

REGARDING THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE PRE ROMAN IRON AGE CEMETERY OF CAMMER (LKR. POTSDAM-MITTELMARK)

Abstract: The author analyses herein the relative and absolute chronology of the Jastorf type cemetery of Cammer. Based on grave furnishing mixtures, three evolution stages of the cemetery were delimited. It was established that respective stages synchronise with LT B2b/LTC1a, LT C1b/LT C2 and LT D1 or stages IIa and IIb of the pre-Roman Iron Age from Brandenburg, which corresponds in absolute data to the second quarter of the 3rd century and first decades of the 1st century BC.

Keywords: *the Jastorf culture, the cemetery of Cammer, the pre-Roman Iron Age, relative and absolute chronology.*

Vasile Iarmulski

Freie Universität Berlin,
Institut für Prähistorische Archäologie
vasile.iarmulski@gmail.com

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Among the most important La Tène date sites in the area comprised between the Havel and Spree rivers counts also the Jastorf¹ type cemetery of Cammer (Fig. 1). Two archaeological campaigns conducted by K.-H. Marschalleck au yielded 91 cremations and one ritual hole (?)². Of the 91 funerary features unveiled, 81 were urn cremations, six were graves with bones placed directly in the hole, while the remaining four were very likely cenotaph graves³ (Fig.2).

One of the most difficult issues arising in relation to the cemetery is its chronology and periodisation⁴. Therefore, we proposed to draft herein an internal chronology of the cemetery and to establish its functioning period.

We must specify that at Cammer, of the 91 graves only 50, namely 55% of the total number of identified graves, contained grave goods. They

¹ Specifically, in the case of the Jastorf culture the concept of „regional groups” is used – STEUER 2007, 258-260; BRATHER 2014, 22; NIKULKA 2014, 49-56; MEYER *et alii* 2017, 9; RAUCHFUß 2018. For delimiting these groups were firstly considered the funerary rituals, dress customs and pottery.

² MARSCHALLECK 1927, 217-232.

³ Although the text mentions that four urns did not contain charred bones – MARSCHALLECK 1927, 228, unfortunately, the number of these burial features is not mentioned - MARSCHALLECK 1927, 228-230.

⁴ The author of the excavations, without drafting a series for the present typological series of objects discovered within the graves, dated respective cemetery between mid 3rd century and second half of the 1st century BC, more specifically “slightly prior the early Roman period” – MARSCHALLECK 1927, 248. Also, R. Hachmann, based on the incidence of typological series delimited 4 evolution stages of the cemetery – HACHMANN 1960, 92-97, Abb. 31. According to the same author, respective site functioned between LT B2 and LT D1 – HACHMANN 1960, 95-97. K. Peschel succeeded to separate 3 burial stages, dating the site to LT B2 and LT D1– PESCHEL 1971, 33.

included more than 40 brooches, 17 buckles, 9 earrings, 6 beads, 2 “hairpins”, one bronze necklace, a spearhead and a spear butt⁵. Consequently, we may argue there is sufficient information to draft a chronology of this site.

In order to draft the incidence chart of the typological series of objects discovered within the graves we used the PAleontological Statistics software (PAST) designed by Ø. Hammer, D. Harper and P. Ryan⁶. As specified in the specialty literature⁷, the establishment of object types involved in the correspondence analysis must observe two key conditions: 1. the presumptive type must be present in at least two features; 2. the presumptive type must benefit of association with at least another object type used in the combinatorial analysis. We specify that in order to “save” certain object types for their use in the correspondence analysis, we joined in certain cases the variations of the same form (especially in brooches).

Thus, we included 31 graves in the combinatorial chart (Fig. 4), representing 34.06% of the number of discovered graves – G. 1, G. 3, G. 4, G. 9, G. 10, G. 12, G. 14, G. 15, G. 17, G. 18, G. 19, G. 20, G. 23, G. 33, G. 36, G. 39, G. 40, G. 41, G. 43, G. 45, G. 47, G. 48, G. 59, G. 60, G. 69, G. 71, G. 72, G. 74, G. 75, G. 80 and G. 83) – and 18 typological series of objects⁸: Pots of type 1; Pots of type 6, Pots of type 8, Bowls, tureen type 1, porringer type 2, porringer type 7, porringer type 8, brooches of early La Tène type, brooches Kostrzewski A variation, brooches Kostrzewski B variation, brooches with spheres on bow, brooches Kostrzewski G/H – Beltz J variation, brooches Kostrzewski F variation, the so-called Stufenfibeln, buckle type 1, buckle type 2, buckle type 3 (Fig. 3).

As mentioned in the specialty literature⁹, the incidence succession of the typological series of objects in the combinatorial chart evidences, from left to right, their time development, starting from the first type series. Each typological series of objects from the vertical indicates the period when the members of respective community used such objects.

In the series result, given the association of the grave goods discovered in the graves inserted in the combinatorial chart, we delimited 3 main grave groups, which, we believe correspond to three burial stages¹⁰. The first group includes 6 funerary features; the second is represented in the combinatorial chart by 15 graves (9 features – sub-stage IIA; 6 graves – sub-stage IIB), lastly, the third group contains 10 graves (Fig. 4).

