

PREFACE

The existence of mankind is based on diverse and multi-faceted links between space and time. These links are sometimes more and sometimes less visible, and sometimes just vaguely felt. Humans leave traces, some of them are more noticeable, some of them not at all, when they gain a foothold within a given space and at a given time. In this triad, however, it is time, which is subject to no one but the Creator, that erases the outlines of cultural spaces which humans have created and, in one way or another, made meaningful. The narrative collective memory, written sources and archaeological finds are all just tiny pieces of data which give researchers the hope that traces of the lifestyles, the social structures and the mindset of ancient communities are not lost in space and time.

That is why this search for points of contact between space, time and communities was reflected in the international conference 'People at the Crossroads of Space and Time (Footmarks of Societies in Ancient Europe)' at Klaipėda University, from 13 to 15 October 2011.

Volumes 17 and 18 of *Archaeologia Baltica* contain exclusively material from this conference. The editorial board and the organising committee of the conference would like to extend their sincere thanks to all the participants in the conference who made a contribution to the discussion of this highly complex subject, as well as to researchers who either wrote articles but for one reason or another could not attend the conference, or who did attend the conference and take part in the discussions and excursions, but did not submit articles. It is a tradition at archaeologists' conferences to make the closing event an excursion. As a rule, this excursion corresponds in one way or another with the main subject of the conference. This time, we travelled to sites of monuments in the Klaipėda region (*Memelgebiet*), visiting cultural crossroads and historical boundaries on our way.

The articles published in volume 17 are divided into three sections, which cover important aspects of the lifestyles of communities, as well as points of view on

significant crossroads in the east Baltic coastal region. Section 1 discusses important new long-term projects pertaining to the Baltic Sea region. One of these projects, entitled 'Continuity of Research and Research of Continuity: Basic Research on Settlement Archaeology of the Iron Age in the Baltic Sea Region. A New Long-Term Research Project by the Academy of Science and Literature in Schleswig and Berlin', is presented and discussed by Claus von Carnap-Bornheim, Matthias Wemhoff, Heidemarie Eilbracht, Jaroslaw Prassolow and Timo Ibsen. In their presentation of this project, which is intended for long-term, and, I would say, fundamental research, the authors aimed to stress the fact that, included among the experienced researchers, the project involves doctoral degree candidates, future researchers. The project itself is divided into three related modules. The first focuses on investigating of archive material, which was collected in the East Prussia before World War II. The archive will be available to researchers and the public in a web-based and scientifically commented database after they have been digitised. The second module utilises this information in a geographic information system (GIS), to allow for the mapping of archaeological sites through spatial analysis. The aim is to identify and define settlement clusters in selected areas. In the third module, a hypothetical model of colonisation for the first millennium AD derived from the results of the first two modules will be checked thoroughly by excavations and extensive fieldwork, in order to develop a comprehensive understanding of the underlying processes.

The article by Gintautas Zabiela entitled 'The International Archaeologists' Workshop in Apuolė' fits perfectly the context of the project 'Continuity of Research and Research of Continuity – Basic Research on Settlement Archaeology of the Iron Age in the Baltic Region', and the search for regional points of intersection. It discusses the importance of sharing experience, and the importance of non-destructive methods in modern research, as well as the story of the research into the archaeological complex at Apuolė. The mag-



Anna Bitner-Wroblewska disusing paper of Aleksandra Rzeszotarska-Nowakiewicz and Tomsasz Nowakiewicz “Nidano Lake- Bog Sacrifice or Element of Burial Rite?” Photograph by D. Butkus.



Claus von Carnap-Bornheim and Antonija Vilcāne discussing presented materials on Jersika as a power centre. Photograph by A. Girininkas.

netometric survey of the Apuolė settlement carried out during the workshop is a good start to join the project that is being implemented by our colleagues from Schleswig.

