



## MESOLITHIC MISCELLANY

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UNION INTERNATIONALE DES SCIENCES PREHISTORIQUE ET PROTOHISTORIQUE  
MESOLITHIC COMMISSION

Volume 1

November, 1980

### EDITORIAL

Before you is the first issue of Mesolithic Miscellany. The interest in such a publication is apparently quite high, given the number of individuals that have subscribed to the newsletter. A list of subscribers and those individuals who have volunteered to do translations is included in this issue. Please inform other colleagues who are not listed of the existence of the newsletter. Institutional subscriptions are also sought.

As you will note from the top of the newsletter, Mesolithic Miscellany is now a recognized activity of the Mesolithic Commission of the Union Internationale des Sciences Prehistorique et Protohistorique. Our thanks to Dr. S.K. Kozłowski, who suggested this association.

This first issue represents a preliminary, skeletal version of what I anticipate the newsletter will become. Present sections will be expanded and new sections may be added as contributions from the readership arrive. Virtually any information of relevance to the European Mesolithic is welcome within the pages of the newsletter. Letters to the editor will be included. In particular, I hope to add a section of national or regional synopses of Mesolithic studies. This section would appear in the May issue each year, discussing investigations and publications from the previous year. Several individuals have already volunteered to prepare such summaries: S.H. Andersen, Denmark; C. Bonsall, Great Britain; G.A. Clark, northern Spain; M.R. Gonzalez Morales, Spain; S. Welinder, Norway. This feature of the newsletter will be initiated next year. Additional volunteers are needed to report on other areas. Would anyone willing to compile a brief (one or two pages) national synopsis, please let me know?

With regard to subscription to the newsletter, arrangements have been made for payment (US\$3.00 or the equivalent) in either the U.S. or Europe. Individuals subscribing within North America should send payment directly to the editor. Individuals in Europe should forward payment to the account described in the announcements section of the newsletter. Arrangements have also been made for those individuals for whom currency exchange may be a problem. Again, please refer to the announcements section of this issue.

I would particularly like to thank Clive Bonsall of Edinburgh for undertaking the European mailing and subscription collection for the newsletter. His help will greatly facilitate the dispersal and the financing of our endeavor.

There have been one or two negative comments regarding the title of the newsletter. "Mesolithic Miscellany" was selected after the consideration of a number of other possibilities: Mesolithic Studies, Mesolithic Notes, Mesolithic Newsletter, Mesolithic Bulletin, Mesolithic Research, etc. If you would prefer a title other than Mesolithic Miscellany, please let me know and your suggestions will be taken into consideration. Perhaps we can arrange a poll for the most popular title.

The next issue of the newsletter will appear in May 1981. Your contributions of materials, information, reviews, and the like should be in by 1 May 1981 to be included in the May issue. I hope that everyone will have something to contribute. Finally, the subscription rate of US\$3.00 should be remitted to help offset the cost of typing, printing, and mailing. This fee should be sufficient for the next two issues of the newsletter. I look forward to your contributions.

T. Douglas Price  
Department of Anthropology  
5240 Social Sciences Bldg.  
The University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin  
USA 53706

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

UISPP CONGRESS

The tenth congress of the Union International de Ciencias Prehistoricas y Protohistoricas will meet in Mexico City from 19 October to 24 October, 1981. Commission 14 of the Congress deals with "The role of Mesolithic cultural structures in neolithization." Additional information regarding the congress is available from: Comitè Organizador, X Congreso UISPP, Moneda 16, Mexico 1, D.F., Mexico.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Several methods of payment are now available to subscribe to the newsletter. Each method is designed for individuals in specific areas. Please select the most appropriate method for yourself and submit the subscription accordingly.

1. Payment may be made directly to the editor. The subscription of US\$3.00 will cover your subscription through 1981.
2. European subscribers may pay directly into an account in Scotland, arranged by Clive Bonsall.

<u>A/c Title</u>	Edinburgh Newsletter Account
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To avoid bank charges (and thus keep our subscription rates low), there are two ways you may pay the subscription to this account. One, payments may be made in STERLING at a rate of 2.00 pounds. Either subscribers may arrange with their own bank for an INTERBANK payment to be sent straight to the above account or you may purchase sterling notes and send the subscription directly to Clive Bonsall, Department of Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, 16-20 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JZ

Both of the above methods may involve bank charges for exchange for you and you may want to reduce this cost by subscribing for more than one year. Please note that the subscription rate for this account is 2.00 pounds.

3. For those individuals for whom currency exchange may be a problem, the Department of Archaeology of the University of Edinburgh will pay your subscription in exchange for publications. Clive Bonsall will write to those persons interested in this method explaining the arrangements.

