



Prehistory

MARTIN OLIVA

ACHEULIAN FINDS FROM KAROLÍN, DISTRICT OF KROMĚŘÍŽ (CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

Some time ago I announced on the pages of *Archeologické rozhledy* (Oliva 1979) the find of a hand-axe from the recently discovered Late-Aurignacian site Karolín I. (A surface site discovered by K. Valoch, V. Gebauer and the author in October 1977.)

At that time it was a solitary find, contradicting the typological context of the locality. Since then we have been lucky to find some more artifacts, some of them showing traces of definite, others at least of probable relationship with the first find. First of all we must mention here a further hand-axe found by Zdeněk Smrž, a private collector from Otaslavice, discovering the locality a year later, independently of us, and offering his find for publication. I use therefore the occasion for presenting all the hitherto finds of Acheulenoid character from the Karolín locality.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTIFACTS:

1. *Fig. 1:* A flat hand-axe a (limande after of D. de Sonneville-Bordes), made of chocolate-brown gray-green marbled radiolarite of the same kind that can be found on the Chmelová Hill near Vršatské Podhradie in western Slovakia, i. e. some 55 km from the locality (Information by J. Bárta and B. Klíma). The specimen has been worked with continuous flat surface retouch on both sides, indicating the use of soft hammerstone. Further we can see traces of the application of marginal retouch, especially dorsally, and there are also well perceptible macroscopic traces of use, namely distally. Proximally the original surface of the radiolarite has been preserved, determining the unusual thinness of the tool (max. 24 mm), whose max. length is 152 mm, width 97 mm and it weighs 400 grammes. The spe-

cimen does not show any traces of patination or eolization. There are several pellets of deposited Fe on its concave surface. It was found by M. Oliva 1977.

2. *Fig. 2:* A flat hand-axe, slightly damaged proximally, on the left margin, as indicated by the evidently fresh character of the fracture surface. The concave distal part was obviously secondarily reshaped (in the Late-Aurignacian ?), since its surface, practically oriented in the same direction, lacks even the slightest traces of patina, in contrast to the rest of the surface. The bifacial surface retouch of the specimen has — especially ventrally — a rather flat and continuous character. The dorsal marginal retouch of patination. In the marginal trimming we piece and the base is also somewhat stronger. The ventral side has strong yellow-grayish patination and is slightly eolized. Dorsally there is only a slight touch of patination. In the marginal trimming we can see traces of sinter. As raw material gray-greenish homogenous radiolarite was used, max. dimensions: length 124 mm, width 97 mm, thickness 33 mm. Found by Z. Smrž 1978.

3. — not pictured: this is a very similar biface with its dorsal surface split-off by frost. The natural surface of the pebble has been partly preserved, with a small retouched margin. Raw material: finely grained hornstone breccia of ambiguous origin¹ by K. Valoch, V. Gebauer 1979.

4. *Fig. 3:1:* A massive short biface with surface retouch on both sides with heavy marginal traces of use, especially dorsally on the right side. The base has been shattered from the ventral side

¹ I am grateful to RNDr. A. Přichystal, from the Brno Geological Institute, for his help in identifying the raw materials.

by a large number of violent shocks.² Flint with ventrally continuous, dorsally spotty white patina without any traces of eolization: length 58 mm, width 56 mm, thickness 32 mm. Found by K. Valoch, V. Gebauer 1979.

5. Fig. 3:2: A less perfect example of the same tool type ("bifaceoid") made of rough hornstone of unknown origin. Max. dimensions: length 61 mm, width 55 mm, thickness 37 mm. Found by K. Valoch, M. Oliva 1979.

6. Fig. 4:1: Bifacial, partially processed specimen with irregular marginal trimming dorsally on the left side (obviously functional scraper-like edge). It is impossible to say whether the distal end is original, or whether it is broken. The raw material was a fine quartz cobble. Slightly eolized. Max. dimensions: length 107 mm, width 73 mm, thickness 43 mm. Found by M. Oliva 1978.

