The Archaeology of Lithuania and Western Norway: Status and Perspectives

LITHUANIAN INSTITUTE OF HISTORY VILNIUS, INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN, NORWAY

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mu bei tikslų supratimo lygy. Be to, tarpradinis bendradarbiavimas archeologinio žvalgymo, kasinėjimų ir analizės srityje buvo pripažintas labai reikšmingu tolimesniuose Lietuvos bei Norvegijos mokyliniuose tyrimuose. Ne mažiau svarbu ir tai, kad čia susipažino žmonės, tiriantis tuos pačius istorinius laikotarpius ir taikantys iš esmės tą pačią techniką bei metodus. Daugelis dalyvių ypač domėjosi kompiuterinės technologijos panaudojimu archeologijoje. Taigi konferencija sukūrė plačių asmeninių kontaktų tinklą, kuris padidins konstruktivaus bendradarbiavimo potencialą.


Šiame "Archeologinė Baltika" tome 12 Lietuvos ir 13 Norvegijos autorių atskirai 24 iš 29 konferencijoje skaitytų pranešimų. Straiptai labai skiriasi tyrėjų ir jų tyrimų profiliuma, tačiau turėtų suteikti skaitytųjų bendrąvą apie dėvėją sąlygą archeologinių tyrimų pasiekimą ir kryptį. Mes taip tikimės, kad ši knyga pateiks idejų, perspektyvų bei duomenų, praversiančių kitame archeologinių tyrimų kontekste.

Deviškai atkūrindų dalyvių kalbos pagrindų ir PC naudojimo buvo nelengva paruošti leidžiam konferencijos medžiaga. Šiuos problemas išspręsti padėjo M.A.Davidas Simpsonas, iš Bergeno universiteto ir kandidatė į filosofijos daktaro laipsnį Lisa Hodggets – Bergeno muziejaus studentė iš Durhamo universiteto (Didžioji Britanija).


Projekto paruošimas buvo nuo 1987 m. birželio vidurio iki liepos vidurio. Po jų bus įgyvendinama mokymo, analizės bei leidėjos programa, paremta Bergero ir Vilniaus mokylininkų pasiektimui.

Preface

This third volume of *Archaeologia Baltica* 3 is the product of a conference with participants from Bergen, Norway, and Lithuania held at the Lithuanian Institute of History in April 1996. The conference was a result of a longer period of contact which started in 1992, when Professor Dr. Philos. Dagfinn Moe, Department of Botany, University of Bergen, visited the University of Vilnius to present a series of lectures in the field of palynology. His visit was followed by a Vilnius-Bergen geology/palynology seminar at the University of Vilnius in October 1992. The seminar brought together Lithuanian and Norwegian researchers such that personal contacts were established, and soon after an agreement of intended cooperation was signed by the Deans of the two universities.

Professor Moe has devoted a large part of his own palynological research to interdisciplinary culture historical projects, and has, together with his colleagues at the Department of Botany in Bergen, contributed to the development of a strong tradition of cooperation between archaeologists, osteologists, geologists, and botanists at the University of Bergen. This cooperation has been especially successful in the context of survey and investigation of archaeological sites. Since many of the natural scientists in Vilnius expressed specific interest already in the early phase of communication with regard to learning about our methods and strategies as applied to interdisciplinary cultural historical projects, Professor Moe also initiated a link with archaeology by inviting Professor Dr. Philos. Svein Indrelid, Department of Archaeology, University of Bergen, to the seminar. Professor Indrelid is probably the most experienced archaeologist in Bergen when it comes to archaeological/interdisciplinary cooperation, and he is today in charge of coordinating interdisciplinary research projects at the Bergen Museum, the recently established branch at the University of Bergen which consists of the museum units of the departments of archaeology, art history, botany, ethnography, geology, and zoology (Indrelid’s article about the Bergen Museum in this volume provides detailed information as to how this institution is organized).

