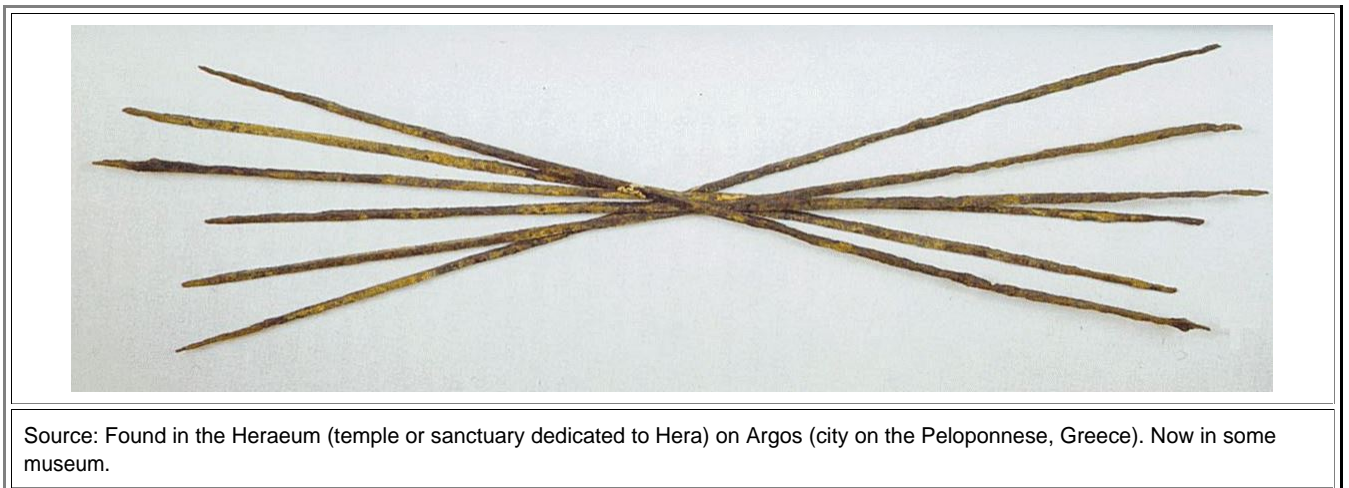
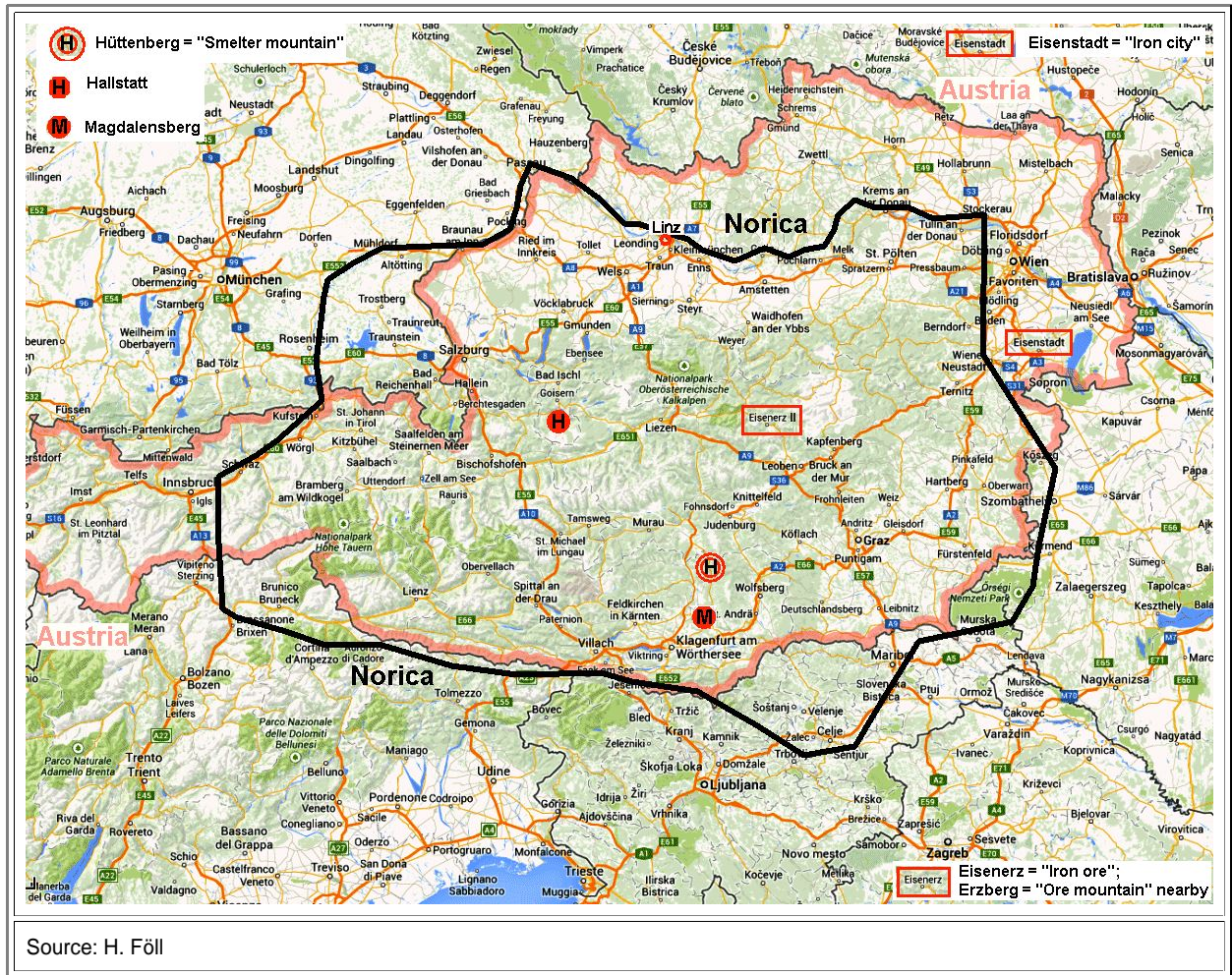


