

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Mesolithic Miscellany appears twice a year, in May and November, as an informal communication among individuals interested in the European Mesolithic. The yearly subscription is US\$3 or £2. European subscribers should send payment to Clive Bonsall, Department of Archaeology, 16-20 George Square, Edinburgh. North American subscribers should apply directly to the editor. Individuals for whom currency exchange may be difficult should write to Clive Bonsall, address above. Subscriptions for 1989 are due.

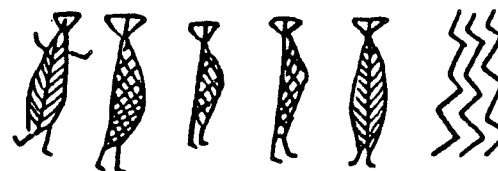
FROM THE EDITOR

Mesolithic Miscellany is slightly smaller than usual this issue. We always need more contributions and materials from you, the readers. *Mesolithic Miscellany* publishes research reports, book reviews, national synopses of recent excavations, statements for debate, conference summaries, important radiocarbon determinations, announcements and summaries or abstracts of recent publications to inform readers of current developments in the field. Recent Publications are particularly difficult to keep up to date - reprints or simple citations of your work would be most useful. Please prepare a brief abstract of the article or publication if one is not included in the text. If you enjoy reading about the work of others, there is a good chance that they would enjoy reading about your work. The deadline for the May issue is 30 April.

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MESOLITHIC MISCELLANY

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Research Reports

Preliminary Report on Excavations in the Weidental Cave
Near Wilgartswiesen, Palatinate Forest (Western Germany)

by

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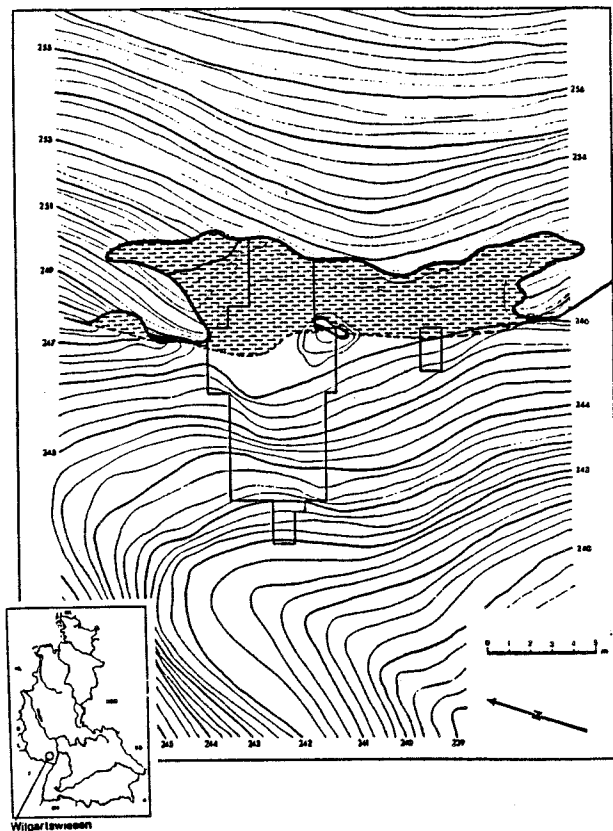
Before 1980 published sources have repeatedly suggested that the Palatinate Forest, a large and still undisturbed forest area in the department of Rheinland/Pfalz, Western Germany, would have remained unoccupied during the Paleolithic and Mesolithic. Such suggestions have retarded archaeological research. In 1971, however, Mr. W. Ehescheid, a teacher from Wilgartswiesen, a small village between Karlsruhe and Pirmasens, conducted a small, trial excavation in the Weidental Cave. He discovered several stone artifacts and provided the first evidence of a Stone Age occupation in this region. Regretably this evidence remains unpublished and therefore caves in the Lower Triassic Red Sandstone Formations were still being considered as unfit for human habitation. (Map and collections of all currently known Paleolithic and Mesolithic sites are documented in Czielsa 1987.)

The Weidental Cave, at an altitude of 247 m above sea level, part of the Red Sandstone "Trifels" Formation, is divided by a natural pillar into two parts of comparable size. The cave opens to the west and has a steep floor (Fig. 1). With sparse vegetation in front, the lowermost part of the cave enables one to look over the nearby flat valley of the River Queich. Dense vegetation, however, would cover the mouth of the cave and make it very hard to locate.

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Figure 1. Location of the Wiedental Cave in southwestern Germany and topographical situation.



The cave has been the object of systematic excavations in 1980, 1983, and 1987. So far a surface of 55 m² has been investigated, yielding ca. 3500 finds (stone artifacts, charcoal, and also several coins and potsherds, in addition to ca. 1,500 sandstone pieces. Approximately 73% of the artifacts were recorded three-dimensionally and the remainder were found during sieving. Finds from the sieve were collected per quarter square meter. Results from the 1980 and 1983 seasons have been described in Czesla and Tillmann 1980, 1984 and Czesla 1986a and 1986 b.

