The Merovingian cemeteries of Sittard-Kemperkoul, Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd

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Preface

Merovingian cemeteries in the Netherlands

This book is the third in a series of publications on Merovingian cemeteries in the southern and central Netherlands. The first two publications came about in the context of the ANASTASIS-project, which was part of the larger ODYSSEE program, a back-log program financed by the National Science Foundation (NWW) of which the main goals are explained in the preface to the publication (the first in this series). Some preliminary work for the current publication of the cemeteries of Sittard-Kemperkoul, Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd was already done under the ANASTASIS project. Half of the object collections were photographed by Anneke Dekker of the University of Amsterdam. The nearly complete object collection of Sittard-Kemperkoul was drawn by Bob Donker of the University of Amsterdam, and parts of the object collections of Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd were also drawn by him. Frans Theuws digitized the Sittard-Kemperkoul field drawings and analysed the majority of the finds from this cemetery with practicum students from the University of Leiden, during which the analysis of the weaponry from the Sittard-Kemperkoul graves by student Carlijn Hageraats of the University of Nijmegen during which the analysis of the weaponry from the Sittard-Kemperkoul graves by student Carlijn Hageraats of the University of Nijmegen during which the analysis of the weaponry from the Sittard-Kemperkoul graves by student Carlijn Hageraats of the University of Nijmegen during which the analysis of the weaponry from the Sittard-Kemperkoul graves by student Carlijn Hageraats of the University of Nijmegen during which the analysis of the weaponry from the Sittard-Kemperkoul graves by student Carlijn Hageraats of the University of Nijmegen during which the analysis of the weaponry from the Sittard-Kemperkoul graves by student Carlijn Hageraats of the University of Nijmegen during 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which the analysis of the weaponry from the Sittard-Kemperp...
Some preliminary analyses of the cemeteries were already available. The Master’s thesis of Paul Zoetbrood on the cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul was of much use. The graves and finds were, among other more interpretative topics, meticulously recorded and formed a well-documented basis for the current analysis of the cemetery. Paul Zoetbrood was also part of the excavation team that excavated the cemetery in 1982. He was generous in giving up his ‘claim’ to this cemetery. He was very dedicated and involved in all aspects of the cemetery’s investigation, but unfortunately cannot witness the outcome of this follow-up of his work due to his untimely passing in 2015.

Jaap Ypey restored and published the claw beaker from Obbicht and the rare set of belt fittings from Stein. Especially, the thoroughly described construction of the belt fittings was indispensable since the current condition of the restored belt set conceals some of the features which gave it its special appearance.

Contributions, both written and in the form of advice and suggestions, were provided by Martine van Haperen (University of Leiden), Joep Hendriks (ACASA (Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology, University of Amsterdam) and the Municipality of Nijmegen, Bureau for Environmental Quality / Archaeology), Inge van der Jagt (State Service of Cultural Heritage), Line Vanversch (University of Louvain-la Neuve) and Liesbeth Smits (University of Amsterdam). Historian Guus Janssen and Peter Schulpen (archivist for the Municipality of Sittard-Gelre) provided useful comments regarding the place name history of Sittard, Obbicht and Buchten. Curator Wim Dijkman of Centre Céramique (Maastricht) provided information on some additional finds discovered in 2007 on the terrain of the Obbicht cemetery by H. Moonen.

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The environmental and societal context of the Sittard, Obbicht and Stein cemeteries

Sittard-Kemperkoul, Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd are three Merovingian cemeteries, not far apart, in the south of the Dutch province of Limburg (figs. 1.1 and 1.2). They are situated in the area of the ‘Westelijke Mijnstreek’, the so-called (former) western mining district, which is enclosed by two national borders: the Belgian border to the west and the German border to the east. The Sittard-Kemperkoul cemetery was excavated in 1982 by the State Archaeological Service [Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek (ROB); now Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (RCE, or Cultural Heritage Agency)] at the present quarter of Kemperkoul. This new housing estate was built as an eastern expansion of the old city of Sittard, currently part of the Sittard-Geleen municipality. The Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd cemeteries were both published by Beckers Sr. and Beckers Jr. in 1940 and excavated in the decade before by a crew under the direction of Beckers Sr. (1862-1950). The Obbicht cemetery currently also belongs to the Sittard-Geleen municipality; it is located c. 9 km to the north-west of Sittard-Kemperkoul between the villages of Obbicht, Grevenbicht and Born and not far from the present course of the Meuse River. The Stein cemetery was located to the south of the village of Stein, belonging to the Stein municipality, on an elevation in the landscape opposite the medieval castle ruins of Stein and close to the Meuse, c. 10 km to the southwest of Sittard-Kemperkoul and c. 8 km to the south of Obbicht.

These three cemeteries show similarities and differences which will all become apparent in this volume. Their characteristics are discussed in the following chapters, but first their environmental and (Early Medieval) societal contexts will be presented.

(1) Development plan Kemperkoul, sub-plan 1, consisting of the neighbourhoods Europapark, Haagsittardpark, Lahrhof and Kempehof. The cemetery was located in the present neighbourhood of Lahrhof. (2) This municipality also comprises the villages Born, Broekdult, Burcht, Ermithoven, Grootkamp, Gutekoven, Holman, Limbricht, Munstergeleen, Obbicht and Papenhoven. (3) This municipality also comprises the villages Berg aan de Maas, Catsop, Elsloo, Maasband, Meers, Nattenhoven, Stein and Urmond. (4) Van Wijk 2012, 55-58, Van der Gaauw 2015. (5) Rens 1988, 63-65.
the southeastern to Born in the northwest (fig. 1.3). North of the Feldbiss fault the lower terrace is covered with sandy loess and further north with sand, and clay deposits from the Meuse and its tributaries. Obbicht and Stein are located close to the current bed of the Meuse, which greatly influenced the formation of the local landscape. Just like Sittard, Stein is located on the middle terrace, directly on the western edge of a fertile loess plateau, i.e. the Graetheide Plateau. Obbicht on the other hand is located on a lower terrace, characterised by Holocene clay and gravel deposits from Meuse meanders.

Most of the Merovingian cemeteries in South and Central Limburg were located in the proximity of either the Meuse or the Rur (fig. 1.4). The Sittard-Kemperkoul cemetery is an exception to this rule: it is situated at a distance of c. 10 km from the present Meuse and c. 17 km from the present Rur. Small streams such as the Geleenbeek and the Roode Beek can be found in the proximity of the cemetery, but these rivulets, assuming that they were at approximately the same location in the Early Medieval period, were not wide or deep enough to transport goods and people over considerable distances as was the case with the Meuse and the Roor. In the case of Sittard other features than the proximity of rivers must have prompted the establishment of a burial ground and associated habitation in the area.

The environmental setting of the landscape plays an important role in understanding the location of the Merovingian cemeteries and their – hitherto undiscovered – corresponding settlements, as does the evidence of the previous Roman occupation. The inhabitants associated with the Sittard, Obbicht and Stein burial grounds found themselves in a landscape with many remnants of the Roman occupation, of which the network of roads must have been one of the most prominent features (fig. 1.5 and 1.6). For example, the presence of the main Roman road from Heerlen (Corvolmant) to Xanten (Colonia Ulpia Traiana) must have been an important feature that spurred the occupation of the area at the time the Sittard-Kemperkoul burial ground came into use (c. 575 AD), as this road was in all probability still visible and in use around this time. The Obbicht and Stein cemeteries were, apart from their proximity to the Meuse, also associated with a Roman road in their vicinity: the supposed (secondary) road from Maastricht to Nijmegen (Nimfingaag) along the right bank of the Meuse, but also with other secondary roads passing these places (see below). One of these secondary roads probably ran from the vicus of Dilsen (Fremont) on the west bank of the Meuse in Belgium to the supposed vicus of Grevenbicht on the east bank towards Tuddern (Thedastun) just across the border in the German Slikkant. The Obbicht-Oude Molen burial ground was located very close to this road.

In Roman times the landscape transition of the Westelijke Mijnstreek appeared to be of major significance for the rural habitation pattern as well. In fact the fertile loess and loam landscapes of Northern Gaul, dominated by villa settlements and functioning as a granary for troops stationed at the Rhine frontier, end more or less north of the Feldbiss fault. The loess plateaus and stream valleys of South Limburg are characterised by several features belonging to the so-called villa landscape, such as stone villas, tumuli and monumental graves. On the much flatter and sandier terraces of Central Limburg villas were hardly present. They mostly concentrated in the Meuse Valley, while the less fertile sandy soils were occupied by rural settlements that consisted of byre houses.

(6) RIJKS GEOLOGISCH DIEMER/STATING CENTRUM 1989. (7) The exact courses of the Meuse and the Roor in the Early Medieval period are not known and it therefore not certain that the cemeteries now located in the proximity of the Meuse for example, would also have been located in the surroundings of the by then current course of this river. (8) Hendriks in prep. (9) Panhuysen 2015, 91-93; Van Enckevort/Hendriks 2015, 117-130. Cf. Hahnenfeld 2011, Jensen 2013.
the environmental and societal context of the three Merovingian cemeteries

1. loess, 2. the Kempen Plateau (contour line 50 m. above sea level), 3. moors, 4. large forests, 5. places mentioned in the eighth century, 6. early medieval churches (provisional), 7. Merovingian cemeteries (provisional), 8. Merovingian pottery production, 9. roads and routes.

Fig. 1.6 The Ruhr-Meuse region in the Early Middle Ages. 1. peat, 2. Merovingian cemeteries, 3. probable Merovingian cemeteries, 4. early medieval monastery, 5. Carolingian silver hoard, 6. Roman roads, observed and hypothetical, 7. modern Dutch border.

Fig. 1.5 The hinterland of Maastricht consisting of the sandy regions to the northwest, the fertile loess regions to the east and west, the Ardennes forest to the southeast and the Meuse valley. Part of the infrastructure was inherited from the Roman period and centred on Maastricht because of the presence of a bridge there. 1. loess, 2. the Kempen Plateau (contour line 50 m. above sea level), 3. moors, 4. large forests, 5. places mentioned in the eighth century, 6. early medieval churches (provisional), 7. Merovingian cemeteries (provisional), 8. Merovingian pottery production, 9. roads and routes.
Analogous with the rest of Northern Gaul a major decline in the habitation of South Limburg and the Meuse Valley can be observed from the mid-third century. Only a few villa and villa set-
tlements, which thrived during the Principate, survived into the fourth century.\(^{12}\) The sites of Tullendorf and the villa sites of Obibich-Tenstraeker and most probably that of Stein-Haven as well – all in the vicinity of the cemeteries – belong to the few set-
tlements in the Westelijke Mijnstreek with habitation during the period of Late Antiquity (see below). Newly established settle-
ments are even scarcer; there is only the recently discovered set-
tlement of Holturn-Noordo, dating to the late fourth and early fifth centuries, apparently established by Germanic immigrants.\(^{13}\)

It is difficult to determine to what extent the Late Antiquity settlements in the area of the cemeteries still existed during the late fifth and sixth centuries. Most probably the landscape of the Westelijke Mijnstreek largely regained its forest, not only on the centrally situated Graafheide Plateau but also in the valleys and the lower terrace north of the Feldhuis fault. Of the Roman occupation in the area between the three cemeteries only a ruinous landscape should have remained. It appears that not until the late sixth centu-
ry did new settlements arise in the Meuse Valley and in the stream valleys of the loess landscape.\(^{14}\)

The Early Medieval societal context of the three cemeteries matches a regional scale with the context described for the Posterholt cemetery, c. 18 km as the crow flies to the north of Sittard, 30 km to the northeast of Obbicht and 3.5 km to the north-
west of Stein (fig. 2.4 and 2.5).\(^{15}\) The Sittard-Kemperkoul, Obbicht-Oude Mol en Stein-
Groote Bongerd cemeteries and their surroundings are part of the Early Medieval pagus referred to as Masau, Mosavo, Maso etc., af-
fter both the group of people (Masaurine) and the geographic unit (maas/gauw) and mentioned in texts predating 1000 AD.\(^{16}\) The important Early Medieval sites identified in the surroundings of Posterholt are also not far from Sittard, Obbicht and Stein. These are the nautunio Susteren;\(^{17}\) the Altenkirchen monastery (on the oppo-
site bank of the Meuse), which was created in the second quar-
ter of the eighth century;\(^{18}\) and the Sint Odilienberg monastery (which may date back to the eighth century although this is not certain) (fig. 1.5).\(^{19}\) This evidence of religious sites dates however to the period just after the cemeteries became unused; the incor-
poration of Christianity at all levels of society would, among oth-
er incentives, have contributed to the gradual abandonment of the cemeteries and the selection of alternative burial locations.

Evidence of occupation and burial in the surroundings of Sittard, Obibich, and Stein is only barely available (fig. 2.4, 1.5 and 2.6). Regarding the cemeteries known from the southern Netherlands and adjacent areas in present Belgium and Germany, it appears that the imaginary triangle formed by Sittard, Obibich and Stein is situated between the Posterholt\(^{20}\) and Vlodrop\(^{21}\) cem-
teries to the north, the Ophoven\(^{22}\) cemetery to the west (in contem-
porary Belgium on the opposite bank of the Meuse) and the ceme-
teries excavated in present-day Maasricht\(^{23}\) and Borgharen\(^{24}\) to the south. To the east in contemporary Germany, there are hardly any cemeteries and finds from Kreis Heinsberg, which may be explained by the absence of Roman roads and villa settlements.\(^{25}\) The recently published Buchten cemetery is located just to the north of this im-
aginary triangle,\(^{26}\) it is situated c. 4 km to the northeast of Obbicht. In the same area, thus also close to Obbicht, some traces of Early Medieval habitation have been found.\(^{27}\) The most recent find of a possible cemetery is located only 4 km to the west from Obibich on the western bank of the Meuse, just south of Dilsen, Belgium.\(^{28}\)

Apart from the larger picture of Sittard, Obbicht and Stein and their surroundings in the Early Medieval period, some details about the local environmental and cultural conditions permits the de-
scription of the local context in which these cemeteries were estab-
lished.

Sittard-Kemperkoul in its local context

\textbf{Environmental context}

The Sittard-Kemperkoul cemetery is located some distance from the Meuse (currently c. 10 km), and other rivers closer to the ceme-
tery cannot be found either (fig. 1.3, 2.1 and 2.7). This is unusual, as the majority of Merovingian cemeteries known from the Meuse region are situated in the proximity of rivers or river branches. Other features must therefore have been attractive for the location, choice of habitation and burial in the area of present-day Sittard-
Kemperkoul.\(^{29}\)

The cemetery is located on a terrain that slopes down from c. 65 m +NAP (Amsterdam Ordnance Datum) in the south to c. 55 m +NAP in the north (fig. 2.1 and 1.7). The site also slopes slightly down from the southwest (55-70 m +NAP) to the northeast (16.60 m +NAP) where an erosion gully intersects the terrain. Remarks about the soil conditions are absent on the field drawings, but it is known that the location of the cemetery is characterised by loess soils.

Sittard is situated in the valley of the Geleenbeek. To its south-
west is a hill that dominates the landscape; the Kollenberg, located between the Geleenbeek and the Roode Beek. The hill is a feature of the landscape transition (a forerunner of the Doenrade Plateau) be-
tween the hilly countryside in the south with loess soils and the flat-
t sandy regions to the north and is thus the ‘mountain slope’ from which the name Sittard developed (see below and fig. 1.7 and 1.8).

\textbf{Romatic context}

At a distance of c. 1 km the Roman road from Aachen (Apta-
Granni) and Heerlen (Coriovallum) to Melick (Medviracum) and Xanten runs along the site of Sittard-Kemperkoul (fig. 1.8:1). Abundant evidence for habitation in the proximity of the ceme-
tery is absent, although in the fields north of the burial ground and just south of the marshes of the Roode Beek several concen-
trations of Roman pottery and brick material have been bound, suggesting the possible presence of a settlement near the village of Broeksittard (fig. 1.8:2). During the excavation of the medi-
eval hamlet of Haagssittard next to the cemetery, only some pottery shards and a Roman capital were found.\(^{30}\) It is however likely that this piece of sculpture was obtained during the medieval period from a nearby villa or the vicus of Tüddern (vicus Thedalam).

Van Hontem discusses the Roman road in relation to Sittard and the vicus Thedalam at length.\(^{31}\) An interesting discovery is that of a ‘pear’ bridge\(^{32}\) in 1842, which connected northeast Tüddern and Broeksittard through a marshy area (fig. 1.8:3). This wooden con-
struction had a maximum length of 230 m and remnants of the Roman road were identified to the south of the ‘bridge’. Further to the south just across the German border, this road is identified as a linear structure consisting of gravel with a north–south orien-

\textbf{Fig. 1.7}

Relief map of the surroundings of Sittard. Author: W. Laan (Ansicht Landsch.)

tation.) This road passed the village of Broekssitert (now the east of the city of Sittard) to the east and it is thought that it was part of the road from Xanten to Heerlen.

Van Houten argues that another road was present c. 1500 m to the west of the road identified as the Xanten–Heerlen connection. Wooden fundamentals of a bridge, found in the main bed of the Roode Beek and described to the Roman period, are thought to have been part of this Roman road and were found to the west of Broekssitert. Van Houten (and others) suggests that it connects Tüddern with Rambovso (Maasterlicht (fig. 1.6 and 1.3). Actual remnants of a road, again consisting of a body of gravel, are only found directly on the south bank of the Roode Beek. Another possible destination of this road could be a (villa) settlement situated near the site of Sittard-Odarpark, just north of the town centre, where multiple fragments of Roman pottery, metal and bone material were deposited on the bed of the Geleenbeek (fig. 1.8).\(^{32}\)

The finds of several road segments point to Tüddern being a major junction for the region of Sittard in the Roman period.\(^{33}\)

Early Medieval context

To the southeast of the cemetery the ROB conducted excavations during the early 1990s near a farmhouse called Haagsittard, which is also the name of a medieval hamlet (fig. 1.1 and 1.8). Its earliest reference dates to 1144 AD.\(^{34}\) The name ‘Hag’ refers to a landscape containing hedges and hedges.\(^{35}\) The excavations showed that the area was already occupied in the Iron Age. Evidence for Early Medieval occupation dates to the seventh century and consists of the plan of a one-sided house (14 × 7 m, 7 × 3 postholes) and several fragments of Merovingian pottery. Two farmyard graves were also found near the Merovingian house (fig. 1.85).\(^{36}\) The excavation at Haagsittard provides the only evidence for occupation in the Early Medieval period in the surroundings of the Sittard-Kemperkoul cemetery. The nature of the relationship between the settlement and the cemetery has not been established and appears rather difficult to understand. The Sittard-Kemperkoul burial ground was in use from c. 575 AD until c. 700 AD. However, the burial ground, with m. 85100 graves does not match the small settlement of Haagsittard, which consisted of at least one or maybe a few houses. The number of graves seems to indicate that the cemetery was used by approximately five contemporary families.\(^{37}\) Many explanations for the name ‘Sittard’ have been put forward, but the environmental context seems to offer the most convincing one.\(^{38}\)

It is argued that ‘Sittard’ derives from the Old or Middle High German ‘sit(e),’ which refers to a mountainous landscape.\(^{39}\) Sittard is situated in the valley of the Geleenbeek. To the southeast of the town centre is a ‘hill’ that dominates the landscape: the Kollenberg, located between the Geleenbeek running to its west from south to north, and the Roode Beek running roughly from east to west to the north of Sittard. This hill—infact the northernmost outcrop of the Ardennes and a part of the Doenrade Plateau—is thus the ‘mountain slope’ from which the name Sittard is derived (fig. 7 and 8).\(^{40}\) The Kemperkoul cemetery lies c. 850 m to the south of the hamlet Broekssitert, which is mentioned in a written source from 1144 as Buchtert. Currently it is a quarri in the city of Sittard. The hamlet located close to the German border (fig. 2.1). The old hamlet Haagsittard is now also a part of the larger city of Sittard. It was located c. 750 m to the southeast of the cemetery location. The main inhabitants, although it was somewhat isolated. However, future discoveries might change this perception. Roman road(s) cross the area and there is some evidence for habitation from the seventh century onwards near Haagsittard. As the burial ground was already in use in the late sixth century it is plausible to expect habitation from that time on or just before. Archaeological evidence for habitation in the fifth or sixth century is absent. As stated earlier, rivers or tributaries of any importance do not run in the proximity of the cemetery location. The main centre for late Merovingian colonisation, for now only indicated by the presence of a cemetery, is the presence of the Roman road which connected Heerlen and Xanten.

The history of the toponym

The Merovingian burial ground of Sittard-Kemperkoul was found east of the old city of Sittard where presently the new housing estate of Kemperkoul can be found (fig. 1.1 and 2.1). Sittard is one of the oldest cities of the province of Limburg and in the Netherlands, town privileges were granted in 1243, but the place had been mentioned in 1157 as Sitter.\(^{41}\) Occupation is known to have been present around Sittard long before the beginning of the twelfth century: evidence from prehistoric and Roman times has been found. Many explanations for the name ‘Sittard’ have been put forward, but the environmental context seems to offer the most convincing one.\(^{42}\) It is argued that ‘Sittard’ derives from the Old or Middle High German ‘sit(e),’ which refers to a mountain slope.\(^{43}\) Sittard is situated in the valley of the Geleenbeek. To the southeast of the town centre is a ‘hill’ that dominates the landscape: the Kollenberg, located between the Geleenbeek running to its west from south to north, and the Roode Beek running roughly from east to west to the north of Sittard. This hill—in fact the northernmost outcrop of the Ardennes and a part of the Doenrade Plateau—is thus the ‘mountain slope’ from which the name Sittard is derived (fig. 7 and 8).\(^{44}\) The Kemperkoul cemetery lies c. 850 m to the south of the hamlet Broekssitert, which is mentioned in a written source from 1144 as Buchtert. Currently it is a quarry in the city of Sittard. The hamlet located close to the German border (fig. 2.1). The old hamlet Haagsittard is now also a part of the larger city of Sittard. It was located c. 750 m to the southeast of the cemetery location. The main inhabitants, although it was somewhat isolated. However, future discoveries might change this perception. Roman road(s) cross the area and there is some evidence for habitation from the seventh century onwards near Haagsittard. As the burial ground was already in use in the late sixth century it is plausible to expect habitation from that time on or just before. Archaeological evidence for habitation in the fifth or sixth century is absent. As stated earlier, rivers or tributaries of any importance do not run in the proximity of the cemetery location. The main centre for late Merovingian colonisation, for now only indicated by the presence of a cemetery, is the presence of the Roman road which connected Heerlen and Xanten.

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– being part of the same villa – but had to be distinguished from one another at a certain point in time. Nowadays Sittard remained Sitter. The Sitter closest to the hill slope was distinguished from the other Sitter with the prefix Hagen, referring to ‘woodland of low wood’, which implies that the slope of the Kollenberg was originally forested. The other Sitter was given the prefix Brack or Broek, referring to its lower location compared to Haagstard in the marshlands along the Rooke Beek located to its north.55

Obbicht in its local context

Environmental context

Obbicht and Grevenbicht, and the cemetery terrain between them, are located on the lower terrace formed by the Meuse during the early Holocene period and surrounded by several old Meuse meanders (fig. 1.1, 2.11 and 1.9). The cemetery terrain currently slopes from the northeast (c. 34 m +NAP) to the southwest (c. 33 m +NAP); the heights of the terrain were probably not established at the time of excavation as they are not stated in the publicatio.

Beckers and Beckers mentioned that the soil conditions at the site were not favourable for excavation; the sand/clay soil contained abundant gravel, deposited there by the Meuse. It is thus not surprising that gravel mining took place at the excavated terrain and also on a larger scale in the surroundings of Obbicht (see also chapter 2).

The cemetery terrain was close to an old cut of meander of the Meuse, which is indicated by the meandering lower levels running through the landscape and of which a section can be found to the south of the burial ground (fig. 1.9). To the northeast of the cemetery terrain a number of five (old) roads converge (fig. 1.9 and 1.10). It is the highest point in the close surroundings and indicates that it may have been used already in ancient times for occupation (fig. 1.9). This suitability for habitation may have resulted in continuity of the pathways (now roads) which led to this higher point in the landscape; this location was close to the grasslands and arable lands but not in danger of being flooded when water levels were high.

The landscape of the cemetery and its surroundings actually looked like during the Roman and Medieval periods is hard to picture nowadays, as there have been many alterations. For example, the course of the Meuse has been greatly altered between Obbicht and Grevenbicht in the past centuries. Next to this, the gravel mining and in particular the construction of the Julianakanaal (Juliana canal) with its lock complex, c. 1 km to the east of the burial ground, have altered the landscape profoundly.

Fig. 1.11


Roman context

The location of the burial ground southeast of Grevenbicht and north of Obbicht seems to have been directly linked to the existence of several Roman habitation sites (fig. 1.6 and 1.10). As already mentioned, a Roman secondary road must have been situated just a few hundred meters north of the site, running from Tüddern along Limbricht towards Grevenbicht. In the present village of Grevenbicht a segment of a road and several remains of Roman buildings were found.56 Among these are a monumental wellhead in sandstone and three fragments of sculptures of Jupiter. Next to this, there is the Judenberg (fig. 1.11a), a supposed Roman burial mound or tumulus at the southwestern edge of the village, overlooking the valley of the stream Kingbeek and the Meuse. Given the nature of these finds it seems plausible to locate a vicus in the village centre of Grevenbicht (fig. 1.10c).

It must at least have been situated along two Roman roads running from one to Tüddern and probably crossing the Meuse towards the only recently localised vicus of Ferene (fig. 1.1) at c. 4 km to the east, just south of the present village of Dilsen.57 The other road–of which no traces have been found to date in the vicinity of Obbicht and Grevenbicht-is the supposed route on the east bank of the Meuse from Maastricht to Venlo and Nijmegen.

Next to the probable vicus of Grevenbicht are several other remains of Roman settlements in the surroundings of the burial ground. After all, the fields south of the cemetery site are known as ‘De Kempen’ and are well known for the many Roman objects found.58 Here, directly southeast of the cemetery, across the early-Holocene Meander meander, the villa site of Obbicht-Steenakerker/...
Becelaertstraat is situated on a slightly higher river terrace (fig. 1.10).4 This is one of the few sites in the Westelijke Mijnstreek that has yielded late Roman pottery as well, indicating that the occupation of the villa settlement continued during the fourth century. Even more interesting is the find of an early fifth century coin hoard in a field adjacent to the actual villa site. At least 15 golden solidi were discovered here, of which the youngest coin dates shortly after 408 AD. Although the archaeological context of this hoard has not been documented, the deposition could be seen as a Visigothic that is possibly connected with the end of the vil-

la settlement.

East of the cemetery, at the other side of the early Holocene meander in which the rivulet ‘De Reidsgraaf’ flowed to parallel the Julianaan, are two other Roman sites near the village of Buchten. These are the former villa site of De Wielder, situated at the present location of the lock complex and at the very edge of the Graetheide Plateau (fig. 1.10).5), and the cult place of ‘De Apotheker’, situated at a slight elevation on the lower river terrace (fig. 1.9 and 1.10).6) Although both sites have been excavated, they provide a clear indication of how important the physical environment must have been for the location of these sites in Roman (and Early Medieval) times. 

Early Medieval context

The Meuse was an important means of contact with other centres along the river through the course of time, as was a Roman road on its east bank. Evidence for settlements that can be associated with the Obbicht cemetery has not been found in its surroundings, but the area around the cemetery must have been occupied during the period it was in use (6-7 centuries). The Susteren Abbey, founded in 714 AD, is not far from Obbicht, but by then the cemetery had been abandoned. 8

Another Merovingian cemetery was found in the proximity of present-day Buchten, c. 2 km to the northeast of the Obbicht cemetery (fig. 1.10).9) It consists of 44 recorded graves and was associated with the earlier mentioned Roman cult place of De Apotheker. The graves were predominantly without grave goods. C14 analysis of the remains of three skeletons revealed that two inhumations were from the seventh and eighth centuries, and one may be from the ninth century. 10 A glass fragment of a Merovingian conical or bell beaker and the radiate head of a bow brooch dat-

ing to the mid-fifth century 11 were also found in this location (al-

though not in a burial context) which may point to the existence of earlier graves on this site.

Next to these two cemetery sites, traces of Merovingian settle-

ments were found north of the present-day hamlet of Schippers-

kerk, c. 1.5 km to the north of the Buchten cemetery and c. 2.5 km to the north of the Obbicht cemetery. It is the only known evi-
dence of a settlement from the area. 12 Pottery from the sixth and seventh centuries was found here, as was a well, a post hole and pits containing charcoal, pottery, stone and burnt clay. The wood used to build the well was dated to 616 ± 6 AD, which is contempo-

rary with the first burial phases of Obbicht. 13

Besides the Buchten De Apotheker site, where Roman building remains were reused in Merovingian times-most probably with-

out any continuous use of the cult place during Late Antiquity--there is an interesting but still very questionable hypothesis about the medieval reuse of the villa site of Buchten De Wielder (fig. 1.10).14 Meeuwissen based his thesis on the toponymic analysis of ‘Wielder’ as a derivative of the Latin adjective aluvarius, which should refer to Early Medieval localities in the vicinity of or belong-

ing to a Roman villa. 15 Although some tenth century sources men-

tion a villa Wilpere in possible relation to Bettinum (Obbicht or Buchten), it is far from clear whether these references should be associated with the villa and later area in the vicinity of the ceme-

tery. Moreover, the excavation of the villa site at De Wielder has not yielded any material pointing in the direction of its occupation during the Late Antiquity or Medieval periods.

The history of the toponym

The exact location of the Obbicht–Oude Molen cemetery could be reconstructed on the basis of the 1490 publication of Beckers and Beckers, which includes some accounts referring to the excavation area and a cemetery plan on which reference points are depict-

ed (see chapter 4 for a more details).16 The cemetery was situated on a terrain where two (old) mills were subsequently built and demol-

ished (mill = molens, hence the reference ‘Molen’ in the toponym). At the time of excavation (1936), the second mill had not existed for some years and was demolished in 1933,17 thus old = molens, hence the prefix ‘Oude’ in the toponym. It is not known for which purpos-

es the parcel was used by then, but presumably it was arable land. A chapel, still standing, is indicated on the original cemetery plan where the two roads bordering the cemetery to the north and east converge. The cemetery was located in the northeastern corner of the parcel. This parcel is located to the north of the northernmost house of Obbicht and to the southeast of the southernmost hous-

es of the village of Grevenbicht (fig. 1.2 and 2.11). Immediately to the south of the cemetery terrain the area is used as farmland. It has been suggested that Bettinum or Bettinum, as the place in which the donation of the possessions of Aengibald, or Enghald, in Waderlo to Willibrord in 703/704 AD was registered, was (O)Bicht, 18 and this might thus be the earliest reference to (O)Bicht. In this re-

spect it is interesting to note that Willibrord is the patron saint of the church of Obbicht as well and that there was a close connection to the stift of Susteren in the area of Obbicht and Born. 19

The ground word ‘Bicht’ is thought to be connected to the German Biegen (to curve) and the Anglo-Saxon byht, bygen and byht, [= buigen (curving)] and the Anglo-Saxon byht, [= buigen (curving)] and the Anglo-Saxon byht, [= buigen (curving)]. It refers to the nearby Meuse and one of its many bends.20 The original village of Obbicht was lo-
cated close to the Meuse and one of its bends and was completely washed away by the Meuse in 1675. In the nearby hamlet of Overbroek a new church was built and after that the new centre was referred to as Obbicht. 21

Stein in its local context

Environmental context

The old village of Stein is located not far from the Meuse at the west side of the middle terrace and the Graetheide Plateau. It overlooks the lower terrace towards the Belgium border, formed by the river when its course changed over time and cut in the broad river bed. The cemetery terrain is located at the very fringe of this middle terrace, at a sort of cape cut off by a former channel of the Meuse in the west and by the stream Ur in the south, continuing its course

(overs"

to the north in this old Meuse channel (fig. 1.1, 2.25 and 1.11). The cemetery site is located at a height of c. 56 m NAP. Beckers and Beckers mentioned that the soil of the cemetery terrain contained abundant gravel, which is characteristic of the river terraces. The gravel deposits complicated the excavation. According to the soil map this part of the middle terrace should have been covered with loess as was the rest of the Graetheide Plateau. The most prominent Roman site is situated c. 1.5 km to the north of the burial ground. The stone foundations of two Roman buildings and the remains of an ‘indigenous’ building were excavated prior to the installation of the harbour of Stein during the 1930s. Gravel mining took place here, and old trees were felled and replaced by new ones; these were rather destructive activities and indicate that the surface of the terrain was by then rather different from now. All the clues in the publication and on the 1940 cemetery plan make it possible to assign the former location of the cemetery to the Neolithic period. Other traces of occupation which could be linked to the cemetery are not known, but this is not unusual considering the scarcity of traces of Early Medieval habitation in Limburg.

The history of the toponym
The Stein cemetery could be located on the basis of some references in the 1540 publication of Beckers and Beckers and some clues on the by then published cemetery plan (see chapter 2 for more details). It was situated opposite the northern entrance of the castle ruin on a terrace bordered by a slope to the south, which as mentioned by Beckers and Beckers offers a magnificent view overlooking the Meuse. The parcel is referred to as Groote Bongerd (Bongerd refers to hoven, orchard), but this toponym cannot be traced back further on historical maps dating back to the time around and before the excavation in the 1930s. Gravel mining took place here, and old trees were felled and replaced by new ones; these were rather destructive activities and indicate that the surface of the terrain was by then rather different from now. All the clues in the publication and on the 1940 cemetery plan make it possible to assign the former location of the cemetery to the Neolithic period which is now bordered by Ondergrensstraat to the south and east, the Boogaardstraat (bos, ‘Bongerdstraat’) to the north and the Nieuwstraat to the west (fig. 1.13, 2.25 and 2.16). The first known reference to Stein dates back to 1128. Both the names Steyne and Steine are known; these toponyms refer to the stone castle of Stein, of which the first lord preferred to refer to himself as Herman van Elsloo. After his death, however, he was referred to as dominus dominus de Steine. His son Arnold had already named himself Dominicus de Stein. The castle ruin of Stein is located to the south of the village, on natural elevation, and the first stone structures date back to the beginning of the thirteenth century. The village is clearly named after the stone castle in its proximity. Occupation or other archaeological traces in Stein and its surroundings date back much further than the first stone structures of the castle and go back as far as the Neolithic period. Beckers and Beckers considered the archaeological evidence of continuity in Stein, especially on the parcel Groote Bongerd, from the Middle Ages as a remarkable outcome of their research on the history of Limburg.

This chapter sketches the environmental and societal contexts in which the Sittard, Obbicht and Stein cemeteries came into being. The three cemeteries and their specific features are discussed in the following chapters in this volume.

Roman context
The location of the Stein cemetery and its possible relation with older Roman habitation can be explained best on the basis of the environmental setting (fig. 1.12). If there had been a Roman route on the east bank of the Meuse running from Maasbracht to Grevenbicht and Venlo further north, it is most likely that it was situated on the middle terrace and subsequently crossed the present village of Stein in a south-north direction (fig. 1.6). However, actual segments of this road have not been found in Stein or its vicinity to date.

The most prominent Roman site is situated c. 1.5 km to the north of the burial ground. The stone foundations of two Roman buildings and the remains of an ‘indigenous’ building were excavated prior to the installation of the harbour of Stein during the 1930s. Although the interpretation of this complex as a villa is somewhat problematic because of the atypical plan of the main building, its location seems well chosen; the complex cannot be traced back further on historical maps dating back to the time around and before the excavation in the 1930s. Gravel mining took place here, and old trees were felled and replaced by new ones; these were rather destructive activities and indicate that the surface of the terrain was by then rather different from now. All the clues in the publication and on the 1940 cemetery plan make it possible to assign the former location of the cemetery to the Neolithic period which is now bordered by Ondergrensstraat to the south and east, the Boogaardstraat (bos, ‘Bongerdstraat’) to the north and the Nieuwstraat to the west (fig. 1.13, 2.25 and 2.16).
The excavation and post-excavation activities

The cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul

The discovery and excavation of the cemetery

In 1982, the digging of construction pits for the expansion of the city of Sittard to the east, officially referred to as ‘Development plan Kemperkoul, sub plan 1’, began (fig. 2.1). In an early phase of the digging activities, a number of graves and complete ceramic pots were discovered. These discoveries made the contractor decide to inform the curator of “Museum De Tempel” (which recently changed its second name ‘Museum Het Domein’ to ‘Museum De Domenen’) in Sittard, who was A. Roebroek at that time. The curator in his turn informed the then provincial archaeologist W. Willems, who initiated an inspection of the site on the 30th of March 1982. The lower parts of fifteen burial pits in a relatively deep trench were observed during this inspection, as were the outlines of a number of other graves appearing in construction trenches dug less deep. It is not mentioned in which eventual archaeological excavation trench the then discovered graves were recorded, but it can be assumed that they formed the starting point of the excavation and were thus finally recorded in what is now known to us as excavation trench 1 (fig. 2.2).

As a result of these findings, an archaeological excavation started on the 31st of March 1982, which lasted until the 21st of April 1982. The excavation fell under the supervision of provincial archaeologist W. Willems and K. Grevling, who was a field technician of the State Archaeological Service (Dutch: Rijkdienst voor het Onroerendkundig Bodemonderzoek (ROB), now Rijksdienst voor het Cultuurhistorisch Onroerend Erfgoed (RCE)). In less than a month, the graves now published as graves 1-62 were excavated and recorded. The excavation could at that time not be expanded more to the south due to the presence of a tower crane. Furthermore, a tarmac road intersecting the site hindered the excavation of a strip going through the cemetery which certainly contained graves (now excavation trench 3).

The continuation of the excavation was made possible by the contracting firm Muyers and the municipality of Sittard. The excavation of the southern part of the cemetery and the part underneath the tarmac road took place from the 12th to 22nd of October and from the 8th to 12th of November in 1982. In the southern part (trench 6), the excavation activities resulted in six additional graves (graves 76, 77, 78, 86, 87 and 88), and, underneath the road (trench 5), twenty more graves were excavated: graves 63-75 and 79-85. The excavation of trench 5 was made possible only with the financial aid of the municipality of Sittard.

The measuring system on the field drawings made it possible to precisely locate the cemetery on the topographic map of Sittard and its surroundings (fig. 2.1). The coordinates of the cemetery in the Dutch national grid are 900,277,133,98. The cemetery is located in the eastern part of the municipality of Sittard and is now a residential area (Lahrib). To the north, the research area is bordered by a road called ‘Wehrerweg’. To the south, it is bordered by a road called ‘Lahribuur’. The roads in the residential area are named after persons known from the late Merovingian/Carolingian period (Pepijn, Clothilde, Dagobert, Brunhilde), and there is even a street named ‘street of the Merovingians’. There existed over the course of time. The graves of which only the lowest parts (which were still partly available for a number of graves) vanished over the course of time. The graves of which only the lowest part remained were located around an open space in the southern part of trench 1. It should be questioned whether this open space was intentionally created during the period in which the burial ground was in use, or whether it was a result of more recent disturbances. This question will be discussed in chapter 6. The remaining graves of which no upper parts were available for excavation and documentation; their upper parts (which were still partly available for a number of graves) vanished over the course of time. The graves of which only the lowest part remained were located around an open space in the southern part of trench 1. It should be questioned whether this open space was intentionally created during the period in which the burial ground was in use, or whether it was a result of more recent disturbances. This question will be discussed in chapter 6. The remaining graves of which no upper parts were available for excavation and documentation; their upper parts (which were still partly available for a number of graves) vanished over the course of time. The graves of which only the lowest part remained were located around an open space in the southern part of trench 1. It should be questioned whether this open space was intentionally created during the period in which the burial ground was in use, or whether it was a result of more recent disturbances.
were not discovered in trench 3. Trench 1 indicated that the cemetery did not expand further to the northwest and trench 3 indicated that the southern cemetery limit could be expected to the north of this trench. It seems plausible that trench 4 was also excavated in the period between the 31st of March and the 21st of April 1982 along with trenches 1 to 3. In his master’s thesis, Paul Zoetbrood mentions that the second excavation campaign in the fall of 1982 revealed graves 63-75 and 79-81 underneath the road (trench 5, north of trench 1) and graves 86-88 in excavation trench 6. Since graves 51 to 61 were excavated in trench 4, it can thus be assumed that this trench was excavated during the first excavation campaign. This trench shows the graves which form the northern limit of the cemetery. To the north of the east-west oriented line of graves, no graves or archaeological features were recorded in excavation trench 4. During the first excavation campaign, the northern, eastern and western limits of the cemetery were established, but unexcavated areas within the borders of the cemetery were by then still present and the southern limit of the cemetery was still to be found.

Trench 4 (the former road intersecting the terrain) was dug during the second campaign in the fall of 1982. In this trench, twenty graves were discovered, some of which were already partly destroyed by the west-east orientated sewer pipe bordering the road (now trench 5) to the north and by the west-east orientated gas pipe bordering the road to the south. The sewer trench destroyed a number of graves of which parts were already discovered and excavated in trench 4. The final research activity was the excavation of trench 6, in between trenches 1 and 3. This trench was certainly opened to discover the graves which formed the southern limit of the cemetery. The excavation of this trench revealed six additional graves and made it possible to complete the excavation of a few graves already discovered in the southern part of trench 1.

In view of the arrangement of the trenches and the distribution of the excavated graves, it seems plausible to consider the borders of the cemetery as known.

Some graves which were dug less deep may have been destroyed by construction pits before the cemetery was discovered. These lost graves, however, would probably not dramatically change the plan of the cemetery as we know it. The excavation activities stopped in November 1982. Shortly, thereafter the analysis of the cemetery started on the basis of all the documentation gathered.

The available documentation: Field drawings and other excavation documentation

An excavation of early medieval cemeteries ideally produces field drawings of the complete cemeteries and of individual graves and their specific features on a scale of 1:20. The excavation of the cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul produced 14 field drawings: one provides a complete overview of the cemetery and the excavation trenches (scale 1:100), the other drawings cover segments of the cemetery with drawings of individual graves and their features (scale 1:20). The drawings of the graves are quite meticulous: next to a rather detailed description of the observed finds, their location within the graves and their exact height are also indicated. The find location and height of the few skeletal remains or their ‘shadows’ in the soil were also recorded on these drawings, as were all the other details of the graves such as wood remains or soil discolouration of the container walls and beams, as well as charcoal remnants and the exact location of disturbances such as reopening pits (fig. 2.3 shows a part of one of the field drawings). There is also a drawing that presents an overview of the trenches and the measuring system on a plan of the present town of Sittard and a drawing of an east-southeast section of the southern wall of trench 1 (see chapter 3). Unfortunately, this section is the only one recorded. One additional drawing was made; it consists of reconstructed sections of grave 14 (fig. 2.4). This drawing shows the variable heights of the finds, especially those of the vessels in the north-eastern cor-
The graves are poorly preserved in the Sittard graves; as pathology could thus not be established for the individuals buried in the Sittard graves. Only the artefactual constructed gender could be established on the basis of gender specific finds. The graves of children were identified on the basis of the length of the containers or burial pin (see chapter 6 and the catalogue of graves and grave finds).

Remarks

The graves of children were identified on the basis of the length of the containers or burial pin (see chapter 6 and the catalogue of graves and grave finds).

Daily reports were also made during the excavation of the cemetery, but these were also unavailable to us. Daily reports include statements with regard to the choices made during excavations (e.g. the location of the trenches, the construction of the next level, the construction and location of sections), the archaeologists/field technicians present, the weather conditions and other aspects. As mentioned above, a chronological reconstruction of the Sittard-Kemperkoul trench plan could only be made on the basis of the master’s thesis of Paul Zoetbrood, written in 1984, who was also present at the excavation in 1982.

The last category of documentation of the Sittard-Kemperkoul excavation is the collection of finds. The original lists of finds, which were certainly made during the excavation, are no longer present. The majority of the find numbers assigned to the finds were recorded on the field drawing. The finds themselves were numbered: they can thus be linked to the precise location in the grave in which they were actually found.

Skeletal remains

Skeletal remains were poorly preserved in the Sittard graves; some remains (silhouettes, small fragments and one nearly complete and articulated skeleton) were preserved or could be recorded, but only from a small number of graves (fig. 2.8). The thesis of Zoetbrood mentions that the condition of these remains was so bad that they could hardly be lifted from the graves and preserved for later analysis in the laboratory. Some teeth and skeletal remains are kept in the Provincial Depot of the Province of Limburg, but they have not been analysed due to their poor condition. The age at death, the biological sex and other features such as pathology could thus not be established for the individuals buried in the Sittard graves. Only the artefactual constructed gender could be established on the basis of gender specific finds. The graves of children were identified on the basis of the length of the containers or burial pin (see chapter 6 and the catalogue of graves and grave finds).

Finds

The finds were, if possible, identified and categorised in the field. The descriptions of the finds were recorded on the field drawings, as was their exact find height and their location within the grave. Some clusters of finds in graves were photographed, but, as mentioned before, the list of photographs is not available, which complicates their identification. After their removal from the grave, the finds were cleaned and, if necessary, conserved and/or restored. The find numbers assigned to them during excavation and recorded on the field drawings were also recorded on the actual objects in order to secure the link between the object and the grave. The trajectory of the finds after their removal from the graves is different from that of the excavation administration.

Zoetbrood mentions that the Sittard finds were conserved, restored, photographed and drawn shortly after their excavation, which made it possible to study the cemetery soon after the excavation was completed in 1982. The introduction in the thesis mentions that the finds were cleaned and conserved by J.P.F. Kottman, G.J. Rombout and H.F. Wijnman of the State Archaeological Service (ROB) and J. Kempkens (now Restauro: an archaeological restoration company in Haelen, province of Limburg). The drawings of the finds were made by J. Hulst, E. Koot and J. Van Vlietden (ROB) and A. Nijs (Nijmegen). The photographs of the finds were made by S. Kuppens, A. Penders and F. Hooijman (ROB). Unfortunately, these photographs and drawings were not available to us.

Because of all this work performed shortly after the excavation, the cemetery could be studied and the majority of the finds could be put on display in the ‘Museum Den Tempel’ in Sittard. The other finds were kept in the museum depot. It is not certain what happened to the collection after ‘Museum Den Tempel’ closed, but most of it is now kept in the Provincial Depot for archaeological finds from the province of Limburg, which is located in the Centre Céramique in Maastricht. A small collection of precious finds was exhibited in the ‘Museum Het Domein’ in Sittard (now De Domeinen), a museum of urban history, archaeology and contemporary art. Curator Kitty Jansen made it possible to study the Sittard-Kemperkoul collection which was on display and housed in this museum.

Making the archaeological data available: The reconstruction of the cemetery plan and individual graves

The field drawing (scale 1:100) with an overview of the cemetery, and the field drawings on which the graves are recorded in detail on a scale 1:20 form the basis for the reconstruction of the site plan (fig. 2.9). First, each individual grave was digitized in Adobe Illustrator. All the grave features, such as the burial pit outlines,

(1) The thesis was not published as such, but a short report was published by him (Zoetbrood 1983). (2) See, for example, the publication of Trenches at Whiter (2000).

(3) Apart from the available documentation, publications on the cemetery or specific finds are also useful for a final analysis of the cemetery. For the cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul, only one text was available: the master’s thesis of Paul Zoetbrood, written in 1984, shortly after the excavation ended. After that, only some finds have been included in publications of specific categories of Merovingian grave goods.

Zoetbrood attended the excavation a few times. His close connection with the excavation and the limited time between the excavation and the production of the thesis resulted in a text that can be considered a reliable source of information. It is also the single available source which provides insights in the organisation of the excavation given that the primary sources of information, the daily reports and other excavation documentation were not available to us. The thesis of Zoetbrood is an extensive document that covers many aspects of the cemetery (but on the basis of old theories and typo-chronologies) and from which the catalogue was particularly useful for the present analysis of the Sittard-Kemperkoul cemetery.
wood remains or shadows of the container walls, locations and re-
corded shapes of the finds and remnants or shadows of the skele-
tal remains, included in these digitized drawings. They are
the final composition drawings of all the recorded features (irre-
spective of the height at which they were recorded) of a grave and
are published in the catalogue of graves and finds. The heights of
the finds and other features are indicated in the catalogue of graves
and finds in the accompanying database. Since the graves were
recorded at one level only, it was not necessary to combine
various levels in composite drawings of graves. A number of graves
were excavated in two trenches; the drawings of the two halves
had to be combined into one drawing. For some graves, this result-
ed in outlines which do not completely match (see, for example,
grave 28 and 20); this was due to deviations in the measuring sys-
tem in the different trenches.

Secondly, the digitized drawings of individual graves of sec-
tions of the cemetery were plotted in the single complete ceme-
tery plan using the measuring grid of the excavation. The digitized
individual graves are published on a scale of 1:40, and the cemetery
plan on a scale of 1:250.

The measuring system made it possible to determine the exact
location of the cemetery on the current topography map of Sittard
and its surroundings (fig. 2.1). Features other than grave struc-
tures were not observed or not recorded during the excavation.
All the recorded contexts are thus identified as graves; two con-
texts (10 and 21) are, however, identified as ‘possible graves’. Of
these contexts, only vague outlines were recorded. It is not certain
whether these outlines were originally those of graves.

The grave structures
The variety of grave structures in the Sittard cemetery consists of
burial pits, wooden coffins (placed on beams), chamber graves and
tree trunk graves (see also chapter 3). A database that defined a di-
versity of variables regarding grave structures was already devel-
oped for other projects. The variables include the features of the
grave structures and their dimensions, as well as the orientation
of the graves and their height compared to the excavation levels
and reconstructed surface level. The output of the analysis of the
grave structures from Sittard-Kemperkoul consists of all the re-
levant variables published in the catalogue of graves and finds and
those entered into the accompanying database but not included
in the catalogue. This data formed the basis for the analysis of
the grave structures in chapter 3 by Maaike de Haas.

The finds
Nearly all the finds from the cemetery were drawn by Bob Donker
(University of Amsterdam), the finds kept in ‘Museum Het
Domein’ (De Domeinen) were drawn and digitized by Maaike de
Haas. All of the finds were photographed by ‘Artefact’ (a company
inclusive of photographer Paulien Gemmeke and assistant Sjoerd
Aarts). The weapons and pottery vessels were described, classified,
dated and entered into a database by student Carlijn Hageraars for
her ‘material practice’ thesis. The remainder of the finds, except
for those on display in the Museum Het Domein (De Domeinen),
were studied in a work group by students of the University of
Leiden under the supervision of Frans Theuws. The features of
the finds were measured, described and recorded, and the major-
ity of the finds were classified and dated. The finds on display in
the Museum Het Domein (De Domeinen) were studied by Mirjam
Kars.

Eventually, all the descriptions of the finds were entered into
the database for grave finds, which was already developed for the
Servatius project and Anastasis project. This database consists of
various input fields, which are in fact the variables defined for each
category of objects. It is presumed that these variables are relevant
for the classification and dating of the finds, but also for reasons of
comparison with other cemeteries and for research on social back-
grounds of burial practices.

A selection of the variables is included in the catalogue of graves
and finds in this publication, in which the photographs and draw-
ings of the finds are also published. The input in the database
formed the basis for the extended description and analysis (chap-
ter 4) of the grave finds. It consists of the actual description of the
finds, their interpretation, classification and dating, possible par-
allels and their location in the grave in relation to the body. This
extensive description forms the basis for the further analysis of the
cemetery, namely the dating of the individual graves (chapter 5),
the chronological development of the cemetery and a possible his-
tory of the burying community (chapter 6) and prevalent and par-
ticular burial practices (chapter 7).

Demography
Since the majority of the graves contained very poorly preserved
skeletal remains or no remains at all, it was impossible to deter-
mine the age at death and the biological sex of the individuals bur-
ied in the Sittard cemetery. It was only possible to identify the ar-
tefactually constructed gender on the basis of gender specific ob-
jects (see chapter 6). Research on other Merovingian cemeter-
ies revealed a rather significant correlation between gender spec-
cific grave goods and the biological sex of the deceased; it can be
assumed that this was also the case in the Sittard cemetery. The
graves of children were identified on the basis of the length of the
containers and burial pits (see chapter 6). The age at death of the
adults could not be determined.
The cemetery of Obbicht

The discovery and excavation of the cemetery

The cemetery of Obbicht was published in 1940 by Hendrik Joseph Beckers and his son Gabriël Beckers in “Voorgeschiedenis van Limburg”, a publication which deals with the archaeology of the province Limburg from prehistory to the Middle Ages. Hendrik Joseph Beckers (1862-1950) was a practising doctor in Beek (Limburg), who had a more than recreational interest in archaeology (fig. 2.10). It was the father Beckers, and some helpers, who excavated a Merovingian grave in ‘plot B 1793 of Jean Vencken’, located in between the villages Obbicht, Grevenbricht and Born in July 1936 (fig. 2.11-2.12). Some years before, pottery vessels were referenced as having been discovered in this parcel in and in an adjacent one. These finds instigated a small scale dig in 1932. The discovery of a Merovingian grave warranted a thorough investigation of the terrain, but the difficult soil conditions (gravel with a top layer of loess) would have led to an expensive excavation. It was therefore decided that the archaeological excavation of the site would be postponed. When the site came in use as a gravel extraction pit in 1936, the Beckers seized the opportunity. The owner of the terrain, Jean Vencken, accorded the excavation, and the assistance of the mayor was also mentioned in the introduction to the publication (probably referring to financial aid). As expected, the excavation revealed a Merovingian cemetery, eventually consisting of 64 graves.

The site was named ‘Oude Molen’ (Old Mill) after a wooden windmill which was built on this parcel and functioned as grain mill. It was demolished in 1895 but was replaced by another mill in the same year. The first mill was a so-called ‘standard mill’, which is a mill standing on four above ground fundament (partly dug into the ground) of bricks. It can be assumed that these four foundations destroyed some of the graves. The rebuilt stone mill, which also functioned as a grain mill, was a ‘bergmolen’, a mill built on an artificial elevation. In the introduction to the catalogue of the cemetery, it is mentioned that the soil for this artificial hill was extracted in its vicinity and that this soil extraction destroyed another number of Merovingian graves causing the grave goods to become visible; it is not known what happened to these finds. The hill itself would have protected the remaining graves underneath. This second mill was demolished in 1921, thus 15 years before the archaeological excavation took place.

Fig. 2.10
Hendrik Joseph Beckers and his team excavating the Stein-Groote Bongerd cemetery (reprinted from Beckers/Beckers 1940).

Fig. 2.11
The location of the cemetery Obbicht-Oude Molen on the topographical map (Bonnekaart) from c.1900 (scale 1:12,500).

Fig. 2.12
The location of the cemetery Obbicht-Oude Molen on the Chromotopographic Map (Bonnekaart) from c.1900 (scale 1:12,500).

Fig. 2.13
The Obbicht-Oude Molen cemetery plan as published in Beckers and Beckers 1940 (scale 1:400).
The excavation and post-excavation activities data

Beckers and Beckers mentioned that the cemeteries of Obbicht and Stein (published in the same book) are rather similar, which is understandable since Merovingian cemeteries are considerably alike on a general level. Apart from resembling grave contents, other similarities mentioned are the poor condition of the soil and the proximity of numerous roads. The research of Merovingian cemeteries had not yet reached a high standard by that time (1930-1940). Although Merovingian cemeteries are indeed similar on a general level, their variability is nowadays also an important matter of discussion.

An excavation strategy was not discussed in the single available source of information, but the descriptions of the graves reveal some clues. The cemetery was not excavated in trenches. It can be expected that the excavation began with grave 1 and ended with grave 64 (grave 65 is in fact a grave found in another plot). The excavation most likely started in the west (near the gravel pit) and ended in the east. For now, it can be concluded that the original boundaries of the cemetery are difficult to establish. Graves were found underneath the road to the north of the cemetery, but it is not known whether the cemetery expanded beyond this road. To the west, the cemetery was partly destroyed by gravel extraction, but it remains unknown how many graves were actually destroyed. A road borders the cemetery to the east, but it is not clear whether the cemetery expanded underneath and beyond this road. It was mentioned that an additional grave was found in another parcel (found when gravel was extracted on the Himberg in

It is not clear which work or construction activities caused these disturbances; neither can the date(s) of the disturbances be determined. Since the mentioned graves are located in the western section of the cemetery, it can be presumed that they were destroyed by the gravel exploitation known to have taken place in the western section of the terrain. Beckers and Beckers identified the graves in the western section of the cemetery as the oldest graves and those in the eastern section as the youngest because some skeletal remains were found in the eastern graves. They assumed that the older skeletons had already decayed completely and that the remains present would have decayed within the next 50 years had the cemetery not been excavated.

Graves were also observed underneath the road north of the cemetery. These graves were not recorded on the cemetery plan or described in the original catalogue of graves and finds. The cemetery was thus somewhat larger than the 64 excavated graves but probably not much larger than the cemetery of Stein, originally consisting of approximately 100 graves. The cemetery of Stein would have been of approximately the same dimensions (see chapter 6).

On the topographical maps of the 1930s and later, the house is still indicated. Beckers and Beckers must thus have been excavating immediately to the north of the house. A chapel was indicated along the crossroads in the north-eastern corner of the cemetery terrain, which is in accordance with the small chapel still present at this location (fig. 2.17).

Beckers and Beckers observed that the cemetery was originally much larger than the 65 excavated graves. Apart from the graves destroyed by the construction, and probably also the deconstruction of the mills, it is also mentioned that graves were destroyed by labourers, namely graves 4, 3, 4, 6, 7, 37 (partly) and 40 (partly). These graves are nonetheless depicted as intact graves on the original cemetery plan. (The plan is thus in part a reconstruction of the cemetery and in part an actual representation of the graves found.)

Data

On the original catalogue of graves and finds, a number of graves were mentioned to have been (partly) affected by the mills. Their contents were recovered, but the outlines of the burial pits were not observed or recorded. The graves concerned are 13, 14, 15, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 59. To be exact, graves 13, 14, 15, 30 and 59 were recorded as the graves destroyed by the construction of the mill, graves 31, 32, 33 and 59 were said to have been located underneath the house and the chapel c. 42 meters south of the chapel. This is at the height of the lower limit of the map provided by Beckers and Beckers (fig. 2.13). The mill stood more or less in the area of graves 32, 33 and 59.

In the original catalogue of graves and finds, a number of graves were recorded as the graves destroyed by the construction, and probably also the deconstruction of the mills. Although burial pits were not observed, the locations of these graves are depicted on the cemetery plan, probably on the basis of the discovered grave finds (fig. 2.13). It can be assumed that a number of graves were originally present in the open space between the graves destroyed by the mills (fig. 2.13), maybe c. 10 graves, considering the burial density of the remainder of the cemetery (see also chapter 6).

On the map provided by Beckers and Beckers (fig. 2.13) the location of the mill is indicated with a red symbol in a U-form. The chapel is indicated, too. The distance between the northern wall of the house and the chapel is c. 42 meters. So the southern limit of the hill of the second mill was about 33 meters south of the chapel. This is at the height of the lower limit of the map provided by Beckers and Beckers (fig. 2.13). The mill is indicated with a circle and a red symbol in a U-form. The distance between the graves destroyed by the mills (fig. 2.13), it is indicated with a circle and a cross without colour (parcel nr 676). According to the related documents, parcel number 675 to the south of the mill is a house, probably of the miller. It is indicated with two red rectangles, possibly a house and a shed. Therefore, there were two buildings on the cemetery site, one mill and a miller’s house. The distance between the north side of the miller’s house and the mill hill was about 9 meters. On the map of c. 1925 (fig. 2.12), the house is indicated with a red symbol in a U-form. The chapel is indicated, too. The distance between the northern wall of the house and the chapel is c. 42 meters. So the southern limit of the hill of the second mill was about 33 meters south of the chapel. This is at the height of the lower limit of the map provided by Beckers and Beckers (fig. 2.13). The mill stood more or less in the area of graves 52, 53 and 59.

On the topographical maps of the 1930s and later, the house is still indicated. Beckers and Beckers must thus have been excavating immediately to the north of the house. A chapel was indicated along the crossroads in the north-eastern corner of the cemetery terrain, which is in accordance with the small chapel still present at this location (fig. 2.17).

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Graves were also observed underneath the road north of the cemetery. These graves were not recorded on the cemetery plan or described in the original catalogue of graves and finds. The cemetery was thus somewhat larger than the 64 excavated graves but probably not much larger than the cemetery of Stein, originally consisting of approximately 100 graves. The cemetery of Stein would have been of approximately the same dimensions (see chapter 6).

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The cemetery plan published by Beckers and Beckers in 1940 in excavation documentation detail in chapter 6. The cemetery plan shows. It is not known whether the excavation extend further to the south than the most southern graves recorded on the cemetery plan, but these are merely approximate indications compared to the actual locations given in the descriptive catalogue.

The available documentation: Field drawings and other excavation documentation

The cemetery plan published by Beckers and Beckers in 1940 indicates that field drawings and/or drawings of individual graves were produced during the excavation, but these original sources of information were not available to us. “The existing documentation on the basis of which the cemetery is analysed in the cemetery plan (fig. 2.13) and the catalogue of graves and finds published by Beckers and Beckers, the actual grave finds and some old drawings of these finds (fig. 2.18). Photographs of the majority of the finds can be found in the publication from 1940, but, unfortunately, these do not always refer to the associated graves or find numbers and can thus not be used as verification or aid for the actual assignment of finds (or missing finds) to graves (fig. 2.19). Excavation documentation as daily reports, excavation photographs and lists of photographs and drawings are not available.

The published cemetery plan and the available descriptions of the graves reveal that the excavators recorded only the rough outlines, locations and orientations of the burial pits on a field drawing. Their exact dimensions, some exactly established orientations and the locations of the finds, body imprints and remains or soil discolorations of wooden containers within the graves seem to have been recorded as written information alone. The locations of the pottery vessels in the graves are indicated on the published cemetery plan, but these are merely approximate indications compared to the actual locations given in the descriptive catalogue.

**Human and animal remains**

Human remains were poorly preserved in the cemetery of Obbicht. Beckers and Beckers published an extensive report of Professor Schoof and Dr Kurris on the soil conditions which caused this poor preservation. “It was concluded that the gravel and loose soil is poor in lime content and high in carbohydrate content, which, in combination with water, causes a reaction that dissolves skeletal remains relatively fast. They concluded that the few skeletal remains observed in the cemetery would have dissolved in the next 50 to 100 years had the cemetery not been excavated. The general concluding part of the publication mentioned that the discovered skeletal remains were very thin and fragile, the few remains present were analysed and are discussed in chapter 4. From one other grave, other animal remains were not identified.

The history and current status of the finds

11 It was concluded that the gravel and loess soil is poor in lime content and high in carbohydrate content, which, in combination with water, causes a reaction that dissolves skeletal remains relatively fast. They concluded that the few skeletal remains observed in the cemetery would have dissolved in the next 50 to 100 years had the cemetery not been excavated. The general concluding part of the publication mentioned that the discovered skeletal remains were very thin and fragile, the few remains present were analysed and are discussed in chapter 4. Next to the actual remains, soil discolorations indicating the former presence of bodies were observed in a number of graves; these are indicated on the new cemetery plan and discussed in the catalogue on graves and finds.

The age at death, the biological sex, and other features such as pathology could thus not be established for the majority of the individuals buried in the Obbicht graves. Only the artefactual constructed gender could be established on the basis of gender specific finds, and the graves of children were identified on the basis of the recorded length of the coffins or burial pits (see also chapter 3, 6, 7 and 8, the catalogue of graves and grave finds).

One horse burial was identified in the cemetery. Although it was recorded that a considerable part of the skeleton was preserved and excavated, only some molars are currently present in the collection. From one other grave, the teeth of a horse were identified as finds. Other animal remains were not identified.

It was concluded that the majority of the finds were, however, cleaned and/or restored at a certain point after the excavation. The photographs of the metal finds in Beckers and Beckers 1940 show considerable corrosion, so they had presumably not yet been treated at the time of publication. The pots known to have been found in fragmented condition are depicted as complete specimens and were thus restored before 1940 (fig. 2.19). A second round of restoration was executed by the restoration laboratory Restaura in Haelen, the Netherlands. Their restoration reports provided some clues about the condition in which the objects were found, especially about the fragmented condition of the pottery vessels, since the results of the first restoration were made undone. The vessels, but also the other objects, were thereafter restored into (nearly) complete specimens again (fig. 2.20). The majority of the finds is now available in restored condition, but corroded and fragmented objects are also present in the restoration company Restaura since finances for their treatment are not yet available. Photographs and X-ray photographs were made of the boxes in which the fragment ed and corroded objects are stored (fig. 2.21). These finds were assigned to specific graves on the basis of their original find numbers and descriptions in the original catalogue and were classified and dated if possible. Individual photographs could be made (by Har Heijmans of Restaura) of some finds stored in the restoration company since they were in a rather good condition.

The collection is nowadays stored or on display in the Museum
‘Stichting Erfgoed Stein’ (before Archeologiemuseum Stein) in the village of Stein in the province of Limburg. It is part of the larger collection of ‘Archeologiestichting Dokter Beckers-Peter Munsters’ (founded in 1929 after the death of Munsters, and now ‘Stichting Erfgoed Stein’). The museum, originally named ‘Archeologisch Reservaat’, was founded in 1969 by the pre-existing Archaeological Foundation Stein (Archeologische Stichting Stein). The museum was installed in cooperation with the prehistorical department of the University of Leiden. It can be assumed that the finds from the Merovingian cemetery of Obbicht (and the Merovingian cemetery of Stein, see below) were stored before 1969 either by Beckers himself or by the foundation ‘Archeologische Stichting Stein’ and would have been transferred to the museum thereafter. The above described ‘history’ also applies to the finds from the cemetery of Stein (see below).

A number of old finds drawings are available (fig. 2.18). The finds are now all drawn and photographed for the current publication according to prevalent conventions. Half of the collection was drawn by Bob Donker of the University of Amsterdam and photographed by Anneke Dekker, also of the University of Amsterdam. The other half was drawn by Alicia Zwart and photographed by Archeoactif (photographer Paulien Gemmeke). The drawings and photographs are published in detail in chapter 4 and in the catalogue of graves and finds.

Some finds referring to location Obbicht are on display in the Museum Het Domein (De Domeinen) in Sittard, and some are stored there as well. The majority of these finds corresponded with the catalogue of graves and finds in the original catalogue of graves and finds. This specific information is recorded in chapter 4 and in the catalogue of graves and finds.

The original find numbers written on the objects consist of an identification of the excavation terrain, which is V 11 for Obbicht, followed by an uninterrupted range of ascending numbers from graves 1 to 65. The numbers recorded on the finds are used to assign them to the graves in which they were found. A number of finds could not be assigned to a grave on the basis of find numbers; they were matched with graves on the basis of the find descriptions in the original catalogue. The newly assigned find numbers as included in the catalogue of finds and graves in this publication consist of the associated grave number, followed by the main find number and sub number (for example, the first find from grave 1 is v.1.1.1). These numbers are also indicated on the drawings of the individual graves, but only if the find locations of the associated finds could be identified.

A recent search on the field with a metal detector resulted in a number of metal Merovingian finds, which in all probability belonged to the excavated cemetery. The finds are a gold ring with filigree and stones, a bird brooch and a key.

The publication record

The cemetery of Obbicht is part of the Beakers and Beckers publication from 1940, not long after it was excavated in 1938. The publication consists of a cemetery plan (fig. 2.13), although not a precise one according to the available information recorded in the descriptive catalogue of graves (see below). After a short introduction, which enlightens the discovery of the cemetery, a description of each grave is given. This description consists of the exact dimensions of the observed outline of the burial pit, the finds and their specifics (appearance and dimensions), the locations of the finds in the graves (measured in centimetres from the grave walls or given in more descriptive terms), the presence of skeletal remains or body imprints and other specifics such as presumed ancient disturbances and the possibility of some graves being double graves. All these descriptions form the basis for the current analysis of the cemeteries. The dimensions of these measurements were not always obvious. For the majority of the finds, the locations were given as at a certain distance in centimetres from the grave pit walls; it was, however, not clear whether this location was measured from the middle of, for example, a pot or from one of its sides. Nonetheless, the represented locations give a fairly accurate image of the distribution of the finds in the graves.

For detailed information on the background of the museum and the collections, see below.

The finds from the Merovingian cemetery of Obbicht (and the Merovingian cemetery of Stein, see below) were stored before 1969 by Beckers himself or by the foundation ‘Archeologiemuseum Stein’ (before Archeologiemuseum Stein) in the village of Stein in the province of Limburg. It is part of the ‘Stichting Erfgoed Stein’ (founded in 1993, after the death of Munsters, and now ‘Stichting Erfgoed Stein’). The cemetery of Obbicht provides enough information for a new analysis, despite the inexactness of some recorded features (such as the forms, locations and orientations of the graves). The analysis of the available information resulted in a reconstructed site plan which offers a fair basis for a detailed analysis of numerous aspects of the cemetery.

One additional publication can be mentioned: the publication of Ypey on the glass claw beaker from grave 20. The claw beaker is described in detail, and some drawings and photographs were also made of this rather rare specimen (fig. 2.23).

Reconstructing the site plan

Since field drawings were not present, the cemetery plan published in the publication of Beckers and Beckers from 1940 (fig. 2.13) was used as basis for the reconstruction of the site plan (fig. 2.33). The published cemetery plan was digitized with Adobe Illustrator. The scale was established on the basis of the ruder depiction on the sides of the plan. Unfortunately, the number of other finds were more or less exactly described in the publication were also reproduced on the reconstructed cemetery plan; these locations are fairly accurate but not exact since the descriptions were not always obvious. For the majority of the finds, the locations were given as at a certain distance in centimetres from the grave pit walls; it was, however, not clear whether this location was measured from the middle of, for example, a pot or from one of its sides. Nonetheless, the represented locations give a fairly accurate image of the distribution of the finds in the graves.

(16) See the website http://www.stichtinggoudmuseum.nl for detailed information on the background of the museum and the collections. (17) Apart from a red-spotted pot from Obbicht grave 25, of which the available old drawing matches with the pot stored in the museum Hot Domine. The finds are nonetheless depicted in the current catalogue of graves and finds. (17) They were found by Mr. Moonen, who reported them to Drs. Wim Dijkman (curator of Centre Céramique Maastricht). (18) Photographs could unfortunately not be obtained. (19) Ypey 1957–1958.
The excavation and post-excavation activities

The vessels (ceramic, glass and copper alloy) are indicated as dark filled circles. The lance heads, seaxes, swords and arrow heads are schematically depicted when their orientation was given. If this was not the case, they are indicated with a dot, as are all the other finds.

In some graves skeletal remains (skulls) or shadows of human remains were discovered. The dimensions of the discolorations or the locations of the skeletal remains were recorded in the descriptive catalogue of the graves. The recorded observations are depicted as shadows or outlines in the graves concerned on the new cemetery plan.

Shadows or wood remains of wooden containers were also observed during the excavation. The exact dimensions of the observed structures were only sporadically given: the majority of the wooden constructions are therefore represented as interrupted lines.

The new reconstructed cemetery plan and individual graves form the basis for the further analysis of the cemetery. It must be kept in mind that the given locations of the graves in the cemetery and the finds in the graves are not exact but merely a fairly accurate representation of the cemetery as it originally was.

The cemetery of Stein-Grote Bongerd

The discovery and excavation of the cemetery

The publication of the excavators Beckers and Beckers, which appeared in 1940, is the single source of written information about the excavation of the cemetery Stein-Grote Bongerd (fig. 2.24). The single clue given in this publication as to why the terrain was eventually excavated is the discovery of a prehistoric pot. It was found, already some years before the actual excavation, in terrain section D nr. 2732, named ‘Grote Bongerd’, located opposite to the castle ruin Stein (fig. 2.25). The plot is known to have been covered with centuries-old oaks by then, from which some were removed and replaced by new trees. The pot was found during these replanting activities and instigated a preliminary archaeological investigation. The exact year in which the excavation took place is not mentioned, but it would not have been long before 1940.

The investigation started with the digging of a number of small test trenches in the steep slope to the south of the terrain. Large quantities of pottery shards dating to the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age were found, as were some Roman shards, a Roman coin, some flint splinters and a scraper. It is suggested that the terrain was levelled before it was taken into use as a cemetery in the early Middle Ages. This explains the high quantity of shards in the slope and indicates that the terrain had been occupied throughout prehistoric times and thereafter. The small test excavation trenches also revealed that the soil was considerably disturbed by the frequent removal and planting of trees.

The soil disturbance became even more obvious when the terrain came into use as a gravel extraction location. The author(s) supervised the gravel extraction archaeologically; they collected shards and interpreted the section walls of the gravel pit. In one of these sections, close to the road from Keereind to the castle as they refer to, four grey-black discolorations were observed. On closer inspection, they were identified as Merovingian graves. They were at first dated to the fifth century since they contained numerous terra sigillata shards, next to Merovingian shards. Nothing is mentioned about the actual excavation of the cemetery, but it can be expected that it started just after the four graves were discovered.

The location of the cemetery is only indicated as being in the proximity of the village of Stein (the terrain was not built on in the first half of the 20th century), opposite to the castle ruin Stein, lying on the fringe of a terrace with a magnificent view over the river Meuse. The name of the terrain is by then known as ‘Grote Bongerd’ (Large Orchard) and parcel number 2732 section D. Both the terrain name and parcel number cannot be found on old maps, but, on the basis of the mentioned clues, the cemetery can be placed on a terrain, now a built-up area, opposite to the castle ruin (figures 2.26 and 2.27). On the historical maps, the curve of the slope compares well with the curve of the slope on the map of the cemetery by Beckers and Beckers (figures 2.24 and 2.18). Today, the terrain is to the north bordered by a street named Boomgaardstraat (referred to as ‘Bongerd’), which is also a clue for the location of the cemetery on this exact parcel (fig. 2.26).

The four graves were mentioned to have been found in a section close to the road from ‘Keereind’ to the castle. On the old cadastral map the supposed parcel in which the cemetery was found is called ‘Kereind’ (fig. 2.27). On recent maps, a road to the northeast of this parcel is called ‘Keereind’ (fig. 2.26). The road along which the four graves were found can be considered to be the road from the current road Keerend to the castle (now de Ondergenhausweg), which forms the eastern border of the excavated cemetery (fig. 2.26). This reconstruction is in line with the location of graves 1-4 in the north-eastern section of the cemetery, assuming that these are similar to the first four graves discovered. However, graves 1-4 might also be the first graves excavated, close to the four graves discovered in the section but not included in the cemetery plan (fig. 2.24).

Beckers and Beckers already noticed that the cemetery was originally larger than the 72 identified graves. Graves were destroyed by gravel extraction to the north and in the middle of the cemetery, by the construction of a house, also in the middle of the cemetery, by a broadened road to the east and by erosion of the slope south of the cemetery. Beckers and Beckers suggested that
The excavation and post-excavation activities

cemetery probably reached as far as the first houses of Stein to the north and north-east of the cemetery.

Graves originally present in the slope to the south of the cemetery were expected to have disappeared since two finds of biconical pots were known from this location (2 graves?). One grave was destroyed by the construction of a house. These three graves are numbers 73, 74 and 75 and are depicted to the south of the cemetery. Their exact location is not known. For now, it can be concluded that the original boundaries of the cemetery are difficult to establish, but it will have been comparable to the cemeteries of Obbicht and Sittard-Kemperkoul (approximately 100 graves).

The boundaries of the cemetery and its original size and layout are discussed in more detail in chapter 6.

The excavation strategy was not discussed, but the descriptions of the graves reveal some clues. It can be expected that the excavation began with grave 1 and ended with grave 72. The excavation thus started in the north-east and ended in the south-west. The descriptions of the graves reveal that the dimensions of the graves, the location of the finds within the graves, the location of the body imprints and remains and shadows of wooden containers (chambers and coffins) were considered important features for the excavators. It is not clear whether the observed outlines were recorded as they were seen in the field. The graves are depicted as perfect rectangles, which is certainly not how they came across in the field.

The available documentation: field drawings and other excavation documentation

The availability of excavation documentation is similar to that described for the Obbicht cemetery, since for both the cemeteries the publication of Beckers and Beckers from 1940 is the only source of information. It is not known how the structures and finds were recorded during the excavation, but the publications suggest that field drawings and/or drawings of individual graves...
were produced in the field as were written notes. The publication of the cemetery provides a cemetery plan (fig. 2.14) and a rather detailed description of the graves and finds, which forms the basis for the current analysis of the cemetery, together with the actual finds preserved in the Archeologiemuseum Stein (Stichting Erfgoed Stein).

Skeletal remains

As in Obbicht, human remains were poorly preserved in the Stein cemetery. This outcome was caused by the soil conditions (poor in lime and high in carbonate), as explained in a detailed report of Professor Schoorl and Dr Kurris (see also the section on human remains in Obbicht above).22 Skeletal remains were not preserved in Stein; however, in ten graves, dark discolourations and the fleshy consistency of the soil indicated the former presence of bodies. In graves 19 and 21, the actual silhouettes of the bodies could be discerned and their lengths established; grave 19 showed the silhouettes of an adult and a child, and in grave 21 the outlines of two adults were observed (fig. 2.20, and see also the catalogue of graves and finds). In grave 57, the outline of the head could be discerned in the western section of the grave; it was thus clearly a west-east orientated burial. In the other graves (10, 12, 17, 20, 22, 32 and 58) only amorphous bones and the consistency of the soil indicated the former presence of a body. On a whole, human remains could not be saved, only recorded. The age at death, the biological sex and other features such as pathology could not be established for the individuals buried in the Stein graves. Only the artificially constructed gender could be established on the basis of gender-specific finds. The graves of children were identified on the basis of the decayed bodies (see chapter 3 and the catalogue of graves and grave finds).

The history and current status of the finds

The history of the finds after their discovery is similar to that of the Obbicht finds (see the description above for the cemetery of Obbicht). The majority of the finds is now available in cleaned and restored condition, thanks to restoration company Restaura, which executed a second round of restoration and preservation in 1994. The first round probably took place not long after the finds were excavated. This restoration had a negative effect on the pottery vessels in particular, and the damage had to be undone in the second restoration round. This second round of restoration provided information on the original condition in which the objects were found (fig. 2.20).

The original find numbers recorded on the finds consist of an identification of the excavation terrain, which is VI A for Stein. This is followed by one of the numbers of the uninterrupted list of ascending numbers; the higher the grave number, the higher the given original find number. The numbers recorded on the finds are used to assign them to the graves in which they were found. A number of finds could only be matched with a grave on the basis of the find descriptions in the original catalogue. The new find numbers in the current catalogue of graves and finds consist of the grave number followed by the main find number and sub number (full number: find number and sub number from grave 1: 10-1-1). After the finds had been assigned to graves, they were described, classified and dated. The finds missing from the collection were identified on the basis of their description in the original catalogue of graves and finds and when possible classified and dated on the basis of these descriptions.

The finds are now for the majority on display or stored in the Archeologiemuseum Stein (Stichting Erfgoed Stein) or are present in corroborated or fragmented condition in the restoration company Restaura. Financial means for their restoration is not yet available. Photographs and X-ray photographs were taken of the boxes in which the (corroded) fragments are stored (fig. 2.21), and they were assigned to graves and classified and dated if possible. The results can be found in chapter 4 and in the catalogue of graves and finds.

The publication record

The publication history of Stein is similar to that of the cemetery Obbicht: the cemetery was published in Beckers and Beckers 1940, not long after its excavation, which took place somewhere in the 1390s of the twentieth century; the exact year of excavation was not given in the publication and cannot be found elsewhere. This publication and the preserved finds form the basis for the current analysis of the cemetery. The publication provided a cemetery plan, although not an accurate one, and a descriptive catalogue of graves and finds (fig. 2.22). This description consists of the dimensions of the observed outlines of the burial pits, the finds and their specifics (appearance and dimensions), the location of the finds in the graves (measured in centimetres from the grave walls or given in more descriptive terms) and the presence of shadows of the bodies. It also includes other specifics such as presumed ancient disturbances of graves, the possibility of some graves being double graves and the presence of shadows or remains of the wooden coffin walls.

As for the cemetery of Obbicht, additional information was provided in the final part of the publication on the Merovingian period,23 such as some clues about the original dimensions of the cemetery and the possible location of graves.

Beckers and Beckers claim that the chronological development of the cemetery can be established rather precisely since the early phases are preserved in Stein (in contrast to Obbicht). The cemetery started early according to Beckers and Beckers (to be precise in 450 AD), and was in use until the end of the Merovingian period. This date range accorded to the cemetery will be compared to the general chronological development of the cemetery in chapter 6. It was also observed that the graves were unevenly distributed over the cemetery. This aspect is attributed to the presence of family groups, which, according to Beckers and Beckers, also explains the open spaces in the cemetery and the uneven distribution of older and younger pottery vessels over the cemetery. These statements will also be verified in the mentioned chapters.

Altogether, this single available publication of the cemetery of Stein provides enough information for a new analysis even though some of the recorded features, such as the exact and relative locations and the orientations of the graves, appeared to be inaccurate. The available information, however, made a reconstruction of a site plan possible.

As for Obbicht, one additional publication is available for Stein: the publication of the rare belt fittings from grave 12.24 The belt fittings consist of multiple parts: wooden plates inlaid with gold foil and garnets on top of which the copper alloy fittings with cut out spaces were fixed (fig. 2.31). The parts were carefully dissected by Ypey, and each individual element was thoroughly cleaned and restored. All the merged parts of the fittings could be individually analysed, drawn and photographed, and a detailed reconstruction of the fittings and the complete belt were presented in the publication by Ypey. Since it is currently a rather fragile composition of elements fixed on a display board, it was decided to make a new photograph of only the top surface of the fittings and to leave them on the display board as they are. The drawings and photographs of the individual elements in the publication of Ypey offer the information required for a detailed description in the current chapter on the finds from Stein (chapter 4).

Reconstructing the site plan

Since field drawings were not present, the original cemetery plan in Beckers and Beckers 1940 was used as basis for the final reconstruction of the cemetery plan (fig. 2.32). The original plan was digitzed with Adobe Illustrator. The scale was established on the basis of the ruler depicted to the sides of the plan, which is not exact, and the reconstruction was made as was described for the Obbicht cemetery (see above). The new plan includes the actual given dimensions of the graves and wooden constructions and the locations of all the finds, not only the pots. The dimensions of the graves on the first plan were altered with the available information for Stein. A number of graves differ significantly from their depiction on the original plan. Graves 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 22, 52, 56, 57, 66, 67, 68, 38 and 18 are considerably smaller than depicted on the original plan. Graves 5, 7, 69, 16, 57, 51, 52, 46, 44 and 71, on the contrary, are actually much larger than depicted on the original plan.

For a number of graves, the relative distance was given:

• Grave 23 was located next to grave 26 and was exactly in line with grave 16 with a space of 12 cm between them.
• Grave 43 was located next to grave 42 and nearly touching 44.

(22) Beckers/Beckers 1940, 341-342.
(23) Beckers/Beckers 1940, 343-344.
In some graves, shadows of human remains were observed. The dimensions of the discolourations were, if indicative of the former length of the body, recorded in the descriptive catalogue of graves. These observations are portrayed as shadows on the new cemetery plan. Shadows or wood remains of wooden containers were also observed during excavation. The exact dimensions were given for some of the observed structures; these are depicted as solid lines. Those for which the exact dimensions were not observed or given are depicted as interrupted lines.

The original cemetery plan can probably best be identified as both a reconstruction and a portrayal of what was seen during excavation. The new cemetery plan and drawings of individual graves with their particular features are produced for the current analysis of the cemetery. It must be kept in mind that the given locations of the graves in the cemetery and the finds in the graves are not exact but are a fairly accurate representation of the cemetery and the graves as they originally were.

Altogether, the data in this publication is organised in three parts: the presentation of the data of the cemeteries Sittard-Kemperkoul, Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd (chapters 1 to 4), the interpretations based on the data chapters (chapters 5, 6 and 7) and the catalogues of graves and finds from the three cemeteries (chapter 8).
The present chapter examines the grave structures found at the Sittard-Kemperkoul, Oibbich-Oude Molens and Stein-Grooten Borged cemetery. We provide detailed descriptions of all the observed construction types as well as an analysis of the variation in container and burial pit size, depth and orientation.

**Sittard-Kemperkoul**

A total of 88 numbered contexts were excavated at Sittard-Kemperkoul. Two of them (contexts 27 and 29) turned out not to be graves. Inhumation was the only form of burial found at Sittard-Kemperkoul. The cemetery thus differs from most other Merovingian cemeteries where cremation graves are found amongst inhumation graves. It is assumed that each grave contained (at least) one human body. Still, body silhouettes were only observed in 14 of the 86 graves. The remaining 75 graves revealed no sign of an inhumed body. This number is low in comparison with, for example, Posterholt where 41 graves contained human remains and/or body silhouettes and skeletal remains of 35 individuals were analysed. We assume that bones are mainly absent due to unfavourable soil conditions, but human intervention and other post-depositional processes could also have caused the poor preservation of skeletal remains.

**Burial pits**

Information on the construction of the burial pits was retrieved from the original field drawings. Since individual grave plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, it was easy to reconstruct the horizontal shape of the burial pits. The burial pits’ vertical shapes were more difficult to reconstruct since section drawings were only made of graves 13, 20 and 50.

The outlines of most burial pits were rectangular with slightly rounded corners. In four cases (graves 11, 35, 45 and possibly 60), the burial pits had one tapered end, giving the burial pit a slightly trapezoid shape. In three cases (graves 10, 12 and 18), the burial pit’s shape was not documented. The drawing of grave 10 shows only a possible container outline, of which minor wood traces were preserved in the northeast corner. Of graves 12 and 18 only two beams were recorded; the slight colour difference in between may represent the container’s fill (figs. 3.1 and 3.2). Grave 39 is the only grave with a deviant-shaped burial pit. It is square instead of rectangular, but still has rounded corners.

The section drawing of graves 13, 20 and 50 show slight differences in the vertical shape of the burial pit (fig. 3.3). While grave 20 has almost straight vertical walls, grave 13 has slightly sloping walls making the burial pit narrower towards the bottom. Grave 39, on the other hand, has one vertical wall and one that slopes slightly inwards. We assume that these three examples are representative of most other burial pits, and therefore we assume that most burial pits had vertical or slightly sloping walls and levelled bottoms.

**Containers**

A detailed analysis of Merovingian grave constructions in the Meuse valley is provided by Smal. Her elaborate typology of different grave constructions found at early medieval burial sites will be used to define the grave structures found at Sittard-Kemperkoul. However, before we continue with the description of Sittard-Kemperkoul’s grave constructions, it is important to comment on the distinction between wooden coffins and wooden chambers.

Following Smal’s typology, a wooden coffin is constructed outside the burial pit and the body is placed inside this container before deposition. Wooden chambers, on the other hand, are constructed inside the grave after which the body, sometimes inside a second wooden coffin, is deposited. Though the distinction between wooden coffins and chambers appears clear cut, it becomes more ambiguous when dealing with archaeological traces. The distinction between coffins and chambers is often based on size. But since size alone is not a reliable gauge, we follow Smal’s suggestion and choose to refer to both wooden coffins and wooden chambers as wooden containers in this publication, except in cases where two container outlines are visible in a single grave. In those cases, the outer is called a wooden chamber, and the inner a wooden coffin.

Five types of grave structures were found at Sittard-Kemperkoul: trench graves (graves without containers), wooden container graves (graves with a single wooden container), wooden chamber graves with a wooden container (graves with two wooden containers), tree trunk graves (graves with a tree trunk container) and possible wooden container graves (graves with only beams).

**Trench graves**

In seven cases, no signs of grave structures were found during excavation. These graves may have been trench graves, but it is also possible that traces of the wooden container were not preserved or dug away. One of the main arguments supporting this assumption is that most of these graves were either recently disturbed or possibly reopened.

The remaining depth of grave 2 was only 2 cm and that of grave 7 only 6 cm. It could thus be possible that most of the grave structures were capped off by levelling, leaving only the bottom of the burial pit behind for excavation. Still, if this was the case we would expect the remains of beams to be present, since in most cases beams were placed on the bottom of the graves to support the wooden constructions (see section on beams below).

Graves 21, 28 and 54 were recently disturbed. In the case of grave 21 only the western edge was preserved, and in the case of grave 54 only the northern edge survived. The remaining parts of both graves were dug away during construction work but could have contained grave structures. Grave 28 was only partly disturbed, but this disturbance may have affected the conservation of the organic remains, since an increase of oxygen may have caused the organic remains to decay more rapidly.

Grave 87 was only slightly disturbed by a recent pit, but the grave’s content with its shattered finds suggest that it was possibly reopened in the early medieval period. Here too, we assume the disturbance probably interfered with the conservation of the organic remains. The only trench grave that seemed undisturbed is grave 78. In this case, there is no reason to assume that it originally contained a wooden container.
Wooden container graves

In 44 cases, outlines of a single wooden container were visible. In most of these cases, these outlines and traces probably represented wooden coffins. However, some of the larger specimens could have been wooden chambers as well. Since the difference between wooden coffins and wooden chambers is impossible to determine in these circumstances, no distinction was made for the present analysis.

In 36 cases, the containers were placed on wooden beams. This leaves eight wooden container graves without beams. Three of them (graves 12, 55 and 56) were only partly excavated and wooden beams could have been present in the part that was already dug away during construction work. In the case of grave 10, a remaining depth of less than 1 cm was recorded and only a very vague trace of a grave with a wooden container was observed. Grave 39 had a deviant shape, making the use of beams perhaps unnecessary (though of course we cannot be certain of this). The remaining three (graves 75, 76 and 77) were probably placed directly on the floor of the burial pit.

Wooden chamber graves with a wooden container

A total of 21 ‘graves’ contained traces of two wooden containers (fig. 7.1). We assume that in all of these cases the outer container is a wooden chamber and the inner container is a wooden coffin. These are the graves of the so-called Morken type.

In a few cases a definite identification as a grave of the Morken type is not certain. In the case of grave 84, the presence of the second type is not certain. In the case of grave 84, the presence of the second container is uncertain. The drawing shows a vague line of a possible coffin wall. But since the eastern half of the grave was dug away, it is unclear whether the grave held a wooden chamber with a wooden coffin or whether a partition wall divided the wooden chamber in two halves. The drawings of all four display a line from the foot end to the head end of the wooden chamber, but it is unclear whether this line was an integrated part of the wooden chamber-construction or whether it was part of a separate coffin that was placed in the wooden chamber. If these are not the remains of a coffin, these four graves do not belong to the Morken type but to a type with a partition wall in the chamber.

In all 21 cases, the wooden chambers were placed on wooden beams. This indicates that at the cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul, beams were used to support wooden coffins as well as wooden chambers.

Tree trunk graves

In two cases (graves 13 and 11), tree trunk containers were found. The tree trunk coffins were recognised because section drawings were made (see fig. 3.1, presented earlier, and fig. 3.4). These drawings show that the bottoms of the containers were concave. The two tree trunk containers were not placed on beams.

Possible wooden container graves

In 12 cases, only traces of beams were found. It is unclear what kind of grave construction these beams supported, but it seems unlikely that the deceased was deposited on beams only. We assume that a wooden container (coffin or chamber) was originally present of which the traces were not preserved, but it is possible that the body was placed on a wooden board or bier.

Container presence

Even though organic remains were poorly preserved at Sittard-Kemperkoul, the former presence of containers could often be recognised by colour differences in the soil. It should be noted, however, that non-wooden grave furnishings, such as shrouds and pillows, flowers, straw and hay, may have been present as well. Botanical investigation of soil samples could provide information about these furnishings. However, they were not taken during the excavations at Sittard-Kemperkoul. The only information available to us is thus decayed wood remains that were documented on field drawings.

Wooden grave structures were identified in almost all graves at Sittard-Kemperkoul. Especially the number of chamber graves seems striking. In comparison with for example Posterholt, where only four wooden chamber graves were found, and Bergeijk, where only one wooden chamber grave was found, 21 is very high. Still, cemeteries with similarly high numbers of chamber graves
are known as well. The cemetery of Meerveldhoven also provides a good parallel; among the 54 inhumation graves discovered, 42 contained a wooden chamber.2

Figure 3.5 shows that the various grave structures were distributed equally over the cemetery, though the central area of the cemetery contained slightly more chamber graves than the more peripheral areas.

Container shape and construction

The presence of wooden containers is widespread among early medieval cemeteries in northern Gaul. Still, not much is known about the actual construction of early medieval grave containers.

At Sittard-Kemperkoul – and many other Merovingian cemeteries – information on container shape could only be obtained from field drawings. Most information on different construction techniques derives from rare examples of early medieval cemeteries where wood remains were preserved.3 They tell us that wooden coffins were constructed with nails, fittings, or wood joints. Wooden chambers were constructed with similar means, but it is also possible that they placed loose planks in the burial pit while using earth, stones or wooden beams to support and fix them.

The excavation drawings of Sittard-Kemperkoul show us that most containers were rectangular. Only four graves (graves 35, 45, 48, and 60) differ in that they have one tapered end, giving the container a slightly trapezoid shape. Another exception is grave 39 which is square. The size of its wooden container is too small to have contained an adult body in a stretched out position. It is therefore assumed that this grave was of a child or used for reburial of non-articulated skeletal remains. It remains unknown which scenario fits; the only find retrieved from the grave was a small sex and pottery vessel. The sex is an obvious masculine object, but both finds could have been deposited with an adult as well as a child.

The use of different construction techniques is difficult to establish when wood remains are not sufficiently preserved. Still, some indicators can be obtained by looking at field drawings. The drawing of grave 57, for instance, shows that the long walls of the wooden chamber extended beyond the short wall on the south end of the grave (fig. 3.6). This could indicate that the grave had cross-fixed container walls. Most other graves however had more or less straight corners without protruding planks. Both examples demanded different construction techniques: wooden containers with straight corners are expected to contain nails holding the boards together. Containers with cross-fixed container walls, on the other hand, did not demand the use of nails or wood joints because the boards fix themselves. An example of such a construction is the reconstructed wooden chamber from Oberflacht grave 182.4, which is discussed in the publication of the Posterholt cemetery.

A different technique was also used for the tree trunk container found in Sittard-Kemperkoul. The tree trunk coffins were constructed by either hollowing out the tree trunk by hand, or burning away part of the trunk. The tree trunk coffins found at Sittard-Kemperkoul showed no traces of charcoal, which indicates that they were probably hollowed out by hand.

Nails

As pointed out earlier, most containers at Sittard-Kemperkoul had straight corners. It is thus expected that nails were used to hold the boards together, although the Oberflacht cemetery demonstrates that wooden joints could have been used as well. The presence and position of nails in the graves could inform us on the structure of the container. However, hardly any nails were found at Sittard-Kemperkoul. Only four graves yielded large iron nails or iron fragments that could be associated with wooden constructions.

A large iron nail was found in grave 20 and another in grave 45. Furthermore, grave 48 revealed two iron fragments that could have been the pins of iron nails. The fact that all of these graves contained only one or two specimens makes a construction with nails unlikely. Still, the question remains as to what other use these large nails could have had. In Roman times the deposition of single nails in cremation graves was one of the many symbolically laden practices during the burial rite.5 In the case of grave 20, the large iron nail was found in association with a sex and belt fitting. A similar situation was the case with grave 45 where the iron nail was also found in association with a belt fitting. Only in grave 48 were the possible nail fragments found in association with the skeleton of a wooden coffin. The location of the nail seems unusual because one would expect nails to be used mostly along the edges or corners of the wooden containers while figure 3.7 shows that this specimen was found inside the wooden chamber slightly towards its eastern wall (the location of the nail is indicated with a red circle). However, it was found at a relatively high level and the curved line on the drawing suggests that it was attached to a plank that could have been part of the collapsed lid. Nevertheless, we should keep in mind that the presence and consequently the depression of single large nails in graves was part of the ritual reper- toire of a funeral.

Beams

At Sittard-Kemperkoul, almost all grave structures contained wooden beams. The function of these beams remains unclear. As pointed out in the publication of the Posterholt cemetery, one explanation is that they were used when a coffin was lowered into a burial pit by using ropes.6 In this way, the ropes could be more easily extracted from the grave once the container was placed on the beams. However, this explanation only applies when beams were found in combination with a wooden coffin. Wooden chambers were built inside the grave and therefore did not need to be lowered into the burial pit. At Sittard-Kemperkoul, all graves with wooden chambers contained wooden beams. It seems more likely that in these cases the beams were used primarily for support. This is also the case at Meerveldhoven. Here too, almost all wooden coffins have been used on wooden beams. According to De Verwers, excavation of the wood remains revealed that long walls were sometimes inserted a few centimetres into the beams.7 This is also the case with the reconstructed container of grave 162 of the Oberflacht cemetery.8 This specific example is discussed more elaborately in the publication of the Posterholt cemetery.9 At Sittard-Kemperkoul, a similar construction with integrated beams seems likely, though it is difficult to prove. The excavation plans only show the view from above and none of the section drawings that are available contain wooden beams.

Grave size and depth

The indication of the size of a burial pit should ideally be based on the length and width of the grave. However, hardly any nails were found at Sittard-Kemperkoul. Only four graves yielded large iron nails or iron fragments that could have been used to hold wooden coffins together. The excavation plans only show the view from above and none of the section drawings that are available contain wooden beams.

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The calculated surface areas of the burial pits show the range of lengths and widths of burial pits and wooden containers found at Sittard-Kemperkoul. Most of the burial pits have lengths between 2 m and 3 m and widths between 1 m and 2 m. The containers mostly have lengths between 1.5 m and 2.5 m and widths between 0.5 m and 1.5 m. Table 3.2 presents the calculated surface areas of the burials at Sittard-Kemperkoul. Most of the burial pits have lengths between 2 m and 3 m and widths between 1 m and 2 m. The containers mostly have lengths between 1.5 m and 2.5 m and widths between 0.5 m and 1.5 m. Table 3.2 presents the calculated surface areas of the burials at Sittard-Kemperkoul. Most of the burial pits have lengths between 2 m and 3 m and widths between 1 m and 2 m. The containers mostly have lengths between 1.5 m and 2.5 m and widths between 0.5 m and 1.5 m. Table 3.2 presents the calculated surface areas of the burials at Sittard-Kemperkoul. Most of the burial pits have lengths between 2 m and 3 m and widths between 1 m and 2 m. The containers mostly have lengths between 1.5 m and 2.5 m and widths between 0.5 m and 1.5 m. Table 3.2 presents the calculated surface areas of the burials at Sittard-Kemperkoul.

The calculated surface areas of the burial pits at Sittard-Kemperkoul range between 1.16 m² and 5.42 m². In comparison to Posterholt and Bedriegau, this is quite small. At Posterholt and Bedriegau, the calculated surface areas range between 2.18 m² and 6.38 m².10 And at Bedriegau the difference is even larger. A table with calculated surface areas is not provided, but figure 3.5 in chapter 3 of the Bedriegau publication shows that the range roughly between 1.16 m² and 2.5 m². Even though the grave of 11 m² may be an exception, there are still quite a few graves with surface areas between 6 m² and 8 m². Because the grave structures resemble those found at Sittard-Kemperkoul, the Meerveldhoven cemetery may be a better case for comparison. However, here too, the burial pits seem to be much larger, ranging between 2.5 m² and even 3.1 m². So, the burial pits

141 Yvers 1978, 222. (15) Chamber of Morken type: 17 certain, 1 uncertain, chamber with partition wall: 8 certain, 1 uncertain, large open chamber (dressed often in northern part): 3 certain, 1 uncertain. Sixteen were only graves with coffin (some of them still very new) and in 8 graves the exact nature of the grave constructions could not be determined anymore. (16) Such as the Oberflacht cemetery (Paulsen 1992, Schich 1993). (17) Paulsen 1992, 16-19, Abb. 3-7. (18) De Haas/Theuws 2013, 60-61. (19) This is clearly visible in the remains of the wooden bedlam from grave 182. For details of the remains, see Schich 1993, Tab. 81; and Paulsen 1992, 43. (20) De Haas/Theuws 2013, 60-61. (21) Alfayé Villa 2010. (22) De Haas/Theuws 2013, 60. (23) Yvers 1978, 214. (24) Paulsen 1992, 16-19, Abb. 3-7. (25) De Haas/Theuws 2013, 60-61. (26) A careful examination of the lowest levels of burial pits shows that planks of the walls were visible at the same level in the boxes or even somewhat lower at the top of the boxes. This is an indication that the planks were lowered in the boxes. These data were however not recorded in Sittard. (27) Graves 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 24, 29, 41, 42, 69 and 70. (28) De Haas/Theuws 2013, 60. (29) Thevenot van Herpen 2013, 61, fig. 3.5.
at Sittard-Kemperkoul can be considered small. Still, cemeteries with burial pits of lesser size are also known. The Alphen cemetery, for instance, contained burial pits with lengths up until 1.95 m and widths between 0.75 m and 1 m.

The remaining depths of the graves range between 1 cm and 74 cm. In comparison with other cemeteries, these remaining depths are very low. We therefore assume that large parts of the graves were capped off by surface levelling and other types of construction work. Parts of grave constructions must have been destroyed by these activities, especially in the 15 cases where the remaining depths were less than 10 cm. There does not seem to be a clear relation between the remaining depth and size of the graves. The graves with the largest surface areas (graves 26, 40, 11 and 18) have remaining depths between 25 cm and 48 cm, while the smallest graves (graves 59, 18, 73 and 53) have slightly smaller remaining depths between 15 cm and 23 cm. However, given the fact that we only have the remaining depths, we cannot make clear assumptions.

Table 3.1 Sittard-Kemperkoul: burial pit and container dimensions.  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grave number</th>
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Table 3.2 Sittard-Kemperkoul: calculated surface areas of the burial pits and containers.  

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Grave size and Sittard-Kemperkoul phasing  

Table 3.3 displays information on the size of the graves in relation to the Sittard-Kemperkoul phases. At first sight, there does not seem to be a correlation between the burial pit’s size and chronology. The majority of the larger burial pits belong to SK phase II (565-640/50), but some of the smallest specimens have a similar phase. Furthermore, the size of SK phase III burial pits differs too. However, when we take a closer look at the graves that belong to phase III, some remarks can be made. Figure 6.2 displays the distribution of graves belonging to the various chronological phases. Four graves with an SK phase III date are located in the north-western part of the cemetery. They seem to belong to the group of graves with slightly smaller burial pits and a southwest-northeast orientation. Most of these smaller pits cannot be dated because they did not contain any finds. However, they seem to follow a trend that is also noticeable at the cemeteries of Posterholt and Bergeijk. In both cases, we find zones of graves in the peripheral areas of the cemeteries with smaller graves that were not disturbed or reopened but did not contain finds. - It is not unthinkable that at Sittard-Kemperkoul, the group of graves at the north-western part of the cemetery, had a similar late date. Unfortunately, certainty cannot be provided for this cemetery.

(27) Verwers 1977, 169. (28) At Posterholt, sceattas were found in graves 24, 44 and 47 (De Haan/Theeuws 2013, 85), in Bergeijk a sceatta was found in grave 124 (Theuws/Van Haperen 2012, 58).
Grave orientation

The predominant grave orientation at Sittard-Kemperkoul seems to have been south-north. Since human remains were observed in 14 graves only, certainty about grave orientation can only be provided for a few graves. In four cases (graves 11, 80 and 24), complete or semi-complete body silhouettes clearly establish a south-north orientation. In three more cases (graves 14, 20 and 43), a south-north orientation is indicated by the presence of a skull imprint in the southern end of the grave. This is also true for two other graves (graves 11 and 80) where the southern end contained teeth in the southern end of the grave. This is also true for two other similar orientation is indicated by the presence of a skull imprint north orientation. In three more cases (graves 14, 20 and 43), a complete or semi-complete body silhouettes clearly establish a south-north orientation. In four cases (graves 5, 71, 85 and 86), complete or semi-complete body silhouettes clearly establish a south-north orientation. This task presents difficulties. Some burial pits were irregularly shaped while others were only partially excavated. In order to take the required measurements, the orientation angle was measured from the centre of the widths of both the burial pits and containers.

Grave orientation data

When taking a closer look at the variability in orientations at Sittard-Kemperkoul, it becomes clear that most graves did not have an established south-north orientation. Less certain indicators are the presence of teeth in the southern end of graves (found in graves 2, 25, 32, 44, 59 and 60), and possibly the position of pottery vessels at the foot end of the grave. Only one grave seems to provide a clear indicator for an opposite orientation: in grave 3 the skull imprint is found at the northern end of the grave. The grave seems undisturbed and the skull was found in situ. However, we cannot be certain that the skull was still attached to the body when buried. It is known from the Vrijthof cemetery in Maastricht that at times skulls were deposited in graves in other locations than the normal anatomical position. Besides that, several Anglo-Saxon graves are known with skulls buried between the legs or at the feet. This could have been the case with grave 3 at Sittard-Kemperkoul as well.

A south-north orientation of graves is rare among Merovingian cemeteries in the Netherlands. Bergeijk, Posterholt and Meerhulvelden had graves with west-east orientations, which seem to be the common orientation of graves in Merovingian cemeteries in the southern Netherlands. Still, other orientations exist as well, though often in combination with west-east orientated burials. Examples are found in the Hoogeloop-Broekeneind (east-west and south-north)\(^{(3)}\), Stein (west-east and north-south)\(^{(30)}\) and Broechem (west-east and north-south) cemeteries.\(^{(31)}\) A cemetery with even more diverse orientations is the Borbeck cemetery. Four different orientations were found there: north-south, south-north, west-east and east-west.\(^{(32)}\)

The fact that Sittard-Kemperkoul is the only example of a cemetery in which almost all the buried had their heads placed in the south thus remains remarkable.

Orientation distribution

When taking a closer look at the variability in orientations at Sittard-Kemperkoul, it becomes clear that most graves did not have an exact south-north orientation. In order to analyse the variation in orientation, the orientation angle is measured for each grave separately. This task presents difficulties. Some burial pits are irregularly shaped while others were only partially excavated. In order to take the required measurements, the orientation angle was measured from the centre of the widths of both the burial pits and containers.\(^{(33)}\) The single range of burial pit orientations was between 337\(°\) and 124\(°\). Since this range is considerably large a division is made between three different orientations: south-east-northwest (\(\leq 30°\)), south-north (31\(°\)-90\(°\)) and southwest-northeast (\(\geq 100°\)). The distribution of these different groups is displayed in figure 3.16. It shows that each group is related to a specific...
Grave disturbances

The number of grave disturbances found at Sittard-Kemperkoul is low. Most grave disturbances are caused by construction work, the digging of sewer and gas pipes and recent pits. However, some disturbances can be dated to the early medieval period: there are overlapping graves that disturb older graves, and there are clear indications of graves that were reopened for other reasons.

Recent disturbances

As mentioned earlier, most disturbances were caused by construction work. Graves 52, 44, 55, 56, and 63 were disturbed by the digging of a sewer pipe, graves 17, 13, 34, 67, 69, 74, 75, 82 and 83 were disturbed by the digging of a gas pipe and graves 23, 38, 34, 35, 80, 81 and 87 were disturbed by recent ditches. These ditches have a width between 35 and 45 cm and have a north-south orientation. They mainly disturb the graves found in the eastern part of trench 6 and those in the northeast part of trench one. Their purpose is unknown.

Early medieval interventions

At Sittard-Kemperkoul the number of reopened graves is low. Only five graves (8, 19, 24, 31 and 62) were evidently reopened and one (grave 87) was possibly reopened.

Still, some interesting remarks can be made. First of all, the intervention seems to have been aimed at a specific area of the cemetery, because the orientation of five of the graves (24, 24, 31, and 62) were located very close to each other. The other two were located a little farther apart, but still in the southern half of the cemetery. The northern part seems to have remained undisturbed. Second, the reopening of the pits had been executed with precision. The five graves that evidently have been reopened all contain reopening pits that are aimed directly at the content of the grave. The reopening pit of grave 87 covers the northern part of the wooden coffin and the centre of the wooden chamber, and that of grave 19 covers most of the inside of the wooden chamber. The reopening of the pits of graves 24, 25 and 26 is also dug with precision – that of grave 24 in the middle, grave 25 in the northern half and grave 26 inside the wood.

Trench graves

The majority of the recorded burial pits are without other structures and should thus formally be identified as trench graves. The considerable size of some of these ‘trench’ graves in relation to the method of excavation, the level of knowledge at the time of excavation, and the soil conditions hampering observations, suggests that a number of these graves originally held wooden containers. Another argument for this suggestion is that the nearby cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul a considerable number of chamber graves were identified. The size of the cemetery and the character of the grave finds from this cemetery are comparable to the Obbicht cemetery.

A number of trench graves (1, 6 and 37) were only partly excavated. The missing parts are indicated with interrupted lines on the new cemetery plan and in the catalogue of graves and finds. Some graves were identified on the basis of finds only. Their outlines were never observed nor recorded in the catalogue of graves from 1940. Nonetheless, they were depicted on the original cemetery plan in this same publication. These are graves 35, 37, 67, 68, 74, 75, 82 and 83 (grave 67 was identified at some distance from the exact location, orientation and shape were not recorded). It has to be concluded that the indicated locations and orientations of these graves on the cemetery plan from 1940 are doubtful and they are indicated with interrupted lines on the new cemetery plan.

Grave 20 is the largest grave of the cemetery. It contained wood remains of what seems to be one wooden container, which is identified as a chamber by Beckers and Beckers. Graves without wood remains but of comparable dimensions (and which might therefore also have held wooden containers) are graves 26 (with out finds), 38 (with a shield boss), 38 (with indifferent finds), 46 (with various weapons), 51 (a double grave with various weapons), 53 (with a shield boss), 55 (without finds), 56 (with various weapons), and 62 (with indifferent finds). The range of weapons, which are often associated with chamber graves, and the sizes of the burial pits allow the identification of these trench graves as possible chamber graves (fig. 3.11), but this will be discussed further in chapter 7 (fig. 7.3).

Wooden container graves: coffins and chamber graves

In a number of burial pits, wood remains or shadows of wooden container walls were observed (figs. 3.11 and 7.2). A complete outline of the soil composition (see also chapter 2). The number of graves with traces of human remains is low compared to cemeteries located in landscapes with different soil conditions. Some small pits in Thiene/Sarco, in press.
A black-grey discoloration of the soil with a width of 0.85 m and a length of 1.80 m indicated the presence of a wooden contain-er in grave 43 (burial pit: 2.00 x 1.60 m). It was located close to the eastern wall of the burial pit. The description of the discoloration in the original catalogue is not clear: it might have been the imprint of a decayed wooden wall or the bottom of the container. Only the outlines of the wooden container are depicted on the re-constructed grave drawing. In view of the dimensions it appears to be a chamber rather than a coffin, although, as mentioned before, this is not conclusive.

Grave 45 (burial pit: 2.30 x 1.50 m) showed a black band at a depth of 1.20 cm, indicating the former presence of a wooden con-tainer. This band enclosed a space with a width of 85 cm and it is assumed that this band, since it is referred to as ‘width’ in the original catalogue, formed one of the short walls of a wooden contain-er. The length of the coffin could not be identified. This contain-er might have been, in view of the given width, a chamber and not a coffin. The reconstructed wooden container is now placed in the middle of the burial pit, but this location is not certain and in-dicated with an interrupted outline.

In grave 19, the walls of the wooden container were seen as a grey black band, alongside the burial pit’s walls (burial pit: 2.00 x 1.50 m). Dimensions of the wooden container were not given; it was decided to draw the outlines close to the outline of the burial pit. Considering the dimensions of the burial pit this grave can be identified as a burial pit with a wooden chamber, presumably also with a wooden coffin. It was the grave of a woman, identified on the basis of beads.

Grave 20 (burial pit: 3.00 x 3.00 m) is the largest grave of the cemetery. It was (probably) the grave of a man with a shield, axe, sword, lance head, copper alloy boss, two bi-conical pots and a glass vessel. It was not mentioned whether the finds were found inside or outside the observed wooden container, but the catalogue men-tioned that the black bands, forming a rectangle and indicating the former presence of the wooden container walls, were found throughout the entire grave; they might have been the imprints of former chamber walls. The reconstructed grave is drawn with the wooden container walls alongside the walls of the burial pit, and thus with all the finds inside it. Since it is of considerable dimen-sions it can be assumed that the wooden container originally held a second container, the wooden coffin. The imprint of the body (probably having been inside a coffin) was observed in the middle of the grave, close to the short western wall.

Context 25 (burial pit: 2.10 x 1.70 m) is the burial of a horse. The excavators observed that the horse was buried in a wooden con-tainer, indicated by a yellow-brown 3-cm wide band-shaped un-disturbed discoloration formed by the decayed wooden walls of the container, which enclosed the horse skeleton entirely. Finds were not observed in this grave.

Grave 29 (burial pit: 2.80 x 1.90 m) was (probably) the grave of a man in which a lance head, shield boss and horse bridle were all found along the long southern wall of the grave, and fragments of what seemed to be a seat, and belt fittings were found scattered throughout the grave. A vague band-shaped soil discoloration, in-dicating the former wooden walls of a container, was observed close to the walls of the burial pit. In view of the burial pit dimen-sions, the discoloration might point towards the former presence of a wooden chamber.

Grave 36 (burial pit: 2.20 x 1.80 m) is a richly furnished grave of a woman. A band-shaped soil discoloration, indicating the former presence of a wooden container, was mentioned to be present at a depth of 180 cm. Its dimensions and location were not given and it is thus not known whether it was almost as large as the burial pit, indicating the former presence of a wooden chamber, or if it was smaller, indicating the former presence of a wooden coffin. It is for now depicted as an outline alongside the outline of the burial pit, in line with the majority of the observations in the Obbicht graves with remains of wooden containers.

For grave 47 (burial pit: 2.50 x 1.06 (+/1.50 m) only a dark discolor-ation indicating the former presence of a wooden container was mentioned; the dimensions of this container are not known. It is re-constructed as an outline alongside the walls of the burial pit, but it might also have been a smaller coffin.

In grave 63 (burial pit: 2.40 x 2.20 m) only a black band-shaped soil discoloration was observed alongside the northern wall of the burial pit. The preserved skeletal remains indicate that it was the burial of a non-adult. This is rather remarkable in view of the di-mensions of the burial pit; it might have been a chamber grave containing a smaller wooden coffin.

The number of chamber graves found at the nearby cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul (21 out of 86) is rather large, and it might be assumed that more chamber graves were originally present in Obbicht where traces of wooden containers were found in only nine of the 64 graves. A number of large burial pits without trac-es of wooden containers might have been wooden chamber graves (see also chapter 7). Other features such as traces of wooden beams, known to have carried wooden containers in other ceme-teries (see for example Sittard-Kemperkoul) were not recorded at
The burial pits and grave constructions data show the graves with recorded wooden containers are distributed unevenly over the cemetery, they are mainly found in the northern and middle segment of the cemetery.

Cremation/vessel grave
Only one cremation or vessel grave was found in the Obbicht cemetery: grave 39 (fig. 3.11). Other graves and dimensions of a pit were not recorded in the catalogue although the outlines of a pit are depicted on the original cemetery plan. The dimensions of the outlines of all the depicted graves on the cemetery plan appeared to be highly inaccurate, and thus the way grave 39 was depicted is not necessarily indicative of what was originally observed. The grave consists of a large globular pot (height 28 cm), containing a considerable amount of human cremation remains of at least one individual of c. 14 years. The biological sex of the individual could not be determined on the basis of the available remains. The vessel also contained unburnt objects: an iron plate buckle and counter plate with silver and copper alloy inlay, an iron belt fitting with plated silver, and a copper alloy rivet and a small oil lamp. The cremation grave was found in the most southern section of the cemetery. It might have been located on purpose at the border of the cemetery which consists of only inhumation graves. The pot with its content dates to phase O-OMIII (640-670). Cremation graves are not usual in Merovingian cemeteries. Inhumation and cremation were both practised in the Merovingian period, although inhumation prevails.

Construction techniques
The use of different construction techniques is difficult to establish when wood remains are only preserved as soil discolourations with sometimes only tiny traces of wood remain. Wooden containers with straight corners are expected to have contained nails of wood joints holding the boards together. Containers with cross-fixed container walls, on the other hand, did not demand the use of nails or wood joints because the boards fit themselves. The excavation documentation does not provide sufficient information on wood joints. The presence and position of nails in the graves could inform us on the subject.

Nails
Only four graves yielded iron nails or iron fragments that could be associated with wooden constructions. Grave 8 contained several iron nails that were found dispersed throughout the grave finds. It has a length of 4.8 cm, which is large enough to be used for the construction of a coffin. Unfortunately, the grave did not reveal traces of a wooden construction and there is no information on the location of the finds that could help us determine whether the nails were used for the construction of a coffin.

Grave 20 yielded fragments of nails scattered throughout the grave. Since this grave also contained traces of a wooden construction, it could be that the nails were part of a wooden construction. However, there is no information on the exact size or location of the container on the original cemetery plan. The calculated surface areas range from 1.38 m² to 4.80 m² (in Stein from 0.54 m² to 1.38 m²). The grave does not reveal traces of a wooden construction, it seems improbable that this single specimen was part of a wooden coffin. Finally, grave 38 contained three nails that have the size and shape of possible coffin nails. The grave’s size suggests that it could have been a chamber grave that also held a wooden coffin. However, certainty cannot be provided here either, since no traces of a wooden construction were found and no information is provided on the location of the nails.

In the end, it remains difficult to state with certainty that nails were used to construct coffins at the Obbicht cemetery. The number of nails found at the cemetery is low, as is the number of wooden constructions.

Grave size and depth
Length, width and depth are given for 46 Obbicht graves while in three cases (graves 1, 6 and 17) only the width was recorded (table 3.4). For the other graves the dimensions were either not provided in the publication or could not be recorded; the majority of these graves were destroyed and could only be identified on the basis of faint traces and finds. Only two burial pits contained traces of a wooden container of which the dimensions could be measured (grave 43, and the width in grave 45). The descriptions in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers seem to indicate that the wood in these graves was destroyed and could only be identified on the basis of faint traces and finds. Only two burial pits contained traces of a wooden container of which the dimensions could be measured (grave 43, and the width in grave 45). The descriptions in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers seem to indicate that the wood in these graves was destroyed and could only be identified on the basis of faint traces and finds.

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Table 3.5
Obbicht-Oude Molen: grave size in relation to burial phases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grave Phase</th>
<th>Calculated Surface (m²)</th>
<th>Calculated Width (m)</th>
<th>Calculated Depth (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O II a 5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND 4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O I + II a 4.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O II b 2.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O II a 2.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O I 3.68</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O II a 4.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O II a 4.99</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND 8.41</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND 6.38</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O I - II c 7.28</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O II b 3.75</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND 8.40</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O I-II c 2.52</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O II b 2.65</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O I-II c 3.45</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND 2.7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O II b 2.04</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grave disturbances

Beckers and Beckers fairly accurately recorded which graves were complete or disturbed. This information is nonetheless not included in the original cemetery plan: the graves of which it is mentioned that their outlines were not or only partly recorded are represented as complete graves. Their catalogue enables the identification of three sorts of grave disturbances: the destruction of graves in the southern part of the cemetery caused by the construction of the two subsequent mills, the destruction of graves in the western part of the cemetery by gravel exploitation, and disturbances attributed to early medieval grave reopening and overlapping graves.

Recent disturbances

The location of the two consecutive mills was reconstructed in the southern section of the cemetery since graves 13, 14, 15, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 39 are mentioned to have been destroyed by their presence (fig. 6.5). It is not clear how these graves were identified and whether their location and w-e orientation on the cemetery plan were accurate. Graves are attributed to all the graves. The discovery of the finds probably made the excavators think that graves were once present at the find locations, hence their depiction on the cemetery plan. In context 33 the most ambiguous. Beckers and Beckers mention the discovery of finds underneath the mill and the difficulties encountered with assigning them to one or two graves. The location of context 33 on the cemetery plan thus seems rather loosely chosen.

Graves 5, 7, 11, 12, and part of graves 1 and 6 were mentioned to have been destroyed by construction work. Since gravel exploitation took place to the west of the cemetery (although it is not known exactly where), we assume it was this activity that destroyed the six graves. It seems plausible that their orientation and location on the cemetery map is not that accurate.

For a number of other graves, dimensions were not given because they were partly disturbed. The dimensions of grave 2 were not recorded, but it was not mentioned why. It might have been recorded but these graves are not mentioned on the cemetery plan. The orientation of these graves remain unknown, but they were probably in line with the general orientation of the recorded graves on the cemetery plan. The same applies to the other graves of which the exact outlines were not observed, but were nonetheless depicted as rectangular graves on the cemetery plan.

On the basis of the observed locations of the finds and the two discovered skulls (in graves 49 and 63), it can be assumed that the heads in this cemetery were generally located in the western section of the grave, as it is usually the case in w-e oriented burials in Merovingian cemeteries. The discoveries caused by decayed bodies in a number of graves are not indicative of their exact orientation. The three graves (31, 33 and 31) with a deviant orientation are located in the middle west of the cemetery. These graves did not contain skeletal remains.

Early medieval interventions

Fragmented and scattered finds were observed in a number of graves. This might be an indication of early medieval reopening activities. Beckers and Beckers already identified the disturbance of graves observed as ‘grave collapse’ – as they mention – pottery fragments, iron fragments and beads were dispersed all over the grave. The same applies to a number of other graves. In graves 21 the fragments of a red bowl were scattered throughout the grave. In grave 22 iron fragments, among which were a seax knob and glass fragments, were found dispersed all over the grave. The beads from grave 27 were found at their presumed original location (the neck), but scattered iron fragments were found. The reopening pit probably covered only a segment of the grave. In grave 28 the fragments of two pots were found dispersed, but a complete spouted pot was also found in situ, together with a fragmented sword and shield. Again, a reopening pit might have disturbed only part of the grave. All the objects from grave 29 were found only around the southern wall, some can be presumed to be at their original location, but some of the iron fragments might have been of disseminated objects that were moved from their original location when a reopening pit was dug. In grave 47 fragments of a pot were found scattered throughout the grave and a rim fragment was mentioned to have been found at a relatively high level in the grave. Fragments of a knife and copper alloy fragments were found dispersed in grave 62, although a pot was found undisturbed in the eastern end of this grave. Both the fragmented condition and dispersal of objects in graves indicate disturbances which seem to have been caused by early medieval reopening pits since the outlines of the graves themselves were still completely or partly intact. Beckers and Beckers were already aware of this practice, although they were probably not yet informed enough to identify the actual reopening pits.

Overlapping graves and/or double graves

Notifications of graves overlapping each other to some extent cannot be found in the catalogue of graves and finds in the Beckers and Beckers publication from 1940. However, in grave 63, the biconical pot was found at a depth of 50 cm from grave 27 were found at their presumed original location (the neck), and the second assemblage more to the south, the outlines could also have been formed by two separate graves of which the most northern burial pit overlaps the most southern burial pit. It is thus not necessarily a double grave.

The number of overlapping graves in rural cemeteries such as the cemetery of Obbicht is usually rather small. It can thus be assumed that this was also the case for Obbicht, although the difficult terrain conditions and the standard of excavation back then might have hindered the identification of slightly overlapping graves.

Stein-Groote Bongerd

The nature of the information on grave structures in the Stein cemetery is comparable to that of the Obbicht cemetery: all the excavated contexts are recorded as burial pits and in a few, traces of wooden containers were observed. The features on the basis of which the grave construction types are identified were not documented on the original cemetery plan but only in the descriptive catalogue of graves and finds in the Beckers and Beckers publication from 1940. Although in the catalogue from 1940 the length, width and depth of the observed burial pits and wooden containers are given, they did not describe the graves’ shapes and constructions. We assume that the precise rectangles depicted on this cemetery plan do not represent the original shapes of the graves; their corners and walls would have been more curved and irregular. As in Obbicht, the original cemetery plan and catalogue of graves enables a limited analysis of the types, sizes, depths and orientations of the 72 grave contexts recorded. Not all the identified graves were completely and excavated (including the cremation grave 39). All others were either completely or partially destroyed. The published and single available cemetery plan is thus a reconstruction and not an accurate representation of the excavated graves.
Grave contexts were actually excavated; some were mentioned to have been destroyed by building activities or gravel extraction. They are nonetheless depicted as undisturbed graves on the cemetery plan. The excavated cemetery consists of inhumation graves only, but—in view of the destruction of a considerable part of the cemetery—cremation graves as the one discovered in Obbicht might have been present here too. Complete or partial outlines of wooden containers (chambers and/or coffins) were observed in 11 graves, and in 16 graves vague shadows or nearly complete body silhouettes were observed. Skeletal remains were completely absent in the Stein cemetery, which is mainly explained by the soil conditions at the location of the cemetery.14

Grave construction

The variety of grave construction types in Stein can only be reconstructed on the basis of the catalogue of graves and finds in Beckers and Beckers 1940. The main recorded grave features are the dimensions of the outlines of burial pits. In view of the grave descriptions provided it is safe to suggest that the outlines of the majority of the burial pits were more or less rectangular with rounded corners and slightly irregular walls. The vertical walls of the burial pits would have been either straight or sloping with levellit bottoms. Information on additional structures inside the burial pits was given only for 11 graves.

We assume that burial pits and wooden containers (coffins and chambers) are the relevant grave construction types in the cemetery of Stein.15 The wooden containers in the Stein graves were identified on the basis of band-shaped soil discolorations, left there by decayed wooden container walls. This information was recorded in the catalogue of graves in Beckers and Beckers on the basis of finds alone; their outlines were never observed and recorded but nonetheless depicted on the initial cemetery plan. These are graves 1, 6, 9, 15. Their missing parts are indicated with broken lines on the new cemetery plan (fig. 3.12) and the reconstructed individual grave drawings. Some graves were identified on the basis of finds alone; their outlines were never observed and recorded but nonetheless depicted on the initial cemetery plan. These are graves 1, 3, 7, 34, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45, 53, 62, 63, 72, 73, 74 and 75. They are indicated with broken lines on the new cemetery plan, following their location and orientation on the initial plan, which remains speculative.

Trench grave 46 is the largest grave of the cemetery. Considering the sizes of the graves with chambers and coffins in the cemeteries of Sittard and Meerveldhoven, this grave could have contained a chamber and/or coffin. Chamber grave with coffin 29 is rather small. One could imagine that a number of graves larger than grave 29 were also graves with wooden containers.

Wooden container graves: coffin graves and chamber graves

Shadows of decayed wooden container walls were observed in graves 19, 21, 22, 29, 30, 33, 37, 45, 56, 67, 58 and 60 (fig. 3.12 and 7.3). In grave 29 soil discolorations of a wooden chamber and wooden coffin were observed; in grave 37 traces of two wooden coffins were observed. The other graves contained only traces of one wooden container.

Grave 29 is a relatively small grave (burial pit: 2.70 x 1.65 m) and the only grave in which both a wooden chamber and wooden coffin were observed. The dimensions of the chamber were 2.35 x 1.10 m, and those of the coffin 2.00 x 0.75 m. The excavators made a vertical section of the grave which showed that the wooden wall traces of the chamber and coffin came together at the bottom of the grave. In three corners of the chamber, shadows of additional circular constructions were visible. These were probably posts to which the wooden boards of the chamber were attached. It was not mentioned where the traces of the wooden coffin within the chamber were found exactly, nor in which corners of the chamber the posts were observed. The reconstructed grave drawing is therefore not an exact representation of what the excavators observed. The seax is depicted as a deposition inside the coffin. The reconstruction of the locations of the finds in wooden container graves is discussed in chapter 7.

Grave 37 (burial pit: 2.60 x 2.00 m) held wood traces and band-shaped soil discolorations of two wooden containers. It remains unclear whether these traces represent a wooden coffin with a wooden coffin, two wooden coffins placed alongside each other, or a chamber divided by a wall. The traces were first visible at a depth of 1.20 m (the depth of the grave is 1.60 m); the remaining height of the grave or the walls is thus 0.40 m (assuming that the container was not resting on beams placed at the bottom of the burial pit). The outer band with wood remains is 1.80 x 1.10 m.

A number of trench graves were only partly observed and excavated: these are graves 1, 6, 9, and 15. Their missing parts are indicated with broken lines on the new cemetery plan (fig. 3.12) and the reconstructed individual grave drawings. Some graves were identified on the basis of finds alone; their outlines were never observed and recorded but nonetheless depicted on the initial cemetery plan. These are graves 1, 3, 7, 34, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45, 53, 62, 63, 72, 73, 74 and 75. They are indicated with broken lines on the new cemetery plan, following their location and orientation on the initial plan, which remains speculative.

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(56) Beckers/Beckers 1940, 340-343.
(57) Again we follow the analysis of grave constructions by Smal (Smal in press in Theuws/Kars in press).
Grave 56 (2.75 x 1.95 m, depth: 1.60 m) showed a rectangular discolouration at a depth of 1.40 m, with a length of 1.50 m and a width of 0.65 m. It was observed that the short western wall of the grave was not found, whereas the wooden coffin walls were located with a distance of 50 cm. Some faint band-shaped discolorations of a possible construction were also observed, indicating that soil discolorations formed nearly perfect imprints of the wooden coffin within the recorded burial pit. It is safe to suggest that it was a wooden coffin grave of a non-adult.

In grave 43 (2.40 x 1.20 m, depth: 1.85 m), the contours of a wooden container measuring 1.50 x 1.10 m was visible at a depth of 1.45 m. It was placed 30 cm from the eastern burial pit wall, 50 cm from the northern wall, and close to the western and southern wall. The location of the completely decayed body could be observed alongside the southern wall of the wooden container: the soil discolouration left by the body clearly showed contours of the head, located in the western end of the wooden construction. It was thus clearly a west-east oriented burial. The length of the body silhouette was 1.17 m and the width 0.60 m, which indicate that it was the burial of a child. It was visible 1.5 cm from the southern wall of the wooden construction. The locations of the extremities of the body and theohern wall could be concluded that they were all deposited within the wooden container. Traces of a larger wooden construction were not identified despite the burial pit being considerably larger than the observed wooden container.

Grave 18 (2.40 x 1.10 m, depth: 1.85 m) showed an irregular and vague outline of a wooden container surrounding a soil discolouration indicating the former location of a body. The excavators concluded that this "coffin" was probably richly decorated since numerous iron mounts were found at its former location, as were bone and wooden objects; it is not clear whether exactly in burial pit objects were found; it is drawn as a container with walls not far from the burial pit walls. The other finds (pottery fragments) were found throughout the grave; exact locations were not given.

In grave 60 (2.40 x 1.40 m, depth: 1.50 m) showed a rectangular fill of gravel and clay, different from the surrounding sandy soil, at a depth of 1.28 m indicating the former presence of a wooden container. It is not clear where exactly the wooden container was observed in the burial pit; it is drawn in the middle of the pit on the reconstructed individual grave drawing. The locations of the finds are described in relation to the "grave walls"; it is not clear whether this was in relation to the burial pit walls or the wooden container walls. On the new drawing of the grave the locations of the finds are reconstructed in relation to the wooden container walls. It is not clear whether they were rectangular and similar to the wooden container in the nearby cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul, except for grave 56 of which it was mentioned that one of the short sides was rounded. The presence and position of nails in the graves could in form us about the construction of the containers.

Nails

Only seven graves at Stein yielded large iron nails or iron fragments (see for example Sittard-Kemperkoul). The exact location of the nails is not given. It might thus also have been a cremation grave. In the Stein cemetery, where 21 were found. Still, it remains uncertain whether more chambers and coffins were originally present since vessels are generally placed outside the coffins in chamber graves (see for example Sittard-Kemperkoul). The location of the bones in the Stein cemetery were indicated in the new drawing of the grave, following the location of the bones it can be assumed that the container did not reach this lowest level but was placed on a construction, probably made of wooden beams as regularly found in other cemeteries with wooden container graves (see for example Sittard-Kemperkoul in this volume). The vertical section through the grave showed that the nails slopped inward towards the bottom. The dimensions of the wooden container and the observation that it contained two bodies suggest it was a chamber. Whether it contained a division wall or two coffins remains uncertain. The exact location of the wooden container in the burial pit is not known, but the location of the bones was indicated and is reconstructed on the individual grave drawing. Following the location of the bones it can be assumed that the container was placed more towards the long southern wall.

Grave 23 (3.35 x 2.65 m, depth: 1.70 m) also contained silhouettes of two bodies, first visible at a depth of 1.10 m. It was mentioned that soil discolourations formed nearly perfect imprints of the former corpses as they were actually there. The length of the body silhouettes touched was 1.43 m. Both the heads had a length of 0.37 m; one had a width of 0.30 m and the other of 2.3 cm. The space between the heads was 10.2 cm. The legs of both the bodies were not found, whereas the length of 0.50 m and a width of 0.30 m. Some faint band-shaped discolourations of a possible container wall were found along one of the short sides and one of the long sides of the burial pit at a depth of, respectively, 1.55 m and 1.40 m. The traces of the wooden coffin wall were found along one of the short sides and one of the long sides of the burial pit at a depth of 65 cm. Since the dimensions of the traces are not documented, the wooden container is depicted as an interupted line alongside the burial pit walls. The finds seem to have all been deposited within the container.

Grave 45 (burial pit, dimensions not given) was mentioned to have been carefully excavated, which resulted in an observation of a rectangular soil discolouration left by wooden coffin walls at a depth of 1.15 m. The width of the wooden container was 0.82 m and the length of the walls were not given. Pottery shards were found dispersed throughout this grave, which suggests that it was not a wooden container. The use of wooden walls could be concluded that that they were all deposited within the wooden container. Traces of other wooden containers are distributed over the cemetery unevenly; they are mainly found in the middle section of the cemetery. The small number of chamber graves in Stein is in line with for example Posthul, where only four wooden chamber graves were found, and Bergen, where only one wooden coffin grave was found, but is in contrast with Sittard-Kemperkoul, where 21 were found. Still, it remains unclear whether more chambers and coffins were originally present in the larger burial pits of the cemetery of Stein.

Possible cremation grave

One possible cremation grave was found in the Stein cemetery: grave 67. It is a square pit with a length and width of 14 cm, which is very small. It could only have contained the body of a baby or a buried disarticulated skeletal remains. A small biconical pot was the only find from this grave. It might thus also have been a cremation grave although no cremated remains were found.

Construction techniques

The outlines of the wooden containers from the cemetery of Stein were not recorded on the initial cemetery plan. It can be assumed that they were rectangular and similar to the wooden containers in the nearby cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul, except for grave 56 of which it was mentioned that one of the short sides was rounded. The presence and position of nails in the graves could form us about the construction of the containers.
The grave depths were recorded for 60 graves. It was not explained how this depth was obtained, but it seems that the bottom of the burial pit was measured in relation to the surface level at the time of excavation. The early medieval surface level was not established; the recorded depths therefore do not indicate the original depth of the graves. Still, they are useful for comparison with the Steinhoge Bongerd: container dimensions.

Table 3.7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Container length</th>
<th>Container width</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 (chamber)</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 (coat)</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 (container)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
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<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 (coat)</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 (chamber)</td>
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<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 (container)</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

though the depths are relative it seems that larger graves correlate with greater depths, as it was also observed for the cemetery of Obbicht. Still, exceptions are found; the second largest grave (grave 5) in Stein has an average depth of 210 cm.

Grave constructions and chronology

Table 3.8 displays information on the size of the graves in relation to the Stein burials. Phase I (610-20/670-80) and II (650-610/40) have rather similar average burial sizes and chronology (fig. 6.10). The smallest graves (graves 11 and 22) belong to Stein phase IIa (610/20-670/80) and IIb (650-610/20), while the largest graves (graves 46 and 57) belong to Stein phase IIb (650-640-50). Again, the difference is rather small, although the overall picture suggests that smaller graves at Stein are of a slightly earlier date than the larger graves. Graves 28, 36, 50 and 59, for instance, all belong to phase I and have surface areas of less than 3 m². However, the number of graves is too small to make any firm statements.

A strong correlation between the presence of wooden constructions and chronology is also absent. Most graves with datable finds and traces of wooden constructions (graves 30, 37, 56, 57, 58, 60) belonged to Stein phase IIa of IIb, which is similar to the dates of graves 8, 13, 17, 20, 19 and 26, of which orientations were established in the field measuring between 43 and 65 degrees to the east. In graves 19, 21 and 32 traces of skulls were found in the southern ends of the graves; for the other graves the orientation of the burial was based on the location of the pots near the feet and weapons (tips of axes, swords and lance heads pointing to the feet). All graves with a south-west-northeast orientation in the northern part of the cemetery are depicted on the cemetery plan from 1940 as having exactly the same orientation. However, in view of the remarks made above it can be advocated that all the northern graves had an orientation on an angle ranging from at least 43 to 65 degrees to the east in relation to the exact south-north axis.

The original cemetery plan in Beckers and Beckers shows that the graves in the south-western section of the cemetery, along the slope, have an exact west-east orientation (fig. 2.25). The four south-western graves mentioned to have deviant orientations are graves 5, 50 and 65; they have an orientation in line with the northern graves. In the final section of the publication on Merovingian cemeteries, Beckers and Beckers declared that traces of heads were observed in the western ends of graves 57, 58 and 66 (although in the case of grave 58, the orientation of the body six hens was not described in the catalogue of graves). In the catalogue it is mentioned that grave 59 also had a deviant orientation from the west-east orientated graves, namely a southwest-north-east orientation similar to the northern graves and graves 60, 61, 64 and 65.

The cemetery plan shows that only the graves in the south-western section have a west-east orientation; the graves in the south-eastern section and middle of the cemetery all have orientations similar to graves 8, 13, 17, 20, 19 and 16, of which orientations were established in the field measuring between 43 and 65 degrees to the east of the south-north axis. It can be concluded that the majority of the Stein graves in fact had a sw-ne orientation. It has to be kept in mind, however, that a number of burial pit outlines were not observed and recorded, but are nevertheless depicted on the cemetery plan. It seems likely that the actual orientations of these graves were not known, but they are recorded in line with the general orientation of the observed and recorded graves

(54) See note 15, (55) See the section on burial sizes in the section on the cemetery of Obbicht and Sittard-Kemperkou in this chapter for comparisons with other cemeteries. See for instance Sittard-Kemperkou in this volume, but also the publications of Bergeweg (1942) and Poon (1963).

Beckers Beckers 1946.

The burials and grave constructions data alone was given for graves 1, 9 and 15. The dimensions of a number of other graves (indicated with broken lines on the new cemetery plan) could not be recorded either; they were destroyed and could only be identified on the basis of some faint traces or finds.

The grave depth was recorded for 60 graves. It was not explained how this depth was obtained, but it seems that the bottom of the burial pit was measured in relation to the surface level at the time of excavation. The early medieval surface level was not established; the recorded depths therefore do not indicate the original depth of the graves. Still, they are useful for comparison with the Steinhoge Bongerd: grave dimensions.

Table 3.6
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Burial pit length</th>
<th>Burial pit width</th>
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<td>2.65</td>
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</table>

Beckers Beckers 1946.
## Stein-Groote Bongerd: grave size in relation to burial phases.

Table 3.8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface Area (m²)</th>
<th>Context Stein</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 S III 4,42</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58 S II a 4,50</td>
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<tr>
<td>52 S I 4,80</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 S III 4,86</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 S II b 5,00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 S III 5,20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57 S II a 5,83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 S II b/c/d 5,89</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 S II b 6,00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 S II b 9,20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recent disturbances**

The slope which borders the cemetery to the south suffered from erosion which destroyed some graves in the slope, or in the transition from cemetery to farmland. A number of graves could nonetheless be excavaed in this transitional zone in the south-western section of the cemetery, but some are mentioned to have disappeared when the slope crumbled off. Grave 7 was described as a nearly completely destroyed grave and dimensions could not be given. It was probably identified on the basis of a considerable number of finds that were found together, presumably at the location of grave 7 that indicated the original cemetery plan, and identified as belonging to a single grave. The same applies to graves 75, 74 and 73; their outlines were not observed, but some finds were found in the slope, indicating the former presence of graves approximately at the location depicted on the original cemetery plan. A remark was made that one of these three graves (it is not known which) was destroyed by the construction of a house.

Grave 40 had also been mentioned to have been destroyed by the construction of a house in 1932. The excavation of this grave was stopped due to terrain difficulties. When grave exploration revealed some sherds at this same location some years later, further investigation took place in 1936. The exact location of grave 40 is not known, but it was described to have been found in the proximity of grave 19. It can thus be assumed that grave 40 was located in the north-eastern part of the cemetery, as the original cemetery plan, which is known, pointed in this direction although it is not mentioned how this happened. The length of grave 1 could not be observed, but its width and depth could (table 3.6). Grave 1 might have been one of the four graves of the cemetery discovered when a road was constructed. It was mentioned that these four graves became visible in the wall of a construction trench. Of graves 1 and 4, however, only the length was documented, while grave 3 was part of the north-eastern rows of graves 1 to 104 on the cemetery plan; its dimensions could not be given although it was noticed that it seemed much smaller than the other graves in this row. Grave 4 was unimportant and not mentioned to have been destroyed, but its dimensions were not given. It might have been an intact grave of which the dimensions were not recorded by mistake.

Grave 40, however, was thought to have been emptied after the tree growing on top of this grave was chopped down. Nothing was found in this grave which the outlines were still visible for the excavators. The chopping of the tree and discovery of grave 40 occurred quite likely in recent times.

**Early medieval interventions**

Archaeological traces identifying the ancient reopening of burials of graves 9 and 15 are mentioned to have been completely and partly destroyed, which might have been caused by the grave exploitation in the north-eastern part of the cemetery. The orientation of some of the four graves could not be given during the construction works; it can thus be assumed that this orientation was observed in the field although the grave was only partly preserved. The roads west and southeast of the cemetery were broadened and probably destroyed a number of graves. Whether remains were recovered since the outline of the burial pit was not known. Only grave 39 was mentioned to have already been destroyed by road construction some time before excavation; some remnants of the grave were observed in a slope. How and whether the graves in the proximity of grave 39 were affected by this same construction work is not mentioned.

The terrain was covered by centuries-old oaks; they were chopped some time before excavation and replaced by new trees. The old oaks themselves, and also their chopping and replacement caused some disturbances. Grave 34 is mentioned to have been destroyed when an oak was chopped. Only one biconical pot was found in the corner of the grave; dimensions of the grave, however, could not be given. Grave 50 was also destroyed when an oak was chopped; sherds were found scattered throughout this grave, probably caused by this disturbance. The dimensions of this grave could nonetheless be established and a complete biconical pot was also discovered in this grave.

The dimensions of a number of graves could not be established because they were completely or partly destroyed, although it is not mentioned how this happened. The length of grave 1 could not be observed, but its width and depth could (table 3.6). Grave 1 might have been one of the four graves of the cemetery discovered when a road was constructed. It was mentioned that these four graves became visible in the wall of a construction trench. Of graves 1 and 4, however, only the length was documented, while grave 3 was part of the north-eastern rows of graves 1 to 104 on the cemetery plan; its dimensions could not be given although it was noticed that it seemed much smaller than the other graves in this row. Grave 4 was unimportant and not mentioned to have been destroyed, but its dimensions were not given. It might have been an intact grave of which the dimensions were not recorded by mistake.

Grave 40, however, was thought to have been emptied after the tree growing on top of this grave was chopped down. Nothing was found in this grave which the outlines were still visible for the excavators. The chopping of the tree and discovery of grave 40 occurred quite likely in recent times.

**Overlapping graves and/or double graves**

Overlapping graves were not recorded or observed in the cemetery of Stein. However, in one grave two superimposed bodies with associated finds were found. Grave 56 (6,1 x 2,95 m, depth: 1,60 m) contained numerous finds of which a large biconical pot was mentioned to have been found inside a coffin at a depth of 1,40 m. The other finds were all found at a depth of 90 cm and seemed to have been placed in a slope near another burial, 10 cm higher, on top of the wooden container. The exact location of the wooden container within the recorded burial pit is not known but its observed outlines were intact; it was surely not destroyed by the second burial on top of it. It is not clear whether the second burial was placed on top of the coffin deliberately in order to express some kind of relation, or if this association came into being by accident.

The number of overlapping graves in Merovingian cemeteries is in general rather small. It can thus be assumed that this was also the case for Stein, even though the excavation techniques employed and the difficult terrain conditions might have obstructed observations of slightly overlapping graves.
Grave Finds

This chapter presents the description, classification and dating of the finds from the burial pits, chambers and coffins, and reopening of the cemeteries of Sittard-Kemperkou, Oobicht-Weeze Molen en Stein-Groote Bongerd. The finds are discussed per functional category, of which some are organised on the basis of the identified types.

Finds from the cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul

Belt fittings

The belt fittings from the Sittard cemetery vary from copper alloy to iron fittings and from waist belt fittings to small shoe or purse fittings. The discussion of the belt fittings starts with the most prominent specimens: the waist belt fittings and their matching counter plates, back plates and additional plates. The fittings without matching plate buckle are discussed separately as are the smaller fittings of purses, shoes or straps associated with leather belts.

Belt fittings:

Iron, round plates, without decoration

Find numbers: 14-1-1, 14-1-2, 14-2-1, 14-2-2, 14-2-3, 26-2-3-2, 26-3-2-2, 37-2-1, 37-2-2, 37-2-3

Two nearly identical sets of belt fittings consisting of plate buckles and counter plates were found in grave 14 (fig. 4.1). Grave 14 is a chamber grave in which a wooden coffin and box were recorded. The belt fittings 14-1-1, 14-1-2, 14-2-1 and 14-2-2 were found inside the large coffin already contained as part of a set of belt fittings, it can be as-

ner length of the buckle loop. The width of the buckle plate is 2.7 cm, and the rest of the leather belt might have been as wide as this plate. Some textile and leather remains of the belt are still preserved at the back of the plate.

Counter plate 14-1-1, which was associated with the plate buckle, is also round and has a width of 6.3 cm, which is slightly larger than the width of the plate of the plate buckle. This difference might be a result of corrosion and/or restoration. Two, of originally three, domed copper alloy rivets are present on the plate: the remains of the copper alloy rivets of three rivets can be observed at the back side of the counter plate, of which two are part of the two remaining rivets on the front side of the plate. Some leather remains are attached to the plate.

Iron plate buckle 14-1-1 resembles plate buckle 14-1-11; it has a round plate, not decorated, with one domed copper alloy rivet still attached to it, probably one of a set of three. The pin of this rivet is visible at the back of the plate and a fragment of a thin plate is still attached to it. Examples of leather belts that were fixed between the plate buckle and similar thin plates at the back side are known, and probably the leather belt to which this plate buckle belonged was also fixed in between the plate buckle and a thin plate of sheet metal. The reconstructed belt width on the basis of the inner length of the buckle loop is approximately 4.1 cm, and that on the basis of the width of the plate is 6.5 cm: the leather belt became narrower towards its end. This plate buckle was found in association with round iron counter plate 14-2-2, which is without decoration and on which two (of probably three or four) copper alloy rivets are present. The pin of one of these rivets can be observed at the back of the plate. The maximum width of the plate is 5.3 cm, which is somewhat smaller than the maximum width of the plate of the plate buckle (6.5 cm). However, the plate is heavily restored and the current dimensions might be different from the original dimensions. The plate is completely round. Counter plates often have one straight side (as can be observed on counter plate 14-1-1), when the belt was worn this straight side was to be found opposite the buckle loop of the matching plate buckle. Restoration probably caused the counter plate to be more rounded than it originally was. Considering its round shape, however, it can also be a back plate although its function as counter plate seems more plausible. Fragment 14-2-4 is an iron fragment of a plate (probably of a counter plate or plate buckle) with a length of 3.6 cm. The plate buckle was one copper alloy rivet attached to it and leather remains were observed at its back. This might be a fragment which originally was part of the plate buckle or counter plate with missing rivets described above, but not used in the restoration process.

A three-partite set of iron belt fittings was found in grave 26 (fig. 4.1). The plate buckle (26-6-23) with round plate is not decorated but shows three copper alloy rivets of which the pins are visible at its back. The buckle loop has an inner length of 3.7 cm and the plate has a length of 4.9 cm and a width of 6.7 cm. The iron counter plate (26-3-2) is similar to the plate of the plate buckle; it is rounded and has one straight side and three copper alloy rivets. Textile or leather remains are preserved at its back. The plate has a length of 4.8 cm and a width of 6.1 cm. The matching back plate (26-6-3) is rectangular. It has a length of 5.1 cm and a width of 4.0 cm and three (of originally four) copper alloy rivets. The pins of the rivers are still visible at the back of the plate. The associated leather belt had a width of approximately 6.1-6.7 cm, but had a narrower end if it went through the buckle loop. The ensemble of belt fittings was found in the grave of a man (identified on the basis of a seax) on the preserved pelvis in the middle of the grave and the re-opening pit. The pelvis and belt fittings did not move from their original locations when the re-opening pit was dug and not taken from the grave.

Iron plate buckle 37-2-1 from grave 37 is incomplete, only the oval buckle loop with tongue and a small fragment of the plate is left (fig. 4.1). The shape of the plate can thus not be determined. However, the matching counter plate is (37-2-2) round, with one straight side. It can thus be assumed that the plate buckle had a similar plate. The inner length of the buckle loop is 3.5 cm. The width of the counter plate is 3.8 cm. The leather belt had a width of approximately 3.8 cm, and was only a little narrower towards the end.

Notes:

1. In this chapter photographs of the finds are depicted as overviews of these functional categories or type groups, as opposed to their depiction as part of a grave goods assemblage in one of the relevant catalogues. Some of the Sittard, Oobicht and Stein finds are only depicted in those catalogues, significant oversights could not be resolved for these objects.
This type dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-650), and to Franken AG phase 7 (610-640/40).\(^7\) The iron plate buckle from grave 41 is the only belt fitting known to belong to a single plate buckle.\(^8\) Siegmund’s type Gür4.5, which is defined as tri-partite belts with broad trapezoidal or broad trapezoidal plate buckles with three rivets. The Sittard fittings could originally have been part of a tri-partite belt, but the shape of the two fittings match with this Siegmund type, which dates to Rhineland phase 8A (610-650).\(^9\) The Franken AG maintained Siegmund’s type but did consider the presence of three fittings as an essential feature of this type. Franken AG type S-Gür4.5 dates to their phase 7 (610-640/40).\(^4\) Plate buckle: iron, triangular to tongue shaped plate, without decoration Find number: 41(4-1-3)

The iron plate buckle from grave 41 is the only belt fitting known from this grave (apart from a simple buckle). The plate is heavily restored and for a large part completed, it is uncertain what its original shape actually was (fig. 4.4). The plate has a length of 7.0 cm and a width of 5.0 cm. Two (of probably three) rivets are present at the base of the plate. The third was probably placed at the end of the plate. Traces or a hole indicating its former presence are, however, absent (due to corrosion or thorough restoration). The two rivets are large, domed copper alloy rivets with carved rims. The buckle loop with shield tongue is attached to the plate with a wrapped and slotted construction. The inner length of the loop is 3.4 cm. The leather belt probably had a width of approximately 5.0 cm fitting the plate (the plate buckle), and was narrower towards the end (if it was worn in such a way that it went through the buckle loop). The plate buckle was found in the middle section of the grave, and thus at the presumed former location of the waist of the now completely decomposed body. The burial is identified as that of a man on the basis of the plate buckle. The plate buckle is classified as the counter plate 8.1 cm; the width of the plate of the plate buckle is 5.5 cm and that of the counter plate 5.1 cm. These differences might be attributed to their rigorous restoration. The plate buckle has two probable three copper alloy rivets still attached to it. One of these rivets has a carved rim, which was probably also a feature of the other two rivets. Only one (of three) rivet with carved rim is present at the end of the counter plate. The reconstructed width (on the basis of the inner length of the buckle loop with iron shield tongue) of the leather belt is approximately 5.5 cm. Some leather remains of this belt can be observed at the back of the plate of the plate buckle. The grave was identified as that of a man on the basis of an an arm and an ear. The plate buckle and counter plate were found approximately in the areata where the breast of the now completely decayed body was originally since the orientation of the burial was S-N and the shadow of the decayed skull was found in the southern part of the grave. This two-partite belt is classified as Siegmund’s type Gür4.5, which is defined as tri-partite belts with broad trapezoidal or broad trapezoidal plate buckles with three rivets. The Sittard fittings could originally have been part of a tri-partite belt, but the shape of the two fittings match with this Siegmund type, which dates to Rhineland phase 8A (610-650).\(^1\) The Franken AG maintained Siegmund’s type but did consider the presence of three fittings as an essential feature of this type. Franken AG type S-Gür4.5 dates to their phase 7 (610-640/40).\(^5\) Plate buckle: iron, triangular to tongue shaped plate, without decoration Find number: 41(4-1-3)

The three set iron belt fittings from grave 41 became attached to one another due to corrosion (fig. 4.3). The set consists of an iron plate buckle or counter plate (49-5-1), a back plate (49-5-2) and a strap end (49-5-3). The triangular/tongue shape plate with protruding end is damaged at its base, which makes it difficult to identify whether it was a plate buckle or counter plate since remnants of a buckle attached to the plate were not preserved. The plate has a length of 6.7 cm and a width of 2.8 cm. It has three small domed copper alloy rivets. Around one of the rivet pins, at the back of the plate, a fragment of a thin iron plate can be observed. The leather belt to which the iron plate was attached was probably fixed between the iron plate and the thin plate. Some textile or leather remains were also observed around the rivet pin. The iron back plate is a rectangular plate with four small domed copper alloy rivets. It has a length of 4.0 cm and a width of 2.4 cm. It can be assumed that the leather belt to which the fittings were attached had a width of 2.4-4.8 cm. The iron strap end is tongue shaped. It has a length of 5.1 cm and a width of 2.4 cm. Two copper alloy rivets are present at the base of the plate. The strap end is heavily restored, and this may be the reason that a split base, a common feature of strap ends, could not be observed.


\(^{12}\) Legoux/Périn/Vallet 2004, 16. Périn 1995, 63. However, in the recently published monograph of Carty grave 4 they have been found (Legoux 2005, pl.unch 46). This number: 29 (29-3-1; 29-3-2)

Plate buckle: iron, rectangular to trapezoid shaped plate, grave 29 (scale 1:2).
The ensemble of belt fittings was found in the middle section of the grave; presumably at the presumed former location of the waist of the now completely decomposed body. The burial is identified as that of a man on the basis of a lance and shield boss.

Two small copper alloy rivets (49-5-4), also from grave 49, were found detached from the object they originally belonged to. The small nails bear resemblance to the nails on the ensemble of belt fittings from this grave. The nails were found at the same location as this ensemble. Although rivets do not seem to be missing from these plates, it can be imagined that additional plates to which the two nails were attached are now gone. A small fragment of a plate (49-6-v) with two nails resembling the two detached ones was found in this grave. The plate is not complete since it was observed that the edges are considerably ragged. The two small copper alloy rivets on this plate resemble to single nails and the nails on the described belt fittings. The find location of this small ragged plate was unfortunately not recorded on the field drawing. It on the described belt fittings. The find location of this small ragged plate was unfortunately not recorded on the field drawing. It

plate is not complete since it was observed that the edges are considerably ragged. The two small copper alloy rivets on this plate resemble two single nails and the nails on the described belt fittings. The find location of this small ragged plate was unfortunately not recorded on the field drawing. It

iron plate buckle 86-4-3 from grave 86 has a triangular plate with an undulating outline and a protruding end (fig. 4.6). Five copper alloy rivets (or iron rivets with copper alloy plateing) are still present on the heavily restored surface of the plate. The loop has an inner length of 3.8 cm. The length of the plate is 9.7 cm and the width of the plate is 2.3 cm. The opening (slot) in this plate buckle: iron, triangular plate, profiled outline, five rivets, without decoration Find number: 86 (86-4-3; 86-4-4; 86-4-2)

iron plate buckle 86-4-3 from grave 86 has a triangular plate with an undulating outline and a protruding end (fig. 4.6). Five copper alloy rivets (or iron rivets with copper alloy plateing) are still present on the heavy restored surface of the plate. The loop has an inner length of 3.8 cm. The length of the plate is 9.7 cm and the width of the plate is 2.3 cm. The opening (slot) in this plate buckle: iron, triangular plate, profiled outline, five rivets, without decoration Find number: 86 (86-4-3; 86-4-4; 86-4-2)

iron plate buckle 86-4-3 from grave 86 has a triangular plate with an undulating outline and a protruding end (fig. 4.6). Five copper alloy rivets (or iron rivets with copper alloy plateing) are still present on the heavily restored surface of the plate. The loop has an inner length of 3.8 cm. The length of the plate is 9.7 cm and the width of the plate is 2.3 cm. The opening (slot) in this plate.

Iron belt set, triangular plates with profiled outline, grave 86 (scale 1:2).

Find numbers: 30 (30-2-1; 30-2-2; 30-2-11; 30-2-3; 30-3-1; 30-3-7; 30-3-8)

Fig. 4.7 Copper alloy belt set and iron belt fittings, grave 31 (scale 1:2).

An iron tri-partite belt with additional fittings is known from grave 30 (fig. 4.7). Iron plate buckle 30-3-9 has a triangular plate with an undulating outline. The edges of the plate buckle are, however, somewhat damaged and it is also heavily restored; it is not certain whether its actual state represents its original shape. The plate buckle has a length of 7.6 cm and a width of 4.6 cm. The inner length of the buckle loop with shield tongue is 3.3 cm. The leather belt had a maximum width of approximately 4.6 cm, and might have been narrower towards its end if it went through the buckle loop. The plate has four copper alloy rivets of which the ones at the base of the plate are slightly larger than the other two. Iron belt fitting 30-3-1 is severely damaged. Its original size and outline are impossible to reconstrukt, but it probably resembled the plate of the associated plate buckle since it was presumably its matching counter plate. The remaining length of the plate is 7.5 cm and its remaining width 5.1 cm. Four copper alloy rivets of different dimensions are still present on the plate; two are large domed rivets and two are two smaller domed rivets, similar to the rivets on the plate buckle. The rectangular iron back plate (30-3-10) has a width of 4.8 cm and a length of 5.6 cm and has four copper alloy rivets, in each corner one. The back plate is heavily restored and its current state is probably somewhat deviant from its original dimensions.

The plate buckle, counter plate and back plate are associated with a number of other belt fittings: two iron slotted plates, the base of one strap end and a small plate buckle. Slotted plate 30-3-5 is not complete; only the lower slotted end of the plate is preserved. The width of the plate is 2.3 cm. The opening (slot) in this plate has a length of 1.2 cm. Slotted plate 30-3-7 is complete. It has a length of 4.3 cm, the width of the head of the plate is 2.4 cm, and the length of the opening is 1.2 cm. This plate is similar to the other slotted plate but the narrow extension of the incomplete slotted plate is split, and the extension of the complete plate is not. The split probably served to fix a narrow leather strap, but might also be a result of corrosion. Both the slotted plates have two copper alloy rivets. The complete slotted plate also shows the remains of a rivet pin at the backside of the plate end, which indicates that both plates originally had three rivets, which fixed the plates to a strap or the waist belt. The openings of the slotted plates were used to attach utensils or smaller straps.

Of strap 30-3-7 only the base remains. It has four small copper alloy rivets going through the split base in which the leather strap was originally fixed. The width of the strap end is 1 cm, which indicates that the attached strap was of a similar width. This strap was probably not attached to the main waist belt (which had a width of at least 5.0 cm according to the associated belt fittings), but maybe to an additional strap which suspended the scabbard of the sword, found in association with the belt fittings, to the waist belt. Plate buckle 30-3-7 was probably also part of this additional strap. It is an iron plate buckle with a rectangular plate, and two small domed copper alloy rivets. The plate has a length of 2.4 cm and a width of 2.6 cm. It was attached to a strap with a similar width, which is in accordance with the width of the strap to which the strap end and slotted plates might have been attached. The complete ensemble of belt fittings was found to the left of the left arm (of which only the ‘shadow’ was preserved), in association with a seax on the basis of which the burial is identified as that of a man.

The tri-partite belt is classified as Siegmund’s type Gür4.3 (broad iron belt fittings, trapezium shaped plates, with six, five or four rivets) or type Gür4.5 (broad triangular fittings with three rivets). Type Gür4.5 dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640) or Franken AG phases 6-7 (610-640-650). Type Gür4.5 dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640) or Franken AG phases 6-7 (610-640-650). The slotted plates are difficult to date independently, they are for now dated as type Gür4.3 Gür4.4 of Siegmund and the Franken AG.

plate buckle: iron, triangular plate, four rivets, without decoration Find numbers: 30 (30-2-1; 30-2-2; 30-2-11; 30-2-3; 30-3-1; 30-3-7; 30-3-8)
An ensemble of copper alloy belt fittings (fig. 4.8) consisting of a plate buckle (31-3-5), counter plate (31-3-4), slotted plate (31-3-6.1) and additional plate (31-3-2) was found in the middle of grave 31 to the left of the sandy iron plate buckle (31-3-2). Another iron plate buckle and strap end (31-2-2.1 and 31-2-2.2) were found in association with the sword from this grave, deposited in the middle left section of the grave. These two belt fittings were probably attached to a strap, which connected the sword scabbard and the waist belt. Plate buckle 31-2-1.2 resembles plate buckle 31-3-5 found in association with the first set of belt fittings; they probably had a similar function. It can be imagined that the waist belt and the sword (and sword scabbard with additional strap) were deposited as one ensemble.

The waist belt plate buckle (31-3-5) is not complete, but find number 31-3-6.2, attached to a slotted plate (31-3-6.1), can be identified as the detached protruding end of the plate. The plate buckle has a hollow plate and the buckle loop is attached to the plate with a hinged construction. The buckle loop and shield tongue are decorated with an engraved geometric pattern of stripes and dots-in-circles. The inner length of the buckle loop is 6.6 cm and the width of the plate is 3.8 cm. Leather remains of the belt are still present at the back of this plate; the width of these remains is 4.6 cm. It can thus be assumed that the original belt had a width of approximately 4.6 cm and was thus wider than the plate of the plate buckle. It might have been narrower towards the end if it went through the buckle loop. The plate has three copper alloy rivets (two at the base of the plate, and one at the protruding end of the plate), and a oval buckle loop with shield tongue, attached to the plate with a wrapped and slotted construction. The plate has a width of 3.4 cm and a length of 6.6 cm. The plate buckle seems to resemble plate buckle 31-2-1.1 (not completely visible because the strap end is due to corrosion attached to the plate of the plate buckle), which was found in association with the sword from this grave. The outer loop length of plate buckle 31-3-5 is 9.1 cm, the inner loop length 2.4 cm. The outer loop length of plate buckle 31-2-2.1 is 9.4 cm and the inner length 2.3 cm. The outlines of the plates of the two plate buckles are slightly profiled, but the outline of the protruding end of the plate of plate buckle 31-3-3 seems to be more pronounced than that of 31-2-2.1. However, as it was already mentioned, the shape of this plate is difficult to establish. Strap end 31-2-2.2 is attached to the top of the plate buckle (31-2-2.1) due to corrosion, and leather remains of a strap (or sword scabbard) cover the back of the plate buckle. The strap end has a length of 6.1 cm and has two small copper alloy rivets at its base that fixed the leather strap to which it was attached. A split in the base of the strap end could not be observed, which might be due to corrosion and restoration.

Another plate (31-3-6.2) found in association with the sword. It has a length of 6.6 cm and a width of 3.2 cm. The plate is bent and convex, which might indicate that it was bent around the scabbard and that the rivets fixed the plate to the scabbard, together with the rivet at the protruding end of the plate. A slot may be present at the basis of the plate (but this is not clear due to its corroded condition); it probably served to attach a narrow strap that connected the sword scabbard with the waist belt. Plate buckles 31-3-3 and 31-2-2.1, (slotted) plate 31-2-1.2, and strap end 31-2-2.2 seem to form one ensemble, which is associated with both the waist belt and the sword (with scabbard). The complete original assembly probably consisted of a waist belt with additional straps that made it possible to secure the sword scabbard with the waist belt. A similar set of plate buckle with counter plate, additional plate and thin plates (similar to plate 31-2-6.3) was found in Pandhof grave 555.

Copper alloy plate buckles with hollow plates and their associated belt fittings are classified as Siegmund’s type Gür3.3, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610/640-860).19 Koch dates similar belt sets to Schreiber Stufe 6 (610/30-660/660).20 A similar example is known from the cemetery of Bülach (grave 127); it consists of a plate buckle, counter plate and triangular back plate. Werner dates this belt set to the second half of the seventh century and claims that this type is found throughout Merovingian Europe but is characteristic for the Lombard area. Werner claims, however, that the ones found in the northern regions are local products and can be distinguished from the Lombard ones on the basis of their broader and unagitated appearance.21–22 Legsouër, Pépin et Vallet classify similar plate buckles and associated belt fittings as type 172 and date them to their phases MR1-MR2 (600-10/660-870).23

Plate buckle: copper alloy, hallow plate and profiled outline, wrapped and slotted construction.

Find number: 87 (87-2-2).

Copper alloy plate buckle 87-3-5 from grave 87 has a triangular hollow profile with a profiled outline (fig. 4.9). Three rivets were presumably attached to the plate; their pins can be observed at the back of the plate and traces of the rivets can also be observed on the surface of the plate. A textile fragment is also preserved on the surface of the plate. The plate is without decoration. It has a length of 6.6 cm and a width of 2.7 cm. The inner length of the buckle loop is 3.0 cm, and the leather belt will have been of approximately the same width. The buckle loop, of which the tongue is gone, is attached to the plate with a wrapped and slotted construction. The belt fitting was found in a grave of a woman in which the majority of the objects seem to have been moved from their original location, maybe due to the observed disturbance of the north-eastern corner of the grave. The plate buckle was found in the middle of the eastern half of the grave. Assuming this was its original position it was deposited near the presumed former location of the upper right leg.

A similar plate buckle was found in the Vrijthof cemetery (grave 11: 1664-1). It was identified as a plate buckle of a strap that attached the seax and scabbard to the waist belt. However, the Sittard plate buckle was found in the grave of a woman. It is not comparable to the plate buckle with hollow plate from Sittard grave 31, which has a hinged construction and is also larger. It might have been a purse buckle considering its possible find location near the upper right leg. Features as the hollow plate classification as it is a variant of Siegmund types Gür 3/3-4, which date to Rhineland phase 8 (610/640-860).24 It is safe to suggest that the plate buckle dates to the first half of the seventh century.
the plate buckle, are preserved. The copper alloy stripes, as on the plate buckle, were presumably also applied on this back plate. The back plate has four copper alloy rivets, and has a width of 4.0 and a length of 6.4 cm. Fragments of rivet pins are visible at the back side of the plate, which is severely corroded and on which probably some mineralised leather remains are still present. The belt fittings were found in association with a seax in the western half of the grave of which the eastern half is gone. They were deposited to the left of the upper body of the now completely decomposed body assuming that the seax and fittings were still at their original location. The better preserved inlays applied on the buckle loop are still present. The plate has a length of 7.9 cm, and a width of 5.6 cm. The buckle loop is without tongue and is attached to the plate with a wrapped and slotted construction. The inner length of the buckle loop is 2.7 cm. The leather belt to which the belt fittings were attached probably had an approximate width of 3.6 cm and was narrower towards the belt end that went through the buckle loop. The copper alloy inlays applied on the buckle loop are for the majority gone. The remaining inlays consist of stripes and ladder bands. The inlays on the plate of the plate buckle are also considerably damaged. The better preserved inlays on the related counter plate indicate that it the applied decoration originally covered the entire surfaces of the plates; the middle fields were covered with two ‘suns’ and a smaller ‘sun’ was applied at the extremities of the plates. Bands of degenerated animal heads were applied around the decorated middle fields. Two domed iron rivets, plated with copper alloy, are present at the base of the plate buckle plate; a third rivet was probably fixed at the end of the plate. The counter plate has a length of 7.1 cm, and a width of 3.5 cm. It has three iron domed rivets plated with copper alloy. The two belt fittings were found in the eastern middle section of the grave, and thus near the presumed former location of the waist of the now completely decayed body. Other finds (apart from an iron nail) are not known from this grave; this would have been the position of the waist of the now completed (fig. 4.12). The reconstructed back plate has a length of 6.2 cm and a width of 5.1 cm, and was, in view of these dimensions, part of a waist belt. The back plate is not decorated, and two, of the presumably four, domed copper alloy rivets are present. The pin of one of the rivets can be observed at the back of the plate. Other waist belt fittings are not known from this grave, which might be a result of its recent disturbance. However, a fragment of an iron plate (28-2-2) was found together with the back plate (fig. 4.12). It might have been part of it (the dimensions are comparable), or of a second fitting of the waist belt; the remaining length is 6.0 cm and width 5.1 cm, and rivets or rivets holes were not present on this plate (evidence of rivets may have disappeared). The back plate and additional plate were found in the middle of the disturbed grave; this would have been the position of the waist of the now completely decayed body. The grave contained the burial of a man, identified as such on a basis of the bone head. From grave 36 the only belt fitting known is an iron back plate (36-1-1). It was, in view of its length of 7.0 cm and a width of 4.5 cm, a fitting of a waist belt (fig. 4.12). The plate is not decorated, and only one, of the probably four, copper alloy rivet is present. Some corrosion, of which it is not clear whether it contained textile or leather remains, can be observed at the back of the plate. The plate was found in the north-eastern corner of the grave, which indicates a location near the right foot or left shoulder, depending on the orientation of the burial (generally S-N in the Sittard cemetery). The other finds from this grave are not gender specific.

The back plates belong to the group of broad bivariate and trivariate iron belt fittings without decoration and can thus be classified as Siegmund’s type Gür4.2/4.3/4.5, which dates to Rhineland phase 9 (815-640). The strap end from grave 79 has a length of 7.8 cm and a base width of 2.4 cm (fig. 4.13). It probably belonged to a waist belt, although other belt fittings are not known from this grave (gone due to reopening). The silver inlays are considerably weathered. The decoration seems to consist of braided bands, and there seem to be some traces of copper alloy threads also included in the decoration pattern. This is however not certain; the copper alloy may also be a result of corrosion. Geometric decorations patterns are commonly executed with silver inlays, and this might also be the case for this strap end. The strap end is heavily restored: a split base and traces of rivets cannot be observed. The strap end was found outside the coffin, in the western section of the chamber in the disturbed grave. It probably moved from its original location in the coffin (which is an indication that the grave may have been reopened).

Siegmund classifies belt fittings with geometric decoration patterns of silver inlays as type Gür4.6, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640) and Franken AG phase 7 (610-640).
Numerous small belt fittings were found in the Sittard graves. They could not be identified as fittings of waist belts because of their dimensions, but also because of their find locations in the graves. They are either the fittings of shoes or leg wear, the fasteners of purses or the fittings of additional leather strips (carrying sword or seax scabbards), various belt pendants (varying from utensils to amulets) attached to the waist belt.

Foot wear: iron belt fittings with silver inlay

Find numbers: 8 (8-3-1; 8-5-2; 8-5-3, 8-5-1, 8-5-2; 8-5-3)

The set of belt fittings from grave 8 consists of two plates (probably plate buckles) and two strap ends (fig. 4.14). They are identified as shoe fittings because of their relatively small size, their paired occurrence and their find location in the northern part of the grave, the presumed former location of the foot. Find numbers 8-3-1, 8-3-2 and 8-3-3 were found in the north-eastern part of the grave (right shoe) and find numbers 8-5-1 and 8-5-2 were found in the north-western part of the grave (left shoe). Find number 8-5-3 is a small triangular plate, and find number 8-5-4 is a fragment of a buckle loop; these two find numbers together form a plate buckle. The plate has a remaining length of 2.4 cm and a width of 1.3 cm. The inner length of the buckle loop can be reconstructed; a considerable part is gone. The decoration pattern of silver inlays forming three ladder bands, bordered by stripes. The strap end is severely damaged, and the former presence of a split base and rivets could not be identified.

The belt fittings of the left shoe consist of a triangular plate (8-3-1) and the base of a strap end (8-3-2). The plate is severely damaged, but it was in all probability the plate of a plate buckle similar to the plate buckle of the right shoe. Two copper alloy rivets (or iron rivets covered with sheet copper alloy) are still attached to the plate. Remnants of a third rivet (8-3-3) were found detached from the plate. The remaining length of the plate is 0.6 cm, and the width 2.5 cm. Only some stripes of silver inlay are left on the plate. A pattern cannot be identified, but it might have been similar to the pattern on its counterpart. The base of strap end 8-3-2 has a width of 1.4 cm. One rivet hole can be observed, but originally two rivets were present. The remnants of the decoration consist of a few stripes of silver inlay. The decoration on the strap end might have been similar to the decoration on the other strap end of the set. This type of foot wear is generally associated with burials of women. The Sittard foot wear fittings were also found in the grave of a woman (identified on the basis of the beads).

Paired iron plate buckles with triangular shaped plates with inlays and accompanying strap ends are classified as Siegmund’s type Sna1.3. Depending on the decoration pattern, the Sittard set is classified as Sna2.4 on the basis of its monochrome inlays. This type dates to Rhinelander phase 8 (650-690). The Franken AG maintained this type, but mention that it is difficult to date to a restricted phase on the basis of the associated grave inventories; this type is dated to their phases 5 to 7 (650/690). Lageux, Pépin and Vallet identified one type of iron shoe buckles with triangular plates, which dates to their phase MR1 (600-650/690). The base of strap end 8-3-2, which corresponds with the date range of Siegmund’s type Sna1.4. The shoe fittings from Sittard grave 8 are dated accordingly.

Purse fittings: copper alloy plate buckle with strap end

Find numbers: 11 (11-7-3; 11-7-4; 11-7-4-1)

A small copper alloy buckle plate with fixed plate (11-7-3) and strap end (11-7-4) were found in the western middle section of the grave (fig. 4.15). Since a number of teeth and the beads were found in southern segment of the grave it is safe to suggest that the plate buckle and strap end were found along the side of the body, close to the waist or left upper leg. This is a common find location of purses with their contents. The plate buckle has a fixed plate with a length of 2.7 cm and a width of 1.2 cm. The plate is decorated with stamped dots in the edges and some larger dots on the middle of the plate. Some leather remains were discovered on the buckle loop. The two loops at the back of the plate are severely damaged. The matching copper alloy strap end is broken in two parts. It has a length of 4.1 cm, its split base has a width of 0.9 cm, and it is decorated with a groove following the edges of the plate. The strap end has one rivet hole at the split base of the plate.

Another copper alloy strap end (11-7-4.2) was found at the same location in the grave, but attached to a corroded ensemble consisting of a comb with case, an iron ring rod and an iron loop (fig. 4.46). The decoration on this strap end is similar to that on strap end 11-7-4.1. It has a length of 4.1 cm and its split base a width of 0.9 cm. It clearly forms one ensemble with the other strap end and plate buckle; they were probably fittings of the purse in which the comb and iron ring and rod were deposited or of a leather strap carrying these items. The simple iron rings (11-7-2) which were also found in this segment of the grave were also part of the ‘purse’ or the ensemble of belt pendants. The other finds (among which beads) from this grave indicate that it was the burial of a woman.

Purse fitting: plate buckle with hinged construction

Find number: 43 (43-1-1.1)

The find location of the small plate buckle (43-1-1.1) from grave 43 is not known (fig. 4.16). The function of this plate buckle is difficult to identify, but, in view of its size, it is not unlikely that is was part of a purse or maybe the foot wear. It is associated with objects commonly identified as purse contents or belt appendages (a comb and a leather strap). The plate of the plate buckle is severely damaged; its original shape cannot be identified. The plate is attached to a rectangular buckle with a hinged construction. The buckle loop has an outer length of 2.6 cm and an inner length of 1.5 cm, which indicates that it was attached to a relatively narrow strap. The finds in the grave for which no find number is recorded might be this set of objects.

Small rectangular buckle fittings are classified as Siegmund’s type Sna1.1.4, but small plate buckles with rectangular buckles were not identified in his research area. Simple rectangular buckles are considered to be part of purses or additional straps attached to the waist belt. They date to Rhinelander phase 5 (555-570). Within the category of rectangular buckles, Legoum, Pépin and Vallet make a distinction between buckles with flat loops and those with faceted loops, similar to the buckle of Sittard plate buckle. This morphological feature has no chronological significance since both type 124 and 125 date to their phases MA1-MR1 (470/80-630/40). Dating the Sittard plate buckle as the simple rectangular buckles, and thus to the second half of the sixth century, seems a plausible option.

Purse fittings: plate buckle with rectangular plate

Find number: 81 (81-1-1)

Small copper alloy plate buckle 82-1-1 was found in the eastern part of the grave, between the middle and northern (feet) section; it was thus deposited to the right of the lower body. The plate of the plate buckle is rectangular and has a length of 2.4 cm and a width of 1.5 cm (fig. 4.17). The loop has an outer length of 2.1 cm and an inner length of 1.4 cm. The plate is attached to the buckle loop with a wrapped and slotted construction. Only a fragment of the tongue is present, and rivets are not observed. The grave suffered from a recent disturbance of its southern and western part, and the plate buckle might have moved from its original location. It is a rather small plate buckle; it is therefore not identified as a fitting of the waist belt; other identifications, among which the fitting of a purse, or a strap hanging down from the waist are thus possible. The finds from this grave are not gender specific.

Purse fittings: strap end, copper alloy

Find numbers: 8 (8-4-1; 76 (76-4-1)

A small copper alloy strap end (8-4-1), with a length of 4.7 cm and a width of 2.3 cm was found in the north-western segment of grave 8, not far from the ensemble of iron shoes fittings with silver inlay. It was probably not part of this ensemble given its rather different appearance (fig. 4.18). The strap end is decorated with two grooves applied at the base of the plate. The two small rivets, also at the base of the plate, attached the strap end to the leather strap. It is possible that the strap end moved from its original position since the middle section of the grave was disturbed; it might have belonged to a purse or additional strap attached to the waist belt. The strap end was found in association with organic remains, probably wood or bone. It is classified as L/P/V type 199, which dates to their phases MA1-MR1 (470/80-630/40).
Grave finds Sittard-Kemperkoul

A copper alloy coin pendant with a diameter of 3.1 cm was found in grave 11 of a woman (fig. 4.19, left). A fragment of a suspension ring is still present in its suspension hole. The pendant was probably an altered Roman coin, but images, which were presumably present on both ‘coin’ sides, are not visible anymore. The coin pendant was found in the middle of the western section of the grave, and was thus deposited to the left of the waist or left upper leg together with other items which were probably the contents of a purse. However, it might also be the copper alloy object found in association with the beads and which is recorded as number 11-8 (fig. 4.20, left). It has slightly expanding extremities, and falls in the category of ‘Kolbenringe’, although the extremities as not as prominent as those of the silver ‘Kolbenringe’. The ring has an outer diameter of 6.6 cm, and an inner diameter of 6.1 cm, it has an oval section, and is not decorated. The arm ring or bracelet was found in a grave of a woman, identified as such on the basis of feminine objects such as beads and a finger ring. The bracelet was found close to the lower left arm (grave 71 is one of the few Sittard graves which still contained skeletal remains or imprints). It is more likely a purse fitting or fitting of an additional strap.

The small copper alloy buckle from grave 5 was found attached to a large back plate (fig. 4-5). The buckle has an oval loop and a straight copper alloy tongue (fig. 4.12). The loop has an inner length of 1.3 cm, and the small strap to which it was attached will have been a different one than the belt to which the back plate was attached (with a reconstructed belt width of approximately 4.1-5.7 cm). However, the buckle and back plate were found together, in the section of the grave associated with the waist (grave 5 is one of the few Sittard graves in which a considerable part of the articulated skeleton was preserved). The ensemble of finds (fire steel, flint, shears and a knife), found to the left of the waist in this grave, is commonly known as the contents of purses or as objects hanging down from the waist belt. The small buckle might have fixed an additional strap, to which the purse or the objects themselves were attached, to the waist belt.

Simple buckle 26-61 from grave 26 is no longer present in the collection. It was found in the grave of a man (identified as such on the basis of a lance head, scabbard, and sword). It was found close to the pelvis. Iron loop (1-2-3) from grave 41, attached to the blades of a pair of shears and an iron knife, is identified as a fragment of a buckle loop, probably of a simple buckle. The three objects were found in the middle section of the grave, and thus close to the initial location of the waist. The shears and knife might have been carried as an ensemble in a purse that was attached to the waist belt. The reconstructed length of the oval loop is approximately 5.5 cm, which is relatively large; it might have been the fastener of the waist belt. A function as purse buckle is less likely in view of these dimensions, despite its association with the purse contents.

A similar bracelet is known from the cemetery of Meerveldhoven, which is relatively nearby. Wührer claims that these specific specimens date to 600-630/40 and that the other examples of type A.3.8 occur already in the sixth century.

The bracelet is classified as Siegmund type Rng1.2: arm rings with cast or engraved geometric ornaments. This type knows only a few examples, of which the distribution pattern is more or less restricted to Northern France, Belgium and the Rhineland, predominantly between Mayen and Koblenz. Especially the specimens with decoration comparable to the Sittard specimen are restricted to the area west of the river Rhine. A similar bracelet is known from the cemetery of Meerveldhoven, which is relatively nearby. Wührer makes a reminder that no example of type A.3.8 occur already in the sixth century.

The bracelet was found close to the left arm (grave 71 is one of the few Sittard graves which still contained skeletal remains or imprints, although they were in such a poor condition that they could not be preserved for analysis), and its function as bracelet is with this find location confirmed. Wührer presented an elaborate overview of metal arm jewellery of the early medieval period (although over an extended area). Five main groups are identified: Kolbenarmringe, bracelets of sheet metal, bracelets with animal head decoration, iron rings and a group that consists of a variety of other types. The Sittard specimen from grave 71 is classified as Wührer’s type A.3.1e (solid Kolbenarmringe of nonferrous metal without decoration), which has an extended distribution pattern (from Northern France and the Benelux countries to Crimea), although they appeared predominantly in the Middle Rhineland and in Southern Germany/Northern Switzerland. They are dated to an extended period, namely to 450/80-720. This bracelet can also be classified as Siegmund’s type Rng1.3, which includes open arm rings with slightly thickened or straight extremities without decoration. Siegmund observed that these rings were often found at the presumed location of the left hand in graves of women and claims that they are chronologically indifferent. Legoux, Périn and Vallée classified bracelets on the basis of material used; the group of copper alloy bracelet contains both decorated and undecorated examples. Type 3.8 dates to their phases MA1-MA3 (470/80-660/10), but they are also current thereafter. A copper alloy bracelet (87-2-1), open, with slightly broached extremities, was found in grave 87 (fig. 4.20, right). The extremities are decorated with three or four zones of three to four engraved or cast lines with slightly sunken triangles in between. The bracelet was found in the north-western corner of the grave. The finds from this grave, however, seem to have moved from their initial location; the bracelet might have been deposited around the arm of the deceased.

Wührer classified this specific specimen from Sittard as type A.3.8 (Kolbenarmringe with cast or engraved geometric ornaments). This type knows only a few examples, of which the distribution pattern is more or less restricted to Northern France, Belgium and the Rhineland, predominantly between Mayen and Koblenz. Especially the specimens with decoration comparable to the Sittard specimen are restricted to the area west of the river Rhine.
armed brooch was found in the middle of the grave, in the re-
opening pit. Its assignment to grave 25 is therefore not certain. The
other finds from this grave were a collection of beads found near
the neck, and a pottery fragment. Grave 23 was thus of a wom-
man, and probably contained more (gender specific) objects than
the ones uncovered. The remnants are not enough to classify
this brooch on the basis of Thörle’s typological scheme. However,
the present overview of brooches per region shows that small un-
dercoated equally armed brooches were characteristic for Austrasia;
they are in this overview dated to the MJII (650/40-670/80).74
The end plate of an equal armed brooch (43-2; 3-1.12) was identi-
ﬁed as belonging to group II. The dot-in-circle decoration on the
end plate of the Sittard brooch resembles the examples of sub-group II
A 1b.75 The brooches of group II A 1b are predominantly known
from Belgium and Northern France.76 They date to MJII (650/40-
670/80).77
The small copper alloy equal armed brooch from grave 64 has a
length of 2.3 cm (ﬁg. 4.25). It is a rectangular brooch: both the end
plates are rectangular and have the same width (0.8 cm) as the bow
of the brooch. The brooch is not decorated. Remnants of an iron
nail and copper alloy needle case can be observed at the back of
the brooch. The equal armed brooch was found to the left of the
presumed former location of the upper part of the body, approxi-
ately at the height of the left shoulder/arm. The brooch belongs to
Thörle’s basic group of band shaped brooches: Group XI (consisting of 26 examples), and especially sub-group XI A of which the majority have undecorated or sim-
ilar decoration is made between rings of which an extremity is folded back
only earring known from the cemetery. Siegmund classiﬁes speciﬁc
forms of earrings known and is, for the greater part, adopted
in this publication. The earring was placed at the end of one zone of twisted silver wire. The sol-
diary appendage at its place. The earring was found in the southern
section of the grave, together with a collection of beads, and thus
date to the presumed former location of the head. The other find
from this grave is a copper alloy ring, which is no longer present in the
collection. The earring and beads form an obvious feminine as-
semblement of grave goods. In view of the dimensions of the coin it
was the burial of a child.

Von Freeden offers a detailed typology of Alamannic earrings in
the Merovingian period.78 This is a detailed overview of nearly all
forms of earrings known and is, for the greater part, adopted
by Siegmund and the Franken AG. It appears that earrings similar
to the one from Sittard are rare in the Alamannic area; they are dis-
cussed as ‘sonderform’.

Siegmund mentions that earrings are rare in the Rhine area.
This observation matches with the ﬁnds from Sittard since this is the
only earring known from the cemetery. Siegmund classiﬁes speci-
ﬁcally as the Sittard earring as type Ohry 1: earrings with solid pol-
gonal appendages and a thread enfolding the main ring. A distinc-
tion is made between rings of which an extremity is folded back
and wrapped around the ring and as such forms a loop which could
be fastened with the hook made of the other extremity (Ohry 1),
and the younger variant of which the wrapped threads are separate
from the main ring and merely decorative (Ohry 2). The earring
from Sittard is clearly type Ohry 2 since the threads are obviously
additional threads and not part of the fastening device of the ear-
ing. Siegmund identiﬁes similar rings as typical ‘Frankish’,
since their main distribution area covers the area west of the Rhine, as it
is also discussed in relation to similar ear ring found in Bergisches.79
Type Ohry dates to Rhinelander phase 10 (670/700), it is claimed
that sub type Ohry 2 is the younger variant within this date
range.80 The Franken AG did not distinguish between the two
sub types since they could not discover a chronological difference
between them. They date Ohry to their phases 9-10 (670/80-710),81
but refer to their possible presence in phase 8 (640/50-670/80).82
During this earring being the second half of the seventh century seems
a plausible option.

Finger rings

One of the two finger rings from the Sittard cemetery was found in
grave 71 (4.23). It is a copper alloy ring with a lozenge-shaped
bezel. The middle ﬁeld of the bezel is decorated with an incised/
engraved cross surrounded with an incised/engraved line follow-
ing the bezel edges. A possible option of this engraved line is
gone, as are parts of the bezel edges. The band shaped ring is cir-
ular and closed. It has a diameter of 1.9 cm from the bezel to the op-
posite point, and the other crossing imaginary diameter is 2.3 cm.
The finger ring is part of a grave goods assemblage of a woman,
identiﬁed on the basis of beads and a bracelet. The ring was found
near the left hand, and was thus actually worn on a ﬁnger during
the burial event.

Find number 76-11 from grave 76 is a ﬁnger ring which is no
longer present in the collection. It is described, in the thesis of
Zeboodt, as a copper alloy ring with a D-shaped section and a
rectangular ﬂat bezel with an engraved cross. The extremities of
the cross arms and their crossing point are pronounced with more
deeply incised points. A drawing of this object is not available. The
ring was found along the western wall of the coffin, and was thus
presumably deposited on the left hand of the now completely de-
composed body of a woman.

Finger rings with ﬂat bezels and engraved decoration (animal style or
Christian (cross)) are classiﬁed as Legoux/Perin/Vallet type 334; they date to their phases MA3-MR1 (650/70-660/70).83

Beads

Numerous beads, with great variety between the twenty graves in
which they were found, are known from the Sittard cemetery (ta-
ble 4.1). In grave 11, for example, approximately 700 beads were
found. This is in comparison to other graves with beads from
Sittard and its surroundings, but also in general, a very high num-
ber. The majority consists of the well known monochrome amber,
yellow beads, which are rather common. Nonetheless, some re-

78 Thörle/Van Haperen 2012, 48-49.79 Siegmund 1944, 43-45.80 Missenet et al. 2003, 154.81 Legoux/Perin/Vallet 2004, 40.41 (type 334).
82 Thörle 2001, Tafel 60.
83 Legoux/Périn/Vallet 2004, 19, 40, 54 (type 334).
The classifications of Siegmund’s corresponding types (Siegmund 1998) which also shows the types identified in Siegmund’s research area (table 4.3); of all the possible combinations only a small number is identified in the Rhineland. A second matrix shows which types (the cells with an orange shade) are present in the Sittard cemetery and whether they match with Siegmund types (table 4.3). The monochrome beads are, if possible, classified and dated after Siegmund’s typo-chronology of monochrome beads. As the matrix shows, not all the types discovered in the Sittard cemetery are identified in the Rhineland and these are for now difficult to date.

### The typo-chronologies of beads

Beads and strings of beads are meticulously discussed in numerous typo-chronological studies. The classifications of Siegmund and the Franken AG are used for all the Sittard beads (polychrome and monochrome), but for the polychrome beads the classifications of Koch (based on the beads from Scherzeheim and Pleidelsheim) are also consulted. Siegmund defined the monochrome bead types on the basis of shape, colour and opacity/transparency. The beads are in the following discussed as separate groups of monochrome, polychrome, amber and amethyst beads, followed by a description of each individual string.

#### Monochrome beads

A number of c. 758 monochrome beads from sixteen graves are present in the collection of beads from the Sittard cemetery (some are now missing and not included in the table; see the catalogue of graves). For the analysis of monochrome beads a matrix is established with the parameters colour, shape, opacity/transparency.
Fifty-three types are identified in the Sittard collection of monochrome beads (table 4.3). From high to low numbers of beads with particular colours these are: yellow, all of them opaque (590; the majority are common miniature beads), blue (26; of which 26 opaque and 26 translucent), green (36; 12 opaque and 14 translucent), red (27; 1 translucent), white (13, all of them opaque), black (15; all of them opaque), and orange (15; all of them opaque). The common shapes are (fig. 4.14): 19 (barrel shape; occurring in combination with six different colours, including opaque and translucent beads), 25 (double connected beads; not present in high numbers, but occurs in combination with a relatively wide variety of colours, namely five colours, including the opaque and translucent beads). The highest number of beads with a particular shape is the miniature beads (shape 30), the barrel shaped beads (shape 19), the biconical beads (shape 20), and the small short cylindrical beads (shape 31).

The matrix also shows that the red beads are distributed over the highest number of shapes, as are the blue translucent and the white opaque beads. Contrarily, the black opaque and the orange opaque beads are distributed over a relatively low number of shapes.

The high number of beads in grave 11 consists for the greater part of miniature yellow opaque beads, which are rather common. Nonetheless, this abundant presence of beads in one grave is rather peculiar. The chemical analysis of the beads from two graves of the cemetery of Borgharen in the province of Limburg showed that the yellow miniature beads from one grave were comparable in terms of chemical composition (two groups were discovered), but that seven different groups could be identified on the basis of the chemical composition of the small yellow beads from the other grave. It is suggested that yellow beads were produced in numerous local workshops since yellow pigment was not that difficult to make. This might explain the discovered variety of the chemical composition of the simple yellow miniature beads in a single grave; they may have been produced in several workshops in the proximity of Borgharen. The high number of yellow beads from Sittard might indicate that they were produced locally and that their significance was different from the rare polychrome beads that were integrated into the same strings of beads and which, in all probability, had more remote provenances (see below).

Polychrome beads

One hundred and nine polychrome beads were found, of which hundred and two are currently present in the collection (fig. 4.15 shows the identified types). The polychrome beads are classified and dated after the typo-chronological schemes of Siegmund and Koch. Koch developed her detailed classification on the basis of the beads from Scherzheim⁶⁶ and Pleidelsheim.⁶⁷ The catalogue of graves and finds presents the types and date ranges assigned

**Table 4.3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Colour</th>
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</table>

to each individual polychrome bead from Sittard. The highest number of polychrome beads is known from grave 11 (76 beads), among which some peculiar and rare beads can be found. The find locations of the bead strings are discussed in the following, as are the features of each string in more detail. Of concern are the dominant colours(s) and the distribution of polychrome, monochrome, opaque, transparent and amber beads.

Amber and amethyst beads
Sixteen amber beads are present in the collection and seven beads went missing after the excavation. The majority of the amber beads are almond or amorphous. The highest numbers (six) were found in grave 44, but these are not available anymore, and in grave 80 (also six). The string from grave 80 contains also a number of red glass beads, which gives the string an overall red appearance. It is peculiar that from grave 11, with the highest number of beads, only one amber bead is known. The single amethyst bead from the cemetery was found in grave 16, in which also a number of unusual large decorated beads were found.

The beads from grave 2
The five beads from grave 2 were found in the southern section of the grave, at the supposed former location of the head of the now completely decayed body. This can be assumed to be their original location; it is however a low number for a necklace. Other finds are not known from this grave. Two of the beads are opaque orange, one blue bead is transparent and the other blue one opaque, and the single green bead is also opaque. The small transparent blue bead can be placed in Rhineland combination group A, and dates thus rather early, to 485-555.\(^6^8\) In view of the relatively long date range of the orange beads it is rather difficult to date the grave on the basis of the beads alone. The blue bead will have been in circulation for some time before its deposition, but it remains uncertain whether the grave dates to the second half of the sixth century or to the seventh century.

The beads from grave 8
The single bead from grave 8 (8-1-1) is a blue monochrome transparent bead. A reopening pit disturbed a considerable part of the coffin and burial pit of this chamber grave. The bead was found outside the coffin, in the southern section of the chamber. The bead may have belonged to a larger ensemble of beads and probably moved from its original location, which was probably in the proximity of the former supposed position of the head in the southern section of the coffin. This section was completely disturbed. The other finds from this grave are a glass vessel and shoe fittings, on the basis of which the grave is dated to S-K IIIa (640/50-670/80). The bead is dated to 570-705; this date range covers the date range assigned to the grave. The bead might have been in circulation for some time before deposition, but not necessarily.

The beads from grave 11
Four strings with numerous and a wide variety of beads were found in this grave of a woman; they form an ensemble of approximately 728 beads (fig. 4.26). The complete collection consists mainly of common miniature yellow opaque beads. Their exact number was difficult to establish since some were coiled but it could not be determined whether this was their original condition, and some moved inside the openings of larger beads and could not be counted. The approximate number will, however, not be very different form the actual number. Next to the yellow and other monochrome beads 76 polychrome beads are present, of which some are rather rare specimens. They are discussed in detail in the following.

The beads from grave 11 are at present known to us as four strings. The beads were however recorded as one ensemble on the field drawing; it is not clear why it was decided to string them as four separate strings. Zoetbrood mentions that one of the strings was created during the excavation (current find numbers 1.4.1-1.4.36), and that the other three strings were created thereafter in the laboratory. The thesis mentions that the original compositions of these strings are not known to us. For now the beads are discussed per string without implicating that these single strings have any significance.

\(^6^8\) Siegmund 1996, 70.
Fig. 4.26 The beads from grave 11 (scale 1:1).
The first string of beads (11-8-5-11-9) consists of approximately 175 beads, of which the majority consists of small yellow opaque monochrome beads. The seven polychrome beads are identified as five different types, of which one is a peculiar and rare one. This is a red opaque globular bead (11-11-2) with white combed/undulating bands and five raised blue dots with yellow eyes; it is a unique specimen in the Sittard cemetery. Similar beads are known from the Rhineland, Schretzheim or Plessdelsheim but beads with raised eyes but different colour schemes are. The Sittard bead falls within the same "tradition" and is dated accordingly (565-600/620). Another distinct but much smaller bead from this string is a white biconical bead with blue transparent crossing waves with red dots; similar beads are known from the other strings from grave 11. This type is known from Schretzheim and Plessdelsheim and classified as Koch-Schretzheim 1977 type 2.1.5 (565/600-660).

The other polychrome beads are red beads with white crossing waves (Koch-Schretzheim 1977, type 34.11/34.12: 590/600-620/30), of which one is a double connected bead (5-Pers.8: 555-705). One red opaque bead is a white spiral band. Similar beads are not known from the Sittard graves, but it is similar to a bead from grave 11. This type is known from Schretzheim and Plessdelsheim and classified as Koch-Schretzheim 1977 type 3.1.1 (565/600-660).

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The beads from grave 43
Only the skull of the body buried in grave 43 was preserved. It was found in the middle of the grave, near the presumed former location of the head; it consists of four amber beads and one green long cylindrical bead. The other finds from this grave are a spouted pot and biconical pot (Fig. 4.17). It was found in the grave of a man (Fig. 4.28). In the thesis of Zoetbrood forty-three beads were listed; forty-two glass beads and one amber bead. The available ensemble of beads consists of one amber bead, which is damaged; the other beads are all opaque and without decoration. Twenty-one of the beads are yellow, nine are blue, five are white. The transparent green bead mentioned by Zoetbrood is not available anymore, as are a number of the small opaque yellow beads. The cylindrical beads of different colours characterize the string. Other finds are not known from this grave and it is dated on the basis of the beads alone to S-K IIIb (640/50-670/80).

The beads from grave 44
Altogether, eight of the twenty-nine beads from grave 44 are certainly present in the string without find numbers, and ten might be present (similar beads were also described as finds from graves 16 and 43). The find locations of the beads from grave 44 were not recorded on the field drawing, and other finds, except for a limestone fragment, were not observed in grave 44. Bead 44-1-1.17 (the large red opaque, biconical bead decorated with edge and middle bands and swirling threads) is dated to Schretzheim phases 3-4 (565-620/30), and bead 44-1-1.14 (the white opaque, short cylindrical bead decorated with blue crossing waves) is dated to Schretzheim phase 4 (590/600-620/30), and some beads to considerably long date ranges, which are not indicative. It is decided not to date the grave on the basis of these dated beads alone, since bead typo-chronologies are not that straightforward; the evidence is too feeble.

The beads from grave 45
The single bead from grave 45 is lost. It was described in Zoetbrood’s thesis as a black opaque globular compressed bead (Type BLO30/S-Per 31.1. 485-585). It was found in the grave of a man but its exact find location is not recorded on the field drawing. The other prominent find from this grave are bell fittings, a axe and an axe, on the basis of which it is dated to S-K IIIb (610/20-640/50). The bead might have been an intrusive find.

The beads from grave 46
The beads from grave 46 are not present in the collection. They are mentioned in the thesis of Zoetbrood and referred to in the excavation report (Sittard-Kemperkoul 2007: 103). The beads from grave 47 (Fig. 4.30) are not present in the collection either; they are mentioned in the thesis of Zoetbrood and referred to in the excavation report (Sittard-Kemperkoul 2007: 103).

The beads from grave 48
The beads from grave 48 (Fig. 4.38) are not present in the collection. They are mentioned in the thesis of Zoetbrood and referred to in the excavation report (Sittard-Kemperkoul 2007: 103).

The beads from grave 49
The beads from grave 49 (Fig. 4.33) are not present in the collection. They are mentioned in the thesis of Zoetbrood and referred to in the excavation report (Sittard-Kemperkoul 2007: 103).

The beads from grave 50
The beads from grave 50 (Fig. 4.34) are not present in the collection. They are mentioned in the thesis of Zoetbrood and referred to in the excavation report (Sittard-Kemperkoul 2007: 103).

The beads from grave 51
The beads from grave 51 (Fig. 4.35) are not present in the collection. They are mentioned in the thesis of Zoetbrood and referred to in the excavation report (Sittard-Kemperkoul 2007: 103).

The beads from grave 52
The beads from grave 52 (Fig. 4.36) are not present in the collection. They are mentioned in the thesis of Zoetbrood and referred to in the excavation report (Sittard-Kemperkoul 2007: 103).
The beads from grave 45
The single bead from grave 45 is lost. It is described as a flat almond shaped amber bead. Only one find location of objects in this grave is recorded on the field drawing. The find was on the field drawing described as ‘iron’ and actually consists of belt fittings and a nail; maybe the amber bead was found at the same location (close to the eastern wall, in the middle of the grave) in association with these iron objects. Since this grave disturbed a large part of grave 46, with also connective beads, the amber bead might also have moved from its original location in grave 46. Grave 45 is dated to S-K IIIb (640/50-670/80).

The beads from grave 46
The ensemble of beads from grave 46 consists of eight beads, which were found in the middle of the grave, near the western wall of the coffin (fig. 4.30). The grave was for its larger part disturbed by grave 45, and whether this was the original location of the beads is therefore uncertain. If it was, the ensemble was deposited as a bracelet. One of the beads (an amber one) might have moved from its original location into grave 45 in which it is the only bead. The ensemble from grave 46 consists of one amber bead, five orange monochrome barrel shaped beads, and two polychrome red/brown beads with white crossing waves; the string has a red appearance. A pottery jug is also known form this grave, which dates it to S-K IIIa (650-610/20). The ensemble seems to date around 600, and might even be younger, which indicates that the grave may date around 600 or thereafter and not as early as 565 or some time thereafter.

The beads from grave 59
The nine beads from grave 59 were found as one ensemble in the southern section of the grave and thus close to the presumed former location of the head of the now completely decomposed body (fig. 4.31). The ensemble consists of four polychrome beads of which one is blue, opaque, globular compressed with a opaque white band, one is red/brown, opaque, barrel shaped with yellow crossing waves and yellow opaque dots, one is black, long cylindrical with white/yellow spiral bands, and one is blue, opaque, barrel shaped with yellow, red and white dots. Of the five monochrome beads one is blue, opaque, barrel shaped, two are green, opaque, barrel shaped, one is blue, transparent, small, globular compressed, and one is red, opaque, globular compressed. An earring and a simple ring (fastener of a purse) were also found in this grave, on the basis of which the grave is dated to S-K IIIb (640/50-670/80).

The beads from grave 60
The eight beads from grave 60 were found in the middle of the southern section of the grave, thus close to the presumed former location of the head (fig. 4.32). The ensemble consists of five monochrome beads and three more or less identical polychrome beads (brown/red with yellow and green/blue dots (Koch-Pleidelheim 11.11: 541/50-590/600). Other finds are not known from this grave and it was decided not to date the grave on the basis of the beads alone.

The beads from grave 64
An amber bead with a length of approximately 2.0 cm was found in the middle of the grave, near the western wall, in the middle of the grave) in association with the coffin in a chamber grave of which the western half was disturbed. It seems as if they did not move from their original location, which indicates that they were deposited as a necklace. The string of twenty-three beads consists of six amber beads, six polychrome beads and eleven monochrome beads (fig. 4.34). The amber beads are of different shapes: three irregular shaped beads and two drop shaped beads. Only one of the monochrome beads is transparent; a blue cylindrical ribbed bead. The other eleven are opaque beads of different shapes and colours. Of the polychrome beads one is a small yellow opaque barrel shaped bead with red/brown crossing waves and the others are all red beads; one is red opaque with white waves and polychrome eyes (white dots with raised blue dots), one is a large red opaque cylindrical bead with yellow edge bands and black vertical bands, two are red opaque bi-conical beads with white waves and yellow edge and middle bands, and one is red opaque short cylindrical bead with yellow edge bands and polychrome eyes of white dots with blue raised dots in between yellow dots. Altogether, the string shows a diverse collection of relatively large polychrome beads and has a rather red appearance. The other remaining finds from this grave are a spindle whorl and a biconical pot. The grave, despite its exclusive decorated beads, could not be dated more precisely as to S-K-IIb (510-620/640/50).

The beads from grave 80
The beads from grave 80 were found in the southern section of the coffin in a chamber grave of which the western half was disturbed. It seems as if they did not move from their original location, which indicates that they were deposited as a necklace. The string of twenty-three beads consists of six amber beads, six polychrome beads and eleven monochrome beads (fig. 4.34). The amber beads are of different shapes: three irregular shaped beads and two drop shaped beads. Only one of the monochrome beads is transparent; a blue cylindrical ribbed bead. The other eleven are opaque beads of different shapes and colours. Of the polychrome beads one is a small yellow opaque barrel shaped bead with red/brown crossing waves and the others are all red beads; one is red opaque with white waves and polychrome eyes (white dots with raised blue dots), one is a large red opaque cylindrical bead with yellow edge bands and black vertical bands, two are red opaque bi-conical beads with white waves and yellow edge and middle bands, and one is red opaque short cylindrical bead with yellow edge bands and polychrome eyes of white dots with blue raised dots in between yellow dots. Altogether, the string shows a diverse collection of relatively large polychrome beads and has a rather red appearance. The other remaining finds from this grave are a spindle whorl and a biconical pot. The grave, despite its exclusive decorated beads, could not be dated more precisely as to S-K-IIb (510-620/640/50).

The beads from grave 88
The single bead from grave 88 is a white, opaque, monochrome, biconical bead. It was found in the middle of the northern half of the grave, thus at the presumed former location of the upper legs. It might have entered the grave by accident, or it might have been carried in a purse. Some copper alloy mounts were found in its proximity; these might have been mounts of a leather purse. Apart from its north-eastern corner, the grave seems undisturbed. The grave could not be dated more precisely as to the entire Merovingian period on the basis of the mentioned finds and a biconical pot fragment.

Weapons

Arrowheads

Arrowheads 38 (38-1-1; 38-2-1)
Two arrowheads (38-1-1 and 38-2-1) were found in the middle of the eastern section of grave 38, close to the presumed former location of the waist. The deposition of two arrows in a single grave, or sometimes more, is not unusual. A pair of shears was also found in this grave of, in all probability, a man. Arrowhead 38-2-1 has a total length of 10.6 cm; the blade has a length of 9.0 cm and the socket, of which a part is broken off, a length of 1.6 cm. The socket base is round and closed, and wood remains of the wooden shaft are preserved in it. The arrowhead has an oval blade and the faint appearance of midribs might be a result of its rigorous restoration. Arrowhead 38-1-1 is now missing from the Sittard collection. The documentation mentions that it was an arrow with an open shaft; nothing is mentioned about the shape of the blade. Arrowhead 38-2-1 with closed shaft is classified as L/PV type 26, which dates to their phase MA1-MR1 (470/80-630/40). In their classification types 25 and 24 are arrowheads with open shafts (date range PM-M/SA) (440-500-660/10).

The single bead from grave 88:
The single bead from grave 88 is a white, opaque, monochrome, biconical bead. It was found in the middle of the northern half of the grave, thus at the presumed former location of the upper legs. It might have entered the grave by accident, or it might have been carried in a purse. Some copper alloy mounts were found in its proximity; these might have been mounts of a leather purse. Apart from its north-eastern corner, the grave seems undisturbed. The grave could not be dated more precisely as to the entire Merovingian period on the basis of the mentioned finds and a biconical pot fragment.

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(69) Location of the head. The eight beads from grave 60 were found in the middle of the grave, near the western wall of the coffin (fig. 4.30). The grave was for its larger part disturbed by grave 45, and whether this was the original location of the beads is therefore uncertain. If it was, the ensemble was deposited as a bracelet. One of the beads (an amber one) might have moved from its original location into grave 45 in which it is the only bead. The ensemble from grave 46 consists of one amber bead, five orange monochrome barrel shaped beads, and two polychrome red/brown beads with white crossing waves; the string has a red appearance. A pottery jug is also known form this grave, which dates it to S-K IIIa (650-610/20). The ensemble seems to date around 600, and might even be younger, which indicates that the grave may date around 600 or thereafter and not as early as 565 or some time thereafter.

(70) Grave finds Sittard-Kemperkoul.
Seaxes are generally classified and dated on the basis of their blade length and the blade length/width index. However, the desmaring dimensions show discrepancies in the various available classification schemes. The classification of the Franken AG is used for the classification and dating of the Sittard seaxes, and compared and complemented where necessary with the classification scheme of Siegmund (table 4.4). Ten seaxes were found in the Sittard graves, and one tip of presumably a seax (37-2-8). A number of seaxes that were uncovered from the cemetery are now missing, but are discussed on the basis of the available descriptions. Additional classifications and dates are provided by the various scabbard fittings such as rivets and scabbard edge reinforcements. These are discussed not as a separate category but in combination with the seaxes they were associated with. Their specifics are discussed below per seax type as identified by the Franken AG and Siegmund.

**Seaxes: Schwertsexe**

Seax 26-4-2 has a blade length of 30.8 cm and a width of 3.9 cm, which classifies it as a Schwertsexe according to the typologies of both Siegmund and the Franken AG (fig. 4.35). Some mineralised leather of the scabbard is still present on the blade. The seax was found in the re-opening pit of the grave, in which some articulated skeletal remains were preserved and recorded at presumably their original location. The seax was found alongside the left upper arm, and it can be assumed that it was originally deposited inside the coffin in chamber grave 26.

Small iron seax 39-2-1 is with its total length of 28.1 cm and blade length of 18.5 cm just a little bit larger than a large iron knife (the demarcation line between knives and seaxes is established at a blade length of 15 cm). The seax is heavily restored; remains of the scabbard and hilt are absent and grooves could not be observed (anymore) on the seax blade (fig. 4.35). It is not associated with a knife or seax scabbard fittings. It was found in the middle of wood-entrain container grave 39 which was, in all probability, the grave of a child.

Seaxes 41-1-1 from grave 41 has a total length of 41.1 cm, a blade length of 31.2 cm and a blade width of 3.9 cm (fig. 4.35). The seax is without traces of wood or scabbard remains and fittings. It is not possible to classify it unambiguously: according to Siegmund’s typology it can be both a Schwertsexe and Leichter Breitsaxe, but his solution to tell them apart identifies it as a Schwertsexe (less than: 31.2 x <0.8 x 6.1). According to the classification scheme of the Franken AG the blade is a man too long to be a Schwertsexe and the blade width 1 mm to narrow to be a leichter Breitsaxe. Both classifications are therefore plausible. The seax was found in the centre of the possible chamber grave; it might have been deposited on top of the body or on top of the wooden container. The Franken AG dates Schwertsexe (Sax 1) from the end of their phase 3 to the end of phase 7 (510-640/60) although predominantly to phases 4-5 (510-650). Siegmund dates Schwertsexe to Rhineland phases 4-7 (530-610). Seax 41-1-1 can also be dated as leichter Breitsaxe (Sax 1.1) to Franken AG phases 6-7 (580-640/60). Siegmund dates this type (Sax 2.1) from Rhineland phase 2 to the middle of phase 9 (85-653). See Table 4.4 for the Franken AG’s (2003) classification scheme for seaxes.

**Seaxes: Leichter Breitsaxe**

Seax 14-4-2/1 (27-2-1) has a total length of 48.0 cm, a blade length of 35.0 cm and a blade width 5.5 cm. An iron band shaped elevation marks the transition from blade to hilt. The seax was found in approximately the centre of the southern half of the chamber grave with coffin; it was deposited on top of the upper body inside the coffin. The blade has a length of 31.2 cm and a width of 3.9 cm, and can on the basis of these dimensions be classified as a leichter Breitsaxe, according to the typology schemes of both Siegmund and the Franken AG.

Iron seax 27-2-1 is heavily restored (fig. 4.36). Wood remains are preserved around the iron hilt core. The blade has a length 3.40 of and a width 3.9 cm on the basis of which it is classified as a leichter Breitsaxe. It has a fin number which assigns it to seax 27, which was eventually discarded. It is not known to which grave this seax belonged.

Table 4.4: Siegmund’s (1998) and the Franken AG’s (2003) classification schemes for seaxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General types</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Blade length (cm)</th>
<th>Blade width (cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siegmund</td>
<td>Sax 1</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>731</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schwertsexe</td>
<td>26-4-2</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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**Seaxes: Breitsaxe**

Seax 14-4-2/1 (27-2-1) has a total length of 48.0 cm, a blade length of 35.0 cm and a blade width 5.5 cm. An iron band shaped elevation marks the transition from blade to hilt. The seax was found in approximately the centre of the southern half of the chamber grave with coffin; it was deposited on top of the upper body inside the coffin. The blade has a length of 31.2 cm and a width of 3.9 cm, and can on the basis of these dimensions be classified as a leichter Breitsaxe, according to the typology schemes of both Siegmund and the Franken AG.

Iron seax 27-2-1 is heavily restored (fig. 4.36). Wood remains are preserved around the iron hilt core. The blade has a length 3.40 of and a width 3.9 cm on the basis of which it is classified as a leichter Breitsaxe. It has a fin number which assigns it to seax 27, which was eventually discarded. It is not known to which grave this seax belonged.

Table 4.4: Siegmund’s (1998) and the Franken AG’s (2003) classification schemes for seaxes.

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**Seaxes: Breitsaxe**

Seax 14-4-2/1 (27-2-1) has a total length of 48.0 cm, a blade length of 35.0 cm and a blade width 5.5 cm. An iron band shaped elevation marks the transition from blade to hilt. The seax was found in approximately the centre of the southern half of the chamber grave with coffin; it was deposited on top of the upper body inside the coffin. The blade has a length of 31.2 cm and a width of 3.9 cm, and can on the basis of these dimensions be classified as a leichter Breitsaxe, according to the typology schemes of both Siegmund and the Franken AG.

Iron seax 27-2-1 is heavily restored (fig. 4.36). Wood remains are preserved around the iron hilt core. The blade has a length 3.40 of and a width 3.9 cm on the basis of which it is classified as a leichter Breitsaxe. It has a fin number which assigns it to seax 27, which was eventually discarded. It is not known to which grave this seax belonged.

Table 4.4: Siegmund’s (1998) and the Franken AG’s (2003) classification schemes for seaxes.

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Iron seax 14-4-2/1 (27-2-1) has a total length of 48.0 cm, a blade length of 35.0 cm and a blade width 5.5 cm. An iron band shaped elevation marks the transition from blade to hilt. The seax was found in approximately the centre of the southern half of the chamber grave with coffin; it was deposited on top of the upper body inside the coffin. The blade has a length of 31.2 cm and a width of 3.9 cm, and can on the basis of these dimensions be classified as a leichter Breitsaxe, according to the typology schemes of both Siegmund and the Franken AG.

Iron seax 27-2-1 is heavily restored (fig. 4.36). Wood remains are preserved around the iron hilt core. The blade has a length 3.40 of and a width 3.9 cm on the basis of which it is classified as a leichter Breitsaxe. It has a fin number which assigns it to seax 27, which was eventually discarded. It is not known to which grave this seax belonged.
The iron lance tip was probably carried in a small scabbard which was part of the larger wooden scabbard. Other scabbard fittings were assigned to one context (context 29: assembly of finds with inorganic remains). According to the classification scheme of Siegmund, this type dates to Rhineland phases 6-8A (570-640). The Franken AG maintained this type and date it to their phases 5-6 (565-660).

Seaxes: seax tip

37 (37/2-8)

The iron lance head (5-1-1) was found outside the coffin, but in the southeastern section of the chamber, outside the coffin, and thus presumably associated with the lower body. It is classified as L/P/V type 31, which dates to their phases MA1-MA3 (470/80-600/10), but can also appear sporadically in their phase PH1 (440/50-470/80). This lance head is a type La1.4 according to Siegmund’s scheme; this type dates to Rhineland phases 6-8A (570-640). The Franken AG maintained this type and date it to their phases 5-6 (565-660).

The Franken AG classify a number of features identified by Legoux, Perin and Vallet into one category (large than 35.0 cm), together with some additional features. Siegmund established an extended classification scheme for lance heads, based on the shape of the sockets (closed or open), the shape and length of the blade, and some additional features which identify specific types. The Franken AG did not alter this scheme significantly.

Lance heads with open sockets

24 (24-1-4); 81 (81-1-2)

The iron lance head 81-1-2 from grave 81 has an oval blade, an open socket with wood remains and an iron pin, in vertical position within the socket (fig. 4.38). The total length of 40.4 cm makes it a relatively large lance head within the Sittard collection. The lance head was found in the north-eastern section of the chamber, outside the coffin, and thus presumably associated with the lower body. It is classified as L/P/V type 31, which dates to their phases MA1-MA3 (470/80-600/10), but can also appear sporadically in their phase PH1 (440/50-470/80). This lance head is a type L1 and according to Siegmund’s scheme; this type dates to Rhineland phases 6-8A (570-640). The Franken AG maintained this type and date it to their phases 5-6 (565-660).

An iron lance head (5-1-1) with mid rib and a closed socket, in which wood remains are preserved, has a total length of 24.6 cm, which is relatively small within the collection of lance heads from Sittard (fig. 4.39). It was found outside the coffin, in the north-eastern section of the chamber together with a biconical pot. An Ament 1993, 79-81, 80 abb. 68.8; Pescheck 1997, 23-28, 54-56 (type 38).

The lance heads in context 29: assembly of finds with inorganic remains were assigned to one context (context 29: assembly of finds with inorganic remains). According to the classification scheme of Siegmund, this type dates to Rhineland phase 7-8A (585-640). The Franken AG maintained Siegmund’s type 5 (L-Lan.1.1) and date it to their phases 5-6 (565-660). The centres of all the lance heads discussed in this section are situated at the blade; they can thus all be classified as L/P/V type 38, which dates to their phases MA3-Ma3 (530/50-600/10).

Lance heads with closed sockets:

relative blade length short (< 0.52)

14 (14-3-1); 28 (28-2-3); 30 (30-2-1); 31 (31-1-1)

The Franken AG classify schwierer Breitsaxe as type Sax 2.2, which dates to their phases 6-9 (560-710), although predominantly to the end of phase 7 and phase 8 (640-670/80). Siegmund dates type Sax 2.2 to Rhineland phases 7-10 (590-670).

The lance head 26-6-1 from grave 26 has a closed shaft, a small oval blade, and a mid rib on the blade (fig. 4.39). The lance head has a total length of 17.2 cm and is a relatively small lance head compared to the other lance heads from the Sittard cemetery. The lance head was the left hand when the upper body was deposited within the coffin, although this is not completely certain since a reopening pin disturbed the grave. The lance head 24-2-1 from grave 24 has a relatively long oval blade with an obvious mid rib. It has a closed shaft with wood remains preserved inside it (fig. 4.39). Its total length is 24.9 cm.

Siegmund classify similar lances as type L1 and according to Siegmund’s scheme; this type dates to Rhineland phase 7-8A (585-640). The Franken AG maintained Siegmund’s type 5 (L-Lan.1.1) and date it to their phases 5-6 (565-660).
type 36 (longer than 33.0 cm, the centre of the lance head is situated on the blade, closed socket), which dates to their phases MR3 (630/40-660/70) and sporadically to the two phases before: MA3-MR1 (560/70-630/40).

Iron lance head 28-3-1 has a long oval/diamond shaped blade and a closed shaft with wood remains preserved inside it (fig. 4.40). The total length of the lance head is 35.7 cm; it is thus of an average length. It was found in the north-eastern corner of the chamber grave, and was presumably deposited near the right foot of the now completely decomposed body. A ceramic beaker and biconical pot were also found in this segment of the grave. Other finds from this grave are a shield boss and belt fittings.

The iron lance head 28-3-1 from grave 28 has a total length of 37.6 cm, a long oval blade, and a closed socket with wood remains, of which approximately 4.0 cm is still present as an extension outside the socket (fig. 4.41). It was found in a chamber grave, outside the coffin, in the north-eastern section of the chamber, close to the eastern wall. A ceramic pot and shield boss were also found outside the coffin. A scabbard and belt fittings were found inside the coffin.

All the lance heads with closed sockets discussed in this section have blade lengths under 38.5 cm; they are classified as Siegmund’s type Lan1.4, which dates to Rhineland phases RB-10 (615-705). The Franken AG date S-Lan1.4 to their phases 4-9 (675-750).

Iron lance head 28-3-1 from grave 28 has a total length of 35.7 cm; it is thus of an average length. It was found in the north-eastern corner of the chamber grave, and was presumably deposited near the right foot of the now completely decomposed body. A ceramic beaker and biconical pot were also found in this segment of the grave. Other finds from this grave are a shield boss and belt fittings.

The iron lance head 28-3-1 from grave 28 has a total length of 37.6 cm, a long oval blade, and a closed socket with wood remains, of which approximately 4.0 cm is still present as an extension outside the socket (fig. 4.41). It was found in a chamber grave, outside the coffin, in the north-eastern section of the chamber, close to the eastern wall. A ceramic pot and shield boss were also found outside the coffin. A scabbard and belt fittings were found inside the coffin.

All the lance heads with closed sockets discussed in this section have blade lengths under 38.5 cm; they are classified as Siegmund’s type Lan1.4, which dates to Rhineland phases RB-10 (615-705). The Franken AG date S-Lan1.4 to their phases 4-9 (675-750).

Iron lance head 28-3-1 from grave 28 has a total length of 37.6 cm, a long oval blade, and a closed socket with wood remains, of which approximately 4.0 cm is still present as an extension outside the socket (fig. 4.41). It was found in a chamber grave, outside the coffin, in the north-eastern section of the chamber, close to the eastern wall. A ceramic pot and shield boss were also found outside the coffin. A scabbard and belt fittings were found inside the coffin.

All the lance heads with closed sockets discussed in this section have blade lengths under 38.5 cm; they are classified as Siegmund’s type Lan1.4, which dates to Rhineland phases RB-10 (615-705). The Franken AG date S-Lan1.4 to their phases 4-9 (675-750).
Siegmund classifies similar shield bosses as type Shub, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (560-640). The Franken AG classify it as type ShubA (with a flat cone without knob), which dates to their phases 6-9 (580-710). Legousa, Perin and Vallet classify similar shield bosses as type 80 (LPV-MR2: 600-670), and the associated grip as type 8Y (LPV-MR1: 610-640).

Shield boss (86-2-1) from grave 86 is severely damaged; its original shape cannot be reconstructed (fig. 4.43). The cone of the shield boss is gone for its greatest part. The rim, on which two iron, flat rivets of the possible six iron rivets are preserved, has a width of 2.4 cm. This rim is not horizontal, but slightly oblique. The wall is also slightly oblique and has a height of 2.2 cm. The transition from wall to the cone is pronounced, but the top of the cone is gone and could not be reconstructed. The height of the complete boss cannot be established, the diameter of the complete boss is 16.3 cm. Eight additional fragments, four fragments of the grip and four rivets (86-2-1 (4x)) with a diameter of 2.5-2.6 cm, are associated with the incomplete shield boss. The shield boss had thus at least six, and maybe more, rivets attaching the boss to the shield. The wooden shield left an imprint or shadow which extends over the outline of the chamber; this suggests that it was placed on top of the chamber cover. Because the cone shape cannot be reconstructed, an unambiguous classification of this shield boss is not possible. It can however be compared to other shield bosses on the basis of the pronounced transition from the wall to the cone.

A shield boss without find number is known as a find from Sittard; it has a slightly oblique rim and wall. The transition from wall to cone is pronounced, and the cone is relatively high and domed. Four domed iron rivets are still present on the rim. The boss has a diameter of 16.3 cm and a height of 7.5 cm. It is classified as type Siegmund Shub, which dates to phase 8 (710-640) and Franken AG type ShubB (higher cone), which dates to their phases 6-9 (580-710).  

**Swords**

Sword 26 (26-4-2-1) is an iron sword with a simple blade and a copper alloy pommel (fig. 4.44). Organic (wood or/and bone) remains can be observed on the grip, and one of the blade sides is nearly completely covered with wood or/and leather scabbard remains. The copper alloy pommel is small and is trapezoid shaped on a rectangular base. The blade has a length of 71.0 cm and a width of 4.5 cm, the grip has a length of 1.15 cm, and the pommel a height of 1.3 cm and a length of 3.8 cm. Some copper alloy remnants can also be observed on the sword. An ancient reopening pit or post depositional intervention disturbed a considerable part of the coffin and its content inside chamber grave 26. Nonetheless, it seems as if the sword did not move from its original location in the coffin to the right of the presumed location of the now completely decayed upper body. The sword can only be classified and dated on the basis of its pommel. The majority of swords from fifth and sixth century contexts have relatively large pommels. The Sittard pommel is small; it is similar to the trapezoid copper alloy pommels in the sword pommel classification scheme of Menghin. He mentions that pommels of this type are hollow, and placed on a rectangular basis. The examples of the trapezoid pommel type Menghin discussed generally have a length of 2.0-3.5 cm and a height of 1.0-2.0 cm. The Sittard pommel is with its length of 3.8 cm only slightly larger; this might, however, be due to its corroded condition. This type of pommel is always undecorated, and only sporadically plated with silver or tin. Menghin dates the beginning of their regular appearance somewhere in his Zeitgruppe C (c. 530-580), after their sporadic appearance in Zeitgruppe B (c. 480-510). Their most frequent manifestation is dated around 600, which is Menghin’s Zeitgruppe D. Siegmund did not introduce a new typological ordering of swords from his research area, but classified them on the basis of already existing typologies of multiple characteristic such as the variety of sword scabbard mounts. The Franken AG, however, offer an alternative classification; the Sittard sword can be classified as Franken AG type Spa7E (copper alloy, trapezoid pommel), which dates to their phases 5-6 (606-610/20). Swords with similar pommels did not appear as early in the Rhineland as they appeared elsewhere according to Menghin.  

Iron sword 37-1-1 is severely corroded or nearly completely covered with mineralized leather or wood of presumably the scabbard; this is difficult to establish. Wood remains can be observed on the iron hilt, and there seems to be a copper alloy fragment present at its extremity which might be a small remnant of a pommel. The blade has a length of 79.6 cm, and a width of 4.9 cm. The grip has a length of 12.3 cm. The sword was found inside the coffin in a chamber grave, close to the western wall of the coffin, and thus presumably to the left of the upper body, which has completely decayed. Because of the severe corrosion or mineralised leather covering the sword and the absence or fragmented condition of the pommel, this sword cannot be dated with the available typologies.

**Axes**

Axes 37-1-1 (114), 26 (26-2-1) (115), 49-4-1 (116) and 26 (26-2-1) (fig. 4.45). Three axes were found in the Sittard cemetery. They are distinguished from Franciscus’s on the basis of the nearly straight upper edges of their blades and the slight concave shape of the lower edges of their blades; franciscus’s have edges which are more curved and pronounced.  

Iron axe 37-1-1 from grave 37 has a blade with a straight to slightly curved convex upper blade edge and a concave lower blade edge (fig. 4.45). The cutting edge is convex and asymmetric (the imaginary horizontal axis of the blade divides the cutting edge in unequal parts). The shaft opening is oval, in which wood remains of the shaft are preserved. It has a diameter of 3.5-3.7 cm, and the diameter of the wooden shaft will have been comparable. The length of the blade (of the imaginary horizontal axis) is 19.5 cm, and the length of the cutting edge is 7.5 cm. The axe belongs to the grave inventory of a man, which also consists of a lance head and various utensils. It was found at its extremity which might be a small remnant of a pommel. The blade has a length of 12.3 cm. The sword was found inside the coffin in a chamber grave, close to the western wall of the coffin, and thus presumably to the left of the upper body, which has completely decayed. Because of the severe corrosion or mineralised leather covering the sword and the absence or fragmented condition of the pommel, this sword cannot be dated with the available typologies.

Axes 5 (5-9-1), 26 (26-2-1) (fig. 4.45). Three axes were found in the Sittard cemetery. They are distinguished from Franciscus’s on the basis of the nearly straight upper edges of their blades and the slight concave shape of the lower edges of their blades; franciscus’s have edges which are more curved and pronounced.  

Iron axe 37-1-1 from grave 37 has a slightly curved convex upper blade edge (fig. 4.45). The lower edge of the blade is concave, and the cutting edge convex. The imaginary horizontal axis of the blade is 20.7 cm, the cutting edge has a length of 7.4 cm, and the back a length of 5.9 cm. The shaft hole, in which some wood remains of the shaft can be observed, has a diameter of 3.8 cm as presumably the former wooden shaft also had. The axe was found in the south-eastern corner of the grave. The northern half of the grave is gone, but the remaining part of the grave seems undisturbed. The find location of the axe in this corner of the grave suggests
gests that it was deposited near the head of the deceased since the majority of the burials in the Sittard cemetery have a south-east orientation. This find location is similar to those of the other two axes in artefact 2.3. Other martyrdoms such as a sex and fire steel are also known from this grave.

The three Sittard axes are classified as Siegmund’s type FRA 4.1, which dates to Rhineland phases 6–7 (1750–1660).\(^{123}\) The Franken AG maintained this type and date it to their phases 5–6 (565–740).\(^{124}\) Siegmund dates chain elements (Ggh6) to Rhineland phase 8 (700–800).\(^{125}\) The axe can be identified as L/P/V type 4, which dates to the phases MA3–MA4 (520–660).\(^{126}\)

**Belt pendants, purses and utensils**

The belt pendants from the Sittard graves are iron and copper alloy simple rings and a number of chain links. Simple bronze and iron rings of different sizes are quite common grave finds and are known from graves of both men and women. When they are found around the location of the pelvis or upper legs, it is assumed that they are used as the fasteners of purses that were hanging down from the belt, or that the rings themselves were hanging down from the waist belt with a variety of objects as knives, combs, tweezers etc. attached to them.\(^{27}\) Simple rings from the graves are of men are often identified as horse gear fittings. Various utensils, from knives to fire steel might have been attached to the waist belt or kept in them.

**Simple rings, iron and copper alloy**

(\(11\times 7.2\); \(3.5\times 3.0\); \(8.7\times 0.25\); \(8.7\times 0.75\); \(8.7\times 0.85\); \(8.7\times 0.55\); \(8.7\times 0.65\); \(8.7\times 0.45\))

**Corrosion associated the fragments of two iron rings from grave 11.** Some additional, but indeterminate material is also attached to the rings, as in a fragment of twisted iron wire. Both the ring fragments have a hollow circular section, which might be a result of corrosion. It was not possible to reconstruct their original diameter. The fragments were found in the mid western section of the grave. They were thus presumably deposited near the left upper leg of the now completely decomposed body. This is the position where belt appendages are generally found. The two rings belonged to the grave goods assemblage of a woman (identified on the basis of beads). The simple iron ring from grave 59 has a diameter of 2.3 cm. It was found in the middle of the grave, close to the eastern wall, which indicates that it was deposited to the right of the body, approximately at the height of the waist or upper leg. The beads in the southern part of the grave indicate that the grave was S-N oriented and identify it as the grave of a woman. A corroded ensemble of four simple iron rings, one copper alloy ring and a ring rod with loop were found in grave 87. The single copper alloy ring in this ensemble (87-4-1) is fragmented but a diameter of 2.5 cm can be established. This ring is attached to iron ring 87-4-1.2. This ring is rather thick and has a diameter of 2.4 cm. This ring was also attached to iron rings 87-4-1.3 (diameter 1.4 cm) and 87-4-1.4 (fragment). It is not clear in which way simple iron ring 87-4-1.6 (diameter 1.8 cm) was attached to it. Loop 87-4-1.5 is the head of an iron ring rod; it is however not obvious which ring was attached to the ring rod. The ensemble was found in the northern half of the grave. In this section a copper alloy bracelet was also found, as was a small plate buckle. The north-eastern corner of the grave was obviously disturbed, the rest of this grave might have also been disturbed since the mentioned objects seem to have moved from their original position. The grave is identified as the burial of a woman on the basis of the bracelet alone, which is in accordance with the general observation that girdle hangers are predominantly restricted to the burials of women.\(^{28}\) Siegmund classifies small iron rings, similar to the ones from Sittard, as girdle hangers but does not date them to a specific phase, and neither do the Franken AG. Legoux, Périn, and Vallet classify simple iron rings as girdle hangers and date them to their phases MA3–MA4 (520–660).\(^{29}\) The simple copper alloy rings are not classified or dated in the mentioned typo-chronology schemes.

**Chain links**

43 (46.9–5.7)

An ensemble of corroded objects from grave 43 consists of a number of chain links (next to a fragment of an equal armed brooch and a coin pendant). The iron links are considerably corroded and are only vaguely visible; their exact number cannot be determined. The ensemble was one of the finds discovered to the left of the former location of the body, although its exact position cannot be determined since the find numbers of the different finds were not classified or dated in the mentioned typo-chronology schemes.

**Knives**

Find numbers: 3 (3-1-1); 5 (5-6-1); 14 (14-4-2; 14-3- ); 20 (20-3-4; 20-3-5); 26 (20-1-2); 29-2-2 (diameter 2.4 cm); 31-1-2 (diameter 2.4 cm); 31-2-1 (diameter 2.6 cm); 41 (41-2-1); 57 (57-1-1); 76 (76-5-2); 84 (84-1-10); 86 (86-5-2; 86-4-5; 86-4-6)

Of all the iron knives from Sittard only one is a foldable knife; the others are common knives. The remainder of this knife is a rectangle strip, with a length of 15.5 cm, a width of 0.4 cm and a back width of 0.5 cm. The blade is stuck in the case, due to corrosion. It is the only find uncovered from this grave and it was found in the middle section of the grave, at the presumed location the waist of the now completely perishable body; it might have been attached to the waist belt. Foldable knives are the only knife forms which can be dated to a restricted period. Siegmund classifies foldable knives as type S-Ger1.3 which dates to Rhineland phases 9–11 (640–750).\(^{30}\) The Franken AG maintained this type and date it to their phases B–10 (640–750).\(^{31}\)

**Ring-iron**

Find numbers: 3 (3-1-1); 5 (5-6-1); 14 (14-4-2; 14-3- ); 26 (20-1-2); 29-2-2 (diameter 2.4 cm); 31-1-2 (diameter 2.4 cm); 31-2-1 (diameter 2.6 cm); 41 (41-2-1); 57 (57-1-1); 76 (76-5-2); 84 (84-1-10); 86 (86-5-2; 86-4-5; 86-4-6)

The other 17 knives from Sittard are all common knives. The shape of the knives varies from those with straight backs to those with curved backs. Some of the knives have wood remains preserved around their iron hilt cores. Knives are difficult to date precisely; they are deposited in graves throughout the Merovingian period. Only knives with an angled back can be dated but these are scarce than knives with straight or curved backs. The majority of the Sittard knives are (nearly) complete, of some only fragments were discovered. The hilt and small part of the tip of the small iron knife (3-1-1) from grave 3 are gone. The blade of the knife has a curved back and cutting edge. The length of the blade is 11.6 cm. It was deposited along the lower left of the body, although its exact position cannot be determined. A corroded iron knife from grave 31 is one of the largest knives of the grave. The knife and other objects might have been the contents of the wooden box. The iron knife was found in grave 14. Knife 14-2-7 was attached to the tip of the sex from this grave which was gone; the remaining length is 6.3 cm. The hilt, with wood remains, has a length of 6.0 cm. The knife was probably carried in a small scabbard that was attached to the sex scabbard, which both, however, left no traces. The ensemble of sex and knife was found in the middle section of the grave and thus, considering the location of the skull in the southern part of the grave, at the initial location of the belt/waist of the now completely decomposed body. The other knife (14-3-2) was found in the proximity of the sex and attached knife. This knife has a blade length of 11.6 cm and a hilt length of 6.7 cm, it has a nearly straight back (only slightly curved towards the tip), and the hilt is bent. Knife 14-2-7 seems to have been the larger than the other knife from this grave. Two iron knives are known from grave 20. Knife 20-3-4 has a blade length of 12.9 cm and a hilt length of 7.3 cm, the back of the knife is slightly curved, and some wood is preserved around the hilt. Knife 20-3-5 is not complete; the majority of the blade is gone. The remaining length of the blade is 3.5 cm and the hilt length is 3.5 cm. The two knives were found in association with a sex in the middle section of the southern half of the grave. Since a knife was found in the southern end of the grave, the ensemble of sex with knives can be supposed to have been deposited on the breast of the now completely decomposed body. Iron knife 26-1-1 from grave 26 has a blade length of 14.2 cm and a hilt length of 2.3 cm. The back of this knife is slightly curved. It was found in the north-eastern corner of the grave. The grave was disturbed by a reopening pit; the knife might have moved from its original location and was thus not necessarily deposited in the proximity of the right foot where it was found. Only a fragment (5.1 cm) of the blade is left of iron knife 29-2-2 from find context 29 (ensemble of object without grave context). Some leather and textile remains are still attached to this fragment. It was found in association with a lance head, flint, belt fittings and a piece of the imaginary box observed. The knife and other objects might have been the contents of the wooden box.
beneath the imaginary middle axis of the blade. Some organic re-
manis were still attached to one of the blade sides. The knife was
found in association with a seax and belt fittings in the south-west-
ern section of the grave. Skeletal remains are absent. In view of the
common south-north orientations of the Sittard graves, the en-
semble of seax , belt fittings and knife was deposited to the left
of the upper part of the now completely decomposed body.
Knife 32-3-1 from grave 32 has a blade length of 11.7 cm and a
hilt length of 4.9 cm. The iron shears are still in part. The head of
the Sittard key and (135)
the shears belong to the grave inventory of a man, identified
skeletally as such on the basis of a seax. It was found in the middle
section of the grave, and thus close to the former location of the
waist belt, maybe as the contents of a purse. Siegmund men-
tions that no clear correlation can be found be-
tween shears and gender identity in the Rhineland, although
the number of shears associated with men is slightly higher. Shears
with a length of more than 10 cm, however, were in the Rhineland
only found in the graves of men, smaller shears were found in the
graves of both men and women. Siegmund does not date shears to
a specific phase. The Frankon AG did not identify this category of
grave goods. Legoux, Pépin and Vallet classify shears as type 355
and date them to phases MA1-MA3 (470/80-700/10), which
cover nearly the entire Merovingian period. (136)
Latch lifter key
Find number: 76 (76-5-1)
The single latch lifter key from the Sittard cemetery was found
in grave 76. It is an iron rod, heavily restored, with a single hooked
extremity. The head is formed by a loop with a fragment of a sus-
pension ring still attached to it. The latch lifter key has a length of
12.8 cm. The key was found together with a knife in the western
middle section of the grave, thus probably to the left of the waist
belt or upper leg of the now completely decomposed body.
Martin suggests that these (iron) keys were not used for doors
but for little wooden boxes in which a woman retained her per-
sonal possessions. (137) Pinchock also refers to these (iron) keys
as ‘locks’; they are kept together by a ring attached to the loops which
form the upper extremities (heads) of the rods. In both these graves an ad-
ditional leather strap with small belt fittings were found: they
were probably part of the complete ensemble of decorative pen-
dants and amulets. The two Périn and Vallet classify all the iron latch-lifter keys as type 351
find numbers: 5 (5-6-8); 86 (86-4-1)
The iron shears from grave 32 are identified as awls on the
basis of their pointed extremities and round shaft sections. The
iron awl from grave 31 has a length of 2.5 cm, its section has a
diameter of 0.6 cm. It was found in the grave of a man together
with other utensals as a knife, and a knife to the left of the upper
arm. The ensemble of objects was probably deposited in a purse or
bag.

The two iron rods from grave 5.4-6 5-6 are attached as awls on the
basis of their pointed extremities and round shaft sections. They
were kept together by a ring attached to the loops which form the
upper extremities (heads) of the rods. In both these graves an ad-
ditional leather strap with small belt fittings were found: they
were probably part of the complete ensemble of decorative pen-
dants and amulets. The two Périn and Vallet classify all the iron latch-lifter keys as type 351
find numbers: 5 (5-6-8); 86 (86-4-1)

Fig. 4-6 6
Comb with case, copper alloy strap end, ironloop and iron rod, grave 4 (scale 1:2).

to an ensemble consisting of the remains of a tomb with case, copper alloy strap end and iron loop. This ensemble was found in the grave of a woman, in the southern section of the grave, supposed to be the head. The remains of the iron ring rod has a length of 4.5 cm and the ring has a width of 2 cm.

Iron ring rod 77-2-1 from grave 77 has a length of 15.5 cm. The top is bent and forms a loop, the extremity is pointed. The complete iron rod is restored. The ring rod was found in the south-western section of the grave. The body left no traces but, in view of the general S-N orientation of the Sittard graves, it can be assumed that the ring rod was deposited to left of the upper body. It belongs to a grave inventory of a man, identified as such on the basis of a lance head.

The iron rod 84-1-6 from grave 84 is incomplete. The tip is gone and its remaining length is 8.7 cm. The top is hollow and bent in a way that a loop is formed. The rod with loop was found in association with a sex, and is thus part of a masculine grave goods ensemble. The grave is disturbed, but the sex and associated objects seem to be at their original position to the left side of the upper body.

Iron rings rod cannot be dated precisely in the Merovingian period.

**Comb with case**

*Find number: n (11-7-4)*

The only comb of the cemetery was found in grave 11 (fig. 4.46). It is a double-sided composite comb in a case, which is severely weathered and incomplete. Fragments of the case are still present on the comb and decoration traces can be observed on its surface. The decoration consists of an engraved or stumped in geometric pattern of dots in circles of various dimensions in between zones of four grooves along the edges of the connection plate of the case. The comb with case was attached to other objects, namely a copper alloy strap end and a fragment of an iron ring rod, which probably formed the contents of a purse. The copper alloy strap end was one of the fittings of a purse, together with another similar strap end and a plate buckle, which were not attached to this ensemble (see below).

Siegmund classifies combs with cases as type Ger3.23 and dates them to their phases MA1-MR1 (470/80-700/10) or even later.

Find number: 11 (11-7-4)

Iron fire steel 31-2-1 from grave 31 is complete. It has a length of 10.3 cm and is thus slightly larger than the fire steel from grave 5. It is a triangular specimen of which the extremities are curved upwards. The extremities are only slightly more pronounced than those of the firesteel from grave 11. An iron fragment, which seems to be a rivet, is corroded and attached to the surface of the fire steel. It was found in association with several belt fittings to the right of the upper body. The seam from this fire steel confirms that the fire steel was part of a grave goods assemblage of a man.

Iron fire steel 37-2-5 from grave 77 has looped extremities, and is only slightly triangular. It has a length of 7 cm and a width of 1.6 cm. It was found in approximately the middle of the grave (of which the northern half is gone), together with a knife, shears, and a set of belt fittings. It was probably deposited in a purse, together with the other utensils.

First steels are difficult to date precisely; they were used as grave goods throughout the Merovingian period.

**Purse**

*Find number: n (11-7-4)*

An iron loop was found attached to an ensemble consisting of a comb with case, copper alloy strap end and iron ring rod (fig. 4.46). It was found to the left of the upper left leg in the grave of a woman. Its function is not clear, and it cannot be dated more precisely as to the Merovingian period.

**Stone**

*Find numbers: 77 (77-2-4-5); 35 (35-2-4-2); 63 (63-1-1); 84 (84-1-7)*

An egg-shaped stone, grey, smoothly polished, was found in grave 11 of a woman, in the southern section of the grave near the initial location of the head. It was found in association with a small beaker, a glass fragment, half a melon bead and a fragment of an iron plate. It seems as if these objects were guarding and deposited in the small beaker. The objects may have rolled out of it by accident or on purpose, and moved a little away from it. It is not clear what the polished stone represented, and how it should be dated. The other finds associated with the beaker, as the beaker itself, date to the Roman period.

A flat black stone (35-1-2), with iron corrosion at one side, was found in the middle of grave 35. A recent disturbance intersects the grave; other finds apart from the stone and an indeterminate iron fragment might have been present. The remaining finds are insufficient for a gender identification of the deceased.

A grinding stone was found in grave 44, alongside the middle of the eastern container. It was found in the grave of a woman (identied as such from the bead of the male). The grinding stone and the objects around it might have been the contents of a purse.

**Spindle whorls/large bead pendants**

*Find numbers: 4 (4-1-1); 17 (17-2-1); 80 (80-2-1)*

Fire steels

Iron fire steel 31-2-1 from grave 31 is complete. It has a length of 10.3 cm and is thus slightly larger than the fire steel from grave 5. It is a triangular specimen of which the extremities are curved upwards. The extremities are only slightly more pronounced than those of the firesteel from grave 11. An iron fragment, which seems to be a rivet, is corroded and attached to the surface of the fire steel. It was found in association with several belt fittings to the right of the upper body. The seam from this fire steel confirms that the fire steel was part of a grave goods assemblage of a man.

Iron fire steel 37-2-5 from grave 77 has looped extremities, and is only slightly triangular. It has a length of 7 cm and a width of 1.6 cm. It was found in approximately the middle of the grave (of which the northern half is gone), together with a knife, shears, and a set of belt fittings. It was probably deposited in a purse, together with the other utensils.

First steels are difficult to date precisely; they were used as grave goods throughout the Merovingian period.

Find numbers: 5 (5-6-9.1; 5-6-9.2); 29 (29-1-4.1); 40 (40-2-1); 48 (48-0-1); 48-0-2-1; 54 (54-1-1); 64 (64-1-7)

Fire steels

Find numbers: 4 (4-1-1); 17 (17-2-1); 80 (80-2-1)

Fire steels

Find numbers: 4 (4-1-1); 17 (17-2-1); 80 (80-2-1)

Fire steels

Find numbers: 4 (4-1-1); 17 (17-2-1); 80 (80-2-1)

Fire steels

Find numbers: 4 (4-1-1); 17 (17-2-1); 80 (80-2-1)

Fire steels

Find numbers: 4 (4-1-1); 17 (17-2-1); 80 (80-2-1)
Pottery: Merovingian

The condition of the pottery from the cemetery Sittard-Kemperkoul is relatively bad, nearly all the pots were found in fragmented condition. This is peculiar since pots from Merovingian graves are regularly excavated as complete or nearly complete specimens. The fragmented condition of the Sittard pots may be a result of the general use of coffins and/or chambers in this cemetery: after their disintegration, de pots (which might have been placed on the floor of the chamber, on top of the coffin cover, or inside the coffin) may have suffered from increasing pressure of intrusive soil which broke them. This does not happen when pots are placed in trench graves, which are filled with soil immediately after the burial or when coffins after burial were filled to some extent by seeping in water and soil which fixed the finds, as was observed in other cemeteries. Since the shards of single pots were regularly found in close association, as a heap of fragments, this seems a plausible explanation, but the fragmented condition of some pots may also have been caused by early grave re-opening (chapter 3 for a discussion of re-opened graves) or they might have been deposited already in fragmented condition. Nearly all the fragmented pots were restored and completed. The current collection of pottery vessels from Sittard consists of twenty-one biconical pots, seven round pots, two jugs, two bowls, one beaker, one bottle, one egg shaped pot, one pot with a peculiar shape, a lid of a pot, and a number of fragments.

Fine pottery: bottle, orange
Find number: 32 (32-1-1)

The single bottle from the Sittard cemetery is of a fine burned ware and was baked in an oxidised atmosphere; it is a bright orange bottle (fig. 4.47). The bottle was found in fragmented condition but is now restored. It seems as if its asymmetric appearance was an original feature: the widest part of the belly is at one side the coffin and thus near the presumed former location of the feet. Similar beakers are not identified in the research area of Siegmund and the Franken AG. Legoux, Perin and Vallet classify them as type 358 which dates to their phases M1-M4b (600-1050). The Sittard bottle is dated to the first half of the seventh century.

Fine pottery: beakers, grey
49 (49-1-1); 5 (5-1-1)

The small dark grey-beanaker from grave 49 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored (fig. 4.48). The original shape of the beaker is considerably weathered and shows the orange paste underneath, which indicates that it has a smoked surface. The beaker has a height of 9.9 cm and a belly width of 8.3 cm. It was found in the grave of a man (identified on the basis of a shield boss and lance head) in the north-eastern section of the grave, and thus near the presumed location of the right foot of the now completely decomposed body, in close association with a spouted pot. This beaker is difficult to classify since similar specimens were not found in the literature on other cemeteries; for now it is very roughly dated to the seventh century in line with other beakers known from Merovingian contexts.

Beaker 2-1-1 from grave 3 is a small dark grey beaker on a foot with a conical body with two horizontal ridges on the upper wall; it is a so-called ribbed beaker (fig. 4.48). The surface of the beaker is considerably weathered and the orange/red paste underneath the darker surface is visible. The beaker was baked in an oxidised atmosphere with abundant smoke which left a thin dark top layer. It has a height of 10.9 cm and some rim fragments are missing. The beaker was found together with a spouted pot in the north-eastern section of the grave, thus near the presumed former location of the feet. Beakers are not found in the literature on other cemeteries; for now it is roughly dated to the seventh century.

Fine pottery: bowls, orange
B (B-1-1); B (B-2-1)

Bowl 82-2-1 from grave 82 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 60% of the original bowl is present (fig. 4.49). The bowl is wheel thrown; it is of a fine burned ware and baked in an oxidised atmosphere which produced an orange/brown surface (the complete pots of the bowl are grey). The interior surface of the bowl shows some wear traces: scratches and little cavities which were produced by pointed utensils as for example knives. The reconstructed height of the bowl is 8.5 cm, the mouth diameter 27.0 cm. The lower wall is slightly convex, the upper wall of the bowl is slightly bent outwards, and the rim is simple (not thickened) and also slightly bent outwards. The foot of the bowl is a foot stand although it tends towards a foot ring. The bowl was found in the north-eastern section of the chamber, outside the coffin and found in association with a lance head.

The bowl is classified as Siegmund’s type Sha2.11; a bowl of fine burned ware with thin rims and a foot stand. They are dated to Rhineland phase 5b-5e (555-640). The Franken AG maintained this type but date it to their phases 47-48 (510/25-640/50). Classifying this bowl as Siegmund’s type Sha2.11 (bowl with stand ring) results in its dating to Rhineland phase 4 (600-755). For now it is dated to 510/650.

Bowl 82-2-2 from grave 82, which is approximately 5% of the complete vessel (fig. 4.49). The bowl was baked in an oxidised atmosphere; it has an orange brown surface. The bowl is not decorated; the grooves that can be observed at the lower outer surface of the wall are production traces.
The foot is identified as a foot stand with a diameter of 8.8 cm. The lower wall is convex. It was found in the north-eastern section of the chamber, outside the coffin. Other finds, apart from a number of sherds (not of the bowl), are not known from this grave.

Foot stands are a feature of Siegmund's bowls Shg 21 and Shg 22. Since Shg 22 consists only of coarse ware bowls, the bowl from grave 81 is classified as Shg 21, which dates to Rhineland phases 5–8 (555–640) and phases 4–7 (510–650) of the Franken AG.

Fine pottery: biconical pots (general remarks)

The majority of the pots have dark (from brown to black) surfaces, and apart from pot fragments from five graves, the broken pots were pottery vessels. The majority was found in fragmented condition. From these fragments, fine pottery biconical vessels were identified. Apart from pot fragments from five graves, the broken pots were reset and substantial parts were present in a number of the pots. The majority of the pots have dark (from brown to black) surfaces, only four have an orange to red exterior. The pots with a dark exterior were not necessarily baked in a completely reduced atmosphere. The wall cores of a number of these pots were orange or much lighter than the surface. They were either baked in a mixed atmosphere or under conditions with abundant smoke which colored the outer surface of these pots dark; they have a so-called smoked surface. Of the sixteen (reconstructed) complete pots two are without decoration and one has two ridges without additional decoration. Of the decorated pots three are decorated with grooves only, one with single stamp impressions combined with grooves, four with single-line roulette stamp impressions and five with multiple-line roulette stamp impressions.

Biconical pots are common objects in Merovingian graves and many studies deal with this specific find group. The Sittard pots are classified and dated on the basis of the works of Siegmund and the Franken AG. Their research areas are not that far from Sittard and their typological schemes are relatively recent. Siegmund identified five basic form groups which have some chronological significance and which are further refined on the basis of specific features. The Franken AG modified this classification with the decoration patterns as point of departure.

Table 4.5. Siegmund’s (1998) classification scheme for biconical pots.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body/Height</th>
<th>Girth/Belly</th>
<th>Basic Shape</th>
<th>Rhineland Phases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic group 1</td>
<td>≥ 0.8</td>
<td>Squat and more closed</td>
<td>4 (530–570)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic group 2</td>
<td>≥ 1.27</td>
<td>Squat and more closed</td>
<td>4 (530–570)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic group 3</td>
<td>≥ 1.27</td>
<td>Squat and more closed</td>
<td>4–5 (555–640)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic group 4</td>
<td>≥ 1.27</td>
<td>Squat and more closed</td>
<td>5 (570–640)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic group 5</td>
<td>≥ 1.27</td>
<td>Squat and more closed</td>
<td>5–8 (640–750)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For sixteen of the twenty-one pots the basic form group could be established; for five pots this was impossible due to their incompleteness. Of these sixteen pots none were assigned to basic form group 1, the earliest form of biconical pots according to Siegmund’s classification scheme. Only two of the pots were identified as basic from group 2, and one as basic form group 3. The majority of the pots (eight) were identified as basic from group 4, and three as basic form group 5 (table 4.6). This general development of basic form groups is refined with specific chronological features as the shape of the upper wall and decoration patterns (the chronological sequence of types). These additional features defined four groups in addition to the basic form groups. Especially group 3 and 4 are relevant for the Sittard cemetery (table 4.6). Group 3 is characterized by a straight upper wall, well defined carnation, the absence of ridges on the upper wall (which should not be confused with the frequent presence of ridges on the necks of the pots), and the absence of roulette stamp decorations. Group 3 is characterized by the same features, but the single stamp impressions are replaced by roulette stamp decorations and/or ridges on the upper wall. The fragmented condition of the remaining five pots made their assignment to one of Siegmund’s basic form groups impossible. They could, however, be classified on the basis of other features as is discussed below.

Fine pottery: biconical pot of Siegmund’s type Kwtz 31 (figs. 4.51-4). The grey biconical pot from grave 80 is nearly complete despite the fact that it was found in fragments (fig. 4.51). The fragments are glued together and only a few missing parts were filled up; approximately 90% of the original pot is present. The pot was baked in a reduced atmosphere what resulted in a dark coloured pot. The upper wall is nearly completely covered with grooves. The pot has a height of 14.0 cm, what is approximately the average height of the biconical pots from Sittard. It was found in the north-eastern section of the chamber, thus outside the coffin in which a woman (identified on the basis of the beads) was buried. The pot is classified as Siegmund’s type Kwtz 32, which dates to Rhineland phases 5–8 (555–640), and as Franken AG type KwtLA, which dates to their phases 4–5 (510–580–650) and 5 (570–640) (fig. 4.52).
Sieg mund classifies pots with similar dimensions and decoration as type Kwt2.33, which cannot be dated more precisely as to Rhineland phases 6-8 (570-640). The Franken AG classify pots with similar dimensions and decoration as type Kwt4.11/2.12, which dates from the end of Rhineland phase 7 to phase 8 (585-610). The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt3.12, which dates to Rhineland phase 7 (570-600). The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt3.11, which dates to Rhineland phase 6 and the beginning of phase 7 (570-600). TheDecoration pattern is classified as L/P/V type 414 (470-670).

Approximately 25% is present of the brown biconical pot from grave 50 (fig. 4.46). The available fragments were glued together but the missing parts were not completed. The available bottom, wall and rim fragments made a complete reconstructed outline of the pot possible and its original height was 12.0 cm. The pot is of a fine burned ware tempered with sand and pottery. Some dark stains are visible in its weathered surface; it might have been a pot with a smoked surface. It is decorated with single lines of rectangular to irregular roulette stamp impressions applied multiple times covering nearly the entire upper wall. The neck has a relatively pronounced ridge. The exact find location inside the grave was not recorded for this pot. It is classified as Siegmund’s Kwt3.11, which dates to Rhineland phase 6 and the beginning of phase 7 (570-600). TheDecoration pattern is classified as L/P/V type 414 (470-670).

Biconical pot 6-1-1 from grave 6 is not complete; approximately 10% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.57, left). Two of the twelve available shards were glued together on the basis of which nearly complete wall profiles of the pot could be reconstructed, except for its base. It seems, however, that the decoration was below the middle of the pot, and that the pot had a somewhat sagging appearance. The brown pot was baked in a reduced atmosphere and is of a fine burned ware. The black stains might indicate that it had a smoked surface which is considerably weathered. Single lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions were applied multiple times on the upper wall covering nearly the entire upper wall. The height of the pot could not be reconstructed; the belly diameter was 14.3 cm and the mouth diameter 6.9 cm, on the basis of which it is identified as form 2 or 4. On the base and some along the western wall in the middle of this grave of a man (identified on the basis of a lance head). The pot was thus deposited in fragmented condition (the grave seems undisturbed), as was the pot from grave 4; the deposition of broken pots may have been a ritual act in this cemetery. The biconical pot may be classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt4.41 on the basis of its decoration; this type is a nearly complete specimen. The upper wall is decorated with single lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions, applied 4 to 5 times. The pot has a height of 10.2 cm and a belly diameter of 12.6 cm. It was not recorded where in the grave the pot was found. It is, as far as it can be known (the northern part of the grave is gone) the only find from this grave. The pot is classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt4.11 on the basis of its decor; this type is known from Rhineland phases 6-7 (570-610).
Biconical pot 28-1-1 from grave 28 is with its height of 13.4 cm and a belly diameter of 16.1 cm. It was found as a nearly complete specimen in the grave of a woman, in the north-eastern section of the grave which is close to the presumed former location of the right foot of the now completely decayed body. Siegmund classifies similar pots as Kwt3.23. Although not extremely obvious, it seems as if the younger pots are for the majority smaller than the older pots. The four pots are classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt3.22, which dates to the end of Rhineland phase 7 and the beginning of phase 8B (600-640). The Franken AG classify pots with two ridges on the upper wall as type Kwt6, which dates from the end of Rhineland phase 6 and the beginning of phase 7-8 (610/20-670/80).

Biconical pot 5-2-1 from grave 5 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 60% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot has a dark grey surface, and its grey/ orange core, as the shards show, which implies that the pot was baked in semi-oxidised conditions with abundant smoke resulting in the thin dark upper layer. The pot is of a fine burned ware and its upper wall is decorated with three zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. It is a relatively squat and wide pot. The complete outline of the pot could be reconstructed on the basis of these fragments; approximately 10-15% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot was baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer which shows the lighter paste underneath. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of multiple lines (3) of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The reconstructed height of the pot is 12.6 cm, which is rather average in the collection of biconical pots from the Sittard graves.

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Kwt3.22
Find numbers: 5 (5-2-1); 11 (11-1-1); 30 (30-2-1); 81 (81-1-1). The biconical pot from grave 5 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 60% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot has a dark grey surface, and its grey/orange core, as the shards show, which implies that the pot was baked in semi-oxidised conditions with abundant smoke resulting in the thin dark upper layer. The pot is of a fine burned ware and its upper wall is decorated with three zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. It is a relatively squat and wide pot. The complete outline of the pot could be reconstructed on the basis of these fragments; approximately 10-15% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot was baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer which shows the lighter paste underneath. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of multiple lines (3) of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The reconstructed height of the pot is 12.6 cm, which is rather average in the collection of biconical pots from the Sittard graves.

Find numbers: 5 (5-2-1); 11 (11-1-1); 30 (30-2-1); 81 (81-1-1). The biconical pot from grave 5 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 60% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot has a dark grey surface, and its grey/orange core, as the shards show, which implies that the pot was baked in semi-oxidised conditions with abundant smoke resulting in the thin dark upper layer. The pot is of a fine burned ware and its upper wall is decorated with three zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. It is a relatively squat and wide pot. The complete outline of the pot could be reconstructed on the basis of these fragments; approximately 10-15% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot was baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer which shows the lighter paste underneath. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of multiple lines (3) of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The reconstructed height of the pot is 12.6 cm, which is rather average in the collection of biconical pots from the Sittard graves.

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Kwt3.23
Find numbers: 33 (33-1-1); 47 (47-1-1). The biconical pot from grave 33 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 75% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.60). The pot was baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer underneath which the lighter past is now visible. The pot is without decoration but has two slightly visible ridges on the upper wall, which is a relatively rare feature of pots from graves in the surroundings of Sittard. The third ridge in the neck of the pot is a common feature of biconical pots. The pot has a relatively well defined carination, a straight upper wall and a height of 6.7 cm. The biconical pot was the only find from this grave; it was found near the western wall in the middle of the wooden container. Siegmund classifies similar pots as Kwt3.23 (on the basis of the ridged), and dates them to phase 8 (610-640). The Franken AG classify pots with two ridges on the upper wall as type Kwt6, which dates from the end of Rhineland phase 6 and the beginning of phase 7-8 (610/20-670/80).

Biconical pot 33-1-1 from grave 33 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 75% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.60). The pot was baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer underneath which the lighter past is now visible. The pot is without decoration but has two slightly visible ridges on the upper wall, which is a relatively rare feature of pots from graves in the surroundings of Sittard. The third ridge in the neck of the pot is a common feature of biconical pots. The pot has a relatively well defined carination, a straight upper wall and a height of 6.7 cm. The biconical pot was the only find from this grave; it was found near the western wall in the middle of the wooden container. Siegmund classifies similar pots as Kwt3.23 (on the basis of the ridged), and dates them to phase 8 (610-640). The Franken AG classify pots with two ridges on the upper wall as type Kwt6, which dates from the end of Rhineland phase 6 and the beginning of phase 7-8 (610/20-670/80).

Biconical pot 28-1-1 from grave 28 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 60% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot has a dark grey surface, and its grey/orange core, as the shards show, which implies that the pot was baked in semi-oxidised conditions with abundant smoke resulting in the thin dark upper layer. The pot is of a fine burned ware and its upper wall is decorated with three zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. It is a relatively squat and wide pot. The complete outline of the pot could be reconstructed on the basis of these fragments; approximately 10-15% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot was baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer which shows the lighter paste underneath. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of multiple lines (3) of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The reconstructed height of the pot is 12.6 cm, which is rather average in the collection of biconical pots from the Sittard graves.

Find numbers: 5 (5-2-1); 11 (11-1-1); 30 (30-2-1); 81 (81-1-1). The biconical pot from grave 5 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 60% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot has a dark grey surface, and its grey/orange core, as the shards show, which implies that the pot was baked in semi-oxidised conditions with abundant smoke resulting in the thin dark upper layer. The pot is of a fine burned ware and its upper wall is decorated with three zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. It is a relatively squat and wide pot. The complete outline of the pot could be reconstructed on the basis of these fragments; approximately 10-15% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.59). The pot was baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer which shows the lighter paste underneath. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of multiple lines (3) of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The reconstructed height of the pot is 12.6 cm, which is rather average in the collection of biconical pots from the Sittard graves.

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Kwt3.23
Find numbers: 33 (33-1-1); 47 (47-1-1). The biconical pot from grave 33 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 75% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.60). The pot was baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer underneath which the lighter past is now visible. The pot is without decoration but has two slightly visible ridges on the upper wall, which is a relatively rare feature of pots from graves in the surroundings of Sittard. The third ridge in the neck of the pot is a common feature of biconical pots. The pot has a relatively well defined carination, a straight upper wall and a height of 6.7 cm. The biconical pot was the only find from this grave; it was found near the western wall in the middle of the wooden container. Siegmund classifies similar pots as Kwt3.23 (on the basis of the ridged), and dates them to phase 8 (610-640). The Franken AG classify pots with two ridges on the upper wall as type Kwt6, which dates from the end of Rhineland phase 6 and the beginning of phase 7-8 (610/20-670/80).

Biconical pot 33-1-1 from grave 33 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored; approximately 75% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.60). The pot was baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer underneath which the lighter past is now visible. The pot is without decoration but has two slightly visible ridges on the upper wall, which is a relatively rare feature of pots from graves in the surroundings of Sittard. The third ridge in the neck of the pot is a common feature of biconical pots. The pot has a relatively well defined carination, a straight upper wall and a height of 6.7 cm. The biconical pot was the only find from this grave; it was found near the western wall in the middle of the wooden container. Siegmund classifies similar pots as Kwt3.23 (on the basis of the ridged), and dates them to phase 8 (610-640). The Franken AG classify pots with two ridges on the upper wall as type Kwt6, which dates from the end of Rhineland phase 6 and the beginning of phase 7-8 (610/20-670/80).

The four pots are classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt3.22, which dates to the end of Rhineland phase 7 and the beginning of phase 8B (600-640). The Franken AG classify pots with two ridges on the upper wall as type Kwt6, which dates from the end of Rhineland phase 6 and the beginning of phase 7-8 (610/20-670/80).

Biconical pots type Siegmund Kwt3.23, graves 33 and 47 (scale 1:4).
The condition of five of the twenty-one biconical pots hindered the identification of their belly height and the mouth/belly indexes; their ground forms cannot be established. The decoration patterns, however, offer some indications with regard to their possible date ranges.

The remains of the biconical pot from grave 3 suggest that it was baked in an oxidised atmosphere, resulting in an orange-grey surface. The fragments were tempered with quartz and pottery grid. Approximately 30% of the pot is present (14 shards). The pot was not restored or completed but it was nonetheless possible to reconstruct a profile of the pot, although its height could not be reconstructed. It had a mouth diameter of 16.9 cm, which is relatively wide (nearly the widest mouth diameter of all the biconical pots of the Sittard collection); the complete pot will have been relatively large. The upper wall is decorated with two lines of interrupted complex roulette stamp impressions consisting of rectangular grids filled with four columns and three rows of small rectangular impressions alternating with grids filled with radial lines. The stamps are applied underneath the ridge and in between these two lines undulating grooves are applied. A zone of undulating grooves is also applied above the ridge. The shards seem to have been found in the south-western corner of the grave, but this is not clearly indicated on the field drawing. Next to two rivets one biconical pot of this biconical pot, no other finds are known from this grave. On the basis of the decoration the shards are classified as either type Kwt 2.31 (phases 5: 555-570) or 2.32 (phases 4-5: 530-570) (Siegmund 1998, 129). For now the fragments are stored but not completed (fig. 4.61). Approximately 45% of the original pot is present. The upper part of the pot is gone; its mouth diameter and height could not be established. However, in view of the available outline the pot will not have been much higher than its remaining height of 12.0 cm. The pot is thus of average height in the collection of biconical pots from the Sittard graves.

The pot was baked in a reduced atmosphere and probably under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer which is not considerably weathered. The upper wall is decorated with grooves. It was found in association with a number of masculine objects, but an outline of a burial pit or another context was not discovered. Biconical pots with grooves can be classified as Siegmund types Kwt 31 (phase 5: 555-570/90), Kwt 32 (phases 4-5: 530-570/90) or Kwt 33 (phases 6-8: 570-640). The Franken AG classify pots with grooves as type Kwt 3A, which dates to their phases 4-5 (510-530/90). Based on the ‘round-ed’ carination, it can also be a type Siegmund Kwt 4.11 (end phase 7-8A: 600-665). Siegmund claims that spouted pots occur only in Rhineland phases 7 and 8 (585-640). It is likely that the date of these spouted pots, which are present in graves 29 and 88, is somewhat closer to this period. The pot can be assumed to be rather close to its original shape, which is nearly as high as it is wide (nearly the widest mouth diameter of all the biconical pots of the Sittard collection). The complete pot will have been broken when the re-opening pit was dug and its upper wall has been re-opened; the pot is classified as Franken type Kwt 4.7 (5: 10/25-640/50).

The spouted pot from grave 24 was found in fragmented condition but is present as a complete profile of the pot (fig. 4.63). A number of wall fragments are also present, but a complete profile of the pot could not be reconstructed. The wall fragments show that the upper wall was decorated with two zones of horizontal grooves. The pot was baked in an oxidised atmosphere; it was an orange pot with in all probably a smoked surface since some black weathered stains are present. The pot was wheel thrown, has a hard baked surface, and is of a fine burnished ware with pottery grit inclusions. The mouth diameter is 15.0 cm, which is in line with the dimensions of the other spouted pots from Sittard (table 4.7). The pot was found in the grave of a man (identified on the basis of a lance head), in the middle of the grave in a re-opening pit. It can thus be questioned whether the shards originally belonged to this grave. The pot was a spouted pot with an opening pit in the ‘nose’ and maybe some of the fragments were intentionally taken from the grave. Biconical pots with only grooves are classified a Siegmund types Kwt 31 (phase 5: 555-570), Kwt 32 (phases 4-5: 530-570) or 33 (phases 6-8: 570-640). The Franken AG classify spouted pots with grooves as type Kwt 3A, which dates to their phases 4 (510/530/90-640). Spouted pot 49-1-7 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored and completed; approximately 90% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.62). The outline of the reconstructed pot can be assumed to have a ‘nose’ shape, which is curved and globular; a vague rounded carination can be observed in the middle section of the pot. It is baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer which is now considerably weathered showing the lighter parts underneath. The upper wall is decorated with one zone of grooves and one zone of a single groove. The spout is present, but the handle is absent. A small bulb on the rim, however, indicates the former presence of the handle. An indentation for a lid can be observed inside the rim. The pot has a height of 20.6 cm, a belly diameter of 22.0 cm, and a mouth diameter of 15.5 cm; it is comparable to the dimensions of the other spouted pots of the Sittard collection. The pot was and are thus a special form within this group. The spouted pots all have approximately the same height and height/belly indexes and belong to the relatively large pots within the group of biconical pots from Sittard. The upper walls of all the seven spouted pots are decorated with either grooves or roulette stamp impressions. The spouts of all the pots are attached to the upper wall, just beneath the rim, and to the opposite of the handle. They are baked in either an oxidised or reduced atmosphere. The carination of the pots can be rounded or well-defined.

| Fine pottery: spouted pots of Siegmund group 3 (with grooves) |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Grave | H | B | M | Type |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 29 | 17.4 | 18.7 | 12.3 | 4 (5) | 3 | Kwt 3.22 |
| 48-2 | 17.8 | 18.1 | 12.8 | 4 | 3 | Kwt 3.22 |
| 49-1-7 | 20.6 | 21.0 | 15.5 | 5 | 2/4 | Kwt 2.32 / Kwt 4.11 |
| 39-1 | 17.8 | 18.1 | 12.8 | 4 | 3 | Kwt 3.22 |
| 33-1-2 | - | - | 15.1 | - | 3 | Fag-Kwt 5D |
| 39-1-7 | 17.8 | 18.1 | 12.8 | 4 | 3 | Kwt 3.22 |
| 29 | 17.4 | 18.7 | 12.3 | 4 (5) | 3 | Kwt 3.22 |
| 48-2 | 17.8 | 18.1 | 12.8 | 4 | 3 | Kwt 3.22 |
| 49-1-7 | 20.6 | 21.0 | 15.5 | 5 | 2/4 | Kwt 2.32 / Kwt 4.11 |

| 3-1 | 18.1 | 19.8 | 14.0 | 4 | Kwt 3.22 |
| 29 | 17.4 | 18.7 | 12.3 | 4 (5) | 3 | Kwt 3.22 |
| 48-2 | 17.8 | 18.1 | 12.8 | 4 | 3 | Kwt 3.22 |

The upper wall of the spouted pot from grave 3 is decorated with a ‘nose’ shape, which is curved and globular; a vague rounded carination can be observed in the middle section of the pot. It is baked under conditions with abundant smoke leaving a thin dark top layer which is now considerably weathered showing the lighter parts underneath. The upper wall is decorated with one zone of grooves and one zone of a single groove. The spout is present, but the handle is absent. A small bulb on the rim, however, indicates the former presence of the handle. An indentation for a lid can be observed inside the rim. The pot has a height of 20.6 cm, a belly diameter of 22.0 cm, and a mouth diameter of 15.5 cm; it is comparable to the dimensions of the other spouted pots of the Sittard collection. The pot was found in the north-eastern section of the grave of a man (identified on the basis of a lance head and shield boss), and was deposited close to the presumed former location of the right foot. Biconical pots with grooves only as decoration and basic form 5 are classified as Siegmund’s type 2.33 (phases 4-5: 530-570). The Franken AG classify pots with grooves as type Kwt 3A, which dates to their phases 4-5 (510/530/90-640). Based on the ‘round-ed’ carination, it can also be a type Siegmund Kwt 4.11 (end phase 7-8A: 600-665). Siegmund claims that spouted pots occur only in Rhineland phases 7 and 8 (585-640). It is likely that the date of these spouted pots, which are present in graves 29 and 88, is somewhat closer to this period. The bone implies that the decorative elements (grooves), which are indicative for the dating of biconical pots, have no chronological significance with regard to spouted pots.

The spouted pots from Sittard are decorated with roulette stamp impressions (fig. 4.63). The pot is nearly complete; only a tiny fragment of the spout is gone. The pot was baked in an atmosphere with abundant smoke which left a thin dark top layer now showing some spots of the orange paste underneath. It is of a fine burnished ware, but tempered with pottery grit. The pot has a globular outline: the carination is rounded and the lower and upper walls are straight. Its bottom is plain to slightly concave. The pot has a height of 18.1 cm, a belly diameter of 15.8 cm, and a mouth diameter of 14.0 cm. It was found in the north-eastern section of the grave, together with a ceramic beaker. It cannot be established whether it was the burial of a man or a woman; the only other find from this grave is...
a knife. The indexes of the pot and its decoration enable it to be classified as type Siegmund Kwt5.11, which dates to the early phase of Rhineländische phase 7, and to 8A (600-640). The Franken AG classify biconical pots with similar dimensions and decoration as type Kwt3.22, which dates to the end of Rhineländische phase 7 and to 8A (600-640). The Franken AG classify biconical pots of these dimensions and similar decoration as type Kwt5B, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50).

The identification of pot 47-2 from grave 33 as spouted pot is not unambiguous. A considerable part of the pot has been broken, and a complete profile of the pot could not be reconstructed. The pot has a grey surface and a lighter core; it was baked with abundant smoke which left a thin dark top layer showing the lighter paste underneath. The bottom is plain and the rim fragments show that a handle was attached to the pot: this indicates that the pot was a jar, jug or spouted pot. There are no indications for the former presence of a spout. However, a number of six wall fragments decorated with what seem to be multiple lines of triangular roulette stamp impressions were discovered. Since jars and jugs are often baked in a reduced atmosphere and are commonly of a coarse ware without decoration, it is for now decided to identify the fragments as those of a spouted pot. The pot consists of fifteen fragments, of which five are rim fragments, three are base fragments and six are decorated wall fragments. The fragments were found in the western middle section of the grave. Other finds are not known from this grave; it is thus not known whether it was the burial of a man or woman. The Franken AG classify pots with a decoration of multiple lines of triangular roulette stamp impressions as type Kwt5D, which dates to their phases 6-7 (580-600/60-640/50).

The spouted pot with handle from grave 76 (76-1-1) is baked in an atmosphere with abundant smoke (fig. 4.62). The pot is now light brown, but the surface is considerably weathered, and was originally black or grey. The pot has a height of 19.3 cm, a mouth diameter of 16.3 cm, and a belly diameter of 20.0 cm. The upper wall is decorated with three zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. One decoration zone was applied above the ridge and two zones were applied underneath it. The pot was found in the grave of a woman, in the northern section of the grave. It was found in association with a lance head. Masculine objects were also found within the coffin. The indexes of the pot and its decoration enable it to be classified as Siegmund type Kwt3.12, which dates to the end of Rhineländische phase 7 and to 8A (600-640). The Franken AG classify biconical pots of these dimensions and similar decoration as type Kwt5B, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50) or Kwt5F, which also dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50).

The spouted pot from Sittard graves were both found in fragmentary condition. Of partly restored jug 46-1-1 approximately 70% is present; the available shards are of the belly, rim and bottom, so a nearly complete outline of the jug could be reconstructed (fig. 4.63). Apart from the restored bottom part twenty detached fragments are also present. One of the rim fragments forms the small spout of this jug; it is too small to classify the jug as a tree-foil jug. The handle is lost, but left some traces where it was attached to the belly and rim. The decoration consists of three zones of horizontal grooves, and the handle covered a fraction of the applied grooves on the upper wall. The reconstructed silhouette of the jug demonstrates that it had a height of 33.3 cm, and that the belly had a diameter of 18.2 cm. The belly is relatively low, what gives the jug a sagging appearance. It has a relatively narrow neck and mouth. The jug was baked in an oxidised atmosphere with smoke; the fragments have a thin dark grey surface and an orange/grey paste underneath it. The jug was found in the grave of a woman, in the middle of the northern section of the grave. It was found associated with the fragments of a biconical pot (32-4-2; see above). Depending on the decoration being either a single line roulette stamp or a roulette stamp of multiple lines, the pot is classified as Siegmund type Kwt3.13 (phase 6-7: 570-610/60-640/50) or Kwt3.23 (phase 8: 610-640). Considering the ‘rounded’ carination it can also be a type Siegmund Kwt4.11 (end phase 8A: 660-680).

The identification of pot 33-1-2 from grave 33 as spouted pot is not unambiguous. A considerable part of the pot has been broken, and a complete profile of the pot could not be reconstructed. The pot has a grey surface and a lighter core; it was baked with abundant smoke which left a thin dark top layer showing the lighter paste underneath. The bottom is plain and the rim fragments show that a handle was attached to the pot: this indicates that the pot was a jar, jug or spouted pot. There are no indications for the former presence of a spout. However, a number of six wall fragments decorated with what seem to be multiple lines of triangular roulette stamp impressions were discovered. Since jars and jugs are often baked in a reduced atmosphere and are commonly of a coarse ware without decoration, it is for now decided to identify the fragments as those of a spouted pot. The pot consists of fifteen fragments, of which five are rim fragments, three are base fragments and six are decorated wall fragments. The fragments were found in the western middle section of the grave. Other finds are not known from this grave; it is thus not known whether it was the burial of a man or woman. The Franken AG classify pots with a decoration of multiple lines of triangular roulette stamp impressions as type Kwt5D, which dates to their phases 6-7 (580-600/60-640/50). The pot was found in the grave of a woman, in the north-eastern section of the chamber, in association with a lance head. Masculine objects were also found within the coffin. The indexes of the pot and its decoration enable it to be classified as Siegmund type Kwt3.22, which dates to the end of Rhineländische phase 7 and to 8A (600-640).
Eight fragments (all recorded under find number 1-1-1) from grave 1 are the remains of a jug, jar or spouted pot. Three fragments are glued together and form a handle with three ribs. A rim fragment is also available. The fragments are of a wheel thrown pot of a fine burnished ware baked in an oxidised atmosphere. It cannot be classified or dated on the basis of these fragments alone. Fragment 9-1-4 from grave 9 has a roulette stamp decoration of simple multiple lines (probably of a stamp of 4 lines) of rectangles, and is thus part of the Siegmund’s late roulette stamp group (fig. 4.66). The fragment is probably of spouted pot or a jug (traces of the ear can be observed). It is of a fine burnished ware, it is tempered with pottery grid and its core is dark grey. The biconical pots with roulette stamp decoration of the late group are types Kwt1, Kwt2, and Kwt3, which date to Rhineland phases 7-8 (585-640). Jugs with late roulette stamp decoration date to Rhineland phase 11 (705-740).

Wall fragment 20-1-1 from grave 20 can be of a wheel thrown biconical pot of fine burnished ware, baked in a mixed atmosphere with abundant smoke: the smoke left a thin dark top layer but the paste underneath is light yellow to grey (fig. 4.66). The decoration consists of simple lines of long triangular roulette stamp impressions. It is classified as Franken type Kwt4/E, which dates to their phases 5-7 (675-710/40). Another shard with a considerably weathered surface resembles the decorated fragment; the two fragments belonged to the same pot.

Fragment 20-1-1 is a small thin fragment of a pot baked in a reduced atmosphere, tempered with pottery grid and quartz. The find card mentioned that assigning it to grave 20 was the only remaining option after all the other finds had been ascribed to graves.

The grey/black fragment 25-1-1 from grave 25 is the base of a wheel thrown pot of a fine burnished ware tempered with pottery grid. The base has a diameter of 7.5 cm. It cannot be classified or dated as to what sort of pot the base was part of.

Two fragments (46-1-12) are known from grave 46. One is a brown wall fragment with two zones of four grooves and a ridge; it was part of a biconical pot. The other is a rim fragment of another pot of fine burnished ware, baked in a reduced atmosphere. Fragment 77-1-1 from grave 77 is considerably weathered; it has a light brown surface and a dark grey core. It cannot be classified or dated.

Fragments 77-1-1 and 77-1-1 from grave 77 are of the bottoms of two pots. Fragments 77-1-1 form approximately 25-30% of a complete pot of fine burnished ware which might have been a bowl or biconical pot (fig. 4.66). It was baked under conditions with probably abundant smoke since the surface shows thin dark top layer, now considerably weathered, with a lighter paste underneath it. The base has a diameter of 8.0 cm and the pot had a straight lower wall. The other fragments (77-5-1) are thick bottom fragments of a pot (approximately 5% of the original pot) with a grey surface (fig. 4.66). It was baked under conditions with abundant smoke which left a thin dark top layer. The grooves visible on its exterior are production traces. The plain, slightly convex bottom has a diameter of 12.5 cm. It cannot be classified or dated.
The numerous fragments from grave 81 are probably part of more than one pot.

Find number 81-1-6 consists of 20 fragments and 10 very small fragments. Four of them have a roulette stamp decoration (they belong to biconical pot 81-1-1, see above), four are fragments of the carination of a biconical pot, one is a rim fragment, and eleven are not decorated.

The fragments recorded under find number 81-1-3 are also part of a biconical pot. They have a roulette stamp decoration of multiple lines of rectangles, which, however, do not match with the decoration on pot 81-1-1.

The fragments recorded as find number 81-1-4 are belly fragments of a black pot; they probably belong to biconical pot 81-1-1 and/or 81-1-3.

Find number 81-1-5 consists of six fragments of a biconical pot with an orange outer surface. Approximately 5% of the pot is present (no drawing available).

Fragments 81-1-6 are of a jug baked in a reduced atmosphere. Fragments 81-1-4 and some fragments of find number 81-1-6 belong either to this jug or to a biconical pot.

Bottom fragment 82-2-1 from grave 83 is of a red wheel thrown pot with thick walls and of coarse ware, tempered with white gravel (fig. 4.66). The pot has a plain straight bottom with a diameter of 17.5 cm. It cannot be classified or dated.

Fragments 83-1-1 were probably a pot with spout or a jug or jar (fig. 4.66). Eleven fragments were preserved of which one had remnants of a handle. The surface of the fragments is orange/red but their cores are grey.

**Glass vessels**

Palm cups

Siegmann established an index which separates the high, slim palm cups from the lower, broad palm cups.211 The four Sittard specimens belong to the group of low and broad palm cups. Within this group Siegmann identifies palm cups with simple rims (slightly pronounced and not folded) as type Gila.1, and those with broad and outward folded rims as type Gila.2. This classification is sustained by the Franken AG.212 and Koch also makes this distinction.213 Mau1 presents an exhaustive list of palm cups and identifies two main groups, predominantly on the basis of the mouth/belly ratios.214 Feyeux classifies palm cups as general types 55, 57 (palm cups) and 60 (palm cups with folded rim).215 In these groups some sub-types are identified, mainly on the basis of the ornamentation.216 “Two types of low and broad palm cups can be identified in the Sittard collection on the basis of these classifications.

Palm cups: low and broad with rolled rim

8 (8-8-1)

Palm cup 8-2-1 from grave 8 is a light blue cup, rather asymmetric, with a maximum height of 5.9 cm and a mouth diameter of 10.6 cm (fig. 4.67). It can stand on its small flat indented bottom, which is unusual for palm cups: they are characterised by their rounded bottoms. The bottom of the Sittard cup is asymmetric, and probably it is an imperfect specimen of which the bottom was intended to be rounded. The cup is without decoration. The rim is thickened and rolled outward, some fragments of the rim and the wall are gone which show that the rim was hollow. The palm cup is not of a high quality since numerous air bubbles are visible. This specimen was found outside the coffin, in the north-eastern section of the chamber, in which also beads were found but these probably moved from their original position inside the coffin due to the re-opening pit which disturbed the coffin.

The Sittard palm cup cannot be classified with Siegmann’s scheme: he only identified cups with broad outward folded rims and solid rounded rims.217 The rim of the Sittard palm cup is obviously a very fine form which fits somewhere in between these rim forms. According to the typology of Maul it is a type Tummler 81A, which dates to 570-670.218 According to Feyeux’s classification it is a type 55,2 which dates to 550-620.219 Altogether, a dating of this palm cup to 580-950 seems plausible.

Palm cups: low and semi-spherical with plain rim and ribs

15 (9-9-1); 16 (16-1-7); 26 (26-1-9)

Palm cup 15-1-1 from grave 15 was broken but is now in restored and in complete condition, apart from some tiny wall fragments (fig. 4.67). The cup has a height of 6.9 cm, is olive green and has twelve prominent vertical ribs. Eight of the twelve ribs start at the transition from sagging bottom to wall, they all vanish at approximately half of the wall. Four ribs start at the middle point of the bottom and as such form a cross covering the sagging bottom of the cup. The quality of the glass is not high; numerous air bubbles are visible. Two of the cups were probably only found from grave 15; it is only slightly darker and higher (fig. 4.67). It is a brownish-yellow cup with twelve vertical ribs, similar to the ones on the cup from grave 15. The cup has a height of 7.6 cm and a mouth diameter of 8.4 cm. Fragments of the rim and wall are gone and numerous air bubbles are visible. The cup was found in the chamber grave of a man (identified on the basis of a lance head), in the north-western section of the coffin which is near the presumed former location of the left foot of the completely decomposed body.

Palm beaker

26-3-1

The two available palm cups, and probably also the missing one, were found in the north to north-eastern section of the coffin of a woman (on the basis of beads), and was thus placed close to the presumed former location of the right foot or in between the feet of the now completely decayed body.

The two available palm cups, and probably also the missing one, with plain rims are remarkably similar. The two cups with twelve ribs might have been produced in the same mould. They are classified as Siegmann’s Gila.1, which is a rather general type of palm cup and which dates to Rhineland. Other typological studies identified more specific types. Feyeux for example classifies palm cups as the ones from Sittard as sub-group 55.3k (palm cups with vertical ribs), which he dates to the second half of the sixth century and the beginning of the seventh century.220 The palm cups can also be classified as Maul type Tummler 81B (half spherical with straight walls with a ribbed surface), which he dates to Studt AM III-JM I (560-706-706/80).221 More specifically, Maul classified the patterns formed by the ribs on the bottoms of the cups. The Sittard cups are all classified as their bottom type KP2, cross/one point pattern.222 In view of these alternative classifications and associated date ranges it appears that Siegmann’s criteria for these palm cups are coherent chronological indicators but that his date range is somewhat narrower than those of the other typologies.

Bell beakers

Bell beakers are quite common glass finds in Merovingian graves.223 Three different bottom shapes are present in such beakers, each with a distribution pattern of its own.224 The beakers with rounded convex bottoms are mainly restricted to the Rhineland. Rounded convex bottoms with a peak or pointed bottoms are mainly known from the Meuse region in France and those with a drop have their main distribution area in the Meuse region of Belgium. In Maul’s recent work, however, only two types of bottoms are identified: those with a rounded convex bottom and those with a bulge (peaks and drops are regarded as one type).225 It can be assumed that the distinction between drops and peaks is not as unambiguous and that they should be regarded as one form, an opinion which is supported by Cabart and Feyeux.226 The general shape of bell beakers shows a general chronological development from short and squat with an oval shaped body to carinated body and finally to a more cylindrical body.227 The height of the beakers increases with time. In the Sittard cemetery three bell beakers were found: one complete one with a rounded or sagging bottom, one with a pointed bottom of which the upper part is unfortunately gone, and one of which only the upper part is preserved.
The bell beaker is classified as Feyeux’s general type 53 and sub
type 5.2.8, on the basis of its convex bottom and looped and hori-
zontal threads.**

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Legoux/Périn/Vallet 2004, 21, 50, 55 (type 499).


Legoux, Périn and Vallet identified three types of bell beakers (geolétz campusferm) on the basis of wall and bottom shapes.

The Sittard beaker with rounded bottom can be classified as type 450, which dates from the second half of their phase MA2 to MK1 (520-560/90).** The Sittard beaker can thus be dated to the second half of the sixth century and beginning of the seventh.

Bell beaker: vertical ribs, pointed bottom
34 (56/7+)

Bell beaker 34-3-1 from grave 34 is an olive green specimen with vertical ribs on the outer surface of the wall, starting at the ‘car-
ination’. The upper part of the beaker is gone, and the bottom point in broken. The remainder of the beaker consists of eight wall and four bottom fragments. The beaker has an incurved wall pro-
file and the bottom is pointed, with probably originally a bulge or drop. This bell beaker was found in the middle of the northern sec-
tion of the grave of a man (identified on the basis of a lance head) and was found in the second or second half of the grave of the feet of the now completely decayed body.

This form, a pointed bottom with incurved wall, is similar to Main’s general type B2. More specifically, it can be identified as type 449, of which five are classified as Rosmert within the corpus of comparable beakers. This lower part of a bell beaker can be identified as type 449 of legoux, Périn and Vallet, which is not far from Sittard.

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Type 449 is a heterogeneous group, but type ‘Rosmert’ dates relatively late, to the second half of the sixth century and be-
ginning of the seventh century.

Koch shows that beakers with pointed bottoms are more frequently found along the Meuse and Northern Gaul than they are in the Rhineland.** The Sittard beaker is comparable to form 5 of her overview of bell beaker bottoms, which also includes type Rosmert. The distribution pattern of these beakers shows a con-
centration in the middle Meuse area. The Sittard cemetery falls rather well within the distribution pattern of similar beakers, and was thus probably obtained through the regional or local net-
work of exchange.

This lower part of a bell beaker can be identified as type 449 of legoux, Périn and Vallet, which dates from the second half of their phase MA2 to MA3 (540-590/600).**

Bell beaker: faint ribs, bottom shape unknown.
11 (5+6-6-)

The upper part of a bell beaker was displayed in a showcase in mu-
seum ‘Het Domein’ (in Sittard) in which numerous objects from grave 11 were also on display (fig. 4.68). A find number was not re-
corded on the beaker; but it is supposed the glass vessel (11-10-1) which is recorded on the field drawing of grave 11. It is the upper part of a light green incurved bell beaker. Vertical, or slightly diag-
ongal, ribs can be observed on the outer surface of the glass vessel, although these are rather faint. The remains of the bell beaker are fragmented, but glued together, the rim is incomplete. The beak-
er was found in the middle of the southern section in the grave of a woman (identified on the basis of heads), and thus near the pres-
sumed position of the head of the now nearly completely decom-
posed body. It is difficult to assign a type to this beaker since it is for its greatest part gone.

Glass: fragments
11 (5-6-6-); 24 (24-3-1); 35 (5-1+2); 45 (4-1+5)

Blue glass fragment 11-6-6 from grave 11 is rather thick and some production lines can be observed on its surface (fig. 4.63). It might be that this was a fragment of a Roman glass bottle, that has relatively thick walls and bottoms compared to Merovingian glass vessels. It was found near the southern wall of the grave of a woman (identified on the basis of beads), together with a number of other finds. It could have been stored in the small beaker, together with a polished stone and a half a blue Roman melon bead, as a sort of ‘amulet’ (see the section on containers below), since it was found in the beaker vicinity which is also a Roman specimen. The finds may have been removed from the small beaker before deposition but placed in each other’s proximity.

From grave 24 two fitting glass wall fragments (24-3-1) are known (fig. 4.67). They are light green and show some air bubbles. It cannot be established to which form of glass vessel the fragments originally belonged. The fragments were found in the reopening pit in the middle of the grave. It is therefore not certain whether the fragments initially belonged to a vessel removed from the grave or that they entered the grave when the reopening pit was dug.

The Sittard cemetery falls rather well within the distribution pattern of similar beakers, and was thus probably obtained through the regional or local net-
work of exchange. The Sittard beaker compares to her form type 450 of legoux, Périn and Vallet, which is not far from Sittard.

It is peculiar that such bowls from the southern Netherlands were all found in cemeteries of the ‘countyside’, and not in the ‘urban’ cemeteries of Maastricht. The mentioned bowls, however, are all relatively simple specimens in the corpus of cop-
per alloy bowls known from Merovingian Gaul. The more exclu-
sive or exceptional find places, such as hoof stand, elaborate handles and are decorated. The distribution map of copper alloy bowls presented by Peters and based on the older study by Schulte only shows one find spot in the Netherlands: Rhein.** Several new find spots can be add-
ed although we did not carry out a comprehensive survey.

The Franken AG’s classification of copper alloy bowls is based on Christlein’s classification.** Simple bowls of copper alloy sheet metal without decorated rim and without a foot stand are classi-
fied as Franken AG type BV, which dates to Franken AG phases 4-5 (510-540 and 570-630).** However copper alloy bowls in our region seem to date rather to the second half of the sixth and beginning of the seventh century.**
A number of metal strips and rivets were identified as the mounts of now completely decayed wooden boxes were observed in two graves (14 and 71).

In grave 5 a bent iron strip (5-6-2) was found to the left side of the upper body, as was an iron band/rod with a copper alloy rivet at a diameter of 1.4 cm (5-6-6), and an indeterminate triangular iron plate (5-6-7). A number of atenels, which are generally known as the contexts of purses, were found in the proximity of the mounts. The iron strip, however, with its length of 5.3 cm and width of 1.5 cm, can be identified as a plate that fixed the corner of a wooden box, as can the other strip and plate. Unfortunately, other mounts were not preserved or not absolutely certain where the mounts of a wooden box since traces or shadows of its walls or bottom were not observed.

Four corner mounts and two additional hinged mounts were found in grave 16 of a woman (identified as such on the basis of the head). Of the four corner mounts two are complete (16-5-11; 16-5-2), one is without its bent extremity (16-5-3), and one is without a part of its bent extremity (16-5-3-2). It can be assumed that these incomplete mounts originally resembled the two complete mounts. The three mounts for which it can be established all have one part varying from 7.9 to 8.0 cm. The other parts of the complete mounts are 7.5 and 7.7 cm. One iron nail is preserved on only one mount. Similar nails probably fixed the extremities of all the four mounts to the wooden box. Two rectangular plates with looped extremities not preserved to one another (16-5-9) were found in the proximity of the described mounts. The plates might have functioned as a sort of hinge of the wooden box. They were attached to the wooden box with iron rivets. Two iron links (16-5-4) were also deposited on top of this container, since their find locations are not recorded inside the outlines of the box or coffin. This suggestion is in line with the find depth of these belt fittings compared to the other finds in its surroundings: they were recorded at a higher level within the chamber grave.

The imprints or shadows (16-5-3-1) of the walls of a nearly square wooden box (18.8 x 3.2 cm), now completely decomposed, was observed in the north-eastern segment of grave 71. It was deposited to the right of the right lower leg in a broad grave of a woman (identified as such on the basis of the head, a bracelet and a finger ring). Contents of the box were not found. It might have been of organic materials (textiles?) were not preserved. It seems as if belt fittings (plate buckle with counter plate) were deposited on top of this container, since their find locations are not recorded inside the outlines of the box or coffin. This suggestion is in line with the find depth of these belt fittings compared to the other finds in its surroundings: they were recorded at a higher level within the chamber grave.

In grave 14 only the shadows or imprints of the wall of a former wooden box were found in the southern half of the chamber grave, to the right of the coffin. The box was thus placed in the section of the grave associated with the upper part or head of the body of a man (identified as such on the basis of the head, a bracelet and a lance head). Contents which belonged to this box were not found; they might have been of organic materials (textiles?) were not preserved. It seems as if belt fittings (plate buckle with counter plate) were deposited on top of this container, since their find locations are not recorded inside the outlines of the box or coffin. This suggestion is in line with the find depth of these belt fittings compared to the other finds in its surroundings: they were recorded at a higher level within the chamber grave.

A fine burnished, bright orange beaker is known from grave 11. It is a Roman beaker: it resembles the small egg shaped terracotta beakers known from the fourth century to some degree. 256 It has an ornate neck rim (ornate mouth form) and a spherical body. It has a height of 6.0 cm and a belly diameter of 6.8 cm. The top neck of the beaker seems to be missing, but the surface of the fracture is rather smooth; it might be an old fracture (fig. 46). The beaker was found in the grave of a woman in the southern section of the grave, presumably near the head. This deviant find location (compared to those of Merovingian pottery), the Roman origin of the beaker, the smooth surface of the mouth fracture, and the fact that a number of objects, generally known as the context of purses, were found in its proximity, are all strong indications that it was used as a ‘container’. The objects which might have been kept in the beaker are a thick blue fragment of Roman glass, a smoothly polished stone, a rectangular iron plate (unidentifiable object), and half of a blue Roman melon bead, which was not associated with the extended collection of bead fittings (14-5-25) from the grave. The objects seem to form a special set. It can be assumed that this collection was kept in the beaker but that the objects fell out or were taken out of it when it was placed in the coffin; the field drawing shows that the beaker was found lying at its side.

The majority of the single rivets are discussed in combination with the objects they originally belonged to (seaxes, belt fittings, shield boxes, wooden boxes). The other single rivets could not be associated with a matching object, and are here discussed as separate category.

The two copper alloy rivets (9-1-11-12) from grave 9 were the single metal finds from this grave. One of the domed rivets has a curved rim; a similar rim was probably also present at the base of the other rivet. The heads of both the rivets have a diameter 1.6 cm. The rivets were found in the north-eastern section of the grave, together with a bioclastic pot in fragmented condition.

The iron rivet 34-2-4 from grave 34 is plated with copper alloy. It has a domed head, and a diameter of 3.1 cm. Wood remains could be observed at its backside: it was thus probably of a wooden box or shield box. Two other rivets (34-2-3 and 34-2-2) were also found in this grave of a man (identified as such on the basis of a lance head and helmet) along the middle section of the western wall or in the middle of the grave (this find number was recorded twice on the field drawing).

Rivet (43-1-2) from grave 43 is a copper alloy rivet with organic material preserved at its backside, probably bone. The other objects from this grave are not indicative for its original function. It was found in the grave of a woman.

Mounts / plates: various

Three resembling thin copper alloy plates with rivet holes are known from grave 88. The rivets are not preserved. One of the plates is complete: it is a rectangular plate with four rivet holes. Two of the plates are damaged; parts of them are missing and they show only two of the original four rivet holes. Similar plates are identified as thin plates attached to the back of back plates the leather belt went through the open space in between the thin plate and the more robust back plate at the face side of the belt. However, back plates or other belt fittings, indicating the former presence of a belt, are not known from Sittard grave 88.

Find numbers: 9 (9-1-1; 9-1-2; 11-2-1; 34-2-4; 34-2-5; 43-1-2)

Containers: wood and ceramic

Fig. 4.69 Container: ceramic pot with possible contents, grave 16 (scale: 1:4 and 1:2).
A small number of large iron nails is known from the Sittard cemetery. Similar nails are generally identified as coffin nails. In view of the low number uncovered and their find locations in the graves it seems unlikely that the nails were used as coffin nails. Nail 20-3 from grave 20 is a large iron nail of which a small fragment of the tip is missing. The nail has a domed head, with a diameter of 1.8 cm. The length of the nail is 5.9 cm, the pin is slightly bent. The nail was found in association with a seax and belt fittings, on the breast of the now nearly decomposed body. Large iron nail 40-1-1 has a domed head with a diameter of 2.1 cm. The pin of the nail is for the larger part gone, the remainder has a length of 3.8 cm. The nail was found in association with belt fittings in the middle section of the eastern half of the grave. The location of the nail is rather peculiar. Did it move from its original location after the decomposition of the wooden coffin, or was it deposited together with the belt fittings?

Iron fragment 48-1-2, which might be the pin of an iron nail, was found outside the coffin in the eastern part of the chamber, in association with the shadow of a wooden construction (the floor of the chamber). The fragment was thus probably the pin of a large nail used in the wooden construction of the chamber.

Organic remains: unidentified

Find numbers: 8 (8-4-4); 14 (14-1-1); 45 (45-4-4); 87 (8-1-1)

Organic fragments (8-4-2) from grave 8 were probably wood or bone remains. One fragment has a length of c. 2.5 cm, the other a length of 3.0 cm. The fragments were found in the north-eastern segment of the grave, in association with a copper alloy strap end. This strap end was different from the ensemble of shoe fits also known from this grave, and was probably used differently. The wood or bone remains, however, do not clarify its function. In grave 16 remnants of charcoal and burnt loam (16-1-1) were found in the middle of the grave, inside the recorded outline of a pit: the charcoal and loam remains are distributed throughout this pit in which also a pottery vessel was found. Other fragments found in or near the grave indicate that this grave was disturbed after the decomposition of the wooden box. The pit is recorded as a later intrusion; it is heavily restored, but its function remained unknown.

A fragment of copper alloy sheet material (85-1-1), with a diameter of 4.0 cm with bone material attached to it was found in grave 85. It was the only find from this grave, but unfortunately, its function remains obscure.

Two indeterminate iron fragments (87-3-1), not cleaned or restored, were found in the south-western section of grave 87, which was probably a woman. Another indeterminate corroded iron fragment, not restored (87-6-1) is also known from this grave.

Human remains

Find numbers: grave 1: (o-o-o); (m-m-m); 4: (o-o-o); 20: (o-o-o); 26: (o-o-o); 30: (o-o-o); 41: (o-o-o); 48: (o-o-o); 71: (71-6-1); 71: (71-7-1); 85: (85-1-1); 87 (8-7-1); 87-6-1

Skeletal remains were poorly preserved in the Sittard graves. Fragments or imprints of the skeletons were recorded only in thirteen graves. The recorded remains were in such a bad condition that they could not be retrieved from the graves and cleansed and preserved for further analysis. The few remnants (predominantly teeth) that were excavated and preserved were not analysed yet.

In grave 5 the articulated remains of the lower body and arms were recorded and excavated. They are not analysed by physical anthropologists. It is identified as the grave of a man on the basis of the grave finds (axe and lance head).

From grave 11, the grave of a woman with an extended ensemble of beads and also other objects, some teeth (11-9-1) were recorded in the southern section of the grave. They indicate that the body was buried with the head in the south. The teeth were possibly preserved, but are not available anymore. They were not analysed by physical anthropologists.

The imprint of a skull was recorded in grave 14. The field drawing also mentions remnants of a skull: they are excavated but not analysed yet. The skull was found in the southern section of the grave; it was thus with certainty a south-north orientated burial. It was identified as the burial of a man on the basis of the grave finds (lanse head and sword). In grave 20 the imprint of a skull in the northern half of the grave was recorded, as is the imprint of one of the arms. It is the only grave from Sittard for which a north-south orientation (deviant from the general S-N orientation) could be established unambiguously. It was identified as the burial of a man on the basis of grave finds (axe and seax).

The imprints of the pelvis and the left upper arm were recorded in grave 26. The locations of the imprints indicate that it was an S-N burial. It was the grave of a man, identified on the basis of the associated lance head, seax and sword. Skeletal remains were not excavated or preserved.

The imprints of the two upper arms were recorded in the southern half of grave 30. It was thus an S-N orientated burial of a man (identified on the basis of the two upper arms and a seax).

In grave 43 the imprint of skull (43-1-2) was discovered in association with beads in the southern half of the grave. It was thus the burial of a woman.

The imprint or shadow of presumably the upper right leg (it was recorded in approximately the middle of the grave along the eastern wall) was recorded (48-6-1) in grave 48. The notes on the field drawing indicate that the upper leg was observed as an imprint; skeletal remains were thus not excavated and preserved.

In grave 71 a nearly completely articulated skeleton was recorded (71-1-1), the jaw (71-7-1), and the skull (71-9-3) were excavated and preserved. The burial can be identified as an S-N orientated burial on the basis of the remains, and of a woman on the basis of the associated finds (beads, bracelet and a finger ring).

Teeth (80-4-2) were found in grave 80 in the south-eastern corner of the coffin, in the proximity of beads. It was thus an S-N orientated burial of a woman.

In grave 83 the imprint of a leg was recorded in the middle of the grave. The only other finds from this grave was a plate buckle and pottery fragments.

The shadows of the articulated skeletal remains of the lower body were recorded in grave 28. The field drawing, however, mentions that only the imprint of the feet was observed and recorded. Skeletal remains were not excavated and preserved. On the basis of the recorded imprints it can be identified as an S-N orientated burial. Gender specific finds are not known from this grave.

In grave 86 a skull and complete articulated lower body was observed. It could be identified as the burial of a man on the basis of a lance head, shield boss and seax. Skeletal remains from this grave were not excavated or preserved.

Missing objects: not available anymore, no description/drawing/photograph available

Find numbers: 12 (12-2-1); 56 (56-1-1); 48 (48-3-1); 77 (77-1-1)

Fragment 77-1-1 from grave 77 is described as a copper alloy fragment on the field drawing, but the object is not available anymore, neither is a drawing or photograph. It was found in the middle of the southern half of the grave; it was thus presumably deposited on the breast of the deceased. A spindle whorl of amber was also found in this grave (although the field drawing mentions that it is entered the grave through the underground passage of a mole).

Find number 56-1-1 on the field drawing refers to an iron object found in the south-western segment of the grave. This object is not available anymore. In the thesis of Zoetbrood this find number refers to an unidentified iron object.

Find number 48-3-1 refers to a copper alloy fragment which is not available anymore. This number refers to an unidentified object in the thesis of Zoetbrood. Drawings or photographs are not available.

Find number 71-1-1 refers to an iron object found on the left lower leg (skeleton remains were preserved). This object is not available any more. Three finds numbers from this grave, which are not available anymore, are described in Zoetbrood's thesis but are not recorded on the field drawing. These are an iron plate buckle with two copper alloy rivets (c), an iron knife (g), and an indeterminate iron object (h). It is not clear to which find numbers on the field drawing these objects refer. Find number 71-1-1 probably was the iron knife, since an object in the shape of a knife was drawn on the field drawing as find number 71-1/2.
Belt fittings

Plate buckle: iron, broad triangular plate, without decoration

40 (40-7-1); 51 (51-4-1; 51-5-1; 51-6-1)

Only the plate is left of the iron plate buckle from grave 40 (fig. 4.70). The broad plate base shows remnants of the construction that attached it to the buckle loop, which is now gone, the type of construction cannot be determined. A wrapped and slotted construction is most likely. Two rather large domed copper alloy rivets are present. A rivet hole is visible at the other extremity of the plate; it can be assumed that a similar rivet was originally present here. The iron plate has a profiled outline. The maximum width of the plate is 6.4 cm, and the associated leather belt probably had the same width. The plate was found at a depth of 3.30 m in a so-called double grave, together with a sword and sex. On the basis of its find depth it is ascribed to the lower grave in which also two biconical pots, a sex, lance head, shield boss and sword were found. Waist belts with widths comparable to the width of the belt from grave 40 are frequently associated with swords or sex; since these heavy items were often attached to it with some additional straps.

The plate buckle (51-4-1) and back plates (51-5-1 and 51-6-1) from grave 51 were found together, but do not seem to form a match (fig. 4.70). The plate buckle is complete but heavily restored. Its exact details and construction cannot be identified. The remnants of one copper alloy rivet can only with difficulty be identified on the extremity of the plate. It is likely that two similar rivets were originally present on the base of the plate. The buckle loop is oval and has a D-shaped section, and an iron shield tongue is attached to the loop. The buckle loop had an outer length of 3.9 and an inner length of 2.5 cm. The base of the plate has a width of 3.6 cm and the plate has a length of 7.2 cm. The plate buckle probably served as the fastener of a waist belt with a width of approximately 2.5 cm. Two back plates were found in association with the plate buckle. One is and iron back plate (51-5-1) with four copper alloy rivets; it was found close to the plate buckle. It was a fitting of a belt with a width of approximately 3.3 to 5.6 cm, which is not in line with the dimensions of the reconstructed leather belt width on the basis of the plate buckle. Three, of original four, rivets, in a poor condition, can be identified. These are copper alloy rivets with a domed solid head, executed with a horizontal extended rim, also of copper alloy, in which, although this is difficult to establish, small stripes or dots are carved. It is possible that these rims were originally inlaid with silver and/or copper alloy. A copper alloy stripe with small cut out dots is present on the plate; it might be a remnant of the original decoration of the plate or a remnant of one of the rivets rings. The other back plate and smaller additional plate (51-6-1) from this grave were also found close to the plate buckle. The back plate has a length of 6.3 cm, a width of 4.9 cm, and has four domed copper alloy rivets. Leather remains are preserved on its back. The additional plate is thinner; it might be an additional belt fitting of the waist belt. The plate buckle and two back plates were found in a grave with two superimposed burials, they belong to the inventory of the lower burial. It was recorded that the three belt fittings were found in close association, close to the hilt of a sex, in the middle of the grave but it is difficult to match the two back plates with the plate buckle since their dimensions are rather different. The belt associated with the plate buckle would have been too narrow for the two plate buckles; it might have belonged to an additional strap which attached the sex from this grave to the waist belt. The two large back plates and additional plate might have been part of this waist belt.

The large plate buckle from grave 40 is classified as Siegmund’s type Gür 4.5, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640). The two large back plates from grave 51 are classified as fittings of a belt of which it is presumed that it originally had a large iron plate buckle, and thus also as type Gür 4. The smaller plate buckle is classified and dated in line with the associated waist belt fittings.

Plate buckle: iron, broad plate

35 (35-2-1)

The plate of the iron plate buckle from grave 35 (35-2-1) is nearly completely gone; its original shape cannot be identified but it was a relatively broad plate, and it was certainly not round (fig. 4.70). Two small copper alloy rivets are still present. The plate is attached to the rod of the oval buckle loop with a wrapped and slotted construction. De oval buckle loop has a D-shaped section and a shield tongue which is attached to the rod with the loop at its back side. The buckle loop has an outer length of 3.7 cm and an inner length of 2.6 cm, the base of the plate has a width of 4.2 cm; the plate buckle was thus attached to a belt with a width of approximately 4.2 cm, which was probably narrower towards its end so that it could pass through the buckle loop. The plate buckle was found in the middle of the grave close to the western wall, which is in accordance with its deposition as waist belt fitting. The other finds from this grave are a biconical pot, a simple ring and a number of beads; it was thus in all probability the burial of a woman.

Despite the incompleteness of the plate the belt fitting it can be classified as Siegmund’s types Gür 3.4-7 (broad iron plate buckles with triangular to trapezium shaped plates, with or without decoration), which date to Rhineland phases 7-9 (585-690). The iron plate buckle and back plate from grave 46 form a set of matching belt fittings (fig. 4.71). The plate buckle is tongue shaped and has three domed copper alloy rivets of which one is present on the protruding extremity of the plate and two are on the base of the plate. The length of the plate is 8.4 cm and its width 4.6 cm. Some leather remains are preserved on its back. The attached buckle loop with shield tongue has a D-shaped section and is attached to the plate with a wrapped and slotted construction. The buckle loop has an outer length of 6.3 cm and an inner length of 4.0 cm. The matching back plate has a length 5.2 cm and a width 4.8 cm; the fittings seem to have been attached to a belt with a width of c. 4.6 cm, which might have been narrower at its end so it let pass through the buckle loop. On the back plate three of the original four iron rivets, identical to the ones on the plate buckle, are present. The plate buckle and back plate were found in association, close to the sex. They have nearly identical geometric decoration schemes of silver inlay. The outer edges of the decoration fields consist of single honeycomb bands that follow the edges of the plates. The middle fields are filled with single braided bands which intersect the silver plating and which themselves are filled with silver dots. The braided bands on the two plates are bordered with straight stripes. A combination of straight and undulating stripes is applied on the base of the plate of the plate buckle; they follow the curve of the shield tongue. The loop of the buckle is decorated with zones of four or three stripes; the shield base of the tongue is decorated with a raster of stripes.

The belt fittings were found close to the sex, which was found 1.10 cm from the western wall and 80 cm from the southern wall, in association with a knife. It were fittings of the waist belt to which the sex was attached with additional straps.

Large belt fittings with geometric monochrome inlays are classified as Siegmund’s type Gür 4.6, which dates to Rhineland phase RB (615-640).

Fig. 4.70: Iron belt sets with inlay, graves 40 and 35 (scale 1:2).

Fig. 4.71: Iron belt sets with inlay, graves 46 and 35 (scale 1:2).
Iron buckle plate 39-2-1 forms a belt fitting set with matching counter plate 39-2-2; they were found in a cremation vessel with some other finds and cremation remains (fig. 4.72). The plate of the plate buckle and the counter plate are triangular with undulating edges and protruding extremities. Three copper alloy rivets with domed heads are present on both plates. Both plates have one loop at their back, at the same location as one of the rivets on the front of the plates; it can be assumed that both plates originally had three loops at their back matching with the locations of the rivets. The surfaces of the plates are nearly completely covered with silver plating. The silver plated fields are bordered with single copper alloy threads which follow the curves of the plate edges, and with a copper alloy semi-circular band filled with horizontal strips at the base of the plates. The semi-circular band on the counter plate is somewhat broader than the one on the plate of the plate buckle. It also shows two stripes that form a triangle; this feature is not present on the plate buckle. The silver plating surfaces of the two plates are intersected by cut-out spaces in which single braided bands are applied. Half of the braided band on each plate is a silver ladder band and the other half is filled with a single copper alloy thread following the direction of the braid and which seems to end in a degenerated animal head, but this is not certain. In the area of the copper alloy bands are applied in cut-out spaces in the middle of the plated fields and the extremities of the plated fields; these might also be identified as degenerated animal style elements. The buckle loop and shield tongue show traces of wear which was probably a more extended decoration scheme: one zone of three copper alloy threads can be discovered on the buckle loop, which was probably covered with additional zonas of threads, and a copper alloy thread follows the edges of the shield of the shield tongue on which also some traces of a silver thread are preserved. The buckle loop has an outer length of 5.0 cm and an inner length of 2.9 cm. The plate of the plate buckle has a width of 3.2 cm and a length of 5.5 cm. The counter plate is somewhat longer; it has a length of 6.3 cm and a width of 3.1 cm. The plate buckle and counter plate were attached to a belt with a width of approximately 3.3 cm.

Belt fittings with polychrome inlays of a degenerated animal style are classified as Siegmund Gür4.7 or Gür4.8 (depending on the original decoration scheme of the copper alloy threads, which is not clear anymore). Nonetheless, both types date to Rhineland phase 9 (640-670). According to the Franken AG it is a type Gür4.8A (silver plating), which dates to their phase 8 (640-650/70). Other finds from this cremation vessel grave are a copper alloy rivet and an oil lamp (museum); the finds were not burned and were thus placed in the cremation vessel after the body was cremated.

Buckle plate: broad plate 3 (5-1-3-1; 5-2-3-1, 5-3-3-1, 5-4-3-1)

A broad plate buckle with shield tongue with round base and with three copper alloy rivets and a back plate with four copper alloy rivets were in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers recorded as finds from grave 5, but they are now no longer present in the collection. It was not mentioned whether it were iron or copper alloy belt fittings. They were found close to the northern wall of the grave. Nothing was mentioned about the shapes of the plates, but it was recorded that the length of the plate buckle was 10.0 cm and its width 7.0 cm. Assuming that it were broad iron belt fittings the possible types are Siegmund Gür4.4-7 (with or without decoration), which date to Rhineland phases 7-9 (650-670).

Simple buckles: iron
18 (14 x 20; 20 x 15), 20 (20 x 13), 27 (9 x 7; 10 x 8; 10 x 7), 43 (5 x 9), 50 (5 x 3; 10 x 17; 3 x 3); 51 (6 x 3)

The catalogue of Beckers and Beckers mentions that an iron buckle (18-2-13) was found in grave 18, but its exact find location was not recorded. The recorded ‘width’ of the buckle is 4.5 cm. A large corroded oval buckle with a find number matching with grave 18 is present in restoration laboratory Restaur. It is not certain whether it originally belonged to a plate buckle; for now it was considered to be a large oval buckle with an outer length of 4.6 cm and an inner length of 3.5 cm. It was found in a grave which also contained a spouted pot.

An iron rectangular buckle with a fragment of a simple iron tongue and remains of mineralised textile or leather can still be observed on the surface of the buckle. The extremity, with probably a rivet, is gone. Two iron rivets are present on the base of the plate; they are small rivets with domed heads and with silver threads applied around their base. In the base of the plate a small cut out space for the tongue of a plate buckle (not present) is present. The plate has a length of 6.4 cm and a width of 3.5 cm. Its dimensions are comparable to the other belt fittings from this grave but they are clearly of different belt sets. This second counter plate is classified as either Siegmund Gür4.7 or Gür4.8 (depending on the original decoration scheme of the copper alloy threads, which is not clear anymore). Nonetheless, both types date to Rhineland phase 9 (640-670). According to the Franken AG it is a type Gür4.8A (silver plating), which dates to their phase 8 (640-650/70). The other finds from this cremation vessel grave are a copper alloy rivet and an oil lamp (museum); the finds were not burned and were thus placed in the cremation vessel after the body was cremated.

The buckles were found at a depth of 3.50 m, near the lance head which was found alongside the long southern wall of the grave in association with a knife and arrow head. The other finds from this grave are a bi-conical pot, a glass vessel, another knife, and a bead. One of the buckles might have been attached to the waist belt; the other might have been attached to an additional strap. An additional triangular object (type 11-1) of three connecting plates, fixed with three small nails, was also found; it is not certain if it was worn as a separate belt or as an under belt. One side of the triangle consists of two plates, leaving a space in between for a strap. It has a length of 3.5 cm. Its function remains uncertain, but for now it is assumed to have been associ- ated with the two buckles and their straps/belts.

The iron buckle from grave 44 (41-2-2) has an outer length of 5.6 cm and an inner length of 3.6 cm; it probably belonged to a belt with a width of approximately 3.6 cm, and is, on the basis of these dimensions, identified as a waist belt fitting. Some remnants of mineralised textile or leather can still be observed on the surface of the buckle. The buckle has a D-shaped loop, a round section and a straight simple iron tongue. It was not recorded where in the grave it was found. The other finds from this grave are a knife and indeterminate iron fragments; it can thus not be decided whether it was worn as a separate or an under belt.

Two simple iron buckles with straight iron tongues were found in grave 50. Buckle 50-2-1 has an outer length of 3.6 cm and an inner length of 2.4 cm; it was thus attached to a rather narrow strap, which nonetheless might have been used as a waist belt. It is a buckle with oval loop and round section.

A second simple buckle 50-4-1 also has an oval loop with a round section and a straight simple iron tongue. It has an outer length of 3.6 cm and an inner length of 2.3 cm; it was thus attached to a strap of this width. The two buckles were found in the proximities but a little more to the middle of the grave, of the knife which was found close to the northern wall and 70.0 cm from the western wall. This find location is more or less in accordance with the presumed location of a waist belt. The other finds from this grave are a part from a knife, a pottery fragment and beads, which indicates that it was the grave of a woman.

The iron buckle from grave 58 has an outer length of 4.9 and an inner length of 3.4 cm; it was thus attached to a belt with a width of approximately 3.4 cm. The buckle has an oval loop with a round section and a straight iron tongue. It is not recorded where in the grave the buckle was found. In view of its dimensions it might have been the fitting of a waist belt. The other finds from this grave are wood remains and an indeterminate round fragment. Simple iron buckles can date to the entire Merovingian period.

A similar specimen is classified by Böhner as type A6 which dates to his Stufe III (525-600). This grave is classified as either Siegmund Gür4.7 (fig. 4.72). The loop is hollow and oval and has a rod. The copper alloy shield tongue is attached to the rod with its loop at the back. The shield tongue is without decoration, but is slightly profiled. The buckle loop is decorated with two grooves, alternating with three horizontal lines of stamped in dots. The buckle has a length of 5.0 cm and an inner length of 3.1 cm; it was thus attached to a belt with a width of approximately 3.2 cm, which could have been used as a waist belt. The buckle was, however, found in the proximity of the bi-conical pot, which was found 30.0 cm from the short eastern wall in the middle of the grave, thus close to the presumed former location of the lower legs, in association with a brooch. The buckle and brooch were probably moved from their original location.

A similar specimen is classified by Böhner as type A6 which dates to his Stufe III (525-600). This grave is classified as either Siegmund Gür4.7 (fig. 4.72). The loop is hollow and oval and has a rod. The copper alloy shield tongue is attached to the rod with its loop at the back. The shield tongue is without decoration, but is slightly profiled. The buckle loop is decorated with two grooves, alternating with three horizontal lines of stamped in dots. The buckle has a length of 5.0 cm and an inner length of 3.1 cm; it was thus attached to a belt with a width of approximately 3.2 cm, which could have been used as a waist belt. The buckle was, however, found in the proximity of the bi-conical pot, which was found 30.0 cm from the short eastern wall in the middle of the grave, thus close to the presumed former location of the lower legs, in association with a brooch. The buckle and brooch were probably moved from their original location.
A small iron rectangular plate (2.8 x 2.3 cm) with four rivet holes and one rivet pin visible at its back was found in grave 45, in association with simple buckles. It is not known where exactly it was found in the grave, and its function remains therefore obscure.

**Plate buckles: copper alloy, purse/shoe fittings**

The copper alloy plate buckle with fixed plate (1-3-1) from grave 1 has a diamond-shaped plate with protruding extremities. Remnants of rivets could not be observed on the plate, but two loops are present at the back of the plate. The plate has a length of 2.1 cm and a maximum width of 1.3 cm. The rectangular buckle loop with simple straight copper alloy tongue has an outer length of 3.7 cm and an inner length of 1.2 cm; it was thus attached to a strap of approximately 1.2 cm. The plate buckle was found on the bottom in the middle of the grave; this might indicate that it was a purse buckle. Other finds from this grave are a biornal pot and spindle whorl, which indicates that it might have been the grave of a woman. Similar plate buckles are classified by Legoux, Périn and Vallet as type 150, which dates to their phases MA3-MR1 (560/40-630/40).²⁴³

²⁴³ Plate buckles: copper alloy, purse/shoe fittings 1-3-1

**Plate buckles: missing**

31 (31-3-1), 49 (49-3-1)

A part of a plate buckle was recorded as find from grave 31, a corroded plate with a rivet, probably a belt fitting, is present, but it is not certain whether it is the find referred to in the initial catalogue. The other finds from this disturbed grave were a sword, a seax, an arm and an axe. An iron buckle with a square iron plate with four copper alloy rivets was recorded as a find from grave 49, it is no longer present but on the basis of the available description it can be identified as a plate buckle. It was found in the middle of the grave. Further information is not available. The other find from this grave was a red bowl, a biconical pot and beads.

**Possible large simple buckle: iron**

19 (19-3-1; 19-3-2)

The catalogue of Beckers and Beekers mentions that two small indeterminate copper alloy fragments and one copper alloy lozenge shape plate (38-3-1) with four small rivets in each corner were found in grave 38. In the collection only the lozenge shaped plate is present. The plate has a length of 4.8 cm and a width of 2.7 cm. It has three (of originally four) small domed copper alloy rivets, in each corner one. The pins of the rivets are visible at the back of the slightly hollow plate. Such lozenge fittings are usually part of an ensemble of sword belt fittings. The other finds from this grave are fragments of a biconical pot and some iron nails.

The copper alloy plate from grave 47 is severely corroded, and its find location was not recorded and other finds, apart from some iron fragments dispersed throughout the grave; its exact find location is not known. It has an outer length of 3.6 cm and an inner length of 2.3 cm, it was thus attached to a strap of 2.1 cm. The other buckle has an oval loop without tongue and a rectangular plate, wrapped around the loop. A rivet hole is present at the extremity of the plate, visible at its front and back side. It was also recorded to have been found with the iron fragments dispersed throughout the grave. The loop has an outer length of 3.3 cm and an inner length of 2.3 cm; it was attached to a strap of 2.3 cm. The length of the plate is 2.3 cm and its width 1.7 cm.

The two (plate) buckles might have been associated with the horse bridle found in this grave.

**Plate, iron**

31 (31-3-1), 49 (49-3-1)

The catalogue of Beekers and Beckers mentions that two small indeterminate copper alloy fragments and one copper alloy lozenge shape plate (38-3-1) with four small rivets in each corner were found in grave 38. In the collection only the lozenge shaped plate is present. The plate has a length of 4.8 cm and a width of 2.7 cm. It has three (of originally four) small domed copper alloy rivets, in each corner one. The pins of the rivets are visible at the back of the slightly hollow plate. Such lozenge fittings are usually part of an ensemble of sword belt fittings. The other finds from this grave are fragments of a biconical pot and some iron nails.

The copper alloy plate from grave 47 is severely corroded, and its find location was not recorded and other finds, apart from some iron fragments dispersed throughout the grave; its exact find location is not known. It has an outer length of 3.6 cm and an inner length of 2.3 cm, it was thus attached to a strap of 2.1 cm. The other buckle has an oval loop without tongue and a rectangular plate, wrapped around the loop. A rivet hole is present at the extremity of the plate, visible at its front and back side. It was also recorded to have been found with the iron fragments dispersed throughout the grave. The loop has an outer length of 3.3 cm and an inner length of 2.3 cm; it was attached to a strap of 2.3 cm. The length of the plate is 2.3 cm and its width 1.7 cm.

The two (plate) buckles might have been associated with the horse bridle found in this grave.

**Back plate: iron**

45 (45-1-1)

A corroded rectangular plate with shadows of rivets and a rounded elevation is assigned to grave 31. It might be a back plate of a belt. The rounded elevation seems to be a rod shaped remnant, but it is not clear of which object. The X-ray photograph shows that the plate was without decoration. It might thus be an iron back plate, part of a belt set of broad iron fittings.

**Plates, copper alloy: various**

38 (38-3-1), 49 (49-3-1)
the western wall in the middle of the grave, and thus near the presum- ed former location of the head.

Filigree brooches are discussed by Graenert whose typology is based on the construction of the brooches (connected specimens (Serien A) or box form (Serien B)), on their form and size and on the various decoration patterns of filigree and isolated cells with vari- ous inlays.444

The Obbicht brooch is round and consists of a ground plate and decoration plate. The decoration plate is placed directly, without leaving some space, on top of the ground plate and together form one connected specimen (Serien A).444 The ground plate is of nonferrous metal, the decoration plate is of silver/gold. The two plates were originally fixed with nails which might have been sil- ver. Graenert created, apart from ‘Serien A and B’, three typologi- cal groups. The Obbicht brooch can be placed in group 1, on the basis of its size, the shape of the filigree ornaments and the pattern formed by the cells with inlays (of various materials).444

The Obbicht brooch has a diameter of 3.5 cm and belongs thus to the smaller filigree brooches.444 Graenert mentions that fil- igree refers to a decoration technique which is not unambigu- ously described; it can consist of threads of different construc- tion and appearance.444 The Obbicht brooch shows two different ‘filigree’ techniques: the thread applied along the edge is a twist- ed thread, and the S/8-shaped ornaments are constructed with a smooth thread.444 Graenert established a classification scheme of single filigree ornaments and 4 groups of ornament patterns. The Obbicht brooch shows one filigree ornament: S/8-shapes of single smooth thread regularly applied and intermingling with isolat- ed cells with stones covering the entire surface. This is a pattern is classified a Graenert’s group F4.444 The last typological element of the Obbicht brooch is the pattern formed by the isolated cells with inlays. The Obbicht brooch has six (of originally eight) iso- lated cells, all with garnet or glass inlays, which are applied on the two zones. The four cells of the inner zone are drop shaped, with their tips pointing to the middle of the brooch. The two (of orig- inally four) cells on the outer zone are also drop shaped. Graenert mentions that isolated cells with stones on filigree brooches always form crosses, and that more than one cross can be present on a single brooch. The Obbicht specimen shows one cross formed by the stones on the outer zone (a), and one cross formed by the stones on the inner zone (b); they are thus types S1a and S1b.444

The brooches of Graenert’s research area are dated on the basis of the results of a seriation of the brooch characteristics. The results are verified with the associated dated finds. The Obbicht brooch is on the basis of all its elements classified as Graenert type A1F2, which dates to phases AMIII-JMI (560/70-630/40). Similar brooches are classified as Siegmund’s type Fib2.3, filigree brooches with inlays. The Obbicht brooch has six (of originally eight) iso- lated cells on the outer zone. This type dates to phases AMIII-JMI (560/70-630/40). The two zones of the Obbicht brooch have four cells each. Their tips point to the middle of the brooch. The Obbicht specimen shows one cross formed by the stones on the outer zone (a), and one cross formed by the stones on the inner zone (b); they are thus types S1a and S1b.444

A fragment of a brooch was recorded as find from grave 8 in the catalogue of Bechers and Bechers. It is not present in the current collection, and specific details were not given in the first catalogue. The iron fragments, among which the brooch fragment, beads and pot- tery fragments were found scattered throughout the grave, which indicates that it was reworked.

Brooch fragment: missing
Find number: 8 (8-9-3)

A fragment of a brooch was recorded as find from grave 8 in the catalogue of Bechers and Bechers. It is not present in the current collection, and specific details were not given in the first catalogue. The iron fragments, among which the brooch fragment, beads and pottery fragments were found scattered throughout the grave, which indicates that it was reworked.

Coin pendant: copper alloy
8 (8-9-3)

A copper alloy ‘coin’, severely corroded, with a suspension hole was found in grave 8. The letters observed at one of the edges are: HENOP. The original catalogue refers to finds with similar in- scriptions from the cemeteries of Aachen, Nieuweren and Sigmaringen.448 The coin pendant was found in the proximity of the beads, and was probably attached to this necklace. The coin pendant is no longer present; other details cannot be given.

Finger ring: gold
36 (36-8-5)

The gold ring from grave 36 consists of a closed band shaped ring with a bezel (fig. 4.73). The bezel is made of round gold gold- ing which consists of a ground plate with upward standing rim, holding a Roman red carnelian stone with an engraved image of two men wrestling. The diameter of the ground plate of the bez- el is 1.3 cm, the outer diameter of the stone with rim is 1.1 cm and the diameter of the red stone alone is 1.1 cm. The maximum diam- eter of band shaped ring is 2.0 cm. The ring is part of the richest grave inventory of a woman in the Obbicht cemetery. It was found close to the long northern wall, somewhat to the east of the middle of the grave. This find location indicates that it was worn on the left hand at the time of deposition. The other finds from this grave are a string of beads, a filigree brooch, decorative mounts, a buckle and a biconical post.

Engraved carnelian stones are known from the Roman period.449 They were set in rings, but the reuse of such gems in Merovingian jewellery, especially finger rings, is not unusual.449 A bezel with en- graved carnelian was found in Pandhof-Maasbracht grave 1126 (179 x 17), and a complete ring with a carnelian with engraved bird was found in Pandhof-Maasbracht grave 10021 (90 x 77), it is not known whether they were deposited in Merovingian or late-Ro- man grave contexts. The Obbicht ring is however clearly part of a Merovingian grave inventory, but it remains uncertain whether the stone was reused in a Merovingian ring or that the ring itself was also from the Roman period.

Beads

In total 178 beads are available from six Obbicht graves (table A.8). The beads recorded as finds from graves 27 and 50 are no longer present in the collection, and their descriptions in the original cata- logue provide insufficient information for an unambiguous analy- sis. In total eighty-two recorded beads are no longer present in the collection; some of the strings present are thus neither com- plete. Of the beads present 148 are monochrome, eighteen are polychrome, and twelve are amber beads. Table A.9 shows the vari- ety of monochrome beads and the twelve amber beads (cells with orange shade); the yellow, blue and red beads are predominant, as are the small miniature and the globular to globular compressed bead shapes. The identified types can be compared with the Siegmund types in table A.2. It shows that not all the monochrome beads could be classified and dated with Siegmund’s typo-chro- nology of the Rhineland beads. The Obbicht beads are analysed as explained in the section on the Sittard-Kemperkoul beads. In the following the beads are discussed per grave; this description will provide an overview of the variety of beads per string and grave.

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The beads from grave 8
8 (8-5-1.1-1.17)

The beads from grave 8 were found scattered throughout the western part of the grave, thus in the grave section associated with the presumed original location of the upper body. The beads recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers are small yellow beads, small white/brown beads, and three amber beads with a length of 2.0 cm, of which one is described as cylindrical, one as almond shaped, and one as diamond shaped. The available collection of beads assigned to grave 8 is more diverse; it consists of thirty-four beads of which one is decorated, twenty-nine are monochrome, and four amber beads (one, integrated in the string of glass beads, was not counted by Beckers and Beckers) of different shapes are present (fig. 4.74). The single decorated bead (8-5-1.8) is a red, opaque, globular compressed bead with white crossing waves (Schretzheim Stufe 4: 590/600-610/30). Of the twenty-nine monochrome beads eight are blue, of which six opaque and two transparent beads, of six different shapes. One is globular compressed (8-5-1.1), two are transparent biconical (8-5-1.7), classified as S-47.3 (590-610-705), one is twisted (8-5-1.10), classified as Siegmund form group 47.4 ((555-670) 610-705), one is opaque and short cylindrical (8-5-1.12), three are short cylindrical (8-5-1.16), and one is double connected, classified as S-Per 37.2 (555-705). Seven of the monochrome beads are green; four beads are opaque and biconical (8-5-1.6), one is opaque and consists of four globular compressed connected beads (8-5-1.9), one is opaque and globular compressed (8-5-1.11), one consists of three connected globular compressed beads (8-5-1.13), and one is opaque and consists of two connected globular compressed beads (8-5-1.13); the green beads could not be classified and dated on the basis of Siegmund’s classification scheme. Apart from the green and blue beads the string consists of five red beads (8-5-1.12), two are all opaque, biconical beads and classified as S-Per 35.6 (570-640) 610-705). Another two ochre beads (8-5-1.4) are also present; they are opaque and barrel shaped and classified as S-Per 34.1 (570-640) 610-705). Five are white: two are opaque and biconical (8-5-1.5) and classified as Siegmund Per32.3 (570-640 610-705), two are opaque and barrel shaped (8-5-1.4) and might be classified as S-Per31.3 (610-640 705), and one is opaque and globular compressed (8-5-1.15). Of the monochrome beads two are yellow (8-5-1.17); they are opaque and globular compressed. All over, the string has a red to green/blue appearance. The yellow/white beads are not that prominent. The dated beads fall within the range 555-705 and are predominantly dated around 610. The grave is dated on the basis of a biconical pot to O-OM IIa (650-610/20). The date range assigned to the decorated bead matches nearly with this burial phase. The other beads are dated to longer date ranges, but can date before 610/20.

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**Table 4.9**

Classification of the monochrome beads from Obbicht.
In the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers a large number of beads of various shapes, dimensions and colours are recorded as finds from grave 35. They were found close to the western wall of the grave, thus at the presumed former location of the head. Sixty-three beads are currently present (fig. 4.72); the string consists of sixteen polychrome beads, forty-four monochrome beads and three amber beads. Of the amber beads one is almand shaped (35-1-1.1), one is broken (35-1-1.2), and one is flat almond shaped (35-1-1.3). This string is the only one from Obbicht with a considerable number of polychrome beads. Of these sixteen polychrome beads one is white, opaque and globular compressed with blue crossing waves (35-5-1.15); it is classified as type Koch-Schretzheim 34,7 and dated to O-OM IIb (565-640/50).

The beads from grave 36

In the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers twenty beads are yellow opaque globular compressed with black/red crossing waves (36-5-1.1); one is yellow opaque globular compressed with red crossing waves (36-5-1.4), three are red opaque globular compressed with yellow crossing waves (36-5-1.6). Koch-Schretzheim 34,18/19 (590-660-620/30), one is red opaque and consists of triple connected beads with yellow crossing waves (36-5-1.10), six are red opaque double connected beads with yellow crossing waves (36-5-1.11), and two are red opaque with white crossing waves (36-5-1.12). One is orange opaque barrel shaped (36-5-1.13; S-Pereg 34.1 (570-640-620/30)), one is red opaque short cylindrical (36-5-1.14), two are yellow opaque double connected beads (36-5-1.15), three are orange opaque barrel shaped (36-5-1.3; S-Pereg 34.1 (570-640-620/30)), one is red opaque short cylindrical (36-5-1.5). S-Pereg 35.6 (570-640-650/705) and one is a red opaque globular compressed bead (36-5-1.6).

The decorated beads of this string are rather simple compared to the decorated beads found in the cemetery of for example Sittard-Kemperkoal. Underneath the undecorated beads the string has an overall yellow/red appearance. The majority of the decorated beads date to 500-600-620/30. The monochrome beads are dated to longer date ranges, but their date ranges start for the majority in the second half of the sixth century; the string can be dated to 520-670. The other finds from this grave are a biconical pot (520-670), a plate buckle (520-670), a simple iron ring (520-670), and some indeterminate metal fragments; the grave itself is dated to O-OM IIb (565-640-620/30).

The beads from grave 49

In the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers twenty yellow, twenty-eight green, one large red, three large orange, one large decorated, one cylindrical green, fifteen small cylindrical and three flat amber beads were recorded as finds from grave 49. They were found close to the short western wall of the grave, thus at the presumed former location of the head (fig. 4.73). Four to five teeth of an inambei roller were also found in association with the beads (this was also the case in Sittard grave 13); these are no longer present in the collection (or they might be the four teeth now assigned to grave 4, but from which no such finds were recorded). The string of beads currently present consists of thirty-two beads, not all the beads recorded in the catalogue are present in the available string. Of the thirty-two beads, one is decorated (39-1-1.17); it is a white opaque bead with blue bands and red dots. One (39-1-1.16) is an amber bead, barrel shaped; the other thirty-one beads are yellow, opaque short cylindrical and consist of four connected beads, three (39-1-1.6) are blue opaque, barrel/short cylindrical (39-1-1.6); one is red opaque large cylindrical (39-1-1.3), and there are no other finds from grave 49; they are all monochrome.

The catalogue of Beckers and Beckers mentions that twenty small yellow beads, one large yellow bead, and a square amber bead were recorded as finds from grave 36. They were found close to the northern wall, in grave 49. Twenty-one beads are currently present in the string assigned to grave 49; they are all monochrome beads (fig. 4.74). Of these twenty-two beads two are green opaque biconical (49-2-1.2) and one is red opaque biconical (49-2-1.1) and classified as type Siegmund Per37.1 (610-640) 670-705). Of the monochrome beads six are green (49-1-1.2) transparent short cylindrical (49-1-1.3); one is broken (49-1-1.2), and one is flat almond shaped (49-1-1.3). This string is the only one from Obbicht with a considerable number of monochrome beads. Of these twenty-one monochrome beads thirty-seven are small yellow opaque (49-1-1.1), five are red opaque double connected beads with yellow crossing waves (49-1-1.5), six are red opaque double connected beads (49-1-1.8), two are red opaque with white crossing waves (49-1-1.12), one is a yellow opaque globular compressed (49-1-1.4) and classified as type Siegmund Per37.1 (610-640) 670-705), one is red opaque and consists of triple connected beads with yellow crossing waves (49-1-1.10), six are red opaque double connected beads (49-1-1.11), and two are red opaque with white crossing waves (49-1-1.12). One is orange opaque barrel shaped (49-1-1.3; S-Pereg 34.1 (570-640-620/30)), one is red opaque short cylindrical (49-1-1.5). S-Pereg 35.6 (570-640-650/705) and one is a red opaque globular compressed bead (49-1-1.6).

The decorated beads of this string are rather simple compared to the decorated beads found in the cemetery of for example Sittard-Kemperkoal. Underneath the undecorated beads the string has an overall yellow/red appearance. The majority of the decorated beads date to 500-600-620/30. The monochrome beads are dated to longer date ranges, but their date ranges start for the majority in the second half of the sixth century; the string can be dated to 600-700. Grave 36 is the richest grave in the cemetery of a woman of the cemetery. The other finds are a filigree brooch, a gold finger ring, some girdle hangers/belt pendant and a biconical pot and a bucket. The grave is dated to burial phase O-OM IIb (565-640-620/30), which matches with the date ranges assigned to the datable beads.

The beads from grave 47

Forty beads were mentioned to have been found in the proximity of skull remnants, 40 cm from the short western wall and 50 cm from the long northern wall, in grave 47. Twenty-one beads are currently present in the string assigned to grave 47; they are all monochrome beads (fig. 4.74). Of these twenty-two beads two are green opaque biconical (47-1-1.2) and one is orange opaque and biconical (47-1-1.1) and classified as type Siegmund Per34.1 (570-640-670/705), one is red, opaque and biconical (47-1-1.3) and classified as type Siegmund Per3.1 (560-640), one red, yellow, opaque and barrel shaped (47-1-1.5) and might be classified as S-Pereg 3.5 (570-640-670/705). Two are red, opaque and barrel shaped (47-1-1.6) and might be classified as S-Pereg 3.6 (570-640-670/705). Of the yellow
low beads two are opaque and globular compressed (49-2-1.7) and classified as Siegmund Per3.3 (540-570), and one is opaque and is a globular compressed double connected bead (49-2-1.8) classified as Siegmund Per3.5 (570-610). Of the red beads one is red and consists of four connected globular compressed beads (49-2-1.9), one is red-brown, opaque and consists of three connected globular compressed beads (49-2-1.10) and is classified as Siegmund Per3.7 (610-705). Of the two are opaque, globular compressed, double connected beads (49-2-1.11) and classified as Siegmund Per3.7 (610-705), four are opaque and globular compressed (49-2-1.12) and classified as Siegmund Per3.6 (570-640) 610-705), two are opaque, globular compressed, double connected beads (49-2-1.13) and classified as Siegmund Per3.7 (610-705), and one is opaque and consists of three connected globular compressed beads (49-2-1.14) and classified as Siegmund Per3.7 (610-705). One bead is grey, opaque and biconical (49-2-1.14) and classified as Siegmund Per3.3 (570-640) 610-705). The string has an overall red/orange appearance.

The single dated find from this grave is a red bowl which is dated to 550-640 on the basis of which the grave is dated to burial phase O-OM IIb (665-640/50). The datable beads have for the majority longer date ranges assigned to them but they match nonetheless with the date range of the bowl and thus the grave.

The beads from grave 57

In the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers it was recorded that four large beads were found in the middle of the western section of the grave, 50 cm from the western wall, the beads were thus found at the presumed former location of the head. Four beads are actual- ly present in the available collection of beads from Obbicht (fig. 4.74). One bead is orange opaque and barrel shaped (37-2.1-1) and classified as A-Per1.4 (570-640) 610-705). One is blue opaque and almond shaped (37-2.1-2). One is an amber almond shaped bead (37-2.1-3), and one is an amber, irregular shaped bead (37-2.1-4). The ensemble has a red appearance, but this number of beads is low for a string deposited as necklace. The single other find from this grave is a red pottery bottle, dated to 600-650, on the basis of which the grave is dated to O-OM IIIc (660-210640/50).

Beads: missing

27 (27-2.1); 50 (27-2.1)

The catalogue of Beckers and Beckers mentions that a large number of various beads were found close to the western wall in the middle of grave 27, thus at the presumed former location of the head. Recorded were green, yellow and brown glass beads as were amber beads; the exact number of uncovered beads was not given. The beads are no longer present in the collection.

The catalogue of Beckers and Beckers mentions that twenty beads of different colours and shapes (50-5-1) were found in the middle of grave 29, 30 cm from the western wall, thus at the presumed former location of the head. A note in a box stored in restoration laboratory Restaura refers to the former presence of two ochre beads; they are now gone.

Weaponry

The weaponry from Obbicht consists of a rather high number of shield bosses and seaxes, but lance heads, arrowheads and swords are also known from a number of graves. This section is concluded with the discussion of some axes and a horse bridle.

Shield bosses

4 (4-4-1); 20 (20-2-1.1; 20-2-1.2; 20-2-1.3); 29 (29-3-1.1; 29-3-1.2); 30 (30-3-1.1; 30-3-1.2; 30-3-1.3); 35 (35-1-1; 35-1-2)

Beckers and Beckers refer to iron shield boss parts with two copper alloy rivets found in grave 4. In the restoration laboratory fragments of what seems to be the rim of the shield boss and a number of rivets (more than 2) are stored; a number of at least five rivets were counted (4-4-1). The grave was destroyed, but it is known that the other finds from this grave are a seax, knife, arrowhead, some indeterminate iron fragments, pottery frag- ments of a globular pot and an iron rod with loop and ring. The exact locations of the finds could not be established. The shield boss cannot be classified and dated on the basis of available frag- ments and information alone. Shield bosses, of different forms, are found in graves dating to nearly the entire Merovingian period; the indeterminate shield boss from grave 4 is a poor chron- ological indicator.

An iron shield boss (20-2-1.1) was found 40 cm from the western wall and 50 cm from the southern wall in grave 20. The six copper alloy rivets (20-2-1.1, missing), which attached the boss to the wooden shield, and the iron grip (20-2-1.2), were found detached but close to the shield boss. The shield boss is present as a restored specimen: remnants of four rivets can be observed on the rim and the remnants of five pins at the back of the rim (fig. 4.75). The shield boss has a straight to oblique wall and the transition from wall to conical rim is pronounced. The cone is relatively high and domed; the complete shield boss has a height of 8.1 cm and a diameter of 16.8 cm. The grip is also present, but fragmentary and severely corroded condition; it has an average diameter of 11.5 cm and some additional fragments are also present. Wood remains are preserved at the back of the shield boss. The other findings from this grave are an axe, lance head, seax, belt fitting, biconical pot and a copper alloy bowl. The shield boss is classified as Siegmund’s type Sbu6, since the cone is not squat but rather conical. Both types are character- ized by a knob, but the actual presence of a knob cannot be established on the shield boss from grave 29. Siegmund type Sbu3 dates to Rhineland phases 4-7 (640-705) and type Sbu4 dates to Rhineland phases 6-7 (570-610).

The iron shield boss (20-2-1.1) from grave 20 is rigorously re- stored as is the iron grip, which was found detached from it (fig. 4.75). The wall of the boss is straight, the rim is slightly oblique. The transition from wall to cone is pronounced. The restored speci- men has a horizontal rim on which only one large domed rivet is preserved, which seems to show traces of copper alloy plating. It cannot be reconstructed how many were originally present since the rivet holes, in which they were fixed, are not visible. The com- plete boss has an average diameter of 17.0 cm and a height of 7.4 cm (without the remnants of the knob on the cone). The wall is nearly straight and has a height of 3.1 cm. The cone has a height
of 4.1 cm and the rim a width of 2.6 cm. The cone is relatively high and shows remnants of a knob on top of it; the shape of the knob could not be reconstructed. The rivet on the restored shield boss has a diameter of 4.9 cm. It grips with a length of 36.2 cm and is present and can be associated with the shield boss assigned to grave 30 (30-3-1.3). Some corroded remnants of presumably the shield boss are also present; they were not integrated in the restored and completed specimen (30-3-1.3). Two fragments with rounded edge (the rim) could be identified as remnants of rivets with copper alloy attached to them; this indicates that the rivets on the shield boss were originally iron rivets with copper alloy plating. Among the remnants some grip fragments are also present. Other finds from this grave are a sword, a lane head, and a plate buckle. The shield boss is classified as Siegmund type Sbu3 (on the basis of the knob remnants, the straight wall and domed to conical cone), which dates to Rhineland phases 4-7 (530-610). An iron shield boss with attached iron grip and wood remain preserved on 3 (5-3-1.1) which was mentioned to have been found with the cone downwards, 50 cm from the eastern wall and 80 cm from the northern wall in grave 53. The shield boss is now available in corroded and incomplete condition (fig. 4.75). A number of rivets and fragments are present in restoration laboratory Restaura (53-1.3). The two available rivets have a diameter of 3.7 cm; the fragments are difficult to identify but might be of the shield boss. The corroded shield boss has a height of 7.5 cm and a diameter of 18.0 cm. It cannot be established whether a knob was formerly present.

The iron shield boss (33-1-1) was classified according to the classification of the Franken AG. The Franken AG date (303) identifies this shield boss with a total length of 47.0 cm and a blade width of 5.0 cm. It was probably deposited in association with the shield boss close to the southern wall of the grave. It is part of the grave inventory of the lower burial of a ‘double’ grave. This grave inventory consists of two pottery vessels, a lance head, sword boss, knife and a plate buckle. The plate buckle was found in association with a smaller seax of c. 2.0 cm, for which is now identified as the knife (46-31-1) present in the collection, since two seaxes are uncommon in Merovingian graves.

In view of the general length of hilts (c. 10-15 cm), seaxes 40-9-1 probably had a blade length of c. 32-37 cm. With its blade width of c. 2.7 cm, it is for now classified as a Leichter Breitsax, although it remains uncertain whether it was a Leichter oder Schwerer Breitsax.

Various finds, among which four seaxes (332-1; 332-1; 333-1; 334-1), were found beneath the demoliished mill and were ascribed to a single grave, number 33. It is likely that they belonged to four distinct graves. The dimensions of the seaxes were recorded in the original catalogue. Seax 33-3-1 had a blade length of 40.6 cm and blade width of 5.0 cm, the hilt is gone; it was thus a Breitsax.

An iron seax (46-3-1) with a length of 46.0 cm and a blade width of 5.0 cm was recorded as a find from grave 46. It was found 110.0 cm from the southern wall and 50.0 cm from the western wall, with its tip pointing to the east. A broken iron seax (4-5-1) was recorded as a find from grave 4. It had a length of 31.0 cm and a blade width of 0.6 cm. Two fragments, which can be associated with grave 4, were recorded as finds from grave 4. One of these seaxes (51-3-1.1) is classified as Schwerer Breitsax type Sax 2.2, which dates to their phases 6-7 (580-670), although predominantly to the end of phase 7 and phase 8 (640-670). Siegmund dates type Sax 2.1 to Rhineland phases 6-7 (640-640).
The iron seax 22-1-1, which was recorded as a find from grave 31, was mentioned by Beckers and Beckers to have been found without its hilt; its remaining length was recorded to be 30.0 cm. Fragments of a seax, in corroded condition, starting to fall apart, are present in a box in the restoration laboratory. Fragments of what seems to be a hilt are also present, but these might be of the sword or second knife from this grave. Its length cannot be reconstructed.

Seaxes: missing and indeterminate 12 (22-1) The iron lance head 23-3-1 from grave 23 has a total length of 26.1 cm. The lance head cannot be reconstructed with these fragments. The other finds from this grave are classified as Siegmund's type Lan1.1 which dates to Rhineland phases 7-10 (585-705) or a Lan2.2 (closed socket) which dates to Rhineland phase 7 (585-610).**

Lance heads: with mid ribs 23 (23-3-1, 23-1-1, 23-1-2) 60 (46-2-0-1) An iron lance head 23-3-1 from grave 23 has a total length of 26.1 cm. The lance head cannot be reconstructed with these fragments. The other finds from this grave are classified as Siegmund's type Lan1.1 which dates to Rhineland phases 7-10 (585-705) or a Lan2.2 (closed socket) which dates to Rhineland phase 7 (585-610).**

Lance heads: split socket, indeterminate 3 (20-3-0) The iron seax 20-3-0 was found with its tip touching the eastern wall, 30 cm from the northern wall. The available lance head has a diameter shaped blade, an open socket and a total length of 29.5 cm (Beckers and Beckers mention a length of 36.0 cm). The blade has a width of 3.9 cm (Beckers and Beckers 40.0 cm). The socket shows a round hole, probably a rivet hole. The length of the blade in c. 16.6 cm and the width of the blade is 4.6 cm. The other finds from this grave are an arrow head and a biconical pot. The locations of the finds were not recorded.

An iron lance head (31-6-1) with a blade with a pronounced mid rib and a total length of 28 cm was mentioned to have been found in grave 31. The blade had, according to the original catalogue, a length of 12.0 cm and a width of 3.5 cm. Only a plate with a rounded elevation is present in the collection; this might be part of the blade with traces of the pronounced mid rib. Fragments of the lance head might be present also in a box; it is a domed rivet with a carved rim. The other finds from this grave are a seax, belt fittings, a biconical pot, a fire steel and a knife.

Beckers and Beckers mention the find of an iron lance head with a ‘skewer’ shaped blade, which can be interpreted as a pointed blade with a somewhat broader base, was found. It was recorded that the blade had a length of 40.0 cm and a width of 2.0 cm, and that wood remains were present in the socket opening. It was found lying along the southern wall of the grave, with the tip of the lance head touching the eastern wall, which indicates that the lance head was found in more or less complete condition. In the available collection only a small number of fragments, which might be the remnants of the lance head, are present. In restoration laboratory Restaura some remnants of what seem to be remnants of the shaft of a lance head are present.

The lance head cannot be reconstructed with these fragments. The other finds from this grave are a shield boss, horse gear, two buckles, and a knife. The lance head cannot be classified and dated on this basis of the available information since the in the catalogue given blade shape cannot be unambiguously be reconstructed. These lance heads with open sockets and a length of 20-47 cm are classified as Siegmund type Lan1.1b and date to Rhineland phases 4 (530-555) and those shorter than 30 cm as type Lan1.1a which dates to Rhineland phases 6 (570-630).**

Lance heads: open socket, spiral bands 37 (24-1) The iron seax 24-1 found in corroded condition in the restoration atelier fragments of what seem to be remnants of what seem to be remnants of the shaft of a lance head are present. The lance head cannot be reconstructed with these fragments.

Lancette急速: 手状フレーム500x700.png
Iron lance head 31-8-1 was described as having a ‘skewer’ shaped blade and a total length of 20.0 cm, a blade length of 12.0 cm and a blade width of 6.0 cm. The grave associated with this lance head was destroyed by the mill, and it is highly unlikely that the lance head and the other finds (glass vessel, three pottery vessels and some utensils) were from the same grave.

Iron lance head 34-1-1 with a blade length of 16.2 cm and a width of 3 cm was the only find from grave 34. It has a total length of 44 cm. The socket has two flat iron plates attached to it and were covered by an iron ring. It was found near the southern wall of the grave with the tip pointing to the east.

Iron lance head 58-8-1 was found along the sea with the tip in the direction of the eastern wall, 1.50 cm from the southern wall and 1.50 cm from the western wall. It belonged to the lower burial of double grave 58. The lance head has a length of 43 cm and a blade width of 5.0 cm.

The lance heads cannot be classified or dated on the basis of the available information in the original catalogue alone.

Arrow heads: missing
35 (35-1-1); 36 (36-1-1); 37 (37-1-1)

Two iron arrow heads were found in grave 6. Beckers and Beckers refer to one arrow head with a leaf shaped blade and a length of 15.5 cm and to one with a ‘rectangular’ blade and a length of 14.1 cm. On the basis of the recorded lengths it became clear which arrow heads are from the same grave. The arrow head has a recorded length of 14.1 cm and a blade width of 1.3 cm and has a barbed blade. It is a heavily restored second arrow head (6-2-1) has an actual length of 11.7 cm and a shaft base diameter of 1.1 cm. It is heavily restored, a length of 2.2 cm and a width of 1.6 cm. The arrow head has a relatively broad shaft with a diameter of 1.1 cm. It is boat shaped with an oval base and has a narrow rectangular elevation in the middle of the base plate. The rest of the sword is broken, but its parts are restored and completed. The original length and width cannot be established precisely. Beckers and Beckers mention a total length of 82 cm, and a hilt length of 12.0 cm. The reconstructed blade length of the restored specimen is c. 78 cm, and the length of the hilt (see above) is 9.5 cm. The width of the blade parts presented is c. 5.0 cm. Parts of the sword are absent; one of these parts is probably present in the corroded condition (5-1-1.2); it has a length of 31.0 cm.

A fraction of an iron sword (30-1-1) was mentioned to have been found in grave 30, which was destroyed by the construction of one of the subsequent mills built on the grave site. Some small iron and wood remains are preserved (5-1-1.2), associated with the axe, are stored separately. The wood remains were never analysed, but they are rather small; it remains questionable whether their analysis will provide additional information.

Iron axe 20-1-1 was found close to the western wall and 100 cm from the northern wall of grave 20. The axe has a blade length of 21.1 cm, the length of the faceted cutting edge is 9.1 cm and its back has a width of 4.6 cm (fig. 4/67). Wood remains are not preserved in the oval shaft opening.

Iron axe 30-4-1 is associated with grave 30, which was recorded as a grave destroyed by the construction of the mills; the locations of the finds were not recorded in the catalogue. The blade of this axe has a length of 18.5 cm and the faceted cutting edge a length of 7.4 cm (fig. 4/67). Beckers and Beckers mentioned that wood remains of the socket were present in the oval shaft opening; these are now lost. Axes with nearly straight upper edges are classified as a francisca according to the classification scheme of Siegmund type FBA2.1, which dates to phases MA1-MA3 (470/80-600/10). This angle is with its 8°, and therefore 5°, and therefore 5°.
Legoux, Périn and Vallet classify bridles as type 101 which they specifically dated by Siegmund, nor are they by the Franken AG. In the richer graves of the Merovingian period.

The iron horse bridle, recorded as a find from 29, is available in corroded condition in the restoration laboratory. It consists of various iron parts, which exact features are however difficult to discern due to the corrosion layer. Nonetheless, it is clearly a horse bridle. In the description of horse grave 25 it was mentioned that horse teeth were also found in grave 29. Both probably refer symmetrically to a horse, since the graves could not have contained a horse.

Koch provided an overview of ceramic bottle forms and mentions that they are difficult to date precisely; they appear in the course of the sixth century but are mainly finds of the later Merovingian period. The Obbicht bottle can best be compared with Koch’s forms E and G since it is a rather elongated specimen with a short cylindrical neck. Koch mentions that the difference between form E and the more frequent form G is rather gradual; type E dates to phase SD 8 (600-610) and G to SD 9 (610-650). Siegmund proposed a classification of bottles on the basis of the neck/bottom index and the shape of the body. This index is 0.59 for the Obbicht specimen, what makes it a bottle with a relatively narrow neck. It is classified as Siegmund’s type Fla 1.1 because of its straight bottom, globular body, short neck and horizontal outward folded rim without clear groove (which is typical for type Fla 1.1). This type dates to phase 8 (610-640) but can also appear earlier. The Franken AG maintained Siegmund’s type, but with the remark that the variation within this typological group is rather large. They date S-Fla 1.1 to their phases 5-7 (615-640), thus to a date range which starts before Siegmund’s date range. The Obbicht bottle is dated to the first half of the seventh century.

Fine pottery: bowls, orange-red, of Siegmund’s type Sh2a.21

The two orange-red bowls from Obbicht are of a different quality. The bowl from grave 24 has a height of 7.0 cm and is of a fine burnished ware (fig. 4.78). It is neatly made in the sense that it has a symmetric outline, which is in contrast with the bowl from grave 49. The wall of bowl 24-1-1 is divided by a carination; the lower wall is slightly convex, the upper wall slightly concave and it has a simple rim. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of multiple lines of rectangular/square roulette stamp impressions. The foot can be classified as a foot stand. It was found with a globular pot in a completely disturbed grave; the exact former location of the bowl in the grave is not known. This pot is classified as Siegmund’s type Sh2a.21 on the basis of its foot stand and simple rim, and is dated to Rhineland phases 5-8 (550-640).

The red bottle from grave 49 has a height of 7.5 cm and was, as already mentioned, badly executed (fig. 4.78). It is asymmetric (the height is irregular) and the foot stand is badly finished. The upper and lower walls are divided by a faint carination. The lower wall is slightly convex and the upper wall is straight. It was found in the middle of the grave, close to a biconical pot, near the short eastern wall in the proximity of the feet. Numerous beads and a belt fitting were also found in this grave. Although its appearance is rather different from the bottle from grave 44, it is also classified as type Siegmund Sh2a.21 on the basis of its carination and foot stand. It dates accordingly to Rhineland phases 5-8 (555-640).

Fine pottery: bowls, red-brown

An orange/red bowl was found in fragmented condition in grave 21. It is now restored and completed; approximately 50% of the original bowl is present (fig. 4.78). The bowl has a reconstructed height of 7.4 cm and a mouth diameter of 15.6 cm, a globular belly,
The large biconical pot is classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt2.12, the eldest form of biconical pots with straight upper walls, which dates to Rhineland phase 4 (530-555). It is the oldest biconical pot known from the Ossbacht cemetery. The Franken AG classifies similar pots as type Kwt2A which dates to their phases 4-5 (510-580-90) but can also appear, although sporadically, in phase 6 (580-610-20). Fine pottery: biconical pot of Siegmund’s type Kwt2.12 17 (7-7-1)

The small biconical pot (17-7-1) from grave 17 was found inside the large red bowl from grave 7 (fig. 4.82). It was found inside the large red bowl from grave 7 (fig. 4.81). It has a slightly pronounced carination and a relatively high rim. It seems to have been baked under conditions with abundant smoke resulting in the thin dark grey paste underneath. The pot has a height of 10.8 cm and its upper wall is decorated with four relatively broad and deep grooves. Other finds are not known from grave 7. It was observed that the grave was completely disturbed; the original find location of the pot in the grave could as a consequence not be established. The pot is classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt2.33, which dates to Rhineland phases 6-8 (570-640). The Franken AG classifies pots with grooves as type Kwt2A, which dates to their phases 4-5 (510-580-90) and less frequently to phase 6 (580-610-20). Fine pottery: biconical pot of Siegmund’s type Kwt2.33 17 (7-7-1)

The small biconical pot from grave 46 has a dark surface and is not decorated (fig. 4.82). It was found inside the large red bowl from this grave. The height of the pot is 6.5 cm. The carination is po...
sitioned at the lower part of the pot, which results in a rather pe-
cular form. This feature is not discussed in Siegmund’s and the
Franken AG’s typological overviews of biconical pots and nei-
erther is its slightly sagging base. It can be questioned whether it
should not be considered as a separate class, but parallels are not
known to me. On the basis of metric criteria it can be classified as
Siegmund’s type Ktw2.41, which dates to phase 4 (530-555). The
belt fittings from this grave date to 610-670 and the other bico-
nical pot to 610-670, which might indicate that the small biconi-
cal pots need to be classified and dated differently.

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Ktw2.42
40 (40-1-1); 51 (51-10-1)

The biconical pot from grave 40 was found in fragmented condi-
tion but is now restored and only for a small part completed (fig.
4.83). It has a height of 8.5 cm, which makes it one of the smaller
pots of the cemetery. The pot is without decoration. It seems to
have been baked under conditions with abundant smoke result-
ing in thin dark outer layer. This layer is now considerably weath-
ered and shows the brown past underneath. The pot was found in
the middle of the grave, near the short eastern wall and thus near
the presumed former location of the feet.

The pots from grave 51 and 40 are both classified as Siegmunds
Ktw2.42, which dates to Rhineland phase 7 (585-610). The
Franken AG classify undecorated pots with ‘normal’ dimensions as
type KtwA4, which dates to their phases 4-7 (510-625/640/50).10

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Ktw2.42/2.43
40 (40-1-1); 64 (64-1-1)

The biconical pot from grave 40A was found in fragmented con-
tion but is now restored for approximately 5% completed (fig.
4.83); it has a height of 12.8 cm. The considerably weathered
surface seems to be a thin dark top layer which is a result of bak-
ing conditions with abundant smoke; it covers the yellow to red
paste underneath. The pot is without decoration. It was found in
a ‘double’ grave, and was associated with the upper burial of the
two superimposed burials. The pot was found in the middle of the
game, close to the eastern wall, thus close to the presumed former
location of the feet. Other finds are not associated with this bur-
ial. Since the pot is rather asymmetric it might be either ground
form or 4 according to Siegmund’s classification scheme, and a
consequence either Siegmund type Ktw2.42 or Ktw2.43. Type
Ktw2.42 dates to Rhineland phase 7 (585-610) and Ktw2.43 to
Rhineland phases 8-9 (610-670).10

The small biconical pot from grave 64 has a height of 9.9 cm, and
a grey-black surface and is without decoration (fig. 4.84). The top
layer seems to be a thin dark layer resulting from baking condi-
tions with abundant smoke; it is now somewhat weathered show-
ing the lighter past underneath. It has a relatively high rim. It was
found in fragmented condition but is now restored and complet-
ed; the added parts are however difficult to tell apart from the
original parts. It was assigned to a completely destroyed grave and
associated with a bottom fragment of a pot and an arrow head.
The locations of the finds were not recorded. The pot is classi-
sed as Siegmund’s type Ktw.43 which dates to Rhineland phas-
es 8-9 (610-670), although it might also be a type 2.44 (585-610),
depending on its basic form which is identified as 3, but might
also be 4.10 The Franken AG classify undecorated pots with ‘nor-
mal’ dimensions as type KtwA4, which dates to their phases 4-7
(510-625/640/50).10

Fine pottery: biconical pot of Siegmund’s type Ktw3.11
20 (20-6-1)

The large red biconical pot (20-6-1) from grave 20 was found in
fragmented condition but is now restored and completed; the re-
stored and original parts are in some places difficult to tell apart,
but the restoration report mentions that approximately 35% of the
original pot was present and that the bottom was complete-
ly gone (fig. 4.85). The upper wall of the pot is decorated with
a single line of rectangular to triangular roulette stamp impres-
sions, applied as a spiral line covering nearly the complete upper
wall. The pot was found in the middle of the grave near the short east-
ern wall and thus near the presumed location of the feet. It is clas-
sified as Siegmund type Ktw.11, which dates from Rhineland
phase 6 to the beginning of phase 7 (570-600).10 The Franken
AG classify pots with single lines of roulette stamp impressions as
type KtwA5, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/60).10

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Ktw.1, 3/12
(51-10-1) 37 (37-9-1); 40 (40-1-1)

The pot from grave 37 was found in a fragmented condition but
is now restored and complete; approximately 90% of the origi-
nal pot is present (fig. 4.86). The surface is considerably weath-
ered, but a thin dark smoked surface seems to have been present.
It is now weathered and shows the light grey-brown paste original-
lly underneath it. The pot has a height of 10.6 cm. The upper wall
is decorated with a single groove and single lines of complex rou-
lette stamp impressions applied two times above the groove, and
one time beneath it. The stamp impressions consists of lines, cro-
sses, stars, tridents and squares; since the pattern is uniterrupted it
can be identified as an example of the early group of roulette stamps as
defined by Siegmund. It was found close to the eastern wall of the
grave, thus near the presumed location of the feet. A small coni-
cal glass beaker was placed upside down in the pot. The single oth-
er find from the grave is an arrow head. The pot is classified as ei-
ther Siegmund type Ktw.11 (6-7A: 570-600/625) or Ktw.12 (6-7:
570-610) since its ground form cannot be established unambigu-
ously.10 The Franken AG classify pots with complex uninterrup-
ted roulette stamp impressons as type KtwG, which dates to their
phases 5-6 (565-610/60).10

The biconical pot from grave 37 has a smoked top layer which is
considerably weathered showing the red paste underneath. It was
found in fragmented condition, but is now restored and complet-
ed; approximately 12% of the rim and 5% of the wall were added
(fig. 4.86). The restored pot has a height of 20.1 cm and its upper
wall is decorated with single lines of complex roulette stamp im-
pressions of vertical and oblique strips and crosses. The decora-
tion was applied as a spiral line covering nearly the complete up-
per wall surface. The pot was found close to the eastern wall, in
the middle of the grave, thus near the presumed location of the feet.
The roulette stamp impressions are uninterrupted and the decora-
tion is therefore identified as an example of the early group of rou-
lette-stamps of Siegmund. Since the ground form of the pot could
not be established unambiguously as form 2 or 4, the pot is classi-
sed as either type Siegmund Ktw.11 (570-600/625) or Ktw.12
(570-610). The Franken AG classify pots with complex uninterrup-
ted roulette stamp impressions as type KtwG, which dates to their
phases 5-6 (565-610/60).10

Black biconical pot 40-1-1 from grave 40 was found in fragment-
ed condition but is now restored and completed; approximately

90% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.86). The pot has a shiny dark top layer, probably a smoked surface, and its upper wall is decorated with a ridge, a little above the middle of the upper wall, above which two single lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are applied and beneath which three single lines of the similar roulette stamp was applied. A smaller biconical pot (40-3-1) was placed inside this pot. It was found in the middle of the grave approx. 200 cm from the western wall and thus near the presumed location of the feet of the lower burial of the two superimposed burials. According to Siegmund, ridges occur on biconical pots with roulette stamp impressions of the late group. The single lines of roulette stamp impression on pot 40-3-1, however, belong to the early group. For now it is classified on the basis of the roulette stamp and thus as either type Kwt3.11 or Kwt3.12 since its ground form cannot be established unambiguously.36 Kwt3.11 dates from Rheinland phase 6 to the beginning of phase 7 (570-640) and type Kwt3.12 dates to Rheinland phases 6-7 (570-610). The presence of a ridge on the upper wall is according to Siegmund a later feature of biconical pots; the pot from grave 40 might date somewhat later in the assigned date range. The Franken AG classify pots with single lines of roulette stamp impressions as type Kwt3.A which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20), and pots with multiple lines of roulette stamp impressions as type Kwt3.B, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50).37

Fine pottery: biconical pot of Siegmund’s type Kwt3.12.

The biconical pot from grave 8 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored and completed; approximately 60% of the original pot is present. It had a smoked surface; a thin dark top layer which is now considerably weathered showing the light paste underneath. The upper wall is decorated with a ridge and multiple lines of roulette stamp impressions of which the exact shape is rather difficult to discern but seem to form crosses. The stamp pattern is identified as an example of the early group as defined by Siegmund, since it is rather regular and uninterrupted. The pot belonged to the grave of a woman (identified on the basis of beads), which was probably repositioned since iron fragments and the fragments of the pot were found scattered throughout the grave. It is a rare example of a pot with a ridge on the upper wall in the southern Netherlands. It is classified as Siegmund type Kwt3.12 (early group of roulette stamps, which, however does not occur in combination with ridges according to Siegmund), which dates to Rheinland phases 6-7 (570-610).38 The Franken AG classify pots with complex uninterrupted roulette stamp impressions as type Kwt3G, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20). Since ridges are considered to be later features, the pot may also date somewhat later.

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Kwt3.21.

The biconical pot from grave 10 was found in fragmented condition, but is now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.89). The original thin dark smoked top layer is considerably weathered showing the lighter paste underneath. The restored pot has a height of 11.4 cm and its upper wall is decorated with six to seven single lines of triangular and rectangular roulette stamp impressions. On the basis of its ground form and early roulette stamp it is classified as Siegmund type Kwt3.12 (6-7A: 570-640).39 Two to three of the roulette stamp lines, however, seem to consist of rectangles in relatively ordered positions; it might thus also be an example of Siegmund’s late group of roulette stamps and thus Siegmund type Kwt3.22 (7B-8A: 640-650). The Franken AG classify pots with single lines of roulette stamp impressions as type Kwt3A which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20), and pots with multiple lines of roulette stamp impressions as type Kwt3B, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50).40

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Kwt3.21.

The biconical pot from grave 23 was found in a fragmented condition, but is now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.89). The original thin dark smoked top layer is considerably weathered showing the lighter paste underneath. The restored pot has a height of 11.3 cm and its upper wall is decorated with three zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions covering the entire upper wall. The pot was found 30 cm from the eastern wall in the middle of the grave, thus approximately near the presumed former location of the lower legs. Creations remains are now stored in the pot; it is not clear whether they were found inside this pot or in grave 10 since a find number was not recorded on the bag holding the remnants.