Here are some [oboli](#) or iron spits. Supposedly a kind of currency but one might have some doubts. A bit unwieldy for paying up, and not ideally shaped for making normal iron objects, e.g. knife blades. It is far easier to draw out a piece of iron by forging than to compact it again, as would be necessary here. Maybe oboli were used for [wire drawing](#)? Or for [making nails](#)?

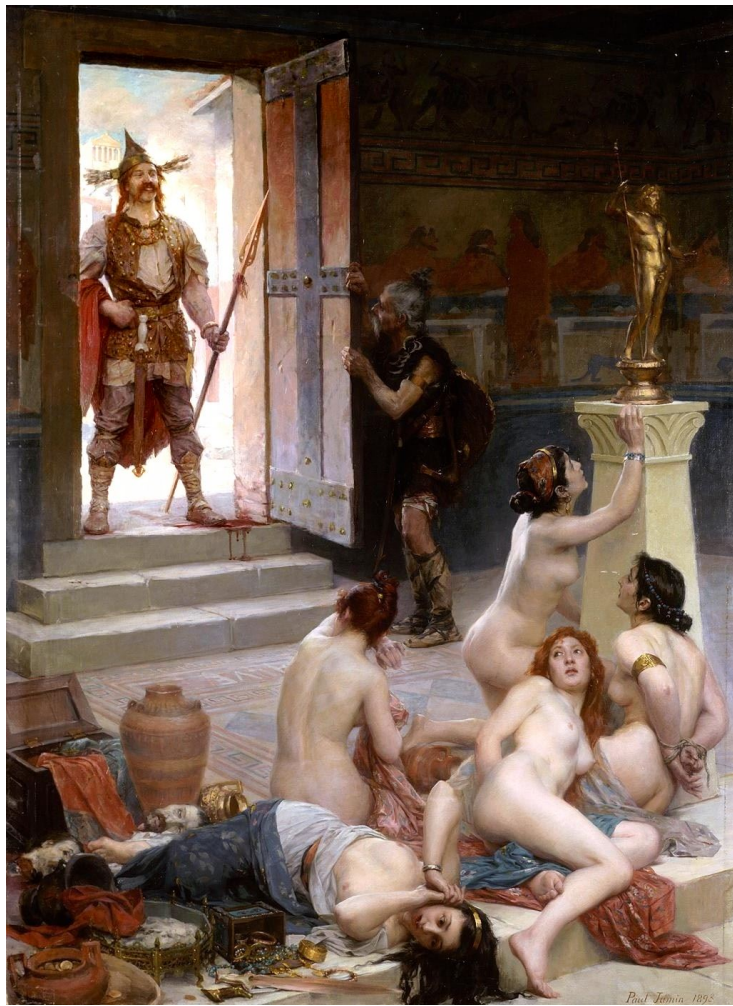


The **Noricum** of old superimposed on a modern map. Some important places are outlined. Note that the "Erzberg" on the map (indicated as Erzberg II) is a present-day town that should not be confused with "Erzberg I", not a town but the name of a mountain near Hüttenberg, and the place where the Roman activities were centered.



