The Velika Gorica cemetery and related sites in Continental Croatia

Snježana Karavanić

Abstract
The article deals with the grave assemblages from the Velika Gorica (Zagreb) site. The site was discovered by chance during pebble quarrying on the cadastral plot no. 380/2, owned by a businessman named Nikola Hribar, and is located near the local hospital. On that occasion, finds from cremation burials, as well as from later, medieval inhumations, were found. The first report was published by V. Hoffiller in 1909. The same author analysed ceramic finds in 1924. The finds from Velika Gorica provided the basis for the definition of the younger phase of the Urnfield culture in North Croatia. Later the term Velika Gorica group was introduced by Ksenija Vinski-Gasparini. All preserved graves were published by Snježana Karavanić in 2009.

1. Introduction
The Urnfield culture in Croatia is represented by grave finds from the entire time span of this culture (fig. 1). Unfortunately, most of the cemeteries were not systematically excavated and they lack closed grave finds and find circumstances. From the early Urnfield culture we have cemeteries at Virovitica and Sirova Katalena, which were excavated in the 60ies by Ksenija Vinski-Gasparini.² They formed a basis for the definition of the so-called 1st phase of the Urnfield culture in Croatia and later the Virovitica group. We can also attribute the cemeteries of Moravče³, Drljancav⁴ and Voćin⁵ to this group. Furthermore, we can mention cemeteries of the Gredani group, excavated by K. Minichreiter in the 80ies,⁶ in a separate group. Some new sites at Mačkovac-Crišnjević⁷ and Popernjak⁸ can also be attributed to this group, locally called the Barice-Gredani group. The Zagreb-Vrapče⁹ cemetery also belongs to the early Urnfield culture and its phase II.

We attributed cemeteries from Zagreb-Horvati, Velika Gorica, Krupače, Treščerovac¹⁰ and Ozali¹¹ to the late phase of the Urnfield culture. The cemeteries of the Dalj group¹² form a separate group.

2. Location of the site
The area investigated covers today’s administrative units of Zagreb and Karlovac county. The site (fig. 2) is located right in the middle of the present day town of Velika Gorica, which was formerly a suburb of Zagreb. It is 10 km away from Zagreb and lies on the territory south of the river Sava. In prehistory it was exposed to different cultural influences, both from the Balkans as well as Pannonia and the Eastern Alpine region. Velika Gorica and Dobova lie on the natural pass from the lower to the upper Sava valley. Dobova is only 37 km linear distance from Velika Gorica. This territory is located between the mountains Medvednica, Žumberak and Samoborsko gorje and we have evidence for several hill-fort sites from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age on their slopes like Susedgrad, Šv. Križ Brdo and Bregana-Kosovac.12

3. History of the research on the Velika Gorica cemetery
The first report was written by V. Hoffiller,13 who described and analysed the finds of 20 graves (15 cremation graves in urns and 5 inhumations) that were discovered in 1908. The site was discovered during the pebble quarrying on the cadastral plot no. 380/2, owned by a businessman named Nikola Hribar, and located near the local hospital.14 On that occasion, finds from cremation burials, as well as from later, medieval inhumations, were found. It is mentioned that urn graves were also found on the cadastral plot no. 543.15

The information from the museum’s archives16 informs us that during 1909, and under the direction of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, 16 graves were found, and a further 14 were discovered the following year. In 1910 T. Kalić found 7 graves, and in 1916 an additional 6. During 1910, 1911, 1914, and 1924 the Museum received additional finds from the Velika Gorica cemetery as a gift from the owner of the land. A total of 67 graves, most of them cremation burials of prehistoric age, were excavated. However, there were some from the Roman period, as well as 6 inhumations from the medieval period.

In 1924 V. Hoffiller published a paper on the prehistoric urns from the site in the Frane Bulić Festschrift (Serta Bulicana).17 The finds from Velika Gorica were also published by him in the Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum series.18
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They also appear in the list of the Archaeological map of Yugoslavia under the name of Velika Gorica, *Blatt Zagreb*.\(^{19}\)

The first catalogue of chosen grave assemblages from the Velika Gorica cemetery was published by F. Staré\(^{20}\) and was analysed by him the same year in his paper on semilunar razors from Yugoslavia.\(^{21}\)

K. Vinski-Gasparini\(^{22}\) included the finds in her synthesis, but chose not to do a detailed analysis of the finds from the late period of the Urnfield culture, as they had already been previously published. K. Vinski-Gasparini\(^{23}\) published 5 graves: 7/1908, 1/1910, 2/1910, 1/1911 and 3/1916.

