

# NEW EVIDENCE OF LATE HALLSTATT/EARLY LA TÈNE SOCIAL ELITE FROM NORTHWESTERN BOHEMIA

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A rescue archaeological excavation at the site of Holedeč near Žatec in Northwestern Bohemia uncovered two features of unusual dimensions, representing the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène manor house. The fillings of these features including one other settlement pit included three bronze fibulae, three fragments of domestic painted imitation of the Attic ware, local Early La Tène stamped pottery, pieces of daub, animal bones, antler finds, shells, spindle whorls, glass bead, two sherds of the Attic pottery and other finds.

The excavated inventory together with the unusual settlement features define without any doubt the researched site as the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène settlement connected with the local social elite. The present paper brings the classification of the most significant finds from these features as well as the evaluation of unusual residential structures from the point of view of the archaeology of Central European Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène period.

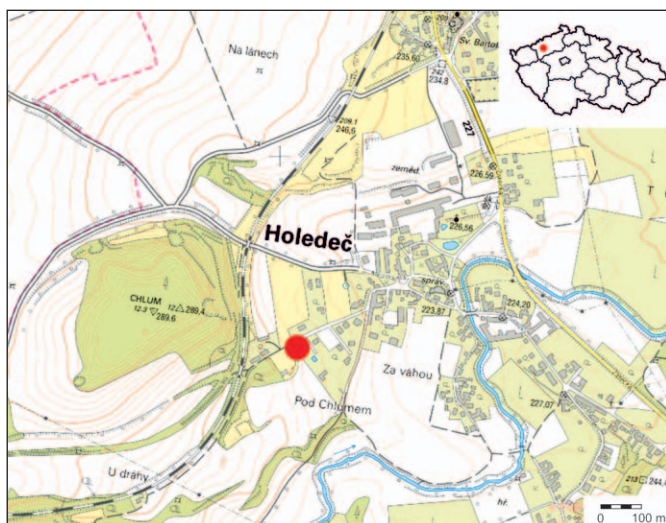


Fig. 1. Location of the site on the map (map source: [www.cuzk.cz](http://www.cuzk.cz)).

## INTRODUCTION

A rescue archaeological excavation in the site of Holedeč near Žatec (Fig. 1) has started during February 2020. This excavation was first supervised by Vojtěch Peksa, then the excavation continued until spring 2022 under supervision of Daniela Franková (both excavators from the Institute for the Preservation of the Archaeological Heritage of Northwestern Bohemia in Most). Rescue archaeological action followed the building activities in the south-western periphery of the village (construction of the road and family houses).

The excavation (Fig. 2) has brought very promising results. It uncovered large sunken house with postholes (feature 1a/21), indicating the presence of massive wooden posts or rather columns

(Fig. 3; 7: 1). The interior finds of the house included three bronze fibulae (Fig. 8: 8–10), three fragments of domestic painted imitation of the Attic ware (Fig. 8: 5–7), local Early La Tène stamped pottery (Fig. 9: 1–5), pieces of daub, animal bones, antler finds, shells, spindle whorls and other finds. The feature 6/22, also representing the sunken house (Fig. 5; 6; 7: 2), contained many sherds of local stamped pottery, pieces of daub, animal bones, antler finds, spindle whorls, one glass bead with the eyelets (Fig. 9: 6) and other finds. Feature 1b/21 (Fig. 4; 7: 3) included Early La Tène stamped pottery, pieces of daub, animal bones and other finds. This feature contained furthermore two fragments of the Attic red-figured pottery (Fig. 8: 1–4). Remaining features contained only a few atypical finds and could not be precisely dated.

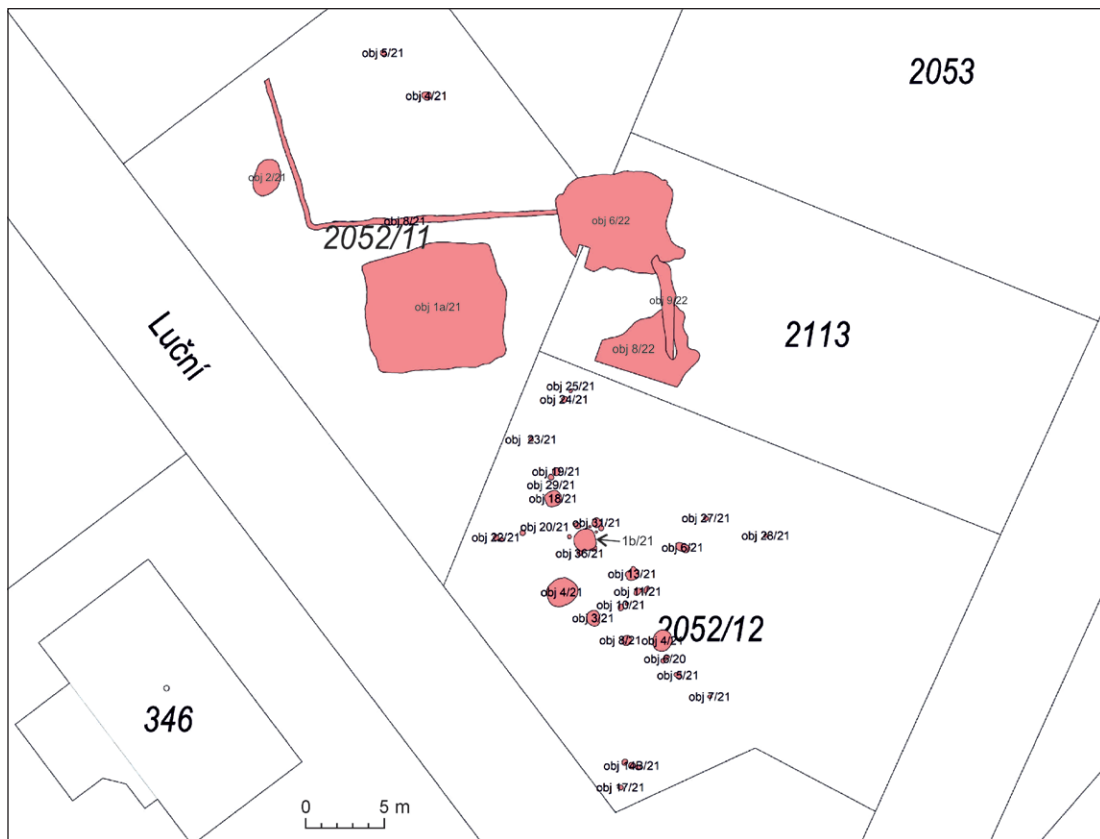


Fig. 2. Plan of the site with researched features 1a–b/21 and 6/22.



Fig. 3. Photo of the feature 1a/21.





Fig. 4. Photo of the feature 1b/21.

The excavated inventory together with the unusual settlement features defines without any doubt the researched site as the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène settlement connected with the local social elite. The present paper brings the classification of the most significant finds from features 1a–b/21 (see ultra) as well as the evaluation of unusual residential structures from the point of the view of the archaeology of Central European Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène period.

## FINDING CONTEXT AND THE INVENTORY OF THE RESEARCHED FEATURES

The excavated site is located in the south-western margin of the village Holedeč (Dist. Louny) in the altitude of 234 m a.s.l. The principal feature is represented by the sunken house (1a/21) of the rectangular plan. Its dimensions are 912 × 814 cm. The maximum depth of the house was 122 cm. The area extent of the house reached 74,2 m<sup>2</sup>. The plan of the house featured several-tenths of the post holes. Some of them had only a few centimeters, the largest one reached up to 60 cm in diameter. They were positioned mostly inside of the house around the perimeter or inside the ground plan. Three post holes were placed outside of the sunken part of the house. The second sunken house was the feature 6/22. Its dimensions were slightly smaller, 730 × 610 cm, with maximal depth 86 cm. Finally, the feature 1b/21 represented a settlement pit with a diameter of 148 cm and maximal depth 40 cm.

### Feature 1b/21

1. Sherd of Attic red-figured pottery. Clay: orange/ochre very soft, fine; glaze: deep black somewhat dull. Bottom part of the cup of the B type. Interior: rounded band filled up with a meander. Exterior: almost fully preserved palmette composed originally of seven leaflets. Next to the palmette standing figure in the cloak from which the right hand is visible. Dimensions: 9.5 × 5.9 cm. Fig. 8: 1, 2.
2. Sherd of Attic red-figured pottery. Clay: orange/ochre very soft, fine; glaze: deep black somewhat dull. Body part probably from a cup. Interior: central part of frontally standing human figure in cloak (drapery preserved). Exterior: unclear (perhaps floral?) motive. Dimensions: 2.1 × 2.2 cm. Fig. 8: 3, 4.





Fig. 5. Photo of the western part of the feature 6/22.



Fig. 6. Photo of the eastern part of the feature 6/22.