For the first group (I), which includes the graves from a previous stage, the following object types are specific – ovoid pots with vertical or slightly everted rim (type I), porringers of type 1, buckles of type 1 (*Zungengürtelhaken*) and brooches of early La Tène type (Fig. 4).

The second graves' group (sub-stage IIA) are characterised by brooches in the Kostrzewski A variation. Also, in this period continue to be used buckles of type

1 and start to be “worn” brooches with spheres on bow, those similar to Kostrzewski B variation and the so-called Stufenfibeln (Fig. 4).

For the graves included in sub-stage IIB specific are the buckles of type 2 (*Bandgürtelhaken mit eingerollem Ansatzende*). In this stage continue to be used the brooches with spheres on bow, the brooches similar to variation Kostrzewski B, the so-called Stufenfibeln and the coarse fabric bowls. Also, in respective period start to be used brooches similar to variation Kostrzewski F, buckles of type 3 and porringers of type 3 (Fig. 4).

In the last grave group (III) typical are the brooches similar to variation Kostrzewski G/H and the fine fabric bowls. In the same stage continue to be used the brooches similar to variations Kostrzewski B and Kostrzewski F, buckles of type 2 and 3, as well as porringers of type 3 (Fig. 4).

Except for the graves framed in the correspondence analysis, other 14 graves may be dated with more or less accuracy. Thus, G. 78 (2 bronze earrings), G. 82 (brooches of early La Tène type, buckle of type 1 and 6 bronze earrings) and 84 (buckle of type 1) date to the first evolution stage of the cemetery (Fig. 5/1-4).

To sub-stage IIA also belongs G. 91 in which a brooch similar to variation Kostrzewski A was identified. We mention that in respective site, such brooches are specific to this sub-stage (Fig. 4). Graves 7, 61 and 70, in which were identified brooches with spheres on bow, may be dated broadly to the second stage in the evolution of the cemetery at Cammer (Fig. 4).

Grave 24 (brooch Kostrzewski F), G. 25 (brooch Kostrzewski G/H) and G. 30 (brooch Kostrzewski K)¹¹ must be dated to the last evolution stage of this cemetery.

Lastly, G. 11, G. 26 (in both being identified a Stufenfibel), G. 54 and G. 63 (both with a Kostzewski B brooch among the grave goods) may be dated broadly to stages II-III in the site's period of functioning.

As regards the set up of the two grave groups within the cemetery's layout, they occupy distinct areas. Thus, graves in group I – which represent the old stage of the burials – group in the south-western part of the cemetery (Fig. 6).

Graves in group IIA cluster in the central and north-eastern part of the cemetery. In the same area distribute the graves in group IIB (Fig. 6).

Regarding the third stage graves, we note they group in the south-eastern and central parts of the cemetery (Fig. 6).

Therefore, the three main groups of graves comprise distinct burial areas, which spatially evolve from the south-western sector to the central and south-eastern area of the site. This distribution of the graves confirms the time evolution of the combinations between the typological series included in the combinatorial chart. Respectively, it is confirmed that these grave groups represent in fact, three burial stages.

⁵ MARSCHALLECK 1927, 232-247.

⁶ http://palaeo-electronica.org/2001_1/past/issue1_01.htm

⁷ JENSEN/NILSEN 1997; MEYER 2008; MÂNDESCU 2010.

⁸ We note that we broadly followed the typology drafted by R. Hachmann – HACHMANN 1960, 92-97.

⁹ ŞOVAN 2005, 181.

¹⁰ The second grave group was divided into two subgroups.

¹¹ The brooch discovered in G.30 is the only one of the type at Cammer – MARSCHALLECK 1927, 243. Respective specimen is part of variation K1a in Völling's typology – VÖLLING 2005, 104-110. In the Jastorf culture environment, such brooches are commonly dated to LT D1 – BRANDT 2001, 90; MEYER 2001, 172-173; BOCKIUS/ŁUCZKIEWICZ 2004, 42.

Unfortunately, the picture generated by the combinatorial chart and the “horizontal stratigraphy” is not also corroborated by the “vertical stratigraphy” data, as none of the two features involved in the superposition (G. 87 and G. 88) (Fig. 2) could be integrated in the correspondence analysis.

After having established the burial stages in the cemetery of Cammer, we believe opportune to make a few additional observations regarding the chronology of certain pieces which were not included in the correspondence analysis.

Among the early pieces from the cemetery of Cammer count also the so-called Segelohringe. Such jewellery was discovered in G. 78 and 82 (5/3). We mention that in G. 82 were also identified a buckle of type 1 and a brooch of early La Tène type, pieces specific to the first evolution stage of the cemetery. This is further evidenced by the finds in the cemetery at Geltow-Wildpark, where such pieces mark the old stage in the cemetery’s evolution¹².

To this period also date the “hairpins”, pieces which emerged in G. 72 and G. 83 – graves placed chronologically in stage I in the evolution of the cemetery at Cammer (Fig. 5/2).

