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Edited by
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EDITORIAL PREFACE

Just about half a decade ago we have launched *Praehistoria*, a new international journal of the University of Miskolc.

This volume is a special edition as it contains issues 4 and 5 together. We are also very pleased to announce that the volume has enjoyed the support of the Council of the City of Miskolc and the Foundation for the Szeleta Culture. Although five years cannot be considered as a long period in a journal's life, we would nevertheless like to take this opportunity to thank the Editorial Board for their ideas and suggestions that have greatly helped our work. At the same time it is with deep regret that we say our final farewell to three of our close colleagues – Andor Thoma (Catholic University of Louvain), and János Harmatta and Lajos Boglár (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest).

In this issue we are remembering Ottó Herman (1835–1914), founder of the scientific study of Hungarian Prehistory and pioneer of Palaeolithic research, on the 170th anniversary of his birth and the 90th anniversary of his death.

In our third issue we presented the paradigm change that has become increasingly significant in the past couple of years in the science of prehistory – marked by the scholar Csaba Pléh's work on the latest results in Evolutionary Psychology. Following up on this study, in this volume, Vilmos Csányi, Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, evaluates the development in human behaviour from the beginning of the separation from the chimpanzees in the light of Human Ethological research.

Quaternary-specialist László Kordos has identified the same lithic industry from the Budapest Castle Cave as the one that was described by László Vértes and which was linked to the Prehistoric man of Vértesszöllös. The evaluation of the palaeontological assemblage of the "Buda Culture" provides important data for further research, as in the case of István Vörös palaeontologist, who is re-evaluating the research history and the Aurignacian bone assemblage of the famous Istállóskő Cave in the Bükk Mountains.

In Hungary there are two famous centres for Palaeolithic leaf point cultures: the Bábonyian-Szeletian from the Bükk Mountains and the Jankovichian from the Dunazug Mountains. Just as in the third issue, we are pleased to provide our readers more information on the region that is located between the Bükk Mountains and the Dunazug Mountains, and which has been poorly researched in the past. This time András Markó and Attila Péntek introduce a 200x100 m surface site with a seemingly homogeneous scattered leaf point assemblage. They bring us important new ideas on where the raw material originated from and how were they used. Needless to say, far-fetched conclusions pertaining to culture and chronology cannot be maintained by relying on surface assemblages exclusively.

A new Upper Palaeolithic site of the Bükk Mountains was found at Andornaktálya, Zúgó-dűlő. The excavation of the site was carried out as a cooperation between the University of Miskolc and the Jagiello University of Krakow. Janusz K. Kozłowski and Zsolt Mester did the archaeological interpretation, while the geoarchaeological explanation was Anna Budek's, Attila Hevesi's, Tomasz Kalicki's and Árpád Ringer's work. This site is quite special due to the high number of Silesian flint among the raw material – an indication of the intensive relations between the Palaeolithic cultures of Southern Poland and Northeast Hungary.

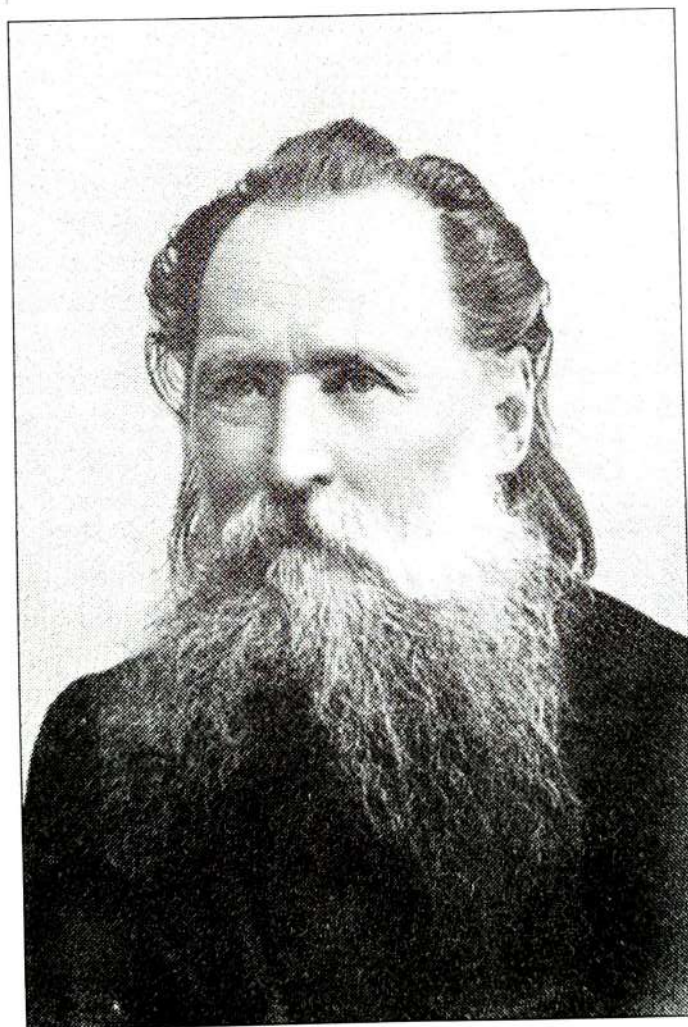
Going on to our international writers, Palolo Biagi's study is on the Mesolithic of Pakistan, but it also draws parallels with the Indian sites in Rajasthan and Guyarat. Pierre Yves Demars's essay gives us a detailed statistical analysis on the distribution of certain herbivorous species at the end of the Pleniglacial in Middle and Western Europe. The articles by Maja Pawłowska, Stanisław Petrykowski

and Pawel Valde-Nowak, and V. Usik, L. Koulakovskaya, K. Monigal, N. Gerasimenko and N. Kovaliukh introduce us to the most recently found Palaeolithic sites in the surrounding regions.

The last article is Árpád Ringer's report on the excavation of the Palaeolithic flint mine at Avas Hill, Miskolc during 2004–2005. The volume concludes with book reviews on some special publications.

On the last note, we would like to apologize to our contributors, who had to wait a considerable time to see their work published in the journal, and to our readers as well, who had to wait longer than usual for the appearance of this double issue. We wished to present the very latest results of ongoing excavations, which naturally implied that the journal's publication date had to be extended. We sincerely hope to keep to our annual publication dates in the future.

Árpád Ringer
Erzsébet Jerem, Zsolt Mester



*Ottó Herman (1835–1914),
the last Hungarian Renaissance man,
pioneer of Hungarian Palaeolithic research and the scientific study of Prehistory.*