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**COARSE WARE FROM BREGENZ/BRIGANTIVM.****An approach to the type range of the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD**

*Summarising the research done so far, the knowledge of coarse ware from Brigantium is comparatively good for the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Regarding the grave complexes published by Carl von Schwerzenbach und Johannes Jacobs in 1911, stratified sherds from the military forts now allow a quite precise temporal classification. Especially from the surrounding of the porta principalis sinistra of the Tiberian military fort the material basis is scientifically convincing with regard to the quantity and quality of the ceramic finds.*

*In the earliest decades of Brigantium the Roman influence on the coarse ware was stronger than in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Unpretentious bowls and tons in a strong Latène tradition representing indigenous ceramic forms are present in very small quantity. The well-known black engobed bottles in the Latène tradition are missing completely – instead single and double handled jars were in use in the vicinity of the military forts. Storage pots of the predominant local tradition were made with a black or dark grey engobe and were accompanied by dolia and imported urcei. Mainly handmade (as opposed to wheel thrown) cooking pots confirm that the general evolution was similar to that of Vindonissa and Zurzach.*

*Brigantium* was founded at an important traffic junction within the Roman province of *Raetia*. It represented the terminal of the so called “Alpenrheintal” road, which came from Milan, crossing several Alpine passes.

In the vicinity of Brigantium the trading routes branched: one led to the west into the Helvetic area and the Gaulish provinces and the other one headed northeast towards the centres of the Roman province of *Raetia*, namely *Cambodunum/Kempten* and *Augusta Vindelicum/Augsburg*<sup>1</sup>. Without considering the archaeological remains, this significant strategic position alone makes a strong case for a military base at *Brigantium*. Next to the geographical position, the geology of the settlement place itself was virtually predestined for a Roman fort as well<sup>2</sup>. During the Early and Middle Imperial Era most settlement-activity took place on the “Ölrain”. This plateau is situated 34 meters above the present water level of Lake Constance and has an area of about 50 hectares. It is bordered by slopes on three sides and by the mountainside of the Pfänder on the fourth. The best natural access path came from the southwest across a narrow point of land close to today’s Riedenbug.

In the years 2009–2012 excavations were carried out at the transition of this access path into the settlement plateau<sup>3</sup>. At the so called “Böckleareal” they brought to light two ditches from the defensive circuit of an Early Imperial fort.

Due to this discovery, the long-lasting discussion about the military or civilian origin of *Brigantium* can be resolved in favour of the military thesis<sup>4</sup>. Taking into account that a section of a large ditch was discovered in the southern part of the settlement in 1927<sup>5</sup>, we are now able to determine two sides of the military complex, which must have covered an area of at least 1.7 hectares (probably much more). Due to the absence of a north-western defensive ditch in the recently excavated area<sup>6</sup>, it can be assumed that the fort area extended more or less to the edge of the northern slope. The north-eastern boundary of the fort is completely unknown. Considering a standard aspect ratio of a Roman fort, the area of the Early Imperial military base at *Brigantium* probably covered about 4.7 hectares or even more. However, the position of the fort clearly indicates that the Roman army utilized this particular geological formation to control the access to the settlement and to have a good overview of the surroundings.

Beneath remains of civilian dwellings in half-timber and stone numerous ditches and pits of three consecutive earth and timber forts of the Early Imperial Era were discovered. The documented structures lay primarily southeast of the Roman main road. One broad ditch crossed below the first phase of the road. Its filling contained Italian Samian ware from the end of the Augustan and the beginning of the Tiberian Period, arguing for a dating to the Augustan Age<sup>7</sup>. A comparable

<sup>1</sup> SCHIMMER 2005, 8.

<sup>2</sup> See also: OVERBECK 1982, 21; ZANIER 2006, 76–80.

<sup>3</sup> The excavations were carried out by the Austrian company Talpa GnbR in cooperation with the Federal Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments (Bundesdenkmalamt) and the Institute of Archaeologies of the University of Innsbruck (FWF-project 23777 “From the military camp to the civilian settlement”; project-manager: G. Grabherr). See BADER 2011 and KOPF/OBERHOFER 2013a.

