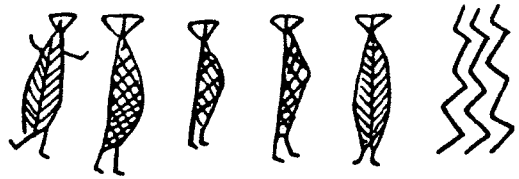

MESOLITHIC MISCELLANY

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UNION INTERNATIONAL DES SCIENCES PREHISTORIQUES ET PROTOHISTORIQUES
COMMISSION 14

Volume 3, Number 2 *November 1982*

From the Editor

I would like to make three points at the beginning of this issue of Mesolithic Miscellany:

(1) *The issue before you is short and late. I have been waiting for a sufficient number of contributions to arrive before printing and mailing the newsletter. The number of individuals submitting research reports, reviews, statements for debate, national synopses, recent publications and abstracts, meeting summaries, and the like has dropped.*

This, I think, is due not to a correlative decrease in the productivity of Mesolithic scholars but a rather more mundane phenomenon. We begin to take the newsletter for granted and assume that others will continue to submit enough material.

This is not the case and if we are to have a viable semi-annual publication, it is essential that all subscribers attempt to submit at least one contribution per year. Let me simply encourage you to send something--no matter how minor or major--in 1983 and to continue to do so in the coming years. This is critical to the survival of the newsletter and your responsibility.

(2) *Subscriptions for 1983 will be $3.00. Instructions for submitting may be found on the last page of the newsletter.*

(3) *Best wishes for the new year of 1983.*

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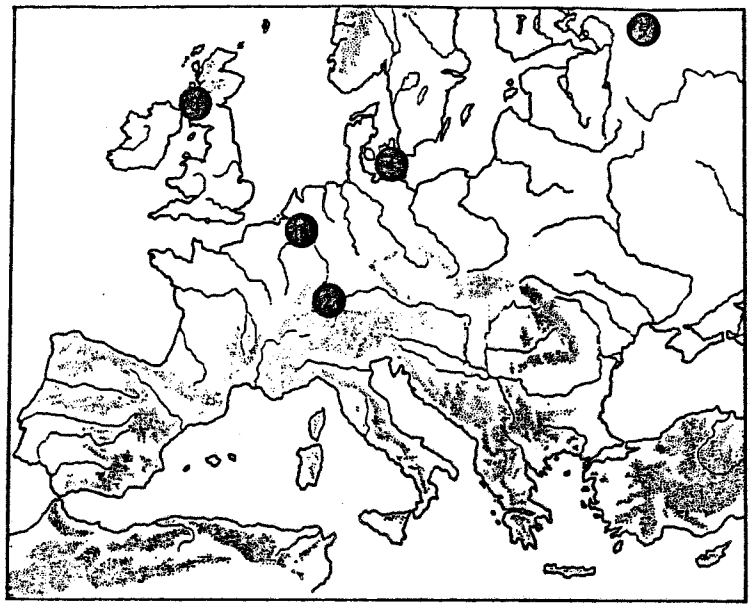
Location of Sites Mentioned in this Newsletter



1 *Westelbeers*
2 *Federsee*
3 *Isle of Jura*
4 *Lundby*
5 *Nizhneye Veretye*

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A Correction

In the article entitled "General survey of Epipaleolithic (Mesolithic) Research in Romania (1978-81)" by V. Boroneant (Mesolithic Miscellany 3(1): 11), one of the radiocarbon dates was misprinted. The date Bln-2135 should be 5760±80 years. In addition, the last item in the bibliography should be

Paunescu, A. 1981. Mezoliticul de la Erbiceni şi Ripiceni Izvor expresie a tardenoisianului nord-vest pontic. Studii şi Cercetări de Istorie Veche şi Arheologie 4: 479-509.

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RECENT RESEARCH

Reconstructions of 'Hunter/gatherer' Dwelling Structures (Contribution 1)

Introduction

Excavations at Mesolithic sites containing scatters of lithics and patches of charcoal and/or ashes, often do not appear to present evidence for dwelling structures. Although several suggested "windbreaks", "pit dwellings", and the like have been presented in various publications, these have been challenged. An extensive discussion of the nature of Mesolithic structures is to be found in Newell (1981).

Although the re-interpretation of excavated sites is a matter of speculation, I will submit several reconstructions of Mesolithic sites in northwestern Europe, beginning with the site of Westelbeers, located on a sand ridge near the town of Eindhoven in the Netherlands. After this re-interpretation was made in 1980, the amateur group of excavators re-opened the excavations and in the first exposed section observed evidence that supported this re-interpretation. Sufficiently clear discolorations in the soil were present to permit objective recording by photographs. Such physical evidence is strongly supportive of the interpretation and is discussed further below.

