

PREFACE

Volume 29 of *Archaeologia Baltica* is dedicated to post-medieval archaeology, that is, the period between 1500 and 1800. Cultural monuments of this period include the old parts of towns and cities (individual town quarters, houses and squares), churches, monasteries, manors, castles (although only to some extent), villages, burial grounds, and, of course, artefacts. Based on the information provided in the informative research publication *Archeologiniai tyrinėjimai Lietuvoje* [Archaeological Investigations in Lithuania] (<https://www.atl.lt/>), around 56% of investigations undertaken between 1990 and 2020 were carried out on post-medieval archaeological sites (Fig. 1); as much as 37% of these investigations took place in the old parts of towns and cities. The number of investigations conducted on post-medieval monuments has been steadily increasing since 1990. The year 2010 coincided with an intensification of research into archaeological sites dating to the early modern period. Archaeological monuments dated to the 1st millennium AD, on the other hand, have been receiving less and less attention. A similar situation is observed with investigations of barrow sites and burial grounds (which account for only 14% of the total). Other types of monuments, such as hillforts and settlements have remained in focus from 1990 through to 2020, and constitute 15% of all investigated sites (Fig. 1). Cultural

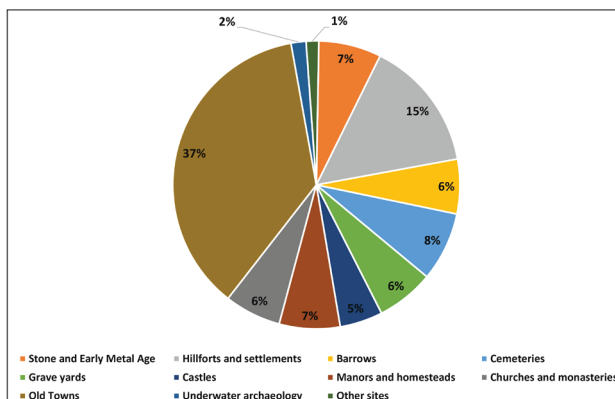


Figure 1. Archaeological sites investigated between 1990 and 2020 (<https://www.atl.lt/>).

monuments dated to the Stone Age and, to some extent, the Early Metal Age, also make up a steady percentage of investigations.

Case studies (including surveys, archaeological investigations and excavations) published in *Archeologiniai tyrinėjimai Lietuvoje* between 1980 and 1989 reveal that during those years the focus shifted from settlement studies to investigations of funerary monuments (as much as 42% of all investigations were conducted at barrow sites and burial grounds) (Fig. 2). It must be noted that the end of the 20th century saw a considerably smaller number of archaeological investigations as compared with the previous couple of decades (Muradian 2021). Even though the number of investigations greatly increased, the ratio of investigated settlements to burial sites had shifted again. Starting from 2000 to 2006, and continuing to the present, funerary monuments gradually fell into the background and settlement studies became predominant once more.

One of the possible explanations for the change in focus from burial sites to settlements is the endeavour for more comprehensive knowledge of the period between ancient times and the post-medieval period, and even later. It is well known that the picture is only complete if comprehensive data has been obtained from a variety of cultural

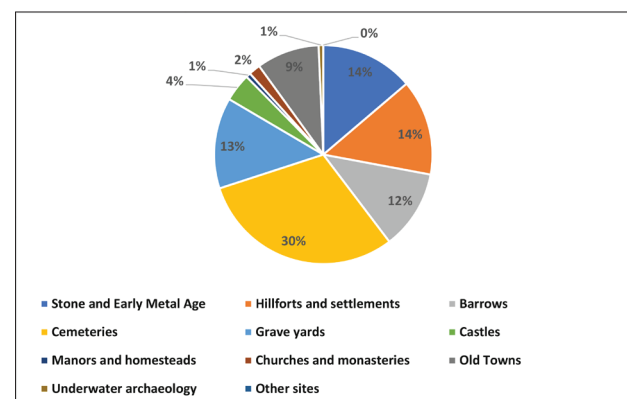


Figure 2. Archaeological sites investigated between 1980 and 1989 (<https://www.atl.lt/>).

monuments. On the other hand, the economic realities of the present day also play a significant part in the choice of research subject. These days, there seems to be a clear tendency towards encouraging academic institutions to form symbiotic relations between research and economic interests. Lastly, the change in research focus can also be considered a natural process, mainly due to the growing archaeological community and shifts in research interests associated with changing generations of researchers.

