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ARCHEOlogija 46

Lietuvos istorijos institutas

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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

In your hands you hold the commemorative 46th volume of *Lithuanian Archaeology*, which is devoted to the prominent Stone Age researcher, Dr habil. Rimutė Rimantienė, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 25 October. This rare achievement has provided a superb occasion to publish an archaeology anthology that harmoniously combines the authors' personal memories of the honouree, reports on scientific research, and insights and thoughts into what archaeology means to non-archaeologists.

After obtaining her first knowledge about our oldest past from her father, the historian Konstantinas Jablonskis, Rimutė Rimantienė dug deeper by attending the lectures of the father of professional archaeology in Lithuania, Prof. Jonas Puzinas at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas and later at Vilnius universities. Her surviving lecture notes and each of the professor's recorded words speak to the dialogue between teacher and student that has left traces, still visible, in the history of Lithuanian archaeology. This academic thread began in a room of the library of Jonas Puzinas, which was witness to not only seminars, but also festive moments around a hot 'samovar' and spinning records. Perhaps this is why Rimutė Rimantienė's books and articles combine academic thinking with knowledge-based scientific intuition and an artistic inclination to discover, to feel, and to tell all about it. An understanding of what the Stone Age was, of what occurred during it, and of what we have discovered in investigating it today is the legacy of the honouree as well as of her students and followers.

The volume's introduction is an inspiring conversation with Rimutė Rimantienė, which is accompanied by the recollections of Jonas Beran, an archaeologist from Germany, about meeting the honouree and his impressions of Lithuania, which

was taking its first, danger and tension fraught steps towards independence, and of his expedition to Šventoji.

The academic part of the publication presents scientific articles devoted to investigations of the Stone Age in Lithuania and beyond its borders and to the archaeology of the post-Christian period. The articles of this volume encompass not only Lithuania but also the region beyond its boundaries in an effort to place our country's Stone Age material in a European context.

Gabrielė Gudaitienė's article returns us to the time when Rimutė Rimantienė and her father used to search for archaeological sites. One of their finds was the Eiguliai Late Palaeolithic old settlement. The article's author, working personally with Rimutė Rimantienė, re-evaluated the collected archaeological material and showed that this archaeological site can justifiably be called a classic example of Swiderian culture. The article updates the information about hearths, the remains of buildings, and flint knapping areas, and raises a question about their interpretation. It is interesting that people were already at that time able to make use of imported raw materials for tool production.

The Mesolithic theme is continued in an article by colleagues from Germany, Andreas Kotula, Thomas Terberger, and Henny Piezonka, about the Groß Fredenwalde cemetery and the cultural ties of the adjacent community. The authors compared the material from this important cemetery with archaeological data for the neighbouring and more distant regions. Rather than blindly examining burial features for parallels, they interjected them into the cultural context, accenting that the hunter-gatherer customs reflected the general features of Late Mesolithic funeral rites, but with a certain eastern influence, which was felt and commented upon. The

exceptional example was a male burial where the individual had been interred vertically.

Following articles focus on both investigations of specific Stone Age artefacts and a theoretical evaluation of the development of the Neolithisation processes.

Vygandas Juodagalvis, in discussing with the reader what, in his opinion, is a type, proposes rethinking the typology and terminology of perforated ground stone axes and presents an idea for a new typology classification. He philosophically asserts that an artefact's individual features need to be kept in mind. The only way to do this is to formulate a logical, correct, verbal definition-type for the artefact. The article also acquaints readers with some technical aspects of the decoration and production of axes.

Eglė Šatavičė's article examines SE Lithuanian Neolithic ceramics and distinct lifestyle features of the communities that produced it. It raises a question, hitherto not properly investigated in Lithuanian archaeology, about the possibility of using the term 'Ceramic Mesolithic' or 'Subneolithic' in SE Lithuania and the distinct Neolithisation features in this region. In analysing the traces of use, ceramic structure, and construction and ornamentation technologies of clay vessels as well as the changes to these and the reasons for them, it is possible to better understand the traditions of the Neolithic forest communities as well as the impact of various influences in SE Lithuania. The author stresses that a static connection between genetics and language, culture, and lifestyle cannot qualitatively explain complex social and cultural processes. Neolithisation need not be connected with just agriculture and the domestication of animals or an influx of immigrants: changes cannot be spread just through force; reaction is also important. The old hunter-gatherer society had to become mature and motivated to accept new things.

The Neolithisation theme continues in the article by Sławomir Kadrow, only in this case discussing the region of SE Poland and cultural processes at the

micro- and macro-levels. The author supports the globalisation version, but accents the significance of conflict in the critical stages of the cultural processes. In his opinion, globalisation is a way of maintaining sociality and interrelationships. There is a price, which people pay in a desire to obtain access to the resources they need to satisfy their hunger for status and prosperity. Thus, people, in perceiving each other's intentions and aspirations, are drawn into conflicts, which can become one of the reasons for crises and fundamental cultural changes.