7. Fig. 3:5: A typical chopper made with 3-4 heavy blows. The base has been heavily worn, as if it were used as a hammerstone. Rosy quartz,

² We cannot exclude that this specimen represents an extreme case of non-exploited strongly prepared core (pre-core).

without traces of eolization. Max. dimensions: 59×77×40 mm. Found by M. Oliva 1978.

8. Fig. 3:3: off-set side scraper on a blade-shaped flake. There is heavy trimming dorsally on the left side (demi-quina), distally on the right side it has irregularly dented steep retouch. Raw material: some kind of metamorphosed mineral of uncertain origin: Max. dimensions: length 86 mm, width 34 mm, thickness 13 mm. Found by V. Gebauer 1977.

9. Fig. 3:4: Heavily retouched side-scraper with S-shaped edge applied on a natural fragment of a hornstone of melinite slate with slight patina. Max. dimensions: length 57 mm, width 29 mm, thickness 20 mm. Found by M. Oliva 1979.

10. Fig. 4:2: Large fragment with centripetal negatives, dorsally on the right side remnants of prepared core edge; the base is retouched. Hornstone of melinite slates, stained patina.

11. Fig. 4:3: Rough fragment with remnants of centripetal negatives on its edge — its base is smooth. Dark-ochre quartzite, slightly eolized.

12. Fig. 3:6: Irregular fragment of fine quartzite, the base is smooth.

To the two above-mentioned tools we can add also several irregularly hammered core fragments.

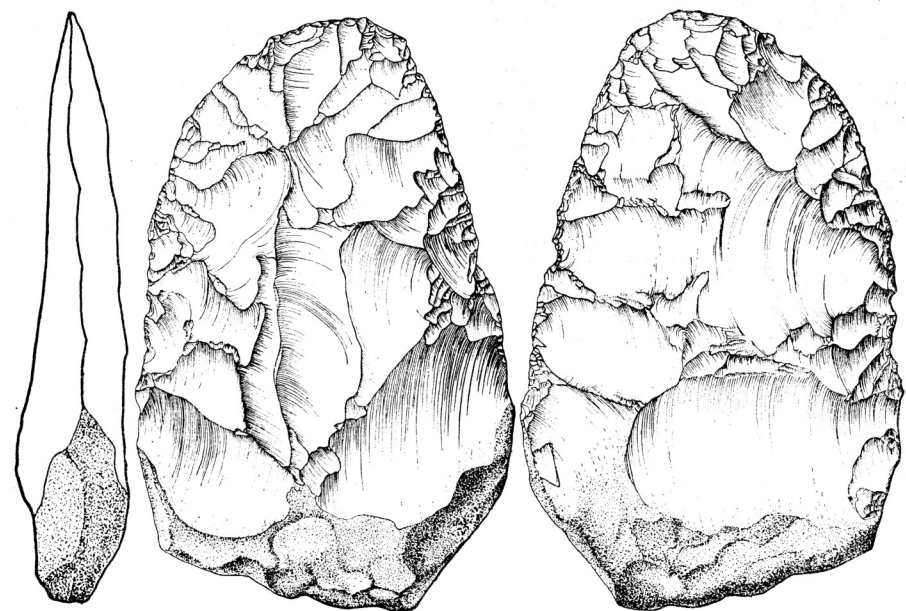


FIGURE 1. Karolín I: Hand-axe. Nas. size.