The drive towards discovery of new cultural monuments has always positively affected the dynamics of archaeological research. Another important factor influencing both the increase and decrease in investigations into certain types of monuments is heritage protection development and accessibility work. Research grants and dissertations also play a part in the shift of research focus as these always require investigations into particular monuments. The past two decades have seen a rapidly growing interest in the old quarters of towns and cities. The most evident explanation for this is ongoing infrastructure projects and such major works as the construction of the gas pipeline connecting Poland and Lithuania (GIPL). Shifting research focus in post-medieval and historical archaeology can be observed not only in Lithuania but in other European countries as well, including Latvia and Estonia. It is recognised that the archaeology of the post-medieval period suffers from a lack of a theoretical approach, established viewpoints, and professional researchers. Therefore, it must be acknowledged that this can only be rectified by creating a suitable research system and a stable academic environment (Russow et al. 2021).

With this brief introduction to the preface, we aim to highlight the issues known to the archaeological community and to place more emphasis on a familiar problem. Recent decades have seen an abundance of studies into the old quarters of towns and cities of Lithuania. However, with the exception of mandatory annual reports on investigated sites, research results remain mostly unpublished. In other words, the material record obtained during the past decades has been left languishing on the shelves of museums. With this 29th volume of *Archaeologia Baltica*, we intend to fill some gaps in the knowledge of post-medieval studies.

The first chapter of the volume is titled 'Towns and townships'. It includes discussions of the structural characteristics of the old towns of Vilnius and Kėdainiai, and also various case studies which offer insight into aspects of everyday life in towns.

Investigations in Tilto Street, Vilnius, and its surroundings are examined by Rytis Jonaitis and Irma Kaplūnaitė. In the historiography, these locations are sometimes associated with the legendary valley of Swintoroha, more specifically the sacred grove or cremation ground that was

located within the valley. Unfortunately, material evidence that would confirm these facts has never been discovered. Such evidence may have simply been destroyed. However, there remains a hope that it might be possible to discover the traces of human activity in this part of the city, dated to earlier, maybe even Pagan, times, and also the aspiration to do so.

The article by Algirdas Juknevičius (20.12.1954–06.12.2021) considers aspects of urban planning in Kėdainiai. The originality and innovativeness of urban planning in old Kėdainiai are evidenced by structural aspects of the right bank of the River Nevėžis, constructed during the time of the Kiszka and Radziwiłł families' rule. Its formation began at the end of the 16th century and was completed by the middle of the 17th century. Remarkably, the layout of this urban space remained the same up until the first half of the 20th century.

Case studies of distinct artefact groups include pottery, smoking pipes, spoons and coins. These everyday items, forming part of the material culture, are linked by the views they offer onto the lives of inhabitants of the towns in which they were found as well as situating them within wider patterns or developments.

Miglė Urbonaitė-Ubė distinguishes the whiteware from the Kielce region (present-day Poland) as dominant among the imported wares of the late 16th and early 17th centuries. This particular period is notable for significant changes in the material record, which are particularly evident from finds related to dining culture. The case study of the Kielce whiteware is used in this article to illustrate how the stylistically and technologically advanced types of pottery replaced the multifunctional vessels of the Middle Ages.

Atas Žvirblys tells a story of the everyday life of Klaipėda townspeople. Aspects of their lifestyle are revealed by finds of smoking pipes, which were recovered from cultural layers of the old town in Klaipėda. It is stated that these imports appeared in Klaipėda no later than 1620–1630. The article also notes that almost all as per conclusion of the article smoking pipes dating to between 1620 and 1680, which were discovered in this part of the town, were produced in the Netherlands.

Skaistė Ardaiviūtė-Ramanauskienė presents an analysis of spoons that have been discovered in Lithuania. Here, unlike in western European countries, spoons are an infrequent find. As such, it is important to discuss the types, chronology and production locations of metal spoons. The analysis of spoons from Lithuania reveals that they correspond typologically and chronologically to those produced and used in northern, western and central Europe.