The biconical pot from grave 23 was found in a fragmented condition, but is now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.89). The pot has a brown-grey surface, and might have been covered with a smoked (?) dark thin top layer. It has a height of 11.3 cm and its upper wall is decorated with four grooves above and underneath which four lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are applied; it is thus an example of Siegmund’s late group of roulette stamps. The two fine grooves on the lower wall are production traces. On the basis of the identified features two pots are classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt3.22, which dates to Rhine phases 7-8 (585-640), and Franken AG type Kwt3B, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50).

Fine pottery: biconical pot of Siegmund’s type Kwt3.21/3.22 or 3.11/3.12.

The biconical pot from grave 36 was found in fragmented condition, but is now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.89). The original thin dark smoked top layer is considerably weathered showing the lighter paste underneath. The restored pot has a height of 11.2 cm and its upper wall is decorated with three zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions covering the entire upper wall. The pot was found 30 cm from the eastern wall in the middle of the grave, thus approximately near the presumed former location of the lower legs. Creations remains are now stored in the pot; it is not clear whether they were found inside this pot or in grave 10 since a find number was not recorded on the bag holding the remnants.
now only dark vague stains are visible. A red-orange substance covers a part of the outer upper wall and some parts of the lower wall; it is unclear what this mineralised substance is but it might be corrosion left by the iron bucket bands next to which the biconical pot was found in the grave. The entire surface of the upper wall is decorated with lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The stamp seems to be an example of Siegmund’s late stamp group consisting of three lines of relatively neatly ordered rectangular impressions, but it can also be single line roulette stamp impressions (Siegmund’s early group). Since its ground form could not be established unambiguously as either form 2 or 4, the pot is classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt3.11, which dates to Rhineland phases 7B – 8 (585-640) and Kwt3.22, which dates to the end of Rhineland phase 8 and the beginning of phase BB (c. 600-650). 117

The pot might also be classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt3.12 or 3.13 (single line roulette stamp in combination with ground form 2 and 4). Kwt3.11 dates from Rhineland phase 6 to the beginning of phase 7 (570-610) and type Kwt 3.12 dates to Rhineland phases 6-7 (570-610). 118 The Franken AG classify pots with single line roulette stamps as type KWt3A, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20) and pots with multiple line roulette stamps as type KWt3B, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50). 119

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Kwt3.22

The surface of the complete biconical pot (12-4-1) from grave 12 is considerably weathered; the surface is black but the light greyish layer underneath is shining through; it is in all probability a smoked and now weathered top layer (fig. 4.91). The pot has a height of 12.3 cm. The entire upper wall is covered with four lines of complex roulette stamp impressions; an isolated part of the stamp consists of rectangular grids filled with 3 columns and 4 rows of square impressions, one rectangular grid of 4 columns and 4 rows of square impressions, a rectangular grid with two cross-es, and a rectangular grid with two reversed V-shapes. Since there is some space between the single elements it is identified as interrupted complex roulette stamp impressions. The pot was found in the middle of the grave of a man. Other finds from this grave are a seax and two knives.

The Franken AG classify pots with interrupted complex roulette stamp impressions as type KWt5F, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50). 119

Fig. 4.91 Biconical pot type Siegmund’s Kwt3.22, grave 12 (scale 1:4).

The red biconical pot from grave 61 has a rounded carination but has an appearance different from the one with rounded carination from grave 1. The pot is undecorated, is smaller with its height of 8.8 cm, is squatter than pot 1-1-1, and has as a consequence a sagging appearance (fig. 4.91). It is the only find from this grave and it was found 80 cm from the short eastern wall and 50 cm from the long northern wall, thus near the presumed former location of the feet. The pot is classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt4.2 on the basis of its sagging belly shape. This type dates to Rhineland phase 7 (585-610). 119 The Franken AG classify similar pots as type KWt4A, which dates to their phases 4-7 (510-640/50). 119

Fine pottery: biconical bowl Siegmund’s type Kwt4.3

The large red biconical pot from grave 46 has a wide mouth, a foot stand, a pronounced carination and a ridge on the nearly vertical upper wall (fig. 4.94). The pot was found in fragmented condition, but is now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The pot has a height of 19.7-20.0 cm and a mouth diameter of 21.2-22.8 cm. The foot has a diameter of 11.2 cm and a belly diameter of 12.0 cm. Some small black spots are visible on the outer surface of the pot and it is tempered with fine sand and pebbles. The upper wall shows a ridge above which two undulating grooves are applied and beneath which two zones of three straight grooves are applied. The bowl was found near the tip of the lance head, 40 cm from the southern wall and 40 cm from the eastern wall and was thus deposited near the presumed location of the feet. A small black biconical pot was found inside the bowl. The other finds, apart from the lance head and small bowl, are a seax, belt fittings, 1 knife and fire steel; it was thus the grave of a man. The pot is classified as Siegmund’s special biconical pot type KWt4.3, which dates to Rhineland phases BB and 9 (650-670). 119 The Franken AG maintained Siegmund’s type (Franken
Fig. 3.64 Biconical pot type Siegmund Kwt4.3, grave 45 (45-1-1).

AG S-Kwt4.3) and date it to their phases 7-8 (565-610/20), although predominantly to phase 7 (610/20-640/50). The biconical pot is relatively rare but by now several specimens are known from the southern Netherlands. Other examples were found in the Rhineland. Biconical pots: missing

35 (35-1-1)

Biconical pot 35-1-1 from grave 35 was in the catalogue of Biconical pots: missing

38 (38-1-1)

The fragments of a grey biconical pot (38-1-1) were found scattered throughout grave 38; they are available but the pot is not restored yet.

The Franken AG classify undecorated pots with “normal” dimensions as type Kwt4A, which dates to their phases 4-5 (510-25/580/60), and the elongated ones as FAG S-Kwt4.4, which dates to their phases 6-9 (580/90-710). Siegmund classifies pot without decoration as types Kwt2.41/2.42/2.43, which date to Rhineland phases 4-5 (510/25-580/60).

Biconical pots: with single stamps and grooves

28 (28-1-5)

Fragments of a biconical pot are known from grave 28. The decoration on the wall fragments consists of single stamp impressions of vertical undulating stripes in combination with grooves (see the catalogue). The fragments are classified as Siegmund Kwt2.17/2.18, which date to Rhineland phases 4-5 (510-25/580/60) and Franken AG type Kwt8A, which dates to their phases 4-5 (510-25/580/60).

Biconical pots: with grooves

20 (20-1-7)

Beckers and Beckers mention that a small (biconical) pot (20-7-1) with a red outer surface was found on the upper wall. The pot is not restored yet. The Franken AG classify pots with grooves as type Kwt3A, which dates to their phases 4-5 (510-25/580/60) and less frequently to phase 6 (580/90-610/20). Siegmund classifies pots with grooves as types Kwt3, Kwt2.12/2.13, which date to Rhineland phases 4-5 (510-25/580/60).

Biconical pots fragments: roulette stamp impressions, early group

3 (3-2-1); 4 (4-9-1); 39 (39-1-1); 47 (47-1-1)

Biconical pots fragments: roulette stamp impressions, late group

28 (28-4-1); 47 (47-1-1)

Fragments of a grey biconical pot with all probability multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions (they may also single lines, this is difficult to see) were found in grave 28. They are classified Franken AG Kwt5B or 5C (28-4-1; 585-670/60) and Siegmund’s types Kwt3.11/2.12/2.13 (585-670).

Fragments of a grey biconical pot with a black surface and decoration on the upper wall were recorded as finds from grave 47; they were found scattered throughout the grave and one wall fragment was found rather high in the grave. The fragments show single lines of complex interrupted roulette stamp impressions of grids filled with small rectangles. The Franken AG classify pots with similar stamp impressions as type Kwt5F (complex, interrupted), which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50). Siegmund classifies similar roulette stamps as those of the late group (complex, interrupted) and thus as Kwt3.21/2.32/2.33, which date to phases 7-8 (585-640).

Biconical pots fragments: indeterminate

49 (49-1-3)

The bottom fragment of a biconical pot with a black-blue surface was recorded as find from grave 49; it was found a little to the north of the skull, but at the same depth. No specifics are given.

Fine pottery: spouted pots

The number of six spouted pots in the Obbicht cemetery is comparable to the number found in the two nearby cemeteries of Sittard-Kempenkool and Stein. Spouted pots are in fact biconical pots with a spout and handle, and thus considered to be a special form within the groups of biconical pots. One of the spouted pots from Obbicht is red/brown, the others are dark, from grey to small rectangles. The stamp impressions are present on a carina- tion fragment and a rim fragment, which seems to indicate that the entire upper wall was decorated. The fragments were found 10 cm from the southern wall and 60 cm from the eastern wall. They are classified as Franken AG type Kwt6G (5-6; 565-610/20).

All the fragments mentioned above are on the basis of the singular lines of uninterrupted complex roulette stamp impressions classified as Siegmund types Kwt5.13/2.14/2.15, which date to Rhineland phases 6-7 (570-610).

Biconical pots fragments: roulette stamp impressions, late group

28 (28-4-1); 47 (47-1-1)

Biconical pots fragments: roulette stamp impressions, late group

28 (28-4-1); 47 (47-1-1)

Biconical pots fragments: roulette stamp impressions, late group

28 (28-4-1); 47 (47-1-1)
black. The red/brown spouted pot is the single undecorated pot, the others show various roulette stamp impressions. The rims of spouted pots can be simple or can have added inward turned collars with conspicuous decoration.\textsuperscript{402} The pots from Obbicht are all rather common with only slightly outward folded simple rims. They are classified and dated on the basis of the biconical pot classifications schemes of Siegmund and the Franken AG (table 4.11).

Fine pottery: spouted pot of Siegmund’s type Kw2.43

Beckers and Beckers recorded a red spouted pot as find from grave 51. It was described as a pot with a handle with two grooves and a thick ridge beneath the rim, found in the middle of the grave, near the eastern wall. A red spouted pot, without decoration but with a ridge at the transition from wall to rim is available in the collection although without find number (fig. 4.95); for now it is assigned to Obbicht grave 51 since a red spouted pot was not recorded as a find from the other Obbicht graves and not as a find from the cemetery of Stein (the two collections are stored together). On the basis of its dimensions\textsuperscript{403} and the absence of decoration it is classified as Siegmund’s Kw2.43, which dates to Rhineland phases 8-9 (610-670).\textsuperscript{404} The Franken AG classify pots of similar dimensions without decoration as type Kw4A, which dates to their phases 4-7 (510/25-640/50).\textsuperscript{405}

Fine pottery: spouted pot of Siegmund’s type Kw2.33

The spouted pot from grave 32 has a dark smoked surface which is considerably weathered showing the lighter past underneath (fig. 4.95). It is a rather elongated pot with a height of 19.4 cm and relatively high lower wall; its body shape shows more resemblance with globular pots than it does with biconical pots. The decoration applied is also different from those observed on the other spouted pots from Obbicht, Stein and Sittard. Some shallow grooves are applied on the simple horizontal outward folded rim and the decoration on the upper wall consists of three undulating grooves and zones of three straight grooves above and underneath them. The handle has a width of 4 cm and has two grooves. It starts on the rim and ends just above the carination on the upper wall. The pot is on the original cemetery plan depicted as being found close to the eastern wall of the grave; this cannot be accurate since it was mentioned that the grave was completely destroyed by the construction of the mill which was built on the cemetery terrain. The find location of the pot is therefore not depicted on the latest reconstruction of the cemetery plan and individual grave.

The shape of the pot and its decoration of straight and undulating grooves resemble the large globular pot from Bergeijk grave 30, of which the classification possibilities are extensively discussed.\textsuperscript{406} The large globular pot is, however, of a coarse ware, whereas the Obbicht specimen is definitively of a fine burnished ware with smoked surface. The discussion shows that the combined decoration of straight and undulating grooves can be found on different pot forms. Undulating lines are an older decoration element\textsuperscript{407} and it can in Obbicht be found only on a large red biconical pot with wide mouth. The Obbicht specimen falls within in the same group as the large globular pot from Bergeijk. The Bergeijk pot is dated as Siegmund type 2.33, although it is mentioned that it may well date to the first half of the seventh century. On the basis of its indexes and characteristics this pot is also classified as Siegmund’s Kw2.33, which dates to phases 6-8 (570-640).\textsuperscript{408} The Franken AG classify pots with straight and undulating grooves as type Kw3B, which dates to their phases 4-5 (510/25-580/90).\textsuperscript{409} The classification and dating of the wide variety of globular pot forms with straight and undulating grooves require some rethinking.

Fine pottery: spouted pots of Siegmund’s type Kw7.12

Fragments of a black spouted pot with smoked surface were found scattered throughout grave 18. The pot is restored and completed which revealed that it has a height of 17.0 cm and one handle and a spout opening to the opposite of the handle; approximately 45% of the original pot is present, the spout is missing, and the smoked surface is considerably weathered showing the lighter paste underneath (fig. 4.95). The pot has a thickened and outward folded rim on which two grooves are applied and onto which the handle is attached. The handle has a deep groove in the middle and ends on the upper wall of the pot just above the carination. The upper wall is decorated with four to five zones of two to four single lines (402) See for example the overview of spouted pots from Bergeijk (Theeuws/Van Haperen 2012, 104-106, Fig. 6.50). (403) The actual dimensions of the pot are not exactly in line with the dimensions given in the original catalogue. However, some errors with regard to the recorded dimensions where observed in this catalogue and the dimensions given for the red spouted pot might be one of them. (404) Siegmund 1998, 130. (405) Müssemeier et al. 2003, 40. (406) Theuews/Van Haperen 2012, 113-114, 64. (407) Siegmund 1998, 130. (408) Müssemeier et al. 2003, 59.
of irregular ‘rectangular’ roulette stamp impressions. On the ba-
sis of its indices the pot is classified as type Siegmun
type KwT3.13.*

The Franken AG classify pots with single lines of rectan-
gular roulette stamp impressions as type KwT3, which dates to phases 5-6 (565-610/20).

A dark grey smoked spouted pot was found in fragmented con-
dition in grave 28. The parts are glued together and it appeared that approximately 5% of the pot was missing; these parts are now added to the pot (fig. 4.95). The pot is rather asymmetric and has a height from 18.7 to 20.1 cm. Its entire upper wall is decorated with six single lines of roulette stamp impressions of vertical and oblique lines and crosses. One line of the same roulette stamp is applied on the horizontal outward folded rim. The handle has a width of 3.1 cm and has a deep groove in the middle. It is attached to the rim and upper wall, ending just above the carination. The spout is applied approximately on the middle of the upper wall and its upper end is connected with the rim. It was found 70 cm from the short eastern wall and 40 cm from the long southern wall of the grave, thus near the presumed former location of the low-
er legs or feet. The Franken AG classify pots with uninterrupted complex roulette stamp impressions as type KwT5G, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20).* Siegmund classified pots with dimensions similar to the two spouted pots and with single lines of roulette stamp impressions as type KwT1.12 which dates to Rhinelands phases 6-7 (570-610).**

Fine pottery: spouted pot of Siegmun's type KwT2.22/3.22
62 (6a+4n)

Grey spouted pot 62-1-1 was found in fragmented condition but is now restored and completed; approximately 80% of the origi-
nal pot is present (fig. 4.93). The reconstructed height of the pot is 17.9 cm. The pot has an outward folded rim, which is not thick-
ed. The handle with a width of 2.7 cm and two grooves is at-
tached to the outer surface of the spout, and ends on the middle of the upper wall. The spout, opposite to the handle, is attached to the upper part of the upper wall and its extremity is connected with the rim. The upper wall is decorated with seven single lines of roulette stamp impressions of rectangular grids filled with two columns and five rows of small rectangles (sometimes the impres-
sions are shallow and left only four rows). The roulette stamp dec-
oration covers the entire surface of the upper wall and seems to be an interrupted stamp. Siegmund classifies complex interrupt-
ed roulette stamp impressions as those of the late group; the pot is classified as type KwT3.32, which dates from the end of Rhineland phase 7 to the beginning of 8B (c. 600-640).** It might, however, also be an uninterrupted complex roulette stamp, and thus a type KwT3.12 (8-7:570-610).** The Franken AG classify complex interrupt-
ed roulette stamp-type as KwT5F, which dates to phases 5-7 (565-640/50), or complex uninterrupted roulette stamp as type KwT5G which dates to phases 5-6 (565-610/20).***

Fine pottery: fragments of spouted pots of Siegmun's type
KwT2.22/3.23
59 (59+3n)

Fragments of a grey spouted pot with rounded carination and a horizontal outward folded rim were found in grave 59; the pot is not restored yet. The fragments show nonetheless that the upper wall was decorated with multiple lines of rectangular rou-
tette stamp impressions which can be identified as a roulette stamp of the late group. A biconical pot was found in association with the spouted pot in this completely destroyed grey. The spout-
ed pot is classified as either Siegmun type KwT3.12 or KwT3.33, since spouted pots are generally of basic form group 4 or 5. Type KwT3.32 dates from the end of Rhineland phase 7 to the beginning of 8B (565-640/50) and type KwT3.23 dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).** The Franken AG classify pots with multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions as type KwT5B or KwT5C, depending on the basic form group, which date to phases 5-8 (565-670-830).**

Coarse pottery: globular pot, grey
24 (24e+n)

The pot from grave 24 is of a coarse ware, grey, baked hard, and has a height of 15.4 cm (fig. 4.96). It has a clear globular belly, which egg-shaped pots do not have: it is thus not placed in the re-
lated group of egg-shaped pots but might however fall within the same broad category of coarse ware pottery with spherical bodies. The rim of the pot is folded outwards and has a concave groove in which a lid fits. The volcnic inclusions seem to indicate that it was produced in a production centre in the Eifel region (Germany).

Similar types of pots are rare finds from Merovingian graves, but more common finds from settlement contexts and are for example known to have been produced in the pottery production centre of Maastricht-Wijck.* In grave contexts similar pots are documented in Bergeijk (one grey pot from grave 53 and one orange pot from grave 51)** and in Maastricht-Vrijthof (one black pot from grave 36).*** The two pots from the Bergeijk cemetery are not dated to an exact phase, but a dating to the early seventh century is sug-
gested on the basis of the associated grave inventory of one of the specimens. The authors observed black smoke spots or some other black residue on the outer surface of the pots; these were also ob-
served on the Vrijthof pot. This might indicate that the pots were used as cooking pots, as was also concluded for the pots from the Maastricht-Wijck furnaces.** Similar stains are, however, not ob-
served on the Obbicht pot.

Siegmun identified similar pots as his type KwT4.12; pots of coarse ware with rounded carinations and concave rims, and mentioned that they are difficult to date precisely within the Merovingian period.*** He refers to an undisturbed grave inven-
tory dated to Rhineland phase 10 (670-705) in which a pot of this type was found. Siegmun recorded four specimens in his re-
search area and three in Krefeld-Cellep. Dating the Obbicht pot to the seventh century seems a plausible option.

Semi-coarse pottery: large globular pot
59 (59+3n)

The large globular pot from cremation grave 39 with a height of 27.5 cm, a flat bottom, and a nearly horizontal outward folded rim with indentation is considerably weathered (fig. 4.96). It had a grey-black smoked surface, which now shows the lighter brownish-orange portions of the black spout inlay and a copper alloy rivets and an oil lamp. Similar pots are rather rare finds from Merovingian grave contexts. One is for example known from the cemetery of Bergrijk (height: 27.3 cm); it is of a coarser ware than the Obbicht pot and was not used as a cremation container. Moreover, the Bergeijk pot was decorated with straight and undulating grooves. The vague grooves on the Obbicht specimen are rather production traces.

A straightforward classification and date range were not provid-
ed for the Bergeijk pot; numerous options were given of which a dating to the late sixth and early seventh century was considered a probable one.**

Pottery: handmade
62 (6a+4n)

Beckers and Beckers mention a lower part of a small red pot (64-
21) in grave 64. The diameter of the horn is 4 cm. This bottom fragment is present. It seems to be a handmade pot. It was not recorded where in the grave the fragment was found or what the condition of the grave was.

Pottery: terra sigillata
5 (5+1n)

A bottom fragment of a terra sigillata plate was recorded as a find from grave 31; in a box in the restoration laboratory, where also iron fragments from grave 31 are stored, a terra sigillata shard is present.

Pottery: fragments
4 (4+1-2); 30 (30+1-2); 37 (37+1-2)

Fragments of a grey coarse ware among which one rim fragment with an outward folded rim, of presumably a globular coarse ware pot are known form grave 4. Approximately 50% of the origi-
nal pot is present. Globular pots are difficult to date precisely; the fragments might date to seventh century.

According Beckers and Beckers a fragment of a black pot (50-1-
1) was found at a relative high level in grave 50. In the restoration laboratory a soft baked, polished, rather weathered black shard is available. Bottom and wall fragments of a grey black pot with thick walls were found scattered throughout grave 47; they are difficult to classify and date. The fragments of a biconical pot, also known from this grave are dated to 565-640/50, and the grave is dated accord-
cordingly.

Pottery vessels: missing
7 (7+1-2); 35 (35-1-6); 13 (13-7-2); 13 (1-8-1)

Fragments of large hard baked pots with thick walls and a grey outer surface were found in grave 13; these are now missing. Pottery vessels were recorded as find from possible grave 33; they are no longer available. It can be assumed that the three vessels originally belonged to more than one grave.

Glass vessels

A collection of glass vessels is known from the cemetery; it consists of an exceptional glass jug (although found in a grave discovered at some distance from the cemetery), a claw beaker, a cone beaker, two bell beakers and a palm cup.

Glass vessel: jug

(65-2-1)

An exceptional light green glass jug, complete, was found in Obbicht grave 65 (fig. 4.97). The jug has a squeezed rim, which forms a trifoliate spout. The outer diameter of the mouth is 5.4-5.7 cm and the spout takes up approximately 1/3 of the mouth diameter. The handle has one deep groove and is connected to the wall just underneath the outward folded rim and ends on the lower wall of the jug. The extremity of the handle, connected just beneath the rim, is folded back, and the handle end connected to the body expands considerably from its middle section on. The jug has a sagging belly with the widest diameter towards the lower part of the wall, and its foot is formed as a stand ring. The jug is decorat-ed with three zones of horizontal spiral trails of similar coloured glass. The upper zone consists of a horizontal spiral trail wound thirteen times around the neck starting just beneath the rim and ending on the narrow neck. The middle zone consists of spiral trails applied seven times on the middle of the belly, and the lower zone consists of spiral trails applied in the seventeenth century above the foot. The height of the jug is 13.1 cm, the belly has a widest diameter of 8.6 cm and the bottom has a diameter of 4.3 cm.

Glass jugs from Merovingian graves are rather rare. Feyeux identified two types of jugs in his research area (north-western France). T.3033 with foot and decoration and T.3134 with foot and with spiral trails, both types have a spout and one handle. T.30 dates to 427-430 and T.31 to the end of the fifth and beginning of the sixth century. The Obbicht specimen with its spe-cial trails of similar coloured glass resembles T.31 but this type is characterised by squeezed foots and email trails, which are different from the stand ring and glass trails of the Obbicht specimen. Feyeux mentions that jugs with spiral glass threads are directly connected to the Roman tradition of glass production and should be dated before or to the beginning of the fifth century.34 The overview of glass forms from the Champagne shows that jugs date to the middle of the fifth century.35 The example from this area is however different since it has a differently shaped foot and a more elongated body than the Obbicht specimen. Nonetheless, it is made in the same tradition as the Obbicht jug, and dating this jug from grave 65 to the fifth century and maybe the beginning of the sixth century seems a plausible option.

The other finds from grave 65 are a globular beaker, unfortunately not present anymore. The glass jug might indicate that it was an early Merovingian grave. The grave was excavated in another place, at some distance from the other graves and might represent an early phase of the cemetery of which, unfortunately, no other graves were discovered.

Glass vessel: claw beaker

20 (20-6-8)

A very light green claw beaker with four claws, applied at the same height, was found in fragmented condition in grave 20 (fig. 4.97).

It is now restored and completed; the outline of the beaker could be reconstructed and three of the original four claws are present (one is reconstructed). The claw beaker has a height of 17.5-18.4 cm, a mouth diameter of 8.0 cm and a bottom diameter of 3.9 cm. The rim is rounded and only slightly thickened, and the lower wall is straight as is the upper wall; the transition from lower wall to upper wall is slightly incurved at the zone where the upper claws are applied. The bottom is pinched to form a foot and the base of the beaker itself was pushed in with a ring-shaped tool, with a rather asymmetric foot as result. A fine similar cervical glass thread was dropped on the beaker just beneath the rim and turned downwards c. 26 times (the upper trails are rather vague, due to the restoration of the beaker). A second thread was dropped on the beaker lower down the beaker and turned downwards c. 13 times (no all the threads are clearly visible), ending just above the foot.

The four claws are applied as one row, at the same height, just beneath the middle of the beaker, on the upper trails of the spirally applied trails. The extremities of the claws are fixed on the upper side of the foot. The glass and claws are impure; air bubbles can be observed. The beaker was found to the south of the large biconical pot, which was found close to the middle of the short eastern wall; the beaker was thus placed close to the presumed location of the right foot. The other finds from this grave are an axe, shield boss, lance head and copper alloy bowl; the claw beaker belonged to a grave of a man with an extended set of weaponry and a varied vessel ensemble.

The Obbicht claw beaker was already published by Tpey in 1947/58; he restored and completed the beaker and published an extended description of the production of this glass vessel and its specific features. He also discussed the chronological development and distribution pattern of claw beakers on the basis of the work of Fremersdorf, Thorpe and Rademacker, and used Harden’s work for the distribution patterns of Anglo-Saxon specimens.36 A development from squat beaker shapes to elongated forms, from two rows of claws to one row of claws, from the gradual appearance of spiral glass trails applied on the upper parts of the beakers to the disappearance of glass trails on the claws, was by then generally accepted. Since the Obbicht claw beaker has one row of claws, spiral glass trails on its upper part and less manifest claws compared to early specimens, it was dated to the seventh century at the time of Tpey’s publication.

Claw beakers are also known from Anglo-Saxon contexts.37 Again the development from Roman specimens to Merovingian specimens is described (from type 1 to type 4); the main differences with the Roman specimens are the feet formed in one piece with the body, the smoothed rims, and the horizontal trails (the Roman specimens have zigzag trails). The post Roman beakers became taller and were more elongated (cone shaped), and the claws were applied on the lower two-thirds of the body, following the curve of the wall, but still with two rows of claws, terminating well above the foot. The beakers of the last period have features which are comparable to the Obbicht beaker; trails are not present on the claws anymore and a plain area is present in between the trails below the rim and those on the belly. The latest types (4a-c) date to the 6th-7th centuries, but examples of claw beakers with only one row of claws were not included in the chronological overview. It seems as if the Obbicht beaker is a late example in the general development of claw beakers, which was never introduced in Anglo-Saxon England.

Koch presented an overview of claw beakers on the basis of the finds from the Randa Regi Irvi Drach.38 A specimen similar to the one from Obbicht (one row of claws) is not present, but it is mentioned that especially the claw beakers without nicked glass bands, as the one from Obbicht, date later than those with nicked glass bands (they date to the second half of the fifth century); they became frequent around the middle of the sixth century.

Since claw beakers are rather rare in the Rhineland, Siegmund did not create a classification for this form of beakers but refers to the typological work of Pirling and Hinu for further specifications. The most recent study with regard to glass vessels, including claw beakers, is, apart from Pirling and Hinu, the study of Feyeux. He classifies claw beakers as type T.42.2i: claw beakers with spiral glass trails. Feyeux also refers to the development from late Roman to early medieval specimens.39 He dates claw beakers in the north-west of France from the second half of the fifth to the first half of the sixth century, and more sporadically to the second half of the sixth century. He claims that the later examples, those dating to the end of the sixth century and to the seventh century, are more elongated than their predecessors. The claws of these later specimens are observed to cover the spiral trails applied on the middle sections of the beakers. The examples in Feyeux’s overview all have two rows of claws, which is clearly an earlier feature than the single row of claws of the Obbicht beaker, which is also elongated and on which the claws are applied on top of the spiral trails. A specimen with one row of four claws, although not as elongated as the Obbicht specimen, is known from Anderlecht Champ Saint-Anne.40 Unfortunately, this beaker is not dated. Another claw beaker with a single row of claws is known from grave 413 of the cemetery of Rheims.41 This is also a rich grave of a woman; the silver bracelet with thickened extremities dates to Rheineland phase 3 (42(5)30) and the two golden gilded brooches dates to Rheineland phase 6-8 (170-640); the claw beaker might date at least as late as 640.

The Obbicht beaker clearly has features which are characteristic for the later examples of claw beakers, and maybe the single row of claws is also a late feature; during the Obbicht beaker to the late sixth and beginning of the seventh century seems a plausible option, also in view of the other finds from grave 20 on the basis of which it is dated to phase O-OM II (425-460).
Glass vessel: cone beaker

Beckers and Beckers refer to a beaker with a conical wall and a dark brown outer surface from grave 31. It was found upside down in a biconical pot, near the presumed former location of the feet. When it was found the rim was missing and the foot was described as rather asymmetrical. This description might refer to the bottom fragment of a glass beaker as it is identified as a specimen of the Merovingian period. Koch refers to cone beakers with glass trial loops and broad zones of horizontal traits underneath the rim as the conical beakers of the type Kempston, after Evison. The Obbicht beaker has a rim fragment that fits the description of conical beakers, which, according to Koch, can date from the first half of the fifth century to the beginning of the seventh century. Siegmund offers parameters that distinguish Roman from Frankish beakers. Some of the finds from this grave are an arrow head and a biconical pot, which dates it to OCM IIIa (565-610-620). The bottom fragment of Obbicht is identified as a specimen of the type T.51.2fh, which, according to Koch, can date from the first half of the fifth century to the beginning of the seventh century. Siegmund dates the general group of bell beakers to their phases 4-7 (530-610).

From grave 22 a bottom fragment and some wall and a rim fragment of a small yellow-brown glass vessel, probably an incised bell beaker, are known (fig. 4.47). The rim is complete; it is a sagging bottom, rounded, without bulge or point. The transition from bottom to wall is pronounced; the bottom has a height of 5.0 cm. The diameter of the bottom is 4.5 cm. The wall above the pronounced transition seems to be vertical, but this cannot be concluded with certainty since the majority of the beaker is gone. The rim fragment shows that it was probably a beaker without decoration and that it had a simple vertical thickened rim. Air bubbles are also visible, which indicates that it was not of the best quality. On the basis of the observed features the vessel can be classified as a bell beaker with rounded bottom without decoration. The general vertical wall shape of a bell beaker is characterized. The transition from short, squat specimen with 5-shaped bodies to canted walls and finally cylindrical bodies.

The wall shape of the Obbicht specimen cannot be reconstructed. However, three different bottom shapes have been identified for such beakers, each with a distribution pattern of its own. Koch provided a general overview of bell beakers with rounded or sagging bottoms. It clearly shows that the predominant occurrence of this bottom type is in the cemeteries along the river Rhine and adjacent areas. However, the type T.51.2fh has an additional horizontal trait applied below the rim and type T.51.2h has spiral trails below the rim. This latter type is referred to a type ‘Kemptston’. The single known find context of an example of type T.51.2h is dated to the end of the fourth century. The single beaker without decoration from grave 31 may be an example of an example of type T.51.2h. T.51.2h is dated to end of the fifth century. Cone beakers with vertical loops are also known from graves 36, 37, 38, and 39. Glass vessels from Anglo-Saxon England are executed in various shades of light green, but the earliest examples are said to be shorter and broader and brown, olive green or nearly colourless. The Obbicht specimen is brown, which might indicate that it is an early specimen. According to the typology of Evison the exposition of the catalogue of the grave beakers dates to the fifth and beginning of the sixth century in this area.

The bottom of the glass cone beaker from Obbicht grave 31 is dated to 540-610/20 on the basis of all the discussed typo-chronologies. The other finds from this grave are an arrow head and a biconical pot, which dates it to OCM IIIa (565-610-620).

Glass vessels: bell beakers

From grave 32 a bottom fragment and some wall and a rim fragment of a small yellow-brown glass vessel, probably an incised bell beaker, are known (fig. 4.47). The rim is complete; it is a sagging bottom, rounded, without bulge or point. The transition from bottom to wall is pronounced; the bottom has a height of 5.0 cm. The diameter of the bottom is 5.5 cm. The wall above the pronounced transition seems to be vertical, but this cannot be concluded with certainty since the majority of the beaker is gone. The rim fragment shows that it was probably a beaker without decoration and that it had a simple vertical thickened rim. Air bubbles are also visible, which indicates that it was not of the best quality. On the basis of the observed features the vessel can be classified as a bell beaker with rounded bottom without decoration. The general vertical wall shape of a bell beaker is characterized. The transition from short, squat specimen with 5-shaped bodies to canted walls and finally cylindrical bodies.

The wall shape of the Obbicht specimen cannot be reconstructed. However, three different bottom shapes have been identified for such beakers, each with a distribution pattern of its own. Koch provided a general overview of bell beakers with rounded or sagging bottoms. It clearly shows that the predominant occurrence of this bottom type is in the cemeteries along the river Rhine and adjacent areas. However, the type T.51.2fh has an additional horizontal trait applied below the rim and type T.51.2h has spiral trails below the rim. This latter type is referred to a type ‘Kemptston’. The single known find context of an example of type T.51.2h is dated to the end of the fourth century. The single beaker without decoration from grave 31 may be an example of an example of type T.51.2h. T.51.2h is dated to end of the fifth century. Cone beakers with vertical loops are also known from graves 36, 37, 38, and 39. Glass vessels from Anglo-Saxon England are executed in various shades of light green, but the earliest examples are said to be shorter and broader and brown, olive green or nearly colourless. The Obbicht specimen is brown, which might indicate that it is an early specimen. According to the typology of Evison the exposition of the catalogue of the grave beakers dates to the fifth and beginning of the sixth century in this area.

The bottom of the glass cone beaker from Obbicht grave 31 is dated to 540-610/20 on the basis of all the discussed typo-chronologies. The other finds from this grave are an arrow head and a biconical pot, which dates it to OCM IIIa (565-610-620).

Glass vessels: glass beakers

Legoux, Pépin and Vallot identified three types of bell beakers (gobelets campaniforme) on the basis of wall and bottom shapes (they do not define the peak or drop at the bottom more precise-ly than as bouton). The Obbicht beaker with rounded bottom can be present in Archaeological Museum from Vosges. The bell beaker from Obbicht can thus be dated to the second half of the sixth and beginning of the seventh century.

Beckers and Beckers mention that a small yellow-brown bell beaker (37-10-1), with a rounded bottom and thickened rim, was found in grave 37 next to the biconical pot (close to the eastern wall, in the middle of the grave), with a height of 6.0 cm. It is pre-sent in fragmented condition. It is in fact an olive green bell beaker with faint diagonal ribs. The other finds from this grave are back-les and knives, a bead and a biconical pot.

The rounded bottom (although no longer present) dates according to the descriptions above to the second half of the sixth and the beginning of the seventh century. The diagonal ribs are clas-sified by Fevey as type T.5.3.4. Four specimens with this type of decoration are present in his research area, of which one is dated on the basis of its grave inventory to the second half of the sixth century. This is the specimen from grave 3 in Contrexeville in the Vosges. The bell beaker from Obbicht is dated to second half of the sixth century, and beginning of the seventh.

Palm cup: low and broad with rounded inward rolled hollow rim (32-10-1)

The olive green palm cup (32-1-1) from grave 32 with clearly visi-ble air bubbles has a rounded bottom and thick rim (fig. 4.47). The rim is with its height of 0.5 cm rather modest. It is an inward rolled rim, which shows a tubular cavity inside it. The transition from wall to rim is quite distinct, both at the outside and inside of the cup. The height of the beaker is 6.3 cm and the diameter of the mouth is 10.9 to 11.1 cm. The glass was broken, but is now restored.

The typology of Maul indicates that it is a palm cup of her type B1a. Siegmund identified four types of bell beakers on the basis of relative belly diameters, which has to avoid the subjectivity of wall and body diameters. The other finds from this grave are an extended set of weapons, namely a sword, shield boss, lance head, axe and an extended set of ves-sels (type 450). The bowl has an average height of c. 7.7 cm; it is asym-metric, which is in all probability a result of the bad condition in which it was found. The mouth diameter of the bowl is 2.5 cm. Beckers and Beckers mention that the bowl was found in the east-western corner of the grave, which is clearly an incorrect no-tation. The bowl is similar to glass beakers from the south-eastern corner (near the feet) seem the most probable options since vessels are generally found in the section associated with the feet or lower body. On the grave drawing the location of the bowl is indicated in the south-eastern corner of the grave. It was mentioned that the two handles were found detached from the bowl. The excavators noticed that the copper alloy sheet metal was very thin and that it seemed to have been covered with wood. These wood fragments can be remnants of a wooden bowl placed inside the copper alloy bowl. The oth-er finds from this grave are an extended set of weapons, namely a sword, shield boss, lance head, axe and an extended set of ves-sels (458). The bowl was in the Archaeological Museum Stein stored as a find from Obbicht grave 36. The catalogue of Beckers and Beckers does not refer to such a find from grave 36, but refers to a ‘glass vessel’ from grave 46. Since a second copper alloy bowl is not present in the collection and there are no indications that it ever was, the bowl is now assigned to grave 20.
Beckers and Beckers refer to a bucket from grave 36. Grave 36 is the richest grave of a woman in the cemetery in view of the diver- sity of objects and the presence of objects made of precious met- als. The bucket was found as a heap of numerous iron fragments, close to the northern wall, in grave 5. Unfortunately, the knife is no longer present and dimensions were not recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers. The other finds from this grave were a sword, seax, fire steel, knife, and the already mentioned belt fittings. Siegmund classifies foldable knives as type Geri-1.1, which dates to Rhineland phases 9-11 (640-740). The Franken AG main- tained this type and date it to their phases 8-10 (600-700). This date range, however, is not in accordance with the date ranges ac- cording to the other datable finds from this grave; the belt fittings are dated to 585-670 and the seax to 510-640/650. The recorded knife was identified as a fold- ed knife in the restoration laboratory. The exact dimensions and morphological charac- teristics can as a consequence not be established. The iron knife (46-1.1) from grave 4 is a biconical pot and an extended weapon set. Fragments of this knife might be present in a box in the restoration laboratory, which holds remnants of iron objects from this grave. The original knife will be difficult to re- construct. The other finds from this grave are a seax, sword, a lance head, and a second knife. A corroded and broken knife with mineralised textile (36-6-1) is present in the restoration laboratory. The original find number matches with grave 35, but it was not recorded as find from grave 35 in the initial catalogue. Fragments of an iron knife (37-1-1) were mentioned to be found close to the southern and eastern walls of grave 37; fragments of this knife may be present in the restoration laborato- ry. The tip of iron knife 37-1-1 from grave 37 is gone; the remain- ing length of the blade is 10.8 cm, the width of the blade is 2.7 cm, and the remaining length of the iron hilt core with wood remains is 16.3 cm; it was thus a relatively large knife. It was found in associa- tion with a lance head, close to the long southern wall of the grave. Beckers and Beckers mention the find of an iron knife or seax (40-6-1), found underneath the sword, along the northern long- est wall of grave 40. Since a seax is already known from this grave, the available knife with original find number VIB 129 is identified as the recorded knife/seax with a length of 20 cm. The available knife, however, has a total remaining length of 11.1 cm, which is not even close to the length of 20 cm. The blade has a length of 9.6 cm and a width of 1.0 cm. It is for this reason a mistake in the catalogue and the knife is for now assigned to grave 40 since other knives matching with this grave are not present. Iron knife 45-2-1 has a blade length of 11.1 cm and a width of 2.7 cm. Organic remains (probably leather) are preserved around the blade and wood remains preserved around the iron hilt core, which has a length of 7.5 cm. Its exact morphological characteristics can as a consequence not be established.
Beckers and Beckers mention an iron knife (46-4-1) in grave 46. It was described as a knife with a length of 1.2 cm and was found in association with a seaax (found 110.0 cm from the western wall) and 70.0 cm from the southern wall, plate buckle and back plate. Remnants of this object might be present in a box in the restoration laboratory holding remnants of this grave.

Iron knife 50-1-1 was found close to the northern wall and 70.0 cm from the western wall of grave 50. It was recorded as a knife with a length of 16.0 cm and a blade width of 3.0 cm. Corroded fragments of a knife with an original find number matching the find numbers ascribed to grave 50 are available in the restoration laboratory.

A fragment of a knife is known from grave 51B. It was not recorded as find but the fragment is assigned to this grave on the basis of its original find number, and to 51B since the iron fragments recorded as finds associated with upper burial 51A are present.

An iron seaax/knife was recorded as find from grave 56. It was broken, found at the fatty black spot (shadow of the body) in the middle of grave, together with a badly fractured iron copper alloy plate (length 6.0 cm, width 4.0 cm). In the restoration laboratory some fragments of what seems to be a knife are present and some indeterminable fragments among which fragments which resemble a copper alloy nail. The original length of the knife cannot be established.

The fragments of an iron knife (62-6-1) were found scattered throughout grave 62. In the restoration atelier some fragments with corresponding find numbers are stored. These might be of the knife recorded in the catalogue.

It is generally acknowledged that knives were used over an extended period and are difficult to date. The only exceptions are knives with clear angled backs, Hackmesser (cleaver/kitchen knives) and Klappmesser (folded knives). Legoux, Pépin and Vallet consider knives with curved backs and straight cutting edges as knives (folded knives).

An irons knife/knife with a length of 17.0 cm and width of 2.5 cm from the western wall of grave 57 was recorded as finds associated with upper burial 51A are present. An iron seaax/knife was recorded as find but the fragment is assigned to this grave on the basis of its original find number and to 51B since the iron fragments recorded as finds associated with upper burial 51A are present.

51 (51-7-1): 3 (3-7-1)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Decorative plates: copper alloy</th>
<th>36 (36-1-1): 36-1</th>
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The kidney shaped copper alloy plate (36-1-1) from grave 36 has a length of 3.0 cm and a width of 1.8 cm (fig. 4.73). The middle of the broad base of the plate shows a rectangular cut out space, and three small holes indicate the former presence of small rivets. The plate might be the back plate of a small composite kidney shaped plate buckle, of which examples are known from the fifth and early sixth centuries. It was found in association with a thin copper alloy rod, a simple ring, a belt fitting and another decorative mount, close to the long northern wall and approximately 100 cm from the short western wall. It was thus found to the left of the presumed former location of the waist. They were probably artifacts or contents of a purse, fixed to the waist belt. The plate may have been an antique (found by accident or kept for some generations) and cherished as a special object in the purse.

Copper alloy plate 36-1-1 from grave 36 has a length of 3.0 cm and a width of 2.7 cm. Parts of the plate are gone, but it is clear that it had a base with rounded outline which expands into three ‘arms’ (fig. 4.73). At the base of the plate and the middle ‘arm’ holes are present. The might have held rivets, which are now gone, attaching the plate to the garment, purse or belt or straps. Another option is that chains of a chal teasing went through them. Nearly the entire surface of the plate is covered with stamped in dots and semi-circles with silver (niello). The plate was found in association with grave 36-1-1 and the other objects mentioned. This object can be identified as a decorative plate of a chal teasing. Siemund identified chal teasing as a type, but did not discuss the decorative elements of these girdle hangers separately. He dates chal teasing (Ghg6) to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640). The Franken MG maintains this type and neither discuss the variety of decorative elements. They date these girdle hangers to their phases 6-8 (860/40-670/80). Legoux, Pépin and Vallet identified four types of decor ative elements of chal teasing. None of these, however, resemble the Obbicht specimen. The four types of Legoux, Pépin and Vallet and the other phase predominate on their phase MR3 (600-650/40), yet can occur sporadically in the phases before (660/70-600/10) and thereafter (690-460-660/70). It seems plausible to date the Obbicht specimen to the first half of the seventh century.

Simple iron ring 35-3-1 from grave 35 has a length of 3.0 cm and width of 2.7 cm. The middle of the broad base of the plate is an oval. The middle of the broad base of the plate shows a rectangular cut out space, and three small holes indicate the former presence of small rivets. The plate might be the back plate of a small composite kidney shaped plate buckle, of which examples are known from the fifth and early sixth centuries. It was found in association with a thin copper alloy rod, a simple ring, a belt fitting and another decorative mount, close to the long northern wall and approximately 100 cm from the short western wall. It was thus found to the left of the presumed former location of the waist. They were probably artifacts or contents of a purse, fixed to the waist belt. The plate may have been an antique (found by accident or kept for some generations) and cherished as a special object in the purse.

Copper alloy plate 36-1-1 from grave 36 has a length of 3.0 cm and a width of 2.7 cm. Parts of the plate are gone, but it is clear that it had a base with rounded outline which expands into three arms (fig. 4.73). At the base of the plate and the middle ‘arm’ holes are present. The might have held rivets, which are now gone, attaching the plate to the garment, purse or belt or straps. Another option is that chains of a chal teasing went through them. Nearly the entire surface of the plate is covered with stamped in dots and semi-circles with silver (niello). The plate was found in association with grave 36-1-1 and the other objects mentioned. This object can be identified as a decorative plate of a chal teasing. Siemund identified chal teasing as a type, but did not discuss the decorative elements of these girdle hangers separately. He dates chal teasing (Ghg6) to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640). He identifies the small iron rings, similar to the ones from Obbicht, as girdle hangers but does not date them to a specific phase, and neither do the Franken MG, Legoux, Pépin, and Vallet classify simple iron rings as girdle hangers (type 357) and date them to their phases MA2-MR3 (530-600/10).

Simple iron ring 35-3-1 from grave 35 has an outer diameter of 2.1 cm and an inner cm of 1.5 cm. Mineralised textile remains are preserved on the ring. The small simple ring was found in the middle of the northern wall, close to the short western wall, and was thus probably used as a purse fastener or belt appendage. Siemund dates large simple iron rings, which he identifies as bracelets, to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640). He identifies the small iron rings, similar to the ones from Obbicht, as girdle hangers but does not date them to a specific phase, and neither do the Franken MG, Legoux, Pépin, and Vallet classify simple iron rings as girdle hangers (type 357) and date them to their phases MA2-MR3 (530-600/10).

Simple ring: copper alloy 36 (36-1-2)
A thin copper alloy rod, 36-4-1, was found close to the northern wall, approximately 100 cm from the short western wall, in association with the simple copper alloy ring, the decorative plates and a number of few iron fragments, found in association with the beads. They are no longer present in the collection, but the molars and teeth which are present might be wrongly assigned to grave 4. Human cremation remains (23 grams) and some finds were deposited together in a large vessel identified as grave context 39. The remains are human and represent at least one individual. They were burnt at a temperature higher than 800°C. The fragments are relatively small, fifteen grams of the available fragments are smaller than 1 cm. Various parts of the skeleton are present: 4 grams of the skull, 1 gram of the ribs, 2 grams of the fibula, and 1 gram of the epiphysis of the distal humerus. The cremated remains are of an individual of c. 14 years, which is established on the basis of the epiphyseal closure of the distal humerus. The biological sex of the individual could not be determined on the basis of the available remains and pathological bone anomalies were absent. Animal remains were not present among the cremation remains.

The severely deteriorated inhumated remains from grave 40 are on closer inspection some skull fragments and a part of the mandible. The biological sex indicators are ambiguous: the mandibular process is low, the molar crown and the corpus of the mandible is low, the chin is more feminine than masculine, but the jaw is relatively thick and robust. The incompleteness of the remains hinders to unambiguous biological sex identification (fifteen parameters are normally used for this determination on the basis of a complete skull). In view of its overall robust appearance it might be a man. The estimated age at death is based on the attribution of one molar (nt. 47). This attribution is slight and points to an age at death of 17 to 25 years according to the classification of Brothwell. The element next to this molar, nt. 46, was lost due to cleaning to tooth decay. This was identified on the basis of a cavity caused by a periapical abscess. The identified degree of attrition of nt. 47 might therefore not be indicative for the age at death since chewing with this side of the jaw was probably painful and avoided as much as possible; the other jaw side might thus have been used more and might have showed more attrition. The conclusion with regard to the age at death between 17 to 25 years is therefore only an indication.

Simple ring: missing
20 (20-10-1)

A round iron fragment was found in the middle of the grave 48 close to the eastern wall, it is no longer present in the collection. Some indeterminate copper alloy fragments were found dispersed throughout grave 62.

Wood remains
58 (58-1-58-0-1)

A large wood fragment was found in the middle of grave 38, and other smaller wood fragments (58-2-1) were found dispersed throughout the grave. A large wood fragment is stored in the restoration laboratory, smaller fragments will probably also be present in the box. Their former function is not clear.

Oil lamp
39 (39-5-1)

An oil lamp was found in cremation grave 39. Only fragments are now available; it is not certain whether they belonged to an oil lamp and whether the object it was correctly identified as an oil lamp by Beckers and Beckers.

Human remains

4 (4-11-1); 7 (7-8-1); 33 (39-0-1); 49 (49-5-1); 63 (63-2-1)

Two molars and fragments of two teeth have find numbers matching with grave 4; these are however not recorded as finds from this grave in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers.

Four or five teeth of a young child (36-2-1) were recorded as finds from grave 36. They were found in the western section of the grave, in association with the beads. They are no longer present in the collection, but the molars and teeth which are present might be wrongly assigned to grave 4.

A fragment of an iron nail was found in grave 23. An iron nail (4-11-1) was recorded as finds from grave 35; they were found in the middle of the grave close to the western wall, thus close to the presumed location of the head. Various iron fragments, corroded and indeterminate, are present. Numerous iron fragments (27-1-1) were found scattered throughout grave 27; they are available in corroded condition. Two indeterminate iron fragments (37-1-1) were recorded as finds from grave 35; they were found in the middle of the grave close to the western wall, thus close to the presumed location of the head. Various iron fragments, corroded and indeterminate, are present. Their original find numbers (NIB-1) match with grave 35; it cannot be established what they actually were.

A ceramic spindle whorl is assigned to grave 45 on the basis of its original find number which matches best with this grave. A spindle whorl was however not recorded as find from this grave in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers; it remains uncertain whether it actually belonged to this grave.

Spindle whorls are typical finds from graves of women, and were often carried in purses (attached to the belt), or attached to the belt with additional straps. This is not in accordance with the find location of the spindle whorl from grave 1. However, the grave was partly disturbed, and the spindle whorl might have moved from its original location. Legous, Périn and Vallet classify spindle whorls of baked clay as type 347 and date them to their phases MA1–MR1.

A number of iron nails were found dispersed throughout grave 8. One nail is present in the collection, without find number; it is not stored yet.

Numerous indeterminate iron fragments (4-1-1) were found scattered throughout grave 4. Various fragments, in corroded condition, are present, among which one corner mount.

Numerous iron fragments, indeterminate, are known from grave 5. A number of few iron fragments, found in association with the arrow heads close to the southern wall of the grave, were recorded as finds in the initial catalogue. They are missing or might be present among the fragments of the cemetery which are not stored yet.

Footnotes:
[479] Legous/Périn/Vallet 2010, 49, 54, 59 (type 347).
[480] Siegmund 1998, 47.
[481] Munnemann et al. 2013, 43. (482) Analysis and contribution by Dr. Liesbeth Smits of the University of Amsterdam. (483) No longer present in the collection.
Grave 25 is a horse burial. A nearly complete horse skeleton was found in association with a sword and seax and a set of associated belt and strap fittings. The belt fittings from grave 8 are known from grave 8. They are part of the larger set of the waist belt; the rivets seem to have rims with copper alloy inlays; the leather remains of the belt. The rivets of the belt buckle were found in association with a back plate, close to the handle of the sword, and the eastern wall of the grave. The rectangular back plate (8-5-2) has three large domed copper alloy rivets and remnants of a fourth; one of the rivet pins is visible at the back of the plate which is completely covered with leather remnants of the belt. The rivets seem to have rims with copper alloy inlays, although this is quite difficult to establish with certainty since they are rather damaged. The rivets on the belt buckle probably had similar rims. The plate has a length of 5.7 cm and a width of 4.6 cm; the length of the plate is in accordance with a belt width matching the plate buckle, they belonged to the same belt. Some iron fragments (8-3-5; 8-4-3) with traces of copper alloy inlays are recorded as finds from this grave in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers; these might be traces of rivet rings. These fragments are not available anymore. Large iron plate buckles are classified as type Siegmund 45, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).

Four additional and smaller copper alloy strap fittings are also known from grave 8. They are part of the larger set of the waist belt with straps which attached the sword (scabbard) and seax (scabbard) to the waist belt; each of these four fittings is thus either associated with the seax or sword straps.

**Table 4.12**

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**Belt fittings**

The belt fittings from grave 8 (8-3-5; 8-4-3) with traces of copper alloy inlays are recorded as finds from this grave in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers; these might be traces of rivet rings. These fragments are not available anymore. Large iron plate buckles are classified as type Siegmund 45, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).

**Finds from the cemetery of Stein-Groote Bongerd**

Grave 8 is a richly furnished grave of a man with, among other finds, a sword and seax and a set of associated belt and strap fittings (fig. 4.99). A large iron plate buckle and matching back plate form the waist belt fittings from this grave. The iron plate buckle (8-5-1) has a triangular plate with an undulating outline and is attached to the buckle loop with a wrapped and slotted construction. The remnant of one copper alloy rivet, of originally three is present at the base of the plate. A second rivet will have been present at the other end of the plate base, and a third one in all probability at the protruding extremity of the plate; a small iron fragment is present at this extremity but it is not clear what it is. The two bulges at the basis of the plate represent the location of two rivets. The plate has a length of 9.8 cm and the maximum width of the plate is 5.8 cm. The buckle loop is D-shaped and the inner length of the loop is 4.3 cm. The belt to which the fitting was attached had a width of c. 5.8 cm and was narrower towards its extremity if it went through the loop. Leather remains of the belt were found at the back of the plate. The plate buckle was found in association with a back plate, close to the handle of the sword, and the eastern wall of the grave. The rectangular back plate (8-5-2) has three large domed copper alloy rivets and remnants of a fourth; one of the rivet pins is visible at the back of the plate which is completely covered with leather remnants of the belt. The rivets seem to have rims with copper alloy inlays, although this is quite difficult to establish with certainty since they are rather damaged. The rivets on the belt buckle probably had similar rims. The plate has a length of 5.7 cm and a width of 4.6 cm; the length of the plate is in accordance with a belt width matching the plate buckle, they belonged to the same belt. Some iron fragments (8-3-5; 8-4-3) with traces of copper alloy inlays are recorded as finds from this grave in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers; these might be traces of rivet rings. These fragments are not available anymore. Large iron plate buckles are classified as type Siegmund 45, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).

Four additional and smaller copper alloy strap fittings are also known from grave 8. They are part of the larger set of the waist belt with straps which attached the sword (scabbard) and seax (scabbard) to the waist belt; each of these four fittings is thus either associated with the seax or sword straps.
Copper alloy plate buckle 8-8-1.2 and copper alloy plate 8-3-1.3 were found associated with the sword. Only the shield tongue of the plate buckle was found attached to the sword; the loop of the buckle was partly gone and the plate became detached from the shield tongue and sword. The other copper alloy plate is still attached to the sword and the shield tongue of the plate buckle was also attached to blade; at the same height as the plate but at the other side of the sword blade. The plate buckle was restored and connected again to the shield tongue, which was for restoration purposes separated from the sword. The plate is complete; it has a length of 4.6 cm and a base width of 3.5 cm. It is a triangular shaped plate with an undulating outline with a rod shaped extension with ribs, ending in a protruding shield shaped extremity. One small copper alloy and slightly domed rivet is present at this extremity. The other two similar rivets are present at the triangular plate. The plate is hollow, and the pins of the three rivets can be observed at the back of the plate. The plate was attached to the loop with a hinged construction. A major part of the buckle loop was gone, but now completed. The reconstructed buckle loop has an outer length of 2.2 cm and an inner length of 1.6 cm, and is oval with a D-shaped section.

The associated copper alloy plate attached to the other side of the sword blade was restored but not taken from the sword blade. The plate has a length of 5.2 cm and a base width of 2.0 cm. The plate has a rectangular base with two copper alloy domes rivets. The rest of the plate is curved and ends in a straight extremity. One of these rivets cannot be observed on the plate, but it might have disappeared due to corrosion. Some leather remains can be observed underneath the rectangular base of the plate; these are leather remains of the strap to which it was attached or these are the remains of the scabbard.

The training pair of the plate seem to have been part of the same belt/strap with a width of approximately 1.5-2.0 cm. It was probably wrapped around the scabbard of the sword when deposited in the grave. It was recorded that the sword was found lying alongside the southern wall, in association with a lance head, a seax and some belt fittings other than the ones attached to the sword. These belt fittings seem to have been the fittings of the main waist belt (described above). The ensemble was deposited to the right of the southern wall, in association with a lance head, a seax and with a length of 3.9 cm; it is thus more elongated and narrower than plate buckle 8-8-1. The plate is attached to the remnants of a buckle loop with shield tongue with a hinged construction; the dimensions of the buckle loop could not be established. Mineralised textile/leather was preserved on its back and remnants of copper alloy sheet metal around pins of rivets can be observed at the back of the plate. The plate buckle can thus also be classified as a variant of Siegmund types Gür3.1 and 3.4 and dated accordingly to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).

One of the two iron strap ends from grave 8 is tongue shaped (8-8-2) with a split base and two small copper alloy rivets going through the split. It has a length of 3.0 cm and a width of 1.8 cm. The second is a tongue shaped copper alloy strap end (8-8-2) with two small copper alloy rivets going through the base, which is not split. The extremity of the strap end is gone; it was not much longer than the remaining part. Two additional copper alloy fragments are associated with this strap end. The remaining length of the strap end is 4.4 cm. Legoese, Périn and Vallot classify strap ends as type 1399, which dates to their phases MA1-MR1 (470-80-610). On a whole, the set of belt fittings associated with the sword and sword can be dated to 610-640. The other finds from this grave, a palm cup and a shield boss match with this date range, and the grave is thus dated accordingly.

**Plate buckles:** iron, broad triangular plate, five rivets, without decoration

7 (7-2-1)

An iron counter plate or plate of plate buckle of which the base is partly gone is known from grave 7 (fig. 100). Four (of originally five) small domed iron rivets are present; they seem to be iron, but can also be copper alloy. The plate is rather thin and has a length of 7.0 cm and a width of 3.4 cm. The pin of one rivet is visible at the back of the plate. It is classified as Siegmund's type Gür5.4, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).

**Plate buckles:** iron
5 (5-13-11-7-7)

Beckers and Beckers mention that and iron buckle (5-13-11-7-7) was found close to the western wall of grave 14, and that underneath, attached to the buckle, the remnants of two copper alloy rivets (13-11-7-7) were found. A large corroded iron ring or buckle loop is present, together with two small plates with nails. The plate buckle can thus be identified as such. The plate buckle (64-1-1.1) is described as a heart shaped plate with three copper alloy slotted plates (64-1-1.4) are present; they have rectangular openings and rivets at each corner and one in the middle of the plate, with a length of 6.0 cm and a width of 3.0 cm; it was also found in the proximity of the plate buckle and thus the counter plate. Five restored slotted plates (64-1-1.3) are present; they have rectangular openings and rivets at each corner (fig. 4.101). Two engraved thin lines are applied along the edges of the five plates. One has a length of 2.9 cm and a width of 2.7 cm. Three other plates are incomplete but seem to have been of similar dimensions. One is considerably smaller with a length and width of 2.4 cm. Iron plate buckles, with or without inlays, with a minimum of two additional fittings can be classified as Siegmund's types Gür2.4/2.5/2.6/2.7/2.8 and dated to the end of the 7th century. One fine thin copper alloy plate, but with engraved geometric decoration, are for example known from the Pandhof cemetery in Maastricht; they are here associated with an extended belt set consisting of hollow copper alloy fittings classified as Siegmund’s type Gür3, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).

This is in accordance with the date range proposed for the iron belt fittings from grave 64.

**Belt fittings:** iron plates
6 (6-1-11; 6-12; 6-14; 6-14.4)

Beckers and Beckers mention the find of an iron plate buckle, counter plate, back plate and slotted plates; they form an extended set of waist belt fittings from grave 64. All those fittings only the plate buckle seems to be present, although in corroded condition, in restoration laboratory Restaura. The slotted plates are restored. A number of small iron fragments present in the laboratory might have been parts of the other fittings, but are difficult to identify as such. The plate buckle (64-1-1.1) is described as an iron plate buckle with a heart shaped plate with three copper alloy rivets. The extremity of the iron tongue was mentioned to be curved and bent over the loop. The length of the plate buckle is 13 cm and the width of the base of the plate is 6 cm. This cannot be verified on the basis of the corroded fitting; a lot of it is gone. The other fittings from this grave are described in the catalogue as a heart shaped counter plate (64-1-1.2) with five copper alloy rivets and a length of 11.0 cm and a base width of 6 cm, found in the proximity of the plate buckle. The back plate is described as a rectangular back plate with five rivets (64-1-1.3), four in each corner and one in the middle of the plate, with a length of 6.0 cm and a width of 5.0 cm; it was also found in the proximity of the plate buckle and thus the counter plate. Five restored slotted plates (64-1-1.4) are present; they have rectangular openings and rivets at each corner (fig. 4.101). Two engraved thin lines are applied along the edges of the five plates. One has a length of 2.9 cm and a width of 2.7 cm. Three other plates are incomplete but seem to have been of similar dimensions. One is considerably smaller with a length and width of 2.4 cm. Iron plate buckles, with or without inlays, with a minimum of two additional fittings can be classified as Siegmund's types Gür2.4/2.5/2.6/2.7/2.8 and dated to the end of the 7th century. One fine thin copper alloy plate, but with engraved geometric decoration, are for example known from the Pandhof cemetery in Maastricht; they are here associated with an extended belt set consisting of hollow copper alloy fittings classified as Siegmund’s type Gür3, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).

The square iron plate 18-8-1-18-6 is known from grave 18 is severely corroded; it was not cleaned or restored. It might have been a back plate of a waist belt, but this is now difficult to determine. An iron back plate was recorded as a find from this grave; it was found close to the western wall, in the middle of the grave, which is in accordance with the former location of a waist belt. An iron buckle (18-8-1-1) is also known from this grave; it might be a fitting of the waist belt. The buckle was found close to the square plate. The belt fittings are classified and dated on the basis of the back plate since this is the most obvious element of the identified belt fittings; it is classified as type Siegmund Gür10 (square back plate), which dates to Rhineland phases 8-9 (615-670). Siegmund mentions that square...
back plates are generally part of ensembles of belt fittings decorat- ed with inlays forming animal style patterns and sporadically geo- metric patterns.\textsuperscript{109} The X-ray photograph of the back plate shows that it was without decoration.

Plate buckle: iron, triangular plate, three rivets, without decoration

\begin{figure}[h!]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{fig4.93}
\caption{Iron Bülach style belt fittings, grave 49 (scale 1:1).}
\end{figure}

Iron plate buckle 66-1-1 from grave 66 was restored, but is severe- ly weathered; its current condition is presumably smaller and dif- ferent from its original state (fig. 4.102). The remaining length of the triangular plate is 5.3 cm and the width of the base of the plate is c. 2.5 cm. Remnants of three possibly copper alloy rivets can be observed on the plate. The plate is probably attached to the buck- le loop with a wrapped and slotted construction. The buckle con- sists of an oval loop with shield tongue. The outer length of the buckle is c. 3.3 cm and the inner length c. 1.8 cm. The plate buckle was attached to a belt with a width of c. 2.5 cm, and was narrower towards its extremity which went through buckle loop. The plate buckle was found along the long northern wall, in the middle of the grave, and was thus deposited to the left of the waist: it might have been the fitting of the waist belt. The other finds from this grave are a biconical pot and an iron nail. Large iron plate buckles are classified as type Siegmund Gür1.5, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).\textsuperscript{109}

Plate buckle: iron, round plate, three rivets, without decoration

A plate buckle with a round plate and three copper alloy rivets with craved rims, and mineralised textile and/or leather remains preserved on its back has a find number on the basis of which it could thus be established that a plate buckle and counter plate of the Bülach style.

A considerable fragment of the middle field of the plate buckle or counter plate is present; the decoration on the middle field consists of intertwining bands filled with silver dots. The middle field is framed by two zones of vertical silver stripes separated by a zone with a horizontal undulating stripe. The braided bands do not seem to end in animal heads, which can be a feature on Bülach belt fittings.\textsuperscript{110} Since a large fragment on which the two zones of verti- cal stripes separated by the zone with horizontal undulating stripe is present, and it is too large to fit with the preserved middle field, it could thus be established that a plate buckle and counter plate were present. Whether the fragment with the preserved middle field with braided bands belonged to the plate buckle or counter plate cannot be established. The other fragments with decoration show swallow’s tail extremities which is a characteristic of the plate buckles of the so called ‘Bülach’ type.\textsuperscript{111} In Bülach most of the belts (eight out of twelve) show a monochrome (silver) incrus- tation.\textsuperscript{112} The identical shading on the X-ray photograph indicates that the decoration on the Stein plates is also monochrome, but this will become clear after their restoration. From the Vrijthof cemetery a Bülach plate buckle with silver and copper alloy inlays is known.\textsuperscript{113} The decoration pattern on the Stein fittings is similar to that on the plate buckle and counter plate found on a field in Macharen in the province of North-Brabant, which is also mono- chrome.\textsuperscript{114}

The name ‘Bülach’, ascribed to this kind of plate buckles, refers to the find concentration of such plate buckles in the Swiss ceme- tery of Bülach. Werner suggests that because the plate buckles of this type have that many similarities it can be assumed that they were made in the same workshop.\textsuperscript{115} However, Werner states that the definition of these plate buckles as type ‘Bülach’ does not mean that Bülach should be considered to be the place of production of these plate buckles but merely that it refers to the high concentra- tion of finds in this cemetery.\textsuperscript{116} The specimen from the Vrijthof cemetery again shows that this type appears in graves far away from the Swiss region. A plate buckle of the ‘Bülach’ type with bichrome inlay is for example known from grave 1975/79 of the cemetery of Lent.\textsuperscript{117} Van Es and Hulst offer a list of ten cemeter- ies in the Frankish area where belt fittings of this type with mon- ochrome inlays were found.\textsuperscript{118} A new inventory of such belt fittings will probably show a large number of them distributed over a large part of northern Gaul.\textsuperscript{119}

The belt fittings from Stein grave 49 were not identified as such during excavation, but it was recorded that a triangular shaped iron object with a length of 12.0 cm, a maximum width of 4.5 cm and a minimum width of 3.1 cm was found in the middle of the grave, not far from the southern wall, and a iron pear shaped ob- ject (no dimensions given), also found in the middle of the grave, but a little bit more to the north than the triangular fragment; these might have been the plate buckle and counter plate. A new X-ray photograph of this grave, which is not an uncommon combi- nation with Bülach belt fittings. Bülach belts can be classified as a variant of Siegmund’s type Gür2.6, which dates to Rhineland phase 8 (610-640).\textsuperscript{120} The Franken AG maintained this type and date it in phase 7 (605-620-640)\textsuperscript{121}. Knaut dates the plate buckles of the Bülach type with bands and dots in the second quar- ter or second third of the seventh century.\textsuperscript{122} Walter dates trip- arite monochrome swallow tucked belt fittings with braided deco- ration to phases 5 and 6 of the Mengen cemetery (605-640/640- 670).\textsuperscript{123} Plumier-Tofts, who studied silver and copper alloy inlaid belt and shoe fittings from Belgium, dates the belt fittings with this decoration to the first half of the seventh century.\textsuperscript{124}

Counter plate: iron, silver (and copper alloy) inlays

\begin{figure}[h!]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{fig4.104}
\caption{Iron counter plate with silver (and copper alloy) inlays, the back and decorating iron is a recent clamp of the wooden boxes, grave 49 (scale 1:1).}
\end{figure}

Numerous small iron fragments were stored in a box; they are not restored yet, but the X-ray photo shows that they are detached belt fitting fragments with silver inlays (fig. 4.103). The decoration pattern enables the fragments to be identified as a plate buckle and counter plate of the Bülach style.

Belt fittings: Bülach style, iron with geometric silver inlays

An iron plate buckle, severely damaged, with a triangular plate with protruding extremity and a vertical hand shaped elevation on which is either the front or back side of the plate has a find number matching with grave 8. Since numerous belt fittings are already as- signed to this grave, and a belt fitting similar to the one discussed is not recorded as find from this grave it remains uncertain wheth- er it originally belonged to it. The remnants of the tongue base can be observed, but the buckle loop is gone; it is difficult to classify and date this plate buckle.

Plate buckle: iron, round plate, three rivets, without decoration

A plate buckle with a round plate and three copper alloy rivets with craved rims, and mineralised textile and/or leather remains preserved on its back has a find number on the basis of which it should be assigned to grave 8; it is not certain whether it original- ly belonged to this grave since it is not recorded as find from this grave and another large plate buckle is already ascribed to it.

The identical shading on the X-ray photograph indicates that the decoration on the Stein plates is also monochrome, but this decoration with inlays forming animal style patterns and sporadically geo- metric patterns.\textsuperscript{109} The X-ray photograph of the back plate shows that it was without decoration. The X-ray photograph of the back plate shows that it was without decoration.

Iron counter plate with silver (and copper alloy) inlays, the back and decorating iron is a recent clamp of the wooden boxes, grave 49 (scale 1:1).\textsuperscript{125}

Also in all probability a counter plate but it might also be the plate of a plate buckle. The decoration consists of a regular animal style ornament which intersects the silver plating which covers nearly the entire plate. The ornament consists of intertwining bands ending in bird heads with relative- ly long beaks. The eyes of the bird heads are indicated with a silver dot. Additional silver and/or copper alloy threads might have been integrated in this ornament; this cannot be established on the basis of the X-ray photograph. Belt fittings with similar decorative ornaments are classified as Siegmund’s type Gür2.7, which dates to Rhineland phase 9 (640-670).\textsuperscript{126} The Franken AG maintained Siegmund’s type and date it to phase 8 (640/650-670/80).\textsuperscript{127}

Plate buckle: iron, silver (and copper alloy) inlays

An iron fragment was discovered in grave 23.1 of a woman (identi- fied on the basis of beads). The X-ray photograph revealed a deco- rated iron belt fitting (fig. 4.104).\textsuperscript{128} It is in all probability a counter plate but it might also be the plate of a plate buckle. The decoration consists of a regular animal style ornament which intersects the silver plating which covers nearly the entire plate. The ornament consists of intertwining bands ending in bird heads with relative- ly long beaks. The eyes of the bird heads are indicated with a silver dot. Additional silver and/or copper alloy threads might have been integrated in this ornament; this cannot be established on the basis of the X-ray photograph. Belt fittings with similar decorative ornaments are classified as Siegmund’s type Gür2.7, which dates to Rhineland phase 9 (640-670).\textsuperscript{126} The Franken AG maintained Siegmund’s type and date it to phase 8 (640/650-670/80).\textsuperscript{127}
that the plate is decorated with a (silver) plated middle field, which is intercepted by a degenerated animal style pattern probably with additional silver and/or copper alloy threads (fig. 4.105). It cannot be observed whether the buckle loop was decorated. The plate has a length of 4.8 cm and a base width of 2.5 cm. The plate buckle is classified as Siegmund’s type Gür4.8, which dates to Rhineland phase 9 (640-670).

The X-ray photograph shows that the middle field is silver plated and that this silver plating is bordered with two silver or copper alloy threads (the threads are dark on the X-ray photograph, which seems to indicate that they were copper alloy), following the edges of the plate (fig. 4.106). The base of the plate consists of a geometric pattern of lines and a semi-circular band filled with silver dots. A degenerated animal style ornament of braided ladder band ending in three bird heads with long beaks intersects the silver plated middle field of the plate. Some additional copper alloy and/or silver threads are integrated in the ornament, but these are difficult to distinguish. It is identified as the plate of a plate buckle on the basis of the semi-circular ornament on the base of the plate which may indicate the former location of the shield tongue base. A resembling but smaller plate is also present (6-6-1.2). The X-ray shows that it has an ornament comparable to the one on the large plate; it consists of braided band filled with a single thread and ends in two bird’s heads. Other iron fragments are also present, of which one shows two possible rivets; it is not clear whether more belt fittings were originally present. The larger and smaller plates indicate that a (multiple) belt set consisting of a plate buckle, counter plate and additional smaller (triangular?) plates might have been originally present in this grave. A buckle loop is also present in corroded condition (6-6-1.1); it has an outer length of c. 4.7 cm and might have been connected to the larger plate. Similar belt fittings were only visible during the restoration process of the complete set. The fittings were in a poor condition when they became available for Yepe’s restoration; the copper alloy elements were corroded and parts were gone.

The restored set consists of a copper alloy plate buckle with a D-shaped hollow plate and three domed copper alloy rivets. An oval loop with an oval section and a shield tongue is attached to the plate with a wrapped and slotted construction. The buckle loop and tongue are without decoration, but the front of the plate shows an engraved decoration and a pattern of open spaces. Two zones of cut out spaces can be observed: the outer zone consists of eight open spaces in a ring along the edge of the D-shaped plate. The inner zone consists of four drop shaped to diamond shaped open spaces forming a cross. The open spaces create an illusion of crossing bands (similar to the braided bands on iron graves). The braided band formed by a single silver thread and filled with a ladder band and a single silver thread or maybe some silver plating. The braided band is surrounded by a pattern of straight silver stripes. Two rivet holes can be observed in the short ends of the plate, and these were also present in the long ends. It belonged to an extended set of horse gear fittings. The second plate is not as complete; its remaining length is 1.7 cm. It is assumed to form a set with the larger plate since it has comparable (rivet) holes in its ends and it shows remnants of what seems to be a similar geometric pattern of inlays.

**Belt fittings, copper alloy, gilded: cut out spaces, engraved decoration, wooden plates with garnet inlays**

A set of belt fittings, consisting of a plate buckle, two rectangular back plates and two additional plates, was found in grave 41 (fig. 4.109). Some detached wood fragments and two corroded iron fragments are also identified as parts of this set. The belt fittings were found as an articulated ensemble near the hilt of the sword, in a greasy accumulation of decayed wood and leather, in the middle of the eastern half of the grave and nearly at the bottom of the grave. The decayed body left a dark soil discoloration in the middle of the grave; the set of belt fittings was found at the presumed former location of the waist.

The set was carefully restored by Yepe in 1971-1973, and was published in detail thereafter in 1979. The following description of the separate fittings will be partly based on this extended analysis since some specific details of the disbanded fittings were only visible during the restoration process of the complete belt fittings (fig. 4.109). The restored belt fittings are now fixed onto a display board and it was considered wise to leave them as such. The fittings were in a poor condition when they became available for Yepe’s restoration; the copper alloy elements were corroded and parts were gone.

The metal parts were placed in the eastern half of the grave and nearly at the bottom of the grave. A set of belt fittings, consisting of a plate buckle, two rectangular back plates and two additional plates, was found in grave 41 (fig. 4.109). Some detached wood fragments and two corroded iron fragments are also identified as parts of this set. The belt fittings were found as an articulated ensemble near the hilt of the sword, in a greasy accumulation of decayed wood and leather, in the middle of the eastern half of the grave and nearly at the bottom of the grave. The decayed body left a dark soil discoloration in the middle of the grave; the set of belt fittings was found at the presumed former location of the waist.

**Belt fittings, copper alloy, gilded: cut out spaces, engraved decoration, wooden plates with garnet inlays**

A set of belt fittings, consisting of a plate buckle, two rectangular back plates and two additional plates, was found in grave 41 (fig. 4.109). Some detached wood fragments and two corroded iron fragments are also identified as parts of this set. The belt fittings were found as an articulated ensemble near the hilt of the sword, in a greasy accumulation of decayed wood and leather, in the middle of the eastern half of the grave and nearly at the bottom of the grave. The decayed body left a dark soil discoloration in the middle of the grave; the set of belt fittings was found at the presumed former location of the waist.
belt fittings inlaid with silver). On these ‘bands’ an engraved geometric decoration was applied. The engravings might have covered the entire plate, but this cannot be established with certainty. Where the ‘bands’ around the inner zone of open spaces cross four engraved swastikas can be observed. The ‘bands’ themselves seem to have been decorated with engraved or stamped-in dot-in-circle ornaments and on the outer ‘band’ some engraved or stamped in diamond shapes with a fine raster can be observed; these ornaments might have covered the entire outer ‘band’.

In the publication on the restoration of the plates it is mentioned that the copper alloy plate buckle and one copper alloy back plate were attached to a substance consisting of rust and sand. Inside this substance textile remnants were discovered, or, more precisely, imprints of decayed textile. This substance could not be preserved. Ypey observed that the textile imprints were those of double twill cloth, but the actual consistency of the fibre could not be established. The rust covered a thin iron plate at the back of the plate buckle. It was observed that the pins of the copper alloy plate buckle rivets fixed this thin plate; the leather belt was thus fixed in between the copper alloy plate buckle and the thin iron plate. A thin plate of wood was discovered after the thin iron plate was removed. The plate of wood has the same shape and dimensions as the hollow plate of the plate buckle; it fits exactly underneath it. Ypey identified it as a plate of fine veneered wood, of for example a pear tree. The plate was 0.35-0.45 cm thick. Twelve sunken fields with a depth of 0.2 to 0.22 cm were created in the wooden plate and match with the locations of the cut-out spaces in the copper alloy plate. The sunken fields are somewhat larger than the open spaces in the copper alloy plate and are trapezium or triangular to drop shaped. In four of these twelve sunken fields garnet stones were preserved. One of these stones was mentioned to be ‘trapezium’ shaped and is 0.15 cm thick. Thin gold foil with a fine raster was present underneath it. More irregular garnets, broken, and 0.24 to 0.35 cm thick, were preserved in two other sunken fields. Gold foil was not observed underneath these two stones. It can be imagined that all the sunken fields originally held garnets with gold foil underneath them since gold foil is generally applied underneath garnet stones used in various objects such as garnet disc brooches. The restoration of the belt fittings also showed some remnants of the gilded layer covering the copper alloy plates, which Beckers and Beckers also observed; the gilded layer is not visible anymore.

The two back plates and additional plates were also restored. The larger of the two rectangular back plates has a length of 5.4 cm and a width of 3.9 cm. It is hollow, as the plate of the plate buckle, and has four domed copper alloy rivets and fourteen open spaces, which also created an illusion of ‘crossing bands’. The geometric decoration on the ‘bands’ consists of engraved or stamped in circles. Swastikas were applied there where the ‘bands’ cross. The wooden plate underneath the hollow copper alloy plate was not completely preserved, but the majority of the garnets and the gold foils underneath them were preserved in the sunken fields in the wooden plate matching the cut out spaces in the rectangular copper alloy plate which was fixed on top of it. Three garnets were preserved underneath the copper alloy plate. All the garnets of this rectangular plate were preserved; they were restored and eventually placed in the matching sunken fields in the wooden plate. Less is preserved of the second, smaller, rectangular back plate. It has a length of 3.3 cm and a width of 2.5 cm. There, of originally four, copper alloy rivets are present. A considerable part of the hollow copper alloy plate is gone, as it is of the similar shaped wooden plate fixed underneath it. It can however be established that this back plate was executed in the same style as the plate buckle and the larger back plate. It has an engraved geometric pattern applied around the open spaces on the surface of the copper alloy plate. And although difficult to observe, it can be assumed that it was similar to the pattern on the larger back plate. Sunken fields were created in the wooden plate matching the cut out spaces in top copper alloy plate; they were originally filled with garnets and gold foil. This wooden plate shows nine sunken fields for garnets, but more will have been present. This back plate was restored but not completed; the wooden plate underneath the copper alloy plate was kept visible and shows one gold foil and one garnet.

Two additional oval plates belonged to this belt set and are executed in the same style as the plate buckle and back plates. The copper alloy oval plates have protruding extremities with copper alloy domed rivets. The plates consist of two drop shaped open spaces. The matching sunken field in the wooden plates underneath them originally held gold foil and garnets. Two garnets are preserved in one of the two additional plates. Of the other plate only the protruding extremities with copper alloy rivets are preserved; the middle field with cut out spaces and garnets were completed and as such a plate similar to the first additional plate was reconstructed. The two additional plates were hollow, and were covered with an engraved or stamped in geometric pattern executed in line with the patterns on the other plates.

The restoration and inspection of the belt fittings also revealed that a thread was wound seven times around the shield of the shield tongue; these are now gone. Two mineralised leather fragments of the belt are preserved and fixed onto the display board. One must realise that the belt fittings today convey a very different image from that in the Merovingian period. They had a shiny gold surface with red garnets with gold foil below them. When light fell on it it was not visible anymore. This belt was thus was a sparkling whole!

It is difficult to date this belt fitting set since comparable specimens are not known to me. Ypey dates the belt set to the end of the sixth and maybe the beginning of the seventh century, mainly on the basis of the swastika ornament, the rounded belt fittings and eventually placed in the matching sunken fields in the wooden plate. Less is preserved of the second, smaller, rectangular back plate. It has a length of 3.3 cm and a width of 2.5 cm. There, of originally four, copper alloy rivets are present. A considerable part of the hollow copper alloy plate is gone, as it is of the similar shaped wooden plate fixed underneath it. It can however be established that this back plate was executed in the same style as the plate buckle and the larger back plate. It has an engraved geometric pattern applied around the open spaces on the surface of the copper alloy plate. And although difficult to observe, it can be assumed that it was similar to the pattern on the larger back plate. Sunken fields were created in the wooden plate matching the cut out spaces in top copper alloy plate; they were originally filled with garnets and gold foil. This wooden plate shows nine sunken fields for garnets, but more will have been present.
This last argument seems to be the strongest. The shape of the plate resembles a form regularly encountered in French cemeteries. Altogether, dating the Stein belt fittings to the end of the sixth century seems a plausible option, and the grave is dated accordingly. The sword and lance head for this grave are no longer present in the collection.

Simple buckles: iron

Simple iron buckle 37-4-1 was mentioned by Beckers and Beckers to have been found to the right of the body, close to the southern wall in the middle of grave 57. An iron fragment from this grave is present and might be the tongue of the buckle. The rest of the buckle is not available anymore. The tongue is thicker towards its base; it was thus a buckle with a shield tongue or club shaped tongue.

In the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers an iron buckle (60-6-1) is recorded as find from grave 60. It presents as a severely corroded specimen without tongue in a box in which many other iron fragments are also stored (fig. 4.311). The buckle loop has a maximum length of 3.3 cm and a minimum length of 2.3 cm; the associated strap had a comparable width. The plate is hollowed and is attached to the buckle loop with a hinged construction on which some mineralised textile/leather remains are present. The remnant of one loop, which fixed the plate buckle to the belt, can be observed at the back of the plate. The buckle loop is oval and has a D-shaped section. The tongue extremity of the shield tongue is bent over the buckle loop. The plate buckle was found 55 cm from the southern wall and 40 cm from the western wall of grave 56 and thus at the presumed former location of the upper body, assuming it was a w-e orientated burial.

Siegmund suggests that hinged constructions (type Gür 3.3 and 3.4) are chronologically significant characteristics. In his typology hinged constructions occur on plate buckles with loops at the back of the plates, decorative (fake) rivets and cast decorations. The plate buckles of Siegmund’s typological groups are larger than the Stein specimen, but it can nonetheless be identified as variants of these Siegmund types and can be dated accordingly to Rhinelander phase 8 (610-640). It can also be classified as LP/V type 138, of which the examples are, however, only shoe fittings; the buckle from Stein was most probably used as an additional fitting in the set of waist belt fittings with associated sword and seax. LP/V type 138 dates to their phases MR1-MR4 (600-10/600-700).  

Purse fitting: copper alloy 52-2-1

A triangular copper alloy plate with an opening at the broad side (4 cm) of the plate was found along the southern wall, in the middle of grave 52. This object is no longer present in the collection. In view of its description and the reference in the catalogue to a belt fitting the object might have been a small plate buckle with fixed plate. The other finds from this grave are a number of beads found near the presumed former location of the head and some fragments of a biconical pot found near the presumed former location of the base. The find location of the ‘plate buckle’ indicates that it might have been a fastener of a purse.

Belt fittings, iron: missing

Three iron fragments (65-1-1), two triangular and one iron river, were also recorded as finds from grave 65. They might be a plate buckle and counter plate of with one rivet detached from one of the plates. They were found not far from the strap end.

An iron plate buckle (72-2-1) was in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers recorded as find from grave 72. Specifics given are the round buckle loop with a length of 4 cm and the triangular plate with a length of 5 cm and a base width of 3 cm. On the basis of these descriptions the plate buckle can be classified as type Siegmund Gür 4.5 which dates to Rhinelander phase 8 (610-640).

Jewellery

Bracelet 3 (3-1-1)

A copper alloy bracelet from grave 7 is an open bracelet with a diameter of 7 cm and has only slightly expanding extremities (fig. 4.112). The extremities show an engraved or cast pattern but the surface of the bracelet is considerably weathered, which makes it difficult to identify the pattern it consists of six circular lines in between which two zones of V-shapes or triangles can be discerned. The bracelet was found at one end of the grave, it is not mentioned which end. The only other find from this grave, which is for a considerable part disturbed, is an iron plate of a plate buckle or counter plate.

Wulcher classifies similar specimens as type A.3.8 (Zuhenring with cast or engraved geometric ornaments). There are only a few examples of this type, of which the distribution pattern is more or less restricted to Northern France, Belgium and the Rhineland, predominantly between Mayen and Koblenz. Wulcher claims that the specimens with triangular elements date to the younger phases of the Merovingian period (530-600-720); the other examples, as the one from Obbicht, also classified as type A.3.8 but with a different ornament, can already be found in the sixth century (AM1-JM in the chronology scheme of Amet).  

The bracelet can also be classified as Siegmund’s type Ring 2.1: open arm rings with thickened extremities with engraved decoration. This type dates to Rhinelander phase 8 (610-640). The Franken AG managed this type and date it to their phases 58-65 (670-750), but predominantly to phases 67-7 (580-950-640-50). Legoux, Périn and Vallet classify bracelets on the basis of their construction, can already be found in the sixth century (AM1-JM in the chronology scheme of Amet). The bracelet can also be classified as Siegmund’s type Ring 2.1: open arm rings with thickened extremities with engraved decoration. This type dates to Rhinelander phase 8 (610-640).

Beads

Of the 1.14 beads present in the collection of beads from Stein, 1.12 are known from seven graves (table 4.13). Two additional polychrome beads are also present, but these are without find number. Twenty-two beads were missing after excavation, of which some could be classified and dated on the basis of the provided descriptions in the original catalogue of graves. Of the beads present 1.10 are monochrome, twelve are polychrome and two are amber.

The overview of the one hundred monochrome beads in table 4.14 shows the variety of these glass beads in the cemetery and also the beads of different substances; in Stein only two amber beads were identified. The variety of the monochrome beads can be compared with Siegmund’s typo-chronology of Rhineland beads (table 4.3); which shows that not all the Stein beads can be classified and dated on the basis of this typo-chronology. The tables show that opaque beads are predominant in Stein, as are the yellow, blue and red bead and the small miniature beads, the barrel shaped and biconical beads. The beads are analysed as explained in the section on the Sittard-Kemperkool beads. In the following the beads are discussed per grave; this description will provide an overview of the variety of beads per string or grave.

The beads from grave 11

Beckers and Beckers refer to two glass beads, one yellow cylindrical glass bead with brown decoration, and one rectangular yellow glass bead with red decoration, as finds from grave 11. One bead is assigned to this grave on the basis of its original find number (VIA 37), which seems to match with this grave (fig. 4.113). It is in fact a red/brown long cylindrical glass bead with yellow dots/bands, which matches with the description of the yellow cylindrical bead in the catalogue (the decoration and base colour were identified in the catalogue).
grave finds stein-groote bongerd

The beads from grave 22

Beckers and Beckers mention that 40 beads of various shapes and colours were found 60 cm from the western wall and 35 cm from the long walls of grave 22; that is at the supposed former location of the head of presumably a child (the burial pit had a length of 115 cm). In the available collection 31 beads are assigned to grave 22 (fig. 4.113). Of these beads 6 are polychrome beads. One double bead (22-2-1.8) is white, opaque, cylindrical with red waves. It is classified as type S-Per 32.2 (610-705). Two beads (22-2-1.13) are red, opaque, cylindrical, double connected with white waves. They are classified as S-Per 35.7 (610-705). One bead (22-2-1.10) is red, opaque, long cylindrical with yellow bands; it could not be classified and dated on the basis of the mentioned typo-chronologies.

Two double beads (22-2-1.11) are white, opaque, globular compressed, with red waves, classified as Koch-Schreitzheim type 34.7 (590/600-610/705). Of the 24 monochrome beads one (22-2-1.1) is blue, opaque, stretched biconical. Two (22-2-1.2) are blue, opaque, cylindrical twisted. One (22-2-1.1) is green, opaque, cylindrical. One (22-2-1.4) is yellow, opaque, cylindrical twisted. Two (22-2-1.5) are blue, opaque, globular compressed. Three (22-2-1.6) are red, opaque, cylindrical twisted. Two (22-2-1.7) are black, opaque, cylindrical twisted. Two (22-2-1.12) are yellow, opaque, globular compressed, classified as S-Per 33.3 (485-705). One (22-2-1.13) is green, opaque, cylindrical. One (22-2-1.14) is blue, opaque, globular compressed, triple connected. The cylindrical twisted beads can be classified as variant of Siegmund’s form group 47.4, which date mainly to 610-705.

This string of beads is clearly characterised by the spiral thread beads, of which thirteen beads in six colours are present. These beads are dated as a variant of Siegmund’s group 47.4 (twisted transparent beads to 610-705). The date range assigned to the polychrome beads is 590-705; the accorded date ranges are considerably long but start all around 600. The other monochrome beads are more difficult to date; the accorded date range 485-705 is chronologically insignificant. Altogether, the majority of the beads are dated to the seventh century, but might also date earlier, and one decorated bead is dated after 610. It was decided to date the grave on the basis of the biconical pot to phase IIa (565-610/10), which is somewhat earlier than the date ranges to which similar

Table 4.14

Classification of the monochrome beads from grave 22.
The beads from grave 32

The beads from grave 32 are generally dated; this date range is however not in conflict with the date ranges assigned to the beads. Since bead typo-chronologies are on a whole rather unreliable, the date range assigned to the biconical pot from this grave was decisive for its dating.

The beads from grave 23

The beads from grave 23 are of various colours and shapes and one broad amber bead was found in the middle of grave, 58 cm from the long north-west orientated wall; it was suggested that they were deposited as a bracelet. Beads with original find numbers VIA 61 and VIA 65 are present. The ensemble with find number VIA 61 consists of 21 beads among which one amber bead. The ensemble with find number VIA 65 consists of 29 beads (without an amber bead). It is therefore decided to assign the beads with find number VIA 61 to grave 30 and those with find number VIA 65 to grave 32 (fig. 4.113).

The ‘bracelet’ consists thus of 21 beads in the present collection of which sixteen (30-4-1.1) are yellow, opaque, small globular compressed, classified as type YO30 or S-Per33.3 (485-705). One (30-4-1.2) blue, transparent, globular bead which could not be dated on the basis of the available typo-chronologies, and two (30-4-1.3) red, opaque, long cylindrical beads with white threads which is classified as type Koch-Schretzheim 42.11 (585-595/600). One (30-4-1.4) blue, opaque, short cylindrical could not be dated and one (30-4-1.5) fragmented amber bead was also difficult to date precisely.

The other finds from this grave are two biconical pots which might date to the second half of the sixth century and a cup which might date somewhat later. The date ranges accorded to the single dated decorated bead is 565-595/600 and the dated monochrome beads are accorded a rather long date range; the string might thus date to the second half of the sixth century.

The beads from grave 33

The available string consists of 29 beads, of which two are poly-chrome and one is of amber (fig. 4.113). The catalogue refers to thirty beads, found 70 cm from the long northern wall and 59 cm from the short western wall, thus near the location of the bead. One (32-4-1.1) is amber, opaque, long cylindrical. Eight (32-4-1.2) are red, opaque, barrel shaped. Two (32-4-1.3) are blue, opaque, barrel shaped. One (32-4-1.4) is blue, opaque, globular. Two (32-4-1.5) are black, opaque, almond shaped. Two (32-4-1.6) are orange, amber, barrel shaped. One (32-4-1.7) is blue, transparent, globular. One (32-4-1.10) is blue, transparent, long cylindrical. One (32-4-1.11) is white, opaque, almond. One (32-4-1.12) red, opaque, compressed, classified as S-Per. 32 (570) 610-640/705.

The other finds from this grave are the fragments of a biconical pot and a purse fitting (missing), which are difficult to date. The two decorated beads could not be dated on the basis of the available typo-chronologies of beads. Of the monochrome glass beads especially the almond shaped beads are typical forms of the seventh century. The other beads date mainly to the seventh century; the string can thus be dated to the seventh century.

The bead from grave 38

The catalogue one blue bead was recorded as the single find from grave 38; its find location was not given. It is a blue transparent glass bead, globular with a diameter of 2.0 cm (fig. 4.113). It cannot be dated to an exact date range within the Merovingian period.

The beads from grave 51

Beckers and Beckers, mention 21 beads (7 yellow, 3 green, 8 brown, white, natural) found 50 cm from the western wall and 60 cm from the southern wall of grave 51, thus near the presumed location of the bead. Sixteen beads with find number VIA 64 are assigned to grave 51 on the basis of this find number which forms the best match with this grave (fig. 4.113) although the prominent long cylindrical blue bead on the available string is not referred to in the catalogue.

The string consists of only monochrome beads of which one (51-1-1.1) is blue, opaque, transparent, long cylindrical. Long cylindrical transparent beads are generally known as exxels of combination groups A-C, which date early in the Merovingian period, (440-553). Two (51-1-1.2) are small yellow, opaque, globular compressed and classified as type S-Per. 32 (570) 610/705. Three (51-1-1.3) are blue, opaque, barrel shaped. One (51-1-1.4) is orange, opaque, short cylindrical. The other finds from grave 51 are a biconical pot dated to 570-585 (610) and a simple ring dated to 520/30 630/40. The other dated beads are assigned to date range 495-505; the string is dated to a grave of the end of the sixth and beginning of the seventh century on the basis of the other finds.
**Weaponry**

The iron fragments of the shield boss (fig. 4.113) from grave 8 are restored and completed; the reconstructed specimen has a diameter of 17.8–18.8 cm and a height of c. 7 cm (fig. 4.115). The cone is domed but low; it has a height of 2.7 cm. Remnants of a knob on top of the cone are not present, but since it is a restored specimen it is not certain whether a knob was originally present or not. It is for now identified as a boss without knob. The rivets used to attach the boss to the wooden shield are gone; their location and number cannot be reconstructed since the rivet holes are not visible anymore, probably due to its fragmented condition and quite rigorous restoration. The shield boss was found in fragmented condition; it was not recorded where in the grave these fragments were found. The other finds from this richly furnished grave of a man are a sword, seax, fire steel, knife, belt fittings and fragments of a palm cup.

The shield boss is classified as Siegmund’s type Sb5 (relatively high wall and relatively squat cone without knob), which dates to phases 6–7 (580/90–640/50). The relatively flat cone is a feature of the basis on which it is classified as Franken AG’s type Sb5–A (6-9; 580/90–710/0). Five iron rivets with slightly domed solid heads and straight pins were recorded as finds from grave 58 in the initial catalogue, of which four (58-1-1), with a diameter of 2.0 cm, are now present (fig. 4.115). They are in all probability the rivets which attached a shield boss to the wooden shield. Remnants of this wooden shield and the shield boss grip are also present (58-6-1), but a complete shield boss cannot be reconstructed on the basis of these remnants.

The Franken AG date leichte Brittezeit (Sax 2.1) to their phases 5–8 (650–680), although predominantly to phases 6–7 (580/90–640/50). Siegmund dates this type (Sax 2.1) from Rhineland phase 7 to the middle of phase 9 (585–655). The iron seax 8–4 from grave 8 has a blade length of 37.5 cm, a blade width of 5.1 cm, and an iron hilt core with a length of 11.9 cm. The seax was found connected to the sword due to post-deposition corrosion. It is now detached from the sword and completely cleaned and restored. Some wood remains are preserved around the iron hilt core. The seax was close to the long southern wall of the burial pit. A plate buckle and matching back plate were found in the proximity of the seax hilt. The other finds from this richly furnished grave of a man are a lance head, fire steel, knife, belt fittings associated with sword belt and fragments of a palm cup. The basis of its dimensions the seax is classified as Siegmund type Saxx.2.25 and Franken AG type Saxx.2.19. A severely corroded iron seax (49-1-1) with a total length of 52.6 cm is assigned to grave 49 on the basis of its original find number V1A 86, which provides a best possible match with this grave. A seax with a length of 60.0, a blade width of 5.0 cm and a hilt with and length of 2.3 cm and some wood remains is recorded as find from grave 49 in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers.224 The hilt of this type was preserved and it is probably that the post (0.6 cm) deteriorated or broke off after the analysis of Beckers and Beckers. The blade length of the present seax is 36.5 cm and its width c. 4.5 cm. Together with the original 3.0 cm of the hilt it had a total length of c. 6.00 cm, which is in line with the initial observed length of the seax. The seax was found 100.0 cm from the long southern wall, in the middle of the grave, with the tip pointing east. It was thus deposited to the presumed former right side of the now completely decomposed body. Other finds from grave 49 are a knife, a nail, and some indeterminate iron fragments, as mentioned in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers. On the basis of its dimensions it can be classified either as schwerer Brittezeit (Franken AG type 2.2) or leichte Brittezeit (Sax 2.1: 580/90–640/50). The Franken AG classify schwerer Brittezeit as type Sax 2.2, which dates to their phases 6–9 (580/90–710/0), although predominantly to the end of phase 7 and phase 8 (640–670/80).221 Siegmund dates this type Sax 2.1 to Rhineland phases 9 (565–600)–7 (580/90–640/50). The Franken AG date leichte Brittezeit (Sax 2.1) to their phases 5–8 (650–680), although predominantly to phases 6–7 (580/90–640/50).222 Siegmund dates this type (Sax 2.1) from Rhineland phase 7 to the middle of phase 9 (585–655).
An iron rod (18-3-1) was found in the middle of the section of the grave, close to its short western wall.27 It seems to be the socket of an arrowhead, present among the heap of corroded iron fragments in a box holding remnants from grave 18.

Three arrowheads were in the original catalogue recorded as finds from grave 64.28 Two of them are present in the collection. They were found in the north-eastern corner of the grave, thus close to the presumed former location of the left foot. The other finds from this grave are iron and copper alloy belt fittings, a smith’s anvil with a round aedicula-shaped base, and an iron rod.

Arrowhead 64-3-1 has a pointed blade and a length 8.0 cm; similar specimens are not known to me and it is therefore difficult to classify. Arrowhead 64-4-1 was described as an arrowhead with a diamond shaped blade and a length of 8.5 cm and a blade width of 2.1 cm. This arrowhead is no longer available but arrowheads with diamond shaped blades are classified as L/P/V type 23 (open shaft) and type 25 (closed shaft). Type 23 dates to L/P/V phases PM-MA3 (440/50-600/10) and type 25 dates to MA1-MR1 (470/80-630/40).29 Arrowhead 64-3-1 has a leaf shaped blade and a closed shaft and is restored. It has a length of 8.3 cm, blade width of 1.7 cm and a shaft diameter of 1.1 cm. This specimen is classified as L/P/V type 26 which dates to their phases MA1-MR1 (470/80-630/40).30 Wood remains from one of the arrowhead sockets are stored separately (64-9-1).

Lance head: closed sockets 8 (8-1-1); 55 (55-1-1); 0 (0-0-10)

Iron lance head 8-1-1 from grave 8 has a total length of 25.9 cm, a blade length of 11.5 cm and a blade width of 3.6 cm. The lance head has a closed shaft and its base has a diameter of 2.9 cm. The blade is leaf to diamond shaped and relatively short compared to the shaft. It was found along the long southern wall, in association with a sword, a seax and belt fittings. The ensemble was deposited to the right of the now completely fragmented burial, it was a w-e oriented burial. Other finds from this grave are a knife, fire steel, a shield boss and fragments of a glass vessel. The lance head is heavily restored. The restoration report mentions that during the first restoration a clear diamond shaped blade was created, but that it is not clear whether it represents the original shape of the blade. The second restoration corrected the diamond shape and created an oval or leaf shaped blade; the arguments that led to this decision are not clear apart from the remark that severe polish traces were discovered on the blade which were ascribed to the first restoration activities.

The lance head is classified as Siegmund’s type Lan1.2 on the basis of its relative blade length (< 0.52) and closed socket. This type dates to the end of Rhineland phase 7 and the beginning of phase 8 (6.600-6.500).31

Iron lance head 55-1-1 from grave 55 is severely corroded and falling apart. It has a (remaining) length of 22.1 cm, and seems to have a closed socket with a diameter of c. 3.0 cm. The shape of the blade cannot be established, but seems to be relatively narrow and not much broader than the socket. Beckers and Beckers refer to a closed socket with a nail going through it; this could not be observed. The lance head was found 15.0 cm from the southern wall and 5.0 cm from the eastern wall, in a somewhat oblique position. It was then deposited to the right of the lower body, assuming it was a w-e oriented burial. The other finds from this grave are a spouted pot and a number of iron fragments which seem to be rivets; they might have been attached to the lance head. On the basis of the available information it is difficult to classify the lance head precisely, since the head is relatively long it might be a lance head of Siegmund’s type Lan1.4 (phase 8B10-10: 635-705) or Lan2.5 (phases 8B5-9: 625-670).32

An iron lance head with a closed socket and wood remains of the shaft is present in the collection. The tip of the blade is gone, but the length of the diamond shaped blade (13.5 cm) seems to be of approximately the same length as the socket. Since it is not complete the exact blade/socket index cannot be established; it can thus not be classified and dated unambiguously.

Lance head: indeterminate 15 (15-3-1)

Some iron fragments (15-3-1), in poor condition, are of a lance head. They were recorded as remnants of a seax in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers.33 The lance head was found close to the western grave wall, and thus to the presumed left of the decomposed body, in association with a fire steel and an object which seems to be the loop of a buckle. The recorded length of the lance head was 22.0 cm and the blade width 3.5 cm. The length of the preserved articulated fragments is 27.0 cm, which is longer than the recorded 20.0 cm, but this is a result of its fragmented condition. The fragments on the X-ray photo seem to indicate that it has an open socket, but this is not certain. It features will become clear after restoration.

Lance head: missing 12 (12-2-1)

Iron lance head 12-2-1 with a recorded length of 18.0 cm, was found at some distance from the eastern wall with the tip pointing north.34 It was a relatively rich grave with a sword and a set of remarkable belt fittings. It is not possible to classify or date the lance head on the basis of this information alone.

Sword 8 (8-2-1.1); 0 (0-0-4)

Iron sword 8-2-1.1 from grave 8 has a blade length of 65.5 cm and width of 4.0 cm. The length of the remaining iron hilt is 2.0 cm. A copper alloy plate buckle and plate were found attached to the blade. Beckers and Beckers observed that the sword and seax were found attached to one another.35 The restoration report shows that this sword was present in corroded and fragmented condition. It also mentions that the tip of the sword was wrongly identified; under the corrosion layer a knife and fire steel were discovered. It is not certain whether the corroded lump, and thus the knife and fire steel, was found in close association with the sword, but this might have been the case in view of its first identification as sword tip. The sword is heavily restored; it was found in fragmented condition and the tip and edges were completed. The sword was found close to the eastern grave wall. Other finds from this richly furnished grave of a man are a seax, shield boss, lance head, belt and strap fittings and fragments of a palm cup.

An iron sword of which the original find number cannot be matched with a grave in which a sword was recorded as find is present. It has a blade length of 61 cm. Iron swords without pommels or other additional elements cannot be dated precisely.

Sword: missing 12 (12-2-1)

Iron sword with a length of 87.0 cm and a blade width of 5.0 cm was recorded as find from grave 12. It was found at some distance from the eastern grave wall with its tip pointing north.36 A sword with a find number matching with this grave is not present in the collection, but a sword without find number is; this might be the sword from grave 12 (now with find number 0-0-4); see the section of the catalogue of finds without find number or context information. It has a total length of 73.5 cm. The difference with the dimensions of the sword from grave 12 given in the original catalogue may be due to its post-exca va tion deterioration, but this is not certain.

Axe 60 (60-2-1)

Iron axe 60-2-1 was found not far from the short western wall of grave 60, thus near the presumed former location of the head. The blade of the axe has a length of 39.0 cm and the cutting edge a length of 6.6 cm (fig. 4.16). Wood remains were not preserved in the oval shaft opening. The other finds from this grave is a biconical pot, fire steel, knife, buckle and some metal fragments. Axes with nearly straight upper edges are classified as Siegmund’s type PRB1.3, which dates to Rhineland phases 6-7 (570-610).37
Belt appendages/utensils

Various objects generally known to have been attached to the belt are other gender-specific objects such as a spindle whorl or char- elains for woman, fire steels for men or neutral objects such as knife and rings simple.

Spindle wheel / disc bead: glass, black, decorated
57(527-7)

The black plano-convex glass disc bead from grave 57 is a rath- er rare object with a supra-regional distribution (fig. 4.117). Red trails are applied around the hole and on its side edges: a white zig- zag trail covers the rest of the upper surface. The bead was found 70.0 cm from the southern wall and 74.0 cm from the western wall; measured from the burial pit walls this indicates a find loca- tion at the presumed former location of the waist; it was probably deposited as a belt appendage or maybe inside a purse. The bead is associated with the burial of a child since the body imprinted a length of 117 cm and the coffin a length of 150 cm. The other finds from this grave are a biconical pot dated to 580/90-610/20, a ring (probably a bracelet), now missing, some belt fittings which are difficult to date precisely, a fragment of a pair of tweezers (miss- ing), and a fragment of an iron brooch (also missing).

Disc beads similar to the one from grave 57 are known from the Anglo-Saxon world. In publications on this find group the var- ious functions of disc beads are discussed: they are identified as spindle whorls (found to the left side of the waist) or sword beads (found predominantly to the left of the body). Straight and zig- zag trails are common on large Anglo-Saxon disc beads, but the ex- amples with this type of decoration all have shapes different from the plano-convex disc bead/spindle wheel from grave 57. These specimens are predominantly dated to the sixth century. Guido classified similar disc beads on the basis of their colour. The disc bead from grave 57 was classified as Guido type 2vii: large black plano-convex beads with decoration. They are dated to the period not long after the disintegration of the western empire. In Anglo- 57 Saxon England they are predominantly known from south-east England. On the basis of the datable finds from grave 57 it is concluded that the bead was deposited in grave 57 in the second half of the sixth century, after it had been in circulation for some time before.

Simple rings: iron
66(64-4); 76(54-3); 98(53-3)

A number of rings were recorded as finds, but are no longer availa- ble in the collection. The simple iron ring from grave 56 was found 60.0 cm from the western wall in the middle of the grave. Simple iron rings are classified as Legoux, Périn and Vallet type 357, which date to their phases MA3-MR1 (520/30-650/40).609

Simple rings: iron, missing
56(56-4); 75(53-1); 98(58-3)

The iron knife (60-3-1) from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen. In the restoration laboratory a box with many iron fragments from grave 60 is stored; fragments of the complete specimen.
Beckers and Beckers refer to fragments of an iron knife (60-9-1) found dispersed throughout grave 60.\(^{(610)}\) It might be present in the restoration atelier, in a box in which many iron fragments from grave 66 are stored. It will, however, be very difficult to reconstruct objects with the pike of iron fragments, which obviously belonged to different objects.

A knife hilt (66-9-1) with find number 144/147 is present in the restoration atelier; this find number has a best match with grave 66, but a knife hilt or knife were not recorded as finds in the catalogue. An iron knife with curved back and straight cutting edge and a blade length of 11.0 cm (8-8-2), and a knife (8-8-3) with wood and leather remains on its hilt and blade, a blade length of 9.4 cm, and an upward pointing tip have find numbers matching with grave 8. Since a knife is already assigned to this grave and a second and third knife were not recorded as finds, it is not certain whether they actually belonged to grave 8.

An iron knife in corroded condition and with a blade length of 11.0 cm is present in the collection; it is however without find number.

**Plate/Mounts**

57 (57-1-1; 57-2-1)

Two iron mounts, one was flat and bent and the other had wood remains preserved on it, were recorded as finds from grave 57. They were found in the north-eastern corner; they might have been coffin mounts. A number of iron fragments with find number VIA 115 are present in corroded condition; they might form the iron mounts (57-1-1) identified by the excavators.

Another iron mount (57-2-1), found in the south-eastern corner of the coffin, was described as a large flat iron mount with heads of nails, found together with nail fragments. A rectangular iron mount of which one corner is missing but on which heads of nails are still visible, is present as find number VIA 114. It has a length of 6.5 cm and a width of 6.0 cm. It is present in corroded condition, but might be a back plate of a belt.

**Pottery**

The collection of pottery vessels from the Stein graves is quite large; the variety consists of fine ware pottery vessels such as jars, bottles, bowls and biconical pots, and coarse ware pottery vessels as egg shaped pots and globular pots. Numerous vessels were found in fragmented condition but the majority is now restored and completed.\(^{(611)}\)

**Fine pottery: jar**

Find number: 41 (41-1-1)

A red biconical jug with one handle and a modest spout was found in grave 41 (fig. 4.118). It was found in fragmented condition but is now restored and completed; the actual supplemented parts are difficult to discern from the original parts but it seems as if approximately 75% of the original pot is present. The jar has a height of 23.0 cm, a belly diameter of 19.7 cm and a mouth diameter of 11.6 cm. The upper wall is decorated with three zones of two grooves, in between which single lines or double lines of rectangular roulettette stamp impressions are applied. The handle is attached to the rim, and ends just beneath the middle of the upper wall. Grave 41 was recorded as a destroyed grave, and other finds were not observed as were the original find locations of the fragments. It can be assumed, in view of the condition of the grave, that the jar was originally complete when deposited. It might have been broken due to an early reopening of the grave, which can also explain the absence of a number of fragments of the pot. However, other post-depositional processes might have also caused its fragmented and incomplete condition. Red jars with decoration are rather rare. Jars with decoration are rather rare. Jars similar to the one from Stein are known from Meerveldhoven grave 24 (dated to the first half of the seventh century on the basis of a set of belt fittings with plates with five rivets and a glass tumblers), and one is known from Vrijthof grave 228 which could not be established that it was a bowl of a coarse, but smoothed, ware, with sand/gravel inclusions and with a flat bottom (remnants of the bottom were preserved). The reconstructed bowl has a height of 8 cm and a bottom diameter of 6.6 cm. The bowl is classified as either Siegmund’s type Sha2.42, which dates to Rhineland phases 8-9 (610-640)\(^{(612)}\) or maybe type Sha2.5 (it cannot be excluded from the group of carpentered bowls with certainty) which dates to Rhineland phases 7-8 (585-640)\(^{(613)}\).

**Fine pottery: bowl of Siegmund’s type Sha2.21**

37 (37-2-1)

Fragments of a red bowl were found in grave 37 (fig. 4.119). The bowl is now restored and completed; approximately 90% of the original vessel is present. It is a carpentered bowl on a foot stand (the foot was completely preserved), with a straight lower wall, slightly concave upper wall and outward standing rim, which is not thickened. It has a slightly asymmetric appearance, which is probably a result of its initial fragmented and incomplete condition. The reconstructed height of the bowl is 5.8 cm and its mouth diameter is 15.4 cm. The bowl was found in the north-eastern corner of the grave, close to the presumed former location of the feet. Other finds from this grave are some indeterminate iron fragments and a belt fitting. Siegmund classifies similar bowls as type Sha2.21, which dates to Rhineland phases 7-8 (610-640).\(^{(614)}\) The Franken AG maintained this type but date it to their phases 47/5 (610-640/70).

**Fine/coarse pottery: bowl of Siegmund’s type Sha2.42/Sha2.5**

46 (46-3-1)

Fragments of a red bowl were found on a heap, 6.0 cm from the eastern wall and 25.0 cm from the southern wall, in grave 46. Approximately 30% was left of the original bowl on the basis of which a complete reconstruction was made (fig. 4.120). It could be established that it was a bowl of a coarse, but smoothed, ware, with sand/gravel inclusions and with a flat bottom. (remnants of the bottom were preserved). The reconstructed bowl has a height of 8 cm and a bottom diameter of 6.6 cm. The bowl is classified as either Siegmund’s type Sha2.42, which dates to Rhineland phases 8-9 (610-640)\(^{(615)}\) or maybe type Sha2.5 (it cannot be excluded from the group of carpentered bowls with certainty) which dates to Rhineland phases 7-8 (585-640).\(^{(616)}\)

**Fine pottery: biconical pots (general remarks)**

The biconical pots from the Stein graves (table 4.5 and 4.15) are classified as either Siegmund’s type group 2 (biconical pots with a pronounced carination, a straight upper wall without ridge and with or without decoration, although never with roulette stamp decoration) or type group 3 (pots with straight upper walls, pronounced carination, roulette stamp decoration and or ridges on the upper wall). Their specifics are in the following discussed per Siegmund type.

**Fine/coarse pottery: biconical pot of Siegmund’s type 2.11/2.12**

59 (59-1-1)

The biconical pot from grave 59 is a grey pot of a fine to coarse ware in which some large gravel inclusions can be observed (fig. 4.121). The pot was found in fragmented condition but is now restored and completed, approximately 90% of the original pot is present. It is rather asymmetric and has a height of 11.6 to 13 cm. The decoration on the upper wall consists of a zone of three grooves underneath the rim and a similar zone just above the carination in which single stamp impressions of undulating vertical lines with a length of 1.5 cm are applied. The pot was found in the south-eastern corner of the grave and was the only find from this grave. The identification of the basic pot form (which depends on its height/width index) cannot be established unambiguously since it is rather asymmetric, it can be identified as a pot with either basic form 2 or 4. In line with these basic forms and the deco-

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\(^{(610)}\) Beckers/Beckers 1994, 917.

\(^{(611)}\) Beckers 1994, 917.

\(^{(612)}\) Müssemeier 1998, 156.

\(^{(613)}\) Siegmund 1998, 156.

\(^{(614)}\) The condition of the vessels at the time of their excavation was not consequently recorded. Their original condition was also established on the basis of the restoration reports by Kosters in which the state of the vessels before the first restoration round was recorded. It is assumed that this condition was similar to the condition in which they were found. Recent Meerveldhoven: Verwers 2010, 130-131; Meerveldhoven: Kraaijs 2013, 136, fig. 6, 6454-1, 6454-2 (461); Stein 1996, 131, 132, 134; Stein 1998, 154-156; (615) Mössmer et al 2003, 67. (616) Siegmund 1996, 156. (617) Siegmund 1998, 156.
The grey-brown biconical pot from grave 28 was found in fragmented condition (fig. 4.122). A considerable part of the pot was completed although it is difficult to tell the original and completed parts apart. The reconstructed pot has a height of 11.5-12.6 cm and is rather asymmetric. The upper wall is decorated with three zones of one groove, in between which two zones of one row of single stamp impressions of irregular undulating vertical lines of c. 1 cm are applied. It was baked relatively hard and the carination is more rounded than pronounced. The dark shade covering the outer surface of the pot might indicate that it was a smoked specimen, but this is not certain. The pot was found 20 cm from the short eastern wall, in the middle of the grave, thus close to the presumed former location of the feet. It was the only find from this grave.

The biconical pot from grave 30 was found as a complete specimen and has a height of 12.8 cm (fig. 4.122). The smoked outer surface is weathered and shows the lighter past underneath. Other finds are not known from this grave.

The pottery fragments found scattered throughout grave 50 were re-opened. Another, but smaller, biconical pot could also be re-constructed with the available fragments; other pots could not be reconstructed. This pot is classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt2.12 which dates to Rhineland phase 9A (610-670/80). See Table 4.15 for details.

The large white-grey biconical pot 1-6-1 from grave 1 was found close to the presumed former location of the head, it was found 45 cm from the long southern wall and 40 cm from the short eastern wall; the grooves cross these single stamp impressions. The pot was found 60 cm from the western wall and 45 cm from the southern wall; it was however depicted near the short eastern wall in the original cemetery plan. It is not certain what its original find location was; the written information is followed which indicates that it was found close to the presumed former location of the head, which is a find location deviant from the general find locations of biconical pots (close to the feet).

The grey-brown biconical pot 51-4-1 from grave 51 is a light grey pot with a height of 11.4 cm. It was found 20 cm from the short eastern wall and 36 cm from the long northern wall; the grooves cross these single stamp impressions. The pot was found 60 cm from the western wall and 45 cm from the southern wall; it was however depicted near the short eastern wall in the original cemetery plan. It is not certain what its original find location was; the written information is followed which indicates that it was found close to the presumed former location of the head, which is a find location deviant from the general find locations of biconical pots (close to the feet).

The grey-brown biconical pot 1-6-1 from grave 1 was found close to the presumed former location of the head, it was found 45 cm from the long southern wall and 40 cm from the short eastern wall; the grooves cross these single stamp impressions. The pot was found 60 cm from the western wall and 45 cm from the southern wall; it was however depicted near the short eastern wall in the original cemetery plan. It is not certain what its original find location was; the written information is followed which indicates that it was found close to the presumed former location of the head, which is a find location deviant from the general find locations of biconical pots (close to the feet).

The three pots are classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt2.12, the oldest form of biconical pots with straight upper walls, which dates to Rhineland phase 5 (530-555). They are the oldest available biconical pots (together with 9-1-1 from the Steiner cemetery). The Franken AG classify pots similar to 28-1-1 to Kwt2.22 as FAG Kwt2A which dates to phases 4.1 (510/20-540) and 4.11-1 as FAG Kwt2B which dates to their phases 4.5 (510/35-580/90). They are the oldest available biconical pots (together with 9-1-1 from the Steiner cemetery). The Franken AG classify pots similar to 28-1-1 to Kwt2.22 as FAG Kwt2A which dates to phases 4.1 (510/20-540) and 4.11-1 as FAG Kwt2B which dates to their phases 4.5 (510/35-580/90) and sporadically somewhat later.

The pottery fragments found scattered throughout grave 50 were glued together; approximately 50% of the grey/black biconical pot with a height of 12.3 cm was missing and completed (fig. 4.114). The decoration on the upper wall consists of two zones of four prominent grooves. The condition of the outer surface indicates that it was a smoked specimen of which the thin dark top layer is considerably weathering showing the lighter, brown, past underneath. Other finds are not known from this grave.

The fragments of a biconical pot (52-1-1) found scattered throughout grave 52 were glued together and the missing parts completed; the reconstructed pot has a height of 13.0 cm and approximately 30% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.124). It classifies similar pots as type Kwt2C which dates to their phases 7-8 (610-670/80).

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Kwt2.12, graves 28, 30 and 36 (scale 1:4).

The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt2A which dates to their phases 4.1 (510/20-540) and 4.11-1 as FAG Kwt2B which dates to their phases 4.5 (510/35-580/90). They are the oldest available biconical pots (together with 9-1-1 from the Steiner cemetery). The Franken AG classify pots similar to 28-1-1 to Kwt2.22 as FAG Kwt2A which dates to phases 4.1 (510/20-540) and 4.11-1 as FAG Kwt2B which dates to their phases 4.5 (510/35-580/90) and sporadically somewhat later.

The pottery fragments found scattered throughout grave 50 were glued together; approximately 50% of the grey/black biconical pot with a height of 12.3 cm was missing and completed (fig. 4.114). The decoration on the upper wall consists of two zones of four prominent grooves. The condition of the outer surface indicates that it was a smoked specimen of which the thin dark top layer is considerably weathering showing the lighter, brown, past underneath. Other finds are not known from this grave.

The fragments of a biconical pot (52-1-1) found scattered throughout grave 52 were glued together and the missing parts completed; the reconstructed pot has a height of 13.0 cm and approximately 30% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.124). It classifies similar pots as type Kwt2C which dates to their phases 7-8 (610-670/80).
is a brown grey pot of fine burnished ware, decorated with two grooves beneath the neck and two grooves just above the carination. The rest of the upper wall in between the grooves is not decorated. Other finds from this grave are various wood fragments which might have been of a bowl. The pot is classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt2.31, of which it is mentioned that the upper walls are generally completely covered with grooves. In view of this remark and the location of the grooves on the upper wall of the pot from grave 52, it can be wondered whether the upper wall was not initially intended to be entirely covered with grooves.

The two pots have a different appearance but are both classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt2.31 on the basis of metric criteria and the grooves. Their different appearances might be caused by the fact that this type consists of pots of basic form group 1-3; pot 52-1-1 has basic form 1 and pot 50-1-1 basic form 3. Siegmund’s type Kwt2.31 dates to RhineLand phase 5 (555-570). The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt4A, which dates to their phases 4.5 (510/20-580/90) and sporadically to phase 5 (580/90-640/50). Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund’s type Kwt2.42

Biconical pot 22-1-1 is a grey pot with a height of 8.5 cm (fig. 4.126). The prominent groove on the shoulder of the pot is not identified as a decorative element similar to the groove decorations on other biconical pots, but rather as a pronounced transition from belly to neck; it is therefore identified as a pot without decoration. Traces of the smoked, but now weathered dark top layer can be observed. The pot was recorded as a find from the middle section of the supposed former location of the feet, and was thus presumably found close to the short eastern wall of the grave. Since the restoration report is not available it cannot be determined whether the pot was found in complete or fragmented condition (some of the added parts of the restored pots from Stein were glued together and missing parts completed (fig. 4.125). The find location could not be recorded according to Beckers and Beckers. Other finds from this grave are some beads and a simple ring.