## Feature 1a/21

3. Body sherd from the bowl-shaped vessel. Clay: black-greyish with an orange slip. Interior: round band filled up with the meander in carmine red colour. The remaining parts of the interior in black-greyish colour. Exterior: black greyish colour. Dimensions: 5.4 × 2.6 cm. Fig. 8: 5.
4. Body sherd from the bowl-shaped vessel. Clay: black-greyish with an orange slip. Interior: round band filled up with the S-shaped motive in carmine red colour. Unclear painted decoration also in the medallion of the vessel. The remaining parts of the interior in black-greyish colour. Exterior: black greyish colour. Dimensions: 4.7 × 4.6 cm. Fig. 8: 6.

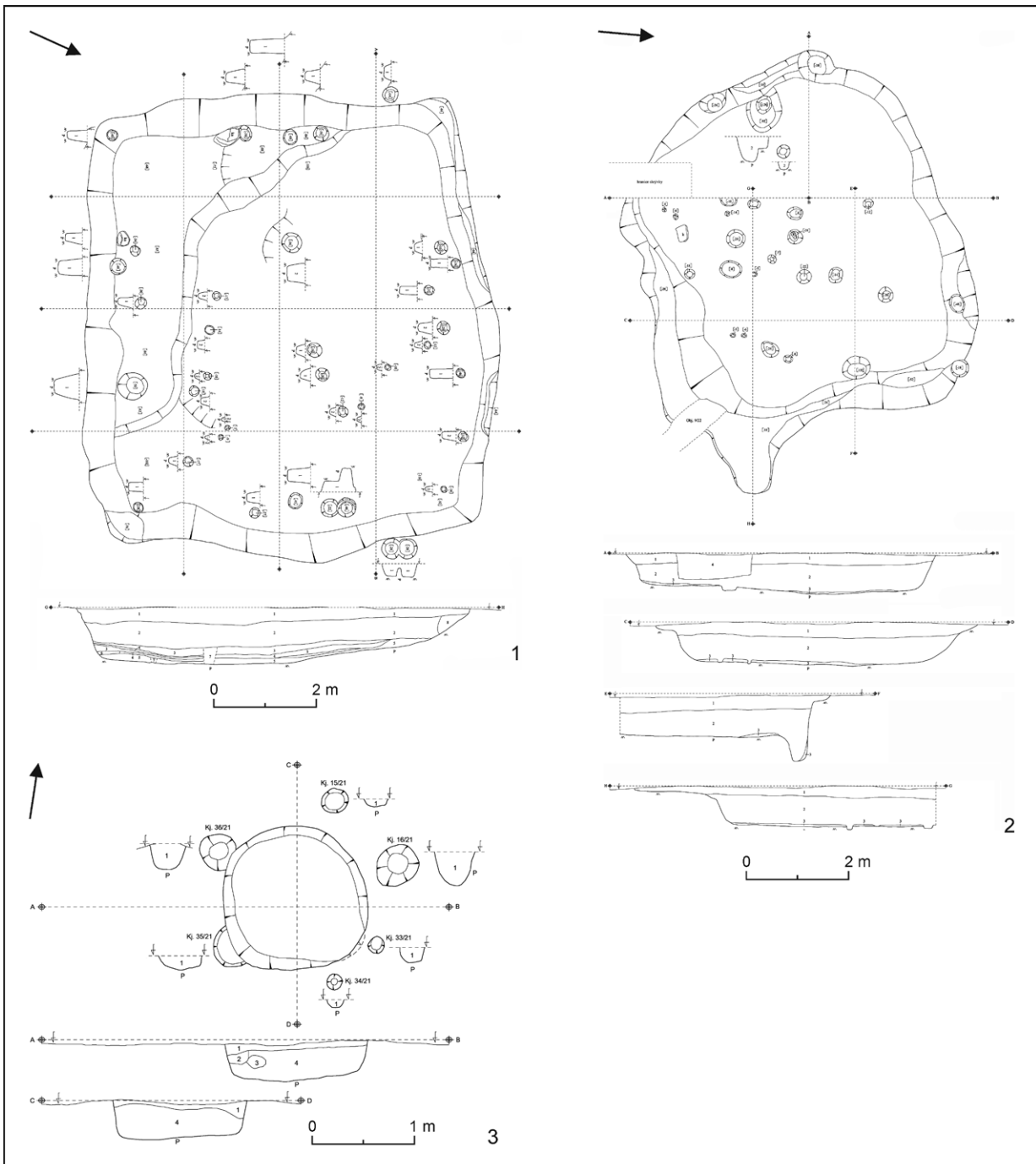


Fig. 7. Plans and sections of the features 1a–b/21 (1, 3) and 6/22 (2).





Fig. 8. 1–4 – Attic pottery from the feature 1b/21; 5–7 imitations of the Attic pottery from the feature 1a/21; 8–10 fibulae from the feature 1a/21. Scale: a – 1–7; b – 8–10.

5. Body sherd from the bowl-shaped vessel. Clay: black-greyish with an orange slip. Interior: round band filled up with the meander in carmine red colour. The remaining parts of the interior in black-greyish colour. Exterior: black greyish colour. Dimensions: 2.8 × 2.1 cm. Fig. 8: 7.
6. Almost fully preserved bronze fibula of *Fusszierfibel* type. The bow is flat, band-shaped with the backwards turned foot. The decoration element of the foot is made of a flat disc with central knob. The spring is bilateral with an iron axis. Length: 3.0 cm. Fig. 8: 8.
7. Bronze mask fibula. Spring and needle not preserved. The backwards turned foot decorated by a stylized zoomorphic depiction. The bow bears a stylized anthropomorphic depiction. The eyes of both figures are made of a red sea coral inlay. Length: 3.8 cm. Fig. 8: 9.
8. Fully preserved bronze fibula with a parabolic-shaped bow. The backwards turned foot is decorated by a small extension with transverse and diagonal incisions. The spring is bilateral. Length: 7.7 cm. Fig. 8: 10.



Fig. 9. 1–5 – examples of the Early La Tène stamped pottery from the feature 1a/21; 6 – glass bead with eyelets from the feature 6/22.

## CLASSIFICATION OF THE FINDS

### Attic pottery from the feature 1b/21

First piece of the Attic red-figured pottery (No. 1) belongs to the flat wide-opened cup of the type B (cf. Bloesch 1940). It is obviously demonstrated by the curved band filled up with the meander, which represents the borders of the cup's medallion – the central part of the internal side of the vessel. On the contrary, the external side bearing the painted decoration of a palmette and a part of the standing human figure (body in the draped himation and a hand) represents a typical depiction of the groups of debating figures in various roles or scenes with standing and sitting people that are frequently present on the external sides of the red-figured kylikes. An appropriate imagination of the original composition of external side decoration provides one red-figured kylix attributed to the Painter of the Louvre G 456, dated to the period of 460–450 BC and found in Vulci (Bermond Montanari 1960, pl. 118; 119). Based on the presence of the palmette next to the standing figure on our sherd and compared to the mentioned kylix of the Painter of Louvre G 456, it is even evident that our piece comes from near the handle zone of the kylix. One cups of Lyandros painter show a concordance with our piece in positioning the palmettes in 'low positions' near of the line representing the 'standing level'. Furthermore, the meanders delimiting the tondo of this cup have very similar form including such features as the accent on particular elements of the meander (cf. e.g. Beazley 1963, 835, No. 2).

The mentioned features and types of the scenes are frequently depicted on the kylikes of other painters characteristic for the second quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC and the period around the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century BC, such as Curtius painter, Splachnopt painter, Painter of Bologna 417, Veii painter, Penthesilea painter and others. This time corresponds also to the period of the manufacture of our kylix.

