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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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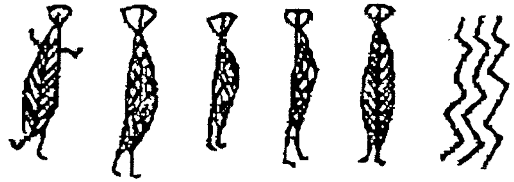

MESOLITHIC MISCELLANY

Union Internationale des Sciences Pre- et Protohistoriques
Commission 12

Volume 6, Number 1 **May 1985**

FROM THE EDITOR

The Third Mesolithic Congress was held in Edinburgh, 31 March - 6 April. The meeting was an extraordinary success. Many thanks are owed to the Department of Archaeology of the University of Edinburgh for their careful attention to the facilities and organization, and particularly to Clive Bonsall and Prof. Dennis Harding. Two accounts of the symposium appear in this newsletter beginning on page 10.

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RESEARCH REPORTS

THE SKATEHOLM PROJECT

On the trail of changes in burial custom,
ritual areas, and tame foxes.

The fifth season of excavation at Skateholm in southernmost Sweden was conducted in 1984. The earlier investigations had resulted in the discovery of three Late Mesolithic sites with a combination of settlement remains and cemeteries adjacent to an ancient bay.

The Skateholm I Site

The investigation of the gravefield at Skateholm I was finalized in the current season with the removal of the topsoil of an area high up on the slope. Even smaller areas, not thoroughly researched earlier, became objects of scrutiny. The gravefield extent appears to have been finally established in the 1984 season.

Earlier investigations have shown that the skeletal material deteriorates up slope. This observation is supported by the results from the extended area of investigation.
Grave 54 proved to be in such bad condition that only fragments of extremities were preserved. The body had probably been placed sitting in the grave.
Grave 55 also contained an extremely badly preserved skeleton in the supine position. Red ochre was found between the femurs and flint debitage lay between the knees.
Grave 56 contained poorly preserved portions of the extremities. Grave 57, which lay beneath Grave 56, likewise contained the badly preserved remains of a young person in the supine position. Here too a piece of flint waste lay between the knees.
Grave 58 held an adult in an extremely drawn-up hocker position, while in Grave 59 only the teeth of the interred teenager remained. Some 20 animal teeth had been placed in this grave.

Several different types of constructions were encountered in the northern section of the extended research area. One, a 2.5 m long pit, contained primarily a heavy soot, find-rich fill. Another pit, ony 0.7 m in length, lay beneath the larger pit. Skeletal remains of a 35 year-old male lay in the smaller pit (Grave 60). This individual had, in all probability, been mutilated and dismembered prior to burial. Grave 61 contained the extremely fragmentary remains of an aged person who was given a pecked stone axe a grave furnishing.

The cranium of the interred individual in Grave 62 was destroyed by later digging. The deceased, likely a female, lay in a sleeping posture. Close to the legs a skeleton of a dog was found. Grave 63, a damaged double grave, contained a male and female close together in a sleeping position. Grave 64 came to light in the course of the osteological examination of material from the occupation layer where both petrosa from a young child were identified in two adjoining squares at the bottom of the layer.

The Gravefield at Skateholm II

Further graves were known to exist at Skateholm II - ca. 150 m southeast of Skateholm I — in the area where the topsoil had been removed in 1983 and georadar had been used extensively.

Grave XII held two children, 2 and 3 years old respectively, placed close together. The younger child had received two flint blades as grave goods while the older was given a long bone point. Both crania were strewn with red ochre.
Grave XIII contained a 6 year old in a supine position. This grave contained flint flakes and a flat stone plate as grave goods. Grave XIV held a supine female, with the legs drawn up. No grave goods were found.
Grave XV was encountered in the central section of the research area, where there is a high concentration of graves. It contained a 25 year-old male, placed in a sitting position with extended legs. The grave fill produced abundant flint and bone. Two antlers of red deer lay by the head while a very large antler lay at the feet. A row of perforated red deer teeth ran across the top of the cranium — obviously the remains of a more elaborate headdress. Two flint blades lay by the hips and a core axe was found at the left thigh. Several teeth from wild boar lay beneath the right arm. Grave XVI in the southern section held an adult in supine position but with arms akimbo. No grave goods were recorded but the grave was partially damaged by burrowing animals. Grave XVII contained a 20 year old male lying supine but with side-bent arms, between the folds of which a marten cranium was placed on the right side and porpoise vertebrae on the left.

An extended removal of topsoil from Skateholm II led to the discovery of five more graves. A depression in the eastern section of the site contained a small area in which burned human bones were found — Grave XVIII — the third Mesolithic cremation grave at Skateholm. The bones in Grave XVIII displayed various degrees of burning. Grave XIX was badly disturbed by a secondary construction. Parts of a dog were also found. The find of tubular bone, probably human, may indicate that the grave originally held both a human and a dog, not uncommon at Skateholm II.