<sup>4</sup> The first one who postulated a Tiberian fort at *Brigantium* on the basis of excavation features was A. Hild (HILD 1953). Since then, several arguments in favour of as well as against this hypothesis were brought forward (ZANIER 2006, 82–86).

<sup>5</sup> HILD 1948, 140–142 fig. 34.

<sup>6</sup> KOPF/OBERHOFER 2013b, 68–70.

<sup>7</sup> The assumption of an Augustan fort at *Brigantium* was first expressed by M. Konrad, primarily based on the existence of early Italian samian



Fig. 1. Assemblage of grave 508 from the north-eastern burial ground. – Without scale (SCHWERZENBACH/JACOBS 1910/11, 23 fig. 9).

date can be assumed for two small curved ditches, which resemble the rounded corners of a Roman fort. Unfortunately, these structures did not contain small finds. Two V-shaped ditches from the following Tiberian-Claudian Era constitute the most obvious evidence of military building activity in the excavation area<sup>8</sup>. Since the ditches break off where they reach the Roman main road of *Brigantium*, it can be assumed that this was also the camp's main thoroughfare. Because of the rather great distance of more than four metres between the two ditches they probably were not in use contemporaneously but consecutively, representing two phases of this fort. The older ditch was up to 3 m wide and 1.2 m deep. Unlike the (slightly) younger ditch, it didn't have a perfect V-shape, but a flat bottom. The younger V-shaped defensive ditch was more than 4.5 m wide and 1.8 m deep. Furthermore, other parts of the defensive circuit of the Tiberian-Claudian fort were excavated, such as foundation trenches of the earth and timber wall and post holes of a gate. Thanks to small finds from the backfill of the defensive ditches we can date the abandonment of this fort around the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. This time frame is additionally confirmed by dendrochronological data (44/45 n. Chr.) of a wooden structure belonging to the first civilian settlement phase<sup>9</sup>.

The first written source dealing with a larger quantity of coarse ware from *Brigantium* is a report on the excavations in the burial ground by Carl von Schwerzenbach and Johannes Jacobs published in 1911<sup>10</sup>. Assemblages of selected grave complexes are not drawn to scale, but the illustrations allow good impressions of the burial objects (fig. 1). Between

1920 and 1933 drawings of the archaeological objects were made (probably by Adolf Hild) much more precisely and clearly from the scientific point of view. In 1989 Michaela Konrad finalized her master's thesis on the early Roman graves from Bregenz at the University of Munich under the aegis of Günter Ulbert. The 40 grave-complexes analysed by Konrad date between 10 BC and 40 AD – the occupancy of the aforementioned military camps in *Brigantium*<sup>11</sup>. These two studies are of essential relevance for anyone working with Roman coarse ware from Bregenz since they enable us to get an impression of the complete vessels. Unfortunately, a comprehensive archaeological processing and publication of all known grave complexes in *Brigantium* is still missing.

The bad state of preservation of coarse ware fragments from the military area defeats a precise analysis of the pottery spectrum. Therefore the pottery inventory of the contemporaneous burial ground at Bregenz promises new insights regarding the characteristics of entire vessels. The main object of this study is to facilitate a formal overview of the coarse ware spectrum. Clay specifics and firing techniques had to be excluded because of the partial primary disposal on the pyre. Based on the known Roman burial rites in *Raetia* and *Germania Superior*, the presence of some vessel types like coarse ware bowls and tons is not to be expected.

Unpretentious bowls – mostly without decoration elements – are quite rare in the stratified complexes of the younger Tiberian/Claudian military fort. An alternative use as lids seems very likely. The bowls or rather lids are frequently known from civilian contexts in eastern *Germania Superior* as well as in the western part of *Raetia* and count as indicators for indigenous Latène tradition. Taking into account the