During the excavation, some material dating from recent and post-medieval periods and from the Bronze Age was found, primarily in the front of the present cave, while some medieval pottery were more centrally located. During the Mesolithic occupation the cave must have been in a quite different condition. As is indicated by eroded rocks on top of the Mesolithic layer, the ledge of the cave protruded another meter. Erosion has shaped the present upper part of the cave, which did not exist during the Mesolithic. During this period the cave must have been ca. 1.5 m more shallow. So the stone artifacts which were found in front of the present cave were in fact deposited in the opening of the former

cave and were then covered with sediments originating from the erosion of the rock formation. Probably protruding parts of the ledge were broken off during the Atlantic period. This event would be comparable to what happened in other caves in southern Germany and France, e.g., Dietfurt Cave, the Felsställe, the Lochschlag Cave, and the Abri Gay.

The Mesolithic level, which runs parallel to the steep slope in and below the cave, is thickened by bioturbatic and geophysical processes to a maximum of 45 cm. Yet most of the artifacts seem to have maintained their original horizontal position in the sediments, as is indicated by the occurrence of two concentrations of Mesolithic material, the presence of an apparently intact hearth, and a concentrated occurrence of several raw materials which may indicate a special activity area (Figs. 2 & 3). These raw materials include smoothed porphyry, pumice stone, and granite pieces; the granite, which may have been used for cooking stones, likely originates near Albersweiler/Pfalz some 12 km distant.

So far the Mesolithic level has produced 2,847 stone artifacts from a surface of ca. 45 m² of Mesolithic activity in and in front of the former cave. The stone artifact inventory consists of debitage (1199 chips, 3 - 9 mm in diameter), 1446 unmodified flakes and blades, and 45 cores, modified artifacts (73 retouched flakes and blades, 45 microliths, and 5 borers), 6 scrapers, and 2 burins) and modification products (4 burin spalls and 22 microburins). Scrapers, burins and borers are scantily represented, while retouched flakes and blades are common (ca. 5%). Worth mentioning are a piece esquillée and several truncated blades, while the presence of a thick leaf-shaped point as well as two "armature à éperon", the presumed typological predecessor of the Bandkeramik point are still topics of discussion. With 45 pieces the inventory of microliths is comparatively small and with relatively little variability: three-sided retouched scalene triangles dominate in the assemblage. In the region, this type is known only from this site (Fig. 5). Probably the variation in lithic tool types reflects function rather than chronology.

The diffuse spread of tools (Fig. 4; microliths, scrapers, burins) and microburins is considered remarkable; other types of artifacts in this site occur in concentrations. A comparison with other sites (Czesla 1986b: Fig. 14) suggests that this may be due to changing social and habitation patterns, as compared to the concentrated occurrence of tool types during the Upper Paleolithic (compare Fig. 2 and 3 with Fig. 4).

Although there are clear typological similarities with South German assemblages from the Beuronian C (e.g., those from the Jaegerhaus Cave and the Steinbergwand near Ensardt), the composition of the stone artifact types also reveal similarities with assemblages from Luxembourg (e.g., Im Gruendchen, Kleinenbusch), Belgium (e.g., Hodainry and Brenn Hag), the Eifel region (Mannebach and Oberkail), and the Rheinland area (Teveren, Korschenbroich). Perhaps the Mesolithic level from the Wiedental Cave might be best dated to around 5800 B.C.

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Figure 2. Distribution of three-dimensionally recorded stone artifacts in the Mesolithic level.