As a consequence of preliminary contacts made during the October seminar, Professor Indrelid visited Vilnius in the early spring 1993 for the purpose of inviting Lithuanian archaeologists to take part in a more fully developed cooperative program. His visit included meetings with archaeologists at the Lithuanian Institute of History, the National Museum of Lithuania and the University of Vilnius. All of these institutions responded positively to the perspective of cooperation with the University of Bergen, and it also became clear that many of the Lithuanian
archaeologists wished to explore the potentials of interdisciplinary oriented archaeology, especially within stone age projects. Representatives of the Department of Archaeology at the Lithuanian Institute of History, the institution which is formally responsible for the management of prehistoric monuments and which employs most of the field archaeologists in Lithuania, were specifically interested in developing stronger contacts. This led to a cooperative agreement between the Historical Museum, Department of Archaeology, University of Bergen and the Department of Archaeology at the Lithuanian Institute of History, formally approved in the summer 1993 and signed by the respective heads of departments Dr. Arthur Fasteland and Dr. Vytautas Kazakevičius. Professor Indreldis’ visit also resulted in a strong contact with the Archaeological Department at The National Museum of Lithuania. The National museum employs Dr. Vygandas Juodagalvis, who has up till now been the leading collaborating person on the Lithuanian side.

When the Bergen Museum was established in 1995 as the museum facility of the University of Bergen, and thus replacing the Historical Museum, the previous agreement with The Lithuanian Institute of History, Department of Archaeology, had to be re negotiated. A new cooperative agreement between the Lithuanian Institute of History and the Bergen Museum, in content similar to the previous one, was therefore signed by the museum directors, Dr. Håb. Antonas Tyla and Dr. Philos. Kåre Hejsjedal, at the Vilnius-Bergen Conference in April 1996. An additional separate agreement between the archaeological departments of the universities in Vilnius and Bergen was negotiated at the same time. This was formally dispatched in the autumn 1996 and signed by the institute leaders Professor Dr. Philos. Bergljot Solberg and Professor Dr. Håb. Mykolas Michelbertas in January 1997. As this preface is being written we are also in the process of fulfilling a cooperative agreement between The National Museum of Lithuania and Bergen Museum. These agreements serve to secure a formal basis for research cooperation between The University of Bergen and all the academic milieu in Vilnius occupied with archaeology and archaeological/natural scientific collaboration.

Since they began in 1992, the various forms of cooperation have resulted in a functional contact network both on the institutional and the personal levels. Representatives from the University of Bergen have visited Lithuania on several occasions, while Lithuanian researchers have had longer stays in Bergen and Western Norway for training and education in palynology and archaeological field methods. Material contributions from the University of Bergen to the Lithuanian institutions include computer equipment, laboratory and field technical facilities and natural scientific analyses such as radiocarbon dates. There has also been a rather intensive exchange of literature, both theses and journals. The contacts as first initiated by natural scientists oriented towards geology and botany, have since 1994 shifted over to involve primarily archaeologists and natural scientists occupied with culture historical research. A meeting of importance for this direction of the cooperation took place in Bergen in the autumn 1993, between the Lithuanian archaeologists Vygandas Juodagalvis and Džugas Brazaitis, who had participated in a stone age excavation outside Bergen, and two researchers employed at the Department of Archaeology, University of Bergen, Mag.Ant. Tore Bjergo and Mag. Ant. Asle Bruen Olsen. The group decided to take actions towards creating a more solid platform for future archaeological research cooperation. The initiative was approved by the University of Bergen, which funded travel to Lithuania for Bjergo and Bruen Olsen in the summer 1994. During two weeks the Norwegian representatives had the opportunity to become acquainted with most sides of Lithuanian archaeology through discussions with fellow archaeologists and by visits to archaeological sites around the country under the excellent guidance of Vygandas Juodagalvis. Future cooperation projects and goals were discussed in concluding meetings with the staffs of the archaeological departments at the Lithuanian Institute of History and the National Museum. It was agreed that the first step in activating a constructive research cooperation process would be to work toward an archaeological/interdisciplinary Vilnius-Bergen conference in Vilnius focusing on general exchange of information about the archaeologies of the two countries. It was also decided that such a conference should be conducted as a co-project within the framework of the agreement between the Lithuanian Institute of History and the Bergen Museum (at that time Historical Museum) and with the Institute as the host institution. In addition the Norwegian representatives accepted a generous invitation from The National Museum to set up in Bergen the Lithuanian culture historical exhibition Archeologische Schätze aus Litauen, previously shown in Duisburg, Germany (1993) and Warsaw, Poland (1994).

