

PREFACE

Volume 16 of *Archaeologia Baltica* is dedicated to the 50th birthday of Associate Professor Dr Gintautas Zabiela. In the introductory article, Albinas Kuncevičius describes Dr Zabiela's work, and his contribution to research into the Middle Ages in Lithuania, and into hill-forts in particular.

Colleagues at Klaipėda University and the editorial board of the journal warmly congratulate Gintautas Zabiela. The editorial board have also received some very friendly greetings for Dr Zabiela, one of which we received together with an article, and believe that since it expresses itself so sincerely, it should appear in this volume:

Sveiciens dzimšanas dienā Gintautam Zabiēlam.

“... Par Latvijas smilgām, Kuras ziemeļu vējā Lietuvu skar ...”

(Jānis Baltvilks)

Dārgais Gintautas! Sveicu Jūs dzīves 50 gadu jubilejā! Novēlu Jums saglabāt savu cilvēciski patieso draudzīgumu un arheologa erudīciju! Lai Jums daudz jaunu un nozīmīgu atklājumu Lietuvas agro jauno lauku arheoloģijā! Lai vienmēr Jums apkārt daudz jaunu un aktīvu studentu!

Birthday greetings to Gintautas Zabiela.

‘... Par Latvijas smilgām, Kuras ziemeļu vējā Lietuvu skar...’

(Jānis Baltvilks)

Dear Gintautas! Congratulations on your fiftieth birthday! May you keep your true Lithuanian human friendliness and exclusive archaeologist's erudition! Have a lot of new and scientifically important discoveries in Medieval and post-Medieval archaeology in Lithuania! Be always surrounded by many young and active students!

Arheologs, Mag. hist. Rūdolfs Brūzis.

The article by Gintautas Zabiela ‘Archaeological Ceramics in Lithuania: Primary Processing’ shows that Lithuanian archaeologists are still employing two methods in the description of ceramic fragments, text and tables, of which the latter has a better future. The article discusses ceramic fragments and their primary processing at the report level of archaeological investigations. Their wider use is restricted by an absence of general standards. Out of at least 36 attributes characterising ceramic fragments, five major ones can be distinguished (ceramic group, type of utensil fragment, diameter, number, weight), and they should be obligatory in every report on archaeological research.

Volume 16 of *Archaeologia Baltica* also includes articles related to materials and issues that were discussed at the conference ‘Research into Urban Culture in the Middle Ages and Modern Times (on the Basis of Archaeological Data)’, held at Klaipėda University on 12 and 13 November 2009. The conference discussed issues related to urban sites in Lithuania (Klaipėda, Kaunas, Šiauliai and Vilnius) between the 14th and the 19th centuries, and ceramics, tiles, glass and shoes discovered in their old towns, manufacturing techniques, the development of construction techniques, and the genesis of different Lithuanian towns. However, due to the passage of time, or rather because the idea for this

volume has since been developed, articles that were not presented as papers at the conference are also included in this issue.

Part one of Volume 16 'From Ancient Settlements and Piracy to Towns' looks at locating early prehistoric settlements when exploring and starting to build constructions in present-day towns and cities.

One example is the reconstruction of the settlement of Palanga from the Mesolithic-Neolithic periods on the basis of the cultural landscape. It was discovered in 1958. Algirdas Girininkas, in his article 'New Data on Palanga Stone Age Settlement' points to new data from geological and radiocarbon research which shows that a Late Mesolithic settlement existed on the Ražė rivulet (now the central part of Palanga) at the edge of a moraine, which was partly destroyed and washed away during one of the early transgressions in the Litorina Sea. In the Late Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods, this moraine was already covered with sand and inhabited by people who left traces of their lifestyle. At that time (the Limnea Regression Period) the area was turning into turf, so that items of organic origin survived in the cultural stratum. The author establishes that the settlement of Palanga belongs to two chronological periods: Late Mesolithic and Late Neolithic-Early Bronze. Late Mesolithic articles belonged to Late Nemunas (Janislawice) culture; whereas the cultural stratum of the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Period belonged to communities of Late Narva culture.

