Mesolithic Miscellany

24

Volume 17 Number 1

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 rates for individuals are: North America – US\$4.00, Europe – GB£2.50; and for libraries/other institutions – GB£3.00. The subscription covers printing and mailing costs only. European subscribers can take out a 5-year subscription for £10, and should send payment to the editor, Clive Bonsall. North American subscribers should send their subscriptions to Douglas Price, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA. Individuals for whom currency exchange may be difficult should contact Clive Bonsall at the address above. Subscriptions for 1996 are due now.

From the Editor

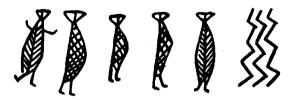
If you enjoy reading about the work of others, chances are they will enjoy reading about yours. *Mesolithic Miscellany* publishes research reports, book reviews, national synopses of recent excavations and research, statements for debate, conference summaries, important radiocarbon dates, announcements, 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.

Clive Bonsall
Department of Archaeology
University of Edinburgh
Old High School
Infirmary Street
Edinburgh EH1 1LT, UK

Tel. 0131-650 2375 Fax. 0131-662 4094

E-mail: CBonsall@ed.ac.uk

ISSN 0259-3458



Mesolithic Miscellamy

May 1996

Volume 17 Number

Editorial

On 12 September 1995, Mesolithic archaeology lost one of its finest practitioners, Professor Grahame Clark, and on pages 2–4 of this issue we carry an appreciation of his life and work that first appeared in 'The Times' newspaper on 14 September 1995.

Grahame Clark's first major publication, *The Mesolithic Age in Britain* published in 1932, can be said to have ushered in the modern era of European Mesolithic studies. In that book he offered a definition of the Mesolithic that is still widely accepted today, as the period 'between the close of the Pleistocene and the arrival of the Neolithic way of life'. But it is for two later publications, perhaps, that he will be best remembered: *The Mesolithic Settlement of Northern Europe* (1936) and *Excavations at Star Carr* (1954). Original though these publications were, it is the clarity of thought and

expression that they reflect which, more than anything else, has been the basis of Grahame Clark's contribution to Mesolithic archaeology.

Clive Bonsall

PROFESSOR SIR GRAHAME CLARK

Professor Sir Grahame Clark, CBE, FBA archaeologist and Master of Peterhouse, 1973–80, died on September 12, 1995, aged 88. He was born on July 28, 1907.

GRAHAME CLARK was one of the leading prehistorians of this century. As an expert on the Mesolithic period, he helped to develop European archaeology away from a preoccupation with stone-tool typology and towards a broader understanding of how early societies exploited their early environment. Later in his career he developed a comparative prehistory of early societies across the globe, and explored some of the universal traits that define human behaviour.

In 1935 Clark was one of a group of archaeologists who took control of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia and renamed it the Prehistoric Society. The society became the world's leading forum on the archaeology of preliterate cultures and Clark became its president, 1958–62, and the editor of its Proceedings until 1970.

John Grahame Douglas Clark was educated at Marlborough and Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he spent his entire academic career. From a research studentship in 1930 he became a Bye-Fellow in 1933, Fellow, 1950–73, and Master, 1973–80. In the university he was made an assistant lecturer in 1935, and in 1952 was elected to the Disney Chair of Archaeology which he held until his retirement in 1974.

Early in his career, Clark chose to concentrate on the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age period, which followed the end of the Ice Age and preceded the establishment of Neolithic settled farming villages. The peoples of the Mesolithic had to deal with a rapidly changing environment as the ice sheets retreated northwards, and with the animal species which their ancestors had hunted dwindled towards extinction.

For the prehistorian it was a period lacking the clear-cut characteristics of early Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer societies, and few scholars had scrutinised Mesolithic Miscellany 3 Volume 17 Number 1

the Mesolithic seriously. Clark established himself as the foremost authority on the period with his first book, The Mesolithic Age in Britain (1932), and he consolidated his reputation with The Mesolithic Settlement of Northern Europe (1936). By then he had published nearly thirty papers in professional journals, many of them short notes, but including the first report on the Peacock's Farm early neolithic site in the Fens.

Among Clark's early publications were Archaeology and Society (1939), which reconstructed different aspects of extinct communities, and Prehistoric Europe: The Economic Basis (1952), a masterly synthesis of evidence on subsistence and craft production which was translated into Russian and Polish. He was also capable of good non-academic writing, as in Prehistoric England (1940) and From Savagery to Civilisation (1946): this last title was reminiscent of those used by Clark's contemporary and friendly rival, V. Gordon Childe, in his Marxist popularisations of prehistory.

When Childe left the Abercromby Chair at Edinburgh in 1946, Clark was seen as his natural successor, but the post went to Stuart Piggott instead. Clark remained in Cambridge and was promoted to lecturer. His next major excavation, of the well-preserved Mesolithic hunters' camp at Star Carr in Yorkshire, guaranteed his unchallenged succession as Disney Professor of Archaeology in 1952.

The Star Carr monograph (1954) was a landmark in archaeological literature for its linking of environment, subsistence and technology. Clark reevaluated his own work in 1972 as 'a case study in bioarchaeology' for an enterprising American publisher. He returned to the Mesolithic with *The Earlier Stone Age Settlement of Scandinavia* (1975) and *Mesolithic Prelude* (1980).

By the 1960s, however, Clark's interests had widened from the European. One of the results was *World Prehistory: An Outline* (1961) a modestly titled tour de force in which Asia, the Americas and Australasia took their place beside the classic regions of prehistoric study. Revised in 1969 and 1977 and translated into nine languages (including Serbo-Croat), it remained the most successful global treatment of archaeology.

