BEYOND URNFIELDS

New Perspectives on Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age Funerary Practices in Northwest Europe

Edited by
Helene Agerskov Rose, Lisbeth Christensen
and Arjan Louwen

BEYOND URNFIELDS

New Perspectives on Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age Funerary Practices in Northwest Europe

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

SCHRIFTEN DES MUSEUMS FÜR ARCHÄOLOGIE SCHLOSS GOTTORF

Ergänzungsreihe

Band 16

Herausgegeben vom Museum für Archäologie
durch Ralf Bleile
und dem Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie
in der Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen
Schloss Gottorf
durch Dieter Quast
in Kooperation mit dem Museum Sønderjylland – Archäologie
vertreten durch Lennart S. Madsen

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

BEYOND URNFIELDS

New Perspectives on Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age Funerary Practices in Northwest Europe

Edited by
Helene Agerskov Rose, Lisbeth Christensen and Arjan Louwen

Papers presented at the online session
'A community of ancestors: the urnfield phenomenon in northern Europe' at the 27th European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) Annual Meeting, Kiel 2021
and
the online symposium
'The URNFIELD tradition of the North',
Haderslev 2022

Ludwig

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

Bibliographical data of the German National Library: The German National Library catalogues this publication in the German National Bibliography; detailed bibliographical information is available online under https://portal.dnb.de.

Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek: Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet über https://portal.dnb.de abrufbar.

All rights reserved, including the reprint of extracts, in particular for duplication, the insertion into and processing in electronic systems and photomechanical reproduction and translation.

Copy-editing: Gundula Lidke, ZBSA, SSHLM, Schloss Gottorf, Schleswig
Layout, typesetting and image editing: Cornelia Lux-Kannenberg, SSHLM, Schloss Gottorf, Schleswig

2023 Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology (ZBSA) in the Foundation of the Schleswig-Holstein State Museums (SSHLM), Schloss Gottorf, Schleswig, Germany.

Print and distribution:
© 2023 Verlag Ludwig
Holtenauer Straße 141
24118 Kiel
Tel.: 0431-85464
Fax: 0431-8058305
info@verlag-ludwig.de
www.verlag-ludwig.de

ISSN 2364-4689
ISBN 978-3-86935-443-9

Printed on acid-free and age-resistant paper
Printed in Germany









https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

Table of Contents

Ralf Bleile, Dieter Quast and Berit Valentin Eriksen
Preface 7

Lennart S. Madsen
Preface 9

Helene Agerskov Rose, Arjan Louwen and Lisbeth Christensen
Beyond urnfields – an introduction 11

Lisbeth Christensen
The Early Pre-Roman Iron Age urn grave tradition of southern Jutland 17

Scott Robert Dollar, Martin Egelund Poulsen and Lars Grundvad
Burial and settlement during the Early Pre-Roman Iron Age in south-central Jutland 33

Lene B. Frandsen
Billumvad urnfield and some other sites with circular ditches in the western part of Jutland 49

Sarah Skytte Qvistgaard and Bente Grundvad
Pre-Roman Iron Age cremations in Korsvanggaard, southwestern Denmark –
an urnfield with urn graves, cenotaphs and exhumations revealing *pars-pro-toto*
burial rituals. 59

Helene Agerskov Rose and Anna Egelund Poulsen
Revisiting Aarupgaard urnfield in southern Jutland, Denmark 81

Angelika Abegg-Wigg
Urn cemeteries from the Pre-Roman Iron Age and the Migration Period
in Schleswig-Holstein: An overview of the research history 93

Ingo Lütjens
Burials of the Pre-Roman Iron Age in Schleswig-Holstein. A short overview 105

Ringo Klooß
Short report on the excavation of the Early Iron Age burial site of Borgstedt
in the Rendsburg-Eckernförde district. 111

Stefanie Schaefer-Di Maida and Jutta Kneisel
The urnfield phenomenon in Schleswig-Holstein:
New insights into the chronology and hypotheses 117

Jochen Brandt
Pre-Roman Iron Age burials in the lower Elbe region 133

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

Wenke Domscheit
Grave groups in Late Bronze and Early Iron Age grave fields –
the grave field of Pinnow as an example of a phenomenon 147

Robert Schumann
A tale of ancient mounds …
The re-use of old monuments for Iron Age burials in northern Germany 165

Claudia Pankau
The ceremonial wagon and its relationship with the Urnfield burial rite 183

Katarzyna Ślusarska
Between the Urnfield culture and the Nordic Bronze Age.
Man and environment in the Late Bronze Age on the southwestern Baltic coast 199

Karol Dzięgielewski
Urnfields in their own way:
The Late Bronze Age on the southern Baltic coast (middle and eastern Pomerania) 217

Arjan Louwen
A tale of people, places and broken pots. A long-term perspective on the emergence
of urnfields in the Lower-Rhine-Basin 235

Stijn Arnoldussen and Karen M. de Vries
Cups that cheered no more. Funerary rites in the urnfields of the northern Netherlands 253

Christophe Snoeck, Giacomo Capuzzo, Barbara Veselka, Kevin Salesse,
Ioannis Kontopoulos, Rica Annaert, Sarah Dalle, Marta Hlad, Charlotte Sabaux,
Amanda Sengeløv, Elisavet Stamataki, Mathieu Boudin, Eugene Warmenbol,
Martine Vercauteren and Guy De Mulder
Unravelling the mysteries hidden within the cremated human remains from Belgium –
The inter-disciplinary CRUMBEL project 271

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

Cups that cheered no more. Funerary rites in the urnfields of the northern Netherlands[1]

Stijn Arnoldussen and Karen M. de Vries

Keywords: Urnfields, Netherlands, funerary rites, pottery deposition, deliberate destruction

Abstract: For a series of 13 urnfields from the northern Netherlands, the roles of 'accessory vessels' in the urnfield funerary rites are studied. We propose that these accessory vessels were most likely used as drinking cups. While in some cases the fact that these drinking cups were interred with the human remains (in or without an urn) could suggest that these were personal items of the deceased, we argue that most cups recovered belonged to people attending the funeral. Based on the numbers (often more than one), the contexts in which these were recovered (often in the monuments' ditches or in pits beyond these) and their state (deliberately destroyed or placed inverted), we see these cups as reflecting rites of farewell or commemoration by the mourners. With handled cups, frequently the handle was removed prior to deposition, and the destruction of the vessel's base was common with cups of all types. These acts suggest a deliberate decommissioning of drinking cups as part of the urnfield funerary rites in the northern Netherlands.

Introduction and aim

Across much of northwestern Europe, the 13th century BCE can be identified as a period in which cremation burials rose markedly in importance (Louwen 2021, 10 and references therein). For the Low Countries, the final centuries of the Middle Bronze Age phase B (*c.* 1500–1000 BCE), the Late Bronze Age (*c.* 1000–800 BCE) and Early to Middle Iron Age periods (*c.* 800–400 BCE) are the period in which urnfield cemeteries are constructed across the Lower Rhine Basin area (Fig. 1; Willems 1935, 2; Fontijn 1996; Fokkens 1997; Roymans/Kortlang 1999; Hessing/Kooi 2005; Gerritsen 2003, 118–145; Louwen 2021). While certain elements (cremation rite, predominantly individual but clustered funerary monuments) are widely shared and denote central concepts of the ritual, regional traditions – based on variations in pottery (shape and decoration) or shape and construction of funerary monuments – are recognised (Louwen 2021, 12–13). In such approaches, the north(east)ern Netherlands are identified as belonging to the 'Ems group' (e.g. Verlinde 1987, 297; Bérenger 2008, 42; Verlinde/Hulst 2010, 103), in contrast to the southern Netherlands that are seen as part of the *Niederrheinische Grabhügelkultur* (NGK) region (*sensu* Kersten 1948; Van den Broeke 2005,

1 We dedicate this contribution to the late Groningen scholar P. B. Kooi (1943–2020), whose PhD thesis on the northern Netherlands' urnfields proved pivotal to this study.

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

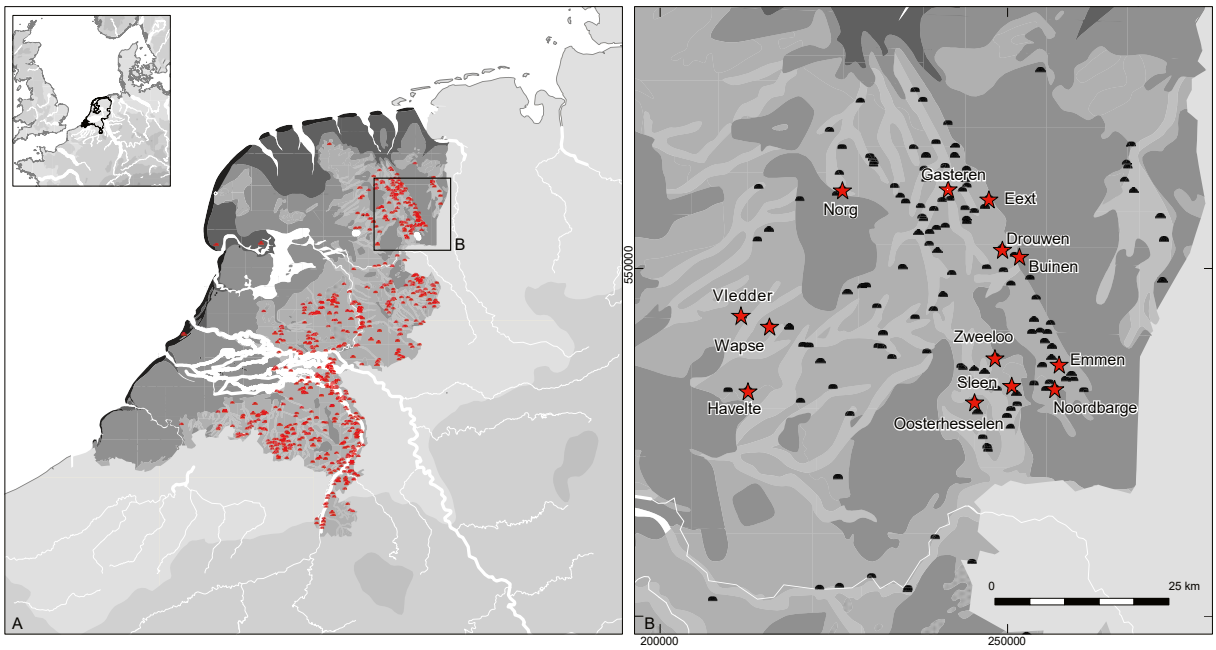


Fig. 1. a: Location of the Dutch urnfields (based on Louwen *2021) in relation to the landscape around 3800 BP (based on* De Mulder *et al. 2003, 228 fig. 143); b: Inset showing the dataset of studied urnfields from the northern Netherlands (red stars), in relation to the stream valleys (light grey, sandy soils (grey) and peat deposits (dark grey) (graphics S. Arnoldussen).*

480–481). Whilst even more small-scale regional groups have been proposed (e.g. Verlinde/Hulst 2010, 106 fig. 41), Louwen (2021, 12–14) has recently argued that this traditional focus on establishing regional cultural traits may be unhelpful in understanding the urnfield societies at large.

While this may be true, urnfields of the north(east)ern Netherlands nevertheless show characteristics less common in the southern Netherlands (cf. Hessing/Kooi 2005, 634 fig. 28.3a), suggesting that urnfield cultural traditions may in fact be (best studied) regionalised. Of these traits, many pertain to grave forms such as longbed-barrows with internal post settings (Vledder-type; Willems 1935, 75; Waterbolk 1962, 15–18; Kooi 1979, 130; Verlinde/Hulst 2010, 105), wider longbed-barrows (Noordbarge-type; Kooi 1979, 130; Arnoldussen/Scheele 2012, 174 fig. 9; Arnoldussen/Albers 2015, 155) or keyhole-shaped monuments (Willems 1935, 56; Verlinde/Hulst 2010, 103; Arnoldussen/Albers 2015, 156 fig. 41). All these types of grave forms tie in with funerary traditions in adjacent northwestern Germany (cf. references in Scheele 2016, 81 table 1; Rüschoff-Thale 2004; Brink-Kloke et al. 2006; Wilbertz 2009; Hoffman 2012). A less often noted characteristic of urnfields from the northern Netherlands is the presence of a '[...] relative abundance of ceremonial pottery in the ditches […]' (authors' translation; Verlinde/Hulst 2010, 103). If true, this could mean that the northern Netherlands' urnfields are particularly suitable to study those parts of the funerary rites that involved pottery deposition (cf. Waterbolk 1957, 57–58; Kooi 1979, 135; Hessing/Kooi 2005, 640; Louwen 2021, 144). In this paper, we will make a case that in the northern Netherlands' urnfields (a) drinking cups were commonly left behind as part of the funerary rites, that (b) the context, numbers and placements of these cups are often incongruent with simple explanations as 'funerary gifts', and (c) that such drinking cups were frequently deliberately decommissioned by removal of their handles or bases.

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

Despite the general correspondence between cremated human remains and pottery vessels (urns) in urnfields, often additional ceramic vessels are found during urnfield excavations.[2] In some cases, these concern double interments or urns added secondarily to older monuments (e.g. Waterbolk 1957, 56–57; Kooi 1979, 94 fig. 89), and in other cases other pots or pot fragments functioned as lids (Fig. 2). In this contribution, however, we will focus on the – frequently smaller – pots that were placed in the cemeteries known colloquially as 'accessory vessels' (Dutch: *bijpotjes*). Whilst a minority of smaller (see below for the ambiguity of size classification, esp. Fig. 3) pots were used as urns proper (i.e. to hold human remains; e.g. ZWE 8: Willems 1935, 125 fig. 25), the majority of these were found empty.

One of the reasons for (re)studying the tentative drinking cups in urnfields is the fact that their precise function is presently unknown. The lack of understanding of their function can be seen in the various names these vessels have been given: 'additional pots' (Dutch: *bijpotjes*; e.g. Van Giffen 1945, 99–121; Hissel 2012, 125), 'accessory vessels' or 'miniature vessels'. The fact that Kooi (1979, 19) used a non-exclusive definition based on form and usage moreover blurs categories. Kooi (1979, 19) identifies 'miniature pots' as vessels of similar same shape as urns, but ⅓ to ¼ in size (i.e. a formal de-

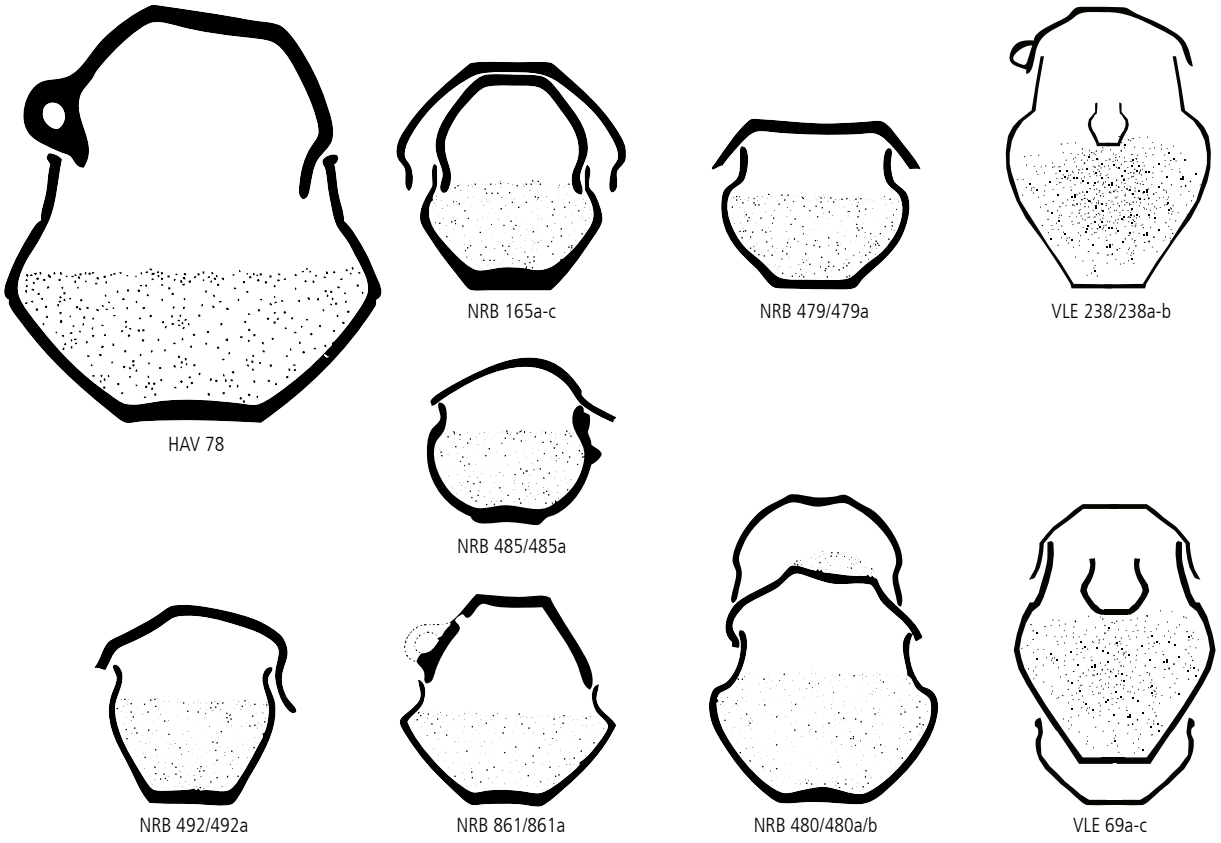


Fig. 2. Example of urnfield interments with extra pots/pot fragments used as lids from the Noordbarge (NRB), Havelte (HAV; after Kooi 1979, 52 fig. 42; 88 fig. 83) and Vledder (VLE; after Van Giffen 1938, Abb. 24) urnfields (graphics S. Arnoldussen, using originals taken from Kooi 1979 and Van Giffen 1938).

2 Here we use abbreviations for key sites (e.g. Bui = Buinen, D52 = Drouwen – 1952, EWB = Emmen-Wolfsbergen, HAV = Havelte-Koningskamp, NRB = Noordbarge, SLN = Sleen – near the church, VLE = Vledder, WAP = Wapse, ZWE = Zweeloo). A full list with primary references can be found in Table 1.

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

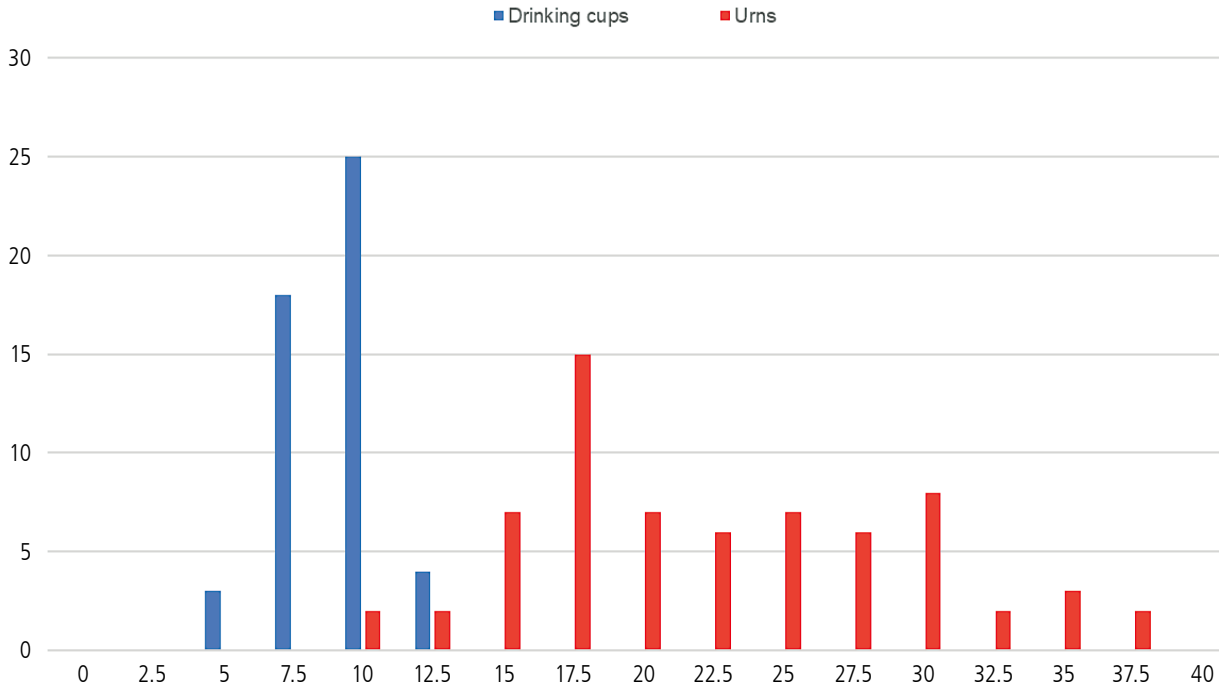


Fig. 3. Sample (after Kooi 1979, 32–44) of Noordbarge pots classified by pot height (x-axis). Only drinking cups (n = 50) and urns (n = 67) for which the height was reconstructable were incorporated (graphics S. Arnoldussen).

finition), whereas he defines 'accessory vessels' in terms of their position and state in the cemetery (i.e. a functional definition). According to Kooi (1979, 19) accessory vessels are those pots: (a) placed in the burial pit (implicit; *with/in addition to* the urn), (b) pottery used to seal the urn (i.e. lids), (c) sherds found with cremated remains (sometimes secondarily burned, i.e. fragmented pots with cremation), (d) pottery placed in ditches around burials, be it scattered, intact or in sherds. There is ample room for confusion, as a small *Henkeltasse* used to contain cremated remains (e.g. NRB 485; Kooi 1979, 42 fig. 32) would be classified as an 'urn', whereas a similarly sized *Henkeltasse* placed with an urn in the centre of a ring-ditch (e.g. NRB 15a; Kooi 1979, fig. 22) would be labelled an 'accessory vessel', whereas no categorisation exists for *Henkeltassen* found in between funerary monuments (e.g. SLN 28; Kooi 1979, 57 fig. 48).

