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The Magdalenian in Central Europe.

New Finds and Concepts

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CONTENTS

Marta Połtowicz-Bobak Introduction	7	Stefan Wenzel , avec la collaboration de Dominique Jagu L'habitat autour du foyer T5/T6 dans le gisement du Magdalénien final de Cepoy (Loiret, France)	71
Karel Valoch Europäische Zusammenhänge des mährischen Magdalénien	9	Izabela Krygiel-Kozłowska Technological analysis of flint materials from Brzoskwinia-Krzemionki	85
Bolesław Ginter, Marta Połtowicz-Bobak Magdalenian with triangles in Central Europe	23	Marta Połtowicz-Bobak, Joanna Trąbska Red ferruginous compounds ('haematite' and 'ochre') on Magdalenian sites of Central Europe – occurrences, sources and application	95
Krzysztof Cyrek Die Spuren der Magdalenischen Kultur im mittleren Teil des Polnischen Jura	35	Clemens Pasda Palaeolithic humans and the wilderness myth	101
Silje Evjenth Bentsen A Sound of Silence? Interpreting empty areas at Pincevent	47	Joanna Trąbska "Ochre" i "haematite" – database of red and yellow artefacts from the Magdalenian Dzierżysław-35 site, Upper Silesia, Poland	113
Denise Leesch, Jérôme Bullinger, Marie-Isabelle Cattin, Werner Müller, Nicole Plumettaz Hearths and hearth-related activities in Magdalenian open-air sites: the case studies of Champréveyres and Monruz (Switzerland) and their relevance to an understanding of Upper Paleolithic site structure	53		

INTRODUCTION

The Magdalenian technocomplex belongs to the taxonomic units of the late Stone Age and has aroused interest from the beginning of studies on the Palaeolithic. The number of the archaeological sites, as well as their diversity and the findings – artefacts made of stone and bone and the various pieces of art – make the Magdalenian period the subject of many intensive studies.

Researchers from Eastern and Western Europe have been interested in the issues connected with the Magdalenian technocomplex till today. As a result, many sites have been excavated and many papers regarding separate sites as well as individual issues have been published. The number of sites, richness and variety of the findings have greatly widened our knowledge regarding the cultural diversity, connections between the settlement and the natural environment, the settlement structure and the cultural processes during the Magdalenian. Further considerations into general social and spiritual problems are also possible.

This publication is the result of the Conference devoted to the studies on the Magdalenian culture in Central Europe, organized by the Institute of Archaeology of the Rzeszów University and the SKAM – Flintreaders Society, which was held in September 2005 in Rzeszów. It was next meeting fallow up of researchers dealing with this subject who presented the results of new researches that were conducted by many different institutions in Europe. We hope that these materials serve as an important source for everyone who deals with the problems of the late Palaeolithic in Europe.

I would like to express my gratitude to all participants of the Conference, as well as to those authors who sent in their papers, although they could not attend the meeting. I would also like to thank all who contributed to the Conference organisation and to publishing the materials, first of all Joanna Berdowska, MA from the Institute of Archaeology of UR, as without her devotion and engagement it would be difficult to organise the Conference and to publish this book.

I also wish to acknowledge with gratitude the linguistic assistance given by Carmen Lieberman, Brigitte Turk and Luke Kuźniar.

Marta Połtowicz-Bobak