Among the early pieces from respective cemetery counts also the bronze necklace (type L2 after Voigt)¹³ identified in G. 74¹⁴ (Fig. 5/4) – funerary feature set chronologically in the first stage of the site’s evolution (Fig. 4). In the support of our view comes also the find from Ehrenburg-Harmhausen, where such a piece emerged in a grave dated to the transition period from the old to the recent stage of the pre-Roman Iron Age¹⁵.

In the combinatorial chart could not be included either the six beads discovered in G. 82, which, as previously mentioned, must be dated based on the early La Tène type brooch and buckle type 1 (*Zungegürtelhaken*) to the first stage in the cemetery’s evolution.

By the end of sub-stage IIA date also the belt hook of type 4 (*Stabgürtelhaken mit rhombischen Querschnitt*) discovered in G. 12¹⁶, a funerary feature placed chronologically in this functioning stage of the cemetery (Fig. 4)

Among the pieces from the later stage of the site counts also the spearhead discovered in G. 20¹⁷. We mention that based on the association of the grave goods, respective funerary feature was dated to sub-stage IIB (Fig. 4).

As regards the brooch similar to variation Kostrzewski K found in G. 30 (Fig. 5/20), considering the dating of such brooches in the Jastorf culture milieu¹⁸, it must be placed chronologically during stage III of the cemetery’s functioning timeframe.

Taking into consideration all the above, we assume that the cemetery of Cammer developed over three main

burial stages, the second, most likely, with two sub-stages (Fig. 4).

When suggesting an absolute chronology, we may use both the chronological indications provided by certain types included in the combinatorial analysis as well as chronologically relevant pieces among the grave goods of the graves at Cammer, which could not be included when series were designed.

For the previous stage of the cemetery, the early La Tène brooch (*Frühlatène Fibel mit Vasenfuß*) (Fig. 5/1), is the defining type. In the north and central Germany, such accessories commonly date to LT B2b-LT C1a¹⁹. Relevant for dating the first stage in the functioning of the cemetery is also the belt hook of type 1 (*Zungegürtelhaken*) (Fig. 5/7). Such pieces are specific to the second stage of the pre-Roman Iron Age in the Brandenburg region according to H. Seyer’s chronology²⁰, which would correspond to LT B2b-LT C1. Therefore, given the chronological framing of these dress accessories, we believe we are not mistaken to date the first functioning stage of the site between 260/250-220/210 BC.

The directory type of sub-stage IIA is the brooch similar to variation Kostrzewski A (Fig. 5/8). As aforementioned, in the Jastorf culture environment, such brooches mark the beginnings of the recent pre-Roman Iron Age²¹, which corresponds to the period comprised between the last quarter of the 3rd century and first quarter of the 2nd century BC. Therefore, we place sub-stage IIA within the same chronological limits.

In order to establish the absolute chronology of sub-stage IIB, we consider, firstly, the brooches with spheres on the bow²² and the so-called Stufenfibeln. Worthy of mention, most brooches with spheres on the bow discovered at Brandenburg were dated by A. Bieger to LT C1b-LT C2²³, which in absolute dates would correspond to the end of the 3rd – mid 2nd century BC. To stage LT C2 are specific also the so-called Stufenfibeln²⁴. Taking into account nuanced data, we place sub-stage IIB between 180/170-150/140 BC.

The directory type for stage III in the cemetery’s function are the brooches similar to variation Kostrzewski G/H and type 3 buckles (*Bandgürtelhaken mit angenieteteter Öse*). We note that brooches in variation Kostrzewski G/H are typical to stage LT D1²⁵. In the same period are dated also the buckles of type 3²⁶. Given the dating of these pieces, we believe that stage III of the cemetery at Cammer should be set between the third quarter of the 2nd century and first 2-3 decades of the 1st century BC.

Relating the three evolution stages of the site to the chronology of the pre-Roman Iron Age in the Brandenburg region is not a difficult task. Thus, the most ancient graves

¹² SEYER 1969, 148.

¹³ VOIGT 1968, 28-31.

¹⁴ MARSCALLECK 1927, 226, Taf. 36.

¹⁵ NORTMANN 1983, 64 ; BRANDT 2001, 94.

¹⁶ MARSCALLECK 1927, 246, Abb. 14/6.

¹⁷ MARSCALLECK 1927, Abb. 14/8. Worthy of note that in the typology drafted by P. Łuczkiwicz, such pieces compile type G3 – ŁUCZKIEWICZ 2006, 127-128; ryc. 44/5. According to the same author, such spearheads date in the Przeworsk culture environment to the 1st century BC – ŁUCZKIEWICZ 2006, tab. 13.

¹⁸ BRANDT 2001, 90; MEYER 2001, 172-173.

¹⁹ BRANDT 2001, 73.

²⁰ SEYER 1982, 16-22.

²¹ HACHMANN 1960, 100; MÜLLER 1985, 38, Abb. 13; BRANDT 2001, 78.

²² We specify that in the cemetery of Cammer such brooches start to be used as early as sub-stage IIA.

²³ BIEGER 2003, 80-81.

²⁴ BRANDT 2001, 90.

²⁵ BRANDT 2001, 82-83; DÖHLERT-ALBANI 2014, Abb. 8.