The latest archaeological explorations in coastal areas of western Lithuania have resulted in the location and discovery of a large number of Curonian settlements. One important attribute in the activities and lifestyle of the Curonians was piracy, the beginning and development of which are also discussed in the first part of this issue. Piracy by the Curonians living in coastal areas of the Baltic Sea from the eighth to the 18th centuries is analysed by Vidas Žulkus in his article 'Settlements and Piracy on the Eastern Shore of the Baltic Sea: The Middle Ages to Modern Times'. The author notes that the roots of Curonian piracy are a social phenomenon. Attributes of private property, traditions of social cohesiveness, appeared in Curonian society in the 11th century and the first half of the 12th century. This was followed by the formation of territorial 'kingdoms' and companionships (soldiery), focused on gaining property by means of violence overland and on the seas. The article describes in detail specific cases of this piracy, both in western and eastern parts of the Baltic Sea, privateering and pirate attacks in the approaches

to Klaipėda in the 14th to the 16th centuries. Žulkus also describes probable graves of pirates and their victims in dunes around the Birutė and Naglis hills.

Assumptions for the establishment and growth of proto-towns in northern Lithuania are analysed in the first part by Ernestas Vasiliauskas in his article 'The Development of Towns of the Šiauliai Crown Estate from the 16th to the 18th Century'. The author notes that favourable conditions for the establishment of proto-towns in the northern central part of Lithuania and in a large part of the entire east Baltic region appeared in the 12th and 13th centuries. Their natural development was interrupted by the Crusades in the 13th and 14th centuries. Favourable conditions for the growth of towns in northern Lithuania formed once again only in the 15th and 16th centuries. The author discusses the development of Šiauliai, Žagarė and Joniškis, on the basis of written, archaeological and architectural research. According to him, the watershed between the development of urban and rural areas could be more definitely delineated on the basis of particularities among archaeological finds. The most relevant finds are firstly finds related to trading and crafts, as they distinguish urban areas unambiguously from rural ones. These are coins and hoards of coins, ceramics (particularly 'urban', imported faience, stone and porcelain), tiles, specific tools and articles. Some of them undoubtedly suggest that those urban areas were local trading and crafts centres, with their trading hinterland in the neighbouring areas.

Part two of Volume 16 'Vilnius: The Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania and the Civitas Rutenica Area' looks at the exploration of the Old Town in Vilnius.

The article by I. Rėklaitytė, E. Zavedskienė and B. Bóloix-Gallardo 'A Bracelet from the Lands of the Golden Horde Found in the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania' discusses a bracelet with an Arabic inscription manufactured from brass alloy and found in G cellar of the palace in the Lower Castle in 1993. It is a fragile ornament, manufactured from a thin sheet of brass alloy. The terminals are decorated with a stylised lion's muzzle and an imprinted decoration (a 'happiness-knot') in the very centre of an Arabic inscription. After a detailed analysis of the bracelet, it becomes clear that similar ornaments have been found around the entire territory of the Golden Horde, from Eastern Europe to Central Asia, and are dated to the 13th to the 15th centuries, which is the entire period of its existence. Bracelets with inscriptions could be

worn as charms. Well-wishing inscriptions are rather frequent in the Islamic world in the Middle Ages. On the basis of analogies and stratigraphy of the cultural stratum, the authors date the bracelet to the second half of the 14th century, or the early 15th century. It could have arrived in the Lower Castle together with a brass *pulas* of Khan Djanibekh (1342–1357). However, only further research will determine whether these finds are spoils of war or if they arrived by trading routes.

Another article related to the exploration of the Old Town in Vilnius is that by Rytis Jonaitis, 'Orthodox Churches in the Civitas Rutenica Area of Vilnius: The Question of Location', analysing the development of the 'Russian town' in Vilnius. According to the author, the accurate location of Orthodox churches, representing the extent of Civitas Rutenica, and understanding the reasons for their construction in one place or another, enable us to understand better the development of urbanisation in Vilnius and its trends. On the basis of new archaeological research, a new approach towards historical and cartographic data, a primary reconstruction of the local relief, and modern digital technology, the author specifies the location of Orthodox churches in Vilnius.