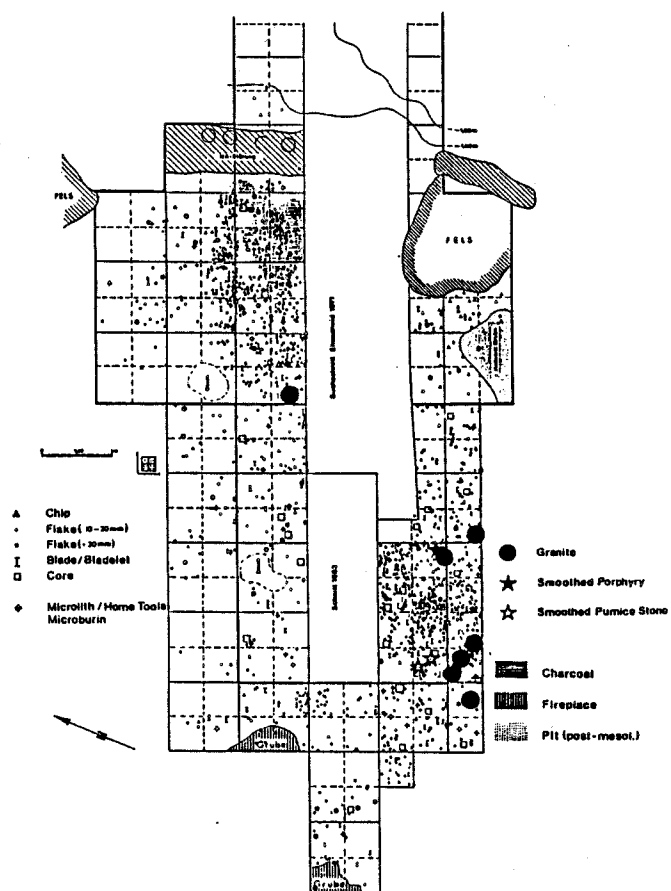


Figure 3. Density of artifacts (a) with absolute number per quarter square meter, (b) below the density of artifacts smaller than 10 mm, (c) and those larger than 10 mm, and (d) all sizes per quarter square meter. The method of graphic reproduction in this figure follows Czesla (in prep.)

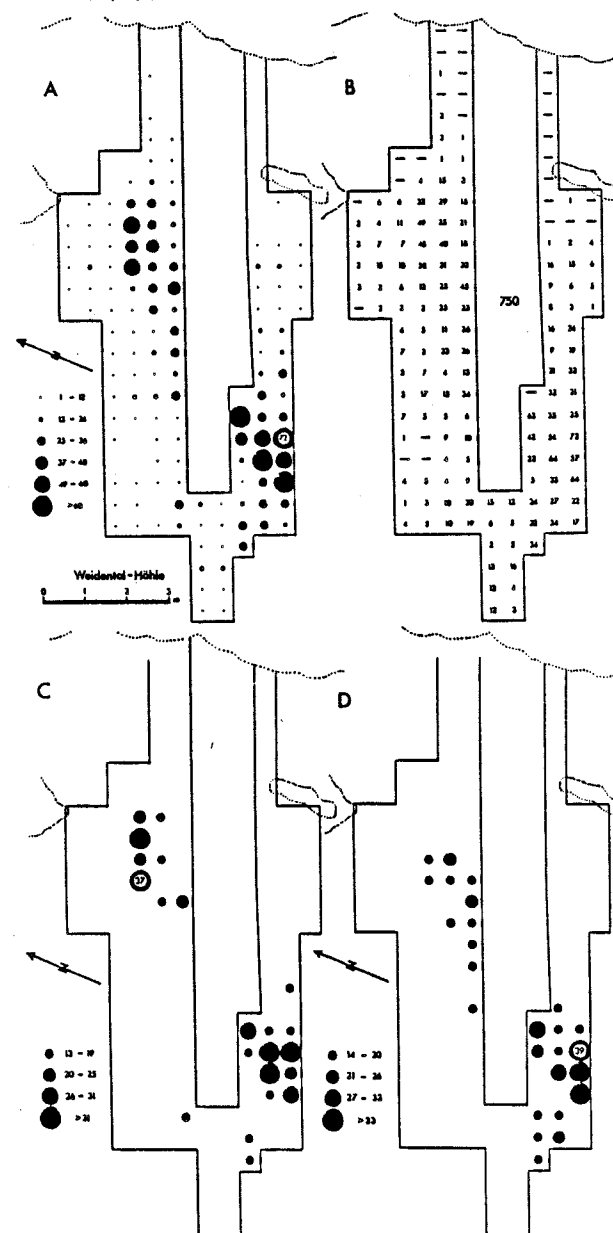


Figure 4. Distribution of microliths, "home tools" (scrapers, burins, borers, modified flakes and blades) and their modification products.

