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Institute of Archaeology, University of Wrocław

Szewska 48, PL 50-139 Wrocław, Poland

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POTS AND PINS FROM EARLY IRON AGE BURIAL MOUNDS OF SIMMELSDORF-ST. HELENA, GERMANY

Doris Mischka¹, Katja Hagemann², Daria Abramov³

Institute for Pre- and Protohistory, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Kochstr. 4/18, 91054 Erlangen;

¹ *e-mail: doris.mischka@fau.de, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-7278-5391;*

² *e-mail: katja.hagemann@fau.de, ORCID ID: 0000-0003-2816-4800;*

³ *e-mail: darja.abramov@fau.de, ORCID ID: 0000-0001-6512-6665.*

Abstract: This article summarizes the results of a study on selected finds from two Early Iron Age graves in Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, district Nürnberger Land. From the inhumation grave under tumulus number 3 two selected vessels are described and typo-chronologically classified, as well as two bronze pins from this burial as well as another one from the neighboring inhumation burial under tumulus number 4. The dating of the finds and features to the Hallstatt C phase is plausible and, with caution, can even be assigned to the early Hallstatt C1 phase.

Keywords: Early Iron Age, Hallstatt period, ceramic vessels, bronze pins, Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, burial mounds

RESEARCH BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The following article resumes the results of the BA-theses of D. Abramov and K. Hagemann, related to two pots and three pins of the Early Iron Age burial mounds in Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, district Nürnberger Land, Middle Franconia, Germany (Abramov 2019; Hagemann 2019). The aim of the study is to date the finds according to typological parallels and to assign them into their regional context. Furthermore, it was questioned if the pins could indicate the probable sex of the deceased.

THE SITE

The Hallstatt cemetery Simmelsdorf-St. Helena is located in the rural district of the Nürnberger Land, 30 km east of Erlangen and 25 km northeast of Nuremberg (Fig. 1). The site is situated at the western rim of the Franconian Alps and lies between Middle and Upper Franconia (Mischka 2017, 4; Mischka 2018, 40; Mischka 2019, 132; Schmid-Merkl 2019, 149; Mühldorfer/Mischka 2020). The site was detected in 2012 by a private collector. Shortly afterwards, the four tumuli were excavated by the institute of Pre- and Protohistory of the University Erlangen-Nürnberg in several teaching excavation campaigns, financed mainly by the Bavarian State Office for Monument Protection, and supported as well by the Naturhistorische Gesellschaft Nürnberg (Fig. 2–3). The research on the site is still ongoing, the results presented here are therefore preliminary.

Grave mound 1 includes one female inhumation burial with numerous grave gifts, for instance a neck ring, two so-called “Melonenarmringe”, ceramic pots and an amber pearl necklace. Typo-chronologically, the finds date the grave mound to the time period Ha D1, 620–510 cal. BC

(Steguweit, Mühldorfer 2012, 72; Mischka 2018, 40; Mischka 2019, 133–136).

Grave mound 2 includes a male inhumation burial with numerous grave gifts for example pottery, bronze pins with textile scraps, an amber ring and an iron sword. It is dated to Ha C1 (Edelmann 2017; Mischka 2017, 7–8; 2018, 40–42; Rodens 2018; Mischka 2019, 136–144).

Grave mound 3 includes an inhumation burial with numerous decorated and undecorated pottery vessels and two

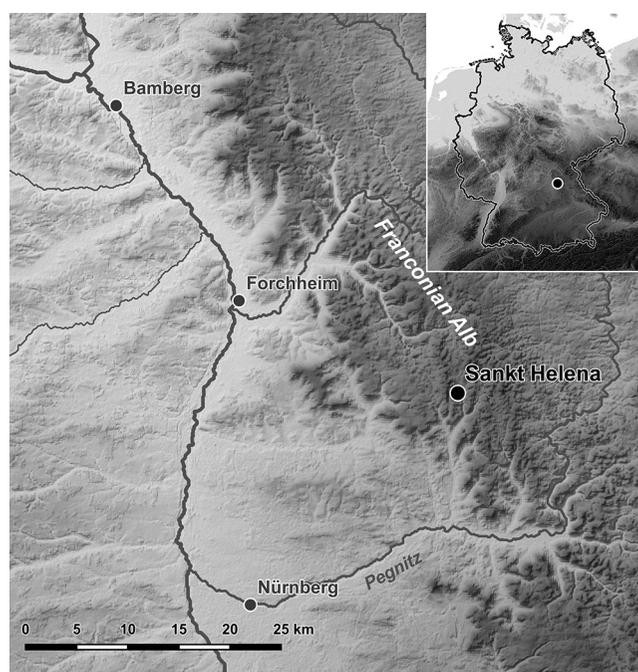


Fig. 1. Simmelsdorf-St. Helena. Geographical location (after Mischka 2019, 131, Fig. 1).

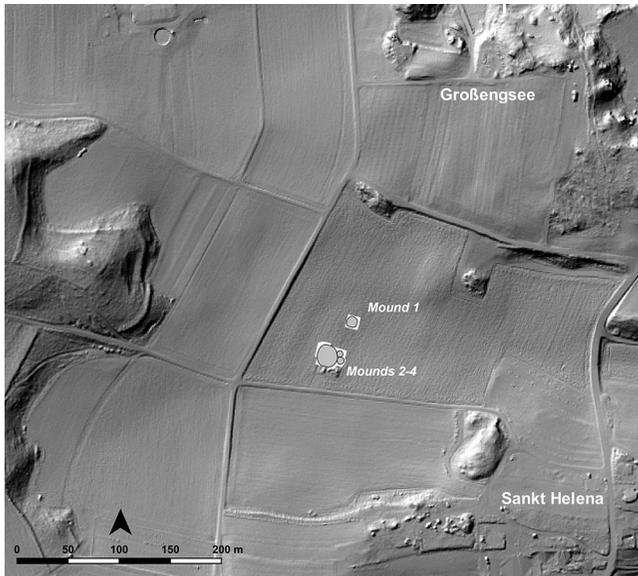


Fig. 2. Simmelsdorf-St. Helena. Location of the excavated area with the four burial mounds (mapdata: Bayerische Vermessungsverwaltung; mapping C. Mischka).

