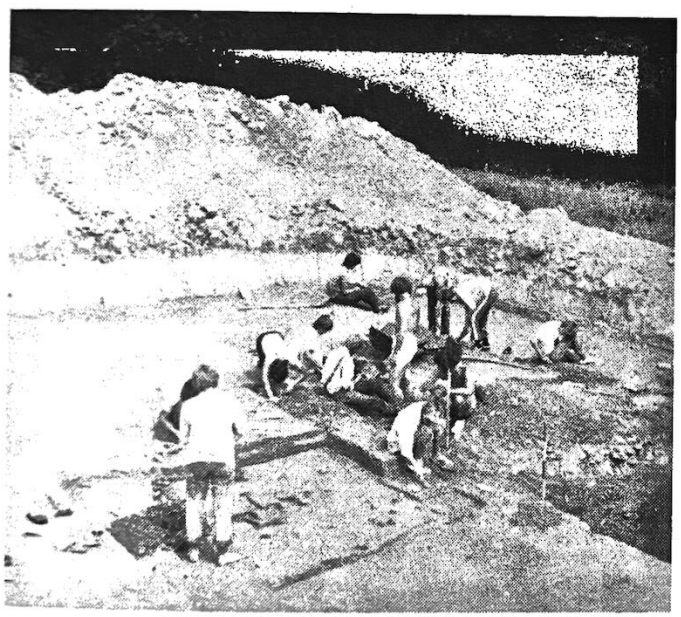
DIE GRABUNG AUF DER PALÄOLITHISCHEN FUNDSTELLE VEDROVICE V.

Im Raume der schon früher bekannten paläolithischen Oberflächenfundstelle entdeckte V. Ondruš, Leiter der prähistorischen Abteilung des Mährischen Museums, ein ausgedehntes bandkeramisches Gräberfeld, das er seit 1975 untersucht. Im Jahre 1981 stieß man auf eine große rundliche Grube, die tief hinab reichte und sich schließlich als ein mittelalterliches Objekt herausstellte. In der Wand dieser Grube wurden in einer Tiefe von etwa 100 cm einige patinierte Silexartefakte gefunden, die dem Anthropos Institut übergeben wurden. Eine Nachprüfung der Funde ergab, daß etwa 90 cm tief im Löß ein etwa 30 cm mächtiger fossiler brauner Boden verläuft, in dessen unteren Teil zahlreiche Artefakte liegen.



In den Jahren 1982 und 1983 unternahm das Anthropos Institut eine Grabung, die eine Fläche von insgesamt etwa 300 m^2 aufschloß; davon waren etwa 140 m^2 fast fundleer, die restlichen 160 m^2 enthielten eine ausgiebige Fundschicht. Die Funde bestehen nur aus Silexartefakten, da infolge pedogenetischer Prozesse alle Tierknochen leider zerstört wurden; nur an einer Stelle fand man Reste von Pferdezähnen. Zahlreiche Feuerstellen gewährten jedoch eine Menge von Holzkohlen, die sowol eine paläobotanische Bestimmung als auch eine Radiocarbondatierung ermöglichen werden.

Mit Hilfe der mittelalterlichen Grube gewann man ein etwa 550 cm tief reichendes Profil. Der fossile Boden erwies sich als ein aus zwei durch eine Sandlage getrennten Horizonten bestehender Pedokomplex, in dessen unteren dunkleren Teil sich das paläolithische Nivean befindet. Im Liegenden dieses Pedokomplexes folgen fast 4 m Löß, der durch drei blaßbraune Zonen gegliedert ist.