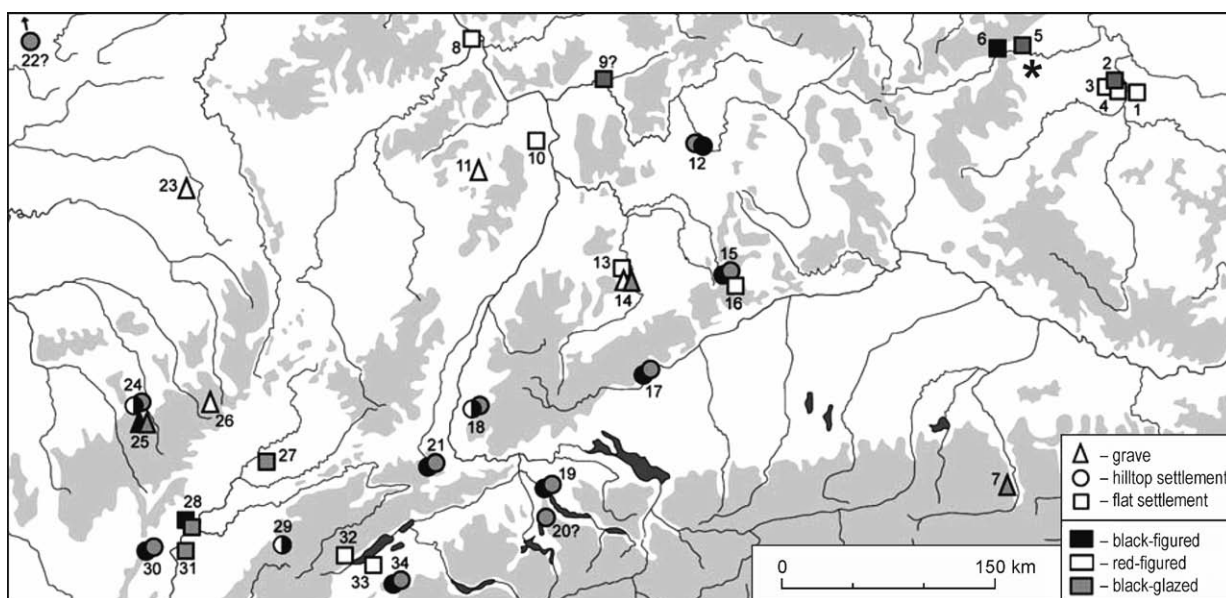


Fig. 10. Distribution of the Attic pottery north of the Alps. Asterisk – site of Holedeč. 1 – Praha-Pitkovice; 2 – Tuchoměřice; 3 – Dobrovíz; 4 – Praha-Ruzyně; 5 – Droužkovice; 6 – Kadaň; 7 – Bad Dürrenberg; 8 – Mühlheim-Kärlich; 9 – Hanau; 10 – Westhofen; 11 – Rodenbach; 12 – Marienberg; 13 – Eberdingen, Hochdorf; 14 – Asperg; 15 – Ipf; 16 – Kirchheim-Osterholz; 17 – Heuneburg; 18 – Breisach; 19 – Üetliberg; 20 – Baarburg; 21 – Britzgyberg; 22 – Kimmelberg; 23 – Somme-Bionne; 24 – Mont Lassois; 25 – Vix; 26 – Courcelles-en-Montagne; 27 – Beaujeu-Quitteur; 28 – Bragny-sur-Saône; 29 – Salins-les-Bains; 30 – Chasse-le-Camp; 31 – Damerey; 32 – Yverdon-les-Bains; 33 – Sévaz; 34 – Châtillon-sur-Clône (after Hansen/Böhr 2011, amended).

The second piece of the Attic pottery (No. 2) is substantially thinner. The external side is decorated by a standing figure in the frontal position of which we see the draped cloak on the body. The second side of the sherd seems to feature an unclear motive, perhaps of a floral nature. An interesting element is the draped cloak. Identically rendered drapery is depicted on one fragment of the kylix from the Late Hallstatt settlement in Dobrovíz in Central Bohemia (Trefný 2011, fig. 1a: 1), on one piece from Attic red-figured cup attributed to the painter Makron, found in Forcello/Bagnolo San Vito in Padan Etruria dated to around 480 BC (De Marinis 2005, fig. 54: 1; Paribeni 1986, fig. 127) or on one Attic red-figured fragment from Veio (D'Alessio 2001, 20). Identical draperies are characteristic also for some figures of already mentioned Painter of Bologna 417, for example on one red-figured cup from the collections in Orvieto, dated to 450 BC (Becatti 1940, pl. 16: 2) or one from the Ashmolean museum from the same period (Beazley/Payne/Price 1931, pl. 54: 3, 4). These comparisons allow us to consider the same chronology for the smaller sherd from Holedeč, namely the second quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, or perhaps the period around the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century BC.

A somewhat problematic question is whether both pieces belong to one kylix. It seems that the substantially thinner piece with the central part of the frontally positioned figure could belong (according to its width) to such parts of the cup that are located a little bit closer to the rim. However, we have to consider that the 'interior part' of the cup would have in this case a painted decoration out of the medallion, which is not a typical feature of these cups. So the variant that both sherds belong to one vessel seems rather improbable. They come more likely from two different vessels. Considering that both sides of the smaller sherd are painted, it was originally perhaps also a part of a red-figured cup.

Imports of the Attic pottery represent in the group of finds of exogenous character in Bohemia one of the most significant class (Fig. 10). They are concurrently known from seven sites in the Bohemian Basin, being first identified here at the end of 1960s. However, their contemporary number has increased since this period. This increase was caused especially by various building activities and following rescue archaeological excavations around Prague during several last years (cf. Trefný 2011, 271, 272).

The first Bohemian find of the imported Attic ware was the fragment of the black-figured cup with palmette decoration from the Late Hallstatt settlement in Kadaň-Jezerka (Kruta 1972, 317). The fragment was found during the excavations of J. Bubeník and V. Kruta in 1968–1970. It was identified during



the work with finds in the laboratory and then published by D. Kouček (Kouček 1975) and later by D. Kouček and J. Bouzek (Bouzek/Kouček 1975). The latter work included the information that the find represented (at that time) the easternmost find of a kind in Central Europe and corrected its original chronology, according to which the fragment was dated to the early 5<sup>th</sup> century BC (Bouzek/Kouček 1975, 157). As for the transfer of this Greek product to Central Europe, the role of the Greek colony of Massilia was stressed as the most probable site, where it came from (Bouzek/Kouček 1975, 158; Villard 1969). It was also supposed, that the fragment had reached its final destination from the west, via river Ohře Valley, which connected Northwestern Bohemia and Upper Palatinate. The role of the South German area for the transfer of the fragment was stressed by J. Waldhauser (Waldhauser 1974). On the contrary, B. Shefton noted the analogous finds in Central and Northern Italy (Numana, Cesena, Este, Spina, Forcello; cf. De Marinis 1988, 54, fig. 10; Fabrini 1984, 32; Favaretto 1976, 60) and expressed an idea, according to which the fragment came to Northwestern Bohemia from Italy (Shefton 2000, 35, note 70). Furthermore, the Northern Italy is also the area of frequent occurrence of the Attic vessels with characteristic decoration by a band of palmettes, in a light stripe under the dark rim, frequently ascribed to Haimon painter or similar works (Chiusi, Rugge; cf. Beazley 1956, 565, 566).

The second find of Attic pottery in the Bohemian Basin is the group of small fragments found in August 1982 in Prague-Ruzyně during the excavation of Early La Tène settlement in the site of Jiviny by J. Kovařík (Trefný 2008). All fragments have belonged most likely to one red-figured stemless cup.

The third group of finds is represented by three fragments of the pottery with a black glaze, found during the excavations of the fortified Celtic 'princely' court in Droužkovice in Northwestern Bohemia, carried out by Z. Smrž during 1982–1986 (Smrž 1996). Except of the typological classification of the fragments, as well as the basic chronology, the authors of their publication expressed also the opinion, that these fragments came to Bohemia from the west, via South Germany (Smrž/Bouzek 1994, 586).

The fourth group consists again of the fragments with the black glaze. They have been found during an excavation of the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène settlement in Tuchoměřice in Central Bohemia, organized during 1997–1998 by P. Sankot and A. Veselá (Sankot 2002, 93; 2006, fig. 2).

The fifth find of the Attic figured pottery was made in the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène settlement of Prague-Pitkovice. The fragments of the red-figured kylix were found in the summer 2006 during an excavation organized by J. Polišenský (Trefný/Polišenský 2008). During the laboratory treatment of the archaeological finds, one other piece of the red-figured pottery was found, coming from the stemmed cup (Trefný 2011, 272).

The last registered finds of the Attic pottery from the Bohemian territory before the discovery of Holedeč pieces were two fragments of the red-figured cup from the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène settlement of Dobrovíz in Central Bohemia. The excavation was organized by J. Řídký in 2007 (Trefný 2011, fig. 1a: 1).

All finds from the Bohemian territory may be classified as Attic. All of them come from the cups, with the exception of one fragment from Droužkovice. It comes more likely from a jar or an oinochoe (Smrž/Bouzek 1994, 581). The cups are represented by several types. The fragment from Kadaň-Jezerka was first interpreted as belonging to a cup-skyphos and compared by some exemplars from the Boeotian cemetery of Rhitsona (Bouzek/Kouček 1975, 157; Ure 1927, pl. 21; 22), where mainly the analogies of the decoration may be observed (cf. Rotroff/Oakley 1992, pl. 1: 3, 4). This classification was doubted by B. Shefton (Shefton 2000, 35, note 68), who presented analogies from Corinth and Lechaion from the second quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. He also considered the possible connection between the Kadaň fragment and the black glazed 'Castulo cup' from the grave No. 44/2 in Dürrnberg (Penninger 1972, 80, pl. 46: 33; Shefton 1995, 19; 2000, 35, note 68). It is worth noting that the profile of the sharp belly of the Dürrnberg piece is different enough from the Kadaň find and thus cannot fully serve as an analogy of the shape. On the contrary, the well-comparable exemplars, characteristic also by the profile of the belly, are represented for example by the 'Rheneia cups' (Rotroff/Oakley 1992, fig. 159; 161; 162; Sparkes/Talcott 1970, fig. 5: 456; Trefný 2008, 119). However, these analogies correspond only in shape, not in decoration, since they belong to the group of the black-glazed pottery.