Clark recognised that the establishment of farming was the most crucial development in the last ten millennia for advanced human societies, and in 1968 he persuaded the British Academy (of which he had been elected a Fellow in 1951) to back a major research project into the early history of agriculture. It was based in the archaeology department at Cambridge,

Mesolithic Miscellany	
-----------------------	--

Volume 17 Number 1

directed under Clark's overall control by the late Eric Higgs, and yielded a series of important excavation reports.

4

Convinced of the importance of antipodean archaeology, Clark dispatched his graduates to teach in the new departments being founded in Australian and New Zealand universities (he was a Commonwealth Visiting Fellow himself in 1964). While he did not succeed in enlarging the teaching staff at Cambridge much, other departments across the world benefited from this diaspora. In *Prehistory at Cambridge and Beyond* (1989) he proudly included a map showing the wide diffusion of his students into every continent.

Clark was honoured by the membership of almost every national archaeological society in Central and Northern Europe and by the major American academies, and he was a trustee of the British Museum, 1975–80. He was appointed CBE in 1971, and knighted in 1992. In 1990 he was awarded the Erasmus Prize; he was the first archaeologist to receive an award normally given to politicians and similar public figures.

Clark's appraisal of others'work, as of his own, was honest and accurate, and he was known to praise behind their backs people to whom he was barely civil to their faces. As Master of Peterhouse he liked to remind members of the college of their privileges and corresponding obligations. He regarded the college as an integrated society in which the moral and physical as well as intellectual capabilities of its members should be encouraged. He was a keen supporter of the boat club.

Clark's austere manner was relieved by his enthusiasm for modern art, Chinese ceramics and jade, and by the cheerfulness of his wife Mollie, whom he married in 1936 and by whom he had two sons and a daughter. She survives him, together with one son.

© The Times, 14 September 1995

Mesolithic Miscellany 5 Volume 17 Number 1

On Mesolithic means of water transportation in northeastern Europe

Grigoriy M. Burov

Department of Ancient and Mediaeval History,
University of Simferopol', Ukraine

Introduction

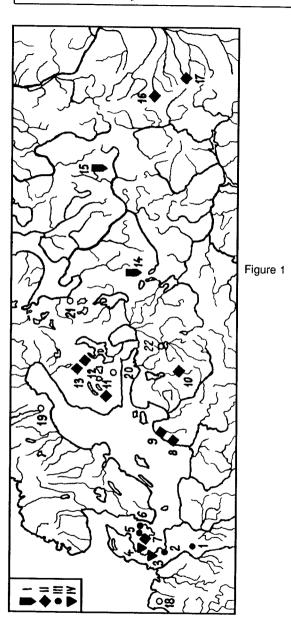
During excavations conducted by M.E. Foss at the site of Nizhnee-Veret'e in the western Onega region between 1929 and 1934 (Figure 1), the first direct evidence for the human use of rafts or boats in the East European Mesolithic was found. This comprised a fragment of a wooden paddle (Foss 1941:plate III, no. 15). Until recently, however, this site had been dated to the Early Neolithic. A similar, but more expressive object was recovered by the present author in 1964 from the Mesolithic peat bog portion of the Vis I site (Vychegda region) where a large series of wooden artifacts have come to light (Burov 1990).

Paddles of the 8th millennium BP from Vis I and Nizhnee-Veret'e

The paddle from Vis I (Figure 2, no. 1) is made of softwood. The blade, 53.7cm long and 11.7cm wide, is almost complete and is covered with marks left by an indented shaving instrument (arched scraper or 'spokeshave') fitted with worn microliths. This blade has parallel sides, a pointed end, and distinct shoulders in the place where the blade passes into the handle which has a diameter of 1.8cm. The handle has a continuation in the form of a strengthening bulge on the blade which is bow-shaped in profile and therefore creates good force against the water.

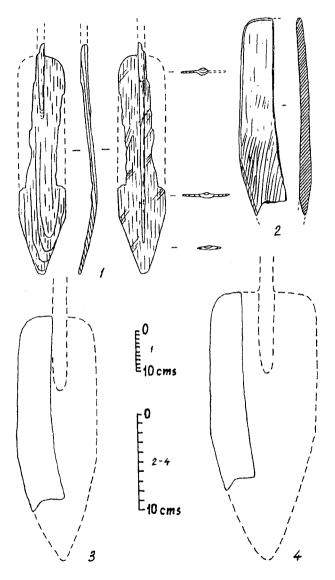
The paddle from Nizhnee-Veret'e (Figure 2, no. 2) had a blade of similar form, and its surface also was made smooth with an indented shaving tool. Unfortunately, it is difficult to estimate the original proportions (length/

6



Paddles of the 10th-5th millennia BP in northern Europe and the Transurals: findspots mentioned in text. 1. Friesack; 2. Duvensee; 3. Rüde II; 4. Tybrind Vig; 5. Holmegaard; 6. Ulkestrup; 7. Stammebaad; 8. Sarnate; 9. Šventoji; 11. Humppila; 10. Usvyaty IV; 12. Laukaa; 13. Konginkangas; 14. Nizhnee-Veret'e; 15. Vis I; 16. Gorbunovskiy peat bog; 17. Shigirskiy I. I - paddles with a long blade in the shape of a pentagon, dating back to the 8th millennium BP; II - paddles having a leaf-shaped blade, 7th-5th millennium BP; III - paddles with elongated oval blade. 10th-9th millennia BP; IV - paddles with a blade similar in form to a triangle or polygon, 7th-5th millennium BP. Other sites -18. Pesse; 19. Kalvträsk; 20. Heinola; 21. Zalavruga; 22. Novgorod.