Plenty of places in modern Austria have an "Eisen" (=iron), "Erz" (=ore) or "Hütte" (=cottage or smelter) in their names. Just look up a large scale map of Austria. Shown here is "Eisenstadt" (iron city) close to Vienna (=Wien).

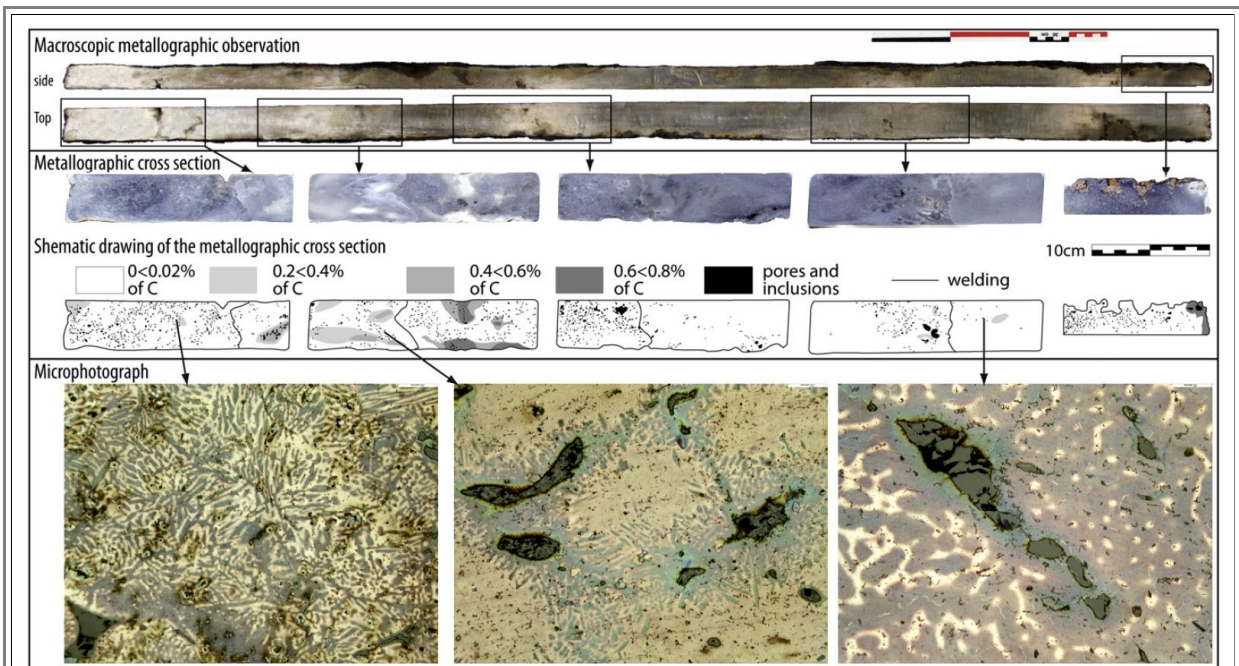
This is an interesting picture. It shows how the late 19th century French viewed the Celts, which they liked to believe were their predecessors. It has nothing to do with reality, though. It is rather mirroring the "Zeitgeist" of that epoch.



[Link to text](#)

Source: Picture from Paul Joseph Jamin, 1893; entitled "Brennus and his part of the loot". All over the Net

This composite picture is taken from [this paper](#). It shows the extreme heterogeneity of a Roman iron bar. Note the "ghost structure" in the micrograph on the right indicating phosphorous.



[Link to text](#)

Source: composed from [this paper](#).

Here are well preserved [double pyramid iron bars](#) as displayed in the Mainfränkisches Museum, Würzburg, Germany. They belonged to a hoard of a well to do Celtic trader or smith of the "late [Hallstatt](#) culture", i.e. date to around 500 BC.