²⁶ PESCHEL 1971, 26-27.

may be synchronised with stage IIa of the pre-Roman Iron Age in Brandenburg. More precisely, in an older stage of the period. The defining type for the second stage in the evolution of the cemetery at Cammer is the brooch similar to variation Kostrzewski A, which are specific to the end of the stage IIa and mid substage IIb1 of the pre-Roman period from the same region. lastly, the last functioning period of respective site, based on the Kostrzewski G/H and Kostrzewski K type brooches, may be synchronised with mid/end of sub-stage IIb1 and early sub-stage IIb2 after H. Seyer²⁷.

As regards relating of the three evolution stages of the cemetery at Cammer with the La Tène period chronology, the first stage may be synchronised with sub-stage LTB 2b/LT C1a, the second stage to LT C1b/LT C2 and the last to LT D1a/LTD1b, possibly, early LT D2a of the Celtic culture in central Europe according to J. Waldhauser²⁸ and S. Rieckhoff²⁹.

Taking into account all the above, we may argue that for the cemetery at Cammer, one of the most important La Tène date sites from the region comprised between the rivers Havel and Spree, three burial stages may be distinguished³⁰. Respective cemetery was functional between the second quarter/mid 3rd century and first decades of the 1st century BC.

It is worthy of note that the end of the ancient stage of the cemetery at Cammer, respectively the second half of the 3rd century BC, chronologically coincides with multiple socio-economical and very likely, ethno-cultural changes occurring almost concurrently in Central-Northern and South-Eastern Europe. Such changes resulted in the emergence of a series of resembling archaeological cultures – Jastorf (stages Ripdorf and Seedorf), Oksywie, Przeworsk, Poienești-Lukaševka and Zarubinec³¹. Resemblances are manifest in a series of material culture elements and especially, in the black fine pottery with faceted rim, certain dress pieces (brooches, buckles etc.) as well as the funerary rite – the cremation. The multiple aspects related to these cultural groups, like for instance, – their origin and chronology and the social structure of these human communities – shall be analysed by the author of this article in a separate study.

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²⁷ SEYER 1982, 16-22, Abb. 2.

²⁸ WALDHAUSER 1987.

²⁹ RIECKHOFF 1995.

³⁰ We mention that the famous German archaeologist K. Peschel has delimited three functioning stages of the site – PESCHEL 1971, 32-33.

³¹ DABROWSKA 1988; BABEȘ 1993; KAUL/MARTENS 1996; MUNTEANU 2004; IARMULSCHI 2016; MEYER et alii 2017; MICHAŁOWSKI/TESKA 2017; IARMULSCHI 2018.

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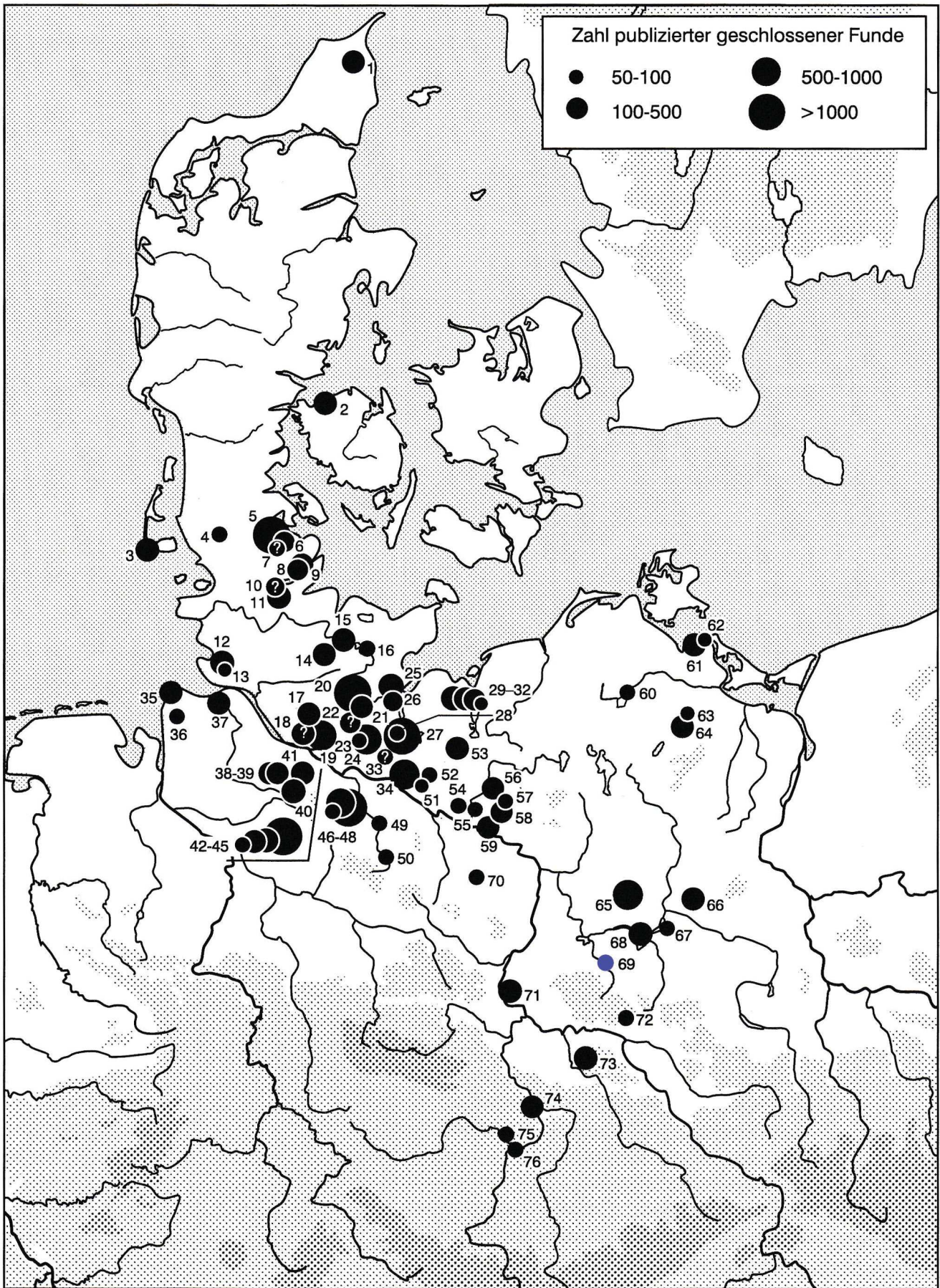