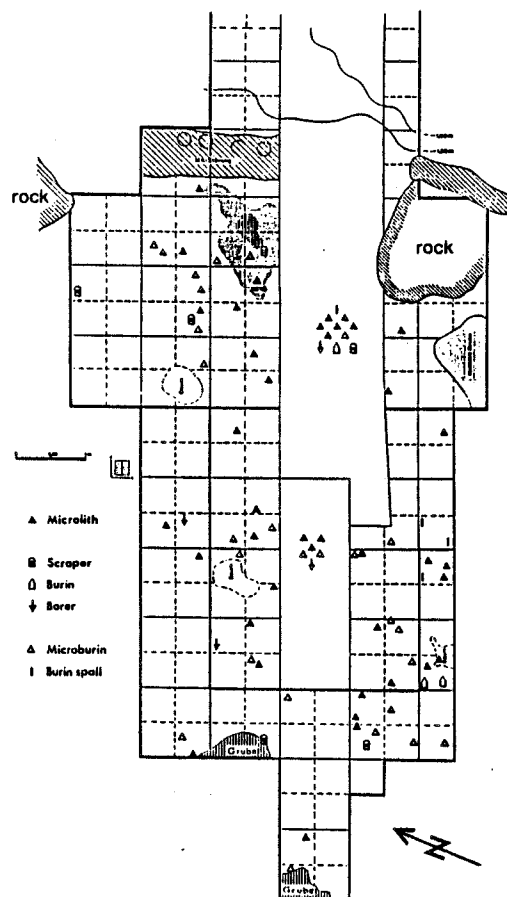
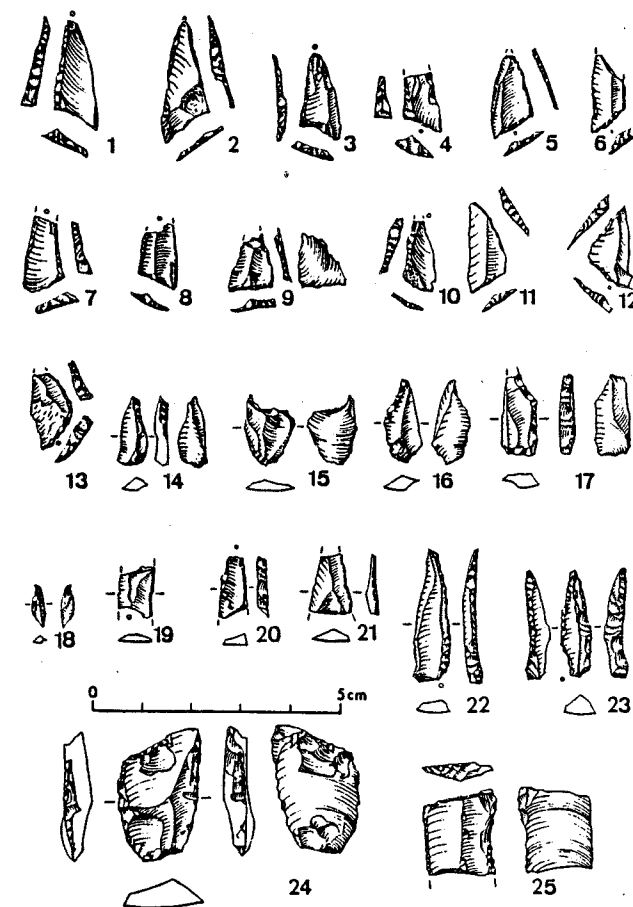


Figure 5. Stone implements from the Mesolithic level of the Weidental Cave.



CONFERENCE REPORT

The Neolithization of the Alpine Region

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An international round table on the Neolithization of the Alpine Region was held at the Natural History Museum of Brescia (Northern Italy) between 29 April and 1 May 1988. Papers on the Mesolithic were also delivered. A. Broglio and M. Lanzinger discussed the distribution of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic sites in northeastern Italy. Many of the Early Mesolithic Sauveterrian encampments lie at very high altitude, even above 2000 m suggesting seasonal summer occupation of hunting camps. A more sedentary way of life is documented for the Late Mesolithic Castelnovian culture. Many of the sites of this period are distributed around small intermorainic basins located at the foot of the Alps. Some middle altitude sites are also known up to 1500 m. A number of recent discoveries demonstrates that Late Mesolithic bands also settled around the lagoon of Venice, close to the Mediterranean shore.

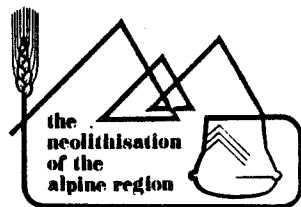
The first high altitude Castelnovian site has been excavated in the central Alpine arch at the head of the Trompia valley in the Province of Brescia. A report by C. Baroni, P. Biagi, R. Nisbet, and R.G. Scaife showed that a fifth millennium b.c. Mesolithic community inhabited the shores of a small lake of glacial origin located at exactly 2000 m. A pollen core from the nearby peat bog produced a vegetational curve ranging from the end of the Late Glacial up to Historical times. The early Atlantic is attested here by charcoal fragments recovered from the core sequence at a depth of 2 m. The charred wood remains from a large fireplace found in the beautifully preserved site are represented by *Picea/Larix* and *Pinus silvestris*.

At Mondeval de Sora, in the Veneto, an intact Late Mesolithic skeleton was brought to light by G. Guerreschi and M.E. Gerhardinger in a rock shelter at 2150 m. The grave goods included two bone perforators, four antler "fabricators", and a few unretouched long bladelets as well as a couple of pyramidal bladelet cores contained in a lump of ochre. This is the first Late Mesolithic burial discovered so far in the Italian Alps. An interesting

paper was also delivered by J.G. Nandris on experiences in the ethnoarchaeology of the Romanian, Greek, and Yugoslavian regions of the Balkan peninsula.