In our work, we have chosen to do a detailed analysis of the complete inventory from the site that is housed in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb. Graves were analysed according to their description in the inventory books, and an attempt was made to reconstruct the previously unreconstructed grave associations. Our analysis also added new items to the grave contents published by V. Hoffiller\(^{24}\) and K. Vinski-Gasparini\(^{25}\) (1973). All of the preserved graves at Velika Gorica were published by the author of this article in 2009.\(^{26}\)

4. The reconstructed number of the graves

We divided the graves into those known only from descriptions in the literature (fig. 3), those with the known material that is housed in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, and those graves that we assume might have also been excavated (blue colour). From our work on the material from Velika Gorica it is assumed that a total of 53 urn graves from the prehistoric age could be registered, but only 22 could be reconstructed as closed grave finds, 19 are known from the literature and the remaining 12 graves are only assumed to have been excavated.

5. Burial rites

The only data about the type of cremation burials at Velika Gorica come from V. Hoffiller’s report\(^{27}\) about the excavation of 9 urn graves at the aforementioned cadastral plot 380/2 owned by Nikola Hribar. All of these graves were found at a depth of 40–50 cm, except grave 1 which

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27. Hoffiller 1929.

Fig. 2. Map with the location of the Velika Gorica and Dobova sites.
was found at a depth of 80 cm. They were all buried in the pebble soil. V. Hoffiller mentions that all the 9 graves were at the same place, at a distance of 3 m from each other. The soil around each grave, about 1 m², was very dark and black and mixed with charcoal. I assume that this was probably the traces of burial pits. The statement that the urns were very small vessels, rarely covered with another small vessel, is very important information from this report. The burnt bones were mostly found around the vessels, but it is possible that there were examples with bones inside the urns.

Items made of metal were also located near the urn. As in the case of the finds from Krupače and Trešćerovac, it was not possible to preserve all the urns, due to the poor quality of the pottery, as well as the humidity of the soil. It is also worth mentioning that the vessels that we called urns did not always serve as a container for cremated bones. They actually have very small dimensions and have usually a hole on the vessel walls.

We can take the results of the excavation of the Dobova cemetery, just across the border in Slovenia, as a parallel to the Velika Gorica cremation burials. The graves are dug into the same alluvial Sava pebble soil. F. Staré distinguished three groups of graves there:

1. The first group are the graves with the bones inside the urn, which was placed into the grave pit. Grave goods are very rare in this group and are mostly placed in the urn.

2. The second group are the graves with a vessel-urn. But the bones are placed on the bottom of the pit together with charcoal. Grave goods are most frequent in this group and were placed in the urn as well as beneath it on the bottom of the grave pit.

3. The third group are the graves without urns and only with bones inside the grave pit with charcoal. The grave goods were mostly some pieces of pottery.

We have evidence of the existence of large vessels or urns inside which small vessels were placed together with cremated bones and grave goods from the cemetery of Krupače. The urns were found at a depth of 40 cm beneath the surface. Some were covered with a small bowl, and inside the urns, on the layer of ashes, a small pot also covered with a bowl was found. Inside this small pot there were cremated bones and a rare piece of metal. J. Brunšmid also mentions an example of a small urn, with cremated bones inside it and metal grave goods beside it, beneath the layer of burnt soil.

For the Trešćerovac cemetery we also have some data from the Šime Ljubić report from 1885, where it is stated that 46 urns were found in an area with a length of 21 m and a width of 11.5 m. Some urns were placed 50 cm beneath the surface, some 1 m and some right beneath the surface. Four
urns had a stone slab cover, one had a double stone slab and
the others had a bowl as a lid. The same applied at Krupače,
a small urn and cup could be found inside the big vessel.
Only in one case was this small urn outside but near the
big vessel. Š. Ljubić assumed that a total of 130 vessels were
found. Š. Ljubić also stated that it is possible that these urn
graves were used for burying two or three persons because
cremated bones fill half of one big urn and were also found
in some small vessels. Unfortunately we do not have any
anthropological data from these graves. It is also interesting
that Š. Ljubić reports about the existence of places where
the cremation might have taken place. These places were
near the urns, about 50 cm away from them and that was
the evidence for a cremation ceremony performed on the
same cemetery.

