

JAN PAVELČIK

NITRA-TYPE GRAVES FROM UHERSKÝ BROD AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

The Nitra-type burials are characterized by typical funeral offerings, such as pottery, namely belly-shaped black polished pots, and also coarse brown pottery with ornaments made with fingers. The burials contain also animal bones, namely bones of dogs, roes and cattle and small shells, but also bronze ornaments, wire rings, earrings and the most characteristic motif is the earring in the form of a willow-tree leaf.

The first grave was discovered on digging the foundations for a new connecting road leading to the new residential town in Uherský Brod. The workers found a grave some 1 m below the surface of the earth. It was an isolated grave, nothing indicated that it might be part of a large burial site. The skeleton was considerably disarranged, laying on its back, with its head to the west and feet to east. The remains of the skeleton were identified as belonging to a female of about 40–50 years of age and 156 cm high. Alongside with the human skeleton the skeleton of a dog and the antler of a roe-buck were also found. At the centre of the grave there was a 22 cm high belly-shaped pot with a wide-open neck and with 6 vertical protuberances below it. At the head of the skeleton there was a wire earring and the verdigris coloured parts of the skull were green. Originally I dated this grave to the Věteřov period of the Early Bronze Age, but the funeral offerings animal bones, pottery and the wire earring clearly date it into the Nitra type. In 1951 I knew nothing about the Nitra group.

The other Nitra-type grave was found in Dolní Němčí, some 8 km from Uherský Brod. The owner of the plot (J. Kadlček, No. 506) digging a cellar dug up a skeleton. It was 80 cm deep, its head oriented to west and the feet to east. Un-

fortunately I was unable to see the remains of the skeleton. Before my arrival they had been set in concrete at the bottom of the pit. I found no remains of pottery, but the burial contained an earring of willow-tree leaf type and two pointed flint fragments. The characteristic earring shows that the grave belonged to the Nitra type. The skeleton was found in 1968.

The third grave appeared during the construction of a boiler-room at the new residential town in Uherský Brod in 1974, approximately 1 km from the first find. The remains of a burial were found 2 m below the ground. The calva found here belonged to a 50 year old female. The sutures in the mesocranic calva had been semi-closed. The accompanying material consisted of animal bones, a roe jaw, tooth and fragments of long bones of cattle. The fragments of pottery belonged both to polished black pottery and coarse brown pottery with vertical ornaments made with fingers. Discovered were also sintered pieces of clay and a big loom-weight made of clay. All this was mixed in the muddy, flooded excavation and it was difficult to find out whether it was a grave or a construction site. The pottery and the presence of animal bones rank it with the Nitra culture.

The fourth and last find comes also from 1974 — it was unearthed at the well-known Kyčkov locality, in the cadaster of Uherský Brod, some 2 km from the first find. Here a skeleton was excavated during land reclamation works. It was 1 m deep in the soil, with its head to the east and with the feet to west. The excavator destroyed the ventral part of the skeleton, only parts of the dorsal skeleton remained intact. According to the remains of the cranial bones, fragments of the

shoulder-blades, ribs, pelvis and parts of the upper and lower limbs the skeleton belonged to an approximately 25 year old and 150—160 cm tall man. The right side of the occipital bone near the lambdoidal suture was tinted green from verdigris. Next to it appeared a small copper wire earring, a piece of bronze and a *Unio* shell. (Some 50 m further on the fringe of the terrace there was a further grave, but the excavator destroyed in completely.)

I think that the wire earring ranks this burial also with the Nitra culture.

Altogether four burials have been found. The skeletal material was considerably destroyed in each of them. They were not discovered by planned research but during construction work. In most cases we found only fragments of the destroyed skeleton, and in one case we interviewed the proprietor of the plot who destroyed the skeleton and set it into concrete.

Dr. Jan Pavelčík
Uherský Brod — Museum
313 Seichertova Street