The article by Ingrīda Līga Virse and Ritvars Ritums ‘The Grobiņa Complex of Dwelling Locations and Burial Sites, and Related Questions’ discusses the research carried out during the period between the two world wars and at the end of the 20th century, as well as the most recent research from 2010–2011 in Grobiņa, via cooperation between Latvian archaeologists and specialists from the Centre of Baltic Region and Scandinavian Archaeology (Schleswig), which has

provided new knowledge about the location and the period of possible Scandinavian settlement. Although the authors, at the current level of data, are still unable to answer the questions when and why the settlements founded by the Scandinavians dwindled and disappeared, or what the relations were between the arrivals and the Curonians, excavations at this significant archaeological object will be continued, and after several years researchers will be able to answer questions that are not quite clear today.

The second section discusses certain natural resources of communities of the Baltic region, with special attention being paid to amber from the Baltic Sea region,



Conference moments. Polish colleagues (from left): Katarzyna Czarnecka, Przemysław Harasim and Agnieszka Urbaniak. Photograph by D. Butkus.



Conference moments. Russian colleagues (from left): Olga A. Khomiakova, Andrei V. Zinoviev and Aleksander N. Khokhlov. Photograph by D. Butkus.



Conference moments. Audronė Bliujienė and Immo Heske.



Participant of the conference on the bridge through Wilhelm Canal or Klaipėda Canal. Photograph by A. Bliujienė.

which features in numerous legends, and the trade in amber; and last but not least, the possibility of salt production in the region, and the trade in salt, which is still under discussion.

The article by Mirja Ots entitled ‘The Significance of Deposits of Natural Amber in Estonia in the Context of Early Metal Age Society’ describes a newly found deposit of natural amber on the island of Saaremaa. The data collected about natural amber proves that this was not the only deposit of natural amber on Saaremaa. All earlier literature on the natural sciences and archaeology claims that natural amber is not found in Estonia, or else it is found only occasionally as marginal stray finds. The article also refers to other possible find spots that are known mainly from oral folklore. M. Ots believes that it is possible that during the Bronze Age, people on Saaremaa, especially at the time of the fortified settlement in Asva, had a unique opportunity to collect amber from their local shores and use it for jewellery and other uses.

In his article entitled ‘Trade, Salt and Amber. The Formation of Late Migration Period Elites in the “Balti-Culti” Area of Northern Poland (the Elbląg Group)’, Bartosz Kontny discusses the Elbląg group at its peak,

in the late sixth and early seventh centuries. He also discusses the possibility that the basis for the prosperity of this group might have been the trade in amber and salt, and salt production. However, the Baltic Sea is not rich in salt. Also, the new and rather unusual term ‘Balti-culti’ is introduced into the historiographical tradition of archaeology.

The final section in volume 17 of *Archaeologia Baltica* discusses everyday traces of communities in settlements and towns. This section covers a wide geographical area: from the River Moskva in the east and Novgorod in the north, to southwest and western coastal areas of the Baltic Sea. The chronological range of the section is broad too: from the Early Iron Age to the Renaissance.

Important, but up to now more or less unsolved, questions of early Medieval archaeology focus on the date and the process of Slavonisation in the southwest Baltic area. These questions are discussed in the article ‘Early Slavs in the Southwest Baltic Region: Initial Investigations in Dobropole Pyrzyckie (Poland)’ by Sebastian Messal and Bartłomiej Rogalski. The authors insist that there are only a few absolute dates available in-



In the territory of the Dvyliai (Stolzentietz) cemetery, which firstly was investigated by Adalbert Bezenberger in 1900. Photograph by A. Bliujienė.

dicating that the beginning of Slavonic settlement can be dated to the late seventh and early eighth centuries, but how this process of Slavonisation can be explained is still unknown. The authors ask another question that can barely be answered, whether the 'Slavonic' community migrated into a devastated landscape, or whether there was a change of identity to a Slavonic way of life, connected with a continuity of Germanic settlement? S. Messal and B. Rogalski believe that new interdisciplinary investigations of late Germanic and the earliest Slavonic settlements in northwest Poland might answer the question as to when the Slavs arrived in the region, and how the process of colonisation took place. The authors present one of the research projects of which the purpose is precisely to obtain new references for continuities or discontinuities in the history of the settlement and the use of the landscape in the Pyrzyce area of western Pomerania, to explain processes of change from the sixth to the eighth centuries.