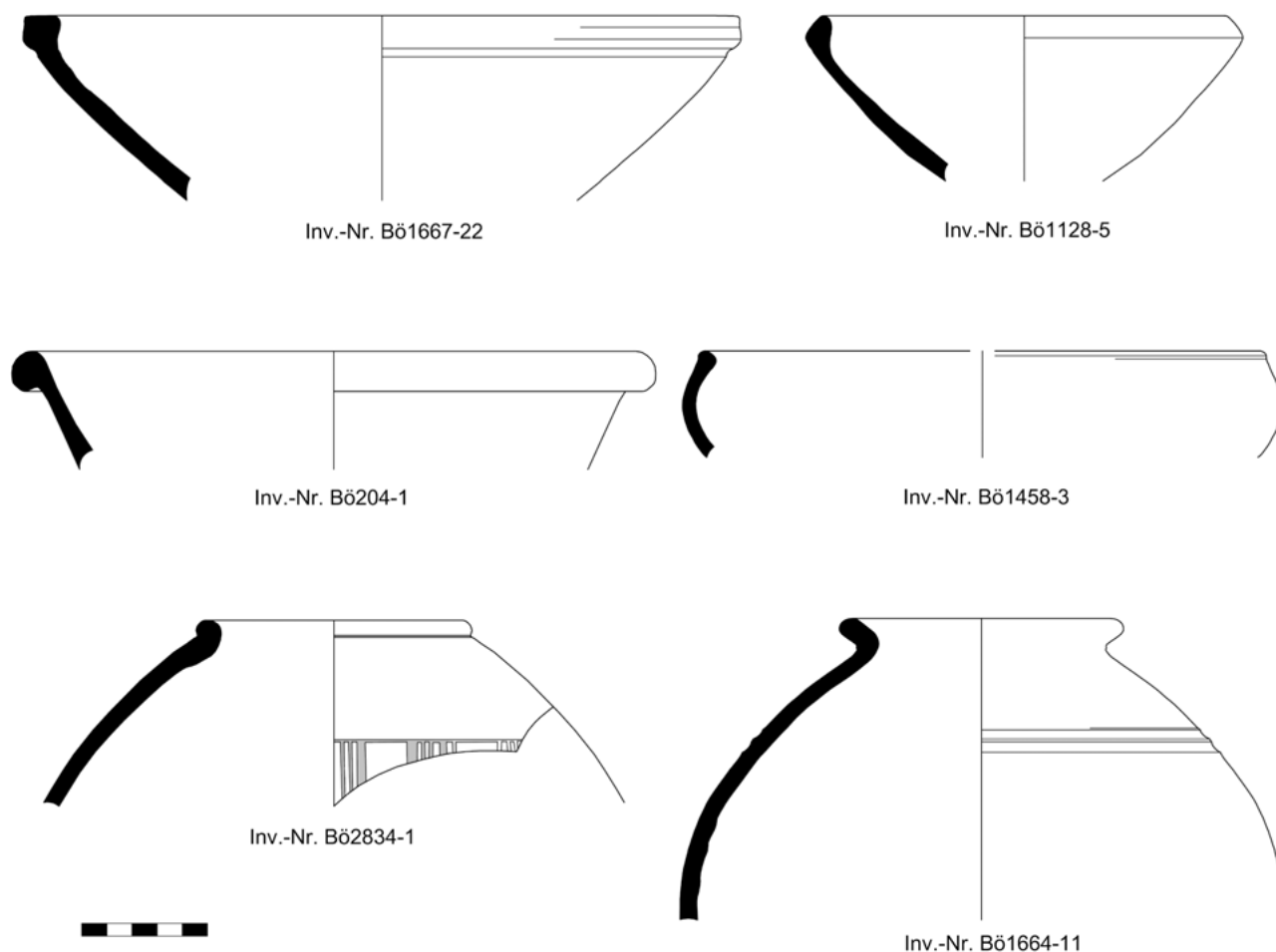
ware (KONRAD 1989, 23–25).

<sup>8</sup> BADER 2011, 14–15.

<sup>9</sup> KOPF/OBERHOFER 2013c, 75–81.

<sup>10</sup> SCHWERZENBACH/JACOBS 1910/11. The drawings (mainly by A. Hild?) were critically reviewed and adjusted by R. Muršec (Innsbruck university).

<sup>11</sup> Thanks to M. Konrad (Bamberg) for the consultation of the unpublished Magisterarbeit: M. KONRAD, Frühe römische Gräber aus Bregenz – *Brigantium* (unpublished Magisterarbeit Univ. München 1989).



**Fig. 2.** Bregenz/“Böckleareal”, bowls and tons from stratified complexes. – Scale 1:3  
(drawing by R. Muršec, layout: K. Oberhofer).

small number of eight individuals the subordinated role of these bowls in the military strata in *Brigantium* is obvious. Similar bowls are missing in the contemporaneous Roman grave complexes from *Brigantium* (fig. 2)<sup>12</sup>.