Fig. 1. Distribution of the Jastorf type cemetery (blue point – location of the cemetery of Cammer) (after BRANDT 2001 with changes).

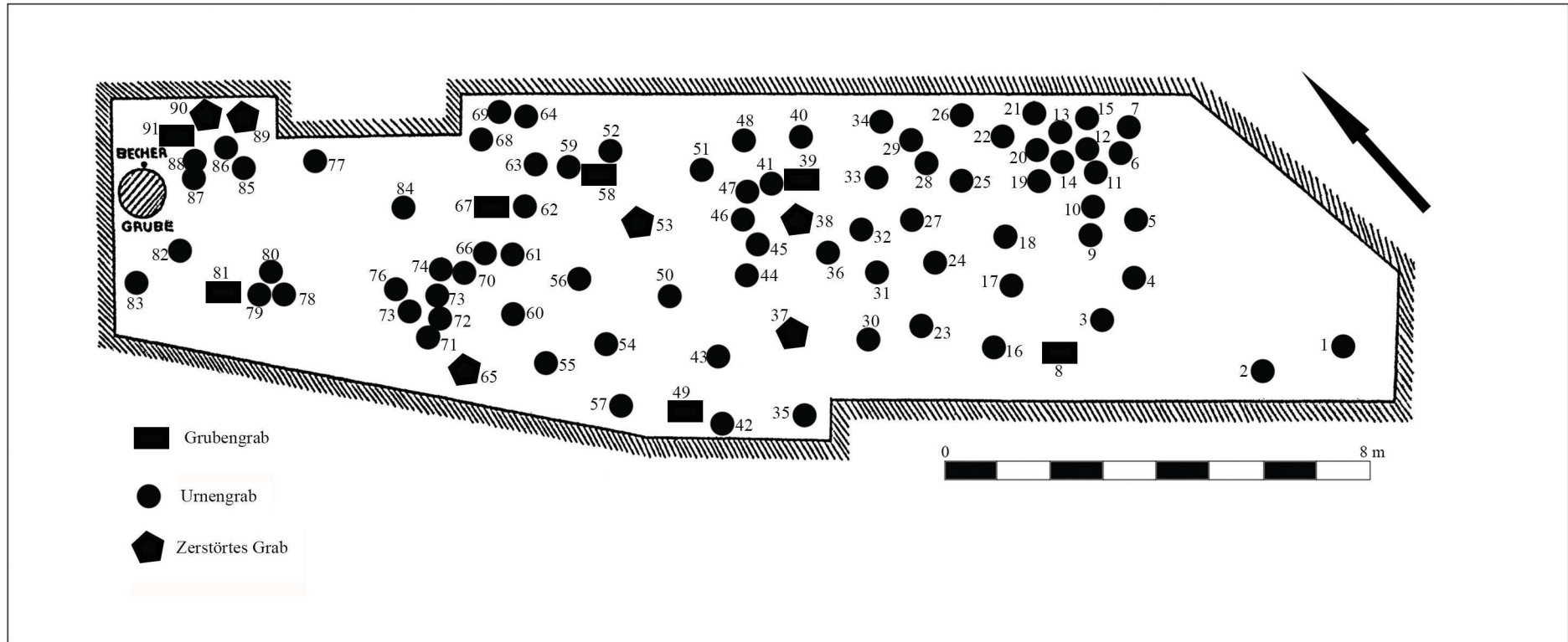


Fig. 2. The cemetery layout of Cammer (after MARSCHALLECK 1927 with changes)

