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## THE FIND OF A LATE NEOLITHIC SKELETON IN OBORÍN, MICHALOVCE DISTRICT, IN EAST SLOVAKIA

An archeological expedition organized by the Zemplín Museum in 1960 discovered in Oborín three neolithic skeleton burials. Two of the finds, graves No. 1/60 and 3/60 contained only insignificant remnants of skeletons, only the 2/60 skeleton has been preserved to such an extent that it can be used for anthropological studies. J. Vizdal, archeologist and Director of the Zemplín Museum in Michalovce, was so kind as to hand me over the anthropological remains found in grave 2/60 for further studies (J. Vizdal 1961, 1962, 1970). The human remains found in grave 2/60 were in such a bad condition that I am forced to limit this report to the study of the skull. The remains of the skull have been deformed post-mortally by the pressure of the soil, so that it was impossible to realize most of the measurements. However, in view of the cultural affiliation of the find, and of the scarcity of similar finds in the region, the Oborín skull deserves special attention.

The supraorbital region of the frontal bone is missing, preserved is however the supraorbital trigonum on the right side. The supraorbital depression separating the squama of the frontal bone from the supraorbital region shows that the skull had originally well-formed medium-size supraorbital ridges. Since the skull belonged to a female, as indicated by the arched front with well developed frontal bosses and by other features of the skull (both on the temporal and occipital squamae and on the lower jaw), the existence of the strong supraorbital relief is extraordinarily interesting. The squama of the frontal bone and the two parietal bones have been deformed through the lateral pressure of the soil, changing the shape of the skull considerably. If we neglect this deformation in the vertical view, we shall see that the skull was origin-

ally ovoid in shape, with slight differences between the breadth of the front and between the maximum breadth of the skull, with a delicately modelled braincase. The parietal bosses were marked only slightly. In the obelion region we can see a slight flattening and two symmetrically placed medium-size foramina parietalia. The open sutures of the braincase show that the woman had not yet been forty years old, the age in which in the Neolithic and Bronze Age populations of Central Europe these sutures obliterated. All the sutures, the frontal, parietal and occipital ones, are comparatively simple.

In the lateral view the skull is well arched and the parietal vault is rounded. The preserved part of the squama of the occipital bone shows that there were no superficial unevennesses on it. There were no external occipital protuberance or other rough surfaces. The curve of the occipital squama is a continuation of the parietal bone. It is not protruding.

The squama of the temporal bone is medium-high. Its upper edge, unfortunately, has not been preserved. The zygomatic arch was comparatively gracile, as we can judge from its preserved root. In its continuation on the squama of the temporal bone there is a weak supramastoid ridge. The mastoid process is voluminous, but short. The external auditory meatus is oval in shape. The socket for the head of the mandible is deep, but not too large, indicating that the lower jaw was comparatively small. All these features indicate that the remains belonged to a female.

In the occipital view the vault has a transversely rounded arch and the lateral walls of the braincase are parallel.

Generally speaking the skull is gracile, dolicho-

morphous and medium-high, on the verge of dolicho- and mesocrany. This kind of skull morphology is very frequent in the Neolithic populations of Central Europe. From the geographically close finds it reminds of the Band-Ceramic Culture finds in Nitra (J. Jelínek 1972), Štúrovo (J. Jelínek 1974), and of certain Moravian finds (e.g. the Band-Ceramic Culture skull from Rybníky (M. Stloukal, 1959).

From the lower jaw only the left half of the body and the left ramus with damaged condyle have been preserved. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the ramus was not very high and it had a shallow, semi-lunar incisure. The gonion is straight. On its internal side the bone is slightly rugged for the adhesion of the lateral pterygoid muscle. The foramen mandibulae is comparatively large. The torus mandibularis is slightly marked. On the external side of the mandibular body, below the second premolar at medium-height of the body, there is a large, simple foramen mentale.

From the teeth three molars, both premolars, and the socket of the incisor have been preserved. The mandible is broken at the socket of the second incisor and thus the symphyseal region has not been preserved. According to the preserved part of the mandible we can say that the lower jaw had a well-shaped prominent chin. The preserved teeth are all

Probable minimum frontal breadth	108
Probable maximum frontal breadth	120
Probable frontal index	90,0
Parietal arch (bregma-lambda)	122
Parietal chord (bregma-lambda)	107
Auricular height	90
Bone thickness at the vertex	10

strikingly small and without caries. The third molar, behind which there is enough space in the mandible, is medium-worn, while most of the crown of the first molar is already abraded. The abrasion of the teeth is conspicuously horizontal. The condition of the teeth, together with the condition of the cranial sutures, points to an individual of 30–40 years of age.

On the internal side of the braincase, around the bregma, there are several Pacchioni's granulations, weakening a bit the cranial vault. There is nothing extraordinary in their size or number.

Anthropologically the Oborín find (Late Neolithic Age) can be ranked with other Neolithic and Early-Neolithic populations from the territory of the present Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Rumania, belonging to the so-called Neolithic Danubian populations.

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a



b



c

TAB. I.

LATE NEOLITHIC SKULL  
FROM OBORÍN,  
EAST SLOVAKIA

- a) *Lateral view*
- b) *The mandible*
- c) *Vertical view*