



The cave *Dreieingangshöhle*

A barn, a workshop or even more?

Two layers of occupations and two missing single finds are attested. This cave with three entrances facing south can be classified as a distinctive and comfortable place to settle down. Indeed, occupations from different times and for different reasons over longer periods of time are proven by a huge amount of fragmented pottery and thick burned layers.

(687 m above sea level; width of foyer: 7,5 m; length: 19 m)

About 300 m east of the *Kleine Scheuer*, the *Dreieingangshöhle* is situated in the *Sophienfelsen*. Its name refers to the three tapering entrances, whereas two gates lead to one entrance to the inner cave. Almost all finds date back to the Holocene. *Franz Keller* excavated the foyer in 1919 and described just two blades that are missing today and that date back to the Upper Palaeolithic as known from the *Kleine Scheuer*. For the postglacial age *F. Keller* could recover two occupation layers with traces of heat exposure on artefacts and a lot of charcoal in the foyer. Inside the cave, two single hearths were excavated. The dating of the burned layers was possibly due to pottery classification. The upper layer dates back to the late Middle Ages (1250 AD) containing vessels and a thick combusted layer, which suggest a lot of evidence that the cave was extensively occupied at that time. It is remarkable that its age almost goes together with the construction of the castle on the western rock. Due to reliable sources, caves were used as workshops and shelters for blacksmiths or shepherds and their goats. The second 0,5 m thick burned layer also suggests an intensive usage of the cave. 436 pottery fragments of the urn field culture (1200 BC) and remains of horses, cattle, brown bears and red deer in combination with hearths are clear signs of a longer settlement with household activities like butchering and cooking.

picture in the centre on the right:
burned layers in the *Dreieingangshöhle*

picture at the right bottom:
rimfragment of utilitarian pottery from the urn field culture Note the finger imprints directly under the verge.