Essentially, the role of accessory vessels in the urnfield funerary rites is as yet poorly understood. Based on size (see below; Fig. 3) and form (especially the cups with handles known as *Henkeltassen*), a function as drinking cups is generally assumed (cf. Modderman/Louwe Kooijmans 1966, 21; Verlinde 1987, 308; Verlinde/Hulst 2010, 31; Louwen 2021, 120, 126). Whilst it seems worthwhile to test this assumption through chemical study and botanical residues (cf. Stika 2011; Guerra-Doce 2014; Mötsch et al. 2019; Rageot et al. 2019), we will here axiomatically assume that these 'accessory vessels' served to contain a liquid of sorts. It is striking that the contexts, positions and state in which such drinking cups have been retrieved are highly variable. They occur, for example, as intact cups within an urn comprising human remains (e.g. NRB 442; Kooi 1979, 31 fig. 21, 41 fig. 31), as broken cups inside the urn (e.g. SLN 33; Kooi 1979, 57), found intact in the monument's ditch (e.g. EWB 5; Kooi 1979, 103 fig. 98, 195), broken-up and distributed across barrow ditches (e.g. BUI 19; Kooi 1979, 72 fig. 65), or placed in pits as single cups (e.g. D52 3; Kooi 1979, 98, 99 fig. 94–95) or assemblages of multiple cups placed in a pit (e.g. D52 7/8/9; Kooi 1979, 98 fig. 93). We believe that this diversity in contexts (inside urn, with urn, without urn), state (unscathed, fragmented, burned secondarily) and placement (inverted, sideways) of such drinking cups hold valuable information to their original roles in the urnfield period funerary rites. To capitalise on this information, however,

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

requires a more systematic discussion of context, state and position for urnfield drinking cups as well as consideration of the correlations with types of funerary monuments (e.g. ring-ditches, keyhole-shaped ditches, longbed-barrows), position within the urnfield (e.g. centre, periphery, along roads) and associated additional objects. Here, we present the results of a provisional study of these parameters for 13 smaller and larger urnfields from the northern Netherlands (Fig. 1b) that in total comprised an excavated number of 1,495 graves (and 311 cases of accessory vessels studied).

To avoid bias introduced by the shape or recovery context of possible drinking cups, we investigated the position (with cremated remain, with an urn, in a ditch, isolated finds/no peripheral structure), contextual positioning (inside the urn, underneath the urn, placed inverted/sideways, etc.) and state (intact, fragmented, fragment) of all 'smaller' vessels. No metric threshold of pot height was used beforehand (as not to exclude data beforehand), but for the site of Noordbarge a sample of the pot height for urns and presumed drinking cups was measured (Fig. 3). These show that a bimodal distribution in pot height is evident, with 12.5 cm pot height as the plausible separator of pots used as urns and tentative drinking cups.

For a total of 13 urnfields (Table 1; Fig. 1b) we systematically inventoried the location, position, state and association of the presumed drinking cups.[3] The urnfields were chosen based on (a) the availability and quality of object drawings, (b) their geographic distribution across the northern Netherlands, and (c) their variation in excavation extent, in order to ensure a sample of sufficient quality, size and geographic scope.

Results

A shared tradition?

It is clear that accessory cups were part and parcel of the urnfield funerary rites across the area studied – on average 17.5 % of the graves contained drinking vessels either with the cremated remains or in the ditch (Table 2). Additionally, drinking vessels were placed in between funerary monuments at nearly all sites. The two trends above apply to all the urnfields that were excavated to a sufficiently

Table 1. Main urnfields studied, with excavated surface areas, estimated numbers of graves uncovered and main references listed.

Site	Site abbreviation	Excavated area (ha)	Number of graves	Main references
Havelte-Koningskamp	HAV	0.83	111	Kooi 1979, 77–90
Wapse	WAP	0.39	250	Van Giffen 1936; Waterbolk 1957; Scheele 2016
Norg-De Fledders	NDF	0.083	21	Kooi 1979, 113–1216
Gasteren	GAS	0.45	96	Van Giffen 1941; 1945
Eext-Zwanemeer	EZM	0.003	2	Kooi 1979, 120–124
Drouwen (1939, 1940/41, 1951/52)	D39 / D40 / D51 / D52	0.29	21	Van Giffen 1943; Butler 1965; Kooi 1979, 90–96
Buinen	BUI	0.706	78	Kooi 1979, 55–77
Zweeloo	ZWE	0.358	51	Willems 1935
Sleen – near the church	SLN	0.822	116	Kooi 1979, 26–55
Vledder	VLA	0.928	318	Van Giffen 1938
Oosterhesselen-Bergakkers	OBA	0.089	15	Kooi 1979, 116–118
Noordbarge-Hoge Loo	NRB	3.091	390	Kooi 1979, 10–52
Emmen-Wolfsbergen/Heidehiem	EWB	0.065	40	Kooi 1979, 96–104

3 This data set is rendered available open access at: https://doi.org/10.34894/YFS33D.

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

*Table 2. Context of accessory vessels for the urnfields studied. * = Norg, Oosterhesselen, Eext.*

	Noord-barge	Sleen	Buinen	Gasteren	Drou-wen	Havelte	Emmen	Zwee-loo	Vledder	Wapse	others*	**Overall total**
Found with urn and cremation	25	7	1	11	1	3	0	5	14	7	0	**74**
Found with crema-tion (without urn)	17	3	1	0	1	8	1	1	12	8	3	**55**
Found in between graves	7	5	2	10	22	2	0	1	3	0	1	**53**
Found in ditches, intact	20	11	7	1	0	3	7	1	4	4	2	**60**
Found in ditches, broken	20	23	10	0	0	8	3	0	1	7	0	**72**
Total	**89**	**49**	**21**	**18**	**24**	**24**	**11**	**8**	**34**	**27**	**6**	**311**
Total graves	**390**	**116**	**78**	**96**	**21**	**111**	**32**	**48**	**318**	**250**	**35**	**1,495**
% of graves with accessory cups in ditches	10.3	29.3	21.8	1	0	9.9	31.3	2.1	1.6	4.4	5.7	**8.8**
% of stray acces-sory cups / graves	1.8	4.3	2.6	10.4	104.8	1.8	0.0	2.1	0.9	0.0	2.9	**3.3**

large extent so that over 30 graves could be mapped. This indicates that the incorporation of accessory vessels was part of a shared narrative of urnfield rites at the supra-local level. Yet, despite such communalities, a local adaptation may be identifiable.

For example, the placement of drinking cups in the monuments' ditches was very common at Buinen, Sleen and Emmen (21.1–31.3 % of the graves), whereas at Gasteren, Drouwen and Zweelo such cups were placed less frequently (0–2.1 % of the graves) in the ditches. The placement of accessory cups with human remains (in urns or simply with the cremated remains) was common at Noordbarge, Gasteren, Drouwen, Havelte and Zweelo (9.52–12.5 % of the graves), yet is hardly documented for Buinen and Emmen (2.5–3.13 % of the graves). Similarly, while accessory vessels were left (in pits) beyond and between the funerary monument at various sites, their prominence in this area was notably higher at Gasteren and Drouwen (see below; see also Fig. 7). These local variations show that – while adhering to supra-regional set norms for funerary rites in the urnfield period – there was ample bandwidth for local variations and articulations. People could locally choose to change the numbers and locations of accessory cups left behind, but overarching narratives of proper rule-sets were still being adhered to. In what follows, we will discuss some of these 'rule-sets', starting with the importance of fragmentation and dispersal of drinking cups.

The salience of fragmentation and separation

Upon deposition, drinking vessels may have been deliberately fragmented, parts retained (often bases and handles are missing) with their sherds being placed in different parts of the ditches (Fig. 4). For example, at Noordbarge, sherds of a biconical (drinking?) bowl (NRB 969/966, lacking its base) were placed in the eastern and northern section of the ring-ditch around its central interment (NRB 985; Kooi 1979, 50 fig. 40, 189). Similarly, at Buinen, the ring-ditch around the cremation interment of BUI 16 (no urn) contained the sherds of a small biconical drinking cup (BUI 19) that was placed partly in the eastern and southwestern segments of the ring-ditch (Kooi 1979, 72 fig. 65). On top of the sherds in the eastern part of the ditch, a decorated *Henkeltasse* that had its handle removed (BUI 18) was placed on the sherds of the undecorated cup (Kooi 1979, 69, 72 fig. 65, 135). In the ring-ditch of BUI 109 (cremation, no urn), sherds of a single bowl with rows of circular impressions (BUI 117) and another accessory vessel were placed in three parts of the eastern segment of the ditch, while an