Here are some Celtic [double pyramid iron bars](#) as displayed in the National Museum, Budapest, Hungary. They have a more elongated shape than the "normal" ones with flatted ends, resembling an elongated axe. The museums calls then "iron ingots found in the Danube from Dunaújváros", whatever that signifies.

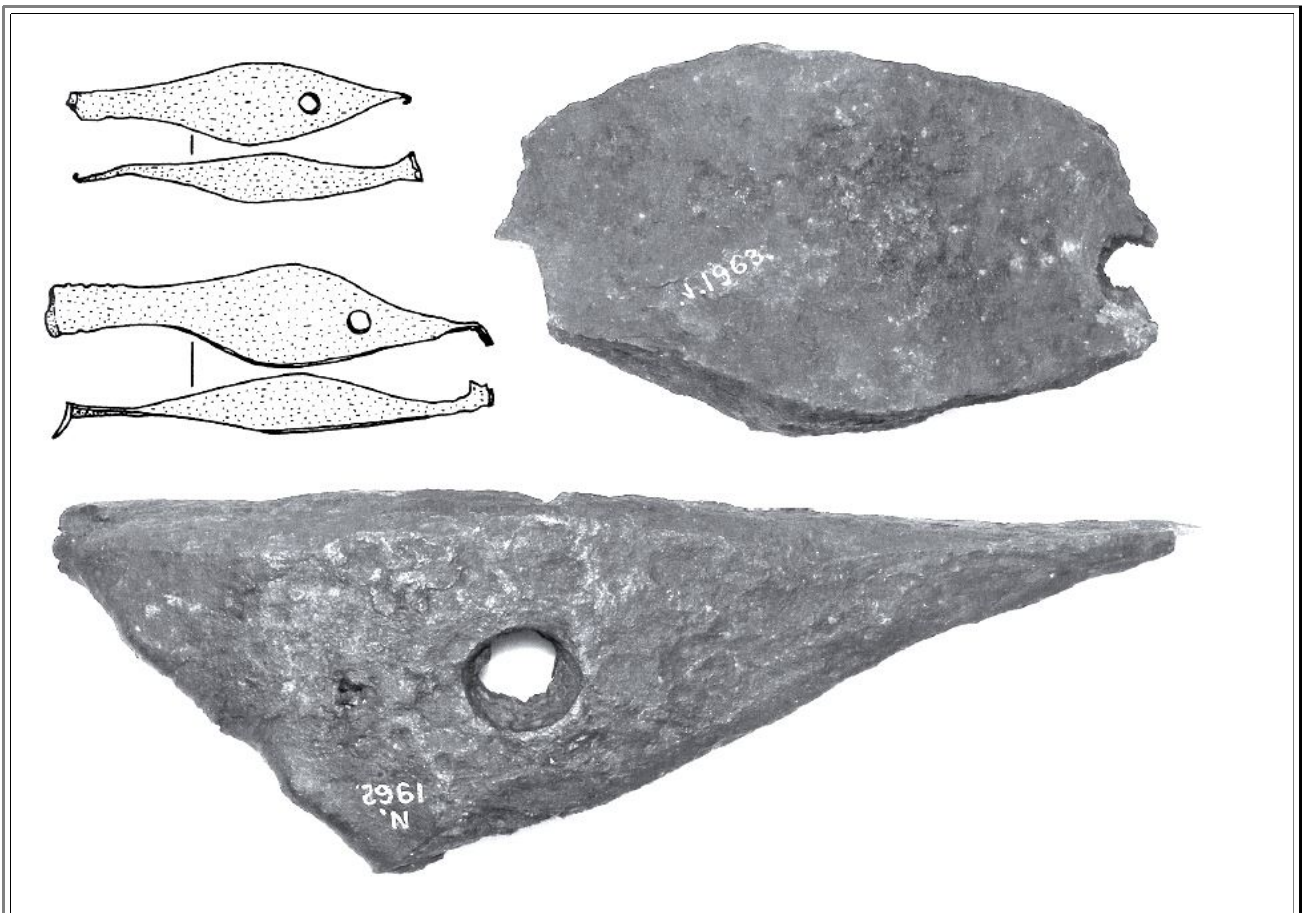


Below are some bi-pyramidal iron bars from the Khorsabad palace. (and one from Nimrud, the palace before Khorsabad)-