Mesolithic Miscellany 7 Volume 17 Number 1



Paddles of the 8th millennium BP from the sites of Vis I (1) and Nizhnee-Veret'e (2-4). 3, 4. Variants of reconstruction.

Mesolithic	Miscellany	
------------	------------	--

Volume 17 Number 1

width ratio) of the blade. If the two blades differed slightly one from another in their proportions, the paddle from Nizhnee-Veret'e was about twice the size of that from Vis I, but the blade may also have been wider (Figure 1, nos 3–4). Both objects are thought to date from the 8th millennium BP (Burov 1990).

8

The Vis I and Nizhnee-Veret'e paddles in the context of Early Mesolithic finds from Western Europe

The paddles from Vis I and Nizhnee-Veret'e can both be compared with broadly contemporaneous or slightly older examples from western regions of Europe and with later ones from Northeastern Europe and the Transurals.

A series of paddles have been found in Denmark and northern Germany on sites of the Boreal and, probably, Preboreal periods. These are the finds from Ulkestrup (Andersen 1951: fig. 5), Holmegaard and Duvensee (Rozoy 1978: fig. 282, nos. 1, 2) and Friesack (Gramsch & Kloss 1990:fig. 6, no. 8) which testify that the earliest paddles from this area had elongated oval blades (Figure 3, nos 1–4). The well-known example from Holmegaard has a broken blade, apparently symmetrical (Figure 3, no. 3). However, in V.I. Ravdonika's book (1939: fig. 138) a photograph of another paddle from Holmegaard, with the lower part intact, was published (Figure 3, no. 5); this find confirms that paddles of the Maglemosian phase had elongated oval blades provided, that is, the provenance of this object was correctly reported by the investigator. Thus, Danish and German paddles of the 10th–9th millennium BP had a comparatively smooth passage from the handle to the blade, and the end of the blade was not pointed.

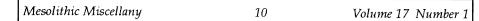
In this regard, the 'paddle' of the Preboreal period recovered from Star Carr in England, which has a completely smooth passage into a 'blade' provided with projecting rims, or flanges, along both edges (Figure 3, no. 7) (Clark 1954: 178, fig. 77; Rozoy 1978: fig. 282, no. 3) probably was not used in connection with water transport, but as a ski pole — like a Stone Age object from Kalvträsk in Sweden (Figure 3, no. 6) found together with a pair of skis (Clark 1952: fig. 165, no. 3). In this case the part of the pole in the shape of a concave spade would have been used for shovelling snow before passing the night, arranging traps, scooping water, and so on (Antropova 1953: 15).

Mesolithic Miscellany 9 Volume 17 Number 1

Paddles of the 6th-5th millennia BP

At the end of the Atlantic period and the beginning of the Sub-boreal we see the manufacture of paddles with an elongated leaf-shaped blade which has both a sharp, pointed end and a very smooth passage at the junction with the shaft (Figure 4, nos 1–7). These are represented by paddles with a blade in the form of a willow leaf from peat bogs in Finland (Humppila, Konginkangas, Laukaa - Vilkuna 1989) and that from Gorbunovsky in the Transurals (Eding 1940: figs 1-6, 17), as well as objects with a flame-shaped blade from sites in the eastern Baltic area (Sarnate, Šventoji, Usvyaty IV — Vankina 1970: plate IX, X; Rimantene 1991: fig. 1, nos 41, 42; Miklayev 1971: fig. 8, nos 3, 4). One of the undated paddles from the Shigirskiy peat bog in the middle Transurals (Department of Prehistoric Culture History of the Hermiatage State Museum, St Petersburg, registration no. 5547:2; Figure 4, no. 10) shows on its leaf-shaped blade traces made by an indented instrument typical of the Late Mesolithic; this suggests that this object of a late form dates from approximately the 7th millennium BP. This interpretation is supported indirectly by another paddle of similar form, found in the same peat bog (Figure 4, no. 8); it was ascertained that it lay in a silt layer of Boreal or Early Atlantic age (Raushenbakh 1959: 128-131). Other paddles found by chance in the Shigirskiy peat bog (no. 5547:3, 4; Figure 4, nos 9, 11) may be of similar age to this object and those from the Gorbunovskiy peat bog, i.e. dated between the 7th-5th millennia BP.

A paddle with a leaf-shaped blade was also found in Denmark (Figure 3, no. 13), at the site of Stammebaad belonging to the Ertebølle culture (Troels-Smith 1960: fig. 9, no. 1). However, at two other West European sites of the Atlantic period, Rude II and Tybrind Vig, original spade-shaped paddles (Figure 3, nos 8–12) with a three-cornered pointed blade (Schwabedissen 1981: fig. 4; Andersen 1985: fig. 20) or in the shape of a wide oval or square were found (Rozoy 1978: fig. 282, nos 4, 5). Being pointed, the paddles could be used not only to paddle but also to pole, instead of a stake. A long pointed object is necessary during movement upstream if the current is strong. At the same time, the leaf-shaped blade is useful in shallow weed-choked water, since some of the weed will remain on a paddle with shoulders after it is taken out of water. That is why paddles with a leaf-shaped blade often having a rib or a flange were used at different times in many different parts of the world – it will be sufficient to mention the medieval complex of the Vis II site (Burov 1984: fig. 8, nos 1, 4), the 10th–15th centuries AD layers of



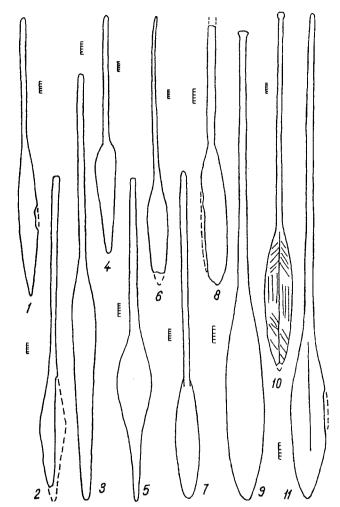
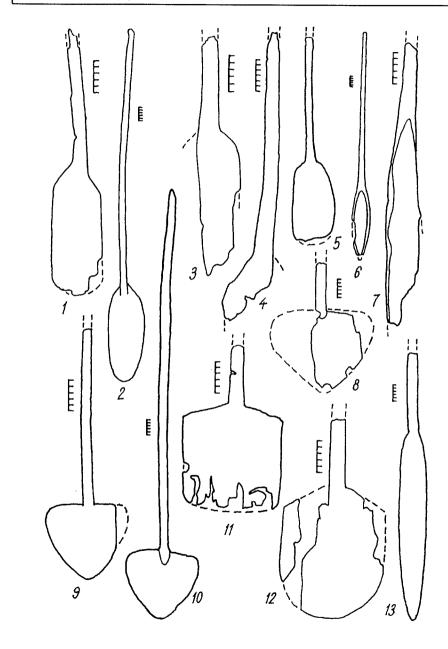


Figure 3 Stone Age paddles found in Denmark and Northern Germany (1–5, 8–13), and ski-poles from England and Sweden (6, 7). 1. Duvensee; 2. Ulkestrup; 3 (& 5?) Holmegaard; 4. Friesack; 6. Kalvträsk; 7. Star Carr; 8, 9. Tybrind Vig; 10–12. Rüde II; 13. Stamebaad; 1, 3, 6, 7. After J. G. D. Clark; 2. After K. Andersen; 4. After B. Gramsch; 5. After V. I. Ravdonikas; 8, 9. After S. Andersen; 10. After H. Schwabedissen; 11, 12. After J-G. Rozoy; 13. After J. Troels-Smith.

Mesolithic Miscellany 11 Volume 17 Number 1



the town of Novgorod (Kolchin 1968: pl. 50, no.5; pl. 51, nos 1, 2; pl. 52, no.1; pl. 53, nos 2, 5, 6), the Kets living in the Yenisey basin (Donner 1933: pict. 29), North American Indians (Rau 1884: fig. 370) and the Maori of New Zealand (Butinov & Rozina 1963: pl. III, no. 6).

Concerning types of Mesolithic boats

In the opinion of Christopher Tolan-Smith (Smith 1992: 139–140), Mesolithic paddles could be used in boats; the settlement of the Inner Hebrides and Ireland during the 9th millennium BP would have been impossible without an effective means of water transport. In this supposition, the skin boats represented in Norwegian Stone Age rock carvings with a direct keel, steep bow and frame with projections provide an indication of the nature of Mesolithic craft and would have provided a viable means of sea transport. Analogous images of the 5th–4th millennia BP are known among petroglyphs of the Zalavruga on the White Sea coast (Savvateev 1970: fig. 7, no. 6; fig. 19, no. 2) where silhouette carvings represent skin boats, while outlined ones may be interpreted as boat-shaped sledges with one runner.

However, under the conditions of Vis I and Nizhnee-Veret'e, as well as in interior parts of Great Britain (Smith 1992: 140) where the Mesolithic people had to boat on rivers and lakes, it is probable that dugout canoes were produced, although there is now no direct evidence of their existence. The oldest dated log boats of Eastern Europe are known from inexpressive fragments from Sarnate (Vankina 1970:92) and Šventoji IB and IX (Rimantene 1991: 83–84) dating to the 6th–5th millennia BP. Well-preserved dugout canoes radiocarbon dated to the 6th millennium BP were revealed in Denmark (Tybrind Vig, Præstelyngen – Andersen 1985: fig. 17; Smith 1982: 141–142). There are also pine objects of a different shape made with the help of fire and dating to the Early Mesolithic (9th millennium BP) – from Pesse in The Netherlands (Rozoy 1978: fig. 282bis) and (probably) Perth in Great Britain (Smith 1992: 142–143). The latter find is a log 4.5m long with a cavity 1.8m long and 0.6m deep. The 'canoe' from Pesse looks like a dugout

Figure 4 Paddles of the 7th–5th millennia BP from Northeast Europe and the Transurals. 1. Konginkangas; 2. Laukaa; 3, 5. Sarnate; 4. Šventoji; 6–7. Gorbunovsky peat bog; 8–11. Shigirskiy one. 1, 2. After R. K. Rimantene; 6, 7. State Historical Museum, Moscow; 8–11. Hermitage State Museum, St Petersburg.

boat *ca* 3m long with extraordinarily massive walls, bottom and bow. Tolan-Smith wrote correctly that it is by no means certain that these finds were indeed boats, rather than troughs or coffins. According to the present author's calculations, the displacement of the 'canoe' from Pesse corresponds to the weight of one man or two persons. But both finds can be interpreted as log boats only if they are half-finished products, which is difficult to prove.

