

THE GRAVETTIAN ALONG THE DANUBE



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DOLNOVĚSTONICKÉ STUDIE, SVAZEK 11
THE DOLNÍ VĚSTONICE STUDIES, VOL.11

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Editors Jiří A. Svoboda and Lenka Sedláčková

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- Department of Paleolithic and Paleoethnology, 69129 Dolní Věstonice

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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS:

James M. Adovasio, Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute, Mercyhurst College, Erie, Pennsylvania, USA; adovasio@mercyhurst.edu

Walpurga Antl, Natural History Museum Vienna, Vienna, Austria; walpurga.antl@nhm-wien.ac.at

Ilie Borziak, Institut d'Archéologie, Académie des Sciences, Kishinev, République de Moldavie

Freddy Damblon, Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgique

Monika Derndarsky, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Wien, Austria; monika_derndarsky@yahoo.com

Thomas Einwögerer, Prähistorische Kommission, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien, Austria; a9207628@unet.univie.ac.at

Florian Fladerer, Department of Palaeontology, Geozentrum, University of Vienna, Austria; florian.fladerer@univie.ac.at

Paul Haesaerts, Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgique; Paul.Haesaerts@naturalsciences.be

Vasile Chirica, Institut d'Archéologie de l'Académie de Roumanie, Iasi, Roumanie

Olaf Jöris, Forschungsbereich Altsteinzeit des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, Neuwied, Germany; joeris.monrepos@rz-online.de

Ľubomíra Kaminská, Archeologický ústav SAV, Výskumné pracovné stredisko, Košice, SK; kaminska@saske.sk

Larissa Koulakovska, Institut d'Archéologie, Kiev, Ukraine

Susanne C. Münzel, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte und Archäologie des Mittelalters, Arbeitsbereich Archäozoologie, Universität Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany; susanne.muenzel@uni-tuebingen.de

Margherita Mussi, Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Roma, Italia; Margherita.Mussi@uniroma1.it

Philip R. Nigst, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria; Philip.Nigst@gmx.net

Pierre Noiret, Université de Liège, Service de Préhistoire, Liège, Belgique; pnoiret@ulg.ac.be

Martin Novák, Archeologický ústav AV ČR, Brno - Dolní Věstonice, ČR; martin@iabrno.cz

Marcel Otte, Université de Liège, Service de Préhistoire, Liège, Belgique; prehist@ulg.ac.be

Tomasz Płonka; scryptom@rubikon.net.pl

Tina Salcher, Department of Palaeontology, Geozentrum, University of Vienna, Austria

Olga Soffer, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, USA; o-soffer@uiuc.edu

Jiří A. Svoboda, Archeologický ústav AV ČR, Brno - Dolní Věstonice, ČR; svoboda@iabrno.cz

Petr Škrdla, Archeologický ústav AV ČR, Brno, ČR; ps@iabrno.cz

Silvia Tomášková, Women's Studies and Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, USA; s.tomaskova@mindspring.com

Tsoni Tsonev, Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Sofia, Bulgaria; tsts1113@yahoo.com

Bernhard Weninger, Universität zu Köln, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Köln, Germany; b.weninger@uni-koeln.de

Andrzej Wiśniewski, Institute of Archaeology, Wrocław, Poland; awski@archo.uni.wroc.pl

Piotr Wojtal, Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Kraków, Poland; wojtal@isez.pan.krakow.pl

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INTRODUCTION

As a result of the 80 years-tradition of regional Upper Paleolithic research at the foot of the Pavlovské Hills, the friendly rural atmosphere, and local wine, Pavlov, Dolní Věstonice and Mikulov hosted several international workshops and meetings during the past decade. The last one in this series, the Gravettian along the Danube, has been organized on November 20.-21., 2002, by the Paleolithic and Paleoethnology Research Center of the Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Brno and Dolní Věstonice), in the castle kindly provided by the Regional Museum at Mikulov, and with the generous support by the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Foundation (Paris), the Council of American Overseas Research Institutes (Washington, D.C.), and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (New York).

The meeting at Mikulov was divided in two parts: the first one resuming the newly accumulated evidence concerning prehistory of the Danube river, a major European communication axis, about 30 - 20 thousands years ago. The contributions were ordered from the west to the east: south Germany, Austria, Moravia, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia and Bulgaria, including comparative overviews from Italy and northern Russia, and general synthetic papers as seen from the Belgian and American perspectives. The second part informed about the long-term and multifaceted project of processing and publishing the site of Pavlov, excavated by Bohuslav Klíma in 1952-1972, and still providing a wealth of materials to be analysed or re-analysed from several viewpoints.

This two-fold structure of the Mikulov meeting is also reflected in the publications. The volume now at hand covers the first part, starting with introductory overviews of the culture, the stratigraphy and the chronology, continuing to regional papers and new field discoveries, and concluding with a couple of general papers. Our next publication will be the third volume on Pavlov (Southeastern part, excavations 1954-1956) which will include the remaining presentations from Mikulov, accompanied by additional contributions, so as to complete the general picture of this part of the Pavlov site.

Besides the Institutions involved in the organisation – as mentioned above - we would like to thank personally to Dobromila Brichtová, director of the Regional Museum at Mikulov, Olga Špilar, acting for the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in Paris, and Marcela Koňáková from the Tourist Information Center at Mikulov. Without their help and contribution the meeting would probably not have taken place.

Jiří A. Svoboda and Lenka Sedláčková, editors



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1. **Paleolit Moravy a Slezska - Paleolithic of Moravia and Silesia.** By J. Svoboda, T. Czudek, P. Havlíček, V. Ložek, J. Macoun, A. Přichystal, H. Svobodová, and E. Vlček. 209 p. and 56 tab., with separate Site Register. Brno 1994.
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