The Westelbeers dwelling structure

The example presented here is based upon field data kindly submitted by J. Groels and J. van Brunschot. The ground plan of their excavations indicated a scatter of lithics and pits with charcoal and ashes but no indications of a dwelling structure had been recognized during the course of earlier investigations. The partial plan of the site is published in Newell & Vroomans (1972: fig. 25).

Re-interpretation suggests that the floor plan contains evidence for a semi-oval hut or "wig-wam" of ca. 6 m in width and ca 8.5 m in length with a SW/NE axis. The opening (door) would have been facing the morning sun. The interior may be divided into a flint workshop ("indoor activity area") in the NE-quadrant, which may indicate male activities before and after hunting trips and on rainy days. Towards the back, a "bed bench" is suggested with a 'U' shape. In the center, a surface hearth may have been kept burning, while at the back of the hut pits with charcoal and ashes more likely were used as roasting pits on the basis of ethnographic evidence. Glowing embers and hot ashes may have been used to heat these pits in advance of the insertion of meat for cooking. A fire on top of the buried meat may have provided additional and continuing high temperatures. Almost certainly a variety of cooking methods were utilized.

The structure is suggested to have been built as a domed frame of bent wood. In the present example (Fig. 1), the wood frame has been covered with an earth/sod wall a the foundation. The flexibility of green wood would have provided a frame for a temporary shelter--easy to collect and to construct, to be abandoned before the wood becomes dry and brittle. The cover of the frame could have been of skin or bark/reeds/grasses. Vegetal materials are preferred in the ethnographic record for durability.

Regardless of the nature of the covering of the frame, it appears that a second layer of soil was added to the original sod/soil foundation wall. Some lithic artifacts occur in this second layer, suggesting that it was added after the site had been occupied for some time. The patterning of the outdoor lithic material is such that one can imagine shovel marks to have created empty spaces in the distribution while adding a second insulating layer to the wall of the hut.

At the entrance, the presence of a "window" has been suggested where a frame may have been covered or opened as desired. One can imagine a general daily routine from getting up at dawn, some interior activities, foraging trips in the neighborhood and the results thereof consumed in the rays of the setting sun at the back of the dwelling.

This may be considered rather farfetched, particularly considering the scanty evidence of flint and charcoal. I agree. Fortunately,however, portions of the site were still available to check for evidence of some form of dwelling structure. A section, indicated as A-B (Fig. 2), provided very clear information. From the most recent excavations and profiles, six post molds could be added to the floorplan that

will be published and the text of the report altered to confirm the re-interpretation of the dwelling structure on the occupation floor.

The re-excavated section contained a leached A_2 horizon of a podzol that is known to have begun forming after the occupation of the site. In addition, the remains of the original ground surface, marked by the A_1 horizon, is also present, covered by more recent dune sands. At the base of the profile, a zone of deposition (B horizon) and the top of the less altered sands (C horizon) were present. The flints themselves had undergone some vertical displacement, a common phenomenon at sites exposed to the activities of plants and animals known as bioturbation. After abandonment, the horizontal displacement of artifacts were not significant however but rather a more random process that likely did not affect the spatial relationships between individual items.

As at the site of Bergumermeer, the deposition/formation of the B horizon left an "offprint" of the pattern present prior to the formation of the podzol very clearly at Westelbeers. The dip of the B horizon beneath the charcoal and ash pits was already known by the excavators to by sharply 'V'-shaped and indicated by additional distances in the patterning of infiltration lines much deeper in the profile. The excavator P. Dijkstra, had already mapped several configurations of postmolds by tracing circular features at the exposed top of the B horizon, which in section proved to be a kind of leached pegs, mimicing the actual posts that once were present and now are obscured by the A_1 and A_2 horizons of this podzol. To our surprise and satisfaction, identical marks could be traced on the floor on the newly excavated pits that fit the wall and bedbench predictions as well as a mark in section exactly where the bed bench supports should have been (Fig. 2). This support even showed a slant that would have been necessary to support the weight of the bench. In addition, there was a staining present in the A_2 horizon where one could imagine the remains of decomposed bedding materials. Towards the center of the leached zone, however, a pure white sand was present and did continue to join the N-S section up to the protrusion, where a standing tree complicated the visibility of the section. The B horizon neatly showed the bipartiteness of the first and second earth walls and the slight basin-shape of the interior of the structure.

