Between Groothusen and Ribe

Key sites of early-medieval Wadden sea trade in the light of current research

Martin Segschneider, Wilhelmshaven & Morten Søvsø, Ribe
DFG SPP Harbours
"Trading-terps and Geest boundary harbours – medieval trade ports on the German North Sea coast"
Reliefbandamphore Badorfer Ware aus Groothusen, Ldkr. Aurich. Foto: R. Kiepe, NIHK.

Grabung 1955

Überreste kleiner Häuser in Stabbauweise.
Der Galgenberg in Cuxhaven-Sahlenburg

- Befestigung, 9./10. Jh.
- Siedlung, 9./10. Jh.
- Körpergräber 8./9. Jh.
- Reitergrab 8. Jh.
7th-8th C. emporia

- Royal trading places
- Coin economy
From the early 8th C. Ribe was an important emporium.

By c. 725 with a coin economy based on the wodan/monster sceatta

Ribe, Reric (Gross Strömkendorf) and Aarhus were probably Danish royal emporia inhabited by traders and specialized craftsmen, including glass bead makers.
Post Office excavation, ASR 9: 100 m² excavated.

Total number of finds: 64,765
Imported beads, 9th C.

Semi-precious stone beads

Rhenish pottery Tating Ware, Badorf Ware

Glass vessels

Reticella bowls
The layout of 8th C. Ribe
The wodan/monster sceatta (series x) replaced by denari-type coin c. 800 AD.

218 sceattas from Ribe.
All single finds
Ribe in the 9th and 10th C.
Increased traffic by trade ships along the coast led to Many new sites of which only a few are known today.

8th-9th Century AD
Henne
Local trading place
Local elite?
C. 400 pit houses
Along a road
Non agrarian settlement
Textile production
Okholm, V. Vedsted parish

Pithouses, small, non-agrarian houses
Textile production

7th-9th C.

Imports, specialized crafts, coins

Badorf ware

Loom weight

Glass bead production
Possible Contributions:

(1) to further the integration of the cultural and natural landscape heritage of the Wadden Sea Region in terms of research and management:

- Interdisciplinary research to understand the dramatic landscape changes in order to predict future developments

(2) to further developing public awareness and relevant common policy and management approaches:

- Integrate heritage management into the relevant National Park Authorities, display exhibitions on cultural history in National Park Information Centers