

XII. Summary

In the years 1990-93 on the site of the car park of the Westfälisches Römermuseum Haltern (Abb. 1) extensive archaeological excavations were carried out (Beilage 2 and 3). In the course of these the most varied archaeological structures dating to the Augustan period came to light. With the ditch 5/1989 a part of a fortification system could be uncovered which although at present cannot be precisely dated probably belongs to a predecessor of the so-called marching camp.

Completely lacking a wider context are the archaeological features Gr. 6/90, 10/90 and 26/91 in the middle part of the excavated area. The features Gr. 13/90, 1/91, 4/91 and Pf. 4/91 could well be seen in connection with the potters' district T8 uncovered here, however these are so limited in the strength of their evidence that also here a precise assignment of the features is not possible. Probably to be seen in connection with the foundations (Fm 2-5) and the shallow ditches (Fm1/Gräbchen 1 and 2) are the pits 9/90, 19-20/90, 2/91 and 3/91 (Abb. 10). The functional context of pits 17/90 and 18/90 which have been clearly identified as post-holes is however unclear. The foundations and the shallow ditches take up the alignment of the main camp ditches and the ditches of the East-West running street which, as it has been proved, ran from the so-called „Anlagen im Wiegel“ to the grave field.

The kilns 2, 7, 10, 4 and 9 of the newly discovered potters' district in front of the *porta praetoria* of the so-called main camp are orientated on the alignment of the *via praetoria* (Beilage 1 - T8 and Abb. 5). This alignment is alongside the recovered ceramic material an indication for the contemporaneous existence of the main camp, the foundations and the kilns. The small excavation area over the building structures is though insufficient for a conclusive interpretation. Here one would like to suspect the potters' workshops. The ceramic material found here, which for the most part was produced on-site, represents without exception the find spectrum from the main camp at Haltern. The construction method of the kilns has already been known since the discovery of the potters' kilns (T1-3) in the main camp in 1931. These are sunken, standing shaft kilns with perforated floors which - at least in the potters' district in front of the *porta praetoria* - were supported by lateral tongues (Abb. 7). As the main building material silicon concretions, which occur frequently in the sandy ground at Haltern and are very heat resistant, were used together with loam. Deviating from this was kiln 7 which - as with kiln T6 in the main camp - was erected entirely from loam. Always located in front of the kiln or rather the flue was the working-pit which was also sunken and from which the fire was kept burning. Whilst in the main camp only round kiln types occur, here from the ten kilns present seven were square and three were round (Abb.2).

All in all the find complex of kilns in front of the *porta praetoria* and all the products detected here must be interpreted as a unit. Accordingly glazed and figurative ceramics, imitations of Terra Sigillata, lamps decorated with bosses and volutes, lamps with lunula handles, beakers (Ha 40A.B, Ha 41a and Ha 43A), flagons (Ha 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52(?), 53(?), 54), two-handled bowls (Ha 55), cooking-pots (Ha 56-58), lids, tripod skillets (Ha 92), mortaria (Ha 59), amphora stoppers (Ha 61), two-handled storage vessels (Ha 62), storage vessels (Ha 64), „clay coloured“ plates, decorated beakers (Ha 85 and 87) as well as loom-weights were fired here (Beilage 4). In particular the cooking-pot types Ha 56-58 were produced in a proper mass production.

A small series of Roman ceramics and of presumed unfired potters' clays from the potteries T7 and T8 as well as from Anreppen were geochemically and mineralogically sampled (s. contribution SCHMITT-RIEGRAF Pg. 251 ff.). This gave as a result groupings, which allow the products of both potteries to be differentiated from each other. A problematic effect by the assessment is the already established mixing of the find material in the contemporary levelling layer from T8. The suspected potters' clays have similar chemical compositions to the pottery products however differentiate themselves in their mineralogical composition. Nevertheless these are possibly the source clays used. The origins of the potters' clays could not be clarified. Samples from an abandoned brickworks in Haltern were clearly different to the unfired clays from the potteries T7 and T8.