Both artifacts, however, testify that the West European people of the Early Mesolithic were able to burn out large cavities in wood and, thus, it is possible that unequivocal log boats of this time will be revealed. Among finds from Northeast Europe a trough-shaped sledge runner of the second half of the 10th millennium BP from Heinola in southern Finland is interesting (Itkonen 1934: fig. 5, A). There is a large series of similar objects in the collection from Vis I (Burov 1981). A. Ayräpää (1950: 89) noted that the runner from Heinola is like a dugout canoe and, probably, came from it. But as we do not know when the log boat itself first appeared, it is probable that the earliest sledge runner of Heinola type was a prototype of the dugout canoe. In any case, the noted similarity is an argument in favour of the supposition that log boats existed in 10th-7th millennia BP. Moreover, because the Heinola-type sledge had two runners in the shape of a trough connected one with another (Burov 1981: 122-124) it can be assumed that twin log boats were already invented in the Mesolithic. They had been used in ancient times in Sweden and other countries, and were produced until recently in some regions of Eastern Europe (Clark 1952: chapter 10). However, the question of the existence of the dugout canoe in the Mesolithic must be left open for want of archaeological data.

Conclusion

Mesolithic Miscellany

Means of water transportation were associated in Mesolithic Northeastern Europe both with migrations and subsistence economies, in particular with developed fishing which permitted a shift toward sedentism in places favourable for it (Burov 1992).

Note:

 The author's doubts about this object stem from the fact that he has been unable to find any other reference to it in the literature on the European Mesolithic.

- Andersen, K. 1951. Hytter fra maglemosetid. Danmarks ældste boliger. Fra Nationalmuseets arbeidsmark:69–76.
- Andersen, S.H. 1985. A preliminary report on a submerged Ertebølle settlement on the west coast of Fyn. *Journal of Danish Archaeology* 4:52–69.
- Antropova, V.V. 1953. Lyzhi narodov Sibiri. Sbornik Muzeya antropologii i etnografii 14:5–36.
- Äyräpää, A. 1950. Die ältesten steinzeitlichen Funde aus Finland. Acta Archaeologica 21:1–43.
- Butinov, N.A. & I.V. Rozina 1963. Nekotorye cherty samobytnoy kultury maori. Sbornik Muzeya antropologii i etnografii 21:78–109.
- Burov, G.M. 1981. Fragmenty saney s poseleniy Vis I (mezolit) i II (I tysyacheletie n. e.). Sovetskaya arkheologiya 2:117–131.
- Burov, G.M. 1984. Kizukeniyu rybolovstva na Evropeyskom Severo-Vostoke v seredine I tysyachelethiya n. e. Voprosy istorii Evropeyskogo Severa:147–165.
- Burov, G.M. 1990. Die Holzgeräte des Siedlungplatzes Vis I als Grundlage für die Periodisierung des Mesolithikus im Norden des Europäischen Teils der UdSSR. In P. M. Vermeersch and P. Van Peer (eds), Contributions to the Mesolithic in Europe. Leuven, University Press:335–344.
- Burov, G.M. 1992. Mesolithic fishing in the European Northeast (Russia). *Mesolithic Miscellany* 13(2):1–9.
- Clark, J.G.D. 1936. The Mesolithic Settlement of Northern Europe. Cambridge, University Press.
- Clark, J.G.D. 1952. Prehistoric Europe: the economic basis. London, Methuen.
- Clark, J.G.D. 1954. Excavations at Star Carr. Cambridge, University Press.
- Donner, K. 1993. Ethnological Notes about the Yenisey-Ostyac (in the Turukhansk Region). Helsinki, Suomalais-ugrilainen seura.
- Eding, D.N. 1940. Reznaya skulptura Urala. Moscow, Gosudarstvennyy istoricheskiy muzey.
- Foss, M.E. 1941. Kostyanye i derevyannye izdeliya stoyanki Veret'e. Materialy i issledovaniya po arkeologii SSSR 2:212–235.

- Gramsch, B. & K. Kloss. 1990. Excavations near Friesack: an Early Mesolithic marshland site in the Northern Plain of Central Europe. In C. Bonsall (ed.), *The Mesolithic in Europe*. Edinburgh, John Donald:313–324.
- Itkonen, T.I. 1934. Muinaissuksia ja-jalaksia. Suomen museo:1-21.
- Kolchin, B.A. 1968. Novgorodskie drevnosti. Derevyannye izdeliya. Moscow, Nauka.
- Miklayev, A.M. 1971. Neoliticheskoe svaynoe poselenie na Usvyatskom ozere. Arkheologicheskiy sbornik Gosudarstvennogo Ermitazha 13:7–29.
- Rau, C.. 1884. Prehistoric Fishing in Europe and North America. Washington City.
- Rausenbakh, V.M. 1959. Novye nakhodki na Shigirskom torfyanike. Kratkie soobscheniya Instituta istorii material'noy kul'tury 75:123–131.
- Ravdonikas, V.I. 1939. Istoriya pervobitnogo obshchestva. Leningrad, Universitet.
- Rimantene, R. 1991. Ozernoe rybolovstvo i morskaya okhota v kamennom veke Litvy. In N.N. Gurina (ed.), Rybolovstvo i morskoy promysel v epokhu mezolita rannego metalla v lesnoy i lesostepnoy zone Vostochnoy Evropy. Leningrad, Nauka: 65–86.
- Rozoy, J-G. 1978. Les derniers chasseurs: L'Epipaléolithique en France et en Belgique. Charleville, The Author.
- Savateev, Yu.A. 1970. Zalavruga. Leningrad, Nauka.
- Schvabedissen, H. 1981. Ertebølle/Ellerbek Mesolithikum oder Neolithikum? In B. Gramsch (ed.), *Mesolithikum in Europa*. Berlin, Deutscher Verlag der Wissenschaften:129–142.
- Smith, C. 1992. Late Stone Age Hunters of the British Isles. London, Routledge.
- Troels-Smith, J. 1960. Ertebølletidens Fanfstfolk og Bønder. Fra National-museets arbejdsmark.
- Vankina, L.V. 1970. Torfyanikovaya stoyanka Sarnate. Riga, Zinatne.
- Vilkuna, J. 1989. Prehistoric Finno-Ugrian paddles. In E. A. Savel'eva (ed.). Materialy VI Mezhdunarodnogo kongressa finno-ugrovedov, I. Moscow, Nauka.

