

AND NOW... SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT! THE NEW EARLY LA TÈNE OBERNDORF–SISAK FIBULA TYPE

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Abstract: *In the paper the new Early La Tène type of fibula is defined, named Oberndorf–Sisak type. The main criterion for defining this new type, comprised of limited number of typologically rather heterogeneous objects, was particular technical detail in which the pin is connected with a rivet to the headplate of the fibula. Although the number of the known fibulae of the Oberndorf–Sisak type is less than satisfactory for more detailed distribution analyses, four pieces from Lower Austria (Oberndorf, Rassing) and one from SW Slovakia (Horné Orešany), indicate possible area of production in the context of so-called eastern Early La Tène circle, while the fibula from Sisak represents an allochthonous element in Late Hallstatt context of south Pannonia.*

Keywords: *Early La Tène, fibulae, Oberndorf, Rassing, Horné Orešany, Sisak.*

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A SADA... NEŠTO POTPUNO DRUGAČIJE! NOVI TIP RANOLATENSKIH FIBULA OBERNDORF–SISAK

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Apstrakt: U članku je definisan novi tip ranolatenskih fibula, nazvan tip Oberndorf–Sisak. Glavni kriterijum za definisanje ovog novog tipa, koji čini ograničen broj tipološki prilično heterogenih primeraka, bio je konkretan tehnički detalj kako se igla povezuje sa glavom fibule pomoću zakivka. Iako je broj poznatih fibula tipa Oberndorf–Sisak manje nego dovoljan za detaljniju analizu rasprostranjenosti, četiri primerka iz Donje Austrije (Oberndorf, Rasing) i jedan iz jugozapadne Slovačke (Horne Orešani) ukazuju na moguću oblast proizvodnje unutar takozvanog istočnog ranolatenskog kruga, dok fibula iz Siska predstavlja alohtoni element u kasnohalštatskom kontekstu južne Panonije.

Cljučne reči: rani laten, fibule, Oberndorf, Rasing, Horne Orešani, Sisak.

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INTRODUCTION

Knowing about the – at the first view – „strange” looking fibula from Oberndorf (Traisen valley), the two authors met in picturesque town of Požega in Slavonia (Croatia) at the conference *Lost Centuries or Age of Transformation? Rethinking the Late Hallstatt/ Early La Tène Transition*, where the first author presented the mentioned artefact from Oberndorf. The second author noticed that a similar kind of fibula exists in Sisak, in central Croatia. It was a spontaneous decision to publish this new technical phenomenon as the Oberndorf–Sisak type. Hence, it is a fantastic opportunity to present it at the Miloš Jevtić jubilar.

The new type of fibula is defined by a particular technical detail. The pin is not forged and twisted to form a spiral construction, but hammered to a small disc-shaped plate connected with a rivet to the headplate of the fibula. At the current state of research, it is obvious that the fibulae with the described

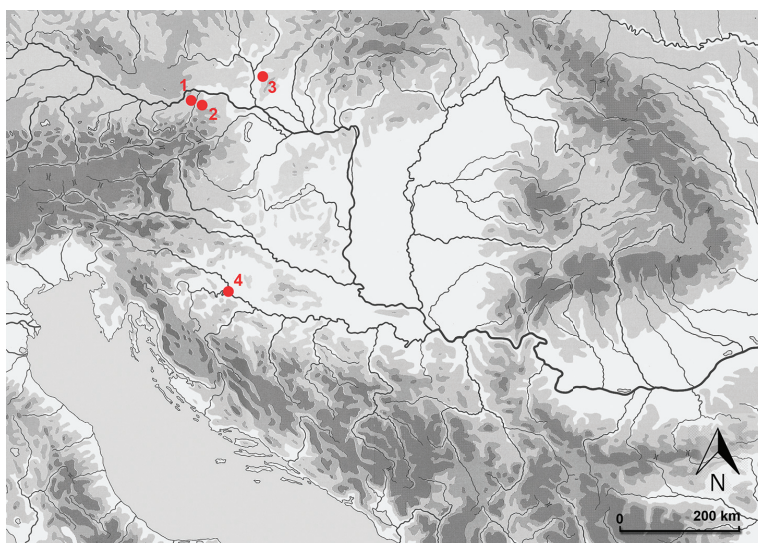


Figure 1. Find spots of the Oberndorf–Sisak type fibulae (1. Oberndorf, 2. Rassing, 3. Horné Orešany, 4. Sisak).