The product palette of types goes far beyond the extent of the other known Augustan military potteries. Extensive type spectra (Beilage 4) also exist from the well known potteries T1-3, T5, T6 and T7. To be particularly emphasized are the Terra Sigillata productions of the potteries T6 and T7. The pottery T7 occupies amongst the Haltern potteries an outstanding position: here alongside Terra Sigillata also glazed wares,

white-clay lamps, figurines and moulds for relief chalices were produced. Connections between the potteries T7 and T8 can be verified through the find material but how these could have appeared in detail cannot be determined. Additionally it could not be clarified in which kiln from T8 the corresponding ceramic was fired as the entire potters' district was levelled still within the period of Roman occupation and through this the ceramic material had become mixed (Abb.3). This was probably carried out following an attack on the main camp by Germans. The reason for this assumption being given by the exceptional findings from kiln 10. Here the skeletons of 24 - probably male dead (s. contribution BORCHARDT-OTT Pg. 187ff.) - and of a dog (s. contribution K.-P. LANSER Pg. 249) were found which had been clearly thrown indiscriminately and without any recognisable reverence into the working-pit of the kiln and were then covered with rubble from the demolished pottery. Items of costume or other elucidating finds are fully absent⁸⁴⁰.

Due to the poor preservation conditions of the skeletons only the skulls could be recovered in block and as a result little material has been available for anthropological examination. In accordance with this evidence the age of the dead varies between early-adult and matur-senil (compare Tabelle 2-3 - contribution BORCHARDT-OTT). However the majority could only be roughly classified as being adult-matur. By five individuals a height of 165 - 171cm could be measured (Tabelle 4 - contribution BORCHARDT-OTT). A clear determination of the origins of the dead could not be attained either through anthropological or archaeological methods. The questions over the identity of the dead as well as the causes and attendant circumstances of the burial cannot be reliably answered, however some points can be taken into consideration.

Both the Germans as well as the Romans would have traditionally cremated and buried their own dead if they would of had the time and opportunity to do so. Especially for the Romans the correct burial of their own dead was a matter of particular concern. The Roman grave field at Haltern lies only a distance of barely 500m away from the site. Therefore the conclusion lies close at hand that the dead are to be seen as germanic warriors who following a presumably unsuccessful attack on the main camp were buried here. Possibly in order to prevent the dangers of an epidemic the Roman soldiers had collected the dead from the battle field, buried them and at the same time through the levelling of the potters' district cleared the Glacis in front of the south gate of the camp. Time point and context of these events which should certainly not have been of insignificance for the continued existence of the Roman camp are unknown. The antique sources give only a few references to sieges of Roman camps in inner Germany⁸⁴¹. To bring the dead in a connection with the siege of the Roman camp Aliso held under the command of the *praefectus castrorum* L. Caedicius is more than tempting.

The coins recovered from the excavated area cannot be enlisted for an exact dating of the potters' district (s. contribution P. ILISCH Pg. 297 ff.). In their entirety the composition of the coin population however points to a late phase in the Roman presence at Haltern.

With the aid of archaeomagnetic dating methods the time period for kiln 2 (T8), in which the „last firing“ took place, could be placed with a 95% probability in the time interval between 10 BC - 44 AD. The so-called datings remanence indicates a last use in the year 15 AD (s. contribution J. REINDERS and U. HAMBACH Pg. 303ff). However this date should not be overvalued in the face of certain tolerance errors. On the whole the results from scientific methods based on physics verify those already reached through the evaluation of the recovered ceramics and coins as well as the archaeological features indicating a late date for the potters' district T8 within the period of the Roman presence at Haltern.

Translation: Mark Hudson

840 The rest of a fibula-spring (kiln 10/4140) and an iron trilobate arrowhead could not be brought directly in connection with the dead. They could have also come into the pit together with the rubble.

841 cf. the compilation of sources by VON SCHNURBEIN, Untersuchungen, 79 ff.