

Call for Papers

Dear colleagues, we are pleased to invite you to the

Annual conference of the Iron Age Study Group

at the joint congress of the

West- und Süddeutscher Verband für Altertumsforschung
and the *Mittel- und Ostdeutscher Verband für Altertumsforschung*

19th–22nd March 2018

in Halle/Saale

We ask for contributions on the following topic:

Object • Deposition • Motive

Context and Interpretation of Deliberate Object Deposits

in Iron Age Central Europe

Please send your proposals for a contribution to the conference, including a short summary (up to 2000 characters including blanks) to the chairman of the Iron Age Study Group (see contact details) no later than

30th November 2017.

In addition to economic and ecological constraints, cognitive templates have been recognised as decisive factors for everyday life of ancient societies. Scepticism on the epistemological scope of material culture studies regarding ancient beliefs and rituals lost ground in favour of an increased awareness of the potential of pertinent approaches to the archaeological record. In Iron Age archaeology, too, outdated studies on ‚Celtic religion‘ had basically been tied to Greek and Roman written records. In recent analyses, these obsolete methods gave way to differentiated views on the basis of material culture studies. As one of the three major categories of archaeological sources, hoards and depositions in the broadest sense can contribute as considerably to this field of study as do burials. Relevant convolutes of archaeological objects come up from a wide variety of contexts and periods of the Pre-Roman Iron Age of temperate Europe: depositions in aquatic milieu occur both during the Hallstatt and Latène periods. Late Hallstatt depositions at so-called ‚naturally sacred sites‘ (*naturheilige Plätze*) suggest highly differentiated social and gender-/sex-

specific patterns of sacrifices and votive offerings. Similar factors determined depositional activity in the context of architectural sanctuaries or cult buildings and Late Iron Age ‚mass finds‘ (*Massenfunde*). Single or multiple object depositions in settlement context further extend the spectrum of these phenomena. Recent investigations on the ritual dimension of hoards in pits or wells of urban Latène settlements further enhance the scope of interpretations.

This short outline of Iron Age depositions offers various approaches to the social, religious and economic backgrounds for the deliberate disposal of objects which can be addressed in the meeting of the study group. The contexts of these depositions provide information about underlying motivations and aims of disposal. While economic reasons might explain for late Iron Age coin hoards, the religious backgrounds of building and votive offerings and of ‚curated rubbish‘ in settlement contexts are to be analysed further. Inseparably tied to those motives, the social context of depositions is indicated by place, quantity and quality of objects. These parameters provide indications for both the (transcendent) recipients of offerings and in particular for the age, sex, status, and identity of those who laid down the sacrifices. Ethnographic analogies offer valuable clues as to the role of deliberate divestment of objects in the social discourse.

Contributions on all aspects of Iron Age object depositions in Central Europe are warmly welcomed for the 2018 annual conference of the Iron Age Study Group. A primal focus will be put on the overall variety and different contexts of depositions. The specific character of and the sacred or profane motivation for the deposition are to be assessed on the basis of this structural and morphological variability (e. g. hoard, treasure trove, votive offering, sacrifice etc.). The choice and deposition context of objects additionally allow for interpretations regarding social, economic or religious dimensions of depositional practices.

The session will also provide an opportunity to present **results of recent research on the European Iron Age**. Proposals on such topics are equally welcome.

Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. Presentation media (projector & laptop) are provided. Should the number of contributions exceed the time slots available, a selection will be made by the study group board. Colloquium languages will be German, English, and French.

Scientific poster presentations are invited, too. Please do only propose posters on Iron Age studies. These are not restricted to the topic of the session. If the number of contributions exceeds the space available, a selection will be made, too. **The deadline for poster proposal is 30th November 2016.**

If you wish to contribute a presentation or poster please fill in the attached form completely and insert a short summary of your presentation or poster (up to 2000 characters including blanks) into the text field (you will find that longer entries are impossible!).

For general information and conference registration (speakers & other participants) please consult the webpages of WSWA at www.wsva.net or MOVA at www.mova-online.de. **Conference registration via the Iron Age Study Group is not possible!**

Best regards,

Holger Wendling

Proposal of presentation / poster

at the
annual conference of the Iron Age Study Group, 19th–22nd March 2018 at Halle/Saale (Germany).

Object • Deposition • Motive
Context and Interpretation of Deliberate Object Deposits in Iron Age Central Europe

Name:

Title/Degree:

Institution:

Full Address:

Telephone:

E-Mail:

Type of contribution (presentation/poster)

Title of presentation/poster:

Summary (max. max. length 2000 characters incl. blanks)

Please send your proposals to the chairman of the Iron Age Study Group
(holger.wendling@salzburgmuseum.at) by **30th November 2017**