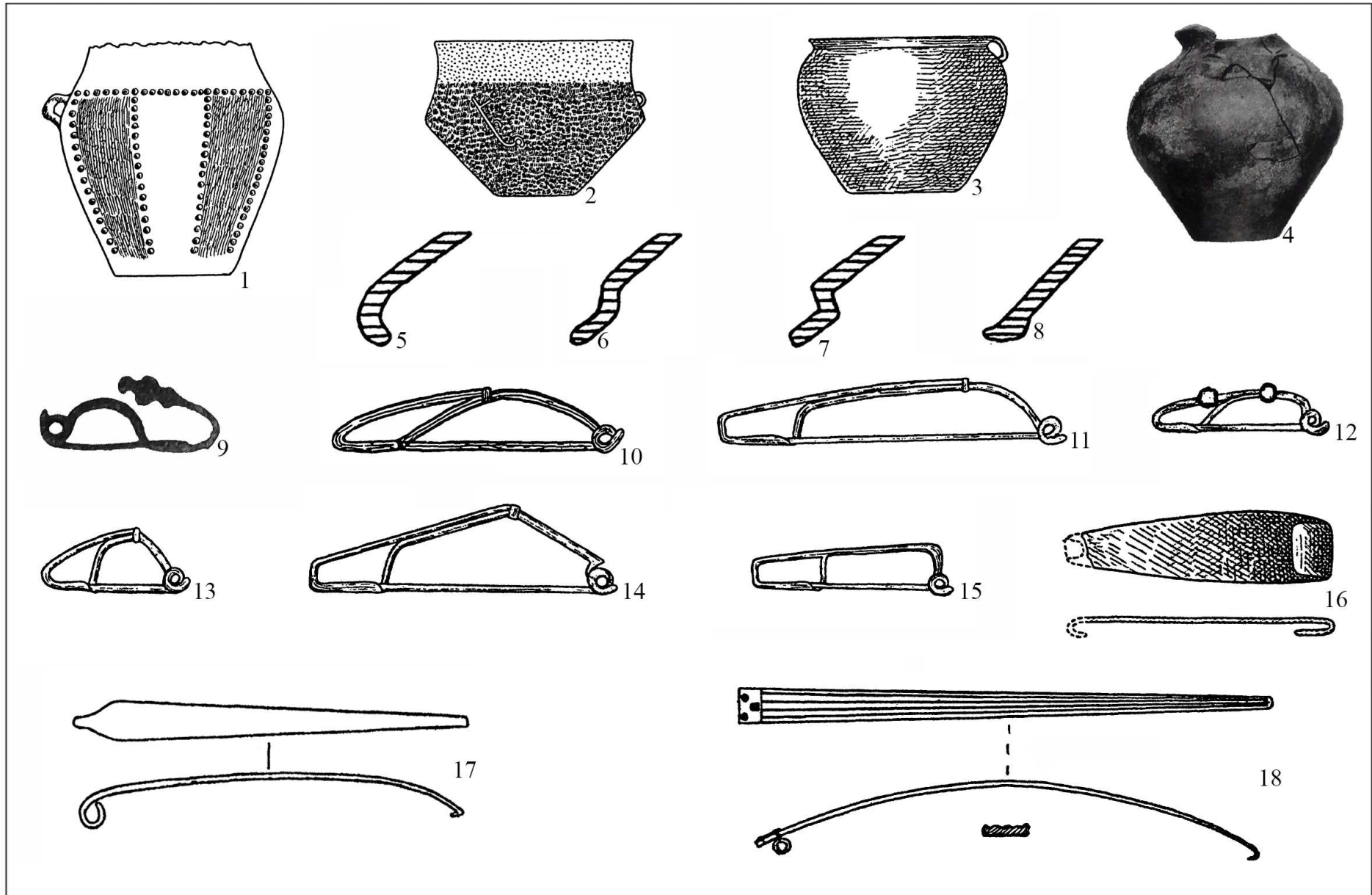


Fig. 3. Cammer. Grave good types chosen upon series (1-18 after MARSCHALLECK 1927).

