THE NEBRA SKY DISC – NEW HORIZONS

In a major special exhibition, the State Museum of Prehistory will present the results of research surrounding the Sky Disc over the past 20 years and bring to life the extremely exciting phase of the Stone Age to Bronze Age transition. New finds and evidence from Saxony-Anhalt are supplemented by high-ranking loans from Germany and abroad which will be spectacularly staged.

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Detail Mold Cape, British Museum London (1900–1600 B.C.) © British Museum

Amber necklace, Dieskau (2000–1700 B.C.) © LDA Saxony-Anhalt Photo: J. Lipták

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Special Exhibition
State Museum of Prehistory Halle/D
20 November 2020 – 16 May 2021
The End of the Stone Age

Pioneering genetic research opens up a new understanding of societies at the end of the Stone Age. Communities from the Pontic steppes spread to central Europe in just a few centuries, bringing with them the wheel, the horse and wagon, but also the plague. Several centuries later, once again men immigrated from the East, whose relics are closely linked with the knowledge of ore smelting. For more than 300 years these different populations lived in peaceful coexistence. United by political will, a society emerged that established the Nebran Sky Disc as a powerful symbol. The exhibition illustrates this development with new, spectacular block excavations of grave finds, and the Pömmelte circular sanctuary which shows astonishing parallels to Stonehenge.

The Realm of the Sky Disc

With the use of bronze, authority established itself permanently in widely separated areas of Europe. In Middle Germany up to now, hierarchy and wealth were represented primarily by the magnificent tombs of Leubingen and Helmsdorf. New investigations of the large Bornböck burial mound in the rich territory of Dieskau enable a more comprehensive understanding of the central organisation of rule and its foundations.

Beyond the Horizon – Journeys to the End of the World

Current fundamental research on the origin and distribution of amber, and glass beads as well as copper, tin, and gold from which the Sky Disc has been made, point to an extensive exchange network of like-minded people. Also the search for the pioneers of this worldview leads us south far beyond the Mediterranean. Exemplary for the long-distance trade at the time of the deposition of the Sky Disc, new investigations on glass are presented, with finds from our region, southern Scandinavia, Egypt, and Mesopotamia.