

17. FINAL PALAEOLITHIC IN POLAND AND SWEDEN (1991-1995)

Micha KOBUSIEWICZ*

In this report I will present a résumé of the results obtained by the research on Late Palaeolithic carried out in Poland and in Sweden during the first half of the current decade. "Late Palaeolithic" of this area refers to the development of culture in the period of time starting from the beginning of Bölling up to the first phase of Preboreal. First I will discuss the results of the field research, then, in few words, the scientific conferences and meetings dedicated to this problems, held in reported period. At the end, a bibliography will be given of works concerning the reported subject.

Here I would like to thank very much to my Polish colleagues and Mr. Lou Schmitt from Sweden for their considerable help in preparing this report.

FIELD WORKS

The sites will be reported by chronological and alphabetical order.

Poland

Mirkowice, Site 33, Voivodship Poznan

Excavated in 1994 by M. Chlodnicki. Rich concentration of flint artefacts made of local erratic Cretaceous flint. The presence of typical shouldered points, "Zinken" perforators, and other forms points toward Hamburgian culture. The preliminary palynological tests, as well as the flint tool typology permits us to place the site's occupation within the Bölling period. The site Mirkowice 33 is the eastern-most evidence of Hamburgian culture.

Siedlnica, Site 17, Voivodship Leszno

Excavated by J. Burdukiewicz in 1995. On a sandy-gravelly terrace. Fragments of a rich concentration of flint cores, tools and debitage. Also, a few stone-plates have been found. Concentration of charcoal, probably a hearth, provided samples for radiocarbon dating. Typologically Hamburgian culture dated to Bölling.

Kostkowice, Site 1

"Krucza Skala" Voivodship Czestochowa. Excavated by K. Cyrek in 1991-1992. In the rockshelter Krucza Skala, traces of two Late Palaeolithic settlements have been discovered. A flat surface paved by stones, several fireplaces,

* Zklad Archeologii Wielkopolski, Ul. Zwierzyniecka 20, 60814 Poznan, Pologne.

concentrations of animal bones (including reindeer antler) and a small concentration of flint artefacts were excavated. According to the typology of flint artefacts, this assemblage belongs to the Epi-Magdalenian Cultural Complex and should be dated to Bölling (older settlement phase) and Alleröd (younger settlement phase).

Kostkowice, Site 3

Kroczycka Cave, Voivodship Czestochowa. Excavated in 1993 by K. Cyrek. In front of the entrance of the cave, a scarce flint assemblage was excavated, typologically affiliated to the Epimagdalenian Cultural Complex. On the base of stratigraphy and typology it can be dated to the second half of the Alleröd or to the Dryas III.

Kostkowice, Site 4

Deszczowa Cave, Voivodship Czestochowa. Excavated by K. Cyrek in 1993-1995. In front to the entrance of the cave, a hearth surrounded by stones and containing a fair amount of animal bones and few flint artefacts was discovered. The typology points toward the second half of the Alleröd. The cultural affiliation is not clear.

Nowy Mlyn (Rydno), Voivodship Kielce.

Excavated by H. Królik and J. Tomaszewski in 1991-1994. Seven compact rich concentrations of flint artefacts made of local "chocolate" flint. Inside the concentrations, shallow "basin homes" were distinguished, filled by broken, burnt animal bones and abundant ochre colorant. Tool assemblages belong to the Arch Backed Point Technocomplex and should be dated to Alleröd.

Jaglisko, Site 3

Voivodship Gorzów Wielkopolski. Excavated by Z. Bagniewski in 1993. Rich concentration of flint artefacts. Inside the concentration, traces of a circular shaped dwelling object, ca 3 m in diameter, were discovered. On the basis of typology, the site is attributed to the Lyngby culture and is dated to Alleröd or beginning of Dryas III.

Bardo, Site 1, Voivodship Walbrzych

Excavated by T. Plonka in 1991. Fragment of larger concentration of artefacts made of local petrified flint and schist. Defined as Tanged Point Technocomplex and as such dated to Dryas III. This is one of very rare Final Palaeolithic sites found in the mountain region, this time in Central Sudeten.

Bokiny, Site 63, Voivodship Bialystok.

Excavated by E. Geysztor-Szymczak in 1994. Rich concentration of flint artefacts composed of numerous cores, tools and debitage. The presence of typical Swiderian points permits the attribution of this site to the Swiderian culture - the

eastern component of the Tanged Point Technocomplex - dated to Dryas III or the very beginning of the Preboreal.

