

The alpine copper ore districts. Technical innovations and entanglement of alpine resource-scapes of the Bronze and Early Iron Age

→ Thomas Stöllner

Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Institut für Archäologische Wissenschaften, Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum, Montanarchäologie, Haus der Archäologien Am Bergbaumuseum 31, 44791 Bochum, thomas.stoellner@bergbaumuseum.de

The Eastern and Southern Alpine mining regions are considered as a culturally tightly connected resources-scape. It was a large region in which a constant flow of ideas and humans led to the expansion and distribution of the technical knowledge of copper production since the Middle Bronze Age to many ore-deposit-regions. Within these copper producing communities the mining landscape around Mühlbach-Bischofshofen hold a very special place: It is the by far largest and the oldest site where a specific technical concept of copper-production becomes visible that later was adopted at other regions. This situation is reasoned in an outstanding copper ore deposit that required massive technical and logistical investments. The copper produced at this site seems to have dominated the Central-, Eastern and Northern European markets and its technology became an archetype for other areas. These technical and economic strategies allowed the colonization of Alpine valleys first but also enabled continuous economic stability and at least a survival within Alpine landscapes. It is shown that the enmeshment of processes and communities led to similar

worlds of experiences that allowed different dwellers a necessary exchange and adoption of technical concepts. But not always this went hand in hand with a tighter adoption of cultural habits since the growing of population, the larger demand in copper as well as the different traffic conditions led to different cultural and technical networks in various regions since the Late Bronze Age. These networks point to a vivid exchange within an Eastern and a Southern Alpine economic and social spheres some of which will be outlined within the lecture. It was a network regulated by the mobility of specialists and by various other types/examples of economic cooperation between different groups such as pastoralists, agrarian communities, trading specialists in the frame of good exchanges (subsistence goods versus salt versus metals). Different forms of highly specialized knowledge compounds can be observed that connected some of the dwelling communities tighter than others and helped to develop identity compounds that especially are known from the later Iron Ages.

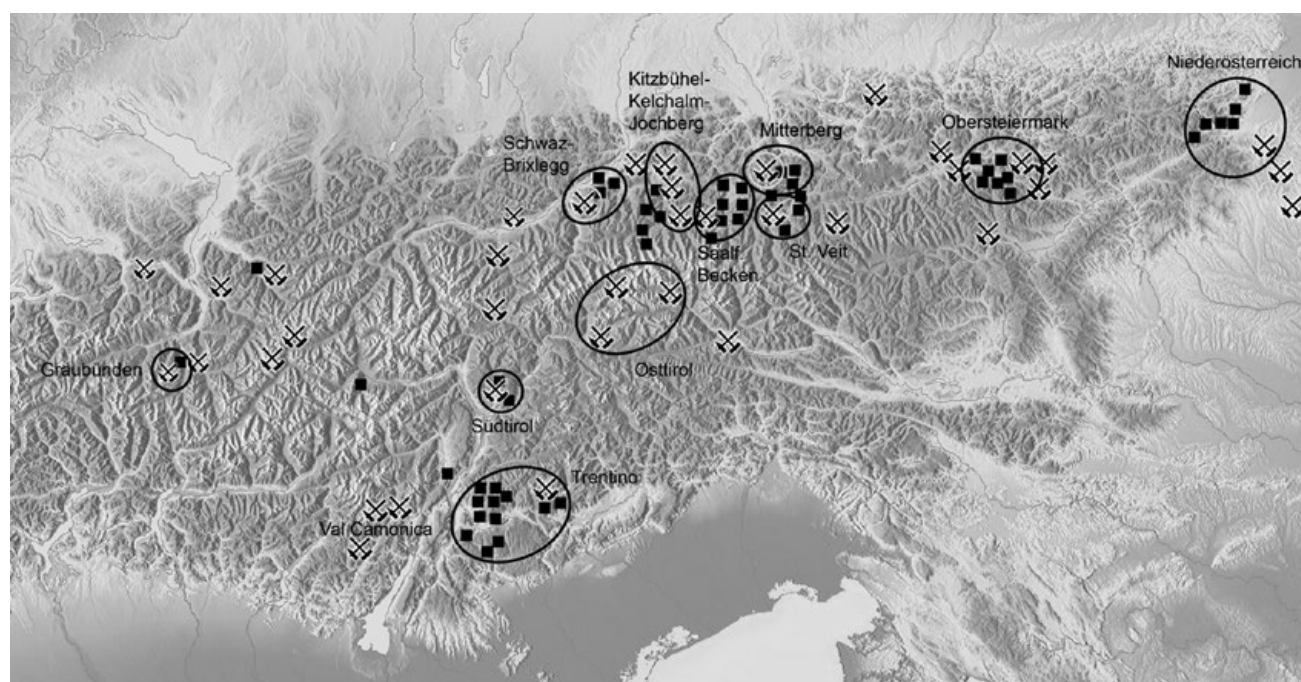


ABB 1: Kupferreviere

LITERATURE

- PERNICKA, E., LUTZ, J. & STÖLLNER, TH., 2016: Bronze Age Copper Produced at Mitterberg, Austria, and its Distribution. *Archaeologia Austria* 100, pp. 19–55.
- SHENNAN, S., 1999: Cost, benefit and value in the organization of early European copper production. *Antiquity* 73, pp 352–363.
- STÖLLNER, TH., 2009: Prähistorische Montanreviere der Ost- und Südalpen – Anmerkungen zu einem Forschungsstand, in: Oegg, K., and Prast, M., (eds.): Die Geschichte des Bergbaues in Tirol und seinen angrenzenden Gebieten. Proceedings zum 3. Milestone-Meeting SFB HiMAT 2008, Innsbruck, pp. 37–60.
- STÖLLNER, TH., 2010: Copper and Salt – Mining Communities in the Alpine Metal Ages, in: Anreiter et al. (Hrsg.): Mining in European History and its Impact on Environment and Human Societies. Proceedings 1st Mining in European History – Conference SFB HiMAT 12.–15. November 2009, Innsbruck, pp. 297–314.
- STÖLLNER, TH., 2019: Enmeshment within Resource-Scapes – Eastern Alpine Copper Production of the Bronze- and Early Iron Age. In: R. Turk, Th. Stöllner, G. Goldenberg (eds.), Alpine Copper II – Alpenkupfer II – Rame delle Alpi II – Cuivre des Alpes II. New Results and Perspectives on Prehistoric Copper Production. Der Anschnitt, Beiheft 42, Rahden/Bochum: Leidorf, pp. 13–30.
- STÖLLNER, TH. & OEGGL K. (eds.), 2015: Bergauf Bergab. 10000 Jahre Bergbau in den Ostalpen. Wissenschaftlicher Beiband zur Ausstellung Bochum und Bregenz. Veröffentlichungen DBM 207, Bochum.