

FOREWORD

Dear readers of *Lithuanian Archaeology*,

This 45th volume of the journal represents something a little different, something new and exciting: both the editorial board and the content have changed. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the production of this journal and the members of its editorial board, new and old, for their work.

This number features eight scientific articles, five written in English in collaboration with foreign scientists. English is so prominent because, in seeking to better promote the scientific research of Lithuanian archaeologists abroad, the bulk of the texts in this number were written in English, as will the majority of future articles likely be. Nevertheless, in maintaining traditions and nurturing our native language, we will remember to also include Lithuanian texts. I am happy to see interdisciplinary co-operation prevail in the scientific articles; it shows the rapidly changing situation of Lithuanian archaeology.

In the first article, Vygandas Juodagalvis asserts that the investigation of the Trans-Nemunas region was prompted by a surge of people looking to make a profit on the hillforts through the discovery of artefacts, museums receiving only a fraction of the rarities. As a result of that 19th-century activity, today we can read this author's comprehensive work about features of the culture of the Trans-Nemunas region through the examination of its pottery. In the words of V. Juodagalvis, it was repayment of a debt for undeservedly forgotten artefacts. As it happens, the potters were not overly worried about the designs, but the process of decorating a pot was important, parts of a pot being specially prepared to receive the designs.

The topic of pottery decoration is continued in the article by Gytis Piličiauskas, Dalia Kisielienė, Giedrė Piličiauskienė, Lukas Gaižauskas, and Algirdas Kalinauskas, who discuss material from

only one settlement, Šventoji 43: a huge collection of early 4th millennium BC comb ware. This pottery group has so far not been recognised in Lithuanian archaeology, although, in the opinion of the authors, this material clearly shows the phase of its existence. The authors determined that vessels, decorated with locally uncharacteristic designs, began to be produced there due to close association with East Baltic hunters-gathers. Thus, and this is an important insight, not everything foreign is a consequence of migration. In the article, the somewhat been forgotten subject of linguistics, in the form of Finno-Ugric hydronyms, occupies an important place alongside other subjects, which are commonplace in archaeology.

Another topic, the investigation of the Šventoji 2/4 find spot, is connected with the lifestyle of Stone Age people on the Lithuanian coast. Gytis Piličiauskas, Giedrė Vaikutienė, Dalia Kisielienė, Giedrė Piličiauskienė, Kęstutis Peseckas, and Lukas Gaižauskas have proven through their research that this site, one of the most important Stone Age locations in the East Baltic region, was not a settlement but rather a fishing site where the initial processing of fish occurred. This location is special as it tells not about buildings and a settlement but rather about the fishing strategies of the last hunter-gathers and the first herders in the coastal region. It shows continuity through the survival of the economic and fishing traditions, even as the culture was changing drastically.

Unlike in the aforementioned articles, Christopher Troskosky, John White, and Lukas Gaižauskas present a theoretical model of the movement of the agricultural frontiers, the transfer, in space, of information essential for engaging in agriculture. The model explains how communities transitioned through punctuated changes under conditions

of heightened stress. The changes display critical behaviour without chaotic transitions of status. The application of the proposed model on a flexible scale in a period means that it can be applied in situations ranging from the Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, and many periods of the Iron Age to the present-day Information Age. Finally, the model helps to meaningfully compare the punctuated equilibrium points of social and technological development within these areas and between them.

Vytenis Podėnas and Agnė Čivilytė investigate Late Bronze Age metal production complexes in the Southeast Baltic region and raise questions about the significance of bronze production sites for European trading ties. The authors think that several settlements in a coastal strip were inhabited temporarily by communities who came from Scandinavia or Gotland and maintained trading and barter ties with local communities. The article questions the possibility of the existence of local metallurgists. In their place, they propose the hypothesis of itinerant metalcasters, who should be connected with Scandinavian settlements. This hypothesis also predicates a new type of Bronze Age communications and exchange: specialists who came and stayed briefly in local settlements.

Questions of metal artefact technology were raised in the article by Arvydas Malonaitis and Agnė Čivilytė who wrote about the repurposing of Iron Age single-bladed axes and hoes as a reflection of human behaviour. They boldly envisage the symbolic significance of objects when a woman links herself with a man and vice versa. This is very clearly shown by the axes with rotated blades discovered in male burials with weapons (spearheads). It likewise endorses the idea of the existence of crossdressers in Iron Age communities. The ideas set forth are the beginning of new insights into the broad interpretive possibilities of repurposed objects.

The article by Laurynas Kurila takes readers from the mundane everyday world to the area of

funeral rites. Based on historical written sources and archaeological material, the author presents Iron Age barrow cemeteries that have been converted into Late Medieval cemeteries. In his opinion, this is a consequence of Lithuania's Christianisation and reveals the opposition of the local inhabitants to the Church's demands, which forced them to look for more remote cemetery sites, some communities finding them in old pagan barrow cemeteries. Needing new burial sites, some communities probably created new cemeteries, while others, where the living space included old barrow cemeteries and where a memory of their ancestors' graves had been better maintained, began to resume burials in those. Perhaps the distinctive appearance of barrow cemeteries, which fits the concept of the transition to the afterlife as climbing a hill, also influenced those decisions.

The scientific article section ends with one by Felix Biermann, Christopher Hermann, Arkadiusz Koperkiewicz, and Edvinas Ubis, which presents archaeological data about the Warmia city of Alt Wartenburg (Barczewko) (near Olsztyn, NE Poland), wonderfully revealing not only scientifically but also graphically the consequences and nature of the Lithuanian army attack against the Teutonic Order. It likewise presents the historic context of the military conflict between the Teutonic Order and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the nature of the campaign as well as insights into the Lithuanian military tactics and weaponry.

Because we feel a journal like this should present more than just scientific research, we have created a separate section for exploring hot topics in archaeology, the things people are really talking about around the water fountain and when letting off steam. So feel free to open up and have a real, honest-to-goodness discussion! The first step was taken by Gintautas Zabiela, who speaks about the contribution of metal detectorists to the search for the archaeological heritage.

A second new section consists of insights into this science by people who are not archaeologists, but who feel connected with it in one way or another. The idea to publish their thoughts arose after it was noticed how individuals in various humanitarian and other scientific areas perceive our research and its meaning. I think this section's texts will inspire my colleagues to see archaeology differently and will increase the publication's readership. The first author in this section, Historian Artūras Vasiliauskas, writes "Paradoxically, A museum of archaeology is a place where you come very close to the horizon of understanding, unlike a researcher who, safely and rationally, stays on this side and unlike the ideological shaman who goes far beyond it, but right beside it. Archaeological artefacts reveal themselves but not in

a way of texts, the main staple of historians, but by the significance of their silence. "

The journal also includes a commemoration of special events. We are overjoyed to be able to print the speech given by Anthropologist Justina Kozakaitė, the latest recipient of a National Independence Grant, at the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on the occasion of the solemn anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian independence. Like her, we believe that our generation will never need to defend our homeland with weapons, but will instead contribute to its prosperity by performing that work, which pays the best and is dearest to our hearts.

Inspired by this publication's texts, I would like to express my gratitude to the authors and wish them success in their future endeavours!

*Agnė ČIVILYTĖ,
Editor-in-Chief*