

THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND TOPICS WORTH DISCUSSING THE PALAEOOLITHIC AND THE MESOLITHIC OF THE SOUTH-EASTERN SUBBALTICUM

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INTRODUCTION

Researches on the area of the Stone Age in the South-Eastern Baltic Basin shows significant achievements thanks to the field and postfield activity and publications of Belarusian, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian archaeologists as well as natural science researchers. In spite of the results obtained, they are still inconclusive questions for the solution and reconstruction of the earliest prehistory of the region. Our expectations increased: the description and affiliations of artifacts to the taxons (cultures), consideration of potential chronology based on artifact morphology and deliberations about the direction of influences are not sufficient. Only excavating the sites in the most complex way with high quality records and by publishing them in a most exhaustive way will help us to solve the problems.

STATE OF THE RESEARCH AND TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

Palaeolithic

The Final Palaeolithic is the period of the first permanent settlement of the area after deglaciation. The sites connected with Tanged Point technocomplex are known from the whole area discussed (Fig. 1) as it was established in publications (Rimantiene 1971; Schild 1975; Kozłowski J. K., Kozłowski S. K. 1975; Koltsov 1977; Sulgostowska 1989; Szymczak 1995; Zagorska 1996). Almost all the Final Palaeolithic sites are open air sites located in places near lakes or rivers attracting repeated Palaeolithic but also Mesolithic and Neolithic settlement.

In the surface collections and inventories from the excavated sites there occur morphological diverse

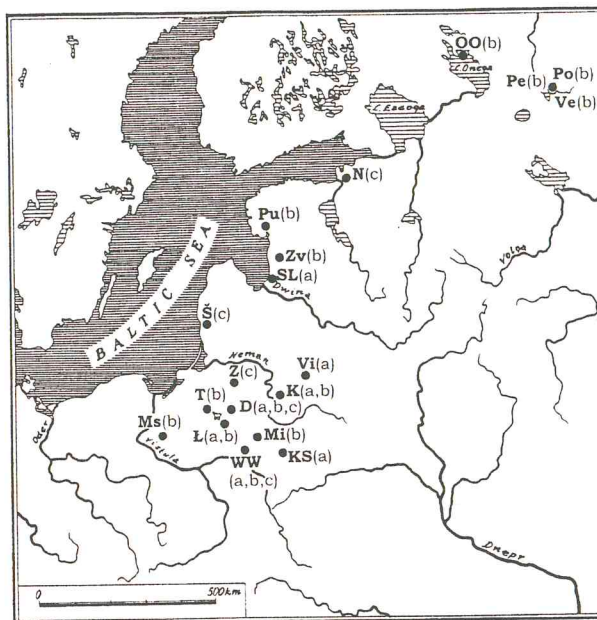


Fig. 1. Location of the sites discussed in the text and its chronology: Palaeolithic (a); Mesolithic (b) and Neolithic (c) periods. Key sites: D – Dudka (a,b,c); Ł – Łajty (a,b); K – Kabeliai (a,b); KS – Krasne Selo (a); Mi – Miłuki (b); Ms – Mszano (b); N – Narva (c); OO – Oleni Ostrov (b); Pe – Pesthanitsa (b); Po – Popovo (b); Pu – Pulli (b); SL – Salaspils Laukskola (a); Š – Sventoji (c); T – Tłokowo (b); Ve – Veretye (b); Vi – Vilnius (a); WW – Wozna Wieś (a,b,c); Z – Zedmar (c); Zv – Zvejnieki (b).

tanged points types regarded as main culture (taxon) indicator which suggest presence on the territory: Lyngby, Ahrensburgian and Mazovian.

But analyzing the multiconcentration sites with an abundance of flint artifacts, the statistical possibility of the coexistence of diverse tanged points is evident. The main problem is to single out homogenous assemblages. The basic factor to establish affiliation to the taxon is technology of flint processing; specific

for Lyngby and very close for Ahrensburgian and Mazovian. The last taxons differ only by ventral re-touch of tang in the Mazovian (Sulgostowska 1989). It was supposed that flint concentration is the evidence of inventory homogeneity but AMS measurements of single charcoal revealed that the formation of concentration can be hundreds years (Schild 1985). The method of flint artifacts refittings can solve question of supposed homogeneity and coexistence of tanged points and trapezes, considered sometimes beyond Polish territory as the integral parts of the Mazovian inventory (Štavičius in press).

The strong point of the research is raw material economy connected with obtaining, processing in specialized workshops of local, good quality the Cretaceous flint (Sulgostowska 1989, Szymczak 1992, Kudriashov, Lipnitskaja in press).

Topics to be discussed

– The first settlement of the area, its chronology and provenance needs more detailed explanation. Stray finds of artifacts morphologically connected with Hamburgian tradition (Szymczak 1995) or Arch Backed Pieces (Sulgostowska 1989) should be confirmed by homogenous sites of those units.

– The relation between diverse Tanged Points units: the excavations of homogenous sites will verify the hypothesis about the existence of temporary ‘Vilnius assemblages’ connecting mixed inventories (Sulgostowska 1989) or Perstunian culture (Szymczak 1995) and Ahrensburgian assemblages from Krasne Selo (Kudriashov, Lipnitskaja in press).

– Chronology of Final Palaeolithic base mainly on 14C measurements from Central Poland. Only Dudka (Gumiński in press), Łajty (Sulgostowska in press) and Kabeliu (Ostrauskas 1999) provided a few dates connected with the Allerød, the Younger Dryas and the Early Preboreal but the Allerød dates are not affiliated to flint inventories, when the Younger Dryas (Łajty, Kabeliai) are connected with the Mazovian and are similar to the other measurements from Poland (Younger Dryas – Early Preboreal).

– Economy of Palaeolithic groups is the weakest point because except for indirect data – reconstruction of fauna basing on stray finds of several tools made of antler and bone of reindeer and elk – no faunal remains of mammals, fish or evidence for gathering is known. Bone from the Allerød layer of Dudka (Gumiński in press) informs about the presence of horse in the area.

– The mysterious part of Palaeolithic societies’ life is still their burial customs, suggesting very special rites which have proved elusive to archaeologists. The same is true of the performing art.

Comparing the state of research (Rimantiene 1971; Kozłowski 1972, 1989; Więckowska 1975) the achievement can be observed thanks to a significant increase of environmental and archaeological data from the beginning of the Holocene, mainly due to location of sites near water resources including covered by peat sedimentation preserving organic material: pollen, macrofossils bone and wood. These records make it possible to establish environment, chronology, economy and burial customs. The Early Mesolithic: the Preboreal and the Boreal periods are better recognized than the Late Mesolithic – the Atlantic period. The Preboreal environmental conditions shows presence of forest fauna and societies exploring it with a new tool kit typical for Mesolithic, clearly diverse technologically and typologically than Palaeolithic Tanged Points units. Preboreal and Boreal settlements are recognized on territory of NE Poland: Dudka (Gumiński, Fiedorczuk 1990; Fiedorczuk 1995; Gumiński 1995, 1998, 1999, in press), Łajty (Sulgostowska 1996), Miłuki (Brzozowski, Siemaszko 1996), Tłokowo (Schild et al in press.); Lithuania (Ostrauskas 1999); Latvia (Zagorska 1981, Zagorskis 1987, Loze 1988); Estonia (K. Jaanits, L. Jaanits 1978) and NW Russia (Oshibkina 1994, 1997).

The Early Mesolithic societies shows complex and diverse exploitation of land and water resources including hunting (Dudka, Miłuki, Łajty, Zvejnieki II, Veretye I), fishing (Dudka, Tłokowo) and plant gathering (Łajty, Tłokowo, Dudka). Faunal assemblages which are statistically significant show presence of forest species with a predominance of red deer in the western and elk in the eastern part of the area. Reindeer remains are present at site Veretye I from the Boreal period (Oshibkina 1997) but not as a main prey, which contradicts the theory about the long continuation of its hunting by human groups.

On the discussed territory homogenous sites (Fig. 1) of following taxons were excavated: the Narvian cycle = Komornica culture (Dudka, Łajty), the Kunda culture (Tłokowo, Pulli, Zvejnieki) and the Veretye culture (Veretye, Popovo, Pesthanitsa). They are also sites connected with the Kudlaevka Culture (Miłuki and Kabeliai 2).

Burial customs show at the same time differences and similarities. The leading rite is skeletal known from Russia: Oleni Ostrov, Popovo (Oshibkina 1994); Latvia – Zvejnieki (Zagorskis 1987); Lithuania – Spiginas (Butrimas, Česnys 1987); Poland – Giżycko-Perkunowo, Wozna Wies, Dręstwo (Brzozowski, Siemaszko 1999) and Dudka (Gumiński 1999). But they

are also examples of more complex rituals: dispersion of bones – Dudka (Gumiński 1999) or use of fire – Pesthanica in Russia (Oshibkina 1994) and Mszano in Poland (Marciniak 1993). Art shows the same ornamental motives but it seems that the tradition of some forms i.e. – “baton de commandant” made of red deer antlers from the Vistula basin area – is replaced by magnificent “elk art” in more Eastern areas.

Topics to be discussed

– Tendency to exclude from the European Mesolithic North-Eastern Plain territories with continuation of tanged point tradition (Galiński 1997). It is based on the no longer justified assumption about the continuation of the Pleistocene condition longer than in other parts of Europe.

– Population of the Mesolithic – new arrivals or genetic connection with Palaeolithic groups. While the Narvian=Komornica culture connected with Maglemose ‘sensu largo’ can be regarded as a new wave of settlement, it is necessary to discuss such units as Postsviderian and Kunda and their relation to Mazovian=Sviderian. The homogenous Kunda assemblages are known, showing western and eastern traditions (Schild 1964; Kozłowski, Kozłowski 1975; Sulgostowska in press) but Postsviderian having not homogenous sites and its chronology is doubtful in spite of the suggestion that Mazovian survived in the Boreal period (Szymczak 1995).

– Relation of the Narvian and the Kunda to the Kudlaevka culture showing among insets elements of Narvian and Kunda (Kozłowski, Kozłowski 1975). Kabeliai 2 site presenting 14C measurement scattered to 1600 years (Ostrauskas 1999) proves that the area was long open to the Narvian and the Kunda settlement. The Postsviderian and Kudlaevka cultures homogeneity could be confirmed by study of flint processing technology and by method of refittings.

– Relation of the Late Mesolithic units the Vistulian=Janislawice and the Mesolithic Nemunas cultures. The inventories are very similar including flint processing and tool-kit. The chronology of the Late Mesolithic during the Atlantic period is not clear.

Mesolithic, Neolithic, Paraneolithic

The discussed territory shows continuation of traditional hunters-gatherers style of life after adoption of ceramic around the half of VII millennium BP at Zvidze and Osa (Loze 1988) and the half of the VI millennium BP at Dudka (Gumiński, Fiedorczuk 1990), Zacen’ye (Charniauski 1979) and Zedmar (Timofeev

1980). To underline the specific economy – continuation of hunting, fishing and gathering such diverse from agriculture and husbandry of the Neolithic societies the terms: the Subneolithic (Wiślański 1979) or the Paraneolithic were proposed (Kempisty 1981). The following cultures are present on territory of Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Poland and Kaliningrad district: Nemunas (Charniauski 1979; Rimantienė 1997; Kempisty 1983; Kempisty, Więckowska 1983; Kempisty, Sulgostowska 1991), Narva (Loze 1988; Rimantienė 1979, 1997), Zedmar culture (Timofeev 1980, 1995, 1998; Gumiński, Fiedorczuk 1990; Gumiński 1995, 1998, in press). Most of the sites are open air sites settled from the Mesolithic: Sosnia (Kempisty, Więckowska 1983) or even the Final Palaeolithic: Wozna Wies (Kempisty, Sulgostowska 1991) where a palimpsest of artifacts is scattered unpatterned over a large territory of settlements. It is a danger to use 14C measurements from such sites to establish relations between the Mesolithic and the Neolithic periods. The lithic inventories with ceramic include elements of the Vistulian=Janislawice or even the Narvian=Komornica and were regarded as homogenous and called “Ceramic Mesolithic” (Cyrek, Grygiel, Nowak 1982). The analysis of 14C dates from such sites reveals a gap between homogenous Mesolithic sites and those connected with pottery (Schild 1998). Only some stratified, excavated sites can be regarded as high quality archaeological records: Zvidze and Osa (Loze 1988), Šventoji (Rimantienė 1979, 1992); Zacenie (Charniavski 1979); Zedmar (Timofeev 1980, 1989) and Dudka (Gumiński, Fiedorczuk 1990; Gumiński 1998).