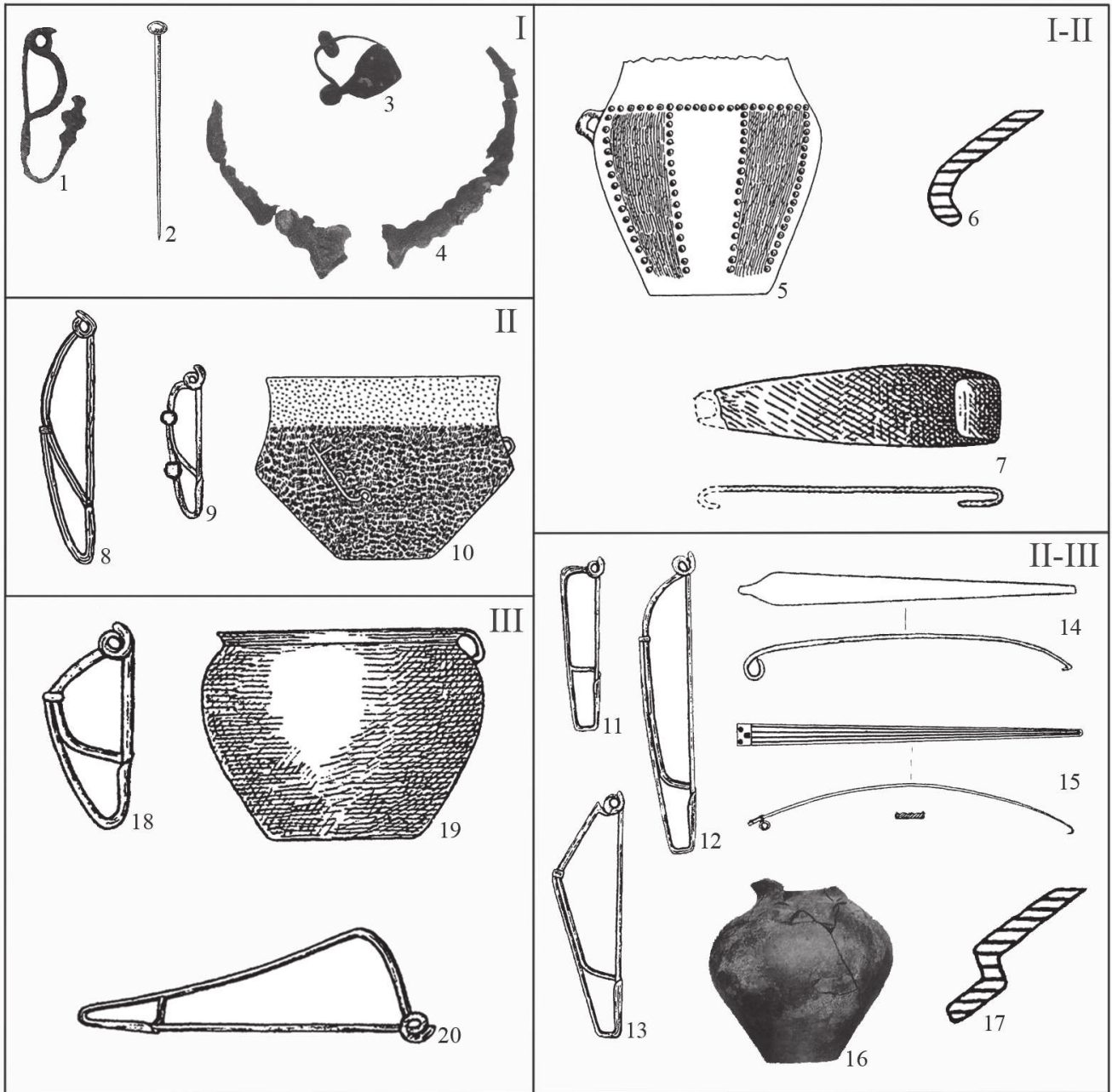


Fig. 4. Cammer. Grave series which contain the grave good types.