To our thinking, this is sufficient proof of the reconstruction of the proposed dwelling structure or at any rate better than pure speculation. Another publication of the Westelbeers site discussing ten years of volunteer excavation at the site and the extension along the sandridge is in preparation under the supervision of J. Groels and P. Dijkstra and will be published in the Archaeologische Berichten of APAN (Aktieve Praktijkarchaeologie Nederland) with additional dwelling structures and data presented.

Questions, critical remarks are gladly welcomed and will be answered as much as is in my capability.

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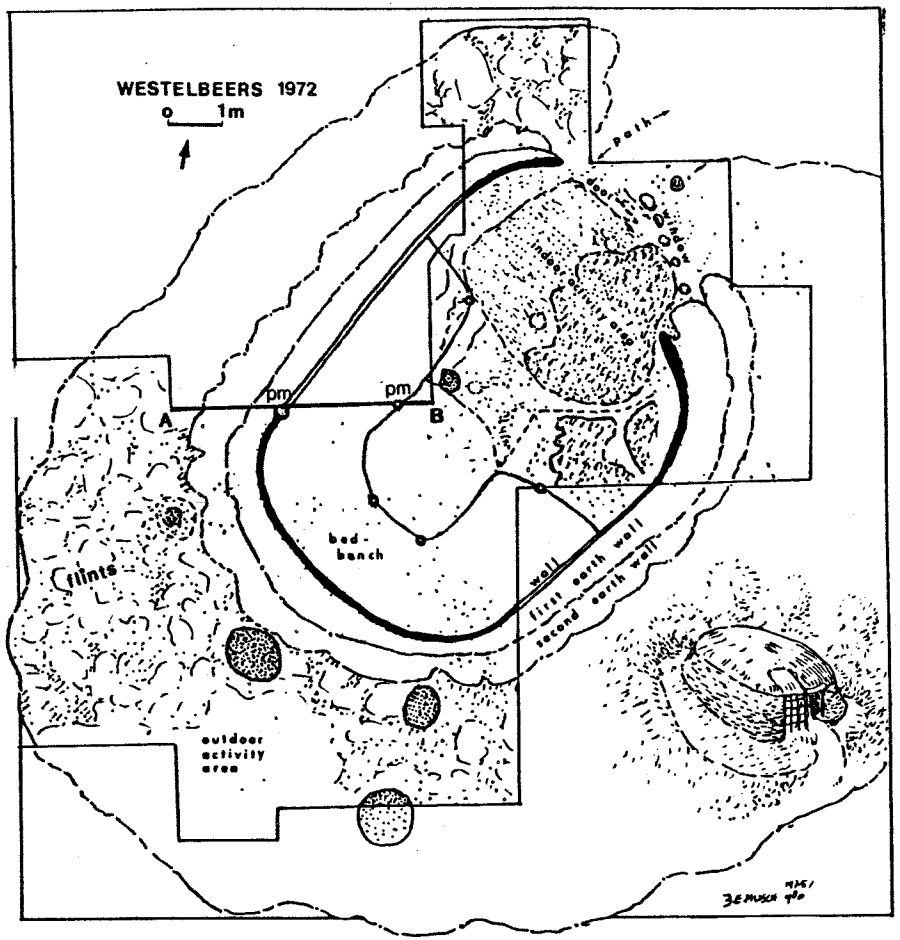

Fig. 1
Plan of the Mesolithic dwelling structure at Westelbeers with reconstruction (Archaeologische Berichten 8: 165 -- Stichting Rapportage, Postbox 485, The Netherlands). Compare to Newell & Vroomans 1972: 98).

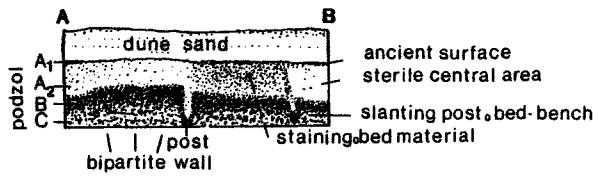

Fig. 2
Section A-B from the site of Westelbeers, drawn from color slides taken during the excavation (J.E. Musch 1982).

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FIELDWORK IN THE FEDERSEE, W. GERMANY

A project of subsurface surveys and excavations was carried out during the summers of 1980 and 1981 at the Federsee Basin of southwestern Germany. The survey was focused on the former shoreline area of this large peat bog, downslope from known Mesolithic surface sites on the high ground. The project's goal was to locate and investigate organic materials associated with Mesolithic occupation of this region. Five portions of the shoreline have been surveyed, producing, in addition to various isolated finds, one particularly promising site: Henauhof NW.

This site is situated on the tip of a peninsula jutting northward into the former lake, adjacent to the mouth of an inflowing stream, and has been explored through the excavation of 60 square meters in a contiguous block together with an additional 19 square meters in separate trenches. Excavations ranged down to 1.5 meters below the modern surface.

