and pl. 11-15). Another object which has Bohemian affinities and which incorporates a pair of long-snouted quadrupeds is a triangular openwork bronze belt-hook from barrow 1, grave no. 2 below the Glauberg-Glauburg, Wetteraukreis (Megaw, Megaw 2002, 188-9 and fig. 17b). But two other aspects remain to be examined — firstly how the Soběsuky piece adds to our knowledge of contemporary craft-techniques, and secondly what if anything may be deduced as to its possible use. There is evidence that at least two separate implements were employed to carve the Soběsuky dogs — a fine chisel or gouge which was tapped with a hammer to produce the incised grooves with their cord-like profile and a rasp which has been used extensively on the flat surface. We must also presume that a broader carving implement was employed to model the animals' bodies, while there are also traces of the use of the rasp on the upper surface.

Clearly the carver of the Soběsuky antler implement was skilled at his craft, but it remains true that

evidence for wood, bone and metalworking tools in the Iron Age remains relatively limited. There are however finds dating from Hallstatt C onwards that demonstrate the use of files and rasps, some of which were associated with high-status burials (for a useful summary see Terzan 1994, esp. Abb. 1). Such tools have in effect have remained unchanged in form and use for several millennia.

The purpose to which the Soběsuky implement may have been put is more problematic. While it is unfortunate that it is incomplete, there is no marked use-wear observable on the surface of the antler. A clue may be found in the evidence for weaving which has been found on the site, as indeed is common on other Bohemian settlements of the Hallstatt and earlier La Tène periods (e.g. Radovesice: Waldhauser et al. 1993, 207-209, 335-336). The finds from Soběsuky also bear witness to the fact that textile production was part of commonly performed domestic activities over the whole period of the site's occupation. Spinning is evidenced by numerous spinning whorls, the process of weaving itself by loomweights, most commonly of a truncated cone shape, with a horizontal piercing in the upper part. Such weights served the purpose of stretching vertical threads of the warp of

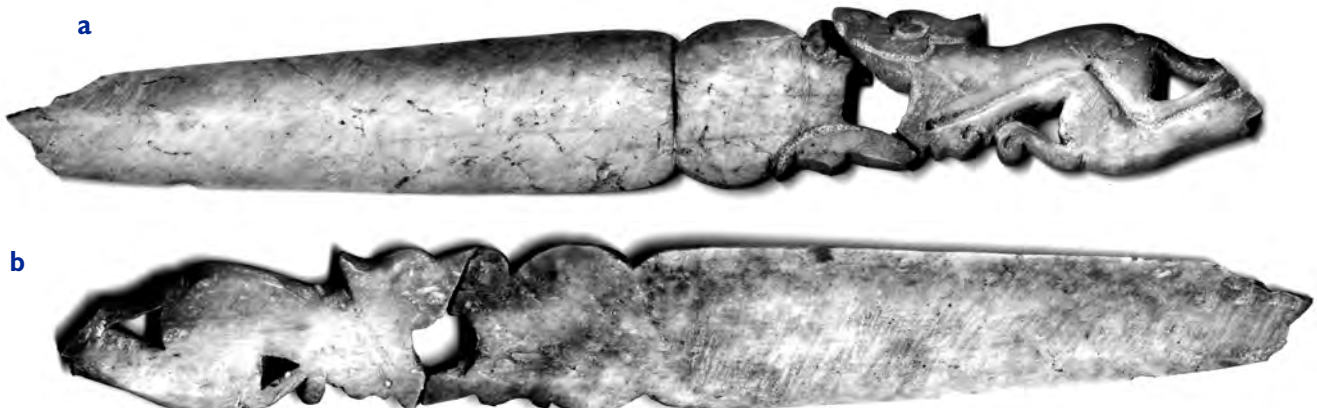


Fig. 1 — Soběsuky, okr. Chomutov, feature no. 3472/91. a-b. Front and reverse of antler weaving implement; length 164 mm (Photos: Regiolani museum K.A. Polanka, Zatec).

the vertical loom and their occurrence, especially in the sunken houses, is striking. One can generally assume that the raw materials for weaving were processed locally – wool, for the manufacturing of coarse textiles intended for production of everyday garments, and flax, more suitable for production of fine linen textiles. In the early La Tène period – the phase of the site's occupation to which the antler implement belongs – weaving is confirmed by the loomweights from a number of other huts.

With this in mind, a weaving shuttle or sword-beater – used to 'beat' or bed down a weft thread – are possible candidates, but a third identification is as a more specialised beater used in the production of complex braids or tablet weaving. There are no actual examples of tablet-weaving so far known from Bohemia, Moravia or Slovakia (Belanová 2005; Bender Jorgensen 2005) but the technique is well-known from the Austrian salt-mines (Groenmann-van Waateringe 2003; Grömer 2005a; Stöllner 2005). While it is also true that no similar implement has been yet identified – and here the emphasis is on yet identified – north of the Alps, a series of bones, flat on one side and slightly curved on the other, has been found in grave 89 of the well-known Villanovan cemetery of Verrucchio, Emilia Romagna. Given the wealth of textiles and related implements in the site, not only have these been interpreted as beaters but they offer a credible comparison with our Soběsuky implement (Raeder Knudsen 2002; see also Grömer 2005b). What is now required is either further evidence supporting this interpretation or else a new and even more persuasive hypothesis.

Ruth and Vincent Megaw
Department of Archaeology
Flinders University
GPO Box 2100
Adelaide 500, Australia
vincent.megaw@flinders.edu.au

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Table ronde

L'interprétation des ateliers de travail du fer découverts en fouille (Ville av.- 1er ap. J.-C.)



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marion.berranger@wanadoo.fr

Alain Duval
duval.de.champlost@free.fr

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F-58370 Glux-en-Glenne
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saillant@u-bordeaux3.fr

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