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Edited by
Árpád Ringer



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Front cover illustration:

The face of a Neanderthal child from Suba-lyuk Cave,
Hungarian Natural History Museum. Reconstruction and photograph by Gy. Skultéty.
The cleft of the Bársony house found in 1891, Hungarian National Museum.
Photograph by G. Kulcsár.

Back cover illustration:

The entrance of the Szeleta Cave, viewed from the inside.
Photograph by Csaba Baráz, Directorate of the Bükk National Park.

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EDITORIAL

Praehistoria, a journal on Prehistory published jointly by the University of Miskolc and Archaeolingua Foundation, was launched in 2000. The first volumes presented research results on the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods, covering a huge geographic area and a wide range of topics. Volume 6 put out the papers of an international conference on flint mining, held in Miskolc in 2006; volume 7–8 was dedicated to the life's work of Ursula and Dietrich Mania. In volume 9–10 we published papers presented at a 2007 conference commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first excavations undertaken in the Szeleta Cave.

After a few years' hiatus following the release of the last volume, we decided to continue the journal in a different, updated form, partly drawing on experience gained from similar periodicals. Thus, the present and future volumes take a broader scope in terms of both methodology and chronology. Since the discovery of Göbekli Tepe it has been in the focus of scholarly discussions how the emergence of human civilization at the end of the Ice Age – well before food production and settlement – may be interpreted. The question how and to what extent the cultural heritage from Upper Palaeolithic societies – now considered to have been rather hierarchical – was transferred to those in the later periods of Prehistory, has been a hot topic as well. Just to mention a few key issues, the question of figurines of the late Palaeolithic as reflections of religion and culture, the technical innovations in tool production, or the appearance of monumental stone carvings and megaliths, are themes that still offer a lot to explore.

In the first volume of our new series the chronology ranges from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age, with a special emphasis on the Mesolithic period. The studies focus on Eurasia, from the Atlantic Ocean to Pakistan; a number of papers deal with Eastern Europe and Middle Asia. The topics cover a huge spectrum from the use of stone raw materials, the typology of tools, and the analysis of their technology, to the relationship of calendrical systems to religions. Compared to papers published previously in Praehistoria, the articles on the possible connections between the ancient music of Eurasia and North and South America, or on the spread of haplogroup P1 in correlation with technological innovations, present considerable novelties in terms of their subjects.

This multidisciplinary journal will be published annually in the future. We are encouraging all our readers to consider publishing with us, and thus contribute to the dissemination of knowledge of Prehistory.

Árpád Ringer
Editor-in-chief