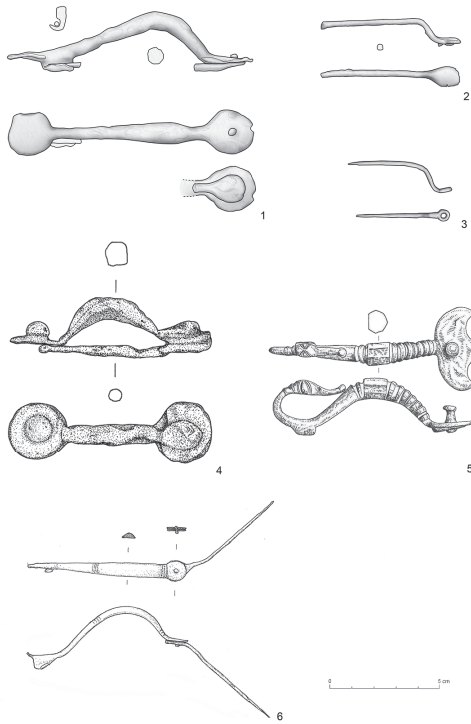


Figure 2. Fibulae of the Oberndorf–Sisak type (1–3. Oberndorf; 4. Rasing; 5. Horné Orešany; 6. Sisak).

technical detail are quite rare with only five (possibly six) known pieces (see Fig. 1)! Four examples of the described type are known from Austria. Three of them were found at Oberndorf cemetery, excavated in 1982, in graves 4 and grave 9, and possibly in grave 5 (Fig. 2/1–3). At the site of Rasing, one fibula was found in grave 4 (Fig. 2/4). In Slovakia, to the recent state of research, one example from Horné Orešany can be mentioned. It was found as a surface find in an Early La Tène settlement area (Fig. 2/6). The only known fibula from Croatia originates from Iron Age settlement in Sisak (Sisak – Moslavina County) (Fig. 2/5).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS OF THE OBERNDORF–SISAK TYPE FIBULAE

1. OBERNDORF IN DER EBENE, DISTR. ST. PÖLTEN, LOWER AUSTRIA

During construction of the motorway exit „Herzogenburg Süd” and in a gravel pit south of it, 14 cremation graves of the Hallstatt culture, as well as 4 cremation and 18 inhumation burials of the Early La Tène culture were excavated in 1982/83. Within this, only partially excavated necropolis, several early La Tène warrior tombs and double burials (two women with necklaces with simple centre knot decoration, ceramic situlae and early flasks) and in one case even a quadruple burial (partly in square and circular surroundings) are to be mentioned. In the inhumation grave of a woman, which overlaid a cremation burial of Hallstatt C, annular jewellery (simple bracelets and massive ribbed anklets) and the Weidacher type fibula with a drum shaped foot decoration

have been found. This is one of the latest Hallstatt fibula types and should be dated to Ha D3 phase. Thus, a continuous occupancy of this site from the late Hallstatt until the early La Tène period is suggested. In the immediate vicinity of the cemetery in KG Unterradlberg, excavated in 1986 by E. Wallner, a stray find of an iron lynch-pin with bronze head decorated with a mask of LT A was found (Megaw et al. 1989; Neugebauer 1988; Neugebauer 1992; Neugebauer and Gatringer 1982; Ramsel 2018).

Fibula no. 6, grave 4: Grave 4 (1982)

Archaeological context:

Grave-shaft (disturbed by a dredge) with inhumation burial (male), surrounded by a square shaped trench (no. 11). Level 1: rectangular grave pit with rounded corners, orientation approx. S-N, pres. L 2,0 m, W 1,65 m (Pl. 1). Level 2: rectangular grave pit with rounded corners, orientation approximately S-N, pres. L 2,0m, W 1,65 m; 0,02–0,06 m below level 1, dark brown loamy-humus filling.

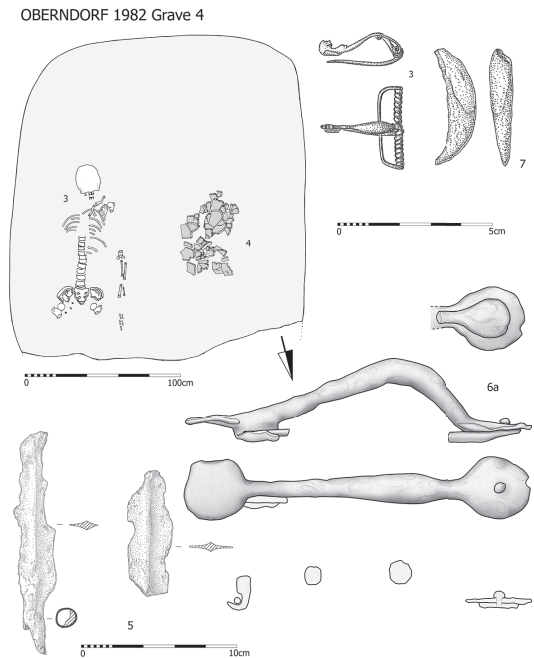


Plate 1. Grave 4, Oberndorf 1982.

Burial:

Individual stretched on the back (legs and right arm missing) in the eastern part of the shaft, approximately S-N oriented, iron remains at the pelvis, *Ostalpine Tierkopffibula* (Pl. 1/3) next to the neck, ceramic vessel in the western part (Pl. 2/4), several artefacts from the excavated material.

