



The cave *Kleine Scheuer*

When hunting and art met

With more than 300 lithic artefacts (mostly tools), animal bones and as a highlight a carved pendant of a botfly larva made of jet – the *Kleine Scheuer* looks back upon more than 14000 years of history. First excavations were conducted by *Robert Rudolf Schmidt* in 1916. Some finds got lost and were rediscovered 100 years later in the museum of *Schwäbisch Gmünd*. All those finds expand the knowledge of the activities around *Heubach* in the Palaeolithic.

(648 m above sea level, 26 m length)

This cave directed to the southwest at the foot of the *Rosenstein* massif was a preferred and repeatedly visited encampment of humans in the Upper Palaeolithic. Its warm setting, the wide view of the foreland and the close routes of herds of animals to their pastures lead to an attraction towards hunters and gatherers. After the excavations by *R.R. Schmidt*, *Franz Keller* continued the works in the entrance area without finding an intact stratigraphy. The stratified finds of ivory, antler, bone and lithic tools originate from the upper part of the cave behind the boulder where sediments have been bottled up. As already mentioned, the carving of a botfly larva is a unique find and the oldest known art object in the county. New scientific age determinations of a bone projectile lead to the result that homo sapiens frequented the cave in the Magdalenian about 14000 years ago. An even earlier occupation of the cave around about 30000 years ago, in the so-called Aurignacian, is not proven due to the current state of research, but there are a few artefacts which do show a typological affinity with this culture.

1. picture:

work on antler with lithic tools, preferably with burins

2. pictures of some finds:

1. jet carving of a botfly larva; this small piece (3,2 cm) was used as a personal ornament

2. This harpoon made of bone is a hint for fishing activities. Besides this piece, projectiles points for hunting wild horses and reindeer were recovered.

3. lithic tool for cutting, scraping and carving

So-called burins have also been used to produce personal ornaments. This combination of tools (burin and scraper) made on *Bohnerzjaspis* is a special piece being imported from the area around *Freiburg*.

4. blade of imported Baltic flint

5. double scraper made of local chert