Since the exhibition was packed and ready for transport the planning of this project was given priority during the winter 1994/95, but unfortunately it had to be cancelled due to financial problems. However, we still hope that it will be possible present a similar exhibit in Bergen at a later stage. The failure of the exhibition project made us very determined to succeed in making a reality of the even more important Vilnius-Bergen conference. The preparations began in autumn 1995 with an organizing committee lead by Dr. Gintautas Zabiela, now head of the Department of Archaeology at the Lithuanian Institute of History. The other members of the committee were Vygandas Juodagalvis and the Bergen representatives Svein Indreldis and Asle Bruen Olsen. Economic support was secured and the formalities finalized by the end of 1995. Indreldis and Bruen Olsen then went to Vilnius in January 1996 for the purpose of preparing a program for a conference in April 1996. Here the committee had several meetings which also included the assistant director of the Lithuanian Institute of History, Dr. Arturas Mickevičius, who as a leading representative played a key role in solving logistic and practical problems in connection with the arrangement. In formulating the content and direction of a conference at this early stage of research cooperation, the committee had to consider the need for communicating even the most elementary information about two quite different traditions and institutional structures of archaeological research and education. It was therefore decided to provide the conference with an open profile, placing emphasis partly on the formally approved common priority of interdisciplinary methods applied in archaeology, partly on general culture historical surveys and methodological aspects, as well as allowing for the presentation of recent or ongoing important archaeological projects/case studies. It was also agreed to incorporate an exchange of information regarding the organization of the institutions dealing with archaeological research and education. It was therefore decided that a conference should be open for Lithuanian contributors and spectators, and, for practical reasons, that the
Norwegian participation should be limited to researchers representing Bergen Museum. Because of the general profile of the conference it was given the title *The Archaeology of Lithuania and Western Norway: Status and Perspectives*.

Following the announcement of the conference many researchers responded positively, expressing interest in presenting papers related to the above mentioned topics. These included 15 researchers from the Bergen Museum and 14 Lithuanian researchers representing a variety of institutions. In early March 1996 the host institution presented a conference program containing abstracts of the presentations and a schedule extending over 5 days - 3 days of lectures and discussions and 2 days of excursions and individual meetings.

The conference took place at the Lithuanian Institute of History in Vilnius in the period April 13-19 1996. The arrangement was well structured and the papers were submitted according to the program with only some minor changes. An audience of approximately 50 persons was present at all sessions. In spite of the differences in language, background and research traditions the discussions revealed a surprisingly high degree of mutual understanding of current problems and goals in the archaeology of the two countries. Furthermore, interdisciplinary collaboration in the contexts of survey, excavation and analysis was recognized as important for future Lithuanian/Norwegian research cooperation. Last, but not least, the conference successfully brought together individuals working within the same prehistoric periods or occupied with principally similar techniques and methods (the use of computer technology in archaeology was addressed with specific interest by many of the participants). The conference thus created an extended personal contact network which serves to increase the potential for constructive research cooperation.

The Bergen delegation of 20 persons was well cared for during the whole conference. The group highly valued the opportunity to learn about the history of Lithuania through the excursions in Vilnius and its surroundings. The Department of Archaeology at the University of Vilnius contributed to the conference by leading the program of excursions outside Vilnius. The university representatives Dr. Albinas Kunčevičius and Dr. Aleksejus Luchtašius were appreciated for their excellent tours of Trakai and Kernave.

In this volume of *Archaeologiae Baltica* 3, 12 Lithuanian and 13 Norwegian authors present 24 of the 29 papers submitted at the conference. The articles range widely in time and topics, but should give the reader a general impression of the status and directions of archaeological research in the two regions. We also hope that this book will contribute with some new ideas, perspectives and data which can be made useful in other contexts of archaeological research.

Because of the participants' totally different backgrounds in language and in the use of PCs, it has not been an easy task to complete the publication of the conference papers. These problems were solved due to the great efforts of MA David Simpson, Bergen Museum, who has been responsible for the language editing of the publication, and who was well assisted by Ph.D. candidate Lisa Hodgetts, presently a guest student at the Bergen Museum representing the University of Durham, U.K.