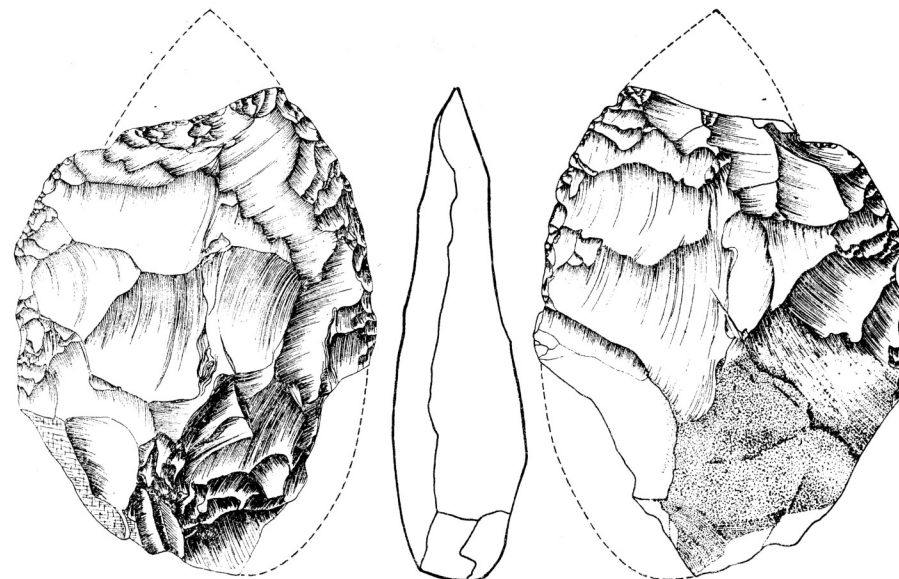


FIGURE 2. Karolín I: Hand-axe. Nas. size.

CONCLUSION

Most typical items of the collection are two hand-axes of Late-Acheulian character. They differ from the Late-Aurignacian inventory morphologically and the second hand-axe has strong patina ventrally and is slightly eolized. None of the several hundred other radiolarite artifacts coming from the same locality show the slightest traces of patina or eolization. This, of course, might indicate that they were not manufactured on the spot, but they had been taken from a Late-Aurignacian man from a quarry site somewhere in the Moravian-Slovak borderland. Recently several new surface finds of Late-Palaeolithic industries have been discovered in the Myjava region, in west Slovakia. They include a very ancient component in the form of radiolarite bifaces of course of different, microquid character (information by J. Bárta). If this interpretation is correct, then our Acheuloid hand-axes (including the use of soft hammerstone) represent an industry, from which the above-mentioned assemblage from the Myjava region might originate: We must add that the Aurignacian part of the Karolín I assemblage has so far the largest share of radiolarite material from the East-Moravian Aurignacian finds as a whole (15% of the retouched tools, Oliva 1980),

so that we can suppose occasional visits from the region of its quarry sites. The broken radiolarite "Faustkeilblatt" in the Anthropos Institute, marked "Bylnice brick factory", is also right from there (From the Moravian-Slovak borderland).

The other possibility, i.e. local manufacture on the spot, is suggested by the raw material of some of the rest of the represented types: melinite slates appear primarily in the entire Carpathian Flysch Zone, but the characteristic variant of our collection is typical of the eastern slopes of Litenské vrchy (Litenské Hills), west of the town of Kroměříž. It is one of the future tasks to solve this problem. Anyhow, these finds are documents of the most ancient, Acheuloid settlement of the wide areas of east Moravia and of the Moravian-Slovak borderland. With their non-microquid character the above-described artifacts rank with several similar, though less perfect Moravian finds: old finds of fine hand-axes from the lower loess layers in Předmostí (Absolon, Klíma 1979, tab. 17, 367, 367a), the well-known find from Ostrava-Právoz, a transitional form to tortoise core (Zebera 1952), the quartzite biface from Kadov (Valoch, 1969, 79), the massive hand-axe from Určice (Valoch, 1980), accompanied by several roughly flaked quartzites, etc. Genetically related to the Acheulian are obviously the ten odd, rough

