



DISCOVERY OF MASS GRAVE  
FROM THE ROMAN PERIOD IN MORAVIA.

In 1994, during construction work on the highway route from Brno to Vienna, a fortification ditch dating back appro-

ximately to the Roman period was uncovered near the Mušov Lakes in Moravia (location Mušov pod Pálavou). Archaeological salvage research was undertaken by Ing. M. Bálek and Dr. O. Sedo from the Office of Archaeological Landmark Preservation in Brno.

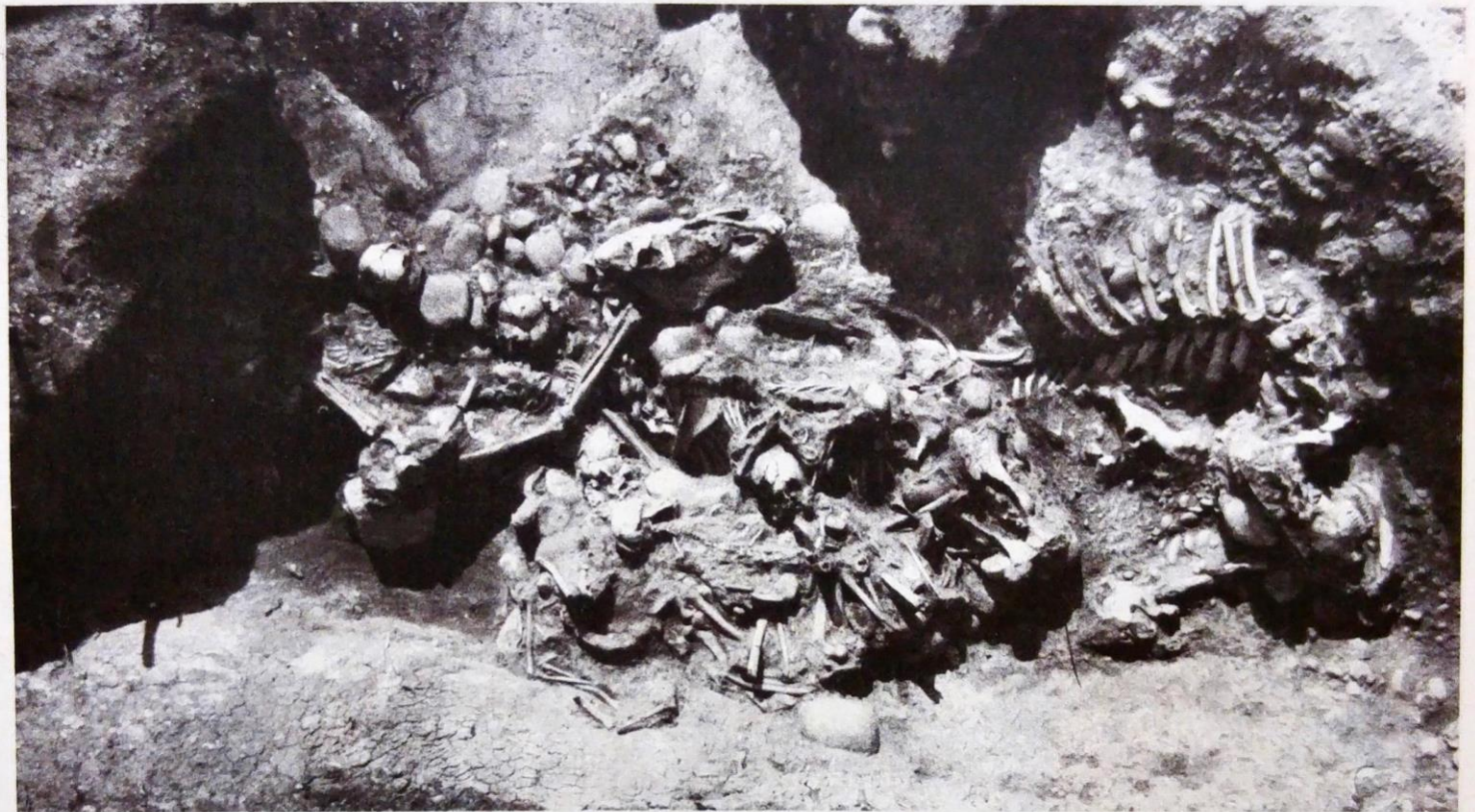


FIGURE 1. Upper part of the ditch, context 734: accumulation of human and animal bones.

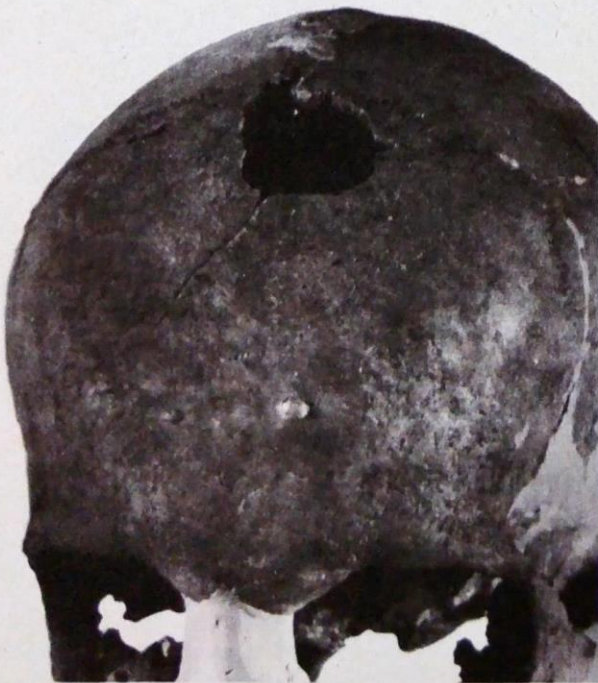


FIGURE 2. Female skull with punctured temple.



