

I.

THE PREHISTORIC CEMETERY OF FRÖGG, AT ROSEGG, CARINTHIA.
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Klagenfurt, the capital of Carinthia, is situated in a fertile valley at the east end of the charming Wörthersee. This lake is surrounded by magnificent scenery, with dark forests rising on undulating knolls towards higher mountains in the background. Its banks are studded with picturesque villas and villages, to and from which, in the season, there is a frequent and well-conducted service of steamers, thus affording the visitor one of the most enjoyable peeps of lake scenery in the world.

My chief object in visiting the locality was to see the Rudolfinum Museum at Klagenfurt, in which, as I was informed by Carl Deschman, there was a collection of some curious and novel leaden objects recently discovered in a prehistoric cemetery in the neighbourhood. On entering the spacious compartment devoted to local antiquities, I at once recognised the objects I was in search of in a large glass case, the first of a series which stretched across the floor of the room. The contents of this case were of a various character, the more conspicuous objects being four bronze situlæ, some bronze celts and pins, &c., a few weapons of iron, a large urn, and a few other dishes of dark pottery, together with a variety of beads. In an isolated portion of the case were several hundreds of small leaden figures, the prevailing forms being those of men, women, horses, mules, ducks—the *tout-ensemble* strongly reminding one of a child's collection of toys. Before presenting a note of introduction to Baron Hauser, the learned keeper of the museum, I had a good look at these figures, which are considered unique of their kind in Europe. Seeing my interest in these discoveries, the courteous Baron presented me with his last report on the investigation, and moreover offered me one of the small leaden figurines, which I willingly accepted on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. I have postponed formally handing over this gift to the Society until such time as I could prepare a notice of the circumstances and conditions in which these remarkable objects have been found.

The prehistoric cemetery of Frögg is situated near the village of Rosegg, on the right bank of the Drave, and distant some 2 or 3 miles from the fashionable town of Velden, at the west end of the Wörthersee. It consists of some 300 tumuli, varying from 10 to 20 yards in diameter and 5 to 10 feet in height. These tumuli occupy an uneven area of wooded knolls, which extends backwards from the river rather less than a mile in length and about 250 yards in breadth. Attention was first directed to the cemetery by the fact that, in the autumn of 1882, a bronze celt and an iron axe-head had been found on the site of one of the mounds that had been partially levelled and converted into a potato plot. Early in the following year Mr W. Kokail, collector of taxes at Rosegg, opened nine tumuli in different parts of the cemetery, but without apparently much success, as only a few leaden figures were found. These, however, in the hands of Mr Kanitz, turned out to be of exceptional interest, as they contained the remains of a miniature waggon. The objects were found in a tumulus, which was opened on the 31st May 1883, at a depth of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the surface, and in the vicinity of two crushed urns. The waggon when restored was found to have four wheels (fig. 25), each $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, two axles, a pole, and a wooden body measuring 6 inches long by 3 broad. The wheels and other leaden parts were not cast, but cut with a sharp instrument. Particularly worthy of note is the fact that these wheels have ten spokes, and in many other respects resemble those of modern times.

In July of the same year Prof. Alphons Müller visited Rosegg, and opened five tumuli, but he found only fragments of pottery, and after nine days' work he left without any further success. On the 8th August systematic excavations were undertaken by the K. K. Central-Commission, when twelve selected tumuli were opened, with the following results, as reported by Baron Hauser :—

No. 1 (32 feet in diameter and 5 feet high). In the centre was a grave formed of built stones in the shape of a hexagon. The chamber ("steinring") measured 8 feet in diameter and 2 feet high, and was closed above with a thin slab measuring 7 feet by 4. The cavity below it contained earth, in which were found two iron socketed lance-heads,

13½ and 11½ inches long, and some fragments of reddish pottery, so soft that they became friable under the fingers.

No. 2 turned out to be a natural hillock.

No. 3 was previously disturbed, and in Nos. 4 and 5 nothing was found.

No. 6 was on a wooded eminence, and one of the largest of the group, measuring 65 feet in diameter and about 10 in height. On proceeding with the work, there was some evidence that the grave had been previously disturbed, but, nevertheless, the work was continued. The "steinring" was four-sided and about 9 feet across. Lying on the floor were found twelve leaden figures (riders, figs. 22 and 26, and a duck), a bronze handle, an iron nail, and two button-like objects supposed to be the remains of a girdle.

No. 7 (29 feet in diameter and 3 feet 3 inches high) was without any stone grave, but, instead, there was some fine soil, among which was found a large quantity of pottery of different kinds, one fragment of which, a bit of black pottery, had a leaden figure attached to it. There were also ashes, burnt bones, and traces of bronze and iron. The base of this tumulus was 11 inches deeper than the surrounding surface soil.

No. 8 was similar to the last in size, but it contained a five-sided "steinring," in which were ashes, fragments of urns, a bronze knife, a bronze pin, and some other bits of bronze. The base of this tumulus was also lower than the surrounding level of the wood.

No. 9 (26 yards in diameter and 11 feet high) contained a few leaden figures, a bronze finger-ring, and two iron objects.

No. 10 was undisturbed, and contained a "steinring," which was covered with four flags. Only a blue glass bead was found in the grave.

No. 11 (13 yards in diameter and 5 feet high) contained ashes, fragments of urns, some bronze objects, and six leaden riders.

No. 12 was opened at the expense of a local engineer of the name of Lob, and the operation was conducted with great care. In it were found a variety of vessels of black or red pottery (one of which was 2 feet high, and appeared to have some kind of glaze), some leaden figures (riders and ducks), and a small wheel 1½ inch in diameter.

These systematic explorations were conducted in the year 1883, and

since then they have been renewed every season by various parties with more or less success. The objects recovered have generally found a resting-place in the Rudolfinum Museum, and it now remains for me merely to mention the most typical, some of which I have represented on Plate IV. Along with a bronze kettle (fig. 1) were found an arm band (fig. 28), and five rude leaden figures, probably of birds (fig. 10).

The handsome bronze vessel represented in fig. 2 was found at a depth of 4 feet. The edge is bent over a leaden rod, which surrounds the mouth, and is ornamented with three figures of horses of cast bronze mounted on bronze plates. Near this vessel, in the same grave, were portions of three or four urns, eighteen leaden horses like those of bronze on the edge of the vessel, and thirty ducks; also traces of some objects of iron and bronze.

In 1884, among other things were found a bronze dish (fig. 3) with a double handle, a large urn (fig. 6), a bronze arm band (fig. 7), a bronze chain (fig. 8) 36 inches long, and an iron hatchet (fig. 9). In 1866 the leaden objects represented by figs. 4, 5, and 11, two bronze fibulæ (figs. 12 and 13), an ornamented urn (fig. 14), and a handsome bronze celt (fig. 17), were the chief acquisitions. In 1877 a new form of leaden object, viz., that represented by fig. 24, was found in this cemetery, of which about thirty were in the same grave. As these were all flat on one side, with traces of pitch on the flat side, they are supposed to have been used as an ornament on the surfaces of dishes. Some of the figurines were also flat on one side, while others were shaped on both sides, showing that the latter were intended to stand in the open, and they are supposed to have been used to ornament the rims of vessels.

Several varieties of urns and other vessels were collected. Fig. 21 is of reddish colour, with a zig-zag ornament, in black bands of graphite; and along with it, in the same grave, were the dishes represented by figs. 15, 18, and 20, as well as three leaden figures.

Figs. 11 and 23 would seem to be representations of a donkey, and it is somewhat singular that the latter was found in the same grave as the leaden waggon already described.

Among the other objects collected from this cemetery, the following may be noted:—One or two perforated clay weights in the form of a



OBJECTS FROM CEMETERY OF FRÖGG AT ROSEGG, CARINTHIA.

four-sided pyramid, small glass beads—yellow, red, or blue—to the extent of some 2000, and a few small beads of amber. There were also some small black beads with a zig-zag ornament in yellow. Only two large glass beads were found, and these are supposed to have been attached to fibulæ. Traces of gold were found only in one grave. Such leaden figures have nowhere else been found in Europe in connection with prehistoric interments, and their discovery at Frögg has, therefore, excited much interest, inasmuch as it proves that the inhabitants to whom the cemetery belonged were acquainted with the well-known leaden mines in the vicinity. As to the period to which the Frögg cemetery must be assigned, there can be no doubt, judging from the bronze and iron objects that have already come to light, that it was contemporary with that of Hallstadt, and consequently preceded the great La Tene development of central Europe, which is characterised by the complete supersession of bronze by iron in the use of cutting implements and weapons.

Burials of both these periods have been investigated by Dr Deschman in the neighbourhood of Laibach, who has pointed out a curious distinction, which, if found to be general, may lead to important results; viz., that the La Tene objects are never found in the tumuli, but in simple flat graves.

The following are the measurements of the principal vessels represented on the accompanying plate:—

- Fig. 1 = $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep and $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide.
 „ 2 = 11 inches deep, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at mouth, and 7 inches at base.
 „ 3 = $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, $18\frac{1}{2}$ at mouth, and 7 at base.
 „ 6 = $8\frac{3}{8}$ inches deep, 8 wide at mouth, and 4 at base.
 „ 7 = $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.
 „ 21 = $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep, greatest width 19 inches, 10 inches at mouth, and 5 at base.

The leaden objects are all half size.

LITERATURE.

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