# MOST NA SOČI
# THE 2000–2016 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE IDRIJCA

*Summary*

## INTRODUCTION

The Posočje region and its archaeological sites have been the source of important and unique finds for the past century and a half, attracting renowned names of central European prehistory to Most na Soči, Tolmin, Kobarid and Idrija pri Bači. There was Carlo Marchesetti from Trieste, who excavated at Most na Soči (its former name was Sveta Lucija or Santa Lucia in Italian), Kobarid and many other prehistoric sites at the western fringes of the Slavic-speaking area. In addition to Most na Soči, Josef Szombathy from Vienna also tackled the Late Iron Age cemetery at Idrija pri Bači. In recent history, a prominent figure who ushered in another prolific period for the archaeology in Posočje was Drago Svoljšak, long time curator at the Goriški muzej in Nova Gorica, beginner and head of the large-scale excavations of the settlement at Most na Soči.

Marchesetti and Szombathy conducted large-scale excavations of the cemetery on the left bank of the River Idrijca towards the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, while Drago Svoljšak investigated the settlement and cemetery on the right bank between 1971 and 1984.[1] In the early 21st century, this was followed by archaeological campaigns in advance of construction works, led by Miha Mlinar from the Tolminski muzej (*Fig. 2, 3*).

One of these campaigns took place in May 2000 at Repelc. The rescue archaeological excavation examined a 160 $m^2$ large area in 2000, continuing in 2002 with an excavation area of 128 $m^2$. In 2001, there were rescue excavation at Pucarjev rob, as well as small-scale excavations of the Iron Age and Roman-period settlement on the right bank of the Idrijca. A watching brief took place in 2013 at Pucarjev rob, while in 2016 a burial was discovered nearby, at Lipičarjev vrt (*Fig. 1–3*). On the right bank of the Idrijca, the watching briefs in 2004 and 2015 revealed the remains of three Roman buildings.

Some results of these investigations of the Tolminski muzej have already been presented to the public in professional publications and exhibition catalogues (Mlinar 2002a; 2002b; 2002c; 2003; 2005; 2009; 2014; 2017; Gaspari, Mlinar 2005; Mlinar, Klasinc, Knavs 2008; Cunja, Mlinar 2010; Gerbec, Mlinar 2014; Mlinar, Perko, Žbona Trkman 2015; Mlinar 2017), but never in a comprehensive manner as it is the case here.

[1] For the history of research, see Gabrovec, Svoljšak 1983, 12–35; Mlinar 2002a, 13–17; Svoljšak, Dular 2016, 17–36.

# INVESTIGATIONS AT PUCARJEV ROB IN 2001 AND 2013

## TOPOGRAPHIC AND STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

The area of archaeological investigations at Pucarjev rob lies on the levelled terrain above the precipitous banks of the River Idrijca, along the old road leading towards the Most na Soči railway station (*Fig. 2, 3*). In 1958, Nikolaj Mozetič already trial trenched here, in the eastern part of the area, but found no archaeological remains.[2]

The archaeological excavation was conducted as part of the watching brief in advance of construction works. It took place between 27 July and 22 October 2001, covering a surface of 30 × 2 m.[3] The first artefact, an iron shaft-hole axe (*Pl. 14C:* 8), came to light in a modern-period road bedding only 10 cm below the surface, indicating the existence of burials. Indeed, this was followed by 31 Iron Age cremations from the excavated in a roughly 60 m² large area (*Fig. 4:* 1–30). Most lay under the road or next to it and were fairly well preserved, protected by the road bedding and the asphalt surface. Grave 24 reached beyond the excavation area and could not be fully investigated. Five other Iron Age cremation burials (*Fig. 4:* 31–35) were unearthed in 2013, in an excavation area measuring 12.5 × 2.5 m.[4]

The stratigraphy at the site is simple. A layer of sterile loam (SU 6) and bedrock (SU 7) constitute the geological basement (*Fig. 5*). They were covered by a loamy deposit with small marl inclusions (SU 5) and a modern-period road bedding (SU 3) with a water pipe (SU 4) laid at the bottom. The bedding was covered with an asphalt surface (SU 1) or turf (SU 2).

## GRAVES

The burials excavated at Pucarjev rob in 2001 and 2013 (*Pl. 1–14*) are marked with the abbreviation PR followed by the successive number. They lie at the north-easternmost edge of the vast Iron Age cemetery on the left bank of the Idrijca (*Fig. 3*). The burial rite shows the basic characteristics of the Sveta Lucija cultural group;[5] all are cremations and relatively well preserved with the exception of some with pits dug at shallower depths, which were partially destroyed by the modern road.

Four graves contained an urn burial. The urn in two of those (Graves PR 1 and PR 2; *Fig. 5, 6; Pl. 2:* 14; *4A:* 5) was an almost completely surviving ceramic pithos, while the ceramic urn in Graves PR 29 and PR 30 (*Pl. 12A, B*) disintegrated and the form was no longer discernible. Urn burials are rare in the Sveta Lucija group; Marchesetti mentions only 9.56% of such burials,[6] while the Pucarjev rob site yielded roughly 11%.

The other graves had the cremated remains strewn across the pit (*Fig. 10*). The cremated human remains mixed with wood charcoal were usually found on the bottom of the pit, in rare cases also mixed with the fill (e.g. in Graves PR 6, PR 31).

The graves contained very small amounts of cremated human bones. Their weight ranged between 1 and 523 g, 90 g on average.[7] Most graves held less than 50 g of cremated bone, only six (PR 1, 2, 14, 18, 23, 25) between 100 and 400 g and only Grave PR 16 more than 500 g; the last grave held a double burial. The weight of the cremated human bones suggests that only a limited part of the remains of any particular deceased was laid into the grave pit. Also found were several uncremated or poorly cremated human bones, in Graves PR 2 (*ulna*), PR 3 (*mandibula*), PR 4 (*radius*) and PR 6 (*humerus*). These bones were light brown in colour, which is typical of inhumation burials or cremated bones exposed to fires not exceeding 200°C.

The grave pits were usually dug into sterile loam, in some cases reaching to the bedrock. The pits of Graves PR 6 and PR 31 (*Fig. 9, 11*) were dug into the upper layer of the loamy colluvium (SU 5/2001 or SU 91/2013) that lay directly under the bedding for the asphalt road. Some graves were dug next or on top of each other at different levels, for example Graves PR 1, 2, 3 and 6 (*Fig. 5*), or the superposed pairs of Graves PR 11 and PR 20 (*Pl. 7B*), PR 14 and PR 22 (*Pl. 10B*), PR 31 and PR 34.

The grave pits were more or less curved in section, and oval or round in plan. They measured from 40 × 25 cm (PR 15) to 110 × 60 cm (PR 1) and even 210 × 85 cm (PR 31) in plan and also varied in depth, with the shallowest only around 15 cm deep, while the deepest were urn Grave PR 1 (70 cm) and largest Grave PR 31 (65 cm), the latter possibly holding two burials without an apparent border between the two.

The undisturbed graves were found to be covered with a stone slab (PR 1, 6, 16, 23, 25), in some cases several slabs (PR 2, 34). The slabs were of limestone[8] (PR 23, 25) or marl (PR 1, 2, 6, 16, 34). The reddish marl

[2] Mozetič 1958–1959, Fig. 18: 27, 18, 23; Svoljšak 1975, Pl. 2: 2; Gabrovec, Svoljšak 1983, 33, Fig. 21.

[3] The benchmark was set at 158.00 m asl.

[4] Gerbec, Mlinar 2014, 16.

[5] The burial rite characteristic of the Sveta Lucija group is cremation, though several inhumation burials were also found in the Iron Age cemetery at Most na Soči (cf. Marchesetti 1893, 227; Svoljšak, Žbona Trkman 1985, 87; Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 128–129).

[6] Marchesetti 1893, 231.

[7] See here Leben-Seljak, Tab. 1.

[8] The rock was identified as Volče limestone, with the closest major deposits known on the Senica hill near the village of Modrej (cf. Verbič 2002, 103).

slab that covered the pit of Grave PR 16 (*Fig. 12*) was presumably collected from the marl deposits located downstream from the confluence of the Idrijca and Soča, below the Repelc site (*Fig. 13*).[9] The slabs differed in size, from 60 × 50 × 10 cm (PR 6) and 65 × 43 × 4 cm (PR 25) to 110 × 50 × 17 cm (PR 1). Large and heavy cover slabs were usually associated with rich graves,[10] some of which even had a lining of vertical marl slabs (PR 1, 2)[11] presumably forming a cist.[12] Several graves had a marl slab (PR 2, 16, 29) or marl rubble (PR 13, 14, 15, 21, 22) laid on the bottom of the pit,[13] a few even marl rubble forming a ring at the top of the pit (PR 1, 26, 29).

Grave pits contained burnt and cremated remains, as well as pieces of costume. Of the latter, primarily the metal parts survived that also showed traces of fire exposure. Most numerous were buttons (31), followed by fibulae (13) and their fragments (8), as well as fragments of rings or finger rings (9), pendants (9), earrings (7), parts of bracelets (2) and a belt plate (1). An interesting find is a pair of Certosa fibulae in Grave PR 2, one of which (*Pl. 3B:* 1) is heavily burnt and deformed, while the other (*Pl. 3B:* 2) appears not to have been exposed to fire. Fire-damaged and clumped together were the tiny blue glass and bronze beads in Grave PR 29 (*Pl. 12A:* 28).

The grave goods include several pieces of weaponry and tools, which show no traces of exposure to fire. Urn Grave PR 1 (*Pl. 2:* 10) held a knife with a bone grip, Grave PR 6 an iron winged axe (*Fig. 11; Pl. 5B:* 1) and a spearhead (*Pl. 5B:* 2) with the remains of the wooden shaft that would not have survived had it been exposed to fire. A shaft-hole axe was found by chance outside the graves (*Pl. 14C:* 8).

Pottery was also placed in graves, on top of cremated remains. Some had the upper rim touching the cover slab (PR 16, 18, 23, 25, 34). The owl skyphos and pedestal goblet in Grave PR 1 (*Fig. 16, 17*) were also laid on top of the cremated remains, but inside the urn – a pithos – just underneath the cover slab. Mainly only sherds survive of the pottery, which can be interpreted as the remains of the burial ritual; such are the fragments of the pedestal situla found among the cremated remains in Grave PR 2 (*Pl. 4 A:* 6).

Graves also revealed the remains of animal bones and teeth. An unburnt sheep or goat tooth was found in urn Grave PR 2, among the cremated remains in the pithos used as the urn. The urn – pithos – in Grave PR 1 held a burnt piece of an animal vertebra, possibly the remains of a piece of meat offered at the pyre or the remains of the funerary feast.[14]

## ATTRIBUTION OF GRAVE GOODS

### *Fibulae*

The earliest from Pucarjev rob is a two-looped fibula from Grave PR 21 (*Pl. 10A:* 1), with a ribbed bow and a low foot, which is a late form, dated to Sv. Lucija IIa.[15] In Ic (= Ha C 2), single-looped fibulae were replaced by two-looped ones as pieces of the female costume of the Sveta Lucija group that reached their westernmost distribution area in Valli del Natisone.[16]

Grave PR 18 held a Sveta Lucija bow fibula hung with four basket-shaped pendants (*Pl. 9B:* 1), which is the element most typical of the female adornments in Sv. Lucija IIa. It is named after the former name of Most na Soči, the site that yielded most numerous examples.[17]

Grave goods also include several serpentine fibulae. An example of Type IV according to the typology by Sneža Tecco Hvala, with a saddle-shaped bow and a disc-guard,[18] was found in a pair in Grave PR 16 (*Pl. 8C:* 1, 2) and singly in Graves PR 10 and 25 (*Pl. 7A:* 1; *11A:* 1). In Posočje, such fibulae characterise the male costume of the 6th century BC or the Sv. Lucija IIa phase, when they often occur in pairs.[19] Their origin should be sought in Slovenia. An interesting feature is the lead casing used to repair the serpentine fibula from Grave PR 15 (*Fig. 14*; *Pl. 8B:* 1), which has a domed disc-guard[20] otherwise characteristic of the later variants of Sv. Lucija IIb.[21]

The pair of large serpentine fibulae with a large disc-guard on the bow (*Pl. 1:* 1, 2) from Grave PR 1 belongs to the VIIe or Fraore – Parma type. It is the last type of serpentine fibulae, dated mainly to Sv. Lucija IIc,[22] but

[9] Cf. Marchesetti 1886, 112; id. 1893; Verbič 2002, 104; on the possible symbolic significance of covering graves with red marl slabs, see Škvor Jernejčič, Vinazza 2016, 55.

[10] Cf. Marchesetti 1886, 18.

[11] The south edge of the pits of Graves PR 1 and PR 2 was destroyed during machine excavation.

[12] Cists were also documented in the rich graves excavated by Szombathy; marl slabs enclosed the urn in Grave 467 (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1985, 104).

[13] The rubble may represent a single slab that later disintegrated.

[14] Cf. here Toškan.

[15] Gabrovec 1970, 43, Map 9; Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 438.

[16] Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 438; Pettarin 2006, Pl. V: 68–73.

[17] Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 438–439; cf. Renzi 1981, Fig. 30 (bottom), 31 (bottom).

[18] Tecco Hvala 2014a, 168–169, Map 7.

[19] Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 64: C1, 2, 66: B1, 2; cf. Renzi 1981, 198, Fig. 31: 25a, 25b; as Renzi already pointed out, a serpentine fibula can also be part of the female costume, either alone or in combination with a Sveta Lucija fibula or a band earring (Renzi 1981, 203, 247).

[20] Mlinar 2002a, 44, Cat. No. 16. Similar repairs are also observable on the goods from Marchesetti's excavations (Giumlia-Mair 1998, Fig. 25).

[21] E.g. Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 201D: 1, where a similar example was found in Grave Sz 2000 together with a Certosa fibula; cf. Tecco Hvala 2014a, 171–172, Fig. 7: 9–11.

[22] Tecco Hvala 2014a, 171–172, Map 12.

already appearing in Sv. Lucija IIb2,[23] which is also the dating of Grave PR 1. These are not the only examples of this type of serpentine fibulae from Most na Soči; their fragments were also found in Graves Sz 2318 and Sz 1997/2, as well as Grave R 38 (*Pl. 29A:* 1) at Repelc.[24] Such fibulae belong to the chronological horizon of the wider Po area and are associated with the appearance of weapons and Attic pottery as grave goods.[25] The combination of a pair of these fibulae (*Pl. 1:* 1, 2) with an Attic vessel (*Pl. 3A:* 13) also occurs in Grave PR 1.

The fibula fragment from Grave PR 19 (*Pl. 9C:* 1) belongs to a Type V Certosa fibula. These items have been documented mainly in the early 5th century across wide areas from the Po Plain to the Balkans.[26]

Grave PR 34 (*Pl. 13D:* 1) and the pithos in Grave PR 2 (*Pl. 3B:* 1, 2) yielded Type XIII Certosa fibulae with a crossbow spring.[27] Of these, Variant XIIIb (*Pl. 3B:* 1; *13D:* 1) is a Sveta Lucija form that appears at Most na Soči in Sv. Lucija IIb2, while Variant XIIId (*Pl. 3B:* 2) with a stepped rear part of the foot is more common in the Late Certosa Fibulae phase of the Dolenjska group.[28] They occur in pairs in warrior graves, for example at Magdalenska gora.[29] The two fragments from Grave PR 5A (*Pl. 5A:* 1) probably also belong to a Type XIII Certosa fibula.

Large Type VIIa Certosa fibulae, which include the example from Grave PR 1 (*Pl. 1:* 3), are more common in Dolenjska and Notranjska. There, they have been recorded in pairs primarily in male graves and represent a novelty of the Certosa Fibulae phase, as indicated primarily by the finds from Dolenjske Toplice.[30] Grave 2/60 of a warrior from Magdalenska gora shows that they remain in use in the Negova phase.[31] Similarly as in Dolenjska, they occasionally occur in pairs also in Posočje and neighbouring Carnia.[32]

### *Earrings, finger rings, rings and bracelets*

The finds from Pucarjev rob include several bronze band earrings with a hook, decorated with longitudinal incisions (*Pl. 6B:* 1; *7B:* 2; *9B:* 2, 3; *13D:* 3), which are a typical element of the female costume in the Late Hallstatt period (Sv. Lucija II). At the Most na Soči cemetery, they occur in combination with band, serpentine, Sveta Lucija or Certosa fibulae of different types.[33] Another bronze band earring was found at Pucarjev rob, among stray finds; the fragment is decorated with embossed dots (*Pl. 14C:* 3). Similar items are known from Grave R 14 at Repelc (*Pl. 20:* 6, 7); they are earrings of the Repelc type according to Dragan Božič, dated to the Late La Tène period.[34]

Rings were often found in the function of pendants, sometimes also as finger rings. Annular rings/finger rings are either undecorated (*Pl. 1:* 6; *9D:* 1; *10A:* 2; *13A:* 4; *14C:* 2)[35] or decorated, the one from Grave PR 1, for example, in a combination of an X and transverse incisions (*Pl. 1:* 7).[36] Rings with knobs are characteristic of the Sveta Lucija[37] and Dolenjska groups.[38] In the western regions of Slovenia, they may have been sewn onto garments or hung on fibulae as decorations, carrying an apotropaic meaning,[39] while in Dolenjska they formed part of the belts worn in the Certosa Fibulae and Negova phases.[40] Trapezoid rings with inconspicuous knobs, such as the one found in Grave PR 6 (*Pl. 5B:* 1), remained in use to the Late La Tène period. This is clear from the similar ring from Podzemelj that was hung onto

[23] De Marinis dates them to the second half of the 5th century, between 440 and 420 BC (De Marinis 1981, 216; id. 2000, 349, Fig. 5: 5–7).

[24] Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 245: 1, 2; 201F; Tecco Hvala 2014a, 171–172.

[25] Teržan 1976, 431.

[26] Teržan 1976, Map 18; cf. Tecco Hvala 2012, 257.

[27] Teržan 1976, 431.

[28] With the exception of Šmihel in Notranjska and an example from Kranjska, other sites of this variant are in Dolenjska and Bela krajina (Teržan 1976, 340).

[29] Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 15: 7; 84: 3.

[30] Teržan 1976, 326, Fig. 26; Pl. 11: 1–2; 44: 8–9.

[31] Teržan 1976, 432; Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 56: 1–2.

[32] Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 35A: 4–5; 125A: 1–2; Vitri 2001, 25, Fig. 4: 1, 2.

[33] Teržan, Trampuž 1973, Pl. 11: 4–5, 21; 14: 12; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 10: 13; 35: 10 and so forth.

[34] Cf. Božič 2007a, 837–839.

[35] Cf. Bitnje, Grave 2 (Gabrovec 1974, Pl. 2: 10); Kundl (Lang 1998, Pl. 149: 6).

[36] Fragments of finger rings with such decoration also came to light in Grave 31 at Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 23: 21), in Veneto (Pettarin 2006, Pl. XXV: 396, 397), Caverzano near Belluno (Nascimbene 1999, 106) and Este (Chieco Bianchi, Calzavara Capuis 1985, Pl. 53: 16).

[37] Most na Soči (Teržan, Trampuž 1973, Pl. 20: 6; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, e.g. Pl. 61D: 7; 63E: 7 and so forth), Veneto (Pettarin 2006, Pl. XXVI: 454–456), Bodrež (Guštin 1991, Pl. 40: 17), Kobarid – Tonovcov grad (Ciglenečki 1994, Pl. 2: 6; Božič 2011, 244–247), Srpenica (Mlinar 2004, Fig. 8: 3), Bohinj (Gabrovec 1974, Pl. IV: 18; VI: 24; VIII: 3; VIII: 7; X: 5–7), Koritnica in the Bača Valley (Kos 1973, Pl. 3: 7).

[38] E.g. Brezje pri Trebelnem (Kromer 1959, Pl. 26: 3), Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 62B: 4) and others.

[39] Vitri 2001, Fig. 7, Pl. 77: 2; Crismani, Righi 2002, 81. They occur in Posočje as pendants on the Sveta Lucija fibulae (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 116E: 2; 137: 1; 142F: 3; 211D: 1; 216A: 1; 253B: 1; 285F: 1) typical of Sv. Lucija IIa (Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 438, 439).

[40] Such belts are characteristic of the male costume, e.g. at Vače (Stare 1955, Pl. 41: 2; 42: 1a; 43: 1a; 46: 2, 4, 6), Brezje pri Trebelnem (Kromer 1959, Pl. 20: 13, 14; 37: 4), Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 71C: 4–5; 159: 1–4), Molnik (Tecco Hvala 2017, 111, Pl. 31A: 2) and elsewhere.

a Middle La Tène fibula of Variant Gemeinlebarn, Type Mötschwil, characteristic of LT C1,[41] and a ring with six inconspicuous knobs found together with a Picugi fibula in Grave 76 at Socerb.[42]

*Pendants, necklaces, buttons*

Very popular pendants were those in the shape of baskets suspended from torques or fibulae (for example Sveta Lucija fibulae). They occur in female, child and male burials, as well as in settlements and sanctuaries.[43] They are seen as imitations or models of baskets proper.[44] For the basket-shaped pendants with a curved base, such as the items from Graves PR 14 and PR 18 (*Pl. 8A:* 2, 3; *9B:* 1), Pavlin (2014) distinguishes between those with (Type II) and those without a hole (Type I) below the handle, both typical of Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb1.[45] A later variant is the conical basket-shaped pendants with reticular decoration, such as one of the items from Grave PR 1 (*Pl. 1:* 4, 5), which the associated goods date to Sv. Lucija IIb2 and are objects typical of western Slovenia and Caput Adriae.[46]

The bronze chains composed of single or double rings, such as the partially surviving finds from Grave PR 31 (*Pl. 13A:* 1), were suspended from fibulae and decorative plates. They have a wide distribution from Este and Carnia in the west to Notranjska and Dolenjska in the east, where they occur as grave goods and votive offerings in sanctuaries and cult places.[47]

The domed buttons with a single loop are common goods in the graves of the Sveta Lucija group. At Pucarjev rob, they were found in four, very likely female burials – PR 1, 10, 29 and 34 (*Pl. 1:* 8; *7A:* 3–5; *12A:* 2–27; *13D:* 2). They are chronologically undiagnostic, but do appear to have been more common in Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb, almost completely absent in Sv. Lucija IIc.[48]

In Grave PR 29, such buttons were found together with tiny blue glass beads and bronze rings. The same clump of fire-damaged items was also unearthed in the cult place within the Iron Age settlement at Most na Soči, indicating that such groups represent the remains of the costume, either belts or garments.[49]

*Glass beads*

Grave PR 29 contained as many as 250 light blue and 258 dark blue glass beads (*Pl. 12A:* 28), burnt and clumped together with 25 small bronze beads and bronze buttons; such beads occur in Sv. Lucija IIb contexts.[50] The 2013 investigations yielded the stray find of a blue glass bead with a yellow and white eye (*Pl. 14B:* 9), of a form unknown either in the Sveta Lucija group or in Iron Age Dolenjska.

*Belts*

Grave PR 1 held a bronze belt mount with three rivets (*Pl. 1:* 9), possibly associated with a ring (*Pl. 1:* 6). Such finds are rare in Posočje, known from Marchesetti's excavations at Most na Soči and possibly include the fragments from Grave 38 at Repelc (*Pl. 29A:* 12) and from Idrija pri Bači. A similar mount came to light in the Misincinis cemetery near Paularo in Carnia, in Grave 2 from the 5th century BC. [51] On the other hand, they form part of the belts worn in Dolenjska in the Certosa Fibulae and Negova phases.[52]

[41] Gabrovec 1966c, Pl. 23: 8; Dular 1978, Pl. 5: 10; Božič 1999b, 197; id. 2011, 247.

[42] Gerbec, Mlinar 2018, 49.

[43] Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 26: 16; 36: 18; Laharnar 2018a, 230–231. Cf. Pavlin 2014, 354.

[44] Teßmann 2007, 668.

[45] Pavlin 2014, 354.

[46] Teßmann 2007, 691, Fig. 22, Map 5 (Koritnica is erroneously marked under No. 2, which does not lie in the Iapodic area, but rather in the valley of the River Bača). The list of sites can be extended by adding Sermin (Svetličič 1997, 36), Dernazacco and S. Pietro al Natisone/Špeter (Pettarin 2006, Pl. 26: 438–441), Kobarid (unpublished, kept by the finder), Gradišče in Cerkno (Istenič 2015, Pl. 1: 5), Homec (Mlinar, Gerbec, Laharnar 2014, 32, Cat. No. 21) and Krn – Gradec (unpublished, kept in the Tolminski muzej).

[47] Cf. Bodrež (Guštin 1991, Pl. 40: 20), from Bitnje as a pendant on a Sveta Lucija fibula (Gabrovec 1974, Pl. V: 1), Socerb (Crismani, Righi 2002, 75, Cat. No. 65), Šmihel (Guštin 1979, Pl. 68: 35–37), Misincinis in Carnia (Vitri 2001, Fig. 3: Pl. 38, 5), the Este area (Nascimbene 1999, 110, Cat. No. 264; Manessi, Nascimbene 2003, 257, Pl. 81: 26; Capuis, Chieco Bianchi 2006, Pl. 23: 2; 52: 15), Dolenjska, e.g. Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 84: 3). For finds from cult places cf. Rungerr Egg (Gleirscher, Nothdurfter, Schubert 2002).

[48] They do occur already in Early Hallstatt contexts, for example at the nearby cemetery in Tolmin (Pogačnik 2002, 64–65), but their use becomes more widespread in Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb, as is clear from the grave goods from Most na Soči (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 54: E7; 104A: 5; 137A: 25) and the predominantly Late Hallstatt and La Tène graves at Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 22: 13; 27: 19). No examples are known from the Iron Age graves in Valli del Natisone, where items from the last phase of the Sveta Lucija culture prevail (Pettarin 2006).

[49] Laharnar 2018a, 231–233, Fig. 11.

[50] Most na Soči, Graves Sz 648 and Sz 955 (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 59A: 7; 98A: 9–11); cf. Laharnar 2018a, 231–233.

[51] Vitri 2001, Fig. 4: 3, 5.

[52] Posočje: e.g. Most na Soči (Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XI: 7), Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 26: 9); Dolenjska: e.g. Vače (Stare 1955, e.g. Pl. 47: 1–18), Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 16: 12; 61: 2), Molnik (Tecco Hvala 2017, 156, Pl. 32: 6), Novo mesto (Knez 1986, Pl. 1: 21; 8: 11, 14; 13: 13), Brezje pri Trebelnem (Kromer 1959, Pl. 11: 7, 8; 20: 13 and others).

*Weapons and knives*

An iron spearhead and two axes are the only pieces of assault weapons at Pucarjev rob. Having said that, axes could also have been used as tools and it is frequently impossible to distinguish between the two functions. The iron axe from Grave PR 6, with one-sided wings folded together to form a socket (*Pl. 5B:* 2), is without parallels in Posočje. Such axes are known from Dolenjska, where winged and shaft-hole axes oust the earlier socketed ones in the Late Negova phase.[53] A winged axe from Magdalenska gora may point to the use of such axes in the La Tène period; it was reportedly found in Grave 2/41 alongside an iron axe with one-sided wings folded into a socket, two spearheads and fragments of a Late La Tène round shield boss, though the grave group is not reliable.[54] A related axe also came to light in Grave 11 at Mokronog; Guštin dates the axe to LT C1.[55] Shaft-hole axes are characteristic of the last phase of the Sveta Lucija group (= Sv. Lucija IIc), but remain in use in the La Tène period; one such axe came to light at Pucarjev rob as a stray find (*Pl. 14C:* 8).[56]

Iron spearheads, such as the one from Grave PR 6 (*Pl. 5B:* 3), occur in Posočje in the Late Hallstatt period, as well as in Late La Tène contexts.[57] The goods from Grave PR 6 may thus be attributed to the end of Sv. Lucija IIc, possibly even the La Tène period as suggested by the associated ring (*Pl. 5B:* 1) of the kind still in use in the Middle La Tène LT C2 phase.[58] Speaking in favour of the later dating is the stratigraphic position of the grave above Graves PR 1 and PR 2 from Sv. Lucija IIb2.

The iron knife from Grave PR 1 has an ornate bone grip with an animal-head terminal (*Fig. 15; Pl. 2:* 10).[59] Similar bone knife grips came to light during Marchesetti's excavations at Most na Soči.[60] The fragment of a bone grip with an impressed ring-and-dot from Grave PR 23 (*Pl. 10C:* 2) may also have belonged to such a knife. Parallels for these come from Dolenjska and Zasavje (for example from Magdalenska gora and Kovk above Hrastnik), from graves of the Late Certosa Fibulae and Negova phases.[61]

*Bronze vessels*

Grave PR 2 held a forged bronze strap handle (*Pl. 3B:* 3). It survives complete with both attachments, suggesting it originally formed part of a wooden vessel that had decayed. At Most na Soči, handles of a flat, rectangular section are rare,[62] those of a round section are more common.[63] Parallels for the forged strap handle are known from the cemetery at Bitnje in the Bohinj area and from Veneto.[64]

*Pottery*

Graves PR 1 and 2 held one pithos each that served as the urn (*Pl. 2:* 12; *4 A:* 5). They were decorated with cordons across the body[65] and had a black or red slip covering the exterior surface either partially (*Pl. 2:* 12) or almost completely (*Pl. 4A:* 5). This is also the only form of pithoi recovered from the Late Hallstatt settlement at Most na Soči.[66] In settlements, such pithoi were used as storage vessels, while in graves they served as urns, primarily in the rich Sv. Lucija IIb graves, though they already appear in Ic.[67] Urn burials in pithoi have been documented in Posočje at Most na Soči and the flat cremation cemeteries at Kobarid, Koritnica, S. Pietro al Natisone/Špeter, Daber near Šentviška Gora and Jerovca.[68]

[53] Cf. Dolenjske Toplice (Teržan 1976, Pl. 85: 6; 88: 4), Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 38A: 3; Tecco Hvala 2012, 119, Fig. 46), Brezje (Kromer 1959, Pl. 40: 8), Vače (Stare 1955, 19, Pl. 12: 2).

[54] Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, 133, Pl. 38: 1–4; cf. Štrajhar, Gaspari 2013, 35.

[55] Guštin 1977, 79, Pl. 11: 4.

[56] A grave from Srpenica (Laharnar, Mlinar 2019, 651) points to a long period of use of shaft-hole axes in Posočje, for Dolenjska this is indicated by a find from Kapiteljska njiva in Novo mesto (Križ 2005, Pl. 77: 3; cf. Štrajhar, Gaspari 2013, 35).

[57] Cf. Graves 16 and 40 at Idrija pri Bači and Grave 3 at Reka near Cerkno (Guštin 1991, Pl. 13: 6; 26: 1; 30: 2, 3).

[58] Cf. Podzemelj (Gabrovec 1966c, Pl. 23: 8; Dular 1978, Pl. 5: 10; Božič 2011, 247; Gerbec, Mlinar 2018, 48–49).

[59] Mlinar 2002a, 28, Fig. 24.

[60] The bone grip fragments from Graves M 2683 and M 2695 are decorated with impressed ring-and-dots and incised lines, while Grave M 1828 held a similar grip with an animal-head terminal (Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXVII: 15–17).

[61] The knife with a bone grip from Grave 2/38 at Magdalenska gora is similar primarily in the bronze mount (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 36: 18; Tecco Hvala 2012, 135–137), while the stray finds interpreted as razors are very similar in shape and ring-and-dot decoration (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 157: 6–7). An even closer parallel comes from the Late Hallstatt female burial at Kovk above Hrastnik (Božič, Gaspari, Pirkmajer 2020, Pl. 6: 10; 7: 10).