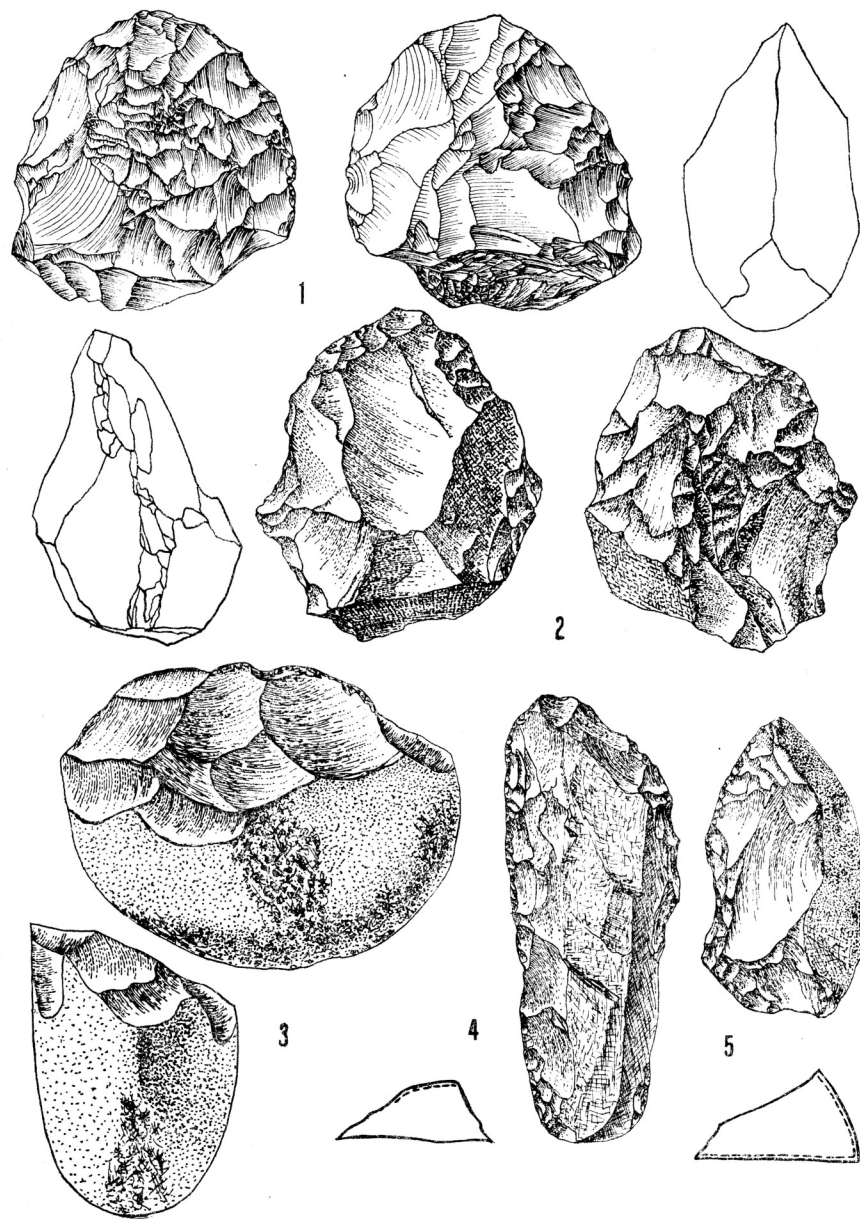


FIGURE 3. Karolin I: 1, 2: small biface, 3. chopper, 4, 5: side scrapers. Nat. size.

