

PREFACE

HORIZONS OF ARCHIVAL ARCHAEOLOGY

This joint volume *Archaeologia Baltica 21–22* covers two themes. The first is represented by papers read by participants in the international conference ‘Horizons of Archival Archaeology’, which took place from 12 to 15 June 2014 in Nida, Lithuania, in the chapter ‘Archival Materials in the Context of Contemporary Archaeology’. The second theme, related to urban archaeology, is discussed in the chapter ‘Research in Urban Materials’.

The conference ‘Horizons of Archival Archaeology’ was organised by the Commission for the Investigation of Collections of Archaeological Finds and Archival Documents from Northeast Central Europe (Kommission zur Erforschung von Sammlungen archäologischer Funde und Unterlagen aus dem Nordöstlichen Mitteleuropa, or KAFU) stored in the Museum for Prehistory and Early History at the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation in Berlin (Museum für vor-und Frühgeschichte staatliche Museen zu Berlin Preussischer Kulturbesitz, or SMB-PK), in collaboration with Klaipėda University’s Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology, the Thomas Mann Cultural Centre, and the Thomas Mann Museum. The conference was attended by researchers from Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia.

The papers from the conference are an excellent means to make public the aims of the KAFU, which was set up on 22 June 2001 in Berlin. The Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz) and the Romano-Germanic Commission of the German Archaeological Institute (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Römisch-Germanische Kommission) decided to set up a commission to look after research into archaeological collections and archival material. The motto of the KAFU is ‘In search of lost archaeology’. This is, and apparently will be for a long time, the main area of the KAFU’s activities, as the effects of the Second World War on the archaeological collections and archives in Germany and other countries of Northeast Central Europe were painful. In the turmoil of the war, a significant part of the archaeological collections and archival documents were destroyed, lost or scattered.

Moreover, changes in national borders and populations, as a consequence of the war, resulted in the interruption of the human memory. Therefore, the loss involves not merely collections and documents, but also sites: some of them are being rediscovered, others are yet to be found. The participants in the KAFU’s activities are German, Polish, Lithuanian and Russian researchers.

The loss of collections and archives affected especially painfully the area of the former German Reich between the Oder and the Neisse, where most of the regional archaeological collections and archive documents were destroyed or disappeared. Due to postwar and later political realities, which prevented research by specialists from different countries, not very much is known about prewar collections. This situation has had a negative effect on heritage conservation, and on the activities of museums and archives, and has restricted international research into European Prehistory and early history. Thanks to the winds of freedom, the doors are now open to different ideas and their implementation in the turmoil of war-torn countries. From Lithuania’s point of view, the KAFU’s motto ‘In search of lost archaeology’ is especially relevant to the Klaipėda Region (Memel Gebiet), where German archaeologists have carried out intensive archaeological excavations since the second half of the 19th century. Naturally, the network of museums in the Klaipėda Region was then only in the early stages of its development; therefore, excavation materials, reports and other documents were stored in the Prussia-Museum in Königsberg (currently Kaliningrad), or they would appear in smaller museums in East Prussia (eg, Instenburg/Įsrutis, currently Chernyakhovsk, and Tilsit/Tilžė, currently Sovetsk), or they were eventually transported to the SMB-PK in Berlin. Therefore, Lithuanian archaeological collections stored in Germany shared the same fate as most collections there.¹

¹ About 9,100 artefact illustrations from the former Prussia Collection and some information about them are currently available at Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte -Prussia-Sammlung (online): <http://www.smb-digital.de> and <http://www.prussia-museum.eu/DFGBlog.html>.

The Commission for the Investigation of Collections of Archaeological Finds and Archival Documents from Northeast Central Europe operates in accordance with the following provisions:²

§ 1

The Commission for the Investigation of Collections of Archaeological Finds and Archival Documents from Northeast Central Europe is part of the Commission of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the Romano-Germanic Commission of the German Archaeological Institute. It is a research institution.

