

Astronomical Orientation of a West Hallstatt Burial Chamber

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While astronomical activities of the Stone Age (e. g. Goseck) and Bronze Age (e. g. Nebra) people are extensively discussed amongst German archaeologists (e. g. *Archäologie in Deutschland* (AiD) **6** (2005), 20–42), not much is reported about the astronomical knowledge of the following West Hallstatt people of the early iron age. Recently, Bruno Deiss (Frankfurt/Main) suggested that the geometrical pattern of the so-called Prozessionsstrasse leading to the burial mound of the Prince of Glauberg (ca. 500 BC) was used by the Druids as a solar and lunar calendar (<http://www.hr-online.de/website/tools/printsitesite.jsp?key=standard...>).

In this context it should be remembered that already in 1998, the Italian astronomer Adriano Gaspani published the conclusions he drew from calculations concerning the other intact Celtic burial mound (from ca. 530 BC) detected in the second half of the past century, i. e. that of Hochdorf in Baden-Württemberg (Gaspani, A.: *Il Principe e la Luna. Astronomia nel Tumulo Celtico di Eberdingen-Hochdorf*. In: *Revue Société d'Histoire Celtique*, Aug. 1998). Gaspani claims that form and orientation of the burial chamber were such that its diagonals pointed in the directions of the extreme rising and setting points of the moon (major lunar standstill) during its 18.6 yr. cycle. Moreover he points out that the position of the body of the Prince was orientated along the local meridian.