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Breaking and making the ancestors. piecing together the urnfield mortuary process in the Lower-Rhine-Basin, ca. 1300-400 BC

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Citation

Louwen, A. J. (2021, June 17). *Breaking and making the ancestors. piecing together the urnfield mortuary process in the Lower-Rhine-Basin, ca. 1300-400 BC*. Sidestone Press, Leiden. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3185517>

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Issue date: 2021-06-17

Curriculum Vitae

Arjan Louwen (Rotterdam, 2 January 1986) studied 'Archaeology' at Leiden University, Faculty of Archaeology between 2004 and 2010. He obtained his bachelor's degree on 29 August 2008 and his master's degree on 3 June 2010, both degrees with specialisations in 'Prehistory of Northwest Europe.' Already as a student, Arjan worked as a field- and research assistant for Leiden University in the 'Ancestral Mounds project' of Dr. David Fontijn and as field-assistant for the commercial archaeological company Archol bv., also in Leiden. After graduation he continued working for both Leiden University and Archol bv. as a field archaeologist conducting projects all over the Netherlands. From 2012 onwards Arjan has worked full-time at Leiden University and started teaching classes in the bachelor's curriculum. In 2013 he successfully completed the 'Basic Teaching Qualification' training and in 2014 he obtained a grant in the 'Promotions in the Humanities' competition of the Dutch organisation for scientific research (NWO) which made this dissertation possible. During the research that was conducted at Leiden University he continued teaching classes in 'Landscape Archaeology' and led several excavations among which the 2017 and 2019 Field Schools. Arjan is currently still working as a lecturer at Leiden University.

Acknowledgements

Perhaps the most difficult part of writing a dissertation is not to forget anyone who was in some way involved in making this project possible. Even though it is my name that parades on the cover of this book, the work itself is derived from numerous conversations with dear people from both in- as outside archaeology. Therefore I would like to start by thanking every single person who at some point in the last couple of years had to endure my clumsy pitches about dead people from the Bronze- and Iron Age. Your listening ears, friendly conversations at the coffee machine and (whether or not mocking) smiles over a glass of beer have contributed tremendously. Another general thanks goes to all universities, archaeological companies and conference organisers who were so kind to welcome me in and to provide me with all the necessary help. I also want to thank *all* the countless colleagues in the field who regardless of weather conditions, time-pressure and tiresome bureaucracies keep on unearthing our past and providing new data about who we are and where we come from. This book could not have been written without your daily efforts.

There are still some people who I owe a great personal thanks. I would like to start with my promotor and mentor David Fontijn without whom this PhD-project would never have happened in the first place. Ever since you have taken me under your wings you have stimulated me to get the best out of myself and to walk new paths that I did not ever imagine treading. The occasional sharp comments and more-than-occasional beers at the *Leidse Lente* have helped turn this project into a book I am proud of! I really hope we can continue working together in the years to come! Thank you so much!

My roommate for years at the faculty, Quentin Bourgeois, is the next person I would like to mention. As an academic big brother, in both senses of the word, you have been an important sounding board for many a preliminary idea I concocted. I treasure the Pythonesk early morning coffees at our office when the rest of the faculty was still asleep.

I also would like to personally thank my professor of prehistory, Harry Fokkens, who was always in for a discussion about *grave matters*. The book about Marcel Mauss's monumental essay you recommended has been on my desk since day one I started working as a PhD-candidate and very much shaped my thinking about who we are as humans.

The 'prehistory-hallway' at the faculty has long been my second home and I would like to thank all the dear and colourful colleagues who made up its occupants over the last couple of years. Special mentioning need Richard Jansen and Alexander Verpoorte: thank you for many a refreshing and caring conversation!

I also had the pleasure of working together with many a great fellow PhD-student. Arjan den Braven, Nathalie Brusgaard, Harmen Huijgens, Femke Lippok, Riia Timonen, Daniel Turner, Sasja van der Vaart-Verschoof, Roosmarie Vlaskamp and all the others: You have turned writing a dissertation from a solo project into a joint effort. I have warm memories of the many ‘PhDebates’ we organised that somehow always ended in ‘PhDrinks.’

Long ago, pretty much as a wet-behind-the-ears student, I took a train to Deventer to gain some more field experience. There I met the most kind archaeologist named Ivo Hermsen. He had just excavated the urnfield of ‘Epse-Olthof Noord’ and pointed out that there was still much to discover about these peculiar cemeteries from later prehistory. I have studied urnfields ever since. If it was not for Ivo, I do not think I would ever have written a dissertation about urnfields. Thank you, Ivo! I also would like to thank Michiel Bartels from my Deventer-days for keeping me on track when I found myself on a crossroads back in the day.

Another great thanks to my old colleagues and friends from my time at Archol bv. Leiden: Minja Hemminga, Cristian van der Linde, André Manders, Lucas Meurkens, Adé Porreij-Lyklema and Maurits Pruysen. All archaeology starts in the field and archaeology is always a team effort. Lessons dearly remembered during my PhD-project.

I owe another big thanks to all the people of Sidestone press who transformed the manuscript into a colourful book, complete with the amazing Pink Floydian book cover designed by Karsten Wentink.

It has been more than sixteen years since I first entered the wondrous world of archaeology as a first year’s student and almost as long ago that I met my buddies from study Stijn van As, Bas Baaijens, Thijs Coenen, Victor Klinkenberg, Eduard Pop and Tim Verhoef. It has been a welcome relief to sit down with you guys from time to time and to scheme some “*cunning plans*.” Thank you, guys!

Much appreciated distraction and support came from my old buddies of the ‘OLK’: Gerrald van de Bunt, Maarten van Egmond, Tim van Egmond, Robbert-Jan Kamstra, Bastiaan Koutstaal, Manuel van der Krans and Sander Verhage. During my writing years we have made some great travels together and your fresh perspectives on matters have kept me and my research sharp.

Stefan and Willemijn van Dijk, our families have grown close in the last couple of years and together we discovered the pleasures and challenges of having young kids while maintaining full-time jobs. Thank you for your support, the occasional proofreading and for enduring the many spontaneous archaeological excursions during our vacations.

My dear parents, thank you for all your love and support, precious lessons in perseverance and for always making sure I had all the necessary means to *grow*.

The biggest thanks of all goes to my dear wife Henrike and my wonderful sons Jurre and Maarten. I could not have written this book without you. Thank you for your love, support and patience when my mind was preoccupied with all the things that come second in life.

“...the person I am, are the parts that I play...” as the song goes that inspired the motto of this book. For all of you, I hope I keep playing my parts well.