At Ozalj Balen-Letunić distinguished several types of
graves:
1. A grave pit with the urn covered with a bowl or other ves-
sel. The ashes and cremated bones are placed into the urn.
2. A grave pit dug into the bedrock with stone covering and
with the same type of urn. The cremated bones are inside
or outside of the urn.
3. A grave pit with traces of cremated bones and ashes and a
ceramic bowl as a grave good.

6. The number and structure of grave goods from Velika
Gorica

6.1 The number of grave goods per grave

The richest of the Velika Gorica graves is grave E/1910
(fig. 4) containing over 30 finds. However, we include vari-

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Fig. 4. The number of finds in the Velika Gorica graves.
ous fragments that could not be reconstructed accurately (except in rare cases) in this number, making it larger than it actually is.

A similar situation is seen in the case of grave F/1910 with over 20 finds. A somewhat more realistic situation is observed in graves 7/1908, 1/1911, and 3/1916 as those contain a smaller number of fragments. Therefore, these three latter graves should be considered the richest of the Velika Gorica graves. In them, the grave goods are mostly bronze tools and weapons, and some decorative items. With fewer goods, but still quite rich in goods (between 5 and 10) are graves 3/1914, 1/1910, A/1910, 5/1908, and 2/1910, while in other graves fewer than 5 objects were found.

6.2 The number of grave goods at Velika Gorica

A total of 296 items or grave goods is present in the Velika Gorica assemblage. It can be compared with the Dobova cemetery where we counted a number of 732 grave goods (fig. 5). It has to be noted that in this analysis all of the items were included, not just the ones for which the grave affiliation is known. This can present a methodological problem and further enlarges the item list.

We have defined 20 variables that represent different types of items at the Velika Gorica cemetery. These are:

1. pin
2. necklace
3. bracelet
4. bronze ring
5. hair ring
6. spectacle fibula
7. fibula
8. fibula of passementerie style (Posamentierfibel)
9. bead
10. decorative plate
11. razor
12. sword
13. spear
14. knife
15. socketed axe
16. weight
17. spindle whorl
18. ceramic bowl
19. rivets
20. whetstone

The most abundant grave good type in Velika Gorica is bracelets (fig. 6) (a total of 96 bracelets were found in closed grave associations). The second most abundant type is ceramic vessels (type 18), and necklaces (type 2). Both items are represented by 32 finds.

It has to be noted that some graves contained a single vessel, broken into pieces, and could represent an urn containing the remains of a cremation. The other possibility is that it represents a vessel that was put into the grave as a grave good and not as an urn. Cups and bowls are the most common type of grave goods, while pots, especially those with a hole, were used as urns. After these, the most abundant finds are spectacle fibulae (type 6), of which 20 were found, albeit mostly in fragments. Of other common types 18 spindle whorls (type 17) were found at the cemetery, 16 hair rings with an interwoven design (type 5), and 14 weights (type 16). 12 bronze rings (type 4) and 10 knives were also found. Other finds vary in their abundance from 1 to 8 pieces.

6.3 Comparison with Dobova

At Dobova, the most abundant items are ceramic vessels (fig. 7), of which about 500 were found, followed by a hair ring with an interwoven design, pins, and bracelets.

Compared to these, the rest of the item types appear in small quantities, about 10 per item. The two sites are most similar according to the number of bracelets found, while some types that are found at Velika Gorica, such as passementerie fibulae and razors, are not found at Dobova at all. Comparing the cumulative curves of the items found at Dobova and Velika Gorica, there are clearly differences in the percentages of the various types of items. A significant rise is seen in Velika Gorica in necklaces, while the next rise appears for the bracelets and again for the spectacle fibulae. The cumulative curve (fig. 8) for the Dobova material is moderately rising to the spindle whorls except for the hair decorations that are somewhat more abundant in comparison to the other finds.

