

## JOURNAL REVIEW: PRAEHISTORIA NEW SERIES 1-2 (11-12)

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*The journal Praehistoria, published by the University of Miskolc and the Archaeolingua Foundation (Hungary), has started to be re-issued as a New Series in 2020. The new issue published this year (Issue 11–12) consists of twenty papers covering several periods of prehistory from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age of different regions of Eurasia. The papers' section is preceded by an Editorial by the Editor-in-chief, Árpád Ringer, and two short contributions regarding the history of Miskolc University, the XVIII UISPP World Congress, and a brief note by M. Otte on how we can fight dogmatism.*

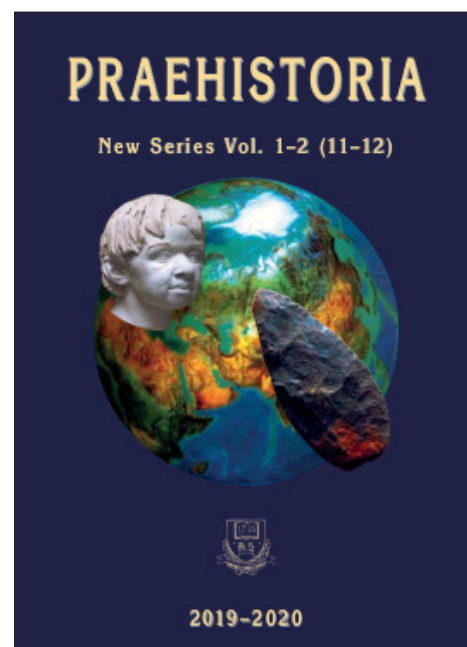
The list of scientific contributions is opened by Á. Ringer et al., who discuss the Upper Palaeolithic of the Bükk Mountains of Hungary. It focuses on the problem of the exploitation of quartz porphyry resources that the authors think took place over a long period, lasting ca. 70–80,000 years, and the discovery of two new, important Palaeolithic sites, identified after 2010 in the same region.

The first paper is followed by an interesting contribution by A. Kolesnik. It deals with the Middle Palaeolithic period in the Donbass, where 20 sites of the Eastern Micoquian cultural aspect, characterised by a systematic occurrence of leaf-shaped point assemblages, are known to date. The paper describes the finds from three sites located west of the city of Lugansk. They are considered to be the most important campsites of this cultural aspect in the region, showing the techno-typological characteristics of the artefacts in the wider context of the Middle Palaeolithic period in the area bordering the Russian Plain.

Moving ahead, M. Otte and P. Noiret report on the “Levallois and Gravettian” cultures, and the problems related to the beginning of the Upper Palaeolithic period in some regions of Eurasia. They consider not only the typology and manufacture of the lithic assemblages, but also their origin, diffusion, and the importance of burial rite characteristics and symbolic functions in the interpretation of various forms of mobile and parietal art.

Again, some aspects of the Palaeolithic period in Hungary are discussed by P. Szolyák. The paper focuses on a site discovered on Molotov Street, in the town of Miskolc, Hungary, where an assemblage with blade cores and leaf-shaped points was brought to light in 1959. Though still undated, the Miskolc – Molotov Street sequence is accurately described thanks to data acquired from the original notebook that featured detailed drawings of the site's profile and descriptions of the sediments. The assemblage is most probably to be attributed to the end of the Middle / beginning of the Upper Palaeolithic period. Its discovery opens new perspectives to the study of the spread of anatomically modern humans in this region of Central-Eastern Europe.

The paper by P. Szolyák et al. is also devoted to the Palaeolithic archaeology of Miskolc. The paper reports in detail for the first time on the results of excavations carried out at the early Epigravettian settle-



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ment of Miskolc-HEL in 1999 and 2010.

The contribution by R. Kertész and O. Demeter discusses some unique aspects of the Mesolithic in Hungary; it presents a provenance analysis of the raw material used in the manufacture of the knapped stone assemblage from Szekszárd-Palánk. The site probably dates to the very beginning of the Preboreal period on the basis of one radiocarbon result obtained from charcoal (Hv-408: 10,350±500 BP). The analysis of the lithic artefacts shows that raw material recovered from the site comes from different, sometimes distant sources, including Transcarpathian Prut outcrops. This may help interpret the mobility models of the earliest Mesolithic hunter-gatherers who settled in the Hungarian Plain in the early Holocene, just after the end of the cold Dryas III climatic period.