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RECENT RADIOCARBON DETERMINATIONS

Cingle Vermell, Vilanova de Sau (near Barcelona, Spain)  
6°04' and 41°57'02"  
Radiocarbon date on charcoal  
UGRA-68 (reference no. CV E 1<sup>a</sup>): 9760±160 B.P.

Mesolithic settlement station in rockshelter. Subsistence based on rabbit-hunting but goat, chamois, carnivores, and bird hunting, fishing, and gathering also recorded. Habitational structures and burials are present at the site.

Submitted by J. Estevez, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, Seccion de Ecologia del Cuaternario, Barcelona.

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LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

The following individuals have subscribed to Mesolithic Miscellany as of November 1, 1980. Please check the list to be certain that your name is included and please inform those whose names do not appear of the existence of the newsletter. The addition of as many individuals interested in the Mesolithic as possible will serve to intensify our communications.

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| S. Andersen (3)          | L. Larsson            |
| S.K. Arora               | R. Lauwers            |
| P.G. Bahn (1,7)          | J. Lewthwaite (1,8,7) |
| G.N. Bailey              | I. Loze (5,9)         |
| S. Bang-Andersen         | I. Lindblom           |
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| R.N. Jacobi              | G.M. Burov            |
| M. Jochim (2)            |                       |
| M. Kobusiewicz (1,2,4)   |                       |
| S.K. Kozłowski (4)       |                       |
| M & N. Lausberg-Miny     |                       |

The numbers following some of the names indicate those individuals who have volunteered to translate a few pages into English when needed. The code for the numbers is as follows: (1) French, (2) German, (3) Danish, (4) Polish, (5) Russian, (6) Czech, (7) Spanish, (8) Italian, (9) Latvian, (10) Swedish, (11) Norwegian, (12) Dutch. If you would like to have your contribution translated it may be sent directly to one of the individuals indicated above.

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RESEARCH REPORTS

Mesolithic Skeletal Remains

I spent the academic year 1977/78 on sabbatical at the Institute for Human Biology of the State University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. During that year the initial stages of a joint project on the interaction of biological and social systems in the western European Mesolithic were begun, together with Dr. T.S. Constandse-Westermann of the above institute and Dr. R.R. Newell of the Biologisch-Archaeologisch Institut of the University of Groningen (BAI). The first result of that project was an evaluative catalog of human skeletal remains in Mesolithic context published as Volume 8 (No. 1) of the Journal of Human Evolution (1979). Further work is in progress and includes the establishment of a data bank on the skeletal materials at the University of Winnipeg.

The catalog acts as the data base for further work and, we hope will be the starting point for other workers who wish to select a reliable sample. The catalog contains the following information: location of the find, discovery and excavation history, stratigraphic section of the site, reliability of provenience within the stratigraphic section, association with Mesolithic culture, information on chronological data, reliability of the date, overall assessment of position of the material and full inventory of all skeletal materials, including assessments of pathology, human interference, and repository institution.

From the analysis, seventy-five sites were judged to contain material that could legitimately be referred to the Mesolithic. An additional nine sites were judged to contain material that was actually older than the Mesolithic, twenty-four had material that was actually younger, and seventy-seven had materials whose position and affinities could not be accurately assessed from the available materials.

The assessments of reliability were placed in a three-dimensional matrix. Assessment of the stratigraphic provenience was on an eight-fold scale of decreasing reliability running from find(s) stratigraphically sealed by the continuous formation of the same natural deposit that contains them, that deposit falling entirely within the Mesolithic period to find(s) with no demonstrable stratigraphic security. Cultural association was on a seven-fold scale grading from primary agreement between the content of a grave and the single component culture layer to which it is associated to no cultural association. Dating assessment was on a five-fold scale ranging from direct collagen radiocarbon determination on the bone itself to known time and space parameters on associated archaeological materials. Thus each site is assessed in three ways, the best possible summary evaluation being I, A, 1 on the scale (no sites), the worst being VIII, G, -. Unless a site was absolutely dated, it had to obtain at least one of the two highest reliability criteria either by stratigraphic or cultural association.

