

# ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA



2014 1

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On the cover: fibula from a female grave in Enisala, SE Romania, early 7<sup>th</sup> c.; see the paper of Ailincăi et al. in this issue; photo by Gabriel Dincu.

# Subsistence and Settlement in the Early Neolithic of Temperate SE Europe: A View from Blagotin, Serbia

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA  
XVIII, 1 (2014), 1-33

Haskel J. GREENFIELD / Tina L. JONGSMA GREENFIELD  
with a contribution by Sandra JEZIK

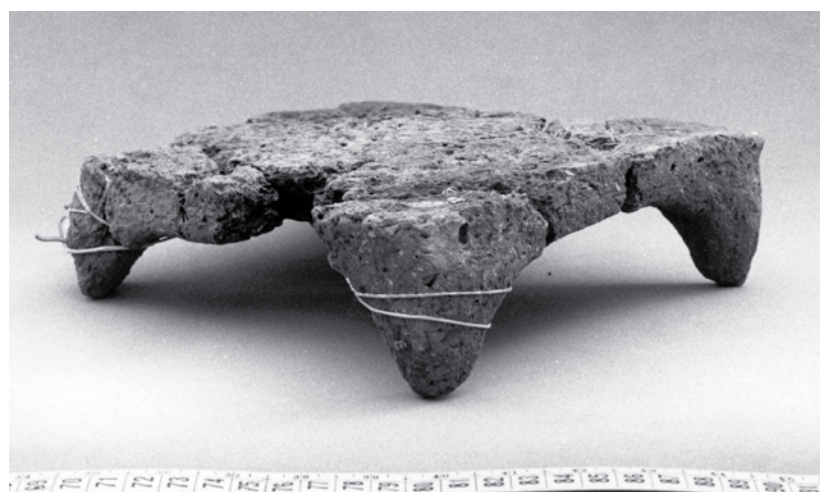
**Keywords:** Early Neolithic, Balkans, Early Farming, Subsistence, Economy, Settlement Patterns, Zooarchaeology, Paleobotany

**Abstract:** This paper summarises the Early Neolithic data from the excavations at the site of Blagotin in Central Serbia. Evidence is presented that the early farming cultures north of the Mediterranean littoral were organised differently than in the Aegean or Central Europe. In the northern half of SE Europe, the local cultures utilised pit houses during their earliest phases of the spread of early food producing cultures (Starčevo-Criş). The spatial pattern and nature of the various pit features suggests that they were for the most part residences. The spatial distribution of pit features indicates that they were organised in a circle around a larger centrally located pit feature. The architectural pattern and the unique assemblage in the central large pit feature (e.g. presence of two very large figurines on a fired clay floor over a human infant burial and a pit with a large quantity of animal bones) suggests that it may have had some sort of ceremonial communal function. However, the taxonomic distribution of fauna and flora do not indicate any clear special function for the structure.

The very high frequencies of domestic cattle and sheep in all pit features suggest an economy that emphasizes mobility. The low frequency of botanical remains, the prevalence of wild plant remains, and the absence of grinding stones suggest an economy not heavily reliant upon domesticated grains. The spatial organisation of pit houses, the heavily domesticated fauna, lack of storage facilities, absence of grain processing technology and low frequencies of domestic flora from the site imply that early agricultural societies in this region were fundamentally different from those of the Mediterranean littoral (Greece and S Bulgaria). They appear to represent short-term occupations by a relatively mobile society, primarily relying upon their domestic animals and wild plant foods for subsistence. This settlement and subsistence pattern is now recognised at several sites in the region and indicates that the spread of early farming cultures through this region was not simply a wave-of-advance of migratory by Aegean farmers, but may have also included the acculturation of indigenous peoples.



**Fig. 12.** Photograph of the two large figurines from central pit feature ZM 7



**Fig. 13.** Photograph of an altar

# Fibulae from *Apollonia Pontica*

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA  
XVIII, 1 (2014), 35-63

Miglena VASILEVA

<sup>1</sup> I would like to express my gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krastina Panayotova and Dimitar Nedev, who gave me access to the fibulae from their excavations and the opportunity to publish them. I would also like to thank Dr. Margarit Damyanov for his information about the date of some of the complexes and to PhD candidates Teodora Bogdanova and Mila Chacheva from NAIM-BAS Sofia for their help in finding objects in the Archaeological Museum of Sozopol and for their support in research.

