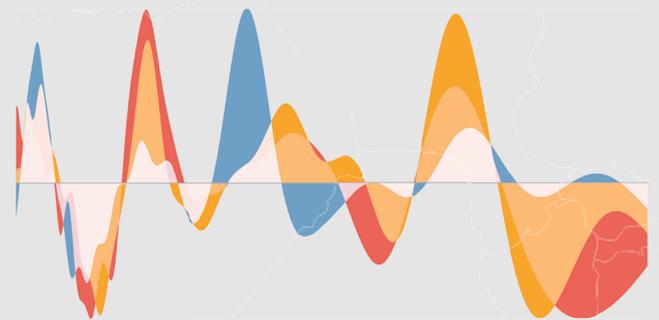


# Weights and Balances of Bronze Age Europe

by Nicola Ialongo



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# Weight & Value

Edited by Lorenz Rahmstorf  
Seminar für Ur- und Frühgeschichte  
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# Weights and Balances of Bronze Age Europe

by

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GEORG OLMS VERLAG BADEN-BADEN

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Cover:

Back cover (top): Bone balance beam: Marolles-sur-Seine, La Croix de la Mission, France (cat. no. 7).

Photo by Vincent Riquier.

Back cover (bottom, left): Bronze parallelepiped weight: Barbuise-Courtavant, Grèves de Frécul, France (cat. no. 116).

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Back cover (bottom, right): *Kannelurensteine*: Hitzacker, Germany (cat. no. 445, 463, 473). Photo by Heiko Marx.

Back cover (bottom, down): 3D reconstruction of a chipped weight (fig. 4.3). Image by Nicola Ialongo.

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## Preface by the editor of the series

“The results of researching the weights and balances develop to major implications for understanding trade, connectivity and socio-economic systems in Bronze Age Europe and beyond” and “the conclusions – based on an impressive and comprehensive analysis of the evidence at a continental and millennial scale – highlight a very different perspective from the previous regional/typological approaches.” These comments by one of the peer reviewers of the present volume, whom I thank for their very valuable help in further improving the study, characterize very well the content of the present volume.

I would like to thank Nicola Ialongo not only for this monography on Bronze Age weights and balances from Europe (without Greece) but also for his general contribution to the success of the WEIGHTANDVALUE-Project. He developed the methodological approaches further and demonstrated the metrological configuration of scrap metal from the Bronze Age. His contributions were the most valuable in the project and will still make an impact on prehistoric research in the future to come.

In the past two or three years, several fundamental publications have already appeared that deal with early weights, scales and weight systems. This is volume 3 (2022) in this series by Enrico Ascalone (Bronze Age Weights from Mesopotamia, Iran & Greater Indus Valley. *Weight & Value* 3. Kiel/Hamburg 2022; Open Access: <https://www.nomos-shop.de>), the publication (2022) of the habilitation thesis by the author of this preface

(L. Rahmstorf, *Studien zu Gewichtsmetrologie und Kulturkontakt im 3. Jahrtausend v. Chr. Universitätsforschungen zur prähistorischen Archäologie* 379. Bonn 2022; Open Access: <https://www.habelt.de/bookshop>) and the PhD-publication (2023) by Thibaud Poigt (*De poids et de mesure. Les instruments de pesée en Europe occidentale durant les âges des Métaux (XIVe-IIIe s. a.C.). Conception, usages et utilisateurs. DAN* 8. Pessac 2023; Open Access: <https://directory.doabooks.org/handle/20.500.12854/112643>). The later publication has a similar focus as this study but both were independently written and are using a slightly different approach. Both together offer new and up-to-date discussions of the current archaeological data.

Heiko Marx was responsible for the layout of this book. All figures were designed by Nicola Ialongo himself. Sandra Busch-Hellwig corrected the text on short notice. I would like to thank also all colleagues and institutions who gave Nicola access to the finds.

The next volume in this series by the editor of this series will deal with silver objects in the Copper and Bronze Age in Europe, the Mediterranean and West Asia and their potential metrological structure. In another volume in the making by L. Rahmstorf and N. Ialongo the important early weights from the Diyala excavations in central Mesopotamia will be published.

Göttingen, October 2024,

Lorenz Rahmstorf

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