Mesolithic Miscellany	16	Volume 17	Number 1

From the Jomon to Star Carr: Reflections on Saki, Black Pudding, and the Hunter-Gatherers of East & West Temperate Eurasia

Patricia E. Woodman, Nyree Finlay & Rick J. Schulting

Department of Archaeology

University of Reading

From the 4th-8th of September 1995, we attended the From The Jomon to Star Carr conference at Cambridge and Durham. The meeting, long in the making, was organized by Simon Kaner and Liliana Janik of Cambridge University, Peter Rowley-Conwy of Durham University and Akira Matsui from the Nijo-Cho Research Institute, Japan. The conference was an ambitious attempt at integrating the archaeology of Northern Europe with the Jomon of Japan, providing an opportunity for a broad range of scholars to get together and discuss the Mesolithic. Representatives from Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Russia, Poland, the U.S.A., Canada and even Australia (!). Denmark and Norway were particularly well represented. Considering that the conference was held in Britain, surprisingly few British Mesolithic researchers were in attendance. Even fewer British postgraduate students were present. The split-venue, with its additional costs, and the timing of the conference may have been in part responsible for this.

The conference kicked off in Cambridge with sessions on the Pleistocene–Holocene transition and society, symbolism and religion. A discussion of Jomon monumental earthworks suggested parallels with the Neolithic of Northwest Europe. But the main debate focused on the issue of social 'complexity', its definition, and its identification in the archaeological record. The presence of pre-eminent scholars in this field, including Doug Price and Priscilla Renouf, made this discussion quite lively. What exactly is a complex society? Is complexity too monolithic a concept to apply to what in reality is a range of phenomena such as sedentism, social inequality, technological complexity, and so forth?

Mesolithic Miscellany 17 Volume 17 Number 1

The highlight of the social agenda at Cambridge was the opportunity to mingle at the wine reception at the Archaeology and Anthropology Museum. We were first on the scene and able to optimally forage with considerable success.

The morning after the night before and we were on a pilgrimage to the infamous Star Carr. First stop Flag Fen and a brief sortie into the Bronze Age courtesy of Francis Pryor. Star Carr however was more elusive, one field looks much like another and the coaches separated. Two hours later, we arrived and proceeded reverently through the manure to visit the sacred ground. Somewhat sceptically the Japanese cameras whirred. Moved by the experience we stopped to partake of a medicinal beverage.

Next stop Durham for the second half of the conference, where sessions covered technology, material culture, and the transition to agriculture. Ole Grøn raised some controversy over his gendered interpretations of the microlith, while Simon Kaner gave us a much needed overview of Japanese archaeology. The richness of the Jomon record was yet again emphasized home during the conference. The Norwegian contingent was strongly represented here, and we heard about current work on ritual deposits, landscape, site distributions, sedentism, and intrasite analysis.

The evening's excursion involved a reception at the Oriental Museum hosted by Gina Barnes. Later, lodged in the wonderful atmosphere of Durham Castle, we explored the rooftop ecology in an altered state of consciousness, thanks to the national drinks of Norway and Scotland.

Overall, the conference identified a number of similar trends and problems in the archaeology of the Jomon period and that of the Mesolithic of Northwest Europe. A major research question in both areas involves the nature of the shift to food-producing economies; this question was specifically addressed by only a few papers, but it remained an undercurrent throughout the conference. One thing that was apparent was the richness of the Jomon material (provided by well-funded, large-scale excavations on abundant and extensive sites, together with often spectacular preservation conditions) – unfortunately not matched with theoretically-oriented research. In direct contrast, the European Mesolithic can be characterized by its paucity of data but wealth of interpretative constructs.

A fitting end to the conference was the champagne and raw black pudding reception in the Bishop's Chambers of Durham Castle. Cultural interactions

Mesolithic Miscellany	18	Volume 17 Number 1

were encouraged by the circulation of saki and unidentifiable sea creatures. Entertainment included renditions of Frank Sinatra songs accompanied by an out-of-tune piano and a midnight rendezvous in the wonderful 11th Century chapel. All in all much fun was had. And we may have even learned a thing or two . . .

ΔΔΔΔΔ

Back Issues . . .

Back issues of *Mesolithic Miscellany* from Vol. 1, 1980 to Vol. 16(2), 1995 are available, and can be ordered from:

Clive Bonsall
Department of Archaeology
University of Edinburgh
Old High School
Infirmary Street
Edinburgh EH1 1LT, UK

Cost: GB£1.00 per issue/GB£2.00 per volume

Payment (in £sterling) must be sent with order. Cheques, made payable to 'The University of Edinburgh', must be drawn on a British bank.

