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Editorial IANSA 1/2019

A Year Rich in Archaeological Events

Ondřej Mlejnek

Since our last issue we have organized an editorial board meeting in Prague (Figure 1) which was also attended by the chair of the advisory board, Roderick Salisbury. The participants of the meeting discussed some strategic issues and changes to the IANSA Journal, which will be announced next year at the opportunity of the tenth anniversary of our journal.

Furthermore, we were delighted to discover that the next two years will be extremely rich period of archaeological events in the Czech Republic. The first of these is rather anthropological – the 6th International Anthropological Congress of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, which takes place from 3rd September to 5th September 2019. This congress will be held in Humpolec on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Aleš Hrdlička's birth. The tradition of International Anthropological Congresses of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička was established in 1958, and they are traditionally organized by the Czech Anthropological Society together with the municipality of the town of Humpolec. The main theme has, as yet, not been announced. Therefore all topics from the fields of biological and cultural anthropology, as well as other related fields, have been accepted for presentation.

Another event is the 62nd Annual Conference of the Hugo Obermaier Society, which is originally German, but now a rather international society with an interest in quaternary research. Thanks to the invitation of the Moravian Museum, this conference will be held in Brno from 14th to 18th April 2020. One of the reasons for this is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Karel Valoch, a Moravian archaeologist and long-term member of this society, who passed away six years ago.

But by far the biggest archaeological event of next year will be the 9th World Archaeological Congress, to be held in the Cubex Centrum in Prague from 5th to 10th July 2020. Calls for sessions for this congress have already been announced (the deadline is 15th October 2019) and you may find all the important information concerning this event on the official web page: wac-9.org. “We look forward to welcoming you

in the heart of Europe” is the official motto of this event and we really do look forward to meeting you at some of the presented conferences.

Concerning the contents of this issue, it starts with a paper presenting the use of high resolution X-ray computed tomography on archaeobotanical remains. Charlene Murphy *et al.* present the use of this modern technology for analyzing the domestication changes on the seeds of various plants (soya, lentil, horsegram). For the first time, a 3D-video presentation is published at the end of this paper in the digital version of the IANSA journal.

In the second article, Lenka Lisá *et al.* discuss the meaning of *lamellae* or bands at archaeological sites. At examples of two sites (the Upper Palaeolithic settlement at Sowin in Poland, and the Neolithic site Kly in Bohemia), they try to answer questions concerning the origin and interpretation of these features.

In the next paper, Markéta Končelová *et al.* examine the distribution of finds in different types of Neolithic archaeological features at the Bylany 4 site in central Bohemia. Based on the different structures of the fills of features, it is, according to the authors, evident that the structure of the horizontal or vertical distribution of findings in their fills can yield information about the creation of the finding assemblages. It also reflects the dynamics of the development of anthropogenic activities in the vicinity of the features.

The next paper by Kelly Reed *et al.* presents the archaeobotanical, zooarchaeological and pottery evidence regarding the issue of daily consumption patterns within the Roman rural villa at Lički Ribnik in Croatia. The finds, dated from the second half of the 2nd to the first half of the 3rd century AD, provide evidence of villa consumption in the Dalmatian region. Although the conclusions are based on very limited data, the study shows the importance of looking at the environmental evidence in conjunction with other archaeological material in order to explore the local diet and economy in the Roman period.



Figure 1. IANSa Editorial Board Meeting in Prague on 29th March 2019.

Finally the last paper by Zoreh Jozi *et al.* presents the results of the PIXE analysis of the silver coins minted by the Umayyad Caliphs of the Arabic Empire in 7th and 8th Century AD. The comparison of coins of the Umayyad era with those of the Sassanid period shows that the technology of extracting and minting silver in the Umayyad period did not differ from that in the Sassanid period.

The thematic review section is represented by a paper by Hana Brzobohatá *et al.* reviewing the issue of medieval infectious diseases, famines and sites of mass burials in the Czech lands. Special attention is paid to the recently excavated mass burials in Kutná Hora – Sedlec in central Bohemia dated back to the 14th Century. According to the authors they represent one of the largest set of medieval mass graves in Europe.

The book review written by Ondřej Mlejnek presents Petr Škrdla's monograph entitled "Moravia at the Onset of the Upper Palaeolithic". According to the reviewer, this publication should not be missing from the bookshelves of anyone interested in the central European Palaeolithic.

Finally, the Backstory section is represented by another paper from the "Look into the region" series. This time the Department of Archaeology at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové is presented by its head Richard Thér, who is also a member of the IANSa Editorial Board.

It is certainly possible to state that this general issue brings together a new series of papers diverse in their thematic, as well as geographic, point of view. We hope you will find here plenty of useful information for your scientific work.