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Zofia Sulgostowska

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Reviewed by Zofia Sulgostowska

The Upper Jurassic flint outcrop territories on the southern uplands of Poland have been intensively investigated during the last thirty years by archaeologists from the Jagiellonian University of Kraków (Cracow) and Kraków Archaeological Museum with the participation of the author.

The Brzoskwinia-Krzemionki workshop complex, with sites covering several hundred square metres is situated not more than 300 m from the outcrops, which were exploited by digging shallow pits. On site 7 the rescue excavations carried out in the seventies covered only part of the complex (385 sq. m) revealing two concentrations of flint material (6–8 m in diameter) separated by a distance of 12 m. The artefacts under consideration were found in the filling of ice wedges which were formed during the Bølling and the Allerød. The Brzoskwinia site is assumed to have been used about 12,800 to 12,000 BP.

The inventory of more than 40,000 finds belonging to the Magdalenian technocomplex are presented according to dynamic technological classification in several phases: starting from raw material procurement, through blades to tools. The author used as comparative material the inventory from the Magdalenian workshop at Wołowice II/73, where 6 extraction pits not deeper than 1.70 m were revealed. They were ¹⁴C dated to 10,920 ± 200 BP.

Both site inventories are presented and compared in a clear and exhaustive way in 49 tables containing data about: quantity and percentage of artefacts from all phases of nodules processing up to the stage of tools. In the tables and 9 figures the dimensions, shapes, proportions of analysed groups of artefacts are presented also. The Student's t-test was used to compare the blades from workshops with a small number of Magdalenian sites from Poland (Rydno II/59 and Maszycka Cave). The "common" and "expedient" tools are rare as a rule on workshop sites but the problem of "pseudo-tools" made as an effect of post-depositional processes is discussed.

As a result of different frequencies in analysed phases of nodules processing the diverse character of both sites was established. Wołowice was a workshop located directly at the extraction point and Brzoskwinia in the vicinity of the quarry with two concentrations connected with a different specialization: core and blade production.

I regret that only a small part of the work is connected with the subject of distribution of the blanks processed in the workshops. This seems a stimulating question because the homogeneous structure of raw materials (only 0.33% was imported from a range of up to 200 km to the south, north and west) shows the local importance of the Brzoskwinia workshops. The future investigation in the Kraków region suggested by the author will probably solve the problem.

The work contains 29 plates of drawings at almost full size of artefacts mainly from the Brzoskwinia site and several from Wołowice illustrating phases of nodule reduction from pre-cores to tools.

The mineralogical, petrographical and geochemical analysis of 6 flint nodules taken from limestone is published as a separate chapter prepared by Maciej Pawlikowski. The results corroborated existence of two types of flint which is not reflected in the macroscopic diversity of colours.

The presented book extends our knowledge about the technology of extraction and processing of Upper Jurassic flint by the Late Palaeolithic Magdalenian group, sites of which are not abundant on Polish territory. The important and exhaustive source material publication which has thus been prepared, will be useful for years. It is a continuation of Polish prehistoric studies on the occurrence, exploitation and processing of flint resources which was started seventy years ago by Stefan Krukowski.