FIGURE 3. Female skull with punctured temple and stab wound.





FIGURE 4. Lower part of the ditch, context 737: detailed shot of the accumulation.



FIGURE 5. Lower jaw with traces of decapitation.

The fortification ditch was buried along a length of 15 meters, and in part of it (area 10 m long, width 5 m, depth up to 3 m) accumulations of human and animal skeletons were uncovered. Whole and partial animal skeletons had been heaped into the ditch – 6 horses, 2 cows, 1 bull – and there were complete or incomplete human skeletons as well: six children, six immature individuals and 21 mature men and women. The human and animal skeletal remains in the ditch were situated:

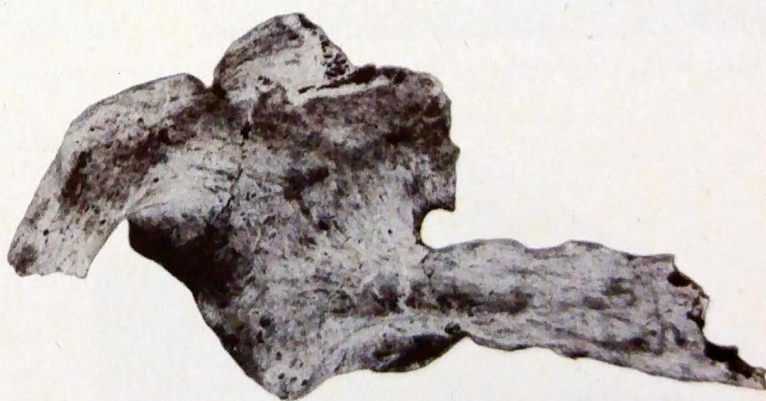


FIGURE 6. Traces of circular injury on human shoulder blade.

- in original anatomical position: entire skeletons or parts of skeletons, i. e., upper and lower limbs, spine, thorax and the like.
- individual bones: skulls, lower jaws, long bones, ribs and others.

The complicated find situation in the ditch was designated as context 734 (upper part of the ditch) and context 737 (lower part of the ditch).

In the surface part of the upper ditch (734) the isolated skeleton of a very robust 50-year-old man was found lying outstretched. At lower levels 20 human skeletons (2 children, 13 women, 4 men and 1 mature individual of uncertain sex) were scattered. On the skulls of eight individuals were discovered violent and apparently fatal injuries: skulls punctured at the crown



and temple, gash and stab wounds, and one case of decapitation was found.

In the lower part of the ditch (context 737) were the remains of the skeleton of a small child, while in the main accumulation the presence of fire, as well as the disturbed and dispersed skeletons of 13 individuals (3 children, 7 women and 3 men), were found. Only one skull demonstrates traces of cut-marks. The long bones have traces of gnawing by animals, which also partly clarifies the scattered state of some parts of skeletons and individual bones. In total, 33 complete or incomplete human skeletons were unearthed from the ditch, with women of adult age clearly predominating in the group.

In the lower part of the ditch, that is, in context 737, all the interred individuals showed no traces of violence. The situation in the upper part of the ditch, context 734, was different, with more than half of those found having been killed in an deliberate and very brutal manner.

From the Roman Period we have so far no skeletal graves in Moravia. This makes the above described find of 33 individuals burials in unusual manner an important contribution to our anthropological knowledge.

Marta Dočkalová

**SURVEY OF RESEARCH BY THE OFFICE OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDMARK PRESERVATION  
IN BRNO ON FINDS OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL MA-  
TERIAL IN 1993 – 1994.**

1993:

**FINDS FROM PROTO-ÚNĚTICE CULTURE  
(EARLY BRONZE AGE):**

**Slavkov** (Cutisin) – two proto-únětice skeletal graves  
*Research:* P. Horáková, A. Štrof. *Determination:* M. Dočkalová.

**FINDS FROM ÚNĚTICE CULTURE  
(EARLY BRONZE AGE):**

**Podolí** – skeletal burial in settlement pit  
*Research:* P. Vitula. *Determination:* M. Dočkalová.  
**Slavkov** – burial site with 44 skeletal graves (two graves with two burials, one grave with three burials)  
– four skeletal graves in settlement's storage pits  
*Research:* P. Horáková, A. Štrof. *Determination:* M. Dočkalová.  
**Tvarožná** – two skeletal burials in settlement pit  
*Research:* B. Mikulová, P. Vitula. *Determination:* M. Dočkalová.

**FINDS FROM VĚTEŘOV CULTURE:**

**Slavkov** (Cutisin) – skeletal burial in storage pit  
*Research:* P. Horáková, A. Štrof. *Determination:* M. Dočkalová.

**FINDS FROM THE 9TH–10TH CENTURIES:**

**Uherské Hradiště** (Hradební Street) – skeletal grave  
*Research:* J. Kohoutek, R. Procházka. *Determination:* J. Langová.

**FINDS FROM FIRST HALF OF 13TH CENTURY:**

**Brno** – Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul. During research in the presbytery graves, were discovered, some of them connected with burials around the church in its first phase (the church was built around 1200), but most with the second phase, with a graveyard exterior to the church (reconstruction around the middle of the 13th century).  
*Research:* J. Unger. *Determination:* L. Horáková, L. Benešová.

**FINDS FROM THE 16TH CENTURY:**

**Modřice** – skeletal graves  
*Research:* P. Kos. No determination.

**FINDS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES:**

**Tečovice** – 10 skeletal graves near the Church of St. James the Greater  
*Research:* J. Kohoutek. *Determination:* J. Langová.



FIGURE 1. View on the unearthed material during excavation of the fortification ditch (Mušov, Roman Period).