

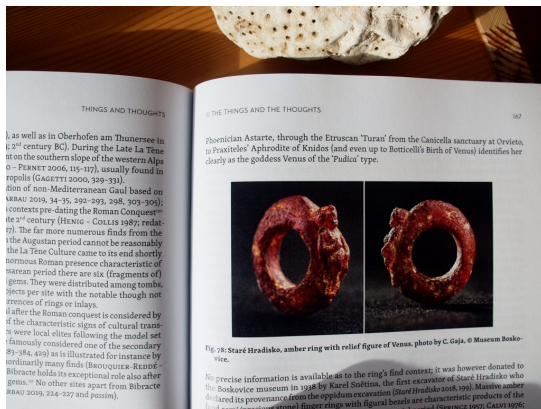
Things and Thoughts – A New View of the Iron Age in Central Europe in the monograph by Jan Kysela

A new book by Jan Kysela (Institute of Classical Archaeology) investigates the contacts between Central Europe and the Mediterranean in the 4th–1st centuries BC

Since the beginnings of research into the Central European Iron Age, interactions of the region with the Mediterranean played an important role in the interpretation of various archaeological phenomena but also and importantly as narrative elements. However, they rarely became a subject of study in their own right. The monograph *Things and Thoughts* by Jan Kysela investigates the contacts between Central Europe and the Mediterranean in the 4th–1st centuries BC based on the complex analysis and contextualisation of all the available written and more importantly archaeological sources. Not only does it bring new information on the topic itself but it also sheds new light on various aspects of the Central European Late Iron Age archaeology.

„What is important, the phenomena we observe in Central Europe are essentially identical in their material manifestations with those which in western Europe led to the appearance of early states. The transformation of the settlement pattern with the appearance of new settlement categories – agglomerations first and oppida afterwards – is a constant symptom of these social developments and can be understood as their natural product with no need for external inspiration, no matter if their establishment was dictated by

practical needs or if there were other elements at play, e.g. prestige ...”

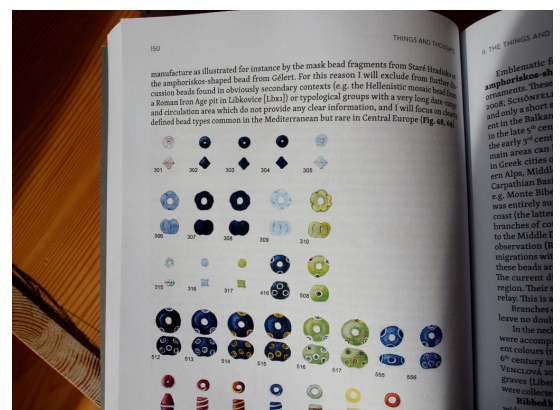


The main part of *Things and Thoughts* consists of a contextual study of the corpus of objects of Mediterranean origin discovered in Central European contexts of the 4th–1st centuries BC with an emphasis on trying to obtain a full and complete picture. The situation in Bohemia is set in a broader

picture by comparison with two neighbouring regions in Central Europe. The author believes this method to be the most adequate approach for this material at this stage of research and somewhat superior to the previous impression-based storytelling. In the subsequent chapter the book tries to judge, on the basis of several selected examples, the scope and impact of technological innovations of Mediterranean origin on the transalpine world. Both large scale phenomena and individual specific cases are treated, once again in a broader geographical context.

Jan Kysela

Things and Thoughts. Central Europe and the Mediterranean in the 4th-1st centuries BC



Charles University, Faculty of Arts. Prague 2021

ISBN 978-80-7671-005-4 (print), ISBN 978-80-7671-006-1

(online: pdf)

Softcover, 439 pp., color illus.

Book in the FA e-shop

E-book in the FA e-shop

Preview

Mgr. Jan Kyselá, PhD studied Classical Archaeology at the Charles University in Prague and spent two semesters at the Università degli studi di Pisa, Italy. He earned his PhD in a co-tutelle program with the Charles University and Université de Strasbourg, France. Since 2013 he is employed as an Assistant Professor at the Institute. Between 2014-2015 he worked as a curator and archaeologist at the National Museum in Prague. He is an external lecturer at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. Since 2015 he is the executive editor of *Studia Hercynia*.

His subject of study is Iron Age in the Central Europe and the Mediterranean, with focus on the interrelations between the two regions and the beginnings of the Roman presence in the Central Europe. He participates in the archaeological investigations of the oppidum Bibracte in Burgundy, France, between 2009-2013 as a member of joint Italo-Franco-Belgian team and since 2018 in the team of the Masaryk University, Brno. He is member of the French Association for the Study of the Iron Age (AFEAF), whose conference in 2018 he organized in Prague. He is a regular participant in the Czech Archaeological Expedition in Uzbekistan.