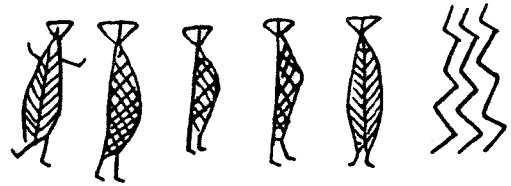

MESOLITHIC MISCELLANY

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UNION INTERNATIONAL DES SCIENCES PREHISTORIQUES ET PROTOHISTORIQUES
COMMISSION #14

Volume 2, Number 1 MAY 1981

Editorial

Study of the Mesolithic period appears to be going on at a tremendous rate at present and the amount of literature devoted to the subject is ever expanding. Clearly the Mesolithic is coming out of the dark ages and quarantine to which it was assigned for so long. Because of the information explosion that is taking place, I would urge everyone to forward the bibliographic data on all new publications so that they may be listed in this newsletter.

I think that the amount of information in this issue is a testimony to the dynamic nature of the period that we study. If there does appear to be a slight bias toward northern Europe in this issue, it is only a reflection of the contributions that have arrived. I have placed all the reports and reviews received by May 1 in this issue.

There were apparently no responses to the STATEMENT FOR DEBATE section from November. In spite of this lack of reply, I will continue this section as a means of airing controversial issues in the hope of occassionally stirring debate. I have asked Paul Mellars to write a definition of MESOLITHIC for the November issue.

I would like to remind the individuals that have volunteered to prepare national synopses of Mesolithic research that these reports will appear in the May, 1982, issue. It isn't too late to begin gathering material. Others interested in writing such research and literature summaries should let me know. The list of present volunteers for this section of the newsletter appeared in the November, 1980, issue.

A note with regard to subscriptions. Our costs for duplicating and mailing the newsletter, both in the U.S. and in Great Britain, slightly exceed the income from the subscriptions, assuming that everyone sends their subscription. This is often not the case and I would like to urge you if you have not done so to mail your subscription as soon as possible so that the newsletter may continue without delay.

Finally, I would like to thank all those individuals who have contributed to the success of the issue before you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new publication of potential interest appeared for the first time in December of 1980. The Quarterly Review of Archaeology is a newspaper-format periodical focused on reviews of books, articles, journals, and the like. Coverage is world-wide and the reviews are of particular interest because of their length. The Quarterly Review of Archaeology appears four times a year and is available from The Editor, Quarterly Review of Archaeology, P.O. Box 634, Williamstown, Massachusetts, USA 01267.

* * *

The proceedings of the second international symposium on the Mesolithic, held in Potsdam in 1978, are now published and available. Copies have been distributed all participants. The title and other pertinent information are:

Gramsch, B. (ed.), 1981. Mesolithikum in Europa. 2. Internationales Symposium Potsdam, 3. - 8. April 1978. Bericht. Veröffentlichungen des Museums für Ur- und Frühgeschichte Potsdam. Vol. 14-15. Berlin. VEB Deutscher Verlag der Wissenschaft. 472 pp., 243 figures, 58 tables. 95 DM.

The volume may not be ordered directly from the Museum in Potsdam but must be ordered through a book dealer. For archaeologists and students with a particular interest in the Mesolithic the Museum in Potsdam will make available 30 gratis copies. Interested individuals should write directly to the Museum and copies will be distributed to the first thirty individuals who write.

Prof. Bernhard Gramsch
Museum für Ur- und Frühgeschichte Potsdam
Schloss Babelsberg
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DDR

* * *

The following institutes or individuals have subscribed to the newsletter as of 1 May. Numbers in parentheses following the names indicate those persons who have volunteered to translate a few pages a year. (4) Polish

P.M. Dolukhanov	T. Jacobsen	J.A.S. Evans
D. Lubell	A. Siiriainen	John Mercer
P. Bogucki (4)	D.S. Reese	Universitetets Oldsaksamling, Library
K. Furbish	J. Purcell	D.W. Frayer
V. Boroneant	C. Paludan-Müller	C. Perles
E. Guralnick	Bibliothek, Archaologishes Institut, Hamburg	A.J. Jelinek

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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Pirnay, L., & H.-C. Straet, 1978. "Le site mesolithique des Mazures (commune de Pepinster, province de Liege, Belgique)." BSPF 75(10): 327-340.

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Kozłowski, S.K. 1980. Atlas of the Mesolithic in Europe (First Generation Maps). Warsaw, University Press.

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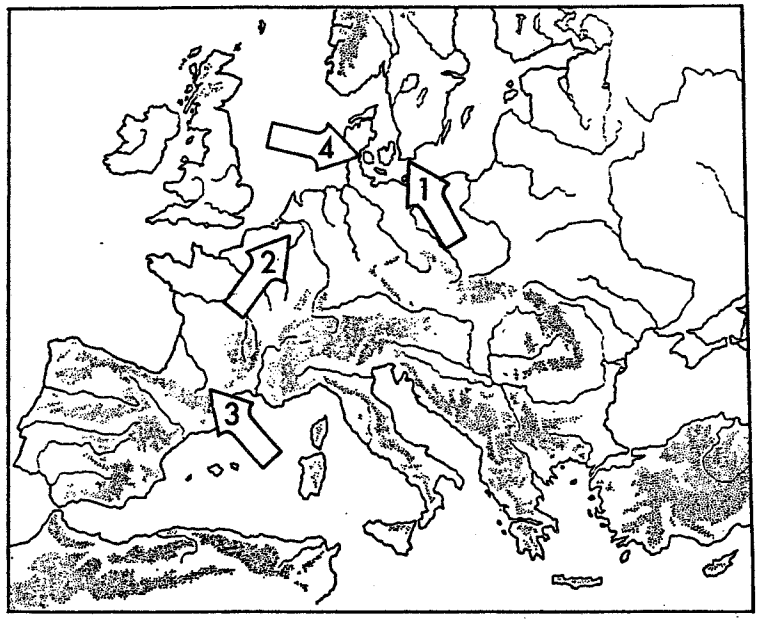

Location of sites mentioned in this newsletter.

1	Skateholm	3	Mas d'Azil
2	Weelde-Paardsdrank Schulen Neerharen-De Kip	4	Tybrind Vig

RESEARCH REPORTS

The Mesolithic Settlement and Graveyard from Skateholm, Southern Sweden

In the spring of 1980, a test excavation was carried out on a sandy hill at Skateholm, Southern Scania. In the autumn of the previous year, the place had been noticed by the author for its numerous surface finds. Already on the first day of the excavation, it became clear that the place held some very interesting information about the Late Mesolithic. An occupation layer containing well-preserved bone material and a grave covered by a thin occupation layer were found. The excavation continued for the entire summer.

At the time of occupation, about 4000 b.c., when the sea level was 3 m higher than today, the settlement was located on a small island in a lagoon. The settlers had access to fresh water in a few rivers flowing out into the lagoon, the brackish water in the lagoon, and the salt water of the Baltic. Bones of fish from these environmental zones as well as plenty from grey seal, which could be clubbed on the banks in the mouth of the lagoon, are represented. Several species of waterfowl as well as raptorial birds have been identified. Animals of the forest, such as red deer, wild boar, roe deer, brown bear, beaver, wild cat, marten, and otter are present.