Eduardas Remecas and Andra Simniškytė write about Kupiškis, a town known in historical sources since the

16th century but which has not been explored archaeologically up until now. Results obtained from a recent survey and archaeological investigations revealed a preserved cultural layer at the northern edge of the town's central square. The finds recovered from this location serve to illustrate life in 17th-century Kupiškis. It is likely that most of the 17th-century coins (125 units) belong to a scattered coin assemblage or a hoard, which could have been hidden around 1709–1710 when the plague epidemic was raging in the country. It is thought that since the coins are of considerable value, they could have belonged to the owner of a shop that stood in the market square.

Finally, James Arney and David Arney write about everyday life in post-medieval cities in the context of the spread of contagious disease. Cities that became centres of attraction during post-medieval times are characterised by large populations that shared a close interaction. Tartu in Estonia is a good example of such a hub. It is likely that the large number of inhabitants, their habits and diverse lifestyles increased the amount of sexually transmitted, contagious diseases. One of the most common diseases, which had dire effects on the residents of Tartu, was syphilis.

The next chapter in *Archaeologia Baltica* 29 is titled 'New investigations bringing fresh ideas'. Here, the results of a scientific project (the study of palaeo-watercourses of the Baltic Sea coasts and rivers, situated along the current coastline of Lithuania and underwater) and the largest infrastructure project of recent years — the Polish-Lithuanian gas pipeline — are discussed. Case studies include the settlements of Kakliniškės and Tarbiškės.

Vladas Žulkus and Nikita Dobrotin relate in their article that so far no evidence of prehistoric activity had been discovered on the seabed of the Baltic Sea. It is suggested that future searches for Stone Age settlements should be conducted in places closer to palaeo-watercourses with surviving palaeo-landscapes. Such sites are promising because it is likely that people would have chosen to live closer to river estuaries and river mouths by the sea. The changing sea level is considered to be a hindering factor for such investigations as the shifting sea also altered river streams which, in turn, affected the layout of settlements.

Rokas Vengalis, Gytis Piličiauskas, Karolis Minkevičius, and Mantas Valančius present the results of the 2020 investigations that were conducted on a site situated along the main gas pipeline route. Here, a settlement, known as Kakliniškės 7, was found and excavated. Research conducted on this settlement refutes the statement maintained

in the historiography that the cultural situation in the whole of eastern Lithuania was relatively static throughout the 1st millennium BC. New archaeological evidence suggests that the distribution of the Striated Ware culture is less extensive than has been originally thought. Moreover, the long chronological span of the culture's existence appears also to be unfounded. It is now known that definite examples of the Striated Ware culture only include the fortified settlements dated to 800–400 BC in northeast Lithuania, southeastern Latvia and northwestern Belarus. The 2020 investigations at the site of a pipeline route presented pottery finds that evidently do not belong to the tradition of Striated Ware. Hence, ceramic finds discovered here have been named Kakliniškės Ware. The new archaeological evidence serves to show that the cultural situation in southeastern Lithuania in the 1st millennium BC was much more dynamic than has commonly been believed.

The final article is a discussion of work carried out in Tarbiškės by the big team of authors guided by Gytis Piličiauskas and Rokas Vengalis, together with Karolis Minkevičius, Gražina Skridlaitė, and Giedrė Piličiauskienė. Rescue excavations were carried out in 2020 during construction work on the Polish-Lithuanian gas pipeline. The sites investigated in eastern Lithuania include the Late Bronze Age settlements of Tarbiškės 1 and 2. Results obtained from the multidisciplinary analysis can be used to fill in missing pieces in the knowledge of cultural and economic development within the southeastern Baltic region. Evidence obtained from a macrobotanical study indicating that plants cultivated by the inhabitants at Tarbiškės included millet (*Panicum miliaceum*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) is considered particularly significant. The geographical position of settlements 1 and 2 shows that the early farmers chose to settle on higher grounds with sandy soil, further away from large bodies of water.

The 29th volume of *Archaeologia Baltica* finishes with a review of *Latvijas Archeologijas Rokasgrāmata* [Handbook of Latvian Archaeology] by Andrejs Vasks and Gunita Zariņa. As reviewer Tomas Rimkus points out, this large-scale study is significant both for scientists studying the Baltic Sea region and for all those generally interested in the area's past. The study describes the development of Latvian archaeological science, archaeological sites, artefact types and the latest research.

Audronė Bliujienė

TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS

