

KONJSKI OSTANKI IZ VELIKE GOMILE NAD RAZVANJEM

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Leta 1991 izvedena izkopavanja Velike gomile nad Razvanjem, ene največjih v tem prostoru,¹ so navrgla slabih dvesto odlomkov živalskih kosti in zob. Gradivo je bilo pobrano ročno na območju kamnite grobne kamre in je večinoma sežgano ter posledično razmeroma krušljivo.² Velikost pretežnega dela najdb se giblje med dvema in štirimi centimetri (sl. 1). Zaradi razdrobljenosti je stopnja določljivosti gradiva nizka. Natančneje je bilo namreč mogoče taksonomsko opredeliti le devet primerkov, še dodatno peščico pa kvečjemu le okvirno (tj. uvrstitev v *ad hoc* opredeljene skupine na podlagi telesne velikosti živali, kot denimo veliki in mali rastlinojedi). Grob je datiran v čas konca 7. oz. začetka 6. stoletja pr. n. št.

V tem poglavju obravnavane arheozoološke najdbe hrani Pokrajinski muzej Maribor.

TAKSONOMIJA IN TAFONOMIJA

Taksonomska pestrost analiziranega gradiva je skromna, saj je bila z gotovostjo ugotovljena zgolj prisotnost ostankov konja (*Equus caballus*). Tej vrsti bržčas pripada večina izmed slabih dvesto izkopanih živalskih najdb, nedvomno pa je to mogoče trditi le za po tri odlomke lobanje in vretenca, dva fragmenta dlančnice oziroma stopalnice in delček ene izmed nartnic. Ob tem je z nekaj posameznimi najdbami v zbranem gradivu zastopana še vsaj ena manjša žival, po vsej verjetnosti drobnica (Caprinae) in/ali srna (*Capreolus capreolus*).

Ugotovitev, da nabor anatomske opredeljenih konjskih najdb vključuje odlomke skeletnih elementov iz različnih delov trupa – tj. glave, hrbtenice in obeh parov nog – je pomenljiva. Razumeti jo je namreč mogoče kot močan indic v prid tezi o domnevnem sežigu cele žrtvovane živali. Še več! Zaradi prisotnosti dveh desnih zatilničnih čvršev (*condylus occipitalis*; sl. 2) je treba analizirane najdbe pripisati vsaj dvema različnima živalma. Sežig najmanj enega (bolj ali manj?) celega konjskega kadavra je verjeten navkljub sicer nepotrjeni prisotnosti ostankov dolgih kosti okončin, lopatic, medenice in, denimo, reber, ki bi jih bilo mogoče z gotovostjo pripisati tej vrsti. Vretenca, zapestne in nartne kosti ter nekatere predele lobanje

HORSE REMAINS FROM THE VELIKA GOMILA TUMULUS ABOVE RAZVANJE

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The 1991 excavations of the Velika gomila tumulus above Razvanje, one of the largest in the area,¹ yielded just under two hundred animal remains. These were hand-collected from the stone burial chamber and show evident traces of exposure to fire. As a consequence, the material is fairly brittle,² with the size of individual specimens only rarely exceeding 4 cm (fig. 1). The pronounced fragmentation resulted in the analysed assemblage being characterized by low taxonomic diversity. Altogether, no more than nine finds were identified to the level of species, with a few more allowing for a mere allocation to *ad hoc* groups related to individual animal's body-size (e.g. small herbivores, large herbivores). The tumulus of Velika gomila is dated to the late 7th or early 6th century BC.

The here presented archaeozoological material is kept in the Maribor Regional Museum.

TAXONOMY AND TAPHONOMY

The only positively identified animal species in the studied assemblage is the horse (*Equus caballus*). The lion share of the nearly two hundred faunal remains likely belong to this species, however, such a taxonomic identification is believed to be only truly reliable for three cranial and vertebrae fragments, two metapodial splinters and a partially preserved tarsal bone. In addition to this, the fauna from the Velika gomila tumulus includes at least a handful of bone fragments of another, smaller animal, most likely either a sheep/goat (Caprinae) or a roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*).

As far as the skeletal element representation data is concerned, it should be emphasized for the range of the anatomically identified equine specimens to include skeletal elements from different parts of the body. Indeed, bones from the head, the spine, as well as from both the front and the hind legs were documented. It thus seems safe to assume for the retrieved bones to originate from the ritual burning of an (more or less) entire animal. As a matter of fact, the presence of two right occipital condyles (fig. 2) indicates that a minimum of two animals were offered up, though the whole carcass might not have been put on the pyre in both cases. The ritual incineration of at least one (nearly?)