The occupation layer covers an area of more than 300 m^2, although the total distribution is not completely known. Besides the faunal remains, flint, antler, and bone artifacts have been found. Most numerous are the transverse arrowheads, but flake axes, pecked axes, and scrapers, burins, and knives made on flakes, are also represented. The thickness of the occupation layer shows great variation. Below the occupation layer several post-holes were documented. Because of the limited excavation area, no pattern could be observed in the holes. At the top of the hill where the occupation layer probably was washed away during a transgression from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic, a shallow pit was found, measuring 11 x 7 m. It may represent some kind of a hut.

Altogether some 10 graves were found in 1980. The first grave turned out to be a complex of two graves, one dug after the other. Both contained men, one in a hocker position, placed on the side, and the other in a half-sitting hocker position. Plenty of ochre was found in the latter grave and a flint blade in the former. A third grave held a man aged 40-50 years, placed in a hocker position. A fourth grave also contained a man in hocker position. Close to the right elbow, a transverse arrowhead was found. A flint blade was found at the top of the neck. A dark colored area was documented close to the legs. This area contained bones from roe deer, eel, pike, herring, and roach. These remains probably represented food for the journey. A fifth buried individual is probably a man. He was placed in a supine position, with his head placed high up on the grave wall. A bone artifact of unknown function was found close to his left leg. The sixth grave contained a woman in a sitting position with the upper part of the body covered with plenty of red ochre. A half jaw of a grey seal was found close to the head. A second woman was also placed in a sitting position and covered with ochre. Some twenty perforated front teeth from the wild boar were found at her hip. Some teeth were also found near her head. In her pelvis region, rib bones and vertebrae, beloning to a fetus of a newborn child were found. One grave also was found when excavating the occupation layer. Only the teeth from a 4-5 year-old child were represented. Another grave was also situated below the occupation layer. It contained a dog in a kind of hocker position covered with ochre. The dog was an adult, closely resembling the Greenland dog. One additional grave, badly disturbed, also contained a dog. Besides the graves, human bones were also found in the settlement. They had been burned and placed in small pits.

Some of the graves are covered by occupation layer, but several are found at a higher level, today not covered by this layer. In some grave fillings, few artifacts are found while in others, there are plenty of artifacts, indicating the use of the graveyard throughout the occupation. The grave containing the man aged 40-50 is radiocarbon dated to 4290±85 b.c. (Lu-1834). Charcoal found together with the burned human bones gave a date of 4340±95 b.c. (Lu-1835).

The graveyard as well as the settlement are not completely excavated and it is hoped that the excavation will continue during 1981.

Lars Larsson, Institute of Archaeology
University of Lund

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Mesolithic Settlement in Lowland Belgium

Over the past several years, personnel from the Laboratory of Prehistory, Catholic University of Leuven, under the direction of Prof. P.M. Vermeersch, have undertaken the excavation of Mesolithic sites in the lowland (northern) areas of Belgium. Mesolithic sites in this region, as those from adjacent Holland, are often situated on Tardiglacial dune sands in proximity to formers lakes or marshes or along small rivers. While the sites excavated to date have been subjected to moderate post-depositional disturbances (biogenic activity, plowing) the horizonal displacement of geologically in situ material is generally negligible. A similar situation is found, for example, at the Epipaleolithic site of Meer II in Belgium. There is reason to believe that essentially undisturbed sites may be eventually located in areas where late glacial or early Holocene soils are buried and preserved.

The sites consist mainly of scatters of flint tools, charcoal, and fire-cracked rock. Preserved features are rare. A few hearths have been recognized by distinct stone constructions, often burnt and cracked. Other features also interpreted as hearths consist of concentrations of charcoal which may or may not be associated with hearth stones. No other structures of any kind have yet been discerned. Most of the sites appear to represent single occupations probably of a seasonal character. This is most evident in the well-defined flint scatters of Weelde 5 and Neerharen-De Kip.

The importance of these sites lies primarily with their potential for the study of prehistoric behavior by the analysis of inter- and intra-site patterning. The latter is being approached by a combination of refitting of the lithic industry and functional analysis of flint artifacts. So far only the site of Neerharen-De Kip has been the subject of intensive refitting, undertaken by its excavator, R. Lauwers. On the basis of the conjoined artifacts and the distribution of the lithic material, two areas of activity around a central hearth could be defined. The hearth is distinguished by a concentration of charcoal and burnt hazelnut shells and fire-cracked rock. Dated to the Early Mesolithic, the site consists of an oval scatter of occupation debris of about 28 m^2. The numerous hazelnut fragments suggest a brief fall occupation.

During the past year and one-half, P. Gendel and N. Symens have undertaken an experimental program for the functional analysis of flint artifacts. The results of nearly 200 experiments on a variety of materials have largely replicated the experimental results of Dr. L.H. Keeley. Microwear traces of the type described by Keeley have been observed on a sample of Mesolithic tools from Neerharen and it is now possible to apply this technique in a systematic fashion to our flint industries. We would like to acknowledge the cooperation of L. Pirnay for making available many of his experimentally-produced and utilized flint implements for our microwear program.

The analysis of intersite patterning, the next obvious step in the interpretation of sites from this region, has only just begun. We do not yet possess adequate control over the ranges of site types, assemblage variability, and environmental settings for each chronological period to make valid generalizations at this point. The presence of source-specific Wommersom quartzite at these sites has been able to provide us with some new information concerning the exchange of this material during the Mesolithic. In the early part of the Mesolithic, the use of Wommersom quartzite appears to be a function of proximity to the source locality. Sites near the source (e.g. Schulen) exhibit relatively high frequencies of this material, which rapidly fall at some distance (e.g. Neerharen and other sites). During the latter part of the Mesolithic, sustained frequencies of Wommersom quartzite are found even between 60 and 80 kilometers from the source (e.g., at Weelde-Paardsdrank) indicating a much more systematic procurement and trade of this material.

Tentative hypotheses include the existence of a distinct social territory in this region and an intensification of social interaction through the course of the Mesolithic.

Associated research following from these excavations includes the study of contact between Mesolithic and Early Neolithic populations and the stylistic analysis of Mesolithic armatures. Continued excavations incorporating the full range of techniques described above will be undertaken at Mesolithic sites near Brecht in the Antwerp Kempen under the direction of R. Lauwers and P. Gendel. Reference to these ongoing projects is given below.

The following is a list of sites excavated over the last five years and includes the geographic coordinates, dates of excavation, excavator, typological and/or ^{14}C dating, and relevant publications.

Weelde-Paardsdrank (Prov. Antwerpen)
51°23'27" - 4°58'00"
1976/77, P.M. Vermeersch

Three localities were excavated, designated Weelde 1, 4, and 5. The presence of surface-retouched microliths, feuilles de gui, and broad trapezes indicate a Late Mesolithic occupation. Two conflicting ^{14}C dates have been obtained, from Weelde 5. The first gave an age of 5710±80 B.P. (Lv-934) and was taken on a sample of dispersed charcoal from the A2-horizon of a humic iron podzol. A second date of 6990±135 B.P. (Lv-959) consisted of a sample of burnt hazelnut shells from the B2-horizon of ferric accumulation.