In his article entitled 'The Moskva River Basin in the Iron Age–Migration Period', Nikolai A. Krenke discusses Djakovo-type sites located in the basin of the River Moskva. The chronological frames of the article are from the eighth to the seventh centuries BC to the

sixth to the seventh centuries AD. Two peaks of human activity at Djakovo-type sites came in the fifth to the third centuries BC, and the first to the fourth centuries AD. On the basis of his excavations at Djakovo hill-fort, the author claims that the economic foundations of communities of this culture were arable farming and animal husbandry. Meanwhile, bronze ornaments and clay cult artefacts prove that the population of the basin of the River Moskva had a tribal identity in the first half of the first millennium AD.

Of archaeological features explored during recent years, the archaeological survey of Skomantai hill-fort and its hill foot settlements stands out in terms of the application of non-destructive methods and the use of archaeological material. This feature, along with several neighbouring hill-forts and burial sites, makes up a significant micro-region in southwest Lithuania. These and other questions are presented for readers' judgement by a large international team, Audronė Bliujienė, Miglė Stančikaitė, Dalia Kisielienė, Jonas Mažeika, Ričardas Taraškevičius, Piotr Szwarczewski, Sebastian Messal, Jarosław Kusiak and Rimutė Stakėnienė, in their article 'Skomantai Hill-Fort in Western Lithu-



The old border established in 1422 between Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Teutonic Order. G. Gimbutytė, Ch.G. Schmidt and A.V. Zinoviev.
Photograph by A. Bliujienė.

ania: A Case Study on Habitation Site and Environment’.

In his article ‘Structure, Chronology and Interregional Relations: An Analysis of the Archaeological Material from Opstainis, Vilkyškiai Iron Age Hill-Fort and Settlement’, Romas Jarockis analyses the spatial structure and the chronological development of Opstainis, Vilkyškiai Iron-Age hill-fort settlement, on the basis of archaeological and geomagnetic survey data. It has been ascertained that the hill-fort and the settlement were inhabited throughout the first millennium AD. The newly collected archaeological material suggests that people lived, among other things, in semi-pit house-type buildings, used oval-shaped and pear-shaped flat-bottomed household pits, and made pottery decorated with cross-shaped imprint decorations. All these facts serve as evidence of the contacts between inhabitants of the lower reaches of the River Nemunas and the southwest Baltic Sea region in the second half of the first millennium AD.

Dogs were the earliest animals to be domesticated, and have served man for thousands of years. Their historical diversity and interaction with men is no less interesting than the question of their origin. In his article ‘Of Friends and Food: Dogs in Medieval Novgorod the Great’, Andrei V. Zinoviev covers the subject of canine diversity and interaction with men in Medieval Novgorod the Great (the tenth to the 14th centuries), one of the oldest and most important trading cities in Old Russia.

The final article in volume 17 of *Archaeologia Baltica*, which is the first volume containing the conference material, is an article by Arūnas Puškorius entitled ‘Renaissance Footwear as a Mark of Social Differentiation’, in which the author makes the claim, based on shoe fragments found during archaeological excavations, historical sources and abundant iconographic material, that only exhaustive and many-sided research into individual shoe finds makes it possible to reveal the features of footwear typical of different social strata. On the basis of data obtained in the course of research into individual archaeological shoe finds in Lithuania (at present, all the material comes exclusively from Vilnius), we can suggest that shoes made of goat or other animal hide (with the exception of cattle hide), of a light or bright colour, and of a more complex construction, with a welt joining and a broadened fore part, as well as textile-decorated and model shoes, must have been made for people enjoying a high status in society. Darker and undecorated shoes made of lower-quality cattle hide and of a simpler construction were worn by the lower social strata. Shoes decorated with perforations also indicate a higher social status; however, the lower social strata could afford such shoes too.

Volume 18 of *Archaeologia Baltica* will contain exclusively material from the conference ‘People at the Crossroads of Space and Time (Footmarks of Societies in Ancient Europe)’. The authors of that volume will discuss the subject matter of the conference on the basis of burial site material pertaining to different periods of time.

Audronė Bliujienė