§ 2

The aim of the Commission is to document archaeological finds and archival documents, scattered from their primary storage sites, and to coordinate and promote scientific research.

§ 3

The headquarters of the Commission is in the Museum of Pre-History and Early History.

§ 4

1. The Commission shall consist of:
 - The Director of the Museum of Pre-History and Early History
 - The First Director of the Romano-Germanic Commission of the German Archaeological Institute
 - Researchers whose activities and interests are related to the aims of the Commission.
2. The Commission may propose new members.
3. It is desirable for the Commission to include representatives from all the countries to which its activities are relevant.
4. In compliance with (1)c and (2), the Commission's members shall be nominated by the President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the German Archaeological Institute for a five-year term.
5. Membership of the Commission shall not be paid.
6. The Chair of the Commission shall be Director of the Museum of Pre-History and Early History (SMB-PK).

§ 5

The Commission shall appoint its Director upon the agreement of the President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the German Archaeological Institute. The Director's responsibilities shall be laid out in the work plan.

² Translated from *Auf der Suche nach der verlorenen Archäologie*.

§ 6

The Commission shall perform the following functions:

1. Develop and coordinate research, publicity, and organisational tasks for the Commission.
2. Approve the Director's work plan.
3. Raise project funds for the implementation of the Commission's aims.
4. Take decisions on the absorption of acquired funds.
5. Observe the provision as formulated in § 4 (4).
6. Submit amendments to the President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the German Archaeological Institute.
7. The Commission shall take decisions with the approval of two-thirds of members present.

§ 7

1. The Commission shall publish publications, provided its members approve.
2. The editing of the publication and the technical work shall be the responsibility of the member of the Commission who proposed to compile it.
3. Applications for project funds shall be submitted by members of the Commission. Applicants shall choose the form and the structure of the application at their discretion, and shall be responsible for it. All applications shall be approved by the Chair of the Commission.

§ 8

The Chair shall convene the Commission at least once a year.

The KAFU's statute was signed by Professor Dr h.c. Klaus-Dieter Lehmann, President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz), and Professor Dr Helmut Kyrieleis, President of the German Archaeological Institute (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut).

The direction of the KAFU's activities is planned as far as 2030. Even though the main objective is to publish archive material and studies based on the material, discussions are taking place for comprehensive thematic research into surviving material stored in museums, and publicising the results in different forms (studies, exhibitions, etc).

The KAFU's activities in archival archaeology are currently evolving, with more institutions and researchers joining different projects. An intensification of activity in archaeological research has also been observed in

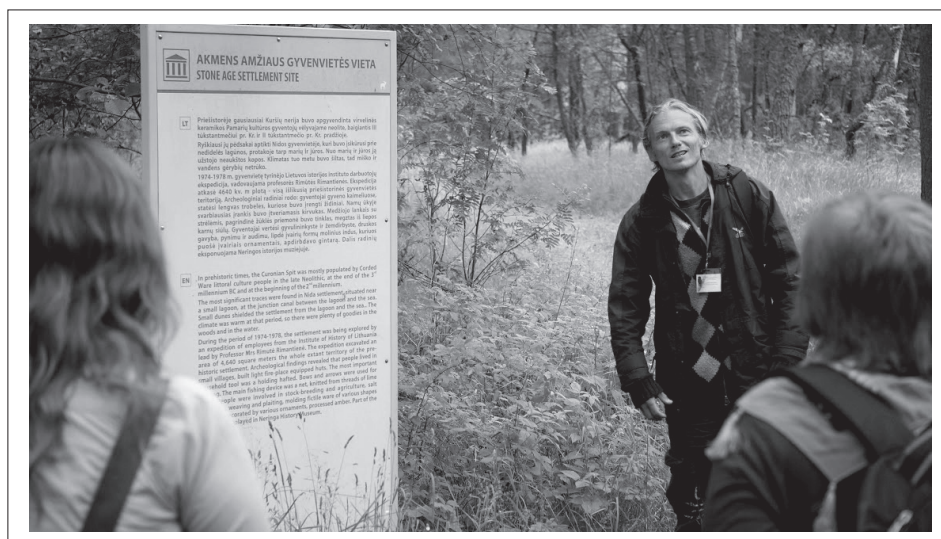


Fig. 1. Gytis Piličiauskas introduces Nida Stone Age settlement (photograph by Aivaras Motuzas).