Grzegorz Osipowicz, Justyna Orłowska, Gytis Piličiauskas, Giedrė Piličiauskienė, and Mariusz Bosiak investigate the Subneolithic production technology used for bone artefacts and raise a question concerning their use. 17 bone arrowheads and harpoon heads from the Šventoji settlement complex were examined using a microscope. This was the first such thorough traceological examination of the bone points and harpoon heads discovered there. They revealed that in producing these different types of artefacts, very similar production technologies were used and only the most necessary procedures requiring the least effort were performed in their production. This should allow one to state that the majority of the examined artefacts are tools used in the home and in everyday activities and not in connection with cult rites. A SEM-EDX analysis showed that a metal instrument was used for decorating the harpoon head.

The article by Frederic Surmely discusses the selection of special raw flint and the prehistoric technologies used to produce flint artefacts. The author shows that such criteria were important in the search for raw material and in how prehistoric people evaluated and used the natural environment for their own needs.

The themes of part of the post-Christian archaeology articles employ interdisciplinary archaeolandscape research in the investigation of the topic of settlements and their landscape.

The article by Rokas Vengalis, Jonas Volungevičius, Gintautas Vėlius, Albinas Kuncevičius, Justina Poškienė, and Regina Prapiestienė is devoted to one of Lithuania's classic sites, the Kernavė archaeological complex. The article investigates the anthropogenic effect on the landscape and the consequences of the construction of the 13th–14th-century castle. It raises an intriguing question as to whether the hillfort hills were man-made. The authors come to an amazing conclusion that the loss of the administrative significance of Kernavė Castle and city in the late 14th century could have been caused by erosional process created by precisely that human activity. Thus the article forces one to consider that just like the cause for the appearance of certain cultural phenomena, so too the cause for their disappearance was the people themselves.

Andra Simniškytė presents the results of the archaeological investigation of Kupiškis (Aukštupėnai) hillfort, which employed interdisciplinary investigations to evaluate how they correspond to the assumptions about this hillfort and explain the stages in the hillfort's settlement. It turns out that the earlier theory that the hillfort was the site of a castle defending against the Teutonic Knights was not confirmed as the hillfort was inhabited only until the 10th century. The interdisciplinary investigations showed that the hillfort's status in Late Prehistory was not ordinary and that it came into existence not because of steady development as the ordinary adjacent settlement gradually grew into a significant centre, but perhaps due to the decrees of an elite who were mature in respect to social organisation and acting deliberately.

In the Section *Alternative Perceptions of Archaeology* the reader encounters the thoughts of Šarūnas Radvilavičius about time travel. This is a text about the link between archaeological science and criminology, but its essence lies in another sense. This is the idea that all of us professional archaeologists were encouraged to become one through the childhood

digging of holes in our backyards (at least that is what happened to me) in a search for gold or treasure. For some, these 'excavations' were not enough and they entered the field of archaeological science. For others archaeology is still their first love: pure, hopelessly romantic and therefore always remembered with pleasant nostalgia. Archaeology is a possibility to at least in part realise another eternal dream of humanity, i.e. time travel because archaeologists touch the past, frozen in time.

In the section, *Discussions*, we have printed a thorough text by Inga Merkytė about the present-day third revolution in the science of archaeology, i.e. the groundswell of DNA analyses. The author's ideas about genomes are like a discussion of discussions, inviting and setting forth all of the for and against arguments. In this text, the reader will find various accents reflecting fashions in archaeological science and their effect on the further perspective. I expect that Lithuanian scientists, who, through their investigations several years ago, have successfully joined the ranks of DNA researchers, will also join in this discussion. The purpose of this section is to openly express one's opinion. This step is to start conversations and communication in order to find a balance between those holding one or another view.

Rokas Vengalis reviews a book by Algimantas Merkevičius (print run: 30) about Bronze Age settlements and evaluates the importance of a catalogue of Bronze Age archaeological sites as well as their purpose and significance for the book's future readers. The reviewer agrees that statements that we so far have no data about this period's open settlements are incorrect, which this catalogue prepared by Merkevičius *et alii* clearly proves. But the reviewer, after evaluating all of the work the book represents, wonders whether this large format, 1292 page book with such an extensive scope that it is difficult to lift, is usable and suggests the publication of such data should move on to the more ordinary variant of an electronic catalogue.

This volume ends with a new section, *Scientific Projects*, which acquaints readers with the scientific goals of Lithuania's archaeologists and with new investigations.

All of the texts printed in this volume mesh meaningfully with one another, echoing in a way Rimutė Rimantienė's phrase: archaeology is like encountering a secret. May there be many more secrets out there that open the door for new and unexpected discoveries.

*Agnė ČIVILYTĖ,
Editor-in-Chief*