Mesolithic Miscellany 19 Volume 17 Number 1

Recent Publications

Barton, R.N.E., P.J. Berridge, M.J.C. Walker & R.E. Bevins. 1995. Persistent places in the Mesolithic landscape: an example from the Black Mountain Uplands of South Wales. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 61:81–116.

Evidence for the early Postglacial use of upland environments in the Mesolithic in various parts Britain has been known for a long time. However, until relatively recently such evidence had been remarkably absent from upland South Wales, which includes some of the highest mountain ranges in southern Britain. In this paper we report on new work at the upland location of Waun Fignen Felen which consists of discrete Early and Later Mesolithic artifact scatters on the edge of a former lake basin. In describing this example, we focus on the timing of Mesolithic movements into the interior uplands and examine the relationship between humans and the landscape, particularly in respect of the long distance transport of materials and factors likely to have influenced the choice of site location. Some comparative observations are made on the use and perception of landscapes by ethnographic hunter-gatherers.

Biagi, P. 1994. Alcuni aspetti del Mesolitico nel Friuli e nel Carso Triestino. In *Atti della XXIX Riunione Scientifica, 28–30 Septembre 1990*, pp. 57–62. Firenze, Istituto Italiano di Preistoria e Protoistoria.

The author considers the distribution and chronology of the Mesolithic sites of Friuli and the Trieste Karst. A new set of radiocarbon dates from the Neolithic Impressed Ware and Danilo sites of Dalmatia and Istria are significant for understanding the origins of the Neolithic of the Gulf of Trieste.

Biagi, P. 1996. Northeastern Italy in the seventh millennium BP: a bridge between the Balkans and the west? In *The Vinca Culture, its Role and Cultural Connections*, pp. 9–22. Timisoara, the Museum of Banat.

This paper discusses the available evidence for 7th millennium BP settlement in a region comprising parts of northeast Italy, Slovenia, western Slavonia, Istria, and the northern Dalmatian coast. The region is considered important for understanding the processes of Neolithization.

Biagi, P. & M. Mukhtiar Kazi. 1995. A Mesolithic site near Thari in the Thar desert (Sindh-Pakistan). *Ancient Sindh* 2:7–12.

- Fischer, A. (ed.). 1995. Man and sea in the Mesolithic. Coastal settlement above and below Present Sea Level (Oxbow Monograph 53). Oxbow Books, Oxford. ISBN 0946897964. (Hardcover, GB£45.00)
- Houtsma, P., E. Kramer, R.R. Newell & J.L. Smit. 1996. The Late Palaeolithic Habitation of Haule V: From Excavation Report to the Reconstruction of Federmesser Settlement Patterns and Land Use. Van Gorcum, Assen. ISBN 90 232 3035 3. (Hardcover, Dfl. 125.00/US\$ 72.00)

Commencing with the report of the first author's excavation of the Late Palaeolithic site Haule V, Friesland, The Netherlands, its archaeological affinities are established through an exhaustive comparison with a screened sample of representative and mutually comparable Federmesser settlements in the Northwest European Plain. Not satisfied with a merely normative identification of Haule V, the inquiry is expanded with the analyses of relevant data gleaned from an archaeological, ethno-archaeological and ethno-historical census of settlements, population and land-use of seventy analogous arctic and sub-arctic collector societies in North America. The concluding analyses demonstrate that Haule V and most, if not all, of the mutually comparable Federmesser sites represent Non-Residential Settlements.

- Larsson, L. (ed.). 1996. The Earliest Settlement of Scandinavia, and its relationship with neighbouring areas (Acta Archaeologia Lundensia, Series in 8°, No. 24). Stockholm, Almquist & Wiksell. ISBN 91-22-01702-X.
- Matiskainen, H. 1996. Discrepancies in deglaciation chronology and the appearance of man in Finland. *Acta Archaeologica Lundensia* Series in 8°, no. 24: 251–262.

The deglaciation chronology of Scandinavia has been studied with reference to varved clays. The absolute varve chronology has been revised on several occasions, and recent Swedish studies applying AMS methods have provided varve chronology with greater precision. These results are promising, but when calibrated differ considerably from varve chronology available for comparison.

Mesolithic Miscellany 21 Volume 17 Number 1

The earliest settlement of Finland is dated to the turn of the Preboreal and Boreal periods, i.e. the beginning of the Ancylus regression. There was a long interval between deglaciation and the emergence of settlement, but transgressive development may have destroyed evidence of settlement prior to the culmination. The article presents Finland's oldest ¹⁴C-dated evidence of human settlement and discusses the directions from which the early settlers arrived in Finland.

Otte, M. 1994. L'industrie lithique de Meer IV. Anthropologie et Préhistoire 105:39-62.

Technological and typological study of the lithic industry from Meer IV is done by repartition of the material in different classes (blanks, tools, used pieces). The whole reduction sequence is present, suggesting that all of the technical and domestic activities took place at the site, as is shown by the abundance of waste materials. Different technical processes are used to produce blades and flakes and to take the most advantage of a block of raw material. Among the tools, burins, endscrapers and backed pieces are the most abundant types, followed by perforators and then various retouched pieces. Analysis shows the technical constraints due to hafting which requires precise forms for domestic tools. Their standardization is opposed to the variability of the pieces used in weaponry. The industry is characteristic of the Tjongerian and dated by ¹⁴C to the Pre-Boreal.