Calowanie, Voivodship Warsaw

During 1991-1995 R. Schild, K. Tobolski and L. Kubiak-Martens continued archaeobiological research on the complex of Late Palaeolithic sites excavated here in the past. New sets of samples for palynological and macroremains analysis have been collected and geomorphological profiles were cut and studied. Numerous additional C-14 dating - traditional, as well as for Accelerated Mass Spectrometry (AMS) - are being processed. The examined assemblages belong to the Arch Backed Point Technocomplex and to the Tanged Point Technocomplex (Swiderian culture), dated to the Alleröd and Dryas III respectively.

Grodziszcze, Voivodship Wrocław

The excavations by J. Bronowicki in 1994 delivered a modest assemblage of flint artefacts, some of them made on jasper. Typological elements of Swiderian and Ahrensburgian character suggest it belongs to the Tanged Point Technocomplex and date it to Dryas III. The site is also a rare evidence of such type of assemblage out of the European Plain.

Kopiec, Site 4, Voivodship Tarnobrzeg

Flint workshop. Over a dozen concentrations of numerous cores and blanks, mainly blades, accompanied by characteristic tanged points of Swiderian and Ahrensburgian type. The Swiderian flint knappers exploited the neighboring outcrop of so called gray, white-dotted "swieciechów" flint. Typologically dated most probably to Dryas III.

Lajty, Voivodship Suwalki

Excavated in 1993-1994 by Z. Sulgostowska. A scarce flint assemblage excavated from a peat-bog. It belongs to the Tanged Point Technocomplex. On the basis of typology, dated to Dryas III.

Nowy Młyn (Rydno), Voivodship Kielce

Excavated by H. Królik and J. Tomaszewski in 1994. Small concentration of flint artefacts made of "chocolate" flint. By flint typology and technology, the assemblage is affiliated with the Tanged Point Technocomplex (Swiderian culture) and dated to Dryas III.

Strumiennie, Sites 1a na 1c, Voivodship Zielona Góra

Excavated by E. Przechrztka in 1993. Three concentrations of flint artifacts were found. Presence of Ahrensburgian tanged points indicate the affiliation of this site to the Tanged Point Technocomplex probably dated to Dryas III.

Tanowo, Site 3, Voivodship Szczecin

Excavated in 1994 by T. Galinski. In Trench XIII two separate flint concentrations have been discovered. The first one is composed only of cores, blades, flakes and debitage made of local erratic Cretaceous flint. Basing on the typology of cores and technology it can be connected to the Lyngby culture. The second concentration, made of Lower Oder Flint type has strong Ahrensburgian elements and as such also belongs to the Tanged Point Technocomplex, and should be dated to Dryas III.

Sweden

Ängkasen, Site 69A. Uddevalla area

Excavated in 1995 by C. Cullberg and H. Kindgren. Concentration of cores and blades accompanied by Ahrensburgian Points. Temporarily dated to Dryas III.

Mölleröd, Northern Scania

Examined by L. Larsson in 1991-1992. Scarce traces of three Late Palaeolithic cultures spread on the area of several thousands of square meters occur. Hamburgian - represented by "Zinken" perforators, Bromme and Ahrensburgian cultures, both represented by typical tanged points. The site was probably occupied repeatedly for short periods of time during the Final Pleistocene.

North of Finjasjö-Lake, Northern Scania.

Examined by L. Larsson. Scarce traces of an ephemeral settlement, which, judging from typical tanged points, belongs to the Bromme culture.

Nösund RAÄ-205, on Orust, Bohuslän.

Excavated in 1991-1992, by the Department of Archaeology at the University of Göteborg, and in 1993, by L. Schmitt and K. Svedhage. Three typologically significant concentrations of flint artefacts were discovered. All of them contain tanged points of different types, accompanied by numerous lanceolates, geometric microliths, microburins, and flake axes. Typologically, the site is attributed to the Hansbacka culture and, based on the geomorphological investigations of gravel beaches, dated to the break Dryas III/Preboreal.

Ringseröd, Site 16, on Orust, Bohuslän

Excavated in 1994 by B. Hernek and B. Nordquist. Assemblage of flint artefacts belonging to the Hansbaka culture. Typologically and geologically dated to the break Dryas III/ Preboreal.

Strätered in Kallered

Excavated in 1991 by O. Petterson, J. Streifert and Lou Schmitt. Three flint-knapping areas were excavated within 2 meters of each other, situated on an old

beach. They are composed only of cores and debitage. The Ahrensburgian tanged point was found at the same level at the distance of ca 500 m. The geomorphological analysis of the site permits placing it in Dryas III.