The biconical pot from grave 11 was found in fragmented condition but it is now restored and completed; approximately 90% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.127). It has a height of 16.0 cm, and its upper wall is much higher than the lower wall. The find number indicates that it was found in grave 77, but this grave was never excavated; it remains unknown what the actual find circumstances of this pot were.
The two pots are classified as Siegmund’s type Kwt2.43, which dates to Rhineland phases 3-5 (565-610). The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt3A, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20). The grey biconical pot from grave 51 was found in fragmented condition (fig. 4.129). The pot is now restored and completed; approximately 86% of the original pot is present. The pot has a height of 11.3 cm and the upper wall is decorated with single lines of complex roulette stamp impression consisting of crossed alternating with vertical stripes; the roulette stamp is applied five to six times as a spiral. It is identified as a roulette stamp of the early group (since it is an uninterrupted pattern). The outer surface is covered with a thin dark top layer, now weathered and showing the lighter paste underneath. It was clearly a smoked specimen. The pot was found 40 cm from the southern wall and 60 cm from the western wall. The Franken AG classify biconical pots with similar decorations as type Kwt3G, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20). The grey biconical pot from grave 53 was restored on the basis of a number of fragments (53-1-1) and completed for a considerable part; approximately 40% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.129). The reconstructed pot has a height of 15.2 cm and a slightly rounded carination. The decoration is identified as Siegmund’s early roulette stamp group; the pot is accordingly classified as type Kwt3.11, which dates to Rhineland phases 5-7 (570-610). The Franken AG classify pots with similar decoration as type Kwt3A which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20). The grey biconical pot from grave 58 was found in the south-western corner of the grave, close to the presumed former location of the head. The decoration is identified as Siegmund’s early roulette stamp group; the pot is accordingly classified as type Kwt3.11, which dates to Rhineland phases 5-7 (570-610). The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt3A, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20). The grey biconical pot from grave 53 was found in fragmented condition (fig. 4.129). The pot is now restored and completed; approximately 86% of the original pot is present. The pot has a height of 11.3 cm and the upper wall is decorated with single lines of complex roulette stamp impression consisting of crossed alternating with vertical stripes; the roulette stamp is applied five to six times as a spiral. It is identified as a roulette stamp of the early group (since it is an uninterrupted pattern). The outer surface is covered with a thin dark top layer, now weathered and showing the lighter paste underneath. It was clearly a smoked specimen. The pot was found 40 cm from the southern wall and 60 cm from the western wall. The Franken AG classify biconical pots with similar decorations as type Kwt3G, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20). The grey biconical pot from grave 53 was restored on the basis of a number of fragments (53-1-1) and completed for a considerable part; approximately 40% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.129). The reconstructed pot has a height of 15.2 cm and a slightly rounded carination. The decoration is identified as Siegmund’s early roulette stamp group; the pot is accordingly classified as type Kwt3.11, which dates to Rhineland phases 5-7 (570-610). The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt3A, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20). The grey biconical pot from grave 58 was found in the south-western corner of the grave, close to the presumed former location of the head. The decoration is identified as Siegmund’s early roulette stamp group; the pot is accordingly classified as type Kwt3.11, which dates to Rhineland phases 5-7 (570-610). The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt3A, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20). The grey biconical pot from grave 53 was restored on the basis of a number of fragments (53-1-1) and completed for a considerable part; approximately 40% of the original pot is present (fig. 4.129). The reconstructed pot has a height of 15.2 cm and a slightly rounded carination. The decoration is identified as Siegmund’s early roulette stamp group; the pot is accordingly classified as type Kwt3.11, which dates to Rhineland phases 5-7 (570-610). The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt3A, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20). The grey biconical pot from grave 58 was found in the south-western corner of the grave, close to the presumed former location of the head. The decoration is identified as Siegmund’s early roulette stamp group; the pot is accordingly classified as type Kwt3.11, which dates to Rhineland phases 5-7 (570-610). The Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt3A, which dates to their phases 5-6 (565-610/20).
the only find known from this grave and it was found in the mid-
dle of the section close to the eastern wall of the grave, thus close to
the presumed former location of the feet.

Identifying the decoration as single stamp impressions war-
rants a classification of the pot as Siegmund type Kwt2.12, which
dates to Rhineland phase 4 (530-555)w its identification as a pot
with decoration of the early roulette stamp group (complex sin-
gle line of roulette stamp impressions) results in a classification
of Siegmund's type Kwt3.12, which dates to Rhineland phases 6-7
(570-610).w

Fine pottery: biconical pot of Siegmund's type 3.21/3.22
1 (1-2-1)

Biconical pot 1-5-1 from grave has a grey surface and a height of
11.0 cm. A considerable part of the pot is gone, and the re-
constructed parts do present a reliable image of the original dec-
oration. The original parts of the upper wall seem to indicate that
it was decorated with three or four zones of multiple lines (two)
of irregular rectangular roulette stamp impressions (late group of
roulette stamps). The grave was considerably disturbed but it was
nonetheless observed that the fragments of this pot, and others,
were found scattered throughout the grave. One other biconical
pot (1-6-2) could be reconstructed with the uncovered fragments.
The height/height index classifies it just within basic from group
2. Since the pot is restored and completed basic form group 4 is
also be considered as an option. Depending on the basic ground
form the pot is classified either as type Kwt2.11 (ground form 2),
which dates to Rhineland phase 7-8 (85-840),w or type Kwt3.22
(ground form 4), which dates to the end of phase 7 and phase
8A (860-950).w According to the Franken AG it is a pot of type
Kwt3B which dates to their phases 5-7 (85-640/60).w

Fine pottery: biconical pot of Siegmund's type 3.13
66 (6-6-3)

Biconical pot 66-3-1 from grave 66 was found in complete condi-
tion; some shallow cracks can be observed on its surface but these
did not cause a disintegration of the pot before its discovery (fig.
4.132). It is a black pot with a height of 10.3 cm. The upper wall is
decorated with a single line of square roulette stamp impressions
applied four times; the decoration is identified as the early roulette
stamp group of Siegmund.33 It has a thin dark top layer, some-
what weathered showing the lighter paste underneath. It is thus
a smoked specimen. The pot was found in the middle of the grave,
70 cm from the short eastern wall and thus near the presumed
former location of the feet. The other finds from the grave are a plate
bucket and an iron nail. The pot is classified as Siegmund's type
3.13, which dates to Rhineland phases 6-7 (570-610).w The
Franken AG classify similar pots as type Kwt3A which dates to
their phases 5-6 (565-610/60).w

The pot was found 37 cm from the northern wall, in the mid-
dle of the grave. Pots with similar decoration schemes are classi-
fied as Franken AG type 5F, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-
640/60).w

The dark grey biconical pot from grave 30 was found as a com-
plete specimen, apart from a small rim fragment which is gone (fig.
4.133). It has a somewhat weathered thin dark top layer showing
the lighter grey paste underneath; it is thus a smoked specimen.
The pot has a height of 11.2-11.7 cm and its upper wall is deco-
rated with one zone of one deep groove, two shallower grooves
and one shallow groove. Above the grooves one line of roulette
stamp impressions of crosses can be observed. The roulette stamp
impressions applied beneath the grooves are similar. The roulette
stamp decoration is identified as a complex interrupted roulette
stamp and is thus a stamp of the late group. The pot was found 45
cm from the long south-eastern wall of the grave and 40 cm from
the short north-eastern wall, thus close to the presumed former
location of the feet. The other finds from the grave are a large bi-
conical pot, a palm cup and beads. This smaller biconical pot fell
over and was found leaning against the larger biconical pot. Pots
with similar decoration schemes are classified as Franken AG type
5F, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/60).w

Biconical pot 60-1-1 was found in fragmented condition (fig.
4.133). The fragments are glued together and form a grey biconical
pot of which the missing parts are completed; approximately 50% of
the original pot is present. The height of the reconstructed pot
is 11.5 cm and its upper wall is decorated with four lines of square
roulette stamp impressions applied multiple times; it is identified
as a roulette stamp of the late group. The fragments were found

Biconical pot 60-1-1 is a soft baked product with a considerably
weathered surface (fig. 4.133). The pot is nearly complete; the
missing parts are not completed. It was found with some frag-
ments detached, which are now added to the pot. The pot has a
height of 11.0 cm and its upper wall is decorated with three sin-
gle lines of square grids filled with three columns and two rows
of small rectangular impressions. It is a complex interrupted rou-
lette stamp and belongs thus to the late group of roulette stamps.

Biconical pot 61-1-1 was found in fragmented condition (fig.
4.133). The fragments are glued together and form a grey biconical
pot of which the missing parts are completed; approximately 50% of
the original pot is present. The height of the reconstructed pot
is 11.5 cm and its upper wall is decorated with four lines of square
roulette stamp impressions applied multiple times; it is identified
as a roulette stamp of the late group. The fragments were found

Biconical pot 67-1-1 is a soft baked product with a considerably
weathered surface (fig. 4.133). The pot is nearly complete; the
missing parts are not completed. It was found with some frag-
ments detached, which are now added to the pot. The pot has a
height of 11.0 cm and its upper wall is decorated with three sin-
gle lines of square grids filled with three columns and two rows
of small rectangular impressions. It is a complex interrupted rou-
lette stamp and belongs thus to the late group of roulette stamps.

Fine pottery: biconical pots of Siegmund's type 3.22
26 (26-1-1); 30 (30-2-1); 60 (60-1-1); 61 (61-1-1); 67 (67-1-1)

Biconical pot 26-1-1 is a soft baked product with a considerably
weathered surface (fig. 4.133). The pot is nearly complete; the
missing parts are not completed. It was found with some frag-
ments detached, which are now added to the pot. The pot has a
height of 11.0 cm and its upper wall is decorated with three sin-
gle lines of square grids filled with three columns and two rows
of small rectangular impressions. It is a complex interrupted rou-
lette stamp and belongs thus to the late group of roulette stamps.

Biconical pot 30-2-1 is a soft baked product with a considerably
weathered surface (fig. 4.133). The pot is nearly complete; the
missing parts are not completed. It was found with some frag-
ments detached, which are now added to the pot. The pot has a
height of 11.0 cm and its upper wall is decorated with three sin-
gle lines of square grids filled with three columns and two rows
of small rectangular impressions. It is a complex interrupted rou-
lette stamp and belongs thus to the late group of roulette stamps.

Biconical pot 60-1-1 is a soft baked product with a considerably
weathered surface (fig. 4.133). The pot is nearly complete; the
missing parts are not completed. It was found with some frag-
ments detached, which are now added to the pot. The pot has a
height of 11.0 cm and its upper wall is decorated with three sin-
gle lines of square grids filled with three columns and two rows
of small rectangular impressions. It is a complex interrupted rou-
lette stamp and belongs thus to the late group of roulette stamps.

Biconical pot 61-1-1 is a soft baked product with a considerably
weathered surface (fig. 4.133). The pot is nearly complete; the
missing parts are not completed. It was found with some frag-
ments detached, which are now added to the pot. The pot has a
height of 11.0 cm and its upper wall is decorated with three sin-
gle lines of square grids filled with three columns and two rows
of small rectangular impressions. It is a complex interrupted rou-
lette stamp and belongs thus to the late group of roulette stamps.

Biconical pot 67-1-1 is a soft baked product with a considerably
weathered surface (fig. 4.133). The pot is nearly complete; the
missing parts are not completed. It was found with some frag-
ments detached, which are now added to the pot. The pot has a
height of 11.0 cm and its upper wall is decorated with three sin-
gle lines of square grids filled with three columns and two rows
of small rectangular impressions. It is a complex interrupted rou-
lette stamp and belongs thus to the late group of roulette stamps.

Biconical pots type Siegmund Kwt3.22, graves 26, 30, 60, 61 and 67 (scale 1:4).

Fig. 4.133
Biconical pot type Siegmund Kwt3.22, graves 26, 30, 60, 61 and 67 (scale 1:4).
Wall fragments with the rim of a grey biconical pot were found in grave 65. The fragments show three zones of four lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions; it is thus a roulette stamp of the late group.

The described fragments with roulette stamp decoration of the late group can be classified as Siegmund’s types Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23, which date to their phases 7-8 (610/20-670/80). In grave 65, the fragments were found in the middle close to the short eastern wall of the grave.

In grave 69 many fragments of a biconical pot (69g-1-1) were found; the pot is not restored yet. The fragments show three zones of four lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions; it is thus a roulette stamp of the late group.

Six fragments of a grey biconical pot, one wall fragment with rim, one bottom fragment and four wall fragments were found in grave 65. The fragments show that the upper wall was decorated with three zones of four lines of square roulette stamp impressions. The fragments were found in the middle close to the short eastern wall of the grave.

A pot could not be reconstructed from these shards. The handle was newly identified as fragments of a biconical pot with a spout and handle, and thus considered to be a special form within the groups of biconical pots. The rims of spotted pots can be simple or can have added inward turned collars with conspicuous decoration. The Stein pots are all rather common with only slightly outward folded simple rims. They are classified and dated on the basis of the biconical pot classifications schemes of Siegmund and the Franken AG (table 4.16).

Five pottery: spotted pots

The number of three spotted pots in the Stein cemetery is lower than the number found in the two nearby cemeteries of Sittard-Kempkerkuil and Stein. Spotted pots are in fact biconical pots with a spout and handle, and thus considered to be a special form within the groups of biconical pots. The rims of spotted pots can be simple or can have added inward turned collars with conspicuous decoration. The Stein pots are all rather common with only slightly outward folded simple rims. They are classified and dated on the basis of the biconical pot classifications schemes of Siegmund and the Franken AG (table 4.16).

Table 4.16

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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kwt3.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The three spotted pots are all classified as Siegmund type Kwt3.12, which dates to their phases 5-7 (565-640/50). In grave 54 seven fragments (54g-8-1) of a black spotted pot were found together in the south-eastern corner of the grave (fig. 4.134). The pot probably broke after the wooden container collapsed. The pot was restored and the missing parts completed, except for the spout, which former presence is only indicated by a round hole opposite to the handle. The handle has a width of 5.5 cm, and has two grooves. It is attached to the rim and ends on the upper wall, just above the carination. The height of the pot is 16.7-17.5 cm. The upper wall is decorated with multiple lines of triangular roulette stamp impressions, and belong thus as a complex stamp to the late group of roulette stamps. The Franken AG classify pots with these impressions as type Kwt4D, which dates to their phase 6 (580-600/20).24

The three spotted pots, as well as the other of spot vessels, form a group that is probably of Retsesta type B.25

Eight grey biconical pots were found in grave 45. The decoration on the upper wall consists of three zones of five lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions, and can thus be identified as a stamp of the late group.

**Fine pottery: pot fragments, roulette stamps**

Wall fragments with the rim of a grey biconical pot were found in grave 45 (fig. 4.37). The decoration on the upper wall consists of three zones of five lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions, and can thus be identified as a stamp of the late group.

A biconical pot, grey, with a decoration pattern similar to that one the pot from grave 1 was found in grave 45.26 It had a height of 11.5 cm. The pot is no longer present in the collection and it is not clear to which pot from grave 1 it is referred.

A black biconical pot with lines of irregular square roulette stamp impressions and an indented bottom and with a height of 1.30 cm was found in grave 72.27 It is now no longer present in the collection.

**Fine pottery: spotted pots**

A grey biconical pot, which dates from the end of Rhineland phase 7 to phase 8A (600-640), was the only find from this grave and its find location was not recorded. It is classified as Franken AG type Kwt5C, which dates to their phases 7-8 (610/20-670/80).

Fragments of grey pot 65-4 20.3 24.5 15.5 4 3 Kwt3.12 were found; the pot is not restored yet. The fragments show three zones of four lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions; it is thus a roulette stamp of the late group.

The described fragments with roulette stamp decoration of the late group can be classified as Siegmund’s types Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23, which date to their phases 7-8 (565-640/50).28

Six fragments of a grey biconical pot, one wall fragment with rim, one bottom fragment and four wall fragments were found in grave 65. The fragments show that the upper wall was decorated with three zones of four lines of square roulette stamp impressions. The fragments were found in the middle close to the short eastern wall of the grave.

**Fine pottery: pot fragments, roulette stamps**

Fragments of grey pot 65-4 20.3 24.5 15.5 4 3 Kwt3.12 were found; the pot is not restored yet. The fragments show three zones of four lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions; it is thus a roulette stamp of the late group.

The three spouted pots are all classified as Siegmund type Kwt3.12, which dates to the end of Rhineland phase 7 and the beginning of phase 8B (600-650).29

...
Coarse pottery: egg shaped pot of Siegmund's type Wwt2.22

671

Type Wwt2.21 dates to Rhineland phase 10 (670-705), and thus to a date range ending somewhat earlier than the range associated with Wwt2.22. The pot belongs to the later burial phases of the cemetery.

Coarse pottery: globular pots

43 (43-1-1)

and 2.32, a classification as Wwt2.21 should also be considered. Type Wwt2.21 dates to Rhineland phase 10 (670-705), and thus to a date range ending somewhat earlier than the range associated with Wwt2.22. The pot belongs to the later burial phases of the cemetery.

Coarse pottery: globular pots

43 (43-1-1)

Grey globular pot 42-1-1 has an outward folded rim in which a deep groove for a lid is applied (fig. 4.137). The pot is of a coarse ware and tempered with gravel and sand. The inclusions seem to point to a production centre in the Eifel (Germany). It was found as complete specimen and has a height of 12.9 cm and a flat bottom. The pot has a globular belly, which egg-shaped pots do not have; it might however fall within the same category. Similar pots from grave contexts are known from Bergigk (one grey pot from grave 53 and one orange pot from grave 37)669 and from Maastricht-Vrijthof (one black pot from grave 36)670. The two pots from the Bergigk cemetery are not dated to an exact phase, but the early seventh century is suggested as a plausible option on the basis of the associated grave inventory of one of the specimens. The authors noticed that the pots showed remains of black smoke or other black residue, as is also observed on the Vrijthof pot. This indicates that the pots were used for cooking.

A grey globular pot of coarse ware with sand and volcanic inclusions was found in grave 14 of a child (fig. 4.136). It was found in two fragments, 3.0 cm from the short northern wall and 14.0 cm from the long eastern wall, thus close to the presumed location of the fire. The pot is now restored and has a height of 10.0 cm. The only other finds from this grave are an iron buckle and two associated copper alloy rivets (as the original catalogue mentioned). In grave 1 various pottery fragments were mentioned to have been found; they are not available anymore. In grave 40-1-1 fragments of grey pottery with red stripes were mentioned to have been found; they are not available anymore.

Fig. 4.134
Globular pots, graves 14 and 17 (scale 1:4).

Fig. 4.135
Globular pots, graves 14 and 17 (scale 1:4).

Fig. 4.136
Grey globular pot 42-1-1 has an outward folded rim in which a deep groove for a lid is applied (fig. 4.137). The pot is of a coarse ware and tempered with gravel and sand. The inclusions seem to point to a production centre in the Eifel (Germany). It was found as complete specimen and has a height of 12.9 cm and a flat bottom. The pot has a globular belly, which egg-shaped pots do not have; it might however fall within the same category. Similar pots from grave contexts are known from Bergigk (one grey pot from grave 53 and one orange pot from grave 37)669 and from Maastricht-Vrijthof (one black pot from grave 36)670. The two pots from the Bergigk cemetery are not dated to an exact phase, but the early seventh century is suggested as a plausible option on the basis of the associated grave inventory of one of the specimens. The authors noticed that the pots showed remains of black smoke or other black residue, as is also observed on the Vrijthof pot. This indicates that the pots were used for cooking.
Glass vessels

Cone beaker/bell beaker

Two olive green wall fragments with rim (of original three) are recorded as finds from grave 5 (fig. 4.139). The fragments show air bubbles and vertical ribs, although very faint, starting 4 cm underneath the rim. The shape of the beaker is difficult to reconstruct, but the fragments might be of a conical beaker or bell beaker. The rim is straight and slightly thickened.

Palm cup: low and broad with outward rolled rim

Several blue glass fragments (8:10-1) from grave 8 were glued together and missing parts were substituted (fig. 4.139). The reconstructed vessel is a low and broad palm cup with a lenticular, indented bottom and a thick outward rolled rim with tubular cavity. Air bubbles can be observed, which indicated that the quality of the glass was not that high. It was not recorded where in the grave the fragments were found, but it is part of a richly furnished grave of a man in which also a seax, sword, shield boss, lance head and belt- and sword fittings were found. The cup is without decoration, which is in Maul's typological scheme decoration type a. Evans described two different outward folded rims on undecorated, squat palm cups: one is only slightly outward bent and rolled leaving a circular cavity, and the other has a thickened rim end which is folded outwards and pressed on the outer wall, leaving a tubular hollow rim. The Stein cup has outward bent and rolled rim with a modest depth.

The palm cup cannot be classified with Siegmund's scheme: he only identified cups with broad outward folded rims and solid rounded rims. The rim of the Stein palm cup obviously is a form which fits somewhere in between these two rim forms. According to the typology of Maul it is a type Tumpler 81a, which dates to 570-680. According to Feysen's classification it is a type 55.0, which dates to 550-650. Altogether, dating this palm cup to 580/90-670/80 seems a plausible option.

Palm cups: low, semi-spherical body with straight walls, plain rim and ribs

99 (30-3-1)

Green palm cup 30-3-1 has straight walls, a simple rounded rim and a rounded base (fig. 4.140). It is of opaque glass, multiple air bubbles can be observed. The cup has fifteen vertical ribs from bottom to approximately 1.5 cm underneath the rim. The majority of the rims at the end of transition from wall to bottom and some are somewhat prolonged, though vague. Five round bosses are present at the bottom of the cup, on which the cup can be standing. Four bosses are applied at the transition from wall to bottom, and one is applied on the middle of the bottom. One faint rib is connected with the middle boss, but not with the other bosses. Examples of other cups show that the bottom ribs can be more prominent and can form cruciform patterns in which the bosses are integrated. The cup has a height of 3.5 cm. It was found 49.0 cm from the long north-eastern wall and 49.0 cm from the north-eastern wall. The palm cup fell over and found close to the large biconical pot. Another biconical pot and numerous beads are also known from this grave (of a woman).

This palm cup falls in the category low and semi-spherical cups and resembles the three palm cups with ribs from Sittard. These however, have slightly different bottoms and a number of twelve vertical ribs of which four come together at the bottom forming a cross. The majority of the ribs on the Stein beaker do not reach the bottom and the five bulges on the bottom of the Stein cup are not present on the Sittard cups. Maul classified the patterns formed by the ribs and bulges on the bottoms of palm cups; the bottom of the Stein cup can be classified as bottom type P3, which refers to a five point pattern. The palm cup is classified as Maul type A 1b (half spherical cup with straight walls, smooth rim, and a ribbed surface), which she dates to Stufe AM III-JM 1 (560/70-690/80). A similar specimen, although light green, was found in Kent. The possible area of provenance were referred to as the Rhineland, northern France and Belgium. This vessel from Kent has a hollow inward rolled rim, which is referred to as a late feature of similar palm cups dated to the sixth and seventh centuries. This feature is absent on the Stein specimen, which might indicate that is dates somewhat early in the proposed date range. The cup from Kent, moreover, shows sixteen ribs, which is an even number and in equilibrium with the four outer bosses on the bottom: it was mentioned that each boss was at the end of two connecting ribs (14x4-8) and that in between the bosses other pairs of ribs are present (4x2-8), resulting in sixteen regularly applied ribs. The ribs and bosses are not that neatly applied on the Stein cup: it has an uneven number of ribs which are not completely in harmony with the four bosses at its bottom. Moreover, the bosses themselves are neither applied regularly.

Similar palm cups are classified as Siegmund's type Gla 2.2, which is a rather general type of palm cup dating to Rhineland phase 7 (585-630). The Franken AG, who maintained the Rhineland typology, date them to their phases 67 (590/640-660). Other typological studies identified more specific types. Feysen for example classified palm cups as the ones from Stein as sub-group 5.3km (palm cups with vertical ribs and additional features produced in a mould; in the case of Stein the five bosses), which dates to the second half of the sixth century and the beginning of the seventh century. In view of the alternative classifications and associated date ranges it appears that Siegmund's criteria for these palm cups are coherent chronological indicators but that his date ranges is somewhat narrower than those of the other typological studies. The date range 580/90-640/50 of the Franken AG seems a plausible option for the Stein cup.

Rivets

8 (8-7-1: 14 (4-3-1); 17 (7-1-1); 60 (60-5-1); 69 (69-5-1)

A number of rivets of which it is not clear to which object they originally belonged are present in the collection. One fragment of what seems to be of a copper alloy rivet with a diameter of 1.3 cm is assigned to grave 8; it might have belonged to the large iron belt fittings of which some of the original copper alloy rivets are gone. The remnants of two copper alloy rivets were recorded as finds from grave 14. They were found close to the western wall, underneath and attached to the buckle (14-3-2) from this grave, but are no longer available in the collection.

The catalogue mentions that copper alloy rivets were found in the upper fill of grave 17. A round copper alloy object is present and might be one of the rivets referred to in the catalogue since its original find number (Via 43) matches with his grave. A copper alloy knob (60-5-1) was recorded as find from grave 66. It was found in association with an iron fragment close to the former location of the head. It might be present as a severely corroded specimen in a box holding many iron fragments from this grave. A fragment of a copper alloy rivets is present as find from grave 69, it is not clear to which object it originally belonged.
An iron nail was found in approximately the middle of the grave, in association with a decorated iron belt fitting; a corroded iron nail is present in the collection.

Beckers and Beckers mention that six iron nails (46-4-1) were found dispersed throughout grave 46. Iron fragments, in a very bad condition, are present; they might be fragments of the six nails.

The iron nail from grave 49 is in available in corroded and incomplete condition. It was found at a depth of 50 cm, close to the northern wall in the middle of the grave. Other finds from this grave are a seax, a knife, and some indeterminate iron fragments.

Fragments of an iron nail (60-8-1) were recorded as finds from grave 60. They might be present in the box in which many iron fragments from grave 60 were stored but it will be difficult to reconstruct objects from the pile of iron fragments, which obviously belonged to different objects. The recorded fragments were found scattered throughout the grave.

An iron nail was found in the proximity of the plate buckle from grave 66, which was found close to the northern wall, in the middle of the grave. It is no longer available in the collection.

Four iron nails (0-0-6), probably coffin nails are known from the cemetery, but are without find number.

Of all the graves in which iron nails or fragments of iron nails were found only grave 60 held a wooden container. Iron nails are generally identified as wooden container nails, but in view of the absence of wooden containers in the majority of the graves and their find locations inside the graves other meanings might be considered.

Fragments: copper alloy
18 (18-5-1)

The copper alloy fragments (18-5-1) from grave 18 are the parts of what was in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers identified as a chain link. The fragments are not restored, and it is in fact difficult to identify them as such. The fragments were found towards the western wall, in the middle of the grave, thus near the presumed former location of the head. Some other copper alloy fragments were mentioned to have been found at the same location as the identified chain link; for now they are identified as parts of the same object. Other finds from this grave are a seax, knife, and a number of metal objects which seem to be belt fittings. Copper alloy chain links are generally known from the graves of women.

Fragments: iron
12 (12-4-1; 12-5-2); 17 (17-2-1; 17-2-2); 37 (37-2-1); 46 (46-1-1; 46-1-2); 49 (49-4-1); 54 (54-2-1); 55 (55-2-1); 57 (57-2-1); 60 (60-6-1; 60-6-2-1; 60-11-2-1; 60-12-2-1; 60-9-2-1; 6-9-8-2)

Numerous iron fragments from a number of graves are present in the collection; their restoration might reveal their original function.

From grave 12 an indeterminate iron fragment with wood remains is present (12-4-1), as are three indeterminate iron fragments, of which one is triangular and one seems to be the hilt of a knife. They might all be fragments of a knife.

Two indeterminate iron fragments were found in the lower part of grave 17; they are no longer present in the collection.

Two indeterminate iron fragments were recorded as finds from grave 49. One was described as a triangular shaped object with a length of 3.0 cm of which one extremity has a width of 4.5 cm and the other a width of 5.5 cm. It is now present in a fragmented and corroded condition and appeared to be belt fittings of type Bilulch (49-2-1.1 and 1.2; see the sections on belt fittings). The other indeterminate fragment (49-4-1) was described as a ‘pear shaped’ object, but its dimensions were not given. It is no longer present in the collection. The object was found at a depth of 50 cm, close to the northern wall, in the middle of the grave. The other finds from grave 49 are, next to the belt fittings, a seax, a knife and an iron nail. A number of mill iron fragments; presumably of an iron buckle are assigned to grave 49 on the basis of the original find number. The associated card refers to the fragments as those of a buckle, but this is not certain.

Three corroded iron fragments (37-1-2) were recorded as finds from grave 37 in the initial catalogue. The X-ray photo shows that the smaller fragments are remnants of nails. The fragments were found nearly in the middle of the grave, 145 cm from the short western wall of the grave.

Various iron fragments (46-4-1) were found at a depth of 180 cm in grave 46, among which a corner mount of probably a wooden container; the fragments are no longer present in the collection. A part of an iron knife or seax (46-4-1), found along the southern wall of this grave was also recorded as find; a rectangular fragment which might be the hilt of a knife or seax is present in a corroded condition.

Iron fragments were in the initial catalogue recorded as find from grave 55; it was recorded that four fragments seemed to be rivets, of which three (55-2-1) were found lying in a row, 53.0 cm from the southern wall, and one (55-3-2) was found 40 cm from the northern wall. The two other fragments were indeterminate of which one had wood attached to it. In the restoration atelier several corroded iron fragments, with wood, are present; they might be the fragments referred to in the catalogue.

Iron fragments (56-2-1) were in the catalogue mentioned to have been found in grave 56. They are described as two indeterminate iron fragments, found 30 cm from the western wall and 55 cm from the northern wall, at a depth of 90 cm. Fragments, falling apart, are in poor condition present in a box in the restoration atelier.

Indeterminate iron fragments were found 60 cm from the western wall in the middle of grave 56, they are present in corroded condition but it cannot be established to what sort of object(s) they actually belonged.

Various iron fragments (58-6-10, some with rivets, were recorded as find from grave 58 and were identified as the grip of a shield; they are no longer present in the collection.

Numerous iron fragments were found scattered throughout grave 60; the fragments are stored together in a box. Some objects can be identified on the basis of these remnants.

Fragment 60-6-1 is an iron fragment with a small round copper alloy fragment. It was found in association with a knob close to the former location of the head. Fragments 60-9-1 are fragments of an iron knife, fragments 60-10-1 are of an iron arrowhead, fragments 60-11-1 are of the socket of an iron arrow head, fragments 60-12-1 are of what might be the socket of an iron lance head.

Three amorphous indeterminate iron fragments (69-2-12) were recorded as finds from grave 69; an iron nail and indeterminate fragments are present.

A number of iron fragments, indeterminate (0-0-8) are known from the cemetery but are without find number.

Wood fragments
52 (52-2-1; 52-2-10), 60 (60-7-1); 69 (69-5-1)

The catalogue refers to thin ‘plates’ of wood (52-2-1.1), found nearly at the bottom of grave 52, 100 cm from the western wall and 90 cm from the southern wall, together with an indeterminate iron fragment (52-2-1.2). Iron corrosion coloured the wood fragments red. They might have been of a wooden bowl or of the coffin bottom. Five fragments are at present available in the restoration atelier. It is not clear what the corroded, more or less triangular shaped iron object (52-2-1.2) represents. It might a belt fitting plate (counter plate or plate of a plate buckle). Since the only other find from this grave is a bihonal pot this conclusion cannot be emphasized with matching belt fittings. A nail shaped object, in a bad condition, is stored in a box with a note referring to grave 52; it remains nonetheless uncertain whether it belongs to this grave since it was not recorded in the initial catalogue.

Various wood fragments of the coffin were found in grave 60, and are also present in the available collection.

Some thin wood fragments, of which it was mentioned that they were not of a wooden container (coffin or chamber) were found scattered throughout grave 69.
PART 2
INTERPRETATIONS

5 The chronology of individual graves and the chronological structure of the cemeteries p. 230
Mirjam Kars

6 The topography and chronological development of the cemeteries and the possible history of the burial communities p. 248
Mirjam Kars

7 Aspects of burial rituals p. 286
Mirjam Kars/ Frans Theuws
This chapter deals with the construction of the chronologically based graves for the three cemeteries and the decisions on the basis of which each individually dated grave was assigned to these burial phases. This chapter is therefore the basis for the detailed analyses of the chronological development and typology of the three cemeteries in relation to the possible history of the connected communities, which can be found in chapter 6, and change and continuity in various burial practices, which is discussed in chapter 7.

Dating individual graves: Methods and restrictions

It was not possible to date the grave goods and graves from the three cemeteries independently with current dating techniques such as seriation or the typo-chronological method. The datasets are too small for these techniques, and the interpretative problems with regard to the associated procedures and outcomes are also manifold.2 Burial archaeologists, however, have stated that an independent typo-chronology scheme for the Meuse Valley and the nearby regions in the southern Netherlands and Belgium is required.3 Such a scheme can offer new insights and produce chronological overviews which are more consistent than those assigned to the undisturbed graves, but nonetheless consistent with the dating of the graves from Sittard, Obbicht and Stein to relatively broad date ranges (table 5.1).

The graves of the three cemeteries are accorded date ranges on the basis of all their dated finds, but not all the finds have similar chronological significance. The date ranges assigned to various types of prominent belt fittings have proven to be strong chronological indicators on a supra-regional level.4 Pottery production shows differences on a local level, although within the margins of the general convention; regional typo-chronology schemes of pottery are thus not completely interchangeable.5 Common beads, especially those without decoration, appear to be difficult to date to restricted date ranges, as is the variety of utensils such as for example knives and fire-sticks.6

The date ranges assigned to the graves are not an average of the date ranges assigned to the associated grave finds, but are reasonable ones. This reasoning can for each grave be found in the following sections. On the basis of the established grave date ranges, a number of burial phases are constructed for each cemetery. This is not an unequivocal practice since the majority of the graves could not be dated to a single (Franken AG) phase (table 5.1). Bounded chronological phases (which do not overlap with other phases) with a significant number of graves were also impossible to create on the basis of the variable date ranges assigned to the graves of the three cemeteries. The datable graves are therefore assigned to three broad phases. The middle phases are for all three cemeteries relatively long and consist of the majority of the graves. It was decided to divide these middle phases in sub phases, which show some overlap (table 5.1). This practice made it possible to assign graves unambiguously to broad general burial phases for which the internal chronological development is represented by overlapping sub phases. The sub phases are slightly different for the three cemeteries, depending on the length of the date-ranges that could be assigned to the individual graves. The chronological significance of these sub phases is less straightforward than the general phases but they nonetheless contribute to the under- standing of the internal development of the three cemeteries. In what follows calendar dates are given for the graves discussed; they represent the phases in the studies of Siegmund and the Franken AG.

The Sittard-Kemperkoul burial phases

The 88 recorded graves one appeared to be wrongly identified (context 29) now a ‘discarded context’7 and are identified as possible inhumation graves. Grave goods were found in 64 of the 84 burials (table 5.2). The majority of the burials were intact and the finds assemblages discovered in these undisturbed graves can be assumed to represent the original constitution of the grave inventory, apart from the possible decayed organic goods. Some graves were partly destroyed by recent construction work or early grave reopening (see chapter 3). These graves are dated on the basis of the remaining finds. These date ranges are less certain than those assigned to the undisturbed graves, but nonetheless contribute to the chronological understanding of the cemetery. A number of finds documented in Zoethout’s thesis are now missing from the collection but are, if possible, classified and dated on the basis of the provided descriptions (see chapter 4 and the catalogue of graves and finds). For each Sittard burial (sub) phase a discussion follows on how many graves they consist of and on the basis of which arguments each individual grave is assigned to them. They start in this first phase, or even somewhat earlier, but

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Table 5.1

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Table 5.2

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S-K IIa 565-610/20 O-OM IIa 565-610/20 S-GB IIa 565-610/20
S-K IIb 565-640/50 O-OM IIb 565-640/50 S-GB IIb 565-640/50
S-K IIc 580/90-640/50 O-OM IIc 580/90-640/50 S-GB IIc 580/90-640/50
S-K IIId 610/20-640/50 O-OM IIId 610/20-640/50 S-GB IIId 610/20-640/50
S-K IIIb 640/50-c.750 S-GB IIIb 640/50-c.750

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From Sittard and Obbicht in relation to the typo-chronology schemes of the Franken AG (2003) and the burial phases of Bergeijk (2012) and Posterholt (2013).

The correspondence analyses of beads by Siegmund and Müssemeier et al. show a dense clustering of beads in the centre with only relatively few beads at both extremes dating to the late Roman/early Merovingian period at one end and to the late Merovingian period at the other end (Siegmund 1998, 57-58 and table 6, Müssemeier et al. 2003, 59-56 and Abb. 3).
end in S-K II (565-640/50). They may thus theoretically belong to the first burial phase, but it is more likely that they date somewhat later and belong to the phases to which the majority of the Sittard graves are assigned (table 4.2). With the analytical identification of this first burial phase it is thus not claimed that burial activities actually took place this early in the burial ground of Sittard-Kemperkool; the burial objects might date to this early phase, but the associated graves quite certainly date to the phases thereafter.

Burial phase S-K II: 565-640/50

The majority of the datable Sittard graves date to 565-640/50; it is exact 37 graves. Moreover, four graves could not be more precisely dated as to burial phase I and II (see the following sections). It can be assumed that these graves actually date to phase S-K II, which results in a phase that includes nearly half of all the Sittard graves. Another set of graves have date ranges assigned to them which are chronologically insignificant; they may also date to S-K III. Since the burial phase S-K II consists of a large number of Sittard graves it is divided in four sub phases: S-K IIa-Id (table 5.2). These sub phases show some overlap because the variety of date ranges assigned to the graves hindered the establishment of relatively short and clearly bounded phases. Nonetheless, these overlapping sub phases contribute to a better understanding of the chronology of the cemetery (see also chapter 6).

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Pl. 32, fig. 6.1-6.3). It is a period of 90 years and counts 12 graves (5, 6, 13, 15, 16, 24, 26, 37, 46, 50 and 78). Grave 5 is dated on the basis of a biconical pot, a lance head and an axe. The other finds from this grave could not be dated or are chronologically insignificant, as for example the sherds and fire sted. The biconical pot and axe are dated not later than 610/20 in all the classification schemes used. The date range of the axe starts at 565/70 and that of the pot at 565 or c. 600, depending on the classification scheme used. The date range assigned to the lance head starts at 565 or 570 and ends at 620 or 640. It is decided to date this phase S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 6 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot alone. Other finds, apart from a pottery shard (not precisely datable), are not recorded in this grave. The pot dates to 565-610/20; the grave is dated to S-K IIa. The date range of the pot can be considered a rather reliable chronological indicator.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 7 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date range of the lance head starts at 565/70 and that of the pot at 565 or c. 600, depending on the classification scheme used. The date range assigned to the lance head starts at 565 or 570 and ends at 620 or 640. It is decided to date this phase S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 8 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. An egg-shaped pot was discovered in this grave. The pot dates to 670-740 and the earthenware jug to 590/600-640. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 9 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot (565-610) and a lance head (date range: 565-615). The grave is dated to S-K IIa. The lance head, a rather dead used tool, is not considered a reliable chronological indicator.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 10 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 11 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 12 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 13 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 14 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 15 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 16 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 17 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 18 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 19 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 20 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 21 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 22 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 23 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.

Burial phase S-K IIa: 565-610/20

Grave 24 was dated on the basis of a biconical pot and a lance head. The other finds from this grave were not datable. The date ranges of the biconical pot and the lance head are: 565-610/20 and 565-615 respectively. It is decided to date this grave S-K IIa.
are reliable chronological indicators, but starting around 590/90 on the basis of the other finds, and thus to S-K Ic. Grave 33 contained a biconical pot and a spatulate pot (both dated to 540-580). The single find from grave 47 is a biconical pot which dates, according to Siegmund, to 610-640, but according to the Franken AG to 610-620-670/80. The grave is now dated to S-K IId, but it might also date to a later phase.

A lance head, belt fittings and a spatulate pot are the datable finds from grave 49 and a lance head is dated to 620-710 according to Siegmund, and to 510/45-710 according to the Franken AG. The pottery dated to 600-650 and to 530-570 (Siegmund), and alternatively to 510-530/45-50 (Franken AG). The biconical pot is dated to 610-640 and, the shield boss to a relatively long date range according to the Franken AG (580-710) and to a narrower date range according to Siegmund (610-640). It is decided to place the grave in S-K IID of which the date range is more or less an average of all the available date ranges and in accordance with the date range assigned to the belt fittings.

Grave 7 is dated on the basis of the strap end with silver inlays (610-640). The single datable find from the string of beads was not decisive for the dating of this grave; its broad date range overlaps with S-K IId. The belt fittings from grave 8 are dated to 610-640. The six copper rings from this grave are dated to 640-700/80 or alternatively to 640-700, and the seax rivets to 610-670. It is decided to place the grave in S-K IID on the basis of the belt fittings and the seax rivets.

Grave 14 is dated on the basis of the datable finds, a lance, a seax and biconical pot, all date, depending on the classification scheme used, to the second half of the sixth century. The spindle whorl from this grave dates to 470/80-630/40. The grave can thus not be dated more precisely as to phases S-K I-IId.

Grave 80 contained a considerable number of beads with a long date range. The spouted pot from this grave dates to 470-670/ 630/40 and the biconical pot to 530-570 (Siegmund) or to 510/15- 580/90 (610/20), according to the Franken AG. According to Siegmund, the biconical pot belongs to S-K I. Since burial phase S-K I is poorly represented in the Sittard cemetery, and the date ranges of the other objects from the cover a rather long period, it is decided to date this grave to burial phase I-IId. It is unlikely, especially in view of the long date ranges of the other objects, that it dates to burial phase S-K II. The grave might, however, date early in burial phase S-K II.

The dish from grave 83 is dated to 550-640 (Siegmund) and 530- 610 (Franken AG). The plate buckle from this grave was dated to 550-700. It is decided to place this grave in burial phases I-IId; it is the most unsupposable option.

Burial phase S-K IIIa: 640/50-670/80

The grave assigned to this phase date clearly later than those of the general phase S-K II. The four graves of this burial phase are 8, 25, 64 and 87.

Grave 25 is dated on the basis of the equal armed brooch: 630/40-710. The single amber bead from this grave could be dated to the last half of burial phase S-K IIIb, and thus after S-K IIIa. Graves 53 and 64 obviously date to S-K IIIb, but it is not certain whether they date late or early in this phase; they might thus also date to phase S-K IIIa. The other graves assigned to burial phase S-K IIIb are roughly estimated to be the youngest graves with grave goods, but it is not certain where exactly in the second half of the seventh century or beginning of the eighth century they should be placed. It is safe to suggest that the graves of burial phase S-K IIIb are roughly equal to the grave goods deposited in the cemetery. In chapter 6, the chronological development of the cemetery is discussed in more detail.

Grave 43 contained only beads; their assigned date ranges are
The chronology of individual graves and chronological structure of the cemeteries

The cemetery of Obbicht-Oude Molen consists of six-four grave groups, according to the published records. One grave (grave 65) was depicted on the cemetery plan but was mentioned to have been found at some distance from the excavated cemetery (it is not known where exactly). Three graves appeared to consist of two distinct superimposed burials. The actual excavated cemetery consisted thus of sixty-seven burials and one isolated grave. Of the sixty-eight graves, fifty-five graves contained grave goods of which forty-five could be dated on the basis of these finds. The other ten graves contained finds which could not be classified or dated and one grave could not be dated more precisely as to the entire Merovingian period (table 5.3). The Obbicht burial phases are established on the basis of the date ranges accorded to the graves (table 5.1).

**Burial phase O-OM I (550-560)**

Three graves can be identified as the earliest graves of the cemetery; graves 65 (the isolated grave), 17 and 21. Grave 65 is dated to 540-550 on the basis of a glass jug alone. The other find from this grave is described by Beckers and Beckers as a globular burnished beaker of fine ware on a foot and with a straight neck; this description provides insufficient information for a more specific identification. On the basis of the glass jug it is decided to identify grave 65 as an early Merovingian grave. Unfortunately, the grave is only recorded as an isolated grave discovered when grave was extracted from the Henrige. It is not known exactly where this was but since it was published in association with the cemetery of Obbicht, it is for now assumed to have been found at some distance, although not far, from the cemetery (in location on the cemetery plan is thus inaccurate; see also chapter 2). If the grave was found close to the excavated cemetery, it would stand for an early phase of the cemetery of which the other graves may have been destroyed.

Grave 17 is dated on the basis of two biconical pots. One pot is dated to 535-540 and the other one to 540-545/65. Altogether six graves could not be dated more precisely as to the burial phase I or II (see the following section). Assuming that these graves actually date to phase O-OM I means that this phase consists of more than half of all the Obbicht graves. Another example of graves with date ranges starting in O-OM II but ending in phase O-OM III, these might also date to the end of phase O-OM I. Because burial phase O-OM II includes the majority of the Obbicht graves it is divided in four sub phases: O-OM IIa-d. And although it was not possible to draw sharp dividing lines between these sub phases, they do contribute to the understanding of the chronological development of the cemetery (see chapter 6).

**Burial phase O-OM II (565-670/80)**

Fifteen of the group of graves dated to broader phases O-OM II can be dated to sub phase O-OM IIa (565-610/20), namely graves 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 20, 28, 30, 31, 37b, 59, and 63 (table 5.3, figs. 6.6 and 6.7). Grave 5 contained numerous findings of which the folded knife (missing) seems to be the strongest chronological indicator, it dates to 640-700. However, numerous other finds with variable date ranges are known from this grave. The belt fittings (although missing) are dated to 585-670 and the seal from this grave dates to 570-620-630 or alternatively to 570-610, the pair of tweezers to 520-570/60-20 and a second knife to 520-600-700. Altogether it is a very diverse assemblage considering the accorded date ranges. The tweezers and the common knife are known to be rather feeble chronological indicators, and the assemblage may not represent the original one (the grave was mentioned to have been disturbed by ‘ground workers’). It is generally decided that the grave on the basis of the find date of the seal, belt fittings and tweezers, and on the ba-
the chronology of individual graves and chronological structure of the cemeteries

Interpretations

- The biconical pot from grave 6 is dated to 560-610/20, and one of the two arrowheads to 470-500/600. The other arrowhead is difficult to date. On the basis of the available finds, the grave can be dated to 560-620.

- Grave 8 is dated on the basis of the biconical pot, which dates to 565-610/20. The iron ring and ring rod are dated to 520/30-630/40. The beads fall within date range 555-705, of which one decorated bead is dated to the more restricted range 560-600/610. Of a number of beads it is mentioned in the consulted typo-chronologies that they occur only sporadically before 610, and frequently thereafter. The grave is nonetheless dated to phase O-OM IIa on the basis of the date range accorded to the biconical pot; the date ranges of the other finds are considered to have less chronological significance but do not contest this date range.

- The biconical pot from grave 11 dates to 565-610/20, the bottom fragment of a glass conical beaker to 510-625/600 (or even earlier 450-550) according to a number of typo-chronologies. The arrow head is dated to 470-500/600. Since arrow heads are rather difficult to date (the accorded date ranges are relatively long), the biconical pot is considered to be indicative for the dating of grave 11.

- The biconical pot from grave 19 dates to 565-610/20, as does the grave since the only other find from this grave is a simple buckle which is difficult to date.

- Grave 20 contains a number of finds, among which is a set of weapons. The chronological significant finds, since they are rather distinguishing: a glass vessel (dated 560-610/20), the chape of a sword (c. 580-700), the buckler is a rather long date range assigned to it; its single row of claws seems to indicate that it dates late within the proposed date range. The shield boss is present and is dated to 580/90-670/80. The bucket, although only available in fragmented and corroded condition, can be dated to 440/50-520/30, whereas the embellishment which is visible from the photos are mostly applied around the socket; parallels from Niederstotzingen in Munsterland date to the seventh century. The belt fittings, knife and some fragments cannot contribute to the dating of this grave. The grave is dated to phase IIa, following the argument also used for grave 29. Numerous finds are known from grave 31 of which the sword, one of the two knives, a seax, an arrow head and lance head are present in corroded and/or fragmented condition. The lance head can be dated to 582-681; the axe is present and dated to 570-610; the groove is present and dated to 580/90-630/40. The biconical pot from grave 31 dates to 565-610/20; the glass vessel from this grave is incomplete but can nonetheless be dated to 510-625/600. The lance head, although available in fragmented condition, is dated to 520/30-570/80 on the basis of its description, but the X-ray photograph show that the spiral bands which were originally applied around the socket; parallels from Niederstotzingen in Munsterland date to the seventh century. The belt fittings, knife and some fragments cannot contribute to the dating of the grave. The grave is dated to phase IIa, following the argument also used for grave 29. The grave is dated to phase IIa, following the argument also used for grave 29. The grave is dated to phase IIa, following the argument also used for grave 29. The grave is dated to phase IIa, following the argument also used for grave 29. The grave is dated to phase IIa, following the argument also used for grave 29.

- The biconical pot from grave 22 can be dated to 565-610/20, or alternatively to 510/25-580/90. The grave can accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 23 dates to 565-610/20 or 555-640/50. The grave is dated accordingly. The single biconical pot from this grave to 580/90-640 or alternatively to 590-690. The grave is thus dated to phase IIIb (565-640), which is a reasonable compromise.

- The bowl from grave 31 dates to 570-640 or alternatively to 560/5-610/20. The grave is accordingly.

- The red pottery dish from grave 24 dates to 555-640. The globe is considered to be rather feeble chronological indicators. The arrow head is present and is dated to 570-610; it is difficult to date since it is only mentioned in the available descriptions since it is missing from the collection.

- The simple iron ring is dated to 520/30-630/40 and the beads fall within date range 560-670/705; these finds have less chronological significance. The grave is on the basis of the date ranges accorded to the Obbicht cemetery. The filigree brooch is dated to 585-610 or alternatively to 560/5-610/20 (the pot could only be classified on the basis of the available descriptions since it is missing from the collection).

- The biconical pot from grave 25 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 26 is dated to 565-610/20, or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 27 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or 520/30-630/40. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 28 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or 520/30-630/40. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 29 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 30 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 31 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 32 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 33 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 34 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 35 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 36 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 37 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 38 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 39 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 40 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.

- The biconical pot from grave 41 is the only find from this grave; it is dated to 565-610/20 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The grave is accordingly.
is dated in accordance with this longer date range since pottery forms are in all probability influenced by local craftsmanship and the restricted Rhineland date range might not apply to the Obbicht cemetery. Grave 47 can only be dated on the basis of some biconical pot fragments. They are dated to 565–640/50, as is the grave. The copper alloy mount from this grave is difficult to date, and other finds are not known from it. The biconical pot from grave 49 dates to 600–650 or alternatively to 565–640/50, and the dish from this grave to 535–600. The beads fall within date range 48–705 and match thus with the date ranges to which the two vessels are dated and on the basis of which the grave is dated to phase OM III. Grave 51 is dated on the basis of biconical pot fragments; they date to 570–610 or 565–640/50.

The single find from grave 61 is a biconical pot which is dated to 585–610 or alternatively to 510–525–640/50. The grave is dated to phase OM III, which seems a defendable compromise between the two proposed date ranges. Grave 63 is dated on the basis of the spouted pot, which dates to 565–640/50. The knife and copper alloy fragments from this grave cannot be dated and thus this date range cannot be emphasized.

**Burial phase O-OM IIc: 610/20–640/50**

Only three graves could be dated to a rather restricted date range identified for the cemetery of Obbicht; these are graves 46, 51B and 57 (table 5.3, fig. 6.6). Grave 46 contained an iron plate buckle with matching back plate, both with silver geometric inlays, which can be dated to 610–20/640/50. The other datable finds from this grave are a biconical pot, dated to 645–705 or alternatively to 610–650/50/40, and a second biconical pot, dated to 570–610. This second pot is difficult to date because of its deviant appearance, and might be, if dated correctly, an old object within the assemblage of grave goods. The description of the fragmented lance head makes it possible to date it to 585–615 and the river associated with the lance head went dry to 585–610 or 570–600. The axe from this grave is corroded and cannot be classified, and the knife and first steel have no chronological significance. On the basis of the available date ranges and especially those of the belt fittings, this grave is dated to phase IIc.

Grave 51 is a double burial. The lower burial (51B) contained iron belt fittings, which could be dated to the restricted date range 610–640. The spouted pot from this lower burial is dated to 610–650 or alternatively to 510–525–640/50. The biconical pot is dated to 585–610 or 570–640/50. Three seaxes have find numbers matching with this grave, which of the remaining two actually belonged to the lower burial is uncertain and their date ranges can as a consequence not be used. The lance head is not available but the pair of tweezers can be dated to 520–30/600/50. The lower burial is dated to phase IIc on the basis of the exceptionally fine belt fittings, the other date ranges do not contest this decision.

Grave 53 is dated on the basis of the ceramic bottle which dates to 565–640, although predominantly to 610–640. The beads date to the date range 570–705 and do thus not show contestable discrepancies with the date range of the bottle, which dates to phase IIc.

**Burial phase O-OM III: 640/50–670/80**

Four graves were dated to phases I–IIc; these are graves 7, 45, 48 and 52 (table 5.3, fig. 6.6). Grave 7 was destroyed and could only be dated on the basis of the biconical pot ascribed to it. The pot dates to 570–640 or alternatively to 510–620 and it was decided to date this grave to the longest proposed range since the evidence for this grave is rather uncertain.

Grave 45 is dated on the basis of a ceramic spindle whorl alone; it dates to 470/80–630/40, which is a relatively long date range. The grave could only be dated accordingly. The grave is dated to phase I–IIc since its creation before 510/20 seems unlikely. A copper alloy strap end is the single find on the basis of which grave 48 can be dated; the strap end dates to 470/80–630/40. The grave is dated to phase I–IIc since it is unlikely that it was created before 510/20.

Grave 53 is dated on the basis of a corroded shield boss alone. And although the shield boss cannot be classified or dated precisely, it was possible to assign it to date range 560–640. The grave is dated accordingly.

**Burial phase O-OM III: 640/50–670/80**

The last sub-phase of general phase O-OM IIId counts only one grave (64), which is a considerably lower number compared to the first two sub-phases (table 5.3, fig. 6.6). The biconical pot from grave 64 dates to 610–670, although it might also date to 585–610, depending on its basic form which could not be established unambiguously. It is alternatively dated, on the basis of its decoration alone, to 510–525–640/50. It is for now considered to be a pot which dates to the seventh century and not earlier in view of its rather elongated appearance; the grave is therefore dated to phase O-OM IIId. This sub-phase shows some overlap with phase III, which starts after 640/50; grave 64 might actually date early in this phase III.

On the whole, the burial ground was more intensively used in the first half of the seventh century than it was thereafter, and evidence for burial activities after 650 is scarce.

**Burial phase O-OM IIId: 640/50–670/80**

One grave (40) could not be dated more precisely as to phase II or IIId; it is dated on the basis of biconical pot fragments to 530–670 or alternatively to 510–640/50. The grave could only be dated by its grave goods — a single biconical pot which dates to 530–650–700, but since the lower burial 40 dates to 565–640/50, the upper burial is dated to phase II and not earlier. A number of variable dates are however assigned to the biconical pot, which indicates that this grave is in all probability dated before 640/50, but that a later date cannot be reported.

**Burial phase O-OM III: 640/50–670/80**

The grave is not dated more precisely as to phases I and II; it is dated on the basis of biconical pot fragments to 530–670 or alternatively to 510–640/50. The grave could only be dated by its grave goods — a single biconical pot which dates to 530–650–700, but since the lower burial 40 dates to 565–640/50, the upper burial is dated to phase II and not earlier. A number of variable dates are however assigned to the biconical pot, which indicates that this grave is in all probability dated before 640/50, but that a later date cannot be reported.

**Grave 39 contained a cremation vessel with some finds of which the belt fittings clearly date to 640–670, as does the single copper alloy rivet found inside it. An oil lamp was also recorded as a find, but it is no longer present. The cremation grave is clearly a late burial in the cemetery.**

**Grave 44 is dated only on the basis of the knife; it dates to 670–705 or alternatively to 640–670/50 on the basis of its presumed angled back. Only the vague contours of a possible angled back can be observed due to the preserved textile remains, but this might be an incorrect observation. The basis for dating this grave is thus rather feeble and it does not provide clear cut evidence for this last burial phase. Nor do the graves with a long date range (38, 40 and 64), ending in this last burial phase, provide abundant evidence for burial activity in the second half of the seventh century.**

**Not datable graves**

A number of graves could not be dated; some of the finds of graves 27, 34 and 56 were missing and could not be classified or dated on the basis of the descriptions in the first published catalogue alone (table 5.3, fig. 6.6). A number of graves (graves 37A, 50, 51A and 58) had finds, but these could not be dated because of their condition or common appearance; they have no chronological significance. Context 33 was identified on the basis of four seaxes in the vicinity of the mill; the seaxes are evidence for multiple destroyed graves. The date ranges accorded to three of these seaxes are 685–740, 765–825 and 655–815; of the seaxes might thus indicate a later burial phase in this section of the cemetery which was destroyed by the construction of the mills. A sea was recorded as a find at grave 33, which might be an incorrect indication of the grave range; the sea was on the basis of the grave range assigned to grave 33 (thus to both 38A and 41B) it cannot be classified which actually belonged to 33, but on the basis of the provided descriptions it is dated to 640–710. The lance head from this grave dates either to 585–610 (370–700) or alternatively to 510–525–640/50. The upper burial is dated to the grave unambiguously, but it might be one of the later graves.

A number of graves (graves 29, 13, 16, 25, 26, 41, 42, 54, 55 and 60) were without finds and could as a consequence not be dated. Nonetheless, the datable graves provided sufficient information for the reconstruction of the chronological development of the cemetery, as is discussed in more detail in chapter 6.

The total date range of the cemetery and the number of graves per phase

The established Obbicht burial phases comprise a date range from 510/20–670/80. The number of graves per phase has been estimated and is shown in figure 6.6. The differences in phase durations of c. 150 years (see below). The arrangement of the phases within this date range is slightly different from the arrangement of the Sittard phases (table 5.1). However, the majority of the Obbicht graves are dated to the second half of the sixth century and the first half of the seventh century. It was difficult to create short bounded phases within the date range of the Obbicht cemetery. The period to which the majority of the graves are dated was therefore divided into four sub phases which show some overlap. Nonetheless a chronological pattern can be extracted from this arrangement of graves, as is discussed in more detail in chapter 6, in which the significance of the first burial phase is also considered.

Presuming that the 68 burials cover approximately 150 years indicates that on an average every two years a burial took place. In view of the chronological distribution of the graves it is more probable that in the second half of the sixth and first half of the seventh century a burial took place once per year, and that in the period before and thereafter burials occurred less frequently or may not at all (see chapter 6).
The Stein-Groote Bongerd burial phases
The cemetery of Stein consists of 75 recorded graves, of which
three are referred to as graves lost due to disturbances prior to the
excavation (grave 73, 74 and 75) and one is a double grave (grave
56A + 56B). And although graves 73, 74 and 75 are depicted on
the first published cemetery plan, nothing is known about them;
they are therefore not included in the current analysis. A considerable number of the other graves were also destroyed or disturbed but were nonetheless also depicted on the first published
cemetery plan; some of these graves were identified as such on the
basis of clusters of finds or soil discolorations alone. These graves
are in the following discussion and in this publication treated as
possible inhumation graves. Grave 56 appeared to be a double
grave consisting of two distinct superimposed burials. Of the
total number of 73 burials analysed in this publication twenty
were without finds and fifty-three contained grave goods of which
forty-four could be dated on the basis of these finds. The eight
other graves contained finds which could not be classified or
dated.
The Stein burial phases cover the period 510/20-670/80, and
their date ranges and arrangement are similar to the Obbicht phases (table 5.1). The available data on the basis of which the graves
could be dated is nonetheless more meagre than the data available for the construction of the Sittard and Obbicht burial phases.
A considerable part of the metal finds are only available in very
fragmented and corroded condition. X-ray photographs were
made, which revealed some interesting inlaid belt fittings. It is
questionable whether the restoration of this material can add
significant new insights to the available data set. Moreover, a considerable part of the finds described in the catalogue of Beckers
and Beckers is now missing from the collection. If possible, these
were classified and dated on the basis of the provided descriptions.
The remaining finds are on the majority pottery vessels. The Stein
burial phases are thus mainly established on the basis of the dated
pottery vessels. For each burial phase, the following discusses how
many graves they consist of, which and why graves are assigned to
them, and which objects are the obvious indicators.
Burial phase S-GB I: 510/20-585
The first burial phase in Stein consists of seven graves (28, 36, 50,
52, 56B, 59 and 63), which contained, apart from one grave, only
pottery vessels (table 5.4, fig. 6.10 and 6.11). Grave 28 is dated on
the basis of a biconical pot alone which dates to 530-555 or alternatively to 510/25-580/90. The biconical pot from grave 36 is
dated to 530-555 or alternatively to 510/25-580/90. Other finds
are not known from this grave. Grave 50 is dated on the basis of
a biconical pot alone; the pot is dated to 555-570 or alternatively to 510/20-580/90. Grave 52 is dated on the basis of the biconical pot, which dates to 555-570 or alternatively to 510/20-580/90.
Other finds are iron and wood fragments which cannot be dated.
Grave 59 is dated on the basis of the biconical pot, which dates

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to 530-555 or 530-570, or alternatively to 510/25-580/90. Grave
56B is the lower burial of two superimposed burials. The only
find associated with this lower burial is a biconical pot which is
dated to 530-570, or alternatively to 510-580/90 and sporadically till 610/20. Grave 63 is dated on the basis of the biconical pot
which dates to 530-570 or alternatively to 510/25-580/90.
Depending on the typo-chronology used, the pots date either
to 530-555/570 or 510/20-580/90. It was decided to create this
first burial phase in line with the first burial phase identified in
Obbicht, although it ends somewhat later around 585; the seven
graves represent this first burial phase in Stein. The actual significance of this phase is however, since it is only established on the
basis of pottery vessels, discussed in chapter 6.
Burial phase S-GB II
The majority of the Stein graves are dated to a relatively short
date range, namely to 565-640/50 (table 5.4). Since it was difficult
to create short bounded phases within this date range it is divided into four sub phases which show some overlap. Nonetheless a
chronological pattern can be extracted from this arrangement of
graves (see also chapter 6).
Burial phase S-GB IIa: 565-610/20
Eleven of the thirty-four graves of broad phase II can be dated to
the earliest sub phase IIa. These are graves 12, 22, 24, 29, 30, 34, 51,
53, 57, 58 and 60 (table 5.4, fig. 6.10 and 6.11). A peculiar and rare
belt set dates grave 12 to this first sub phase; it is dated as a variant of Siegmund type Gür4.1/4.2 to 585-610. The lance head and
sword, no longer present in the collection, are difficult to date on
the basis of the provided descriptions alone, and could not support the proposed date range for the unique belt set.
Grave 22 is dated on the basis of a biconical pot, which dates
to 585-610 or alternatively to 510/25-640/50. The beads from
this grave fall within the date range 485-705; one of the decorated beads dates to a more restricted date range, namely 590/600620/30, which matches with the date range accorded to the biconical pot. Dating the grave to phase IIa seems a decent compromise with regard to the two date ranges assigned to the biconical
pot. Moreover, the graves of phase I contained only pottery vessels
whereas grave 22 also contained other finds.
The biconical pot from grave 24 is the only find from this grave
which dates to 565-610/20, and thus to phase IIa.
The lance head from grave 29 is available in corroded condition,
but the X-ray photo shows a mid rib, on the basis of which it could
be dated to 585-626. Other finds are not known from this grave.
Grave 30 contained two biconical pots, a palm cup and a string
of beads. The first biconical pot is dated to 510/25-580/90 and the
second to 565-610/20. The palm cup is dated to 585-610 or alternatively to the more extended date range 560/70-630/40. The beads
fall within the date range 485-705, but one of the decorated beads
is dated to a more restricted date range, namely 565-590/600. On
the basis of the available date ranges, it is decided to date the grave

interpretations

Table 5.4
The number of graves per Stein-Groote Bongerd burial phase.
Stein burial phases

Number of graves

S-GB I: 510/20-585

7

S-GB IIa: 565-610/20

11

S-GB I+IIa: 510/20-610/20

3

S-GB IIb: 565-640/50

9

S-GB IIc: 610/20-640/50

5

(S-GB I+IIa-c: 565-640/50)

1

S-GB IId: 610/20-670/80

5

S-GB IIb-d: 565-670/80

1

S-GB III: 640/50-670/80

5

S-GB IId/III: 610/20 or 640/50-670/80

2

Graves with unspecified finds now missing

3

Graves without datable finds

1

Graves without finds

20 (3)

Total

73 (76)

to phase S-GB IIa which stops around 610/20; the grave, however,
might date somewhere, although not far, after 610/20.
The spouted pot from grave 34 is the only find from this grave
and dates it to 565-610/20.
Grave 51 contained a spouted pot which dates to 565-610/20.
The simple iron ring from this grave dates to 520/30-630/40. The
beads fall within the date range 485-705 and do not contribute to
the dating of this grave. It is placed in phase IIa on the basis of the
spouted pot since iron rings are feeble chronological indicators.
The knife recorded as a find from this grave is no longer present in
the collection.
Grave 53 only contained a biconical pot which is dated to 565610/20, as is the grave.
The spouted pot from grave 57 dates to 580/90-610/20. Other
finds from this grave are a pair of tweezers (missing), dated to
520/30-600/10, and a plano-convex disc bead or spindle whorl,
which is dated to 440/50-520/30 but for which a sporadic appearance until 620 is also recorded; it is thus not necessarily an old
item within the grave. The simple ring from this grave is dated to
520/30-630/40, but is in general considered to be a rather feeble
chronological indicator. Dating this grave to phase IIa on the basis
of the spouted pot seems a plausible option which is not in conflict
with the date ranges assigned to the other finds.
The biconical pot from grave 58 is dated to 570-585/610. The
ring rod from this grave is dated to 520/30-710, but is not considered to be a reliable indicator. The simple ring is dated to 520/30630/40, but the grave is dated on the basis of the biconical pot to
phase IIa.
The biconical pot from grave 60 is dated to 565-640/50 or 600625. The axe is dated to 570-610. The other finds, a knife and indeterminate fragments, could not be dated. It is decided to date the
grave to phase IIa on the basis of the more restricted date range accorded to the biconical pot and the matching date range accorded to the axe.

Phases S-GB I+IIa: 510/20-610/20
Three graves (18, 25 and 40) could not be dated to a single phase
but date in all probability before 610/20; they are accorded a relatively long date range but can nonetheless contribute to the discussion on the chronological development of the cemetery (table
5.4, fig. 6.10 and 6.11). Grave 18 is dated on the basis of a biconical
pot alone; it dates to 530-570 or alternatively to 510/20-610/20.
The other finds are missing or present in fragmented condition,
but some could nonetheless be dated. Some belt fittings are dated
to 625-670 (although the evidence for their identification as belt
fittings is rather feeble), and an iron ring to 520/30-630/40. Since
the other finds are not that strong chronological indicators it is decided to date the grave on the basis of the biconical pot alone. It is
not assigned to burial phase I (following the date range assigned to
the pot) since it also contained other finds which are not present in
the graves dated to the first burial phase.
The single find from grave 25 is a biconical pot which could not
be dated unambiguously. It is either a Siegmund type 2.12, which
dates to Rhineland phase 4 (530-555), or a Siegmund type 3.12,
which dates to Rhineland phases 6-7 (570-610). It is for now chosen to assign this grave to a relatively long date range.
The recorded finds from grave 40 are all missing from the collection. The grave could only be dated on the basis of the descriptions of the seax. The two pottery vessels were not sufficiently described for classification and dating. The seax is dated to 510/25580/90 but can also appear sporadically till 640/50. The alternative date for this seax is 530-610. It is therefore decided to date this
grave to a considerable long date range.
5

Burial phase S-GB IIb: 565-640/50
Nine graves (1, 26, 45, 46, 54, 55, 61, 62 and 66) could be dated
to burial phases IIb (table 5.4, fig. 6.10). It is established as one
bounded but relatively long phase, which nonetheless contributes
to the reconstruction of the chronological development of the
cemetery as discussed in detail in chapter 6.
Grave 1 is dated on the basis of two biconical pots. The first is
dated to 600-625/585-640 (Siegmund) or alternatively to 565640/50 (FAG). The second is dated to 610-625 (Siegmund) or alternatively to 610/20-670/80 (FAG). Since the other pottery fragments from this grave could not be dated, it is decided to date the
grave to the relatively long date range 565/640/50 on the basis of
the first biconical pot, since the FAG type assigned to the second
pot, which provides the longest date range, is not as certain as the
other classifications.
The biconical pot from grave 26 is the only find from this grave
and dates it to 600-625 or alternatively to 565-640/50.
Only biconical pot fragments were found in grave 45; some were
on the basis of the identified late roulette stamp group dated to
585-640, and on the basis of the early roulette stamp group to 570610 or 565-640/50.
The pottery dish from grave 46 dates either to 585-640 or to
610-670, of which the first is the most probable option. The oth-

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The chronology of individual graves and chronological structure of the cemeteries

Burial phase S-GB IIb/III: 565-670/80

Four graves which cannot be dated more precisely as to the seventh century, and perhaps in some decades thereafter, contained globular pots which were difficult to date (table 4.5, fig. 6.10). It is clear that they date after the beginning of the seventh century, but it is not clear where exactly they should be placed. The pot from grave 42 is somewhat different from the other pots. It is rather smooth and might be classified as a Siegmund type 4.12 which dates to 670-705. It also resembles the globular pots from graves 41 and 17 (IIb), which, considering other cemeteries with globular pots, seem to date to the seventh century. Since evidence for the last burial phase with grave goods is very scarce it is suggested that the three graves date before the end of the seventh century.

The entire string of graves from grave 32 is dated to 570-705. However, it contains the opaque flat almond beads which are characteristic of the seventh century or more precisely the date range 610-705; grave 32 might thus also be one of the latest graves of the cemetery but will not date after the seventh century.

Not datable graves

Twenty graves were without finds; these are graves 2, 3, 6, 10, 13, 16, 20, 21, 27, 31, 33, 35, 44, 47, 48, 65, 70 and 71 (table 5.4, fig. 6.10). These graves are distributed all over the cemetery; some can be found in the proximity of graves of the first phases and some also in the proximity of graves of later phases. This distribution pattern is thus not comparable to that of the empty graves of the Sittard-Kemperkoul cemetery, which can be found in a definitely distinct cemetery section representing the last burial activities.

Moreover, a number of the Stein graves were recorded as graves without finds but were disturbed. For these graves it is not certain whether they were originally without finds. One of the Stein graves was with finds but could not be dated; grave 38 contained only one transparent blue head which could not be dated precisely. Nothing specific is recorded about the condition of the grave at the time of excavation; it is not certain whether this was originally the only object deposited in this grave. Graves 4 and 19 contained finds which are now missing. Some missing finds from other graves could be classified and dated on the basis of the available descriptions in the original catalogue, but this was not the case for the finds from these three graves. Grave 72 is mentioned only once in the publication and might be classified as a Siegmund pot, which dates to 565-670/80. The iron belt fittings from this grave are missing; no further specifications are noted. Grave 72 could be dated to 565-670/80 with certainty. Grave 43 is dated to 570-705/80. The copper alloy jug is the only object in this grave which might not date to the seventh century; however, it is not found in the vicinity of graves of the first phases and might be an import from a nearby region.

The globular pot from grave 14 dates to the seventh century, and in all probability to phase IIId; the same applies to grave 17.

Other graves were disturbed by the gravestone, but could not be dated.

The Stein graves can be classified as follows:

- One of the Stein graves was disturbed by the gravestone, but could not be dated
- Grave 38 contained only one transparent blue head which could not be dated precisely. Nothing specific is recorded about the condition of the grave at the time of excavation; it is not certain whether this was originally the only object deposited in this grave. Graves 4 and 19 contained finds which are now missing. Some missing finds from other graves could be classified and dated on the basis of the available descriptions in the original catalogue, but this was not the case for the finds from these three graves. Grave 72 is mentioned only once in the publication and might be classified as a Siegmund pot, which dates to 565-670/80. The iron belt fittings from this grave are missing; no further specifications are noted. Grave 72 could be dated to 565-670/80 with certainty.
- Grave 43 is dated to 570-705/80. The copper alloy jug is the only object in this grave which might not date to the seventh century; however, it is not found in the vicinity of graves of the first phases and might be an import from a nearby region.
- The globular pot from grave 14 dates to the seventh century, and in all probability to phase IIId; the same applies to grave 17.
- Other graves were disturbed by the gravestone, but could not be dated.
A considerable number of graves of the Stein cemetery could not be dated; twenty graves were without finds, one was without datable finds and three were with finds now missing and which could not be dated on the basis of the available descriptions. These twenty-four graves form approximately one third of the cemetery, on the basis of the remaining graves the chronological development of the cemetery is reconstructed. This reconstruction provides an overview which is less accurate than those created for the cemeteries of Sittard and Obbicht. The majority of the metal finds were, if not missing, available only in corroded or fragmented condition. The pottery vessels were the main find category on the basis of which the graves are dated, and it remains questionable whether the date ranges assigned to the Stein pots on the basis of pottery typologies from ‘culturally’ different regions are accurate. Moreover, the date ranges accorded to the Stein graves were for a considerable number longer and thus less indicative than those accorded to the Sittard and Obbicht graves. A high number of graves could as a consequence only be assigned to combined burial phases (I+IIA, I+IIa-c, IIIB-d, IID-III) and as such provide less accurate chronological information, especially for the period after 610/20 (Table 5.4). The twenty graves without finds are not comparable to the section of narrow graves without finds in the Sittard-Kemperkoul cemetery, which represent the last burial phase in this cemetery, since the empty Stein graves are dispersed all over the cemetery and might for the majority very well be empty as a result of post-depositional disturbances.

The established Stein burial phases comprise a date range from 510/20 to 670/80 (and maybe some decades thereafter), thus a period of c. 170 years (assuming that the burial activities did not start precisely around 510 but somewhat later, and that the last activities can be placed around 700). Table 5.4 shows that the distribution of graves over the established phases is not even; the majority of the graves with datable finds are dated to the second half of the sixth century and the first half of the seventh century, and thus to a period of approximately 100 years. Presuming that the 73 (76) burials cover a period of approximately 170 years indicates that on average every two years a burial took place. However, in the second half of the sixth and first half of the seventh century, every year this frequency would have been considerably higher.

Compared to Sittard, the burial activity in Stein starts somewhat earlier and also ends earlier. It began to be used approximately around the same period as the Obbicht cemetery came into use. The two cemeteries were abandoned around approximately the same period (just before 700), whereas the Sittard cemetery remained in use for some decades thereafter. The first Stein burial phase is represented by a slightly higher number of graves compared to Obbicht, but the Obbicht phase stops somewhat earlier than the first Stein phase. It remains questionable whether the finds dated to this phase were deposited late in the early phase or maybe even in phase 1A (which shows some overlap with this following phase). All the early graves are dated on the basis of biconical pots alone, which are, as was already mentioned, a category of objects difficult to date precisely. The significance of this first burial phase is discussed in more detail in chapter 6. The evidence for the last phases is again very scarce and feeble, as it was for the cemetery of Obbicht. The actual chronological development of the cemetery of Stein is discussed in detail and in relation to the possible history of the communities associated with the cemeteries of Sittard, Obbicht and Stein in chapter 6.
6 The topography and chronological development of the cemeteries and the possible history of the burial communities

This chapter deals first with the chronological development of each cemetery, reconstructed on the basis of the individually dated graves discussed in Chapter 5. Secondly, the organisational principles of the cemeteries are discussed on the basis of the general layouts of the three cemeteries defined by their boundaries, relative locations and orientations of graves, empty spaces and the distribution of the graves of men, women and children which are discussed in relation to this chronological development. On the basis of these conclusions, suggestions are made with regard to the organisational principles of the three burial grounds. The chapter concludes with the possible history of the communities associated with the burial grounds.

The cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul

The boundaries of the cemetery and the estimated number of graves

The plan of excavation trenches and the locations of the excavated graves show that all the limits of the Sittard-Kemperkoul cemetery were identified (see also Chapter 2), but that a number of graves within the boundaries of the cemetery were affected by recent disturbances brought about by the sewer and pipeline trenches (fig. 6.1). Graves 61, 58, 60, 59, 57, 53 and 51 in trench 4 are the northernmost excavated graves. No other graves were recorded to the north of them in excavation trenches 2 and 4; it is thus safe to assume that they form the northern limit of the cemetery (fig. 6.1). The empty space in between graves 57 and 53 seems to have been intentional. The remaining depth of grave 53 is 47.0 cm and that of grave 57 is 22.0 cm. The excavators would have noticed other graves in between graves 53 and 57 unless they were dug in considerably less deep which is unlikely.

Graves 51, 84, 83, 31, 30, 1, 6 and 86 form the eastern limit of the cemetery. The ensemble of finds identified as context 29 (no grave outline) is the most eastern feature of the cemetery; the objects may have originally belonged to a grave (although it is mentioned in the thesis of Zoetbrood that the excavators analysed the soil around context 29 meticulously), or were intentionally deposited as such at the fringe of the cemetery. Trenches 1, 4 and 6 expand more to the east than the mentioned line of graves; thus, it can be assumed that the graves in these trenches form the eastern limit in this section of the cemetery, but in trench 5 the eastern limit is not that obvious. Graves 83 and 84 are located close to the limits of the trench. Graves might have been present further to the east, but probably only a few since the eastern cemetery border was clearly discovered in trenches 4, 1 and 6 and is more or less in line with the locations of graves 83 and 84.

The southern limit of the cemetery is not as neat as the northern one. It is formed by graves 28, 88, 87, 78, 77, 76 and 86. Since no other graves were discovered to the south of this line of graves in excavation trenches 6 and 3, it is safe to consider these graves, despite their disorderly arrangement, as the most southern ones of the cemetery.

Graves 61, 63, 65, 48, 42, 41, 25, 24 and 28 mark the western limit of the cemetery since no other graves were found to the west of this line of graves in excavation trenches 2, 1, 5 and 6. The cemetery limit in the destroyed parts of the cemetery, in between trenches 4 and 3 and 3 and 1, are reconstructed on the basis of this line of graves.

The west-east orientated sewer and gas pipe trenches destroyed sections of the cemetery to the north and south of trench 5. The destroyed sections are not very large and the borders of the cemetery are known, so it is safe to suggest that only a limited number of graves were destroyed here. Grave outlines are plotted on the destroyed parts of the cemetery in line with the distribution pattern of the excavated graves (fig. 6.1). An additional number of approximately 10-20 graves can be added to the number of graves destroyed by these trenches.
The chronological development of the cemetery: From possible founder’s grave(s) to abandonment

- **The first burial phase: Its significance**

  The first burial phase in Sittard-Kemperkoul (S-K I: 510/20-565) is identified only on the basis of a number of graves that could not be dated more precisely as to burial phase S-K I-II (table 5.3). These graves probably do not date as early as S-K I since graves that provide unambiguous evidence for this phase are absent. It is assumed that the location was taken into use as a burial ground in the course of the second half of the sixth century. The distribution of the graves from phases S-K I-III and S-K IIa shows that the cemetery developed from the middle section of the cemetery (fig. 6.2 and 6.3, A). The majority of the Sittard burials belong to phase S-K II (565-640/50); during this phase the associated community or communities used the burial ground intensively. The suggested sub-phases in this long burial phase of approximately 100 years might reveal some significant patterns with regard to the chronological development of the cemetery.

- **Burial phase II in detail: The distinctive older graves and the expansion of the cemetery**

  As mentioned, the graves of burial phase S-K IIa (565-610/20) are mainly distributed over the middle section of the cemetery, from the east to the west (fig. 6.2 and 6.3, A). Burial phase IIa consists of 12 graves (graves 5, 6, 13, 15, 16, 24, 28, 37, 46, 50 and 78). Only graves 13, 28, 50 and 78 are located to the south of this middle section. Open space A clearly separates them from the majority of the other graves of this phase. Grave 4, which could not be dated more precisely as to phases I and entire phase II, is also located in this middle section, which might indicate that it dates as early as phase IIa. Graves 80 and 82, which could not be dated more precisely as to S-K I-II, are located to the north of this middle section; they might date after phase IIa.

  With the identification of the first burial activities, the question about which graves may be the possible founder’s grave(s) comes into scope, since these are in other cemeteries observed to be ‘special’ graves in terms of grave goods repertoires, structure, size and location. However, it is difficult to identify the founder’s grave(s) unambiguously; they can have different forms of which some might in fact not be that obvious for us, but there are also a number of options available for Sittard-Kemperkoul, as they are for Oibich and Stein in, view of the described appearances of founder’s graves in other cemeteries. Moreover, the absence of distinct or refined chronological phases for the three cemeteries obscures the identification of the earliest graves; these first graves might be present in the other sub-phases which overlap with the first sub-phases. Therefore, only the ‘distinctive oldest graves’ will be discussed in the following sections; the concept of founder’s graves and whether or not these distinctive older graves can be identified as possible founder’s graves are discussed in the conclusion to this chapter, which concerns the local communities associated with the burial grounds.

  The cluster of graves 15, 16 and 26 is rather prominent. They have wide grave pits and some space was left unoccupied intentionally around them in the course of time, especially around grave 16. Grave 16 is a chamber grave of a woman with a modest set of grave goods, although the string of beads is of high quantity, quality and diversity of beads. Grave 26 is a chamber grave of a man with an extended set of grave goods among which a sword, axe, and lance head. In grave 15 (without wooden containers, but these might have been present in view of the observed beams), only a glass palm cup was found, comparable to one found in grave 26. Grave 26 might be a distinctive older grave in the Sittard cemetery although the prominent location of grave 16 in the cemetery makes this grave also a good candidate. Their identification as possible founder’s graves, referring to both masculine and feminine values, is discussed in the final section of this chapter.

  Only one other grave of this phase was furnished with female grave goods; grave 46 contained some beads but of less quality than those from grave 16. The grave was partly disturbed by another grave, and more beads may have originally been present. Five other graves were furnished with masculine grave goods, but with less extended weapon sets compared to the set from grave 26; the masculine objects from grave 5 are an axe, lance head, fire steel and flint, in grave 24 only a lance head was found as it was in graves 28 and 78, and the masculine objects from grave 37 are an axe and a fire steel. Three graves (6, 13 and 50) contained only neutral grave goods. Thus, graves 16 and 26 are the more ‘richly’ furnished graves of this first sub-phase. The graves of this first sub-phase do not show an obvious concentration, but are rather widely distributed over the centre of the burial ground; this may indicate that more than one (family) group used different plots in the cemetery at its onset simultaneously.

  The ten graves (9, 11, 14, 16, 32, 34, 36, 76, 77 and 81) of phase S-K IIB (565-640/50) are clearly concentrated in the eastern middle section of the cemetery, but some can also be found to the north and south of this section (fig. 6.2 and 6.3, B). Four are the graves of men, three are of women and three had only gender neutral grave objects. Two graves can also be considered as distinctive older graves. Grave 11 is the richly furnished wooden container grave of
the topography and chronological development of the cemeteries
interpretations

Unoccupied space around it. Sub-phase IIb is relatively long and starts as IIa around 656 but ends later; thus, grave 11 and 14 may be contemporary with the distinctive older graves of phase IIa; therefore, graves 16 and 26 and graves 11 and 14 may indicate that two at least two distinct groups started using the cemetery but occupied different plots within it. And although the phases IIa and IIb show some overlap, it seems that the cemetery expanded to the east after the first burial activities. This might be underlined by the distribution patterns of graves of the next phases.

The four graves (30, 33, 39 and 71) of sub-phase S-K Ic (580/90-640/90) are located at a considerable distance from one another, but a pattern can nonetheless be identified: they form the limits of the earliest middle section of the cemetery (fig. 6.2 and 6.3, D). Grave 71 was the most northern grave at that time, and grave 30 the most eastern. These graves might indicate the first expansion of the cemetery. The empty spaces between the first phases and these newly defined borders were eventually occupied by graves of later dates. Grave 33 contained only neutral objects, grave 71 feminine objects (beads, finger ring, bracelet), grave 30 masculine line objects (lace head and seks) and grave 39, that of a child, contained beads.

The ten graves and context 29 of sub-phase IIId (610/20-640/50) are dispersed throughout the cemetery; they seem to concentrate around the oldest centre, but this pattern is not very clear. Four graves (20, 49, 86 and 87) are located in the very south of the area with graves of the foregoing phases. Graves 86 and 87 in fact form the southern limit of the cemetery, grave 86 is a chamber grave with coffin of a man and grave 87 held a woman. Four graves (3, 41, 33 and 47) are located in the middle section of the cemetery but around the earliest graves of the cemetery except for grave 3, which is located inside the limits of the oldest core. It takes in a (reserved?) space left open between older graves. Grave 79 and 84 are the northernmost graves of this phase, but the cemetery expands more to the north in the following phases. The cemetery expands from the earliest core of the cemetery to the north and south during phase IIc and IId, and the most eastern and western limits of the cemetery are also marked during these sub-phases.

- the last burial phases: Final expansion and the abandonment of the cemetery

The northern expansion of the cemetery becomes more obvious in the phases after general burial phase II (fig. 6.2 and 6.3, D). Graves 21, 42 and 47 of phase IIIa (640/50-670/80) cluster to the west of the eldest inner core; they are clearly located at the core’s limits in the same area as the graves of phase IId. Grave 43 cuts the older grave 46. This seems to indicate that there was a limit to the expansion in the western direction. Grave 8 of this phase is located at some distance from the eldest core, to its southeast. This phase underlines that the cemetery developed in all directions after the first burial phases, but also that graves were simultaneously created close to this earliest section of the burial ground; this again shows that the cemetery developed from a number of centres and that these remained in use.

The graves of burial phase IIb (640/50-750) were in all probability contemporary with the graves of phase IIIa (640/50-670/80), or are just somewhat younger, it was difficult to date them to this more restricted phase IIIa. Graves 53 and 59 are located in the group of youngest graves located in the northern section of the cemetery (fig. 6.2). Graves 64 and 73 are located a little more to the south, but are also associated with this group of youngest graves. Graves 53, 59, 64 and 73 of phase IIId obviously underline the expansion of the cemetery to the northwest. Only grave 40 is located in the western section of the cemetery, close to the eldest graves of the cemetery. It takes in (a reserved?) space between older graves.

The north-western expansion of the cemetery seems also to be characterised by a cluster of narrow but also broader graves without grave goods (fig. 6.2). The majority of these graves are different from the older graves with their narrower outline, closer relative distances and absence of finds, and they might also be somewhat younger than the graves dated to the last identified burial phases on the basis of grave inventories. Fourteen somewhat narrower graves without grave goods of this last phase are identified, but the recent disturbance of this part of the cemetery certainly destroyed an additional number of seven such graves. They are identified as the youngest burial phases since they are associated with the youngest graves with grave goods. Such groups of graves with similar characteristics were observed elsewhere.

In the cemetery of Posterholt-Akkrum-Nootdorp, a cluster of narrow graves without grave goods is also present, but here in the south-eastern section of the cemetery, they are identified as graves of the late seventh and early eighth centuries. In Bergifestyles, a cluster of narrow graves were found in the southern section of the cemetery; these graves are also identified as the last burial phase of the cemetery and dated to the late seventh and early eighth centuries. The evidence that these graves belong to the last phase of burial at the Sittard cemetery is also illustrated by grave 42. No
grave goods were found in this grave. Moreover, it had an orientation that is different from the older graves, but lies parallel to grave 45 of phase IIa which cuts in one turn an older grave of phase Ila. Grave 42 thus illustrates the different way the last outward expansion of the cemetery in western direction.

It is obvious that the burial ritual had already changed dramatically before it was decided to abandon the cemetery completely. If we assume that the graves without grave goods were partly contemporary with the last graves with objects (which presumably date to the late seventh century) but predominantly date thereafter, and that approximately one to two burials took place every year, it can be proposed that the cemetery was abandoned around 700 AD or just thereafter.

After having presented the development of the cemetery on the basis of the date ranges of individual graves and their assignment to various phases, it can be concluded that the cemetery developed from a central core (consisting probably of a number of distinct plots) in all directions. Sections of the cemetery were used more intensively during specific phases, but all the other sections were also used before the last phases. During the last burial phase the cemetery expanded in only one direction (to the north-west); the other sections of the cemetery were not used anymore by then. The variety of grave location choices implicates that burial ground's organisation was a rather complicated matter, which is a subject of discussion in the following analysis of the cemetery layout.

The eventual cemetery layout is a result of a variety of decisions made by the burying communities. What exactly inspired the choices for specific grave locations in relation to already existing graves or perhaps other features, such as paths or boundaries invisible to us, is difficult to grasp. Certain topographical features such as groups and rows of graves, intentionally left open spaces, obviously connected graves, the orientations of graves and the distribution of gendered and children's graves throughout the cemetery, all in relation to the chronological distribution of graves, can provide insights in the organisation of the burial ground over time.

- Gender and age
Since skeletal remains were poorly preserved in the Sittard cemetery, and the few remains still present could not be analysed, the biological sex and age at death of the interred could not be established. The positive correlation between gender specific objects and the burials of women and men in Merovingian cemeteries is, however, frequently confirmed, although the scarce examples of reversed correlations deserve further reflection than just explaining them as errors in the data record. Recent investigations showed that the age at death can also be expressed with certain categories of objects. Exclusively feminine objects are beads and other items of jewellery; exclusive masculine objects are weaponry, axes and utensils, such as fire steels. For children, this gender specific correlation is more difficult to establish: the biological sex is as a rule difficult to establish for children under the age of c. 10 years on the basis of skeletal remains. Children are often buried with beads, but it must be kept in mind that not only girls, but boys also, could have been buried with beads since they are suitable objects for expressing the connection between mother and child. These observations on gender and age specific objects, however, do not automatically imply that burial objects were similar to the ones used during the deceased's lifetime. They merely imply that gender was expressed during the burial rite with specific categories of objects.

It can be assumed that most of the Sittard graves with gender specific objects reflect the biological sex of the buried. And although it is sufficiently investigated that age at death also knows specific survival patterns, the variability per region or cemetery is too large to identify the age-groups of the Sittard interments on the basis of the associated finds alone.6

Sixteen graves of women (96, 85, 3, 4, 11, 17, 16, 23, 35, 43, 46, 49, 50, 52, 54, 59, 60, 64) and nineteen graves of men (20, 25, 28, 77, 86, 5, 14, 24, 30, 31, 34, 38, 40, 41, 37, 46, 31 and 84) were identified on the basis of finds, and seven children's graves (7, 39, 47, 72, 58, 59 and 61) were identified on the basis of the coffin/burial pit dimensions. At first sight, the graves of women and men are distributed evenly throughout the cemetery. Only in the younger section of the cemetery, the north-western section, the graves with gender specific finds were all those of women, and the coffins/burial pit sizes show a relatively high number of child burials. In this section, a considerable number of graves are without finds; some of these might be burials of men. This younger section, dating at least not earlier than to the late seventh century, may represent changing attitudes towards burying rules. As observed previously in the region, the number of children's graves increases throughout the course of the seventh century. Perhaps attitudes also changed with respect to the roles of women and men which found an expression in burial rite.7 Perhaps women were by then still buried with gender specific objects, while men were already buried without (gender specific) objects. This might indicate that graves without grave goods are gender specific (for men) in the final burial phases of the cemetery.

6 Significant correlations between gendered age groups and assemblages of grave goods were, for example, also found in the burial evidence from Anglo-Saxon England, see Stoddoll (2000); 'Etz'ke (1991, 1992, 1993); 'Etz'ke (1997), and was also investigated by Bratcher for Southern Germany, especially on the basis of the evidence from the cemetery of Pfedelborn (2000), and by Brach (2000): (4) Halsall 1997; Halsall 1998; Stoddoll 2000; Brach 2000. (7) Thoemer/Yas Hapeman 2011, 177. (8) Halsall already described the change in the way men and women were buried with gender specific objects around the end of the sixth century (Halsall 1997, 1998). A change might again have occurred towards the end of the seventh century.
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- obviously connected graves

The variety of grave orientations and their distribution is described in detail in Chapter 3. The general orientation was S-N, which is rather remarkable (fig. 3.9 and 6.1). The main question is what the underlying reason was for the construction of the cemetery with predominantly S-N orientated graves. The most probable reason is that the graves, or at least the first graves, were orientated in line with an old structure (Iron Age remains, a Roman building or the Roman road which was present to the east of the cemetery) in the proximity, which might also have been the incentive for the choice of the cemetery. Numerous examples are known of Merovingian cemeteries and their location near various older landmarks in the landscape. Unfortunately, such remains were not discovered in the proximity of the cemetery, except for the Roman road passing the cemetery. This road, running from the south to the west, might have also conditioned the orientation of the first grave, which in turn directed the orientations of the graves in the century thereafter. In general, it can be observed that the graves in the northern (younger) part of the cemetery and the graves that form the southern limit of the cemetery have another orientation than those in the central part. This change of orientation is probably related to a series of changes in the burial rites of the later seventh century.

- obviously connected graves

Only a few graves of the Sittard cemetery are cut by another one. Whether these graves were intentionally or accidentally connected is a question of interest. Some clues, such as comparable orientations, related finds and gender or gender related differences or similarities, may lead to answers.

Grave 6 was cut by grave 7 (fig. 6.2). Unfortunately grave 6 was also partly destroyed when trench 1 was constructed, only the bottom of the grave was left (remaining depth: 6.0 cm) and could be analysed. A biconical pot was the single find from this grave, although it is not recorded on the field drawing. The pot dates to 650-670/80 and the grave is dated accordingly to phase S-K Ia; it is one of the earliest graves of the cemetery. Finds were not discovered in grave 7 and since skeletal remains were not preserved, it is difficult to draw conclusions as to the nature of the connection between the two graves. However, both graves have nearly identical orientations. Their upper layers were destroyed, but grave 7, the more recent grave, was dug deeper than grave 6. The outlines of the two graves seem to represent their original dimensions, which indicates that grave 7 (burial pit length: 1.13 cm) was cut in grave 6, a child, may have been forgotten in grave 6. Since grave 7 cuts grave 6 it may have been the burial of a child who died not long after one of its parents (or maybe another relative) and was intentionally buried in association with him or her. This means that the location of grave 6 was remembered by the surviving family members, either by memory or by markers placed on top of the grave.

Grave 39 and grave 47 touch one another. Grave 39, with its length of 119 cm, was in all probability a child’s grave, whereas grave 47 was an adult’s grave (fig. 6.2). The two graves have nearly identical orientations. Grave 39 contained a ceramic bottle and a knife, grave 47 a biconical pot. Grave 39 is dated to S-K IIC (580-600-640/60) and grave 47 to S-KII (610/620-640/60). The burials might be of a parent and child, but other relations are of course possible. It cannot be said with certainty who of the two was buried first, but the last grave was probably intentionally placed in close relation with the already existing grave since their outlines (nearly) touch without the second grave disturbing the first one. The relation of the two deceased was thus expressed in a different way compared to the first grave, which was cut by grave 1 in phase 1a (burial at death of 49 years) with which they were interned in a single grave, for the second child this relation could not be established with certainty (Laumans et al. 2013, 85-97).

Grave 44 cuts grave 45 (fig. 6.2). Grave 45 is the burial of a woman and contained beads, a belt fitting and glass and metal fragments. Its orientation is slightly different from that of grave 44, but the two graves have nearly similar widths and remaining depths. The original length of grave 43 cannot be established, but it was possibly that of an adult with a cranial and upper body simple ring. The three proximity and similar orientations seem to indicate that they were created in the same period, at least in a period during which the exact location and appearance of the first grave was still visible. Grave 45 is dated to phase S-KIII (560/570-600), grave 46 to phase S-K IIa (650-660/20). A period of time might have passed before the second burial was created (determined only on the basis of the date ranges of the grave finds without considering the possibility of prolonged circulation). The grave of the child might have been disturbed, or disturbed, and as such, it seems unlikely that the result of disturbance is low in the cemetery. However, the orientations of the two graves are different. The orientations of the Sittard graves changed over the course of time (see Chapter 3), which suggests that the construction of grave 45 followed the rules of practice of the later phases and not the orientation of grave 46 with which it was (intentionally) connected. The relation between the two graves, if intentionally expressed, can be manifold but cannot be determined on the basis of the available material. Some examples of graves with similar proximities of grave 45 (it nearly touches the outline of this grave), is it dated to phase S-KIa (610/620-640/60) on the basis of finds generally associated with burials of men. The three graves (41, 44 and 45) form a unit which might be connected to each other in some way. Some of the contents, especially the close proximity to express certain familial relations. The exact nature of the relations, however, cannot be determined. Grave 44 (a narrow grave without finds) can be found to the west of this cluster of three graves: it is located in their close proximity but at some distance from the cluster of narrow graves. It is situated in the southern section of the cemetery in the northern segment of the cemetery which to this appears to belong. This might indicate that connections between the dead were expressed over longer periods of time and thus, that cemetery sections were used by groups over time, for example family groups.

Grave 46 contained four beads (a bracelet) and an earring and can be identified as the burial of a woman. Grave 45 is dated to S-K Ila (640/650-670/80), and grave 46 to phase S-K IIa (650-660/20). A period of time might have passed before the second burial was created (determined only on the basis of the date ranges of the grave finds without considering the possibility of prolonged circulation). The grave of the child might have been disturbed, or disturbed, and as such, it seems unlikely that the result of disturbance is low in the cemetery. However, the orientations of the two graves are different. The orientations of the Sittard graves changed over the course of time (see Chapter 3), which suggests that the construction of grave 45 followed the rules of practice of the later phases and not the orientation of grave 46 with which it was (intentionally) connected. The relation between the two graves, if intentionally expressed, can be manifold but cannot be determined on the basis of the available material. Some examples of graves with similar proximities of grave 45 (it nearly touches the outline of this grave), is it dated to phase S-KIa (610/620-640/60) on the basis of finds generally associated with burials of men. Three graves (41, 44 and 45) form a unit which might be connected to each other in some way. Some of the contents, especially the close proximity to express certain familial relations. The exact nature of the relations, however, cannot be determined. Grave 44 (a narrow grave without finds) can be found to the west of this cluster of three graves: it is located in their close proximity but at some distance from the cluster of narrow graves. It is situated in the southern section of the cemetery in the northern segment of the cemetery which to this appears to belong. This might indicate that connections between the dead were expressed over longer periods of time and thus, that cemetery sections were used by groups over time, for example family groups.

The coffin in grave 59 has a length of 144 cm, and was thus, in all probability, the burial of an older child. The coffin in grave 60 is, with its length of 134 cm, longer and in all probability, the burial of an adult. Both graves contained beads and grave 59 also an iron plate buckle. Grave 60 could not be dated to a specific phase as both the burials were in the same position. The graves might have been the burials of a mother and child.

Grave 67 cuts grave 68 (fig. 6.2). Finds were not discovered in these two graves. The graves have nearly similar orientations, which can be an indication for their contemporaneity and an intentionally expressed connection. The same applies to graves 73 and 70 (fig. 6.2). Grave 72 cuts grave 70 and both graves are without finds but share a similar orientation. This might indicate that the latter burial was focussed on the former one and as such, a certain kind of relation between the two deceased was expressed in the burial ground. These last two groups of graves belong to the section of the cemetery with narrower and empty graves. These graves are identified as the youngest phase of the cemetery. The intentionally connected graves indicate that the expression of relations between the dead with consciously chosen locations was practiced throughout the entire period during which the burial ground was in use. With regard to the obviously connected graves with grave finds, it appears that especially the relations between female adults and children are obvious.

- Open spaces

Seven open spaces of various dimensions are identified on the cemetery plan (fig. 6.1). Open space A is the largest and separates the southern section of the cemetery from the rest. Since graves 12 and 18, bordering the open space to the south and to the west, were only identified on the basis of beams (and thus the bottom of the burial pits), it should be questioned whether the open space as it is now depicted on the cemetery plan is not purely a result of destruction or unutilized remains of graves. The depths of the beams of grave 12 are +56.16 and those of grave 18 are +56.10. The depths of the surrounding burial pits are: grave 17 (+56.08), 11 (+56.83), 10 (+56.10), 9 (+56.06), 8 (+56.58), 13 (+56.65), 20 (+56.50) and 12 (+56.40). Seven open spaces of various dimensions are identified on the cemetery plan. (see Chapter 3), which suggests that the construction of grave 45 followed the rules of practice of the later phases and not the orientation of grave 46 with which it was (intentionally) connected. The relation between the two graves, if intentionally expressed, can be manifold but cannot be determined on the basis of the available material. Unfortunately, such remnants as the remains of grave 45 (it nearly touches the outline of this grave), is it dated to phase S-KIa (610/620-640/60) on the basis of finds generally associated with burials of men. Three graves (41, 44 and 45) form a unit which might be connected to each other in some way. Some of the contents, especially the close proximity to express certain familial relations. The exact nature of the relations, however, cannot be determined. Grave 44 (a narrow grave without finds) can be found to the west of this cluster of three graves: it is located in their close proximity but at some distance from the cluster of narrow graves. It is situated in the southern section of the cemetery in the northern segment of the cemetery which to this appears to belong. This might indicate that connections between the dead were expressed over longer periods of time and thus, that cemetery sections were used by groups over time, for example family groups. Open space A sets the mid-eastern cluster of graves apart from the other graves. This cluster is also separated from the cluster to the north on the basis of its predominant SE-NW grave orientations, which are different from the predominant SW-NE grave orientations found in the rest of the cemetery. The open spaces A open was probably intentional. Various reasons for this...
choice can be thought of; it could have been used to distinguish between groups of graves, to reserve space for later interments (which eventually did not take place), or it was used as a path leading the survivors through the burial ground which made it possible to visit or gather around the distinctive graves 16, 14 or 11.

Two smaller open spaces, C and D, are observed in this eastern separated cluster of graves. Since these are much smaller, their identification was based on future burials, maybe again for specific family members (which were in the end never used), may be an option. A similar space seems to have been left open between graves 4 and 16 which was later taken in by the younger grave 3 (fig. 6, a2). Grave 48 might have taken in a reserved space as well.

Open space E separates the southern section of the cemetery, together with open space A, from the rest. The only connection of this southern section with the rest of the cemetery is grave 18, of which, as mentioned earlier, only the beams were discovered. The southern section of the cemetery is clearly different from the rest with regard to the density of burials and grave orientations; they are for the majority more or less S-N orientated, whereas the other graves of the cemetery are either SE-NW or SW-NE orientated.

Again, the internal cohesion with regard to burial phases is absent in this cluster; graves of nearly all the burial phases are present. Obvious horizontal or vertical rows of graves cannot be identified, apart maybe from graves 14 and 50 which are located in an N-S orientated line with grave 13, from another group of the cemetery located close to possible founder’s grave 16. Of the fifteen graves in this group, five are of men, two of women and one is without finds. Graves dated to 565-640 are present in this group, the graves of the last phases are not identified here.

Group 2 consists of twenty-two graves and one context with loose, but associated finds (context 39). Open space A separates it from the southern and western sections of the cemetery and the similar grave orientations are an obvious connecting feature. The group consists of six graves of men, six graves of women and one child’s grave. Graves of mainly phases IIa and IIb are present here, but graves of all the phases thereafter can also be found in this group, except for graves of phase IIIb and the obvious empty graves of the last burial phase. Three horizontal and three vertical rows of graves are identified in this group. The northernmost east-west orientated row consists of six graves: 23, 22, 21, 34 (SK IIb), 33 (SK IIb) and 31 (SK IIb). Of this horizontal row with graves 23 and 34, one is not excavated, its orientation can be slightly different from the other graves in this row, but this is not certain. Grave 23 is the grave of a woman, the gender of burials 22 and 34 could not be identified, although grave 22 orientated north-south and grave 34 to east-west. Two small graves 33 and 31 are the graves of a man and a woman, which may point to a connection of graves. Graves 23 and 34 are not connected, while graves 21 and 22 are connected. The general gender of the burials in this group could not be identified.

Grave 16 (SK IIa) is obviously not connected with one of the identified rows. It stands somewhat apart in the cemetery. This grave of a woman is also one of the oldest graves of the cemetery. It is a narrow grave of about 1.50 m long, not oriented; graves 33, 34, 22 and 23 are obviously connected. The presence of graves 33 and 34 in line with grave 16, despite the grave of a woman, is an interesting fact. The graves of the women buried in these graves, but the gender of the persons buried in graves 70 and 71 (only one bead) could not be identified. The significance of this row can, however, be questioned: the connection with and between these graves and the other graves in their surroundings can be as meaningful as the connection between the six graves within the identified row. A second west-east orientated row consists of only a single grave, which seems to form the core of the cemetery are present in this group; distinctive older graves are grave 14 and (whether or not they can be considered as possible founder’s grave is discussed in the last section of this chapter). Of the seven graves of Group 3, four are of men and three of women. Four graves date to phase IIa, the other three to later phases. The single east-west orientated row consists of graves 25 (SK IIa), 26 (SK Ia-I) and 15 (SK Ia-II).

The different phases to these graves are dated indicate that the organisation of the burial ground in rows superseded time. One S-N orientated row consists of the burial graves. One S-N orientated row consists of the burial graves. Of these graves 34 and 31 are the graves of a man and a woman, the gender of the persons buried in these graves could not be identified.

The grave of 16 (SK IIa) is not connected with one of the identified rows. It stands somewhat apart in the cemetery. This grave of a woman is also one of the oldest graves of the cemetery. It is a narrow grave of about 1.50 m long, not oriented; graves 33, 34, 22 and 23 are obviously connected. The presence of graves 33 and 34 in line with grave 16, despite the grave of a woman, is an interesting fact. The graves of the women buried in these graves, but the gender of the persons buried in graves 70 and 71 (only one bead) could not be identified. The significance of this row can, however, be questioned: the connection with and between these graves and the other graves in their surroundings can be as meaningful as the connection between the six graves within the identified row. A second west-east orientated row consists of only a single grave, which seems to form the core of the cemetery are present in this group; distinctive older graves are grave 14 and (whether or not they can be considered as possible founder’s grave is discussed in the last section of this chapter). Of the seven graves of Group 3, four are of men and three of women. Four graves date to phase IIa, the other three to later phases. The single east-west orientated row consists of graves 25 (SK IIa), 26 (SK Ia-I) and 15 (SK Ia-II).

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phase with burial objects. This entire cluster might have expressed certain connections between the dead, including those placed in a "row".

Group 5 is identified on the basis of nine graves with similar orientations, with some space between them and empty spaces E and F to the west. This group is separated from the graves of Group 1 on the basis of the different grave orientations, apart from grave 37; this is also the earliest grave of the group but is located at some distance from the graves of Group 1 with similar orientations and early graves. Group 5 consists of three graves of men and two of women. Graves of all phases, except IIIb, are present in this cluster of only nine graves; this strongly suggests that generations were connected in the burial ground rather than the burial ground developed organically from old to young.

The first rows with SW-NE orientated graves consists of graves 79 (S-K IId), 85 and 84 (S-K IId). Grave 79 is the burial of a woman, grave 84 the burial of a man, and the gender of the person buried in grave 85 could not be identified. The second east-west row consists of graves 80 (S-K I-IId), 81 (S-K IIb) and 82 (S-K I-II). This row seems to be somewhat earlier. Grave 80 is the burial of a woman, grave 81 of a man and grave 82 could not be identified. The north-south orientated row of graves 79, 80 and 33 consists of the burials of two women (79: IId and 80: I+II) and one grave (33: I-H) of which the gender could not be identified; for the other north-south rows in this segment of the cemetery, the connection in terms of gender could not be identified. The row to the east of this row consists of the graves 84 (no finds), 82 (SK 1-SK II) and 37 (SK Ia). Two burials of women close to one another might express various forms of connections. The question is whether the organisation in either east-west or north-south rows was the prevalent organisational from and the most meaningful, or whether both connections are significant. The two last east-west rows each contained at least the burial of a man and a woman (the third grave in both rows could not be identified), which might indicate a relationship between husband and wife, but various other relations can also be imagined.

Group 6 consists of the most northern graves. The north-western section seems to be separated from the more southern graves by open space G; for the north-eastern graves this cannot be established since the graves possibly present to their south were destroyed by the sewer pipe trench. This group consists of three children’s graves and one woman’s grave. The only two datable graves date to phase IIIb.

The most northern east-west orientated row consists of seven graves (61, 58, 56, 59, 57, 53 and 51). They also form the most northern border of the cemetery. Within this row, graves 60 and 59 are obviously connected since they were located next to one another and no space was left between them. These are the burials of a female adult and a child. Graves 61 and 58 are also burials of women, but the gender of the other graves in this row could not be identified. The graves belong to the youngest phase of the cemetery (phase S-IIIb and the phase of empty graves). Within this row, an obvious empty space can be observed in between graves 57 and 53. It is presumed that it was left open intentionally since a considerable height of graves 53 and 57 was preserved which indicates that the ground in between them was probably not disturbed and would have shown traces if graves were originally present there. The open space could have been reserved for two to three family members or otherwise connected individuals, but was never used.

The row of graves to the south of this most northern row consists of the partly excavated graves 55, 54, 52 and 46 (they were for the largest part destroyed by a recent trench). It cannot be concluded whether these graves originally held finds; the nature of their connection, other than that they were organised in a row, cannot be established.

North-south orientated rows are absent in the most northern segment of the cemetery. The recent disturbance of a considerable segment of the cemetery to the south of the open spaces G and H can disguise the former presence of other north-south orientated rows but, in view of the locations and orientations of the other graves to the south, this seems unlikely.

The majority of the graves are part of either north-south or east-west orientated rows. For all the rows, the internal connections are not obviously more significant than their connection to the other graves around them. Not all the graves in the western and southern sections of the cemetery were neatly placed in rows. Altogether, it can be concluded that various organisational principles were at work simultaneously. The rows are part of larger clusters which seem to be separated by open spaces. The cemetery did not develop organically from an old to young section; younger graves can be found close to the older graves. This implies that the rows were not formed as a result of a gradual expansion of the cemetery either, but that they grew as intentionally created units over the course of time. The total range of organisation principles will be elaborated on in the conclusion to this chapter regarding the possible history of the burial community.

The cemetery of Obbicht

The boundaries of the cemetery and the estimated number of graves

Beckers and Beckers already observed that the cemetery was originally (considerably) larger than the 65 recorded graves (see also Chapter 23).11 Graves 13, 14, 15, 20, 31, 32, 33 and 59, all located in the southern section of the cemetery, were referred to in the first publication as graves destroyed by the building and demolition of two successive mills. Nonetheless, they were indicated as intact graves on the first published cemetery plan. Their indicated locations and orientations are thus not accurate; they are de-

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11 S. Beckers/Beckers 1940, 339-349.
The distribution of graves assigned to the Obbicht-Oude Molen burial phases (scale 1:250).

**Fig. 6.6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase I</th>
<th>Phase I+IIa</th>
<th>Phase I+IIc</th>
<th>Phase IIa</th>
<th>Phase IIc</th>
<th>Phase III</th>
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**Phase I**
- Graves 1, 17, 29 and 41. In view of the location of the road on older maps (which was more to the south than on the original cemetery plan), it is suggested that five to ten graves might have been originally present to the north of the most northern line of recorded graves (fig. 6.5).
- The cemetery was in all probability somewhat larger than the 64 excavated graves, but not much larger than the cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkouwl, originally consisting of approximately 100 graves. On the basis of the suggested loss of twenty graves from the southern section of the cemetery, of five to ten graves to the north, and of maybe five to the west, it is estimated that the original cemetery consisted of circa 90 to 100 graves.

**The chronological development of the cemetery from founder’s grave(s) to abandonment**
- On the basis of the dated graves and their distribution over the cemetery, the chronological development of the cemetery is sketched (fig. 6.6), which is related to the possible history of the associated burying community or communities at the end of this chapter.

**The first burial phase: Its significance**
- Graves 17 and 31 represent the oldest burial phase (310/200-565) (fig. 6.7). Grave 65 is also dated to this early date range, and might even date somewhat earlier, but it is not certain where exactly this grave was discovered and how it relates to the cemetery since it was found at some distance from the original location. It might represent an early phase of the cemetery outside of the indicated site of the cemetery. Graves 17 and 31 are located in the western half of the cemetery, and grave 31 has an orientation deviant from the general W-E orientation of the other graves. They are dated on the basis of pottery vessels alone, which is a rather feeble basis for their identification as first graves of the cemetery.
- Six graves could not be dated more precisely as to phases I-IIa, I-IIC or I-II; these can date as early as the first identified burial phase, but this seems rather unlikely. Grave 22 dates to I-IIa and has a similar orientation as grave 23, which is located in its close proximity. This might indicate that they were contemporary graves. Grave 23 is the grave of a man, identified on the basis of a large pommel alone. Graves 7, 45, 48 and 53 are dated to phases I-IIC and grave 38 to I-II. Grave 7 is located in the south-western section of the cemetery. Graves 38 and 53 form the southern border of the dense cluster of graves in the middle of the cemetery; graves to the south of them were in all probability present but destroyed by the mills. Grave 38 was dated on the basis of a conical pot fragments alone; the other finds from this grave are nails and predominantly indeterminate fragments. Grave 53 was dated on the basis of a shield boss. Other finds were not discovered in this grave, which is remarkable since shield bosses are often associated with graves of warriors.
The empty graves in the western section might also belong to this phase IIa, assumingly those in the western section and southern-middle section of the cemetery. The second sub-phase (IIb: 565-640/50) consists of eighteen graves. This phase starts as early as sub-phase IIa but ends somewhat later; the distribution of the eighteen graves throughout the cemetery can provide some clues with regard to the chronological development of the cemetery since they might be somewhat later than the graves of sub-phase IIa. The distribution of the graves shows that they can be found in the western half of the cemetery, in association with the earliest graves, but also in the eastern half and especially in the north-eastern section of the cemetery. The cemetery may thus have developed from two centres, on in the west and one in the east (of which graves 59 and 61 are the first ones). Of the eighteen graves of sub-phase IIb, six contained feminine grave goods, eight were neutral, and four had masculine grave goods. Assuming that these graves are somewhat later than those of sub-phase IIa, it seems as if not long after the cemetery was taken into use the woman were accorded gender specific finds more often than in the beginning, when especially men were accorded gender specific grave goods. Grave 59 of a woman was located close to grave 20, a distinct oldest grave (or maybe a possible founder’s grave).

Burial sub-phase IIc (640-660/50) consists of three graves. This phases ends as sub-phase IIb, but it starts somewhat later and therefore, might provide some insights in the chronological development of the cemetery. The three graves are located in each other’s proximity, forming a cluster in the middle of the eastern half of the cemetery (grave 46, 51B and 57). Grave 57 is the grave of a woman, graves 46 and 51B are those of men. Grave 51B is a grave of two superimposed burials of men, of which the lower burial (51B) is dated to IIc. Four graves (5, 33, 45 and 48) could not be dated more precisely as to burial phases I–IIa, I–IIa/b/c and I–II; some might actually date as early as phase IIa, assumingly those in the western section and southern-middle section of the cemetery.

On a whole, the first phase is represented only by a small number of graves. They indicate that the first burial activities took place in the western half of the cemetery. The presumed disturbance of the westernmost section of the cemetery might have caused a loss of some of the earliest graves. Distinct oldest graves are not present in this earliest burial phase; they might have been destroyed, but it might also be one of the graves of the next burial phase since the two graves assigned to the first burial phase on the basis of pottery vessels alone might date somewhat later and could in fact be part of burial phase IIa.

Burial phase II in detail: The distinctive oldest grave(s) and the expansion of the cemetery

The majority of the Obbicht Oude Molen burials date to broad burial phase II (565-640/50) in which four overlapping sub-phases are identified. The date ranges of the four sub-phases show some overlap but provide some insights with regard to the chronological development of the cemetery during burial phase II. The two first sub-phases (starting before 610) consist of the majority of the burials (fig. 6.6). In the phases thereafter (starting after 610), the number of burials diminishes.

The first sub-phase (IIa: 565-610/20) consists of fifteen graves (fig. 6.7). The majority are located in the western half of the cemetery, where the graves of phase I are also located. Two graves (59 and 65) are located in the eastern half of the cemetery; they might be the first graves of a distinct burying group, maybe a family group who used this plot of the cemetery from then on. It is remarkable that ten of the fifteen graves of this phase contained masculine grave goods. Five graves are ‘neutral’ and grave 8 is the single grave with feminine grave goods. The neutral graves in this phase were probably the graves of women (3, 15, 18, 47 and 62). The empty graves in the western section might also belong to this burial phase which might as a result consist of more than only the fifteen dated graves.

Grave 20 stands out by its dimensions and extended grave inventory which consists of an axe, a sickle, a spearhead and a vessel set consisting of a copper alloy bowl, a red biconical pot and a glass claw beaker. This grave contained one of the ‘richest’ grave goods ensembles of the cemetery and could possibly, on the basis of its size and special location, be identified as a distinctive oldest grave (possible founder’s grave) in the Obbicht cemetery. Thus, the two graves of burial phase I, which were dated on the basis of ten part of extended weapon sets. The shield boss is in poor condition and cannot be dated more precisely as to phase I–IIc. Grave 45 is a wooden container grave in the middle section of the cemetery. It contained some belt fittings, a spindle whorl and some indistinct objects and could not be dated more precisely. Grave 48 is located in the north-eastern section and is predominantly associated with the younger graves of the cemetery; it seems unlikely that this grave dates to the first burial phase. Grave 7, in the south-western section of the cemetery, is located in the vicinity of some older graves; this grave might also be an older grave.

On a whole, the first phase is represented only by a small number of graves. They indicate that the first burial activities took place in the western half of the cemetery. The presumed disturbance of the westernmost section of the cemetery might have caused a loss of some of the earliest graves. Distinct oldest graves are not present in this earliest burial phase; they might have been destroyed, but it might also be one of the graves of the next burial phase since the two graves assigned to the first burial phase on the basis of pottery vessels alone might date somewhat later and could in fact be part of burial phase IIa.

Burial phase II in detail: The distinctive oldest grave(s) and the expansion of the cemetery

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On a whole, the first phase is represented only by a small number of graves. They indicate that the first burial activities took place in the western half of the cemetery. The presumed disturbance of the westernmost section of the cemetery might have caused a loss of some of the earliest graves. Distinct oldest graves are not present in this earliest burial phase; they might have been destroyed, but it might also be one of the graves of the next burial phase since the two graves assigned to the first burial phase on the basis of pottery vessels alone might date somewhat later and could in fact be part of burial phase IIa.
cluding a presumed number of destroyed graves and not datable graves were created during this period of 70 to 100 years (depending on how early the burial ground was taken into use).

- The last burial phases: The abandonment of the cemetery

The last burial phase (III: 640/50-670/80) is represented only by graves 39 and 44. It was already suggested that the cemetery expanded to the south during the last phases of the cemetery. Grave 44 is located in the proximity of the graves of sub-phase IIc and grave 39 (the single cremation grave) is the most southern grave discovered in the cemetery. This cremation grave may have been located at the fringe of the cemetery on purpose. Since this southern half was considerably affected by the building and demolition of two subsequent mills, it can be presumed that more graves of the later burial phases were present in this section of the cemetery. A cluster of empty graves, identified as the final burial phases in the cemeteries of Sittard-Kemperkoul, Bergijk, Posterholt and probably also Stein, might have been present in this southern half of the cemetery. In that case, the number of graves could have been comparable to Obbicht burial phase II. The burial ground will have been abandoned somewhat after 670/80. For this cemetery it cannot be established whether this was shortly after 670/80 or a considerable time thereafter. This chapter concludes with an overall discussion of the settlement history of the burial community in relation to the chronology of the cemetery and those of the cemeteries of Sittard and Stein, but not before several features of its layout are discussed.

The layout of the cemetery

Certain topographical features, such as obvious groups or rows of graves, the distribution of gendered and children’s graves throughout the cemetery, the presence of (consciously) left open spaces, the orientation of graves and obviously connected graves, can provide some insights into the choices resulting in the cemetery layout at hand (fig. 6.5). Since the Obbicht cemetery is far from complete and the exact locations and orientations of the graves are fairly uncertain, the suggestions made with regard to the layout of the cemetery will remain rather speculative. Beckers and Beckers observed that all of the Obbicht graves had a W-E orientation, and that only graves 21, 22 and 23 had slightly different orientations. Since the orientations of the few graves from Stein for which the exact orientations in degrees were given were not accordingly depicted on the cemetery plan, it remains questionable whether the actual orientations were recorded with precision on the initial cemetery plan. It is assumed that this was not done and that the plan provides only an indication; the graves (except for the three mentioned) were all roughly W-E orientated, but slight variations from this rough indication will have been present." Since the cemetery plan provided by Beckers and Beckers is estimated to be a combination of interpretation and exact representation, it cannot be the unambiguous basis necessary for a detailed analysis of the cemetery layout and its underlying organisational principles. Therefore, only the obvious clusters of graves and open spaces and not the, at first sight evident, rows in detail as was done for the Sittard cemetery, will be described.

The group of graves are identified on the basis of the burial phases, the distribution of gendered and empty graves and the unoccupied spaces within the cemetery limits.

- Gender and age

Graves of children could not be identified in the cemetery of Obbicht on the basis of the burial pit lengths, but they might have been present in the large burial pits. On the basis of the discovered skeletal remains, it can be established that a person of circa 14 years was interred in cremation grave 39. The skull fragments from grave 63 were, at the time of excavation, identified as non-adult; the recent analysis of the remains, however, showed that it was an individual with an age at death of more than 18 years. Grave 39 and 63 contained only gender neutral objects, but it is remarkable that they are both located at the fringes of the cemetery. It is highly likely that more children were buried in the cemetery since they are present in higher numbers, and although only slightly, numbers in the cemeteries of Sittard and Stein (see below) as they are in many other cemeteries. Of the grave with finds, eleven contained male specific finds, twenty had male specific objects and twenty-one had only neutral objects (Fig. 6.8).

The ‘first’ burial phase in Obbicht consists of two graves (three including grave 65 located at some distance from the cemetery) which contained only pottery vessels, thus, gender neutral objects. Since pottery vessel typologies show some differences at a local level, these might also be associated with burial phase IIa or IIb. Graves of burial phase IIa are predominantly present in the western half of the cemetery. Of the fifteen graves of this phase, nine are of men, one is of a woman, one of a child and the rest had finds which were gender unspecified, either intentionally or as a result of post-depositional circumstances. It can be stated that this phase is dominated by graves with male specific objects. Grave 22, of a man located in the western half of the cemetery and which could not be dated more precisely as to phase I+IIa, underlines this pattern.

Burial phase IIb starts around 565 as burial phase IIa but ends around 640/50. And although the chronological significance of this phase is not that strong, the apparent pattern might have some meaning. Of the eighteen graves assigned to this phase, six are of woman, four are of man and eight are not gender specific. It can be suggested that graves with female specific grave goods became more common after the first burials. Burial phase IIc is relatively short and consists of only three graves. Such a presumed number of destroyed graves and not datable graves were created during this period of 70 to 100 years (depending on how early the burial ground was taken into use).
graves of which two are of men and one is of a woman. These are located in the eastern half of the cemetery, whereas the single male grave of the burial phases thereafter, IId, is also located in the eastern section of the cemetery. A grave of a man which could not be dated more precisely as to phases I-II, is again located in the western and, on a whole, older half of the cemetery.

The two graves of last burial phase III are both non-gender specific; grave 43 is located in the middle of the cemetery and cremation burials are characteristic of the northern boundary of the cemetery. This is the grave of an older child.

The chronological distribution pattern shows that the graves of women became especially visible in burial phase IId, thereafter they seem to become invisible, whereas the graves of men are visible throughout the entire period during which the burial ground was in use.

Another pattern with regard to the gendered graves is that the graves of men are predominantly found in the southern half of the cemetery and the graves of women in the northern half, in which also the majority of graves without finds can be found. On closer inspection it also appears that the graves of men are located at the limits of the cemetery, of which especially graves 4, 5, 6, 29 and 33 are good examples; they form the north-western, western, and south-western limits. Apart from grave 1, the graves of women are all located in the core of the cemetery. To the east, the neutral graves indicate the limits of the cemetery, as they do to the north-east, but these sections were in all probability disturbed and some additional graves might have been present more to the north and east of the cemetery.

An explanation for this pattern is that during the earliest phases, when the first settlers took the burial ground into use, it was felt necessary to put emphasis on the burials of men with weaponry. This might be an indication that protective ancestors and claims on land were symbolically created. After the claim on the newly occupied land was consolidated, other matters, such as the continuity of the community, gained importance and might have been symbolically expressed with the accentuation of female burials.

The symbolic expression of male protection was continued during the expansion of the cemetery with the location of graves of men around the core with predominantly graves of women. It can be assumed that in the southern section, the ‘neutral’ graves were those of predominantly women and that in the western section the neutral graves were those of men. As was observed in the Sittard cemetery, the expression of female gender is almost exclusively limited to graves in the northern half of the cemetery, whereas in the men various options were available (see Chapter 7 for a discussion of the weapon graves in the three cemeteries)

- **Grave orientations**
  
  The variety of grave orientations and distribution is described in detail in Chapter 3. The general orientation was W-E, as it is common in Merovingian cemeteries in the region (fig. 6.3). Three of the excavated graves had SW-NE orientations; they belong to the first phases of the cemetery. It is not known whether old structures in the landscape influenced the decision to create W-E oriented graves during the first burial phase, but it is obvious that the directions of the graves of the phases thereafter were created in line with the first orientations. As in Sittard, a stable pattern of grave orientations was employed during the time the burial ground was in use.