Die stratigraphische Position der jungpaläolithischen Fundschicht ist somit gesichert. In vergleichbaren Boden wurde schon vor mehreren Jahren eine spezifische frühjungpaläolithische Industire (Bohunicien) in Brno-Bohunice entdeckt, dieselbe Industrie wurde dann 1982 auf der Stránská skála bei Brno in ähnlicher stratigraphischer Position ergraben (Grabungen des Anthropos Instituts und der Archäologischen Instituts der Akademie). In der ehemaligen Ziegelei von Vedrovice (Fundstelle Vedrovice II) gibt es eine mit der obigen vergleichbare Schichtfolge, die ebenfalls durch ein frühes Jungpaläolithikum (Aurignacien) belegt wird. Den Boden kann man als die Bildung des Mittelwürms betrachten, die durch Radiocarbondaten von Bohunice (40 000—43 000 B. P.) ihre untere Grenze erhält.

Der ergrabene Fundbestand von Vedrovice V ist archäologisch eindeutig zu intepretieren; es ist ein typisches Szeletien mit relativ zahlreichen Blattspitzen (etwa 15 Stück), mit Kratzern, Schabern und sehr wenigen Sticheln, ohne Levalloisformen. Die Fundverteilung deutet an, daß sich in der untersuchten Fläche zwei Schlagplätze mit sehr vielen Absplissen und Abschlägen befanden und ferner, daß an mehreren Stellen Feuer, welches sogar mit Knochen genährt wurde, gebrannt hatte. Allem Anscheine nach handelte sich also um einen wiederholt aufgesuchten Rastplatz des Szeletien, denn die Fundschicht erstreckt sich, wie ermittelt werden konnte, auf einer Fläche von mindestens 100 mal 50 m.

Die Bedeutung der Grabung in Vedrovice V besteht darin, daß damit erstmals in unseren Ländern ein klares Szeletien in einwandfreier stratigraphischer Position mit der Möglichkeit einer Radiocarbondatierung erfaßt wurde.

Karel Valoch

RARE SKELETAL REMAINS FROM THE LATE BRONZE AGE IN SOUTH MORAVIA

Prof. Vladimír Podborský invited me to study the skeletal remains with a well conserved skull — belonging to the Silezian Culture of the Early Hallstatt Period. The find comes from Prosiměřice in South Moravia's Znojmo District. As the find is the first anthropological material known from this period, I shall make here a more detailed presentation of it.

The skull is well conserved, only the cranial base and the upper palate are slightly damaged. The front part of the great occipital opening is also damaged and the basion-bregma height had to be reconstructed. This was quite easy as the bone is only slightly damaged. The facial skeleton — also well preserved — has been postmortally deformed by oblique soil pressure. This is well visible in frontal view. The left arm of the mandible lacks the head, rendering it impossible to measure the mandibular lenght and breadth. *(Fig. 1).*

Lateral view: The skull has an orthognathic face, high and well vaulted front with well formed supraorbital arches and glabella. The nasion depression is weak. The cranial vertex goes horizontally, nevertheless the parietal bones are well curved. The upper part of the occipital scale is slightly bathrocephalic and is seperated from the lower part of the occipital scale by a well represented and slightly beak-shaped occipital protuberance. The temporal bone is of mean height and has a well vaulted scale and a strong mastoid. The

supramastoid crest is mean. The zygomatic arches are well formed and the malar bones are situated laterally. Thus in lateral view we can see a strong marginal process.

In vertical view the braincase has a long ovoid — almost ellipsoid fine shape. The parietal bosses are slightly represented. The foramina parietalia have not been formed. The cranial sutures show marks of the first stage of obliteration. All sutures are well serrated.

In occipital view the cranial vertex is rounded and the lateral walls are converging towards the skull base. The parietal bosses are of mean size. The lambdoid suture is well serrated, but without any wormian bone. In the middle of the slightly bathrocephalic occipital scale we can see a strong occipital protuberance and on looking at the skull base we can see strong mastoid and styloid processes and deep articular fossae.