¹ Glej tu Strmčnik Gulič, Kajzer, Kramberger.

² McKinley 1993.

¹ See here Strmčnik Gulič, Kajzer, Kramberger.

² McKinley 1993.

Slika 1. Naključen izbor živalskih najdb iz Velike gomile nad Razvanjem (raziskovanja iz leta 1991). Foto: T. Valoh.

Figure 1. An arbitrary selection of animal remains from the tumulus of Velika gomila above Razvanje (excavations of 1991). Photo: T. Valoh.



Slika 2. Odlomka desnih zatilničnih čvršev konj iz Velike gomile nad Razvanjem (izkopavanje iz leta 1991). Foto: T. Valoh.

Figure 2. Fragments of right occipital condyles of two horses from the tumulus of Velika gomila above Razvanje (excavations of 1991). Photo: T. Valoh.

namreč označujeta visoka strukturna gostota kostnine in razmeroma obsežna površina sklepnih gladčin, zato je njihova anatomsko opredelitev v primeru izraziteje fragmentiranega gradiva bistveno enostavnejša kot pri večini drugih skeletnih elementov.³ V tem smislu se zdi zanimiva ugotovitev o odsotnosti nič manj robustnih in enostavno prepoznavnih zob, k čemur pa je utegnil pomembno prispevati suboptimalni način vzorčenja arheozooloških najdb (tj. zgolj ročno pobiranje brez sejanja sedimenta skozi ustrezno gosta sita).

Analizirani živalski ostanki iz Velike gomile so prav vsi sežgani. Visoke temperature so botrovale izraziti razpokanosti kostnine. Prisotni so takó številni vzdolžni in prečni lomi na odlomkih diafiz, kakor tudi obsežna mrežasta razpokanost na predelu sklepnih površin (*sl. 3*). Odprtine žilnih kanalov so večinoma zapolnjene, kar se domnevno zgodi pri temperaturah med 700 in 900 °C.⁴ Več ostankov izkazuje tudi vročinsko pogojeno ukrivljenost.⁵ Skladna s tem je obarvanost odlomkov, ki so skoraj brez izjeme beli (kalcinirani).⁶ Na podlagi navedenih ugotovitev je torej jasno, da so morale biti kostne najdbe iz Velike gomile za dalj časa (tj. bržčas najmanj nekaj ur) izpostavljene temperaturah nad 700/800 °C.⁷ To priča o veliki prizadevnosti skrbnikov grmade, saj je ta utegnila goreti tudi več

³ Bond 1996, 80–82; Lyman 1999, 234–258.

⁴ Nicholson 1993.

⁵ Prim. Whyte 2001, figs. 2b in 3b.

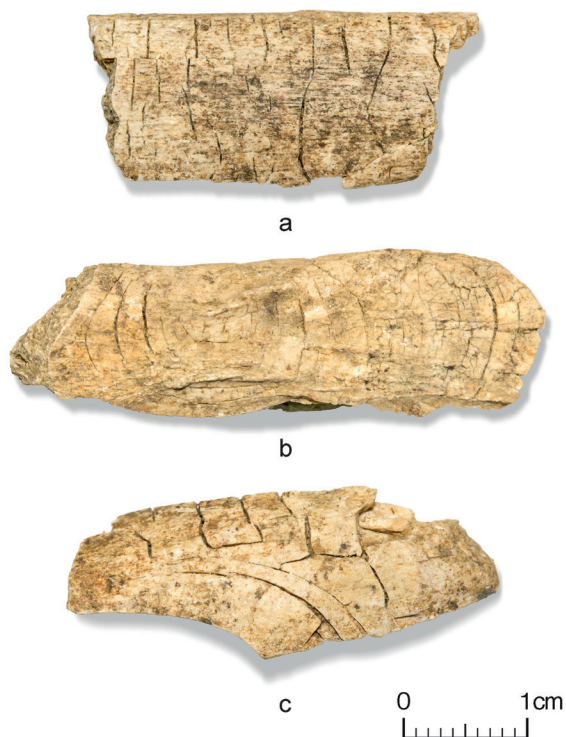
⁶ Shipman et al. 1984, Walker et al. 2008.

⁷ Nicholson 1993.



complete horse is probable despite no limb long bones, scapulae, pelvis and, for instance, rib fragments could have been positively identified. This is due to the fact that the anatomic/taxonomic identification of the humerus, radius, femur and tibia fragments happens to be considerably more difficult than that of carpals, tarsals and phalanges. The latter are namely characterised by comparatively extended joint surfaces, which are of great taxonomic importance; moreover, carpals and tarsals are relatively compact bones, hence fairly resistant to the devastating effects of high temperature exposure.³ The somehow surprising absence of likewise resistant teeth might be related to the non-optimal approach to the sampling of the archaeozoological material (i.e. hand collection of finds with

³ Bond 1996, 80–82; Lyman 1999, 234–258.



kot 24 ur.⁸ Za razumevanje načina sežiga konjskih kadavrov pa je sicer zelo pomembno izpostaviti znatno število konkavno ukrivljenih prečnih lomov na posameznih odlomkih diafiz (glej npr. *sl. 3b, c*). Ti namreč pričajo o tem, da je bil na grmado položen celoten žrtvovan konj s pripadajočimi mehкими tkivi vred in ne zgolj od mesa že ločene kosti.⁹

SKLEP

Pridajanje posameznih konjskih glav/zob in/ali kosti, kakor tudi celih žrtvovanih konj v ali ob grobove lokalnih veljakov sodi med značilne fenomene halštatskih skupnosti tega dela srednje Evrope,¹⁰ pri čemer so bile lokalno prisotne tudi drugačne, domnevno bolj družbeno vseobsegajoče, kolektivno orientirane različice takšnih žrtvovanj.¹¹ Velika gomila nad Razvanjem se v tem okvirju zaradi prisotnosti ostankov najmanj dveh konj postavlja ob bok znanemu bogatemu grobu z lokacije Kröllkogel pri Kleinkleinu na avstrijskem Štajerskem. Tam so bili namreč na območju grobne kamre in pripadajočega tlakovanega dostopa (dromosa) odkriti sežgani ostanki treh konj, ob tem pa še goveda, prašiča in drobnice.¹² Ostanke najmanj ene manjše živali (bržčas drobnice in/ali srne) so bili zastopani tudi v gradivu iz Velike gomile.

Ugotovitev, da so v tukaj obravnavanem zbiru konjskih najdb zastopani skeletni elementi iz različnih delov telesa, bi utegnila opozarjati na ključni moment prenašanja sežganih ostankov iz dogorele

no sievanje of the sediment through fine enough meshes).

All of the studied animal remains from the tumulus of Velika gomila are burned. As a consequence, the bone tissue is intensively cracked. Numerous longitudinal and transverse fractures on diaphyseal fragments are present, as well as extensive reticular cracking of joint surfaces (*fig. 3*). The vascular canals are predominantly infilled, which is believed to occur at temperatures between 700 and 900 °C.⁴ A number of fragments also show heat-induced warping.⁵ This is consistent with the colour of the fragments, which are white due to calcination almost without exception.⁶ It follows that the bone remains from this large tumulus must have been extendedly exposed to temperatures exceeding 700/800 °C.⁷ The latter circumstance evidences the considerable effort invested into building and maintaining the pyre, which must have burned more than 24 hours.⁸ A further important assumption relative to the studied ritual emerges from the observation for numerous transverse fractures on diaphyseal fragments being generally concave (see e.g. *fig. 3b, c*). It namely follows that the sacrificed animals must have been placed onto the pyre whole and not following the removal of soft tissues.⁹

CONCLUSION

Offering individual horse heads, teeth and/or bones, but also burying the sacrificed horses whole in or near the graves of the local dignitaries is one of the well-known ritualistic practices in use with the Hallstatt communities in this part of central Europe.¹⁰ Alternative variants, supposedly performed as part of all-encompassing social festivals/events have also been occasionally documented.¹¹ Within this framework, the here presented context of the Velika gomila tumulus above Razvanje resembles that in the well-known and rich Kröllkogel tumulus near Kleinklein, Austrian Styria, where the burned remains of three horses, as well as a cattle, a pig and a sheep/goat were found in the burial chamber and the dromos.¹² Remains of at least one smaller animal – most probably a sheep, a goat or a roe deer – have been retrieved also at the site of Velika gomila.

Slika 3: Izbor sežganih konjskih kosti iz Velike gomile nad Razvanjem (izkopavanja iz leta 1991): a – primerek z linearno različico prečnih lomov; b – primerek s konkavno različico prečnih lomov; c – primerek z linearno in konkavno različico prečnih lomov. Foto: T. Valoh.

Figure 3. Selection of burned horse bones from the tumulus of Velika gomila above Razvanje (excavations of 1991): a – specimen with linear transverse fractures; b – specimen with concave transverse fractures; c – specimen with linear and concave transverse fractures. Photo: T. Valoh.

⁸ Šimek 1998, 506.

⁹ Whyte 2001; Ubelaker, Rife 2007, 43–45; Symes et al. 2008, 42–46.

¹⁰ Dular 2007; Kmeťová 2014; Toškan 2017.