- **Connected graves**

  Graves 37, 40 and 51 were identified as ‘double graves’ (fig. 6.5 and 6.6). Grave 37 was partly destroyed, but finds were nonetheless discovered and recorded at different depths; it is identified as a grave with two superimposed burials. Based on the discovery of a lance head and arrowhead, the lower burial was identified as that of a man and the finds of the upper burial identify it as that of a woman. The lower burial was dated to 510/20-610/20. Since the finds from the upper burial could not be dated precisely, it is difficult to establish the time interval between the two burials. The relation between the two burials might have been interpreted intentionally, since it seems as if the top burial was placed exactly above the lower one.

  Grave 40 is also a double grave consisting of two superimposed burials. The lower burial is that of a man, identified as such on the basis of weapons and is dated to 585-640/50. From the upper burial only a biconical pot is known, which was dated to 535-610 or 610-670, or alternatively to 610-25-640/50. Since few superimposed graves were discovered, it is assumed that their relation was expressed intentionally. Although, what this relation expressed remains open for debate.

  The upper burial in double grave 51 was associated with a lance head and a sex, found at a depth of 90 cm. The burial is difficult to date. A sex, lance head, ornaments, belt fittings and pottery were found at a lower level. This lower burial is dated to phase IIc (610/20-640/50); the upper burial can date to the same phase or later. Both burials are of a man, but the nature of the relation expressed in this grave cannot be established.

- **Open spaces and distinctive older graves**

  Large unoccupied spaces in the cemetery of Sittard-Kempkerpool cannot be identified in Obbicht. Some open spaces indicated on the cemetery plan are near destroyed graves; the original existence of these spaces is therefore ambiguous, but some suggestions are made (fig. 6.3).

  The empty space in the southern part of the cemetery was caused by the destruction of graves as a consequence of the building and demolition of two subsequent mills. In the remainder of the cemetery some intentionally left open spaces seem to be present. Graves 26, 27, 35, 36, 44, 45 and 37 enclose an open space (E); it might have been reserved for someone who was never actually buried at this spot. On the original plan, grave 27 is located more to the north than on the new reconstructed plan. It leaves an open space (E), which made it possible to reach distinctive older grave 20 (possible founder’s grave). The same might apply to open space C, somewhat to the north and east of grave 20. Space B between graves 44, 47, 43 and 48 is small and might have been left open for future burials. Space D between the graves 37, 45, 46, 51, 52 and 53 might have been intentional and left open for the same reason.

- **Groups of graves**

  Beckers and Beckers observed that the Obbicht graves were arranged in rows in a roughly north-south alignment. They made the assumption that these graves might have been present more to the north and east of the cemetery.

  **Graves with bowls**

  There is a considerable number of graves with bowls in the cemetery of Stein. It is concluded that graves with decorative bowls are to be found mainly during the second burial phase (IIb) or IIC. Beckers and Beckers suggested that the decorative bowls might indicate the presence of the deceased on a another grave (fig. 6.5). The discussion of the groups can provide some clues with regard to the organisational principles that resulted in the cemetery layout at hand.

  One obvious cluster is identified on the basis of the three graves with an orientation deviant from the general W-E orientation; they are graves 21, 22 and 23 with a SW-NE orientation. Grave 21 is the middle grave of three graves, which are oriented only in a ‘neutral’ grave good. The two other graves are those of men. Grave 22 could not be dated more precisely as to phase I-Ia, and grave 23 dates to IIB. They are located in the vicinity of grave 20, which is identified as a distinct oldest grave (the possible founder’s grave), and belong to the first phases of the cemetery.

  Another obvious groups were difficult to identify; however, the cemetery might be divided into an eastern half (group 1) and a western half which can then be divided into a southern group of graves (group 2) and a northern group of graves (group 2). Such a division is based on the general arrangement of the graves, and more predominantly on the basis of the distribution of the gendered and empty graves and also the burial phases.

  Group 1 is separated from the other groups on the basis of graves of men and that in the northern part of the cemetery. Thus, the three differentially oriented graves, the predominant masculine graves and the narrow space which might be present between distinct oldest grave 20 and the graves of group 2 to the east. The apparent W-E oriented rows show a combination of graves of women and men, and the graves in each row consist of graves from the last burial phase as IId and IId. Thus, the graves from a single row in this group might be more or less contemporaneous, but it is also possible that a row consists of younger and somewhat later graves; this cannot be established with precision.

  Group 2 is separated from group 3 on the basis of the three graves dating to phase IIc, which form the northern ‘limit’ of group 3. Group 3 contains predominantly graves of men, whereas in group 2 the graves of women and empty graves are predominant. The youngest graves are present in group 3 and only one of the two youngest graves is present in group 2. The rows in both groups show an internal differentiation; they consist of graves of different sub-phases, of empty graves with objects, and graves of men, women and gender neutral graves. It is difficult to identify any form of cohesion or obvious organisational rules, but the identified groups represent at least a chronological development from group 1 to group 3 in which also a pattern of gender specific graves can be identified. Graves of all the phases are, however, present in group 2 and 3, but not in group 1. As far as it is possible to conclude, it seems as if the location of the first group was not used anymore after 640/50. The use of this section was restricted to the first generations. Within group 1, of course, some organisational principles other than time will have determined the grave location choices, but it is difficult to grasp them on the basis of the available evidence. Some general suggestions are made with regard to these organisational principles in the conclusion to this chapter on the history of the burial community.

The cemetery of Stein

The boundaries of the cemetery and the estimated number of graves

Beckers and Beckers observed that the cemetery of Stein was originally larger than the 72 discovered graves. Gravel extraction, the construction of roads and buildings and the old oaks present on the terrain named ‘De Groote Bongerd’ (the Large Orchard) caused several disturbances. This gravel was extracted from the section between the northernmost graves and the road to the north of the cemetery. A considerable number of graves could have been present here, but it is difficult to estimate how many since it remains uncertain where exactly the northern limit of the cemetery was located; the number of destroyed graves can be high or low depending on this exact location (fig. 6.6). Beckers and Beckers suggested that the cemetery probably reached as far as the first houses of Stein to the north and north-east of the cemetery, which are located just to the north and south of the road leading from the northern part of the cemetery.

Beckers and Beckers mentioned that the road to the east of the cemetery was broadened and destroyed a number of graves. Gravel extracted close to this downslope north-south oriented road leading to the castle to the south of the site. This observation might indicate that the eastern limit of the cemetery was located more to the east than the most eastern line of graves 14, 15, 20, 39, 37 and 48. It is difficult to estimate the number of graves, but it could have been a considerable number (fig. 6.6).
The initial cemetery plan shows that graves 67, 68, 69, 70, 71 and 72 were discovered in the slope to the south. They were recorded as intact graves, except for grave 72 of which only a number of finds were recorded but of which the contours were nearly completely gone. Two biconical pots were also found in the slope, some time before the excavation, which indicates that more graves were originally present here. Beckers and Beckers depicted three possible graves in the upper section of the slope on the basis of the find of two biconical pots and the construction of a house which was known to have destroyed a grave. They assumed that at least three additional graves were originally present in the slope since it was also affected by erosion and old oaks over the course of time. It is for now assumed that ten additional graves (including the three already mentioned) were originally present in the upper section of the slope, which formed the southern limit of the cemetery. Since the space between graves 48, 47 and 46 and the slope is considerable, it is assumed that they form the south-eastern limit of the cemetery (fig. 6.9).

Nothing was mentioned about disturbing activities or events that took place to the west of the current western limit of the cemetery. This parcel expands more to the west than the most western line of graves; it is assumed that graves 28, 29, 69 and 65 represent the original western limit of the cemetery (fig. 6.9). Gravel was also extracted in the middle section of the cemetery, leaving a large ‘open’ space on the plan published by Beckers and Beckers in which the former presence of c. fifteen additional graves is presumed. The plot and the slope to the south were covered with centuries-old oaks, of which some were removed and replaced by new trees some time before the excavation took place. Test excavation trenches in the slope to the south of the burial terrain revealed that the frequent removal and planting of trees disturbed the soil considerably, and that the soil condition of the slope was so bad that it could not be investigated. How many graves were destroyed by the trees is difficult to estimate.

Altogether, it can be concluded that the original limits of the cemetery of Stein are difficult to establish; the depicted limits on the new plan are a careful estimation. It is assumed that the cemetery size is comparable to Sittard-Kemperkouw and Obbicht and that approximately 30-40 graves of all burial phases were destroyed; therefore, the cemetery would have consisted of 100 to 110 graves.

The chronological development of the cemetery: from founder’s grave (s) to abandonment

The chronological development of the cemetery is sketched on the basis of the distribution of the individually dated graves throughout the cemetery (fig. 6.10).**

**References:**
- Beckers/Beckers 1940, 339.
- Beckers/Beckers 1940, 339.
- Beckers and Beckers dug the test excavation trenches in the slope because it was known that this plot was in all probability very interesting in archaeological terms. In the slope numerous pottery fragments from the Stenes-, Bronze- and Iron Age were found, as were a copper alloy Roman coin and also some pottery fragments from the period. Gravel extraction revealed the first Merovingian graves, after which the terrain was excavated. (21) See chapter 5.
Fig. 6.10
The distribution of graves assigned to the Stein-Groote Bongerd burial phases (scale 1:250).

Fig. 6.11
The distribution of graves assigned to the oldest Stein-Groote Bongerd burial phases (scale 1:250).

Stein-Groote Bongerd
Merovingian cemetery

Gravel extraction

Phase I
Phase Ia
Phase Ib
Phase IIa
Phase IIb
Phase IIc
Phase IIId
No finds
Cannot be dated

Stein-Groote Bongerd
Merovingian cemetery

Gravel extraction

Phase I
Phase Ia
Phase Ib
Phase IIa
Phase IIb
Phase IIc
Phase IIId
No finds
Cannot be dated
Only in phase IIc and IId graves were created in close proximity. Large wooden container grave 21, without finds but with two interments, is also surrounded by an unoccupied space which might have had a religious or spiritual position. Since it is without finds, it cannot be dated to a specific phase. It’s possible function as a founder’s grave is discussed in the later section of this chapter. Wooden container grave 23 with coffin contained only a lance head, and grave 58 contained remnants of a shield boss. Wooden container grave 24 contained two wooden containers; the possible knob of a vessel and fragments of probably a shield boss and a lance head; the other finds from this grave were neutral. Grave 60 also has a special location in the cemetery in view of the space left unoccupied around it. This grave is not as large as graves 21 and 22 but it might also have been a distinct oldest grave in the cemetery. It contained an axe, which might refer to values such as clearing land.24 Grave 57, of an older child, with masculine and possibly feminine objects can also be identified as a special grave due to its size and location; all these options are discussed later on.

Three graves (18, 23 and 45) could not be dated more precisely as to phases IIa, IIa and IId; grave 23 is a “neutral grave”, with only a biconical pot. Grave 45 is located in the south-eastern part of the cemetery. Since it has a rather long date range, established on the basis of a missing seax alone (the two biconical pots), it cannot be dated more precisely and therefore, its location on the map is inaccurate. Grave 22, consisting of a biconical pot; the other fragments/objects from this grave could not be dated.

The last burial phase: Abandonment of the cemetery
The evidence for this last burial phase with objects is provided by five graves (25, 37, 64A, 64 and 65) with-inland belt fittings, which date after 640/50 (fig. 6c, 116). Some graves have date ranges associated to them which ended in phase III (the graves of phase IIId: 11, 14, 17, 43 and 67); these might also belong to the last burial phase with objects. The graves of phase IIId are located in the south-western and middle section of the cemetery which is peculiar since the graves of the foregoing phases seem to indicate that the cemetery expanded from west to the north-east.

Grave 7 has a length of 120 cm and might thus be the burial of a young child. It was emptied and burned; a seax, belt fittings, a palm cup and a biconical pot were also present in this grave. The orientation of the grave is deviant from the general grave orientations in the cemetery. Since it dates after 610, it can be suggested that the graves of women were made visible with grave goods in the earlier phases, but that this practice diminished thereafter. The gender of burial 7 was expressed only with a bracelet. In the phases prior, the graves of women were emphasized with beads.

Only grave 15 could not be dated more precisely to phases IIa-IIc. It is the grave of a man based on a seax and fire steel; it is thus not a grave with an extended set of weapons, though located in the proximity of richly furnished grave IIb of phase IIc. It remains difficult to draw unambiguous conclusions; grave 15 might date later in the proposed date range in view of its location in the north-eastern section of the cemetery and also because it has a S-N orientation which is deviant from the general grave orientations in the Stein cemetery. It is suggested, also on the basis of this grave, that the cemetery expanded to the north-east over the course of time. Phase IIId (610/620-670/80) started as early as phase IIb but ended some 30 years later. The five graves (11, 14, 17, 43 and 67) from this phase may thus reveal some clues regarding the chronological development of the cemetery. Graves 11, 14 and 17 can be found in the north-eastern section of the cemetery, thus close to graves 7, 8 (the richly furnished grave of a man) and 15 which indicate the start of the first north-eastern expansion. Grave 43 is located in the south-eastern section of the cemetery, a section where both earlier and later graves can be found, and grave 67 (a very small grave with a biconical pot) in the south-western and eldest section of the cemetery. Since it was only grave 67 which could not be dated more precisely as to phases IIId-IIb. It is located in the southern-west section of the cemetery where the majority of the oldest graves are located but also grave 67, which dates to IIId. It is gender neutral and dated on the basis of a biconical pot; the other fragments/objects from this grave could not be dated.

Gender and age
Seven burials with female specific finds, eleven graves with male specific finds, eight burials of children and twenty-five graves with no gender specific finds of burial goods were established for a number of graves (11, 14, 15 and 18) and an exact S-N orientation, grave 8 had an orientation of 45 degrees to the east of the exact N-S axis, graves 13 one of 52 degrees, grave 17 and 20 one of 60 degrees, and graves 19 and 26 had an orientation of 45 degrees to the east of the cemetery. These orientations were neither precisely indicated on the cemetery plan. The inaccuracy of the available cemetery plan hinders a clear cut discussion on all the aspects related to the cemetery organisation. Nonetheless, some remarks can be made regarding some apparent groupings of graves, obviously connected graves, open spaces, the orientations of the graves and the distribution of gendered and children’s graves throughout the cemetery. The groups of graves could not be identified on the basis of the arrangement of the graves on the cemetery plan alone, as it was done for Sittard-Kemperkoul. The groups are defined also on the basis of burial phase distribution, the graves of men, women and children, the possible unoccupied spaces, the empty graves and the rough grave orientations.

The layout of the cemetery
The layout of the Stein cemetery as known from the cemetery plan in the publication by Beekers and Beekers, is not an exact copy of the actual cemetery layout as it was discovered by the excavators. A number of graves not observed on the described layout but were not disturbed from the beginning of the excavation were nevertheless depicted as intact graves on the plan, and the dimensions of the intact and disturbed graves as recorded in the catalogue were not exactly reproduced on the plan. The exact relative positions of the graves and possible open spaces can thus not be established unambiguously.

Some additional graves of the phases after 640/50 were in all probability dates to the last burial phase with objects. Grave 32 is located in the northern section of the cemetery where the majority of the oldest graves are located but also grave 67, which dates to IIId. It is gender neutral and dated on the basis of a biconical pot; the other fragments/objects from this grave could not be dated.
had a length of 115 cm and was thus the possible burial of an older child. The grave contained a biconical pot and a number of beads. Grave 19 has a length of 340 cm but contained a body silhouette with a length of 57 cm. This child was buried in association with an adult in a single grave. The grave contained a bowl and beads but it cannot be established with which body the finds were originally associated. Grave 57 has a length of 265 cm but held a coffin with a length of 150 cm in which a body silhouette with a length of 177 cm was observed; it contained a body of an older child. The grave contained a decorated spindle whorl/disc bead of glass, a number of mounts and belt fittings, a fragment of a bow brooch (missing), a simple ring, tweezers and a biconical pot. It is thus a rather extended grave goods ensemble which is rather uncommon for children's burials. Another peculiar feature is that the grave was accorded both masculine (tweezers), feminine (disc bead) and neutral objects, whereas most children's graves were accorded beads which are specific feminine objects.

It can be observed that three (11, 14 and 18) of the children's graves had an S-N orientation, which is deviant from the general orientation. Only one other grave (grave 15, masculine grave goods) has a 'normal' orientation. These graves are all located in the north-eastern section of the cemetery, in which also grave 13 of a child is located, in fact children's graves 11, 13, and 14 are located in each other's proximity in this section of the cemetery. They seem to have been buried in an open area in the cemetery. Graves of phases II c and thereafter are predominant in this section. Graves 13 and 14 were without finds, and could not be dated; they might thus also belong to the phases after 610. Grave 11 and some other graves in their proximity. Grave 22 was located to the southwest of this cluster, close to double grave 21. Graves 11, 13 and 14 are located to the north-east of this burial and somewhat closer to grave 12, a possible founder's grave, and grave 8, a rich grave of a man dated to phase IId.

Grave 18 was located to the east of the cemetery, at some distance from the other graves in an adjacent plot. It could not be dated more precisely as to phase I-IIa, and thus it is uncertain how it relates to the other graves. The child identified in grave 18 was buried in association with an adult (double grave) in the eastern part of the cemetery, in which no other graves of children were found. Grave 67 was located in the south-western section, the oldest section of the cemetery. It might also be a cremation grave or a grave with dismembered body parts of an adult in view of the dimensions of the burial pit. If it was a child's grave, it is the only one in this oldest part of the cemetery apart from the older child buried in grave 57.

The eleven graves of men with clearly gender specific grave goods are mainly distributed throughout the southern and western sections of the cemetery which are associated with the earlier burial phases. The graves of women with clearly gender specific grave goods are present mainly in the middle and eastern section of the cemetery which are predominantly associated with the later burial phases. The neutral graves can be found all over the cemetery.
the topography and chronological development of the cemeteries interpretations

- Possible open spaces and the distinctive older graves

Three open spaces can be observed on the cemetery plan (fig. 6-10), which were intentionally left open. This space is, for the majority, surrounded by graves of the oldest burial phase, the space might have been used to signify the distinct oldest grave 60 or the other older graves 57 and 68, and made it possible to visit these graves and gather in their vicinity. Moreover space A is at the junction of the groups of graves with W-E and SW-NE orientations.

Some space was left unoccupied (B) around grave 21. Grave 21 is a double grave which held two adult individuals and in which some traces of a wooden container were found. The grave was without finds and the bodies were destroyed. It might have been left unoccupied for cultural significance, accentuated by the unoccupied space around it. It is striking that three graves to its west (23, 29, 32) were all graves of women, and one smaller grave (39) to the west, was the burial of a child containing feminine objects (beads). The majority of the graves to the west of grave 21 are the earliest graves of the cemetery and the grave seems to mark the eastern limit of the oldest graves. Only grave 31 of a woman dates later, to phase III-III (5550-5070). The other graves of the later burial phase to the east of grave 21 were also located at some distance from it (fig. 6-10), which dates to phase II (5070-4750). This grave seems to have been squeezed into a space between older graves. In view of its special location and the dimensions of grave 21, which held two bodies, it may have been a disused grave older, and thus respected during the later burial phases. Since grave 21 was without finds, it cannot be dated and other evidence to support this conclusion is not available. It also applies to grave 12, which dates to phase IA. Some space was left unoccupied to the north of this grave (C), and may be to its south (D), which is not certain since grave extraction disturbed the cemetery section to the south of grave 12. It was the grave of a man with a sword and seax (both no longer present), and the rare and peculiar copper alloy and gilded belt fittings with garnets. The space around this grave was left unoccupied for some distance from this grave, apart from grave 17, which dates to phase IIa. The space was left unoccupied for some distance from this grave, apart from grave 17, which dates to phase IIa. It was the same to its south; this is not certain since gravel extraction disturbed the cemetery section to the south of grave 12. The length of this discoloration was 210 cm and its largest width 15 cm. The ‘chamber’ was not divided by a wall and traces of such a dividing feature were not found. It seems as if the two bodies were placed within one wooden structure together. Beads were found inside the chamber, but it was not recorded where in the grave they were placed. There were also indications that both bodies were placed within a wooden container. The ancient potter’s function is evident. The absence of a wooden container grave, nothing can be concluded about the nature of their connection. However, the presence of more or less intact body silhouette suggests, that the grave was not disturbed or reopened later. Grave 56 consists of two superimposed burials of which the connection is not obvious. All of the finds from this grave, apart from the biconical pot, were found at a higher level than the first traces of the decayed wooden container. These became visible at a depth of 140 cm as grey-brown band shaped soil discolorations forming a rectangle of 7 x 15 cm. The biconical pot was found at a depth of 160 cm and the other finds all at a depth of 140 cm. It is considered to be finds associated with a burial placed on top of the lower wooden container grave. In view of the recorded burial pit dimensions (7 x 15 cm), which may be indicative for the upper body, the dimensions of the wooden structure grave, it is considered that both bodies were placed within the wooden container grave. It is not possible to establish what the upper burial was placed on top of the lower burial by intention. The upper container contained belt fittings, a biconical pot and a knife on the basis of which it is dated to phase IIIB (5650-5610). The lower burial is dated to phase I (5100-5650), on the basis of a biconical pot. Some time might have passed before the second burial was placed on top of the first burial. The two burials were not accorded gender specific grave goods; as a consequence, it is not possible to determine the nature of their possible connection.

- Groups of graves

Two distinctive groups of graves can be identified on the cemetery plan: the group with SW-NE orientated graves (fig. 6-10) and the group with NW-SE orientated graves (fig. 6-11). The SW-NE orientated graves form a cluster in the south-western section of the cemetery (group 1), which consists of 21 graves (including double grave 6A and 6B) and an additional number of graves which were originally located in the upper section of the slope. This cluster consists of graves from the earliest phases of the cemetery (phase S-GI B graves 50, 51, 58 and 61). Of the phase IIa graves (IIA), four of the ten graves can be found here: graves 51, 53, 57 and 58. The phase thereafter, IIB, three graves are identified in this cluster: graves 54, 55 and 66. Three graves (41, 49 and 72) belong to phase IIC, and one grave (67) to IID, and one grave (68) could not be dated more precisely as to phases IIIB-IIID. Grave 56A dates to phase III and is the youngest grave of the group. Three graves of group 1 were without finds; graves 68, 70 and 71.

Graves are, at first sight, organised in neat rows. The relative locations of the graves on both the original map and the reconstructed plan however, are not precise; it cannot be decided whether the depicted rows were originally as neatly organised as the plans show. It can nonetheless be concluded that this cluster consists mainly of graves of the first burial phase, and that they were organised in rows, although the precise locations of the graves in the rows cannot be reconstructed. This section was also used in the later phases. The cemetery did not develop organically over the centuries, but the rows did not expand over the course of time, but came into being through other organisational principles as the structures of the other groups also underline.

The group of SW-NE orientated graves can be divided into two clusters (fig. 6-10): the cluster of graves in the western part of the group (fig. 6-10) and the group in the eastern part of the cemetery (group 3).

The western group (2) of SW-NE orientated graves is separated from the eastern cluster since it seems to consist of a major and a minor cluster. The minor cluster is probably the group of three graves (28, 38 and 19) dated to phase I, six graves (22, 24, 29, 30, 34 and 60) dated to phase IA, and one (35) dated to phase IIB. Grave 26 and 61 dated to phase IIB, and four graves (23, 37, 64 and 67) to phase III and one grave (12) to IID. Six graves (61, 67, 72, 31, 33 and 35) were without finds. The orientations of the graves derived from cluster 1 and cluster 2 are different, but the graves of the two groups cannot be distinguished on the basis of burial phases; a comparable number of graves dating to the earliest phase of the cemetery can be found in the two groups, which together form the earliest phases of the cemetery. The orientation of the graves of group 1 were probably adjusted in reference to the slope to the
The possible history of the burial communities

It is now commonly accepted that burial grounds do not provide a complete picture of the prehistoric local communities. In the case of the Stein cemetery, it is assumed that the cemetery was the site of a specific local group’s structure. The burials were transformative in nature and rhetoric strategies, designed to produce and reproduce both groups and communities, shared ideologies and interpretations thereof in an ongoing debate on the central tenets of a society, during which an appropriate image of the dead was created. We therefore have to think in kind that the complicated role of the burial rite in constituting groups and communities results in variation in a burial ground. Moreover, more than one group could have used one burial ground, and one group could have distributed their dead over several cemeteries. The cemetery is thus an important social space for the constitution of a variety of bonds as it is a social space where the central tenets of society are debated (as settlements also are). The people who buried persons in a specific cemetery, can be defined as a burial community. This burial community is thus not necessarily identical to a specific group or a specific community, but rather includes these otherwise defined groups and/or communities. It is for now assumed that the burial communities of Sittard, Obbicht and Stein were, in principle, associated with local groups.

It is a complex matter to reconstruct the history of early medieval local groups and communities and thus rural life in the sixth, seventh and early eighth centuries on the basis of the burial evidence. Unfortunately, other archaeological or historical evidence is generally scarce, and for Sittard-Kemperkou, Obbicht and Stein, virtually non-existent. It is stated that new settlers occupied the area over the course of the sixth century, since evidence for earlier inhabitation is absent. The people associated with the burial grounds of Sittard, Obbicht and Stein, assuming that they were in principal local groups, did not exist in isolation; they were not far apart and it seems likely that contacts between them existed in view of their limited size and the need to exchange marriage partners and material culture. The local groups were also integrated in supra-regional networks of exchange, and likely reacted in contact with the groups of the Iberian Peninsula. The histories of the burial communities are described in the following section, based solely on the available burial evidence. To keep the discussion clear, it is from now on assumed that the three burial phases of Sittard, Obbicht and Stein are forensic rather than local communities living in the vicinity of the burial grounds. (The possible history of the burial communities is therefore proposed (Table 5.4)).

The first option is based on the discovered graves only. A number of 68 burials were identified and these were assigned to a period of circa 160 years (510-670/680, or maybe some time thereafter). The burial ground was, on the basis of these numbers, in use for six generations and an average of eleven burials per generation took place, implying that on an average two contemporary families formed the community associated with the burial ground. The second option is that the burial ground was in use for approximately 160 years but that a considerable number of graves were destroyed. Assuming that the original burial ground consisted of sixty graves, it is suggested that on average twenty-five burials per generation took place and that on an average four contemporary families used the burial ground. For the third option an average of 100-125 graves is suggested to have been created during a somewhat shorter period, namely during circa 120 years (650-670/680 and maybe some time thereafter). It is assumed that the burial ground was not created as early as the date ranges assigned to the earliest pottery vessels allow. This implies that five generations used the cemetery and that on an average twenty-five burials per generation took place, and thus that an average of five contemporary families formed the burial ground. An average of these three options will come close to the actual situation, which implies that an average of four contemporary families for now assuming that a local group of families is connected with the cemetery settled in the proximity of the Obbicht burial ground and that it was used over a period of approximately 120-130 years. This is comparable to the burial ground of Sittard-Kemperkou.

Some parts of the cemetery of Stein were also destroyed. It is difficult to estimate the original size of the burial ground and the burial phases which were especially affected by the disturbances. Three options for the estimation of the burial community size are therefore proposed (Table 5.5). It was concluded that on average twenty-five burials per generation took place. This implies that on an average twenty-two burials per generation took place and thus, an average of two contemporary families constiuted the burial community. The second option is that the burial ground was in use for 160 years but that a higher number of graves were originally present. Assuming that the original burial ground consisted of circa 100-125 burials, and six generations used the burial ground, an average of twenty burials per generation took place. This implies that on an average, four contemporary families used the burial ground. For the third option, an average number of 100-125 graves is suggested during the estimated date range 580-670/680. The burial ground was used by five generations, and each generation experienced circa twenty-five burials, which implies an average of five contemporary families.

As for Obbicht, an average of the three options seems plausible, which indicates that circa four contemporary families (for now assuming that a local group of families is connected with the burial ground) settled in the proximity of the Stein burial ground and that it was used over a period of approximately 120 years by an average of four contemporary families. On a whole, it is concluded that the three burial grounds were not that different in terms of size and the period during which they were in use. Another burial ground discovered in their proximity is the cemetery of Ruchten, dated to the seventh and maybe eighth centuries. Some parts of the Stein cemetery were also destroyed. It is concluded that some parts of the Obbicht cemetery were destroyed, its original size and the extent of the affected phases remains speculative. Three options for establishing the size of the burial communities are therefore proposed (Table 5.4).
tioned whether founder(s) graves were created and if and how they were distinguished from other graves. More than one founder’s grave can be identified as founder graves. They can be special graves in view of their extensive grave goods inventories, especially extended weapon sets. It is argued that these graves are of symbolically created ancestors referring to their protective capacities and communal claims on newly occupied land. Founder’s graves can also be special graves due to their size or location in the burial ground (large graves, graves with empty spaces around them, etc.). New groups using the burial ground after it was already used for some time by other groups may have also created founder’s graves; these special graves are thus not only confined to the earliest phase of the cemetery, although it can be expected that especially in the earliest phases the founder’s graves can be identified. The debate on founder’s graves is complex, but in the following section, suggestions are made with regard to the identification of earlier mentioned distinctive older graves in the three cemeteries as possible founder’s graves.

The oldest distinct graves from Sittard fall in the date ranges of burial phases IIa (565-610/20) and IIb (610/20-565). These are graves 20 and 26 of phase IIa and graves 11 and 16 of phase IIb, identified as such based on their location and/or grave goods. Grave 26 might be a distinctive oldest grave in the Sittard cemetery since it contained a sex, sword and lace head, but also a glass palm cup and belt fittings and it is located at a prominent location in the burial ground. The prominent location of grave 16 in the cemetery makes this grave also a good candidate; it had a variety of goods including a necklace of high quality beads. In grave 15 (without wooden containers), only a glass palm cup was found, comparable to one found in grave 26. The presence of two founder’s graves (26 and 16) is in line with the presence of two or three founder’s groups at the beginning or development of a community, others have been a point of reference for the graves of group 1, and may have been a ‘special grave of reference’ for them.


The backgrounds of the first colonisers of this area in the sixth century and the social organisation of the new groups and communities are interesting subjects of debate about which numerous 


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The expansion and consolidation of communities and the first changes

It is suggested that the communities were rather stable during the first centuries. The graves were taken into use from around 565 to 640/50. During this period, the communities consisted of an average of four to five or maybe six families. Since graves are not a direct reflection of the communities’ social and economic differentiation, the burial grounds are not analysed as such here. It can be assumed that economic differentiation within a community of four to six contemporary families will not have been a prominent feature. The relative ‘wealth’ of objects and their distribution throughout the cemetery can hold specific references with regard to this differentiation, but these conclusions are rather ambiguous and are not used for the reconstruction of the possible settlement history of these communities. Differences in the wealth of graves may have other reasons than just the material wealth of the buried person or burying community: family, kin, descent community, community-resident group, or a mixture of these, etc.). The composition of the set of grave goods might have been determined by the ritual of the type, the rhetoric of it, the intentions of those who carried out the ritual, gifts of those who could afford it, or the wish to leave a legacy by a larger group to create ancestors with specific characteristics. Nevertheless, we do not exclude the possibility that even in small groups there might by ‘leaders’ who base their position not on material wealth, but on specific capacities. To what extent these played a role in the burial rites, we do not know.

Other aspects, such as the links of the deceased or his or her family with various exchange networks, will also have been of importance, but it is not obvious to what extent access to exchange networks relates to socio-economic differentiation within a single community or between various burial locations. The area where they lived was occupied only shortly, or some generations, before and the inhabitants will have been conscious about the larger entity they belonged to.73 The cemeteries could be seen as an expression of prehistoric (imaginary) networks between generations over time and distance. These networks are expressed with the grave location choices in the cemetery and with the grave goods accorded to the dead. The exceptional belt set from Stein grave 112 for example, might not have expressed the socio-economic position of the deceased and his family, but might have referred to exchanged networks in which the graves in its proximity were eventually also included.

During the first 100 years of the cemeteries, object deposition was common. The men were accorded more or less extended weapon sets (see Chapter 7), but the women were buried with less variable and elaborate sets of gender specific objects. The majority of the women’s grave goods sets consist of strings of beads, a small number of brooches and one earring. This image is clearly different from the cemeteries around the church of Saint Servatius in Maastricht for example. Here the women were buried with extended and variable sets of grave goods in the sixth and seventh centuries. This difference is not fully understood yet, for it is not only in the Maastricht cemeteries that women were buried with elaborate sets of grave goods. Lavish grave good sets in women’s graves have been discovered in rural cemeteries as well. After 640/50, the number of burials seems to remain stable in Sittard, but it decreases in Obbicht and Stein. The graves without finds in the north-western section of the Sittard cemetery were identified as late seventh century graves. Together with some other graves without finds in other sections, and the graves which could not be dated (exactly), it can be suggested that the number of burials in the period after 640/50 to around 700 are comparable to the period before. This might indicate that the size of the burial community associated with Sittard was stable over a period of circa 120 years.

In Obbicht this seems to be different, although the incompleteness of the cemetery must be kept in mind. Here the number of burials decreased significantly after 640/50, when the empty graves and not datable graves are considered to date after 640/50. This might have been caused by missing graves, but the available evidence seems to indicate that the number of burials decreased. Thus, it is possible that the associated community might have suffered from natural loss of population due to famine, war or disease or that the population was augmented by a larger group to create ancestors with specific characteristics. Nevertheless, the number of burials is not significantly lower than in the previous period. In view of the small number of grave finds, it is also possible that the migration to younger sections, but that the older sections were still used, although less intensively, during the later burial phases. The same applies to the identified rows of graves; these are not characterised by graves of one phase only, but included graves of all phases. The exact nature of the relations between the graves in a row cannot be comprehended. The chronological differentiation in the majority of the rows nonetheless shows that the burial ground did not grow organically from one point in specific directions, but that different organisational principles were at work simultaneously and resulted in connections between the dead which surpassed time.

Various burial groups can be identified already in the first phase of the cemetery; these graves are also dated to the late seventh century. The last phase of empty graves in the cemetery of Bergeijk is interpreted as a burial section of new occupants, or as an expression of the experienced transformation in social life at large.74

The number of graves which date after 640/50 is also low in Stein. A number of twenty graves were without finds. If they belonged to the later burial phases, the number of burials might have been stable throughout the period during which the cemetery was in use, but this is not certain.

It is now clear that it is suggested that the community sizes diminished in Obbicht and Stein, but remained stable for some decades after 640/50 in Sittard. The changes in Obbicht and Stein may have introduced the changes which brought about the eventual abandonment of the cemeteries.

The last burial phases: Transformations and the eventual abandonment of the cemeteries

At a certain point in time, the three cemeteries were abandoned. For the cemetery of Sittard-Kempkoel, this point was around 700 AD. Before its abandonment and the choice for alternative burial locations, some obvious changes took place in the burial ground. The existence of the last burial phase with objects (S-K II-b: 640-700) is not unambiguous. The graves date after 640/50 to appear empty, 75 but it is thus not certain when this last phase of object deposition ended, but this last phase is not represented by a high number of graves. Some other graves have date ranges assigned to them which end in the course of the first half of the eighth century, but start already in phase S-K IId or even S-K IIa. For example, (45) was located close to the graves of the first burial phase in the centre of the cemetery. It can very well date to the beginning of the assigned date ranges. The mentioned number of graves in the late seventh centu

r
d with object deposition are associated with a number of clustered graves without finds. Some of these graves are narrow er than the majority of the Sittard graves, but some are of comparable width. They are identified as the last burial phase of the cemetery, maybe for some part contemporary with the last phase of object deposition. In the cemetery of Posterholt, a cluster of narrow empty graves is present in the south-eastern section of the cemetery and these are also identified as the last burial phase of the cemetery, dated to the late seventh and early eighth century.76 In Bergeijk, a cluster of narrow graves was found in the southern section of the cemetery; these graves are also dated to the late seventh and early eighth century and represent a new burial section after the previous sections of the burial ground were abandoned.77 It is discussed whether this new section was taken into use by newcomers or by the existing burying community. A new founder’s grave was identified in relation to this new group of graves, which is an exceptional large grave of a woman.78 The new phase can be found to the north of the cemetery, it was first identified from the graves of the second half of the seventh century. These graves were placed at the rest of the cemetery. The last phase of empty graves in the cemetery of Bergeijk is interpreted as a burial section of new occupants, or as an expression of the experienced transformation in social life at large.79

The cluster of empty graves of this last phase in Sittard-Kem perkool counts fourteen graves, but the recent disturbance of this part of the cemetery certainly destroyed an additional number of maybe seven empty graves. The cluster was not as clearly separated from the rest of the burial ground as it was in Posterholt and Bergeijk. An obvious founder’s grave for this new phase is neither identifiable. It is however, apparent that the majority of the gend ered graves in the vicinity of the empty graves are the graves of women, and that graves of children are also more present in this section of the cemetery compared to other sections. In view of the founder’s grave of a woman, connected to the last phases of the Bergeijk cemetery, this is an interesting observation.

The men became ‘invisible’ on the basis of gendered grave goods during the last phase of object deposition in Sittard. The former community had disappeared, and the related Sittard-Territorial values important to the community was not felt necessary anymore in this cemetery or during funerary rites. The symbolic construction of feminine values was maintained and children were accorded burials in the proximity of their (relatives’) graves; these two features might have expressed the continuity of the community which had found itself in a world of social, economic and political transformation towards the end of the seventh and the beginning of the eighth centuries.80

However, the burial ground was eventually abandoned. Some other cemeteries, comparable to Sittard, as well as Obbicht and Stein were also abandoned towards the end of the seventh and the beginning of the eighth centuries. Some explanatory models have been developed for this process.81 The inhabitants chose other burial locations such as farmyards, churchyards, more remote and impor tant cult sites, or possible new rural, but now Christian graveyards.82 It is obvious that the burial ritual had already changed dra matically before it was decided to abandon the cemetery completely. The final phase was a rather gradual process during which several additional burial grounds were an option for burial before it finally came out of use. Assuming that this final abandonment was some time after the last phase with grave goods and that approximately one to two burials took place every year, it can be proposed that this final abandonment was around 700 AD in Sittard, and probably also in Obbicht and Stein. Whether the associated settlements remained in use is not known, since they are not found yet.

With regard to the spatial distribution of the burial phases over time, little is known. It was developed from older generations towards younger sections, but that the older sections were still used, although less intensively, during the later burial phases. The same applies to the identified rows of graves; these are not characterised by graves of one phase only, but included graves of all phases. The exact nature of the relations between the graves in a row cannot be comprehended. The chronological differentiation in the majority of the rows nonetheless shows that the burial ground did not grow organically from one point in specific directions, but that different organisational principles were at work simultaneously and resulted in connections between the dead which surpassed time. Various burial groups can be identified already in the first phase of the three cemeteries, but later interments were also associated with the earlier graves. Both contemporary connections and connections with the graves of other periods in the burial ground; whether these were only familial relations cannot be established for the lack of skeletal material. The organisation of each burial ground was not ruled by one group but was a result of negotiations between groups, as the organisation of the distinct plots can be imagined to be a result of negotiations within a group.
Aspects of the burial rituals

The burial evidence of the cemeteries of Sittard-Kemperkoul, Obbicht and Stein contains clues about the prevalent burial rites. The features explored in this chapter are the use of chamber graves and the significance of the spatial arrangement of bodies and specific categories of objects in the coffins and chambers, the variety in the deposited weapon sets, the social backgrounds of deposited pottery vessels with identical roulette stamp impressions as well as the meaning of horse burials and horse related burial objects.

Chamber graves and the spatial arrangement of their contents

Wooden grave constructions, and especially chamber graves consisting of a chamber with coffin placed in it, are often linked with elite burials, of which the grave of Childeric (died 481/482) and the ‘Herr of Morken’ (around 600) are the most well known. Chamber graves are found throughout the German Rhineland where they had been found. However this type definition is too narrow to grasp the various types of wooden grave constructions in the cemetery of Pfeilshelm and a number of cemeteries in the Mannheim area. Peters discussed in detail the various types of chamber graves of the Soest cemetery and distinguished ‘echte Kammergräber’ from ‘kammerartige Gräber’. The ‘echte Kammergräber’ were subdivided into four subtypes of which type 1.1 (Holzkammer mit sarg) is equal to the narrow definition of chamber graves of the Morken type. Nieveler studied the chamber graves from the Erfkris and Kreis Euskirchen, where she could identify only nine chamber graves of the Morken type. She points to a chronological aspect of chamber graves: they occur in the sixth century but the majority date to the first two-thirds of the seventh century. They are rare in the last part of the seventh century. Finally, Siegmund discusses chamber graves in the lower Rhine region adjacent to our three cemeteries. He dates these to the second half of the sixth and early seventh century. Defining these graves on the basis of their construction and debating their date and geographical distribution is one aspect, the interpretation of this grave type another. Most authors cited above consider these graves as a ‘Frankish’ phenomenon. Moreover, such chamber graves are considered the graves of the elite, if not of aristocrats. Usually the number and variety of grave goods exceed what found in the average grave in the cemeteries in which they were found, which often leads to the hasty conclusion that they are graves of ‘princes’ and aristocrats. This hasty conclusion is based on modern conceptions of the relation between wealth and power and wealth and social status, the status of persons and individuality and the idea that the grave goods represent the personal status of the deceased in the grave. However, there are more reasons why an average number of grave goods can be found in a grave (see below). Moreover, if the persons are leaders in their communities, what is the geographical scale of their power-base and what is the nature of their power? This relationship between chamber graves and the high social status of the deceased seems to be an ambiguous one. Not all persons with a high status were buried in chamber graves, and not all chamber graves contained persons with a high social status. This can be deduced from the regular presence of chamber graves in some cemeteries in the southern Netherlands and of chamber graves in farmyard burial groups dating to the late seventh century in the same area.

The overview of Merovingian cemeteries in the province of North-Brabant in the Netherlands shows that some cemeteries had a considerable number of chamber graves but that these graves, and also the cemeteries in which they are present, cannot be identified as ‘rich’ in comparison to the privileged burials mentioned above and many other examples from Merovingian Gaul. Some of the most richly furnished cemeteries from North-Brabant, but they are not exceptional. These cemeteries all date to the second half or last quarter of the sixth century and throughout the seventh century. Especially the cemetery of Sittard, but also those of Obbicht and Stein, can be added to this list since they are not exceptional in terms of material wealth but show a considerable number of chamber graves of the Morken type and single wooden contain- er graves. These three cemeteries also date to the second half of the sixth century and throughout the seventh centuries. The other published cemeteries from the province of Limburg show the variety in the use of chamber graves. In Posthoorn, only four of the eighty-six inhumation graves were chamber graves, and in the ‘urban’ Vrijthof cemetery, wooden containers were only sporadically used and a chamber grave was not discovered. This is remarkable since this cemetery is located at a ‘special’ place, in the proximity of a ‘cult’ place, but the choice for building chamber graves or single wooden container graves, which points to spe- cial investments in the grave construction, was not chosen as a grave form; the majority of the dead were buried in trenches. Perhaps the choice for chamber grave burials was dependant upon other variables than just the expression of wealth or social status; some suggestions are made in the concluding section to this dis- cussion on the chamber graves in which the focus is on the spatial distribution of their grave finds.

The chamber graves and single wooden container graves of Sittard, Obbicht and Stein were discussed in detail in Chapter 3. In the following the spatial arrangement of the grave goods in the coffins and chambers in the (possible) chamber graves of the three cemeteries are considered in more detail. The reconstructions of the wooden container graves from Obbicht and Stein on the ba- sis of the descriptions in the first catalogue, are again shortly dis- cussed below. The arguments for their reconstruction are given, as are the arguments for the reconstructed spatial distribution of the finds. In Obbicht and Stein, only single wooden container graves seem to be present (except for one obvious chamber grave in Stein). It is argued that some of these may have been chamber graves of which the remains of the second wooden container dis- appeared or were not observed. The identification of the possi- ble Obbicht and Stein chamber graves is, however, problematic. Nonetheless, discussing them as either single wooden container graves or possible chamber graves contributes to the overall pic- ture of the cemeteries and the understanding of the spatial distri- bution of finds in chamber graves.

The conclusions with regard to the spatial arrangement of finds in the Sittard chamber graves are taken as point of reference; on the basis of these conclusions the distribution of finds in the single wooden container graves or possible chamber graves from Obbicht and Stein are discussed and compared to those in Sittard. As a conclusion, interpretations with regard to the meaning of the spatial arrangements of finds in chamber graves are put forward.

The chamber graves in the cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul

Chamber graves were relatively frequent in the cemetery of Sittard-Kemperkoul; of the total number of eighty-seven graves, twenty-one could be identified as chamber graves (Fig. 7.1, and see also Chapter 3 for a detailed description of the chamber graves). A considerable number of single wooden container graves are also present in the cemetery. Chambers are usually considerably larger than the coffins. The free space chamber used to deposit (an additional set of) grave goods. Coffins were generally placed in one
half of the chamber, in Sittard this is mostly in the western half of the chamber (fig. 7-1). Only a few coffins were placed in the middle of the chamber (graves 16, 40, 57), and two were in the eastern section of the chamber (graves 47 and 79). In other large chambers, no separate coffins could be identified with certainty. Some had interior partition walls (graves 32, 81, 83), while another one did not contain a coffin or interior wall at all. In one case, it was difficult to establish the type of construction (grave 85). It might have been a chamber with a coffin. The coffins in the W-E oriented chamber graves in Meerdervoort, were for the majority located in the northern half of the chamber. This is comparable to the coffins in the western half of the S-N oriented burials in Sittard. Of the twenty-one chamber graves, seven were identified as those of women on the basis of the goods, which were for the majority deposited inside the coffin. Of these chamber graves, one was disturbed by a reopening pit (grave 8), one was cut by another grave (grave 43), and two were partly disturbed in recent times (grave 80). Ten chamber graves were related to men on the basis of grave goods, which were also found outside the coffin but inside the chamber. Of these graves, one was disturbed by an ancient re-opening pit (grave 26) and two were disturbed by recent activities (graves 81 and 84); the other chamber graves were not disturbed.

The objects deposited in the chamber were intentionally placed there, thus they were not directly associated with the body. The act of placing objects inside the coffin created a direct relation with the deceased in the grave. The objects found outside the coffins were probably put there after the coffin had been placed in the chamber, maybe even after the coffin was closed. In order to draw some conclusions as to the relationship between the dead and the range of objects deposited in the coffin and in the chamber sections is discussed in the concluding section. In the next section, the distribution of finds in the Sittard chamber graves will be discussed. The results form the basis for the reconstruction of the spatial arrangements of the finds in the possible chamber graves of Obbicht and Stein.
Glass vessels: palm cups and fragments

First, it is remarkable that three of the four palm cups known from the Sittard cemetery were deposited in chamber graves (graves 8, 16 and 18), while grave 24 was an exception (a pot with a handle) (29). Three pots were found in chamber graves (32 and 86), both outside the coffin. The pot from grave 32 of a woman was found in shards; they were found in the northern section of the body. The pot from grave 81 of a man was found in the southern part of the chamber. The pottery lid of a pot was found in the northern section of the coffin. The ceramic lid of a pot was found in the northern section of the coffin. The ceramic lid of a pot was found in the northern section of the coffin. The ceramic lid of a pot was found in the northern section of the coffin. The ceramic lid of a pot was found in the northern section of the coffin. The ceramic lid of a pot was found in the northern section of the coffin. The ceramic lid of a pot was found in the northern section of the coffin.

Of the ten seaxes, six (with scabbard remains and fittings) were found inside the coffins of chamber graves 14, 26, 30, 31, 84 and 86. In the chamber graves in which seaxes were found in coffins, lance heads (one tip of a seax) and swords (two) were found in single wooden container graves; grave 20 was a relatively narrow single container grave and grave 39 was a small rectangular grave. One of the seaxes was found in the middle of grave 41 with one wooden beam, but without traces of a wooden container; it was thus deposited in close association with the body. One seax was assigned to a discarded context (discarded context 57). Thus in Sittard, seaxes, as a rule, were deposited inside the coffin in chambers and always in close association with the body.

Of the fifteen lance heads from Sittard, six were deposited in chamber graves; five of them were deposited outside the coffin in the north-eastern corner of the chambers (graves 5, 14, 30, 81 and 86), and one seems to be deposited inside the coffin (grave 26). Grave 26, however, is disturbed by a re-opening pit and the location of the lance head was not indicated. The knife recorded as a find in the north-eastern corner of the chamber is not present, and this find might have been the lance head; this is in accordance with the find locations of the other lance heads from the Sittard chamber graves. Of the eight other lance heads, four were found in single wooden container graves; one was found in the south-eastern corner of a different grave (grave 28), one was found in the middle of a lance grave (28) and one was associated with the heap of finds without grave context (26). Only the lance head from grave 28 seems to have been deposited in close association with the body. The lance heads from the four single container graves were deposited at some distance from the presumed former location of the body.

The two swords from the Sittard cemetery were both found in chamber graves. In chamber grave 26 it seems to have been found inside the coffin (the exact location was not recorded); the blade was preserved, but can be reconstructed on the basis of the remaining outlines recorded, just to the east (right hand side) of the body. The sword from chamber grave 31 was deposited inside the coffin. In this chamber grave all the finds were deposited inside the coffin, except for a biconical pot. One iron shield boss (with wood remains of the shield) was found in a chamber grave; it was deposited outside the coffin, in the south-eastern half of the chamber. No shield boss was found in single wooden container graves (29). Only the lance head from grave 28 seems to have been deposited at some distance from the body. One shield boss could not be assigned to a grave. Rules seem to regulate the locations for the deposition of each weapon category. The seaxes and swords were meant to be attached to belts, and were to lie directly in contact with the body. The soil conditions at the location of the cemetery of Obbicht made observations difficult. In nine graves, traces of wooden constructions were nonetheless discovered (fig. 7.2). They were all observed in the northern half of the cemetery, but this distribution may be due to the observation conditions and may not represent the actual distribution of graves with wooden constructions; the original number might have been higher. The precise dimensions of only one wooden construction were recorded in the original catalogue; for the others only dimensions of some walls or vague descriptions of their location were given (see Chapter 3). This suggests that the use of large single wooden constructions might have been a rule in Obbicht, but this conclusion is thus unproven. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the presence of chamber graves in this cemetery. The spatial arrangement of the finds in these graves could be reconstructed on the basis of the original catalogue. In grave 19 of a woman, the traces of a wooden construction were visible in the burial pit (fig. 7.3). It was a large single wooden container grave, although a coffin might have been present but not observed. The beads were in all probability deposited outside the coffin.

Pottery vessels: biconical pots, spouted pots, bowls, beaker, pottery lid

The eight biconical pots from Sittard chamber graves were all found inside the coffin, except one in grave 47 of a woman. One iron shield boss (with wood remains of the shield) was found in the north-eastern corner of a single wooden container grave (32), in association with a lance head, as well as a small rectangular grave. The shield boss seems to have been deposited at some distance from the body. One shield boss could no longer be assigned to a grave. The weaponry from the Sittard cemetery consists of arrow heads

Axes

Of the remaining seven pots, one was found in the grave of a woman; the biconical pot from grave 86 was found in the northern half of the chamber, the section associated with the lower body. The soil conditions at the location of the cemetery of Obbicht made observations difficult. In nine graves, traces of wooden constructions were nonetheless discovered (fig. 7.2). They were all observed in the northern half of the cemetery, but this distribution may be due to the observation conditions and may not represent the actual distribution of graves with wooden constructions; the original number might have been higher. The precise dimensions of only one wooden construction were recorded in the original catalogue; for the others only dimensions of some walls or vague descriptions of their location were given (see Chapter 3). This suggests that the use of large single wooden constructions might have been a rule in Obbicht, but this conclusion is thus unproven. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the presence of chamber graves in this cemetery. The spatial arrangement of the finds in these graves could be reconstructed on the basis of the original catalogue. In grave 19 of a woman, the traces of a wooden construction were visible in the burial pit (fig. 7.3). It was a large single wooden container grave, although a coffin might have been present but not observed. The beads were in all probability deposited outside the coffin.
aspects of the burial rituals
interpretations

Fig. 7.2

Obbicht. Beads in the middle of the grave close to the western wall, side the outline of the burial pit, in line with other observations in act dimensions were not given. It is depicted as an outline along the grave. The lance head, horse bridle and shield boss were found alongside the southern burial pit wall. Belt fit could have been present. The lance head, horse bridle and shield boss were found at their original location, and the biconical pot shards were found in the middle of the grave. The walls of the reconstructed wooden container were observed with dimensions nearly similar to the en container were observed with dimensions nearly similar to the chamber, in the case there was a coffin. The biconical pot was found in the southern-eastern corner of the grave would have been placed outside the coffin but inside the chamber, in the case there was a coffin. The concluding observation is that no chamber graves with cof-

The wooden container graves of the Stein cemetery and the spatial arrangement of their finds

In the cemetery of Stein, twelve graves with traces of wooden con-
structions were discovered (Fig. 7.3).33 The actual dimensions (but
not the exact dimensions) of the majority of the wooden construc-
tions were given, and in one grave (26) two wooden constructions were observed; this is the only unambiguous chamber grave of the cemetery. We do not have a good impression of the distribution of wooden grave constructions through the cemetery due to bad observation conditions. Below it is discussed to what extent we can recognise chamber graves with coffins34 or single contain-
er graves.

In grave 26 (3.40 x 2.30 m) the wooden container measured 3.65 m x 1.70 m. Unfortunately, its position was not recorded. It was observed that the burial pit was deeper than the bottom of the wooden construction; this might indicate the presence of wooden beams on which the construction was placed. Traces of two bod-
ies were present; one had a length of 2.10 m and a width of 0.92 m and the other a length of 0.95 m and a width of 0.38 m. The larg-
er discoloration showed the contours of a body. The shorter indi-
vidual was located to the south of the longer one. The locations of the bodies indicate the location of the wooden construction in the southern half of the burial pit as reconstructed on the grave draw-
ing. Remnants of a coffin were not observed; hence, it might have been a large single container in which the two bodies were placed. In view of their lengths, it is determined to be the grave of an adult with a child. Four beads and a biconical pot were found; the exca-
vators observed that the finds were deposited inside the wooden container. The find location of the beads was not recorded, but the biconical pot was found along the short eastern container wall.35 This grave might be a single wooden container grave with two bodies, it might be a chamber with two coffins, the observed out-
line might be the remnants of two separate coffins or it might have been a chamber with partition wall.

In grave 21 (3.35 x 2.65 m), the remnants of a wooden construc-

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The spatial arrangement of burial objects in chamber graves can be understood as the outcome of various considerations, including practical reasons. Dressing a dead body for burial is a common practice that has been observed in the Sittard cemetery. It seems as if the choice of objects and the location of the body was a conscious arrangement of the body. The relation between objects and the body was generally perceived, since the boundary between the adorned body and the rest of the grave was visible to us. But how can this conscious arrangement of the body be understood? The concluding observation is that the twelve burial pits with traces of wooden constructions, one with certainty a chamber grave with coffin (29) and eight were recorded as (large) single wooden container graves. The pottery, glass and copper alloy vessels were, as expected, usually deposited outside the coffin, except for the glass vessels, which were found in the coffin. The pots and vessels were usually deposited outside the coffin, except for the glass ves- sels, of the three palm cups from Sittard, two were found inside the coffin and one outside the coffin in a chamber. Other objects than beads associated with women are rarely present in the cham- ber graves or possible chamber graves. Weapons show the high- est variety in location. Seaxes and swords were deposited inside the coffins, shields and lance heads outside the coffins, although lance heads were, in some cases, also deposited inside single wood- en container graves. Axes were always deposited close to the head, but only one was deposited in a Sittard chamber grave, outside the coffin. It is remarkable that in a considerable number of weap- on graves from Obbicht and Stein, no wooden container traces were observed; this may be due to the soil conditions which ham- pered clear observations. One of the possible founder’s grave of Stein was without container traces; the lance head was deposited in close association with the body, as opposed to the Sittard lance heads.

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The deposition of weapons in the Sittard, Obbicht and Stein cemeteries

One of the general observations on the Merovingian burial ritual is the gender specific nature of sets of grave goods. 

Weapons are almost exclusively found in graves of men. ‘Weapons’ is a broad term. It is possible to debate the nature of some objects that are usually considered to belong to the category of weapons. Moreover, a distinction may be made between weapons and weapons that were used in combat. 

For the participants in the Sittard burial rites, the vessels (with food and drink) and the shields and lance were the last items visible, and thus were involved in constructing remembrance before the coffin was closed. The dressed body, as mentioned before, may have referred to the complex networks of social relations embedded in the specific person or social category (or family) group he or she represented. Gender roles and age, and maybe many other social categories, may have meant that with each burial a specific set of objects were added. 

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in relation to the ethnic identity of the deceased, in relation to the age at death, etc." (2).

In continental research, these approaches share the same supposition: the set of weapons in a grave reflects the identity of the person in whose grave they were found. (3) It is the supposition that the set of weapons allows one to draw conclusions about the status of the deceased person. There is little consideration of the symbolic nature of the deposition of weapons and the influence of values and ideas in society on the creation of the deposit. As a result, the transformative nature of the burial rite and the burial rite as an arena of negotiation of positions in society (4) is largely ignored. The great variability in the deposition of weapons in cemeteries of nearby burial communities should warn us against too simplistic interpretations of the weapon sets in graves. It is this variability which is striking when looking at the weapon deposits in the three cemeteries under study here. In what has been presented above, it is suggested that the three cemeteries share characteristics. Their size indicates that they are related to burial communities of equal size that are not very far apart; comparable burial rite differences are expected for these reasons. However, we have seen that there are also striking differences; for instance, in the orientation of the graves. Each burial community seems to have applied its own rules. The differences in weapon deposition are also striking. This might to some extent be due to the reopening of the graves and the removal of weapons. The quality of the excavation of the Obbicht and Stein cemeteries does not allow us to accurately establish the rate of reopening of graves. In the Sittard cemetery, only weapon graves seem to have been reopened, so the weapon deposition in Sittard provide an insight into the past deposition of weapons. We also included the Meerveldhoven cemetery in the analysis. It seems to be high comparable to the Sittard cemetery in terms of size, dating and the use of number graves. In Meerveldhoven, a limited number of weapon graves (45 and 38) seem to have been reopened, but in view of the regularities in weapon deposition in this cemetery, this does not seem to have affected the image of weapon deposit substantially or reopening must have led to a very selective removal of weapons from graves with more than three weapons.

Table 7.1 shows how many graves with weapons were found in relation to the total number of excavated inhumation graves (see chapter 5 for exact numbers). These figures might give an idea of the relative importance of weapons as a way to bury men with weapons. In Meerveldhoven, a limited number of weapon graves (45 and 38) seem to have been reopened, but in view of the regularities in weapon deposition in this cemetery, this does not seem to have affected the image of weapon deposit substantially or reopening must have led to a very selective removal of weapons from graves with more than three weapons.

A closer look at tables 7.1-5 and figures 7.4-7 shows that there are interesting differences in the weapon deposition within these four cemeteries. The number of weapon graves deposited depends, of course, on the number of weapon graves. If we determine the percentage of graves in which a type of weapon is deposited in a cemetery we can, in spite of the low numbers, see some trends in weapon choices (table 7.6). Spears or lances were found in more than half of the weapon graves in Sittard, Obbicht and Meerveldhoven, but not in Stein where only four were found (fig. 7.4). Seaxes are also often deposited; in three cemeteries they are found in more than half of the weapon graves, in Sittard in only 41%. (5)

Interesting differences appear between cemeteries. One shield only was discovered in Stein (11 weapon graves: 9%) (fig. 7.6); whereas in Meerveldhoven, 12 were found in 16 weapon graves (fig. 7.3). This cannot reflect the situations in the lifetime of those men as it would mean that the men buried in Stein fought relatively unprotected. The same goes for Sittard where few shields were found (fig. 7.4). The low number of shields in Stein is probably, to a large extent, an artifact of the preservation method. The shield in Stein is a single grave (Sittard, Stein) and it could be early as well. In Meerveldhoven six graves had three to five weapons in 21 weapon graves (9%), in Obbicht five graves had three or four (maybe five) weapons in 21 weapon graves (15%), in Stein only one grave had four weapons in 11 weapon graves (9%) and in Meerveldhoven six graves had three to five weapons in 16 graves (38%). These figures could be influenced negatively by the reopening of graves and the removal of weapons. In Meerveldhoven, two of the weapon graves (38 and 45) may have been reopened and in Stein only one (16), although it still contained three weapons. More reopening of graves could have taken place in Obbicht and Stein, which in the case of Stein, might also explain the low number of weapons (but this might also be partly due to the disturbed condition of the cemetery and the bad condition of the finds).

Many times only one weapon was found in a grave (table 7.5). In Sittard 13 times, which is 63% of the weapon graves of which eight had a lance, four a seax and in one grave were arrows. In Obbicht, there is a more equal distribution of singular weapons (21% of the weapon graves). In Stein, where 9 out of 11 weapon graves are singular, we have a very low number of lances. In the four cemeteries, the number of single weapon graves is fairly regularly distributed over the various phases of the cemeteries (table 7.4). A relation (change) in the number of weapon burials in these cemeteries is only possible if more information is available about the circumstances in which the burials were opened and to whom the weapons were returned. Arrows, daggers and swords are rather rare deposits during the period these cemeteries were in use. It can also be seen that there are significant exceptions to these ‘rules’ which were the result of a choice made by individual burial communities. The number of shields in Stein is very low, whereas it is very high in Meerveldhoven. The number of lances is also low in Stein. Another aspect is the number of weapon types deposited in a single grave (tables 7.2-5, last columns). The average number of weapon types deposited in Sittard is 1.5, in Obbicht 2.0, in Stein 1.4 and in Meerveldhoven 2.4. The number of weapon types in graves is thus considerably larger in Meerveldhoven than in the other cemeteries. Usually one or two weapons were deposited, three or more weapons were rare. In Sittard, only two graves contained three weapons in 21 weapon graves (10%), in Obbicht five graves had three or four (maybe five) weapons in 21 weapon graves (15%), in Stein only one grave had four weapons in 11 weapon graves (9%) and in Meerveldhoven six graves had three to five weapons in 16 graves (38%). These figures could be influenced negatively by the reopening of graves and the removal of weapons. In Meerveldhoven, two of the weapon graves (38 and 45) may have been reopened and in Stein only one (16), although it still contained three weapons. More reopening of graves could have taken place in Obbicht and Stein, which in the case of Stein, might also explain the low number of weapons (but this might also be partly due to the disturbed condition of the cemetery and the bad condition of the finds).

Table 7.1. The relative number of weapon graves in the cemeteries of Stein, Obbicht, Stein and Meerveldhoven. * = without the disturbed cemeteries; ** = with the disturbed cemeteries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cemetery</th>
<th>Number of weapon graves</th>
<th>Number of excavated inhumation graves</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>men</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stein</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obbicht</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stein</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meerveldhoven</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The relative number of weapon graves in the cemeteries of Stein, Obbicht, Stein and Meerveldhoven. * = without the disturbed cemeteries; ** = with the possible inhumation graves.

Table 7.2. Mean number of weapon graves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grave</th>
<th>Lance/ Arrow</th>
<th>Sword</th>
<th>Spear</th>
<th>Axe</th>
<th>Total types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stein</td>
<td>1 (2?)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obbicht</td>
<td>1 (2?)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stein</td>
<td>1 (2?)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meerveldhoven</td>
<td>1 (2?)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mean number of weapon graves in the cemeteries of Stein, Obbicht, Stein and Meerveldhoven. * = without the disturbed cemeteries; ** = with the possible inhumation graves.
Table 3.3
Obbicht-Oude Moelen: weapon graves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grave</th>
<th>Spear</th>
<th>Arrow</th>
<th>Seax</th>
<th>Sword</th>
<th>Shield</th>
<th>Axe</th>
<th>Total types of weapons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ia (565-610/20)</td>
<td>5 1 1 1 2 1 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ib (610/20-640/50)</td>
<td>12 1 1 1 1 1 19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ic (640/50-670/80)</td>
<td>9 1 1 1 1 1 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not datable</td>
<td>2 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1 1 1 1 1 44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.4
Stein-Groote Bongerd: weapon graves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grave</th>
<th>Spear</th>
<th>Arrow</th>
<th>Seax</th>
<th>Sword</th>
<th>Shield</th>
<th>Axe</th>
<th>Total types of weapons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ia (565-610/20)</td>
<td>5 1 1 1 2 1 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ib (610/20-640/50)</td>
<td>12 1 1 1 1 1 19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase IIa (565-610/20)</td>
<td>4 1 1 1 1 1 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase IIb (565-640/50)</td>
<td>5 1 1 1 1 1 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase IIc (610/20-640/50)</td>
<td>3 1 1 1 1 1 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not datable</td>
<td>1 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1 1 1 1 1 49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.5
Sittard-Kemperkoul: the distribution of weapons (scale 1:250).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grave</th>
<th>Spear</th>
<th>Arrow</th>
<th>Seax</th>
<th>Sword</th>
<th>Shield</th>
<th>Axe</th>
<th>Total types of weapons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ia (565-610/20)</td>
<td>5 1 1 1 2 1 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ib (610/20-640/50)</td>
<td>12 1 1 1 1 1 19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ic (640/50-670/80)</td>
<td>9 1 1 1 1 1 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not datable</td>
<td>2 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1 1 1 1 1 44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.6
The relative presence of weapon types in the cemeteries of Sittard, Obbicht, Stein and Meerveldhoven.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grave</th>
<th>Spear</th>
<th>Arrow</th>
<th>Seax</th>
<th>Sword</th>
<th>Shield</th>
<th>Axe</th>
<th>Total types of weapons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ia (565-610/20)</td>
<td>5 1 1 1 2 1 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ib (610/20-640/50)</td>
<td>12 1 1 1 1 1 19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Ic (640/50-670/80)</td>
<td>9 1 1 1 1 1 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not datable</td>
<td>2 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1 1 1 1 1 44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interpretations

Aspects of the burial rituals

Fig. 7.5
Obbicht-Oude Moolen: the distribution of weapons (scale 1:250).

Fig. 7.6
Stein-Groote Bongerd: the distribution of weapons (scale 1:250).

Stein-Groote Bongerd
Merovingian cemetery

Obbicht-Oude Moolen
Merovingian cemetery
that lances were not often deposited in Stein, or in the case reopening had taken place, the lance was targeted more often than in other cemeteries (but also the disturbed condition of the cemetery may have caused this pattern). Arrows, shields and axes were not often chosen for the single weapon graves. The small number of axes could be due to the late starting dates of the cemeteries (second half/late sixth century). By that time, the deposition of axes in graves was gradually diminishing. That lances and seaxes are the most common single weapon depositions, in accordance with their relatively abundant presence in the total set of weapons in these cemeteries (table 7.6). Why one burial community deposited mainly lances (Sittard) and the other community more seaxes, is a matter of debate. Is it due to the different ways men were armed in these villages or did different communities stress different status(es)? Remember that lances (hunting, authority) and seaxes (multi-functional with agricultural connotations) may refer to different male identities that were stressed in the burial rite.

Next to single weapon graves, there are graves with various combinations of weapons. There is an astonishing great variation in the combinations of weapons, although some combinations occur more often than others. In view of the large number of lances and seaxes, it is not surprising that these are found often in weapons combinations. To analyse these combinations, it is helpful to start with the cemetery of Meerveldhoven (table 7.5). It can be seen that two combinations each occur four times: the combination of lance and shield (graves 42, 44, 51, and 59, marked in brown) and the combination of lance, seax, and shield (graves 40, 45, 16, and 36, marked in green). There seems to be a chronological aspect to these combinations, but that may be a coincidence determined by the low numbers. The graves with the first combination are mainly dated to the first half of the seventh century by Verwers, those of the second combination mainly to the second half of the seventh century. Thus, in Meerveldhoven, there seems to be two basic weapon sets: one with lance and shield and another with lance, seax and shield. The lance and shield is a classical combination often depicted and certainly of a highly symbolic nature. In later times, the seax is added to this combination in Meerveldhoven. What about such combinations in the other cemeteries?

In Sittard, only one of each of these combinations was found (graves 49 and 86), both dating to the first half of the seventh century (phase IIIc) (table 7.2, marked in brown and green). In Obbicht, only one (possible) combination of lance, seax and shield was discovered dating to the early phase of the cemetery (table 7.3, grave 59 marked in green). Another such combination in grave 20 was complemented by an axe and yet another one with a sword in grave 40. A similar combination with lance, seax and shield was complemented by a sword was found in Stein (grave 8, table 7.4). The low number in this cemetery may be due to the low number of lances deposited. In Sittard and Obbicht, another combination was found several times, namely the combination of lance and seax (tables 7.2 and 7.3, marked in blue: Sittard graves 14 and 30, Obbicht graves 46, 51B, 51A). In one grave in Sittard, such a combination thus related to the earlier burials, but in other words, to gentry. In Meerveldhoven, the weapons in single weapon graves is chronologically developments. Only one type of weapon, the axe, seems to be confined to a specific period. All of the axes found in the four cemeteries were found in the early graves of the cemetery (late sixth/early seventh century). This is an interesting feature. It is not likely that in later times men no longer had axes but rather they were clearly a choice not to deposit axes in later graves. They were probably reserved for gentry, which indicates the creation of settlers claiming land. In the introduction to this section, we referred to the interpretation of the late Roman rite of depositing axes in graves as a means of establishing claims on land (agen desertii) by new settlers.

The axes must have been associated with clearing land and were thus not just a weapon. They were most likely deposited in the graves of men that symbolised claims on land through the reference to clearances in the forests (with an axe) they occupied.

Another chronological observation is that in three cemeteries (Sittard, Obbicht and Stein), the majority of the weapon graves date to before the middle of the seventh century, in contrast to Meerveldhoven, where a considerable number of weapon graves are dated by the excavator to the second half of the seventh century. This is an interesting feature. Could this be a regional difference between the Meuse valley region and a more peripheral inland region further to the west? We will have to analyse yet other cemeteries to gain better insight into the regional differences in burial rites, such as the deposition of weapons.
Pots with similar roulette stamp impressions

Pots with identical roulette stamp impressions are known from Sittard grave 86, Obbicht grave 43, Rhenen grave 159 and a least three cemeteries. The pot from Sittard is a smoked spouted pot on which two lines of stamp impressions similar to the ones on the pots from Obbicht and Rhenen are applied in combination with multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The pot from Obbicht is a grey biconical pot on which four zones of these stamp impressions are applied, and the smoked biconical pot from Rhenen grave 159 shows an upper wall decoration of three lines of similar stamp impressions. The fragment from the Maastricht oven (produced in an oxidising milieu, paste B of the production centre) shows two lines of this roulette stamp impression alternating with two zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The stamp consisted of one rectangular grid filled with four columns and four rows of rectangles, four mirrored S-shapes, one diagonal (Andrews) cross, one S-shape and two diagonal (Andrews) crosses.

It is not uncommon that two or more pots show identical stamp decorations. In the southern Netherlands, another example is known from a pot found in grave 52 of the Bergelijck cemetery and grave 24 in Rhenen again. Pots with similar stamps can show considerable distances between them. The Bergelijck/Rhenen specimens are 77 km apart as the crow flies. The Obbicht/Sittard/Maastricht specimens are 20 km apart, but the distance between Maastricht, of which it is certain that the pot (of which only a fragment was found) was produced here, and Rhenen is 125 km. The Examples mapped by Siegmund are mostly distributed over an area within a radius of 15-20 km, which is comparable to the radius of the area Obbicht/Sittard/Maastricht. He suggested that this is the normal radius of activity and contacts of rural communities. This seems to be a bit small and the distribution areas of pottery may not be an accurate indicator of the rural dwellers contacts and mobility. Other object types, such as belt fittings, show a different image.

The distribution of pottery shows a complicated pattern in the He-de-France/Oise/Somme region. This region (north-south oriented, c. 200 x 100 km) seems to form a distribution area of pottery of its own separated from regions to the east (the Aisne region) and to the west (Normandy). Within the region, however, sub-regions could be defined on the basis of series of identical stamps. These sub-regions might form a radius of 50 to 80 km around a production centre. Legouix considers the distribution patterns a result of commercial exchange, but this might not be the case for the pots with the elaborate decorations he studied. Whether the pottery was produced for "a clientele éloigné" remains to be seen. Their regular appearance in a cemetery, such as Bulles, is an argument against this proposition. Legouix suggests that they were produced in higher level production centres and might have been distributed among other communities, such as intra-family gift exchange. He considers pots with much simpler (roulette) decoration as products of some more localized level production centres.

Small rural communities were, in all probability, not self-sufficient and dependent upon the exchange of products with neighbouring communities, as they were for marriage partners. Obbicht, Stein and Sittard are 10 km apart, and contacts between the communities would have occurred on more or less regular basis. Contacts between the local communities of Obbicht, Stein and Sittard with the centre of Maastricht, 20 km to the south, would also have occurred, but it is not certain whether these contacts were of the same nature as between the three local communities. Rhenen (province of Gelderland) is located at a distance of circa 105 km as the crow flies from Sittard and Obbicht, and 125 km from Maastricht. The contacts between the communities in Limburg and Rhenen would, in view of this distance, have been of a different nature than between themselves. Various explanations for the spatial distribution pattern of the pots with similar stamp impressions from Maastricht, Obbicht, Sittard and Rhenen can be put forward. At the basis of these explanations stand some basic questions with regard to the organisation of pottery production and distribution.

The first is: were the pots with identical stamps produced at the same location? We need to know how the production of pottery (discovered in cemeteries and settlements) was organised. Groups who lived closer in proximity might have cooperated in the production of pottery by specialised craftsmen and shared the products. However, the pottery collections from the Obbicht and Sittard graves are rather different in appearance; the Sittard specimens seem to have been made with more care, or maybe more knowledge, than the Obbicht specimens. The Stein and Obbicht (both near the Meuse river) specimens on the other hand, are rather comparable. The majority of the pots from all three cemeteries have smoked surfaces, which points toward similar production customs. Small-scale pottery production, as can be expected in the surroundings of Obbicht, Stein and Sittard, will have left faint archaetical traces since it is possible that the pots were baked in pits and not professional kilns. It is for now assumed on the basis of the variety in the quality of the pottery from these three cemeteries that the majority of the pots from the three cemeteries dealt with in this book were produced and distributed locally and possibly in cooperation with a specialist. Pottery kilns are known from Maastricht, and the fragment with the stamp impressions discussed in this section was found in one of these kilns. Pottery was produced here in large quantities but the products are not found in high numbers far from this centre, at least it was observed that the products were not abundantly present in the regions located upstream of the Meuse River. This might indicate that in Maastricht and close surroundings, pottery was used in high quantities and replaced rather rapidly, and that only a relatively small amount of the products of these kilns were used in the burial rites in Maastricht and its close surroundings. The fragment of the pot produced in Maastricht, however, makes it likely that the two pots from Sittard and Obbicht were also produced here. The communities of Obbicht, Stein and Sittard might have used the more locally produced pottery and pottery obtained from other production places simultaneously. This would fit the model proposed by Legouix for the production and distribution of pottery in the Paris basin. The size of the Rhenen cemetery and the associated community (or communities) is much larger than the three cemeteries in Limburg. It can be assumed that in Rhenen, pots were also produced locally and obtained from more remote places. The pots with stamp impressions similar to the ones in Obbicht, Sittard and Maastricht might, from this point of view, have entered Rhenen from the south.

The second question is: were pots with identical stamps exchanged or did the stamps ‘travel’ with specialised craftsmen who used their collection of stamps on pottery produced on the spot? Pottery vessels were produced in high quantities and the art of making pottery was probably not that complex; pottery producers would have been present in each region, which makes it unlikely that potters travelled far. In the case of Obbicht, Stein and Sittard, as discussed above, it can be assumed that a group of craftsmen specialised in pottery production and decoration were based in the surroundings and provided the settlements, and may...
be the wider region, with pottery products.17 The presence of locally based pottery production can explain why the majority of the Maastricht products were not found in large quantities far from the production context provided the smaller communities with enough pottery products. In view of the size of the Rhine cemetery and the associated community or communities, a group of pottery craftsmen would also have been present here. The spatial distribution of the more elaborately decorated pots seems to indicate that the more complicated decorations were perceived differently and were desired for reasons other than the locally produced ‘normal’ pots. Both ‘specialised travelling craftsmen’ and specialised workshops of which the products were baked in the Maasstrict kilns can explain the distribution of similar stamped pottery vessels on a large spatial scale.18 The pots with special decorations may have been distributed from a (high level) workshop, but the apparent distribution patterns may also indicate that (travelling) craftsmen had an important role in the ‘distribution of decoration’ and associated meanings. This possibility can be included in the construction of production and distribution models of raw products, half-worked products and finished products that can be found throughout Merovingian Gaul, for which the chemical analysis in the case of pottery can provide answers.

The third question is: were pots used in exchange networks in a similar way as other objects, such as brooches and metal belt fittings, during the Merovingian period? The pots may have been exchanged in such networks (complex series of types of exchange) as they are also known from Anglo-Saxon England. Another look at the distribution map of Siegmund shows that in his research area, there might be two different spheres of production (household or larger enterprises) and could be analysed.19 Apart from human interments with complete horse skeletons and other horse related burial objects, the graves in its surroundings are all dated to Obbicht phase IIa (556-610/62) or IIb (569-641/50). Only grave 24 to the north was without finds and could not be dated, and grave 27 to its south had rather indifferent finds and could neither be dated.

A horse burial, horse related burial objects and the symbolic reference to human–horse relations

Horse burials are known from the early to the later Merovingian period,20 as they are also known from Anglo-Saxon England.21 Apart from human interments with complete horse skeletons and single horse graves, graves of humans with only some horse parts and/or horse equipment are also known. These phenomena are especially thought to be associated with the aristocracy.22 However, horse burials are also known from more modest cemeteries. In the province of Limburg for example, two horses were buried with complete horse skeletons, without any significant grave goods, were found in the cemetery of Borgharen.23 These were two stables, one with an age of 3.4 years and one with an age of 3.5 to 4.5 years. Marks on the left first ribs of the two horses show that they were both killed or sacrificed to be interred in the cemetery. The horse graves are dated to 561-649 AD and (646-653 AD).24 It remains to be seen whether complete horse burials should be understood as interments associated with specific human burials (as grave gifts) or as sacrifices. It is argued that both options might apply.25 The locations of horse interments in the cemetery might provide some arguments as to how the depictions could be perceived. The two horses from Borpharen are the northermost interments of the, up till now, excavated cemetery; they might have been deposited as sacrifices at the fringes of the cemetery. But it is more likely that they were related to individual human burials as will be described below.

Another example from Limburg is the horsegrave from Obbicht (grave 25). It was recorded that a nearly complete skeleton was found in this undisturbed grave with a wooden construction. The excavated bones are no longer present, but some molars survived and could be analysed.26 Sets of teeth from two individual horses are present. Unfortunately, the two sets have find numbers which assign them both to grave 25. It seems as if one set was assigned to this grave by mistake since it was recorded that horse teeth were also found in grave 29. An additional set of teeth with find numbers matching with grave 29 are, however, not present in the collection of finds from Obbicht. The ages of the two horses could be estimated on the basis of the molars from the right upper jaw. Horse 1 was 5 to 9 years old when it died, and horse 2 was 7 to 8 years old; they were approximately the same age at death but were older than the ones from Borpharen, which could, in view of their age, mean they had not yet become experienced riding horses.27 The two horses from Obbicht, on the other hand, were old enough to have been sufficiently trained as riding horses. The location of horse grave 25 in the Obbicht cemetery shows that it probably belonged to the earliest phases of the cemetery (fig. 7.9). The graves in its surroundings are all dated to Obbicht phase IIa (556-610/62) or IIb (569-641/50). Only grave 24 to the north was without finds and could not be dated, and grave 27 to its south had rather indifferent finds and could neither be dated.

Fig. 7.9

Obbicht-Oude Molen
Merovingian cemetery

17 Hodges/Whitehouse 1983, 8. They claim that “one or two potters were able to meet the needs of entire regions in Merovingian Gaul”. 18 Chemical analysis of the pots with identical stamps from Obbicht, Sittard, Rhenen and the fragment from Maastricht has yet to prove if they were produced at the same location. This analysis will provide some arguments as to how the depictions could be perceived.

Download figure

Fig. 7.10

Humlum, Maastricht, Koppem, Stokstraat
Merovingian cemetery

17 Hodges/Whitehouse 1983, 8. They claim that “one or two potters were able to meet the needs of entire regions in Merovingian Gaul”. 18 Chemical analysis of the pots with identical stamps from Obbicht, Sittard, Rhenen and the fragment from Maastricht has yet to prove if they were produced at the same location. This analysis will provide some arguments as to how the depictions could be perceived.

Download figure

Fig. 7.11

Humlum, Maastricht, Koppem, Stokstraat
Merovingian cemetery

17 Hodges/Whitehouse 1983, 8. They claim that “one or two potters were able to meet the needs of entire regions in Merovingian Gaul”. 18 Chemical analysis of the pots with identical stamps from Obbicht, Sittard, Rhenen and the fragment from Maastricht has yet to prove if they were produced at the same location. This analysis will provide some arguments as to how the depictions could be perceived.

Download figure

Fig. 7.12

Humlum, Maastricht, Koppem, Stokstraat
Merovingian cemetery

17 Hodges/Whitehouse 1983, 8. They claim that “one or two potters were able to meet the needs of entire regions in Merovingian Gaul”. 18 Chemical analysis of the pots with identical stamps from Obbicht, Sittard, Rhenen and the fragment from Maastricht has yet to prove if they were produced at the same location. This analysis will provide some arguments as to how the depictions could be perceived.

Download figure

Fig. 7.13

Humlum, Maastricht, Koppem, Stokstraat
Merovingian cemetery

17 Hodges/Whitehouse 1983, 8. They claim that “one or two potters were able to meet the needs of entire regions in Merovingian Gaul”. 18 Chemical analysis of the pots with identical stamps from Obbicht, Sittard, Rhenen and the fragment from Maastricht has yet to prove if they were produced at the same location. This analysis will provide some arguments as to how the depictions could be perceived.
The horse grave might be related to grave 29 of a man in which a horse bridle and horse teeth were found, but it is also located in the proximity of the possible founder’s grave (grave 20, dating to 565-610/20) of the cemetery or it may have marked grave 26 to its south, a large grave but without finds, as a distinct (possible founder’s) grave. Marking important burials with horses in their proximity might have been a ‘tradition’, although with different scales of ‘richness’, which can be observed through time.118

In Obbicht grave 29, no other horse parts than the horse teeth were discovered. They might be one of the sets analysed. Grave 29 was located somewhat to the north of horse grave 25, and was the grave of a man. Apart from the horse teeth, a horse bridle was found in this grave, together with a lance head, a shield boss and some belt fittings that might have been part of the horse equipment; it may also be the case that a connection was expressed between this grave and the horse grave.

Two different interments signify the role of horses in the burial rite as they are present in the cemetery of Obbicht; a complete horse interment without finds which might be related to a founder’s grave of a man (20 or 26) and a human interment with horse teeth and horse-related objects symbolically referring to the presence of a horse or to human-horse relations. Horse equipment or objects representing horses are known from numerous Merovingian graves.119 These objects can be of great material wealth, but can also be modest. A good example of a prosperous find is known from the excavated grave site at Saint-Dizier.120 Here, a complete of horse was found in the proximity of the burials of humans: a young woman and a young and an older man dating to 525-530. The horse was an adult stallion of 8 to 10 years (it was used as a riding horse; traces on the first premolars showed that it wore a bit). A bit was not found in the horse grave, but one was found in one of the graves of the men; this find was thought to signify the relation between this man and his horse. In this grave, a purse mount in cloisonné style representing two horse heads, was found.121

A number of objects referring to horses, apart from the horse teeth and the horse bridle found in Obbicht grave 29, are also known from the province of Limburg. A pair of iron stirrups inlaid with copper alloy stripes was found in grave 7 of the cemetery of Borgharen (fig. 7.10). They were found in a relatively rich grave of a man, in which also a shield boss, arrow head, axe, gold tremisses, seax related mounts, and belt fittings were found.122 As mentioned, two horse burials were also present in this cemetery, and the stirrup might, as was concluded for Saint-Dizier, refer to the relation between this burial of a man and the interred horses in its proximity. Another example of a horse-related object is known from the church of Saint-Servatius in Maastricht; here a small iron plate buckle with a silver inlaid ornament forming a horse’s head was found. It cannot be assigned to a grave or matched with other finds from the Merovingian graves excavated on this site (fig. 7.10). It can be ruled out whether it was also associated with a man’s grave as the other horse related objects obviously were. Simple iron or copper alloy rings, which are regularly found in Merovingian graves, could have been part of horse equipment. Such rings were also found in the cemetery of Obbicht (as they were in Stein and Sittard), but these could have served a number of other functions as they are also known from graves of women.

The other discussed horse-related objects were exclusively associated with burials of men, but are all very different. This category of objects refers to horses either as status symbols, to the functions they had or to other meanings less obvious to us. It was observed that graves with horse-related objects are often known from burial grounds in which horse graves were also present, as the examples of Obbicht, Borgharen and the burial site of Saint-Dizier also showed.123 These examples show that the deposition of horse-related objects in burials was not a practice restricted to a specific time frame, but that it occurred, although in different manifestations, throughout the Merovingian period. The horse burials themselves are often related to individual graves of men identified as ‘rich’ or special on the basis of their location in the cemetery, their size and the rank and richness of the grave goods. The horse grave from Obbicht is not part of an extremely rich cemetery, but is nonetheless located close to a possible founder’s grave of the cemetery or cemetery plot, which is also the ‘richest’ grave of a man in terms of grave goods. Altogether, the discussed examples underline the special meaning of horses in life and/or death. A horse could have fulfilled various functions. It could have been used for transport, for agricultural activities, for consumption and for warfare. Various suggestions have been put forth to explain both the burial of horses in distinct graves or in graves with humans, and the use of horse representations and horse-riding related objects. The explanation of horse burials as (surviving) pagan rite is often mentioned.124 Links to deities in the Germanic pantheon, or more specifically horse sacrifice in relation to the cult of Wodan or Odin, are suggested,125 as is the need for horses in the afterlife, either to ride safely to the otherworld or to ride in the otherworld.126 Considering it merely as a surviving pagan practice is now thought to be an unproductive explanation in view of the long period during which horses were used in the burial rite and the complex relationship between upcoming Christianity and the manifestation of the Merovingian burial rite.127 The use of horses and horse representations in burial rites are also seen as indicative for high status human burials,128 or as references to ethnic identities.129 However, such statements do not scrutinize the practice to its full extent.

Since the Merovingian burial rite is considered to be a rhetorical ritual strategy which transforms the dead into (required images of) ancestors and (re)produces the ideal societal order, other suggestions are also made. The expressed relation between horses and humans in cemeteries might refer to the “ideal representation of a warrior”130 (as symbol of protection), or they may refer to hunting or land clearance and tenure (symbolic claims on land),131 and perhaps other references were also relevant. These symbolic references are especially relevant for the founder’s grave of a cemetery, and apply to the described example from Obbicht (horse in the proximity of the possible founder’s grave of a man with a set of weapons). The horse from Obbicht might thus be a ‘grave good’, and part of the symbolic set of references that were incorporated in the founder’s grave.

Interments of dogs, wolves, deer and falcons are also known from Merovingian burial sites,132 as are objects which represent animals other than horses, such as birds, snakes and bulls.133 Recent research into the cognitive and symbolic meaning of animals sheds new light on the meaning of animal representations, since they “embody symbolic forms of cultural knowledge.”134 The production, exchange and use of objects representing animals expressed, among others, the larger societal order of humans and animals and were understood by the people of that time. How this relates to the use of animals and animal-related items in the specific context of burials, especially in the area around Obbicht and Borgharen, is not yet understood and requires further investigation.135
PART 3

CATALOGUES

Mirjam Kars/Frans Theuws/Maaike de Haas
The catalogues printed below contain short descriptions of all the numbered contexts (graves) and their associated finds, followed by the finds without context, of the cemeteries of Sittard-Kemperkoul, Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd.

### Context Number
This is the number assigned to contexts during the excavations; these are four-letter codes in the case of the three cemeteries. The correct numbers correspond with the grave numbers.

### Context Type
This indicates the (presumed) names of the context. The vast majority of the excavated contexts are graves.

### Trench
This is the trench number in which the context was discovered and excavated (only for Sittard-Kemperkoul).

### Grave Structure
The shape of the grave's construction type (in the case of the three cemeteries these are trench graves with or without wooden constructions and the few tree trunk graves in Sittard-Kemperkoul).

### Grave Orientation
For Sittard-Kemperkoul the orientation of the graves are given in greco degrees in relation to the exact south-north axis (an exact S-N orientation would be 0 degrees), and in descriptions on the bases of the presumed lay-out of one of the bodies. In Sittard-Kemperkoul the head was generally located in the southern end of the grave. The descriptive orientations were established as follows:

- **≤ 350 degrees**: S-N
- **350 to 10 degrees**: SW-NE
- **10 to 170 degrees**: SE-NW
- **170 to 350 degrees**: N-S

In the more extended description of the graves, which is open to interpretation, the orientation is mentioned again but in more general terms (either N-S or N-W).

### Grave Fit Length and Width
These indicate the burial pit's reconstructed length and width.

### Grave Fit Depth
For Sittard-Kemperkoul this refers to the depth of the recorded grave/contexts measured from the first level of excavation to the bottom of the grave, excluding the beams. For Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd this refers to the recorded depth of the bottom of the graves as recorded in the original catalogue; this was in all probability the bottom of the graves measured from the ground level at the time of excavation.

### Orientation
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### Grave Structure

### Grave Structure

### Grave Structure

### Grave Structure

### Grave Structure
**INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench**

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 208

**Grave pit width**: 166

**Grave pit depth**: 20

**Orientation**: 345 (SE-NW)

**Description**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was north-south, but the grave remains uncertain since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on at least one wooden beam. A second wooden beam was presumably present, but its remains were not documented. This may be due to the fact that the grave was excavated in two different trenches. The southern part of the grave did not contain any features. The northern part displays the wooden container and beam. The beam was dug into the burial pit's eastern and western walls.

**Physical Anthropology**

Not suitable for examination.

**GRAVE DATE**

SK I + SK II: 510/20-640/50

FAG phases: 3-7: 460/80-640/50

**FINDS**

1. **Pottery vessel**

   - **Type**: FAG Kwt5B (5-7: 565-640/50)
   - **Alternative type**: FAG Kwt5B (5-7: 565-640/50)
   - **Alternative type decoration**: FAG phases 3-7: 460/80-640/50
   - **Location**: PDB Limburg

2. **Bead, glass**

   - **Type**: BT30 / S-Per 47.1
   - **Number**: 2
   - **Find number**: 2-1-1.2
   - **Location**: PDB Limburg
   - **Date**: 485-555
   - **Phase**: 7B-8A
   - **Kombinationsgruppe**: A

3. **Bead, glass**

   - **Type**: GO39
   - **Number**: 1
   - **Find number**: 2-1-1.3
   - **Location**: PDB Limburg
   - **Date**: (570) 610 - (640) 705
   - **Phase**: (6) 8 - (8) 10
   - **Kombinationsgruppe**: (G) H-I

4. **Bead, glass**

   - **Type**: OO19 / S-Per 34.1
   - **Number**: 2
   - **Find number**: 1-1-1
   - **Location**: PDB Limburg
   - **Date**: (570) 610 - (640) 705
   - **Phase**: (6) 8 - (8) 10
   - **Kombinationsgruppe**: (G) H-I

**INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench**

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 208

**Grave pit width**: 166

**Grave pit depth**: 20

**Orientation**: 345 (SE-NW)

**Description**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was north-south, but the grave remains uncertain since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on at least one wooden beam. A second wooden beam was presumably present, but its remains were not documented. This may be due to the fact that the grave was excavated in two different trenches. The southern part of the grave did not contain any features. The northern part displays the wooden container and beam. The beam was dug into the burial pit's eastern and western walls.
5 INHUMATION GRAVE

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Not suitable for examination

GRAVE DATE

SK 2a: 595-600/10

FAG phases 7-17: 595-610/10

FINDS

1. Lance head, iron
   Find number: 5-2-1
   Find depth: 55.78
   Iron lance head with mid rib and a closed socket with wood remains.
   Total length: 16.6 cm
   Type: Siegmund Lan2.1
   Alternative type: FAG S-Lan2.1 (5-6: 565-620)
   Rhineland date: 585-625
   Rhineland phases: 7-8A
   Location: PDB Limburg

2. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 5-1-1
   Find depth: 55.78
   Iron belt fitting, probably the mount of a wooden belt (wood remains, of what was presumably a belt, are indicated on the field drawing).
   Length: 1.8 cm
   Type: Nieveler 2006
   Location: Museum Het Domein

3. Belt fitting, copper alloy
   Find number: 5-6-1
   Find depth: 55.75
   Small simple copper alloy buckle (of a purse?) with a straight copper alloy tongue.
   Maximum loop length: 1.1 cm
   Type: L/P/V 111
   L/P/V phase: MA1-M13
   L/P/V date: 460/80-700/10
   Location: PDB Limburg

4. Knife, iron
   Find number: 5-6-2
   Find depth: 55.75
   Iron knife with a slightly curved back.
   Blade length: 8.4 cm
   Type: Siegmund Gür4.1/4.2/4.5
   Location: PDB Limburg

5. Strip, iron
   Find number: 5-6-3
   Find depth: 55.75
   Bent iron strip, probably the mount of a wooden box (wood remains, of what was presumably a box, are indicated on the field drawing).
   Length: 2.2 cm
   Type: L/P/V 355
   L/P/V phase: MA1-M13
   L/P/V date: 470/80-700/10
   Location: Museum Het Domein

6. Indeterminate fragment, iron
   Find number: 5-6-4
   Find depth: 55.82
   Fragment of a triangular iron fire tool with curved extremities.
   Length: 8.5 cm
   Location: PDB Limburg

7. Knife, iron
   Find number: 5-6-5
   Find depth: 55.82
   Iron knife with a slightly curved back.
   Blade length: 8.5 cm
   Type: L/P/V 355
   L/P/V phase: MA1-M13
   L/P/V date: 470/80-700/10
   Location: Museum Het Domein

8. Stone
   Find number: 5-6-6
   Find depth: 55.82
   Flint
   Length: 3.9 cm
   Location: PDB Limburg

9. Stone
   Find number: 5-6-7
   Find depth: 55.82
   Flint
   Length: 8.5 cm
   Location: PDB Limburg

10. Iron awl with a rectangular shank
    Find number: 5-6-8
    Find depth: 55.82
    Length: 5.4 cm
    Location: PDB Limburg

11. Fragment of a triangular iron fire steel with curved extremities.
    Find number: 5-6-9
    Find depth: 55.82
    Length: 2.5 cm
    Location: PDB Limburg

12. Indeterminate fragment, iron
    Find number: 5-6-10
    Find depth: 55.82
    Iron head with a copper alloy rivet.
    Length: 1.9 cm
    Location: PDB Limburg
6

INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 8
Grave structure: possible wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 3.4 m
Grave pit width: 1.6 m
Grave pit depth: 0.8 m
Orientation: 348 (SE-NW)
Stratigraphic relation: below context 7

DESCRIPTION

The grave was a rectangular pit with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The presence of beams suggests that the grave held a container, but its remains were not found during excavation. Grave 4 is cut by grave 7. It is clear that grave 6 is older than grave 7.

GRAVE DATE

SK III: 565-610
PMG phases 5-6: 565-640

FINDS

1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 8-1-1
Find depth: c. 0.2 m

2 Fragments of a historical pot with a brown surface decorated with angle lines of rectangular modern stamp impressions. Fragments of the base are missing. Approximately 10% of the pot is present. The find location was not recorded on the field drawing. Height could not be reconstructed.

7

POSSIBLE INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1
Grave structure: wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
Grave pit length: 3.8 m
Grave pit width: 1.9 m
Grave pit depth: 0.9 m
Orientation: 350 (SE-NW)
Stratigraphic relation: above context 6

DESCRIPTION

The grave was a rectangular pit with slightly rounded corners. It was cut by a wooden coffin and the centre of the grave. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The second, inner container was the wooden coffin that held the body of the deceased. However, a body silhouette or human remains were not discovered. A rectangular pit cut in the northern half of the grave is disturbed a part of the wooden coffins and the centre of the grave. The single head known from this grave seems to have moved from its original location. The head might have been part of a string of which the other heads were taken from the grave. The walls of the wooden container and the burial pit remained undisturbed.

GRAVE DATE

SK III: 490-550
PMG phases 7-8: 565-640

FINDS

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 8-4-1
Find depth: 0.19 m

2 Bead, glass, blue, transparent, globular, compressed, double connected bead.
Number: 1

1 1

8

INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 2
Grave structure: wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
Grave pit length: 3.8 m
Grave pit width: 1.9 m
Grave pit depth: 0.9 m
Orientation: 348 (SE-NW)
Stratigraphic relation: below context 7

DESCRIPTION

The grave was a rectangular pit with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The presence of beams suggests that the grave held a container, but its remains were not found during excavation. Grave 4 is cut by grave 7. It is clear that grave 6 is older than grave 7.

GRAVE DATE

SK III: 565-610
PMG phases 5-6: 565-640

FINDS

1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 8-1-1
Find depth: c. 0.2 m

2 Fragments of a historical pot with a brown surface decorated with angle lines of rectangular modern stamp impressions. Fragments of the base are missing. Approximately 10% of the pot is present. The find location was not recorded on the field drawing. Height could not be reconstructed.
9

INHUMATION GRAVE
Trench 1
Grave structure possible wooden container grave
Grave pit length 116 (SE-NW)
Grave pit width 65 (SE-NW)
Orientation 343 (SE-NW)

DESCRIPTION
Possible Merovingian inhumation grave. The location of the beads and tooth suggest that the grave’s orientation was south-north. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The presence of beams suggest that the grave initially held a wooden container; its remains were not found during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
SKIIb: 565-640/50
FAG phases 4-7: 510/20-640/50
SK IIb: 565-640/50

FINDS
1 Rivet, copper alloy
Find number: 11-7-1
Copper alloy rivet with a semi-circular head, probably of a plate buckle. Diameter: 1.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.

2 Rivet, copper alloy
Find number: 11-7-2
Copper alloy rivet with a semi-circular head and curved rim, probably of a plate buckle. Diameter: 1.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.

10

POSSIBLE INHUMATION GRAVE
Trench 1
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit length 117
Grave pit width 66
Grave pit depth 0
Orientation 346 (SE-NW)

DESCRIPTION
Possible Merovingian inhumation grave. The orientation of this possible grave was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The presence of beams suggest that the grave initially held a wooden container; its remains were not found during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
SKII: 570-650
FAG phases 6-7: 580/90-640/50
SK IIc: 580/90-640/50

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 9-1-1
Copper alloy rivet with a domed head and carved buckle. Diameter: 1.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.

2 Pottery vessel
Find number: 9-1-2
Copper alloy rivet with a domed head, probably of a plate buckle.

3 Bronze pot with an orange exterior. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of eight lines along the edges of the ridge. The pot is restored and completed (14 fragments were available). Approximately 30% of the pot is present. Height: not reconstructed
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23: 7-8 (585-640)
Alternative type: Siegmund late roulette stamp
L/P/V date: 470-670
L/P/V phase: MA1-MR2

4 Glass, fragment
Find number: 11-7-3
Simple rings. Diameter: 1.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.

5 Glass, fragment
Find number: 11-7-4
Simple rings. Diameter: 1.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.

6 Glass, fragment
Find number: 11-7-5
Biconical pot with a brown surface. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The available fragments of the pot were glued together, some of the missing parts were filled up, and fragments of the rim are missing.
Height: 13.4 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.22

7 Belt fitting, copper alloy
Find depth: 55.90
Find number: 11-7-6
Belt fitting, copper alloy.

8 Copper alloy strap end with a triangular plate, used as foot wear. The decoration consists of impressed points along the edges and large dots on the middle field of the front side of the plate. The two eyes on the back side of the plate are damaged. Leather remains are attached to the loop. It forms an ensemble with 11-7-7 and 11-7-8.2
Length: 4.1 cm
Width: 1.5 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.

11

INHUMATION GRAVE
Trench 1
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit length 249 (SE-NW)
Grave pit width 195 (SE-NW)
Grave pit depth 30
Orientation 347 (SE-NW)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The presence of beams suggest that the grave initially held a wooden container; its remains were not found during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
FAG phases 4-7: 510/20-640/50
SK IIb: 565-640/50

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 11-1-1
Copper alloy rivet with a domed head, probably of a plate buckle.

2 Pottery vessel
Find number: 11-1-2
Copper alloy rivet with a domed head, probably of a plate buckle.

3 Bronze pot with an orange exterior. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of eight lines along the edges of the ridge. The pot is restored and completed (14 fragments were available). Approximately 30% of the pot is present. Height: not reconstructed
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23: 7-8 (585-640)
Alternative type: Siegmund late roulette stamp
L/P/V date: 470-670
L/P/V phase: MA1-MR2

4 Glass, fragment
Find number: 11-1-3
Simple rings. Diameter: 1.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.

5 Glass, fragment
Find number: 11-1-4
Simple rings. Diameter: 1.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.

6 Glass, fragment
Find number: 11-1-5
Biconical pot with a brown surface. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The available fragments of the pot were glued together, some of the missing parts were filled up, and fragments of the rim are missing.
Height: 13.4 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.22

7 Belt fitting, copper alloy
Find depth: 55.90
Find number: 11-1-6
Two fragments of a copper alloy strap end with one rivet hole in the base of the plate and engraved lines along the edges of the front side, it forms an ensemble with 11-7-7 and 11-7-8.2 and is dated accordingly.
Length: 4.1 cm
Type: L/P/V 130
L/P/V phase: MAS-MR3
L/P/V date: 530/50-650/40
Location: Museum Het Domein.

8 Copper alloy strap end with a triangular plate, used as foot wear. The decoration consists of impressed points along the edges and large dots on the middle field of the front side of the plate. The two eyes on the back side of the plate are damaged. Leather remains are attached to the loop. It forms an ensemble with 11-7-7 and 11-7-8.2
Length: 4.1 cm
Width: 1.5 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.

9 Belt fitting, copper alloy
Find depth: 55.90
Find number: 11-1-7
Small copper alloy plate buckle with a fixed triangular plate, used as foot wear. The decoration consists of impressed points along the edges and larger dots on the middle field of the front side of the plate. The two eyes on the back side of the plate are damaged. Leather remains are attached to the loop. It forms an ensemble with 11-7-7 and 11-7-8.2
Length: 4.1 cm
Width: 1.5 cm
Location: PDB Limburg.
### Catalogues of Contexts and Finds

**Find number: 11-8-1.1.1**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.1.2**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.1.5**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.1.7**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.1.8**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.1.9**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.2.1**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.2.2**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.2.3**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.2.4**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.2.5**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.2.6**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.2.7**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.2.8**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.2.9**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.3.1**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.3.2**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.3.4**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.5.1**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.5.2**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.5.3**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.5.4**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.5.5**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.5.6**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.5.7**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.5.8**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.6.1**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.6.2**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.6.3**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.6.4**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.7.1**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.7.2**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.8.1**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.8.2**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.9.1**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.9.2**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.9.3**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.9.4**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.9.5**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Find number: 11-8-1.9.6**

**Bead, glass**

- **Location:** Museum Het Dom...
### Catalogues of Contexts and Finds

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<th>Kombinationsgruppe</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Find Number</th>
<th>Decoration</th>
<th>Bead, Glass</th>
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<td>3-10</td>
<td>D-H</td>
<td>YO30 / S-Per 33.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-8-1.3.1</td>
<td>Yellow, opaque, small, globular compressed</td>
<td>Bead, glass</td>
</tr>
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<td>Museum Het Domein</td>
<td>3-10</td>
<td>D-H</td>
<td>RO11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-8-1.3.5</td>
<td>Red, opaque, barrel shaped</td>
<td>Bead, glass</td>
</tr>
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<td>Museum Het Domein</td>
<td>3-10</td>
<td>D-H</td>
<td>RO1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-8-1.3.7</td>
<td>Blue, opaque, globular</td>
<td>Bead, glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Het Domein</td>
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<td>D-H</td>
<td>RO19 / S-Per 35.6?</td>
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<td>11-8-1.3.11</td>
<td>Orange, opaque, globular</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3-10</td>
<td>D-H</td>
<td>RO1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-8-1.3.12</td>
<td>Red, opaque, globular compressed/barrel, double connected</td>
<td>Bead, glass</td>
</tr>
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<td>3-10</td>
<td>D-H</td>
<td>RO10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-8-1.3.14</td>
<td>Yellow, opaque, globular compressed</td>
<td>Bead, glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3-10</td>
<td>D-H</td>
<td>WO20 / S-Per 32.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-8-1.4.1</td>
<td>White, opaque, large, globular compressed</td>
<td>Bead, glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Het Domein</td>
<td>3-10</td>
<td>D-H</td>
<td>BT1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-8-1.4.7</td>
<td>Blue transparent, globular compressed</td>
<td>Bead, glass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Notes

- **Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001**: 42,46
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001; 42,46
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001; 42,46
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 1977: 42,46
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 1977: 21,5
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 1977: 34,11, 34,12
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 1977: 34,16
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 1977: 34,16

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**Image Notes**

- **Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001**: 42,46
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001; 42,46
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 1977: 42,46
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 1977: 21,5
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 1977: 34,11, 34,12
- **Schretzheim**: Koch-Pleidelsheim 1977: 34,16
**Catalogues of contexts and finds**

**Red, glass**

Find number: 11-8-4-25
Rhineland phase: 4
White, opaque, globular. Decoration: white opaque waves crossing, white horizontal middle band, white opaque dots.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; 34,15
Schretzheim date: 590/600-620/0
Schretzheim phase: 3-4
Location: Museum Het Domein
Find number: 11-8-1.4.18
Red, opaque, thick, short cylindrical.
Type: WO32 / S-Per 1.3
Number: 1
Location: Museum Het Domein

**Bead, glass**

Find number: 11-8-4-13
White, opaque, globular, compressed. Decoration: purple transparent, large, biconical.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; 34,6
Schretzheim date: 590/600-620/0
Schretzheim phase: 3-4
Location: Museum Het Domein

**Red, glass**

Find number: 11-8-4-24
Red, opaque, globular. Decoration: white opaque waves crossing, white horizontal middle band, white opaque dots.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; 34,15
Schretzheim date: 590/600-620/0
Schretzheim phase: 3-4
Location: Museum Het Domein

**Bead, glass**

Find number: 11-8-4-25
Red, opaque, large, biconical, decorated. Decoration: white opaque waves crossing, white horizontal middle band, white opaque dots.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; 34,5
Schretzheim date: 590/600-620/0
Schretzheim phase: 3-4
Location: Museum Het Domein

**Bead, glass**

Find number: 11-8-4-23
Blue, opaque, globular. Decoration: white opaque waves crossing, white horizontal middle band, white opaque dots.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; 34,5
Schretzheim date: 590/600-620/0
Schretzheim phase: 3-4
Location: Museum Het Domein

**Bead, glass**

Find number: 11-8-4-24
White, opaque, barrel shaped.
Number: 1
Type: WO32 / S-Per 32.7
Combination group: G-H-I
Rhineland phase: 10-15
Rhineland date: 570-610/20
Rhineland context: 11-8-4-18
Height: 10.2 cm
Location: Museum Het Domein

**Human remains**

Find number: 11-9-3-1
Human remains: human skull.
Location: FDB Limburg

**12 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench 1**

Grave structure: container grave
Grave pit length: 190
Grave pit width: 75
Grave pit depth: 3
Orientation: 352 (±20°)

**Description**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The excavated grave was nearly complete, though fragments of the northern trench wall displays the grave’s section (see chapter 5). This section shows that the bottom of the container was concave which indicates that the body was buried in a true trunk coffin.

**Grave date**

SK I: 575-640/20
F & A I: 560-630/20

**Finds**

1) Pottery vessel
Find number: 11-10-1
Bead of a pot with a light brown grey surface and dark stains (fire traces) on the pot’s exterior. The shape was circular with 461 single lines of rectangular rectangular stamp impressions. The pot is nearly complete, though found in fragmented condition. The fragments are glued together.
Height: 10.2 cm
Type: Segmented Ketty 1
Rhineland phase: 6-7
Rhineland date: 570-610
Location: Museum Het Domein

8) Grave number: 11-8-4-17
Red, glass, cylindrical, polygonal section (five sides).
Number: 1
Type: BG 30 / S-Per 31.1
Combination group: C-D
Schretzheim date: 545-590
Schretzheim phase: 2-3
Location: Museum Het Domein

4) Grave number: 11-8-4-19
Red, glass, cylindrical, triangular section.
Number: 1
Type: SK II a
Schretzheim date: 565-610/20
Schretzheim phase: 3-4
Location: Museum Het Domein

6) Grave number: 11-8-4-18
White, opaque, thick, short cylindrical.
Type: WO32

3) Grave number: 11-8-4-16
Yellow, opaque, globular, compressed. Decoration: black opaque waves crossing and red opaque dots in between.
Number: 2
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; group 16
Schretzheim phase: 3
Schretzheim date: 590/590-600
Location: Museum Het Domein

9) Grave number: 11-8-4-11
Red, glass, cylindrical, triangular section.
Number: 1
Type: SK IV a
Schretzheim date: 555-590
Schretzheim phase: 3-4
Location: Museum Het Domein

10) Grave number: 11-8-4-21
Number: 2
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; group 16
Schretzheim phase: 3
Schretzheim date: 590/590-600
Location: Museum Het Domein

11) Grave number: 11-8-4-22
Yellow, opaque, globular, compressed. Decoration: black opaque waves crossing and red opaque dots in between.
Number: 2
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; group 16
Schretzheim phase: 3
Schretzheim date: 590/590-600
Location: Museum Het Domein

12) Grave number: 11-8-4-20
Red, glass, cylindrical, triangular section.
Number: 1
Type: SK IV a
Schretzheim date: 555-590
Schretzheim phase: 3-4
Location: Museum Het Domein

13) Grave number: 11-8-4-17
Blue, transparent, large, biconical. Decoration: white opaque waves crossing, white dark opaque comb and red.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; Group 48,24
Schretzheim date: 545-590/600
Schretzheim phase: 2-3
Location: Museum Het Domein

14) Grave number: 11-8-4-19
Blue, transparent, large, biconical. Decoration: white opaque waves crossing, white dark opaque comb and red.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; Group 48,24
Schretzheim date: 545-590/600
Schretzheim phase: 2-3
Location: Museum Het Domein

15) Grave number: 11-8-4-20
White, opaque, stretched long biconical. Decoration: transparent white opaque waves crossing, and red opaque dots in between.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; 24,5
Schretzheim date: 570/600-610
Schretzheim phase: 3
Location: Museum Het Domein

16) Grave number: 11-8-4-21
Blue, opaque, globular (compressed). Type: BG 20
Number: 1
Location: Museum Het Domein

17) Grave number: 11-8-4-22
White, opaque, barrel shaped.
Number: 1
Type: WO32 / S-Per 32.7
Combination group: G-H-I
Rhineland phase: 10-15
Rhineland date: 570-610/20
Rhineland context: 11-8-4-18
Height: 10.2 cm
Location: Museum Het Domein

18) Grave number: 11-8-4-23
Blue, transparent, large, biconical. Decoration: white opaque waves crossing, white dark opaque comb and red.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; Group 48,24
Schretzheim date: 545-590/600
Schretzheim phase: 2-3
Location: Museum Het Domein

19) Grave number: 11-8-4-24
White, opaque, stretched long biconical. Decoration: transparent white opaque waves crossing, and red opaque dots in between.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; 24,5
Schretzheim date: 570/600-610
Schretzheim phase: 3
Location: Museum Het Domein

20) Grave number: 11-8-4-25
Blue, transparent, large, biconical. Decoration: white opaque waves crossing, white dark and black opaque comb and red.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; Group 50
Schretzheim phase: 3
Location: Museum Het Domein

21) Grave number: 11-8-4-26
Blue, transparent, large, biconical. Decoration: white opaque waves crossing, white dark and black opaque comb and red.
Number: 1
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; Group 50
Schretzheim phase: 3
Location: Museum Het Domein
**INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Description**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was south-southwest. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden containers, two wooden beams, and a large wooden box. The outer container was part of a wooden bowl. However, it is also possible that they are remnants of the wooden container floor.

**Physical Anthropology**

Not suitable for examination.

**Grave Date**

SK IIb: 565-640/50
FAG phases 5-7: 565-640/50
SK IIb: 565-640/50

**Grave Structure**

Wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)

**Grave Pit Measurements**

Depth 36
Width 179
Length 256

**Grave Contents**

1. Wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
   - Imprint was still visible in the southern end of the coffin that held the body of the deceased. A skull was placed in its south-eastern corner, next to the wooden coffin with remnants of the body. Skeletal remains or finds were not found in this box. It had a length of 4 cm and a width of 4 cm, and is thus nearly twice as large as the box deposited in grave 71. In view of its size it can be questioned whether it was a box, similar to the boxes regularly deposited in Merovingian graves, or a coffin of a very young child. In the north-eastern corner wood remains were preserved underneath a bronze bowl. According to Zoetbrood, the wood remains were preserved around the body. However, it is also possible that they are remnants of the wooden container floor.

2. Wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
   - According to Zoetbrood, the wood remains were preserved around the body. Skeletal remains or finds were not found in this box.

3. Wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
   - Iron plate buckle with round plate and three domed copper alloy rivets. The edges of the tongue base are decorated with a stamped in rows of triangles. Plate length: 6.3 cm
   - Loop length: 5.6 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Gür 4.1
   - Rhineland phase: 7
   - Rhineland phase: 585-610
   - Alternative type: FAG G 1/2 (565-610/20)
   - Alternative type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977: (590/600-620/30)
   - Location: PDB Limburg.

4. Belt fitting, iron
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-2-3
   - Find number: 14-2-4
   - Find number: 14-2-5
   - Find number: 14-2-6
   - Find number: 14-2-7
   - Find number: 14-3-1
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-4-1
   - Find number: 14-4-2
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-4-1
   - Find number: 14-4-2
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-4-1
   - Find number: 14-4-2

5. Belt fitting, iron
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-2-3
   - Find number: 14-2-4
   - Find number: 14-2-5
   - Find number: 14-2-6
   - Find number: 14-2-7
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-4-1
   - Find number: 14-4-2

6. Belt fitting, iron
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-2-3
   - Find number: 14-2-4
   - Find number: 14-2-5
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-4-1
   - Find number: 14-4-2

7. Belt fitting, iron
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-2-3
   - Find number: 14-2-4
   - Find number: 14-2-5
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-4-1
   - Find number: 14-4-2

8. Belt fitting, iron
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-2-3
   - Find number: 14-2-4
   - Find number: 14-2-5
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-4-1
   - Find number: 14-4-2

9. Belt fitting, iron
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-2-3
   - Find number: 14-2-4
   - Find number: 14-2-5
   - Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 14-4-1
   - Find number: 14-4-2

10. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

11. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

12. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

13. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

14. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

15. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

16. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

17. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

18. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

19. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

20. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

21. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

22. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

23. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

24. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

25. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

26. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2

27. Belt fitting, iron
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-2-3
    - Find number: 14-2-4
    - Find number: 14-2-5
    - Belt fitting, iron
    - Find number: 14-4-1
    - Find number: 14-4-2
15 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1

Grave structure: possible wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 184 cm
Grave pit width: 136 cm
Grave pit depth: II
Orientation: 356° (SE-NW)
Location: Museum Het Domein.

DESCRIPTION
Mesopotamian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The presence of beams suggests that the grave initially held a container, but its remains were not found during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
SK IIa: 565-610/20
FAG phases: 5-6: 565-610/20
FAG-S: 625/30-660/70

FINDS

1. Glass vessel
Find number: 15-1-1
Find depth: 55-61 cm
Palm cap of olive green glass with 12 vertical wall ribs of which four are prolonged forming a cross on the bottom of the cap. Air bubbles are visible and a fragment of the wall is missing.
Height: 6.4 cm
Type: Mard Ash
Date: 650-762 (640)
Alternative type: Pyrex 55.14 (116-606)
Location: Museum Het Domein

16 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1

Grave structure: wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
Grave pit length: 189 cm
Grave pit width: 137 cm
Grave pit depth: II
Orientation: 353° (SE-NW)
Location: Museum Het Domein.

DESCRIPTION
Mesopotamian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The outer container was the wooden chamber supported by the mounts of a wooden box. The burial was near the western wall inside the second inner container. This could be a small reopening pit, but the large amount of charcoal seems to indicate that it was a dry pit. The mounts of a wooden box were found dispersed throughout the grave, which seems to indicate that it was disturbed at some time.

GRAVE DATE
SK IIIa: 565-610/20
FAG phases: 5-6: 565-610/20
FAG-S: 625/30-660/70

FINDS

1. Charcoal
Find number: 15-1-1
Find depth: 55-61 cm
Red, orange, globular compressed/branched shaped.
Number: 2
Type: RO20.5 / S-Per 35.6
Kombinationsgruppe: H-I
Rhineland phases: 10-11
Rhineland date: 630-740
FAG date: (565) 580-90-640/50 (680)
Location: Museum Het Domein

2. Bead, glass
Find number: 15-1-2
Find depth: 55.88 cm
Yellow, opaque, small, globular compressed, double connected.
Number: 1
Type: WO20 / S-Per 32.3
Kombinationsgruppe: H-I
Rhineland phases: 10-11
Rhineland date: 570-640/650
Location: Museum Het Domein

3. Bead, glass
Find number: 15-1-3
Find depth: 55.88 cm
White, opaque, globular compressed, double connected.
Number: 1
Type: WO20 / S-Per 32.3
Kombinationsgruppe: H-I
Rhineland phases: 10-11
Rhineland date: 570-640/650
Location: Museum Het Domein

4. Bead, glass
Find number: 15-1-4
Find depth: 55.88 cm
White, opaque, baroque shaped.
Number: 1
Type: RO20.5 / S-Per 35.6
Kombinationsgruppe: H-I
Rhineland phases: 10-11
Rhineland date: 570-640/650
Location: Museum Het Domein

5. Bead, amethyst
Find number: 15-1-5
Find depth: 55.88 cm
Almond shaped.
Number: 1
Type: S-Per 9.2
Location: Museum Het Domein

6. Bead, glass
Find number: 15-1-6
Find depth: 55.88 cm
Almond shaped.
Number: 1
Type: S-Per 9.2
Location: Museum Het Domein

14-7-1
14-7-2
14-7-3
15-1-1

Bowl, copper alloy
Find number: 14-7-2
Find depth: 55.82 cm
Copper alloy bowl with a simple horizontal outward folded rim.
Height: 7.2 cm
Diameter: 17.4 cm
Type: FAG-Burg
FAG phases: 5-6
FAG date: 565-610/20
Location: Museum Het Domein.

14-7-3
Schretzheim phase: 4
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977; 34,17
Number: 1
Opacity waves, cr
Red, opaque, short cylindrical. Decoration: white
Find depth: 55.88
Find number: 16-3-1.16
Bead, glass
Location: Museum Het Domein

Schretzheim phase: 4
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 2001, 73,3
Location: Museum Het Domein
Bead, glass
Find number: 16-3-1.17
Find depth: 55.88
Red-brown biconical bead. Decoration: white waves and three yellow bands.
Number: 1
Location: Museum Het Domein

Schretzheim phase: 4
Type: Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001; 72,1
Number: 1
White and green-blue eyes and white and blue eyes, five yellow dots, and two yellow bands.
Find depth: 55.88
Find number: 16-3-1.01
Bead, glass
Location: Museum Het Domein
Alternate type: Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001; 72,1

Schretzheim phase: 4
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977, 34,37
Number: 1
Find depth: 55.88
Find number: 16-3-1.16
Bead, glass
Location: Museum Het Domein
Alternate type: Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001; 72,1

Schretzheim phase: 4
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977, 34,37
Number: 1
Find depth: 55.88
Find number: 16-3-1.17
Bead, glass
Location: Museum Het Domein
Alternate type: Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001; 72,1

Schretzheim phase: 4
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 1977, 34,37
Number: 1
Find depth: 55.88
Find number: 16-3-1.18
Bead, glass
Location: Museum Het Domein
Alternate type: Koch-Pleidelsheim 2001; 72,1
17 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1
Grave number 17-1
Grave structure possible wooden container grave
Grave pit length 277
Grave pit width 177
Grave pit depth 16
Orientation 354 (S-N)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The presence of beams suggests that the grave initially held a container, but its remains were not found during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Fragment, pottery
   Find number: 17-1-1
   Find depth: 58.1 cm
   Undatable object (no drawing available)
   Location: PDB Limburg

2. Spindle wheel/wooden head: amber?
   Find number: 17-2-1
   Find depth: 55.4 cm
   Biconical, symmetrical spindle wheel/wooden head with a crackled surface; it is probably of amber. The field drawing mentions that a small pipe going through the grave moved the spindle wheel from its original location.

3. Pottery, fragment
   Find number: 17-3-1
   Find depth: 56.9 cm
   Light yellow/grey core and a dark grey surface. It is not suitable for examination.

4. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 17-4-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron plate buckle with a tongue-shaped plate with two (of originally three) domed copper alloy rivets and a carved/dentated rim. Textile remains are preserved on the back side of the plate.

5. Iron counter plate or plate of a plate buckle with one domed copper alloy rivet (of originally three) in the result of rigorous restoration and does not reflect the original design. Its current shape is the result of rigorous restoration and does not necessarily represent its original shape.

6. Wall fragment (can be a small part of the grave’s northern end. The other trench contained the larger remaining part with the wooden container and the single surviving beam. The second beam was probably overlooked and dug away. A section drawing of the southern end shows that the wooden container had straight walls and a flat bottom (see chapter 3).

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-640/50
FAG phases 5-6
Type: FAG-S-FBA2.1
Length blade: 17.3 cm

FINDS
1. Fragment, pottery
   Find number: 20-1-1
   Find depth: 56.6 cm
   Small, thin pottery fragment with a brown surface and tempered with pottery grid and quartz.

2. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-2-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron plate buckle with a tongue-shaped plate with two (of originally three) domed copper alloy rivets and a carved/dentated rim. Textile remains are preserved on the back side of the plate.

3. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-3-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron counter plate or plate of a plate buckle with one domed copper alloy rivet (of originally three) in the result of rigorous restoration and does not necessarily represent its original shape.

4. Wall fragment (can be a small part of the grave’s northern end. The other trench contained the larger remaining part with the wooden container and the single surviving beam. The second beam was probably overlooked and dug away. A section drawing of the southern end shows that the wooden container had straight walls and a flat bottom (see chapter 3).

5. Physical anthropology
   Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-640/50
FAG phases 5-6
Type: FAG-S-FBA2.1
Length blade: 17.3 cm

FINDS
1. Fragment, pottery
   Find number: 20-1-1
   Find depth: 56.6 cm
   Small, thin pottery fragment with a brown surface and tempered with pottery grid and quartz.

2. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-2-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron plate buckle with a tongue-shaped plate with two (of originally three) domed copper alloy rivets and a carved/dentated rim. Textile remains are preserved on the back side of the plate.

3. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-3-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron counter plate or plate of a plate buckle with one domed copper alloy rivet (of originally three) in the result of rigorous restoration and does not necessarily represent its original shape.

4. Wall fragment (can be a small part of the grave’s northern end. The other trench contained the larger remaining part with the wooden container and the single surviving beam. The second beam was probably overlooked and dug away. A section drawing of the southern end shows that the wooden container had straight walls and a flat bottom (see chapter 3).

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-640/50
FAG phases 5-6
Type: FAG-S-FBA2.1
Length blade: 17.3 cm

FINDS
1. Fragment, pottery
   Find number: 20-1-1
   Find depth: 56.6 cm
   Small, thin pottery fragment with a brown surface and tempered with pottery grid and quartz.

2. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-2-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron plate buckle with a tongue-shaped plate with two (of originally three) domed copper alloy rivets and a carved/dentated rim. Textile remains are preserved on the back side of the plate.

3. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-3-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron counter plate or plate of a plate buckle with one domed copper alloy rivet (of originally three) in the result of rigorous restoration and does not necessarily represent its original shape.

4. Wall fragment (can be a small part of the grave’s northern end. The other trench contained the larger remaining part with the wooden container and the single surviving beam. The second beam was probably overlooked and dug away. A section drawing of the southern end shows that the wooden container had straight walls and a flat bottom (see chapter 3).

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-640/50
FAG phases 5-6
Type: FAG-S-FBA2.1
Length blade: 17.3 cm

FINDS
1. Fragment, pottery
   Find number: 20-1-1
   Find depth: 56.6 cm
   Small, thin pottery fragment with a brown surface and tempered with pottery grid and quartz.

2. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-2-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron plate buckle with a tongue-shaped plate with two (of originally three) domed copper alloy rivets and a carved/dentated rim. Textile remains are preserved on the back side of the plate.

3. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-3-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron counter plate or plate of a plate buckle with one domed copper alloy rivet (of originally three) in the result of rigorous restoration and does not necessarily represent its original shape.

4. Wall fragment (can be a small part of the grave’s northern end. The other trench contained the larger remaining part with the wooden container and the single surviving beam. The second beam was probably overlooked and dug away. A section drawing of the southern end shows that the wooden container had straight walls and a flat bottom (see chapter 3).

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-640/50
FAG phases 5-6
Type: FAG-S-FBA2.1
Length blade: 17.3 cm

FINDS
1. Fragment, pottery
   Find number: 20-1-1
   Find depth: 56.6 cm
   Small, thin pottery fragment with a brown surface and tempered with pottery grid and quartz.

2. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-2-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron plate buckle with a tongue-shaped plate with two (of originally three) domed copper alloy rivets and a carved/dentated rim. Textile remains are preserved on the back side of the plate.

3. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 20-3-1
   Find depth: 58.6 cm
   Iron counter plate or plate of a plate buckle with one domed copper alloy rivet (of originally three) in the result of rigorous restoration and does not necessarily represent its original shape.
21 POSSIBLE INHUMATION GRAVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Grave structure</th>
<th>Grave pit length</th>
<th>Grave pit width</th>
<th>Grave pit depth</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3-1</td>
<td>trench?</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>11 (SW-NE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION
Possible Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners, and contained two wooden beams, which were partly damaged. The presence of beams suggests that the grave initially held a container, but its remains were not found during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

GRAVE GRAVE

22 INHUMATION GRAVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Grave structure</th>
<th>Grave pit length</th>
<th>Grave pit width</th>
<th>Grave pit depth</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>possible wooden container grave</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>345 (SE-NW)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained a wooden container, which held a container, but its remains were not found during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

GRAVE GRAVE

FINDS

Beak, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.1
Location: PDB Limburg
Number: 5
Type: RO35 / Per35.6
Rhineland phase: (570) 670-(640) 705
Location: PDB Limburg

Beak, glass
Find number: 23-1-1.4
Location: PDB Limburg
Number: 5
Type: RO11 / S-Per31.1
Yellow, opaque, cylindrical.
Find number: 23-1-1.5
Rhineland date: (570) 670-(640) 705
Location: PDB Limburg

Beak, glass
Find number: 23-1-1.6
Location: PDB Limburg
Number: 5
Type: BO11 / S-Per35.1
Blue, opaque, cylindrical.
Find number: 23-1-1.7
Rhineland date: (570) 670-(640) 705
Location: PDB Limburg

Bead, amber
Find number: 23-1-1.7
Location: PDB Limburg
Number: 1
Type: A12
Damaged, drop-shaped, diameter: 0.66 cm

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SITTARD-KEMPERKOU

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### 25 INHUMATION GRAVE

**Trench**: 1  
**Grave structure**: wooden container grave  
**Find number**: 24-1-1  
**Location**: PDB Limburg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FAG phases</th>
<th>Rhineland date</th>
<th>Rhineland phases</th>
<th>SK IIa</th>
<th>FAG number</th>
<th>Length:</th>
<th>Width:</th>
<th>Height:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAG phases 5-6: 565-610/20</td>
<td>SK IIa: 565-610/20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FAG phases 7-8: 610/20-670/80</td>
<td>SK IIIa: 640/50-670/80</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAVE DATE</td>
<td>SK III: 565-610/20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F4G phases 5-6</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description**: Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and holds a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. A reopening pit was dug in the centre of the grave, without disturbing the walls of the wooden container. The fragments of the spouted pot, found in the middle of the reopening pit, may have entered the grave when the pit was dug. The grave is part of a cluster of graves (24, 25 and 26), which show traces of reopening pits.

**Pottery vessel**

- **Find number**: 24-1-1  
- **Find depth**: 56.48  
- **Iron lance head with a long oval blade and an open socket with wood remains in its upper part and soil remains in its lower part.**  
- **Length blade**: 19.1 cm  
- **Height**: could not reconstructed  
- **Type**: Siegmund Lan1.4

**Glass vessel**

- **Find number**: 24-2-1  
- **Find depth**: 56.02  
- **Two fitting wall fragments of a glass vessel; light green with small air bubbles.**  
- **Type**: BO19/35 / S-Per 37.1  
- **Diameter base**: 7.5 cm  
- **Height**: could not reconstructed  
- **Location**: PDB Limburg

**Alternative type**: L/P/V 33 (470/80-600/610)  
**Rhineland phases**: 6-8A

**FAG phases**

- **5-6**: 565-610/20  
- **7-8**: 610/20-670/80

**Kombinationsgruppe**

- **Kombinationsgruppe F1**

**Beads**

- **Find number**: 24-3-1  
- **Find depth**: 56.02  
- **Blue, opaque, double conected.**  
- **Location**: PDB Limburg

**Alternative type**: Siegmund Kwt2.32 (530-570)

**Rhineland phases**: 6-10

**Kombinationsgruppe**

- **Kombinationsgruppe G-H**

**Knife, iron**

- **Find number**: 25-1-1  
- **Find depth**: 56.02  
- **One arm of a copper alloy equal armed brooch.**  
- **Diameter end plate**: 1.5 cm  
- **Length**: 2.5 cm  
- **Number**: 1  
- **Type**: BO19/35 / S-Per 37.1  
- **Location**: PDB Limburg

**equal armed brooch, copper alloy**

- **Find number**: 25-2-1  
- **Find depth**: 56.02  
- **One arm of a copper alloy equal armed brooch.**  
- **Diameter end plate**: 1.5 cm  
- **Length**: 2.5 cm  
- **Kombinationsgruppe G-H**  
- **Location**: PDB Limburg

**equal armed brooches**

- **Phase Thörle**: JMII

**Equal armed brooch, copper alloy**

- **Find number**: 25-3-1  
- **Find depth**: 56.02  
- **Yellow, opaque, double connected.**  
- **Location**: PDB Limburg

**Kombinationsgruppe**: (H) I)

**Bead, glass**

- **Find number**: 26-2-1  
- **Find depth**: 56.02  
- **Blue, opaque, barrel shaped.**  
- **Location**: PDB Limburg

**Kombinationsgruppe**: F1

**Bead, glass**

- **Find number**: 26-2-1  
- **Find depth**: 56.02  
- **Blue, opaque, barrel shaped.**  
- **Location**: PDB Limburg

**Kombinationsgruppe**: G-H

**Pottery vessel**

- **Find number**: 26-1-1  
- **Find depth**: 56.22  
- **Knife, iron**  
- **Location**: PDB Limburg

**Kombinationsgruppe**: (H) I)
2. Pottery vessel, lid
Find number: 26-4-1
Find depth: 56.10
Lid of a pot of coarse ware with a light brown/grey surface. A mineralised fragment can be found attached to its interior, and one side of its exterior is slightly darker (caused by the smoke of a cooking fire?). The lid is flat, and has a diameter of 10.8 cm. The maximum diameter of the complete lid is 12.8 cm and its height is 2.4 cm. The base is narrower (9.8 cm) made to fit in a rim groove of a matching pot. This matching pot might have been taken from the grave by the diggers of the reopening pit.
Location: Museum Het Domein

3. Glass vessel
Find number: 26-4-1
Find depth: 56.10
Palm cup of brown/yellow glass with 12 vertical ribs, covering the lower wall, of which four are prolonged forming a cross on the bottom of the cup. Air bubbles are visible and a fragment of the rim and of a matching pot. This matching pot might have been taken from the grave by the diggers of the reopening pit.
Location: Museum Het Domein

4. Lance head, iron
Find number: 26-4-1
Find depth: 56.10
Iron lance head with a small oval blade with mid rib and a closed socket. Length blade: 10.3 cm
Type: FAG S-Lan2.1
FAG phase: 6-4
FAG date: 585-610
Alternative type: Siegmund Gür4.1
Rhineland phase: 7
Rhineland date: 585-610
Location: PDB Limburg

5. Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 26-4-1
Find depth: 56.10
Iron counter plate with a round/oval plate and three copper alloy rivets. Textile or leather remains are attached to its interior, and one side of its exterior with two (of originally four?) small copper alloy rivets.
Location: Museum Het Domein

6. Sword, iron
Find number: 26-6-1
Find depth: 56.6
Iron sword with copper alloy trapezium shaped pommel, wood bosses remain around the iron hilt core, and wood leather scabbard remains on the blade.
Length blade: 75.0 cm
Height pommel: 5.3 cm
Length pommel: 3.8 cm
Type: FAG Type 7
FAG phases: 6
FAG date: 585-610
Alternative type: Menghin 1983 (c. 520-610)
Location: PDB Limburg

27. DISCARDED CONTEXT

Trench 1

DESCRIPTION
Discarded context. A possible burial pit is displayed on drawing number 18515. From drawing number 18512, which contains the complete cemetery plan, grave 27 is removed. According to Zoetbrood the feature seemed to be a grave at first sight, but turned out to be only a slight soil discoloration during further investigations.
**28 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench** 3 and 6

**Grave structure** trench grave

**Grave pit length** 259

**Grave pit width** 118

**Grave pit depth** 29

**Orientation** S (50°) / 140 (W-NW)

**DESCRIPTION**

**Museumium information grave.** The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners. Grave 28 was excavated in trench 3 and trench 6. Signs of grave structures or skeletal remains were not found in both excavated parts.

**GRAVE DATE**

SK 18: 565-660/50

FAG phases 5-7: 565-640/50

**FINDS**

**Pottery vessel** impressions. The pot was found in fragmented parts. Approximately 85% of the pot is present. Height: 11.4 cm

Type: S-Kw1.3

Rhineland phases 6-7

Rhineland date: 570-610

Location: PDB Limburg

**Alternative type**: FAG Kwt1.3 (2050-460/40)

**Alternative type decoration**: L/P/V 413 (570-610)

**Lance head, iron**

Find number: 28-3-1

Find depth: 56.37 cm

Iron lance head with a small oval blade and a closed socket with wood remains of the shaft. Length: 25.0 cm

Rhineland date: 585-705

Rhineland phase: 7

Type: S-Lan2.1-2.5

Location: Museum Het Domein

**Knife, iron**

Find number: 29-2-1

Find depth: 56.37 cm

Iron knife of which the blade is missing. It has a small oval blade and a closed socket with wood remains of the shaft. Length: 25.0 cm

Rhineland date: 585-705

Rhineland phase: 7

Type: S-Lan2.1-2.5

Location: Museum Het Domein

**Stone**

Find number: 29-3-1

Find depth: 56.37 cm

A stone with rounded fragments of rectangular stone Impressions. The stone was found in fragmental condition, the fragments are glued together, the missing parts are not completed. Approximately 85% of the stone is present. Height: 15.2 cm

Type: S-Kw1.1

Rhineland phases 6-7

Rhineland date: 570-610

Location: PDB Limburg

**Alternative type**: FAG Kwt1.3 (2050-460/40)

**Alternative type decoration**: L/P/V 413 (570-610)

**DESCRIPTION**

**Possible grave.** Context 19 contains only a cluster of finds. The finds seem to be part of a grave’s inventory, but traces of a burial pit or other grave features were not found. The fact that the finds were not found in situ suggests that the associated grave was either disturbed, which caused the absence of grave structures and the movement of the finds from their original location, or that the finds were deposited in a small pit, for a number of reasons now unknown to us.

**GRAVE DATE**

SK 18: 565-660/50

FAG phases 5-7: 565-640/50

**FINDS**

**Pottery vessel**

Find number: 28-1-1

Find depth: 56.90 cm

Iron lance head with a long oval to diamond shaped blade and a closed socket with wood remains of the shaft. Length: 23.0 cm

Type: Siegmund Lan2.2

Rhineland phases 6-7

Rhineland date: 610-640

Rhineland phase: 8

Type: Siegmund Gür4.3

Length blade: 22.0 cm

Base diameter: 6.0 cm

Location: PDB Limburg

**Knife, iron**

Find number: 29-1-1

Find depth: 56.37 cm

Iron knife of which the blade is missing. It has a small oval blade and a closed socket with wood remains of the shaft. Length: 25.0 cm

Rhineland date: 610-640

Rhineland phase: 8

Location: Museum Het Domein

**Stone**

Find number: 29-2-1

Find depth: 56.37 cm

A stone with remains of a stone knife. Length Blade: 5.0 cm

Location: PDB Limburg

**BELT FITTINGS**

**Belt fitting, copper alloy**

Find number: 23-3-1

Find depth: 65.37 cm

A belt fitting made from copper alloy. Length: 55.7 cm

Width: 5.0 cm

Location: PDB Limburg
Inhumation grave

**Grave Structure**

- Wooden chamber grave with two wooden containers (coffins)
- Grave pit dimensions: length 313 cm, width 114 cm, depth 61 cm
- Orientation: S-N

**Description**

- Wooden coffin that held the body
- Two wooden beams
- Outer container was the wooden chamber supported by two wooden beams
- The second, inner container was the wooden coffin that held the body

**Physical Anthropology**

Not suitable for examination.

**Grave Date**

- FAG phases 6-7: 580/90-640/50
- SK IIc: 580/90-640/50
- Grave date: Not suitable for examination.

**Find List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Find number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30-1-1</td>
<td>Lancehead, iron</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-1-2</td>
<td>Iron knife with grooves; the tip is missing</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-1-3</td>
<td>Iron knife with grooves; the tip is missing</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-1-4</td>
<td>Iron knife with grooves; the tip is missing</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-1-5</td>
<td>Iron knife with grooves; the tip is missing</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-2-1</td>
<td>Iron lancehead</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-2-2</td>
<td>Iron lancehead</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-2-3</td>
<td>Iron lancehead</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-2-4</td>
<td>Iron lancehead</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-1</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-2</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-3</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-4</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-5</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-6</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-7</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-8</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-9</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-3-10</td>
<td>Iron back plate, rectangular, with four domed copper alloy rivets</td>
<td>610-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-4-1</td>
<td>Iron axe with wood remains of the hilt and leather remains of the scabbard</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-4-2</td>
<td>Iron axe with wood remains of the hilt and leather remains of the scabbard</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-4-3</td>
<td>Iron axe with wood remains of the hilt and leather remains of the scabbard</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-4-4</td>
<td>Iron axe with wood remains of the hilt and leather remains of the scabbard</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-4-5</td>
<td>Iron axe with wood remains of the hilt and leather remains of the scabbard</td>
<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
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<td>580-640</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Catalogues of Contexts and Finds**

Skibbe 1985: 390-400

**Sittard-Kemperkoul**

**Catalogues of Contexts and Finds**

8
INHUMATION GRAVE

FINDS

1 Seax, iron
Find number: 31-1-1
Find depth: 55.63
Length blade: 11.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.3
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

2 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 32-2-2.1
Find depth: 55.68
Length: 8.4 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

3 Belt fitting, copper alloy
Find number: 31-3-1
Find depth: 55.54
Length: 4.8 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

4 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 31-1-1
Find depth: 55.68
Length: 8.4 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

5 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 31-1-2
Find depth: 55.63
Length: 7.6 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

5 Belt fitting, copper alloy
Find number: 31-3-1
Find depth: 55.54
Length: 4.8 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

6 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 31-3-1
Find depth: 55.54
Length: 4.8 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

7 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 31-3-1
Find depth: 55.54
Length: 4.8 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

DAG phases: (6)7-8 (9)
SK IID: 610/20-640/50
grave date
south-north.
finds suggest that the orientation of the body was
observed inside the coffin, but the locations of the
body. Body silhouettes or human remains were not
was probably the wooden coffin that held the
two wooden beams. The second, inner container
containers and two wooden beams. The outer
container was the wooden chamber supported by two
wooden beams. The inner container was probably the wooden coffin that held the
body. Body silhouettes or human remains were not
observed inside the coffin, but the locations of the findings suggest that the orientation of the body was
south-north.

GRAVE DATE

SK IID: 610/20-640/50
FAG phases: 7-8, 610/20-670/80

LOCATION: MUSEUM HET DOMEIN

INHUMATION GRAVE

Find number: 31-3-3
Find depth: 55.63
Length: 10.3 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

Belt fitting, copper alloy
Find number: 31-3-1
Find depth: 55.54
Length: 4.8 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

fire steel, iron
Find number: 31-3-1
Find depth: 55.54
Length: 4.8 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

Iron mount, iron
Find number: 31-3-1
Find depth: 55.68
Length: 5.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

Iron plate buckle with a tongue shaped plate and
metal/leather remains attached to it. Two rivets (of
originally three?) are visible. Corrosion connected a
strap end and the plate buckle. The fittings seem to
be part of a sword belt.

Maximum length belt loop: 4.1 cm
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

Iron seax with grooves on both sides of the blade.

Length blade: 79.6 cm
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

Iron knife with a curve

Length blade: 39.5 cm
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

Iron sword, severely corroded, with mineralised
leather or wood of the scabbard covering the entire
blade.

Length: 79.6 cm
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 31-3-2
Find depth: 55.68
Length: 11.7 cm
Type: Siegmund Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg

Iron fire steel, triangular base shape with curved
extremities.

Maximum length buckle loop: 4.1 cm
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Suspension Gür 3.5 (on the basis of the main belt fittings: 31-3-1, 31-3-4 and 31-3-5)
Grave number: 31
Location: PDB Limburg
32 INHUMATION GRAVE

TRUNCH

Grave structure: wooden chamber grave with a partition wall.

Grave pit length: 155 cm
Grave pit width: 57 cm
Grave pit depth: 90 cm
Orientation: 45° (SE-NNW)

DESCRIPTION

The rectangular inhumation grave. The location of the beads suggests that the grave’s orientation was south-north, but this remains uncertain since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden chamber with a possible partition wall. The location of the beads implies that the body of the deceased was placed in the western part of the grave. The wooden chamber is supported by two wooden beams. The northern beam was dug into the burial pit’s eastern wall. There is a possibility that the southern beam was not divided by a partition wall but that these traces indicate the original presence of a second wooden container, probably the coffin, which held the body.

GRAVE DATE

SK TB: 1654-64/50
Field phases 1-3: 1654-64/50

FINDS

1. Bead, amber
   Find number: 32-1-1.1
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Almond shaped, diameter: 2.3 cm
   Type: A40
   Number: 1
   Location: PDB Limburg

2. Bead, glass
   Find number: 32-1-1.1
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Yellow, opaque, ring shaped.
   Number: 1
   Type: YO3 / S-Per 33.1
   Location: PDB Limburg

3. Bead, glass
   Find number: 32-1-1.1
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Blue, opaque, ring shaped.
   Number: 1
   Type: BO19
   Location: PDB Limburg

4. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 32-1-2
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Spouted pot with a dark grey surface and orange wall core. The upper wall is decorated with multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The pot is partly restored. 3 restored parts of 5 bone fragments.
   Height: 20.0 cm
   Type: Siegmund Kwt3.23
   Rhineland phase: 8
   Location: PDB Limburg

5. Bead, glass
   Find number: 32-1-1.2
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Yellow, opaque, ring shaped.
   Number: 1
   Type: RT28
   Location: PDB Limburg

6. Bead, glass
   Find number: 32-1-1.2
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Blue, opaque, barrel shaped.
   Number: 1
   Type: BO19
   Location: PDB Limburg

7. Bead, glass
   Find number: 32-1-1.2
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Red/brown, transparent, barrel shaped, ribbed.
   Number: 1
   Location: PDB Limburg

8. Bead, glass
   Find number: 32-1-1.3
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Red/brown, transparent, barrel shaped, ribbed.
   Number: 1
   Location: PDB Limburg

BEADS

1. Bead, amber
   Find number: 32-1-1.1
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Almond shaped, diameter: 2.3 cm
   Type: A40
   Number: 1
   Location: PDB Limburg

2. Bead, glass
   Find number: 32-1-1.1
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Yellow, opaque, ring shaped.
   Number: 1
   Type: YO3 / S-Per 33.1
   Location: PDB Limburg

3. Bead, glass
   Find number: 32-1-1.1
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Blue, opaque, barrel shaped.
   Number: 1
   Type: BO19
   Location: PDB Limburg

4. Bead, glass
   Find number: 32-1-1.3
   Find depth: 157 cm
   Red/brown, transparent, barrel shaped, ribbed.
   Number: 1
   Location: PDB Limburg

Pottery vessel
Find number: 32-1-2
Find depth: 157 cm
Spouted pot with a dark grey surface and orange wall core. The upper wall is decorated with multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The pot is partly restored. 3 restored parts of 5 bone fragments.
Height: 20.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.23
Rhineland phase: 8
Location: PDB Limburg

32
33 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave number: 33
Grave pit depth: 0
Grave pit width: 0
Grave pit length: 0
Grave structure: Wooden container grave

FINDS

1. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 33-1-1
   Find depth: 0

2. Biconical pot with a rounded carination and a brown surface and orange wall core. The upper wall is decorated with multiple stamp impressions of vertical undulating (z-like) lines in between two zones of grooves. The pot was found in fragmented condition; the fragments are glued together and missing parts are partly completed. Approximately 55% of the pot is preserved; parts of the wall and rim are missing.
   Height: 9.8 cm
   Diameter: 6 cm
   Diameter of rim: 7 cm
   Type: FAG Kwt5D
   FAG date: 580/90-640/50
   FAG phases: 6-7
   Location: PDB Limburg

3. Biconical pot with a grey surface and a light brown/orange wall core. The upper wall is decorated with multiple stamp impressions of triangular roulette stamp impressions. The pot was found in a fragmented condition; the fragments are glued together and missing parts are partly completed. Approximately 55% of the pot is preserved.
   Height: 9 cm
   Diameter: 6 cm
   Diameter of rim: 7 cm
   Type: FAG Kwt2.33
   FAG date: 580/90-640/50
   FAG phases: 6-7
   Location: PDB Limburg

4. Find number: 33-1-3
   Location: PDB Limburg
   Grave date: 580/90-640/50
   FAG phases: 6-7
   Type: FAG Kwt5D
   Height: not reconstructed
   Alternative type: FAG S-Lan2.1 (565-620)
   Rhineland date: 7-8A
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
   Rhineland date: 600-640
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt4.11
   Rhineland date: 565-620
   Rhineland phases: 5-7
   Location: PDB Limburg

34 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave number: 34
Grave pit depth: 0
Grave pit width: 0
Grave pit length: 0
Grave structure: Wooden container grave

FINDS

1. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 34-1-1
   Find depth: 0

2. Biconical pot with a rounded carination and a brown surface and orange wall core. The upper wall is decorated with multiple stamp impressions of vertical undulating (z-like) lines in between two zones of grooves. The pot was found in fragmented condition; the fragments are glued together and missing parts are partly completed. Approximately 55% of the pot is preserved; parts of the wall and rim are missing.
   Height: 9.8 cm
   Diameter: 6 cm
   Diameter of rim: 7 cm
   Type: FAG Kwt5D
   FAG date: 580/90-640/50
   FAG phases: 6-7
   Location: PDB Limburg

3. Biconical pot with a grey surface and a light brown/orange wall core. The upper wall is decorated with multiple stamp impressions of triangular roulette stamp impressions. The pot was found in a fragmented condition; the fragments are glued together and missing parts are partly completed. Approximately 55% of the pot is preserved.
   Height: 9 cm
   Diameter: 6 cm
   Diameter of rim: 7 cm
   Type: FAG Kwt2.33
   FAG date: 580/90-640/50
   FAG phases: 6-7
   Location: PDB Limburg

4. Find number: 34-1-3
   Location: PDB Limburg
   Grave date: 580/90-640/50
   FAG phases: 6-7
   Type: FAG Kwt5D
   Height: not reconstructed
   Alternative type: FAG S-Lan2.1 (565-620)
   Rhineland date: 7-8A
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
   Rhineland date: 600-640
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt4.11
   Rhineland date: 565-620
   Rhineland phases: 5-7
   Location: PDB Limburg

5. Find number: 34-2-3
   Location: PDB Limburg
   Grave date: 580/90-640/50
   FAG phases: 6-7
   Type: FAG Kwt5D
   Height: not reconstructed
   Alternative type: FAG S-Lan2.1 (565-620)
   Rhineland date: 7-8A
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
   Rhineland date: 600-640
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt4.11
   Rhineland date: 565-620
   Rhineland phases: 5-7
   Location: PDB Limburg

6. Find number: 34-2-4
   Location: PDB Limburg
   Grave date: 580/90-640/50
   FAG phases: 6-7
   Type: FAG Kwt5D
   Height: not reconstructed
   Alternative type: FAG S-Lan2.1 (565-620)
   Rhineland date: 7-8A
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
   Rhineland date: 600-640
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt4.11
   Rhineland date: 565-620
   Rhineland phases: 5-7
   Location: PDB Limburg

7. Find number: 34-2-6
   Location: PDB Limburg
   Grave date: 580/90-640/50
   FAG phases: 6-7
   Type: FAG Kwt5D
   Height: not reconstructed
   Alternative type: FAG S-Lan2.1 (565-620)
   Rhineland date: 7-8A
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
   Rhineland date: 600-640
   Rhineland phases: end 7-8
   Type: Siegmund Kwt4.11
   Rhineland date: 565-620
   Rhineland phases: 5-7
   Location: PDB Limburg
**36** INHUMATION GRAVE

**Trench** 1
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 143
Grave pit width: 143
Grave pit depth: 33
Orientation: 335° (NE-SW)

**DESCRIPTION**
Mesoromanian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably north-south, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The northern part was excavated at an oblique angle. The grave was probably rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The presence of beams suggests that the grave initially held a container, but its remains were not found during excavation.

**GRAVE DATE**
SK IIb: 565-640
FAG phases 5-6: 565-640/10

**FINDS**

- **37-2-1, 2, 3, 4**
  - Axe, iron
  - Belt fitting, iron
  - Iron rectangular back plate with one domed copper alloy rivet.
  - Indeterminate fragment, iron

- **37-2-5**
  - Iron remains at its back side.
  - Iron fire steel with a slight triangular base shape and grooves. Found in fragmented condition; a complete reconstruction was not possible.
  - Fragment of an iron plate buckle; the plate is for the arm of an iron pair of shears or the blade of a knife (attached to pair of shears 37-2-6.1.)

- **37-2-6.1, 6.2**
  - Knife, iron
  - Fragment of an iron knife: fragment of the blade (attached to pair of shears 37-2-6.1.)

- **37-2-7, 8**
  - Fire steel, iron
  - Beak knife, iron
  - Fragment of an iron plate buckle; the plate is for the larger part mining. The blade has an oval loop with iron shield tongue. The three domed copper alloy rivets that were found apart were probably part of this plate buckle.
  - Length: 9.2 cm
  - Location: PDB Limburg

- **37-2-8**
  - Fragment of an iron knife: fragment of the blade (attached to pair of shears 37-2-6.1.)

- **37-3-1, 2, 3, 4**
  - Stone axe, iron
  - Belt fitting, iron
  - Iron remains at its back side.
  - Iron fire steel with a slight triangular base shape and grooves. Found in fragmented condition; a complete reconstruction was not possible.
  - Fragment of an iron plate buckle; the plate is for the arm of an iron pair of shears or the blade of a knife (attached to pair of shears 37-2-6.1.)

- **37-2-9**
  - Knife, iron
38

INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 2
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit length 22.1
Grave pit width 144
Grave pit depth 13
Orientation 345 (SE-NW)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams.

GRAVE DATE
SK II: chronological indifferent
FAG phases 3-9: 460/80-700/10

FINDS
1 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 38-2-1
Find depth: 56.24
No drawing/object available. The two arrow heads assigned to grave 38 are recorded on the field drawing as find number 38-2. The missing arrow head is in the thesis of Zoetbrood described as having an open socket.

Type: L/P/V 23/24
L/P/V phases: PM-MA3
L/P/V date: 440/50-600/10
Location: Museum Het Domein

2 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 38-2-2
Find depth: 56.24
Iron arrow head with a closed socket with wood remains of the shaft. The size and shape of the grave indicate that it could not have contained a body in extended position. It is therefore assumed that this grave was either the grave of a child or a burial pit containing reburied remains. It contained finds that can be associated with both the burial of a child and adult. The grave was placed at the possible head-end of grave 47.

Grave date
SK IIb: 580/90-640/50
FAG phases 6-7: 580/90-640/50

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 39-1-1
Find depth: 56.37
Orange bottle found in fragmented condition. The fragments are glued together and missing parts completed. The result is a rather asymmetrical bottle which, however, represents its original shape.

Height: 24.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Fla1.1
Rhineland phase: 8
Rhineland date: 610-640
Alternative type: FAG S-Fla1.1 (565-640/50)
Alternative type: Koch-Fledderus 2001 form D (565-640)
Location: PDB Limburg

2 Seax, iron
Find number: 39-2-1
Find depth: 56.18
Small iron seax with a straight back.

Blade length: 18.5 cm
Type: FAG Sax1
FAG phases: (end 3) 4-5 (7)
FAG date: (510) 510/25-580/90 (640/50)
Alternative type: Siegmund Sax1 (530-610)
Location: PDB Limburg

3 Shears, iron
Find number: 39-3-1
Find depth: 35.2
Iron pair of shears.
Length: 18.3 cm
Type: L/P/V 335
L/P/V phases: MA4-MR3
L/P/V date: 470/60-700/10
Location: Museum Het Domein

39

INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit length 119
Grave pit width 116
Grave pit depth 18
Orientation 358 (S-N)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The burial pit was square with slightly rounded corners and held a square wooden container. The size and shape of the grave indicate that it could not have contained a body in extended position. It is therefore assumed that this grave was either the grave of a child or a burial pit containing reburied remains. It contained finds that can be associated with both the burial of a child and adult.

GRAVE DATE
SK IIc: 580/90-640/50
FAG phases 6-7: 580/90-640/50

FINDS
1 Lance head, iron
Find number: 40-1-1
Find depth: 56.38
Iron lance head with a long oval blade and a closed socket with wood remains of the shaft.

Length blade: 28.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Lan2.4
Rhineland phases: 8B-10
Rhineland date: 635-705
Alternative type: L/P/V 36 (630/40-660/670)
Alternative type: FAG S-Lan2.4 (510/20-710)
Location: PDB Limburg

2 Flint
Find number: 40-2-1
Find depth: 5.5 cm
Location: PDB Limburg
41 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1
Grave structure: possible wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 140
Grave pit width: 131
Grave pit depth: 7.0 (S-N)
Orientation: 1

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. The presence of beams suggests that the grave initially held a container, but its remains were not found during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-640/90
FAG phase: 7-610/20-640/90

FINDS
1) Axe, iron
Find number: 41-1-1
Find depth: 56.54
Iron axe, with a nearly straight back.
Blade length: 31.2 cm
Type: Siegmund Sax1
Length loop: 5.1 cm
Find number: 41-1-1
Location: PDB Limburg

2) Knife, iron
Find number: 41-1-2
Find depth: 56.54
Iron knife with a curved back, found attached to a pair of shears.
Length blade: 11.7 cm
Location: PDB Limburg

3) Shears, iron
Find number: 41-1-3
Find depth: 56.54
The parts of two blades of an iron pair of shears. The head is gone. A knive is attached to the shears.
Length: 16.4 cm
Type: L/P/V phase 3
L/P/V phase: MA4-MR3
L/P/V date: 470/80-700/10
Location: PDB Limburg

4) Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 41-1-4
Find depth: 56.54
Iron loop, attached to a pair of shears and a knife; it might be a part of the loop of a simple oval buckle.
Location: PDB Limburg

5) Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 41-1-5
Find depth: 56.54
Iron plate buckle with a tongue shaped plate with two (of originally three?) domed copper alloy rivets with corroded/damaged rims. The plate is for a large part complete, it is uncertain what the original shape of this plate actually was. The D-shaped buckle loop has an iron shield tongue.
Length plate: 7.0 cm
Maximum length loop: 5.1 cm
Type: Siegmund/Gür 5
Rhineland phase: 6A
Rhineland date: 610/20-655
Alternative type: FAG Sna. 1.1
Rhineland phase: 7-8A
FAG phases 7-8:
SK IIIa: 640/50-670/80
SK IIIb: 670/80-700/10

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-640/90
FAG phase: 7-610/20-640/90

42 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1
Grave structure: wooden chamber grave
Grave pit length: 260
Grave pit width: 101
Grave pit depth: 9
Orientation: 21 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular, fairly narrow, with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden beams and at least one wooden beam. The outer container was a wooden coffin that held the body and was placed on two wooden beams. The northern half of the grave was disturbed by a wooden chamber supported by wooden container placed on two wooden beams. The southern end of the grave was not found during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-670/80
FAG phases 7-8: 610/20-640/90

43 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1
Grave structure: wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
Grave pit length: 135
Grave pit width: 89
Grave pit depth: 9
Orientation: 11 (S-N)
Stratigraphic relation: below context 44

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was south-north in view of the skull remains that were recorded in the southern end of the grave. The burial pit was rectangular, fairly narrow, with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden beams. The northern half of the grave was disturbed by an iron container was a wooden coffin that held the body and was placed in the western half of the chamber. The northern half of the grave was disturbed by grave 44. Grave 43 is older than grave 44.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-670/80
FAG phases 7-8: 610/20-640/90

43 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1
Grave structure: wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
Grave pit length: 135
Grave pit width: 89
Grave pit depth: 9
Orientation: 11 (S-N)
Stratigraphic relation: below context 44

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular, fairly narrow, with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden beams. The northern half of the grave was disturbed by an iron container was a wooden coffin that held the body and was placed in the western half of the chamber. The northern half of the grave was disturbed by grave 44. Grave 43 is older than grave 44.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
SK III: 610/20-670/80
FAG phases 7-8: 610/20-640/90

FINDS
1) Belt fitting, copper alloy
Find number: 43-0-1
Find depth: 56.54
The extremity of a copper alloy equal armed brooch is attached to an ensemble of corroded objects.

2) Coin, copper alloy
Find number: 43-0-2
Find depth: 56.54
The extremity of a copper alloy equal armed brooch is attached to a coin with carved/dentated rims. The head is gone. A knife is attached to the shears.

3) Coin, copper alloy
Find number: 43-0-3
Find depth: 56.54
Iron links of a chain attached to an ensemble of corroded objects.

4) Coin, copper alloy
Find number: 43-0-4
Find depth: 56.54
Iron links of a chain attached to an ensemble of corroded objects.

5) Coin, copper alloy
Find number: 43-0-5
Find depth: 56.54
Iron links of a chain attached to a coin with carved/dentated rims. The head is gone. A knife is attached to the shears.

6) Coin, copper alloy
Find number: 43-0-6
Find depth: 56.54
Iron links of a chain attached to an ensemble of corroded objects.

7) Coin, copper alloy
Find number: 43-0-7
Find depth: 56.54
Iron links of a chain attached to an ensemble of corroded objects.

8) Coin, copper alloy
Find number: 43-0-8
Find depth: 56.54
Iron links of a chain attached to an ensemble of corroded objects.
44 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave
1
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit width 175
Grave pit depth 69
Orientection 25 (NW-SE)
Stratigraphic relation above context 43

DESCRIPTION
Moving bone inhumation grave. The location of beads suggests that the grave's orientation was north-south, but we cannot be certain of this since the grave was only partially excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on at least one wooden beam. The northern end of the grave was dug away by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. The grave cuts and disturbed the northern half of grave 43. It is clear that grave 44 is superimposed on grave 43 and in turn may contain finds that originally belonged to this older grave. Some of the beads in grave 44 seem to have moved from their original location.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS

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<td>White, opaque, short cylindrical. Decoration: yellow opaque edge and middle bands with white, blue transparent and black swirling threads</td>
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<td>Grinding stone</td>
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<td>Length: 6.8 cm</td>
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<td>Location: FOB Limburg</td>
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INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench | 45
Grave structure | wooden container grave
Grave pit length | 233
Grave pit width | 246
Grave pit depth | 11
Orientation | S-W/N-E
Stratigraphic relation | above context 46

DESCRIPTION

Wooden container grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. The grave's slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. The grave's slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. The grave's slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. The grave's slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. The grave's slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. The grave's slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. The grave's slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. 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48

INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 48
Grave structure: wooden-chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
Grave pit length: 166
Grave pit width: 157
Grave pit depth: 35
Orientation: 16 (SW-NW)

DESCRIPTION

Micronometric information grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only one long bone silhouette was discovered during excavation. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden containers and two wooden beams. The outer container was the wooden chamber supported by two wooden beams. The second, inner container was the wooden coffin that held the body. It contained the silhouette of a long bone, probably of the upper or lower right leg. A remark on the field drawing states that the pottery shards were found scattered throughout the grave's fill.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE

Cannot be dated.

FINDS

1 Nail, iron
   Find number: 48-1-1
   Find depth: 15.8
   Fragment of an iron nail, probably a coffin nail
   Length: 2.6 cm
   Location: PDB Limburg

3 Pottery, fragments.
   Find number: 48-5-1
   Find depth: 15.77
   Location: missing

6 Human remains
   Find number: 48-6-1
   Find depth: 15.77
   Imprint of a long bone recorded on the field drawing.
   Location: not relevant

49

INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 49
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 280
Grave pit width: 169
Grave pit depth: 37
Orientation: 1 (S-N)

DESCRIPTION

Micronometric information grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. Grave 49 was excavated in trench 2 and trench 6. Only the part in trench 2 contained finds. These finds seem to be found in situ.

GRAVE DATE

SK III: 610/20-640/70
FAG phases 6/6: 610/20-670/80

FINDS

1 Pottery, vessel
   Find number: 49-1-1
   Find depth: 15.9
   Beaker with a grey, considerably weathered, surface. It was found in fragmented condition but is now restored.
   Height: 8.3 cm
   Location: Museum Hot Doming.

2 Lance head, iron
   Find number: 49-2-1
   Find depth: 56.75
   Iron lance head, heavily restored, with a long oval blade and a closed socket with wood remains of the shaft.
   Blade length: 21.0 cm
   Type: Siegmund Lan2.4
   Rhineland phase: 6-7
   Rhineland date: 560-570
   Alternative type: FAG Kwt3 (510/20-580/20)
   Rhineland phase: 4
   Rhineland date: 550-570

3 Pottery, vessel
   Find number: 49-3-1
   Find depth: 56.53
   Beaker with a grey, considerably weathered, surface. Some missing parts are filled up.
   Height: 20.6 cm
   Type: FAG Kwt3 (510/20-580/20)
   Rhineland phase: 6-7
   Rhineland date: 550-570
   Alternative type: FAG Kwt3 (510/20-580/20)
   Rhineland phase: 4
   Rhineland date: 550-570

4 Shield boss, iron
   Find number: 49-4-1.1
   Find depth: 56.43
   Iron shield boss with four domed copper alloy stents on the flange and a flattened convex cone.
   Height: 17.5 cm
   Diameter: 17.3 cm
   Type: FAG Sbu5A
   FAG phases: 9
   FAG date: 580-720
   Alternative type: FAG Sbu5A (670-690)
   FAG phases: 9
   FAG date: 580-720
   Alternative type: FAG Sbu5A (670-690)
   FAG phases: 9
   FAG date: 580-720
   Location: PDB Limburg

5 Indeterminate flat iron fragment.
   Length: 5.0 cm
   Location: PDB Limburg

6 Iron, fragment
   Find number: 49-5-3
   Find depth: 56.53
   Iron fragment with a copper alloy stent attached to it. One edge is rounded, it was probably a part of a belt plate. Leather remains seem to be present at the back of the plate.
   Length: 5.0 cm
   Location: PDB Limburg

7 Beaker with a grey, considerably weathered, surface. Some missing parts are filled up.
   Height: 20.6 cm
   Type: FAG Kwt3 (510/20-580/20)
   Rhineland phase: 6-7
   Rhineland date: 550-570
   Alternative type: FAG Kwt3 (510/20-580/20)
   Rhineland phase: 4
   Rhineland date: 550-570
   Location: PDB Limburg

40-2-1.1
40-2-1.2
40-2-1.3
49-2-1
49-2-2
49-2-3
49-2-4
49-2-5
49-2-6
49-2-7
49-2-8
49-2-9
49-2-10
49-2-11
50  INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1
Grave structure possible wooden container grave
Grave pit width 135
Grave pit depth 7
Orientation 355 (S-N)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since it was only partially excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained a wooden beam. The presence of this beam suggests that the grave contained a wooden container. In remains were, however, not found during excavation, as is also indicated on the section drawing of the southern end of the grave.

GRAVE DATE
SK III. 640–750
Rhineland phases 8–11
Type: FAG Kwt5A (640–750)
Location: PDB Limburg

FINDS
1. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 49-5-1
   Location: PDB Limburg
   Height: 13.0 cm
   Diameter: 15.3
   Type: SK IIa: 565–610/20
   Alternate type: FAG Kwt5A (640–750)
   Orientation: 45 (SW-NE)

51  INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 4
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit width 118
Grave pit depth 45
Orientation 11 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and a wooden container placed on two wooden beams.

GRAVE DATE
SK III. 640–750
FAG phases 6–10: 640/50–750

FINDS
1. Knife, iron
   Find number: 51-1-1
   Find depth: 55.70
   Type: FAG S-Ger1.3: 640–750
   Rhineland phase: 9–11
   Alternate type: FAG S-Ger1.3: 640–750
   Location: PDB Limburg

52  INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 4
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit width 118
Grave pit depth 45
Orientation 11 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and a wooden container. A section drawing of the grave was made (see chapter 3). This drawing shows that the bottom of the container was concave which indicates that the body was buried in a tree trunk coffin.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Knife, iron
   Find number: 52-1-1
   Find depth: 55.70
   Foldable knife
   Length: 6.4 cm
   Type: SK IIa: 640–750
   Rhineland phase: 9–11
   Alternate type: FAG S-Ger1.3: 640–750
   Location: PDB Limburg

53  INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 4
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit width 118
Grave pit depth 45
Orientation 11 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and a wooden container. A section drawing of the grave was made (see chapter 3). This drawing shows that the bottom of the container was concave which indicates that the body was buried in a tree trunk coffin.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Knife, iron
   Find number: 53-1-1
   Find depth: 55.70
   Foldable knife
   Length: 6.4 cm
   Type: SK IIa: 640–750
   Rhineland phase: 9–11
   Alternate type: FAG S-Ger1.3: 640–750
   Location: PDB Limburg
**54 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Trench 4
Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit width: 126
Grave pit depth: 33
Orientation: 17 (SW-NE)

**DESCRIPTION**

Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a small part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Only the northern end of the grave was excavated. The digging of a gas-pipe trench disturbed the other part of the grave.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**56 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Trench 4
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit width: 131
Grave pit depth: 33

**DESCRIPTION**

Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a small part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Only the northern end of the grave was excavated. The digging of a gas-pipe trench disturbed the other part of the grave.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**55 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Trench 4
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit width: 116
Grave pit depth: 33
Orientation: 17 (SW-NE)

**DESCRIPTION**

Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a small part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Only the northern end of the grave was excavated. The digging of a gas-pipe trench disturbed the other part of the grave.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**57 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Trench 4
Grave structure: wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
Grave pit length: 189
Grave pit width: 129
Grave pit depth: 21
Orientation: 21 (SW-NE)

**DESCRIPTION**

Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a small part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Only the northern end of the grave was excavated. The digging of a gas-pipe trench disturbed the other part of the grave.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**58 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Trench 4
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 189
Grave pit width: 96
Grave pit depth: 19
Orientation: 18 (SW-NE)

**DESCRIPTION**

Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a small part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Only the northern end of the grave was excavated. The digging of a gas-pipe trench disturbed the other part of the grave.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**59 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Trench 4
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 189
Grave pit width: 96
Grave pit depth: 19
Orientation: 18 (SW-NE)

**DESCRIPTION**

Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a small part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Only the northern end of the grave was excavated. The digging of a gas-pipe trench disturbed the other part of the grave.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**58 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Trench 4
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 189
Grave pit width: 96
Grave pit depth: 19
Orientation: 18 (SW-NE)

**DESCRIPTION**

Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a small part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Only the northern end of the grave was excavated. The digging of a gas-pipe trench disturbed the other part of the grave.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**59 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Trench 4
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 189
Grave pit width: 96
Grave pit depth: 19
Orientation: 18 (SW-NE)

**DESCRIPTION**

Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a small part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Only the northern end of the grave was excavated. The digging of a gas-pipe trench disturbed the other part of the grave.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**FINDS**

1. Simple ring, iron
   - Find number: 59-2-1
   - Find depth: 15.97
   - Diameter ring: cannot be established
   - Type: BO19 / S-Per 37.1

2. Earring, silver
   - Find number: 59-2-2
   - Find depth: 15.97
   - Diameter: 2.5 cm
   - Type: RO18 / S-Per 35.6

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**FINDS**

1. Simple ring, iron
   - Find number: 59-2-1
   - Find depth: 15.97
   - Diameter ring: cannot be established
   - Type: BO19 / S-Per 37.1

2. Earring, silver
   - Find number: 59-2-2
   - Find depth: 15.97
   - Diameter: 2.5 cm
   - Type: RO18 / S-Per 35.6
60 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 4
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 186
Grave pit width: 110
Grave pit depth: 13
Orientation: 6 (S-N)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. Wood traces were still present and documented by the excavators. The study began when the excavation trenches were constructed or was overlooked by the excavators.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Bead, glass
   Find number: 60-1-1.1
   Find depth: 18.00
   Bead, glass, barrel shaped. Type: 803-9

2. Bead, amber
   Find number: 60-1-2.1
   Find depth: 18.50
   Bead, amber, barrel shaped. Number: 1
   Type: 903-6 / 594-9
   Kombinationsgruppe: (F-H) I
   Rhineland date: 151-150/140-80
   Location: PDB Limburg

61 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 4
Grave structure: possible wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 186
Grave pit width: 110
Grave pit depth: 13
Orientation: 6 (S-N)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on at least one wooden beam. Grave 61 was excavated in two trenches. In trench 6 only a small part of the grave’s eastern and western traces were still present and documented by the excavators. The southern beam might have been dug away when the excavation trenches were constructed or was overlooked by the excavators.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Bead, amber
   Find number: 61-1-1
   Find depth: 18.16
   Find number: 61-1-2
   Find depth: 18.16
   Flat
   Length: 3.1 cm
   Location: PDB Limburg

62 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 1 and 6
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 239
Grave pit width: 115
Grave pit depth: 33
Orientation: 349 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. Wood traces of the container were still present and documented by the excavators. A wooden pipe trench disturbed the north-western corner of the grave.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Bead, amber
   Find number: 62-1-1
   Find depth: 19.50
   Rectangular Fairford brooch of copper alloy, with remnants of the copper alloy fastener with iron pin on the back side.
   Length: 3.2 cm
   Weight: 2.0 g
   Type: Thörle group XI
   Thörle phases: JM II-JMIII
   Thörle date: 641/2-695
   Location: PDB Limburg

63 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 5
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 235
Grave pit width: 134
Grave pit depth: 38
Orientation: 17 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on a wooden beam. The second beam might have been dug away when the excavation trenches were constructed or was overlooked by the excavators.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Bead, amber
   Find number: 63-1-1
   Find depth: 56.16
   Find number: 63-1-2
   Find depth: 56.16
   Flat
   Length: 3.1 cm
   Number: 1
   Type: A26
   Location: PDB Limburg

64 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 5
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 235
Grave pit width: 134
Grave pit depth: 38
Orientation: 17 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. Wood traces were still present and documented by the excavators. Both beams were dug into the burial pit’s eastern and western walls.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Bead, amber
   Find number: 64-1-1
   Find depth: 55.73
   Recumbent, both sides are flat, slightly damaged at one side.
   L: 4.2 cm
   W: 1.8 cm
   Number: 1
   Type: A26
   Location: PDB Limburg

65 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 5
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 107
Grave pit width: 38
Grave pit depth: 38
Orientation: 14 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. Wood traces were still present and documented by the excavators. Both beams were dug into the burial pit’s eastern and western walls.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Bead, amber
   Find number: 65-1-1
   Find depth: 55.70
   Rectangular Fairford brooch of copper alloy, with remnants of the copper alloy fastener with iron pin on the back side.
   Length: 3.2 cm
   Weight: 2.0 g
   Type: Thörle group XI
   Thörle phases: JM II-JMIII
   Thörle date: 641/2-695
   Location: PDB Limburg

66 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 5
Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 314
Grave pit width: 143
Grave pit depth: 48
Orientation: 10 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained two wooden beams. One of them was clearly visible, the traces of the other beam were rather vague. The presence of beams suggests that the grave initially held a container of which the remains were not discovered during excavation.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1. Bead, amber
   Find number: 66-1-1
   Find depth: 54.70
   Flat
   Length: 2.0 cm
   Number: 1
   Type: A26
   Location: PDB Limburg
69 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 5
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit width 36
Grave pit depth 8
Orientation 15 (SW-NE)
Stratigraphic relation below context 68

DESCRIPTION
Macroscopic information grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. Wood traces were still present and documented by the excavators. Grave 67 is younger than grave 68 and its fill may contain finds from grave 67. The relation between the two graves is clear. The northern half of grave 67 was dug away by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. Grave pit length 233
Grave pit width 170
Grave pit depth 8
Grave structure wooden container grave with a possible partition wall. The wooden container was supported by two wooden beams. Wood traces of the walls were still present and documented by the excavators. There is a possibility that the chamber was not divided by a partition wall, but that the traces indicate the former presence of a second wooden container in which the body was placed. An almost complete body silhouette was found in the western part of the grave, but clear traces of the wooden coffin in which the body was placed were not found. The skull seems to have moved from its original location, which is probably the result of post-depositional processes. The decapitated was positioned on its back in an extended position. The length of the body silhouette (measured from the lower jaw to the feet) was 141 cm, with the head in its original position it would have been c. 20 cm longer.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

67 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 5
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit width 133
Grave pit depth 10
Orientation 15 (SW-NE)
Stratigraphic relation above context 68

DESCRIPTION
Macroscopic information grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on at least one wooden beam. The grave was cut by grave 71 and it is clear that grave 70 is the older feature of the two. The southern half of grave 67 was dug away by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. Grave pit length 26
Grave pit width 170
Grave pit depth 10
Grave structure wooden chamber grave with a possible partition wall. The wooden chamber was supported by two wooden beams. Wood traces of the walls were still present and documented by the excavators. There is a possibility that the chamber was not divided by a partition wall, but that the traces indicate the former presence of a second wooden container in which the body was placed. An almost complete body silhouette was found in the western part of the grave, but clear traces of the wooden coffin in which the body was placed were not found. The skull seems to have moved from its original location, which is probably the result of post-depositional processes. The decapitated was positioned on its back in an extended position. The length of the body silhouette (measured from the lower jaw to the feet) was 141 cm, with the head in its original position it would have been c. 20 cm longer.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

71 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 5
Grave structure wooden chamber grave with wooden container coffin or partition wall
Grave pit length 233
Grave pit width 153
Grave pit depth 50
Orientation 0 (S-N)

DESCRIPTION
Macroscopic information grave. The orientation of the grave is south-north. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden chamber with a possible partition wall. The wooden chamber was supported by two wooden beams. Wood traces of the walls were still present and documented by the excavators. There is a possibility that the chamber was not divided by a partition wall, but that the traces indicate the former presence of a second wooden container in which the body was placed. An almost complete body silhouette was found in the western part of the grave, but clear traces of the wooden coffin in which the body was placed were not found. The skull seems to have moved from its original location, which is probably the result of post-depositional processes. The decapitated was positioned on its back in an extended position. The length of the body silhouette (measured from the lower jaw to the feet) was 141 cm, with the head in its original position it would have been c. 20 cm longer.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

70 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 5
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit width 120
Grave pit depth 2
Orientation 15 (SW-NE)

DESCRIPTION
Macroscopic information grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since only a part of the grave was excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on at least one wooden beam. The grave was cut by grave 67 and it is clear that grave 70 is the older feature of the two. The southern half of grave 67 was dug away by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. Grave pit length 233
Grave pit width 170
Grave pit depth 10
Grave structure wooden container grave with a possible partition wall. The wooden container was supported by two wooden beams. Wood traces of the walls were still present and documented by the excavators. There is a possibility that the chamber was not divided by a partition wall, but that the traces indicate the former presence of a second wooden container in which the body was placed. An almost complete body silhouette was found in the western part of the grave, but clear traces of the wooden coffin in which the body was placed were not found. The skull seems to have moved from its original location, which is probably the result of post-depositional processes. The decapitated was positioned on its back in an extended position. The length of the body silhouette (measured from the lower jaw to the feet) was 141 cm, with the head in its original position it would have been c. 20 cm longer.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Not suitable for examination.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

68 INHUMATION GRAVE

Trench 5
Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit depth 36
Grave pit width 38
Grave pit length 36
Grave pit depth 8
Grave pit width 170
Grave pit length 233
Grave structure wooden container grave with a possible partition wall. The wooden container was supported by two wooden beams. Wood traces of the walls were still present and documented by the excavators. The southern half of the grave was not excavated; it was documented by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

Bead, glass
Find number: 71-5-1.5
Blue, transparent, double connected
Number: 2
Type: WO25 / S-Per 32.2
Kombinationsgruppe: H-E
Rhineland phases: 8-10
Find location: PDB Limburg

Bead, glass
Find number: 71-6-1.3
Orange, opaque, barrel-shaped
Number: 1
Type: Knoch-Schneidem 1977/492
Koch phases: 7-9
Koch phases: 7-9
Koch-Schneidem 855/850/870
Location: PDB Limburg

Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
Rhineland phases: (8) 8-10
Rhineland phase: (7) 710/600
Location: PDB Limburg

Bead, glass
Find number: 71-8-1.4
Red, opaque, long cylindrical Decoration white opaque spiral band
Number: 2
Type: Wührer A.3.1
Wührer phases: AMI-end MP
Wührer date: 450/80-720
Rhineland phases: 8-10
Rhineland date: 560-705
Find location: PDB Limburg

Bead, glass
Find number: 71-8-1.1
Blue, transparent, single connected
Number: 1
Type: Wührer A.3.1
Wührer phases: AMI-end MP
Wührer date: 450/80-720
Rhineland phases: 8-10
Rhineland date: 560-705
Find location: PDB Limburg

Bead, glass
Find number: 71-8-1.2
Blue, transparent, single connected
Number: 2
Type: Wührer A.3.1
Wührer phases: AMI-end MP
Wührer date: 450/80-720
Rhineland phases: 8-10
Rhineland date: 560-705
Find location: PDB Limburg

Bead, glass
Find number: 71-8-1.3
Blue, transparent, triple connected
Number: 1
Type: Wührer A.3.1
Wührer phases: AMI-end MP
Wührer date: 450/80-720
Rhineland phases: 8-10
Rhineland date: 560-705
Find location: PDB Limburg

Bead, glass
Find number: 71-8-1.4
double connected
Number: 1
Type: Wührer A.3.1
Wührer phases: AMI-end MP
Wührer date: 450/80-720
Rhineland phases: 8-10
Rhineland date: 560-705
Find location: PDB Limburg

Bead, glass
Find number: 71-8-1.5
Blue, transparent, triple connected
Number: 1
Type: Wührer A.3.1
Wührer phases: AMI-end MP
Wührer date: 450/80-720
Rhineland phases: 8-10
Rhineland date: 560-705
Find location: PDB Limburg
**72 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench** 2

- **Grave structure**: wooden container grave
- **Grave pit length**: 145
- **Grave pit width**: 115
- **Grave pit depth**: 11
- **Oriention**: 9 (S-N)
- **Stratigraphic relation**: above context 70

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian information grave, possibly of a child. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on two wooden beams.

**GRAVE DATE**

- **SK, FIB**: 690/70-710
- **FAG phase**: 7-9, 800-1000

**FINDS**

- **Bead, glass**: Find number: 72-1-1
- **Finger ring, copper alloy**: Find number: 72-2-1
- **Pottery vessel**: Find number: 72-3-1
- **Spouted pot with one handle and a light brown, considerably weathered, surface**: Find number: 72-4-1

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Wood traces of the container walls were still visible and documented by the excavators. The southern half of the grave was not excavated because it was disturbed by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. Because of this recent disturbance, the overlap between grave 74 and grave 75 could not be identified. However, the orientation of grave 74 (which is compatible to that of grave 46) indicates that it was probably older than grave 75.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**73 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench** 7

- **Grave structure**: wooden container grave
- **Grave pit length**: 245
- **Grave pit width**: 149
- **Grave pit depth**: 27
- **Oriention**: 180 (S-N)

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Wood traces of the container walls were still visible and documented by the excavators. The southern part of the grave was not excavated since it was dug away by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. Because of this recent disturbance, the overlap between grave 74 and grave 75 could not be identified. However, the orientation of grave 74 (which is compatible to that of grave 46) indicates that it was probably older than grave 75.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**74 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench** 5

- **Grave structure**: wooden container grave
- **Grave pit length**: 188
- **Grave pit depth**: 34
- **Oriention**: 180 (S-N)

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Wood traces of the container walls were still visible and documented by the excavators. The southern half of the grave was not excavated because it was disturbed by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. Because of this recent disturbance, the overlap between grave 74 and grave 75 could not be identified. However, the orientation of grave 74 (which is compatible to that of grave 46) indicates that it was probably older than grave 75.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**75 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench** 5

- **Grave structure**: wooden container grave
- **Grave pit length**: 159
- **Grave pit depth**: 27
- **Oriention**: 20 (S-N)

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Wood traces of the container walls were still visible and documented by the excavators. The southern half of the grave was not excavated because it was disturbed by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. Because of this recent disturbance, the overlap between grave 74 and grave 75 could not be identified. However, the orientation of grave 74 (which is compatible to that of grave 46) indicates that it was probably older than grave 75.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**76 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench** 6

- **Grave structure**: wooden container grave
- **Grave pit length**: 110
- **Grave pit depth**: 54
- **Oriention**: 559 (S-N)

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container. Wood traces of the container walls were still visible and documented by the excavators. The southern half of the grave was not excavated because it was disturbed by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. Because of this recent disturbance, the overlap between grave 74 and grave 75 could not be identified. However, the orientation of grave 74 (which is compatible to that of grave 46) indicates that it was probably older than grave 75.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

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**FINDS**

1. **Pottery vessel**: Find number: 76-6-1
- **Find depth**: 56-58
- **Spouted pot with one handle and a light brown, considerably weathered, surface**: Find number: 76-6-1

2. **Glass vessel**: Find number: 76-1-1
- **Find depth**: 56-40
- **Bell beaker with an incised wavy line and a decoration of similar coloured vertical threads (loops) applied on the wall and similar coloured horizontal spiral threads applied underneath the rim. Air bubbles can be observed in the glass and a bottom fragment is missing**: Find number: 76-1-1
- **Height**: 12.5 cm
- **Type**: Maid Sturzbecher A1
- **Maul date**: 550-600
- **Alternative type**: Freyeme T.531 156 (115-600)
- **Alternative type**: Keramik baloun type 6 (MD 7: 380-600)
- **Alternative type**: FAG GBH (C1): 385-400 (600)
- **Location**: Museum Het Domein

3. **Finger ring, copper alloy**: Find number: 76-2-1
- **Find depth**: 56-38
- **Copper alloy finger ring with a flat bead with engraved cross**: Find number: 76-2-1
- **Type**: L/P/V 434
- **L/P/V type**: MA3-MA8
- **L/P/V date**: 580-600
- **Location**: mining
**77 INHUMATION GRAVE**

1. **Trench**: 6
2. **Grave structure**: Wooden container grave
3. **Grave pit length**: 1.84 m
4. **Grave pit width**: 1.39 m
5. **Grave pit depth**: 1.4 m
6. **Ornamentation**: 350 (3-8)

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container.

**GRAVE DATE**

SK III: 565-640/50
FAG phases 5: 565-640/50

**FINDS**

1. Pottery vessel (skull fragment) with a grey surface. The grooves visible on its exterior are production traces.
2. Lance head, iron (skull fragment) with a pointed tip and the shank has a round section. It is re
3. Iron ring rod of which the top is bent and forms a loop. It has a pointed tip and the shank has a rounded section. It is re

**78 INHUMATION GRAVE**

1. **Trench**: 8
2. **Grave structure**: Wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)
3. **Grave pit length**: 2.40 m
4. **Grave pit width**: 1.38 m
5. **Grave pit depth**: 2.2 m
6. **Ornamentation**: 355 (5-8)

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners. Traces of a wooden container or beams were not observed.

**GRAVE DATE**

SK III: 565-640/50
FAG phases 6: 565-640/50

**FINDS**

1. Lance head, iron
2. Ring rod, iron
3. Iron lance head with a long oval blade with mid rib and a closed socket with wood remains of the shaft preserved inside it.
4. Iron ring rod with a rectangular section, function unknown.
5. Iron lance head with a leaf to diamond shaped blade with possibly the presence of a slight mid rib (the manifestation of the mid rib might also be a result of the restoration of the lance head) and a closed socket with wood remains of the shaft preserved inside it.

**Dimensions**

Total length: 34.5 cm
Blade length: 16.5 cm
Diameter: 5.9 cm
## 80 INHUMATION GRAVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Find depth</th>
<th>Find number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
<td>Bead, amber</td>
<td>A15</td>
<td>Almond</td>
<td>55.88</td>
<td>80-1-1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
<td>Bead, amber</td>
<td>A40</td>
<td>Drop shaped</td>
<td>55.88</td>
<td>80-1-1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
<td>Bead, amber</td>
<td>A29</td>
<td>Almond shaped</td>
<td>55.88</td>
<td>80-1-1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PDB Limburg</td>
<td>Bead, amber</td>
<td>A40</td>
<td>Drop shaped</td>
<td>55.88</td>
<td>80-1-1.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Find**: 80-1-1.11. **Find number**: 80-1-1.12. **Find number**: 80-1-1.13. **Find number**: 80-1-1.14. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88.

**Length**: 7.8 cm. **Length**: 7.8 cm. **Length**: 7.8 cm. **Length**: 7.8 cm.

**Find**: Bead, amber. **Find**: Bead, amber. **Find**: Bead, amber. **Find**: Bead, amber.

**Material**: Almond. **Material**: Drop shaped. **Material**: Almond shaped. **Material**: Drop shaped.

**Type**: A15. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A29. **Type**: A40.

**Material**: Almond. **Material**: Drop shaped. **Material**: Almond shaped. **Material**: Drop shaped.

**Find number**: 80-1-1.11. **Find number**: 80-1-1.12. **Find number**: 80-1-1.13. **Find number**: 80-1-1.14. **Find number**: 80-1-1.15. **Find number**: 80-1-1.16. **Find number**: 80-1-1.17. **Find number**: 80-1-1.18. **Find number**: 80-1-1.19. **Find number**: 80-1-1.20. **Find number**: 80-1-1.21. **Find number**: 80-1-1.22. **Find number**: 80-1-1.23.

**Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88.

**Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**: **Bead, amber**.

**Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40. **Type**: A40.

**Find number**: 80-1-1.15. **Find number**: 80-1-1.16. **Find number**: 80-1-1.17. **Find number**: 80-1-1.18. **Find number**: 80-1-1.19. **Find number**: 80-1-1.20. **Find number**: 80-1-1.21. **Find number**: 80-1-1.22. **Find number**: 80-1-1.23. **Find number**: 80-1-1.24. **Find number**: 80-1-1.25. **Find number**: 80-1-1.26.

**Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88. **Find depth**: 55.88.
**81 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench 5**

**Grave structure**: wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin) or partition wall

**Grave pit length**: 2.39

**Grave pit depth**: 0.31

**Occlusion**: 10 (S-N)

**DESCRIPTION**

Mesovarian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectilinear with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden containers or one wooden container with a partition wall. The outer container was the wooden chamber supported by two wooden beams. The possible second container or western part of the chamber divided by the partition wall probably held the body. The northern half of the grave was disturbed by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. It was therefore not possible to establish the exact width of the burial pit and its contents.

**GRAVE DATE**

SK III: 510-640/80-610

**FAG phases**: 5-7: 565-640/50

**FINDS**

**Pottery vessel** Find number: 81-1-1 Find depth: 0.56

- Biconical pot, found in fragmented condition: sherds of the bottom and upper wall are available, fragments of the middle part are missing. Approximately 60% of the pot is present. The fragments have a grey surface. The upper wall of the reconstructed pot is decorated with two rows of three lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. Height: not reconstructed Location: PDB Limburg

- Pottery, fragments Find number: 81-1-6 Find depth: 0.56

  - Fragments of a biconical pot decorated with multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. Height: not reconstructed Location: PDB Limburg

- Pottery fragments Find number: 81-1-5 Find depth: 0.56

  - Fragments (6) of a biconical pot decorated with impressions. Find number: 81-1-4.

**82 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench 5**

**Grave structure**: wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin) or partition wall

**Grave pit depth**: 1.75 (S-N)

**DESCRIPTION**

Mesovarian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since the silhouette of one long bone was found. The burial pit was rectilinear with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden containers, or a wooden container with a partition wall. The container was placed on two wooden beams. The outer container was the wooden chamber supported by these beams. The possible second container or western part of the chamber divided by the partition wall held the body of the deceased. The western and southern ends of the grave were disturbed by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. It was therefore not possible to estimate the size of the burial pit and its contents.

**PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Not suitable for examination.

**GRAVE DATE**

SK I: SK II: 510-640/80-610

**FAG phases**: 4-7: 510/25-640/50

**FINDS**

1. Belt fitting, copper alloy Find number: 82-1-1 Find depth: 0.68 Copper alloy plate buckle with a rectangular plate and an oval buckle loop. The tongue is missing. Length plate: 3.4 cm Maximum loop length: 2.1 cm Location: Museum Het Domink

2. Pottery, fragment Find number: 82-1-2 Find depth: 0.72

**81-1-1**

**81-1-1**

**81-1-1**
**INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Trench** 5

**Grave structure** wooden chamber grave with wooden container (coffin)

**Grave pit length** 58 cm

**Grave pit depth** 49 cm

**Orientation** 14 (SW-NE)

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since the grave was only partially excavated and no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held a wooden container placed on at least one wooden beam. The grave was for its greatest part disturbed by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation. It was therefore not possible to establish the exact size of the burial pit and its containers.

**GRAVE DATE**

Cannot be dated

**FINDS**

1. Pottery vessel

Find number: 84-1-1

Find depth: 55.89 cm

Iron vase with leather of the scabbard and metal scabbard fittings preserved on it.

**Location:** PDB Limburg

**Type:** FAG Sax 2.2

**FAG phases:** (6-9) 8

**Stone - 84-1-7**

**FINDS**

1. Seax, iron

Find number: 84-1-4

Find depth: 55.89 cm

Mount (b9436391) with elevation leaving space for a narrow leather strap which attached the scabbard with seax to the waist belt.

**Length blade:** 37.0 cm

**Type:** FAG Sax 2.2

**FAG phases:** (6-9) 8

**Alternative type:** Siegmund Sax2.2 (9-10: 640-705)

**Location:** PDB Limburg

**Type:** FAG Sax 2.2

**Length:** 5.6 cm

**Find number:** 84-1-8

**Scabbard fitting, copper alloy**

Find number 84-1-6

**Type:** FAG Sax 2.2

**FAG phases:** (6-9) 8

**Alternative type:** Siegmund Sax2.2 (9-10: 640-705)

**Location:** PDB Limburg

**Type:** FAG Sax 2.2

**Length:** 6.3 cm

**Find number:** 84-1-9

**Scabbard, leather**

Find number: 84-1-3

Find depth: 55.89 cm

Leather remains of a seax scabbard, preserved on seax. The leather is heavily restored; fragments of rivet pins are visible at the back side of the plate; corroded tin-plated leather remains are attached to them. The back plate in heavily restored, other inlays, similar to the decoration on the associated plate buckle, may have been originals present around the braided band decoration on the middle field.

**Length:** 4.6 cm

**Width:** 3.2 cm

**Type:** FAG Sax 2.2

**FAG phases:** (6-9) 8

**Alternative type:** Siegmund Sax2.2 (9-10: 640-705)

**Location:** PDB Limburg

**Type:** FAG Sax 2.2

**Length plate:** 6.3 cm

**Find number:** 84-1-10

**Belt fitting, iron**

Find number: 84-1-9

Find depth: 55.89 cm

Iron plate buckle with three-domed copper alloy rivets and a rectangular plateglass with silver and copper alloy inlays. The decoration patterns consists of a middle field with braided bands filled with dots of silver inlays surrounded with copper alloy threads. A spirral pattern of silver inlays is applied on the shield of the shield tongue and silver stamps on the oval buckle loop.

**Length plate:** 8.3 cm

**Maximum length loop:** 5.6 cm

**Type:** Siegmund Gür 6

**Rhineland phase:** 8

**Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Type:** Iron knife

Find number: 84-1-10

Find depth: 55.89 cm

Iron knife

**Length blade:** 9.8 cm

**Location:** Museum Het Domein

**Type:** Belt fitting, iron

Find number: 84-1-9

Find depth: 55.89 cm

Iron plate buckle with three-domed copper alloy rivets and a rectangle shaped glass with silver and copper alloy inlays. The decoration pattern consists of a middle field with braided bands filled with dots of silver inlays surrounded with copper alloy threads. A spirral pattern of silver inlays is applied on the shield of the shield tongue and silver stamps on the oval buckle loop.
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INHUMATION GRAVE

**Trench**
- 8

**Grave structure**
- wooden-chamber grave with wooden container (coffin) [8-11]

**Grave pit length**
- 188

**Grave pit width**
- 188

**Grave pit depth**
- 53

**Orientation**
- SW-NE

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was south-north. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden containers and two wooden beams. The outer container was the wooden chamber supported by two wooden beams. The second, inner container was a wooden coffin that held the body. It contained a body silhouette of which only the lower body, except for the skull, remained. The deceased was probably positioned on its back in an extended position. The length of the silhouette (from the pelvis, leg bones and feet) was found. The deceased was recorded on the field drawing. **Note:** not relevant

**PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Not suitable for examination.

**GRAVE DATE**
- Orientation 9 (S-N)
- Grave pit depth 72
- Grave pit width 182
- Grave pit length 280
- Orientation was south-north. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden containers and two wooden beams. The outer container was the wooden chamber supported by two wooden beams. The second, inner container was a wooden coffin that held the body. It contained a body silhouette of which only the lower body, except for the skull, remained. The deceased was probably positioned on its back in an extended position. The length of the silhouette (from the pelvis, leg bones and feet) was found. The deceased was recorded on the field drawing.

**FINDS**

1. **Fragment, copper alloy**
   - Find number: 86-1-1
   - Find depth: 56.32
   - Copper alloy sheet fragment on bone material.

2. **Pottery vessel**
   - Find number: 86-2-1
   - Find depth: 55.41
   - Length: 11.3 cm
   - Spouted pot with an orange surface, found in fragmented condition. The upper well is decorated with zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions in between which two zones of complicated roulette stamp impressions consisting of crosses, mirrored S-shapes and grids of rectangles are applied. Approximately 40% of the pot is preserved, the fragments are glued together and the missing parts completed.

3. **Seax, iron**
   - Find number: 86-3-1
   - Find depth: 56.32
   - Iron seax with wood remains of the hilt and leather and metal fittings of the scabbard preserved on it. A knife was also attached to it. The seax has two grooves on each side of the blade.

4. **Iron bucket, iron**
   - Find number: 86-4-3
   - Find depth: 56.33
   - Incomplete iron shield boss (its cone is for the greatest part missing). Two (of originally six?) flat iron rivets are preserved on the rim. Four detached rivets (86-3-2) and four fragments of the grip are also available. The buckle is heavily restored; inlays might originally have been preserved.

5. **Belt fitting, iron**
   - Find number: 86-4-3
   - Find depth: 56.33
   - Undulating outline and protruding extremity and five copper alloy rivets. The oval buckle loop has an iron shield tongue. The plate is heavily restored; inlays might originally have been preserved.

6. **Belt fitting, iron**
   - Find number: 86-4-2
   - Find depth: 56.33
   - Iron triangular counter plate with undulating outline and five copper alloy rivets. The plate is heavily restored; inlays might originally have been preserved. The two rivets at the base of the plate are smaller than the other rivets. The counter plate is barely restored, inlays might originally have been present.

7. **Belt fitting, iron**
   - Find number: 86-4-1
   - Find depth: 56.33
   - Iron triangular counter plate with undulating outline and five copper alloy rivets. The two rivets at the base of the plate are smaller than the other rivets. The counter plate is barely restored, inlays might originally have been present.

8. **Seax, iron**
   - Find number: 86-5-1
   - Find depth: 56.33
   - Iron seax with wood remains of the hilt and leather and metal fittings of the scabbard preserved on it. A knife was also attached to it. The seax has two grooves on each side of the blade.

9. **Awl, iron**
   - Find number: 86-5-1
   - Find depth: 56.33
   - Restored iron and of which one extremity is broken off and missing. The Shank has a round section.

10. **Belt fitting, iron**
    - Find number: 86-5-4
    - Find depth: 56.33
    - Iron triangular counter plate with undulating outline and five copper alloy rivets. The two rivets at the base of the plate are smaller than the other rivets. The counter plate is barely restored, inlays might originally have been present.

**LOCATION**

- Location: PDB Limburg

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INHUMATION GRAVE

**Trench**
- 8

**Grave structure**
- wooden-chamber grave with wooden container (coffin) [8-11]

**Grave pit length**
- 188

**Grave pit width**
- 188

**Grave pit depth**
- 53

**Orientation**
- SW-NE

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was south-north. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and held two wooden containers and two wooden beams. The outer container was the wooden chamber supported by two wooden beams. The second, inner container was a wooden coffin that held the body. It contained a body silhouette of which only the upper body, except for the skull, remained. The deceased was probably positioned on its back in an extended position. The length of the body silhouette (from the pelvis to the skull) was 183 cm.

**PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Not suitable for examination.

**GRAVE DATE**
- SK-DV 8.02/20-64/20
- FAG phases 7-8: 610-670/80

**FINDS**

1. **Lance head, iron**
   - Find number: 86-1-1
   - Find depth: 56.31
   - Iron lance head with a long oval blade and a closed oval buckle loop. The plate is heavily restored; inlays might originally have been preserved.

2. **Seax, iron**
   - Find number: 86-2-1
   - Find depth: 55.41
   - Length loop: 6.5 cm
   - Length plate: 9.7 cm
   - A knife was also attached to it. The seax has two grooves on each side of the blade.

3. **Belt fitting, iron**
   - Find number: 86-3-1
   - Find depth: 55.41
   - Incomplete iron shield boss (its cone is for the greatest part missing). Two (of originally six?) flat iron rivets are preserved on the rim. Four detached rivets (86-3-2) and four fragments of the grip are also available. The buckle is heavily restored; inlays might originally have been preserved.

4. **Belt fitting, iron**
   - Find number: 86-3-2
   - Find depth: 55.41
   - Iron triangular counter plate with undulating outline and five copper alloy rivets. The oval buckle loop has an iron shield tongue. The plate is heavily restored; inlays might originally have been preserved.

5. **Belt fitting, iron**
   - Find number: 86-3-3
   - Find depth: 55.41
   - Iron triangular counter plate with undulating outline and five copper alloy rivets. The plate is heavily restored; inlays might originally have been preserved.

6. **Belt fitting, iron**
   - Find number: 86-4-3
   - Find depth: 55.41
   - Iron triangular counter plate with undulating outline and five copper alloy rivets. The plate is heavily restored; inlays might originally have been preserved.

7. **Belt fitting, iron**
   - Find number: 86-4-2
   - Find depth: 55.41
   - Iron triangular counter plate with undulating outline and five copper alloy rivets. The plate is heavily restored; inlays might originally have been preserved.

8. **Seax, iron**
   - Find number: 86-5-1
   - Find depth: 55.41
   - Iron seax with wood remains of the hilt and leather and metal fittings of the scabbard preserved on it. A knife was also attached to it. The seax has two grooves on each side of the blade.

9. **Awl, iron**
   - Find number: 86-5-1
   - Find depth: 55.41
   - Restored iron and of which one extremity is broken off and missing. The Shank has a round section.

10. **Belt fitting, iron**
    - Find number: 86-5-4
    - Find depth: 55.41
    - Iron triangular counter plate with undulating outline and five copper alloy rivets. The two rivets at the base of the plate are smaller than the other rivets. The counter plate is barely restored, inlays might originally have been present.
### INHUMATION GRAVE

**Trench**: 7

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 270

**Grave pit width**: 205

**Grave pit depth**: 20

**Orientation**: 17 (SW-NE)

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners. It is a wide burial pit, but traces of wooden containers or beams, which can be expected in such a wide pit, were not observed.

**GRAVE DATE**

SK III: 610/20-640/50

FAG phase: 7: 610/20-640/50

**FINDS**

1. **Coin pendant, copper alloy**
   - Find number: 87-1-1
   - Find depth: 56.60
   - Copper alloy Roman coin, altered into a pendant with two suspension holes. The edges of the coin are damaged, it is difficult to identify the image which was originally present on its surface.
   - Diameter: 2.6
   - Location: PDB Limburg

2. **Bracelet, copper alloy**
   - Find number: 87-2-1
   - Find depth: 56.58
   - Copper alloy open bracelet with slightly expanding extremities with decoration: four zones of facetted triangles and grooves.
   - Diameter: 8.6 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Rng1.2
   - Rhineland phase: 8
   - Rhineland date: 610-640
   - Alternative type: Wührer A.38 (JM I: 600-630/40)
   - Location: Museum Het Domein

3. **Fragment, iron**
   - Find number: 87-3-1
   - Find depth: 56.60
   - Iron fragment, corroded, part of a small knife?
   - Location: PDB Limburg

4. **Simple ring, copper alloy**
   - Find number: 87-4-1.1
   - Find depth: 56.60
   - Copper alloy ring (half), attached to five other rings.
   - Diameter: 2.1 cm
   - Location: PDB Limburg
   - Simple ring, iron
   - Find number: 87-4-1.4
   - Find depth: 56.60
   - Iron ring (half), attached to five other rings.
   - Diameter: 2.3 cm
   - Location: PDB Limburg

5. **Simple ring, iron**
   - Find number: 87-4-1.2
   - Find depth: 56.60
   - Iron ring attached to five other rings.
   - Diameter: 2.1 cm
   - Type: L/P/V 357
   - L/P/V phases: MA2-MR1
   - L/P/V date: 520/30-630/40
   - Location: PDB Limburg

6. **Simple ring, iron**
   - Find number: 87-4-1.3
   - Find depth: 56.60
   - Iron ring (half), attached to five other rings.
   - Diameter: 2.1 cm
   - Type: L/P/V 357
   - L/P/V phases: MA2-MR1
   - L/P/V date: 520/30-630/40
   - Location: PDB Limburg

7. **Simple ring, iron**
   - Find number: 87-4-1.4
   - Find depth: 56.60
   - Iron ring (half), attached to five other rings.
   - Diameter: 2.3 cm
   - Type: L/P/V 357
   - L/P/V phases: MA2-MR1
   - L/P/V date: 520/30-630/40
   - Location: PDB Limburg

8. **Simple ring, iron**
   - Find number: 87-4-1.5
   - Find depth: 56.60
   - Iron ring attached to five other rings.
   - Diameter: 2.1 cm
   - Type: L/P/V 357
   - L/P/V phases: MA2-MR1
   - L/P/V date: 520/30-630/40
   - Location: PDB Limburg

---

Knife, iron
- Find number: 86-4-1
- Find depth: 56.32
- Iron knife (attached to seax 86-4-2)
- Length blade: 10.4
- Location: PDB Limburg

Scabbard, leather
- Find number: 86-4-3
- Find depth: 56.32
- Leather remains of the scabbard (preserved on seax 86-4-1)
- Length: 23.0
- Type: FAG Sax 2.2
- FAG phases: (6-9) 8
- FAG date: (580/90-710) 640/50-670/80
- Alternative type: Siegmund Sax2.2 (9-10: 640-705).
- Location: PDB Limburg

Rivets, copper alloy
- Find number: 86-4-4
- Find depth: 56.32
- Four flat headed copper alloy rivets with cast geometric decorations on the heads.
- Diameter: 1.8 cm
- Type: L/P/V type 70
- L/P/V phases: LPV-MR2
- L/P/V date: 600-670
- Location: PDB Limburg
88

INHUMATION GRAVE

<table>
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<th>Tomb</th>
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<td>wooden container grave</td>
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<td>Grave pit length</td>
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<td>Grave pit width</td>
<td>188</td>
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<td>Grave pit depth</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>10 (SW-NE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION

Medical information grave. The grave's orientation was probably north-south, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit was rectangular with slightly rounded corners and contained vague traces of a wooden container placed on two wooden beams. The north-south corner was disturbed by construction work preceding the archaeological excavation.

GRAVE DATE

NC, chronological indifferent

Type: FAG Sax2.1
FAG phases: 6-7
FAG dating: (565) 580/90-640/50 (680)

88

FINDS

1

Mount, copper alloy
Find number: 88-1-1.1
Find depth: 56.40
Copper alloy mount: rectangular plate with two rivet holes but no rivets preserved.
Length: 2.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg

Mount, copper alloy
Find number: 88-1-2.1
Find depth: 56.40
Copper alloy mount: rectangular plate with two rivet holes but no rivets preserved.
Length: 2.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg

Mount, copper alloy
Find number: 88-1-3.1
Find depth: 56.40
Copper alloy mount: rectangular plate with two rivet holes but no rivets preserved.
Length: 2.6 cm
Location: PDB Limburg

2

Pottery, fragment
Find number: 88-1-3.1
Find depth: 56.40
 Fragments of a biplanar pot or jug with a grey surface and a brown wall core. The fragments are glued together, approximately 30% of the vessel is present.
Type: FAG-KomA7
FAG phases: 6-7
FAG dating: 510/25-640/50

3

Bead, glass
Find number: 88-1-4.1
Find depth: 56.40
White, opaque, cylindrical.
Type: RO11

Bead, glass
Find number: 88-1-5.1
Find depth: 56.40
Red, opaque, cylindrical.
Type: BO1

Bead, glass
Find number: 88-1-6.1
Find depth: 56.40
White, opaque, globular.
Type: FAG-S-Lan2.4
FAG phases: 5-6
FAG dating: 510/20-710

4

Alternatives:

FAG-S-Lan1.4 (560/70-630/40)
FAG-S-Lan1.4 (625-705)

Bead glass
Find number: 88-1-7.1
Find depth: 56.40
Blue, transparent, globular compressed.
Type: FAG-S-Lan4.1
FAG phases: 6-8A
FAG dating: 625-705

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Bead glass
Find number: 88-1-8.1
Find depth: 56.40
Black, opaque, globular compressed.
Type: L/P/V 491

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Bead glass
Find number: 88-1-9.1
Find depth: 56.40
Red, opaque, globular compressed.
Type: FAG-KomA4
FAG phases: 4-7
FAG dating: 510/25-640/50
Location: PDB Limburg

Bead glass
Find number: 88-1-10.1
Find depth: 56.40
Red, opaque, globular compressed.
Type: FAG-S-Lan4.1
FAG phases: 6-8A
FAG dating: 625-705
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Bead glass
Find number: 88-1-11.1
Find depth: 56.40
Red, opaque, globular compressed.
Type: FAG-S-Lan2.4
FAG phases: 5-6
FAG dating: 510/20-710
Location: Museum Hot Domini

5

Knife, iron
Find number: 88-1-1.1
Find depth: 56.40
Iron blade: 18.1 cm
Edges are severely corroded.
Type: L/P/V 80

Lance head, iron
Find number: 88-1-2.1
Find depth: 56.40
Lance head: 9.5 cm.
Type: FAG-S-Lan2.4
FAG phases: 6-8A
FAG dating: 510/20-710
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Iron shaft, iron
Find number: 88-1-3.1
Find depth: 56.40
Iron shaft: 16.3 cm
Type: L/P/V 80
Phase: MR3-0.8A
Date: 640-720
Alternative type: Siegmund Bsh3 (5 710-640)
Alternative type: FAG-S-Lan4.1 (560/70-630/40)
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Iron haft, iron
Find number: 88-1-4.1
Find depth: 56.40
Iron haft: 2.0 cm
Type: L/P/V 80
Phase: MR3-0.8A
Date: 640-720
Alternative type: Siegmund Bsh3 (5 710-640)
Alternative type: FAG-S-Lan4.1 (560/70-630/40)
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Iron boss, iron
Find number: 88-1-5.1
Find depth: 56.40
Iron boss: 7.5 cm.
Type: L/P/V 80
Phase: MR3-0.8A
Date: 640-720
Alternative type: Siegmund Bsh3 (5 710-640)
Alternative type: FAG-S-Lan4.1 (560/70-630/40)
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Iron shoe, iron
Find number: 88-1-6.1
Find depth: 56.40
Iron shoe: 3.0 cm.
Type: L/P/V 80
Phase: MR3-0.8A
Date: 640-720
Alternative type: Siegmund Bsh3 (5 710-640)
Alternative type: FAG-S-Lan4.1 (560/70-630/40)
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Iron armament, iron
Find number: 88-1-7.1
Find depth: 56.40
Iron armament: 4.8 cm.
Type: L/P/V 80
Phase: MR3-0.8A
Date: 640-720
Alternative type: Siegmund Bsh3 (5 710-640)
Alternative type: FAG-S-Lan4.1 (560/70-630/40)
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Iron socket, iron
Find number: 88-1-8.1
Find depth: 56.40
Iron socket: 1.5 cm.
Type: L/P/V 80
Phase: MR3-0.8A
Date: 640-720
Alternative type: Siegmund Bsh3 (5 710-640)
Alternative type: FAG-S-Lan4.1 (560/70-630/40)
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Iron socket, iron
Find number: 88-1-9.1
Find depth: 56.40
Iron socket: 1.5 cm.
Type: L/P/V 80
Phase: MR3-0.8A
Date: 640-720
Alternative type: Siegmund Bsh3 (5 710-640)
Alternative type: FAG-S-Lan4.1 (560/70-630/40)
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Iron socket, iron
Find number: 88-1-10.1
Find depth: 56.40
Iron socket: 1.5 cm.
Type: L/P/V 80
Phase: MR3-0.8A
Date: 640-720
Alternative type: Siegmund Bsh3 (5 710-640)
Alternative type: FAG-S-Lan4.1 (560/70-630/40)
Location: Museum Hot Domini

Number: 1
Location: Museum Hot Domini
1 INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure:** trench grave
**Grave pit length:** 120 (remaining) cm
**Grave pit width:** 140 cm
**Grave pit depth:** 150 cm

**Orientation:** W-E

**Description**
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave was in its longitudinal direction partly destroyed; the original length of the burial pit could not be established. It is assumed that the western part of the grave was gone since the location of the biconical pot was given in exact coordinates measured from the eastern and southern burial pit walls.

**Grave date**
O-OM IIb: 565-640/50

**Finds**
1. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 1-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 1
   - Description: Red biconical pot with rounded carination of which the upper wall is decorated with double lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. The pot is complete apart from some small missing rim fragments.
   - Height: 14.1 cm
   - Diameter: 3.0 cm
   - Dimensions: 8.9 x 8.9 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 4-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 1
   - Description: Iron plate of a plate buckle with remnants of two rivets, folded around loop remnants. One side of the plate is covered with mineralised leather/textile.
   - Length: 3.4 cm
   - Width: 2.5 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3. Remains of a buckle loop; it might have been part of a plate buckle 4-1-2.1.
   - Find number: 4-2-1
   - Original find number: VIB 1
   - Description: Iron plate of a plate buckle with remnants of two rivets, folded around loop remnants. One side of the plate is covered with mineralised leather/textile.
   - Length: 3.4 cm
   - Width: 2.5 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4. Plate buckle, copper alloy
   - Find number: 3-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 5
   - Description: Copper alloy buckle with fixed diamond shaped plate, simple iron tongue and two loops at back side of the plate.
   - Length: 2.2 cm
   - Width: 14.1 cm
   - Loop length: 1.7 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5. Wall fragment of a biconical pot with dark outer surface. The decoration consists of single lines of complex roulette stamp impressions alternating with oblique and straight stripes.
   - Find number: 3-2-1
   - Original find number: VIB 5
   - Description: Wall fragment of a biconical pot with dark outer surface. The decoration consists of single lines of complex roulette stamp impressions alternating with oblique and straight stripes.
   - Height: 14.1 cm
   - Width: 3.0 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

6. Belt fitting, iron
   - Find number: 4-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 1
   - Description: Iron plate of a plate buckle with remnants of two rivets, folded around loop remnants. One side of the plate is covered with mineralised leather/textile.
   - Length: 3.4 cm
   - Width: 2.5 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

7. Fragments, iron
   - Find number: 4-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 1
   - Description: Remnants of a buckle loop; it might have been part of a plate buckle 4-1-2.1.
   - Length: 3.4 cm
   - Width: 2.5 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8. Remains of a buckle loop; it might have been part of a plate buckle 4-1-2.1.
   - Find number: 4-2-1
   - Original find number: VIB 1
   - Description: Remnants of a buckle loop; it might have been part of a plate buckle 4-1-2.1.
   - Length: 3.4 cm
   - Width: 2.5 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
3 Ring, iron
Find number: 4-4-1
Original find number: VIB 6
Iron ring with hook (a suspension ring with a diameter of 3 cm was originally attached to it).
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
L/P/V number: 470/80-630/40
Type: L/P/V 199
L/P/V phase: MA1-MR1
L/P/V date: 630/40-700/10
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
Diameter: 3.9-4.2 cm
Type: Restaura

4 Shield boss, iron
Find number: 4-4-1
Original find number: VIB 8
Shield boss rim fragment and at least five detached copper alloy or iron rivets with copper alloy sheet.
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
L/P/V number: 470/80-630/40
Type: L/P/V 199
L/P/V phase: MA1-MR1
L/P/V date: 630/40-700/10
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
Diameter: 3.9-4.2 cm
Type: Restaura

8 Lance head
Find number: 4-8-1
Original find number: VIB 10
Iron lance head, present in corroded condition. The two detached rivets were probably attached to the socket of this lance head; they are domed copper alloy rivets with carved rims.
Type (rim): L/P/V 44
L/P/V phase: MA3-MA4
L/P/V date: 630/40-700/10
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
Length blade: 8.8 cm
Type: Restaura

9 Pottery, fragments
Find number: 4-9-1
Original find number: VIB 14
Wall and rim fragments of a grey coarse ware pot.
The decoration consists of single lines of complex roulette stamp impressions: rectangular impressions alternating with oblique and straight stripes.
The fragments form approximately 5% of the original pot.
Type: Siegmund Sax2.1
Rhineland phase: 6-7
Rhineland date: 585-655
Type: Siegmund Sax2.1
L/P/V phases: 7-9A
Type: Restaura

10 Pottery, fragments
Find number: 4-10-1
Original find number: VIB 13
Grey coarse ware fragments among which one rim fragment showing an serrated folded rim, they are presumably of a globular coarse ware pot.
Approximately 15% of the original pot is present.
Type: globular pots (seventh century)
Date: 600-700
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

11 Human remains
Find number: 4-11-1
Original find number: VIB 11
Two teeth, two molars and a fragments of tooth.
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
5 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 170 (remaining)
Grave pit width: 160
Grave pit depth: 130
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave was mentioned to have been disturbed by ‘ground works’ but its dimensions could nonetheless be recorded. The broken sword was found outside the grave, but numerous other objects, among which the sword hilt, were found inside it.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIa: 565-610/20
FAG 3-6: 460/80-610/20

FINDS
1 Sword, iron
Find number: 5-1-1
Original find number: VIB 14
Find depth: 170
Iron plate hilt with three copper alloy rivets and a shield tongue with round base.
Recorded plate length: 10.0 cm
Recorded width: 7.0 cm
Type: Stagmud-Ger 3-4-7
Rhineland date: 585-780
Location: missing

2 Belt fitting
Find number: 5-2-1
Original find number: VIB 16
Iron plate, rectangular, with four copper alloy rivets.
Type: Siegmund Gür 4.1-4.7
Rhineland phase: 7-9
Rhineland date: 585-670
Location: missing

3 Belt fitting
Find number: 5-3-1
Original find number: VIB 18
Iron plate buckle with three copper alloy rivets and a shield tongue.
Recorded length: 10.0 cm
Type: Stagmud-Ger 3-4-7
Rhineland date: 585-780
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4 Knife, iron
Find number: 5-4-1
Original find number: VIB 16
Iron back plate, rectangular, with four copper alloy rivets.
Type: Siegmund Gür 4.1-4.7
Rhineland phase: 7-9
Rhineland date: 585-670
Location: missing

5 Folded knife, iron
Find number: 5-5-1
Original find number: VIB 16
Folded iron knife.
Type: Siegmund Ger 1.3
Rhineland phases: 9-11

6 Fire steel
Find number: 5-6-1
Iron fire steel
Recorded length: 10.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Ger 5
Location: missing

7 Tweezers, iron
Find number: 5-7-1
Original find number: VIB 16
Iron tweezers with inward curved arms and remnants of a suspension ring.
Length: 7.6 cm
Type: L/P/V 322
L/P/V phases: MA2-MA3
L/P/V date: 520/30-600/10
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 6-1-1
Original find number: VIB 16
Iron arrow head with a triangular shaped blade and a closed socket; its current shape may be partly a result of an incorrect reconstruction since similar shaped blades are not known to me.
Length: 6.7 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

9 Fragments, iron
Find number: 5-9-1
Several iron fragments, indeterminate.
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 170 (remaining)
Grave pit width: 160
Grave pit depth: 130
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave was partly dug away but its eastern section was recorded to have been preserved.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIa: 565-610/20
FAG 3-6: 460/80-610/20

FINDS
1 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 6-1-1
Original find number: VIB 16
Iron arrow head with a triangular shaped blade and a closed socket; its current shape may be partly a result of an incorrect reconstruction since similar shaped blades are not known to me.
Length: 6.7 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
7 INHUMATION GRAVE

Description: W-E

Ossuary: trench grave

Grave structure: trench grave

Grave pit length: 300

Grave pit width: 140

Grave pit depth: 145

Orientation: W-E

Description: Merovingian-inhumation grave. The dimensions and location of this grave could not be recorded, it was mentioned to have been destroyed by construction works preceding the archaeological excavation. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave and the location of the pottery vessel inside it on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

Grave Date

0-OM 1-2: 510/20-640/50

FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50

Finds

1. Pottery vessel

Find number: 8-1-1

Original find number: VIB 25

Find number: 8-2-1

Nails, iron

Find number: 8-2-2

A number of iron nails; one nail is present in the collection but it is without find number. It is not certain whether they are single or multiple roulette stamp impressions; it is not certain whether they are single or multiple roulette stamp impressions.

Find number: 8-2-3

Fragments, iron

Find number: 8-2-4

Various iron indeterminate fragments.

Find number: 8-2-5

Four indeterminate iron fragments (of a seax?).

Find number: 8-2-6

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

1. Bead, glass

Find number: 8-3-1

Original find number: VIB 27

Find number: 8-3-2

Red, opaque, biconical

Number: 3

Type: RO20/S-47.3

Rhineland phase: 8-10

Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

1. Bead, glass

Find number: 8-4-1

Original find number: VIB 28

Find number: 8-4-2

Ring and ring rod, iron

Find number: 8-4-3

A number of iron rings, one ring is present in the collection but is without find number. It is not certain whether it is biconical or not. One ring is present in the collection but it is without find number. It is not certain whether it is biconical or not.

Find number: 8-4-4

White waves, crossing

Find number: 8-4-5

Blue, transparent, barrel-shaped

Number: 2

Type: GO20

Rhineland phase: 6-8

Rhineland date: 590/600-620/30

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

1. Bead, glass

Find number: 8-5-1

Original find number: VIB 27

Find number: 8-5-2

Fragment of an iron ring attached to the loop of a ring rod.

Find number: 8-5-3

White wave, crossing

Find number: 8-5-4

Blue, opaque, biconical

Number: 2

Type: GO20

Rhineland phase: 8-10

Rhineland date: 590/600-620/30

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

1. Bead, glass

Find number: 8-6-1

Original find number: VIB 27

Find number: 8-6-2

Blue, opaque, globular compressed

Number: 1

Type: BO7

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave number: 8-1-1

Grave length: 4.1 cm

Dato: Roman

Location: missing

Grave number: 8-2-1

Grave length: 11.4 cm

Stamp lines.

Location: missing

Grave number: 8-3-1

Grave length: 4.8 cm

A number of iron nails; one nail is present in the collection but it is without find number. It is not certain whether they are single or multiple roulette stamp impressions; it is not certain whether they are single or multiple roulette stamp impressions.

Location: missing

Grave number: 8-4-1

Grave length: 11.7 cm

Decorated with three grooves. Approximately 90% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present.

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find number: 8-5-1

Grave length: 3.2 cm

Number: 2

Type: RO20/S-47.3

Rhineland phase: 8-10

Rhineland date: 590/600-620/30

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

1. Bead, glass

Find number: 8-5-2

Red, opaque, biconical

Number: 3

Type: RO20/S-47.3

Kombinationsgruppe: I

Rhineland phase: 8-10

Rhineland date: 590/600-620/30

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

1. Bead, glass

Find number: 8-5-3

Red, opaque, biconical

Number: 2

Type: RO20/S-47.3

Kombinationsgruppe: I

Rhineland phase: 8-10

Rhineland date: 590/600-620/30

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

1. Bead, glass

Find number: 8-5-4

Red, opaque, globular compressed

Number: 1

Type: BO7

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
catalogues of contexts and finds

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10

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 180
Grave pit width: 150
Grave pit depth: 140
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM ID: 556-640/70
FAQ 3-7: 460/80-640/50

FINDS
1. Pottery vessel
Find number: 101-1-1
Original find number: VIB 31
Dark grey biconical pot with a considerably weathered surface, found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed, approximately 45% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with three zones of multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions covering the entire upper wall. Height: 15.9 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

11

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 120
Grave pit width: 120
Grave pit depth: 140
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM ID: 556-640/70
FAQ 3-7: 460/80-640/50

FINDS
1. Arrow head, iron
Find number: 121-2-1
Original find number: VIB 31
From arrowhead with a leaf shaped blade and closed socket. Length: 9.3 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Glass vessel
Find number: 113-1-1
Original find number: VIB 31
Lower part of a dark brown conical beaker decorated with vertical trails of similar coloured glass forming approximately eight loop above the groove, and once beneath it. The soil in the middle of the grave was observed to be green and sticky, indicating the former location of the body.
12 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 180
Grave pit width: 120
Grave pit depth: 180
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIb: 585-640/50
FAG: 7-10: 585-725

FINDS
1 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 12-2-1
Location: missing

13 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 180
Grave pit width: 120
Grave pit depth: 180
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and exact location of this grave could not be recorded, it was mentioned to have been destroyed by the construction of one of the mills. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave and the pottery vessel inside it on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIa: 595-640/20
FAG: 6-8: 585-640/20

FINDS
1 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 13-1-1
Location: missing

14 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 230
Grave pit width: 180
Grave pit depth: 180
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and exact location of this grave were not recorded, it was mentioned to have been located underneath the mills. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave and the pottery vessel inside it on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIa: 595-640/20
FAG: 6-8: 585-640/20

FINDS
1 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 14-1-1
Location: missing

15 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 230
Grave pit width: 180
Grave pit depth: 180
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and exact location of this grave were not recorded, it was mentioned to have been destroyed by the construction of one of the mills. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave and the pottery vessel inside it on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIa: 595-640/20
FAG: 6-8: 585-640/20

FINDS
1 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 15-1-1
Location: missing

16 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 230
Grave pit width: 180
Grave pit depth: 180
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and exact location of this grave were not recorded, it was mentioned to have been destroyed by the construction of one of the mills. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave and the pottery vessel inside it on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIa: 595-640/20
FAG: 6-8: 585-640/20

FINDS
1 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 16-1-1
Location: missing

CATALOGUES OF CONTEXTS AND FINDS

OBBCHT-OUDE MOLLEN

8
17 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 230
Grave pit width: 180
Grave pit depth: 110
Oriention: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Meteorological inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The contours of the burial pit became visible at a depth of 30 cm, given the recorded burial pit depth the remaining visible part of the grave was 30 cm. The remaining visible part was for the other graves in the cemetery not observed or recorded and could not be reconstructed.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM 3: 510/20-550
FAG 3: 510/20-580/20

FINDS
1 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 17-3-1
Original find number: VIB 40

Grey-brown biconical pot, fragmented but now restored and completed; approximately 90% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with two prominent grooves and three shallow grooves just beneath the neck. The pot is complete, apart from some small missing rim fragments.

Height: 8.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
Rhineland phase: 4
Rhineland date: 555-570

FAG Kwt3A (4-5: 510/20-550/20)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 17-3-2
Original find number: YB 41
Grey-brown biconical pot of which the upper wall is decorated with two prominent grooves and three shallow grooves just beneath the neck. The pot is complete, apart from some small missing rim fragments.

Height: 8.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.31
Rhineland phase: 5
Rhineland date: 530-570

FAG Kwt3A (4-5: 510/20-550/20)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 17-3-1
Original find number: YB 41
Grey-brown biconical pot, fragmented but now restored and completed, approximately 60% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with a zone of five grooves underneath the neck and a zone of three grooves above the carination. In between are oblique single stamp impressions of rectangular grids with rounded corners consisting of three columns and six rows alternating with single circular stamp impressions filled with radial lines.

Height: 28.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
Rhineland phase: 4
Rhineland date: 530-570
Altrenative type: FAG Kwt3A (4-5: 510/20-550/20)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

18 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 200
Grave pit width: 120
Grave pit depth: 170
Oriention: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Meteorological inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The fragments of its pot were mentioned to have been found scattered throughout the grave, which may indicate that the grave was reopened.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIa: 565-610/20
FAG 3: 565-610/20

FINDS
1 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 18-1-1
Original find number: VIB 45

Black spouted pot with thickened and outward folding rim with two grooves and a smoked surface.

Height: 18.2 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.11/3.12/3.13
Rhineland phase: 4
Rhineland date: 530-555

FAG Kwt5A (5-6: 565-610/20)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 18-1-1.1
Original find number: YB 41

Black-brown biconical pot, fragmented but now restored and completed; approximately 25% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with four shallow grooves just beneath the neck. The pot is complete, apart from some small missing rim fragments.

Height: 8.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
Rhineland phase: 4
Rhineland date: 555-570

FAG Kwt3A (4-5: 510/20-550/20)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2 Buckle, iron
Find number: 18-1-1.2
Original find number: YB 41
Large simple iron buckle in corroded condition with a simple iron tongue, which is considerably larger than the width of the buckle.

Type: BO2
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

1 Fragments, iron
Find number: 18-1-1.3
Original find number: YB 44
Indeterminate iron fragments.

Type: FAG 8
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 18-1-1.4
Original find number: YB 45

Yellow, opaque, small globular compressed.

Type: YO30 / S-Per33.3
Number: 19
Location: Archaelogical restoration company Romans

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 18-1-1.5
Original find number: YB 45

Black, opaque, globular compressed.

Type: YO30 / S-Per33.3
Number: 19
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 18-2-1
Original find number: VIB 45

Blue, opaque, globular compressed. Decoration: faint red threads?

Type: Bo2
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

2 Bead, glass
Find number: 19-1-1.1
Original find number: VIB 45

Yellow, opaque, small globular compressed.

Type: YO30 / S-Per33.3
Number: 19
Location: Archaelogical restoration company Romans

2 Bead, glass
Find number: 19-1-1.2
Original find number: VIB 45

Green, transparent, globular compressed.

Type: GT2/18
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 19-1-1.3
Original find number: VIB 45

Blue, opaque, globular compressed. Decoration: faint red threads?

Type: Bo2
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 19-1-1.4
Original find number: VIB 45

Green, transparent, globular compressed.

Type: GT2/18
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

2 Bead, glass
Find number: 19-1-1.5
Original find number: YB 44

Indeterminate iron fragments.

Type: FAG 8
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

1 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 19-1-1
Original find number: YB 46

Fragment of a grey-biconical pot with complex uninterpreted random stamp impressions of single lines of crosses and vertical lines. Approximately 25% of the original pot is present.

Type: Siegmund Kwt3.11/3.12/3.13

19 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 200
Grave pit width: 120
Grave pit depth: 155
Oriention: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Meteorological inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The shadow of a wooden construction was clearly visible as a grey-black band shaped discoloration of the soil, probably along the walls of the burial pit, its dimensions were not given but are assumed to be comparable to that of the burial pit since it was recorded that the shadows were visible along the "border" of the pit.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIb: 595-640/30
FAG 4-5: 595-640/30

FINDS
1 Pottery, vessel
Find number: 19-2-1
Original find number: YB 47

Among food, nearly square

Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

3 Beads, glass
Find number: 19-2-1.1
Original find number: VIB 45

Yellow, opaque, small globular compressed.

Type: YO30 / S-Per33.3
Number: 19
Location: Archaelogical restoration company Romans

2 Bead, glass
Find number: 19-2-1.2
Original find number: YB 45

Blue, opaque, globular compressed. Decoration: faint red threads?

Type: Bo2
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 19-2-1.3
Original find number: YB 45

Green, transparent, globular compressed.

Type: GT2/18
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

2 Bead, glass
Find number: 19-2-1.4
Original find number: VIB 45

Yellow, opaque, small globular compressed.

Type: YO30 / S-Per33.3
Number: 19
Location: Archaelogical restoration company Romans
20 INHUMATION GRAVE

FINDS

1  Axe, iron
   Find number: 20-1-1
   Original find number: VIB 47
   Length blade: 20.8 cm
   Type: Siegmund Kat 2.11/2.12/2.13
   Rhineland phases: 6-7
   Rhineland date: 570-610
   Identification: FAG Kwt1A (5-6: 565-710/30)
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2  Shield boss, iron
   Find number: 20-2-1.1
   Original find number: VIB 47
   Diameter: 18.0 cm
   Type: Siegmund Kat 2.11/2.12/2.13
   Rhineland phases: 6-7
   Rhineland date: 570-610
   Identification: FAG Kwt1A (5-6: 565-710/30)
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3  Seax, iron
   Find number: 20-3-1
   Original find number: VIB 49
   Recorded length: 45.0 cm
   Type: FAG Sax 2.2
   FAD phase: 5-9
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4  Axe, iron
   Find number: 20-4-1
   Original find number: VIB 47
   Length: 15.5 cm (and additional fragments)
   Type: Siegmund Kat 2.11/2.12/2.13
   Rhineland phases: 6-7
   Rhineland date: 570-610
   Identification: FAG Kwt1A (5-6: 565-710/30)
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5  Knife, iron
   Find number: 20-5-1
   Original find number: VIB 46
   Length: 18.0 cm
   Type: FAG Sax 2.2
   FAD phase: 5-9
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

6  Pottery vessel
   Find number: 20-6-1
   Original find number: VIB 50
   Length: 15.5 cm
   Type: FAG Sax 2.2
   FAD phase: 5-9
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

GRAVE DATE

0-8.0 Ha. 155-185/10
FAD 5-9: 365-710

DESCRIPTION

The grave was a primary inhumation grave. The orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. A black rectangular box-shaped soil discoloration, covering nearly the complete burial pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container. The soil was dark and greasy in the pit, indicated the former location of a wooden container.


8 Glass vessel
Find number: 20-8-1
Original find number: VIB 54
Light green claw beaker with one row of four claws, restored and completed. Approximately 70% of the original vessel is present.
Height: 17.5-18.4 cm
Type: RG 2006-4C
Date: end sixth-seventh century
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

9 Copper alloy vessel
Find number: 20-9-1
Original find number: VIB 54
Simple copper alloy vessel, fragmented and restored, with two U-shaped handles and handle appliques in the form of pointed shields, a flat base, a slightly conical body and an outward folded horizontal rim without decoration. The head has obvious traces of ancient repairs.
Height: 7.7 cm
Diameter: 25.0 cm
Type: FAG BrgE
FAG phase: 3-5
FAG date: 565-610/20
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

10 Nails, fragments
Find number: 20-10-1
Original find number: VIB 54
Fragments of nails
Location: missing

11 Ring
Find number: 20-11-1
Fragments of a ring
Location: missing

12 Fragments, iron
Find number: 20-12-1.1
Original find number: VIB 54
Indeterminate iron fragments, among which a folded rim fragment in corroded condition; it might be a fragment of a bucket (comparable to the bucket from grave 36).
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Knife, iron?
Find number: 20-12-1.2
Original find number: VIB 49
Iron fragment; seems to be a knife, corroded.
Length: 10.5 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 20-12-1.3
Original find number: VIB 49
Iron rectangular buckle with a fragment of a simple iron tongue and remains of the leather belt fixed with two iron rivets.
Length loop max: 3.8 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
21 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave

Finds
1. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 21-1-1
   - FAG 3-5: 460/80-580/90
   - O-OM I: 510/20-565
   - FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     510/25-580/50)
   - Type: FAG S-Sha2.31 (3-5: 530-625)
   - Rhineland date: 530-555
   - Rhineland phase: 4
   - Type: Siegmund Sha2.31
   - Height: 7.4 cm (reconstructed)
   - Orientation: SW-NE
   - Find number: 21-1-1
   - Indoors
   - Find number: 21-1-2
   - FAG 3-5: 460/80-580/90
   - O-OM I: 510/20-565
   - FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     510/25-580/50)
   - Type: FAG S-Sha2.31 (3-5: 530-625)
   - Rhineland date: 530-555
   - Rhineland phase: 4
   - Type: Siegmund Sha2.31
   - Height: 7.4 cm (reconstructed)
   - Orientation: SW-NE

2. Fragments, iron
   - Find number: 21-1-3
   - Indoors
   - Find number: 21-1-2
   - FAG 3-5: 460/80-580/90
   - O-OM I: 510/20-565
   - FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     510/25-580/50)
   - Type: FAG S-Sha2.31 (3-5: 530-625)
   - Rhineland date: 530-555
   - Rhineland phase: 4
   - Type: Siegmund Sha2.31
   - Height: 7.4 cm (reconstructed)
   - Orientation: SW-NE

22 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave

Finds
1. Glass vessel
   - Find number: 22-3-1
   - FAG 3-5: 530-600
   - FAG 4-7: 530-600
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     530-600/60)
   - Type: FAG Kwt3.21
   - Height: 11.9 cm
   - Decorated:
     - Applied:
     - Four grooves in between which two zones with four
       lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are
       present.
     - The upper wall is decorated with pot is present.
   - Find number: 22-3-1
   - Indoors
   - Find number: 22-3-2
   - FAG 3-5: 530-600
   - FAG 4-7: 530-600
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     530-600/60)
   - Type: FAG Kwt3.21
   - Height: 11.9 cm
   - Decorated:
     - Applied:
     - Four grooves in between which two zones with four
       lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are
       present.
     - The upper wall is decorated with pot is present.
   - Find number: 22-3-3
   - Indoors
   - Find number: 22-3-4
   - FAG 3-5: 530-600
   - FAG 4-7: 530-600
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     530-600/60)
   - Type: FAG Kwt3.21
   - Height: 11.9 cm
   - Decorated:
     - Applied:
     - Four grooves in between which two zones with four
       lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are
       present.
     - The upper wall is decorated with pot is present.

23 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave

Finds
1. Nail, iron
   - Find number: 23-1-1
   - FAG 3-5: 460/80-580/90
   - O-OM I: 510/20-565
   - FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     510/25-580/50)
   - Type: FAG Kwt3.21
   - Height: 11.9 cm
   - Decorated:
     - Applied:
     - Four grooves in between which two zones with four
       lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are
       present.
     - The upper wall is decorated with pot is present.
   - Find number: 22-1-1
   - Indoors
   - Find number: 22-1-2
   - FAG 3-5: 460/80-580/90
   - O-OM I: 510/20-565
   - FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     510/25-580/50)
   - Type: FAG Kwt3.21
   - Height: 11.9 cm
   - Decorated:
     - Applied:
     - Four grooves in between which two zones with four
       lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are
       present.
     - The upper wall is decorated with pot is present.
   - Find number: 23-2-1
   - Indoors
   - Find number: 23-2-2
   - FAG 3-5: 460/80-580/90
   - O-OM I: 510/20-565
   - FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     510/25-580/50)
   - Type: FAG Kwt3.21
   - Height: 11.9 cm
   - Decorated:
     - Applied:
     - Four grooves in between which two zones with four
       lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are
       present.
     - The upper wall is decorated with pot is present.
   - Find number: 23-3-1
   - Indoors
   - Find number: 23-3-2
   - FAG 3-5: 460/80-580/90
   - O-OM I: 510/20-565
   - FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     510/25-580/50)
   - Type: FAG Kwt3.21
   - Height: 11.9 cm
   - Decorated:
     - Applied:
     - Four grooves in between which two zones with four
       lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are
       present.
     - The upper wall is decorated with pot is present.
   - Find number: 23-4-1
   - Indoors
   - Find number: 23-4-2
   - FAG 3-5: 460/80-580/90
   - O-OM I: 510/20-565
   - FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50
   - Alternative type: FAG bell beakers (4-6:
     510/25-580/50)
   - Type: FAG Kwt3.21
   - Height: 11.9 cm
   - Decorated:
     - Applied:
     - Four grooves in between which two zones with four
       lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions are
       present.
     - The upper wall is decorated with pot is present.
24  INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave pit depth 60
Orientation W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and exact location of this grave were not recorded; it was mentioned to have been destroyed by a construction (or excavation) trench. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIb: 565-640/50
FAG 4-9: 510/20-710

FINDS
1  Pottery vessel
Find number: 24-1-1
Original find number: VIB 64
Red painted vessel with a simple rim and foot stand. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of multiple lines of rectangular/square roulette stamp impressions. The bowl is complete.
Height: 5.8 cm
Type: Siegmund Sha2.21
Rhineland phase: 5-8
Rhineland date: 555-640
Alternative type: FAG S-Sha2.21 (4-7: 510/20-640/50)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

26  INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure trench grave
Grave pit length 235
Grave pit width 170
Grave pit depth 130
Orientation W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and exact location of the grave were not recorded; it was mentioned to have been destroyed by a construction (or excavation) trench. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1  Pottery vessel
Find number: 26-3-1
Original find number: VIB 61
Red painted vessel with a simple rim and foot stand. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of multiple lines of rectangular/square roulette stamp impressions. The bowl is complete.
Height: 7.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Sha2.21
Rhineland phase: 5-8
Rhineland date: 555-640
Alternative type: FAG S-Sha2.21 (4-7: 510/20-640/50)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

25  HORSE INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure wooden container grave
Grave pit length 220
Grave pit width 170
Grave pit depth 130
Orientation W-E / E-W

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian horse inhumation grave. The actual orientation of the grave remains obscure since it was not recorded where in the grave the head of the horse was located. The outline of the wooden container was observed as a rectangular yellow-brown band-shaped soft discoloration with a width of 3.0 cm. The horse skeleton discovered in this grave was observed to fit exactly within the outline of the wooden container without disturbing it.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1  Fragments of a horse skeleton
Find number: 25-1-1
Only horse teeth are present: these appear to be of two individuals (the teeth of the second individual might have been assigned to this grave by mistake; they might have belonged to grave 29)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

27  INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure trench grave
Grave pit length 195
Grave pit width 170
Grave pit depth 115
Orientation W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The location of the beads in the eastern section of the grave indicate that its orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Iron fragments were mentioned to have been found scattered throughout the grave, which might indicate that the grave was partially disturbed by a reopening pit.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1  Fragments, iron
Find number: 27-1-1
Original find number: VIB 67
Iron fragments, part of a buckle loop. Location: Archaeological restoration company "Rommel"

2  Beads, glass
Find number: 27-2-1
Original find number: VIB 67
Various beads. Location: missing

Beads, amber
Find number: 27-3-1
Original find number: VIB 67
Amber beads. Location: missing
28
INHUMATION GRAVE

| Grav pit length | 275 |
| Grav pit width | 230 |
| Grav pit depth | 205 |

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Pottery fragments were found scattered throughout the grave, which might indicate that the grave was partially disturbed by a reopening pit.

**GRAVE DATE**

O-DM.B 565-610/20

**FINDS**

1. Sword, iron
   - Find number: 28-4-1
   - Fragments of an iron sword.
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Shield boss, iron
   - Find number: 28-3-1
   - Iron shield boss, fragments, with eight copper alloy rivets.
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company

3. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 28-5-1
   - Dark grey rather asymmetric spouted pot. Found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The entire upper wall is decorated with undulating stripes in combination with grooves.
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt5B (5-7: 565-640/50)
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt5A (5-6: 565-610/20)
   - Rhineland date: 570-610
   - Rhineland phase: 5-7

4. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 28-5-1
   - Original find number: VIB 64
   - Fragments of a grey biconical pot. The decoration consists of single stamp impressions of vertical and oblique lines and crosses. One line of rectangular roulette stamp impressions (they may also be single lines, this is difficult to see).
   - Type: Siegmund Kwt2.11/2.12
   - Rhineland phase: 5-7
   - Rhineland date: 565-610
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt2.11/2.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt2 (5-6: 565-610/20)
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt5B/5C (5-8: 565-670/80)
   - Type: Siegmund Kwt3.11/3.12 (570-610)

5. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 28-5-1
   - Original find number: VIB 64
   - Fragments of a biconical pot. The decoration consists of single stamp impressions of vertical undulating stripes in combination with grooves.
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Rhineland date: 570-610
   - Rhineland phase: 7-8

6. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 28-5-1
   - Original find number: VIB 64
   - Fragments of a biconical pot. The decoration consists of single stamp impressions of vertical undulating stripes in combination with grooves.
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt3.11/3.12
   - Rhineland date: 570-610
   - Rhineland phase: 7-8

29
INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**

Wooden coffin

**Grave pit length**

280

**Grave pit width**

130

**Grave pit depth**

155

**Orienteration**

W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Vague traces of a wooden container with dimensions nearly similar to the burial pit were found. In the description of horse grave 25 it was mentioned that teeth and jaws of a horse were also found; a complete lance head was not discovered in the collection. Fragments are present; a complete lance head was not discovered in the collection. Fragments of a biconical pot. The decoration consists of single stamp impressions of vertical undulating stripes in combination with grooves.

**GRAVE DATE**

O-DM.B 565-610/20

**FINDS**

1. Lance head, iron
   - Find number: 29-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 75
   - Iron lance head with a ‘skewer shaped blade’ and wood remains preserved in the socket opening. Only fragments are present; a complete lance head was not discovered in the collection.
   - Recorded length: 46 cm
   - Recorded blade width: 3 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Lan1.1a
   - Rhineland phase: 4-5
   - Rhineland date: 570-610
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company

2. Horse bridle, iron
   - Find number: 29-2-1
   - Iron horse bridle in corroded condition (Ecclesiastics). It is difficult to determine the type of bridle. It shaped end of the head not discovered.
   - Type: L/P/V 101
   - L/P/V phases: MA1-MA3
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company

3. Shield boss, iron
   - Find number: 29-3-1
   - Iron shield boss, incomplete and corroded; with slightly oblique walls and a relatively high domed to conical cone. Four detached and restored copper alloy rivets with iron rim fragments and remnants of lime wood, are also present.
   - Diameter rivets average: 2.1 cm
   - Height shield boss: 8.1 cm
   - Rim fragment length: 4.9 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Sbu3
   - Rhineland phase: 4-7
   - Rhineland date: 570-610
   - Location: Archaeological museum Stein

4. Iron horse bridle in corroded condition
   - Find number: 29-4-1
   - Iron horse bridle in corroded condition.
   - Type: Siegmund Lan1.1b
   - Rhineland phase: 4-7
   - Rhineland date: 570-610
   - Location: Archaeological museum Stein

5. Iron horse bridle in corroded condition
   - Find number: 29-5-1
   - Iron horse bridle in corroded condition.
Grip of shield, iron
Find number: 29-3-1.2
Original find number: VIB 74/75
Iron fragments of the shield boss grip.
Type: Siegmund Sbu3
Rhineland phase: 4-7
Rhineland date: 530-610
Type: Siegmund Sbu4
Rhineland phase: 6-7
Rhineland date: 570-610
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Fragments, iron
Find number: 29-4-1.1
Original find number:
Indeterminate iron fragments (they might be of the shield boss, the horse bridle or a knife)
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Buckle, iron
Find number: 29-5-1
Iron oval buckle with D-shaped section and shield tongue.
Length loop max: 3.3
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 29-6-1
Oval loop without tongue but with remnants of a rectangular plate with rivet hole, wrapped around the loop. It might be part of the horse bridle set.
Length plate: 2.5 cm
Width plate: 1.7 cm
Length loop max: 3.3
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Teeth/jaws of a horse
Find number: 29-7-1
Horse teeth of two individuals were assigned to grave 25; one set might have belonged to 29 since it was recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers that horse teeth were found in this grave.
Location: missing or wrongly assigned to grave 25.

Inhumation grave
Grave structure trench?
Orientation W-E?

Description
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and exact location of this grave were not recorded; it was mentioned to have been destroyed by the mill. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

Grave date
O-OM IIa: 565-610/20
FAG 3-6: 460/80-610/20

Finds
1 Sword, iron
Find number: 30-1-1
Part of an iron sword, in corroded condition and with thin remains of the leather scabbard preserved around it.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura
31 INHUMATION GRAVE

Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION

An example of an inhumation grave. The dimensions and exact location of this grave were not recorded; it was mentioned to have been destroyed by the mill. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM I: 565-640/50
FAG 5-7: 565-610/20

FINDS

1. Arrow head, iron
   - Find number: 31-8-1
   - Original find number: VIB 83
   - Iron arrowhead with wooden remains preserved in the oval shaft opening.
   - Length blade: 18.4 cm
   - Height: 4.1 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Knife, iron
   - Find number: 31-4-1
   - Original find number: VIB 84
   - Iron knife with wooden remains preserved in the oval shaft opening.
   - Recorded length blade: 30 cm
   - Width: 2.4 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3. Axe, iron
   - Find number: 31-3-2
   - Original find number: VIB 79
   - Iron axe with faceted cutting edge.
   - Recorded total length: 28.0 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4. Seax, iron
   - Find number: 31-3-1
   - Original find number: VIB 92
   - Fragments of a seax, in corroded condition.
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5. Axe, iron
   - Find number: 31-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 81
   - Iron axe with wood remains preserved in the oval shaft opening.
   - Length blade: 11.8 cm
   - Height: 5.1 cm
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

6. Lance head, iron
   - Find number: 31-6-1
   - Original find number: VIB 83
   - Iron lance head with a pronounced mid rib recorded in the catalogue, the lance head socket with wooden remains preserved in corroded condition.
   - Recorded total length: 26.0 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Lan2.1
   - Rhineland phase: 7-8A
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

7. Plane, iron
   - Find number: 31-7-1
   - Plate with shadows of rivets and a rounded elevation. It might be a back plate of a belt.
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8. Arrow head, iron
   - Find number: 31-8-1
   - Fragments of an arrow head are present in a box holding remains of grave 31, it is not certain whether it actually belonged to grave 31. It was not recorded as a find in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers.
### 32 INHUMATION GRAVE

**Orientation** W-E

**DESCRIPTION**
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and exact location of this grave were not recorded; it was mentioned to have been destroyed by the mill. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

**GRAVE DATE**
Obbicht-oude molen

**FINDS**
1. Glass vessel
   - Find number: 32-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 86
   - Olive green palm cup with clearly visible air bubbles, rounded bottom and thick inward folded round rim.
   - Height: 6.4 cm

2. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 32-2-1
   - Original find number: VIB 87
   - Grey-black spouted pot, complete, with a horizontal outward folded rim with two shallow grooves. The upper wall is decorated with two zones of three parallel undulating grooves alternating with two zones of three straight grooves.
   - Height: 19.4 cm

### 33 POSSIBLE INHUMATION GRAVES

**Orientation** W-E

**DESCRIPTION**
Possible Merovingian inhumation graves. The dimensions and exact location of this grave were not recorded; it was mentioned to have been destroyed by the mill fundaments but a number of finds were discovered underneath the mill by construction workers. It was not clear whether the finds were from one or two graves or maybe more graves. But, in view of the finds assemblage, it seems unlikely that they come from a single grave. The indicated location, outline and orientation of grave 33 on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

**GRAVE DATE**
Cannot be dated

**FINDS**
1. Seax, iron
   - Find number: 33-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 87
   - Iron seax; four seaxes and one lance head were identified by Beckers and Beckers but the remnants in Restaura show that in fact four seaxes and two lance heads were discovered and assigned to context 33.
   - Recorded total length: 63 cm
   - Recorded length blade: 41 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax3
   - FAG phase: 8-10
   - FAG date: 650-750
   - Alternative type: Siegmund Sax3 (10B-11: c.685-740)
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

2. Seax, iron
   - Find number: 33-2-1
   - Iron seax
   - Recorded total length: 56 cm
   - Recorded length blade: 34 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1
   - FAG phase: (5-8) 6-7
   - FAG date: (565-680) 580/90-640/50
   - Alternative type: Siegmund Sax2.1 (7-middle 9: 585-655)
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

3. Seax, iron
   - Find number: 33-3-1
   - Iron seax
   - Recorded length blade: 40 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1
   - FAG phase: 5-9
   - FAG date: 565-710
   - Alternative type: Siegmund Sax2.1/2 (7-10: 585-705)
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

4. Seax, iron
   - Find number: 33-4-1
   - Original find number: VIB 89
   - Iron seax
   - Recorded total length: 63 cm
   - Recorded length blade: 30.1 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1
   - FAG phase: (5-8) 6-7
   - FAG date: (565-680) 580/90-640/50
   - Alternative type: Siegmund Sax2.1 (7-middle 9: 585-655)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5. Lance head, iron
   - Find number: 33-5-1
   - Recorded total length: 30 cm
   - Recorded length blade: 22 cm
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

6. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 33-6-1
   - Location: missing

7. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 33-7-1
   - Location: missing

8. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 33-8-1
   - Location: missing

9. Glass vessel
   - Find number: 33-9-1
   - Location: missing
### INHUMATION GRAVE

**Find number:** 35-1-1

**Type:** Siegmund Kwt3.21

**Rhineland date:** 585-640

**Rhineland phases:** 7-8

**Dimensions:**
- **Height:** 3.2 cm
- **Width:** 3.3 cm
- **Length:** 6.2 cm

**Remarks:**
- Small simple iron ring with mineralised textile remains.
- The plate is attached to the oval buckle with a D-shaped section and shield tongue with a wrapped and slotted construction.
- Found in an inhumation grave, possibly west-east oriented. The grave's dimensions are: depth 170 cm, width 160 cm, length 180 cm.
- Records the mouth diameter: 13.5 cm, height: 18.0 cm.
- It was found in the Archaeological Museum Stein on the basis of the catalogue of Beckers catalogues of contexts and finds.

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**Finds:**

1. **Iron lance head with two flat iron plates:**
   - **Find number:** 34-1-1
   - **Type:** Lance head, iron
   - **Rhineland date:** 585-640
   - **Rhineland phases:** 7-9
   - **Dimensions:**
     - **Length loop min:** 2.6 cm
     - **Length loop max:** 3.7 cm
     - **Plate width:** 4.2 cm
   - **Location:** Archaeological Museum Stein
   - Records the mouth diameter: 13.5 cm, height: 18.0 cm.

2. **Biconical pot with a dark surface:**
   - **Find number:** 35-2-1
   - **Type:** Beige-lead-earthenware pot, complete
   - **Rhineland date:** 570-705
   - **Rhineland phases:** 6-10
   - **Kombinationsgruppe:** D-H
   - Records the mouth diameter: 13.5 cm, height: 18.0 cm.

3. **Small simple iron ring:**
   - **Find number:** 35-2-1
   - **Type:** Simple ring, iron
   - **Rhineland date:** 570-705
   - **Rhineland phases:** 6-10
   - **Kombinationsgruppe:** D-H
   - Records the mouth diameter: 13.5 cm, height: 18.0 cm.

4. **Fragmentary iron:**
   - **Find number:** 35-2-1
   - **Type:** Fragmentary iron
   - **Rhineland date:** 570-705
   - **Rhineland phases:** 6-10
   - **Kombinationsgruppe:** D-H
   - Records the mouth diameter: 13.5 cm, height: 18.0 cm.
36 INHUMATION GRAVE

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIb: 585-640/10
FAG: 250-480/420

FINDS

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.4
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.3
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.2
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.1
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.10
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.11
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.12
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.13
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.14
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.15
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

- Bead, glass
  - Find number: 36-1-1.16
  - Original find number: VIB 96
  - Rhineland date: (570) 610-(640) 705
  - Rhineland phase: (6) 8-(8) 10
  - Kombinationsgruppe: (G) H-I
  - Number: 2
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

NUMBER: 3

Type: Brooch, copper alloy, silver and gold
Find number: 36-1
Original find number: VIB 97
Composite filigree brooch with copper alloy ground plate and silver or gold top plate with 8-shaped filigree ornaments and isolated cells (of gold?) with garnet and glass inlays. Diameter: 3.5 cm Height: 0.81 cm
Type: Combat Type
FAG 3-9: 460/80-710

Location:缺

4 Red, copper alloy
Find number: 36-4
Original find number: VIB 97

Brooch, copper alloy, silver and gold
Find number: 36-1
Original find number: VIB 97

Composite filigree brooch with copper alloy ground plate and silver or gold top plate with 8-shaped filigree ornaments and isolated cells (of gold?) with garnet and glass inlays. Diameter: 3.5 cm Height: 0.81 cm
Type: Combat Type
FAG 3-9: 460/80-710

Location:缺

36-6-1 (scale 1:1)
37A INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit width: 180
Grave pit depth: 110 ?
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave was in an longitudinal direction partly destroyed; the length of the burial pit could not be established. The finds from this at first sight single grave were discovered at different depths on the base of which it was identified as a grave with a second burial. The finds of the upper burial were found at a depth of 100 cm and identified it as the burial of a woman.

GRAVE DATE

Cannot be dated

FINDS

1. Bead, glass
Find number: 37-1-1
Find depth: 100
Grave pit depth: 110
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Iron lance head
Find number: 37-2-1
Find depth: 150
Grave pit width: 2.4
Grave pit length: 3.0
Orientation: W-E
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find number: 37-3-1
Find depth: 100
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4. Bead, glass
Find number: 37-4-1
Find depth: 150
Grave pit width: 2.4
Grave pit length: 3.0
Orientation: W-E
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5. Bent copper alloy plate with four small rivets.
Find number: 37-5-1
Find depth: 100
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

6. Iron lance head recorded as a specimen with a skewer shaped blade and a split socket. It is present in corroded condition together with two rings, originally fixed around the socket, and some wood remains of the shaft. The X-ray shows that spiral bands were applied around the shaft; the material of these spiral bands cannot be determined.

7. Fragment of an iron knife, present in corroded condition. Leather remnants of the scabbard are preserved.
Find number: 37-6-1
Find depth: 100
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8. Spiral bands (parallels: Niederstotzingen grave 6; Rhineland date: 570-585; Rhineland phase: 6; FAG 4-7: 510/20-640/50; O-OM IIa: 565-610/20)
Type: Siegmund Lan1.1a
Rhineland date: 565-585
Rhineland phase: 4
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

9. Iron lance head recorded as a specimen with a skewer shaped blade and a split socket. It is present in corroded condition together with two rings, originally fixed around the socket, and some wood remains of the shaft. The X-ray shows that spiral bands were applied around the shaft; the material of these spiral bands cannot be determined.

10. Find number: 37-1-1
Find depth: 100
Grave pit depth: 110
Orientation: W-E
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

GRAVE DATE

Not dated
3 Knife, iron
Find number: 37-4-1
Original find number: VIB 109
Find depth: 150
Part of an iron knife, the tip of the knife is gone, wood remains are preserved around the hilt. Length: 28.8 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 37-5-1
Original find number: VIB 110
Find depth: 150
Simple iron buckle with rectangular loop. Length loop max: 3.4 cm
Length loop min: 2.9 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5 Arrowhead, iron?
Find number: 37-6-1
Original find number: VIB 110
Find depth: 150
Socket of probably an iron arrow head.
Length: 10.1 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

6 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 37-7-1
Original find number: VIB 111-1
Find depth: 150
Simple iron buckle with oval loop.
Length loop max: 4.9 cm
Length loop min: 3.5 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

7 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 37-8-1
Original find number: VIB 111-2
Find depth: 150
Simple iron buckle with rectangular loop.
Length loop max: 3.9 cm
Length loop min: 2.9 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8 Glass vessel, bell beaker
Find number: 37-9-1
Original find number: VIB 113
Fragment of an olive green glass vessel, with faint diagonal ribs and slightly thickened rim. The fragments seem to be a of a bell beaker.
Type: Pyrex T 35 (decoration)
Diameter: 5.1 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

9 Pottery vessel
Find number: 37-10-1
Original find number: VIB 114
Dark grey biconical pot with a weathered smoked surface. Found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed; approximately 85% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with five single lines of complex roulette stamps of vertical and oblique stripes and crosses.
Height: 20.1 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.11
Rhineland phase: 6-7
Rhineland date: 570-610
Alternative type: FAG Kwt5G (5-6: 565-610/20)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

10 Pottery vessel
Find number: 37-11-1
Original find number: VIB 115
Fragments of an olive green glass vessel, with faint diagonal ribs and slightly thickened rim. The fragments seem to be a of a bell beaker.
Type: Pyrex T 35 (decoration)
Diameter: 5.1 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

11 Pottery vessel
Find number: 37-12-1
Original find number: VIB 113
Fragments which might be of the grip of a shield.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

38 INHUMATION GRAVE
Grave structure: much grave
Grave pit length: 290
Grave pit width: 220
Grave pit depth: 130
Orientation: W-E

description
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Pottery fragments, copper alloy fragments and iron nails were found scattered throughout the grave, which might indicate that the grave was reopened.

grave date
O-OM I+II: 510/20-670/80
FAG 4-6: 530/20-730

finds
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 38-1-1
Original find number: VIB 116
Fragments of a grey biconical pot without decoration. Approximately 25% of the original pot is present.
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.41/2.42/2.43
Rhineland phases: 4-9
Rhineland date: 530-670
Alternative type: FAG Kwt4A (4-7: 510/25-640/50)
Alternative type: FAG S-Kwt2.43 (6-9: 580/90-710)
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

2 Rivets, iron
Find number: 38-2-1
Original find number: VIB 109
Two small indeterminate copper alloy fragments and one diamond shaped iron rivet with three (of originally four) small rivets.
Length plane: 4.3
Width plane: 2.7
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

3 Fragment of a sword, iron
Find number: 38-3-1
Original find number: VIB 113
Two small indeterminate copper alloy fragments and one diamond shaped iron rivet with three (of originally four) small rivets.
Length plane: 4.3
Width plane: 2.7
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

37b-4-1, 12-1 (scale 1:2)
CREMATION GRAVE

Catalogues of contexts and finds

39 CREMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: vessel with cremated human remains

DESCRIPTION

Merovingian cremation grave. Cremation rests and finds were found deposited in a large vessel. Dimensions of a pit were not provided; its orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave was partly destroyed which hindered the identification of the find locations of some finds. The other finds from this at first sight single grave (40) were discovered at different depths on the basis of which it is identified as a grave with a second burial (40A and 40B). The single find of the upper burial was found at a depth of 50 cm. Orientation W-E.

GRAVE DATE


Finds

1. Pottery, cremation vessel

Find number: 39-1-1

Original find number: VIB 119

Dimensions of a pit were not provided; its dimensions on the original cemetery plan are inaccurate.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The cremation rests from this grave are human and represent at least one individual of c. 14 years. The biological sex of the individual could not be determined on the basis of the available remains. Pathological bone changes could not be identified. Animal remains were not identified among the cremation rests.

GRAVE DATE


Finds

1. Pottery, cremation vessel

Find number: 39-1-1, 2-2

Original find number: VIB 119

Grey-black large and complete elongated globular pot with a considerably weathered and smoked (?) surface, a flanged rim and a nearly horizontal outward-folded rim with indentation.

Height: 27.5 cm

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

2. Belt fitting, iron

Find number: 39-2-1

Original find number: VIB 121

Iron plate buckle with a triangular plate with undulating outline and three ‘fake’ copper alloy rivets and one loop at its back side. The front side shows silver plating and geometric copper alloy and silver inlays with animal style elements. The plate is attached to an oval buckle loop with D-shaped section and shield tongue, also decorated with silver and copper alloy inlays. Not burned.

Length plate: 5.3 cm

Width plate: 3.2 cm

Length loop max: 5.0 cm

Type: Siegmund Gür 4.7/4.8

Rhineland phase: 9

Rhineland date: 640-670

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

3. Belt fitting, iron

Find number: 39-2-2

Original find number: VIB 122

Iron triangular counter plate with undulating outline, three ‘fake’ copper alloy rivets and one loop at its back side. The front side shows silver plating and geometric copper alloy and silver inlays with animal style elements.

Length plate: 5.3 cm

Width plate: 3.1 cm

Type: Siegmund Gür 4.7

Rhineland phase: 9

Rhineland date: 640-670

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

4. Rivet, copper alloy

Find number: 39-4-1

Original find number: VIB 120

Copper alloy rivet with carved rim and domed but flarshallow head. Probably of a seax scabbard. Not burned.

Head diameter: 2.1 cm

Type: Siegmund Sax 4.4

Rhineland phase: 9

Rhineland date: 640-670

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

5. Oil lamp, iron?

Find number: 39-4-2

Original find number: VIB 121

Iron triangular (counter) plate with undulating outline, three ‘fake’ copper alloy rivets and one loop at its back side. The front side shows silver plating and geometric copper alloy and silver inlays around their bases. The plate has originally three small iron rivets with domed heads attached at the corners of the base of the plate.

Length: 6.4 cm

Width: 3.1 cm

Height: 12.3-13.5 cm

Type: Siegmund Kwt 2.42

Rhineland phase: 9

Rhineland date: 610-670

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

6. Rivet, copper alloy

Find number: 40-3-1

Original find number: VIB 123

Copper alloy rivet with carved rim and domed head. Probable of a seax scabbard. Not burned.

Head diameter: 2.1 cm

Type: Siegmund Sax 4.4

Rhineland phase: 9

Rhineland date: 640-670

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

7. Oil lamp, iron?

Find number: 40-4-1

Original find number: VIB 124

Iron triangular (counter) plate with undulating outline, three ‘fake’ copper alloy rivets and one loop at its back side. The front side shows silver plating and geometric copper alloy and silver inlays around their bases. The plate has originally three small iron rivets with domed heads attached at the corners of the base of the plate.

Length: 6.4 cm

Width: 3.1 cm

Height: 12.3-13.5 cm

Type: Siegmund Kwt 2.43

Rhineland phase: 8-9

Rhineland date: 585-610

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

8. Pottery vessel

Find number: 40-5-1

Original find number: VIB 125

Grey-brown large and complete elongated globular pot with a considerably weathered and smoked(? ) surface, a flanged rim and a nearly horizontal outward-folded rim with indentation.

Height: 27.5 cm

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

9. Rivet, copper alloy

Find number: 40-6-1

Original find number: VIB 126

Copper alloy rivet with carved rim and domed but flarshallow head. Probably of a seax scabbard. Not burned.

Head diameter: 2.1 cm

Type: Siegmund Sax 4.4

Rhineland phase: 9

Rhineland date: 640-670

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

10. Oil lamp, iron?

Find number: 40-7-1

Original find number: VIB 127

Iron triangular (counter) plate with undulating outline, three ‘fake’ copper alloy rivets and one loop at its back side. The front side shows silver plating and geometric copper alloy and silver inlays around their bases. The plate has originally three small iron rivets with domed heads attached at the corners of the base of the plate.

Length: 6.4 cm

Width: 3.1 cm

Height: 12.3-13.5 cm

Type: Siegmund Kwt 2.43

Rhineland phase: 8-9

Rhineland date: 585-610

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds

11. Pottery vessel

Find number: 40-8-1

Original find number: VIB 128

Black-brown elongated and complete globular pot with a considerably weathered and smoked(? ) surface, a flanged rim and a nearly horizontal outward-folded rim with indentation.

Height: 27.5 cm

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds
### 40B INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure:** Trench grave

- **Grave pit length:** 170 cm
- **Grave pit width:** 150 cm
- **Grave pit length:** 180 cm
- **Grave orientation:** W-E

**Description:**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. It could not be excavated due to further specified difficulties regarding the terrain. The grave was without finds.

**Grave Date:**

- **Type:** Cannot be dated

**Inscriptions:**

- **Location:** Archaeological restoration company

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### 41 INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure:** Trench grave

- **Grave pit length:** 180 cm
- **Grave pit width:** 150 cm
- **Grave pit depth:** 110 cm
- **Grave orientation:** W-E

**Description:**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. It could not be excavated due to further specified difficulties regarding the terrain. The grave was without finds.

**Grave Date:**

- **Type:** Cannot be dated

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### Catalogues of Contexts and Finds

**430**  
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave was partly destroyed which hindered the identification of the find locations of some finds. The other finds from this at first single grave (40) were discovered at different depths on the basis of which it is identified as a double single grave (40A and 40B). The finds of the lower burial were recorded as finds discovered 200 cm from the western wall. Since the recorded length of single grave 40 was 170 cm grave 40B is considered to have been longer with a length of approximately 200 cm.

**Grave Date:**

- **Type:** Cannot be dated

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### 40B Partially excavations of contexts and finds

**Catalogues of Contexts and Finds**

**431**  
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. It could not be excavated due to further specified difficulties regarding the terrain. The grave was without finds.

**Grave Date:**

- **Type:** Cannot be dated

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### 42 INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure:** Trench grave

- **Grave pit length:** 180 cm
- **Grave pit width:** 150 cm
- **Grave pit depth:** 110 cm
- **Grave orientation:** W-E

**Description:**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. It could not be excavated due to further specified difficulties regarding the terrain. The grave was without finds.

**Grave Date:**

- **Type:** Cannot be dated
43 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 200
Grave pit width: 180
Grave pit depth: 150
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The black-grey soil discoloration indicating the former presence of a wooden container became clearly visible at a depth of 115 cm. The wooden container had a length of 180 cm and a width of 85 cm; it was standing close to the eastern wall of the burial pit. Since it was recorded that the pottery vessel was found inside the wooden container, it is assumed that the wooden container was standing close to the southern wall of the burial pit.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIb: 565-640/50
FAG 5-7: 565-640/50

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 43-1-1
Original find number: VIB 333
Grey-bichromal pot with a weathered-smoked surface showing the red paste underneath. Found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed; approximately 85% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with single lines of complex roulette stamp impressions. A isolated part of the stamp consists of one rectangular grid filled with four columns and four rows of rectangular impressions, two mirrored S-shapes, one cross, one S-shape and two crosses again; two lines are applied beneath the neck and two above the carination. Height: 13.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.22
Rhineland phase: end 7-beginning 8B
Rhineland date: c.600-c.630

44 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 180
Grave pit width: 140
Grave pit depth: 140
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The black-grey soil discoloration indicating the former presence of a wooden container became clearly visible at a depth of 120 cm. It had a width of 85 cm but its length could not be established and its exact location within the burial pit was not recorded.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM III: 640/50-670/80
FAG 8-10: 640/50-725

FINDS
1 Knife, iron
Find number: 44-1-1
Original find number: VIB 334
Iron knife with angled back and leather remains preserved on the blade. Length blade: 10.4 cm
Length loop: 4.7 cm
Buckle loop with mineralised textile remains.
Type: Siegmund Ger1.2
Rhineland phases: MA1-MR1
Rhineland date: 670-740

45 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 140
Grave pit width: 140
Grave pit depth: 180
Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 150
Grave pit width: 150
Grave pit depth: 140
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The black-grey soil discoloration indicating the former presence of a wooden container became clearly visible at a depth of 115 cm. The wooden container had a width of 85 cm but its length could not be established and its exact location within the burial pit was not recorded.

GRAVE DATE
O-OM I+IIc: 510/20-640/50
FAG 5-7: 565-640/50

FINDS
1 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 45-1-1
Original find number: VIB 336
Mineralised textile or leather is preserved around the loop.
Type: Siegmund Ger1.2
Rhineland dates: 670-740
Rhineland phases: MA1-MR1
Diameter: 2.4 cm
Length loop: 5.6 cm
Width: 2.8 cm

1 Knife, iron
Find number: 45-1-2
Original find number: VIB 339
Iron knife with angled back and leather remains preserved on the blade. Length blade: 11.1 cm
Buckle loop with mineralised textile remains.
Type: Siegmund Ger1.2
Rhineland date: 670-740
Rhineland phases: MA1-MR1
Length: 4.3 cm
Width: 2.5 cm

1 Unidentifiable object, iron
Find number: 45-1-3
Inferior quality objects with some mineralised remains (textile?)
Length: 3.5 cm
Width: 2.8 cm

45-1-1
Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 45-1-1
Original find number: VIB 336
Mineralised textile or leather is preserved around the loop.
Length loop: 5.6 cm
Width: 2.8 cm
Find number: 45-1-2
Belt fitting, iron
Original find number: VIB 339
Mineralised textile or leather is preserved around the loop.
Length loop: 5.6 cm
Width: 2.8 cm

1 Knife, iron
Find number: 45-1-1
Original find number: VIB 336
Iron knife with angled back and leather remains preserved on the blade. Length blade: 10.4 cm
Length loop: 4.7 cm
Buckle loop with mineralised textile remains.
Type: Siegmund Ger1.2
Rhineland phases: MA1-MR1
Rhineland date: 670-740
Rhineland phases: MA1-MR1
Diameter: 2.4 cm
Length loop: 5.6 cm
Width: 2.8 cm

1 Unidentifiable object, iron
Find number: 45-1-3
Inferior quality objects with some mineralised remains (textile?)
Length: 3.5 cm
Width: 2.8 cm

6 Spindle wheel, ceramic
Find number: 45-4-1
Original find number: VIB 144
Ceramic biconical spindle wheel
Diameter: 2.4
Bowl: L/P/V phase: L/P/V phase: 3.5 cm
Thickness: 0.3 cm
Find number: 45-4-1
Bowl: 3.5 cm
Thickness: 0.3 cm

CERAMIC BOWL: 45-4-1
FAF 3-7: 640/50-640/50
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

OBICH'T-OUDE MOLEN

Catalogues of contexts and finds
**46 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Grave structure: Wooden container grave

- Grave pit length: 590 cm
- Grave pit width: 590 cm
- Grave pit depth: 340 cm

Description:
- Orientation: W-E
- Grave pit depth: 140 cm
- Grave pit width: 106 cm
- Grave pit length: 250 cm
- Grave structure: Wooden container grave

**FINDS**

1. **Knife, iron**
   - Find number: 46-4-1
   - Original find number: YIB 137
   - Iron shears in fragmented and corroded condition; its length cannot be established independently from the dimensions recorded by Beckers and Beckers.
   - Recorded length: 4.6 cm
   - Recorded blade width: 2.0 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1/2.2
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company

2. **Lance head**
   - Find number: 46-1-1
   - Original find number: YIB 143
   - Iron lance head of which it is recorded that it has a prominent mid rib and two copper alloy rivets attached to the socket; some fragments of the lance head are present in a box holding remnants of this grave. The iron can be identified as domed copper alloy rivet with carved rims.
   - Recorded length: 4.0 cm
   - Recorded blade width: 4.0 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1/2.2
   - Rhineland phase: 7-8A
   - Rhineland date: 575-650
   - Rivet type: L/P/V 44 ((MA2) MA3-MR1: (520/30-560/70) 560/70-630/40)
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company

3. **Plan buckle, iron**
   - Find number: 46-5-1
   - Original find number: YIB 140
   - Iron plate buckle with tongue shaped plate and three copper alloy domed rivets with silver geometric inlays and leather/mineralised textile preserved on the backside of plate which is attached to an oval buckle loop with D-shaped section.
   - Plate length: 8.4 cm
   - Plate width: 4.6 cm
   - Length loop: 6.1 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1/2.2
   - Rhineland phase: 7-8B
   - Rhineland date: 635-640
   - Alternative type: FAG S-Gür4.6 (7: 610/20-640/40)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4. **Back plate, iron**
   - Find number: 46-3-1
   - Original find number: YIB 148
   - Iron back plate with four copper alloy domed rivets and silver geometric inlays and silver/mineralised textile preserved on the backside of plate.
   - Length: 5.5 cm
   - Width: 4.6 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1/2.2
   - Rhineland phase: 7-8B
   - Rhineland date: 635-640
   - Alternative type: FAG S-Gür4.6 (7: 610/20-640/40)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5. **Pate, iron**
   - Find number: 46-7-1
   - Original find number: YIB 147
   - Iron knife, fragments of this object might be present in box holding remnants of this grave.
   - Recorded length: 11.0 cm
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company

**47 INHUMATION GRAVE**

Grave structure: Wooden container grave

- Grave pit length: 590 cm
- Grave pit width: 590 cm
- Grave pit depth: 340 cm
- Orientation: W-E

Description:
- Orientation: W-E
- Grave pit depth: 140 cm
- Grave pit width: 106 cm
- Grave pit length: 250 cm
- Grave structure: Wooden container grave

**FINDS**

1. **Pottery vessel**
   - Find number: 46-5-1
   - Original find number: YIB 146
   - Large red biconical pot with a wide mouth, foot stand, pronounced carination and a nearly vertical upper wall decorated with two parallel undulating grooves above a ridge and two zones of three grooves beneath it. It shows some small black spots on its outer surface and it is tempered with fine sand and ash. Found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present.
   - Height: 19.7-20.0 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Kwt2.41?
   - Rhineland phase: 4
   - Rhineland date: 530-555
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt5F (5-7: 565-640/50)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. **Plan buckle, iron**
   - Find number: 46-3-1
   - Original find number: YIB 140
   - Indeterminate copper alloy plate, considerably weathered, with two domed copper alloy rivets.
   - Recorded length: 4.6 cm
   - Recorded blade width: 2.0 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1/2.2
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company

3. **Knife, iron**
   - Find number: 47-2-1
   - Original find number: YIB 147
   - Small black complete biconical pot without decoration and with a slightly low lower wall and a slightly sagging base.
   - Height: 8.5 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Kwt4.47
   - Rhineland phase: 4
   - Rhineland date: 530-555
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4. **Fire steel, iron**
   - Find number: 47-3-1
   - Original find number: YIB 148
   - Fragments of a bronze-black biconical pot of which the upper wall is decorated with at least three single lines of complex interrupted roulette stamp impressions consisting of grids filled with small rectangles.
   - Type: Siegmund Ket5.34.1/2.2
   - Rhineland phase: 7-8
   - Rhineland date: 635-640
   - Alternative type: FAG Ket5F (5-7: 565-640/50)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5. **Pottery vessel**
   - Find number: 47-2-1
   - Indeterminate copper alloy plate, considerably weathered, with two domed copper alloy rivets.
   - Recorded length: 4.6 cm
   - Recorded blade width: 2.0 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1/2.2
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

6. **Lance head**
   - Find number: 46-1-1
   - Original find number: YIB 143
   - Iron lance head of which it is recorded that it has a prominent mid rib and two copper alloy rivets attached to the socket; some fragments of the lance head are present in a box holding remnants of this grave. The iron can be identified as domed copper alloy rivet with carved rims.
   - Recorded length: 4.0 cm
   - Recorded blade width: 4.0 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1/2.2
   - Rhineland phase: 7-8B
   - Rhineland date: 635-640
   - Alternative type: FAG S-Gür4.6 (7: 610/20-640/40)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

7. **Back plate, iron**
   - Find number: 46-3-1
   - Original find number: YIB 148
   - Iron back plate with four copper alloy domed rivets and silver geometric inlays and leather/mineralised textile preserved on the backside of plate.
   - Length: 5.5 cm
   - Width: 4.6 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1/2.2
   - Rhineland phase: 7-8B
   - Rhineland date: 635-640
   - Alternative type: FAG S-Gür4.6 (7: 610/20-640/40)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8. **Plan buckle, iron**
   - Find number: 46-5-1
   - Original find number: YIB 147
   - Iron knife, fragments of this object might be present in box holding remnants of this grave.
   - Recorded length: 11.0 cm
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company

9. **Back plate, iron**
   - Find number: 46-3-1
   - Original find number: YIB 148
   - Indeterminate copper alloy plate, considerably weathered, with two domed copper alloy rivets.
   - Recorded length: 4.6 cm
   - Recorded blade width: 2.0 cm
   - Type: FAG Sax2.1/2.2
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
48

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 180
Grave pit width: 140
Grave pit depth: 110
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION

Mesoromanian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

GRAVE DATE

O-SML: 565-640/50
FAG 4: 460/80-440/70

FINDS

1. Fragment, iron
   Find number: 48-1-1
   Original find number: YIB 139

2. Copper alloy strap end with engraved decoration of two rows of short oblique stripes along the edges and two domed copper alloy rivets going through two rows of short oblique stripes along the edges. Copper alloy strap end with engraved decoration of two rows of short oblique stripes along the edges and two domed copper alloy rivets going through two rows of short oblique stripes along the edges.

3. Fragment, iron
   Find number: 48-2-1
   Original find number: YIB 158
   Red, opaque, barreled.
   Number: 1
   Type: RO8/B / S-Per 35.7
   Rhineland phase: 3-10
   Rhineland date: 565-640/50
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4. Fragment, iron plate
   Find number: 48-3-1
   Original find number: YIB 157
   Red, opaque, barreled.
   Number: 1
   Type: RO8/B / S-Per 35.7
   Rhineland phase: 3-10
   Rhineland date: 565-640/50
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5. Fragment, iron plate
   Find number: 48-4-1
   Original find number: YIB 157
   Red, opaque, barreled.
   Number: 1
   Type: RO8/B / S-Per 35.7
   Rhineland phase: 3-10
   Rhineland date: 565-640/50
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

OBBRICH-UIDE MOLEN

Catalogues of contexts and finds

49

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 300
Grave pit width: 180
Grave pit depth: 170
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION

Mesoromanian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was west-east, based on the skull fragments found close to the western wall.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The recently cremated inhumation remains present are some skull fragments and a part of the mandible. The indications for the biological sex and age at death are ambiguous. As overall conclusion it is suggested that the remains were of an adult, probably a man.

GRAVE DATE

O-SML: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1

FINDS

1. Bead, glass
   Find number: 49-1-1
   Original find number: VIB 153
   Rhineland date: 485-705
   Rhineland phase: 6-10
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Bead, glass
   Find number: 49-1-2
   Original find number: VIB 159
   Rhineland date: 570-705
   Rhineland phase: 6-10
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3. Bead, glass
   Find number: 49-1-3
   Original find number: VIB 159
   Rhineland date: 570-705
   Rhineland phase: 6-10
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4. Bead, glass
   Find number: 49-1-4
   Original find number: VIB 159
   Rhineland date: 570-705
   Rhineland phase: 6-10
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5. Bead, glass
   Find number: 49-1-5
   Original find number: VIB 159
   Rhineland date: 570-705
   Rhineland phase: 6-10
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

6. Bead, glass
   Find number: 49-1-6
   Original find number: VIB 159
   Rhineland date: 570-705
   Rhineland phase: 6-10
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

7. Bead, glass
   Find number: 49-1-7
   Original find number: VIB 159
   Rhineland date: 570-705
   Rhineland phase: 6-10
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8. Bead, glass
   Find number: 49-1-8
   Original find number: VIB 159
   Rhineland date: 570-705
   Rhineland phase: 6-10
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

9. Bead, glass
   Find number: 49-1-9
   Original find number: VIB 159
   Rhineland date: 570-705
   Rhineland phase: 6-10
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

10. Bead, glass
    Find number: 49-1-10
    Original find number: VIB 159
    Rhineland date: 570-705
    Rhineland phase: 6-10
    Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

11. Bead, glass
    Find number: 49-1-11
    Original find number: VIB 159
    Rhineland date: 570-705
    Rhineland phase: 6-10
    Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

12. Bead, glass
    Find number: 49-1-12
    Original find number: VIB 159
    Rhineland date: 570-705
    Rhineland phase: 6-10
    Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

OBBRICH-UIDE MOLEN

Catalogues of contexts and finds

C O N T E X T S  

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Restaura

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

48-1-1

49-1-1

48-2-1

49-2-1

49-3-1

49-4-1

49-5-1
50 INHUMATION GRAVE

2 Knife, iron
Find number: 50-4-1
Original find number: VIB 10-4/VIB 162
Recorded (total) length: 16 cm
Grave pit length: 12 cm
Location: Archaeological restoration company
Orientation W-E

DESCRIPTION
Moorvaagian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1 Fragment, pottery
Find number: 50-4-1
Fragment of a black pot, not decorated, forms approximately 1% of the original pot.
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Restaura

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 50-5-1
Number: 15
Location: missing

S1A INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 300
Grave pit width: 150
Grave pit depth: 40
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Moorvaagian inhumation grave; upper burial in a 'double grave'. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Grave 51 was identified as a grave with two superimposed bodies since finds were discovered at a depth of 90 cm and 130 cm. The upper burial, 51A, is identified as that of a man.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1 Seax, iron
Find number: 50-4-1
Find depth: 30
Iron lance head with diamond shaped blade and seemingly a split socket (this is not certain since the socket is damaged).
Length: 50 cm
Type: Coupland Lan2.5
Rhineland phase: 9
Rhineland date: 580-610
Location: Archaeological restoration company

Restaura

1 Lance head, iron
Find number: 50-2-1
Original find number: VIB 169
Find depth: 20
Iron lance head with diamond shaped blade and seemingly a split socket (this is not certain since the socket is damaged).
Length: 50 cm
Type: Coupland Lan2.5
Rhineland phase: 9
Rhineland date: 580-610
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Restaura

1 Plate buckle, iron
Find number: 51-4-1
Original find number: MS 127
Find depth: 130
Iron plate buckle, triangle plate with three copper alloy rivets and an oval buckle loop with shield tongue.
Length plate: 7.5 cm
Length buckle loop: 4.0 cm
Type: Coupland Girts 4
Place: Rhineland phase 8
Rhineland date: 610-640
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

1 Back plate, iron
Find number: 51-5-1
Original find number: MS 127
Find depth: 130
Iron back plate, considerably weathered, with four copper alloy rivets with carved rims (with silver inlays?)
Length: 5.5 cm
Width: 5.5 cm
Type: Coupland Girts 4
Place: Rhineland phase 8
Rhineland date: 610-640
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

OBBICH-OUTHDE MOLEN
Inhumation Grave

Grave Structure
- Trench grave
- Grave pit length: 250
- Grave pit width: 150
- Grave pit depth: 120
- Orientation: W-E

Description
- Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

Find 1: Pottery vessel
- Find number: 51-1-1
- Original find number: VIB 173
- Partially preserved brown-grey biconical pot; approximately 50% of the original pot is present.
- Type: Siegmund Kwt3.11/3.12/3.13
- Rhineland phase: 6-7
- Rhineland date: 570-610
- Alternative type: FAG Kwt5G/5H (5-6: 565-640/50)
- Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find 2: Glass, fragments
- Find number: 52-2-1
- Location: missing

The decoration on the upper wall with presumably a ridge is considerably weathered and difficult to identify. It seems to be a complex renaissance stamp decoration consisting of single interrupted lines of rectangular grids filled with small rectangular impressions of two columns and three stars, alternating with rectangular grids filled with radial lines.

Grave Date
- O-OM IIb: 565-640/50
- FAG: 565-640/50

Finds

1. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 51-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 173
   - Partially preserved brown-grey biconical pot; approximately 50% of the original pot is present.
   - Type: Siegmund Kwt3.11/3.12/3.13
   - Rhineland phase: 6-7
   - Rhineland date: 570-610
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt5G/5H (5-6: 565-640/50)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Glass, fragments
   - Find number: 52-2-1
   - Location: missing

Inhumation Grave

Grave Structure
- Trench grave
- Grave pit length: 250
- Grave pit width: 150
- Grave pit depth: 120
- Orientation: W-E

Description
- Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

Find 1: Pottery vessel
- Find number: 51-1-1
- Original find number: VIB 173
- Partially preserved brown-grey biconical pot; approximately 50% of the original pot is present.
- Type: Siegmund Kwt3.11/3.12/3.13
- Rhineland phase: 6-7
- Rhineland date: 570-610
- Alternative type: FAG Kwt5G/5H (5-6: 565-640/50)
- Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find 2: Glass, fragments
- Find number: 52-2-1
- Location: missing

The decoration on the upper wall with presumably a ridge is considerably weathered and difficult to identify. It seems to be a complex renaissance stamp decoration consisting of single interrupted lines of rectangular grids filled with small rectangular impressions of two columns and three stars, alternating with rectangular grids filled with radial lines.

Grave Date
- O-OM IIb: 565-640/50
- FAG: 565-640/50

Finds

1. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 51-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 173
   - Partially preserved brown-grey biconical pot; approximately 50% of the original pot is present.
   - Type: Siegmund Kwt3.11/3.12/3.13
   - Rhineland phase: 6-7
   - Rhineland date: 570-610
   - Alternative type: FAG Kwt5G/5H (5-6: 565-640/50)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Glass, fragments
   - Find number: 52-2-1
   - Location: missing
54 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 290
Grave pit width: 220
Grave pit depth: 170
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Dimensions were not identified or recorded. The grave was without finds. The indicated location, outline and orientation of the grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1 Seax or knife, iron
Find number: 54-1-1
Original find number: VIB 175
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

55 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 290
Grave pit width: 220
Grave pit depth: 160
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. A dark greasy substance was discovered in the middle of the grave indicating the former presence of the further completely decomposed body.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1 Seax or knife, iron
Find number: 55-1-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

56 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 280
Grave pit width: 150
Grave pit depth: 150
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Dimensions were not identified or recorded. The grave was without finds. The indicated location, outline and orientation of the grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1 Seax or knife, iron
Find number: 56-1-1
Original find number: VIB 175
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

57 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 280
Grave pit width: 150
Grave pit depth: 150
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Dimensions were not identified or recorded. The grave was without finds. The indicated location, outline and orientation of the grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1 Seax or knife, iron
Find number: 57-1-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

GRAVE DATE
O-OM IIc: 610/20-640/50
FAG 5-9: 565-710

FINDS
1 Knife, iron
Find number: 57-1-1
Find depth: 170
Recorded length: 17.0 cm
Recorded blade width: 2.5 cm
Location: missing

2 Bead, glass
Find number: 57-2-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Find depth: 150
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3 Pottery vessel
Find number: 57-3-1
Original find number: VIB 180
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

58 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 280
Grave pit width: 150
Grave pit depth: 150
Orientation: W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Dimensions were not identified or recorded. The grave was without finds. The indicated location, outline and orientation of the grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

FINDS
1 Bead, glass
Find number: 58-1-1
Original find number: VIB 180
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Grave date
O-OM IIc: 610/20-640/50
FAG 5-9: 565-710

FINDS
1 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 56-1-1
Length: 12.0 cm
Breadth: 2.0 cm
Location: missing

2 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 56-2-1
Length: 10.0 cm
Breadth: 2.0 cm
Location: missing

3 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 56-3-1
Length: 10.0 cm
Breadth: 2.0 cm
Location: missing

1 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 56-1-1
Length: 12.0 cm
Breadth: 2.0 cm
Location: missing

Bead, amber
Find number: 56-1-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Find depth: 150
Number: 1
Type: A44
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2 Bead, glass
Find number: 57-1-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Find depth: 170
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3 Bead, glass
Find number: 57-2-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Find depth: 150
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 57-2-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Find depth: 150
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2 Bead, glass
Find number: 57-2-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Find depth: 150
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

1 Bead, amber
Find number: 57-2-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Find depth: 150
Number: 1
Type: A44
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 56-2-1
Length: 12.0 cm
Breadth: 2.0 cm
Location: missing

3 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 56-3-1
Location: missing

1 Bead, amber
Find number: 57-2-1
Original find number: VIB 179
Find depth: 150
Number: 1
Type: A44
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Grave date
O-OM IIc: 610/20-640/50
FAG 5-9: 565-710

FINDS
1 Knife, iron
Find number: 57-1-1
Find depth: 170
Recorded length: 17.0 cm
Recorded blade width: 2.5 cm
Location: missing

2 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 57-2-1
Length: 10.0 cm
Breadth: 2.0 cm
Location: missing

3 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 57-3-1
Length: 10.0 cm
Breadth: 2.0 cm
Location: missing
58

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave

1. Fragment, iron
   Find number: 58-4-1
   Iron fragment, round
   Location: missing

2. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 59-1-1
   Original find number: YBR 154
   Fragments of grey bioclastic pot decorated with single lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. Approximately 30% of the original pot is present.
   Type: Siegmund Kwt3(1.5-5.5-15).
   Rhineland phase: 6-7.
   Rhineland date: c.560-640.
   Alternative type: FAG Kwt5B/5C (5-8: 565-670/80).

3. Wood remnants
   Find number: 58-1-1
   Original find number: YBR 155
   Large wooden fragments.
   Location: Archaeological restoration company, Restaura.

4. Buckle, iron
   Find number: 59-3-1
   Original find number: YBR 148
   Simple buckle with oval loop, oval section, and straight simple iron tongue.
   Length loop: 6.4 cm.
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein.

Description

59

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave

1. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 60-1-1
   Original find number: YBR 185
   Fragments of a grey spouted pot with horizontal outward folded rim and decorated with multiple lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions. Approximately 40% of the original pot is present.
   Type: Siegmund Kwt3(3.11-3.12-3.13).
   Rhineland phase: 6-7.
   Rhineland date: c.560-640.
   Alternative type: FAG Kwt5B/5C (5-8: 565-670/80).

2. Wood remnants
   Find number: 60-2-1
   Original find number: YBR 156
   Wood fragments.
   Location: Archaeological restoration company, Restaura.

3. Buckle, iron
   Find number: 59-3-1
   Original find number: YBR 148
   Simple buckle with oval loop, oval section, and straight simple iron tongue.
   Length loop: 4.4 cm.
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein.

Description

60

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave

1. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 61-1-1
   Original find number: YBR 185
   Fragments of an iron knife.
   Original find number: VIB 186.
   Rhineland date: 570-610.
   Rhineland phase: 6-7.
   Type: Siegmund Kwt3.12.

2. Wood remnants
   Find number: 61-2-1
   Rhineland date: c.560-650.
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein.

Description

61

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave

1. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 62-1-1
   Original find number: VIB 184.
   Fragments of a grey spouted pot with horizontal outward folded not thickened rim. The upper wall is decorated with five single lines of complex roulette stamp impressions consisting of rectangular grids of two columns and five or four rows of small rectangles, the roulette stamp seems to be uninterrupted, but might be interrupted; this is difficult to establish unambiguously. Found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed; approximately 90% of the original pot is present but the added parts are difficult to tell apart from the original parts.
   Height: 8.8 cm.
   Type: Siegmund Kwt4.1.
   Rhineland phase: 7.
   Rhineland date: 585-610.

2. Wood remnants
   Find number: 62-2-1
   Fragments of an iron knife.
   Find number: 63-1-1
   Fragments of an iron knife.
   Location: Archaeological restoration company, Restaura.

3. Buckle, copper alloy
   Find number: 63-3-1
   Indeterminate copper alloy fragments.
   Location: Archaeological restoration company, Restaura.

Description

62

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave

1. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 61-1-1
   Original find number: YBR 185.
   Fragments of an iron knife.
   Find number: 62-1-1
   Alternative type: FAG Kwt4(7.5-8: 565-640/50).
   Rhineland date: c.560-650.
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein.

2. Iron, iron
   Find number: 62-3-1
   Original find number: YBR 186
   Fragments of an iron knife.
   Location: Archaeological restoration company, Restaura.
INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: wooden container grave

**Grave pit length**: 240

**Grave pit width**: 220

**Grave pit depth**: 140

**Orientation**: W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was west-east, based on the skull fragments found close to the western wall of the grave. A black hand-shaped soil discoloration indicated the former location of the northern wall of a wooden container.

**PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Small fragments of the skull of a least one individual are present; they are of a woman of 18-30 years.

**GRAVE DATE**

O-OM IIa: 565-610/620

**Rhineland date**: 570-610

**Rhineland phase**: 7-8

**Type**: FAG 3-4: 460/80-565

**Dimensions of the grave**

**Grave pit depth**: 140

**Grave pit width**: 220

**Grave pit length**: 240

**Grave structure**: trench grave

**GRAVE VESSELS**

1. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 64-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 188
   - Fragments of a black biconical pot; approximately 25% of the original pot is present. The fragments are decorated with single uninterrupted lines of rectangular grids of two columns and two rows of small rectangles. The stamp impressions are present.
   - Orientation: W-E

2. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 64-2-1
   - Original find number: VIB 190
   - Fragments of the skull and upper jawbone, and a nearly complete lower jawbone and teeth of an adult individual recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers; now considerably fewer fragments are available, they are of a woman of 18-30 years.
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

POSSIBLE INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: trench grave

**Grave pit length**: -

**Grave pit width**: -

**Grave pit depth**: -

**Orientation**: W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably west-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The locations of the finds within the grave were not identified or recorded.

**GRAVE VESSELS**

1. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 64-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 188
   - Fragments of the skull and upper jawbone, and a nearly complete lower jawbone and teeth of an adult individual recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers; now considerably fewer fragments are available, they are of a woman of 18-30 years.
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 64-2-1
   - Original find number: VIB 190
   - Fragments of the skull and upper jawbone, and a nearly complete lower jawbone and teeth of an adult individual recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers; now considerably fewer fragments are available, they are of a woman of 18-30 years.
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: -

**Grave pit length**: -

**Grave pit width**: -

**Grave pit depth**: -

**Orientation**: W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The indicated location, orientation and dimensions of the grave on the original cemetery plan are incorrect since the grave was mentioned to have been found in another parcel at some distance from the cemetery. Dimensions of the grave were not given but two finds were recorded.

**GRAVE VESSELS**

1. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 64-1-1
   - Original find number: VIB 188
   - Fragments of the skull and upper jawbone, and a nearly complete lower jawbone and teeth of an adult individual recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers; now considerably fewer fragments are available, they are of a woman of 18-30 years.
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Pottery vessel
   - Find number: 64-2-1
   - Original find number: VIB 190
   - Fragments of the skull and upper jawbone, and a nearly complete lower jawbone and teeth of an adult individual recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers; now considerably fewer fragments are available, they are of a woman of 18-30 years.
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

FINDS WITHOUT FIND NUMBER OR CONTEXT INFORMATION

**Nail, iron**

- Find number: 0-0-1
- Original find number: VIB 16/18
- Iron nail in corroded condition. The original find number is not clear, but might be VIB 18, which indicates that it belonged to other grave 31, 32 or 33. The screws from these graves in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers are identified, so it is not certain to which grave this nail actually belonged. It is classified in type Sax2.2 or Sax3 since its actual blade length cannot be established precisely because of its corroded condition.
- Length: 1.4 cm
- Width: 0.5 cm
- Type: Siegmund Sax3 (10B-11: c.685-740)

**Seax, iron**

- Find number: 0-0-3
- Original find number: VIB 86/88?
- Iron seax in corroded condition. The original find number is not clear, but might be VIB 88, which indicates that it belonged to other grave 31, 32 or 33. The screws from these graves in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers are identified, so it is not certain to which grave this seax actually belonged. It is classified in type Sax2.2 or Sax3 since its actual blade length cannot be established precisely because of its corroded condition.
- Width blade: c. 5.7 cm
- Length blade: c. 45.5 cm
- Type: Siegmund Sax2.2 (640-705)

**Iron blade, iron**

- Find number: 0-0-3
- Original find number: VIB 86/88?
- Iron blade, corroded condition. The iron blade was corroded since its actual blade length cannot be established precisely because of its corroded condition.
- Length: 45.5 cm
- Width blade: c. 5.7 cm
- Type: Siegmund Sax2.2 (640-705)

**Seax, iron**

- Find number: 0-0-3
- Original find number: VIB 86/88?
- Iron seax in corroded condition. The original find number is not clear, but might be VIB 88, which indicates that it belonged to other grave 31, 32 or 33. The screws from these graves in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers are identified, so it is not certain to which grave this seax actually belonged. It is classified in type Sax2.2 or Sax3 since its actual blade length cannot be established precisely because of its corroded condition.
- Width blade: c. 5.7 cm
- Length blade: c. 45.5 cm
- Type: Siegmund Sax3 (10B-11: c.685-740)
### 1 INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 320

**Grave pit width**: 170

**Grave pit depth**: 185

**Orientation**: SW-NE

**Description**
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but this is not certain since no human remains were found. The burial pit seemed to be slightly oval. The grave had a grey-black greasy fill with stones. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate. The grave was without finds.

**Grave date**
Cannot be dated

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### 2 INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 325

**Grave pit width**: 140

**Grave pit depth**: 185

**Orientation**: SW-NE

**Description**
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and shape of the burial pit could not be recorded, but appeared to be smaller than grave 3 and 4. The grave had a grey-black greyey fill with stones. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate. The grave was without finds.

**Grave date**
Cannot be dated

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### 3 INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 280

**Grave pit width**: 250

**Grave pit depth**: 120

**Orientation**: SW-NE

**Description**
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but this is not certain since no human remains were found. The burial pit seemed to be slightly oval. The grave had a grey-black greyey fill with stones. The grave is partly disturbed by a recent pit in which a chopped tree trunk was found.

**Grave date**
Cannot be dated

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### FINDS

1. **Pottery, fragments**
   - **Find number**: 1-1-1
   - **Location**: missing

2. **Pottery, fragments**
   - **Find number**: 1-2-1
   - **Location**: missing

3. **Pottery, fragments**
   - **Find number**: 1-3-1
   - **Location**: missing

4. **Pottery, fragments**
   - **Find number**: 1-4-1
   - **Location**: missing

5. **Pottery vessel**
   - **Find number**: 1-5-1
   - **Location**: Archaeological Museum Stein

6. **Pottery vessel**
   - **Find number**: 1-6-1
   - **Location**: Archaeological Museum Stein

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### INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 325

**Grave pit width**: 140

**Grave pit depth**: 185

**Orientation**: SW-NE

**Description**
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions and shape of the burial pit could not be recorded, but appeared to be smaller than grave 3 and 4. The grave had a grey-black greyey fill with stones. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate. The grave was without finds.

**Grave date**
Cannot be dated

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### INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 280

**Grave pit width**: 250

**Grave pit depth**: 120

**Orientation**: SW-NE

**Description**
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but this is not certain since no human remains were found. The burial pit seemed to be slightly oval. The grave had a grey-black greyey fill with stones. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate. The grave was without finds.

**Grave date**
Cannot be dated

---

### INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 280

**Grave pit width**: 250

**Grave pit depth**: 120

**Orientation**: SW-NE

**Description**
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but this is not certain since no human remains were found. The burial pit seemed to be slightly oval. The grave had a grey-black greyey fill with stones. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate. The grave was without finds.

**Grave date**
Cannot be dated

---

### INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit length**: 280

**Grave pit width**: 250

**Grave pit depth**: 120

**Orientation**: SW-NE

**Description**
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but this is not certain since no human remains were found. The burial pit seemed to be slightly oval. The grave had a grey-black greyey fill with stones. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate. The grave was without finds.

**Grave date**
Cannot be dated
**4 Fragments, iron**
Find number: 5-4-1
Indenmineral iron fragments
Location: Archaeological restoration company Kornau

**5 Pottery vessel**
Find number: 5-1-1
Terra sigillata beaker, Dragendorff 33
Date: Roman
Location: missing

**6 INHUMATION GRAVE**
Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 170
Grave pit depth: 80
Orientation: SW-NE

**DESCRIPTION**
Mesoroman inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but this is not certain since no human remains were found. The grave has straight walls, a black greasy fill with sand and stones, and the bottom consists of a sandy clay layer of 3 cm.

**GRAVE DATE**
Cannot be dated

**FINDS**
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 5-1-1
Terra sigillata beaker: foot and wall fragments
Recorded height: 5.1 cm
Date: Roman
Location: missing

2 Pottery vessel
Find number: 5-3-1
Terra sigillata beaker: foot and wall fragments
Recorded height: 4.5-5 cm
Date: Roman
Location: missing

3 Fragments, glass vessel
Find number: 5-3-1
Original find number: VIA 11
Two rim fragments of olive green glass (three were recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers)
Original find number: VIA 11
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

**7 INHUMATION GRAVE**
Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 120
Grave pit depth: 90
Orientation: SW-NE

**DESCRIPTION**
Mesoroman inhumation grave. The grave was considerably disturbed and only traces of it were observed in the wall of the grave excavation pit. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

**GRAVE DATE**
Cannot be dated

**FINDS**
6 Pottery vessel
Find number: 5-3-1
Terra sigillata beaker, Dragendorff 33
Date: Roman
Location: missing

**8 INHUMATION GRAVE**
Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 150
Grave pit depth: 130
Orientation: SW-NE

**DESCRIPTION**
Mesoroman inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but this is not certain since no human remains were found. Only a small part of this grave remained but its length and depth could be established.

**GRAVE DATE**
Cannot be dated

**FINDS**
2 Sword belt fitting, copper alloy
Find number: 5-1-1
Original find number: VIA 15
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.3/3.4
Rhineland phase: 8
Rhineland date: 610-640
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

**GRAVE DATE**
5-6-1

**FINDS**
1 Lance head, iron
Find number: 5-1-1
Original find number: VIA 14
Type: Siegmund Gür4.5
Rhineland phase: 8
Rhineland date: 610-640
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

**GRAVE DATE**
5-4-1

**FINDS**
3 Sword belt fitting, copper alloy
Find number: 5-1-1
Original find number: VIA 15
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.3/3.4
Rhineland phase: 8
Rhineland date: 610-640
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

**GRAVE DATE**
5-4-1
3. Knife, iron  
Find number: 8-3-1  
Original find number: VIA 16  
Iron knife with wood remains preserved on the iron hilt core. A small iron wire was laid to the blade. 
Length blade: 4.9 cm  
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein  

4. Scra, iron  
Find number: 8-4-1  
Original find number: VIA 16  
Iron seax with twisted iron elements, for approximately 50% completed. 
Length: 9.2 cm  
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein  

5. Plate buckle, iron  
Find number: 8-5-1  
Original find number: VIA 18  
Square iron back plate with three complete but considerably weathered rivets and remains of the fourth. Riveted sheet leather remains are preserved on the front and back side of the plate. 
Length: 5.7 cm  
Width: 4.8 cm  
Type: Siegmund Gür4.5  
Rhineland phase: 8  
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein  

6. Sword (1) belt fitting, copper alloy  
Find number: 8-6-1  
Original find number: VIA 21  
Small copper alloy plate buckle with a triangular plate with undulating outline and three copper alloy rivets. The plate is attached to the remains of a buckle loop with shield tongue and the dimensions of the buckle loop could not be established. Leather remains are preserved on the back of the plate. 
Length plate: 4.9 cm  
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.3/3.4  
Rhineland phases: 8  
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein  

7. Fragment, copper alloy  
Find number: 8-7-1  
Original find number: VIA 19  
Fragment of a copper alloy loop fitting. The extremity of the strap end is gone. Two additional copper alloy fragments are associated with this find; it is not certain whether they were originally part of it. 
Length: 6.4 cm  
Type: L/P/V 199  
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1  
L/P/V data: approx. 850-950  
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein  

8. Strap end, iron  
Find number: 8-8-3  
Original find number: VIA 19  
Tongue-shaped iron strap end with split base and two small copper alloy rivets. 
Length: 3.5 cm  
Width: 1.8 cm  
Type: L/P/V 199  
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1  
L/P/V data: approx. 850-950  
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein  

9. Glass vessel  
Find number: 8-9-1  
Original find number: VIA 23  
Iron restored shield boss (and some additional fragments) with a slightly oblique rim, slightly oblique wall and a pronounced transition from wall to base. 
Height: 5.2 cm  
Diameter: 13.5-15.4 cm  
Type: Siegmund Sax  
Rhineland phases: 8  
Earl date: 610-640  
Alternative type: Pyx 55.0 (550-660)  
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein  

10. Maul  
Find number: 8-10-1  
Original find number: VIA 14  
Blue palm core without decoration and with a heart-shaped and industrial bottom and outward rolled rim. Air bubbles are visible. The vessel was found in fragmented condition but is now restored and completed. Approximately 65% of the original vessel is present. 
Height: 6.8 cm  
Type: Maul (9th c.): Turnbeater B3a  
Maul date: 770-860  
Alternative type: Pyx 55.0 (550-660)  
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
9

INHUMATION GRAVE

Catalogues of contexts and finds

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length 230
Grave pit width 140
Grave pit depth 90
Orientation: SW-NE

Description

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no clear human remains were found. A brownish discoloration of the soil, indicating the former presence of a body, was recorded at a depth of 75 cm.

Grave Date

Cannot be dated

10

INHUMATION GRAVE

Catalogues of contexts and finds

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length 140
Grave pit width 80
Grave pit depth 64
Orientation: S-N

Description

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-north, but this is not certain since no human remains were found. It was observed that the grave was emptied and the orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but this is not certain since no human remains were found. A brownish discoloration of the soil, indicating the former presence of a body, was recorded at a depth of 75 cm.

Grave Date

Cannot be dated

11

INHUMATION GRAVE

Catalogues of contexts and finds

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length 130
Grave pit width 80
Grave pit depth 64
Orientation: SW-NE

Description

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since the imprint of the body did not leave a clear silhouette. A greyish-gray substance was observed at the bottom of the grave, which might have been the body imprint referred to.

Grave Date

Cannot be dated

12

INHUMATION GRAVE

Catalogues of contexts and finds

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length 150
Grave pit width 90
Grave pit depth 100
Orientation: SW-NE

Description

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably southwestern-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since the imprint of the body did not leave a clear silhouette. A greyish-gray substance was observed at the bottom of the grave, which might have been the body imprint referred to.

Grave Date

Cannot be dated

Find: pottery sherd
Find number: 11-1-1

Small brown-grey pot without decoration, it is repaired and completed. Approximately 80% of the original pot is present.

Height: 8 cm
Type: Original find number: FAG S-Kwt.43
Rhineland phase: 8-9
Rhineland date: 610-670
Alternative type: FAG S-Kwt.43 (6-9: 380-710)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: glass bead
Find number: 11-1-2

Original find number: YIA 18


Number: 1
Location: Archaeological restoration company

Find: bronze bowl
Find number: 11-1-3

Original find number: FAG S-Kwt.43 (6-9: 380-710)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: copper alloy bow
Find number: 11-1-4

Height loop: 5.0 cm
Type: Original find number: FAG S-Kwt.43 (6-9: 380-710)
Rhineland phase: 8-9
Rhineland date: 610-670
Alternative type: FAG S-Kwt.43 (6-9: 380-710)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: iron sword
Find number: 12-1-1

Find depth: 80
Length: 95 cm
Width: 5.0 cm
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.2b
Rhineland phase: 6
Rhineland date: 570-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: copper alloy belt fitting
Find number: 12-2-1

Find depth: 75 cm
Length loop: 5.0 cm
Width: 3.9 cm
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.2b
Rhineland phase: 6
Rhineland date: 570-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: bronze spearhead
Find number: 12-3-1

Find depth: 80
Length: 95 cm
Width: 3.9 cm
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.2b
Rhineland phase: 6
Rhineland date: 570-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: iron spearhead
Find number: 12-4-1

Find depth: 80
Length: 95 cm
Width: 3.9 cm
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.2b
Rhineland phase: 6
Rhineland date: 570-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: bronze alloy, gilded, with wooden base plate, gold foil and garnets
Find number: 12-5-1

Length: 5.4 cm
Width: 3.9 cm
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.2b
Rhineland phase: 6
Rhineland date: 570-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: bronze alloy, gilded, with wooden base plate, gold foil and garnets
Find number: 12-6-1

Length: 5.4 cm
Width: 3.9 cm
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.2b
Rhineland phase: 6
Rhineland date: 570-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: bronze alloy, gilded, with wooden base plate, gold foil and garnets
Find number: 12-7-1

Length: 5.4 cm
Width: 3.9 cm
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.2b
Rhineland phase: 6
Rhineland date: 570-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: bronze alloy, gilded, with wooden base plate, gold foil and garnets
Find number: 12-8-1

Length: 5.4 cm
Width: 3.9 cm
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.2b
Rhineland phase: 6
Rhineland date: 570-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Find: bronze alloy, gilded, with wooden base plate, gold foil and garnets
Find number: 12-9-1

Length: 5.4 cm
Width: 3.9 cm
Type: variant of Siegmund Gür3.2b
Rhineland phase: 6
Rhineland date: 570-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
13 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 85
Grave pit width: 80
Grave pit depth: 85
Orientation: SW-NE

DESCRIPTION: Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The burial pit has an irregular outline and a grey gravel fill.

GRAVE DATE: Cannot be dated

14 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length: 135
Grave pit width: 77
Grave pit depth: 84
Orientation: S-N

DESCRIPTION: Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

GRAVE DATE: Cannot be dated

FINDS

1. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 14-4-1
   Original find number: VIA 86
   Grey globular pot of coarse ware with sand and volcanic inclusions. Broken but restored; the pot is complete. Height: 10 cm
   Type: globular pots (seventh century)
   Date: 650–750
   Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Belt fitting, iron
   Find number: 14-4-1
   Recorded (maximum width): 7 cm
   Location: missing

3. Iron fire steel
   Find number: 14-1-1
   Recorded (maximum width): 7 cm
   Location: missing

4. Indeterminate object, iron
   Find number: 14-1-1
   Round iron object with a hole in the middle, found near the western wall of the grave.
   Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans
16 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 140
Grave pit width: 87
Grave pit depth: 100
Oriention: W-E

DESCRIPTION

Microscopic inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since the imprint of the body found at a depth of 80 cm did not leave a clear silhouette. The find of a ruler in the upper fill of the grave might indicate that the grave was reopened. 

GRAVE DATE

S-GB IIa: 520/20-610/20
FAG: 7-80; 190/20-755

FINDS

1. Knife, copper alloy
   Find number: 17-2-1
   Original find number: VIA 43
   Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

2. Copper alloy ring found in the upper fill of the grave.
   Location: missing

3. Pottery vessel
   Find number: 17-3-1
   Original find number: 18-2-1
   Type: Siegmund Kwt2.32
   Height: 10.5 cm
   Grooves on the middle of the upper wall.

18 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 170
Grave pit width: 130
Grave pit depth: 87
Oriention: S-N

DESCRIPTION

Microscopic inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. A soil depth of 75 cm in the dewater fill with pebbles changed into a greasy light grey clay fill at a lower level. A vertical section showed that the contur was narrower at the top. The fill bordered by the band shaped soil discoloration was clearly different from its surroundings. It was observed that the ground was disturbed till a depth of 170 cm, which might indicate the former presence of beams on which the wooden container was placed (as we know them from other cemeteries with coffin graves).

GRAVE DATE

S-GB IIIa: 520/20-610/20
FAG: 7-90; 190/20-755

FINDS

1. Bead, glass
   Find number: 19-1-1
   Original find number: VIA 48
   Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

2. Bead, glass
   Find number: 19-1-1.2
   Location: missing

3. Bead, glass
   Find number: 19-1-1.3
   Location: missing

4. Blue-white.
   Find depth: 170 cm
   Location: missing

5. Bead, glass
   Find number: 19-1-1.4
   Find depth: 170 cm
   Location: missing

6. Bead, glass
   Find number: 19-1-1.5
   Find depth: 170 cm
   Location: missing

7. Bead, glass
   Find number: 19-1-1.6
   Find depth: 170 cm
   Location: missing

8. Bead, glass
   Find number: 19-1-1.7
   Find depth: 170 cm
   Location: missing
21 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 335
Grave pit width: 185
Grave pit depth: 170
Orientation: SW-NE

DESCRIPTION
Metropolitan information grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The body was found in a grave pit filled with light grey clay. The grave contained no finds, but there was a dark rectangular soil discoloration at a depth of 110 cm. The black greyish and shiny soil discoloration was observed at a depth of 120 cm. The grave was further deepened with a trowel. The soil discoloration became visible and at a depth of 100 cm the contours of the head and chest of two bodies were visible. The grave was not filled with soil.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

22 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 115
Grave pit width: 100
Grave pit depth: 80
Orientation: SW-NE

DESCRIPTION
Metropolitan information grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. A dark rectangular soil discoloration was observed at a depth of 110 cm. The grave was not filled with soil.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated
23 INHUMATION GRAVE

GRAVE DATE: 640-670/80

FINDS

1. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.1
   - Original find number: VIA 53
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: GO20
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

2. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.2
   - Original find number: VIA 55
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: YO35
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

3. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.3
   - Original find number: VIA 55
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: YO30 / S-Per 33.3
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

4. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.4
   - Original find number: VIA 56
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: YO29 / form group S-47.4
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

5. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.5
   - Original find number: VIA 56
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: GT35/Siegmund group 46
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

6. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.6
   - Original find number: VIA 55
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: BT35 / S-Per 47-4
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

7. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.7
   - Original find number: VIA 55
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: WO35
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

8. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.8
   - Original find number: VIA 56
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: WO30 / Siegmund group 32
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

9. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.9
   - Original find number: VIA 56
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: GT30/Siegmund group 46
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

10. Bead, glass
   - Find number: 23-2-1.10
   - Original find number: VIA 56
   - Bead: glass
     - Type: WO19 / Siegmund group 32
     - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
     - Inhumation grave
     - Grave pit depth: 80
     - Grave pit width: 170
     - Grave pit length: 260

11. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.11
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: YO30 / S-Per 33.3
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

12. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.12
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: YO29 / form group S-47.4
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

13. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.13
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: GT35/Siegmund group 46
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

14. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.14
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: WO30 / Siegmund group 32
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

15. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.15
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: WO19 / Siegmund group 32
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

16. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.16
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: YO30 / S-Per 33.3
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

17. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.17
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: YO29 / form group S-47.4
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

18. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.18
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: GT35/Siegmund group 46
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

19. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.19
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: WO30 / Siegmund group 32
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

20. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.20
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: WO19 / Siegmund group 32
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

21. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.21
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: YO30 / S-Per 33.3
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

22. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.22
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: YO29 / form group S-47.4
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

23. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.23
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: GT35/Siegmund group 46
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

24. Bead, glass
    - Find number: 23-2-1.24
    - Original find number: VIA 56
    - Bead: glass
      - Type: WO30 / Siegmund group 32
      - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
      - Inhumation grave
      - Grave pit depth: 80
      - Grave pit width: 170
      - Grave pit length: 260

DESCRIPTION

The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.
25 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 240
Grave pit width: 155
Grave pit depth: 50
Orientation: SW-NE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-west-north-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The fill of the grave was loamy and rich in pebbles.

GRAVE DATE
Phase S-GB Ia. 510-610/20

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 26-1-1
Original find number: VIA 57
Grey-brown biconical pot, restored and partly completed, approximately 70% of the original pot is present. The rim was broken but is now restored and small remains of three grooves on the middle of the upper wall, alternating with two zones with stamp impressions consisting of vertical rectangular grids filled with two columns and four rows of impressed squares. The grooves seem to have been applied irregularly which indicates the use of a single stamp but since the restoration makes a clear observation of the decoration difficult it might also be an early rectangular stamp. Height: 18.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt1.2a
Rhineland phase: 4
Rhineland date: 570-585 (610)
FAG 4-7: 595-640/50

26 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 180
Grave pit width: 100
Grave pit depth: 80
Orientation: SW-NE (65)

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-west-north-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The fill of the grave is loamy and rich in pebbles.

GRAVE DATE
Phase S-GB Ia. 510-610/20
FAG 4-7: 595-640/50

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 26-1-1
Original find number: VIA 57
Brown-grey biconical pot, restored and partly completed, approximately 70% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with three zones of complex interrupted roulette stamp impressions consisting of square grids filled with three columns and two rows of small rectangles. The rim was broken but is now restored and small remains of three grooves on the middle of the upper wall, alternating with two zones with stamp impressions consisting of vertical rectangular grids filled with two columns and four rows of impressed squares. The grooves seem to have been applied irregularly which indicates the use of a single stamp but since the restoration makes a clear observation of the decoration difficult it might also be an early rectangular stamp. Height: 18.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt1.2a
Rhineland phase: 4
Rhineland date: 570-585 (610)
Rhineland phase: 5 (6)
Rhineland date: 570-585 (610)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

27 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 150
Grave pit width: 70
Grave pit depth: 90
Orientation: SW-NE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-west-north-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The fill of the grave is loamy and rich in pebbles.

GRAVE DATE
Phase S-GB Ia. 510-610/20
FAG 4-7: 595-640/50

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 26-1-1
Original find number: VIA 59
Alternative type: FAG Kwt2A (4-5: 510/20-580/90)
Rhineland phase: 4
Rhineland date: 530-555
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
Height: 12.6 cm (the completed part is higher: 18.3 cm)
Pottery vessel
Find number: 26-1-1
Original find number: VIA 59
Grey-brown biconical pot, restored and parts of the pot were completed, it is difficult to tell the original and completed parts apart. Approximately 80% of the original pot seems to be present. The upper wall is decorated with three grooves, in between which two zones of single stamp impressions of irregular undulating vertical lines of c. 1 cm are applied. It was baked relatively hard and the carination is only slightly pronounced. Height: 11.5 cm (the completed part is higher: 12.6 cm)
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.12
Rhineland phase: 4
Rhineland date: 510-600
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

28 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: coffin grave
Grave pit length: 60
Grave pit width: 50
Grave pit depth: 40
Orientation: SW-NE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-west-north-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The fill of the grave is loamy and rich in pebbles. Grey-brown shaped soil deposits with a width of 6-9 cm indicated the former presence of a wooden chamber with coffin. The band-shaped traces of the chamber walls were observed at a depth of 87 cm. It was observed that those band-shaped traces of the chamber touched the short burial pit walls and that it was standing 30 cm from one long wall and 15 cm from the other long wall, which respective long wall was not specified. At a depth of 100 cm the band is a rectangle with a length of 135 cm and a width of 110 cm, this might indicate that the chamber became narrower with increasing depth, since it was observed that the chamber wall traces touched the short walls of the burial pit when it was first observed at a depth of 87 cm. In three corners of the chamber traces of what were thought to be posts were discovered, it was not recorded in which corners exactly. Traces of the walls of the second wooden container, the coffin, were also observed at a depth of 87 cm. The coffin had a length of 100 cm and a width of 75 cm. It was recorded that three vertical sections showed that the coffin was placed on the chamber floor. Drawings of those sections are not available.

GRAVE DATE
Phase S-GB Ia. 510-610/20
FAG 4-7: 595-640/50

29 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: wooden chamber with coffin grave
Grave pit length: 170
Grave pit width: 165
Grave pit depth: 120
Orientation: SW-NE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-west-north-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The fill of the grave is loamy and rich in pebbles.
**30 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | wooden container grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 185
**Grave pit width** | 140
**Grave pit depth** | 105
**Orientation** | SW-NE

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB Ie-10 | FAG 4-3-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Lance-head, iron
2. Find Number: 31-1-1
3. Original find number: VIA 30
4. Iron lance-head, fragment, preserved in its articulated position. First identified as a scara in the catalogue of Becker and Becker. The fragments seem to be the remains of a lance head with broad ob.
5. Recorded length: 410 cm
6. Type: Stiegman La.3
7. Rhineland phase: 7-8A
8. Rhineland date: 655-665
10. Location: Restoration Company Restaura

---

**31 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | trenches grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 145
**Grave pit width** | 75
**Grave pit depth** | 80
**Orientation** | SW-NE

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB IIa-11 | FAG 2-6-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Bead, glass
2. Find number: 31-4-1.2
3. Original find number: VIA 63
4. Blue, transparent, globular.

---

**32 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | trenches grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 180
**Grave pit width** | 150
**Grave pit depth** | 115
**Orientation** | W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB IIa-11 | FAG 2-6-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Bead, glass
2. Find number: 32-1-1.3
3. Original find number: VIA 65
4. Green, opaque, almond.

---

**33 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | trenches grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 180
**Grave pit width** | 150
**Grave pit depth** | 115
**Orientation** | W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB IIa-11 | FAG 2-6-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Bead, glass
2. Find number: 33-1-1.3
3. Original find number: VIA 65
4. Red, opaque, long cylindrical, decorated: white threads.

---

**34 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | trenches grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 180
**Grave pit width** | 150
**Grave pit depth** | 115
**Orientation** | W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB IIa-11 | FAG 2-6-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Bead, glass
2. Find number: 34-1-1.3
3. Original find number: VIA 65

---

**35 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | trenches grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 180
**Grave pit width** | 150
**Grave pit depth** | 115
**Orientation** | W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB IIa-11 | FAG 2-6-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Bead, glass
2. Find number: 35-1-1.3
3. Original find number: VIA 65
4. Blue, opaque, long cylindrical, four sides, decorated: yellow dots.

---

**36 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | trenches grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 180
**Grave pit width** | 150
**Grave pit depth** | 115
**Orientation** | W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB IIa-11 | FAG 2-6-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Bead, glass
2. Find number: 36-1-1.3
3. Original find number: VIA 65
4. Blue, opaque, long cylindrical, four sides.

---

**37 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | trenches grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 180
**Grave pit width** | 150
**Grave pit depth** | 115
**Orientation** | W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB IIa-11 | FAG 2-6-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Bead, glass
2. Find number: 37-1-1.3
3. Original find number: VIA 65
4. Blue, opaque, long cylindrical, four sides, decorated: yellow dots.

---

**38 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | trenches grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 180
**Grave pit width** | 150
**Grave pit depth** | 115
**Orientation** | W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB IIa-11 | FAG 2-6-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Bead, glass
2. Find number: 38-1-1.3
3. Original find number: VIA 65
4. Blue, opaque, long cylindrical, four sides, decorated: yellow dots.

---

**39 INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure** | trenches grave
---|---
**Grave pit length** | 180
**Grave pit width** | 150
**Grave pit depth** | 115
**Orientation** | W-E

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**GRAVE DATE**

| S-GB IIa-11 | FAG 2-6-50 | S-Per 34.6 |
---|---|---|

**FINDS**

1. Bead, glass
2. Find number: 39-1-1.3
3. Original find number: VIA 65
4. Blue, opaque, long cylindrical, four sides, decorated: yellow dots.
33 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: inhumation grave
Grave pit length: 220
Grave pit width: 220
Grave pit depth: 70
Orientation: SW-NE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave was destroyed when a large oak was chopped already some time before the cemetery was excavated. Only some fragments of a spouted pot were mentioned to have been found in a corner of the grave. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
FAG 5-6: 565-610/20

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 34-1-1
Original find number: VIA 68
Grey spouted pot, of impure coarse ware containing small pebbles and sand, found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed; approximately 75% of the original pot is present.

34 INHUMATION GRAVE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave was destroyed when a large old oak was chopped already some time before the cemetery was excavated. Only some fragments of a spouted pot were mentioned to have been found in a corner of the grave. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
FAG 5-6: 565-610/20

LOCATION
Archaeological Museum Stein

Catalogues of contexts and finds

Schretzheim phases: 2-3
Type: Koch Schretzheim 1977-Group 45
white, blue bands.

Schretzheim date: 545/50-590/600
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.5
Original find number: VIA 65
Black, opaque, almond.
Number: 1
Type: BT6
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.4
Original find number: VIA 65
Blue, opaque, globular.
Number: 2
Type: WO1
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.3
Original find number: VIA 65
Blue, opaque, almond.
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.2
Original find number: VIA 65
Green, opaque, short cylindrical.
Number: 1
Type: GO35
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.1
Original find number: VIA 65
Black, opaque, long cylindrical.
Number: 1
Type: BT18
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.6
Original find number: VIA 65
Black, opaque, almond.
Number: 2
Type: WO44 / S-Per 1.8
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.14
Original find number: VIA 65
Indistinct, opaque, irregular (weathered).
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.13
Original find number: VIA 65
Orange, opaque, barrel shaped.
Number: 1
Type: OO19 / S-Per 34.1
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.12
Original find number: VIA 65
Red, opaque, stretched biconical.
Number: 1
Type: BT18
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.11
Original find number: VIA 65
White, opaque, almond.
Number: 1
Type: WO14 / S-Per 8.1
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.10
Original find number: VIA 65
Blue, transparent, globular compressed.
Number: 1
Type: BT18
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.9
Original find number: VIA 65
Blue, opaque, almond.
Number: 1
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.8
Original find number: VIA 65
White, opaque, globular.
Number: 2
Type: WO14 / S-Per 34.5
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.7
Original find number: VIA 65
Green, opaque, short cylindrical.
Number: 1
Type: GO35
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Bead, glass
Find number: 32-1-1.6
Original find number: VIA 65
Black, opaque, long cylindrical. Decoration: red, white, blue bands.
Type: Koch Schretzheim 1977-Group 45
Schretzheim phases: 1-5
### 35 - INHUMATION GRAVE

**Description**
Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**Grave Date**
Cannot be dated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Find</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rhineland Date</th>
<th>Rhineland Phases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Inhumation grave</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum Stein</td>
<td>530-555</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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<th>Rhineland Phases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Inhumation grave</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum Stein</td>
<td>650-700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 36 - INHUMATION GRAVE

**Description**
Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**Grave Date**
Cannot be dated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Find</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Rhineland Date</th>
<th>Rhineland Phases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Inhumation grave</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum Stein</td>
<td>530-555</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<th>Rhineland Date</th>
<th>Rhineland Phases</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Inhumation grave</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum Stein</td>
<td>650-700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 37 - INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Grave pit depth**: 170

**Grave pit width**: 145

**Grave pit length**: 200

**Grave structure**: trench grave?

**Description**
Metropolitan inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably southwest-northeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave fill is loamy and rich in pebbles.

**Grave Date**
Cannot be dated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Find</th>
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<th>Rhineland Phases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Inhumation grave</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum Stein</td>
<td>485-705</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave Structure:** trench grave

**Orientation:** SW-NE

**Description:** Merovingian inhumation grave. Most of the grave was destroyed and it was also presumed to have been reopened since pottery fragments were found in the top layer of the grave. The indicated location, outline, and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

**Grave Date:** Cannot be dated

**Find:**
- **Pottery vessel**
  - Find number: 43-1-1
  - Original find number: VIA 77
  - Grey globular pot of coarse ware tempered with gravel and sand, found as complete specimen. It has a flat bottom and an outward folded rim with a deep groove for a lid.
  - Height: 15.8 cm
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

**Type:** Siegmund Wwt2.21 (10: 670-705)

**Phase:** 10

**Date:** 670-740

**Alternative Type:** Siegmund Wwt2.22

---

INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave Structure:** trench grave

**Orientation:** SW-NE

**Description:** Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-west-north-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The fill is humusy and rich in pebbles.

**Grave Date:** S-GB IIIa: 670/80-750

**Find:**
- **Pottery vessel**
  - Find number: 42-1-1
  - Original find number: VIA 76
  - Black egg shaped pot with smoked surface, found in fragmented condition, now restored and completed, approximately 50% of the original pot is present.
  - Height: 12.9 cm
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

**Type:** Siegmund Wwt2.22

**Phase:** 10

**Date:** 670-705

**Alternative Type:** Siegmund Wwt2.21

---

INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave Structure:** trench grave

**Orientation:** SW-NE

**Description:** Merovingian inhumation grave. Most of the grave was destroyed and it was also presumed to have been reopened since pottery fragments were found in the top layer of the grave. The indicated location, outline, and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

**Grave Date:** Cannot be dated

**Find:**
- **Pottery vessel**
  - Find number: 44-1-1
  - Original find number: VIA 78
  - Black egg shaped pot with smoked surface, found in fragmented condition, now restored and completed, approximately 55% of the original pot is present.
  - Height: 11.9 cm
  - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

**Type:** Siegmund Wwt2.21 (10: 670-705)

**Phase:** 10

**Date:** 670-740

**Alternative Type:** Siegmund Wwt2.22

---

INHUMATION GRAVE

**Grave Structure:** trench grave

**Orientation:** SW-NE

**Description:** Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably south-west-north-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

**Grave Date:** Cannot be dated

**Find:**
- **Pottery vessel**
  - Find number: 43-1-1
  - Original find number: VIA 77
  - Grey globular pot of coarse ware tempered with gravel and sand, found as complete specimen. It has a flat bottom and an outward folded rim with a deep groove for a lid.
  - Height: 15.8 cm

**Type:** Siegmund Wwt2.21

**Phase:** 10

**Date:** 670-705

**Alternative Type:** Siegmund Wwt2.22
45  

**INHUMATION GRAVE**

Grave structure: unearthed grave

Orientation: SW-NE

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably southeast-northwest, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The wall imprints of the decayed wooden container became visible at a depth of 155 cm. The width of the coffin was 81 cm but its length was, although observed, not recorded, as were the width, length and depth of the burial pit. Its close proximity to the gravel extraction pit was mentioned; the grave may have been partly destroyed. Since pottery fragments were found scattered throughout the grave it was presumed to have been reopened and partly emptied. Since pottery fragments were found in the top (secondary) fill of the grave and some iron coffin mounts and nails were found in fragmented condition but now restored; we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. It was disturbed by a tree and presumably plundered when the tree was chopped and removed.

**GRAVE DATE**

Rhineland date: 570-610

Rhineland phases: 6-7

Type: Siegmund Kwt3.11/3.12/3.13

**GRAVE PIT**

Grave pit length: 400

Grave pit width: 230

Grave pit depth: 240

**GRAVE STRUCTURE**

Trench grave

**FINDS**

1. Pottery vessel
Find number: 45-2-1
Original find number: VIA 79

2. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-1-1

3. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological restoration company

4. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

5. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

6. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

7. Fragment, iron
Find number: 46-2-1

8. Fragment of an iron knife or seax.
Location: missing

**CATALOGUES OF CONTEXTS AND FINDS**

Catalogues of contexts and finds

8

48

47

49

46  

**INHUMATION GRAVE**

Grave structure: trench grave

Orientation: SW-NE

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably southeast-northwest, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave is a Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably southeast-northwest, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The grave was reopened and partly emptied. Since pottery fragments were found scattered throughout the grave it was presumed to have been reopened. Since pottery fragments were found in the top (secondary) fill of the grave and some iron coffin mounts and nails were found in fragmented condition but now restored; we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. It was disturbed by a tree and presumably plundered when the tree was chopped and removed.

**GRAVE DATE**

Rhineland date: 585-640

Rhineland phases: 7-8

Type: Siegmund Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23

**GRAVE PIT**

Grave pit length: 230

Grave pit width: 110

Grave pit depth: 170

**GRAVE STRUCTURE**

Trench grave?

**FINDS**

1. Pottery vessel
Find number: 46-3-1
Original find number: VIA 83

2. Fragment of a grey biconical pot with sand/gravel inclusions, found in fragmented condition but now restored; approximately 30% of the original bowl is present. It has a flat bottom (remnants of the bottom were preserved).

3. Red coarse ware bowl with sand/gravel inclusions, found in fragmented condition but now restored; approximately 30% of the original bowl is present. It has a flat bottom (remnants of the bottom were preserved).

4. Fragment, iron
Find number: 46-2-1

5. Fragment of an iron knife or seax.
Location: missing

6. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-1-1

7. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

8. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

9. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

10. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

11. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

12. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

13. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

14. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

15. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

16. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

17. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

18. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

19. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

20. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

21. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

22. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

23. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

24. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

25. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

26. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

27. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

28. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

29. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

30. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

31. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

32. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

33. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

34. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

35. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

36. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

37. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

38. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

39. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

40. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

41. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

42. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

43. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

44. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

45. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

46. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

47. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

48. Nails, iron
Find number: 46-4-1

49. Iron nails
Location: Archaeological museum Stein

**CATALOGUES OF CONTEXTS AND FINDS**

Catalogues of contexts and finds

8
Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 49-2-1.1
Original find number: VIA 89
Iron counter plate; iron fragments of which the X-ray photo shows that they are detached belt fitting fragments with inlays of a counter plate of type Bülach.
Length: 13 cm
Width: 4.5 cm and 1.5 cm
Type: Bülach
Date: 610-640
Type: Bülach
Recorded width: 4.5 cm and 1.5 cm
Recorded length: 13 cm
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

5 Iron nail, iron
Find number: 49-5-1
Recorded from what seems to be a triangular iron fire steel. Stored in association with the remnants of the Bülach belt fittings but it is not certain whether they were found in association with each other. It was not recorded as a find from this grave in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers.
Find depth: 90 cm
Find number: 49-6-1
Iron nail, pin might be present, and some iron fragments with inlays of a plate buckle of type Bülach.

4 Indeterminate object, iron
Find number: 49-4-1
Iron object, pear shaped.
Find depth: 90 cm
Find number: 49-5-1
Nail, iron
Find number: 49-5-1

Catalogue of contexts and finds

50 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure -
Grave pit length 210
Grave pit width 150
Grave pit depth 150
Orientation NW-SE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The pottery fragments were found scattered throughout the grave which was presumed to be a result of the removal of tufts.

GRAVE DATE
FAG 6-10/215-615/90

51 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure -
Grave pit length 370
Grave pit width 150
Grave pit depth 150
Orientation NW-SE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Some of the pottery fragments moved from their original location which might indicate that the grave was moved.

GRAVE DATE
FAG 6-10/215-615/90

FINDS

1 Bead, glass
Find number: 51-1-1
Original find number: VIA 94
Glass bead, glass fragments of which the X-ray photo shows that they are detached belt fitting fragments with inlays of a plate buckle of type Bülach.
Length: 11 cm
Recorded length: 11 cm
Recorded width: 4.5 cm and 1.5 cm
Type: Bülach
Date: 610-640
Type: Bülach

2 Bead, glass
Find number: 51-1-4
Original find number: VIA 94
Glass bead, glass fragments of which the X-ray photo shows that they are detached belt fitting fragments with inlays of a plate buckle of type Bülach.
Length: 11 cm
Recorded length: 11 cm
Recorded width: 4.5 cm and 1.5 cm
Type: Bülach
Date: 610-640
Type: Bülach

49-2-1.1(1)
2 Ring, iron
Find number: 51-2-1.3
Simple iron ring, originally attached to an ensemble with other objects.
Recorded length: 2 cm
Diameter: 3.7 cm
Type: L/P/V 377
L/P/V phase: MA3-MA5
L/P/V date: 510-530/40
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

3 Knife?, iron
Find number: 51-3-1
Flat iron objects, probably of the blade of a knife, were recorded as find from this grave in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers. They might be present among the iron fragments present in Restaura.
Recorded diameter: 4 cm
Diameter: 3.7 cm
Type: L/P/V 357
L/P/V phase: MA2-MR1
L/P/V date: 520/30-630/40
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

4 Rod, iron
Find number: 51-4-1.2
Iron rod, one extremity bent, originally attached to an ensemble with other objects.
Recorded length: 10 cm
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

5 Rod, iron
Find number: 51-4-1.3
Iron rod with pointed extremity, originally attached to an ensemble with other objects.
Recorded length: 15 cm
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

6 Knife?, iron
Find number: 51-3-1
Flat iron objects, probably of the blade of a knife, were recorded as find from this grave in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers. They might be present among the iron fragments present in Restaura.
Recorded (blade) length: 14 cm
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

3 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Grave pit length: 300 cm
Grave pit width: 180 cm
Grave pit depth: 145 cm
Orientation: NW-SE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave's orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The pottery fragments were found scattered throughout the grave.

GRAVE DATE
S-GB I: 510/20-565 (585)
FAG 4-6: 510/20-610/20

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 51-2-1
Grey biconical pot, found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed; approximately 80% of the original pot is present. The entire upper wall is decorated with single lines of complex roulette stamp impressions consisting of crosses alternating with vertical stripes; the roulette stamp is applied as a spiral covering the upper wall five to six times.
Height: 13.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.31
Rhineland phase: 5
Rhineland date: 555-570
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2 Wood, fragments
Find number: 51-2-1.1
Thin ‘plates’ of wood (fragments), found nearly at the bottom of the grave. Iron corrosion (of iron fragment 51-2-1.2) coloured the wood fragments red.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

3 Fragment, iron
Find number: 51-2-1.2
Indeterminate iron fragment with two small (copper alloy) rivets, found together with thin ‘plates’ of wood, might be a triangular plate of a plate buckle.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

4 Pottery vessel
Find number: 51-2-1.3
Brown biconical pot with some gravel inclusions, found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed; approximately 30% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with two grooves beneath the neck and two grooves just above the continuation.
Height: 15.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.11
Rhineland phase: 5
Rhineland date: 565-585
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

53 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave
Orientation: NW-SE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The dimensions of this grave could not be recorded, it was not measured why. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are probably not accurate.

GRAVE DATE
S-GB IIa: 565-610/20
FAG 5-6: 565-610/20

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 53-2-1
Grey biconical pot, found in fragmented condition but now restored and for a considerable part completed, approximately 40% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with three grooves underneath which two zones of two to three lines of simple roulette stamp impressions of rectangles.
Height: 15.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.13
Rhineland phase: 5
Rhineland date: 570-585 (610)
Alternative type: FAG type Kwt15.5-6: 565-610/20
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2 Pottery vessel
Find number: 53-2-1.1
Grey biconical pot with some gravel inclusions, found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed; approximately 30% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with two grooves beneath the neck and two grooves just above the continuation.
Height: 13.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.32
Rhineland phase: 5
Rhineland date: 550-570
Alternative type: FAG Kwt5A (5-6 (6): 510/20-580/90 (580/90-610/20))
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3 Fragment, iron
Find number: 53-2-1.2
Indeterminate iron fragment with two small (copper alloy) rivets, found together with thin ‘plates’ of wood, might be a triangular plate of a plate buckle.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

53-2-1, 1.2
52-2-1.1, 1.2
52-3-1, 1-1, 2
**Catalogues of contexts and finds**

**54 Inhumation Grave**

Grave pit length 240
Grave pit width 165
Grave pit depth 140
Orientation W-E

**Description**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably north-west-south-east, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Ten flat stones were found in a row at a depth of 50 cm in the middle of the grave. The grave fill consisted nearly completely of sand.

**Grave Date**

S-GB IB: 585-640/50
FAG 5: 585-670/80

**Finds**

1. **Seax, iron**
   - Find number: 54-1-1
   - Original find number: VIA 101
   - Find depth: 130 cm
   - Iron seax with wood and leather remains, corroded condition.
   - Length: c. 30 cm
   - Recorded hilt length: 15 cm
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

2. **Knife, iron**
   - Find number: 54-2-1
   - Original find number: VIA 102
   - Find depth: 120 cm
   - Iron knife, recorded as a specimen with wood and leather remains and with a length of 17.5 cm. The fragments present areTogether c. 11 cm.
   - Length: c. 13 cm
   - Recorded hilt length: 5.0 cm
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

3. **Fragments, iron**
   - Find number: 54-3-1
   - Original find number: VIA 103
   - Find depth: 130 cm
   - Iron knife, recorded as a specimen with wood and leather remains, corroded condition.
   - Length: c. 30 cm
   - Recorded hilt length: 15 cm
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

**55 Inhumation Grave**

Grave pit length 240
Grave pit width 165
Grave pit depth 140
Orientation NW-SE

**Description**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. Pottery fragments were found scattered throughout the grave and only a lance head (of presumably a richer assemblage of weapons and other objects) found along the southern wall was preserved; it was suggested that the grave was reopened and partly emptied.

**Grave Date**

S-GB IB: 585-640/50
FAG 5-9: 565-710

**Finds**

1. **Lance head, iron**
   - Find number: 55-1-1
   - Original find number: VIA 104
   - Find depth: 190 cm
   - Iron lance head, in corroded and fragmented condition, with closed socket and narrow blade.
   - Length: 22.0 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Lan2.4
   - Rhineland phases: 8B-10
   - Rhineland date: 625-705
   - Type: Siegmund Lan2.5
   - Rhineland phases: 8B-9
   - Rhineland date: 625-670
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

2. **Fragments, iron**
   - Find number: 55-2-1
   - Find depth: 160 cm
   - Iron fragments, of which three seem to be rivets, found lying in line 55 cm from the long southern wall, and two are indeterminate of which one has wood attached to it. The rivets are not present but a number of indeterminate fragments are.
   - Diameter: 2.6 cm
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

3. **Pottery vessel**
   - Find number: 55-3-1
   - Original find number: VIA 105
   - Black spouted pot found in fragmented condition but now restored, approximately 70% of the original pot is present. The inner rim has a pronounced indentation in which a lid could be placed. The upper wall is decorated with four lines of complex roulette stamp impressions intercutting diagonal stripes forming V-shapes.
   - Height: 20.3 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Kerz3.12
   - Rhineland phases: 6-7
   - Rhineland date: 570-610
   - Alternative type: FAG Kerz5F (5-7: 565-640/50)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein
**56A INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure**
- wooden container grave

**Grave pit dimensions**
- Length: 160 cm
- Width: 195 cm
- Depth: 275 cm

**Grave structure**
- Trench grave

**Description**
- Monastic inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The wall imprints of a wooden container became visible at a depth of 140 cm as grey-brown sand shaped soil discolorations forming a rectangle of 190 x 65 cm. All the finds, apart from a bone pot, were found above the first traces of the decayed wooden container. They are considered to be finds associated with a burial on top of the recorded wooden container grave.

**Grave Date**
- S-GB I: 510/20-565 (585)
- FAG 4-6: 510/20-610/20
- S-GB III: 640/50-670/80

**Finds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Alternative Type</th>
<th>Rhineland Date</th>
<th>Rhineland Phase</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Grave number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plate buckle, copper alloy</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum Stein</td>
<td>FAG Gür4.8A (8: 640/50-670/80)</td>
<td>640-670</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Siegmund Gür4.8</td>
<td>56a-6-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Belt fitting, iron</td>
<td>Archaeological restoration company</td>
<td>FAG Gür3A (4-5 (6): 510-580/90)</td>
<td>530-570</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Siegmund Kwt2.32</td>
<td>56b-4-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pottery vessel</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum Stein</td>
<td>FAG 4-6: 510/20-610/20</td>
<td>610/20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Siegmund Kwt3.12</td>
<td>56b-5-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**56B INHUMATION GRAVE**

**Grave structure**
- Wooden container grave

**Grave pit dimensions**
- Length: 175 cm
- Width: 195 cm
- Depth: 160 cm

**Grave structure**
- Trench grave

**Description**
- Monastic inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The wall imprints of a wooden container became visible at a depth of 140 cm as grey-brown sand shaped soil discolorations forming a rectangle of 190 x 65 cm. The traces left by the standing walls have a height of 10 cm and the short western wall had rounded corners.

**Grave Date**
- S-GB I: 510/20-565 (585)
- FAG 4-6: 510/20-610/20

**Finds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Alternative Type</th>
<th>Rhineland Date</th>
<th>Rhineland Phase</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Grave number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pottery vessel</td>
<td>Archaeological Museum Stein</td>
<td>FAG Gür4.8A (8: 640/50-670/80)</td>
<td>640-670</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Siegmund Gür4.8</td>
<td>56b-6-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location**
- Stein-groote Bongerd
It was identified close to the long southern wall of the wooden container having only 15 cm between the wall and the widest part of the silhouette. In view of the length of the container and the body silhouette it is probably the grave of a child.

**GRAVE DATE**
- S-G 2b: 580-610/20
- FAG 3-7: 460/80-640/50

**FINDS**

1. **Mounts**
   - Find number: 57-1-1
   - Original find number: VIA 115
   - Find depth: 155 cm
   - Two iron mounts, one flat and bent, the other flat with wood remains, are recorded as finds in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers. These ‘mounts’ might be present in corroded condition but one is now identified as the extremity of a shield grip.
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

2. **Belt fitting**
   - Find number: 57-2-1
   - Original find number: VIA 114
   - Find depth: 155 cm
   - Large flat iron mount with rivet heads, it might have been a back plate.
   - Length: 6.5 cm
   - Width: 6.0 cm
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

3. **Ring**
   - Find number: 57-3-1
   - Original find number: VIA 114
   - Find depth: 155 cm
   - Open iron ring, probably a brooch.
   - Type: LFIV 357
   - LFIV phase: MA3-MA4
   - LFIV date: 550-590/60s/70
   - Location: missing

4. **Belt fitting**
   - Find number: 57-4-1
   - Original find number: VIA 114
   - Find depth: 155 cm
   - Simple iron buckle, and some indeterminate iron fragments.
   - Length: c. 3.5 cm
   - Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

5. **Bowl brooch**
   - Find number: 57-5-1
   - Original find number: VIA 114
   - Find depth: 155 cm
   - Fragment of an iron bowl brooch with knobs (according to the description in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers).
   - Location: missing

6. **Tweezers**
   - Find number: 57-6-1
   - Find depth: 155 cm
   - Fragment of a pair of tweezers.
   - Type: LFIV 352
   - LFIV phases: MA3-MA4
   - LFIV date: 550-630/60s/70
   - Location: missing

7. **Spindle whorl/needle head, glass**
   - Find number: 57-7-1
   - Find depth: 155 cm
   - Black plano-convex glass spindle whorl or disc bead, decorated with multiple lines of triangular roulette stamp impressions.
   - Height: 0.8-0.9 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Kwt3.12
   - Rhineland phases: 6-7
   - Alternative type: FAG Kor5D (580-610/20)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8. **Pottery vessel**
   - Find number: 57-8-1
   - Original find number: VIA 119?
   - Find depth: 155 cm
   - Black spouted pot found in fragmented condition but now restored and completed, approximately 85% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with multiple lines of triangular roulette stamp impressions.
   - Height: 16.5-17.5 cm
   - Type: Siegmund Kwt3.12
   - Rhineland phases: 6-7
   - Alternative type: FAG Kor5D (580-610/20)
   - Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

**DESCRIPTION**

Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s northwest-northeast orientation is identified on the basis of the body silhouette. The red-brown band shaped soil discoloration, indicating the former location of wooden container walls, became visible at a depth of 155 cm. The container had a length of 150 cm and a width of 110 cm. It was recorded to have been standing 90 cm from the eastern wall, 50 cm from the northern wall, and close to the western and southern walls of the burial pit. The silhouette of a decomposed body became visible as a dark brown soil discoloration at a depth of 155 cm. The contours of the head were observed in the western segment of the container. The length of the body silhouette was 117 cm and its maximum width 60 cm.
CataLogues of Contexts and Finds

59 Inhumation Grave

Grave structure: Trench grave?
Grave pit length: 200
Grave pit width: 120
Grave pit depth: 90
Oriention: SW-NE

Description:
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably SW-NE, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

Grave Date:
S-GB I: 510/20-565 (585)
FAG 4-5: 510/20-580/90

Finds:
1. Pottery vessel

Find number: 59-1-1
Grey biconical pot found in fragmented condition but now restored and compleated; approximately 50% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with zones consisting of three to four lines of rectangular roulette stamp impressions.

Height: 15.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.22
Rhineland phases: 7-8A

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

60 Inhumation Grave

Grave structure: Wooden container grave
Grave pit length: 240
Grave pit width: 140
Grave pit depth: 150
Oriention: SW-NE

Description:
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably SW-NE, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found. The fill of a (wooden) container, consisting of gravel and clay which was clearly different from its surroundings, became visible at a depth of 128 cm. The (wooden) container had a length of 170 cm and a width of 90 cm.

Grave Date:
S-GB I: 510-565/10
FAG 4-5: 510/20-580/90

Finds:
1. Pottery vessel

Find number: 60-1-1
Grey biconical pot found in fragmented condition but now restored and compleated; approximately 50% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is decorated with a zone of three grooves underneath the rim and a similar zone just above the carination and single stamp impressions of unaligning vertical lines with a length of 1.5 cm in between them.

Height: 15.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.11
Rhineland phases: 4-5
Rhineland date: 530-555
Type: FAG Kwt2A (4-5: 510/25-580/90)

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

58-2-1
58-3-1
59-1-1
60-1-1
60-2-1
60-3-1
58-4-1
58-5-1
58-6-1

58-3-1, 6-1
58-5-1, 6-1

Catalogues of Contexts and Finds
60-1-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1, 13-1, 14-1

61 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: inhumation grave
Grave pit length: 240
Grave pit width: 150
Grave pit depth: 170
Orientation: SW-NE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave orientation was probably SW-NE, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

Grave Date: S-GB IIb: 565-640/50
FAG 5-7: 565-640/50

FINDS
1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 61-1-1
Original find number: VIA 133
Black biconical pot found in fragmented condition now restored and complete, approximately 50% of the original pot is present. The upper wall is relatively long and decorated with three grooves underneath which two zones of three to five lines of square roulette stamp impressions are applied.
Height: 7
Type: Siegmund Kwt5/6
Rhineland phase: 5-6
Rhineland date: 550-640
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2 Pottery, fragments
Find number: 61-2-1
Three small pottery fragments and a rim fragment of a red pot.
Location: missing
64 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?

Grave pit length: 2.3 m
Grave pit width: 1.0 m
Grave pit depth: 0.9 m

Orienteation: SW-NE?

Type: Siegmund Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

6 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 64-1-1
Original find number: VIA 138

Pointed iron arrow head.
Length: 7.1 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 25
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: PM-MA3

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

7 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 64-1-1

Original find number: VIA 138

Belt fittings, iron
Found number: 64-1-1

Type: Siegmund Gür4.2/4.3/4.5/4.6/4.7/4.8

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

8 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 64-2-1

Original find number: VIA 144

Iron arrow head with leaf shaped blade and closed shaft, restored.
Length: 8.2 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 26
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

9 Fragments, wood
Find number: 64-4-1

Found number: 64-4-1

Iron fragments iron with a copper alloy knob.
Diameter: 4.7 cm

Type: FAG Gür4.8A (8: 640/50-670/80)

Rhineland date: 640-670
Rhineland phase: 9

Type: Siegmund Gür4.8

Location: Archaeological Restoration company

6 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 64-3-1

Original find number: VIA 144

Iron arrow head with leaf shaped blade and closed shaft, restored.
Length: 8.2 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 26
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

7 Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 64-7-1

Original find number: VIA 144

Iron arrow head with leaf shaped blade and closed shaft, restored.
Length: 8.2 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 26
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 64-2-1

Original find number: VIA 144

Iron arrow head with leaf shaped blade and closed shaft, restored.
Length: 8.2 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 26
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

4 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 64-2-1

Original find number: VIA 144

Iron arrow head with leaf shaped blade and closed shaft, restored.
Length: 8.2 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 26
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 64-1-1

Original find number: VIA 138

Pointed iron arrow head.
Length: 7.1 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 25
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: PM-MA3

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 64-3-1

Original find number: VIA 144

Iron arrow head with diamond shaped blade and closed shaft, restored.
Length: 8.2 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 26
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

1 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 64-2-1

Original find number: VIA 144

Iron arrow head with leaf shaped blade and closed shaft, restored.
Length: 8.2 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 26
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

0 Arrow head, iron
Find number: 64-2-1

Original find number: VIA 144

Iron arrow head with leaf shaped blade and closed shaft, restored.
Length: 8.2 cm
Diameter shaft: 1.1 cm

Type: L/P/V 26
L/P/V date: 470/80-630/40
L/P/V phases: MA1-MR1

Rhineland date: c.600-670
Rhineland phases: end 7-9

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

99 Wood fragments of the shaft of one of the arrow heads, it is not known of which one.
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

63 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: inhumation grave

Grave pit length: 2.3 m
Grave pit width: 1.0 m
Grave pit depth: 0.9 m

Orienteation: NW-SE?

Type: FAG Kwt5B/5C (5-8: 565-670/80)

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Alternative type: FAG Kwt5B (5-7: 565-640/50)

Rhineland date: 640-670
Rhineland phases: 9

Type: Siegmund 5.21/5.22/5.23

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Alternative type: FAG Kwt3A (4-5 (6): 510/20-640/50)

Rhineland date: 530-570
Rhineland phases: end 4-5

Type: Siegmund Kwt2.32

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Grave pit depth: 1.80 m
Grave pit length: 2.50 m
Grave pit width: 1.50 m

62 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: inhumation grave

Grave pit length: 2.3 m
Grave pit width: 1.0 m
Grave pit depth: 0.9 m

Orienteation: SW-NE?

Type: FAG Kwt5B/5C (5-8: 565-670/80)

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Alternative type: FAG Kwt5B (5-7: 565-640/50)

Rhineland date: 640-670
Rhineland phases: 9

Type: Siegmund 5.21/5.22/5.23

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Alternative type: FAG Kwt3A (4-5 (6): 510/20-640/50)

Rhineland date: 530-570
Rhineland phases: end 4-5

Type: Siegmund Kwt2.32

Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Grave pit depth: 1.80 m
Grave pit length: 2.50 m
Grave pit width: 1.50 m

499 CATALOGUES OF CONTEXTS AND FINDS
65
INHUMATION GRAVE
Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length 270
Grave pit width 180
Grave pit depth 350
Oriention SW-NE
DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southwest, but we cannot be certain of this since no human remains were found.

GRAVE DATE
S-GB III: 645-670/80
FAG 5-8: 565-670/80

FINDS
1 Strap end, iron
Find number: 65-1-1
Find depth: 150
An iron strap end with two iron rivets was recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers as find from grave 65. An iron strap end with a length of c. 10 cm without find number is available in the collection. It is on the basis of its length assigned to grave 65. It is present in corroded condition and covered with mineralised textile remains. The X-ray photo shows that it was decorated with a silver plated middle field intersected by a regular animal style pattern with additional silver and maybe copper alloy threads.

3 Ring, copper alloy
Find number: 65-3-1
Find depth: 350
Simple copper alloy closed ring. Recorded section: 0.5 cm. Recorded diameter: 3 cm. Location: missing.

4 Pottery vessel
Find number: 65-4-1
Original find number: YIA 146
Six fragments of a grey biocoidal pot: one wall fragment with rim, one bottom fragment and four wall fragments. The upper wall was decorated with three zones of four lines of square roulette stamp impressions. Approximately 20% of the original pot is present. Type: Siegmund Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23
Rhineland phase: 9
Rhineland date: 450-670
Alternative type: FAG S-Gür4.7 (8: 640/50-670/80)
S-GB III: 640/50-670/80
FAG 5-7: 565-640/50
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23
Rhineland phase: 9
Rhineland date: 450-670
Alternative type: FAG Kwt5A (5-6: 565-610/20)
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23
Rhineland phase: 9
Rhineland date: 450-670
Alternative type: FAG Kwt5B (5-7: 565-640/50)

66
INHUMATION GRAVE
Grave structure: trench grave?
Grave pit length 250
Grave pit width 200
Grave pit depth 150
Oriention NW-SE
DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s northern-western orientation is identified on the basis of the remains of a child’s skull found in the north-western corner of the grave.

GRAVE DATE
S-GB III: 556-640/90
FAG 5-7: 556-640/90

FINDS
1 Plate buckle, iron
Find number: 66-1-1
Original find number: VIA 146
Plate buckle, iron
Length plate: 5.0 cm
Length loop: 3.0 cm.
Type: Siegmund Gür4.5
Rhineland phase: 8
Rhineland date: 610-640
Alternative type: FAG Kwt5C (7-8: 610/20-670/80)
Alternative type: FAG Kwt5A (5-6: 556-640/90)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3 Pottery vessel
Find number: 66-3-1
Original find number: VIA 144/147
Black biocoidal pot, complete. The upper wall is decorated with a single line of square roulette stamp impressions applied four times. Height: 10.5 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.22/3.23/3.24
Rhineland phases: 6-7
Rhineland date: 570-690
Alternative type: FAG Kwt15A (5-6: 556-640/90)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

5 Knife, iron
Find number: 66-5-1
Original find number: VIA 149?
Knife, iron
Height: 9.7 cm
Impressions.
Two zones of three lines of square roulette stamp impressions applied four times.
Type: Siegmund Kwt3.22
Rhineland phase: 8
Rhineland date: 610-640
Alternative type: FAG Kwt5B (5-6: 556-640/90)
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans

6 Bead?
Find number: 66-6-1
Small bead shaped white object with small elongated dots; it is not certain whether it is a bead and of which material it is made.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Romans
68

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure trench grave
Grave pit length 180
Grave pit width 90
Grave pit depth 100
Orientation NW-SE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since human remains were not found.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

69

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure trench grave
Grave pit length 310
Grave pit width 190
Grave pit depth 180
Orientation NW-SE

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since human remains were not found. Remarkable was the large number of relatively large stones, which seemed to be distributed through the grave unevenly apart for some which were standing against the burial pit wall. The finds were found scattered throughout the grave, which may indicate that the grave was reopened.

GRAVE DATE
S-GB IIb-IId: 565-670/80
FAG 5-8: 565-670/80

FINDS

1 Pottery vessel
Find number: 69-1-1
Original find number: VIA 155
Copper alloy roof
Location: Archaeological restoration company
Restaura

Type: Siegmund Kwt3.21/3.22/3.23
Rhenish phases: 7-8
Rhenish date: 565-640
Alternative type: FAG Kwt5B (5-7: 565-640/50)
Alternative type: FAG Kwt5C (7-8: 610/20-670/80)
Location: Archaeological restoration company
Restaura

2 Fragments, iron
Find number: 69-2-1
Three smalloy indeterminate iron fragments recorded; present are an iron nail and indeterminate fragments.
Location: Archaeological restoration company
Restaura

3 Rivet, copper alloy
Find number: 69-3-1
Original find number: VIA 152
Copper alloy rivet
Location: Archaeological restoration company
Restaura

4 Pottery fragment
Find number: 69-4-1
Original find number: VIA 154
Terra sigillata fragment
Location: Archaeological restoration company
Restaura

5 Wood, fragments
Find number: 69-5-1
White pottery fragment
Location: Archaeological restoration company
Restaura

6 Pottery fragment
Find number: 69-6-1
White pottery fragment (not of the coffin).
Location: missing

70

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure trench grave
Grave pit length 180
Grave pit width 180
Grave pit depth 140
Orientation W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since human remains were not found. Remarkable was the large number of relatively large stones, which seemed to be distributed through the grave unevenly apart for some which were standing against the burial pit wall.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated

71

INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure trench grave
Grave pit length 310
Grave pit width 180
Grave pit depth 140
Orientation W-E

DESCRIPTION
Merovingian inhumation grave. The grave’s orientation was probably northwest-southeast, but we cannot be certain of this since human remains were not found. Remarkable was the large number of relatively large stones, which seemed to be distributed through the grave unevenly apart for some which were standing against the burial pit wall.

GRAVE DATE
Cannot be dated
72 INHUMATION GRAVE

Grave structure: trench grave?
Orientation: NW-SE?

DESCRIPTION

Cremation inhumation grave. The grave was for its greater part destroyed because of its location in the slope to the south of the cemetery terrain. The indicated location, outline and orientation of this grave on the original cemetery plan are not accurate.

GRAVE DATE

S-GB III: 610-640/50
FAG: 6-7 (610-640/50)

FINDS

1. Plate buckle, iron
Find number: 75-1-1
Iron plate buckle with triangular plate (see the basis of the description in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers).
Recorded length plate: 5 cm
Recorded height: 5.0 cm
Length blade: 19.7 cm
Blade width: 4.5 cm
Type: FAG SBU.2a
FAG phases: (5-6-7)
FAG date: (585-660) (610-640/50)
Alternative type: Siegmund Güt.1 (16 middle 9: 585-660)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Loop, iron
Find number: 75-1-4
Black biconical pot with an indented bottom. The upper part is decorated with lines of irregular square-rosette stamp impressions.
Recorded height: 13.0 cm
Location: missing

3. Pottery vessel
Find number: 75-1-3
Black biconical pot with an indented bottom. The upper part is decorated with lines of irregular square-rosette stamp impressions.
Recorded height: 13.0 cm
Location: missing

FINDS WITHOUT FIND NUMBER OR (CORRECT) CONTEXT INFORMATION

FINDS MATCHING WITH GRAVE 8

A number of finds have find numbers which match with grave 8 but which were not recorded as finds from this grave in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers. Since already a large number of finds are identified as finds from grave 8 on the basis of this catalogue, it is for now assumed that these additional finds were originally not part of this grave and that the find numbers were assigned to them by mistake.

Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 8-0-0
Original find number: VIA 158
Belt buckle with round plate and three copper alloy rings with crimped rim. Minus part of leather is preserved on the back side of the plate. It was rounded in association with a buck plate, also with a find number matching with grave 8. This buckle is for now matched with the iron plate buckle from this grave since this ensemble was recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers.
Length plate: 6.5 cm
Width plate: 4.8 cm
Loop max: 5.7 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Knife
Find number: 8-0-7
Original find number: VIA 242
Iron knife with curved back and straight cutting edge.
Length blade: 11.0 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Fire steel
Find number: 8-0-1
Original find number: VIA 20
Iron fire steel with curved scabbard and wood remains at one side.
Length: 4.2 cm
Type: Siegmund Güt.5
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Finds which may be from grave 37, 46 or S2

Two iron belt fittings with inlays were kept in a box in restoration and/or restoration. The notes in this box indicate that finds from graves 37, 46 and S2 were stored in it. The finds could be assigned to one of these graves, except for two belt fittings, it remains uncertain to which grave they actually belonged. At first it was thought that they belonged to grave 37, but they did not match with the iron strap and that was also kept in this box. They match best with the date range assigned to grave 46 (S-GB IIb: 585-640/50), and they do not match with the date range assigned to grave 37 (S-GB Ic: 510-655).

It remains for now uncertain to which grave they actually belonged.

Belt fittings, iron
Find number: 0-0-0
Two iron belt fittings with inlays. The larger fitting has a length of 9.2 cm. It is decorated with a geometric pattern of presumably silver inlays. The decoration consists of a single blind band formed by single silver thread and filled with a linden band and a single silver thread or maybe some silver plating. The broad band is surrounded by a pattern of straight silver stripes. The second plate is not complete, its remaining length is 6.7 cm. It is assumed to form a set with the larger plate since it has comparable rivet holes in its ends and it shows remnants of what seems to be a geometric pattern of inlays. It might have belonged to a more extended set of horse gear fittings (see chapter 4 for a detailed discussion), but they can be dated as belt fittings with geometric inlays.

Type: Siegmund Güt.6
Rhineland phase: 8
Date: 610-640

Catalogues of contexts and finds

The measured dimensions do not show that great discrepancies with the recorded dimensions.
Recorded length: 37.0 cm
Recorded height: 13.0 cm
Length: 43.5 cm
Length Blade: 19.7 cm
Blade width: 4.5 cm
Type: FAG SBU.2a
FAG phases: (5-6-7)
FAG date: (585-660) (610-640/50)
Alternative type: Siegmund Güt.1 (16 middle 9: 585-660)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Inhumation grave. Both iron buckles were mentioned to have been found in the slope to the south of the cemetery terrain on the basis of which the former presence of an inhumation grave is assumed. Here it was destroyed already some time before the excavation. Its exact location is not known and the indicated location on the cemetery plan is not accurate.

FINDS

1. Plate buckle, iron
Find number: VIA 161
Iron seax, recorded with a rivet and wood remains
Original find number: VIA 161
Find number: 72-2-1
Location: missing
Rhineland date: 610-640
Rhineland phase: 8
Type: Siegmund Gür4.5
Recorded length plate: 5 cm
Iron plate buckle with triangular plate (on the basis of the description in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers).
Recorded height: 5.0 cm
Loop max: 5.7 cm
Width plate: 6.6 cm
Type: Siegmund Güt.4
Rhineland phase: 8
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

2. Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 8-0-0
Original find number: VIA 158
Iron belt fitting with triangular plate from this grave since this plate is for now matched with the iron plate buckle with triangular plate from this grave since this ensemble was recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers.
Length plate: 6.5 cm
Width plate: 4.8 cm
Loop max: 5.7 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

3. Belt fitting, iron
Find number: 0-0-0
Original find number: VIA 21
Iron belt fitting with triangular plate from this grave since this ensemble was recorded in the catalogue of Beckers and Beckers.
Length plate: 6.5 cm
Width plate: 4.8 cm
Loop max: 5.7 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Inhumation grave. Both iron buckles were mentioned to have been found in the slope to the south of the cemetery terrain on the basis of which the former presence of an inhumation grave is assumed. Here it was destroyed already some time before the excavation. Its exact location is not known and the indicated location on the cemetery plan is not accurate.

74 POSSIBLE GRAVE

Inhumation grave. Both iron buckles were mentioned to have been found in the slope to the south of the cemetery terrain on the basis of which the former presence of an inhumation grave is assumed. Here it was destroyed already some time before the excavation. Its exact location is not known and the indicated location on the cemetery plan is not accurate.
Pottery vessel
Find number: 0-0-1
Original find number: VIA 159 (grave 76)
Biconical pot without decoration. It was found in fragmented condition but is now restored and completed; approximately 95% of the original pot is present. The find number indicates that it was found in grave 76, but this grave was never excavated; it remains unknown what the actual find circumstances of this pot were.
Height: 18.6 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.42
Rhineland phases: 7
Rhineland date: 585-610
Alternative type: FAG Kwt4A (4-7: 510/25-640/50)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Pottery vessel
Find number: 0-0-2
Original find number: VIA 160 (grave 76)
Small orange vessel with an elongated but globular body (beaker?). The vessel has an incurved upper part but is without neck and has a simple rim. It has a flat bottom. The find number indicates that it was found in grave 76, but this grave was never excavated; it remains unknown what the actual find circumstances of this pot were.
Height: 9.6 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Pottery vessel
Find number: 0-0-3
Original find number: VIA 163 (grave 77)
Brown biconical pot without decoration and with a weathered smoked surface. The upper wall is much higher than the lower wall. It was found in fragmented condition but is now restored and completed; approximately 90% of the original pot is present. The find number indicates that it was found in grave 77, but this grave was never excavated; it remains unknown what the actual find circumstances of this pot were.
Height: 16.0 cm
Type: Siegmund Kwt2.43
Rhineland phases: 8-9
Rhineland date: 610-670
Alternative type: FAG S-Kwt2.43 (6-9: 580/90-710)
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Sword, iron
Find number: 0-0-4
Original find number: VIA 160
Iron sword. The original find number cannot be matched with a grave in which a sword was recorded as find.
Length blade: 41.6 cm
Width blade: 4.6 cm
Length hilt: 11.3 cm
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Belt fittings, iron
Find number: 0-0-5
Original find number: VIA 156
Iron plate buckle with round plate and rectangular back plate. The original find number is difficult to match with a grave unambiguously, since in the possible matching graves belt fittings were not recorded as finds.
Type: Siegmund Gür4.1/4.2
Rhineland phases: 7
Rhineland date: 585-610
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Beads, glass
Find number: 0-0-7
Original find number: VIA 130
Blue, transparent, cylindrical twisted.
Number: 1
Type: BT29 / S-from group 47.4
Kombinationsgruppe: (F) H-I
Rhineland phases: (5-9) 8-10
Rhineland date: (555-670) 610-705
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Beads, glass
Find number: 0-0-8
Number: 3
Type: Koch-Schretzheim 58,1
Schretzheim phases: 3-4
Schretzheim date: 565-620/30
Location: Archaeological Museum Stein

Fragments, iron
Find number: 0-0-6
A number of iron fragments, indeterminate.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Nails, iron
Find number: 0-0-7
Four iron nails, probably coffin nails.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Knife, iron
Find number: 0-0-8
Iron knife in corroded condition
Length blade: 15.5 cm
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Lance head, iron
Find number: 0-0-9
Original find number: VIA 165
Iron lance head with a closed socket and wood remains of the shaft. The tip of the blade is gone, but the length of the diamond-shaped blade seems to be of approximately the same length as the socket. This find number does not match with one of the Stein graves. The lance head is not complete; the blade/socket index cannot be established and it can thus not be classified and dated unambiguously.
Length blade: 15.5 cm
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura
FINDS WITHOUT FIND NUMBER AND CEMETERY REFERENCE

Find numbers could not be assigned to the finds below. They were stored with the finds from Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd and belonged thus to one of those cemeteries.

Lance head, iron
Find number: 0-0-0
Iron lance head in corroded and fragmented condition.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Arrow, iron
Find number: 0-0-1
Iron arrow head in corroded condition.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Arrow, iron
Find number: 0-0-2
Iron arrow head in corroded condition.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Rivets, iron
Find number: 0-0-3
Iron rivets in corroded condition.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Fragments, iron and copper alloy
Find number: 0-0-4
Corroded iron and copper alloy fragments; among which probably fragments of a buckle loop and copper alloy treads.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

Knife, iron
Find number: 0-0-5
Iron knife in corroded and fragmented condition.
Location: Archaeological restoration company Restaura

FINDS FROM OBBICHT?

Finds stored in the Museum De Domeinen in Sittard as finds from Obbicht but under find numbers that do not match with the original find numbers assigned to the finds from the Obbicht cemetery. They were neither recorded in the publication of Beckers and Beckers. It is not certain whether or not they originally belonged to the cemetery.


Walter, S., 2008: Das frühmittelalterliche Gräberfeld von Mengen (Fr. Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald), Stuttgart (Materialhefte zur Archäologie in Baden-Württemberg 82).


Fig. 2.9
Reconstruction of the site plan Obbicht-Oude Molen (scale 1:250). 1. inhumation grave with number, 2. recent disturbance, 3. excavated area.

Fig. 2.9
Reconstruction of the site plan Sittard-Kemperkoul (scale 1:250). 1. inhumation grave with number, 2. recent disturbance, 3. excavated area.
The Merovingian cemeteries of Sittard-Kemperkoul, Obbicht-Oude Molen and Stein-Groote Bongerd