Two papers on the archaeozoological aspect of the Mesolithic/Neolithic transition were given by R. Clark and A. Riedel. G. Barker, in a joint paper with P. Biagi, R. Maggi, and R. Nisbet, discussed the exploitation of the Ligurian Alpine Val Pennavaira through the period between the Late Paleolithic and the Full Neolithic, giving a detailed account of their excavations during the last twenty years at five cave sites located some 10-15 km from the Mediterranean. R. Srescher-Schneider described the impact of Neolithic man on the landscape as seen through the pollen evidence of the Northwestern Italian peat bogs. On the contrary, no traces seem to have been left by the previously recorded Mesolithic bands. A report on the variability in the soils which occurred during the Preboreal/Atlantic climatic phases was delivered by M. Cremaschi who concentrated his research on a strip between the northern Alpine fringe, the Central Po Valley, and the Central Alpine chain. A. Gallay and his colleagues at the University of Geneva presented the results of their research in the Swiss Vallais where a very systematic approach produced evidence of several phases of settlement from the Mesolithic through historical times.

The Round Table was sponsored by the Istituto Italiano di Preistoria e Protostoria, here represented by Prof. A.M. Radmilli, and by the Archaeological Superintendency for Lombardy. Chairs of the four sections (General Themes, Environmental Studies, Regional Studies, and Local Excavations) were L.H. Barfield, G. Barker, A. Gallay, and A. Broglio who contributed to the successful discussions between the over twenty five specialists who attended.



Book Reviews

Mesolithic Northeast Europe: Recent Trends.

P. Rowley-Conwy, M. Zvelebil, and H.P. Blankholm, eds. Sheffield, England: Department of Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Sheffield, 1987. 170 pp. \$n.p. (cloth)

Reviewed by T. Douglas Price
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This volume represents another important contribution to the rapidly growing body of literature on the Mesolithic. As the title indicates the focus here is on northwestern Europe, with specific studies from Ireland, England, Belgium, Denmark, and Norway. The book includes an introduction by the three editors and 15 chapters, grouped into sections on (1) data recovery, (2) analysis, (3) modelling, and (4) regional synthesis.

The introductory editorial argues that Mesolithic archaeology is in a state of transition, as the field adopts new methods and ideas that will permit it to overcome problems with the database. Such distortions and biases are elaborated in terms of factors such as preservation, location, interpretation, and paradigm. The volume is intended to provide the reader with some exposure to recent trends in Mesolithic studies, with some assistance and direction in solving problems, and with some improvement in our understanding of early Holocene hunter-gatherers. The value of the volume then can be judged by how well the papers provide such insights and solutions.

The section on data recovery largely concerns areal survey and testing programs. Zvelebil et al. discuss a four-year survey for Mesolithic and Neolithic sites in the archaeologically bleak hills of southeastern Ireland. Fourteen Mesolithic and twenty-five Neolithic sites were located but only ten sites contained more than 100 artifacts. Two types of sites were recognized - quarries and residential areas - situated almost exclusively along the coast. Bang-Andersen describes an extensive test-pit survey in the Hardanger highlands of Norway. More than 6300 small test pits (25 x 25 cm)

were excavated along shorelines and river margins in an area of about 280 km². Twelve of the test pits produced Mesolithic artifacts. Tim Schadla-Hall describes a "landscape-oriented" testing and excavation program in the Vale of Pickering, near the classic site of Star Carr. Broad exposures of the shoreline of the former lake revealed widespread evidence of a Mesolithic presence. Such "non-site surveys" may be able to tell us about the utilization of the entire landscape.

In the section on data analysis, Gen'del describes the restricted distribution of both raw materials and stylistic features of stone tools in Belgium. This socio-stylistic study provides some indication of social boundaries in the Mesolithic. Rowley-Conwy summarizes recent contributions from archaeozoology with examples from the Late Paleolithic of Germany, the Mesolithic of England, and the Neolithic transition in Denmark. John Dumont comprehensively reviews the contribution of microwear studies to our understanding of the Late Paleolithic and Mesolithic. In a chapter that belongs in this section, Nick Barton reiterates the rather dramatic vertical movement (up to 39 cm) of artifacts in sand deposits, in this case at the site of Hengistbury Head in Dorset.

Papers concerned with "modeling the data" include Mithen projecting hunting strategies from age profiles of red deer in Upper Paleolithic Spain and Mesolithic Denmark. Blankholm examines the spatial patterning of artifacts at Mesolithic sites in Denmark in an attempt to define regularities and reconstruct social units. Clark and Neeley consider burial data from the European Mesolithic to document variation due to age, sex, and both ascribed and achieved status. Such status distinctions, however, are very difficult to demonstrate given our lack of knowledge regarding the function and meaning of the limited grave goods in the Mesolithic.