<sup>2</sup> The dating of the funeral complexes excavated after 2001 is provided by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krastina Panayotova, PhD Margarit Damyanov and Dimitar Nedev to whom I warmly thank. I express also many thanks to PhD candidates Teodora Bogdanova and Mila Chacheva for their support in this direction.

<sup>3</sup> The study of this necropolis began with excavations in 1946, led by Ivan Venedikov. They continued for the next three years (1947-1949). The graves were published in detail, and this work remains one of most frequently cited in literature dedicated to the material culture of Thrace during the Classical and Hellenistic periods (Венедиков 1948, 7-29; Венедиков 1963a; 1963b; 1963c). The study of the Kalfata necropolis continued with varying intensity during the following years under Maria Tsaneva, Krastina Panayotova and Dimitar Nedev. From 2002 to 2004, a French team, led by Antoine Hermay, also took part in the research (see the *Corpus Apollonia du Pont* (Sozopol) 2010).

<sup>4</sup> Among the graves discovered 1946-1949, the percentage of those with fibulae is almost equal to the percentage of graves with other adornments (rings, earrings, bracelets); for example, the graves with rings are 2.2%, the graves with earrings are 2.6% and those with bracelets 1.1%. Although incomplete, this statistic suggests that the necropolis in the Kalfata is not an exception to the marked trend of poor distribution of metal artifacts in the grave inventory from mainland Greece (Robinson 1942, 174; Panayotova 2003, 136; Панайотова et al. 2003, 106; Baralis 2010, 146).

<sup>5</sup> After consultation with Dr. Margarit Damyanov about the pottery, the pro

The paper presents all fibulae found during the recent years in the Black Sea *apoikia Apollonia Pontica* (modern city of Sozopol on Bulgarian Black Sea coast) and reevaluates the current understanding of their use in a Greek context. The relative popularity of these accessories among the population of *Apollonia* and the systematic study, on-going, with some interruptions, since 1946, of the cemeteries adjacent to the city provides the basis and rationale for this study<sup>1</sup>.

## THE FIBULAE AS PART OF GRAVE GOODS

The main source of fibulae from *Apollonia* is graves, in which the artifacts are found in place and in a state almost unchanged from their original deposition. Further, the discovery of fibulae alongside other artifacts that are well dated has been instrumental in the study of their development<sup>2</sup>.

The role of the fibulae in this Greek *apoikia* is best represented in the necropolis at the Kalfata<sup>3</sup>. Between 1946-1948 a total of 890 graves were found, in 17 of which fibulae were present. The proportion of graves with fibulae is, therefore, 1.9%. Although complete data regarding the number of the graves with fibulae discovered in the years after 1948 is not available, it is possible to observe the continuation of this trend in subsequent seasons, in which the percentage of graves with fibulae is around 2-3%, and up to 4%<sup>4</sup> maximum.

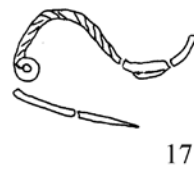
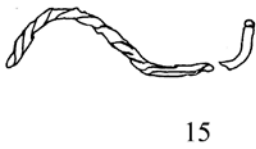
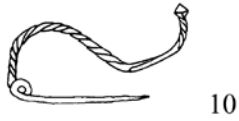
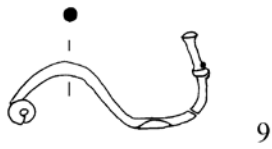
## TYPES OF FIBULAE

### THRACIAN TYPE FIBULAE (CAT. #1-26)

The most common fibulae in *Apollonia* belong to the so-called Thracian type (Василева 2012, 5). I. Venedikov published some examples in 1948 (Венедиков 1948) and 1963 (Венедиков 1963b)<sup>5</sup>; the rest, presented in the catalogue of this study (Cat. #1-26), are unpublished specimens from the excavations of K. Panayotova and D. Nedev held between 2001 and 2012 (for additional information, see appendix to **table 1**). Their study follows my typology of Thracian type fibulae as proposed elsewhere (Василева 2012).