Otte, M. 1995. Diffusion des langues modernes in Eurasie préhistorique. Comptes Rendues de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris 321, série 2a: 1219–1226.

Archaeological data display a steady continuity from the hunting peoples of the Palaeolithic to the Indo-European peoples whose existence is established from texts. This continuity argues against the classic (Gimbutas) or more recent (Renfrew) theories about these populations and their culture's having outside origins. These movements (spread of agriculture or acquisition of metals) seem rather to correspond to internal waves within a population that is in other respects homogeneous. The rhythm of evolution is also a function born of successive inventions in an otherwise stable environment.

Conversely, a real break appears in European and Asian evolution with the appearance of Modern Man. At this moment, a different population appears, accompanied by a new technology and adapted religious values. The geographical area corresponding to these innovations reproduces quite faithfully that of the future Indo-European peoples.

Mesolithic Miscellany

22

Volume 17 Number 1

Otte, M., I. Isin Yalcinkaya, J-M. Léotard, M. Kartal, O. Bar-Yosef, J. Kozłowski, I. López Bayón & A. Marshack. 1995. The Epi-Palaeolithic of Öküzini Cave (S.W. Anatolia) and its mobiliary art. *Antiquity* 69:931–944.

Late and Epi-Palaeolithic sequences are well known from fieldwork and publications in southeast Europe and the Levant. Current research in Anatolia promises to shed new light on the vast region that connects these two areas. At Okuzini cave a detailed sequence of Terminal Pleistocene and Early Holocene assemblages contributes greatly to our understanding.

Pollard, T. & A. Morrison (eds). 1996. The Early Prehistory of Scotland. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh. ISBN 0748606777. (Hardcover, GB£25.00)

Contains 18 papers on the Mesolithic of Scotland and Northern England. Major aspects dealt with are the environmental background to Mesolithic settlement, regional studies, maritime adaptations, material culture, and social change. Contributors are: I. Armit, J. Atkinson, I. Banks, C. Bonsall, P.C. Buckland, K.J. Edwards, N. Finlay, B. Finlayson, A. Jones, M. Lake, P.A. Mayewski, L.D. Meeker, S. Mithen, J. Moore, A. Morrison, S. O'Brien, T. Pollard, B. Simpson, P. Spikins, K. Taylor, R. Tipping, and P.C. Woodman.

Schulting, Rick J. 1996. Antlers, bone pins and flint blades: the Mesolithic cemeteries of Téviec and Hoëdic, Brittany. *Antiquity* 70:335-350.

The article attempts a re-analysis of the Mesolithic cemeteries of Téviec and Hoëdic, particularly the distribution of grave goods. The sites were excavated by the Péquarts in the 1920s and 1930s, and have figured prominently in discussions of Mesolithic 'complexity' and as forerunners of the megalithic graves of Brittany. Some previously unnoticed patterns are identified. Among the most interesting of these is fact that individuals associated with antler structures, bone pins and flint blades all show significantly higher-than-average artifact richness. Differences are also noted in the treatment of subadults, who are never found with hearths over the graves containing red deer and boar mandibles, interpreted as evidence of funerary feasting. Subadults at both sites also show fewer types of grave inclusions, although this reaches statistical significance only with utilitarian forms at Téviec. A programme of direct AMS dating of the human remains together with dietary reconstruction using stable isotopes is currently underway.

ΔΔΔΔΔ

Mesolithic Miscellany 23 Volume 17 Number 1

Notes to Contributors

Manuscripts

Contributions for Mesolithic Miscellany should be supplied in hard copy (manuscript) and also, if possible, on 3½" computer diskette. Please note:

- 1. The manuscript should be typed or printed on good quality A4 paper. The minimum size of characters should be 12pt; if using a typewriter, daisywheel or dot matrix printer, then adopt a 10 cpi pitch.
- The diskette can be in any of the following formats: MSDOS 720K or 1.44Mb; Apple Macintosh 720K or 1.44Mb; Acorn 640K, 800K or 1.6Mb; Atari 720K. The DTP software used for producing Mesolithic Miscellany can interpret most common word processor file types, including: ASCII, Rich Text Format (RTF), Word 5/5.5, Word for Windows, Claris Works, Word Perfect (v. 4.2, 5.1), Wordstar, Impression.
- Short contributions can be sent by e-mail in plain ASCII or DOS text format, to: CBonsall@ed.ac.uk

References

References should be listed alphabetically at the end of the paper, and should follow modern scientific convention, e.g.:

Clark, J.G.D. 1936. The Mesolithic Settlement of Northern Europe. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Price, T.D., Whallon, R. & Chappell, S. 1974. Mesolithic sites near Havelte, province of Drenthe (Netherlands). *Palaeohistoria* 16:7–61.

Woodman, P.C. 1978. The chronology and economy of the Irish Mesolithic: some working hypotheses. In *The Early Postglacial Settlement of Northern Europe*, edited by P. Mellars, pp. 333–369. Duckworth, London.

Illustrations

Particular care should be paid to illustrations. Wherever possible these will be scanned into the newsletter. They should therefore be submitted as black-on-white camera-ready copy. Original artwork is preferred, but good quality photographic or electrostatic reproductions are acceptable. Illustrations should not exceed A4 size (297mm x 210mm) and should be prepared to allow for reduction to A5 (210mm x 149mm). Each illustration should be presented on a separate sheet, and a separate list of *captions* should be provided. Exceptionally, photographs may be accepted for publication. Plans and drawings should have a *scale* marked on the illustration, not incorporated in the caption.