

PRAEHISTORIA

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Edited by
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EDITORIAL PREFACE

Praehistoria, a periodical about Prehistory edited by the University of Miskolc, was launched in 2000 and the present volume is the second in the series. As with every new publication, it seeks to show its character, to find its place in the international arena of prehistoric research. The place designated to the periodical by the founders was delineated in the program expounded in the 1st number. We try to realise the purposes determined in the program through the thematic diversity of the articles we publish.

Our major aspiration is to emphasise the multidisciplinary character of the study of the Prehistory through papers on the results and methods of as many branches of science as possible. The first number contained studies on the history of research, quaternary geology, palaeodemography, palaeoanthropology, raw material economy, palaeolithic archaeology and prehistoric art. This second number widens the scope of the periodical with a few new fields: geochemistry (V. Chirica & M. Văleanu), technology (P.-J. Texier, E. Leon Canales) and palaeolinguistics (A. Künnap). We try to broaden the geographical range as well moving beyond Europe and casting a glance at the prehistory of other continents. V. Ranov's and S. Pappu's articles discuss two not very distant territories of Asia – the palaeolithic of Tajikistan and India. P.-J. Texier guides us in the eastern African origin of human civilisation. E. Leon Cannales expounds on one of the most exciting cultures of the South American Late Palaeolithic.

Beside widening our scope, we try to create “traditions” within the recurrent topics. The correlation of loess sediments and palaeolithic settlements was illustrated by an example from Normandy (France) in the first number. This time, Tajikistan will be discussed from the same viewpoint (V. Ranov). K. Valoch, V. T. Dobosi and G. Fuchs each provided the summary description of a single region in the previous number. Now, M. Lenoir discusses the Magdalenian of the Dordogne and Garonne valleys. M.-H. Moncel and J. Svoboda, at the same time, each concentrate on the description of a prominent site.

The program of the periodical includes the introduction of institutions and initiatives the objectives of which aim at high-level presentation of the scientific results to the public. We would especially like to offer an opportunity to these institutions and initiatives since we set a high value on the efforts that can add to the general recognition of science. In this respect, three examples are presented from France (S. Maury), Germany (S. Kölbl & N. J. Conard) and Hungary (E. Jerem, K. Müller & Zs. Vasáros).

From this number onwards, we would like to present a regular book review section, since these are important elements of communication between specialists. We would gladly accept help from editors who could send their publications for review in our journal and from colleagues who can prepare reviews.

Finally, we would like to thank the authors who contributed to this number and the realisation of our program with their studies. We hope that other colleagues will join them in the future and, with their co-operation, the *Praehistoria* will be able to develop its own distinctive image and thereby find its proper place in prehistoric studies.

The Editors