The most common fibulae of this type feature a straight vertical foot that ends with a distinct button. It has a thin arched, sometimes double-sided or triangular bow, the wire of which is similar to the foot (Type I, Subtype I.1 as per Василева 2012, 8).

These fibulae are divided into several varieties based on the length of the foot. The first variety features a low vertical foot no higher than the middle of the height of the bow (variant I.1a) (Василева 2012, 8) (Cat. #1-4, **table 1**); Венедиков 1963b, 314, обр. 108/1028, 1029, 1030, 1034). These fibulae are made of bronze and iron. Their length is 3.8-6 cm but there are exceptions that extend up to 10 cm (Cat. #2).



**Plate 2. 9:** Thracian type fibula with high vertical foot; **10-17:** Thracian type fibulae with vertical foot and twisted bow (the numbers of the fibulae on the plates coincide with their catalogue numbers). Designed by M. Vasileva

# An Early Seventh-Century Female Grave From Dobruja

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA  
XVIII, 1 (2014), 65-84

Sorin-Cristian AILINCĂI / Mihai CONSTANTINESCU /  
Florin CURTA / Andrei SOFICARU

<sup>1</sup> Tucked in the Babadag hills of northeastern Dobruja between the Babadag and Razelm lakes, Enisala and its environs have produced an abundance of archaeological finds from the Paleolithic (Păunescu 1999, 67, 69), Eneolithic (Comșa 1972, 18; Lăzurcă / Mănuclu-Adameșteanu 1980, 146; Mihail et al. 2012), Bronze Age (Morintz / Angheliescu 1970, 403; Vasiliu 2003-2004, 123-136), Hallstatt (Ailincăi et al. 2011; Dragomir 1974, 131-136; Lăzurcă / Mănuclu-Adameșteanu 1980, 146-156), La Tène (Aricescu 1975, 17-24; Simion 1971, 63-134; 1974, 291-304; 2003, 258-320), as well as the Roman and Late Roman periods (Babeș 1971; Iacob et al. 2006, 154; Mănuclu-Adameșteanu 1984, 31-40; Mănuclu-Adameșteanu / Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1984, 350; Mănuclu-Adameșteanu, Gh. 1984, 349-354; Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1980, 505). An equally rich archaeological record has been dated to the High and Late Middle Ages (Baraschi / Cantacuzino 1977-1978, 459-471; Ciobanu 1971, 21-30; Custurea 2000, 139; Dragomir 1972-1973, 29-47; Iosipescu / Iosipescu 2004, 310-314; Mănuclu-Adameșteanu 1984; Mănuclu-Adameșteanu / Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1984, 352; Mănuclu-Adameșteanu 1990, 44-48; Stănică et al. 2005-2006, 319-321). Through Lake Razelm, the site at Enisala seems to have been connected with the Black Sea during both Antiquity and the Middle Ages (Panin et al. 1983, 249-255; Romanescu 2006, 67).

<sup>2</sup> A Roman-age cemetery has been excavated on the western side of the village (Babeș 1971), but it is not known how far it extended to the east and north-east, and, therefore, whether the grave in question could have been dug within its perimeter.