¹¹ Toškan 2020.

¹² Egg, Kramer 2005, 10.

⁴ Nicholson 1993.

⁵ Cf. Whyte 2001, figs. 2b and 3b.

⁶ Shipman et al. 1984, Walker et al. 2008.

⁷ Nicholson 1993.

⁸ Šimek 1998, 506.

⁹ Whyte 2001; Ubelaker, Rife 2007, 43–45; Symes et al. 2008, 42–46.

¹⁰ Dular 2007; Kmeťová 2014; Toškan 2017.

¹¹ Toškan 2020.

¹² Egg, Kramer 2005, 10.

grmade v grobno kamro. Poudarek naj namreč pri tem ne bi bil namenjen samemu izboru prenesenih skeletnih elementov, pač pa predvsem dejstvu, da so bili preminuli osebi pač pridani ostanki konja.¹³ Takšna razlaga sicer odstopa od rezultatov revizije konjskih ostankov iz že omenjene prestižne knežje gomile iz okolice Kleinkleina. Tam naj bi bili posamezni žrtvovani konji namreč zastopani skoraj izključno s (sežganimi) kostmi spodnjega dela nog, kar se seveda ni moglo zgoditi po naključju.¹⁴ Je pa tudi res, da so bile na navedenem najdišču konjske kosti deponirane v dromosu, ob raziskovanju Velike gomile pa so arheologi nanje naleteli v grobnici, kar je vsakemu od obeh skupkom utegnulo dajati nekoliko svojstven pomen.¹⁵ Da so v starejši železni dobi na Štajerskem zelo verjetno obstajali različni načini prenosa sežganih ostankov žrtvovanih živali z grmade na grobišča sicer dokazuje tudi skupek nekaj deset taksonomsko opredeljenih živalskih ostankov z območja Veliki gomili okvirno sočasnega domnevnega ritualnega prostora ob robu južne skupine gomil na zgolj nekaj sto metrov oddaljeni planoti Habakuk pod Poštelo.¹⁶ Tu namreč ni opaziti nikakršnih očitnejših preferenc do posameznih živalskih vrst (zastopane so najmanj štiri), je pa bila namesto tega večja pozornost očitno namenjena izbiri ostankov točno določenih skeletnih elementov, tj. kosti skrajno spodnjega dela nog. Zbir tam odkritih anatomsko opredeljenih ostankov namreč vključuje zgolj odlomke dlančnic oziroma stopalnic, zapestnic, nartnic, sesamoidnih kosti in prstnic.¹⁷

The observation that the here presented faunal assemblage includes skeletal elements from different parts of the horse carcass(es?) may reflect a key feature intrinsic to the local practice of transferring the burned remains from the pyre to the burial chamber. In fact, it seems for this act to not have been focused on selecting particular skeletal elements, but to provide for the deposition of at least some burned bones of this highly revered animal which the horse undoubtedly was.¹³ It has to be stressed that such an explanation doesn't conform to what has been observed in the already mentioned princely graves from the surroundings of Kleinklein. There, most of the documented sacrificed horses seem to have been represented by (burned) feet bones alone, which can hardly be seen as coincidental.¹⁴ Nevertheless, since the equine remains at Kröllkogel were deposited in the dromos, while at Velika gomila they have been found within the burial chamber, their symbolic role may have been somehow different.¹⁵ The likely existence of differential approaches to the practice of transferring the burned animal remains from the pyre to the burial grounds in Early Iron Age Styria is further indicated by the assemblage of a few dozen taxonomically identified animal remains from the supposed ritual site at the edge of the south group of tumuli on the Habakuk plateau beneath Poštela, a few hundred meters away from the site Velika gomila.¹⁶ Here, no clear preferences towards individual animal species were observed, since at least four taxa were documented (i.e. sheep/goat, cattle, red deer, roe deer). Skeletal elements representation data, on the other hand, show an exclusive and certainly not coincidental representation of feet bones. Indeed, the only skeletal elements to have been positively identified were metapodials, carpals, tarsals, sesamoid bones and phalanges.¹⁷

¹³ Prim. Toškan 2017, 187–190.

¹⁴ Grill, Witschke-Schrotta 2013, 45–52.

¹⁵ Glej npr. Toškan 2020.

¹⁶ Črešnar et al. 2019.

¹⁷ Črešnar et al. 2019, fig. 8.

¹³ Cf. Toškan 2017, 198–200.

¹⁴ Grill, Witschke-Schrotta 2013, 45–52.

¹⁵ Toškan 2020.

¹⁶ Črešnar et al. 2019.

¹⁷ Črešnar et al. 2019, fig. 8.

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