The major geological strata at this site are morainic clays and gravels of the hillslope and lacustrine clay, sand, and peat. The clay lining the bottom of the lake basin was deposited in the late glacial and contains few organic constituents. During the course of the postglacial, successive deposits of peat were formed under conditions of high, still water. This depositional process was interrupted by an episode of erosion and beach formation during a period of low water, leading to the formation of the sand sediments. Subsequent to the last period of peat deposition, the hill clays underwent a process of slight downslope creep, so that it extends lakeward over the peat a distance of up to 50 cm.

Cultural materials occur in the hill clay, the peat, and the sand, reflecting three periods of cultural deposition. Lithic artifacts in the sand belong stylistically to a late phase of the Early Mesolithic (Beuronien C), dated elsewhere to the Boreal period and supported here by two radiocarbon dates of 8000 $\pm$ 185 (UCR-1465) and 8110 $\pm$ 180 (UCR-1462). Notable is the great variety of raw materials, including red and green radiolarites, observed elsewhere to be characteristic of the Mesolithic in this area. The stone nodules are uniformly small, and many of the lithic artifacts retain portions of the outer cortex. Utilized pieces comprise 33% of the finds, while retouched forms make up another 18% and include microliths, scrapers, burins, and various retouched blades and flakes. The bones are highly fragmented, making identification difficult, but include red and roe deer, wild boar, birds, turtle, and fish. Bone artifacts include fragments of smooth bone points, some oval in cross-section, others biconcave. Plant remains appear to represent only species occurring naturally at the shore.

Cultural materials occur as scattered finds throughout the peat, but form a clear clutural level of 10-15 cm thickness about two meters lakeward of the hillslope and 20 cm above the sand. The finds in this level are quite different from those in the sand. Rocks larger than 10 cm in diameter---clearly intrusive in the peat---are abundant and many show evidence of burning and fire-cracking. Charcoal is also common in this level and many of the chipped stone artifacts show signs of burning. The lack of clear horizontal patterns in these finds suggests that they represent episodes of hearth cleaning and discard. Chipped stone artifacts are not abundant in this level and include a low proportion of utilized and retouched pieces. Stone raw materials are relatively homogeneous, dominated by Jurassic flints from the Alb north of the Danube. The radiolarites characteristic of the Mesolithic are lacking. The lithic artifacts in this level are generally larger than those in the sand, but fewer show

portions of the outer cortex. Faunal remains are abundant and less fragmented than those in the sand. The species identified include red and roe deer, wild boar, birds, and pike. Wild boar is represented almost solely by cranial remains. Deer remains are dominated by limb bones. Most striking about this level is the large quantity of red deer antler, including several tools and worked pieces. Bone tools include a number of hide-polishing implements and several fragments of smooth bone points. Evidence for season of kills is provided by two unshed red deer antlers adjacent to one set of roe deer antlers still attached to the skull but just in the process of separating. At least a late summer/early fall occupation thus seems to be represented by this level. The finds lie on top of a fallen tree which dates to 6980 $\pm$ 170 (UCR-1464), and a piece of charcoal in the cultural level itself yielded a date of 6720 $\pm$ 70 (beta-5573). The cultural materials thus fall in the time period of the Late Mesolithic, just before the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic in southern Germany. The late date for the peat level of Henauhof NW is significant when considering one additional find: a set of two grinding stones characteristic of the Neolithic and found in the peat just at the upper boundary of the cultural level. These heavy artifacts may be intrusive, having compressed the soft peat from above. They may, on the other hand, belong to this level, in which case they represent "Neolithic" artifacts in association with a "Mesolithic" economy.

The materials found in the hill clay show a wide vertical distribution of about 50 cm and represent both Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, retaining their relative stratigraphic positions. Microliths characteristic of the Beuronien C occur near the bottom of the clay together with numerous flakes and blades, bone fragments, and smooth bone points. These materials appear to form an uphill extension of the finds in the sand. The cultural level in the peat also appears to extend into the clay, superimposed above these materials and consisting of numerous flakes and bone fragments. Finally, at the very top of the clay were found 60 potsherds of the Aichbühl Culture of the Neolithic, also associated with faunal remains and lithic artifacts.

Analyses of artifact alignments, dip angles, size distribution, and edge abrasion suggest that secondary transport of materials has been negligible at this site. The artifacts in all three levels appear to be in situ remains of lakeside occupations, although the cultural layer in the peat does appear to represent, at least in part, a purposely discarded sample of occupation debris. Further excavations at this site, together with a continuation of the survey in other portions of the basin, are planned for the summer of 1983.

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When Did Man Come to Scotland?

Towards the close of a paper "The magnitude and frequency of Late Quaternary environmental changes in Scotland", Price (1982) asks why it is that "no evidence of human occupation of Scotland has been found which can be assigned with confidence to the first 3000 years of the Post-glacial Period".

The author is not convinced.

Earliest reported radiocarbon dates from Jura are 8194±350 bp (SRR-160) and 7963±200 bp (SRR-159; Mercer 1974). Publication of presumed associated backed pieces (Mercer 1981) now reveals a majority of these to be shapes found south of the Border only in what have been termed "narrow-blade" contexts.

Study of numerical data supplied by Mercer (1975) for localizations I and II at Glenbatrick Waterhole, also on Jura, similarly indicate closest analogues for a majority of backed pieces from localization II only in English "narrow-blad assemblages. By contrast the majority of the backed pieces from localizatio I also possess analogues in English "broad-blade" assemblages while pieces comparable only to items from English narrow-blade technologies are scarce. Differences in the proportions of other tool classes between the two localizations again appear capable of explanation in equivalent terms. The contexts of radiocarbon determinations from the site are uncertain.

One interpretation of these data, and that favored by this author, is to suspect earlier and later occupation events with significant spatial separation of much, but not all, the discarded artifact material.

While the radiocarbon record for England and Wales is poor, it suggests a currency for a "broad-blade" technology in that part of the Post-glacial that precedes about 8500 years ago. The hypothesized earlier occupation event at Glenbatrick Waterhole may then be suspected to have occurred within this time, and so help, in part, to fill the gap detected by Price in his data base.

Potentially of equivalent age might be the barbed bone spearhead from Glenavon (Lacaille 1954) although British (Hallam et al. 1973; Wymer et al. 1975) and mainland (Stampfuss and Schüttrumpf 1974) analogues suggest that this could equally well be of late Ice Age date. If so, was it discarded by the hunters of 12 to 11,000 years ago for who Price has again failed to find evidence in Scotland? I wonder.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYMPOSIUM
Late Pleistocene and Holocene Environmental Changes in the Western Mediterranean

Toulouse (France) 5 - 8 September 1983

First Circular

The Laboratory of Botany and Biogeography, University Paul Sabatier, is organizing in Toulouse from 5 - 8 September 1983, a symposium on the Late Pleistocene and Holocene environmental changes in the Western Mediterranean.

The themes which will be discussed notably concern chronology and geomorphology,history of climate, vegetation and fauna, Man-Environment relationships during prehistoric times. The communications will be grouped according to topic. The official languages are French and English. An excursion is planned along the northern slope of the Pyrenees following the symposium and limited to 30 participants.

Interested individuals are requested to write:

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Tale of Contents: Gendel, P., The distribution and utilization of Wommersom quartzite during the Mesolithic; Masson, A., Échanges et approvisionnement en silex à l'époque magdalenienne; L. Pirnay, Méthodes de taille utilisées a l' Ourlaine; J.-G. Rozoy, Les éclats retouchés des Mazures; A. Gob, L'occupation mésolithique de l'Abri du Loschbour près de Reuland (G.-D. de Luxembourg); J.-M. Cordy, La faune mésolithique du gisement de Loschbour près de Reuland (G.-D. de Luxembourg); J. Herr, Le mésolithique sur les plateaux de la sûre moyenne; M. Lamesch, Six stations de surface à outillage mésolithique dans le centre et le sud de Grand-Duché de Luxembourg; F. Marx, Quelques témoins mésolithiques au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg; Spier, F., Les stations épipaléolithiques-mésolithiques de la commune de Hesperange (G.-D. de Luxembourg); N. Theis, Les stations épipaléolithiques du Pote Kayl pres D'Esch-Sur-Alzette; P. Ziesaire, Le site mésolithique d'Altwi Haed; H. Löhr, Apercu préliminaire sur l'épipaléolithique et le mésolit de la région de Trèves; J. & P. Lausberg-Miny & L. Pirnay, Le gisement mésolithique de l'Ourlaine; M. Otte, Le Paléolithique final de Brou (prov. Liège); P.M. Vermeersch, Quinze années de recherches sur le mésolithique en basse Belgique--état de question; P. Cuvelier & C. Jeunesse, Les sites mésolithiques de plateau de Haye--Contribution à la connaissance du mésolithique lorrain; Hinout, J., Évolution des cultures épipaléolithiques et mesolithiques dans le nord-ouest Européen (Bassin Parisien); A. Thevenin, Les aspects essentiels de l'épipaléolithique et du mésolithique de l'est de la France.

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The Early Maglemose group appears to be suprisingly richly varied. So far the finds from Zealand stand apart, showing a domination of broad, scalene triangles with a narrow angle between the small sides, whereas find with many triangles with a wide angle between the small sides and broad isosceles triangles generally derive from areas outside Zealand.
Yet, there are very few finds dated to preboreal time in Denmark. However, the actual Early Maglemose group points back to late paleolithic groups. Besides the Bromme group there are finds of tanged points of Ahrensburg type and of "Gravette"- and "Chatelperron"-points. They are represented in Lundby I. The origin of the Maglemose group may lay in all three groups inside danish territory.
The Early Duvensee group in Northern Germany has been regarded as a southern counterpart to a northern group with its center in Zealand, each group with its separate background in the Ahrensburg and Federmesser groups, respectively. In Denmark, it has been maintained that Duvensee may be directly associated with sites like Sønder Hadsund and Linnebjär. The types characteristic of the Early Duvensee group are generally comparable to the types found in the northern group. Only one type, the scalene triangle variant B, is lacking. Scalene triangles variant B - "Langschmalen Dreieckenmikrolithen" - are characteristic of the Late Duvensee group. However, these triangles may also be found in early Duvensee material.
The Duvensee group dominates Northern Germany from the Weser through most of Mecklenburg to Poland in the east. In the Oder - and to a lesser extent in the Weischel - area there is an axe material that shows a connection with the northwest; the microlith types also suggest a connection. In central Poland the Kormornica group, with its identical microliths and its constant content of sidescrapers, indicates a connection not only between Kormornica and Duvensee but between the northern European territories in general. The somewhat later Janislawice group is characterized by microliths that may be regarded as triangles variant B. The same type of triangles appears also to be connected with some finds of the Kormornica type in southwest Poland.
One big Mesolithic technocomplex appears to extend from England, across the North Sea, to Northern Germany, Poland, and South and West Scandinavia. Differences between the microlithic material of the respective areas are mainly a question of the quality of raw material or of special technical peculiarities, and not a question of types. The presence or absence of a particular type of tool probably indicates several different

but contemporaneous type-combinations, and this variation must be due to the functions of the tools. The material from Zealand should not be seen as an isolated phenomenon, for in early Mesolithic time the Danish islands were connected with the German mainland. The examination of the Lundby sites aims at creating an understanding of the Early Maglemose group and shows the justification of using extensive materials that consist of a mixture of elements from several different periods. The comparison between Lundby I and Lundby II shows that the division of the material into several phases has no basis in reality and that the Early, as well as the Late, Maglemose group may consist of several contemporaneous groups of finds.

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Barton, R.N.E., & C.A. Bergman. 1982. "Hunters at Hengistbury: some evidence from experimental archaeology." World Archaeology 14: 237-248.

The first part of this paper describes arrow-firing experiments using copies of English Mesolithic points slotted into arrowshafts and shot into an animal carcass. "Impact fractures" on the experimental flint points are compared with breakages observed on several microliths from the Powell Mesolithic site at Hengistbury Head in Dorset. In the second part, the authors examine artifact distribution patterns from the Mace/Campbell Upper Paleolithic site at Hengistbury and compare them briefly with those from the Belgian site of Meer, also in sands. In addition, some recent flint-scatter experiments in sands are described and their relevance to site formation processes discussed.

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Price, T.D. 1982. "Willow tales and dog smoke: a review of 'The deer hunters: Star Carr revisited.'" Quarterly Review of Archaeology 3(1): 4 ff.

Barnes, Bernard. 1982. Man and the Changing Landscape. Work Notes 3. Merseyside County Museums & Department of Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Liverpool. 7.60 pounds.

It is evident that there have been dramatic and wide ranging changes since man first appeared in the Central Pennines - some natural, some induced by human agencies - even as early as Mesolithic times. Where the peat has been eroded are often revealed the roots of trees and scatters of tiny flint, evidence that early man was present in these uplands in an environment that was quite different from that existing today. This study attempts to provide a synthesis of archaeological material from the Central Pennine area from the Mesolithic period to the end of the Iron Age, and to assess this in the context of our present paleoenvironmental understanding. The area examined includes the Pennines and foothill districts between the Peak District to the south and the Craven Lowlands to the north. For over a hundred years, this part of the Pennines has been recognized as a prolific source of microlithic flint implements. One of the first to study the evidence for prehistoric man in a systematic manner was Francis Buckley of Greenfield, Saddleworth. He excavated a large number of these hunter-gatherer (Mesolithic) sites during the decades between the two World Wars. Small but representative selections of this findings were

donated by him to the City of Liverpool Museums, now the Merseyside County Museums.
The contents include catalogs of archaeological sites and artifacts found, drawing together all of the related museum collections. An appendix describes pollen analyses of three of Buckley's sites. These show more precisely the environmental changes that accompanied the prehistoric occupation of the uplands. This information has been augmented by radiocarbon dating, in some instances of material found by Buckley himself. There is also a comprehensive bibliography.

