

A B S T R A C T S
B O O K



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ABSTRACTS BOOK

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Rock-carving RAÄ 614 (detail) at Skee, Tanum, Bohuslän
Photo: Lasse Bengtsson

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LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENT ARCHAEOLOGY

ORGANISER: MATTSSON-HÖGLUND P. (GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN)

27

Session Abstract

This session contains a wide spectrum of landscape and settlement studies. The geographical spread of the participants is from the Mediterranean to Scandinavia, with eastern Europe especially strongly represented. Some papers dwell upon dualities and interaction, between rural and urban, graves and settlement. It is axiomatic that the prehistoric landscape is lost forever, but seldom to the extent that the Doggerland is lost under the North Sea. The cultural repercussions of this loss are discussed in our session. The shifting sands of a changing landscape sounds like a metaphor for landscape archaeology in general, but they are also the specific remains that are to be interpreted in one of the papers. The economical interaction with the landscape is another subject for study by some participants. All these differing approaches to the archaeology of landscape and settlement will contribute to a further understanding of humanity's interpretation of the landscape. Forever changed by her, forever changing her.

Date: Fri 25
Time: 900-1610
Building: B
Room: T307

PAPERS

Arzhantseva I. (Russia)

ALAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE 1ST MILLENIUM IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS:

HOW THEY ROSE AND EVOLVED

Date Fri 25
Time 900-
920

The Alan culture occupied the Central North Caucasian foothills in the early 11th century. The Alans are an Iranic-speaking tribal union, some of whom had close links to Central Asia. This union arose in the early centuries of our era and was for some thousand years the basic political union in the Caucasus.) Major caravan routes from India and China passed through Alan territory to the Black Sea and Mediterranean. Not just geographical and economic factors, but political ones – the control of caravan routes – determined the emergence of major settlements.

Our subject is a series of Alan settlements in this region, e.g. Zilgi in Northern Ossetia, rock towns in the Kislovodsk basin, and the major Alanian settlement of Kiafar, a real town, in Karachaeu-Circassia. These Settlements, monuments in themselves show the development of Alan history: Zilgi is from the 3rd and 4th century AD, the Kislovodsk settlements (Gornoe Ekho) belong to the 6th to 8th century, and Kiafar to the 9th to 11th centuries, the end of the Alan state.

Each of these sites controlled trade routes to Transcaucasia. Our main task is to define these sites and their functions, in relation to their chronology. We compare the site's structure (i.e. the fortification and internal spatial organisation), the architectural remains, the building techniques, occupation deposits and remains of material culture. As all these sites are in different situations in different landscapes, from plains to mountains, we have a unique way of studying natural and historical factors in the establishment and function of Alan settlements.

Chernykh E. (Russia)

THE PRIKAMYE SETTLEMENTS AND DWELLINGS OF THE 1ST MILLENIUM B.C. AS A
REFLECTION OF THE PRIMITIVE SOCIETIES' SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Date Fri 25
Time 925-
945

The archaeological research in the Prikamye settlements of the late Bronze to the early Iron Ages reveals the perspectives for the palaeo-social and palaeo-economic reconstruction of the late primitive societies. In the ethno-cultural history of the region it was a period of the large-scale levelling of different cultures. This levelling laid the foundation of the Ananyino community and determined the ways of further development for the Prikamye population and the population of Eastern Europe forest zone on the whole.

The integration of different groups into one cultural system was reflected in the social sphere and in the evolution of the social institutions. When analysing the settlements and dwellings on such extensive territory,



the following factors should be taken into consideration: the population density, the intensity and orientation of economic and cultural activity, the space and time characteristics, quantity and quality characteristics. Such an analysis provides a possibility of modelling social processes at different levels, from "the macro-process" (according to V. F. Ghening, that is a social-historical system of the Ananyin society) to the processes within smaller nuclear units (community and family).

Date Fri 25
Time 950-
1010

Lindgren A. (*Sweden*)

HILLFORTS AND SOCIAL IDENTITY: A SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEM

The Middle Swedish province of Sörmland has by far the largest number of hillforts in Sweden. The hillforts are traditionally dated to the migration period, although this remains a question for debate. Another issue regarding the hillforts has been their role in the Swedish state formation process, particularly their part in the semi-mythological unification between the svear and götar, which is said in historical sources to have taken place sometime during the latter half of the iron age.

This paper will concentrate on the hillforts in the Rekarne area (around the modern day city of Eskilstuna) in Sörmland. This area contains over 30 hillforts, several of which are situated in such a way that they can be interpreted as having guarded the Eskilstunaån river, an important waterway. The debate regarding those hillforts has largely been concerned with either the reconstruction of Iron Age military strategy, or with the question of who built and used the hillforts, and who they were constructed as defence against.

This paper is an attempt to apply a social psychological approach to the problem. Social psychology deals mainly with groups and group mechanisms, and the dialectical relationship between group and individual. Particularly interesting is the so called *symbolic interactionism*, a "school" within social psychology and sociology, which sees society as being constituted by an endless number of constantly ongoing interactions between individuals. In these interactions the structures and values of society are transferred, but also transformed. The symbolic interactionists regard the individual as a free agent, while at the same time acknowledging the role of groups and society in the formation of an individuals' identity.

Regarding the hillforts, they can be seen as instruments in an ongoing interaction between rival groups within the iron age society, groups with a common cultural code, but a code largely centred around conflict and a kind of society-wide paranoia. The symbolic interactionists regard conflict as a form of interaction and as such, it serves to keep groups and societies together by, on the one hand, providing groups with an enemy (real or imagined) to stick together against, and on the other hand, it brings rival groups together in an interaction, creating contact between groups who might otherwise have remained isolated from each other.

Date Fri 25
Time 1015-
1035

Menchelli S. & Pasquinucci M. (*Italy*)

VADA VOLATERRANA HARBOUR QUARTER

Vada Volaterrana was a port in Volterrae (Volterra), a relevant one in the harbour system of North Etruria. Part of the Vada Volaterrana harbour port is currently excavated in S. Gaetano di Vada. At present horrea, two thermae and a macellum have been dug. The site was inhabited since the late iron/archaic age. To this period belong huts (with posts, plasters, coarse pottery) later covered by a lagoon. This event can be referred to a phase of high sea level, probably followed by a relative draw down which caused the drying of the lagoon area. In the same spot the Roman quarter was planned and constructed at the end of the 1st cent. AD. The buildings were used up to the Late Antiquity. Artefacts found in the horrea document the import and export trade. In the VI cent. AD the drainage system is progressively abandoned; poor activities are exploited (metal smelting); ditches and pits are dug for waste disposal (cf. the Luni forum). Immediately later, a necropolis covers part of the site: the graves ("cappuccina", enchytrismos, stone slabs) cut the Roman walls and mark the shift to Medieval age.

Date Fri 25
Time 1110-
1130

Menchelli S. & Pasquinucci M. (*Italy*)

LANDSCAPE AND MATERIAL CULTURE IN NORTH COAST ETRURIA (AGER PISANUS AND
WESTERN VOLATERRANUS) FROM THE HELLENISTIC TO THE ROMAN PERIOD

The ancient landscapes in North Coastal Etruria can be interpreted on the ground of remarkable archaeological records found in excavations, surveys and wrecks. According to ancient authors (Plyny, Strabo, Livy) these territories had a profitable agrarian production, particularly wine and wheat. The vitality of the territory is confirmed by the surveys carried on in the low Arno Valley and along the coastal strip: a lot of farms dated