Schulen (Prov. Limburg)
50°57'31" - 5° 8'37"
1977/78, R. Lauwers & P.M. Vermeersch

Three concentrations of flint and Wommersom quartzite were excavated and designated as Schulen I, II, and III. No ^{14}C dates were obtained but the sites can be placed typologically in the Early Mesolithic, perhaps roughly contemporary with Neerharen.

Neerharen-De Kip (Prov. Limburg)
50°54'45" - 5°41'23"
1979, R. Lauwers

The site is a single occupation, typologically related to the Early Mesolithic. A single ^{14}C date taken on burnt hazelnut shells yielded an age of 9170±100 B.P. (Lv-1092). The nutshell fragments were located within a clear occupation level situated in the A2-horizon of a ferric podzol.

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Peter Gendel, Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven

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Activities of the Groupe de Contact - F.N.R.S. "Prehistorie-Prehistoire"

Archaeologists in Belgium have seen the formation of a new organization of professionals and amateurs called the Groupe de Contact - F.N.R.S. "Prehistorie-Prehistoire". The group was formed in order to facilitate the rapid dissemination of recent excavation and research results and, and the name suggests, to promote contact and communication among the various individuals and institutes involved in all aspects of prehistoric research in Belgium. The Groupe de Contact sponsors an annual reunion of archaeologists where brief reports are presented concerning the activities of the previous year.

The first two reunions have enjoyed enormous success: 95 persons attended the first reunion in Liege (1979) and 120 persons attended the reunion in Leuven (1980). We are most encouraged by the enthusiasm and interest shown by the various members of the archaeological community and there is every reason to expect that reunions in the future will achieve a similar success. Hopefully, the activities of the Groupe de Contact will contribute to a greater collaboration among those who share an interest in the prehistory of Belgium and adjacent areas.

Brief summaries of the papers presented at the first two reunions in Liege and Leuven appear in Notae Praehistoricae, Vol. 1. The tables of contents are provided below. Inquiries concerning the Groupe de Contact and the Notae Praehistoricae should be addressed to: Prof. Dr. P.M. Vermeersch, Instituut voor Aardwetenschappen, Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven, Redingenstraat 16 bis, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

LIEGE

Réunion du samedi 15 décembre 1979
Universite de Liège

PROGRAMME

LEUVEN

Samenkomst van zaterdag 6 december 1980
Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven

PROGRAMMA

Peter Gendel
Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven

* * *

Recent Work on Azilian Pebbles

Claude Couraud, a researcher at the Musee des Antiquites Nationales (Paris) has recently produced a thesis (1980a, see also 1977) on Azilian art which constitutes the first complete and analytical study of the painted and engraved pebbles of the West European final Paleolithic/Mesolithic. Only a few of these had ever been published prior to this time. The pebbles he includes are from 28 sites in France, 5 in Spain, 3 in Italy, and 1 in Switzerland. However, of a total of nearly 2000, no less than 1427 of the pebbles come from Mas d'Azil in the French Pyrenees, a site which gave its name to the Azilian and is the richest site of this particular cultural facies (Bahn 1979).

Although the authenticity of Azilian pebbles has long been well established, it is known that many fakes have been produced over the years. In the course of his analysis of the varied motifs on the pebbles, Couraud has devised criteria for deciding which pebbles are authentic and which are fake: where there is calcite on the paint, the authenticity is not in doubt; otherwise the criteria involve unnatural shades of red, "newness" of paint and/or pebble, traces of recent embellishment, paint inside fractu and clumsy or otherwise aberrant painting.

More detail is available in a paper by Couraud and myself, which we hope to publish in the near future, and in which these criteria and Couraud's experience with the hundreds of French pebbles are applied to the few which have found their way into English collections--i.e., 13 at the British Museum (of which 10 were bought from the Abbe Breuil in 1929) and 12 at the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. The results of the analysis are that there seem to be 10 fakes at the British Museum (including 9 of the Breuil collection) and three at Cambridge. It is known that Breuil admitted buying a certain number of pieces of uncertain provenience in or around 1925 and, though he did not cast doubt on their authenticity, it seems probable that he was misled.

Many ideas--such as games, churingas, or alphabets--have been put forth to explain the motifs on the pebbles, and the most recent research has been that of Marshack who has examined the engraved linear and meandering motifs on Paleolithic and Mesolithic pebbles. Couraud is pursuing similar ideas in the semiology of these motifs and has found that particular combinations of signs recur frequently and that certain numbers of dots are constantly repeated, perhaps representing some sort of notation (1980b). He has also attempted to outline a stylistic chronology for the techniques of decoration with engraved pebbles being later than painted specimens.

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University of Liverpool
Claude Couraud, Musee des Antiquites Nationales
Paris

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Tybrind Vig
A Preliminary Report on a Submerged Ertebølle Settlement on the Little Belt

In recent excavations of Ertebølle settlements in eastern Jutland and Schleswig-Holstein, a number of important differences between these two areas have emerged. It has therefore, long been desirable to examine settlements in the intermediate area. In view of this, the discovery in 1978 of a hitherto unknown submerged settlement in Tybrind Vig (Danish vig = cove or small bay), in western Fyn, aroused particular interest as it lies midway between the research areas in eastern Jutland and Schleswig. The settlement, discovered by divers from the Fredericia-Middelfart area, lies some 250 m from the coast under 2.5-3 m of water.

A trial excavation in 1978 revealed a primary layer of gyttja up to one meter thick lying of the sea bed, which contained large quantities of flint, animal bones, antler wood and wooden artifacts, a few sherds of pottery, as well as leaves, fruits, seeds, branches, tree trunks, etc. As it became apparent that preservation at the site was unique, excavation was undertaken and developed into the largest systematic excavation of a submerged settlement ever carried out in Denmark.

Although excavation was carried out by frogmen at a depth of 2-3 m, work was organized exactly as on land, with a few exceptions. In other words, individual square meters were excavated, located within a fixed grid laid out on the sea bed. All finds were plotted using three co-ordinates, and absolute depth was measured relative to average sea level. Plans and sections were measured and drawn, and pollen, seed, and wood samples were taken.

About 5,000 years ago the inner part of Tybrind Vig formed a large, bow-shaped cove, cut off from the Little Belt by a semi-circular reef or chain of small islands. The area was covered by dense oak forest, with sporadic lime, elm, and fir. Hazel, alder, and birch thickets lined the shore of the bay. In the Stone Age the bay was a calm, shallow area surrounded by reeds. Only to the north was there a connection with the Little Belt, through a narrow opening which can be seen on the sea bed today as a deep, steep-sided channel, originally cut by tidal erosion.

The Tybrind Vig area has sunk 2-3 m since the Stone Age, meaning that all items that, for whatever reason, ended up in the gyttja of the bay have always lain in wet surroundings. Conditions of preservation for organic materials are therefore the most ideal yet encountered, as will be seen from the following.

Unfortunately, most of the residential part of the site has been eroded by the sea and there remains only a part of the northwestern settlement area, the beach, and the deposits from the shallow water off the settlement. Finds occur in a zone some 50 m long (E-W) and 10 m wide (N-S) along the shore of the former bay. These finds consist of discarded waste (although there is not so much of this as there usually is in settlements of this type) and of tools, primarily fishing equipment lost in the bay during use.

