

Le fibule dell'Italia settentrionale"] ; 1. APR. LVIII No

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Prähistorische Bronzefunde has undoubtedly become one of the most important vehicles for the publication of prehistoric materials. The volumes, of which there are now over 80, have been appearing since 1969 under the editorship of H. Müller-Karpe (whose place was just recently taken by

A. Jockenhövel). It is not the task of the present review to discuss such basic issues as whether the systematic publication of series of individual types is the best way to make known the wealth of prehistoric bronze finds (the first efforts were already undertaken before the first world war at the behest of the Deutsche Anthropologische Gesellschaft), or whether the publication of such materials in some other form, e.g., by the source group from which they stem, would be preferable. If we consider the large number of often complementary volumes that have resulted from this considerable editorial task, we find that the material does indeed represent a most welcome and fruitful basis for further research.

The volumes that had appeared to this point were all organized according to the same pattern. The pieces were collected in a brief catalogue (most of them illustrated in drawings), organized according to basic type and variants, and described briefly in terms of their dating and distribution. Most of the volumes also contained a number of maps showing the distribution of the objects and a selection of find complexes that are of particular importance in establishing their chronology. Some volumes, particularly those that grew out of dissertations, also contained longer evaluative chapters, for example on the interpretation of the conditions surrounding the find, on the interpretation of objects, etc.

The present volume, however, is limited to a summary presentation and categorization of the material it contains and therefore deviates from the usual pattern. *Fibulae*, which are the most telling type of object for any given period, are reproduced in quite exact drawings, a fact that will be greatly appreciated by all those who deal with the late Bronze Age and the Iron Age in Italy and neighbouring areas. This is all the more true as publications of Iron Age fibulae for the surrounding area are lacking. This volume therefore represents an important step beyond earlier collections, for example that of the "older Italic fibulae" of J. Sundwall from the year 1943.

One result of the summary nature of the presentation is that the chronological classification of the pieces is given only in absolute terms. A more exact basis for this information is to be gained only by consulting the more recent references given for some of the pieces in the catalogue. The distribution of the pieces is also referred to in only cursory form and only alluded to for pieces from outside Italy. Finally, establishing the under chronological limit for the material is also problematic. The only thing that is absolutely clear is that fibulae of the Certosa type and its many variants (named after the necropolis beneath the Certosa in Bologna which started in the late 6th century B.C.) have been excluded. Only a few related forms, for example those represented by nos. 2116–2120, are reproduced here. On the other hand, other types – such as the serpentine fibulae which were used throughout the 5th century –

are also discussed, though later variants that can scarcely be separated from them are not treated. Some clarification would have been welcome in this context. As far as the use of the volume is concerned, it should also be noted here that the collecting of fibulae was completed in 1978 and that extensive recent research activity in Italy has therefore not been taken into account. It is regrettable that completion of the printed volume took so long.

In spite of such reservations, the volume does represent progress in this field since it is a decisive contribution to our knowledge of the material. It can therefore be used most profitably by all those who are working on the later Bronze Age and the Iron Age in northern Italy and neighbouring areas. A lively and thought-provoking discussion of the development of and relations between Iron Age cultural groups in the area between the Alps and central Italy can be expected to result at once from the publication of this material.

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