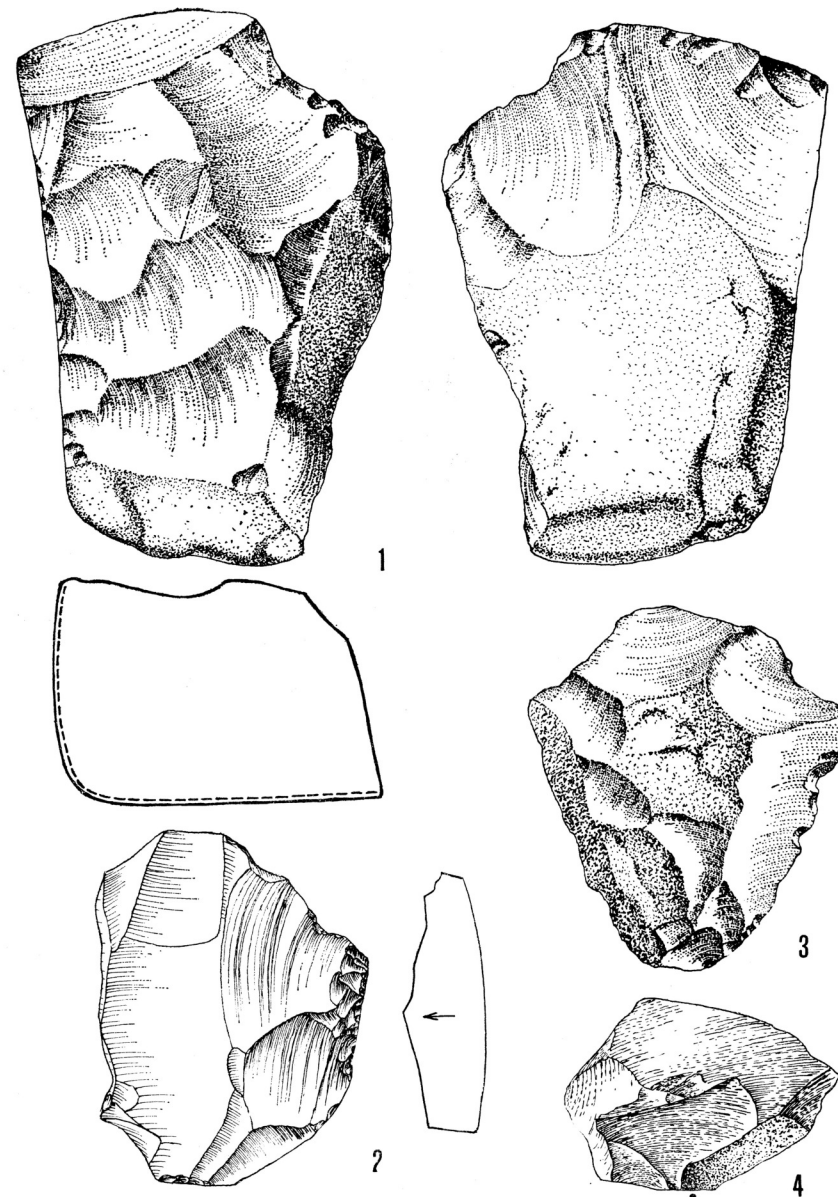


FIGURE 4. Karolin I: Core-tool, 2-4: flakes. Nat. size.

