

PREFACE

Volume 23 of *Archaeologia Baltica* is based on presentations given at the international conference ‘The Sea and the Coastlands’ on 8 October 2015. Dedicated to the 70th birthday of Academician and Professor Dr habil. Vladas Žulkus, the conference was held at Klaipėda University, organised by the Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology, in collaboration with the Thomas Mann Museum and the Thomas Mann Cultural Centre. The sponsor of the conference was Neringa Municipality.

During his research career, Professor Žulkus has been a pioneer of numerous initiatives that are important to Lithuanian archaeology. One such initiative is the

international conferences that have been organised periodically by Klaipėda archaeologists since 1994, which serve as a basis for scientific collaboration in Central Europe and the Baltic Sea region. Discussions on important issues of Prehistoric research became especially relevant after Lithuania regained its independence. At that time, the possibility to revive the prewar archaeological congresses in the Baltic countries was considered. Due to the emergence of new collaboration opportunities, the platform for scientific collaboration never materialised. However, archaeologists from the Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology at Klaipėda University are continuing the tradition of international conferences, and every few years they invite



Fig. 1. The opening of the international conference ‘The Sea and the Coastlands’, held to mark the 70th birthday of Academician and Professor Dr habil. Vladas Žulkus. Dr Rita Vaičekauskaitė, vice-rector for research and art at Klaipėda University, congratulates Professor Žulkus (photograph by Raimonda Nabažaitė).

archaeologists from the region for targeted scientific discourse. It is gratifying that the conference 'The Sea and the Coastlands' coincided with Klaipėda University's 25th birthday. As rector over the period 2002 to 2011, Professor Žulkus made a significant contribution to its development, by introducing the approach of an 'independent mind and the spirit of the sea'.

The year 2015 coincided with another important date for Lithuanian archaeology: the 20th birthday of *Archaeologia Baltica*, the first such journal in English in the east Baltic region. It was first edited by Vidas Žulkus, together with Dr habil. Vytautas Kazakevičius (1951–2005) from the Lithuanian Institute of History. During those 20 years, *Archaeologia Baltica* has plotted a difficult course, marked by the euphoria of the first volume, and by further challenges such as irregular publishing. However, it became much stronger in the 20th year of its life. The policy of the present editorial board is to publish a wide range of contributions in all fields of archaeology relating to the Baltic Sea region, from methodology to synthesis and theory, discussions, current controversies, and suggestions for new research.

To go back to Vidas Žulkus and his research career, we should point out that he has studied mainly Curonian monuments and the city and castle of Klaipėda.¹ His research interests and his passion of recent decades include the sea and underwater archaeology. Therefore, the themes of the conference 'The Sea and the Coastlands' addressed Professor Žulkus' range of research interests: contacts across the Baltic Sea, the placing of burial grounds in the landscape, underwater archaeology, and ports and Medieval towns on the Baltic Sea.

The conference was attended by 44 participants from six countries; 33 presentations were given. They are published in Volume 23 of *Archaeologia Baltica* by grouping the issues discussed at the conference (see Fig. 2-4).

A brief presentation of the first two papers published in this volume of *Archaeologia Baltica* testifies to the opinion that contemporary archaeology is a science based on the findings of interdisciplinary research. Valdis Bērziņš, Aija Ceriņa, Mārcis Kalniņš, Lembi Lōugas, Harald Lübke and John Meadows, in their paper 'Priedaine: A Neolithic Site at the Head of the Gulf of Riga', discuss the outcomes of small-scale archaeological excavations in the Neolithic settlement of Priedaine, and in that context they also remember

to mention the finder of that interesting Neolithic site. The archaeological research strategy chosen by its author Valdis Bērziņš, and archaeological, botanical, zoological, food remains and radiocarbon studies, have resulted in new information about the lifestyle of Neolithic people on the coast.

Elena A. Nikulina in her paper 'Hair, Bone Plates and Coprolites: Ancient DNA Research on Rare Archaeological Materials' presents tests carried out at the Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology in Schleswig (Germany), in a special ancient animal DNA laboratory. The outcomes of the tests are successfully applied in order to find the answers to a number of cultural, social and economic questions.