The piece from Prague-Ruzyně may be reconstructed as a stemless cup (Trefný 2008, fig. 9). Such reconstruction is possible thanks to one fragment with the preserved part of the foot ring and one other fragment from the bottom (Trefný 2008, fig. 7: 3, 4). One rim fragment from Droužkovice comes from a cup, perhaps of the variant B or C (Smrž/Bouzek 1994, 581, fig. 3: 1; Sparkes/Talcott 1970, 92, fig. 4: 432, 433; pl. 20: 419, 420; Trefný 2008, 119). The same may be said also for the fragments from Prague-Pitkovice (cf. Trefný/Polišenský 2008, photo pl. 4: 2, 3). They may be easily classified due to round

meander defining the medallion on the cup's inner side. As already mentioned, also the third fragment from Pitkovice was originally a part of a cup. However, this was a stemmed cup (*Trefný 2011*, fig. 1a: 2). Also the fragments from Dobrovíz may be classified as belonging to a cup, however, on the contrary to the mentioned types, of slightly deeper form (*Trefný 2011*, fig. 1a: 1). Finally, one fragment from Droužkovice is ascribed to the jug-like vessel or an oinochoe (*Smrž/Bouzek 1994*, 581; *Sparkes/Talcott 1970*, fig. 3: 201–203). The last shape is a particular exception within the uniform typological spectre of the Bohemian finds. It may be also noted, that other types of vessels of the Greek provenance, known as imports from Southern or Western Europe, for example, the craters, are in Bohemia completely missing.

All Bohemian finds of the Attic pottery may be dated to 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. The black-figured fragment from Kadaň-Jezerka belongs to its first half (cf. *Bouzek/Koutecký 1975*, 157). Also the fragments from Droužkovice may be dated to the early or the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC (*Smrž/Bouzek 1994*, 581). Red-figured fragments from Prague-Pitkovice unfortunately do not feature any specific elements, usable for finer chronology. They may be thus chronologically defined only in connection with the finding circumstances and with the knowledge of the evolution and culmination of the influx of the Attic red-figured ware to Northern Italy, from where they were transported further north. Based on these indices, Prague-Pitkovice fragments may be dated perhaps to the second quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC (*Pape 2002*, 424; *Trefný/Polišenský 2008*, 480, 481). Also the red-figured fragments from Dobrovíz may be dated, based on the comparison with analogies from Forcello/Bagnolo S. Vito in Northern Italy and from Etruscan Veio, to the second quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC (*Trefný 2011*, 272, 273, obr. 1b). The set of the fragments from Prague-Ruzyně included also one depiction with a human face. This fragment was unfortunately preserved only in a drawing, nevertheless it provided several important indices for its dating approximately to the period of 460–420 BC (*Trefný 2008*, 118). It is at present still the only 'Bohemian' fragment with a depiction of the human face. The depiction finds particular analogies in the works of, e.g., Aischines painter, Penthesilea painter, Curtius painter, Achilles painter or Hasselmann painter (*Trefný 2008*, 118). However, it must be stressed, that these comparisons are made only using the mentioned drawing and have only a relative value.

Considering the attribution of Prague-Ruzyně cup, it is useful to point out the finds of the Attic pottery from the princely court in Osterholz in Baden-Württemberg near the princely hillfort of Ipf (*Böhr 2005*, 209–221). These finds are also ascribed to the circle of Penthesilea painter, namely to the Splachnoptes painter, Bologna 417 painter or Veii painter and their chronology is generally similar to the chronology of the Bohemian finds of the Attic pottery.

The way of the transfer of the Attic pottery to the Bohemian Basin reflects the tendencies of the Greek pottery import in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC (*Pape 2002*, 419–424). The ratio of the Attic pottery decreased during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC in the area of Massilia and in the north of the Alps while the black-figured pottery prevailed over the red-figured pottery during this period (*Pape 2002*, fig. 29). Similar is the situation in the region of Bologna, where the ratio is a bit favourable for the red-figured pottery. The decrease of the Attic imports during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC continues, but the import of the Attic red-figured pottery reaches in the area of Bologna and Spina its maximum, but in Massilia the black-figured ware still dominates. After the highest decrease of the import of the Attic pottery to Massilia during the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century BC follows again an increase, however, Attic pottery has not been distributed in greater amounts to the north of the Alps. The Bohemian finds of the Attic figured pottery are thus connected most likely with the influx of imports coming from North Italy (*Pape 2002*, 424; *Shefton 2000*, 35). Of great significance in this process are the Etruscan trade points in the Po plain such as Forcello/Bagnolo S. Vito (cf. *Reusser 2002*, fig. 1).

### Domestic painted pottery from the feature 1a/21

Three pieces of local pottery come from the flat opened bowl-like vessel. They bear an ornament in red colour. This ornament on two of them (Nos. 3 and 4) clearly resembles the meander set in a circular band. The largest sherd (No. 5) seems to be also decorated by the circular band. However, it is not in this case filled with the meander-like pattern but with an S-shaped motive that is known as so-called Celtic lyre. The overall look of the fragments, including the colour paint as well as used motives, indicate that they belong without any doubt to the group of pottery, that is in the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène Bohemia classified as so-called imitations of the Attic ware.



The presence of Attic pottery in the region north of the Alps (Fig. 10) instigated the manufacture of imitations that were in their shape and iconography reminiscent of the Greek originals. For example, the finds from Heuneburg (Kimmig 1983, fig. 59: 1, 2; Pape 2000, 97, 98) prove there were imitations of specific pottery shapes, such as the Little-master cups. Especially the meander motive, which is frequently found on various types of Greek black-figure and red-figure ceramics, is considered the connecting link between local production and the Greek models. Fragments of cups with meander-painted decoration from Late Hallstatt to Early La Tène settlements in Plzeň-Roudná (Bašta/Baštová/Bouzek 1989) and Chržín (Chytráček 2007; 2008) are believed to represent imitations, even though meander or other related motives are generally not unknown in the Central European material culture of Late Hallstatt or Early La Tène period (cf. e.g. Megaw J. V. S./Megaw M. R. 2007, 799; Pauli 1980, 202; Sankot 1994, 46, fig. 1; Venclová [ed.] 2008a, fig. 76: 6, 7).

The find from Plzeň-Roudná was originally considered to originate from the north-western foothills of the Alps, particularly because of the fact that Late Hallstatt ceramics from this region often feature painted decoration using similar techniques (Bašta/Baštová/Bouzek 1989, 471–473). This is also the case of the use of red or white colours on ceramics from the Late Hallstatt period, e.g. from Želenice, Radovesice, Třebenice, Kadaň-Jezerka or Plzeň-Litice (Chytráček/Metlička 2004, 35; Kruta 1972, 321; Waldhauser 1974; 1977; Zápotocký 1963, 163). The inspiration for this phenomenon is sought mostly in the region of Southern Germany, or around Salzburg. The presence of this type of ceramics there is then believed to reflect the knowledge of painted pottery from Etruscan or Greek context (Kimmig/Gersbach 1971, 29, 30; Kimmig/Vacano 1973, 79; Waldhauser 1974, 100). Apart from that, two fragments of hollow stems from Závist are considered imports (Drda/Rybová 2008, 56, fig. 70), with remains of pastose red and white paint, probably from the region of Slovenia.

The later find of a similar ceramic fragment in Chržín allowed us to consider the possibility of the local provenance of both finds (Chytráček 2002, 126; 2007, 484, fig. 17; 2008, 61; Megaw J. V. S./Megaw M. R. 2007). This presumption was then confirmed based on chemical and technological provenance analyses (cf. Trefný et al. 2011). These showed that the ceramic material of the studied samples with painted decoration from Late Hallstatt or Early La Tène settlement in Plzeň-Roudná and Chržín is very similar to the ceramic material of analysed fine pottery from the objects where local origin is attested (cf. Kloužková/Hanykýř 2010). Thus, the imitations of Greek painted figure pottery from Plzeň-Roudná and Chržín can be considered locally made. Also, the vessel from Plzeň-Roudná is most probably not a ceramic import from north-western foothills of the Alps, as it was thought at the time of its discovery (Bašta/Baštová/Bouzek 1989).

The evaluation of other details of the painting on the vessel with meander decoration from Chržín, recorded during visual inspection under the microscope and analysis of microscopic sections of the sample, has had a profound impact on the reconstruction of the technological process of the used decoration painting. Originally, the option was considered that the meander decoration in carmine red was painted directly on a dark background. Partial details of the painting and microscopic sections imply, however, that the circular band on the inside of the vessel filled in with meander was created gradually or by a composite application of several layers, resulting in the optical effect of a meander. From the technological perspective, it is a similar approach that was used frequently in painting of this decorative element on Greek ceramics with figure decoration or on some Hallstatt or Early La Tène metal artefacts (Frey 2002, fig. 161: 4; 171; 176: 5; Venclová [ed.] 2008a, fig. 76: 6, 7). This way of construction of the decorative element is also easier compared to direct painting, as for maintaining the proportions of all parts of the circular meander (cf. Trefný et al. 2011, fig. 8).

