

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, which almost covers printing and mailing costs. European subscribers should send payment directly to Clive Bonsall, Department of Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, 16-20 George Square, Edinburgh, Great Britain. North American subscribers should apply directly to the editor. Individuals for whom currency exchange may be difficult should contact Clive Bonsall at the address above. Subscriptions for 1991 are due now.

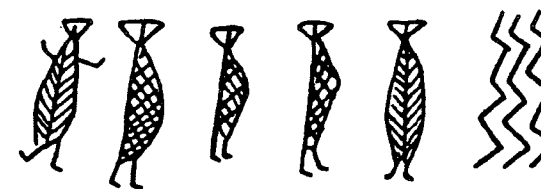
From the Editor

The newsletter is going to a new organizational level. I will continue to edit the Fall issue each year and Clive Bonsall will edit the May issue. For this reason, please forward your manuscripts, notes, and new publications to Clive for the May issue. The deadline for that issue is 30 April 1991.

If you enjoy reading about the work of others, chances are they will enjoy reading about yours. Mesolithic Miscellany publishes research reports, book reviews, national synopses of recent excavations and research, statements for debate, conference summaries, important radiocarbon dates, announcements and summaries or abstracts of recent publications to inform readers of current developments in the field. Recent Publications is a category that is particularly important and 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. We always need more reports, reviews, and papers from you, the reader.

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Mesolithic Miscellany

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From the Editor

The Fourth International Symposium on the Mesolithic in Europe was held in Leuven, Belgium, from September 18 through 23, 1990, at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. The Symposium was attended by approximately 100 people from all over Europe and North America. Papers were generally good and well received by the audience. Discussions following the papers were sometimes heated, often penetrating, and usually informative. The proceedings of the congress were published prior to the meeting and distributed to the participants on arrival—a remarkable achievement! Pete Vermeersch and Philip Van Peer are to be heartily thanked and congratulated for their efforts. The proceedings are professionally edited and look very fine. The map on the cover of the Leuven volume documents the trajectory of the congress through its first four meetings: Warsaw, Potsdam, Edinburgh, and Leuven. Participants in Leuven voted to hold the next Symposium in Grenoble in 1995.

On another matter, editorial responsibility for the newsletter is now shared between Madison and Edinburgh. Please note the changes as described on the back page of this newsletter. Clive Bonsall will edit the May issue of the newsletter beginning in 1991.

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RECENT RESEARCH

The Janislawice Burial from Poland:
Radiocarbon Dating

Zofia Sulgostowska
Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN
Warsaw

The Janislawice burial has finally been dated! A radiocarbon determination of 6580 ± 80 BP [Gd-2432] was obtained from the femur of the skeleton.¹ In the grave, discovered in central Poland in Skierniewice voivodship (Fig. 1) in 1936, was the skeleton of a man of about 30 years of age, buried in seated position with outstretched legs. The grave with traces of ochre contained varied and abundant grave goods.

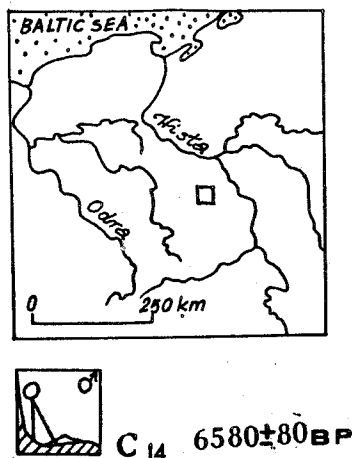


Fig. 1. Location of the Janislawice burial in Poland.

To the publications on this unique assemblage in Poland (Chmielewska 1954, K. Cyrek 1978, M. & K. Cyrek 1980), can now be added the results of new archaeozoological investigations (Lasota-Moskalewska, Kobryn, & Swiezynski 1985) and information about missing objects from the grave which were dispersed during the war and discovered in other collections of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw (Sulgostowska in press).