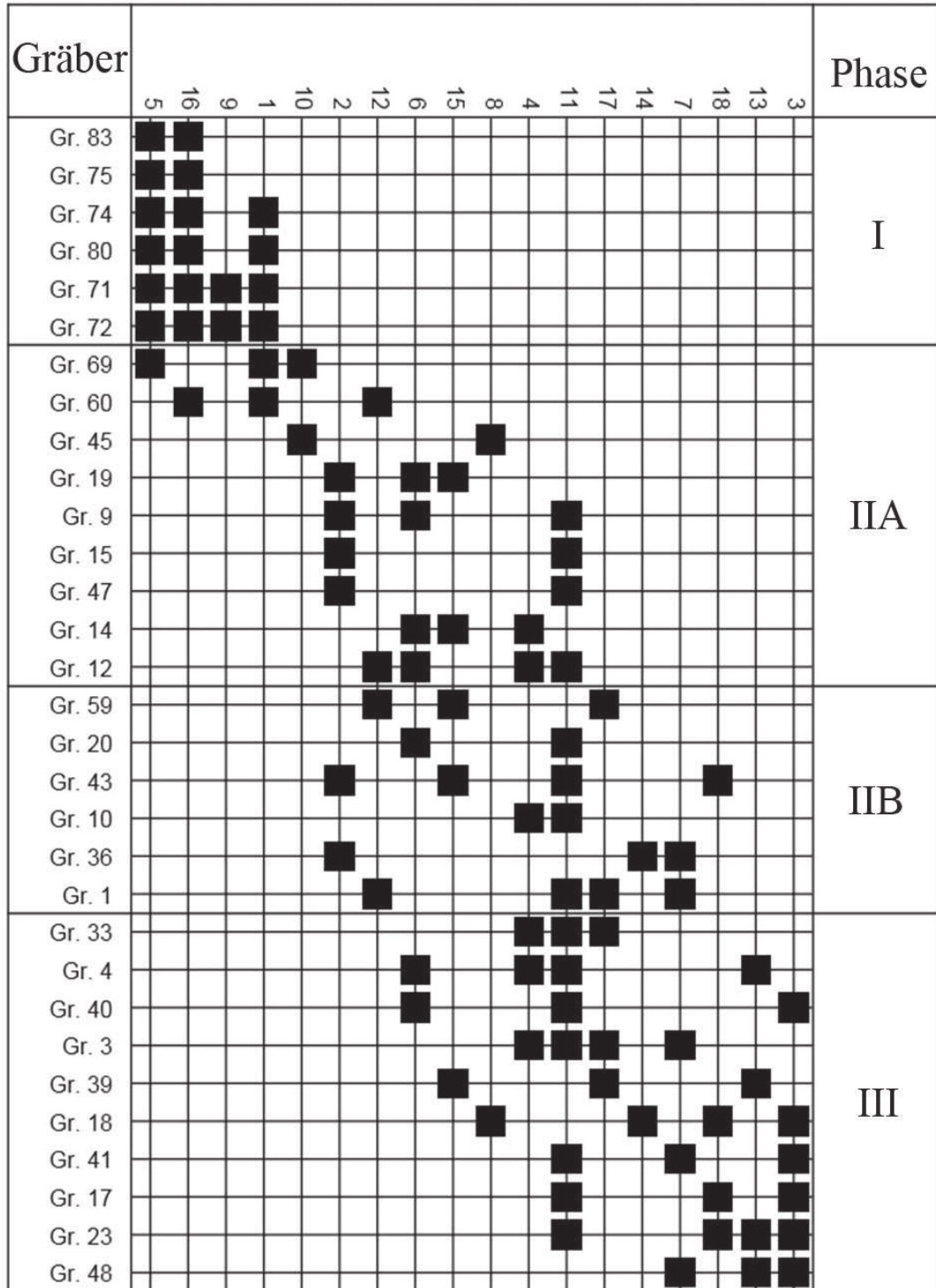


Fig. 5. Cammer. Chronological distribution of the dating elements (1-20 after MARSCHALLECK 1927).

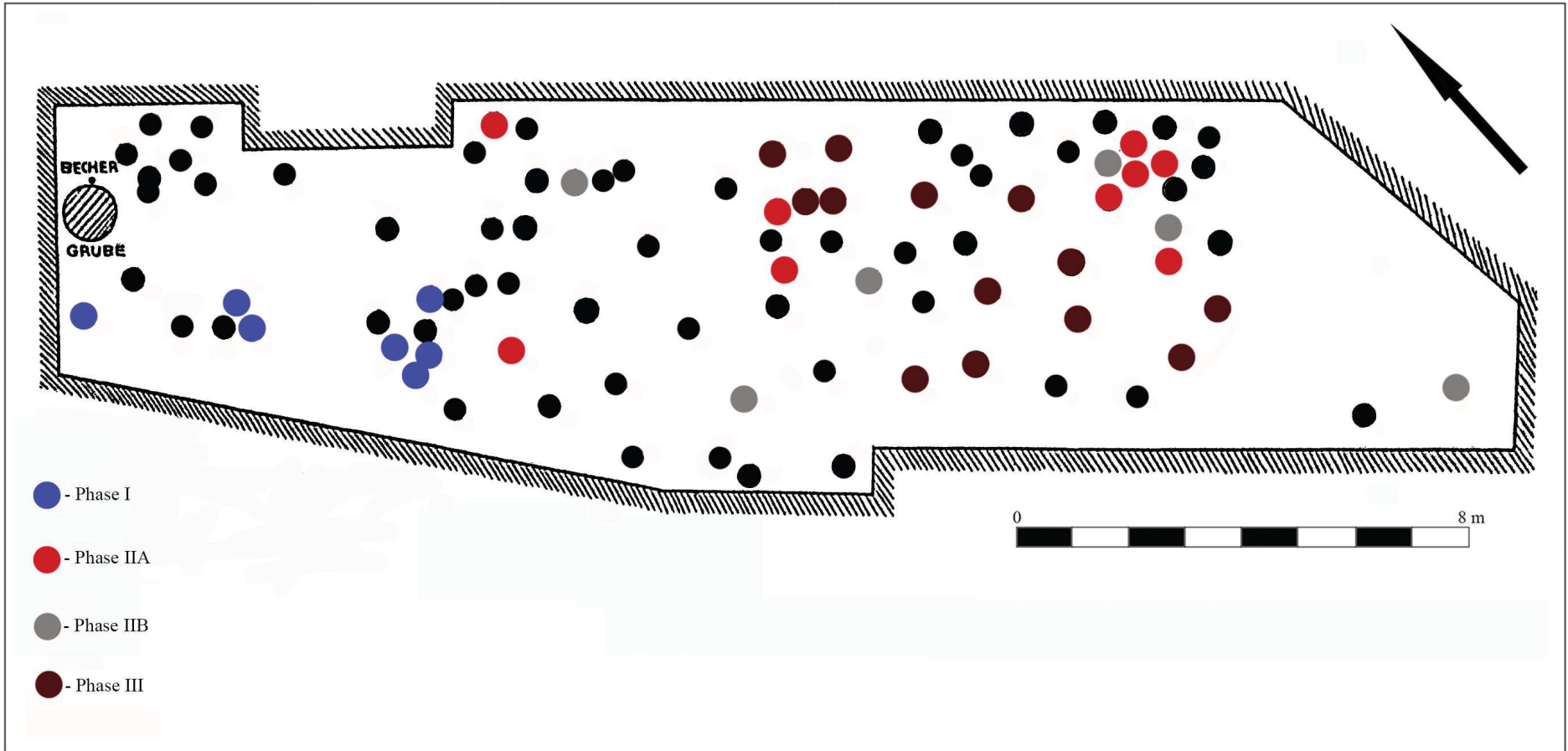


Fig. 6. Cammer. Mapping of cemetery stages.