

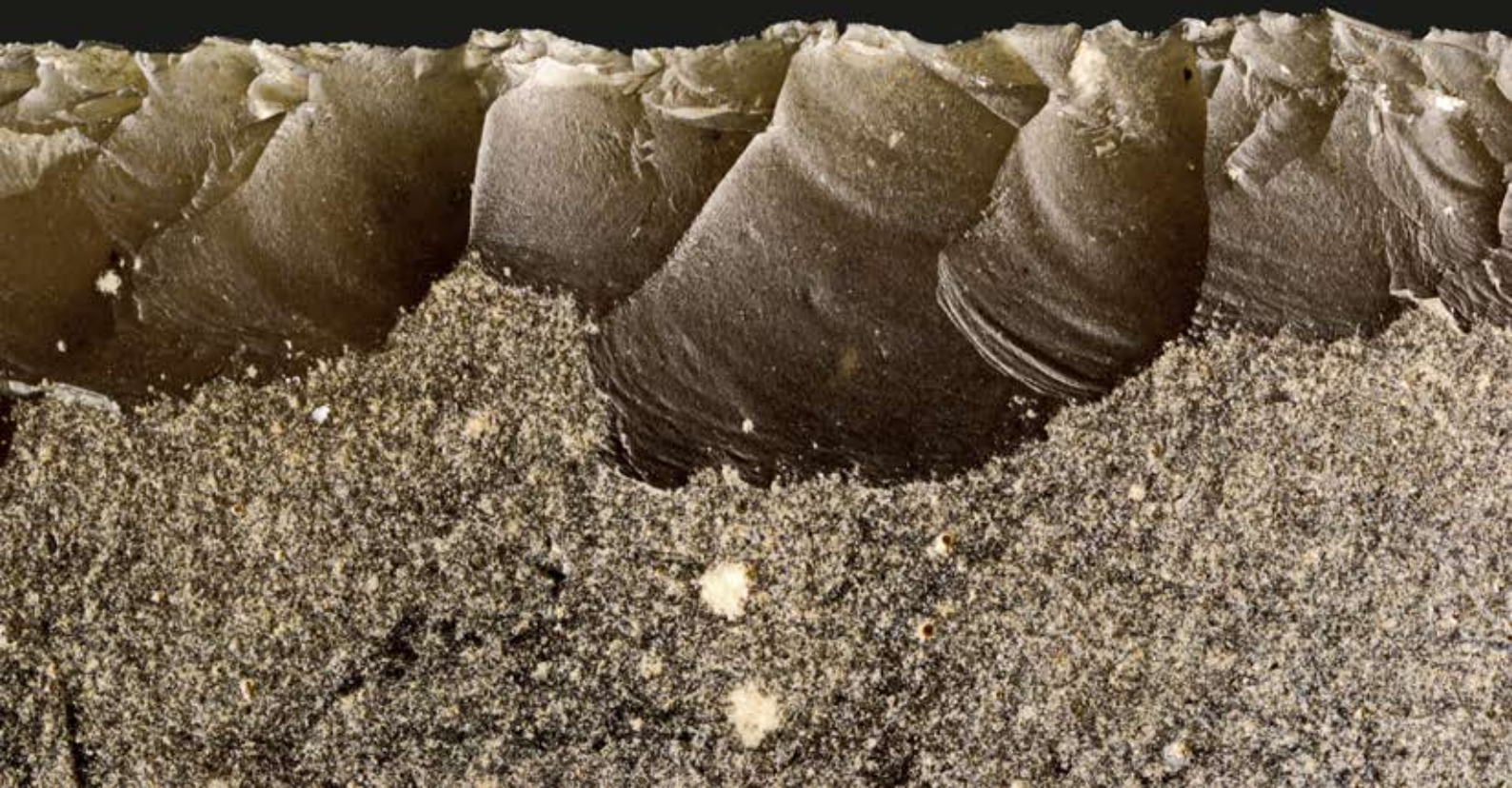
CROSSING THE BORDERS

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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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**

POSTER SESSION

Hand axes and bifacial artefacts of macro industry from the Kudaro I Cave (Georgia): morpho-typological and technological analysis, comparison with the Arago Cave (France)

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Since a very long time, the Caucasus is considered as one of the regions, characterized by the oldest prehistoric sites in the world. Situated at the crossroads of two cultural worlds – between Africa and Europe, – it presents a geographical area, which was very important for migration waves of the first human groups. The present work includes the resumption of studies of the lithic collections from the Kudaro I Lower Palaeolithic Cave (South Ossetia/Georgia). Actually, Kudaro I Cave, excavated in the 1960s, remains as one of the rare stratified and dated sites in the territory of the Caucasus region. For this reason, it presents its major archaeological importance.

Our research is focused only on the analysis of hand axes and bifacial tools from its lithic collection. This approach, never applied before to this assembly of lithic tools, brings to light a variability of technical gestures and hand axes shaping concepts, depending of exploited raw materials. The work shows the results of the morpho-typo- and technological study of hand axes, allowing us to better characterize the Acheulean period in the Caucasus region and to conduct a comparison of hand axes from other sites, dating from the same period, such as the Arago Cave (France).

Middle Palaeolithic flint artefacts from the territory of Belarus

*Aliaksandr Vashanau*¹, *Aliaksandr Kolasau*², *Vitali Asheichyk*³, *Maxim Charniauski*¹, *Aliaksandr Harshkou*⁴, *Kseniya Stepanova*⁵, *Alexander Otcherednoy*⁵

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The possibility of human presence at the territory of Belarus in the Middle Palaeolithic was mentioned in Belarusian archaeological literature repeatedly. To prove it, several lithic finds were referred to. Most of them are stray finds without reliable archaeological context. Our paper presents the results of re-examination of these finds and some other materials that has been revealed within old collections and could be considered as the Middle Palaeolithic ones.

There are two artefacts found in stratigraphic context. The first one comes from Kanstancin Palikarpovič's excavations at the Bierdyž site near Padlužža village (Čačersk district, Homiel region) in 1928. According to modern typological scheme of the Middle Palaeolithic materials, it is attributed as bifacial backed knife (Keilmesser). The tool was found in the strata of fluvio-glacial coarse sand underlying the thick layer of bones. (Поликарпович 1968, p. 21–22).

The second one is a fragment of bifacial tool found in Homieł (Kijeŭski spusk II site) during excavations at the city park on the high terrace of the Sozh River in 1997. According to Yury Abadenka who directed investigations the artifact was found 'at a depth of 2.5 meters from the surface, in the contact zone of two strata: cover sandy-loam and underlying red-brown moraine sand (Dnieper glaciation), which includes little cobblestones, gravels and the permafrost traces in its upper part' (Ободенко 1997, p. 26). A fragment of brachialis bone or shinbone of *Coelodonta antiquitatis* with traces of working is found at the same site in 2001 (Макушніков, Калечиц, 2001).

In 1929, a single convex side-scraper was found near Sviacilavičy village (Vietka district, Homieł region) by Piotr Čajkoŭski (Поликарпович 1937).

In 1960, an abruptly retouched side-scraper was found near Abidavičy village (Bychaŭ district, Mahilioŭ region) by Pobal and Bibikaŭ.

A single convex side-scraper is revealed in the collection of bone and antler artefacts found in a gravel-pit near Michnievičy village (Smarhoń district, Hrodna region). Most of the faunal remains came from sand and gravel deposits at a depth of over 13 m (Калиновский 1983, p. 37).

One more single convex side-scraper was found near Lahišyn village (Ivanava district, Brest region) by Uladzimir Isaenka in 1991 (Исаенко 1992).

An assemblage of probably the Middle Palaeolithic age was collected in a sandpit near Liavončjeva village (Dobruš district, Homieł region) by Abadenka and Izotaŭ in 2002. According to them, artifacts were collected at a depth of 2.5 meters from the surface 'in grey sand including cobblestones and pebbles' (Ободенко, Изотов 2011).

Thus, there are seven sites yielded Middle Palaeolithic artefacts at the territory of Belarus so far. In our opinion, this confidently says for the peopling of the territory Belarus at that time.

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