

describe the objects and provide measurements and probable dates of production. This information will benefit both researchers and collectors.

In case you already own Neuwirth's major work on beads, *Perlen aus Gablonz: Historismus, Jugendstil/ Beads from Gablonz: Historicism, Art Nouveau*, it should be pointed out that there is little overlap in content between the two publications. You will need to obtain *Glasperlen Christbaumschmuck/Glass Bead Christmas Tree Ornaments* to round out your knowledge of Gablonz-industry beads, and to obtain the short list of errata for *Perlen aus Gablonz*.

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Perlen: Archäologie, Techniken, Analysen. Akten des Internationalen Perlensymposiums in Mannheim vom 11. bis 14. November 1994.

Uta von Freeden and Alfred Wieczorek (eds.). *Kolloquien zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte* 1. Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Postfach 15 01 04, D-53040 Bonn, Germany. 1997. x + 386, 26 color plates, 197 b&w figs., index. DM 59.00 (hard bound).

A specialized conference on beads was held in Mannheim, Germany, in the fall of 1994. It was attended by over 50 specialists from 14 European countries. The volume under review contains 35 of the presented papers. This profusion makes it impossible to discuss the papers individually, and necessitates a summary review of the proceedings.

The impetus for the Mannheim symposium was provided by a group of German-speaking specialists who, during the 1980s, had been individually working on beads, particularly those of the Early Medieval period (5th-8th centuries). These glass beads derived primarily from strings which had served women as pectoral or neck jewellery and were subsequently placed in their graves together with other artifacts. Many of these graves have been examined archaeologically, resulting in a rich store of material for

analysis. Several of the analysts met in 1990, in order to coordinate their individual studies more effectively. The first aim was to compile a suitable system of attributes to facilitate a universal system for the description and comparison of beads, one which would provide the basis for an electronic bead database, as well as a computer-based program of documentation. These endeavors were quite productive, so that the initial results and the first version of the computer program "ProPer," which is now generally available, could be presented at the Mannheim conference (pp. 117-124, 169-176, 177-186).

In 1994, this small group initiated the Mannheim symposium in order to draw together more closely those European bead specialists who had hitherto been working mainly in isolation or in small groups and, at the same time, to create an awareness among others of the profusion of the studies being undertaken. The symposium papers cover a wide spectrum of time, place, and themes, while providing a representative overview. Three papers deal with Iron Age beads (ca. 8th century B.C.-birth of Christ), five with beads of the Roman Imperial period (ca. birth of Christ-4th century), eleven with the Merovingian period (ca. 5th-8th century), and nine with Medieval material (8th- 12th century). The emphasis on the two latter periods effectively reflects what was being investigated and analyzed at the time. The papers cover western and northern Europe in particular, with the focus being on the German-speaking region; several articles discuss material from eastern Europe, including the Ukraine.

Thematically, 23 papers are primarily concerned with overviews of the subject material and attempts at typology and chronology. Three papers consider questions of methodology, two deal with excavated beadmaking workshops, and five discuss glass analysis and its interpretation. Here, too, as far as I can see, the relative frequency of the topics realistically reflects the emphasis of current research. All papers contain footnotes and comprehensive bibliographies. Thus, this volume provides an up-to-date and representative overview of European research on archaeologically recovered beads, and provides the interested reader with an extensive listing of additional literature.

The pioneer studies presented in this volume provide us with a better understanding of various aspects of European bead research. They underline the

necessity of standardizing the nomenclature and attributes of beads to facilitate comparative typologies. The activities of the "Heidelberg group" alluded to above and the proffered program "ProPer" mark an important step in this direction. In the area of beadmaking, tangible finds from excavated workshops, coupled with comparative data from present-day workshops in technologically underdeveloped countries, ensure that if such workshops are found archaeologically, they will be properly identified. As for the chemical analysis of glass artifacts, this is still in the early stages, but the indication is that such work, coupled with tangible finds from workshops and more stringent standards in the area of archaeological documentation, can provide a clearer picture of how beads were distributed over Europe through trade. Unfortunately, insights concerning how prehistoric man viewed beads beyond their purely decorative aspect remain few.

The Mannheim proceedings provide an important companion volume to the proceedings of the Nordic Glass Bead Seminar held in Lejre, Denmark, in 1992 (see *Beads* 7, pp. 100-102, 1995). The latter focuses mainly on northern Europe, allowing one to take stock of the state of research on pre-modern beads in Europe. Thus, there now exists an extensive body of knowledge on the beads of the most important regions and periods. Only the glass beads of the Bronze Age still seem to slumber in a research backwater.

Most of the symposium papers are in German, one in French, and three in English. The non-English ones are followed by informative English summaries. The volume has been scrupulously edited, and is richly illustrated with both black-and-white images and 26 excellent color plates. The production quality is outstanding, something unusual for symposium proceedings. This, coupled with the contents and the agreeable price, should ensure that this book receives the broad distribution it deserves.

[Translated by C. Bridger, Xanten, Germany.]

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*Das awarenzeitliche Gräberfeld von Halimba.
Das Awarische Corpus. Beihefte V.*

Gyula Török. Debrecen-Budapest. 1998. 254 pp., 11 figs., 87 tables, 3 maps. Available from Harrassowitz Buchhandlung, Taunusstr. 5, 65174 Wiesbaden, Germany. DM 90 (about \$41.00) (paper).

Researchers of the early medieval period of Central Europe have had to wait 30 years for the publication of this work. *Das awarenzeitliche Gräberfeld von Halimba* (The Avar Cemetery of Halimba) provides the missing link in the long-held scientific hypothesis that the Avars were an important component of the autochthonal population which the Hungarians of Árpád found in the Carpathian basin, and later integrated.

In his work "Die Bewohner von Halimba in 10. und 11. Jahrhundert" (The Inhabitants of Halimba in the 10th and 11th Centuries), which deals with the Halimba-Cseres cemetery of the Age of the Hungarian Conquest and the Early Árpadian Age, Gyula Török (1911-1997) clearly wrote that Avars comprised the main component of the common people found there. He defines Phase II as representative of the autochthonal Avar population, and Phase III as representing the homogenous population that continued to use the cemetery. Their remains allow us to trace back the formation of the Hungarian common people. For this very reason, the find-material of the 7-9/10th-century Avar cemetery should have been published as soon as possible after its excavation in 1961-1965 by Török, while an archaeologist with the Hungarian National Museum. The manuscript was already written in 1973. It is very sad that the author has not lived to see the publication of this, the most important work of his career.

The Halimba-Belátódomb cemetery contains objects analogous to those at the cemetery of Halimba-Cseres, as well as evidence for the abandonment of the cemetery at the beginning of the 10th century. Török bases this dating on the presence of segmented beads, D-shaped buckles, and certain types of earrings in the graves. He holds unambiguously that the Avar cemetery of Halimba-Belátódomb preceded the Halimba-Cseres cemetery in which the Hungarians were the definitive element. This contention seems to be reinforced by