The article by Olga N. Glazunova 'Lithuania's Roots in the Pottery of the Western Suburbs of Moscow of the 17th and 18th Centuries' is devoted to searching for the origins of the cultural influence on examples of the pottery production of the New Jerusalem monastery in Istra in the 17th and 18th centuries and an attempt is made to trace marks of the influence of different masters. In the article, parallels are found between pottery in Klaipėda and the New Jerusalem monastery; and, what is more, these parallels are clearly seen the pottery catalogue *Klaipėdos pilies ir senamiesčio buitinė keramika XIV a. vid. – XIX a. Klaipėda* (Daily Pottery of Klaipėda Castle and the Old Town from the Middle of 14th Century – 19th Century). A review of this catalogue by Gintautas Zabiela readers can be found at the end of this volume of *Archaeologia Baltica*.

Rūdolfs Brūzis in the article 'The Luxury Lifestyle in the Nurmuiža Manor' briefly presents the history of Nurmuiža manor (in Lauciene in the Talsi district in Latvia) and its owners, and the results of the 2008 and 2009 archaeological investigations. Nurmuiža belonged to one of the most influential families of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia, the von Fircks. The influential positions in Courland family held the 16th century to the 20th century.

Part three of *Archaeologia Baltica* 'Everyday Life in Klaipėda' presents three interesting articles.

One of them, 'Glass Bottles from the 16th Century to the 19th Century in the Old Town of Klaipėda: Data from Archaeological Excavations' by Indrė Šimkutė, analyses material about glass bottles from archaeological explorations in the Old Town of Klaipėda. She divides them into four groups: bottles with a globular body, onion-shaped, cylinder-shaped and quadrilateral. The article also notes that the pattern of their development is based on stratigraphic and typological methods, and reflects general European tendencies in bottle manufacturing and trading. According to the author, glass bottles and the continuous increase in their use was undoubtedly related to technical and cultural changes in the daily lives of the local people. Beverages in barrels were previously available to most people, whereas beverages in glass bottles were undoubtedly treated as luxury merchandise until the mid-18th century. An increased demand for glass bottles at the end of the 19th century resulted in their mass production.

Another article in this part is 'Animal Rearing and Butchering: A Glimpse from Old Klaipėda' by Giedrė Piličiauskienė and Ieva Masiulienė. They introduce the results of archaeological excavations and zooarchaeological material from explorations in 2007 and 2008 in Kurpių Street (material from the 16th and 17th centuries). The authors introduce osteological material from two periods: the late 16th century/early 17th century to 1678, and the mid-16th century to the late 16th century/early 17th century. This material shows that over 95% of examined bones belonged to domestic animals, mostly to cattle. The age structure and anatomical distribution of the bones enable us to maintain that the animals were bred and butchered locally, and there was no centralised supply of meat. The large number of butchered cattle, lambs and goat kids enables us to maintain that they were bred mainly for milk.

The article by Ramunė Bračiulienė 'The Footwear of Klaipėda Dwellers in the 16th and 17th Centuries' discusses the remains of different types of shoe found in different sites in the Old Town. According to the author, the 16th-century leather sandals and pieces of leather sandals discovered are primitively ruffled, whereas low shoes of the same period followed patterns of straightforward construction and covered the feet to the ankle. There were no clear differences between male and female shoes at that time. By the 17th century, locals already wore shoes of different models: with and without the lower part of the heel, closed and open-type shoes, and decorated with various details, such as ribbons, fibulae and straps. Differences are also noted

between male and female shoes, in the shape, sole profiling and size. According to the author, shoes had all the traditional attributes of dependence on the seasons (summer-winter), gender (male-female), age (adult-juvenile), purpose (daily-ornate), open and closed-type shoes, boots, and footwear without heels.

Gintautas Zabiela in 'Everyday pottery from Klaipėda Castle and Klaipėda Old Town from the mid-14th Century to the 19th Century' reviews a new catalogue on Klaipėda ceramics *Klaipėdos pilies ir senamiesčio buitinė keramika XIV a. vid. – XIX a. Klaipėda* (Daily Pottery of Klaipėda Castle and the Old Town from the Middle of 14th Century – 19th Century), prepared and published by the Museum of the History of Lithuania Minor, 2010.

Algirdas Girininkas