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

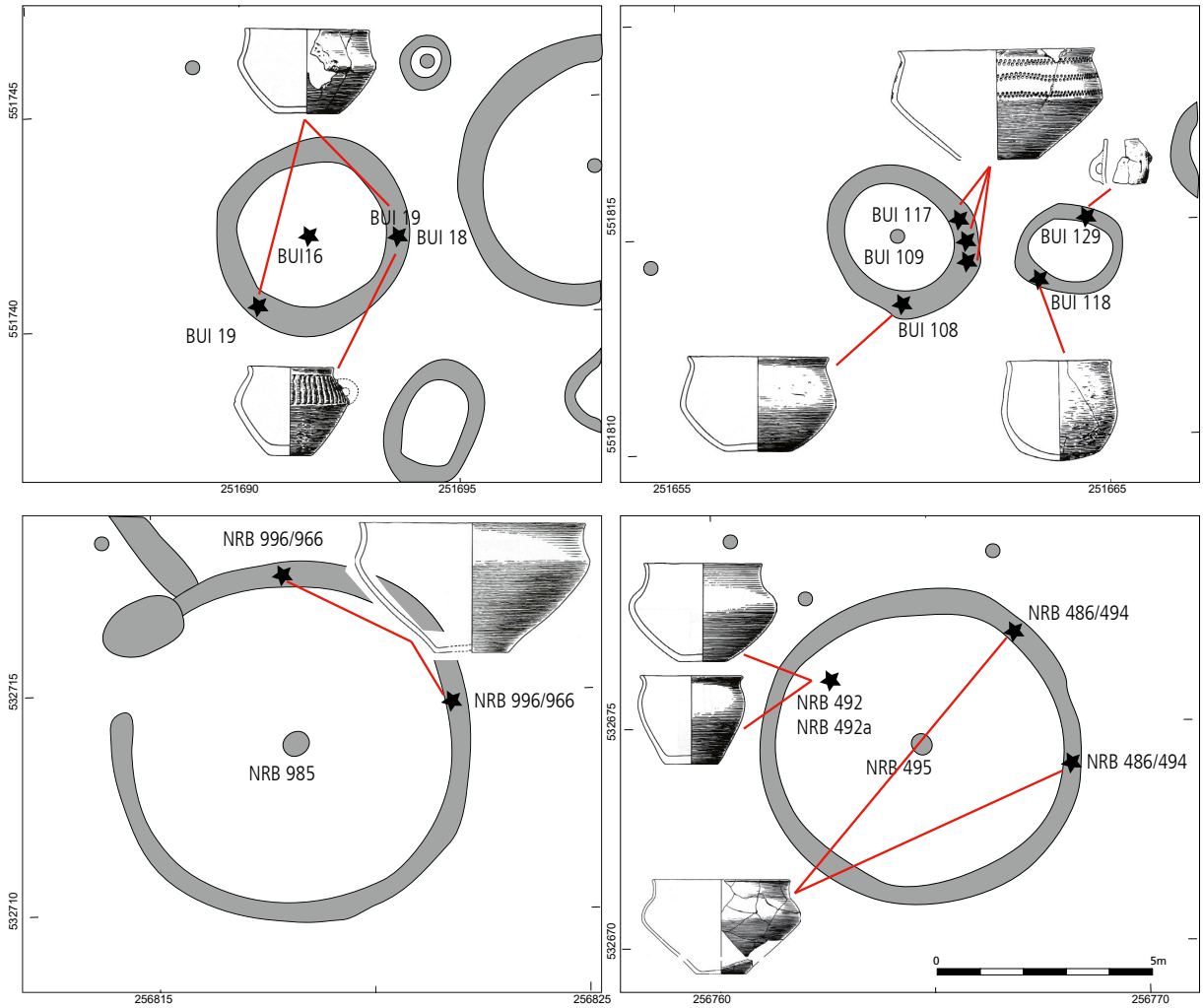


Fig. 4. Examples of drinking cups spread over different parts of monument ditches (data after Kooi 1979, 42 fig. 32, 50 fig. 40, 72 figs. 65–70, 76 fig. 69, 77 fig. 70). Pottery all to the same scale (height of NRB 996/966 is 14.8 cm), except for NRB 486/494 (half scale) (graphics S. Arnoldussen, using originals taken from Kooi 1979).

intact *Schräghals*-cup (BUI 108) was placed in the southern part of the same ring-ditch (Kooi 1979, 76–77, 191).

Similarly, sherds of a single *Cylinderhals*-urn (NRB 486/494) were placed in two parts of the ring-ditch of NRB 495 (Kooi 1979, 42 fig. 32). In between the central grave (NRB 495) and the circular ditch, two tentative drinking cups were placed (NRB 492 and 492a; Kooi 1979, 42 fig. 32). Here, perhaps, both the serving vessel (NRB 486/494; broken and distributed across the ditch) and drinking cups were left at the grave. The 1952 excavation at Drouwen also yielded a possible example of large sherds of a destroyed serving vessel (D52 6: *Harpstedter Rautopf*; Kooi 1979, 99 fig. 94) that was deposited with two cups (Kooi 1979, 94). This echoes the situation of NRB grave 945, in the ring-ditch of which in separate spots fragments of an accessory vessel (drinking cup; NBR 982) and a large container (NBR 942: *Zweihenklige Terrine*; serving vessel?) were found.

At Drouwen, a small bowl or drinking cup (D51 1) was burnt secondarily and a few sherds were placed first into the burial pit (Kooi 1979, 94), after which a *Harpstedter Rautopf* containing the cremation was placed on top of the sherds of the drinking cup (Kooi 1979, 96 fig. 91). At 60 cm to the south, rim sherds of a *Schräghals*-cup were topped with a decorated *Henkeltasse* (D52 10)

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

and another *Henkeltasse* (undecorated; D52 11; Kooi 1979, 99 fig. 94) placed on top. At Emmen-De Wolfsbergen, the ring-ditch around an interment accompanied by a *Schräghals*-urn (EWB 6; Kooi 1979, 104 fig. 99) contained the fragments of two accessory cups (EWB 8) in the southern part of the ditch, while two intact cups were placed in the southeast (EWB 7) and north-northwest segments of the ditch (Kooi 1979, 103 fig. 98, 195). A few hundred meters to the south, at Emmen-Heidehiem, an accessory vessel (EWB 9; Kooi 1979, 194) was fragmented into three pieces and placed in the ditch southeast of the central interment (a cremation placed in a biconical urn; Kooi 1979, 105 figs. 101–103). In the opposing ditches of two longbed-barrows at Noordbarge, sherds of accessory vessels were placed (NBR 763–764; 801–802; Kooi 1979, 48 fig. 38, 188).

The preference for the destruction of drinking vessels (prior to deposition) is also clear from the cases in which accessory vessels (shielded inside an urn) were found missing their bases or handles – or just consisted of a few fragments that were placed with the pyre remains in the urn. Such cases – often involving *Henkeltasse*-cups – have been noted for Noordbarge, Sleen and Zweelo (Table 3).

The patterns observed for incomplete drinking vessels buried in the shielded environment of the urn may help to argue that the incomplete drinking cups recovered with cremations cannot be simply explained as cups that perished in the pyre and were incompletely collected for burial. Rather, it seems that cremations interred without a ceramic urn were also accompanied by destroyed drinking cups (Table 4). Whereas one could argue that *Henkeltasse*-cups that had their handles removed could still be functioning cups, the structural pattern of removal of bases for the other drinking cups is a clear sign of deliberate decommissioning (Fig. 5).

Table 3. Examples of fragmented accessory vessels placed in ceramic urns.

Site	Cup	Context	State	References
Drouwen 1952	D52 2	In urn	Fragmented (base removed)	Kooi 1979, 99 fig. 94–95
Sleen	SLN 33	In urn	Base removed	Kooi 1979, 57
Sleen	SLN 127	In urn	Fragments of (biconical) cup	Kooi 1979, 60
Noordbarge	NRB 674a	In urn	Rimsherds of cup	Kooi 1979, 47 fig. 37
Zweelo	ZWE 7a	In urn	Fragment of cup	Willems 1935, 125
Zweelo	ZWE 10	In urn	Broken *Henkeltasse*	Willems 1935, 126
Zweelo	ZWE 13	In urn	*Henkeltasse*, handle removed	Willems 1935, 126
Zweelo	ZWE 17a	In urn	*Henkeltasse* fragment	Willems 1935, 128 Afb. 20
Gasteren	GAS 33a	In urn	Incomplete cup	Van Giffen 1945, 110 Afb. 21

Decommissioning cups

In the above, we have hinted at the deliberate decommissioning of drinking cups prior to deposition. Several strategies appear to have been in play simultaneously: (a) removal of vessel bases (with cups of all types), (b) removal of vessel handles (with *Henkeltasse*-cups), (c) inclusion of small fragments/sherds, and (d) secondary burning of vessels. To start with the latter, it is not always clear whether accessory cups showing traces of secondary burning received these on the pyre (i.e. indicating a possible former use as funerary gifts; cf. Louwen 2021, 120) or as a result of deliberate acts of destruction as parts of the funerary rites afterwards (i.e. to render drinking cups defunct). For both scenarios, examples can be identified. For example, the secondarily burnt cup with *Kalenderberg*-decoration placed with the cremated remains of NRB 285 (Kooi 1979, 37 fig. 27, 185) may have been on the pyre. Similarly, various vessels burnt secondarily were found in the Middle Iron Age barrows at Eext-Zwanemeer (Kooi 1979, 121 fig. 128, 122 fig. 129, 124) amidst cremated remains and equally burnt bronze personal ornaments. Less clear is the case at Drouwen (excavation campaign 1951), where a cup (D52 1a) was burned secondarily but only fragments of it were placed *underneath* the urn (Fig. 6;

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

Table 4. Examples of fragmented accessory vessels placed with cremated remains.

Site	Cup	Context	State	References
Noordbarge	NRB 173	With cremation	Base removed	Kooi 1979, 35
Noordbarge	NRB 401	With cremation	Base removed	Kooi 1979, 40
Noordbarge	NRB 452	With cremation	Base removed	Kooi 1979, 41
Noordbarge	NRB 549	With cremation	Base removed	Kooi 1979, 44
Noordbarge	NRB 697	With cremation	*Henkeltasse*, handle removed	Kooi 1979, 48
Zweelo	ZWE 25/25a	With cremation	Broken cup and half of second cup	Willems 1935, 130 Afb. 20–21
Sleen	SLN 51	With cremation	Base removed	Kooi 1979, 58
Sleen	SLN 176	With cremation	Lacking rim	Kooi 1979, 62
Buinen	BUI 44	With cremation	Lacking rim	Kooi 1979, 74
Havelte	HAV 33	With cremation	Rim fragment	Kooi 1979, 87 fig. 82–84
Havelte	HAV 35	With cremation	Rim fragment	Kooi 1979, 87 fig. 82–84
Havelte	HAV 62	With cremation	Based removed, inverted on cremation	Kooi 1979, 87 fig. 82–84
Eext	EZM 1	With cremation	Fragments of 5 accessory cups	Kooi 1979, 121–122
Vledder	VLE 282	With cremation	*Henkeltasse*, handle removed	Van Giffen 1938, Abb. 24
Vledder	VLE 169	With cremation	Half missing	Van Giffen 1938, Abb. 24
Wapse	WAP 13b	With cremation	Sherds	Waterbolk 1957, 46 tab. 1
Wapse	WAP 45b	With cremation	Sherds	Waterbolk 1957, 47 tab. 1
Wapse	WAP 58b	With cremation	Sherd	Waterbolk 1957, 47 tab. 1, fig. 25
Wapse	WAP 48	With cremation	Sherds	Waterbolk 1957, 47 tab. 1, fig. 25

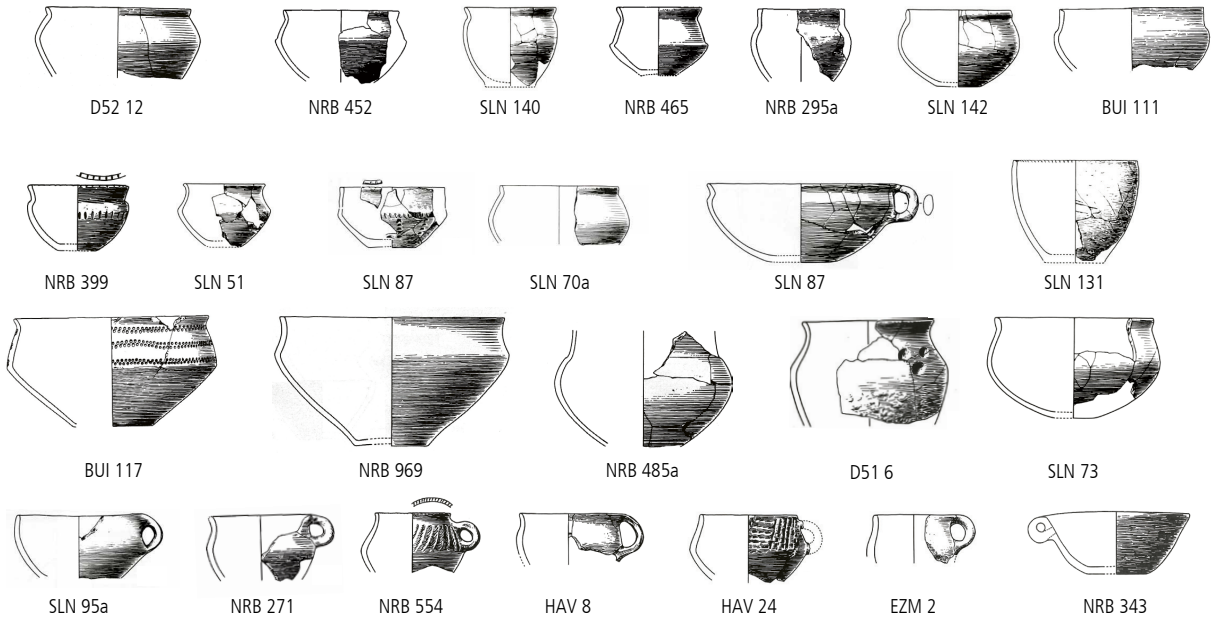


Fig. 5. Examples of drinking cups whose bases had been destroyed or removed in urnfields from the northern Netherlands (after Kooi 1979, 37 fig. 27, 38 fig. 28, 40 fig. 50, 41 fig. 31, 44 fig. 34, 58 fig. 49, 59 fig. 50, 61 fig. 52, 77 fig. 70, 87 figs. 82–84, 99 figs. 94–95, 122 fig. 129). Pottery all to the same scale (the reconstructed height of SLN 131 is 12 cm) (graphics S. Arnoldussen, using originals taken from Kooi 1979).