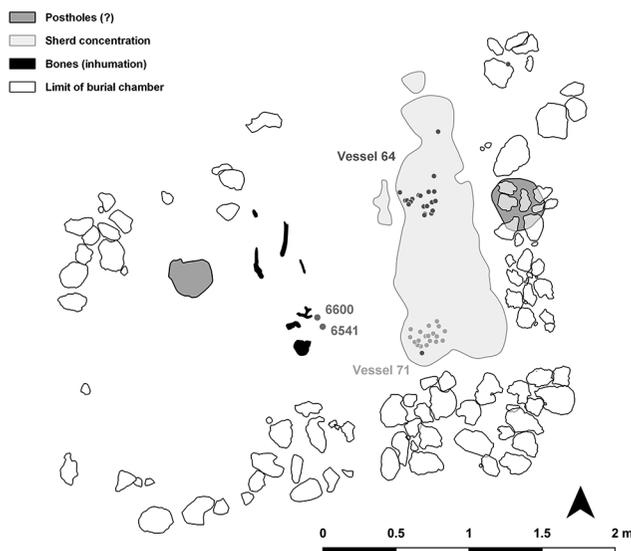


Fig. 4. Simmelsdorf-St. Helena. Plan of the burial chamber underneath burial mound 3.

bronze pins. This article is dedicated to two of these pots, labeled vessel 64 and 71 and the pins.

Finally, grave mound 4 contains the human skeletal remains of another person and a few pots and one more bronze pin which is in focus here, too.

FEATURES OF BURIAL MOUNDS 3 AND 4

Grave mound 3, which lies northeast of burial mound 2, has a diameter of approximately 8 m (Fig. 4). Two possible postholes were found of which the one in the southern limit of the chamber contained wedge stones. Within the rectangular

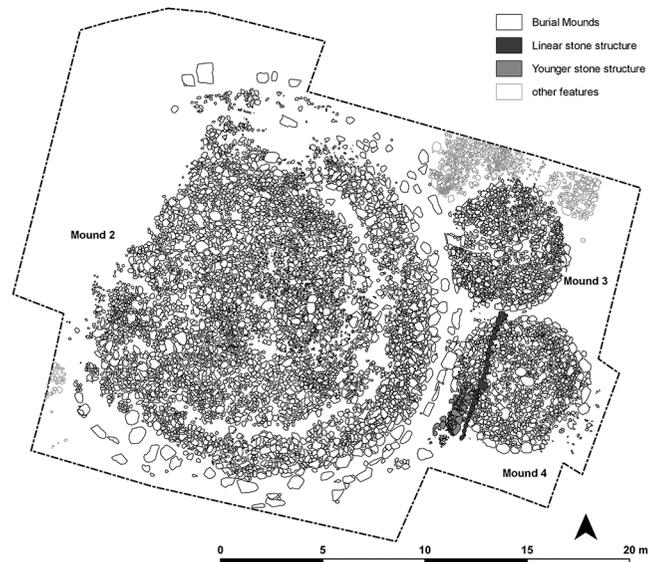


Fig. 3. Simmelsdorf-St. Helena. Detail of the burial mounds 2, 3 and 4.

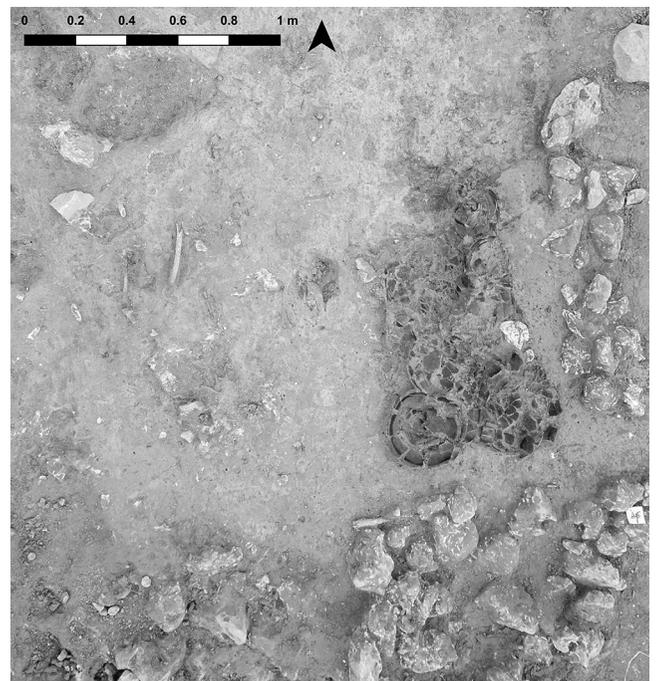


Fig. 5. Simmelsdorf-St. Helena. Photographs of the excavation of the chamber in burial mound 3.

burial chamber of a maximum size of about 3 m by 2 m, the inhumation was deposited in a center position, and oriented with the head versus the south (Fig. 4). It is also possible, that the chamber is limited just directly west of the person. Two bronze pins, find numbers 6600 and 6541, were recovered from the shoulder area of the right half of the body. The tip of the pins was pointing to the spine and both bronze pins were laying parallel to each other. The eastern half of the chamber is filled up with a set of fragmented but well-preserved pottery vessels of which pots 64 and 71 are marked here (Fig. 4–5).

Burial mound 4, which is located south of tumulus 3, has a similar diameter as burial mound 3. The covering stone construction was found in a pristine condition. During the

excavation, the burial chamber did not become visible by an area with less pebbles but instead several potential post-holes indicate the probable dimensions of the small, nearly square chamber of 2.5 m by 2 m (Fig. 6). The inhumation was positioned in the center, head oriented south and legs pointing to a northeastern direction. The remains of one pot were excavated next to the head, another one – in very bad preservation state – right of the right arm. A single bronze pin, find number 7006, was discovered at knee level of the left leg. Several heavily fragmented pottery sherds were found all around during the excavation. They obviously do not all belong to the burial gifts but result from older activities at the spot and brought here during the building of the burial mound. Another feature indicated as “pit” in Fig. 6 contained a pot and possibly the remains of a cremation burial, but this is not yet confirmed by an analysis.

MATERIALS

Pins

The bronze pins from burial mounds 3 and 4 were cleaned with the help of the restaurateur of the Naturhistorische Gesellschaft Nürnberg¹ and photographed and drawn. However, a 3D model of the bronze pins could not be realized successfully.

Bronze pin 6541 from burial mound 3 (Fig. 7: 1)

The longest bronze pin has a nearly constant shaft thickness and a quadruple ribbed head. Pin 6541 is classified as a ‘pin with ribbed head’ “Nadel mit gerippten Kopf” (Trachsel 2004, 68) alias “Rippenkopfnadel” (Heynowski 2014, 43, 101). Trachsel discusses, if this type of pin probably derives from the “Vasenkopfnadel”, whereby the vase head is replaced by another rib (Trachsel 2004, 68). The pin dimensions are: length: 10.15 cm, width at head 0.25 cm, shaft width 0.25 cm.

Bronze pin 6600 from burial mound 3 (Fig. 7: 2)

The pin 6600 is slightly shorter than pin 6541. Its dimensions are: length: 8.75 cm, width at head 0.2 cm, shaft width 0.3 cm. This pin has a triple ribbed head, clearly sharper-edged compared to the more roundish ribs of bronze pin 6541. The three ribs are clearly distinguishable from the shaft. The pin is twisted in the upper third section, directly below the head and in the neck area. Due to the oblique torsion, six oblique “ribs” can be seen on the shaft in addition to the three ribs of the head. After the last diagonally twisted decorative element on the pin, the undecorated section follows. The strongest swelling lies in the middle of the shaft. Heynowski classifies such pins as pins with twisted shaft “Nadel mit tordiertem Schaft” (Heynowski 2014, 42).

Bronze pin 7006, burial mound 4 (Fig. 7: 3)

The smallest pin has a round-oval globular head with three ribs. The pin dimensions are: length: 7.7 cm, width at head 0.3 cm, shaft width 0.2 cm.

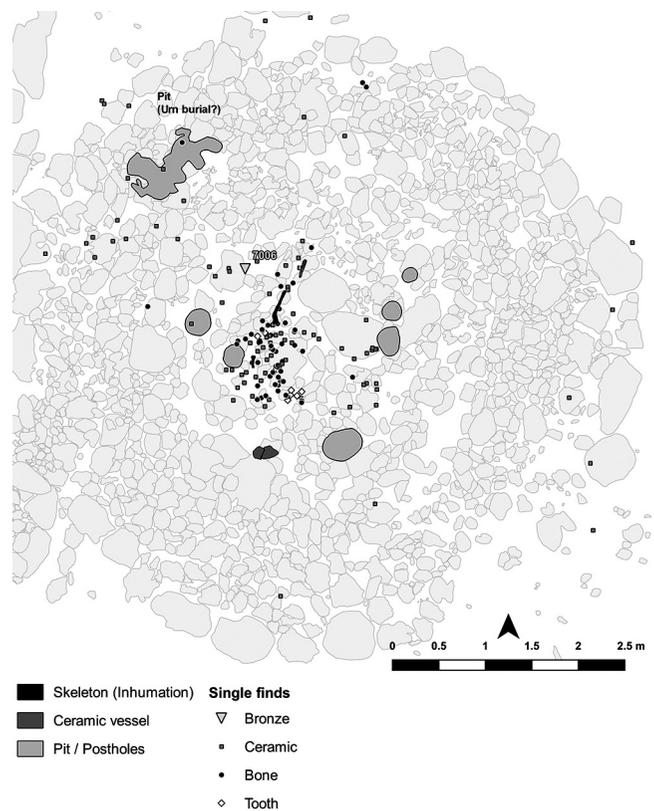


Fig. 6. Simmelsdorf-St. Helena. Plan of the burial chamber underneath burial mound 4.

The middle rib is more rounded than the rest. Unlike the two pins before, this bronze needle has no swelling in the central area. In this case a typological classification is difficult. No comparative of this type could be made, although pins “with ribbed shaft top” would fit the description of the



Fig. 7. Simmelsdorf-St. Helena. Photographs and drawings of the bronze pins from burial mound 3: 1 – pin 6541; 2 – pin 6600 and mound 4: 3 – pin 7006 (drawings and photographs: K. Hagemann).

¹ We would very much like to thank Bernd Mühlendorfer for his support.

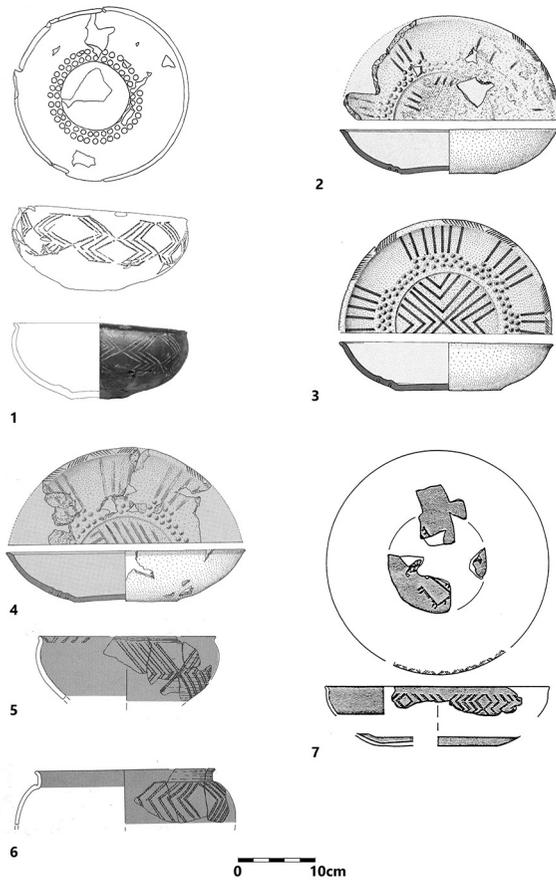


Fig. 8. Comparative finds for pot 64: 2–3 – Upper Franconian group; 7 – Upper Palatinate group. Others without special determination: 1 – Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, burial mound 3, pot 64; 2–3 – Eggolsheim, burial mound 4, pot 16, 25; 4 – Eggolsheim, burial mound 4, pot 29; 5 – Kirchensittenbach, burial mound 2, pot 4; 6 – Kirchensittenbach, burial mound 10, without pot number; 7 – Dietfurt an der Altmühl, burial mound 1, pot 13a (1 – Abramov this article; 2–4 – Ettl 1996, Taf. 124/16, 25 and Taf. 125/29; 5–6 – Hoppe 1986, Taf. 50/2 and Taf. 70/11; 7 – Röhrig 1994, Taf. 6/2).

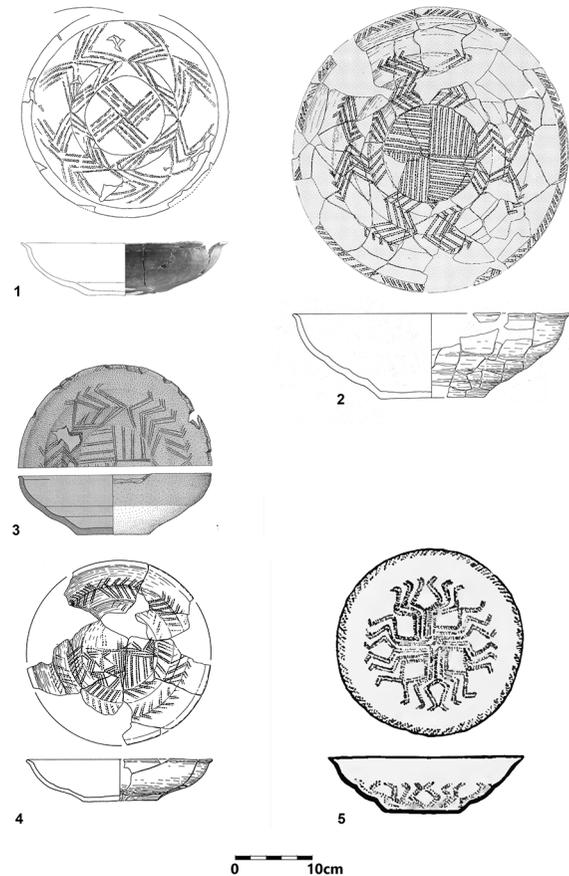


Fig. 9. Comparative finds for pot 71: 3 – Upper Franconian group. Others without special determination: 1 – Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, burial mound 3, pot 71; 2 – Kirchensittenbach, mound 3, without pot number; 3 – Gößweinwein-Wichsenstein, burial mound 21, pot 28; 4 – Altensittenbach „Hutanger“, burial mound 2 or 3, without pot number; 5 – Markt Igendorf, burial mound 14, pot 33 (1 – Abramov this article; 2 – Hoppe 1986, Taf. 53/1; 3 – Ettl, 1996, Taf. 191/28; 4 – Hoppe 1986, Taf. 42/9; 5 – Hörmann 1917, 56 Nr. 3 and Plate XXII 45.33).

Tab. 1. Simmelsdorf-St. Helena. Dimensions of pots 64 and 71

Pot number	Figure	Weight in gramm	Height in cm	Maximum diameter in cm	Diameter at rim in cm	Diameter at bottom in cm	Pot type	References
64	8: 1	864	10.2	23.4	21.0	9.4	Kragenrandschüssel	Ettl 1996, 31
71	9: 8	844	06.5	27.0	27.0	11.4	Two stepped bowl	Ettl 1996, 31

bronze pin 7006 and according to Heynowski are similar to those with twisted shaft (Heynowski 1992, 101). The pins with a ribbed shaft upper part are usually decorated with a small globular or vase head.

Pots

Two of the best preserved, complete, and decorated vessels (no. 64 and 71) were chosen for the study. The vessels were photographed, and 3D models were calculated using the program Agisoft Metashape. Subsequently, the vessels were drawn in top view and profile with the help of the referenced orthophotos of the 3D models. The dimensions, preservation and manufacturing characteristics as well as the

decoration schemes and execution techniques of the decors were recorded.

Ceramic vessel 64 (Fig. 8: 1, Tab. 1)

About 85% of pot 64 was refitted. The ‘collar rim bowl’ (*Kragenrandschüssel*; form C IV after Ettl 1996) is decorated outside with a swirl pattern or zigzag motif manufactured with roller stamps and shows a graphite overlay. Inside, close to the bottom, two rows of small knobs or buttons are attached in a parallel manner.

Ceramic vessel 71 (Fig. 9: 1, Tab. 1)

From the ‘two stepped bowl’ (*Stufenschale*; form G II after Ettl 1996), about 90 % was refitted. The pot is smooth, matte

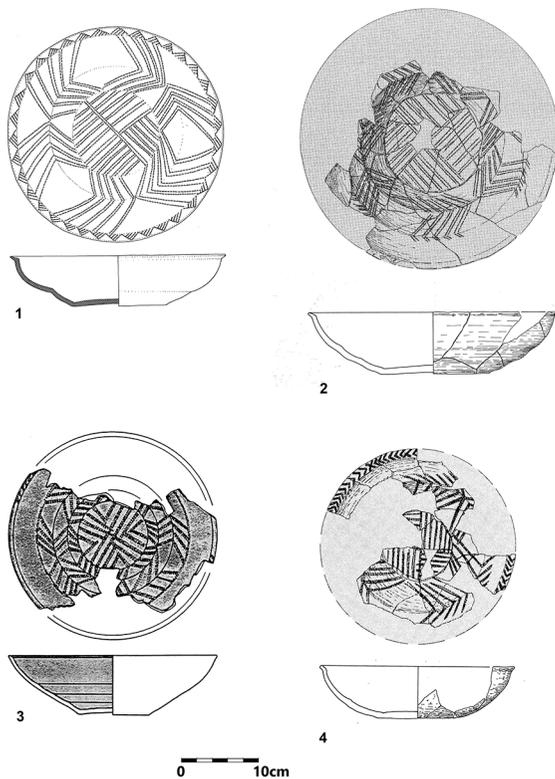


Fig. 10. Comparative finds for pot 71: 1 and 3 Upper Palatinate group. Others without special determination: 1 – Auerbach, burial mound 2 or 3, pot 4; 2 – Neunkirchen „Speikern I“, burial mound 1, without pot number; 3 – Dietfurt an der Altmühl, burial mound 1, pot 18b; 4 – Burghann-Westhaid, without grave assignment (1 – Torbrügge 1979, Taf. 31/8; 2 – Hoppe 1986, Taf. 86/1; 3 – Röhrig 1994, Taf. 2/2; 4 – Hoppe 1986, Taf. 35/3).

and undecorated from the outside. Two sharp-edged steps divide the internal swirl decoration pattern, again manufactured with roller stamps in three sections. The inside of the vessel is completely graphitized. Only the rim remained undecorated. The bottom is characterized by a cross motive.

METHODS

Regional context of the pottery

The northern part of Bavaria was researched in several studies (e.g. Hoppe 1986; Ettl 1996; Ettl 1999; Brosseder 2004; Ettl 2006; Schußmann 2019). In general, the regional groups of the Early Iron Age in northern Bavaria are separated by their geographical distribution in three or four entities (Kossack 1954, Abb. 2; Ettl 1993, 155-156; 1996; 1999, 54-55; 2006, 151-152) (Fig. 12). While Hope describes the northeastern sites of Upper Franconia and the Upper Palatinate as “North-Eastern-Group”, Ettl maps altogether four groups in Northern Bavaria, by differentiating the Upper Franconian Group (in earlier articles labelled as Upper Main group) from an Upper Palatinate Group whereas the East-Alb group and the Lower Franconian group are distinguished as well (e.g. Ettl 1999, 54-55; 2006, 152). Simmelsdorf-St. Helena is located exactly in between the Upper Franconian and the Upper Palatine