Tons, partially with the typical painted decoration in Latène-tradition and two different rim shapes, are also very rare in the military contexts. A similar low frequency of comparable vessels has been noticed at the garrison of *Vindonissa*, whereas in the forts of Zurzach tons are completely absent<sup>13</sup>. Tons in Latène tradition are missing in the contemporaneous Roman grave complexes of *Brigantium* too. The shown bowls and tons can be quoted as typical examples for the indigenous ceramic tradition, persistent since the late Iron Age. The poor quantity of these vessels gives rise to the impression that an early interaction between the military and the local population did not take place.

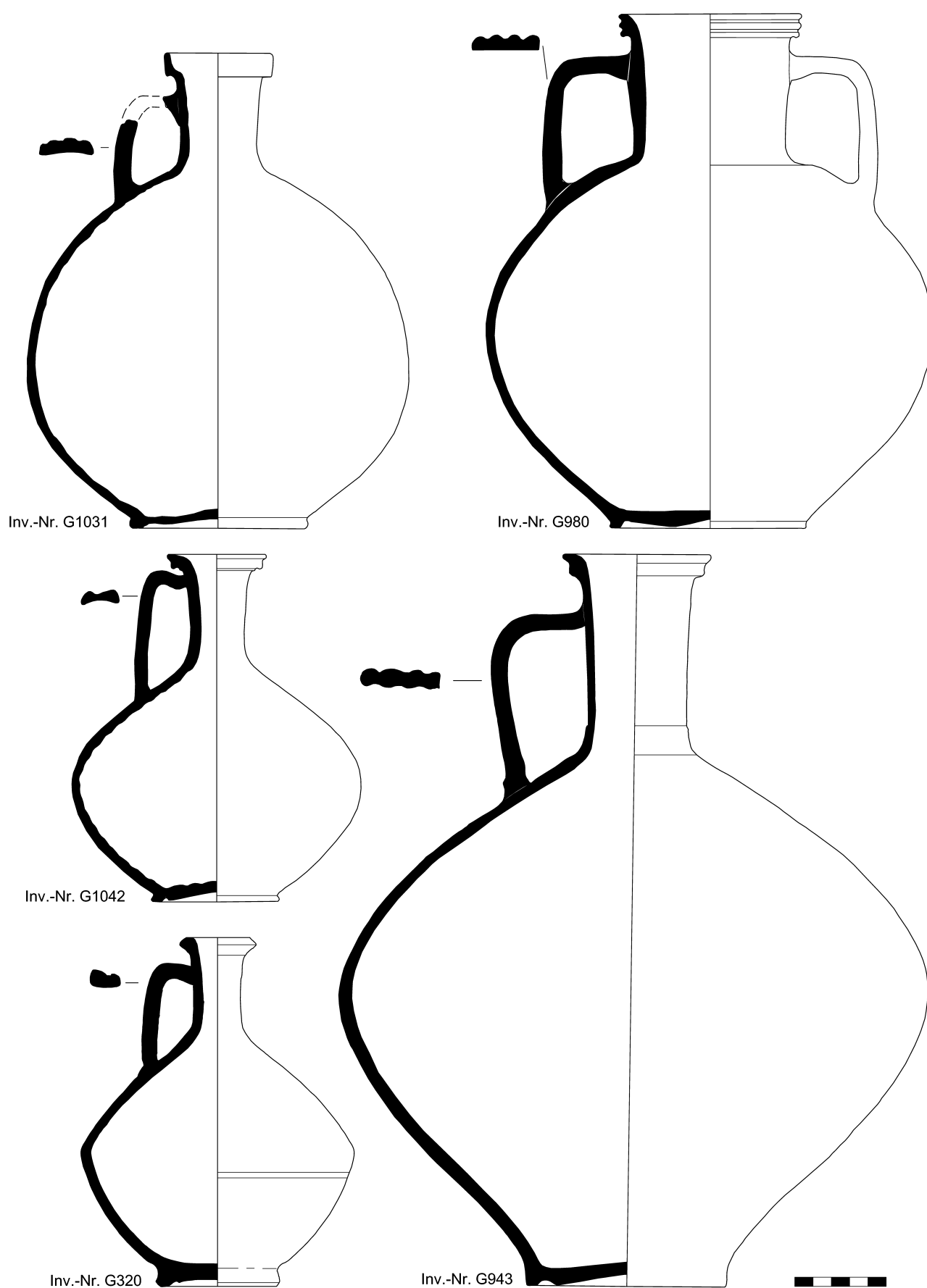
For jars in particular – a link between tableware and storage vessels – typological patterns cannot be proven beyond doubt. A classification regarding handles, bodies and bottoms has remained unsuccessful. In the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD jars with undercut rims are quite common – evidences from military and civilian contexts from the northern foothills of the Alps are well known<sup>14</sup>. A larger quantity is known from the garrison at *Vindonissa* and from the related auxiliary forts at Zurzach and Bregenz. The early evidences from the Auerberg and Kempten should be seen in a civilian context with strong military impacts in contrast to the civilian *vici Aquae Helveticae*/Baden and *Vitodurum*/Oberwinterthur. Jars with horizontal rim may be interpreted as a formal reception of north Italic influences<sup>15</sup>. The emergence of wide-necked jars with horizontal rims seems rather poor at the northern foothill of the Alps. Therefore it may be assumed that the main supply lines came from Gaul and the relations to the *Gallia cisalpina* were less significant. Jars with bead rim are