Three graves were encountered in the western section. Grave XX contained a young female in a supine attitude. A row of perforated tooth beads ran around her waist, including the teeth of aurochs. The latter inclusion witnesses the far-flung lines of contact, because the aurochs at that time was extinct in southern Scandinavia. Tooth beads were also found behind the head. A dog

was found in a pit immediately behind grave XX. A red deer antler lay along the back. In addition, three flint knives and a hammer of red deer antler was found on the dog's stomach. The hammer was ornamented along the handle, as well as on the club itself. It is not impossible that a connnection exists between grave XX and the pit containing the dog but it was not possible to establish this. Thus the dog is treated as Grave XXI.

Grave XII contained an adult in sitting position with legs drawn up at extreme angles. The interred had been placed seated on two red deer antlers. Peforated teeth of red deer, wild boar, and elk, as well as two jaws of marten were found around the waist. A perforated piece of rectangular slate was found in the chest area.

Even allowing for the fact that graves are far more numerous at Skateholm I, several essential differences in burial customs are evident. At Skateholm II, the older site, four graves were furnished with antler beams, against none at Skateholm I. Approximately 1/3 of the graves at Skateholm I feature the hocker position, versus none at Skateholm II. The inclusion of dogs in human graves, as well as the custom of bestowing rich gifts on dogs at Skateholm II, distinguishes itself greatly from the separately-interred but gift-free dogs at Skateholm I.

Signs of Eel Feasts and Houses at Skateholm II

The investigation of a peculiar construction, located in the middle of the gravefield, was completed during the 1984 season. It consisted of an almost circular area bounded by a narrow and shallow channel. The area was covered with red ochre and the presence of post holes indicated that some kind of structure had been raised here, within which the fill consisted of soot-mixed sand. The conjoining bones from the skeletal parts of several animals were found in the channel itself, as well as among others whole vertebrae of eel, a marine species seldom encountered in the adjacent occupation layer. The structure is interpreted as a cult-ceremonial area. In addition, several large areas of staining are most probably the remains of sunken floor houses.

Skateholm and the Outside World

The investigations at Skateholm show that Late Mesolithic settlement was concentrated in and around the ancient bay. As regards the nearest settlement concentrations, a complex of sites from the same period are known along the strand spurs adjoining a large bog some 25 km east of

Skateholm. Trial excavations in 1984 uncovered evidence for a Late Mesolithic site with abundant bone material on a low island in what had been a lagoon. To the west, the remains of a very large Late Mesolithic site exists on the shore of a similar prehistoric bay at Kämpinge, ca. 30 km away. Here the inhabitants were able to move higher upslope with rising sea level. At Skateholm the transgression forced abandonment to other higher-lying islands.

Stone Age Farmers in the Skateholm Bay

Research continued at the Early Neolithic site recorded in 1983. The site lies in what was once a sheltered area of the ancient lagoon, along its north-eastern reaches. Occupation layers can be followed along some 60 m of shoreline. Finds of clay daub and posthole stains indicate the presence of house constructions. In spite of the location, hunting and fishing appear to have been of little significance: cattle, pigs, and sheep dominate the faunal material completely. Abnormally abraded hooves suggests that cattle were used as draft animals.

Current Research

During 1984 a report on the anthropological analysis of the skeletal material of some 32 individuals excavated from 1980-82 was published (Persson & Persson, see Recent Publications, this issue).
The continuing osteological analysis of the animal, fowl, and fish remains has increased the total number of species represented to 89. Distinct differences can be seen in the species composition of the deposits at Skateholm I and II. The percentages of roe deer and freshwater fish are greater at the older, latter site, while saltwater fish, seal and wild boar are more common at Skateholm I. These anomalies are partly, but only partly, due to the time difference and changes in the Atlantic environment. An interesting find from Skateholm I is the jaw of a fox with tooth abrasion evidence that suggests that the animal was tame or kept in captivity.

Lars Larsson
Institute of Archaeology
Lund, Sweden

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Lechat rockshelter
(Hamoiur, prov. Liége, Belgium)

This is a small shelter (2.60 m x 2.60 m, 1 m in height) with a natural terrace at the foot of a limestone cliff. The opening is towards the south-west on the right bank of a small valley that joins the Ourthe River a hundred meters downstream (I.G.N. lat : N. 50° 24'28", long. E. 5° 31'20"; Alt. + 120 m).

Excavations in 1982 and 1983 took place both on the terrace and in the shelter to a maximal depth of 2.30 m (Lausberg-Miny, J. et P. , L. Pirnay and M. Otte. 1983a, 1983b, 1984). An area of 23 square meters has been opened up.

The following stratigraphy was observed in the main axial cut:

1. Recent humus: 5 - 10 cm.
2. Level A: Thick weathered limestone blocks with a grey, sandy fine screes. This level contains a wall closing the entrance of the shelter. Artifacts from the Middle Ages to modern times were found in this level which also included a crude ceramic ware and some sherds with a corded decoration similar to the final Neolithic. Thickness : 20 - 40 cm.
3. Level B: Sandy dark brown earth with numerous small weathered screes, containing organic material dated to the Middle Neolithic (E. Gilot, Lv 1332 = 4750 ± 60 BP: Lv 1406 = 5240 ± 90 BP; Lv 1407 = 5350 ± 80 BP), transverse arrow heads and a finer, red or dark brown, lustered ware. Two conical pits with reddish walls are linked with this level and cut through underlying deposits (E. Gilot, Lv 1333 = 5330 ± 90 BP; Lv 1334 = 5350 ± 60 BP). Thickness 30 to 50 cm.
4. Level C: Brighter sandy earth with weathered limestone blocks and fine screes, containing Middle Mesolithic material. Thickness 10 to 50 cm.
5. Level D: Pebbles and gravels with weathered limestone screes and bright brown loams, sterile. Thickness 25 to 60 cm.
6. Level E. Yellow loam with large, weathered blocks of limestone containing micro-fauna and snails.

The faunal remains from Levels A, B, C, and E have been studied by J.M. Cordy (Cordy 1983a, 1983b).

Level C is the most important and has produced flaking debris of flint and sandstone from Wommersom, together with microlithic pieces including the so-called "pygmy" scalene triangles, elongated triangles with a short side. Two of the five points are similar to the Montclus triangles.

The traces of a burning area with sandstone cobbles, complete quartz pebbles, reddish and spalled by heat, and burnt limestone blocks have been discovered in the western part of the site; charcoal was abundant throughout this structure. The majority of the lithic material, such as the points, were in the direct vicinity of this feature.

The C-14 dates are as follows:

7930 + 100 BP (Lv. 1408)
7510 + 260 BP (Lv. 1409D)
8070 + 150 BP (Lv. 1410D)

We can thus say, taking into account the relative scarcity of the material, that the Level C occupation in the Lechat rockshelter seems to have been a brief hunting place during the Mesolithic at the end of the 6th millenium B.C., with cultural relations to the Beuronian C of the Ourthe Bassin (Gob 1981).

J. and P. Lausberg,
L. Pirnay & M. Otte

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REVIEWS

Gr øn, Ole. 1983. Social behavior and settlement structure. Preliminary results of a distribution analysis on sites of the Maglemose culture. **Journal of Danish Archaeology** 2: 32-42.

Reviewed by H.P. Blankholm
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Having worked with various aspects of settlement structure and soc behavioral properties of the Maglemose Culture since the mid 197[illegible] (Blankholm 1980, 1984), it is interesting to follow new work in the same direction. Basing his investigations on four sites (Ulkestrup I, Duvensee Wohnplatz 6, Svanemosen 28, and Svaerdborg II), Grøn's aim is to " ... achieve concrete knowledge about the social structure of the Maglemose Culture..."; his main thesis is that "... individuals have been placed in the dwelling according to a specific pattern reflecting their age, sex and social status" (page 32).

Generally, Grøn's idea is good, though far from new. His analysis, however, requires a few comments, particularly regarding the methodology.

(1) Grøn makes use of equidistant density contours in the comparison of horizontal distributions of tool and artifact types. However, the interval selected varies among artifact groups and from site to site, thus making the comparison between sites more cumbersome than necessary. Since frequencies over a site surface generally grow exponentially rather than linearly, a standardized technique with intervals based on an exponential scale would seem to be the right choice, and would certainly be more congruent with the actual nature of the distributions.

(2) For analytically defining hutfloors, Grøn selects two artifact categories (microliths and debitage) and notes the pattern of concentratior these categories in relation to the preserved hutfloor from Ulkestrup I and its orientation towards the former lake shore. He then goes back to the other sites and imposes a hut frame over each so that it is similarly oriented in relation to concentrations of microliths and flint waste and to the former shoreline. In fact orientation towards the lake seems to be the most important factor. Otherwise, according to his method, the orientation could be the exact opposite!

Although it may work in some cases, this procedure is unnecessarily cumbersome, if not dubious. Analytically, hut floors should be defined by with a technique that makes direct use of construction evidence and its

major, concomitant distributional pattern. Having defined hut floors (the major unit of analysis on most sites) this way on a number of sites, one can then begin a search for and explain consistent internal and external patterning and orientation. In short, internal distributions should be seen in relation to the hut area that defines spatial patterning and not vice a versa.

(3) Regarding individual differences in flint distribution, O. Grøn states that "... it would be natural to regard the two microlith concentrations on each of the sites as the result of the activities of two individuals (page 39)." One question immediately becomes apparent: Are the differences he observes statistically significant? To answer this question it is necessary to look at his data handling in some detail.

(a) Histograms are usually informative, but their interpretation is not straight forward. Very much depends upon the choice of intervals. Bi- or multimodal distributions on small scale intervals very often appear to be of the general "archaeological" kind - unimodal with a negative kurtosis - when scaled on larger or perhaps more appropriate intervals. Quite clearly one answer would be to test for normality and homogeneity.

(b) Still, even if the distributions in the published histograms are taken at face value, it is questionable whether they support his arguments. For instance, a Mann-Whitney U-test (Siegel 1956) of the data presented in Fig. 7 shows no significant difference at the 99% level!

(c) The same may pertain to the correlations and linear regressions. Correlation coefficients and regression lines deviate but do they deviate significantly, thus lending statistical support to his arguments? Apparently the analysis was never pushed that far although appropriate methods exist.

It thus remains for Grøn to prove that his data divide by site groups into two significantly different distributions or populations. If they do, they may very well have been caused by differences in motor habits but other behavioral and technological factors should be considered.

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CONFERENCE REPORT

Mesolithic Europe: The Alcoholic Basis

An international symposium on the theme of the Mesolithic in Europe drew many of the MM's readers and contributors to Edinburgh, Scotland (*). In view of the impossibility of any one participant-observer giving an accurate and impartial account of the numerous and complex communications, even wer such a paragon to have attended all the sessions, the MM hack ha. concentrated on the other strikingly successful aspect of the week-long symposium - the active social (party) life.

SCENE: Party night towards the end of the symposium. Bodies of every shape, size, and sex are variously foraging for the increasingly scarce caches of drink or, sated, engaging in shop talk and yarnspinning. MM's hack is engaged in conversation with a group of Scandinavians, instantly recognizable through their blond hair, reddish beards, enormous handknit sweaters, and air of repressed intensity.

Hack: Thank God Jolly Packman organised another pissup. I don't think I could stand another culturally uplifting evening. All those grotty flints! At least the papers are getting funnier; I nearly threw up laughing at Moord 't Anker's diagrams of squat caiques and all those daft shells. Best paper so far . . .

Karling Black Labelsen, Birquit Carlsbergen and Ole Drinch Tuborgsen: How would you know? You only arrived half-way through, from the Anniversary of your Pissartistic Society. The best paper was one by Bas Fawlty from Groaninghem . . . such boundless authority and conviction! If only Billy Graham tried to save flints instead of souls!

Hack: Oh no! The Red Baron is going to make another speech !

(A Norwegian, his eyes dilated in terror, opens a second-floor window and leaps out).

Red Baron: Ladiess und Gentlemen! Your attention pleass! I vish to commiserate varmly upon all infolved in the upsetting of these wunderbar formless balls! In Germany have we too balls but they are all in order arranged! I am so happy to your Edinburgh to haff come for the informal feeling of your Scottish balls! Ach, but mein glass is empty!

(The Red Baron blinks uncomprehendingly as the audience collapses in hysterics. Burly U.S. heavyweight Madison S. Gardens attempts to wedge an ice-pack into his jaw to shut him up, but understimates the quantity required. Meanwhile a fresh eruption occurs: the guileless Finn Kalevala Suomus järviainen is demonstrating his boundless affection for his old Czech pal, Manic Borealzeal by performing an ancient Karelian clog-dance on his recumbent body. Bleeding profusely but protesting his undiluted amity, the Czech crawls behind the pile of empty lager cans to recover. The Finn shifts his attention to a nearby nubile, offering to demonstrate Sahlins' concept of the Domestic Mode of Reproduction. The irate 'nubile' turns out to be no less than Bjørn Borgsall, the conference organiser. Collapse of Finn).

Hack: Who's that jabbering at Mangia e Bevi, the Italians. Is it another Spaghetti-bender?

Sceptical American observer: No thats Col. Bloodnok of Britford University, he's been out in the Med. so long he's gone native. Watch out, he's coming over.

Bloodnok: Did shomebody shay beer? (swills down glass) Uergh! Lager! Never touch th' shtuff! Hashn't anybody any decent Ferret & Trouserleg Badgerden Bitter?

Hack: Weren't you the guy who suggested that some obscure cave in Mallorca by the side of the road was really an open-air loo for some weird animal, and that while it was giggling at the graphiti some shifty characters crept up and bashed it! Why that's transparently off the wall!

Bloodnok: If you think that's out to lunch what do you think of the idea that chap from Liverfluke university who said that nearly two-thirds of the snail-shells in some huge cave in the Pyrenees were really fakes made from pasta shells filled with Parmesan planted by some eccentric Italio-American millionaire in the thirties! Let's ask this Spaniard over here . . .

Hack: Excuse me, are you Fernando La Riera-González or Gonzalo La Riera-

Fernández?

Spaniard: Señor, these are two names for the same person in the older literature. Actually I am known as Manuel Asturiano-Concheiro during my existence in the lowlands in the winter, but as Manuel Trashumante-Aziliano when I move to the mountains in summer. Claro, no?

(The conversation is drowned by a violent altercation in another part of the room. Several participants are discussing the vexed question of the seasonal or permanent occupation of Rockall propounded by Peter Sellars).

Sellars: (his eyes dilated with reverence for Rockall) . . . Welcome Rockall, gateway to the west . . . the happy shuffle of little puffin feet . . . sedentary economy based upon intensive year-round all-weather puffin exploitation. After all, why colonise Ireland when you can live permanently on Rockall?

S. Typologowski: Surely these worked pebbles or P-points were used to detach puffins from the rocks by bashing their feet until they let go and then popping them into some sort of gaily decorated plastic bag?

J.G. Archer: Non, non absolutment non. You étrangers have no sence of taste, let alone taxonomy. Zees pebbles were used to scoop ze most delicious morsel - ze puffin's brains - out of his skull. Wiz a garnison of fresh seaweed and a puffin egg omlette, merveilleux!

Ms. Bananas de Boer: But what if people stumbled around at night with wet muddy feet, trampling all over the puffins. Wouldn't it invalidate your huypothesis Mr. Sellars?

(The other participants boggle, then stare at their feet and contemplate the years which will run their course before Leuven 1990. Perhaps something will turn up.)

Only one conference participant, the last to speak, is silent. He is recollecting in his mind's eye his greatest triumph as he, Biggles, while engaged in routine aerial photography over the Vale of Dickering, survived an attack by the vaunted Red Baron.

Ah, yes, the flight had begun like any other routine 'op! Shouting 'chocks away' Ginger had hand-cranked the twin Kodak slide projectors into life, their

bass roar drowning all conversation in the Mess, as the 50 or so line-shooters of this élite called their cramped quarters . . . with a synchronised movement of the hand controls he sped aloft, above familiar fields and trenches . . . suddenly his blood froze. The Red Baron was on his tail, having dived out of the sun! Biggles waited helplessly for the chatter of the dealy Potsdam Parabellums. The Red Baron never missed at this range! And yet . . . he had! As the familiar figure in the other cockpit flashed past, Biggles realized with a shock of relief that the Red Baron . . . had left his glasses behind! With a deep sigh of relief he set his course for Leuven, ETA in about 5 years.

Anonymous Hack
13/4/85

(*) **III International Symposium. The Mesolithic in Europe** organized by the Dept. Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, and held at Carlyle and Buchanan Halls of the University 31 March - 6 April 1985. To be published by Edinburgh University Press.

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The Song of 'Carlyle' Jimmy - Scotland's Oldest Dipsolith

In the glen near Carlyle's sand bank
stood a summer macro-band camp,
ten extended family groupings
broadest-spectrum, with strandlooping,
living off trout - salmon poaching,
whisky distillates quite something,
tight herding of deer in paddocks,
fleshing whales with antler mattocks.

Ten extended family batches
bitching royally over catches.
"Who says summer fusion's working
with big men who act like god-kings ?"
murmered fathers bent on fissioning
to the autum grounds for dancing.
One such grump was ' Carlyle ' Jimmy,
dad of six, with wife Fiona.

'Carlylye' Jimmy's forward planning
held far broader vistas scanning.
Whilst accepting rapid fissioning,
how he loathed that ethnic dancing !
endless reels of Highland fling(e)ing
interspersed with children wingeing.
Jimmy's dream since daughter Brand IV -
to see Europe on the grand tour.

On an outing to Ur-Loch Ness,
unspoilt shorelines and still broch-less,
'Carlyle' Jimmy took his main chance
while his missus danced the rain dance
with supporting cast of infants
in the presence of the chieftains.
Jiummy hit the trail for Westland
via pubs renowned for Best Beer.

In his knap-sack made of deer-skin
Jimmy carried gut and bone-pin
for repair to tribal jewjaws
all replette with ethnic decor-
ations that his kinship group wore.
But the most important kit-store
was his cache of spare trapezes
lest his arrows fell to pieces.

Jimmy wandered down the west shore
meeting the 'James Cherry' Culture.
Clever guys who clinched big deals
at their centre down at Eskmeals.
Now the housing of these big wheels
struck our Jim as not for hick heels.
palaeo-Habitat design doors,
platforms with their own stripped pine floors.

Jim soon left on a new venture,
one week at a tourist centre.
Star cottage offered lakeside barquing,
summer schools in folk wood carving,
extra skills in antler-crafting
and a course in harpoon-shafting.
Tools all made, Jim gained top marks
hunting red deer in the State Parks.

Walking north round Finno-Scania
Jimmy's holiday turned zanier.
Up past Stavanger walked James now
sunset-bathed in ochre-flames - wow !
One real hazard spoilt his games so -
gaping pits dug in the meadows.
left by collectors of old bones,
one pit in fifty yielded flintstones.

Walking north to find the fun zone,
Jimmy hit the midnight sun zone.
Came across a Tromso Maiden
running racy tours which laid on
midnight visits to stone hut-floors.
Little wonder Jim loved outdoors -

Who said history's no fun? It
all depends on whom it's done wit'!

"Carlyle" Jimmy went through Sweden
pulled by dog-sled, drinking mead, when
pack-dog fell down, frothing out foam.
Lucky they were close to Skateholm,
Happy Hunting Ground for doggies,
burial ground for much-loved moggies.
Jim's dog buried 'neath red ochre,
all the lads sat down to poker.

Onwards, southward led the travels
cross the Pomeranian gravels
till at Friesack Jimmy struck rich
his first chewing gum made of pine pitch.
Only Schnapps filtered through fish-paste
cleared the palate of this gum taste.
To miss more gastronomic terror,
Jim ran off and blamed the weather.

Jimmy had no plans for set walks
'til he joined the breeding networks
centred on the Danube Valley
where the indigènes were pally.
Lying one-deep, two-deep, three-deep,
no-one had the time for deep sleep
in these linear arrangenmets
certified through bride price payments.

Needing Grecian hot sun and seas,
Jimmy hit the Peloponnese.
He chose Franchthi as his home base,
roasting venison on his good days,
culling Cardium on poor days,
lazing like only the Scots laze.
Better swimming raised cave prices
with eustatic seashore rises.

Off to islands new to swelter,
no sweat with the Corsest filter,

Jim soon took to Basic habits
except for those blasted rabbits.
Oh for Grecians brachyceros
or even Irish megaceros!
Steaks are rare, depend on luckshots.
even then they're full of buckshots.

Hence for Jim the great attraction
of the Pyrenean action.
Not just the real live snail viveria
but the best galleries in Iberia.
All Levantine art was strike-bound,
French caves closed to keep tourists down.
Europe's heritage in tatters,
cave-directors mad as hatters!

Feeling homesick for his Scots horde,
Jimmy turned his footsteps northward.
Passing throught the Paris Basin,
Jimmy felt his pulses racing.
Yet the climate felt far wetter;
bow technology, too, was better.
Curious how the woods had altered
as elm populations faltered.

By the time Jim reached his home camp,
'Carlylye's' band had had a new revamp.
Noe more ethnic Highland flinging,
pottery symbols replaced singing .
Fields of wheat now, no more frolicking,
out trapezes, in axe polishing.
Proper buildings, long-house format,
thatch for roof and bast for doormat.

"God ! " said Jimmy, " How horrific ! ".
"Just so " said wife, "it's the NEOLITHIC ".

J.C. Chapman (with apologies to Longfellow).

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Aaris-Sørensen, Kim. 1984. Om en uroksetyr fra Prejlerup — og dens sammenstød med Maglemosekulturen. **Nationalmuseets Arbejdsmark** 1984: 165-173.

Arts, Nico. 1984. Waubach: a late Upper Paleolithic/Mesolithic raw material procurement site in Limburg, the Netherlands. **Helinium** 24: 209-222.

In this paper it is argued that the Waubach site was a lithic raw material procurement site. The ascribed function is based primarily on the specific content and location of the site. Parallels are drawn with the archaeological and ethnoarchaeological record, and characteristics are suggested which formulate the archaeological recognizability of the type of site discussed in this paper. In conclusion, the meaning of the site is discussed in terms of hunter- gatherer procurment systems.

Atti della Tavola Rotonda Internazionale. 1984. Il popolamento delle Alpi in età mesolitica. VIII-V millennio a.C. **Prehistoria Alpina**, volume 19. Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali. Trento.

Table of Contents

Bang-Andersen, Sveinung. 1982. Om okerbruk blant forhistoriske jeger/samler-grupper i Sör-Norge. **Ams-Skrifter** 9: 57-73. Arkeologisk museum i Stavanger. (English summary).

Bang-Andersen, Sveinung. 1983. Svarthålå på Viste - boplasss i 6000 år. **AmS-Småtrykk** 13. Stavanger. (English Summary).

Ochre is found on at least 16 dwelling sites and 7 localities with rock-paintings in Southern Norway. Chemical analysis shows "red ochre" or hematite (Fe2O3) to be the main component of the material. We are short of facts about how the pigment was prepared and used beyond rock paintings. Most of the sites are dated to ca. 6300-5500 B.C. (uncalibrated) and belong to late mesolithic hunter/gatherer groups. The rock-paintings also seem to have a hunting background. Most of them are believed to be of an Early Bronze age date. From aboriginal parallels the use of ochre is interpreted as part of hunters' magic to ensure a proper yield of the large-game hunt.

Fischer, Anders, Peter Vemming Hansen and Peter Rasmussen. 1984. Macro

and micro wear traces on lithic projectile points. **Journal of Danish Archaeology** 3:19-46.

In this study we have tried to discover to what extent damaged prehistoric flint points can yield information their function. This was done on the basis of experiments the aim of which was to isolate and define types of use wear traces which could be considered diagnostic for use as points on spears and arrows. We present the experimental work, then types of micro- and macroscopic characteristics of function, and finally the experimental results are examined on prehistoric points of different ages, sizes, and shapes.

Geddes, David S. 1985. Mesolithic domestic sheep in West Mediterranean Europe. **Journal of Archaeological Science** 12: 25-48.

Domestic ovicaprine specimens, some attributed specifically to *Ovis aries* L., have been recovered at two Mesolithic sites in the western Languedoc region of France, and two sites in southeastern France. The sites are typical late Mesolithic occupations, firmly dated between 7300 BP and 8000 BP, and stratigraphically precede the appeareance of other domestic animals, cultivated plants, pottery, and the establishment of settled villages in their regions. They seem to represent early steps in the adoption of animal husbandry by hunter-gatherer societies in the western Mediteranean. Evidence from the Aude valley sites is presented for the gradual development of animal herding over a period of 1000 years or more, which spans the Mesolithic-Neolithic boundary. The evidence suggests that indigenous Mesolithic societies may have played a formative role in the development of settled farming communities in this area, and that the availability of domestic species may not have led rapidly to major changes in settlement , economy, and society.

Geddes, David S., Jean Guilaine, and Andre Monaco. 1983. Early Neolithic occupation on the submerged continental plateau of Roussillon (France). In **Quarternary Coastlines and Marine Archaeology**, edited by P.M. Masters and N.C. Flemming, pp. 175-187. Academic Press, New York.