Ceramic vessels are the most abundant as can be seen in a drastic rise of the values on the curve. This also shows the differences between the sites. At Velika Gorica necklaces, bracelets and spectacle fibulae are most abundant. Biba Teržan published a graphic comparison of the cemeteries from Slovenia: Dobova, Ruše and Podbrežje according to metal objects, graves containing ceramic items, and graves without grave goods. It can be seen that at Pobrežje and Ruše a similar number of graves containing metal ob-

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33. Karavanić 2000, fig. 4.
34. Karavanić 2000, 42.
37. Teržan 1999, fig. 9 a, b.
jects were discovered, while Dobova has fewer graves with metal objects. Graves with ceramics are most common at Podbrežje, Dobova comes second, while at Ruše these are less frequent. Dobova has the most graves that contain no grave goods, and that makes it different from Velika Gorica, which has lots of grave goods.

7. Pottery types

The most characteristic finds of the Velika Gorica cemetery are the urns themselves. These appear in several forms. They mostly have the form of a vessel with a single hole in its middle part. This is, except for the cemetery at Dobova and a few finds from Tolmin, a unique characteristic of this site compared to other sites in the southern Alpine region. This type of urn is found in graves 2/1910, 3/1910, G/1910,
K. Vinski-Gasparini points to analogies with younger forms seen in the Baierdorf- Velatsice culture and some of the Dobova urns, and at the same time points to the find of a rounded bowl from Zagreb Vrapče grave 4, in which she sees the origins of the Velika Gorica type of urns. She also points to a link with the finds from the Virovitica site.

These urns with a hole were previously discussed by V. Hoffiller, who at first argued that the holes had a practical purpose. This is unlikely as the vessels would fall apart.

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40. Vinski-Gasparini 1973, t. 9/9; t. 14/5.
41. Hoffiller 1924, 3.
if hung. He has published all of the 14 vessels with holes as well as two additional ones that were too damaged to tell whether they had holes or not. As V. Hoffiller states, the most abundant form of these urns is a rounded or globular vessel with a straight base. This basic form has several varieties, some vessels being flatter, others narrower and taller, while those that are widest at the rim are also found. One urn, in particular, is important as far as its dimensions and form are concerned, as it has a slightly biconical part in the middle. The form is reminiscent of the younger period of the Velatice culture. One urn has a reconstructed rim. Urns are located from about 2 cm below the rim, and in some urns they are situated lower, as in the case of the largest one in the middle. The form is reminiscent of the younger period of the Velatice culture. One urn has a reconstructed rim. Urns are quite diverse regarding size, ranging from a height of 8.2 cm to 19 cm. The wall thickness varies from 0.5 to 1 cm—which is quite thick. Holes are mostly round, in some cases slightly oval in form, with a diameter of 1.8 to 2.8 cm. Holes are located from about 2 cm below the rim, and in some urns they are situated lower, as in the case of the largest one in which the hole is located about 9 cm below the rim.45

45. V. Hoffiller compares the urns from Velika Gorica to the urns in the shape of a house (Hausurnen), a form that makes its appearance in the Late Bronze Age and can be found at early Iron Age sites in Italy and Germany. He calls them "shrunk urns in the shape of a house" that, according to him, were used to bury poor people. This is an oversimplistic view and is in contrast to the situation found at Velika Gorica, where numerous quite rich graves have been discovered. Analogies with this type of urn can be seen at Dobova, for example in grave no. 13 from that site.47 In grave no. 16 at Dobova a variant of this type appears which has a half-opening at the rim of the vessel.48 Likewise, in grave no. 29, a variant of a bowl with a straight rim and a hole in the middle was found.49 In Dobova grave no. 7750 is dated to Ha B1, on the basis of a pin of the Pile dwelling type, and it means that the urns with holes are somewhat older. Another find of urns with holes comes from the cemetery of Tolmin, grave 1351, grave 4352 and grave 2153. D. Svoljšak and A. Pogačnik find parallels at the cemetery of Dobova and cite F. Staré’s opinion that these holes had cultic significance. The holes were meant to be a kind of recipient for the soul of the buried deceased, a so-called Seelenloch.

Vessels with two handles (amphorae) are also found at Velika Gorica. This type of vessel is found in almost all of the groups of the younger phase of the Urnfield culture. It is also found in several graves at Dobova: grave no. 554, grave no. 755, grave no. 11456 etc.

We also find a deep bowl with an S-profile, decorated with fluting on the belly. It has analogies in the finds from Zagreb-Horvati, once more confirming the dating of this site to the late phase of the Urnfield culture.