Vangamossen-Moor, Northern Scania

Excavated by L. Larsson in 1991. Concentration of flint artefacts containing typical tanged points of Bromme type and end-scrapers made of high quality flint imported from southwest Scania. The site is very close to the Bromme tradition and most probably was occupied in the Alleröd.

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

1. International Conference "Tanged Point Cultures in Europe". Lublin (Poland), September 1993. Participants from seven countries, including Eastern Europe. Over thirty contributions. Volume in preparation.

2. International Symposium, "Recent Research on the Stone and Early Bronze Ages in the Southeastern Subbalticum". Supra 1 (Poland), September 1994. Participants from five, mostly Eastern European countries. Circa thirty contributions. Volume in preparation.

3. International Conference "VII-th International Flint Symposium", Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski (Poland), September 1995. Over a hundred participants from many countries from four continents held over seventy papers. Pre-and post conference field excursions. A lot of problems concerning the Late Palaeolithic were discussed. Volume in preparation. Generally, the state of research concerning Late Palaeolithic in Poland and Sweden during last five years shows some signs of improvement. Although the number of excavated sites did not increase very much, but the value of the new discovered materials is often doubled owing to the attention paid by scholars to the archaeobiological data obtained from these sites. Many efforts focused also on the problems of precise chronology, always very crucial for understanding this period of prehistory. As important events, I should mention the discovery of sites affiliated to the Tanged Point Technocomplex beyond the Plain in the mountainous area of south-western Poland and the discovery of new Late Palaeolithic sites in southern Sweden. Here worthy to mention are recent studies concerning the chronology and place of the Hansbacka culture in the Pleistocene/Holocene transitional period. The number of scientific conferences and their large audience proves it to be of growing interest to scholars for Late Palaeolithic studies. Among the especially valuable scientific publications is the volume dedicated to human adaptation and environmental change at the end of the Pleistocene produced by the participants of an international conference held in Oxford in 1989 and edited by N. Barton, A.J. Roberts and D.A. Roe in 1991, containing papers concerning the region discussed in this report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BURTON N, ROBERTS A.J and ROE D.A. (eds.), 1991,
The Late Glacial in north-west Europe : Human adaptation and environmental change at the end of the Pleistocene. CBE Research Report 77. Oxford.
- CYREK K., 1994a,
Der jungpaläolithische Höhlenfundplatz Krucza Skala in Mittelpolen. Archäologische Korrespondenzblatt 42, H.4, p. 367-374.
- CYREK K., 1994b,
Wstępne wyniki badań wykopaliskowych w schronisku Krucza Skala (Kostkowice, st. 1, woj. częstochowskie). (Preliminary report on excavations carried in the abri Krucza Skala (Kostkowice, Site 1, voivodship Czstochowa). Łódzkie Sprawozdania Archeologiczne 1 : 1994, p. 5-15.
- KOBUSIEWICZ M and KABACINSKI J., 1992,
Late Palaeolithic site at Wojnowo, Zielona Góra voivodship. Fontes Archaeologici Posnanienses 37, p. 23-39.
- LARSSON L., 1993,
Neue Siedlungsfunde des Späteiszeit im südlichen Schweden, Archäologische Korrespondenzblatt 23, p. 275-283.
- PLONKA T., 1995,
Osadnictwo paleolityczne i mezolityczne pod grodziskiem wczesno redniowiecznym w Bardzie w Sudetach Środkowych (Paleolithic and Mesolithic settlement found under the Early mediaval wooden castle in Bardo, Central Sudeten), Acta Universitatis Vratislaviensis, N°1629. Studia Archeologiczne XXVI, Wrocław. p. 65-122.
- SCHMITT L., 1995,
The West Swedish Hansbacka : a maritime adaptation and seasonal expression of the North-Central European Ahrensbourgian? (in:) A. Fischer (ed.), Man and Sea in the Mesolithic-coastal settlement above and below sea level. Symposium held in Kalundborg, Denmark, 1993.
- SCHMITT L., 1995,
Pilspetsen fran istiden. Särtryck ur Bohuslän, p. 83- 86.
- SVEDHAGE K. and SCHMITT L., 1995,
The archaeological significance of the Risveden transgression at Nösund on the SW coast of Orust. Höskolan i Kristianstad Rapportserie. 1, p. 1-12.
- SZYMCZAK K., 1955,
Epoka kamienia Polski północno-wschodniej na tle rodnowouropejskim (Stone Age of north-eastern Poland and its central european background), Fundacja Historia Pro Futuro, Warszawa.