Grave goods:

Find number (Fnr.) 3: *Ost-alpine Tierkopffibel* (bronze) (Pl. 1/3); Fnr. 4: Ceramic pot, hand-made (Pl. 2/4); Fnr. 5: two (?) spearheads (iron) (Pl. 1/5); Fnr. 6a: Iron fibula, approximately disc-shaped head plate, asymmetric bow with circular cross section, approximately disc-shaped footplate with smaller, rectangular pin rest, pin riveted to the headplate (dimensions: L. 11,1cm, H. 2,7cm, Dm (plates) ca. 2 cm, D (bow) 1,0 cm (Pl. 1/6a); Fnr. 6b: Sword and scabbards (iron), only a few fragments with a chape (Pl. 2/6b); Fnr. 7: Animal tooth (Pl. 1/7).

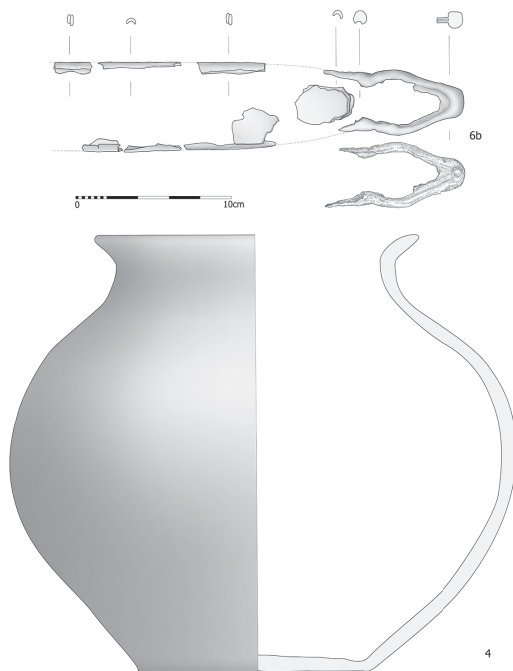


Plate 2. Grave 4, Oberndorf 1982.

**Fibula pin no. 6, grave 5:
Grave 5 (1982)**

Archaeological context:

Grave pit with cremation burial (adult individual). Level 1: approx. circular shaped pit, diameter 0,7–0,8 m, grey-brown filling.

Burial:

Scattered cremation with fragments of pottery (no. 2) and iron (no. 3–6).

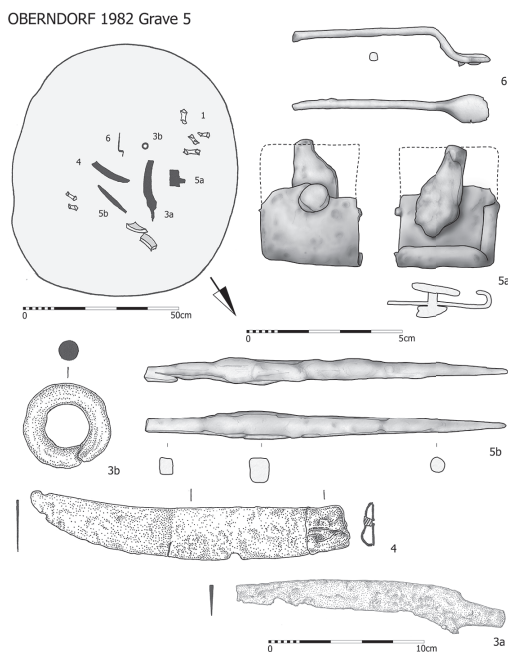


Plate 3. Grave 5, Oberndorf 1982.

Grave goods:

Fnr. 2: Pottery (without graphic presentation); Fnr. 3a: Iron knife (Pl. 3/3a); Fnr. 3b: Iron ring (Pl. 3/3b); Fnr. 4: Iron knife (Clasp knife?) (Pl. 3/4); Fnr. 5a: Iron burin (?) (Pl. 3/5); Fnr. 5b: Belt hook with box shaped fitting (iron) (Pl. 3/5b); Fnr. 6: Iron pin-shaped artefact (fibula?), approximately oval shaped plate (dimensions: L 6,3cm, D 0,2cm. Pl. 3/6).