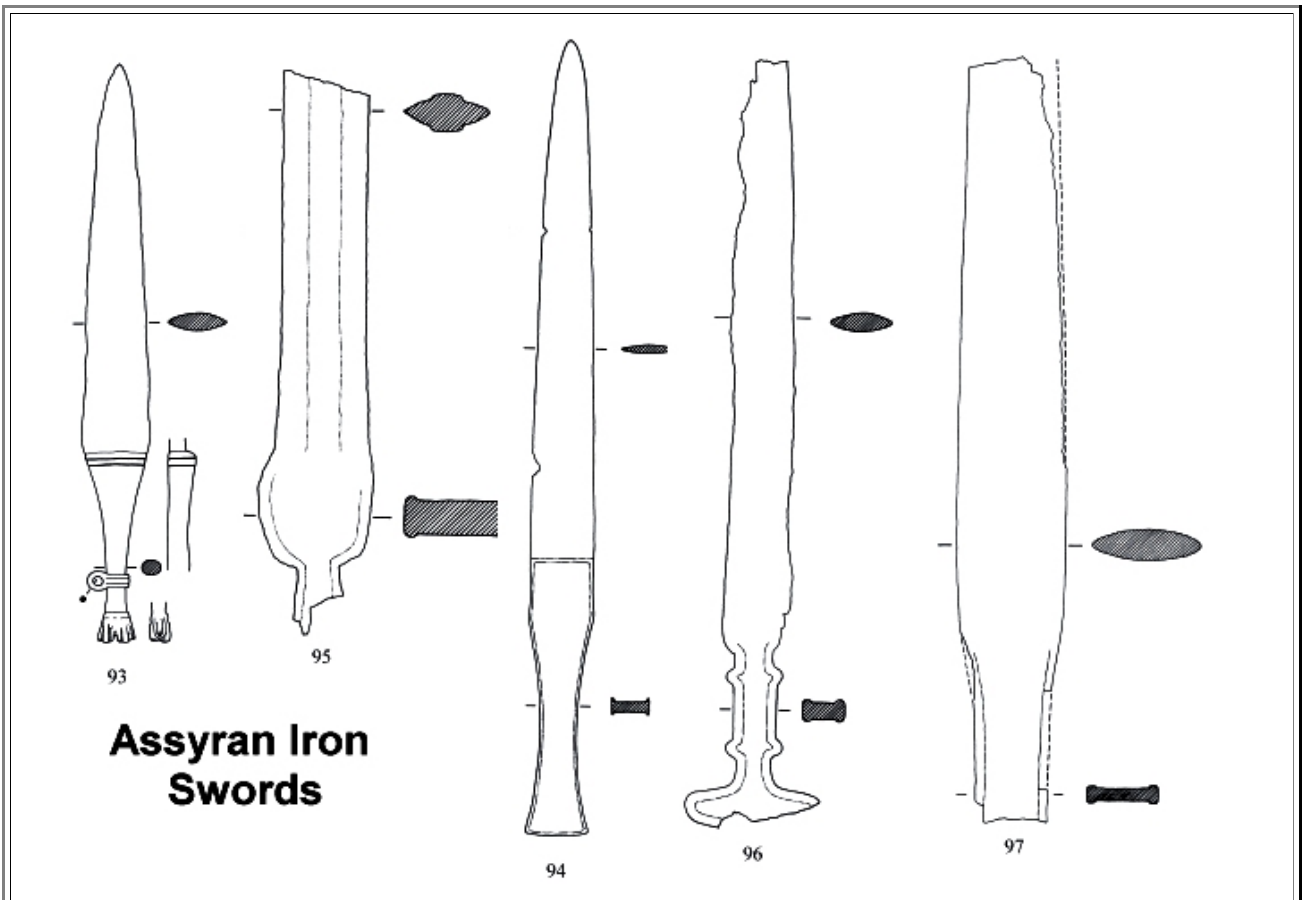


Sources:

Upper picture: Thomas Stöllner: Montan Archaeology and Research on Old Mining: Just a Contribution to Economic History? in "Der Anschnitt", Beiheft 21, Bochum 2009, pp. 149 - 178. The original picture supposedly comes from the Louvre.
Lower picture: Oriental Institute, Chicago



Sources: John Curtis' book: "An Examination of Late Assyrian Metal Work with Special Reference to Nimrud" (Oxford press, 2013).



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[Link to text](#)