

Sławomir Kadrow

**Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Bernhard Hänsel**  
**(24/05/1937 – 01/04/2017)**

Nearly a year ago, on 1 April 2017, prof. Bernhard Hänsel one of the most outstanding German archaeologists died passed away in Burow, in Mecklenburg. He was born on 24 May 1937 in Stuttgart. His childhood, including the period of World War II, he spent in Dresden. He began his archaeological studies at the East Berlin Humboldt University. He continued the studies in Jena. After escaping to West Germany in 1960, he was a student of Vladimir Milošević in Heidelberg, who had a great influence on him and supervised Bernhard Hänsel's PhD thesis. His doctoral dissertation was devoted to the middle period of the Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin and defended in 1964. A year later he became an assistant at the University of Bochum. Furthermore, he received a scholarship, thanks to which he studied the chronology of the older Hallstatt period over the lower Danube and, as a result, he wrote a habilitation dissertation in 1972.

In the years 1973–1976 he was an Associate Professor at the University of Erlangen, later a Professor, becoming a successor of the famous Georg Kossack in the renowned Ur- und Frühgeschichte Cathedral at the Kiel University. While working in Erlangen he began extremely important research for the synchronization of the prehistory of Greece and the Balkans and Central Europe in the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age, i.e. excavation research in Kastanas (1975–1979).

After taking up the professorship at the Free University of West Berlin (1981–2006), he carried out field research in Feudvar in Serbia (1986–1991), interrupted by civil war in Yugoslavia. Later, he studied a tell in Agios Mamas in Greece (1994–1996) and finally he conducted excavations at the spectacular site in Monkodonja in Istria, Croatia (1997–2007).

The Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age, especially in South-Eastern Europe always remained in the centre of scientific interests of Prof. Bernhard Hänsel. He focused his attention on chronology, hoards and settlement.

He co-edited the series *Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie* for many years. He also founded the well-known series

Prähistorische Archäologie Südosteuropas. In the years 1982–2007 he was the chief editor of the prestigious journal *Prähistorische Zeitschrift*. From 1985 until his death, he edited the annual *Mitteilungen der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte*, and from 1995 the journal *Archäologisches Nachrichtenblatt*.

Bernhard Hänsel was given a title of *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Bucharest and the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He was also a member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków and the Saxon Academy of Sciences in Dresden. Unfortunately, he did not live to be lauded for the occasion of his admission as a member of the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, delivered on 4 April 2017.

Owing to his great scientific achievements, editorial work, spectacular field research and occupied positions in archaeological institutions, he exerted a huge influence on the development of German and Central European archaeology. Furthermore, he promoted a large group of recognized archaeology figures in Germany and other countries as a supervisor of doctoral dissertations and *Gastgeber* scholarship holders of the Humboldt Foundation, DAAD and others.

He was one of very few who knew the history and culture of countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe. Apart from English, French and Italian, he spoke Serbian and Russian. He showed himself to be a lover and expert on literary classics and classical music. He also was a supporter of Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophy and Waldorf pedagogy (*Freie Waldorfschule*). An outstanding archaeologist, a thoroughly educated humanist, and a Great Man has passed away.

Memoria non moriatur