

## **The coin treasure of Durmersheim**

Workers made a special find in March 1937, when they extracted sand for the Westwall facilities from a small sand pit at the Gestadebruch:

A small pot of earthenware came to light. It contained a ball of canvas in which 349 light coins were wrapped. The find was handed over to the Baden Coin Cabinet, as required by law for finds on the ground, and is now part of the finds of the Baden State Museum in Karlsruhe. Copies are exhibited in the Hardtmuseum.

Hellers are silver pennies, which were originally minted in the Reichsmünzstätte Schwäbisch Hall. The coins found in Durmersheim show a hand on one side and a cross on the other.

The pot is 14 cm high, the diameter of the opening and the foot is 6 cm, the diameter of the neck is 5.4 cm and the diameter of the belly is 7.8 cm; spiral-like hoops are drawn around the neck and the embrasure. They are Rhenish goods. The canvas in which the coins were wrapped was also still in good condition and had not rotted.

A closer examination of the 349 coins showed that they have an average silver weight of 0.55 g and are the wide hellers that were popular throughout the 13th century and are often mentioned in payment documents.

The hellers are of different ages, the older ones were minted during the reign of Emperor Friedrich I. Barbarossa (1152-1190), many of them date back to the time of Frederick II. (1212-1250), besides there are some pieces which are called "younger transition type before 1300" by numismatists. The late 13th century can therefore be considered as the time of burial of this treasure.

This numismatically based dating corresponds with the external political events of that time, which were marked by the war of Rudolf of Habsburg against Margrave Rudolf I. at that time.

The transition from Durmersheim to Baden rule in the 13th century thus seems to have been an uncertain, dangerous time for our village and our ancestors, so that a former inhabitant of Durmersheim hid his fortune in the ground, but apparently no longer came to dig it up again.