Lithuania, shown by the material from the conference in Nida. In fact, the storage sites and composition of all collections in Lithuania held in museums and institutions in other countries were overviewed and made known (see: *Lietuvos archeologijos šaltiniai ...* 2011; *Die vor- und frühgeschichtlichen Funde aus Litauen ...* forthcoming; *Aestiorum Hereditas ...* volume 3, 2015, forthcoming).

To go back to the Nida conference, Volume 21-22 of *Archaeologia Baltica* contains papers given by participants in the conference ‘Horizons of Archival Archaeology’, and work by researchers who for one reason or another could not attend the conference but still submitted papers. The opening article in the volume is ‘Disc Brooches of Dollkeim-Kovrovo Culture. The Question of the Origin of Ornaments in the Southeast Baltic in the First Centuries AD’ by Olga Khomiakova. The author analyses the archaeological context of the brooches, their production techniques, and the morphological characteristics which relate them to brooches produced in Roman provinces. Ultimately, the brooches are characterised against the broader background of stylistically similar jewellery. The author refers to different archive sources, and to the analysis of surviving finds in the former collection of the Prussia-Museum.

In her paper ‘Connections between the Memelkultur Area and Dollkeim-Kovrovo Culture according to Data from Archaeological Archives’, Rasa Banytė-Rowell discusses relations between Dollkeim-Kovrovo culture in Sambia and Memelkultur on the Lithuanian coast and in the lower reaches of the Nemunas during the Roman period, with reference to Herbert Jankuhn, Marta Schmiedehelm and Kurt Voigtmann. In the discussion of the contacts, the author shows several characteristics of their cultural unity, such as necklaces of glass

beads and small bronze rings, finger-rings decorated with small nodular decoration and snake-head finger-rings, and Klaipėda-style brooches.

Ingrīda Līga Virse, in her paper ‘Roman Iron Age Archaeological Sites in the Micro-Region of the Lower Reaches of the River Šventoji. Archival Studies and other Investigations’, touches on a complex theme which is characterised slightly differently in the Latvian and Lithuanian historiographical traditions: small barrows from the Roman period in southwest Latvia. The micro-region of the lower reaches of the River Šventoji chosen by the author, the exploratory research carried out there in recent years, and the analysis of archive material, give us a deeper insight into the issue.

Norbert Goßler and Christoph Jahn, in their paper ‘The Resurrection of Linkuhnen (Rževskoe/Linkūnai): A New Perspective on a Roman Iron Age to Viking Age Cemetery in the Lower Memel Region’, deal with the material from the Linkuhnen burial ground (second to 12th centuries) in the lower reaches of the River Nemunas (Memel), made famous by short articles by Carl Engel, the principal researcher of the site, which, however, were never published. Since many of the finds and the documentation on the research were lost at the end of the Second World War, the Linkuhnen burial site has remained more a mystery than an object of archaeological research. The research by the authors, carried out on the basis of the surviving material from the Linkuhnen burial ground, and the documentation stored in the Prussia-Museum before the war, are clearly witness to burials taking place there without interruption, although with different intensity, for over 1,000 years.

In the paper ‘Non-Destructive Methods in Field Archaeology in Lithuania: The First Results of a



Figs. 2–4. Participants in the Nida Conference on 13 June 2014 (photographs by Aivaras Motuzas).