Thus this zone is not just a "rubbish deposit" of the sort known from many other hunter-gatherer settlements but a combination of inshore fishing "activity area" and scattered settlement refuse. Along the former shore, rows of hazel sticks were found placed vertically, probably the remains of fish traps, and in at least one place, several leister prongs were found standing vertically or at an angle, presumably lost during fishing just outside the reed area. In addition, there were several fish hooks and numerous pointed sticks for fish traps. Along the shore, there were also traces of thicker posts and a cobbled area, probably for the beaching of boats. Everything here suggests the presence of an Ertebølle fishing location which lay close to the settlement.

The investigations reveal that the preserved area represents an occupation of some 2-300 years, but it cannot be determined whether the occupation was seasonal or permanent during this period. Most of the cultural layer contains artifacts belonging to the "aceramic" Ertebølle culture, and is contemporary with the oldest part of the settlement at Norslund (layers 3 and 4). This adds an important new dimension to the investigation, as this phase of the Ertebølle has not yet been found, much less excavated systematically, in this part of Denmark before. Radiocarbon dates place this part of the settlement to the

period 4,000-3,700 B.C. (in conv. C-14 years).

Some artifacts, such as potsherds and T-shaped antler axes from the later Ertebølle, were also found in the upper part of the gyttja layer, indicating that occupation continued after the knowledge of pottery-making reached the area. A radiocarbon date from "food waste" encrusted on a large pointed-base pot places this part of the settlement at 3,690 B.C. (not calibrated).

Turning to the occupants themselves, the grave of a woman and child was excavated. In addition, the scattered bones of at least 4 individuals were found, and among these were several cranial fragments, one with severe lesions. Our knowledge of the personal ornamentation of the occupants of the site was extended by two perforated teeth which were loose finds from the oyster bed.

The subsistence base is revealed by large numbers of bones of mammals, birds and fish. There are also many shells of hazel nuts, and possibly also of acorns. Red deer and wild pit were the most common animals, roe deer was frequently hunted, while elk and aurochs are represented by only a few bones. Fur-bearing animals were also killed: pine marten, wild[illegible] fox, otter, badger, and polecat. It is interesting that the proportion of fur-bear[illegible] animals is very high, as is also the case in other Ertebølle sites such as Ringkloster. In almost all cases, the bones of fur-bearing animals lay in clusters, each representing a single animal. Clear-cut marks on the mandibles and upper parts of the skulls are traces of skinning, whicl symmetrically placed depressed fractures on the rear of the skulls were probably caused by the implements with which the animals were killed. The circumstances of these finds clearly indicate that these animals were not eaten.

Seal and porpoise were hunted at sea, and along the coast, swans and ducks were captured. Despite the excellent conditions of preservation, bird bones are very rare.

The great importance of fishing is attested by the many technological items used for fishing and by the large numbers of bones of small cod (30-50 cm), spurdog, and eel.

A number of flint tools were found in the gyttja layer and in the oysterbed. They are the usual types for the Ertebølle culture. As mentioned above, there was pottery in the upper part of the gyttja layer.

Tools of antler and bone are also common: picks and axes of antler, shafts, and many round-sectioned bone points and fish hooks.

Red deer antler axes were of two types: lower in the layer were those with the shaft holes near the burr of the antler, while higher up, were those of the T-shaped variety with the shaft hole through the base of a tine. Both types were found hafted on well-preserved hazel shafts. Mention must be made of a smoothed and decorated antler axe and a polished antler shaft.

Completely unique is the small fish hook, attached to which is a 5 mm section of the line. The line is bound around the head of the hook by means of a clove hitch; preliminary analyses suggest that it is made of an animal product, perhaps sinew.

The muddy layers along the former shoreline contain such large quantities of waste chips, worked wood, and wooden implements, that Tybrind Vig is now the site with the lar[illegible] amount of preserved wood from Mesolithic Denmark. For example, 10 bows have been rec[illegible]ed, some 15 oars, a large number of leister shafts of several types, spear or lance shafts, the thwart of a boat, pointed sticks or stakes, and many relatively unknown forms. The well-preserved bows are made of knot-free elm and are all apparently of the same type, about 160 cm long, made from thin, split branches.

Another common wooden item is the oar, of which some 15 examples have been recovered, several of them complete. They are all carved from ash wood and are of a similar type, with a short, heart-shaped blade on a shaft about 100 cm long. Blade size varies considerably although the shape is always constant.

One oar is decorated on one side of the blade. The design is clearly impressed into the surface of the wood and was filled with a brown coloring material (see illustration).

A hazel stick, round in cross-section, in the ends of which were cut rectangular holes, was probably used as a thwart in a boat.

Among the wooden objects there were also a large number of long, straight stakes or shaft of ash, all of which were unfortunately broken. Examination of their function must therefore be left to a future date.

Excavations in 1980 uncovered a dugout canoe--the first complete one found in a Danish Mesolithic settlement context. This spectacular find lay with the front end to the north-northwest and the rear tilting down into the gyttja, so that while the bow lay close to the surface of the seabed, the stern was covered by about 1 m of gyttja.

The boat is made of a straight trunk of lime, in the whole length of which there is only one knot! Work was carried out with an axe or adze and chopping marks can still be seen over the entire surface. The boat is 9 m long and c. 65 cm wide. Despite the weight of the covering sediments, the boat is uniformly trough-shaped, with a height of at least 30 cm. The sides themselves are nicely rounded and smoothed. Pressed down inside the boat were two long planks--apparently additional remains of the sides of the boat which would add another 30-40 cm to the height. The stern was cut off squarely and has 7 regular holes cut out of the bottom and sides, presumably for the attachment of a board, which was not found.

An oval fireplace of sand and small stones was found half a meter inside the stern on the bottom of the boat. This is probably connected with (eel) fishing--the calm, shallow, muddy-bottomed bay must have been ideal for the use of "eel flares" in summer and aut an activity in which the many leister prongs would presumably also have played a part.

The position of the boat in the stratigraphy shows that it belongs to the period when pottery made its first appearance, about 3,800-3,700 B.C. (conv. C-14 years).

All in all, Tybrind Vig has surpassed all expectations. It is the first systematic excavation of an Ertebølle settlement from this part of Denmark and belongs to an early, little-known phase of that culture. The many impressive finds are extremely significant, because of the gaps they fill in our knowledge of the extensive use of wood. Preliminary investigations suggest that the regional cultural variations mentioned in the introduction are the results of both temporal differences and regional variation within the Jutland peninsula.

Of perhaps the greatest interest is the evidence of the "fishing ground" off the settlement--not just because of the good fortune involved in finding remains of almost the complete range of equipment in one context (oars, dugout, leisters, fish weir and hooks, one with the line preserved) but more because it is possible to demonstrate that finds in the gyttja off the settlement are not only settlement debris, but represent both rubbish and activity areas. Tybrind Vig has therefore added a new dimension to our understanding of precisely what it is that is found in lake and sea deposits offshore from hunter-gatherer settlements.

Søren Andersen, Institut for Forhistorisk
Arkaeologi
Moesgaard

* * *

Scottish Archaeological Forum, 1981

The 13th meeting of the Scottish Archaeological Forum was hend in the University of Glasgow on 7 march 1981. The theme was New Light on the Scottish Mesolithic and there were seven speakers. The program began with a consideration of the Mesolithic from a north-western European viewpoint by Erik Brinch Petersen. This was basically a review of recent discoveries, particularly in Denmark, with a discussion of techniques perfected in a series of excavations during the 1970's, in particular the burials at Vedbaek Bøgebakken. Clive Bonsall (Edinburgh University) presented a summary of his work at Eskmeals, Cumbria, where he has excavated a number of sites associated with a former coastline of the estuary of the River Esk. The sites, possibly dating to the fifth millennium bc, are seen as components of an economic system involving year-round occupation of the coastal lowland, but with change of camp sites at intervals during the year, possibly to exploit seasonally-changing resources. Comparison might be made with sites along the northern shores of the Solway Firth and in the Firth of Clyde. The paper given by Peter Woodman (Ulster Museum, Belfast) was entitled "The Myth of the Ulster-Scots Connection". In the light of recent

work in Ireland, it was shown that the theory of a spread of Irish Mesolithic culture into southwest Scotland and beyond, perpetuated by Movius and Lacaille, was no longer tenable. The "Scottish Larnian" would have to disappear, the term "Larnian" being retained for a a method of blade production in the Later Mesolithic of Ireland.

Paul Mellars (Cambridge University) presented a review of his work on the island of Oronsay, from which a mass of evidence for the occupation of various shell middens sites is still being studied. Analysis of fish remains suggests the possibility of seasonal movement between sites on the island. A number of radiocarbon dates ranges between about 3800 and 3200 b.c. The results of the excavations on a large shell heap in the vicinity of Nether Kinneil, on the Forth Estuary, were discussed by Derek Sloan (Sheffield University). Although no definite evidence of Mesolithic occupation was recovered, the importance of shell middens generally in the prehistoric and later periods was stressed and reference made to other known shell heaps in the lower Forth Valley. A review of the evidence for the Mesolithic in southwest Scotland was given by Alex. Morrison (Glasgow University). This stressed the limited amount of excavation that has taken place in the region, but noted the large number of new sites discovered by surface collection since the publication of Lacaille's Stone Age in Scotland (1954). New evidence was reported for possible occupation of the eastern Solway Firth before the main Holocene marine transgression. James Kenworthy (St Andrews University) surveyed the Mesolithic of northeast Scotland and in particular discussed his own work at Nethermills Farm, Crathes, on the River Dee, where excavations have revealed a site with post holes, stake holes and pits. The flint industry suggests a later Mesolithic date, with a large proportion of rods, points and micro-triangles. Charcoal dates are forthcoming. The session ended with a summing up by Roger Jacobi (Lancaster University).

It is hoped to publish these paper (Scottish Archaeological Forum, vol. 13) in the spring of 1982.

Alex. Morrison, Glasgow University

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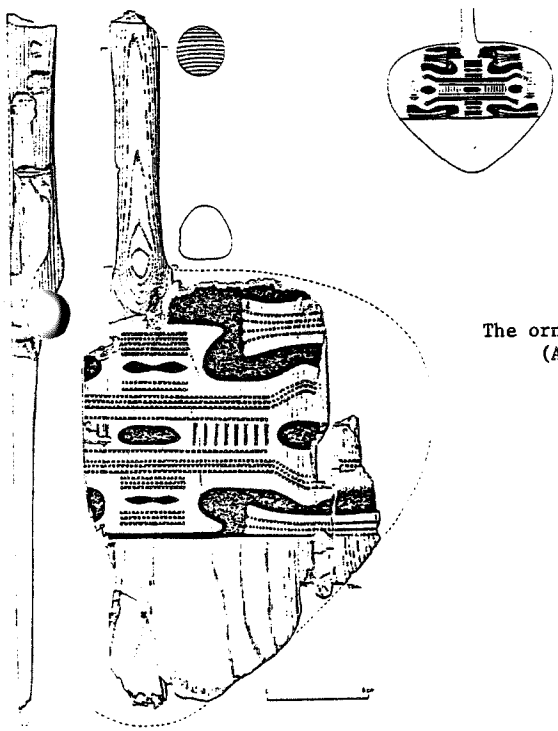

The ornamented paddle from Tybrind Vig.
(Andersen 1980)

BOOK REVIEWS

Koltsov, L.V., 1977. Finalnyi paleolit i mezolit iuzhnoi i vostochnoi Pribaltiki. (Late Palaeolithic and Mesolithic of the South and East Baltic Countries.) Moscow: Izdatel'stov Nauka.

Reviewed by S.K. Kozłowski, Institute of Archaeology
University of Warsaw

This interesting book, the basis for the author's habilitation thesis, aims at familiarizing Soviet archaeologists with the most recent data on Poland's prehistory in the 10th-5th millennia B.C. and the present state of knowledge about this period in the Byelorussian, Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian Socialist So Republics. The author is a specialist in archaeology of the late Paleolithic an Mesolithic on the Russian Plain, and in particular in the basin of the Upper Volga.

After a familiarization with some of the original sources and the rich literature in this field, the author first of all presents from these sources 46 illustrations of flint and bone artifacts, reports on their taxonomy, and discusses their chronology. Apart from these illustrations, there are eight maps in the book presenting the territorial coverage of the specific taxanomic units. The author also comments on their origins as well as on the main stages of this period in the area discussed in the publication (cf. Figs. 52-54).

In Chapter I, the author discusses separately and in detail the history of research in the field of his interest. He discusses questions of palaeogeography (Chapter II) of the southern and eastern Baltic areas, presenting first of all the history of vegetation using the sequence in A. Blytt and R. Sernader's system: Allerød, Younger Dryas, Preboreal, Boreal, and Atlantic.

The next chapters (III-IX) are short monographs on the particular taxanomic units (=archaeological cultures) typical for this part of Europe. Their characteristics are mainly based on stone material for no remains of organic material have been preserved in the numerous open sandy sites in this part of the continent. In order to complete this picture it is worth mentioning that stratigraphic sequences are very rare here in the Great European Plain. Charcoal, which might assist in radiocarbon dating, is also rarely found at these sites. This great scarceness of stratigraphic sequences is not only an obstacle in dating assemblages but is also the reason for confusing materials from many different periods. However, excavations carried out with the utmost precision, supported by a detailed analysis of the horizontal distribution of artifacts, in many cases allows one to distinguish fully credible homogeneous assemblages. It is worth noting, because of the above conditions, in many cases Polish and Lithuanian archaeologists must date assemblages by means of the method founded on typology and cross-dating to the better dated assemblages of neighboring countries. On the one hand, these will consist of attempts at referring the Polish materials to the related German, Scandinavian, Dutch, and British ones, and on the other, referring Lithuanian materials to the fairly well-dated assemblages from Estonia and, to some degree, from Poland. Gradually, of course, local dates also appear and these, to our satisfaction, usually correspond to our estimates based on typological analyses. Finally, we must mention the two already classic stratigraphical sequences (Witow and Calowanie) which allowed the chronological ordering of the Polish late Palaeolithic (investigations of M. & W. Chmielewski and R. Schild).

Chapter III is devoted to the so-called late Magdalenian which Koltsov regards as the eastern variant of the Federmesser culture (in agreement with W. Taute). This name is derived from the earlier suggestions of H. Schwabedissen who postulated that in the fairly warm Allerød interstadial, part of the Magdalenian population left the central European Highlands and settled in the Plain. However, present knowledge suggests that this may not be the best answer. First of all, the elements characteristic of the late Lowland Magdalenian - arched backed points and very short end scrapers - were known earlier on the Lowland (i.e. in Creswellian and Hamburgian sites). Second, similar elements are known not only in the Magdalenian complex but lso in the Mediterranean cultural province, to be found in assemblages from the Balkans, the Romanellian assemblages of Italy, and those of the Azilian in France. Thus, the Allerød assemblages from the central European Lowland may be descendants of the Magdalenian industries, but they may equally take their origin from the Palaeolithic of the Danubian basin (this pertains to, for example, some assemblages from Witow).

Chapter IV is devoted to the Ahrensburgian culture which the author, partially supporting the opinion of R. Rimantiene, sees in two regions: in the west of Poland and Lithuania. In my opinion, this interpretation is hard to accept primarily since the Lithuanian materials, cited in the paper, do not accurately coincide with the definition of the Ahrensburgian culture presented by W. Taute. The case is different with materials from the west of Poland, part of which do point to links with the Ahrensburgian. Personally, I am convinced that the Lithuanian materials, which R. Rimantiene classified as the "Vilnius" group, demonstrate all the south Scandinavian features characterizing the Bromme-Lyngby culture. This theory is supported by new finds of the Bromme-Lyngby type in central Poland and suggests placing the Lithuanian finds in the Allerød and thus to the 10th millennium B.C. (R. Schild and S.K. Kozłowski's opinion). In this case it could be assumed that in central Europe two contemporaneous cultural provinces existed: the Bromme-Lyngby with pedunculated points in the north and the Federmesser and Witowian with backed points to the south.

The subsequent Chapter V is devoted to the Swiderian culture, the best known unit of the Palaeolitic in the area of interest of the author. To a large extent, Koltsov bases his theories about Poland on the papers of R. Schild and about Lithuania on those of R. Rimantiene. He adds, however, his own remarks as well. In addition to the fairly detailed presentation of the characteristics of the classic Swiderian inventories, we also find in this chapter an attempt at periodization of this culture, this based mainly on R. Schild's suggestions of 1964. This periodization takes into account that the small leaf-shaped Wsidry points are older than the pedunculated ones. Recently (1975) R. Schild, basing his conclusions on his own stratigraphical investigations at the Calowanie site, modified this theory to indicate that the variability in Swiderian assemblages (seen especially in various Swidry points) is probably not of a chronological nature.

In Chapter VI Koltsov describes the so-called Mesolithic assemblages of the Swiderian tradition. This description is based mainly on Lithuanian and Byelorussian materials. It seems he rightly assumes that in these regions the Swiderian tradition has survived during the early Holocene. Later on, of course, it underwent modifications in order to adapt to the new forest environment. At the same time the Mesolithic cultures of the Scandinavian and Germanic type developed in Poland and further to the west. These cultures originated from a completely different tradition. In characterizing the post-Swiderian Mesolithic, the author concentrates primarily on materials which R. Rimantiene considered the Nieman culture. Koltsov sees here a clear decline of the Swiderian elements which now were to be subjected to Maglemosian influence, indicated by, among other things, the presence of unpolished flint axes. This interesting theory still requires confirmation.

In Chapter VII Koltsov passes on to discuss the Kunda culture in Latvia and Estonia. He makes use of the sparse but well-dated materials obtained by L. Jaanits and F. Zagirskis. This reference to the rich bone inventories (including also harpoons) and to the unfortunately smaller flint inventories characteristic of these assemblages. The Kunda culture, which according to the reviewer, has certain Swiderian elements, developed from the 8th to the 4th millennia B.C. and belongs to the northeastern Mesolithic techno-complex developed in the forest zone of the

European part of the USSR. From the moment L.V. Koltsov's work appeared, the data base of the Kunda culture has been enlarged; however, no particularly new elements have been introduced.

Chapters VIII-X are devoted to the Mesolithic cultures of Poland and are based primarily on S.K. Kozłowski's book. Generally the author has adopted the basic theories of this book, correctly regarding the early Mesolithic Komornica culture (Chapter VIII) as the eastern variant of the Duvensee culture, and the late Mesolithic Chojnice-Pienki culture in the northwest of Poland (Chapter X) as a locale variant of the Oldesloe culture. However, in characterizing the Janislawice culture (Chapter IX) the author treated it, perhaps rightly, as a unit of a higher-than-"culture" taxonomic rank. This unit, dated as the late Mesolithic, covers a vast territory from central Poland up to the Dnieper River and is divided into smaller territorial units (groups?, cultures?).

The publication ends with an attempt at reconstructing the history of this region of Europe from the 10th to the 4th millennia B.C. To sum up, it should be stressed that Koltsov has presented a valuable synthesis of this fragment of Central and eastern Europe's prehistory which, together with the existing works, constitutes a step forward in science. This work continues the already rich series of regional monographs devoted to the late Palaeolithic and Mesolithic in Europe and illustrates a tendency towards a supraregional synthesis, an objective also supported by the author of this review.

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Mellars, P.M. (ed.), 1978. The Early Postglacial Settlement of Northern Europe. An Ecological Perspective. London: Duckworth. xii, 412 pp., illus. $36.

Reviewed by Michael Jochim, Department of Anthropology
University of California-Santa Barbara

The early postglacial period, once considered to represent a hiatus in European prehistory or to show, at best, an impoverished "Mesolithic" remnant of Paleolithic glory, is now viewed as a time of dynamic cultural adaptation by hunter-gatherers to changing environments following the retreat of the last great ice sheets. This postglacial warming was but the most recent of a series of dramatic climatic alterations punctuating the Pleistocene, and the Mesolithic is archaeologically the most accessible period for studies of human adjustment to such profund environmental change.

This collection of papers is an important contribution to these studies because the area it deals with has long been a focus of Mesolithic research. A concise historical overview of this research is presented by Clark, who is largely responsible for bringing Mesolithic studies into the mainstream of archaeology. The succeeding 13 papers are specific studies that range in scope from investigations of single sites to surveys of entire national areas. Despite this diversity, the papers show a common emphasis on subsistence and settlement--a welcome change from traditional preoccupations with typology and chronology. In the papers on regions where relatively few surveys or excavations have been done, such as Ireland (Woodman), Norway (Indrelid), northern Sweden (Broadbent), and the northeast Baltic (Zvelebil), the focus is indeed on the establishment of chronological and typological frameworks, but even in these papers an attempt is made to suggest economic and settlement systems by posing hypotheses amenable to future testing.

The most stimulating studies are those conducted in areas where there has been sufficient previous research to allow investigation of specific problems. As the book's subtitle indicates, these problems are approached through "an ecological perspective." Consequently, much attention is devoted to environmental reconstruction, resource distribution and behavior, and the costs, benefits, and effects of exploiting specific resources.

The basis of at least two of the papers (Bailey; Bay-Petersen) is the idea that big game animals are such large food packages that hunting must have been significantly more energy-efficient and therefore more important than gathering, fowling, and fishing (Bay-Petersen) or shellfish collecting (Bailey). Bay-Petersen supports this idea with the scarcity of plant, bird, and fish remains at Danish sites, even though such remains would typically show poorer preservation than large bones of big game. Bailey, by contrast, argues for the dominance of hunting in coastal Denmark and Spain despite the scarcity of big game remains relative to mollusk shells by emphasizing the low meat yield of shellfish and the exceptional preservation of shells (he assumes in one example that shells showed 100 percent preservation, in contrast to an estimated 2.8 percent for mammalian bone). The emphasis on the energetic efficiency of hunting ignores other possible determinants of resource selection, such as the reliability of particular resources. The uncertainties of hunting have been noted in many ethnographic contexts, and in this volume Welinder suggests something of the risks of Mesolithic hunting in Denmark by citing evidence (healed wounds) of repeated unsuccessful attachks upon the same animals. Despite the fact that plants, fish, and shellfish represent small and possibly dispersed food packages, they may have constituted a reliable dietary component in many situations, and the evidence should be analyzed with this in mind.

Common to several of the papers is a tendency to argue against the appearances of the data. As noted, Bailey downplays the economic importance of shellfish in areas characterized by huge shellmounds. Jacobi suggests communal summer hunting by large groups in the uplands of northern England despite small site sizes. Indrelid emphasizes the importance of terrestrial resources in coastal Norway despite the predominance of fishing equipment. In each case the interpretation derives from an attempt to go beyond site-specific data to examine the broader context of behavior and site formation.

This collection addresses many questions of the relative value of different types of data. Faunal remains are examined in light of problems of differential preservation, sampling, and the representation by age and body part. In this connection, Bailey's economic interpretations from shell midden samples could take note of Mellar's description of the nonuniform distribution of materials within Scottish shell mounds. Bay-Petersen interprets the predominance of adult males among Danish red deer remains in terms of energetic returns and long-term herd conservation, whereas Jacobi relates a similar age distribution in north English sites to the need for large antlers as raw materials.

Lithics receive less attention. The papers deal largely with gross functional categories such as points and scrapers, although Whallon stresses the lack of adequate attention given to relating form and function and to differentiating multipurpose from specialized tools. Jacobi attempts to determine social groupings on the basis of patterns of association between microlith forms (styles?) and raw materials.

Site and artifact distribution is stressed in these studies. Whallon's discussion of intrasite patterns raises the problems of differential life-span, curation, and deposition for various tools and suggests the examination of lithic waste and food debris as a more profitable approach to the determination of activity areas. Topographic differences in site locations are interpreted in terms of seasonal altitudinal movements by several authors, although Price, working in the relatively undifferentiated topography of Holland (perhaps a reasonable approximation to a uniform plain?), must utilize theoretical modeling techniques to suggest hypothetical patterns of settlement and subsistence. Site proximity to lakes and marshes is variously interpreted in terms of the grazing potential for herbiverous prey (Bay-Petersen) or of the concentration of plant and fish resources (Welinder). In a stimulating study, Mellars and Reinhardt examine the distribution of three different artifact types in southern England in relation to resources, lithic raw material

outcrops, and transportation routes. Their interpretations could, in addition, take into account the probability that such tools as axes would be curated and reworked to a greater extent than microliths not only because of limited distribution of suitable raw materials but also because of the the greater labor investment in making an ax.

Because of the many theoretical issues raised and the emphasis on developing hypotheses about prehistoric behavior rather than a history of artifacts, this is an exciting book. It is a welcome addition to the archaeological literature and an outstanding contribution to European prehistoric research.

Science, 209: 1235-36, 12 September 1980.

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Rozoy, J.G., 1978. Les Derniers Chasseurs. L'Epipaleolithique en France et en Belgique. Bulletin de la Societe Archeologique Champenoise, Special Number.

Reviewed by Andre Gob, Charge de recherches
F.N.R.S.

This book was published three years ago and has been reviewed several times, including a review by myself in collaboration with F. Van Noten that appeared in Helinium. For these reasons, I prefer to present her, in place of a traditional book review, some criticisms and some ideas about the opinions expressed in the book.

The ambitious book of Dr. Rozoy represents a large synthesis about the Late Paleolithic and Mesolithic of the French territory and the surrounding area; more precisely, the author studies and discussed more that 140 sites or levels confined to the region between the Rhine River, the Alps, and the Pyrenees.

This book will become a reference for all studies of the Mesolithic of Western Europe due to the amount of documentation, the quality of illustrations and drawings, and the massive bibliography. The work is divided into four sections.

In the first section, Dr. Rozoy presents a theoretical statement and the methodological basis of his analysis. These are well known from numerous articles by the same author. The flint artifact analysis is conduced in the same way as the classical Bordian typology, which was adapted to Mesolithic industries. This quite classical methodology is intended to provide a clustering of regional cultural units which cover, like a puzzle, the area under study.

The second part of the book is devoted to the analysis of four well-documented where the author attempts to recognize complete evolutionary sequences from the Late Paleolithic to the end of the Mesolithic.

In the third section, Dr. Rozoy analyzes industries from other regions where available materials were not rich enough--according to the author--to delineate such sequences. In each of these regions, Dr. Rozoy tries to define autonomous "cultures" which are viewed as homogeneous and, even, endogamous groups of people.

The analysis of the flint inventories is quite well conducted, as often in French monographs; everyone knows of Rozoy's care for typology and flint analysis. This part of the book represents a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the Western European Mesolithic.

The primary orientation of the book--i.e., the subdivision of the study area into a constellation of autonomous cultural units--is clearly directed against two of the major topics in French Mesolithic studies: the chronological subdivision of the Mesolithic into two major phases (Sauveterrien without trapezes and Tardenoisien with them) and the Barriere' concept of Tardenoisien (Barriere 1956). The opposition of Dr. Rozoy to the first of these topics appears quite obviously in his statement regarding the appearance

of the Late Mesolithic; he minimizes this phenomenon and refuses to see the consequences resulting from or linked with the spread of trapezes in a very short time over all of Europe. On the contrary, Rozoy accentuates regional continuity (cf. Rozoy 1980).

Rozoy attacks Claude Barriere's thesis on two points, namely the "Post-Tardenoisien theory" (persistence of Mesolithic or Mesolithic-like industries during Neolithic times up to the Bronze Age) and the spread of Tardenoisien over all of Europe.

Rozoy's position against these theories is quite valuable, since the statements are more than twenty years old and numerous new excavations have taken place since that time. But unfortunately, we cannot agree with all of the opinions of Rozoy. Yes! the "post-Tardenoisien" industries results mainly from admixture of materials in surface settlements. Yes! the chrono-cultural structure of the Western European Mesolithic is more complex than the simple equation: "Sauveterrien=triangles, Tardenoisien=trapezes". Yes! differences and probable cultural differentiation appear in Mesolithic industries between the Pyrenees and Ural'. But none of the twenty cultural groups defined by Rozoy fit the actual cultural differentiation of Europe.

In fact, Rozoy limits himself very strictly to the French territory and its margins. In fact, an exiguous territory--and he refuses to set his eyes beyond the borders--he is unable to understand the similarities and differences between the assemblages he studied. One of the most obvious examples of such a "short view" statement is the separation of 'Ardennien', 'Tardenoisien', and 'Birsmattien' culture groups. If Rozoy had crossed the Rhine River, he would be able to recognize the existence of a large culture which includes these local groups, namely the Beuronian.