[62] Cf. Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 98: 12; 116: E7; 148: F8; Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 36: 19; Jereb 2016, Cat. Nos. 60–62, 129.

[63] Cf. Jereb 2016, Pl. 21: 38; 22: 40; 30: 55–57; 31: 58–59; 33: 63–65; 66: 110–111; 68: 115; 75: 124; 76: 126 etc.

[64] The handle from Bitnje belonged to a cist (Gabrovec 1974, Pl. 1: 1); for the parallels from Veneto, see Pettarin 2006, Pl. 29: 496.

[65] Type 2 (after Dular 1982, 200, Fig. 6: 2).

[66] Grahek 2018a, 256.

[67] Dular 1982, 203; Grahek 2018a, 256.

[68] Most na Soči (e.g. Marchesetti 1893, Pl. I: 4; II: 1; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 7A: 11; 18A: 3; 29F: 2; 35B: 4; 39B: 2; 49G: 5; Mlinar 2002a, 47–48), Kobarid (Gabrovec 1976, Pl. 1: 1), Koritnica (Kos 1973, Pl. 1: 1), S. Pietro al Natisone/Špeter (Pettarin 2006, 53), Daber near Šentviška Gora (Rutar 1894, 122), Jerovca (Laharnar, Mlinar 2008, 473).

Pedestal goblets are a common pottery form of the Sveta Lucija group. Those from Graves PR 1 (*Fig. 16 left; Pl. 3:* 14), PR 16 (*Fig. 16 right; Pl. 8C:* 3), PR 18 (*Pl. 9B:* 4) and 23 (*Pl. 10C:* 3) are of Type 2 according to Dular's typology.[69] They appear towards the end of Sv. Lucija Ic, become most common in Sv. Lucija IIa[70] and remain in use into the following phase. Their form and decoration of red-black painted stripes show close links with the Este cultural area.[71]

Grave PR 2 also revealed several sherds of a ceramic vessel on a pedestal (*Pl. 4A:* 6), with a partially surviving red slip on the rim and shoulder. With the body of the vessel missing, it is difficult to positively identify the vessel form, possibly a goblet of Type 1 after Dular.[72]

The dishes with an inturned rim and a low pedestal, which include the item from Grave PR 34 (*Pl. 14:* 4), are very rare at Most na Soči. Parallel finds come from Graves Sz 1087 and Sz 1873.[73] They may be local imitations of the products from Este workshops.[74]

Highly uncharacteristic for the funerary contexts of Posočje are cylindrical jars, fragments of which have been found in Grave PR 25 (*Pl. 11 A:* 2). Geographically and formally closest parallels can be found among the Late Hallstatt pottery from the settlement at Most na Soči.[75]

### *Imported pottery*

Found in Grave PR 1 was a wheel-thrown Greek drinking cup or *skyphos* (*Fig. 17; Pl. 3A:* 13). Decorated in the red figure style, it bears the motif of an owl between two olive twigs, which gives it its name of owl skyphos or *glaux*. It has a ring base, oval body and slightly inturned rim attached to which are two opposing handles, one vertical and the other horizontal. It is a rarer of the forms of owl skyphoi and marked as Attic Type B,[76] while Type A has both handles attached horizontally. The high numbers of such finds suggest these vessels had a specific use and significance. They were also found on the acropolis in Athens, where they were used during the offering ceremonies dedicated to the goddess Athena.[77] In Greek mythology, owls were both protectors of cemeteries and the city of Athens, as well as the sacred animal of Athena. Olive trees were also highly symbolic, standing for peace, reconciliation, purification, fertility or victory; it is a tree that the Greeks associated with Athena.[78]

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FROM THE PUCARJEV ROB SITE

Analysis of the finds has shown that burial in the investigated part of the Pucarjev rob site began towards the end of the 7th or beginning of the 6th century BC and lasted at least to the mid-4th BC, thus covering the phases from Sv. Lucija Ic/IIa to IIc (*Fig. 18, 19*) and, after a lengthy pause, possibly continued into the Late La Tène period. The earliest burials concentrated in the central and western parts of the excavation area, later ones in the east.

The earliest, Grave PR 21 with a two-looped bow fibula lay in the central part. Positioned around it and in the western part were burials mainly from Sv. Lucija IIa or the 6th century BC (PR 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30). The fragment of a Type V Certosa fibula suggests that Grave PR 19 could be attributed to Sv. Lucija IIb or the early 5th century BC. Grave PR 9 stands at the beginning of the late phase of Sv. Lucija IIb, i.e. middle and second half of the 5th century BC (PR 1, 2, presumably 3, 4, 5A, presumably 5B and 34). The latest burial in this part of the cemetery is probably in Grave PR 6, with the pit dug into the loamy earth above Graves PR 1 and PR 2. The iron weapons in this grave suggest its dating to the last of the Hallstatt phases of the Sveta Lucija group, i.e. IIc; the trapezoidal ring,[79] possibly also the iron axe with one-sided wings folded into a socket suggest it might even be La Tène in date.[80] The depth of the burial pit indicates that Grave PR 20, lying 20–30 cm above the top of Grave PR 11, may also be attributed to Sv. Lucija IIc, as do the stratigraphic relationships for Graves PR 31,[81] 32 and 35.

There are certain differences observable between the early and the late burials. The graves from Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb (6th and 5th centuries BC) are clearly discernible in both plan and section, the bone remains are poorly cremated and thus better preserved, concentrated on the bottom of grave pits or in urns. Later graves (Sv. Lucija IIc and probably also later) have poorly discernible or smaller pits, they contained very little, but well cremated remains, those in Grave PR 31 unevenly scat-

[69] After Dular 1982, 201, Fig. 7: 16.

[70] Dular 1982, 201, 203, Fig. 7: 15–18; Teržan, Trampuž 1973, Pl. 11: 2. Of a closely comparable form are also the pedestal goblets from Koritnica (Kos 1973, Pl. 2: 1; 10: 6) and Jereka in Bohinj (Gabrovec 1974, Pl. XI: 7, 10), though not painted with red or black stripes.

[71] Further parallels with the Este area are known for the closed forms of the goblets from Graves PR 16 and 23: cf. Chieco Bianchi, Calzavara Capuis 1985, Pl. 109: A10, B2 and others; Capuis, Chieco Bianchi 2006, Pl. 88: 30 and others.

[72] Dular 1982, 201, Fig. 7: 15.

[73] Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 113B: 3; 179 C: 8.

[74] Cf. Chieco Bianchi, Calzavara Capuis 1985, Pl. 78: 5, 6; Capuis, Chieco Bianchi 2006, Pl. 213: 33.

[75] Cf. Grahek 2018a, jar of Type L 1.

[76] Beazley 1963, 984.

[77] Web source 1.

[78] Mlinar 2002a, 28–30, Fig. 25.

[79] See Fn. 41 and 42.

[80] See Fn. 55.

[81] Grave 34 was dug under the large pit of Grave PR 31.

tered throughout the pit.[82] Small and shallow pits, such as the one for Grave PR 6 of a warrior with the earthen fill mixed with cremated and burnt remains, have also been recorded at Jelenšek above Godovič and Koritnica.[83]

The rich graves from the mid-5th century BC, such as urn Graves PR 1 and PR 2, concentrated in the eastern part of the excavation area. Burial into urns – pithoi – ceased in Sv. Lucija IIc,[84] as did offering ceramic goblets and other types of pottery.[85]

The artefact of the latest date in this part of the cemetery is the stray find of a Late La Tène (LT D1) Repelc type earring, unearthed above Grave PR 31.

[82] Cf. Early La Tène grave from Srpenica (Laharnar, Mlinar 2019, 645).

[83] Koritnica (Kos 1973, Graves 17, 18, 25, 32, 46, 50); the Sv. Lucija IIc graves at Jelenšek were also unearthed just beneath the surface (Bratina 1997, 146).

[84] With the exception of Grave 1 from Koritnica, dated to Sv. Lucija IIc, in which a small pithos served as the urn (Kos 1973, 862).

[85] Cf. Dular 1982, 203, Fig. 10.

# INVESTIGATIONS AT REPELC IN 2000 AND 2002

## TOPOGRAPHIC AND STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

The Repelc site lies on the lowest terrace of the left bank of the River Idrijca, less than 100 m from its confluence with the Soča (*Fig. 2, 20*). It is an area occupied by fields until the 1980s and now an orchard, which the locals also call Skrtov Repelc after the owner of the land. The area was first archaeologically investigated in 2000, although prehistoric cremations already came to light in the 1950s during the construction of the house at No. 70a Most na Soči, in the southeasternmost part of the terrace. The goods from these burials have not survived, Milan Mikuž from No. 61 Most na Soči[86] only kept some of the marl cover slabs that his descendants still keep in their garden. Also significant is the note by Alojzij Carli, local parish priest, who in 1878 wrote in *Kronika fare sv. Lucije* that some twenty years prior, Roman antiquities (one well preserved vessel – urn – and Roman coins, earrings, finger rings, one unusual figure, two small horses with chariot and charioteer, then tentatively identified as Apollo) had been found just above the confluence of the Idrijca and Soča, above the rocks on the left bank. This discovery is corroborated by the letter that Paolo de Bizzaro sent, probably in the same year, to the *Zentralkommission für Denkmalpflege* in Vienna. In it, he listed the objects that priest Tomaž Rutar, Carli's predecessor, kept in the parish house and were reportedly found on the left bank of the Idrijca close to its confluence with the Soča. The letter mentions Hallstatt jewellery, including a fibula with a chariot, and Roman coins. Bizzaro also noted that a *Verbrennungsplatz* must have been located at the findspot of these objects.[87]

The archaeological excavations that followed the construction works in 2000 investigated a 160 $m^2$ large area on the west part of the terrace (*Fig. 21*). The excavation area was divided into ten 4 × 4 m large grid squares (1–10), with the benchmark set at 155.77 m asl. The cleaned edges of the construction pit showed that the completely destroyed part probably did not hold any burials, or they had already been removed during the terrain levelling and dumping of building material towards the end of the 1960s and beginning of the 1970s. The presumed existence of an archaeological site here was confirmed by the scattered Roman and Iron Age finds that came to light when cleaning the partially destroyed surface.

The central part of the terrace was investigated in 2002 (*Fig. 21*). This excavation area was divided into 19 grid squares the size of 4 × 4 m, of which Grid Squares 6, 12, 12a could not be entirely investigated and Grid Squares 1, 1b, 2, 7, 5, 11, 7a, 8a, 9a, 10a, 11a were only examined partially. The excavation area covered 128 $m^2$ and the benchmark was set at 158.15 m asl.

Excavations revealed several layers (*Fig. 22, 23*) with archaeological remains from different periods. Limestone bedrock (SU 7) covered by brown to yellow sterile loam (SU 6) formed the geologic basement. They were partially overlain by a cultural layer with prehistoric habitation remains (SU 5). This was followed upwards by a brown-yellow to grey layer of loamy earth (SU 4) that included marl rubble and no organic inclusions with the exception of charcoal bits. Several grave pits reached into this layer. Next was a grey-brown layer of loamy earth with marl rubble (SU 3) that at places showed traces of fire. This layer also revealed grey and red marl slabs, variously shaped and sized pieces (cobbles) of limestone and scattered bits of wood charcoal and cremated human bone. This layer contained Iron Age and Roman finds; Graves R 12A (2000) and R 36 (2002) were dug into it. It also revealed a post-medieval Venetian soldo. It was covered by an earthy loamy colluvium (SU 2) with small marl inclusions and without archaeological finds. The topmost layer (SU 1) was almost completely removed in the west, during the construction works in 2000. The surviving chance finds are all post-medieval, including pieces of grenades from World War I, as well as recent building material.

The topmost layer in the area investigated in 2002 was also composed of deposits from the 1980s and a 30–40 cm thick topsoil in some parts; it was removed by machine. Until 1990, the entire terrace was used for crop cultivation and annually ploughed by machine. At the northern edge of the 2002 excavation area, a pit with burnt remains that included Iron Age and Roman finds (SU 98, 99) was unearthed under Layers SU 1, 2 and 3. Next to the pit with burnt remains, interpreted as a cremation pit, in the northeast was a paving of marl slabs (SU 103), in the east a drystone wall also of marl slabs (SU 87), a round stone structure (SU 88) and large round cobbles (SU 104; *App. 1/2*).

## HABITATION LAYER (SU 5)

The geologic basement of limestone bedrock (SU 7) and brown to yellow sterile loam (SU 6) in the 2000 excavation area was largely covered by a cultural layer (SU 5) that contained patches of burnt dark brown to red-brown loam, remains of poorly burnt ochre clay daub, scattered wood charcoal, compacted marl rubble, horizontally laid slabs of red and grey marl, remains of two post holes and sherds of prehistoric pottery *(Fig. 24–26; Pl. 15A:* 1–11).

[86] Svoljšak 1983, 33.
[87] Svoljšak 1993, 137–138.

Found on top of the sterile loam in the northwest of the excavation area (Grid Square 1) were two patches of compacted marl rubble (*Fig. 24*). Crushed marl slabs (10–15 cm large, 3 cm thick) were horizontally laid on top of the levelled bedrock along the south-western edge of the excavation area (Grid Square 9). A large patch of stone rubble was unearthed in the north-eastern part (Grid Squares 4 and 8), beside and partially above the bedrock. Horizontal slabs of mainly red marl were also recorded in Grid Square 5, where the remains of two post holes were found (at x = 2.22, y = 2.60 and x = 2.20, y = 3.18). This is presumably the remains of the ground surface on the sterile loam (SU 6), which was burnt in places, while in Grid Square 6 it had small round grey patches measuring 4 cm across and filled with crushed wood charcoal (*Fig. 24*). They are interpreted as the remains of buildings.

The marl rubble and slabs, as well as the red-brown burnt sterile loam was in places covered by a 3–6 cm thick layer of poorly burnt ochre clay daub, as well as scattered charcoal, the latter more concentrated in the western and central parts. This is probably the remains of a building that also revealed scattered pottery sherds. The building remains continue westward beyond the edge of the excavation area. The building debris was covered by a layer of grey-brown earth mixed with loam, marl rubble and bits of wood charcoal (SU 4). In Grid Squares 1, 5, 6 and 9, the pits of Graves R 2, R 14, R 23, R 25 and R 26 reached into this debris layer.

Remains of the habitation layer also came to light in the area investigated in 2002, but they were less clearly discernible. The remains consisted of a layer of burnt loam with charcoal and burnt marl rubble that covered the bedrock and was itself covered by a 15–20 cm thick layer of brown loam (SU 4) (*Fig. 27*). It contained no pottery or other finds.

## GRAVES AND PITS

The grave and other pits at the Repelc site are marked with the letter R followed by the successive number (*App. 1/1 and 1/2; Pl. 15–34A*). The site revealed 44 graves and ten pits, which are treated separately from the graves as they contained no cremated human remains, only bits of charcoal, as well as broken and burnt fragments of mainly pottery (*Pl. 34B–36A*). Considering the site as a whole, however, these pits very likely also represented burials, though without bone remains, which either did not survive or were not placed into the pit because of a different burial ritual.

All graves excavated at Repelc (*Fig. 33*) were cremations with the exception of inhumation Grave R 43. Two of the cremations were urn burials (R 1 and 52), representing a 4.6% share.

The top parts of most grave pits were damaged or destroyed. Only rare ones survived with their cover slabs (R 10, 20, 28 and 36), made of grey marl.[88] Graves R 14, 19, 22 and 49 were covered with several slabs. Of these, the slabs covering Grave R 14 were of both grey and red marl, stacked one on top of the other and with a bronze Late La Tène fibula (*Pl. 20:* 5) between the lowest two.

The grave pits were dug either in the layer SU 4 or in the sterile layer of loam (SU 6), some reached to the limestone bedrock (R 16, 19, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 38, 42, 47, 48) or even into it (R 52 – *Fig. 32*). Two exceptions are Graves R 12A and R 36, dug into the mixed layer SU 3, the latter dug roughly 20 cm above the surviving top of Grave R 33, the former above Grave R 12. Graves R 4 and 7 were dug into SU 4 and the stone lining of Grave R 22.

The grave pits were mostly oval or round in plan and measuring 30–70 cm across (*Fig. 33*), with three exceptions: Grave R 22, which measured some 250 cm across, Grave R 19 the size of 135 × 160 cm, and inhumation Grave R 43 with a roughly 70 x 200 cm large pit. Of these, the pits of Graves R 19 and 22 were covered with pieces of marl (*Fig. 36, 37*), sub-square in plan with stones set in the corners so as to roughly face the four cardinal points. Both held cremated human remains and unburnt horse bones that indicate a partial horse burial.[89] The marl slabs that enclosed the surviving part of the pithos – urn on all sides suggest that urn Grave R 52 (*Fig. 32*) had a lining of stones. Three upright slabs also formed the lining of Grave R 2 (*Fig. 35*), while Grave R 20 had a marl slab placed on the bottom of the pit.

The ashes in most graves were strewn across the pit, most frequently across the bottom, and consisted of cremated remains and charcoal. In some cases (e.g. Graves R 2, 3, 4, 7, 12A, 13, 16, 18, 22, 25, 28, 42, 49, 50 and 51), they were unevenly mixed with the fill. The quantity of human bone remains was small, weighing between 1 and 253 g,[90] they were fairly well cremated and hence more difficult to identify.

There are only two urn burials (Graves R 1 and 52). The urn in Grave R 52 was a pithos with cordons (*Pl. 34A:* 1), such as are characteristic of the Late Hallstatt period (Sv. Lucija IIa–b). The urn in Grave R 1 was a wheel-thrown jar decorated with a wavy line (*Fig. 34; Pl. 16A:* 4) attributable to the Roman period. Also standing out is the burial in Grave R 17 (*Fig. 29*), from the Roman period, which had scorched sides of the pit and four small postholes on the levelled bottom, which indicate a wooden structure set up in the pit.[91] This and

[88] Cf. Verbič 2002.

[89] See here Toškan; cf. Kmeťová 2014, 96, Fig. 24.

[90] See here Leben-Seljak, Tab. 2.

[91] Drago Svoljšak and Beatriče Žbona Trkman mention traces of fire visible on the sides of the angular (rectangular) grave pits (*bustum*?) when discussing the burial rituals in the Roman-period cemetery on the right bank of the Idrijca at Most na Soči, in Nekropola II (Svoljšak, Žbona Trkman

the size of the pit, measuring roughly 130 × 110 cm in plan, resemble those of *bustum* cremation burials, where the deceased was not cremated at the ustrinum, but rather on the spot of subsequent burial.[92] The human bones in Grave R 17 were completely cremated, which is contrary to the *bustum* burials that usually contain poorly cremated bones due to a lower temperature during cremation.[93]

The metal goods from the graves at Repelc include bronze fibulae (14) or their fragments (7) as the most numerous, followed by fragments of rings/finger rings (11), earrings (9), fragments of bracelets (9), pendants and necklaces (5), buttons (4) and belt pieces (2). The costume also includes iron hobnails (15), as well as numerous glass beads. Of the latter, most survived as heavily burnt and intentionally broken pieces (28); the exception is a yellow glass bead with a blue wavy line (*Pl. 23C:* 11) placed on the top of Grave R 22 after the conclusion of the burial ritual. Exposure to fire is also visible on the fragments of glass and bronze vessels, for example the fragment of a bottle from Grave R 19 (*Pl. 23A:* 8), fragments of bronze vessels from Graves R 47 and 48 (*Pl. 32B:* 4–6; *32C:* 3–5), and the handle of a patera from Grave R 3 (*Pl. 17A:* 1).[94] The ceramic sherds places into the grave pit indicate that pottery had previously been either broken on the ustrinum or burnt together with the deceased.

The broken iron machaira and bent spearhead from Grave R 25 (*Pl. 25:* 3, 4) show that warriors were cremated together with their weapons. Also burnt and either intentionally deformed or broken were the weapons in Graves R 18, 35 and 51 (*Pl. 22B:* 2–3; *28A:* 8; *33C:* 4–5), as well as the scattered artefacts in mixed Layer SU 3 that covered the graves and Cremation pit, such as an axe (*Fig. 52; Pl. 50:* 4), spearheads (*Pl. 50*: 7; *51:* 1–2), pilum-like projectile head (*Pl. 52*: 3), parts of shields (*Pl. 55*: 9–16; *56:* 1–5) and swords (*Pl. 53:* 1–12; *54*: 1–11).

The grave goods further include iron agricultural tools such as a sickle, hoe and billhook (*Pl. 21A:* 8–10) placed at the edge on the bottom of Grave R 14. In Grave R 22, bronze strap distributors (*Pl. 23C:* 1–8) forming part of horse gear were found alongside unburnt horse bones; the distributors also show no traces of fire exposure with the exception of one piece that is burnt (*Pl. 23C:* 9). Inhumation Grave R 43 held a ceramic oil lamp and a bronze coin (*Pl. 31A:* 1, 2).

## CREMATION PIT (SU 101–103)

The 2002 excavation area revealed a pit (*App. 1/2; Fig. 40–42*) along the north edge of Grid Square 1, filled with wood charcoal, burnt stones of different sizes, bits of human and animal bones, as well as fragments of artefacts (*Pl. 36B–41*). The pit was dug into the layer of sterile yellow loam (SU 6) and at places reached to the bedrock. It was clearly discernible in plan as a black, roughly 12 m$^2$ large patch (*Fig. 40*) that continued northward (*Fig. 42*) and westward (*App. 1/2*) beyond the excavation area. The fill of burnt remains was over 30 cm thick at the centre and thinned towards the north and the south. Four large marl slabs were lying on the same level along the pit's north-eastern edge (*App. 1/2:* Grid Squares 3–4, SU 103).

In addition to charcoal and cremated remains, the pit contained numerous fragments of fibulae (*Pl. 36B:* 1–14), broken jewellery of silver (*Pl. 37:* 4), bronze (*Pl. 37:* 1–7, 9–21) and iron (*Pl. 37:* 8), parts of iron weapons (*Pl. 37*: 30–33; *38:* 1–2), iron nails (*Pl. 38:* 10–29), a lead plug to repair broken pottery (*Pl. 39:* 1), a whetstone (*Pl. 39:* 2), heavily burnt pottery sherds (*Pl. 39:* 10–17; *40:* 1–19; *41:* 1–17) and small pieces of burnt glass beads (*Pl. 39:* 3–9). In contrast to these, the animal bone remains, as well as two teeth of sheep/goats and pig were unburnt.[95]

## STONE WALL (SU 87) AND ROUND STONE STRUCTURE (SU 88)

Excavations in 2002 revealed a wall (SU 87) near the eastern edge of the excavation area, in Grid Squares 4 and 10 (*App. 1/2*). It was built in the drystone technique of large marl and occasionally limestone slabs (*Fig. 43*). The wall ran north-south and its trench was dug into loamy Layer SU 4. The stones were laid in a single line and one, two or three courses high with a flat west face (*Fig. 44*). Graves R 31 and R 32 were located next to it at its south end, while at the north end it continued beyond the edge of the excavation area. The wall was investigated in the length of 5.30 m, with the largest of the marl slabs in the north measuring 50 × 60 × 75 cm. The wall survived best in the central part, to the height of 0.75 m, measuring 0.70–0.75 m in thickness. Layer SU 3 that covered it contained marl slabs to the west of the wall that represent its debris. Some of the slabs were probably reused as grave pit covers. Stratigraphic evidence shows that the wall either predates the graves or is contemporaneous with them. Its function is not completely clear, though the absence of archaeological layers east of the wall suggests it could have served as the cemetery enclosure. The wall itself revealed no archaeological finds.

1985, 88). The remains of a wooden pyre were also recorded in the sides and bottom of Grave 5 in the Roman cemetery at Križišče near Spodnje Škofije (Novšak, Bekljanov Zidanšek, Žerjal 2019, 119, Fig. 148).

[92] Cf. Leleković 2012, 322.

[93] E.g. in the cemetery at Križišče near Spodnje Škofije, *bustum* Grave 7 held no cremated human bone remains (Novšak, Bekljanov Zidanšek, Žerjal 2019, 186).

[94] The wood surviving inside the handle indicates reuse (wood analysis pointed to dogwood, see here Culiberg).

[95] See here Toškan.

Excavations also unearthed a small round stone structure (SU 88) (*Fig. 45, 46*) west of the wall in Grid Square 4 (*App. 1/2*). It was composed of marl slabs obliquely laid in a circle and a horizontal limestone slab in the north. The structure survived to the height of 0.40 m, measured 1.75 m in diameter and had the limestone slab projecting 0.50 m to the north. The centre was filled with smaller stones (of limestone and marl) and burnt loamy earth. The structure stood in Layer SU 4 and was covered, and partially damaged, by mixed Layer SU 3. Found on top of the burnt loamy earth at the centre of the structure (x = 6; y = 5.8, z = –1.05) was a bronze pendant (*Pl. 42A:* 2). Also found in the structure was the spring of a fibula (*Pl. 42A:* 1), but its exact location has not been recorded. Stratigraphy suggests that the round structure was made at the same time as the stone wall (SU 87) and the ustrinum, i.e. cremation pit (SU 101; *App. 1/2*).

## MIXED CULTURAL LAYER (SU 3)

Layer SU 3 was unhomogenous and composed of grey-brown earth and loam mixed with marl rubble. It was recorded across the whole of the 2000 excavation area, as well as in the western and central parts of the 2002 excavation area up to the stone wall (SU 87) (*Fig. 47*). It was 20 to 70 cm thick and covered Layers SU 4 and/or SU 6. In some places, it showed traces of fire damage and scattered burnt remains. Its creation is probably associated with the destruction of the top parts of graves, pits, the stone wall (SU 87), Cremation pit (SU 101, 102) and possibly also the round stone structure (SU 88). Only Graves R 12A and 36 were dug into this mixed layer. It contained scattered slabs of grey and red marl, small concentrations of charcoal, pieces of cremated human bone and numerous Iron Age and Roman period finds including fragments of different fibulae (*Pl. 42–44; 45:* 1–17), earrings (*Pl. 45:* 26–36), rings (*Pl. 46*), bracelets and torques (*Pl. 47:* 1–21), pendants (*Pl. 47:* 22–24; *48:* 1–9), bronze vessels (*Pl. 48:* 11–24) and buttons (*Pl. 49:* 9–18), ingots (*Pl. 49:* 19–24), coins (*Pl. 50:* 1–3), iron weapons (*Pl. 50:* 4–7; *51–56*), nails (*Pl. 58*), pottery sherds (*Pl. 59–69*), glass beads and vessels, as well as pieces of amber (*Pl. 70, 71*). Of the finds from post-medieval times, the layer only yielded a Venetian soldo (*Pl. 50:* 3).

Layer SU 3 was covered by post-medieval colluvium (SU 2).

## ATTRIBUTION OF FINDS

### *Fibulae*

Most numerous fibulae at Repelc came to light in mixed Layer SU 3 that covered the graves and Cremation pit. The fragment of a boat-shaped bow with missing knobs (*Pl. 42B:* 4) could be ascribed to a boat fibula with five knobs on the bow. Such fibulae occur in the Iron Age cemetery at Most na Soči in association with serpentine and Sveta Lucija fibulae that are characteristic of Sv. Lucija IIa.[96] The thickened bow decorated with short incisions along the edges (*Pl. 42B:* 5) may have belonged to a San Ginesio fibula, which were mainly spread across Picenum.[97] Other fibulae of this type are known from Most na Soči, unearthed during the early excavations.[98] Grave R 31 at Repelc held a fragment of the foot and bow of a fibula that could be attributed to the Castellin Fisterre type (*Pl. 26D:* 1) dated to the late 6$^{th}$ and early 5$^{th}$ century BC (= Sv. Lucija IIb1), the main distribution area of which is the Adige Valley.[99]

The two band fibulae with reticular decoration on the bow from Grave R 10 and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 18B:* 2; *42B:* 6) are characteristic representatives of the costume in Sv. Lucija IIb. Numerous examples of such fibulae are known from Most na Soči and their distribution area is delimited with the Rivers Sava and Adige.[100] Also fashionable in this phase were kettledrum fibulae, one of which came to light in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 42B:* 2). This fibula ranks among the latest variants, typical of the southern Alpine area.[101]

Grave R 41 contained a fragment of a fibula with the foot terminal in the shape of a forward facing animal (dog) head (*Pl. 30B:* 1), with the closest parallel from Podgora in Poljanska dolina, the region of Gorenjska.[102] Layer SU 3 at Repelc yielded a foot that is similar, but terminates in a forward facing ram head (*Pl. 42B:* 1). Fibulae with the foot terminal in the shape of forward facing animal heads are very rare in Posočje, with only a handful of examples found at Most na Soči (*Fig. 48a*) and Kobarid (horse head).[103] Two fibulae with a ram head

[96] Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 439; Cf. Graves Sz 1562, Sz 2244, Sz 2378 (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 145B: 6; 235A: 3; 253C: 3).

[97] See Preložnik 2007a, 126, Fig. 5a.

[98] E.g. Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XIII: 7.

[99] Nascimbene 2009, 110–115, Fig. 23: No. 39; Fig. 24.

[100] Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 439; e.g. Graves Sz 434, 445, 669, 818a, 1461, 1496 and 2265 (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984), as well as Graves 33 and 43 from Koritnica (Kos 1973, Pl. 8: 5); cf. Nascimbene 2009, 116–123, Fig. 25, 26; Tecco Hvala 2012, 245; Laharnar 2018a, 210.

[101] Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 439, Pl. 16: 2. Cf. Nascimbene 2009, 147, Fig. 41, 42, Pl. 17; Tecco Hvala 2012, 267; Laharnar 2018a, 205–208.

[102] Valič 1962, 196, Pl. 1: 3.

[103] Most na Soči (unpublished, privately owned artefact);

similar to that on *Pl. 42B:* 1 are known from Trentino and are probably local products, presumably imitating models from Dolenjska.[104] Fibulae with a forward facing animal head – most commonly that of a ram, horse or dog – are characteristic of the south-eastern Alpine area (Dolenjska, Gorenjska), where they become most common in the Late Certosa Fibulae phase alongside the crossbow Type XIII Certosa fibulae.[105] A ram head could also be seen in the spirally shaped foot terminal of a fibula with a disc on the bow from Grave R 10 (*Pl. 18B:* 1), which combines Late Hallstatt and Early La Tène elements, the latter mainly discernible in the rectangular band bow.[106] The fragment of a spirally twisted wire (in the shape of a ram's horn) from the Iron Age settlement at Most na Soči may have belonged to a similar fibula.[107] Fibulae with a sheet metal disc on the bow are rare finds on the territory of present-day Slovenia, only unearthed at Valična vas and Poljane near Žužemberk, both in the region of Dolenjska;[108] in central Europe they are known from the Late Hallstatt period, also at sites in north-western Bosnia.[109] In its embossed ribbed decoration on the disc, the fibula from Repelc can be paralleled with the 'baroque' style fibula from Slany-Želenice, the Czech Republic, where it was found in a La Tène context.[110] Another example may be the fragment with a partially surviving band bow and a wide spring from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 42B:* 3).