Van Andel, T.H., & J.C. Shackleton. 1982. "Late Paleolithic and Mesolithic coastlines of Greece and the Aegean." Journal of Field Archaeology 9: 445-454.

Guilaine, Jean, M. Barbaza, D. Geddes, J.-L. Vernet, M. Llongueras, & M. Hopf. 1982. "Prehistoric human adaptations in Catalonia (Spain)". Journal of Field Archaeology 9: 407-416.

As part of an interdisciplinary project investigating postglacial human adaptations in Catalonia, Spain, a sequence of Epipaleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age sites has been excavated which provides insight into human exploitation of an upland area of the Llobregat Valley. The study region is a set of plateaux (700-1000 m in elevation) situated at the current limit of Mediterranean and montane climatic regimes and vegetational associations. The late glacial wooded steppe was replaced by a deciduous oak association during the early Postglacial. The faunal association shows a corresponding shift from a mixture of montane species (ibex, chamois) and mixed forest animals (deer, boar) to one composed exclusively of the latter, although rabbit is always predominant. After 4000 B.C. significant human impact upon the oak forest is marked by the extension of boxwood, and domestic sheep and goat replace the wild fauna.
The Balma del Gai (8000 B.C.) demonstrates an evolutionary relationship between the microlaminar and geometric industries of the Epipaleolithic in Mediterranean Spain. At the Balma de l'Espluga, an Early Neolithic, Cardial impressed ware level succeeds a final Mesolithic industry based on triangles and trapezes. The evidence as a whole suggests that these sites played specialized roles in their respective economic systems, which drew on a wider region over the annual cycle. Prehistoric groups utilized the study zone for the surveillance of wild or domestic herbivores, but the consumption of local resources (small game, plants) has had the greatest impact on the process of archaeological site formation.

Geddes, David. 1981. "Les debuts de l'elevage dans la vallee de l'Aude." BSPF 78 (10-12): 370-378.

La domestication commence en Languedoc et dans les Pyrénées méditerranéennes pendant le Mésolithique final vers 5500 B.C. avec un élevage primitif des ovicaprinés, apparemment rien que du mouton, et progresse lentement aux dépens de la chasse au sanglier au cours des premières couches à céramiques jusqu'à 4500 B.C. environ (Gazel I et II de la séquence céramique). Bien que le boeuf déjà domestiqué arrive avec la première céramique à Gazel ver 4900 B.C., à Leucate vers 4850 B.C., à Dourgne vers 4600 B.C. et à Jean Cros vers 4600 B.C., son importance semble

restreinte, et en nombre il ne surpasse pas l'aurochs avant la fin du Néolithique ancien. Le problème de l'exploitation des suidés est plus complexe.

Lewthwaite, James. 1981. "Ambiguous first impressions: a survey of recent work on the early Neolithic of the West Mediterranean." Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology and Anthropology 1: 292-307.

