PREFACE

The ninth volume of *Archaeologia Baltica* is devoted to an elucidation of landscape archaeology and to the examination of the latest archaeological research in the eastern Baltic.

Romas Jarockis' article "Eketė Iron Age and Early Medieval Hill-Fort Settlement Complex. Aerial Archaeology and Remote Sensing", in which the author uses aerial photography and geophysical research data in interpreting the Eketė (west Lithuania) archaeological complex, belongs to the first of these themes. Jarockis points out that, until now, archaeological field research alone has distorted the true picture of the hill-fort. The latest research data shows that the hill-fort has an oval-shaped levelled summit that used to be surrounded on all sides by a rampart, while the settlement adjacent to the hill-fort was fortified by a rampart and a ditch. Magnetic field research data shows that the hill-fort settlement had a structural plan similar to the town of Birka on an island in Lake Mälaren in Viking times.

Environmental influences on the lifestlye of people living around Lake Kretuonas (in east Lithuania) in the Stone Age and Early Bronze Age are discussed in Algirdas Girininkas' article "The Influence of the Natural Environment on the Human Population around Lake Kretuonas During the Stone Age and Early Bronze Age". Environmental, geological, zooarchaeological, palynological and archaeological research all suggest that the environmental conditions around Lake Kretuonas were such that people were able to feed themselves from the natural resources around them, from the lake and other water bodies in its basin, from the variety of trees, and, from the Neolithic period, from the fields surrounding the settlements. Various types of scientific research data illustrate the influence of the communities that lived around Lake Kretuonas on their environmental surroundings, and the same environment's influence on people's foraging and farming way of life. The questions examined in this article deal with the consequences of people's economic activity on the flora and fauna, as well as the influence of the natural resources on the people in the formation of the economy, social structure and intercultural relations of the region's inhabitants with other communities living in similar microregions in the eastern Baltic. This research shapes our understanding of the formation and the evolution of the cultural landscape around Lake Kretuonas.

Giedrė Motuzaitė Matuzevičiūtė's article "Living above the Water or on Dry Land? The Application of Soil Analysis Methods to Investigate a Submerged Bronze Age to Early Iron Age Lake Dwelling Site in Eastern Lithuania" describes the economic activity and natural surroundings of people who inhabited pile dwelling sites in the Late Bronze Age at Lake Luokesai (in east Lithuania). Based on magnetic measurements and micromorphological and other research data, the author examines the evolution of the sedimentation processes of the lake during the time that the pile dwellings were inhabited, and the palynological and macrobotanical data, and ascertains the vegetation of both the water and the land surrounding the lake. The inhabitants grew wheat, and collected strawberries, hazel nuts, cranberries, wild garlic and other nutritious plants. Vegetation characteristic of arable fields and pasture grew near the lake not far from the settlement. The open lakeside plots were favourable for farming, and that influenced people's decision to settle there.

In 2005 and 2006, three core samples were taken, from the end of the Bronze Age to the beginning of the Iron Age, at Luokesai I lake dwelling site, which is currently 1.5 to two metres under water. The magnetic susceptibility, loss-on-ignition, particle size and micromorphology of the stratigraphy-reflecting core samples were analysed. The main goal of the research was to answer the following questions: What was the water level at the time of the Luokesai I dwelling site's existence? Did this settlement stand above the water level? How can information about the water level of the time influence the types of the dwellings at Luokesai I?

These investigations showed that the Luokesai I dwelling site was built on a small island that formed when the lake's water level fell. That the settlement's territory was dry is indicated by traces of faunal (earthworm, soil mites) activity found in micromorphological thin sections, as well as by the distinct oxidation of the organic material, which is clearly visible throughout the entire stratigraphic cross-section of Luokesai I and the organic material's *in situ* burn marks. These particular sediment features could only have formed on dry land, in an environment with oxygen. The inhabitants of Luokesai I regularly fortified their living area with sand, wooden constructions and rocks that they had brought in. The buildings of the settlement could have stood on a foundation raised slightly above ground level.