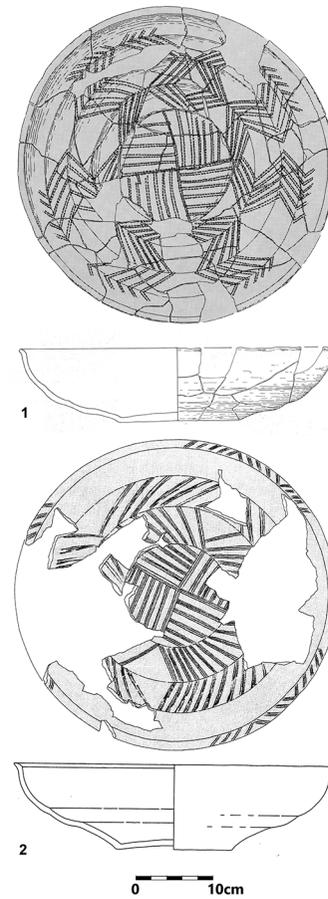
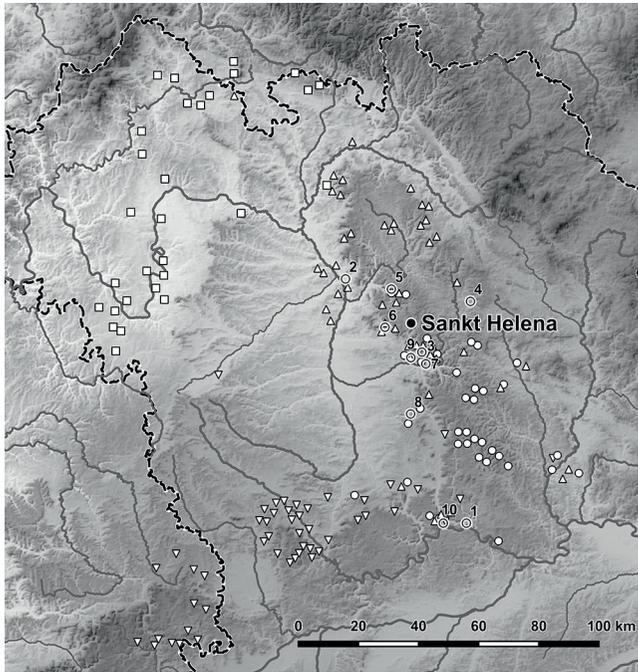


Fig. 11. Comparative finds for pot 71. Without special group determination: 1 – Kirchensittenbach/Oberkrumbach, burial mound 13, without pot number; 2 – Beilngries „Im Ried-Ost“, burial mound 122, pot 13 (1-2 – Hoppe 1986, Taf. 73/3 and Taf. 49/1).

groups. Within these settlement regions, specific pins, arm rings and other dress accessories, as well as regionally more or less distinctive vessel shapes and ornamentations are observed. While the Lower Franconian and the East-Alb groups are distinguishable via their pottery decoration, this is only gradually the case for the Upper Franconian and Upper Palatinate Groups. The pottery of the Upper Franconian Group like the Upper Palatinate Group is characterized by checker-board patterns, swirl patterns and painting with graphite. In the Upper Palatinate group, the “decoration is overall richer and more complex” (Ettl 1993, 165). Typical for the Upper Franconian group is the more common decoration with dents or small depressions, arranged most often in a horizontal line continuously or with short interruptions (Ettl 1993, 165; 1996, 234-238). Because of the intermediate position of the Simmelsdorf-St. Helena site, it was searched for typological similarities by visual inspection mainly within these two groups so in the regions of Middle and Upper Franconia as well as the Upper Palatinate. The reference vessels were selected according to similarities or analogies mainly of the decoration and independent if the decoration is on the inside or outside of the vessel. It turned out, that the decorations appear on pots of different shapes. The classification to one of the regional groups is taken from the publications. By doing



- △ Groups of dents (Upper Franconian Group)
- Checkerboard / swirl pattern (Upper Palatinate Group)
- ▽ Channeled ware / Eastern Alb painting (Eastern Alb group)
- Pencil painting (Lower Franconian Group).

Fig. 12. Regional groups in Northern Bavaria: 1 – Dietfurt a.d. Altmühl; 2 – Eggolsheim; 3 – Kirchensittenbach/Oberkrumbach; 4 – Auerbach; 5 – Gösswein-Weichsenstein; 6 – Markt Igendorf; 7 – Altensittenbach/Hutanger; 8 – Burgthann-Westhaid; 9 – Neunkirchen/Speikern; 10 – Beilngries „Im Ried-Ost“ (sites according to Ettel 1996, 55 Abb. 1.1; Ettel 2006, 151, Abb. 2; map data: SRTM)

so, it was tried to find out, to which group the pots from St. Helena belong. A table is used, to compile the contexts of the comparative findings (Tab. 3–4).

Dating

Bronze pins and pots have particularly precise classification criteria due to their shape and the ornamentation. As no absolute data of the finds described here are available, neither in St. Helena nor elsewhere, it is only possible to search for typologically similar finds and discuss the arguments of their chronological ordering with the objective to propose a date for the burials in Simmelsdorf-St. Helena.

Sex determination

Next, it was questioned if the pots and pins from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena are typical for male or female burials. Therefore, a table (Tab. 2) is filled with data on burials with anthropological determinations of the skeletons. Unfortunately, the sex determination of cremations is given in general by the artifacts and therefore cannot be used further here. The structure and orientation of the burial chambers, positions and orientations of the deceased are recorded to check for typical sex related patterns.

RESULTS

Pins

Regional context and dating

In Tab. 2 and on Fig. 13–15 a selection of comparable finds are shown, proofing, that this types of needles are very common not only in Hallstatt contexts, but even in northern Germany or northern Italy. Based on the dating of the comparative bronze objects used for the analysis (Tab. 2, Fig. 13–15) and mainly because of Trachsel’s correspondence analysis on wagon burials (Trachsel 2004) which is interpreted to show a relative chronological sorting of the objects, it is most probable that the pins can all be dated to Ha C. In his correspondence analysis, Trachsel found that pins with ripped heads “Rippenkopfnadeln” unimportant, if with triple or quadruple ribbed heads also date to Ha C1 (Trachsel 2004, 68).

Sex determination

Even if anthropological determinations are rare and if sometimes also female burials are observed within the graves, the pins 6541 and 6600 are easily assigned to a potential male individual regarding the proposed sex determination of the compared finds (Tab. 2). In the case of pin 7006, no clear indication of sex can be given at the present state of research.

Pots

Regional context

The swirl pattern of pots 64 and 71, together with the roller stamp technique and the graphite painting are characteristic for Upper Palatinate group as well as for the Upper Franconian group in Northeast-Bavaria (Tab. 3–4, Fig. 8: 2–7, Fig. 9–11).