Following this hypothesis (Fig. 11), a finished undecorated pottery product had an orange colour of the surface engobe. In the second phase this was altered, and as a result most of the inner surface of the vessel was of dark colour, probably with the exception of the centre, that retained the colour of the engobe. Although there is a thin layer of dark colour under the layer of red, it cannot be estimated if it is present in all parts of the vessel, or whether it is just a patch colouring. Furthermore, this layer in terms of its thickness significantly differs from the dark layer on the outer surface of the vessel. In the third phase, red colour was applied to the central part of the inner surface. The shade of this colour is identical with that of the meander itself. In the following phase, two concentric circles were drawn in dark colour on the inside of the central part of the vessel. These circles also served as a guide for the delimitation of the sides for the future meander. In the last phase, the band between these two circles was complemented with small right-angled legs. The result was a meander motive in red arranged in the circular curved band.

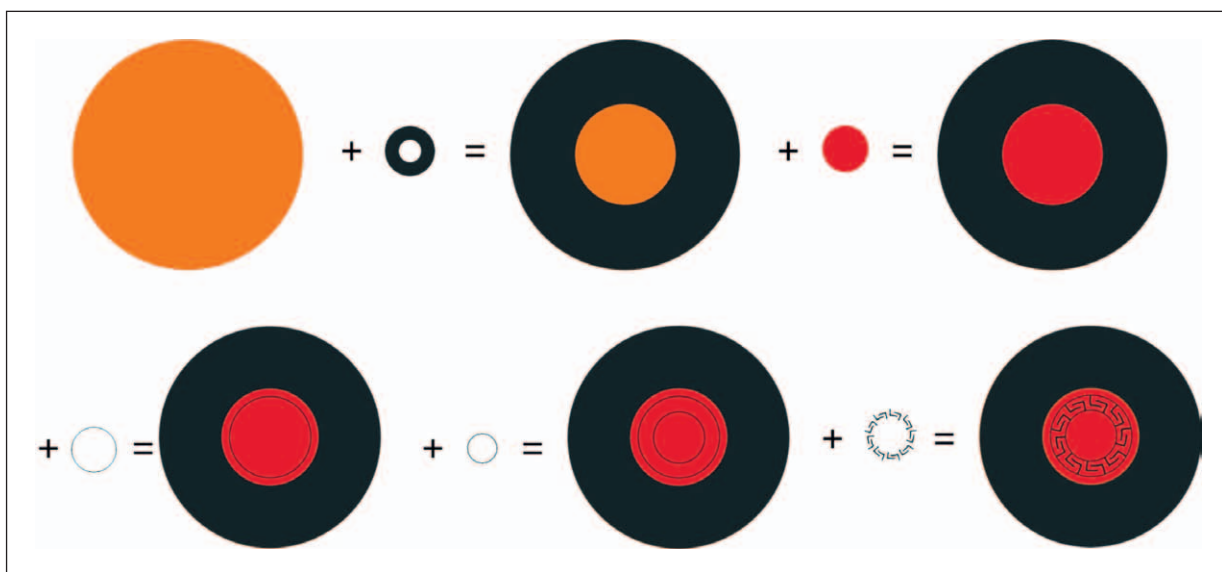


Fig. 11. System of the composition of the painted decoration on the domestic painted pottery.

We had no opportunity to study the Holedeč pieces under the microscope. However similar features, such as in case of the Chržín sherd, can be observed only by an eye. Several places of the painted decoration indicate, that the red paint is not placed on the dark background. This finding is confirmed by the fact, that the red colour is visible in some places under the dark slip. On the contrary, it seems that the dark colour is painted on the carmine red surface, so that the resulting effect is the carmine red meander or S-shaped motives. So, the system of the construction of the resulting decorative motif is the same as in case of Chržín vessel.

The entire execution and the individual decorative features on ceramic vessels from Plzeň-Roudná, Chržín and Holedeč display local producers' knowledge of Greek models. This corresponds with the current state of knowledge of the finds of imported Greek figured ceramics in Bohemia (Trefný 2011). The knowledge of southern ceramic originals is further indicated by a similar mode of painting of the circular band infilled by the meander. During the production of these pottery imitations, a similar approach could have been applied that we presuppose e.g. for the find of a ceramic object in the shape of a shoe with an upward drawn end from Early La Tène settlement in Prague-Pitkovice (Trefný et al. 2009). Based on local provenance and verification by methods of chemical and technological survey, we suppose that the maker of this artefact knew the formal shape of the original, which is the real footwear of this type that spread from Etruria to Bohemia. Although on the basis of the above-described argument, it is most likely that the local producers were familiar with southern models, it cannot be excluded that the producers got familiar with the given motives or technological approaches directly in the south and brought this knowledge to Central Europe. The importance of long-distance contact routes between the South and Central Europe cannot be overstated in the described process. Without their existence the transfer of individual artefacts of southern provenance would have been difficult to imagine, as well as important technological and decorative innovations.

The verification of a local provenance of the above-described finds from Chržín and Plzeň-Roudná, as well as the supposed local provenance of the pieces from Holedeč, casts a somewhat different light on some specific aspects of the study of Attic pottery imports, for example, on the value of this pottery in Central Europe. In recent years, there was uncovered an increased number of Attic pottery in Bohemia, and with these, theories emerged that the value of this class of pottery was lower, i.e. they were more accessible to a wider part of the society than it has been previously thought (cf. e.g. Bouzek 2007, 37, 38; Trefný/Polišenský 2008, 488). Other recent revelations turn these speculations in the original direction towards them as non-standard goods (cf. Trefný 2011, 283–290). The manufacture of the imitations in the region of Late Hallstatt and Early La Tène Bohemia could be seen as indirect evidence.

When we speak about the most important imitations of Attic pottery in Bohemia, another find needs to be mentioned – a bowl with red painted decoration in the shape of swans and S-shaped motives from an Early La Tène settlement in Radovesice (Kruta/Lička et al. 2004, 48; Waldhauser 1977, pl. 1: 1). Although the decoration of this vessel is not related to Attic ceramics, its decorative figure motive is entirely excep-



tional in this region and allows us to consider a link with regions with advanced techniques of figure painting on pottery, i.e. most probably from contemporary Italy or other surrounding areas. On the other hand, some features of the decoration, such as the S-shaped motive, are quite common in the transalpine Celtic region. This is also attested by its presence on the imitation of a red-figure kylix from Plzeň-Roudná (see above). In Central Europe there is known a similarly arranged decoration into a circle with the use of various S-shaped motives, which generally resembles the decoration of the Radovesice bowl. It is present for example on a bowl with S-shaped stamp decoration from a barrow burial in Thalmässing in Bavaria (Schussmann 2007, fig. 4: 2). It cannot be excluded that the origin of the bowl of Radovesice, i.e. its decoration, represented a mixture of influences from all the mentioned regions and the bowl could be a palimpsest of decorative motives or techniques of varied origin.

### Fibulae from the feature 1a/21

The earliest fibula (No. 6; Fig. 8: 8) from the set of three pieces found in the sunken house in Holedeč is the bronze fibula of the *Fusszierfibel* type. One similar fibula is known from the settlement in Prague-Křeslice (Polišenský/Trefný 2011, fig. 17: 18). It is the example of the Mansfeld's F 3 type – the fibula with backwards turned foot and with the riveted decorative knob (Mansfeld 1973, 37). One fragment of the similarly turned foot end, including the decorative knob, is known from Heuneburg (Mansfeld 1973, pl. 11: 92; Sievers 1984, fig. 12: 6; 13: 1). One other fibula from this site with the bilateral spring, band-shaped bow and back turned foot end corresponds with the Prague-Křeslice fibula in lateral profile (Mansfeld 1973, pl. 11: 93; Sievers 1984, pl. 227: 2369). Another fibula from Heuneburg shows a similar lateral profile, however, with a different section of the bow, which is not band-shaped but circular (Mansfeld 1973, pl. 11: 91). Except for the last one, all mentioned Heuneburg parallels have been found in non-stratified finding contexts, so they cannot be used for the chronological classification. The last fibula (Mansfeld 1973, pl. 11: 91) is attributed to the local phase Ia, corresponding with Ha D3 (Mansfeld 1973, 72, table 26).

Other comparable finds are known from South German sites of Erlangen (Hoppe 1986, pl. 8: 12), St. Johann-Würtingen (Zürn 1987, pl. 283: 7) or Zwiefalten-Mörsingen (Zürn 1987, pl. 325: 11). As for the Bohemian parallels, one fibula from the hillfort Rubín has a very similar lateral profile (Sankot 2009, fig. 1: 11). This piece has, however, differently shaped decorative knob in the foot end (cf. Preidel 1937, fig. 4: 31). The same profile of the bow and of the turning of the foot end may be observed also at one iron fibula from the feature No. 62 in Radovesice in Northwestern Bohemia (Waldhauser et al. 1993, fig. 48: 3).

Based on the comparisons, the fibula from Holedeč may be classified according to the Mansfeld's typology (Mansfeld 1973) as a *Fusszierfibel* of the type F 3/B1 and dated to the period of Ha D2–Ha D3.