Christopher Meiklejohn  
University of Winnipeg

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Ceramic Mesolithic on the Dutch Coast

The region around the town of Swifterbant on the polder (reclaimed land) of Oost Flevoland in the Netherlands offers rare opportunities to the archaeologist. Until roughly 3000 b.c., this area was part of a larger landscape that extended across the dry bed of the English Channel. The gradual rise of sea level during the early Postglacial period transformed the region into a freshwater tidal delta at the mouth of the Old IJssel River, just prior to its complete inundation. After 3000 b.c., this submerged surface was slowly buried under marine deposits. Reclamation of the land from the sea in A.D. 1956 once again exposed the surface to the open air. Thus, beneath approximately one meter of marine sediments, at a depth of five meters below modern sea level, an intact land surface dating from prior to 3000 b.c. is preserved and accessible to the archaeologist.

The remains of Mesolithic and Neolithic materials were discovered on this buried surface initially in the 1960's in two distinct geomorphological situations: clay levees along the former stream channels of the Old IJssel and sand dunes along the former river banks. The investigation of the prehistoric human occupation of the area continued in the 1970's as a major research project under the overall direction of the Biologisch-Archaeologisch Instituut of the University of Groningen.

This report details one portion of the larger research project, the excavations at one of the river bank dunes, located in the parcel designated as H46 on the polder of Oost Flevoland, to the north of the town of Swifterbant. These investigations were conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1976 and funded by the National Science Foundation of the United States.

The somewhat higher elevations of the river dunes appear to have been favored locales for settlement. Although much of the upper occupation horizon on the river dune at H46 has been truncated by marine erosion, some of the materials collected from the site appear to document a Ceramic Mesolithic--comparable to the Ertebølle-Ellebek culture in southern Scandinavia and northern Germany. Although organic materials are not preserved on the dune sites and macrolithic tools such as flint axes are missing, the heavy ceramic containers present at the site very closely resemble the pottery of the Ertebølle (de Roeber, P., 1979, "The pottery from Swifterbant--Dutch Ertebølle", *Helinium*, 19: 13-36). A radiocarbon date on charcoal from a hearth containing one of the heavy ceramic sherds came to 4300 b.c., earlier than the dates for the earliest pottery in Denmark, around 3800 b.c. Differences in the lithic assemblages between the Netherlands and Denmark in this period may be due primarily to the absence of large flint nodules in the older ground moraine of the northern Netherlands.

An earlier utilization of the dune is indicated as well. Radiocarbon dates of roughly 5800 and 4800 b.c., along with certain lithic artifacts, provide evidence for earlier Mesolithic occupations, corresponding to the Boreal and Late Mesolithic periods as defined by Newell.

Graves on the dune in H46, intrusive through the developed soil horizon, must post-date 4300 b.c. The facts that the graves are intrusive through the soil and that the bones of the burials are partially preserved argue for interment at a time when water levels were higher than today in that area. These graves may be contemporaneous with the Neolithic settle-

ments and burials from the clay levees in the Swifterbant area. The levee burials are dated to 3590 b.c. by radiocarbon determination on bone collagen.

We have learned that in areas along the slopes of the dunes, two probable cultural horizons (at least) are present and vertically separated, albeit with some overlap. Artifactual materials, vertical separation, and the radiocarbon dates argue for a Ceramic Mesolithic in the Swifterbant area. More investigations are needed with better stratigraphic separation to adequately document the settlements of the Mesolithic inhabitants. However, because of the disturbance of the dune and the slight overlap of the cultural horizons, successful recovery of an intact surface from the period of the Ceramic Mesolithic may be possible only in deeper excavations.

Publications of the major research project at Swifterbant appear in Helinium and Palaeohistoria.

T. Douglas Price  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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BOOK REVIEWS

Dolukhanov, Paul, 1979. Ecology and Economy in Neolithic Eastern Europe. London: Duckworth.

Reviewed by Marek Zvelebil, Department of Anthropology  
University of South Carolina

Paul Dolukhanov's volume is superior to other works dealing with Eastern Europe for a number of reasons: the author has an excellent grasp of not only Soviet, but also western literature; the book begins with a theoretical chapter, where the author's ecological orientation is clearly defined, and throughout the book, cultural changes are clearly set against the context of a changing natural environment.

The title of the book may be misleading: for Dolukhanov, "Neolithic" is defined by the appearance of pottery, not by food production. As a result, large parts of the book deal with societies engaged in the foraging mode of subsistence and with the transition from "food appropriation" to "food production" in the Near East and Eastern Europe. The development of pottery manufacture was a process not directly related to food production. In fact, the evidence suggests that earthenware technology developed at a later date than food production, but diffused more rapidly. Hence, we have at first the aceramic Neolithic in the Fertile Crescent, later the ceramic Neolithic in temperate Europe and later still, pottery-making hunter-fishers of the boreal zone.

The chapters following the theoretical introduction summarize the more recent research in the area and relate to the Near East and south-east Europe. Chapters concerned with the Soviet part of eastern Europe describe recent developments and discoveries by Soviet archaeologists in a clean and comprehensive manner, aided by a summary at the end of each of the chapters.

To account for the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition, Dolukhanov develops a population-pressure generated, migratory-adaptive model (pp. 108, 150, 172-73, 177, 189). Economic and cultural change took place as a result to population stress in the agricultural zones of the area which resulted in emigration into new geographical regions. The subsequent adaptation was continued food production, return to hunting and fishing, or the combination of the two.

At the theoretical level, this model suggests from the deterministic approach towards population-resource imbalance and from the lack of social perspective. Dolukhanov, as many others, believes that foraging societies can effectively control their populations, while food-producers intrinsically cannot (pp. 188-198). Thus, there is a paradox in viewing population growth among hunters and gatherers of the Near East as the cause of economic change. Consequently, those authors wishing to use population pressure as an explanation for the economic change are forced to resort to an auxiliary hypothesis which explains population pressure as a result of factors other than population growth. In Dolukhanov's case, these are environmental change and technological development.

However, these issues are not as clear as they seem. The notion of equilibrium between foragers and their resources has been recently challenged by M. Cohen (1977, The Food Crisis in Prehistory, New Haven: Yale University Press), setting off another round in the long-standing debate on the subject (Hassan, F., 1978, "Demographic Archaeology", In Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory, Vol. 1, pp. 49-103, M. Schiffer (ed.), New York: Academic Press). Moreover, the apparent absence of population pressure among hunter-gatherers of the boreal zone (pp. 179, 189) may be also due to the failure to recognize shifts to specialization

in northern Eurasia as a process parallel to the adoption of farming--a process resulting in increased productivity and occurring in situations of stress (Zvelebil, M., 1980, "Prehistoric subsistence and settlement patterns in the North-east Baltic" Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, Cambridge University).

Finally, despite the author's credentials as a Marxist scholar, and despite the emphasis placed on the importance of the social context of economic change (pp. 11-12), social factors are hardly ever considered. The only exception is population stress--but rather than being a social circumstance, population stress may be a manifestation of underlying social relations (Bender, B., 1978, "Gatherer-hunter to farmer: a social perspective", World Archaeology, 10: 204-222), which is left unexplored.

At the empirical level, Dolukhanov states categorically that local domestication did not take place in Europe, and that the initial expansion of neolithic farmers covered previously unoccupied areas (p. 189). Both of these issues need a more careful treatment, for the available evidence is by no means clear.

The reader may be left with a lingering sense of disappointment about the application of the theoretical concepts, so well outlined in the first chapter, to the empirical data. Despite this, the book is a vast improvement on the previous publications relating to the area. In contrast with the previously held view, it shows that food production was not an automatically favored mode of subsistence, and isolates a long period of mixed economies in eastern Europe which combine foraging with food production. The book is a valuable contribution for anyone who claims to study European prehistory comprehensively. With its publication, western scholars no longer have an excuse for disregarding the contribution of Soviet archaeology to this period of European prehistory--an attitude that has often prevailed in the past.

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Clark, Grahame, 1980. Mesolithic Prelude. Edinburgh University Press. 122 pp., 32 Figs., 4.50 pounds.

Reviewed by Clive Bonsall, Department of Archaeology  
University of Edinburgh

Professor Clark's latest contribution comes at a time when there is renewed interest in the Mesolithic, reflected not least in the appearance of this newsletter. It is an attempt to bring into sharper focus the significance of the Mesolithic in the history of human development. His main concern is to show that the nineteenth-century division of the Stone Age into Paleolithic and Neolithic was ill-founded, and acted as a barrier to the understanding of prehistory which the creation of an intermediate stage did little to overcome. He emphasizes that the Stone Age was in reality a continuum in which there were no sudden or revolutionary changes, and that the Mesolithic must be viewed not simply as a survival of Upper Paleolithic culture, but as a period of technological, economic and social developments that formed "an essential prelude to fundamental advances in the development of culture".

After first outlining the origins of the concept of the Mesolithic, he reviews the evidence from south-west Asia. He argues that there was a substantial degree of continuity between the last hunter-gatherer societies and the earliest farming communities - a period of slow, gradual transition during which the earlier mode of subsistence was intensified and ultimately transformed, culminating in the domestication of animals and plants.

He goes on to examine the nature of early Postglacial settlement in Europe, and finds that there were equally significant changes taking place in technology and subsistence. Laying stress on the continuity of settlement in Europe, he concludes that indigenous Mesolithic populations exerted a profound influence on the pattern of subsequent "Neolithization", and that this helps to explain the cultural diversity shown by early Neolithic communities over much of Europe.

Mesolithic Prelude is a work that will commend itself both to specialists and to those with more general interests. It focuses attention on some very important questions in prehistory and is therefore bound to generate a great deal of discussion and debate - which, one hopes, will be carried forward in future issues of this newsletter.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Gonzalez Morales, M.R. & M.C. Marquez Uria, 1978. "The Asturian Shell Midden of Cueva de Mazaculos II (La Franca, Asturias, Spain)." Current Anthropology, 19: 614-615.

An English summary of the article listed on page 17.

Gonzalez Morales, M.R., M.C. Marquex Uria, T.E. Diaz Gonzalez, J.A. Ortea Rato, & K.C. Volman, 1980. "El conchero asturiano de la Cueva de Mazaculos II (La Franca, Asturias): Campanas de 1976 a 1978." Noticiario Arqueologico Hispanico, 9: 35-62.

A short report on the first results of three field seasons at the site of Mazaculos II, including a description of the stratigraphy, occupation surfaces, and the industry. The fauna of the marine mollusca is dominated by Patella vulgata, P. intermedia, and Trochocochlea crassa, typical of the Asturian shellmiddens. The analysis of the macrobotanical remains reveals the presence of Quercus robur L. as predominate species. Betula sp. is also present.

Groupe de Travail de Prehistoire Cantabrique, 1979. "Chronostratigraphie et ecologie des cultures du Paleolithique Final en Espagne Cantabrique." In La Fin des Temps Glaciaires en Europe, D. de Sonneville-Bordes (ed.), pp. 713-719. Paris, C.N.R.S.

As an introduction to the more substantive papers concerning the Cantabrian region, a group of researchers present a summary of the main points of the general characteristics of the Late Paleolithic period: geographical environment, absolute dating, fauna, flora, and sedimentology, as well as the major aspects of the evolution of industries based on most recent studies.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS (SINCE 1978)

This section of the newsletter is intended as a summary of recent publications relating to the Mesolithic in Europe. Contributors to the newsletter are invited to submit titles and pertinent information in regard to recent publications along with a short abstract or brief summary.

Andersen, S.H., 1978. "Aggersund. En Ertebølleboplads ved Limfjorden." KUML, 1978: 7-75. (English summary)

Andersen, S.H., 1979. "An 8000-year old arrow from Vendsyssel, northern Jutland." Acta Archaeologica, 49: 203-208. Copenhagen.

Brinch Petersen, E. & P. Vang Petersen, 1978. "Bergmansdal for 7000 aar siden." Helsingør Bymuseums Aarbøg, 1978: 5-28.

Broadbent, N., 1979. Coastal Resources and Settlement Stability: a critical study of a Mesolithic site complex in northern Sweden. Uppsala University, Institute of North European Archaeology, Archaeological Studies, 3.

The author has investigated 7 Stone Age sites on an ancient shore dated to ca 3350 B.C., located near the city of Skelleftea in N. Sweden. The site deposits were critically studied, especially with respect to disturbance by plowing and frost lifting.

Special attention has been given to quartz as a raw material and different approaches to artifact classification including traditional typology, edge morphology and use-wear. Quartz quarries enabled an evaluation of core-working and flake production. Together with artifacts of stone and slate, these finds were used in an analysis of the spatial organization of the settlements.

A paleobotanical investigation by Roger Engelmark was integrated with the archaeological study for reconstructing the settlement environment. Osteological residues were used together with zoological and socio-cultural data for reconstructing a hypothetical economic and territorial system which can have important implications for understanding cultural development in the Bothnian region.

Various elevation data were tested using a physical model for landrise and applied to the question of shoreline displacement in N. Norrland. This model provides a starting point for archaeological chronology, and stray find and cairn elevations were discussed in this context.

Care, V., 1979 "The production and distribution of Mesolithic axes in southern England." Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, 45: 93-102.

Clark, G.A., 1979. "Spatial association at Liencres, an Early Holocene open site on the Santander coast, north-central Spain." In Computer Graphics in Archaeology, S. Upham (ed.), pp. 121-144. Anthropological Research Paper No. 15, Arizona State University, Tempe.

Clark, G.A., 1980. "Liencres, an open station of Asturian affinity near Santander, Spain." Quaternaria, 24.

Clark, G.A. & L. Richards, 1978 "Late and Post-Pleistocene industries and fauna from the cave site of La Riera (Province of Asturias, Spain)." In Views of the Past, L. Freeman (ed.), pp. 117-152. The Hague: Mouton.