The facial skeleton has medium-broad and medium-high orbits. The right orbit has been more deformed by postmortal soil pressure. The nasal profile formed by roof-shaped nasal bones is slightly concavo-convex. The nose was high and narrow. Its lower margin was simple and anthropine in shape, with a strong anterior nasal spine. On the upper jaw we find a wide and profound canine fossa. The upper jaw is highly contributing to the total facial height. The upper palate is profound and the upper dental arch is divergent in molars. The teeth in the dental arc are very dense and the first upper premolar on the right side is slightly crowded. Part of the second upper incisor of the left side had been broken off and only so did it find its place in the tooth arc. On the buccal side of the molar teeth there is tartar. The teeth are in good condition without any caries.

The lower jaw is high — especially in the symphysis with a high and prominent chin. The ascending branches are low, with strong muscular markings. The mental foramen is large and simple and is situated low in the mandibular body. On the internal side of the symphysis there is a strong mental spine. The digastric fossa faces down. We can see strong sublingual impressions and there are strong insertions for the lateral pterygoid muscle. The gonion angle is only slightly everted. The teeth are situated in a broad arc. The second molar on the left side was lost intra vitam. Its alveol has disappeared. On the right, as well as on the left side there are no third molars, there is no place for them. The remaining teeth are heavily worn, but have no caries.

M_2	M^1	P_2	P_1	C	I_2	I_1	I_1	I_2	C	P_1	P_2	M_1	M_2	M_3
—	M_1	P_2	P_1	C	I_2	I_1	I_1	I_2	C	P_1	P_2	M_1	M_2	—

The general morphology, robusticity, the degree of muscular relief, the large size of mastoids, the shape of the frontal bone, of the supraorbital region and of the scale of the occipital bone, the size of the mandible and of the teeth show that the remains belonged to a male. The dental condition, the degree of attrition and the condition of the braincase sutures point to the age of about 40 years.

As to its morphology the skull is gracile dolichomorph. According to the cranial indices the braincase is dolichocran, orthocran and acrocran. Especially the height-breadth index is illustrative. The fronto-parietal index shows the skull as metriometop, i.e. medium broad. Both the upper facial and the total facial index indicate that the face is fairly high and narrow. The facial assymetry shows that the right orbit is higher than it was originally. Thus the left orbit, which is mesoconch — better represents the original situation. Characteristic is also the narrow and high nose. Only the supraorbital region of the almost female-like vaulted front indicates that it is in fact a male skull. Through its cranial morphology we can link this individual with that part of central European population which in the prehistoric times was strongly represented in the Neolithic Aeneolithic and Early Bronze Age populations. It is very close to the type called by clasical anthropology as Mediterranean. Some authors emphasizing the individual characters (e.g. high facial, nasal and orbital dimensions) designated such individuals and Proto-Nordic.

As demonstrated by the rare finds of the Hallstatt Period skeletal material these finds are morphologically highly diversified and therefore the well conserved Prosiměřice find is especially important. It contributes to our knowledge of the Central European Iron Age Population. Broader conclusions can be drawn, of course, only when more material is known.

The following parts of the postcranial skeleton have been conserved: the right humerus, parts of both ulnae and radii, scapulae, claviculae, right femoral body, both femoral heads, fragments of ribs, parts of pelvis, vertebral fragments and part of sacrum.

On studying the right femoral diaphysis we see a strikingly strong pilaster. The shape and muscular marks of the upper part of this bone demonstrate that it belonged to a strong man with well developed muscles. The gluteal tuberosity has the shape of a deep furrow. Also the right arm bone has a well developed muscular relief. The upper part of this bone is green coloured, it had been coloured by