**Fibula pin (?) no. 3, grave 9
Grave 9 (1982)**

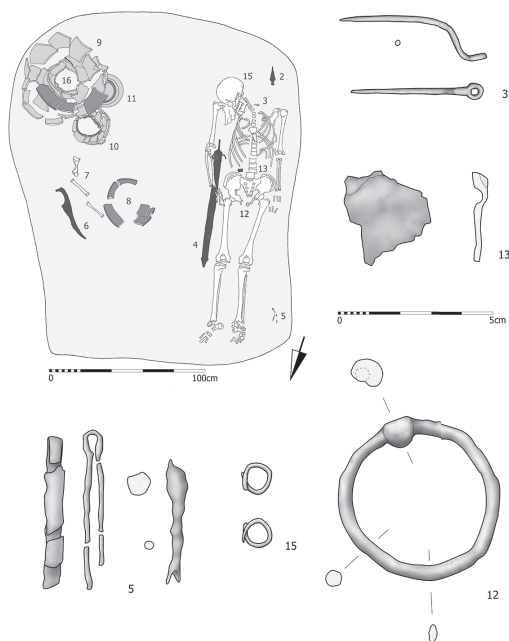
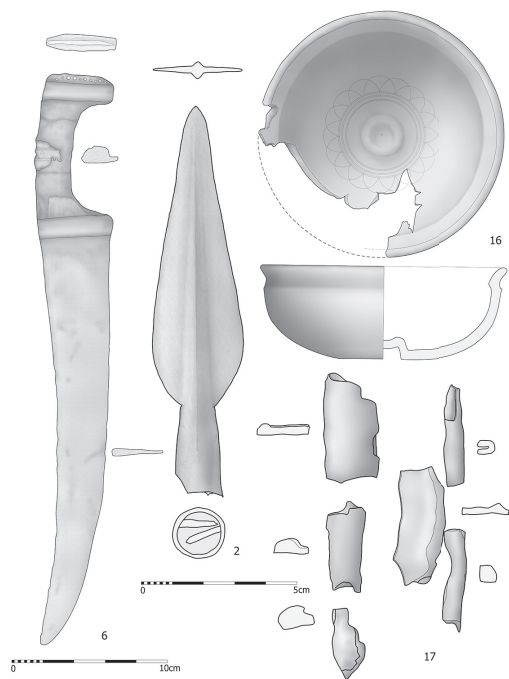
Archaeological context:

Inhumation burial of a male (?), mature individual. Level 1: approximately rectangular grave pit with smoothed corners, orientation SSE-NNW, L 2,5 m, W 1,9 m, black humus filling, at the northern end humus-gravel material. Level 2: 1,6–1,85 m, 37 cm under Level 1, approximately rectangular, southern end rounded, orientation SSE-NNW, L 2,25 m, W 1,70 m, humus-gravel material.

Burial:

Skeleton in the western part, stretched at the back, head

OBERNDORF 1982 Grave 9

**Plate 4.** Grave 9, Oberndorf 1982.**Plate 5.** Grave 9, Oberndorf 1982.

to NNE, below the skull – golden ring (no. 15), left of the skull – iron spearhead (no. 2), bronze fibula-pin? (Fnr. 3) at the neck, right of the body – iron sword with two *Koppelringen* (belt rings) (no. 4) at the right pelvis – belt hook (no. 13), in the middle of the pelvis – an iron ring (no. 12), left to the feet – toiletries (no. 5). Other grave goods at the eastern side (from S to N): large ceramic vessel (no. 9), inside a small bowl with compasses decoration (no. 16), next to it flat (no. 10) and higher pots (no. 11); below animal bones (no. 7) with a big iron knife (no. 6) and a bowl (no. 8).

Grave goods:

Fnr. 2: Iron spearhead (Pl. 5/2); Fnr. 3: Bronze pin-shaped artefact, small ring double bend pin (dimensions: L 4,7 cm, D 0,2 cm) (Pl. 4/3); Fnr. 4: Iron sword with two *Koppelringen* (belt rings) (without graphic presentation!); Fnr. 5a: Iron tweezers (Pl. 4/5); Fnr. 5b: Iron nail cutter (Pl. 4/5b); Fnr. 6: Iron knife (Pl. 5/6); Fnr. 8: Wheel thrown bowl (Pl. 6/8); Fnr. 9: Handmade pot (Pl. 7/9); Fnr. 10: Wheel thrown pot (Pl. 6/10); Fnr. 11: Wheel thrown pot (Pl. 6/10); Fnr. 12: Iron *Koppelring* (belt ring)(Pl. 4/12); Fnr. 13: Iron fragment (Pl. 4/13); Fnr. 14: Pottery (without graphic presentation!); Fnr. 15: Golden ring (Pl. 4/15); Fnr. 16: Wheel thrown bowl (Pl. 5/16); Fnr. 17: Iron fragments (parts of the sword/sword scabbards)(Pl. 5/17).