The conference not only extended the contact network, but it also initiated the process of planning a joint excavation project in Lithuania as the next step in the cooperation process. A joint excavation project was considered to represent a necessary point of departure for the further development of the interdisciplinary research profile agreed upon as an important cooperation priority. For this purpose the previously intensively investigated and well known stone age settlement area in Šventoji was selected. These late stone age hunter-gatherer settlements located at the shore of a prehistoric lagoon close to the Baltic sea are characterized by extremely good conditions for the preservation of organic remains. This makes Šventoji an ideal context for an investigation in which Lithuanian researchers can learn from the experience of the Bergen Museum on the use of combined archaeological, osteological and botanical methods and strategies in prehistoric excavations. Since earlier excavations in Šventoji have not been based on systematic interdisciplinary investigations, we also expect that this project will generate new and important information about the economic and socio-cultural development among the late stone age hunter-gatherers in the region. The
planning of the project is presently being finalized. The excavation is scheduled for the period mid-June to mid-July 1997, and will be followed by a program of training, analysis and publication based on an exchange of researchers between Bergen and Vilnius.

It is our hope that the archaeological milieu in Vilnius and Bergen will continue to cooperate in the years to come. For the Bergen archaeologists it is both an inspiration and a challenge to contribute to the further development of Lithuanian archaeology. Most important are the mutual benefits achieved from such a cooperation, especially in that it forces the researchers on both sides to extend their horizons beyond their local research perspectives. In learning from each other’s differences in this context of close cooperation we are also in a better position to find constructive approaches to the study of the prehistory in our "own" regions. Furthermore, considering the political situation in Europe today it is more urgent than ever to strengthen the ties of scientific cooperation between East and West, specifically within the human sciences. A process of rapid East-West integration of humanistic research will undoubtedly contribute positively to the democratic development in Eastern Europe.

Although the publication of the conference proceedings reflects rather contrasting archaeologies at this stage, it should be seen first of all as a document of the willingness and ability to cooperate. What we have successfully achieved so far is due primarily to the idealistic work of the Lithuanian archaeologists Dr. Vytautas Kazakevičius, Dr. Vygaandas Jucigaalvis and Dr. Gintautas Zabiela. On behalf of the University of Bergen I thank these especially for their contributions to the arrangement of the conference as well as to the fulfilment of other tasks related to the cooperative programs. Furthermore, the whole staff of the Department of Archaeology at the Lithuanian Institute of History has to be thanked for its efforts invested in making the conference a pleasant experience for the Bergen delegation. Finally, we thank the Lithuanian Archaeological Society, with its chairman Dr. Albinas Kuncevičius, for the warm reception given on our arrival in Vilnius.

Bergen, Norway 30.03.97
Asle Bruun Olsen
Bergen coordinator of the Lithuania-Bergen cooperation agreements

II. Institutions

Norwegian archaeology – past and present

SVEIN INGRELID

Although the distance between Lithuania and Norway is not really large – less than 650 km at the shortest – the two countries are in several ways very different. Lithuania is a low country, a land of flat plains and rolling hills, while Norway is a mountainous country. About 80% of Norway is taken up by mountains and forests. Less than 3% is agricultural land, while – according the statistics I have consulted – 49% of Lithuania is cultivated fields, and another 22% meadows and pasture land. The land area of Norway is about 5 times larger than that of Lithuania, but the population is about the same, 4.3 million in Norway, and 3.7 million in Lithuania. This gives an average of 57 persons pr km² in Lithuania, while Norway has the lowest population density in Europe, with only 13 persons pr km².

The physical factors of nature strongly influence man’s adaptation to his environment. Human response to the environment varies over distance and with changes in the environment. Different adaptive patterns can be expected to occur within diverse environments. Topographic and climatic factors may limit human settlement and exploitation and serve to define the area used by a specific band of hunter-gatherers (Price 1980:223). Information from Australia indicates that tribal boundaries are based on visible and rational physiographic features such as river systems, watersheds, shifts in topography, and changes in floral complexes (Birdsell 1971:334). Information from other ethnographically-known areas of the world indicates that the same pattern is consistent (Price 1980:223).

How man adapts to diverse and changing environment will to some extent also influence the technological, social, economic and political factors – in short human culture. Therefore I find it pertinent to give a short presentation of the country of Norway, with special emphasis on natural conditions and geographic setting.

* * *

The mainland of Norway is long and narrow, stretching across 14 degrees of latitude, from less than 58° in the south, to more than 71° in the north. About