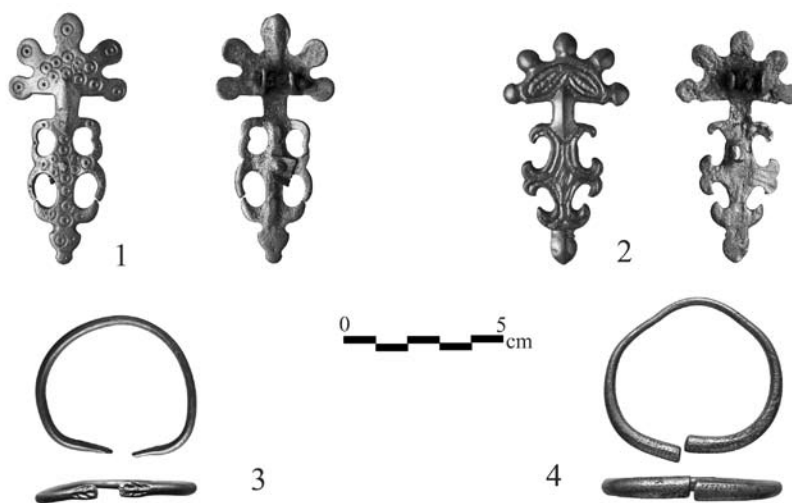
Workers digging trenches for the foundation of a new house on the property of Anton Moraru, on the western side of the village of Enisala, 7 km south from Sarichioi (Tulcea district, Romania), stumbled upon a human skeleton (**fig. 1, 2**). Called upon for further investigations, one of the authors (Sorin-Cristian Ailincăi) carried out a trial excavation, which at a depth of 0.40 m revealed the rest of the grave underneath a 0.10 m-thin layer of yellow soil. It appears that deep plowing in the area has previously disturbed the grave, and partially damaged the skull, the thoracic area, and the right leg. The contour of the grave pit could not be recognized for the same reason. The excavation nonetheless produced several fragments of pottery – some of amphorae, others of glazed pots – as well as of bricks, which point to a scatter of material (no doubt caused by deep plowing) from a nearby late antique site, the existence of which has already been surmised on the basis of several ceramic finds from the central and western parts of the modern village (Stănică et al. 2005-2006)<sup>1</sup>. This may well have been a civilian settlement associated with one of the two fortresses first signaled in 1897 on the northern side of the Enisala village, and for which a date within the Roman period has long been advanced (Ștefan 1977). Salvage excavations carried out in 2005 within the fortress known as “Enisala 1” (or “Peștera”) have unearthed Late Roman (and possibly early Byzantine) ceramic remains, as well as four graves, three of them in cists made of recycled Roman tiles (Paraschiv / Nuțu 2005, 339-340; Iacob et al. 2006). Several stray finds of coins are known from this area, and they have been struck for the sixth-century emperors Justin I, Justinian, and Justin II (Vertan / Custurea 1986, 300; Oberländer-Târnoveanu / Mănuclu-Adameșteanu 1981, 116-118; Poenaru-Bordea / Dicu 2000, 427), as well as for Maurice and Phocas (Mănuclu-Adameșteanu / Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1984, 352-353). Some coins have been found in the village, others inside the “Enisala 1” fortress, thus confirming its use during the sixth and early seventh century. Another isolated grave is known from the northern side of the village, to the southeast from the “Enisala 1” fortress. The destroyed grave produced a bronze bracelet dated to the fourth century, although similar artifacts are also known from late sixth- and early seventh-century assemblages (Stănică et al. 2005-2006, 321, 329, **fig. 6/5**, 330, **fig. 7/1, 2**)<sup>2</sup>.

## THE SKELETAL MATERIAL: A BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACH

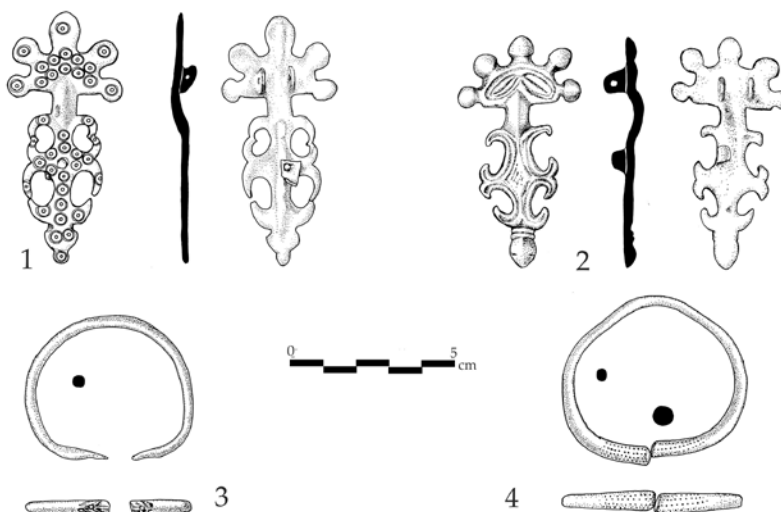
The skeleton of the grave discovered on the western side of the village has a WNW-ESE orientation and was found in supine position with both arms stretched along the body (**fig. 3**). Only the temporal part of