<sup>12</sup> ETTLINGER/SIMONETT 1952, 16; SCHUCANY 1996, 136; 194; SCHUCANY 1999a, 62. – Zurzach: HÄNGGI ET AL. 1994, 142 f. – Auerberg: FLÜGEL 1999, 60 note 240 pl. 36, Nm 3. – Kempten: SIELER 2009, 117 (Schalen mit einziehendem Rand: Kat.-Nr. 30,8; 169,22). – Chur: HOCHULI-GYSEL ET AL. 1991, 313 pl. 35,14. – Oberwinterthur: JAUCH 2014, 146. – Eschenz: Tasgetium III pl. 5,57; 7,86.

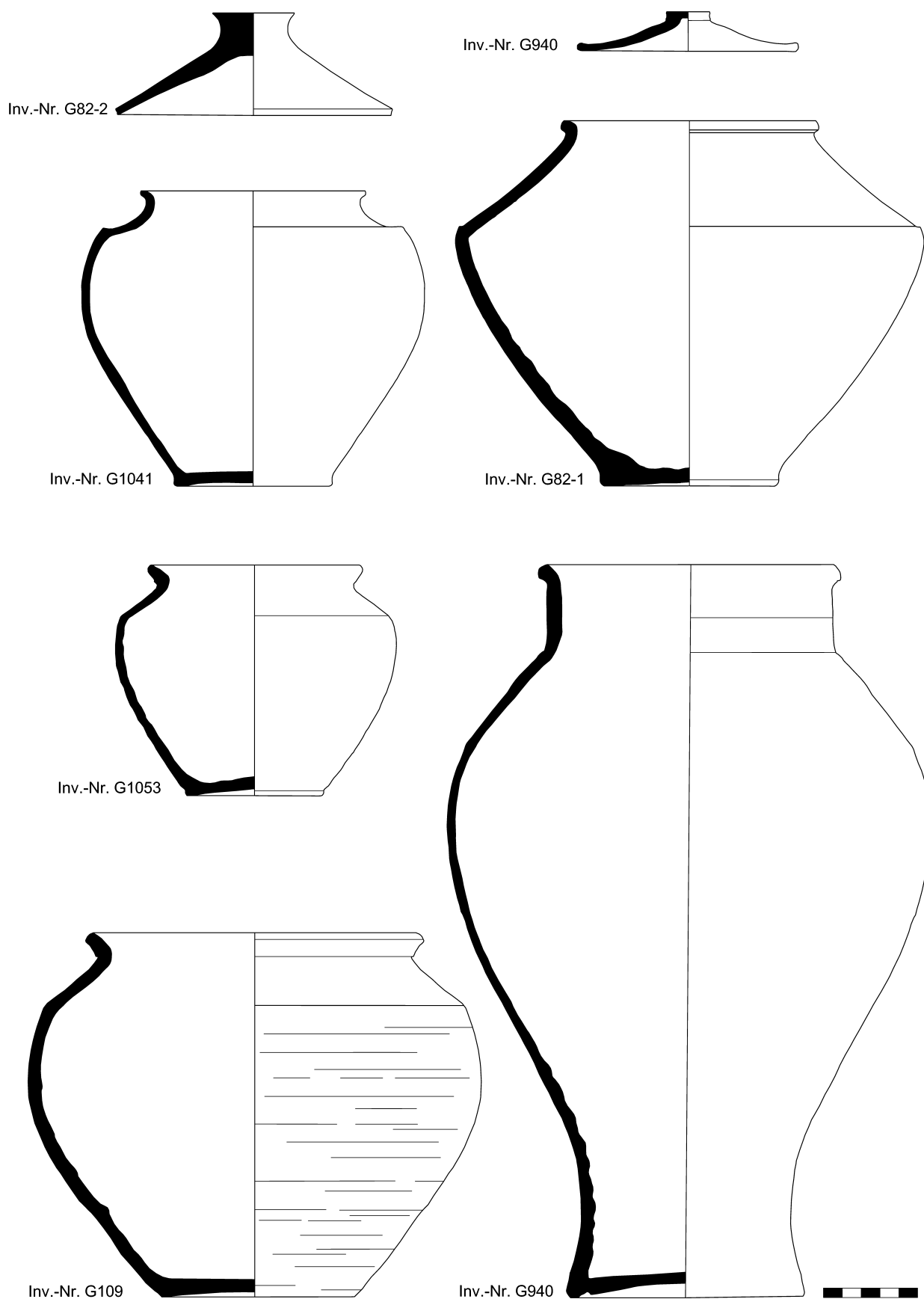
<sup>13</sup> ETTLINGER-SIMONETT 1952, 18 f. – Baden: SCHUCANY 1996, 194 f. – Auerberg: FLÜGEL 1999, 57 (M 1). – Kempten: SIELER 2009 pl. 20 (129,3).