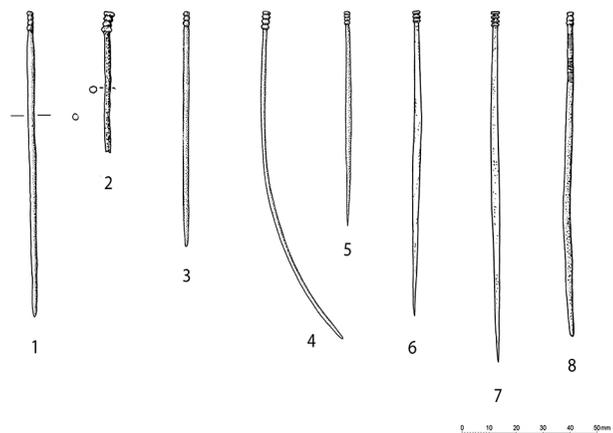


Fig. 13. Comparative finds to pin 6541 from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena: 1 – Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, pin 6541; 2 – Tannfeld; 3 – Garrel; 4 – Ohrensen; 5 – Jerxheim; 6 – Wulfen, grave 114; 7 – Wulfen, grave 84; 8 – Albersdorf (1 – Hagemann this article; 2 – Ettel 1996, Taf. 157/1; 3–5 – Laux 1976, Taf. 40/738, Taf. 41/751, Taf. 41/754; 6–7 – Koberstein 1964, Abb. 16/b, Abb.10/l; 8 – Prüssing 1982, Taf.27/F2).

Tab. 2. Table of the chronological position and sex determination of the comparable bronze pins.

Fig.	Site name, official municipality key	Dating	Dating methods	Sex (m-male, f-female)	Sex determination	Number of pins	Reference
Fig. 12: 2	Tannfeld, grave 6, 09477157	Ha D1 (ZA III)	Typochronological	1. m? 2. f?	Anthropological	2	Ettel 1996, 128, 255, Taf. 157/1
Fig. 12: 3	Garrel, 03453008	Ha C/D1 (Wessenstedt)	/	/	/	/	Laux 1976, 125, Taf. 40/738
Fig. 12: 4	Ohrensen, 03359005	Ha C/D1 (Wessenstedt)	/	m?	/	/	Laux 1976, 126, Taf. 41/751
Fig. 12: 5	Jerxheim, grave 19, 03154012	Ha C/D1 (Wessenstedt)	/	/	/	/	Laux 1976, 126, Taf. 41/751
Fig. 12: 6	Wulfen, grave 114, 15082415	Ha C-D1	Typochronological "pin with a triple ripped head" (Dreirippenkopfnadel)	/	/	1	Koberstein 1964, Abb.16/b
Fig. 12: 7	Wulfen, grave 84, 15082415	Ha C-D1	Typochronological "pin with a triple ripped head" (Dreirippenkopfnadel)	m?	Finds (knife)	1	Koberstein 1964, Abb. 10/1
Fig. 12: 8	Albersdorf, 16074001	Period VI (Ha C-D1)	Typochronological "pin with a triple ripped head" (Dreirippenkopfnadel)	m?	Finds (tanged knife)	1	Prüssing 1982, Taf. 27/F2
Fig. 13: 2	Schirndorf, mound 11, 09375156	Ha C1	Correspondence analyses	m?	/	1	Stroh 1979, 51, Taf. 78/2; Trachsel 2004
Fig. 13: 3	Schirndorf, mound 42, 09375156	/	/	m	Finds (sword)	2	Stroh 1979, Taf. 125/15
Fig. 13: 4 Fig. 14: 6	Berndorf, grave 2, 07233005	Ha D1 (ZA III)	Typochronological (ceramic)	1. m? 2. f?	Anthropological	1 2	Ettel 1996, 189, Taf. 43
Fig. 13: 5	Frankfurt-Praunheim, 06412000	Ha C	Typochronological (ceramic)	m?	Finds (razor and hilt tanged knife)	1	Kubach 1973, 528, Taf. 82
/	Frankfurt, 06412000	Ha C	Typochronological (vessels)	m	Anthropological and by the sword	4	Heynowski 1992, 101
/	Schwanheim, 07340047	Ha C	Typochronological (vessels)	m	Finds (toilet articles)		Kubach 1973, 528; Heynowski 1992, 101
Fig. 13: 6	Langen, 06438006	most likely Ha D	/	/	/	1	Kubach 1973, 528, Taf. 82
Fig. 13: 7	Goldenstedt, 03460004	/	/	/	/	/	Nortmann 1983, Taf. 20/6
Fig. 14: 6 Fig. 13: 4	Berndorf, grave 2, 07233005	Ha D1 (ZA III)	Typochronological (vessels)	1. m? 2. f?	Anthropological	1 2	Ettel 1996, Taf. 43; Schudlach 1977, 28

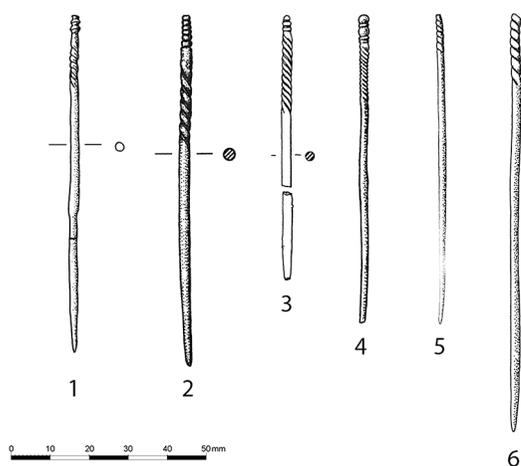


Fig. 14. Comparative finds to pin 6600 from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena: 1 - Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, pin 6600; 2 - Schirndorf, burial mound 11; 3 - Schirndorf, burial mound 42; 4 - Berndorf; 5 - Frankfurt-Praunheim; 6 - Langen; 7 - Goldenstedt (1 - Hagemann this article; 2-3 - Stroh 1979, Taf. 78/2, Taf. 125/15; 4 - Ettel 1996, Taf. 43/1; 5-6 - Kubach 1973, Taf. 82/1343, Taf. 82/1344; 7 - Nortmann 1983, Taf.20/6).

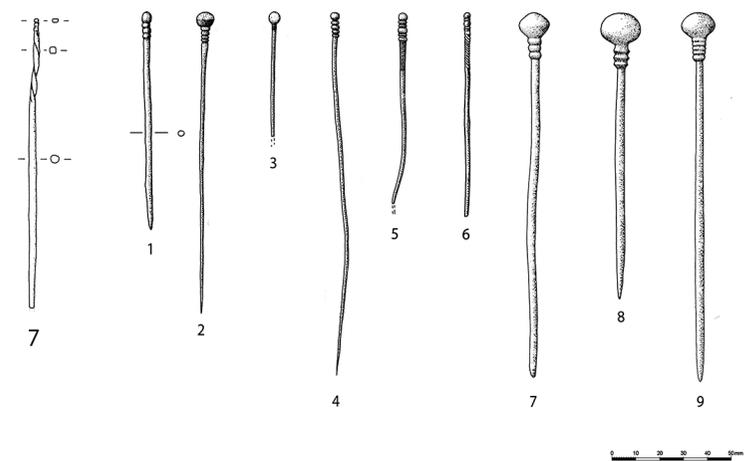


Fig. 15. Comparative finds to pin 7006 from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena: 1 - Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, pin 7006; 2 - Peschiera; 3 - Sarteano; 4 - Bologna, Savena; 5 - Bologna, De Lucca; 6 - Berndorf; 7 - Bischofsheim; 8 - Rhein bei Mainz; 9 - Unknown site (1 - Hagemann this article; 2-5 - Carancini 1975, Taf. 54/1761, Taf. 55/1819, Taf. 78/2519, Taf.79/2520; 6 - Ettel 1996, Taf. 43/1; 7-9 - Kubach 1973, Taf. 68/1028, Taf. 69/1049, Taf. 71/1078).