The final section on regional syntheses is a bit of a hodgepodge, ranging from a preliminary report by Roberts on Mesolithic sites around a small estuary in Cornwall, to a summary of 6000 years of prehistory on the west

coast of Norway by Signe Nygaard. In addition, Blankholm summarizes recent thinking on the transition to the Neolithic in southern Scandinavia. Woodman discusses the distribution of raw material in the Irish Mesolithic and points out that the utilization patterns suggest that task-group procurement, rather than exchange, may have been responsible for the acquisition of raw material from distant sources. Jacobi offers miscellaneous musings on the nature of "early Flandrian archaeology in Britain" with specific reference to the cemetery in Aveline's Hole.

So, what new insights and solutions do we gain from this volume? How much is new and innovative? Some of the papers are condensed reports on larger projects that are still underway; some are useful summaries and reviews of information that has been presented elsewhere; others are compilations of ideas and concepts yet to be evaluated. Not all of the contributions are particularly substantive, but several do offer intriguing, new directions, e.g., Woodman's suggestions regard-

ing raw material procurement, Gendel on social boundaries, and Mithen on hunting strategies.

Are Mesolithic studies in transition? Will new methods permit us to overcome the inherent problems in our data? Perhaps the basic premise of this volume should be reconsidered. To my mind, it is unlikely that new ideas are going to tell us as much as new data. Admitting to a number of problems in existing data and trusting to the collective cleverness of archaeologists to come up with new ways of looking at old data is insufficient. The single most important contribution to an increased understanding of the Mesolithic (or any other period of prehistory) will be the retrieval of information from new surveys and excavations. Much more fieldwork and acquisition of basic data, like some described in this volume, needs to be done before we can fully comprehend the enormous variability of the archaeological record from the Mesolithic. As yet our window on this past remains very, very small and the glass is very, very dark.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Arts, Nico, and Menno Hoogland. 1987. A Mesolithic settlement area with a human cremation grave at Oirschot V, municipality of Best, the Netherlands. *Helinium* 27: 172-189.

Oirschot V was a locus of settlement activities during the Middle Mesolithic. The wide variety of tools and other artifacts present at the site indicates that a number of different activities were performed there. Although sites in the settlement area are assumed to be (approximately) contemporaneous, the samples from four individual sites are quite heterogeneous in their typological and morphological composition, suggesting different activities at different places. The area of Oirschot V, however, is much larger than the largest Mesolithic settlements that have previously been distinguished. This might well be due to more than one period of occupation of the area during the Middle Mesolithic.

Cremated remains of a 10-13 year-old individual were found at site 21. Charcoal collected between the bones has been radiocarbon dated at 7790±130 B.P. It is suggested that after cremation, the burnt bone fragments were gathered together and then buried next to and partly in a pit which was probably a hearth. Presumably the corpse was cremated in the same site where the remains were buried. The grave site is very small and no evidence was observed that indicated any kind of special mortuary architecture. Through the method of refitting lithic artifacts it was argued that artifacts were most probably not manufactured at the site but brought into the site. Quite a large proportion of them are burnt, possibly in the crematory fire. There has been no conspicuous selection of artifact types which were brought to the site. However it is probable that raw materials of the lithics were specially selected for the burial, since an exchange derived raw material occurs in the site in an exceptionally high proportion.

Callahan, Errett. 1987. An Evaluation of the Lithic Technology in Middle Sweden During the Mesolithic and Neolithic. *Societas Archaeologica Upsaliensis*. Aun 8. Uppsala.

The lithic technology of Middle Sweden during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods is examined in a pilot study in order to define the knapping system employed in flaked stone tool manufacture. Since such a study has never before been undertaken by a specialist in the field, it was hoped that such an investigation would clarify the reduction process, define the tool typologies, and determine, from the technological point of view, whether the same or a different technology were being employed in the Neolithic as in the Mesolithic period. To this end, four previously excavated sites were analyzed and 120 replicative experiments, largely bipolar, were conducted. A classification system based primarily upon small to medium-sized, unmodified to slightly modified flakes of quartz and quartzite, was then proposed. A definition of the reduction system was also set forth. This system involved a reduction continuum which commenced with freehand percussion, continued with anvil percussion, and terminated through complete exhaustion of the core with bipolar percussion. A small proportion of the numerous, randomly shaped flakes thus created were then selected for functional use. It is suggested that this system was, in some ways, both more economical and more efficient than knap-

ping systems which focus upon formal tool types with specific outlines. As a result of this preliminary study, it is proposed that only one basic reduction system was practiced during the Mesolithic and Neolithic period in Middle Sweden, with differences being evident only in details.

Cziesla, Erwin. 1987. Überblick über das Schrifttum zur Alt- und Mittelsteinzeit Rhein Hessens, der Pfalz und des Saarlandes (1840 - 1987). *Mitteilungen des Historischen Vereins der Pfalz* 85: 5-37.