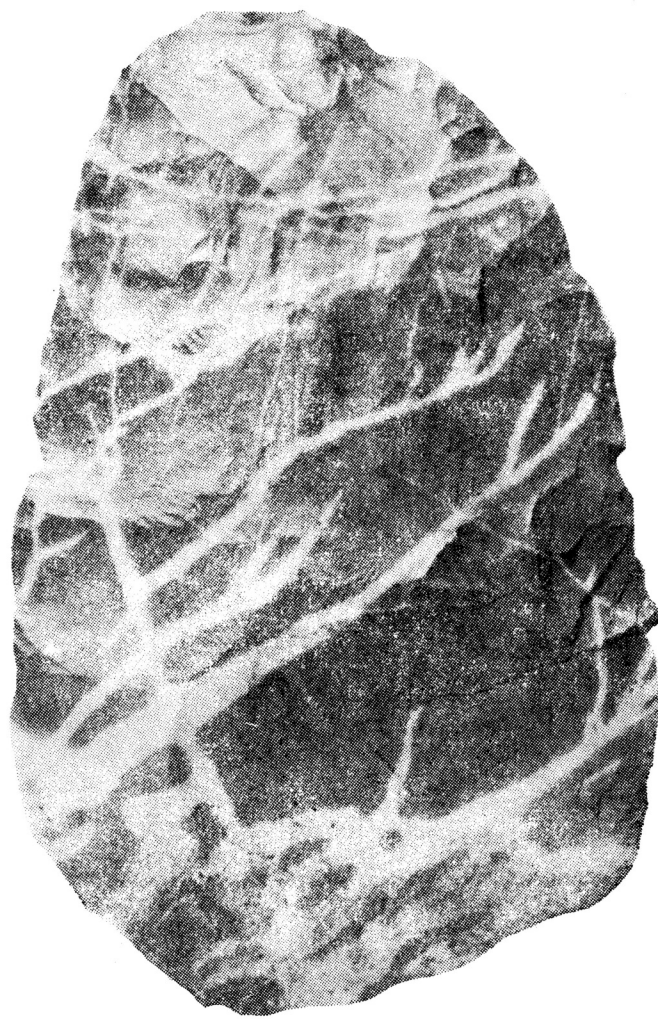
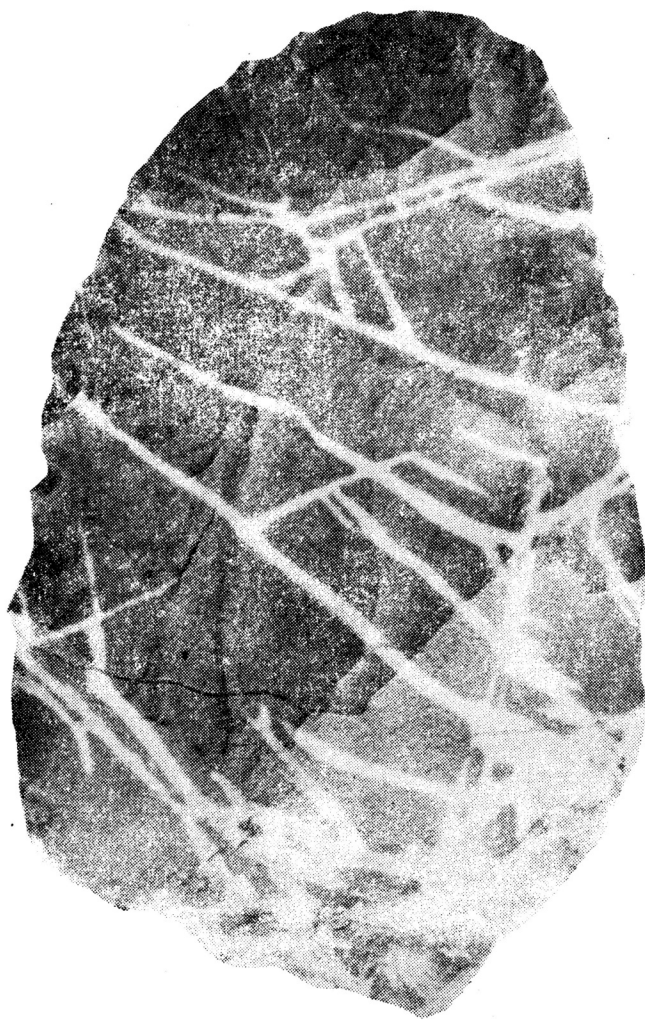
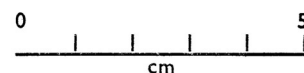


TABLE 1. *Karolín I: Hand-axe. Nat. size.*



hand-axes of non-micoquoid character, processed with hard technique, coming from the south Moravian Krumlovian sites of Maršovice I–II (not published). There are no reasons to dismiss the existence of the Acheulian east of Bohemia. The existence of isolated Acheulian localities in more eastern regions can be documented by finds from Zhitomir, Teterev and Khotilev, on the Desna River, with traces of strong Levalloisian technology (Zaver-nyayev 1978) and from Punikve in Yugoslavia (Malez 1979, tab. 22, 23). Of questionable cultural relationship are the hand-axes from the Arka-Korlát locality in Hungary, and from Varvara – Velika Gradina in Yugoslavia, and some other. We could therefore hardly presume the existence of a complete Acheulian vacuum between its developed western and south-eastern territories.

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Martin Oliva
Moravian Museum
Department of Prehistory
nám. 25. února 7
659 37 Brno – ČSSR