Topics to be discussed

– Relations between the Mesolithic and Paraneolithic settlements including traditions of settlement pattern, burial customs and flint processing technology which should be proved using homogenous flint assemblages which are much less numerous on peat sites.

– Relations between taxons: the Narva, the Zedmar, the Nemunas and also the Ertobelle known from the site Dąbki near Koszalin (Ilkiewicz 1989). The necessity of establishing methodological factors: which elements of pottery morphology, ornaments, technology are significant to create new taxon. AMS determination of foodcrust from Zedmar D pottery revealed that technological diversity: organic or mineral admixture is not a sufficient chronological factor (Timofeev, Zajtseva, Possnert 1994) as it was supposed for Nemunas culture at sites Sosnia and Wozna Wieś (Kempisty, Sulgostowska 1991).

CONCLUSION

The diverse archaeological records cause questions depending on methodology of creating archaeological taxons=cultures. When we focus on new data to reconstruct white spots concerning environment, economy and social life of societies it will be possible to exclude the factors influencing diversities in settlement pattern, economy, artifacts technology and

morphology. Reliable chronology will show the chronological relation between taxons. The complexity of new data will help us to consider the necessity of creating new archaeological taxons=cultures. The rules of their creation should fulfill minimal methodological needs: homogeneity of sites. The anniversary of the prominent archaeologist Professor Rimutė Rimantienė, a witness of changes in archaeology, is a good occasion to start discussion on different approaches.

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PASIEKIMAI IR TEMOS DISKUSIJOMS APIE PIETRYČIŲ PABALTIJO REGIONO PALEOLITĄ IR MEZOLITĄ

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Santrauka

Pastaruoju metu suaktyvėjus paleolito ir mezolito tyrinėjimams Pietryčių Pabaltijo kraštuose (Baltarusijoje, Estijoje, Latvijoje, Lietuvoje, Lenkijoje ir Rusijoje) archeologams pavyko atskleisti nemaža naujų priešistorės puslapių, tačiau suprantama, kad tyrinėjant šiuos laikotarpius, daugelis problemų vis dar lieka neišspręstos. Mano nuomone, reikėtų atkreipti dėmesį į šiuos klausimus.

Paleolitas:

– Gyvenviečių su įkotiniais antgaliais, kurias paliko pirmieji šio regiono gyventojai, gamtamokslinis datavimas, siekiant nustatyti jų homogeniškumą.

– Geriau išlikusių šio laikotarpio gyvenviečių paieška, siekiant rekonstruoti gyventojų ūkį, laidojimo papročius, meną.

Mezolitas:

– Mezolitas – tai paleolito tęsinys (epipaleolitas, episvidrai, postsvidrai) ar nauja technologijų banga ar taip pat nauji gyventojai.

– Postsvidrinės ir Kudlajevkos kultūrų gyvenviečių radinių kolekcijų homogeniškumo įrodymas panaudojant titnago radinių remontažą.

– Janislavicų ir Nemuno kultūrų santykių nustatymas. Mezolitas / Neolitas – Paraneolitas:

– Visuomeninių su ankstyviausiąja keramika ūkio specifika (medžioklė, žūklė ir rinkimas be žemdirbystės ir gyvulininkystės). Terminai: Subneolitas, Paraneolitas, Keraminis mezolitas.

