Dear colleagues,

we would like to invite you to a joint session of the Iron Age Study Group and the Network Pre-Roman Iron Age at the 8th German Archaeological Congress from October 6th-10th 2014 in Berlin.

We ask for contributions to the following topic:

Neighbours in Central Europe – Corporate and Separate Elements in „Jastorf-“ and „Latène-cultures“

A variety of different cultural phenomena and developments can be observed during the pre-Roman Iron Age (c. 800–1 BC) both north and south of the Mittelgebirge region in Central Europe. These differences include not only different traits of material culture, but also variations in settlement structure and burial rites. Whereas the latter were subject to profound changes during the pre-Roman Iron Age in the southern region, traditional structures seemed to prevail from the Late Bronze Age until the time of the Roman Empire in the North, apparently without major changes.

During decades of research, these differences have led to the establishment of distinct chronological systems which are difficult to correlate to date. Furthermore, a distinct terminology suggests two clearly separable and spatially confined archaeological cultures: Hallstatt and Latène cultures in the south and the Jastorf culture in the north. Above that, an ethnic interpretation identifies the population south of the Mittelgebirge as Celts, whereas the inhabitants of the northern zone are interpreted as of Germanic origin. However, it is increasingly acknowledged that neither of the two zones does actually represent a homogeneous cultural area. According to sub-regional variability in the archaeological record, the traditional term “Jastorf culture” needs to be thoroughly reconsidered as a result of ancient research. Moreover, the mid-range mountains do not represent a clear-cut separation but rather a zone of contacts.

In spite of differences, both zones are connected in various ways. The northern zone is characterised by an increasing “latènization” of archaeological objects during the later pre-Roman Iron Age. At the same time, there are objects in settlements and burials south of the Mittelgebirge which exhibit distinct ties to groups north of the Mittelgebirge area. These include elements and groups from the northern slopes of the mid-range mountains and the “Jastorf area” and especially those of the “Przeworsk culture”.

The joint session of the Iron Age Study Group and the Network Pre-Roman Iron Age appreciates contributions on questions and on the background of this cultural network. A trans-regional discussion will benefit from approaches on common and distinguishing traits, on corporate and separate elements of Central European Iron Age cultures. Topics to discuss might be:
• Which factors led to different cultural developments in both areas?
• Did “latèneization” only include material culture? Did it have an impact on culture and society in a broader sense, i.e. on settlement structures and economic patterns, on social structure and religion?
• Do objects from abroad (i.e. “imports”) represent the residue of economic contact and communication or did they “travel” at singular occasions, e.g. during migrations?

Both presentations on theoretical and analytical aspects of communication and of special archaeological case-studies are welcome.

Above that, the session is an opportunity to present results of recent research on the European Iron Age. Proposals on different topics are equally welcome.

Presentations should be no more than 20 minutes. Applying for a lecture, you should specify the devices you need (beamer, overhead projector, 1 or 2 slide projectors). If the quantity of contributions exceeds the time available, a selection may be made. The colloquium languages will be German, English, and French.

Please send your proposals including a summary of half a page to the spokesman of the Iron Age Study Group until the 31st of January 2014

Scientific poster presentations are welcome, too. Please do only propose posters on Iron Age studies. These do not necessarily have to deal with the topic of the session. If the quantity of contributions exceeds the space available, a selection may be made. Deadline for poster proposal is July 30th 2014.

Conference registrations (not paper proposals!) to the 8th German Archaeological Congress are only to be sent to the organising committee of the congress, after the general invitation will have been sent out. Conference registration via the Iron Age Study Group or the Network Pre-Roman Iron Age is not possible!

Yours sincerely

Björn Rauchfuß
Spokesman Network Pre-Roman Iron Age

Holger Wendling
Spokesman Iron Age Study Group

Contact

Dr. Holger Wendling M.A.
Salzburg Museum / Keltenmuseum Hallein
Pflegerplatz 5
5400 Hallein
Austria

Tel. +43-6245-80 783-16
Fax +43-6245-80 783-14

E-mail: AGEisenzeit@yahoo.de

Advisory Board of the Iron Age Study Group:

Melanie Augstein (Leipzig), Janine Fries-Knoblach (Erlangen), Katrin Ludwig (Bonn), Peter C. Ramsl (Wien), Claudia Tappert (Münster), Peter Trebsche (Asparn an der Zaya), Stefanie Wefers (Mainz), Julian Wiethold (Metz)