

LANDSCAPE IDEOLOGIES

**Edited by
THOMAS MEIER**



BUDAPEST 2006

Contents

Cover image:
The Altmühltal near Kinding, Bavaria: The confluence of the Altmühl, Anlauter and Schwarzach is likewise an especially rich archaeological landscape as it is highly economized. The A9 motorway, one of the most important German traffic routes, and the building site of a new high-speed railway, both inflicted with a huge Hallstatt barrow cemetery as well as with further cemeteries and numerous settlement structures nearby, are located in the centre. A rescue excavation and a survey have shed light on one of the now best-known archaeological areas of Bavaria. They demonstrate tremendous human changes in the landscape since prehistoric times, causing large-scale erosion and the degradation of the soils. Today's forests were planted only in modern times; economizing the valley as a traffic route, and using it as an industrial estate and agricultural area are also recent developments (© by Thomas Meier 2004).

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Preface..... 7

THOMAS MEIER

On Landscape Ideologies: An Introduction..... 11

The Ideologies of Landscape in the Field of Archaeology

ULF ICKERODT

The Term "Cultural Landscape"..... 53

OLENA V. SMYNTYNA

Landscape in Prehistoric Archaeology:
Comparing Western and Eastern Paradigms 81

GRIETJE SUHR

Settlement-, Environmental- and Landscape Archaeology
in Eastern Central Europe between Anglo-American Influence
and Communist Ideology..... 97

The Practice of Landscape Ideologies

MARTIN GOJDA

The Archaeology of Lowlands:
A Few Remarks on the Methodology of Aerial Survey 117

ADRIENE BARON TACLA

Debating the *Fürstensitz* Model:
Prolegomena for New Directions in the
Archaeology of West Hallstatt Societies 125

MATTHEW LEIGH MURRAY

Place Names and Folk Landscapes in Southern Germany
as Archaeological Resources 155

The European Landscape Convention – Opportunities and Hazards

GRAHAM FAIRCLOUGH

Our Place in the Landscape? An Archaeologist's Ideology
of Landscape Perception and Management 177

ANDERS HÖGBERG

The EU: In Need of a Supranational View of Cultural Heritage..... 199

BIRGITTE SKAR

The Challenge of Bridging the Gap between Landscape Theory
and Practice: Establishing Cultural Heritage Monitoring,
the DEMOTEC Example..... 209

RICCARDO LORENZI – MARINELLA PASQUINUCCI –
ORESTE SIGNORE

Tuscany: Historical Landscapes as Cultural Heritage..... 229

Appendix: The European Landscape Convention 247

About the authors..... 257

Preface

This book springs off a session on “Landscape ideologies”, which was organised by Erzsébet Jerem, Budapest, and myself, at the 11th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists held in Cork, Ireland, 5–11 September 2005. The session took place on Friday afternoon and was attended by about 200 delegates. Their vivid interest was reflected in numerous questions and the lively discussions ended up in a 60-minute delay at the end of the session. So first of all my thanks go to the Cork organizing committee for accepting our session proposal and for brilliantly organizing the meeting – just as they did so for the whole conference, which was an exciting and great experience for all the participants.

Most of the papers – some of them in a revised or enlarged version – can now be presented to a wider academic public. Unfortunately and for different reasons it has not been possible to include the contributions by John Bintliff and John Maloney as well, which I do regret very much!

On the other hand, the reader will find some additional papers here, which have not been delivered at Cork. They have been offered by colleagues from a number of European countries, working on issues of landscape archaeology as well and equally tackling the question of underlying ideologies. So, apparently these contributions are of great relevance to the subject, likewise widening the ideological and geographical scope of this volume.

As many papers refer to the European Landscape Convention directly, opened for signature at Florence in 2000, and as this convention, however, is still hardly known to archaeologists, it is reprinted in an appendix.

My very cordial thanks go to Erzsébet Jerem for all her help and engagement in the preparation and conduct of the Cork session as well as for accepting this volume in the Series Minor of *Archaeolingua*. Moreover I would like to deeply and thankfully acknowledge the work of Réka Benczes from *Archaeolingua*, who did final amendments in order to present this book in readable English and who greatly supervised the production process. My last “Thank you”, however, goes to all of the authors for the many valuable, interesting and thought-provoking papers – and for their good, trustful and considerate cooperation in meeting all my never-ending editing requests. I am sure the reader will be able to fully enjoy and acknowledge their work.