

## PREFACE

This work was defended under the title “Počátky neolitu ve střední Evropě ve světle zkoumání štípané industrie raně zemědělských společností (LnK) na Moravě a v Dolním Rakousku: 5700–4900 př. n. l.” (*The beginnings of the Neolithic in Central Europe in the light of research into the chipped stone industry of early farming (LBK) communities in Moravia and Lower Austria, 5700-4900 BC*), but in the Czech language, as a doctoral thesis in the Institute of Archaeology and Museology at the Faculty of Arts of the Masaryk University in Brno in September 2002. The main supervisor of the work was Prof. PhDr. Vladimír Podborský, DrSc., the examiners were PhDr. Martin Oliva, Ph.D. (Anthropos Institute of the Moravian Museum in Brno), Prof. RNDr. Antonín Přichystal, CSc. (Institute of Geology at the Faculty of Science of the Masaryk University in Brno) and Prof. Dr. hab. Jacek Lech (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw). The work was finished on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002.

During the preparation of the dissertation for print, I added the references which in the original manuscript were cited as being in press or denoted as “personal communications” and have since been published. Over time, some C-14 dates were obtained from several sites. These were subsequently added to the publication.

The basic data presented in this work are founded on the study of LBK chipped stone artefacts from Moravia (CZ) and Lower Austria. Insufficient dating of many sites considerably complicated the selection of material to be studied. In addition, for solving the problems concerning the beginnings of the Neolithic period in central Europe, a comparison with the chipped stone industry from adjacent regions and chronological periods was inevitable.

The work uses the central European chronological system (Podborský *et al.* 1993) and the periodisation of the LBK culture after Rudolf Tichý (1962).

Unlike the version defended, chapters 10 and 11, devoted to methodology and the classification of chipped stone industry, are here included at the end of the book as APPENDIX. Chapter 10 also contains a basic glossary and the classification key. The results of the analyses on chipped stone artefacts from particular chapters are summed up in chapter 11. They are arranged into tables according to selected parameters, in order to make them compatible with all rational classification systems of chipped stone industry and to enable interested persons to find the information needed. With respect to the work's topic and extent, not all the analytic results were utilized in a comprehensive way.

The introductory chapters 1 to 4 deal with the problems of studying chipped stone and with the beginnings of the Neolithic in central Europe. They are followed by chapter 5, acquainting the readers with basic kinds of stone raw materials utilized during the Neolithic in central Europe. I appended a chapter with microscope photos of stone raw materials, a method which was often helpful in cases in which the macroscopic determination was insufficient.

Chapter 6 summarises the principal knowledge and interpretations to be gained from the actual study of chipped stone industry. The chapter is divided into three parts. The first is devoted to stone raw materials used for artefact production, the second deals with the technology of blade production and the third with tool typology. All parts are also subdivided chronologically by comparing LBK material with what is known from the Mesolithic and from the following Neolithic periods. In chapter 7 the questions concerning raw material distribution and the factors influencing it are addressed. Distributions of particular kinds of raw material are treated in separate subchapters. The information is supplemented with maps included on the DVD provided. A set of colour maps summarising raw material distribution in the

regions under investigation was also created for this publication.

The most important conclusions of the entire work are summarised in chapter 8. An interpretation of the neolithisation process in central Europe, which takes place above all on a social and psychological basis, is also presented here. Chapter 9 contains a brief comparison between the stated aims and the results achieved.

Whether the publication served its purpose and contributed to understanding the beginnings of the Neolithic period in central Europe, and whether I was able to "...rehabilitate chipped stone industry as one of the most important sources of knowledge, not only of prehistoric technology, but also of past society and its cosmological aspects" (Oliva 2002), the reader must judge for himself.