The paper by M. Zhilin also discusses the Mesolithic. This paper focuses on the study of bone arrows and spearheads recovered from northeast European and trans-Ural sites. Given that in many cases, these weapons show great similarities throughout the different stages into which the Mesolithic period is subdivided, in his conclusions the author emphasizes “the existence of social networks among the populations of Eastern Europe and the Urals”.

The Mesolithic period is once more in the focus in P. Biagi’s study on the discovery of a radiocarbon-dated Mesolithic site in Lower Sindh (Pakistan). The site KHD-1 is located along the left bank of the Khadeji River. Following up the geo-archaeological surveys carried out by Prof. A. R. Khan from Karachi University in the area in the late 1970s, the author points out the importance of Mesolithic settlement in this part of the Indian Subcontinent, where this topic has been neglected for a long time. The presence of many surface sites characterised by the occurrence of geometric microliths, among which are different types of lunates and trapezes, shows that early Holocene hunter-gatherers were quite active in the region during the entire Mesolithic period. This paper is followed by a short contribution by M. Otte on the Natufian in the Levant, describing the progressive sedentarisation of these people, and the variability of their burial rites.

It is well known that the knapped stone assemblages of early Holocene hunter-gatherers are characterised by a variety of geometric microliths, and that other types of these unique tools were employed also during the Neolithic and the Chalcolithic periods in most regions of Europe. The paper by A. Vybornov focuses on the Mesolithic and Neolithic geometric tools from the North Caspian Sea and the Povolzhye region in south-eastern Europe, and the archaeological cultural aspects in which they systematically occur, which the author attributes to two distinct groups called Zhekhogan and Istay, respectively.

A long and very detailed contribution by K. Zandler and T. Horváth discusses the lithic assemblages from the “multi-period settlement of Balatonőszöd-Temetői-dűlő”, where Upper Palaeolithic (Szeletian), Copper, Bronze and Iron Age structural remains were excavated. The study reports on the provenance of the raw material employed for making artefacts, provides an accurate description of the knapped stone tools, a comparison with other assemblages retrieved from Central-Eastern European sites dated to different periods, as well as a discussion of the function and hafting of some tool types, including arrowheads. The paper undoubtedly makes an important contribution to the study of the late Holocene knapped stone assemblages from this part of Europe.

An interesting paper by E. Németh and T. Fehér examines the potential hidden in the spread of microblade technology in comparison with the presence of the P1 macrohaplogroup, in order to contribute to the interpretation of its “demographic expansion and spread”. The hypothesis put forward by the two authors is thought-provoking and hopefully, further research will be conducted to achieve a better understanding of these phenomena and to provide more supporting evidence for the presented theory.

The study of solar and lunar calendars is a fascinating topic that deserves more attention. The contribution by Á. Ringer and R. Németh analyses the Late Gravettian site of the Henye Hill near Bodrogheresztúr (Hungary), where the excavations carried out in 1963 led to the discovery of a unique limestone plaquette, the subject of their paper. Its interpretation as a lunar and also solar calendar is strongly supported by the evidence discussed by the two authors, following the analytical interpretation of the incised marks all around the almost circular plaquette. Moreover, comparisons are made with other unique, decorated Late Palaeolithic artefacts and cave art motifs known from different parts of Europe, as well as with items from

the Bronze Age of the Near East.

Another paper by Á. Ringer discusses the famous Lascaux cave in France and some aspects of its parietal art, that is, its “system of symbols”. The study aims to provide a new method of defining the period during which the Late Palaeolithic shrine was in use. The author provides a detailed analysis of the distribution of different animal representations in the cave, reinterpreted as constellations painted on the walls.

Sun and bull symbols are well-known from the Bronze Age rock-art engravings in Kazakhstan and Khirghizstan. L. Hermann provides the reader with a new list of sites where the two symbols are present and concludes that they might be considered as two faces of the same mythological concept, that is, the sun-bull.

The last scholarly contribution is that of Z. Juhász. This short paper focuses on the ethnomusicology of Eurasia and its roots, raising the possibility that this discipline might contribute to the study of past migration processes.

The last piece in the issue is a brief report by A. Lamore and Z. Mester on the French-Hungarian excavations at Sajóbáony, a Middle Palaeolithic site in north-eastern Hungary.

The first volume of the New Series of *Praehistoria* includes a great variety of papers, with a clear predominance of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. Most papers focus on Central and Eastern Europe, however, contributions on Eurasia in general and on specific topics related to Asia are also present, which makes the volume really international. It deserves the attention of both professional archaeologists and a lay public.