The dating of the burial is crucial as a basis for comparison with dates from charcoal at occupation sites which can always be interpreted as a result of several episodes of habitation (Schild 1989). The Janislawice burial belongs to the Atlantic 3 Period (Starkel 1977) and the radiocarbon date is in conformity with dates of the taxonomic unit called the Vistulian Cycle (Wieckowska & Marczak 1967) or the Janislawice culture (Kozlowski 1965). The radiocarbon date indicated more precisely, or corroborates the chronological age for the burial which have been estimated from the grave goods and the lithostratigraphy of the grave pit. An Atlantic period (Chmielewska 1954, Wieckowska 1964) or Boreal period age (Kozlowski 1972) have been suggested. However, the radiocarbon date disagrees with the theory that the grave inventory represents an older, Boreal phase of the Janislawice culture because of the lack of trapezes among the microliths (Kozlowski 1972).

This disagreement between theory and fact leads to a more general question — to what extent is the procedure of singling out taxonomic units on the basis of grave assemblages justified? Grave goods were as a general rule carefully chosen, selected often without analogical items among finds from contemporary habitation sites. The unique character of the assemblages from other burials of this time is indicated in the number and diversity of grave goods connected with different aspects of the life of the buried person. The actual state of the grave goods is shown in Table 1.

Raw Material	Number of Specimens		Specification
	Year 1936	Year 1990	
Flint	44 (?)	42	Nodules 2 Pre-cores 4 Cores 3 Blades 11 Microliths 21
Bone & Antler (Species: aurochs, beaver, Mustelidea sp., red deer, roe deer, wild boar)	54 (?)	47	Beads 27 Worked 15 Unused 5
Shell (Unio timidus Retzius)	(?)	5 fragments	

Table 1. Condition of grave goods from the Janislawice burial in Poland.

Among these are specimens connected with flint tool manufacture (a sequence from nodules, through pre-cores, cores, blades, and microliths), tools of bone and antler (implements of every day use and weapons), bone without traces of manufacture, and ornaments — beads forming a necklace. The flint objects have typological analogies among habitation site tool kits but artifacts of organic material are absent on the open air habitation sites due to acidic soil conditions.

The selective character of the grave goods has already been noted and is worth attention. The flint artifacts (except one) were made of chocolate flint, imported from a distance of ca. 100 km. The size of the cores and blades exceeds the average dimensions of these types at the habitation sites (Szymczak 1982). The large size of the red deer and beaver whose bones were used to prepare grave goods may also be regarded as a result of selection (Lasota-Moskalewska et al. 1985).

The process of forming the assemblage of grave goods is extremely interesting since it carries information about ritual customs and the personal property of buried persons. In the case of the Janisławice burial, we have objects likely accumulated gradually or used for some time as well as objects probably made solely as grave gifts. In the first group, there is a necklace made from the teeth of at least four aurochs and more than one red deer, as well as bone and antler artifacts with traces of use. We can assume that these things had been used and were the personal property of the deceased. Some of the flint artifacts could have been processed at the burial site as is suggested by the re-fittings of the core and two blades (Chmielewska 1954) and perhaps six of the microliths (M. & K. Cyrek 1980). But only the presence of wear on the blades and microliths would seem to provide confirmation of earlier use. The Janisławice burial is certain to disclose other mysteries as well in the future.

1 The first attempt to obtain a radiocarbon date from the burial was made in 1975. A fragment of red deer antler of approximately 50 g was taken to the Department of Natural History at the British Museum, but the amount of collagen in the sample was too small to obtain a date.

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RADIOCARBON DATES

Birmatten-Basisgrotte

Sample of human rib bone from Birmatten-Basisgrotte, Nenzlingen, Kr. Laufen, kanton Bern, Switzerland, excavated in 1944 by C. Lüdin.

OxA-2238 rib bone fragment, $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -20.8\%$ 6290 \pm 80 bp

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CONFERENCE REPORT

On the Hazards of the Fourth Meeting in Lövenbrau
(A verbal cartoon from real science)

It was a wet and rainy day in Lövenbrau. The owner of the Hot Lips Pub — was waiting for his guests to arrive. He stood looking into the rain. The participants had been looking forward to meeting each other for five years. But already at their arrival they realized — again — that they could not stand each other. And now they had to spend a wet and rainy week together — in the Hot Lips Pub.

The girl with the tight jeans was rolling barrels of beer into the bar, when suddenly a strange noise broke through the splashing sounds of the rain. Peat Woodstock — a dark-haired Irishman and a close relative of Captain Haddock — appeared in the door singing 'Rhum, Rhum, More Rhum!' in a high-pitched voice that made the cut-glass chandelier explode into dust. He had three bottles of Irish coffee under one arm and leaned on the Silent Swede. The Swede's large corpus was surrounded by barking and screaming dogs with ochre red buffalo skin trousers and hats. The Swede, for his part, was leaning on Peat, when the two of them became entangled in the dogs' leashes and tumbled across the floor of the Pub.