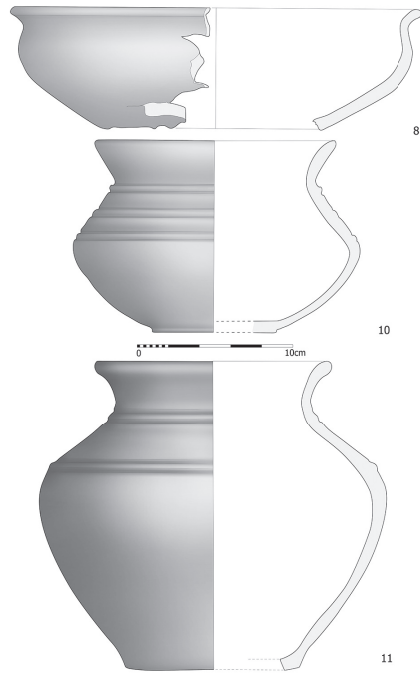


Plate 6. Grave 9, Oberndorf 1982.



Plate 7. Grave 9, Oberndorf 1982.

2. RASSING, DISTR. ST. PÖLTEN, LOWER AUSTRIA

The cemetery is located in the flood plain of Perschling, near the banks of today's river, about half a kilometre south of Rassing village. In 2003, three flat graves and three tumuli from the Early La Tène period were discovered in the area. The state of preservation of the tumuli was surprisingly good, at least in lower levels, as all three mounds have been conserved at their base above the level of the burial chambers by a later deposited clay layer.

The burial chamber of tumulus 1 was placed on the ancient surface and above it the mound was thrown up. In addition to very poorly preserved remains of a probably male deceased, the chamber contained a large vessel, a flask (*Linsenflasche*), two small bowls, a large knife, a bronze ring, an iron belt hook with box-shaped fitting, an iron spearhead, an iron sword and a bronze and an iron fibula. Tumulus 2 had a surrounding ditch – probably the foundation trench of a tumulus in a sense of a Krepiš limiting fence – with a diameter of about 14 m. This gives a good indication of the original size of the tumulus. The chamber of tumulus 3, which could also be located only by the arrangement of the grave goods, may well have been robbed in ancient times, as indicated by a significant displacement of the most of the grave goods. It also contained a large vessel, a situla-shaped vessel, two bowls and another, completely shattered vessel, two iron spearheads, two iron rings, an iron knife, an iron fibula, and a bronze fibula with bird's head, which indicates a date of the burial in LT A2. Human remains are absent, probably due to the poor soil conditions, and not because of the ancient robbery. Grave 6 was a burial with small remains of cremations, (animal) bones and three ceramic vessels (a large vessel, a bowl and a flask (*Linsenflasche*)). In 2004, another four inhumation burials in flat graves were documented. In a grave shaft, a child was buried with a large vessel, two iron bracelets and a belt hook. The second, already strongly disturbed inhumation burial had, as grave goods, a large vessel, a bowl, three bronze fibulae, two bronze and two iron bracelets, a bronze and an iron necklace and several smaller iron objects. The third grave contained double burial of a woman and a child. Aside from several ceramic vessels, the adult woman's accessory included a necklace and two bracelets and a bronze finger ring, while the child's costume consisted of an iron necklace, two brooches and a bronze finger ring. In addition, in the burial chamber also a spindle whorl, an iron awl with bone handle, as well as several small iron objects and animal bones were deposited. In the fourth grave the burial of an adult man was placed with a large vessel, a bronze fibula, a belt hook, an iron knife and animal bones. Due to the fibulae, all graves can be dated to the LT A2/B1 horizon. In the immediate vicinity of the graves five post holes were documented, which could be remnants of the funeral constructions.

Since there were no more burials in the larger radius of the graves, it can be assumed that it was actually a small, closed grave group (Preinfalk 2005).

Fibula no. 4, grave 2

The mentioned fibula was found in grave 2 in tumulus 1 (Preinfalk 2005) and can be described as following: the foot is disk-shaped with a button on it, followed by a symmetrical, in the middle thickened bow and a disk-shaped head-plate. The pin is riveted to the head-plate (dimensions: L 9,25cm, H 2,78cm).

3. SISAK

The fibula from Sisak was found during the 1992 excavation in the bed of the Kupa River, at the last meander before the confluence to the Sava River. Here, the well-known Iron Age settlement, known from the ancient written sources as *Segestica* and *Siscia*, was situated although its beginning can be tracked back to the Late Bronze Age. Dimensions of the excavated trench were 8 x 4m (Burkowsky 2004). Under one-meter thick layer of river sand remains of several wooden vertical piles and horizontal planks had been found, probably remains of pile dwellings. Excavation report also mentions existence of a grey-black layer which contained several stones and the most of the movable finds. Unfortunately, more precise stratigraphy was not registered in the trench. The most numerous finds were pottery sherds, including baking lids and a strainer, but also pyramidal loom weights, spindle whorls, fragments of decorative ceramic plates and moulds.³ Also, among the finds there were several metal objects: a pin with biconical head and spirally twisted neck, dated to Ha B phase, several iron knives, iron tools (smaller awls, pliers), a piece of the late Hallstatt bronze vessel and several bronze and iron fibulae, dated to late Hallstatt (Certosa type X, semi product of the Certosa type fibula), and all phases of the La Tene period. Among this group of finds there is an iron fibula with a bow of semi-circular cross section which ends with round, hammered plate (Fig. 2: 6). A pin is attached to the plate with the rivet. Smaller pin holder is quadrangular in shape. The bow is decorated with two groups of horizontal incisions. The fibula, defined as a new Oberndorf –Sisak type, is 7,2cm long and 2,2cm high.

