



Andreas Maier: **The Central European Magdalenian. Regional Diversity and Internal Variability.**

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The period at the end of the Last Glacial Maximum, when the Magdalenian culture was at its height, continues to attract a circle of researchers. From an environmental point of view, this is a period with the echoes of climatic extremes, which the literature claims that thanks to its harshness caused the decolonisation of large areas of Europe. At the same time, it led to the origins of a new culture in western Europe, which grew very quickly and took over a wide area of the then partly depopulated European continent.

In this dissertation, the author has used two sources of information: his own studies of selected European assemblages and most importantly the available professional publications. They were successful in collecting information from a significant number of assemblages: 651 Magdalenian assemblages from 540 sites were identified by himself and included in the database. The information platform been extended by Hamburgian assemblages (171 inventories from 161 sites). As the author states himself, the analyzed data was of varying quality, many were incomplete and could not be sufficiently used.

The main goal of this study was to resolve whether or not regional groups of same sort can be detected in the Central European Magdalenian record, and how these groups interrelate. The groups were divided up by their territories, in total there were five: Circum-Jurassic Group, Danube Group, Meuse-Rhine Group, Vltava-Saale Group and Polish-Moravian Group.

Cultural diversity and regional grouping of individual groups (their technological and typological variations) were put through statistical analysis.

The work is clearly categorised in the opening chapter (overview of the knowledge of the Magdalenian; limits of the studied region; the necessary theoretical and methodological description of the material; our own analysis of the locations in the context of their natural environment; raw materials and local suitability; and appropriate linking passages).

The geographic breadth of engagement, covering all known localities (excluding some uncertain assemblages) allows author to present some provocative conclusions. These were first talked about by Andeias Mayer at some HUGO Obermaier Gesellschaft conferences (specifically at the 54th Annual Meeting in Toulouse, 10 to 14 April 2012), where the author met with strong disapproval; author underwent a critical review of radiocarbon dates of Central European Magdalenian assemblages, which assigned <sup>14</sup>C data not only from Epigravetian (Grubgraben, Stránská skála IV) and Epiaurignatian sites (Langmannesdorf), but also for example. Ságvárien in Hungary. After calibration and proper rounding of data (cf. Table 8.1 and Fig. 8.5) constructs a bidirectional propagation model of the Magdalenian, just on the basis that in the east we do not find locations, which are chronologically younger: the first branch expands around 20,000 from the southwest of France gradually until the Rhine and Danube, at the same time the second (independent) branch spreads from the Carpathian region of Hungary in three separate ways – to Moravia, where the Magdalenian embeds at locations in Brno-Vídeňská and Brno-Stránská skála IV, then from there to the Czech Republic and Poland. In none of these conceptions is Bohemia colonised from Poland or Moravia, as published by Sl. Vencl, but rather it is considered that Bohemia was settled from Thuringia.

Although we can legitimately question the outlined concept of the Magdalenian expansion, and also with regard to knowledge of archaeological material, it is necessary to allow the author a large amount of heuristic work, especially in terms of all basic sources gathered and presented on the Magdalenian era. With such global comparisons we can not be sufficiently capture in detail the nuances of individual sites, although the author drew from a large regional language literature (i.e. Not German, French or English).

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#### REFERENCES

VENCL S., 1995: *Hostim. Magdalenian in Bohemia*. Památky archeologické, Supplementum 4. Praha.

Sandra Sázelová, Martin Novák and Alena Mizerová (eds.): **Forgotten times and spaces: New perspectives in paleo-anthropological, paleoethnological and archaeological studies**. 1st Edition.

Brno: Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences; Masaryk University, 2015. 618 pp. ISBN 978-80-7524-000-2; ISBN 978-80-210-7781-2. DOI: 10.5817/CZ.MUNI.M210-7781-2015, hardback.

On 29th September 2015 in Brno, in cooperation with the Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Sciences and the Academia bookshop, there was a book launch celebration dedicated to the Jubileum of Prof. Jiří Svoboda.

There is selection of rare monographs – 618 pages – which convincingly demonstrates not only the breadth of scientific influence of the honoured professor, but also a considerable number of colleagues have contributed to the book. The original intention of the editors was to gather and publish several scholarly articles that reflect the state of current knowledge of Pleistocene research, but it has grown into an almost encyclopaedic scope. The book is divided into five sections, containing contributions by 100 authors (including editors) from 16 countries. Thematically, the first part is mainly about the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic, the second part consists of contributions from the Gravettian, in the following part there are contributions of palaeolithic art, in the fourth section we can read about the Upper and Late Palaeolithic communities while climate changes were taking place and in the last – fifth section – there are contributions with Egyptian and medieval-anthropological themes. Clearly, it is wide-ranging in geographical coverage too.

From a total of 41 contributions, I have selected a handful for a more detailed overview, even though they are all worthy. Jaroslav Wilczyński gives an overview of Upper Palaeolithic settlements in Poland *The Gravettian and Epigravettian settlements of Poland*; pp. 191–213. The number of known open sites here – especially in the area of Upper Silesia is greatly influenced by the fluctuating influence of the loess cover in the case of cave sites and their research, which began in the 19th century. Even though in the past few years, several new sites have been