Table 1

1	Maximal cranial length	192
1d	Nasion — opistocranion length	190
2a	Nasion — inion length	185
2	Glabella — inion length	188
5	Basion — nasion length	109
40	Basion — prosthion length	93
26	Nasion — bregma arc	141
29	Nasion — bregma chord	116
27	Bregma — lambda arc	133
30	Bregma — lambda chord	117
28	Lambda — opisthion arc	114
31	Lambda — opisthion chord	93
24	Transversal arc (au-b-au)	305
8	Tranversal breadth	136
11	Biauricular breadth	126
13	Bimastoideal breadth	98
12	Occipital breadth (biasterion)	103
9	Minimal frontal breadth	92
10	Maximal frontal breadth	119
17	Basion — bregma height	136 (?)
20	Auricular height	
48	Upper facial height	74
47	Total facial height	121
55	Nasal height	53
54	Nasal breadth	22
57/2	Upper breadth of nasalia	12
57	Minimal breadth of nasalia	7
52	Left orbital height	34
51	Left orbital breadth	41
52	Right orbital height	35
51	Right orbital breadth	39
45	Bizygomatic breadth	129
11	Biauricular breadth	122
44	Biorbital breadth	94
50	Interorbital breadth	21
43	Upper facial breadth	10
23	Cranial circumference	
25	Sagital cranial arc	
60	Maxilloalveolar length	50
61	Maxilloalveolar breadth	61
68/1	Mandibular length	
65	Mandibular breadth	115
66	Bigonial breadth	104
69	Symphseal height	35
71	Minimal breadth of ascending branch	29/27
70	Height of mandibular ascending branch	61
	Breadth of mandibular body in M_2	14
69/2	Height of mandibular body in M_2	25
8:1	Cranial index	70,83
9:8	Frontoparietal index	67,63
9:10	Transversal frontal index	77,30
17:1	Length height index	70,83
17:8	Breadth height index	100
20:1	Auricular height-cranial lenght index	
20:8	Auricular height-cranial breadth index	
48:45	Upper facial index	57,36
47:45	Total facial index	93,79
54:55	Nasal index	41,50
52:51	Right orbital index	89,23
52:51	Left orbital index	82,92
61:60	Maxilloalveolar index	81,96
71:70	Ascending branch index	47,54
	Mandibular body index	56

Table 2

Max. humeral length	336
Max. diameter of the shaft middle (humerus)	25
Shaft circumference of the humerus	75
Epicondylar breadth of humerus	65
Max. diameter of the humeral head	49
Lateral subtrochanteric diameter of the right femur	34,5
Antero-posterior subtrochanteric diameter of the right femur	25,2
Platymetric index	73,04
Antero-posterior diameter of the middle of the shaft (femur)	29,5
Lateral diameter of the middle of the femoral shaft	28
Index of the middle of the femoral shaft	94,91
Circumference of the middle of the femoral shaft	19,1

a copper or bronze object or ornament. The fossa olecrani is not perforated. Both ulnae are very robust, with well curved body. At the proximal end of the bones there are strong arthritic changes, having the form of bony lipping and osteophytes. The distal ends of the bones are damaged.

Both radii have strong and curved bodies with well developed crista interrossea. The tuber radii is also strongly developed. On the pelvic fragments and on the sacrum we can see slight arthritic lipping of the bone.

The postcranial skeletal remains demonstrate clearly that they belonged to a strong male.

There are only few anthropological finds in Moravia from the Late Bronze Age period. This is the only one belonging to the Silezian Culture dated 1000—800 B.C.

For comparison we can use other Moravian finds of the Hallstatt period and adjacent periods, such as Blučina (Jelínek 1959) and Býčí skála (Jelínek 1959, Stloukal 1982). Important earlier Moravian finds are the Middle Bronze Age skeletal remains (Věteřov Culture) from Věteřov and Blučina (Jelínek 1959) and from Bezměrov (central Moravia) (Jelínek 1959). All these finds are morphologically very diverse and they do not bear resemblance to the Prosiměřice find. The find best compares with the Middle Bronze Age skulls from Blučina (with archaeological material of the Middle Danubian tumulus Culture) and with the finds from Perná (Jelínek 1959). Both these skulls belong to the dolichomorphic type.

Jan Jelínek

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