3 Part of the objects were published in the exhibition catalogue *Željezno doba u Sisku i Moslavini (The Iron Age in Sisak and Moslavina)* by Z. Burkowsky, while the rest of the finds were analyzed by I. Drnić in Ph.D. thesis *Lower Kupa Valley Region in Iron Age Communication Network Between Southern Pannonia, Eastern Alps and Western Balkans*.

4. HORNÉ OREŠANY, SLOVAKIA

The hill fort at Slepý vrch (544m) near Horné Orešany is located on a mountain, situated in an expiring side ridge of the massif of the Little Carpathians (Malé Karpaty). The mountain top is fortified with a rampart that is doubled on the west, south and east sides and covers an area of approximately two hectares. The site was already populated in the Late Bronze Age and Hallstatt period and shortly during the Middle La Tène period, but the most intensive settlement activity dates to the Early La Tène period. In the settlement area, inside the ramparts, there are a number of pieces of evidence of iron forging and jewellery production. Also, there are traces of mining activity (iron ore) on the south-western slope of the mountain.

More than 2000 metal objects have been documented at the site including special jewellery and chiselling tools, such as twist drills, fine and coarser files, punches, various types of pricks, chisels and circles. Exceptionally large quantities of small iron products (ornamental rivets, belt clasps, rings, cotter pins, nails), concentrated in the small area of the site, attest to the existence of workshops where these objects could have been produced. Among the finds there are also objects such as axes, knives, sickles and scythes, but also different iron fittings with decorative studs, mostly parts of horse tacks. Inside, as well as outside of the fortification, five early La Tène hoards with iron tools and bronze jewellery have been discovered so far. A special phenomenon are numerous weapons finds. At least eight swords and dozens of lance- and spearheads, according to various sources, were discovered so far. The finds from earlier, as well as later phase of the LT A period, include bronze and iron bird heads, Marzabotto type fibulae, double drum fibulae, a belt hook with openwork zoomorphic ornamentation, as well as a few dozen characteristic iron belt hooks with box-shaped fittings and other belt parts. The most important finds are bronze zoomorphic and mask fibulae from the LT A2 phase. Except described central settlement at Slepý vrch, also Early La Tène cemeteries at Stupava and Bučany sites are known in the hinterland of this region (Pieta 2007; 2012).

At the site, one example of a bird head fibula (L 9,2cm, H 2,1cm) made of iron, with technical construction specific to the Oberndorf-Sisak type, was found (Pieta 2007, Fig. 7/10). It has a symmetrically shaped bow with circular cross section, characteristic for fibulae of the „Pre-Duchcov horizon”. The symmetrical bow is ribbed between the head and faceted protrusion with heptagon cross section. The head is made as a fan-shaped plate, pierced with a rivet. On the upper side the rivet is about 1 cm wide and could fit a decoration material, like bone, amber, or coral. Underneath are remains of a plate, which is fixed with the rivet and a small part of the pin. The foot decoration is bent back, like at the most early La Tène fibulae, and formed in the shape of a bird's head. The eyes are formed out plastically, with typical surroundings, and the beak is bent upwards, like in the case of a duck.

TYPOLOGICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DISCUSSION

The analyses of the find contexts of all known examples of the Oberndorf–Sisak type fibulae suggest that they were produced and used in the early La Tène period. Therefore, it is our intention to date the single graves in a very exact way to circumscribe the chronological relevance.

In Oberndorf, grave 4, next to a fibula of the Oberndorf–Sisak type (no. 6a), an *Ostalpine Tierkopffibel* (no. 3), two spearheads (no. 5), an animal tooth (no. 7), remains of an iron sword (incl. scabbard) (no. 6b) and a handmade ceramic vessel (no. 4) are to be mentioned. The *Ostalpine Tierkopffibel* type fibulae were mainly distributed from Bodensee to Lower Austria and from Slovenia to Bavaria (Teržan 1990, 224, Map 21). Their exact chronological status can be specified within LT A phase (Stöllner 1996, 65–66), or, in case of Dolenjska Hallstatt group, to later Certosa phase, according to local chronology, dated to 5th century BC (Teržan 1977; Dular 2003, 136). The remains of the sword are in a very poor state, but the chape (germ. *Ortband*) with S-shaped strip has close analogies in Dürrenberg, grave 16 (Penninger 1972, Taf. 17C/6), and Hallstatt, grave 994 (v. Sacken 1875; Egg et al. 2006), dated to LT A phase. Also, the handmade pottery is similar to LT A vessels, for example, from Inzersdorf-Walpersdorf (Ramsl 1998, Taf. 54/313), Inzersdorf, grave 272 (Neugebauer 1996, Taf. 16/2), and Oberndorf 2004, grave 15 (Ramsl in prep.).