Gintautas Zabiela's article "Ancient Landscapes in Aerial Photography: The Lithuanian Example of Noise Levels" describes the importance of aerial photogra-

phy in analysing landscape, as well as the potential for making interpretations from aerial photographs. The aim of the article is not to explore the very essence of aerial photography, nor to investigate specific issues of prehistoric research with its help. The article's aim is to explain questions of the utilisation of aerial photography in Lithuania concerning one specific aspect: the influence of 20th-century human activity on identifying the legacy of earlier times. This legacy essentially affects the earlier archaeological legacy in a negative way. It is referred to by the author as a unique noise, a factor that inhibits the acquisition and interpretation of positive information. Concomitant with this is the specific character of Lithuanian aerial photography, whose noise level is high. The unavoidable conclusion is made that this noise is a relative thing. While it is unwanted when analysing remote times, in the detection of certain 20th-century problems it is a source that helps us to understand these times. This source's significance will only grow as time goes on.

The works of three authors cover the latest scientific research. The first is Ilze Loze's article "The Neolithic Anthropomorphic Clay Figurine from the Northern Kurzeme Littoral", in which the author describes the clay anthropomorphic figurine found at the late Neolithic Gipka A settlement site (Kurzeme, Latvia). In its style, it resembles artistic work found in the Åland Islands in the Baltic Sea. These were also made of clay. The author also presents some contextual material. According to the author, the figurine belongs to the Middle Neolithic Sarnate site type group. This article is very valuable for research into Stone Age art, and shows the close ties between the inhabitants of Kurzeme and the inhabitants of the Åland Islands, including the spread of the style in art.

In her article "Iron Metallurgy in Lithuania. An Analysis of Archaeological Finds (Part 1)," Birutė Salatkienė discusses in detail iron metallurgy research questions associated with the iron smelting process in Lithuania. The chronological period of the author's iron metallurgical research is rather broad: it goes from the second century BC to the 13th century AD. Two hundred and nineteen iron metallurgical artefact find sites dating from this period are known in Lithuania. In most of the settlements, only slag has been found. Roasted and not roasted iron ore and mining pits, ore roasting pits, ore washing equipment, wells with buckets, planks upon which the ore was strewn, smelting furnaces, charcoal roasting pits, blooms, stone anvils and other objects have been discovered in other find sites. The author writes that while every community had iron objects, iron was smelted in only one out of four. She makes some interesting observations, including that iron metallurgy settlements were mostly concentrated in eastern and southern Lithuania, in the area of Streaked Pottery Culture, where the Lithuanian state later formed. This shows that the inhabitants of this area spread metallurgy not just because they were in favourable places for the aquisition of the ore. Economic development was spurred throughout the entire Baltic area.

In their article "Following the Traces of the Lost Ėgliškiai-Anduliai Curonian Cemetery" Anna Bitner-Wróblewska, Audronė Bliujienė and Wojciech Wróblewski research pre-1945 material about the Ėgliškiai-Anduliai cemetery, which was the largest cemetery studied by German archaeologists before the Second World War. The research material consists of archival material and a small percentage of surviving artefacts. This type of historiographic article is very important to the history of Baltic research, as is illustrated by the fact that archaeologists from several countries have tried to recreate the site's research history and research material, most of which is currently stored in Moscow. Landmarks used by earlier researchers have disappeared, and the surroundings have changed beyond recognition. Because of this, going by both archival data and the latest research data at the site, archaeologists today have a lot of problems in localising and designating the boundaries of the plots previously excavated (except for that by A. Bezzenberger). We can only be glad that the article's authors have successfully solved a large part of this research question.

The Swedish archaeologist Jan Peder Lamm presents some very interesting archival data in English about the trip in 1876 by Oscar Montelius and his wife Agda to Lithuania, where they bought Carl von Schmith's work *Necrolithuanica* for 120 Russian rubles in Kaunas and took it to Sweden. The published parts of Agda Montelius' diary associated with the purchase of this work are very important to Lithuania's and Sweden's archaeological historiography. It is like a continuation of Carl von Schmith's work *Necrolithuanica* which came out recently in Lithuania.

The review part of this volume presents reviews of Mike Parker Pearson's book *The Archaeology of Death and Burial* (2005), reviewed by Algirdas. Girininkas, and Audronė Bliujienė's monograph *Lietuvos priešistorės gintaras* (Lithuania's Amber in Prehistory, 2007), reviewed by Gintautas Zabiela.

Algirdas Girininkas

Translated by Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs