

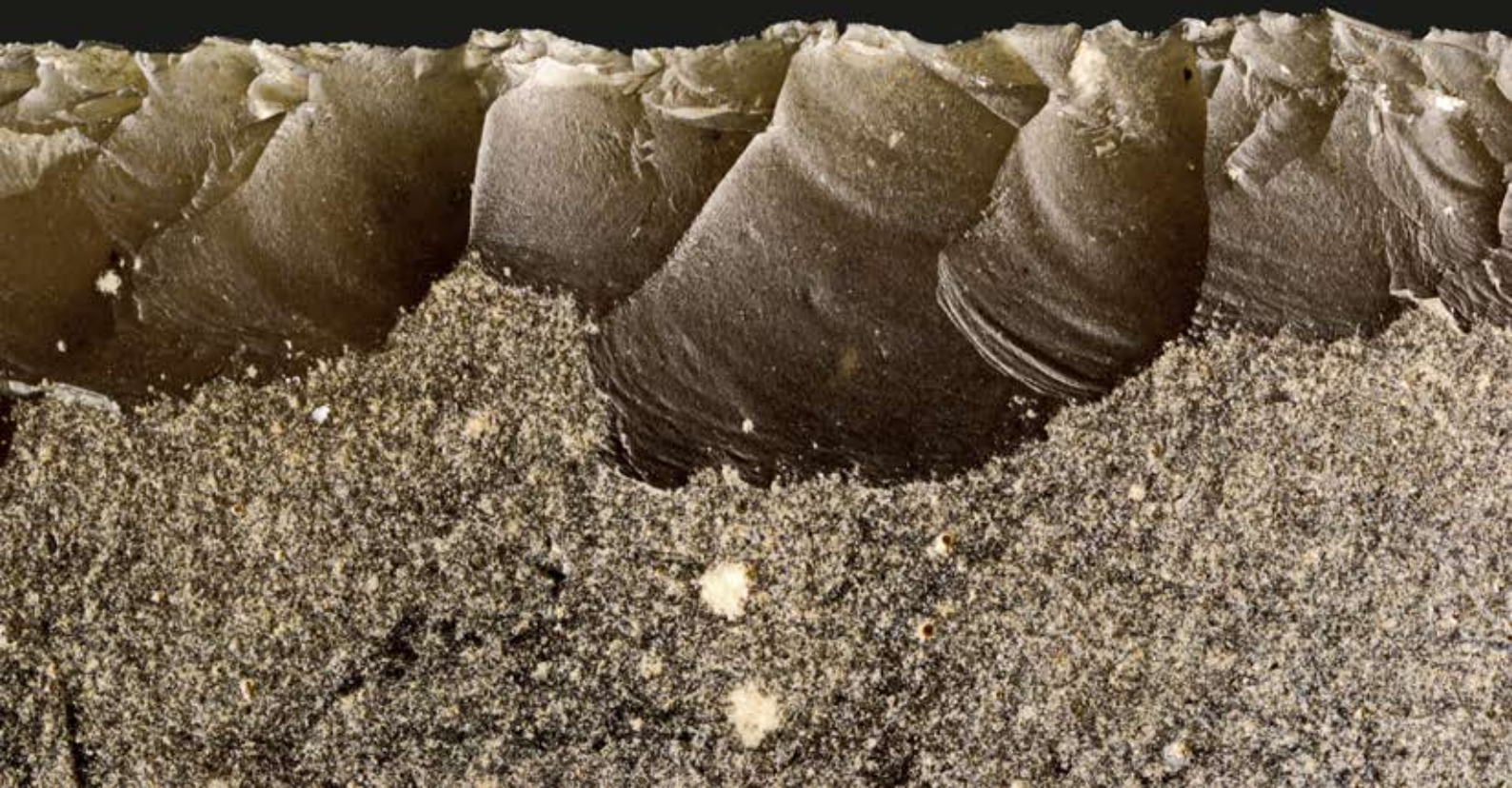
CROSSING THE BORDERS

Interregional and Cross-Cultural Interactions
in the Context of Lithic Studies

ABSTRACT BOOK

15th SKAM Lithic Workshop

17-19 October 2018 Minsk, Belarus



International conference
“Crossing the Borders. Interregional and Cross-Cultural Interactions
in the Context of Lithic Studies”
(15th SKAM Lithic Workshop)
17–19 October 2018, Minsk

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Flint knife from a burial at the Drazdy 12 site, Belarus (photo by Y. Girya)

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SKAM FLINTREADERS SOCIETY (STOWARZYSZENIE KRZEMIENIARSKIE SKAM)
INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
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IN THE CONTEXT OF LITHIC STUDIES**

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MINSK 2018

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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2018

- 9.00–10.00** **Registration**
Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
vulica Akademičnaja 1, 4th floor
- 10.00–10.40** **Workshop opening**
- 10.40–14.00** **Session 1**
The Lower Palaeolithic in Central Europe. Earliest evidences and the discussion about pseudo-artefacts
- 14.00–15.40** **Lunch break**
- 15.40–17.20** **Session 2**
Inter-group contacts in the Late Palaeolithic
- 17.40–19.00** **Poster session. Part 1**
- 19.30** **Welcome dinner**
Café 'Academy', vulica Akademičnaja 10

THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2018

- 10.00–14.00** **Session 3**
Borders in the Mesolithic? Interactions and cultural changes as seen from lithics
- 14.00–15.40** **Lunch break**
- 15.40–17.20** **Session 3. Continuation**
- 17.40–19.00** **Poster session. Part 2**

FRIDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2018

- 10.00–12.20** **Session 4**
Lithic technology in the Neolithic and beyond
- 12.40–14.00** **Session 5**
Siliceous rocks used by prehistoric communities: places of extraction, desirable kinds, methods of obtaining
- 14.00–15.40** **Lunch break**
- 15.40–17.20** **Session 6**
Different regions and cultures – different lithic tool-kits?
- 17.40–18.00** **Meeting summary**

How stone tool taphonomy can affect cultural attribution of Palaeolithic sites: a case study with Betovo

Kseniya Stepanova¹, Alexander Otchednoy¹, Leonid Vishnyatsky¹

¹Institute for the History of Material Culture, Russian Academy of Science, Saint Petersburg, Russia

The Betovo site is situated on the right bank of the Desna river, in its upper course (Bryansk region of Russia). The site was discovered and investigated by Lev M. Tarasov in 1972–1983. He identified the industry from Betovo as a variant of the Late Middle Palaeolithic characterized by the presence of some Upper Palaeolithic tool types, grinding slabs and bone implements.

Since 2009 Betovo has been studied by the Upper Desna Expedition from the Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The new evidence suggests that the single cultural layer described by Tarasov should rather be subdivided into three cultural horizons in different state of preservation. All horizons contain stone tools, faunal remains and natural pieces of flint damaged by various natural processes. These processes affected the artefacts as well, and there are grounds to believe that some of the Upper Palaeolithic types described by Tarasov, including burins, micro-scrapers and grinding slabs, are in fact pseudo artifacts.

Thus, from a technological and typological standpoint, the industries of Betovo can be interpreted as typically Middle Palaeolithic. However, the presence of a number of bifacial tools, including leaf-point fragments, may point to parallels with Szeletian technocomplex in Central Europe.

The painted pebbles of Mas d’Azil in the Dresden Collection: Provenience and non-destructive analyses of the colourant

Johann Friedrich Tolksdorf¹, Ingo Kraft², Gabriele Wagner²

¹Bavarian State Office for Monument Protection, Munich, Germany

²Archaeological State Heritage Office in Saxony, Dresden, Germany

The painted pebbles of the Mas d’Azil (Dep. Ariège, SW France) constitute a large yet enigmatic group of objects related to artistic/religious life of the Late Upper Palaeolithic. Unfortunately, the site has been excavated in the late 19th and early 20th century in several poorly documented campaigns and resulted in the split-up of the artefacts into an unknown number of collections and the production of forged pebbles. Against this backdrop, the well-documented and very early acquisition of a set of 31 pebbles directly from the first excavator Édouard Piette by the Royal Collection at Dresden in 1899 provides a rather authentic set for further non-destructive studies. This is supported by both the stylistic analyses of the motives and the microscopic assessment of sediments and micro-charcoals preserved in fissures as well as the traces of tools used for the painting did not contradict the authenticity.

While analyses of the colourants on selected pebbles by XRD proved difficult due to the background signal from the underlying minerals, further analyses by Raman spectroscopy provided evidence for a massive presence hematite. However, these techniques are rather incapable of tracing organic compounds and no signs of binders were documented.

Additionally, Visible Light Spectra (VIS) was used to record and compare the colour properties of the painted surfaces and the mineral background. The results show that producing an intense red and not a palette of colours and nuances was the main focus. Based