In recent years, a considerable breakthrough has been made in the field of underwater research in the Baltic Sea region, and some unknown or little-known places of sacrifice have been found. This was shown by the paper by Bartosz Kontny, Tomasz Nowakiewicz and Aleksandra Rzeszotarska-Nowakiewicz 'The Turning Point: Preliminary Results of Underwater Research of the Former Herrn-See at the Village of Lubanowo (Western Pomerania, Poland)'. During explorations of Lake Lubanowo, the authors of the paper found some weapons, tools and horse harness parts. The find place should be assigned to war victim deposits. Most likely it was people of the Lubusz Group who made sacrifices there in the Roman Period.

This volume offers several papers by authors who deal with issues of the Baltic area through different sections, based both on empirical material and on new theoretical approaches, and mainly on the opportunities provided by landscape archaeology. They are the papers by Olga Khomiakova, Jarosław A. Prassolow and Konstantin Skvorzov, Małgorzata Karczewska and Maciej Karczewski, Wojciech Nowakowski, Rasa Banytė-Rowell, Anna Bitner-Wróblewska, and Christine Reich, Christoph Jahn, Heino Neymaer and Baiba Vaska.

The paper by Olga Khomiakova 'The Landscape and Spatial Analysis of Roman Period Archaeological Sites at the Eastern Border of Dollkeim-Kovrovo/Sambian-Natangian Culture' takes the reader to the Baltic lands: the area of Sambian/Natangian or Dollkeim/Kovrovo culture during the Roman Period. Based on an analysis of the landscape and GIS analysis methods, the author characterises monuments in the valleys of the rivers Prieglius and Deimena, on the eastern border of the culture, as the dynamics of the development of Sambian/Natangian culture followed in a direction from the centre to the periphery.

¹ A bibliography of Vidas Žulkus' work was published in 2010 (see: G. Zabiela. Publications by Vidas Žulkus. *Archeologia Baltica*, 14 (Underwater Archaeology in the Baltic Region. Dedicated to the 65th Birthday of Prof habil. Dr Vidas Žulkus), 18-25.



Fig. 2. The plenary session of the international conference 'The Sea and the Coastlands', held to mark the 70th birthday of Academician and Professor Dr habil. Vladas Žulkus (photograph by Raimonda Nabažaitė).



Fig. 3. Professor Vladas Žulkus presents his colleague Jūratis Liachovičius with the monograph 'The Viking Age and the Pre-State Period' (Lithuanian Archaeology, Volume 4) by Vladas Žulkus and Romas Jarockis (photograph by Raimonda Nabažaitė).

The theme of Sambian/Natangian culture is developed in the paper by Jarosław A. Prassolow and Konstantin Skvorzov 'On the Significance and Research Potential of the Grebieten Burial Ground: A Reconstruction of the Prewar State of Knowledge and the Prospects for Modern Research'. The paper is a successful attempt at reconstructing the burial site as part of a large settlement complex on the west coast of the Sambian Peninsula, by means of studies of the burial site materials from Grebieten (currently in the Zelenogradskii district, Kaliningrad oblast, Russian Federation), published before and surviving after the disruptions of the Second World War, as well as of small-scale archaeological excavations.

Małgorzata Karczewska and Maciej Karczewski in their paper 'Landscapes of Cemeteries from the Roman and Migration Periods in the Masurian Lakeland (Northeast Poland)' discuss the significance of the palaeo-landscape and the palaeo-environment in the choice of a site for a cemetery. A detailed analysis of the palaeo-landscape and the palaeo-environment, as well as archaeological material, allows the authors to argue that burial grounds in the Masurian Lakeland were situated on the tops of heights or on east and southeast slopes, next to lake shores or river banks.

In his paper 'Robbery or Ritual Activities? Searching for a Reinterpretation and Genesis of the "Robbed Barrows" of Sudovian Culture', Maciej Karczewski provides a new interpretation of the destruction of non-cremation burials in Sudovian barrow cemeteries. The author believes that the destruction of the barrows should not be seen as a consequence of robbery; but related to the opening of barrows and the transfer of human bones and grave goods to another place, which was then followed by ritual exhumation and re-burial.

Wojciech Nowakowski in his paper 'Items with the Ox-Head on the Shores of the Baltic Sea in the Roman Period' discusses articles with an ox-head, an interesting archaeological phenomenon in the Baltic Sea area in the Roman Period, and offers a new interpretation of the emergence of the phenomenon in the Masurian Lakeland, suggesting that the exclusive articles could have been made by local craftsmen.