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

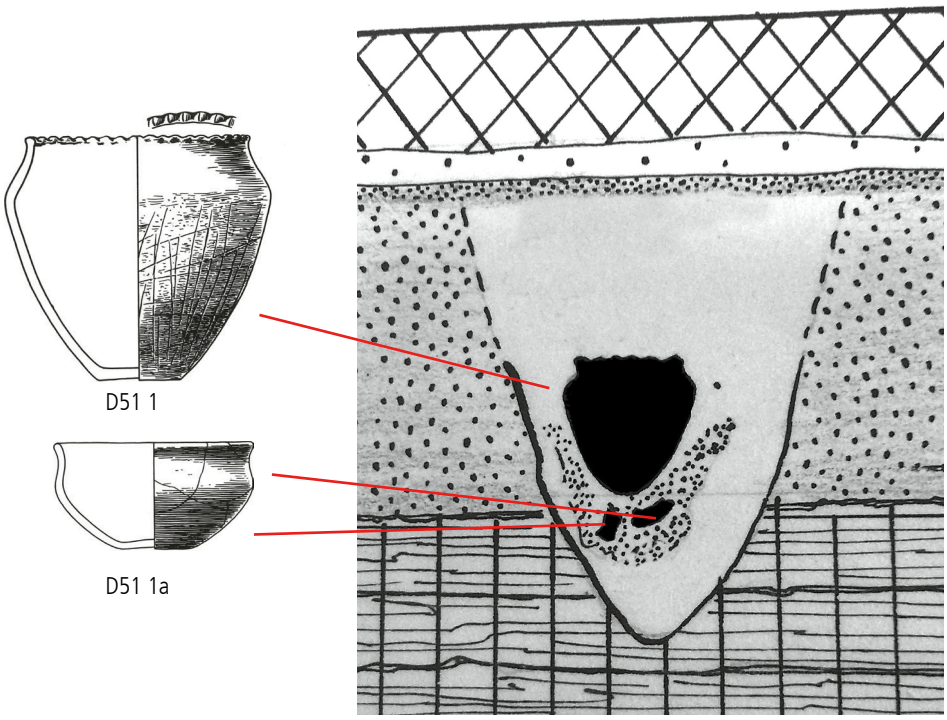


Fig. 6. Drouwen. Position of the fragmented and secondarily burned drinking cup D51 1a underneath the Harpstedter Rautopf *D51 1 (after Kooi 1979, 96 fig. 91). Pottery all to the same scale (height of D51 1 is 23.6 cm) (graphics S. Arnoldussen, after Kooi 1979 and original fieldwork documentation).*

a large *Harpstedter Rautopf* with the cremation; Kooi 1979, 96). Paradoxically, this case seems to stress both an association to a deceased person (i.e. being in the same pit), as well as a deliberate disjunction between the position of the human remains and the former cup.

An overview of the treatment of the various non-intact accessory cups across the 13 urnfields studied (Table 5) shows clear patterns. Cups with handles (*Henkeltassen)* were frequently interred in a broken state, with a clear preference for leaving behind just a few fragments of *Henkeltassen* (often decorated with fingertip impressions). Removal of the *Henkeltasse* bases and handles was also common. For the other cups, the same strategies are visible – placing just a few fragments of a drinking cup was the most common option, followed by the removal of the vessel's base. The high frequency of base removal (17.7 %) and other modes of fragmentation (32.4 %) for accessory vessels strengthens the interpretation of reflecting intentional acts.

Bottoms up – signalling end of use through the inverted placement of cups

The inverted position of drinking cups upon deposition may – in addition to, or as alternative to, their fragmentation – be another way to signal the end of their practical use life. The intentionality of this particular placement is clear from cases where – shielded within the urn – one cup was placed upright and one inverted (NRB 157a; Kooi 1979, 52 fig. 4). In other cases, multiple cups were placed inverted over cremated remains (HAV 60/60a; Kooi 1979, 85, 87) or in the ditches of funerary monuments (SLN 48/49; Kooi 1979, 58, 189). These rarer cases are supplemented by many others of inverted single cups being left in urns (e.g. HAV 7; Kooi 1979, 87, 192), on cremations without urns (e.g. HAV 62; Kooi 1979, 87, 192), placed in ring-ditches (e.g. ZWE 15; Willems 1935, 128; Afb. 21) or found as 'stray' finds between monuments (e.g. SLN 28; BUI 86; Kooi 1979, 57, 76 fig. 69, 192). We argue that placing such cups in a non-functional position was part of the rites to properly dispose of

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

Table 5. Treatment of the non-intact accessory cups.

	Noord-barge	Sleen	Buinen	Havelte	Emmen	Drou-wen	Eext	Zwee-loo	Wapse	Gasteren	Vledder	**Totals**
Fragments in urn	1	1						1				**3**
Fragments with cremation							1	1	4		2	**8**
Fragments in ditch	5	1	2	1	2				7			**18**
Fragment, stray						2				10		**12**
Henkeltasse, handle removed	3	1	1	2				1			1	**9**
Henkeltasse, base removed	1	5		1								**7**
Henkeltasse, base and handle removed		1	2	1								**4**
Henkeltasse, broken (other)	2	5	2	1				2	4	1		**17**
Other cups, base removed	13	12	5	4		2					1	**37**
Other cups, rim removed	1	1	2	1								**5**
Other cups, broken (other)	12	8	1	8	4	2	1	2	8	1		**47**

such vessels as part of the urnfield rites in general (cf. Louwen 2021, 173). In what follows, we argue, based (a) on their position beyond the funerary monuments and (b) the frequently multiple numbers recovered, that such cups are more likely to have belonged to the mourners than to the deceased.

Leaving the cups behind – 'stray finds of drinking vessels'

Whereas we have shown in the above that drinking cups were frequently disposed of in the surrounding ditch (and less frequently with the central interment), there is also solid evidence that some of these vessels were purposefully dug into the soils in the areas around and in between the funerary monuments. For example, in the section of the urnfield of Drouwen excavated in 1939 (Van Giffen 1943; Kooi 1979, 92 fig. 87), no less than nine out of the ten accessory vessels were recovered from between the ditches (and just one with cremation remains centrally in a ring-ditch; Kooi 1979, 193). At 1,600 m to the west-northwest of these, a keyhole-shaped funerary monument was uncovered in 1952, where 4 m to the west of it at least 14 small cups were left behind (Fig. 7). Two cups (D52 4 and 5) were placed with large sherds of a *Harpstedter Rautopf* (D52 6; Kooi 1979, 99 fig. 9). Cups B52 7, 8 and 9 were placed together (all sideways to inverted) in a pit (Kooi 1979, 98 fig. 93). Two *Henkeltassen* were placed on top of each other and on top of rim sherds of a *Schräghals*-cup (Kooi 1979, 99 fig. 94). At *c.* 7 m to the northwest, two more cups (D52 14–14a) were found placed upright next to each other in a pit (Kooi 1979, 94), with another set of a cup and *Henkeltasse* (D52 16/16a) close-by (Kooi 1979, 99 fig. 95).

In the Noordbarge urnfield, a set of two cups (a biconical urn that had its bottom removed and an intact *Henkeltasse*; NRB 537) were placed in between the ring-ditches without any cremated remains (Kooi 1979, 43 fig. 33, 186). Similarly, a decorated *Henkeltasse* and open bowl that both had their bases removed were deposited together in a pit in between ring-ditches at Noordbarge (NRB554; Kooi 1979, 44 fig. 34, 187). In the Sleen urnfield, two *Henkeltasse* cups (both incomplete; SLN 147; 160) were placed to either side of a tentative road trajectory (Kooi 1979, 61–62, 190). At Buinen, sherds of accessory vessels were found at various locations between the funerary monuments (e.g. BUI 21; 23; 30; Kooi 1979, 191). At other sites, finds listed simply as 'stray finds' (such as the *Henkeltasse* NRF 12; Kooi 1979, 115 fig. 118) may in fact be the results of similar depositions.