An early Neolithic occupation site (6800± 90 B.P.) established on a deltaic levee of fluvial gravels was submerged before 5000 years B.P. by the Mediterranean, which began rising around 14,000 years B.P. according to observations in the Golfe du Lion. The Holocene transgression first invaded, downcut and channellized zones of the

Roussillion continental plateau after 8000 B.P., that is during the Neolithic, and reworking the levee into a peri-littoral or small island several meters above sea level. Excavations recovered stone and bone tools, typologically early cardial-impressed pottery of the Franco-Iberian group, and faunal remains. Taphonomic analysis of the process of burial suggests that a representative sample of animal bones was recovered. Subsistence activities included husbandry of domestic sheep and cattle; hunting for boar, deer, aurochs, and birds; coastal and deep sea fishing; and certainly the collection of mollusks and plants. The site may have played a specialized role in the subsistence system uniting the littoral and inland areas. Relationships with the indigenous Mesolithic cultures, which could have had an important bearing on the diffusion of plant and animal domesticates and the shift to food production, remain uncertain. The results suggest that the coastal and maritime diffusion of Neolithic food production in the Mediterranean would have occurred in zones currently submerged.

Geddes, David. 1980. **De la chasse au troupeau en Méditerranée Occidentale: les débuts de l'élévage dans le bassin de L'Aude.** Archives d'Écologie Préhistorique, 5. Toulouse: École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales.

Drawing upon original research on 4 Mesolithic-Neolithic sites in the Aude river valley of southern France, located in different environmental settings (littoral, lowland, piedmont, mountain), the author attempts to describe and interpret the emergence of animal husbandry during the 6th and 5th millennia B.C., and the socioeconomic and ecological changes that may have accompanied this shift from gathering and hunting to those based on agricultural production in the west Mediterranean region. The author first reviews the data and interpretations concerning the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition, and the complex interrelationships among sedentism, domestication and food production, in Southwest Asia and Europe. The core of the work is devoted to faunal studies of the Grotte Gazel, Abri de Dourgne, Abri Jean Cros, and site of Leucate-Corrége. The author first presents the stratigraphy, chronology, and paleoenvironmental setting of each site. The faunal remains are then described and analyzed in detail, in the local and regional context. The author shows the complexity of the process of Neolithization in the Western Mediterranean: the continuing decisive role played by wild resources during the Early Neolithic; the separate introduction of the various domestic animals over a millennium; the changes of site location and function in the regional

economy. Substantial changes in subsistence and settlement only arise in the Aude valley with the advent of the Middle Neolithic, and are shown by large Chassean settlements implanted on alluvial terraces. The author discusses models for the Cardial horizon of the Early Neolithic in the Mediterranean, and rejects a simple westward expansion of the Greco-Aegean model with sedentism beginning in the Aceramic Neolithic, and a preponderance of domestic animals from the onset. Rather, he argues that indigeneous societies may have played a formative roles in the emergence of early agricultural society in the western Mediterranean.

Hinout, Jacques. 1984. Les outils et armatures-standards Mésolithiques dar le Bassin Parisien par l'analyse des données. **Revue Archeologique d Picardie** N° 1-2.

Kozlowski, J.K., & S.K. Kozlowski. 1984. Chipped stone industries from Lepenski Vir, Yugoslavia. **Prehistoria Alpina**, 19: 259-294. Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali. Trento.

Meiklejohn, Christopher, Catherine Schentag, Alexandra Venema & Patrick Key. 1984. Socioeconomic change and patterns of pathology and variation in the Mesolithic and Neolithic of Western Europe: some suggestions. In **Paleopathology at the Origins of Agriculture,** edited by M. Cohen and G.J. Armelagos. pp. 75-100. Academic Press, New York.

Morrison, A. 1982. The Mesolithic period in south-west Scotland: a review of the evidence. **Glasgow Archaeological Journal** 9: 1-14.

Newell, R.A. 1984. On the Mesolithic contribution to the social evolution of Western European Society. In **European Social Evolution**, edited by John Bintliff, pp. 69-82. Bradford: University of Bradford Press.

Olsen, A.B., and S. Alsaker. 1984. Greenstone and diabase utilization in the Stone Age of western Norway: technological and socio-cultural aspects of axe and adze production and distribution. **Norwegian Archaeological Review** 17: 71-103.

The subject of this article is the production and distribution of stone axes and adzes originating from two large Stone Age quarries in western Norway: the greenstone quarry on the small island of Hespriholmen, Bømlo kommune, Hordaland Fylke, and the diabase quarry

at Stakaneset, Flora kommune, Sogn or Fjordane Fylke. The identification of production sites and distributed products associated with these quarries is based on petrological investigations, both thin section and geochemical analyses. Radiocarbon and shoreline datings of debris assemblages and chronological groupings of the distributed artifacts have made it possible to gain control over the time depth and consistency in the utilization of the two outcrops. Different technological aspects of the production process are discussed on the basis of finds and observations from the quarries and workshop sites. The distribution patterns are examined with regard to their reflection of cultural continuity and change. Finally, some hypotheses on the social context of production and distribution are put forward. These include diffusion mechanisms responsible for the distribution and aspects concerning territoriality and demography as reflected in the distribution patterns.

Persson, Ove and Evy Perrson. 1984. Anthropological Report on the Mesolithic Graves from Skateholm, Southern Sweden. I Excavation Season 1980-1982. **Report Series** No. 21, Institute of Archaeology, University of Lund.

The basis of the research concerns two Late Mesolithic grave-fields, designated Skateholm I and Skateholm II from Scania, Southern Sweden. C14-datings indicate the time interval 4340 $\pm$90 B.C.; to 3980 $\pm$ 125 B.C. for settlement/burial at Skateholm I, while C14-datings for the occupation at Skateholm II indicate that Skateholm II is somewhat older than Skateholm I.

37 graves have so far been thoroughly investigated. 29 of these contain the remains of *Homo*, of which 29 individuals were adult or subadult. 2 were children, while one was an almost fully-developed foetus or possibly a new-born infant.

The average life-span of those individuals whose age could be satisfactorily determined was c. 44 years for males and c. 34 years for females. These are remarkably high ages in terms of prehistoric material. Further, it should be mentioned that two individuals are deemed to have attained the age of senility ($\geq$60 years).

The average height of (males) is calulated to have been 168 cm and 155 cm for (females).

Similar to the more or less contemporary Vedbæk population, the majority of the examined skeletons from the Skateholm display connections with the Cro-Magnon type, both in the cranium's form as well as the pelvis'. Individuals are, however, forthcoming in the Skateholm material (among others two in a double grave) whose

features do not deviate in any demonstrable way from the recent of subrecent Northwest European types.
Several "discrete traits" have been observed, of which a few are of a quite rare nature. This suggests that the Skateholm population has been genetically isolated to a certain extent.

Petersen, Peter Vang. 1984. Chronological and regional variations in the late Mesolithic of Eastern Denmark. **Journal of Danish Archaeology** 3:7-18.

Price, T. Douglas. 1984. Mesolithic Settlement Systems: a reply. **Helinium** 24: 127-128.

Price, T. Douglas. 1985. Affluent foragers of Mesolithic southern Scandinavia. In **Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers: The Emergence of Cultural Complexity**, edited by T.D. Price and J.A. Brown, pp. 341-363. New York: Academic Press.

Rowley-Conwy, Peter. 1984. The Laziness of the Short-Distance Hunter: The Origins of Agriculture in Western Denmark. **Journal of Anthropological Archaeology** 3: 300-324.

The Ertebølle Mesolithic culture of western Denmark resisted the advance of agriculture for over 1000 years. Marine resources were predominant in the Mesolithic diet. Oysters were a relatively minor resource but are argued to have played an important role by filling a gap in the resource cycle in late winter and spring. The appearance of agriculture coincides with a decrease in marine salinity, which caused a decline in oyster availability. Other marine resources may also have declined for the same reason.

Schild, Romuald. 1984. Terminal Paleolithic of the North European Plain: review of lost chances, potential, and hopes. **Advances in World Archaeology** 3: 193-274.

Trolle-Lassen, Tine. 1984. A preliminary report on the archaeological and zoological evidence of fish exploitation from a submerged site in Mesolithic Denmark. In **2nd Fish Osteoarchaeology Meeting**,edited by Nathalie Desse-Berset. Centre de Recherches Archéoloqiques. Notes et Monographies Techniques N° 16.

The late mesolithic settlement, Tybrind Vig, is today situated 200-300 m off the west coast of the island - Funen at a depth of 2-3 m. The settlement (carbon-14 dated to 4200-3300 B.C. uncal.) belongs to the Ertebølle-culture and was in the Stone Age placed at a calm cove. Substantial evidence of fishing has been observed in both the archaeological and in the osteological material. The yield of fish bones obtained from the ordinary excavation is compared to the yield of fish bones from water-sieved samples. Factors like the amount of fish bones, the diversity of species, the anatomical type of bone and the size of the fish are taken into consideration. The material is completely dominated of cod; quite a lot of plaice/flounder and a little bit of shark (spurdog demonstrated) are found. Other species/families have - until now - only been represented by a few bones each.

Vang Petersen, Peter, and Erik Brinch Petersen. 1984. Prejleruptyrens skæbne — 15 små flintspidser. **Nationalmuseets Arbejdsmark** 1984: 174-179.

Woodman, Peter C. 1985. Mobility in the Mesolithic of northwestern Europe: an alternative explanation. In **Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers: The Emergence of Cultural Complexity**, edited by T.D. Price and J.A. Brown, pp. 325-339. New York: Academic Press.

Woodman, Peter C. 1985. **Excavations at Mount Sandel**. Northern Ireland Archaeological Monographs N°2. Belfast: Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Zvelebil, M., and P. Rowley-Conwy. 1984. Transition to farming in northern Europe: a hunter-gatherer perspective. **Norwegian Archaeological Review** 17: 104-128.

The transition to settled farming communities in nothern Europe was a far more gradual process than elsewhere in Europe: this makes it possible to study the transition to farming archaeologically at a higher level of resolution. In this paper we trace the shift to cultivation in two areas: Denmark and Finland. Despite the differences in the time scale of agricultural evolution and despite other chronological and environmental differences, we can in both cases isolate 3 distinct stages in the transition to farming, thus extending the process well beyond the conventional date for the shift to cultivation. Both the case studies emphasize the long continuation of foraging adaptations, and the long delay before the appearance of a predominantly agricultural economy. This delay has been caused by the development of successful

maritime adaptations, which acted as a viable alternative to farming until a specific trigger — a decline in marine resources — occurred and initiated the substitution phase of the transition.

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Sites Mentioned in the Text

1 Skateholm, Sweden
2 Lechat Rockshelter, Belgium
3 Prejlerup, Denmark
4 Waubach, The Netherlands
5 Tybrind Vig, Denmark