In fact, the puzzle-like schemes of cultural differentiation of Rozoy--with cultural units almost completely independent of their neighbors--appear as simple as the Barriere conception of Tardenoisien. For example, it would have been quite interesting to discuss the problem of Sauveterrian and Beuronian industries overlapping in the east of France. But the concept of local and autonomous units is unable to deal with such a question since it there is no way to recognize--in this way--affinities between regional industries--from Bugey and Saone basins for example--and other industries at some distance, such as Sauveterrian and Beuronian.

For almost two pages I have spoken about the Mesolithic, as the title of this newsletter invites me to do. But Rozoy does not. For him, Late Paleolithic and Mesolithic constitute a single unit in the flow of human development--the Epipaleolithic--which would be characterized by the use of the bow and arrow. I think that we cannot agree with this position for three major reasons:

1. Nowhere do we have an accurate evolutionary scheme for flint industries from late Paleolithic to Mesolithic. If we can assume that, in general terms, early Mesolithic derives more or less from late Paleolithic local industries, in most cases it appears that the transition is quite fast and, as a result, that a gap exists between these two evolutionary units.
2. Mesolithic is not the end of the Paleolithic way of life, preceding the "Neolithic Revolution". The Mesolithic seems more and more to be a real intermediate stage of development, not only in the Near East where animal husbandry and agriculture took place but even in Europe, as we can seen in a growing body of data beyond flint inventories.
3. We have no proof that the use of the bow began in the late Paleolithic. On the contrary, some considerations lead to the hypothesis that the bow and arrow were known since the middle part of the Upper Paleolithic in some regions.

The fourth part of the book of Dr. Rozoy is devoted to a very large review of the way of life and socio-cultural behavior during Mesolithic times. It is worth noting that there is a major discordance between the limited geographic range of the flint studies and the use and abuse of data from all of Europe in order to reconstruct an hypothetical and heterogeneous model of Mesolithic life, including discussions of the following topics: stone tool function (without any examination of wear traces), food supply, diet, vegetable and fruit gathering, clothing, demography, social structure of groups, burials, murder, endogamy, language, psychology ('free and careless families of bowmen' is for Dr. Rozoy the synthesis of Mesolithic behavior).

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Arora, S.K.. 1979. "Beitrage zur Urgeschichte des Rheinlandes, Bd. 3." Rhein. Ausgr. 19.

Ferembach, D., 1978. "L'Origine des Mesolithiques en France", Bulletin et Memoiries de Societe d'Anthropologie de Paris 2: 271-290.

Frayer, David W., 1981. "Body size, weapon use, and natural selection in the European Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic", American Anthropologist 83: 57-73.

Evidence for a relationship between hunting strategies and body size is examined for human skeletons dating to the European Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic. Trends for reduced limb size and stature seem to be correlated with improvements in the types of weapons utilized and a shift from aggressive to more docile game. Although some of these observations fit the predictions of Brues concerning the spearman-archer model, it is suggested that selection for reduced metabolic demands is a more plausible explanation for a decrease in body size from Upper Paleolithic to the Mesolithic.

Larsson, L., 1980. "Stenaldersjagarnas boplats och gravar vid Skateholm", Limhamniana 1980: 13-39. (The settlement and graveyard of the stone age hunters at Skateholm. English summary). See Research Reports, this issue.

Larsson, L., 1980. "Some aspects of the Kongemose culture of southern Sweden", Papers of the Archaeological Institute of the University of Lund 1979-80: N.S. 3: 5-22.

The habitations at Segebro, which was investigated on several occasions between 1960 and 1976, includes, in addition to the well-known Late Glacial site, find-producing layers from the Early Atlantic period. The latter are rich in tools, chipping debitage, and food remains. The study of these finds which has been undertaken is the basis for a wider study of the economic and social conditions of the Kongemose Culture. Other coastal and inland sites from this culture are presented. Further, the extent of the habitation in both of these somewhat different ecological areas is examined. With the help of among other things, osteological indicators for seasonality, settlement structures, and population estimates, a model of the settlement in Scania during the Early Atlantic period is presented. This comprises a yearly cycle with seasonal movement between coast and inland. A comparison between trapeze forms of the Ahrensburg culture and the Kongemose culture is made, in a contribution to the question of the origin of the Kongemose culture.

Morrison, A., 1980. Early Man in Britain and Ireland. St. Martin's Press. New York. 209 pages, 16 plates. 55 illus. $35.00.

Table of Contents: The Pleistocene Period, Human Biological Development, The Evidence for Man's Presence in Britain in Earlier Paleolithic Times, The Upper Paleolithic in Britain, Post-glacial and Environmental Changes, The Earlier Mesolithic Period, The Later Mesolithic Period.

Mellars, P.A., & M.R. Wilkinson, 1980. "Fish otoliths as evidence of seasonality in prehistoric shell middens: the evidence from Oronsay (Inner Hebrides)", Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society 46: 19-44.

Dolukhanov, P., J.K. Kozłowski, & S.K. Kozłowski, 1980. Multivariate Analysis of Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Stone Assemblages. Warsaw-Krakow.

Huyge, D., & P. Vermeersch, 1981. "Final Mesolithic settlement at Weelde-Paardsdrank", Studia Praehistorica Belgica 1.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

1 January 1981

I was very happy to hear of your initiative to create a periodical devoted exclusively to the Mesolithic. This is what we really need. In 1973, during the 1st International Mesolithic Symposium in Warsaw, we discussed the possibilities of setting up such a periodical. At that time, it was hard to carry through but we all agreed that the idea was worth the trouble.

One could of course argue whether a separate periodical is really needed when there are possibilities of printing our works in other already existing periodicals. One could also debate whether the Mesolithic is truly different in its nature from other formations, especially the Paleolithic. It is not, however, a question of the arguments in this discussion. There is something much more important at stake. The recent years have seen a growth of interest, in Europe, in societies immediately preceeding the neolithisation of Europe. In connection with this, an intensification of field activities and laboratory studies has been observed. The number of publications, as well as regional and supraregional syntheses has clearly increased. At the moment, there is a fairly numerous group of professional archaeologists who deal exclusively with the Mesolithic. It is the activity of this group which laid the foundation for the development of international cooperation in this field. This cooperation is manifested by rather frequent professional symposia of regional importance (i.e. London 1976, Martiques 1974) as well as those of European importance (Warsaw 1973, Nice 1976, Potsdam 1978, and perhaps Copenhagen in the future).

The next step forward was the official recognition of our activities expressed in the convening of the 14th Mesolithic Commission of the UISPP. Finally, the Mesolithic Miscellany was created which is the fruit of this most promising international co-operation. In this case an international periodical devoted to the Mesolithic is a logical element of the cooperation between scientists from various countries, an informant and guide, a forum for discussion. That is why I open-heartedly welcome the first issue of this periodical and hope that you will see at least a hundred more. Good luck!

Stefan Kozłowski
Warsaw University

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bokelmann, Klaus, 1978. "Ein Federmesserfundplatz bei Schalkholz, Kreis Dithmarschen." OFFA, 35: 36-54.

Bokelmann, Klaus, 1980. "Duvensee, Wohnplatz 6." Die Heimat, 87(10): 320-330.

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The next issue of the Mesolithic Miscellany will appear in November and the deadline for contributions to that issue will be 1 November 1981. Material requiring translation may be sent to the editor for distribution to volunteers or to the individuals listed in volume 1 of the newsletter.

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