The owner went for a knife to free them, but too late! A pink, badly worn pram crashed into the Irish-Swedish heap at high speed, soon followed by a typical Danish-American couple with five suitcases and twelve bags. A cry from the pram: 'Baby Doc have beer! Baby Doc have beer!' A naughty looking little boy — Valentin-tin — came on the scene. Immediately recognizing that the pile of people was in a state of instability, he started to pull arms, tails, paws, and legs to straighten things out.

Two gentlemen of the French type had an argument. The monsieur Rosé was busily pulling a pair of battered shoes forwards and backwards on a string. Ayatollah Kozlowski looked into the air with a solemn face, hands on his back. Rosé shouted: "In my book 'Les Dernieres Chaussures' I have written that these shoes — the last remains of the hunters — were found IN the cradle of agriculture which I myself have personally excavated, and NOT beside it as you claim!" The Ayatollah looked at the ceiling and said nothing.

Guests filled the pub and the girl with the tight jeans was busy pouring beer into the large glasses as Eric Drunk-Poetsen began to recite one of his own poems (the other one he saved):

Lim - erik

At conferences it is quite necessary
to have a girl with tight jeans and a secretary
lots of vodka and beer
and a bar in the rear
to make a bar-series successfulitary

He had invented the last word himself, and was very proud of it, but he did not understand why the room had suddenly emptied.

The only people left were Ray, a son of one of the twins DuPont & DuPont (which twin was impossible to say), and Ms. Constantly Westwind. The two were systematically removing their clothes and counting every item to determine their status. "My watch is one item, and equals your hairpin which is also one item," said Ray. Under his shirt he appeared to be totally wrapped in computer paper.

A sound of crashing glass came from behind the bar. There lay the big Finn from the Glass Museum on a heap of broken beer glasses, bleeding heavily from several deep wounds and groaning in feeble voice, "Had I not been Finnish, I would not have been finished." Poetsen managed to get the body into the fridge behind the bar, as he did not know where else to put it. The president phoned a doctor and mentioned, by the way, that he would appreciate some treatment of the epidemic spread of dots on maps, that had been observed in the Hot Lips Pub for some days. He was afraid it would spread to the wall paper. As he looked out the window he saw two Mary Poppins types descending silently from heaven with very red hats and open umbrellas and he knew that the Finn would never experience this famous Belgian hospitality.

In the rain in the beautiful garden, the Silent Swede and Sheila Coldstone were carefully trampeling one of the dogs flat, and making a fire on top of it. They intended to test an idea that the Skateholm had been a hot-dog bar.

Crowds gathered once more in the bar. Zbigniew Backfire shot Maglemosian microliths at Aytollah Kozlowski, but unfortunately hit the girl in the tight jeans. A number of East Europeans found Late Mesolithic graves everywhere under the carpet and in the flower pots. Juicy Lucy and Mark Zybrowska tried to teach a bunch of primitives how to practice agriculture and still look like hunters. They moved around with sheep, goats, cattle and several bags of grain. Everything was back to normal.

In my memory cells there are clusters that seem to reflect the existence of some important results from the meeting in Lövenbrau. Not the least of which is the body of poetic works created by a number of anonymous authors, of which the most disputed is Eric Drunk-Poetsen:

There was an Irishman called Peat
who preferred barley to wheat
he drove to the bar
in his rusty star car
until it lost its last seat

Dr. Zvelebil liked agriculture
but still he wasn't quite sure
That the hunters died sudden
because hunting was rotten
so he invented the chenopodium cake to be sure

With apologies to all,
Ole Grøn

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NEW MONOGRAPHIC SERIES

Monographs in Mediterranean Archaeology

Monographs in Mediterranean Archaeology provides a medium for publication of synthetic studies that deal with broad archaeological and interdisciplinary issues relevant to the circum-Mediterranean region. Like the *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*, this new monographic series regards the region delimited by the Mediterranean Sea as a single but multifaceted archaeological and geographic research area, and recognises the archaeological significance of the Mediterranean Sea as facilitator of, or barrier to, culture and material culture.