<sup>14</sup> Kempten: SIELER 2009, 116. – *Vindonissa*: ETTLINGER/SIMONETT 1952, 77–86; TOMAŠEVIĆ 1970 pl. 14,8.14. – Auerberg: FLÜGEL 1999, 59 f. 63–65. – Oberwinterthur: RYCHENER 1984, 63 fig. 62,42.101; RYCHENER/ALBERTIN 1986, 78. – Baden: SCHUCANY 1996, 107. – Zurzach: HÄNGGI ET AL. 1994, 108; 124; 137.

<sup>15</sup> Oberwinterthur: RYCHENER 1984, 63 fig. 62,27; RYCHENER/ALBERTIN 1986, 78 fig. 83,291. – Zurzach: HÄNGGI ET AL. 1994, 109.



**Fig. 3.** Bregenz, jars from the burial ground with evidences in the find complexes of the “Böckleareal”. – Scale 1:3  
(drawing by vorarlberg museum and R. Muršec, layout: K. Oberhofer).



**Fig. 4.** Bregenz, lids and pots from the burial ground with evidences in the find complexes of the “Böckleareal”. – Scale 1:3  
(drawing by vorarlberg museum and R. Muršec, layout: K. Oberhofer).

very rare in the early contexts of the military forts in *Brigantium* and are concentrated in the Tiberian strata. According to the research on the early timber buildings in the area of the small thermae in Kempten and the quite complex situation at Augsburg a diffusion of these jars in the subsequently established province of *Raetia* is obvious<sup>16</sup>.

The overview of the different jar rim types shows a varied picture for the northern alpine foothill regarding military contexts (fig. 3). For Bregenz it seems very likely that the strongest influence emanated from the garrison at *Vindonissa*. Relations to the Germanian military district seems to be accountable also for the evidences in Kempten and Augsburg. Early Italic influences in the formal reception of coarse ware can be attested in the course of the Roman Alpine campaign of 15 BC, manifesting itself in the strong presence of Italian Terra Sigillata, *mortaria* and Pompeian red slip ware. It is worth mentioning that the military supply network in the early province of *Raetia* is rather unclear, due among other things to the rapid changes of the stationed units. The vexillationes garrisoned in the inner city of Augsburg are unknown as well as the suspected military units at Kempten. Additionally, the specific kind of military presence within the settlement on the Auerberg is totally unclear.

