

PREFACE

Dear Readers,

You will find seven articles and one book review in volume 26 of *Archaeologia Baltica*. The chronology and the themes they cover range from the Final Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages. The volume is divided into two main sections; the first is devoted to papers read at the 18th UISPP World Congress in Paris (4 to 9 June 2018), sub-session 18-2 ‘The Final Palaeolithic in the East Baltic’. Eight papers, looking at Latvia, Lithuania and the Kaliningrad Region, were presented at this session, and it was decided to publish them in a volume of *Archaeologia Baltica*. However, only three articles were submitted for this issue, and we are very pleased to be able to publish them here. Anyone interested in the congress can access all the sessions, the themes of the presentations and abstracts of them on the official congress website: <https://uispp2018.sciencesconf.org/>

The first article in the volume, by Inger Marie Berg-Hansen, Hege Damlien and Ilga Zagorska, analyses blade technology at the Salaspils Laukskola site. There are numerous lithic clusters found at this site, the technology of which is typical of Final Palaeolithic Swiderian culture. This culture was widespread over a large geographical area, including Latvia and Lithuania. However, there is still little data on its chronology, its separate stages, and the flint technology itself. In this article, the authors aim to present the lithic technology used by Swiderian culture at Salaspils Laukskola in the context of the east Baltic.

The second article, by Gabrielė Gudaitienė, Justina Šapolaitė and Žilvinas Ežerinskis, is devoted to chronological issues of Swiderian culture in Lithuania. Up till now, this culture has been considered to exist in the periods of the Younger Dryas and Early Preboreal; but based on AMS 14C data from the Pabartoniai 1 site beside the River Neris, the authors try to discuss the possible existence of Swiderian culture up to the Boreal period. However, they themselves emphasise that the resulting data should be treated with caution, and a

further discussion of this chronological issue must be carried out.

The last article published in this section concerns what is currently the oldest piece of Prehistoric art found in Lithuania, and possibly in the east Baltic. The paper by Tomas Rimkus, Adomas Butrimas, Marius Iršėnas and John Meadows discusses the decorated bone dagger found as a stray find in the village of Šarnelė, in north-west Lithuania. The artefact is presented in the wider context of the Final Palaeolithic osseous industry and the cultural situation in the east Baltic, as well as its technical attributes and AMS 14C dating.

The second section in this volume is entitled ‘From the Bronze Age to Medieval: Material Culture as a Reflection of Changes in Societies’. It includes four articles, related to material culture research from the Bronze Age to the Medieval period.

The article by Algirdas Girininkas gives an overview of hoes and adzes in the Stone Age and the Bronze Age in Lithuania, and compares them within the east Baltic region. The material presented here starts with antler and bone tool examples from the Late Palaeolithic, and continues towards the Mesolithic and Neolithic. At the end of the Neolithic and during the Bronze Age, ground stone hoes and adzes were important tools, and several types are identified in this paper. The author also discusses the importance of hoes in rural societies, especially in the Bronze Age.

The fifth paper, by Andrejs Vasks, Vanda Visocka, Linas Daugnora, Aija Ceriņa and Laimdota Kalniņa, presents the latest research on the Late Bronze Age hill-fort at Krievu kalns in Latvia. The paper includes multidisciplinary research into the material found at the hill-fort, and through a chemical and petrographic analysis of the pottery, and an analysis of radiocarbon dating and osteological remains, the authors present Brushed Pottery communities that dwelt on the hill-fort.

Paweł Szymański presents research from the Czerwony Dwór Migration Period cemetery in northeast Masuria in Poland. According to him, the material and the burial tradition found there belong to the Gołdap Group, which is considered part of Sudovian culture. The author distinguishes five chronological phases in the development of the Gołdap Group, which functioned from early Phase D of the Early Migration Period to Phase E2 of the late Migration Period.

The last paper in this section concerns the Medieval castle in Kaunas, located in central Lithuania, at the join of the rivers Neris and Nemunas. Eglė Rimkienė revisits material from previous archaeological investigations around the castle, and looks at the iron material used in the construction of the building. The archaeological material, mainly iron nails, is studied here by XRF method, in order to analyse its chemical composition.

The last paper in the volume is devoted to a review of the monograph by Gytis Piličiauskas *Virvelinės keramikos kultūra Lietuvoje 2800–2400 cal BC (Corded Ware Culture in Lithuania in 2800–2400 cal BC)*. In the book, the author presents his research, conducted over the past decade, on issues of Corded Ware culture in the east Baltic. The review is by Algirdas Girininkas.

We sincerely hope that you will find interesting and important papers for your research in this volume of *Archaeologia Baltica*.

To end this preface, we would like to inform you that *Archaeologia Baltica* recently underwent some changes in the Editorial Board and publishing strategy. Therefore, from 2020, you are most welcome to submit drafts on various research topics for future volumes.

Tomas Rimkus, Algirdas Girininkas