Tab. 3. Comparable finds to pot 64 from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena.

Fig.	Site Number	Site name, official municipality key	Grave Mound	Pot Number	Type of burial	Dating	Dating methods	Sex (m-male, f-female)	Regional Group	Reference
8: 7	1	Dietfurt a. d. Altmühl, 09373121	1	13a	Cremation burial	Ha C1 – Ha C2	Typochronological	No information	Upper Palatinate	Röhrig 1994, 110, 118
8: 2-4	2	Eggolsheim, 09474123	4	16, 25, 29	Cremation burial	ZIIb (Ha C2)	No information	No information	Upper Franconian	Ettel 1996, 234-238, Taf. 124/16, 25 and Taf. 125/29
8: 5	3	Kirchsittenbach/Oberkrumbach, 09574135	2	4	Cremation burial	No information	No information	Most likely m	Nord-East-Bavarian	Hoppe 1986, 132, Taf. 50/2
8: 6	3	Kirchsittenbach/Oberkrumbach, 09574135	10	-	Cremation burial	Ha C1 – Ha C2	Typochronological	No information	Nord-East-Bavarian	Hoppe 1986, 132, 139, Taf. 70/11

Tab. 4. Comparable finds to pot 71 from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena

Fig.	Site Number	Site name, official municipality key	Grave Mound	Pot Number	Type of burial	Dating	Dating methods	Sex (m-male, f-female)	Regional Group	Reference
10: 1	4	Auerbach, 09371113	2-3	4	Inhumation	Ha C – D1	Typochronological	m	Upper Palatinate	Torbrügge 1979, 265–266, Taf. 31/8
10: 3	1	Dietfurt a. d. Altmühl, 09373121	1	18b	Cremation burial	Ha C 1-2	Typochronological	No information	Upper Palatinate	Röhrig 1994, 100, 118–119, Taf. 2/2
9: 3	5	Gössweinstein-Wichsenstein, 09474129	21	28	Not clear	Z IIb = Ha C2	Typochronological	f	Upper Franconian	Ettel 1996, 275–276, Taf. 191/28
9: 5	6	Markt Igendorf, 09474140	6909	33	Inhumation	Ha C	Typochronological	f	Nord-East-Bavarian	Hörmann 1917, 56, Nr. 3 and Plate XXII 45.33
9: 4	7	Altensittenbach/Hutanger, 09574132	2 or 3	-	No information	Ha C1	Typochronological	No information	Nord-East-Bavarian	Vollrath 1956, 46–48; Hoppe 1986, 143–144, Taf. 42/9
10: 4	8	Burgthann-Westhaid, 09574117	No information	-	No information	No information	No information	No information	Nord-East-Bavarian	Hoppe 1986, 125–126, Taf. 35/3
9: 2	3	Kirchsittenbach/Oberkrumbach, 09574135	3	-	Cremation burial	HA C	Typochronological	Most likely f	Nord-East-Bavarian	Hoppe 1986, 133-134, Taf. 53/1
11: 1	3	Kirchsittenbach/Oberkrumbach, 09574135	13	-	Cremation burial b	No information	No information	No information	Nord-East-Bavarian	Hoppe 1986, 136, Taf. 73/3
10: 2	9	Neunkirchen Speikern I, 09574141	1	-	Cremation and Inhumation	UK/ LT A	Typochronological	No information	Nord-East-Bavarian	Hoppe 1986, 143–144, af. 86/1
11: 2	10	Beilngries „Im Ried-Ost“, 09176114	122	13	Inhumation	Ha C	Typochronological	No information	Nord-East-Bavarian	Hoppe 2005, 73–74, Taf. 49/1

On at least one pot from the burial mound 3, not yet restored entirely, dents or small depressions, arranged in a horizontal line on the shoulder of the pot are proven. The knobs or little buttons inside of the bowl 64 seems to be very rare, so far. Only three other pots from only one site, Eggolsheim, in a distance from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena of about 35 km as the crow flies, have similar buttons located next to the bottom on the inner side of the containers, and so very similar to pot 64 in Simmelsdorf St. Helena (Fig. 8: 2–4).

Interestingly enough, some of the pots are sometimes described as typical for the Upper Franconian group like those of Gößweinstein-Wichsenstein (Fig. 9: 3), Eggolsheim (Fig. 8: 3–4) or Markt Igendorf (Fig. 9: 5) (Ettel 1996, 234–238, 275–276), while others, with the same typological characteristics as those from Auerbach (Fig. 10: 1) and Dietfurt a. d. Altmühl (Fig. 10: 3) are said to be typical Upper Palatinate (Tab. 3–4, Fig. 12; Torbrügge 1979, 265–266; Röhrig 1994,

100, 118). Others are classified here according to Hoppe (1986) without the differentiation between the two postulated Northeastern Bavarian groups: Neunkirchen-Speikern (Fig. 10: 2), Beilngries (Fig. 11: 2) or Markt Igendorf (Fig. 9: 5) or Altensittenbach/Hutanger (Fig. 9: 4).

Dating

In most cases, the comparative pots are dated to the period of Hallstatt C (Tab. 3–4) according to other finds, often metal artifacts, within the assemblages. Only in the case of Neunkirchen-Speikern and Auerbach an earlier date, respective longer lasting uses are proposed (Tab. 4). Therefore, Hallstatt C seems to be the most plausible date for the pots from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena at the present state of research and in accordance with the age of the pins.

Sex determination

Except for three, all the compared ceramic objects stem from cremation graves (see Tab. 3–4). The inhumations of Markt Igensdorf and Auerbach were determined as female and male meaning, that at the present state of research, the pottery is not related to a special sex. For Beilngries a sex determination does not exist.

DISCUSSION

Dating

Taken together the results of the study of the pots and the pins of Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, the building of burial 3 and probably 4 as well happened most likely in Hallstatt C. Furthermore, it seems probable, that at least tumulus 3 was built in a very early phase of C1 because stratigraphically the outer stone package of mound 2 lies above the stone packing of mound 3 (Mischka 2019, 145). Therefore, mound 3 is stratigraphically older in relation to mound 2. Burial mound 2 is dated to Hallstatt C by the pins with bowl-shaped head (*Schälchenkopfnadel*) with straight as well as swan-shaped neck and two Ha C1 tutuli of the horse harness (Mischka 2017, 8–9; Mischka 2019, 138–142).