**Fig. 8.** The female grave in Enisala: a detail of the two bow fibulae on the collar bones. Photo by Sorin-Cristian Ailincăi



**Fig. 9.** The female grave in Enisala: associated grave goods. Photos by Gabriel Dincu



**Fig. 10.** The female grave in Enisala: associated grave goods. Drawings by Camelia Geanbai



# REVIEWS

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## **Rastko VASIĆ. Die Halsringe im Zentralbalkan (Vojvodina, Serbien, Kosovo und Mazedonien). Prähistorische Bronzefunde Abteilung XI, Band 7. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2010, 70 Seiten, 44 Tafeln, 10 Abbildungen, Preis €84.**

Die im Jahr 2010 veröffentlichte<sup>1</sup> Abhandlung zu den Halsringen im Zentralbalkan von R. Vasić erschien als siebter Band der Abteilung XI (Halsschmuck und Anhänger) in der Reihe "Prähistorische Bronzefunde". Neben den Korpora mit Halsringen aus Südwestdeutschland (Wels-Weyrauch 1978), aus der Slowakei (Novotná 1984), aus Südbayern (Wels-Weyrauch 1991) und Polen (Gedl 2002) bildet die vorliegende Arbeit einen bedeutenden Beitrag zur Erforschung dieser wichtigen Schmuckform der europäischen Bronze- und Früheisenzeit<sup>2</sup>.

Mit diesem weiteren Band aus seiner Feder ergänzt Vasić seine bislang publizierten, grundlegenden Arbeiten zu Bronzefunden des Balkans, nämlich seine PBF-Bände zu den Sichel (1994) und den Nadeln (2003) im selben Arbeitsgebiet sowie seine wichtigen Beiträge zu den Hortfunden (1982) und Trachtelementen (2000). Der Autor gehört ohne jeden Zweifel zu den besten Kennern der Metallfunde Südosteuropas im zweiten und ersten vorchristlichen Jahrtausend.

Die besondere Bedeutung des Bandes resultiert auch daraus, dass mit dem Zentralbalkan eine Fundregion in den Blickpunkt gerät, die im Hinblick auf die Halsringe eine Grenzzone zwischen Kontinentaleuropa und dem Mittelmeerbereich bildet, in der das – von Nordwesten her betrachtet – letzte massenhafte Vorkommen von Halsringen im bronze- und früheisenzeitlichen Europa zu beobachten ist. In diesem Sinne ist das Thema nicht nur für die Forschung der Schmuck- und Trachtsitten, sondern auch für das bessere Verständnis des Übergangs von den Kulturen des Mittelmeerraums zu denen Zentraleuropas von Belang.

Das Arbeitsgebiet ist als "Zentralbalkan" bezeichnet und umfasst die Vojvodina, Serbien, das Kosovo und Mazedonien. Der Begriff wurde bereits 1994 vom Verfasser für seine Untersuchungen genutzt, um "Ostjugoslawien" zu ersetzen (Vasić 1994, v) und ist insofern nicht unproblematisch, als es bislang an einer klaren räumlichen Abgrenzung verschiedener Regionen des Balkans mangelt. Wie jede andere räumliche Abgrenzung, die den politischen Bedingungen der Gegenwart entspringt, stellt natürlich auch der Zentralbalkan keine in sich geschlossene prähistorische Fundregion dar.

Der Aufgabenstellung eines PBF-Bandes entsprechend legt der Verfasser eine typologische und chronologische Einordnung der relevanten Fundgattung vor. Ein Katalog ermöglicht leichten Zugriff zu metrischen und kontextualen Angaben. Die vorliegende Arbeit beginnt mit Themen der Forschungsgeschichte und endet mit einer Synopse der chronologischen Entwicklung der Halsringe. Für Vasić steht insofern die grundlegende Edition des Fundguts im Zentrum, nicht jedoch weiterführende, kulturhistorische Fragestellungen. Aus diesem Grund beschränkt er sich auch auf die ausführliche Systematisierung der 235 von ihm erfassten Halsringe, ohne auf deren

<sup>1</sup> Aber in den Jahren 1998-2002 geschrieben (Vorwort).