The second fibula (No. 7; Fig. 8: 9) belongs to so-called mask fibulae. The mask fibulae represent one of the most characteristic phenomena of the material culture of the Early La Tène period in Central Europe (Lt A). They constitute a type, which requires a substantial skillfulness of the maker. The majority of their bows were cast using the method of the lost-wax (Filip 1956, 81). It is therefore relatively complicated to classify these fibulae stylistically since each individual fibula in fact represents a peculiar original product. Their existence in the Bohemian territory is concurrently a particular indicator of the dissemination of the Early La Tène style eastwards, also to the Bohemian Basin. The focal point of their distribution area is located west of Bohemia, especially in Eastern France, Southwestern Germany – between Rhine and Danube rivers, individually also in Switzerland and Austria (Baitinger/Pinsker [Red.] 2002, fig. 149). This distribution pattern also indicates, that the origin of the Bohemian mask fibulae, or at least of some of them, in the mentioned zones cannot be completely excluded.

Our fibula from Holedeč (No. 7; Fig. 8: 9) finds almost exact analogies in the finds from unknown site in Germany (Binding 1993, pl. 6: 1; Kruta 1975, 15; Neumann 1973, 46), or from two other German sites, Altmannsdorf (Binding 1993, pl. 17: 12) and Gross Dechsendorf (Binding 1993, pl. 19: 1; Kersten 1933, 130). It is according to the classification of U. Binding (1993) close to the type 5 (*Maskenfibel mit anthropomorpher Kopfmaske und zoomorpher Fusszier*).

The Holedeč fibula is very important also in one other aspect. It features four decorative knobs made of the red sea coral. These knobs represent the important case (the fourth one in total) of the occurrence of the red sea coral during the Bohemian Early Iron Age (Ha C–Lt A). The Bohemian finds are in this category represented by four worked up (polished) branches of the red sea coral (*Coralium rubrum*) with the lengthwise openings found in the hillfort Minice near Kralupy nad Vltavou in Central Bohemia. These branches have been perhaps originally the components of the necklace (cf. Kruta/Lička et al. 2004, 41;

*Slabina* 1981, 81; *Trefný* 2012, fig. 12; *Trefný/Slabina* 2015, fig. 8). They were found in the erosion layers in the trench V, located across the fortification in the south side of the acropolis. These finds, together with the finds of the raw red sea coral from Poříčany in Central Bohemia represented up to recently the only one finds of a kind in the Bohemian territory during the Hallstatt and Early La Tène period (*Čtverák* 1986, 112, 113; *Venclová [ed.]* 2008a, fig. 95). The branch of the red sea coral found in the settlement pit in Zvoleněves near Slaný in Central Bohemia is dated already to the Middle La Tène period.

The branches of the red sea coral from Minice and Poříčany come probably from the area of Mediterranean (Tyrrhenian?) sea and represent very important evidence of the transfer of valuable ecofacts from the Mediterranean to Bohemian Basin. As for the determination of the long-distance routes, used for their transport to the Transalpine area, practically only two possibilities are supposed. One could have run via Alpine passes from Northern Italy, the second one runs via South France, along the valley of Rhône to the north (cf. *Benoît* 1956, 26; *Champion* 1976, 30, 31; *De Navarro* 1925, 483; *Jacobsthal* 1944, 133; *Jankuhn* 1969, 96; *Joffroy* 1962, 143; *Kimmig/Gersbach* 1971, 57–59; *Reinach* 1899, 12, 117; *Sievers* 1984, 18).

The presence of the find of the red sea coral in Heuneburg (*Kimmig/Gersbach* 1971, pl. 8: 5; *Sievers* 1984, 18, pl. 29: 363) is of great significance also for the Bohemian finds. This location could indirectly imply, where the finds from Minice and Poříčany came to Bohemian Basin from. The Heuneburg coral means also a certain chronological indication for Bohemian ones. It is dated to the local horizon IV, equal to Ha D1 (*Mansfeld* 1973, pl. 26) and is characterised as one of the earliest finds of a kind in the Transalpine area (*Kimmig/Gersbach* 1971, 58). The fibulae or the pins using the red sea coral inlays appear in the Transalpine zone just since Ha D1 (*Sievers* 1984, 18). The manufacture of the red sea-coral necklaces is documented here for example by a find from the tumulus in Kaltbrunn in Southern Germany (cf. *Kimmig/Gersbach* 1971, 57) or two beads from Heuneburg (*Sievers* 1984, 18).

The working up or polishing of the Minice finds is attested by the absence of any superficial structure or pattern, which is typical for the raw corals, as seen for example on the surface of Zvoleněves or Heuneburg finds (*Moucha* 1980, 516, fig. 2).

The third find of the red sea-coral in Bohemian milieu is of a recent date. It was made during the research of the rich Late Hallstatt period tumulus grave in Rovná in Southern Bohemia. The red sea-coral was a part (inlay) of two fibulae with decorated foot (*Fusszierfibel*) and also of the toilet set (*Chytráček et al.* 2015, 79). The use of the red sea-coral is in this case slightly later, than in the case of Minice hillfort, since the grave falls into Ha D2–Ha D3. Despite that it must be pointed out, that the example of preservation of the inlays of the red sea coral in both fibulae represents the first documented case of such use of the coral during the Early Iron Age in Bohemian milieu.

The fact, that the red sea coral had except of decoration also the function of an amulet is registered in the reports of the antiquity authors. Pliny the Elder emphasizes its protective and medicinal effects (*Plinius Secundus*, 32, 21). The significant exporters of the products of the red sea-coral were according to him Drepanum (Trapani) in Sicily, Aeolian islands, the regions of Naples, Gravisca in Etruria or islands near the Cote d'Azur in Southern France (*Kimmig/Gersbach* 1971, 58; *Plinius Secundus* 1963, 32, 21;).

Since the red sea-coral could have had a substantial value in the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène Central Europe, it may be in Minice, Poříčany, Rovná and also Holedeč regarded also as indirect evidence for the presence of the high situated social elite in these sites.

The last fibula from Holedeč (No. 8; Fig. 8: 10) belongs to the type with a parabolic-shaped bow, that is typical for Pre-Dux horizon (Lt B1a). Analogous finds in the Bohemian milieu may be found for example in Prague, Závist (*Motýková/Drda/Rybová* 1984, fig. 44: 3), Lahoš (Holodňák/Waldhauser 1984, fig. 2: 10, 11) or Prague-Řeporyje (*Waldhauser* 2001, 402). The Závist fibula is dated to the period of around 380 BC (*Motýková/Drda/Rybová* 1984, 397), to the turn of Lt A and Lt B. However, the fibulae with parabolic-shaped bow are typical mainly for the Pre-Dux horizon corresponding to Lt B1a (*Venclová [ed.]* 2008b, 88). Based on the mentioned chronology, it is possible to date the fibula from Holedeč to the period defined by the turn of the phases Lt A and Lt B and the end of Lt B1a. It would correspond approximately to the period of ca 390/380–350 BC.

#### ARCHITECTURE OF THE TWO-STOREYED POST HOUSE (FEATURE 1a/21)

Domestic imitations of Attic pottery as well as three pieces of the fibulae were found in the great sunken house. Nearby settlement pit 1b/21 contained two sherds of Attic pottery. The dimensions of feature 1a/21, including the diameter of the postholes, indicating the presence of really massive wooden posts, or



rather columns, suggest, that the house must have been really large and perhaps also two-storeyed. Such houses would not appear for the first time in the architecture of the Bohemian Early Iron Age. The princely house, excavated during the research of the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène settlement is known from Dolní Břežany near the significant central point – hillfort of Závist in the southern suburb of Prague. The plan of this house reached 13,6–14,8 × 9 m. Its internal structure as well as other observations brought the excavators to the idea of the reconstruction of this house as two-storeyed building, made of oak and beech logs, with hipped roof (Drdal/Rybová 1998, 73, 74; Motyková 1986). Since this structure was largest in the settlement, it was (considering also unusual building technique and specific finds) interpreted as the local chieftain's house.

Two-storeyed houses with unusually large dimensions and with finds of Attic pottery in close vicinity, playing here a role of luxurious items, suggest very clearly that this house belongs to a similar type as that one from Dolní Břežany. It is also most likely that this house was inhabited by the ruler or chieftain of this settlement unit, that could display also particular dominance over other neighbouring settlements.

It is very tempting to interpret the whole finding context in Holedeč as a princely court (*Herrenhof*). This idea could be supported by the fact, that we know the situations from Bohemia (Droužkovice, Prague-Pitkovice) as well as from Southwestern Germany (Osterholz), when the Attic pottery and other relevant items of non-standard value are found in similar princely courts. Also, the linear ditch located in the vicinity of the great house (feature 8/21; cf. Fig. 2) could represent the palisade fencing of such compound. However, although such a variant does not seem impossible, the connection between the house and ditch with a hypothetical palisade could not be proved. Thus, the variant of the existence of the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène princely court in this site has only a hypothetical value.

## INTERPRETATION OF THE SITE

As for the interpretation of the site, the aerial photograph (Fig. 12) showing the crop marks of other sunken features confirms that all three significant features are a part of a more extensive settlement (however, without knowing safely that all the features belong to the same timespan as these two sunken houses and a settlement pit). The dominant great house (feature 1a/21) together with another sunken house (feature 6/22) may be without any doubt ascribed to the local social elite and interpreted as a manor house, as indicated by the imports of non-standard value found nearby and their imitations including the bronze items.

Considering the social elite, we usually suppose its members to be the part of local 'aristocracy'. However, other mighty individuals, with particular potential to gain the expensive luxurious items may be also the members with a high social status. Attic pottery from Sevaz-Tudingez in Switzerland was found in a hut that belonged probably to a local blacksmith (Kaenel 2005, 54). Similarly, in Prague-Pitkovice and adjacent sites representing an Early Iron Age settlement agglomeration, the presence of finds such as imported Greek red-figure pottery or transport amphora that was probably used to transport wine, i.e. commodity with presupposed above-average value, suggests a presence of local elites at the site. Nevertheless, the social elite from Prague-Pitkovice could have been represented by the rich craftsman, focussed on a specialized craft. Evidence for these crafts is recorded here for example by the finds of the files or iron slag in Prague-Křeslice (Polišenský/Trefný 2011, 850), Prague-Pitkovice as well as Prague-Benice. In the feature No. 30 at the settlement of Prague-Křeslice, an iron cylindrical object was found enclosed from one side by a semi-spherical part (Polišenský/Trefný 2011, fig. 16: 2). Around the perimeter of this object, there were several holes resembling holes for the fastening of the object with nails to its wooden central axis. Approximately in the middle of the cylindrical part, there were four larger openings which are situated in opposition on two different levels. Because of the smaller holes on the perimeter of the cylindrical part of the object, it appears that it could be interpreted as an axle bearing around a wheel's central shaft. Four larger opposing holes could represent holes for the placement of two linchpins. Two very similarly shaped bronze cylindrical objects from Švihov were interpreted in the same way, as were their closest parallels from Tholey in Saarland (Filip 1956, pl. 7: 9, 10; Haffner 1989; Schönfelder 2002, 328, fig. 6). Of course, different function of this artefact cannot be ruled out. This is attested by analogies from Heuneburg, whose shape is identical to the described object, but those have not been unequivocally interpreted (Sievers 1984, pl. 106: 1428, 1429).

Regardless of the function of the described object, its importance lies in the way it was made. The object consisted of two parts: a semi-circular lock that was produced by beating over a wooden mould, and a cylindrical body with holes. These two parts were then welded together, and the material used



Fig. 12. Site of Holedeč with the crop marks of sunken features in the close vicinity of the researched site (map source: [www.mapy.cz](http://www.mapy.cz)).

for joining them was either a bronze or copper wire or strip. The iron cylindrical object hence represents very interesting evidence for the use of this technology in Late Hallstatt Central Bohemia.

When processing the finds from the last, yet unpublished, Early Iron Age settlement in the vicinity of Pitkovice stream in Prague-Benice, an iron artefact was recorded in feature No. 254. This object has a conical shape with spout-like ending. In terms of shape, suitable analogies may be found among the bronze objects from Hradenín (*Dvořák 1938*, fig. 26: 25; 38: 1; 45; *Venclová [ed.] 2008a*, fig. 19: 8–11), Rubín hilltop site (*Sankot 2009*, fig. 2: 1), Mírkovice (*Chytráček 1990*, fig. 16: 8) or at other sites, and they are usually interpreted as decorative endings, i.e. parts of a wagon (*Chytráček 1990*, 123). This object is interesting for the process used in its manufacture. Its conical and spout parts are connected with a protrusion and in the join, there are remains of bronze or a similar alloy, as in the case of the Prague-Křeslice cylindrical artefact. Thus, also in this case there is evidence of joining two iron objects by bronze or copper strip. When the Prague-Křeslice artefact was published, including the initial consideration of its manufacturing process (*Polišenský/Trefný 2011*, fig. 25), there was some doubt about this interpretation. After the discovery of the second artefact in the same region, made using the same technology, it can be accepted that in this region there might have been a smithy (smithies?) that was able to produce welded artefacts, apart from other products. The discovered artefacts then significantly contribute to the knowledge of specific metalworking technologies that were known and used in this microregion. They also confirmed the significant role of the local producers that might be the local powerful sort of rulers, surrounded by Attic pottery and Greek wine.

Turning our attention back to the site of Holedeč, it is necessary to stress one topographic aspect. The Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène settlement in Holedeč is located 8.8 km of the direct distance from the significant hillfort of Rubín near Podbořany (*Preidel 1930*; *Sankot 2009*; *Trefný 2010*). This hillfort belongs to the most significant Bohemian central places of the Early Iron Age (*Chytráček et al. 2010*), together with the known hillforts such as Minice near Kralupy nad Vltavou (*Trefný/Slabina 2015*) in Central Bohemia, Závist near Prague (*Drda/Rybová 2008*) or Vladař in Northwestern Bohemia (*Chytráček/Šmejda 2005*). The hilltop site of Rubín in Podbořany region is in the concentration of exogenous artefacts quite exceptional. At this site, which used to have an elite court in its centre, there is a marked concentration of objects, which are characteristic for North Italian or Southeastern Alpine region, i.e. for the Golasecca culture area. There are for example sanguisuga fibulae, navicella fibula or several types of pendants that can be ascribed to this culture. It is very tempting to interpret this concentration, which has no parallels in Bohemia, in association to the hypothetical movement of individuals from the given region, although it is only a speculation. In any case, the composition of finds at this hilltop site fully confirms its function, which is also accentuated by its position in the vicinity of important communication corridors.

As for the Early Iron Age in Rubín, the settlement concentrates here in Ha C and Ha D. Thus, sites of Rubín and Holedeč could have been co-existing in Ha D. Although the distance of nearly 9 km is not negligible it is also not too much. In this perspective, some mutual relationships of these two sites in the contemporary settlement network may be considered. The Holedeč settlement could have had some subordinate role to the Rubín central point. Nevertheless, it cannot be fully excluded that both settlements have existed at the end of Ha D with equal status.

It is not by a chance, that many imports of southern provenance are concentrated in Rubín hillfort and its surroundings, including the Attic pottery from Holedeč. Northwestern Bohemia is located on the course of important contact route heading towards the south-west, which played a crucial role for the influx of the exogenous artefacts to this area (cf. *Trefný* 2017, fig. 6: 2). The course of long-distance routeways is not only suggested by the distribution of exogenous artefacts but also by other phenomena, such as the position of central places like significant hillforts or settlements, where these imports could have found their purchasers. Focusing on so-called central places, the most important hillforts of the Bohemian Early Iron Age – Závist in the southern periphery of Prague, Minice near Kralupy nad Vltavou in Central Bohemia, Rubín in Northwestern Bohemia and Vladař in Western Bohemia –, all these sites (*Chytráček et al.* 2010) are situated directly on or in the vicinity of the courses of long-distance routes. Also, other significant settlement forms, such as the princely courts, demonstrate a certain relationship to long-distance routes. The best known example, the court in Droužkovice (*Smrž* 1996), is situated near the route along the river Ohře. The position of the court in the settlement at Prague-Pitkovice (*Trefný/Polišenský* 2014, 280, 281) could correspond with the course of the route running around Závist and then going further to the north-east. The court in the hillfort of Hradiště near Němčice in Southern Bohemia (*Michálek/Lutovský* 2000), on the bank of the river Volyňka, is situated near the course of the Otava River and thus near (or practically on) the course of a very important long-distance route. The same may be said for the court in Štítary nad Radbuzou Hostětice in Western Bohemia (*Chytráček/Metlička* 2004, 257–271). As regards the significant unfortified lowland settlements, many examples in this category also lie in the vicinity of long-distance routes. This is for instance the case of Dolní Břežany in the southern periphery of Prague in close vicinity of the hillfort of Závist (*Motyková* 1986), Radovesice near Teplice in Northwestern Bohemia (*Waldhauser et al.* 1993), Plzeň-Roudná in Western Bohemia (*Bašta/Baštová/Bouzek* 1989), Chržín (*Chytráček* 2007; 2008), Poříčany (*Čtverák* 1986) in Central Bohemia or Tuchoměřice in the north-western periphery of Prague (*Sankot* 2006).

## CONCLUSION

The site of Holedeč represents an important settlement with a particular relevance for the study of the social elite during the Ha D/Lt A period in Northwestern Bohemia and related issues. This site represents the seventh locality with Attic pottery in Bohemia and the first site in the Northwestern Bohemia, where the Attic red-figured pottery was identified. The finds of the Attic pottery in Holedeč also indicate the intensity of the greatest influx of the Attic pottery in Bohemia that is typical for the second quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. The presence of kylikes between the imported pottery contribute to the widespread imagination of the consumption of the southern wine by the Early Iron Age mighty Celtic individuals, including the use of the appropriate ‘symposiastic vessels’. Nevertheless, we know that the Central European Celts were able to use the Attic pottery also for totally ‘non-symposiastic’ beverages (cf. *Rageot et al.* 2019).

Finds from Holedeč are very significant also in one other aspect. Three sherds of the local painted pottery that imitate the Attic imported models suggest that this phenomenon could have been in the Late Hallstatt/Early La Tène Bohemia more frequent. This frequency may be explained in two levels. Firstly, it may be the artistic inspiration by the attractive look of the Attic pottery, compared to the local wares. Secondly, particular frequency of the imitation may be influenced by the higher price of the original or non-standard accessibility of Attic pottery in the local milieu.

The site of Holedeč gains a particular relevance also thanks to the discovery of unusual type of a building. The imagination of the great house together with other features existing here during the period of Ha D2–Lt A/Lt B1, thus c. for 170 years, is very tempting. However, we cannot ignore the possibility that it could also have originated anytime during this period. The combination of the unusual architecture and the exogenous costly imports well contribute to the thesis that the contemporary rulers inhabited not only significant hillforts, but also flat settlements, as after all attested by many mentioned courts and other relevant settlement forms.



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## Nové doklady pozdně halštatské/časně laténské společenské elity ze severozápadních Čech

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### Souhrn

Záchranný archeologický výzkum v Holedči u Žatce v severozápadních Čechách odkryl pozůstatky dvou sídlištních objektů neobvyklé velikosti, představující reliktů pozdně halštatského/časně laténského panského domu. Výplně těchto objektů, včetně jedné další sídlištní jámy, obsahovaly tři bronzové spony, tři zlomky domácích imitací attické keramiky, zlomky lokální časně laténské kolkované keramiky, zlomky mazanice, zvířecí kosti, nálezy parohoviny, mušle, přesleny, skleněný korálek, dva střepy attické keramiky a další nálezy.

Bronzové spony byly zastoupeny jedním exemplářem spony se zdobnou patkou (*Fusszierfibel*) typu F 3/B1, jednou maskovitou sponou a jednou sponou s parabolicky tvarovaným lučíkem a volnou patkou. Sponu se zdobnou patkou lze datovat do rozmezí HD2–HD3. Maskovitá spona náleží do fáze LTA. Konečně spona s parabolickým lučíkem je typickou náplní předdouchcovského horizontu (LTB1a), nicméně může se objevit i v období přechodu fází LTA a LTB1a. Maskovitá spona obsahuje čtyři ozdobné knoflíky, které jsou vykládány červeným mořským korálem. Tyto knoflíky představují čtvrtý doklad výskytu importu červeného mořského korálu na území Čech během starší doby železné (HC–LTA). Doposud byly nálezy tohoto ekofaktu známy z knížecího dvorce v Poříčanech, z pozdně halštatského hradiště v Minicích u Kralup nad Vltavou a z pozdně halštatského knížecího hrobu v Rovné u Strakonice, kdy byly součástí toaletního předmětu a jedné spony.

Velmi významným nálezem jsou tři zlomky malované keramiky, které lze interpretovat jako domácí napodobeniny řecké figurové keramiky. Po nálezích obdobného charakteru z pozdně halštatských sídlišť v Plzni-Roudné a Chržína na Slánsku jde o třetí skupinu nálezů daného druhu. Fakt, že attická keramika byla v pozdně halštatských a časně laténských Čechách napodobována svědčí o skutečnosti, že tvůrcům těchto imitací byly známy předlohy napodobenin, tedy skutečná attická keramika. To je ostatně v Holedči doloženo i nálezy tohoto typu. Skutečnost, že attická keramika byla imitována je zároveň nepřímou indicií vysoké hodnoty těchto luxusních importů, resp. jejich nikoliv běžné dostupnosti.

Vlastní zlomky attické keramiky pochází z číši, tedy nádob určených ke konzumaci vína. Díky jejich nálezům se Holedč stává sedmou lokalitou na území ČR s výskytem tohoto typu keramiky. Oba zlomky náležející k červenofigurové keramice lze datovat do průběhu druhé čtvrtiny 5. století př. Kr., přesněji snad do období 460–450 př. Kr. Náleží do období, kdy do zaalpské střední Evropy směřovalo největší množství řecké červenofigurové keramiky. Společně s ní do střední Evropy doputovalo i řecké víno, jak dokládají nálezy transportních vinných amfor, v jednom případě (Praha–Pitkovice) i z oblasti Čech.

Velmi významným objevem je i obytný areál reprezentovaný zejména zahloubeným domem s kůlovou konstrukcí s neobvyklými rozměry. Ty dosahovaly hodnot 912 × 814 cm, s největším zahloubením činicím 122 cm. Plošný rozsah domu činil 74,2 m<sup>2</sup>. Zahloubené objekty na českých pozdně halštatských nebo časně laténských sídlišťích bývají obvykle výrazně menší. Podobný zahloubený dům, s ještě většími rozměry, byl objeven na pozdně halštatském až časně laténském sídlišti v Dolních Břežanech u Prahy. Byl rekonstruován jako dvojpatrový a přisouzen místní společenské elitě. Stejnou interpretaci předpokládáme i v případě panského domu z holedečského sídliště.

Nálezy luxusního charakteru, které na území Čech doputovaly prostřednictvím sítě dálkových kontaktních tras, společně se sídlištními objekty neobvyklé velikosti interpretované jako panské sídlo jednoznačně danou lokalitu identifikují jako pozdně halštatské/časně laténské sídliště spojené se soudobou společenskou elitou. Ačkoliv prozatím nelze dokázat, zdali se jedná o knížecí dvorec (*Herrenhof*) či nikoliv, význam tohoto sídliště v současné sídelní síti je danými nálezy v kombinaci s neobvyklou architekturou jednoznačně potvrzen.

Význam zdejšího nálezového kontextu tkví ještě v jedné skutečnosti. Obvykle bývají v prostředí pozdně halštatských či časně laténských Čech za tzv. centrální místa, tedy regionální centra moci, obchodu, řemesel apod. považovány významné výšinné opevněné lokality. Nicméně rozhojnění specifických nálezů či archeologických situací, které bývají chápány jako indikátory centrality, během posledních zhruba dvaceti let, naznačují, že velmi významná sídliště nalézáme nejen na výšinných lokalitách, ale i v rovinách. Je tedy pravděpodobné, že centrální místa nemohou být již více spojována pouze s hradišti, resp. výšinnými lokalitami. Naopak, tuto funkci mohou mít kromě výšinných center i některé rovinné aglomerace či sídliště. Příkladem takové situace je např. několik pozdně halštatských či časně laténských sídlišť podél Pitkovického potoka na jihovýchodním okraji Prahy, stejně jako sídliště v Holedči nedaleko Žatce.

Obr. 1. Poloha lokality na mapě (mapový zdroj: [www.cuzk.cz](http://www.cuzk.cz)).

Obr. 2. Plán lokality s prozkoumanými objekty 1a–b/21 a 6/22.

Obr. 3. Fotografie objektu 1a/21.

Obr. 4. Fotografie objektu 1b/21.

Obr. 5. Fotografie západní části objektu 6/22.

Obr. 6. Fotografie východní části objektu 6/22.

Obr. 7. Plány a řezy objekty 1a–b/21 (1, 3) a 6/22 (2).

Obr. 8. 1–4 – attická keramika z objektu 1b/21; 5–7 napodobeniny attické keramiky z objektu 1a/21; 8–10 spony z objektu 1a/21. Měřítka: a – 1–7; b – 8–10.

Obr. 9. 1–5 – příklady časně laténské kolkované keramiky z objektu 1a/21; 6 – skleněný korálek s očky z objektu 6/22.

Obr. 10. Rozšíření attické keramiky severně od Alp. Hvězdička – lokalita Holedeč. 1 – Praha-Pitkovice; 2 – Tuchoměřice; 3 – Dobruška; 4 – Praha-Ruzyně; 5 – Droužkovice; 6 – Kadaň; 7 – Bad Dürrenberg; 8 – Mühlheim-Kärlich; 9 – Hanau; 10 – Westhofen; 11 – Rodenbach; 12 – Marienberg; 13 – Eberdingen, Hochdorf; 14 – Asperg; 15 – Ipf; 16 – Kirchheim-Osterholz; 17 – Heuneburg; 18 – Breisach; 19 – Üetliberg; 20 – Baarburg; 21 – Britzgyberg; 22 – Kemmelberg; 23 – Somme-Bionne; 24 – Mont Lassois; 25 – Vix; 26 – Courcelles-en-Montagne; 27 – Beaujeu-Quitteur; 28 – Bragny-sur-Saône; 29 – Salins-les-Bains; 30 – Chassey-le-Camp; 31 – Damerey; 32 – Yverdon-les-Bains; 33 – Sévaz; 34 – Châtillon-sur-Glâne (podle Hansen/Böhr 2011, doplněno).

Obr. 11. Systém skládání malované dekorace na domácí keramice.

Obr. 12. Lokalita Holedeč s patrnými porostovými příznaky v místech zahloubených objektů v těsném sousedství zkoumaného místa (mapový zdroj: [www.mapy.cz](http://www.mapy.cz)).

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