The fragment of a large serpentine fibula from Grave R 38 (*Pl. 29A:* 1) belongs to the VIIe or Fraore – Parma type,[111] which appears in Sv. Lucija IIb2 and is most common in Sv. Lucija IIc.[112]

The early representative of Certosa fibulae, from Grave R 10 (*Pl. 18B:* 3), is ascribable to Type IIIa. Certosa fibulae of this type appear in the area between Este and Dolenjska in the early 5th century BC, i.e. at the beginning of the Certosa Fibulae phase or Sv. Lucija IIb1.[113]

Other Certosa fibulae from Repelc are of later forms. Most belong to Type X, characteristic of Sv. Lucija IIc, the latest Hallstatt phase (Ha D3) in the wider areas between the Rhine and Danube, on the one side, and the Rivers Soča, Sava and Una, on the other.[114] Grave R 23 held one complete example of Variant Xg and a knob of another one (*Pl. 24B:* 1, 2); the characteristic form of the knob on the bow allows us to identify this fibula type also in the fragments from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 42B:* 18–19; *43:* 1). The Middle La Tène weapons buried together with such a fibula at Čadrg – Laze in Posočje,[115] as well as several graves from sites in Notranjska and Vinica in Bela krajina[116] suggest that these fibulae remained in use in the La Tène period. The fragmented fibula from Grave R 48 (*Pl. 32C:* 1) belongs to Variant Xb, the pieces of large fibulae from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 42B:* 12, 13) probably to Variant Xi.[117] The same layer also yielded a Type XII Certosa fibula (*Pl. 42B:* 9), which is contemporaneous with the variants of Type X.[118] In Posočje, two examples of Type XII are known from an Iron Age house at Most na Soči,[119] further two from Sv. Helena near Podbela and from Jelenšek above Godovič.[120] The cremation pit at Repelc revealed a heavily burnt fragment of a Variant VIIb Certosa fibula (*Pl. 36B:* 3), which also occur in Sv. Lucija IIc and are associated with Type X fibulae in burial contexts.[121] The example from Repelc has the IIXIII motif incised on the bow, the same as the two fibulae from Montebello Vicentino and Monte Bibele,[122] respectively, which would indicate its northern Italian provenance. The two foot fragments of Certosa fibulae from Pit R 11 and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 35A:* 1; *42B:* 10) may belong to Variant VIIf, which frequently bears tremolo decoration on the knob and back of the foot. Such fibulae have come to light in the Iron Age settlement at Most na Soči and other sites of the Sveta Lucija group.[123] The fibula bow from Grave R 45 (*Pl. 31C:* 1) belongs to Variant VIIe,[124] an example of which is also known from the settlement at Most na Soči,[125] and from Grave 30 at Idrija pri Bači,

Kobarid (Marchesetti 1903, Pl. XVIII: 5; Mlinar, Gerbec 2011, 17, Fig. 5).

[104] Adam 1996, 94, 95; cf. primarily with the find from a male burial at Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala 2012, 262–263, Fig. 99: 6).

[105] Gabrovec 1966a, Map 3; Teržan 1976, 439; cf. Tecco Hvala 2012, Fig. 99.

[106] Mlinar 2002b, 19–34.

[107] Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 33: 1; Laharnar 2018a, 209–211.

[108] Knez 1970, 185; Teržan 1973, 695.

[109] Cf. Teržan 1973, 695, Fn. 46; Adam 1996, 68–72, Fig. 11, 12 (fibulae of Type IV).

[110] Adam 1996, 76, Fig. 13b.

[111] Tecco Hvala 2014a, 171–172, Map 12.

[112] See here the chapter on the attribution of finds from Pucarjev rob.

[113] Teržan 1976, 322, 427–428, Fig. 13: the list of sites can be extended by adding Novo mesto (Križ 1997, Pl. 43: 11) and Montebelluna (Manessi, Nascimbene 2003, 252, Pl. 81: 20).

[114] Teržan 1976, 436.

[115] Mlinar, Turk 2016, 21, 40–44; cf. Gerbec, Mlinar 2018, 47–48.

[116] Teržan 1973, 695; ead. 1976, 432.

[117] Teržan 1976, 331–334.

[118] Ibid., 432; Laharnar 2018a, 204.

[119] Žbona Trkman, Svoljšak 1981, Cat. No. 22; Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 28: 1; Laharnar 2018a, 203–204.

[120] Podbela (Mlinar, Gerbec, Laharnar 2014, 32, Cat. No. 16), Jelenšek above Godovič (Laharnar 2018a, 204, Fig. 2: 2).

[121] Teržan 1976, 430.

[122] Montebello Vicentino (Ruta Serafini 2001, Fig. 3: 11); Monte Bibele (Challet 2008, 65, Fig. 6b).

[123] Most na Soči (Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 23: 1; Laharnar 2018a, 205), Koritnica (Kos 1973, Pl. 5: 4), Valli del Natisone (Pettarin 2006, Pl. VIII: 105).

[124] Cf. Teržan 1976, 325; Marić 2016, 108, Fig. 3: 2.

[125] Laharnar 2018a, 205.

the latter dated to Sv. Lucija IIc2 or LT B2 according to the central European chronology.[126]

Repelc also yielded fibulae of La Tène forms. Three of them share an Early La Tène construction. The first one with oblique incisions across the bow was found in Pit R 22A (*Pl. 35E:* 1) and is related to the fibulae from the southern Alpine valleys of northern Italy,[127] while a similar fibula also comes from the Bavarian site at Langengeisling.[128] The other two examples at Repelc come from Layer SU 3 and have a rectangular cast bow with a groove along the middle and short incisions along the edges (*Pl. 43:* 3, 4). The closest parallels are known from Idrija pri Bači, Kovačevše and Cerkljansko,[129] which also share the same plate on the foot terminal. Further such fibulae come from Ljubljana[130] and Trentino.[131]

Layer SU 3 yielded cast fibulae with the foot terminal in the shape of a stylised and backward facing animal head with the snout touching or joined with the bow (*Pl. 43:* 5–8). Such fibulae are typical of Posočje.[132] The only examples outside the region came to light at Kovačevše above Lokavec, Grobnik above Rijeka[133] and Žirk near Žiri (*Fig. 48c*).[134] In the form of the bow and decoration, we can roughly distinguish between two variants. The example with a four-coil spring and a catch plate decorated with impressed ring-and-dots (*Pl. 43:* 5) has parallels from Idrija pri Bači, Grobnik and Daber near Šentviška Gora.[135] The two fibulae with impressed rings on the bow (*Pl. 43:* 6, 7) are similar to the fragment from Grave 17 at Koritnica, which is attributable to Sv. Lucija IIc based on the associated goods (iron axe and spearhead).[136] The two examples from Repelc probably share this dating, as their spring terminates with a conical socket to receive the bow, which is often the case on the Late La Tène fibulae of the Idrija pri Bači type, the fibulae of the Middle La Tène construction with three knots on the bow from Posočje.[137] The fibula with incised decoration and a stylised animal head (*Pl. 43:* 8), which has a small amber bead attached to the bow, is similar to the finds from the Late La Tène graves at Idrija pri Bači; the latter have the wire of the spring inserted into the drilled hole at the end of the bow.[138]

The bronze fibula from Layer SU 3, with a thickened bow and two knobs on the reverted foot attached with a clamp to the centre of the bow (*Pl. 43:* 9), is a find unique not only for Most na Soči, but also in the wider western areas of Slovenia. It is an example of the typical bronze fibulae of the Middle La Tène construction from Dolenjska, the Ljubljana Basin and Gorenjska, regions occupied by the Taurisci.[139] They represent the local Celtic form of fibulae, termed the Valična vas type, with its area of origin presumably in Dolenjska.[140]

A particular feature of the fibulae of the Middle La Tène construction from Posočje is the spring made of bronze wire that widens into a conical socket at one end to receive the bow.[141] Such a fibula was found in Grave R 14 (*Pl. 20:* 5), datable to the Late La Tène period based on the associated goods. One fragment came to light in Pit R 29 (*Pl. 36A:* 1), several fragments in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 44:* 1, 5, 8, 9). The second characteristic feature of the fibulae of the Middle La Tène construction from the northern Adriatic hinterland is a wire loop around the neck of the bow, which Mitja Guštin identified them as the Kastav type.[142] The type was popular among the largely non-Celtic peoples in the region. It is identifiable in a single knob on the reverted foot, a spring made of flat wire and an internal chord.[143] Repelc revealed two such fibulae in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 44:* 3, 4), which are thus far the only known examples in Posočje with the closest parallels from Dernazzacco near Cividale del Friuli.[144] The Kastav type fibulae are typical of Istria and the north-eastern part of Caput Adriae, and represent a local version of the Celtic Middle La Tène prototypes.[145] Of this group of finds, Dragan Božič distinguished the Idrija pri Bači type.[146] It is a type mainly characteristic of Posočje in

[126] Guštin 1991, Pl. 23: 19. Such a fibula was also found in Ljubljana, in a LT B2–C1 habitation context (Novšak, Bekljanov Zidanšek, Vojaković 2017, 17, Pl. 1: 9).

[127] Adam 1996, 146, Fig. 23; Gamper 2006, 292, Fig. 189: 28.

[128] Krämer 1985, 107, Pl. 44: 8.

[129] Guštin 1991, Pl. 27: 5, 41: 4; 137: 5; the unpublished fibula from Cerkljansko is kept in the Narodni muzej Slovenije.

[130] Puš 1982, Pl. 50: 6.

[131] Adam 1996, 285, Cat. No. 99.

[132] Cf. Cunja, Mlinar 2010, 44–45, Fig. 27; Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 6: 11; 9: 11; 13: 3; 24: 7), Koritnica in the Bača Valley (Kos 1973, Pl. 5: 2; Guštin 1991, 23, Fig. 123), Daber near Šentviška Gora (Guštin 1991, 23, Fig. 123; Mlinar et al. 2018, 37, Cat. No. 24), Gradišče near Cerkno (Istenič 2015, 44, Pl. 1: 6).

[133] Guštin 1987; id. 1991, 36; Blečić 2004, Pl. 6: 2. 7.

[134] Unpublished, kept in the Narodni muzej Slovenije.

[135] Guštin 1991, Pl. 24; Blečić 2004, Pl. 6: 2. 7; Mlinar et al. 2018, Cat. No. 24.

[136] Kos 1973, Pl. 5: 1–3.

[137] Guštin 1987; id. 1991, 36, Pl. 3: 2, 4: 4, 14: 9; Božič 2011, 255.

[138] Guštin 1991, Pl. 6: 11, 9: 11, 13: 3; Božič 1999a, 162.

[139] Cf. Božič 1992, 197. Valična vas (Gabrovec 1966c, Pl. 25: 2; Teržan 1973, Pl. 5: 3), Dobova (Božič 1987, 876, Pl. 87: 14), Strmec above Bela Cerkev (Dular 1991, Pl. 70: 6, 7) and Stična (Gabrovec et al. 2006, Pl. 185: 21); Ljubljana (Novšak, Bekljanov Zidanšek, Vojaković 2017, Pl. 10: 9) and Kranj (Tomažinčič 2013, 100).

[140] Cf. Božič 1992, 197.

[141] Guštin 1991, 36.

[142] Guštin 1987; id. 1991.

[143] Božič 2011, 254.

[144] Pettarin 2006, 146, Cat. No. 536.

[145] Guštin 1987, Fig. 11; id. 1991, 37; Blečić Kavur 2009, 199, Fig. 2 (distribution map).

[146] Božič 2011, 253–254: Type Kastav, Variant Idrija according to Guštin.

LT D1, though it continues to be worn in the Augustan period.[147] The fibulae have two differently sized spherical knobs at the terminal of the reverted foot, a long clamp with pronounced ribs along the edges, a spring that usually has eight and rarely seven coils, as well as an external chord. Three examples of such fibulae came to light at Repelc, in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 43:* 10, 11; *44:* 1).

A unique bronze fibula of the Middle La Tène construction was found in Grave R 25 (*Pl. 24C:* 1). It has a solid bow, two small and one large barrel-shaped thickening on the foot and a six-coil spring. It is similar to the fibula from Grave 86/195 at Vinica in Bela krajina, with the only difference in that the latter has thirteen coils of the spring.[148] The fibula of the Middle La Tène construction from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 44:* 5) also has close parallels in Vinica rather than Posočje,[149] though the example from Repelc appears to have local traits in the incised decoration on the foot and the conical bow terminal. Local Posočje traits are observable in the example with a spring (*Pl. 44:* 6) such as is usual for the LT D1 fibulae of the Idrija pri Bači type.[150] Fairly similar examples are known from the early excavations at Most na Soči, from Idrija pri Bači and Colle Mazéit in Carnia.[151]

Several fibula fragments from Repelc are made of iron (*Pl. 44:* 10–13). They include the best surviving fibula of the Middle La Tène construction with a spherical knob on the reverted foot and a disc at the foot-bow junction (*Pl. 44:* 10), while only fragments of the iron spring survive of the others. Very few iron fibulae are known from Posočje and even these are too poorly preserved to allow a detailed study.[152] Such fibulae are typical Celtic products otherwise known from Dolenjska and the Celje area.[153]

A bronze annular fibula (*Pl. 44:* 14) was also found at Repelc, in Layer SU 3, identical in its X-shaped incisions on one folded end to a fibula from the Most na Soči settlement and the example from Grave 18 from Idrija pri Bači.[154] Such fibulae are marked as the Posočje type and represent typical Late La Tène finds, individually also unearthed in Kärnten and Notranjska, even as far away as Bavaria.[155]

The cremation pit yielded an Almgren 65 fibula (*Fig. 49; Pl. 36B:* 12), a type that ranks among the most common LT D1 fibulae in Posočje. Two other examples are known from Most na Soči, unearthed in the settlement on the right bank of the Idrijca.[156] They were in use in a wide area between central Italy and central Europe and were probably produced in Cisalpine Gaul.[157] The bronze piece with two knobs on the bow (*Pl. 36B:* 13) is probably an Almgren 236c fibula; this is a form widespread in the Augustan period mainly on the territory of Slovenia.[158] Three fragments from Layer SU 3 are ascribable to Alesia fibulae (*Pl. 45:* 1–3). These are Roman products and represent the earliest hinged fibulae, as well as the leading form in LT D2; brass examples were produced in Italy and were intended for the army, while imitations were made in bronze. In Slovenia, most examples came to light in Posočje.[159] A burnt piece from Layer SU 3 at Repelc (*Pl. 45:* 4) belongs to a strongly profiled fibula; these were most widespread in the 1st century AD and found at other sites in Posočje as well.[160] Also characteristic of this time are the hinged disc fibulae with central decoration, an example of which came to light in Cremation pit (*Pl. 36B:* 14). Its parallels most come from sites in central Slovenia and Kärnten.[161] They were fashionable primarily in the Claudian times and worn from Aquileia to Gaul and Germany.[162]

[147] Božič 2011, 253–255; Laharnar 2018a, 239.

[148] Gaspari, Mlinar 2005, 173.

[149] Gabrovec 1966c, Pl. 17: 2.

[150] Cf. Božič 2011, 253.

[151] Most na Soči (Marchesetti 1886, Pl. VII: 3); Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 3: 14); the fibula from Carnia is dated to LT C2 in the publication (Vannacci Lunazzi 2001, 158).

[152] There are the fibulae from graves at Idrija pri Bači, Reka near Cerkno, Kovačevše and Most na Soči (Guštin 1991, Pl. 3: 3, 4; 4: 5; 32: 9; 41: 12, 15; 42: 9–11), as well as the finds from Sv. Helena near Podbela (Mlinar, Gerbec, Laharnar 2014, Cat. No. 32) and Jerovca on Šentviška planota (Laharnar, Mlinar 2013, Fig. 11: 3).

[153] Parallels for the fibula on *Pl. 44: 10* e.g. those from Novo mesto (Križ 2005, Pl. 48: 5), Mokronog (Guštin 1977, Pl. 12: 2) and Slatina v Rožni dolini in the Celje area (Pirkmajer 1991, Cat. No. 126).

[154] Laharnar 2018a, 235, Fig. 12: 13; Guštin 1991, Pl. 20: 4.

[155] Posočje: Most na Soči (Guštin 1991, 24, Pl. 44: 5; Laharnar 2018a, 235), Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 6: 9; 10: 10; 20: 4; 44: 5), Vrh gradu near Pečine (Božič 1999a, 75, Fig. 5: 3), Berlotov rob (Mlinar et al. 2018, 48, Cat. No. 51), Kärnten: Gurina (Jablonka 2001, Pl. 93: 2), Notranjska: Šmihel near Postojna (Guštin 1979, Pl. 69: 14), Bavaria: Karlstein near Reichenhall (Menke 1977, Fig. 10: 1–2).

[156] One was recovered during the excavations that the Goriški muzej conducted towards the end of the 1970s (Cunja, Mlinar 2010, Cat. No. 119), the other during the 2014 investigations by the Tolminski muzej (unpublished, kept in the TM).

[157] Demetz 1999, 32, Map 1; Božič 2008, 145, Pl. 5.

[158] Cf. Laharnar 2009, 103. Recently, one example from Posočje came to light at Log pod Mangartom (Cunja, Mlinar 2010, Cat. No. 140).

[159] Božič 2008, 146, Pl. 5; for such fibulae from sites in western Slovenia, see Istenič 2005a, 200, Fig. 8.

[160] Jobst 1975, 72–73; cf. Guštin 1991, 46, Fig. 24, Pl. 29: 13, 15.

[161] Strmec above Bela Cerkev (Dular 1991, Pl. 53: 19), Ljubljana – Gornji trg (Vičič 1994, 51–52, Pl. 15: 7), Bled – Pristava (Pflaum 2010, 193), Gurina (Jablonka 2001, 122, Pl. 85: 12).

[162] Cf. Böhme-Schönberger 1990, 5–55.

*Earrings*

Most of the earrings from Repelc are made of bronze band sheet decorated with longitudinal incisions (*Pl. 18B:* 4; *30A:* 2; *31B:* 1; *37:* 9; *45:* 29–35). They were unearthed in Graves R 10 and 41, Cremation pit and Layer SU 3. They are common goods in the graves of the Sveta Lucija group and occur in combination with band, serpentine, Sveta Lucija and Certosa fibulae of different types, all of which characterise the Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb phases.[163] Grave R 34 and Layer SU 3 contained several fragments of bronze band earrings decorated with impressed ring-and-dots and/or tangentially incised or tremolo lines (*Pl. 27B:* 1; *45:* 26–28). These are less frequent finds and occur in the graves attributed to Sv. Lucija IIc, as suggested by the parallels from the Iron Age cemeteries at Most na Soči,[164] Koritnica[165] and Idrija pri Bači;[166] at the last site, a similar example was found in Grave 29 together with an iron spearhead and an axe.

The two band earrings of sheet bronze decorated with embossed dots, incised wavy lines and holes that was found in Grave R 14 (*Pl. 20:* 6, 7) has parallels from Idrija pri Bači, from Graves 2, 5 and 42.[167] Božič described them as bronze band earrings with a hook and hole of the Repelc type, which represent characteristic female jewellery of the Late La Tène period.[168] The traces of silver, the holes for attachment and the incised decoration of wavy lines on the surviving examples show that they were originally also decorated with silver plates. The Late La Tène dating of these earrings is corroborated by the fragments from Grave R 51 (*Pl. 33C:* 1), which were found together with Late La Tène weapons (*Pl. 33C:* 4, 5).

*Rings and finger rings*

The goods from Repelc include three bronze rings with knobs (*Pl. 24B:* 3; *26D:* 2; *46:* 25–26), two from Layer SU 3 and one placed in Grave R 23 together with a Type X Certosa fibula dating to Sv. Lucija IIc. They are known in the Sveta Lucija group as pendants on the Sveta Lucija type of fibulae, but also in combination with serpentine fibulae[169] typical of Sv. Lucija IIa. Rings with smaller knobs, such as the example from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 46:* 26), remain in use in the La Tène period.[170]

Several other bronze rings, annular and penannular, have been found at Repelc that were used as pendants or finger rings. Some are undecorated, for example the rings from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 46:* 11–15) and Cremation pit (*Pl. 37:* 2), others only bear stripes of transverse incisions (*Pl. 35D:* 1; *46:* 2, 4), sometimes in combination with impressed ring-and-dots (*Pl. 37:* 3; *46:* 1) or bear transverse grooves or ribs (*Pl. 30C:* 1; *46:* 5–7, 24). Finger rings decorated with stripes of incisions occur in the Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb graves of women in the Iron Age cemetery at Most na Soči, they were also found at Lepence in Bohinj, as well as in the valley of the River Piave and in Padua.[171] The female costume of this period in the area between the Rivers Adige and Sava includes ribbed rings/finger rings, at Most na Soči primarily as pendants on the Sveta Lucija fibulae.[172] The finger rings from Posočje and neighbouring regions also often bear the incised X motif in combination with transverse incisions (*Pl. 46:* 3).[173]

Layer SU 3 at Repelc also yielded a bronze finger ring decorated with two longitudinal grooves along the upper and lower edges (*Pl. 46:* 21), which is comparable with the finger ring hung from the Picugi fibula from Grave 1 at Idrija pri Bači.[174] The two finger rings of spirally twisted wire from Late La Tène Grave R 14 represent rare finds in Posočje; one of them is bronze and bears transverse incisions at both ends (*Pl. 20:* 1), the other one is silver and deformed (*Pl. 20:* 2). Their closest parallels come from Idrija pri Bači, Valli del Natisone, Socerb and the Notranjska region.[175] Silver rings of spirally twisted wire represent typical LT D1 grave goods in the Ornavasso culture,[176] the examples from the Ornavasso site even have the ends decorated in the same manner as the bronze finger rings from Grave R 14 at Repelc (*Pl. 20:* 1). The fragments from Grave R 35 (*Pl. 27C:* 1, 2) may also be ascribed to this type.

Layer SU 3 yielded several simple Roman finger rings of iron (*Pl. 46:* 27–29), one of them with a partially surviving amber intaglio (*Pl. 46:* 27). Iron finger rings have come to light at all major sites of the Roman period

[163] Teržan, Trampuž 1973, Pl. 11: 4–5, 21; 14: 12; numerous parallels in Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984.

[164] E.g. Most na Soči, Grave Sz 1656 with Type VI Certosa fibulae, a belt plate, a late variant bronze situla and weapons, which indicates a male burial from Sv. Lucija IIc (Teržan 1976, 430, Fig. 23: 11; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 156A: 4).

[165] Kos 1973, Pl. 3: 14; 5: 5, 6.

[166] Guštin 1991, Pl. 23: 8.

[167] Guštin 1991, Pl. 3: 9; 6: 4; 24: 18; 27: 4; Božič 2007a, Fig. 8.

[168] Božič 2007a, 837–839.

[169] See e.g. Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 61D: 7; 170G: 4; 211D: 1; 216A: 1; 231F: 13; 253D: 9.

[170] Cf. Gabrovec 1966c, Pl. 23: 8; Dular 1978, Pl. 5: 10; Božič 1999b, 212; id. 2011, 247.

[171] Nascimbene 2009, 230–231.

[172] Ibid., 232–237.

[173] E.g. at Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 23: 21); Veneto (Pettarin 2006, Pl. XXV: 396, 397), Caverzano near Belluno (Nascimbene 1999, 106) and Este (Chieco Bianchi, Calzavara Capuis 1985, Grave Casa di Ricovero 151).

[174] Guštin 1991, Pl. 1: 1.

[175] Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 27: 2), Valli del Natisone (Pettarin 2006, Pl. XXV: 404–420), Socerb (Crismani, Righi, 2002, 78), Notranjska (Guštin 1979, Pl. 68: 19–24).

[176] Agostinetti 1972, 111, Fig. 100: 1; Graue 1974, Fig. 55; Carlevaro, Pernet, Tori 2006, 114–115, Fig. 4: 11, Tipo 3.

and were in use from the Augustan period to the opening decades of the 2nd century.[177]

*Bracelets, armlets and torques*

The iron bracelet from Cremation pit at Repelc (*Pl. 37:* 8) is identical to the rings placed in Grave Sz 1229 at Most na Soči, together with an iron key,[178] and to a bracelet recovered during Marchesetti's excavations.[179] Similar annular bracelets also occur among the goods in Celtic warrior graves, for example Grave 45 at Brežice from the second half of the 3rd century BC.[180]

The spirally twisted band bracelets/armlets were not widespread in the Sveta Lucija group and there are only few parallels for the two bracelets from Grave R 10 (*Pl. 18B:* 6; *19:* 7); the whole of the prehistoric cemetery at Most na Soči only yielded few;[181] similar items are known from Loga near Bodrež, Valli del Natisone and Socerb.[182] They were apparently more popular in Dolenjska and Notranjska.[183]

Also a very rare find in Posočje is the small ribbed bracelet with slightly overlapping ends from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 47:* 5), which is similar to the examples from the Dolenjska Hallstatt group that date to the Serpentine Fibulae phase.[184]

Another unusual find for the Sveta Lucija group is two round-sectioned fragments decorated with stripes of transverse incisions from Grave R 38 (*Pl. 29A:* 4, 5). They may have belonged to a spirally twisted wire armlet with bent moulded ends, such as is known in Dolenjska from male Grave 2/47 at Magdalenska gora, from the late Certosa Fibulae phase.[185] Grave R 38 from Repelc is also linked to the Dolenjska Hallstatt cultural group by the fragments of sheet bronze belt mounts (*Pl. 29A:* 12).

The heavily burnt fragments of thick round-sectioned bronze wire from warrior Grave R 19 (*Pl. 27C:* 5) could have belonged to a bracelet, such as the one from Slatina v Rožni dolini,[186] from the grave of a man buried in the 2nd century BC, which was also found broken.

Layer SU 3 revealed a bracelet of angular-sectioned bronze wire that has a tubular widening at the centre (*Pl. 47:* 6). Such bracelets occur towards the end of the La Tène and in the Early Imperial period.[187]

The same layer at Repelc also contained a fragment of a bronze wire torque with rolled ends (*Pl. 47:* 7), which in Posočje only has parallels from the large cemetery at Most na Soči.[188] In Notranjska, such torques rank among the leading Late Hallstatt forms in use at least into the Middle La Tène period.[189] They have also come to light in the Kras and Veneto.[190]

The fill of Grave R 14, under the marl cover, revealed the bronze terminal of a hollow torque in the shape of a pig head (*Pl. 21:* 11).[191] Its closest parallel is a find from the early excavations of the Most na Soči cemetery, where the fragment of a tubular torque with the terminal in the shape of a pig head came to light in 1927.[192] Also similar are two finds from Jelenšek above Godovič, kept in the Vojni muzej in Logatec.[193] In the south-eastern Alpine area, hollow bronze torques with variously shaped terminals date to the last phase of the Hallstatt culture,[194] while they are unknown in La Tène contexts.

[177] Galliazzo 1979, 169.

[178] Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 118: 15–18.

[179] Marchesetti 1886, Pl. VIII: 18.

[180] Jovanović 2007, 18, Fig. 10.

[181] Grave M 254 (Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXIV: 11) and Grave Sz 2140 (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 219D: 10, 11) from Sv. Lucija IIa.

[182] Bodrež – Loga (Guštin 1991, Pl. 40: 13), Valli del Natisone (Pettarin 2006, Pl. XXII: 353; Pl. XXIII: 370), Socerb (Crismani, Righi 2002, 76, Nos. 72–74).

[183] Cf. Valična vas (Teržan 1973, Pl. 10: 10–14), Strmec above Bela Cerkev (Stare 1973, Pl. 66: 15–19; Dular 1991, Pl. 73: 22), Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 149: 7, 8; Tecco Hvala 2012, 310–313), Ulaka, Šmihel and Tržišče (Guštin 1979, Pl. 5: 5; 23: 1; 66: 12, 13).

[184] Grahek 2004, 146, Fig. 38.

[185] Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 44B: 6; Tecco Hvala 2012, 313, Fig. 114: 6.

[186] Pirkmajer 1991, 33, Fig. 41, Pl. 8: 45.

[187] Cf. Ljubljana (Petru 1972, Pl. 20: 37), Magdalensberg (Deimel 1987, 66), Gurina (Jablonka 2001, 132), S. Pietro di Rosa – Vicenza (Pettenò 2003, 176).

[188] Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXV: 2; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 40C: 2.

[189] Cf. Guštin 1973, 491; id. 1979, 21: 3–7; 57: 3; Crismani, Righi 2002, 93, Fig. 52; Cunja, Mlinar 2010, 30; Laharnar 2018b, 80.

[190] Crismani, Righi 2002, 73–74, Fig. 44–56; Pettarin 2006, Pl. XVII: 233–244.

[191] Mlinar 2002a, Fig. 19; Božič 2007b, 839; Mlinar 2009, 221–222.

[192] Forlati Tamaro 1930, 419–420, 426, Fig. 6: 6; Mlinar 2009, 219–221, Fig. 4. The fragment was dug up by Valentin Taljat, a local while tending to the garden behind his house. It was found in one of the three cremation graves, the goods from which have been mixed.

[193] Švajncer 2016, 46, figure bottom left. It is a known Sv. Lucija IIc site (cf. Bratina 1997, 146).

[194] Two fragments of a hollow bracelet decorated with stripes of transverse incisions and an inserted animal head terminal were found at Most na Soči in Grave Sz 2337 (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 246C: 5). The grave's Sv. Lucija IIc dating is indicated by the associated Certosa fibulae, basket-shaped pendant with reticular decoration and knobbed bronze ring (Tecco Hvala 2012, 279). At Magdalenska gora, two terminals of a hollow bronze torque in the shape of an animal, possibly panther head were found in a Late Hallstatt grave (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 127: 14). Also similar are the terminal from Šmihel in Notranjska (Guštin 1979, Pl. 65: 7) and two unpublished finds from Planina Koren (information by Jana Horvat; for the Late Hallstatt finds from the site, see Horvat 2006a, 39, Fig.

The fragments of twisted wire torques with knots from Grave R 14, Cremation pit and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 20:* 4; *37:* 5, 6; *47:* 9–20) are predominantly made of three bronze wires. Such torques from the Iron Age cemetery at Most na Soči came to light as stray finds.[195] They are typical of western Slovenia and north-eastern Italy, and indicate a unique character of the non-Celtic population living here in the Late La Tène period. Individual examples already appear in earlier contexts, for example in Grave 42 at Idrija pri Bači, the torque from which was twisted of two wires,[196] similarly as the bracelet from Grave R 14 at Repelc (*Pl. 20:* 3). More precious versions of the torques are made of silver, such as the burnt fragment from Cremation pit (*Pl. 37:* 4).[197] The fragment of twisted bronze wire from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 47:* 21) may also have belonged to a twisted wire torque, or to a solid torque with the wire twisted around it as was common in the Liburnian-Iapodic area in the 4th and 3rd centuries BC; related examples were found at Socerb.[198]

*Pendants*

The bronze pendant in the shape of a trapezoid plate with a missing loop, which was the only good in Grave R 49 (*Pl. 33A:* 1), may represent a stylised female figure. The closest known parallels come from Donnerskirchen, in pendants that Warneke ascribes to Type A2 with the main distribution area in Alto Adige and date to the Late Hallstatt and Early La Tène periods.[199] It is also similar to pendants from the Urnfield culture period, primarily Ha A and Ha B,[200] but it is smaller. The results of the radiocarbon analysis of the bone remains suggest that Grave R 49 dates to the 4th or the 3rd century BC.[201]

Hollow and spherical bronze pendants (*Pl. 47:* 22–24) are typical female ornaments of the Sveta Lucija group, where they occur in graves and cult places.[202] A single example was found outside the Sveta Lucija group, at Parti near Stara Sušica in the Notranjska region,[203] while smaller spherical pendants are characteristic of the areas of Treviso and Belluno.[204] The pendants from Posočje are made of hemispherical halves tied together via a flat loop or a rivet on an extension (*Pl. 47:* 24); some have a hole in the body. They are often suspended as pendants from the Sveta Lucija fibulae, suggesting that they were worn in Sv. Lucija IIa.

Layer SU 3 at Repelc contained similar, basket-shaped pendants with a curved or conical base and either decorated, with reticular decoration or horizontal lines, or undecorated (*Pl. 48:* 1–4). Similar pendants also occur in the graves at Pucarjev rob – PR 1, PR 14, PR 18 (*Pl. 1:* 4, 5; *8A:* 2, 3; *9B:* 1), dating to Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb.[205]

The cremation pit and Layer SU 3 yielded two openwork triangular bronze pendants with four round holes (*Pl. 37:* 13; *48:* 5) that rank among the ornaments typical of Sv. Lucija IIb.[206] These pendants were widespread in areas between the Rivers Adige and Sava, as well as in Istria.[207] Such a pendant from Dercolo suggests that chains were inserted into the holes and the pendant functioned as a chain distributor.[208]

A similar function can also be ascribed to the trefoil-shaped pendants of three equally sized rings with a hole in the centre, such as were found in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 48:* 6, 7). In the graves at Most na Soči, they often occur in pairs, with the associated goods indicating a Sv. Lucija IIa/IIb dating.[209] They are distributed from the Po to the Pannonian Plain, and from Bosnia to eastern France and southern Germany.[210]

Bronze hand-shaped pendants, one of which came to light in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 48:* 8), are commonly suspended from Sveta Lucija bow fibulae found at Most na Soči and in Bohinj,[211] i.e. dating to Sv. Lucija IIa.

4: 2–4) and from the area of the Roman villa at Mošnje in Gorenjska (information by conservator Judita Lux).

[195] E.g. Forlati Tamaro 1930, Fig. 6: 3; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 272: 7.

[196] Guštin 1991, 50, Pl. 27: 1.

[197] Twisted of two silver wires is the torque found at Berlotov rob on Šentviška planota (Turk 2006, 99, Fig. 78: 5; Božič 2007a, 837, Fig. 7). A farmer dug up two silver torques with knots and a copper alloy vessel near Idrija pri Bači already in 1869 (Božič 2007a, 833–836, Fig. 5). Two fragments of a twisted silver torque are also known from Grave 12 at Reka near Cerkno (Guštin 1991, Pl. 34: 12, 8).

[198] Batović 1974, Pl. 20:20; Crismani, Righi 2002, 73, 74, Cat. Nos. 57–58.

[199] Warneke 1999, 122 ff, Fig. 51: 146; 52.

[200] Cf. Ljubljana (Puš 1978); Dobova (Stare 1975, Pl. 40: 11–13); Dalj and Vukovar (Vinski-Gasparini 1973, Pl. 119: 7; 125: 10).

[201] The analysis was performed at Leibniz Labor für Altersbestimmung und Isotopenforschung Christian-Albrechts-Universität in Kiel.

[202] Most na Soči (e.g. Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXI: 2; XXIX: 1; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 41E: 1; 54E: 1); Koritnica (Kos 1973, Pl. 3: 7, 7: 6); Tonovcov grad – Kobarid (Božič 2011, 242, Fig. 6.2: 1); Vrh gradu near Pečine (Božič 1999a, 75, Fig. 5: 2); Kovačevše above Lokavec (Svoljšak 1983, 19, No. 12); Bohinj (Gabrovec 1974, Pl. II: 1,2; IV: 19; VI: 24); Dernazzacco (Pettarin 2006, 229, Cat. Nos. 446, 448).

[203] Horvat 1995, 199, Pl. 1: 8.

[204] Nascimbene 1999, 118, Fig. 24, 279; Manessi, Nascimbene 2003, 216, Pl. 64: 7.

[205] See the chapter on the attribution of the goods from Pucarjev rob.

[206] Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXIV: 20; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 64B: 5; 222A: 2, 3; 277: 9.

[207] Nascimbene 2009, 212, Fig. 68; also see Pettarin 2006, 230–231, Cat. No. 453.

[208] Lunz 1976, 81.

[209] Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXIV: 27; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 148F: 6; 203B: 5; 230E: 4; 245D: 6.

[210] Nascimbene 2009, 36–39, Fig. 10; cf. Sakara Sučević 2004a, 31.

[211] Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XI: 5; Gabrovec 1974, Pl. II: 3, 5.

Others are known from Dolenjska, for example from Brezje pri Trebelnem where they are hung on a large triangular plate with a ring terminal decorated with ring-and-dots.[212] They are also known from Veneto; the example from the southeast sanctuary at Este was a votive offering,[213] while the one from the cemetery at Pian de la Gnela near Pieve d'Alpago, served as a pendant on long-footed fibulae.[214] Earlier examples are known from the southern Adriatic and Picenum.[215]

*Buttons*

Domed bronze buttons are a common find in the graves of the Sveta Lucija group; the Repelc site yielded several examples in Cremation pit and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 37:* 14–20; *49:* 9–18), as well as in Graves R 19 and R 42 (*Pl. 22C:* 7; *30B:* 5–7) dating to Sv. Lucija IIb/c according to the associated goods. Many came to light at Pucarjev rob – in Graves PR 1, PR 29 and PR 34 (*Pl. 1:* 8; *12A:* 2–27; *13D:* 2) and earlier contexts such as Grave PR 10 together with a serpentine fibula (*Pl. 7A:* 3–5).[216]

*Belt hook and mounts*

The two mounts in the shape of two parallel rectangular plates connected with a loop and fastened together with a pair of rivets from Grave R 47 (*Pl. 32B:* 2, 3) can be seen as part of a belt based on the similar find from warrior Grave 40 at Idrija pri Bači,[217] dated with associated goods (Type X Certosa fibulae) to Sv. Lucija IIc. The rectangular mount from Idrija pri Bači has a ring inserted into the loop and the ring linked to another mount of folded sheet metal band fastened together with rivets. The fragments of sheet metal bands with longitudinal incised lines along the edges and rivets from Grave R 38 (*Pl. 29A:* 12) could be belt mounts, which are extremely rare in Posočje,[218] but very common belt parts in the Certosa Fibulae and Negova phases in Dolenjska.[219]

The fragment of a domed bronze mount with a loop, into which a ring is inserted (*Pl. 48:* 9), is also without parallels from Posočje. They are known from Dolenjska, dating to the Negova phase, for example from Znančeve njive in Novo mesto and from Magdalenska gora, where they are interpreted as mounts of a belt or strap.[220]

The annular belt hook with a tong terminating in a mushroom-shaped stud (*Pl. 55:* 8), found in Layer SU 3 at Repelc, is a Celtic form characteristic of LT C2 according to Bataille.[221] In Posočje, the goods from Grave 3 at Reka near Cerkno show that they continued to be used in the Late La Tène period.[222]

The bronze triangular openwork hook with a disc-shaped stud at the terminal (*Pl. 37:* 12) from Cremation pit probably belonged to a Roman *cingulum*. Such a belt hook from Magdalensberg is dated to the last decade BC, while the example from the pre-Roman oppidum at Nissan-lez-Enserune is presumed to be Augustan in date.[223]

*Bronze vessels*

Grave R 48, which a Type X Certosa fibula dates to Sv. Lucija IIc, yielded pieces of sheet bronze that probably belonged to a bronze vessel (*Pl. 32C:* 3–4) of unidentifiable form. In contrast, the fragments from Grave R 47 (*Pl. 32B:* 4–6) have been identified, belonging to a cist such as are characteristic of Sv. Lucija IIb and IIc. Layer SU 3 revealed part of the rim of a sheet bronze situla, with the rim reinforced with lead wire (*Pl. 48:* 15), and a handle (*Pl. 48:* 12).

The fragment of a bronze cup, also from Layer SU 3, decorated with an incised zigzag motif and hatched triangles (*Pl. 48:* 11) has a parallel closest in both decoration and form in the two cups with a high handle from the graves at Idrija pri Bači,[224] attributed to Posočje IVb, i.e. LT D2.[225] A bronze cup with a high handle bearing the same decorative combination of zigzag incisions and triangles is known from Raveo in Carnia, attributed to the developed Iron Age.[226] The fragment of a bronze

[212] Brezje pri Trebelnem (Kromer 1959, Pl. 3: 4); also see Libna (Guštin 1976, Pl. 65).

[213] Dämmer 2002, 262, Fig. 110: 11.

[214] Nascimbene 2009, 209–211, Fig. 66. Also see Pieve d'Alpago – Pian de la Gnela, Belluno (Gangemi, Bassetti, Voltolini 2015, Pl. 10: 10; 11: 7).

[215] Gabrovec 1974, 306–307, Fn. 30; Nascimbene 2009, 209.

[216] See the chapter on the attribution of the goods from Pucarjev rob.

[217] Guštin 1991, Pl. 26: 9.

[218] Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XI: 7.

[219] E.g. Vače (Stare 1955, Pl. 47: 1–18 and others), Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 16: 12; 61: 2 and others), Novo mesto (Knez 1986, Pl. 1: 21; 8: 11, 14; 13: 13), Molnik (Tecco Hvala 2017, Pl. 32: 6 and others), Brezje (Kromer 1959, Pl. 11: 7, 8; 20: 13 and others).

[220] Knez 1986, Pl. 13: 15; Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 63: 47–48. Cf. Dular 2003, 144, Fig. 90.

[221] Bataille 2001, 450, Type 4A2. Cf. Slatina v Rožni dolini, Grave 10 (Pirkmajer 1991, Fig. 32, Cat. No. 59); Mirandola in S. Maria di Zevio near Verona, Graves 24 and 135 (Salzani 1996, Pl. XI: C1, LXII: B8); Kundl (Lang 1998, Pl. 11: 283–284); Döttenbichl (Zanier 2016, Pl. 7: B58).

[222] Guštin 1991, Pl. 31: 8.

[223] Magdalensberg (Deimel 1987, 92, Pl. 79: 10); Nissan-lez-Enserune (Feugère 2002, 106, Fig. 15: 116); also cf. Gurina (Gamper 2007, 353, Fig. 4: 8) and Gradišče above Knežak (Laharnar 2015, Pl. 4: 16).

[224] Guštin 1991, Pl. 4: 9, 12: 4.

[225] Božič 2009, 82.

[226] Concina 2001, Fig. 5: 2; Vitri 2001, 23, Fn. 21.

cup with incised hanging triangles from the Misincinis cemetery in Carnia, dated to the 5th century BC [227] indicates an earlier appearance and long-term use of such vessels. There appear to have been contacts between the workshops that produced cups with a high strap handle in Posočje and Carnia, on the one hand, and those making bronze ladles in the Raetian area, on the other.[228]

The bronze plate with a cross-like incision (*Fig. 50; Pl. 48:* 24) presumably represents the remains of a Hellenistic-Etruscan strainer, with the plate attached to the rim of the strainer opposite a horizontal strap handle. The plate served to place the strainer onto the rim of the vessel into which a liquid was being strained. The strainer (*colum, hethmos, hylister*) was used to filter the wine and catch the aromatic herbs and other admixtures before serving it.[229] In northern Italy, strainers with hemispherical or carinated bowls and a strap handle on one side, with the terminal in the shape of a canine head, and a rest plate on the opposite side were in use from the mid-4th to the early 3rd century BC.[230] Similar strainers from the Po Plain are known from Bologna, Montetamburino, Verona, Tontola, as well as in Tyrrhenian Etruria (Tarquinia, Tuscania, Volterra, Vulci, Viterbo, Chiusi, Poggio Pinci, Bolsena), the Umbrian centre at Todi and the cemeteries at Montefortino and Filottrano in Picenum.[231]

The bronze horseshoe-shaped plate from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 48:* 23) probably served as the foot or stand of a bronze vessel.[232] The heavily burnt fragment of a bronze attachment of a beaker (*Pl. 48:* 22) is similar in shape and size to the attachments of the Late La Tène Idrija type beakers.[233]

In addition to small iron nails, Grave R 3 also revealed a bronze socketed handle with the terminal in the shape of a ram's head and a nude female figure depicted in relief (*Pl. 17A:* 1). The socket interior held traces of burnt wood, which indicate that the handle was in secondary use, possibly as the tip of a wooden rod, though it originally probably formed part of a bronze vessel – a patera. The closest parallel is the handle of a patera from Neuvy-Pailloux, a site from the Augustan-Claudian period, which also bears a nude woman shown in profile, with a slightly bent right leg, club across the left shoulder and lion skin across the right arm. The figure is that of Omphala with a lion skin and club, both attributes of Hercules. This handle also terminates in a well-modelled ram's head with curved horns and emphasised hair, muzzle and eyes.[234] Handle terminals in the shape of the heads of rams, dogs, panthers, lions or humans are common on paterae; Radnoti observes that the head of a ram is most frequently depicted on examples from the Danube provinces.[235] In Slovenia, a similar find came to light in Ptuj.[236]

### *Ingots*

The crumbly ingot (*Fig. 51; Pl. 49:* 19) from Layer SU 3 bears the motif of a dry branch (ear of grain, herringbone) on the upper and lower surfaces, which is characteristic of the *ramo secco* ingots. It was cast in a two-piece mould of a binary copper-lead alloy. The chemical analysis[237] has shown a composition common for such ingots, although the alloy of copper and iron is more common.[238] The characteristic form and chemical composition led to them being interpreted as a premonetary currency. Most were found on the Apennine Peninsula, mainly at sites in western Emilia; less than ten examples are known north of the Po.[239] One of the latter came to light in the settlement at Most na Soči,[240] other nearby examples came from the hoard from Šempeter pri Gorici,[241] from Povirje near Sežana and Semenič near Semič in the Bela krajina region.[242] Surviving in a crack in the ingot from Repelc is a piece of charcoal, which was radiocarbon dated to around 409 BC.[243] The ingots of this type were most widespread in

[227] Vitri 2001, Fig. 4; Pl. 2: 6.

[228] Božič 2009, 80.

[229] Cottafava 2006, 6–7.

[230] Caramella 1995, 81–83; Bolla, Castoldi 2016, 123, 141: such finds in the Verona area also came to light in contexts from the late 2nd or early 1st century BC.

[231] Cf. Bologna – Benacci, Grave 953, dated to the first decade of the 3rd century BC (Vitali 1992, 291, Pl. 34: 12), Monte Tamburino, Grave 116 (Vitali 2003), Verona (Salzani 1984–1985, 354, Pl. 18: 1), Isola Rizza (Salzani 2002, Pl. XXVI: 11), for other examples, see Bolla, Castoldi 2016, 150.

[232] Cf. Deimel 1987, Pl. 11: 4; Gamper 2006, Fig. 118: 9. A similar example was found in the Iron Age settlement at Most na Soči (Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 27: 19; Laharnar 2018a, 234).

[233] Cf. Guštin 1991, Pl. 8: 3 (Idrija pri Bači, Grave 5); Božič 2003, 267, Fig. 2: 2 (burial in the tumulus southwest of the Larina oppidum near Lyon). Similar attachments are also on the Late La Tène beaker from Tržišče near Cerknica, in the Notranjska region (Guštin 1979, Pl. 25: 38).

[234] Ferdière, Villard 1993, 186–188. I thank Dragan Božič for the information.

[235] Radnoti 1938, 87.

[236] Breščak 1982, 30–31.

[237] Element content is as follows: Cu 51.85%, Pb 46.85%, Sn < d. l., As 0.17%, Ni 0.01%, Sb 0.04%, Co 0.01%, Bi 0.04%, Ag 0.05%, Fe 0.02%, Mn < d. l., Zn 0.06%. (Mlinar 2003, 29–30).

[238] Antonacci Sanpaolo, Follo 1990; Antonacci Sanpaolo et al. 1994; Trampuž Orel et al. 2002, 60.

[239] Neri 2003, 106.

[240] Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 23: 7; 33: 20; Laharnar 2018a, 222.

[241] Furlani 1996, 73–88.

[242] Trampuž Orel et al. 2002, 63–75.

[243] Radiocarbon age: 2406+/-31 BP, calibrated age: 409 BC. The analysis was performed at the Leibnitz – Labor für Altersbestimmung und Isotopenforschung at the Christian Albrechts Universität in Kiel.

the second half of the 5th century BC.[244] The cremation pit and Layer SU 3 at Repelc yielded several other pieces of copper alloy ingots (*Pl. 37:* 21, 22, 24; *49:* 20–22), but they were not subjected to chemical analysis.

*Iron weapons*

Layer SU 3 at Repelc revealed an intentionally bent shaft-hole axe that was broken in two (*Fig. 52; Pl. 50:* 4). The axe is of a form occurring in male burials towards the end of the Hallstatt period in Posočje,[245] Notranjska[246] and Dolenjska,[247] but remained in use into the La Tène period.[248] The examples from Koritnica in the Bača Valley and Šmihel in Notranjska were also broken in two.

Appearing more or less contemporaneously with these axes in Posočje are those with one-sided wings.[249] The example with a flat butt and a saddle-shaped junction between the wings and the blade, found in Layer SU 3 at Repelc (*Pl. 50:* 6), could be dated to the Late La Tène period based on the burial contexts with similar finds from Idrija pri Bači.[250] The same dating could be ascribed to the other axe with one-sided wings from Repelc (*Pl. 50:* 5), which is wider and slightly more curved at the cutting edge. It probably served as an agricultural (hoe) or carpeting tool rather than a battle axe. Similar finds are known from the graves at Idrija pri Bači, Reka near Cerkno and Loga near Bodrež.[251]

A variety of spearheads also came to light at Repelc. The example with a short lozenge-sectioned blade (*Pl. 51:* 2) has parallels in Carnia,[252] Notranjska[253] and the Late Hallstatt graves in Dolenjska.[254] Similarities with the Late Hallstatt spearheads from Dolenjska are also observable in the fragment of a blade with a triangular-sectioned midrib (*Pl. 50:* 7).[255]

The spearhead with a short blade and long socket from Grave R 25 (*Pl. 25:* 4) is a relatively rare find in Posočje, which the associated goods, primarily the fibulae, date to the Late La Tène period.[256] The spearheads measuring 35–65 cm in length and with the socket almost twice as long as the blade are close to the pilum-like projectile heads from the central and eastern Alpine area.[257] Similar heads are also known from the cemeteries at Šmihel in Notranjska.[258] In Dolenjska, they date to the last phase of the Early and the Late Iron Age.[259] Both the long and the short pilum-like heads were also recovered in the assemblage of ritually damaged weapons dating to around 300 BC, found on a hill near Förker Laas Riegel/Borče in the Gail Valley.[260]

The intentionally bent spearhead with a biconical blade (*Pl. 51:* 1) has the closest parallels from Idrija pri Bači and Veneto,[261] even more from Dolenjska,[262] where they date to LT C2 and LT D1. The bayonet-like spearhead with a short socket from Grave R 35 (*Pl. 28:* 8) also has parallels in Dolenjska.[263] The two types of spearheads are contemporaneous, hence the grave from Repelc can also be attributed to the Late La Tène period.

Grave R 51 and Layer SU 3 at Repelc yielded conical spear butts (*Pl. 33C:* 5; *51:* 3, 5), which in Posočje and elsewhere in the south-eastern Alpine area mainly occur in the La Tène graves[264] and very rarely in Hallstatt contexts,[265] while the form remains largely unchanged.

The over 55 cm long pilum-like projectile head from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 52:* 3), which was intentionally bent and broken, is similar to the heads with a slender

[244] Macellari, Pellegrini 2002, 164.

[245] E.g. Most na Soči, Grave Sz 45 (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 7B: 2); Koritnica in the Bača Valley (Kos 1973, Pl. 11: 1–2); Jelenšek above Godovič (Laharnar, Turk 2017, 123, Fig. 140), Šentviška Gora (Mlinar et al. 2018, 37, Cat. No. 22).

[246] Guštin 1979, Pl. 56: 3.

[247] Tecco Hvala 2012, 120–121.

[248] See e.g. Križ 2005, Pl. 77: 3; Laharnar 2018b, 84; Laharnar, Mlinar 2019.

[249] Cf. Guštin 1991, Pl. 5: 5; 11: 6; 14: 16.

[250] Graves 5, 11, 12, 16 (Guštin 1991, Pl. 5: 5; 11: 6; 14: 16).

[251] Guštin 1991, Pl. 38: 3; 37: 3.

[252] Vitri 2001, Fig. 7: Pl. 33: 1.

[253] Guštin 1979, Pl. 13: 4.

[254] Teržan 1976, Pl. 62: 6; 78: 2; Dular 2003, Pl. 89: 16; Tecco Hvala 2012, 127, Fig. 50.

[255] Cf. Teržan 1976, Pl. 20: 3; Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 73B: 6.

[256] Gaspari, Mlinar 2005, 173.

[257] Cf. Schaaff 1990, Fig. 11.

[258] One was found in Grave 99 at the Za Polšno site together with a bronze button decorated with an incised spiral (Guštin 1979, Pl. 51: 1,2). Another one, 54.4 cm long, was unearthed in Grave 127 together with the knob of a shield boss, spear butt, glass beads, a bronze bracelet and a plain torque with rolled ends (ibid., Pl. 57: 1–6), the last items characteristic of the Late Hallstatt Notranjska VI phase, but continued to be worn in the Middle La Tène period (Guštin 1973, 491–492; Crismani, Righi 2002, 93, Fig. 52; Cunja, Mlinar 2010, 30).

[259] Tecco Hvala 2012, 127, Fig. 49: 5, 6; ead. 2017, 157, Pl. 8: 4; 16: 7, 8.

[260] Schaaff 1990, 20, Fig. 10, 11.

[261] Guštin 1991, Pl. 4: 3; Pettarin 2006, 244, Pl. XXXIII: 547, 552.

[262] Križ 2005, Pl. 24: 2; 53: 2; 93: 5; Dular 1991, Pl. 66: 4.

[263] E.g. from Grave 107 at Kapiteljska njiva in Novo mesto (Križ 2005, Pl. 3: 5).

[264] Posočje (Guštin 1991, Pl. 11: 9, 21: 5); Monte Sorantri in Carnia (Righi 2001, Fig. 11: 16–21, 24–31); Novo mesto in Dolenjska (Križ 2005, Pl. 30: 2; 34: 4; 49: 4; 74: 4); Slatina v Rožni dolini in Štajerska (Pirkmajer 1991, Pl. 10, Cat. No. 69).

[265] Posočje: Most na Soči, Grave Sz 294 (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 27: 4); Jelenšek near Godovič (Laharnar, Turk 2017, 123, Fig. 140); Dolenjska: Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 26: 24); Vače (Stare 1955, Pl. VII: 16); Valična vas (Teržan 1973, Pl. 16: 7–11).

lenticular-sectioned blade, which were used in the Alpine valleys[266] and the western Celtic area[267] mainly at the end of the Early La Tène period (LT B2);[268] rare examples have come to light in the Apennine Peninsula.[269] The surviving pyramidal tip (*Pl. 52:* 4) is presumably part of a classic iron pilum from the Early Imperial period.[270]

Grave R 25 (*Pl. 25:* 3) contained a sword with a bent hilt, i.e. machaira. It belongs to a group of curved single-edged weapons – sabres, which the peoples inhabiting the western and northern coasts of the Mediterranean wielded through the Iron Age.[271] From the 4th century BC on, swords with a bent hilt were characteristically used by the peoples living in the hinterland of the northern Adriatic, while those in the Balkans began using different types of curved single-edged swords.[272] The machaira from Grave R 25 is among the latest forms, known as the Ljubljanica variant, which is believed to be a La Tène form given the typological development of machairas and their tendency towards an ever longer blade.[273] Mixed Layer SU 3 at Repelc yielded a fragment of a scabbard with part of the blade (*Pl. 54:* 11) that may also have belonged to a machaira, but the surviving piece is too small for a positive identification.

The Repelc site revealed heavily fragmented swords and/or scabbards in Graves R 18 and 51 (*Pl. 22B:* 2; *33C:* 4), Cremation pit (*Pl. 38:* 1, 2) and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 52:* 5–8; *53:* 1–12; *54:* 1–10). Long double-edged swords and their parts have come to light at all major La Tène sites in Posočje;[274] they were the weapon of choice of Celtic warriors and worn in metal scabbards. The fragment from Cremation pit (*Pl. 38:* 2) is a scabbard chape. In Layer SU 3, a fragment of a sword blade with the characteristic triple-diamond section (*Pl. 53:* 3) and numerous pieces of scabbards, from chapes (*Pl. 53:* 8) to heart-shaped crossguard and other parts (*Pl. 53:* 1, 2, 5–7) datable to LT D1, were found across a roughly 5 m² large surface. The usual, decorated scabbards are otherwise unknown in Posočje with the exception of an Early La Tène example from Kobarid.[275]

Also interpreted as sword parts are the iron rings from Grave R 35 (*Pl. 27C:* 6) and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 53:* 4; *55:* 1–6); such rings served to suspend the swords from the belt.[276]

The equipment of Celtic warriors included shields, of which usually only the iron parts survive (bosses, handgrips, edge bindings), while the wooden parts decay. Heavily fragmented remains of shield bosses and other parts were recovered from Cremation pit (*Pl. 37:* 31, 32) and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 55:* 9–16). The wings of a shield boss and an iron knob (*Pl. 55:* 13–15) were found together and probably formed part of the same ellipsoid shield boss, while another fragment with a knob was found separately (*Pl. 55:* 16). They may represent the remains of a shield boss of the Skorba or Mokronog-Arquà type,[277] or the rectangular type with a barrel-shaped raised central part; all these forms are characteristic of LT D1. In Posočje, shield bosses came to light at Most na Soči, Idrija pri Bači, Reka near Cerkno, Kobarid and Čadrg, belonging to the Skorba, Mokronog-Arquà, round, rectangular and bivalve types.[278]

Shields were also fitted with iron handgrips. A fragment of a handgrip was found in Cremation pit (*Pl. 37:* 33); it terminates in a semicircular plate and has parallels in Posočje, Carnia and Dolenjska.[279] The handgrip fragment from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 56:* 5) probably terminated in a rectangular plate at either end, similarly as the two examples from Novo mesto in Dolenjska.[280] The bent iron band with a rivet (*Pl. 57:* 6) might also be the remains of a shield handgrip with rectangular terminals.[281]

[266] E.g. Nothdurfter 1979, 79–89; Pl. 70, 1192–1195, 1198–1200; Lang 1998, 126, Pl. 26: 503.

[267] Sievers 2001, 163–164, Pl. 69: 359; Wyss, Rey, Müller 2002, Pl. 45: 145–147; 46: 145–147.

[268] Lang 1998, 126.

[269] Cf. Monte Bibele (Lejars 2008, 184, Tombe 31).

[270] Istenič 2019, 95; cf. Reka near Cerkno, Grave 11 (Guštin 1991, Pl. 33: 14), the River Ljubljanica (Istenič 2019, Fig. 40), the River Savinja at Celje (Gaspari et al. 2001, Pl. 1: 3).

[271] The ancient Greek term μάχαιρα initially referred to the ritual knives for killing sacrificial animals and to surgical instruments, from the 4th century BC onwards it was also a common word for swords (Quesada Sainz 1997, 171).

[272] Cf. Gabrovec 1966b, 262; Guštin 1974, 93–94; Parović Pešikan 1982, 25–39; Čović 1987, 258, 262, Fig. 16: 25.

[273] Gaspari, Mlinar 2005, 176–178.

[274] Most na Soči (Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXVIII: 6; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 274: 8–9), Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 4: 1–2), Reka near Cerkno (Guštin 1991, Pl. 37: 1–2, 4), Kobarid (Marchesetti 1903, Pl. XVIII: 10; Mlinar, Gerbec 2011, 34–36, Cat. Nos. 1–6), Tonovcov grad (Božič 2011, 251–252, Fig. 6.2.8), Vrh gradu near Pečine and Berlotov rob (Mlinar et al. 2018, Cat. Nos. 60, 61), Čadrg – Laze (Mlinar, Turk 2016, 40, 42, Cat. Nos. 39–40), Gradec near Krn (Laharnar, Turk 2017, Fig. 197 top).

[275] Mlinar, Gerbec 2011, 36, Fig. 16, Cat. No. 5.

[276] Cf. Guštin 1991, Pl. 31: 6; Righi 2001, Fig. 4: 1, 5; 11: 22–23.

[277] Guštin 1991, 56–58, Fig. 30: the distribution map of the Mokronog-Arquà type of shield bosses can be extended with the findspots in Monte Sorantri in Carnia (Righi 2001, 117, Fig. 12, 15, 16, 17, 18), Teurnia (Glaser 1993, 289–295) and the cemeteries at S. Maria di Zevio (Salzani 1996, 46, Pl. XII: 8) and Novo mesto – Kapiteljska njiva (Križ 2005, Pl. 33: 3). A Skorba type boss was also found at Brežice (Jovanović 2007, 52, Cat. No. 24).

[278] Marchesetti 1903, Pl. XVIII: 20; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 274: 7; Guštin 1991, 56–58, Pl. 13: 5; 17: 1; 30: 4; 32: 5; 34: 2; 37: 5; Mlinar, Gerbec 2011, Cat. Nos. 15–21; Mlinar, Turk 2016, 42.

[279] Cf. Guštin 1991, Pl. 32: 7; Righi 2001, Fig. 16: 64; Križ 2005, Pl. 8: 6; Teržan 1973, Pl. 22: 4.

[280] Križ 2005, Pl. 84: 7; 98: 7.

[281] Cf. Reka near Cerkno (Guštin 1991, Pl. 33: 15).

Potential shield parts further include domed iron rivets for fastening bosses to the wooden shields (*Pl. 55:* 9–12); parallels for which again come from sites in Posočje, Carnia and Dolenjska.[282] Such rivets are also used on the Mokronog-Arquà shield bosses from the eponymous site of Arquà-Petrarca and from the graves at Isola Rizza, dated with the associated coin finds to the middle or second half of the 2nd century BC.[283]

Finds from cemeteries and sanctuaries show that the wooden La Tène shields were reinforced with edge binding.[284] Remains of such binding can be seen in the iron fragments from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 56:* 3, 4).

*Iron tools*

The bottom of Grave R 14 revealed cremated remains and rich female adornments, as well as a conical hoe, billhook and fragments of an iron sickle (*Pl. 21A:* 8–10) that were placed along the edge of the pit. Placing iron tools in graves and hoards was among the main characteristics of the Late Iron Age Idrija group. The iron tools found in the cemeteries at Idrija pri Bači, Reka near Cerkno and Bodrež, in the hoards from Vrhovlje near Kojsko and Modrej, as well as in cult places are local products similar to those occurring also in Friuli, Carnia, Notranjska and Gorenjska.[285]

The hoe or mattock from Grave R 14 (*Pl. 21:* 9) is a strongly curved conical example with one-sided wings to hold the shaft. In Posočje, such tools come in two sizes. The hoe from Repelc measures 28 cm in length and is among the largest examples,[286] which are only known from Late La Tène contexts.[287] The tool also exhibits an earlier tradition in the one-sided wings, while the shape of the blade might model the items from the southern Alpine valleys, where hoes, predominantly found in the cemeteries at Ticino, have a wedge-shaped blade, a round hole for hafting and usually a conical butt at the apex.[288]

The tool with a curved blade from Grave R 14 (*Pl. 21:* 8) could be either a sickle or a scythe;[289] the missing handle terminal prevents us from identifying the exact function. In form, the tool is similar to the sickle from Iron Age House 30 at Most na Soči,[290] but also to two small scythes from the Modrej hoard.[291]

One-sided wings for holding a wooden shaft are also on a billhook, i.e. a knife curved like a sickle (*Pl. 21:* 10), that even survived with a piece of the wooden shaft and an iron shank for fixing. This is one of the most popular agricultural tools in the Late La Tène period of Posočje,[292] with similar examples known from Carnia and Tyrol,[293] which only differ from those from Posočje in minor details.

The Repelc site also yielded several iron knives. The goods in Grave R 42, dated to the late Sv. Lucija IIc, included a knife with a semicircularly widened blade and a hooked angular-sectioned terminal (*Pl. 30C:* 8). A smaller fragment of a blade of undeterminable shape came from Cremation pit (*Pl. 38:* 5) and Layer SU 3 yielded a fragment of an S-shaped blade (*Pl. 56:* 6). Parallels for the last item suggest it dates to the 4th or 3rd century BC,[294] i.e. the transition from the Early to the Late Iron Age. The same layer also contained an angular-sectioned iron hook (*Pl. 57:* 4), possibly the terminal of a knife handle similar to one from Idrija pri Bači,[295] as well as a fragment with a ring terminal that broadens towards the blade (*Pl. 57:* 1). The latter might be what remained of a battle knife such as were in use in the La Tène period in the Mokronog group and in the area of the Scordisci,[296] while they are unknown in Posočje.

Popular in Late La Tène Posočje were curved knives with an S-shaped blade and one-sided wings of the handle for attaching the grip.[297] The fragment from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 56:* 8) may be the remains of such a knife. They are presumed to have been used for vegetation clearing or pruning grapevine, similarly as the tools the Romans called *falx vinatoria* or *falx arboria*.[298]

[282] Cf. Reka near Cerkno (Guštin 1991, Pl. 32: 7); Carnia (Righi 2001, Fig. 16: 61–62; 18: 69–70; Vitri 2001, Fig. 11: 8); Novo mesto in Dolenjska (Križ 2005, Pl. 70: 4; 82: 4).

[283] Arquà-Petrarca (Gamba 1987, Fig. 11: 2); Isola Rizza (Salzani 1998, Pl. 1: 3; 4: 12; Biondani 1998, 137).

[284] E.g. Kobarid – Bizjakova hiša (Mlinar, Gerbec 2011, Cat. No. 26); Monte Sorantri (Donat, Righi, Vitri 2007, Fig. 23: 1); Kundl (Lang 1998, Pl. 29: 527–529); the sanctuary at Gournay (Rapin 1988, Pl. XLI).

[285] Guštin 1991, 95–96; for the finds from cult places, see Laharnar, Turk 2017, 167–168, Fig. 193.

[286] Cf. Idrija pri Bači, Bodrež and Modrej (Guštin 1991, Pl. 2: 2; 10: 9; 20: 1; 38: 4; 45: 1), Žabče (Svoljšak 1967, Pl. 2: 5), Vrhovlje near Kojsko (Božič 2007b, 230, Fig. 2: 5).

[287] Guštin 1991, 62.

[288] Nothdurfter 1979, 47.

[289] The tool was interpreted as a sickle in the first publication (Mlinar 2002a, Cat. No. 31).

[290] Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 95: 3; Laharnar 2018a, 216–217.

[291] Guštin 1991, Pl. 45: 7, 8.

[292] Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 2: 1; 18: 4), Reka near Cerkno (ibid., Pl. 31: 9), Berlotov rob (Laharnar, Turk 2017, Fig. 193).

[293] Concina 2001, 81, Fig. 4.1; Nothdurfter 1979, 80–83.

[294] Cf. Socerb (Crismani, Righi 2002, 84, Cat. No. 170), Dürrnberg (Parzinger 1988, Pl. 11: 31), Sotin (Todorović 1974, 138, Fig. 99).

[295] Guštin 1991, Pl. 18: 5.

[296] Cf. Gabrovec 1966c, Pl. 10: 7; Dizdar 2013, 134, Fig. 44: 1.

[297] Most na Soči (Guštin 1991, Pl. 44: 1; Svoljšak, Dular 2006, Pl. 59: 13); Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 11: 2, 8; 18: 6).

[298] Guštin 1991, 63.

Several other fragments of iron knives are attributable to the Roman period. One is a knife with a rod tang from urn Grave R 1 (*Pl. 15B:* 1). Another one is a knife with a curved blade, loop terminal and bone grip from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 56:* 9), which is a typically Norican form according to Dolenz. They appear in Noricum already in the Augustan period, while in Slovenia they are recorded throughout the 1st century.[299] Two other fragments from the same layer may also belong to Roman-period knives (*Pl. 56:* 10, 11), though formally they could also belong to scissors.[300]

The tools from Repelc include an Iron Age awl that is rectangular-sectioned at one end and round-sectioned at the other, with both ends thinned (*Pl. 58:* 1). The closest parallels are known from the Iron Age settlement at Most na Soči, more precisely from the late phase of Late Hallstatt House 15A and Late La Tène House 31.[301]

*Clamps and nails*

The small bronze nail with a disc head from Grave R 34 (*Pl. 27B:* 2) has close Late Iron Age parallels from Sanzeno.[302] Such items found in sanctuary contexts, for example at Lagole di Calalzo, are interpreted as nails that served to fasten votive objects onto wooden supports or walls.[303]

The very small iron nails with a mushroom-shaped or flat head and a shank of different sections were probably used on footwear.[304] They are common finds in the graves from the Roman period and have been recorded at Repelc in almost all of the Roman-period graves – R 2, 3, 7, 8, 17 and 30 (*Pl. 16B:* 1; *17A:* 2–7; *17B:* 1–4; *17D:* 1; *18A:* 2; *22A:* 1; *26C:* 1), but also in Cremation pit (*Pl. 38:* 13–29) and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 58:* 11–72). They are not chronologically diagnostic finds, in use in an almost unaltered form up to Late Antiquity and then again in the post-medieval period.[305] More diagnostic are the iron hobnails with a decorative pattern of a cross and four dots on the head, one of which was found in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 58:* 11). Such hobnails are associated with military footwear and consequently the presence of the Roman army. Parallels suggest that those measuring roughly 2 cm across date to the Late Republican period, while smaller ones are Augustan;[306] the latter include the example from Repelc.

Several graves also contained iron clamps. Large nails and clamps found in graves could have served to fasten wooden structures or chests, but also to hold together the wooden bier on which the deceased was placed onto the pyre.[307] The finds from Cremation pit and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 38:* 10–12; *58:* 2–10) are presumably the clamps holding together wooden coffins or biers. Of these, the L-shaped clamp (*Pl. 38:* 8) has a parallel from a grave of Emona's northern cemetery dated to the Flavian period based on the associated goods and another one recovered from building debris at Preval near Razdrto, attributed to the time between the Middle/Late Augustan period and the mid-1st century.[308]

*Horse gear*

Grave R 19, with a cover consisting of several marl slabs and with rich grave goods (*Pl. 22C, 23A*), contained cremated human remains, as well as several unburnt horse bones.[309] The numerous glass beads, a bronze button and a basket-shaped pendant indicate the burial of a woman, buried at the age of 20–40 according to the anthropological analysis.

A similar burial was that in Grave R 22, which stood out in its great size and was covered with several stone slabs. Found under the cover slabs at the top of the fill was an iron ring (*Pl. 23C:* 10). A large amount of unburnt horse bones were scattered across the pit and around it,[310] while the bottom of the pit revealed cremated human remains and nine cross-shaped buttons (*Pl. 23B:* 1–9), which formed part of the horse gear and were used as strap distributors.[311] They have two crossed loops on the underside and the crosses decorated with three transverse incisions each. These are the only known examples of this form in Posočje and their parallels mainly come from Dolenjska, where they occur in the graves of the Negova phase and also where we should presume their place of origin.[312] Direct evidence of the latter is the find of a mould for such distributors in the settlement at Gradišče above Vintarjevec near Litija.[313] Based on these parallels, Grave R 22 from Repelc is attributable to Sv. Lucija IIc. Several square-sectioned and hollow iron fragments came to light a few metres northeast of this grave (*Pl. 57:* 16–21), which may represent parts of bridles, but they are too fragmented to be positively identifiable.

[299] Dolenz 1992, 100–102; for the territory of Slovenia, cf. Pflaum 2010, 202.

[300] Cf. Modrijan, Milavec 2011, Pl. 19: 8.

[301] Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 53: 2–5; 97A: 8; Laharnar 2018a, 219–220.

[302] Nothdurfter 1979, 78, Pl. 69: 1147–1166.

[303] Gambacurta, Brustia 2001, 249, 469–471.

[304] Cf. Rodik (Istenič 1987, 114 ff); Vipava (Tratnik 2014, 295 ff).

[305] Zanier 2016, 463–464.

[306] Cf. Istenič 2005b, 81; Laharnar 2009, 132–133.

[307] Istenič 1987, 114 ff; Slabe 1993, 90–91.

[308] Emona (Petru 1972, Pl. 72: 4), Preval near Razdrto (Horvat, Bavdek 2009, 123, Pl. 41: 5).

[309] See here Toškan and Leben-Seljak.

[310] See here Toškan.

[311] Mlinar 2002a, 24, Cat. No. 24.

[312] Kruh 2008, 97–98 with references.

[313] Stare 1999, 18, 28, Fig. 9: 1,2.

Three inhumation burials of horses have been recorded in the Iron Age cemetery at Most na Soči (Graves M 2141, M 2788 and Sz 592),[314] covered and enclosed with stone slabs similarly to the custom known with the Veneti.[315] The horse gear from Grave M 2141, composed of iron bridles and decorative strap fittings, is similar to the goods from the Late Hallstatt chariot graves in the upper reaches of the Rivers Rhine and Danube. Similar horse gear also came to light in Grave Sz 592, but made of bronze, while the iron mouthpiece is lost; an iron mouthpiece was supposedly found in Grave M 2788.[316]

Horse gear in Posočje also came to light in Grave 1 at Idrija pri Bači, which contained a mouthpiece of a characteristically Late La Tène form,[317] while a burial of a horse complete with bridles composed of cheek-pieces and two-part mouthpieces with curb bars, also dating to LT D1, was excavated in the cemetery in Kobarid.[318] A more recent discovery in Kobarid is that of a ritual burial of horses at the Bizjakova hiša site, dated to LT B2.[319]

The common burial of a man together with a horse and horse gear was a custom practised by the peoples of the southern sub-Alpine area, who adopted it at the beginning of the Iron Age from the Eastern nomadic peoples.[320] The horse was also a status symbol,[321] of which only individual bones or teeth could be placed into graves as pars pro toto.

### *Artefacts of lead*

Two amorphous pieces of lead found in Cremation pit (*Pl. 39:* 1) and in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 49:* 27), respectively, are both melted together with a fragment of a ceramic pithos. This indicates lead was used to repair the cracks in the vessels, but also to repair other artefacts such as a serpentine fibula, found with a lead casing in Grave PR 15 (*Pl. 8B:* 1). Several similar examples are known from the Iron Age cemetery at Most na Soči, excavated by both Marchesetti and Szombathy,[322] while an amorphous piece of lead was unearthed in the Late Hallstatt settlement on the right bank of the Idrijca.[323]

### *Glass finds*

The glass beads from Repelc are mostly heavily burnt, found in Graves R 1, R 10, R 16 and R 19, Pit R 21 and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 15B:* 2; *19:* 11; *21A:* 2–6; *23:* 10–14, 16–17, 19–23; *70:* 2–23; *35D:* 2). The predominant form is a yellow bead with blue and white eyes, either single or double, such as are already known from the earlier excavations of the cemetery and settlement at Most na Soči,[324] as well as from Koritnica, Idrija pri Bači and Valli del Natisone.[325] They are datable to Sv. Lucija IIb and IIc, i.e. to the 5th and 4th centuries BC.

Some yellow beads are decorated with a blue wavy line (*Pl. 23B:* 11). Blue beads can bear a white wavy line (*Pl. 27A:* 1; *71:* 28, 29) or white and blue eyes (*Pl. 71:* 24–27). In general, the beads from Posočje come in different shapes and sizes,[326] but their formal diversity and number cannot match the beads from Dolenjska,[327] particularly those from the Hallstatt cemeteries of Novo mesto.[328] The blue glass beads with a wavy line are numerously represented in Dolenjska and have been dated to the 5th or the 4th century BC, but they also occur in La Tène graves, for examples Grave 140 at Kapiteljska njiva.[329]

The small dark blue glass bead with knobs from Cremation pit (*Pl. 39:* 5) has parallels from Most na Soči dated to Sv. Lucija IIa.[330] Similar beads were found in several Late Hallstatt graves in Dolenjska, for example at Magdalenska gora and Stična.[331]

The fragment of a blue glass bead in the shape of a ram head from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 71:* 36) is a small

[314] Marchesetti 1893, 95, 123–124, Pl. XXX; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 51–52A; 1985, 120–121. Also see here Toškan.

[315] See e.g. Gambacurta, Tirelli 1997, 71 ff; Malnati, Gamba (eds.) 2003.

[316] Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 128–130.

[317] Guštin 1991, Pl. 1: 10.

[318] Guštin 1991, 66; cf. Crismani 2005, 17, Fig. 7; Božič 2004, 6–8.

[319] Mlinar, Gerbec 2011, 42–47.

[320] Dular 2007; Preložnik 2007b, 155–167; Teržan 2008, 323; Kmetová 2014, 95–98, Fig. 24.

[321] See e.g. Frie 2018.

[322] Marchesetti 1893, 150, Fn. 1 and 2, Pl. IV: 3, 11; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984–1985, 55, 74, 126, 129, Pl. 10C: 16; 22C: 3; 55B: 4; 60B: 2–4.

[323] Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 2: 1.

[324] Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, e.g. Pl. 216A: 10; 127B: 6, 7, 9; Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 23: 8; 32: 5; 89: 19; Laharnar 2018a, 213–214.

[325] Koritnica in the Bača Valley (Kos 1973, Pl. 1: 8–14; 3: 4, 5; 4: 8, 15–17; 6: 11–12; 7: 4), Idrija pri Bači (Guštin 1991, Pl. 24: 5), Valli del Natisone (Pettarin 2006, Cat. No. 642).

[326] For the blue bead with a white wavy line, cf. Most na Soči (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984–1985, 58, Pl. 13F: 94; 401, Pl. 284B: 5–9), such a bead from the cemetery at Bitnje in Bohinj was suspended from a Sveta Lucija fibula (Gabrovec 1976, Pl. 4: 18), others are also known from Valli del Natisone (Pettarin 2006, Cat. Nos. 637, 638).

[327] Tumulus I at Stična, for instance, yielded as many as 20500 glass beads (Haevernick 1974, 62; Lazar 2003, 11).

[328] Križ, Turk 2003, 72.

[329] Križ, Turk 2003, Cat. Nos. 82, 87; Križ 2005, Pl. 25: 3.

[330] Marchesetti 1886, Pl. VIII: 29; in Grave Sz 955 in association with a Sveta Lucija bow fibula, in Grave Sz 1109 with a serpentine fibula with a saddle-shaped bow (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 98: A8; 111: D6–11).

[331] Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 63: 8–10; Gabrovec et al. 2006, Pl. 3: 8.

bead depicting a stylised ram's head with raised eyes and unpronounced horns and muzzle.[332] It is likely an import from the glassworks of Dolenjska, as the two examples from Most na Soči and Mengeš[333] are the only two known outside the Dolenjska Hallstatt group. There, the greatest number of such beads came to light in Novo mesto, in the graves of the Certosa Fibulae and Negova phases (5th and 4th centuries BC), one also in a Middle La Tène grave.[334] Similar beads are known in the eastern Mediterranean.[335]

Grave R 10 contained two heavily burnt beads of grey-blue glass paste with blue and white eyes (*Fig. 53; Pl. 19A:* 8, 9), which are closely comparable with the bead found in Iron Age House 22A at Most na Soči, dated to Sv. Lucija IIc, with the only difference in that the latter was made of black glass paste.[336] Similar beads from the Caverzano cemetery are of brown glass paste with blue and white eyes, one of them additionally decorated with yellow knobs.[337] The examples from Sardinia, where they are seen as Early Punic and dated to the 5th–4th century BC,[338]and elsewhere suggest that the origin of these beads may be sought in the Phoenician-Punic area.[339]

The fragment of a red cylindrical bead from Grave R 19 (*Pl. 23:* 9),[340] dated to Sv. Lucija IIb2/IIc, also ranks among polychrome Mediterranean beads, as does the fragment of a yellow glass bead with blue and white eyes and blue-green knobs from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 71:* 13).

The fragment of a light blue glass bead with white and blue eyes and yellow knobs (*Pl. 71:* 12) has parallels from the Iron Age cemetery at Most na Soči[341] and from Dolenjska,[342] where a similar bead from Novo mesto has been attributed to the 4th century BC.[343] In general, the multi-coloured cylindrical beads are mainly characteristic of the Mediterranean area.[344]

Numerous yellow glass beads decorated with inlaid single or double spiral eyes of blue or blue and white colour (*Fig. 54*; *Pl. 70:* 24–42; *71:* 1–9) came to light in Layer SU 3 at Repelc. According to the typology proposed by Zepezauer, they rank among the simple spherical beads with a spiral, though the examples from German, Austrian and Swiss sites are blue or dark blue and the spiral decoration occurs from LT C2 to LT D1.[345] Geographically closer analogies for these La Tène beads are known from Idrija pri Bači,[346] Šentviška Gora[347] and Vrhnika. At the last site, a similar bead was found in Building VII at Dolge njive, dated to the Early Augustan period.[348]

Two single examples are a blue glass bead with a white dot (*Pl. 71:* 30) and a green glass bead with a yellow and blue eye (*71:* 33). The latter is similar to a bead from Parti near Stara Sušica, in the Notranjska region,[349] but this parallel is of no dating help as it was found within an assemblage of mixed finds from the Hallstatt, La Tène and Early Roman periods.

Layer SU 3 yielded seven small cylindrical beads of green glass (*Pl. 71:* 34), such as were in use throughout the Roman period and in the Early Middle Ages.[350] They do seem to have been most popular as part of the Late Antique female costume; from this period they are also known from other sites in Slovenia.[351]

Small polyhedral beads, such as the item of dark green glass on *Pl. 71:* 35, appeared towards the end of the 2nd century and were mainly worn in the 3rd century,[352] though an identical bead was also found in the Early Slavic cemetery at Žale near Zasip, in Grave 15 from the 8th century.[353]

The small red glass bead from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 71:* 32) can be dated to the 6th or 7th century based on parallels. Similar examples primarily come from Langobard sites in northern Italy, for example Cividale del Friuli.[354]

Repelc also revealed several fragments of glass vessels. Exceptional among them are two ribbed fragments of polychrome glass found in Grave R 19 (*Fig. 55; Pl. 23A:* 8) and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 70:* 1). The fragments are small and cannot be positively identified as to their form, possibly belonging to vessels such as *arybalos*, *amphoriskos*, *alabastron* or *oinochoe*. They are certainly rare finds in the south-eastern Alpine area, dating between the mid-6th and the 4th century BC.[355] Alongside the *amphoris-*

[332] Križ 2004, 13.

[333] Dular, Pavlin, Tecco Hvala 2003, Fn. 9; Laharnar, Turk 2017, 130, Fig. 149.

[334] Križ 2004, 15; Križ, Turk 2003, 74–76, Cat. Nos. 50, 93; Stipančić 2016, 34.

[335] Egg 2010, Fig. 6.

[336] Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 62: 1; Laharnar 2018a, 214. A single other example is known from Slovenia, found in the cemetery at Golek near Vinica, kept in the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Similar beads are known from the Iapodic area (Kunter 1995, Cat. Nos. 1191, T. 5: 20, 21).

[337] Nascimbene 1999, 127, Cat. No. 303.

[338] Muscuso 2017, Cat. No. 328.

[339] Proietti 1980, 298, Cat. No. 430; Uberti 1988, 745, Cat. No. 946.

[340] Mlinar 2002a, 44; Sakara Sučević 2004b, 22.

[341] Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXIX: 8.

[342] Sakara Sučević 2004b, 22, Fn. 2.

[343] Križ, Turk 2003, Cat. No. 77.

[344] Cf. Uberti 1988, 489.

[345] Zepezauer 1993, 64–65, 102, Cat. Nos. 845–871.

[346] Guštin 1991, Pl. 10: 5.

[347] Mlinar 2006, 156–157.

[348] Horvat 1990, 232–234, Pl. 18: 2.

[349] Horvat 1995, Pl. 2: 1c.

[350] Bertoncelj Kučar 1979, 270. Such beads from Tonovcov grad were found in early medieval contexts – in a layer inside Building 1 and as part of a necklace in Grave 3 (Milavec 2011, 34, 73, Fig. 2.10; 2.13; Pl. 4: 11; 51).

[351] E.g. Črnomelj (Mason 1998, Pl. 5: 6, 7), Kincelj near Gorenja vas pri Šmarjeti (Božič, Ciglenečki 1995, 275, Fig. 12).

[352] Bertoncelj Kučar 1979, 270.

[353] Knific, Pleterski 1993, 252, Fig. 17, Pl. 4: 32.

[354] Zorzi 1899, 144; Borzacconi, Giostra, 2018, 251 f, Fig. 23.

[355] Endrizzi 1999.

*koi* from Stična and Veliki Vinji vrh (Šmarjeta),[356] the fragments from Repelc are the only finds of their kind in Slovenia. These vessels were made of sand-core glass with trails of different coloured glass applied onto the body to form decorative patterns finished with marvering.[357] They are probably the products of Mediterranean workshops, mainly from Rhodes.[358]

Layer SU 3 at Repelc revealed two rim fragments of a glass bottle (*Pl. 71:* 39), probably of Type 6.3.2 after Lazar that was in use in the second half of the 1st and the 2nd century. Also found was a ring-base fragment of a beaker (*Pl. 71:* 40), possibly of Type 3.6.1 or 3.6.3 after Lazar, which is mainly characteristic of the 2nd and 3rd centuries.[359] Another ring-base fragment of a beaker (*Pl. 39:* 4) was found in Cremation pit, which also contained the upper part of a flask (*Pl. 39:* 3), probably of Type 8.6.3 after Lazar[360] from the 2nd or 3rd century.

### *Amber*

Graves R 19 and R 34 from Sv. Lucija IIc contained a small amber bead each (*Pl. 23A:* 24; *27B:* 3). More were found in mixed Layer SU 3 that include several almost complete examples (*Pl. 71:* 41–46, 48), while one was attached to the bow of a Late La Tène animal fibula (*Pl. 43:* 8); similar examples are known from the Late La Tène graves at Idrija pri Bači.[361]

The pieces of amber without perforations from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 71:* 50–56) may be seen as either raw material or semi-finished products.[362] Their good condition suggests they were not exposed to fire. The graves of the Sveta Lucija group in general revealed very little amber jewellery,[363] which might be due to the burial custom of cremating the dead in their apparels.

### *Whetstone*

The cremation pit held a sandstone whetstone with a hole (*Pl. 39:* 2). Several such finds came to light in the Iron Age settlement on the right bank of the Idrijca,[364] while they are very rare in the graves of the Sveta Lucija group with single examples from Koritnica in the Bača Valley, Jelenšek near Godovič and Čadrg.[365] Quite a different custom has been observed in Dolenjska and Štajerska, where whetstones in the Hallstatt[366] and La Tène periods[367] formed part of a warrior's outfit that was also placed into the grave.

### *Bronze Age pottery*

The deepest cultural layer (SU 5) at Repelc revealed sherds of hand-built coarseware (*Pl. 15A:* 1–11) that are not always formally unidentifiable. Several sherds were made of a fine fabric, fired black or dark grey, one of which belongs to a dish with a flat rim (*Pl. 15A:* 2) with analogies from several nearby hillforts from the Bronze Age such as Gradišče above Ajdovščina, in the Vipava Valley, Nivizze/Njivice in the Triestine Carso and Ponte San Quirino in Valli del Natisone; these sites are dated to the transition from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age.[368] There are no known parallels for the shallow coarseware dish with a flat internally thickened rim (*Pl. 15A:* 3), though its form is reminiscent of Urnfield culture pottery.[369] The vessel with a handle (*Fig. 56; Pl. 15A:* 1) also has no parallels, while its fabric and shape of the handle are similar to the Bronze Age pottery from Posočje.[370] The fragment of an everted rim (*Pl. 15A:* 4) shows similarities with a jar from Caorle – S. Gaetano in Veneto, dated through associated finds to the 10th–9th century BC.[371] The decoration of plain and impressed cordons on body sherds (*Pl. 15A:* 8–10) is chronologically undiagnostic, but does occur on the pottery from a Bronze Age house at Most na Soči,[372] while it is virtually absent on the pottery from the Hallstatt houses at the same site.[373]

[356] Stična (Kastelic 1960, Pl. 3: 2), Šmarjeta (Dular 1991, Pl. 29: 26–28).

[357] Cf. Lazar 2003, 12.

[358] Harden 1981, 7; cf. Hayes 1975, Pl. 2: 22.

[359] Lazar 2003, Fig. 33, 103–105.

[360] Ibid., 177, Fig. 58.

[361] Guštin 1991, Pl. 6: 11; 9: 11; 13: 3.

[362] Cf. Križ 2017, Cat. Nos. 1–5.

[363] Most na Soči (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 84B: 5–8; 137A: 26; 190A: 15), Bitnje in Bohinj (Gabrovec 1976, Pl. 3: 1; 7: 2, 5; 10: 3).

[364] See Mlinar 2002a, 41, Cat. No. 6; Mlinar, Klasinc, Knavs 2008, Pl. 4: 63; Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 24: 10, 11; 25: 2 and others; 61: 9, 10; Horvat 2018, 349 ff, Fig. 1; Tab. 1, 2 (Houses 4, 5, 15A, 16, 22A, 29, 3).

[365] Koritnica (Kos 1973, Pl. 8: 3–4), Jelenšek near Godovič (Bratina 1997, 146; Laharnar, Turk 2017, 123, Fig. 140), Čadrg (Mlinar, Turk 2016, 39, Cat. Nos. 34–35).

[366] E.g. Magdalenska gora (Tecco Hvala, Dular, Kocuvan 2004, Pl. 22: 15; 31A: 1–2; 68: 7), Stična (Gabrovec et al. 2006, Pl. 156: 59), Novo mesto (Križ 1997, Pl. 48: 5; 55: 6), Vače (Stare 1955, Pl. LXXVIII: 2–9), Dolenjske Toplice (Teržan 1976, Pl. 21: 9).

[367] E.g. Novo mesto (Križ 2005, Pl. 13: 6; 38: 15) and Slatina v Rožni dolini (Pirkmajer 1991, Pl. 9: 53; 15: 102; 18: 122).

[368] Gradišče above Ajdovščina (Svoljšak 1988–1989, Pl. 1: 5); Njivice/Nivizze (Moretti 1978, Fig. 4: 9–10); Ponte San Quirino/Most (Gerdol, Stacul 1978, Fig. 4: 1).

[369] Cf. Črešnar 2010, Pl. 3: 6.

[370] Cf. Svoljšak 1988–1989, Pl. 5: 1.

[371] Bianchin Citton 1996, Cat. No. 26, Fig. 8: 26.

[372] Svoljšak 1988–1989, Pl. 3: 17–19, 7: 4–6, 8, 8: 1–5, 8.

[373] Cf. Grahek 1918a, 291–291, Fig. 19.

*Hallstatt pottery*

The Hallstatt pottery from Repelc is highly fragmented and largely unidentifiable as to its form. Surviving best is the pithos from urn Grave R 52, which is decorated with cordons, as well as black paint in the lower part and red paint further up (*Pl. 34A:* 1). Several other pithos fragments came to light in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 59:* 1–3), as well as Graves PR 1 and PR 2 (*Pl. 2:* 12; *4 A:* 5), dated to Sv. Lucija IIb2.[374]

The two rim fragments with a dark red slip from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 60:* 1, 3) may belong to situlae such as were found in the Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb graves at Most na Soči,[375] while they are very rare finds in the settlement.[376]

Parallels for the biconical jar on *Pl. 59:* 7 come from Este – Casa di Ricovero, Grave 151 dated to the 7th/6th century BC, but also the mid-6th century BC pottery from the Via Tiepolo site in Padua.[377] The grey fired jar with two handles at the shoulder-neck junction (*Pl. 59:* 6) has no close parallels.

The beakers from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 60:* 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10) are similar to the Late Hallstatt finds from the settlement at Most na Soči,[378] but also to the finds from the cemeteries in Valli del Natisone.[379]

The sherds on *Pl. 60:* 11, 12 belong to dishes such as are known from the settlement at Most na Soči,[380] but not from burial contexts with the exception of Grave 9 at Dernazzacco.[381]

Graves R 42 and R 45 at Repelc, dated to the end of the Hallstatt period, contained sherds with brushed decoration (*Pl. 30C:* 11–13; *31C:* 3–6). Brushing is rare on the pottery from burial contexts[382] and more common on the pottery from the settlement at Most na Soči, dated to Sv. Lucija IIb2 and IIc, and in some cases combined with shallow horizontal grooves.[383] This decoration is present on the heavily burnt sherds from Cremation pit (*Pl. 39:* 10–14) and two sherds from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 60:* 14, 15).

The same layer also yielded two clay rings (*Pl. 69:* 26, 27). They are characteristic household items of the Late Hallstatt settlement at Most na Soči,[384] but rare among the goods of the Iron Age graves;[385] the cemetery on the right bank of the Idrijca yielded one that was placed into a grave from the 1st century AD, which indicates a continuation of the Iron Age tradition.[386]

Also a rare find at Most na Soči is a fragment of a clay spindle whorl (*Pl. 69:* 29). Only three were found in the Late Hallstatt settlement and not many more in the graves, where most date to the Early Hallstatt period.[387] They occur at the beginning of the Hallstatt period in the graves of the Tolmin cemetery,[388] while Late Hallstatt graves only yielded such items at S. Pietro al Natisone/Špeter in Veneto. A spindle whorl also came to light in the east sanctuary at Este, dated to the 4th century BC.[389] Spindle whorls are more common in the female burials from the Hallstatt period in Dolenjska, where they are believed to have had a symbolic significance;[390] in Dolenjska they continue to occur in the La Tène period.[391]

The clay bobbin (*Pl. 69:* 30) has parallels from the Most na Soči settlement.[392] Some are also mentioned among the goods from Marchesetti's excavations.[393] They also occur as grave goods or sanctuary offerings in Veneto.[394] At Este, for example, some were offered to Reitia, a female divinity, and are associated with the art of weaving and consequently writing.[395]

*La Tène pottery*

The pottery from the La Tène period and/or made in the La Tène tradition is poorly identifiable at Most na Soči and Posočje in general.[396] The beaker from Layer SU 3 at Repelc, decorated with horizontal and vertical brushing (*Pl. 60:* 18), could be ascribed to the La Tène tradition, though it lacks the thickened rim that characterises the

[374] See here chapter on the attribution of finds from Pucarjev rob.

[375] Cf. Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 439; Dular 1982, 203, Fig. 7: 13, 14.

[376] See Grahek 2018a, 267.

[377] Chieco Bianchi, Calzavara Capuis 1985, 102 ff, Pl. 52: 2; Ruta Serafini 1990, Fig. 73: 2.

[378] Cf. Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 55: 3, 7, 12; Grahek 2018a, 255.

[379] Cf. Pettarin 2006, Pl. 38: 648.

[380] Cf. Types Sk 6 and 7 in Grahek 2018a, 271–273, Fig. 13.

[381] Petarin 2006, Pl. 39: 660.

[382] Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 169: 6; 172G: 2; 240E: 5.

[383] The O6 and O7 decoration after Grahek 2018a, 283, 304, Fig. 28: L18 and L 17.

[384] Grahek 2018a, 281–282, 303, Fig. 16: S1 and S6.

[385] Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 50D: 2; 237C: 4, 5.

[386] Unpublished, information by Beatriče Žbona Trkman.

[387] Grahek 2018, 286, Fn. 67; cf. Renzi 1981, 198.

[388] Svoljšak 1976, 68; Svoljšak, Pogačnik 2001, Pl. 1: 2; 5: 6; 13: 11.

[389] Gregnanin 2002, 174, Fig. 72: 162.

[390] See e.g. Teržan 1996; ead. 2004.

[391] See e.g. Križ 2005, Pl. 15: 2; 19: 4 and others.

[392] Žbona Trkman, Svoljšak 1981, Cat. No. 18; Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 88: 6; 100: 17, 19; Grahek 2018a, 285, Fig. 17: M b.

[393] Grahek 2018a, 285, Fn. 65.

[394] E.g. in Grave 4 in the cemetery at Montebelluna – S. Maria and Colle (Manessi, Nascimbene 2003, 72–73), outside the stone cist of Grave 54 (ibid., 128, Pl. 28: a, a1, a2, a39); Este (Chieco Bianchi, Calzavara Capuis 1985, Pl. 18 and others) and e.g. at Este – southeast sanctuary (Dämmer 2002, 269, Fig. 113: 77).

[395] Gambacurta 2017, 211–226.

[396] Grahek 2018a, 288–289.

beakers of LT C2 or LT D1.[397] The hand-built beaker with the rim finished on the wheel (*Pl. 39:* 15) could be attributed to the Late La Tène period based on its fabric with added graphite and decoration of vertical grooves,[398] the same could be said of the graphite ware sherd with an incised wavy line and a stamped circle (*Pl. 39:* 17),[399] and of the black ware sherd with grooved decoration (*Pl. 39:* 16);[400] all were found in Cremation pit.

*Roman pottery*

Several sherds from Layer SU 3 at Repelc (*Pl. 61:* 1–3) belong to black glaze ware, which has thus far in Posočje only been recorded at Kobarid and Most na Soči.[401] Characteristic of Friuli, the hinterland of Trieste and Koper, as well as Notranjska and central Slovenia is the black glaze ware of northern Italian production, mainly in use in northern Italy in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC.[402] The sherds from Repelc belong to heavily fragmented plates of the Padana production (*Pl. 61:* 1–3), which formally correspond with Lamboglia 5/7 or Morel 2284 type.[403] Parallels date this form to the end of the 1st century BC or LT D2.[404]

The globular thin-walled beaker (*Pl. 61:* 7) is of the LI form after Marabini, typical of the first half of the 1st century AD with beginnings in the Late Augustan period.[405] The wheel-thrown thin-walled cup of a fabric with added mica and quartz sand (*Pl. 61:* 6) also ranks among the pottery forms in use in the 1st century AD – the Augustan, Tiberian and Flavian periods[406] – with the closest parallels from Reka near Cerkno, Vipava, Socerb/San Servolo and Gurina.[407]

The oil lamp with the *Sexti* stamp (*Pl. 31A:* 1) from inhumation Grave R 43 at Repelc can be attributed to the third quarter of the 2nd century based on the associated bronze as of Lucius Verus.[408] It is a Loeschcke X lamp characteristic of the 1st and 2nd centuries, with the *Sexti* stamp only associated with this Firmalampe type.[409] Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 61:* 8, 9) yielded two other Loeschcke X Firmalampen.

Layer SU 3 also revealed several amphora sherds (*Pl. 61:* 10–15; *62:* 1) belonging to the Lamboglia 2 or Dressel 6A types (*Fig. 57*). The latter were widely used from the late 1st century BC to the mid-1st century AD for transporting wine and were produced along the Italian coast of the Adriatic.[410] The round-sectioned handle and two foot fragments (*Pl. 61:* 12–14) belong to a smaller version of northern Italian amphorae, formally similar to the Dressel 6B oil amphorae characteristic of the late 1st century and even more so the 2nd and early 3rd century.[411] The ring base on *Pl. 61:* 11 belongs to a flat-bottom Forlimpopoli amphora, which served to transport wine and were produced in the Emilian centres at Forlimpopoli (*Forum Pupili*), S. Arcangelo, Sant'Ermete, Riccione and Rimini in the 2nd and early 3rd century. They were mainly in use in the Adriatic coastal areas, some are also known from the Adriatic hinterland.[412] Their imitations were produced in local workshops in the 3rd century and probably even the early 4th century.[413] The thin sherd with shallow grooves and a characteristic brown mica surface (*Pl. 61:* 10) probably belonged to a small MRA 3 or LRA 3 amphora, originating in Asia Minor. With the sherd missing both the rim and handle, it is not possible to determine whether it is the early or the late variant, hence it can only broadly be dated between the 1st and 6th centuries; the earliest examples of MRA 3 amphorae already appear in the Augustan period and the 1st century AD.[414] The grooved body sherd on *Fig. 58* (*Pl. 62:* 1) may have belonged to the LRA 1 eastern Mediterranean wine amphora. In Slovenia, the early forms of these amphorae appear in the first half of the 5th century (e.g. at Rodik, Školarice, Predloka, Križna gora),[415] while towards the end of the 5th and in the 6th century they rank among the most common amphorae in hilltop settlements.[416] Their early forms were produced on the south-western coasts of Asia Minor, later, in the 6th and early 7th century also on the islands of Rhodes and Cyprus.[417]

[397] Cf. Gurina (Jablonka 2001, 58, Pl. 13: 11); Stična (Grahek 2016, Fig. 78: 9, 29).

[398] Cf. Grahek 2016, Fig. 58: O 15.

[399] Cf. the stamped circles on the La Tène pottery (Grahek 2016, 210–212, Fig. 61: distribution map).

[400] Cf. Šmatevž (Tica, Djurić 2007, Cat. No. 438).

[401] Kobarid (Horvat 1997, 124, Fig. 49), Most na Soči (Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 58: 1; Grahek 2018, 290).

[402] Cf. Maselli Scotti 1988, 268; Horvat, Bavdek 2009, 57–58.

[403] Lamboglia 1952; Morel 1981.

[404] Cf. Božič 2008, 144.

[405] Marabini 1973, 154; cf. Sevegliano (Zuccolo 1985, 38, Pl. III: 1), Istria (Starac 1997, 189, Pl. 26: 4).

[406] Zampori Vanoni 1987: Graves 6, 26 and 35 in the Nave cemetery are dated to the Tiberian, Grave 59 to the Augustan period.

[407] Reka near Cerkno (Guštin 1991, Pl. 29: 4), Vipava (Tratnik 2014, 298), Socerb/San Servolo (Casari 2002, 100, Fig. 7–10), Gurina (Jablonka 2001, Pl. 52: 15).

[408] Mlinar 2005, 334, Fig. 8.

[409] Sites: Novo mesto – Beletov vrt (Knez 1992, Pl. 31: 11), Ptuj (Kujundžić 1982, Pl. 24: 15), Ljubljana (Petru 1972, Pl. XLIII: 12), Aquincum (Topàl 1993, Pl. 15: 9, 15–16), Carnuntum (Alram-Stern 1989, 79), Aquileia, Sisak, Vinkovci and Prečac near Donje selo (Vikić-Belančić 1976).

[410] Cf. Bezeczky 1998, 228–230.

[411] Cf. Bezeczky 1997, 147–178; Tassaux, Matjašić, Kovačić 2001, 97–125.

[412] Belotti 2004, 58–59.

[413] Vidrih Perko 2000, 434.

[414] Martin-Kilcher 1994, 440–441.

[415] Žerjal, Vidrih Perko 2017, 260; Modrijan 2014, 55, Fig. 4: 6.

[416] Cf. Modrijan 2011, 150; ead. 2014, 55.

[417] Pieri 2005, 80; Reynolds 2005, 565.

Layer SU 3 also revealed a two-handled jug and the rim with strap handles of another such vessel (*Pl. 62:* 2, 3). A similar jug came to light in the Most na Soči settlement, others are known from several other sites in Posočje and central Slovenia, where they are among the Early Imperial imports from Italy.[418] Such jugs were found at Adria in the graves from the Augustan–Tiberian period.[419] The similar jugs from Cosa, along the Tyrrhenian Sea, have a more globular body and already appear in graves from the second half of the 2nd to the mid-1st century BC.[420] The rim and base fragments from Cremation pit at Repelc (*Pl. 40:* 3, 12) probably also belonged to a two-handled jug, similar to the vessels from Gurina, Sermin and Socerb/San Servolo dating to the last quarter of the 1st century BC.[421] The parallels from the cemetery at Beletov vrt in Novo mesto, where they occur in the 1st century AD,[422] suggest that the moulded sherd from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 63:* 13) may be another piece of a two-handled jug.

The Repelc site also yielded several rim sherds with a handle and ring base sherds that belong to jugs with a single handle (*Pl. 40:* 11; *42B:* 6; *63:* 9, 11, 12; *64:* 2–6). The jug with a ring base and grey surface (*Pl. 42B:* 6) is similar in fabric to the Early Imperial pottery from the northern Adriatic area. The closest parallel for the jug sherd with a constricted neck and single handle (*Pl. 63:* 12) comes from Emona, Grave 917, which the coin of Antoninus Pius dates to the mid-2nd century.[423]

Several sherds from Cremation pit can be ascribed to an ellipsoid baking dish with a lid seat (*Pl. 40:* 17). This is a long-lasting Mediterranean *Albintimilium 115/116* form widely used from the 2nd century BC to the Augustan period,[424] with geographically closest parallels from the settlement at Most na Soči, from Pozzuolo, Sevegliano, Gurina, Magdalensberg, Sermin, Mandrga near Razdrto, Vrhnika and Ljubljana.[425] The same tempered fabric (mica, limestone, sand) and contemporary production is true of the lid with a ring grip and a slightly everted rim (*Pl. 40:* 16), such as are also known from Vrhnika and Mandrga near Razdrto.[426]

The cremation pit (*Pl. 41:* 2–10) and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 64:* 10–17) yielded numerous sherds of Auerberg jars.[427] Most were wheel-thrown and only two hand-built (*Pl. 41:* 2; *64:* 17), with other differences observable in the form, size and fabric. It is a vessel form that had developed from the Late La Tène tradition and was used across wide areas from Bavaria to Slovenia and northern Italy from the Augustan period to the first quarter of the 2nd century.[428] Several rim sherds from Repelc show a form typical of the Tiberian period (*Pl. 41:* 6; *64:* 14, 17), with parallels from the eponymous site of Auerberg and from Kempten.[429] Several other sherds (*Pl. 41:* 5, 6, 8, 9) show post-Augustan forms. Two exhibit a local production (*Pl. 64:* 10, 15), one of which (*Pl. 64:* 15) is similar to examples from the Friuli Plain[430] in the form of the rim and the fabric with mica inclusions.

The complete jar from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 65:* 3), finished on the wheel and decorated with brushing, shows a prehistoric tradition in the production manner and decoration that was retained into the 1st century, in southern Pannonia even the mid-2nd century.[431] The jar sherd from Cremation pit (*Pl. 40:* 4) has the closest parallel from Montereale Valcellina, in a formally similar jar from the period of Romanisation.[432] The brushed jar with an everted rim from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 65:* 2, 4) has a parallel in a jar from urn Grave 3D from the cemetery at Laurinova ulica in Vipava, dated to the mid-2nd century.[433]

Grooving the interior and exterior surfaces of pottery, such as can be seen on the two fragments from Cremation pit and Layer SU 3 at Repelc (*Pl. 40:* 18; *69:* 1), was a very popular decoration.[434] Similar goods from the cemetery on the right bank of the Idrijca at Most na Soči, but also from Gurina and Cosseano suggest that the jar sherds with a thickened triangular-sectioned rim (*Pl. 66:* 6–7) could be dated to the end of the 1st or the

[418] Most na Soči (Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 97: 6; also cf. Grahek 2018a, 289), Idrija pri Bači and Reka near Cerkno (Guštin 1991, Pl. 13: 2; 21: 6; 32: 1), Suhadole near Kamnik (Horvat 2006b, 16), Novo mesto – Beletov vrt (Knez 1992, Pl. 24: 2; 33: 4).

[419] Mangani 1982, 38–39, Fig. 27: 4; 42: 6.

[420] Dyson 1976, 79, Fig. 25: V-D82 and 83; Zuccolo 1983, 23, Fig. 8.

[421] Gurina (Jablonka 2001, Pl. 59: 3, 8), Sermin (Horvat 1997, Pl. 10: 13, 55: 12), Socerb/San Servolo (Casari 2002, 113, Fig. 43).

[422] Knez 1992, Pl. 12: 2; 15: 9; 25: 10.

[423] Petru 1972, Pl. 68: 10.

[424] Olcese 1996, 428–429, Fig. 7.

[425] Cf. Most na Soči (Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 9: 12), Pozzuolo (Donat, Floreano, Merlatti 2002, Fig. 2: 5), Sevegliano (Zuccolo 1985, Pl. IV: 2 with Pompeian red slip), Gurina (Jablonka 2001, 98, Pl. 66: 1), Magdalensberg (Schindler-Kaudelka 1986, 281–282), Sermin (Horvat 1997, Pl. 9: 8), Mandrga near Razdrto (Horvat, Bavdek 2009, 76–77, Pl. 6: 2–3), Vrhnika (Horvat 1990, Pl. 15: 9; 19: 4–6), Ljubljana (Vičič 1994, 49).

[426] Horvat 1990, 224–226; Horvat, Bavdek 2009, 77, Pl. 6: 5; 29: 10.

[427] At Most na Soči they came to light in the settlement (Grahek 2018a, 288–289).

[428] Donat, Maggi (eds.) 2007, 151–157, Fig. 5.

[429] Cf. Flügel, Schindler-Kaudelka 1995, 72. The jars with a triangular-sectioned rim are Raetian, while the elongated forms from the Late Augustan and Tiberian periods are only known in Noricum (Flügel, Schindler-Kaudelka 1995, 79).

[430] Donat, Maggi (eds.) 2007.

[431] Cf. Rodik, Grave 6 (Istenič 1987, 114 ff, Pl. 10: 8); Emona, Grave 84 (with a coin of Augustus) and Grave 490 (Petru 1972, Pl. 9: 22a; 33: 1); for southern Pannonia, see Vikić-Belančić 1975, 36–39.

[432] Donat 1997, Fig. 13: 16.

[433] Tratnik 2014, 298, Pl. 3: 14.

[434] Cf. Socerb/San Servolo, dating to the 1st century AD (Cesari 2002, 116, Cat. No. 50).

2nd century.[435] The sherd of a wheel-thrown jar with parallel incisions on the neck and an everted rim (*Pl. 41:* 1) has parallels in the 1st and 2nd century contexts from the south-eastern Alpine area.[436] The jar – urn from Grave R 1 (*Pl. 16:* 4) that is decorated with multiple wavy lines and horizontal grooves can be dated to the transition from the 2nd to the 3rd century based on the radiocarbon dating of a bone from the jar.[437]

The beaker from cremation Grave R 36 with combed decoration covering the entire surface (*Pl. 28B:* 1) is formally similar to the jar from Grave 23 of the cemetery at Križišče near Spodnje Škofije, dated to the late 2nd or the 3rd century.[438] The wheel-thrown rim sherds from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 67:* 8–10) have the closest parallels from Tonovcov grad near Kobarid, where they were identified as Type 5 characteristic of the 6th century and other Late Antique hilltop posts in Slovenia.[439]

### *Early medieval pottery*

Pit R 9 at Repelc contained a complete beaker and a jar, the latter decorated with a multiple wavy line (*Pl. 34C:* 1, 2), which are the only finds from Posočje that could be linked to the Carantanian culture.[440] A similar pottery combination is known from Boškina near Pula, where a large and a small jar from the Early Middle Ages were found in close proximity to one another.[441] Similar examples are also known from the early medieval sites in central Slovenia,[442] dated to the second half of the 7th century.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FROM THE REPELC SITE

### HABITATION LAYER (SU 5)

The analysis of the scarce pottery finds from this layer (*Pl. 15:* 1–11) has shown that the patches of ground surface of dark brown to red-brown burnt loam with remains of clay daub, two post holes and marl slabs laid onto the bedrock, as well as the scattered prehistoric pottery in Layer SU 5 represent the building remains from the Late Bronze Age (*Bronzo recente* according to the Italian chronology or BA D according to the central European chronology) (*Fig. 24 and 59*); excavations here yielded no bronze or iron artefacts. The discovery of habitation remains on the left bank of the Idrijca comes as a surprise, as the remains of houses from this time were previously only known on the right bank.[443] This discovery also suggests that both banks were inhabited in the Late Bronze Age, though the extent of this habitation is as yet uncertain. The two post holes indicate that the construction was similar to that established for the contemporaneous house excavated on the right bank, built of posts without stone foundations.[444]

### GRAVES

The Late Bronze Age settlement remains at Repelc was covered over with an up to 10 cm thick layer of loamy earth (SU 4). In the 6th century BC, the area began to be used as a cemetery. The extensive excavations that Marchesetti, Szombathy and others conducted on the left bank of the Idrijca revealed that burial already began here in the 8th century BC, in Sv. Lucija Ia.[445] The graves at Repelc lie at the north-westernmost edge of this extensive cemetery.

It appears that a drystone wall was first made here, on the lowest terrace of the Idrijca, with a N–S orientation and with the trench for it dug into Layer SU 4 (*Fig. 43, 44* – SU 87). It was constructed of pieces of marl prior to Late Hallstatt Graves R 31 and R 32 at its south end. The marl slabs found to the west of the wall, in above-lying Layer SU 3, are the debris of the collapsed wall; some of the slabs from the wall were probably reused as covers of the grave pits. The round stone structure (SU 88), the trench for it dug into Layer SU 4, also dates to the time when the burial ground was only being prepared.

The earliest burials in the investigated part of the cemetery at Repelc include urn Grave R 52 with a pithos and with the pit dug into the limestone bedrock (*Pl.*

[435] Most na Soči (Žbona Trkman, Svoljšak 1981, Cat. No. 40); Gurina (Jablonka 2001, Pl. 21: 11); Cosseano (Rupel 1988, 107, Pl. 1: 1). Very similar rims are also common at Tonovcov grad near Kobarid, where they were mostly recovered from the 6th century habitation layers (Modrijan 2011, 188-190, e.g. Pl. 91: 6–10, 16–18).

[436] E.g. Vipava (Tratnik 2014, 299, Pl. 6: 36), Pod jezerom below Rodik (Istenič 1987, Pl. 11: 4), Pristava near Trebnje (Slabe 1993, Pl. 5: 16; 9: 11), Sela pri Dobu (Horvat 2007, 67, Cat. No. 22).

[437] The analysis performed at the Poznań Radiocarbon Laboratory dated the sample (Poz-103117) to 1795 ± 30 BP, calibrated with 95.4% probability to AD 132; with 74.2% to AD 262. It is similar to an undated jar from Gurina (Jablonka 2001, Pl. 22: 3).

[438] Novšak, Bekljanov Zidanšek, Žerjal 2019, 245, Cat. No. 92.

[439] Tonovcov grad near Kobarid (Modrijan 2011, 190–191, Pl. 93: 8.11, 94, 94: 1–7); Gradec near Praprotno and Tinje (Ciglenečki 2000, Fig. 81: 6; Pl. 21: 4–7).

[440] Knific 2004, 19–20.

[441] Cf. Bekić 2016, 151–152, Pl. 5: 1, 2.

[442] Mlinar 2002c, 111–112; Pleterski 2008, 39, Fig. 2: 3, 4; Bekić 2016, 145. Similar decoration of a multiple wavy line occurs on a vessel from Grofovsko near Murska Sobota, found in a pit dated to the second half of the 7th century (Novšak 2002, 30, Fig. 9), but also on a vessel of the same dating from a cremation burial at Nitra (Fusek 1994, 44, Pl. 32: 1).

[443] Cf. Svoljšak 1988–1989, 377 f.

[444] Ibid., Fig. 3, 4.

[445] See Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 437; cf. Bergonzi et al. 1981, 91–284; Boiardi 1983, 164–187.

*34A*), dated to Sv. Lucija IIb1, and Grave R 31 (*Pl. 26D*) containing a Castellin Fisterre fibula[446] (*Fig. 59*). Graves R 10, 38 and 41 (*Pl. 18B–19A, 29A, 30B*) are attributable to Sv. Lucija IIb2. The goods in these graves include band fibulae with reticular decoration on the bow, crossbow fibulae with a disc on the bow, Type XIII Certosa fibulae, Fraore type serpentine fibulae, fibulae with foot terminals in the shape of a forward facing animal head and a band earring with longitudinal grooves. This or the following phase is the presumed time frame for several less easily datable graves, such as R 33, 42 and 44 (*Pl. 27A, 30C, 31B*) which held blue glass beads with a white wavy line, small bronze buttons and finger rings, but also band earrings with longitudinal incisions along the edges. The graves of Sv. Lucija IIb were clearly discernible in plan and section, dug deep into the loamy earth (SU 4, 6), some reached to and even into the limestone bedrock.

Attributable to the last phase of the Sveta Lucija group, i.e. Sv. Lucija IIc, are Graves R 19 and R 22 (*Pl. 22C–23A, 23C*) with unburnt horse bones alongside the cremated human remains, as well as Graves R 16, 23, 34, 47, 48 (*Pl. 21B, 24B, 27B, 32B, 32C*) and probably R 50 with a fragment of an undecorated band earring (*Pl. 33B*). These graves contained Type X Certosa fibulae, belt mounts, decorative strap mounts, yellow glass beads with blue and white eyes, fragments of glass and bronze vessels; some of these rank among the richest graves of the cemetery.

The transition from the Early to the Late Iron Age, i.e. the late 4th and early 3rd century BC, is the dating of Grave R 45 (*Pl. 31C*) with brushed pottery[447] and a Type VII Certosa fibula, probably Variant e, which is the last Hallstatt variant of the Certosa fibulae that continued to be worn into the La Tène period.[448] Placing pottery in graves was rare in Posočje in Sv. Lucija IIc, which leads us to presume that Grave R 45 could be later. The radiocarbon date of the bone indicates that Grave R 49 (*Pl. 33A*) with an untypical pendant as the sole grave good is attributable to the transition from the 4th to the 3rd century BC, i.e. Sv. Lucija III.

We were not able to positively identify burials at Repelc that would date to the Middle La Tène period (*Fig. 59* and *60*). Burial certainly took place in the Late La Tène period of LT D1, evidence of which is Grave R 14 (*Pl. 20–21A*) with twisted wire jewellery, Repelc type earrings and locally made agricultural tools. All these are characteristics of the Idrija cultural group, which succeeded the Sveta Lucija group in Posočje.[449] The remains of typically LT D1 weapons (shield bosses, swords, scabbards, spearheads, spear butts) came to light in Graves R 18, 35 and 51 (*Pl. 22B, 27C–28A, 33C*), in Grave R 25 of a warrior (*Pl. 24C, 25*) also a machaira.[450]

Cremation Graves R 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 12 A(?), 13(?), 17, 30 (*Pl. 15B–16A, 16B, 17A, 17B, 17D,18A, 19C, 22A, 26C*) show that burial in the Iron Age cemetery at Repelc continued in the Roman period, probably already from the reign of Tiberius onwards,[451] although the people living at Most na Soči began using the cemetery on the right bank of the Idrijca, at the southeast edge of the Roman settlement, as early as the second half of the 1st century BC.[452] The Roman-period graves at Repelc contained very little goods and span from the early 1st century AD (R 3) to the late 2nd or beginning of the 3rd century (R 1). The goods mainly comprise small hobnails, while the chronologically more diagnostic pieces include a patera handle with figural decoration and a wheel-thrown jar with a multiple wavy line. Standing out is inhumation Grave R 43 that held an oil lamp and a coin (*Pl. 31A*), the latter dating the burial to the third quarter of the 2nd century.

## PITS

Excavations in 2000 unearthed several pits containing burnt remains but no bones, located among the grave pits and dug into Layers SU 4 or SU 6. In spite of the absence of cremated bone remains, the pieces of jewellery, pottery and stone covers indicate these were also burial pits, of similar sizes to those with actual cremated remains.

Pit R 21 (*Pl. 35D*) can be dated to Sv. Lucija IIc on the basis of a ring decorated with stripes of incisions and a fragment of a yellow glass bead with blue and white eyes such as also came to light in Graves R 16 and 19. Pit R 11 contained a fragment of a Certosa fibula foot probably of Variant VIIf, which appears in Sv. Lucija IIc and remains in use in the La Tène period,[453] as well as a rim sherd of a ceramic vessel. The sherd of a jar with a thickened rim from Pit R 22A (*Pl. 35E*) shows that it was wheel-thrown; it was found together with a fibula with transverse incisions on the bow that is probably an Early or Middle La Tène import from the central Alps. The only good from large Pit R 29 (*Pl. 36A*), covered with stones, is a fragment of a fibula with a socket at the spring to receive the bow, which is a local trait in Posočje and also occurs on the fibula of the Middle La Tène construction from Grave R 14, dated to the Late La Tène period. Less diagnostic are the pin with a loop at one end from Pit R 27 (*Pl. 35G*) and a fragment of a bronze object with a hole from Pit R 15 (*Pl. 35B*). The thickened rim of the jar from Pit R 5 (*Pl. 34B*) shows a

[446] Cf. Nascimbene 2009, 110, Fig. 24, Tab. 9.

[447] Lucija Grahek attributed the pottery from this grave to the Hallstatt period (Grahek 2018, 264, Fn. 32).

[448] Teržan 1976, 326, 432–433.

[449] Guštin 1991; Božič 1999b.

[450] Gaspari, Mlinar 2005, 179.

[451] Cf. Marchesetti 1893, 321; Mlinar 2017, 37–45.

[452] Svoljšak, Žbona Trkman 1985, 87–88; Maggi, Žbona Trkman 2007, 68.

[453] Teržan 1976, 432–433.

Bronze Age form and fabric,[454] and belongs to the assemblage of finds from Bronze Age habitation Layer SU 5 (*Pl. 15:* 1–11). In spite of this, Pit R 5 dug in the area of habitation Layer SU 5 can be treated as a grave pit. Pit R 24 yielded no finds.

Dating to a very different time is the beaker and jar decorated with a multiple wavy line from Pit R 9 (*Pl. 34C*), which are chronologically attributable to the second half of the 7th century and culturally to the Carantanian culture.[455]

## *USTRINUM* AND/OR BURNT OFFERING PLACE

The pit of SU 101 and 102 extended over 12 m$^2$ in the investigated part and contained a large amount of charcoal, large and small burnt stones, pieces of cremated human remains, pieces of animal bones (mostly unburnt), as well as artefacts from the Late Hallstatt, Late La Tène and Early Roman periods.

The earliest artefacts from this pit are a fragment of a long-footed fibula (*Pl. 36B:* 1), a band earring with longitudinal grooves (*37:* 9), two finger rings decorated with stripes of transverse incisions in combination with impressed ring-and-dots (*Pl. 37:* 3, 7), domed buttons (*Pl. 37:* 14–20) and a blue glass bead with knobs (*Pl. 39:* 5) that all suggest a Sv. Lucija IIa–IIb dating. Slightly later are the openwork triangular pendant (*Pl. 37:* 13) and a Type VIIb Certosa fibula (*Pl. 36B:* 3) characteristic of Sv. Lucija IIb–IIc. The Type X Certosa fibula (*Pl. 36B:* 6, 7), yellow glass beads with blue and white eyes (Pl. 39: 6–9) and possibly several sherds of burnt pottery with brushed decoration point to the end of the Hallstatt or beginning of the La Tène period. The amorphous piece of lead fused with a sherd of a ceramic pithos (*Pl. 39:* 1) certainly dates to the Late Hallstatt period.

The use of this area during the Late Iron Age is clear from the Almgren 65 fibula (*Pl. 36B:* 12), fragments of twisted torques of silver and bronze wire (*Pl. 37:* 4–6) and weapons such as part of a double-edges sword (*Pl. 38:* 1), scabbard chape (*Pl. 38:* 2), pieces of shield bosses (*Pl. 37:* 31, 32) and a shield handgrip (*Pl. 37:* 33). All these date to the Late La Tène period or LT D1, while the typical Middle La Tène elements are absent.

Remains from the Roman period, i.e. the Romanisation period, are Italian cooking ware such as a plate and lid (*Pl. 40:* 16, 17) from the Late Republican or Early Augustan period and sherds of a presumably two-handled jug (*Pl. 40:* 3, 12) from the Early Imperial period, as well as several glassware sherds (*Pl. 39:* 3, 4). Also recovered in large numbers are the sherds of Auerberg jars (*Pl. 41:* 2–10), a typical Early Imperial pottery form. Of metal items there are iron hobnails (*Pl. 38:* 13–29) and clamps (*Pl. 38:* 8, 10–12), a bronze openwork triangular hook from a *cingulum* (*Pl. 37:* 12), an Almgren 236c fibula (*Pl. 36B:* 13) from the Augustan period and a hinged disc fibula (*Pl. 36B:* 14) from the mid-1st century AD that is the artefact latest in date from the pit.

The assemblage of artefacts suggests the same chronological span for the pit as for the burials (cf. *Fig. 59* and *60*), suggesting that the beginning and duration of the pit chronologically coincides with the burials in this part of the cemetery. What also coincides is the array of artefacts with the exception of pottery, which is rare in graves, but also ingots of copper alloys (*Pl. 37:* 21, 22, 24), iron nails and clamps (*Pl. 38:* 4, 7–10), as well as whetstone (*Pl. 39:* 2) that are entirely absent among grave goods.

This raises the question of how to interpret the area of burnt remains excavated in 2002 at the northern edge of the cemetery. In the preliminary publications, the area was interpreted as an *ustrinum*, where the deceased were cremated before transferring their remains to the grave pit.[456] However, given that material evidence is insufficient to positively distinguish the place of cremation from the place of burnt offerings to gods, it might also have functioned as a burnt offering place.

Carlo Marchesetti[457] and Josef Szombathy[458] also report on ustrina or remains of pyres in the cemetery on the left bank of the Idrijca. Ustrina have been recorded in other cemeteries in Posočje, for example at Koritnica[459] and Kobarid.[460] Given the chronologically disparate finds and the great diameter of the pit, Grave 32 from Idrija pri Bači (roughly 2 m) might have been an ustrinum as well.[461] Some have been mentioned for the cemetery at Bitnje, in the Bohinj area that was culturally associated with the Sveta Lucija group.[462] For the part of the Iron Age cemetery he had investigated at Most na Soči, Carlo Marchesetti stated that different tree species were used for the funerary pyres, most commonly beech, fir, lime, occasionally oak, pear, maple and hazel, in rare cases also

[454] Cf. Svoljšak 1988–1989, Pl. 4: 9.

[455] Mlinar 2002a; 22, Fig. 13; id. 2002c, 111–112; Pleterski 2008, 39.

[456] Cf. Mlinar 2005, 328.

[457] Marchesetti 1893, 134. He describes them as large dark patches of burnt earth mixed with fragments of bronze and pottery.

[458] Szombathy mentions several *Verbrennungsstätten*. His publication reveals that a roughly 5 m wide and 25 cm thick layer of burnt remains mixed with ash extended over Grave Sz 1055 and adjacent graves; it presumably represented an ustrinum (Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1985, 394).

[459] Kos 1973, 862, Fn. 6: the site reportedly revealed enough ash to fertilise the whole local meadow.

[460] Gabrovec 1976, 46: the ustrinum contained a great amount of charcoal, sherds, bronze fragments and remains of unburnt bones of cattle, sheep/goats and pigs.

[461] See Guštin 1991, 19, Pl. 24: 1–7 and Gerbec, Mlinar 2018, 52.

[462] Walter Schmid reports on eight ustrina, though not all eight features could have functioned as such as the size of their pits did not exceed that of the graves, suggesting that they were cremation graves rather than ustrina (Gabrovec 1974, 306–307).

ash and walnut.[463] He observed that lime was often used to cremate the rich individuals.[464] Marchesetti's observations as to the tree species in some cases correspond and other times differ from the recent results of analyses of the randomly selected wood charcoal from the ustrinum at Repelc.[465] Most samples from Cremation pit at Repelc belonged to beech, followed by oak and maple, fir, rowan, hornbeam, ash and elm. The analysed charcoal from this pit revealed no lime, while Marchesetti makes no mention of elm, yew or blackthorn.

On the other hand, the burning place at Repelc shows many similarities with the burnt offering places, i.e. cult places in the open air, several tens of which have recently been investigated in the Alpine area.[466] Although each has its own specific features, they have several points in common. They are usually located in the vicinity of natural phenomena such as water springs, lakes, marshes, gorges, abysses. The rituals practised there usually involved sacrificing animals or their parts, but also pieces of the costume, weapons, votive plaques (with or without inscriptions), statuettes of gods, bronze vessels, pottery and so forth.[467]

The closest burnt offering place has been identified in the Iron Age settlement at Most na Soči, on the right bank of the Idrijca.[468] The two share a number of commonalities. Both were in use in the Late Hallstatt period and, after a gap of a century and a half, again in the Late La Tène period. Both show a uniform, unstratified structure of the burnt remains. Both revealed artefacts that mainly date to the Late Hallstatt period and consist of bronze pieces of jewellery that was intentionally fragmented and exposed to fire (fibulae – mainly Certosa, bronze buttons, band earring, rings, pendants).[469] Also similar is the structure of the animal remains, which shows a predominance of sheep/goat over cattle and pig, as well as an almost exclusive presence of cranial bones and teeth, on the one hand, and of the lower parts of extremities, on the other, which are not burnt.[470] In contrast with the burnt offering place at Repelc, the glass beads from the settlement were not exposed to fire.

Another difference is that one was located inside the settlement and the other at the edge of the cemetery. They also differ in the composition of the Late La Tène finds. At Repelc, mainly broken weapons and pieces of military outfit occur alongside female jewellery (such as twisted wire torques),[471] while the artefacts from the settlement mainly exhibit a female component. Furthermore, rituals ceased in the settlement after the end of the La Tène period, while at Repelc they continued into the Roman period.

An array of finds similar to that from the burnt offering place at Repelc is observable at other cult places in Posočje and adjacent areas.[472] At Gradič above Kobarid, investigations revealed an Iron Age and Roman period sanctuary where – similarly as at Repelc – the Hallstatt fibulae were predominantly heavily fragmented, while the Roman ones were complete or almost complete.[473]

A layer with burnt remains was unearthed at Kovačevše above Lokavec, in the Vipava valley, that revealed Late Hallstatt, Late La Tène and Roman finds.[474] Here as well, the Late Hallstatt finds mainly consist of pieces of the female costume – broken Certosa fibulae, finger rings, pendants, ring jewellery, those from the Late La Tène period of twisted wire torques and broken weapons,[475] similarly as at Repelc, while the better preserved items from the Roman period are the fibulae found alongside broken vessels, primarily jugs.[476]

The presumed cult place at Tonovcov grad reveals a similar array of finds from the Late Hallstatt and Late La Tène periods to the one from Cremation pit at Repelc, as well as prevailing pieces of weapons and military outfits (pieces of broken sword scabbards, crossguards and iron belt hooks) among the La Tène finds.[477]

A similar situation has been observed in the Bohinj area, at Ribčev laz near the church of St John the Baptist, where a pit was found filled with burnt remains and scattered artefacts, the latter mainly consisting of pieces of Late Hallstatt jewellery (bronze spherical pendant, triangular pendant of double sheet bronze), a Late La Tène fibula of the Idrija pri Bači type, as well as Roman fibulae and 144 coins from the 1st to the end of the 4th century. The proximity of the lake also suggests that we are probably dealing with a cult place.[478]

Further parallels for a burnt offering place at Repelc are known from Valli del Natisone and Carnia. A ritual burial of bent La Tène weapons and Roman pottery (including Auerberg jars) was found on the hill of Monte

[463] Marchesetti 1893, 134; also cf. Rutar 1894, 3.

[464] Marchesetti 1886, 112; id. 1893, 134.

[465] See here Culiberg on the archaeobotanical analyses.

[466] Zemmer-Plank, Sölder 2002.

[467] Endrizzi, Degasperi, Marzatico 2009, 263–265.

[468] Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 26, 27; Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 79–85; Laharnar 2018a, 224–234.

[469] This cult place, located inside a settlement, also revealed unworked red coral pendants (amulets) that showed traces of being exposed to fire (Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 26: 25–29; Laharnar 2018a, 224).

[470] Toškan, Bartosiewicz 2018, 491, Tab. 11 (a single bone is burnt). For the analysis of the animal remains from Cremation pit at Repelc, see here Toškan.

[471] Broken pieces of weapons and military outfits from the La Tène period (swords, scabbards and shields) are not be expected in ustrina, as only bent and not broken weapons were placed into graves in Posočje.

[472] Cf. Božič 2011, 260–269.

[473] Osmuk 1998, 13; Božič 2011, 262, Fn. 7.

[474] Svoljšak 1983, 5–32; Božič 2011, Fig. 6.21.

[475] The weapons from Kovačevše comprise a spearhead and an Etrusco-Italic helmet (for the helmet, see Istenič 2018, 281–282).

[476] Svoljšak 1983, Pl. 1–6; Božič 2011, 262–263.

[477] Božič 2011, Fig. 6. 2.

[478] Josipović, Gaspari, Miškec 2012, 389, 393.

Roba above S. Pietro al Natisone/Špeter.[479] Deposited at the cult place at the foot of the Monte Sorantri hill near Raveo in Carnia were, similarly as at Repelc, La Tène artefacts largely of a military character (bent and broken swords, scabbards, pieces of shield bosses and spear butts) and iron hobnails.[480]

The more distant parallels are, for example, the Capo di Ponte site near Brescia, where a thick layer of burnt remains was found that contained large quantities of broken and burnt metal objects, fineware and offering vessels (thin-walled vessels, terra sigillata, plates, beakers and jugs). Similarities with Repelc are also observable in the stone enclosure and structure next to the burning place, in the broken and burnt artefacts and numerous finds of Roman iron hobnails.[481] This site is interpreted as a burnt offering place visited at least from the 3rd or 2nd century BC to the end of the 4th or the 5th century AD. In interpreting the site, the authors raised the same questions, whether the site was an ustrinum or also a burnt offering place.[482]

In its location, an even closer parallel for Cremation pit from Repelc comes from a more geographically distant cemetery at Pombia in Piemonte, where a vast patch of charcoal with burnt metal objects and broken pottery making up a more than 70 cm thick layer was found in the eastern part of a necropolis from the time of the Golasecca culture. Researchers interpreted it as the place of worshipping 'heroicised' ancestors.[483]

A similar explanation has been proposed for the burnt offering place at Kundl, in the inner Alpine valley of the River Inn, where mortuary cult was practised in the immediate proximity to the cemetery.[484] A comparable situation is at Rungger Egg, a well investigated burnt offering site composed of two peaks separated by a small valley. At the site, a 20–30 cm thick layer of burnt remains, round in plan and measuring roughly 9 m across, was found that contained a multitude of broken ceramic, metal, bone and glass objects including numerous fragments of Certosa fibulae, as well as glass beads, finger rings, bracelets and pieces of bronze vessels. The area was delimited to the north with a wall. It is a very complex site, where animals as well as people were sacrificed and votive objects were offered in the span from the 7th century BC to the Augustan period.[485]

In Istria, a cult place next to a cemetery is known from the Late Bronze Age (Ha B1–B3) in close proximity to the prehistoric hillfort on Gradina above Limski kanal. Its researcher, Josip Mladin also defined the ustrinum at the site as a 'place for cults', where not only the dead were being cremated, but also a variety of other rituals performed including slaughter and sacrifice of animals, as well as other acts connected with the everyday life.[486]

There are other indications that Repelc served not only as an *ustrinum*, but also as a burnt offering place. One of them is its location overlooking the canyon-like bed of the River Idrijca directly above its confluence with the Soča, which was the spot most suitable for crossing the Idrijca in prehistoric and Roman times. Moreover, Repelc shows a unique situation at the edge of the vast Iron Age necropolis at Most na Soči. The cremation graves from the Late Hallstatt period, of which two also held horse bones, as well as the Late La Tène and Roman cremations, the Roman-period inhumation and the earliest Slavic (funerary) find in western Slovenia all indicate a special, sacred function of the area. The vertically positioned cobbles, the round stone structure (SU 88) of marl slabs and the horizontally laid limestone slab (place of sacrifice?), which yielded a triangular bronze openwork pendant and the spring of a fibula (*Pl. 42A:* 1, 2), as well as three sheep/goat teeth,[487] may have been used to mark this 'sacred' space, while the marl drywall (SU 87) enclosed the space in the east.

## MIXED CULTURAL LAYER (SU 3)

The 15–65 cm thick layer that covered the graves, pits and stone structures across the whole 2000 excavation area and reached in the 2002 excavation area to the stone wall (SU 87) in the east was of a very uneven consistency. It was a layer of earth mixed with loam and marl rubble, scattered marl slabs, small concentrations of charcoal with bits of cremated human bone and a multitude of different artefacts.

The earliest artefacts from this layer date to the Late Hallstatt period (Sv. Lucija II): a fragment of a presumed boat fibula with five knobs on the bow (*Pl. 42B:* 4), the bow of a fibula decorated with short incisions along the edges (*Pl. 42B:* 5), the foot of a fibula with the terminal in the shape of a forward-facing ram head (*Pl. 42B:* 1), a long-footed fibula with reticular decoration on the band bow (*Pl. 42B:* 6), a fragment of a fibula with a crossbow spring (*Pl. 42B:* 3), parts of Certosa fibulae of chronologically latest Types X (*Pl. 42B:* 12, 13, 18–19; *43:* 1), XII (*Pl. 42B:* 9) and possibly VIIf (*Pl. 42B:* 10), which were in use into the La Tène period. Also dating to the Late Hallstatt period are the variously decorated band earrings (*Pl. 45:* 26–35), a ribbed bracelet with slightly overlapping ends (*Pl. 47:* 5) and

[479] Righi 2004, 9–23. Sherds of Auerberg jars also came to light in the cult place at Ravelnik near Bovec (Horvat 2018, 337, 342).

[480] Righi 2001, Fig. 7, 10–17, 19; Donat, Righi, Vitri 2007, 108–116; Božič 2011, 267–268.

[481] Solano 2008, 182.

[482] Ibid., 187.

[483] Gambari 2001, 94–98.

[484] Lang 1998, 19–20, Fig. 10; cf. Endrizzi, Degasperi, Marzatico 2009, 273.

[485] Gleirscher, Nothdurfter, Schubert 2002, 213, Pl. 30: 9–31: 3.

[486] Mladin 1969, 291, 292.

[487] See here Toškan.

band bracelets (*Pl. 46:* 30–33; *47:* 1, 2, 4), as well as finger rings (*Pl. 46:* 1, 2, 4–7, 24) and different pendants – hollow spherical (*Pl. 47:* 22–24), basket-shaped (*Pl. 48:* 1–4), openwork triangular (*Pl. 48:* 5), trefoil-shaped (*Pl. 48:* 6, 7), hand-shaped (*Pl. 48:* 8), as well as domed buttons (*Pl. 49:* 9–18). Late Hallstatt finds further include a blue glass bead in the shape of a ram head (*Pl. 71:* 36), yellow glass beads with blue and white eyes (*Pl. 70:* 2–23; *71:* 24–27), those with knobs (*Pl. 71:* 12, 13) and a fragment of a polychrome glass vessel (*Pl. 70:* 1). Presumably of a Late Hallstatt date are the amber beads (*Pl. 71:* 41–46, 48, 50–56), the torque with rolled ends (*Pl. 47:* 7) and the domed belt mount with a loop and ring (*Pl. 48:* 9). The weaponry possibly from this time include a lance head (*Pl. 51:* 2), a shaft-hole axe (*Fig. 52; Pl. 50:* 4), two axes with one-sided wings (*Pl. 50:* 5, 6), though such weapons/tools were also in use in the La Tène period. The remains of Hallstatt vessels comprise pieces of bronze and ceramic situlae (*Pl. 48:* 12, 15; *60:* 1, 3), ceramic pithoi (*Pl. 49:* 27; *59:* 1–3), a biconical jar (*Pl. 59:* 7), beakers and two dishes (*Pl. 60:* 11, 12). The metal and glass finds in particular indicate a funerary character of the finds, as they are rare in habitation contexts. Quite the opposite is true of ceramic rings (*Pl. 69:* 26, 27), a spindle whorl (*Pl. 69:* 29) and a bobbin (*Pl. 69:* 30). A rare find in the south-eastern Alpine area in general is the *ramo secco* ingot (*Fig. 51; Pl. 49:* 19).

The layer also yielded numerous La Tène objects and those of typical La Tène forms, including examples of fibulae of the Early La Tène construction (*Pl. 43:* 3, 4), cast animal fibulae (*Pl. 43:* 5–8), the Valična vas type fibulae of the Middle La Tène construction (*Pl. 43:* 9) and other Middle La Tène forms (*Pl. 43:* 9; *44:* 5, 8, 9) that occur in Late La Tène contexts, for example the Idrija pri Bači type (*Pl. 43:* 10, 11; *44:* 1) or Kastav type fibulae (*Pl. 44:* 3, 4). There are also several examples of iron wire fibulae (*Pl. 44:* 10–13). Dating to the end of the La Tène period are the bronze Posočje type annular fibula (*Pl. 44:* 14) and Alesia fibulae (*Pl. 45:* 1–3), which indicate contacts with the Roman Italy alongside several forms of ceramic jars (*Pl. 60:* 18; *64:* 10–17; *65:* 3) and sherds of plates of Italian production (*Pl. 61*: 1–3). The La Tène ring jewellery comprises a bronze finger ring with longitudinal grooves (*Pl. 46:* 21), a centrally widened bracelet (*Pl. 47:* 6) and fragments of twisted wire torques (*Pl. 47:* 9–21). The numerous yellow glass beads with single or double blue or blue and white spiral eyes (*Pl. 70:* 24–42; *71:* 1–9) also date to this period, as does the iron annular belt hook (*Pl. 55:* 8). The numerous iron fragments of La Tène weapons include pieces of double-edged swords, their scabbards and iron suspension rings (*Pl. 52:* 5–8; *53:* 1–12; *54:* 1–10; *55:* 1–6), shield bosses (*Pl. 55:* 9–16; *56:* 3–6), spearheads and spear butts (*Pl. 51:* 1, 3, 5; *52:* 3). The bronze plate of a Hellenistic-Etruscan strainer (*Fig. 50; Pl. 48:* 24) and a bronze cup (*Pl. 48:* 11) are also attributable to this time.

Dating to the Roman period are the fragment of a strongly profiled fibula (*Pl. 45:* 4), simple iron finger rings (*Pl. 46:* 26–28), pyramidal tip of a pilum (*Pl. 52:* 4), knife with an S-shaped blade and one-sided wings (*Pl. 56:* 8), knives of a typically Norican shape with a curved blade, looped handle terminal and bone grip (*Pl. 56:* 9–11), hobnails (*Pl. 58:* 11–72) and clamps of wooden coffins or biers (*Pl. 58:* 2–10). In addition to the fragment of a glass bottle and of the ring base of translucent glass (*Pl. 71:* 39, 40), the sherds of thin-walled cups and beaker (*Pl. 61:* 5, 6, 7), two-handled (*Pl. 62:* 2, 3; *63:* 13) and one-handled jugs (*Pl. 42B:* 6; *63:* 9, 11, 12; *64:* 2–6), as well as jars with a thickened triangular-sectioned rim (*Pl. 66:* 6–7) also date to the Roman period. There are several sherds of amphorae belonging to the MRA 3 or LRA 3, as well as small Dressel 6B and Forlimpopoli types (*Pl. 61:* 10–15). The sherds of the Loeschcke X Firmalampen (*Pl. 61:* 8, 9) date from the 2nd century onwards.

The latest finds from this layer date between the 3rd and the 6th century. They include a sherd of an LRA 1 amphora (*Pl. 62:* 1), as well as small cylindrical and polyhedral beads of green glass (*Pl. 71:* 34, 35), while the small bead of red glass (*Pl. 71:* 32) may even date to the 7th century.

The diversity of the finds from this layer suggests the area was in intensive use in the past centuries, which caused great damage to the graves and the cult place. The layer also yielded a Venetian soldo (*Pl. 50:* 3), such as were in circulation in the 17th and 18th centuries, when historical sources first mention a settlement located on the promontory overlooking the confluence of the Idrijca and the Soča, under the name *St. Maurus Pruck*, *Pons Sancti Mauri* or simply *Pons* (Most).[488] Historical evidence also links the beginning of a more intense settlement of the area in the late medieval or early post-medieval times to the construction of the church of St Lucy towards the end of the 16th century.

## TOPSOIL (SU 1)

Colluvial Layer SU 2 of loamy earth that covered Layer SU 3 contained no archaeological finds. Objects did come to light in the topsoil (Layer SU 1) and date to the post-medieval times. We know that, in 1917, the German army set up temporary camp at Repelc (*Fig. 60*), leaving behind tent pegs, iron knives and nails. The lead shrapnel and other bits of exploded grenades are further reminders of the proximity of the bloody battlefields of the Isonzo Front, while the 2000 excavations even came across an unexploded 210 mm high-explosive shell of the Italian army weighing 116 kg. Also from the early 20th century is the seal of the post office in Cerkno (*Kirchheim / Kűstenland*), in the Primorska region, even more recent are the bronze scissors and a brass fragment with vegetal decoration, which may be the remains of a pot for preparing coffee.

[488] Torkar 2017, 130.

# CREMATION BURIAL FOUND IN 2016 AT LIPIČARJEV VRT

Roughly 50 m southeast of Repelc, a cremation burial from the Roman period (*Fig. 1–3, 21; Pl. 72*) was found in 2016 at the Lipičarjev vrt site (Lot No. 949, Most na Soči cadastral municipality; Lipičar's garden in translation).[489] It is similar to the Iron Age burials at Most na Soči.

The grave pit was dug into the sterile loam down to the flat limestone bedrock. It had marl slabs forming and covering a cist, filled with concentrated burnt remains with a great amount of cremated human bones (545 g) reaching up to the marl cover. The ashes were concentrated at the bottom and included glass beads. Placed on top of the burnt remains, just under the cover, was a fragmented ceramic oil lamp and a led mirror frame. Sherds of a one-handled jar were found some 20 cm above the marl cover.

Anthropological analyses have shown that an adult individual was buried in the grave, presumably a woman aged 20–40.

The mirror frame (*Fig. 62; Pl. 72*: 1) is among the more interesting goods. Portable mirrors in Antiquity were mainly made of silver or bronze, much less frequently of lead. Small mirrors with a lead strap frame and a glass interior were widespread from Asia Minor to central Europe and across the Mediterranean. They have been recorded from the Early Imperial period onwards. The distribution and dating of lead mirrors suggest that their origin should be sought in the Danube-Balkan area.[490] The round mirrors, such as the example from Most na Soči, were most common in the 3rd and 4th centuries. They came to light in greatest number at Aquileia and presumably arrived to northern Italy from Pannonia, possibly already in the final decades of the 2nd century.[491] In the area between Milan, the River Po and Trento, round lead mirror frames are mainly known from graves of the 4th and even early 5th century.[492] The frames were usually decorated – the one from Most na Soči has a geometric design on the exterior – and sometimes inscribed, which suggests an apotropaic function. As an essential part of a woman's toiletry, a mirror is a typical grave good, but also occurs in ritual depositions linked with female goddesses such as Hera, Venus or the nymphs.[493]

Barrel-shaped beads of two or more parts, as well as blue biconical glass beads, such as were found among the goods from the grave at Lipičarjev vrt (*Fig. 63;Pl. 72:* 5), occur in graves already in the second half of the 2nd century[494] and later, in Late Roman and even early medieval contexts.[495]

The fragments of the oil lamp (*Pl. 72:* 4) can be ascribed to a late example of a Loeschcke Xc Firmalampe.[496] Similar lamps came to light at Most na Soči in the Roman period cemetery on the right bank of the Idrijca.[497]

The grave goods show that the burial can probably be dated to the end of the 3rd or the 4th century.[498] The area of Lipičarjev vrt has not been archaeologically investigated, though the disturbed cremation burial[499] unearthed during the 1960 earthworks associated with a roadside ditch (at the edge of Lot No. 949) indicates that more graves can be expected in the area.

[489] Mlinar 2017.

[490] Cf. Spasić 1995.

[491] Buora, Magnani 2015, 17.

[492] Corti 2016, 192.

[493] Baratta 2010, 1155; Uboldi 2016, 97–106.

[494] Casagrande 2013, 274, Fig. 57.

[495] Bitenc, Knific 2001, Cat. Nos. 124, 277.

[496] Vidrih Perko, Nestorović, Žižek 2012; cf. Horvat, Žbona Trkman 2016, 114.

[497] Mlinar, Perko, Žbona Trkman 2015, 118–120, Cat. Nos. 12, 15, 17.

[498] Mlinar 2017, 41.

[499] Gabrovec, Svoljšak 1983, 34.

# CONCLUSION

## PUCARJEV ROB AND REPELC – COMMONALITIES AND DIFFERENCES

*Location, stratigraphy and time span*

Both sites, investigated between 2000 and 2013, lie at the northern edge of the vast Iron Age necropolis on the left bank of the Idrijca, a large part of which was excavated more than a century ago (*Fig. 64*). Although located close to one another, the two sites show several differences.

The main difference is in the stratigraphy and preservation of the archaeological remains. Stratigraphy was simpler in the northeast, at Pucarjev rob, and the graves better preserved, while the Repelc site displayed a more complex stratigraphy and greater damage, making the interpretation of the latter site more challenging.

Pucarjev rob only revealed burials from the Late Hallstatt period, beginning with Grave PR 21 from Sv. Lucija Ic/IIa as the earliest, continuing with the bulk of burials taking place in Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb, and ending with Grave PR 6 from the transition into the La Tène period, possibly even later. There were no other later finds at the site with the exception of the earring fragment from the Late La Tène period (LT D1). The spatial distribution of the burials indicates both horizontal and vertical stratigraphy, with the early burials concentrating in the central and western parts, later ones in the east (*Fig. 18, 19*). Some graves were even located one on top of the other, in two levels: PR 1, 2 and 6, 11 and 20, 14 and 22, 31 and 34 (*Fig. 5; Pl. 7B; 9D*). Marchesetti reported finding similar cases in the large cemetery in 1884.[500] It is possible this is the result of a shortage of space, which led to burial also taking place on the right bank of the Idrijca, or it mirrors family-clan connections.

The situation at Repelc is slightly different. The cemetery here lies in an area occupied by a Late Bronze Age (BA D or *bronzo recente*) settlement. The graves are largely destroyed in the upper parts, many are missing the covers. Here as well, burial begins in the Late Hallstatt period, though none date to Sv. Lucija IIa (*Fig. 59, 60*). Predating any of the graves is the drystone wall with a N–S orientation, located in the east part of the site (*App. 1/2:* Grid Squares 5, 11, SU 87). Dug at its south end are Graves R 31 and R 32 (*Pl. 26D, E*). The former ranks among the earliest burials at the site (Sv. Lucija IIb1), similarly as urn Grave R 52 (*Pl. 34A*) at the west edge of the round stone structure (SU 87). The structure was located only several tens of centimetres west of the wall (*App. 1/2:* Grid Square 4) and, judging from the finds in it (*Pl. 42A*), more or less contemporary with Grave R 52. It may have been functionally associated with the ustrinum or burnt offering place (SU 102–103) unearthed at the northern edge of the 2002 excavation area (*App. 1/2:* Grid Square 1). The ustrinum was established in the initial phase of the burial ground and was in use contemporaneously with it. After an interruption of almost two centuries, the use of the burning place and burial at Repelc continued in LT D and the Roman period (*Fig. 59*). The later finds include pieces of amphorae and several green glass beads (*Pl. 61:* 10; *62: 1; 71:* 34, 35) from mixed Layer SU 3, which date from the 3rd to the 6th century. Pit R 9 with two jars from the late 7th century (*Pl. 34C*), possibly also the small red glass bead (*Pl. 71:* 32), show that the area was not completely abandoned even later.

In the 2000 excavation area, the La Tène graves are located close to or around large Graves R 22 and R 19 (*Fig. 59*) from Sv. Lucija IIb2/IIc, the finds from which include several unburnt horse bones. Both Late La Tène graves (R 35 and R 51 – *Pl. 27C–28A; 33C*) recorded in the 2002 excavation area were found in proximity to the graves from the last Hallstatt phase (R 47, R 49 and R 50). The Roman-period graves were also dug into the spaces between the earlier burials, in some cases even partially into them (for example Graves R 3, 4 and 7 in the area of Grave R 22).

The small amount of cremated human bone and the high degree of their fragmentation makes it largely impossible to determine the sex of the deceased.[501] At Pucarjev rob where all burials date to the Late Hallstatt period, most of the deceased were identified as adults, aged between 20 and 40 years (*adultus*), none were older than 50 years, some may have been either children or very young adults (PR 20, PR 26 and PR 35). The male sex was identified for the individuals from Graves PR 6, PR 14 and PR 23, the female and presumably female for those buried in Graves PR 1, PR 2, PR 13 and PR 16. The last grave may have held two individuals. The woman buried in Grave PR 2 was estimated to have been just under 150 cm tall at death.

The age structure of the individuals buried at Repelc was similar to that at Pucarjev rob. Most have been identified as adults that include no old individuals. Some were children – two date to the Late Hallstatt (R 10 and R 16) and one to the Roman period (R 30), while three were presumably buried together with an adult (R 22, R 23 and R 25). The anthropological analysis could not identify the sex in almost none of the cases; the individuals buried in Graves R 12A and R 25 were presumably female, the one from the only inhumation burial at Repelc (R 43) was presumably a man aged between 20 and 30, roughly 167 tall and interred in the Roman period.

[500] Marchesetti 1886, Pl. X: 13.

[501] See here Leben-Seljak.

For the Sveta Lucija Hallstatt group, gender determination is a formidable task also when using the archaeological analysis, as the burial custom did not include offering weapons into graves, which would have distinguished men from women. Weapons only appear in graves towards the end of the Hallstatt and in the La Tène period, in the Idrija group that is also characterised by tools, primarily agricultural. The women of this group are identifiable in their jewellery, particularly necklaces and earrings.

Attempting to determine gender of the burials from Pucarjev rob based on grave goods, the earrings and glass beads suggest Graves PR 8, 11, 18, 29, 34, 35 (*Pl. 6B; 7B; 9B; 12 A; 13D; 14B*) belonged to women or girls. If adding pendants and small buttons to the female costume, the list could be extended with Graves PR 1, 10, 14 (*Pl. 1–2A; 7A; 8A*) and PR 21 with a two-looped fibula (*Pl. 10A*), an item characterising the female costume towards the end of the Early Hallstatt period when men did not yet wear fibulae. We should note a discrepancy with the result of the anthropological analysis for Grave PR 14. Reservations notwithstanding, there are altogether thirteen burials identifiable as those of women, which is just over one third of all burials at Pucarjev rob. The weapons in Grave PR 6 (*Pl. 5B*) reveal the burial of a man; the bone remains do the same for the individual from Grave PR 23 (*Pl. 10C*). Grave PR 1 may have held a double burial, with the belt mount and knife with a bone grip belonging to a man, though the knife is similar to the one found in the grave of a woman buried at Kovk above Hrastnik, in the Zasavje region.[502] Children have only been identified using the results of the anthropological analysis; of those, Grave PR 20 has an interesting location, dug above Grave PR 11 of an adult (*Pl. 9D*), while the presumed child in Grave PR 26 was buried next to Grave PR 27 of an adult aged 20–40 (*App. 1* and *Fig. 59*), indicating a close family relation between the two individuals.

Also at Repelc, the grave goods from the Late Hallstatt period largely only allow us to identify female burials (Graves R 10, 16, 19, 31, 33, 34, 41, 49?, 50 – *Pl. 18B–19A; 21B, 22C; 26D; 27A; 27B; 30B; 33A; 33B*). Grave R 10 has been anthropologically identified as belonging to a child, which the diameter of the associated bracelets almost certainly identifies as a woman or a girl. Male contemporaries may be identified from the belt mounts in Graves R 38 and 47 (*Pl. 29A; 32B*). Male burials become better distinguishable in the La Tène period with the deposition of weapons, identifiable in Graves R 18, 25, 35, 51 (*Pl. 22B; 24C–25; 27C–28A; 33C*) and probably double Grave R 14 that also contained female jewellery and tools (*Pl. 20–21A*). The graves from the Roman period contained numerous hobnails (Graves R 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 17, 30 – *Pl. 16B; 17A; 17B; 17D; 18A; 22A; 26C*), similar to the iron hobnail with a pattern on the head from mixed Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 58: 11*), such as were used on the footwear of Roman auxiliary soldiers.[503] As the individual buried in inhumation Grave R 43 with an oil lamp and a coin (*Pl.* 31A) has also been anthropologically identified as a man, we could surmise that mainly men were being buried here in the Roman period.

Graves PR 12, PR 30, PR 33, as well as R 6, R 28, R 37, R 39 and R 40 only contained pottery, more precisely sherds that probably represent the remnants of the burial ritual. Only the sherds of a jar in Grave R 36 survived to the degree to enable a drawn reconstruction (*Pl. 28B*). Wherever the age at death could be anthropologically identified, the human remains revealed an adult individual.

Several graves were devoid of goods (PR 3, PR 17, PR 22 and R 26 – *Pl. 4B; 9A; 10B; 26A*); even here the anthropological analysis pointed to adult individuals. Standing out are the graves with rich or unusual goods, which include imported items. Such burials at Pucarjev rob are urn Graves PR 1, PR 2 and PR 29, the first one with an Attic owl skyphos, two Fraore type fibulae and a knife with a bone grip and a zoomorphic terminal (*Fig. 15; Pl. 1–3A*), the second with the Dolenjska variant of a Type XIII Certosa fibula, a vessel with a bronze handle and a situla-like ceramic vessel (*Pl. 3B–4A*), the third with numerous small beads of blue glass and small bronze buttons probably sewn onto a garment (*Pl. 12A*). These are the burials of women, possibly alongside a man, as presumed for Grave PR 1.

At Repelc, rich goods were recorded in the graves from the Late Hallstatt period: Grave R 10 with two Phoenician-Punic glass beads (*Fig. 53*) (*Pl. 18B–19A*), Grave R 19 with glass beads and a vessel of polychrome glass (*Fig. 55; Pl. 22C–23A*). It also held horse bones same as Grave R 22, which further revealed cross-shaped strap distributors (*Pl. 23C*). Standing out among the La Tène graves are R 14 with twisted wire jewellery, silver spiral finger ring and tools (*Pl. 20–21A*), and Grave R 25 with an Iron Age machaira (*Pl. 24C–25*).[504] Grave R 3 with a bronze patera handle with figural decoration (*Pl. 17A*), as well as the inhumation grave with a bronze as of Lucius Verus and an oil lamp with a *Sexti* stamp (*Pl. 31A*) date to the Roman period.

## IMPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A unique find from the Early Iron Age in Posočje and wider in the south-eastern Alps is the owl skyphos (*glaux*) from Grave PR 1 (*Fig. 17; Pl. 3A:* 13). It is an import from the Attic workshops and reveals trading links with Greece (Athens) or with the emporia in the Po Delta. The find is related to the Greek colonies

[502] Cf. Božič, Gaspari, Pirkmajer 2020, 519, Pl. 6: 10; 7: 10.