– Mezolito ir Paraneolito tarpusavio santykiai (gyvenviečių tęstinumas, titnago apdirbimo technologija).

– Narvos, Cedmaro, Nemuno ir Ertebiolės kultūrų tarpusavio santykiai.

Šias problemas galima būtų išspręsti tyrinėjant gyvenvietes su homogenišku („švarių“) kultūriniu sluoksniu su išlikusiais radiniais iš organinių medžiagų. Jas tyrinėjant reikėtų atkreipti dėmesį į kuo daugiau aspektų, kad sumažinti archeologinių kultūrų, kurias tyrinėtojai naudoja savo darbuose medžiagos aprašymui, skaičių.

ILIUSTRACIJŲ SĄRAŠAS

1 pav. Tekste aptariamų archeologinių paminklų išsidėstymas ir jų chronologija: Paleolito (a), mezolito (b) ir neolito (c) periodai. Svarbiausi paminklai: D – Dudka (a, b, c), – Laity (a, b); K – Kabeliai (a, b); KS – Krasne Selo (a); Mi – Miluki (b); Ms – Mšano (b); N –

Narva (c); OO – Olenij Ostrov (b); Pe – Peščanica (b); Po – Popovo (b); Pu – Pulli (b);

SL – Salaspils Laukskola (a); Š – Šventoji (c); T – Tlokovo (b); Ve – Veretjė (b); Vi – Vilnius (a); WW – Vozna Vie (a, b, c); Z – Zedmar (c); Zv – Zveinieki (b)

ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ И ТЕМЫ ДЛЯ ДИСКУССИЙ О ПАЛЕОЛИТЕ И МЕЗОЛИТЕ ЮГО–ВОСТОКА БАССЕЙНА БАЛТИЙСКОГО МОРЯ

Зофия Сульгостовска

Резюме

Несмотря на достижения археологов Беларуси, Эстонии, Латвии, Литвы, Польши и России, не все проблемы решены. На мой взгляд, внимание надо обратить на тему.

Палеолит:

– Первое заселение, природные датировки для установления гомогенности = чистоты и взаимоотношения стоянок с черешковидными наконечниками стрел.

– Поиски стоянок для реконструкции хозяйства, погребений и искусства.

Мезолит:

– Мезолит как континуация палеолита (эпипалеолит, эписвидер, постсвидер) или новая волна технологий только, или населения.

– Доказание гомогенности = чистоты инвентаря культур Постсвидерской и Кудлаевка через ремонт кремневых изделий.

– Взаимоотношение культур Яниславицкой и Неманской.

Мезолит / Неолит – Паранеолит

– Специфика хозяйства обществ с ранней керамикой (охота, рыболовство и собирательство без земледелия и скотоводства). Понятия: Субнеолит, Паранеолит, мезолит с керамикой.

– Взаимоотношения мезолита и паранеолита (континуация населенных мест, технологий обработки кремня).

– Взаимоотношения культур: Нарва, Цедмар, Неман и Эртеболле.

Эти проблемы можно было бы решить, раскапывая гомогенные (“чистые”) стоянки с органическим материалом. Обработывая их, надо учитывать все факторы, чтобы уменьшить количество археологических культур, которые исследователи используют при описании своего материала.

СПИСОК ИЛЛЮСТРАЦИЙ

Рис. 1. Расположение археологических памятников, обсуждаемых в тексте, и их хронология: Периоды палеолита (а), мезолита (b) неолита (с). Наиболее важные памятники: D – Дудка (а, b, с), – Лайты (а, b); K – Кабеляй (а, b); KS – Красне Село (а); Mi – Милуки (b); Ms – Мшано (b); N – Нарва (с); OO –

Олений Остров (b); Pe – Песчаница (b); Po – Попово (b); Pu – Пулли (b);

SL – Саласпилс Лаукскола /а/; Š – Швянтойи (с); T – Тлоково (b); Ve – Веретье (b); Vi – Вильнюс (а); WW – Возна Ве (а, b, с); Z – Зелмар (с); Zv – Звейнеки (b).

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