

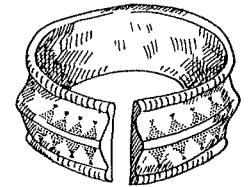
ARCHAEOLOGIA **BALTIICA**



Edited by
VYTAUTAS KAZAKEVIČIUS and RAYMOND SIDRYS

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RAYMOND SIDRYS



INSTITUTE OF LITHUANIAN HISTORY
VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

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Ilustracija viršelyje: III-IV a. krūtinės papuošalas, Bandužiai, Lietuva. Ažūrinis raštas sukuria dvejetainį matymą, nes galima įžiūrėti skirtingas konfigūracijas: x elementus arba kryželius. R. Vilkausko piešinys.

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Preface

Archaeologia Baltica is directed to archaeologists and historians interested in the archaeology of the Baltic region. It assumes a reading knowledge of German and English. During the five decades of Soviet occupation, there was little opportunity (or encouragement) in the Baltic States to publish archaeological material in foreign languages, other than in Russian. Hopefully, this volume will begin to fill that void.

In English, the few post-WWII publications which deal in whole or in part with Baltic archaeology, include *The Balts* (1963) and *Bronze Age Cultures in Eastern and Central Europe* (1965), by the late M. Gimbutas; *The Sudovians* (1962) by J. Antoniewicz; and a chapter on West Balts by K. Godłowski (1970: 42-56.). Much of this work is now dated. English-language treatment of Estonian archaeology is more recent, e.g., *Through Past Millennia* (1984) by J. Selirand and E. Tõnisson.

In German, a contemporary account of Baltic archaeology can be found in the catalogue, edited by E. Kiel, P. Linge, and G. Tromnau, of an exhibition jointly sponsored in 1993 by the Lithuanian National Museum and the Duisburg Museum of Culture and City History. More dated publications include an examination of the Baltic Neolithic by L. Kilian (1955), and a study of a late Iron Age grave field at Grobin-Seeburg by B. Nerman (1958). German-language publications dealing with Estonian archaeology include E. Tõnisson's study (1974) of 11th-13th century Livonian culture in the Gauja river basin, and the analysis of 13th century Baltic tribal socio-economic relations by H. Moora and H. Ligi (1970). Older publications that describe the Estonian Neolithic are by L. Jaanits (1965) and by R. Indreko (1948).

Most of the studies in this volume deal with the traditional pre-medieval culture-area of the ancient Balts. It is an area (evidenced by Baltic hydronyms) that includes the present Baltic-speaking republics of Latvia and Lithuania, and once encompassed the area now inhabited by Slavic-speaking peoples in the republic of Belarus; the north-east region of Poland; and the Kaliningrad, west Smolensk and south Pskov regions of Russia. An exception is the paper by V. Lang, who deals primarily with Iron Age cemeteries in the Balto-Finnic (i.e. non-Indo-European) culture-area of Estonia. Archaeological sites most frequently discussed in the volume are shown in Figure 1.

The content of *Archaeologia Baltica* is eclectic, reporting on new findings from settlement and cemetery sites. They range from the discovery by



Fig. 1. Map of eastern Baltic area showing principal archaeological sites discussed in this volume.

1 pav. Rytų Pabaltijo žemėlapis nurodantis pagrindinius archeologinius paminklus, paminėtus šioje knygoje.

R. Rimantienė of an Early Neolithic wooden leister at Šventoji — the best preserved such example in Europe — to the first archaeological evidence of female sacrifice in Lithuania, in the 5th-6th century burial of an elite warrior at Pagrybis, excavated by L. Vaitkunskienė.

M. Heltzer presents new data to re-examine a relatively old, and still controversial archaeological finding, made in 1900 at Šernai: the Bronze Age figurine of a Canaanite deity, manufactured in Syria-Palestine and probably brought to the Baltic area by traders involved in amber procurement.

Archaeologia Baltica represents a joint effort by prehistorians from all of the Baltic States, as well as a colleague from Israel, to present their work to English- and German-speaking colleagues. We hope that it will generate discussion and future archaeological collaboration, along the shores of the Baltic Sea.

The editors express their appreciation to the Lithuanian Open Society Fund for major financial support in publishing this volume, as well as to the Institute of Lithuanian History for supplementary funds. One of the co-editors (R.S.) is grateful for having received Fulbright support during 1992-94, which allowed him to participate as an editor of this volume.

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