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

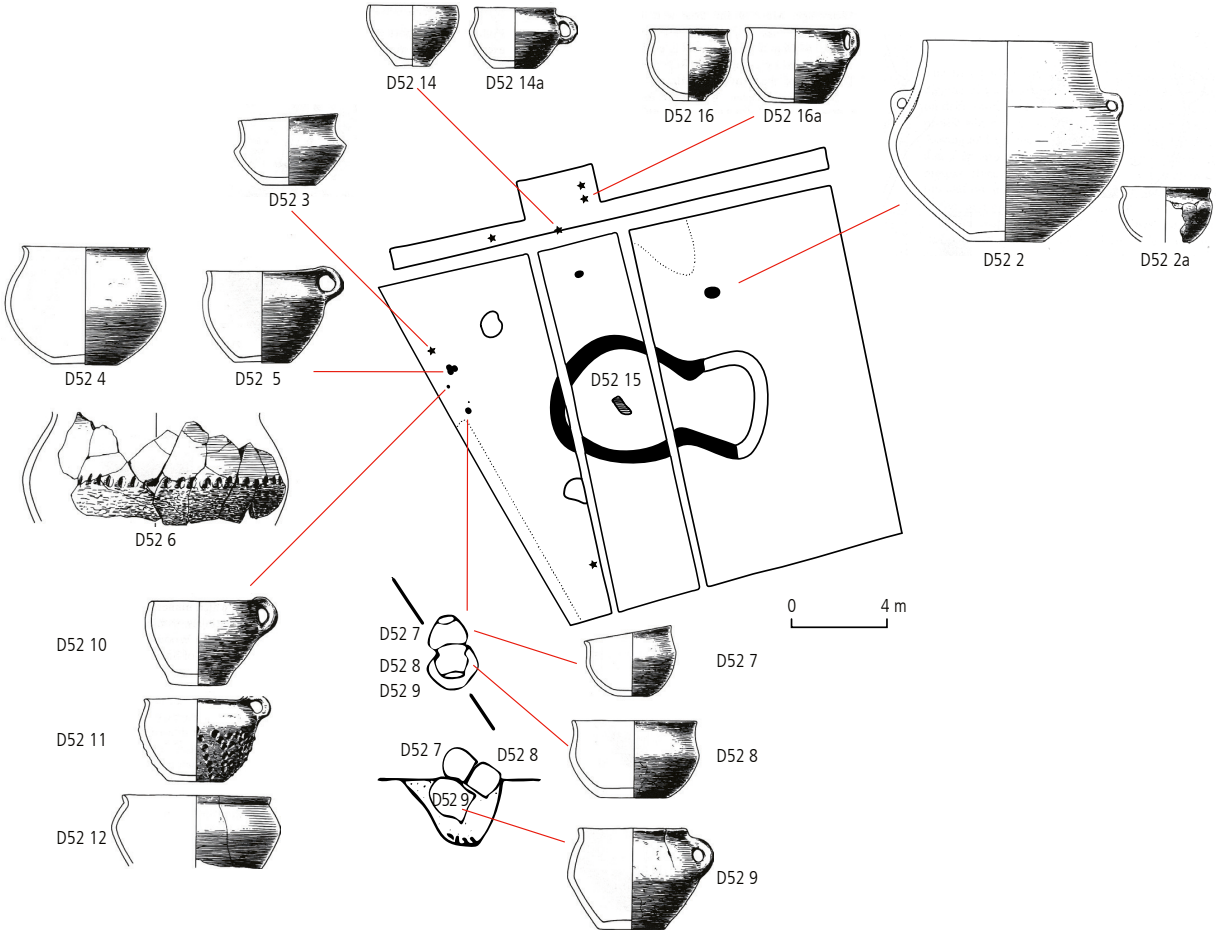


Fig. 7. Distribution of drinking cups around Drouwen (D52 15, a keyhole-shaped funerary monument; after Kooi 1979, 98 fig. 93, 99 figs. 94–95). Pottery all to the same scale (height of D52 2 is 21.6 cm) (graphics S. Arnoldussen, using originals taken from Kooi 1979).

Drinking alone or with a crowd?

Whereas singular cups included with the cremated remains may be interpreted as personal belongings of the deceased, a number of cases is known in which more than one drinking vessel is placed in the ditch of the funerary monument (Fig. 8). Based on their position (literally detached from the deceased) and number (more than one), the plausibility of these representing drinking cups once owned personally by the deceased is limited. Rather, we suggest that these are the drinking cups left behind by a small number of persons with social ties to the deceased (be it household members, kin, or friends) as part of the funerary rites. Evocatively, but speculatively, we suggest scenarios in which bystanders at the funeral – after deposition of the human remains, sometimes with their (decommissioned; Tables 3–4) personal cup – make a final toast and afterwards deposit the cups used. This could apply both to rites executed upon interment, but equally well as later commemorative acts.

At Sleen, a funerary monument is known in whose ditch five drinking cups were placed (Fig. 8, top left). Significantly, all cups but one (SLN 71) were rendered defunct prior to deposition by way of removal of the vessel's base. Moreover, SLE 48 and SLE 49 were buried upside down in the ditch. In the ring-ditch of Emmen-De Wolfsbergen (excavated in 1956), two possibly intact (EWB 2; EWB 7) and two fragmented accessory vessels (both listed as EWB 8) were deposited (Fig. 8, bottom left; Kooi 1979, 104 fig. 99, 194). At Buinen, an accessory cup was placed sideways with the cremated remains (BUI 114), and an intact (BUI 113) and at least three fragmented cups (BUI 111–112) were placed

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

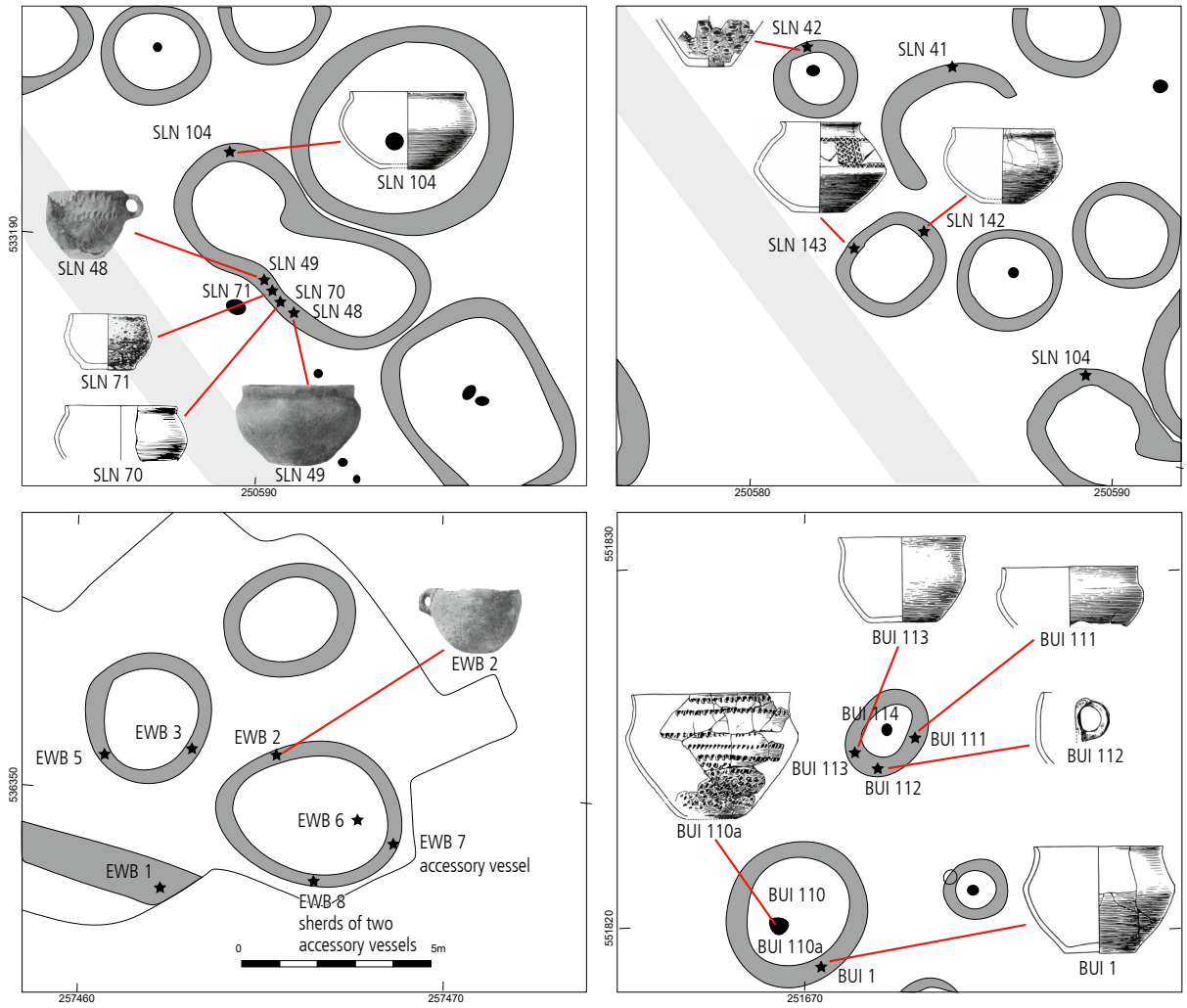


Fig. 8. Examples of urnfield contexts in which multiple drinking cups were interred (top row: Sleen; after Kooi 1979, 58 fig. 49, 60 fig. 51, 61 fig. 52), bottom left: Emmen-De Wolfsbergen (after Kooi 1979, 104 fig. 99), bottom right: Buinen (after Kooi 1979, 72 figs. 65–70, 77 fig. 70). Pottery all to the same scale (height of SLN 104 is 9.5 cm) (graphics S. Arnoldussen, using originals taken from Kooi 1979).

in the ditch around. As at Sleen, one of the cups (BUI 111; Kooi 1979, 192) was placed in the ditch upside-down. Generally, however, the number of cups placed in the ditches is more modest (Table 6), like the two examples of SLE 142/143 show (Fig. 8, top right; Kooi 1979, 61 fig. 52). One of these cups (SLE 142; Fig. 5) had part of its base removed prior to deposition.

In our opinion the documented cases of more than one drinking cup placed inside an urn or ditch strengthen the suggestion that these belonged to mourners rather than to the deceased. Whereas personal social traits such as generosity could be stressed by placing multiple cups with the cremated remains, this interpretation cannot elegantly explain cases where three to five drinking cups were placed in the ditches proper (Table 6). Another argument in favour of seeing these (decommissioned) cups as belonging to the mourners is the fact that several cases are known in which the central interment contained a (private?) drinking cup, but additional ones were found in the ditches of the funerary monument (e.g. SLN 84–87a–c: Kooi 1979, 59 fig. 50; SLN 127–128; Kooi 1979, 60–61 figs. 51–52).

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

Table 6. Examples of sites with more than one accessory vessel.

Number of cups	Site	Cups	Context	State	References
> 14	Drouwen 1952	D52 6-16a	Outside of ditch	Buried single, in pairs and groups of 3, in all but 1 case complete	Kooi 1979, 99 figs. 94–95
5	Sleen	SLN 48/49/70/71/104	In keyhole ditch	1 complete, 4 base removed (of which 2 inverted)	Kooi 1979, 60
4	Emmen-De Wolfsbergen	EWB 2/7/8	In ring-ditch	2 complete, 2 fragmented	Kooi 1979, 103, 194
3	Buinen	BUI 111/112/113	In ring-ditch BUI 114	1 complete/inverted, 1 base removed, 1 just 2 sherds	Kooi 1979, 77
3	Buinen	BUI 108/117a/117b	In ring-ditch BUI 109	1 complete, 2 base removed	Kooi 1979, 77
3	Gasteren	GAS 35a–35c	In urn	1 inverted in urn, 2 inverted and placed on the rim of the urn	Van Giffen 1945, 110 Afb. 17
2	Sleen	SLN 142/143	In ring-ditch	1 complete, 1 base removed	Kooi 1979, 61 fig. 52, 190
2	Noordbarge	NRB 861/861a	In ring-ditch	1 complete, 1 handle removed	Kooi 1979, 49 fig. 39
2	Havelte-Koningskamp	HAV 60/60a	In urn	2 intact placed inverted on cremation in urn	Kooi 1979, 85, 87
2	Noordbarge	NRB 671b–671c	In urn	2 intact placed with cremation in urn	Kooi 1979, 87, 144
2	Havelte-Koningskamp	HAV 157a–157b	In urn	1 intact placed inverted on cremation in urn, 1 intact upright	Kooi 1979, 85, 87
2	Noordbarge	NRB 671b–671c	In pit	2 intact placed upright on top of each other	Kooi 1979, 48 fig. 38, 188
2	Noordbarge	NRB 537a–537b	Stray	1 intact, 1 base removed	Kooi 1979, 43 fig. 33, 186
2	Noordbarge	NRB 554a–554b	Stray	both base removed	Kooi 1979, 44 fig. 34, 187
2	Gasteren	GAS 56a–56b	In urn	2 intact, placement unkown	Van Giffen 1945, 103 Afb. 15
2	Gasteren	GAS 25+GAS 25a	Stray	2 intact, both placed upside down	Van Giffen 1945, 110 Afb. 19
2	Wapse	WAP 55b+55c	In urn	2 intact, placement unkown	Waterbolk 1957, 47 Tab. 1, fig. 25

Cups that cheered no more: Conclusions

We have shown that the role of 'accessory vessels' in the urnfields of the northern Netherlands was specific and guided by rule-sets that were broadly shared, but articulated locally. Whereas for single cups placed with human remains the 'simple' interpretation of personal possessions added as funerary gifts cannot be refuted, we argue that most drinking cups were intentionally left behind by mourners as part of the urnfield funerary rites (cf. Tol 2000, 108). Our arguments for this are manyfold. First and foremost, the drinking cups retrieved frequently show signs of deliberate destruction – handled cups had their handles removed, and for cups without handles their bases were frequently pierced or removed altogether. Second, the contexts in which drinking cups were retrieved (in or beyond the ditches of the funerary monuments) seems incongruent with an interpretation as personal

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

property of the deceased. Third, the sometimes large numbers of drinking cups (no less than 14 buried at D52; Fig. 7) left in urnfields suggest that they form the residue of common – or frequently repeated – urnfield rites.

We have proposed a scenario here in which we explain these vessels as reflecting a ritual in which cups were deposited, after a 'last toast' to the deceased. In such a view, it does not matter whether the toast was made upon interment of the human remains (i.e. as part of the funerary rites *sensu stricto*) or somewhat later (i.e. as part of remembrance rites) when people returned to a grave. Cups placed with the human remains could hint at the former, cups placed in the ditches (whose soil was presumably used to create the barrow capping the human remains) might conversely advocate the latter. It is tempting to compare the removal of vessel bases to known situations where pierced-bottom vessels were used for libation (the offering of liquids; as, for example, suggested for small pots with perforated bases in the Roman Iron Age settlements at Ezinge and Englum: Nieuwhof 2015, 134, 176, 213), although the functionality of sieving has been proposed as well for pottery with perforated bases in urnfield contexts (Louwen 2021, 126).

It is however striking that several of the cups whose base had been destroyed were recovered in an inverted position (e.g. SLN 28: Kooi 1979, 57; SLN 48: Kooi 1979, 58; BUI 111: Kooi 1979, 77) or from inaccessible contexts (e.g. with the human remains; BUI 110a: Kooi 1979, 77, 191; NRB 19a: Kooi 1979, 32). Therefore, we would argue that the main purpose of the observed fragmentation – and/or inverted placement – was to (visually, socially) signify that these cups should never be used again. One could envision a rite in which kin and friends of the deceased gathered round the grave and enjoyed a final drink in the deceased's presence, with the finality of that act materialised and emphasised through the destruction, inversion and interment of cups thus rendered *taboo*.

In some cases, sherds of the serving vessel – possibly containing an (alcoholic?) beverage – may have been destroyed and left behind as well (e.g. NRB 486/494; NBR 942; D52 6; Kooi 1979, 42 fig. 32, 50 fig. 40, 97 fig. 92). Whilst we have argued that decommissioning was the prime motivation behind fragmentation, it may have served different purposes at the same instance. In addition to the act of destruction, fragmentation also enables the mourners to retain pottery sherds. This phenomenon is described as enchainment (Chapman 2000, 5). Because mourners retain part of an object of the deceased, they remain or even become connected to the deceased. In addition to this, multiple mourners can as well become connected by the fragments they retain, because they were all participants of the same funeral. Ample examples that indicate retention can be found within the dataset. In some cases, the majority of fragments of cups rendered defunct were not deposited. The most extreme example for this is the deposition of only the handle of a cup at Wapse (WAP 72g: Waterbolk 1957, 48 table 1, fig. 26). Other examples of retention can be found as well (e.g. NRB 547; SLN 127; BUI 112; Kooi 1979, 43 fig. 33, 60 fig. 51, 77 fig. 70).

The practice of (deliberate) fragmentation and retention is much wider attested in the Netherlands. More than 20 % of the graves that Louwen incorporated into his work contained pottery sherds that were neither part of the urn nor of an accessory vessel (Louwen 2021, 150–151). In rare instances, these fragments can be refitted with sherds from other contexts within the urnfield (Louwen 2021, 171, no. 112). In these instances, the connection between two graves seems to have been highlighted. In addition to its widespread occurrence, (deliberate) fragmentation is also not confined to funerary contexts alone. In contemporary Iron Age settlements, structured or ritual deposits of incomplete objects are frequently found (Van den Broeke 2002; 2015; Gerritsen 2003, 63–66, 79–95, 96–102; De Vries 2016; 2021, 137–190, 193–220). Other researchers have also linked the urnfield ritual to special deposition practices in settlement contexts and even suggested that the missing parts of incompletely deposited vessels should be sought in funerary contexts (Van den Broeke 2015, 92–93). Based on this research, it could also have been *vice-versa* where incomplete pottery in settlement contexts are the fragments brought home after a funeral.

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

We have argued that the deposition of (destroyed) drinking cups as part of, or after, funerary rites was a structural element for urnfields in the northern Netherlands. At sites like Havelte, Noordbarge and Sleen, the number of drinking cups recovered in various ways and contexts amounts to *c.* 20–35 % of the number of graves uncovered. Yet, the popularity of this funerary tradition in the northern Netherlands should not be confused with exclusivity. In the adjacent central and eastern Netherlands regions, urnfields with ample accessory vessels deposited in similar ways are known (cf. Verlinde 1985, 244, 255, 259 for cups in ditches of long-bed barrows). At Marienberg, an accessory cup was placed inverted at the bottom of a pit (Verlinde 1987, 121; Louwen 2021, 85), and at Ederheide five Late Bronze Age drinking cups were placed together in a pit (Verlinde/Hulst 2010, 54). The absence of bases for accessory cups is documented for the Veluwe area (Verlinde/Hulst 2010, 177 Afb. 73 G42, 178 Afb. 64 G53, 188 Afb. 74 G143, G146, G147) but never addressed systematically.

For the southern Netherlands, indications of similar rites involving drinking cups may be assumed as well. For example, at Weert-Boshoverheide, 14 pots were deposited in the ditch of longbed-barrow C7 (Roymans/Kortlang 1999, 45 note 27). Drinking cups placed in ring-ditches were also noted for this site (Hissel/Theunissen 2012, 47). Moreover, like at Noordbarge and Buinen, sherds from specific pots were distributed across (opposites) of ditches of longbed-barrows and ring-ditches (Hissel 2012, 126). At Mierlo-Hout, a bowl was fragmented and its sherds were scattered in the ring-ditch (Tol 1999, 99, 100 tab. 2). In the southern Netherlands, *Henkeltassen* also occur in ditches (e.g. Verwers 1975, 26, 29 fig. 5, 30 fig. 6), and Verwers (1975, 28) remarks that in ditches mostly fragments of small cups and bowls are recovered.

To the east of our study area, in Germany, similar practices can be observed as well. In Telgte, 27 deposits with sherds were encountered in the urnfield (Wilhelmi 1981, 79–89). In a similar vein to the examples discussed here, vessels were found in the ditches of the funerary monuments and *Henkeltassen* were deposited in various states – complete, fragmented, with or without the handle. Occasionally, only the handle was deposited (e.g. F.35a: Wilhelmi 1981, Tafel 6). Again, the deposition of *Henkeltassen* cannot always be directly associated with the burial of the urn proper. In the case of keyhole-shaped grave VII, a handled cup was placed upside down in the ditch of the vestibule (German: *Vorhof*) at the furthest point facing the central grave (Wilhelmi 1981, Beilage 2, Tafel 39.1). The urnfield of Lengerich-Wechte rendered multiple examples of cups, sometimes stacked and positioned upside down in the urn (F3; Wilhelmi 1976, Tafel 10), sometimes placed sideways next to the urn (ibid., *Anlage* XXXIII; Wilhelmi 1976, Tafel 21,1).

Whilst anecdotal, these observations suggest that the decommissioning of drinking cups was also undertaken by communities beyond the northern Netherlands. For some regions, however, drinking cups seem to be generally placed with the cremated remains (rather than in ditches) and the removal of vessel bases appears less common. For other regions, however, stronger parallels with the northern Netherlands are evident. The fact that such patterns have not been studied so systematically as done here for the northern Netherlands, hampers the interregional comparison. We can only hope this paper may serve as a springboard for complementary ones for other regions.

For the northern Netherlands' urnfields, we can validly argue that – after the placing of human remains in or amidst funerary monuments – the destruction and deposition of drinking cups in and around the ditches of such monuments was the second most common (archaeologically visible) funerary rite. The deliberate treatment (decommissioning by fire and removal of vessel bases and handles) and placement (inverted, under urns, in groups) of such drinking cups suggest a part of the funerary traditions in which the cups – as material extensions of those that drank from them – required a proper final send-off as well. Akin to their former users, they were to cheer no more.

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

Bibliography

Arnoldussen/Albers 2015: S. Arnoldussen/P. C. H. Albers, When urnfields lose their meaning… The case of Iron Age habitation amidst the Noordbarge urnfield. In: E. A. G. Ball/S. Arnoldussen (eds.), Metaaltijden 2. Bijdragen in de studie van de metaaltijden (Leiden 2015) 149–169.

Arnoldussen/Scheele 2012: S. Arnoldussen/E. E. Scheele, The ancestors nearby. The domestic and funerary landscape of Angelslo-Emmerhout. In: H. D. van der Velde/N. L. Jaspers/E. Drenth/H. B. G. Scholte Lubberink (eds.), Van graven in de prehistorie en dingen die voorbij gaan. Studies aangeboden aan Eric Lohof ter gelegenheid van zijn pensionering in de archeologie (Leiden 2012) 153–185.

Bérenger 2008: D. Bérenger, Bis nach Nordosten: Grabanlagen der Emsgruppe an der Mittelweser. In: D. Bérenger/C. Grünewald (eds.), Westfalen in der Bronzezeit (Münster 2008) 42.

Brink-Kloke et al. 2006: H. Brink-Kloke/H. Heinrich/U. Bartelt, Das Schlüsselloch-Gräberfeld am Oespeler Bach. Bodenaltertümer Westfalens 43 (Mainz 2006).

Van den Broeke 2002: P. W. Van den Broeke, Een vurig afscheid? Aanwijzingen voor verlatingsrituelen in ijzertijdnederzettingen. In: H. Fokkens/R. Jansen (eds.), 2000 jaar bewoningsdynamiek. Brons- en ijzertijdbewoning in het Maas-Demer-Scheldegebied (Leiden 2002) 45–61.

Van den Broeke 2005: P. W. Van den Broeke, Late Bronze Age and Iron Age: introduction. In: L. P. Louwe Kooijmans/P. W. van den Broeke/H. Fokkens/A. L. van Gijn (eds.), The Prehistory of the Netherlands II (Amsterdam 2005) 477–489.

Van den Broeke 2015: P. W. Van den Broeke, Het verlatingsritueel: een poging tot reconstructie. In: E. A. G. Ball/S. Arnoldussen (eds.), Metaaltijden 2. Bijdragen in de studie van de metaaltijden (Leiden 2015) 93–100.

Butler 1965: J. J. Butler, Ook eens iets voor dames. Nieuwe Drentse Volksalmanak 83, 1965, 163–198.

Chapman 2000: J. Chapman, Fragmentation in archaeology. People, places and broken objects in the prehistory of south-eastern Europe (London 2000).

Fokkens 1997: H. Fokkens, The genesis of urnfields: economic crisis or ideological change? Antiquity 71, 1997, 360–373.

Fontijn 1996: D. Fontijn, Socializing landscape. Second thoughts about the cultural biography of urnfields. Archaeological Dialogues 3, 1996, 77–87.

Gerritsen 2003: F. Gerritsen, Local identities. Landscape and community in the late prehistoric Meuse-Demer-Scheldt region. Amsterdam Archaeological Studies 9 (Amsterdam 2003).

Van Giffen 1936: A. E. Van Giffen, De tweeënbarg en het kringgrepurnenveld op de Oeren te Wapse, gem. Diever. Nieuwe Drentse Volksalmanak 54, 1936, 2–20.

Van Giffen 1941: A. E. Van Giffen, Kringgrepurnenveld in het zgn Overdijksveld onder Gasteren, gem. Anloo. Nieuwe Drentse Volksalmanak 59, 1941, 103–106.

Van Giffen 1943: A. E. Van Giffen, Oudheidkundige aanteekeningen over Drentsche vondsten X: Een urnenveld te Drouwen. Nieuwe Drentse Volksalmanak 61, 1943, 93–139.

Van Giffen 1945: A. E. Van Giffen, Het kringgrepurnenveld en de grafheuvels O.Z.O. van Gasteren, gem. Anloo. Nieuwe Drentse Volksalmanak 63, 1945, 69–134.

Guerra-Doce 2014: E. Guerra-Doce, The Origins of Inebriation: Archaeological Evidence of the Consumption of Fermented Beverages and Drugs in Prehistoric Eurasia. Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory 22(3), 2014, 751–782.

Hessing/Kooi 2005: W. A. M. Hessing/P. B. Kooi, Urnfields and cinerary barrows: funerary and burial ritual in the Late Bronze and Iron Ages. In: L.P. Louwe Kooijmans/P.W. van den Broeke/H. Fokkens/A. L. van Gijn (eds.), The Prehistory of the Netherlands II (Amsterdam 2005) 631–654.

Hissel 2012: M. E. Hissel, Het grafveld van de Boshoverheide, een nieuwe stand van zaken. In: M. E. Hissel/E. M. Theunissen/C. A. M. van Rooijen/W. J. B. Derickx (eds.), Cold case in het stuifzand; het urnenveld van de Boshoverheide bij Weert ontsloten. Rapportage Archeologische Monumentenzorg 209 (Amersfoort 2012) 95–148.

Hissel/Theunissen 2012: M. E. Hissel/E. M. Theunissen, Geschiedenis van het archeologische onderzoek. In: M. E. Hissel/E. M. Theunissen/C. A. M. van Rooijen/W. J. B. Derickx (eds.), Cold case in het stuifzand; het urnenveld van de Boshoverheide bij Weert ontsloten. Rapportage Archeologische Monumentenzorg 209 (Amersfoort 2012) 41–72.

Hoffman 2012: K. P. Hoffman, Der Identität ihr Grab? Zur Identitätsforschung anhand bronzezeitlicher Bestattungen des Elbe-Weser-Dreiecks. In: I. Heske/B. Horjes (eds.), Bronzezeitliche Identitäten und Objekte. Beiträge aus den Sitzungen der AG Bronzezeit auf der 80. Tagung des Süd- und Westdeutschen Verbandes für Altertumsforschung in Nürnberg 2010 und dem 7. Deutschen Archäologiekongress in Bremen 2011. Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie 221 (Bonn 2012) 13–25.

Kersten 1948: W. Kersten, Die Niederrheinische Grabhügelkultur. Bonner Jahrbücher 148, 1948, 5–81.

Kooi 1979: P. B. Kooi, Pre-Roman urnfields in the north of the Netherlands (Groningen 1979).

Louwen 2021: A. Louwen, Breaking and making the ancestors. Piecing together the urnfield mortuary process in the Lower-Rhine-Basin, ca. 1300–400 BC (Leiden 2021).

Modderman/Louwe Kooijmans 1966: P. J. R. Modderman/L. P. Louwe Kooijmans, The Heibloem, a cemetery from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age between Veldhoven and Steensel, prov. Noord-Brabant. Analecta Praehistorica Leidensia 2, 1966, 9–26.

Mötsch et al. 2019: A. Mötsch/M. Rageot/B. Schorer, Organic residues in pottery vessels from selected archaeological features of the Heuneburg. First results of a case study. In: Ph. W. Stockhammer/J. Fries-Knoblach

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

(eds.), Was tranken die frühen Kelten? Bedeutungen und Funktionen mediterraner Importe im früheisenzeitlichen Mitteleuropa. Internationale Konferenz, Kloster Weltenburg, 28.04.–01.05.2017. BEFIM 1 (Leiden 2019) 61–76.

De Mulder et al. 2003: E. F. J. De Mulder/M. C. Geluk/I. L. Ritsema/W. E. Westerhoff/T. E. Wong, De ondergrond van Nederland (Groningen 2003).

Nieuwhof 2015: A. Nieuwhof, Eight human skulls in a dung heap and more. Ritual practice in the terp region of the northern Netherlands, 600 BC – AD 300 (Eelde 2015).

Rageot et al. 2019: M. Rageot/A. Mötsch/B. Schorer/D. Bardel/A. Winkler/F. Sacchetti/B. Chaume/Ph. Della Casa/S. Buckley/S. Cafisso/J. Fries-Knoblach/D. Krausse/T. Hoppe/Ph. W. Stockhammer/C. Spiteri, New insights into Early Celtic consumption practices: Organic residue analyses of local and imported pottery from Vix-Mont Lassois. PLoS ONE 14.6, 2019. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0218001.

Roymans/Kortlang 1999: N. G. A. M. Roymans/F. P. Kortlang, Urnfield symbolism, ancestors and the land in the Lower Rhine region. In: F. Theuws/N. G. A. M. Roymans (eds.), Land and Ancestors. Cultural dynamics in the Urnfield period and the Middle Ages in the Southern Netherlands. Amsterdam Archaeological Studies 4 (Amsterdam 1999) 33–61.

Rüschoff-Thale 2004: B. Rüschoff-Thale, Die Toten von Neuwarendorf in Westfalen. 341 Gräber vom Endneolithikum bis in die Spätlatènezeit Bodenaltertümer Westfalens (Mainz 2004).

Scheele 2016: E. E. Scheele, The Wapse urnfield revisited: the search for groups of urnfield users (prov. Drenthe, The Netherlands). Lunula Archaeologia Protohistorica XXIV, 2016, 81–90.

Stika 2011: H. S. Stika, Early Iron Age and Late Mediaeval malt finds from Germany – attempts at reconstruction of early Celtic brewing and the taste of Celtic beer. Archaeological and anthropological sciences 3(1), 2011, 41–48.

Tol 1999: A. Tol, Urnfield and settlement traces from the Iron Age at Mierlo-Hout. In: N. Roymans/F. Theuws (eds.), Land and Ancestors. Cultural dynamics in the Urnfield period and the Middle Ages in the Southern Netherlands. Amsterdam Archaeological Studies (Amsterdam 1999) 87–132.

Verlinde 1985: A. D. Verlinde, Die Gräber und Grabfunde der späten Bronzezeit und frühen Eisenzeit in Overijssel IV. Berichten van de Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek 35, 1985, 231–411.

Verlinde 1987: A. D. Verlinde, Die Gräber und Grabfunde der späten Bronzezeit und frühen Eisenzeit in Overijssel (Leiden 1987).

Verlinde/Hulst 2010: A. D. Verlinde/R. S. Hulst, De grafvelden en grafvondsten op en rond de Veluwe van de Late Bronstijd tot in de Midden-Ijzertijd. Nederlandse Archeologische Rapporten 39 (Amersfoort 2010).

De Vries 2016: K. M. De Vries, Together apart. Iron Age deposition practice on the Fries-Drents plateau. In: A. Müller/R. Jansen (eds.), Metaaltijden 3. Bijdragen in de studie van de Metaaltijden (Leiden 2016), 97–108.

De Vries 2021: K. M. De Vries, Settling with the norm? Norm and variation in social groups and their material manifestations in (Roman) Iron Age (800 BC–AD 300) settlement sites of the northern Netherlands (Leiden 2021).

Verwers 1975: G. J. Verwers, Urnenveld en nederzetting te Laag-Spul, gem. Hilvarenbeek. Analecta Praehistorica Leidensia 8, 1975, 23–43.

Waterbolk 1957: H. T. Waterbolk, Een kringgrepurnenveld te Wapse. Nieuwe Drentse Volksalmanak 75, 1957, 42–67.

Waterbolk 1962: H. T. Waterbolk, Hauptzüge der eisenzeitlichen Besiedlung der nördlichen Niederlande. Offa 19, 1962, 9–46.

Wilbertz 2009: O. M. Wilbertz, Langgräben und Schlüssellochgräben der jüngeren Bronze- und frühen Eisenzeit zwischen Aller und Dordogne. Materialhefte zur Ur- und Frühgeschichte Niedersachsens 38 (Rahden 2009).

Wilhelmi 1976: K. Wilhelmi, Der Kreisengraben- und Brandgräberfriedhof Lengericht-Wechte (Kreis Steinfurt) 1970–1973. Bodenaltertümer Westfalens 15 (Münster 1976).

Wilhelmi 1981: K. Wilhelmi, Zwei bronzezeitliche Kreisgrabenfriedhöfe bei Telgte, Kreis Warendorf. Bodenaltertümer Westfalens 17 (Münster 1981).

Willems 1935: W. J. A. Willems, Een bijdrage tot de kennis der voor-romeinsche urnenvelden in Nederland (Maastricht 1935).

Stijn Arnoldussen (corresponding author)
Groningen University
Groningen Institute for Archaeology
Groningen
The Netherlands
s.arnoldussen@rug.nl

Karen M. de Vries
ADC ArcheoProjecten
Amersfoort
The Netherlands
k.devries@archeologie.nl

https://doi.org/10.2369/9783869354439.20-arnoldussen.devries

This volume presents the results of an international network project on Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age urnfields from northwest Europe.
Individual chapters present the archaeological material and its research history within a local, regional, or supra-regional context, demonstrating the wide range of nuances contained by the funerary phenomenon. The volume provides the first comprehensive overview of the urnfield funerary phenomenon in northwest Europe and forms the foundation for future research across national and disciplinary boundaries.
This volume successfully demonstrates that the inconspicuous urnfields of northwest Europe are not as anonymous as previously assumed but hold valuable information about life and death in the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age.

9 783869 354439

www.verlag-ludwig.de