<sup>2</sup> Vasić nimmt zurecht als Anfang der Eisenzeit im Zentralbalkan nicht die Stufe Ha C, wie es nach der Periodisierung von P. Reinecke üblich ist, sondern das Ende der mitteleuropäischen Stufe Ha B 1 (ausgehendes 11. Jh. v. Chr.). Diese terminologische Änderung ist wegen der beträchtlichen Zahl von Eisengegenständen im Arbeitsgebiet durchaus gerechtfertigt (Vasić 2010, 7) und wird auch in die vorliegende Rezension übernommen. Ähnlich wie der – im Vergleich zu Mitteleuropa – frühere Anfang des Neolithikums und der Bronzezeit, erschließt sich ein früherer Beginn der Eisenzeit auf dem Balkan als Folge der Übergangsposition der Halbinsel zwischen dem Orient und Kontinentaleuropa.

# REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA  
XVIII, 1 (2014), 95-104

## **Jens NIELING. Die Einführung der Eisentechnologie in Südkasien und Ostanatolien während der Spätbronze- und Früheisenzeit. Black Sea Studies 10, The Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Black Sea Studies, Aarhus University Press 2009, 363 Seiten, 44 Abbildungen, 11 Tabellen, 3 Tafeln<sup>1</sup>**

Die Anfänge der Eisenmetallurgie stellen eine wichtige kulturhistorische und technologische Wende in der Geschichte der Menschheit dar, welche viele Forscher immer wieder fasziniert hat. Die vorliegende Monographie von Jens Nieling präsentiert die leicht überarbeitete Doktorarbeit des Autors, der mit ihr im Jahre 2006 an der Fakultät für Kulturwissenschaften der Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen promoviert wurde. Sie widerspiegelt einige schon langfristiger bestehender Tendenzen, wie sie z. B. in der aktuellen zentral- und westeuropäischen archäologischen Forschung vorliegen. Einerseits stellen sie die immer breiteren als Konzept Entwicklung der archäometallurgischen Forschung dar, welche nicht nur mit der konventionellen Archäologie sogar auch mit mehreren methodisch modern ausgerüsteten interdisziplinären Fächer verknüpft ist. Andererseits stellen sie das in den letzten Jahrzehnten immer augenfälliger demonstrierte Streben und Bemühen der europäischen Wissenschaft dar, wichtige kulturhistorische Prozesse von interregionaler und großdimensionaler Bedeutung, die im Nahen Osten, Anatolien und dem ostmediterranen Raum ihren Ursprung haben, detaillierter zu untersuchen und analysieren.

Die vorliegende Tübinger Examensarbeit wurde zunächst von Prof. Dr. Manfred Korfmann angeregt und bis zu seinem zu frühen Tod betreut, sowie dann unter Leitung von Prof. Dr. Ernst Pernicka fertiggestellt.

In der Einleitung wird die Aktualität des Themas betont. Die bisherige archäologische Forschung zum frühen Eisen in Vorderasien stieß an ihre methodischen Grenzen, die nur durch Einbeziehung von neuen Funden und modernen „archäologisch-archäometrischen Untersuchung“ (S. 13) überwunden werden kann. Zunächst wird die räumliche, zeitliche und sachliche Abgrenzung der Arbeit deutlich gemacht und dem Leser vom Anfang an, eine klare Übersicht über den kultur-historischen und geographischen Kontext der Arbeit gegeben. Grundlage der Arbeit bildet das Material aus über 50 Fundorten aus Georgien, Türkei, Armenien und Aserbaidschan (Abb. 1). Hinzu kommen als weitere Regionen Nordsyrien, Nordwestiran und Nordirak. So konnte Nieling den aktuellen Forschungsstand aus mehreren, heute politisch stark zersplitterten Territorien zusammengefaßt und auswerten. Wenn man an die politisch unruhigen Regionen in der Osttürkei, in Nordsyrien und im gesamten Kaukasusgebiet denkt, ist der erfolgreichen Überwindung vielfältiger äußerer Hindernisse (sprachlich, politisch, fachlich, unterschiedlicher Stand der Forschung usw.) durch Nieling hohe Anerkennung zu sollen.

