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**ABSTRACT
BOOK**

BC both inhumations and cremation burials can be associated with the Kisapostag or the earliest Transdanubian Encrusted Pottery style, while during the Middle Bronze Age cremation became the dominant burial practice in western Hungary. One of the most noteworthy burials of the mentioned period was discovered at Balatonakali: this was a grave of an adult man with specific metal finds and a cist structure. Nearly two hundred burials of the next period (2000–1500 BC) were excavated at Bonyhád, where the transformation from inhumation to cremation was also observable. Our aim is to provide a more detailed chronology, including the scientific dating of cremation burials. We also study other aspects of the cemeteries, e.g. indications of social stratification and the raw material of metal grave goods, tracing the adoption of tin bronze technology in the Hungarian Bronze Age.

Recent archaeological research at Romuald's cave, Istria

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Previous excavations at Romuald's Cave (Lim Channel, Istria) have yielded evidence of human activity stretching back to the Middle Paleolithic. This presentation reports on recent discoveries uncovered during excavations as part of the Croatian National Science Foundation funded project: "Archaeological Investigations into the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene of the Lim Channel, Istria." Research has confirmed presence of Mousterian sequence which has been dated to over 48 kya, as well as numerous archaeological remains from later prehistoric periods. Fragmentary skeletal remains from at least two individuals were excavated, and a direct radiocarbon date from one of the remains is commensurate with a Bronze Age attribution. The recovered ceramics confirm this age attribution, although they range from the Middle Bronze Age to incipient Iron Age in character.

Late Bronze Age mortuary practices and cultural patterns in the southern Carpathian Basin

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Burial practice was one of the criteria for dividing the Bronze Age in Central Europe into the Early, Middle and Late phases. Mortuary practices (above all, patterns in grave goods and deposition) were often used as criteria for distinguishing between communities, that is, cultural groups in the prehistory of Central Europe. By studying Late Bronze Age mortuary practices in southern Carpathian Basin (CSF IRP 11-2013-5327) using combined archaeological and anthropological methodology we are testing the existing cultural models known from the literature. We are trying to comprehend the nature of local societies in which the buried individuals operated. The patterns of body treatment, grave goods and deposition exhibit differences over space and time. Depending on the criterion, in existing patterns it is possible to perceive differences in the body treatment, choice of grave goods and deposition. At certain cemeteries, the reconstruction of mortuary practices using this combined methodology is based on very strong evidence. By combining cemeteries analysed in this way within the existing cultural models a need is raised for adopting different research criteria. Our analyses warn us of the traps in using the existing cultural models. We have adopted a "bottom up" approach, wherein we first try to reconstruct mortuary practices in certain local communities, to connect them with contemporary neighbouring communities based on similar material evidence, and only then to observe them in chronological cultural models. The preliminary results point to a patchwork showing overlapping criteria of previous cultural models and the necessity for their critical evaluation.