G.A. Clark & T. Scheitlin, 1978. "Three dimensional surface representations of lithic categories at Liencres." Newsletter of Computer Archaeology, 13(3):1-13. Tempe, Arizona.

Clark, J.G.D., 1980. Mesolithic Prelude. Edinburgh University Press. (Reviewed in this issue.)

Gob, Andre, 1979. "Le mesolithique dans le Bassin de L'Ourthe." Helinium, 19: 209-236.

Gob, A. & L. Pirnay, 1980. "Utilization des galets et plaquettes dans le Mesolithique de bassin de l'Ourthe." Etudes et Recherches Archeologiques de l'Universite de Liege, Series A, No. 5.

Hofmann-Wyss, A.B., 1978 Liesbergmühle VI: Eine Mittelsteinzeitliche Abristation im Birstal. Schriften des Seminars für Urgeschichte der Universität Bern, Heft 2. Bernastrasse 7 P, CH-3005, Bern.

The aim of the excavation and presentation of the site Liesbergmühle (canton of Berne) was to make known yet another Mesolithic settlement in the valley of the Birs, which had been repeatedly visited by Paleolithic and Mesolithic hunter groups.

We cannot produce a positive proof that there had been phases of frequenting that succeeded one another at Liesbergmühle VI, comparable to the proof possible for the well-known Mesolithic settlement Birmatter-Basisgrotte (Nenzlingen, BE) (Bandi 1963). This is mainly due to the stratigraphy disturbed considerably within the small rockshelter. Still, two different complexes of discovery could be worked out by means of typological comparisons of the flint tools from related settlements that bear a date. Of these two complexes, complex II seems to be rather more ancient. It is characterized by numerous flake tools and contains neither trapezes nor the characteristic truncated blades. The composition of tools allows a comparison of complex II with horizon 5 of Birmatten.

Complex I possibly shows a miscellaneous inventory which, however, roughly corresponds to the two top horizons at Birmatten: regular bladelets and truncated blades are fairly numerous. Then there are a few trapezes and microliths with flat ventral retouch. A number of antler harpoons give this complex its peculiar character. As there are relatively few microlithic tools, we wonder if they happened to be replaced with tools from organic material (antler harpoons, bone points) in this region of the Jura during the final Mesolithic.

A C-14 date of 4270±340 B.C. confirms the relative dating achieved by means of typological comparisons and it places complex I of Liesbergmühle VI among other late Mesolithic sites of the Jura region.

Jacobi, R.N., 1978. "Population and landscape in Mesolithic lowland Britain." In The Effect of Man on the Landscape: the lowland zone, S. Limbrey & J.G. Evans (eds.), pp. 75-85. Council of British Archaeology, Research Report 21.

Kozłowski, S.K., 1978. "The map of Mesolithic XE-points in Europe." Prace i materiały muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne w Łodzi, Seria Archeologiczna, 25: 213-214.

Kozłowski, J.K. & S.K. Kozłowski, 1979. Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic in Europe: taxonomy and palaeohistory. Polska Akademia Nauk--Oddział W Krakowie, Prace Komisji Archeologicznej, 18.

Larsson, Lars, 1978. "Mesolithic bone and antler artifacts found from Central Scania." Papers of the Archaeological Institute, University of Lund, N.S. 2: 28-67.

Larsson, Lars, 1978. Ageröd I:B -- Ageröd I:D : A study of early Atlantic settlement in Scania. Acta Archaeologica Lundensia, Series 4<sup>o</sup>, 12.

The study deals with settlement in Scania during the Late Maglemose Culture and aims at relating the results thus obtained with information about the Kongemose Culture.

Two settlement contexts from central Scania denoted Ageröd I:B and Ageröd I:D respectively were selected as a basis. The distance between the two sites amounts to some 25 m. Ageröd I:B is part of a prehistoric beach and its finds extend over approximately 200 m<sup>2</sup> while Ageröd I:D rests on organogen sediment and covers 50 m<sup>2</sup>. One of the main problems is how differences in location and find distribution existing between the two settlements should be interpreted. The question is examined from various angles. By analyzing artifacts, C-14 determinations, pollen and osteological remains, the two settlements are compared with each other and, on the other hand, with other Late Maglemose settlements. This offers an opportunity for studying both a local perspective, namely Scania, and a regional one, namely Scania-Denmark.

In order to get as realistic a picture as possible, the physical environment of the period in question is reconstructed. Searching for reasons of changes occurring in settlement pattern, the reciprocal effect on each other of man and his environment is examined. This leads to hypotheses which form a model of the make-up of Late Maglemose settlement. In conclusion the results of the investigation are compared with available information concerning the Kongemose Culture, evaluating both differences and similarities existing between the two cultures.