Except mentioned fibula pin, cremation burial grave 5 from Oberndorf 1982 contained only a few dateable artefacts. The iron-made belt hook with a box-shaped fitting (no. 5a) of the Bujna's GS-A type (Bujna 2011, 21–23), which are distributed from the Champagne area in the west to the eastern Austria and western Slovakia in the east and date mostly to LT A2–B1, with only a few examples from LT B2 phase (Ramsl 2002, 58, Taf. 62/15; Ramsl 2011, 105). Next to it, there were two iron knives (no. 4 and 3a). No. 4 has a slightly bent blade with a sleeve and a straight through going rivet. Knives of this type are known from Oberndorf 2004, grave 13 and 27 (Ramsl in prep.) and date into LT A phase. It is possible that it is a clasp knife, already known from Pottenbrunn, grave 48 (Ramsl 2002, Taf. 36/16), and Hallstatt, grave 233 (Kromer 1959, Taf. 31/8). The other knife (no. 3a) has a curved blade with a short handle and belongs to a type already used in the Hallstatt period (Moosleitner 1996, Abb. 4/4). According to this short analysis, this grave can be dated into LT A phase.

Grave 9 from Oberndorf 1982 also provides some chronological information. The inhumation burial of 40 to 50 years old male individual (Novotny, in prep.) contains the fibula pin (?), nr. 3, a typical large iron knife, poor remains of an iron sword in scabbards, a small golden earring, a small spearhead, toilette paraphernalia, a small bowl with everted rim decorated at the inner side with compass decoration, wheel turned pottery with horizontal

decoration and a handmade flask made of graphite clay. The mentioned large, 35cm long iron knife, with the handle with angled end, can be compared with examples from Pottenbrunn, grave 4 (Ramsel 2002, Taf. 28/10) or Dürrenberg, grave 39/2 (Penninger 1972, Taf. 37A/5; summarized in Osterhaus 1981 and dated into the early stage of LT A phase). Small golden earrings (preferably at the right side/ear) appear in early La Tène burials like in the case of grave 81 from Hallstatt (2006) (Ramsel 2009, Abb. 1, no. 3231) or Glauberg (Frey and Herrmann 1997, 493). These earrings were typical parts of costume of LT A „warriors”, but this custom started already in Ha D phase. Small bowls with everted rim (Stöllner 1996, 177) appeared in LT A and, together with the grooved pottery, were the first examples of the wheel-thrown pottery (Ramsel 1998, 26). Also, a pronounced *omphalos* is quite typical for this small „drinking bowls”. The inner decoration, a frieze of arcs, placed around the *omphalos*, is a typical geometric ornament of the Early La Tène style, which can also be seen at the vessels from Inzersdorf-Walpersdorf, no. 93 (Ramsel 1998, Taf. 102; Abb. 25) and Richterskeller (Uenze 1964, Abb. 8/6). Wheel-thrown pottery with emphasised horizontal decoration, like grooves and bulges, also points to the developed LT A or LT A2 phase (compare: Ossarn 1984, Grave 17 (Neugebauer 1992, 46) or Oberndorf 2004, grave 20 (Ramsel in prep.).

In grave 5 from Rassing, next to the mentioned fibula of the Oberndorf-Sisak type, there was a small spearhead, an iron sword with a decorated bronze sheet at the upper side of the scabbard, as well as a bronze fibula with a bird-shaped foot and a small drinking bowl with inner decoration. It seems very similar to the described grave 9 from Oberndorf 1982. Iron swords with decorated bronze sheets at the front side of a scabbard are typical for the early phase of LT A, as can be seen in Hallstatt, grave 994 (Kromer 1959, Taf. 202) and Dürrenberg, grave 331 (Tiefengraber/Wiltschke-Schrotta 2012, Photo table 9). Small bronze multipart fibulae with stylized bird-shaped foot decoration and crossbow construction of the spring with lateral spherical elements also date to LT A1 phase with comparable examples from grave 282 from Inzersdorf (Neugebauer 1996, Taf. 20/2) and grave 5 from Ossarn 1984, (Ramsel in prep.). Also, small drinking bowls with *omphali* and inner decoration are typical for LT A phase.