German-Lithuanian Cooperation Project', Sebastian Messal, Gintautas Zabiela, Audronė Bliujienė and Romas Jarockis present non-destructive research methods, which have lately become popular in Lithuania, and specifically magnetometric surveys, providing in many cases very interesting results. By means of a magnetometer, Taurapolis and Opstainiai (Vilkyškiai) hill-fort and the settlements at their feet, Jakai (Sudmantai) ring fortification and Ėgliškiai-Anduliai burial grounds were surveyed. In almost all the surveyed sites, different objects and structures were identified that enabled the researchers to make initial assumptions about the structure of the archaeological sites, their size, and even chronology.

Rasa Banytė-Rowell, Laurynas Kurila and Andra Simniškytė, in the paper 'Discoveries and Inspiration from Michał Brensztejn's Archaeological Inventory of the Kovno Gubernia' provide information on the work *Inwentarz archeologiczny gubernji kowieńskiej* (Archaeological Inventory of the Kovno Gubernia) by the Lithuanian-Polish cultural historian and amateur archaeologist Michał Eustachy Brensztejn (1874–1938), which he finished writing in 1907. However, it was not published, and the fate of the manuscript was unknown for a long time. In 2010 it was discovered in the funds of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw in Poland. It is intended to be published as a source on contemporary Lithuanian archaeology. Naturally, it will be supplemented by a scholarly commentary. The paper provides a short overview of Brensztejn's manuscript, and some preliminary insights.

Virginija Ostašenkoviienė, in her paper 'Fr Juozapas Žiogas: Archaeologist and Priest', discusses the activities of Fr Juozapas Žiogas (1868–1935), one of the most active amateur archaeologists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, his collection of archaeological articles, and the complicated fate of the collection, relating him to the activities of Fr Konstantinas Kuprys-Kuprevičius. Žiogas' archaeological collection (1,106 items) is currently stored in the Aušra Museum in Šiauliai, with most consisting of stone articles (three fifths of the total collection).

The Lithuanian part on archive archaeology ends with the paper by Donatas Butkus and Audronė Bliujienė 'The Mysterious Collection of Fr Konstantinas Kuprys-Kuprevičius', which presents Kuprys-Kuprevičius (1874–1947) as a passionate collector. The authors also seek to describe his mysterious collection, about which is little known. Nevertheless, they have managed to shed some light on the priest's personality and his collection, thanks to different archives and small pieces of information from the press. However, it should be noted that the fate of Fr Kuprys-

Kuprevičius' collection and its archaeological part has been unknown since 1947.

The paper by Elisabeth Anna Krüger 'Serving the Homeland: The Historical Society for the Province of Posen (Historische Gesellschaft für die Provinz Posen)' presents briefly the story of the historical society, sets it in its historical context, and presents its main aims.

As usual, archaeological conferences end with tours of archaeological sites. We toured some archaeological and cultural sites on the Curonian Spit with Dr Nijolė Strakauskaitė (see Figs. 1-3).

The second chapter of Volume 21-22 of *Archaeologia Baltica*, 'Research in Urban Archaeology', is represented by two papers: 'The Historical Waterfront Revetments of Rīga in the light of Dendrochronological Dating' by Māris Zunde, and 'The Earliest Maiolica Ceramic Dishes in the Old Town of Vilnius' by Miglė Urbonaitė-Ubė. As is stated by Māris Zunde, on the basis of dendrochronological dating, the wooden embankments on both sides of the River Daugava discovered in Rīga's Old Town date from the 15th to 17th centuries. Miglė Urbonaitė-Ubė discusses the first maiolica dishes from the late 16th and early 17th centuries found in the area of Vilnius' Old Town, their typical manufacturing and stylistic characteristics, and their production sites. The author also evaluates the meaning of their appearance in the daily life of the residents of Vilnius' Old Town.

Quite a few people have contributed to the compilation of Volume 21-22 of *Archaeologia Baltica*, and it would have never appeared without their kind assistance. My sincere thanks go to Akvilė Bliujūtė, Dr Agnė Čivilytė, Inga Sidrys, Dr Raymond Sidrys, Dr Ernestas Vasiliauskas and Dr Gintautas Zabiela.

Audronė Bliujienė

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