Larsson, Lars & T.S. Bartholin, 1978. "A longbow found at the Mesolithic bog site of Ageröd V in Central Scania." Papers of the Archaeological Institute, University of Lund, N.S. 2: 21-27.

Mellars, P.A. (ed.), 1978. The Early Postglacial Settlement of Northern Europe. London: Duckworth.

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The argument presented here is that lithic artifact assemblages can be made to yield considerable information on prehistoric behavior patterns, often despite a lack of associated organic material. To illustrate this point, an example has been taken from the Mesolithic settlement of Bergumermeer in the northern Netherlands, from which only prehistoric ground features, stone, and small bits of carbonized remains have been preserved. Proceeding from a functional use-wear analysis of the collection, a four-stage analytical procedure was instituted, employing ethnographically derived models of seasonality, expected resource exploitation, and hunter-gatherer population parameters. This structure enabled the author to provide estimates of several aspects of the prehistoric behavior of the Mesolithic group, including activities, methods of tool prehension, tool use-life and discard rate, number of animals exploited, population of the settlement, and minimum duration of occupation.

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This paper discusses the implications of Yellen's ethnographic study for the Mesolithic subsistence and settlement pattern in Scandinavia.

Zvelebil, M., 1980. "Northern Eurasia in the Holocene." In The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Archaeology, A. Sherratt (ed.). Cambridge: University Press.

Broad economic and social changes and principal population shifts affecting northern Eurasia are described, emphasizing the impressive regularity of cultural development throughout the area. This is seen as being due to progressive economic intensification in cultural contexts that are unrelated but subject to similar environmental constraints.

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The proceedings of the second international congress on the Mesolithic, held in Potsdam in 1978 will be published at the latest in March 1981, according to Prof. B. Gramsch, editor. The title, contents and other relevant information regarding the publication appear below. Additional information on the cost and address for the publication will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Gramsch, B. (ed.), 1980(1). 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 Wissenschaften. 472 pp., 243 figures, 58 tables.



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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Blas Cortina, M.A. de, M.R. Gonzalez Morales, M.C. Marquez Uriá, & R. Asensio, J.A., 1978. "Picos asturienses de yacimientos al aire libre en Asturias." Boletín del Instituto de Estudios Asturianos, 93-94: 335-356.

A study of the geographical distribution and typometry of Mesolithic tools from open-air sites. Morphology and technology are very similar to cave sites, shellmidden deposits, and are always associated with coastal sites.

Gonzalez Morales, M.R., 1978. "Excavaciones en el conchero asturiense de la Cueva de Mazaculos II (Le Franca, Ribadedeva, Asturias)." Boletín del Instituto de Estudios Asturianos, 93-94: 369-383.

A preliminary report on the excavation of an Asturian shellmidden, containing several stratigraphic layers and a typical Asturian industry dominated by picks and choppers and lacking microlithic material. Chronology: 9,290±440 BP (GaK-6884), charcoal sample from the base of the deposits.

STATEMENT FOR DEBATE

This section of the newsletter is intended as a forum for discussion of controversial topics pertinent to the study of the Mesolithic. Such statements may be submitted voluntarily and will appear in the November issue of the newsletter. Comments on and criticisms of the statement should be sent directly to the author(s) at the address given at the end of the statement. All comments and a reply by the author(s) will be included in the May issue.

The Nature of Hunter-Gatherer Adaptations

The Stadial Hangover

Publication of the Man the Hunter symposium (Lee & DeVore 1968) has had far-reaching effects on archaeology. Archaeologists studying non-agricultural communities have increasingly adopted a model of hunter-gatherers distinguished by such things as:

- small group size
- constant if by no means random movement
- portable technology
- lack of storage of food resources
- absence of social differentiation

We argue that this represents an unfortunate subordination of archaeology to ethnography, rather than a convergence towards a true anthropology.

The concept of cultural progress, through a logically seriated succession of stages of increasingly technological mastery over a largely passive environment, still dominates many views of postglacial developments. Sporadic finds of unexpectedly precocious cultural elements, however, suggest "oases" of progress explicable in terms of local circumstances, and not of global cultural readiness.

Ethnographic Analogies

Insofar as any society has been held up as a model for prehistoric pre-agricultural communities, it is surely the Kalahari Bushmen; the model of a sparse population in "Brownian" motion, surviving in an uncertain environment through flexibility of response, has become accepted within and beyond archaeology as typical of 99% of human life on earth (e.g. Wobst 1976).