A broad range of storage vessels was used as urns in the cemeteries: very common were the so called scapular pot, the globular pot and *dolia* in different sizes. The scapular pot has roots in the younger Latène periods and evolved scarcely in the regions around lake Constance until the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD<sup>17</sup>. The find complexes include two different variants of scapular pots (fig. 4). Characteristics of the first group are a wide orifice and a sharp-edged carination known from Drack-20-bowls<sup>18</sup>. The second group is usually smaller with a less conspicuous carination in the upper third section and shows the highest diameter at the body<sup>19</sup>. Unpretentious wheel-thrown coarse ware lids complete the picture. Imported urcei were quite rare, but not unusual<sup>20</sup>. A tall pot with a narrow bottom, a body similar to the tons shown with a wide mouth is known from the upper Danube region and especially from Manching is<sup>21</sup>. Among the *dolia* (fig. 5) rims of the

Zürich-Lindenhof-type<sup>22</sup> are present in an equal quantity as *dolia* with the better known horizontal rim<sup>23</sup>.

For the sake of completeness, the cooking ware from the early Imperial stratified contexts in *Brigantium* should also be mentioned. Naturally, imported platters and lids of Pompeian red ware fabric 1 and 3 are well presented in the strata of the Tiberian/Claudian military fort, whereas being expectedly rare in the burial complexes. Cooking-bowls (fig. 5) – regarded as ceramic imitations of the bronze caccabus – are also very rare in the military fort due to their occurrence not earlier than in the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century<sup>24</sup>. The provenience of these bowls could not be established<sup>25</sup>. The main cooking vessel of the military period in *Brigantium* is the typical globular cooking pot, roughly made with always similar temper. These pots are mainly handmade and not wheel thrown<sup>26</sup>. Correlating to the studies on the cooking pots from Dangstetten and Vindonissa, quite homogenous capacities can be presumed for this kind of ceramic in Bregenz too<sup>27</sup>. The different elaboration of the rims is remarkable. These vessels were finally used by the poorer population as urns.

Until now it is absolutely unclear, how the coarse ware supply for the garrison and the corresponding vicus was organized. A local production at the gate of the alpine Rhine valley is conceivable, since the settlement was a key market for the regional producers from the surroundings readily accessible by lake Constance. Earlier excavations have unearthed features of at least four potter kilns. Summarising the poor knowledge, the missing of features from the 1<sup>st</sup> century is obvious. Regarding the fact that different kinds of features were unearthed within the area of 30 hectares, which comprises the main place of the *Brigantii*, it seems very likely that an efficient ceramic production was built up in the surroundings of the Tiberian military fort.

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<sup>16</sup> JAUCH 2014, 150 f. – Kempten: SIELER 2009, 118 (Kat.Nr. 17,12). – Augsburg-Oberhausen: ULBERT 1960 pl. 15,4. – Neuss: VEGAS 1975, 27 f. SCHUCANY 1999a, 60.

<sup>17</sup> JAUCH 1997, 53. – Zuzach: HÄNGGI ET AL. 1994, 670 (14.71).

<sup>18</sup> ETTLINGER/SIMONETT 1952, 19 pl. 5,73. SIELER 2009, 118; SCHUCANY 1996, 131.

<sup>19</sup> JAUCH 1997, 54; MACKENSEN 1978, 103; c. f. HEISING 2007, 45 f. pl. 103,335. – Zuzach: HÄNGGI ET AL. 1994, 661 pl. 97,32.1. – Eschenz: JAUCH 1997, 54; 119 pl. 21,367–370.

<sup>20</sup> MAIER 1970, 210 pl. 59,1005.

<sup>22</sup> FURGER-GUNTI 1979, 88 (type Zürich Lindenhof, „Randform 5“); ETTLINGER/SIMONETT 1952, 19.

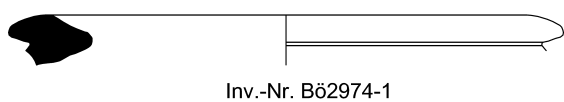
<sup>23</sup> SCHUCANY 1996, 117. – Auerberg: FLÜGEL 1999, pl. 73. – Chur: HOCHULI-GYSEL ET AL. 1986, 322. – Eschenz: JAUCH 1997, 154.

<sup>24</sup> Baden: SCHUCANY 1999b, 68. – Neuss: VEGAS 1975, 40; *Vindonissa*: ETTLINGER/SIMONETT 1952, 14. – Bregenz: HASENBACH 2011, 222, 277 pl. 15,6.

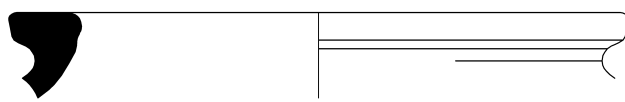
<sup>25</sup> A production in Augst, Venusstraße-Ost: VOGEL-MÜLLER/SCHMID 1999, 57; also on the Auerberg: FLÜGEL 1999, 66 (imitation of a bronze vessel); 68 (cooking-bowls).

<sup>26</sup> C. f. SCHUCANY 1999b; SCHUCANY 1999c. – Bregenz: HASENBACH 2011, 280 f. pl. 18,19.

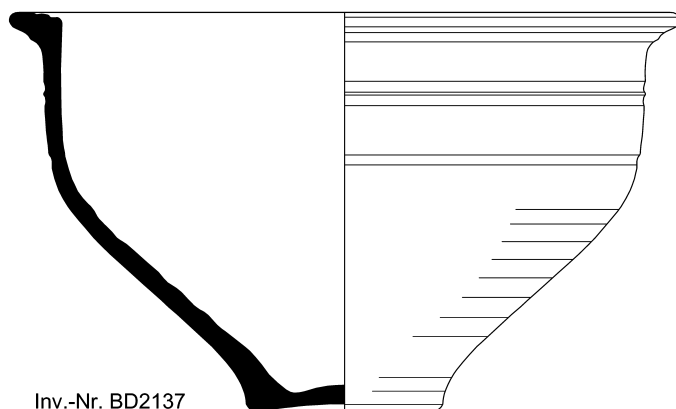
<sup>27</sup> LECKEBUSCH 1998, 384 (Typ 101.4); c. f. *Vindonissa*: TOMAŠEVIĆ 1970 pl.19,16–17; ETTLINGER/SIMONETT 1952 pl. 2,27.



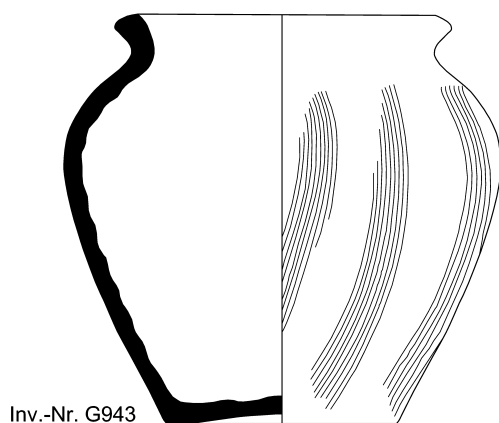
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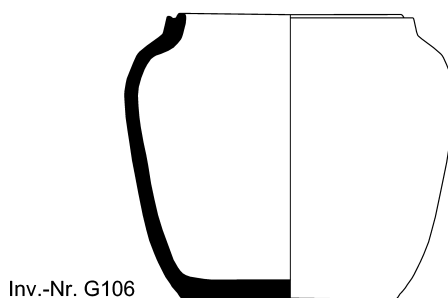
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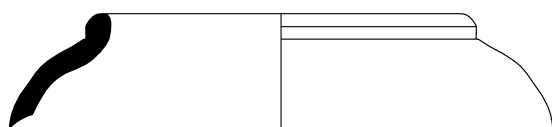
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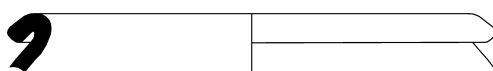
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**Fig. 5.** Bregenz, *dolia*, cooking-bowl and cooking-pots from the burial ground with evidences in the find complexes of the “Böckleareal”. – Scale 1:3 (drawing by vorarlberg museum and R. Muršec, layout: K. Oberhofer).

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