

The first volume of *Archaeologia Lituana*, launched by the Department of Archaeology at Vilnius University in 1999, did not surprise the archaeological community in Lithuania. It had to happen. The department is the only base in Lithuania for training archaeologists, and one of the strongest with respect to its scientific potential. It has seven highly qualified employees, doctors of science, including two professors and three associate professors. Therefore, such an edition for this department is both necessary and obligatory.

Three volumes of *Archaeologia Lituana* have already reached its readers. It is totally shaped and formed by now, and takes its place among other publications advocating Lithuanian archaeology. I would like to introduce it briefly to the readers of *Archaeologia Baltica* too.

The editorial staff of *Archaeologia Lituana* consists of Mykolas Michelbertas (senior editor, Vilnius University), Aleksiejus Luchtanas (deputy senior editor, Vilnius University), Violeta Vasiliauskienė (managing editor, Vilnius University), and the members Wojciech Nowakowski (Warsaw University), Adolfas Tautavičius (Castle Research Centre, Vilnius), Albinas Kuncevičius (Vilnius University), Jonas Stankus (Lithuanian Institute of History), and Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs (Vilnius University).

*Archaeologia Lituana*. Vol. 1. Vilnius, 1999, 232 p.

This volume was intended for the publication of material from the international conference “Reading Jonas Puzinas”, held in 1996. It begins with an introduction by Mykolas Michelbertas, where he presents the concept, aims and objectives of the publication. Aleksiejus Luchtanas introduces archaeological science and its development at Vilnius University from 1919 to 1989, when the independent Lithuanian state was restored. The second article by Luchtanas and V. Sidrys analyses the spread of bronze in the Eastern Baltic region in the years before Christ. The authors conclude that the import of bronze to the Eastern Baltic started from the 16th century BC. Local amber merchandise greatly stimulated its import. Michelbertas, in a short article, analyses Roman-period barbed spearheads discovered

in Lithuania. R. Banytė looks at the analysis and dating of finds from two rich burials in the old Iron Age cemetery discovered in Baitai in the Klaipėda region. M. Karczewski analyses the chronology of burials with weaponry discovered in the Paprotki Kolonii cemetery belonging to the Bogaczew culture and dated to the end of the Roman Period and the beginning of the Great Migration. Wojciech Nowakowski discusses chronology issues of the late Roman and great migration periods in the Klaipėda region, on the basis of material from the Aukštkiemiai (Oberhof) cemetery. He manages to identify three chronological periods in the cemetery: the first period around 150–250, on the basis of discovered Roman coins, pins with rosettes and profiled heads, neck-rings with cone-shaped and coiled wire terminals, and shielded brooches; the second period around 250–300, on the basis of late versions of crossbow brooches with a bent foot from the fourth Almgren group, and bracelets with thickened terminals; the third period on the basis of late crossbow brooches with a bent foot, neck-rings and bracelets from moulded wire, and buckles with methopic tongues. A. Astrauskas, G. Gleiznienė and V. Šimėnas write about shoulder-belts, which are very rare in the Baltic lands. They analyse their construction and manufacturing technique, chronology, use and social issues. In her research, Audronė Bliujienė analyses Curonian male and female ornaments from the eighth to the 11th centuries, treating them as part of global patterns. She also reviews the world outlook of men and women in the different types of ornaments they wore. Vytautas Kazakevičius analyses imported E-type spearheads with decorated sockets which are discovered in the Baltic area. He also discusses their chronology and origins. He finally concludes that these spearheads are imported, originate from Scandinavia, and date from the Viking period. V. Kulakow reviews the Baltic focus of Viking movements via traditions of ethnic diffusion and art. He defines the ethno-cultural situation which emerged in the Eastern Baltic region, and determines the rather peaceful character of Viking movements in the Baltic, Slavonic and Finno-Ugric lands.

The first volume finishes with book reviews and a chronicle of the research world.

*Archaeologia Lituana*. Vol. 2. Vilnius, 2001, 159 p.

This volume starts with an article by M. Hoffman about the genesis and typology of the barrows of the western Balts in the early Iron Age. According to the author, at least 470 barrow cemeteries, with 1,450 barrows, are known. In all, 423 of them (28%) from 184 cemeteries are already explored. Eight types are identified. Aleksiejus Luchtanas analyses the extinction of brushed pottery culture in the Neris basin (on the basis of material from Kernavė hill-forts and settlements). His key finding is that the second quarter of the first millennium AD is to be treated as the beginning of a new barrow culture in east Lithuania, that people of the brushed pottery culture were not the direct predecessors of the new east Lithuanian culture, when the new culture started developing. R. Banytė-Rowell analyses the peculiarities of burial rites in western Lithuania in the late Roman Period. According to her, west Lithuanian cemeteries with stone circles continue the tradition of the previous period of equipping graves with plenty of stones. The Latvian archaeologist J. Ciglis, in his article, revises the chronology of some Lettigallian and Selonian articles from the mid-Iron Age. A. Radiņš analyses Lettigallian burial rites and items from the tenth to the 13th centuries. The numismatist V. Smilgevičius describes Prague mites in the Labanoras hoard from the collections of Lithuanian museums.

In the section entitled “Discussions, debates”, Mykolas Michelbertas criticises Raymond Sidrys’ article on the state of Lithuanian archaeology. In the section for reviews, a survey is made of new books. In the section “Chronicle of research”, a review of research activity for 1998–1999 in the Department of Archaeology of Vilnius University is presented.

*Archaeologia Lituana*. Vol. 3. Vilnius, 2002, 171 p.

This volume starts with a publication by a young archaeologist G. Grinevičiūtė, about the fourth Stone Age settlement in Gribaša in the Varėna region. The material discovered in it is dated to the Late Palaeolithic/Late Neolithic periods. Mykolas Michelbertas, in his article, summarises the results of his explorations in Gintarai, in the Kretinga region, in the period 1977 to 1981. It is an old Iron Age cemetery, with 25 graves from the second to the fifth centuries. E. Pečeliūnaitė-Bazienė analyses the remains of fabric from the same Gintarai cemetery. The author found that wool dominates among the materials. The soil conditions for vegetal threads are unfavourable, so linen was not discovered. The anthropologist A. Barkus presents an od-

ontological and craniological analysis of material from the cemetery. Due to the poor condition of the remains of bone, material from five graves only was investigated. Audronė Bliujienė and D. Butkus present material from a warrior’s grave of the seventh century, discovered in Lazdininkai (Kalnalaukis) in the Kretinga region. According to the authors, it is a grave equipped with rich burial items, belonging to a man of a high social position. R. Beganskaitė and S. Satkūnaitė discuss practical conservation aspects regarding grave goods from the grave of the first half of the seventh century in Lazdininkai (Kalnalaukis) cemetery. Vytautas Kazakevičius analyses a rare 11th-century spearhead with a silvery socket, discovered in Vilkija in the Kaunas region. He introduces the circumstances of the discovery, analogies and origins. L. Kurila writes about reflections of social relations in material from cremations discovered in barrows of eastern Lithuania. The main conclusion of his article is that a thorough analysis of osteological material could assist in answering some questions connected with the world outlook, and sexual and inter-generation relations. A. Simniškytė analyses the chronological and structural changes of the Juodoniai (Rokiškis region) hill-fort settlement. She also tries to clarify the course of the formation of the cultural layer, and identifies three chronological stages of it.

In the section for discussions and debates Aleksiejus Luchtanas and G. Vėlius discuss with G. Zabiela cremation traditions in east Lithuania in the 13th and 14th centuries.

At the end of the volume, a survey is made of new books.

Vytautas Kazakevičius