The universal validity of this assumption is questionable. It is disconcerting to learn that ovicaprine and bovine pastoralism has an antiquity of some two millennia in the Kalahari region, and that hunter-gatherers were on occasion stockholders (Schire 1980). Presland (1980) has recognized the participation of many nomadic hunter-gatherer groups, supposedly archaic and autonomous entities, in the global system of trade. There are instances from within Europe (e.g. Lapp-Swede interactions) of the specialization of hunting groups in the acquisition of furs, protein, etc., in return for tools and carbohydrate staples from farmers. It is striking how often such symbiosis is assumed to be a recent distortion of pristine cellularity; in fact the modern mobile hunter-gatherer often seems more like the occupant of the outermost von Thünen zone than a respectable cultural fossil.

Hunter-gatherers of nomadic type have undoubtedly existed throughout human history. However, the above-mentioned aspects of their supposed modern counterparts seem to suggest that they have not always been guilty of loitering with no progressive intent since the Oldowan; we should perhaps be more wary of ascribing all prehistoric hunter-gatherers to the nomadic category. As Lee and DeVore op. cit.) make clear, nomadic hunter-gatherers are not the only ones known to ethnography. In certain situations the interlocking seasonal availability of a variety of migratory resources permits the development of an economy of greater stability and productivity, supporting larger, more complex communities (e.g. the Northwest Coast groups). Such communities are frequently coastal, exploiting fish, sea mammals and birds, and seem out of place when categorized together with nomadic hunter-gatherers. Many of their characteristics, such as:

- larger group size
- a greater degree of sedentism
- non-portable bulk technology
- storage of bulk food resources
- a more complex social system

are more akin to those of farmers--and yet, lacking the fashionable attributes of archaism, these groups have often been passed over as models of alternative prehistoric strategies.

Two Strategies

The distinctions between small mobile and larger more sedentary communities may thus be seen in terms of alternative strategies: the opportunist, mobile strategy common to nomadic hunter-gatherers and pastoralists living in areas of notable environmental fluctuation on the one hand; and the more stable strategy of farmers and fisherman on the other.

It seems to be only with the recurrent postglacial pattern of early pluvials and later desiccation that various communities attempt to stabilize their food base and become "agricultural". Despite this, at an arbitrary time slice of 4000 b.c. it is clearly that there are many instances of sedentary communities living in villages or hamlets, using ceramics, etc.--without being dependent on modern domesticates. Some more suitable term than sub-neolithic should surely be found, as this is not a matter of a brief acculturation phase between nomadic hunting and settled farming, but a stable adaptation disturbed only by the expansion of other communities.

In short, archaeologists have tended to shut their eyes to a sort of "parallel universe" of cultures exploiting the natural abundance of their habitats. We hope that understanding of postglacial developments in Europe will not be diverted by this more recent restatement of the savagery-barbarism-civilization straitjacket, and suggest that mesolithic behavioral possibilities were never imprisoned by an "inadequacy" of culture. We offer as a statement for debate the proposition that stable, dense, sedentary communities occupied favorable niches (particularly on the coast) at dates perhaps much earlier than commonly expected, and that these were in no way inferior to exotic farming cultures such as Linear Pottery. Cereals, in short, may only have replenished those parts of continents that salmon failed to reach.

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James Lewthwaite  
 Peter Rowley-Conwy

1 Clare Road  
 Cambridge CB3 9HN  
 Great Britain

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Mesolithic Miscellany is issued twice a year, in May and November, as an informal communication for individuals interested in the Mesolithic in Europe. If you are interested in subscribing and contributing, please send your name and address to the editor. The cost of a yearly subscription is presently \$3.00 and is payable in the United States or in Europe.

Contributions with regard to any of the topics of the newsletter are always welcome. Major categories of the newsletter include recent publications with abstracts or tables of content, short research reports, book reviews, recent radiocarbon determinations, letters to the editor, meeting announcements and summaries with a list of papers presented, requests for information, changes of address, national synopses, and anything else relevant to Mesolithic studies.

The next issue of the Mesolithic Miscellany will appear in May and the deadline for contributions to the May issue will be May 1, 1981. Material requiring translation may be sent directly to the individuals listed in the newsletter that have volunteered to translate a few pages a year. These persons will forward the translations to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

Editor: T. Douglas Price  
 Department of Anthropology  
 5240 Social Sciences Bldg.  
 The University of Wisconsin  
 Madison, Wisconsin  
 USA 53706

I am interested in subscribing and contributing to the newsletter. I would be willing to translate a few pages a year from \_\_\_\_\_ to English.

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 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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