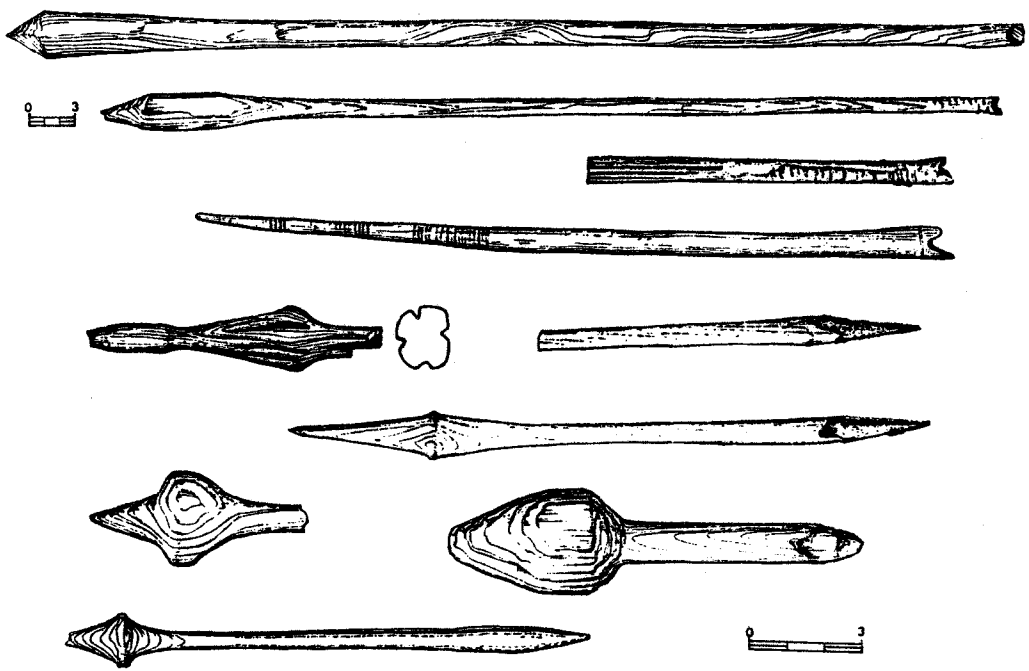
The early Neolithic of the West Mediterranean does not, on present evidence conform to the models either of an intrusive group of maritime agricultural colonists or of local foragers adopting agriculture as an adaptation to environmental pressures. This is partly due to the selective loss of a particularly crucial class of evidence as a result of later environmental developments, partly to an absence of concrete enough models which would direct research in an economic and productive way, partly to a different conception of the object of the enquiry on the part of researchers espousing different paradigms. Recent positive advances suggest that the interaction sphere represented by the Impressed Ware assemblages may reflect part of the wider response to 'Atlantic' optional foraging conditions. The differences between island and mainland ecology at any one time may have been greater than those over time, illustrating the breadth of the niche occupied.

Oshibkina, S.V. 1982. "Wooden artifacts from the Mesolithic site of Nizhneye Veretye." Archeologicke rozhledy 34: 414-429. Prague.

The Mesolithic site of Nizhneye Veretye is situated in the southern part of the Arkhangelsk region in the Lacha-lake basin. It was discovered in 1929 by M.E. Foss, the results of the first excavations have been published. At that time the site was classified as Neolithic which was obviously caused by mixing of cultural layers of different periods. In 1979-80 the author excavated another area of the site and found a Mesolithic cultural layer at the depth of 0.8 to 1 m from present surface, covered by two layers of peat deposited in different times. Palynological observations indicate a deat within the Boreal period, confirmed by the C-14 dates and the character of the finds.
A number of artifacts, including products of stone, horn, bone, and wood have been found during the excavations. In this paper, only wooden tools and products are published. These include fragments of six bows, 18 arrows, and arrowpoints, and one simple spear; in other words, all kinds of hunter's range of equipment. The bows belong to the simple carved type from a single piece of wood with notches for string on both ends. Complete arrows are represented by two examples and one fragment, all the rest are short wooden points hafted into the shafts by means of resin and tying over with string. Most of these have a biconical form with blunt end for the purpose of hunting fur animals and birds. A paculiar kind of point was provided with grooves for setting-in flint bladelets. Completely preserved arrows give us some idea of their size, form and feathers which were set either at the end of the arrow or in clusters on the shaft. Particular interest is aroused by the axe- and adze-shafts carved out of a single piece of wood with a bulge or root at the end. This bulging end was made into a spherical 'sleeve' with a hole into which stone or horn adzes or axes were set. This peculiar form is unknown from other Mesolithic sites. Fragment of a sleeve identical with similar products from the sites and finds of the Mesolithic period in the North German Plains was found. A number of wooden products from Nizhneye Veretye have parallels neither in archaeological finds nor in ethnography;

consequently their exact purpose is difficult to determine. To these belong two wooden maces or pestles identical in form; one of these could have been used in processing soft materials while the other, used as a pestle, wore traces of red pigment at its end. The eye is caught by the decoration covering the whole surface of some products and by an object with a clearly defined head and with a square hole. A product of asp wood resembles a wooden fork for suspending foods over fire; the resemblance is enhanced by the fact that it is carbonized on one side. Almost all of the artifacts were made of two kinds of pine (Pinus silvestris and Pinus sibirica), in some instances fir, aspen, or birch. This does not contradict the chronology of the site which existed in the period when northern parts of Eastern Europe were covered by woods consisting mostly of fir and birch.
The peat-bog at Nizhneye Veretye will be investigated in the nearest fu e depending upon the water level in the Lacha lake system; normally, the cultural layer at the site lies below ground water level. It is not excluded that further wooden artifacts will be found on the site which will thus contribute to our knowledge of the development of Mesolithic settlement.

Figure: Various arrow sections from Nizhneye Veretye.



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Deadlines for the newsletter are 1 May and 1 November for the May and November issues respectively. Material requiring translation may be sent to the editor for distribution to volunteers or directly to the individual translators listed in volume 1 of Mesolithic Miscellany.

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