Regional context

Unique characteristics to separate the Upper Palatinate and the Upper Franconian group according to pottery decoration patterns are difficult to define. The swirl pattern, roller stamps and graphite painting are more related to the Upper Palatinate group, the knobs to the Upper Franconian group. On pot 64 from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena, as well as on three pots from Eggolsheim these characteristics occur on the same pot – making it impossible to keep these attributes as distinguishing. Nevertheless, the pots in discussion fit very well in the regional Northeastern Bavarian pottery habits.

Sex determination

A long-lasting debate concerns the low number of female burials in the earliest Iron Age. As already mentioned by Brosseder and others, female burials are only tangible from the end of Ha C (Brosseder 2002, 39). Only three of the burials researched by Grupe (1996, 182–185) are from the early phase of the Early Iron Age. One, the initial inhumation from Demmelsdorf is dated just in between the late Urnfield culture and the Early Iron Age. Two others from Wichsenstein, grave 9 and grave 21, both cremations, are dated to Ha C1 or Ha C2 (ZA IIa or b according to Ettel 1996, 96, Tab. 3). None of them could be determined as female with certainty (Grupe 1996, 182, 185). Also, a determination according to the grave goods is difficult, because they are rare and not always differentiated according to sex in the earliest phase (Brosseder 2002, 39). For the inhumation remains of Simmelsdorf-St. Helena burial mound 3 and 4, the results of the anthropological sex

determination are awaited and hopefully, there is also aDNA preserved to receive a genetical prove of the sex.

CONCLUSION

Over the seven-year excavation campaign, many exciting artifacts were discovered in Simmelsdorf-St. Helena. The focal point of this paper was on two pots and three pins found in the tumuli 3 and 4. These finds were put into the discussion regarding their chronological position and within the regional context. Furthermore, it was tried to assume about the sex of the inhumated persons.

In conclusion, tumulus 3 and 4 from Simmelsdorf-St. Helena most likely was built in Hallstatt C1. The decorative elements of the pots from tumulus 3 are typical within the region, but it was not possible to subscribe them to the Upper Palatinate group or to the Upper Franconian group according to their decoration. Because characteristics ascribed to both of these subgroups appear on the same pot, the existence of these subgroups only relying on qualitative differences within the decorations can be questioned. It is more probable according to the actual, very poor state of research, that the pins belonged to male dress. The ongoing anthropological and aDNA-analysis could bring further light in this question. Although the excavations at the Simmelsdorf-St. Helena site have been completed, new conclusions may be assembled in the following years, which could possibly support or refute the results of these analyses.

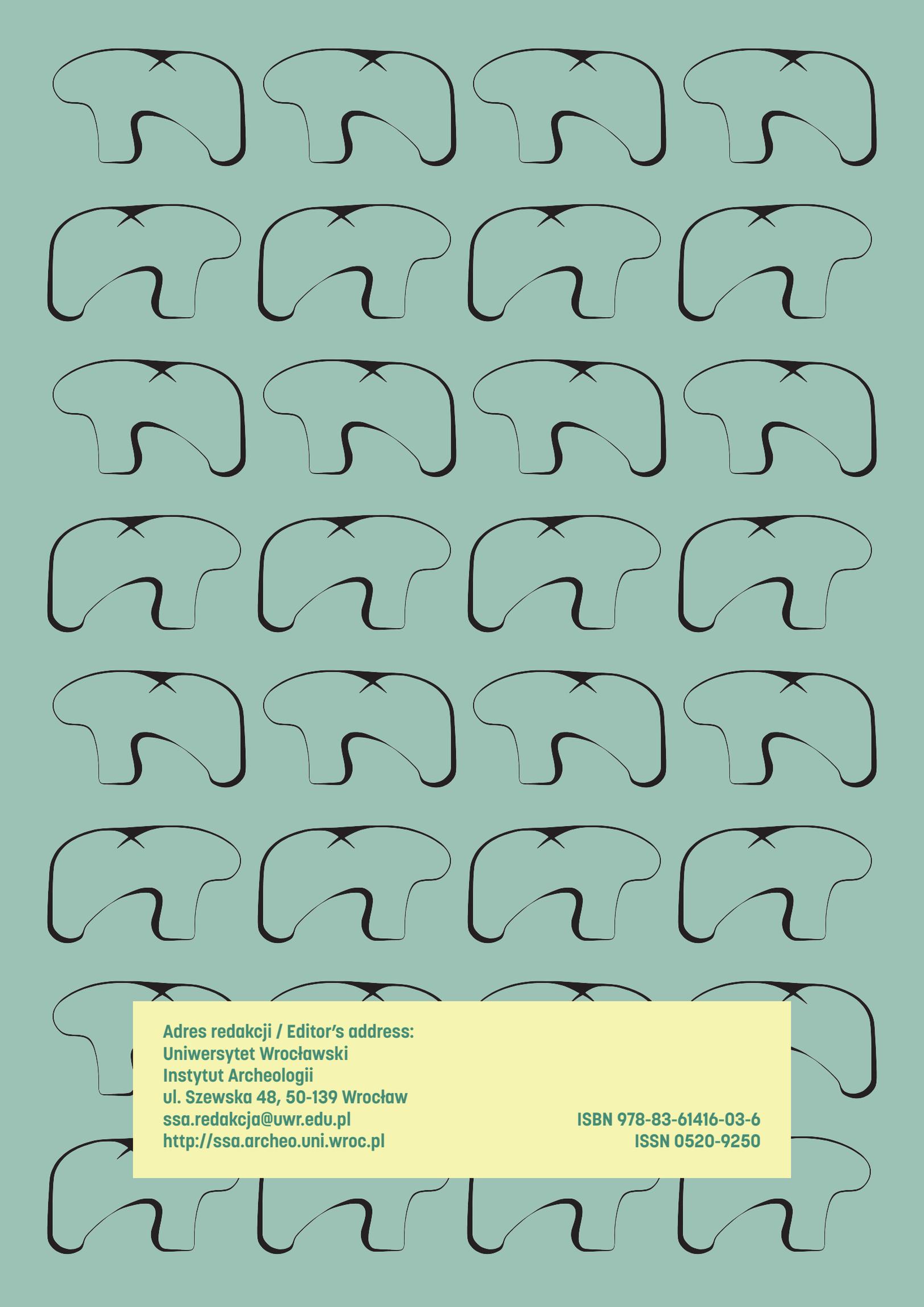
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Adres redakcji / Editor's address:
Uniwersytet Wrocławski
Instytut Archeologii
ul. Szewska 48, 50-139 Wrocław
ssa.redakcja@uwr.edu.pl
<http://ssa.archeo.uni.wroc.pl>

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