[503] Cf. Gaspari 2008, 42.

[504] Gaspari, Mlinar 2005.

along the coasts of the Mediterranean and Adriatic, as well as those across southern Italy (*Magna Graecia*), which functioned as intermediaries in spreading Greek products and culture, even to the south-eastern Alpine area, mainly along maritime routes.[505] Owl skyphoi with one horizontal and one vertical handle (*glaux*) were produced in Athens and have come to light across the Mediterranean, from Georgia, southern Ukraine and Russia to Israel, Turkey, Cyprus, Rhodes, Greece, northern Macedonia, Bulgaria, northern Africa, Spain, southern France, Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily, southern and central Italy (*Fig. 65*). Formally similar vessels were produced in the 4th century BC and later in Etruria and Apulia.[506] The geographically closest parallels for the skyphos from Pucarjev rob come from the lower Po Valley.[507] In Posočje, a slightly different Attic skyphos, of the Saint Valentin type, came to light in Hallstatt-period House 5 at Most na Soči,[508] while a skyphos sherd of an undeterminable type was found in Grave 2 at Koritnica in the Bača Valley.[509] Most na Soči also yielded other forms of Greek vessels, such as Ionic *kylikes*.[510]

Contacts with the highly developed Mediterranean cultures are also perceptible in the vessels of polychrome glass, which include two fragments of glass bottles from Grave R 19 (*Fig. 55; Pl. 23A:* 8) and Layer SU 3 at Repelc (*Pl. 70:* 1). They presumably originate from the eastern Mediterranean. The large cemetery at Most na Soči yielded several polychrome and monochrome ribbed glass cups;[511] their provenance has not yet been determined more precisely and may also have the eastern Mediterranean.[512] Other Mediterranean imports include two glass beads from Grave R 10 (*Fig. 53; Pl. 19A:* 8, 9), which are not the sole finds of this kind in Posočje.[513]

Links with the Mediterranean may also be visible in the find of a grapevine stalk (probably wild grapevine – *vitis sylvestris*) from Grave PR 25.[514] This could be the earliest evidence of wine growing in the south-eastern Alpine area, alongside the grapevine pips from Štanjel, unearthed in the second debris layer of a Late Iron Age house.[515] The pips of the cultivated grapevine (*vitis vinifera*), such as those found in the Iron Age and Roman-period layers in the vicinity of Aquileia, are similar to the pips of the wild grapevine (*vitis sylvestris*) in structure. Research has shown that grapevine cultivation in northern Italy already began in the Iron Age.[516] At Most na Soči, other cultivated Mediterranean fruit have come to light, namely a fig and a walnut from House 7 of the Iron Age settlement,[517] which rank among the earliest such finds in the south-eastern Alpine area.

The *ramo secco* ingot (*Fig. 51; Pl. 49:* 19)[518] and the roughly century and a half later fragment of a Hellenistic-Etruscan strainer (*Fig. 50; Pl. 48:* 24) from Layer SU 3 at Repelc are evidence of connections with northern Italy and the Etruscan area. The rare examples of the Fraore – Parma serpentine fibulae, which were among the goods in the graves at Pucarjev rob (PR 1) and Repelc (R 38) (*Pl. 1:* 1, 2; *29A:* 1), may be seen as coming from the Ticino area in the southern Alps.[519] The fibula fragment from Grave R 31 (*Pl. 26D:* 1) could belong to the Castellin Fisterre type originating from the Adige Valley.[520] Other likely imports from the southern Alpine area are the bronze fibulae of the Early La Tène construction from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 43:* 3, 4) and Pit R 22A (*Pl. 35E:* 1) at Repelc, which are not the only such items known from Posočje.[521]

The amber beads, their fragments and semi-finished products from Layer SU 3 at Repelc (*Pl. 71:* 41–56) presumably came here from the Baltic area, although chemical analyses have as yet not been performed. Objects of amber are rare at Most na Soči and in Posočje in general, which is probably the consequence of cremating the dead in their apparels.[522]

Several objects show ties with sites in the south-eastern Alps, particularly Dolenjska. This region is

[505] Svoljšak 1989, 398; cf. Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 112, Fig. 74b.

[506] See Johnson 1955, 122–124.

[507] Padua (Bonomi 2005, 76–77, Fig. 79), Oppeano (Gamba 1986, coll. 642–664), Spina (Alfieri 1979, 58, Fig. 133).

[508] Svoljšak 1989, 398; Dular 1998, 115; Svoljšak, Dular 2016, Pl. 25A: 1; Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 111; Grahek 2018a, 286.

[509] Kos 1973, 862, Pl. 1: 7.

[510] The Ionic *kylix* from Grave Sz 1008 dates to the 6th century BC (Vitri 1980, 276; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 104A: 13), while the other Ionic *kylix*, from Grave M 2850, probably dates to the late 7th century BC (Vitri 1980, 276). The now lost *oinochoe* from Grave M 1026 (ib.) may also have been the product of Ionic workshops; Marchesetti saw it as a product of Apulian workshops (Marchesetti 1896, 23), Collona as an Ionic product based on the inspection of its drawing (Vitri 1980, Fn. 32). The graves at Most na Soči yielded several other fragments of *kylikes* or their imitations (Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 112–113).

[511] Marchesetti 1893, Pl. VIII: 1, 2; IX: 1,2; Teržan, Lo Schiavo, Trampuž Orel 1984, Pl. 104: 12; 260: 11; 264: 7.

[512] Cf. Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 119–122.

[513] The glass amulet with a bearded male head from Most na Soči (Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXIX: 4, 8, 9; Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 122–123, Fig. 79a) and the similar find from Kobarid, kept in the Museo d'Antichità J.J. Winckelmann in Trieste (information by Marzia Vidulli), are probably also Punic imports.

[514] See here Culiberg.

[515] Fabec, Vinazza 2014, 597, Fig. 39.9 (radiocarbon dated to 2150+/- 30 BP).

[516] Maselli Scotti, Rottoli 2007, 801–802.

[517] Cf. Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 111.

[518] Mlinar 2014, 611–614. An ingot of this type was also found on the right bank of the Idrijca (cf. Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 114–116; Laharnar 2018a, 222).

[519] Cf. Tecco Hvala 2014b, 171–172.

[520] Nascimbene 2009, 110–115, Fig. 23: No. 39; Fig. 24.

[521] Cf. Guštin 1991, Pl. 27: 5, 33: 9.

[522] Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 110.

certainly the origin of the cross-shaped strap distributors from Grave R 22 (*Pl. 23C:* 1–9), which formed part of horse equipment. This and Grave R 19 contained unburnt horse bones (the lower parts of the extremities) alongside the cremated human remains,[523] which is a feature otherwise unknown in the Sveta Lucija burial ritual. Earlier excavations of the large cemetery at Most na Soči revealed individual burials of complete horse cadavers with the associated gear, but without human skeletal remains.[524] A similar situation is known in the Este area, for example at Altino, where we are predominantly dealing with ritual burials of sacrificed horses as the custom practised across Veneto in the 6th and 5th centuries BC.[525] To the contrary, burials of horses together with humans in the same grave are characteristic of the Dolenjska Hallstatt group.[526] Other commonalities with the Dolenjska cultural area can be seen in several goods from Grave R 38, i.e. a fragment of a bracelet with rolled ends, decorated with bands of transverse incisions, and in rectangular belt mounts (*Pl. 29A:* 4, 12), while a similar mount came to light in the urn of Grave PR 1 (*Pl. 1:* 9). Contacts with Dolenjska are also mirrored in the ram head glass bead (*Pl. 71:* 36), the fibula with a forward-facing animal head (*Pl. 42B:* 1), the Valična vas type fibula (*Pl. 43:* 9) and the fragments of iron fibulae (*Pl. 44:* 10–13) from Layer SU 3 and the ustrinum at Repelc. Interestingly, the pair of Type XIII Certosa fibulae from Grave PR 2 consist of one belonging to a Dolenjska variant (*Pl. 3B:* 2) and the other to a Sveta Lucija variant (*Pl. 3B:* 1).[527] Common elements are perceptible in the Late Hallstatt armament, primarily in the shaft-hole axe and possibly also in the axes with one-sided wings found in Layer SU 3 at Repelc (*Pl. 50:* 4–6), as well as the knife with a bone grip (*Pl. 2:* 10) from urn Grave PR 1.

The La Tène armament consists of elements, such as swords and shields, which are typical of Celtic central Europe and also used in the south-eastern Alps. Standing out is a sword with a bent hilt, called machaira, found in Late La Tène Grave R 25 (*Pl. 25:* 3) and of the kind used by the tribes in the northern Adriatic hinterland from the 4th century BC on. Links with the north-eastern Adriatic are also visible in the two Kastav type fibulae from Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 44:* 4, 3). A feature particular to the non-Celtic inhabitants of western Slovenia and north-eastern Italy in the Late La Tène period are twisted wire torques with knots (*Pl. 20:* 4; *37:* 4, 5, 6; *47:* 9–20). The silver spiral finger ring from Grave R 14 (*Pl. 20:* 2) also has parallels in that area, in the Ornavasso culture.

Typically Italian products from Repelc are the Almgren 65 (*Fig. 49; Pl. 36B:* 12), Almgren 236a (*Pl. 36B:* 13) and Alesia fibulae (*Pl. 45:* 1–3), piece of a military belt or *cingulum* (*Pl. 37:* 12), an iron hobnail (*Pl. 58:* 11), cooking ware (*Pl. 40:* 16, 17), Lamboglia 5/7 or Morel 2284 plates of black glaze ware (*Pl. 61*: 1–3), two- and single-handled jugs (*Pl. 40:* 11; *42B:* 6; *62:* 2, 3; *63:* 9, 11, 12; *64:* 2–6) and a Forlimpopoli amphora (*Pl. 61:* 11).

Of eastern Mediterranean origin are small MRA 3 or LRA 3 amphorae, a sherd of which was recovered in Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 61:* 10), and the sherd of a LRA 1 amphora from the final Roman-period phase at Repelc (*Fig. 58; Pl. 62:* 1).[528]

The ceramic jars from the early medieval phase at Repelc, found in Pit R 9 (*Pl. 34C*), have parallels to the east and herald the Slavic settlement of the area.[529]

All these finds reveal the important place that Most na Soči – at the confluence of the Soča, Idrijca and Bača – had in the communications network among cultural regions. The currently known archaeological sites at Tolmin, Zatolmin, Dolje, Volarje and near the Krn village suggest that the communication northward to Kobarid led along the left, sunlit bank of the River Soča. Reaching the Kobarid Basin, it then forked to run north to Bovec, across the Predel Pass to Tarvisio and further on to Kärnten, but also west to Friuli. The northbound route from Kobarid led along the west slopes of Gradič and Tonovcov grad to avoid the narrow and difficult straits of the Soča; it again neared the river at Trnovo. Between Srpenica and Bovec, it led more or less along the present-day road, while the route past Kluže and Log pod Mangrtom to the Predel Pass is not as easily identifiable.[530]

The route to the northeast, to the Bohinj area, differed from the one used today until a century and a half ago. The previous route led along the wide lower part of the Bača Valley to Koritnica, where it forked and one leg turned north along the narrow valley of the River Koritnica to ascend to Rut and further up across the Suha and Vrh Bače Passes to reach Bohinj.[531] The other leg crossed the River Bača at Koritnica to continue past Bukovo to the Cerkljansko area. There is as yet no material evidence on the existence of a prehistoric communication from Koritnica and Petrovo Brdo across Soriška planina to the iron ore deposits in Bohinj;[532] its existence is, however, at least in the section between Petrovo Brdo and the

[523] Cf. here Toškan.

[524] Cf. Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 129–130.

[525] Cf. Gambacurta, Tirelli 1997, 71–72; also cf. the ritual horse burial at the Bizjakova hiša site in Kobarid (Mlinar, Gerbec 2011).

[526] Cf. Dular 2007, Fig. 1.

[527] Cf. Teržan 1976, 338–340.

[528] Cf. Mlinar, Perko, Žbona Trkman 2015, 120.

[529] Mlinar 2002a, 22, Fig. 13; Knific 2004, 19–20; cf. Pleterski 2008, 39.

[530] Cf. Svoljšak 1988–1989, 377–378; Klavora 2003, 29–30; Mlinar 2009–2010, 147; Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 9.

[531] Iron Age Posočje formed a single cultural area together with the Bohinj area. The exploitation of iron ore at Bohinj brought prosperity to the people living in Posočje (cf. Gabrovec 1974, 306–307).

[532] Mlinar 2002a, 11.

upper Selca valley, suggested by the newly discovered ironworking site at Štalca above Železniki, which belongs to the Sveta Lucija cultural group.[533]

An important eastbound communication led along the valley of the Idrijca, but only to Slap ob Idrijci, where it ascended the plateau of Šentviška planota and only descended to the lowland at Reka near Cerkno. This route is corroborated by the absence of archaeological sites in the poorly passable gorge between Dolenja Trebuša and Reka near Cerkno.[534]

The southbound communication toward Goriško and further on to the Adriatic Sea in late prehistory and the Roman period differed from the present one that leads along the Soča. The route between the fortified settlement on the hill of Sv. Katarina above Nova Gorica and the settlement at Most na Soči led along the west edge of the plateau of Banjška planota past Grgar, Bate, Zabrdo, Kal nad Kanalom, Levpa, Kanalski Vrh and Kanalski Lom.[535] It is in connection with this route that we should view the prehistoric habitation remains at Repelc, the spot at Most na Soči where the Idrijca was bridged.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 2000–2013 DISCOVERIES AT MOST NA SOČI

The discovery of prehistoric habitation remains at Repelc is an important novelty, as human habitations have previously only been recorded on the opposite, right bank of the Idrijca, while the left bank hosted the associated cemetery.[536]

No less intriguing is the discovery of Cremation pit (*Fig. 40–42*) and the stone wall (SU 87) (*App. 1/2; Fig. 43, 44*) at the edge of the burial grounds, on the lowest terrace just before the confluence of the Idrijca and the Soča. The artefacts recovered from the pit (*Pl. 36B–41*) indicate it was in use contemporaneously with the cemetery and not only as a place where the dead were cremated; it may also be interpreted as a sort of a burnt offering place.[537] The round structure of obliquely placed marl slabs (SU 88 – *Fig. 45, 46*), with a partly burnt top loamy soil in the south and a limestone slab jutting from the perimeter in the north, may also be connected with ritual practices within a 'sacred' place. Its location in a cemetery, its regular shape, orientation of the structure and the unburnt bones of sheep/goats[538] indicate possible offerings or sacrifices in honour of the ancestors.

The graves at Repelc and Pucarjev rob, located on the rocky edge overlooking the River Idrijca, begin in the Late Hallstatt period, in Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb, a time when available evidence shows the Sveta Lucija community was in its heyday.[539] The burials at Pucarjev rob ended at the decline of the Hallstatt period, while at Repelc they continued and now offer a glimpse into the changes in the funerary ritual at the transition from the Early to the Late Iron Age. Characteristic of Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb is burial in large pits, in which the cremated remains were placed on the bottom or in an urn, while Sv. Lucija IIc reveals a tendency towards smaller grave pits (cf. *Fig. 10* and *18*, *Fig. 33* and *59*), for example of Graves PR 6,[540] 32, 33 and 35. The second phenomenon noticeable in Sv. Lucija IIc is a very small amount of cremated human remains, which were heavily burnt and scattered across the pit, for example in Graves PR 6, PR 31, R 49, R 50 and R 51, but also in Pits R 22A, R 29, R 27 and R 15 that could also be considered as graves even in the absence of human remains. Of those, Pits R 22A and R 29 were covered with a stone slab as is characteristic of the Hallstatt graves in Posočje, the former contained a fibula of the Early La Tène construction (*Pl. 35E*) and the latter a spring fragment of a fibula of the Middle La Tène construction (*Pl. 36A*). Pits R 15 and R 27 contained a small amount of scattered burnt remains without cremated bones. In Posočje, similar examples have been recorded in the cemetery at Čadrg – Laze, where Pit 1 from LT C1–C2 contained no cremated bones, and in Srpenica, where an Early La Tène grave only contained a few bits of cremated remains.[541] Until these recent discoveries, not much attention has been paid to the changes in the burial ritual at the transition from the Hallstatt to the La Tène period. The ritual in the latter period probably involved placing or strewing only some cremated remains in the grave pit mixed with the ashes from the pyre and earth, or not even that, as suggested by Pits R 15, R 22A, R 27, R 29 and Pit 1 from Čadrg. The cremated remains of the deceased and their personal belongings may simply have been strewn on the ground[542] or into the river (Idrijca), a possibility raised by the Late La Tène artefacts found scattered outside the grave pits; Marchesetti and Szombathy also report on such finds.[543] A similar situation with a similar burial ritual and scattered La Tène finds is known at the Carnian cemetery in Misincinis near Paularo.[544] Changes in the burial ritual are also visible in the weapons now being placed into graves, which was not the custom of

[533] Bogataj et al. 2016, 75–96; Grahek 2018b, 271–272; Mlinar 2018, 58.

[534] Cf. Mlinar 2002a, 12.

[535] Mlinar, Žbona Trkman 2008, 9–22 with references; Gerbec 2018, 62–75.

[536] Cf. Svoljšak 1988–1989.

[537] See here the chapter on the *ustrinum* and/or burnt offering place.

[538] See here Toškan.

[539] Dular, Tecco Hvala 2018, 9–145.

[540] Cf. Gerbec, Mlinar 2018, 52.

[541] Čadrg – Laze (Mlinar, Turk 2016, 40–44), Srpenica (Laharnar, Mlinar 2019).

[542] A similar burial is known from Döttenbichl in Bavaria (Zanier 2016).

[543] Cf. Mlinar 2009, 222.

[544] Vitri 2001, 30–31; Donat, Righi, Vitri 2007, 96.

the earlier, Sveta Lucija group,[545] and chronologically corresponds with the migrations of Celtic tribes.

Repelc ranks among the sites of crucial importance for understanding the transition from the Hallstatt to the La Tène period in Posočje even though it was damaged already towards the end of the Roman period or soon after. The early influences of the La Tène culture are visible in the fibulae of the Early La Tène construction,[546] recovered from Pit R 22A (*Pl. 35E:* 1) and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 43:* 3, 4). They are also perceptible in the early variants of the Posočje animal fibulae (*Pl. 43:* 5), of which the last variants were in use into the Late La Tène period.[547] Of a continuous use from the last Hallstatt phase into the Middle La Tène period are the Variant VIIe Certosa fibulae,[548] one of which was found in Grave R 45 together with pottery with brushed decoration (*Pl. 31C:* 1), and Variant Xg occurring in Grave R 23 (*Pl. 24B:* 1, 2), Cremation pit (*Pl. 36B:* 7) and Layer SU 3 (*Pl. 42B:* 18, 19; *43:* 1).[549] Quite a different picture is shown by the ritual burial of horses dated to LT B2 at the Bizjakova hiša site in Kobarid and the warrior grave from Srpenica, where most goods reflect the Celtic culture.[550]

The scarcity of such finds suggests that the inhabitants of Posočje did not readily accept the fibulae and other items of jewellery decorated in the Celtic manner. At Repelc, a LT C2 (Sv. Lucija IIIb) dating could be attributed to the Valična vas type fibula (*Pl. 43:* 9) and some pieces of weapons and military equipment (*Pl. 53:* 2; *55:* 8). Artefacts from the Middle La Tène period are just as rare at other sites in Posočje. Tonovcov grad, for example, yielded a Celtic annular belt hook with a tongue and a button on the inclined neck from LT C2, above-mentioned Pit 1 from Čadrg – Laze yielded weapons from this time and the nearby site at Šentviška planota yielded Celtic iron fibulae.[551] At this point, we know of no local elements or imitations from this period. Available archaeological evidence rather points to a period of stagnation and population decrease.

A sudden boom in economy and crafts in Posočje is perceptible in the Late La Tène period, i.e. Sv. Lucija IVa (LT D1), discernible from the rich assemblages of agricultural and other tools,[552] as well as burials with such goods.[553] A typical representative of this time at Repelc is Grave R 14 with goods that consisted of tools, twisted wire jewellery and a locally made fibula of the Middle La Tène construction (*Pl. 20–21A*). The fibulae that appear in this period were made in local workshops from La Tène models. The most characteristic elements of the local costume are the bronze fibulae of the Idrija pri Bači type (*Pl. 43:* 10, 11) and variants similar to it (*Pl. 44:* 5), which were worn to the Augustan period. Also in use were the local annular fibulae of the Posočje type (*Pl. 44:* 14). The beads of yellow glass paste with blue and white trails point to a Hallstatt tradition, while the decoration of spiral eyes (*Pl. 70:* 24–42; *71:* 1–9) mirrors Celtic models.

Celtisation is more clearly perceptible in the armament. In connection with this we should mention the assemblage of heavily fragmented and burnt weapons found scattered at Repelc across a roughly 4 $m^2$ large surface in the lower part of mixed Layer SU 3. They are fragments of scabbards (*Pl. 52:* 6–8; *53;* 1, 2) and blades of swords (*Pl. 53:* 3) broken up beyond identification. Their broken condition and the fact they belong to more than a single sword suggest we are not dealing with the remains of a damaged La Tène warrior grave, but rather ritually destroyed and deposited weaponry.[554] Although most La Tène finds came to light in Layer SU 3 and Cremation pit, the goods from the Late Iron Age cemetery at Repelc, which remains largely uninvestigated, suggest we may rank the burial ground side by side with Idrija pri Bači, the eponymous cemetery of the La Tène period in Posočje.

In spite of elements indicating a partial 'Celtisation' of Posočje, Celtic presence in the region does not appear to have been very strong. The sites at Bizjakova hiša in Kobarid and Srpenica[555] indicate the first wave of 'Celtisation' or 'Latenisation' in LT B2, though it may only have reached to the area north of Kobarid. The second attempt at 'Celtisation' is mirrored in the weapons typical of LT C, buried at Čadrg and possibly interpreted as the burial of the weaponry of a 'Carnian' warrior.[556] More challenging is the interpretation of the sporadic finds of LT

[545] Teržan, Trampuž 1973, 440.

[546] In Dolenjska as well, Early La Tène elements occur in Hallstatt-period graves and cemeteries (cf. e.g. Teržan 1976, 440; Tecco Hvala 2012, 359).

[547] Cf. Guštin 1991, 36.

[548] Reliable archaeological contexts allow us to trace them to LT B2/C (Novšak, Bekljanov Zidanšek, Vojaković 2017, 17, Pl. 1: 9); also cf. Teržan 1976, 432–433; Marić 2016, 108, Fig. 3: 2.

[549] Cf. Mlinar, Turk 2016, 21, 40–44; Gerbec, Mlinar 2018, 47–48.

[550] Mlinar, Gerbec 2011; Gerbec, Mlinar 2018, 54–62; Laharnar, Mlinar 2019.

[551] Čadrg – Laze (Mlinar, Turk 2016, 40–44); Šentviška planota (Mlinar et al. 2018, Cat. Nos. 40, 41); Tonovcov grad (Božič 2011, 252, Fig. 6.12).

[552] Cf. Modrej (Guštin 1991, Pl. 45: 1–9), Vrhovlje (Božič 2007b, 225–235). The curator of the Tolminski muzej recorded that the finds from Modrej were found 4 m deep in the gravel; they were scattered rather than found close together in a pit (Marija Rutar, diary entry dated 13 October 1967; kept in the Tolminski muzej). This speaks against a 'classic' Late La Tène hoard.

[553] Idrija pri Bači, Grave 1 and others (Guštin 1991).

[554] Cf. Gaspari 2007, 151–153; id. 2008, 33. A similar situation of intentionally deposited broken La Tène weapons is known from the Carnian site at Monte Sorantri (Righi 2001, 119–121; Donat, Righi, Vitri 2007, 100–108).

[555] Cf. the finds from Bizjakova hiša in Kobarid (Mlinar, Gerbec 2011), Srpenica (Laharnar, Mlinar 2019).

[556] Mlinar, Turk 2016, 44.

D1 Celtic weapons at Most na Soči, Kobarid, Tonovcov grad and Šentviška planota, also in the graves at Idrija pri Bači and Reka near Cerkno.[557] Can they be ascribed to Celtic soldiers or local warrior from Posočje who adopted Celtic armament, but retained and developed their own style in jewellery? Material evidence alone is insufficient for identifying the ethnicity of the population living in Posočje. Having said that, it seems very likely that the Celtic Carni tribe dominated the area in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC and afterwards merged with the indigenous population. Ancient Greek and Roman authors regarded the people inhabiting the area north of the Veneti as part of the Carni tribe,[558] but not strictly speaking the Celtic Carni, inhabitants of Carnia, more as an ethnically mixed population living in the wide area between the Veneti, Norici and Taurisci.[559] The detailed linguistic study that Luka Repanšek conducted on the Celtic heritage in the toponymy of the south-eastern Alpine area also revealed a Celtisation of lower intensity, establishing that such remnants of the Celtic legacy are few in this area and even non-existent in Posočje and western Slovenia.[560]

Excavations at Repelc also unearthed burials from the Roman period. This is another novelty, as only a small cemetery from the Roman period has thus far been known, located on the right bank of the Idrijca at the southeast edge of the settlement.[561] The Roman-period graves from Repelc indicate a continuity of burial in the prehistoric cemetery. Moreover, the means of disposal and the mortuary ritual in general show a pronounced local component and a low degree of Romanisation. The cremation burials for the most part only yielded iron hobnails. Not typical of the local customs is inhumation Grave R 43, which held an individual interred in the Roman manner together with a coin and an oil lamp (*Pl. 31A*). Also previously unknown in Roman-period Posočje is the *bustum* type burial, where cremation of the deceased took place over the grave pit and not on the pyre; an example of a *bustum* might be Grave R 17.[562] The chronologically diagnostic grave groups from Repelc suggest a span from the Claudian period (Grave R 3) to the end of the 2nd or beginning of the 3rd century (Grave R 1). The Roman finds from Cremation pit span from the Early Augustan period to the second half of the 1st century.[563] They include two Italian Almgren 65 and Almgren 236a fibulae (*Pl. 36B:* 12, 13), part of a military belt (*cingulum*) (*Pl. 37:* 12) and Italian cooking ware (*Pl. 40:* 16, 17). At Cremation pit, interpretable as an ustrinum and/or a burnt offering place, activities already ceased in the mid-1st century. Considering that cremation burials also date to the end of the 2nd or beginning of the 3rd century, it is possible to surmise two things; firstly, that burning in this place was secondary in importance to burial, and secondly, that the spot was used as a ritual offering place for ancestral worship; this is corroborated by the less fragmented and burnt Roman pottery and jewellery.

A slightly different picture is painted by the finds from Layer SU 3, spanning from the Late Augustan period to the beginning of the 3rd century and then (with minor interruptions?) to the end of the 5th or beginning of the 6th century AD. The Alesia fibulae (*Pl. 45:* 1–3) and the iron hobnail (*Pl. 58:* 11) can be ascribed to the outfits of Roman auxiliary soldiers.[564] More elusive are the sherds of Roman pottery, as well as glass beads (*Pl. 47:* 8–12), which were not exposed to fire as opposed to the Hallstatt and La Tène beads. They may belong to destroyed inhumation burials, though investigations revealed no unburnt human bone remains in this part. On the other hand, they may be offerings that the local inhabitants brought to the last resting place of their ancestors, indicating that the local population preserved the memory of their predecessors even in the 5th and 6th centuries and brought offerings to this sacred place. Marchesetti also reports on Roman-period burials in the prehistoric cemetery.[565] A deep-rooted ancient local tradition can also be seen in the cremation burial recently discovered at Lipičarjev vrt, not far from Repelc, which the goods date to the end of the 3rd or the 4th century.[566] It is formally the same as the Iron Age burials of Sv. Lucija IIa and IIb, enclosed and covered with marl slabs; the only difference is a large amount of burnt remains with poorly cremated human bones that filled the grave pit to the top.

Found on top of Layer SU 3 at Repelc were sherds of an eastern Mediterranean LRA 1 amphora (*Pl. 62:* 1), such as are typical of the 5th and 6th centuries. Their remains often bear Christian signs and inscriptions, which

[557] Cf. Idrija pri Bači, Reka near Cerkno (Guštin 1991, Pl. 4: 1, 2, 37: 1, 2), Most na Soči (Marchesetti 1893, Pl. XXVIII: 9), Kobarid (Marchesetti 1903, Pl. XVIII: 10, 20), Tonovcov grad (Božič 2011, 251–252), Šentviška planota (Mlinar et al. 2018, 49).

[558] Vedaldi Iasbez 1994, 229.

[559] Cf. Božič 1999b, 203; Šašel Kos 2010, 211–212.

[560] Repanšek 2016, 253–267.

[561] The Roman burial ground (Nekropola II) at the east edge of the habitation area has not yet been published and the research results will certainly shed new light on the Romanisation of Posočje. The preliminary reports reveal that some cremations were very similar to the Hallstatt burials of the Sveta Lucija group (cf. Svoljšak, Žbona Trkman 1985, 87–89; Maggi, Žbona Trkman 2007, 68).

[562] Geographically close parallels for this burial type: Most na Soči – Nekropola II (Svoljšak, Žbona Trkman 1985, 88), Vrhnika (Mulh, Černe 2018, 213, Fig. 3), Križišče near Spodnje Škofije (Novšak, Bekljanov Zidanšek, Žerjal 2019).

[563] See the chapter on the *ustrinum* and/or burnt offering place.

[564] Cf. Gaspari 2008, 42.

[565] Marchesetti 1893, 321.

[566] Mlinar 2017, 41.

led scholars to suggest they were used for transporting sacramental wine.[567]

Another important discovery is Pit R 9 with a pair of ceramic jars dated to the early medieval period.[568] Although the pit contained no human bone remains, the good condition of the vessels and the location within the cemetery led some researchers of the period to propose we are dealing with the remains of a mortuary cult.[569] Andrej Pleterski notes that simple, usually hand-built pairs of vessels (of a similar shape but different size) occur in cremation graves in the areas settled by Slavs in this time. This would suggest that the first Slavs arriving in Posočje chose the same spot for burial that had already been considered sacred and intended for burial by the indigenous population. Stratigraphic and other evidence suggests that the cemetery and the (pagan) sacred place were damaged or destroyed presumably towards the end of the Roman period or at the beginning of the Early Middle Ages.[570]

Discoveries at Repelc reveal that the area had a special significance not only in the Late Hallstatt, but also in the La Tène and Roman periods, as well as the Early Middle Ages. Its location on the lowest river terrace, in proximity to the confluence of the Idrijca and Soča, is certainly exceptional. Today, this terrace does not stand out to the same degree, but it did all until 1938 when the Idrijca below Repelc flew along a narrow and more than 25 m deep canyon (*Fig. 20 and 64*).[571] It is believed that this was the spot where the Idrijca was bridged both in prehistory and in later archaeological periods. The recent discoveries at Most na Soči offer important new archaeological evidence and a new insight into the processes taking place in Posočje through the archaeological periods.

[567] Cf. Modrijan 2011, 149, 150; ead. 2014, 55.

[568] Mlinar 2002a, 22, Fig. 13; Knific 2004, 19–20.

[569] Cf. Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2006, 181, Fig. 3, 26; Pleterski 2008, 39.

[570] See here the chapter on the SU 3 mixed cultural layer.

[571] The River Idrijca then joined the Soča at 124 m asl (Rutar 1882, 289), while the lower part of the levelled terrain at Repelc lies roughly at 155 m asl.