Aimed at the international archaeological community, Monographs in Mediterranean Archaeology will publish material that deals with local or regional production, development, interaction, and change in the Mediterranean world, and with the assumptions that can be extrapolated from relevant archaeological data. In general, the editors seek problem-oriented studies that present a solid and extensive corpus of archaeological (or ethnoarchaeological) data within a sound theoretical and methodological framework. Amongst the types of study that would be especially suitable for publication in Monographs in Mediterranean Archaeology are: substantially revised Ph.D. dissertations; coherent, well-structured, and analytical final excavation or survey reports; conference proceedings, symposia, or other collections of high quality and general interest. Purely descriptive excavation reports or survey results will not be considered. No constraints are placed on the period of focus, from Palaeolithic through Medieval. The area of investigation should be limited to the islands within, and the lands and regions that border or have a demonstrable impact on, the Mediterranean Sea.

Manuscripts will undergo careful peer review, and will be accepted for publication only upon recommendation by the Editorial Board of Monographs in Mediterranean Archaeology. In the first instance, prospective authors should send a précis (two - four pages) and detailed outline to the General Editor. Please do not send manuscripts until you have contacted either the General Editor or an Editorial Board member.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Aime, Gérard, and André Thevenin. 1989. *Epipaleolithique et Mésolithique enter Ardennes et Massif Alpin. Table Ronde de Besancon*. Mèmoire de la Societé d'Agriculture, Lettres, Sciences et Artes de la Haute-Saône. Archéologie 2.

Biagi, Paolo. 1990. *The Neolithisation of the Alpine Region*. Monografie di "Natura Bresciana", No. 13. Proceedings of the International Round Table, Brescia 1988. Museo Civico di Scienze Naturali di Brescia.

J.G. Nandris, Practical and theoretical considerations in highland zone exploitation from ethnoarchaeological fieldwork in south-east Europe.

A. Gallay, La place des Alpes dans la Néolithisation de l'Europe.

C. Baroni, P. Biagi, R. Nisbet, & R.G. Scaife. Laghetti del Crestoso: a high altitude Castelnuovian camp in its environmental setting (Brescia - northern Italy).

A. Broglio & M. Lanzinger. Considerazioni sulla distribuzione dei siti rra la fine del Paleolitico superiore e l'inizio del Neolitico nell'Italia nord-orientale.

M. Cremaschi, Pedogenesi medio olocenica ed uso dei suoli durante il Neolitico in Italia settentrionale.

R. Drescher-Schneider, L'influsso umano sulla vegetazione neolitica nel territorio di Varese dedotto dai diagrammi pollinici.

G. Barker, P. Biagi, G. Clark, R. Maggi, & R. Nisbet. From hunting to herding in the Val Pennavaira (Liguria - northern Italy).

R. Clark, The beginnings of agriculture in sub-alpine Italy: some theoretical considerations.

A. Riedel, Remarks on some neolithic faunas of north-eastern Italy and on the neolithisation process.

L.H. Barfield, The lithic factor: a study of the relationships between stone sources and human settlement in the Monti Lessini and the southern Alps.

D. Baudais, P. Curdy, M. David-el Biali, & O. May, La Néolithisation du Valais: modèles de peuplement et premier bilan de la prospection archéologique du Valais (Suisse).

B. Bagollini & F. Bressan, Aspetti ambientali nei siti neolitici del Friuli

B. Bagollini, Il Neolitico nele Prealpi varesine.

D. Banchieri, Il Neolitico del Pizzo di Bodio nelle Prealpi varesine.

G. Geurreschi, Nuovi dati sulla stratigrafia dell'Isolino di Varese.

L. Castelletti, Relazione preliminare sui resti macroscopici vegetali dell'Isolino di Varese: scavi 1977-1985.

A. Pedrotti, L'insediamento di Kanzianiberg: rapporti culturali fra Carinzia ed Italia settentrionale durante il Neolitico.

B. Bagolini, Nuovi aspetti sepolcrali dell Cultura dei Vasi a Bocca Quadrata a La Vela di Trento.

Costantini, Lorenzo. 1989. Plant exploitation at Grotta dell'Uzzo, Sicily: new evidence for the transition from the Mesolithic to Neolithic subsistence in southern Europe. In *Foraging and Farming. The Evolution of Plant Exploitation*, D.R. Harris and G.C. Hillman eds., pp. 197-206. London: Unwin Hyman.

In summary the plant remains reveal that, between the 7th and 5th millennia bc, the people who frequented the Grotta dell'Uzzo underwent changes in subsistence which transformed them from foragers to crop-cultivators. The lowest Mesolithic levels, dated to around 8500 bc, yielded remains of fruits of the strawberry tree *Arbutus unedo* which, in the strata immediately above, were associated with legume seeds (*Lathyrus* or *Pisum* sp.) — presumably gathered from wild stands. This association of legumes and arboreal fruits continues throughout the Mesolithic to the Early Neolithic. Later in the Mesolithic, *Arbutus* and the legumes are joined by an oak (*Quercus* sp.) represented by acorn cotyledons, and by the wild grape (*Vitis silvestris*), remains of which have been found in levels dating from the middle of the 8th millennium bc. At the close of the Mesolithic and, more particularly, during the transition from the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic, the first wild olive remains appear.

Dawson, A.G., D.E. Smith, and D. Long. 1990. Evidence for a Tsunami from a Mesolithic site in Inverness, Scotland. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 17: 509-512.

Fosse, G., A. Ropars, and G. Habasque. 1990. *Derniers Chasseurs Premiers Agriculteurs*. Museum de Rouen, Special Number.

Friis-Hansen, Jan. 1990. Mesolithic cutting arrows: functional analysis of arrows used in the hunting of large game. *Antiquity* 64: 494-505.

Arrowheads and projectile points, with their elegant shapes, are the very stuff of archaeological classification. But do classes of relate usefully, or at all, to real differences in arrowhead purpose or efficiency? Modern and Mesolithic arrowheads are studied with their killing purpose in mind.

Gob, André. 1988. Multivariate analysis of lithic industries. In *Computer and Quantitative Methods In Archaeology 1987*, ed. by C.L.N. Ruggles & S.P.Q. Rahtz, pp. 15-24. British Archaeological Reports S393.

Gob, André. 1990. *chronologie de Mésolithique en Europe. Atlas des dates 14C*. Liege: Centre Informatique de Philosophie et Lettres. 320 pp. 24 pl., 1950 BEF.

Radiocarbon datings are generally underused; they very often serve only as additional information or as an external argument in favor of a specific thesis. Their reliability is often contested. Some scholars reproach their colleagues for selecting the most convenient results. The present book is the first exhaustive catalog of dates dealing with the overall European Mesolithic. About 2300 dates have been collected, without any prior selection. All dates ranging between 10,000 and 6,000 B.P., whatever their archaeological context, are included, together with dates referring to the Mesolithic outside this time span. Each date is presented with an exhaustive record of technical and archaeological information. four indexes provide easy access to the list of dates which is presented in alphabetical order by country. The volume is not only a compilation but also includes analytical and interpretative text culminating in a genuine and up-to-date chronology for the European Mesolithic.

Jacobs, Z.R. 1989. Ein mesolithischen "wohn- und werkplatz" in Oberkail, Kreis Bitburg-Prüm. *Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique Luxembourgeoise* 10: 159-176.

Kolsov, P.R. 1989. *Mesolit CCCP*. Hayka Moscow.

Kozłowski, Stefan Karol. 1919. *Mesolithic In Poland. A New Approach*. Warsaw: Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego.

The present book deals with the prehistory of Poland, from the 8th to the end of the 4th millennium BC, putting the main emphasis on taxonomic units referred to as Mesolithic. It marks the most recent stage of the author's study of the Polish Mesolithic and may in fact be treated as an improved version of the synthetic treatment from 1971. The dozen or so years between that publication and this one were filled by intense studies, both cameral and in the field, by scores of Polish archaeologists. Many new facts in cultural taxonomy were revealed, a more perfect base for drawing up the chronological scheme is now available, the raw material relations were investigated. As a result some of the theses from the early 1970s have been modified and others substantiated.