Der Autor betont zu recht die Eigenheiten der Region für die historische Eisenforschung, die sich von der Europas deutlich

<sup>1</sup>Diese Rezension sollte im Jahre 2011 publiziert werden. Wegen Hindernisse vom subjektiven und objektiven Charakter hat sich die komplette Fertigstellung und die Publikation des Textes sehr viel verzögert. Der Autor der Rezension bietet seine Entschuldigung dem Dr. J. Nieleing und dem Herausgeber von *Archaeologia Bulgarica* Doz. Dr. L. Vagalinski an.

# REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA  
XVIII, 1 (2014), 105-110

**David J. BREEZE. *The Frontiers of Imperial Rome. Pen and Sword Books, Barnsley 2011, 242 + xxi pages, 1 overview map + 48 illustrations, 28 plates. £25.00 / \$45.00 Hardback, ISBN 978-1-84884-427-8.***

Rome's frontiers formed a key zone of the Empire that extended over more than 7500 kilometres, running from the West Coast of Britain along the edge of the Roman World to meet the Atlantic Ocean in modern day Morocco. In the Frontier Zone, the disposable wealth of soldiers and the need to supply the army created a hotbed of economic activity, while the civilian centres that developed around military stations became backdrops for cultural and technical transfer and exchange paralleled only by the major urban centres of the Ancient World. While some Classical Archaeologists in the strictest sense may disagree, it has been suggested that the Frontier Zone along the edge of the Empire, far from being a periphery, was a driving force behind the development and prosperity of the Roman world<sup>1</sup>. This now widely accepted view of Roman frontiers is the result of more than a century of Roman Frontier Studies, a branch of Roman Archaeology initiated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Britain and Germany, that has developed and evolved, continually reinventing itself at triennial meetings, the *Limeskongresse*, that have been held since 1949, most recently in Bulgaria in 2012. It has bred various research traditions over the decades, with those of continental Europe, and foremost amongst them the German one, being (in)famous for their fixation on detail, small-finds and typologies. The "British School", of which the reviewer is a product, on the other hand, is known for a tradition of overviews that try and create overarching thematic models, at times opening itself to accusations of overshooting the mark and overlooking not entirely unimportant details for the benefit of the bigger picture<sup>2</sup>.

As such, it has been a surprise for many in the field, that *the* overview of Roman frontiers was not published long ago – in English. What work there has been in this respect is largely based on historical rather than archaeological data, such as the work of Whittaker and Elton, while isolated travelogues frequently reach surprisingly high academic standards<sup>3</sup>. The lack of an academically approved archaeological synthesis of Roman frontiers in English, however, is particularly noticeable in a British educational setting, where language barriers still present major obstacles. While a survey of the *Limeskongresse* volumes will outline the main themes and concepts at work, much of this is in French and German, and many libraries do not stock even the recent proceedings. The publication of the volume under review has, therefore, been hailed by many: finally, here is a volume that sums up all there is to Rome's frontiers in one place, an ideal introduction to the subject. And who better to produce such a volume than the man behind the successful Antonine Wall World Heritage Site application, chairman of the International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies and holder of the 2010 EAA European Archaeological Heritage Prize for his wide-ranging work on Roman frontiers.

Breeze's declared aim is to move away from largely historical discussions of the frontier and let the archaeology of frontiers speak for

<sup>1</sup> See Whittaker 1994; Whittaker 2004. For a recent counterargument to this stance see Cherry 2007.

<sup>2</sup> For probably the most famous overarching model, even if developed by an American rather than in the British tradition, see Luttwak 1976. For a critical review of where Roman Frontier Studies are heading at present and how thematic approaches can at times lose themselves, see Wheeler 2012.

<sup>3</sup> See Whittaker in note 1; Elton 1996. For a travelogue that encompasses all frontiers of the Roman Empire, but despite its anecdotes provides a detailed discussion of many sites that is essentially academically sound, see Parker 2009. This situation is also discussed in more detail in the introduction to the reviewed volume, p. xviii&xix.