Rasa Banytė-Rowell, Anna Bitner-Wróblewska and Christine Reich, in their paper 'West Lithuania as a Golden Bridge between the Sea and the Baltic Hinterland in Northeast Poland during the Roman and Migration Periods', focus on the special role of transport lines stretching along the rivers *Šešupė* (in Polish *Szeszupa*) and *Jūra*, between west Lithuania and the regions of Masuria and Suwalkija (northeast Poland).

Christoph Jahn, in his 'The Cemetery of Linkuhnen/Rževskoe: An Overview of the Chronology of Fibulae from the Roman and Migration Periods to the Viking Age', continues the subject of the importance of rivers for communication, by analysing materials from the former Linkuhnen/Rževskoe cemetery on the bank of the River Nemunas. The author also highlights some issues of chronological and intercultural collaboration.

The paper by Heino Neymaer 'The Second Hoard of Skomėtno' discusses the circumstances of the acquisition of the silverware treasure, and parallels with similar treasures discovered in the east Baltic Sea region, and emphasises certain chronological issues.

The paper by Elena R. Mikhaylova 'The Population of the Southeast Shore of the Gulf of Finland and its Contacts with Regions of the Baltic Sea in the First Millennium AD' goes beyond the boundaries of the Baltic area, as it deals with the population of the southeast region of the Gulf of Finland, and the cultural development of the population throughout the first millennium AD, in other words, with the previous Finno-Ugric period and the subsequent one, testifying to the gradual dissemination of Russian culture. Special attention is paid to the outcomes of archaeological excavations in recent years.

In her paper 'Artistic Influence or Close Trading Contacts? Latgallian Penannular Brooches and Gotland (the Ninth to Eleventh Century)', Baiba Vaska examines the ornamentation of penannular brooches from the Latgallian Viking Period. Brooches of this kind were widespread around the Baltic Sea. In Latgallian culture, they reflected long-term close contacts with Gotland.

The papers by Juris Urtāns, Edvinas Ubis and Miglė Urbonaitė-Ubė, Iwona Pomian, Błażej Śliwiński, Szymon Uścińowicz and Tomasz Ważny, and Maik-Jens Springmann, and even the contribution of Mindaugas Bertašius, are in one or another way related to life by water or surrounded by water. In other words, the papers also represent the theme of underwater archaeology.

The paper by Juris Urtāns 'Newly Discovered Marks of Dwelling in Lake Sāviena (Latvia)' discusses specific ancient settlements on islands in lakes, well known in Latvia, and especially typical of Vidzeme. In that part of Latvia, ten such settlements of the type are known, and the settlement of Sāviena is typical.

The paper by Edvinas Ubis and Miglė Urbonaitė-Ubė 'The English Merchants' Settlement in Šventoji: An Analysis and Interpretation of the Artefacts' deals with



Fig. 4. Participants in the international conference 'The Sea and the Coastlands', held to mark the 70th birthday of Academician and Professor Dr habil. Vladas Žulkus, in the courtyard of the History Museum of Lithuania Minor (photograph by Raimonda Nabažaitė).

the settlement of Šventoji (also known as Heiligen Aa or Janmarienburg), founded by English merchants around 1679, which declined in the early 18th century. Even though the settlement only existed for a few decades, the historical and archaeological data proves that Šventoji was a port on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea, and an active and rather profitable small trading post.

In his paper 'The Oldest 15th-Century Residential Buildings in Medieval Kaunas', Mindaugas Bertašius tries to reconstruct the Medieval urban model of Kaunas, through the characteristics of the oldest buildings and other structures and finds in the city.

Iwona Pomian, Błażej Śliwiński, Szymon Uścińowicz and Tomasz Ważny, in the paper 'The Remains of the Medieval Harbour in Puck (Northern Poland): A Few Words about the Results of Previous Research', discuss the remains of the Medieval port of Puck, discovered

in the waters of the Bay of Puck in 1977, about 250 metres away from the present coast. Between the structures of the port, fragments of several ships were found showing that the port was used from the tenth to the 14th century.

Volume 23 of *Archaeologia Baltica* ends with the paper 'Developments in Harbour Construction, Infrastructure and Topography on the Eve of the Early Modern Age in the Baltic (1450–1600)' by Maik-Jens Springmann. Based on abundant historical and visual material, the author discusses maritime vessels and ports on the Baltic coast in the 15th and 16th centuries, as well as navigational signs, dredging, and equipment necessary for the functioning of a port.

Audronė Bliujienė