Cziesla, Erwin. 1988. L'analyse des raccords ou le concept du dynamisme en préhistoire. *Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique Luxembourgeoise* 9: 77-111. *Mitteilungen des Historischen Vereins der Pfalz* 85: 5-37.

Fischer, Anders. 1987. *Stenalderboplader på bunden af Smålandsfarvandet*. Copenhagen: Miljøministeriet Skov- og Naturstyrelsen. (In Danish with English Summary).

Large parts of the Late Paleolithic and Mesolithic hunting grounds and settlements of the Danish territory are now lying beneath the sea. They were submerged as a result of the rising of sea level and the tilting of the earth's crust that followed the melting of the glaciers of the Last Ice Age.

During the last decade a number of Late Mesolithic sites in southwestern Denmark have been investigated at depths of 1 to 4 m below present sea level. These sites have made an important contribution to our knowledge of tools, weapons, fishing gear, and sailing vessels of that period. What may be found on even deeper places of the sea floor could only be guessed until very recently.

A team of amateur divers and professional archaeologists have now proceeded further down into the sea. A model for the topographic position of Mesolithic coastal settlements was tested during two weeks in the Småland bight of southeastern Denmark. According to the model, Mesolithic sites should be found close to topographical features which in the experience of present day fishermen would have been ideal for pound net fishing, i.e., at the mouths of rivers, narrow straits, and the like. The model proved highly reliable. Depending upon the basis of evaluation, the predictions of the model were in agreement with the submarine findings between 74% and 96% of the cases.

The underwater surveys of the Småland bight resulted in the detection of two dozen settlements. On the basis of the shape and manufacturing technique on the flint artifacts, most of the sites should be dated to the Middle Mesolithic period (Kongemose 5500 - 4500 b.c.). Even though these sites were only superficially inspected, a large number of artifacts were collected and several valuable observations made concerning the internal organization of the sites. Thus at a site in 5 m of water a fireplace and a workshop for the production of arrowpoints were located. At another site at a depth of about 9 m another fireplace and workshop for the manufacture of flint axes was noted.

Due to the increasing commercial dredging of sand and gravel from the sea floor, a large porportion of the submerged Stone Age sites are threatened by destruction. If we are able to predict the location of the settlements, however, the law provides a good opportunity for protecting the settlements in the Danish sea territories. Thus the new finds

and methods resulting from the project form an important aid for the future protection of our Stone Age Atlantis.

Gregg, Susan. 1988. *Foragers and Farmers. Population Interaction and agricultural expansion in prehistoric Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Gregg presents a model for the transition from hunter-gatherer societies to settled agricultural communities in prehistoric Europe. She proposes that farmers and foragers must have encountered each other and interacted in a variety of ways for over a millennium as farming systems spread throughout the continent. Several variations of subsistence developed, such as foraging and hunting for part of the year and farming for the rest, or cooperative exchange arrangements between hunter-gatherers and farmers throughout the year.

Gregg examines anthropological, ecological, and archaeological dimensions of prehistoric population interaction. She then examines the ecological requirements of both crops and livestock and, in order to identify an optimal farming strategy for Early Neolithic populations, develops a computer simulation to examine various resource mixes. Turning to the foragers, she models the effects that interaction with farmers would have had on the foragers' subsistence-settlement system.

Supporting her model with archaeological, ecological, and ethnobotanical evidence from southwest Germany, Gregg shows that when foragers and farmers occur contemporaneously, both need to be considered before either can be understood. Theoretically and methodologically, her work builds upon earlier studies of optimal diet and foraging strategy, extending the model to food producing populations.

Jacobsen, T.W. 1988. *Excavations at Franchthi Cave, Greece*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press.

Located on the eastern shore of the Gulf of Argos on the Argolis Peninsula, Franchthi is unique in revealing evidence of almost continual habitation for more than 20,000 years from the Late Paleolithic through the Mesolithic to the end of Neolithic times, about 5000 years ago. The most modern archaeological techniques were used at Franchthi for the first time in Greece. The team led by Jacobsen worked in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania and under the auspices of the Greek Archaeological Service and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Fieldwork was begun in 1967 and continued through 1979. The four monograph fascicles announced here are the first titles in a numbered series which will report in rich detail — including thousands of illustrations, maps, photographs, and charts — the many findings from the site that record human effort to come to terms with vastly different environments from the end of the Ice Age to Bronze Age Greece. The first level of publications is intended for the professional archaeologist interested in the prehistory of ancient Greece and the economic foundation of Classical Greece. Future volumes will be produced for a more general audience of scholars and generalists.

Fascicle 1. Franchthi Cave and Paralia: Maps, Plans, and Sections, by T.W. Jacobsen and W.R. Farrand. \$68.

Fascicle 2. Landscape and People of the Franchthi Region, by T.H. van Andel and S.B. Sutton. \$20.

Fascicle 3. Les Industries lithiques taillées de Franchthi: Tome I, Présentation générale et Industries Paléolithiques, by C. Perlès. \$28.