Unfortunately, the chronological position of the Sisak find is not as precise as in the case of described Austrian sites. As already mentioned, the fibula was found in the settlement context, but without precise stratigraphic position, together with material dating from the end of the Bronze Age (Ha B) until the end of the Late Iron Age (LT D). It is interesting to note that the proposed period of use for Austrian examples – LT A phase, or the 5th century BC in absolute terms, marks large expansion of the Sisak Late Hallstatt settlement to the right bank of the Kupa River, and its growing importance as a centre in a regional communication network. In this period the settlement was organized

in more or less rectangular grid with traces of textile and metal production, but also trade and exchange with neighbouring and long-distance regions, from northern Italy and East Alpine region to the Balkans (Drnić 2019; Drnić and Groh 2018). It is important to mention that the analysis of all known fibulae (109 pieces) dating from the Late Bronze until the Late Iron Age, shows two significant increases in number which perfectly match internal dynamics of the settlement confirmed by recent excavations and geophysical surveys: the first one in Late Hallstatt period (Ha D2/3), and the second in the Late La Tène period (LT D) when the settlement significantly expanded to the left bank of the Kupa River (Drnić 2019). That is why the find of the newly defined Early La Tène iron fibula of the Oberndorf–Sisak type in Sisak Late Hallstatt settlement is not that surprising! On the other hand, there are no known examples of this type from the territory of Dolenjska Hallstatt group, in today's Slovenia, that could serve as transmission zone for this Central European product, although some forms of Early La Tène fibulas from LT A-B1 phases are well attested within the local Certosa and Negova phases of the mentioned cultural group, like Altmark–Kowałowice type (Teržan 2009).⁴

Although the fibula from the Horné Orešany hillfort represents surface find acquired using metal detector, stylistically it is, without any doubt, Early La Tène product. The analyses of the known finds from the site suggest the highest settlement activity at LT A1–A2 phases, which is, most probably, the period of production of the Oberndorf–Sisak type fibula.

CONCLUSION

Summarizing the chronological data, primarily those from the graves from Oberndorf and Rassing, it is possible to date the fibulae of the Oberndorf–Sisak type to La Tène A phase in general, with a tendency to its early sub-phase (LT A1). The main criteria for defining this new type, comprised of limited number of typologically rather heterogeneous objects, was a particular technical detail in which the pin is connected with a rivet to the headplate of the fibula. Interestingly, this technical solution represents „dead end” at the very beginning of development of the La Tène fibulae, considering that the spring constructions in various forms (smaller/larger number of coils, internal/external chord *etc.*) absolutely dominated this, almost five centuries long development. Interestingly, all known fibulae of the Oberndorf–Sisak type are made solely of iron (except the bronze pin from Oberndorf, grave 9), although the contemporaneous Early La Tène fibula types were produced in bronze, iron, and in rare cases even in precious metals.

4 Two examples of this type are known from Horné Orešany site (Čambal 2019, 111, Tab. 1/2, 8), but also in grave no. 31 on the cemetery of Oberndorf in der Ebene (Ramsl 2018, 493–502). More recently about this fibula type – Horváth 2019.

Unlike Austrian grave finds, the fibulae from Horné Orešany and Sisak are settlement finds with less clear chronological contexts, but with well attested settlement activity at the sites in the 5th century BC. Interestingly, both settlements functioned as the centres with prominent positions within regional settlement hierarchies; Horné Orešany for SW Slovakia, and Sisak for SW Pannonia. Although the number of the known fibulae of the Oberndorf–Sisak type is less than satisfactory for more detailed distribution analyses, three (possibly four) pieces from Lower Austria and one from SW Slovakia, indicate possible area of production in the context of so-called eastern Early La Tène circle. On the other hand, the fibula from Sisak is certainly allochthonous element in Late Hallstatt context, within the community which combined objects of various geographical origins (Central Europe, Eastern Alps, and the Balkans) in creation of rather eclectic costumes.

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**AND NOW... SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
THE NEW EARLY LA TÈNE OBERNDORF – SISAK
FIBULA TYPE**

Summary

In the paper the new Early La Tène type of fibula is defined, named Oberndorf–Sisak type. The main criteria for defining this new type, comprised of limited number of typologically rather heterogeneous objects, was a particular technical detail in which the pin is connected with a rivet to the headplate of the fibula. Interestingly, this technical solution represents „dead end” at the very beginning of development of the La Tène fibulae, considering that the spring constructions in various forms absolutely dominated this, almost five centuries long development. The typo-chronological analyses of the grave assemblages from Oberndorf and Rassing cemeteries suggests that the fibulae of the Oberndorf–Sisak type should be dated to La Tène A phase in general, with a tendency to its early sub-phase (LT A1). Although the number of the known fibulae of the Oberndorf–Sisak type is less than satisfactory for more detailed distribution analyses, four pieces from Lower Austria (Oberndorf, Rassing) and one from SW Slovakia (Horné Orešany), indicate possible area of production in the context of so-called eastern Early La Tène circle. On the other hand, the fibula from Sisak is certainly an allochthonous element in Late Hallstatt context, within the community which combined objects of various geographical origins (Central Europe, Eastern Alps, and the Balkans) in creation of rather eclectic costumes.