This summary may concern only selected domains, the limitation being due on the one hand to the nature of the available sources, and on the other to the personal interests of the author. Thus, the principle objective of this work is the presentation of a taxonomical division of the Polish materials against the background of a European scheme. An attempt was made, however, to present taxonomy with its possible ecological conditioning. The zonality of the Polish landscape is described, there is a reconstruction of the Early and Middle Holocene fauna specifying its spatial and temporal differentiation, and also a history of climate and vegetation. The flint raw materials are presented together with various models of their utilization. The settlement network of the Polish Mesolithic and its environmental conditioning are described, as are the main site types. There are separate chapters devoted to the foundations of typology and chronology, and the book ends with a tentative presentation of the main stages of historical processes taking place in Poland and, more generally in Central Europe in the period from the 8th to the 4th millennium.

- Lemorini, Cristina. 1990. Osservazione delle tracce d'uso su di un campione dell'industria mesolitica di sopra fienile rossino (Serle, Brescia). *Natura Bressclana* 25: 319-328.
- Matskainen, Heikki. 1989. **Studies on the chronology, material culture and subsistence economy of the Finnish Mesolithic, 10,000 - 6000 bp.** Helsinki: Suomen Muinaismuistoyhdistys Finska Fornminnesföreningen.
- Loze, Ilze. 1988. Stone age wooden tools and devices from the multilayer habitation site of Zvidze (Latvia). *Archeologické rozhledy* 40: 361-377.
- Mithen, Steven J. 1988. Simulation as a methodological tool. In **Computer and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology 1987**, ed. by C.L.N. Ruggles & S.P.Q. Rahtz, pp. 119-138. British Archaeological Reports S393.
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- Newell, R.R., D. Kielman, T.S. Constandse-Westermann, W.A.B. van der Sander, and A. Van Gijn. 1990. **An Inquiry into the Ethnic Resolution of Mesolithic Regional Groups.** Leiden: E.T. Brill.
- Prinz, Beth. 1987. **Mesolithic adaptations on the Lower Danube. Vlasac and the Iron Gates Gorge.** British Archaeological Reports S330. Oxford.
- Renouf, M.A.P. 1989. **Prehistoric hunter-fishers of Varangerfjord, northeastern Norway: reconstruction of settlement and subsistence during the Younger Stone Age.** British Archaeological Reports, International Series 487. Oxford.
- Spier, Fernand, and Germaie Geiben. 1987. Un site de Beuronien A, facies Nord. Contribution à l'étude du site Mésolithique de Diekirch-Galgebierg. *Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique Luxembourgeoise* 9: 113-128.
- Sulgostowska, Zofia. 1989. **Prahistoria międzyrzecza Wisły, Niemna i Dniestru u schyłku plejstocenu. Pan'stwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne w Warszawie.** Warsaw: Pan'stwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe.

- Wickham-Jones, C.R. 1990. **Rhum. Mesolithic and later sites at Kinloch: excavations 1984-86.** Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Monograph Series 7. 169 pp., 1 color, 99 b&w illustrations. £39.

The prehistoric site at Kinloch, on the island of Rhum, was unknown until disturbed by plowing in the summer of 1983. Excavations began in 1984, and continued until 1986. They revealed extensive remains of mesolithic activity which has been dated to the mid seventh millennium BC, providing the earliest evidence to date for the early settlement of Scotland. The site also contained evidence of later activity in the early prehistoric period. The site covers some 4500 square meters at the head of Loch Scresort on the east coast of Rhum. In addition to a complex pattern of archaeological features (pits, stake holes, and hollows) the excavations uncovered over 140,000 artifacts, mainly related to the manufacture and use of stone tools, together with much contemporary environmental evidence.

The report contains a detailed description of the archaeological features and their interpretation. Much of the text is devoted to the analysis of stone tools; the technological analysis showed how the manufacturing process was adapted to suit the different properties of the raw materials, primarily Rhum bloodstone and flint. The artifact analysis included consideration of the types of tools produced, and the patterns of waste that had built up across the site. The project also incorporated a number of geophysical and environmental studies, the reports of which are presented in full, giving particular attention to the changing postglacial environment of Rhum. Finally the different threads of evidence are drawn together in a detailed interpretation and there is a discussion of the context of the site within the early postglacial settlement of Britain.

- Vermeersch, P.M., and P. van Peer (eds). 1990. **Contributions to the Mesolithic in Europe.** Proceedings of the IVth International Mesolithic Congress. Leuven University Press: Studia Praehistorica Belgica 5. Hurrah!!

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