At Velika Gorica, a vessel decorated with the so-called Pseudoschnur ornament is also found. Analogies can be seen at Ruše and among the finds from Podbrežje. A similar decorative motif is seen on the bowl from destroyed grave assemblages with direct analogies to the vessel found in grave no. 8/1993 from the Ruše II site,57 dated to the Ha B3 phase. This type of decoration would confirm that the Velika Gorica group lasted into the Ha B3 period and provides the link between the region of the upper Sava river and the region near the Drava river. K. Vinski-Gasparini argued that this vessel should be dated to the Ha B1 period and the earliest phase of the Ruša group.

Two cups have been found at the Velika Gorica cemetery. The first one has a slightly biconical body form and a high handle, while the other has a rounded body and a strap handle that exceeds the rim of the vessel. Analogies are found at the Dobova cemetery: grave no. 1158, grave no. 77 in the earlier phase of the Velika Gorica group, based on the find of a bowl with an inverted rim with facets on it,59 a somewhat earlier date might be appropriate. This could also mean that the urns with holes are somewhat older. Another find of urns with holes comes from the cemetery of Tolmin, grave 1350, grave 4351 and grave 2152. D. Svoljšak and A. Pogačnik find parallels at the cemetery of Dobova and cite F. Staré’s opinion that these holes had cultic significance. The holes were meant to be a kind of recipient for the soul of the buried deceased, a so-called Seelenloch.

54. Staré 1975, t. 16, 12.
55. Svoljšak, Pogačnik 2001, t. 2/7.
58. Svoljšak, Pogačnik 2002, 82.
59. Karavančič 2000, t. 21/1; t. 29 and 1, t. 30/3.
61. Staré 1975, t. 7/11.
64. Pahić 1972, t. 8/5.
65. Ceršar 2006, t. 2B/1, 146.
which a pin of the pile dwelling type was found, allowing its dating to the Ha B1 period.

8. Metal items

In spite of the unclear circumstances of the discovery, the numerous metal objects from Velika Gorica cemetery are important.

Hair decorations and hair rings with an interwoven design are considered very important inventories of female burials of the Ha B period of the Urnfield culture in Slovenia.60 Listing the finds from Ruše, Pobrežje, Zgornja Hajdina, Radvanje, Duplice i Mokronog, F. Staré also emphasizes the similarity of the finds from Velika Gorica to those from Dobova. F. Staré distinguishes between two types, based on the form of the interwoven design. One type has a proper interwoven design61, while the wire of the other type is folded into U-knots.71 F. Staré ascribed the finds from Velika Gorica to the second type. In grave no. C/1910 a hair decoration of the second type was found, while in grave no. 2/1914 one belonging to the first type is present. In grave no. 3/1916 a hair decoration of the second type was found, while that from 6/1916 cannot be assigned to a particular type due to the poor state of preservation. A second type was also found outside grave assemblages. F. Staré72 links these hair decorations, especially the ones of the second type, to the so-called passemeteren style or Posamentier-Stil and, based on the finds known at that time, concludes that the river Sava in Slovenia was the westernmost boundary of this decorative style. However, this type of hair decoration is found in some of the hoard finds, for example in the Bingula-Divoš hoard.76 These decorations are also found in the Brodski Varoš hoard, and Mačkovac hoard.77 Such items are characteristic of female burials (in a sense of grave good items, not in the anthropological character of graves) like those at Velika Gorica, for which a large number of necklaces, bracelets, fragments of fibulae, as well as numerous spindle whorls, clay and pyramidal weights that are put in female graves alongside cremated remains, are characteristic grave goods, examples are grave E/1910, grave F/1910, and grave 3/1916. In grave E/1910 all the metal items were preserved in a fragmented state. 61 fragments belonging to different items were found. Fragments of hair decoration were also found but it is unclear to which type they belong.

The dominant type of fibula is the spectacle fibula that appears in graves 2/1914, 1/1910, 2/1910, E/1910, 3/1916, as well as in the inventory of destroyed graves. The type is represented as small spectacle fibula with a figure of eight loop. According to F. Staré’s analysis of grave 108 from Dobova they were introduced at the beginning of the Ha B1 period and continued to appear in other periods of the late Urnfield culture. This is the Haslau-Regelsbrunn type. In graves 4/1911 (fig. 9) and E/1910 we have documented parts of possible similar variants of Posamentierfibeln, that could be connected with the fibula at Pobrežje in Slovenia, grave 127.78

Another type of fibula is the so-called saddle like fibula from grave 2/1910, which has parallels to graves 78 and 110 from Ruše, dated to the Ha B2 period. The same fibula is known from the Kalakača settlement in Serbia, published by Professor Medović.77 In grave 3/1916 a part of a harp fibula was found, probably of the Hadersdorf type, but in grave E/1910 we also have part of spiral folded wire that could be connected to this type of fibula but we are not sure because of the small fragments. One fragment of a fibula probably comes from a saddle-like type, also from destroyed graves. Other examples are probably part of a bow or arc fibula.

Pins are quite a common type of attire in the Velika Gorica graves, both male and female. We have so-called Pile dwelling type pins dated to period Ha B1 and also pins with bulb head sometimes with a thickened and twisted neck like the ones from grave 3/1910 and a similar one from grave G/1910. The one from grave 3/1910 has parallels from grave 6 at Dobova.

Twisted torcs were found in numerous fragments. It can be deduced that this item was one of the most common grave goods at the Velika Gorica cemetery. This type of necklace appears in hoards of period II of the Urnfield culture, such as the Otok-Privlaka, Poljanci I, Brodski Varoš, Pričac, and Mačkovac hoards. A fragment is also found in the Ivanec Bistranski hoard, while two fragments come from the Kamena Gorica hoard. A complete one was found in the Matijević hoard. Twisted necklaces are abundant at the Dobova and Pobrežje cemeteries. They also appear, but less frequently, at the sites of Ruše and Hajdina.79 They are associated sometimes with spectacle fibulae as seen on the female attire reconstruction (fig. 10).

Hair decoration of an undeterminable type was found

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60. Staré 1975, t. 15/11.
62. Staré 1960, fig. 8/5.
63. Staré 1960, fig. 9/4.
64. Staré 1960, 87.
68. Pahić 1972.
in grave F/1910, as well as an undecorated necklace with spiral endings, and a bracelet decorated with engraved lines divided into metopae. These are quite common in the graves at Velika Gorica, but are absent altogether at Dobova cemetery. At Podbrežje they are present but either undecorated, or their decoration is somewhat different in motifs than at Velika Gorica. This type of decoration is found among the finds from destroyed graves, again pointing to a link between Velika Gorica and Podbrežje. This type of bracelet could be considered as specific of the Velika Gorica cemetery, as they have been found in great numbers, even in the destroyed graves.

In grave F/1910 two bronze sheet plaques, that could have been fixed on clothes, were found. In the grave spindle whorls were found, of which the two smaller ones could have belonged to the attire of the female buried in the grave. Spindle whorls were also found in grave 3/1914, alongside a small weight, again pointing to a female burial. Judging by the finds from destroyed graves, spindle whorls were also quite common at Velika Gorica. A decorated weight of pyramidal form was discovered among items from destroyed graves. 2007 Margarita Primas analyzed spindle whorls from graves. In the inhumation grave 1 from Wiesbaden-

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circumstances of the find, nor on the sex of the deceased (it suggesting a double-burial. There is not sufficient data on the structure of grave goods from this burial and those from grave 1/1911 at Velika Gorica. There, a sword, spear, axe, numerous clay rings, and a spindle whorl were found, suggesting a double-burial. There is not sufficient data on the circumstances of the find, nor on the sex of the deceased (it is a cremation grave), but based on the sword, it was a warrior’s grave. M. Primas states that spindle whorls are more common grave finds after the Ha A2 period. She also presents a map of the distribution of graves with spindle whorls. To these we should add graves from Velika Gorica. M. Primas discusses spindle whorls as female grave goods, citing analogies from Italy, where numerous spindle whorls and spools were found in young women’s graves (the so-called “weaver sets”) at the site of Osteria dell’ Osa. In graves of older women, spindles and spindle whorls were often found near the skulls of the deceased. In some areas, spindle whorls are found together with metal jewellery, such as with two pins, suggesting female sex. It can be concluded that most of the spindle whorls come from female graves.

Velika Gorica also has toiletries, in the form of razors, that are found in male graves 1/1911 and 7/1908 and 2/1910. F. Staré recognizes two types of such razors: one type with a characteristic hunch on the back that is found at sites in Slovenia, and the second type without a hunch found at the sites in Bosnia and Dalmatia. In the same paper F. Staré gives a first detailed analysis of grave no. 1/1911 from Velika Gorica. F. Staré dates this grave to the Ha B period and argues for the need of a detailed analysis of the finds from the younger phase of the Urnfield culture. He based his chronology and dating of these razors on the finds from the Grapska hoard from Bosnia, in which a semilunar razor, four pins, 11 clay rings and a spindle whorl. The antenna terminal sword of the Klentnice type is the most important find of these. This type is found in grave no. 63 at Klentnice. Recently, A. Harding dated this type of sword to the developed phase of the Ha B period, based on a brief analysis of the items associated with it. In her first synthetic work K. Vinski-Gasparini assigns the sword to the Lipovka type of the flange-hilted swords and dates it to the Ha B1 period, thus making it one of the oldest finds of the antenna terminal sword.

Besides a razor and a sword, a spear was also found in the grave no. 1/1911. On the lower part of the socket there was an ornament consisting of horizontal and wavy lines. Somewhat similar, both chronologically and in style, is the spear from the fortified settlement at Kientnice ascribed to the so-called “zweiflügelige Tüllenspitze mit glattem Blatt und glatter Tülle – Grundform B” group. Júli Rihovský does not make any claims on the dating of this find. It is certain that these spears belong to the younger phase of the Urnfield culture, as the decorative motif is quite similar to the one found on the sword of the Klentnice type. It can be assumed that both the sword and the spear from Velika Gorica were made in the same workshop. A richly decorated metal ending for the wooden spear belongs to the
same workshop. Velika Gorica spears are similar (both in form and decoration) to the ones found at Napajedla96 where the decoration is linked to the motif found on the so-called Pile dwelling type pins that can be dated to the beginning of the younger phase of the Urnfield culture.96 This would fit nicely to the overall date for grave no. 1/1911 to the Ha B1 period. Similar spears, although without decoration, are found in the Miljana hoard.97 But the most similar type of spear has been found on the territory of Makarska (Adriatic coast) and that is the find from Podace.98 The author rightly connected this find with the find from grave 1/1911 at Velika Gorica, the find from the settlement at Donja Dolina and an accidental find from Prozor (Lika).99

In this burial, a socketed axe was also found. It is of the pseudowinged axe type with a wide trapezoid blade form, a type that is also found in the Beravci hoard.101 An axe, decorated in a similar manner as the one from Velika Gorica, was discovered in the Vinički II hoard in Slovakia,102 dated to the Rohod period.

A flange-hilted knife,103 similar to those of the Oblekovic type, was also found in the grave,104 although the latter was tang hilted (Griffangelmesser). A similar knife was found in the Beravci hoard105 dated to phase IV of the Urnfield culture of northern Croatia.

The significance of the Velika Gorica cemetery lies in the find of a warrior’s grave (fig. 11), which also makes it unique compared to the graves found at Dobova, Ruše, and Ljubljana, where such graves were not discovered.110

Finds such as jewellery and toiletries, are the most abundant. B. Teržan111 recognizes this change and states that instead of rich hoards, urn grave sites such as Ruše and Ljubljana appear in Slovenia. She connects this change to a alteration in religious views, which means that in the time of the transition from Ha A to Ha B (according to Hermann Müller-Karpe) important changes in cult and religion of the Urnfield culture can be observed in Slovenia. A similar situation is seen in continental Croatia where, during the Ha B period, a small number of hoards appear, but also those of the so-called Balkan-type are found (e.g. Gajina pećina and Matijevići). The situation is the reverse in the Balkan region, where a great number of hoards appear. It is clear that the workshops are moving southwards of the Sava and
Kupa rivers. K. Kristiansen sees the appearance of prestigious items in graves as the formation of new elites whose members are to be buried in larger burial mounds. The grave of the warrior 1/1911 from Velika Gorica and grave no. 63 from Klentnice are the forerunners of the new socio-economic relationships that are going to reach their peak during the Ha C period.

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Dr. Snježana Karavanic
Institute of Archaeology
Ulica Ljuberta Gaja 32
HR-10000 Zagreb
snjezana.karavanic@iarh.hr