

Editorial

ROBIN SKEATES

The General Editor

Durham University, UK

Welcome to this first of four issues of the *European Journal of Archaeology* for 2013. Here, you will find six general articles and twelve book reviews. Below, I summarize and comment on their significance to European archaeology.

Erick Robinson, Joris Sergant and Philippe Crombé present the results of their systematic recording of lithic armatures produced by later Mesolithic hunter-gatherers and by *Linearbandkeramik* (LBK) early farmers in the middle Meuse and Scheldt river basins in Belgium, focusing on raw materials and on aspects of blade fracturing, shaping and hafting. They confirm that LBK armature technology was strongly rooted in later Mesolithic trapeze industries, particularly in the western part of the study-area. But they also highlight the inter-site variability of armature assemblages in the Late Mesolithic, which could imply a less homogenous process of cultural contact between the last hunter-gatherers and earliest farmers on the northwestern margins of the LBK distribution than has hitherto been envisaged. In the future, we might hope to understand these patterns and processes in more detail, particularly when a larger sample of armatures is studied and when more radiocarbon dates become available for later Mesolithic sites in this region.

Andrea Dolfini provides a valuable synthesis and discussion of current evidence and interpretations regarding the origins and early spread of metallurgy in the central Mediterranean region. He argues that metal technology was first imported from the Balkans into the east-central alpine area during the late Neolithic, from around 4500 cal BC, and that metallurgy then spread rapidly: first, throughout northern Italy, central Italy and Sardinia; then, to Corsica, southern Italy and Sicily. He also sees a short intensification phase leading to the full development of metallurgy in the early Copper Age, from around 3600 cal BC, and assigns a key role to metalworking communities in west-central Italy in eventually transmitting knowledge of extractive metallurgy further west in the Mediterranean region, at around 3100 cal BC. To refine this model, more radiocarbon dates are required, as well as thorough scientific assessment of alleged smelting residues.

Timothy Darvill, Friedrich Lüth and Knut Rassmann report on their rapid, high-resolution, geophysical survey of a 2 km² area of land to the north of the famous ceremonial site of Stonehenge in southern England. They identify a series of previously unsuspected features, including entrances in both the long sides of the Stonehenge Cursus, which – combined with previously known sites in the area – enable them to identify apparently extensive open areas between monuments in the Stonehenge landscape during the fourth and third millennia BC. The project itself provides a model that could be profitably applied to many other European archaeological landscapes, and is

also notable as a rare example in which British and Continental European researchers are collaborating on fieldwork within the UK.

David Frankel, Jennifer Webb and Anne Pike-Tay detail the results of their skeleto-chronological analysis of a sample of deer and caprine teeth from the Late Chalcolithic hunting camp-site of Politiko-Kokkinorotsos in central Cyprus, which indicates that animals were culled here seasonally in spring and summer. The Kokkinorotsos data also support the idea of differentiated site-types and activities in different parts of the island during the early third millennium BC, although it has to be admitted that, with the exception of the southwest, we actually know very little about the rest of the island in this period.

Manuel Fernández-Götz thoughtfully reviews the problems and potentials of archaeological research on Iron Age ethnicity. Using as examples the identity of the Vettones of central Spain and the Treveri in eastern Gaul, he argues that archaeologists should not overlook the opportunities offered by epigraphic and literary sources to help develop hypotheses about the construction of ethnic identities in the Iron Age. Although not all scholars will agree that specifically 'ethnic' categories, networks and communities can be pinpointed in Iron Age Europe, this remains a useful contribution to a long-standing and controversial debate in European pre- and protohistory.

Gisela Grupe, Claus von Carnap-Bornheim and Cornelia Becker present the results of their large-scale analysis of stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes in human bone collagen from the Viking trade centre of Haithabu and its successor, the medieval town of Schleswig, located on opposite sides of the Schlei Fjord in northern Germany. They demonstrate that, over a period of around 400 years, and with a decline in trading activities, the source of dietary protein of the inhabitants shifted from a focus on fish to a greater reliance on terrestrial domesticates – a trend confirmed by zooarchaeological studies. They also claim to have identified a change in infant nursing strategy – from early weaning in the Viking period to prolonged breastfeeding in medieval times – which they understand as a change in population regulation related to Schleswig's decline in economic importance. Specialists will want to debate this particular issue. Nevertheless, the authors' truly impressive dataset is of signal importance to North Sea urban history.

In the reviews section, you will find discussions of some recent major publications. We begin with a long-awaited book on the history of central European archaeology. Next come two general books that engage respectively with the method and theory of ethnozoarchaeology and with 'ordinary people' in prehistory, followed by the second edition of Milisauskas edited survey of European prehistory. Hereafter, the books are arranged by period, from the Middle Palaeolithic of the south-eastern Mediterranean, to the Mesolithic in eastern Fennoscandia, to Neolithic megaliths and round mounds in Europe, Bronze Age and later settlement and land-use in Italy, and Celtic origins. We then end with comments on an innovative DVD presenting the results of a 3D digitization project at Olympia, and an important edited volume on heritage management in rural Europe.

If you are interested in submitting an article on any aspect of European archaeology, or in reviewing a new publication, do please get in touch with a member of our editorial team or visit us on <http://www.maneypublishing.com/index.php/journals/eja/>.