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Bioarchaeologicalresearch in Austria has largely been characterised by the lack ofinstitutionalisation for nearly a century. In contrast to the long tradition ofbiological anthropology research facilities, archaeobotanical andarchaeozoological positions only became established in a period from the 1970still the early 1990s. Forming a cornerstone of the Austrian ArchaeologicalInstitute's integration process into the Austrian Academy of Sciences, theestablishment of ÖAI's Department for Bioarchaeology in 2016 marks the firsttime in 40 years that such a bioarchaeological research unit has beensuccessfully established as new. The department unites researchers inarchaeobotany, archaeozoology and biological anthropology under the same roof,and is embedded into the research infrastructure of the country's largestnon-university research institution. IANSA 2019 X/2 167–175 Andreas G.Heiss, Alfred Galik, Michelle Gamble, Magdalena Srienc, Sabine Ladstätter: TheDepartment for Bioarchaeology at the Austrian Archaeological Institute (ÖAI),Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) 168 disciplinary and methodological borders.Aside from the positive effects on communication and cooperation between theDepartment for Bioarchaeology and all historical-cultural units of theinstitute, synergies with the Department for Restoration and Conservation haveproven to be extremely beneficial, due to the exchange of ideas, thepossibility of supporting bioarchaeological work and archiving with the latestmaterial knowledge, and the general optimization of workflows. This factensures a high degree of efficiency in the development and implementation ofbioarchaeological and prehistorical and historical research aspects andstrategies. Cross-disciplinary collaborations within the institute have led torather unexpected and extremely useful outcomes, one of them being thegeneration of photogrammetric models of charred organic food remains (Heiss etal., 2019b; 2019c). The Department for Bioarchaeology encompasses threeResearch Groups (RG): RG Anthropology and Necropoleis, RG Archaeozoology, andRG Archaeobotany. In contrast to other institutions, the department isdecidedly not intended as a mere biosciences service centre (or "Core Facility"as termed in Austrian academia). Quite the contrary, aside from the closeintegration into the ÖAI's excavations with a focus on classical archaeology,the department's three research groups have their own distinct diachronic andinterdisciplinary research agendas. While there is more information on the ÖAIwebsite regarding the research groups (see below for links), we will presentsome of the research underway at the Department for Bioarchaeology bygeographical area. 3. Geographical areas of research 3.1 Central Europe A majorhighlight is the role of the ÖAI in the joint efforts to reinstate the Austrianresearch of prehistoric lakeshore settlements (UNESCO World Heritage"Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps"), fostered and directed by theKuratorium Pfahlbauten and the Federal Museum of Upper Austria (Heiss andJakobitsch, 2018). Within the framework of the projects "Zeitensprung" and"Beyond Lake Villages" (FWF I-1693), plant remains from underwater excavationsand hinterland settlements are being analysed, with the goal of reconstructingsettlement activity, economy, nutrition, and land use patterns of the

Neolithicsettlers (Jakobitsch et al., 2019a). This research is being complemented by theinvestigation of late Neolithic food remains from Austrian, Swiss and southwestGerman lakeshore settlements (Heiss, 2017b; Heiss et al., 2017a; Heiss et al.,submitted), and extensive studies into Neolithic fishing economies of the sameregion (Galik, 2009). The latter has been a desideratum for a long time asevidence for prehistoric fishing is still rare, and new data are dearly needed(Galik, 1999; 2008a; 2008b; 2013; Galik et al., 2015; Galik and Küchelmann, 2008;Galik et al., 2011; Haidvogl et al., 2013; Ilon et al., 2017; Yurtseva et al.,2013; Yurtseva et al., 2015). A project which has recently started, combinesarchaeobotanical, archaeoichthyological and palaeohygienic research in theinvestigation of dog faeces from pile dwellings in the Neolithic pile dwellingsettlements rnelnik and Stare gmajne in the Slovenian Ljubljansko barje,highlighting the role of fish in domestic dogs' diet (Tolar and Galik, 2019).The history of fisheries and fishing generally marks a strong research interestin A. Galik's work. It is a topic that is heavily influenced by methodologicalchoices, as the usually very small fishbones are regularly overlooked when onlyhandpicking is applied in excavations instead of dryor wetsieving of sedimentsamples (Bartosiewicz, 1988; De Cupere et al., 1995; Schmölcke and Heinrich,2006). As a local research starting point, historical fishing and exploitationbehaviour in Austria and other countries can be defined, but the limits are notset to historical areas. Research initiatives into these materials are alsobeing made in all other areas of activity of the ÖAI. The Bronze Age settlementin Drasenhofen, Northern Lower Austria, has been recently published (Galik etal., 2019). Incorporated into this was an archaeozoological analysis whichdemonstrated that animal protein was certainly supplied to the local populacethrough the slaughtering of domesticated animals, with cattle, sheep and goatthe most important. While hunting was obviously less important, exploitation ofaquatic resources is evidenced by the presence of fish remains and variousfreshwater mussel species. It was particularly interesting to observe thefrequent presence of so-called "sledge runners", which are worked animal bones,mainly made of the radii of various mammalian species. Dietary habits, resourcemanagement, and spatial organisation of industrial processes are currentlyunder investigation at the Late Bronze Age mining site of Prigglitz-Gasteil inLower Austria (FWF P 30289). The Department of Bioarchaeology is mainlyinvolved in the investigation of the procurement strategies for timber, fuelwood, and food (Jakobitsch et al., 2019b; Trebsche et al., 2019; Wiesinger etal., 2019). The large La Tène period lowland settlement of Haselbach is part ofthe research focus of a long-term research project directed by S. Fichtl(Université de Strasbourg) and P. Trebsche (University of Innsbruck). RGArchaeobotany is involved in the analysis and evaluation of the high resolutionmicrostratigraphical and archaeobotanical sampling (Heiss and Wiesinger,2018b), and is aimed at elucidating local agricultural economy, and its spatialorganisation. Our anthropological research has begun to contribute to thearchaeology of the eastern Alpine region, where it was, until now, rare forcemeteries to be comprehensively studied. The project "Life in times ofchange", financed by a Hertha-Firnberg scholarship of the FWF, awarded to M.Binder, is dedicated to research on the living conditions in the Eastern Alpsat the transition between Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages

(5th/6th centuryAD), based on the human skeletal remains from the two neighbouring cemeteriesof Hemmaberg and Globasnitz in southern Carinthia. Recording of the osteobiographicaldata is being carried out by M. Srienc, along with several students in thebioarchaeological IANSA 2019 X/2 167–175 Andreas G. Heiss, Alfred Galik,Michelle Gamble, Magdalena Srienc, Sabine Ladstätter: The Department forBioarchaeology at the Austrian Archaeological Institute (ÖAI), Austrian Academyof Sciences (ÖAW) 169 research laboratory of the ÖAI. In correlation to thisproject, excavations which are being conducted by the ÖAI at Jaunstein/Podjunain southern Carinthia, are adding to the human skeletal evidence for life andlifeways in the Eastern Alps. The anthropological analysis of the skeletalmaterial from this site will be directly comparable to that from Globasnitz andHemmaberg, and will form a portion of the PhD research of M. Srienc. In anassociated project, the unknown saint excavated at Hemmaberg in 1992, whoseskeleton is in a reliquary shrine below the altar of one of the churches of thepilgrimage shrine, was also investigated in a multidisciplinary project. Thishas now been published in a book (Binder and Ladstätter, 2018). In co-operationwith project leader J. Eitler, the project “Cult continuity at the summit ofthe Hemmaberg” (FWF – 29452-G25) started 2017, and follows the researchtradition of the Institute, but also incorporates significant bioarchaeologicalresearch to understanding this complex, multi-period site (Binder et al., 2016;Forstenpointner and Gernot, 1999; Gaggl, 1996; Galik et al., 2018; Heiss,2018). This integrated research has acquired a unique position in Austria, witha close co-operation with the Federal Monuments Office, as well as withregional museums, and has provided a wealth of new information on this site,from the Bronze Age through the Medieval period. In addition to thesesite-specific research projects, a joint project between the University ofWarsaw and the ÖAI is being developed, which aims to understand the connectionbetween the Roman road system and early medieval migration. In another “cultproject”, the investigation of archaeozoological finds from a Mithras cave atGradiše, Figure 1. Biological anthropologist M. Srienc. Image: ÖAW-ÖAI/N.Gail.

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