Fascicle 4. Marine Molluscan Remains from Franchthi Cave, by J.C. Schackleton. \$22.

Jochim, Michael A. 1987. Spätmesolithikum am Federsee. *Archäologische Ausgrabungen in Baden-Württemberg*. 1987: 30-32.

Jochim, Michael A. 1988. Hunters of the Federsee. *Archaeology* 41(4): 48-53.

Lewthwaite, James. 1985. The lacuna in the lagoon: an interdisciplinary research frontier in the west Mediterranean Holocene palaeoecology and prehistory. *Cahiers Ligures de Préhistoire et de Protohistoire* N.S. 2:253-264.

Larsson, Lars (editor). 1988. *The Skateholm Project. I. Man and Environment*. Publications of the Royal Society of Lund 74.

The publication contains twelve contributions from as many researchers working within archaeology, quaternary biology, osteology, anthropology and odontology. The contributions present research carried out in connection with an investigation of a Late Mesolithic settlement adjacent to a lagoon in southernmost Scania, Sweden, during the period 1980-1985.

The introductory chapter presents a description of the planning and empirical and theoretical development of the project. Investigations have comprised work of settlement sites and gravefields of Late Mesolithic date within two find localities, complemented with test investigations of three other Late Mesolithic find localities.

Altogether five contributions deal with the physical environment in the investigation area based on pollen analysis, macrofossil analysis, diatom analysis, and insect analysis. These are based mainly on detailed analyses of material from a sampling locality within the lagoon which covered large areas of the investigation area during Atlantic times. The results of these analyses are summarized in a palaeoecological description of the investigation area in which the vegetation as well as the relationship between land and water is considered.

The bone material from two settlements provides the basis for a detailed analysis with respect to faunal composition and biotope choice. The large number of species, more than eighty, are also considered with regard to the physical potentialities of the area and the distribution of the species in relation to other Late Mesolithic settlement sites.

The anthropological analysis of the great number of graves from two cemeteries, around eighty graves in total, are discussed in a second and summary contribution. The human population's physical status is discussed. The odontological material is analyzed in very great detail with discussions of, among other things, changes with respect to disease or genetics. Changes in the form of the tooth surfaces as a result of the food or the use of teeth as a working tool are also analyzed. The results of the in-

vestigation are also related to other analyses of contemporary as well as later material from southern Scandinavia.

The human material from Skateholm is the largest from Late Mesolithic times in Europe. The significance of this for the study of Western Europe's Mesolithic population is therefore the basis for additional discussion.

The concluding contribution is a functional analysis of flake axes from one of the settlements. The many different uses of these tools are outlined.

Larsson, Lars. 1988. Aspects of exchange in Mesolithic societies. In *Trade and Exchange in Prehistory*. *Studies in Honour of Berta Stjernquist*. Pp. 25-32

Larsson, Lars. 1987. Some aspects of the cultural relationship and ecological conditions during the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic. In *Theoretical Approaches to Artefacts, Settlement and Society*. *Studies in Honour of Mats P. Malmer*, edited by G. Burenhult, A. Carlsson, Å. Hyenstrand, and T. Sjøvold, pp.165-176. *British Archaeological Reports* I.S. 366.

Newell, R.R., and Trinette S. Constandse-Westermann. 1985 (1988). Reflections on the transition from the Late Paleolithic to the Mesolithic in Western Europe. *Paleohistoria* 27: 123-127.

A short comment on the article by Straus in the same issue. From a northwest European perspective.

Runnels, Curtis, and Tjeerd H. van Andel. 1988. Trade and the origins of agriculture in the Eastern Mediterranean. *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 1: 83-109.

Trade and social stratification appeared more or less simultaneously in different parts of the Eastern Mediterranean prior to the advent of agriculture-based village economies. This formulation places trade at the head of a list of factors that favored the adoption and dispersal of agriculture, and contrasts with previous views that regarded the development of complex societies as the consequences of the chance invention or evolution of agriculture. The evolution of complex societies was instead the cause for agricultural origins. Trade among Eastern Mediterranean societies provided the incentives for experimentation with domesticates to produce surplus wealth for trade or to support craftsmen who produced commodities for trade.

Straus, Lawrence Guy. 1985 (1988). Chronostratigraphy of the Pleistocene/Holocene boundary: the Azilian problem in the Franco-Cantabrian region. *Paleohistoria* 27: 89-122.

The chrono-stratigraphic evidence for the Azilian of Vasco-Cantabrian Spain and France is reviewed and found to range from the Allerød to the Preboreal. A survey of the associated artifact and fauna assemblages indicates the transitional nature of the Azilian between the Magdalenian and the Mesolithic. The relationship between Azilian technology and supposedly abrupt adaptations to radically changed environmental conditions at the 10,000 B.P. boundary is not straightforward.